If patient becomes symptomatic or if patient prefers surgery

**Expectant management w/ patient follow-up**

***SYMPTOMS****: infection, bleeding, pressure effects (e.g., pain)*

**IMPACTED EPIDURAL CATHETER**

Symptomatic

Asymptomatic

Catheter not protruding through skin

Catheter protruding through skin

**Imaging studies & surgery**

*-coiled or looped  
-entrapped (e.g., facet joint)  
-no apparent mechanism*

Catheter broken

**Surgery**

**Surgery**

Catheter intact

Unsuccessful

Successful

Attempt retrieval with gentle traction on epidural catheter in multiple positions over several episodes

Imaging studies

**Finished**

Successful

Attempt retrieval with gentle traction on epidural catheter in multiple positions over several episodes

Unsuccessful