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Decreasing length of hospital stay and intravenous calcium requirements with standardized post operative orders for dialysis patients with secondary hyperparathyroidism who have undergone a parathyroidectomy

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This retrospective pre-post study analyzed if dialysis patients with secondary hyperparathyroidism who receive a postoperative standardized order set of intravenous calcium following a subtotal parathyroidectomy (PTX) will have shorter hospital stays. The medical records of dialysis patients who underwent subtotal PTX for symptomatic secondary hyperparathyroidism were reviewed prior to and after the introduction of a standard postoperative order set. The gender, duration of hospital stay as well as readmission rates of all patients were analyzed. The study population included 50 patients, with a mean age of 49 years. 25 patients were administered the standardized order set of intravenous calcium treatment following a subtotal PTX. There was no statistical difference ($p = 0.7063$) between the length of hospital stay in the group of the patients that received the post-operative standardized order set of intravenous calcium and the group that did not. Only 1 patient was readmitted during the study period. There was no statistical difference in the length of hospital stay between the dialysis patients with secondary hyperparathyroidism who received the standardized order set of intravenous calcium and the patients who did not following a PTX. This could have been largely due to limitations of the study, including a small sample size and a non-randomized study design, and not examining other metrics, including the number of inpatient episodes of significant hypocalcaemia and nursing time. Further studies are warranted to assess postoperative hypocalcaemia in the setting of PTX, including studying a larger sample size, utilizing various order sets, and taking into account patient co-morbidities.

Biography

Kelsey Hinthner completed her Bachelor of Science in 2013 from University of Saskatchewan. She is currently a third year medical student at the University of Saskatchewan. She has profound interest in research and would like to continue to be involved in research in her future career.

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