

MANUAL OF PERCUTANEOUS TREATMENT OF CALCIFIED CORONARY LESIONS



A. Jurado Román
A. González García
D. Tébar Márquez
G. Galeote
S. Jiménez Valero
R. Moreno

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To our families



Authors

Ignacio J. Amat-Santos

Hospital Clínico Universitario, Valladolid, España

Lorenzo Azzalini

Division of Cardiology, VCU Health Pauley Heart Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA

Mattia Basile

Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy

Emmanouil S. Brilakis

Minneapolis Heart Institute and Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

Ana Belén Cid Álvarez

Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña, España

Juan G. Córdoba Soriano

Hospital General Universitario de Albacete, Albacete, España

Héctor Cubero-Gallego

Hospital del Mar, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, España

Guillermo Galeote

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Antonio Gómez Menchero

Hospital Juan Ramón Jiménez, Huelva, España

Nieves Gonzalo

Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, España

Ariana González

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Fernando Guerrero Pinedo

Universidad ICESI, Cali, Colombia, Fundación Valle de Lili, Cali, Colombia

Ángela María Herrera Peña

Universidad ICESI, Cali, Colombia. Fundación Cardioinfantil, Bogotá, Colombia

Elena Izaga

Hospital Juan Ramón Jiménez, Huelva, España

Marcelo Jiménez Kockar

Hospital de la Santa Creu y Sant Pau, Barcelona, España

Santiago Jiménez Valero

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Alfonso Jurado Román

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Javier Martín Moreiras

Hospital Universitario de Salamanca, España

José M. Montero Cabezas

Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands

Neisser Morales Victorino

Hospital Adolfo López Mateos ISSSTE, Tlalpan, Ciudad de México, México

Raúl Moreno

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Raymundo Ocaranza

Hospital Universitario Lucus Augusti, Lugo, España

Soledad Ojeda

Hospital Universitario Reina Sofía, Córdoba, España

Jorge Palazuelos Molinero

Hospital La Luz, Madrid, España

Manuel Pan

Hospital Universitario Reina Sofía, Córdoba, España

José Gildardo Paredes-Vázquez

Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, España

Ana Rita Pereira

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España. Hospital García de Orta, Portugal

Armando Pérez de Prado

Hospital de León, León, España

Eduardo Pinar Bermúdez

Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Arrixaca, Murcia, España

Natalia Pinilla

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada. Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Borja Rivero-Santana

Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, España

Oriol Rodríguez Leor

Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Barcelona, España

Eva Rumiz González

Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, España

José Ramón Rumoroso Cuevas

Hospital de Galdakao, Vizcaya, España

Pablo Salinas

Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, España

Neus Salvatella

Hospital del Mar, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, España

Juan Pablo Sánchez Luna

Hospital Clínico Universitario, Valladolid, España

Ángel Sánchez Recalde

Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, España

Juan Sánchez-Rubio Lezcano

Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet, Zaragoza, España

Jorge Sanz Sánchez

Hospital Universitario La Fe, Valencia, España

Antoni Serra Peñaranda

Hospital de la Santa Creu y Sant Pau, Barcelona, España

Asier Subinas Elorriaga

Hospital de Galdakao, Vizcaya, España

Daniel Tébar

*Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid,
España*

Helena Tizón-Marcos

*Hospital del Mar, Universidad Autónoma
de Barcelona, Barcelona, España*

Beatriz Vaquerizo

*Hospital del Mar, Universidad Autónoma
de Barcelona, Barcelona, España*

Silvio Vera Vera

*Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid,
España*

Jon Zubiaur

*Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid,
España*



Foreword

EMMANOUIL S. BRILAKIS, MD, PhD

*Minneapolis Heart Institute and Minneapolis Heart
Institute Foundation*

*“As you set out for Ithaka
hope your road is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.”*
Constantine P. Cavafy, 1911

Coronary calcium is the enemy of PCI: it can hinder equipment delivery, can be hard to modify so as allow stent expansion and is associated with increased risk of potentially lethal complications, such as coronary perforation.

At the same time coronary calcium is increasingly encountered in daily practice, as the patients are getting older and more complex. This often leads with both under- and over-treatment as many physicians may not feel comfortable to treat calcium and proceed with medical therapy or referral to surgery.

Fortunately, treatment options for coronary calcium have been steadily expanding: microcatheters and various guidewires can facilitate crossing; plaque modification balloons, very high pressure balloon, atherectomy (orbital, rotational, laser), and lithotripsy can all help with lesion modification and are available at most centers.

Advanced training is essential for optimal implementation all aforementioned

tools but is not always easily accessible despite the proliferation of online sources. While “hands-on” training in each device is irreplaceable, deep understanding of the underlying principles and algorithms is the foundation upon which solid calcium treating skills can be built.

The Manual of Percutaneous Treatment Of Calcified Coronary Lesions by Drs Jurado-Román, González, Tébar, Galeote, Jiménez-Valero and Moreno is an incredible resource for building this foundation. It provides a thoughtful and practical guidance of how to treat coronary calcium. While the book is concise it is also complete, covering intravascular imaging, all treatment modalities, complex subgroups (in-stent and calcified nodules), complications, and a systematic, algorithmic approach. It is simple enough for the beginner but also complete enough for the advanced operator.

The journey of treating coronary calcium can be daunting, long and perilous. The Manual of Plaque Modification can be a loyal companion that can make the journey easier, more successful and safer but also “full of adventure and full of discovery”!

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