

Treatment of Anterior Communicating Artery Aneurysms by Flow Diversion With the Pipeline Embolization Device: A Single Center Experience in 44 Cases

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Introduction: Flow diversion represents a new, yet definitive treatment for recurrent and difficult-to-coil ACoA region aneurysms, of which reports are limited.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed an IRB-approved database of aneurysm patients at a single institution for patients with anterior communicating artery (ACoA) or A1-A2 aneurysms treated with the pipeline embolization device (PED). Patient demographic, aneurysm and case characteristics, results, and follow-up data were analyzed

Results: A total of 50 procedures were performed on 41 patients, including 7 patients who underwent bilateral "H-pipe" PED placement. The average age was 56 years and 46% of patients were female. The average aneurysm size was 4.5mm and 2 large (>10mm) aneurysms were treated. Vessel of origin was either ACoA (26 aneurysms, 63%) or the A1-A2 junction (15 aneurysms, 37%). Eighteen patients (44%) had prior SAH and 20 had previously been treated either with clipping (6 aneurysms, 15%) or coiling (14 aneurysms, 34%) (Table 1). Procedural success was achieved in 48 cases (96%) and two cases were aborted. The average flouroscopy time and radiation exposure was 36 minutes and 1994 cGy. Intraarterial verapamil was administered for vasopspasm prophylaxis or treatment in 16 cases (32%).

	Number/average	Percent/std dev
Total cases	50	
Total patients	41	
Age	56yrs (33-78)	±10.6
Female sex	19	46%
Aneurysms treated	41	
Size (average)	4.5mm (2-15)	±2.6
Small	39	95%
Large	2	5%
Giant	0	0%
Aneurysm location		
ACoA	26	63%
A1-A2	15	37%
Prior SAH	18	44%
Previously treated		
Clip	6	15%
Coil	14	34%

Results (Continued):

Coils were deployed adjunctively in 2 cases (4%) (Table 2). Procedural outcomes included zero mortalities, one major stroke (2%), and two patients with intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) (4%). Stent thrombosis was observed intra-operatively in one patient (2%) and resolved with Abciximab administration. Transient postoperative aphasia was observed in one patient (2%) without imaging correlate (Table 3). Aneurysm occlusion rates were 88% among those patients treated with singlestage PED for whom follow-up angiogram was performed (23 patients) while only trace aneurysm filling was apparent for the remaining 3 patients (12%). Because the procedures have been performed more recently, average follow-up for patients undergoing H-pipe was 4.6 months as compared with 10.6 months for the singlestage PED. Across unilaterally- and bilaterally-treated patients, most (73%) without post-operative angiogram were within 6 months of treatment (Table 4).

	Number/average	Percent/std dev
Procedural success	48	96%
Number of PED implanted		
Ipsilateral A1-A2	46	96%
Ipsilateral to contralateral	2	4%
Bilateral A1-A2 (H-pipe)	7	15%
Flouro time	35.7min (15-102)	±18
Radiation exposure	1994 cGy (756-4456)	±909
Adjunct coil deployment	2	4%
IA verapamil	16	32%
Intra-op rupture	0	0%
PED cork/removal	2	4%

	Number/average	Percent/std dev
Length of stay	3.0 days (1-30)	±5.3
Mortality	0	0%
Minor stroke	0	0%
Major stroke	1	0% 2%
ICH	2	4%
SAH	0	0%
PED thrombosis	1	2%
Transient deficit	1	2% 2%
Cranial nerve palsy	0	0%

		Number/average	Percent
Single stage	Average follow-up	10.6 months	
	Follow-up angio	26	
	occluded	23	88%
	trace-filling 3		12%
	neck filling	0	0%
	aneurysm filling	0	0%
	No follow-up	8	
H-pipe	Average follow-up	4.6 months	
	Follow-up angio	4	
	occluded	2	50%
	trace-filling	1	25%
	neck filling	0	0%
	aneurysm filling	1	25%
	No follow-up	3	

Conclusions:

The PED can be used safely and effectively in the treatment of ACoA-region aneurysms. This represents a good alternative treatment option in addition to microsurgical clipping and endovascular coiling.