



An emergency physician used point-of-care ultrasound to identify intravascular air before embolization to the pulmonary vasculature” Azan et al (2016).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Vascular air embolism is a rare but potentially deadly phenomenon. Early diagnosis allows providers to initiate measures aimed at preventing further air entry, preventing the migration of air to the lungs, and mitigating the hemodynamic effects of pulmonary air embolism.

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CASE REPORT: An emergency physician used point-of-care ultrasound to identify intravascular air before embolization to the pulmonary vasculature.

WHY SHOULD AN EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN BE AWARE OF THIS?: Bedside ultrasound can be used as a tool for early diagnosis of intravascular air. Emergency physicians should be aware of the typical sonographic manifestations of intravascular air and the initial steps in treating vascular air embolism.

Reference:

Azan, B., Teran, F., Nelson, B.P. and Andrus, P. (2016) Point-of-Care Ultrasound Diagnosis of Intravascular Air After Lower Extremity Intraosseous Access. The Journal of Emergency Medicine. September 9th. .

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