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Outcome of intracranial arterial stenting of symptomatic atherosclerotic disease: A single-center experience from Saudi Arabia

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Introduction: Intracranial angioplasty and stenting has been used for the treatment of symptomatic intracranial stenosis. However, a recent negative major randomized trial has dampened the enthusiasm for this procedure. We present our local experience with this procedure to assess its safety, efficacy and outcome.

Patients & Methods: This is a retrospective review of all the patients with symptomatic intracranial atherosclerotic disease that underwent endovascular treatment in our tertiary center over the past ten years. Clinical, procedural and outcome variables were gathered.

Results: We identified 22 patients who were referred for stenting of symptomatic intracranial atherosclerotic stenosis. In all but three, the stents were deployed successfully (86% procedural success rate). The procedure was done under conscious sedation in 32%. Excellent flow was restored immediately in all successfully-stented cases. Post procedural strokes occurred in four patients (17.4%). One non-neurological death was identified in a patient who suffered a major post procedural stroke (4.3%).

Conclusion: Intracranial atherosclerotic disease is not uncommon in our population. Angioplasty and stenting might be a valid option for the treatment of patients with recurrent symptoms despite optimal medical treatment.

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