

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 09/10

SUBJECT: ETHANOL LOCK OF CENTRAL LINE

PURPOSE: Ethanol Lock Therapy (ELT) is initiated to reduce the incidence of line infections. Ethanol is an excellent surface antiseptic. It is bactericidal and fungicidal and has been safely flushed into catheters to clear lipid precipitate.

Considerations

1. Ethanol is not compatible with Heparin. Always clean a catheter with normal saline before and after Ethanol.
2. Ethanol may cause degradation of certain plastics. Always verify with pharmacist that the patient's line material is compatible with Ethanol.
3. Determine the volume of each catheter lumen and treat each lumen with the actual volume from hub to tip (including extension if in use.) Physician's order will designate the exact volume to fill each lumen.
4. Assess patient for history of alcohol/drug abuse and consult with physician.

<i>Necessary Equipment</i>	
Alcohol Wipes	25%-70% Ethanol pre filled syringe
Gloves	10ml empty syringe
4-10ml saline syringes	Sharps container
1 Heparin syringe, if required	

<i>PROCEDURE</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>
Use two patient identifiers and explain procedure.	
Cleanse hands; don gloves.	
Use aseptic technique throughout procedure.	
Clean injection cap with alcohol for 15 seconds and let dry for 15 seconds.	Helps prevent contamination of line.
Unclamp the catheter and gently flush with 10ml normal saline to ensure patency of the catheter	Catheters are to be clamped when not in use.
Instill ethanol into catheter to fill volume. Volume to be indicated in physician's orders.	
Clamp the catheter.	
Label the locked lumen so that medication is not flushed through catheter	

<i>PROCEDURE</i>	<i>RATIONALE</i>
When Ethanol has dwelled for 2-12 hours, withdraw and discard lock solution, using a 10ml syringe. Dwell time will be indicated in physician's orders. If 25% Ethanol lock is used, physician may order Ethanol to be flushed through after dwell time.	Prevents side effects from Ethanol 70%.
Flush catheter with 10ml saline. If catheter requires, follow with a heparin flush as prescribed by physician.	
The above procedures should be repeated to each lumen of the central catheter.	
Document procedure.	

Approved Policy Committee: 09/14/10