Reviewer’s report

Title: Severe renal bleeding caused by a ruptured renal sheath: Case report of a rare complication of percutaneous nephrolithotomy.

Authors:

Murat Y Ugras (mugras35@yahoo.com)
Ali Gunes (gunesali@yahoo.com)
Can Y Baydinc (cbaydinc@inonu.edu.tr)

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Reviewer: Prof Jens Rassweiler

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

This is an interesting case report of an unusual complication following PCNL. However, there are some issues to be taken into consideration.

1. The paper should be checked for typing errors (i.e. theraphy, urinalysis, etc.)
2. The paper should include a Discussion: What was the main problem, why did this happen, how to avoid?

The main problem was not related to the "sharp edges of the fragments" but to the misrelationship of fragment versus sheath size. This fragment would have required more intracorporeal lithotripsy. On the other hand, the use of an ultrasound probe with evacuation of the fragments has the advantage, that such complications cannot occur.

Another similar complication when extracting too large fragments could be the dislodgement of the sheath. Of course, one advantage of the Amplatz-sheath compared to metal sheath (Karl Storz) is the fact that this sheath is compressible and may allow extraction of larger fragments, if placed properly.

One problem is really to determine the size that still allows extraction of a fragment, which of course is less time-consuming.
3. The case report can be shorten with respect to patient’s history.
4. The case report should be structured.
5. How did the authors managed to extract the sheath with a Foley catheter in place (was this a disconnectable catheter) ? Usually, the end of any catheter is too large to fit through a sheath.
6. How much was the volume the Foley catheter was blocked with (air or water?).
7. Discussion: see above
8. Conclusion: The Conclusion should include some advices developed in Discussion.

Competing interests:

None declared.