



Haemodialysis catheter fracture with distal embolization is a rare complication in both adults and children and is usually associated with prolonged use and catheter fatigue” Teoh et al (2016).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Cuffed, double-lumen, tunneled haemodialysis catheters are a common means of vascular access in paediatric haemodialysis, particularly in infants. Haemodialysis catheter fracture with distal embolization is a rare complication.

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CASE REPORT: A 2-year-old boy was receiving chronic haemodialysis via a right internal jugular cuffed, double-lumen, tunneled haemodialysis catheter, inserted 3 months previously. He was asymptomatic and was incidentally found to have had embolization of a fractured catheter tip into a segmental branch of the left pulmonary artery. The catheter was replaced and the embolized fragment successfully retrieved, non-surgically, using an image-guided endovascular approach with a loop snare device.

CONCLUSION: Haemodialysis catheter fracture with distal embolization is a rare complication in both adults and children and is usually associated with prolonged use and catheter fatigue.

Retrieval of the embolized fragment should always be attempted to prevent possible complications. Awareness of this potential complication is important to facilitate diagnosis and management.

Reference:

Teoh, C.W., Thakor, A.S., Amaral, J.G., Parra, D.A., Harvey, E.A. and Noone, D.G. (2016) Successful Image-Guided Retrieval of an Embolized Fragment of a Fractured Haemodialysis Catheter Tip from the Pulmonary Artery. *Case Reports in Nephrology and Dialysis*. 6(1), p.21-5.

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