



B.14.2. Prevention of infections in central-venous catheters

Between dialysis treatments, the central-venous access device may be blocked using a diluted heparin solution. Heparin, however, does not have any antibacterial properties. Antibacterial lock solutions should therefore be preferred since they reduce the rate of catheter-related bacteraemias considerably. The use of antibiotics is not recommended due to the potential development of resistance. Alternatively, citrate in various concentrations (4 %, 30 %, or 46 %) or taurolidine-citrate solutions may be used. Due to the risk of severe cardiac arrhythmias, highly concentrated citrate must be strictly administered by trained staff according to the instructions of the manufacturer. 4 % citrate solutions have proven effective at lower risk of complications and are currently broadly accepted as the standard among citrate solutions.

(Translated from German)