We present a case of broken peripheral intravenous catheter/cannula (PIVC), a well-known, underreported complication of PIVC placement. The fractured cannula could have resulted in intravascular foreign body retention, which is usually iatrogenic” Khoo et al (2018).

Abstract:

INTRODUCTION: We present a case of broken peripheral intravenous catheter/cannula (PIVC), a well-known, underreported complication of PIVC placement. The fractured cannula could have resulted in intravascular foreign body retention, which is usually iatrogenic.

PRESENTATION OF CASE: In this case, we conceded that both iatrogenic and self-infliction were culpable. The intoxicated, aggressive patient forcefully removed the inserted cannula after repeated attempts by medical personnel to place it. The same cannula was used for multiple attempts. After the location of the fractured catheter was reconfirmed with radiological imaging, venotomy and removal of the foreign body were performed.

CONCLUSION: Due to potentially devastating consequences, early detection, adherence to standard operating procedures for peripheral venous access, management of aggressive patients, and meticulous teamwork must be upheld.

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