An unusual complication of a ventricular pace maker electrode

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This woman presented a transient ischemic attack 1 year after implantation of an atrioventricular pace maker. Chest X-ray is shown in Fig. 1. Cardiac echography showed the ventricular pace maker electrode passing through an ASD. Surgical ASD closure and removal of the electrode were performed (Fig. 2) with uneventful recovery.

Fig. 1. Chest X-ray showing an apparently correct implantation of the two pace maker electrodes. Measurements during implantation were usual and showed a standard left delay, without modification on follow-up.

Fig. 2. Intraoperative view of the ventricular electrode passing through the atrial septal defect, before its removal. Another endovascular implantation was performed after 2 weeks.