

## Case Report

# Medial migration of the intramedullary Gamma 3 nail – a case report<sup>☆</sup>



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### ABSTRACT

Intertrochanteric femur fractures are very common in patients over 65 years old, and are often associated with osteoporosis. Proximal femoral nails are preferred because of their biomechanical advantages in the treatment of these fractures, especially if the fracture is unstable. However, many complications associated with intramedullary fracture fixation have been described. The medial migration of the intramedullary gamma nail is a rare complication. The authors report an uncommon but potentially fatal complication, medial and intrapelvic migration of the intramedullary Gamma 3 nails, recorded after one month of osteosynthesis. This article aims to alert the orthopedic community to this rare complication, which may present a high risk of morbidity and mortality.

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## Migração medial do cravo céfálico de dispositivo céfalomedular Gamma 3 – Relato de caso

### RESUMO

#### Palavras-chave:

Fraturas do quadril

Pinos ortopédicos

Parafusos ósseos

As fraturas intertrocantéricas do fêmur proximal são muito comuns em pacientes acima de 65 anos, por estarem muitas vezes associadas à osteoporose. A fixação do fêmur proximal com dispositivos céfalomedulares, pelas suas vantagens biomecânicas, constitui o tratamento preferencial, especialmente no tratamento das fraturas instáveis. Várias complicações associadas com a fixação céfalomedular tipo Gamma desse tipo de fraturas foram descritas na literatura, a migração medial do cravo céfálico é uma complicação excepcionalmente singular. Os autores relatam uma complicação incomum mas potencialmente

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fatal, a migração medial intrapélvica do cravo cefálico do dispositivo intramedular Gamma 3, verificada após um mês da osteossíntese. Este trabalho aspira a despertar a comunidade ortopédica para essa rara complicação, a qual pode apresentar alto risco de morbidade e mortalidade.

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## Introduction

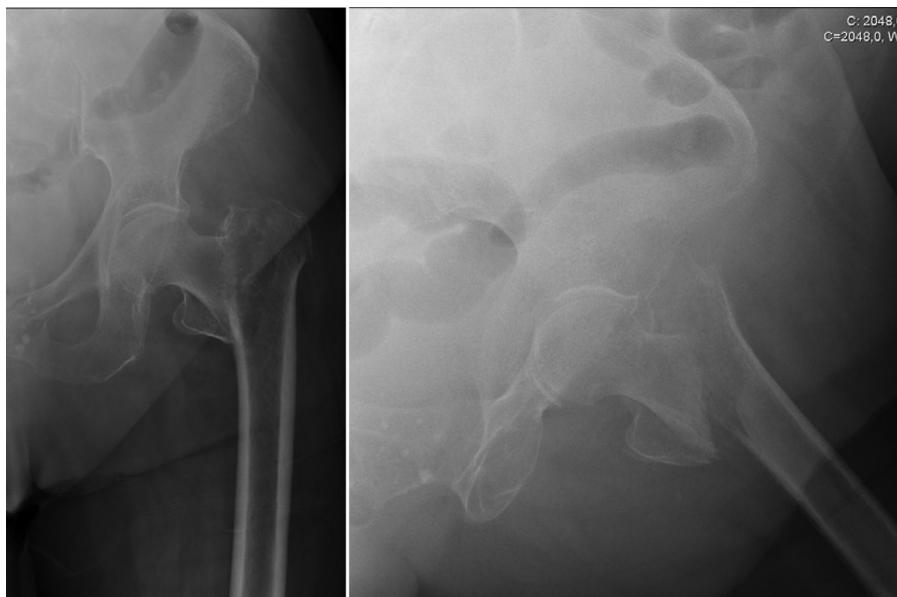
Intertrochanteric fractures of the proximal femur are very common in patients over 65 years, and are often associated with osteoporosis.<sup>1-3</sup>

These are extracapsular fractures, whose treatment generally consists of osteosynthesis with intramedullary (cephalomedullary) nail with more evident indication in

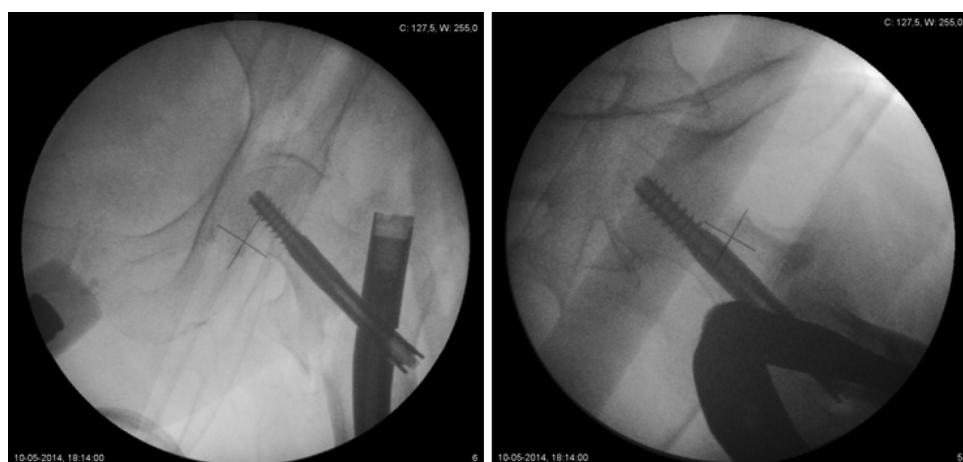
unstable fractures, but also indicated in stable fractures) or extramedullary implant (plate and sliding screw, in stable fractures).<sup>4,5</sup>

Cephalomedullary nailing of the proximal femur is the preferred treatment especially for unstable fractures nailing of the proximal femur, due to its biomechanical advantages.<sup>6-9</sup>

However, various complications associated with intramedullary fixation of this type of fracture have been described; cut-out of the cephalic screw is one of the most



**Fig. 1 – Radiograph disclosing an intertrochanteric fracture.**



**Fig. 2 – The patient underwent closed reduction and osteosynthesis with cephalomedullary screw and nail Gamma3 Stryker 130°; intraoperative radiography of the hip, anteroposterior and lateral views.**

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