Retrograde Vein Embolization—The Answer for AVMs?

Transvenous treatment of AVMs: A major advance in safety and efficacy
- Used in specific types of AVMs with dominant or single outflow vein anatomy
- Direct puncture or transvenous catheterization of venous sac(s) guided by arterial opacification
- Coil packing of sac with alcohol ablation

AVM venous approach
- If lesion has favorable anatomy; go straight to venous coiling
- Very often curative in single step
- Northwestern Experience: 65 cases of peripheral AVM transvenous treatment
  - Coils only: 56
  - Ethanol: 9

Type IIB—pretty easy

Types IIIa and IIIb? Not so much........
But, as always

- Know what to look for
- When does the vein appear?

30 year man with diffuse UE AVM. I had refused to treat him 9 years ago because I didn’t understand the lesion

Get closer

Puncture where you first see the vein!

Combination angio to confirm
20 cc ethanol in 3-5cc aliquots
- The Yakes classification is very important and indicates the method of treatment
- Spend as much time on the diagnostic angio and superselective studies with multiple obliques as you do on the treatment
- Look for the vein......