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Is Catheter Angiography Still Necessary for the Follow-Up of Spinal Malformations after Treatment?

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Is Catheter Angiography Still Necessary for the Follow-Up of Spinal Malformations after Treatment?

We read the recently published paper by Mathur et al¹ regarding the most appropriate technique to follow-up patients treated for spinal malformations, particularly dural fistula, and they propose to do this by MRA.

In our hospital, we follow-up these pathologies by MRA, and conventional angiography is performed only when there is a radioclinical discrepancy.

We understand the paper has limitations due to being a retrospective study; however, we have the following remarks:

- We believe the use of high field significantly improves the quality of MRA, particularly because of the size of the vessels.^{2,3}
- The use of contrast medium with vascular remnant⁴ or a doubly concentrated contrast medium for dynamic sequences also improves the identification of lesions and allows better analysis of these lesions.
- Performing MIP and MPR reconstructions improves the accuracy of diagnosis.

Finally, we think that it is important to standardize the follow-up of these pathologies, as far as the type and quantity of contrast medium and type of field used. Although these pathologies are

not frequent, most of them are curable, and they can cause considerable deficits with tremendous impact on the daily life of patients if not treated.

Disclosures: Zsolt Kulcsar—UNRELATED: Consultancy: Stryker Neurovascular, Balt.

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