

3RD WORLD HEART CONGRESS

April 19-20, 2018 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Endovascular treatment for symptomatic extracranial vertebral artery stenosis

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Extracranial vertebral artery stenosis is common in patients with posterior circulation ischaemic stroke. In our high volume stroke centre, we analysed the data of symptomatic extracranial vertebral artery stenosis treated with angioplasty from 2003 to 2013. Total 284 patients underwent vertebral angioplasty and were followed up and analysed. Inclusion criteria were: recent ipsilateral posterior circulation stroke, recurrent posterior circulation stroke with documented critical vertebral artery stenosis at the origin. Patients with associated critical carotid stenosis and intracranial vertebral stenosis were excluded. Mean age of patients was 58±8 years and 72% were males. Of total, 56% were diabetic, 48% were hypertensive, 58% had coronary artery disease, 38% were smokers. All procedures were performed using standard percutaneous angioplasty protocol. Transfemoral route was approached in 94% procedures. Dual antiplatelets (aspirin 150 mg OD and clopidogrel 75 mg BD) and statins were given. Fifty-six patients received bare metal stents (BMS) and remaining received drug-eluting stents (DES). Mean follow-up of 2.5 years (1-6 years), was performed with clinical and doppler studies. Procedural success was 99.5%. Two patients had femoral hematoma. No major periprocedural complication like stroke or myocardial infarction (MI) or death were observed. Restenosis occurred in 4 patients (3 in BMS group; 1 in DES group). One patient had basilar stroke after 6 months and 2 patients had MI, of which 1 patient died. In conclusion, angioplasty with stenting of extracranial vertebral artery is safe procedure with very high success rate and good clinical outcome. However, further randomised trials should be held on treatment of extracranial vertebral stenosis.

Biography

Vijaya pamidimukkala has completed her DM in Neurology from PGIMER, Chandigarh. She has been a gold medalist at PGIMER, Chandigarh in MD (General Medicine). Her special interest is Stroke Management and main expertise in the Field of Comprehensive Stroke Therapy. Currently, she is running an active stroke program treating about 125 stroke cases per month. She achieved gold medals for 2 consecutive years for World Stroke Day activities from the World Stroke Organization. She started Stroke Volunteer Network Program involving the students and general public as stroke volunteers. She has published papers in international journals and has presented 17 paper presentations at various international conferences. In addition, she has presented 34 scientific paper presentations in national conferences, IMA meetings, CME and as invited guest speaker for scientific forums. She has been a member of 5 reputed organisations.

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