

Stellingen

1. Reliable angiographic evaluation of the results of coronary intervention requires the serial use of multiple projections identically repeated at each phase of investigation (this thesis).
2. Quantitative angiographic evaluation 24 hours after successful angioplasty shows no significant change in the minimal diameter of the treated segment, indicating that no delayed elastic recoil occurs during that time, whereas increase in the reference diameter led to a significant increase in derived percent stenosis, demonstrating the fallibility of percent diameter stenosis measurements in important clinical studies (this thesis).
3. Major adverse cardiac events soon after coronary angioplasty are not readily predictable even from extensive clinical, procedural and angiographic data. Unstable angina, lesion location in a coronary bend and post procedural dissection are all independently associated with a significantly increased risk of such events (this thesis).
4. Coronary angiography is greatly limited for accurate diagnosis of coronary thrombus and should not be relied upon for such purpose, direct angioscopic visualization being the optimal diagnostic tool (this thesis).
5. Significant differences between the coronary interventional devices evaluated regarding the degree of the renarrowing response to increasing luminal increase at intervention may be considered to be angiographic manifestations of device specific responses to arterial wall injury, inflicted during intervention by the different devices (this thesis).
6. In addition to the now evident clinical appropriateness of optimizing acute interventional results, the "bigger is better" maxim may equally well be interpreted as meaning that "bigger" vessels are associated with a "better" long term outcome after coronary interventions. This may partly explain why devices which are preferentially reserved for use in larger vessels have been associated with improved long term interventional results (this thesis).
7. The next challenge in clinical application of coronary stenting will be in less favourable morphological characteristics than the current indications, which apply to the minority of cases, namely in smaller vessels and in tortuous segments. Revolutionary developments in catheter design will be required to revive clinical interest in directional atherectomy and excimer laser angioplasty. As we enter the "era of optimization", the days of "poor old balloon angioplasty", as a stand-alone device, may well be numbered (this thesis).
8. There are three stages in the history of every medical discovery. When it is first announced, people say that it is not true. Then, a little later, when its truth has been borne in on them, so that it can no longer be denied, they say it is not important. After that, if its importance becomes sufficiently obvious, they say that anyhow it is not new. Sir James Mackenzie.
9. Einstein suffered the fate of many other revolutionaries who boldly take the first steps on a new road, but shrink from the next steps. Others may come along to pick up the journey, because the road seems too sinister to its discoverer. Werner Heisenberg.

10. A work is not a series of answers, it is a series of questions.... it is not the answer which enlightens but the question. Eugene Ionesco.

11. "If a doctor has treated a freeman with a metal knife for a severe wound and has cured the freemen, or has opened a freeman's tumour with a metal knife and cured the freeman's eye, then he shall receive 10 shekels of silver... If a doctor has treated a man with a metal knife for a severe wound and has caused the man to die, or has opened a man's tumour with a metal knife and destroyed the man's eye, his hands shall be cut off." (Code of Hammurabi (c. 1728-1686 BC) Mesopotamia, earliest known regulations for the practice of medicine). Although the rewards were relatively good, the absence of good medical protection insurance could obviously be fairly costly - interventional cardiologists should ensure they are always well covered !!

12. In later times my idols fell, for I learned that they were only men.... but what I learned from each forgotten god, was that the battlefield was mine alone. Bob Dylan.

13. To be in hell is to drift. To be in heaven is to steer. George Bernard Shaw.

14. Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get. Ingrid Bergman.

15. Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference. Robert Frost.