

Radiation Injury from a Fluoroscopic Procedure



A 52-YEAR-OLD MAN UNDERWENT AN ABLATIVE PROCEDURE FOR SUPRA-ventricular arrhythmias, and a painful ulceration developed on the posterior surface of his right arm four months later. His arm had accidentally been positioned within the radiation field during the 10-hour procedure. The estimated dose of radiation was in the range of 1500 to 2000 cGy. After plastic surgery, the patient's ulceration healed, and his pain resolved. Soft-tissue injury can result from prolonged exposure to radiation during interventional fluoroscopic procedures. In contrast to injury from therapeutic irradiation, tissue injury sustained during fluoroscopy is often unrecognized or undertreated.

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