

Two cases with severe restenosis of Cypher stents implanted more than 3 years ago. Are they evoked by polymer-induced inflammation?

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We have experienced 2 cases with severe stenosis which were observed at the coronaries dilated with Cypher stents which were implanted more than 3 years ago. Case 1 79Y/0 male (diabetes mellitus and esophageal cancer) He received percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) to right coronary artery (RCA) about 4 years ago for the treatment of angina and no angina had been reported for 3 years after PCI. About 6 months ago, he felt chest oppression again and was performed CAG to find re-occlusion of RCA. Re-PCI was performed and angina promptly disappeared. Case 2 62Y/0 male (diabetes mellitus and old myocardial infarction) He was performed PCIs to RCA about 7 years ago and left anterior descending artery (LAD) 6 years ago. After complete revascularization, he received CAG about 1 year later from LAD intervention and observed no restenosis about RCA and LAD. However heart failure was occurred after 5 years from final PCI. We performed CAG again and found that LAD and RCA were severely narrowed. Re-PCIs were performed and his heart condition was improved. Cypher stent was the first-ever drug-eluting stent and had already disappeared from market. Severe studies pointed out that one of the most important causes of its chronic phase narrowing is attributed to the inflammation induced by the polymer but we can't predict clinically its occurrence. We concluded that we have to consider the possibility of vessel narrowing at the lesion(s) dilated with Cypher stents even which was implanted more than 3 years ago.