

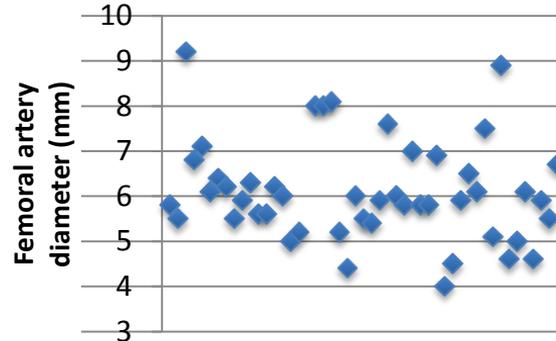
First experience with a novel 14Fr expandable sheath in patients undergoing TAVI with a newer generation self-expandable valve

Andreas Rück, Aortic Valve Department, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden. andreas.ruck@ki.se

The iSleeve (Boston Scientific) is a 14Fr insertion profile hydrophilic expandable sheath designed for the Acurate self-expandable valve system (size S-M-L).

We evaluated the safety and efficacy of the iSleeve sheath in 48 consecutive transfemoral TAVI cases with the Acurate valve. As per hospital practice, puncture was ultrasound-guided and closure was with the MANTA device. Data was collected from the hospitalisation period.

Baseline data n=48	
Age (mean)	82
Euroscore II (mean)	8,0
Oral anticoagulation	31%
Minimal femoral diameter (mean, range)	6,1 (4,0-9,2)
ACT (mean)	280
Protamin use	23%



Results

There was 1 major vascular complication (2%), a dissection distal to the puncture site, probably unrelated to the specific design of the sheath. In 11 patients the iSleeve was used with a femoral artery diameter below 5,5 mm, none of these had a major vascular complication.

In two cases the sheath was either kinked or damaged and needed to be replaced, none of these had a major complication. In one case the sheath could not pass a stenosed iliac artery, several different systems were tried in that patient and none could pass.

Conclusions

The use of the iSleeve expandable sheath seems safe with a low complication rate. It enables safe transfemoral TAVI in patients with a femoral artery diameter as low as 4 mm.

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