

Review Articles

Transradial Approach for Heart Catheterization

Iva N. Dimitrova^{1}, Georgi Kotov², Alexandar Iliev², Boycho Landzhov²*

¹ *Department of Cardiology, University Hospital "St. Ekaterina", Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria*

² *Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria*

* Corresponding author e-mail: dimitrova@yahoo.com

Over the last decade, the transradial approach has become the preferred method for heart catheterization during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Compared to the more traditional transfemoral approach, it has significant advantages, including easier hemostasis, lower vascular complications (such as bleeding, thrombosis, fistulas and pseudoaneurysm), reduced hospital stay and improved healthcare costs. Nevertheless, it still poses significant challenges, such as smaller diameter and limitations on catheter size, longer procedure times, longer learning curve and variability of the artery. Several studies, however, point out that transradial approach failures and procedure times depend on the experience of the operator and are no different than those for the transfemoral approach once operators become proficient enough.

Key words: radial artery, transradial approach, heart catheterization