

Yes, Selection of the Best Stenting Technique Is Important!

Andrejs Erglis, MD, PhD

Latvian Center of Cardiology

Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital

Riga, LATVIA



Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest



Within the past 12 months, I or my spouse/partner have had a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with the organization(s) listed below.

Affiliation/Financial Relationship

- Grant/Research Support
- Consulting Fees/Honoraria
- Major Stock Shareholder/Equity
- Royalty Income
- Ownership/Founder
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Other Financial Benefit

Company

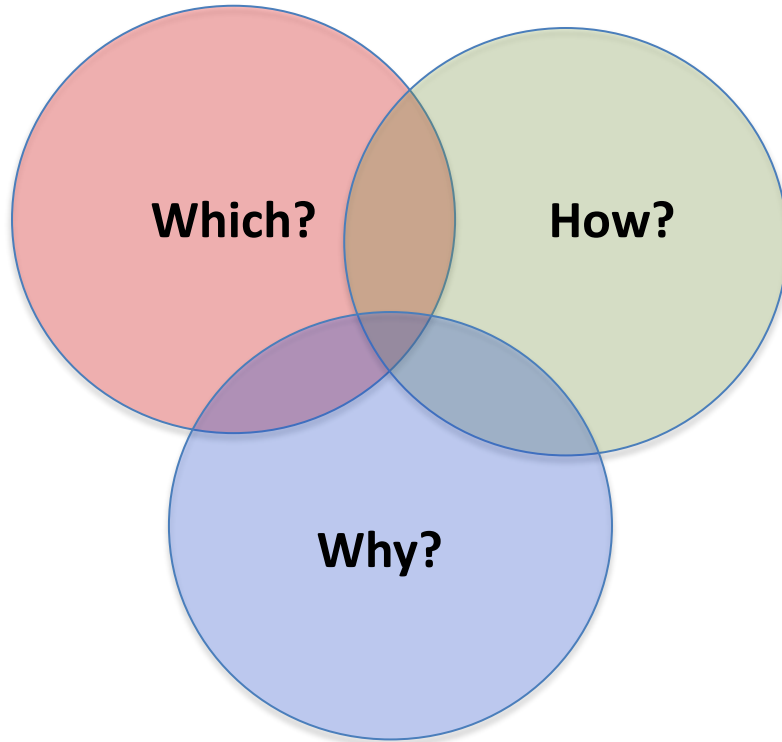
- Abbott Vascular, Boston Scientific
- Abbot Vascular, Biosensors, Biotronik, Boston Scientific, Cordis J&J, Medtronic

Questions before making a decision how to treat?



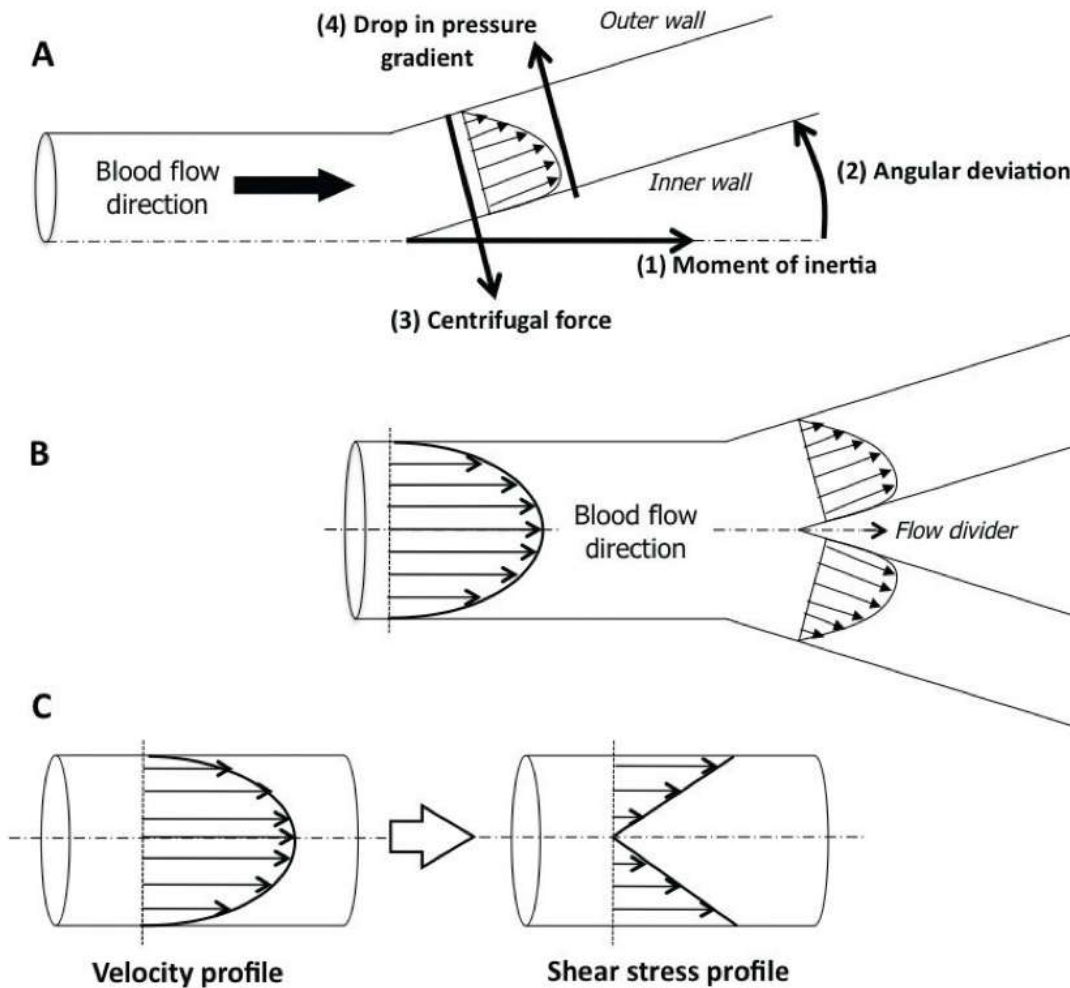
- How large is the SB (diameter, vessel length, and myocardial territory supplied)
- Is the SB ostium diseased? If yes, what is the severity and length of the lesion?
- Is there severe disease in the SB beyond the ostium?
- What is the angle of the SB takeoff? Is it difficult to wire/rewire?
- What is the severity and distribution of the MV lesion?
- What will happen to the SB after MV stenting (mild or significant compromise or occlusion)?
- What are the clinical consequences of SB occlusion (depends on the territory supplied)?

Questions after the decision to use double stenting strategy?



- Which technique?
 - How to choose among the various techniques?
 - Anatomy and physiology
 - Intravascular imaging, FFR
- How to perform?
 - How to optimally perform the procedure?
 - Guide catheter selection
 - Plaque preparation
 - Stent deployment
 - Optimization
 - FFR guidance, IVUS/OCT guidance and optimization
 - How easy is the technique?
 - Operator experience and preferences?
- Why?
 - Is there an evidence-base for decision making?

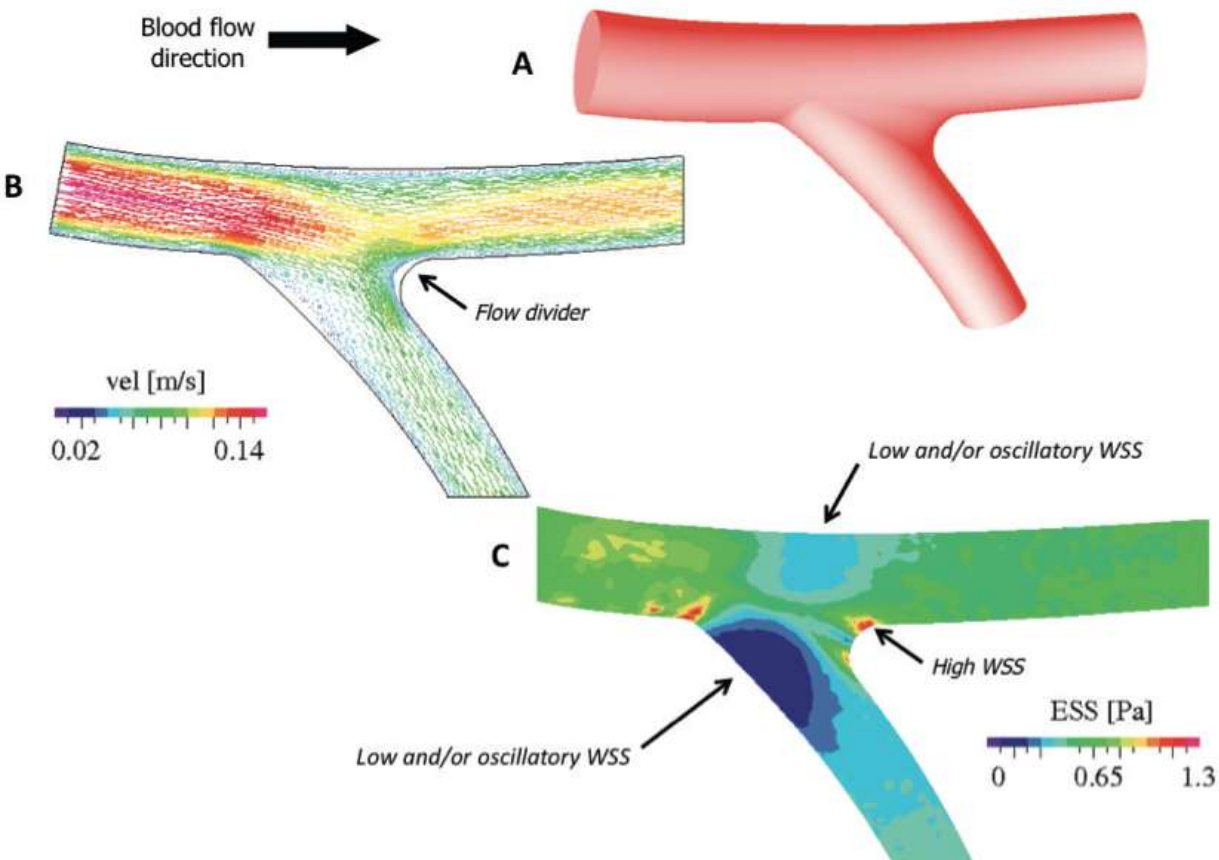
Bifurcation impact on fluid dynamics



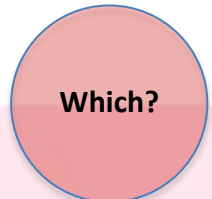
- A) *Laminar flow in an artery induces a force of inertia (1) in the direction of flow; a sudden change in direction characterised by an angular deviation (2) induces a centrifugal force (3) which creates a pressure gradient at the exit from the change in direction.*
- B) *Description of fluid dynamics changes from symmetric laminar flow before the bifurcation to asymmetric flow gradients after division of the flow.*
- C) *The flow velocity profile is associated with a shear stress profile, corresponding to the derivative of the velocities from their radial position.*

Which?

Wall shear stress in bifurcations



- A) *The coronary bifurcation model respects a fractal geometry.*
- B) *Map of velocity profile, showing the preferential route towards the flow divider induced by the force of inertia.*
- C) *Map of wall shear stress (WSS) showing two contrasting regions at the flow divider where WSS is low, regions where flow is very slow and/or oscillatory.*

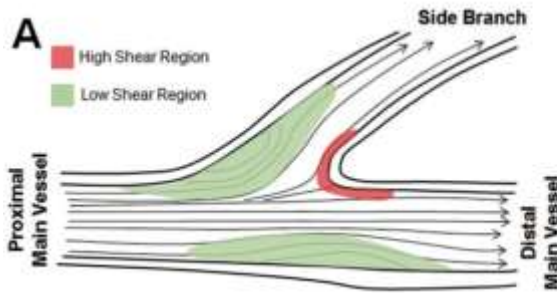


Which?

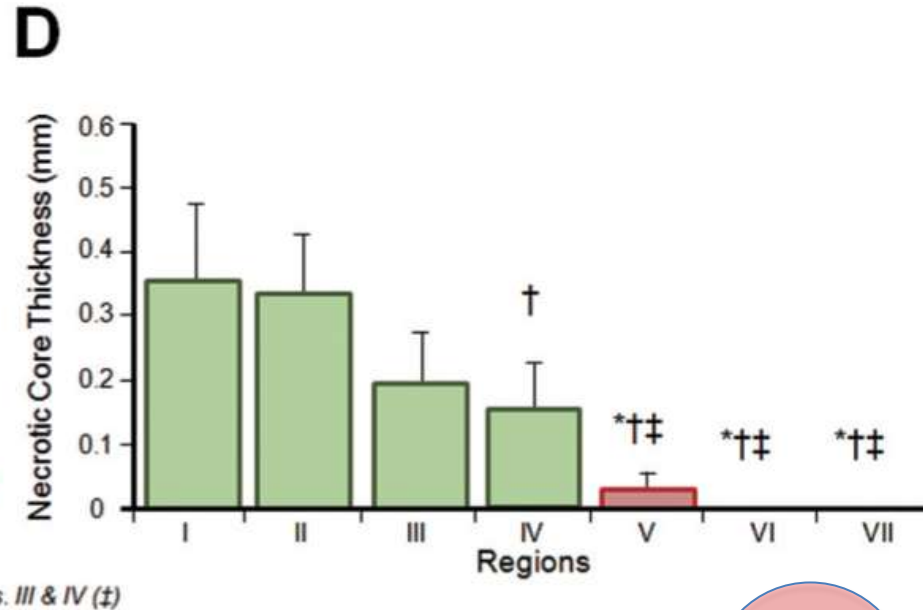
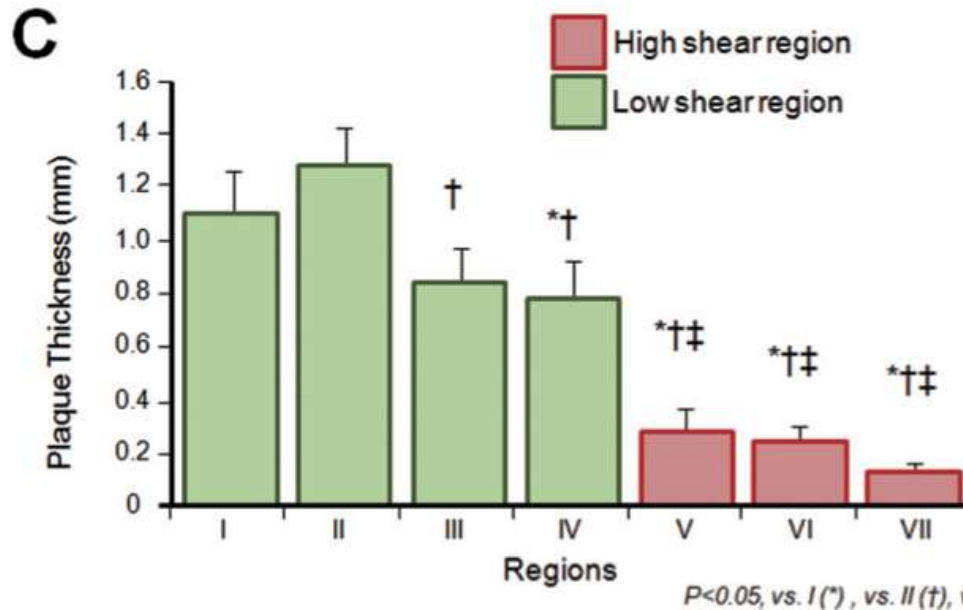
Impact of flow on atheroma in bifurcation



Flow behavior with low shear regions in the lateral walls and high shear regions at the carina.

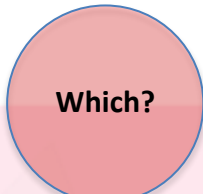


Regions: I - Proximal MV, II - Distal MV on the lateral wall, III - Proximal MV on the SB, IV - Distal SB on the lateral wall, V - Distal MV on the flow divider side, VI - Distal SB on the flow divider side, VII - Carina.

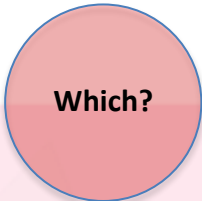
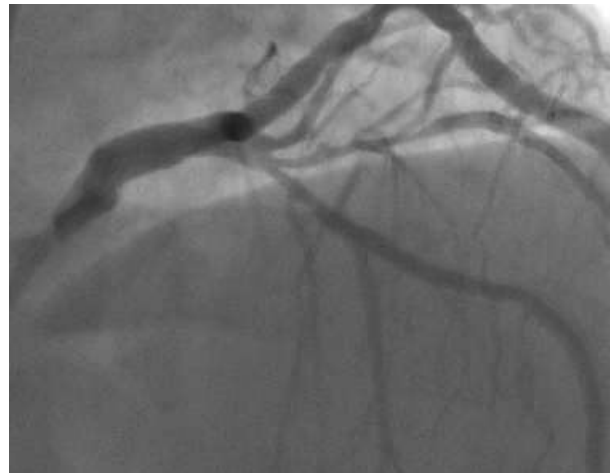
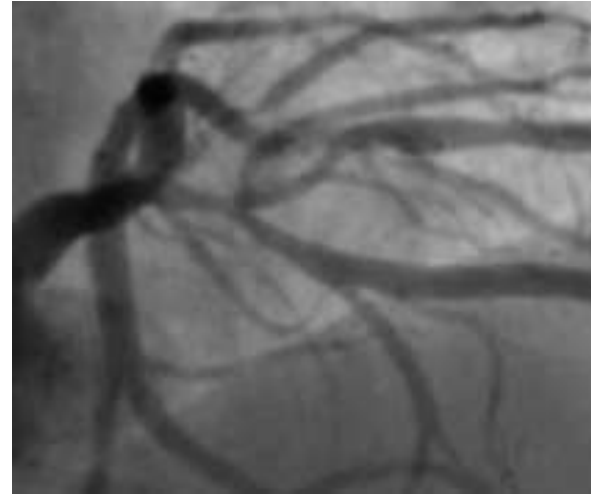
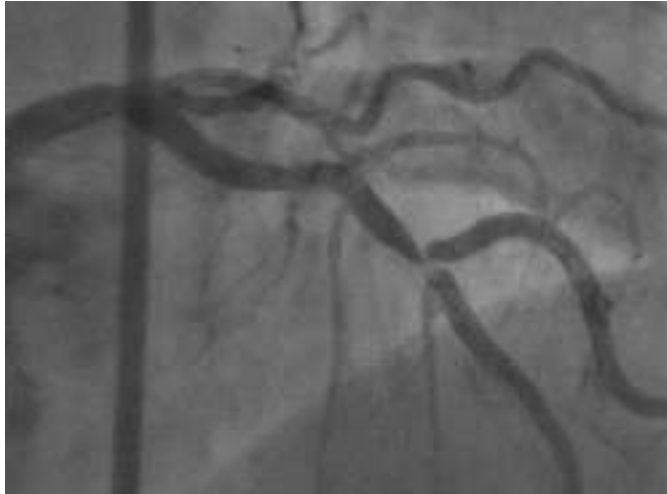


C: Plaque thickness was greater in regions of low shear as compared to high shear.

D: Necrotic core thickness was significantly greater in low shear regions as compared to high shear with absent of necrotic core at the carinal region (VII)

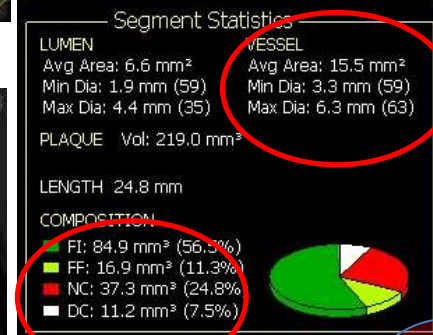
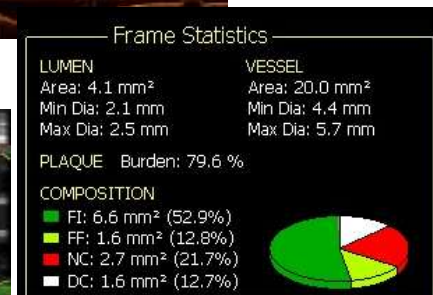
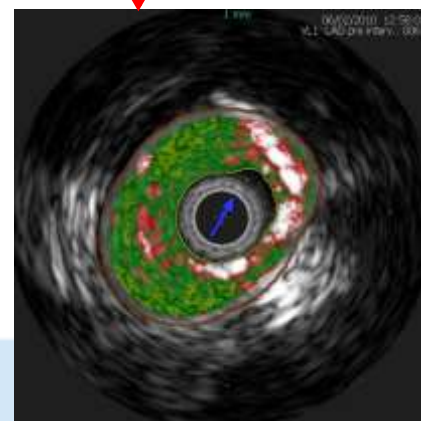
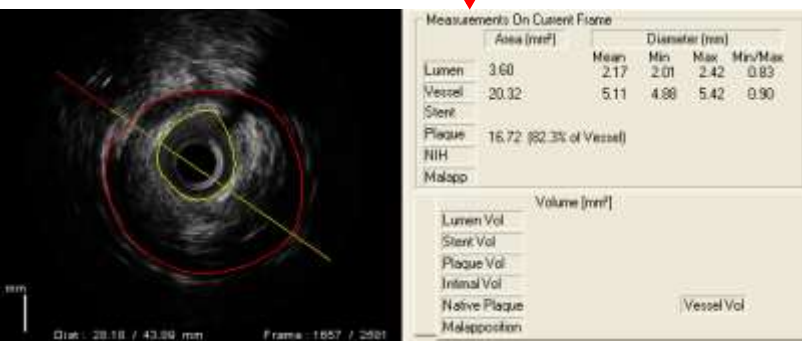
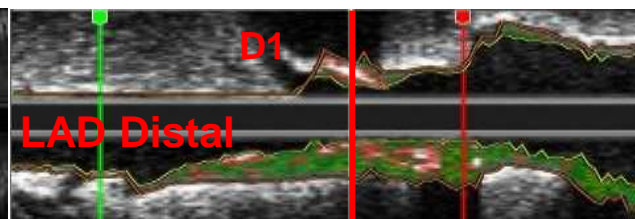
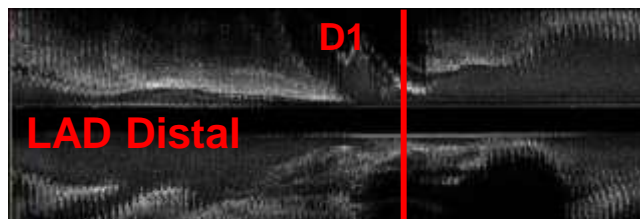
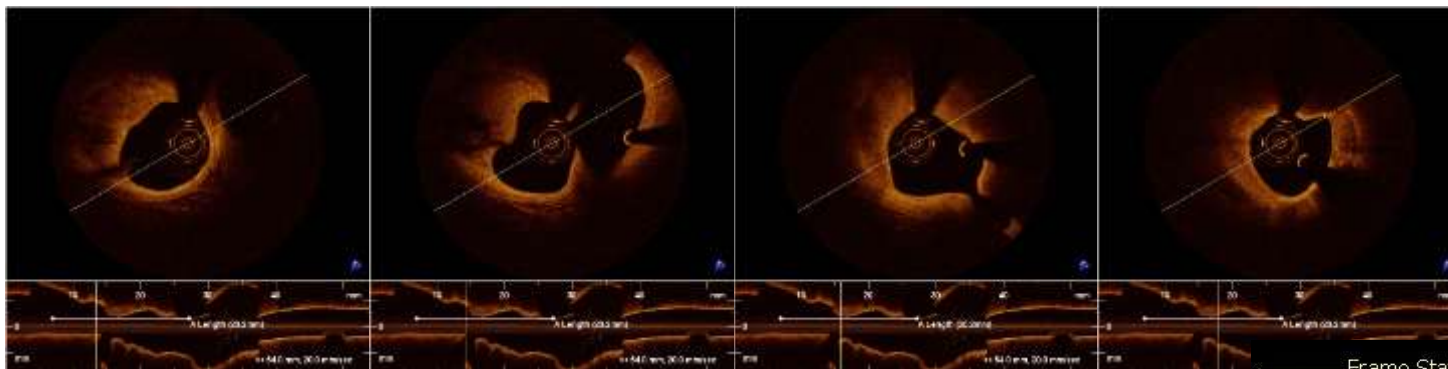


Medina 1,1,1 and Medina 1,1,1

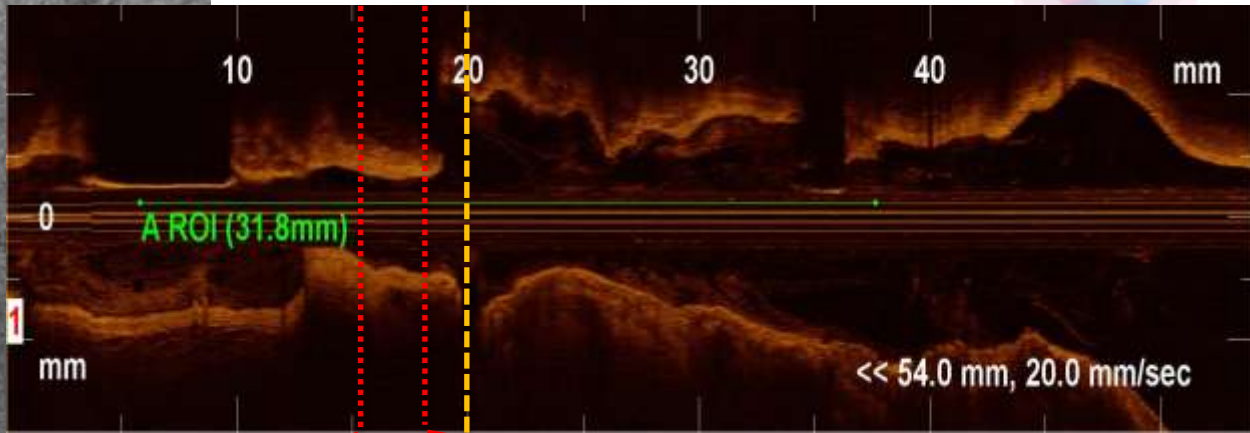
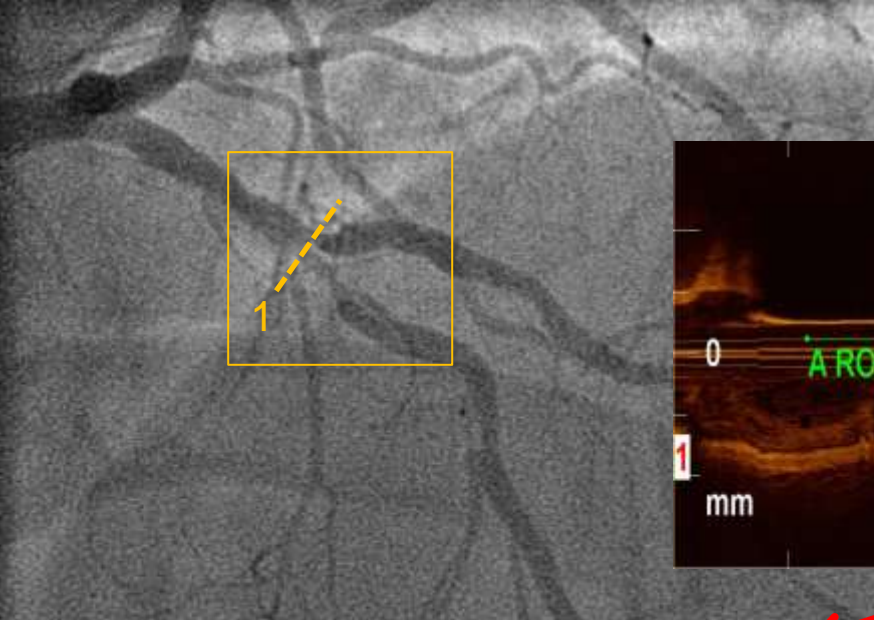


Which?

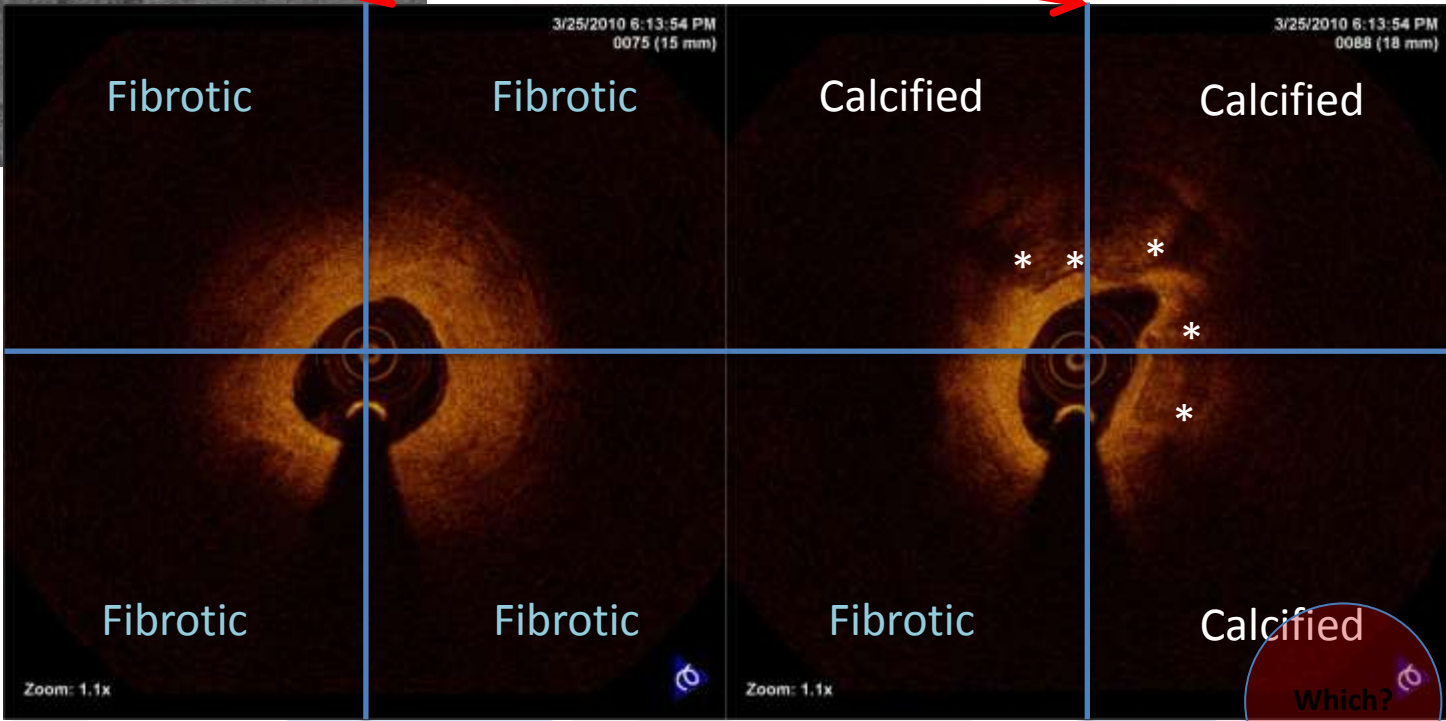
LAD Bifurcation evaluation with IVUS, OCT or VH



Which?



Tri-furcation as landmark



Which?

Impact of flow on arterial healing after stenting

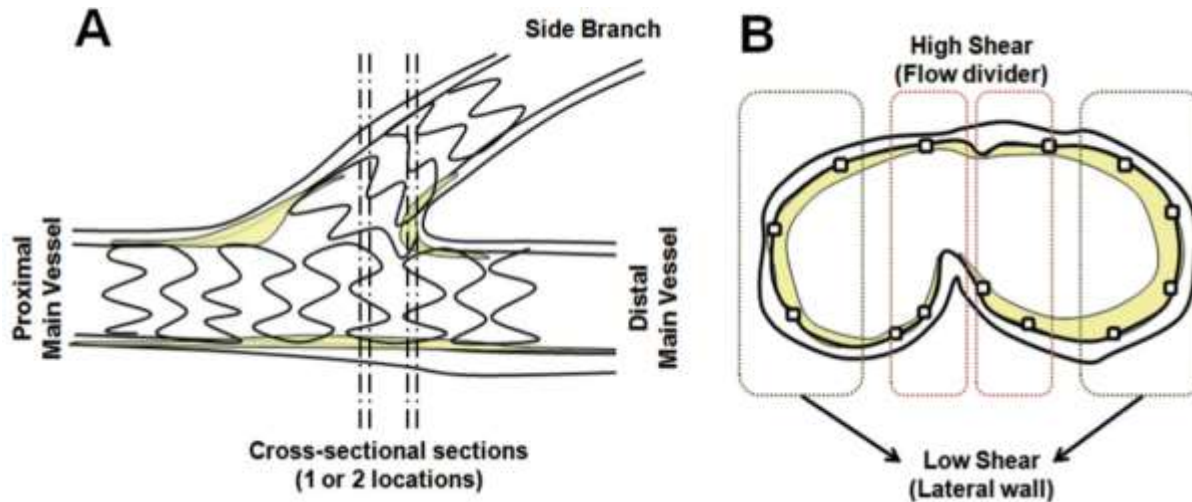
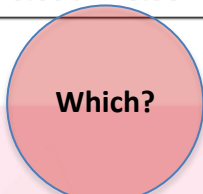


Table 2. Morphometric comparison between high shear vs. low shear regions in DES and BMS.

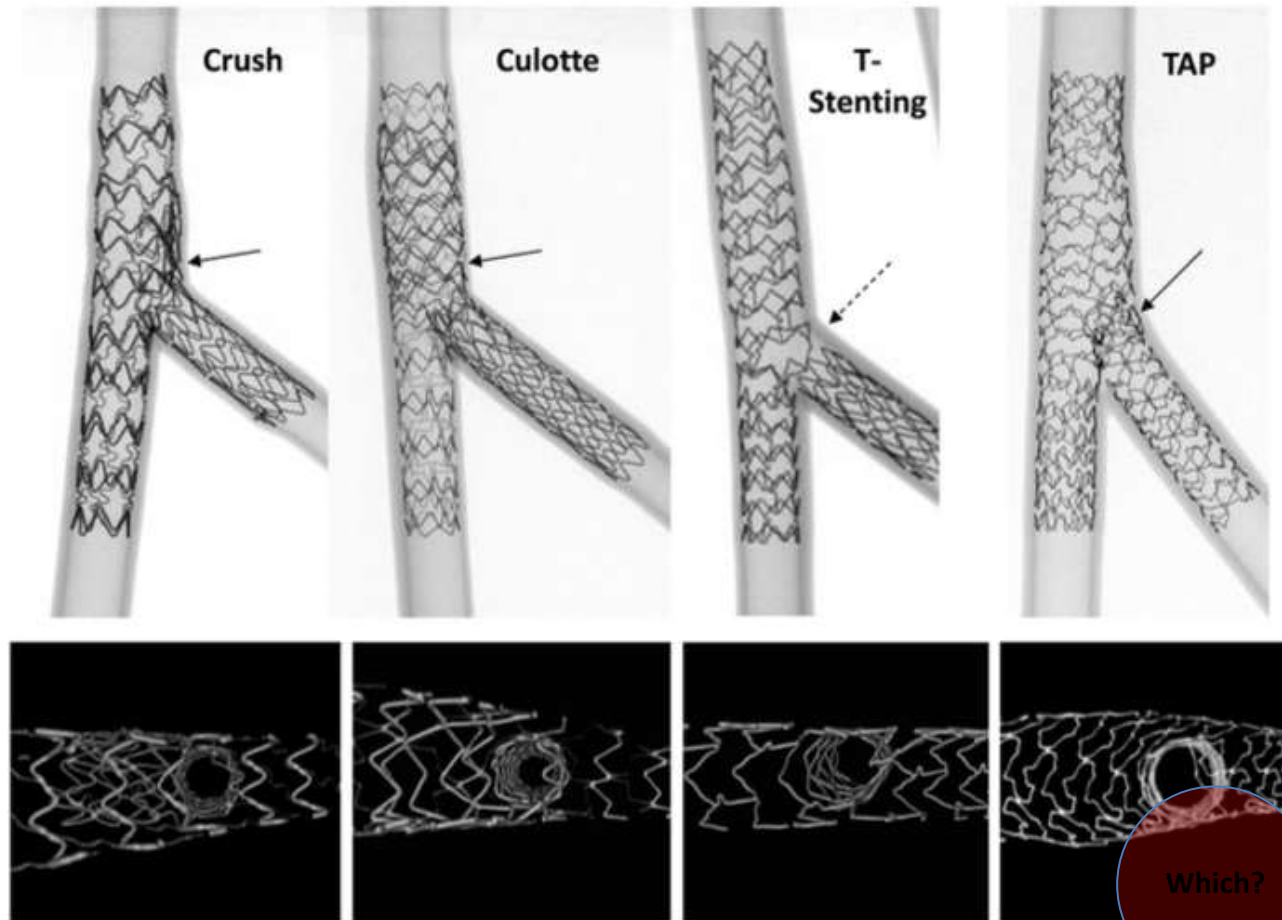
| | DES (12 lesion, 17 stents) | | p value | BMS (14 lesion, 18 stents) | | p value | P value for DES vs. BMS | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | High shear (flow divider) | Low shear (lateral walls) | | High shear (flow divider) | Low shear (lateral walls) | | High shear | Low shear |
| Neointimal thickness (mm) | 0.07 [0.03, 0.15] | 0.17 [0.09, 0.23] | 0.001 | 0.26 [0.16, 0.73] | 0.44 [0.17, 0.67] | 0.25 | 0.0002 | 0.004 |
| Fibrin deposition (%Struts) | 60 [21, 67] | 17 [0, 55] | 0.01 | 8 [0, 33] | 3 [0, 21] | 0.21 | 0.008 | 0.19 |
| Uncovered struts (%Struts) | 40 [16, 76] | 0 [0, 15] | 0.001 | 0 [0, 21] | 0 [0, 0] | 0.10 | 0.004 | 0.38 |

DES: drug-eluting stent; BMS: bare metal stent; Values are expressed as median and interquartile range



Insights From In Vitro Experiments and Micro-Computed Tomography

Overlapping layers of struts proximal to the SB in the Crush and Culotte techniques (arrow) increase the metallic presence and the rate of malapposition proximal to the SB. T-stenting technique can leave a gap in stent scaffolding between the main vessel stent and the SB stent (dashed arrow), whereas TAP provides scaffolding of the ostium with minimal strut overlap and malapposition in the proximal vessel.

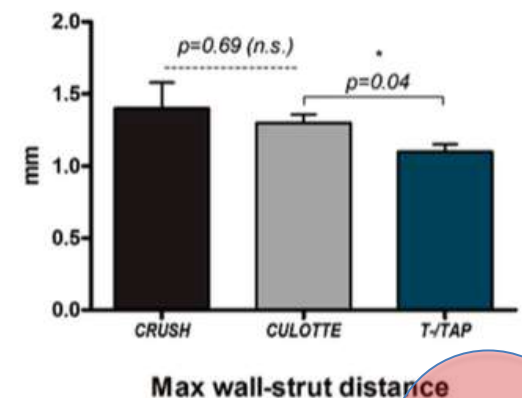
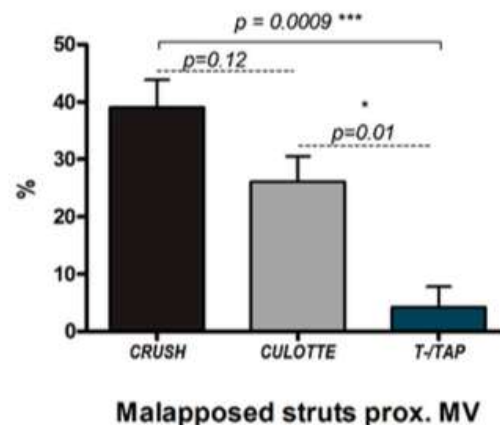
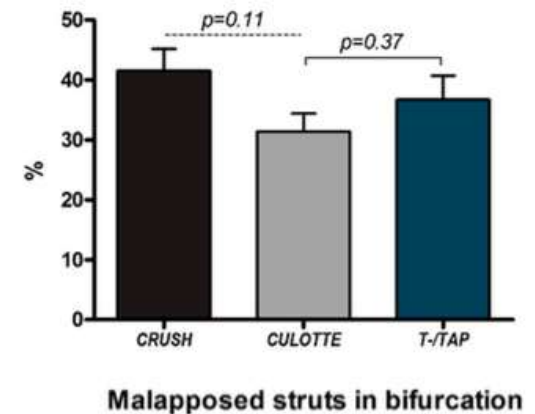
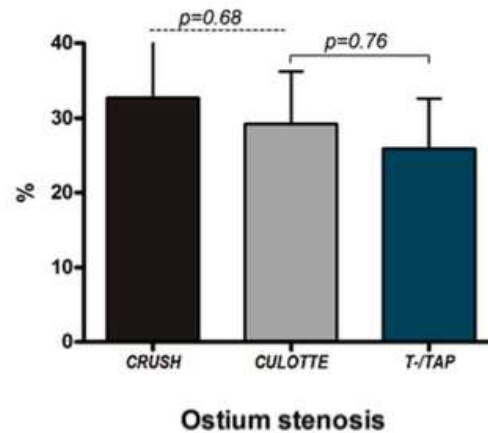


Insights From In Vitro Experiments and Micro-Computed Tomography

Non-significant trend toward a lower rate of malapposition within the bifurcation with culotte and T-/TAP techniques compared to the crush technique.

In the proximal MB, overlapping layers of struts after the crush and culotte stenting lead to a significantly higher rate of strut malapposition than with the T-/TAP technique.

The authors concluded that the crush technique resulted in a higher risk of malapposition than the culotte or T-/TAP technique



Which?

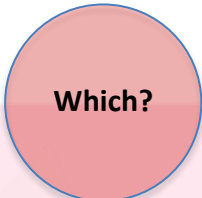
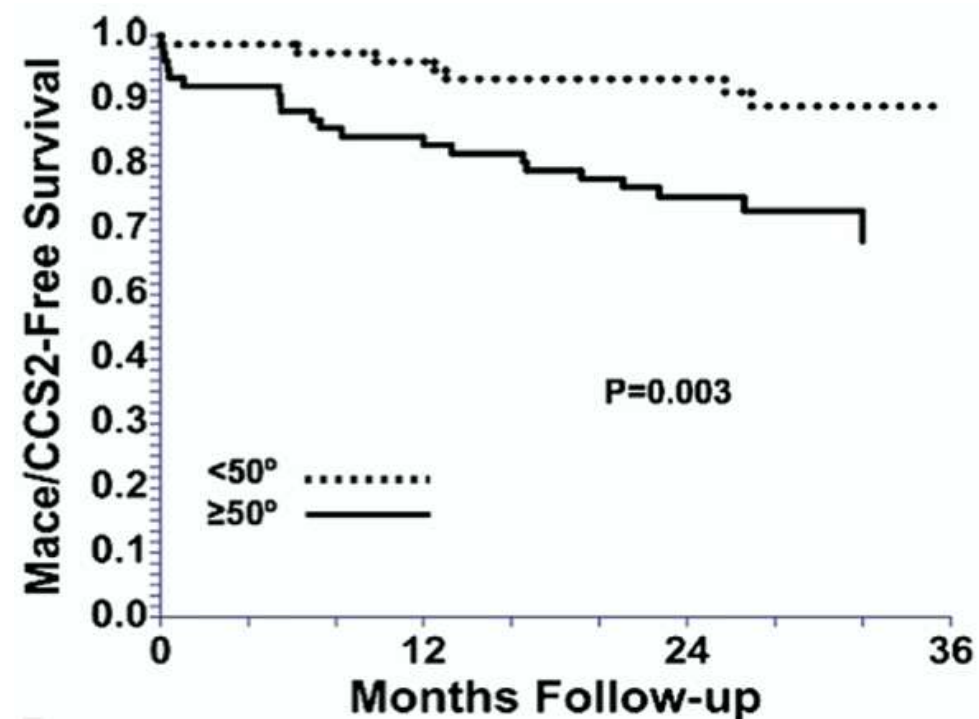
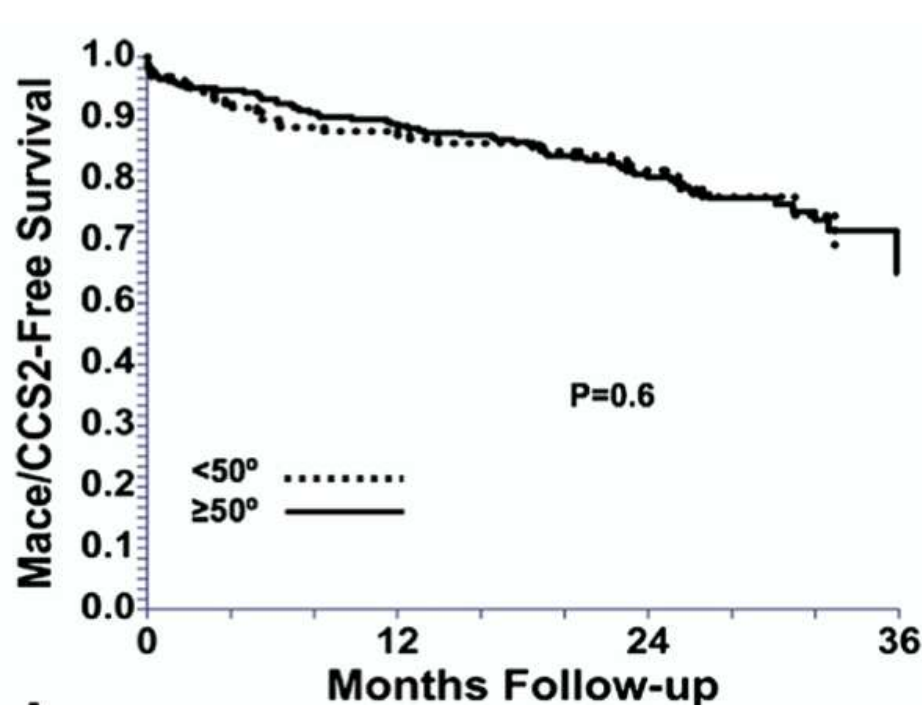


The role of bifurcation angle

Kaplan-Meier curves for MACEs or CCS class ≥ 2 angina-free survival

MV stenting only

Crush/Culotte stenting



Which?

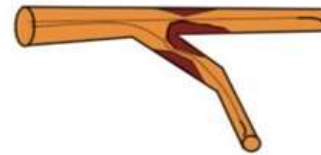
Step-by-Step Approach



- $\geq 7F$ guiding catheter
- Wire both branches and predilate if needed
- Intravascular imaging for PCI guiding
- Plaque modification with cutting/scoring balloon/ROTA
- Stenting: new generation DES by default and BVS
- Optimization:
 - Final kissing
 - Proximal optimisation technique (POT)
- Intravascular imaging for final result optimization

Culotte technique

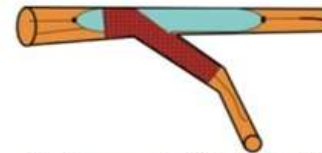
1. Wire both branches and predilate if needed



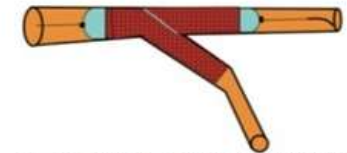
2. Leave the wire in the straighter branch (MB) and deploy a stent in the more angulated branch (SB)



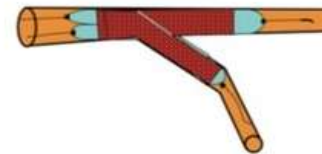
3. Rewire the unstented branch and dilate the stent struts to unjail the branch (MB)



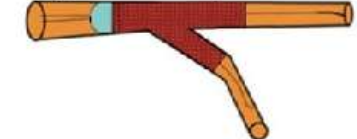
4. Place a second stent into the unstented branch (MB) and expand the stent leaving some proximal overlap



5. Re-cross the 2nd stent's (MB) struts into the 1st stent (SB) with a wire and perform kissing balloon inflation



6. Perform the final noncompliant proximal balloon dilation to insure proper stent apposition and alignment of the two proximal stent layers



How?

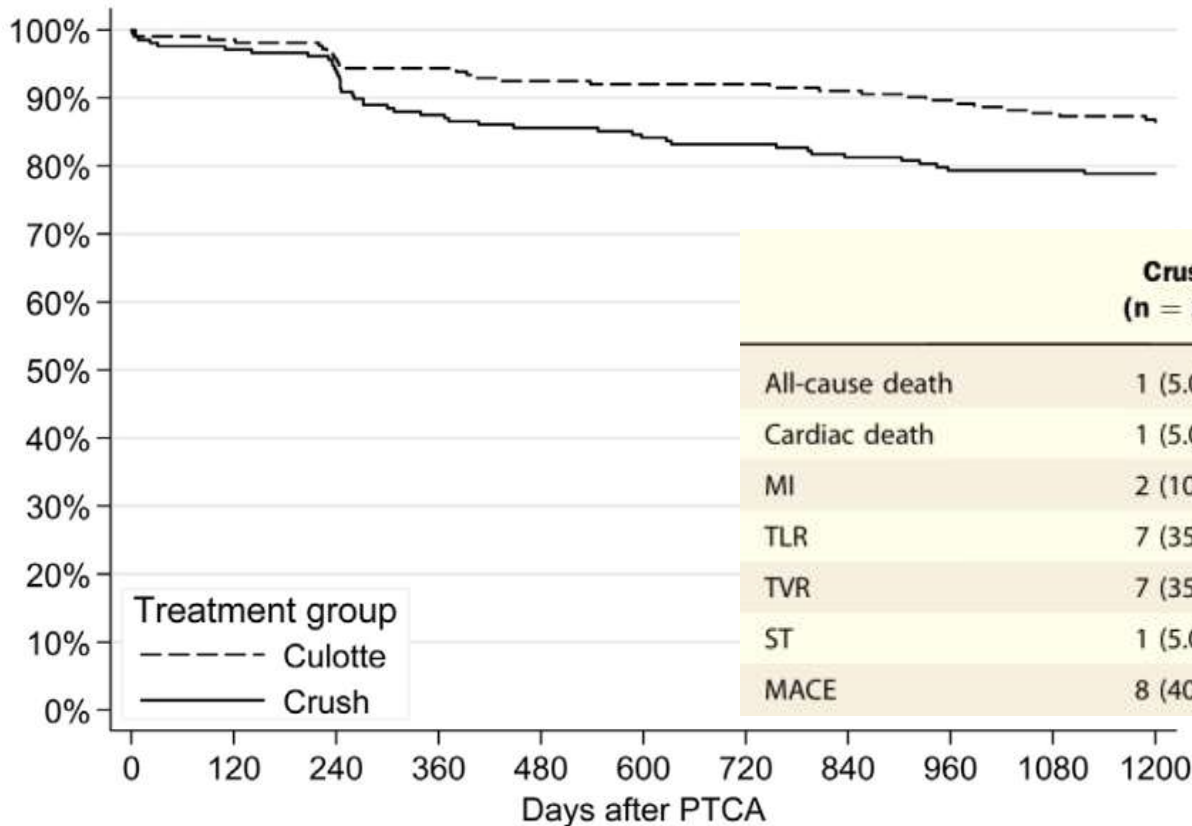
Nordic II: Nordic Stent Technique Study

MACE-Free Survival at 3-Year Follow-Up



Major adverse cardiac event (MACE)-free survival (cardiac death, myocardial infarction not related to percutaneous coronary intervention, target vessel revascularization)

Nordic Stent Technique Study (NORDIC II): the first randomized clinical and angiographic comparison of the crush and the culotte bifurcation stent techniques



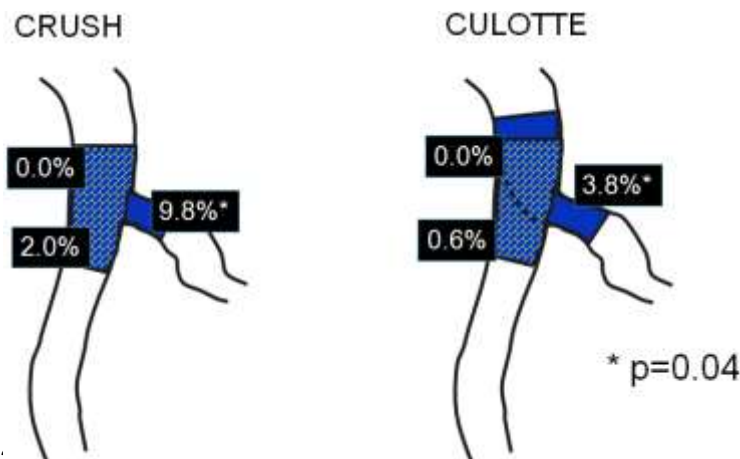
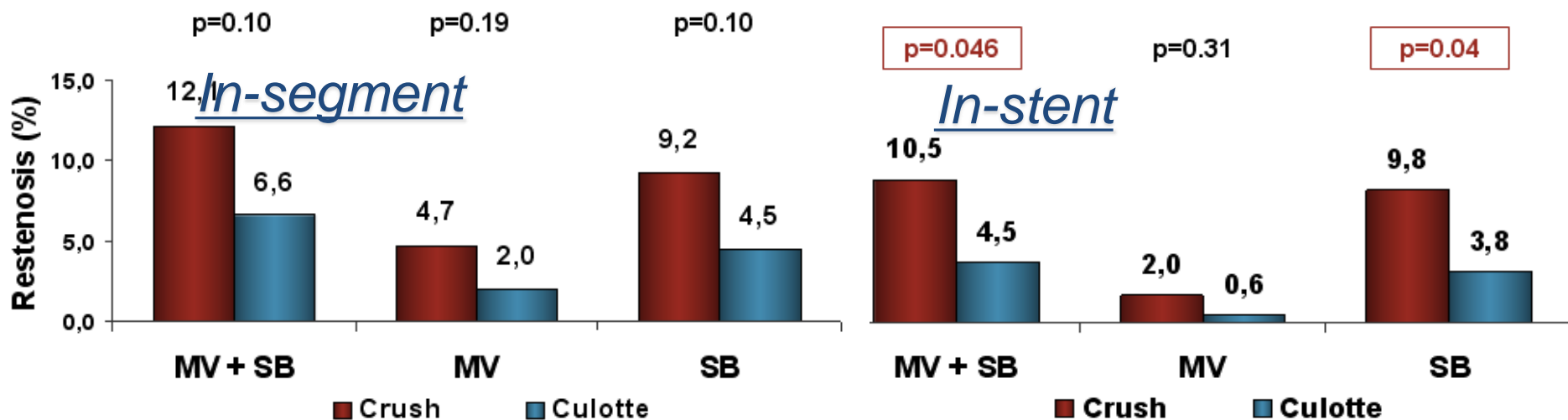
| | Crush (n = 20) | Culotte (n = 21) | p Value |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| All-cause death | 1 (5.0) | 1 (4.8) | 0.51 |
| Cardiac death | 1 (5.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0.49 |
| MI | 2 (10.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0.14 |
| TLR | 7 (35.0) | 2 (9.5) | 0.049 |
| TVR | 7 (35.0) | 2 (9.5) | 0.049 |
| ST | 1 (5.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0.49 |
| MACE | 8 (40.0) | 3 (14.0) | 0.01 |



Nordic II: QCA results



There is a trend towards less restenosis of the entire bifurcation lesion because of significantly reduced SB in-stent restenosis in patients treated with the CULOTTE technique (Nordic II)



Consensus from European Bifurcation Club, 2014



Culotte:

- Culotte is recommended for two-stent treatment of bifurcation lesions.
- When using the culotte technique, “mini-culotte” with as less proximal a double layer of stent struts as possible is recommended.
- Anatomic indications: This technique can be used in almost all true bifurcation lesions irrespective of bifurcation angle. We use this technique for treatment of bifurcations in which the MB and the SB have similar diameter .

Crush:

- Crush should be performed as mini-crush to reduce the extent of multiple strut layers in the MV.
- The DK-crush modification may aid rewiring the SB after MV stenting.
- Anatomic indications: This technique can be used in almost all true bifurcation lesions but should be avoided in wide-angle bifurcation

T-stenting:

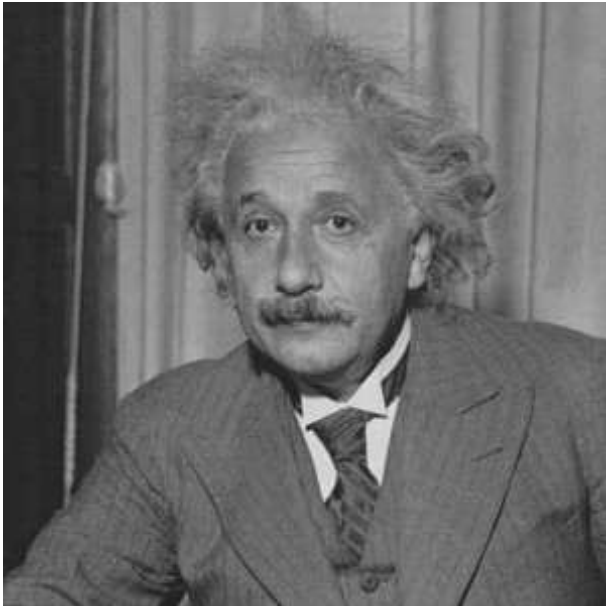
- T-stenting is appropriate for near 90 degree bifurcations. TAP stenting may also be used in smaller angles.
- Anatomic indications: Bifurcation lesions with ~90 degrees angle between the MB and the SB.

V-stent:

- V-stent technique might be used in appropriate narrow angle bifurcations.
- Anatomic indications: A (0,1,1) bifurcation with large proximal MB and a <90-degree angle between both branches.

SKS technique:

- SKS stenting is not recommended as a routine two-stent technique.



Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler



Confucius (c.551-479BC)

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.