Clinical vignette

A rare complication after pacemaker implantation: unusually shaped lead coil

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A 77-year-old man with history of dementia and stereotyped movement was referred to Division of Cardiology for a bradycardia–tachycardia syndrome. A ventricular pacing lead was introduced via subclavian venous puncture and was connected to the pulse generator that was implanted in a subcutaneous pocket fashioned over the pectoralis major. Inadequate capture and muscle contraction were observed within the first 3 months after the implantation. Chest X-ray and fluoroscopy revealed a lead dislodgement with a 'chain-like' form (Figure). The surgical revision showed the absence of fibrous tissue, and therefore, the generator had been able to be rounded so many turns, with dislodgement of the pacing lead. The patient was subjected to a new implantation of pacemaker lead via cephalic venous puncture.

A fluoroscopic examination revealed a lead retraction and dislodgement, with a 'chain-like' form (black arrow), because the generator was able to be rounded so many turns. A new lead submitted via cephalic venous puncture (white arrow).