Heparin Bonding Probably does not Improve Results with PTFE Stent-grafts or Open PTFE Bypasses

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No Disclosures

Why would you want to use any sort of prosthetic graft or stent?
- Vein is the conduit of choice for infragenual bypass (TASC)
- Angioplasty is best option for limb-threatening ischaemia if there is no vein (BASIL)
- No good evidence of better long-term patency for any SFA stent or stent-graft
- Supervised Exercise is better than intervention for claudicants

The Evidence
- Propaten Trial: primary patency 86.4% vs 79.9% at one year (<10% difference)
- 5 year results not yet published but no evidence of benefit at 5 years from trials of other HB grafts
- No good evidence for HB stent-grafts
- Heparin activity lost within 6 months

What’s the Cost?
- ‘Bog-standard’ PTFE graft: £250
- Propaten graft: £684
- Shorter shelf life ➔ wasted grafts
- No evidence of cost-benefit
- The money saved will pay for your exercise programme!

Summary
- Very few occasions when you need to use a PTFE graft or stent-graft
- Vein, angioplasty and/or supervised exercise are all better
- No evidence of improved long-term patency for heparin-bonding
- No evidence of cost-benefit