

Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Subclavian artery and jugular vein rupture after a blunt thoracic trauma due to a BMX handlebar

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A 14-year-old BMX driver suffered a blunt trauma towards the lateral neck (Fig. 1). A computed tomography (CT) angiography revealed a dye stop in the left subclavian artery with collateral blood flow (Fig. 2). Interventional catheter-

isation revealed a rupture. However, no peripheral pulse deficit was evident, and, therefore, no immediate vascular surgery was performed.



Fig. 1. Blunt trauma by the steering gear of a BMX bicycle in a 14-year-old boy.



Fig. 2. Three-dimensional reformation of a CT angiography revealing a dye stop of the proximal left subclavian artery before the origin of the vertebral artery with collateral blood flow through the vertebral artery and additional flow beyond the resolution of the CT angiography, and a fracture of the first left rib. Follow-up ultrasound revealed a regular flow pattern and no false aneurysm as well as no signs of a subclavian steal syndrome.

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