A Barrier System to Reduce the Rates of Line-Related Infections

Summary:
The invention is an impermeable mechanical barrier against bacteria for catheters.

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Overview:
Current barriers to catheter infections include antiseptics and antibiotics, which have been applied to the entry site or embedded within the catheter itself. Though reductions in catheter-related infections have occurred with these interventions, these infections remain a problem and are associated with a concerning degree of morbidity and mortality and excess healthcare costs.

How it works:
The invention describes an impermeable mechanical barrier against bacteria that tends to infect catheters by contaminating the catheter at the site of skin entry and subsequently traveling down the external surface of the catheter and into the bloodstream. FDA approved polymer material is used to create an occlusive barrier, which is resistant to penetration by bacteria. With such a mechanical barrier, one can eliminate issues of organism resistance that are associated with the currently available antimicrobials and antiseptics.

Patents:
US 2009/0157000

Additional Web Content:
Contact the inventor, Stephen Waller