

USAGE OF CT CONTRAST STUDY IN EXTREMELY RARE COMPLICATION OF KNOTTING EPIDURAL CATHETER WITH SUCCESSFUL SURGICAL EXTRACTION - A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Epidural anesthesia are very important part of the anesthetic armamentarium. It is frequently used for alleviating labor pain and orthopedic surgery, mainly involving the lower limbs. However it is not free of risk, which broken epidural catheter is extremely rare and management still remain controversial.

Discussion: 39 years old, female with BMI of 38, admitted under obstetric for delivery. Epidural anesthesia was given during 1st stage of delivery to alleviate pain. She underwent emergency caesarean section due fetal distress. After the operation, the anesthesiologist attempt for removal of epidural catheter but fail. She was referred to us and contrast CT imaging was done to locate the retained catheter and aided during operation for removal. During operation, the tip was coiled at ligamentum flavum of L3 and L4 and it was successfully removed without any cerebral spinal fluid leakage.

Conclusion: Generally, epidural procedure is safe and the complication is low. Breakage of epidural catheter was rare and the management remained controversial. Although the neurological consequences are rare, many reports still advocate surgical removal be considered first. The usage of CT contrast might help to determine location and condition of retained epidural catheter and aided during surgical removal.