Veith 2018 – Session 28 Debate

Not so: Heparin bonding is not the reason for the good results. Other factors are more important.

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No Disclosures

The Evidence

- Only one randomised trial of heparin-bonded PTFE versus standard PTFE (Propaten)
- Only one RCT of heparin-bonded covered stents versus bare metal stents (VIASTAR)
- No significant difference after 12 months
- No surprise because Heparin activity is lost within 6 months

Why would you want to use any sort of prosthetic graft or stent in the leg?

- Vein is the conduit of choice for infrainguinal bypass (TASC recommendation)
- Angioplasty is best option for limb-threatening ischaemia if there is no vein (BASIL Trial)
- No evidence of good long-term patency for any infrainguinal prosthetic graft, stent or stent-graft
- Exercise programmes better than intervention for claudicants (level 1 evidence)

What’s the Cost?

- Heparin bonded stents and grafts are more than twice the price
- Shorter shelf life ➔ wasted grafts
- No evidence of any cost-benefit
- Money saved will pay for your exercise programme:
  - Only $200 per patient

Summary

- Very few times when you need to use an infrainguinal prosthetic graft or stent
- Angioplasty, vein grafts & exercise programmes are all better options
- No evidence of improved long-term patency for Heparin-bonded grafts or stents
- No evidence of cost-benefit

Ignore this fake news and heed the evidence!