CORRESPONDENCE

Transcarpal Cardiac Catheterization

by Dr. med. Dipl. med. inf. Torsten Schwalm
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Transcarpal Is the Wrong Term

In the review article, access through the distal forearm arteries for cardiac catheterization was termed “transcarpal.” The carpus, however, refers to the group of 8 bones that constitute the wrist.

The radial artery and the ulnar artery are punctured on the distal forearm and not on the hand. The cited literature refers to “transradial” or “transulnar”, which is correct. The term “transcarpal” is therefore wrong.

It would be interesting to find out whether, in view of the many variations of the arteries of the forearm and the palmar arches, different side effects after puncture of the more easily accessible radial artery than the ulnar artery have been described in the literature.

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Conflict of Interest statement

The author declares that no conflict of interest exists according to the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

In Reply:

Professor Dr Pabst is absolutely correct. In the narrower sense, the term “transcarpal” is incorrect. However, it makes sense and covers both methods with just one word.

I am thus far unaware of different side effects after puncture of the radial or ulnar artery. However, this is potentially due to the fact that very few data are available on ulnar puncture.

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Dr Schwalm has received honoraria for speaking from Terumo.