

KEY REFERENCES

Arterial Conduits for Coronary Bypass: Historical Overview and the Internal Mammary Artery

There has been significant interest in the use of arterial conduits in coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery. The initial results of poor outcomes following use of the radial artery as initially reported by Carpentier et al in 1973 were later determined to be mostly due to technical problems related to conduit harvest and a lack of knowledge about the pathophysiology of vasospasm in the post-operative period. A significant contribution to the scientific literature was the publication of reports by Loop et al about the effect of internal mammary artery (IMA) grafts on 10-year survival and cardiac events after CABG. These articles, in fact, are some of the most cited articles in the cardiac surgery literature, according to the Citation Index. This list of Key References is a compilation of articles that have made a significant impact in the practice of revascularization in cardiac surgery. The articles presented include historical overviews, review articles, articles about routine use of the LIMA and clinical outcomes, and articles reporting the use of both IMAs with routine or skeletonized techniques. Articles documenting clinical and angiographic outcomes of different surgical strategies of bilateral IMA grafting, including sequential and composite grafting, are also highlighted.

Historical Overview

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Review

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