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Iliofemoral deep venous thrombosis treatment modalities



We read with interest the article by Bendix et al.¹ Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) of the lower extremity extended to the iliofemoral or ilio caval venous system is a common cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. Post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) is a chronic and devastating complication for DVT patients. Percutaneous venous intervention has been promoted as having better results as an endovascular treatment option for these patients compared with medical treatment alone.²

In this study, seven patients had May-Thurner syndrome (MTS), but there are no clear data about these patients' treatment types and follow-up. Did the authors use only lytic therapy or perform angioplasty with or without stenting for MTS patients? As the continuing stenosis due to MTS is a risk for recurrent thrombosis, these patients should be treated with percutaneous transluminal angioplasty and stenting for better outcomes.³

The authors did not use compression stockings for patients in the study. Although there is not complete consensus in the literature about using compression stockings, in the presence of significant predictors of PTS in DVT patients, compression therapy may be reasonable for the prevention of PTS and for relief of symptoms.⁴

As mentioned in the manuscript, the authors performed venous angioplasty with stenting for only 11 of 44 patients. What about the rest of the patients without stenting? Should only angioplasty technique be a sufficient therapy for these patients because of the risk of recoil and spasm?⁵ How did the authors decide

to perform stenting? Was there a cutoff value about degree of residual stenosis?

One patient was 8 weeks' pregnant at the time of intervention. This is a big challenge because of exposure of the evolving fetus to ionizing radiation with probable teratogenic effects, especially during the first trimester, when organogenesis takes place. How did the authors manage this patient's treatment status?

We would also like to hear the authors' opinions on these matters.

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