



IMAGES IN THORAX

An unusual cause of pulmonary embolism

M Bruyneel,¹ A Peeters,¹ P G Silance,² S Alard,³ D Horn⁴¹Chest Service, CHU Saint Pierre, Brussels, Belgium²Department of Cardiology, CHU Saint Pierre, Brussels, Belgium³Department of Radiology, CHU Saint Pierre, Brussels, Belgium⁴Vascular Surgery Service, CHU Saint Pierre, Brussels, Belgium**Correspondence to**

Dr Marie Bruyneel, Chest Service, CHU Saint-Pierre, Rue Haute, 322, Brussels 1000, Belgium; Marie_Bruyneel@stpierre-bru.be

Received 3 February 2015

Revised 11 March 2015

Accepted 19 March 2015

Published Online First

8 April 2015

CASE REPORT

A young patient presented with acute dyspnoea. Anamnesis revealed the loss of metallic guide wire

(GW) during a jugular cannulation 4 years before. Consecutive bilateral pulmonary embolism (PE) was diagnosed by thoracic angio-CT that confirmed



Figure 1 Sagittal reconstruction obtained from CT angiography showing metallic guide wire from superior vena cava to right external iliac vein.

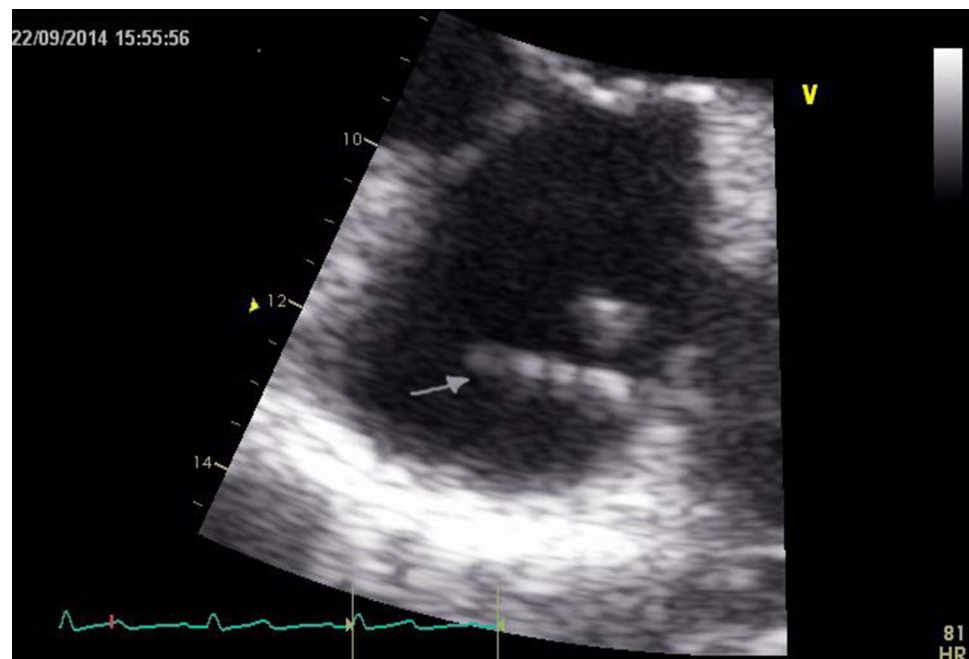


Figure 2 Transparietal cardiac echography showing the extremity of the guide wire (white arrow) and above, attached mobile thrombi in the right atrium.



To cite: Bruyneel M, Peeters A, Silance PG, *et al.* *Thorax* 2015;**70**:1007–1008.

presence of GW in the vena cava and in the right atrium (figures 1 and 2). Tinzaparin was started. Two weeks later, right iliac veinotomy allowed finally extracting the GW after two unsuccessful transcatheter attempts. Clinical course was favourable despite occurrence of supraventricular tachycardia, secondary to right atrium lesions. Loss of GW is extremely rare,¹ and usually faster removed. Secondary PE has never been described previously.

Correction notice This article has been corrected since it was published Online First. The provenance and peer review statement has been corrected.

Contributors AP, MB, PGS, DH have managed the patient. DH, SA, MB have prepared the manuscript and images and the final manuscript version was revised and approved by all the authors. MB is the guarantor and takes responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

REFERENCE

- 1 Sivastav R, Yadav V, Sharma D, *et al.* Loss of guide wire: a lesson learnt review of literature. *J Surg Tech Case Report* 2013;5:78–81.