Cardiology and Therapy

- Spontaneous coronary artery dissection is a rare life-threatening condition that may present as acute myocardial infarction.
- Selective revascularization of affected vessel is indicated in patients with on-going ischemia while symptom-free, stable patients demonstrate excellent prognosis with conservative management alone.
- Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is challenging as conventional angiogram may fail to visualize intimal flap and identify true lumen, especially if it is severely narrowed.
- Also, hematoma filling the false lumen may simulate intra-coronary thrombus.
- Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) during PCI establishes anatomic site of dissection and confirms stent placement in the true lumen; application of IVUS at index presentation also prevents catastrophic outcomes like false lumen stenting, and collapse of the true lumen.

This summary slide represents the opinions of the authors. No funding or sponsorship was received for this study or publication of this article. For a full list of acknowledgments and conflicts of interest for all authors of this article, please see the full text online. Copyright © The Author(s) 2014. Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License (CC BY-NC).



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