

Bilateral Implanted Radiofrequency Identification Chips: VI Lu, (MDc, SOM), CD Strickland, MD.

Purpose: Radiofrequency identification (RFID) chip implantation is increasing in the context of the growing body-hacking movement. Awareness of RFID chips' radiographic appearance has yet to catch up with a new clinical reality. Radiologists and hand surgeons should be aware of this practice and of relevant radiographic findings

Methods: We present a case study on a 31-year-old male who presented for RFID chip revision in the right hand after chip migration into an interosseous muscle, resulting in device malfunction.

Results: Posteroanterior and lateral hand radiographs were obtained on the patient, demonstrating chip migration into the interosseous musculature and providing a clear example of radiographic findings of implanted RFID chips. The patient underwent successful chip revision.

Conclusion: It is important these RFID devices not be mistaken for post-traumatic retained foreign bodies. While some implant devices with RFID tags may safely undergo MRI based on formal safety testing, peer-reviewed literature on RFID chip safety and impact on image quality is scant, and MRI should be performed with precaution.