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Imaging for diabetic arteriopathy

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Abstract

Introduction: Peripheral vascular disease commonly referred to as peripheral arterial disease (PAD) or peripheral arterial occlusive disease refers to obstruction of the arteries of the extremities. Since atherosclerosis of the lower extremities is a major pathology for systemic atherosclerotic diseases, these patients are at increased risk for systemic morbidity. Acute peripheral arterial occlusions usually involve the infrainguinal segment. The essence of atherosclerotic disease lies in intraluminal stenosis, impeding blood circulation and causing acute thrombosis. Emboli usually lodge at bifurcations, but may also involve arterial segments, resulting in turbulent distal flow and impaired tissue perfusion. This disease is an independent risk factor for vascular disease in other regions, resulting in an increased chance of cardiovascular events and increased mortality. It negatively affects the functional condition of the limbs, causing a decrease in the quality of life. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of MDCT angiography and colour Doppler ultrasonography in the diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease of the lower limbs.

Materials and Methods: This prospective observational study included 142 diabetic patients who presented with diabetic foot vascular lesions in the Department of Radio Diagnosis, at Polyclinic "At Luigi Monti" in Tirana, Albania during the year 2018.

Results: Comparing the findings among ultrasound colour Doppler and MDCT of the arteries of the lower limbs in detection of calcification, stenosis and collaterals, MDCT resulted significantly better than ultrasound Doppler, (p<0.001) while colour Doppler resulted with more priority in detection of wall thickening.

Conclusion: Imagery is very important in the management of the patients with PAD. From the comparison of the two diagnostic methods, better results are obtained from the application of CT Angiography, which should be applied before performing vascular surgery. Meanwhile Doppler can also be useful as an effective tool that can detect and monitor the lesions when intervention is not necessary.

Biography

Dr. Edmond Nica is a medical doctor, radiologist, from Tirana, Albania. He graduated on 1998 from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tirana, Albania. Afterwards he was specialized for four years in Radiology Department and currently he work at the at the University Hospital Centre "Mother Teresa" in Tirana at imagery division. Currently he is doing his Phd in this domain at Tirana University, in Tirana - Albania.

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