A Rare Case of Pacemaker Electrode Perforation of the Heart With Intra-Abdominal Migration

Tal Hörer, MD; Mårten Vidlund, MD; Peter Lindell, MD; Kjell Jansson, MD, PhD
Örebro University Hospital, Department of General Surgery (Hörer, Jansson), Sweden; Örebro University Hospital, Department of Thorax Surgery (Vidlund), Sweden; Örebro University Hospital, Department of Cardiology (Lindell), Sweden

Perforation and migration of pacemaker electrodes into the abdominal cavity is a very rare event. A 67-year-old woman was admitted to our institute with a nonfunctioning 2 week old chamber DDD pacemaker (due to sick sinus syndrome) and a chest film showing the electrodes under the diaphragm (Figure 1). A CT scan revealed an intra-abdominal localization of the electrodes frontal to the left liver segment (Figure 2). The electrodes where withdrawn in the operating room without any complication, and the patient successfully received new pacemaker electrodes.