

ABSTRACT

This quantitative, descriptive study was conducted to identify whether or not there is a relationship between arterial line patency and the addition of heparin to the arterial line pressure bag. Specifically, the relationship between clotting of arterial lines when heparin was added to the pressure bag was compared to clotting of arterial lines when no heparin was added to the pressure bag—when the pressure bag only contained normal saline solution. Data were retrieved during a retrospective review of patient records. Using a purposive sampling technique, 50 patients—25 with heparin and 25 without heparin added to the pressure bag of their radial arterial line catheter—were identified for inclusion into the sample. This study consisted of the retrieval of preexisting data through retrospective chart review, therefore signed consent was not required. No protected health information or identifying data were collected, in compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements. Patient confidentiality was maintained throughout data retrieval, data analysis, and in the report findings. There is *no* way to identify any patient included to the sample. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. In addition, a paired sample *t* test was calculated comparing the patency of arterial lines between the two groups. Findings are reported in the aggregate.