

STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift van J. Escaned

It is foreseeable that generalisation in the use of intracoronary techniques for the *in-vivo* investigation of coronary atheroma will bring a diversification of atherosclerotic syndromes beyond the categories used currently, in accordance with different aetiological and physiopathological mechanisms. (*This thesis*).

Conventional diagnostic tools provide no direct insight on which pathogenic mechanism is operative or prevails in an individual patient presenting with unstable symptoms. It is possible to speculate that some of the pitfalls in the pharmacological treatment of unstable angina are due to incomplete understanding of a continuously evolving pathological substrate. (*This thesis*).

Like in Plato's myth of the cavern, angiography provides a mere shadow of the actual changes occurring in the vascular wall and lumen, which according to the belief in the current paradigm of the syndrome of unstable angina, is frequently taken for real. In this regard, angioscopy may be more useful than angiography in reliably and specifically identifying the presence of intraluminal thrombus in order to perform a more selective use of thrombolytic agents in unstable patients. (*This thesis*).

Since resolution and organisation of a thrombotic episode evident in atherectomy specimens seems to be associated with enhanced smooth muscle cell proliferation and development of neointimal hyperplasia, changes in plaque geometry leading to clinical instability may also result from accelerated formation of fibrous tissue which had been initially triggered from a clinically silent episode of coronary thrombosis. (*This thesis*).

Contrary to pathological studies, which cannot be sequential, patients in whom atherectomy samples have been obtained may have a clinical, angiographic and, occasionally, pathological follow-up. On the other hand, some of the problems posed to the researcher using coronary atherectomy specimens are similar to those of the anthropologist using a single bony fragment retrieved in an archaeological dwelling to reconstruct the skull from which was originally derived. (*This thesis*).

Since the primary aim of thrombolysis is to tackle coronary thrombus as the main cause of intraluminal obstruction, the low prevalence of thrombus leading to significant luminal obliteration during angioscopy and in retrieved atherectomy specimens provides evidence as to why thrombolytic treatment has previously not been helpful in the treatment of unstable patients refractory to medical treatment. (*This thesis*).

“What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning”. Werner Heisenberg, *Physics and Philosophy*.

“The idea that science can, and should, be run according to fixed and universal rules, is both unrealistic and pernicious. It is *unrealistic*, for it takes too simple a view of the talents of man and of the circumstances which encourage, or cause, their development. And it is *pernicious* for the attempt to enforce the rules is bound to increase our professional qualifications at the expense of our humanity. In addition, the idea is *detrimental to science*, for it neglects the complex physical and historical conditions which influence scientific change. It makes science less adaptable and more dogmatic ...” Paul Feyerabend, *Against method*.

“Look at every path closely and deliberately. Try it as many times you think necessary. Then ask yourself, and yourself alone, one question ... Does this path have a heart? If it does, the path is good; if it doesn't it is of no use”. Carlos Castaneda, *The teachings of Don Juan*.

“Besides, I know of a man from England - a modest man- who for me is not less great than Goethe. I talked to him for scarcely an hour, but during that hour he was Goethe...” Jorge Luis Borges, *The Garden of Forking Paths*.