Clinical Highlights

A publication delivering concise clinical data

VASCULAR CLOSURE

Same-Day Discharge/Interventional Patients

Las Cruces, New Mexico is home to Memorial Medical Center, a 230-bed community hospital established in 1950. Memorial's Cardiac Cath Lab has a 15-member staff that performs approximately 3,000 procedures annually. Dr. David Hoekenga, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P., from Cardiac Specialists of New Mexico, is a member of this cath lab team. He and the cath lab staff utilize vascular closure devices whenever possible in their daily practice.

INTRODUCTION

The Angio-Seal™Vascular Closure Device provides quick reliable hemostasis at the femoral artery puncture site, allowing clinicians to achieve early ambulation and discharge with many of their patients who have undergone catheterization procedures. The early ambulation and discharge benefits experienced with vascular closure device use are quite apparent in the diagnostic patient population, as these patients are often discharged on the same day of the procedure.Memorial Medical Center has also realized these same benefits with their interventional patient population by providing same-day discharge for many of these patients as well.

CURRENT PRACTICE

Dr. Hoekenga utilizes a vascular closure device in the majority of cath lab procedures unless patient anatomy, puncture location or other patient health issues prevent device use. This results in closure device utilization in 98% of their diagnostic cases and 85% utilization in interventional procedures. The Angio-Seal™ Device is the closure device used in all interventional cases.

Both diagnostic and interventional patients are successfully ambulated and discharged on the day of their catheterization procedure at Memorial Medical Center. Current patient protocols dictate ambulation as soon as possible after the procedure. Diagnostic patients are discharged within two hours and interventional patients are discharged within four hours.

These early ambulation and discharge protocols are followed when an Angio-Seal™ Device is used in conjunction with Angiomax.® Angiomax® is an anti-coagulant with an extremely short half life which enables patients to recover more quickly after a catheterization procedure. When paired with the Angio-Seal™ Device, it has provided Memorial's Cath Lab exceptional results with no additional patient complications.

CATH LAB OBJECTIVES

Patient comfort is a key consideration for the Memorial Medical Center staff. Dr. Hoekenga indicated he has had patients refuse

to come back for procedures simply because they could not tolerate the discomfort they previously experienced with manual pressure. By eliminating the need for manual pressure, the Angio-Seal™ Device can help to reduce patient fears, as well as patient discomfort.

"Our primary concern is always to provide the best possible care for the patient," said Patricia Chavez, R.T.(R), C.V.T. "Patients don't want to be here, they have to be here. One of our goals is to provide a better experience for the patient. The ability for patients to ambulate and be discharged as soon as possible provides much greater patient satisfaction."

Another priority for the cath lab staff is to help support other areas of the hospital by efficiently moving patients through the lab. As with many institutions, recovery room space is limited. Early ambulation and discharge of patients increases recovery room capacity, helping all areas of the hospital to be more productive. Dr. Hoekenga stated, "The efficiency of the cath lab can impact many other areas of the hospital. One of our goals is to move patients through quickly, keeping the recovery room open to allow optimal productivity."

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BENEFITS

The Memorial Medical Cath Lab staff indicated many benefits seen with the Angio-Seal™ Device:

- Potential for less trauma—Closure device use is significantly less traumatic than time of manual pressure
- Increased efficiency—Closure devices allow for more productive utilization of time and resources
- Greater staff satisfaction—No one likes manual pressure
- Greater patient satisfaction—Closure devices are more comfortable, allowing patients to move around and be discharged as soon as possible
- Fewer complications—Problems often occur when inexperienced staff applies manual pressure. Staff training on Angio-Seal™ Device deployment has been strongly supported by a local representative, and much of the staff is certified to use the device. Operators can be certified after as few as six deployments.

CONCLUSION

Memorial Medical Center has had very positive experiences using the Angio-Seal™ Device. The ability to quickly ambulate both diagnostic and interventional patients, while still providing excellent patient care, has helped the staff to improve efficiency within the cath lab and to meet the needs of the hospital as a whole.

Global Headquarters
One St. Jude Medical Drive
St. Paul, MN 55117
USA
+1 651 756 2000
+1 651 756 4310 Fax

St. Jude Medical Europe, Inc.
The Corporate Village
Avenue Da Vinci Iaan, 11 - Box F1
B-1935 - Zaventem
Belgium
+32 2 774 68 11
+32 2 772 83 84 Fax

St. Jude Medical Brasil, Ltda.
Rua Frei, Caneca 1380-9° A-CJ91/92
Sao Paulo - SP - Brasil
CEP 01307-002
+55 11 5080 5400
+55 11 5080 5423 Fax

St. Jude Medical (Hong Kong) Limited
Unit 2701-07, COSCO Tower
Grand Millenium Plaza
183 Queen's Road
Central, Hong Kong
+852 2996 7688
+852 2956 0622 Fax

sjm.com

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Brief Summary: Prior to using these devices, please review the Instructions for Use for a complete listing of indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, potential adverse events and directions for use.

Indications: St. Jude Medical Angio-Seal™ Vascular Closure Device product family, including the STS, STS Plus and VIP platforms, is indicated for use in closing and reducing time to hemostasis at the femoral arterial puncture site in patients who have undergone diagnostic angiography procedures or interventional procedures using an 8 French or smaller procedural sheath for the 8F Angio-Seal™ Device and a 6 French or smaller procedural sheath for the 6F Angio-Seal™ Device.

The Angio-Seal™ STS, STS Plus and VIP platform devices are also indicated for use to allow patients who have undergone diagnostic angiography to safely ambulate as soon as possible after sheath removal and device placement, as well as to allow patients who have undergone an interventional procedure to safely ambulate after sheath removal and device placement.

Possible adverse events for vascular closure devices include, but are not limited to: bleeding or hematoma, AV fistula or pseudoaneurysm, infection, allergic reaction, foreign body reaction, inflammation or edema.

Caution: Federal law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

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