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Technique of Percutaneous direct needle puncture of calcified plaque (PIERCE) in superficial femoral and tibial arteries.

In the diabetic or hemodialysis patients, diffuse arterial calcification can be seen. These calcified arteries are sometimes very difficult to recanalize due to massive calcified plaques of the occluded or narrowing segment. Using dedicated guidewires with high penetration performance, guidewires may penetrate the lesion successfully. But sometimes the microcatheters or balloons can not follow the guidewires and can not cross the lesions due to massive calcified plaques. Though roatablader systems or diamondback systems are sometimes used in other countries, they are not available in Japan. We experienced a case with highly calcified posterior tibial arterial lesions and which was successfully recanalized using percutaneous puncture technique of the calcified plaques with a needle under fluoloscopic guidance. Precise procedure of this technique will be presented.