

Peripheral Intravenous Catheterisation in Obstetric Patients: comparing dorsum of the hand vein with lower forearm vein

Submission date 22/04/2013	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 07/05/2013	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 07/05/2013	Condition category Pregnancy and Childbirth	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Peripheral intravenous catheter insertion (putting in a drip) is a near universal procedure for pregnant women admitted to the delivery suite. The catheter is inserted for a variety of reasons including for blood tests, fluids or medicines to be given intravenously or as a precautionary measure in the event of a major haemorrhage. Doctors usually put the drip on the back of the hand or in the lower forearm. We do not know which place is better for the drip to be placed in pregnant women at term. We think that inserting a cannula at the back of the hand is easier but it can be more painful to insert and prone to failure.

Who can participate?

Women at term with a singleton viable pregnancy admitted to the delivery suite who have suitable veins at the back of the hand and the lower forearm for cannula insertion and who need to have a drip inserted according to usual clinical practice will be invited to participate

What does the study involve?

If you agree to take part, you will need to sign a consent form. The doctor will then insert the catheter in the back of your hand or in a lower forearm vein (usually at the wrist) according to random allocation (an envelope containing the allocation will be opened to reveal the site). The catheter will be inserted and secured using standard techniques. Blood is usually taken from the catheter for any blood test you need. An infusion may be started if you need this immediately. If not, 5 ml of normal saline is used to flush the catheter to make sure it is correctly placed and is patent. If the allocated insertion is unsuccessful, your doctor is free to make a second attempt anywhere according to his best judgment.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

No specific risk is anticipated. Both sites are commonly used for the insertion of an intravenous drip.

Where is the study run from?

The study is conducted in the Delivery Suite of the University of Malaya Medical Centre, a tertiary referral hospital with full-fledged operating theatres and neonatal intensive care unit.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

The trial is scheduled to start 1 May 2013 and is expected to be completed within 12 months.

Who is funding the study?

Internally by the University of Malaya (Malaysia)

Who is the main contact?

Professor PC Tan

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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Prof Peng Chiong Tan

Contact details

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Faculty of Medicine

University of Malaya

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

50603

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

975.12

Study information

Scientific Title

Peripheral Intravenous Catheterisation in Obstetric Patients: comparing dorsum of the hand vein with lower forearm vein: a randomised controlled trial

Acronym

PICOP

Study objectives

Peripheral intravenous catheterisation in women at term admitted to the delivery suite is more likely to be successfully accomplished but is more uncomfortable when attempted through a vein at dorsum of the hand compared to a vein at the lower forearm.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Ethics approval from the University of Malaya Medical Centre Medical Ethics Committee.
Approval number 975.12 dated 12 March 2013.

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Common medical procedure: Peripheral Intravenous Catheterisation

Interventions

Attempted catheterisation with a 18G peripheral intravenous cannula using standard insertion technique without any local anaesthesia into a

1. Vein at the dorsum of the hand or
2. Vein at the lower forearm

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

1. Successful insertion (defined as full placement of the catheter into a vein at the allocated site after a single skin prick confirmed with a straightforward 5 ml saline flush)
2. Insertion pain score using a visual numerical scale from 1 to 10 (1 no pain to 10 worst pain imaginable)
3. Catheter malfunction (defined as the need for further catheterisation prior to discharge due to deemed unsatisfactory performance of the per protocol indwelling catheter)

Key secondary outcome(s))

1. Causes of catheter malfunction (if any)
2. Providers insertion difficulty grading
3. Patient satisfaction score with site of catheter placement
- 4) Patients preference catheter placement site (post catheter removal)
- 5) Insertion site complications (at hospital discharge)
 - a. Swelling
 - b. Bruising
 - c. Tenderness
 - d. Thrombosed vein
- 6) Patient perception of pain at insertion site after removal of catheter scored using a visual numerical scale from 1 to 10 (1 no pain to 10 worst pain imaginable)

Completion date

30/04/2014

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Admission to the delivery suite
2. Established need for a peripheral intravenous catheter based on usual practice/indication
3. Aged ≥ 18 years
4. Term Pregnancy (≥ 37 wks)
5. Singleton, viable fetus
6. Suitable veins at BOTH proposed sites as assessed by the provider who will attempt the insertion

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

Female

Key exclusion criteria

1. Women who are seriously ill, requiring more than one venous access
2. Women who are scheduled to undergo a Caesarean delivery

Date of first enrolment

01/05/2013

Date of final enrolment

30/04/2014

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Malaysia

Study participating centre

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

50603

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Malaya (Malaysia)

ROR

<https://ror.org/00rzspn62>

Funder(s)

Funder type

University/education

Funder Name

University of Malaya (H-20001-00-E000066) (Malaysia)

Alternative Name(s)

University of Malaya, University Malaya, Malayan University, King Edward VII College of Medicine, Raffles College, University of Malaya in Singapore, , , , UM

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Universities (academic only)

Location

Malaysia

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes