

CORRESPONDENCE

Carotid plaque typisation: a novel risk marker?

To the Editor Toutouzas and coauthors demonstrated that carotid plaque vulnerability coincided with neovascularisation and inflammation, as measured by contrast-enhanced ultrasound and MR.¹

Carotid intima-media thickness (IMT) and detection of stenosis have been previously established as predictors of prognosis of patients with cardiovascular disease. Carotid non-invasive measurements have been recommended in vulnerable patients because of tight correlation between parameters: plaque area and volume with clinical outcome in these patients.²

Spence comparing carotid plaque versus traditional risk factors referred that 32% of events are predicted by score calculated with traditional risk factors and 77% of events with measurement of carotid plaque.³ Results of the study of Hellings and collaborators support the thesis that composition of local atherosclerotic plaque in patients referred for carotid endarterectomy is an independent predictor of future events.⁴

Many studies deal with carotid plaque typisation as a more reliable predictor for future cardiovascular events. Till today there is no systematic review regarding plaque typisation in the prognosis of patients.

Can we expect this plaque typisation after Toutouzas and coauthors' work to enlarge the predictive ability of previous carotid measurements in risk stratification of vulnerable patients?

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