WHEN "DO NO HARM" GOES WRONG

Andre Santos Pinto\textsuperscript{*},\textsuperscript{1}, Rita dos Santos Marques\textsuperscript{*} and Wildemar Alves Costa\textsuperscript{*}

\textsuperscript{*}Rua Dr. Aurélio Ricardo Belo, 2560-295 Torres Vedras

ABSTRACT In this paper, we present images of an unusual complication of urinary catheterization. This is significant because urinary catheterization is a common practice in ill patients, however, it carries some risks and complications. We show an image of a CT scan that shows an iatrogenic lesion of the prostatic urethra with the catheter transfixing its posterior wall and it's located in the pelvic cavity.

KEYWORDS urinary catheterization

Image report

A 92-year-old man presented with dyspnoea and decreased urinary output to the emergency room. Clinical history of heart failure, a stage IV chronic kidney disease and benign prostatic hyperplasia. Physical examination presented with high blood pressure 193/84mmHg, and important swelling of the lower limbs. Routine laboratory tests revealed renal function worsening and an elevated B-type natriuretic peptide. Therefore, he was admitted to the ward for decompensated heart failure and acute on chronic renal disease. To better monitor the urinary output, it was decided to catheterize the patient, and that is when the problem started. It was a difficult catheterization but successful. Despite that, some hours later, a lower abdominal pain started, and a CT scan was performed, which surprisingly revealed an “iatrogenic lesion of the prostatic urethra with the catheter transfixing its posterior wall, with its balloon located in the pelvic cavity next to the internal iliac vessels” (Fig 1, yellow arrows). Urinary catheterization is a good monitoring tool for our patients. However, we should be aware of its risks and consequences, and with these images, we intend to show a rare complication.

Conflict of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare by any of the authors of this study.

Funding

This work did not receive any grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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DOI: 10.5455/IJMRCR.we-do-not-harm
First Received: January 13, 2022
Accepted: January 31, 2022
Associate Editor: Ivan Inkov (BG);\textsuperscript{1}Corresponding author: Andre Santos Pinto; Email: aspinto90@gmail.com