

INFECTIONS IN PD TREATMENT



DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFECTION

1. Exit site infection
2. Tunnel infection
3. Peritonitis

Continuous infection can damage the peritoneum. This will result in inadequate clearance and fluid removal.

The PD catheter is a foreign object exiting the abdomen. To help the body except the PD catheter it needs to be cleaned daily.

Cleaning the exit site will also prevent micro organisms entering the peritoneum through the exit site causing infection.

If you ignore cleaning the exit site it can lead to tunnel infection. Sometimes it is so severe you have to undergo an operation to remove the PD catheter. Then you have to undergo temporary hemo dialysis.

1

ASSESS EXIT SITE DAILY

By assessing the exit site daily, you will be able to identify and report the start of an infection quickly.

The sooner the better, sometimes by cleaning more often and applying ointment and plaster there will be no need for other antibiotics, when an exit site infection occurs.

Assess for: Tenderness, pain, redness, exudate and crust formation.

Always wash your hands before you assess the exit site.

Avoid irritation of the exit site, e.g. tight clothing or belts.

Wear clean underwear daily.

3

PERITONITIS

Most episodes of peritonitis are caused by contamination of the exterior dialysis connection tubing or tunnel infection.

Assess the drain fluid (effluent) with every bag change for clarity. If fluid is not clear, report it to the PD staff immediately.

The longer you wait to report it the more damage it causes to the peritoneum.

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PERITONITIS CONT.

Signs and symptoms: Painful abdomen, fever, nausea and vomiting, cloudy effluent.

Check your effluent daily. If there is any doubt put a piece of news paper under the drainage bag.

If you can read through it you are safe, if you cannot read through it you can have peritonitis.

It is important to report it to the unit staff immediately and to send in the fluid for culture.

Prevention of infection is paramount.

The absence or presence of infection can predict your life span on peritoneal dialysis.

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IMAGE OF HEALTHY EXIT SITE



2

TUNNEL INFECTION

The tunnel is where the catheter tunnels under the skin from the exit site into the peritoneum.

The exit site and the tunnel are equally important. Neglect to clean the exit site can lead to tunnel infection.

When the tunnel is infected, it can lead to peritonitis. Personal hygiene plays an important role to prevent infection.

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