



Fact Sheet

Glossary of Vascular Terms

Angina – a sharp, suffocating pain in the chest, usually due to interference with the supply of oxygenated blood to the heart muscle – also known as angina pectoris.

Angiographic Binary Restenosis (ABR) – a measure of 50 percent or more restenosis, or renarrowing of the artery, after stent treatment. (see Restenosis)

Angiogram – creation of an image of the arteries, or blood vessels, using X-ray dye that is injected into the arteries, allowing a physician to view vessel narrowing or blockages.

Angiography (X-ray angiography) – a medical imaging procedure to examine the blood vessels of the body, including the brain and heart.

Angioplasty – the insertion and inflation of a balloon to open a clogged artery, which may or may not be followed by the implantation of a stent to prop the vessel open – also known as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), or balloon angioplasty.

Anticoagulant – a substance or agent used to prevent coagulation, or the formation of blood clots. (see Coagulation)

Antiplatelet – a medication that inhibits the formation of blood clots and helps keep the blood flowing by preventing platelets from sticking together.

Aorta – the largest blood vessel in the body, originating in the heart.

Artery – a blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body.

Atherosclerosis – the narrowing or blockage of an artery as a result of plaque (cholesterol or other fatty deposits) build-up, which reduces blood flow to the heart and can lead to angina (chest pain) or myocardial infarction (heart attack).

Balloon Angioplasty – (see Angioplasty)

Balloon Catheter – a type of soft catheter, or tube, which can be inserted into a body cavity or blood vessel, with a balloon at its tip that gets inflated to enlarge a narrow opening in the body.

Bare Metal Stent (BMS) – a metallic stent, which is not coated with a drug. (see Drug Eluting Stent)

Blood Vessel – a part of the cardiovascular system, including capillaries, arteries and veins, which transports blood throughout the body.

Bioabsorbable Stent – a drug eluting stent made of a material that can be absorbed by the body, and is designed to provide support until a blood vessel heals.

CABG – (see Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery)

CAD – (see Coronary Artery Disease)

Carotid Artery – a large blood vessel in the neck that supplies oxygenated blood to the brain.

Catheter – a thin, hollow, flexible tube that when used with angioplasty provides access to the artery for the delivery of a balloon or stent.

Coagulation – the formation of a blood clot in the blood vessel.

Cobalt Chromium – a super alloy that is biocompatible or non-reactive in the body. It is 76 percent stronger than stainless steel, allowing for thinner stent struts, or structural elements comprising the framework of the stent, without sacrificing strength or visibility.

Computed Tomography Scan – a method of medical imaging which produces cross-sectional images of the body, commonly referred to as CT or CAT scan.

Coronary Artery – an artery that supplies oxygenated blood to the heart muscle.

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG) – a medical procedure in which a section of an artery from another portion of the body is used to bypass a blockage in a coronary artery and improve blood flow to the heart, also known as revascularization.

Coronary Artery Disease – occurs when the arteries that supply blood to the heart become narrowed or blocked by cholesterol or other fatty deposits also known as plaque.

CT or CAT Scan – (see Computed Tomography Scan)

Deliverability – the ease with which a medical device can be maneuvered to its intended location, such as a stent being guided to the precise location of blockage within an artery.

Distal – the far end, farther from any point of reference.

Drug Eluting Stent (DES) – a stent coated with an anti-proliferative medication (a drug which inhibits cell growth) to inhibit restenosis; sometimes referred to as a drug coated stent. (see Restenosis)

EKG (or ECG) – (see Electrocardiogram)

Electrocardiogram – a graphical representation of the electrical activity of the heart.

Femoral Artery – an artery in the leg used as an access point to insert a device into the body, such as a catheter or stent.

Fluoroscope – a device with a fluorescent screen used to obtain medical images of internal body structures.

Guidewire – a thin, flexible wire used to guide a device, such as a catheter, through a narrow space.

In-Segment – refers to the area within the margins of a deployed stent plus five millimeters on either side of the stent.

In-Stent – refers to the area within the margins of a deployed stent.

In-Stent Restenosis – the renarrowing or blockage of a vessel within a stent.

Interventional Cardiology – a branch of the cardiology medical specialty that specifically deals with minimally invasive heart procedures, such as angioplasty.

Ischemia – a restriction in blood supply, generally due to factors in the blood vessels.

Late Loss – a measure of the difference in diameter inside a blood vessel before a stent procedure and at a set point in time after stenting.

Late Stent Thrombosis – the formation or presence of a blood clot in an artery occurring more than 30 days following the stent procedure. (see Thrombosis)

Left Ventricle – the lower left chamber of the heart that receives oxygenated blood from the left atrium (upper chamber) and pumps it to the aorta to send blood throughout the body.

Lesion – a narrowing or blockage in a blood vessel that is interrupting blood flow.

Lumen – the cavity or hollow space inside a blood vessel.

Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE) – events following a clinical procedure that may include death, myocardial infarction (heart attack) or the need for retreatment due to a lack of blood supply.

Myocardial Infarction – a heart attack.

Neointimal Hyperplasia – cellular regrowth in response to an injury. Less injury will result in less neointimal growth.

Occlusion – a blockage.

Percutaneous – describes a procedure performed through a small opening in the skin.

Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) – a procedure for enlarging a narrowed or blocked blood vessel by inflating and withdrawing a balloon on the tip of a catheter.

Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) – (see Angioplasty)

Platelet – the cells circulating in blood that help to form blood clots.

Polymer – a special biocompatible (non-reactive) material applied to a stent that controls the release of a restenosis-inhibiting drug into the heart vessel wall.

Proliferative – characterized by growth or multiplication through rapid production of new tissues or cells.

Proximal – the near end, nearest to a point of reference.

Reintervention – the performance of additional procedures to correct complications from a prior procedure, such as opening an artery that has become blocked.

Restenosis – the renarrowing of an artery in the location of a previous stent treatment. (see In-Stent Restenosis)

Revascularization – the process of restoring blood supply to an affected organ, such as the heart. (see Angioplasty and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery)

Scaffolding – a framework used to support a structure, such as a stent in an artery.

Stenosis – the narrowing of any blood vessel, valve or passage.

Stent – a tiny wire mesh tube that is used to prop open a clogged artery.

Stent Thrombosis – a potential complication of stenting involving the formation or presence of a blood clot. (see Thrombosis)

Target Lesion Revascularization (TLR) – any repeat percutaneous intervention of the target lesion or bypass surgery of the target lesion.

Target Vessel Failure (TVF) – cardiac events related to a stented vessel; defined as death, myocardial infarction (heart attack) or target vessel revascularization. (see Target Vessel Revascularization)

Target Vessel Revascularization (TVR) – retreatment of a stented vessel, also known as reintervention. (see Reintervention)

Thrombus – a blood clot.

Thrombosis – the formation or presence of a blood clot in an artery.

Vessel Closure – a procedure in which the puncture site used to access a blood vessel is closed, such as manual compression or mechanical close with a vascular closure device.

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