Drug-Eluting Stent Restenosis Rates?

The article by Lemos et al1 describing coronary restenosis after implantation of sirolimus-eluting stents is of great interest. With the increasing demand for drug-eluting stents (DES) and the recent formation of guidelines for their use, confirmation of their continued efficacy in reducing restenosis is important. Therefore, registry data from a large patient population such as the Thoraxcenter (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)—probably the largest DES patient population in the world—is greatly welcomed.

The authors state that coronary angiography was performed at follow-up for two reasons, ie, if clinically indicated or for “complex” patients. The Results section describes 121 of the 192 patients with complex characteristics. Nineteen of these patients had restenosis, which, although not stated, translates into a restenosis rate of 19/121 (16%). The results make no mention of the patients who had coronary angiography performed for clinical reasons, ie, symptoms or positive ischemic tests. Some of the complex patients are presumably included in this group also. However, it would be most helpful to know the following.

1. The total number of patients who have had a DES implanted.
2. The number (%) of the above who represented with clinical evidence suggesting restenosis.
3. The number (%) of these patients who underwent repeat angiography and had angiographic restenosis identified.

This information, if available, would be clinically relevant and, hopefully, help all interventionists in their struggles to promote DES use.

Charles J. McKenna, MD
Department of Cardiology
Battle Hospital
Reading, England

Drug-Eluting Stent Restenosis Rates?
Charles J. McKenna

Circulation. 2004;109:e154
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.0000118319.12607.EA
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2004 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/109/9/e154

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/