MRAD 302 Specialized Imaging 2 Reflection #3 – forms part of quiz #3 (5%)

Reflection: The Major Blood Vessels of the Aortic Arch

Reflections are designed to encourage you to think critically about your experiences, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, and develop your professional identity as a medical imaging technologist.

Topic: The Major Blood Vessels of the Aortic Arch

1. List the major blood vessels of the aortic arch and provide a sketch/diagram demonstrating these vessels?

2. Why is the LAO position beneficial during thoracic angiography? Consider the visualization of the aortic arch and its branches (blood vessels)?

   The aortic arch has three major branches: the brachiocephalic trunk, left common carotid artery, and left subclavian artery. The brachiocephalic trunk is the first branch and divides into the right common carotid and right subclavian arteries. The left common carotid is the second branch and supplies the left side of the head and neck, while the left subclavian is the third branch and supplies blood mainly to the left upper extremity.

   Aortic Arch
   - **Brachiocephalic Trunk**
     -Right Common Carotid
     -Right Subclavian
   - **Left Common Carotid**
   - **Left Subclavian**

   In the LAO position, the arch opens up, separating the structures, making it look like a true Ap, showing no superimposition of the artery. It also elongates the ascending aorta, making it more in profile. It gives better visualization of the three major branches, which were the brachiocephalic trunk, left common carotid, and left subclavian.

Word count: 200-250 words

Reflective Writing Rubric

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points

Critical Reflection	Basic understanding of topic	Some reflection, with basic analysis	Deep reflection with thoughtful analysis
Application to Practice	Limited connection to medical imaging practice	Clear connections to medical imaging practice	Insightful application to medical imaging practice
Writing Quality	Basic writing with some clarity issues	Clear writing with minor errors	Well-written, clear, and concise