Ghayyda, S.N., Roland, D. and Cade, A. (2008) Seat belt associated central line fracture-previously unreported complication in cystic fibrosis. Journal of cystic fibrosis. 7(5), p.448-9.

Totally implantable venous access devices (TIVAD) are used widely in the management of cystic fibrosis (CF). They have been shown to be safe and advantageous in the long term administration of intravenous antibiotics. However, TIVADs are not without short and long term complications including infections, thrombosis and mechanical failure. Patients should be counselled prior to TIVAD insertion regarding the risks and instructed on post-operative care of the device to minimise the risks. However it is not routine practice to advise on seating position within the car in relationship to the seatbelt placement over the anterior chest wall. Line failure due to direct pressure from a seatbelt worn to prevent injury in the sudden deceleration involved during a motor vehicle accident (MVA) has not been described previously in the CF literature We report the case of an 8 year old child who fractured her Vascuport(R) line secondary to seatbelt trauma following a road traffic accident (RTA). Children and adults with CF should be advised to sit in the car on the side that places the shoulder strap of the seatbelt on the opposite side to the TIVAD line.

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