

Hygiene Audit on Vascular Access Washing Programme

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Introduction

The infection of the vascular access is one of the most frequent complications in haemodialysis¹. Due to this, it is important to implement training programs for professionals and patients about vascular access washing in order to prevent infections².

Objectives

The goal of this study is to control the cleaning process of the Vascular Access Limb, according to the established protocol (Table I).

Methods

57 patients were selected, minimum 18 years old, performing dialysis treatment by means of arteriovenous fistula or arteriovenous graft and with the ability of self-care related to the hygiene of the vascular access. An observational method was used, by individualized control, registering the results by using a check-list with all the steps. The audits were carried out in two different time periods. The first audit was made after a theoretical training about vascular access washing. Before the second audit the correct realization of the technique was demonstrated and explained, to each patient, by a nurse.

Results

Only 5% of the studied population followed strictly the washing technique of the vascular access in the first audit against 37% in the second (Graph I). The critical points of the process were, by order of importance (Graph II):

- ✓ Respect the contact time of the antibacterial soap (90 seconds)
- ✓ Dry with a paper towel in a single movement
- ✓ Apply the antibacterial soap in a circular motion.

The results obtained in the second audit were better (Graph II).

Conclusion

We found that a well implemented patient training is important to obtain good results. An individualized approach, a systematic supervised training and periodic audits are great strategies to improve adherence of this population to the vascular access washing program.

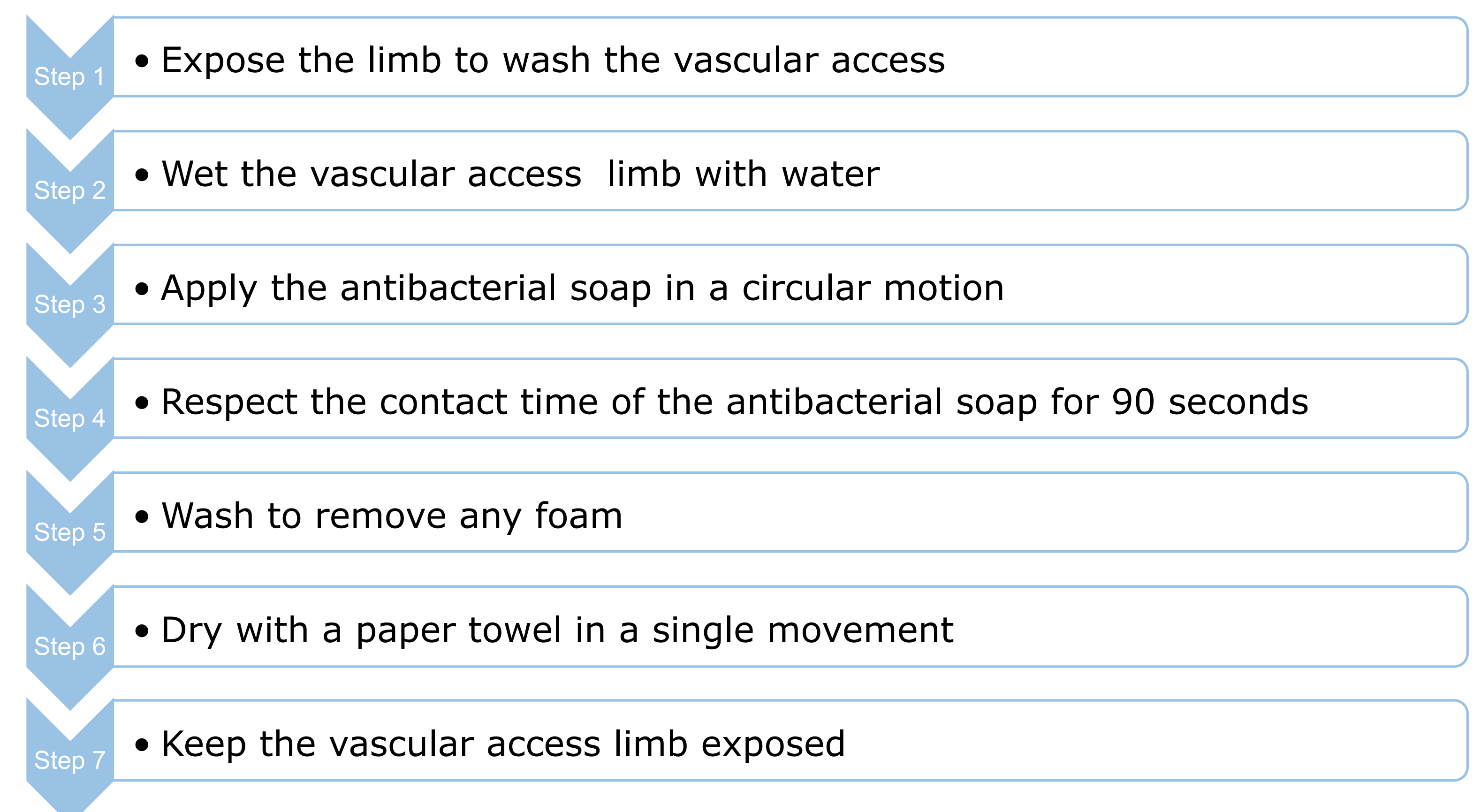
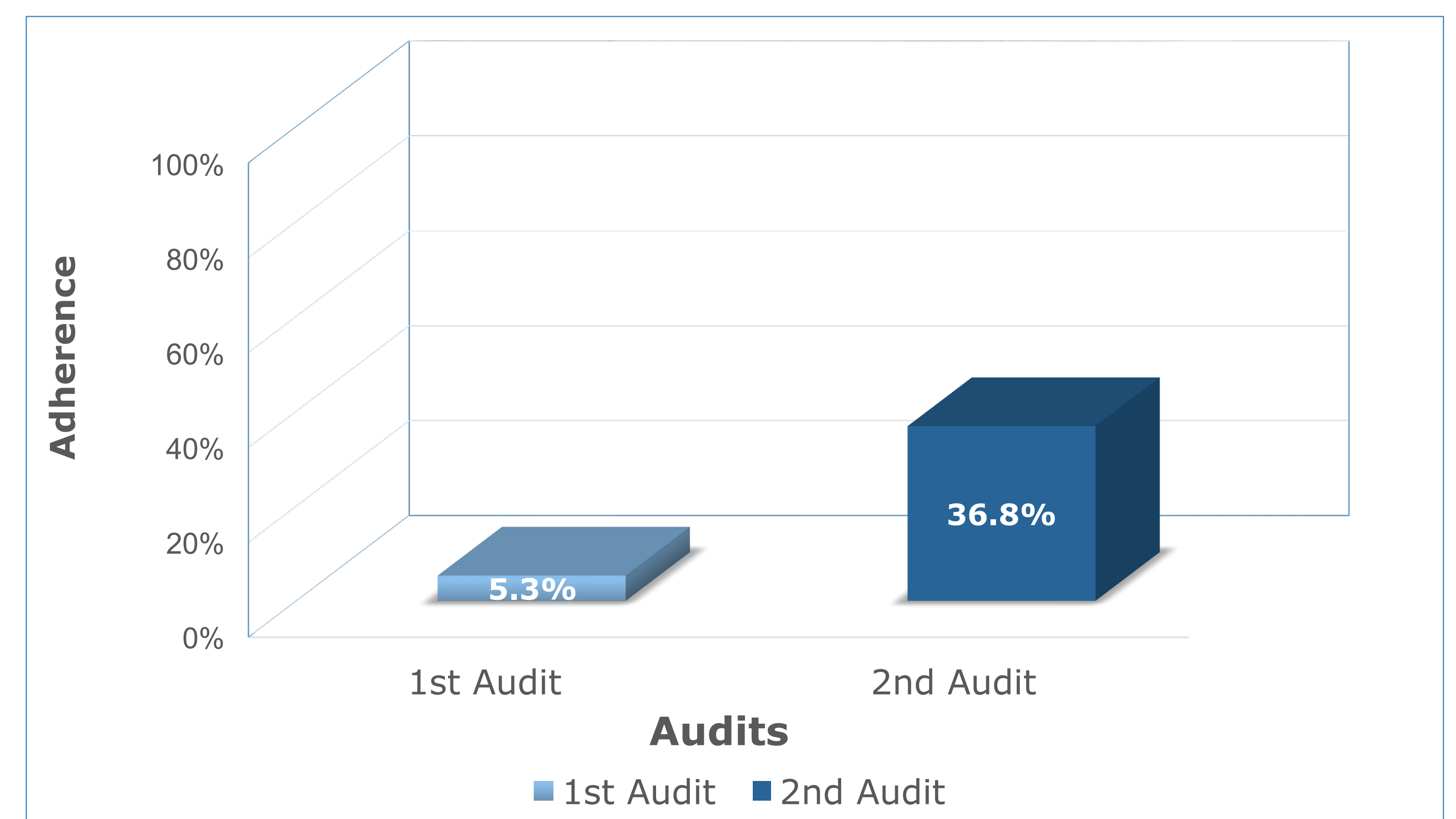
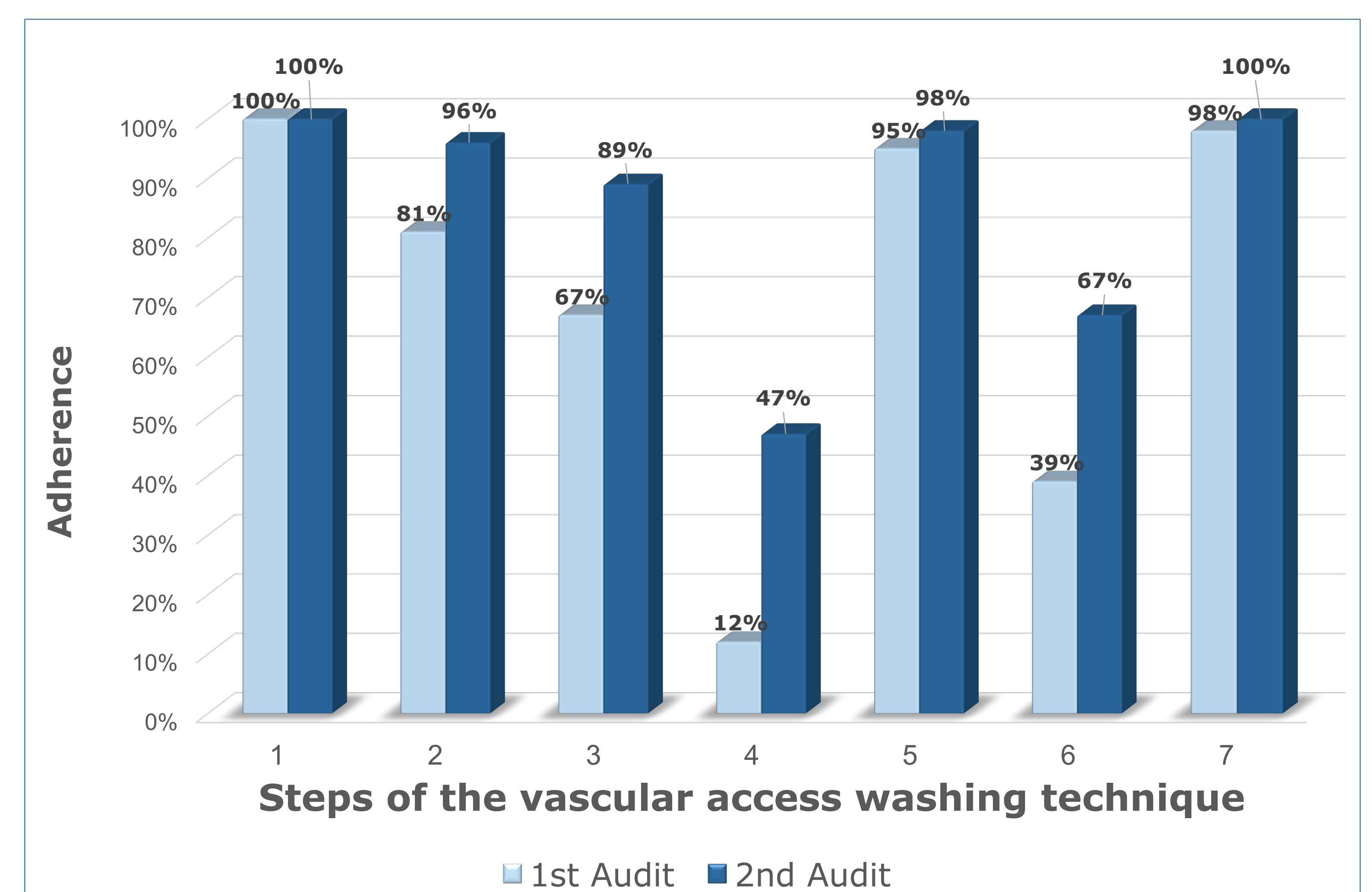


Table I: Vascular Access Washing Protocol



Graph 1: Fulfilment of the protocol in its totality



Graph 2: Audits Results - Comparison between the 1st and the 2nd Audit

References

1. Higgins M, Evans D. (2008, June). Nurses' knowledge and practice of vascular access infection control in haemodialysis patients in the Republic of Ireland. *Journal Of Renal Care* [serial online]. 34(2):48-53.
2. Deaver K. (2010, September). CNE: Continuing Nursing Education. Preventing infections in hemodialysis fistula and graft vascular accesses. *Nephrology Nursing Journal* [serial online]. 37(5):503-506 4p.