REPLY

In reply: Unrecognized arterial cannulation due to the backflow feature of the BD Insyte™ Autoguard™ BC cannula

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To the Editor,

Thank you for allowing BD Medical to respond to Dr. Lokoff's concern about arterial cannulation with the BD Insyte™ Autoguard™ BC (IAGBC) IV catheter.¹ This product has been available since 2011, and over 60 million units have been used worldwide. We have reviewed our complaint files and regulatory compliance filings and have discovered two product inquiries regarding the concern for undetected arterial cannulation with the IAGBC IV catheter. Both of these inquiries were from the same hospital located in Canada.

We agree with Dr. Lokoff that unintentional cannulation of the brachial artery is a known complication with potential adverse consequences. My concerns regarding the case reported is that the intravenous catheter may not have been flushed in accordance with accepted nursing guidelines² before being connected to an infusion pump, and the cause of the resulting alarm may not have been appropriately investigated. Appropriate flushing of a newly placed intravenous catheter assures patency of the catheter and would potentially detect arterial pressure. Investigation of the infusion pump alarms can also detect the misplacement of an intravenous catheter. Easy detection of the arterial cannulation upon arrival at the operating room underscores the potential failure to follow the recommended infusion safe practices regarding the original placement and management of the intravenous infusion prior to arrival at the operating room suite.

It is understood that there is the potential to misuse any medical device. BD Medical expends great effort to train facilities on the correct use of our products when they are introduced and to provide information about our products so they are used correctly. The IAGBC, as well as many other intravenous catheters, are also used frequently as an arterial line catheter to monitor blood pressure and to draw blood gases in a critical care setting. It is our opinion that the misplacement of an intravenous catheter is a practice problem and not a product problem. Based on the available information, an instruction for use warning would not have precluded the events at Dr. Lokoff's hospital. BD Medical is always willing to respond to requests from healthcare facilities for further training on our products.

Conflicts of interest None declared.

References

1. Lokoff A, Lokoff P. Unrecognized arterial cannulation due to the backflow feature of the BD Insyte™ Autoguard™ BC cannula. *Can J Anesth* 2015; 62: this issue; DOI: [10.1007/s12630-015-0319-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-015-0319-x).
2. Gorski LA, et al. Infusion nursing standards of practice. *J Infus Nurs* 2011; 34: 1S.

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