

Manual of Thoracic Endoaortic Surgery

Jacques Kpodonu

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Foreword

In today's healthcare environment, the real driver is value. Maximizing outcomes and minimizing costs or providing similar outcomes with lower cost in terms of actual numbers or recovery time will dominate our healthcare delivery system. An excellent example of this evolution is in the field of cardiovascular intervention. Dr. Jacques Kpodonu's *Manual of Thoracic Endo-Aortic Surgery* is a most timely and descriptive work in this burgeoning field. It provides an excellent overview of current technology and techniques, plus the endovascular expert can drill down into the details of the devices and technologies described and significantly enhance their knowledge and perspective. Procedural detail, excellent graphics, pertinent imaging studies, and relevant instruction are the mainstays of this text.

The first chapter comprises the key overview and very comprehensively covers the platform – the hybrid OR, the tools, the accessories, and the medium – superb, state-of-the-art imaging modalities required to perform these advanced procedures. The text then moves into more technical details including options and instruction regarding access approaches and potential pitfalls of such. This is followed in ensuing chapters by dissemination of precise information, techniques, and indications for the most popular and utilized grafts including Boston Relay Stent Graft, Cook TX2 Zenith Stent Grafts, as well as the Gore and Medtronic Aortic Stent Grafts. Transitioning from the devices themselves, the ensuing chapters cover challenging clinical problems such as dissections, traumatic aorta injury, and hybrid debranching techniques as well as a chapter on fenestrated and branched graft technology for thoracoabdominal aortic pathology expertly written by an expert in the field Dr. Roselli. Points are well illustrated with case examples. A most essential final clinical chapter covers the identification, treatment, and avoidance of complications. The text is completed with a look into future technologies.

The *Manual of Thoracic Endo-Aortic Surgery* is well organized, flows efficiently, and is well written. It reflects the significant clinical experience of Dr. Kpodonu and embodies his commitment to teaching and education. It is important for any clinician in the field of cardiovascular care to be aware of the therapeutic options and imaging modalities covered in this text. Furthermore, the endo-aortic specialist will benefit most significantly by the technical details elucidated in this publication. This entire field is rapidly evolving and represents a major advance in medical therapy.

Knowledge of current therapeutic options and clinical expertise in delivering these options are essential. This text provides an important element in the foundation for that process.

Newport Beach, California

Aidan A. Raney

Preface

The development of less invasive technologies over the past decade has resulted in a changing paradigm for the management of aortic diseases. Endovascular and hybrid surgical approaches are gradually being adopted by cardiovascular surgeons which has been proven to shorten hospitalization, reduce morbidity and mortality, speed recovery, and hasten return to normal life. Clinical investigations have shown these procedures to be favorable over open surgical techniques in most situations.

Our current training programs have not been designed to easily accommodate the rapid evolution in endovascular technology, 3D imaging modalities, intravascular ultrasound technology, and advanced navigational tools. In an effort to bridge the gap which exists between our training, educational programs, and the technology explosion, it is essential that the cardiovascular surgeon of today and the future will have the fundamental knowledge and skill sets required to adequately understand and incorporate all the latest technology into the practice of aortic surgery.

Although certain limitations currently exist regarding thoracic aortic endografting techniques and their application to thoracic aortic pathologies there is every indication that most thoracic aortic pathologies will be treated with these less invasive procedures in the future. There is no substitute for learning from experience; it is my hope that the Manual of Thoracic Endoaortic Surgery will provide a useful tool for practitioners as they plan and execute treatment of patients with these various thoracic aortic pathologies as well as serve as a useful reference as this segment of the field expands.

Newport Beach, California

Jacques Kpodonu

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Contents

1	The Cardiovascular Hybrid Room	1
1.1	The New Operative Environment (The Hybrid Surgical Suite)	3
1.2	Basic Equipment and Design of the Hybrid Endovascular Operating Room	4
1.2.1	Size of the Hybrid Operating Room and Radiation	4
1.2.2	Carbon-Fiber Table	5
1.2.3	Flat Screens and Monitors	6
1.3	Patient Monitoring	6
1.4	Fluoroscopy and CT Imaging Systems	6
1.5	Image Acquisition and Display	8
1.6	Other Imaging Modalities	10
1.7	Future Perspectives	10
	References	11
Part I	Accessories Used in Thoracic Endografting	
2	Balloons Used in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	15
2.1	General Overview	15
2.2	Selection of Balloon	17
2.2.1	Balloons Used for Thoracic Endografting	17
2.2.2	Adjuncts Techniques Useful in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	18
	References	23
3	Catheters Used in Endografting of the Thoracic Aorta	25
3.1	Non-selective Catheters	25
3.2	Selective Catheters	30
	References	31
4	Equipment Required for Thoracic Aortic Endografting	33
4.1	Supplementary Equipments	33
4.2	Dilators	34
4.2.1	Percutaneous Entry Needle/Devices	34

4.2.2	Vessel Dilators	34
4.2.3	Guidewires	34
4.2.4	Introducer Sheaths	35
4.2.5	Flush/Diagnostic/Guiding Catheters	36
4.2.6	Angioplasty Balloons	37
4.2.7	Stents	38
4.3	Endograft Selection	41
4.4	Accessory Tools	43
	Reference	43
5	Guidewires Used in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	45
5.1	General Overview	45
5.2	Technical Pearls	47
5.2.1	Advancing a Wire Through Severely Angulated vessel	47
5.3	Guidewires Used in Thoracic Endografting	49
5.3.1	Lunderquist Stiff Wire Guides (LES)	49
5.3.2	LES3 Lunderquist Wire Guide (Curved Tip)	49
5.3.3	Amplatz Stiff Wire	51
	References	51
6	Sheaths Used in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	53
	References	56
7	Stents Used in Conjunction with Thoracic Aortic Endografting	57
7.1	Stents	57
7.1.1	Self-Expanding Stents	59
7.1.2	Covered Stents	62
	References	63
8	Vascular Closure Devices	65
8.1	Manual Compression	65
8.2	Types of Vascular Closure Device	65
8.2.1	Active Devices	66
8.2.2	Passive Devices	66
8.3	Active Vascular Closure Devices	66
8.3.1	Prostar XL10 and Perclose A-T	66
8.3.2	Angioseal Closure Device	67
8.3.3	StarClose System	69
8.3.4	Passive Vascular Closure Devices (VCD)	69
8.4	Benefits of VCDs	71
8.5	Drawbacks of VCDs	72
8.6	Outcomes	72
8.7	Conclusions	73
	Suggested Readings	73

Part II Imaging Required for Thoracic Endografting

9 Fluoroscopy and Angiographic Imaging in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	77
9.1 Contrast Power Injection Versus Hand Injection	77
9.2 Basic Fluoroscopic Projections	78
9.2.1 Angiography for Evaluation of Access Vessels	78
9.2.2 Fluoroscopy as Applied to the Thoracic and Arch Aorta	79
9.2.3 Normal Arch Aorta	79
9.2.4 Variations of Aortic Arch	79
9.3 Thoracic Aneurysms	81
9.4 Thoracic Arch Aneurysms	82
9.5 Aortobronchial Fistula	84
9.6 Coarctation of the Aorta	84
9.7 Type B Dissections	84
9.8 Penetrating Aortic Ulcers	86
9.9 Aortic Pseudoaneurysm	87
9.10 Mycotic Pseudoaneurysm	88
References	88
10 Case-Specific CT Imaging to Evaluate Thoracic Aortic Pathologies	89
10.1 Coarctation of the Thoracic Aorta	90
10.2 Penetrating Aortic Ulcer	93
10.3 Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm	95
10.4 Type B Aortic Dissection	96
10.4.1 Acute Type B Aortic Dissection	96
10.4.2 Chronic Type B Dissection	97
10.5 Saccular Arch Pseudoaneurysms	99
10.6 Innominate Artery Pseudoaneurysm	101
10.7 Thoracic Arch Aneurysm	102
10.8 Thoracoabdominal Aneurysms	104
10.9 CT Imaging of the Thoracic Aorta for Pre-operative Planning	105
Reference	108
11 Intravascular Ultrasound Applications to the Thoracic Aorta	109
11.1 Universal IVUS Applications	110
11.2 Selective Applications of IVUS to the Abdominal Aorta	112
11.3 Selective Application of IVUS in the Management of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms	114
11.4 IVUS Application to Thoracic Aortic Dissections	115
11.5 IVUS Application for the Management of Coarctation of the Aorta	116
11.6 IVUS Management for the Management of Penetrating Aortic Ulcers	118
Reference	119

12	Endovascular Imaging, Planning, and Sizing for Treatment of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms	121
12.1	Introduction	121
12.2	Patient Selection	121
12.3	Pre-operative Data Acquisition and Reconstructions	122
12.4	Planning	125
12.4.1	Plan the Seal Zone	126
12.4.2	Select Side for Graft Body Introduction	126
12.4.3	Choose Fenestration and Branch Configuration	126
12.4.4	Determine Inner Aortic Vessel Diameter	128
12.4.5	Choose Proximal Graft Length	128
12.4.6	Choose Distal Body Length	129
12.4.7	Choose Ipsilateral Leg Length	129
12.4.8	Choose Ipsilateral Leg Diameter	129
12.4.9	Choose Contralateral Leg Length	129
12.4.10	Choose Ipsilateral Leg Diameter	129
12.5	Limitations of Branched Grafts	129
12.6	Summary	130
	References	130
Part III	Access Techniques Required for Thoracic Endografting	
13	Brachial Access Techniques Used in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	133
13.1	Case Scenario	135
13.2	Endovascular Technique	135
	References	137
14	Transfemoral Access Techniques in Thoracic Aortic Endografting	139
14.1	Retrograde Percutaneous Access	139
14.2	Percutaneous Retrograde Femoral Artery Access	139
14.3	Contraindication to Percutaneous Femoral Access	142
14.4	Open Retrograde Access	142
14.5	Complications of Femoral Access	144
	Reference	144
15	Retroperitoneal Access for Thoracic Aortic Endografting	145
15.1	Introduction	145
15.2	Indications and Pre-operative Planning	145
15.2.1	Patient Selection	145
15.2.2	Construction of a 10 mm Retroperitoneal Conduit	147
15.3	Direct Iliac Artery Access via a Retroperitoneal Approach	148
	References	150
16	Techniques for Constructing an Endoconduit	151
16.1	Case Scenario	153
16.2	Endovascular Technique	154
	References	156

Part IV Bolton Relay Thoracic Endovascular Stent Graft Device

17 Bolton Relay Thoracic Stent Graft System	159
17.1 Device Description	159
17.2 Brief Clinical Results	161
Reference	165

Part V Cook Zenith Thoracic Stent Graft Device

18 Zenith TX2 Thoracic Endograft	169
18.1 Zenith TX2 Stent Graft System	170
18.1.1 Device Description	171
18.2 Deployment of TX2 Cook Endoluminal Graft	174
18.2.1 General Cautions	174
18.2.2 Deployment Overview	174
18.3 Case Study	180
18.4 Endovascular Procedure	182
References	184
19 Cook Zenith Dissection Endovascular Stent	185
19.1 Cook Zenith Dissection Endovascular System Deployment Overview	185
19.1.1 General Precautions	185
19.1.2 Position Extra Stiff Lunderquist™ Wire Guide in Aortic Arch	189
19.1.3 Position Proximal Component to Cover Entry Tear .	190
19.1.4 Unsheath Proximal Component	190
19.1.5 Release Proximal Component Trigger Wires	191
19.1.6 Remove Gray Positioner from Proximal Component Introducer Sheath	194
19.1.7 Position Dissection Endovascular Stent(s)	194
19.1.8 Unsheath Dissection Endovascular Stent	195
19.1.9 Release Dissection Endovascular Stent Trigger Wires	195
19.2 Final Angiogram	197
19.3 Case Study	198
19.3.1 Zenith® Dissection™ Case Study	200
References	202
20 COOK Medical Accessories Used for Deployment of the TX2 COOK Stent Graft	203
20.1 Wire Guides	203
20.2 Lunderquist Wire	203
20.3 Catheters	207
20.4 Embolization	208
20.5 Access Needle	211
Reference	212

21	Clinical Data Using the Zenith TX2 Thoracic Graft	213
21.1	The STARZ Trial	213
21.2	International Controlled Clinical Trial of Thoracic Endovascular Aneurysm Repair with the Zenith TX2 Endovascular Graft: 1-Year Results	214
21.2.1	Trial Design	214
21.2.2	Follow-Up	216
21.2.3	Results	217
21.2.4	Patient Characteristics	217
21.2.5	Aneurysm/Ulcer Characteristics	219
21.2.6	Mortality	219
21.2.7	All Morbidity	221
21.2.8	Neurologic Morbidity	221
21.2.9	Stroke	222
21.2.10	Paraplegia	222
21.2.11	Paraparesis	222
21.2.12	Rupture	222
21.2.13	Change in Aneurysm or Ulcer Size	223
21.2.14	Endoleak	223
21.2.15	Migration	223
21.2.16	Device Integrity	224
21.2.17	Device Patency	224
21.3	Conclusion	224
	References	225

Part VI W.L. Gore TAG Thoracic Endovascular Stent Graft Device

22	The Gore TAG Endoprosthesis	229
22.1	Gore TAG Delivery System	231
22.2	Patient Selection	231
22.3	Pre-procedural Planning and Imaging	233
22.4	Thrombus in Proximal Neck	234
22.5	Calcium in Proximal Neck	234
22.6	Deployment Optimization Techniques	235
22.7	Procedural Steps for Deployment of Gore Device	235
22.8	Patient Follow-Up and Recommendation	241
22.9	Preference Card	241
22.9.1	Sheaths	241
22.9.2	Catheters	241
22.9.3	Guidewires	242
22.9.4	Balloons	242
22.9.5	Miscellaneous	242
	References	242

23	Gore TAG Multicenter Phase II Trial	245
23.1	Gore TAG Thoracic Endoprosthesis	245
23.2	Device Design	245
23.3	Feasibility Study	246
23.4	Pivotal (Phase II) Trial	247
23.4.1	Objectives and Hypotheses	247
23.4.2	Study Design	247
23.4.3	Follow-Up	247
23.4.4	Results of the Pivotal Study	248
23.4.5	Operative Data	250
23.4.6	Early Adverse Events	250
23.4.7	Spinal Cord Ischemia	250
23.4.8	Cerebrovascular Accidents	251
23.4.9	Endoleaks	251
23.4.10	Other MAEs	251
23.4.11	Hospital Length of Stay	251
23.4.12	Late Outcome	251
23.4.13	Device-Related Events	252
23.4.14	Confirmatory Study	254
	References	256
24	Five-Year Results of Endovascular Treatment with the Gore TAG Device Compared with Open Repair of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms	257
24.1	Follow-Up	258
24.2	Mortality	259
24.3	Adverse Events	261
24.3.1	Endoleaks, Reinterventions, and Secondary Procedures	261
24.4	Sac Diameter	264
	References	265
25	Technique of Thoracic Endografting for Thoracic Aneurysm Using the Approved Gore TAG Device	267
25.1	Preference Card	273
25.1.1	Equipment	273
25.1.2	Procedure Pearls	275
	Reference	277
Part VII	Medtronic Talent/Valiant Thoracic Endovascular Stent Graft	
26	Talent Thoracic Stent Graft	281
26.1	The Talent Device	281
26.2	Talent Graft Dimensions	283
26.3	Stent Graft Sizing Guidelines	283

26.4	Delivery System Insertion of the Talent Stent Graft System . .	284
26.5	Stent Graft Positioning	285
26.6	Deploy Proximal End	286
26.7	Deploy Remaining Stent Graft	286
26.8	Remove Delivery System	286
26.9	Model Graft to Vessel	289
26.10	Final Angiogram	289
	Reference	289
27	Valiant Thoracic Stent Graft	291
27.1	Device Implantation	296
27.2	Deploying Proximal End	296
27.3	Removal of Delivery System	298
27.4	Balloon Angioplasty	298
28	Pivotal Results of the Medtronic Vascular Talent Thoracic Stent Graft System: The VALOR Trial	301
28.1	Results	303
28.1.1	Demographics	303
28.2	Procedure and Hospital Course	303
	Reference	311
 Part VIII Endografting for Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms		
29	Endovascular Management of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Using a Cook Zenith TX2 Endograft	315
29.1	Introduction	315
29.2	Case Scenario	316
29.3	Endovascular Procedure	317
	References	319
30	Management of a Patient with Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Using Gore TAG Device	321
30.1	Case Scenario	321
30.2	Recommendation	322
30.3	Procedure	322
30.4	Discharge CT Scan	325
30.5	Discussion	326
	References	326
31	Management of a Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Using a Talent Stent Graft	329
31.1	Case Scenario	330
31.2	Intravascular Ultrasound and Angiogram	330
31.3	Surgical Planning	331
31.4	Endovascular Procedure	333
	Reference	334

32	Endovascular Management of a Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm Using a Retroperitoneal Conduit	335
32.1	Introduction	335
32.2	Case Scenario	336
32.3	Hybrid Endovascular Technique	336
32.4	Construction of Retroperitoneal Conduit	338
32.5	Discussion	342
	References	342
Part IX	Endografting for Thoracic Aortic Dissections	
33	Endovascular Management of Acute Type B Dissection	345
33.1	Current Trials	346
33.1.1	VIRTUE	346
33.1.2	ADSORB	346
33.2	Discussion	350
	References	352
34	Endovascular Management of Chronic Type B Thoracic Aortic Dissection	353
34.1	Endovascular Techniques	354
34.2	Discussion	357
	References	359
35	Retrograde Type A Dissection After Endovascular Management of Type B Dissection	361
35.1	Case Scenario	362
35.2	Technical Details of Endoluminal Graft Deployment	363
35.3	Post-operative Surveillance (Retrograde Type A Dissection)	364
35.4	Discussion	364
	References	368
Part X	Endografting for Varied Thoracic Aortic Pathologies	
36	Aorto-bronchial Fistula	373
36.1	Endovascular Techniques	374
36.2	Discussion	377
	References	377
37	Endovascular Management of Penetrating Aortic Ulcer	379
37.1	Endovascular Procedure	380
37.2	Case Scenario	383
37.3	Endovascular Technique	384
37.4	Discussion	386
	References	387

38	Endovascular Approach to Coarctation of the Thoracic Aorta . . .	389
38.1	Endovascular Techniques	390
38.2	Discussion	394
	References	395
39	Endovascular Management of Traumatic Aortic Disruption	397
39.1	Introduction	397
39.2	Endovascular Techniques	399
39.3	Discussion	402
	References	402
40	Thoracic Aortic Endografting for Traumatic Transection	405
40.1	Endovascular Techniques	406
40.2	Discussion	409
	References	410
41	Hybrid Management of the Thoracic Aorta: Extending Proximal Landing Zones	411
41.1	Transposition of Left Subclavian to Left Carotid Artery Bypass/Left Subclavian to Left Carotid Artery Bypass Graft with Deployment of Endoluminal Graft	412
41.2	Carotid to Carotid Bypass with Deployment of Endoluminal Graft	412
41.3	Aorto to Left Carotid Bypass with Deployment of an Endoluminal Graft	416
41.4	Thoracic Debranching Hybrid Procedure	416
41.5	Discussion	419
	References	419
42	Complications of Thoracic Aortic Endografting	421
42.1	Endoleaks	421
42.2	Post-operative Image Surveillance for Endoleaks	422
42.3	Type I Endoleak	422
42.3.1	Management of a Type I Endoleak	424
42.3.2	Management of a Distal Type 1 Endoleak	425
42.3.3	Retrograde Type I Endoleak Associated with the Treatment of Type B Aortic Dissections	426
42.4	Type II Endoleaks	426
42.4.1	Management of Type II Endoleak by Coil Embolization	428
42.4.2	Management of a Type II Endoleak by Injection of Thrombin in Sac	428
42.4.3	Thoracoscopic Ligation of Intercostal Artery	429
42.5	Type III Endoleak	430
42.5.1	Stent-Related Maldeployment	430
42.6	Complications Related to Vascular Access	431
42.6.1	General Complications	431
	Reference	431

Part XI Future Technology

43	Endovascular Management of Ascending Aortic Pathologies	435
43.1	Introduction	435
43.2	Case Scenario	436
43.3	Endovascular Approach	437
43.4	Discussion	438
	References	441
44	Use of a Remote Wireless Pressure Sensor for	
	Post-operative Surveillance of Thoracic Endoluminal Grafts	443
44.1	Introduction	443
44.2	Case Scenario	444
44.3	Technical Details	444
44.4	Discussion	448
	References	448
Index		451

Chapter 1

The Cardiovascular Hybrid Room



The last few years have seen a paradigm shift in the treatment of cardiovascular-related diseases from once traditional open surgical modalities to the entire cardiovascular tree being amenable to percutaneous interventions. The tremendous advances in transcatheter endovascular procedures currently been applied to the heart and the peripheral vasculature have resulted in a treatment paradigm shift in the care of the cardiovascular patient. These changing winds in the treatment of cardiovascular disease require that a new type of cardiovascular specialist code named the cardiovascular hybrid surgeon be trained to perform to provide seamless care in providing both endovascular and open surgical procedures to this increasingly complex group of patients.¹

Patient and market forces continue to push for minimally invasive approaches over more traditional open surgical approaches with proven efficacy and long-term treatment benefit. The cardiovascular surgeon of today must be required to adapt to this new technology-driven trend. These minimal invasive procedures or hybrid procedures have resulted in markedly decreased morbidity and mortality of elderly

The ability to provide such cutting-edge technology borders on the availability of a new operative environment known as the hybrid surgical suite (Fig. 1.1).

1.1 The New Operative Environment (The Hybrid Surgical Suite)

A fully integrated interventional suite combines surgical sterility²⁻⁴ with flat-panel cardiovascular imaging, a linked workstation, post-processing, and storage facilities.⁵⁻⁷ The size of the hybrid room should be of sufficient dimensions to allow anesthesiology facilities needed for full patient monitoring. Furthermore any type of supportive equipment available in the room including equipment for anesthesia, intravascular ultrasound, intra cardiac echocardiogram, transesophageal echocardiogram and rotational angiography as well as endovascular supplies must be able to fit in the room in a seamless fashion irrespective of whether the room is used for an open surgical, hybrid surgical or totally percutaneous procedure. Current peripheral suites are fitted with many interesting features to make certain procedures easier. An on-table duplex ultrasound makes puncturing easy and is a good guide during endovenous laser therapy. The possibility of storing several reference points to which the C-arm can be automatically relocated at any time during the procedure facilitates the management of even extremely complex procedures. It is obvious that routine endovascular and open surgical practice both clearly gain from performance in this dual-capability working environment. For example, classic open bypass creation is immediately controlled on-table. When improvement of inflow or outflow becomes necessary after bypass surgery, balloon dilation with or without additional stent placement can be rapidly performed without dramatically prolonging procedural time. The use of an integrated endovascular suite, however, stretches beyond hybrid procedures and opens doors to new diagnostic and treatment possibilities. Three-dimensional reconstructions generated by integrated CT or rotational angiography can make a real-time visualization of vessel morphology in any direction and improve the visibility of vessel structures. Application of 3D reconstruction during treatment of intracranial aneurysms, for instance, is a must to ensure optimal positioning of catheters, coils, balloons, and stents. An integrated setting means saving time and personnel because more procedures can be completed in the same room by the existing staff without increasing the strain on the team and without relocating equipment or personnel from another department. The hybrid suite should become the one stop shop where patients can get diagnosed and treated in one visit, for less downtime and a speedier recovery. Unique technology in the suite allows doctors across different specialties to work together on a case-by-case scenario, in the best interest of each patient. The most advanced imaging systems available provide quick and detailed information for shorter, more accurate treatment with substantially less X-ray exposure when compared to traditional devices. Complex cases are more easily treated, since the suite is designed to handle both minimally invasive percutaneous, hybrid operations and open surgical procedures.

1.2 Basic Equipment and Design of the Hybrid Endovascular Operating Room

The primary components of the hybrid suite center on intra-operative angiography and fluoroscopy as well as on carefully designed operating tables to accommodate and optimize the usefulness of the radiographic equipment. The hybrid suite imaging system provides superior image quality and higher tube heat capacity and has measurement capabilities capable of simple and complex procedures requiring high resolution. Prices range between (US \$1.2 and US \$5.0 million) depending on the brand, specifications, ability to provide rotational angiography, addition of a bi-planar system and with integration of various sophisticated imaging modalities like 3D echocardiography, intracardiac ultrasound, intravascular ultrasound, and electromagnetic navigation systems the cost of the room rises.

1.2.1 Size of the Hybrid Operating Room and Radiation

The operating room should ideally be between 550 and 900 square feet (Fig. 1.1), with a minimum clear area of 400–500 square feet. Floor to ceiling height should be at minimum 10 ft to accommodate floor- or ceiling-mounted C-arms capable of rotational angiography for volume rendering 3D CT-like images achieved with advanced biplanar imaging systems (Fig. 1.2). In existing operating rooms, the fixed ceiling-mounted C-arm requires some structural modifications to install the mounting plates and run electrical conduits under the floor to the components. Most states dictate that any operating room with a fixed imaging system must have lead-lined walls. Most

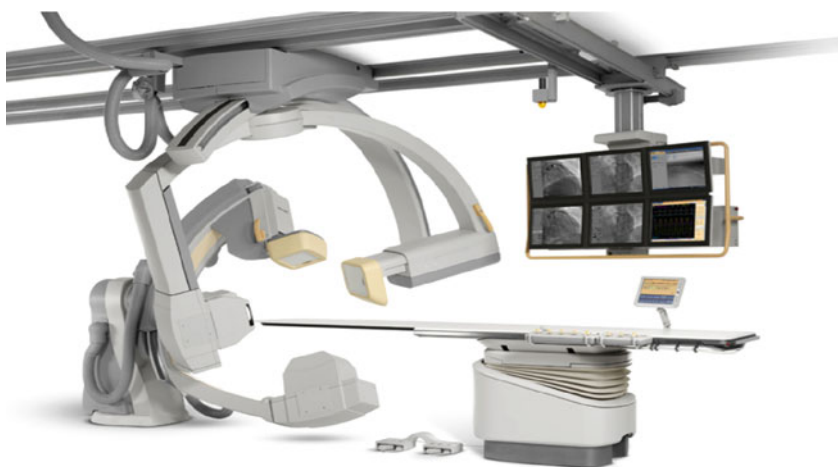


Fig. 1.2 Endovascular suite integrated in the operating room comprising a biplane digital subtraction angiography unit with multipurpose surgical capabilities. The Allura Xper FD20 biplanar fixed system by Phillips

standard ORs have leaded covering 0.5 mm which is not sufficient for the radiation dose generated by a fixed unit. Lead-lined walls in the range of 2–3 mm for the fixed units may be needed and may vary from state to state (must see regulations for the state of California). The expense of these constructions/modifications can vary up to \$100,000 depending on the original condition of the room, local contracting costs, architect's fees accompanies that market fixed fluoroscopic units usually provide consulting services for such alterations.

As endovascular/cardiovascular hybrid surgical procedures become more complex, the relationship of the C-arm, table, and patient's position becomes even more important. The fluoroscopic unit should be able to move in a horizontal plane from the groin along the course of the vessel with the ability to “snap images on the move.” This parallel movement prevents the need for excessive contrast material and greatly expedites the procedure. When a catheter is placed in the brachial artery, the fluoroscopic unit must be capable of rapid movement over the catheter's path from the arm and through the thoracic aorta to the area of ultimate instrumentation. Obstructions from a table or a floor-mounted portable unit that hinder rapid panning over wide anatomic areas limit potential success of the procedure.

1.2.2 Carbon-Fiber Table

To optimize the usefulness of the radiographic equipment, a nonmetallic, carbon-fiber surgical table is available for the interventional techniques.¹⁰ The preferred surgical operating table to accommodate such techniques should be preferably thin but highly stable table and should provide complete clearance beneath a panning X-ray system. The Diethrich IC 2020 Surgical Imaging Table (Fig. 1.3) is a thin carbon-fiber table supported at only one end to provide complete clearance beneath a panning. The telescoping pedestal allows vertical travel from 28 to 48 in., 20°



Fig. 1.3 The Diethrich IC 2020 Surgical Imaging Table

side-to-side roll, and 20° Trendelenburg tilt (reverse and standard) which makes it ideal as a surgical operating room. Complete clearance is achieved beneath for unobstructed neck to toe imaging and rapid horizontal panning is achieved with multiple position, height, tilt, and roll adjustments.

1.2.3 Flat Screens and Monitors

The surgeons, the assistants, the anesthesiologists, and the nurses should all have views of all major imaging and monitoring sources. It is therefore suggested that display of all these sources should be available in all four quadrants of an integrated room. A total of four to six ceiling-mounted flat screens as imaging tools for the procedures are necessary. Extreme care should be taken to ensure that these ceiling-mounted flat screens do not collide with operating lights. Monitors for the vital signs of the patient with provision for systemic arterial monitoring, central venous monitoring, and continuous electrocardiographic surveillance is imperative. A large 40 in. flat panel should be available as well as cameras (wall/or in-light).

1.3 Patient Monitoring

The hybrid suite must be equipped for accurate patient monitoring during the procedure; for continuous electrocardiography, surveillance is imperative. Observation of urine output is also essential for cases involving renal arteries and higher abdominal or thoracic aortic segments. Intra-arterial monitoring that includes precise measurement of pressure differentials is also important during performance of these procedures. Space for storage for the special procedure-related equipment such as stents, wires, balloons, and stent grafts, should be available.

1.4 Fluoroscopy and CT Imaging Systems

The imaging quality is dominated by the quality of the fluoroscopy unit available. Available systems can be divided roughly into two categories: portable and fixed C-arm units. Fixed C-arm units could be flooring mounted (Fig. 1.4) or ceiling mounted. There are a number of fixed fluoroscopic units available with various modifications, depending on the manufacturer (e.g., Philips, GE, OEC, Siemens, Toshiba). The image quality of fixed systems is usually superior to portable systems which can be explained by the focal spot sizes of fixed systems being significantly smaller than those of portable units.^{8,9} A smaller focal spot size means higher resolution through more line pairs per millimeter. Nevertheless, the latest portable C-arm systems (Fig. 1.5) are able to reach resolutions up to 2.5–3 line pairs per millimeter, values which only could be attained by fixed systems until recently. The monitor resolution of fixed systems differs from portable systems, with the



Fig. 1.4 Floor-mounted hybrid surgical system Artis zeego. Multi-axis system by Siemens

monitors of fixed systems usually having twice the lines of resolution as the monitors of portable systems. Portable systems have a smaller generator in order to keep the system “practical” while fixed systems have a large remote generator which provides more power, with better tissue penetration and improved imaging quality. Currently, portable C-arm systems are able to provide sufficient quality for the



Fig. 1.5 A General Electric OC 9900 mobile fluoroscopic unit

majority of the standard procedures in cardiovascular surgery. However, the more complex procedures are best performed with a fixed unit.

1.5 Image Acquisition and Display

Traditional fluoroscopy provides real-time, high-resolution, low-contrast images in two dimensions through the use of an image intensifier. The development of a flat-panel detector to replace the image intensifier has enabled fluoroscopy to transition into three dimensions, producing a CT-like image (Fig. 1.6). The contrast resolution of CT is approximately 1 Hounsfield unit (HU), whereas the contrast resolution of a CT-like image is around 10 HU. CT fluoroscopy is not meant to replace diagnostic CT but to be used as a tool that will supplement interventional procedures. The ability to acquire data in three dimensions during an intervention has led to the fusion of 3D datasets with the 2D images displayed on typical monitors. In CT rotational angiography which the latest hybrid imaging systems have, the C-arm is used to rapidly rotate, obtaining serial images of the area in question in a radial fashion. The 3D reconstruction can be registered with subsequent real-time fluoroscopic images and projected to offer the clinician the ability to work in three dimensions. The process by which the image is registered and displayed is the subject of considerable research efforts on the part of many imaging equipment manufacturers. Data can be rendered volumetrically and overlaid on the fluoroscopic image, making the anatomy much more identifiable, a fused 2D /3D dataset can be created, or the information can be placed side by side. Further requirements of the suite's imaging system are a processing unit, a workstation, and a central image storage unit. The



Fig. 1.6 Three-dimensional reconstruction of the left coronary artery in the projection with the least foreshortening performed with rotational angiography

potential of any C-arm equals the weakest link of each of these last three elements. While performing a procedure, smooth and fast graphic abilities are a must. Using large-size, superb-quality images from a C-arm implies that a powerful processing unit is needed. The higher the image quality, the more working memory the processing unit needs. Images from a C-arm are stored in DICOM format files, which can then be used for biometric post-processing, such as quantitative vessel analysis or 3D reconstruction. The higher the quality of the images obtained from the C-arm, the larger the size of the files that have to be processed by the workstation. Advanced imaging using Dynamic 3D Roadmap has significant clinical advantages for applications such as real-time catheter navigation and monitoring coil delivery. The image is dynamic, meaning the 3D roadmap remains displayed even if the C-arm projection, source-to-image distance, and field of view size are changed (Fig. 1.7). The 3D volume automatically follows the orientation of the C-arm in real time, so that users can choose the optimal projection view. This dynamic overlay ensures excellent positioning for catheter navigation during challenging interventions. The dynamic 3D image decreases the number of DSA acquisitions and fluoroscopy time for an examination. The user can also recall roadmap positions to reduce the need to re-mask. This reduces X-ray dose and contrast medium, which can reduce procedure costs. Dynamic 3D Roadmap provides live interventional catheter navigation.

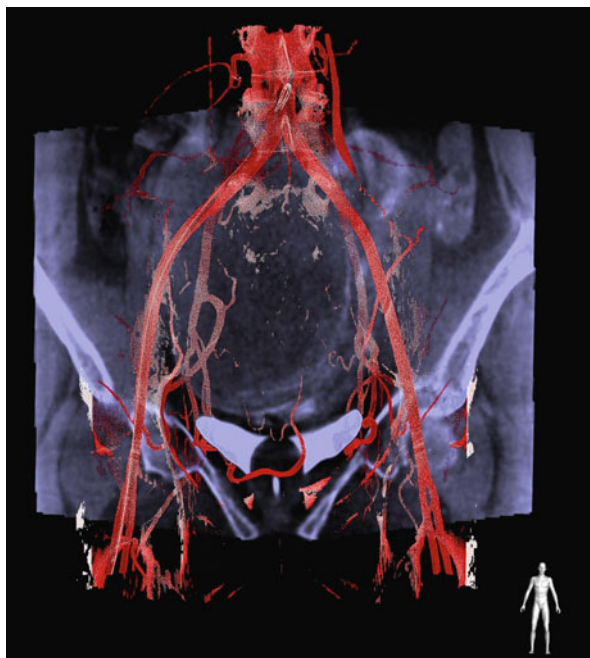


Fig. 1.7 Dynamic 3D Roadmap provides live 3D guidance through tortuous vasculature. It creates an overlay of real-time 2D fluoroscopy images and the 3D reconstruction of the vessel tree

1.6 Other Imaging Modalities

Integration of other imaging modalities like intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) (Fig. 1.8) permits more data acquisition.¹¹ The explosion of the endovascular revolution with particular application to the aorta has placed new demands on accurate pre-operative and intra-operative imaging to obtain accurate aortic measurements for endovascular stent grafting of the aorta.^{12,13} IVUS technology requires that the user be adequately versed in the process of performing the acquisition and interpretation of the images. In patients undergoing cardiac surgery, transesophageal echocardiography and epi-aortic ultrasound have been used to characterize the severity of atherosclerosis within the ascending aorta.¹⁴ Such information has been used to modify surgical technique, altering the location of cannula insertion, the position of aortic cross-clamps, and the placement of saphenous vein grafts, and reducing the risk of dislodging atheromatous debris.

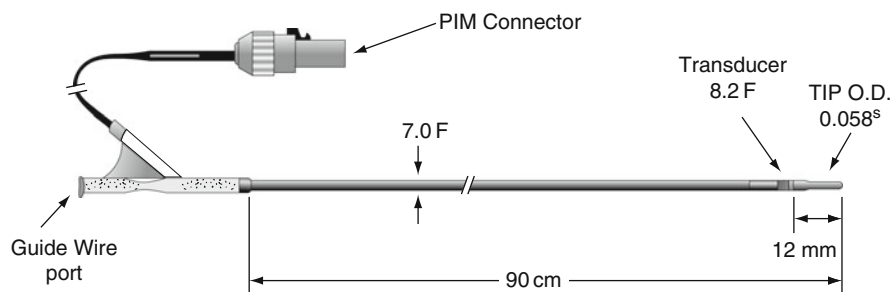


Fig. 1.8 Intravascular ultrasound 0.035 PV catheter system (PIM Connector, patient interface module connector; TIP O.D., tip outer diameter of probe)

1.7 Future Perspectives

Wireless devices would become reality in the near future and would overcome the direct limitations now present due to wire connection points. In a wireless setting, the operating table, C-arm, and other equipment can be rotated a full 360° (and beyond) at any location within the surgical/endovascular suite. Wireless equipment would also save time in case one piece of equipment needs to be repaired. A broken piece of equipment can be temporarily removed from the interventional suite and replaced by a spare. The cardiovascular surgeon or interventionist would not lose valuable operation time, and patients would not need to be put on hold. The technical team would not have to wait for spare parts or specialized tools for a certain repair because the broken piece could easily be shipped to a central repair point. Moreover, this approach would save time and costs related to the mobility of a highly specialized technical team. Integration of robotic and navigational techniques into clinical practice may lead to improved catheter accuracy, stability, and safety in comparison

with conventional techniques, while minimizing radiation exposure. By maximizing the use of existing technologies while developing new approaches to treating these challenging cases, we hope that these would lead to improve overall clinical outcomes and further reduce the mortality and morbidity rates associated with managing the cardiovascular patient. It is hoped that as these new fields develop and with increasing experience with these new hybrid methods, we may well be able to maximize the applicability of minimally invasive endovascular and hybrid technology to treat a larger cohort of patients with cardiovascular disease.¹⁵

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Part I
Accessories Used in Thoracic Endografting