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Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg (2019) 58, 804

COUP D'OEIL

Do Not Forget to Pull the Graft!

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A 71 year old woman presented with a two month history of left lower limb claudication. Her history included an above knee femoropopliteal bypass using a 7 mm heparin bonded expanded polytetrafluoroethylene graft (Propaten, WL Gore & Associates, Flagstaff, USA) six months previously for critical limb ischaemia (rest pain). Computed tomography angiography revealed a thrombosed graft, severely kinked where it lay beneath sartorius (A and B). Lack of appropriate intra-operative graft pulling and straightening probably caused the problem. This case illustrates the importance of intraoperative quality control after bypass surgery to prevent kinks or other problems that might hinder flow and predispose to occlusion.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2019.09.507>