

2nd Edition of International Summit on Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders July 21-22, 2026 | Vienna, Austria



Min Ho Park, Hee Won Ryu

Department of Surgery, Chonnam National University Hwasun Hospital & Chonnam National University Medical School, Hwasun-eup, Jeollanam-do, Korea

Retained drainage tube fragment after thyroidectomy presenting as a palpable neck mass: a case report

A retained drainage tube fragment after surgery is a rare complication with potentials for medical dispute. We report the case of a retained drainage tube fragment in the anterior neck following conventional thyroid surgery. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of its kind. A 61-year-old female patient who was found to have a retained Penrose drainage tube after thyroid surgery for a papillary thyroid cancer. The retained tube was detected 18 months after surgery presenting as a palpable neck mass. Neck ultrasonography revealed a hypoechoic lesion with tubular-shaped parallel hyperechoic lines, suggesting a retained drain tube. The lateral soft tissue neck radiograph demonstrated a radio-opaque drain tube in the anterior neck. The fragment of a Penrose drainage tube was neglected first, and then detected as a palpable neck mass 18 months after surgery. Removal of the drainage tube fragment was performed under local anesthesia. After the surgery, the operation site healed without any complications. Although drainage procedure is regarded to be easy, there can be associated complications including retained drain, bleeding, infection, or cosmetic problem. So, clinicians should be aware of rare complications associated with Penrose drainage tubes after thyroidectomy and perform this procedure carefully and gently to avoid them.

Keywords: Postoperative complications, Drainage, Thyroidectomy

Biography

Min Ho Park is a Professor in the Department of Surgery at Chonnam National University Medical School and serves as Director of the Department of Endocrine Surgery at Chonnam National University Hwasun Hospital. He earned both his M.D. and Ph.D. in Medical Science from Chonnam National University, building a strong academic and clinical foundation in endocrine surgery. Since 2014, he has led advancements in endocrine surgical care, while his professorship, established in 2021, reflects his commitment to medical education and research. Dr. Park also expanded his global expertise as a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Medical School, particularly at the Center for Molecular Imaging at BIDMC. His contributions have been widely recognized through multiple awards, including Best Investigator Awards from the Korean Surgical Society and honors from international surgical forums. His research interests include thyroid and breast surgery, molecular imaging, and improving surgical outcomes in endocrine disorders.