Background: Endovascular intervention with kissing stenting (KS) is the first-line treatment for complex aortoiliac occlusive disease (AIOD) and it is related to less morbidity and a shorter hospital stay compared with open surgery. Unfortunately, recent study reported a primary patency of KS at 2-year follow-up of 79%. The geometry of the KS configuration was previously identified as a risk factor for restenosis and thrombosis. To achieve better long-term patency in 2013, a new technique named the covered endovascular reconstruction of the aortic bifurcation (CERAB) technique was introduced. The results at 1-year FU reported a primary and secondary patency rates of 87% and 95%, respectively. Three-year FU confirmed the good outcome of the CERAB technique for extensive AIOD with a primary, primary assisted, and secondary patency rates of 82%, 87%, and 97%, respectively. We want to report our single center experience with CERAB for the treatment of extensive AIOD.

Method(s): Between February 2018 and July 2018, 9 patients (1 female) where diagnosed with intermittent claudication (7) and critical limb ischemia (2) and treated with CERAB technique. Lesion morphology was evaluated by CT angiography. All lesions were 7 TASC d and 2 TASC c lesions. Follow-up consisted of clinical assessment and duplex ultrasound at one and three months follow up. Patency rates and clinically driven target lesion revascularization were calculated. Result(s): Technical success was obtained in all the procedures (100%). Primary patency at three months was 100%. No complications were reported. There was no 30-day mortality. Median hospital stay was 1 days.

Conclusion(s): The CERAB technique appears to be a safe and feasible alternative to open surgical reconstruction of the aortic bifurcation in complex occlusive disease. Our results are in line with what reported by latest studies in literature.

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Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Preprocedural Hepatofugal Portal Venous Flow Undergoing Partial Splenic Artery Embolization for Hypersplenism

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Background: Several previous studies suggested that hepatofugal flow should be considered as a contraindication to partial SAE. In this study we aimed at evaluation of the clinical outcomes of partial splenic artery embolization (SAE) in patients with post cirrhotic hypersplenism and preprocedural hepatofugal portal venous flow. Method(s): From January 2017 to October 2018, 40 patients with hypersplenism and hepatofugal portal venous flow underwent partial SAE. We considered 40 patients with hypersplenism and hepatopetal portal venous flow who are age-, gender- and Child Pugh classification matched case controls undergoing SAE for hypersplenism during the same period (control group). Perioperative and clinical outcomes after 1 year of follow up were compared between the two groups. Result(s): No significant differences were detected in the age, sex and laboratory investigations between the two groups (p ≥ 0.350). Mortality rate was zero in both groups. No significant difference were found regarding the postoperative complications between the two groups (p ≥ 0.250). Regarding the long-term clinical, laboratory and radiological outcomes, no significant differences were noticed between the two groups (p ≥ 0.3).

Conclusion(s): Partial SAE in post cirrhotic hypersplenism patients with hepatofugal portal venous flow can be performed safely without significant complications and shouldn’t be considered as a contraindication for partial SAE in well selected patients with child’s a cirrhosis.

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Endovascular Treatment of Arterial Injuries with Bentley’s Begaft Stent-graft System: Preliminary Results

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Background: Arterial injuries can occur in a vast array of arterial beds with substantial morbidity and mortality. Endovascular therapy (embolization/covered stent) provides a minimally invasive and effective alternative to surgery. In the last decade, new more flexible peripheral stent-grafts have been developed. Differently from coils, stent-grafts allow for the exclusion of the lesion/defect without the sacrifice of the target vessel avoiding ischemic complications. The aim of our study is to evaluate the efficacy and the safety of begraft peripheral stent-graft for endovascular treatment of arterial injuries. Method(s): Between June 2015 and May 2018, 56 patients (mean age 66.7±14.8 y, 34 males) underwent emergency begraft stentgraft implantation for 60 arterial injuries. Twenty-one (37.5%) of these patients were haemodynamically unstable. The primary endpoints of this study were technical and clinical success, rates of minor and major complications. The secondary endpoint was the patency of the device during the follow-up. Result(s): Active bleeding was observed in 28 (50%) patients, pseudoaneurysms in 9 (16%), FAV in 2 (3.6%), an enteric-iliac fistula in 1 (1.8%) and dissection in 16 (28.6%). In all patients, the respective lesion or defect was effectively excluded by covered stent. Clinical success was documented in 55/56 patients (98.2%). Major complications included death in one patients (1.8%, not procedure-related) and rebleeding in another (1.8%, due to the progression of acute pancreatitis). Minor complications were reported in two patients (3.6%). After a mean FU of 511±325 (range 2-1100) days, total person-time 50 years, all the implanted devices are patent, corresponding to a rate of no patency ≤2x10-2 events per person-years (EPPY).

Conclusion(s): The implantation of begraft peripheral stent-graft for the treatment of arterial injuries is minimally invasive and effective, with acceptable patency rate at the mid-term follow up. Larger cohort studies and longer follow up are needed to confirm these preliminary results.