

# Intra-Arterial Central Venous Catheter Placement

Linda Qu MD, Vivian Gahtan MD, Bernadette Aulivola MD, Carlos Bechara MD, Paul Crisostomo MD, Michael Soult MD,  
Matthew Blecha MD, Pegge Halandras MD

Department of Surgery, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL

## Introduction

- The incidence of arterial cannulation during central venous catheter placement is less than 1%
- Complications range from hematoma to stroke and death
- Timely recognition and surgical management may help to mitigate devastating complications

## Case Presentation

- A 72 year old patient was admitted in the intensive care unit after sustaining severe burn injuries
- He underwent bedside placement of a 12 Fr central venous catheter under ultrasound guidance
- Post-procedure chest X-ray revealed trajectory of catheter to the left of midline (Figure 1), raising suspicion for intra-arterial placement. Vascular Surgery was consulted
- CT angiography revealed catheter through right internal jugular vein into right common carotid artery, just distal to the junction with the innominate artery (Figure 2)
- Given the proximal location of injury, the decision was made for immediate endovascular repair
- Arterial access was achieved via cutdown on the right common carotid artery given the presence of severe burn wounds over bilateral groins. Initial arteriography confirmed CT findings (Figure 3)
- A 7 mm x 19 mm balloon covered stent was deployed in the common carotid artery to cover the defect. Completion arteriography did not reveal contrast extravasation (Figure 4)
- Postoperatively, the patient was started on Plavix. No neurologic complications were noted

## Conclusion

- Intra-arterial placement of central venous catheters requires urgent recognition and surgical intervention
- Options for arterial repair include open, endovascular, or use of Perclose device, and the decision is often patient-specific
- If repaired in a timely fashion, further morbidity may be prevented

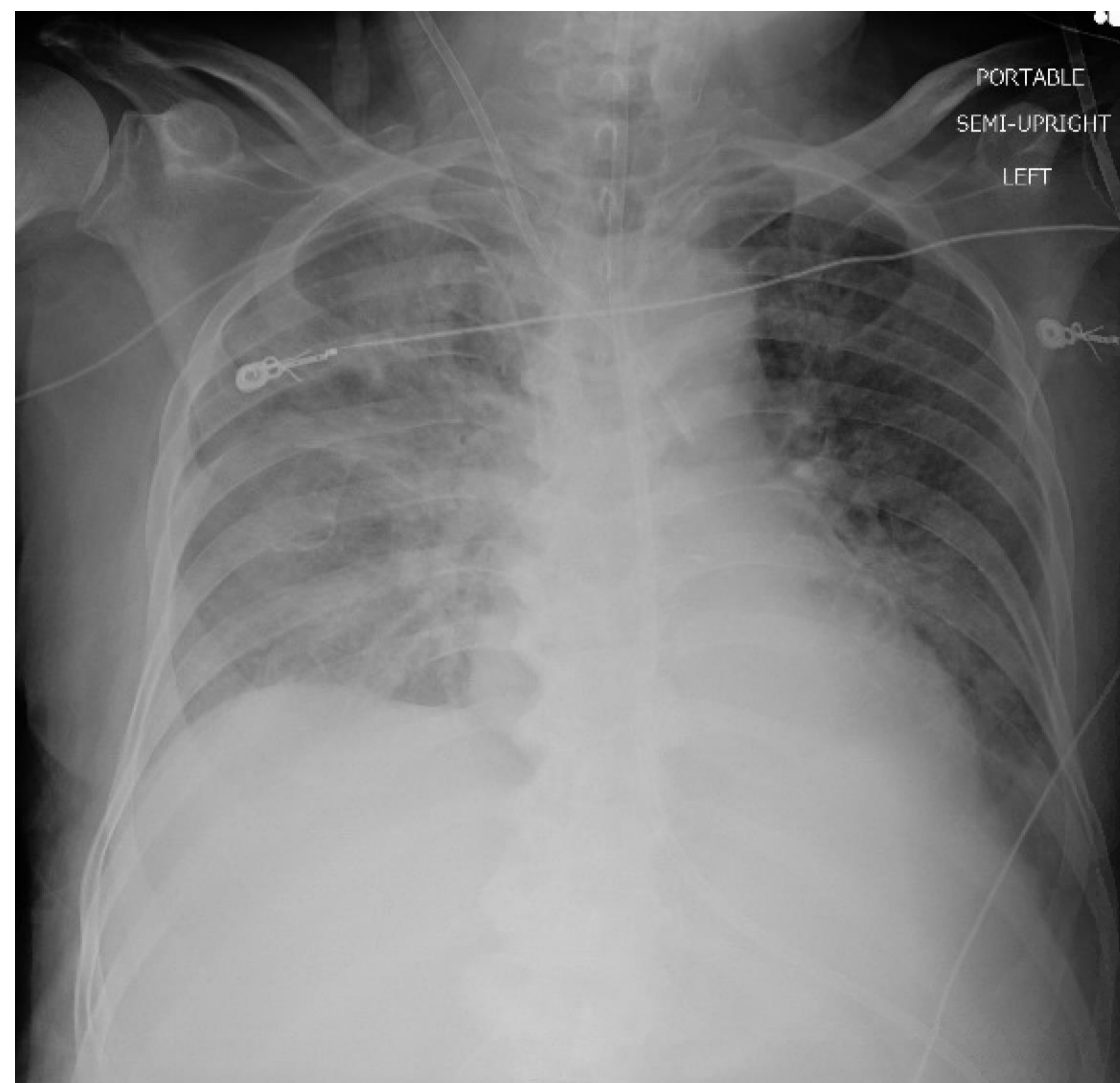


Figure 1. Post-procedure chest X-ray

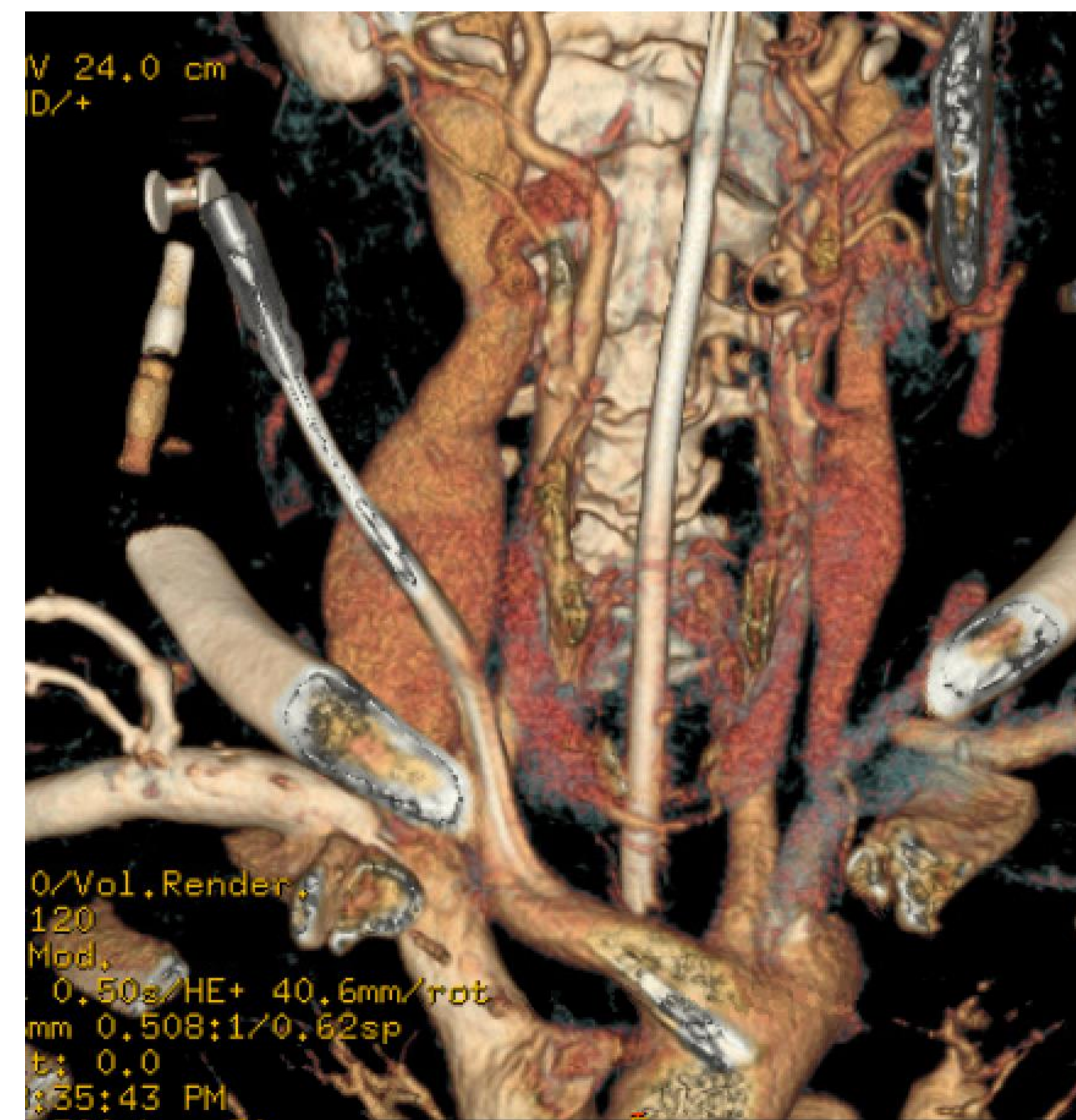


Figure 2. CT angiography (3D reconstruction)



Figure 3. Initial arteriography



Figure 4. Completion arteriography