

Diabetic Patients May Fare as Well From Stents as From CABG

Family Practice News

October 1, 2008

Copyright 2008 Elsevier Inc., International Medical News Group All Rights Reserved

Section: Pg. 10; Vol. 38; No. 19; ISSN: 0300-7073

Length: 577 words

Byline: Mitchel L. Zoler, Philadelphia Bureau

Body

MUNICH - Patients with diabetes who received coronary stents fared just as well as similar patients who underwent coronary bypass surgery in a randomized study.

The results seemed to disprove the conventional wisdom that percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is not a good option for patients with diabetes because of their greater risk of restenosis, compared with nondiabetic patients, Dr. Akhil Kapur said at the annual congress of the European Society of Cardiology.

But some experts were skeptical of the finding, saying that the study of 510 patients with 1 year of follow-up wasn't large enough to definitively address the issue.

"Five hundred patients is small for any comparison" of PCI and coronary surgery in patients with diabetes, commented Dr. Spencer B. King III, executive director of Academic Affairs at the Saint Joseph Health System in Atlanta.

He recommended physicians await results from the Future Revascularization Evaluation in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus: Optimal Management of Multivessel Disease (FREEDOM) study that is planned to enroll 2,400 patients and have results reported in 2012.

"The 1-year follow-up is short, the study was very underpowered, and the results are inconclusive," said Dr. Valentin Fuster, professor of medicine and director of the cardiovascular institute at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, who also advised waiting for the FREEDOM results.

The Coronary Artery Revascularization in Diabetes (CARDIA) trial was done at 24 hospitals in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It randomized patients with diabetes and either multivessel coronary disease or complex single-vessel disease who were suitable for either PCI or coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). When the study began in 2002, bare-metal stents were used, but this changed after sirolimus-eluting coronary stents (Cypher) came on the market. The patients' average age was 64 years, and about 31% were on insulin treatment.

Diabetic Patients May Fare as Well From Stents as From CABG

The primary end point was the combined rate of death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke after 1 year. The rate was 10.2% in 245 patients treated with CABG and 11.6% in the 251 patients treated with PCI, a difference that was not statistically significant, said Dr. Kapur, a cardiologist at the London Chest Hospital.

As in the other major comparison of PCI and CABG presented at the meeting, the SYNTAX study, the rate of stroke was significantly lower in patients treated with PCI (0.4%) than in those treated with CABG (2.5%). But the PCI patients had a higher rate of nonfatal MIs (8.4%), although not significantly higher than the CABG patients (5.7%).

Also as in SYNTAX, the rate of repeat revascularizations was significantly higher in PCI patients (9.9%) than in CABG patients (2.0%), but unlike SYNTAX, the **CARDIA study** did not include repeat revascularization in the primary end point.

When the analysis was confined to the 179 PCI patients (71%) who received a drug-eluting coronary stent, the results shifted slightly in favor of PCI. The rate of death, MI, or stroke in this PCI subgroup was 10.1%, including no strokes. The rate of repeat revascularization fell to 7.3%.

The study received some support from Cordis, which markets Cypher stents, but many other device and drug companies also provided support for the study. The primary sponsor was Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, London. Dr. Kapur said he had no relevant disclosures.



Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: FPNEWS

Diabetic Patients May Fare as Well From Stents as From CABG

Subject: SURGERY & TRANSPLANTATION (94%); DIABETES (93%); CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (91%); MEDICAL RESEARCH (90%); HEART DISEASE (90%); CARDIOLOGY (90%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (89%); CARDIOVASCULAR DEVICES (89%); STROKES (78%); PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS (78%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (76%); EXECUTIVES (74%); FINANCIAL RESULTS (73%); DEATHS & DEATH RATES (71%); TALKS & MEETINGS (69%); Cardiovascular Medicine (%)

Company: ST JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEMS (56%)

Industry: CARDIOLOGY (90%); CARDIOVASCULAR DEVICES (89%); HOSPITALS (78%); PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS (78%); ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS (78%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (71%); NEW YORK, USA (55%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%)

Load-Date: July 31, 2009

End of Document