

Vascular Access Monitoring

นพ.พันธพงศ์ ตาเรื่องศรี

อายุรแพทย์โรคไต รพ.นครพิงค์ ประธาน Service Plan สาขาโรคไต จ.เชียงใหม่





Monitoring: the examination and evaluation of the vascular access by means of physical examination to detect physical signs that suggest the presence of dysfunction.

Surveillance: the periodic evaluation of the vascular access by using tests that may involve special instrumentation and for which an abnormal test result suggests the presence of dysfunction.

Diagnostic testing: specialized testing that is prompted by some abnormality or other medical indication and that is undertaken to diagnose the cause of the vascular access dysfunction.



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Hemodialysis Vascular Access

- Arteriovenous fistula (AVF)
- Arteriovenous graft (AVG)
- Central venous catheter
 - Cuffed: Permcath
 - Non-cuffed: Double lumen catheter





Problems of Vascular Access

AVF & AVG

- ☐ Stenosis → Thrombosis
- Infection
- □ Limb edema
- □ Limb ischemia
- □ Aneurysm
- ☐ High flow related CHF

HD Catheter

- □ ↓ Blood flow: Thrombosis, Fibrin, Malposition
- □ Infection
- Central venous stenosis







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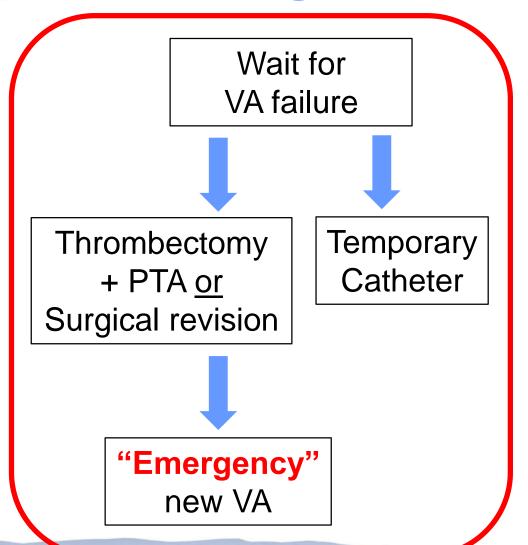
HD Catheter

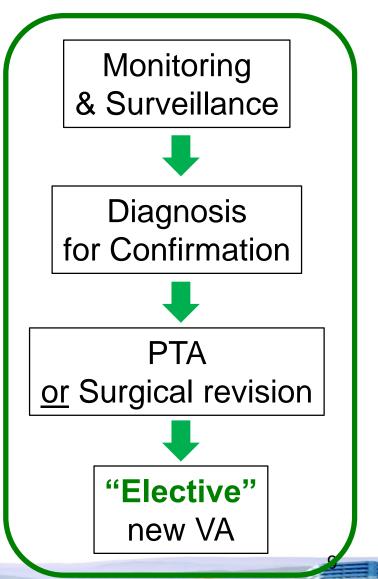
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Monitoring Choices for VA Stenosis





Benefits of Preventing Access Thrombosis

- Reduce risks of patients
 - Unrecognized access recirculation
 - Missed dialysis
 - Central venous catheter
 - Access surgery
 - Loss of the access (prolong access life & preserves access sites)
- Reduce cost of dialysis care



KDOQI 2006 Guidelines

	AVF	AVG
Clinical Monitoring		
Signs & Symptoms	Preferred	Accept
Surveillance		
 Intra-access pressure 		
♦ Static	Accept	Preferred
♦ Dynamic	X	X
Intra-access flow	Preferred	Preferred
 Recirculation 	Accept	X





Static Intra-Access Pressure







Static Intra-Access Pressure













Example:

- \Box S-AP = 60 mmHg V-AP = 40 mmHg
- ☐ Blood Pressure = 140/80 mmHg

 Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) =

 80+((140-80)/3) = 100 mmHg
- □ Normalized S-AP = 60/100 = 0.60Normalized S-VP = 40/100 = 0.40





Clinical Signs & Symptoms

Stenotic site	Access blood	Intra-access pressure (IAP)		Clinical Signs & Symptoms	
	flow (Qa)	Α	V		
None	\leftrightarrow	\leftrightarrow	\leftrightarrow		
Inflow	←	\rightarrow	+	↓ Blood pump flow• Unexplained dialysis inadequacy	
Intra- access	←	↑	+	Difficult to cannulationAspiration of clots	
Outflow	→	↑	↑	 ↑ Venous pressure • Prolonged bleeding after needle withdrawal • Persistent arm edema (→ Central vein stenosis) 	



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Outflow + collateral v.	\	\leftrightarrow	\leftrightarrow	
Inflow + Outflow	+	\leftrightarrow	\leftrightarrow	
Outriow				16

Physical Examinations

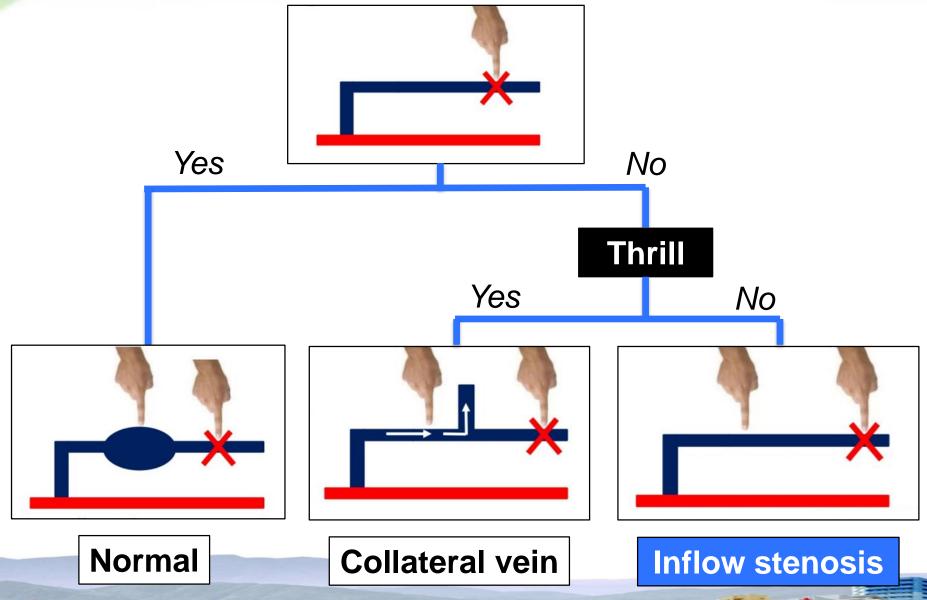
- □ Physical examination should be used to detect dysfunction in fistulae and grafts at least monthly by a qualified individual.
- □ AVF abnormality more easily detectable than AVG
- □ Anastomosis site → Inflow → Body → Outflow

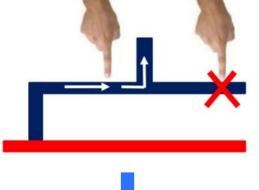


Physical Examinations

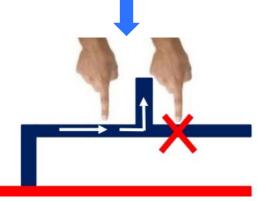
- □ Arm elevation
 - Collapsed → good outflow
 - Dilated -> Stenosis at collapsed/noncollapsed junction
- □ Pulse augmentation
 - ↑ Strong pulse → good inflow
 - No change → stenosis at proximal site (common: juxta anastomosis vein) <u>or</u>
 → collateral vein

Pulse augmentation test

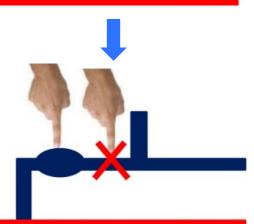




No pulse augmentation, normal thrill



Still no pulse augmentation, normal thrill



Pulse augmentation, no thrill

Collateral vein level





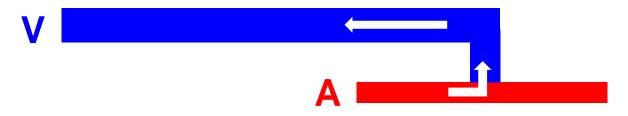
Physical Examinations

- ☐ Thrill (Bruit)
 - Thrill is good / Pulse is bad
 - Good AVF: strong thrill at anastomosis, gradually
 ↓ along distal, continuous pattern, soft pulse
 - Record thrill (site, intensity, quality) from Anastomosis site → Inflow → Body → Outflow
 - Stenosis:
 - ❖ Mild:
 - ➤ Anastomosis: ↓ continuous thrill, ↑ pulse
 - > Stenotic point: continuous thrill
 - Severe:
 - ➤ Anastomosis: systolic thrill, ↑↑ pulse
 - Stenotic point: absent thrill





Normal AVF



- Arm elevation ← Collapsed —
- Pulse augmentation
- **■** Configuration
- Pulse
- Thrill (Bruit) max. intensity

Strong

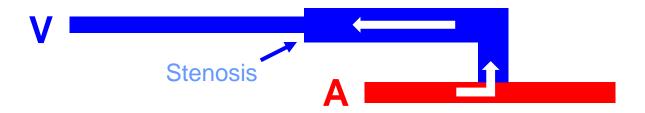
Uniform

Soft



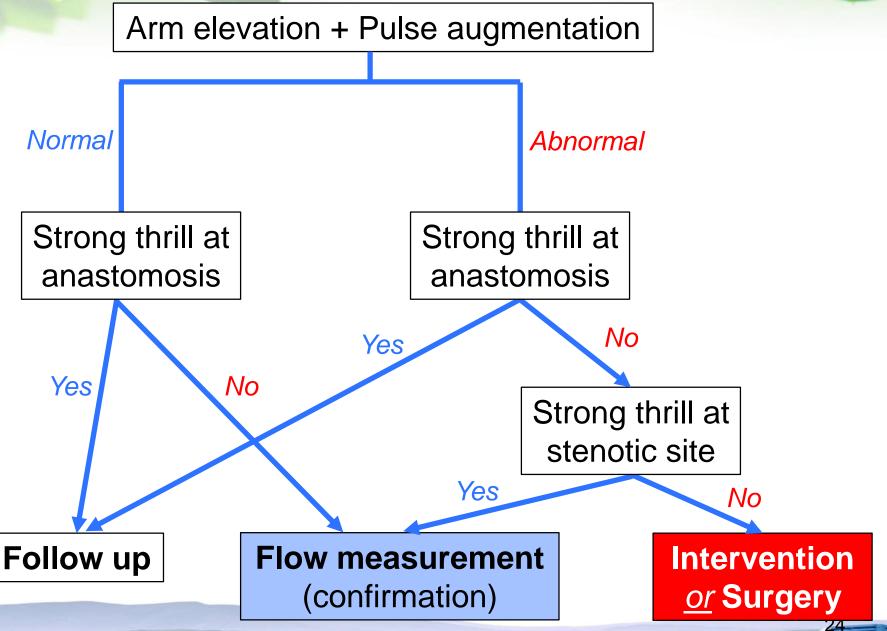


AVF (mid) Stenosis



- Arm elevation ←Collapsed ←
- Pulse Strong augmentation
- Configuration ← Collapsed ← Dilated ←
- Thrill (Bruit) ↑
 max. intensity

 $\uparrow/ \longleftrightarrow$





When to refer for evaluation (diagnosis) and treatment:

- □ Prospective trend analysis of the test parameter has greater power to detect dysfunction than isolated values alone.
- Persistent abnormalities in any of the monitoring or surveillance parameters should prompt referral for access imaging.
- ☐ Routine monitoring & surveillance (at least)
 - Physical examination: 1 month
 - Flow measurement: AVG 1 month AVF - 3 month



When to refer for evaluation (diagnosis) and treatment:

0	0		

Clinical	Hemodynamic
 Arm swelling Difficult cannulation Loss of continuous bruit Prolonged bleeding ↓ URR, Kt/V > 10% x 2 Recurrent clotting > 2 /month Dialyzer clotting or poor reuse 	 Access flow rate - AVG: < 600 mL/min - AVF: < 400 - 500 mL/min □ Venous segment static pressure (mean pressures) ratio > 0.5 (AVG & AVF) □ Arterial segment static pressure ratio > 0.75 (AVG) (KDOQI 2006)
 Recirculation - > 10 % (urea based) - > 0-5 % (other) 	□ Access flow rate - AVF: < 500 mL/min (Eur Vasc Surg 2018)



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