

Does True Vessel Healing Matter?

Roxana Mehran, MD

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Health Evidence and Policy
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai,
Cardiovascular Research Foundation
New York, NY

Vascular Response to stent implantation

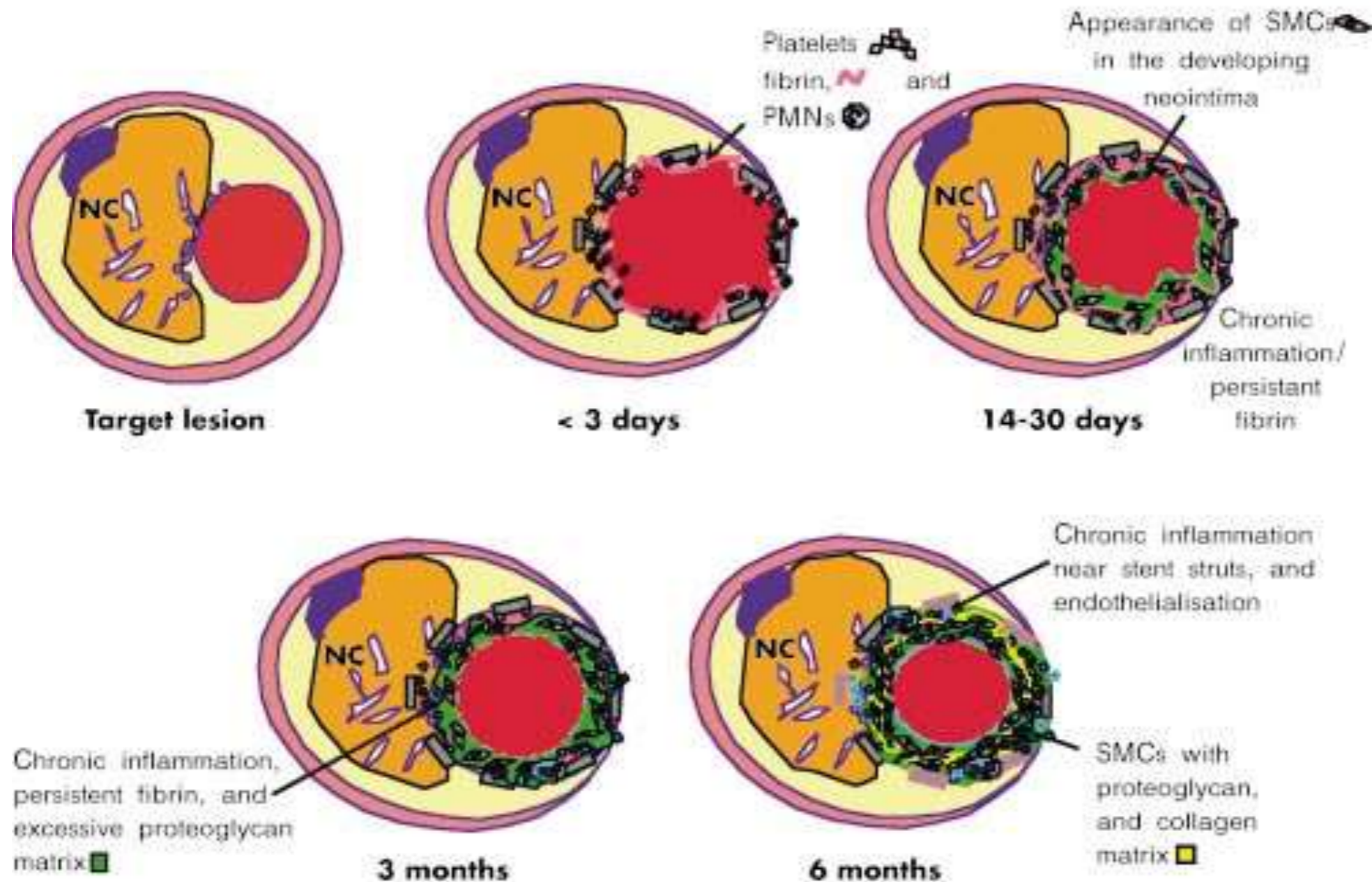


Figure 3 Illustration of the vascular response to a balloon expandable stainless steel stent implanted in an atherosclerotic human coronary artery. NC, necrotic core; PMNs, polymorphonuclear leucocytes; SMCs, smooth muscle cells.

Adverse Vessel Healing: Cascade of restenosis.

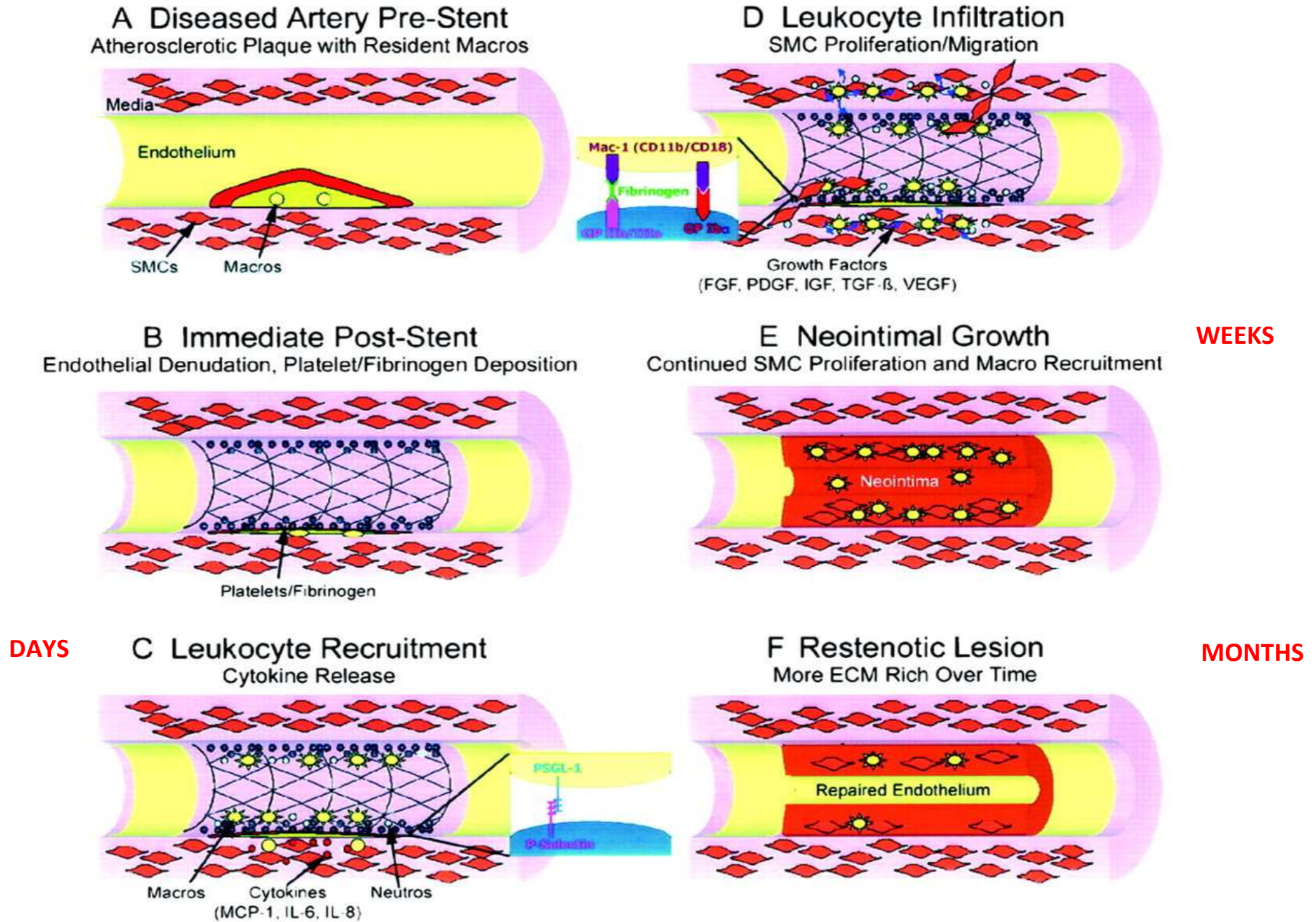
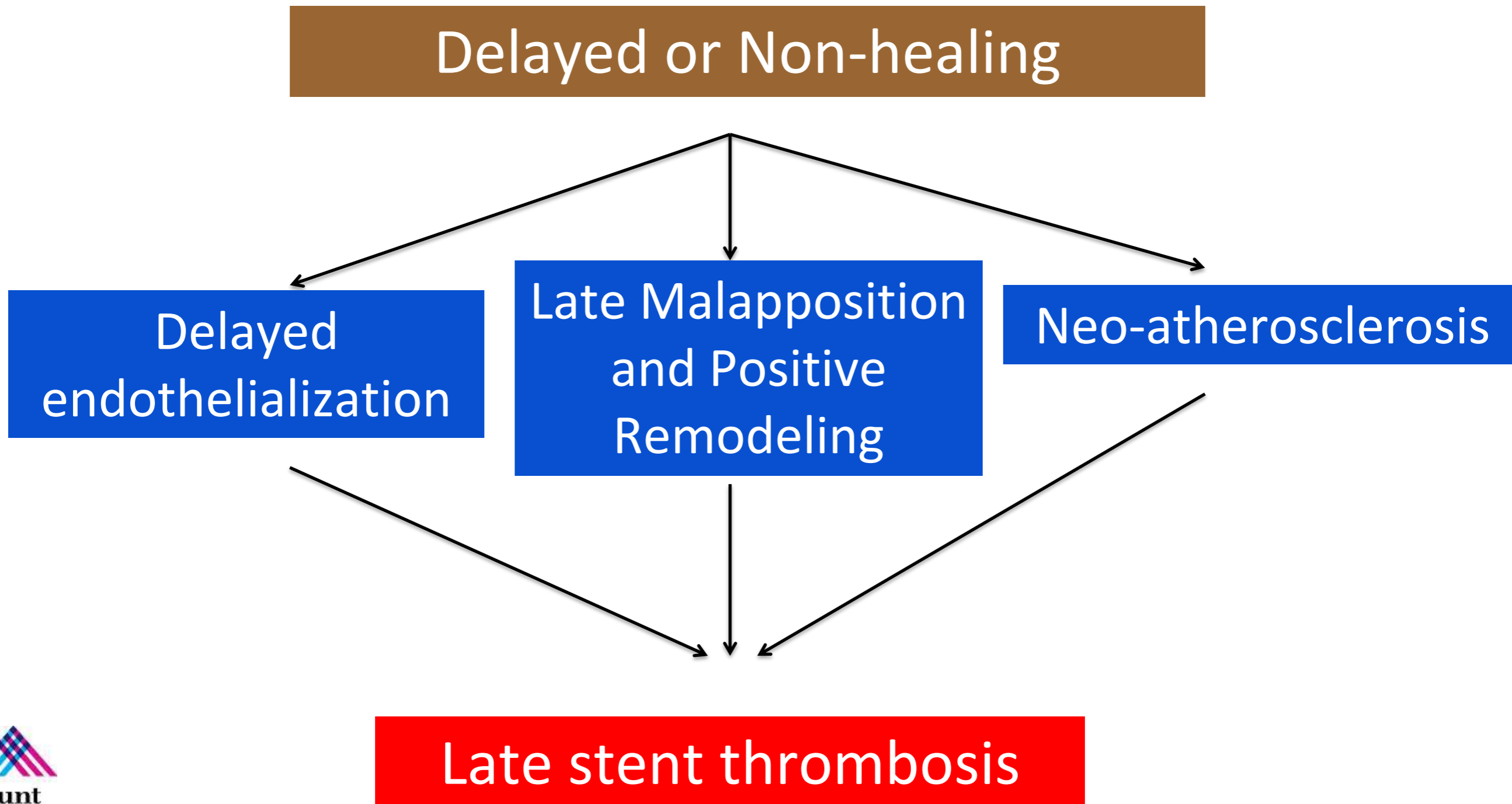
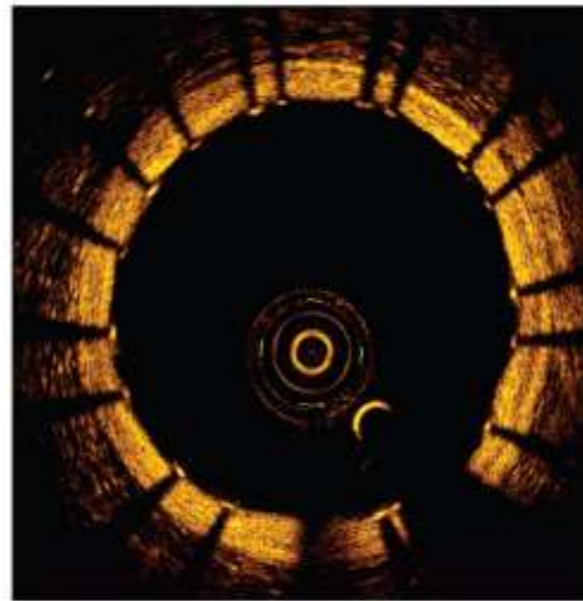


Figure 1. Schematic of an integrated cascade of restenosis. A, Atherosclerotic vessel before intervention. B, Immediate result of stent placement with endothelial denudation and platelet/fibrinogen deposition. C and D, Leukocyte recruitment, infiltration, and SMC proliferation and migration in days after injury. E, Neointimal thickening in the weeks after injury, with continued SMC proliferation and monocyte recruitment. F, Long-term (weeks to months) change from a predominantly cellular to a less cellular and more ECM-rich plaque. Reprinted with permission from Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol.11

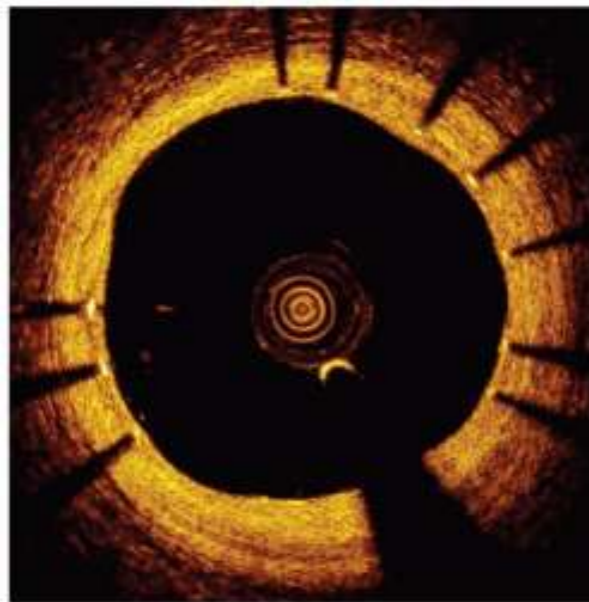
Vessel Non-Healing



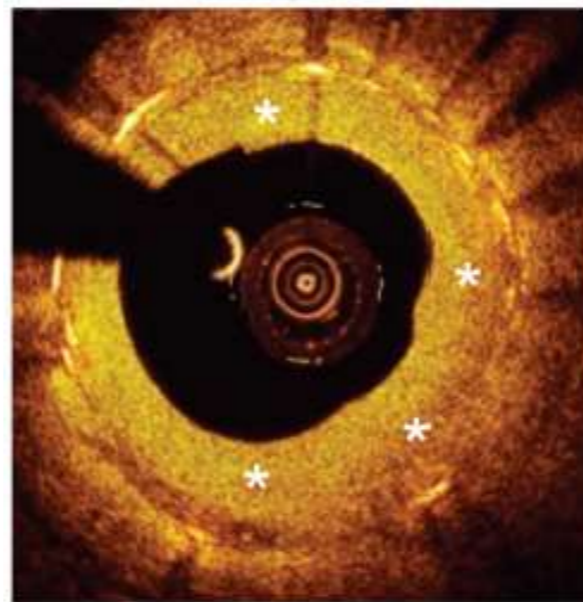
Assessment of Arterial Condition Under OCT



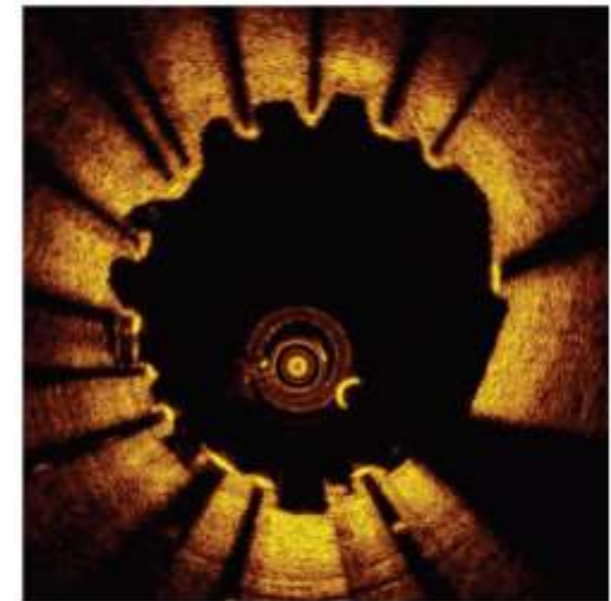
Stent Optimization at Baseline Procedure



Optimal Strut Coverage



Neointimal Proliferation



Non-Healing & Positive Remodeling

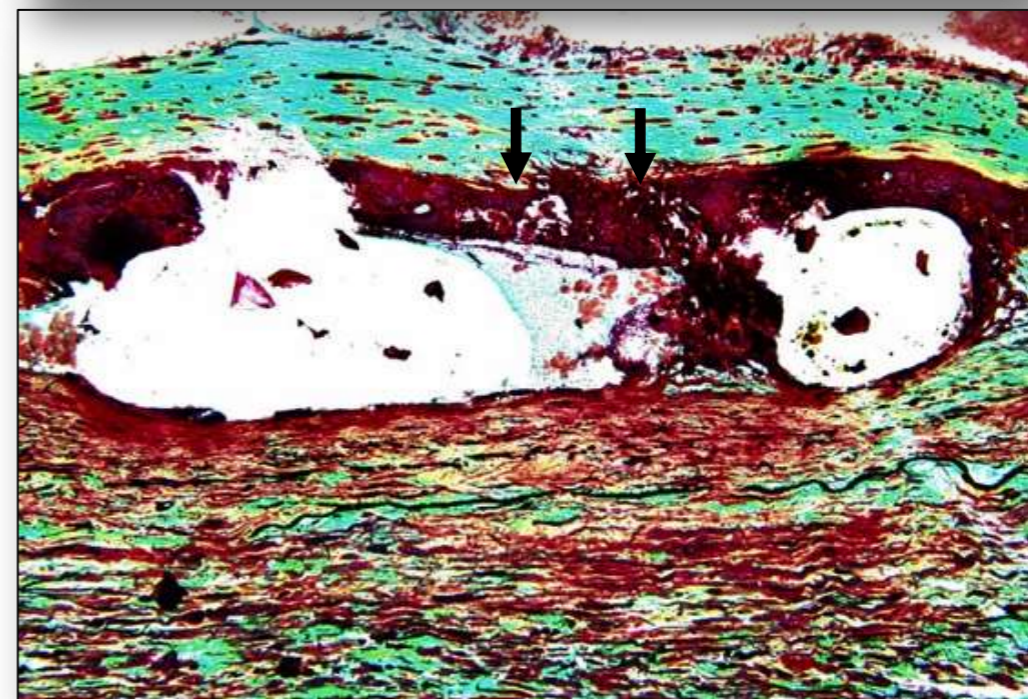
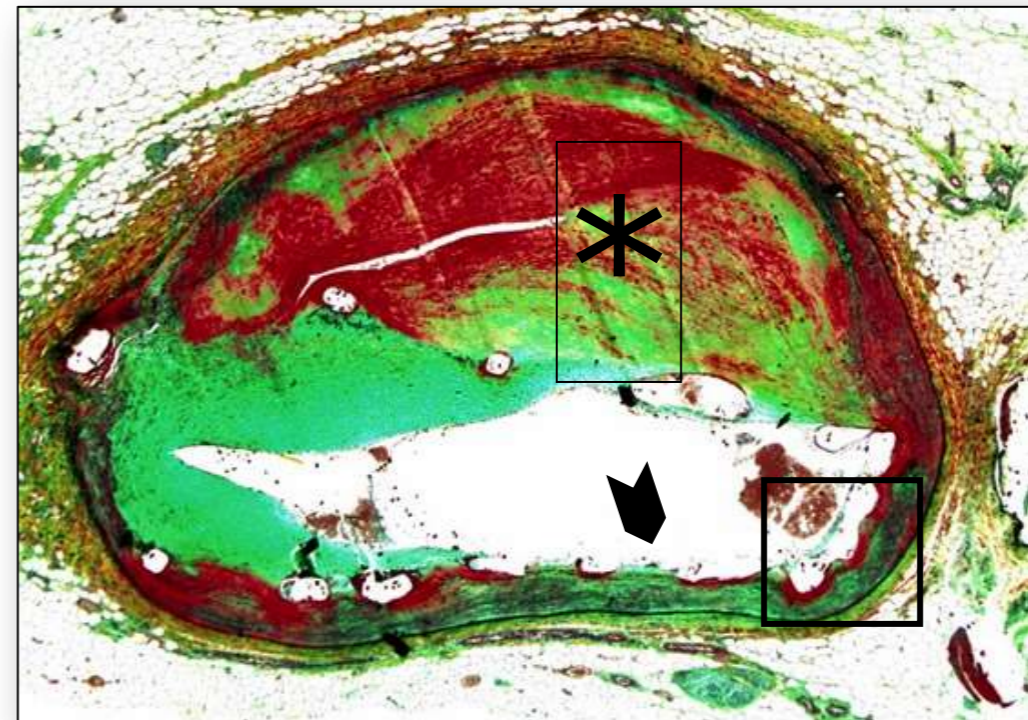
Monitoring of Delayed Arterial Healing (Histology)

Incomplete
Endothelialisation

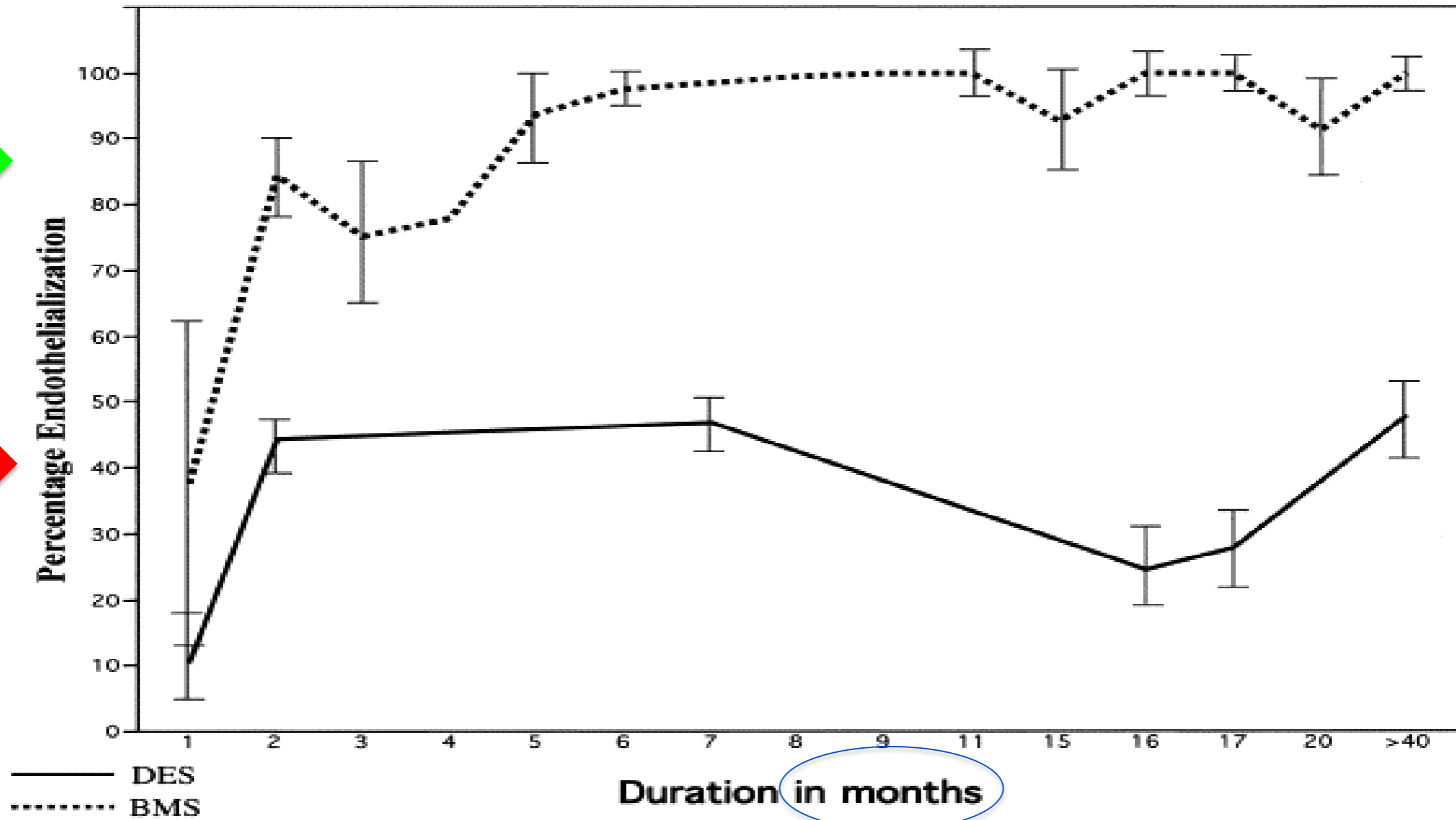
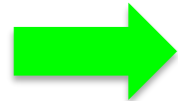
Late Fibrin
Deposition

Chronic
Inflammation

Platelet Activation

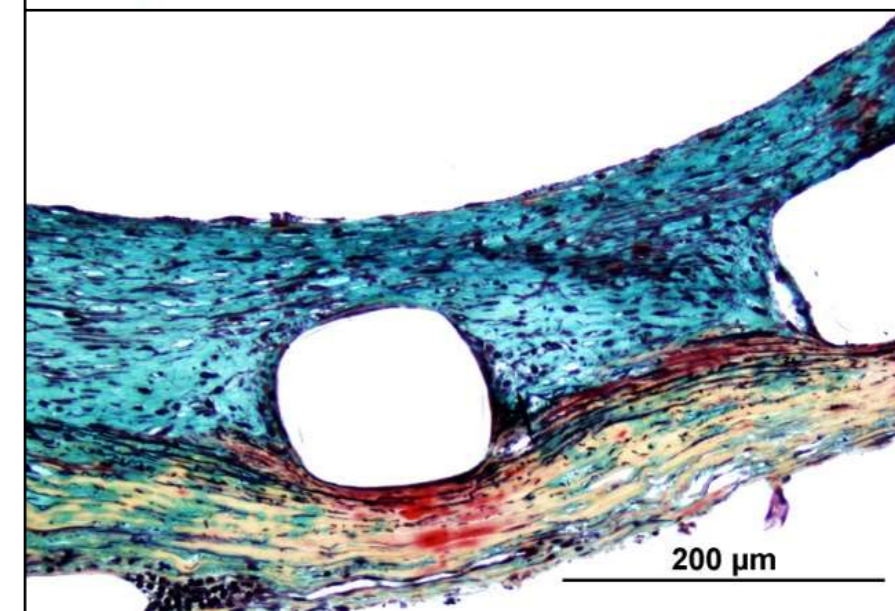
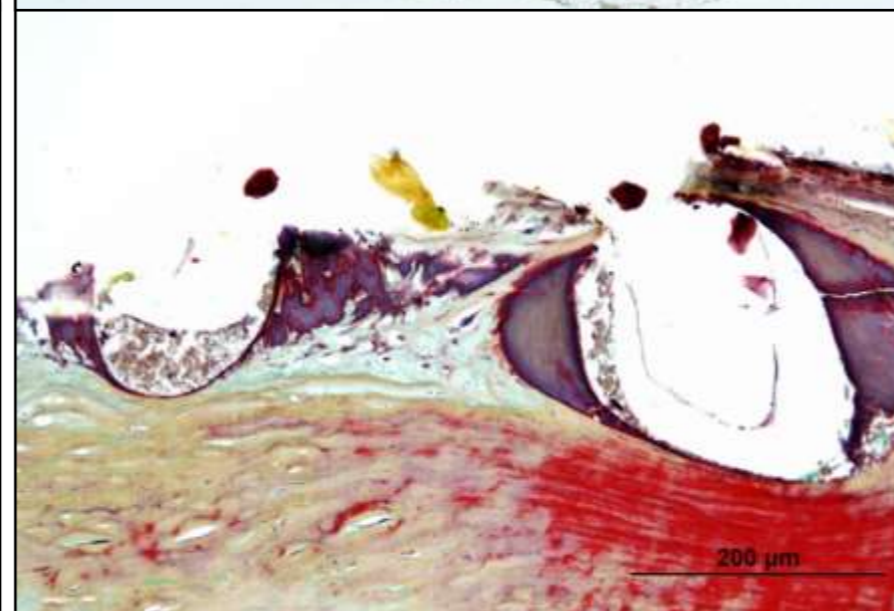
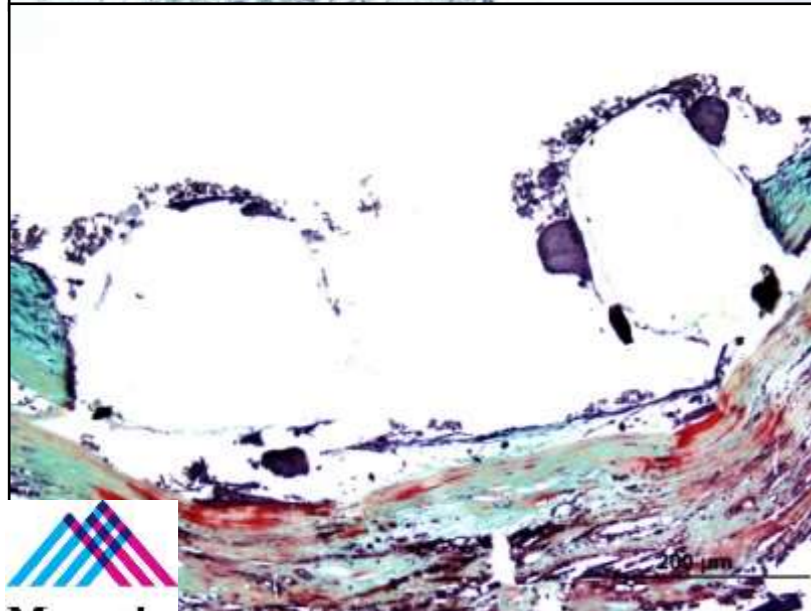
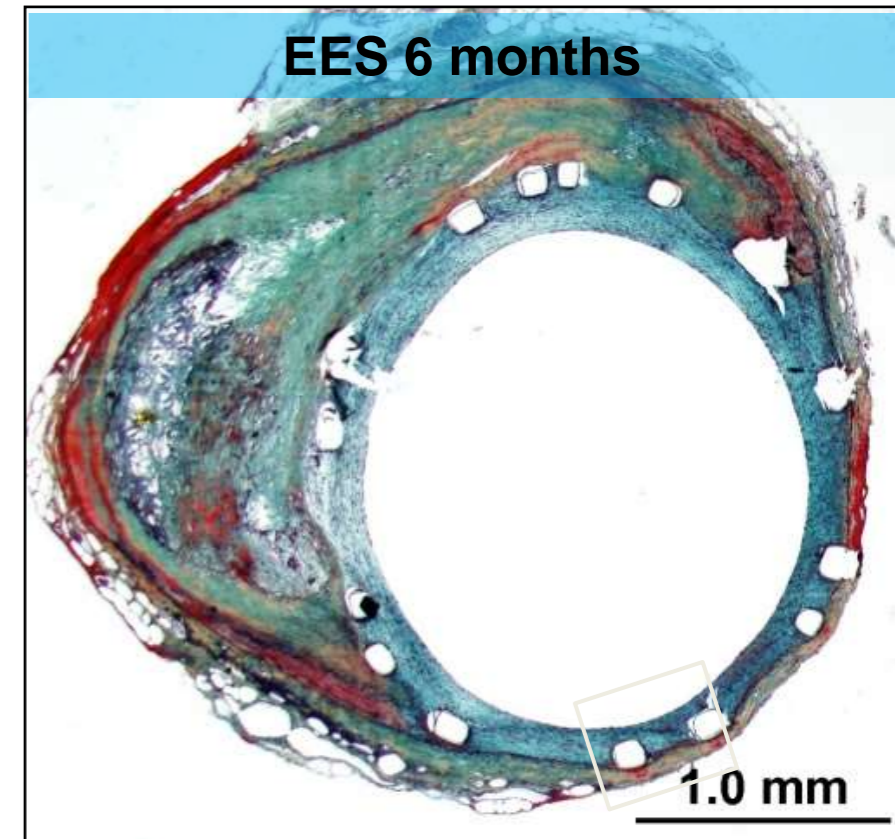
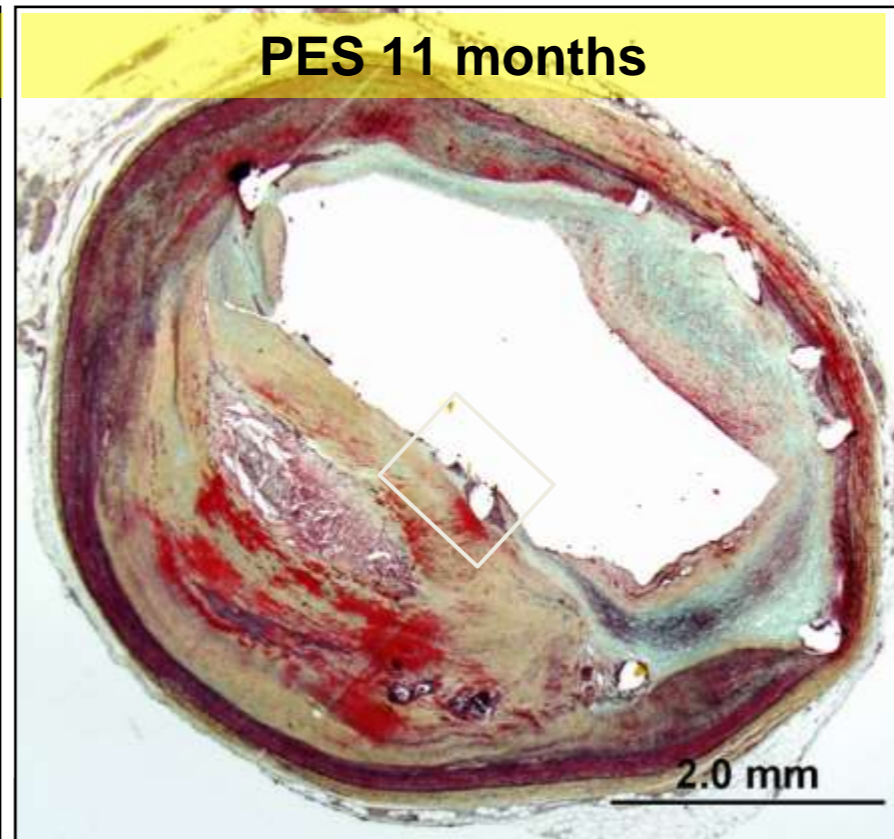
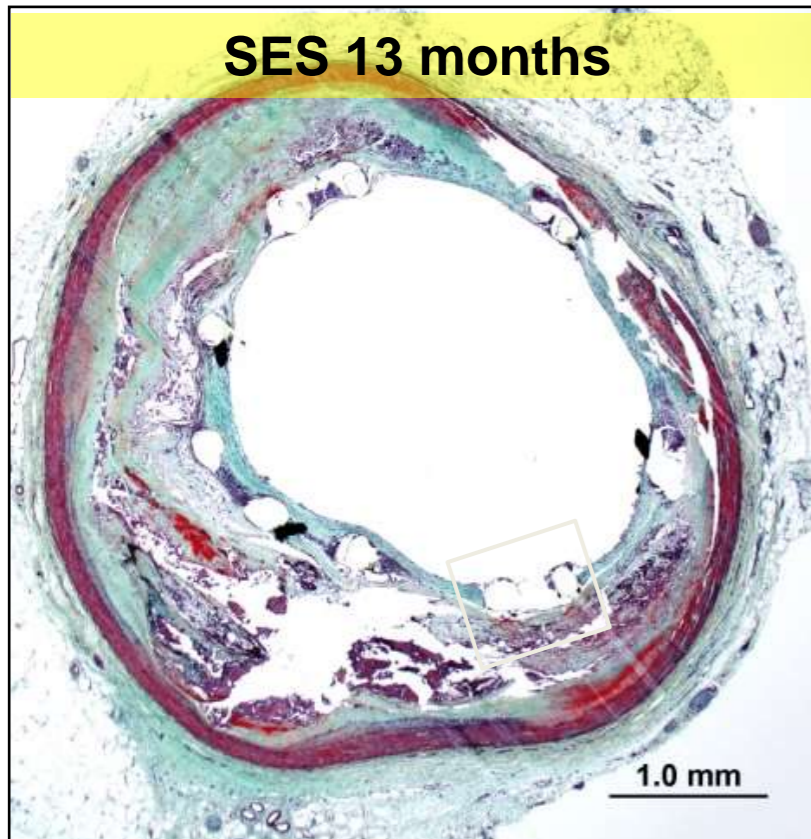


Rate and Degree of Endothelialization in DES Vs BMS

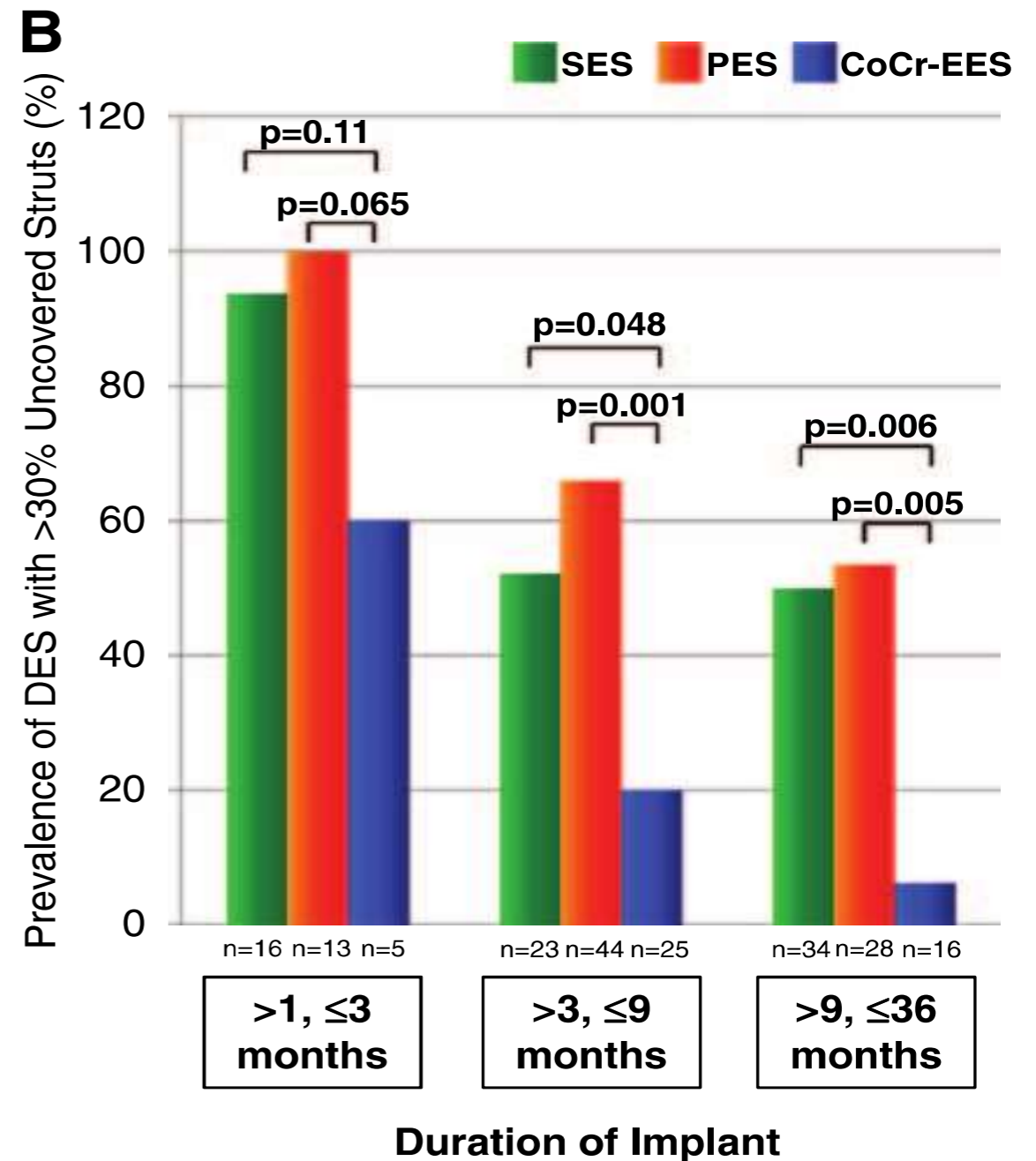
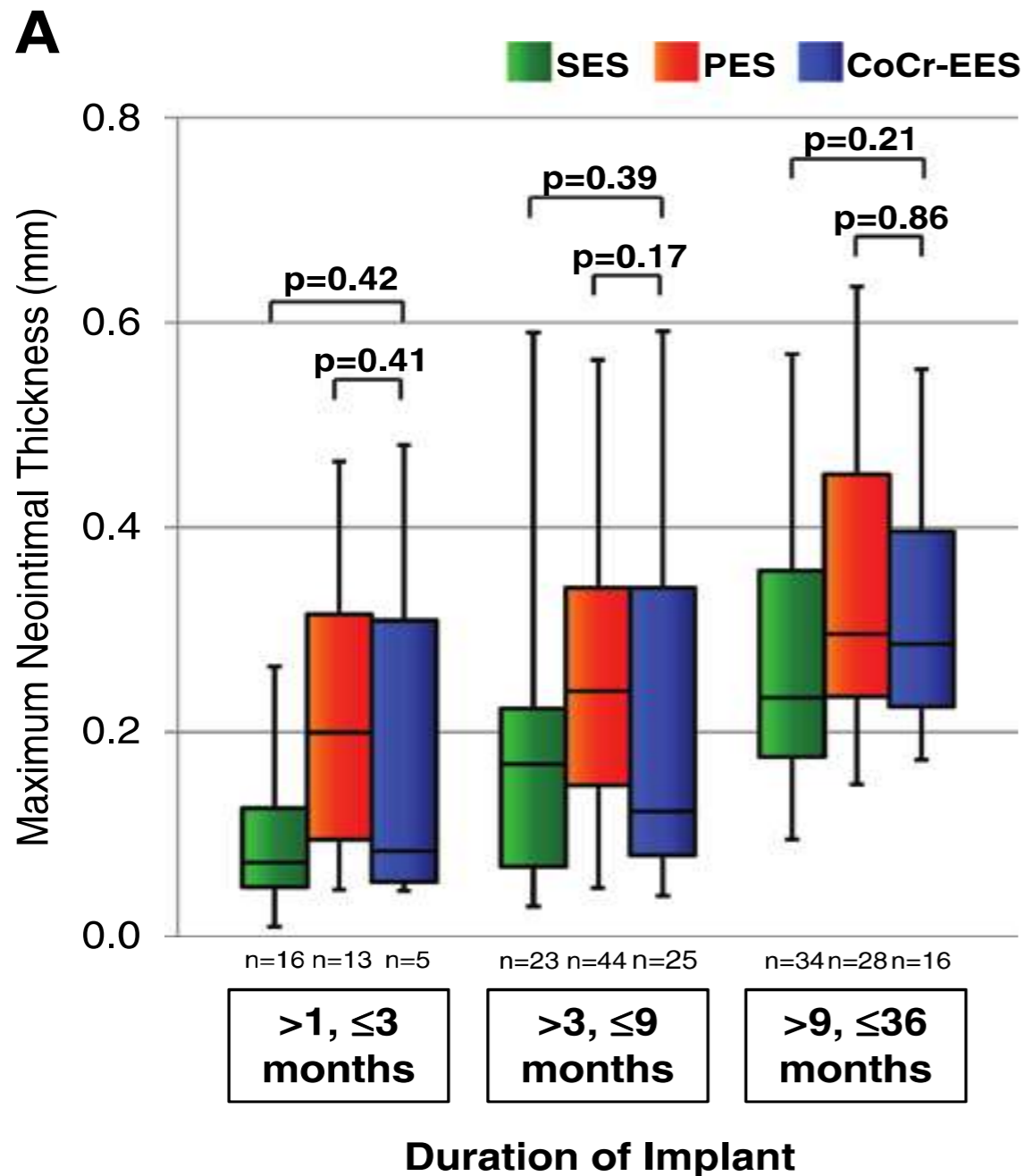


Line chart comparing the percentage of endothelialization in drug-eluting stents (DES) versus bare-metal stents (BMS) as a function of time. Note that DES (solid line) consistently show less endothelialization compared with BMS (dashed line)

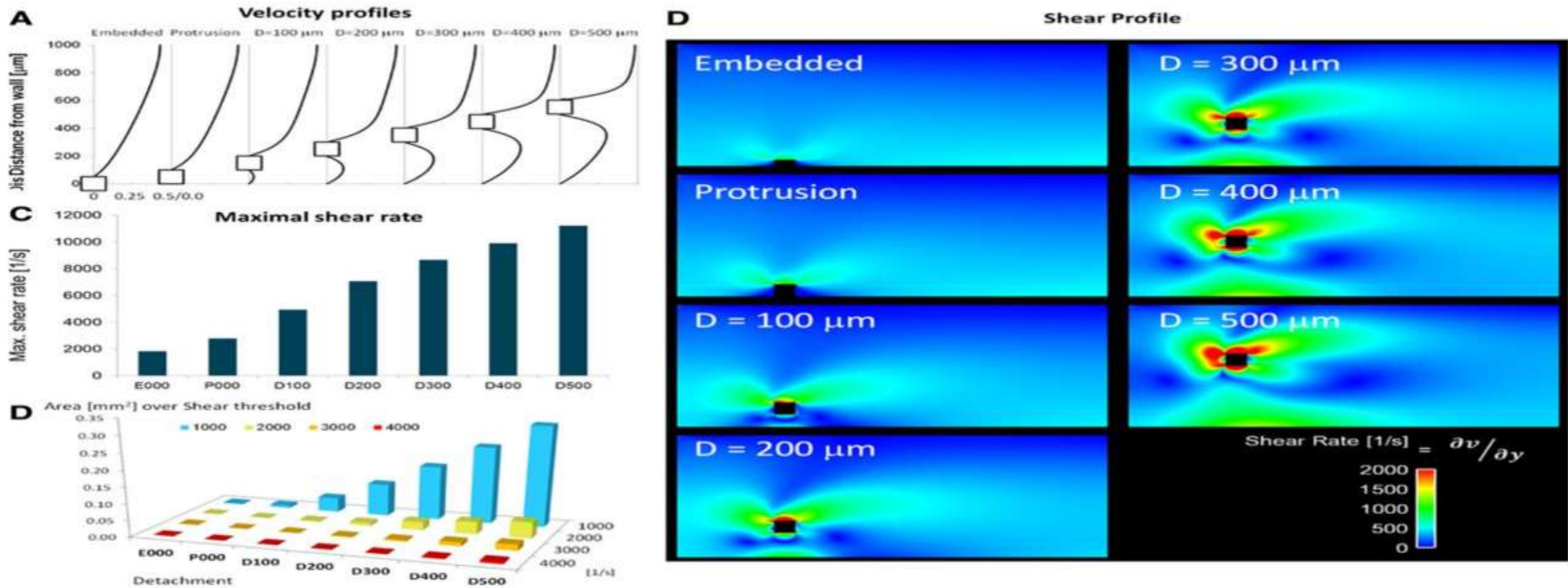
Representative Images of EES vs. SES/PES in Human Coronary Arteries



Degree of endothelialization with different DES



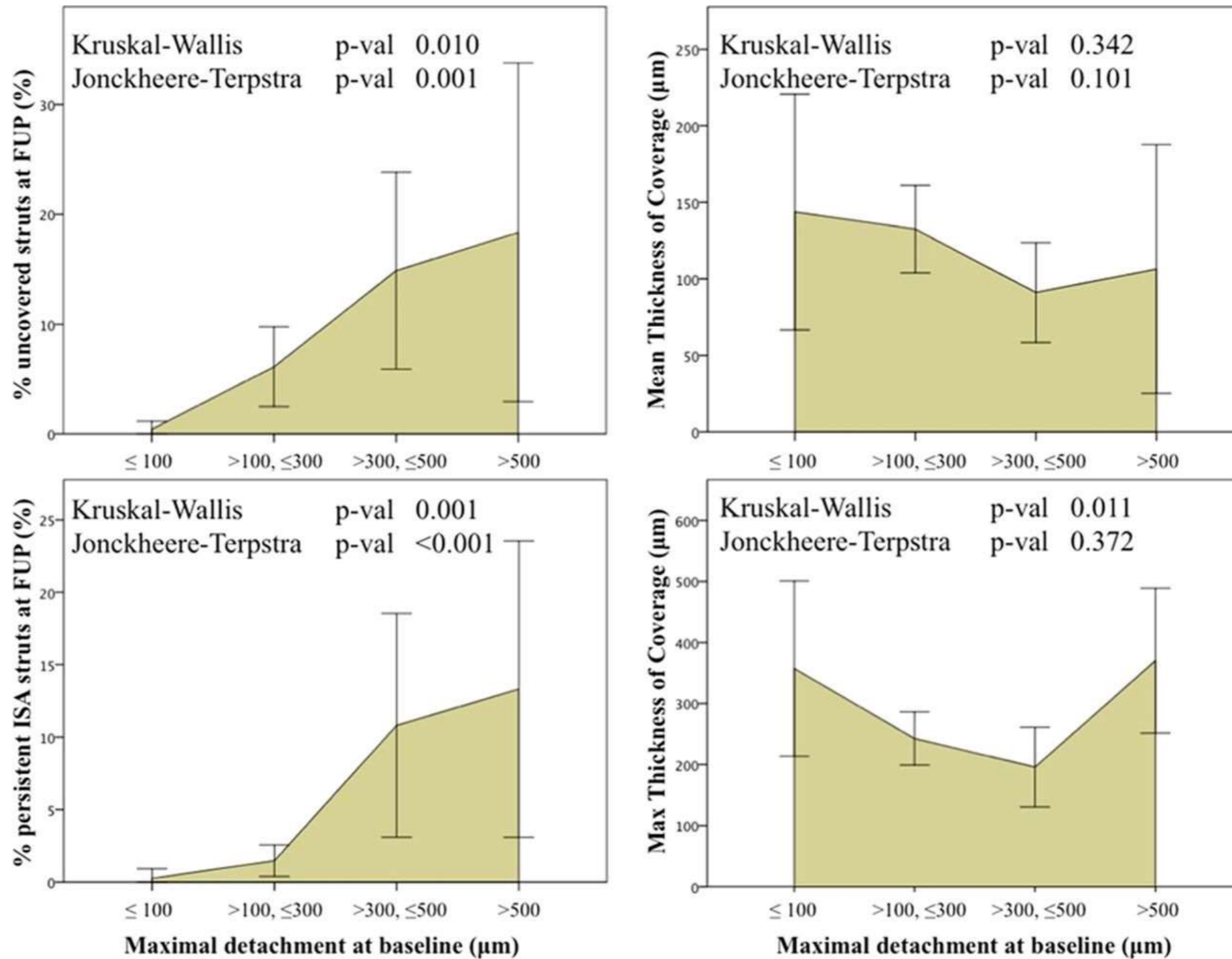
Impact of strut-wall malapposition distance on blood flow velocity profiles (A) and shear rate patterns (B).



Strut apposition		Shear_max [1/s]	Area > shear threshold [mm ²]				
Case	Shear_max [1/s]		> 500	> 1000	> 2000	> 3000	> 4000
Apposed	E000	1828	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	P000	2778	0.79	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
ISA	D100	4934	0.90	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
	D200	7062	1.04	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00
	D300	8653	1.12	0.16	0.02	0.00	0.00
	D400	9910	1.20	0.23	0.04	0.01	0.00
	D500	11213	1.11	0.31	0.05	0.02	0.01

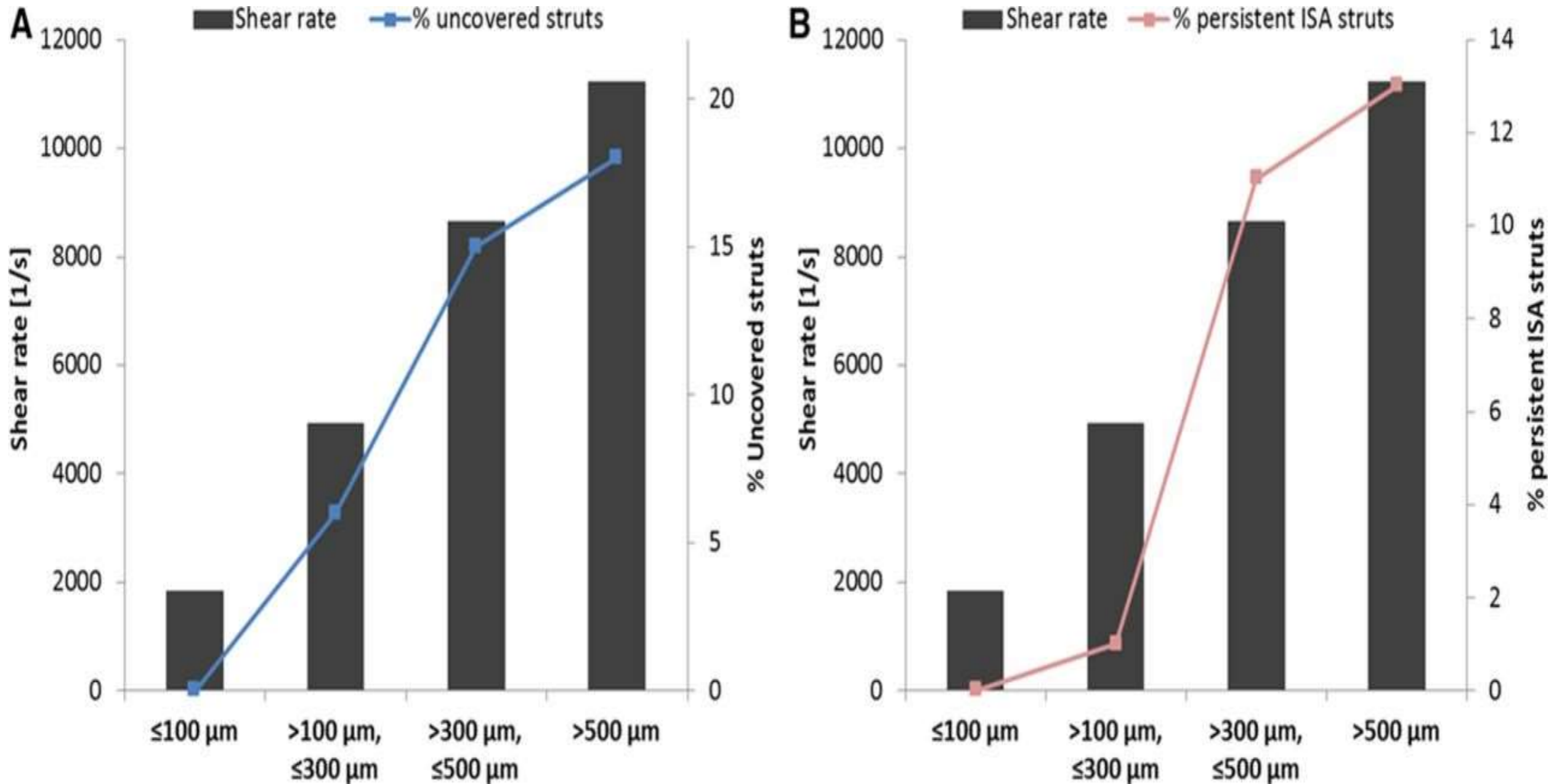
A, Blood flow velocity profiles for the different cases of strut apposition (embedded and protrusion) and strut malapposition considered in the computational simulation with increasing maximal strut-wall incomplete stent apposition (ISA) distances, ranging from $D=100 \mu\text{m}$ up to $D=500 \mu\text{m}$. **B**, Corresponding shear profile in blood flow around stent strut for each cases. High shear rate values (red) correspond to blood flow disturbance with highest velocity gradients. **C**, Absolute maximal shear rate [1/s] and (**D**) area of blood (mm^2) affected by abnormal shear above the preset threshold computed for each cases. E000, embedded; P000, protrusion; D100–D500, malapposition cases with ISA detachment distance ranging from 100 to 500 μm .

Impact of detachment distance on neointimal coverage in a clinical setting.



Impact of detachment distance on neointimal coverage in a clinical setting. Mean values of percentage of uncovered struts at follow-up (FUP; primary objective), percentage of persistent malapposed (incomplete stent apposition [ISA]) struts at follow-up, mean and maximal thickness of coverage measured in the ISA segment. Bars, 95% confidence intervals.

Correlation between baseline shear rate and mean percentage uncovered strut (A) and percentage persistent incomplete stent apposition (ISA; B) at follow-up in each ISA category.



Correlation between baseline shear rate and mean percentage uncovered strut (A) and percentage persistent incomplete stent apposition (ISA; B) at follow-up in each ISA category. Baseline shear rate (lower boundary for each ISA category computed in Figure 2) compared with mean percentage of uncovered struts and rate of persistent ISA at follow-up. As shear increases with malapposition distance, so does the rate of uncovered struts (linear regression: $r=0.99$; $P=0.006$) and incidence of persistent ISA (linear regression: $r=0.92$; $P=0.04$) at follow-up.

Late stent malapposition after DES

- Late acquired stent malapposition occurs in ~12% of cases after DES implantation.
- Predictors of LSM (acquired) are total stent length, primary stenting in acute myocardial infarction, chronic total occlusion lesions
- Acute stent malapposition volume is a predictor of persistent LSM
- The clinical implications of LSM on adverse outcomes are controversial – However, large sized stent malappositions are associated with stent thrombosis

Association between acute and late persistent stent malapposition

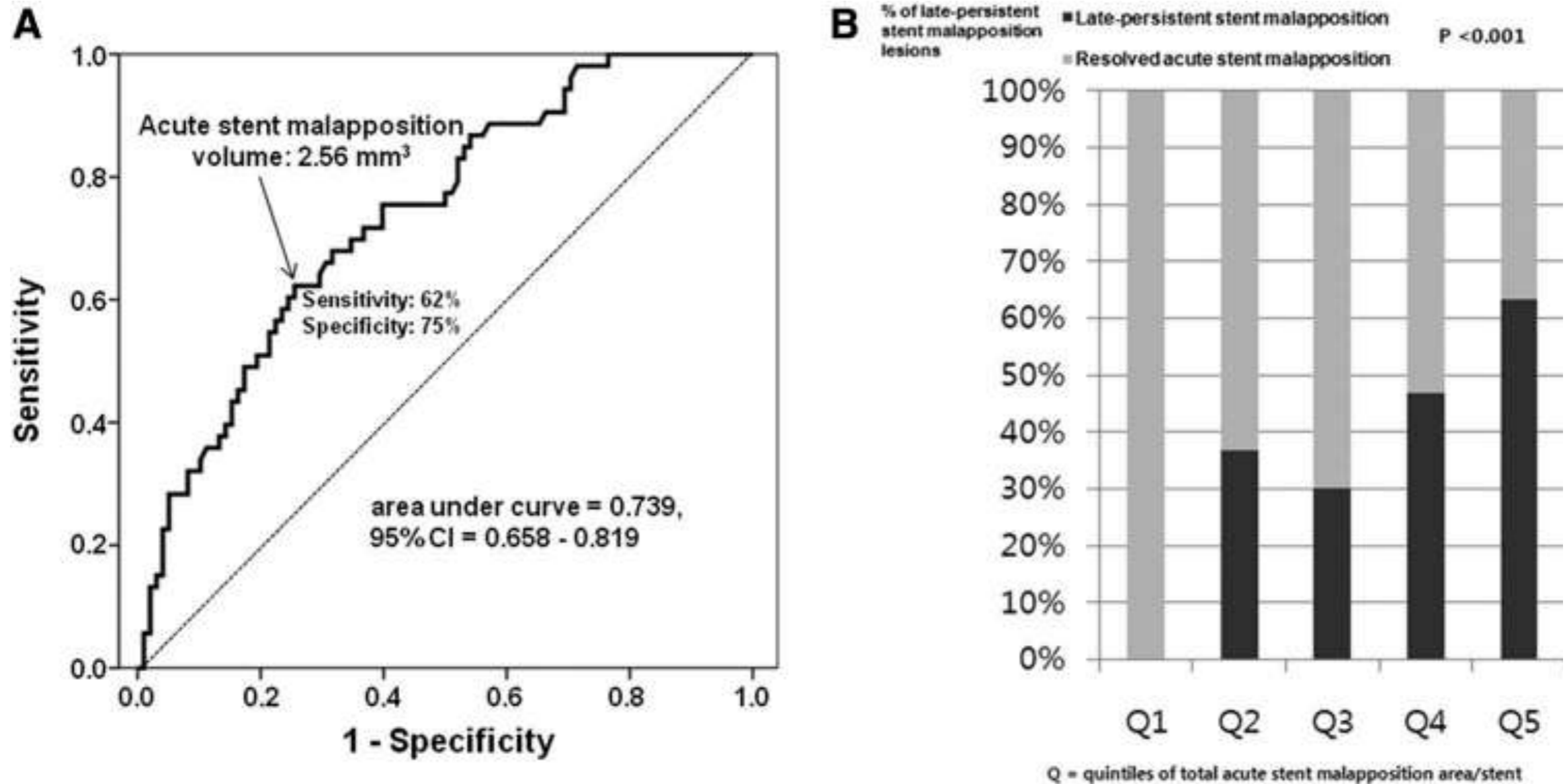
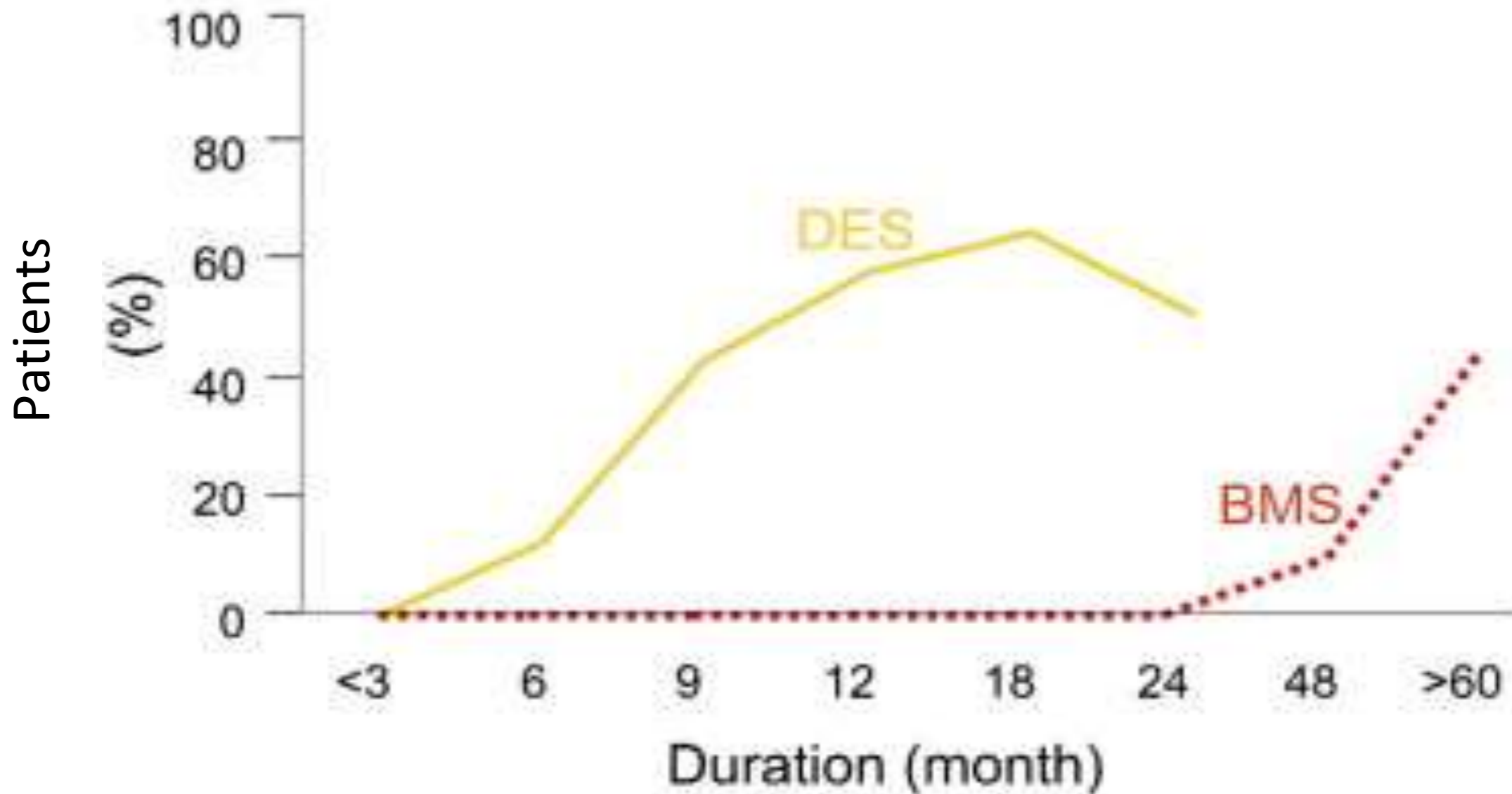


Figure 3. A, Receiver-operating curve demonstrating the best cut-off value for acute stent malapposition volume, which separates late-persistent stent malapposition lesions from resolved acute stent malapposition lesions. **B,** The percentage of late-persistent stent malapposition lesions according to the quintiles of total acute stent malapposition area is shown. CI indicates confidence interval.

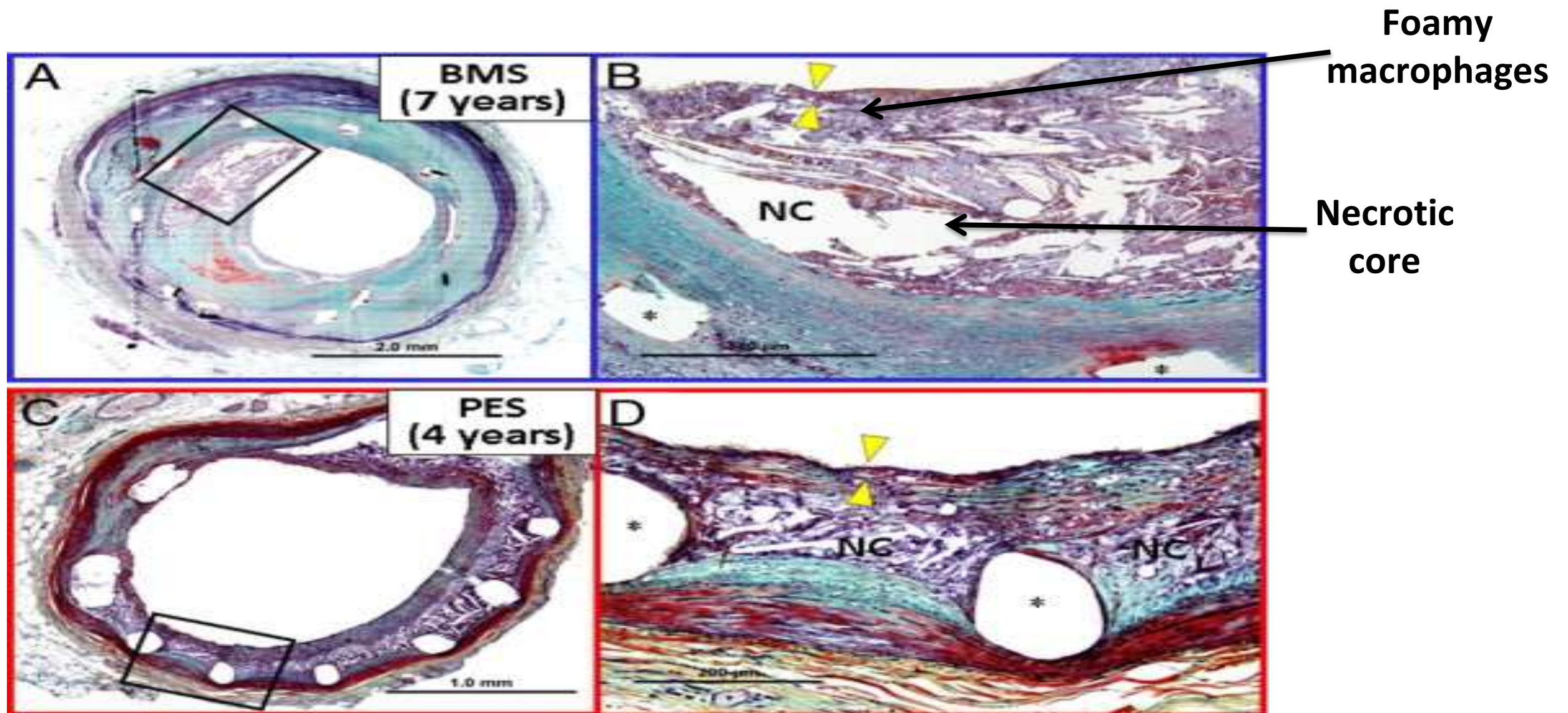
In-Stent Neointimal Hyperplasia: A Final Common Pathway of Late Stent Failure



Different Time Points of the Neointimal Hyperplasia: Percentage of patients with atherosclerotic change in drug-eluting stent (DES) versus bare-metal stent (BMS) in relation to duration of implant at autopsy is depicted.

The atherosclerotic change in sirolimus-eluting stents is seen in >40% of cases by 9 months; in the BMS, the atherosclerotic change does not begin to appear until 2 years, and remains a rare finding until 4 years.

In-Stent Neoatherosclerosis



(A) Cross-sectional histology of bare-metal stent (BMS) implanted in the coronary artery for 7 years antemortem

(B) High-power image of the box in A ($\times 100$). A large necrotic core (NC) containing cholesterol crystals is identified within the neointima. The fibrous cap overlying the NC is infiltrated by numerous foamy macrophages and is markedly thinned (yellow arrowheads point to thinnest portion), which resembles vulnerable plaque encountered in native coronary arteries. The asterisks represent metal struts.

(C) Cross-sectional histology of paclitaxel-eluting stent (PES) implanted in the coronary artery for 4 years antemortem

(D) High-power image of the box in C ($\times 200$). A relatively small NC containing cholesterol crystals is formed around metal struts (asterisk). The fibrous cap is infiltrated by numerous foamy macrophages and is markedly thinned (yellow arrowheads point to thinnest portion).

Late Stent Thrombosis from Non-Healing

DES at 9 Months



Uncovered Struts

DES at 3 Years



Late Stent Thrombus

What are Key Elements to Proper Vessel Healing?

- Adequate strut coverage to minimize thrombotic risk¹
- Homogeneity² (less peri-strut inflammation and fibrin deposition)
- Stabilized neointima prevents development of neoatherosclerosis³
- Functional endothelium to regain normal vasomotor function⁴

Components of Currently Available DES

Dual Therapy Stent

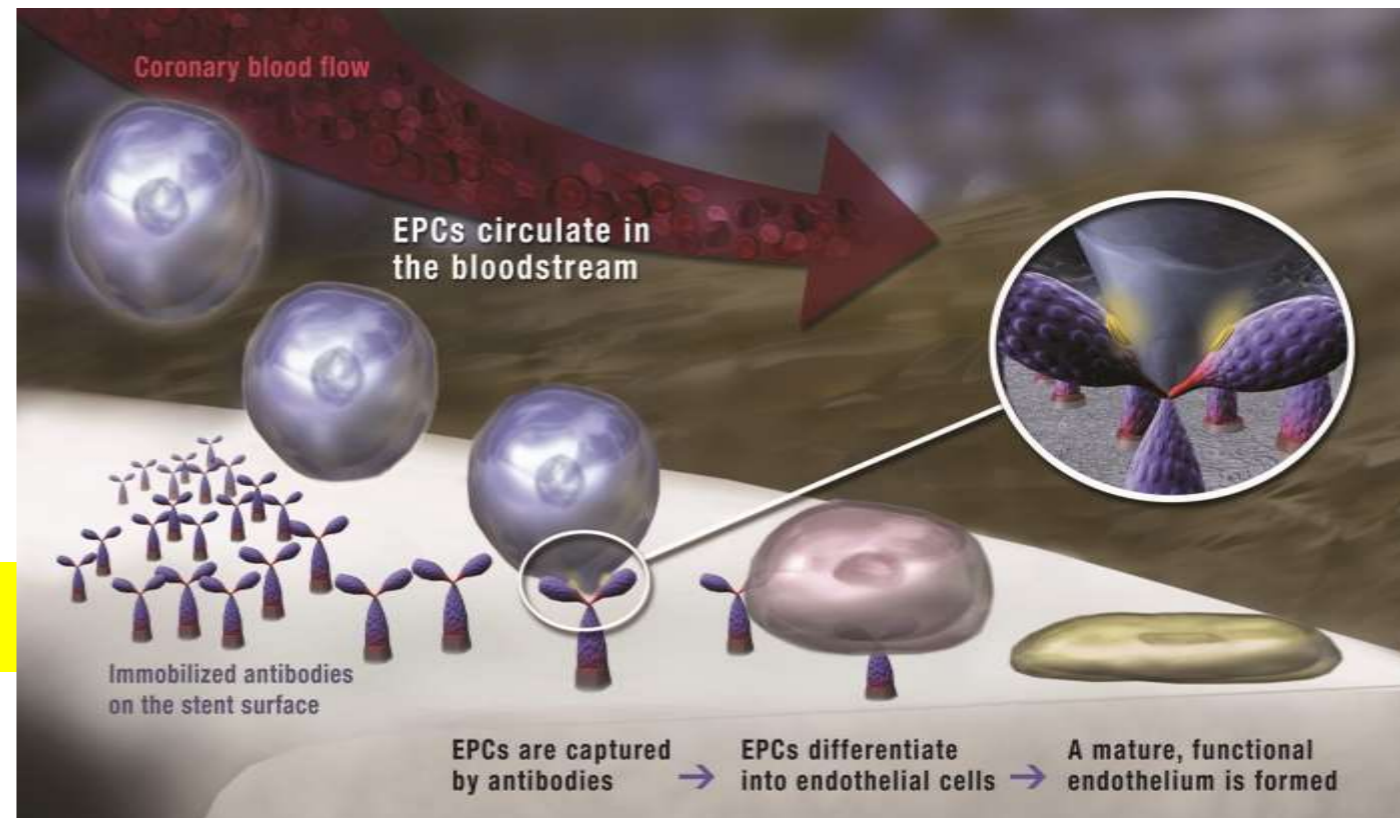
Scaffold Platform

Anti-proliferative Drug

Polymer
(biodegradable)

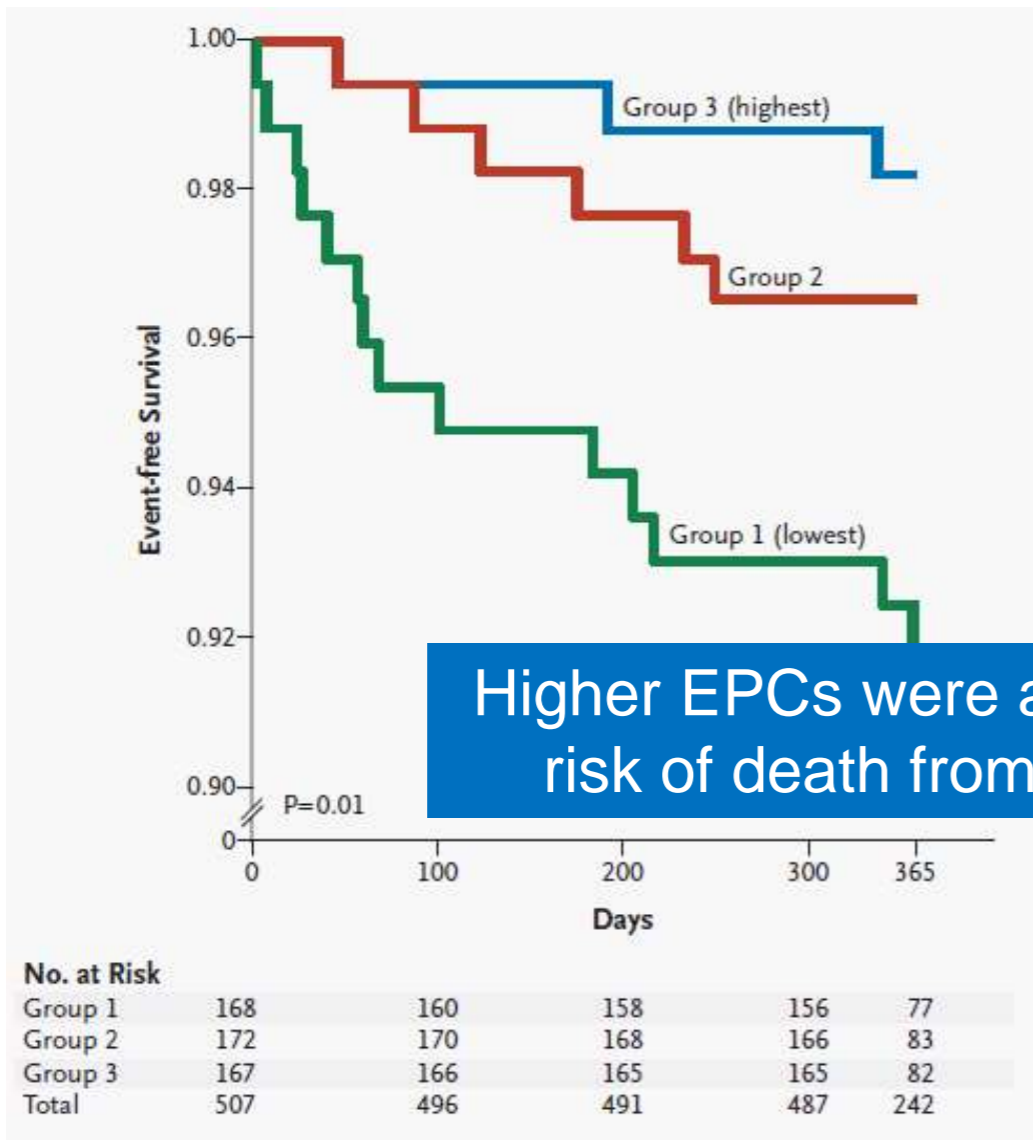
90 days

EPC Capture
(pro-healing)



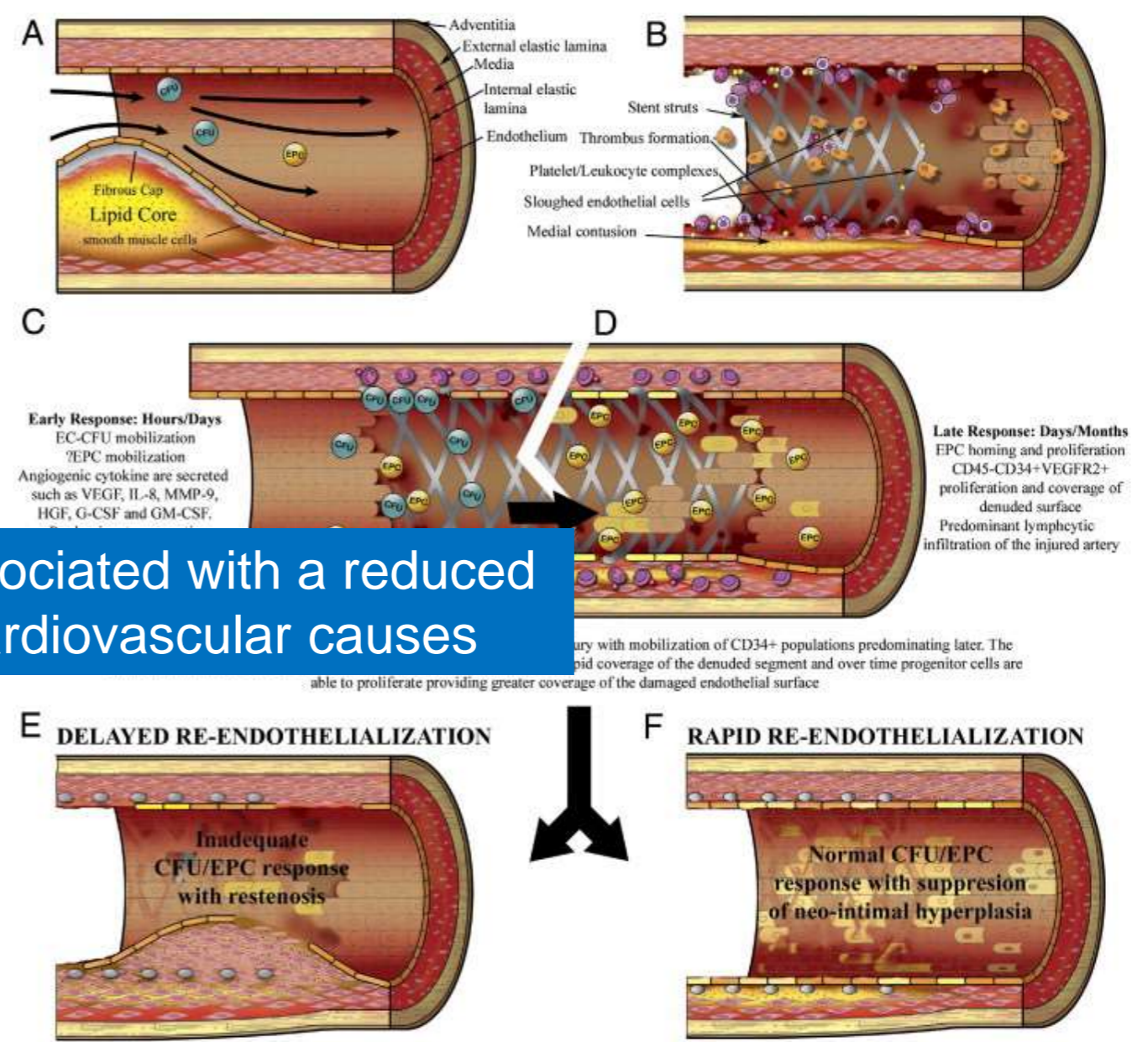
Luminal EPC Capture

Role of EPC in Cardiovascular Medicine



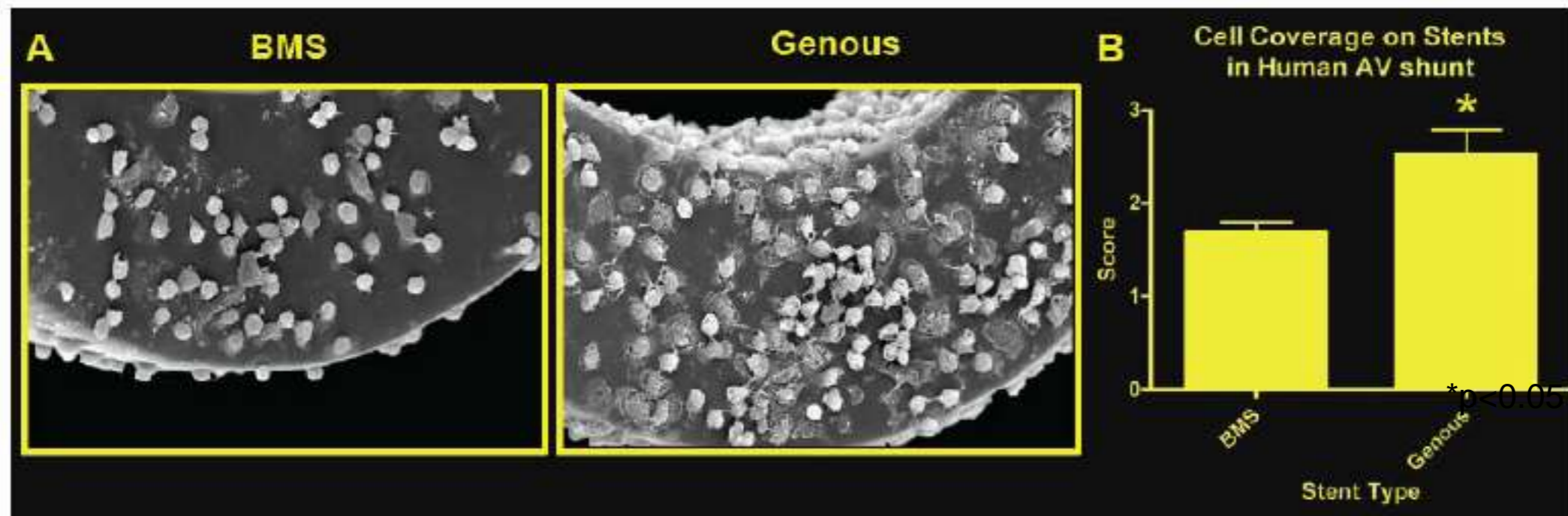
Higher EPCs were associated with a reduced risk of death from cardiovascular causes

Werner, et al. NEJM 353, 10, Sep 8, 2005

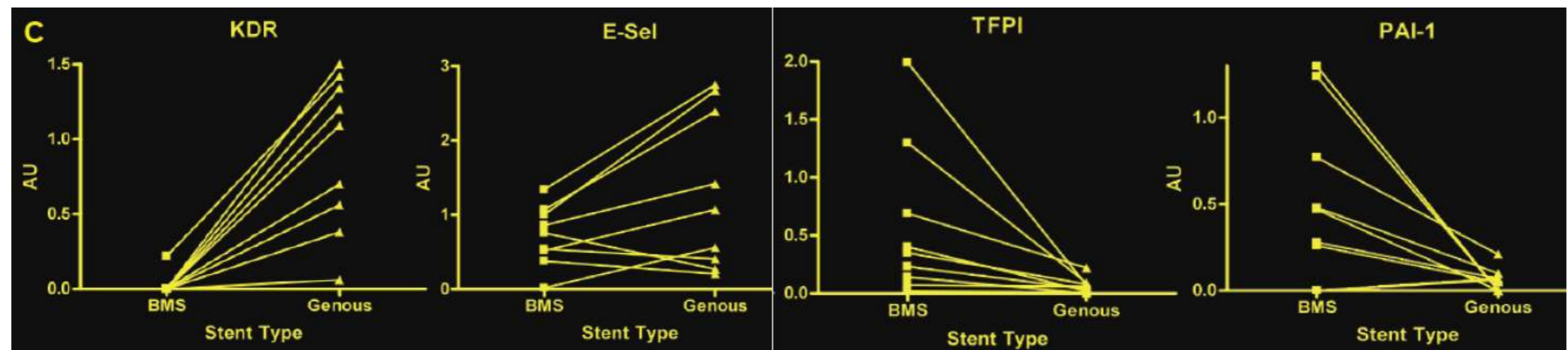


Padfield GJ, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 55, 15, 2010, 1553 1565

Human AV Shunt (SEM and Molecular Analysis)



Human AV Shunt (Molecular Analysis)

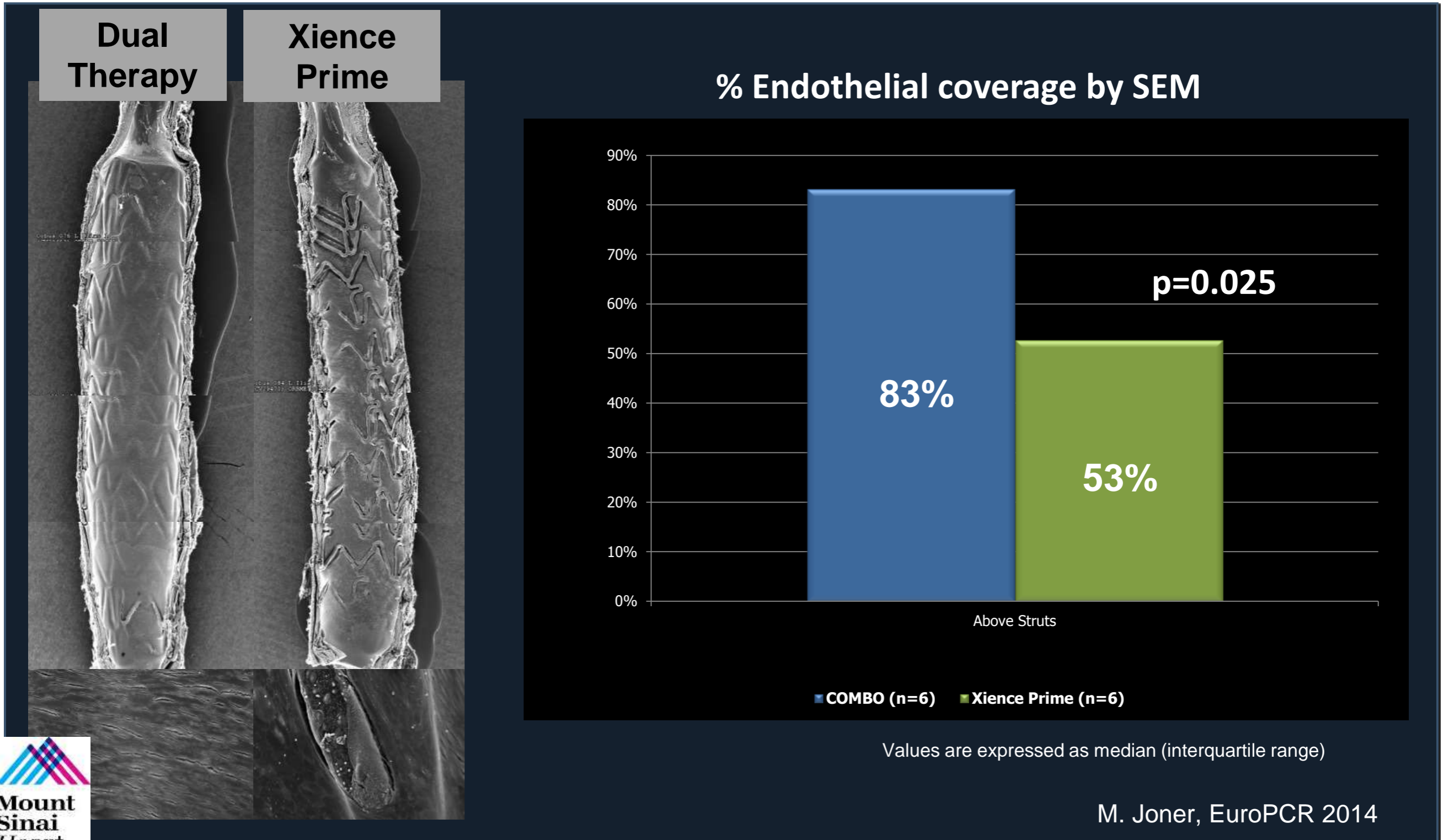


Endothelial Genes

Thrombogenic Genes

EPC capture enhances endothelialization and less stent thrombosis

SEM at 28 days in an Atherosclerotic Rabbit Model



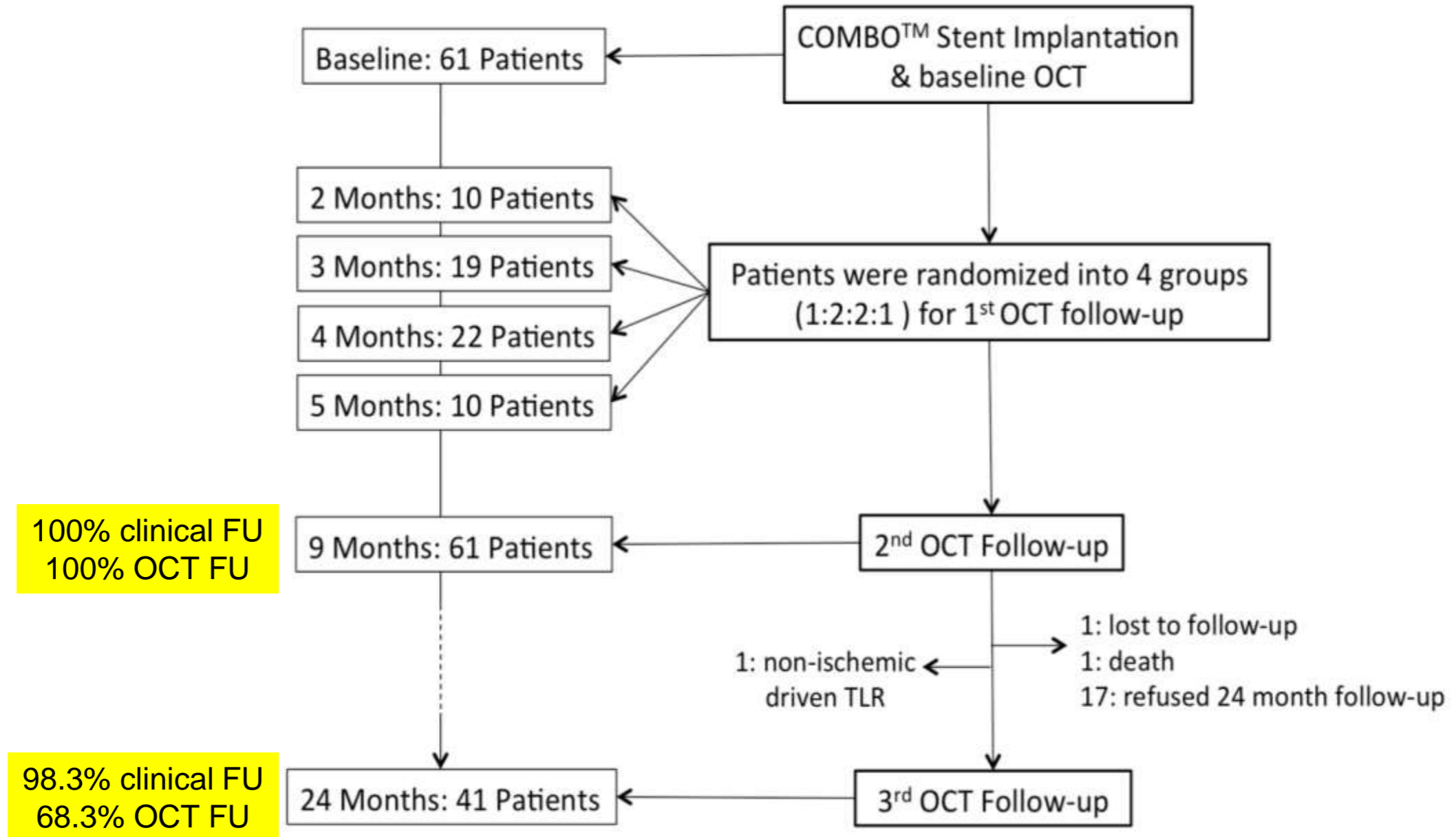
Clinical Results: **EGO COMBO Trial**

Objective:

- To monitor stent healing with the COMBO Dual Therapy Stent
 - Short term (2-5 months)
 - Long term (9-24 months)
 - Highest resolution equipment available in the clinic: OCT
 - Progression of strut coverage
 - Morphology of the neointima

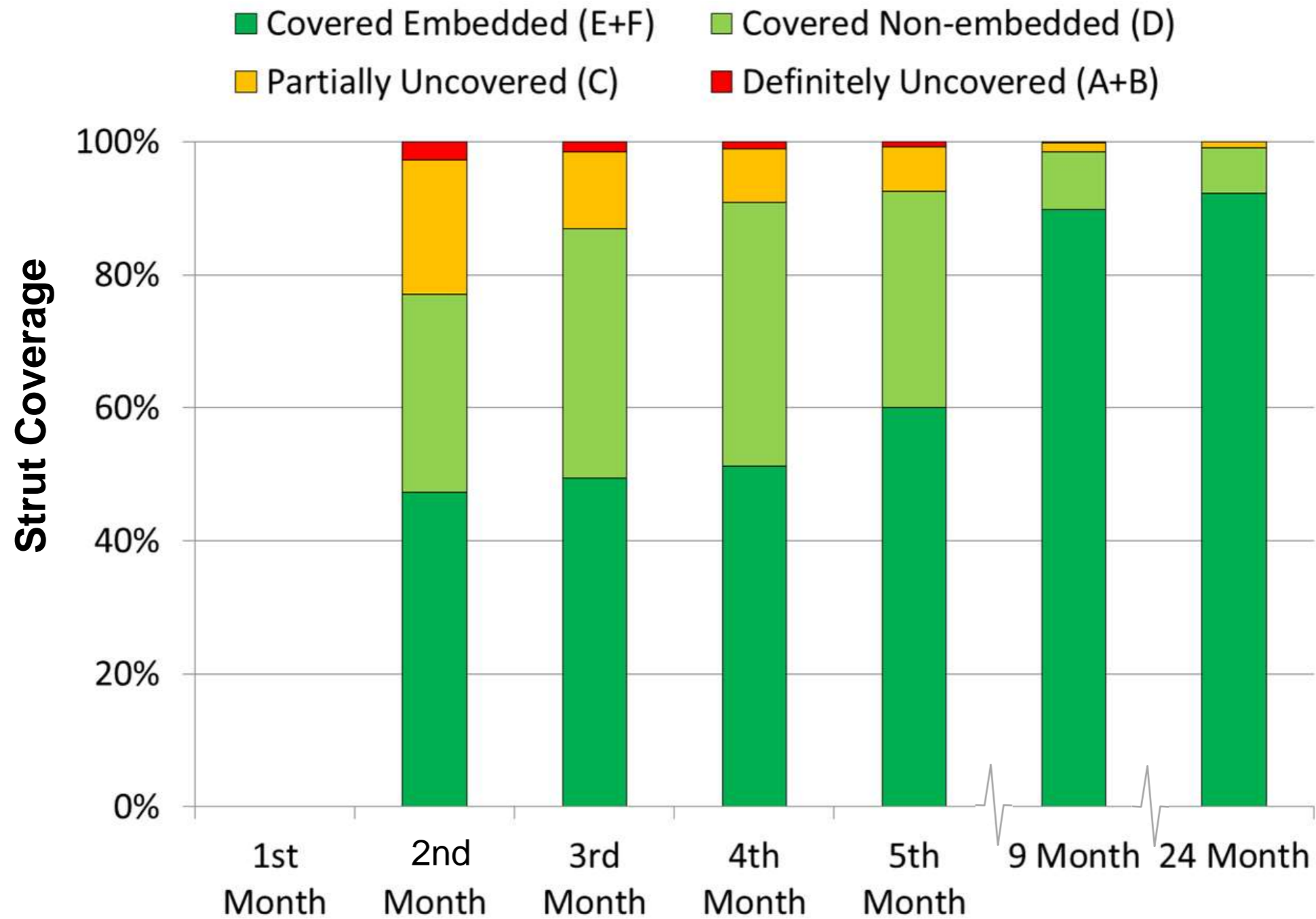
EGO COMBO Trial Study Design

Patient randomization and OCT follow-up



EGO COMBO*

progression of strut coverage with the Combo stent



EGO-COMBO

corresponding OCT slices 4 => 9 => 24 months

increasing coverage

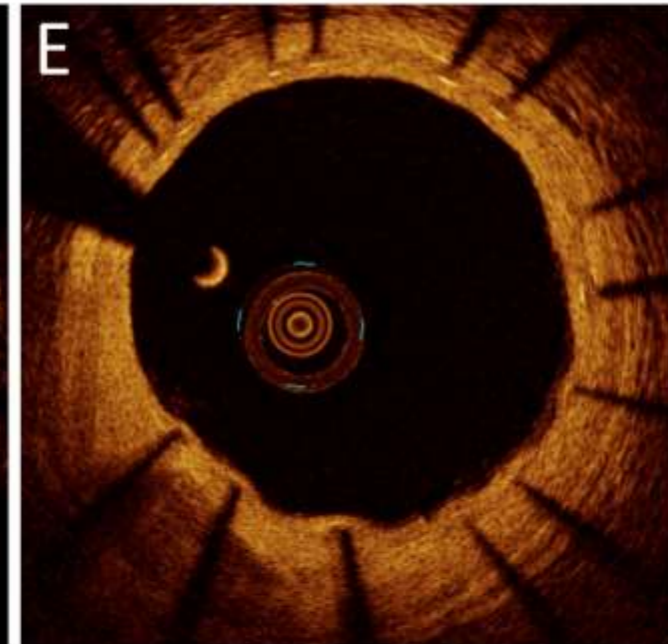
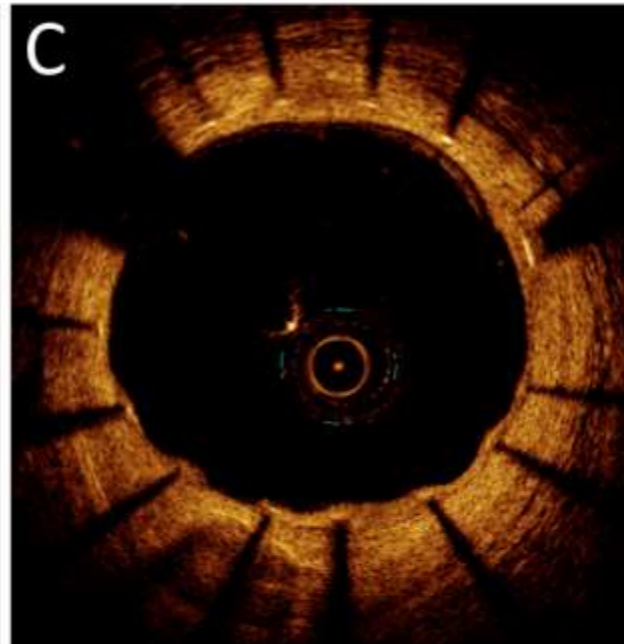
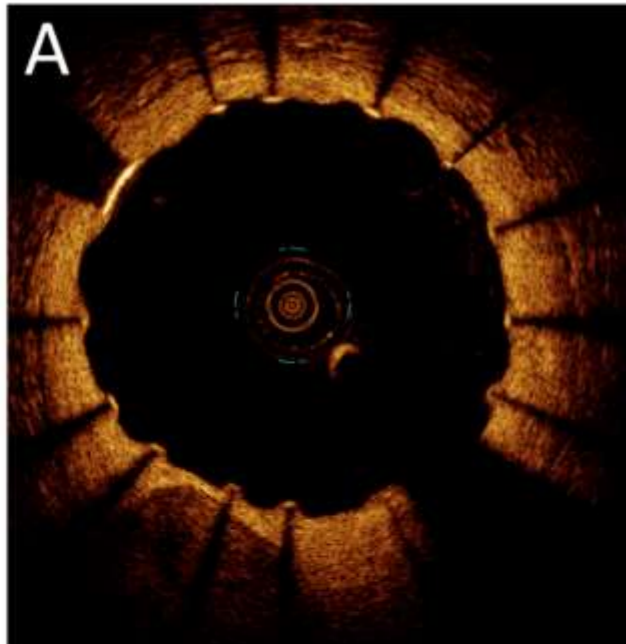
NI regression

4 Months

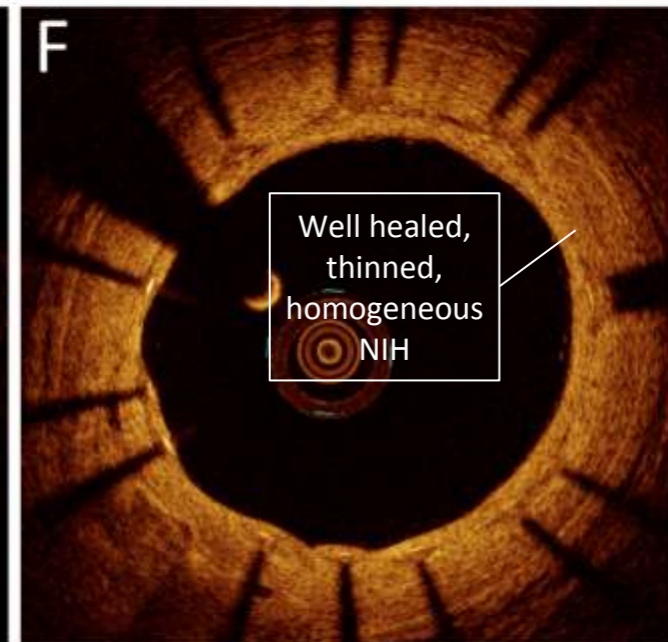
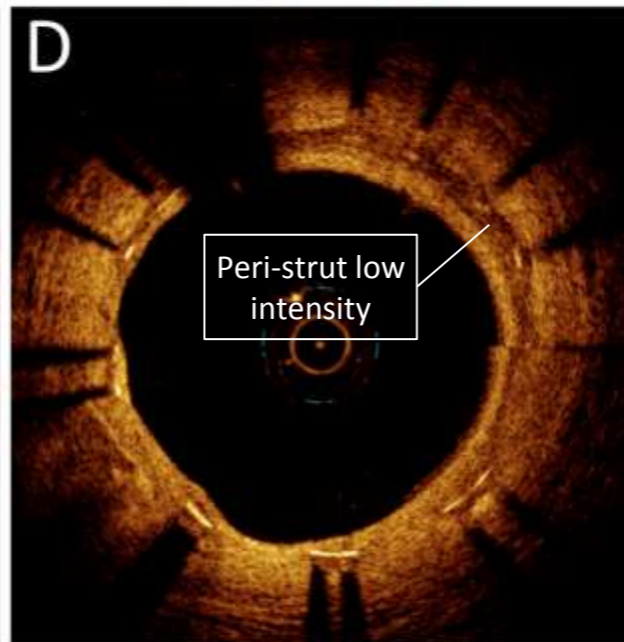
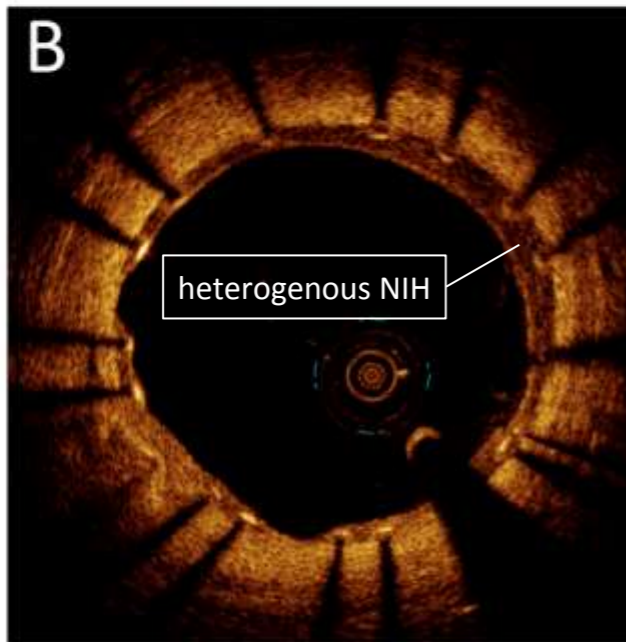
9 Months

24 Months

Mid stent

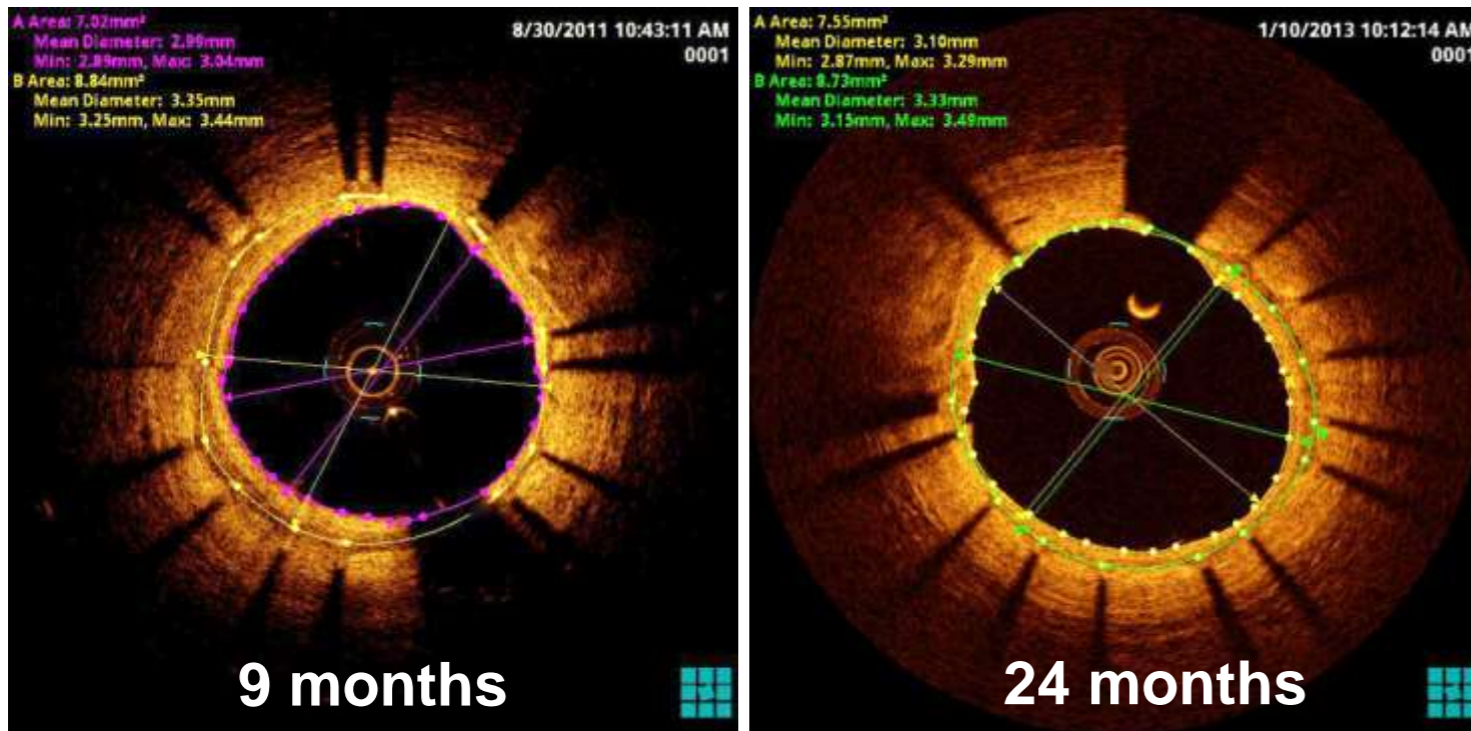


Proximal stent edge



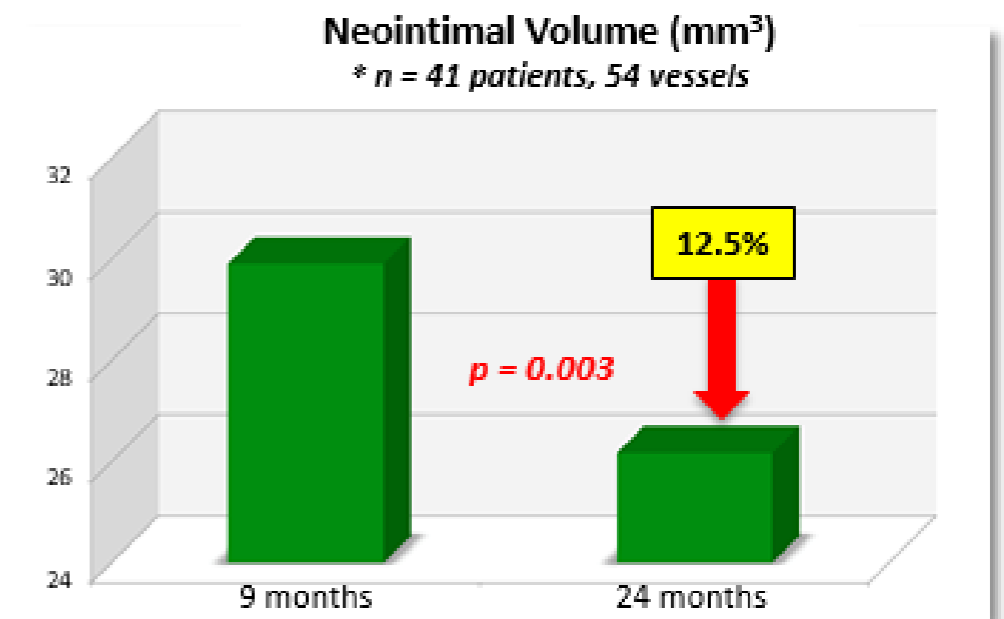
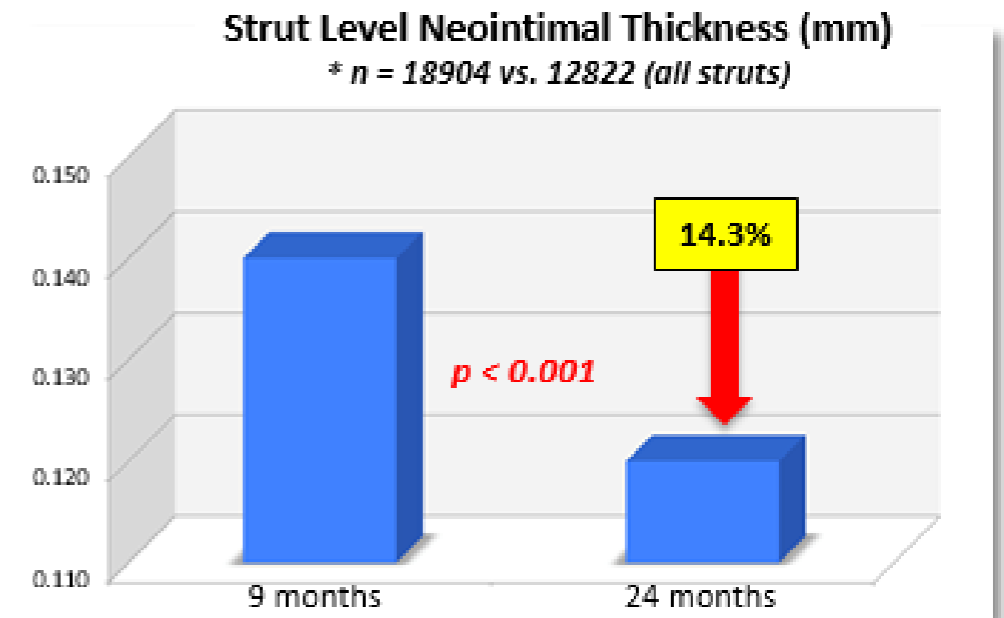
EGO COMBO*

OCT documented neo-intimal regression 9 => 24 month



Increased Lumen Area and decreased Neointimal Area from 9 to 24 months

- Results are consistent with NI maturation and organization
- No neoatherosclerosis



Median [IQR] 29.91 [22.13, 43.22] vs. 26.17 [19.64, 35.81]

EGO-COMBO

Angiographic Results @ 9 months & Clinical Outcomes

QCA: Quantitative Measurements at 9 months (n = 61)		
Category	Statistic	9 Months FU
Lesions	N	74
Stented Lesion Length (mm)	Mean ± Std.Dev	23.84±7.53
	Median [IQR]	22.92 [18.01,23.06]
In-stent MLD (mm)	Mean ± Std.Dev	2.66±0.43
	Median [IQR]	2.77 [2.36,2.94]
In-Segment (Stent+Edge) DS % - interpolated	Mean ± Std.Dev	16.04±10.13
	Median [IQR]	15.19 [8.27,21.02]
In-Segment (Stent+Edge) Late Lumen Loss (mm)	Mean ± Std.Dev	0.09±0.36
	Median [IQR]	0.10 [-0.09,0.29]
In-stent percent diameter stenosis (%DS) – interpolated RVD	Mean ± Std.Dev	10.93±9.86
	Median [IQR]	8.23 [4.08,16.27]
In-stent Late lumen Loss (mm)	Mean ± Std.Dev	0.23±0.36
	Median [IQR]	0.24 [0.08,0.40]

Clinical Outcome	9 Months FU	3 Years FU
TLR/TVF	1/61 (1.64%)	1/61 (1.64%)
Cardiac Death*	0.0%	1/61 (1.64%)
Stent Thrombosis	0.0%	0.0%

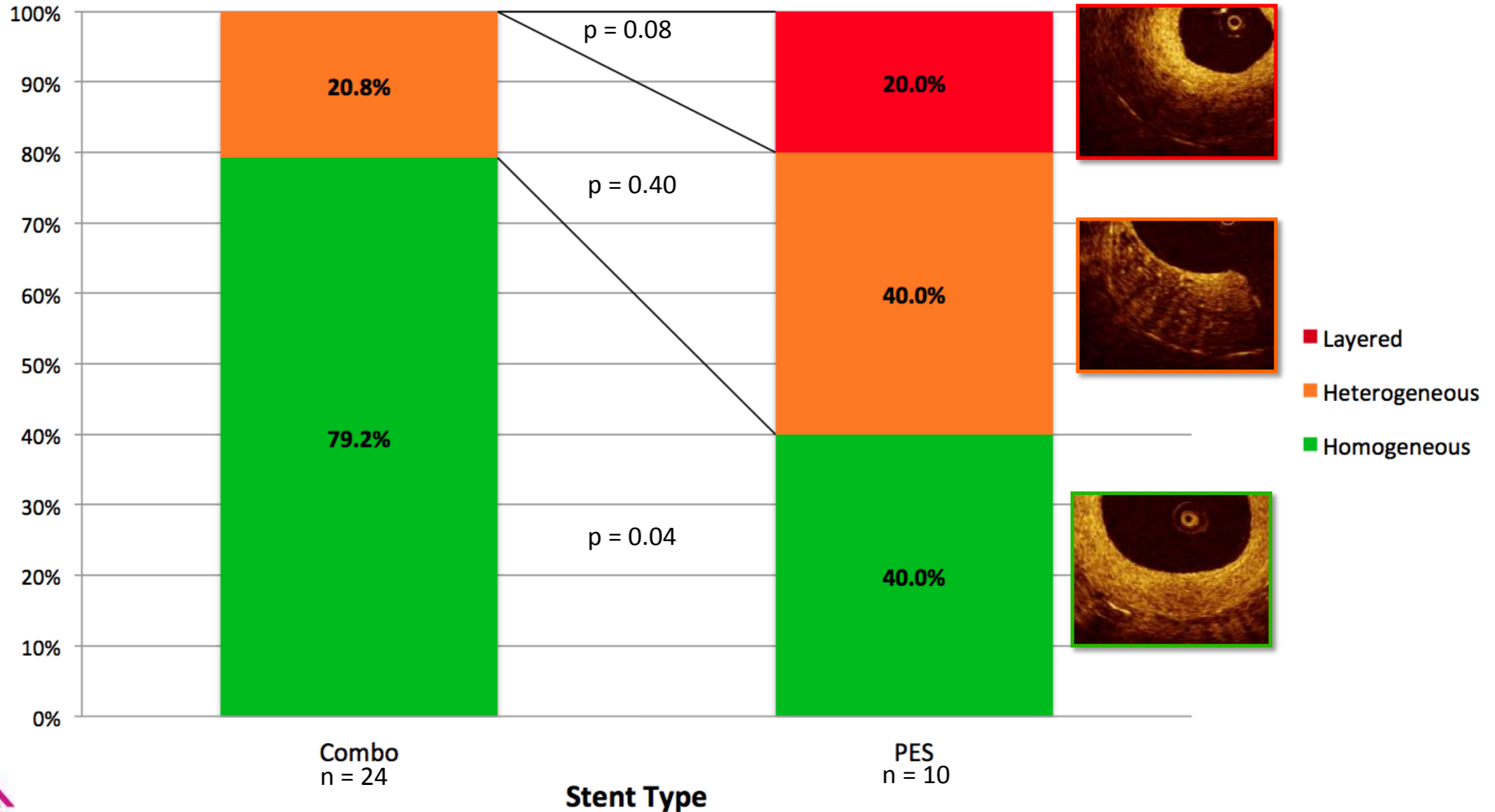
* elderly patient died at 22 months from VF after many days of recurrent chest pain without seeking treatment.

Note: Results adjudicated by an independent Core Lab (CRF, New York)

No ST and 1.6% TLR out to 3 years

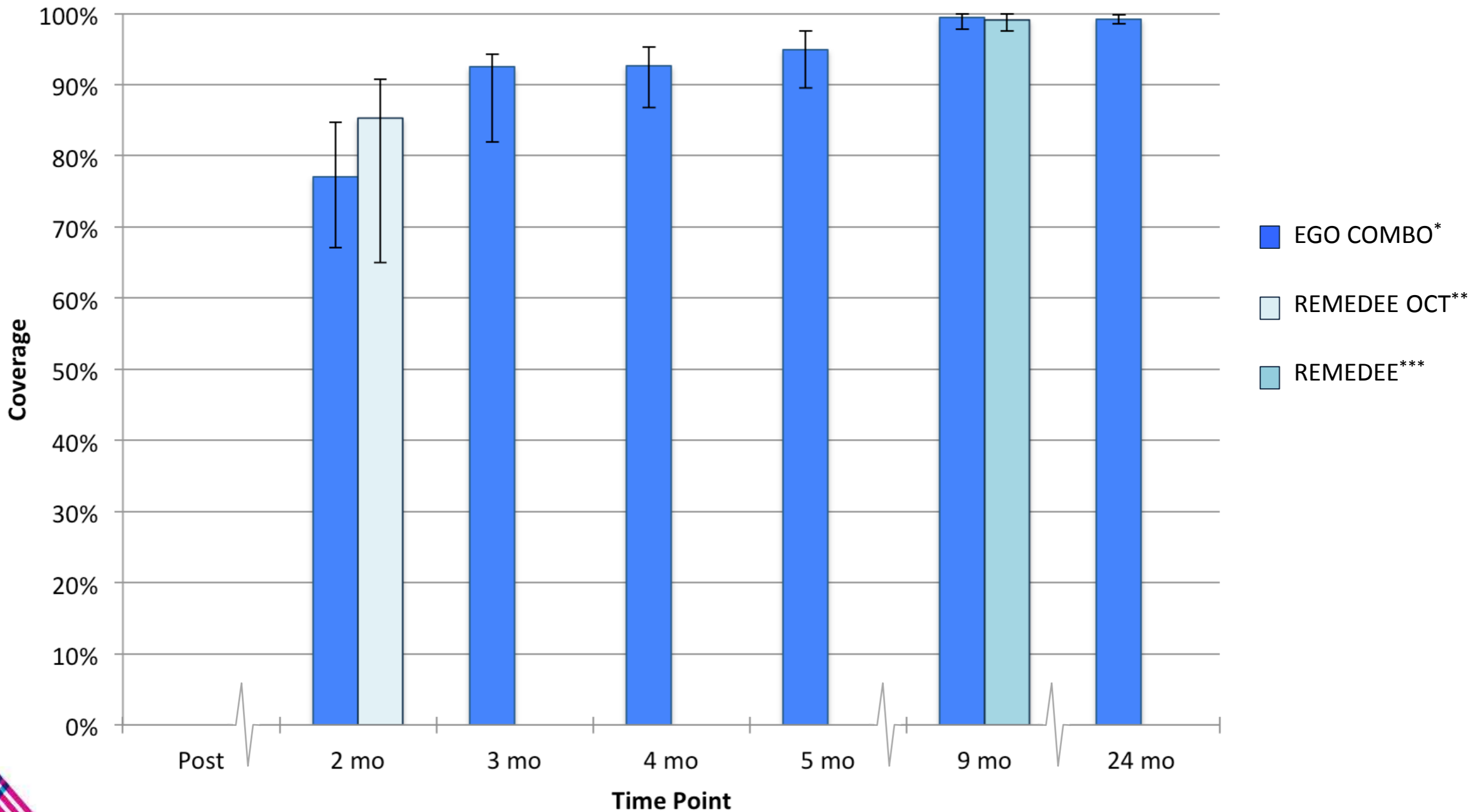
NI Tissue Characterization (OCT)

REMEDEE (9 month FU)



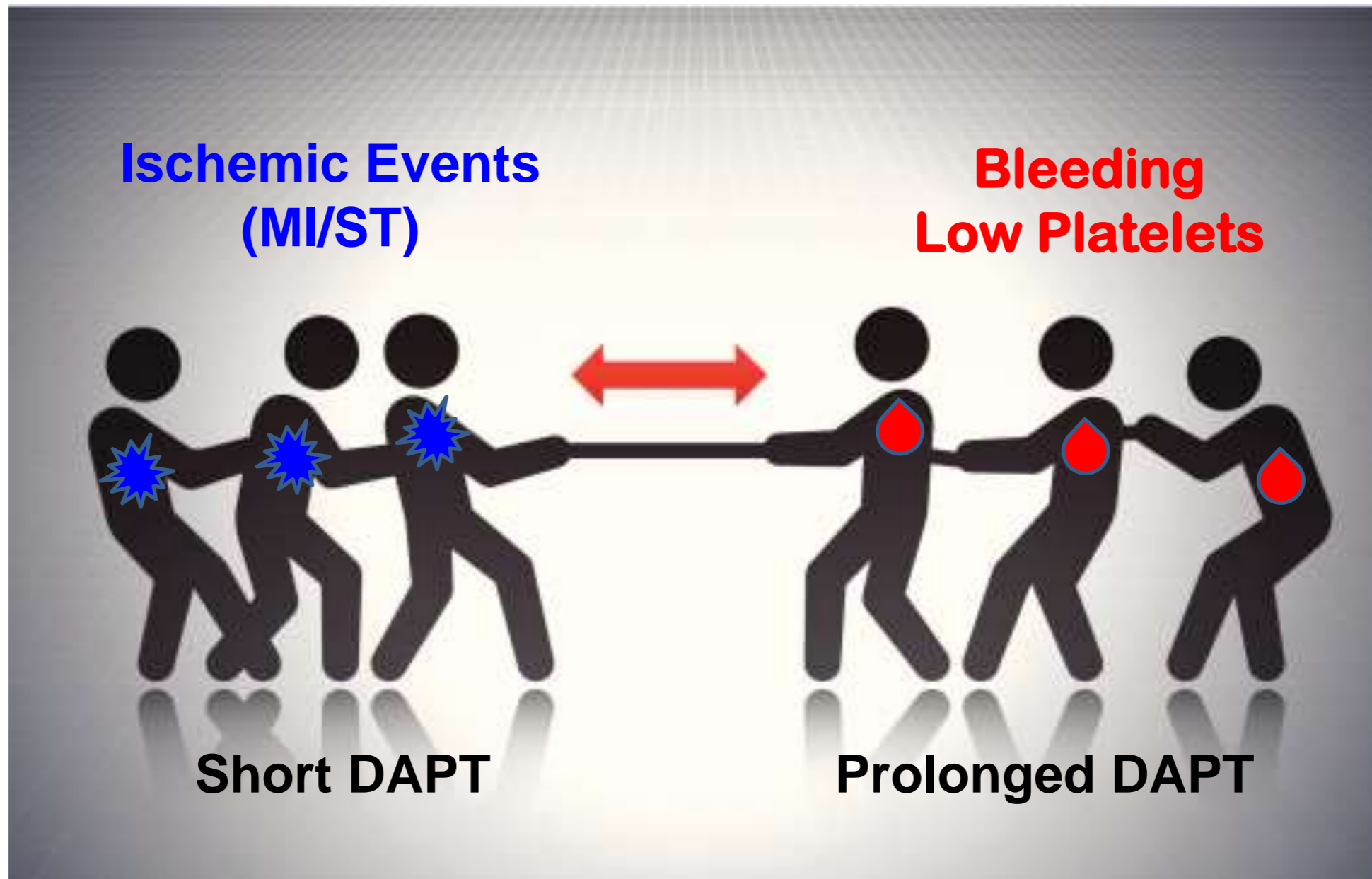
COMBO Strut Coverage % (OCT)

Median & IQR (per patient)



Are there any other factors of consideration?

1. DAPT: Shorter the better or longer the better?



2. Are we treating the patient or the stent?



Both received a contemporary DES...

Should they be prescribed with the same duration of DAPT?

There is no one standard DAPT regimen for all

- **Stable Coronary Artery Disease (SCAD)**
- **STEMI undergoing primary PCI**
- **NSTE-ACS**
- **Pre-surgery PCI**
- **PCI in conjunction with oral anticoagulation**

DAPT After Stenting

Bleeding risk...*per se*...the third DAPT driver

Stable CAD

DAPT for at least 1 month after BMS
DAPT for 12 Months after DES (6 months ESC)
Shorter DAPT duration (< 6 mos) may be considered after DES in patients at high bleeding risk

IA
IB

Ila C

ISAR
SARS
PRODIGY

PRODIGY
EXCELLENT
Meta-
analysis

RESET
OPTIMIZE

NSTEMI

DAPT for 12 mos unless excessive bleeding risk

IB/C

PLATO
TRITON
PCI CURE

STEMI

DAPT for 12 mos unless excessive bleeding risk

IB

PLATO
TRITON
CURRENT
OASIS 7

Conclusion and Take Home Messages

- DES are associated with delayed healing and require DAPT to prevent stent thrombosis
- Appropriate DAPT duration must be tailored to patient risks as well as stent properties
- Dual Therapy Stent combines Sirolimus and EPC capture for control of neointimal proliferation and promotion of endothelial healing, potentially allowing for less dependence on prolonged DAPT