Bifurcation Lesions Clinical Issues Technical Challenges and Emerging Solutions



Ran Kornowski, MD, FESC, FACC

Division of Interventional Cardiology, Rabin Medical Center, Petach Tikva, Associate Professor of Cardiology Tel-Aviv University, Israel



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Clinical Issues

Side branch involvement in at least 30% of all PCI cases (need treatment in~15% of cases)



- Clinical aspects
- Anatomy classification
- Bifurcation techniques
- Strategic PCI planning
- Emerging technologies

Medina Classification (1/0)

Main vessel and/or side branch involvement



Medina A et al. Rev Esp Cardiol 2006;59:183

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Side-branch inspection

- Careful inspection of the SB is mandatory:
 - Severity of SB narrowing
 - SB diameter (>/< 2.5 mm)
 - SB angulation (>/< 50°) in relation to the MB
 - Lesion length (>/< 5mm) beyond the osteum
 - Degree of calcification
 - Changes in SB angiographic findings during PCI:
 - Plaque or carina shift
 - Dissection
 - \succ \downarrow flow, abrupt closure
 - Symptoms, ECG changes, hemodynamic status



3D Angiography 3D reconstruction techniques (Paieon-CardiOp[™])



Bifurcation Lesion Imaging *The role of CTA*



Technical Issues

Specialized techniques w/ standard devices

- Main branch stenting
- Provisional side-branch stenting
- T or modified T stenting
- Y or Culottes stenting
- V or "Kissing" stenting
- "Crush" or "Mini Crush" technique
- Reverse "Y" or "Crush" technique
- Etc.



Dedicated Bifurcation Stents



TAXUS petal



Guidant frontier

YMed sidekick



Devax (+ BA9)



"true" bifurcation designs



sidebranch designs



Stentys



Tryton

Bifurcation Lesions *Conclusions (1)*

- Catherer-based treatment of bifurcation lesions remains a major therapeutic challenge
- The optimal mode of treatment remains to be elucidated
- Provisional" technique using DES may be the preferred mode of treatment in suitable cases.
- Two stents are mandatory when sub-optimal results are achieved in the side-branch or excessive plaque burden is located in the SB origin.

Bifurcation Lesions: *Conclusions (2)*

- Dedicated bifurcation stents systems address the technical challenges of bifurcation lesions and might improve the management and outcomes.
- Variability of lesions anatomy should be considered as the major challenge for specific dedicated bifurcation systems.