and direct application will tell us about the incremental value of this new piece of information.

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doi:10.1016/j.jcin.2008.08.014

REFERENCES

Improved Survival After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention of Chronic Total Occlusion Varies by Target Vessel

Safley et al. (1) conducted an important multivariable analysis to determine predictors of success in treating chronic total occlusion and clinical outcomes. As part of their conclusions, they stated that the use of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa was significantly associated with improved success (odds ratio: 2.27, 95% confidence interval: 1.36 to 4.80). However, we feel that the inclusion of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa in models to predict success and outcome is inappropriate.
as glycoprotein IIb/IIIa is typically used after and not before the chronic total occlusion has been crossed with a guidewire with reasonable assurance that the wire is intraluminal distally. Therefore, we question whether glycoprotein IIb/IIIa use has any impact on chronic total occlusion success rates. Further, its inclusion in the models can potentially impact the point estimates of other important variables. More importantly, the use of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa before successful crossing of a chronic total occlusion may increase the risk of pericardial effusion or tamponade. It would be of interest to conduct the same analysis without the inclusion of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa to observe whether other important variables are predictive of success and outcome in this cohort.

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Please note: Dr. Whitlow has received research grant support from Abbott Vascular, Boston Scientific, and Evalve Inc., and has received consulting fees from Medlogics and Icon International Systems Inc.

REFERENCE


American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification Requirements

The recent article by Drs. Dangas and Popma (1) provided valuable information about the importance of Maintenance of Certification (MOC).

I am writing to clarify some details regarding the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) interventional cardiology MOC requirements:

- ABIM encourages interventional cardiologists to enroll in MOC as early as possible during their 10-year certification cycle. This allows flexibility as to when and how they complete the MOC requirements.
- Physicians do not have to earn 100 self-assessment points prior to sitting for the exam. They can earn some or all points before or after the exam.
- In addition to completing ABIM-offered Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs), there are additional avenues for cardiologists to earn credit toward self-evaluation of practice performance. Data collected for 2 ACC initiatives, the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) and the Door to Balloon (D2B) Alliance are both recognized by ABIM for MOC credit.