

# **Extending The Stent Into The IVC During Iliac Venous Reconstruction Is Frequently Needed And It Increases Thrombotic Complications**

**Peter Gloviczki MD, FACS**

Joe M. and Ruth Roberts Emeritus Professor of Surgery,  
Chair, Emeritus, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery,  
Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN, USA  
Editor-In-Chief, Journal of Vascular Surgery

# **No Conflict of Interest**

## Factors Associated with Contralateral Deep Venous Thrombosis after Iliocaval Venous Stenting

S.A. Khairy<sup>a</sup>, R.J. Neves<sup>b</sup>, O. Hartung<sup>c</sup>, G.J. O'Sullivan<sup>d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Assiut University Hospital, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt

<sup>b</sup>Department of Angiology and Vascular Surgery and Department of Biomedical Sciences, Hospital São João, EPE, Porto, Portugal

<sup>c</sup>Department of Vascular Surgery, CHU Nord, Marseille, France

<sup>d</sup>Department of Interventional Radiology, University College Hospital of Galway, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

### WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

This study suggests that placement of iliac venous stents across the iliac associated with a low incidence of contralateral iliac DVT, and if this occurs with good results. Acute DVT, pre-operative contralateral IIV thrombosis, non-compliance, and malignant compression are significant factors for contralateral DVT.

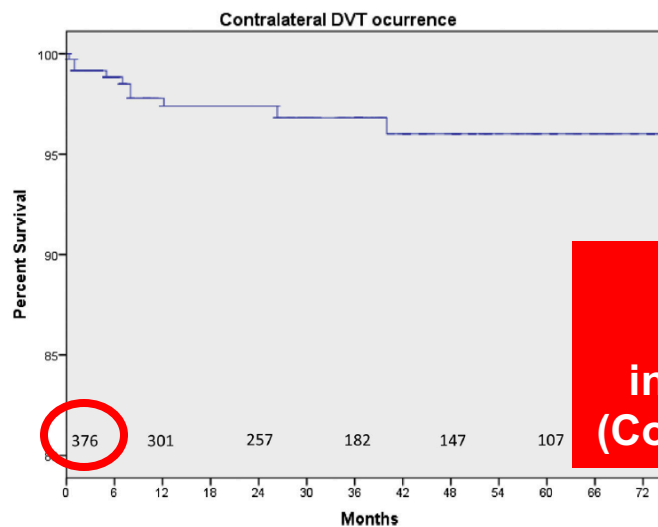
**Background:** The majority of iliac venous obstructions occur on the left and become the first line treatment for this condition. A left common iliac vein (IVC) to some extent, thereby covering the contralateral common iliac vein. The aim of the study was to evaluate the risk factors associated with contralateral lower limb venous thrombosis results of salvage revascularisation.

**Methods:** A total of 376 patients (102 from UCH, Galway, Ireland, 2008–2010; 274 from UCH, Galway, Ireland, 2011–2015) with symptomatic acute or chronic left iliac venous obstruction were evaluated. Either duplex ultrasound scanning (DUS) or computed tomography (CT) pre- and post-operative imaging. Data were collected from the PACS system, Department, UCH, Galway, and from the electronic medical records of Marseille.

**Results:** The median age of stented patients was 46 (range 15–86 years). After left CIV stent placement, 10 patients later presented with a right (contralateral) DVT, resulting in a cumulative incidence of contralateral DVT of 4% according to Kaplan-Meier analysis. Acute DVT ( $p = .001$ ), non-compliance with the prescribed 6 months anticoagulation ( $p = 0.05$ ), pre-operative contralateral internal iliac vein (IIV) thrombosis ( $p = 0.001$ ), and pre-existing IVC filter placement ( $p = 0.003$ ) were all statistically significantly associated with contralateral DVT. All patients with symptomatic contralateral iliac DVT underwent clot removal in the acute phase. The primary patency of these limbs was 100% at 3 years.

**Conclusion:** Stent placement across the iliac confluence from the left CIV is associated with a low but definite rate of contralateral iliac vein thrombosis. Acute DVT, pre-operative contralateral IIV thrombosis, pre-existing IVC filters, and anticoagulation non-compliance are significant risk factors.

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4%

324 (86%) had extension into IVC by >2 cm (Complete coverage)

### Risk Factors

- Extension into IVC by >2 cm
- Acute DVT
- Previous contralateral DVT
- Anticoagulation non-compliance
- Pre-existing IVC filter



## Stenting of the venous outflow in chronic venous disease: Long-term stent-related outcome, clinical, and hemodynamic result

Peter Neglén, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Kathryn C. Hollis, BA,<sup>a</sup> Jake Olivier, PhD,<sup>b</sup> and Seshadri Raju, MD,<sup>b</sup>  
Jackson, Miss

**Background:** Stenting of chronic nonmalignant obstruction in the venous outflow tract started in earnest in 1997. Data sets are now available to perform long-term analysis of stent-related outcome and clinical and hemodynamic results of this intervention.

**Materials:** From 1997 to 2005, 982 chronic nonmalignant obstructive lesions of the femoroiliacaval vein were stented under intravascular ultrasound guidance. Median patient age was 54 years (range, 14 to 90 years), the female/male was 2.6:1, and left/right limb symptoms, 2.4:1. Clinical score of CEAP was 2 in 7%, 3 in 47%, 4 in 24%, 5 in 5%, and 6 in 17%; primary/secondary etiology was 518:464. Stent-related outcome (morbidity, thrombotic events, patency, in-stent recurrent stenosis), clinical outcome, quality of life (QOL) as assessed by the Chronic Venous Insufficiency Quality of Life Questionnaire (CIVIQ), and hemodynamics were evaluated before and after intervention.

**Result:** Monitoring for 94% of patients lasted a mean 22 months (range, 1 to 107 months). Stenting was performed with no mortality (<30 days) and low morbidity. Thrombotic events were rare (1.5%) during the postoperative period (<30 days) and during late follow-up (3%). At 72 months, primary, assisted-primary, and secondary cumulative patency rates were 79%, 100%, and 100% in nonthrombotic disease and 57%, 80%, and 86% in thrombotic disease, respectively. Cumulative rate of severe in-stent restenosis occurred in 5% of limbs at 72 months (10% in thrombotic limbs, 1% in nonthrombotic limbs). The main cause of severe in-stent restenosis was intimal hyperplasia. Factors associated with stent occlusion were the presence and severity of thrombotic disease; thrombophilia by itself was not associated with stent occlusion. Postoperative pain score and degree of swelling decreased

significantly poststroke  
present to 11% and  
62% and 32%, respec  
categories. Mean h  
limbs with no con  
superficial reflux in  
**Conclusions:** Venou  
rate of in-stent res  
consistently reflecte

clinical outcome occurred regardless of presence of remaining reflux, adjunct saphenous procedures, or etiology of obstruction. (J Vasc Surg 2007;46:979-90.)

**“Contralateral iliac vein thrombosis due to the IVC stent extension was generally benign and infrequent (1%).”**



# The incidence of contralateral iliac venous thrombosis after stenting across the ilio caval confluence in patients with acute or chronic venous outflow obstruction

Xzabia A. Caliste, MD,<sup>a</sup> Amanda L. Clark, BS,<sup>a</sup> Adam J. Doyle, MD,<sup>a</sup> John P. Cullen, PhD,<sup>a</sup> and David L. Gillespie, MD,<sup>b</sup> Rochester, NY; and Fall River/New Bedford, Mass

**Objective:** Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty with stenting of the iliac veins is the method of choice to treat patients with symptomatic lower extremity venous outflow obstruction. The optimal method of performing this technique remains to be solved, however. One question in particular is

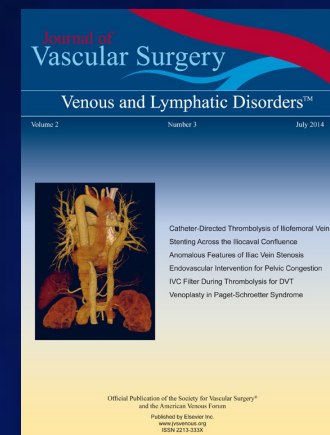
that when braided stainless steel stents (Medtronic AVE, Scientific, Natick, Mass) are used, do they extend into the vena cava and cause fear of causing thrombosis of the contralateral iliofemoral vein? It is unclear if venous stents significantly increase the risk of the inferior vena cava (IVC) thrombosis with disease of the common iliac vein. The aim of this study was to determine the risk of venous stents extending to thrombosis of a non-stented vein.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed data from 2008 to 2012 for patients with chronic ilio caval venous outflow obstruction who underwent percutaneous angioplasty and stenting. Data were collected by use of a prospectively maintained database variable. The primary outcome was contralateral IVC thrombosis.

**Results:** In 41 patients (mean age 68.8 ± 8.0 years), 200 ilio caval stents were placed. 41 received ipsilateral stents that extended into the IVC and completely across the contralateral common iliac vein orifice; 39 (95%) of these had venous outflow obstruction as a result

of thrombotic disease. In 22 patients (54%), post-thrombotic disease involved the IVC. All patients had stents that extended into the IVC, crossing the normal contralateral iliac vein orifice completely. Most patients (97.5%) were maintained by full anticoagulation with warfarin or low-molecular-weight

- **4/41 (9.7%) patients with stents extended over the contralateral iliac vein into the IVC had contralateral DVT at a mean of 10 months ( 0-30 months)**



From the American Venous Forum

## Deep venous thrombosis associated with caval extension of iliac stents



Erin H. Murphy, MD, Blake Johns, BS, Elliot Varney, BS, William Buck, BBA, MS, Arjun Jayaraj, MD, MPH, RPVI, and Seshadri Raju, MD, FACS, Jackson, Miss

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** It is generally difficult to place an iliac vein stent precisely at the ilio caval junction with venographic control or even with intravascular ultrasound guidance. Furthermore, mechanical properties of the Wallstent (Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Mass) can predispose precisely placed stents to distal displacement or stent collapse. Our center has thus advocated extending Wallstents 3 to 5 cm into the inferior vena cava to prevent complications of missed proximal lesions or stent migration. This technique has gradually been accepted, and concerns of jailing of contralateral flow were not initially recognized. We analyzed deep venous thrombosis (DVT) incidence following ilio caval stenting with two alternative techniques: (1) Wallstents with 3- to 5-cm extension into the inferior vena cava; and (2) a modified Z-stent (Cook Medical, Bloomington, Ind) technique, in which overlapping Wallstents end at the iliac confluence and caval extension is performed with a Z-stent placed at the top of the stack. The function of the Z-stent is to provide improved radial force at the ilio caval confluence and to prevent jailing of contralateral flow with larger stent interstices.

**Methods:** There were 755 limbs with consecutive Wallstent caval extensions (2006-2010) and 982 limbs with Z-stent extensions (2011-2015) analyzed for DVT incidence postoperatively.

**Results:** Demographics were similar for both groups. Mean age was 56 and 58 years in the Wallstent and Z-stent groups, respectively. There was a female predominance (Wallstent, 69%; Z-stent, 67%) and a higher incidence of left-sided disease (Wallstent, 66%; Z-stent, 56%) in both groups. There was a slightly higher incidence of post-thrombotic disease in the Z-stent subgroup (Wallstent, 53%; Z-stent, 68%). Cumulative freedom from contralateral DVT was 99% and 90% in the Z-stent and Wallstent groups, respectively ( $P < .001$ ) during the 5 years following stent placement. However, all three patients with DVT contralateral to a Z-stent actually had high placement of the Wallstent across the confluence. Thus, no patients with proper Z-stent technique had a contralateral DVT. Cumulative freedom from ipsilateral DVT was 97% and 82% in the Z-stent and Wallstent groups, respectively ( $P < .001$ ) during the 5 years following stent placement. The decrease in incidence of ipsilateral DVT appeared to be attributable to decreased missed distal lesions with increased operator experience and not attributable to the Z-stent itself.

**Conclusions:** Contralateral DVT incidence was significantly lower with the Z-stent modification. In addition, the Z-stent modification provides greater radial strength at the iliac-caval confluence and simplifies simultaneous or sequential bilateral stenting. Use of proper technique and intravascular ultrasound is essential to limit the incidence of ipsilateral DVT. (J Vasc Surg Venous and Lym Dis 2017;5:8-17.)

Endovascular stenting has become the first-line treatment for patients with symptomatic iliofemoral stenosis or occlusion. Excellent clinical outcomes and patency can be achieved with adherence to the basic

vascular principle of establishing adequate inflow and outflow. In most cases, the outflow component requires stenting of the proximal common iliac vein (CIV), which is a typical location of densely fibrotic venous lesions and is considered an anatomic choke point.

Proper stenting of the proximal CIV can be challenging for two primary reasons: (1) the difficulty in accurately locating the iliac vein confluence on venography; and (2) the limitations of current stent technology, which can lead to either cranial stent collapse with coning or downward stent migration when stents are positioned exactly at the confluence.

To mitigate the difficulties of landing stents at the confluence, it has been recommended to deploy Wallstents (Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Mass) 3 to 5 cm into the inferior vena cava (IVC).<sup>1,2</sup> Initial concerns that crossing the contralateral vein could cause contralateral deep venous thrombosis (DVT) were not immediately recognized.<sup>3</sup> Over time, however, we observed patients

From The RANE Center at St Dominic's Memorial Hospital.

Author conflict of interest: E.H.M. is a consultant for Medtronic; S.R. holds a U.S. patent regarding intravascular ultrasound diagnostics in chronic venous disease and has stock in Veniti.

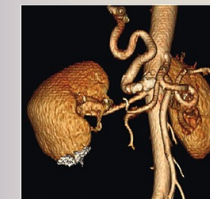
Presented at the Plenary Session of the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the American Venous Forum, Orlando, Fla, February 24-26, 2016.

Correspondence: Erin H. Murphy, MD, The RANE Center at St Dominic's Memorial Hospital, 971 Lakeland Dr, East Tower, Ste 401, Jackson, MS 39216 (e-mail: erinmurphy79@gmail.com).

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Deep Vein Thrombosis Due to Caval Extension of Iliac Stents

Outcome of Noncatheter-Associated Upper-Extremity Deep Venous Thrombosis

Long-Term Complications of IVC Filters

Stenting of the Chronically Occluded IVC

MRV Image Fusion to Guide Stenting for Central Venous Occlusion

The Bull's Eye Sign and Need for Intravascular Ultrasound

Practice Patterns of Endovenous Ablation Therapy

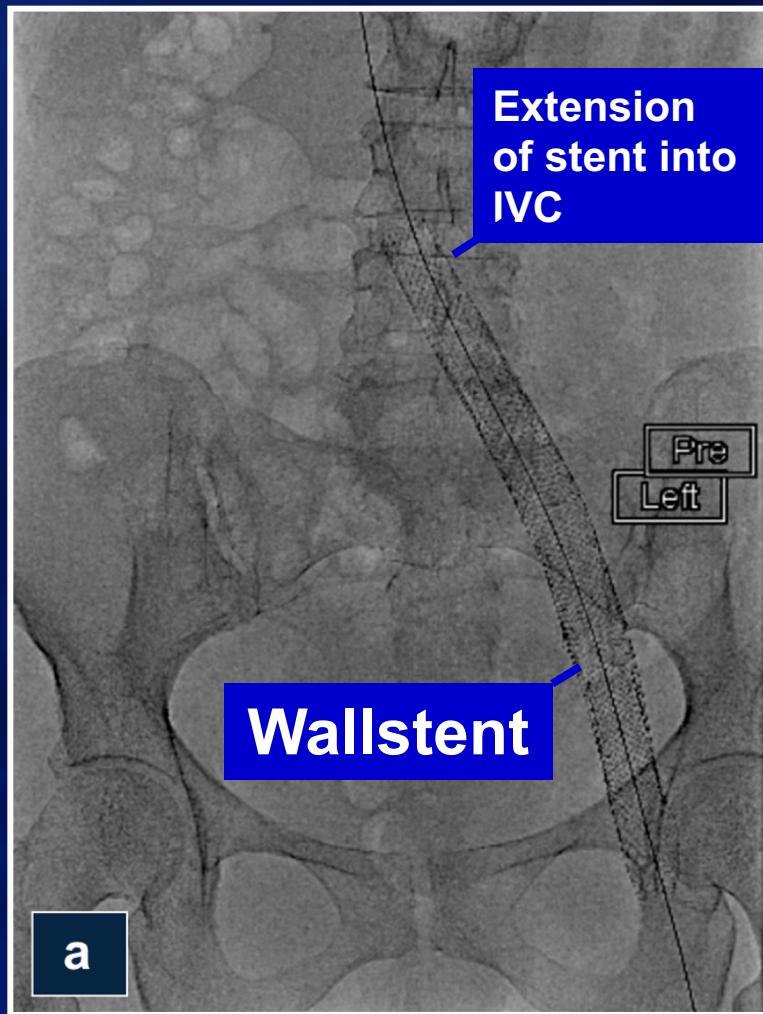
The Origin of Superficial Venous Reflux



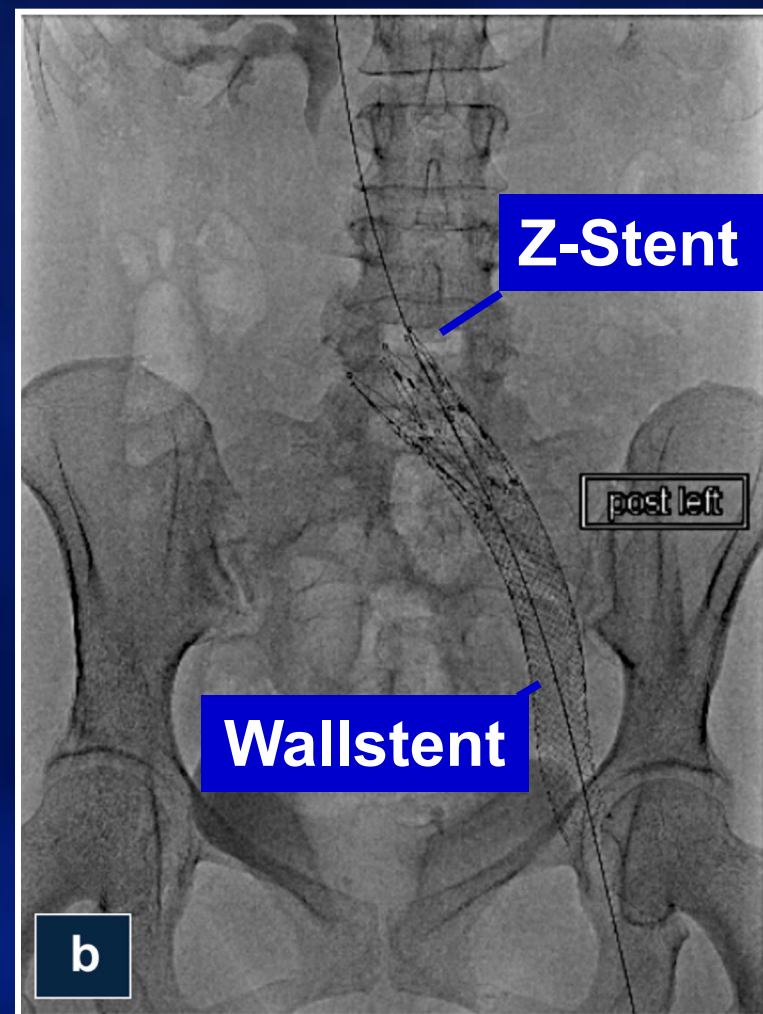
[www.jvsv.org](http://www.jvsv.org)

# J Vasc Surg Venous and Lym Dis 2017;5:8-17

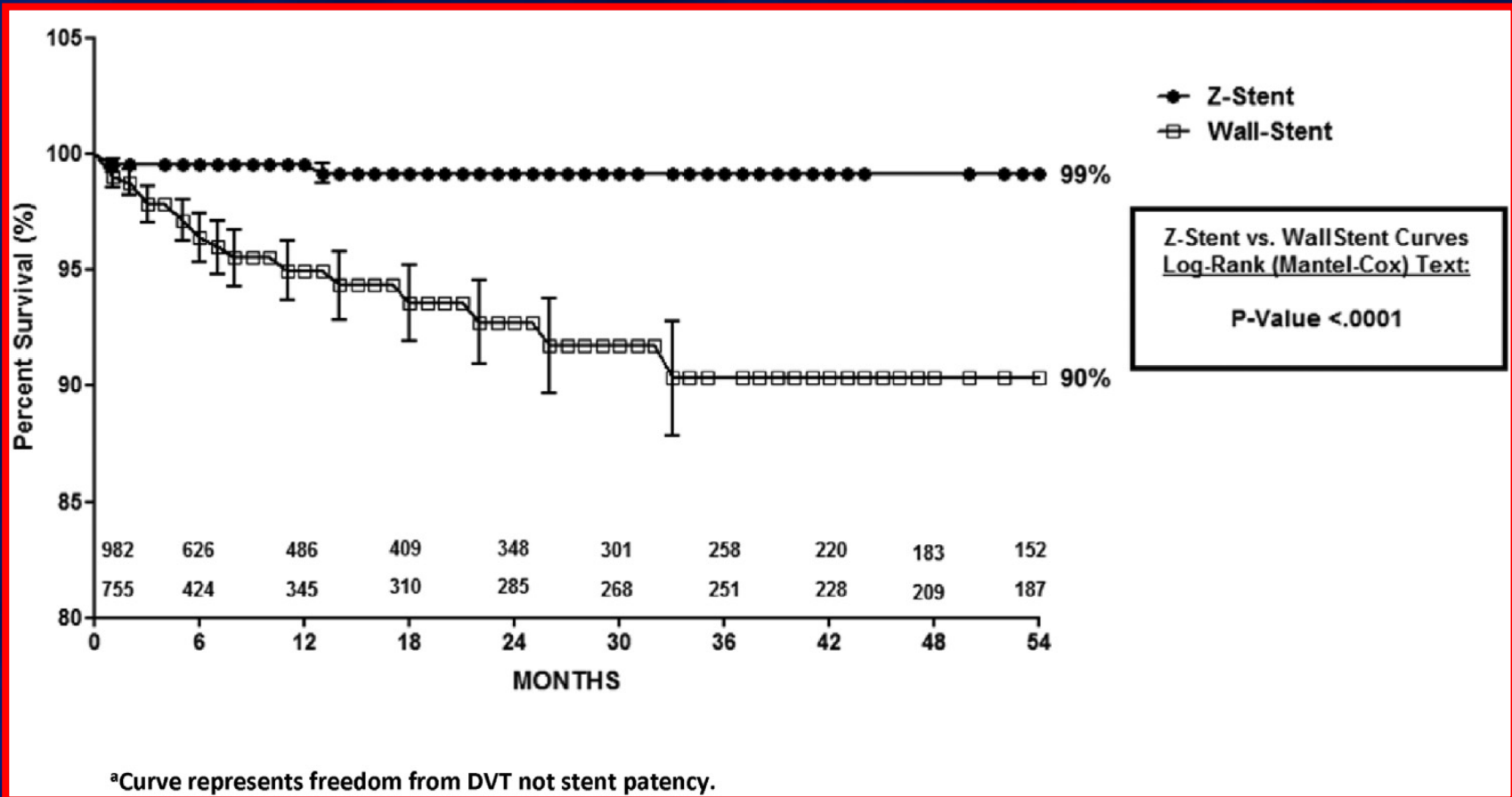
755 patients



982 patients



# Freedom from Contralateral DVT



Contralateral DVT at a mean of 47.5 +/- 37.8 months  
(Range: 9 days -111 months)



## Factors Associated with Contralateral Deep Venous Thrombosis after Iliocaval Venous Stenting

S.A. Khairy<sup>a</sup>, R.J. Neves<sup>b</sup>, O. Hartung<sup>c</sup>, G.J. O'Sullivan<sup>d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Assiut University Hospital, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt

<sup>b</sup> Department of Angiology and Vascular Surgery and Department of Biomedical Sciences, Hospital São João, EPE, Porto, Portugal

<sup>c</sup> Department of Vascular Surgery, CHU Nord, Marseille, France

<sup>d</sup> Department of Interventional Radiology, University College Hospital of Galway, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

### WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

This study suggests that placement of iliac venous stents across the iliocaval confluence is a safe procedure. It is associated with a low incidence of contralateral iliac DVT, and if this occurs, early clot removal may be performed with good results. Acute DVT, pre-operative contralateral IIV thrombosis, pre-existing IVC filters, anticoagulation non-compliance, and malignant compression are factors associated with contralateral DVT.

**Background:** The majority of iliac venous obstructions become the first line treatment for this condition. Stenting of the inferior vena cava (IVC) to some extent, thereby covering the IVC, increases the risk of thrombosis of the contralateral iliac vein and factors associated with, contralateral lower extremity DVT, and results of salvage revascularisation.

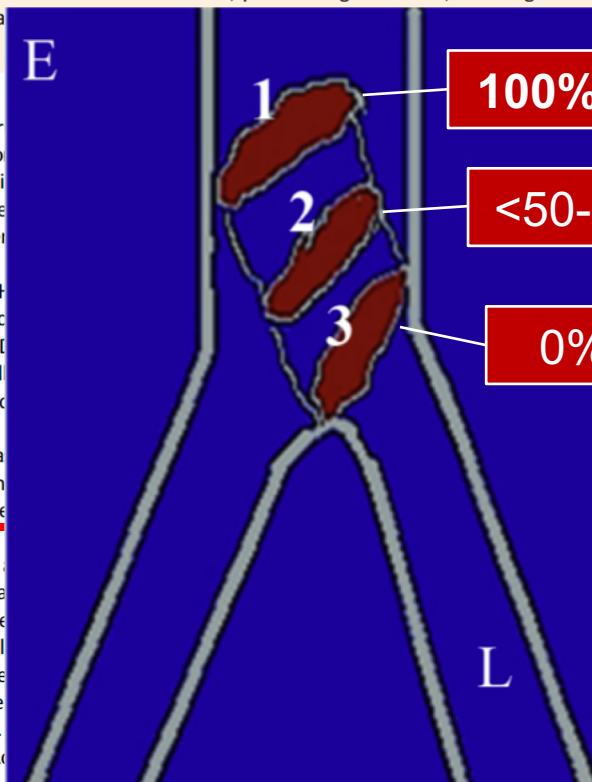
**Methods:** A total of 376 patients (102 from UCH, France, 2000–15) with symptomatic acute or chronic IVC obstruction were evaluated. Either duplex ultrasound scanning (DUS) or CT venography (CTV) pre- and post-operative imaging. Data were collected from the Department, UCH, Galway, and from the electronic medical records in Marseille.

**Results:** The median age of stented patients was 65 years. After left CIV stent placement, 10 patients later presented with contralateral DVT, resulting in a cumulative incidence of contralateral DVT of 2.6% ( $p = .001$ ), non-compliance with the prescribed anticoagulation ( $p = 0.001$ ), internal iliac vein (IIV) thrombosis ( $p = 0.001$ ), and IVC filter placement were statistically significantly associated with contralateral DVT. The patients who underwent clot removal in the acute phase. The median time to clot removal was 10 days.

**Conclusion:** Stent placement across the iliocaval confluence is a safe procedure. The rate of contralateral iliac vein thrombosis. Acute DVT, pre-operative contralateral IIV thrombosis, pre-existing IVC filters, and anticoagulation non-compliance are factors associated with contralateral DVT.

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**Keywords:** Post-thrombotic, Iliac venous stent, Contralateral DVT, Iliocaval confluence, Iliac vein thrombosis, IVC filter, Anticoagulation non-compliance, Malignant compression, Salvage revascularisation.

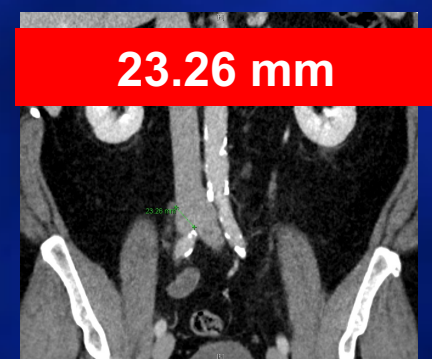
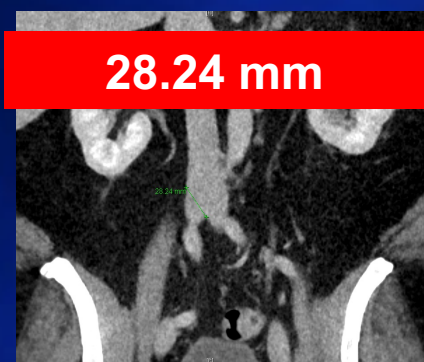
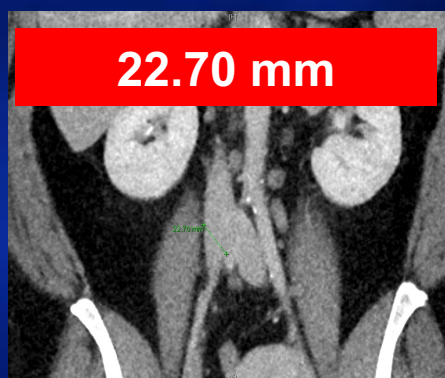
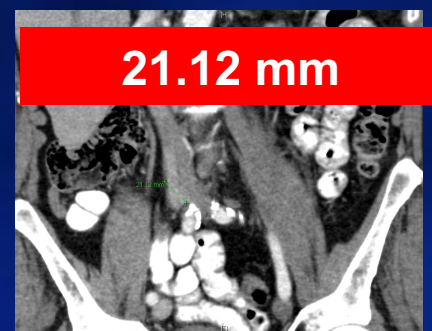
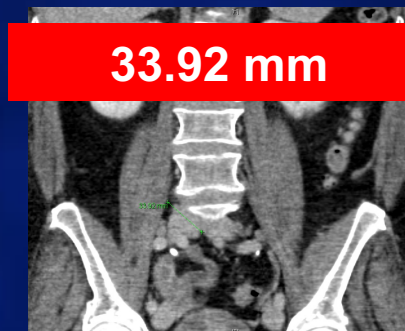
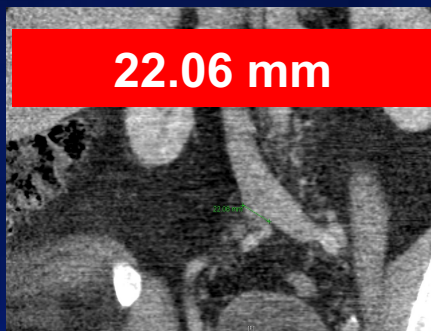




# Iliac Bifurcation – IVC Distance



**8 of 10 patients had  
iliac – IVC distance >2.0 cm:  
Mean: 2.45 cm, Range: 21.12 – 33.92 cm**





# Contralateral Deep Vein Thrombosis after Iliac Vein Stent Placement in Patients with May-Thurner Syndrome

Trong Binh Le, MD, PhD, Taeg Ki Lee, MD, Keun-Myoung Park, MD, Yong Sun Jeon, MD, PhD, Kee Chun Hong, MD, PhD, and Soon Gu Cho, MD, PhD

## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To investigate the incidence and potential causes of contralateral DVT after iliac vein stent placement in patients with May-Thurner syndrome (MTS).

**Materials and Methods:** Data of 111 patients (women: 73%) who underwent iliac vein stent placement were retrospectively analyzed. Mean patient age was  $63.1 \pm 15.2$  years. Stent location was determined by venogram and classified as either confined to the iliac vein or extended to the IVC. Potential causes of contralateral DVT were analyzed according to stent location and contralateral DVT was analyzed.

**Results:** Ten patients (9%, men/women: 4/6) exhibited contralateral DVT. Median age was 69 years (range, 42–85 years). Median follow-up was 73.5 months (20–134 months). Causes of contralateral DVT were venous intimal hyperplasia (VIH) ( $n = 7$ ), “jailing” ( $n = 2$ ), and overextension to the IVC. Overextension of CIV stent was associated with contralateral CIV stent was 70% at 20 months.

**Conclusions:** Contralateral DVT after CIV stent implantation has been reported. Overextension of the CIV stent to the IVC is associated with contralateral DVT as a potential cause.

### Iliac vein stenting/MTS (n=111)

Mean age:  $63.1 \pm 15.2$  years

Female/male: 73%/27%

Median follow-up: 36 months (1-142 months)

### Contralateral DVT (n=10)

Median age: 69 years (42-85 years)

Female/Male: 6/4

Median detection timing: 40 months (6-98 months)

Median follow-up: 73.5 months (20-134 months)

*J Vasc Interv Radiol 2018; 29:774–780*



# Contralateral Deep Vein Thrombosis after Iliac Vein Stent Placement in Patients with May-Thurner Syndrome

Trong Binh Le, MD, PhD, Taeg Ki Lee, MD, Keun-Myoung Park, MD, Yong Sun Jeon, MD, PhD, Kee Chun Hong, MD, PhD, and Soon Gu Cho, MD, PhD

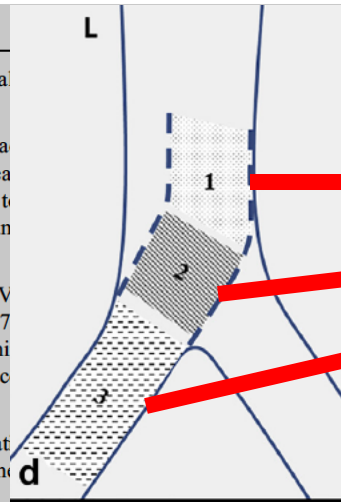
## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To investigate the incidence and potential causes of contralateral stent placement in patients with May-Thurner syndrome (MTS).

**Materials and Methods:** Data of 111 patients (women: 73%) who had MTS at our center were retrospectively analyzed. Mean patient age was  $63.1 \pm 15.2$  years. Stent location was determined by venogram and classified as extended to the iliac vein, confined to the iliac vein. Potential causes of contralateral DVT were presumed stent location and contralateral DVT was analyzed.

**Results:** Ten patients (9%, men/women: 4/6) exhibited contralateral DVT. Median age was 69 years (range, 42–85 years). Median follow-up was 7 months. Causes of contralateral DVT were venous intimal hyperplasia (VIH) ( $n = 7$ ), “jailing” ( $n = 2$ ), and indeterminate ( $n = 1$ ). Overextension of CIV stent was associated with contralateral CIV stent was 70% at 20 months.

**Conclusions:** Contralateral DVT after CIV stent implantation has a relationship with stent location. Overextension of the CIV stent to the IVC is associated with development of contralateral DVT, which should be considered a potential cause.



## Contralateral DVT

8/25	32%	<.01
2/39	5.1%	.29
0/47	0%	<.01

late during follow-up. should be considered a

*J Vasc Interv Radiol 2018; 29:774–780*



**IVC**

A 3D diagram of a blue, cylindrical IVC filter with white, curved struts. A white circle highlights the front portion of the filter, and a white line connects this circle to the 'IVC' label. Another white line connects the bottom of the filter to the 'Iliac stent' label.

**Iliac  
stent**



**IVC**



The diagram illustrates the placement of an Iliac stent within the IVC. It features two blue, ribbed cylindrical structures representing the stents. One stent is positioned horizontally in the upper right, and the other is positioned diagonally in the lower left. A white circle highlights the upper portion of the horizontal stent. A white box labeled 'IVC' is connected by a line to the upper portion of the diagonal stent. Another white box labeled 'Iliac stent' is connected by a line to the lower portion of the diagonal stent.

**Iliac  
stent**

From the American Venous Forum

## Long-term clinical outcomes and technical factors with the Wallstent for treatment of chronic iliofemoral venous obstruction

Paul J. Gagne, MD,<sup>a</sup> Nicole Gagne, BA,<sup>b</sup> Taras Kucher, MD,<sup>a</sup> Michael Thompson, RN,<sup>c</sup> and Dana Bentley, BA,<sup>d</sup>  
*Darien and Norwalk, Conn; and New York, NY*

### ABSTRACT

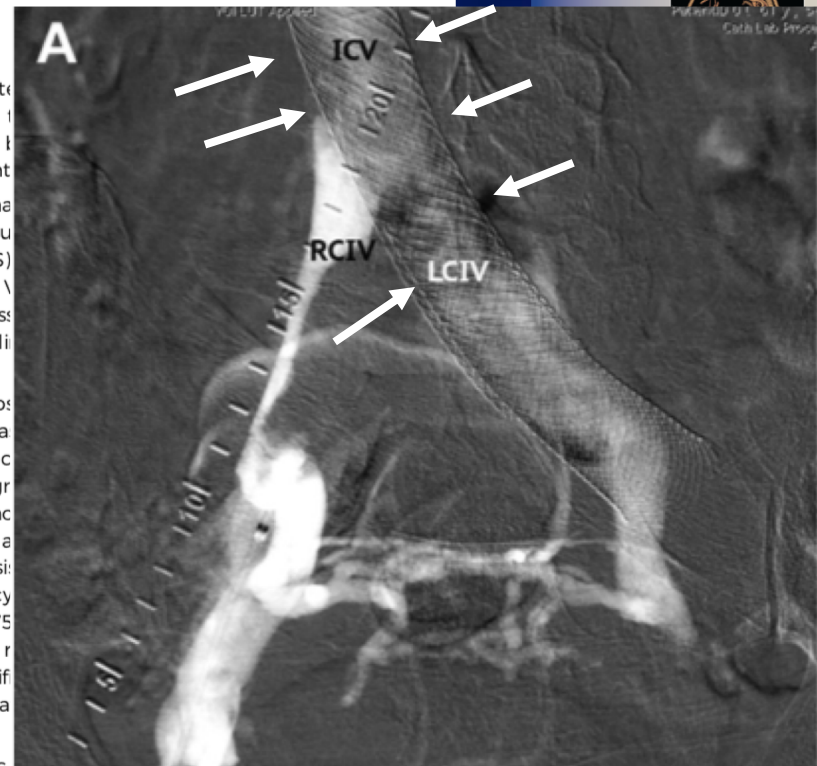
**Background:** Factors affecting long-term clinical outcome and stent patency after complex and ill-defined. Also, consensus is lacking among clinicians regarding the use of the Wallstent (Boston Scientific, Marlborough, Mass) as dedicated nitinol-based venous stents. This study to review our long-term results using Wallstents and to evaluate the potential for long-term clinical outcomes.

**Methods:** From 2007 to 2014, there were 77 limbs in 67 consecutive patients with chronic iliofemoral venous obstruction. Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) and venography were used to assess baseline clinical severity was assessed with Venous Clinical Severity Score (VCSS) and Pathophysiology (CEAP) classification. Clinical improvement was assessed with a change  $\geq 4$  points was considered significant improvement. Patency was assessed by a retrospective review of patients' records and imaging was conducted to assess baseline clinical severity with long-term clinical outcomes.

**Results:** Lesions were nonthrombotic in 42 limbs (55%) and left-sided in 48 limbs (62%). Bilateral venous disease. Patients were predominantly male (55%); median age was 65 years (range, 45-85). Baseline VCSS was 9 (range, 3-23). IVUS and venography estimated equal vessel caliber. IVUS estimated a longer lesion in 32 limbs (42%). Stenting correlated with venography. Stents extended into the common femoral vein in 35 limbs (45%). Stents extended into the inferior vena cava in 6 limbs (8%). Sixty-five (84%) patients had a 50% or greater improvement in VCSS. The overall cohort was 87%; assisted primary patency were both 95%. In the nonthrombotic subset, assisted primary patency was 97%. In the post-thrombotic subset, primary patency was 75% and secondary patency were 88%. Three early failures occurred. Eight patients required re-intervention. Five interventions were to maintain patency. Cox multivariate regression identified significant predictors of patency. At last VCSS follow-up per patient (median, 26 months), 52 patients had improvement. None had score worsening.

**Conclusions:** Venous stenting with Wallstents for iliofemoral post-thrombotic or compressive obstruction proved safe and effective through long-term follow-up, with excellent patency rates. The majority of patients exhibited significant clinical improvement. CFV occlusive disease predicts increased complications. (J Vasc Surg Venous and Lym Dis 2018;■:1-11.)

**Keywords:** Venous stent; Wallstent; Ilio-femoral veins; Post-thrombotic; Nonthrombotic; IVUS



**3/6 had reintervention because of jailing of RIV**

J Vasc Surg Venous and Lym.  
2019, in press



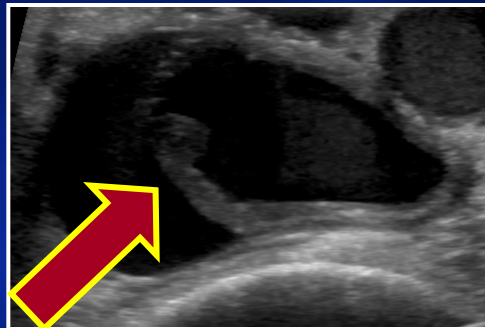
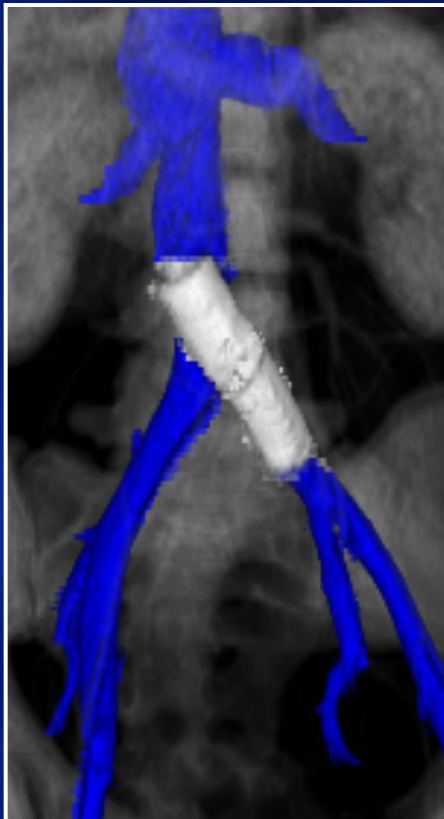
## VENOUS AND ENDOVENOUS TECHNIQUES

### Open surgical removal of iliac vein Wallstents with excision of pseudointima obstructing the contralateral iliac vein



Animesh Rathore, MD, Peter Gloviczki, MD, and Haraldur Bjarnason, MD, Rochester, Minn

Persistent pain after iliac vein stenting is rare. Surgical removal of two oversized (20-mm) iliac vein stents was performed in a 36-year-old woman because of severe back pain of 2½ years' duration. Clamping or venotomy were not required for stent removal, which was done by extraction of each wire of the stent through small puncture wounds in the vein wall. Duplex scanning confirmed residual pseudointima obstructing the orifice of the right common iliac vein. The pseudointima was surgically removed. The patient recovered without complications, and her pain completely resolved. (J Vasc Surg: Venous and Lym Dis 2016;4:525-9.)





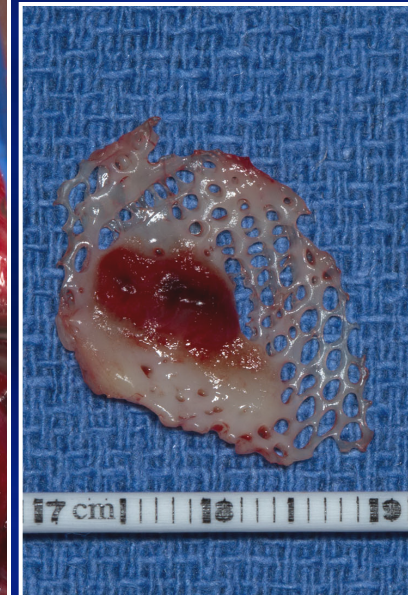
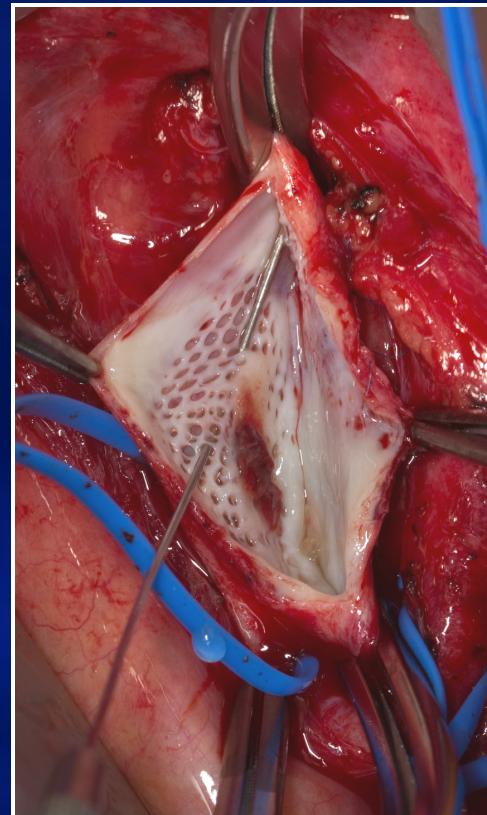
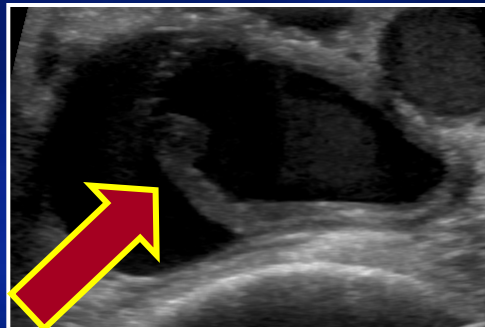
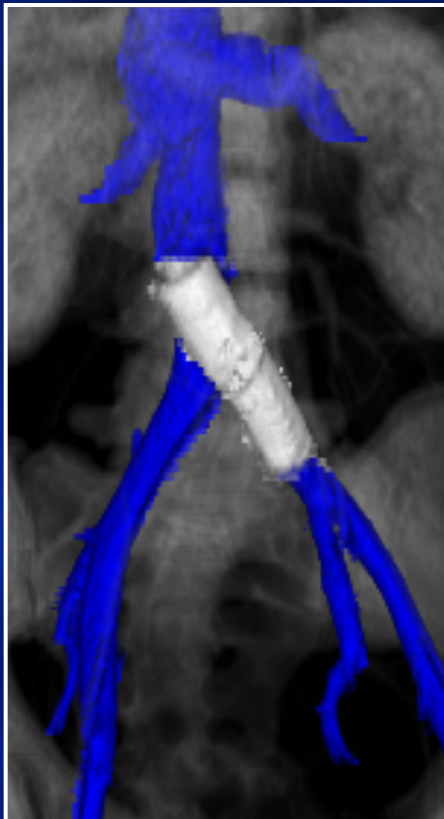
# VENOUS AND ENDOVENOUS TECHNIQUES

## Open surgical removal of iliac vein Wallstents with excision of pseudointima obstructing the contralateral iliac vein



Animesh Rathore, MD, Peter Gloviczki, MD, and Haraldur Bjarnason, MD, Rochester, Minn

Persistent pain after iliac vein stenting is rare. Surgical removal of two oversized (20-mm) iliac vein stents was performed in a 36-year-old woman because of severe back pain of 2½ years' duration. Clamping or venotomy were not required for stent removal, which was done by extraction of each wire of the stent through small puncture wounds in the vein wall. Duplex scanning confirmed residual pseudointima obstructing the orifice of the right common iliac vein. The pseudointima was surgically removed. The patient recovered without complications, and her pain completely resolved. (J Vasc Surg: Venous and Lym Dis 2016;4:525-9.)



## Iliac vein stenting and contralateral deep vein thrombosis



Iliac vein stenting, one of the triumphs of the endovascular revolution, has transformed the management of proximal deep venous occlusive disease. A minimally invasive percutaneous procedure, stenting of the obstructed iliac and iliofemoral veins, has been used with increasing frequency since the publication of a large retrospective cohort study of 982 patients in 2007 by Neglen et al.<sup>1</sup> This report confirmed primary and secondary stent patency rates of 57% and 86% for post-thrombotic obstruction and 79% and 100% for symptomatic nonthrombotic iliac vein lesions, such as May-Thurner syndrome. A recent systematic review of iliac vein stenting analyzed data from 4959 patients and found that primary and secondary patency rates ranged from 32% to 98.7% and 66% to 96%, respectively, and healing of venous ulcers occurred in 56% to 100% of the limbs, often following the failure of conservative compression therapy alone. Still, because of lack of controlled prospective studies, the quality of evidence to support iliac vein stenting remains weak and results of multicenter prospective randomized studies like the ATTRACT<sup>2</sup> and C-TRACT<sup>3</sup> trials are eagerly awaited.

Stenting continues to be widely accepted as an appropriate and safe procedure that should be considered for symptomatic iliac vein obstruction, but the issue of contralateral iliac vein thrombosis or stenosis, caused by extending the iliac stent into the inferior vena cava, which partially or completely obstructs the contralateral iliac vein (often termed "jailing"), has been theorized but not commonly recognized. When contralateral deep vein thrombosis (DVT) occurs after stenting, it is often considered to be a consequence of bilateral post-thrombotic disease rather than a complication of iliac vein stenting. Consequently, reports on contralateral DVT following iliac vein stenting have been scarce, with an incidence ranging from 1.1% to 2.2%.<sup>1,4,5</sup>

During an open surgical procedure, where a previously placed iliac vein stent was removed for severe pelvic pain, we (P.G.) recently observed partial occlusion of the contralateral iliac vein by pseudointima, with limited flow through very small interstices of a Wallstent (Boston Scientific, Natick, Mass), which had been extended into the vena cava.<sup>6</sup> "Jailing" of the contralateral iliac flow by a Wallstent protruding into the inferior vena cava was previously reported by Raju et al.<sup>7</sup> Consequently, they modified their technique by placing a Gianturco Z-stent

(Cook Medical, Bloomington, Ind), with large interstices, on top of the Wallstent, to both prevent jailing and improve the radial force at the ilio caval junction.

In the current issue of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery: Venous and Lymphatic Disorders*, Murphy et al.<sup>8</sup> compared results of iliac vein stenting in 982 limbs when using the Gianturco Z-stent extensions (placed between 2011-2015), with results in 755 limbs treated with Wallstent alone, frequently with caval extension (placed between 2006-2010), to treat iliac vein obstruction. Five-year freedom from contralateral DVT was 99% in the Z-stent modification group and only 90% in the Wallstent extension group ( $P < .001$ ). In addition, all three patients with contralateral DVT, who had the Z-stent, also had high placement of the Wallstent into the inferior vena cava. Therefore, no patients with a properly placed Z-stent technique had a contralateral DVT.

The technical modification of using a proximal stent extension with very large interstices seems to have an excellent likelihood of preventing the development of a contralateral iliac vein obstruction by a pseudointima mesh formed in the stent. However, it will be important for other studies to confirm the findings of Murphy et al.<sup>8</sup> with even longer-term results since the patient population undergoing this procedure is often young, so they need excellent life-long results.

Although evidence is increasing that the use of Wallstents, which have small interstices, extending into the vena cava from the iliac vein may lead to the development of an occlusive pseudointima, which may provoke swelling or contralateral DVT, it is also likely that other balloon-expandable stents of a similar configuration with similar small interstices will also develop a pseudointima that may cause jailing of the contralateral iliac vein, with reduced iliac flow. Until better venous stents are developed, one way to avoid this problem is by using the Z-stent modification or by using stents that are cut at 45 degrees at their upper end, where available, to prevent jailing. The technique of extending a Wallstent into the inferior vena cava during iliac vein stenting should be abandoned.

Peter Glociczki, MD

Peter F. Lawrence, MD

Editors, Journal of Vascular Surgery Publications

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Deep Vein Thrombosis Due to Caval Extension of Iliac Stents  
Outcome of Noncatheter-Associated Upper-Extremity Deep Venous Thrombosis  
Long-Term Complications of IVC Filters  
Stenting of the Chronically Occluded IVC  
MRV Image Fusion to Guide Stenting for Central Venous Occlusion  
The Bull's Eye Sign and Need for Intravascular Ultrasound  
Practice Patterns of Endovenous Ablation Therapy  
The Origin of Superficial Venous Reflux



The technique of extending a Wallstent into the inferior vena cava and completely covering the inflow from the contralateral iliac vein should be abandoned



## Factors Associated with Contralateral Deep Venous Thrombosis after Iliocaval Venous Stenting

S.A. Khairy <sup>a</sup>, R.J. Neves <sup>b</sup>, O. Hartung <sup>c</sup>, G.J. O'Sullivan <sup>d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Assiut University Hospital, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt

<sup>b</sup> Department of Angiology and Vascular Surgery and Department of Biomedical Sciences, Hospital São João, EPE, Porto, Portugal

<sup>c</sup> Department of Vascular Surgery, CHU Nord, Marseille, France

<sup>d</sup> Department of Interventional Radiology, University College Hospital of Galway, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

### WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

## CONCLUSION

Stent placement across the iliocaval confluence from the left CIV is associated with a low but definite rate of contralateral iliofemoral venous thrombosis. Contralateral IIV thrombosis, pre-existing IVC filters, and anticoagulation non-compliance are significant predictors, and the malignant compression effect can be considered as an associated risk factor. Subsequent right side thrombus removal presents good long-term results. Future stent development may attempt to eliminate the need to cross into a healthy IVC and avoid the risk of secondary contralateral venous thrombosis.

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<sup>a</sup> Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Assiut University Hospital, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt

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**Extending Iliac Stent Into The IVC  
Is Frequently Needed  
BUT  
It Increases Thrombotic  
Complications**

**THANK YOU !**

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