

CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER CARE FOR THE NEUTROPENIC PATIENT.

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Central venous catheters (CVC), also known as central lines, central venous line or central venous access catheter, is a medical device placed into a large vein, the [internal jugular vein, subclavian vein, axillary vein, or femoral vein.](#) It is used to administer fluids and medication, in our particular case chemotherapy, obtain blood tests, and measure central venous pressure

We worked on developing an evidence-based survey on CVC care for patients with severe neutropenia that are treated for hematological malignancies in the Hematology department of Colentina Clinical Hospital – Bucharest. Our prospective study addresses catheter type, insertion site, and placement as well as prophylaxis and management of both catheter-related infection and thrombosis. The data we processed are gathered from a lot of 250 patients that were submitted to our clinic during the last 24 months and presented with or required a CVC. More than 80% of the catheters were used at the maximum-prescribed time interval and were safely removed in our clinic, under the strict supervision of our intensive care personnel. The most frequent challenge that we faced working with CVC in our clinic was the thrombosis of the venous device, with the possibility to re-obtain function after intensive care intervention in less than 30% of the cases. Catheter infection was the second main problem related with CVC handling; we obtained positive cultures in 25% of the suspected cases of infection. The data that we managed to centralize highlight the already well know facts that appropriate catheter handling, sufficient operator experience, careful technique, and proper catheter maintenance with removal as soon as possible are associated with optimal outcome.