


**CARDIOVASCULAR FLASHLIGHT**

It hurts so bad like a needle through the heart

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A 62-year-old male patient with no cardiovascular risk factors was followed in our Cardiology outpatient clinic for 2 years because of some episodes of chest pain that resembled angina pectoris. He underwent several treadmill tests with mild positive exercise electrocardiograms in lateral leads in the latter stages (ischaemic threshold at 9 min and maximum exercise workload of 10 METs). There was no adequate response to antianginal drugs and cardiac catheterization was indicated.

Two linear radiopaque structures that moved with the beat of the heart were visualized. On contrast ventriculography, both structures appeared to be outside the ventricular cavity (Panel A). Coronary angiogram did not show any significant lesion and the radiopaque structures seemed to be located inside the myocardium (Panel B).

The patient was reinterrogated, and he remembered falling over a sewing basket in his childhood. A knitting needle, that had entered 2 cm through his chest at subxifoid level, then was removed. The wound healed without complications. A multidetector computed tomographic angiography was performed and confirmed the presence of the two needles located in the inferior area of the left ventricle. One of the needles, 11 mm long, lies in the posterior interventricular groove. The other one, 29 mm long, is intramyocardial and goes through the posterior interventricular septum and the inferior segment of the left ventricle (Panels C and D).

Panel A Ventriculography shows two radiopaque structures outside the ventricular cavity.

Panel B Radiopaque structures inside the myocardium.

Panels C and D Computed tomographic images show two needles, one in the posterior interventricular groove and other going through the posterior interventricular septum and the inferior area of the left ventricle.