Spatial Illusion Revealing “Shrinking” Stent

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An 89-year-old man presented with a several month history of intermittent claudication. Angiography showed diffuse stenosis in the right superficial femoral artery (Picture 1A). After suboptimal dilation with dissections by en-
A nitril stent (6 mm in diameter and 100 mm in length) was implanted in the distal portion of the superficial femoral artery. Subsequent angiography showed good results without dissection (Picture 1C, dotted line) but an intriguing image of the implanted stent was immediately recognized with reference to the operating table movement. The proximal end of the stent was moving toward the number 3 on the scale (Picture 2A to G, triangles) whereas the distal end of the stent maintained a certain distance from the lower end of the femur (Picture 2A to G, asterisks), as if the length of the stent is shrunk. This phenomenon is explained by the spatial position relationship between objects and radiation generator; an object located close to a radiation source is visualized with more displacement on shifting radiation generator (Picture 3, asterisk). Practitioners should take this phenomenon into consideration especially when determining the stent length or positioning devices during the procedure.

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