
Procedural improvisation to prevent guidewire kinking in Griggs percutaneous tracheostomy without bronchoscopic guidance

Sir,

We read with great interest the case report titled, "Inadvertent migration of guidewire into Murphy's eye of endotracheal tube during percutaneous dilatational tracheostomy" by Binita *et al.*^[1]

We wish to highlight procedural modification we are doing in our Intensive Care Unit to tackle such inadvertent complication.

We agree with the authors that migration of guidewire into the Murphy's eye of endotracheal

tube during percutaneous tracheostomy without bronchoscopic guidance is a rare complication, which we also encounter rarely but we follow a procedural improvisation by ensuring free movement of guidewire back and forth at each step, thus ensuring proper placement of guidewire.

In case of guidewire inside the Murphy's eye, there will be kinking of guidewire after dilatation with metal/plastic dilator, thus the free back and forth movement of the guidewire will not be appreciated, or in other words, if the free movement of guidewire not felt, a possible diagnosis of guidewire kinking is made.

In our case series of 300 cases of percutaneous tracheostomy without bronchoscopic guidance, we had 18 cases where guidewire got kinked, hampering the free back and forth movement during the procedure.^[2] We removed the guidewire and again a fresh puncture of trachea done to complete the procedure.

Few possible reasons for guidewire kinking are such as cephalic migration or migration into the Murphy's eye or false passage can be easily diagnosed and rectified by

ensuring the free back and forth movement of guidewire during each step of the procedure.

In our case series, we have highlighted two important steps: First one by withdrawing of the endotracheal tube with inflated cuff while monitoring expired tidal volume on ventilator and the second one by ensuring free mobility of guidewire during each step of the procedure, thereby ensuring a safe placement of the tracheostomy tube in trachea.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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