

Summary

Thoracic aorta wall pathology: diagnosis, stentgraft placement, indications, strategy and procedure technique, clinical results

Aim. Our single-center study was designed to assess management of thoracic aorta using a stent graft in individual types of pathology. While focused on the technical success rates and efficacy of management, the study also sought to document the incidence of intra-procedural complications and to assess the rate of sac growth and endoleak incidence.

Method. A total of 86 patients with thoracic aorta disease were treated using a stent graft over a period of 12 years. They were 24 women and 62 men with a mean age 58.5 years. Late CT follow-up was performed in 75 patients, 31 (36%) were lost to follow-up, most (25) patients died. The most frequent reason (50%) for treatment included size of the aneurysmal sac, with progressive sac growth accounting for 19%.

Results. Complications were rare, with most serious ones including 6 cases (7%) of hemorrhage, 3 fatal cases, with the other cases (peripheral bleeding) managed by a surgeon. Primarily intractable endoleak documented by DSA was observed in 9 treated patients (10%). The most frequent CT-documented endoleak was Type I endoleak diagnosed in 18 treated patients (20%). Spontaneous endoleak regression was demonstrated in 6 patients. Our technical success rate was 89%. Overall, the procedure was effective in 64 (85%) patients.

Conclusion. While a technically safe procedure, endovascular management of thoracic aorta differs considerably in its beneficial effects for the patient depending on the pathology involved.