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**Table 1.** Early Complications of 669 Hickman Catheters Inserted via the Right Internal Jugular Vein

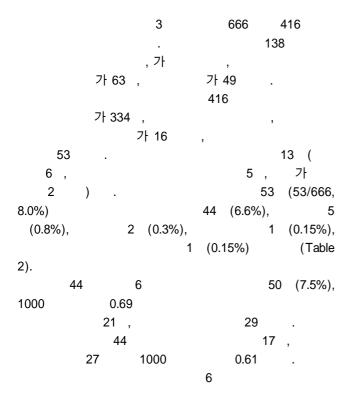
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Complications	No. of Catheters (%)
Pnemothorax	3 (0.45%)
Early migration	1 (0.15%)
Air embolism	1 (0.15%)
Catheter injury	1 (0.15%)
Catheter kinking	1 (0.15%)
Primary malposition	1 (0.15%)
Total $(n = 669)$	8 (1.2%)

가

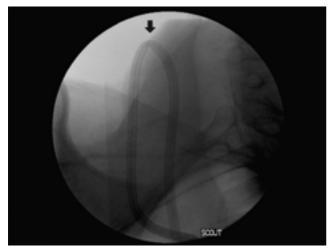
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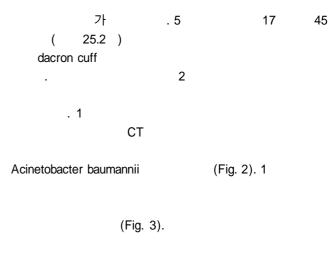


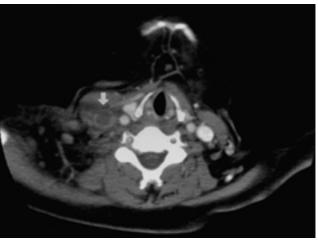
**Table 2.** Causes for Catheter removal due to Late Complications of 666 Hickman Catheters Inserted via the Right Internal Jugular vein

Complications	No. of Catheters (%)
Bactermia	27 (4.1%)
Local infection	17 (2.6%)
Catheter migration	5 (0.8%)
Catheter occlusion	2 (0.3%)
Thrombophlebitis	1 (0.15%)
RA thrombosis	1 (0.15%)
Total $(n = 666)$	53 (8.0%)



**Fig. 1.** Radiograph shows a catheter kink (arrow) at internal jugular vein exit site. Catheter had been inserted by high venous puncture which was made through jugular vein above 2 cm to the medial clavicle.





**Fig. 2.** CT scan shows a thrombosed right internal jugular vein (arrow) with adjacent soft tissue infiltration due to thrombophlebitis.



**Fig. 3.** CT scan shows a low-attenuated filling defect in the right atrium (arrow) which was confirmed as a organized thrombus related to central venous catheter.

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## Outcome of Tunneled Infusion Catheters Inserted via the Right Internal Jugular Vein<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** To assess the outcome of tunneled central venous catheter placement via the right internal jugular vein.

**Materials and Methods:** Between June 2001 and May 2002, 670 consecutive Hickman catheters were placed in 654 patients via the right internal jugular vein. The procedural complications arising and follow-up data obtained from May to July 2002 were evaluated.

**Results:** The technical success rate for catheter placement was 99.9% (669/670). Procedural complications were limited to eight cases (1.2%), including three pneumothoraces, one early migration of the catheter, one clinically unimportant air embolism, one catheter injury, one catheter kinking and one primary malpositioning in the azygos vein. Catheter dwelling time ranged from 1 to 407 (mean 107.1) days. During the follow-up period, 416 catheters were removed for various reasons: treatment had ended (n = 334), patients declined treatment or their drug regimen was changed (n = 16), late complications arose (n = 53), or other circumstances intervened (n = 13). Late complications included 44 cases of catheter-related infection (6.6%), five of catheter migration (0.7%), two of catheter occlusion (0.3%), one of thrombophlebitis (0.15%), and one of catheter-related right atrial thrombosis (0.15%). Only one instance of symptomatic venous thrombosis or stenosis was noted, namely the one case of thrombophlebitis.

**Conclusion:** Because the incidence of subsequent symptomatic venous thrombosis or stenosis is lower, the preferred route for tunneled central venous catheter placement is the right internal jugular vein.

Index words: Catheters and catheterization, complications
Catheters and catheterization, central venous access
Veins, jugular
Veins, thrombosis

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