Impending rupture of the left atrium after impaction of left atrial ablation catheter

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A 60-year-old male presented with chronic atrial fibrillation. A trans-femoral catheter ablation was planned. The catheter was impacted in the left atrial wall (Fig. 1). Consequently, the procedure was interrupted before achieving resynchronisation. Catheter withdrawal was only possible after median sternotomy and closed manipulation of the catheter to release it.

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Fig. 1. Ablation catheter impacted in the posterior wall of the left atrium at the insertion of the right superior pulmonary vein. Left atrial wall haematoma (collection of contrast material) was noticed. No visible defects were observed in the ablation catheter after its withdrawal. To our knowledge, no similar cases have been presented.