Intrapericardial pacemaker in a 2-kilogram newborn

Juan-Miguel Gil-Jaurena, Rafael Castillo, Lorena Rubio

Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Hospital Carlos Haya, Málaga, Spain

Abstract A 2-kilogram child had a pacemaker implanted by a subxyphoid approach with the generator located under the rectus sheath. Days later, the battery eroded the abdominal wall and the peritoneum. The whole system was removed and a new one was implanted inside the pericardium on an emergent basis.

Keywords: Intrapericardial; pacemaker; child

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Figure 1. X-ray, front view. Generator size slightly smaller than cardiac silhouette.

Figure 2. X-ray, lateral view. Bulky battery between sternum and posterior mediastinum.

Correspondence to: Juan-Miguel Gil-Jaurena. Chief Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Cirugía Cardiaca Infantil, Hospital Carlos Haya, C/Arroyo de los Ángeles s/n, 29011, Málaga, Spain. Phone/Fax: +34 951 292269; E-mail: giljaurena@gmail.com
whole system — epicardial lead plus battery, reducing the eventration and closing the abdominal wall. Thereafter, a new system was implanted with the generator placed between the heart and the diaphragm in an intrapericardial manner (Figs 1 and 2). After 1 year, the child is in good condition, with no signs of caval compression or abdominal dehiscence. This simple, bail-out procedure sorted out a dramatic problem in a 2-kilogram newborn.