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Multicentric Results of Early and Late Vena Cava Filter Retrieval.

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Purpose:

Retrieval of vena cava filter is one of the most interesting option for selected patients and delay between implantation and retrieval is critical, depending of the device. The purpose of this multicenter registry was to evaluate the feasibility and results of percutaneous removal of the ALN filter device.

Materials:

Between 2003 and December 2005, 114 consecutive patients were referred for percutaneous extraction of ALN filter in three centers. ALN filter is an optional filter that can be implanted through a femoral/jugular vein approach and extracted by jugular vein. Extraction was attempted after an implantation period ranging between 6 days to 24 months. Filter extraction was attempted through the right internal jugular vein approach using the dedicated extraction kit after control inferior vena cavography.

Results:

Successful extraction was achieved in all but 1 case . Among these successful retrievals, additional manipulation using a femoral approach was needed when the apex of the filter was close to the IVC wall in 2 patients. No immediate complication was observed according to the post implantation cavography. No technical or clinical differences between early and late filter retrieval were noticed.

Conclusions:

These preliminary results confirm the safety of the ALN filter retrieval, with no apparent limitation along time. In selected and infrequent cases, additional endovenous manipulation are needed to achieve extraction.

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