Results

For the efficacy analysis, we assessed monthly blood flow rate, heparin use, and blood culture results.

Table 2. Blood Flow Rate, Heparin Use, and Positive Blood Cultures (Before and After Conversion to TEGO Connectors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Prior to Conversion</th>
<th>Days After Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Facilities</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Patients</td>
<td>2,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Flow Rate (mL/min); mean ± SD</td>
<td>348.3 ± 41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run Times (minutes); mean ± SD</td>
<td>207.3 ± 30.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/V; mean ± SD</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Heparin Units / Treatment</td>
<td>6,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Activase (mg) / Treatment</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Cultures per 1,000 Patient Days (Number)</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Blood Cultures (%)</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The observed periods pivot around the date the dialysis facility switched to TEGO Connectors.

Figure 1. TEGO Connector

In this retrospective analysis, we compared conversion from traditional CVC locks to TEGO Connectors. The pre-period was defined as 90 days before the conversion and the post-period was defined as 90 days after TEGO Connector conversion (Table 1).

For the efficacy analysis, we assessed monthly blood flow rate, heparin use, and blood culture results.

For the cost analysis, the cost of heparin, connectors, syringes, activase, sodium citrate, and equipment for both CVC locks and TEGO Connectors were compared to the cost of recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rt-PA) as of July 2010.

Costs of both TEGO and saline CVC locks were significantly lower than use of rt-PA.

Both are significantly less than use of rt-PA.

Costs Relative to Traditional CVC Locks

$0 $500 $1000 $1500 $2000

Costs Relative to TEGO Connectors $1000 $1500 $2000

Figure 2. Relative Mean 6-Month Cost of Locks per CVC Patient

### Conclusions

- **Use of TEGO Connectors reduced heparin use resulting in a lower cost per month.**
- **Blood flow rate and the rate of positive blood cultures were essentially unchanged after conversion to TEGO Connectors.**
- **Costs of both TEGO and saline CVC locks were significantly lower than use of rt-PA.**
- **TEGO Connectors are a viable and cost-effective alternative to traditional locks.**

### Methods

- In this retrospective analysis, we compared conversion from traditional CVC locks to TEGO Connectors. The pre-period was defined as 90 days before the conversion and the post-period was defined as 90 days after TEGO Connector conversion (Table 1).
- For the efficacy analysis, we assessed monthly blood flow rate, heparin use, and blood culture results.
- For the cost analysis, the cost of heparin, connectors, syringes, activase, sodium citrate, and equipment for both CVC locks and TEGO Connectors were compared to the cost of recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rt-PA) as of July 2010.

### Acknowledgments

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