The Truth Outside the Stent in Primary PCI

The Culprit is Still a Candidate Culprit!

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A Case Report - General information

- 63 year-old male with complaints of severe chest pain for 2 hours
- Medical Hx: hypertension and rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- NSTEMI received PCI on proximal LAD with DES (3.0x18mm) just 6 weeks ago.



ECG

ECG showed ST elevation in lead V1-3





Angiography showed patent previous proximal LAD stent





Where is the culprit lesion?

Spot filling defect at middle LAD

Previous LAD

STEMI



Because of small vessel, one small DES of 2.25 mm was placed.



Final result was optimal. However, the blood flow of distal LAD was still slow and limited.

General information

- After PCI, the patient's symptoms were relieved.
- Finally he was discharged at the 12th day after PCI with standard DAPT.
- The patient received follow-up in outpatient department.



He received followed angiography 35 days later...





The 2 stents were patent. Distal flow was optimal.

OCT image of proximal DES showed optimal apposition.





OCT image of middle DES showed the etiology of STEMI was plaque rupture.



2 ruptured cavities;

one ruptured apeture against the direction of blood flow the other apeture along the direction of blood flow





Cross section scan showed unhealed cavities.



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Here we can get a brief summary of this patient

• 2 episodes of AMI on a male patient with RA.



Therefore, the culprit of STEMI is still a candidate culprit in such a patient with higher AMI risk.



What can I learn from OCT of this case?

The issue of duration of DAPT



Patients with RA have 38% increased risks for AMI than those without RA



Easy plaque progression, rupture, and delayed healing at ruptured sites





Eur Heart J 2015;36:482-489

Conclusion

 OCT evaluation after primary PCI might be necessary for high-risk patients to evaluate plaque progression and delayed healing (e.g. patients with RA).

Some suggestions:

After DES, at least one follow-up at 12M by angiography + OCT.

→If OCT shows risks of ST, such as uncovered strut / unhealed ruptured cavities, prolonged DAPT is suggested.

→ Statin for plaque stabilization





Thanks for your attention !

