New Sirolimus-Coated Ballon for Complex Unprotected Left Main Distal Bifurcation

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Received: February 02, 2018; Published: February 15, 2018

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Abstract

Treatment of unprotected left main (ULM) in-stent restenosis (ISR) is still highly challenging for interventional cardiologists; data are limited and the optimal strategy still debated. Drug-coated balloons (DCB) have an acknowledged role for ISR treatment. Until 2016 all DCB available in Europe eluted paclitaxel, an highly lipophilic drug with narrow therapeutic window. In April 2016 the first sirolimus-coated balloon (SCB), Magic Touch® (Envision Scientific PVT, India), obtained the CE Mark. This SCB is the first to elute sirolimus, thanks to a phospholipid nanocarrier system that allows long term drug retention in the vessel wall [2]. We here present the first case of distal bifurcation ULM ISR treated with sirolimus-coated balloons simultaneous insufflation with a kissing-balloon technique.

Keywords: Sirolimus-coated balloon; In-stent restenosis; Unprotected left main

Introduction

Treatment of unprotected left main (ULM) in-stent restenosis (ISR) is a tricky intervention, often burdened by high recurrences. Until now, limited data exist on the optimal treatment strategy. Drug-coated balloons (DCB) represent a well established treatment for both bare-metal stent (BMS) and drug-eluting stent (DES) restenosis [1]. Until 2016 all DCBs available in Europe eluted paclitaxel, an highly lipophilic drug with narrow therapeutic window. In April 2016 the first sirolimus-coated balloon (SCB), Magic Touch® (Envision Scientific PVT, India), obtained the CE Mark. This SCB is the first to elute sirolimus, thanks to a phospholipid nanocarrier system that allows long term drug retention in the vessel wall [2]. We here present the first case in Europe of ULM bifurcation ISR treated with kissing-balloon technique using two SCBs.

Case Report

A 48-year-old male arrived to our hospital with a non ST-elevation myocardial infarction. He had a well known history of coronary artery disease, having already received several percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI). Three years before the patient received a 3.5/12 DES in the left main-left anterior descending artery (LAD) because of an acute coronary syndrome. Six months later, he experienced recurrent angina, and coronary angiography showed ISR of the distal LM-ostial LAD, with significant stenosis of the ostial left circumflex artery (LCA); the patient refused coronary artery bypass and the lesion was treated with a 3.5/30 paclitaxel-coated balloon of LM-LAD, with plaque shift on the proximal LCA, where a new 3/8 DES was implanted. A scheduled coronary angiography 6 months later showed a good result of the previous PCI (Figure 1).
During index procedure, that occurred 8 months later, coronary angiography showed 80% ISR of distal LM involving the ostial LAD and LCA (Video 1). Optical-coherence tomography (OCT) (Video 2) analysis of the LM-LAD showed under-expansion of the EES previously implanted on the LM with significant neointimal hyperplasia; minimal lumen area (MLA) of ostial LAD was 1.41 mm² and the ostium of LCA was not visible (Figure 2). The procedure was performed through a right radial access with a 6 F guiding catheter. Both the LAD and LCA were wired and a kissing-balloon pre-dilation was performed using non-compliant balloons, 3.5/15 for the LM-LAD and 2.75/15 mm for the LCA. The angiography showed an adequate preparation of both lesions; therefore also in consideration of the several stent struts apposed, we programmed a only-DCB PCI. Two SCBs were simultaneously inflated with kissing-balloon technique (3.5/15 in the LM-LAD and 2.5/20mm in the LCA) (Figure 3). Final angiography showed absence of residual stenosis with TIMI 3 flow (Video 3). Final OCT analysis (Video 4) confirmed the good result of the angioplasty with good expansion of the previously implanted DES on the LM; final MLA of the distal LM was 8.9 mm² and MLA of the proximal LAD was 5.8 mm² (Figure 4). The patient was discharged after two days asymptomatic on dual anti-platelet therapy.
Discussion

DCB are widely used for ISR management and are also variably used in other settings (small vessels, bifurcation). Limited data are currently available on the optimal management of LM ISR, and the few available seem to suggest a good outcome of second generation DES (6, 7). DCB with kissing balloon technique for LM bifurcation is an attractive concept, avoiding additional metal layers in a delicate area, where an excessive shear stress may be responsible for late thrombotic events. Moreover, adding further metal struts may also modify the bifurcation carina. Compared to paclitaxel, sirolimus is less lipophilic, has a wider therapeutic window (8) and the unique nano-encapsulation process of the SCB with the phospholipid drug carrier allows an improved drug retention profile and bioavailability in atherosclerotic or restenotic lesions (2). Furthermore the latest-generation monorail delivery system, compatible with 5-Fr guiding catheters, the low-profile distal tip and the rigid hypotube, warrant an high deliverability and trackability, and make it possible to use 2 balloons contemporarily during kissing balloon inflation, reducing the risk of struts distortion with a normal 2-step inflation, as previously demonstrated by Shetty et al. [9].

In our patient the presence of 2 metal layers on LM-LAD, along with the failure of last generation EES was the main reason for a DCB strategy. The previous failure of PCBs on both LCA and LM-LAD, and the possibility to perform a kissing balloon with the Magic Touch device, were the reasons we decided for a SCB. To this day, limited data are available on the long term efficacy of SCB [10].

Conclusion

This is the first case of a LM ISR bifurcation treated with a SCB PCI with kissing balloon technique in Europe. Considering the recognized drug efficacy and safety profile, and the high deliverability and trackability of the device, the use of SCB could represent an attractive approach for complex ISRs.

References

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