

One database, 2 studies, and a trebling of atherectomy rates



To the Editor,

We read with interest the article of Kinnaird et al¹ on rotational atherectomy rates in England and Wales. The study population is the same as that analyzed by Watt et al.² Rather surprisingly, despite both articles stating that all patients undergoing rotational atherectomy in England and Wales are included, the article of Kinnaird et al comprises 11,444 versus 9,712 patients in that of Watt et al. This is despite the formers' only including patients from 2007 to 2014 (cf 2005 to 2014 in the latter). Even after accounting for the study of Watt et al concluding several months earlier in 2014, the preceding years also have large disparities, with Watt et al concluding that 1.3% of all percutaneous coronary interventions involved rotational atherectomy compared with 2.0% in the article of Kinnaird et al. Having contacted the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS) database, it appears that both articles have used the same database (British Cardiovascular Intervention Society - National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (BCIS/BCIS-NICOR))

Gaining clarity on this issue is important. With indications for rotational atherectomy having not changed over the past decade and at a time when percutaneous coronary intervention rates are plateauing,³ it is with surprise that we read that rotational atherectomy rates have trebled (from 722 to 2231) in 8 years in England and Wales.

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