May 28, 2013

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POWERWAND Catheter Associated with Superior Clinical Results, in Presentations at INS

Fewer Complications and Better Rates of Completed Therapy Reported with Advanced Extended-Dwell Midline Catheter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The POWERWAND advanced extended-dwell midline catheter offers many patients the potential of a "one stick for vascular access" hospitalization, according to data presented at the annual conference of the Infusion Nurses Society (INS).

Two scientific posters at the INS conference reported on the POWERWAND's ability to last for the entire length of stay for nearly all hospital patients. The novel peripheral IV catheter (technically a midline at 3.1 inches) also allowed blood to be drawn during most patients' entire hospital stay – thereby sparing the patients multiple needlesticks.

Intravenous therapy is often administered through a standard, short peripheral IV catheter. Such catheters last on average only 44 hours and are rarely usable for drawing blood for lab tests. Typically, hospitalized patients will need more than one peripheral IV catheter and several additional needlesticks for lab tests.

By comparison, according to the data reported by New York Hospital Queens, the POWERWAND demonstrated a new state of the art in IV therapy. The catheter lasted the entire length of stay in 93% of patients and was capable of drawing blood in 99%, greatly reducing the need for additional needlesticks. No other peripheral IV catheter has been documented to achieve such results.

Of equal significance, not a single catheter resulted in a bloodstream infection during the more than 8,000 catheter days reported in the scientific poster.

The POWERWAND is inserted using the Accelerated Seldinger Technique, which offers passive needlestick protection to clinicians and a much easier insertion process for patients. The device may be left in place for up to 29 days per its FDA clearance.

"This catheter has the potential to change IV therapy permanently and is greatly appreciated by patients," said Jona Caparas, MSN, RN, CRNI,VA-BC, lead author on the Queens poster. "The device also provides an extraordinary measure of safety to both clinicians and patients."

The second scientific poster at INS uncovered two patient subgroups that benefitted greatly from the POWERWAND, while also confirming the low complication rate and high completion-of-therapy rate noted in the New York study.

The first subgroup to benefit from the catheter was cardiac bypass graft (CABG) patients, according to author Pamela Baliad, RN, BSN, the lead vascular access nurse at Flagstaff (Ariz.) Medical Center. Co-author on the poster was Steven Peterson, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon at Flagstaff Medical Center.

CABG patients often receive a caustic anti-arrhythmic medication known as amiodarone, which in more than 50% of patients results in phlebitis (vein inflammation and pain). Patients receiving amiodarone through the POWERWAND had only a 14% phlebitis rate -- the lowest ever reported with that medication.

Baliad and her colleagues hypothesize that the larger vein used in the upper arm for POWERWAND placement resulted in faster dilution of amiodarone and therefore less vessel damage.

The second subgroup consisted of patients receiving vancomycin, a mildly acidic antibiotic. These are patients suspected of having staph bacteria infections, often MRSA. Frequently such patients require central venous access -- a much more risky approach, with higher rates of complications including infection, lung collapse and blood clot.

POWERWAND patients at Baliad's facility, over nearly 400 catheter-days of vancomycin, had only one mild case of phlebitis (11%) and a remarkable 89% completion of therapy. The poster also noted a 95% blood draw rate through the POWERWAND.

"We now have a tool that can spare many patients from the dangers of central lines and allows them the possibility of a one-stick hospitalization," Baliad said. "This unique catheter is a valuable addition to the toolbox of the vascular nurse specialist."

The Infusion Nurses Society is dedicated to elevating the standard of care in infusion nursing throughout the world. Its 2013 annual conference was held May 19-22 in Charlotte, NC.

About Access Scientific

Access Scientific, LLC, a privately held medical device company, is dedicated to providing a safer standard of vascular access through its proprietary WAND® technology. ASI's team of seasoned device-company veterans is focused on improving patient and healthcare worker

safety through the combination of superb design/engineering and exacting quality assurance. The WAND was developed by the same Venetec International team that invented StatLock® catheter stabilization devices and made them the worldwide standard.

For further information, go to www.The-Wand.com, email Customer Service at PCook@the-wand.com, or call 858-259-8333.

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