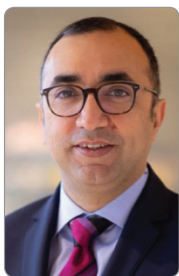


Learn the Technique



The focus of *Cardiac Interventions Today* has always been on providing brief, practical, and readable reviews on important topics written by experts in the field so that the busy physician would have a resource that could be used to quickly remain updated on important and topical issues in interventional cardiology.

In this issue, we have decided to take a slightly different approach and concentrate an entire focus on learning important techniques in intervention. This has been based on the success of the Techniques articles we introduced into some of our regular issues last year. We have chosen techniques and approaches that we believe could be learned from reading a short article, often accompanied by a short video. Furthermore, we have tried to choose techniques that would be useful both to fellows and experienced interventionalists. The basis of interventional cardiology is the continued improvement in our techniques and approaches and how we use devices to improve both the success and safety of the procedures that we perform. In this issue, we are fortunate to have a group of experienced and talented interventional cardiologists who agreed to teach us a technique and/or approach that they use regularly.

To start our Learn the Technique focus, Tarek A. Hammad, MD, and Mehdi H. Shishehbor, DO, detail how to perform the crossover technique and discuss anatomic considerations and potential complications.

Jun-Jie Zhang, MD, and Shao-Liang Chen, MD, then provide a step-by-step description of the DK crush technique and review the materials required and technical tips to perform the technique.

In a discussion of using coils to treat a coronary perforation, Roberto Garbo, MD, and Mario Iannaccone, MD, explain how the block and deliver technique can be used successfully.

Farrell Hellig, BSc, MBBCh, FCP(SA), FSCAI, et al explore the dos and don'ts of guide catheter extensions and the practicalities of their effective and safe application in the cath lab.

Dimitrios Bliagos, MD, reviews the most commonly used techniques for managing balloon-uncrossable coronary lesions.

Intravascular lithotripsy can be used to modify calcified coronary artery disease. Anja Øksnes, MD, and Margaret McEntegart, MD, PhD, present how to use the Shockwave coronary Rx lithotripsy system.

Duane S. Pinto, MD, reviews the steps and devices necessary to achieve a successful postclosure of large-bore access.

To close our Learn the Technique coverage, Pooja M. Swamy, MD, Rajiv Tayal, MD, and Amir Kaki, MD, explain percutaneous transaxillary access and how alternate access can be crucial for certain types of procedures.

Our COVID-19 coverage continues with Jose M. de la Torre Hernandez, MD, and colleagues sharing the lessons learned in Spain about COVID-19 and rebooting interventional cardiology after the first wave. Then, Donald (Buck) Cross, MD, and Kelly Bemis, RN, BSN, present their experience in navigating coronary procedures in an ambulatory surgery center during the COVID-19 era.

In our Today's Practice column, Joel Sauer, MBA, and Ginger Biesbrock, PA-C, MPH, MPAS, AACC, review recent MedAxiom reports and offer insights on compensation trends for cardiovascular providers and advanced practice providers, as well as an early look at how COVID-19 has impacted practices.

We close our issue by interviewing Nicolas Van Mieghem, MD, who discusses cardiovascular trials in the COVID-19 era, cerebral embolic protection, three-dimensional modeling, and more.

We truly hope that you will find this issue as exciting and interesting as we did when putting it together. I certainly learned some important practical lessons from reading and editing these articles that I will start applying in my daily practice. All these techniques and previously published ones, along with their videos, can be found on our website. As always, we welcome your feedback via email or social media. In particular, we would like to know your thoughts on this new technique section as well as if there are any techniques that you would like to see us cover in the future. We certainly hope that at least with one of these techniques will help you improve the outcomes of your patients. ■

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