Cement intravasation. An incidental finding in uncomplicated well cemented femoral stems.

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**Background:** Cement extrusion into a nutrient vessel of the femur is a rare finding in cemented femoral stems [1]. X-ray shows a linear cement extrusion beyond the femoral cortices in an otherwise well cemented uncomplicated femoral stem. This can be mistaken as a cortical discontinuity unnoticed during the surgical procedure [2].

**Aims:** Describe the appearance of cement venogram on a post-operative x-ray of a cemented femoral stem and discuss the differential diagnoses.

**Material and methods:** We analysed the appearance of the post-operative x-rays of uncomplicated cemented femoral stems in four different patients where a cement venogram was found.

**Results:** A linear x-ray opacity within the last two centimeters of the distal end of the cemented femoral stem was found in the four cases presented. This represented an intravasation of polymethyl methacrylate cement into the nutrient femoral vessels. In all four cases only one vessel was involved. The length of the vessel affected ranged from 2.5cm to 5.5cm. There was no sign of air, fat or cement embolization associated in any of the cases. There was no sign of nerve irritation post-operatively in any of the cases and there was no associated pain at any stage during the post-operative period (follow up between three months and 48 months).

**Conclusions:** Cement venogram on a post-operative x-ray of a hip arthroplasty is an indicator of high pressurization during the cementation of the femoral stem. It is not related with a femoral cortical discontinuity, it is not associated with any perioperative complication and does not warrant any further investigations.

**References:**
