Acute stroke secondary to intracranial arterial needle migration

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Figure Cerebral CT and CT angiography

(A) CT demonstrates a left middle cerebral artery (MCA) infarct with a hyperdense linear image next to the MCA (arrow). (B) CT angiography shows fragments of a needle in the carotid arteries (dotted arrows) and in the left MCA (arrow).

A 50-year-old man with a history of IV drug use and cervical scars presented with acute disorientation and incoherent speech. A cerebral CT demonstrated a left middle cerebral artery (MCA) infarct with intracranial linear hyperdensity (figure, A). CT angiography revealed a broken needle in the left internal and external carotid arteries (figure, B); there was apparent needle migration into the MCA (figure, B). No MRI was performed; the magnetic field may have moved the intracranial needle. Cervical needle fragments were removed surgically. Broken needle cardiac embolization associated with IV drug use has been reported,^{1,2} but intracranial arterial migration is exceptional.

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Name	Location	Contributions
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