

OUR EXPERIENCE OF SYMMETRY BYPASS SYSTEM - AORTIC CONNECTOR FOR PROXIMAL ANASTOMOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH OBVIOUS ASCENDING AORTIC CALCIFICATION ON CXR AND PALPABLE ATHEROSCLEROTIC DISEASE OF THE ASCENDING AORTA IN CABG.

Shyam Kolvekar, Sanjeev Vichare. London, UK.

Objectives: The Symmetry Bypass System - Aortic Connector is an excellent device for the construction of sutureless anastomosis of saphenous vein graft to ascending aorta without requiring any clamping of the aorta. Here we present our experience with the device used on patients with diffuse atherosclerotic disease of ascending aorta.

Methods: We performed 23 anastomoses on a total of 14 patients between March 2003 to September 2003. 10 patients with 15 anastomosis were performed on beating heart without cardiopulmonary bypass and without aortic clamping. 4 patients with 8 anastomosis were performed on cardiopulmonary bypass without aortic partial clamping. All the patients were comparable on basis of their age, gender, GI, Neurological and Renal and Respiratory status and absence of carotid bruit.

Patients who had evidence of aortic calcification on X-ray chest and obvious aortic atherosclerosis on palpation of the aorta were included in the study.

Results: One anastomosis needed suture revision due to misdeployment of device. No additional suture for leak.

There was no operative mortality, perioperative myocardial infarction or stroke.

Minimum follow up of six months on the basis of symptoms, electrocardiogram, echocardiogram and coronary angiogram (one patient) revealed only one patient had blocked graft at the site of proximal anastomosis and the rest of the patients were symptomfree.

Conclusions: Safe and quick to perform with brief learning curve.

No aortic partial clamping.

But -1. It may not avoid potential graft kinking, as it does not have an angled take off.

2. No hooded anastomosis, Hence long-term patency needs to be evaluated.