



Mind the Tube:

Endotracheal Tube Placement in Prone Renal Ablation: An Overlooked Risk?

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AIM

Endotracheal (ET) tube (ET) malposition can lead to significant complications, particularly in patients undergoing CT-guided renal ablation in the prone position. This audit evaluates:

- The frequency of ET tube malposition in this patient group
- The role of scannogram in detecting such malpositions

METHODS

- **Study Design:** Retrospective audit
- **Timeframe:** November 2023 – November 2024
- **Patients:** 117 total; 1 excluded due to non-diagnostic scannogram
- **Final Sample:** 116 patients
- **Definition of Malposition:** ET tube placement <3 cm from carina or in a bronchus
- **Assessment Tool:** Scannogram (when performed)

RESULTS

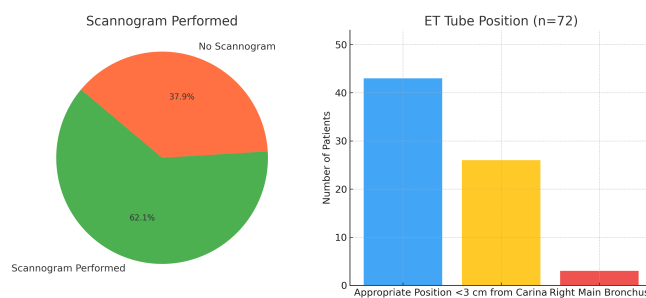
Scannogram Use:

- Performed in 72/116 (62%)
- Not performed in 44/116 (38%)

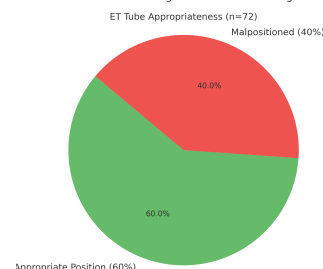
ET Tube Position (among those with scannogram):

- Appropriate in 43/72 (60%)
- Inappropriate in 29/72 (40%)
 - Right main bronchus: 3 cases
 - <3 cm from carina: 26 cases

ET Tube Scannogram Audit Results



ET Tube Position Among Patients with Scannogram



CONCLUSIONS

- 40% malposition in scanned patients
- Scannogram is underutilised but provides a quick and effective check

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Incorporate routine scannogram prior to renal ablation to enhance patient safety
- Early detection = safer airway management

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- 👁️ If you can't see the tube clearly, don't assume it's in the right place.
- 🛏️ Positioning matters, especially when patients are in prone position.
- 👊 A 3-second scannogram could save a life