

Median sacral artery injury during percutaneous mechanical disc decompression using Dekompressor[®]

Young Uk Kim¹, Eun Young Chae², Ji Hoon Lee³, Chang Hee Lee⁴, and Young Ki Kim⁴

Departments of ¹Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, ²Radiology, Research Institute of Radiology, Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, ³Department of Neurosurgery, Gil Medical Center, Gachon University, Incheon, ⁴Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Gangneung Asan Hospital, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Gangneung, Korea

Disc decompression using the Dekompressor[®] (Stryker, Kalamazoo, MI, USA) is an effective procedure for treating patients with contained disc herniation [1-5]. Iatrogenic vascular injuries during lumbar disc decompression, although rare, are serious complications, that can be fatal without prompt diagnosis and management [5]. In this paper we present the case of a 23-year-old man with median sacral artery injury during lumbar disc decompression using the Dekompressor[®]. After the procedure, blood pressure decreased, and dizziness, and abdominal pain occurred in the recovery room. Abdomino-pelvic computed to-

mography (CT) without contrast medium showed a 7.5 cm sized hematoma in the left prevertebral space of the L5-S1 level. Leakage of contrast medium from the median sacral artery was noted by a contrast-enhanced CT scan (Fig. 1). Fortunately, the patient's vital signs were generally maintained by rapid transfusion. The next day, the patient underwent a repeat contrast-enhanced CT scan. There was no definite contrast extravasation, and the size of the retroperitoneal hematoma had decreased from 7.5 to 6 cm. The patient was treated by conservative management and recovered uneventfully.



Fig. 1. Contrast-enhanced CT images (A and B) show focal areas of high attenuation (white arrows) from the median sacral artery (black arrows) within the hematoma, a finding that represents an active bleeding.

Corresponding author: Young Ki Kim, M.D., Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Gangneung Asan Hospital, 38, Bangdong-gil, Sacheon-myeon, Gangneung 210-711, Korea Tel: 82-33-610-3114, Fax: 82-33-610-3409, E-mail: ykkim@gnah.co.kr

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