A 27-year-old female presented for exchange of a right subclavian PICC with a Hickman CVC. Following trans-jugular advancement of a guidewire, fluoroscopy revealed the guidewire to be looped around the right subclavian PICC. Given the location of the entanglement, a right common femoral vein approach was utilized to simplify access. Successful retrieval was accomplished by use of a Merit Medical ONE Snare® Endovascular Snare System, with the entangled PICC and guidewire being removed without complication.

Guidewires are a useful tool that allow for percutaneous introduction of placement catheters and various interventional devices. However, potential complications can result from guidewire use. Some complications include kinking, looping, or knotting of the guidewire, which typically occurs when persistent forward force is applied against a fixed resistance. Such complications can become further convoluted by entanglement of the guidewire around an existing intravascular device, creating a risk for a potential foreign body. We present a case detailing the consideration, approach, and technique used to retrieve a guidewire looped around a right subclavian PICC using the ONE Snare® Endovascular Snare System.

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Retrospective chart review was performed with special attention to medical interventions, imaging results, and overall clinical course.

Entanglement of a guidewire around an existing intravascular device is a potentially serious complication that can create risk for an intravascular foreign body. Appropriate suspicion and prompt recognition with fluoroscopic guidance is required to accurately recognize and treat this complication. Establishing a direct and simple retrieval approach is essential both to minimize further complications and to ensure successful retrieval. This case details the successful use of the Merit Medical ONE Snare® Endovascular Snare System in retrieval of a guidewire looped around a right subclavian PICC line.

References