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Transcatheter Renal Denervation Therapy: A Breakthrough for Refractory Hypertension?

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What is renal denervation?

- Catheter based interruption of renal nerves
- Reduces central sympathetic drive
- This results in blood pressure reduction
- It may have other beneficial effects in heart failure and diabetes

Simplicity, Ardian, Medtronic Radiofrequency











Techniques on the Horizont

- Other radiofrequency approaches
- Heat
- Cryo
- Radiation
- Ultrasound
- Drugs

So is this a "Breakthrough"?

The answer is "yes"

I believe that renal denervation may become as important as PCI or PTA

... and I am not the only one







LIVE CASES

Neuro-Humoral Interventions Catheter and Device Based Treatment of Hypertension and Heart Failure Transcatheter Renal Denervation

www.csi-trend.org

Which interventional procedure can become a "breakthrough"?

- The disease should be important
- Interventionalists should have direct access to the patients
- Should be doable without huge infrastructure
- The procedure should be
 - effective
 - safe
 - durable
 - easy to learn

With renal denervation we can treat hypertension

Needless to say that hypertension is important

But hypertension is much more frequent and much more important than you may think

How important is hypertension?

- 30-40% of the adult population in the US/Europe has hypertension
- The prevalence is expected to increase with the aging population
- 65% of hypertensive patients are either untreated or have a blood pressure above the recommended goal

Lloyd-Jones et al. Circulation 2009; **119**(3): 480-6. Calhoun et al. Hypertension 2008; 51: 1403-19

Please look around in this room!

How many candidates do you see for renal denervation compared to TAVI, TEVAR or flow diverters?

Actually, you may be one of the candidates

How important is hypertension?

- Associated with an increased risk of:
 - Stroke
 - Myocardial infarction
 - Renal insufficiency
 - Congestive heart failure
 - Peripheral arterial disease
 - Death
- 20mmHg increase in BP doubles cardiovascular mortality
- According to the WHO hypertension is the most frequent cause of death worldwide

Hypertension is a huge financial burden

 Estimated costs associated with hypertension in 2009 in the US: \$73.4 billion

Cohen. Manag Care 2009; **18**(10): 51-8.

Limitations of BMT

- 60-80% of hypertensive patients are either untreated or have suboptimal blood pressure control despite optimal medical therapy
- Many patients are troubled by medication side-effects

Calhoun et al. Hypertension 2008; **51**(6): 1403-19.

Do you have direct patient access?

Everybody has access to patients – even dentists

Infrastructure?

- Cath lab
- Generator
- Catheter

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Symplicity HTN-2 THE LANCET

Renal sympathetic denervation in patients with treatmentresistant hypertension (The Symplicity HTN-2 Trial): a randomised controlled trial

Symplicity HTN-2 Investigators*

Lancet. 2010;376:1903-1909

- Randomized, controlled, clinical trial
- Patients:
 - 106 patients with resistant hypertension randomized
 1:1 to treatment with renal denervation vs. control
 - Office SBP ≥ 160 mmHg
 - 3+ more anti-HTN medications

Primary Endpoint: 6-Month Office BP



- 84% of RDN patients had ≥ 10 mmHg reduction in SBP
- Only 10% of RDN patients had no reduction in SBP

Symplicity HTN-2 Investigators. Lancet. 2010;376:1903-1909

How does this compare to medical treatment?



¹Lancet. 2010 ²Curr Hypertens Rep. 2008 Dec;10(6):429-31. ³Hypertension. 2010 Jan;55(1):147-52 ⁴Hypertension. 2010 Jul;56(1):22-3.

Office Systolic BP Distribution



■≥ 180 mmHg ■ 160-179 mmHg ■ 140-159 mmHg ■ < 140 mmHg

Symplicity HTN-2 Investigators. Lancet. 2010;376:1903-1909

Is it safe?

HTN-1: Chronic Safety Out to 3 Years

- One progression of a pre-existing stenosis unrelated to RF treatment (stented without further sequelae)
- One new moderate stenosis which was not hemodynamically relevant and no treatment
- 3 deaths within the follow-up period; all unrelated to the device or therapy
- No hypotensive events that required hospitalization
- There were no observed changes in mean electrolytes or eGFR

Subgroup analyses

- Age
- Gender
- Diabetes

no differences

Is the effect durable?

Symplicity HTN-2 Time Course of Office BP Change



Symplicity HTN-2 Investigators. Lancet. 2010;376:1903-1909 and Krum H et al, ACC 2012

Symplicity HTN-1 Significant, Sustained BP Reduction through 3 yrs



Symplicity HTN-1 Change in Office Blood Pressure for 24 Pts with 3 yrs Follow-up



Distribution of SBP Change at BL, 1, 12, 24, and 36 Months



Percentage Responders Over Time

Responder was defined as an office SBP reduction ≥10 mmHg



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