



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

Anomalous position of femoral dialysis catheters

Posición anómala de los catéteres femorales para diálisis



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Figure 1

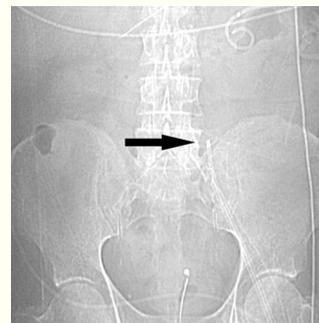


Figure 2

A patient underwent CRRT through a left femoral vein catheter (34 cm–13.5 F). Immediately after the insertion we detected problems in the circuit blood flow and the patient deteriorated. A CT scan showed the tip of the catheter in the left lumbar vein beside a retroperitoneal haematoma (Fig. 1). Another patient (same catheter and insertion technique) showed persistent blood flow problems and in a CT scan the catheter was detected in an accessory left hemiacygos vein and already visible in the plain abdominal x-ray (Fig. 2). Because presumably an eco-directed insertion would not have prevented these anomalous locations, in the event of serious flow problems, a radiologic exploration can help ruling out this unusual and scarcely reported malposition that demands immediate withdrawal of the catheter.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest concerning this manuscript.

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