

Innovative Method to Deal with Pericatheter Leak in Home-based Management of Malignant Ascites

Sir,

Malignant ascites is an accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity due to manifestation of terminal metastatic malignancies.^[1] Ascites often is the cause for significant problems such as marked abdominal distention, anorexia, early satiety, dyspnea, nausea, fatigue, and lower-extremity edema compromising the quality of life (QOL).^[2] The fluid often reaccumulates and may require repeated paracentesis (tapping of fluid) to palliate symptoms. Several methods have been tried for home-based management such as tunneled catheters (PleurX, Tenckhoff catheters, etc.) and nontunneled catheters such as pigtail and central venous catheter inserted into the peritoneal cavity.^[3]

Tunneled catheters have limited availability in a resource-limited country like India. Hence, we manage malignant ascites patients in our setup with pigtail insertions (Indovasive P.C.N Catheter, Biorad Medisys Pvt. Ltd). Various complications have been reported with tunneled catheters in literature such as skin infection, pain around the catheter site, and pericatheter leak of ascitic fluid.^[2,3] While the former two complications can be managed adequately, pericatheter leak is a distressing complication as it causes malodor, wetting of clothes, and hygiene issues. We have implemented a well-practiced method to tackle this issue. Colostomy bags have long been used in surgical practice. We have placed colostomy bag (Hollister Ostomy, USA) around the pigtail at its site of insertion to collect the pericatheter drain fluid [Figure 1]. The patient is advised to drain the colostomy bag as frequently as needed. We have advised this procedure in two of our patients and both of them reported satisfactory outcomes.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the patient (s) has/have given his/her/their consent for his/her/their images and other



Figure 1: Image showing colostomy bag applied around the site of insertion of pigtail catheter

clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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