Techniques in Coronary Artery Stenting
Antonio Columbo

Since the introduction of coronary artery stent placement in the early 1990s, the field of interventional cardiology has undergone a marked revolution. In some catheterization laboratories across the world, coronary stent placement is performed in >90% of interventional cases.

This book is a new addition to the armamentarium of the interventional cardiologist. Written by several leading experts in the field, it is more comprehensive in its discussion of the approaches to coronary artery disease than the title suggests. Starting with the initial chapter on the important information gleaned from the use of intravascular ultrasound after coronary artery interventions, the book launches into a comprehensive discussion of stent designs and their applications in different situations. The important topics covered include ostial lesions, vein graft lesions, bifurcation lesions, left main stenting, in-stent restenosis, debulking before stenting, and stenting in acute myocardial infarction.

Liberal use of intravascular ultrasound images throughout the book enhances the reading and understanding of the material. The printed images are of excellent quality, with clearly visible details. The layout of the book is clear, with good organization of the material.

“Stent technology” is a rapidly evolving field. As expected, newer information is now available that is not adequately covered in the book. For example, there is no discussion of drug-coated stents. The stent designs discussed reflect those available in Europe several years ago. Some have since fallen out of favor, and others never made it out of the European market. Current designs such as tetra (Guidant) and S670 (Medtronic) are not listed.

One of the disappointing aspects of this book is the accompanying CD ROM. This contains all the illustrations from the book organized in a chapter-wise manner. However, the quality of the images is substandard, with fuzzy details.

Overall, the book is a superb comprehensive discussion of coronary artery stenting with a clear, readable format and is a must for the personal collection of cardiac interventionists and hospital library collections. It was very popular when handed out at the recent Transcatheter Therapeutics (TCT) course.

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