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**Title:** Central venous catheter infections in out-patients with pulmonary hypertension treated with continuous iloprost

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**Body:** Background: Intravenous prostanoid therapy is one cornerstone of therapy for patients with precapillary pulmonary hypertension (PH). Long-term central venous catheters expose patients to infectious complications. We report the incidence of catheter-related infection (CRI) and the spectrum of bacteria for ambulatory PH patients treated with Iloprost via non-tunnelled central venous catheters from our Swiss referral centre at Zurich. Methods: Data from 15 PH patients treated with intravenous iloprost between May 2000 and June 2012 were reviewed. Results: We found 11 CRI, in 4 cases by two different organisms. Pathogens found were Brevibacterium (55%), Micrococcus luteus (18%), coagulase-negative Staphylococcus (9%), Staphylococcus aureus (9%) and unusual organisms like Agrobacterium tumefaciens or Delftia tsuruhatensis. The overall CRI rate was 1.28 per 1000 catheter days or 0.47 per year. Conclusions: The incidence of CRI using long-term, non-tunneled central venous catheters in PH patients treated with iloprost is low. Uncommon, rare pathogens causing CRI were found in a substantial number of patients.