Outflow graft abrasion due to bend relief detachment in a HeartMate II device

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A 68-year old male with ischaemic cardiomyopathy who underwent HeartMate II implantation complained of chest discomfort 4 months after the operation. Computed tomography images clearly demonstrated a disconnected outflow graft bend relief (Fig. 1). During reoperation, the bend relief was indeed found to be disconnected and the outflow graft was severely abraded by the sharp metal end of the bend relief (Fig. 2).

Figure 1: Three-dimensional computed tomography showing the disconnected bend relief of the outflow graft. The bend relief shifted from the axis of the outflow graft, resulting in kinking of the outflow graft (arrow).

Figure 2: Intraoperative photography showing the disconnected bend relief and the outflow graft abraded by the sharp metal end of the bend relief.