

SYSTEMATIC STANDARDIZATION OF UROLOGICAL CATHETERS: PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Urological catheters are essential in most urological surgical procedures. However, there is a wide variability of commercially available catheters according to their consistency, shape, design, size and number of lumen. Each has its own proper indication. Therefore, adequate knowledge by nursing staff of the specific characteristics and indications would be of interest.

AIM

Our aim was to design a practical guideline for the use of these catheters by the nursing staff in the urology operating room in order to facilitate their use and improve the surgical team efficiency.

METHODS

A comprehensive review of the particular characteristics and surgical applications of the different catheters used in our Urology operating room was performed. Applications of each catheter for each surgical technique was defined in consensus with the physician team. Finally, the available information was adapted to routine surgical practice according to the role of nursing staff.

RESULTS

A quick visual guideline was designed as an extended table containing the basic characteristics and applications of each urological catheter. Variables included in the table were commercial brand, size, length, number of lumen and indications. Guidelines have resulted in a standardized approach involving both physician and nursing staff and consequently, in lower variability of the surgical techniques. Availability of this practical and visual information has also led to a rapid and efficient identification of the required device, avoiding errors in instrumentation as well as in the maintenance of stock.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of a quick and basic guideline for the use of different urological catheters in the operating room is feasible and allows for a more efficient and standardized surgical approach.

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KEY WORDS: urology catheters, guidelines, instrumentation

The Guide is easy to use. You will find in it everything related to the Urological operating theatre from surgical intervention protocols to sets of surgical instruments and products. At the bottom of every page you will find arrows that enable you to move forwards and backwards through the Guide. This is a small demonstration of the Guide, what it contains and how to use it.

