Venous access devices (VADs) were developed primarily to overcome the problem of the need for frequent venous access associated with long-term chemotherapy and blood draws. The use of specific VADs by an institution often is associated with physician preference (D’Angelo et al., 1997) or cost (Freytes, 1998) through purchasing departments, even though research findings support that nurses are the most appropriate healthcare providers to determine the correct venous access product (Intravenous Nurses Society, 1997; Winslow, Trammell, & Camp-Sorrell, 1995).

The question regarding quality of life of patients with VADs often is not a factor considered or known (Costantini, Napolitano, Scurti, & Innocenti, 1997). The literature is replete with problems associated with the use of VADs, including infection (Astagneau et al., 1999; Carreira-Villamor et al., 1997; Goldschmidt et al., 1998; Kock, Pietsch, Krause, Wilke, & Eigler, 1998; Muscedere, Bennett, Lee, Mackie, & Vanderburgh, 1998; Orr & Ryder, 1993; Pector, 1998; Sotir et al., 1999), venous thrombosis (Kock et al.; Orr & Ryder; Pector; Young & Gould, 1997), failure to withdraw blood (Mayo, 1998; Orr & Ryder; Richardson & Bruso, 1993; Whigham et al., 1999), venous thrombosis (Kock et al.; Orr & Ryder; Pector; Young & Gould, 1997), failure to withdraw blood (Mayo, 1998; Orr & Ryder; Richardson & Bruso, 1993; Whigham et al., 1999), catheter dislodgement and damage (Kock et al.; Mayo & Pearson, 1995; Viale, Yamamoto, & Geyton, 1999), and extravasation (Dearborn, De Muth, Requarth, & Ward, 1997; Freytes, Reid, & Smith, 1990). Many of the advantages and disadvantages of VADs are known through clinical experiences and research studies (Dearborn et al.; Lyon, Griggs, Johnson, & Olsen, 1999); however, many of the studies are generic (Pector; Richardson & Bruso), not product-specific.

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