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Welcome to the last Newsletter for 2008. Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays to all ACA members and all the best for 2009.

*The ACA Team
(Kaylene, Lisa, Pela)*

Australian News

PICC Lines

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recently investigated reports of adverse events associated with the use of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) lines in Queensland.

The TGA investigated several brands of PICC devices. This investigation has been completed and the results have shown that there are no inherent flaws in any of the PICC lines. However, the TGA has identified opportunities for improvements to the current label warnings and *Instructions for PICC line Use* to assist users. The sponsors of the devices have been requested to undertake these changes.

Clinical treatment approaches and wound research

Dr Peter Blume presented on the *Latest Clinical Treatment Approaches and Research on Wounds* in October 2008. Dr Blume is the clinical assistant professor, department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at Yale University School of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine. The presentations were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Over 250 delegates were in attendance, including surgeons, podiatrists, clinical nurse consultants, registrars



and nurse practitioners. The seminar was kindly organised by KCI Medical.

V.A.C.[®] Therapy as the leading treatment option for diabetic foot management was the primary focus of Dr. Blume's presentations and was very well received by all those who attended.

With an increasing diabetes rate due to an aging population, unhealthy weight issues and unfavourable lifestyle choices, diabetic foot problems are the leading cause of diabetic related hospital admissions in Australia. Approximately 1 million Australian's live with diabetes, of these 50,000 suffer from diabetic foot ulcers and 3,000 subsequently require amputations.

Dr. Blume presented the results of his recently published multicentre randomised controlled trial.(1) The objective of the study was to evaluate both the efficacy and safety of V.A.C.[®] Therapy versus advanced moist wound therapy (AMWT) in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. The study was conducted with 342 patients, in 37 US clinical sites for up to 12 months however, the active treatment phase lasted for 112 days. Over 89.5% of treatment for both groups was delivered in the home care setting. During this time the following outcomes were achieved: 43.2% of V.A.C.[®] Therapy wounds reached 100% closure compared to 28.9% of wounds treated with AMWT (P=0.007). Median time to complete wound closure was 96 days for wounds treated with V.A.C.[®] Therapy compared to >112 days for wounds treated with AMWT (P= 0.001). There was a statistical difference in the wound area reduction over time between the two treatment arms: 13cm³ at 112 days with V.A.C.[®] Therapy, 6 cm³ at 112 days with AMWT. Statistical significance was evident at 28 days (P=0.009)

In terms of safety there was no difference in the complication rates between the two treatment arms except for amputations: 4.2% of wounds treated with V.A.C.[®] Therapy required amputation compared to 10.2% with AMWT (P = 0.035).

The randomised controlled trial demonstrated that V.A.C.[®] Therapy was clinically effective and achieved clinical cost savings compared to AMWT.

1. Blume PA, Walters J, Payne W, Ayala J, Lantis J. *Comparison of V.A.C.[®] Therapy with advanced moist wound therapy in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers.* Diabetes Care 2008; 31(4):631-6.

International News

Single Use Intravenous Drip Stand

Dr Elias Papazissis, President and CEO of hoMed MEDICAL S.A recently forwarded some information to us on a single use drip stand he developed which may be suitable for HITH programs. The stand is light, easy to carry and assemble and is inexpensive.

For those of you who attended the 2004 ACA National Conference you may recall Dr Papazissis gave a very interesting presentation on the HITH services he provided to patients through Hygeia Hospital in Athens, Greece.

More information on hoMed Home Care Services is available at <http://www.hospitalathome.gr/IndexEN.htm>. For information on the single use IV drip stand e-mail Dr Elias Papazissis at home@homed.gr.



Outpatient stem cell transplant feasible for multiple myeloma

Reuters Health- Mayo Clinic Proceedings

A newscast from 15 October 2008 describes a study of autologous stem cell transplantation treatment for multiple myeloma performed on an outpatient basis. The result was shorter hospital stays and low treatment-related mortality.

<http://www.thedoctorschannel.com/video/1083.html>

Home Antimicrobial Infusion Therapy CME

National Home Infusion Association (NHIA)

This US learning activity covers issues in planning, treatment and patient care and was designed for home infusion nurses and home health and infusion pharmacists and others who may be interested in outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT). The supplement takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

The publication was originally published in the September/October 2008 issue of INFUSION (volume 14, number 5).

NHIA also have other relevant resources available through their Audio Conference Series

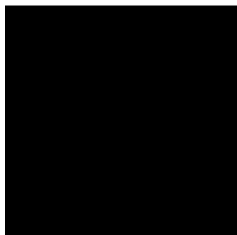
For further information see: www.nhia.org

Infusion Therapy- Updated FDA Website Information

A Brochure - *Home Healthcare Medical Devices: Infusion Therapy - Getting the Most Out of Your Pump* can be accessed from the US FDA website. This has information for patients on:

- What do you do before using your infusion pump?
- What is your role in maintaining your pump?
- What is the role of your home healthcare provider and supplier in your infusion therapy?
- What are the most common problems with an infusion pump and how do you manage them?
- What problems should prompt you to call your home healthcare provider?
- What should you do to prepare for an emergency?
- What do you need to know about travelling with your infusion pump?
- How do you report any close calls, serious injuries, or deaths?

<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/CDRHHHC/brochure-infusion.html>



Recent HITH Line information requests

The most recent queries we received from members and other staff working in HITH include requests for information on the following:

- Continuous Infusion Pumps in HITH
- Home visit risk screen tool
- Blood transfusions in the nursing home
- Nurse classifications
- Dopamine infusions at home

Thank you to everyone who provided responses.

Upcoming Conferences 2009

Home Telehealth & Remote Patient Monitoring for Hospitals & Health Systems Forum

21-23 January, 2009
Philadelphia, PA, USA
W: www.acius.net

NHIA Annual Conference & Exposition

1-4 March, 2009
Baltimore, MD, USA
W: www.nhianet.org/

Transitional for Older People: Making a Difference

26-27 March, 2009
Four Season Sydney Hotel, Sydney, NSW.
W: <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

ADMA 2009 National Conference

3-4 September, 2009
Melbourne
W: www.adma.org.au