

Renal Week: Renal Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting 2014

Renal Week 2014 (*Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on the 25th - 27th August*) has now passed, and the enthusiasm of nurses for the Argyle Fistula Cannula continues to build across Australia and New Zealand. The program during renal week captured a number of publications and opportunities to familiarise oneself with this technology.

There were a number of publications during the program dedicated to the Argyle Fistula Cannula.

Oral Presentations

A number of oral presentations were delivered during the program. These gathered significant attention from the delegates with all sessions leaving standing room only. These are summarised below.

- **Haemodialysis Cannula: A single centre case study perspective on flow and pressure.**
Renal Society of Australasia Journal, Aug. 2014, Vol. 10, Supplement 1.
Frank Grainer

Frank shared his experiences in terms of both flow and pressures achieved when using the Argyle Fistula Cannula. Frank was able to draw on the knowledge of over 200 cannulations within the Cairns dialysis unit using the Argyle cannula to demonstrate that this product lowers the risk of infiltration during haemodialysis. Importantly the Argyle fistula cannula was also found to maintain flow rates and pressures comparable to the metal needle. The design specifications of the Argyle Cannula allow the metal stylet to be removed after initial skin puncture leaving only the plastic cannula in situ. It was concluded that the Argyle Fistula cannulas have the potential to provide a safer alternative to the current metal needles.

- **Haemodialysis Cannula: Is this a better alternative for arterio-venous fistula and graft cannulation.**
Renal Society of Australasia Journal, Aug. 2014, Vol. 10, Supplement 1.
Dianne Du Toit & Frank Grainer

An engaged audience enjoyed a dynamic presentation on vascular access and whether a better alternative exists for AV fistula and graft cannulation with needles. Dianne concluded that whilst requiring a slightly different insertion technique, the Argyle fistula cannula provides the potential to minimise the risk of infiltrations from movement during dialysis and opens up the opportunity to cannulate in areas previously avoided such as the cubital fossa.

- **Initial evaluation of plastic haemodialysis cannulae in an Australian centre**
Nephrology. Vol 19, Supplement S4, pages 17-57, Aug. 2014
Dr R Baer, M Mantha, F Grainer

Dr Richard Baer presented on difficult access situations with the knowledge that the Argyle fistula cannula offers a lower profile for gauge, longer length option for the deeper fistula and reduced chance of trauma and migration with arm movement. Of the 226 cannulations included in the trial, 87 % of patients achieved effective blood flows of greater or equal to 300ml/min, the remainder achieving between 230 and 280mls per minute. Median arterial and venous pressures we found to be 140 and 130 mm Hg respectively. It was concluded that plastic haemodialysis catheters can achieve desirable flow rates especially in patients with difficult vascular access.

Poster Presentations

A range of Posters were shared within the Renal Week program. The Argyle Fistula Cannula continues to bring great interest from the clinical and research community alike. The following is a brief review of these posters.

- **A Comparative trial to assess pain and injury associated with arterio-venous fistula (AVF) cannulation using the Argyle Safety Fistula Cannula versus the standard metal AVF needle.**
Mechelle Seneviratne, Monash Health

Assessment of pain and injury with the traditional metal cannula versus the Argyle Fistula Cannula. In the words of one of the trial patients "It's a no brainer " to use the Argyle Fistula Cannula. A plastic cannula can be considered a better option for cannulation to achieve a less injurious and less painful outcome for patients.

- **Transitioning to the new plastic cannula for dialysis cannulation of new arterio-venous fistulas: A training perspective**
Vicki Smith, Barwon Health

Change management is a critical consideration in the adoption of new technology. The training experience in moving towards the Argyle Fistula Cannula is a crucial consideration to develop confidence and competence with a new cannulation technique. Vicki demonstrated that despite initial resistance to change, once education was provided and people were proficient with the new technique, they embraced the change and have since continued use of the product within their unit.

- **Investigation of the Argyle Fistula Cannula Flow and Pressure Characteristics**
Raymond Aitable

Flow versus pressures of the Argyle fistula cannula based on the fistulafirst.org specifications were tested on blood autologous fluids. Using these specifications as a reference point the 15 gauge Argyle fistula cannula met expectations and the 17 gauge exceeded expectations with the author concluding that the Argyle Fistula Cannula has the potential to reduce vascular access complications when compared to current technologies without compromising performance.

Practical Sessions: Hands on Opportunities

- **Cannulation Workshops Hosted by Covidien**

This year the Covidien stand provided the opportunity for attendees to gain invaluable hands on experience with the Argyle Fistula Cannula through a dedicated 30 minute workshop experience facilitated by Dianne Du Toit and Frank Grainer. The sessions were booked out and with an excess of 100 participants completing the workshop, there was a great deal of knowledge gained and excitement created around this innovative product and its potential to improve patient outcomes.

- **Vascular Access Workshop: Ultrasound Guidance**

The dedication and enthusiasm of the vascular access nurse to continue to enhance their skills for better patient outcomes was on show during the ultrasound workshop. Five patients kindly volunteered their time on the day so as to allow nurses the opportunity to up skill on the use of ultrasound in a safe learning environment. This was complimented by ultrasound guided fistula stations where nurses had the opportunity to practice with the Argyle Fistula cannula insertion on cannulation models under the guidance of some of Australia's most experienced Vascular Access Nurses.

In conclusion, the Argyle Fistula Cannula, now readily available in Australia, shows great promise in its ability to improve patient outcomes without compromising performance and should be a consideration for all dialysis units.