



Sally Stuckalot—

Matt Gibson, RN - IV Therapy MC



(This characterization is based from facts regarding venous access and prescribed therapy for an actual critically ill Deaconess patient)

Detective Dane Strongvein is a crime fighting detective who lays down his life against the destruction and cruelty of veins of all nations. He serves to protect veins against his evil nemesis Vince Vanco, otherwise known as “Vanco the Vicious,” and other characters equally harmful to vulnerable veins.

The story takes us to a patient we will call Sally Stuckalot (the patient’s true identity will remain anonymous to protect the innocent and in fear of retaliation from the dreaded HIPAA mafia). Sally presents to the Deaconess emergency department after being in a motor vehicle accident 3 days prior. Thanks to the incredible nurses in the emergency department, a peripheral I.V. was started gently on one of Sally’s hand veins with one stick. That’s when the plot thickens.

The sly and cunning Zo Fran (ph of 3) infuses the hand vein twice with his accomplice Di Laudid (ph of 4). After six hours, the defenseless vein becomes red with anger and is overcome with severe pain before succumbing to a permanent disfigurement from the chemical burn inflicted. The peripheral I.V. must be removed and a new one placed

into another innocent vein. A second peripheral I.V. was placed in the other hand with more severe results. Ativan (the acidity of this drug is so strong it eludes even the wise Deaconess pharmacists) and Morphine (ph of 4 and as low as 2.5) join the insurgence of violence. After only two doses of each drug another innocent victim falls. This assault continues for over two weeks.

Sally Stuckalot had eleven peripheral I.V.’s placed within a sixteen day period before Detective Dane Strongvein was alerted. Per Standard of Practice guidelines “Therapies not appropriate for peripheral-short catheters include continuous vesicant therapy, parenteral nutrition, infusates with pH less than 5 or greater than 9, and infusates with an osmolality greater than 600 mOsm/L” (Infusion Nurses’ Society, Standards of Practice Revised 2006, S37 practice Criteria I,L).

Detective Dane tells us, “What Sally needs is a central line!” “Consult I.V. therapy to assess your patient’s vascular needs. The I.V. team at Deaconess can help save Sally’s veins. Just ask!” Without further delay, the I.V. team leaped into action and placed a peripherally inserted central catheter or better known as a PICC line. Sally’s progress is slow but she can rest a little more at ease knowing her veins are protected from the drug lord Vanco the Vicious and all the other evil acids. Detective Dane grieves the loss of the other veins that Sally lost because he did not get to them in time. With the help from the I.V. team, Detect Dane Strongvein will fight the good fight.