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Neointimal Change After Cutting Balloon Angioplasty for In-Stent Restenosis Assessed by Optical Coherence Tomography

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Purpose- To investigate the neointimal change after target lesion revascularization (TLR) for in-stent restenosis (ISR) with optical coherence tomography (OCT). Methods- We analyzed 12 patients (12 lesions) who were treated with cutting balloon angioplasty (CBA) for ISR and suffered repeat-ISR that needed repeat-TLR evaluated by serial OCT. The site showing the most stenotic lumen in the 1st ISR-OCT image was selected for analysis. The OCT signal patterns were categorized into 4 patterns: (1) homogeneous high-signal band, (2) heterogeneous mixed-signal band, and (3) lipid-laden intima. Results- Serial imaging tests were performed at a mean interval of 161 \pm 89 days after the index TLR because of repeat-ISR. Restenotic pattern was similar between the 1st and 2nd ISR, including lesion length, minimum lumen area, and percent plaque area (6.7 \pm 3.2mm vs. 7.7 \pm 6.4mm, 1.1 \pm 0.4mm2 vs. 1.2 \pm 0.2mm2, and 88.2 \pm 3.1% vs. 87.7 \pm 2.6%, p=ns, respectively). The 1st ISR-OCT image consisted of homogeneous high-signal band in 5 patients (41%), heterogeneous mixed-signal band in 4 patients (34%), and lipid-laden intima in 3 patients (25%). All neointima of the 1st ISR, except for 1 heterogeneous mixed-signal band, translated into homogeneous high-signal band at the repeat-ISR. Thrombus was more often seen in 2nd ISR than in 1st ISR (100% vs. 59%, p=0.04). Conclusions-The neointimal difference which was seen at the 1st ISR no longer exists at the repeat ISR. This may lead to a better understanding of the different mechanism between 1st and 2nd ISR.