

A Call for Updating the Suprapubic Catheter SPC Insertion Guidelines

Introduction and Objectives: The SPC is a useful and widely used tool in urological practice. However, complications can arise from its insertion or ongoing care. It was only in 2010 when the British Association of Urological Surgeons BAUS published national guidelines on SPC insertion after the national patient safety Agency NPSA issued a Rapid Response Report RRR on Minimizing Risks of SPC insertion in 2009.

Materials and Method: We report a case of a 72 years old gentleman who had a SPC inserted accidentally into the Fem Fem crossover bypass graft. Fem Fem crossover is an operation to bypass the blockage in the Ilio-femoral artery from right to left or vice versa through a subcutaneously tunneled bypassed graft. After frequent attendances to his General practitioner because of his urethral catheter issues, he was referred for a long-term SPC insertion which was performed with the aid of cystoscopy. He was admitted to hospital few weeks later for lower abdominal pain and urosepsis. His past medical history included a second Fem Fem crossover bypass graft after the first graft was blocked.

Results: a computerized Tomography showed that the SPC has gone through the blocked Fem Fem crossover bypass graft. This led to development of infection in the "non-functioning" bypass graft. The infected graft was removed surgically which necessitated further wound debridement. Patient was discharged after he spent 54 days in hospital.

Conclusion: The insertion of SPC is a widely used procedure in urological practice. It is considered to be a safe procedure generally; however, complications can arise from its insertion or post insertion care. The recent published BAUS national guidelines on SPC insertion do not explain in detail about the precautions pre SPC insertion. It explains about previous lower abdominal and pelvic operations in relation to adhesion and risk of bowel perforation; however, there is no mention of previous vascular procedures especially Fem Fem crossover bypass graft in which a tunneled subcutaneous bypass graft is the most common technique to perform this bypass where the graft crosses from side to side superficial to the bladder. We recommend updating the guidelines.