Syncope in Dual chamber Pacemaker Patient due to Dis-engagement of Pin Connector: Simple Thing Big Impact

Timotius Sumampouw

Introduction: Syncope in a pacemaker patient is a serious symptom. It is rarely due a pacemaker system malfunction.

Methods: A 62 years-old man presented with a history of syncope after dual chamber permanent pacemaker replacement due to end of life. He was dependent pacemaker because of total AV block. Pacemaker interrogate within normal limit. Holter monitoring was performed and showed pacing rhythm with no episode of tachycardia or bradycardia event, CT Brain also revealed normal brain with minimal sub-galeal hemorrhagic due to head trauma. He was then sent home after careful evaluation. However, a few days later this patient came again with another syncope episode. Careful examination of the lead and generator using chest x-ray and fluoroscopy showed that the right ventricular (RV) lead pin was not fully engaged to the connector head.

Result: After re-engagement of RV lead to the connector head, this patient never complained of syncope again.

Conclusion: Disengagement of a lead tip from connector header is a rare condition and usually occurs during pacemaker replacement procedure. Careful check and re-check during procedure can prevent this event.