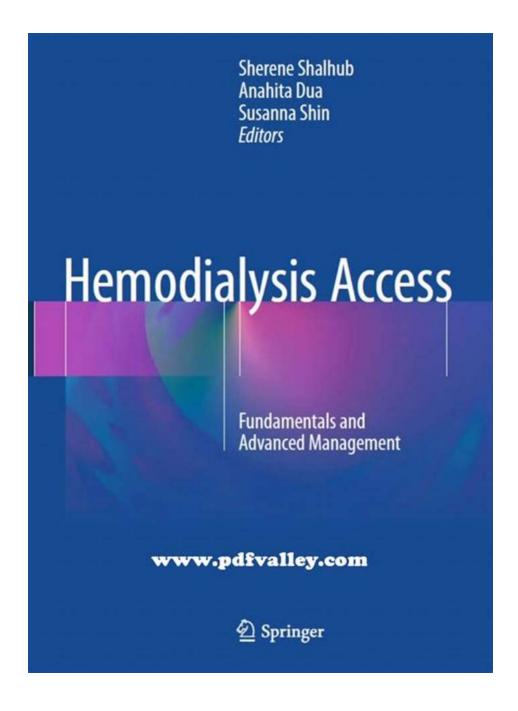
Hemodialysis Access Fundamentals And Advanced Management: The Ultimate Guide

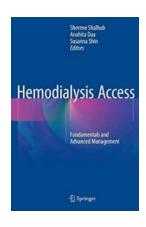


Living with kidney disease can be challenging, but advancements in medical science and technology have made it possible for patients to undergo hemodialysis, a life-saving procedure. Hemodialysis is a process that filters and purifies the blood when the kidneys can no longer perform this function

adequately. To carry out hemodialysis effectively, a secure and accessible vascular access point is required.

The Basics of Hemodialysis Access

Before delving into advanced management techniques, it is essential to understand the fundamentals of hemodialysis access. Vascular access refers to a surgically created entry point into the bloodstream that allows the removal and return of blood during hemodialysis treatment.



Hemodialysis Access: Fundamentals and Advanced Management

by Sherene Shalhub (1st ed. 2017 Edition, Kindle Edition)

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There are three primary types of vascular access: arteriovenous (AV) fistulas, arteriovenous grafts, and central venous catheters (CVCs).

1. Arteriovenous Fistulas (AVFs)

AVFs are considered the gold standard for hemodialysis access. They involve connecting a vein and an artery, usually in the forearm or upper arm, creating a strong and natural blood vessel for dialysis. AVFs require time to mature and are preferred over the other access options due to their longevity, lower risk of infection, and better blood flow rates.

2. Arteriovenous Grafts (AVGs)

In cases where a patient's veins are inadequate for an AVF, an AVG may be recommended. An AVG involves connecting an artery and vein using a synthetic tube or graft. This provides a suitable access point for dialysis, though it is less durable than an AVF and has a higher infection risk. AVGs are generally placed in the forearm or upper arm.

3. Central Venous Catheters (CVCs)

CVCs are temporary access points commonly used during emergencies or when an AVF or AVG is not available. They involve placing a catheter into a large vein in the neck, chest, or groin area. While CVCs provide immediate access, they are associated with a higher risk of infection and complications. Therefore, they are not recommended for long-term use.

Advanced Management Techniques for Hemodialysis Access

Once a suitable access point is established for hemodialysis, it is crucial to employ advanced management techniques to ensure its optimal function and longevity. Advanced management involves regular monitoring, preventive care, and timely interventions to address any access-related issues that can hinder the effectiveness of hemodialysis.

1. Surveillance and Monitoring

Ongoing surveillance and monitoring of the access site are essential to detect any potential complications. Healthcare professionals regularly measure blood flow rates, monitor vascular access sounds (bruit and thrill), and perform physical examinations to identify signs of infection, clotting, or narrowing. These routine assessments help identify issues early, allowing for prompt intervention and prevention of access failure.

2. Fistula/Graft Maturity Assessment

For newly created AVFs or AVGs, assessing maturity is crucial to ensure successful hemodialysis. This assessment involves techniques such as duplex ultrasound and arterial-venous mapping to evaluate blood flow, size, and suitability of the access point. Adequate maturation is essential for a successful dialysis session.

3. Endovascular Interventions

If complications arise in the access point, endovascular interventions can help restore functionality and salvaging the access site. Techniques such as angioplasty, stenting, and thrombectomy are used to address stenosis, thrombosis, or other abnormalities in the access vessels.

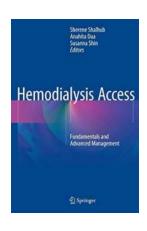
4. Access Salvage Procedures

In cases where the access point fails or becomes dysfunctional, salvage procedures may be considered. These procedures aim to rescue the existing access site or create a new access point for hemodialysis. Procedures such as surgical revision, banding, or additional grafting may be performed to restore vascular access and maintain uninterrupted dialysis treatment.

5. Patient Education and Self-Care

Patient education plays a vital role in the successful management of hemodialysis access. Educating patients about the importance of access care, avoiding trauma to the access site, understanding infection prevention, and recognizing signs of complications empowers them to actively participate in their treatment. Patients should also be taught basic self-care techniques, such as monitoring and reporting any changes or abnormalities to their healthcare provider.

Understanding the fundamentals of hemodialysis access and implementing advanced management techniques are crucial for the successful treatment of kidney disease. By creating and maintaining a reliable access point, patients can experience effective hemodialysis, improve their quality of life, and extend their longevity. Additionally, regular surveillance, monitoring, and timely interventions optimize the function and durability of the access point, ensuring uninterrupted treatment and minimizing complications.



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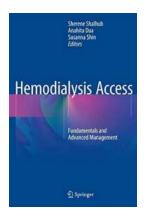
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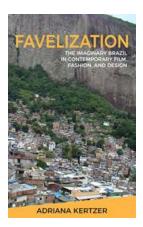
This comprehensive reference on the fundamentals of hemodialysis access creation and advanced management for maintenance is designed to meet the needs of all surgeons and physicians responsible for the treatment and care of patients undergoing dialysis. The book opens by discussing every aspect of dialysis access planning, including selection of the right access for the individual patient and access strategies. Hemodialysis access techniques, from the most basic to the most complex and unconventional, are then described step by step, and guidance is provided on follow-up. Detailed attention is also devoted to the challenging management of specific complications of dialysis access surgery, including failing hemodialysis access. The book includes a wealth of informative,

high-quality images and illustrations, and the authors are prominent vascular surgeons, transplant surgeons, general surgeons, nephrologists, and interventional radiologists from across the United States.



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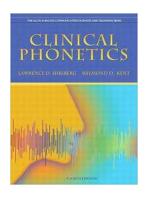
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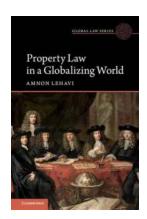
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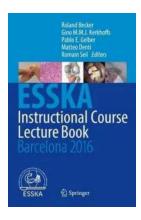
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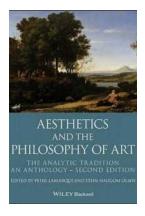
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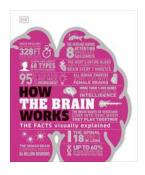
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