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Balloon pulmonary angioplasty in chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension: Interventional management for pulmonary embolism in inoperable patients

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In chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH), stenoses or obstructions of the pulmonary arteries due to organized thrombi can cause an elevation in pulmonary artery resistance, which in turn can result in pulmonary hypertension. CTEPH can be cured surgically by pulmonary endarterectomy (PEA); however, inoperable patients (advanced age or comorbidities) have a poor prognosis and limited treatment options. Recently, advances have been made in balloon pulmonary angioplasty for these patients. In recent years, balloon pulmonary angioplasty has emerged as a primary and adjunctive treatment for these CTEPH patients at expert or specialized centers.