

Use of PET-CT Imaging to Identify Femoral–Popliteal Stent Infection

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A 58-year-old male was admitted with several months of a nonhealing sinus draining through the right popliteal fossa. He had a history of type 2 diabetes mellitus, former tobacco abuse. He had undergone repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm, besides repair of bilateral femoral artery aneurysm, and right popliteal artery aneurysm repair with Viabahn stent graft 7 years ago. Due to stent occlusion, subsequently, he later had right femoral to tibial artery bypass with vein.

Computed tomography (CT) angiogram showed a fluid collection in the popliteal fossa around the stent graft and concluded that there was not edema around the graft to suggest infection (Figure). He had patent vein bypass (arrowhead, Figure A). Bruggink et al showed that single Fluorodeoxyglucose-Positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) had improved sensitivity and specificity for detecting vascular prosthetic graft infection compared to CT (93% and 70% vs 56% and 57%, respectively). When PET-CT was used for this patient, focal hyper metabolic activity was seen along the course of the right superficial femoral and popliteal stent graft (B), corresponding to peripherally enhancing fluid and/or soft tissue surrounding the stented vessel and extending into the posterior thigh soft tissues (B). The increased uptake on PET-CT was interpreted as acute infection or a developing abscess.

The femoropopliteal stent was explanted using combined medial and posterior approach. There was erosion of the vessel wall due to infection (C: exposure, D: explanted stent sent for culture). Entire segment of the stent from the mid superficial femoral to the popliteal artery was excised with drainage of the abscess cavity.

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The patient was treated with intravenous vancomycin and ceftriaxone initially. Wound cultures did not grow any organisms, while the cultures from the explanted stent grew *Streptococcus agalactiae*. He was discharged on cefpodoxime and had no postprocedural complications during his 6-month follow-up. Informed consent has been obtained from the patient (or patient's guardian) for publication of the case report and accompanying images.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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Reference

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Figure

Showing infected popliteal stent with increased uptake on FDG-PET scan correlated with intra operative findings of eroded popliteal artery due to infection.

