

Hiroto Kokubun

¹Cardiology, Shizuoka Medical Center, Japan

Acute limb ischemia (ALI) is a vascular emergency that requires prompt diagnosis and intervention. Embolic ALI in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) is not uncommon, especially in those with poor adherence to anticoagulant therapy. We report a successful case of catheter-directed thrombus aspiration via trans-ankle intervention (TAI) in an elderly AF patient.

An 86-year-old man with a history of atrial fibrillation presented with sudden-onset weakness and mild pain in his right lower extremity. Sensory function was preserved. He had been prescribed direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) but had not taken them consistently. Contrast-enhanced CT revealed a localized thrombotic occlusion in the right superficial femoral artery (SFA).

A trans-ankle approach was employed for catheter-based thrombus aspiration. The procedure was successful in restoring perfusion without distal embolization. No additional complications were observed. Following the intervention, the patient's symptoms significantly improved. DOAC therapy was resumed, and follow-up contrast-enhanced CT confirmed satisfactory blood flow in the affected limb. The patient experienced no procedure-related complications and was discharged with a good clinical outcome. This case highlights the feasibility and efficacy of trans-ankle intervention for embolic femoral artery occlusion. TAI can be a safe and effective strategy in selected patients, offering a minimally invasive option with favorable outcomes.