

extreme vessel tortuosity. In the remaining 2 cases wherein transradial axis was attempted, thrombus engagement was unsuccessful, either due to physiological morphology or to the upstream distal location of the thrombus.

Conclusion An inherent limitation of transradial access is the restriction to a 6–7 F catheter; however other factors must be considered when identifying cases amenable to radial access.

These factors include extreme tortuosity, which not only presents a challenge for radial access, but for all access modalities, and patient height. Patients of above average height or have distal occlusions present a true challenge to the efficacy of radial access as current catheters are limited in length, and thus unable to reach the desired destination. These contraindications are important factors when considering this method of approach, but technological advances in this field may overcome some or all of these limitations.

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E-094 THE USE OF ASPIRATION CATHETER SYSTEMS FOR EMBOLIC PROTECTION DURING INTRACRANIAL VERTEBRAL ARTERY ANGIOPLASTY AND STENTING, WITH CONCURRENT USE OF ULTRASOUND TO DOCUMENT FLOW REVERSAL

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Background Posterior circulation strokes comprise approximately 20–25% of all strokes of ischemic origin. Strokes affecting this area carry a significantly higher risk for subsequent stroke or death as compared to anterior circulation strokes. Embolic protection device (EPD) use for carotid artery stenosis has translated into percutaneous interventions of proximal vertebral artery (VA) stenosis. However, the use of EPDs when treating intracranial lesions has yet to be studied and

may not be feasible as the vessel caliber is frequently smaller than in existing devices.

Objective The aim of this study is to describe a proximal aspiration technique used during the treatment of intracranial VA and basilar artery (BA) atherosclerotic disease.

Methods Proximal embolic protection was utilized during the treatment of intracranial VA/BA stenosis with angioplasty and stenting in patients with medically refractory disease.

Results Five patients with severe symptomatic posterior circulation stenosis refractory to medical management were treated with angioplasty and stenting utilizing proximal aspiration. Pre- and post-treatment angiograms and MRIs were compared. Treated vascular stenoses were significantly improved, without new neurological deficits or ischemic injury identified on imaging. Ultrasound was utilized to confirm flow reversal during the aspiration portion of the procedure.

Conclusions The proposed technique of proximal embolic protection may help overcome the challenge of embolus propagation inherent to the treatment modality that was encountered during the treatment of intracranial VA/BA stenosis.

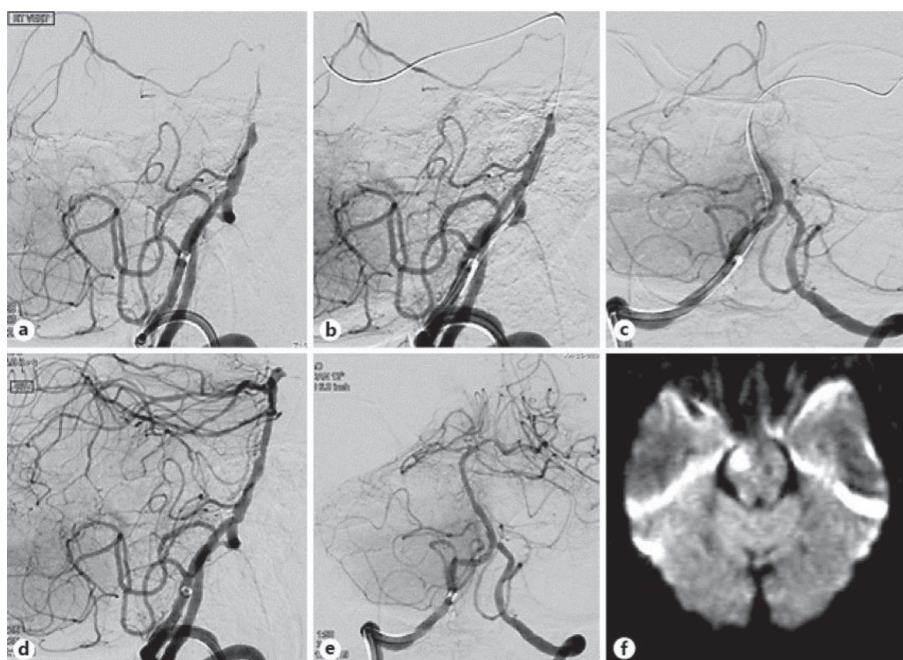
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E-095 EARLY HYPERGLYCEMIA PREDICTS POOR OUTCOME DESPITE SUCCESSFUL STROKE THROMBECTOMY

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Objective Our goal was to identify medical co-morbidities which negatively prognosticate outcome in stroke patients who have successful endovascular reperfusion after imaging-based selection.



Abstract E-094 Figure 1

Methods With approval, we retrospectively reviewed stroke interventions in the intracranial carotid and M1 middle cerebral artery at our institution over a two year period. All patients are screened for small infarcts based on a non-contrast head CT and perfusion imaging for treatment eligibility. For analysis, we included those patients with successful reperfusion only. We collected stroke risk factors, time to treatment, stroke scale, and additional medical co-morbidities: cardiomyopathy, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease, body mass index >30, early hyperglycemia (any 24 hour post-procedure blood sugar >150 gm/dl), history of malignancy, and dementia. These co-variables were placed into a univariate analysis to identify predictors for a poor outcome, defined as a modified Rankin Scale >2 at 90 days. Covariates with a p value of <0.2 were included in a multiple logistic regression model to identify independent predictors.

Results We analyzed 120 patients with mean age 70 (SD 13) years, median NIHSS 16, and mean time to reperfusion 408 (SD 345) minutes. Poor outcome was seen in 44 patients (37%) with mortality in 21 patients (17.5%).

After controlling for age and stroke score, early hyperglycemia was the only co-variate independently associated with poor outcome (OR 2.72, 95% CI 1.04–7.06, $p = 0.04$) and mortality (OR 3.18, 95% CI 1.28–7.86, $p = 0.013$).

Conclusions In selected stroke patients with successful endovascular reperfusion, early hyperglycemia may be independently associated with poor outcome and mortality over other medical co-morbidities. Further prospective study confirming this effect may further develop treatment strategies to prevent this injury.

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E-096 THE ROLE OF *IN-VITRO* MODELING IN ADDRESSING CHALLENGING OCCLUSIONS

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Introduction/purpose Despite significant advances in the recanalization rates of large vessel occlusions, significant challenges remain, with ~25% of occlusions not achieving TICI 2 b-3 reperfusion, or occlusions requiring multiple passes to reopen. Observations from clinical experience can be translated to *in-vitro* models, where device-clot interactions which are not visible in a clinical setting can be studied. Such models may inform both technology development and technique refinement.

Materials and methods Clots retrieved from patients in known challenging cases were observed macroscopically, and their composition was quantified histologically. This information was used to reverse engineer clot analogues which were then introduced into patient-specific *in-vitro* neurovascular models which replicated the anatomy of the challenging clinical cases, as well as physiological flow and pressure conditions. Simulated thrombectomies were performed and recorded under high magnification to closely observe the physical interaction

between the challenging clot and the device. Specific mechanical properties of the clot analogues were also measured.

Results Reverse engineered clot analogues have been combined with *in-vitro* vascular models to successfully simulate a number of challenging clinical scenarios, and the behavior observed *in-vitro* appears to closely replicate that observed clinically. Fibrin rich clot has involved in several of the challenging clinical cases studied by the authors. Clot analogues simulating such thrombi were produced in the laboratory with a low erythrocyte and high fibrin content. Physical properties of the resultant clots were studied, and higher than normal frictional characteristics were observed. Analysis of *in-vitro* thrombectomy procedures with these clots showed a number of mechanisms at play, with the frictional properties of the clot having a significant impact on the ability (or number of passes required) to successfully recanalise the occluded vessel. The observed clot/device/vessel interaction and consequent clot retrieval outcomes appeared to closely match the recorded details of the clinical cases in question.

Conclusion *In-vitro* modelling may provide valuable insights into the mechanisms behind failed and challenging thrombectomy cases. The direct visualization of device-clot interaction that is possible in a transparent *in-silico* model allows a thrombectomy procedure to be witnessed in a different way than is possible *in-vivo*. Reverse engineering of retrieved clots to generate realistic clot analogues can help to enhance the clinical relevance of these *in-vitro* models. Better understanding of the detailed mechanisms of action in mechanical thrombectomy procedures may help in the optimization of procedural techniques as well as the design of improved devices.

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E-097 USE OF THE CATALYST 5 DISTAL ACCESS CATHETER FOR TREATMENT OF INTRACRANIAL ANEURYSMS: THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

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Introduction Distal intracranial support systems provide a safe and stable foundation during endovascular approaches to intracranial aneurysms. Increased catheter support allows for precise manipulation of microcatheters/devices, critical when dealing with distal targets, larger device-delivery systems, and increased vessel tortuosity. The Navien and Neuron catheters were developed to meet this demand. Here, we report the first published experience using the AXS Catalyst 5 catheter (Stryker), the newest next-generation distal access catheter.

Methods A single-center aneurysm database was reviewed to identify patients who underwent endovascular embolization with the Catalyst 5 (Figure 1). Patient demographics, equipment utilized, cervical ICA tortuosity, intraprocedural catheter positions, and periprocedural complications were documented.

Results 32 patients underwent 36 embolizations of 40 aneurysms (Table 1). The average age was 57.9 ± 13.7 . 5 (13.9%) were male. 38 (95%) aneurysms were located anteriorly. 36 (90%) were small aneurysms, 1 (2.5%) was a large aneurysm, and 3 (7.5%) were giant, with an average size of 6.9 mm. 32