

Vascath stylet fault

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Difficulty threading vascath over guide-wire during insertion which resulted in increased duration of procedure, increased blood loss and difficulty inserting a vascath without a stylet. There was also a risk of false lumen formation and kinking of wire.

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During an insertion of a vascath CVC on an ICU, when threading the vascath over the guide-wire, the wire passed between the lumen and the stylet. This meant the wire did not pass through the stylet and out of the distal port as is intended. A second pass at threading the wire was made with the same outcome. To complete the procedure the stylet had to be removed. This resulted in difficulty inserting an unstiffened vascath and also culminated in an increased duration of procedure at a time where blood loss is potentially at a maximum.

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This incident with this particular vascath has occurred on 4 previous occasions on this ICU. This incident occurred with the following vascath: Nikkiso ref ECS1315 15cm silicone double lumen CRRT/ABP catheter set with stylet Lot MBYZ030
Previous events have occurred with vascaths from different Lot numbers and different ICU doctors performing the procedure.

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As a result of these incidents this has been discussed in local clinical governance meeting. This prompted discussion on how to approach this incident if it were to occur again: re-attempt insertion of vascath over guidewire and if unsuccessful remove stiffener and proceed. This meeting also initiated feedback of the fault to the manufacturer.
This report has been completed to make other trusts and users of this equipment aware of this potential fault.