Fistula or Catheter: The Patient's Perspective

ABOUT NETWORK 1

The ESRD Network of New England, Inc., (Network 1), is a private, nonprofit organization founded to improve care for patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD). Established in 1978, Network 1 is one of 18 ESRD Networks in the United States that contracts with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Network 1's region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

For more information about the Network of New England, Fistula First or to download this booklet, please visit www.networkofnewengland.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Renal Network 11

arteriovenous FISTULA FIRST
AVF – The first choice for hemodialysis

UPPER MIDWEST FISTULA FIRST COALITION

Through a series of focus groups, real dialysis patients in the Upper Midwest region share their stories of working with their health care teams to make the choice of the best form of vascular access.

Their stories show that what a person thinks does not necessarily reflect what they or others will experience. We hope that by learning from other patient experiences, you will be better able to make fact-based decisions when choosing the best form of vascular access for your care.

Patients depicted in photos may not be the originator of corresponding statements.

Some patients say...

"Infection is a risk, but if I keep my catheter clean I won't get an infection; I can control it."

but the reality is...

"With a catheter, my wife cared for me at home. Even her nursing skills could not keep me free from infections. I don't have to worry about that now with my fistula."

Did you know...

On average, patients who dialyze with a catheter are 15 times more likely to get a vascular access related infection than patients using a fistula for dialysis.

U.S. Renal Data System, USRDS 2008 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2008.

Some patients say…

"I'm glad that my catheter allows me to leave sooner after dialysis, and I do not have to wait like other patients."

but the reality is…

"Complications with my catheter put me in the hospital; I wish I could be spending more time at home with my family."

Did you know…

Patients who receive dialysis with a catheter spend on average about 35 days per year in the hospital, compared with only 7.7 days for patients using a fistula.

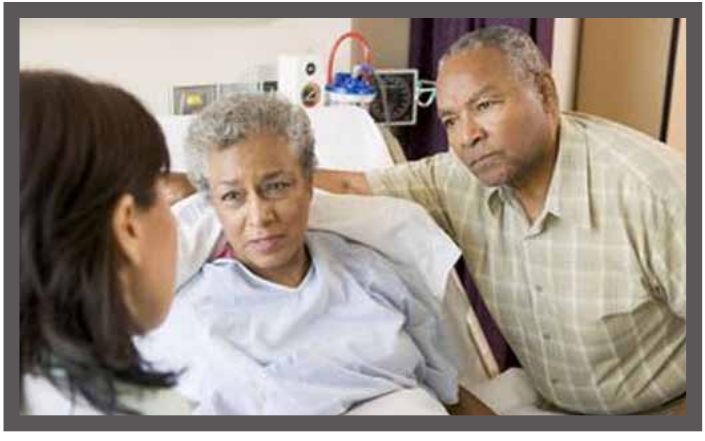
Beathard, GA; Urbanes, A; (2008). Infection associated with Tunneled hemodialysis catheters, Seminars in Dialysis, Vol. 21(6), 528-38.

Some patients say…

"This catheter sure is convenient, and I know I can live a lot longer using it for dialysis."

but the reality is…

"According to your doctor, using a fistula will increase your chances you could be with us longer."



Did you know…

Patients who dialyze with a catheter have two times the risk of death compared to patients who use a fistula.

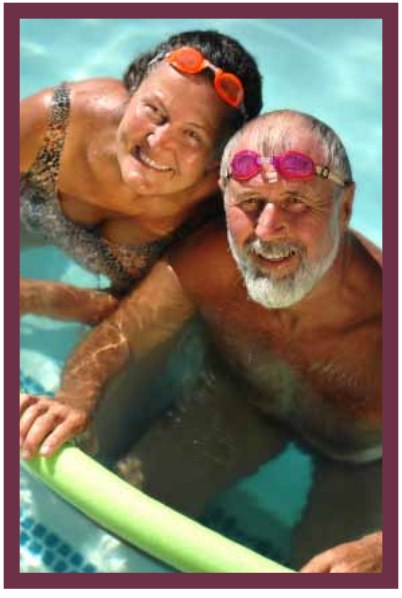
Wasse, H. (2008). Catheter–related mortality among ESRD Patients, Seminars in Dialysis, 21(6), 547-9.

Some patients say…

"I am glad I chose a catheter, I have all of the energy I need."

but the reality is…

"I feel so much better now that I can be out more with my friends and family. I couldn't do this with a catheter."



Did you know…

Patients who use a fistula report greater physical activity, energy, and emotional & social well–being compared to patients using a catheter.

U.S. Renal Data System, USRDS 2008 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2008.

Some patients say…

"I like having a catheter--I don't have to wait around for my needle sites to clot."

but the reality is…

"I do have to wait a few minutes after dialysis for my sites to clot, but I haven't been in the hospital all year, since my catheter was removed."

Did you know…

Patients using a fistula for dialysis spend on average a total of 10 minutes per treatment (only 25 hours total/year) holding their sites after dialysis, compared to patients with a catheter who spend on average over 800 hours per year in the hospital from catheter complications.

U.S. Renal Data System, USRDS 2008 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2008.

Some patients say...

"I am so happy with this catheter. I don't look as sick as those patients with a fistula in their arm."

but the reality is...

"I am very glad I now have a fistula. I look physically better! With a catheter, I couldn't hide my lack of wellness."

Did you know...

Patients who use a fistula report perceptions of greater overall general health, when compared to patients using a catheter.

U.S. Renal Data System, USRDS 2008 Annual Data Report: Atlas of Chronic Kidney Disease and End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, 2008.

Talk to your health care team today about being evaluated for a fistula!

For questions or reprint requests, please contact:

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