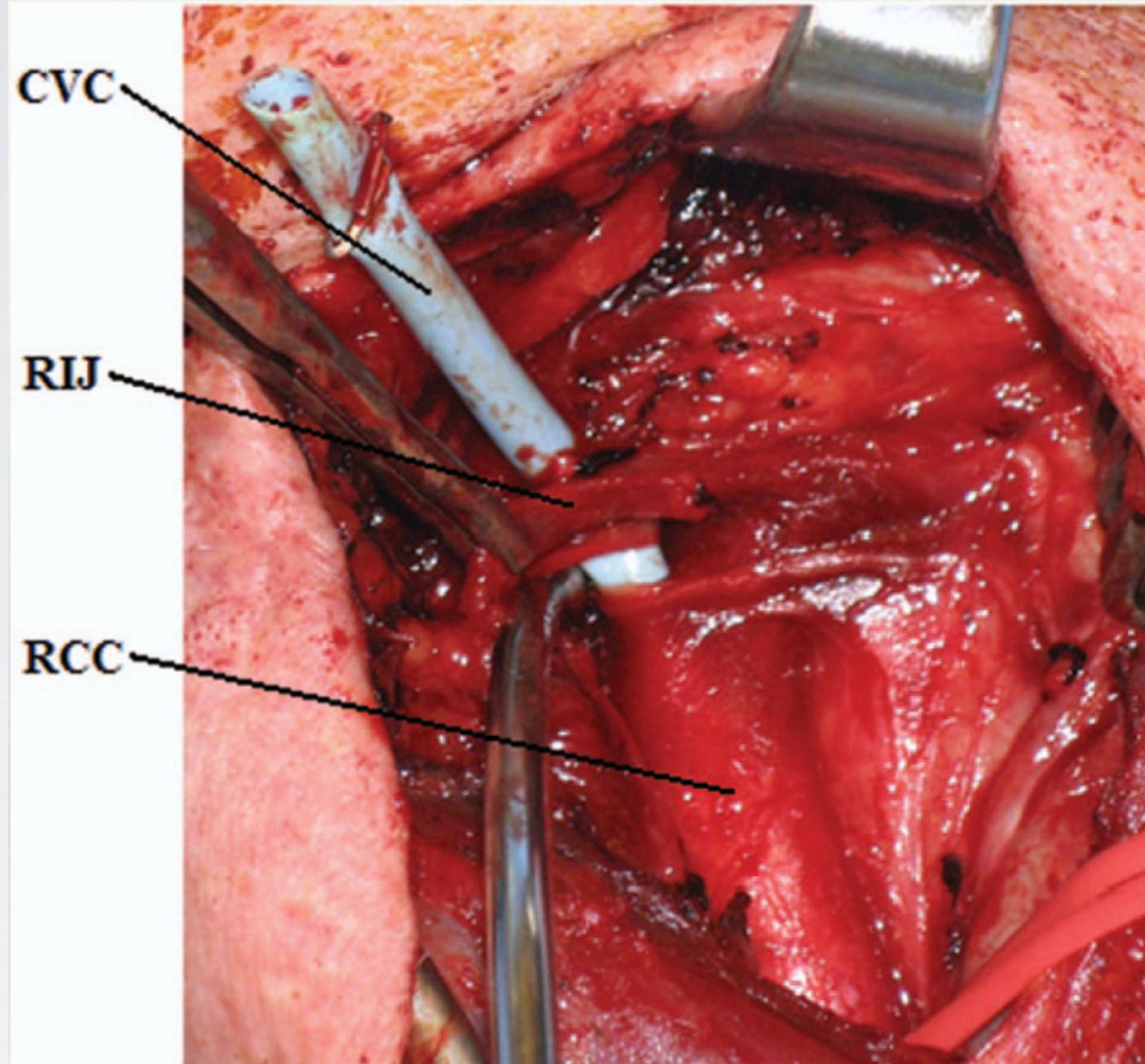


# DANGER OF INADVERTENT ARTERIAL CANNULATION

IS THIS A REAL PROBLEM?

How to avoid this....and **ultrasound is not the answer!**



Open surgical repair following arterial cannulation reveals a catheter traversing through the right internal jugular vein into the carotid artery...**despite the use of ultrasound**

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# Be careful !

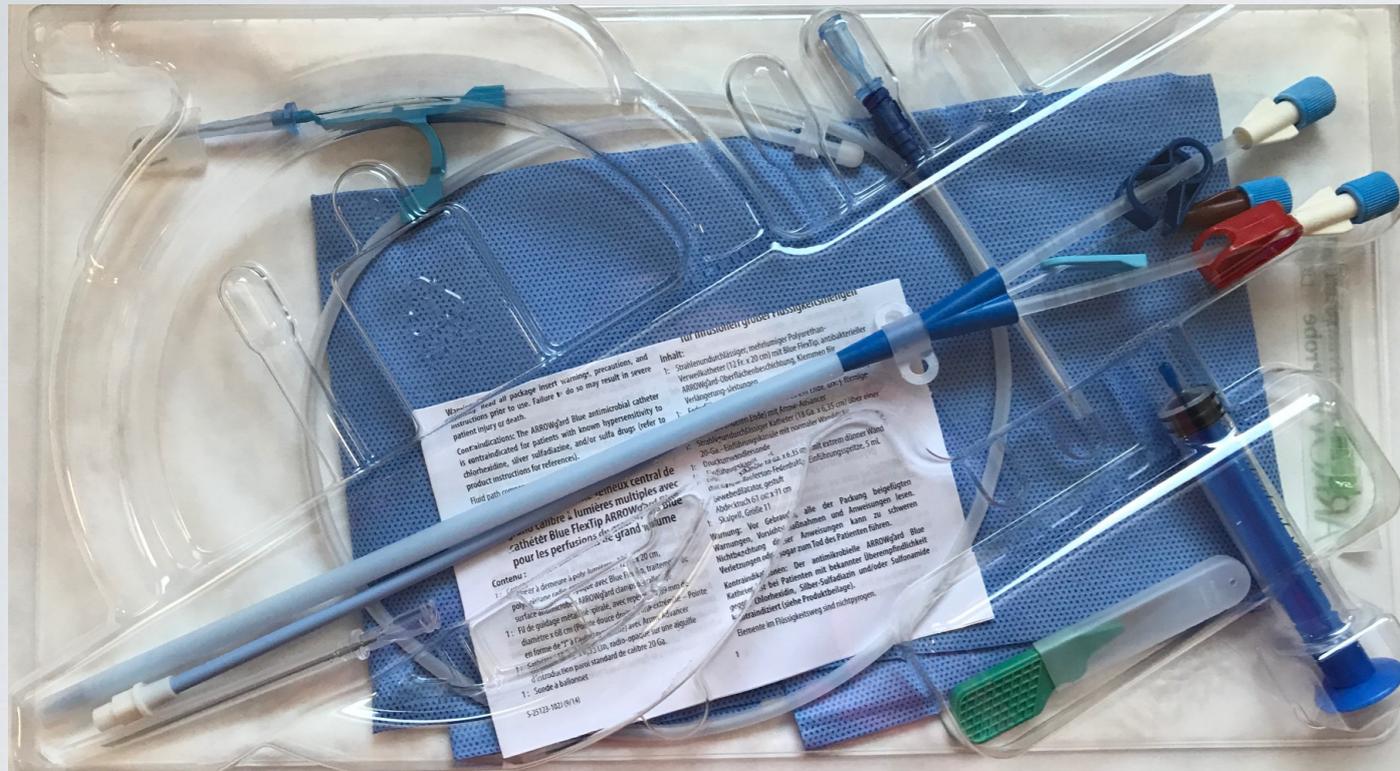
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Ultrasound has **not** removed the risk of unintended arterial cannulation.

**2** out of **6** died

**3** out of **6** required emergency surgery

...and remember we use BIG catheters!



VasCath ~ 12 - 13.5 Fr

French (Fr)

increases from zero in increments of 0.33 mm O.D.

(a size 5 Fr = 16 SWG)

“At 15.5 Fr diameter, the Hemolung Catheter is the smallest ECCO<sub>2</sub>R catheter available.”

# Estimated risks :

 = 1000

- **“Can’t intubate and can’t ventilate”**



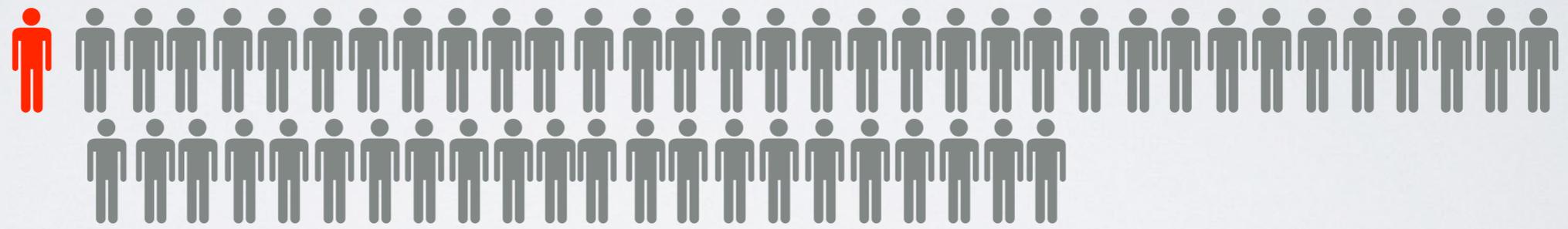
“an **entire industry** devoted to performing ventilation and tracheal intubation in just those few patients.”

- **Intraoperative awareness**



“...industry that ... sells **expensive monitors** that at best is marginally effective.”

- **Malignant hyperthermia**



“tens of thousands of dantrolene carts ...”

- **Arterial cannulation with a 7F or larger catheter**



“if manometry is only half as effective as reported, then major morbidity or death, will be avoided”

**Relative to many other rare events the payback of pressure measurement here is tremendous.**

# Does ultrasound eliminate this risk?

## Carotid arterial cannulation: removing the risk with ultrasound?

Can J Anesth (2009) 56:471–472

“The use of an **US** technique does **not remove all risk** inherent with CVC insertion”

## Inadvertent Great Vessel Arterial Catheterization During Ultrasound-Guided Central Venous Line Placement: A Potentially Fatal Event

JOURNAL OF VASCULAR SURGERY June Supplement 2011

In 8 patients there was inadvertent/**unrecognized carotid artery catheterization**. All were **done under “ultrasound guidance”**

inadvertent great vessel catheterization ...is a **fatal event in 38%**.

“**ultrasound...** imparted a **false sense of security.**”

## Pressure Waveform Monitoring During Central Venous Catheterization

Anesthesia and Analgesia Vol. 109, No. 6, December 2009

“**color** and **pulsatility** are **not reliable** for detecting intra-arterial puncture”

“..always measure a pressure waveform ... inadvertent arterial cannulation ...**despite the use of ultrasound**”

“..... this largely **life-threatening** complication seems to **occur far too often.**”

## Video Analysis of Accidental Arterial Cannulation With Dynamic Ultrasound Guidance for Central Venous Access

J Ultrasound Med 2009; 28:1239–1244

This series describes 6 **accidental arterial cannulations** in critically ill patients that **occurred with dynamic ultrasound** guidance.

## Carotid Dissection: A Complication of Internal Jugular Vein Cannulation with the Use of Ultrasound

Anesthesia and Analgesia Vol. 109, No. 1, July 2009

“...serious complications with **potentially fatal outcomes** can occur ... **despite ultrasound guidance**”

# Does ultrasound eliminate this risk?

## **Ultrasound Identification of the Guidewire in the Brachiocephalic Vein for the Prevention of Inadvertent Arterial Catheterization During Internal Jugular Central Venous Catheter Placement**

“There are numerous reports of **inadvertent arterial catheterisation** despite the use of ultrasound guidance”

“One solution for avoiding this problem is to place a catheter over needle into the internal jugular vein and measure the pressure from the catheter”

STROKE COMPLICATING CENTRAL VENOUS LINE

S

- A patient with community acquired pneumonia and septic shock had an inadvertent right carotid artery placement of a multi-lumen central venous line.
- The patient subsequently developed a large right sided cerebral infarct.

B

- The line was inserted under ultrasound guidance
- On connection to pressure transducer, a waveform could not be obtained and chest X-ray was performed. This was interpreted as showing correct placement and noradrenaline infusion commenced.
- 2 hours later a pressure waveform was obtained by changing the monitor scale (from maximum of 20 mmHg to 200 mmHg) which revealed an arterial trace.
- The line was promptly removed and local pressure applied until bleeding controlled.

A

- Technical error with inadvertent passage of guide-wire through vein into artery with failure to identify malposition before proceeding to dilatation and large gauge line insertion.
- Misinterpretation of cause of failure to obtain venous waveform (incorrect scale)
- Removal of large gauge line without referral to vascular surgery or interventional radiology.

R

- Venous placement of guidewire must be confirmed before dilatation.
- Consider routinely transducing BEFORE dilatation.
- Highlight potential for misinterpreting a flat CVC trace
- Ensure all clinical members of team are trained in troubleshooting invasive pressure transducers
- Do not 'remove and press' following Inadvertent arterial cannulation with a large bore line but get urgent vascular surgery/interventional radiology advice.

# Pressure measurement to the rescue?

Arterial Cannulation During Central Line Placement:  
Mechanisms of Injury, Prevention, and Treatment

T. Andrew Bowdle MD, PhD

Professor of Anesthesiology and Pharmaceutics

Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

Department of Anesthesiology

University of Washington

“the Closed Claims Database confirmed the hazards associated with central line...had an increased proportion of death (36%)

| Type of complication        | No. | Deaths (%) |
|-----------------------------|-----|------------|
| Carotid artery injury       | 14  | 36         |
| Miscellaneous vessel injury | 7   | 29         |

“...the IHI added a Central Line Insertion Checklist from Johns Hopkins University...the **checklist includes mandatory pressure transduction**”

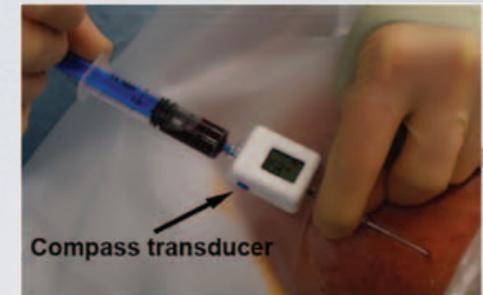


Figure 3: Tube manometer used in the Ezaru et al. study demonstrating that pressure measurement can prevent arterial cannulation<sup>10</sup>

Out of 1795 catheterizations, **0.8%** arterial cannulations were prevented by pressure measurement.  
Estimated **48,000** prevented by pressure measurement /yr (which would not be discovered by colour or pulsatility)

## Practice guidelines

“While ultrasound has been recommended, it is only recently that professional organisations have begun to appreciate the importance of including pressure measurement.”

“the ASA published central line insertion recommendations that include pressure transduction..to to prevent inadvertent arterial cannulation.”

# So if it ain't broke, why fix it?

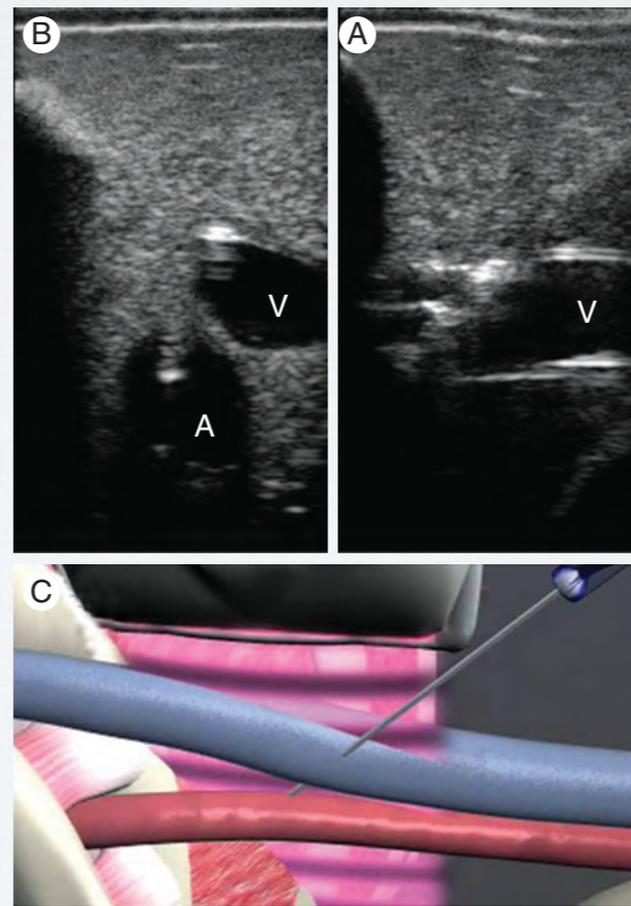
*British Journal of Anaesthesia* **110** (3): 368–73 (2013)  
Advance Access publication 6 November 2012 · doi:10.1093/bja/aes381

BJA

## CARDIOVASCULAR

### Three-step method for ultrasound-guided central vein catheterization

J. Tokumine<sup>1\*</sup>, A. T. Lefor<sup>4</sup>, A. Yonei<sup>5</sup>, A. Kagaya<sup>2</sup>, K. Iwasaki<sup>2</sup> and Y. Fukuda<sup>3</sup>



**Fig 1** Pitfalls of the LAX-IP technique. Pitfalls associated with the LAX-IP are demonstrated using a simulator. V, vein; A, artery. (A) The longitudinal view shows what appears to be a correct orientation. (B) Actually, the tip of the needle is in the artery. (C) The three-dimensional graphic illustrates that the needle went through the vein into the artery.

## Clinical case

- 73 yr old man
- Haematological malignancy - post chemotherapy
- Temperature 40 degrees ; 0 neutrophils; 5 platelets
- Marked sequel of rt arm cellulitis post- PICC line
- BP ~80/35 requires urgent Noradrenaline
- Platelets will arrive in 2 hrs

**What do you suggest?**

EXTERNAL JUGULAR VEIN

# External jugular vein cannulation works!

## J-Wire versus Straight Wire for Central Venous System Cannulation via the External Jugular Vein

Casey D. Blitt, MD,\*  
George L. Carlson, MD,†  
Will A. Wright, MD,† and  
Charles W. Otto, MD‡

ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA  
Vol 61, No 6, June 1982

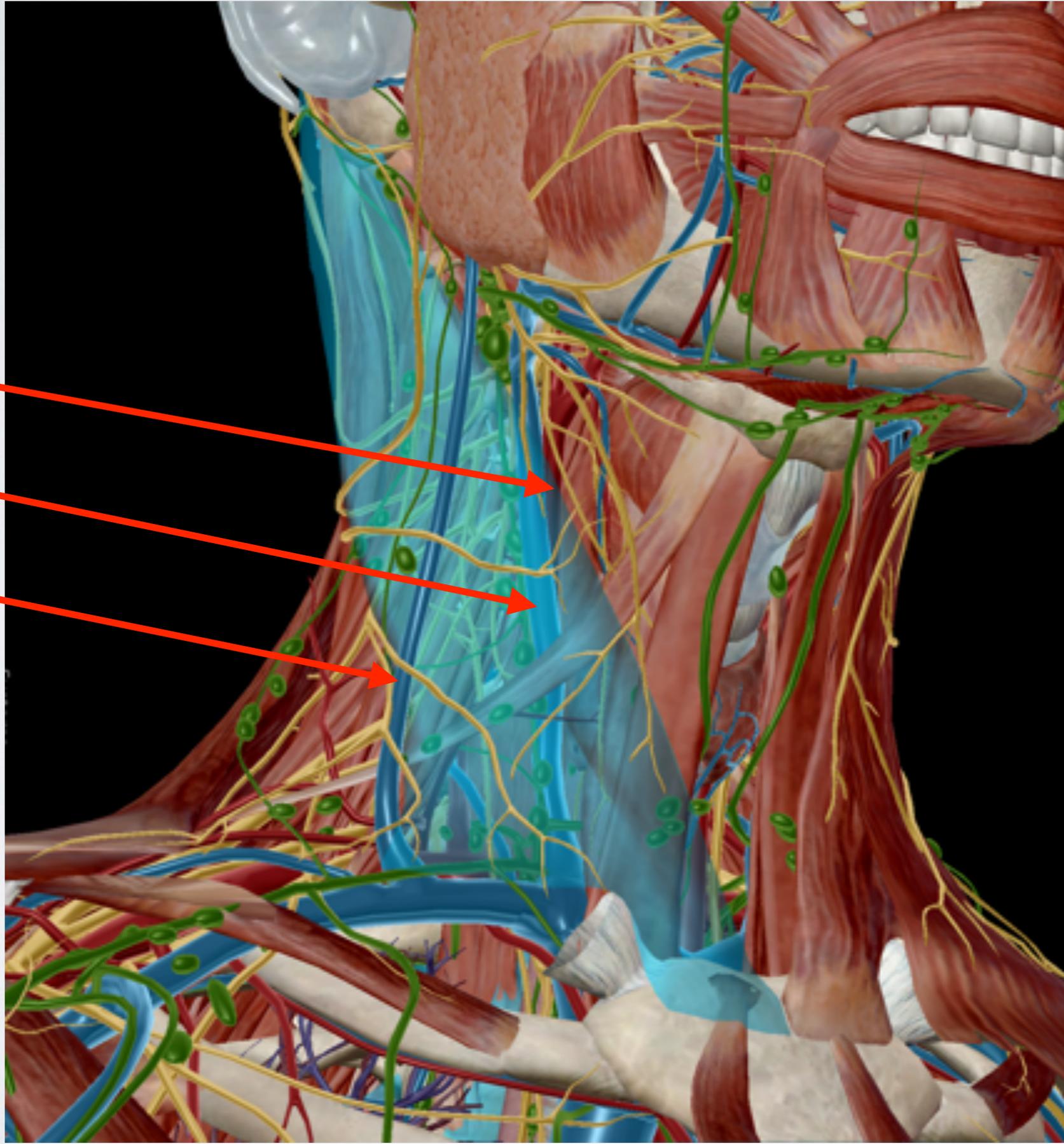
“..more than 100,000 cannulations of the **central venous** system and pulmonary artery **via the external jugular vein** have been performed with a **success rate of 80-95%**”

# Anatomy of external jugular vein

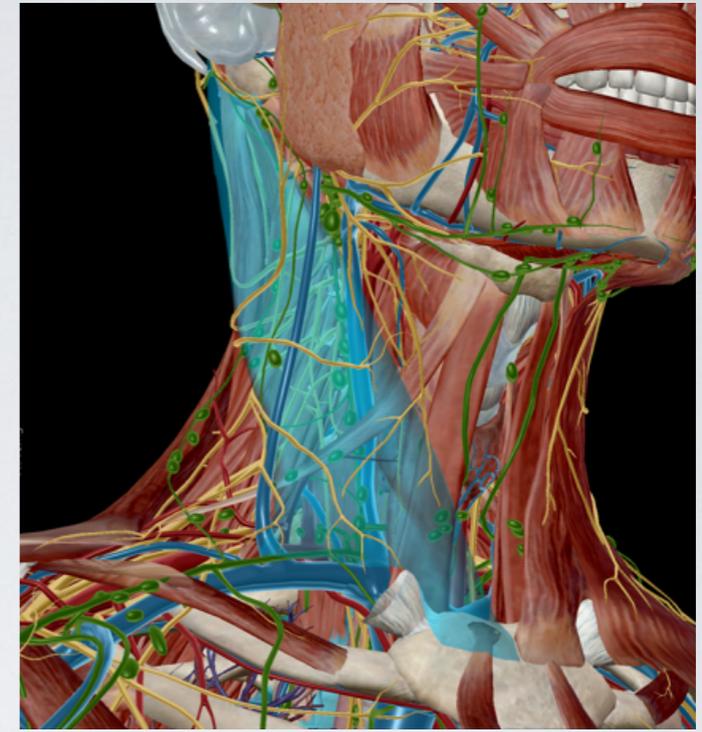
carotid art.

int. jug. v.

ext. jug. v.



# Anatomy of external jugular vein



The EJV generally has **two bicuspid valves**, one at the junction of the subclavian and the other approximately 4 cm upstream.

Dissection of 100 external jugular veins, the external jugular vein flowed into:

**60%** into the **jugulo-subclavian** venous confluence

**36%** into the **subclavian vein**

**4%** into the internal jugular vein

## Central Venous Access Via External Jugular Vein

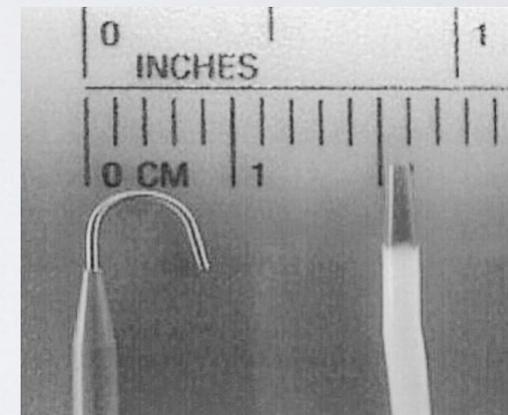
• Author: Rick McPheeters, DO, FAAEM; Chief Editor: Vincent Lopez Rowe, MD [more...](#)

Updated: Feb 26, 2015

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/2116323-overview>

### Tips

- Valsalva manoeuvre
- If wire does not pass :
  - withdraw it a few mm and rotate 90-180°
  - head tilt to the opposite side and shoulder manipulation
  - **pass the catheter over the wire after withdrawing a few mm**



“In **11 of 68** EJV cannulation attempts, the J-wire could **not transverse** the EJV-SVC junction...”

“...this rescue technique facilitated central vein cannulation through the EJV in **10 of 11** attempts.”

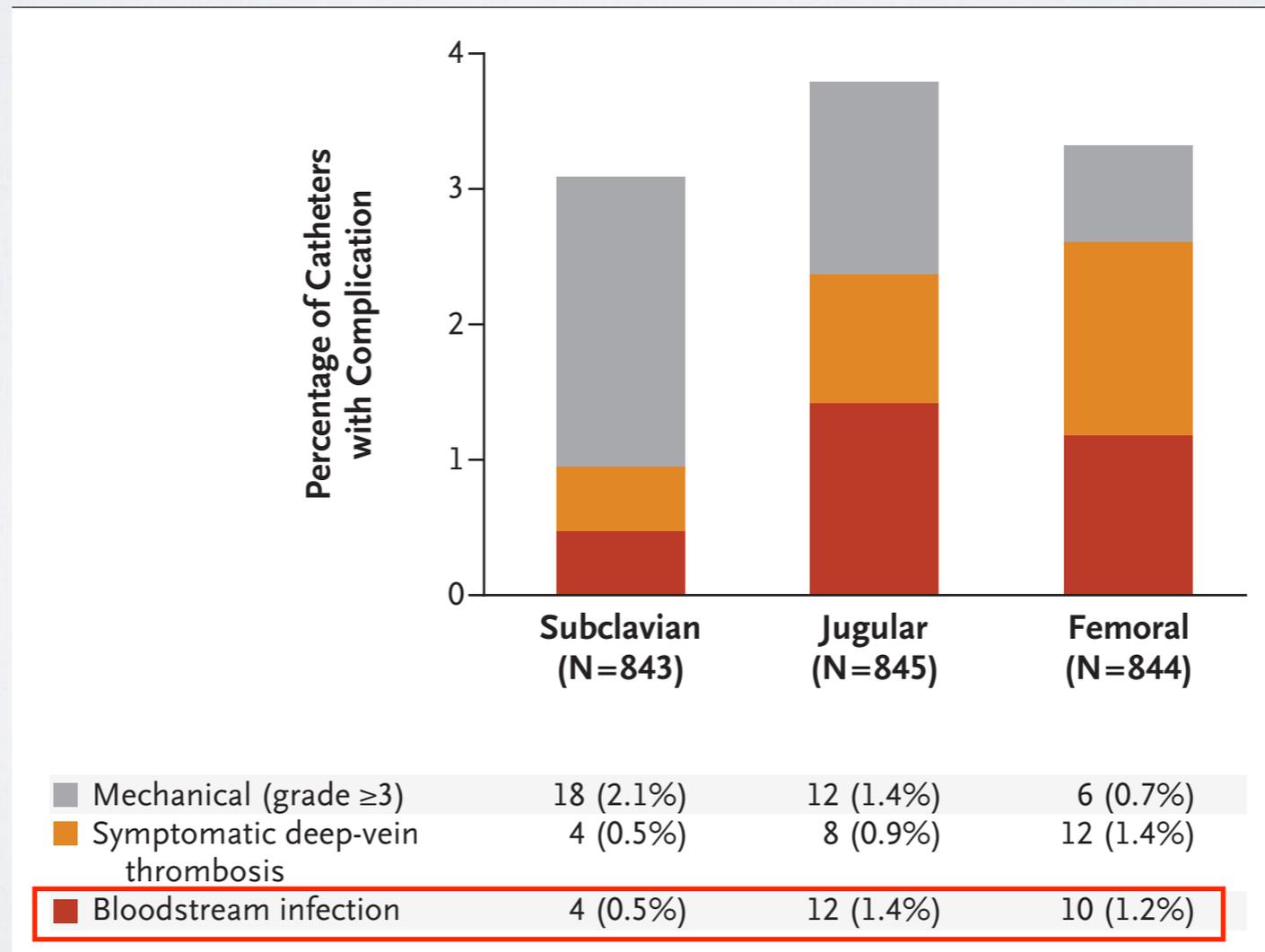
# INFECTION RISK FROM FEMORAL CATHETER

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Intravascular Complications of Central Venous Catheterization by Insertion Site

### Conclusions

“In this trial, **subclavian**-vein catheterisation was associated with a **lower risk of bloodstream infection** and symptomatic thrombosis and a higher risk of pneumothorax than **jugular**-vein or **femoral**-vein catheterization.”



# Femoral vs Jugular Venous Catheterization and Risk of Nosocomial Events in Adults Requiring Acute Renal Replacement Therapy

A Randomized Controlled Trial

JAMA, May 28, 2008—Vol 299, No. 20

In terms of infection,  
**Jugular = Femoral** venous catheterization

# Complications of Femoral and Subclavian Venous Catheterization in Critically Ill Patients

A Randomized Controlled Trial

In terms of infection/thrombosis,  
**Femoral > Subclavian** venous catheterization

# But for how long?

## Jugular versus Femoral Short-Term Catheterization and Risk of Infection in Intensive Care Unit Patients

Causal Analysis of Two Randomized Trials

Jean-François Timsit<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Lila Bouadma<sup>3</sup>, Olivier Mimoz<sup>4</sup>, Jean-Jacques Parienti<sup>5</sup>, Maïté Garrouste-Orgeas<sup>1,6</sup>, Serge Alfandari<sup>7</sup>, Gaétan Planteffeve<sup>8</sup>, Régis Bronchard<sup>9</sup>, Gilles Troche<sup>10</sup>, Remy Gauzit<sup>11</sup>, Marion Antona<sup>12</sup>, Emmanuel Canet<sup>13</sup>, Julien Bohe<sup>14</sup>, Marie-Christine Herrault<sup>15</sup>, Carole Schwebel<sup>2</sup>, Stéphane Ruckly<sup>1</sup>, Bertrand Souweine<sup>16</sup>, and Jean-Christophe Lucet<sup>17</sup>

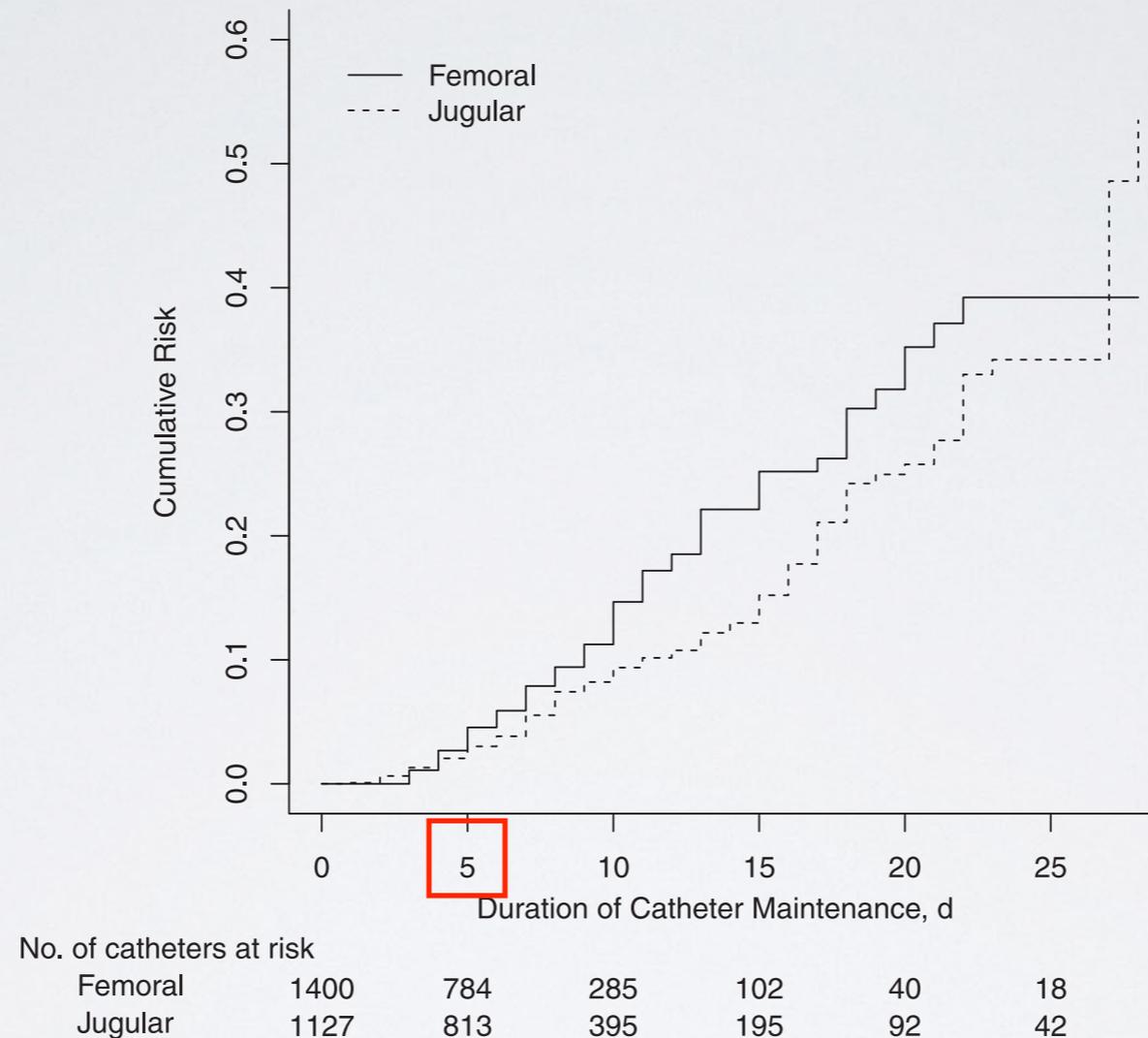


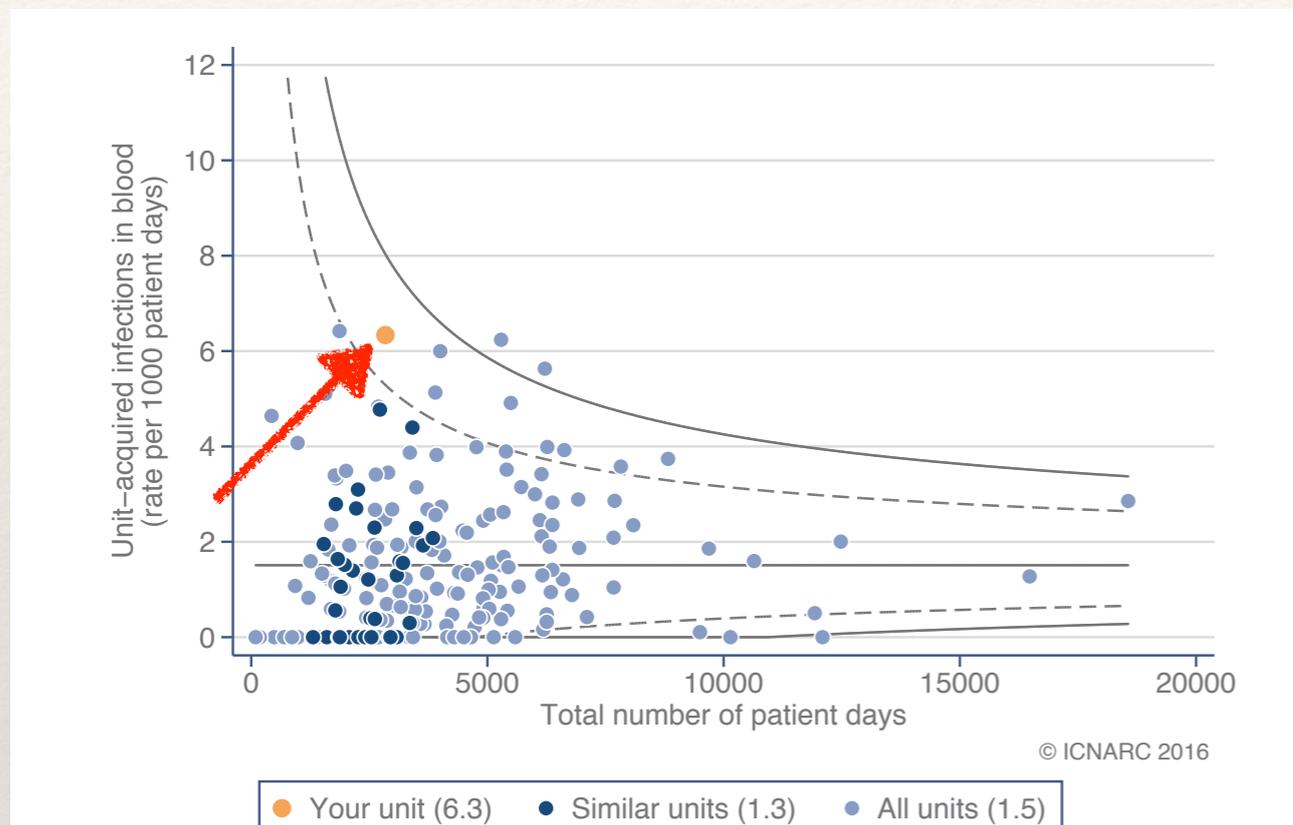
Figure 2. Cumulative incidence curve of colonization

“the risk of catheter-tip colonisation is higher with **femoral catheters** when **left in place more than 4 days**...”

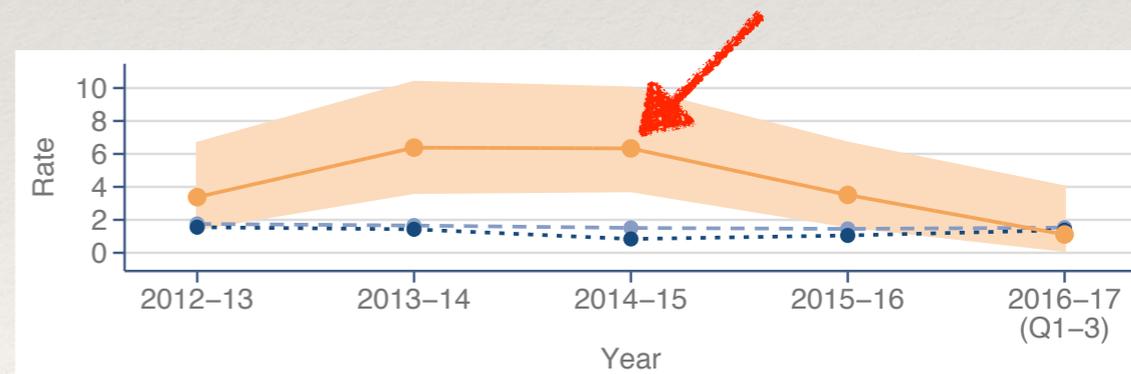
# Unit-acquired infections in blood

## Ealing's ICNARC results

### 2014 - 2015

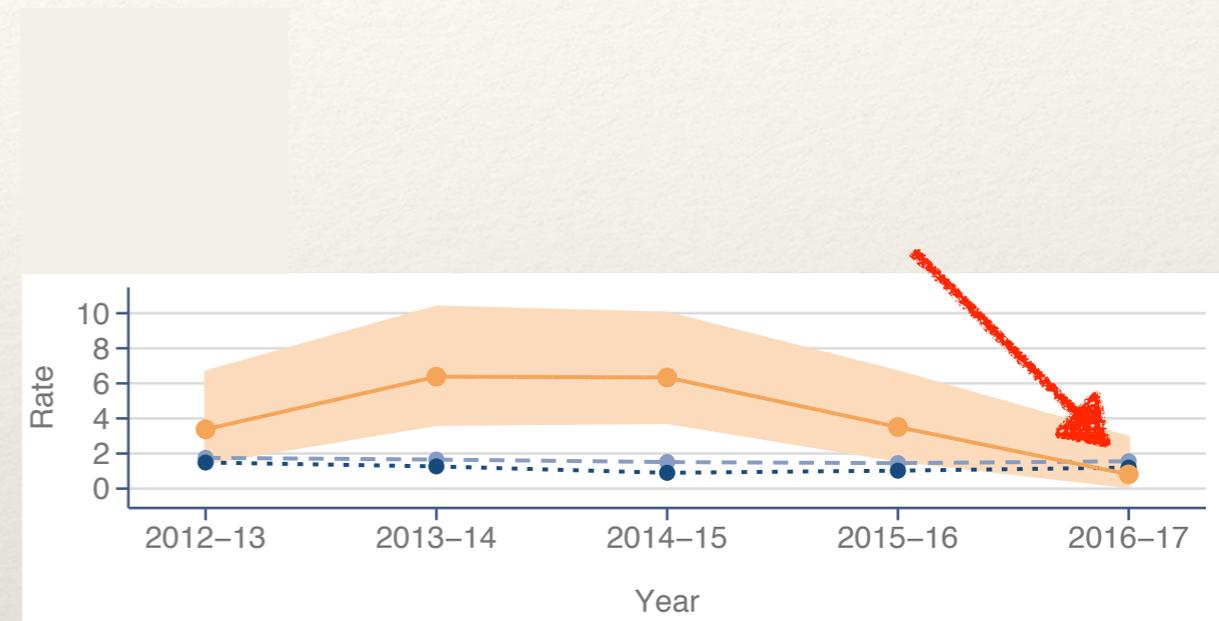
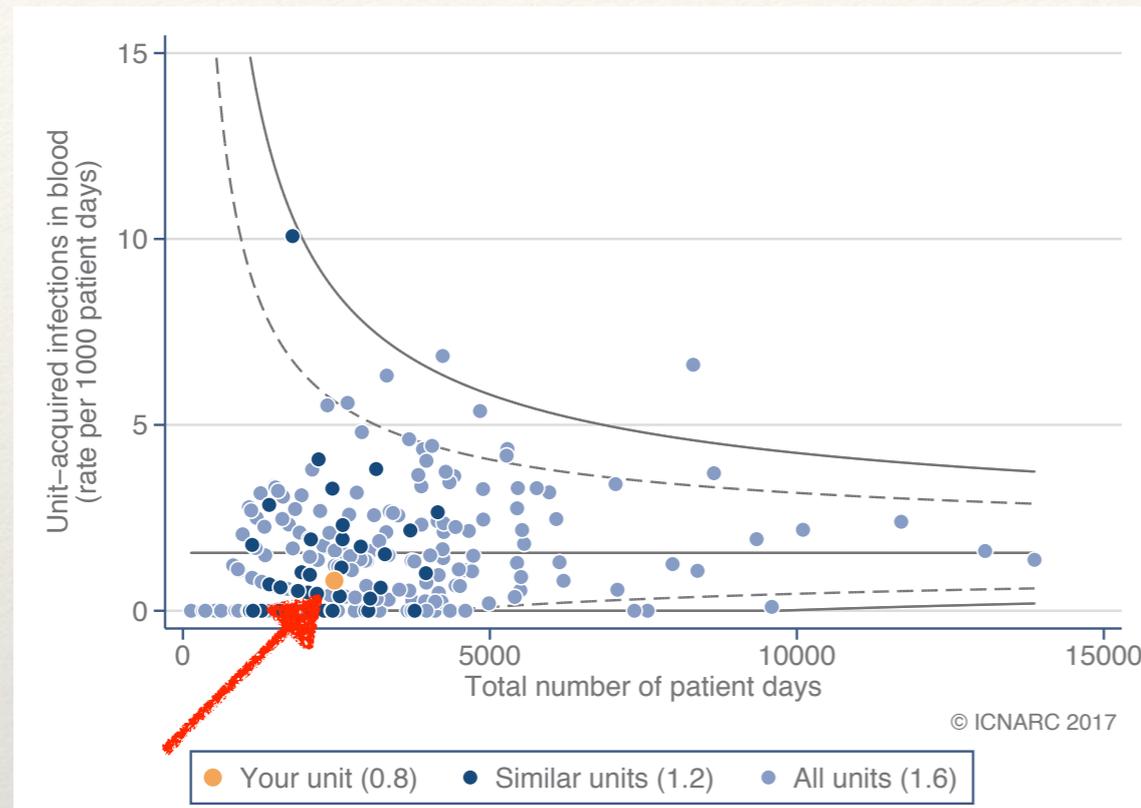


|                      | Eligible | Numerator | Denominator | Result |   |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------|---|
| Quarter 1<br>[N=117] | 73       | 4         | 785         | 5.1    | ■ |
| Quarter 2<br>[N=99]  | 56       | 3         | 511         | 5.9    | ■ |
| Quarter 3<br>[N=110] | 66       | 9         | 751         | 12.0   | ■ |
| Quarter 4<br>[N=117] | 68       | 2         | 794         | 2.5    | ■ |
| Full year<br>[N=443] | 263      | 18        | 2841        | 6.3    | ■ |



# Unit-acquired infections in blood

Ealing's ICNARC results  
April 2016 - March 2017



|                              | Eligible   | Numerator | Denominator | Result     |          |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|
| Quarter 1<br>[N=107]         | 68         | 1         | 558         | 1.8        | ■        |
| Quarter 2<br>[N=116]         | 62         | 0         | 478         | 0.0        | ■        |
| Quarter 3<br>[N=131]         | 87         | 1         | 764         | 1.3        | ■        |
| Quarter 4<br>[N=93]          | 64         | 0         | 667         | 0.0        | ■        |
| <b>Full year<br/>[N=447]</b> | <b>281</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>2467</b> | <b>0.8</b> | <b>■</b> |

*Worth auditing duration of femoral CVCs?*

We have **dramatically improved** by acting on our audited poor results



# RECAP

- Beware of **inadvertent arterial cannulation**

- These will **not always prevent** this potentially deadly complication :

- **Ultrasound**

- Colour of blood

- Pulsation

- ABG

**For years we didn't use ETCO2 to verify ETT placement!**  
**A fool with a tool is still a fool**

- Always measure **pressure before** placing guide wire

- In coagulopathic patients (? all ?) consider the **external jugular** approach to the central venous circulation

- If you must place a femoral line, keep for a **maximum of 4 days**

- Future audits:

- Duration of femoral CVCs

- Method of arterial/venous detection

Stay safe.....transduce  
that catheter

???



Download at

<http://www.jvsmedicscorner.com>

Mallory / Everest2013