

Are Regulatory and Reimbursement Guidelines for Carotid Stenting Correct, or Are We Heading for Disaster?

NOTES

Dorothy B. Abel, BSBME, Rockville, MD; Kenneth J. Cavanaugh Jr., PhD, Rockville, MD

Concerns regarding the regulation of and reimbursement for carotid stenting (CAS) are as diverse as opinions regarding the appropriate application of CAS. There are those who believe that more data are needed before stents can be labeled for lower risk and/or asymptomatic patients, whereas others use stents labeled for biliary use on a routine basis in these patients. Rarely does the “introduction” of a new technology encompass such a full range and magnitude of issues, such as off-label use, turf battles, patient selection, and credentialing, as CAS. The latest developments in the regulation and reimbursement of CAS will be presented, from the perspective of the impact on public health and individual patient care.