



***ESASIS –  
The Hong Kong Wingspan Study***

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October 2013*



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**Faculty of Medicine**  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

# *Outline*

1. Protocol for intracranial stenting in Prince of Wales Hospital
2. ESASIS study (Early Stent-assisted Angioplasty in Symptomatic Intracranial Stenosis)
3. Treating the dynamic lesions - Understanding the pathophysiology of intracranial stenosis



Disclosure

None

Predictors of ischemic stroke in the territory of a symptomatic intracranial arterial stenosis  
*(Circulation 2006;113:555-563)*

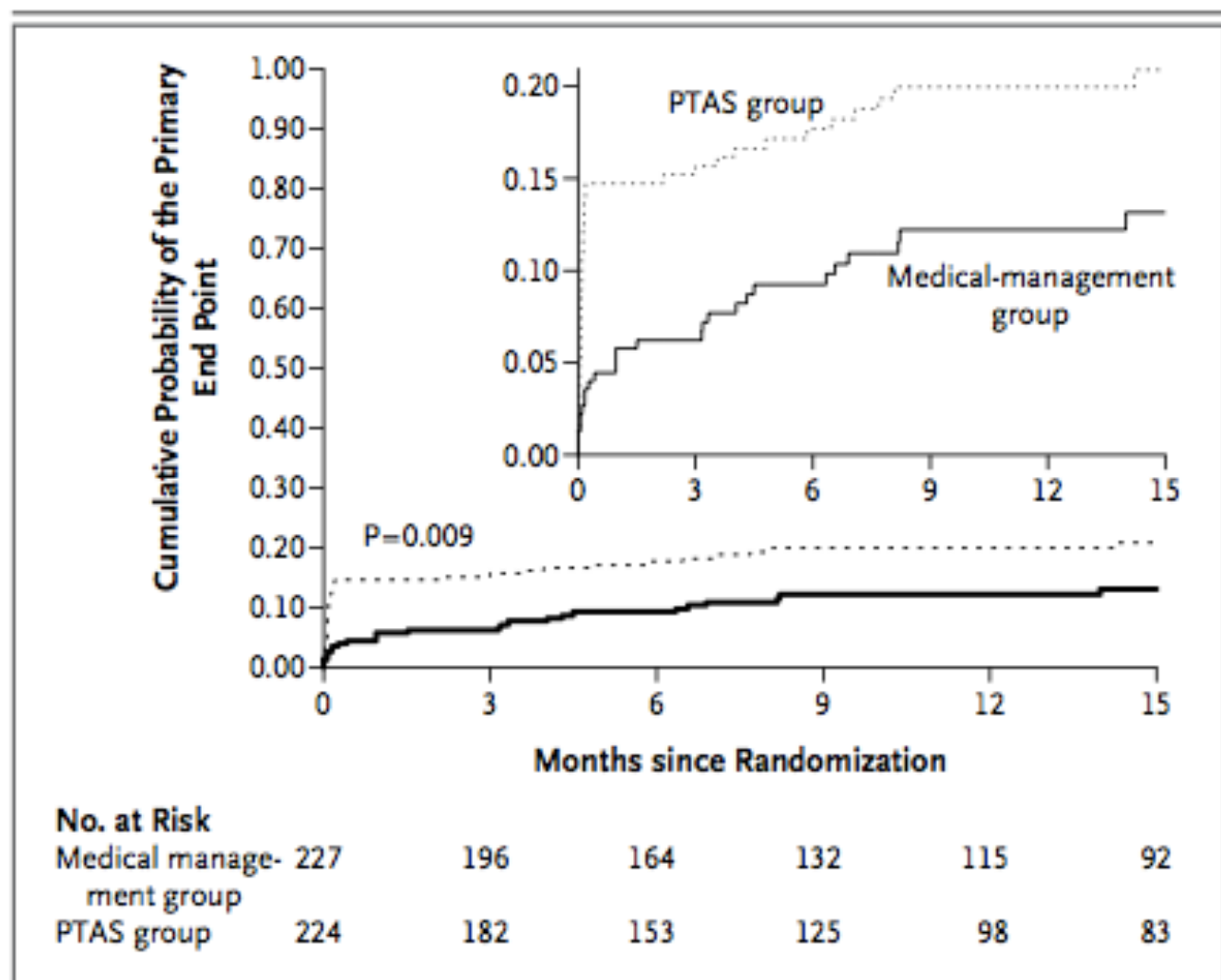
WASID Trial  
*(N Eng J Med 2005;352(13):1305-1316)*  
 n=569 Mean follow-up 1.8 years

Qualifying Event	Stenosis 50% to 69%	Stenosis 70% to 99%
TIA		
1 year	0.03 (0.01–0.06)	0.14 (0.06–0.22)
2 years	0.08 (0.02–0.13)	0.14 (0.06–0.22)
Stroke		
1 year	0.08 (0.04–0.12)	0.23 (0.15–0.30)
2 years	0.11 (0.07–0.16)	0.25 (0.17–0.33)

Data are presented as mean probability (95% CI).



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Stenting versus Aggressive Medical Therapy  
for Intracranial Arterial Stenosis**CONCLUSIONS**

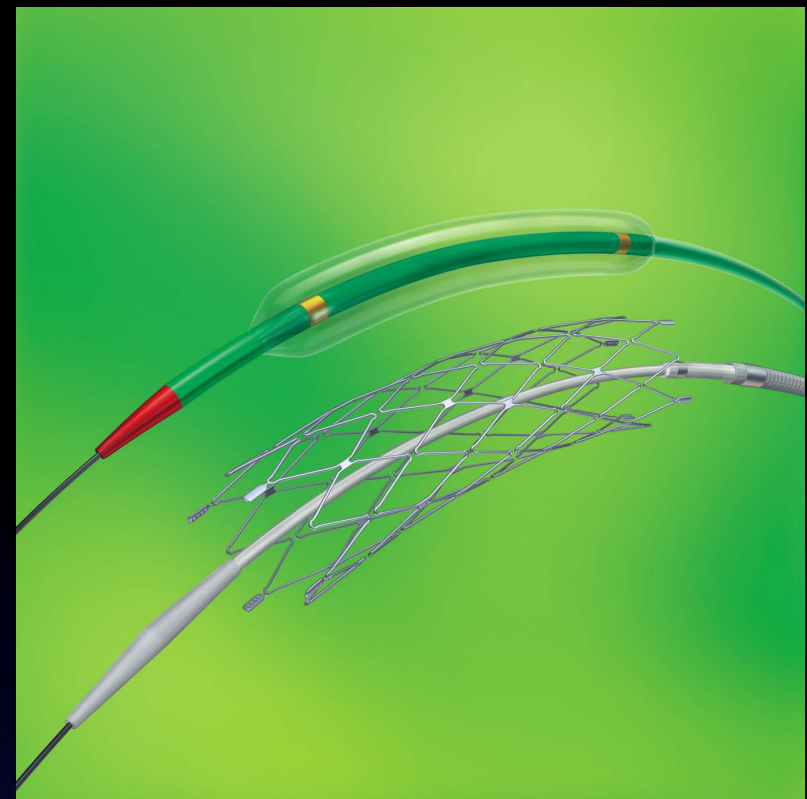
In patients with intracranial arterial stenosis, aggressive medical management was superior to PTAS with the use of the Wingspan stent system, both because the risk of early stroke after PTAS was high and because the risk of stroke with aggressive medical therapy alone was lower than expected. (Funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and others; SAMMPRIS ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00576693.)

Chimowitz, et al.





**U.S. Food and Drug Administration**  
Protecting and Promoting *Your* Health



Wingspan is now approved only for patients who are between 22 and 80 years old AND who meet ALL of the following criteria:

- who have had two or more strokes despite aggressive medical management;
- whose most recent stroke occurred more than seven days prior to planned treatment with Wingspan;
- who have 70-99 percent stenosis due to atherosclerosis of the intracranial artery related to the recurrent strokes; and
- who have made good recovery from previous stroke and have a modified Rankin score of 3 or less prior to Wingspan treatment. The Rankin scale is used to measure the degree of disability in stroke patients. Lower scores indicate less disability.

The Wingspan Stent System should not be used for:

- the treatment of stroke with an onset of symptoms within seven days or less of treatment; or
- for the treatment of transient ischemic attacks (TIAs).

31 Jan 2013



# Patient selection

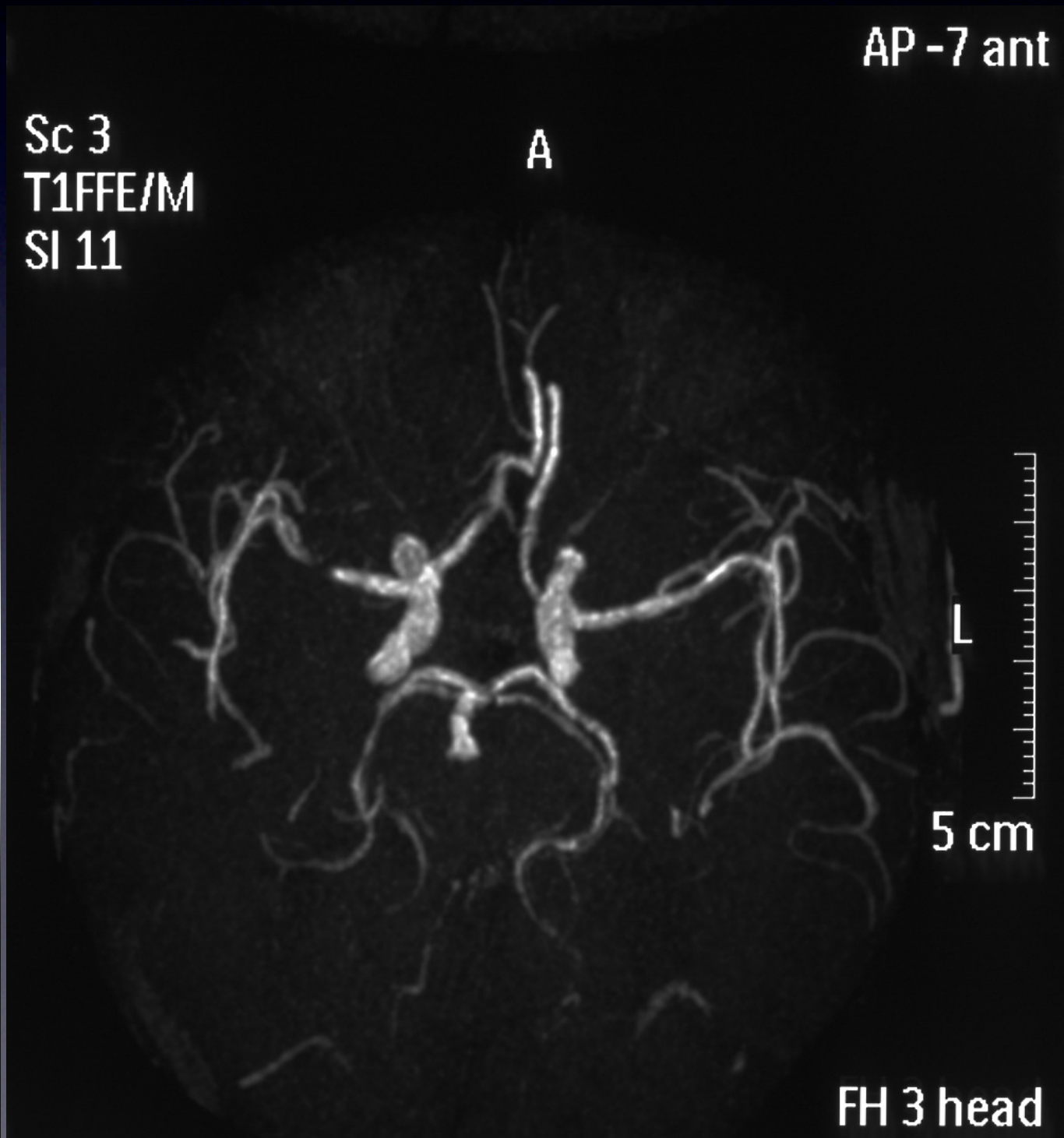
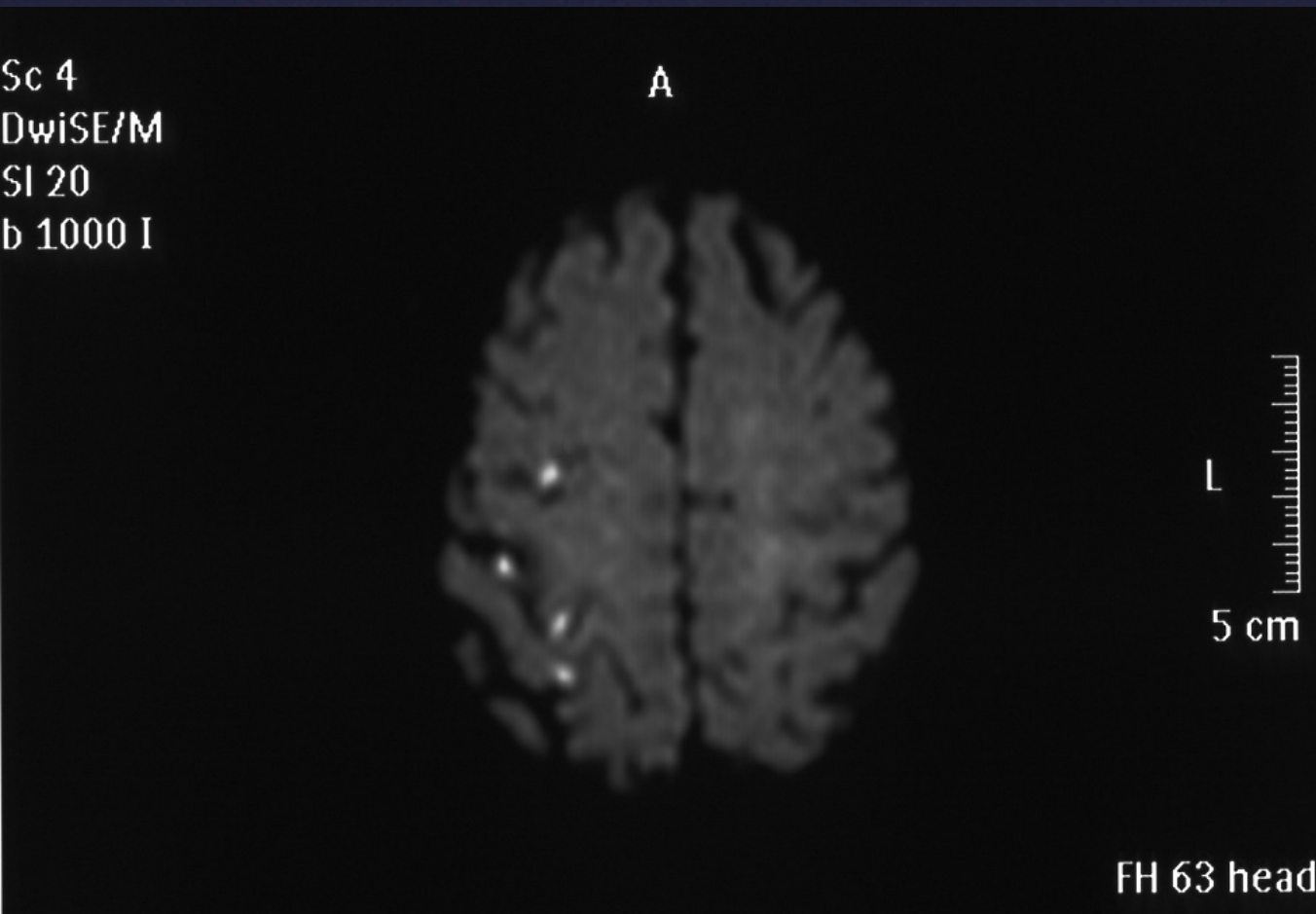
M/59

Hypertension, type II DM,  
hyperlipidemia

Mild left hemiparesis

NIHSS 3

Failed aspirin





# Interdisciplinary Model

Pre-medication: dual anti-platelets (aspirin and clopidogrel)

Local anesthesia

Pre-operative 3D-DSA

Activated clotting time 180-250 seconds  
(Heparin: 2500 units)

A brief duration of balloon inflation time

Dual anti-platelets for 6 weeks after the procedure

Protocol-driven pre- and post-operative care in stroke unit





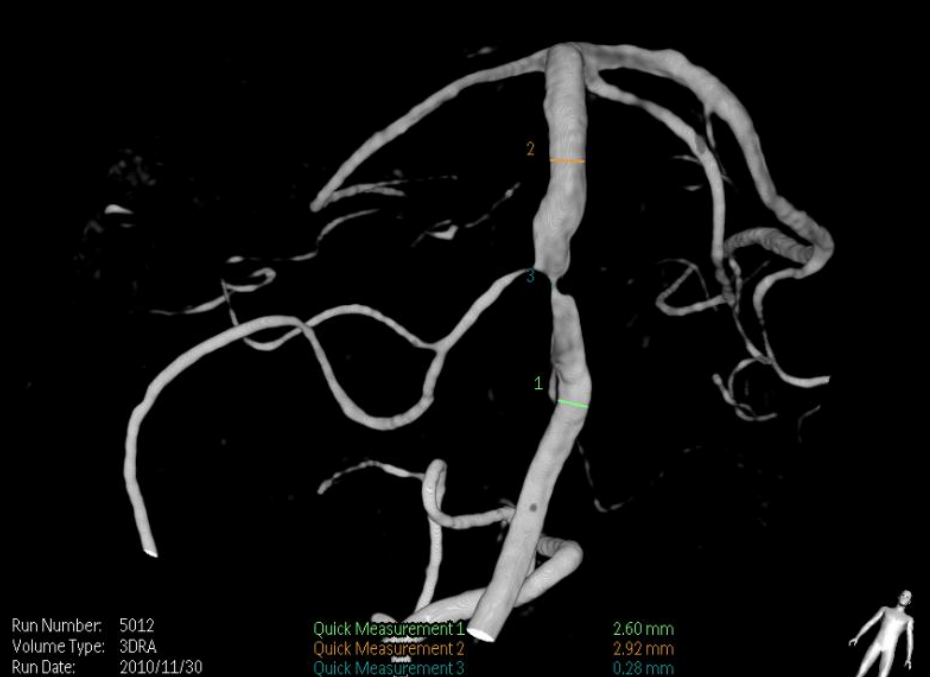
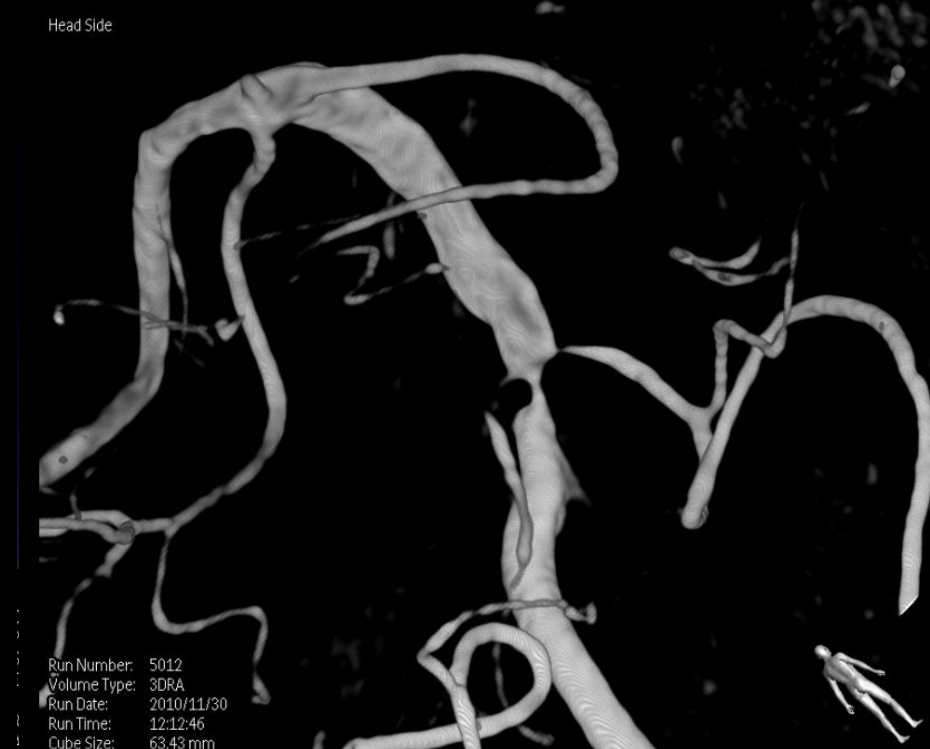
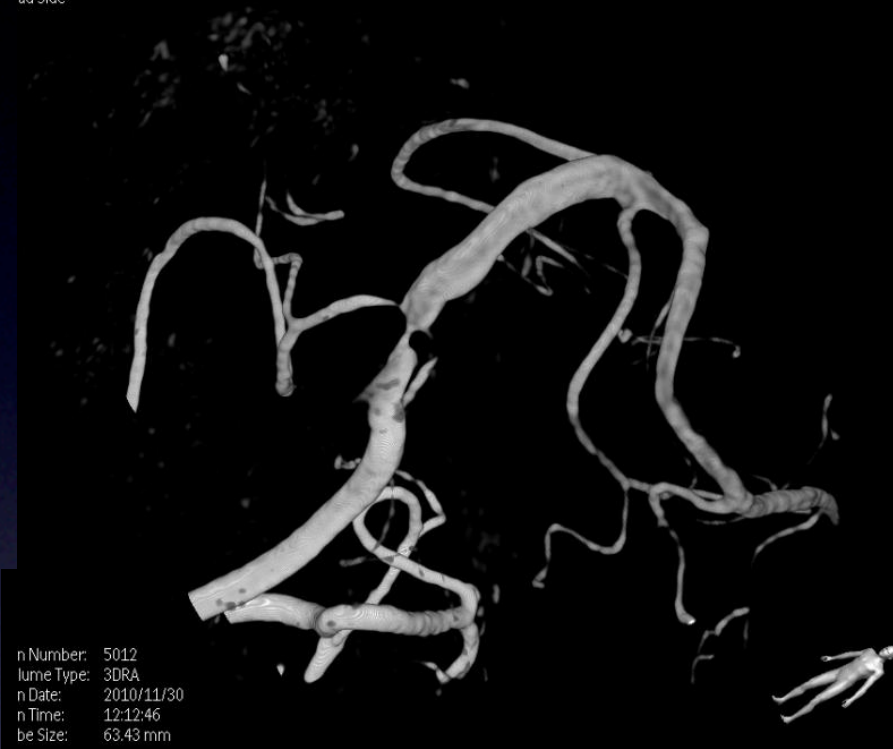


# 3D Rotational Angiogram prior to stenting

Study ID: E5800203  
Patient ID: E5800203  
Exam Date: 2010/11/30  
t: +33°  
g: -7°  
Head Side

CHEUNG, KWOK MAN  
Date of Birth: 1954/07/16, Male  
Patient ID: E5800203  
Study ID: E5800203  
Exam Date: 2010/11/30  
Rot: -146°  
Ang: +6°  
Head Side

Prince of Wales Hospital  
Dr. Simon Yu, MD

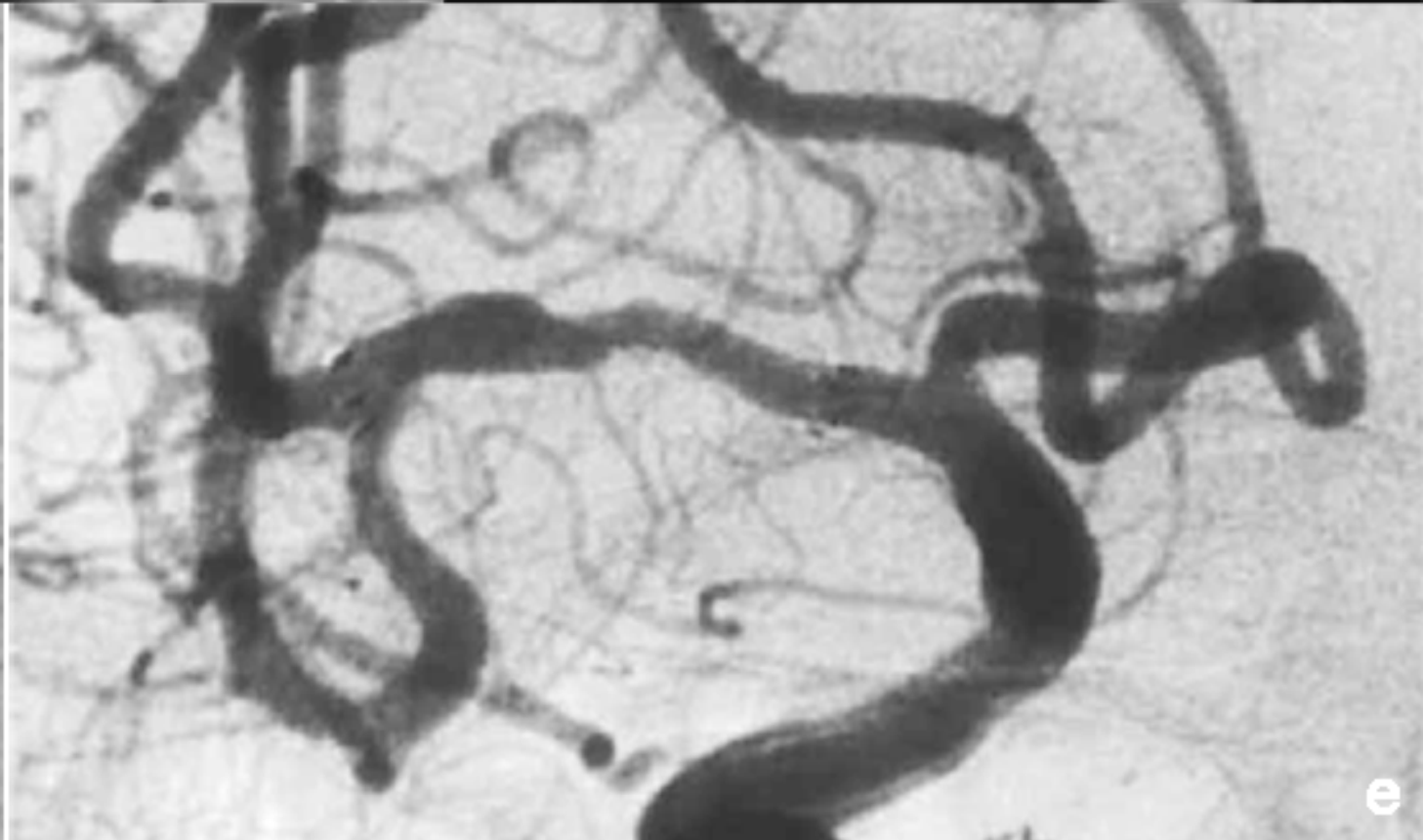
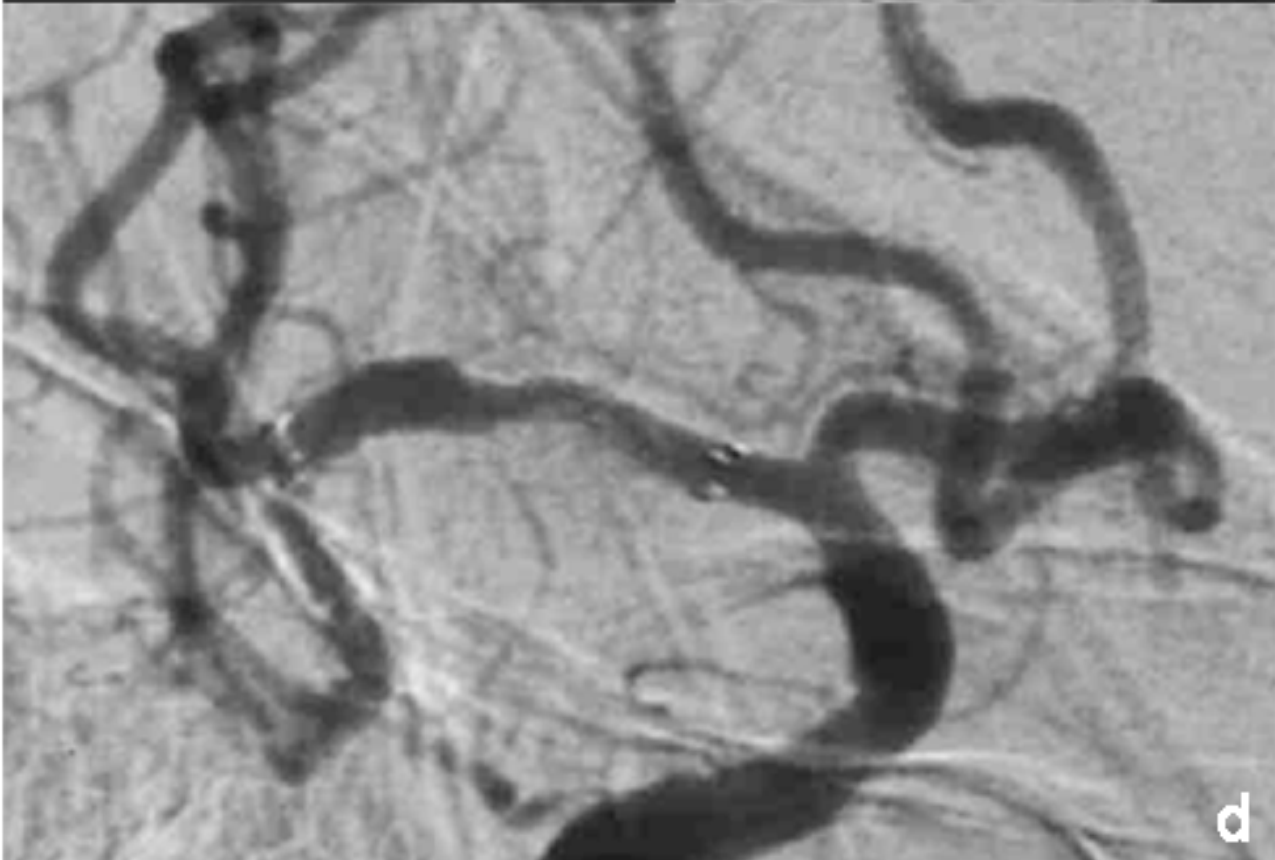
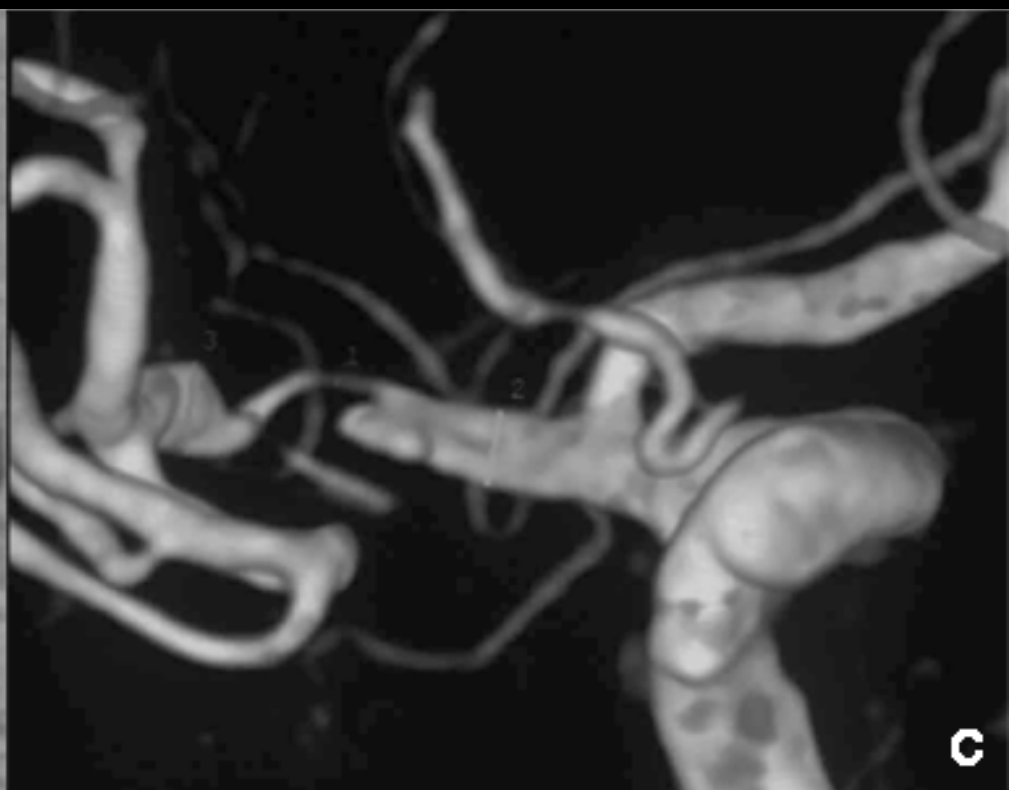
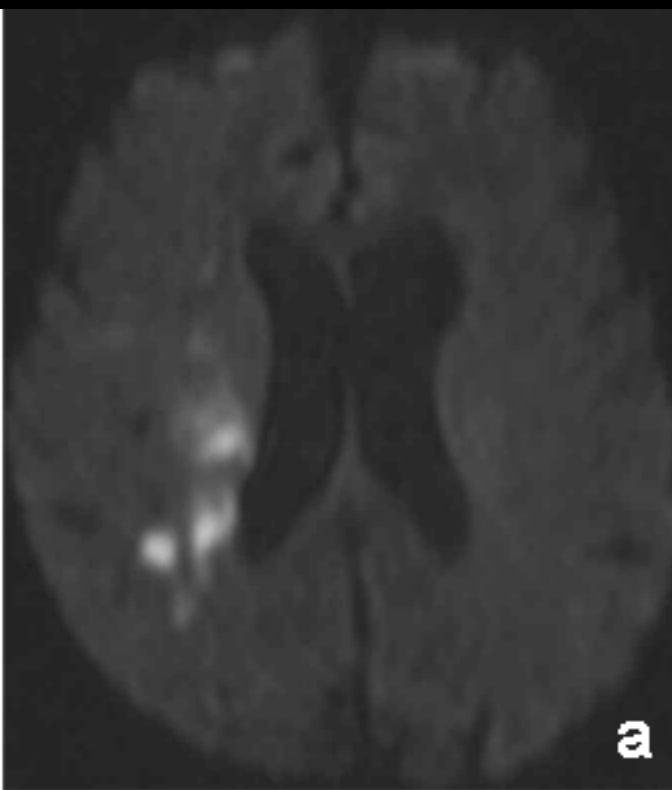






V5000, Philips Healthcare  
Iopamiral, 2.1-2.4ml/sec  
400psi  
Contrast window







# Would Self-Expanding Stent Occlude Middle Cerebral Artery Perforators?

Thomas W. Leung, MRCP; Simon C.H. Yu, FRCR; Wynnie W.M. Lam, FRCR;  
Anne Y.Y. Chan, MRCP; Alexander Y.L. Lau, MRCP; Lawrence K.S. Wong, MD

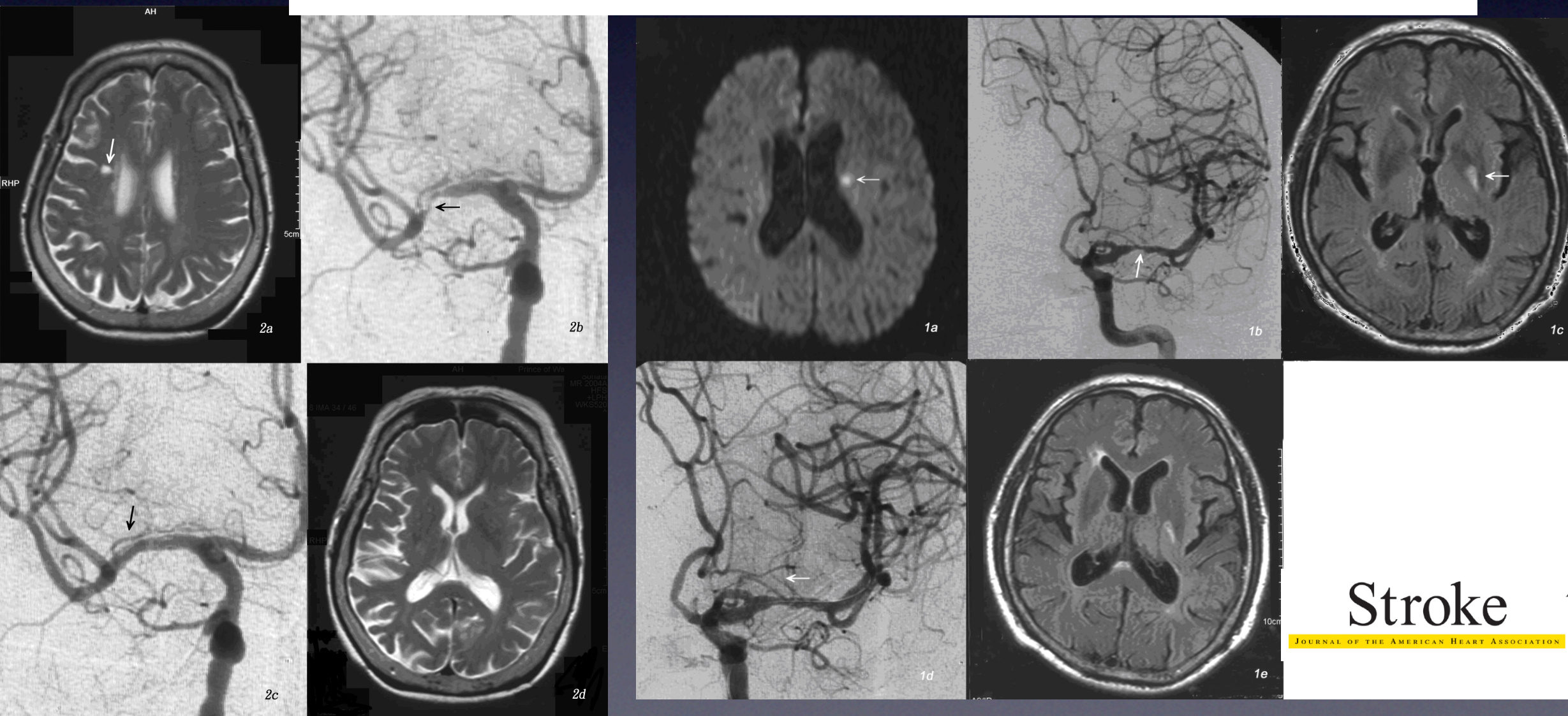
**Background and Purpose**—A major concern of intracranial stenting is perforator infarction. It is unclear whether the sustained radial force of a self-expanding stent or subsequent stent restenosis would cause late occlusion of perforators.

**Methods**—We compared the baseline and poststent ( $\geq 4$  months) MRI scans of patients who underwent self-expanding stenting for recurrent ischemic symptoms attributed to a MCA stenosis  $\geq 60\%$ . New infarcts in the ipsilateral striatocapsular region were recorded.

**Results**—MCA stenting was technically successful in 23 of 24 recruited patients. No new perforator territory infarct was found in follow-up MRI scans of all recruited patients. Postoperatively, all patients reported no further TIA or stroke over a median follow-up of 15 months.

**Conclusions**—The use of a self-expanding stent in patients with high-grade MCA stenosis may not pose a major risk to the perforators. (*Stroke*. 2009;40:1910-1912.)

**Key Words:** intracranial stenosis ■ angioplasty ■ stenting ■ perforator territory infarction



Stroke

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

American Stroke Association

A Division of American Heart Association



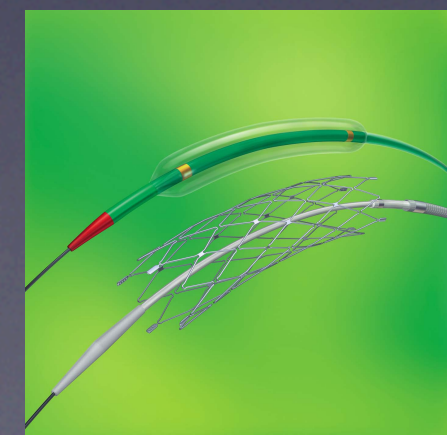
# Procedural problems

**Table 1** Technical problems encountered during procedure and causes of procedure failure

Patient sequence	Stenosis location	Stenosis degree	Technical problem encountered during the procedure	Cause of procedure failure
4	ICA and MCA	50%	Difficult stent tracking and delivery, fracture core of stent delivery system	
5	ICA	60%	Nose cone bending caused stent sheath kinking and stretching during stent deployment	
7	ICA	60%	Stretching of stent sheath during stent deployment	
8	BA	75%		Arterial rupture after angioplasty
15	ICA and MCA	50%	TIA during manipulation of balloon catheter across stenosis	TIA
27	ICA	90%	Nose cone trapped between guidewire and stent tip after stent deployment	
42	ICA	75%	Difficult stent tracking and delivery, fracture core of stent delivery system, TIA	TIA
44	MCA	83%	TIA	
47	ICA and MCA	96%	Failure passage of balloon across stenosis	Failure passage of balloon
48	MCA	90%	Kinking of balloon catheter after guidewire removal	
56	MCA	70%	Transient blindness and severe headache during stent system advancement	
59	MCA	87%	Transient blindness during stent system advancement	TIA
66	ICA	75%		Perforation of M2 perforators by guidewire during angioplasty

BA, basilar artery; ICA, internal carotid artery; MCA, middle cerebral artery; TIA, transient ischemic attack.

Neurosurgery 2012; 70: 104-113  
J Neurointerventional Surg 2013;00:1-7





# Patients analyzed in quarters

**Table 3** Leaning curve analysis using data splitting method

Variables	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	Trend difference across quarters
Patient sequence (patient no)	1–24 (24)	25–48 (24)	49–72 (24)	73–95 (23)	
Age (mean±SD)	67.46±10.484	62.75±11.433	62.13±10.999	66.57±9.336	No difference across quarters, p>0.085
95% CI	63.03 to 71.89	57.92 to 67.58	57.48 to 66.77	62.53 to 70.6	
Degree of stenosis (mean±SD)	69.96±12.539	77.82±8.368	76.39±9.942	77.91±8.286	Difference between 1st and 2nd quarter, p=0.033.
95% CI	64.53 to 75.38	74.29 to 81.35	72.19 to 80.59	74.24 to 81.58	No difference across other quarters
Location					
MCA	10	16	15	10	Difference between 1st and 2nd quarter in frequency of location at VBA, p=0.023. No difference across other quarters
ICA	6	7	5	8	
VBA	8	1	4	5	
Event to stenting <30 days (rate)	10 (41.7%)	15 (62.5%)	14 (58.3%)	18 (78.3%)	Difference between 1st and 4th quarter, p=0.011. Difference between 4th quarter and the rest, p=0.05
Procedural problem (rate)	4 (16.7%)	5 (20.8%)	2 (8.3%)	0	Difference between 4th quarter and the rest, p=0.046
Technical failure (rate)	2 (8.3%)	2 (8.3%)	2 (8.3%)	0	No difference across quarters, p>0.33
Guidewire- or angioplasty-related hemorrhagic complication <30 days (rate)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	0	No difference across quarters, p=1

ICA, internal carotid artery; MCA, middle cerebral artery; VBA, vertebrobasilar artery.

# A learning curve effect

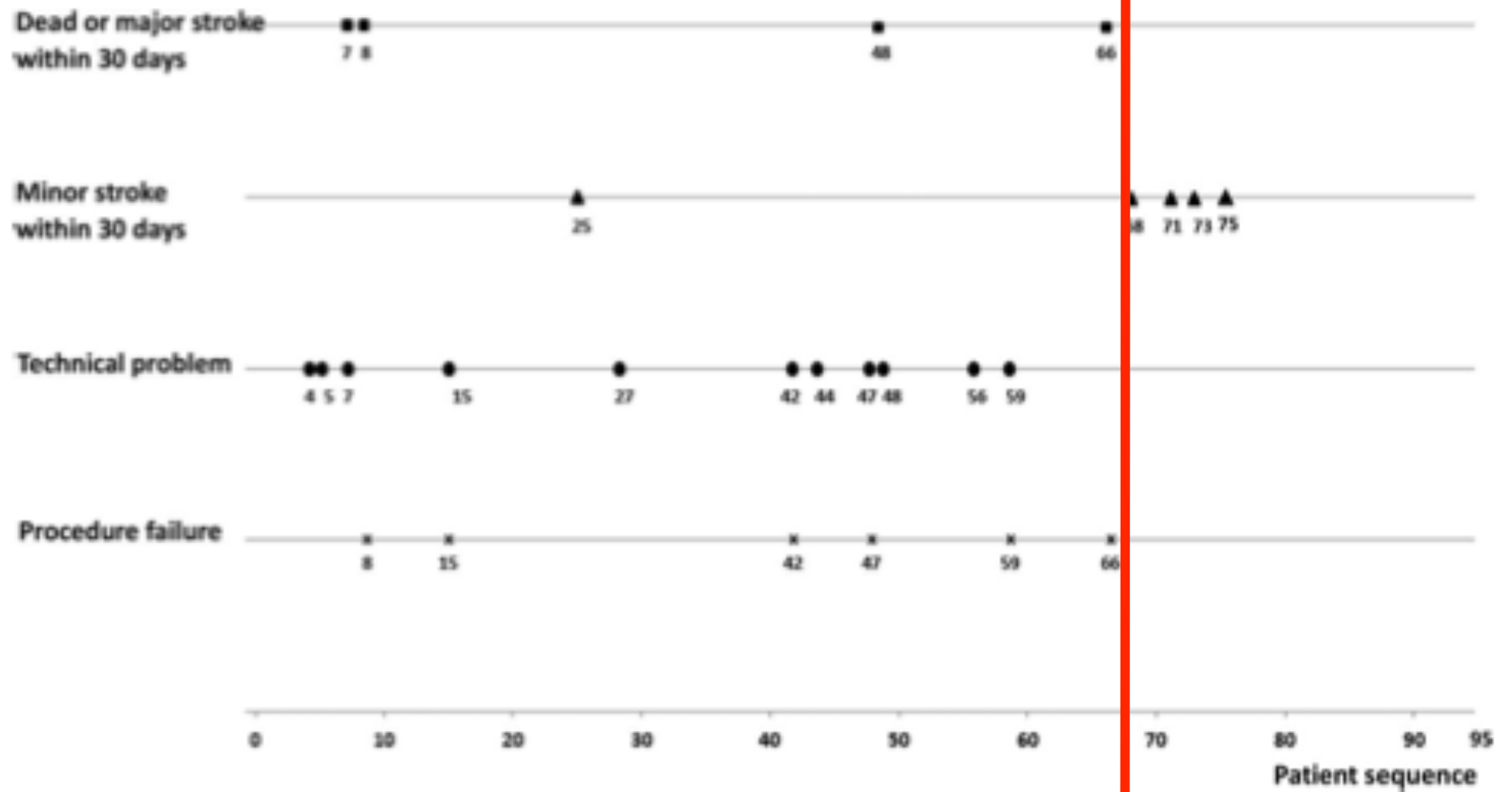


Figure 1 Occurrence of study endpoints in chronological sequence.



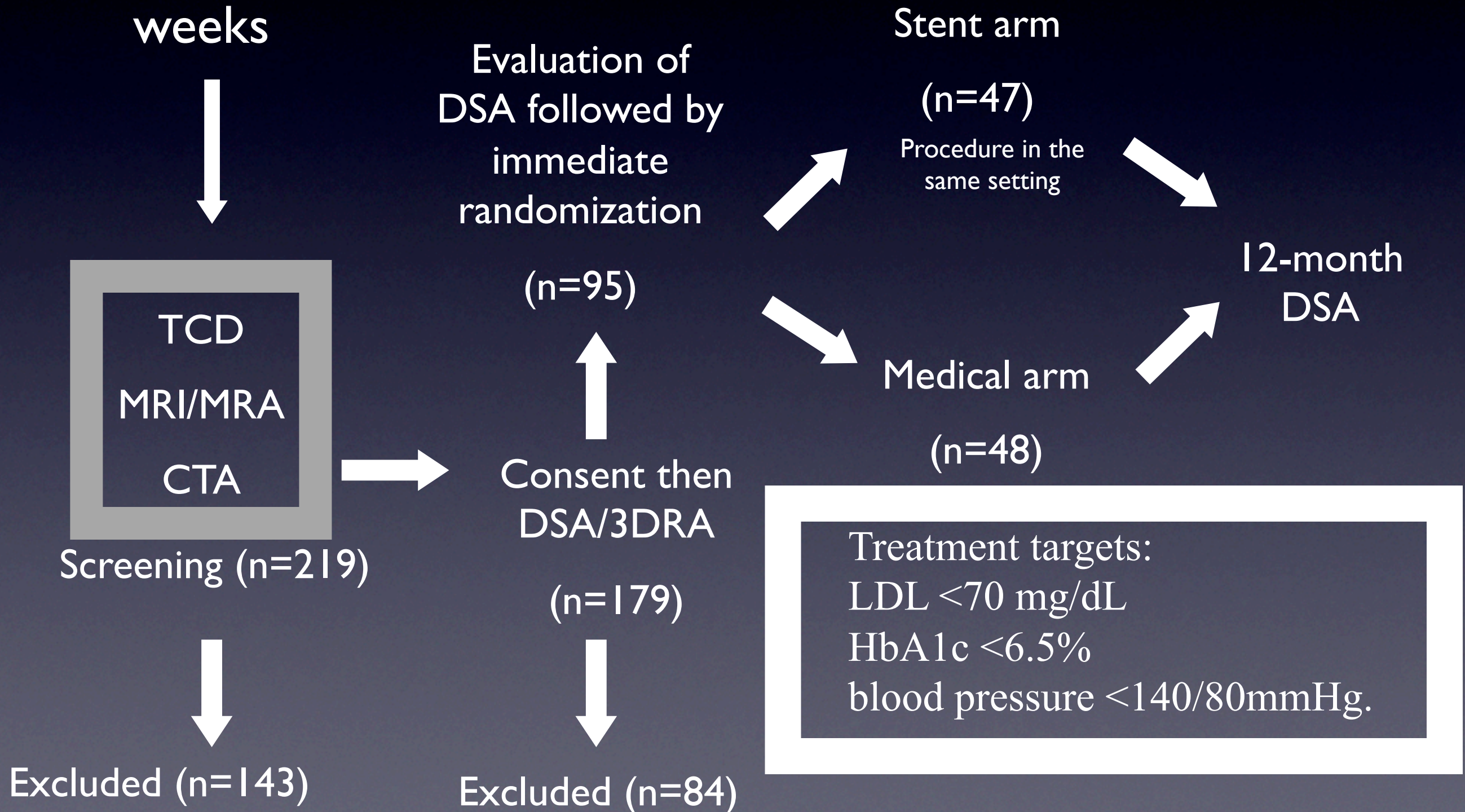


**CENTRE FOR CLINICAL TRIALS, CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY**

<b>1. Unique Trial Number (assigned by CCT) :</b>	CUHK_CCT00116
<b>2. Trial Registration Date (yyyy/mm/dd) :</b>	2006-10-13
<b>i. Registration Status:</b>	Prospective
<small>* The date of registration will be established by the primary registering entity.</small>	
<b>3. Secondary IDs (optional) :</b>	ESASIS
<small>* May be assigned by sponsors or other parties (there may be none).</small>	
<b>4. Source(s) of Funding :</b>	Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine and therapeutics; Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and Vascular and Intervention Radiology Foundation
<small>Name of the organization(s) that provided funding for the study</small>	
<b>5. Primary Sponsor :</b>	Division of Neurology, Dept of Medicine and Therapeutics, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<small>The main entity responsible for performing the research</small>	
<b>6. Secondary Sponsor :</b>	Department of Imaging and Interventional Radiology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<small>The secondary entities, if any, responsible for performing the research. N/A if not applicable</small>	
<b>7. Responsible Contact Person (public contact person for patients interested in participating) :</b>	
<b>i. Name</b>	Miss Roxanna Liu
<b>ii. Address</b>	Division of Neurology, Dept of Medicine and Therapeutics, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<b>iii. Telephone</b>	852- 26323877
<b>iv. Email</b>	roxannaliu@cuhk.edu.hk
<b>v. Affiliation</b>	Trial Co-ordinator
<b>8. Research Contact Person (person to contact for scientific inquiries) :</b>	
<b>i. Name</b>	Dr. Thomas WH Leung
<b>ii. Address</b>	Division of Neurology, Dept of Medicine and Therapeutics, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<b>iii. Telephone</b>	852-26323877
<b>iv. Email</b>	drtleung@cuhk.edu.hk
<b>v. Affiliation</b>	Principal Investigator
<b>9. Official Scientific Title of the Study :</b>	Early stent-assisted angioplasty in symptomatic intracranial stenosis (ESASIS)
<small>* This title must include the name of intervention, condition being studied and the outcome (e.g., The international Study of Digoxin and Death from Congestive Heart Failure)</small>	
<b>10. Public Title :</b>	ESASIS

# Algorithm of ESASIS

Acute ischemic stroke within 6 weeks





**TO : Executive Committee of the Early Stent-assisted Angioplasty in Symptomatic Intracranial Stenosis (ESASIS) Trial**

**FROM : Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) ESASIS Trial**

**DATE : 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

The ESASIS DSMB met at the Prince of Wales Hospital on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 and reviewed the following :

- a) 30 day safety data (combined stroke and death) for 95 patients randomized as of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The rate of combined stroke / death is 8.3% for the medical arm and 2.1% in the stent arm.
- b) 12 month safety data (SAEs) for 95 patients (5 of whom have yet to complete 12 months follow-up). There was a total of 52 SAEs in 28 patients. There was no excess of SAEs in the stent arm.

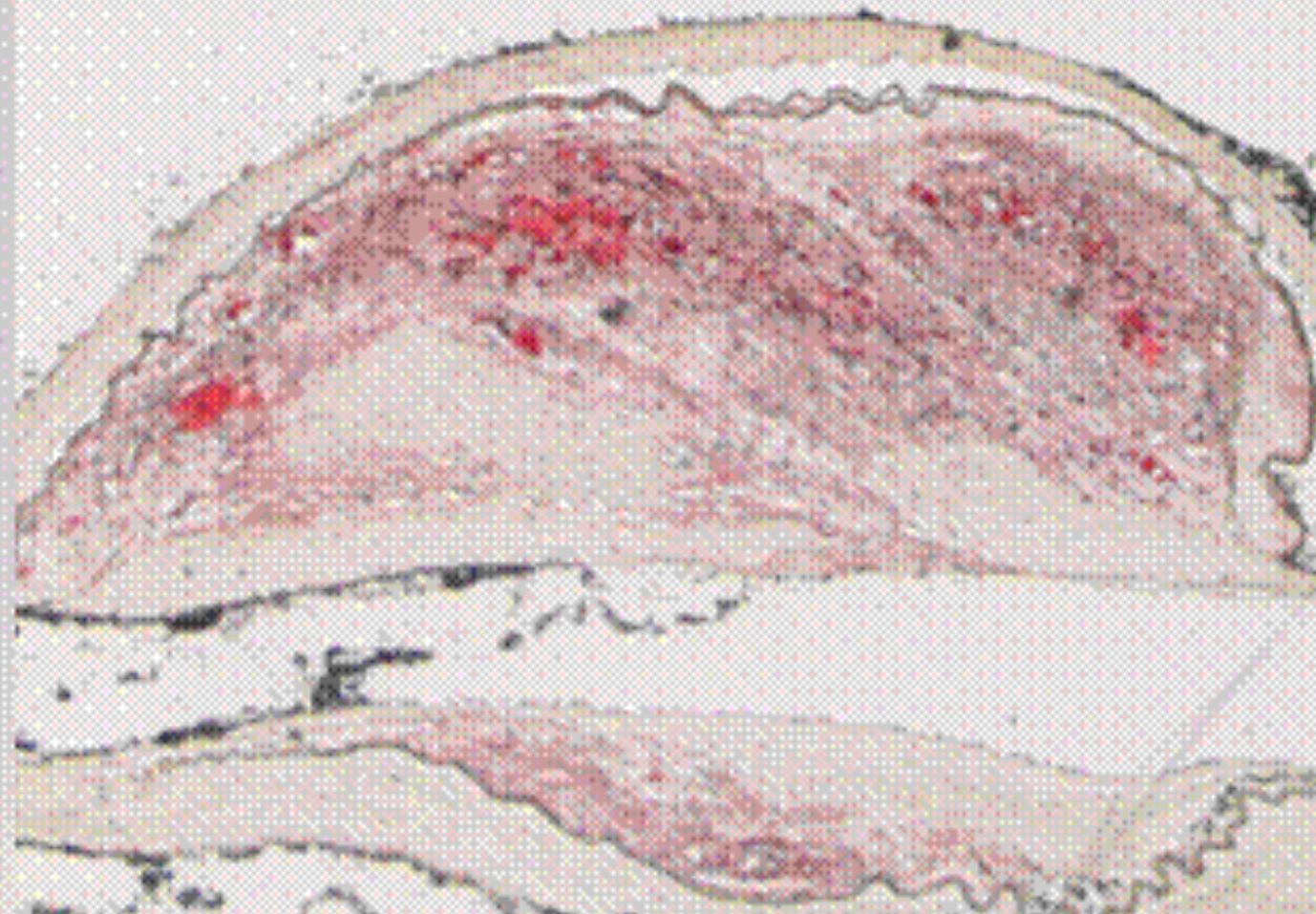
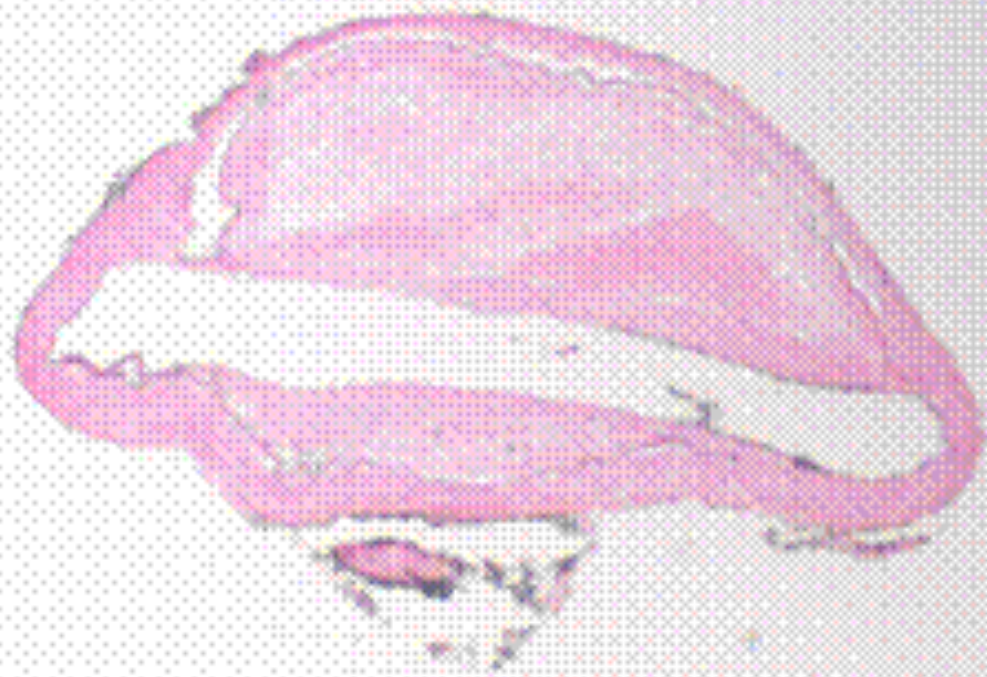
We therefore recommend that the ESASIS trial continues recruitment with close monitoring of safety.



To identify the subset of patients most vulnerable for relapse

To improve the safety and efficacy of endovascular treatment

## *Pathology of Intracranial Atherosclerosis*





# How high-grade intracranial atherosclerosis would evolve under optimal medical therapy?

Patients with recent stroke attributed to a high-grade (>70%) intracranial stenosis

Dual anti-platelet agents (aspirin 80mg daily or clopidogrel 75mg daily) for 1 week

Pre-specified treatment targets:

- 1) LDL <70 mg/dL
- 2) HbA1c <6.5%
- 3) BP systolic/diastolic <140/80mmHg.



Clinical follow-up: day-30, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months.

BP diary + fasting blood samples collected at baseline, 3 months and 6 months.

3D-rotational angiography at baseline and 12 months.

Paired images reviewed by a radiologist blinded to the sequence.

Outcome stratified into: static (same  $\pm 5\%$ ); progressive (increase  $>5\%$ ); regressive (reduce  $>5\%$ )

39 patients (M/F : 27/12) have passed 12-month follow-up

Mean age  $67.4 \pm 9.5$  yrs

MCA (n=24), ICA (n=10), VA (n=3) and BA (n=2)



# Results

	Baseline (median, IQR)	Year-1 (median, IQR)
Stenosis degree	75.0 (71.0-88.0)	63.0 (54.8-77.8)
Hemoglobin A1C, %	6.1 (5.7, 6.8)	5.9 (5.6, 6.4)
TCH, mg/dL	209.0 (170.3-236.1)	135.5 (127.7-143.2)
HDL, mg/dL	42.6 (34.8, 50.3)	53.0 (42.6, 58.1)
TG, mg/dL	129.4 (106.3-168.3)	97.5 (70.9-124.0)
LDL, mg/dL	131.6 (100.6-158.7)	65.8 (58.1-81.3)
SBP, mmHg	145 (125-165)	125 (112-138)
MAP, mmHg	100 (90-112)	90 (83-100)

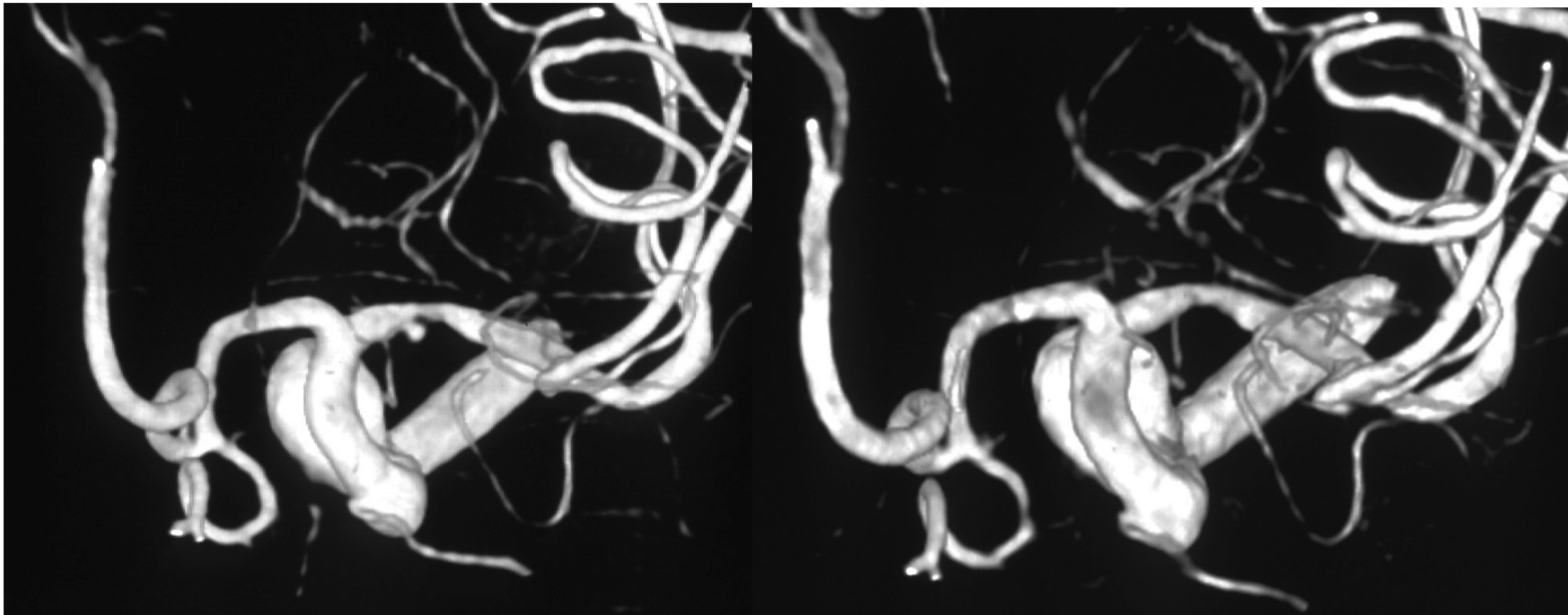
IQR: inter-quartile range; TCH: total cholesterol; HDL: high-density lipoprotein; TG: triglyceride; LDL: low-density lipoprotein; SBP: systolic blood pressure; MAP: mean artery pressure.

Static n=7  
Progressive n=4

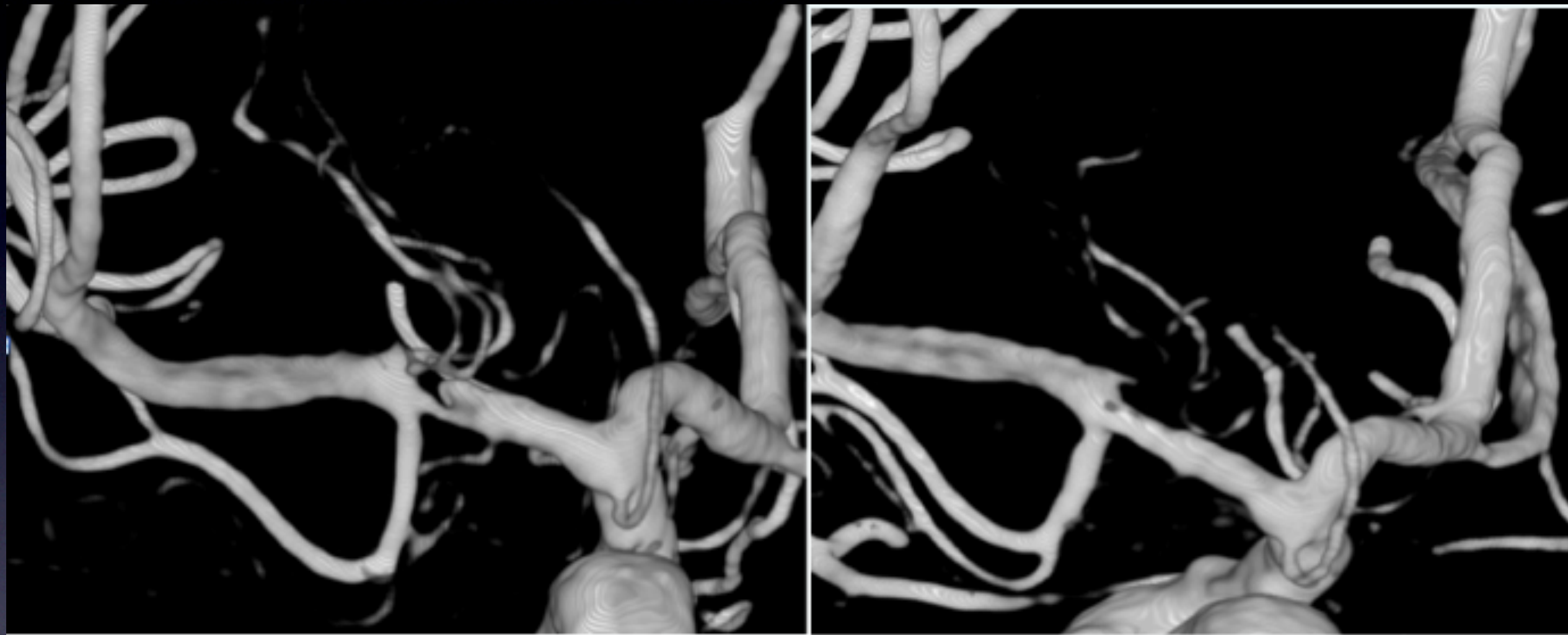
Regressive n=27



# Regression and healing of ulcers



*Figure 1: 3-dimensional rotational angiograms showing regression of a high-grade middle cerebral artery plaque in a 70-year-old man who received intensive medical therapy after an ischemic stroke attributed to this ulcerative stenosis.*





However, among these 39 patients, 8 patients (21%) developed stroke (n=5) or TIA (n=3) in the same vascular territory during the 12-month follow-up:

4 incidents occurred within 30 days from the index stroke  
(one patient died of ovarian cancer before 12-month angiogram)

The remaining 7 patients all had significant regression of the symptomatic lesion in 12 months

Baseline 81.3% → 49.0%

2 Potential Implications:

A reduction in stenosis is not sufficient to prevent stroke  
Platelet cap rather than true atherosclerosis at baseline?

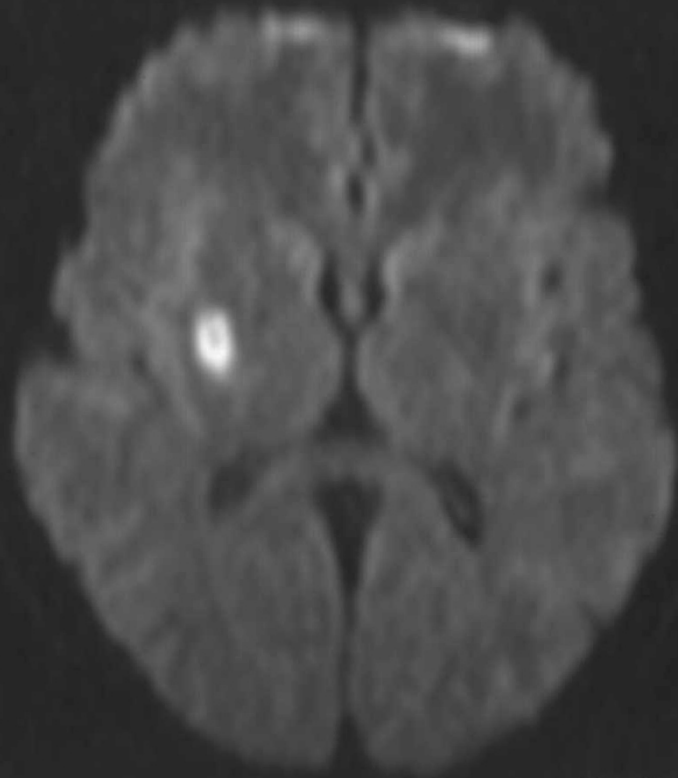


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5 IMA 67 / 58

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Prince of Wales Hospital  
Sonata  
MR 2004A  
HFS  
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RFA



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TE 122.0  
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5cm

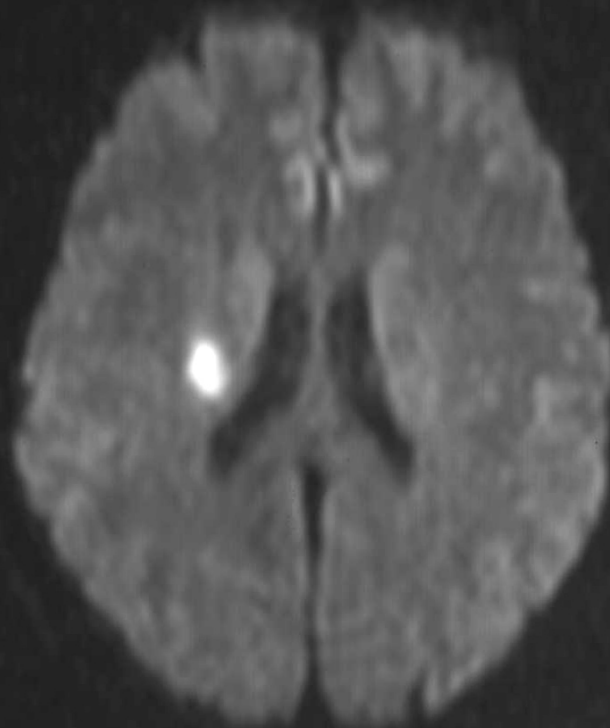
SP H6.5  
SL 5.0  
FoV 230\*230  
180p\*256 I  
Tra>Cor(-10.9)>Sag(2.5)

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C 142

MR 2004A  
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RHP



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TA 00.15  
BW 1345.0  
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A4/FS  
HE  
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10cm

SP H6.3  
SL 5.0  
FoV 230\*230  
180p\*256 I  
Tra>Cor(-17.1)>Sag(-1.3)

W 274  
C 111





If an adjunctive treatment (be it endovascular tx or not) has to claim the upper hand, ideally it should:

Safely improve vessel patency and antegrade flow (in patients with hemodynamic strokes)

( This is good but perhaps insufficient)

Prevent early thromboembolism (reinforce anti-platelets effect ?drug eluting stent)

Stabilize the plaque, possess anti-inflammatory effect, and facilitate healing of the ulcers





# While we know so little...

Adherence to strict risk factor control according to major international guidelines or SAMMPRIS aggressive treatment strategy. Individualized therapy may be needed in refractory cases.

The degree of stenosis is likely not the only factor governing relapse. We should improve the safety and efficacy of any endovascular therapy to be proposed.



# Stroke Team members in Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong

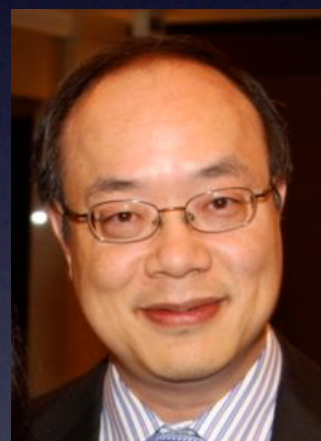


Neurosurgeons

Radiologists

AED

Nurses



Neurology Team

