

Advanced techniques improve success rate of IVC filter removal to more than 98 percent

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The design of inferior vena cava (IVC) filters for pulmonary embolism prophylaxis, once used almost exclusively for permanent implantation, has progressed to retrievable designs. However, complications can create scenarios in which the routine filter retrieval is either extremely difficult or impossible.

The use of advanced retrieval techniques, such as loop-snare, "sandwich," stiff wire or balloon realignment, forceps retrieval and excimer laser sheath can raise the overall success rate above 98%.

"Implementation of IVC filters is increasing throughout the United States and is becoming a more routine procedure in the prevention of [pulmonary embolism](#) for patients in which anticoagulation is contraindicated," said Andrew Niekamp, MD, Wexner Medical Center at Ohio State University. "Long dwell times for these filters carry an increased risk of [complications](#), thus making retrieval a pivotal issue in their management."

The study is part of an electronic exhibit at the ARRS 2015 Annual Meeting in Toronto.

More information: [View the abstract](#)

Provided by American Roentgen Ray Society

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