



Press Release

The first-in-man aortic valvuloplasty with a drug-eluting balloon

The **first-in-man aortic valvuloplasty** with a **paclitaxel-eluting balloon** was performed on September 26th in Athens, Greece, during the Athens Interventional Cardiovascular Therapeutics (AICT) 2008.

The procedure was performed on compassionate grounds in a patient with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis who was a poor candidate for surgical or transcatheter valve replacement due to comorbidities prohibiting administration of general anaesthesia and poor peripheral arteries excluding transfemoral implantation.

The procedure was performed by **Dr. Kostas Spargias** at Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre, Athens, Greece, using a paclitaxel-eluting valvuloplasty balloon developed in collaboration with **Eurocor GmbH**, Bonn, Germany, the manufacturer of the DIOR paclitaxel-eluting coronary angioplasty balloon. The mean transvalvular pressure gradient was reduced from 56 to 32 mm Hg after two inflations of a 20x40 mm paclitaxel-coated balloon.

Eurocor is hoping to expand life expectancy of humans in poor conditions as Dr. Rembert Pogge von Strandmann (head of Eurocor Clinical department) explains and will work on a world wide availability. Preliminary animal experiment data for the potential of this novel method to prevent restenosis, the Achille's heel of aortic balloon valvuloplasty, has been promising.

The concept of drug-eluting aortic valvuloplasty will be presented on **October 13th** during the **TCT 2008 convention at Washington, DC**, in the innovative Devices and Futuristic Concepts session.

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