identical. Arterial arrival time following treatment decreased by a mean of 0.49 seconds in the treatment group and increased by a mean of 0.12 seconds in the control group ($p=0.0081$).

Conclusion Preliminary results indicate that Sanguinate administered in the early acute phase of ischemic stroke improves CBF to the core infarct zone in experimental MCAO immediately following its administration.

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E-022 **IN VIVO ENDOTHELIALIZATION OF VEGF-COATED STENTS IN A RABBIT MODEL**

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Introduction Implantation of cerebral stents are used in several disease conditions. Although stenting procedures offer many benefits, metal stents can elicit acute/subacute thrombosis and increase the chance of stroke. The risk of in-stent thrombus formation significantly decreases after formation of an endothelial cell layer over the stent, which typically takes several weeks to occur. One potential way to reduce the formation of thrombus is through biologic modifications that hasten endothelialization. In past studies, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) has been shown to facilitate the recruitment and proliferation of cells that leads to endothelialization.

Methods In this study, VEGF was coated onto Solitaire stents using polylactic-co-glycolic acid (PLGA). Coated stents were deployed into the infrarenal abdominal aorta of New Zealand White rabbits for 72 hours ($n=5$) (72h VEGF group) and compared to uncoated stents at 72 hours ($n=3$) (72h Control group) and seven days ($n=3$) (7d Control group). Optical coherence tomography (OCT) was performed through the stented portion of the vessel, and representative images taken every five millimetres were used for analysis. Images were analyzed for neointimal area (stent area – lumen area), neointimal ratio ($[\text{stent area} - \text{lumen area}] / \text{stent area}$), minimal and maximal neointima thickness, stent-strut neointima coverage ratio (number of struts covered by a neointimal layer over the total number of struts), as well as thrombus area formation.

The analysis was performed by a cardiologist with clinical expertise in OCT imaging, who was also blinded to group allocation.

Results Post-deployment digital subtraction angiography demonstrated that VEGF-coated stents were deployed similar to uncoated stents, and without any obvious acute thrombus formation. Using two-tailed unpaired *t*-tests, the 72h VEGF group showed significantly higher ($p<0.01$) neointimal area and neointimal ratio compared to 72h Control group. The minimal neointimal thickness of 72h VEGF group was significantly higher ($p<0.05$) than the 72h Control group, but not statistically different from the 7d Control group. There was a trend toward decreased thrombus formation in 72h VEGF group versus the 72h Controls ($p=0.07$). The 7d Controls had significantly higher stent-strut neointimal coverage ratio, neointimal area, neointimal ratio and maximum neointimal thickness compared to the 72h VEGF group ($p<0.05$) and 72h Control group ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion VEGF-coated stents are a promising biomodification to reduce secondary complications that may occur in the initial days following the procedure.

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E-023 **INTRAVENOUS OXYGEN CARRIER THERAPY DELAYS INFARCT SIZE PROGRESSION IN A CANINE LARGE VESSEL OCCLUSION MODEL**

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Introduction Neuroprotective strategies represent a significant opportunity to delay infarct progression in patients suffering a Large Vessel Occlusion (LVO), allowing more time for treatment by mechanical thrombectomy. Oxygen carrier therapy has the potential to deliver oxygen to hypoxic tissues, allowing for a longer window of treatment before cell death.

Methods Twenty-three dogs were used in this study, with an additional 14 historical controls. Autologous clot was injected into the left MCA, confirmed on DSA, and the dog was transferred to a 3T MRI. In order to determine infarct evolution rate, Perfusion Weighted Imaging was performed and relative Time to Peak (rTTP) maps were generated.¹ Based on the initial infarct evolution pathway (slow or rapid progressors), animals were randomized to either receive oxygen carrier or vehicle control. Regardless of evolution pathway, or treatment group, IV bolus was given 45 minutes after clot placement. Following bolus, diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) was performed every 30 minutes to assess infarct evolution. After 5 hours, dogs were removed from the MR, euthanized and the brain was explanted for histological processing. To calculate the true infarct volume, apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) was calculated from the DWI images, and a threshold value of $0.533 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ was used to differentiate infarct. The predicted final infarct size was taken from rTTP maps as the area with greater than 4.5s delay and used to normalize infarct volume.