Gastric penetration of epicardial pacemaker leads 8 years after cardiac surgery

The cardiac surgery consultation came to the conclusion that iatrogenic perforation of the gastric wall had occurred during insertion of the temporary epicardial pacemaker electrodes after the open heart surgery. Normally the redundant loop is brought out through the skin and removed by traction on the day before discharge. In our patient’s case the percutaneous extraction was unsuccessful. Presumably the leads were led out to the skin through an accidental iatrogenic incision of the gastric wall and they dislocated into the stomach over the years. The tips of the leads injured the gastric mucosa leading to recurrent oozing bleeding. During the repeat gastroscopy one of the leads was removed with a loop, while the other was bent back with biopsy forceps to avoid further injury to the mucosa (Fig. 3). No complications occurred after the procedure.

Temporary pacing leads cause such complications as infections, arrhythmias, and perforation [1, 2]. Iatrogenic gastric perforation caused by pacing leads and diagnosed by endoscopy has not been reported previously. This case is also unusual because the leads were discovered 8 years after the unsuccessful removal. The chronic bleeding caused by the tips of the leads and the subsequent melena were managed endoscopically.

Competing interests: None

Endoscopy_UCTN_Code_CCL_1AB_2AD_3AF
T. Molnár1, K. Farkas1, A. Palkó2, E. Eszlári3, M. Bitay3, E. Nagy4, A. Pálinkás3, F. Nagy1, G. Bogáts3, T. Wittmann1
1 First Department of Medicine, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
2 Department of Radiology, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
3 Department of Cardiac Surgery, Second Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiological Center, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
4 Erzsébet Hospital, Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary

Molnár T et al. Gastric penetration of epicardial pacemaker leads 8 years after cardiac surgery... Endoscopy 2010; 42: E273 – E274
References


Bibliography

Endoscopy 2010; 42: E273 – E274
© Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X

Corresponding author

T. Molnár, MD, PhD
First Department of Medicine
University of Szeged, H-6720 Korányi fasor 8-10
Szeged
Hungary
Fax: +36-62-545185
mot@in1st.szote.u-szeged.hu