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PAPER 2: MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS

TOPIC: THERAPEUTIC MISADVENTURE



- *A misadventure is mischance or accident or disaster.*
- *Misadventure is of 3 types :*
- *Therapeutic (When treatment is being given)*
- *Diagnostic (Where diagnosis only is the objective at the time)*
- *Experimental (where the patient has agreed to serve as a subject in an experimental study)*
- *Therapeutic misadventure is a case in which an individual has been injured or had died due to some intentional act by a doctor or agent of the doctor or hospital.*



- *Almost every therapeutic drug and every therapeutic procedure can cause death.*
- *Injection of serum , antibiotics etc., may cause anaphylaxis in sensitive persons*
- *A physician is not liable for injuries resulting from adverse reaction to drug unless some negligence on his part contributed to cause the injury*
- *Ignorance of the possibility of a reactions or continuation in the prescribing of a drug with adverse reaction amounts to negligence.*



- *While prescribing a drug that has adverse side effects the doctor must be certain that the prescribed drug was the proper one for the disease.*
- *If there is any other drug which would be effective in treating the disease and is likely to cause an allergic reactions it should be prescribed*
- *The doctor should particularly tell a patient of possible drowsiness or similar accident producing reaction caused by many drugs..,some eg are:*
- *Hypersensitivity reaction - sometimes serious or fatal may be caused by penicillin , aspirin etc.*



- *Radiological procedures used for diagnostic purposes may prove fatal eg: Traumatic rupture of the rectum and chemical peritonitis during barium enema*
- *Prolonged use of stiboesterol may cause breast cancer*
- *Electrical equipment, hot water pads, and heating pads may produce burns*
- *Foetal and neonatal deaths in utero may occur from drugs administered to the mother during pregnancy eg : serpasil, iodipides, synthetic vitamin k, thiazide diuretics etc...*
- *Blood transfusion may cause serious or fatal complications from bleeding, resulting from hemolytic*



reaction due to hypofibrinogenemia, hypothyrombinaemia, and thrombocytopenia.

- Other complications are haemosiderosis, viral hepatitis, hyperkalaemia and hypocalcemia*
- Excessive administration of an antidote to a poisoned patient, may cause death.*

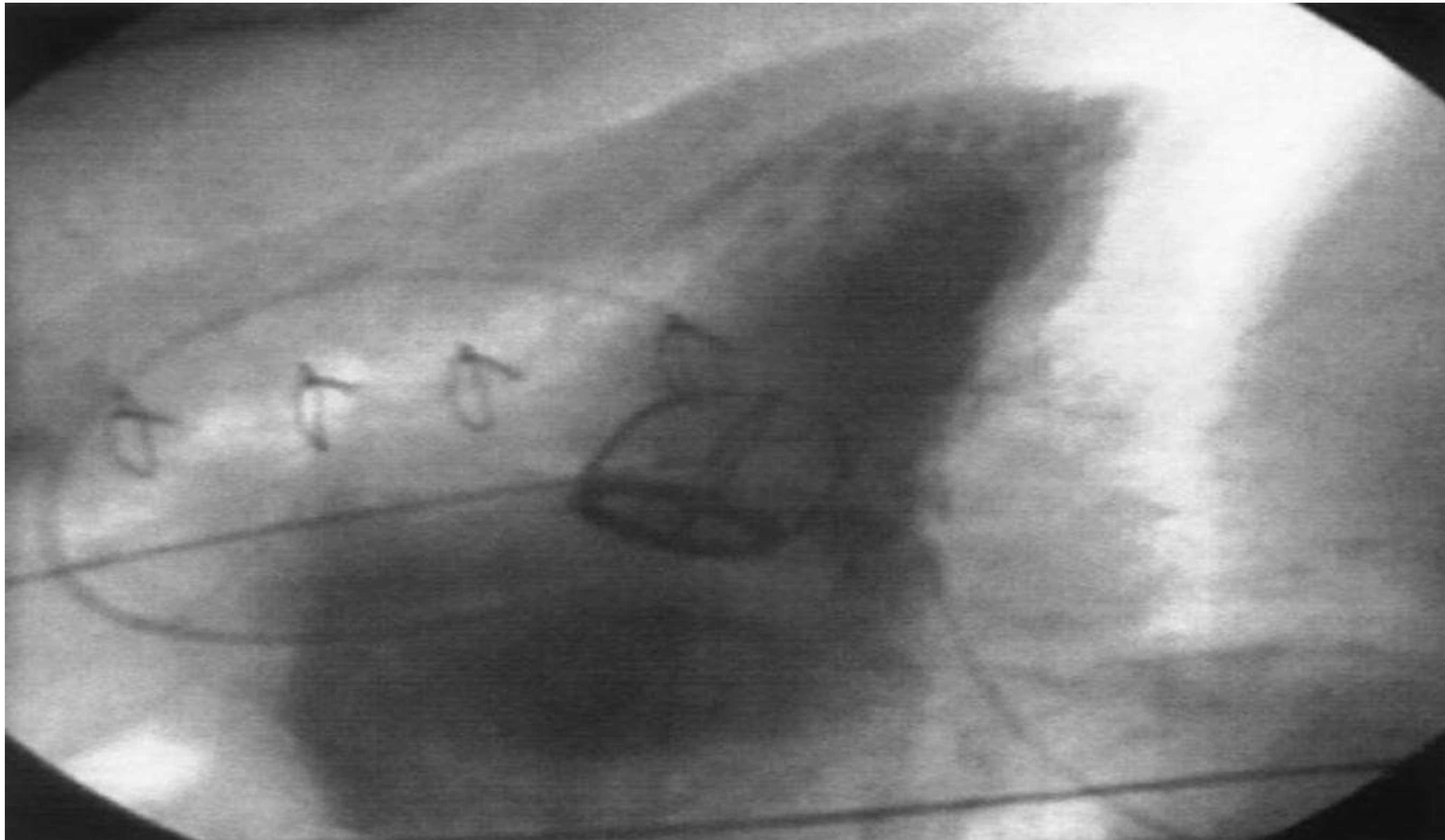


Neoplasia induced by medical treatment:

- It is difficult to prove a cause and affect relationship between the therapy and trauma*
- Chlornaphazine and phenactin may cause urinary tract carcinoma*
- Contraceptive steriods can cause adenomas of the liver in females, and if continued unintentionally during pregnancy the infant may develop a benign liver tumour*
- To avoid a therapeutic misadventure in prescribing drugs the following points should be noted.*



- *Before prescribing any drug known to cause any adverse reaction the doctor should make a reasonable effort to determine if any adverse reaction, the doctor should make reasonable effort to determine if any adverse reaction is likely to occur*
- *Sensitivity tests should be done before injecting preparations which are likely to produce anaphylactic shock*
- *The doctor should warn the patient of side effects which may occur while he is taking the drug.*
- *The doctor should inform the patient about the possibilities of permanent side effects.*





THANK YOU