A 58-year-old male baseball coach with a prepectoral dual-chamber permanent pacemaker (Accent DR 2210; St. Jude Medical) implanted for sinus node dysfunction was evaluated for a pocket hematoma after he was hit by a baseball over the pacemaker. Data from the pacemaker showed normal atrial and ventricular capture, but both lead impedances were elevated (although still within the manufacturer’s normal limits). Brief episodes of noise were seen on the ventricular channel. The hematoma resolved, but 4 months later, the patient presented with dizziness and fatigue of 1 week’s duration. A chest radiograph did not reveal any lead or pacemaker generator abnormalities. Pacemaker data showed sequential atrial and ventricular pacing at 60 beats per minute (Figure A; marker, atrial, and ventricular channels). However, the right ventricular lead capture threshold was abnormal, and impedance had increased further. Simultaneous surface electrocardiography showed sinus bradycardia at 37 beats per minute (Figure A; channel 1). Opening the pocket revealed complete detachment of the pacemaker header from the rest of the generator (Figure B and C). The patient had significant subcutaneous adipose tissue (body mass index, 35.8 kg/m²). Symptoms subsided after the pacemaker generator was replaced.

Acknowledgments

Stephen N. Palmer, PhD, ELS, contributed to the editing of this manuscript.

Disclosures

None.

Key Words: bradycardia, sick sinus node syndrome | pacemaker

Figure. A, Simultaneous recording of surface electrocardiography and pacemaker marker, atrial, and ventricular channels. B, Complete detachment of the pacemaker header at pocket opening. C, Close-up view showing the line of fracture between the pacemaker header and the generator.
Fatigue Attributable to Broken Pacemaker Header by Baseball
Mihail Gabriel Chelu and Edward W. Leahey

Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2013;6:e77
doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.113.000615

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circep.ahajournals.org/content/6/5/e77

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology is online at:
http://circep.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/