

INFERIOR VENA CAVA FILTER OCCLUSION CAUSING PHLEGMASIA ALBA DOLENS

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Background

- Phlegmasia cerulean dolens is a rare sequela of acute venothromboembolic events that is characterized by marked edema, pain, and swelling
- (DVTs) of the iliofemoral segments, It is most commonly associated with deep venous thromboses but it has been reported with thrombosis of inferior vena cava (IVC) filters¹

Purpose

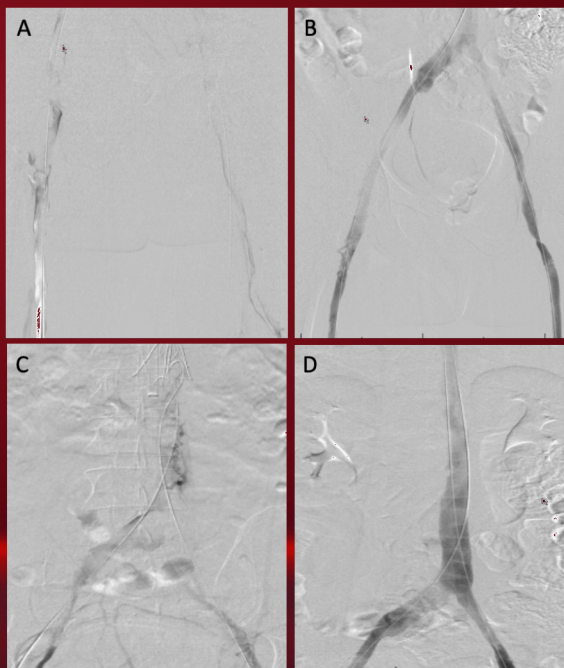
- Case presentation of a patient presenting with occlusion of a previously placed IVC filter who progressed to phlegmasia cerulean dolens

Patient information

- 40-year-old male with protein S deficiency, tobacco use disorder, class I obesity
- The patient had had an episode of bilateral DVTs three years earlier for which he received thrombolysis and IVC filter placement
- Presented to outside hospital for leg swelling where he was found to have occlusion of his IVC filter

Treatment Course

- Patient was taken to the operating room for thrombectomy and removal of IVC filter
- Venogram was performed and showed occlusion of the IVC at the malpositioned filter with thrombosis of bilateral renal, popliteal, superficial femoral, common femoral, and iliac veins
- After numerous engagements, the filter was re-sheathed and removed
- Mechanical thrombectomy was performed and a significant amount of acute, subacute, and chronic thrombus was retrieved and passed off the table as specimen



A.) Bilateral iliac veins prior to mechanical thrombectomy

B.) Bilateral iliac veins after mechanical thrombectomy

C.) IVC with filter prior to removal and mechanical thrombectomy
D.) IVC after removal and mechanical thrombectomy

E.) Acute, subacute, and chronic thrombus retrieved and sent as specimen



Outcomes

- Endovascular intervention was completed with successful thrombectomy and removal of IVC filter
- The patient recovered uneventfully and was discharged shortly after. Patient discharged on POD-12

Discussion

- IVC filter placement may lead to acute venothromboembolic occlusion of the vena cava with subsequent progression to phlegmasia cerulean dolens
- Endovascular approach may be utilized for thrombosis and filter removal

References

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