Clinical Practice
Recommendations on Buttonhole Cannulation

Catherine (Katie) Fielding
Chair, BRS VA SIG
Professional Development Advisor, Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
What is Buttonhole Technique?

- Cannulate A-V Fistula vein in exactly the same place, each cannulation
  - Enter the skin through the same site
  - Enter the vein in same direction and depth
- Remove the scab prior to cannulation
- Track development phase
  - Develop a track of scar tissue and entry point on vein
  - Using sharp needle with same cannulator over number of sessions
- Once track developed, use blunt needles to cannulate
Benefits of Buttonhole Cannulation

• Prolonging A-V fistula lifespan
  – Less stenosis formation
• Prevention and reduction of aneurysm development
• Reduction of infiltrations and haematoma formation
• Promotes self-cannulation
• Feasible on tortuous and short AVF veins
• ? Less painful
• ? Shorter bleeding times

• Higher infection risk
• More missed cannulations
Background to the Recommendation Development

• Concerns related to higher infection risk with buttonhole technique
  – Case studies at conference
  – RA-BRS Patient Safety
  – Published experience

• Some units able to utilise without higher infection risk
Why the Contradiction?

• Surveyed renal units in UK
  – Small number of responses
  – All positive
  – Similar practices

• Meeting in Manchester – March 2015
  – Units who had success / persevered and over-come infection spikes
  – Decided to create recommendations
  – This group later became BRS VA SIG
Clinical Practice Recommendations

• Collated between:
  – Evidence from research / expert opinion
  – Experience of units – success with BH / overcome challenges

• 10 units involved

• 6 sections
  – Key aspects of care

• Each section consists of:
  – Recommendations
  – Rationale for recommendations, with reference to evidence
  – Points for future consideration
    • Require clarification
Contributors - Recommendations

Authors
• Catherine (Katie) Fielding (Ed), Professional Development, Derby
• Nicki Angell-Barrick, Vascular Access Nurse, Oxford
• Paula Debling, Home HD Sister, East Kent and Canterbury
• Deborah Noble, Home HD Sister, Epsom and St. Hellier
• Pat Cain, Vascular Access Nurse, Coventry and Warwickshire
• Richard (Dick) Cole, Xtramed
• Diane Drysder, HD Nurse, Aberdeen
• Richard Fluck, Nephrologist, NHS England and Derby
• Mick Kumwenda, Nephrologist, RA and Wales
• Jacqueline (Jackie) Ross, HD Sister, Aberdeen
• Paul Rylance, Nephrologist, RA- BRS Patient Safety and Wolverhampton
• Alison Swain, Vascular Access Nurse, Royal Berkshire

Contributors
• Suzi Glover, HD Sister, Leicester
• Heather Pitt, Vascular Access Nurse, Derby
• Anne Young, HD Sister, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland
• Martin Edwards and Annette O'Donnolley, Home HD Nurses, Shrewsbury
• Sara Verdugo, HD Nurse, Coventry and Warwickshire
A) Screening and Selection of Patients

- Screen for MRSA & MSSA
- Decolonise for MRSA
- Risk assess patients for use of buttonhole
  - Exclude patients with high infection risk
  - Screening tool from Royal Berkshire

- Points for clarification
  - Decolonise for MSSA?
  - What is decolonisation?
  - How many times should you decolonise?
  - What risk factors should be included in a risk assessment?
Further Developments

• Follow local decolonisation protocols
  – Renal patients are no different, except for repetitive nature
  – Need to be pragmatic to ensure patient adherence

• Compiling Risk Screening Tool
  – Identify patients more at risk of infection

• Exclusion includes clinical judgement

Infection Risk Screening Tool

Criteria/checklist for use of buttonhole technique in AV fistulae

The following risk factors can help you determine whether this patient is suitable for buttonhole needleling. However, the final decision should be based on clinical judgement and assessment of individual patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria / risk factor</th>
<th>Patient Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Completed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metallic Heart Valve</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacemaker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous MRSA infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous endocarditis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant aortic valve width</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSSA / MRSA / Mupirocin resistant MSSA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Skin disorders causing itching / skin integrity issues around AVF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor adherence to hygiene recommendations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical judgement (Other)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the basis of the above this patient is / is not (delete as applicable) suitable for using buttonhole needleling technique.

Based on Screening Tool produced by Reading Renal Unit
B) Track Development and Cannulation

- Need single, good track to:
  - Perform BH Cannulation correctly
  - Minimise infections

- Track development is key part of the process
  - 1-3 ‘buddy’ cannulators over max. 12 sessions on a mature AVF

- Need to maintain track once developed
  - Blunt needles
  - Consistent cannulation

- Communicate how to cannulate BH sites
  - Images, information, inform patient

- Points for Clarification
  - Why missed cannulations
  - What helps aid blunt needle cannulation
C) Disinfection and Scab Removal

- Remove scab completely
  - Prevents bacteraemias

- Wash arm and hands with soap and water
  - ? Changing to Octenisin

- Disinfect before and after scab removal

- 0.5-2% chlorhexidine & 70% isopropyl alcohol to disinfect
  - Povidone Iodine or Octenilin if allergic

- Points for clarification
  - What is correct cleaning solution?
  - Should sites be soaked in disinfectant for 1-2 minutes?
D) Mupirocin Use

- Use mupirocin on cannulation sites post dialysis for patients with high infection risk

- Screen for mupirocin resistance and discontinue positive patients

- Points for clarification
  - Should this be used on all patients?
  - Are there alternatives?
    - Naseptin, inadine, octenilin etc.

Points for Future Consideration

The following aspects are not yet clarified and could be points for further investigation, consideration or basis for further projects:

- Nesrallah et al (14) recommend the use of topical 2% mupirocin cream use for all patients undergoing buttonhole technique. However, it is unclear whether long term use will lead to problematic mupirocin resistance. This risk needs to be assessed and until ascertained, use for all patients cannot be recommended.
- Whilst mupirocin use can be justified for high risk patients, definition of which patients are considered high risk requires further work. This could partially be ascertained through the screening process recommended in 'Screening and Selection of Patients to Undergo Buttonhole Cannulation'. However, causes of...
E) Patient Engagement

- Facilitate self care and self cannulation
  - Patient ownership will lead to better outcomes

- Make them equal partners
- Inform and involve patients
- Knowledgeable patients
- Involved in decision making
Practical Patient Engagement

- Patient information
- Involve from the start of the process
- AV fistula and cannulation sites in areas patient’s could cannulate
- Patient to develop track (if self cannulate)
- Separate education packages for patients

- Points for clarification
  - What is the best way to support patients?
  - Training / Troubleshooting / Maintaining procedures
F) Staff Training and Assessment

- Education package for all cannulators
- Supervised practice and competency assessment

- Staff procedures will ‘slip’ unintentionally
  - Human factors
  - How do we maintain procedures?

- Reassessment every 2 years
- Annual theoretical update
- Monthly audits of practice
Dissemination

• Launched at UK Kidney Week 2016

• Available on:
  – BRS website
  – RA-BRS Patient Safety Website

• Email Shot
  katie.fielding@nhs.net
The Future

- Combined into ‘Cannulation Recommendations’
- Joint with VASBI SIG
- Practical and relevant to practice

Covers:
- Rope ladder, buttonhole and area puncture
- Defines techniques
- How to decide on techniques
- Assessing AVF / AVG and assessment tools
- Good cannulation techniques
Cannulation Change Package

- Based on best practice identified in recommendations

- ELearning – BRS Education Committee
- Further information
- Awareness posters
- Education events
- Measuring vascular access outcomes

- National cannulation competency package
Life Threatening Haemorrhage Recommendations

• Released September 2016
• No evidence available
• Amalgamation of expert advice
Prevention and Management

**Prevention**
- Detect and escalate early warning signs
  - Non-healing wound
  - Aneurysms increasing in size
  - Signs of infection
  - Prolonged bleeding post HD
  - Shiny thin skin
  - Skin integrity issues
- Awareness of early warning signs
  - HC staff, patients and carers

**Management**
- Dial 999 immediately
- Attempt to stop bleeding
  - Use flat, small rigid object
  - Not a towel

**Measure number of incidents**
- Mortality
- Near – misses
- Warning signs

[Logo: British Renal Society]
Thank you!

• Members of BRS VA SIG and their renal units
• Xtramed and Richard Cole
• BRS Council and Karen Jenkins
• Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust