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COUP D'OEIL

Placement of a Central Venous Catheter Into the Right Vertebral Artery Despite Ultrasound Guidance

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A 57 year old patient, admitted to the intensive care unit with sepsis and severe dehydration caused by a *Clostridium difficile* infection, received a central venous catheter (CVC) on the right side of her neck. After several days, doubts arose about the CVC position. Computed tomography angiography (panel A) and subsequent surgery (panel B), showed that the CVC had been placed through the right internal jugular vein (black arrow) into the right vertebral artery just after its origin (white arrows) from the subclavian artery (yellow arrow) despite being placed under ultrasound guidance. The vertebral artery was approached medial to the sternocleidomastoid. Post-operative recovery was uneventful.

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