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مرکز قلب تهران

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**Annual Tehran Heart  
Center Congress**

**7th CRITICAL CARDIOVASCULAR CARE**

**دوازدهمین کنگره سالیانه مرکز قلب تهران**

**2025**

۲۵ و ۲۶ بهمن ماه ۱۴۰۳

**13 & 14 February  
Tehran Heart Center  
Tehran, Iran**

# Calcified Lesion

*Armin Elahifar, MD*

*Interventional Cardiologist  
Assistant Professor of Rajaei Heart Institute*

- ❖ From the perspective of the coronary interventionalist, coronary calcification remains one of the most challenging lesion subsets
- ❖ often found in patients with complex multivessel disease, chronic total occlusion, long lesions, and bifurcations
- ❖ Challenges with calcified lesion
  - ❖ limits the ability to deliver
  - ❖ limits the ability to adequately deploy
  - ❖ suboptimal result
  - ❖ increasing the risk of restenosis or stent thrombosis
  - ❖ increases the risk of acute procedural complications such as stent loss and coronary perforation
- ❖ severe calcified coronary disease is an independent predictor of a worse prognosis following PCI

## *Diagnosis of coronary calcification*

### CORONARY COMPUTERISED TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY (CCTA)

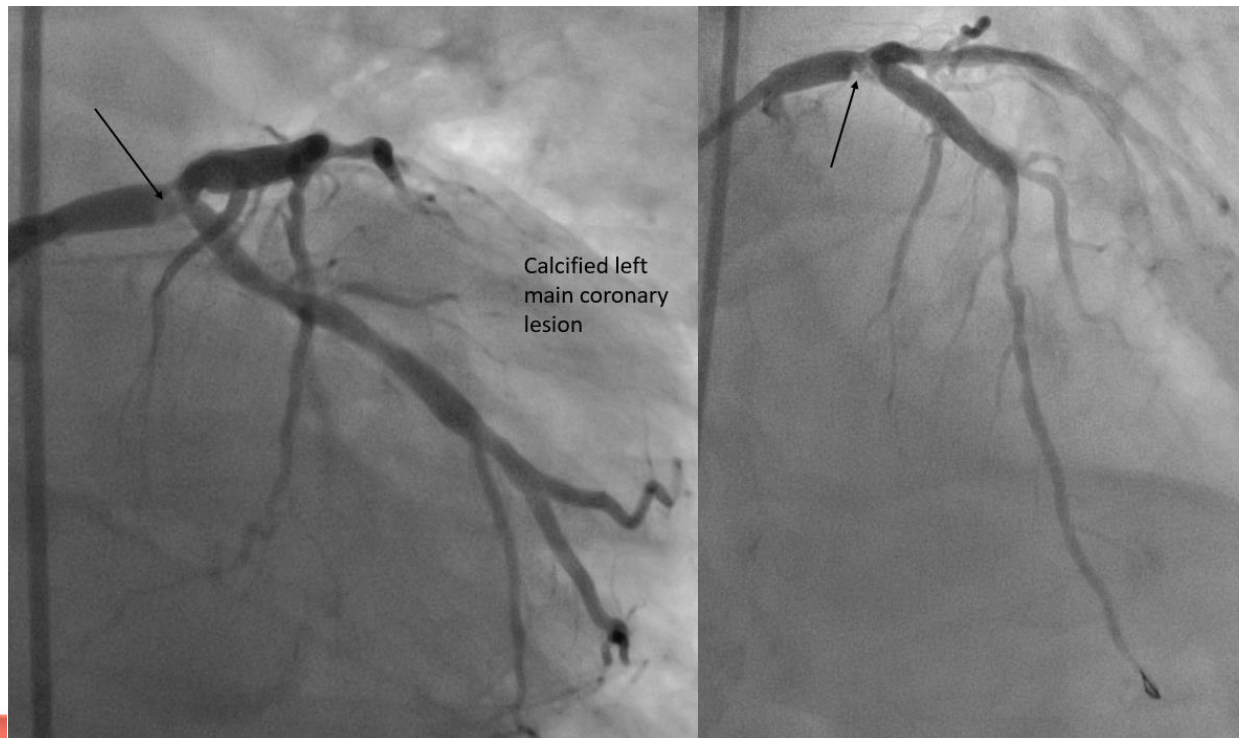
- Ultrafast CT is more sensitive than fluoroscopy, detecting coronary calcium in 90% versus 52% of cases
- Despite this, there are **no clearly established** criteria by which CCTA can predetermine how PCI should be performed
- CALCIFICATION REMODELING INDEX is a ratio of lumen area of the most severely calcified site to the lumen area of the proximal reference
- significantly correlated with the incidence of using rotational atherectomy (RA) to aid PCI, with an index  $\leq 0.84$  independently predicting the need for rotational atherectomy prior to stent implantation



# *Diagnosis of coronary calcification*

## FLUOROSCOPY

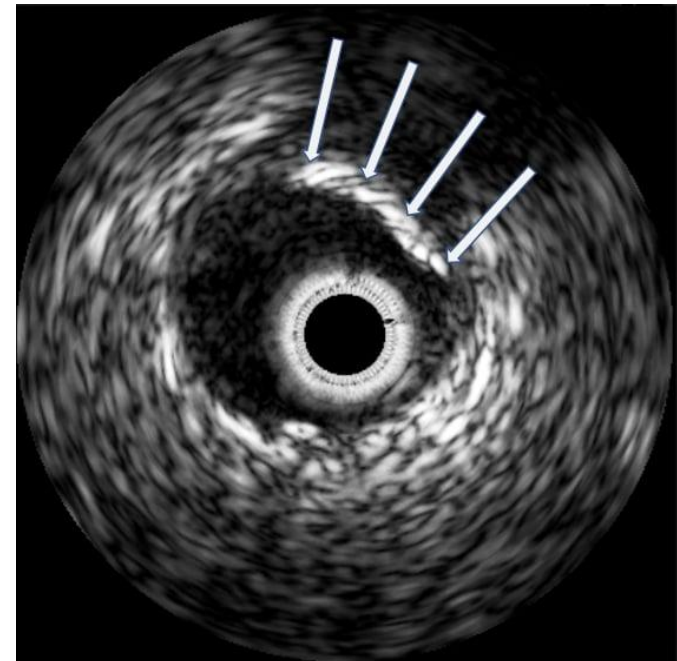
- Angiography under-estimates the degree of calcification and is unable to estimate the depth within the plaque
- severe calcification can resemble and be mistaken for thrombus when severe calcific nodules prevent contrast penetration and appear as filling defects in the lumen



## *Diagnosis of coronary calcification*

### INTRA-VASCULAR ULTRASOUND (IVUS)

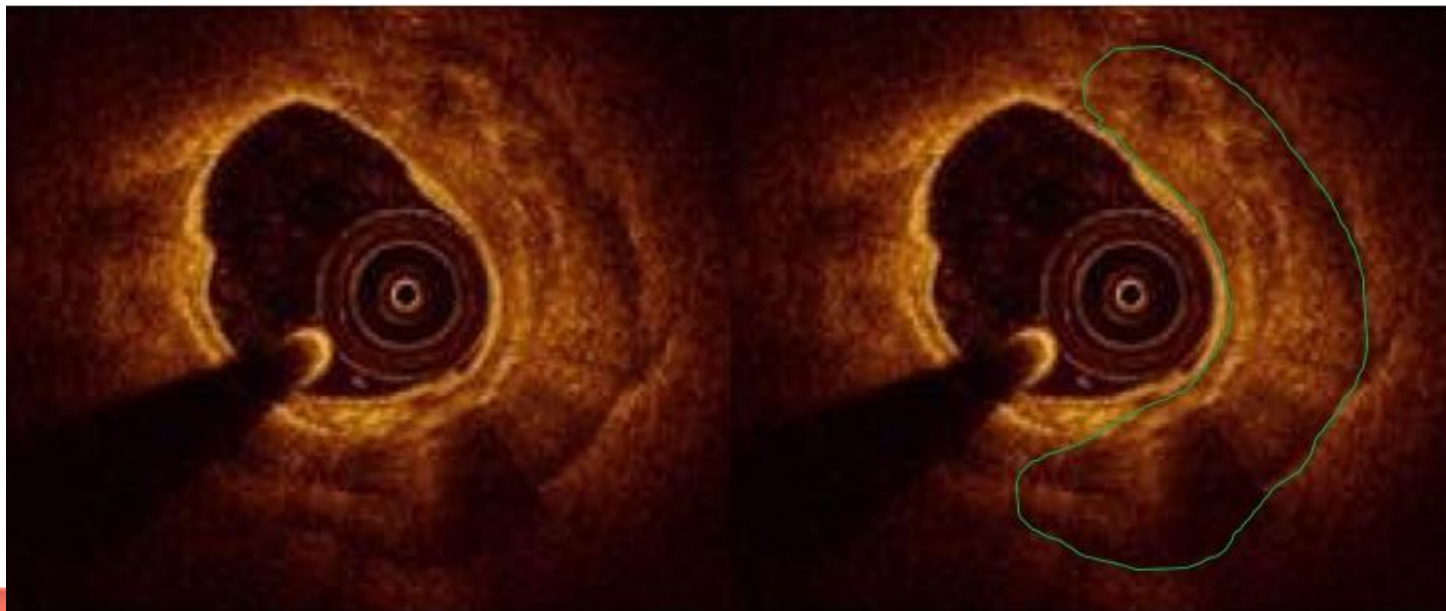
- Ultrasound has a resolution of 150–200 $\mu$ m but does **not** penetrate calcium. The leading edge of calcification can be visualized as a *bright hyperechoic deposit* but behind the calcium is a **blank** acoustic shadow and further details of the vessel wall are invisible
- Limitations of IVUS include inability of the catheter to cross highly calcified lesions. This usually implies significant calcification, and calcification modifying tools should be selected accordingly. IVUS is also unable to detect microcalcifications or the full thickness of calcium (IVUS cannot measure calcium depth).



# *Diagnosis of coronary calcification*

## OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY (OCT)

- OCT has a resolution of 10–20 $\mu$ m. It measures light backscatter and calcium is seen as a **low signal area** with well-delineated sharp borders
- OCT can assess calcium depth, area, and volume in addition to calcium arc and length. It can also detect microcalcifications



## *Classification of degree of calcification*

Following measurements need to be acquired: the calcium arc; the length of the calcified segment; and the thickness of the calcium.

Proposed a CAC scoring system based on IVUS / OCT findings:

- For OCT:
  - Calcium arc:  $180^{\circ}$ - $270^{\circ}$  (2 points);  $\geq 270^{\circ}$  (3 points)
  - Calcium length:  $>5\text{mm}$  (1 point)
  - Calcium thickness:  $>0.5\text{mm}$  (1 point)
- For IVUS:
  - Calcium arc:  $180^{\circ}$ - $270^{\circ}$  (2 points);  $\geq 270^{\circ}$  (3 points)
  - Calcium length:  $>5\text{mm}$  (1 point)
  - Add 1 point to score if length  $>5\text{mm}$  and arc  $\geq 270^{\circ}$

CAC Severity	Score (IVUS or OCT)
Mild	0
Moderate	1-2
Severe	3-5

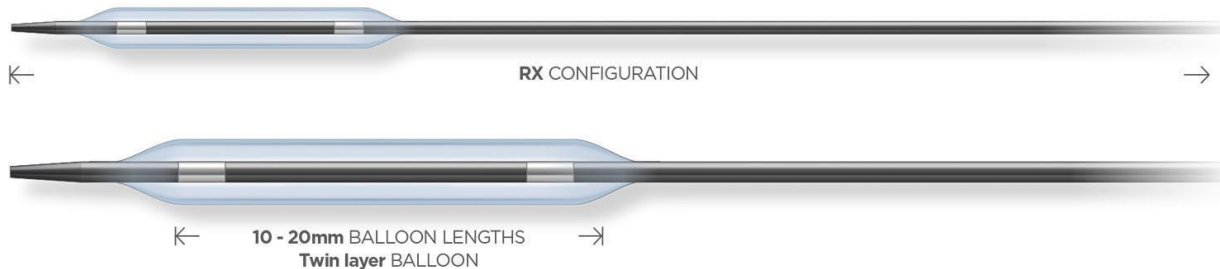
Severe calcification requires calcium modification as the first step in a PCI procedure. In the presence of moderate calcification, operators should have a low threshold for use of calcium-modifying technologies.

# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

## HIGH- AND VERY HIGH-PRESSURE NON-COMPLIANT BALLOONS

- NC balloons should be considered as the first choice of treatment for mild to moderate calcification (calcium arc <90°)
- OPN NC balloon (SIS Medical) , Super High Pressure Balloon
- success rate of >90% for undilatable lesions compared to conventional NC balloons, with less than 1% rate of coronary rupture

SIS Medical OPN NC





# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

## CUTTING AND SCORING BALLOONS

- Cutting balloons have three or four metal microblade on the surface
- In an IVUS-based study, cutting balloon achieved larger luminal gain than regular balloons in calcified lesions
- Subsequent randomized data comparing conventional balloon to cutting balloon angioplasty for de novo undilatable lesions showed similar procedural success rates and 6-month restenosis rates, at the expense of greater perforation rates in the cutting balloon group. This data, and their relatively large crossing profiles (1.04 to 1.17mm) has limited their use in current clinical practice. The ESC and AHA guidelines have restricted their use to resistant lesions.

# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

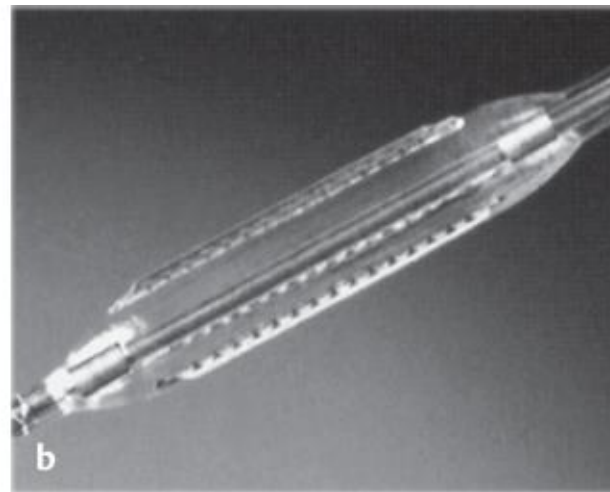
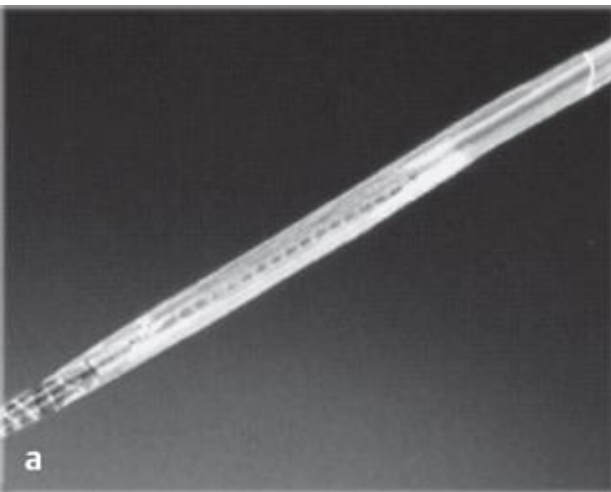
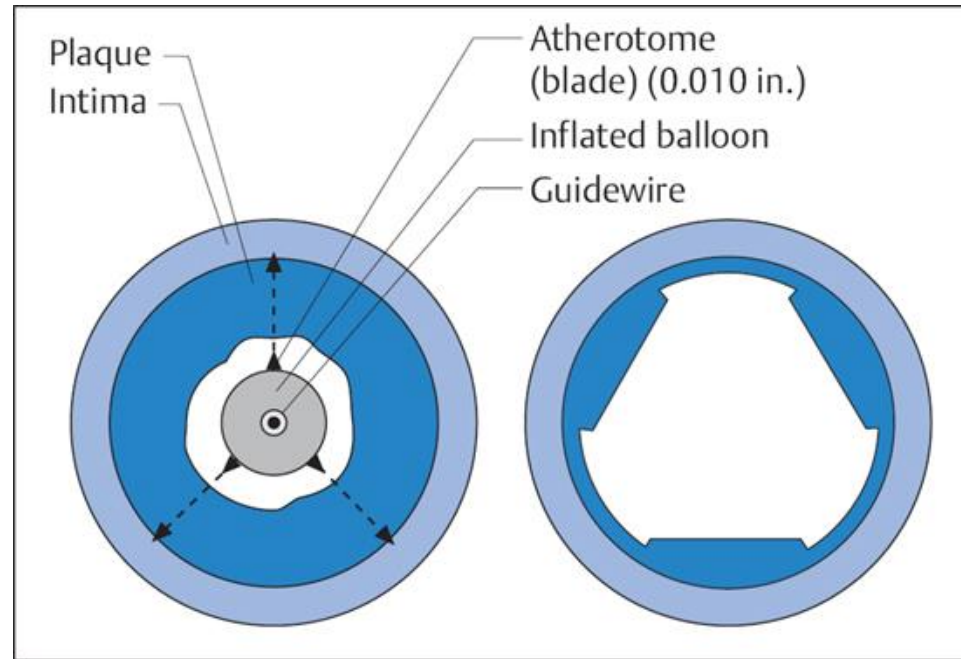
## CUTTING AND SCORING BALLOONS

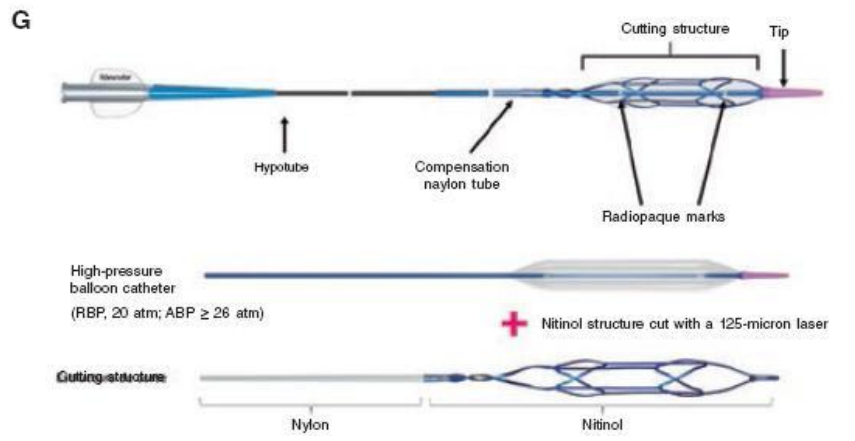
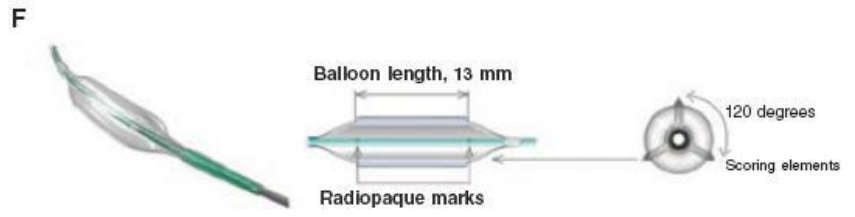
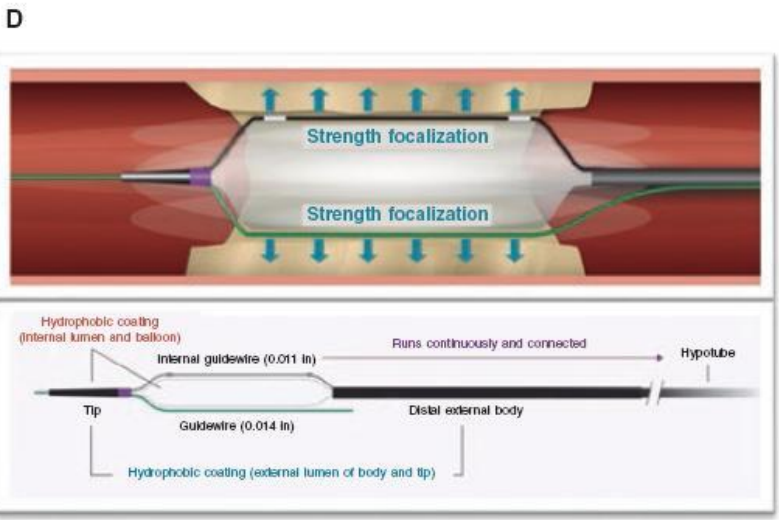
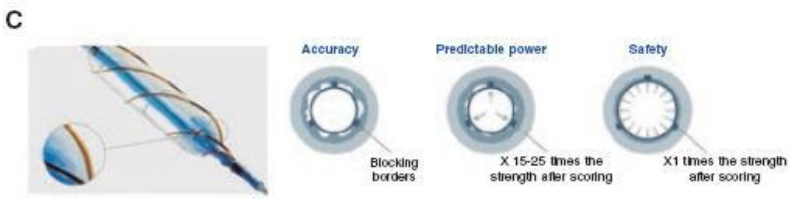
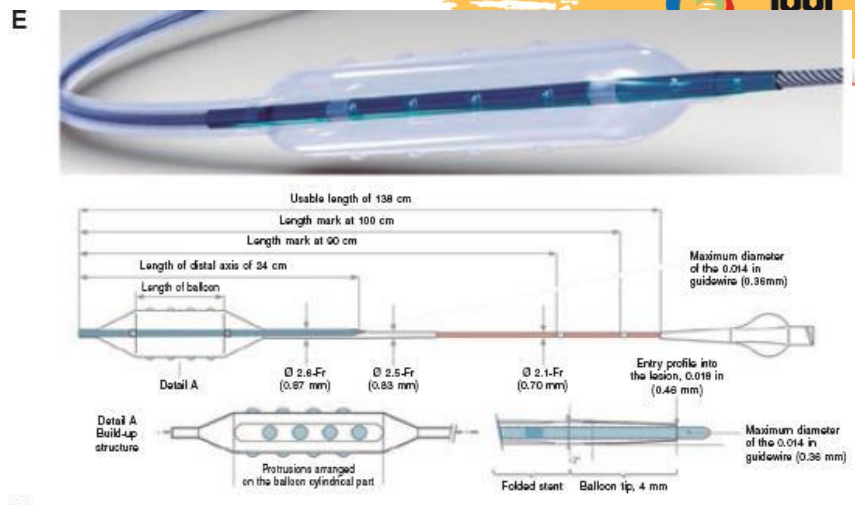
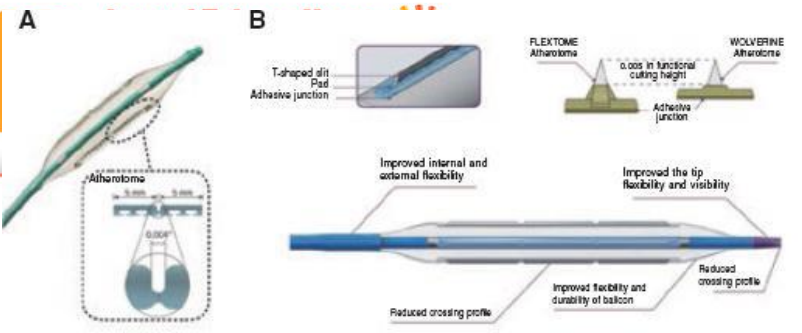
- Scoring balloons are semi-compliant balloons encircled by nitinol spiral wires
- allowing for focal, concentrated pressure (or force) during inflation
- Their indications for use are similar to cutting balloons, but generally are more deliverable due to lower crossing profiles (0.81-1.27mm) and greater flexibility. They can also be fully expanded at relatively lower inflation pressure therefore lowering the risk of perforation and severe dissections

1. AngioSculpt Scoring Balloon (Spectranetics, Colorado Springs, CO) and the drug-coated version, AngioSculpt X (Spectranetics, Colorado Springs, CO) are semi-compliant balloons with three spiral rectangular Nitinol scoring elements with a crossing profile of 0.91mm.

2. NSE Alpha (B Braun) has three triangular flexible nylon elements on the balloon surface that are attached only at the proximal and distal edges (crossing profile 1.27mm).

3. Scoreflex (Orbus Neich) is a semi-compliant balloon with two fixed Nitinol wires on opposite sides of the balloon surface with a crossing profile of 0.81mm.





. Characteristics of modified balloons. **A:** Cutting balloon (Boston Scientific, United States). **B:** WOLVERINE (Boston Scientific, United States). **C:** AngioSculpt (Spectranetics, United States). **D:** Scoreflex (OrbusNeich, Hong Kong). **E:** Grip (Acrostak, Switzerland). **F:** NSE-Alpha (B.Braun, Germany). **G:** Naviscore (iVascular, Spain).





















July/August 2022

## Specialty Balloons: When and How

Using cutting, scoring, and very high-pressure balloons in PCI.

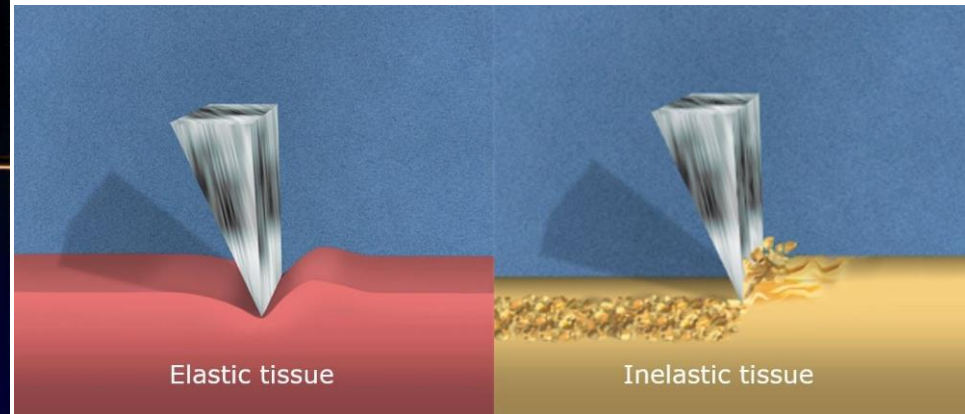
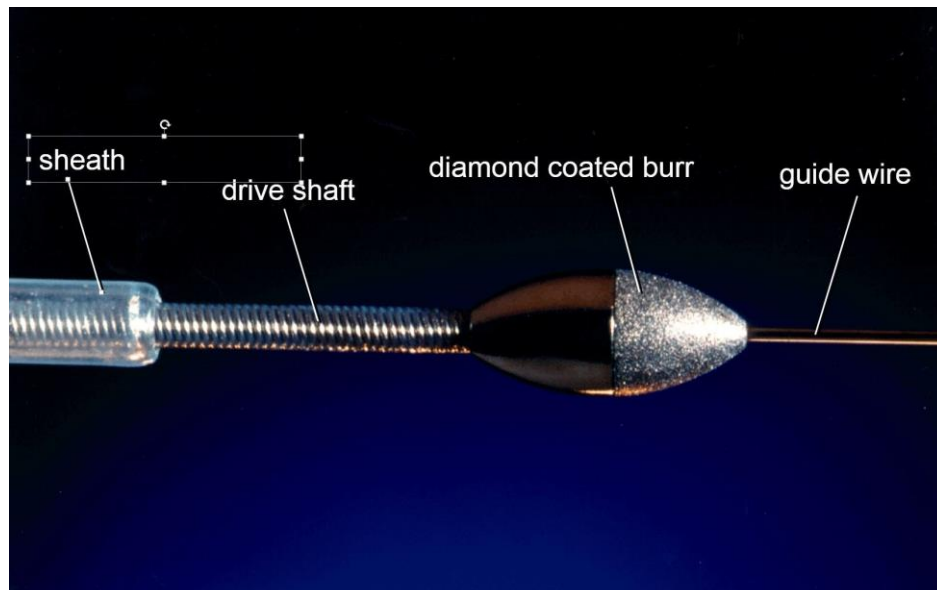
By Antonio Mangieri, MD, and Antonio Colombo, MD

	Calcified lesions	Calcific nodules	Fibrotic lesions	Stent underexpansion	In-stent restenosis
Cutting balloon 					
Scoring balloon 					
Super non compliant balloon 					

# Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI

## ROTATIONAL ATERECTOMY (RA)

- David Auth first proposed a rotational debulking device in the 1980's
- RA is performed by advancing a high-speed rotating metallic burr through a calcified plaque.

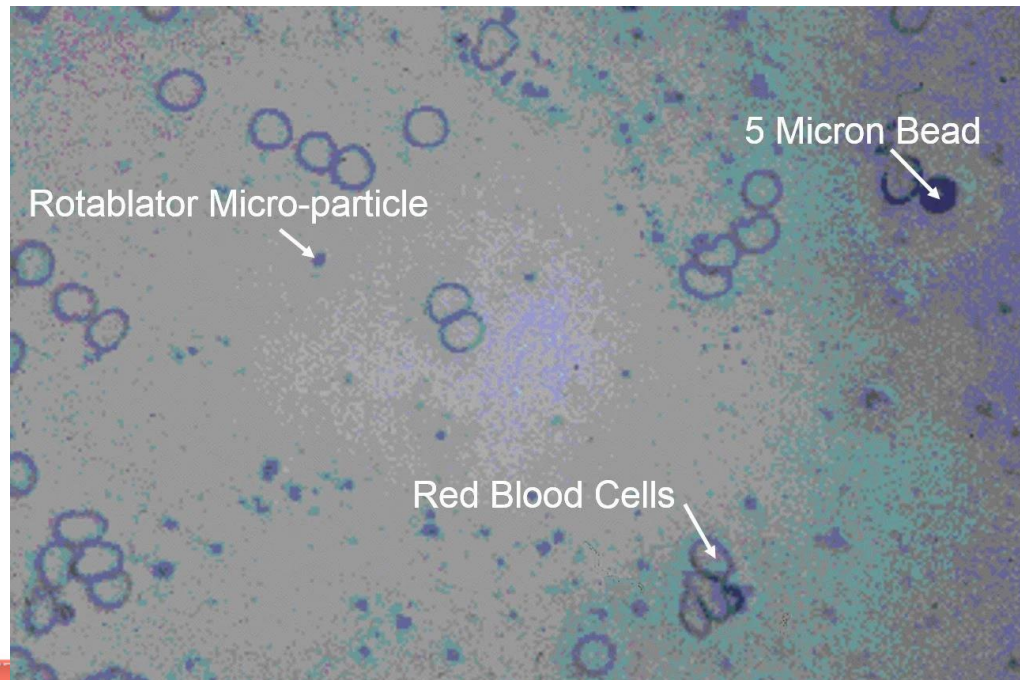




## *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

### ROTATIONAL ATHERECTOMY (RA)

- At rotational speeds of greater than 60000 revolutions per minute (rpm), the burr-to-vessel surface friction is virtually eliminated, thereby reducing surface drag and allowing unimpeded forward-and-back movement of the burr through the diseased vessel
- The abraded plaque is reduced to micro-particles which are 5-10 $\mu$ m in diameter

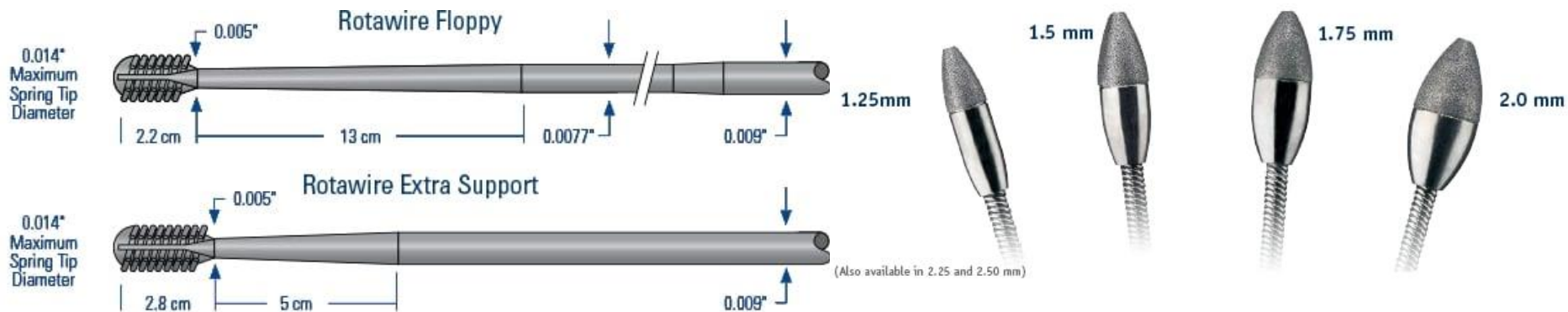


# Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI

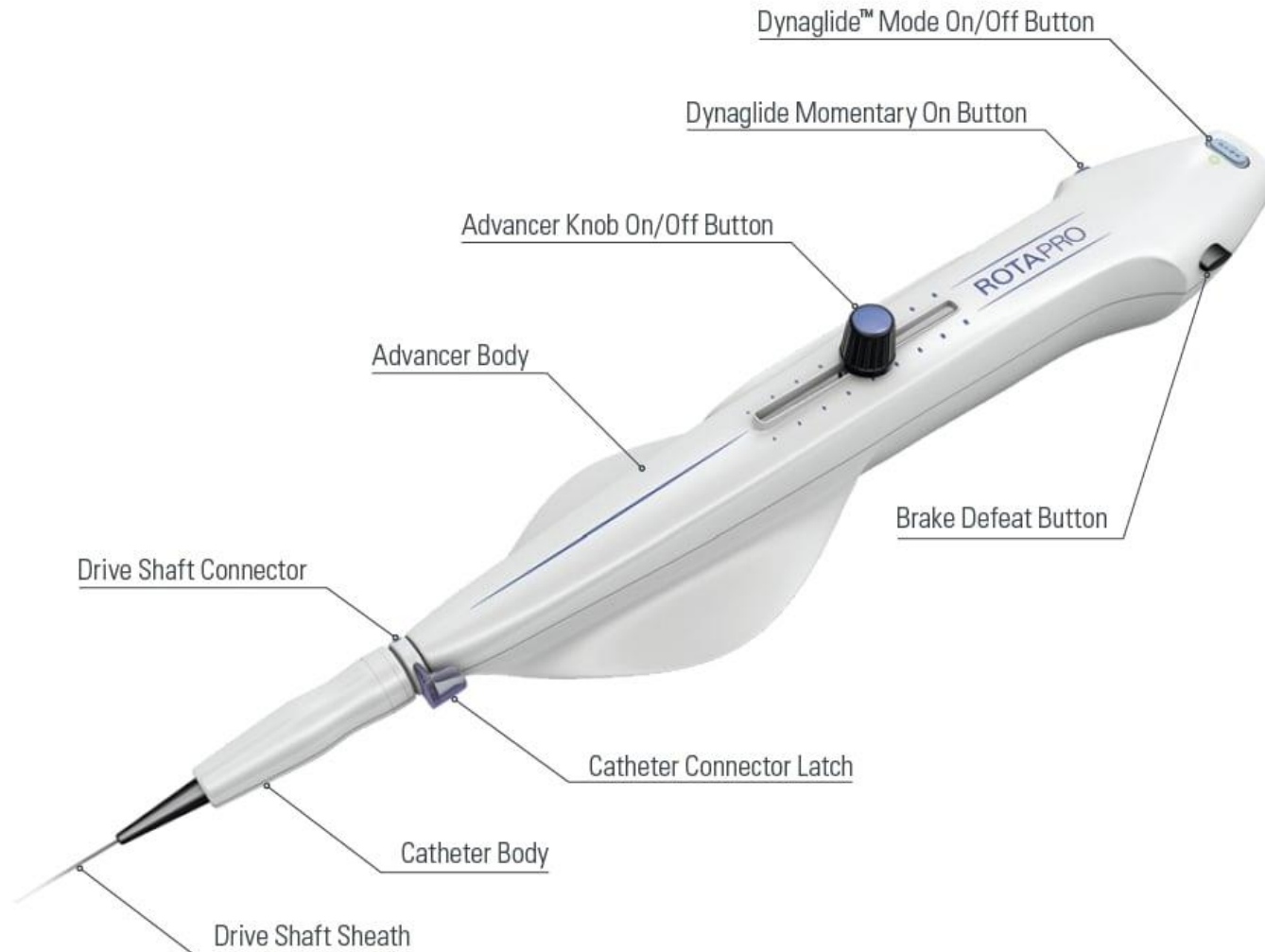
## ROTATIONAL ATERECTOMY (RA)

The Rotablator™ rotational atherectomy system & Rotapro™ (2018)

- RotaWire™ guide wires
- Burrs : The distal end of the burr head is coated with 2000 to 3000 microscopic (20 to 30 microns) diamond crystals, with approximately 5 microns of each the crystal protruding from the nickel coating. The proximal end of the burr is smooth
- Advancer >> RotaLink™ Advancer, RotaLink™ PLUS , Rotapro









Rotational Speed Display (Tachometer)

Event Timer

Procedure Timer

Reset Button

Turbine Pressure Control Knob (Adjusts RPM)

Advancer Connections

Compressed Gas Connector

Electrical Connector

Fiber Optic Connector



Console Back

Power ON/OFF

Power Cord Connector

Gas Line Connector



## *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

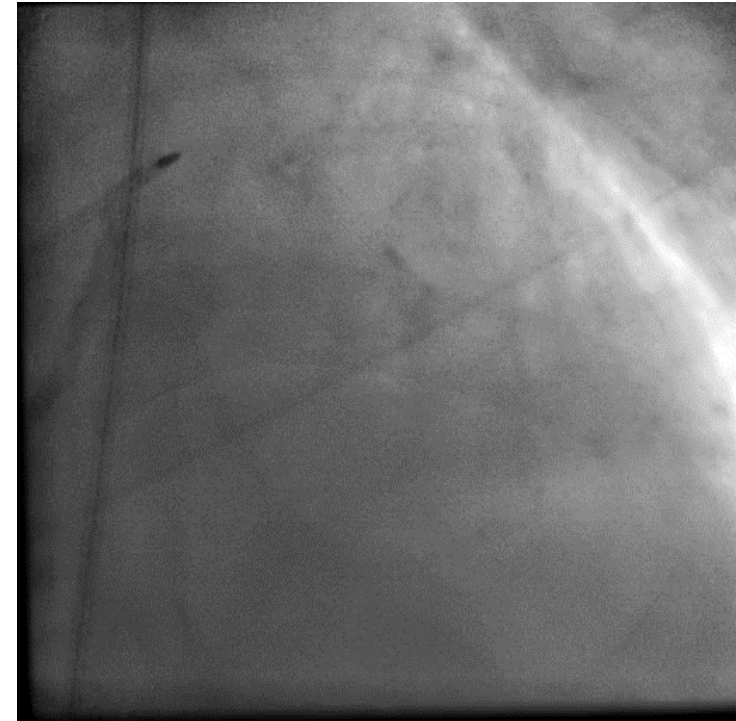
### ROTATIONAL ATHERECTOMY (RA)

RA performed best when decelerations  $> 5000\text{rpm}$  drop were cumulatively less than 5 seconds. Revolution speeds (140000 to 180000 rpm) and a repetitive pecking motion of the burr into the proximal portion of the lesion to avoid large decelerations have yielded the most favourable outcomes .

This motion pattern of the burr allows for frequent intermittent blood flow through the ablated segment, improving wash-out of the debris and potentially reducing heat generation as well as vessel spasm.

A rotational speed greater than 60000 rpm is needed to overcome frictional forces and facilitate the passage and retrieval of the burr

- On the other hand, very high rotational speeds have been reported to increase distal embolization and procedural myocardial infarction, as a result of excessive heat generation and platelet activation





## JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions



Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2014, Pages 345-353



Coronary

State-of-the-Art Paper

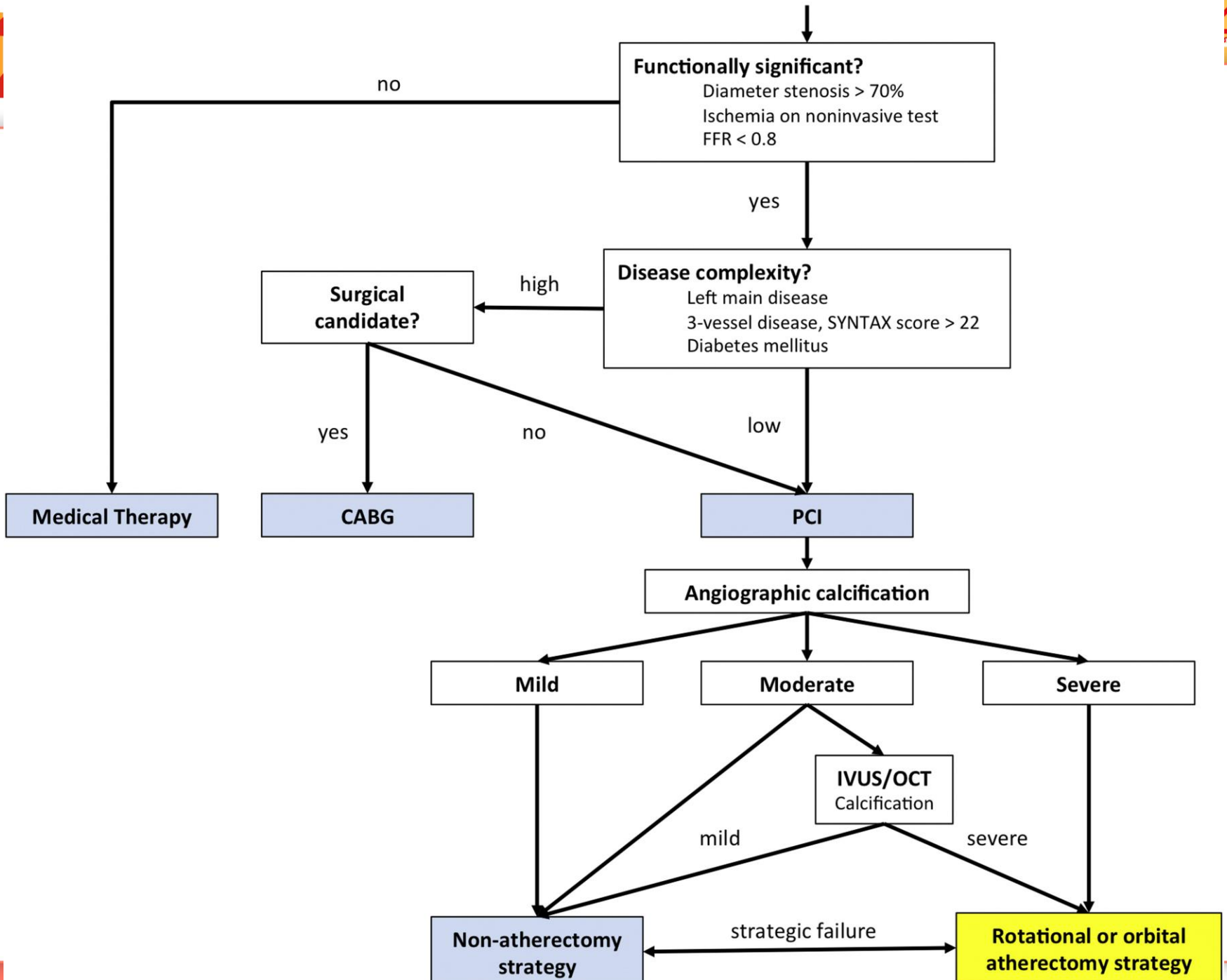
# Current Status of Rotational Atherectomy

Matthew I. Tomey MD, Annapoorna S. Kini MD, Samin K. Sharma MD  

Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, New York

Received 16 June 2013, Revised 5 December 2013, Accepted 19 December 2013, Available online 13 March 2014.

**De Novo Calcified Lesion**





### Labelled contra-indications for rotational atherectomy

1. Occlusions through which a guidewire will not pass
2. Last remaining vessel with compromised left ventricular function
3. Saphenous vein grafts
4. Angiographic evidence of thrombus prior to treatment with the Rotablator system. Such patients may be treated with thrombolytics. When the thrombus has been resolved for two to four weeks, the lesion may be treated with the Rotablator system
5. Angiographic evidence of significant dissection at the treatment site. The patient may be treated conservatively for approximately four weeks to permit the dissection to heal before treating the lesion with the Rotablator System

### Relative contra-indications for rotational atherectomy

1. Severe 3-vessel or unprotected left main disease
2. Unavailability of bypass surgery
3. Lesion length in excess of 25 mm
4. Severe left ventricular dysfunction (ejection fraction < 30%)
5. Lesion angulation in excess of 45°
6. Shock or hypotension
7. Rotational atherectomy in the sub-intimal space

## *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

### ORBITAL ATHERECTOMY SYSTEM (OAS)

- The Diamondback 360°® System (Cardiovascular Systems, Inc., St Paul, MN, USA)
- 80,000 or 120,000 rpm
- The average particle size created by OAS is 2.04 $\mu\text{m}$ ; 98.3% of particles are smaller than a red blood cell; and 99.2% of particles are smaller than the diameter of a capillary



# Diamondback 360<sup>®</sup> Coronary Orbital Atherectomy

## Device Features

- Only device indicated for severe calcium
- Easy setup and use <2 mins
- Control of device in operating field
- Compatible with 6 Fr approach

## OAS Pump

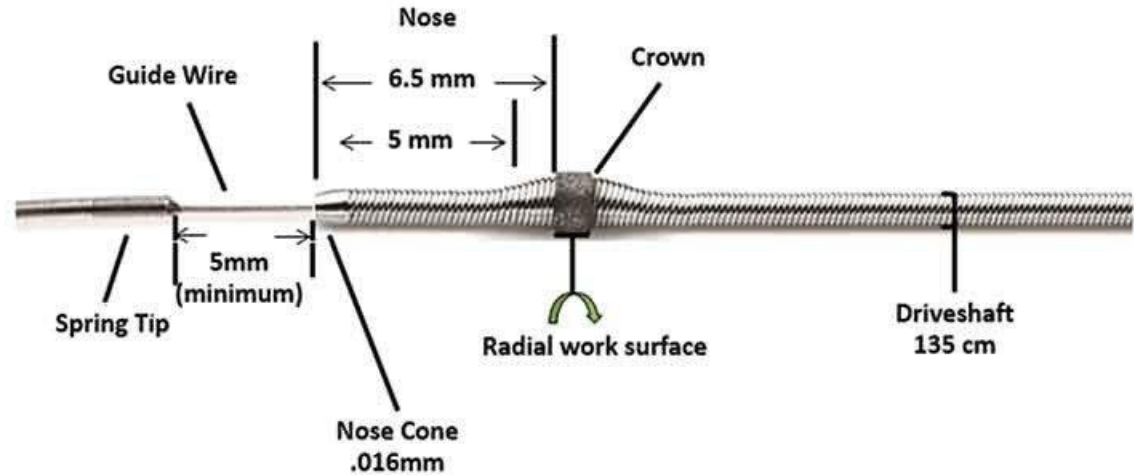
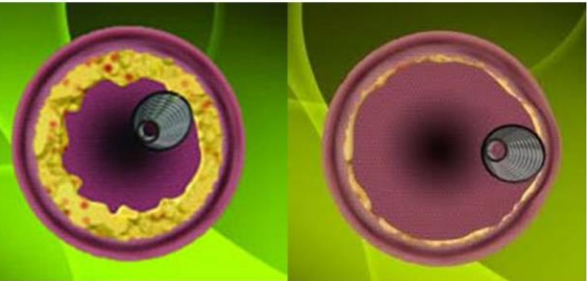
- Mounts directly on to an IV pole
- Provides power
- Delivers fluid
- Includes saline sensor

## ViperSlide<sup>®</sup> Lubricant

- ViperSlide reduces friction during operation
- 20ml ViperSlide per liter of saline



a



b

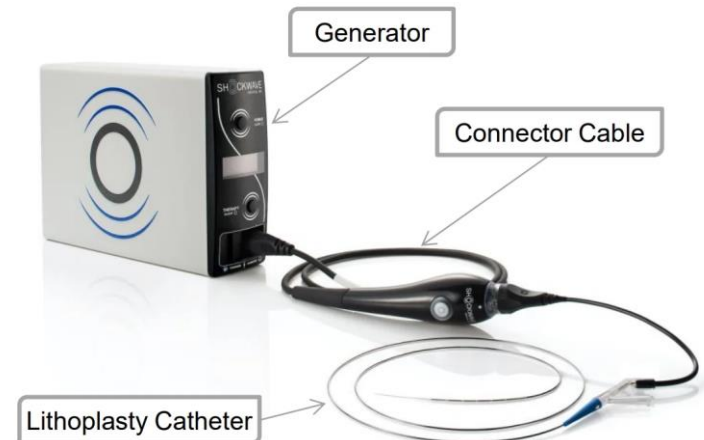


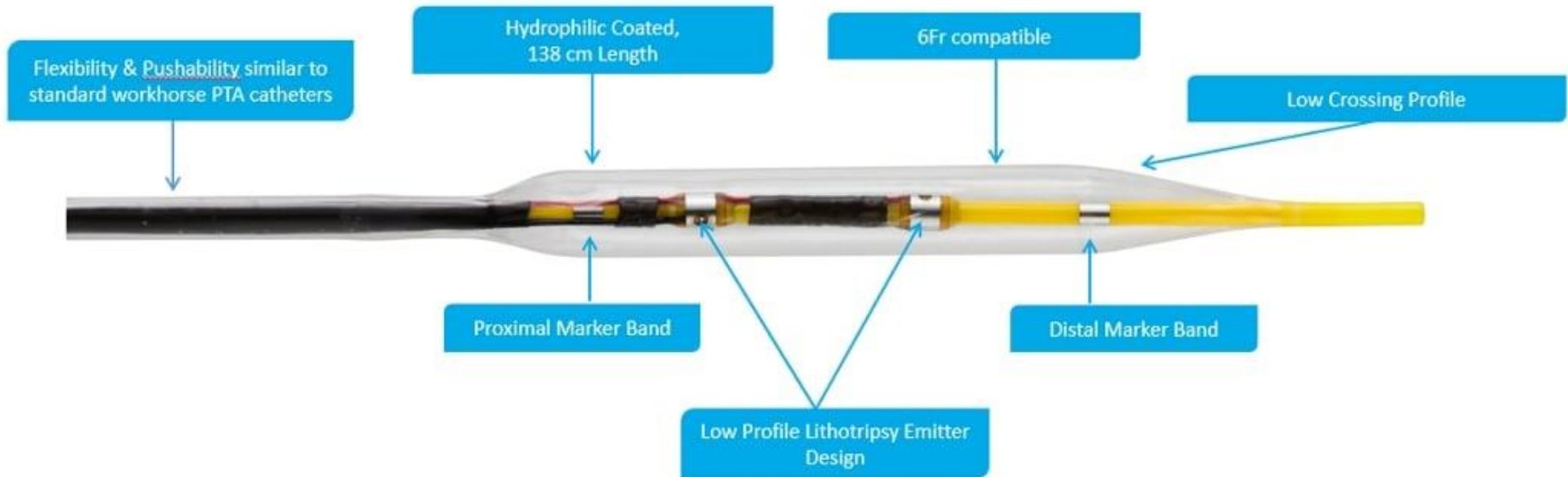
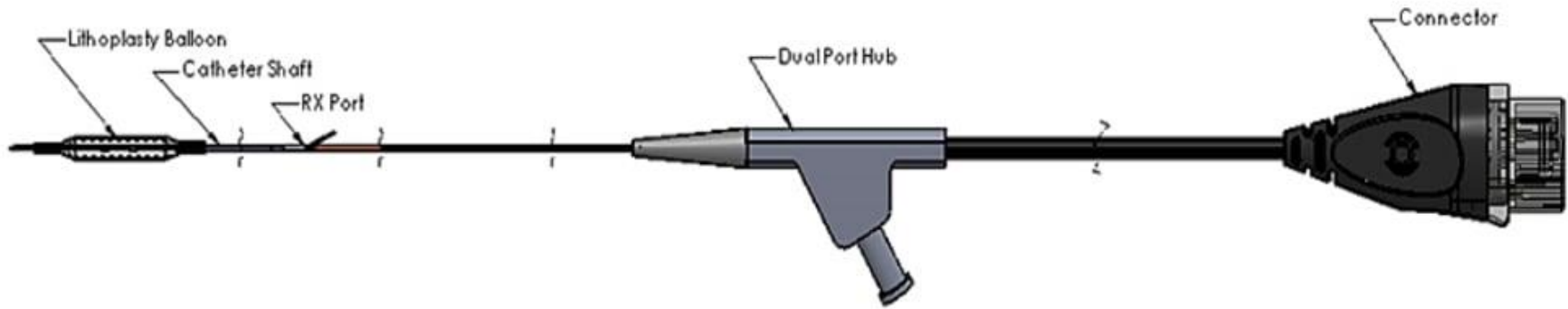


# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

## INTRACORONARY LITHOTRIPSY / INTRAVASCULAR LITHOTRIPSY

- IVL is an innovative technology, adapted from the treatment of kidney stones
- IVL makes use of a traditional balloon catheter with multiple emitters implanted in the catheter within the mounted balloon segment. These emitters produce high-speed sonic pressure waves that pass through soft tissue and result in significant shear stress to selectively fracture intimal and medial calcium within the vessel wall



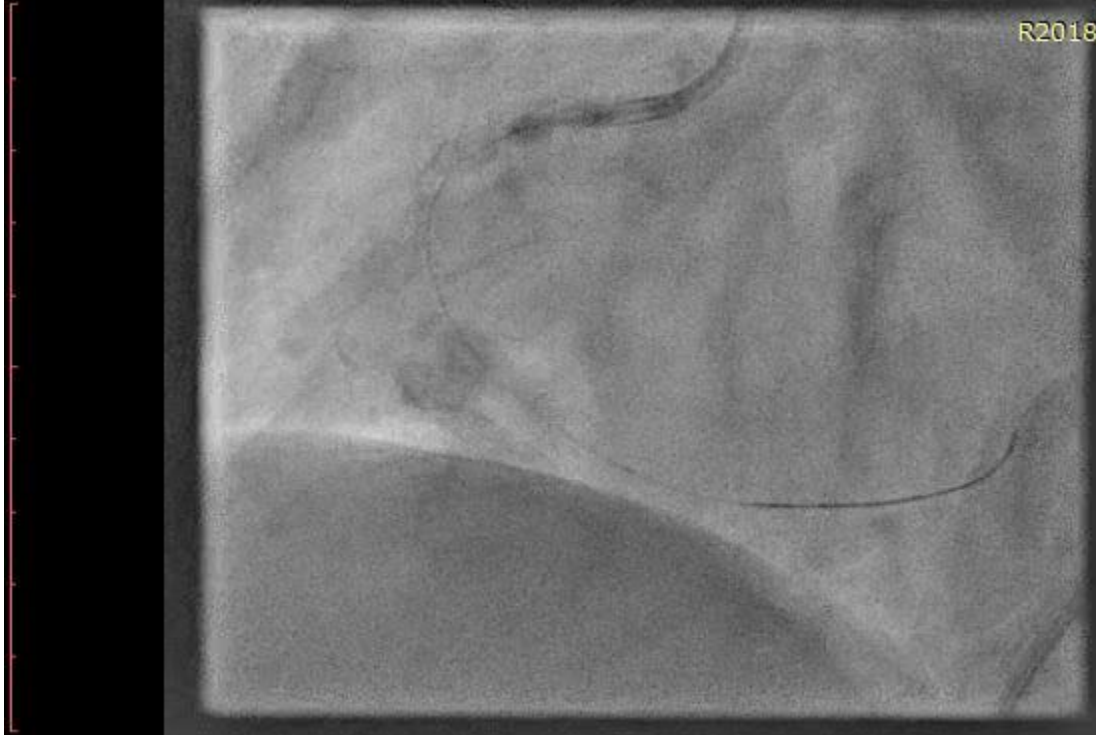




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Fluoroscopy



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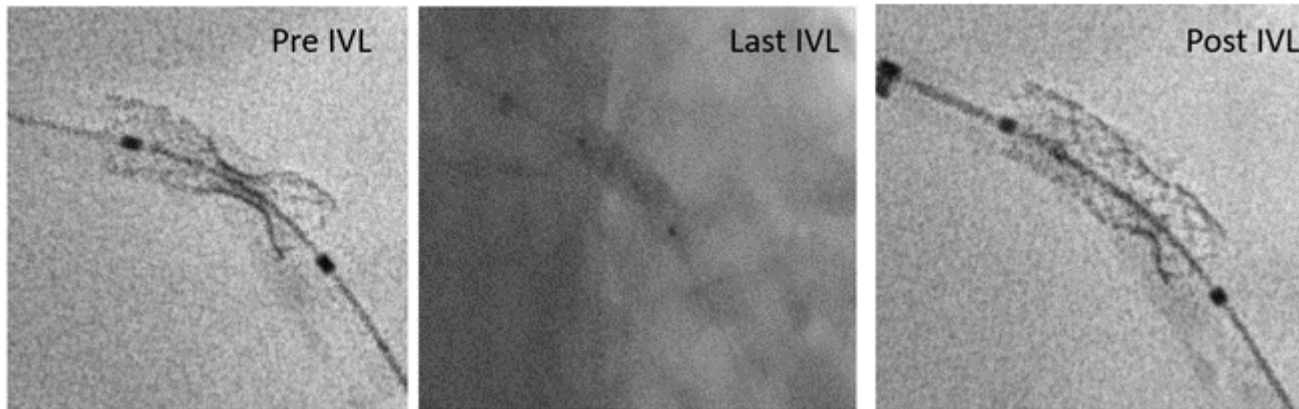
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# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

## INTRACORONARY LITHOTRIPSY / INTRAVASCULAR LITHOTRIPSY

- **STENT UNDEREXPANSION**

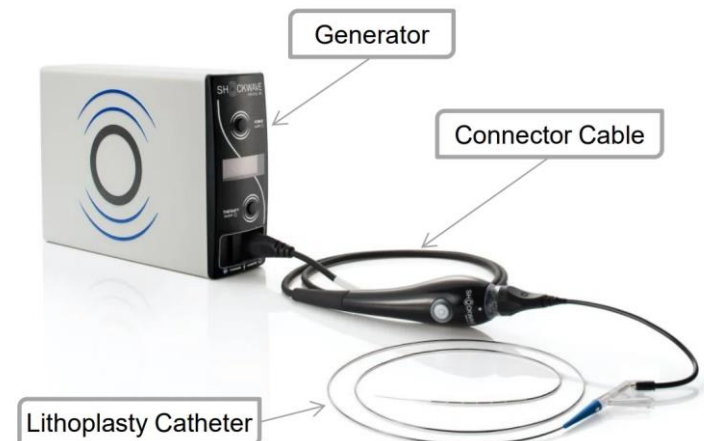




# *Tools for management of coronary calcification during PCI*

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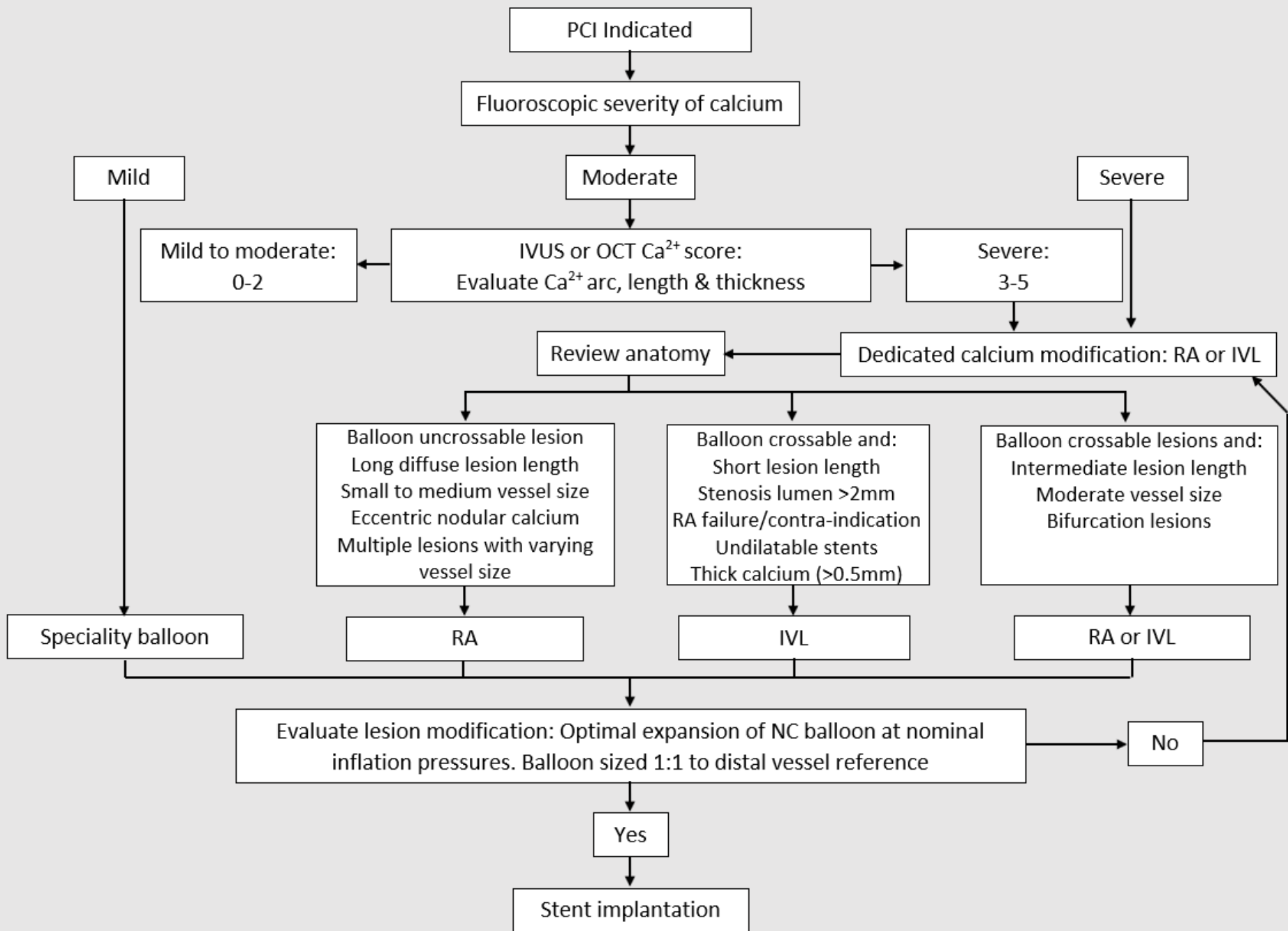


## LESIONS WHERE IVL IS FAVORED:

- Large vessels with residual minimal luminal diameters  $\geq 2\text{mm}$ . Even with the largest burr sizes, rotational atherectomy may not modify the lesion significantly and in this instance IVL should be the preferred choice.
- In lesions with a calcium thickness of  $\geq 0.5\text{mm}$ , IVL may also be favored due to its ability to modify deep calcium as opposed to rotational atherectomy which may only ablate superficial calcium.
- Lesions involving bifurcations such as the distal LMS, IVL has the advantage of not having to remove a coronary wire from the side branch.
- In extreme tortuosity or angulation rotational atherectomy may be contraindicated due to the risk of burr stall, perforation, or wire fracture.

## LESIONS WHERE ATHERECTOMY IS FAVORED:

- The smallest IVL catheter is 2.5mm, therefore IVL cannot be used in vessels smaller than 2.5mm.
- In diffuse long lesions, atherectomy may be preferred as the whole length of the lesion can be modified with the use of one burr as opposed to using multiple IVL catheter balloons.
- In eccentric and nodular calcified lesions, especially where wire bias will favor contact of the burr tip with the calcium, rotational atherectomy will be appropriate.
- In lesions where a balloon cannot cross the lesion, rotational atherectomy should be chosen.







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