

Identifying Opportunity in Challenge

Few if any vascular interventional procedures are currently generating as much interest, inquiry, and enthusiasm as renal denervation for the treatment of resistant hypertension. Given the continued rise of peripheral vascular intervention around the globe, that's really saying something.

Renal denervation has moved from concept to reality, and concrete data are now available for scrutiny. Although we have learned a considerable amount from the early large-scale trials and smaller single-center experiences, we have perhaps been presented with as many new questions as we have answers. This is not uncommon with a procedure in its relative nascence. However, it is at this critical stage in a new procedure's lifespan that extreme care must be taken not to damage its potential by overhyping—or worse, overusing—it.

We have put together an exciting edition of *Endovascular Today* focusing on both the key questions that have been answered but also those that remain. We are fortunate to have an international panel of contributors with profound experience in the procedure, its trials to date, and the planning of the critical next phases of evaluation. The feature begins with an overview of hypertension and the potential for renal denervation from Vikas Kapil, MD, MRCP, PhD, and Melvin D. Lobo, MD, FRCP, PhD, representing the vital perspective of the hypertension specialist. Next, Farrell O. Mendelsohn, MD, describes renal nerve anatomy and the need for robust understanding before adding denervation to one's practice. Horst Sievert, MD, and colleagues provide an insightful view into one of the most important outstanding questions—who are the nonresponders?



A series of interviews follows next, wherein we gather the unique viewpoints of Drs. Krishna Rocha-Singh, Martin Bergmann, and Thomas Lüscher, three forward-thinkers who are vastly well versed in the literature and ongoing areas of study.

This edition also includes topics of interest outside of renal denervation. We have an in-depth look at the current options available for the treatment of various visceral aneurysm presentations, provided by Mikolaj Wojtaszek, MD, PhD. In our Ask the Experts feature, we look at the challenges of renal access in fenestrated AAA repair, with experienced operators sharing their tips for successful stent delivery in this setting.

Theodore L. Schreiber, MD, and I participate in a pair of interviews on the progress and potential of robotics in vascular intervention, describing our experiences and what we might expect in the not-so-distant future, and talented interventionist Jos van den Berg, MD, PhD, and colleagues provide examples of covered stent utility in a variety of settings. We are also very grateful for our continued collaboration with the foremost physician expert in the procedural coding arena, as Dr. Katherine Krol shares key dos and don'ts regarding coding for diagnostic angiography. Finally, we close this month's edition with a look inside the busy practice of vascular surgeon Robert Y. Rhee, MD, who discusses trends and preferences in aortic and peripheral care.

We hope you find each of these articles helpful in your endeavors to broaden your practice, and we thank each of this month's participating authors for taking the time to share such stimulating insights. ■

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Chief Medical Editor