

E-Bulletin

May 2006, Issue #12

The OHTAC E-bulletin is issued on a regular basis to provide you with updates on the latest committee recommendations. OHTAC has reviewed several health technologies and all its recommendations are available on the OHTAC Web site at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_mn.html

Should you have additional information about any of these technologies, please submit it to the Medical Advisory Secretariat (MAS) at the contact information found at the end of this bulletin.

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ENDOVASCULAR REPAIR OF DESCENDING THORACIC AORTIC ANEURYSM (TAA)

Issue

Aneurysm is a permanent localized dilatation of the aorta and the most common condition of the thoracic aorta requiring surgery. The incidence of TAA is estimated to be 10 cases per 100,000 people per year. The descending aorta is involved in about 30% to 40% of the cases. The prognosis of large untreated TAAs is poor, with a 3-year survival rate as low as 25%. Open surgical treatment of TAA involves left thoracotomy and aortic graft replacement. Surgical treatment has been found to improve survival when compared with medical therapy. However, despite dramatic advances in surgical techniques for performing such complex operations, operative mortality from centres of excellence are between 8% and 20% for elective cases, and up to 50% in patients requiring emergency operations. In addition, survivors of open surgical repair of TAAs may suffer from severe complications.

Endovascular aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR) using a stent graft is a new alternative to the traditional surgical approach. It is less invasive, and initial results from several studies suggest that it may reduce mortality and morbidity associated with the repair of descending TAAs. However, endovascular stent-graft (ESG) placement has complications, including endovascular leak (endoleak), graft migration, stent fracture, and mechanical damage to the access artery and aortic wall.

Key Findings

- Endovascular stent graft placement is a less invasive procedure for repair of descending TAA than is open surgical repair.
- There is no high-quality evidence with long-term follow-up data to support the use of EVAR as the first choice of treatment for patients with descending TAA that are suitable candidates for surgical intervention.
- However, short- and medium-term outcomes of ESG placement reported by several studies are satisfactory and comparable to surgical intervention. Therefore, for patients at high risk of surgery, it is a practical option to consider. Short- and medium-term results show that the benefit of ESG placement over the surgical approach is a lower 30-day mortality and paraplegia rate, and shorter operative time, ICU stay, and hospital stay.

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**OHTAC
Recommendations**

- OHTAC recommends that endovascular repair of descending TAA should be performed where risks of surgery clearly outweigh those of placing an endograft based on the clinical judgment of physicians involved in the management of this disease, and after careful evaluation of benefits and risks involved in the use of each method.
- The use of this technology to be restricted to the centres with experience and expertise in the field of endovascular grafting.
- Informed consent by patients should include an understanding that the medium to long-term complications for endovascular repair of descending TAA are unknown and include concerns regarding leakage around the edges of the graft.

Implications

The average hospital direct cost per case of a Thoracic Aneurysm Repair is \$33,000, and the average hospital total cost per case is \$42,000. Based on the field study of abdominal EVAR vs. open surgical repair prepared by the Program for the Assessment of Technologies in Health [PATH] (source: PATH 2005), abdominal EVAR was approximately 14% more expensive per treated patient. However, this difference is expected to be less for descending thoracic aneurysm repair given that operating room costs for open abdominal repair are less than for open thoracic repair while EVAR operating room costs are similar in both locations.

The full downloadable version of the **Health Technology Policy Assessment** by the Medical Advisory Secretariat can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_thor_110105.pdf

The **OHTAC recommendation** for this technology can be found at the following link:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/recommend/rec_thor_111605.pdf

SPOTLIGHT:

The Program for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH)

The Program for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH) is a highly innovative research program in economic evaluation and health technology assessment (HTA) that primarily supports government reimbursement decisions in the province of Ontario and constitutes a new research program in economic evaluation and HTA. PATH is funded in part by a \$3 million grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, in partnership with the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. PATH researchers play a leading role in the economic evaluation of new and existing health technologies that informs insurance coverage reimbursement decision-making in the province of Ontario and elsewhere. PATH researchers and their colleagues in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CE&B) and the Centre for Evaluation of Medicines (CEM) are also consistently on the leading edge of the development of new methods for the evaluation of health services.

PATH has completed two interim reports on Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (EVAR) and Drug Eluting Stents (DES). The final reports are expected to be completed in late 2006 and the summer of 2006, respectively. Please visit their website for more information

www.path-hta.ca

OHTAC is envisaged as the first step in creating a single portal for providing advice to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the uptake, diffusion, and distribution for new health technologies. Find more about OHTAC, its application process, and its recommendations at the following Web site:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/ohtac_about.html.

TECHNOLOGIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

• Cardiac positron emission tomography	• Optimum Imaging Breast Technologies for Women 40-49 years of age—Modalities other than Mammography
• Electroanatomic cardiac mapping and ablative techniques	• Breast Cancer Screening for Women 40-49 years of age--Mammography
• Intravascular coronary ultrasound	• Vascular ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm
• Metal-on-metal Hip Resurfacing	• Hydrophilic Catheters
• Implantable Cardioverter defibrillator	• Routine Eye Exams
• Photopheresis	• Sleep Disorder Clinics
• Gastric Electrical Stimulation	• Bone Densitometry
• Bladder Ultrasound	• Energy delivery systems for treatment of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).
Integrated Health Technology Literature Reviews	
• Heart failure	
Literature Reviews Being Updated	
• Mid-Urethral Slings (February 2004)	• Artificial discs (March 2004)
• Enhanced External Counterpulsation (February 2003) *UPDATE NOW POSTED!	• Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (December 2004)

PREVIOUS OHTAC RECOMMENDATIONS

• Enhanced External Counterpulsation (Update) NEW POSTING	March 2006
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_eecp_030106.pdf	
• Coil Embolization for Intracranial Aneurysms (Update)	January 2006
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_010106.pdf	
• Automated External Defibrillators	December 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_aed_120105.pdf	
• Interim Report on Drug Eluting Stents	December 2005
http://www.path-hta.ca/DESreport.pdf	
• Air Cleaning Technologies	November 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_act_110105.pdf	
• Technologies for Osteoarthritis of the Knee (Integrated Health Technology Policy Assessment)	October 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_ostknee_100105.pdf	
• Biventricular Pacing (Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy)	September 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_biv_090105.pdf	
• Arthroscopic Lavage and Debridement	September 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_lavdeb_090105.pdf	
• Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Non-Healing Ulcers in Diabetes Mellitus	August 2005
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hypox_081105.pdf	

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• Interim Report on Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (EVAR) http://www.path-hra.ca/EVAR%20Interim%20Report%20Jul%202005.pdf	July 2005
• Intra-Articular Viscosupplementation With Hylan G-F 20 To Treat Osteoarthritis of the Knee http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_hylan_061705.pdf	June 2005
• Total Knee Replacement http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tkr_061705.pdf	June 2005
• Intrathecal Baclofen Pump for Spasticity http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pump_081605.pdf	May 2005
• Osteogenic Protein-1 http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_osteo_070105.pdf	April 2005
• Multi-detector Computed Tomography Angiography for Coronary Artery Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_multi_050105.pdf	April 2005
• Spinal Cord Stimulation for Neuropathic Pain http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_scs_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Urinary Incontinence, Urgency-Frequency, Urinary Retention, and Fecal Incontinence http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_sns_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Deep Brain Stimulation in Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_dbs_030105.pdf	March 2005
• Bariatric Surgery http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_baria_010105.pdf	January 2005
• Vacuum Assisted Closure Therapy for Chronic Wounds http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vac_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Balloon Kyphoplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_kypho_120104.pdf	December 2004
• Thermal Balloon Endometrial Ablation for Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tbea_090104.pdf	October 2004
• Primary Angioplasty http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	September 2004
• Bispectral Index Monitor http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bis_060104.pdf	August 2004
• Radio Frequency Ablation for Primary Liver Cancer http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rfa_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Major Depressive Disorder http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_rtms_060104.pdf	June 2004
• Coil Embolization For Intracranial Aneurysms http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_coil_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Pyrocarbon Finger Joint Implant http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_pyrocarb_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Video Laryngoscopy for Tracheal Intubation http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_vidlaryng_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Bone Morphogenetic Proteins and Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disc Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_bmp_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Artificial Discs for Cervical and Lumbar Spinal Surgery for Degenerative Disease http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_artdisc_030104.pdf	March 2004
• Computer-Assisted Hip and Knee Arthroplasty: Navigation and Robotic Systems http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_arthro_020104.pdf	March 2004
• Computer-Assisted Surgery Using Telemanipulators http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_teleman_020104.pdf	March 2004
• Tension-free Vaginal Tape for Stress Urinary Incontinence http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_tvt_020104.pdf	February 2004
• Patient Monitoring System for MRI http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_patmri_120103.pdf	February 2004

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For any comments related to this E-bulletin, please contact the Medical Advisory Secretariat at:

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Web: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/mas_mn.html