CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY

Basic Views

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Introduction

Coronary arteriography remains the gold standard for identifying the presence and/or severity of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease, aiding decision–making with regards to appropriateness of coronary interventions. It involves the selective injection of a radiopaque contrast agent directly into a coronary artery.

Coronary angiography has undergone major transformation ever since its inception by Dr. F. Mason Sones Jr. in 1959. Currently there are a variety of approaches utilizing multiple safer catheters and more convenient access sites, such as the radial approach, allowing earlier recovery and discharge with a lower incidence of vascular complications.

Patient evaluation with regards to suitability of cardiac catheterization, in addition to the skill and knowledge of the basic techniques of vascular access, catheter advancement and coronary engagement remain the cornerstone for the performance of a safe coronary angiogram. These are beyond the scope of this review; we will concentrate on interpretation of the basic angiographic views.

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RCA: LAO Straight

Conus

RCA

PLVB

AMB

PDA
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RCA: AP - LAO Cranial

Conus
RCA
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[Image of coronary angiography showing RCA, Conus, PLVB, AMB, and PDA]
LV Gram: RAO Cranial

Anterobasal

Anterior

Inferobasal

Inferior

Apical

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LV Gram: LAO Cranial

Basal septal

Basal lateral

Apical septal

Apical lateral

Apex