Angioscopy in diagnosis and management of arterial disorders (an experimental study)

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Master (Msc) Thesis, 2005

Abstract

The role of intraoperative angioscopy continues to evolve. Angioscopy is now a valuable adjunct in the management of the patient with peripheral vascular disease. Endoscopic visualization of the blood vessels offers the vascular surgeon the promise of unsurpassed diagnostic accuracy. The direct three-dimensional image obtained with angioscopy provides more information on luminal morphology than either contrast arteriography or intravascular ultrasound. Advances in fiberoptic technology have today made angioscopy, which was once only an investigational device, an important diagnostic and therapeutic tool for the vascular surgeon in the management of peripheral vascular disease. The most well-established indication for angioscopy is preparation of the saphenous vein for in situ bypass (vein evaluation for effective valvotomy). Angioscopies are used for assessment of vascular anastomoses, diagnosis and management in peripheral arterial thromboembolism, assessment of vascular trauma, guidance of arterial dilatation and the use of angioscope to guide stent deployment.

Keywords

Angioscopy, Vascular endoscope, Endovascular instruments,