Vascular catheter apparently well-placed

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A 68-year-old woman, on haemodialysis since 1984 for polycystic kidney disease, had a vascular catheter placed in her left subclavian vein following thrombosis of her arterio-venous fistula. The procedure of positioning the catheter was not easy. Postero-anterior chest X-rays showed an apparently well placed catheter as well as the presence of pneumothorax (Figure 1). The dialysis session was interrupted after a few minutes due to insufficient blood flow and the occurrence of chest pain. A subsequent lateral chest X-ray showed that the catheter was misplaced as it had a curve with an upper concavity (Figure 2). The patient died of shock a few minutes afterwards. The post mortem examination showed the presence of an haematotherax caused by a laceration of the left internal mammary vein.

References

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