

**#20 TREATMENT OF EMBOLIZING ARTERIAL LESIONS WITH
ENDOLUMINALLY PLACED STENT GRAFTS.**

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Purpose: To demonstrate the safety and efficacy of endovascular stent grafts for the management of embolizing arterial lesions.

Methods: Eight patients who presented to Barnes-Jewish Hospital between June 2000 and June 2001 with embolizing arterial lesions were treated with covered stents or stent-grafts. All hospital records were retrospectively reviewed, and pertinent data extracted.

Results: Five patients presented with "blue toe syndrome", 1 with acute lower extremity (LE) ischemia, and 2 with upper extremity (UE) ischemia. All lesions were successfully excluded with stents or stent-grafts. Additional procedures were required in 3 patients; thrombectomy 2, fem-pop bypass 1. Complications occurred in 3 patients; 1 stent graft thrombosis with recurrent UE ischemia, 1 retroperitoneal hematoma, and 1 groin lymphocele. No further embolization was noted in any patient during the immediate post-operative period or during FU. Early mortality was 2/8 (25%), with both of these patients having advanced malignancies. Follow-up has been 12 months, with all remaining grafts being patent.

Conclusions: Endovascular stent grafts can be used successfully to exclude embolizing arterial lesions without increasing the risk of further embolization. Long-term follow-up will be necessary to assess the durability of this approach to embolizing arterial lesions.