

CONFERENCE COVERAGE

ISET 2004

The 16th annual International Symposium on Endovascular Therapy (ISET) was held in Miami Beach, Florida, January 25-29, 2004.

Indicative of the trends we are currently seeing in endovascular therapy, ISET 2004 featured a wide variety of multidisciplinary panel discussions and presentations on subjects and challenges faced by physicians engaged in performing minimally invasive peripheral and coronary procedures.

Charles J. Tegtmeier Lecture

The 8th Annual Charles J. Tegtmeier Lecture was presented by Gordon McLean, MD, Chief of Vascular/Interventional Radiology at Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. McLean's lecture entitled, "An Evolutionary Conundrum: The Dinosaur Contemplates His Own Extinction," discussed the manner in which interventional radiology has changed over the last 25 years and offered insights into what we might expect in the next quarter century. His comprehensive lecture cited the significant progress made thus far and the likelihood that this trend will continue. For this "evolution" to progress, however, Dr. McLean emphasized that a strong connection between today's interventional radiologists and those residents and students who may possibly enter the field must be created. Recruitment into the field is down, he stated, possibly due to a lack of clear communication regarding the increasingly demanding nature of interventional radiology coupled with a perceived overall shift in the priorities of today's residents. The solution to this quandary may require a degree of separation from diagnostic radiology.

The Carotid Artery Stenting Controversy

The debate and discussion surrounding carotid artery stenting versus carotid endarterectomy was also present at

ISET 2004. Bruce Perler, MD, gave a lecture entitled, "The SAPHIRE Trial: Surgical Interpretation of Results." Dr. Perler said that the SAPHIRE Trial was flawed in its design, specifically that its randomization process was problematic; however, he had no doubt that CAS would continue to evolve and become appropriate therapy in selected patients.

Jay Yadav, MD, who presented the 1-year results of the SAPHIRE Trial, said that protected carotid stenting is not inferior to carotid endarterectomy in patients with comorbid conditions.

Drug-Eluting Stents in the Periphery

The slow transition to using drug-eluting stents in the periphery was addressed in several presentations. A presentation by Martin B. Leon, MD, entitled, "Lessons Learned from Coronary Trials of Drug-Eluting Stents," and another by Bob Smouse, MD, entitled, "Planned Drug-Eluting Stent Clinical Trials in the Periphery: Are the Problems and Solutions Transferable?" reviewed the reasons why the use of drug-eluting stents in the periphery has been slow to occur, specifically in the femoropopliteal segment. Some of the reasons are because the femoropopliteal segment has more occlusions than any other segment, it is the longest vascular segment with two bifurcations, and it endures the most mechanical deformation and stresses.

Imaging Modalities

Computed tomography angiography (CTA) and magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) have undergone technological advancements in the past 10 years and are now poised to bring a new standard of high-resolution, three-dimensional imaging to the daily practice of endovascular therapy. Barry Stein, MD, Director, Section of Cardiovascular MRI, Hartford Hospital, Hartford,





Connecticut, conducted several presentations that highlighted the use of CTA and MRA, which included their use in imaging of carotid artery disease and aorto-iliac disease.

AAA and the Need for Screening

Although abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAAs) are relatively easy to detect using ultrasound and CT, such screening is rarely performed in the US. This lack of screening to identify patients with AAA was the basis for a presentation by Hugh G. Beebe, MD, Director Emeritus, Jobst Vascular Center, Toledo, Ohio, entitled, "We Should Be Screening for AAA." Also presented were papers about the issues surrounding patient selection for AAA, such as imaging modalities (ie, CTA, MRA), regulatory concerns, contraindications, and rupture.

Medical Simulation

Medical simulation is increasingly attracting interest, and a simulator case was used to both convey the current state of medical simulation technology and its potential impact on endovascular medicine.

In a live case presentation, the audience was shown a subclavian angioplasty in a lesion. The patient had developed chest pain and ventricular arrhythmia. The clinical scenario was presented and the coronary artery with a critical lesion was shown. James Benenati, MD, said, "We've been trying to get a cardiologist, but we can't find one, so I elected to engage the right coronary because the patient is unstable and he had a catheter in." Dr. Benenati proceeded to demonstrate the lesion and perform the angioplasty, all the while saying he was not able to find the cardiologist. After everyone in attendance was convinced that the case was live, the camera pulled back and showed that Dr. Benenati was actually in the CT room using a simulator. Meeting organizers commented that

the purpose of this demonstration was to illustrate the usefulness of this emerging technology.

Innovators Forum

Of particular interest was the Innovators Forum, which was established by the ISET program committee to provide a vehicle through which companies and individuals may introduce their latest devices. The Innovators Forum was enthusiastically received and showcased some very exciting and innovative technology from presenters ranging from experienced physicians to a 19-year-old student, all of whom presented their devices to an all-star panel of inventors composed of John Abele, John B. Simpson, MD, William Harrington, MD, Juan C. Parodi, MD, Lindsay Machan MD, and Julio C. Palmaz, MD, and moderated by Shaun Samuels, MD. This esteemed panel provided valuable critique of each device to each presenter.

Innovators Award

The 3rd Annual ISET Innovators Award was presented to John B. Simpson, MD. The Innovators Award is presented to individuals whose foresight and innovation have made a meaningful impact on the diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease by endovascular means. Dr. Simpson received recognition for, among other accomplishments, inventing the Over-the-Wire Balloon Angioplasty Catheter and devising the concept of directional atherectomy.

Ben Stein

Award-winning entertainer and writer Ben Stein performed for the opening reception. Stein said that he speaks at many engagements throughout the year, but that, based on his own family experience, this specialty is truly dedicated to their field and to the advancement of medicine to benefit patients. ■