

Vascular Disease: Medical Therapy, Surgery and Interventional Technologies

Kenneth S. Korr, MD

Thirty years since the advent of balloon coronary angioplasty have seen dramatic advances in percutaneous interventional technologies, not just in the coronary vasculature, but also in other arterial territories affected by atherosclerosis. Multiple disciplines have developed expertise in the treatment of these disorders including interventional cardiologists, vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, and vascular medicine specialists. An increased diagnostic awareness of the clinical manifestations of atherosclerotic vascular disease and major advances in the medical management of their common risk factors has had a major affect on the natural history of these disorders. Yet considerable controversy still exists surrounding the exact role and indication for medical vs revascularization therapies and whether percutaneous or surgery revascularization is equivalent or even preferable in any given vascular territory. In this issue of *Medicine & Health/Rhode Island* we attempt to clarify some the controversies surrounding four distinct vascular entities and provide the most current guidelines for the evaluation and management of these patients.

“Current Status of Drug-Eluting Coronary Stents” reviews the risks and benefits of drug eluting vs bare metal stents, and the importance of long-term dual anti-platelet therapy in reducing the incidence of subacute stent thrombosis. “An Update on Carotid Artery Stenosis” focuses on the importance of Duplex carotid ultrasound imaging for the diagnosis and serial follow-up of carotid artery disease, and reviews recent clinical trials comparing medical therapy, carotid endarterectomy and

carotid artery stenting. “Contemporary Management of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)” examines the differential diagnosis of lower extremity discomfort, the importance of the ankle-brachial index as a screening test for PAD and an algorithm of different treatment modalities. “The Clinical and Therapeutic Implications of Renal Artery Stenosis” compares the distinctive clinical presentations of Atherosclerotic Renal Artery Stenosis and Fibromuscular Dysplasia and reviews the roles of medical therapy, and endovascular and surgical revascularization in the management of these patients.

Kenneth S. Korr, MD, is Clinical Director, Division of Cardiology, The Miriam Hospital, and Associate Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Disclosure of Financial Interests

The author has no financial interests to disclose.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Kenneth S. Korr, MD
The Miriam Hospital
164 Summit Ave.
Providence, RI 02906
Phone: (401) 793-4107
e-mail:kkorr@lifespan.org

