

IN THIS ISSUE

- 10 Heart Failure**
Pro & Con: Is nesiritide safe and effective for acute decompensated heart failure?
- 14 Epidemiology & Prevention**
Diabetes, in itself, does not increase the risk of cardiovascular events.
- 15 Arrhythmias & Electrophysiology**
Fish oil didn't reduce life-threatening arrhythmias in a large European trial.
- 16 Acute Coronary Syndromes**
Anemia may increase the risk of death after myocardial infarction.
- 21 Imaging**
A 15-second CT scan for chest pain patients can rule out three conditions.
- 22 Interventional Cardiology**
Pretreatment for PCI with clopidogrel may reduce CV event rates, 24
- 26 Cerebrovascular Disease**
Merci retriever enables recanalization of the carotid terminus in acute ischemic stroke.
- 28 Hypertension**
Surveillance data are reassuring on safety of bosentan for PAH.
- 29 Drugs & Devices**
Tips on detecting drug interactions.
- 31 Practice Trends**
Help for Katrina's evacuees and their physicians, 32
Policy & Practice, 34
- 35 On the Beat**
Reader Services
Classifieds, 30
Index of Advertisers, 31

EDITORIAL
ADVISORY BOARD

- SIDNEY GOLDSTEIN, M.D.**, Michigan
Medical Editor
- JONATHAN ABRAMS, M.D.**, New Mexico
Associate Medical Editor
- ERIC R. BATES, M.D.**, Michigan
- GEORGE BELLER, M.D.**, Virginia
- STEVEN F. BOLLING, M.D.**, Michigan
- ROBERT M. CALIFF, M.D.**, North Carolina
- PRAKASH C. DEEDWANIA, M.D.**, California
- KIM A. EAGLE, M.D.**, MICHIGAN
- JAMES J. FERGUSON, III, M.D.**, Texas
- JOHN FLACK, M.D.**, Michigan
- THOMAS D. GILES, M.D.**, Louisiana
- ANTONIO M. GOTTO, Jr., M.D.**, New York
- DAVID L. HAYES, M.D.**, Minnesota
- DAVID R. HOLMES, Jr., M.D.**, Minnesota
- BARRY M. MASSIE, M.D.**, California
- CHRISTOPHER M. O'CONNOR, M.D.**,
North Carolina
- NATESA G. PANDIAN, M.D.**, Massachusetts
- ILEANA L. PIÑA, M.D.**, Ohio
- OTELIO RANDALL, M.D.**, Washington, D.C.
- THOMAS J. RYAN, M.D.**, Massachusetts
- HANI N. SABBAH, Ph.D.**, Michigan
- LESLIE ANNE SAXON, M.D.**, California
- DAVID H. SPODICK, M.D.**, Massachusetts
- NEIL J. STONE, M.D.**, Illinois
- PAUL D. THOMPSON, M.D.**, Connecticut
- ROBERTA WILLIAMS, M.D.**, California

HEART OF THE MATTER

Drug-Eluting Stents and the Real World

In this issue of *CARDIOLOGY NEWS*, observations reported at the meeting of the European Society of Cardiology in Stockholm provide insights into the real-world use of drug-eluting stents.

Much of our knowledge of DESs has come from carefully controlled clinical trials using highly selected patients and conducted in academic institutions. What happens after the device is approved and introduced for use in everyday medical practice is often very different.

Human nature drives interventional cardiologists to use the latest new toy, regardless of price, while patients are educated by the media to demand state-of-the-art stents.

At the same time, cardiologists tend to expand the indications for use of the device or drug beyond the patient inclusion criteria used to established efficacy and safety. In addition, information about the application of new therapies after the FDA has approved them is scarce. In some cases, drugs have been used in patients who differed from those in the seminal clinical trial, resulting in increased major adverse clinical events (MACE).

Gregory J. Mishkel, M.D., described

how he and his associates observed that in more than 3,000 patients in a general cardiology practice, most of those who received DESs did not fit the criteria used in the trials that established the benefits of the stents. (See page 23.) As the patients' characteristics were expanded beyond the initial inclusion criteria, the incidence of MACE increased. The more risk factors the patients had, the more likely was the occurrence of MACE. In the context of patients demanding the latest procedure to get the best results, the investigators found that the patients were, in fact, being shortchanged.

The investigators suggest that enthusiasm for DESs also led to stenting when coronary bypass surgery might have been a better choice, but they did not provide data to support that possibility. Another result of the overuse of DESs has been the impact on health care costs. The actual cost of stents varies from institution to institution. Current estimates suggest that a bare-metal stent (BMS) costs about \$1,000, whereas a DES costs about three times that. If one considers that it usually takes at least two stents to completely

treat stenosis, then the cost of DES implantation, compared with that of BMS implantation, begins to mount up.

In the Basel Stent Cost Effectiveness Trial (BASKET, page 1), researchers compared the costs and efficacy of the implantation of the paclitaxel-eluting Taxus and sirolimus-eluting Cypher stents with the Vision stent, a cobalt-chromium-based BMS. Although the DESs resulted in an improved target vessel revascularization, they also tacked on almost \$90,000 per year of quality-adjusted life-year gained by the DES.

These reports provide an unusual glimpse into how new devices are actually being used in clinical medicine, as well as how drugs and devices are applied to the general populations based on data from narrowly defined patient samples in clinical trials. Patients in enrolled in clinical trials are recruited to answer specific questions, which results in the exclusion of many in the general population with complicating illnesses. Unfortunately, those complicating illnesses that exclude patients from clinical trials are the problems that the physician deals with every day. ■

DR. GOLDSTEIN, *medical editor of Cardiology News*, is professor of medicine at Wayne State University, Detroit, and division head, emeritus, of cardiovascular medicine at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.



BY SIDNEY
GOLDSTEIN, M.D.

Cardiology News

President, IMNG Alan J. Imhoff

Executive Editor Mary Jo M. Dales

Publication Editor Catherine Hackett

Publication Associate Editor Renée Matthews

Senior Editors Kathryn DeMott, Denise Fulton, Gina L. Henderson, Sally Koch Kubetin, Teresa Lassman, Mark S. Lesney, Catherine Cooper Nellist, Calvin Pierce, Terry Rudd, Kathy Scarbeck, Elizabeth Wood

Associate Editors Christina Chase, Jay C. Cherniak, Richard Franki, Deeanna Franklin, Randall Frey, Joyce Frieden, Gwendolyn Hall, Jennifer Lubell, Amy Pfeiffer, Robin L. Turner

Bureaus Betsy Bates (Los Angeles), Sherry Boschert (San Francisco), Doug Brunk (San Diego), Bruce K. Dixon (Chicago), Robert Finn (San Francisco), Bruce Jancin (Denver), Kate Johnson (Montreal), Timothy F. Kirn (Sacramento), Jane Salodof MacNeil (Southwest), Diana Mahoney (New England), Damian McNamara (Miami), Michele G. Sullivan (Mid-Atlantic), Nancy Walsh (New York), Patrice Wendling (Chicago), Sharon Worcester (Southeast), Mitchel L. Zoler (Philadelphia)

Senior Writers Jeff Evans, Kevin Foley, Elizabeth Mechatie, Mary Ellen Schneider, Heidi Splete, Miriam E. Tucker, Kerri Wachter

Contributing Writers Alicia Ault, Nellie Bristol, Christine Kilgore, Mary Ann Moon

Copy Chief Felicia R. Black

Copy Editors John R. Bell, Therese Borden, Virginia Ingram-Wells, Rachel Keith, Jane Locastro, Jeannie Massie, Carol Nicotera-Ward, Leanne Sullivan

Editorial Offices 12230 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD 20852, 800-445-6975, cardiologynews@elsevier.com

Executive Director, Operations Jim Chicca

Director, Production/Manufacturing Yvonne Evans

Production Manager Judi Sheffer

Production Specialists Anthony Draper, Thomas Humphrey, Rebecca Slebodnik, Mary D. Templin

Information Technology Manager Doug Sullivan

Senior Systems Administrator Lee J. Unger

Systems Administrator Drew Mintz

Operations Assistant Melissa Kasimatis

Art Director Louise A. Koenig

Assistant Design Supervisor Elizabeth B. Lobdell

Design Staff Sarah L. Gallant, Forhad S. Hossain, Julie Keller, Angie Ries

Photo Editors Vivian E. Lee, James E. Reinaker

Project Manager Susan D. Hite

Assignments Coordinator Megan Evans

Departmental Coordinator Vicki Long

Editorial Coordinator Daniela Silva

H.R. Manager Philip Cooksey

Regional Manager of Facilities Chris Horne

Receptionist YoLanda L. Mitchell

Address Changes Fax change of address (with old mailing label) to 301-816-8736 or e-mail change to subs@elsevier.com

CARDIOLOGY NEWS is an independent newspaper that provides the practicing specialist with timely and relevant news and commentary about clinical developments in the field and about the impact of health care policy on the specialty and the physician's practice.

The ideas and opinions expressed in CARDIOLOGY NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher. Elsevier Inc. will not assume responsibility for damages, loss, or claims of any kind arising from or related to the information contained in this publication, including any claims related to the products, drugs, or services mentioned herein.

V.P., Med. Ed./Bus. Development

Sylvia H. Reitman

Program Managers, Med. Ed. Sara M. Hagan, Malika Wicks

Senior Director, Marketing/Research Janice Theobald

Marketing Associate Jennifer Savo

Sales Director Jeffrey R. Davis

Executive Director, Business Operations Bari Edwards

Bus. Manager Brian O'Connor

Adv. Services Manager Joan Friedman

Credit Supervisor Patricia H. Ramsey

Manager, Administration/Conventions Lynne Kalish

Receptionist Kathy Craine

Receptionist Linda Wilson

Sales Manager, Primary Care Mark E. Altier, 973-290-8220, m.altier@elsevier.com

National Account Managers Sue Fagan, 973-290-8226, s.fagan@elsevier.com; Barbara Napoli, 973-290-8224, b.napoli@elsevier.com; Christy Tetterton, 973-290-8231, c.tetterton@elsevier.com

Advertising Offices 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250

Classified Sales Manager Robin Cryan, 212-633-3160, r.cryan@elsevier.com

Classified Advertising Offices 360 Park Ave. South, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10010, 800-379-8785, fax 212-633-3820

Reprints Call 301-816-8726

POSTMASTER Send changes of address (with old mailing label) to Circulation, CARDIOLOGY NEWS, 12230 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD 20852.

CARDIOLOGY NEWS (ISSN 1544-8800) is published monthly by Elsevier Inc., 60 Columbia Rd., Building B, Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-290-8200, fax 973-290-8250. ©Copyright 2005, by Elsevier Inc.



INTERNATIONAL
MEDICAL NEWS
GROUP

