

CAROTID STENTING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FOR SIGNIFICANT CAROTID ARTERY DISEASE. A SINGLE CENTER EXPERIENCE

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BACKGROUND: Carotid angioplasty and stenting (CAS) is an acceptable alternative to carotid endarterectomy (CEA) in selected patients. We present the results of the first consecutive 35 patients who underwent carotid artery stenting at the American Heart Institute.

METHOD: From March 2002 to November 2008, 35 patients underwent CAS based on high risk criteria for surgery or patient choice. Carotid artery stenting using standard technique with embolic protection device was performed.

RESULTS: Success rate 100%. Twenty three out of the 35 patients (65.7%) were males. The mean age was 70 +/- 11 years. Seventeen (48.5%) were symptomatic and 13 (37.1%) of them were of high risk. Six (17.1%) were not surgical candidates. Bilateral CAS was performed in 3 (8.5%) patients. The stenosis ranged between 90-98%. Embolic protection device was used in 30 (85.7%) patients. Twenty (57.1%) patients developed hypotension requiring intravenous vasopressors. One (2.8%) patient suffered TIA during the procedure. None developed neurological deterioration, acute renal failure or bleeding disorders. Six years follow-up is available in 2 patients and four years follow-up in 8 patients. All of them are free of symptoms and major neurological events.

CONCLUSION: CAS can be performed safely as an alternative and/or as a primary choice of therapy in patients with significant carotid artery disease with low adverse event rates.