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Expect the Unexpected: A Rare Complication of Cervical Thoracic Duct Ligation

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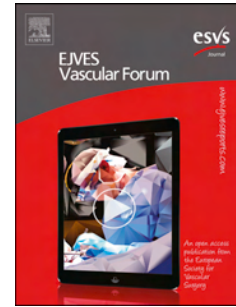
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1 **Expect the Unexpected: A Rare Complication of** 2 **Cervical Thoracic Duct Ligation**

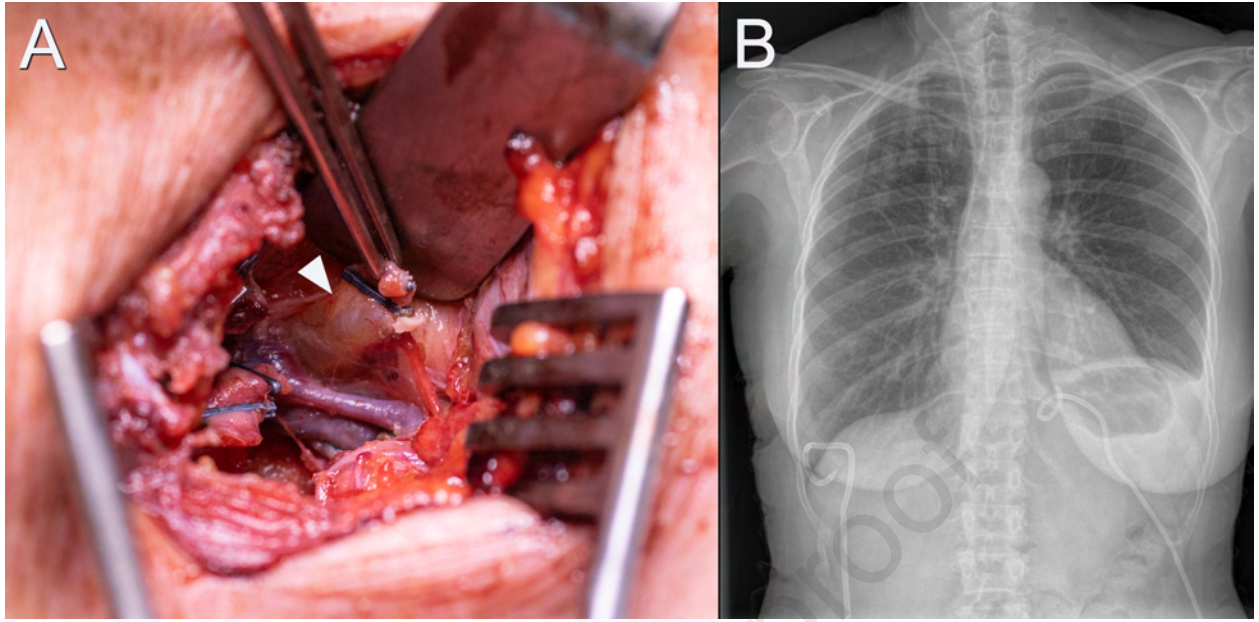
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8 A 63 year old female patient presents with dyspnoea and bilateral pleural effusions on the
9 third post-operative day after excision of a left C8 neurinoma in proximity to the vertebral
10 artery. The supraclavicular approach to the proximal vertebral artery required identification
11 and ligation of the thoracic duct near its termination at the subclavian vein (A). Diagnostic
12 and therapeutic pleural drainages (B) revealed abundant opalescent fluid. Bilateral
13 chylothorax is an exceedingly rare complication that vascular surgeons should be aware of,
14 possibly resulting from acute increase in lymphatic hydrostatic pressure. Conservative
15 management with one week of parenteral nutrition ensured benign evolution of the
16 condition.



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