Barriers to conducting clinical research on central venous access devices in the tertiary hospital setting

INTRODUCTION

Conducting central venous access device (CVAD) research in the hospital setting provokes a number of challenges, due in part to the disruption of practice. During recruitment of a multisite randomised control trial (RCT) which compares 4-day versus 7-day intravenous administration set replacement, a multitude of barriers were identified. This provided the research team with invaluable knowledge about the challenges of conducting research on CVADs.

OBJECTIVES

To outline barriers encountered in this trial and strategies implemented to improve recruitment, data collection and trial compliance.

METHODS

This case study describes the valuable knowledge gained by the research team. Challenges included: 1) recruitment; 2) engagement of clinicians; 3) integrating the trial with standard clinical practice.

RESULTS

Strategies implemented to address issues included proficient use of systems to independently perform hospital wide screening of CVAD insertions. This improved the enrolment process and resulted in minimal disruption to workflow.

Clinicians and key stakeholders were engaged through in-services to gain understanding of current practice and create interest in the trial. Working alongside nurses in the clinical area enhanced the relationship between parties, promoting high trial compliance.

Successful implementation was maintained with a highly visible and flexible presence. Knowledge of the clinical environment and chemotherapy protocols, ensured recruitment of appropriate patients and improved integration with standard practice.

CONCLUSION

Conducting clinical research can be challenging. This is improved if the research nurse has a tool box of skills to work successfully alongside clinicians. The knowledge gained during this trial will be transferrable to CVAD trials in the future.