Appendix

Buttonhole Tract Formation Using Polycarbonate Pegs

Procedure

♦ Remove the hemodialysis needles after dialysis per protocol
♦ Stop the bleeding
♦ Insert the peg into the established puncture sites using aseptic technique
♦ Some centers recommend using topical antibiotic cream at the time of peg insertion, but not all buttonhole protocols include antibiotic prophylaxis
♦ Cover the pegs with waterproof plaster dressing
♦ Leave pegs in situ until the next dialysis session
♦ Remove pegs immediately prior to dialysis session
♦ Prepare the cannulation sites per unit protocol
♦ Insert needles into site vacated by the pegs. The BH is created by approximately 8 to 12 cannulations using the peg
♦ Observe for infection, dislodgement of peg, and bleeding