A 77-year-old man observed abdominal swelling 7 months after epicardial implantation of an automatic implantable defibrillator. He applied an elastic belt to minimize motion of the generator within the pocket and within 2 months noted urinary frequency and rectal fullness. Attempts to locate the generator by palpation and interrogation were unsuccessful. A flat plate of the abdomen (Figure) demonstrated migration of the generator to the superior aspect of the bladder.

Surgical exploration revealed a 5×5-cm abdominal wall defect with herniation of small bowel into the generator pocket. The generator had migrated through the hernia defect and into the pelvis. The bowel was reduced back into the peritoneum, and the generator was delivered into its intended pocket with repair of the abdominal wall defect. Normal function of the defibrillator system was confirmed.

Fig 1. Radiograph of kidney and upper bladder revealing abnormal en face position of the defibrillator generator within the pelvis on the superior aspect of the bladder.
Images in cardiovascular medicine. Implantable defibrillator generator migration.
A H Dougherty and D Wolbrette

Circulation. 1994;90:1557
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.90.3.1557

Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 1994 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/90/3/1557.citation

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/