Outcomes and Associated Factors in Malpractice Litigation Involving IVC Filters

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No Disclosures.

• IVC filters are a controversial focus of medical malpractice
• Little information exists regarding key issues and outcomes in litigation
• In this retrospective legal case review, we analyzed the factors associated with IVC filter malpractice

Objectives

Methods

Number of initial cases identified
310

Reasons for full-text exclusion

LexisNexis

Westlaw

Excluded

Fig. 1. Search methodology

Number of cases included in final analysis
201

Fig. 2. Defendant types named in lawsuits

Fig. 3. Most common indications for IVC filter placement
Results

- Patient death: 41.4% (12/29)
  - Most common indications for filter placement:
    - Trauma (33.3%, 4/12)
    - DVT (25%, 3/12)
- Verdicts: Defendant, 92.9% (13/14)
  - Most common indications for filter placement similarly were trauma (4/13, 30.8%) and DVT (3/13, 23.1%)

Limitations/Future Directions

- Limitations
  - Settlements
  - Pending litigation
- Future Directions
  - Inter-state variability?
  - Multi-district product liability actions
  - Other databases

Conclusions

- Analysis of malpractice cases involving IVC filters revealed key factors associated with litigation.
- Overall, verdicts favored defendants. Private practitioners were most commonly sued, and the most common reasons for bringing suit were failure to insert filter, intra-procedural complications, and failure to remove filter.
- Deeper awareness of issues related to malpractice litigation can inform clinical practice and improve patient care and safety.

Thank you.