

# A Focused Follow Up Program to Increase the Retrieval Rate of Optional IVC Filters

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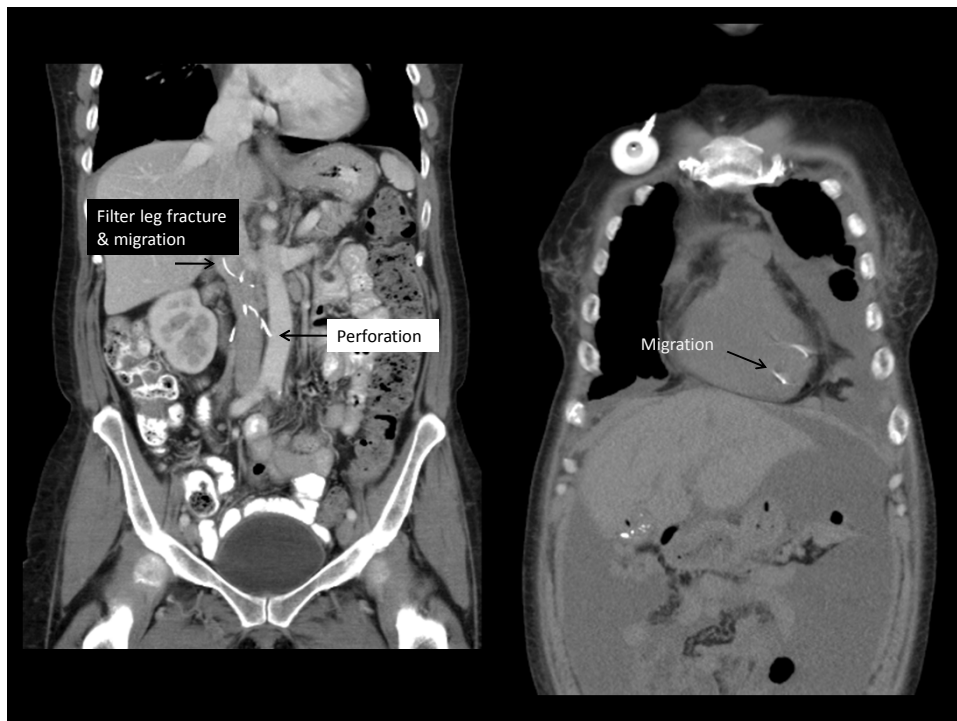


## Purpose

- In the past decade, optional inferior vena cava filters have been introduced and become widely utilized
- Optional filters are designed to be either retrieved or left indwelling as permanent devices

## Purpose

- Some optional filters have an inferior long term safety profile compared to permanent devices
- Complications such as filter migration, caval thrombosis, and filter fracture appear to be cumulative and increase over time
- Therefore, retrieval of optional filters is desirable



## Purpose

- We performed a continuous quality improvement project to establish the baseline retrieval rate of optional IVC filters in our practice and determine if a focused intervention of patient follow up could increase the retrieval rate

## Methods

- The electronic radiology report database was queried to identify all patients who received a retrievable IVC filter over a 5 month period
- The baseline retrieval rate was calculated
- Then, the patients and/or referring physicians were contacted and appropriate patients were seen in IR clinic
- If indicated, the filter was retrieved

Results					
Month	Total No. of Filters Inserted	Baseline Retrieval	Follow-Up	Not Candidate for Retrieval	Additional F/U for Retrieval
August	10	2	7	5	2
September	12	0	12	7	5
October	11	5	6	5	1
November	14	1	10	8	2
December	35	5	26	21	5
Total	82	13	61	46	15

## Results

- Baseline retrieval rate 16% (13/82)
- Fifteen (25% of the follow up cohort) patients were deemed candidates for filter retrieval and all had their filters removed
- Following our intervention, the retrieval rate was 34% (28/82)

## Conclusion

- Direct and indirect patient follow up increased IVC filter retrieval rate
- In many cases, neither patients nor their referring physicians were aware that indwelling optional filter retrieval was indicated
- We have instituted a routine 3 month follow up IR clinic appointment for all patients



Scene: 2

Patient information is entered and an appointment is automatically generated

RIGHT  
SELECT IVC FILTER

FLUORO 15  
ANGIO DSA

**Patient Follow-Up Request**

MRN#  Age: 50yrs Gender: M

Prior Imaging:  Modality: XA Study: 10/11/2012 15:50:36 Slice#: 3/1

Call back in:  Months Reason for Exam: IVC FILTER Section: Body R Type of Exam: IVC Filter Removal

Questions or comments, please contact us by e-mail: 400111234@radiology.kaiser Permanente