AIMS

This was a retrospective study aimed at assessing the primary and secondary patency rates following Angiojet thrombectomy of a thrombosed Arterio Venous Fistula (AVF). The follow up period was up to 10 years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Retrospective data collection from patients who underwent Angiojet thrombectomy for
- Demographics, fistula type, date of initial Angiojet thrombectomy, dates of subsequent interventions (fistuloplasty and thrombectomy) on the same fistula, date of transplant.
- Endpoints were fistula failure and need for surgical intervention.
- Kaplan-Meier curves were plotted to demonstrate secondary patency of the AVF.

RESULTS

143 patients included. 102 patients had native vein fistulas whilst 41 patients had polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) grafts. Success rate of the initial procedure was 86.7% (124/143). The overall secondary patency rates at 1 year, 5 years and 10 years were 75%, 55% and 50% respectively. Secondary patency at 1 year and 5 years was 80% and 65% respectively for native fistulas and 70% and 20% for PTFE grafts. 64 patients had interim interventions on the fistula in the follow up period to aid secondary patency.

CONCLUSION

Angiojet thrombectomy is an effective technique in the salvage of thrombosed AV fistulas. It results in an acceptable secondary patency rate. Native fistulas appear to have a better secondary patency following thrombectomy than PTFE grafts.

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