STATE-OF-THE-ART IMAGING OF THE PERIPHERAL VASCULATURE

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BACKGROUND: PAOD is a clinical diagnosis, the clinical Rutherford classification is based on walking impairment and the extent of ischemic ulceration. However, the complete delineation of the peripheral vascular tree is mandatory for treatment decision and planning according to the TASC guidelines (1). For long time, digital subtraction angiography was considered the gold standard due to its high temporal and spatial resolution. However, DSA is an invasive procedure requiring intra-arterial application of contrast agents, with an associated risk of complications (2) and the exposure of both patients and observers to ionizing radiation. Thus, MR angiography and CT angiography have been developed over the last 20 years in an effort to replace DSA for diagnostic purposes and to limit its application to therapeutic procedures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This course will provide you with an overview of MRA and CTA of the peripheral arteries with special emphasis on their capabilities and limitations as well as most recent technical developments (3-5). The following issues will be covered:

- Volume coverage
- Spatial resolution
- Acquisition time
- Accurate and fast image post-processing
- Patient safety
- Cost efficiency

Recent Publications

Biography
Ruediger Schernthaner is an expert in cardiovascular imaging. He has been developing CT angiography reformation techniques in collaboration with the Technical University of Vienna and the Stanford Medical Center for more than 10 years. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed publications in the field of cardiovascular imaging and interventional oncology and authored the chapter "Management of Peripheral Arterial Disease" in the book "Managing Cardiovascular Complications in Diabetes".

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