Medical Safety Information No. 41 January, 2014 Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/service/medical_info.html **Medical Safety Information** Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency **P**mda No. 41 January 2014 Precautions in the Handling of **Epidural Catheters** DOINT Key points for safe use When an epidural catheter for pain control was removed, the tip of the catheter was (Case) torn off and left in the patient body. Precautions when handling epidural catheters Vertebral body Sheared or torn tip of Subarachnoid an epidural catheter space Epidural catheter Epidural space Spinous process **Epidural catheters which were damaged during insertion** may be sheared or torn when the catheter was removed.

Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/service/medical_info.html

Mechanism of catheter damage (1) Epidural space Edge 3. Catheter Epidural catheter damaged by the edge! 2. Kinked catheter Epidural needle 1. Forceful catheter Spinous insertion process Catheter damage Epidural catheter

> Cut made by the edge of the epidural needle

Photo by Hakko Co., Ltd.

Do not insert a catheter forcibly if resistance is felt. The catheter may be damaged by the epidural needle.

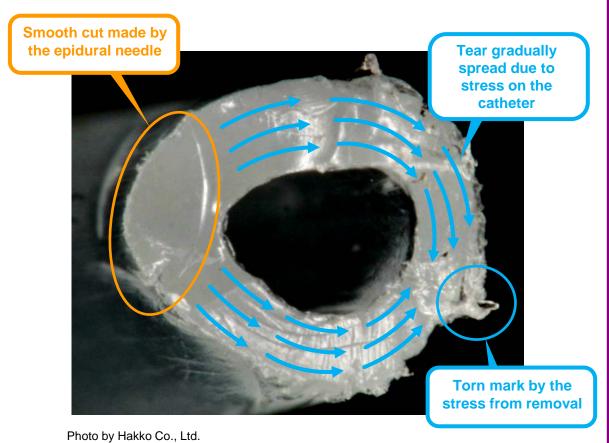
Medical Safety Information

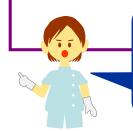
Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/service/medical_info.html

Mechanism of catheter damage (2) Epidural space Epidural catheter Heel part of the 2. Catheter needle bevel damaged by the heel! Epidural needle 1. Forceful catheter withdrawal Spinous process Catheter damage Epidural catheter Cut made by the heel part of an epidural needle bevel Photo by Hakko Co., Ltd. Do not forcibly pull a catheter back during insertion. The catheter may be damaged by the epidural needle.

3/4

Example of a sheared epidural catheter (cross-sectional view)





A smooth cut made by the epidural needle can be seen on the damaged catheter as shown in the above photograph. Catheters may be torn from the damaged area and

completely sheared during removal.

About this information

- PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.
- We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
- This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.



Contact: Medical Safety

E-mail: safety.info@pmda.go.jp Information Group http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/