# Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection: Time to Improve Our Systems of Care

Dr. Christina Thaler MD PhD- Minneapolis Heart Institute, Hennepin County Medical Center



# Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection: Time to Improve Our Systems of Care

Christina Thaler, MD PhD

Cardiology Fellow

Minneapolis Heart Institute and Hennepin County Medical Center





#### Conflicts of Interest

- Research Funding
  - SCAD Research Inc, Scottsdale, AZ
  - Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, Minneapolis, MN



### Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissections

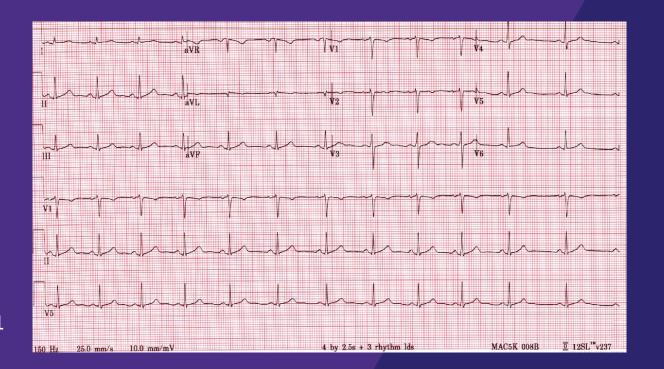
- Case Study
- Diagnosis
- Acute Management
- Long Term Management / Follow-up





#### Case: 64 year old woman with chest pain

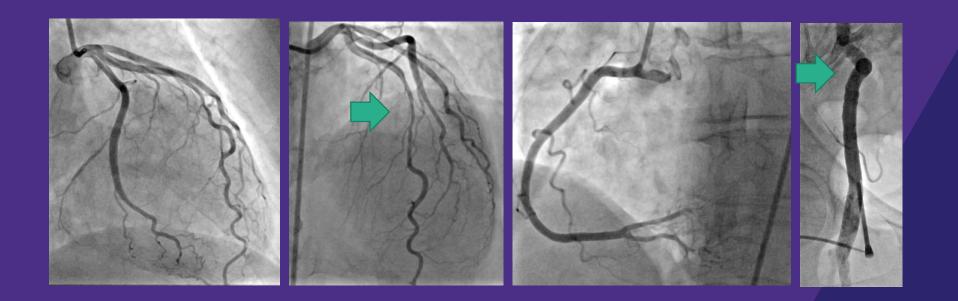
- Sudden onset of severe sharp mid chest pain radiating to her left arm
- Past Medical History:
  - Mixed atherosclerotic and embolic CAD
  - Vasospasm
- Medications
  - Atorvastatin
  - Aspirin
  - Ranolazine
  - Amlodipine
- Vitals: BP 120/90, P 63, T 36.1C, SpO2 97%
- Exam: Unremarkable
- Labs: BMP, CBC normal, Troponin positive at 0.1 mcg/L
- Admitted for NSTEMI with standard treatment







#### SCAD of the Proximal to Mid LAD







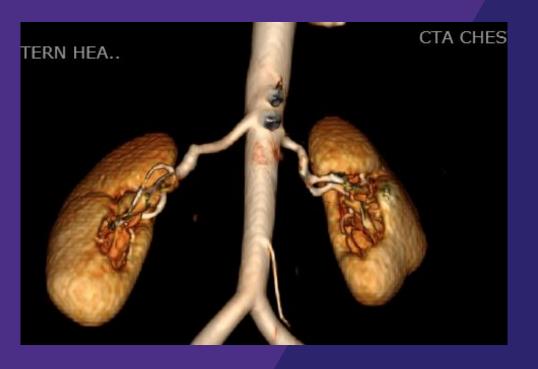
### SCAD with Fibromuscular Dysplasia: A Unifying Diagnosis



Femoral Artery



**Carotid Arteries** 



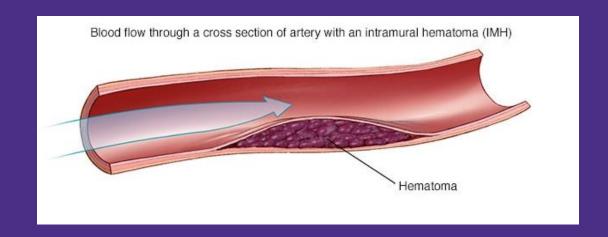
**Renal Arteries** 

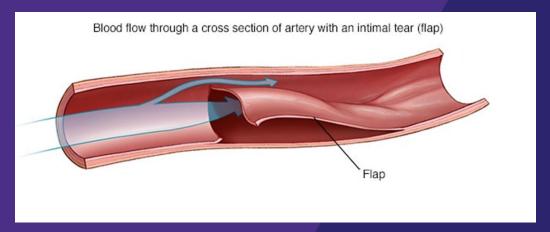




#### What is SCAD?

 Separation of coronary artery intima from media (dissection) by hematoma resulting in coronary lumen obstruction





From: <a href="from:">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/spontaneous-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-coronary-artery-dissection/symptoms-causes/syc-20353711>">https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-coronary-artery-diseases-





# Demographics

**Table I** Demographics and risk factors of patients with spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD) in contemporary case series (studies with n > 20)

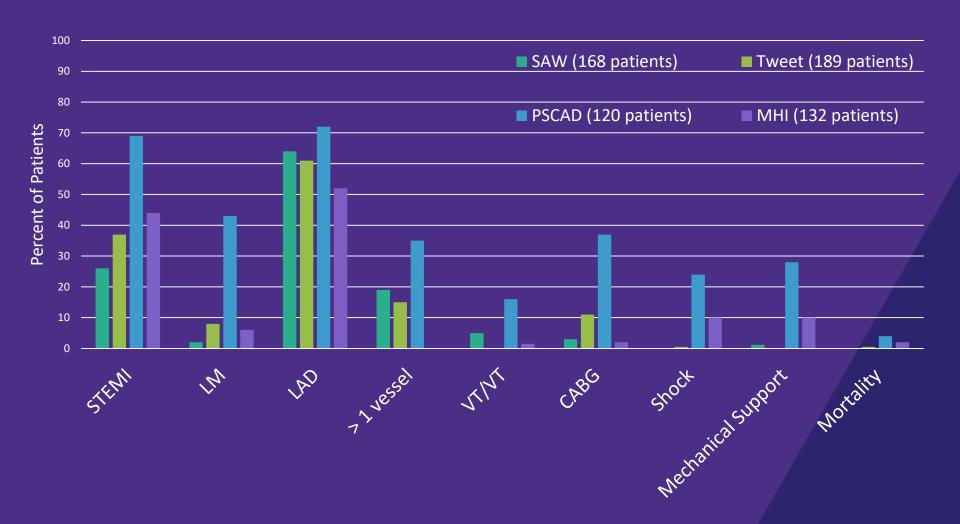
	Max N	Age (years)	Gender (female, %)	HTN (%)	Chol (%)	Smoking (%)	DM (%)	FH (%)	P-SCAD (%)
Mayo Clinic <sup>3</sup>	189	44 ± 9	92	31	22	15	2	NA	15
Saw <sup>4</sup>	168	52 ± 9	92	39	24	13	5	29	2
Lettieri <sup>5</sup>	134	$52 \pm 11$	81	51	33	34	2	25	NA
Faden <sup>6</sup>	79	$33 \pm 5$	100	17	18	17	11	NA	100
Rogowski <sup>7</sup>	64	$53 \pm 11$	94	45	52	28	0	19	5
Nakashima <sup>8</sup>	63	$46 \pm 10$	94	33	23	32	0	8	8
Motreff <sup>13</sup>	55	50	100	27	11	22	4	22	4
McGrath-Cadell <sup>9</sup>	40	$45 \pm 10$	95	18	10	8	5	28	8
Roura <sup>10</sup>	34	$47 \pm 12$	94	NA	NA	NA	NA		15
Alfonso <sup>11</sup>	27	$52 \pm 10$	85	37	33	52	4	NA	4
lto <sup>12</sup>	23	45 ± 11	100	57	22	30	4	NA	30
Vanzetto <sup>14</sup>	23	46 ± 9	74	26	39	43	13	13	0
Mortensen <sup>15</sup>	22	49 ± 9	81	38	NA	57	0	40	10
Rashid <sup>16</sup>	21	$53 \pm 9$	95	48	48	47	5	24	0

Adlam, David, et al. "Spontaneous coronary artery dissection." Eur Heart J (2016) 37: 3073-3074.





#### SCAD Presentation

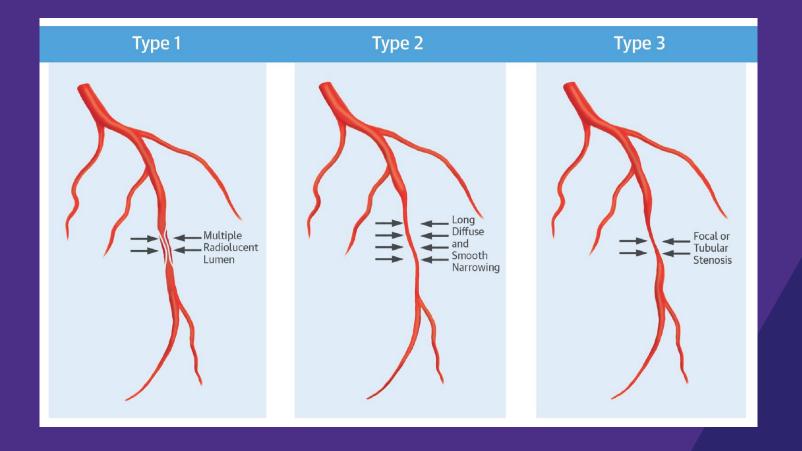


Modified From: Havakuk, Ofer, et al. Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions (2017) 10 (3): e004941.





# Diagnosis by Angiogram

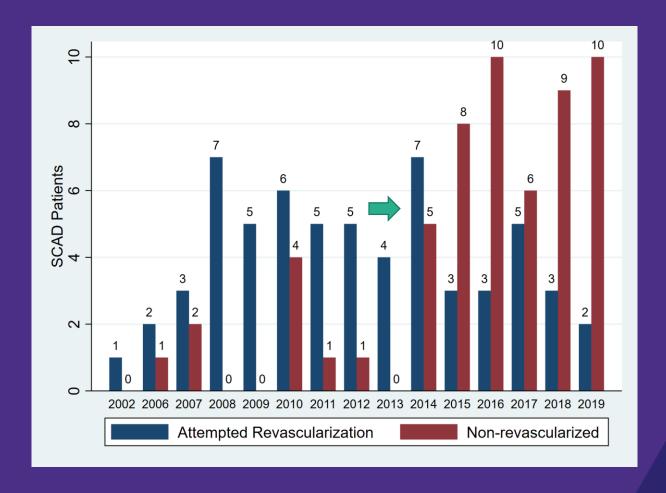


Saw et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;70:1148-58.





# SCAD Revascularization Rate By Year at MHI







# Multimodality Imaging Enhances SCAD Diagnosis

- Optical Coherence Tomography / Intravascular Ultrasound to Confirm Dissection
  - Improved spatial resolution
  - Only recommend if diagnosis is unclear due to dissection risk
- CT Coronary Angiography
  - Exclude significant atherosclerotic disease
  - Useful to visualize proximal dissections
- Cardiac MRI
  - Diagnose and confirm location of myocardial infarction

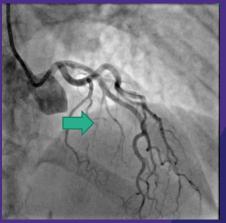




### Cardiac MRI in Diagnosis of SCAD

- 60 year old woman without significant medical history had NSTEMI with troponin to 12
- Angiogram with "normal coronary arteries"
- cMRI transmural infraction of the basal to mid interventricular septum with wall motion abnormality













# Diagnosis of SCAD

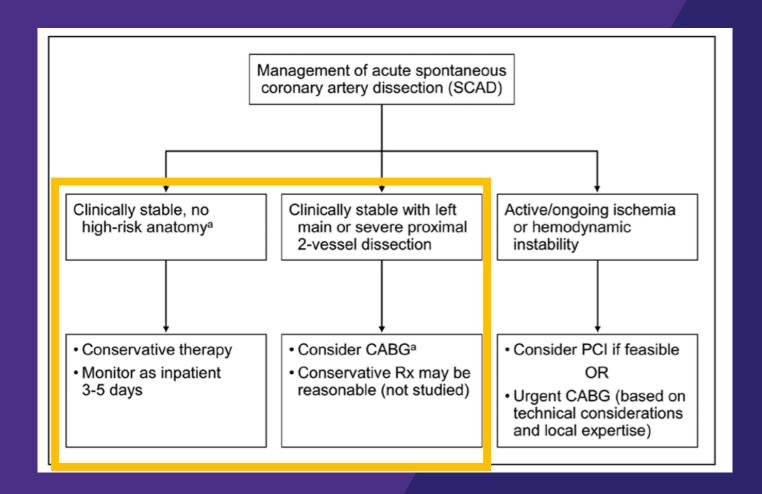
- Diagnosis can be challenging
- Coronary Angiography primary modality for diagnosis
- Multimodality Imaging can augment coronary angiography





#### Acute Management

- Spontaneous healing 70-90%
  - Predominantly NSTEMI
- Often healed by 1 month
- Repeat angiography only based on clinical symptoms



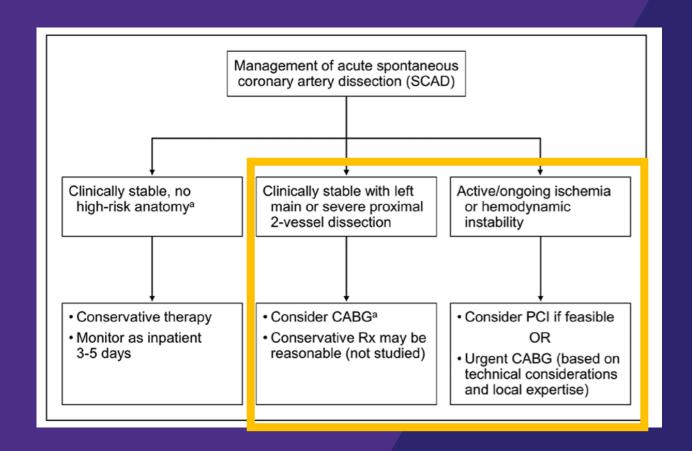
Hayes et al, Circulation. 2018; 137(19): e523-557.





#### SCAD Revascularization

- Technically Challenging
- Technical failure: 25-36%
- Suboptimal results: 25%
- Emergency CABG 9-12%



Hayes et al, Circulation. 2018; 137(19): e523-557.





#### latrogenic Dissection

- 3.4% of SCAD Patients vs <0.2% general population
- Increased Risk
  - Radial approach
  - Deep catheter intubation



Right Coronary Artery latrogenic Dissection



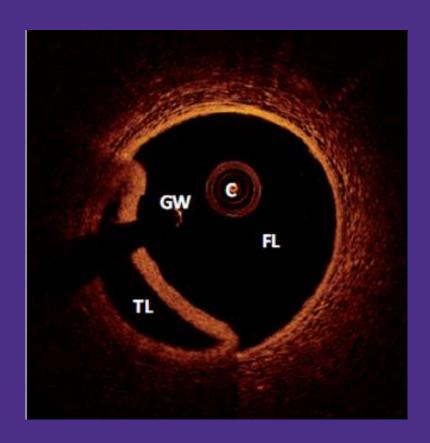
Left Anterior Descending Artery Spontaneous Dissection

Prakash, Roshan, et al. "Catheter-induced iatrogenic coronary artery dissection in patients with spontaneous coronary artery dissection." *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions*. (2016) 9(17): 1851-1853.





# False Lumen Stenting





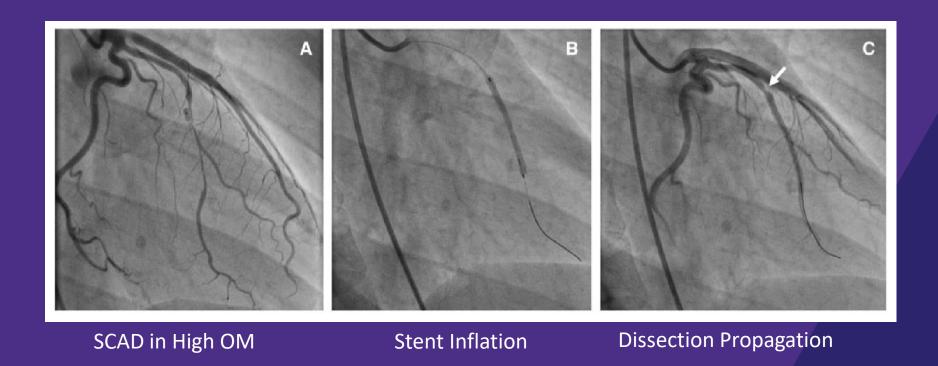
Adlam, David, et al. "Spontaneous coronary artery dissection." *Eur Heart J* (2016) 37: 3073-3074.

Kalra, Ankur, et al. "Percutaneous coronary intervention in spontaneous coronary artery dissection: role of intravascular ultrasound." *Cardiology and therapy* (2014) 3(1-2):61-66.





# Dissection Propagation



Adlam, David, et al. "Spontaneous coronary artery dissection." *Eur Heart J* (2016) 37: 3073-3074.



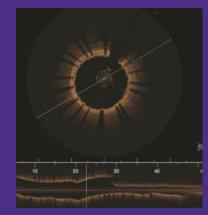


#### Late Hematoma Resorption with Stent Malapposition

9 days after PCI for mLAD SCAD







2 days later after 2<sup>nd</sup> PCI





Lempereur et al. Cardiovasc Diagn Ther 2015; 5(4): 323-329.





#### Progression in New Vessels During Index Admission

- 5-20% of patients will have early progression of disease
- 2.6-8.5% will fail conservative treatment
- Hospitalized minimum 48 hours, up to 5 day can be justified

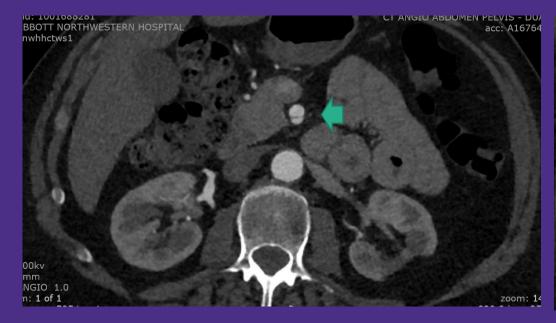


Waterbury Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2018;11:e006772.

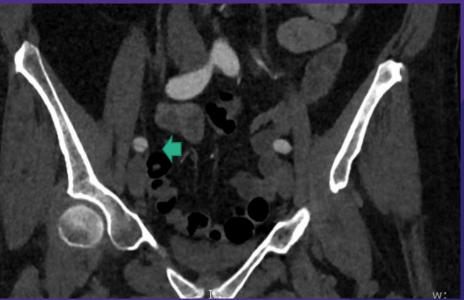




# Non-Coronary Dissections



Spontaneous Superior Mesenteric Artery Dissection

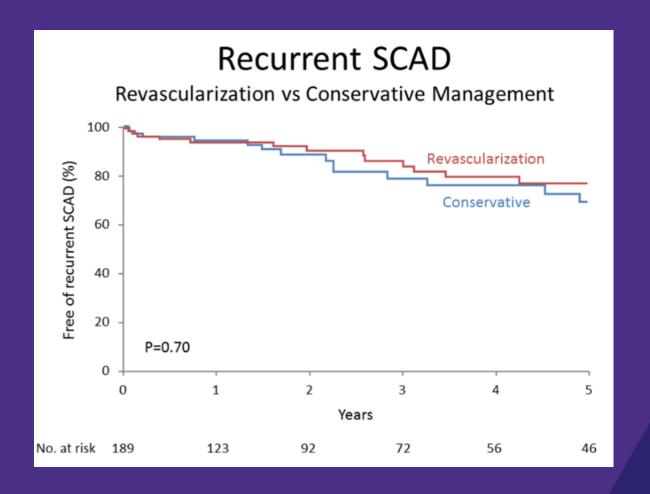


latrogenic Femoral Artery Dissection





#### PCI Is NOT Protective From Recurrent SCAD



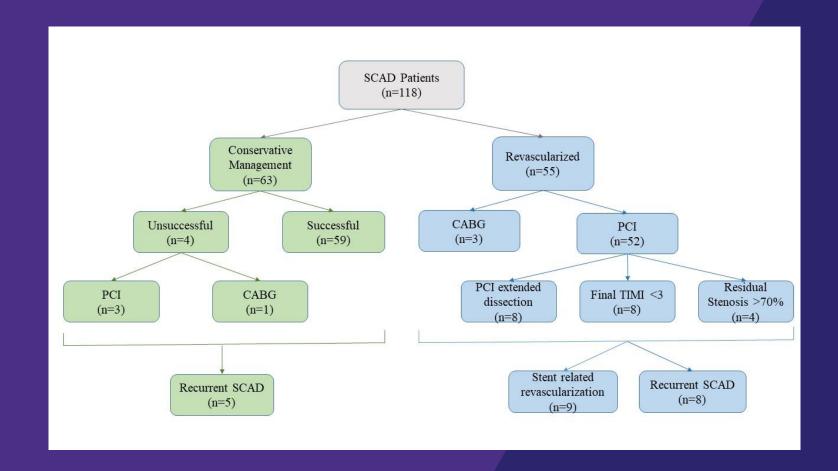
Tweet, Marysia S., et al. Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions (2014) 7(6): 777-786.





# Revascularization Complications at MHI

- Repeat Revascularization: 15 (25.9%)
- Stent Related Complications:
  - PCI extending dissection: 8 (15.4%)
  - Final TIMI <3: 8 (15.4%)
  - Residual stenosis >70%: 4 (7.7%)
  - Stent Thrombosis: 2 (3.4%)
  - Restenosis: 5 (8.6%)
  - Residual Stenosis: 2 (3.4%)
  - Stent Mal-apposition: 1 (1.7%)
- SCAD Recurrence requiring PCI with stenting: 5 (8.6%)
- Multiple Interventions: 2 patients (3.4%)

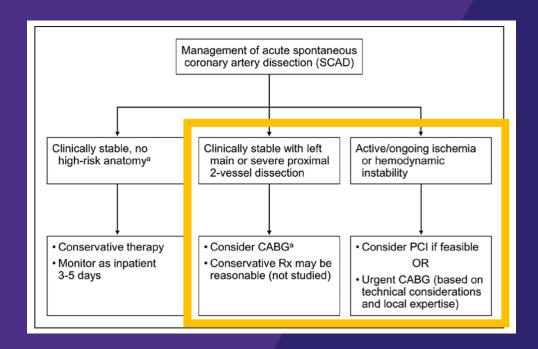






# Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting

- Considered Left Main or Proximal Dissections
- High Early Rates of Revascularization
  - 20 patients, 32 of 34 intended targets re-vascularized
- High Rates of Late Graft Failure
  - 11/16 graft failures in 11 of 20 patients imaged during follow-up
- Not protective from recurrent SCAD

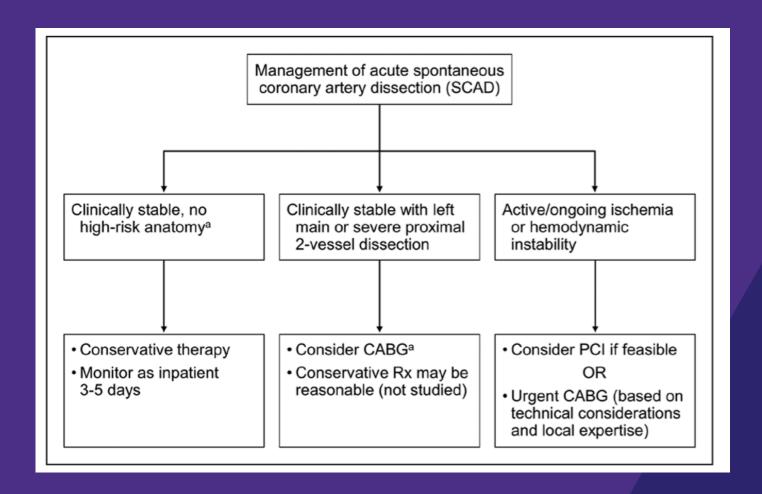


Tweet, Marysia S., et al. "Spontaneous coronary artery dissection: revascularization versus conservative therapy." *Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions* (2014) 7(6): 777-786.





### Summary Acute Management







# Medical Therapy

No randomized trials

Based on expert opinion



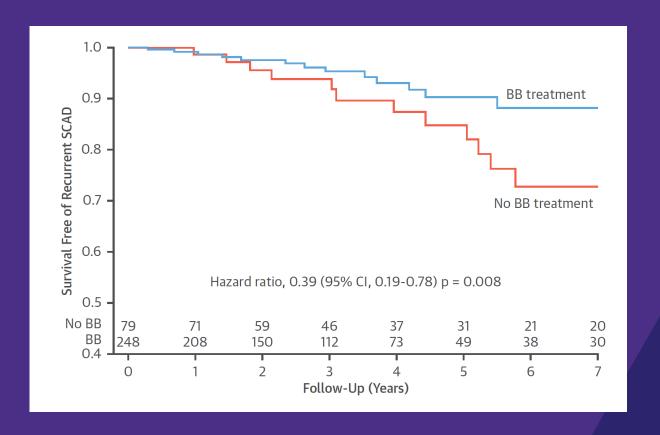
# Anticoagulation and Antiplatelet Therapy

- Heparin- Discontinue
  - Theoretical risk worsening dissection
- Aspirin- Continue
  - Minimum 1 year, possibly indefinitely
- Dual Antiplatelet Therapy
  - Published series predominantly use clopidogrel
  - Follow standard recommendations for PCI
  - Unclear benefit or duration in use for conservative management
  - Consider 1-3 months in conservatively treated patients





# Life Long Beta- Blocker Therapy



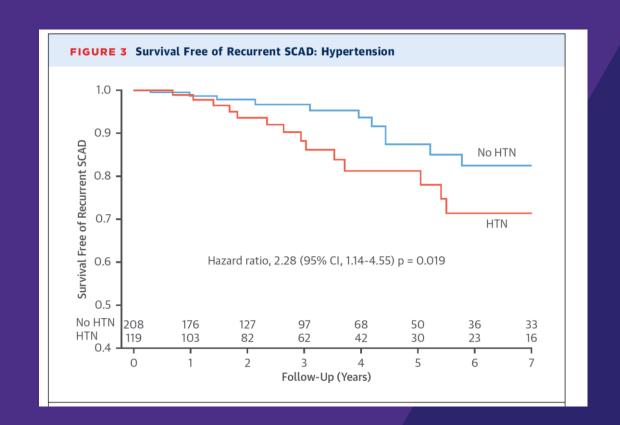
Saw et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;70:1148-58.





### Treat Hypertension

- Ace-I / ARB
  - LV systolic dysfunction
  - Fibromuscular dysplasia
- Calcium Channel Blockers
  - Anti-anginal



Saw et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;70:1148-58.





# Statin Therapy

- Tweet et al in a series of 87 patients found higher recurrence rate with statin use
- Saw et al in series of 327 patients found no association with SCAD recurrence and statin use
- Recommended for primary prevention

Saw et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;70:1148–58. Tweet et al. *Circulation*. (2012)126(5):579-88





#### Antianginal Therapy

- Chest pain after SCAD is common
  - MHI: 50% of non-revasuclarized and 70% of revascularized patients had ED and / or hospital admissions for chest pain
  - Exertional and Non-exertional
  - Mental Stress
    - Anxiety and depression in ~40% of patients following SCAD
  - Menstrual cycle
- Treatment
  - Short and long acting nitrates
  - Calcium channel Blockers
  - Ranolazine
  - Treat associated anxiety and depression





#### Medial Therapy- Summary

- Discontinue heparin
- Aspirin and beta blocker therapy life long
- Dual antiplatelet individualize recommendation
- ACE-I or ARBs for hypertension or LV systolic dysfunction
- Statins if meet criteria for primary prevention
- Antianginal therapy for post-SCAD chest pain





#### All SCAD Patients Should Be Referred for Cardiac Rehabilitation

- Starting goals exercise
  - BP max 130/80
  - HR 50-70% of heart rate reserve
  - Free weights: 2-12lbs to start
    - Working up to 20lbs women
    - Working up to 50lbs men
    - Low resistance and high repetition

- Avoid
  - Strain / Valsalva maneuvers
  - High intensity activities
  - High contact sports
  - Pushing to exhaustion
  - Extreme temperatures
  - Abrupt increases in physical activity

Chou et al. J Can J Cardiol 2016;32(4):554-60.





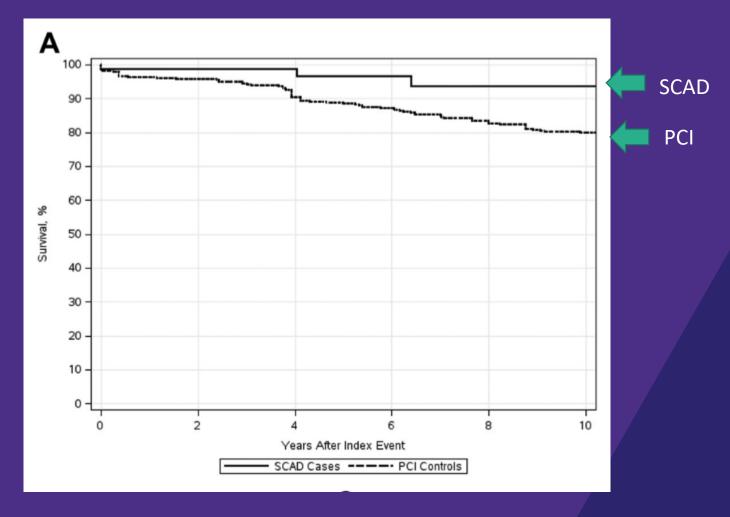
#### Heart Failure

- All SCAD Patients should have LV EF assessment prior to discharge
- LV EF <50 %
  - Saw et al series of 327 pts: 21.8% at presentation with decreased EF
  - MHI: 19% of non-revascuarlized and 44% of revascularized patients with decreased EF
- Heart Failure Requiring Advanced Therapies at MHI
  - 2 Heart Transplants
  - 1 Left Ventricular Assist Device





#### Overall Survival Excellent

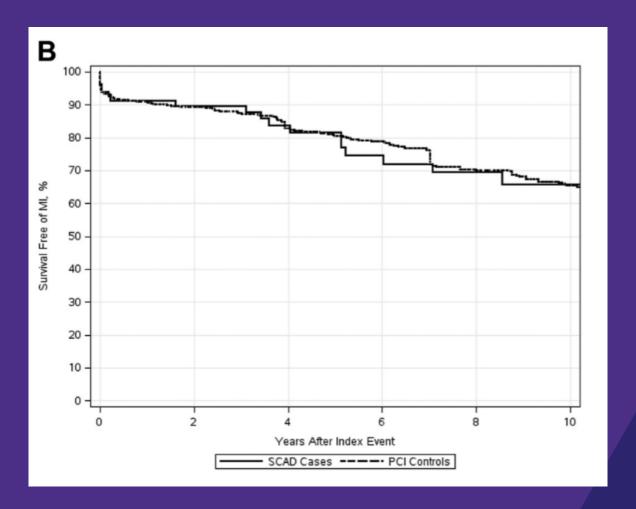


Tweet et al. Circulation. (2012)126(5):579-88.





#### Recurrence is Common



Tweet et al. *Circulation*. (2012)126(5):579-88.





# Pregnancy Associated SCAD

- 1.81 SCAD events per 100,000 pregnancies
- Common etiology of MI among pregnant and post-partum women
- 4% of MHI SCAD Patients
- Higher complication rate
- Acute management same as non-pregnancy SCAD
- Less likely to be associated with Fibromuscular Dysplasia





#### Pregnancy and Hormone Counseling with SCAD

- Pregnancy Counseling
  - Recommend against pregnancy, but data limited support recommendation
  - Preconception counseling if someone desires pregnancy (MHI Cardio-Pregnancy Program)
- Hormone Therapy
  - Non-hormonal contraceptives (IUD with progestin preferred)
  - Avoid Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Medications Contraindicated in pregnancy
  - Statins
  - Atenolol
  - Ace-Inhibitors

Havakuk, Ofer, et al. Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions (2017) 10 (3): e004941.





# Fibromuscular Dysplasia

- Non-inflammatory non-atherosclerotic disorder that leads to arterial stenosis of small to medium sized vessels
- Aneurysm, tortuosity, and dissections of small to medium sized vessels common



**Renal Artery** 



**Carotid Arteries** 



Femoral Artery



Coronary Artery

Eleid Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2014;7:656-662.





#### Fibromuscular Dysplasia Management

- Aspirin 81mg daily for life for thrombosis prevention
- Blood pressure management
  - Ace-I / ARBs for renovascular involvement
  - Beta Blockers for SCAD
  - Beta Blockers, calcium channel blockers, ARBs for Migraines
- Migraines
  - Avoid triptans / vasoconstrictive medications
- Smoking Cessation

Gornik et al, First International Consensus on the diagnosis and management of fibromuscular dysplasia. *Vascular Medicine*. 2019: 24(2) 164-180.





#### Conclusions

- Diagnosis can be challenging
  - Be aware of prior misdiagnosis
  - Multimodality Imaging
- Acute Management
  - Keep inpatient for minimum 2-3 days
  - Aspirin / Beta Blockers / Clopidogrel
  - Look for Fibromuscular Dysplasia
- Long Term Management
  - Continue Beta Blockers
  - Manage Blood Pressure
  - Pregnancy / Hormone Therapy Counseling
  - Refer to Cardiac Rehabilitation









# Thank You.

#### Mindy Cook

Senior Quality Improvement Manager Quality, Outcomes Research & Analytics – National Center

American Heart Association

2750 Blue Water Road, Suite 250

Eagan, MN 55121

Mindy.Cook@heart.org

www.heart.org/quality

www.linkedin.com/in/Mindy-Cook

O 952.278.7938

