

Tortuous Vessel

Definition: A tortuous vessel is a **blood vessel that exhibits abnormal twisting, looping, or excessive curvature**, deviating from its expected anatomical path. Tortuosity can affect both arteries and veins and may be congenital or acquired.

Clinical implications:

- Increases technical difficulty during endovascular procedures.
- May contribute to **altered hemodynamics, stenosis, or flow limitation**.
- Commonly seen in elderly patients or those with **hypertension, arterial elongation, or vascular malformations**.

Imaging and diagnosis:

- Digital subtraction angiography (DSA)
- Computed tomography angiography (CTA)
- Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA)
- 3D reconstruction in neurovascular planning

Common locations:

- Internal carotid artery
- Vertebral artery
- Sigmoid/transverse sinus
- Retinal vessels

Related terms:

- [trackability](#)
- [steerability](#)
- [vascular elongation](#)
- [stenosis](#)

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