

IMPLANON MIGRATION!! - AN ORTHOPEDIC SAVIOUR

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Introduction: IMPLANON is a subcutaneous hormone-releasing contraceptive device commonly used by women. Implanon is usually inserted subcutaneously on the medial side of the arm. Removal of the device for clinical, personal or end of lifespan reasons is usually a simple procedure by exploring the previous insertion site. This is a case report to highlight the rare proximal migration of Implanon which required orthopaedic intervention for Implanon removal.

Discussion: A 29 years old Malay female was referred by obstetric team for unable to localize Implanon for removal. There was no complication reported during its insertion 5 years ago. Obstetrician and radiologist attempted ultrasound guided Implanon removal but failed to localize the Implanon. They then proceeded with exploration of previous insertion site but still failed to locate the Implanon. In orthopedic clinic, a simple plain radiograph was done which revealed Implanon in the axillary region. Image Intensifier guided implanon removal was done under general anesthesia.

Conclusion: Implanon is a common hormone releasing contraception used. Patients may remain asymptomatic despite migration of Implanon and diagnosis might be incidental during routine examination or when the device is due for removal. Other reported complications are broken Implanon, embolization and intravascular placement of Implanon. The exact mechanism of migration of Implanon is unclear. Few hypotheses which have been put forward include inadvertent placement of the device into the venous system which may lead to intravascular embolization or the placement into deeper tissue which may predispose to migratory forces on the implant. Another hypothesis for migration of Implanon especially in Asian countries are traditional massage maneuvers which may locally push the implant away. There are only a few case reports regarding Implanon migration. None of these reports suggest for radiograph as a first line investigation. A simple plain radiograph can localized the radioopaque implanon thus simplify its removal.