

MASTERING DIAGNOSTIC CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAPHY

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Cerebral angiography has remain the gold standard investigation in the evaluation of intracranial pathology e.g. aneurysm, arteriovenous malformation (AVM) and dural arteriovenous fistula (DAVF). This is mainly due to the ability to deliver a good bolus of contrast via catheter placed in already an arterial system via manual hand injection or automated injector. Thus there is no issue of contrast dilution, venous contamination, false registration and other limitation associated with the use of computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study the intra or extracranial vessels.

Understanding the normal neurovascular anatomy and its variant, sound knowledge of materials used e.g types of diagnostic catheter and guidewires, awareness of the complication that might arise and how to manage them are some of the ingredients in becoming a master to perform cerebral angiography.

Challenges and tips on how to overcome them, complications and how to manage them will be discussed highlighting access, device choice and outcome.