The increased use of central venous catheters has resulted in more non-malignant cases of superior vena cava syndrome across all age groups. We present a 5-year-old male with superior vena cava syndrome associated with acute onset of severe upper extremity and facial swelling, dyspnea, and a right subclavian central venous catheter malfunction” Ji et al (2018).

Abstract:

Thrombogenic superior vena cava syndrome is an uncommon, dangerous complication of long-standing central venous catheter use. The increased use of central venous catheters has resulted in more non-malignant cases of superior vena cava syndrome across all age groups. We present a 5-year-old male with superior vena cava syndrome associated with acute onset of severe upper extremity and facial swelling, dyspnea, and a right subclavian central venous catheter malfunction. The patient was ultimately treated with percutaneous stenting of the superior vena cava with balloon-expandable Palmaz stents following unsuccessful angioplasty, catheter-directed thrombolysis, and percutaneous thrombectomy. This case highlights a relatively uncommon complication in children from long-term central venous catheter access and describes an emerging, minimally-invasive therapeutic alternative that allows for preservation of age-appropriate superior vena cava luminal diameter as patients grow.
Reference: