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Educational Abstract

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How Far Is Too Far? Antegrade Stent Insertion Failure Secondary To Distal Ureteric Urethral Catheterisation!

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Learning Objectives

Identify an unusual cause of failed ureteric stent insertion.

Background

A 90 year old male presented with abdominal pain and acute kidney injury. Ultrasound confirmed bilateral hydronephrosis secondary to benign prostatic hyperplasia. He was subsequently referred for bilateral ureteric stent insertion.

Findings & Procedure Details

The procedure was performed percutaneously using an antegrade approach. The left vesicoureteric junction was occluded and so was dilated to 4 mm using a Mustang balloon to allow the successful placement of a 7-French 24 cm Vortex JJ stent. However, on the right side, this same technique failed. It was not possible to push the stent across the wire from the ureter into the bladder. The procedure was abandoned and an urgent CT KUB was ordered to rule out right ureteric injury or avulsion.

The CT KUB astonishingly demonstrated the tip of a urethral catheter sited within the right distal ureter having passed through the ureteric orifice. This was the cause of the initial ureteric stent failure. The urinary catheter was repositioned but the right sided hydronephrosis persisted and thus a right antegrade urinary stent was successfully placed. The hydronephrosis was likely caused by the BPH rather than the urinary catheter. Misplacement of urinary catheters has also been previously reported as leading to failed ureteric stent insertion¹.

Conclusion

This case highlights a highly unusual case of ureteric obstruction from a mal-positioned urethral catheter, for which consideration needs to be given in potential failure of stent placement in the distal ureter.