

Endocarditis Often Tied to Intravascular Catheters

BY KERRI WACHTER
Senior Writer

WASHINGTON — Intravascular catheter infections were the most common cause of infective endocarditis in a 10-year retrospective study of more than 150 cases at one Veterans Affairs center.

The most common predisposing factor was an intravascular catheter, present in 20% of 163 cases of infective endo-

carditis in 155 patients, reported Dr. Ingrid Roig of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. More than half (53%) of the catheters were located in either the jugular or subclavian vein.

Further, cardiac devices appear to represent an underappreciated source of infectious endocarditis, said Dr. Roig at the jointly held annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the annual meeting

of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Implantable cardiac devices were identified as the source of infection in 8% of cases.

The retrospective chart review identified 280 patients with ICD-9 codes for endocarditis at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston between 1997 and 2007. Medical records of these patients were reviewed for the placement of an indwelling vascular catheter or im-

plantable cardiac device in the 3 months prior to diagnosis.

In 35 cases, central catheters had been placed during the previous 3 months, and were the presumed source of the subsequent endocarditis in 25 cases. A prior episode of catheter-associated bacteremia resulted in four cases of endocarditis.

Implantable cardioverter devices were present in 21 patients and were the presumptive source of infection in 13. ■



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