



Fact Sheet

Glossary of Vascular Terms

Angina – sharp, suffocating pain in the chest, usually due to interference with the supply of oxygenated blood to the heart muscle; sometimes called angina pectoris.

Angiographic Binary Restenosis (ABR) – a measure of fifty percent or more renarrowing inside a vessel after stenting; used in many clinical studies; ABR can occur without the presence of clinical symptoms.

Angiogram – creation of an image of the blood vessels using x-ray dye that is injected into the arteries: allows a physician to view vessel narrowing or blockages.

Angiography (X-ray angiography) – a medical procedure that is performed to specifically image and diagnose diseases of the blood vessels of the body, including the brain and heart. Traditionally, angiography was used to diagnose pathology of these vessels such as a blockage caused by plaque build up.

Angioplasty – the insertion of and inflation of a balloon inside a vessel to open a clogged artery, which may or may not be followed by the implantation of a stent to prop the vessel open; also known as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), or balloon angioplasty.

Artherosclerosis – narrowing or blockage of the arteries and loss of blood flow to the heart; can lead to angina or myocardial infarction (heart attack).

Balloon Angioplasty – (see Angioplasty)

Bare Metal Stent – a metallic stent not coated with a drug. Can be made from cobalt chromium, stainless steel or cobalt nickel.

Bioabsorbable Stent – a stent made of a material that can be absorbed by the body, such as polylactic acid. Bioabsorbable stents are designed to provide support until a

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blood vessel heals, restoring blood flow. Bioabsorbable drug eluting stents are coated with a drug.

CABG – (see Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery)

Catheter – a thin, hollow, flexible tube used to access the coronary arteries; in angioplasty, a catheter provides access to the artery for the delivery of a balloon or stent.

Cobalt Chromium – a super alloy that is biocompatible or non-reactive in the body. It is 76% stronger than stainless steel, allowing for thinner stent struts without sacrificing strength or visibility.

Coronary Artery – an artery that supplies oxygenated blood to the heart muscle.

Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG) – an invasive medical procedure in which a section of an artery from another portion of the body is used to bypass a blockage in a coronary artery and improve blood flow to the heart.

Deliverability – the ease with which a medical device can be delivered to its intended location.

Distal – the far end; farther from any point of reference.

Drug Eluting Stent (DES) – a stent coated with an anti-proliferative drug to inhibit restenosis. (Sometimes referred to as a drug-coated stent)

EKG (or ECG) – short for electrocardiogram, a graphical representation of the electrical activity of the heart.

Femoral Artery – an artery in the leg used as an access point to insert a device into the body such as a catheter or stent, which may be gently pushed through arteries to the site of a vessel blockage.

In-Segment – within the margins of a deployed stent plus five millimeters on either side of the stent.

In-Stent – within the margins of a deployed stent.

Late Loss – the difference in diameter inside a blood vessel before a stent procedure, and at a set point in time after stenting (determined by angiography at a follow-up appointment).

Lesion – a narrowing or blockage in a blood vessel that is interrupting blood flow.

Lumen – the cavity or hollow space inside a blood vessel where atherosclerotic disease can occur.

Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE) – events following a clinical procedure including death, myocardial infarction, and the need for vessel treatment due to lack of blood supply (including TLR, TVR and CABG). Each clinical trial defines MACE slightly differently for that trial.

Neointimal Hyperplasia – Cellular regrowth in response to an injury. Less injury will lead to less neointimal growth.

Occlusion – a blockage.

Plavix – an anti-platelet drug often prescribed for patients following a stent procedure.

Polymer – a special biocompatible (non-reactive) material applied to a stent that controls the release of a restenosis-inhibiting drug into the heart vessel wall.

Proximal – the near end; nearest to a point of reference.

Restenosis – the re-narrowing of an artery in the location of a previous treatment; clinical restenosis is the manifestation of an ischemic event, usually in the form of recurrent angina. (see angiographic binary restenosis)

Revascularization – a procedure to unblock or bypass a clogged artery.

Stenosis – the narrowing of any blood vessel, valve or passage.

Stent – a tiny mesh cylinder that is expanded within a blood vessel and props open a clogged artery.

Stent Thrombosis — clinical trial protocol defined as acute (≤ 1 day), subacute (> 1 day ≤ 30 days) and late (>30 days). Academic Research Consortium (ARC) defined Stent Thrombosis: acute (0 - 24 hours), subacute (24 hours - 30 days), late (> 30 days <1 year), very late (> 1 year). Defined within 3 categories: 1) definite, 2) probable, 3) possible.

Target Lesion Revascularization (TLR) – any repeat percutaneous intervention of the target lesion or bypass surgery of the target lesion.

Target Vessel Failure (TVF) – death, myocardial infarction (heart attack), bypass surgery or vessel retreatment due to relogging of a stented vessel.

Target Vessel Revascularization (TVR) – retreatment of a stented vessel.

Thrombosis - the formation or presence of a blood clot in a blood vessel.

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