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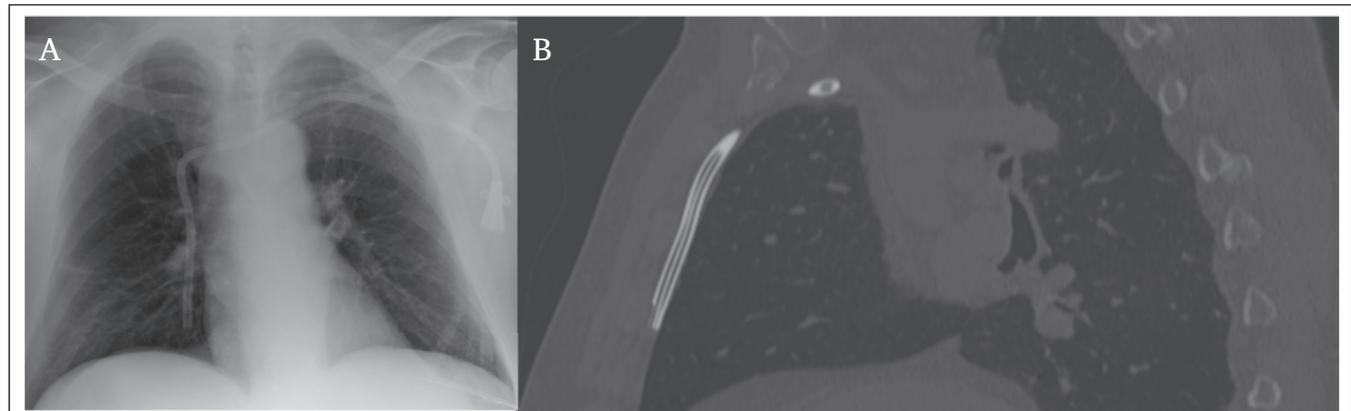
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COUP D'OEIL

Inadvertent Placement of a Central Dialysis Catheter in the Right Internal Mammary Vein

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A 54 year old male on haemodialysis was admitted for central dialysis catheter insertion. A left subclavian vein approach was used, with good blood reflux from both catheter lumens, but the post-operative chest X-ray indicated the catheter laterally malpositioned outside the superior vena cava (SVC; A). Thoracic computed tomography scans revealed the catheter was in a large right internal mammary vein (RIMV) (B). X-ray projections of the RIMV over the SVC probably gave the impression that the catheter was in the correct position. The catheter was replaced over the wire with a new one correctly positioned in the SVC.

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