Notes on Use of Catheter from patient Geary J. Johnson to Kaiser Portal, Los Angeles, California

Today, Tuesday May 6, 2025, I was treated by attending Kaiser physician Salma Habib. My ailments was that there was blood clots in the urine and in the Foley catheter bag. I provided pictures to two doctors that were taken today and yesterday and showing blood clots in the urine in the catheter bag. The Doctor directed that the catheter be flushed out and the Foley catheter bag replaced.

I did not opt to have the catheter replaced.

Once flushed, there was no sign of visible blood clots. A urine sample was taken. I asked how long should the catheter remain in place and the Doctor said until May 15, 2025. This is a period of 17 days from initial insertion. I am currently taking Macrobid for urinary tract infection.

Google search says:
A patient's death following a seventeen-day-long Foley catheter insertion is a concerning event, potentially due to complications related to prolonged catheterization, such as infection or other adverse effects.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- Prolonged Catheterization Risks:
  Urinary catheters, like the Foley catheter, are not intended for long-term use. Prolonged insertion increases the risk of various complications, including urinary tract infections (UTIs), catheter-associated infections (CAUTI), and potential for other severe issues.

- Infection:
  A significant risk associated with catheters, particularly those in place for extended periods, is the potential for bacterial colonization and infection. This can lead to UTIs, pyelonephritis (kidney infection), and in severe cases, sepsis, which can be life-threatening.

- Other Complications:
  Beyond infection, long-term catheter use can also cause urethral damage, urethral strictures, and even bladder damage.

- Importance of Proper Care:
  Even with a catheter, proper care and hygiene are crucial. This includes closed drainage systems, appropriate placement of the drainage bag, and frequent monitoring for any signs of infection or other complications.

- Alternative Options:
  In cases where prolonged catheterization is necessary, exploring alternative options like suprapubic catheters or intermittent catheterization may be considered to minimize risks.

- Patient Death:
  While the exact cause of death in this specific scenario is unknown, prolonged catheterization, especially if combined with poor care or pre-existing conditions, can significantly increase the risk of complications that could lead to death.

  In conclusion, while the Foley catheter is a valuable tool for managing urinary issues, its use, especially when extended, must be carefully monitored and managed to minimize the risk of complications and potential death.
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