

Surgical Technique and Chylothorax Following Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting

The Editor,

We have read with great interest the article by Waikar *et al.*^[1] and we have to congratulate them for their successful result. The aim of our brief comment is to highlight the key points for the prevention and treatment of this complication.

According to our experience, we suggest that the surgeon should maximize the left internal mammary artery conduit's length at the proximal end of the pedicle.^[2] Damage to lymphatic channels during LIMA harvesting by electrocautery as already stated by the authors is the main destructive mechanism. Another probable cause is the division of the thymus gland and damage to the thymic lymphatic channels by electrocautery, in cases like aortic or mitral valve replacement when LIMA is not involved. Conservative treatment should start immediately upon diagnosis and almost always eliminates the need for surgical intervention.^[3]

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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