

# Embolization: Means, Methods, and Mastery



It is not hyperbole to say that life as we know it has changed drastically between the time we began planning this edition of *Endovascular Today* and the final days of its production.

The workplaces, practice patterns, and family lives of every author and reader of this edition have been profoundly affected as we've tried to distance ourselves and our patients from a deadly pandemic, the likes of which we have not encountered in modern times. Ordinarily, all concerns related to safety center on that of the patient. Now, we must also be focused on our own, as well as that of our team members and the families we return to after our work is done.

We are grateful for the hard work of the esteemed experts who contributed to this feature on embolization despite this abrupt upheaval of daily life. Each author was approached prior to the virus becoming the dominant force in our daily lives, and by the time we concluded our final edits, much of the world was living under significant restrictions and practicing under a cloud of concern for their own safety. We are fortunate and grateful for their dedication in sharing their expertise during this challenging time.

Embolization therapies encompass an increasingly broad range of procedures and device options. When designing this issue of *Endovascular Today*, we aimed for a practical guide to selecting the optimal materials for common procedures, with tips and tricks for how to achieve optimal outcomes.

To open our feature, Tiago Bilhim, MD, reviews technical tips, available devices, and embolic agents used for prostate artery embolization for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms associated with benign

prostatic hyperplasia. Next, John T. Cardella, MD, and Emil I. Cohen, MD, share their center's algorithm for treating gastrointestinal bleeding and review the available embolic agents for embolization of the site of hemorrhage.

Zlatko Devcic, MD, and Beau B. Toskich, MD, provide a survey of embolization options for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and describe their general approach. Then, Claire Kaufman, MD, describes currently applicable embolic materials and provides her tips and tricks to performing uterine fibroid embolization. Oleksandra Kutsenko, MD, and Gloria Salazar, MD, explain that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for patients with pelvic venous disorders, outlining the variants and providing their techniques for treatment.

Next, Fabrizio Fanelli, MD, and Gianmarco Falcone, MD, review the embolization access approaches and available materials for embolization of type I and type II endoleaks. Finally, Erika Kashef, MBBS, and Mohamad Hamady, MBChB, describe the key considerations for procedural planning and endovascular options for treating visceral artery aneurysms.

While we are not sure exactly when life will return to something resembling normalcy—and a “new normal” is likely even then—we believe you will find the content of this edition remains useful and applicable and is a welcome reminder that life will go on after COVID-19. Perhaps when this edition arrives in your mailbox or inbox, we will have begun to see a glimmer of light at the end of this tunnel.

In closing, to our colleagues who have lost family members, coworkers, or friends, we offer our deepest sympathy and well wishes. ■

Theresa Caridi, MD  
Robert Morgan, MD  
Guest Chief Medical Editors