For Detecting Carotid Stenosis

Stents Raise PSV Threshold For Detecting Carotid Stenosis

BY MITCHEL L. ZOLER
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Philadelphia — The current standards for diagnosing carotid artery stenosis by ultrasound velocity are too low once a stent is placed in the vessel, according to the results of a study of 80 patients presented at the Vascular Annual Meeting.

The ultrasound threshold for flagging stenosis of 50% or more is a ratio of at least 2.0, but in the study, the best threshold was found to be a ratio of at least 2.98, said Dr. Zakhar, a vascular surgeon at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

In the 80 patient series, carotid angiography was done within 30 days of stenting and ultrasounds were taken within 30 days of angiography. The 28 patients with less than 50% carotid stenosis after stenting were followed for 6 years, during which 5 developed stenoses of 50% or more.

Of the 80 patients, 40 were misdiagnosed with a residual carotid stenosis of 50% or more after stenting should be a PSV of at least 217 cm/s, Dr. Zakhar said at the meeting, which was sponsored by the Society for Vascular Surgery.

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