

F424
DYSFUNCTIONAL, AUTOGENOUS HEMODIALYSIS FISTULAS DUE TO INFLOW STENOSIS
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F425
AN EGFR VALUE TO CREATE VASCULAR ACCESS FOR HAEMODIALYSIS (HD) AND THE RATE OF DECLINE IN EGFR IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (CKD) STAGE IV AND V
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F426
PERCUTANEOUS ANGIOGRAPHY: CAN THE REASONS FOR PERFORMING AN ANGIOGRAPHIC PROCEDURE PREDICT HEMODYNAMICALLY SIGNIFICANT STENOSIS?
Nuno Viana,1 Susana Machado,1 Celia Gil,2 Carlos Lucas,2 Artur Mendes,2 José Barata,2 Luis Freitas,1 Mário Campos,1
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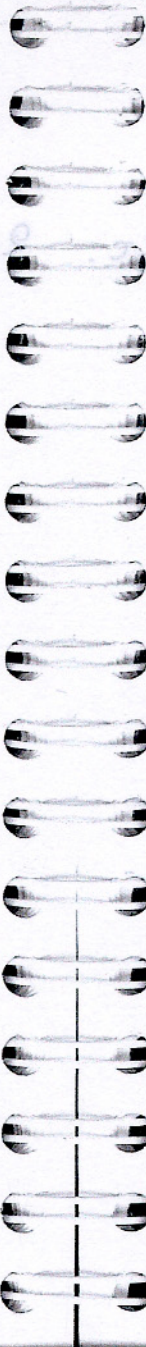
F427
IMPORTANCE OF VASCULAR ACCESS FLOW IN VARIOUS FISTULA POSITION. A BTM STUDY
Csaba Rikker,1 Edina Juhász,1 Andrea Tóth,2 Ildikó Vizi,2 László Tornóci,3 László Rosivall,3 Szilveszter Tóvárosi,4
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F428
THE EFFECTS OF PREOPERATIVE PRACTICE PATTERN TO VASCULAR ACCESS OUTCOMES
Seong Cho, Sungrok Kim, Yu-ji Lee.
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F429
CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASE AFFECTS UPPER LIMB CIRCULATION IN HEMODIALYSIS SUBJECTS; ASSESSMENT WITH LASER DOPPLER SKIN PERFUSION PRESSURE
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F430
COMPARISON OF MACROSCOPIC AND HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS AT EXIT-SITE SKIN OF TUNNELED CUFFED VENOUS CATHETERS
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F431
EFFECT OF EARLY AND LATE CANNULATION OF FISTULAS ON FISTULAS SURVIVE AND DIALYSIS ADEQUACY IN 311 A-V FISTULAS
Mustafa Esentürk,1 Murat Zengin,2 Fatih Ögün,1 Aslihan Akdemir,3 Cemil Çolak,4 Gülzade Pekince,5
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F432
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OUTCOME OF NOSOCOMIAL CATHETER-RELATED BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS ON HEMODIALYSIS WITH TEMPORARY FEMORAL CATHETERS
Vesna Gerasimovska, Angel Oncevski, Biljana Gerasimovska-Kitanovska, Aleksandar Sikole.
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F433
ENDOVASCULAR TREATMENT OF STENOSIS OF ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULAE PATIENTS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS
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F434
ANATOMICAL VARIATION OF VESSELS OF NECK IN ADULT VOLUNTEERS AND HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS: AN ULTRASONOGRAPHY SURVEY
Raymed Bacallao Méndez, Arturo Ávila, Jennie Salgado, Betsy Llerena, Aymara Badell, Mirna Atiés.
Inst Nacional Nefrología

F435
VASCULAR ACCESS FOR HAEMODIALYSIS IN SCOTLAND
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F436
MEASUREMENT OF ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA (AVF) BLOOD FLOW RATE (QA) DURING HEMODIALYSIS (HD) IN 30 PATIENTS BY THE TEMPERATURE GRADIENT METHOD (TGM) USING THE TWISTERTM DEVICE. COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH THE DELTA-H TECHNIQUE
R. Roca-Tey, S. Samon, O. Ibrak, E. Roda, J.C. González, J. Viladoms.
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F437
SOUND ASSESSMENT AND SOUND ANALYSIS OF ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA (AVF) IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS
Pavlos Malindretos,1,2 Panagiotis Bamidis,2 Christos Liaskos,3 Andreas Papagiannis,4 Dionisis Vrochides,4 Christos Frantzidis,2 Pantelis Sarafidis,1 Anastasios Lasaridis,1 Ioannis Chryssogonidis,5 Pavlos Nikolaïdis,1
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F438
INCREASE OF WHOLE ANGIOPLASTY SURVIVAL IN NATIVE VASCULAR ACCESS AFTER SURGICAL RESCUE OF JUNCTA-ANASTOMOTIC STENOSIS
J. Ibeas,1 J. Vallespín,2 J.R. Fortuño,3 J. Merino,2 A. Rodríguez-Jornet,1 J. Branera,3 C. Grau,1 I. Granados,1 A. Mateos,3 V. Jimeno,3 J. Perndreu,3 C. Moya,1 J. Rivera,1 J. Falcó,3 A. Giménez,2 M. García,1
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F439
BACTERIAL PHENOTYPING IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING HEMODIALYSIS THROUGH A TEMPORARY DUAL LUMEN CATHETER: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY
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[F437] SOUND ASSESSMENT AND SOUND ANALYSIS OF ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA (AVF) IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

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INTRODUCTION AND AIMS:

Traditionally, AVF function is assessed by clinical evaluation, Doppler ultrasound, Ultrasound dilution techniques, venography, and dialysis adequacy methods (URR and Kt/V). Clinical examination represents the easiest method; and is based on assessing a thrill and listening to the associated bruit at the site of arteriovenous anastomosis. Even though this method is the easiest and most popular, it is subjective by definition and vastly dependent on experience bias. The purpose of our study was to assess and analyze the produced bruit from blood circulation in an AVF with the assist of a computerized method.

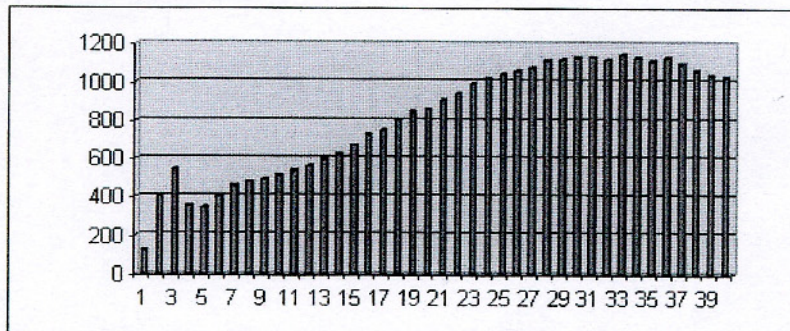
METHODS:

For the estimation of bruit generated from blood circulation within the AVF, an electronic stethoscope was used. Its sensitivity was 20-20,000Hz. The stethoscope was connected to a portable Lap top computer (Intel 2.00GHz CPU, 1GHz RAM). 122 hemodialysis patients participated in the study. After the determination of the surface where the perceived bruit was more intense, the bruit was recorded, without using any sound filtering. The sample rate was decided to be 48,000 and was saved in wav type lossless format. In order to further evaluate sound frequency, Fast Fourier Transformation (FFT) was used. Fourier Transformation was preferred, since it can be particularly useful in revealing periodicity in input data, mapping its frequency behavior as well as the strength of its components. Frequencies obtained with FFT were divided in 40 frequency intervals, 250Hz apart. This way separate sound frequencies generated by the heart and the anastomosis bruit could be easier revealed.

RESULTS:

Recorded sound frequency varied from 250 Hz to 10,000 Hz. The median frequency was 5,500 Hz. Two major peaks were observed, one between 500 and 700 Hz and one between 7500 Hz and 10,000 Hz. The maximum sound "load" though was observed over 7500 Hz. Figure 1 shows the results of FFT transformation.

To our knowledge this is the first attempt to use computer assisted sound assessment for the estimation and analysis of the perceived bruit.



CONCLUSIONS:

Even though clinical estimation of a fistula's condition is part of every day practice in nephrology, computer assisted sound estimation is a readily available method that might increase diagnostic accuracy, without adding too much to the expenses.