

# PICC in Palliative Care: An opportunity to reverse the reversible

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**Abbreviated abstract:** Although PICCs minimise procedure related pain and allow effective absorption of parenteral fluids and medications for patients when the oral route is no longer feasible there is limited empirical data regarding their efficacy, safety and patient satisfaction in palliative care. Emerging literature suggests minimal pain and distress on insertion, limited complications and a favourable impact on quality of life.

## **Related publications:**

Yamada, R., Morita, T., Yashiro, E., Hiroyuki, O., Amano, K., Tei, Y. & Inoue, S. (2010) 'Patient-Reported usefulness of Peripherally Inserted Central Venous Catheters in Terminally Ill Cancer Patients', *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 40(1), 60-66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2009.11.327>  
Park, E., Park, K., Kim, J., Oh, S., Jung, K., Oh, S.Y., Hong, Y., Kim, J.H., Jang, J., & Jeon, U. (2021) 'Safety, Efficacy, and Patient Satisfaction with Initial Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters Compared with Usual Intravenous Access in Terminally Ill Cancer Patients: A Randomized Phase II Study', *Cancer Research and Treatment*, 53(3), 881-888. <https://doi.org/10.4143/crt.2020.1008>



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This poster is part of  
the SPPC Poster  
Parade 2022



# Patient Cohort

## *Ten Patients*

Systematic literature review undertaken:

*keywords \*peripherally inserted central cannula\* & \*palliative\**

5 papers identified 2010-2021

2 from Korea, 2 Italy & 1 Japan

4 Prospective observational studies, 1 randomised phase 2 study

GRADE Level of evidence: Moderate

***Summary: minimal pain and distress on insertion, limited complications and a favourable impact on quality of life***

7 women, 3 men

9 had solid tumours

Average age 65 (range 43-87)

280 PICC days

Av. days of placement 28 (1-167)

**No PICC associated complications**

***NHSGGC Nurse Led Vascular Access Service***

*4756 PICCs in last financial year*

*Inserted under aseptic conditions with  
ultrasound and intracavitary ECG guidance*

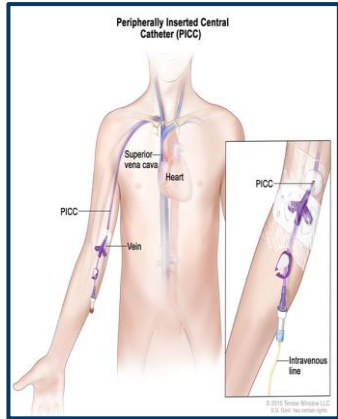
***Indications: Hydration, Medication & Bloods***

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# The Synergy of PICC and Palliative Care



## Symptom Management & Prevention

- ★ Administration of IV Dexamethasone & PPI
- ★ Administration of essential blood products
- ★ Administration of IV Hydration aligned to patient goals
- ★ Management of rising urea and falling eGFR

## Patient and Family Feedback

- ★ *“I am so impressed by the PICC and that you have access to the team”*
- ★ *“I like it because it’s convenient and clean”*
- ★ *“I don’t like needles and I don’t even feel this... it’s amazing”*
- ★ *“Insertion is effortless, and once in place causes no distress for the patient and is added to the Ward-based Safety Brief.”*



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# The Benefits and Outcomes

*A philosophy which supports all symptoms to be managed, prevents new symptoms from arising and promotes opportunities for meaningful and valuable experiences*



*(Patient/family consent has been sought and authorised for these photographs)*

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