

Letter: A Randomized Trial of Second-Generation Hydrogel Neurovascular Coils

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the editorial by Zussman et al,¹ A Randomized Trial of Second-Generation Hydrogel Neurovascular Coils, in which are reported and discussed the results of the GREAT (German-French Randomized Endovascular Aneurysm Trial) study. This editorial identified the challenges in treating intracranial aneurysms with coils and highlighted the beneficial effects that the second-generation coils have on the obliteration rates. The editorial also detailed the methodology used in GREAT (randomization, composite primary endpoint) and referenced the angiographic outcomes at 18-month follow-up.

However, we would like to bring to the attention of the authors that the GREAT study final results (including the 18-month follow-up), clinical, and angiographic data were published in a recent issue of the *Stroke* journal (*Stroke* 2018).² The reference used by the authors (*Neuroradiology* 2015)³ is one of the three publications²⁻⁴ on GREAT published by the investigators and covers the methodology used for the trial. The final results and follow-up data were not published in *Neuroradiology*, as indicated in the Table of the editorial.

In the GREAT study, patients were randomized from October 2009 to January 2014 and to be followed for 18 months. The aim of the study was to establish whether the use of softer, second generation hydrogel coils for the treatment of intracranial aneurysms improves clinical and angiographic outcomes compared with the use of bare platinum coils. Our results showed a reduced rate of unfavorable outcome events in patients treated within the hydrogel arm. We acknowledged that GREAT has some limitations, including the restriction in aneurysm size and some patients missing at follow-up. Results coming from additional large randomized studies on the uses

of second-generation hydrogel coils compared to newest bare platinum coils are soon to be released. The results of these studies may provide added information to justify the uses of second-generation hydrogel coils.

Disclosures

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Christian A. Taschner, MD, PhD

*Department of Neuroradiology
Medical Center-University of Freiburg
Faculty of Medicine
University of Freiburg
Freiburg, Germany*

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