Applications of the Columbus steerable guidewire

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ABSTRACT
The Columbus steerable guidewire (Rapid Medical, Israel) is a 0.014 inch guidewire with a remotely controlled deflectable tip intended for neuronavigational purposes. The tip can be shaped by pulling or pushing the handle. Pulling the handle decreases the radius (from 4 mm to 2 mm) and curves the tip, while pushing the handle increases the curvature radius and straightens the tip until it bends in the opposite direction. The amount of deflection is at the discretion of the operator. Video 1 The response of the Columbus guidewire to rotational movements is inferior to that of standard wires, and the tip is very soft and malleable but brings great support when bent. We present two cases where the Columbus guidewire was used. In the first case, the Columbus enabled us to probe a posterior cerebral artery arising from a giant basilar tip aneurysm without wall contact. In the second case, the Columbus was used as a secondary wire to help cannulate the pericallosal artery in a patient with a recurrent anterior complex aneurysm; this subsequently permitted successful stent-assisted coiling of the aneurysm.

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