Watch Out for...

Epidural Filter Disconnections

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What Happened?

- A patient was admitted to Critical Care with an epidural for post-op analgesia.
- The filter became disconnected at the screw collar between the filter and the yellow epidural catheter connector.
- The epidural had to be removed, making pain control more difficult.

The Facts:

- Our epidural catheter sets can self-loosen and become disconnected at the join between the filter and the yellow catheter connector.
- If the system becomes disconnected, the epidural is considered unsterile and needs to be removed (timing of thrombo-prophylaxis permitting).

Protect Your Patients:

- When caring for patient with epidurals, ensure all connectors remain fully tightened.
- If not done already, use the Acute Pain Team method to secure connectors – by making a “sandwich” between two occlusive dressings, then taping securely to the patient.