

Edited By Jose M. Wiley | Cristina Sanina  
George D. Dangas | Prakash Krishnan

# ENDOVASCULAR INTERVENTIONS

A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH



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## **Endovascular Interventions**



# Endovascular Interventions

## A Step-by-Step Approach

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## Contents

### List of Contributors *xiv*

- 1 Innominate & Carotid Artery Intervention in High-Risk Patients** *1*  
*Tyrone J. Collins*  
Introduction *1*  
Innominate Interventions in High-Risk Patients *2*  
    Catheter-based Therapy for An Innominate (Brachiocephalic) Stenosis *2*  
Carotid Artery Intervention in High-Risk Patients *5*  
    Endovascular Treatment of A Carotid Stenosis *5*  
    Catheter-based Therapy for Carotid Stenosis *6*  
Conclusions *10*  
References *13*
  
- 2 Subclavian Artery Intervention: Catheter-Based Therapy** *15*  
*Saadat Shariff, Isabella Alviz, Cornelia Rivera, Michelle Cortorreal, and Tyrone J. Collins*  
Introduction *15*  
Endovascular Versus Open Surgical Revascularization *16*  
Endovascular Revascularization Techniques *16*  
Conclusion *18*  
References *19*
  
- 3 Vertebral Artery Intervention: Catheter-Based Therapy** *20*  
*Tamunoinemi Bob-Manuel and James S. Jenkins*  
Introduction *20*  
Preprocedural Considerations *21*  
    Step 1. Procedural Planning with Diagnostic Angiography *21*  
    Step 2. Vertebral Artery Intervention (Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty) *24*  
    Step 3. Vertebral Artery Intervention (Stenting) *25*

Management of Potential Complications 27  
Postprocedural Care 28  
References 29

**4 Endovascular Repair of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms:  
Catheter-Based Therapy 30**

*John Denesopolis, Patricia Yau, and Aksim G. Rivera*

Introduction 30  
Relevant Anatomy 31  
    Aortic Anatomy 31  
    Crawford Classification for TAA/TAAA 31  
    Landing Zones 31  
        Implication of Aortic Anatomy on Spinal Perfusion 32  
Indications/Contraindications to Procedure 33  
    Indications 33  
        Asymptomatic TAA/TAAA 33  
        Blunt Aortic Injury (BAI) 33  
        Acute Aortic Syndromes 33  
    Contraindications/Caveats 34  
Available Endografts 34  
Preoperative Evaluation 40  
Positioning and Intraoperative Monitoring Needs 41  
Procedural Steps 42  
Postoperative Course/Surveillance 46  
    Monitored Setting 46  
    Spinal Drain 46  
    Blood Pressure Control 47  
    Arm Ischemia Symptoms 47  
    CTA Surveillance/Endoleak Types 48  
References 49

**5 Endovascular Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair (EVAR) 50**

*John Futchko, Katie MacCallum, and Aksim G. Rivera*

Introduction 50  
Patient Selection 50  
Preoperative Imaging and Measurements 51  
Graft Selection 52  
Graft Sizing 52  
    Neck Length 53

Neck Diameter	53
Branch Vessels	54
Aortic Length Measurements	54
Step 1. Vascular Access	55
Percutaneous	55
Open	56
Iliac Disease and Conduits	56
Step 2. Imaging	57
Equipment	57
Neck Angulation	58
Renal Arteries	58
Step 3. Wires	58
Step 4. Delivery and Deployment	59
Main Body	59
Graft Orientation	59
Proximal Landing Zone	59
Contralateral Gate Cannulation	60
Limb Deployment	62
Completion Angiogram	62
Step 5. Troubleshooting	63
Endoleaks	63
Inadvertent Coverage of Renal Arteries	65
Iliac Artery Considerations	65
Conclusion	66
References	66

## **6 Severe Renal Artery Stenosis: How to Intervene** 68

*Mohammad Hashim Mustehsan, Cristina Sanina, and Jose D. Tafur*

Introduction	68
Background and Clinical Significance	69
Epidemiology	69
Clinical Manifestations	69
Patient Selection: Who to Screen for RAS	70
RAS Assessment	70
Noninvasive RAS Assessment	70
Invasive RAS Assessment	72
Indications for Revascularization	72
Intervention	74
References	76

**7 Mesenteric Ischemia: Chronic and Acute Management 78**

*David A. Hirschl*

Introduction 78

Chronic Mesenteric Ischemia 78

Step 1. Vascular Access and Sheath Selection 79

Step 2. Diagnostic Angiography 80

Step 3. Vessel Selection 81

Step 4. Selective Angiography 81

Step 5. Placement of a Working Wire 82

Step 6. Stent Placement 82

Step 7. Posttreatment Angiography 83

Step 8. Revision 83

Complications 84

Follow-Up and Outcomes 85

Acute Mesenteric Ischemia 85

Step 1. Arterial Vascular Access and Sheath Selection 87

Step 2. Selection of the SMA 87

Step 3. Aspiration Embolectomy 88

Step 4. Angiogram 89

Step 5. Thrombolysis 89

Step 6. Infusion and Follow-Up 91

Mesenteric Venous Thrombosis 91

Follow-Up and Outcomes 91

References 92

**8 Aorto-Iliac Interventions 95**

*Michael S. Segal, Sameh Elrabie, and Rajesh K. Malik*

Introduction 95

Preoperative Workup 95

Noninvasive Studies 96

Computed Tomographic Angiography 96

Ultrasound Duplex 96

Magnetic Resonance Angiography 97

Invasive Imaging 97

Angiography 97

Classification of Lesion and Planning of Intervention 97

TransAtlantic InterSociety Consensus II Classification (TASC II) 97

Planning for the Intervention 97

Step 1. Patient Factors 97

Step 2. Vascular Access 98

Step 3. Crossing the Lesion 99

Step 4. Intervention	100
Step 5. Closure	102
Step 6. Complications	103
Rupture	103
Embolization	103
Access Complications	103
Cases	104
Case 1	104
Case 2	104
References	107

## **9 Femoropopliteal Arterial Interventions in the Claudicant** 108

*Sahil A. Parikh, Joseph J. Ingrassia, and Matthew T. Finn*

Introduction	108
Patient Evaluation and Indications for Treatment of Femoropopliteal Arterial Pathology	108
Indications for Revascularization Femoropopliteal Claudication	109
Vascular Imaging in Endovascular Treatment	109
Contrast Angiography	109
CO <sub>2</sub> Angiography	110
Steps to CO <sub>2</sub> Angiography	110
Extravascular and Intravascular Ultrasound	110
Steps to IVUS Use	111
Vascular Access and Lesion Crossing Techniques	113
Steps for Crossover “Up and Over” technique	113
Radial	114
Tibio-Pedal Approach	115
Antegrade Femoral Access	115
Working Wire Size and Changing Between Systems	116
Lesion Preparation	117
Plain Old Balloon Angioplasty	117
Focal Force Balloons for Optimal Lumen Gain	120
Drug-Coated Balloons	120
Atherectomy	121
Laser	121
Excimer Laser Use Steps	122
Rotational Atherectomy	123
Rotational Atherectomy Steps	124
Directional Atherectomy	124
Orbital Atherectomy	126
Embolic Protection	127

Troubleshooting Embolic Protection Devices	130
Troubleshooting a “Full” Filter	130
Distal Embolization or “No Reflow”	130
Stenting for Femoropopliteal Disease	131
Bare-Metal Stents	131
Drug-Eluting Stents (DES)	131
Alternative Stent Technologies	132
Covered Stents	132
Tacks	132
Final Efficacy Assessment	132
Conclusions	132
Acknowledgments	133
References	133
<b>10 Tibial Interventions in Patients with Critical Limb-Threatening Ischemia</b>	<b>138</b>
<i>Raman Sharma, Roberto Cerrud-Rodriguez, and Prakash Krishnan</i>	
Introduction	138
Indications and Goals of Endovascular Revascularization	138
Considerations for Access Site	139
Single Versus Multitibial Artery Revascularization	140
Antegrade Tibial Artery Intervention	141
Retrograde Access for Retrograde Lesion Crossing and Wire Externalization with Antegrade Revascularization	143
TAMI Retrograde Revascularization	144
Reentry and Externalization Devices	146
Deep Venous Arterialization (DVA)	146
References	147
<b>11 Acute Limb Ischemia: Endovascular Approach</b>	<b>151</b>
<i>Shunsuke Aoi and Amit M. Kakkar</i>	
Introduction	151
Procedure Planning, Equipment, and Considerations	151
References	161
<b>12 Pedal Reconstruction</b>	<b>162</b>
<i>Ehrin Armstrong and Rory Brinker</i>	
Introduction	162
Pedal Arch Reconstruction	162
Indications for Pedal Revascularization	166

Technical Considerations	166
Access	166
Lesion Crossing	167
CTO Lesion Subtype	167
Special Considerations of the Pedal Intervention	167
Troubleshooting	169
Summary	169
References	173
<b>13 Endovascular Management of Access Site Complications</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>Manaf Assafin, Robert Pyo, Pedro Cox-Alomar, and Miguel Alvarez-Villela</i>	
Introduction	175
Complications Related to Common Femoral Artery Access	176
Access Site Bleeding	176
Crossover Technique	179
Balloon Tamponade, Endovascular Coiling, and Covered Stent Placement	179
Femoral Pseudoaneurysms	180
Ultrasound-Guided Compression Repair	182
Ultrasound-Guided Thrombin Injection	183
Covered Stent Placement	184
Other Techniques	184
Arteriovenous Fistulas	185
Vascular Closure Device Related Complications	186
Radial Artery Related Complications	187
Radial Artery Spasm	188
Radial Artery Occlusion	189
Bleeding Complications	190
References	191
<b>14 Acute Deep Vein Thrombosis</b>	<b>196</b>
<i>Vishal Kapur and Sagar Goyal</i>	
Introduction	196
Treatment Strategy	197
Initial and Long-Term Treatment of VTE	200
Oral Anticoagulants	200
Thrombolysis	200
Vena Cava Filters	201
Compression Stockings	202
Cancer-Associated VTE	202
Isolated Distal DVT	202

- Extended Treatment 202
  - Unprovoked VTE 202
  - Oral Anticoagulants 203
- Conclusion 203
- References 204

**15 Lower-Extremity Venous Stenting 207**

*Asma Khaliq, Sandrine Labrune, and Cristina Sanina*

- Introduction 207
- Follow-Up 213
- References 214

**16 Intervention for Pulmonary Embolism 215**

*Seth I. Sokol, Wissam A. Jaber, and Yosef Golowa*

- Introduction 215
- Pulmonary Angiography 215
  - Vascular Access 215
  - Injection and X-Ray Detector Positioning 216
- Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis 216
  - EKOS™ Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis 216
  - Preparation of System 217
  - Access 218
- Mechanical Disruption 220
  - Catheter Fragmentation of Clot 220
- Large Catheter Aspiration 220
  - FlowTrieve™ 220
  - Access 221
  - Penumbra 225
  - AngioVac 227
  - Patient Selection and Central Venous Access 227
  - AngioVac Circuit Setup and Thrombus Aspiration 229
  - AngioVac for Pulmonary Embolus 231
- AngioVac for Clot-in-Transit 232
- AngioVac for Right Heart Vegetation 232
  - Patient Selection and Approach 232
  - Technique 233
- References 234

**17 Catheter-Based Therapy for Varicose Veins 236**

*Juan Terre and Nelson Chavarria*

- Introduction 236
- Thermal Techniques 236

Radiofrequency (RF) Ablation	237
Follow-Up	239
Endovenous Laser Ablation (EVLA)	239
Nonthermal Techniques	240
Mechanico-Chemical Ablation (MOCA)	241
Limitations	242
Summary	243
References	243
<b>Index</b>	<b>245</b>

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# 1

## Innominate & Carotid Artery Intervention in High-Risk Patients

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### Introduction

Revascularization of supra-aortic arterial disease (complicated peripheral artery disease) is usually elective and prophylactic to prevent initial or recurrent ischemic events. Surgical revascularization was once considered the treatment of choice [1]. Successful reports of percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) and stenting introduced endovascular treatment as an equal or possibly better than surgery option [2]. Each patient is unique, and the risk is multifactorial with both demographic and anatomic risk factors.

Several “high-risk” features are generally considered when treating carotid artery disease in these patients [3] (Table 1.1). Some of these features are also risk factors for innominate intervention.

The level of stenosis and/or occlusion, vessel tortuosity, amount of calcification, presence or absence of thrombus, concomitant vascular abnormalities, and comorbid conditions will also affect the risk with revascularization of the other supra-aortic vessels.

Although some authors may consider endovascular therapy the treatment of choice for innominate atherosclerotic disease, surgical therapy has been shown to be safe and effective [4]. During a period of almost 20 years from 1974 to 1993, Kieffer et al. revascularized surgically 148 patients with acceptable rates of complications, late mortality, long-term patency, freedom from neurologic events, and reoperation [4].

**Table 1.1** High-risk features reported in the literature.

---

1) CAS in females
2) CAS in octogenarians
3) CAS with type II, type III, or bovine arch
4) Tortuous common carotid artery, angulated ICA, and/or distal ICA
5) Long lesions $\geq 15$ mm
6) Ostial-centered lesions
7) Calcified arch and/or heavily calcified lesion
8) High-grade stenosis
9) Contralateral carotid occlusion
10) Presence of vertebral artery occlusion and/or stenosis
11) Patient with CKD

---

## Innominate Interventions in High-Risk Patients

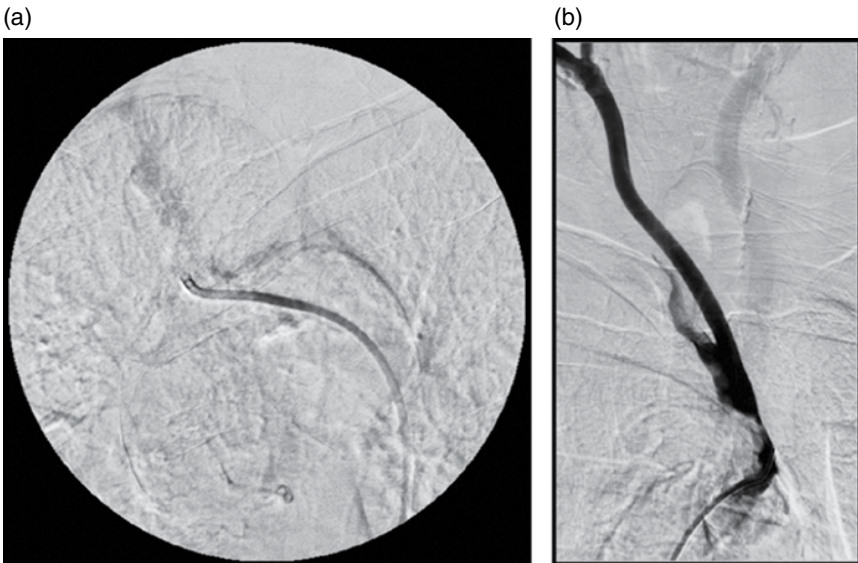
### Catheter-based Therapy for An Innominate (Brachiocephalic) Stenosis

**Step 1.** Identification of the level of stenosis is the initial step. Computed tomography angiography (CTA) can be useful prior to an invasive procedure. This can allow for planning the interventional strategy and considering alternative forms of treatment. Additionally, CTA can be used to size the reference vessels.

When considering the choice of arterial access remember that catheter size is limited with radial access and the need to cross the stenosis is usually necessary from the radial or brachial approach. If intervention is planned, injections are against the direction of blood flow when working from the arm approach. I prefer the femoral approach to innominate stenoses.

Invasive angiography can be done with digital and/or subtraction angiography. A pigtail catheter is positioned in the ascending aorta proximal to the origin of the innominate artery. The angiography is performed in the 30° left anterior oblique (LAO) projection. Selective angiography is done with a Judkins right diagnostic catheter or guiding catheter (Figure 1.1a,b). Other diagnostic catheters can be used for selective angiography. The “working view” is the angulation that allows for delineation of the stenosis, any adjacent branches, and the ostium of the innominate. Road mapping may be useful but also take advantage of any vascular calcification as a point of reference.

**Step 2.** After the decision to intervene and baseline angiography has been performed, the innominate is engaged with an 8 Fr guide catheter. A different approach is to use a diagnostic catheter to engage the innominate artery, cross the stenosis with the appropriate wire, and introduce a 6 Fr sheath over the wire to the

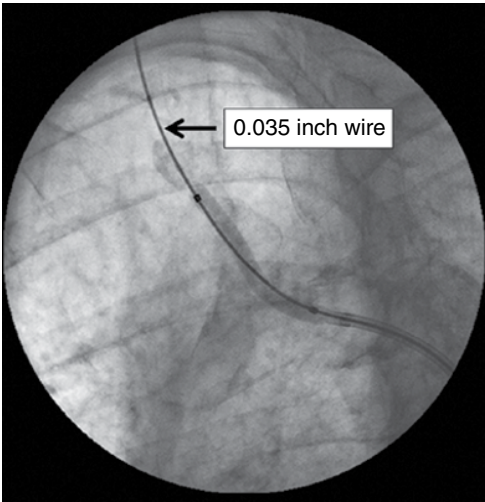


**Figure 1.1** (a) Heavily calcified aorta and supra-aortic vessels. (b) Baseline innominate artery selective angiogram.

ostium of the innominate. Anticoagulation to achieve an activated clotting time (ACT) > 250 s is administered. Depending on the available balloons and stents, the appropriate wire (0.014–0.035 in.) is steered across the stenosis. The tip of the wire is passed into the subclavian artery. Wire tip can also be placed in the common or external carotid artery. Innominate artery PTA and stenting is usually performed without utilizing a distal embolic protection device (EPD). If you choose to use EPD, the necessary wire or filter can be positioned in the internal carotid artery. Horesh reported a case of innominate stenting with a covered stent and distal protection [5]. He emphasized the need to individualize patients and consider using embolic protection in high-risk patients. Hybrid procedures have been performed using balloon occlusion to trap embolic debris.

**Step 3.** Predilatation with a balloon is performed. The initial balloon is usually undersized but gives an idea of the ability to distend the lesion (Figure 1.2). The Shockwave Lithoplasty System (Medical Inc.) has been used to successfully treat severely calcified innominate stenosis prior to stenting [6]. This system has also been used in a hybrid operation [7]. Use the balloon inflation to help decide on stent sizing (diameter and length).

**Step 4.** Stent implantation is done after ensuring the correct position of the delivery system (Figure 1.3). If necessary, magnify the image to demonstrate the stent is appropriately placed. Remember, an undersized stent can be implanted so that



**Figure 1.2** Predilatation with undersized balloon.



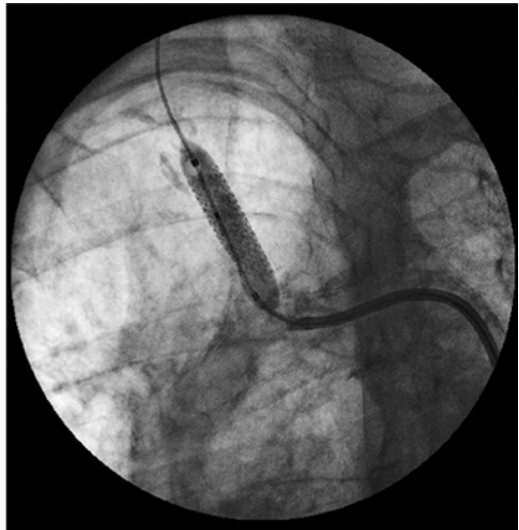
**Figure 1.3** Stent in position at ostium of innominate.

the delivery sheath or catheter does not have to be “upsized.” A larger balloon (Figure 1.4) can subsequently be employed to adequately expand the stent without changing the sheath or catheter.

**Step 5.** Assessment of the poststent result is performed to determine stent apposition and size (Figure 1.5). If necessary, the stent can be postdilated with a larger balloon.

**Step 6.** After hemostasis the patient is usually monitored overnight and discharged the following day. Dual antiplatelet therapy is maintained for at least one month if there are no contraindications.

**Figure 1.4** Larger balloon inflation.



**Figure 1.5** Final angiogram.



## Carotid Artery Intervention in High-Risk Patients

### Endovascular Treatment of A Carotid Stenosis

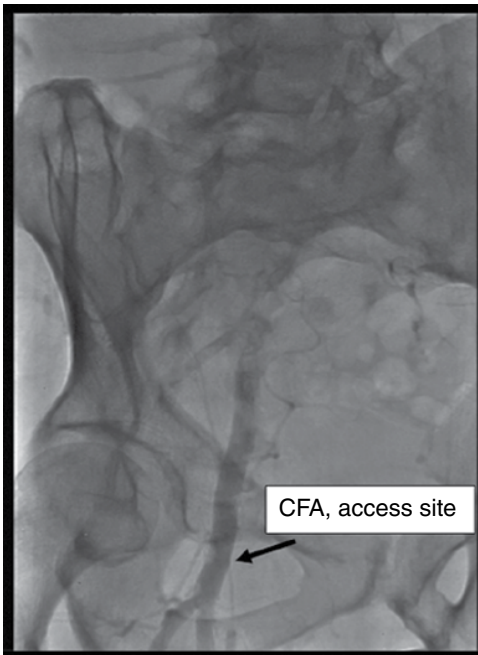
Left common carotid artery stenoses are treated endovascularly similarly to innominate artery stenoses. Distal embolic protection is not used routinely. There are endovascular, hybrid, and surgical alternatives.

Transcarotid artery revascularization (TCAR) offers alternative to both carotid endarterectomy (CEA) and carotid artery stenting (CAS) which are done via a transfemoral approach.

CAS can be performed with distal embolic protection and/or flow reversal. Distal embolic protection is the most commonly used choice. It is readily available and technically easier to deploy. However, it is not the best choice for tortuous common and/or internal carotid arteries, heavily calcified vessels, and “string signs.” Distal protection devices require crossing the diseased segment without protection compared to proximal protection where this is not necessary. Additionally, if anatomy warrants, CEA can be the treatment of choice.

### Catheter-based Therapy for Carotid Stenosis

**Step 1.** Arterial access is obtained for distal embolic protection and flow reversal cases. Distal EPD can be done via femoral, radial, or brachial access. Flow reversal, because of the larger diameter sheath required, is performed via the femoral artery route. Access is obtained with ultrasound guidance or using anatomic landmarks. Femoral angiography is usually performed at the initiation of the case to document the appropriateness of the access and to plan for use of a closure device (Figure 1.6).



**Figure 1.6** Femoral artery access.

**O**

- Older adults
  - chronic mesenteric ischemia in 78
  - TAA in 30
- Orbital atherectomy 142
  - Diamondback360 126
  - steps 126–127
- Outback Re-entry Catheter 100, 146

**P**

- Pantheris directional atherectomy 118, 122, 125
- Patent hemostasis 189
- PAU. *See* Penetrating aortic ulcer (PAU)
- Pedal arch
  - anatomical considerations 163–166
  - intervention 162–172
    - access 166–167
    - anticoagulation strategy 168
    - balloon sizing 168
    - calcification 168–169
    - cases 170–172
    - diffuse small vessel disease 169
    - inability to deliver a catheter/
      - balloon 169
    - indications for 166
    - ipsilateral antegrade
      - approach 166
    - lesion crossing 167
    - lumen crossing 168
    - perforation 169
    - procedural failure 166
    - selective angiography 167
    - special considerations 167–169
    - technical considerations 166
    - troubleshooting 169
    - uncrossable lesion 169
    - vasospasm 168
    - vessel tortuosity 168
  - subtypes 164
- Penetrating aortic ulcer (PAU) 34
- Penumbra's Indigo system 159, 225–227
- Percutaneous access 55–56
- Percutaneous balloon angioplasty 16
- Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) 1
  - subclavian artery 17
  - vertebral artery 24–25
- Peritonitis 91
- Phoenix atherectomy 118, 122, 123
- Pioneer Plus 100, 146
- Plain old balloon angioplasty (POBA) 117, 120, 131, 132
- Plavix 28
- Posterior foot circulation 163, 164
- Posterior tibial (PT) artery 163
- Post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) 207
- Primary stenting 79
- Pseudoaneurysms (PSA). *See* Femoral artery pseudoaneurysm (FAP)
- PTA/PTAS. *See* Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA)
- Pulmonary angiography 215
- Pulmonary embolism (PE) 196, 215
  - AngioVac (*See* AngioVac system)
  - catheter-directed thrombolysis 216–220
  - FlowTrieve™ 220–225
  - injection and X-ray detector
    - positioning 216
  - large catheter aspiration 220–232
  - mechanical disruption 220
  - Penumbra's Indigo system 225–227
  - pulmonary angiography 215
  - vascular access 215

**R**

- Radial artery occlusion (RAO) 189
- Radial artery related
  - complications 187–191
- Radial artery spasm (RAS) 188–189
- Radiofrequency (RF) ablation 237–239
- RAO. *See* Radial artery occlusion (RAO)
- RAS. *See* Radial artery spasm (RAS); Renal artery stenosis (RAS)