Coronary plaque erosion: a clinical case

Dr. Giampaolo Niccoli, MD, PhD, FESC
Institute of Cardiology
Catholic University, Rome, Italy
Coronary plaque erosion: a clinical case

B.M.
Age: 59 years
Sex: female.
Cardiological risk factors: smoker, family history of cardiovascular disease.

Cardiological History: no prior cardiovascular events. Chest pain at rest; EKG: ST segment elevation in antero-septal leads and ST segment depression in infero-lateral leads. TnI on admission: 2,3 ng/ml.

Coronary angiography: Hazy image on proximal ADA.
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Angiography

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Area: 8,9 mm²

Medium Diameter: 3,4 mm
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Definition

• 25% of thrombotic coronary occlusions

• Plaque erosion was identified when the fibrous cap of the culprit lesion was intact (thrombus often overlies atherosclerotic plaque without evident disruption of the fibrous cap).

• How to treat:
  • Conservative medical therapy (antiaggregation/anticoagulation therapy)
  • Invasive strategy (stent implantation)
OCT-Based Diagnosis and Management of STEMI Associated With Intact Fibrous Cap

- OCT evaluation of 31 STEMI patients with plaque erosion in absence of local critical stenosis.

- 2 Groups:
  - 40% treated with thromboaspiration followed by dual antiplatelet therapy without percutaneous revascularization (group 1)
  - 60% treated with thromboaspiration followed by coronary angioplasty and stenting (group 2).

- Median follow-up of 753 days.

- After a median follow-up of 753 days, target lesion revascularization was performed in 1 patient in group 2, but no myocardial infarction, heart failure, or deaths occurred in either group.

- Conclusions: DAPT is an alternative treatment strategy for patients with acute coronary events and optical coherence tomography–verified intact fibrous cap (or plaque erosion), where nonobstructive lesions might be managed without stenting.

Prati et Al - J Am Coll Cardiol Img 2013;6:283–7
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Evidences in literature

The EROSION Study

Thrombus volume reduction (>50%) after 1 month OCT-follow up in 47/60 (78.3%) ACS patients treated with conservative medical therapy without stent implantation:

- ASA 100 mg/die
- Ticagrelor 90 mg bid
- Unfractioned Heparin or Enoxaparin (just for 3 days after admission).

Haibo J. et al - European Heart Journal (2016) 0, 1–9
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Stenting or not stenting?

MORPHOLOGICAL PLAQUE EROSION FEATURES CRITERIA:

1. absent or deeply seated necrotic core with an intact fibrous cap.

2. stenosis of coronary lumen may not always be significant in eroded plaques (plaque erosion had an average 70% area stenosis).

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Treatment strategy

• Conservative medical therapy (ASA 100 mg/die, Ticagrelor 90 mg x 2)

• Therapy on discharge: Ramipril 2,5 mg/die, ASA 100 mg/die, Ticagrelor 90 mg x 2, Bisoprolol 2,5 mg/die, Atorvastatin 40 mg/die.

• At 9 months clinical follow up no adverse events recorded.
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Plaque rupture and intact fibrous cap assessed by optical coherence tomography portend different outcomes in patients with acute coronary syndrome

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Coronary Plaque Erosion
Recognition and Management*

Eugene Braunwald, MD
Boston, Massachusetts

Braunwald E, JACC Imaging, 2013
Rivaroxaban in Patients with a Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome

Jessica L. Mega, M.D., M.P.H., Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Stephen D. Wiviott, M.D., Jean-Pierre Bassand, M.D., Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., Christoph Bode, M.D., Paul Burton, M.D., Ph.D., Marc Cohen, M.D., Nancy Cook-Brunts, M.D., Keith A.A. Fox, M.B., Ch.B., Shinji Goto, M.D., Sabina A. Murphy, M.P.H., Alexei N. Potnikov, M.D., David Schneider, M.D., Xiang Sun, Ph.D., Freek W.A. Verheugt, M.D., and C. Michael Gibson, M.D., for the ATLAS ACS 2-TIMI 51 Investigators

- 15,526 patients with an ACS to receive twice-daily doses of either 2.5 mg or 5 mg of rivaroxaban or placebo for a mean of 13 months and up to 31 months.

- The primary efficacy end point was a composite of death from cardiovascular causes, myocardial infarction, or stroke.

- Rivaroxaban reduced the risk of the composite end point of death from cardiovascular causes, myocardial infarction, or stroke.

- Rivaroxaban increased the risk of major bleeding and intracranial hemorrhage but not the risk of fatal bleeding.

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Gibson MC et al, NEJM, 2016
Conclusions

- Management of coronary erosion is controversial
- The decision to implant or not a stent is the first issue
- The second issue is related to the type of antithrombotic regimen
- Finally length of antithrombotic therapy needs to be elucidated
Thank you for your attention