

IMAGE

Self-Inflicted Radial Artery Pseudoaneurysm Due to Attempted Needle Drainage of a Suspected Abscess

A 49 year old welder was admitted to the emergency department with bleeding from the site of a burn injury during work. One week after a second degree burn, a local swelling developed in his right forearm. The patient suspected that it was an abscess and attempted to drain it with

a needle. This caused high pressure bleeding and the subsequent appearance of a pulsating mass in his distal forearm (B). A computed tomography scan showed a pseudoaneurysm of the radial artery (A), which was confirmed by a duplex ultrasound scan. Aneurysmectomy was performed with partial resection of the radial artery and an end to end anastomosis. After 15 days of rest and removal of stitches, the patient returned to work. A duplex ultrasound scan performed after 30 days confirmed the success of radial artery reconstruction, showing arterial patency and good downstream flow to the superficial palmar arch.



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