

ABERRANT TRAJECTORY OF A CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER

Jânia Pacheco, Marta Coelho, Maria Alexandra Almeida Resende

Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Lisboa Norte, Serviço de Anestesiologia

*Contacto Autor: jania_pacheco@hotmail.com

During placement of a central venous catheter into the right subclavian vein it was found to be impossible to extract the guidewire. An Angio-Computed Tomography was performed, showing an aberrant guidewire path, as

the image shows. An urgent mini-sternotomy was performed to extract both catheter and guidewire under direct visualization.

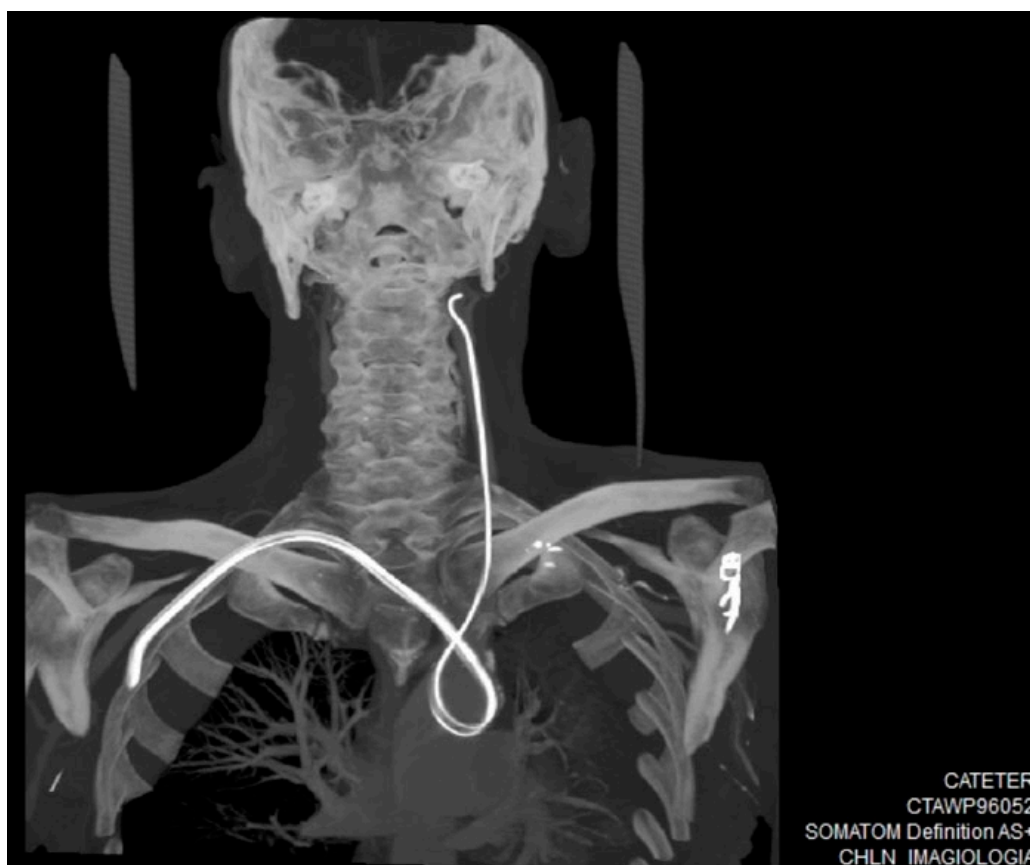


Figure 1

Angio-CT: The guidewire pierced through the right brachiocephalic vein and brachiocephalic artery. Within the brachiocephalic artery, it exhibits a descendent trajectory towards the aortic valve, travelling through the aortic arch and ascending aorta. Next to the aortic valve, it makes a curve of 180° and rises through the left carotid artery.