CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Difficult Removal of a Central Venous Port Catheter

A 55-year-old woman presented to the surgery department for the removal of a port catheter system. During the operation, avulsion and then dislocation of the port catheter tube occurred—a very rare complication of this procedure. Fluoroscopy revealed one end of the catheter in the coronary sinus (*¹) and the other in the apex of the right ventricle (*²).

Attempted transvenous foreign-body extraction with an endovascular sling system failed because neither end of the catheter could be grasped. The venous sheath was then replaced by a bidirectionally steerable sheath, whereupon one end of the catheter system was successfully mobilized into the inferior vena cava with the angulated tip of the sheath (*³). The entire catheter system was then retrieved.

Dr. med. Martin Christ, Dr. med. Martin Grett, Prof. Dr. med. Hans-Joachim Trappe,
Medizinische Klinik II, Schwerpunkt Kardiologie und Angiologie, Marien Hospital Herne, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, martin.christ@elisabethgruppe.de

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