An investigation into the reliability of Actilyse Cathflo in restoring patency to occluded Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters.

**Actilyse CathFlo 2mg/2ml**

‘Thrombolytic treatment of occluded central venous access devices including those used for haemodialysis’

**Introduction**

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICCs) are commonly used devices for IV Therapy administration and Blood sampling. A common complication is catheter occlusion. A reliable way to restore patency is to lock a solution of Actilyse into the occluded catheter lumen.

**Method**

An investigation into how affective Actilyse Cathflo was in restoring IV catheter patency, including length of time to achieve patency and number of attempts made was undertaken at a large Acute hospital in the United Kingdom over a 6 month period in 2017.

The investigation looked at patients of all ages with PICCs and implanted intravenous ports. The investigation also examined the best technique for locking the Actilyse into the occluded catheter which depended on the nature of the occlusion. Bolus push, pop and 3 way tap technique were all used in various cases.

**Results**

- An attempt was made to unblock 25 PICCs and 1 PORT using 2mg Actilyse CathFlo in each occlude lumen.
- 77% of catheters were unblocked with the first lock of Actilyse CathFlo, 15% were unblocked with a second lock of Actilyse CathFlo and 8% were unable to be unblocked at all.
- The average time it took to unblock the catheter on the first lock was 45 minuets
- The average time to regain patency after the second lock was 90mins.

**Discussion & Conclusion**

Actilyse Cathflo is an easy and effective way to unblock occluded central catheters and the 3 way tap technique seems to be the most effective, safe way to lock the solution into the catheter lumen. Most occlusions happened in catheters that were in use but had previously, had blood withdrawn from the catheter lumen for sampling.