

Lower limbs arteries & miscellaneous topics

Clinical experience with a new optional vena cava filter

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Purpose

Insertion of a permanent vena cava filter has been shown to reduce occurrence of pulmonary embolism despite an increased risk in DVT at long-term. Retrievable or optional caval filters offer the ability to be removed or not, according to PE exposure.

Materials and methods

A bi-centric retrospective study was performed to assess for filter efficacy and for ability to remove the ALN Filter in patients presenting with a severe acute venous thromboembolism associated with at least one indication of filter such as contra-indication to anticoagulant (mainly due to an haemorrhagic phenomena), acute major surgery, recurrence of venous thromboembolism despite anticoagulant.

Results

This study included 285 (225 + 60) patients presenting with DVT (26%), pulmonary embolism (13%) or both (61%). After a median follow-up of 11,4 months, there were two episodes of pulmonary embolism, three thromboses in the filter. A decision of removal was taken for 70 (55+15) patients (24,5%) : all filter retrievals were successful without any complication. The median implantation period was 48 days (range: 6 days- 14 months).

Conclusion

These preliminary results confirm the efficacy of the ALN filter. They also demonstrate the feasibility and safety of retrieval up to 14 months after implantation.