



Introduction of Fistula Safety Cannulae to BTHFT Renal Service – “Giving more choice for Needling”

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Our Problem

- No choice of needles when cannulating arteriovenous AVF.
- A number of Patients had functioning AVF's that were not easily accessible with conventional metal needles.

Our Aim

- To give staff more choice when assessing fistulae.
- To prevent unnecessary insertion/use of tunnelled/temporary intravascular catheters.
- To minimise trauma when needling new/difficult fistulae.

What we did

- Utilised staffs previous experience – this was not a new technique.
- Read papers on others experiences.
- Found a company that supplied fistula cannulae.
- Trialled the safety cannulae on patients that had AVF's that had been not accessible with conventional metal needles.

Types of Arterio-Venous Fistula Accessed

- Tortuous vessels.
- Fistulae with Brachial development.
- Patient with Dementia.
- New Arteriovenous AVF.
- AVF that were difficult to determine vessel direction.

What we are learning- it is still early days!

POSITIVE

- Ability to access AVF that were previously avoided.
- Patients feel confident that infiltrations will be minimised during fistula maturation
- Not a long term necessity for most patients

NEGATIVE

- Staff find it difficult to move outside their comfort zone.
- Access is not considered important when it comes to finance – this is due to lack of knowledge