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Iatrogenic extra-pleural haematoma following cardiac device implantation

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A 67-year-old gentleman with dilated cardiomyopathy, decreased ejection fraction (18%), and left bundle branch block underwent an uneventful cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator (CRT-D) implantation. He was treated with clopidogrel 75 mg/day.

Post-operatively (Panel A), a chest radiograph revealed an opacity over the left hemithorax. A computed tomography scan further characterized a large (25.4 cm diameter) fluid collection in the extra-pleural space, extending superiorly and anteriorly. The suspected mechanism was an inadvertent arterial puncture of a subclavian artery branch (probably <0.3 mm diameter).

Interventional radiology performed an angiogram targeting the left subclavian artery (Panel B). A small blush of contrast was identified, and a 10 cm long Gore Viabahn stent was deployed.

Arterial extra-pleural haematoma can be a complication of CRT-D implantation warranting prompt recognition and resolution.

Conflict of interest: none declared.

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