

## Original Article

# Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections in Adult Patients

Preventive Strategies and Treatment Options

Jennifer Kranz\*, Stefanie Schmidt\*, Florian Wagenlehner, and Laila Schneidewind

## Summary

**Background:** Urinary tract infections are among the more common types of nosocomial infection in Germany and are associated with catheters in more than 60% of cases. With increasing rates of antibiotic resistance worldwide, it is essential to distinguish catheter-associated asymptomatic bacteriuria from catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CA-UTI).

**Methods:** This review is based on publications from January 2000 to March 2019 that were retrieved by a selective search in Medline. Randomized clinical trials and systematic reviews in which the occurrence of CA-UTI in adult patients was a primary or secondary endpoint were included in the analysis. Two authors of this review, working independently, selected the publications and extracted the data.

**Results:** 508 studies were identified and 69 publications were selected for analysis by the prospectively defined criteria. The studies that were included dealt with the following topics: need for catheterization, duration of catheterization, type of catheter, infection prophylaxis, education programs, and multiple interventions. The duration of catheterization is a determinative risk factor for CA-UTI. The indications for catheterization should be carefully considered in each case, and the catheter should be left in place for the shortest possible time. The available data on antibiotic prophylaxis do not permit any definitive conclusion, but they do show a small benefit from antibiotic-impregnated catheters and from systemic antibiotic prophylaxis.

**Conclusion:** Various measures, including careful consideration of the indication for catheterization, leaving catheters in place for the shortest possible time, and the training of nursing personnel, can effectively lower the incidence of CA-UTI. The available evidence is markedly heterogeneous in some respects, and thus no recommendations can be given on certain questions relevant to CA-UTI.

### Cite this as:

Kranz J, Schmidt S, Wagenlehner F, Schneidewind L: Catheter-associated urinary tract infections in adult patients—preventive strategies and treatment options. *Dtsch Arztebl Int* 2020; 117: 83–8. DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.0083

\*Joint first authors.

Department of Urology and Pediatric Urology, St. Antonius Hospital Eschweiler, Academic Teaching Hospital of RWTH Aachen, Eschweiler, Germany: PD Dr. med. Jennifer Kranz

UroEvidence, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie, Berlin, Germany: PD Dr. med. Jennifer Kranz, Stefanie Schmidt, PhD, MPH; Dr. med. Laila Schneidewind

Department of Urology and Kidney Transplantation, Martin Luther University, Halle (Saale), Germany: PD Dr. med. Jennifer Kranz

Department of Urology, Pediatric Urology and Andrology, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany: Prof. Dr. med. Florian Wagenlehner

Department of Urology, University Medicine Rostock, Germany: Dr. med. Laila Schneidewind

Urinary tract infections account for 21.6% of all nosocomial infections in Germany and are thus among the more frequent types of nosocomial infection, along with lower respiratory infections (24%), postoperative wound infections (22.4%), *Clostridium difficile* infections (10%), and primary sepsis (5.1%) (1, 2).

In more than 60% of cases (407 of 670 patients), nosocomial urinary tract infections are associated with catheters (2, 3). 15–25% of all hospitalized patients are catheterized at some time during their hospital stay (4); among patients in intensive care units, the corresponding percentage has been reported as 18% to 81.7% (5–7). The incidence of bacteriuria in medical facilities rises by 3–8% per day for each day after catheter insertion; nearly all patients have bacteriuria after 30 days of catheterization (8, 9). Most episodes of catheter-associated bacteriuria are asymptomatic (catheter-associated asymptomatic bacteriuria, CA-ABU), and fewer than 5% of cases lead to bacteremia requiring treatment (10). Overall, catheter-associated bacteremia accounts for 15% of nosocomial bloodstream infections (11) and is associated with 10% mortality (12, 13).

With antibiotic resistance on the rise and presenting major challenges, including increased costs, to health-care systems worldwide (14), it has become essential to distinguish CA-ABU, which needs no treatment, from CA-UTI, which must be treated (15).

The goal of this article is to provide an overview of urinary catheter management and UTI prevention.

## Method

A rapid evidence analysis (16) was performed with a literature search in Medline for the period January 2000 to March 2019. Symptomatic CA-UTI in adults was a primary or secondary endpoint of all of the included studies. Only randomized trials and systematic reviews were included in the present analysis. Further information on the methods of this analysis can be found in the supplementary material available over the Internet (*eBox*).

## Results

### Findings of the literature search

The literature search yielded 508 hits (*eFigure*), of which 69 studies were included in the analysis

## The clinical perspective

- An important distinction is drawn between catheter-associated asymptomatic bacteriuria (CA-ABU), which does not need to be treated, and catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CA-UTI), which needs treatment with antimicrobials.
- In choosing the appropriate antibiotic, the physician must consider the local resistance situation, both to optimize the efficacy of treatment and to avoid the further selecting out of resistant organisms.
- So-called antibiotic stewardship must be borne in mind whenever antimicrobial drugs are given. This term refers to the rational, responsible use of such drugs, comprising an appropriate choice of drug as well as appropriate dosing, mode of administration, and adaptation of the duration of treatment. The goal is to treat patients optimally while preventing the development of resistance.
- The duration of catheterization (i.e., the length of time that a catheter is in place) is a determinative risk factor for CA-UTI. It follows that the indication for catheterization must always be critically considered, and that the catheter should be left in place for the shortest possible time.
- Various measures (critical consideration of the indication for, and duration of, catheterization; education of nursing staff, etc.) should be bundled, in order to keep the risk of CA-UTI as low as possible for every patient.

(eTable). The included studies were thematically clustered: need for catheterization (n = 2), duration of catheterization (n = 11 studies), type of catheter (n = 17), prophylaxis (n = 25), education programs (n = 9), and studies with multiple interventions (n = 5). A total of 28 systematic reviews (including nine Cochrane reviews [6–15]) and 41 randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) were identified.

### Need for catheterization

The authors of a systematic review (SR) concluded that the routine insertion of indwelling catheters in women undergoing cesarean section was associated with more risk than benefit (relative risk [RR] of urinary tract infection in non-catheterized vs. catheterized patients in two RCTs, 0.08, with 95% confidence interval [0.01; 0.64]; RR in a single non-randomized study, 0.10 [0.02, 0.57]) (17).

### Duration of catheterization

The time during which a catheter was left in place, after insertion at varying time points associated with gynecological interventions, was studied in nine RCTs (18–26). The catheters were removed either immediately after surgery or within 24 hours (18, 19, 25, 27). Bray et al. and Hakvoort et al. chose removal after 48 to 72 hours as the condition for the comparison group (20, 24). Weemhoff et al. compared catheterization times of two vs. five days (26). The authors of all of these RCTs concluded that the catheter should be left in place for as short a time as possible to minimize the frequency of urinary tract infection. The rate of CA-UTI was significantly lowered by this strategy in some, but not all

studies (18, 20, 23–26), but no adverse side effects were encountered.

A single systematic review was identified that dealt with the duration of catheterization. This review included data from patients who were catheterized for ambulatory or inpatient surgery, as well as patients in nursing institutions (28). There were a total of 741 included patients from eight separate RCTs. In four of them, no significant differences in CA-UTI rates were found in patients who had undergone either transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) or gynecological procedures (RR: 0.55; [0.30; 1.03]). In one RCT that compared catheterization for 1 vs. 5 days, a significant difference in the CA-UTI rate was, indeed, demonstrable: the rate was twice as high in the latter group (RR: 0.48; [0.27; 0–85]).

Two Cochrane reviews dealing with transurethral and suprapubic catheterization were included as well (29, 30). Cooper et al. reported that the CA-UTI rate was 65% lower when catheters were regularly changed (monthly and/or when medically indicated, vs. only when medically indicated) (RR: 0.35; [0.13; 0.95]) (29). Phipps et al. studied the following durations of catheterization: one vs. two days (48% fewer CA-UTIs with the shorter interval) (one study: RR: 0.52; [0.05; 5.40]), one vs. three days (three studies, not pooled, constituting one-third of the primary studies with a significant finding [RR: 0.11; (0.03; 0.43)]), one day vs. five days (two studies, not pooled), and one vs. 14 days (one study). Although most of these studies did not show a statistically significant benefit for the shorter interval, the point estimators nonetheless uniformly indicated that the shorter duration was advantageous (30).

### Peri- and postoperative catheterization

A single RCT investigated perioperative transurethral catheterization in patients undergoing knee replacement surgery (31). Two different protocols were compared: preoperative catheterization (n = 306) vs. catheterization as needed for postoperative urinary retention (n = 346). The CA-UTI rate was 1.6% (5/306) in the former group and 1.7% (6/346) in the latter.

### Type of catheter

Temporary transurethral vs. suprapubic catheterization

Three RCTs (32–34) and three SRs (35–37) on this topic were identified, the latter including one Cochrane review (37). Only two publications included urological interventions (33, 34). These studies did not reveal any statistically significant differences in CA-UTI rates. The systematic review by Hunter et al. included both experimental studies and clinical observational studies (36). The authors did not conduct any meta-analysis and did not favor either of the two methods of catheterization over the other on the basis of their findings. In contrast, the meta-analysis by Healy et al., which included twelve RCTs, did show a significantly

lower CA-UTI rate with suprapubic catheterization (OR: 0.31; [0.18; 0.51]) (36). The meta-analysis that was part of the Cochrane review by Kidd et al., in which five RCTs with a total of 575 patients were included, did not reveal any difference in CA-UTI rates between the two methods of catheterization (RR: 1.01; [0.61; 1.69]) (37).

#### Intermittent (self-)catheterization vs. temporary indwelling catheters

Two RCTs (38, 39) and one SR were identified (e1) in which intermittent (self-)catheterization was compared with the use of temporary indwelling catheters. Hakvoort et al. reported a significantly ( $p = 0.03$ ) lower CA-UTI rate with intermittent catheterization compared to an indwelling catheter left in place for three days (38). Hälleberg Nyman et al. included 182 patients who had undergone hip surgery; they concluded that both approaches are clinically acceptable (39). The absolute risk difference in the group that underwent intermittent catheterization was only 2.4%, a statistically insignificant effect (8 out of 85 patients with CA-UTI in the intermittently catheterized group, vs. 10 out of 85 patients in the group with indwelling catheters). Nor was any statistically significant difference found in the meta-analysis by Zhang et al. (9 RCTs; 1771 patients; RR: 1.23; [0.85; 1.76]) (e1).

#### Clamping vs. free urinary drainage

Intermittent catheter clamping can be used as a method of training the bladder (the bladder fills while the catheter is clamped and empties during the period of free drainage). One RCT (e2) and two SRs (e3, e4) were identified that dealt with this question. The RCT did not reveal any statistically significant difference between the two groups (210 women who had undergone hysterectomy; CA-UTI in 22.9% vs. 20.3%) (e2). In a systematic review, Fernandez et al. referred to an RCT in which three different modes of catheter management were compared (e3): intermittent clamping for 72 hours (group 1) vs. free drainage and removal after 24 hours (group 2) vs. free drainage and removal after 72 hours (group 3). 106 women who had undergone gynecological surgery were included. No significant differences were found in the rates of CA-UTI with free drainage for 24 hours vs. clamping (RR: 1.12 [0.24; 5.18]) or with free drainage for 72 hours vs. clamping (RR: 0.55; [0.15; 2.01]). Likewise, Wang et al., in a meta-analysis, did not find any statistically significant difference between clamping and free drainage (four RCTs; OR: 0.76; [0.33; 1.73]) (e4). They concluded that the limited available evidence provided no reason to alter the current clinical practice of free drainage.

#### Irrigation vs. no irrigation

A Cochrane review was devoted to the question whether some catheter irrigation schemes might be better than others with respect to efficacy, acceptability to patients, complication rates, and quality of life (e5). One of the RCTs cited compared irrigation with normal

saline to no irrigation at all; in this trial, however, none of the patients in either group developed a CA-UTI.

#### Stabilization dressings with a catheter attachment or valve

An RCT dating back to 2006 investigated the effect of the StatLock system (e6), a stabilization dressing with a catheter attachment, serving the purpose of securing the catheter and thereby lessening the risk of inadvertent dislocation.

In the intervention group (60 of the 118 patients in the trial), which received a StatLock, the rate of CA-UTI was 45% lower, but this effect did not reach statistical significance (RR: 0.55; [0.25; 1.22]). One SR addressed the question whether a system with a valve was more beneficial than a simple bag to receive the urine (e7). This SR identified two RCTs on the subject, but results relating to the endpoint CA-UTI were only reported in a single RCT dating back to 1997. 30 of the 50 patients in the intervention group with the valve developed CA-UTI, compared to 34 of 50 in the control group. This 8% absolute difference in infection rates was statistically insignificant ( $p = 0.286$ ).

#### Prophylaxis

##### Antibiotic-based prophylaxis strategies

Eleven studies compared the effect of antibiotic catheter impregnation or systemic antibiotic administration with that of no antibiotic prophylaxis at all: five of these were RCTs (e8–e12) and six were SRs (e11, e13–e17), among them four Cochrane reviews (e14–e17). In men who had undergone radical prostatectomy, the use of minocycline combined with rifampicin-impregnated catheters lowered the frequency of CA-UTI (1 in 56, vs. 6 in 68 patients in the control group (single trial, RR: 0.20; [0.03; 1.63]) (e14). A statistically significant difference was likewise found for the use of nitrofurantoin-impregnated catheters compared to standard catheters (single trial; 4297 patients; RR: 0.84; [0.71; 0.99]) (e15), as well as for the systemic intravenous administration of trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (single trial; 90 patients; RR: 0.20; [0.06; 0.66]) (e16). The systematic prophylactic administration of antibiotics was also found to be superior to antibiotic administration only when clinically indicated, with respect to the frequency of CA-UTI (single trial; 90 patients; RR: 0.20; [0.06; 0.66]) (e17).

In their SR, Marschall et al. similarly reported a clinical benefit in the group of patients that received systemic antibiotic prophylaxis (cefotaxime, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, ciprofloxacin, or Nitrofurantoin), with a modest absolute risk reduction of 5.8% (six RCTs, one observational study; RR: 0.45; [0.28; 0.72]). They calculated a number needed to treat (NNT) of 17 (95% confidence interval, 12 to 30) to prevent a single CA-UTI. On the other hand, no benefit was found in the SR by Van Hees et al., which included patients who had undergone surgery and received a single prophylactic antibiotic dose (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole [ $n = 46$ ] or ciprofloxacin [ $n = 43$ ] vs. placebo [ $n = 51$ ]) (e18).

TABLE

**The state of the evidence**

Question	Best current answer
Indication for catheterization	Routine catheterization often has more risks than benefits. The need for catheterization should always be critically considered.
Duration of catheterization	CA-UTI is more common when catheters are left in place for longer times. The duration of catheterization should, therefore, be kept as short as possible.
Peri- and postoperative catheterization	No randomized trials in urology were carried out on this topic in the period of the publications reviewed here, so no statement for clinical practice can be made.
Transurethral vs. suprapubic catheterization	Transurethral catheters probably have no advantage over suprapubic ones.
Clamping vs. free urinary drainage	The current evidence does not justify any recommendation.
Irrigation vs. no irrigation	The current evidence does not justify any recommendation.
Antibiotic prophylaxis	Antibiotic prophylaxis lessens the frequency of CA-UTI.
Antiseptic-impregnated catheters	The current evidence does not justify any recommendation.
Antiseptic- vs. antibiotic-impregnated catheters	The evidence is limited. Antibiotic-impregnated catheters may be advantageous.
Cleansing/disinfection of the urethral orifice	No significant differences have been demonstrated among the various methods of cleansing and/or disinfecting the external urethral orifice.
Phytotherapy as prophylaxis	The evidence regarding cranberry products is mixed.

**Antiseptic-impregnated vs. standard catheters**

13 studies compared the effect of antiseptic catheter surfaces vs. catheters that were not antiseptically treated (e12, e19). In one Cochrane review, a statistically significant advantage of silver-coated catheters was reported (seven RCTs; RR: 0.60; [0.50; 0.73]) (e14). Two other Cochrane reviews from 2012 and 2014 did not reveal any advantage of silver-coated catheters (one RCT; 20 patients; RR: 10; [0.83; 1.2]) (e20); nor did a trial involving 4241 patients (RR: 0.99; [0.85; 1.16] [e15]). Jahn et al. concluded that the currently available data are insufficient as a basis for any recommendation for clinical practice (e20).

**Antiseptic-impregnated vs. antibiotic-impregnated catheters**

A Cochrane review of 2014 compared catheters with an antiseptic-impregnated surface to catheters with an antibiotic-impregnated surface (e15). The findings suggested an advantage of antiseptic-impregnated catheters compared to nitrofurantoin-impregnated catheters (one study; 4250 patients; RR: 0.84; [0.71; 1.00]).

**Cleansing and/or disinfection of the external urethral orifice**

The network meta-analysis of 2018 included 36 studies with a total of 6490 patients and analyzed seven different methods of cleansing and/or disinfecting the external urethral orifice (tap water vs. soapy water vs. normal saline vs. mechanical cleaning alone vs. iodine vs. chlorhexidine vs. antibacterial solution) (e21). According to the authors, current data do not show the superiority of any of these methods over the others with respect to the frequency of CA-UTI (e15). Similarly

heterogeneous findings were reported in another SR that included 28 RCTs and nine SRs (e22).

**Phytotherapy for prophylaxis**

It was investigated in two RCTs (e23, e24) whether the preventive administration of cranberry capsules might prevent the occurrence of CA-UTI. In the study by Gunnarson et al., women with hip fractures were divided into two groups: group 1 received 2 capsules containing 550 mg of cranberry powder three times daily until the fifth postoperative day, while group 2 received a placebo. No statistically significant difference was found in the rate of positive urine cultures (p = 0.975): cultures were positive in 19 of 50 patients in the intervention group (38%) and 23 of 61 (38%) in the placebo group (e23). In a study from the USA, the intervention group was given two cranberry capsules twice daily for six weeks after a gynecological procedure, while the control group was given a placebo preparation. The CA-UTI rate was markedly lower in the intervention group: 15 of 80 patients (19%) vs. 30 of 80 patients (38%) with positive urine culture; OR: 0.38; [0.19; 0.79]) (e24).

**Education programs**

Nine studies were found that dealt with educational approaches, among them five RCTs (17, e25–e28) and four systematic reviews (e29–e32). Education programs in the hospital were systematically assessed by Meddings et al., who pooled the results in a meta-analysis. It was found that the frequency of CA-UTI can be reduced by 52% by a reminder system or a defined catheter removal timepoint, and this effect is highly statistically significant (seven trials; RR: 0.48;

## Key messages

- There is no evidence of any difference between transurethral and suprapubic catheterization with respect to the development of catheter-associated urinary tract infection.
- Nor are there any relevant differences among the various types of catheter material (latex vs. silicone vs. polyvinyl chloride vs. polyurethane) with respect to the endpoint “catheter-associated urinary tract infection.”
- The putative benefit of antiseptically coated catheters, compared to uncoated standard catheters, is unclear. Antibiotically impregnated catheters seem to be associated with fewer catheter-associated urinary tract infections than antiseptically coated ones.
- None of the various methods of cleansing and/or disinfecting the external urethral orifice for transurethral catheterization is better than the others with respect to the development of catheter-associated urinary tract infection.
- The current state of the evidence on phytotherapy for the prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infection does not justify the issuance of any recommendation for clinical practice.

[0.28; 0.68];  $p = 0.001$ ) (e31). A systematic review including 29 studies likewise showed that protocols for nurses can lower the rate of CA-UTI. In a further SR, the efficacy of the implementation of prevention protocols in nursing institutions was described (e30). The authors concluded that little attention has been paid to CA-UTI prevention until now and that the available evidence is too heterogeneous to derive a coherent synthesis of the results.

### Studies involving multiple interventions

Studies involving multiple interventions have shown that transurethral catheters left in for a short period of time (24 hours) are superior to suprapubic catheters left in for a longer period of time (96 hours) ( $p = 0.034$ ) (e33).

### Discussion

Even though our literature search revealed a large number of existing studies on the prevention and management of CA-UTI, the results with respect to duration of catheterization, catheter type, and prophylaxis are highly heterogeneous, and the state of the evidence is still limited. Moreover, the definition of the endpoint and the distinction between CA-UTI and CA-ABU is highly heterogeneous in the primary studies. Some of them use the term CA-UTI to describe catheter-associated asymptomatic bacteriuria or catheter-associated bacteriuria. Many of the relevant studies date back to the 1990s or to the first decade of the present century. The applicability of their findings—in particular, those relating to antibiotic prophylaxis—to the current clinical situation is uncertain, as antibiotic prescribing practices and resistance patterns may well have changed in the meantime.

A study from the USA showed that 41% of treating physicians did not know that the patient under their care was catheterized, and that there was no medical indication for catheterization in 31% of the catheterized (e34). Further studies yielded similar figures (25–63%) with respect to catheterizations that were not medically indicated and/or not ordered by a physician (e35).

Umscheid postulated in 2011 that 65–70% of catheter-associated bloodstream infections and CA-UTI could have been prevented with the (then) current evidence-based strategies (e36). He calculated that the number of preventable infections of these types in the USA lies in the range of 95 483 to 387 550 per year (e36). The costs of preventable CA-UTIs was estimated to be in the range of 115 million to 1.82 billion dollars per year (e36).

### Overview

Even though many studies have been published on the questions that are asked in this review, the state of the evidence is highly heterogeneous, and the comparability of the studies is very limited. It is, therefore, difficult to synthesize their results coherently.

Nonetheless, a small number of concise conclusions are stated in detail in the *Table*, so that physicians will have a few useful recommendations for practice that are based on the scientific literature and thus represent a successful transfer of knowledge from research to everyday clinical routine.

#### Conflict of interest statement

PD Dr. Kranz has served as a paid consultant for Farco-Pharma.

Dr. Wagenlehner has received third-party research funding from Bionorica, Achaogen, AstraZeneca, Enteris BioPharma, Helpery Therapeutics, Janssen, LeoPharma, MerLion, MSD, OM Pharma/Vifor Pharma, Pfizer, RosenPharma, Shionogi, VenatoRx, and GSK.

The remaining authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

Manuscript submitted on 22 July 2019, revised version accepted on 18 November 2019.

Translated from the original German by Ethan Taub, M.D.

#### References

1. Warren JW, Platt R, Thomas RJ, Rosner B, Kass EH: Antibiotic irrigation and catheter-associated urinary-tract infections. *N Engl J Med* 1978; 299: 570–3.
2. Nationales Referenzzentrum für Surveillance von nosokomialen Infektionen: Deutsche nationale Punkt-Prävalenzerhebung zu nosokomialen Infektionen und Antibiotika-Anwendung. 2016 Abschlussbericht. [www.nrz-hygiene.de/fileadmin/nrz/download/pps2016/PPS\\_2016\\_Abschlussbericht\\_20.07.2017.pdf](http://www.nrz-hygiene.de/fileadmin/nrz/download/pps2016/PPS_2016_Abschlussbericht_20.07.2017.pdf) (last accessed on 14 January 2020).
3. Saint S, Chenoweth CE: Biofilms and catheter-associated urinary tract infections. *Infect Dis Clin North Am* 2003; 17: 411–32.

4. Warren JW: Catheter-associated urinary tract infections. *Int J Antimicrob Agents* 2001; 17: 299–303.
5. Bagshaw SM, Laupland KB: Epidemiology of intensive care unit-acquired urinary tract infections. *Curr Opin Infect Dis* 2006; 19: 67–71.
6. Wagenlehner FM, Loibl E, Vogel H, Naber KG: Incidence of nosocomial urinary tract infections on a surgical intensive care unit and implications for management. *Int J Antimicrob Agents* 2006; 28 Suppl 1: S86–90.
7. Nationales Referenzzentrum für Surveillance von nosokomialen Infektionen: KISS Krankenhaus-Infektions-Surveillance-System, Infektionssurveillance im Modul ITS-KISS Referenzdaten. [www.nrz-hygiene.de/fileadmin/nrz/module/its/201001\\_201412\\_ALLE\\_ITSRef.pdf](http://www.nrz-hygiene.de/fileadmin/nrz/module/its/201001_201412_ALLE_ITSRef.pdf) (last accessed on 14 January 2020).
8. Warren JW, Damron D, Tenney JH, Hoopes JM, Deforge B, Muncie HL Jr.: Fever, bacteremia, and death as complications of bacteriuria in women with long-term urethral catheters. *J Infect Dis* 1987; 155: 1151–8.
9. Garibaldi RA, Burke JP, Dickman ML, Smith CB: Factors predisposing to bacteriuria during indwelling urethral catheterization. *N Engl J Med* 1974; 291: 215–9.
10. Hartstein AI, Garber SB, Ward TT, Jones SR, Morthland VH: Nosocomial urinary tract infection: a prospective evaluation of 108 catheterized patients. *Infect Control* 1981; 2: 380–6.
11. Bryan CS, Reynolds KL: Hospital-acquired bacteremic urinary tract infection: epidemiology and outcome. *J Urol* 1984; 132: 494–8.
12. Gould CV, Umscheid CA, Agarwal RK, Kuntz G, Pegues DA: Guideline for prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections 2009. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2010; 31: 319–26.
13. Weinstein MP, Towns ML, Quartey SM, et al.: The clinical significance of positive blood cultures in the 1990s: a prospective comprehensive evaluation of the microbiology, epidemiology, and outcome of bacteremia and fungemia in adults. *Clin Infect Dis* 1997; 24: 584–602.
14. Kranz J, Schmidt S, Lebert C, Schneidewind L, Schmiemann G, Wagenlehner F: Uncomplicated bacterial community-acquired urinary tract infection in adults. *Dtsch Arztebl Int* 2017; 114: 866–73.
15. Zowawi HM, Harris PN, Roberts MJ, et al.: The emerging threat of multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacteria in urology. *Nat Rev Urol* 2015; 12: 570–84.
16. Haby MM, Chapman E, Clark R, Barreto J, Reveiz L, Lavis JN: What are the best methodologies for rapid reviews of the research evidence for evidence-informed decision making in health policy and practice: a rapid review. *Health Res Policy Syst* 2016; 14: 83.
17. Li L, Wen J, Wang L, Li YP, Li Y: Is routine indwelling catheterisation of the bladder for caesarean section necessary? A systematic review. *BJOG* 2011; 118: 400–9.
18. Ahmed MR, Sayed Ahmed WA, Atwa KA, Metwally L: Timing of urinary catheter removal after uncomplicated total abdominal hysterectomy: a prospective randomized trial. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol* 2014; 176: 60–3.
19. Alessandri F, Mistrangelo E, Lijoi D, Ferrero S, Ragni N: A prospective, randomized trial comparing immediate versus delayed catheter removal following hysterectomy. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand* 2006; 85: 716–20.
20. Bray R, Cartwright R, Digesu A, Fernando R, Khullar V: A randomised controlled trial comparing immediate versus delayed catheter removal following vaginal prolapse surgery. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol* 2017; 210: 314–8.
21. Chai J, Pun TC: A prospective randomized trial to compare immediate and 24-hour delayed catheter removal following total abdominal hysterectomy. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand* 2011; 90: 478–82.
22. Dunn TS, Shlay J, Forshner D: Are in-dwelling catheters necessary for 24 hours after hysterectomy? *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2003; 189: 435–7.
23. El-Mazny A, El-Sharkawy M, Hassan A: A prospective randomized clinical trial comparing immediate versus delayed removal of urinary catheter following elective cesarean section. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol* 2014; 181: 111–4.
24. Hakvoort RA, Elberink R, Vollebregt A, Ploeg T, Emanuel MH: How long should urinary bladder catheterisation be continued after vaginal prolapse surgery? A randomised controlled trial comparing short term versus long term catheterisation after vaginal prolapse surgery. *BJOG* 2004; 111: 828–30.
25. Sekhavat L, Farajkhoda T, Davar R: The effect of early removal of indwelling urinary catheter on postoperative urinary complications in anterior colporrhaphy surgery. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol* 2008; 48: 348–52.
26. Weemhoff M, Wassen MM, Korsten L, Serroyen J, Kampschoer PH, Roumen FJ: Postoperative catheterization after anterior colporrhaphy: 2 versus 5 days. A multicentre randomized controlled trial. *Int Urogynecol J* 2011; 22: 477–83.
27. Cai T, Caola I, Tessarolo F, et al.: Solidago, orthosiphon, birch and cranberry extracts can decrease microbial colonization and biofilm development in indwelling urinary catheter: a microbiologic and ultrastructural pilot study. *World J Urol* 2014; 32: 1007–14.
28. Fernandez RS, Griffiths RD: Duration of short-term indwelling catheters – a systematic review of the evidence. *J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs* 2006; 33: 145–53.
29. Cooper FP, Alexander CE, Sinha S, Omar MI: Policies for replacing long-term indwelling urinary catheters in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2016; 7: CD011115.
30. Phipps S, Lim YN, McClinton S, Barry C, Rane A, N'Dow J: Short term urinary catheter policies following urogenital surgery in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2006; CD004374.
31. Iorio R, Healy WL, Patch DA, Appleby D: The role of bladder catheterization in total knee arthroplasty. *Clin Orthop Relat Res* 2000; 80–4.
32. Baan AH, Vermeulen H, van der Meulen J, Bossuyt P, Olszyna D, Gouma DJ: The effect of suprapubic catheterization versus transurethral catheterization after abdominal surgery on urinary tract infection: a randomized controlled trial. *Dig Surg* 2003; 20: 290–5.
33. Dixon L, Dolan LM, Brown K, Hilton P: RCT of urethral versus suprapubic catheterization. *Br J Nurs* 2010; 19: S7–13.
34. Stekkinger E, van der Linden PJ: A comparison of suprapubic and transurethral catheterization on postoperative urinary retention after vaginal prolapse repair: a randomized controlled trial. *Gynecol Obstet Invest* 2011; 72: 109–16.
35. Healy EF, Walsh CA, Cotter AM, Walsh SR: Suprapubic compared with trans-urethral bladder catheterization for gynecologic surgery: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Obstet Gynecol* 2012; 120: 678–87.
36. Hunter KF, Bharmal A, Moore KN: Long-term bladder drainage: Suprapubic catheter versus other methods: a scoping review. *NeuroUrol Urodyn* 2013; 32: 944–51.
37. Kidd EA, Stewart F, Kassis NC, Hom E, Omar MI: Urethral (indwelling or intermittent) or suprapubic routes for short-term catheterisation in hospitalised adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2015; 10: CD004203.
38. Hakvoort RA, Thijs SD, Bouwmeester FW, et al.: Comparing clean intermittent catheterisation and transurethral indwelling catheterisation for incomplete voiding after vaginal prolapse surgery: a multicentre randomised trial. *BJOG* 2011; 118: 1055–60.
39. Hälleberg Nyman M, Gustafsson M, Langius-Eklöf A, Johansson JE, Norlin R, Hagberg L: Intermittent versus indwelling urinary catheterisation in hip surgery patients: a randomised controlled trial with cost-effectiveness analysis. *Int J Nurs Stud* 2013; 50: 1589–98.

**Corresponding author**

PD Dr. Jennifer Kranz, FEBU, MHBA  
 Klinik für Urologie und Kinderurologie,  
 St. Antonius-Hospital gGmbH,  
 Akademisches Lehrkrankenhaus der RWTH Aachen  
 Dechant-Deckers-Str. 8  
 52249 Eschweiler, Germany  
[jennifer.kranz@sah-eschweiler.de](mailto:jennifer.kranz@sah-eschweiler.de)

**Cite this as:**

Kranz J, Schmidt S, Wagenlehner F, Schneidewind L:  
 Catheter-associated urinary tract infections in adult patients—preventive strategies  
 and treatment options. *Dtsch Arztebl Int* 2020; 117: 83–8.  
 DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.0083

► **Supplementary material**

For eReferences please refer to:  
[www.aerzteblatt-international.de/ref0620](http://www.aerzteblatt-international.de/ref0620)

eFigures, eBoxes, eTables:  
[www.aerzteblatt-international.de/20m0083](http://www.aerzteblatt-international.de/20m0083)

Supplementary material to:

# Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections in Adult Patients

## Preventive Strategies and Treatment Options

by Jennifer Kranz<sup>\*</sup>, Stefanie Schmidt<sup>\*</sup>, Florian Wagenlehner, and Laila Schneidewind

Dtsch Arztebl Int 2020; 117: 83–8. DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2020.0083

### eReferences

- e1. Zhang W, Liu A, Hu D, et al.: Indwelling versus intermittent urinary catheterization following total joint arthroplasty: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS ONE* 2015; 10: e0130636.
- e2. Gong Y, Zhao L, Wang L, Wang F: The effect of clamping the indwelling urinary catheter before removal in cervical cancer patients after radical hysterectomy. *J Clin Nurs* 2017; 26: 1131–6.
- e3. Fernandez RS, Griffiths RD: Clamping short-term indwelling catheters: a systematic review of the evidence. *J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs* 2005; 32: 329–36.
- e4. Wang LH, Tsai MF, Han CS, Huang YC, Liu HE: Is bladder training by clamping before removal necessary for short-term indwelling urinary catheter inpatient? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Asian Nurs Res* 2016; 10: 173–81.
- e5. Shepherd AJ, Mackay WG, Hagen S: Washout policies in long-term indwelling urinary catheterisation in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Reviews* 2017; 3: CD004012.
- e6. Darouiche RO, Goetz L, Kaldis T, Cerra-Stewart C, AlSharif A, Priebe M: Impact of StatLock securing device on symptomatic catheter-related urinary tract infection: a prospective, randomized, multicenter clinical trial. *Am J Infect Control* 2006; 34: 555–60.
- e7. van den Eijkel E, Griffiths P: Catheter valves for indwelling urinary catheters: a systematic review. *Br J Community Nurs* 2006; 11: 111–2, 114.
- e8. Al-Habdan I, Sadat-Ali M, Corea JR, Al-Othman A, Kamal BA, Shriyan DS: Assessment of nosocomial urinary tract infections in orthopaedic patients: a prospective and comparative study using two different catheters. *Int Surg* 2003; 88: 152–4.
- e9. Dieter AA, Amundsen CL, Edenfield AL, et al.: Oral antibiotics to prevent post-operative urinary tract infection: a randomized controlled trial. *Obstet Gynecol* 2014; 123: 96–103.
- e10. Pfefferkorn U, Lea S, Moldenhauer J, Peterli R, von Flue M, Ackermann C: Antibiotic prophylaxis at urinary catheter removal prevents urinary tract infections: a prospective randomized trial. *Ann Surg* 2009; 249: 573–5.
- e11. Rogers RG, Kammerer-Doak D, Olsen A, et al.: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled comparison of the effect of nitrofurantoin monohydrate macro-crystals on the development of urinary tract infections after surgery for pelvic organ prolapse and/or stress urinary incontinence with suprapubic catheterization. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2004; 191: 182–7.
- e12. Pickard R, Lam T, MacLennan G, et al.: Types of urethral catheter for reducing symptomatic urinary tract infections in hospitalised adults requiring short-term catheterisation: multicentre randomised controlled trial and economic evaluation of antimicrobial- and antiseptic-impregnated urethral catheters (the CATHETER trial). *Health Technol Assess* 2012; 16: 1–197.
- e13. Marschall J, Carpenter CR, Fowler S, Trautner BW, CDCPE Program: Antibiotic prophylaxis for urinary tract infections after removal of urinary catheter: meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2013; 346: f3147.
- e14. Brosnahan J, Jull A, Tracy C: Types of urethral catheters for management of short-term voiding problems in hospitalised adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2004; 1: CD004013.
- e15. Lam TB, Omar MI, Fisher E, Gillies K, MacLennan S: Types of indwelling urethral catheters for short-term catheterisation in hospitalised adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2014; 9: CD004013.
- e16. Lusardi G, Lipp A, Shaw C: Antibiotic prophylaxis for short-term catheter bladder drainage in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2013; 7: CD005428.
- e17. Niël-Weise BS, van den Broek PJ: Antibiotic policies for short-term catheter bladder drainage in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2005; 3: CD005428.
- e18. van Hees BC, Vijverberg PL, Hootjens LE, Wiltink EH, Go PM, Tersmette M: Single-dose antibiotic prophylaxis for urinary catheter removal does not reduce the risk of urinary tract infection in surgical patients: a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 2011; 17: 1091–4.
- e19. Bonfill X, Rigau D, Esteban-Fuertes M, et al.: Efficacy and safety of urinary catheters with silver alloy coating in patients with spinal cord injury: a multicentric pragmatic randomized controlled trial. The ESCALE trial. *Spine J* 2017; 17: 1650–7.
- e20. Jahn P, Beutner K, Langer G: Types of indwelling urinary catheters for long-term bladder drainage in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012; 10: CD004997.
- e21. Cao Y, Gong Z, Shan J, Gao Y: Comparison of the preventive effect of urethral cleaning versus disinfection for catheter-associated urinary tract infections in adults: A network meta-analysis. *Int J Infect Dis* 2018; 76: 102–8.
- e22. Ercole FF, Macieira TG, Wenceslau LC, Martins AR, Campos CC, Chianca TC: Integrative review: evidences on the practice of intermittent/indwelling urinary catheterization. *Rev Lat Am Enfermagem* 2013; 21: 459–68.
- e23. Gunnarsson AK, Gunningberg L, Larsson S, Jonsson KB: Cranberry juice concentrate does not significantly decrease the incidence of acquired bacteriuria in female hip fracture patients receiving urine catheter: a double-blind randomized trial. *Clin Interv Aging* 2017; 12: 137–43.
- e24. Foxman B, Cronenwett AE, Spino C, Berger MB, Morgan DM: Cranberry juice capsules and urinary tract infection after surgery: results of a randomized trial. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2015; 213: 194.e1–8.
- e25. Chen YY, Chi MM, Chen YC, Chan YJ, Chou SS, Wang FD: Using a criteria-based reminder to reduce use of indwelling urinary catheters and decrease urinary tract infections. *Am J Crit Care* 2013; 22: 105–14.
- e26. Loeb M, Hunt D, O'Halloran K, Carusone SC, Dafoe N, Walter SD: Stop orders to reduce inappropriate urinary catheterization in hospitalized patients: a controlled trial. *J Gen Intern Med* 2008; 23: 816–20.
- e27. Mody L, Krein SL, Saint S, et al.: A targeted infection prevention intervention in nursing home residents with indwelling devices: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Intern Med* 2015; 175: 714–23.
- e28. Wilde MH, McMahon JM, McDonald MV, et al.: Self-management intervention for long-term indwelling urinary catheter users: randomized clinical trial. *Nurs Res* 2015; 64: 24–34.
- e29. Durant DJ: Nurse-driven protocols and the prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections: a systematic review. *Am J Infect Control* 2017; 45: 1331–41.
- e30. Gould D, Gaze S, Drey N, Cooper T: Implementing clinical guidelines to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections and improve catheter care in nursing homes: systematic review. *Am J Infect Control* 2017; 45: 471–6.
- e31. Meddings J, Rogers MA, Macy M, Saint S: Systematic review and meta-analysis: reminder systems to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections and urinary catheter use in hospitalized patients. *Clin Infect Dis* 2010; 51: 550–60.
- e32. Meddings J, Saint S, Krein SL, et al.: Systematic review of interventions to reduce urinary tract infection in nursing home residents. *J Hosp Med* 2017; 12: 356–68.
- e33. Kringel U, Reimer T, Tomczak S, Green S, Kundt G, Gerber B: Postoperative infections due to bladder catheters after anterior colporrhaphy: a prospective, randomized three-arm study. *Int Urogynecol J* 2010; 21: 1499–504.
- e34. Saint S: Clinical and economic consequences of nosocomial catheter-related bacteriuria. *Am J Infect Control* 2000; 28: 68–75.
- e35. Fakhri MG, Pena ME, Shemes S, et al.: Effect of establishing guidelines on appropriate urinary catheter placement. *Acad Emerg Med* 2010; 17: 337–40.
- e36. Umscheid CA, Mitchell MD, Doshi JA, Agarwal R, Williams K, Brennan PJ: Estimating the proportion of healthcare-associated infections that are reasonably preventable and the related mortality and costs. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2011; 32: 101–14.
- e37. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group: Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Med* 2009; 6: e1000097.

### Search strategy

A literature search was carried out in March 2019 in the Medline biomedical database (via Ovid). The search terms—“urinary tract infections,” “complicated urinary tract infections,” “cystitis,” “pyelonephritis,” “percutaneous nephrostomy,” “catheters,” “pcnl”—were entered as MeSH terms and as free text. The search strategy is shown below.

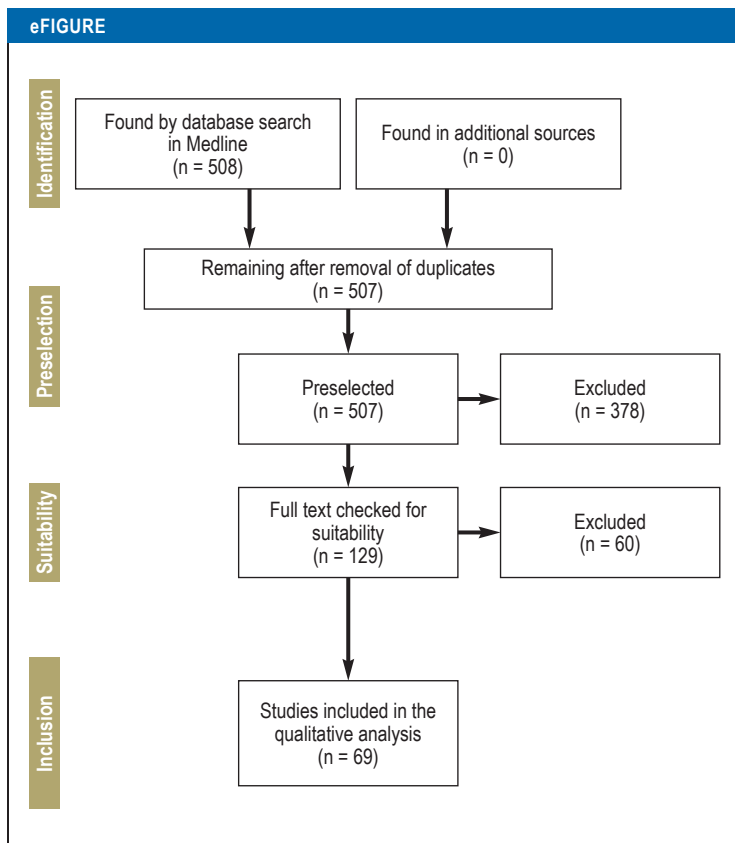
We included only randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) and systematic reviews (SRs). Studies dealing with any type of intervention in catheterized adults in either the inpatient or outpatient setting were included as long as symptomatic catheter-associated urinary tract infection was a primary or secondary endpoint. Only full-text publications in English or German from the year 2000 or later were included. Studies on catheter-associated bacteriuria were not included.

Two authors of the present review (JK and SS) independently screened the retrieved publications and checked them for suitability for inclusion according to the above criteria. The following study data were extracted by two of the authors (SS, LS): study information and objective, patient population, description of intervention, endpoints, and authors' conclusions.

Medline Ovid: Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily

- |  |  |                                    |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 exp urinary tract infections/            | 33 clinical trial, phase iii.pt.   | 64 (psychinfo or psycinfo).ab.     |
| 2 exp cystitis/                            | 34 clinical trial, phase iv.pt.  | 65 (cinahl or cinhal).ab.          |
| 3 exp pyelonephritis/                      | 35 controlled clinical trial.pt.   | 66 science citation index.ab.      |
| 4 exp Percutaneous Nephrostomy/            | 36 randomized controlled trial.pt.   | 67 bids.ab.                        |
| 5 cystitis.tw.                             | 37 multicenter study.pt.   | 68 cancerlit.ab.                   |
| 6 complicated urinary tract infection*.tw. | 38 clinical trial.pt.  | 69 or/61–68                        |
| 7 urinary tract infection*.tw.             | 39 exp Clinical Trials as topic/   | 70 reference list\$.ab.            |
| 8 uti.tw.                                  | 40 or/25–39  | 71 bibliograph\$.ab.               |
| 9 cauti.tw.                                | 41 (clinical adj trial\$.tw.   | 72 hand-search\$.ab.               |
| 10 pyelonephriti*.tw.                      | 42 ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or treb\$ or tripl\$) adj (blind\$3 or mask\$3)).tw. | 73 relevant journals.ab.           |
| 11 exp catheters, indwelling/              | 43 PLACEBOS/   | 74 manual search\$.ab.             |
| 12 exp urinary catheters/                  | 44 placebo\$.tw.   | 75 or/70–74                        |
| 13 urinary catheter*.tw.                   | 45 randomly allocated.tw.  | 76 selection criteria.ab.          |
| 14 indwelling catheter*.tw.                | 46 (allocated adj2 random\$.tw.  | 77 data extraction.ab.             |
| 15 permanent catheter*.tw.                 | 47 or/41–46  | 78 76 or 77                        |
| 16 suprapubic catheter*.tw.                | 48 40 or 47  | 79 Review/                         |
| 17 transurethral catheter*.tw.             | 49 case report.tw.   | 80 78 and 79                       |
| 18 Percutaneous Nephrostomy.tw.            | 50 letter/   | 81 Comment/                        |
| 19 (pcn or pcnl).tw.                       | 51 historical article/   | 82 Letter/                         |
| 20 or/1–10                                 | 52 or/49–51  | 83 Editorial/                      |
| 21 or/11–17                                | 53 48 not 52   | 84 animal/                         |
| 22 18 or 19                                | 54 Meta-Analysis as Topic/   | 85 human/                          |
| 23 21 or 22                                | 55 meta analy\$.tw.  | 86 84 not (84 and 85)              |
| 24 20 and 23                               | 56 metaanaly\$.tw.   | 87 or/81–83,86                     |
| 25 Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic/  | 57 Meta-Analysis/  | 88 60 or 69 or 75 or 80            |
| 26 randomized controlled trial/            | 58 (systematic adj (review\$1 or overview\$1)).tw.                           | 89 88 not 87                       |
| 27 Random Allocation/                      | 59 exp Review Literature as Topic/   | 90 24 and 53                       |
| 28 Double Blind Method/                    | 60 or/54–59  | 91 24 and 89                       |
| 29 Single Blind Method/                    | 61 cochrane.ab.  | 92 90 or 91                        |
| 30 clinical trial/                         | 62 embase.ab.  | 93 limit 92 to (english or german) |
| 31 clinical trial, phase i.pt.             | 63 (psychlit or psyclit).ab.   | 94 limit 93 to yr="2000 -Current"  |
| 32 clinical trial, phase ii.pt.            |  | 95 limit 94 to humans              |





**PRISMA flow diagram** for the sequential phases of the systematic review (e37). For further information, see [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org).