LETTER TO EDITOR

The Unusual Migration of Right Subclavian Vein Triple Lumen Venous Catheter into Left Subclavian Vein: A Rare Presentation

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Central venous catheter placement is associated with known risks and complications [1]. Its proper placement is necessary for long-term use. However, their mispositioning is not uncommon. But mispositioning of the catheter tip into the contralateral subclavian vein is extremely rare. After obtaining the informed written consent, we present an image of a 48-year-old female who presented to emergency with traumatic right above elbow amputation and blunt chest trauma. Because of difficult peripheral intravenous access, a central venous access was placed in the right subclavian vein under ultrasound guidance. The procedure was uneventful but the chest X-ray revealed the tip of the catheter to be present in the opposite subclavian vein.

Figure 1: Chest X-ray showing central venous catheter tip in the contralateral (left) subclavian vein.
diameter, relatively constant position, absent valves along with reduced risk of infection and thrombosis [4], it should not deter the clinician from using it as one of the sites for central venous access.

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References