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## **Successful intravascular management of the fractured sheath after percutaneous coronary intervention for the chronic total occlusion**

**Authors:** Maciej Panek, Konrad Stępień, Jakub Zasada, Natalia Kachnic, Jadwiga Nessler

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# **Successful intravascular management of the fractured sheath after percutaneous coronary intervention for the chronic total occlusion**

**Short title:** Management of the vascular sheath fracture

Maciej Panek<sup>1</sup>, Konrad Stępień<sup>1,2</sup>, Jakub Zasada<sup>3</sup>, Natalia Kachnic<sup>4</sup>, Jadwiga Nessler<sup>1,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure, St. John Paul II Hospital, Kraków, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Department of Thromboembolic Disorders, Institute of Cardiology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland

<sup>3</sup>Department of Vascular Surgery, St. John Paul II Hospital, Kraków, Poland

<sup>4</sup>Students' Scientific Group, Department of Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland

<sup>5</sup>Department of Coronary Artery Disease and Heart Failure, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland

## **Correspondence to:**

Konrad Stępień, MD, PhD,  
Department of Coronary Artery Disease  
and Heart Failure,  
St. John Paul II Hospital  
Prądnicka 80, 31–202 Kraków, Poland,  
phone: +48 12 6142218  
e-mail: konste@interia.eu

We report a case of a 53-year-old man who was admitted for planned percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) of a chronic total occlusion of the left anterior descending artery. The patient was hospitalized 1 year ago due to inferior wall ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction and was treated with PCI of the right coronary artery with drug-eluting stent implantation. Since the last hospitalization the patient reported stable stenocardial symptoms (CCS II). In transthoracic echocardiography the left ventricular ejection fraction was 42% with the hypokinesia of the apex, anterior and posterior walls and akinesia of inferior wall. Viability in

the left anterior descending vascularization area was confirmed with cardiac magnetic resonance imaging.

Shortly after follow-up coronary angiography the procedure was conducted through the radial access (7F Glidesheath Slender) under the control of contralateral injections from the femoral access (6F sheath) (Figure 1A). Successful crossing of the chronic total occlusion using Fielder XT-R, Gaia 2, and Gladius guidewires was achieved through the antegrade wire escalation strategy followed by the antegrade dissection re-entry technique. Finally, three drug-eluting stent (2.5/18 mm, 2.75/30 mm, 3.0/30 mm) were implanted under intravascular ultrasound control with optimal angiographic results and TIMI 3 flow (Figure 1B).

During the femoral access closure with the Perclose ProStyle system, the vascular sheath fragmented in the right common femoral artery upon removal. The remaining part of the sheath stayed in the vessel on the diagnostic wire (0.035"). After consultation with a vascular surgeon, a 9F sheath was inserted over the diagnostic wire into the right common femoral artery. Using a Snare 15 mm Vascular Loop, the wire was pulled out via the radial sheath. The diagnostic wire (0.035") was exchanged for a Terumo guide wire (0.035"). The misplaced part of the sheath was pushed by an inflated Armada 5.0/30 mm balloon catheter, and was finally removed via the femoral access (Figure 1C–E). Control angiography of right common femoral artery showed no local complications. Finally, the access was closed with two vascular stitches with Perclose ProStyle system. The patient was discharged two days after the procedure with a small bruise in a groin (Figure 1F).

Device loss or entrapment occurs in 0.56% of PCI cases with stents constituting the most common lost device [1]. The incidence of stent loss in literature is low and decreasing from 5% before 2000 to 0.3% after 2005 [2]. Vascular sheath fracture during PCI is less common potential complication [3, 4]. Some patients can successfully be managed percutaneously. However, half of the patients with entrapped device may require surgery [5]. In our case, the presence of the diagnostic wire (0.035") in the vessel was crucial for the successful percutaneous retrieval of the sheath fragment. During the widening of the skin access site, the femoral sheath was likely incised and detached due to the presence of calcifications in the vessel wall. In accordance with our literature review our complication is the fourth report of vascular sheath fracture during PCI and the first describing its percutaneous removal.

## **Article information**

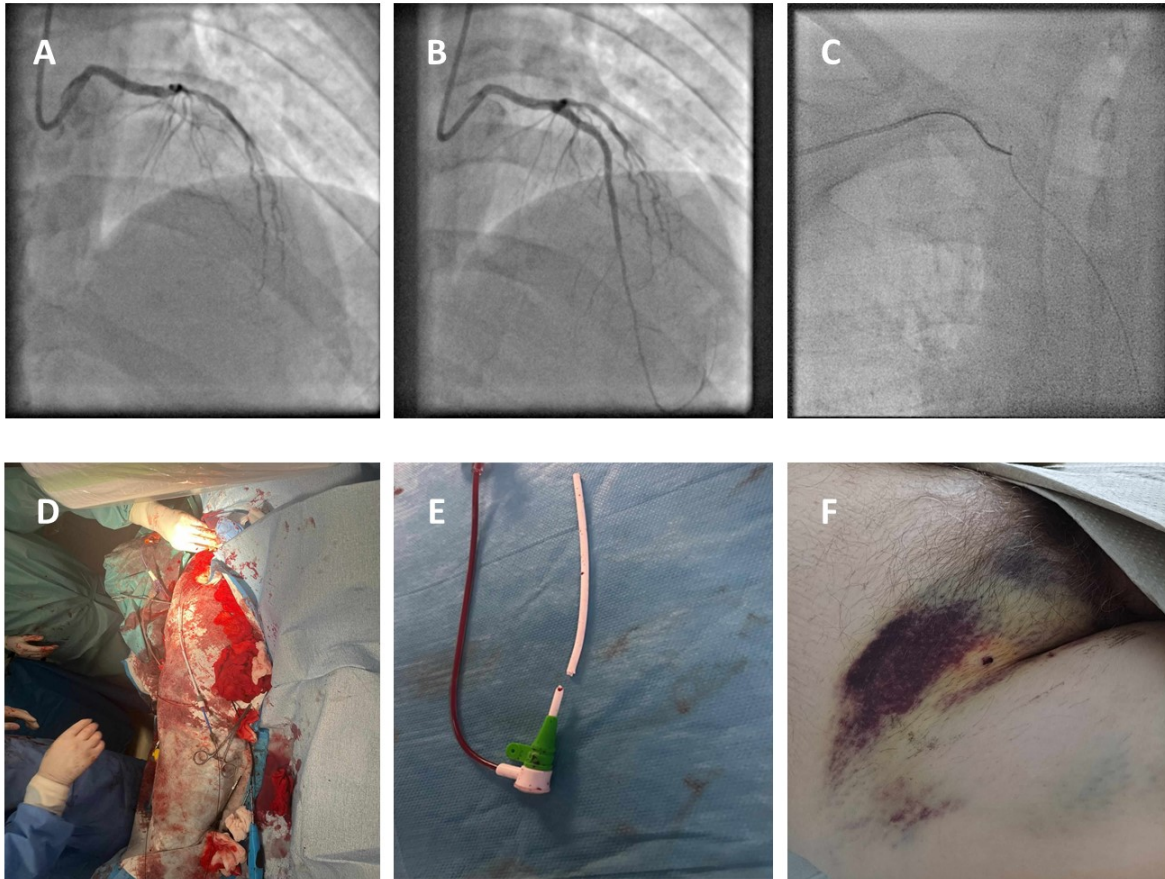
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**Figure 1.** **A.** Baseline coronary angiography. Ostial chronic total occlusion of the left anterior descending artery. **B.** Final result of the procedure. **C.** Removal of the vascular sheath. Creation of a vascular loop. **D.** Intra-procedural view. Pushing out the vascular sheath through the femoral access. **E.** The main body and the fractured part of the vascular sheath after retrieval. **F.** A small bruise in the patient's right groin the next day