

2022 MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
10th ANNUAL CURRENT CONCEPTS IN
VASCULAR THERAPIES

2022



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Sentara Vascular Specialists

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Women and Carotid Disease

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Carotid Disease

- Prevalence in US
 - High grade asymptomatic 0.1-3%
 - General Stroke/TIA 0.5-6%
 - 8%-15% attributed to extracranial carotid disease
 - Higher Prevalence with increasing age



Carotid Disease

Table 1. Estimated Prevalence of Increased Carotid Intima-Media Thickness, Carotid Plaque, and Carotid Stenosis in Subjects, by Sex (Table view)

	Men (30–79 y)	Women (30–79 y)
Increased carotid intima-media thickness	32.1% (20.2–46.7)	23.2% (13.7–35.9)
Carotid plaque	25.2% (16.1–36.7)	17.1% (10.4–26.5)
Carotid stenosis	1.8% (1.3–2.6)	1.2% (0.8–1.6)



Carotid Disease

- Gender
 - ♂ > strokes each year, possibly secondary to longer life span
 - Growing disparity: stroke rate tripled in the last decade in ♂ ages 35-54
 - ♂ worse outcomes after ischemic stroke: disability and higher mortality
 - Risk factors and their effects on stroke different in the genders: HTN



Carotid Disease

- Suspect multifactorial etiology to the gender stroke outcome differences
 - Disease pathology, biological: hormones, ischemic response
 - Access to care
 - Provider bias
 - Socioeconomic status
 - Behavioral: call for ambulance
 - Clinical manifestations: nonconventional stroke symptoms



Ref 3-8



Trial Data

- Underrepresentation in most clinical trials
 - Most seminal trials did not analyze data by sex: NASCET, ECST
- Trial Data with a significant number of ♂ that reported results by sex
 - Asymptomatic
 - Symptomatic



Asymptomatic Trial Data♂

- ACAS and ACST-1
 - Less robust benefit of CEA over BMT in ♂: 5 year ARR of stroke 4.1% vs 8.2%
 - Higher perioperative complication rate 3.6% vs 1.7%
- CREST gender comparison of CEA patients
 - No significant gender difference noted in either risk of perioperative stroke (~2%) stroke/death (~2%) or 4 year risk of stroke/death (~5%), even when stratified by symptoms
- ACST-2
 - No prognostic relevance to gender in treatment effects of CAS or CEA



Asymptomatic Trial Data†

Women were underrepresented in trials of CEA for asymptomatic carotid disease

Possibly a decreased efficacy in stroke prevention in women when compared to men



Symptomatic Trial Data†

- Pooled NASCET/ECST data
 - Higher 30 day risk of perioperative stroke/death 8.7% vs 6.8%
 - Less benefit of CEA: 5 year ARR of periop stroke/death 2.8% vs 11%
- Pooled NASCET and ACE data
 - Increased risk of death within 30 days of surgery 2.3% vs 0.8%
 - >70% stenosis, CEA 5 year ARR of stroke no difference 15-17%
- CREST
 - No significant gender diff in perioperative stroke or death (2-3%) or 4 year risk of stroke/death (6%) with CEA

Ref 15-16



Symptomatic Trial Data†

Women were underrepresented in trials of CEA for symptomatic disease

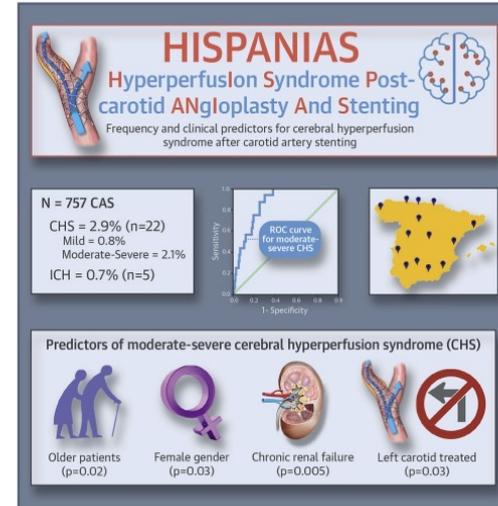
Possibly the benefit of surgery in stroke prevention was greater in men than in women



Outcomes after CEA

- Recent institutional/database studies significantly more δ than the older RCT
 - Wide range of outcomes
 - No significant gender differences (most of the studies reviewed)
 - Some show higher perioperative stroke rate
 - Suggestion that δ gender is an independent predictor of cerebral hyperperfusion syndrome following CEA

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Rates and Predictors of the HISPANIAS Study



González García, A. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2019;12(9):873-82.

Outcomes after CEA

Nontrial data including large institutional, registry, and database analyses demonstrate mixed results; however, many studies demonstrated equivalent perioperative results following CEA in women and men, in contrast to some clinical trial results



Specific sex-related considerations

- Hypothesis for increased perioperative complications
 - Smaller size
 - Technical errors, thrombosis
 - Less compliance
 - Differences in anatomic features

Table 2. Characteristics of Carotid Artery Features and Plaque in Both Sexes (Table view)

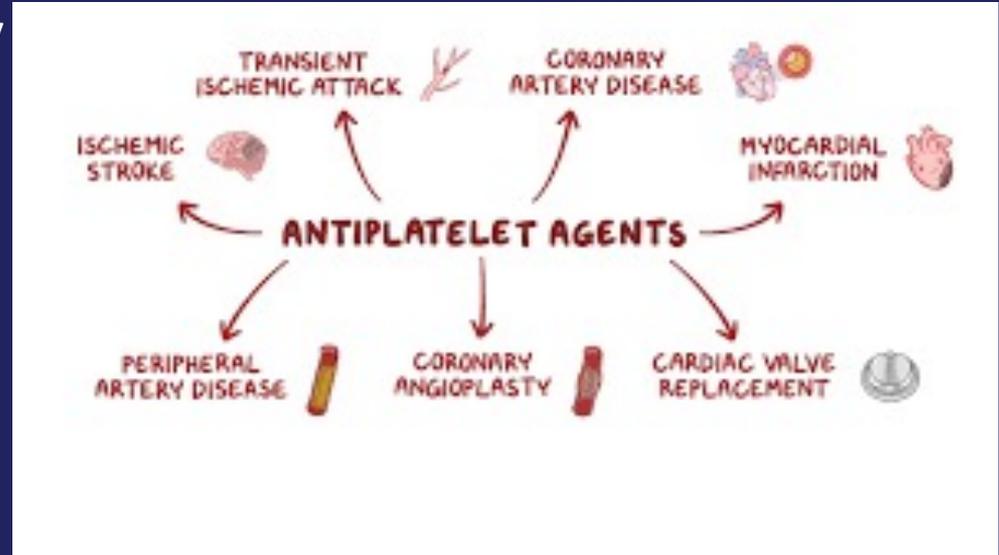
Women	Men
Smaller artery size ⁵⁴	
Larger ICA than ECA with higher outflow areas ⁵⁴	Presence of maximum stenosis distal to the ICA bulb ⁵⁴
Higher prevalence of recurrent carotid artery stenosis ⁵⁴	Higher prevalence of intraplaque hemorrhage ⁵⁶
Higher mean ICA/CCA velocity ratio ⁵⁴	Increased presence of calcium ⁵⁶
Increased presence of ECA stenosis ⁵⁴	Increased presence of lipid-rich necrotic core combined with intraplaque hemorrhage ⁵⁶
Increased presence of smooth muscle cells with decreased protease activity ⁵⁵	

CCA indicates common carotid artery; ECA, external carotid artery; and ICA, internal carotid artery.



Specific sex-related considerations

- Patch use recommended
- In symptomatic δ patients, surgery within 2 weeks of symptoms may be more critical
- δ sex might predispose to recurrent carotid artery stenosis
- Sensitivity to antiplatelet therapy may be different



Transfemoral CAS and TCAR

- Mixed results
 - No gender differences
 - Increased risk of stroke/death with TF-CAS in females
 - Smaller arteries
 - Absence of periop antiplatelet/statin
 - Hypotension postop
- Outcomes for TCAR compared to CEA – limited data
 - No significant gender differences in stroke and stroke/death

Ref 26-28



Transfemoral CAS and TCAR

Trial and nontrial data provided mixed results on the outcome of TF-CAS in women as compared to men. Several studies, however, demonstrate worse results with TF-CAS in women when compared to results of CEA in women. At this time, there are limited data available on the results of TCAR in women as compared to men



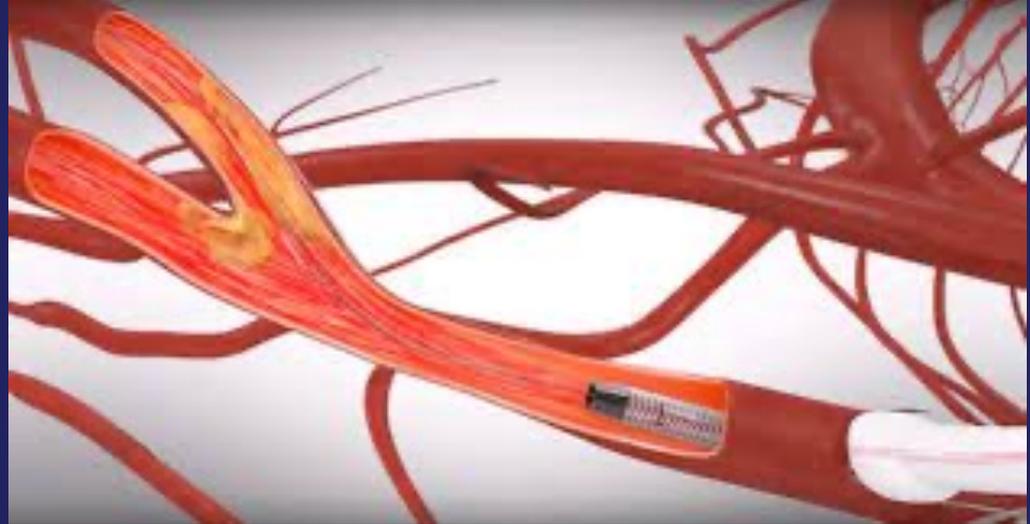
Choice of intervention in ♀

- Is intervention for carotid artery disease less appropriate in women especially when asymptomatic??
 - Increased periop and periprocedural stroke rate – widely varied results, newer studies do not confirm the older RCT, pervasive underrepresentation
 - Even if slightly higher, when compared to historical rates of BMT there is no data to suggest perioperative stroke rates are high enough to treat with BMT alone in severe or symptomatic carotid disease



Choice of intervention in ♂

- CEA, TF-CAS, and TCAR all good options
 - CEA, use patch or eversion, avoid primary closure
 - TCAR possibly lower stroke and death rates in both males and females
 - If TCAR not appropriate, TF-CAS can be considered if vessel size within IFU



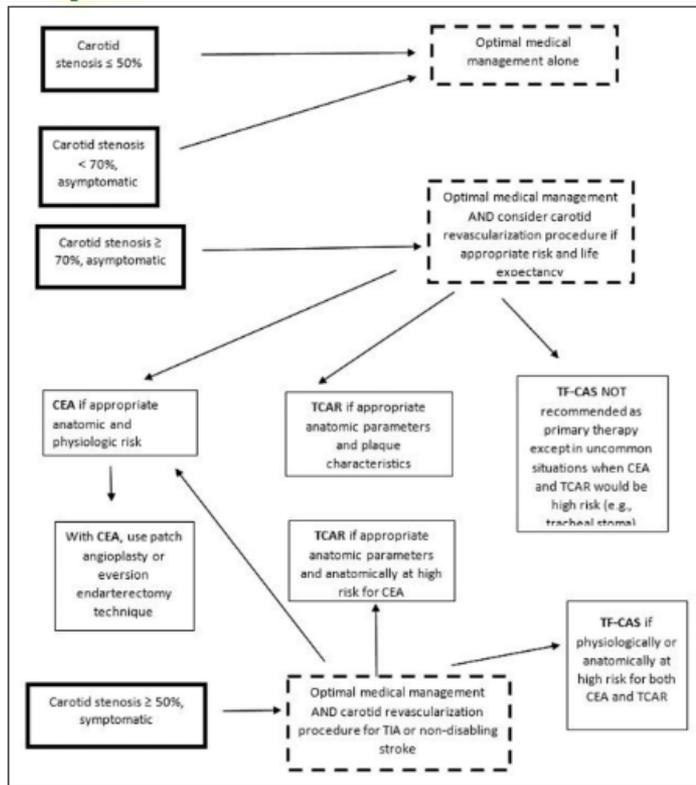


Figure 3. Algorithm for the management of carotid stenosis in women. CEA indicates carotid endarterectomy; TCAR, transcarotid artery revascularization; TF-CAS, transfemoral CAS; and TIA, transient ischemic attack.



Conclusion

- Stroke and cerebrovascular disease are prevalent in women
- Biological and other gender differences exist
- Women experience worse disability and higher mortality following ischemic stroke
- The outcome of stroke in women may be worse due to many factors, including access to care and unconscious bias on the part of treating practitioners



Conclusion

- Making management recommendations is challenging given the underrepresentation of ð in most clinical trials
- Although some data suggest that women might have worse periprocedural outcomes as compared to men following all carotid interventions, there is also an abundance of data to support a similar risk profile for carotid procedures in men and women, especially with CEA and TCAR



Conclusion

- Indications for carotid revascularization not gender specific
- The choice of a carotid revascularization procedure is not gender specific and requires careful evaluation of a particular patient's risk profile, anatomic criteria, plaque morphology, and medical comorbidities that might favor one technique over the other
- When performing carotid revascularization procedures in ♀, consider tailored techniques and procedures to address the small diameter of the arteries



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