
Overview of Catheter Choices and Implantation Techniques

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Decision-Making Algorithm for Peritoneal Dialysis (Patient-Centered)

The selection of dialysis modality is of great importance in planning a successful transition to renal replacement therapy in patients approaching end stage renal disease (ESRD). It is increasingly recognised that individuals, institutions, governments, and specialty societies may direct and subliminally influence the patient's selection/choice of dialysis modality. The most visible and widespread effort in this regard is the CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) FISTULA FIRST National Vascular Access Improvement Initiative [1, 2]. Similarly, the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis is stressing the underutilization of the peritoneal dialysis modality, especially in the Western societies [3].

Rather than emphasizing the doctrine of one modality fitting all, it is ethically and morally a better model to consider a patient driven

approach, keeping in mind quality of life, outcomes and costs. Consequently, the decision-making algorithm for two similar patients may vary, based on individual circumstances.

This chapter describes the types of peritoneal dialysis catheters and implantation techniques applied for peritoneal dialysis, technical considerations, and some of the related surgical complications.

Anatomy

A basic knowledge of the anatomy of the anterior abdominal wall and peritoneal cavity is necessary for a better understanding of the various techniques of catheter placement. The skin of the anterior abdominal wall is of moderate thickness and is relatively fixed on the underlying fascia and muscle layers (Fig. 5.1). The innervation of skin, fascia, muscles and parietal peritoneum of the anterior abdominal wall is segmental, mainly from the anterior primary rami of spinal nerves T6 to L1.

The main muscles of the abdominal wall are the rectus abdominis and pyramidalis muscles, which are anterior; the external and internal oblique muscles and the transversus abdominis muscle, which are lateral (Fig. 5.2). The fibers of the rectus run vertically; those of the external oblique muscle run inferior and anterior; those of the internal oblique muscle run superior and anterior, and those of the

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Fig. 5.1 Section of the abdominal wall – coronal plane

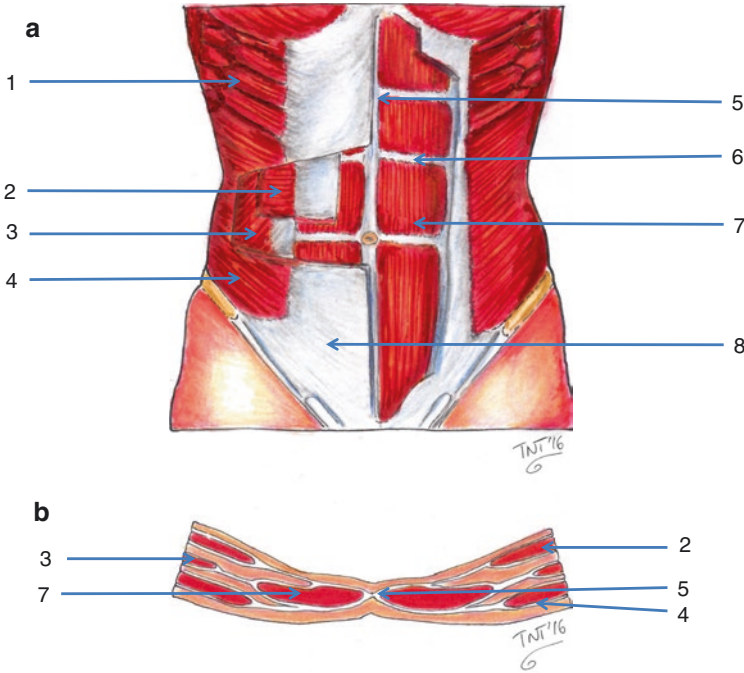
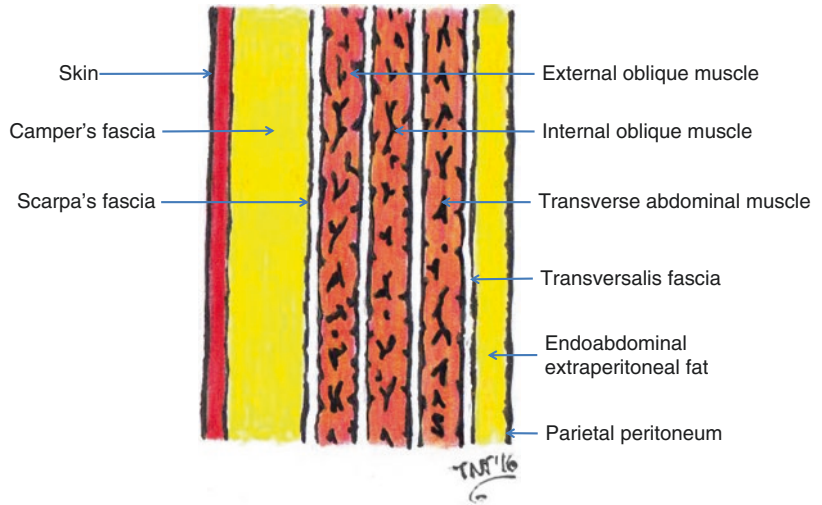


Fig. 5.2 Frontal (a) and transverse (b) planes of the abdominal wall muscles – 1 Serratus anterior; 2 Transversus abdominis; 3 Internal oblique; 4 External

oblique; 5 Linea alba; 6 Tendinous intersection; 7 Rectus abdominis; 8 Aponeurosis of the external oblique

transversus run transversely. The major vessels and nerves pass downward and medially in the neurovascular plane, between the transversus abdominis and the internal oblique muscles (Fig. 5.3). Supplying the rectus muscle and firmly adherent to its posterior surface are the epigastric vessels. These could be

potentially damaged, particularly during a lateral approach for surgical catheter insertion either with open or laparoscopic approaches. The rectus sheath appears as an elliptical tube with a strong anterior wall. The weaker posterior wall only extends to just below the level of the umbilicus.

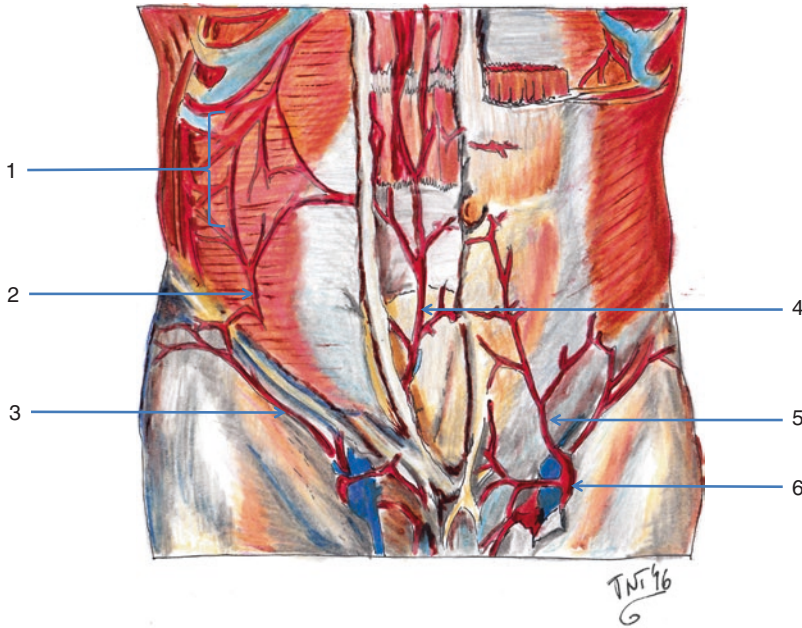


Fig. 5.3 Arterial anatomy of the abdominal wall – to be considered during PD catheter insertion – 1 Anastomoses with lower intercostal, subcostal and lumbar arteries; 2

Ascending branch of the deep circumflex artery; 3 Superficial circumflex iliac artery; 4 Inferior epigastric artery; 5 Superficial epigastric artery; 6 Femoral artery

Types of Peritoneal Catheters

(a) Acute peritoneal dialysis catheters

All catheters used for acute peritoneal dialysis are straight or slightly curved, relatively rigid tubing with numerous side holes at the distal end without any protective cuff. The implantation can be carried out with Seldinger percutaneous, open or laparoscopic insertion techniques. Acute peritoneal dialysis is still used in the management of acute and chronic renal failure in many developing countries [4, 5], where costs are a major limitation. In this setting, it is usually placed at the bedside under local anaesthesia, and catheters are used immediately after implantation. The absence of cuffs, a protection against bacterial migration, makes the incidence of peritonitis prohibitively high beyond 3 days of use; if extended dialysis is necessary the acute catheters are periodically replaced.

(b) Chronic peritoneal dialysis catheters

There are several types of catheters for chronic peritoneal dialysis; the basic structure is the

same with an intraperitoneal portion, one or two cuffs, an inter-cuff segment and an external portion (Table 5.1). They are constructed from silicone rubber or polyurethane and are flexible, and atraumatic to the bowel. Catheters are available with barium impregnated either throughout or as a radiopaque stripe to assist in the radiologic localization of the intra-abdominal section. The silicone rubber or polyurethane surface promotes development of squamous epithelium in the subcutaneous tunnel around the catheter, at the exit site and within the abdominal wall. The presence of this epithelium increases resistance to bacterial penetration of the tissue near the skin exit and peritoneal entry sites. The Dacron cuffs provoke a local inflammatory response with fibrosis, which gives stability to the catheter and prevents bacterial migration from the skin surface into the subcutaneous tunnel and peritoneal cavity.

The intraperitoneal segment has multiple 0.5 mm perforations in the terminal part. Several modifications have been made to the intraperitoneal portion and to the tip of the catheters, with

Table 5.1 Characteristics of peritoneal dialysis catheters

Catheter type	Material	Cuffs	Shape of intra-abdominal segment	Inter-cuff shape	Characteristics
Tenckhoff catheters	Silicone	1–2	Straight/coiled	Straight/ Swan-Neck	
Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) or Oreopoulos-Zellerman catheter	Silicone	2	Straight	Straight	Dacron disc plus a silicone rubber bead (intraperitoneal segment)
Swan-Neck Missouri catheters	Silicone	1–2	Straight/ coiled ^a	Swan-Neck (bend 180° arc angle)	Bead and flange (intraperitoneal segment)
Pail-Handle (Cruz) catheter	Polyurethane	2	Coiled	Two bends (90° arc angle)	
Presternal Swan-Neck peritoneal catheter	Silicone	1–2	Straight/coiled	Arcuate inter-cuff shape	Titanium connector (between proximal and distal-end)
Moncrief-Papovich catheter	Silicone	2	Coiled	Arcuate inter-cuff shape	Larger external cuff (2.5 cm)
Ash (Advantage) catheter	Silicone	2	Straight		T-shaped

^aBecause in several patients infusion pain occurred due to a “jet effect” and/or tip pressure on the peritoneum, the intraperitoneal segment of the catheters, was modified replacing a straight segment with a coiled one

the aim of obtaining an unrestricted flow of dialysate to and from the peritoneal cavity. This flow is most efficient if the catheter tip lies deep within the pelvis (also changes for dislocation/migration are less when placed deep in the pelvis). Catheter design and insertion techniques aim at the prevention of one- or two-way obstruction, tip displacement from the pelvis, common causes of catheter malfunction. Different catheter lengths are available for every patient size.

- Straight and coiled Tenckhoff catheters
- Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) or Oreopoulos-Zellerman catheter
- Straight and coiled Swan-Neck Missouri catheters
- Pail-Handle (Cruz) catheter
- Presternal Swan-Neck peritoneal catheter
- Moncrief-Papovich catheter
- Ash (Advantage) catheter
- Catheters designed for continuous flow peritoneal dialysis (CFPD)

Straight and Coiled Tenckhoff Catheters

The Tenckhoff catheter, first catheter with a widespread clinical use, is now available in different lengths, shapes and number of Dacron cuffs. It remains the most commonly used and the standard for comparison with other catheters. The catheter consists of a silicone rubber tube, bonded to one or two 1 cm cuffs. A barium-impregnated radiopaque strip assists in its radiological visualization. The intraperitoneal portion varies in length from 6.5 to 19.5 cm, with perforations (0.5 mm) in the terminal 2.5–9.5 cm [4, 6]. The intraperitoneal tip is in two shapes, coiled and straight [5].

Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) or Oreopoulos-Zellerman Catheter

The Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) or Oreopoulos-Zellerman catheter is a modified version of the Tenckhoff catheter [7]. The TWH1

and TWH2 are the two types available. Both catheter types have two flat silicone rubber discs attached to the catheter tip with the aim to be more stable in the pelvis. TWH2 has an additional modification consisting of a Dacron disc plus a silicone rubber bead in series with the pre-peritoneal cuff. The incorporation of a disc just superficial to the peritoneal closure is an attempt to prevent late dialysate increasing the area of peritoneal sealing. The catheter has two cuffs with a straight intra-abdominal and inter-cuff shape.

Straight and Coiled Swan-Neck Missouri Catheters

The Swan-Neck Missouri catheters are so called because of the permanent bend of the inter-cuff segment [8]. The inter-cuff shape, Swan-Neck, gives to the intraperitoneal and extraperitoneal segments an unforced downward direction. Several modifications have been described such as the number of cuffs (1 or 2), the distance between cuffs, the arc angle bend, increased from 80° to 180°, and the replacement of a straight intraperitoneal segment with a coiled one due to infusion pain (“jet effect” and/or tip pressure) on the peritoneum, occurred in several patients [9].

Pail-Handle (Cruz) Catheter

This catheter (polyurethane) has two right-angle bends of the inter-cuff segment: one to direct the intraperitoneal portion parallel to the parietal peritoneum and one to direct the subcutaneous portion towards the skin exit site. There are two cuffs and a coiled intra-abdominal segment. A single centre case series on 63 Pail-Handle catheters surgically implanted in 57 consecutive patients with a 5 year follow up, found a cumulative catheter survival rate of 80.8% at 12 months, 62.3% at 24 months and 48.1% at 51 months. An adverse outcome described in the study was related to the catheter adapter that caused large

exit site wounds, predisposed to infection and catheter loss [10].

Presternal Swan-Neck Peritoneal Catheter

The swan neck pre-sternal catheter (silicon rubber) is composed of two flexible tubes joined by a titanium connector at the time of implantation. The exit site is located in the parasternal area. The catheter located on the chest was designed to reduce the incidence of exit site infections. The tube is bonded to two cuffs, and has a permanent bent (arc angle of 180°) of the inter-cuff segment (swan-neck). Both tubes have a radiopaque stripe that helps to achieve proper alignment of the tube during insertion and to facilitate radiological visualization of the intraperitoneal segment [11, 12].

Moncrief-Papovich Catheter

This catheter (silicone rubber) has several important structural changes compared to the Tenckhoff catheter. The structural changes are: a coiled internal segment, an arcuate bend in the subcutaneous segment similar to the swan-neck Missouri catheter and two Dacron cuffs. The external cuff is elongated from 1 to 2.5 cm. The catheter after implantation is locked with 1000 U of heparin, and the external segment is buried subcutaneously for a period of 4–8 weeks or longer to allow tissue ingrowth into the external cuff in a sterile environment. Subsequently, a small incision is made in the skin through which the external segment of the catheter is brought out [13, 14].

Ash (Advantage) Catheter

The Advantage catheter contains a straight portion that is held adjacent to the parietal peritoneum assuring a stable position, without extrusion of the deep cuff or exit site erosion. The intraperitoneal portion contains a short, perpendicular

segment connected to two limbs with external grooves (flutes) to carry fluid into the catheter from the upper and lower abdomen. Due to the apposition of the grooved portion of this catheter against the parietal peritoneum, and the T shape of the catheter, the deep cuff of this catheter is fixed in position, and outward migration of the catheter is very unlikely. Based on the case series described by Ash, the placement of this type of catheter in 18 patients with 4 years of follow-up resulted in the absence of exit site erosion/infection, incisional hernia (peri-catheter) or leaks [15].

Catheters Designed for Continuous Flow Peritoneal Dialysis (CFPD)

Shinaberger and coll. [16], first described this technique in 1965, with the insertion of two peritoneal catheters at opposite sites of the peritoneal cavity. Other groups described this particular technique with mixed success [17–20]. A catheter for CFPD must provide separate conduits for infusing and draining the dialysate into and out of the peritoneal cavity at a high flow rate (100–250 mL/min) with good mixing of the peritoneal solution and minimal streaming and recirculation. The catheter should also be cosmetically acceptable (small diameter, minimal bulk), easy to implant and remove, biocompatible, reliable, and safe.

The simplest devices consist of two straight or curled barrels in a double-D or double-O configuration [21, 22]. The inflow barrel is shorter, and the drain barrel is longer and located in the most dependent pelvic area. Modifications to this basic design include the addition of discs placed in the distal intraperitoneal segment of the catheter to diffuse the inflow stream of dialysate and to improve mixing [23]. A recently introduced design describes a double-lumen catheter with maximum separation of the intraperitoneal limbs to minimize recirculation [24]. It consists of two tubes bonded together as they pass through the abdominal wall and into the peritoneum. The tubes once again separate intraperitoneally by 180° to form a double J, the cranial segment is

shorter than the caudal, and both terminate with a fluted end.

Ash and coll. designed for this purpose a catheter with a T shaped configuration in order to maximally separate the tips of the double lumen [25].

Ronco and coll. designed a novel catheter for CFPD equipped with a thin walled silicone diffuser used to infuse the dialysate into the peritoneum. The holes on the round-tapered diffuser are positioned to allow dialysate to perpendicularly exit 360° from the diffuser, thereby reducing trauma to the peritoneal walls and allowing the dialysate to mix into the peritoneum. The fluid is then drained through the second lumen, whose tip is positioned in the lower pelvis [26].

Critical Comparison of Catheter Design

Despite all the different options, most programs limit their experience with one or two catheter types, making difficult a critical comparison. For simplicity and based on studies present in literature, the discussion on which catheter type offers better results focused mainly on the number of cuffs, single versus double, the configuration of the intraperitoneal portion, straight versus coiled, and of the inter-cuff shape, straight versus Swan-Neck. Lewis and coll. carried out a prospective randomized controlled study that favoured the double cuff over the single cuff Tenckhoff catheters, in terms of survival, time to the first peritonitis episode, and number of exit site infections [27]. Previous ISPD consensus opinion also supported the choice of double cuff Tenckhoff catheters [28]. However, Eklund and coll. in a prospective randomized controlled study found no differences in the number of peritonitis episodes, exit site infections, or in catheter survival between single and double cuff Tenckhoff catheters [29]. As mentioned earlier in the chapter, coiled catheters (intra-peritoneal segment) have been developed in order to achieve less infusion/pressure pain (“jet effect”), better flow, less catheter-related complications such as migration and omental wrapping. These theoretical advantages

have been substantiated by some authors in randomised controlled trials [30–32], but not confirmed in two more recent meta-analyses [33, 34]. The meta-analysis conducted by Xie J and coll. suggested that coiled catheters might be more prone to migration and resultant dysfunction [33]. A more recent meta-analysis by Hagen and coll., including more studies and with the following outcomes of interest (catheter survival, drainage dysfunction, migration, leakage, exit-site infections, peritonitis, and catheter removal), found no differences when comparing straight versus swan neck and single versus double-cuffed catheters. Comparison of straight versus coiled-tip catheters demonstrated that survival was significantly different in favour of straight catheters (hazard ratio 2.05; confidence interval 1.10–3.79, $P = 0.02$). The conclusion of the authors was that for surgically inserted (open and laparoscopic) catheters, the removal rate and survival at 1 year were significantly in favour of straight catheters [34].

In our experience we primarily use double cuff Tenckhoff catheters, both straight and coiled (intraperitoneal portion) and with straight inter-cuff shape. **When critically comparing the different catheters we have to bear in mind that the most important aspect of preventing mechanical complications is probably attention to detail and the operative insertion technique used [35].**

Chronic Catheter Placement Procedures

Peritoneal dialysis catheters may be placed via a percutaneous, a laparoscopic, or an open surgical route. Open surgical and laparoscopic techniques are the most commonly performed worldwide. According to American data, the laparoscopic technique is now the most commonly used, compared to all other techniques [36].

- (a) Percutaneous technique
- (b) Peritoneoscopic technique
- (c) Open surgical technique
- (d) Laparoscopic technique

Seldinger Percutaneous Technique

First described in 1968 by Tenckhoff and Schechter, it is a percutaneous method of catheter placement. The authors reported a high incidence of catheter migration resulting in failure rates up to 65% at 2 years and risk of bowel or vessel injury [4]. Several other reports have shown adequate results, with dysfunction and leak rates below 7% [37–40] and a bowel perforation risk of 1–2% [38, 41]. Zappacosta et al. reserved the percutaneous catheter placement only in patients with no previous abdominal surgery, in view of the high risk of bowel perforation in presence of adhesions [37]. Aksu and coll. achieved excellent results in a pediatric population (108 peritoneal catheters percutaneously placed in 93 pediatric patients) with an overall incidence of catheter dysfunction of 14% over 10-year period and no cases of bowel perforation [42]. Varughese and coll. highlighted that the percutaneous insertion is now preferred in developing countries where costs play a major role [43]. Advantages and disadvantages of this technique are presented in the Table 5.2.

Technical Aspects

Percutaneous placement of peritoneal dialysis catheters, under local anaesthesia, uses a guide-wire and a peel-away sheath applying the Seldinger technique.

Table 5.2 Pros and cons of percutaneous insertion

Pros	Cons
Procedure under local anaesthesia	Not all types of catheters can be inserted
Small incision (low risk of incisional hernia/fluid leakage)	Risk of intra-abdominal organ damage – risk of bleeding
Short operative times	Difficult precise positioning of the intra-peritoneal segment – risk of catheter malfunctioning No security at end of procedure that catheter is in correct position.
Low cost procedure	Does not allow to perform associated procedures (i.e. adhesiolysis, omentopexy, partial omentectomy)

- A small incision is made above the entrance site, most commonly in the midline.
- An 18-gauge needle is placed into the peritoneal cavity, which is then filled with air or 500 mL of saline. Absence of resistance or pain during this manoeuvre suggests proper positioning.
- A guide wire (usually 0.035-in.) is then advanced into the abdomen, this step can be done under XR guidance, and the needle is removed.
- A dilator and a peel-a-way sheath are advanced over the guidewire into the abdominal cavity. The dilator and wire are then removed, and the peritoneal dialysis catheter is placed in the peritoneal cavity and advanced through the sheath with a stylet until the proximal cuff is in the preperitoneal sheath.

The peel-a-way sheath and the stylet are then removed, and the correct position of the catheter is confirmed with fluoroscopy (Table 5.2).

Peritoneoscopic Technique

First described in 1981 by Ash [44], it is a technique of PD catheter insertion under local anaesthesia. The peritoneoscopic PD catheter insertion, commonly performed by nephrologists in an outpatient setting with all the associated potential benefits [45, 46], requires a specialized equipment (needlescope - Y-TEC, Medigroup, Inc. North Aurora, IL).

There are still limited data on outcomes for these catheters. Main concerns are relatively high dysfunction rates [47] and risk of bowel perforation [48, 49]. The vast majority of data on outcomes are coming from retrospective studies outside the United States [50, 51]; very recently Yorg and coll. reported in a retrospective series the Mount Sinai experience [52].

Technical Aspects

Peritoneoscopic placement of peritoneal dialysis catheters, under local anaesthesia, requires a needle trocar, a Quill guide, a needlescope (needlescope - Y-TEC, Medigroup, Inc. North Aurora, IL) and a Cuff Implanter Tool (Medigroup Inc., Oswego, IL).

A guidewire and a peel-away sheath applying the Seldinger technique.

- Needle trocar and surrounding Quill guide or sheath insertion through abdominal wall.
- Insufflation of the peritoneal cavity with room air [44] or NO [52].
- Needlescope insertion through the Quill guide, identification of the pelvis.
- The scope is removed; the guide is dilated to 6 mm to allow the PD catheter insertion.
- Deep cuff positioning below the anterior rectus sheath using a Cuff Implanter Tool (Medigroup Inc., Oswego, IL).
- Guide removal (Table 5.3).

Open Surgical Technique

First described in 1972 by Brewer, the open surgical peritoneal dialysis catheter placement has been until recent years the most commonly used in the adult and pediatric population [53, 54]. Advantages and disadvantages of this technique are presented in the Table 5.4. Since there is direct visualization of the peritoneum prior to insertion, the risk of bowel injury and bleeding is extremely low [53]. However, its main limitation is catheter malfunctioning; the reported incidence in some series is up to a 38% [55]. Two major factors that may be involved in catheter dysfunction are inadequate placement of the catheter tip into the pelvis, which

Table 5.3 Pros and cons of peritoneoscopic insertion

Pros	Cons
Procedure under local anaesthesia	Not all types of catheters can be inserted
Small incision (low risk of incisional hernia/ fluid leakage)	Risk of intra-abdominal organ damage – risk of bleeding
Short operative times	Does not allow to perform associated procedures (i.e. adhesiolysis, omentopexy, partial omentectomy)
Visualization of the abdominal cavity and more accurate placement of the tip of the catheter than with blind percutaneous or open surgical	Need for specialized equipment and expertise

Table 5.4 Pros and cons of open insertion

Pros	Cons
All types of catheters can be inserted	Larger incision compared to other techniques and consequent higher risk of incisional hernia/fluid leakage
Low risk of intra-abdominal organ damage	Risk of catheter malfunctioning – catheter migration, one-way or total obstruction
Low risk of bleeding	Limited space to perform associated procedures (i.e. adhesiolysis, omentopexy, partial omentectomy)
	Costs – surgeon and OR time No security at end of procedure that catheter is in correct position.

OR operating room

allows the catheter to migrate and become entrapped within the omentum, and the presence of intra-abdominal adhesions, which interfere with correct catheter placement [56–59]. Using the mini-laparotomy, it is difficult to visualize the entire peritoneal cavity, and to perform adhesiolysis should it be required; therefore, potentially poorer outcomes are to be expected in patients who have had prior abdominal surgery [60].

Technical Aspects

Open surgical placement of peritoneal dialysis catheters, under local or general anaesthesia, is performed via a mini-laparotomy.

- The skin incision, in a patient placed in supine position, is either sub-umbilical midline or ideally para-median [61]. Stegmayr and coll. introduced the paramedian approach and purse string sutures around the peritoneum and the catheter to reduce the incidence of leak rate [61].
- The subcutaneous layer is then dissected to the sheath of the rectus muscle. The anterior rectus sheath is opened, and the muscle fibers are split (muscle-splitting technique). The posterior sheath is incised, and the abdominal cavity is opened after dissecting the peritoneum.
- Placing the patient in Trendelenburg position allows a comfortable peritoneal catheter placement deep in the peritoneal cavity; this manoeuvre can be done with or without a stylet.
- Omentectomy is commonly performed in the pediatric population [54, 62] (for more details

please refer to the section “[Surgical Manoeuvres to Prevent Catheter Dysfunction](#)”)

- Some surgeons perform fixation of the intra-peritoneal catheter portion to the bladder, the parietal peritoneum, uterus or pelvic sidewall in order to minimize catheter dislocation (for more details please refer to the section “[Surgical Manoeuvres to Prevent Catheter Dysfunction](#)”).
- The deep cuff is positioned within the rectus sheath; some surgeons place reinforcing sutures in order to prevent leakage of the dialysate [61].
- The posterior and anterior rectus sheaths are closed with absorbable sutures taking care to prevent catheter obstruction.
- A subcutaneous tunnel is then created and the distal cuff left at 2–4 cm from the exit site [28].
- Filling the abdomen with sterile saline - with no consensus about the amount of fluid that should be given – in order to check good in- and outflow at the end of the procedure and for eventual leakage (Table 5.4).

Laparoscopic Technique

Since its first description in the early 1990s, laparoscopic insertion of PD catheters has been increasingly used, and it is now in the United States the most commonly technique used [36]; its safety and feasibility in both adults and children have been documented in case series, retrospective reviews and comparative studies [50, 63–98]. Advantages and disadvantages of this technique are presented in the Table 5.5. The laparoscopic peritoneal catheter insertion without any associated intervention is referred in the literature as “basic laparoscopic technique”. There is a growing body of evidence that the greatest benefit of laparoscopy is the minimization of catheter dysfunction securing optimal catheter position under direct vision, facilitating adhesiolysis, rectus sheath tunneling, omentopexy or omentectomy.

The use of these surgical manoeuvres is referred to as “advanced laparoscopic techniques” (for more details please refer to the section “[Surgical Manoeuvres to Prevent Catheter Dysfunction](#)”) [50, 91, 99].

Technical Aspects

The laparoscopic peritoneal dialysis placement can be performed under general or local anaesthesia.

Standard laparoscopes of thirty degrees zero degrees, 3, 5, 8 and 10 mm ports have all been used in the studies present in the literature. One, two and three port techniques have all been described. Graspers and scissors should be available as well as ultrasonic dissecting instruments since adhesiolysis is sometimes necessary.

Minilaparoscopic instruments have also been used with equal success [72, 100–103]. Most authors recommend the use of the smallest available non-cutting ports to allow the quickest healing of the peritoneum, thus facilitating early start of PD and low leak rate; studies comparing leak rates and the size of trocars are lacking.

1. Procedure under general anaesthesia:

- The patient is placed in a supine position.
- For every technique, it is important to first place the PD catheter on the abdomen of the patient and determine optimal position, insertion site and exit site. There are even tools to assist with this.
- The access to the peritoneal cavity is accomplished either by open Hassan trocar or by Veress needle insertion. In a review, Crabtree noted that 43% of authors used a peri-umbilical site (subcostal or supraumbilical) [60]. From the available literature, it is clear that the access to the peritoneal cavity is at discretion of the operating surgeon; most authors are now less in favour to the midline access [61].
- After induction of pneumoperitoneum (max pressure 12–14 mmHg), a diagnostic laparoscopy is performed. An additional 5–8 mm trocar is placed under direct vision at the site of the planned exit-site position of the peritoneal dialysis catheter. For the description of the rectus sheath tunnelling technique, please refer to the section on [Surgical Manoeuvres to Prevent Catheter Dysfunction](#).
- If adhesions are present, adhesiolysis is usually performed.
- A peritoneal dialysis catheter is then placed into the pouch of Douglas, with or without a stylet.
- The distal cuff of the peritoneal dialysis catheter remains outside of the peritoneal cavity and is positioned either in the preperitoneal space or between the rectus sheaths.
- The para-umbilical trocar is removed, and the catheter is then directed to its exit-site location.
- A subcutaneous tunnel is created similarly to others implantation techniques.
- The catheter is tested, and the abdomen is desufflated.
- The trocar is removed, and the rectus fascia closed. Skin closure (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5 Pros and cons: Laparoscopic PD catheter insertion under general anaesthesia

Pros	Cons
Small incision(s) (low risk of incisional hernia/fluid leakage)	Need for general anaesthetic (can also be done under LA, but GA more common)
Allows to perform associated procedures (i.e. adhesiolysis, omentopexy, partial omentectomy)	Expertise in laparoscopic surgery
Low risk of intra-abdominal organ damage/low risk of bleeding	Not all types of catheters can be inserted
Immediate use possible	Need for special equipment (problem for 3rd World countries)
Precise positioning (under direct vision) of intraperitoneal segment.	
Cost-effective*	

***Cost analysis** When accounting for a year of postoperative management and treatment, laparoscopic insertion can be less costly than open insertion in the hands of an experienced and dedicated surgeon. Despite higher initial costs, PD catheter insertion under laparoscopic visualization can have lower total costs due to fewer postoperative complications [109]

Procedure Under Local Anaesthesia

It is reported the original technique described by Crabtree of laparoscopic dialysis catheter implantation using a two-port technique [104]. The infiltration with local anaesthetic of all abdominal wall layers until the peritoneum, for complete pain control, helium insufflation is used to create pneumoperitoneum; Keshvari and coll. described the technique using nitrous oxide (NO₂) [64]. Few characteristics make helium ideal in this setting: it is painless, thereby allowing the laparoscopic procedure to be performed under local anaesthesia [104]; non-flammable, thereby safe when using electrosurgical devices [105, 106]; inert, thereby increasingly utilized in high-risk patients [107, 108]. Contrary to paralyzed patients under general anaesthesia, patients under local anaesthesia benefit from lower gas insufflation pressure (between 8 and 10 mmHg) and rates (0.5–2.0 L/min.). The peritoneal catheter is inserted through a para-median port site while continuously monitoring the implant procedure with a laparoscope from a second port location. The catheter–stylet assembly is then inserted and placed deep in the pelvis. The rectus sheath tunnelling technique is applied. The deep Dacron cuff is withdrawn until disappears above the peritoneum in the anterior rectus sheath. The stylet is removed from the catheter, the pneumoperitoneum is allowed to deflate, and the laparoscope is removed. The catheter is tested with the patient in reverse Trendelenburg position; a standard 1-L bag of normal saline is observed for unimpeded inflow and drainage by gravity. A residual of 250–300 mL is left in the abdomen to reduce the likelihood of intraperitoneal structures sucking up against the catheter toward the end of the drainage process. At the conclusion of a successful irrigation, the entire system is flushed with 20 mL of heparin (100 U/mL) (Table 5.6).

Surgical Manoeuvres to Prevent Catheter Dysfunction

Adhesiolysis

Previous abdominal surgery and consequent peritoneal adhesion formation represent a

unique challenge and a major factor in PD catheter dysfunction [110]. Although no studies specifically compared PD catheter placement and adhesiolysis to PD catheter placement alone, adhesiolysis is considered essential in optimizing primary PD catheter function. In this context, the laparoscopic approach is particularly beneficial, allowing identification and lysis of the adhesions [65, 111]. Adhesiolysis can be performed using ultrasonic shears or regular laparoscopic scissors [60] and it has been employed in several large case series [63, 78, 80–82, 85, 111] and some authors described similar catheter function rates in patients with adhesions as those with a virgin abdomen [60, 112, 113].

Suture Fixation

Catheter tip migration away from the pelvis is a common cause for catheter failure as the intraperitoneal portion of the catheter functions best

Table 5.6 Pros and cons: Laparoscopic PD catheter insertion under local anaesthesia

Pros	Cons
No need for general anaesthesia	Not all types of catheters can be inserted
Small incision (low risk of incisional hernia/fluid leakage)	Need for special equipment
Allows to perform associated procedures (i.e. adhesiolysis, partial omentectomy)	Expertise in laparoscopic technique
Low risk of intra-abdominal organ damage/low risk of bleeding	Need for special equipment (problem for 3rd World countries)
Immediate use possible	
Precise positioning (under direct vision) of the intraperitoneal segment.	
Cost-effective ^a	

^a*Cost analysis* When accounting for a year of postoperative management and treatment, laparoscopic insertion can be less costly than open insertion in the hands of an experienced and dedicated surgeon. Despite higher initial costs, PD catheter insertion under laparoscopic visualization can have lower total costs due to fewer postoperative complications [109]

when in the pelvis [48, 49, 68]. Several authors reported suture fixation of the catheter tip to the bladder, uterus or pelvic sidewall in an attempt to prevent catheter tip migration in either open or laparoscopic approach [14, 59, 61, 62, 64]. Potential harms of suture fixation are not easy catheter removal and internal hernias or adhesions [93]. Other authors showed a relatively high dysfunction rate after suture fixation (12–14%), possibly due to the inability of the catheter to “float” into the largest area of PD fluid [14, 77, 93]. However, the lack of comparative studies on peritoneal catheter insertion with and without suture fixation leaves the decision on suture fixation to the operating surgeon, based on his personal experience.

Rectus Sheath Tunneling

Many authors have used rectus sheath tunneling, also described as extraperitoneal or preperitoneal tunneling, as a way to prevent catheter migration and decrease the incidence of fluid leak [78, 79, 82, 91, 94]. The technique, applied during laparoscopic insertion, involves visualizing the insertion device (sheath, blunt trocar or grasper) as it comes through the rectus muscle but before it enters the peritoneal cavity. Once the device is seen just above the posterior rectus sheath and peritoneum, it is tunnelled 4–6 cm toward the midline pelvis before actually penetrating and entering the peritoneal cavity. In addition, this technique has the advantage over suture fixation of not requiring extra trocars for suturing. Several studies using laparoscopic insertion and rectus sheath tunnel showed dysfunction rates between 4% and 8.6% and leak rates from 0% to 12.5% [78, 79, 82, 91, 94]. In a recent review article, Frost and Bagul recommend that rectus sheath tunneling and placement of the deep cuff in the rectus sheath are far more important than suture fixation in reducing catheter tip migration [99]. However, randomized trials comparing suture fixation to rectus sheath tunneling have not been performed.

Omentopexy and Omentectomy

The omentum is a well-known source of catheter dysfunction; omentectomy has been described in adults and children as a way to reduce this complication. With the open technique the omentum is pulled up through the incision and excised [54, 114–122]. McIntosh described an alternative technique, omentopexy, which consists in suturing the omentum to the abdominal wall [119]. Although omentectomy is feasible during laparoscopic PD catheter insertion [69, 111, 118, 120–122], it is more time consuming and has an increased risk of bleeding [65]; therefore, laparoscopic omentopexy seems to be favoured [67, 82, 94, 112, 113]. Omentopexy techniques can be accomplished with trans-abdominal suture passer or with intracorporeal suturing. An alternative technique described by Goh consists of omental folding in order to shorten it [122].

Critical Comparison of Different Implantation Techniques

Percutaneous – Peritoneoscopic Versus Surgical (Open or Laparoscopic)

Several single centre experiences compared percutaneous and open surgical peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion. Besides the general agreement that percutaneous insertion is particularly well suited for high-risk patients, who cannot tolerate general anaesthesia [42, 117, 118, 123, 124], comparative results yield to a different results. While older studies including a retrospective single center study by Nicholson and coll. found that catheter survival was significantly better after open surgical insertion compared to percutaneous insertion [115]. Gadallah and coll. in a prospective randomized study on percutaneous versus open placement of peritoneal dialysis catheters showed that the placement modality did not affect catheter survival; however, early mechanical complications, including technical failures, occurred more fre-

quently in the percutaneous group [116]. More recent studies show that percutaneous placement of PD catheter offers an effective and safe alternative surgical technique in selected patients (such as no previous abdominal operation, BMI < 28 kg/m²) [123–126]; a meta-analysis comparing open surgery/laparoscopic and percutaneous PD catheter insertion reports no difference in the 1-year catheter survival rate [127].

Open Versus Laparoscopic

A number of randomized prospective studies [88, 92, 95, 96, 128, 129] comparing open surgical versus laparoscopic peritoneal catheter insertion justified systematic reviews [130] and meta-analyses [131, 132].

The systematic review of randomized controlled trials conducted by Strippoli and coll. included any randomized controlled trial of different catheter types and catheter-related interventions used to prevent peritonitis or exit-site and tunnel infection in PD. The subgroup analysis on surgical approaches included three trials (248 patients in total) comparing laparoscopic versus open surgical catheter insertion, could not demonstrate any advantage of one technique over the other, with respect to the risk of peritonitis, catheter removal or replacement, technical failure and all-cause mortality [130].

Xie and coll. performed a meta-analysis of four randomized controlled trials and a systematic review of ten observational studies to compare laparoscopy with open placement of peritoneal dialysis catheter. The authors extracted data on the following reported outcomes: operation time, duration of hospital stay, incidence-rate of catheter-related complications (such as infection, dialysate leak, catheter migration, outflow obstruction, bleeding, blockage and hernia). According to this analysis open surgery needs a shorter operative time and simpler equipment requirement but has a similar effect to the laparoscopic technique. Therefore, the authors conclude that laparoscopic catheter placement has no

superiority to open surgery; on the other hand, they state that further trials that focus on long-term outcomes are needed, taking into account the rapid development of the advanced laparoscopic technique, which may reduce further the complication rates [131].

Hagen and coll. performed a meta-analysis of three randomized controlled trials [85, 87, 88] and eight cohort studies [88, 90, 91, 93, 96, 101, 133, 134], comparing laparoscopic versus open surgical peritoneal catheter insertion. Contrarily to the study conducted by Xie and coll. [131], the authors did not include studies assessing different techniques (peritoneoscopic and percutaneous insertion) and studies including pediatric patients. The following outcome measures were included: incidence of peritonitis, exit-site/tunnel infection, leakage, catheter migration, catheter removal for complications, need for revision and catheter survival. The results of this meta-analysis reveal the potential benefits of laparoscopic PD-catheter insertion with better one-year catheter survival and less migration rates compared to the open surgical insertion [132].

The conclusion of both meta-analyses [131, 132] is the need of studies with larger numbers of patients and long-term follow up in order to be able to evaluate the true value of laparoscopy in PD-catheter insertion; a large randomized controlled trial is currently under way [129].

Limitations of Comparative Studies

Small numbers, single centre experiences and other confounding factors bias the studies comparing insertion techniques. The expertise of the operators, which may vary significantly, the exclusion of high-risk patients, such as those with history of prior abdominal surgery, in some insertion techniques, the different definitions of complications (for example some papers split up catheter migration and outflow obstruction as causes of catheter dysfunction), make comparative studies less accurate and difficult to interpret. Finally, the follow-up periods vary greatly, but generally tended to be short making it difficult to compare data on one tech-

nique versus another. For peritoneal access, the only strong recommendation that can be made is that all the techniques, percutaneous, open surgical, and laparoscopic insertion procedures, when performed by experienced/dedicated operators, are feasible and safe with acceptable outcomes.

Timing? When to Start PD After Catheter Insertion

The timing of commencement of dialysis after catheter insertion has not been studied in randomized controlled trials, although one is currently underway in Australia [135]. There is general consensus worldwide to observe a break in period of at least 2 weeks for both adult and children. [28, 135–140] (see table). Over the last decade, urgent-start PD has gained considerable interest in the United States. Urgent-start PD refers to an approach that involves initiation of PD therapy earlier than 2 weeks after PD catheter insertion. Treatment is performed with low fill volumes in the supine position using a cyclor to avoid peri-catheter leak. Numerous clinical experiences with urgent-start PD have been published or discussed at scientific meetings [141–150].

With all the limitations of a single center including a small number of patients, Ghaffari recently described the feasibility and efficacy of an urgent-start peritoneal dialysis program [141].

British Renal Association (2009)	Whenever possible, that catheter insertion should be performed at least 2 weeks before starting peritoneal dialysis. Small dialysate volumes in the supine position can be used if dialysis is required earlier (2B).
European Dialysis and Transplant Association – European Renal Association (2005)	Whenever possible, the implantation should be at least 2 weeks before starting peritoneal dialysis. Small dialysate volumes in the supine position can be used if dialysis is required earlier (Evidence C)

Australian: Caring for Australasians with Renal Impairment (CARI) (2004)	When possible, peritoneal dialysis should not be commenced until at least 2 weeks after the insertion of the dialysis catheter (Suggestions are based on level III and IV studies)
International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD)	When possible, peritoneal dialysis should not be commenced until at least 2 weeks after the insertion of the dialysis catheter
Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI)	No recommendations.
Canadian Society of Nephrology	No recommendations.

Surgical Complications and Management

- (a) Hernia
- (b) Hemorrhage
- (c) Perforation
- (d) Catheter-related (fluid leak, one-way or total obstruction, migration)
- (e) Others (chyloperitoneum, genital edema, peritoneal-vaginal leak)

Hernia

Hernias represent one of the most frequent non-infectious complications of PD and will be extensively treated in a separate chapter [15].

Hemorrhage

Hemorrhage secondary to peritoneal catheter insertion can be classified as intraperitoneal and extraperitoneal.

Intraperitoneal bleeding (intraabdominal bleeding) may be secondary to trauma of omental or mesenteric vessels during the manipulation of the catheter tip into the pelvis, adhesiolysis or omentectomy. During a percutaneous insertion this is usually recognised as bloodstaining of the

draining fluid. This complication may occur or be recognised only postoperatively and usually presents with bloody staining of the dialysate effluent. If the bleeding is minimal and the patient is hemodynamically stable, conservative management is indicated. Obviously, in case of severe bleeding and/or hemodynamic instability, patient should be taken back to theatres as emergency. During open and/or laparoscopic insertion it is easier to recognise and treat this complication.

Extraperitoneal bleeding may occur from the inferior epigastric vessels, subcutaneous vessels or skin edges. If the bleeding is difficult to control, the epigastric vessels can be tied off with ligature above and below the site of trauma. Bleeding from subcutaneous vessels and skin edges is in the vast majority of cases self-limiting or stops with conservative management; large hematomas may require surgical intervention in case of patient discomfort and potential source of infection [151].

Perforation

Intra-abdominal perforation is a described complication during peritoneal catheter insertion; it is more common during percutaneous insertion. The most commonly injured organs are bowel and bladder. Perforation of viscera by erosion of the peritoneal catheter is extremely rare. This complication is facilitated by episodes of peritonitis, an empty peritoneal cavity, the use of steroids, or the presence of vasculitis.

Lesions to the bladder occur more frequently in patients with chronic urinary outflow obstruction; some authors advocate the use of a urinary catheter to limit its occurrence. Urine in the peritoneal cavity may give rise to signs of peritonitis. A small laceration may close spontaneously draining the bladder with a urethral catheter. A large laceration may require a surgical repair followed by urethral catheterization.

The risk of bowel perforation is higher in patients with intra-abdominal adhesions from previous surgery or peritonitis. The most common mechanism of injury is advancement of the

catheter against resistance into a bowel loop, fixed in the peritoneal cavity by adhesions; the pathogenetic mechanism previously described is characteristic of the percutaneous placement. During laparoscopic or open insertion, the insertion under direct vision makes this complication extremely rare.

After catheter insertion, perforation may present in a variety of ways. The patient without experiencing abdominal signs may pass large volumes of dialysate per rectum if the catheter is placed into the lumen of the bowel. Alternatively the run-out may be cloudy and contain mixed bacterial organisms with signs of peritonitis. Several courses of action are possible. In the absence of clinical signs and symptoms, the catheter may be left in free drainage for few days to allow an intra-peritoneal track to form, then it may be removed; few weeks are usually required before attempting a new catheter insertion.

In case of peritonitis or when conservative management fails, a diagnostic laparoscopy or laparotomy is mandatory.

Catheter-Related (Fluid Leak, One-Way or Total Obstruction)

Fluid Leak

Fluid leak is defined as the appearance of dialysate fluid through the wound(s) or the catheter exit site. It can be divided in early and late, depending upon its appearance soon after the insertion or at later stage. The wide variety of its incidence (from 0% to 27%) present in the literature mostly depends on the technique of implantation (percutaneous vs peritoneoscopic vs open vs laparoscopic) and the definition of leak (early vs late) [85, 86, 89, 100, 152–154]. The vast majority are represented by early leaks. The pathogenesis is due to a defect in the peritoneal closure around the catheter or other peritoneal defects created during insertion [154]. Preventive measures reported in the literature are the observation of a break-in period of about 2 weeks [89, 91]; in this period the wound can heal properly and ingrowth of fibrous tissue can anchor the catheter. If the

start cannot be delayed, it would be reasonable reducing the dialysate volume (500–1000 mL in adults) for the initial period. There is also evidence that the laparoscopic insertion and the application of advanced techniques such as rectus sheath tunneling could further reduce the incidence of this complication [50].

One-Way or Total Obstruction

Catheter obstruction is one of the most common complications of peritoneal catheters; it usually occurs in the early postoperative phase and presents in the form of one-way (outflow) or total (inflow/outflow) obstruction. Its incidence varies widely depending on the catheter type and the technique applied. One-way obstruction presents when peritoneal fluid runs into the peritoneal cavity but only drains slowly or does not drain at all; total obstruction presents with inability to flush the catheter. The most common cause of obstruction and consequently catheter malfunctioning is catheter tip migration away from the pelvis [57, 58]. As described before, preventive surgical techniques have been applied in order to reduce its incidence, such as suture fixation of the catheter tip [58, 88, 118] and rectus sheath tunneling. The latter seems to yield the most promising results [99]. Other potential causes of obstruction are omental wrapping, presence of adhesions, full rectum or bladder, obstruction of the lumen with clots or fibrin [62].

The management of catheter obstruction depends on the cause. History and physical examination are important to identify the nature of the problem (sudden vs gradual) and to rule out constipation. A plain abdominal X-ray will give further information regarding constipation and will show the position of the catheter tip. If negative, further studies such as catheterography [155] or CT peritoneography [156, 157] followed by diagnostic laparoscopy [158] are indicated.

Non-operative treatments of malfunctioning PD catheters include laxatives or enemas, catheter flushing, intraluminal heparin or fibrinolytic agents [159–161]. Several procedures under fluoroscopic guidance have been described to reposition displaced catheters [162–165]. The manipulation of catheters with intraluminal instruments may predispose to visceral damage,

bacterial contamination [166] and it is ineffective in case of adhesions or omental wrapping. Patients with malfunctioning peritoneal dialysis catheters not responding to non-operative treatments require operative management. The laparoscopic approach is particularly beneficial in this context, allowing catheter repositioning [167], adhesiolysis [67], omentectomy or omentopexy [89, 120] or catheter replacement when the obstruction can not be resolved [168].

Others (Chyloperitoneum, Genital Edema, Peritoneal-Vaginal Leak)

Chyloperitoneum

Chyloperitoneum is a rare but well-described complication in patients on peritoneal dialysis [169]. One case series reported an incidence of 0.5% [170]. It has been described after laparoscopic [169–171] and percutaneous [172] PD catheter placement. Its pathogenesis is unclear but has been hypothesized that could be secondary to injury of fine lymphatic vessels. The complication is usually recognised postoperatively when the dialysate has a milky white, turbid appearance and contains triglyceride levels that exceed those in the plasma [173]. Most cases resolve spontaneously within weeks but may require temporary cessation of PD. In persistent chyloperitoneum, conservative management consists of low fat diet to reduce the turbidity of the triglyceride-rich lymphatic flow; supplements with medium-chain triglycerides, absorbed directly into the portal system instead of intestinal lymphatics. Some authors achieved good results with Orlistat, a reversible inhibitor of pancreatic and gastric lipases, and octreotide, a somatostatin analogue, but the overall clinical experience with these agents is limited for this indication [174, 175]. Surgery may be indicated and some authors have advocated a laparoscopic approach [176].

Genital Edema

Genital, scrotal or labial, edema is typically secondary to two main causes: a patent processus vaginalis or a subcutaneous tissue leak of dialysate.

The most common pathogenetic cause is a patent processus vaginalis, which usually allows the flow of dialysate in the genital area and it is too small for the formation of a true hernia.

Patients with subcutaneous leaks will often have signs of leak in the subcutaneous tissue of the lower abdomen with evidence of these changes continuing into the genital area, such as palpable thickness of the tissue or visible peau d'orange appearance of the surrounding skin.

To differentiate between these presentations and to confirm the diagnosis, a CT peritoneogram or nuclear medicine scan can be useful. In CT peritoneography, 150 mL of contrast can be added to the 2 L dialysate bag and infused into the patient. The patient is asked to remain active for 30–60 min and then undergo a CT scan of the abdomen and processus vaginalis. Similarly, Tc-99m can be infused with the dialysate and after a similar period the patient undergoes to peritoneal scintigraphy.

In patients diagnosed with a patent processus vaginalis, surgical correction is usually required to resolve the genital edema, if a trial of night exchanges with dry days fails. [177]

Peritoneal-Vaginal Leak

This complication develops when the fallopian tubes act as conduits for antegrade passage of dialysate in the uterine cavity. The leak can be stopped by bilateral tubal ligation [178]. If the women wish to maintain fertility and transplantation is planned, temporary conversion to hemodialysis may be considered.

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