



In search for predictors of carotid plaque destabilization: Update from the ongoing **CRACK-VH*** study.

*Carotid arteRy plaque morphology And atherosClerosis biomarkers: Krakow – Virtual Histology study

P. Musiałek, P. Pieniążek, A. Undas, Ł. Tekieli, A. Kabłak-Ziembicka,
T. Przewłocki, E. Stepień, M. Pasowicz, K. Żmudka, W. Tracz

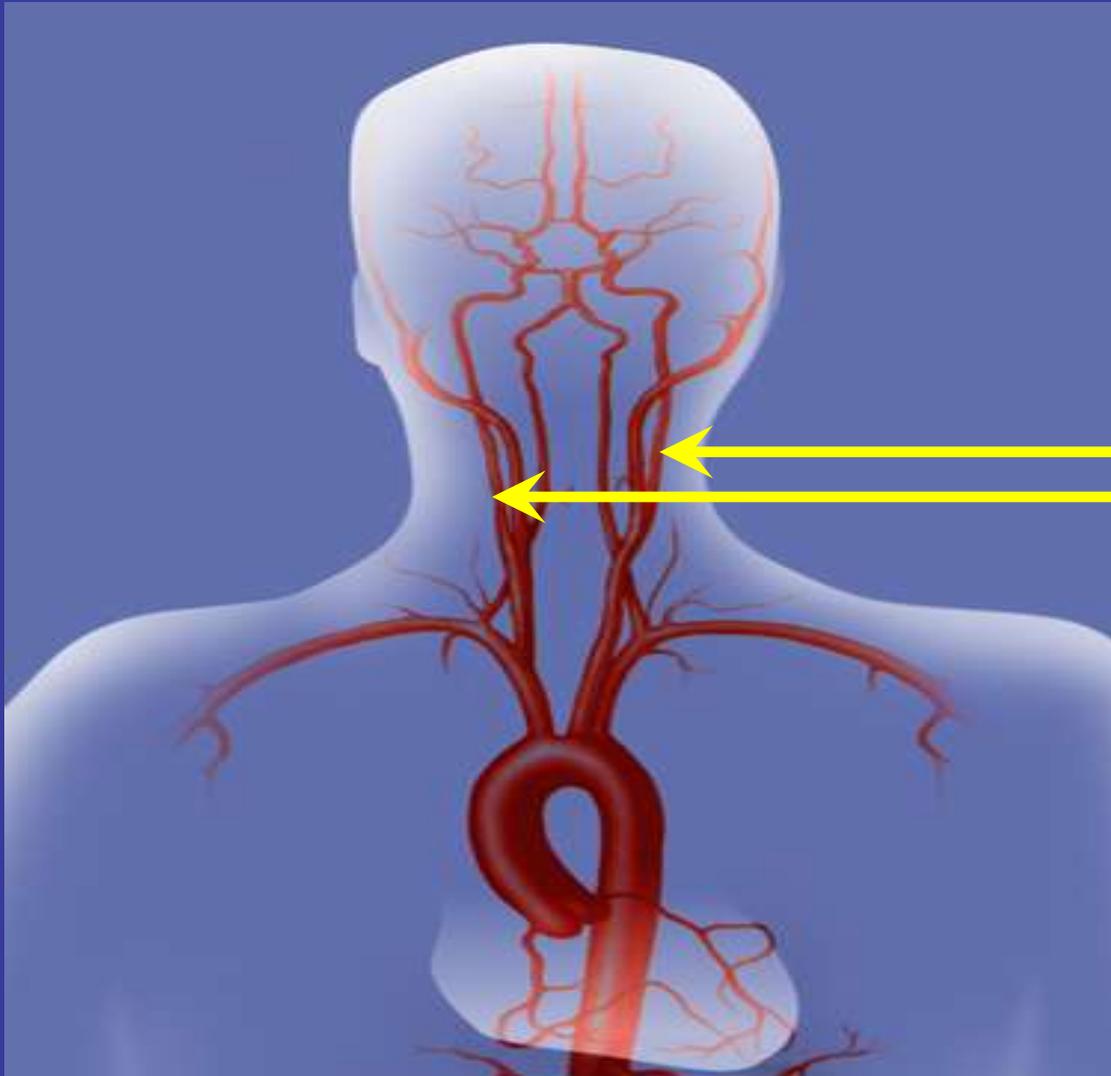
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY DEPT. OF CARDIAC & VASCULAR DISEASES,
AND JOHN PAUL II HOSPITAL, KRAKÓW, POLAND



Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest

I, **Piotr Musialek** DO NOT have any financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with one or more organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation.

Carotid artery stenosis and stroke



~20% strokes

Poland: ~ 12 000 / y

USA: ~ 140 000 / y

The Problem

MZ, 74y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis 85%



SŽ, 68y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis ~40% + ulcer



QCA 43%

Doppler
0.9/0.35 m/s

Whether –and which of the two– plaques should be treated by mechanical stabilization (CAS) or removal (CEA) ?

Stroke 2006;37:577-617

Guidelines for Prevention of Stroke in Patients With Ischemic Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack: A Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Council on Stroke: Co-Sponsored by the Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention: The American Academy of Neurology affirms the value of this guideline. Ralph L. Sacco, Robert Adams, Greg Albers, Mark J. Alberts, Oscar Benavente, Karen Furie, Larry B. Goldstein, Philip Gorelick, Jonathan Halperin, Robert Harbath, S. Claiborne Johnston, Irene Katzan, Margaret Kelly-Hayes, Edgar J. Kenton, Michael Marks, Lee H. Schwamm and Thomas Tomsick



ZALECENIA DOTYCZĄCE ZABIEGÓW
PRZEZSKÓRNEJ ANGIOPLASTYKI TĘTNIC
SZYJNYCH I OBWODOWYCH
DLA PRACOWNI KARDIOANGIOGRAFICZNYCH

prof. radiologia
dr hab. med. Adam Witołowski

ACCF/SCAI/SVMB/SIR/ASITN CLINICAL EXPERT CONSENSUS DOCUMENT

ACCF/SCAI/SVMB/SIR/ASITN 2007 Clinical Expert Consensus Document on Carotid Stenting

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation Task Force
on Clinical Expert Consensus Documents (ACCF/SCAI/SVMB/SIR/ASITN
Clinical Expert Consensus Document Committee on Carotid Stenting)

Carotid artery stenosis: Indications to CEA or CAS

- stenosis $\leq 50\%$ \longrightarrow no indications to CEA / CAS
(*even if* 'high risk' plaque)
(*even if symptoms: TIA/stroke !*)
- asymptomatic stenosis $< 80\%$ \longrightarrow no indications to CEA / CAS)
- symptomatic stenosis $> 50\%$ \longrightarrow CEA (or CAS)
- asymptomatic stenosis $> 80\%$ \longrightarrow one may perform CEA (or CAS)

Stroke 2006;37:577-617

Guidelines for Prevention of Stroke in Patients With Ischemic Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack: A Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Council on Stroke: Co-Sponsored by the Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention: The American Academy of Neurology affirms the value of this guideline. Ralph L. Sacco, Robert Adams, Greg Albers, Mark J. Alberts, Oscar Benavente, Karen Furie, Larry B. Goldstein, Philip Gorelick, Jonathan Halperin, Robert Harbough, S. Claiborne Johnston, Irene Katzan, Margaret Kelly-Hayes, Edgar J. Kenton, Michael Marks, Lee H. Schwamm and Thomas Tomsick



ZALECENIA DOTYCZĄCE ZABIEGÓW PRZEZSKÓRNEJ ANGIOPLASTYKI TĘTNIC SZYJNYCH I OBWODOWYCH DLA PRACOWNI KARDIOANGIOGRAFICZNYCH

prof. radiologia
dr hab. med. Adam Włotkiewicz

ACCF/SCAI/SVMB/SIR/ASITN 2007 Clinical Expert Consensus Document on Carotid Stenting

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation Task Force on Clinical Expert Consensus Documents (ACCF/SCAI/SVMB/SIR/ASITN Clinical Expert Consensus Document Committee on Carotid Stenting)

Carotid artery stenosis: Indications to CEA or CAS

- stenosis $\leq 50\%$ \longrightarrow no indications to CEA / CAS
(even if 'high risk' plaque)
(even if symptoms: TIA/stroke!)
- asymptomatic stenosis $< 80\%$ \longrightarrow no indications to CEA / CAS
- symptomatic stenosis $> 50\%$ \longrightarrow CEA (or CAS)
- asymptomatic stenosis $> 80\%$ \longrightarrow one may perform CEA (or CAS)

MZ, 74y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis 85%



indication
to CEA / CAS

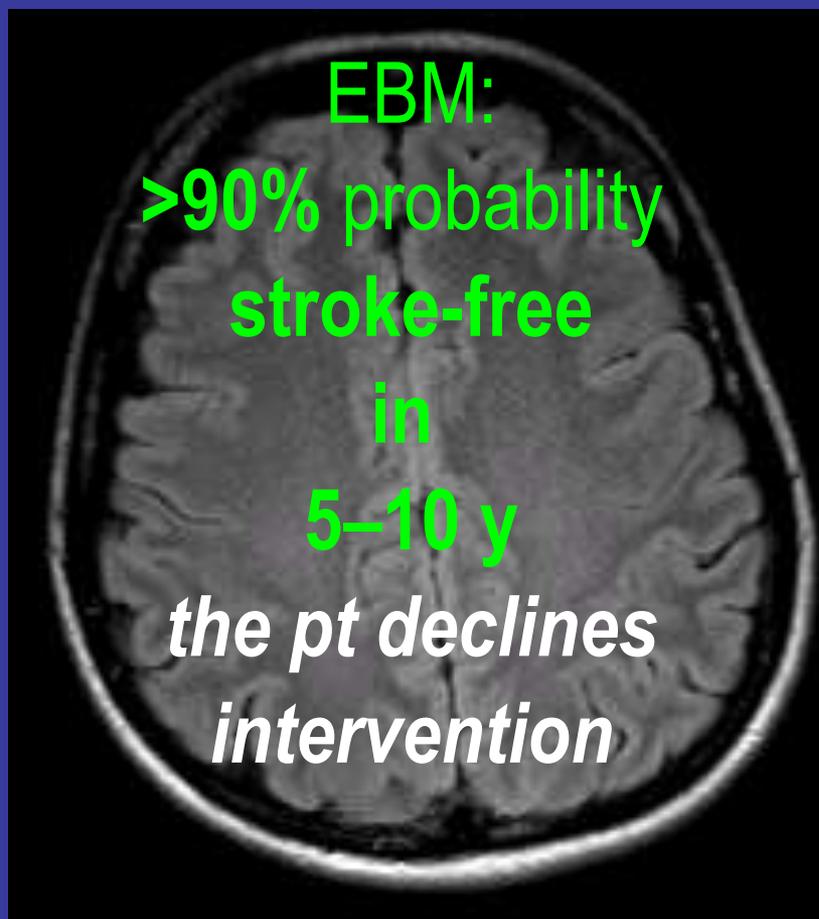
SŽ, 65y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis ~40%



no indication
to CEA / CAS

(in both – ‘full’ pharmacotherapy incl. ‘high-dose’ statin, ASA, ACEI)

MZ, 74y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis 85%



indication
to CEA / CAS

SŽ, 65y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis ~40%

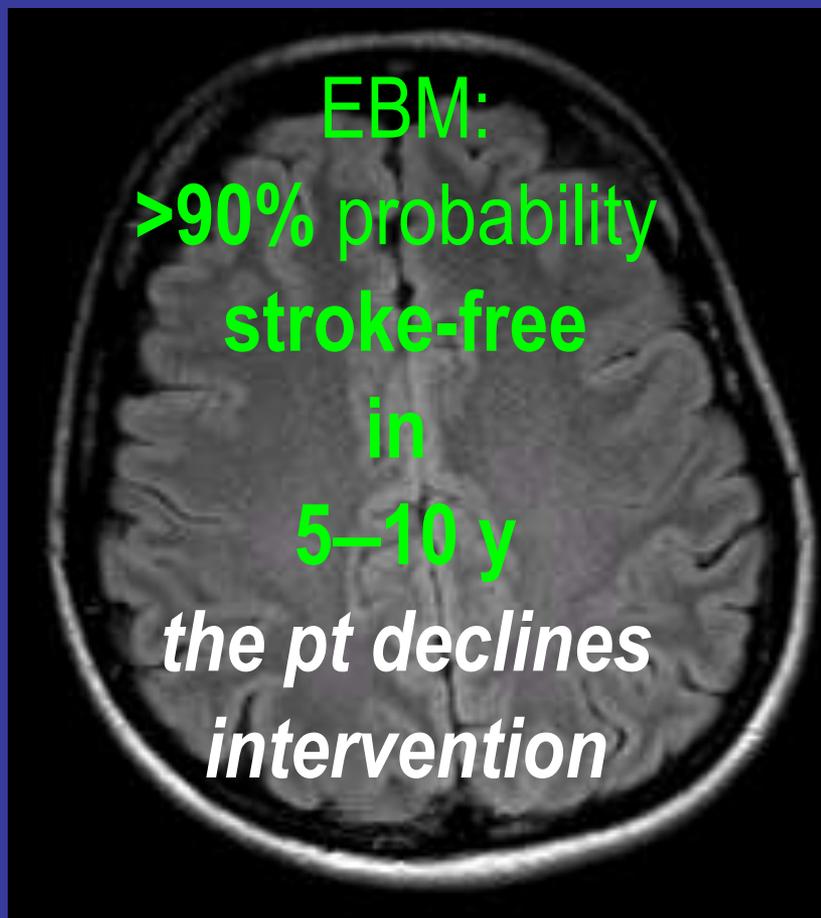


no indication
to CEA / CAS

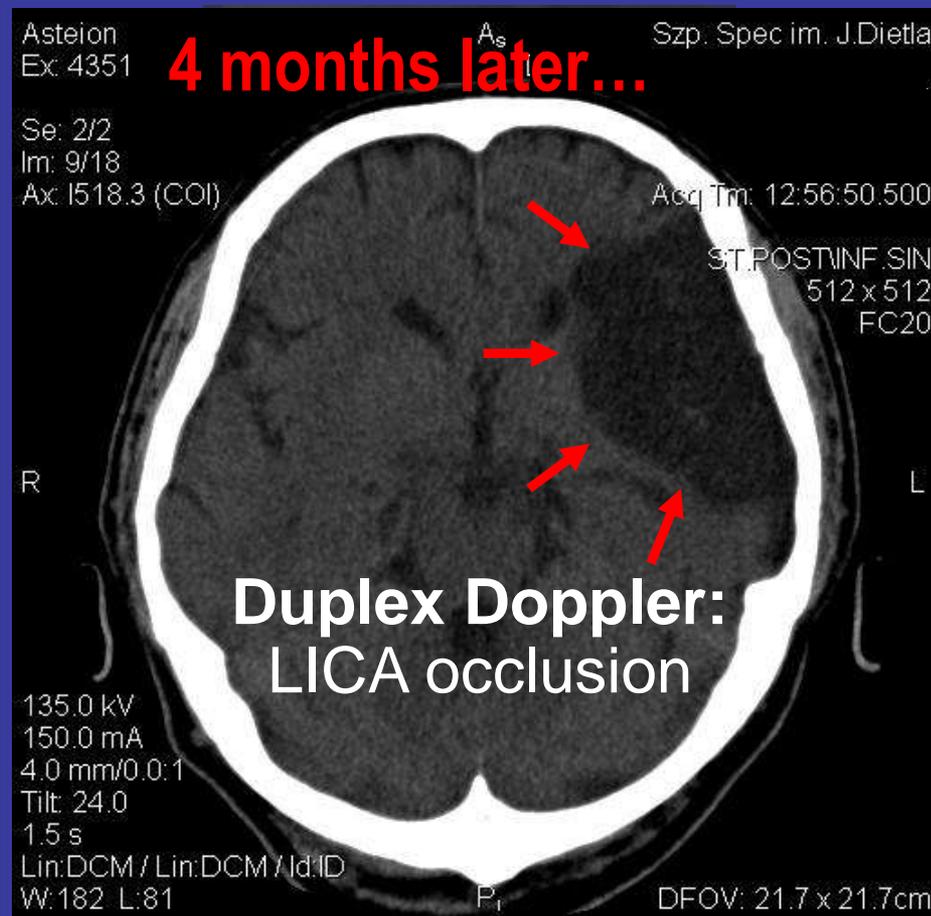
(in both – ‘full’ pharmacotherapy incl. ‘high-dose’ statin, ASA, ACEI)

74y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis 85%

SZ, 65y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis ~40%



indication
to CEA / CAS

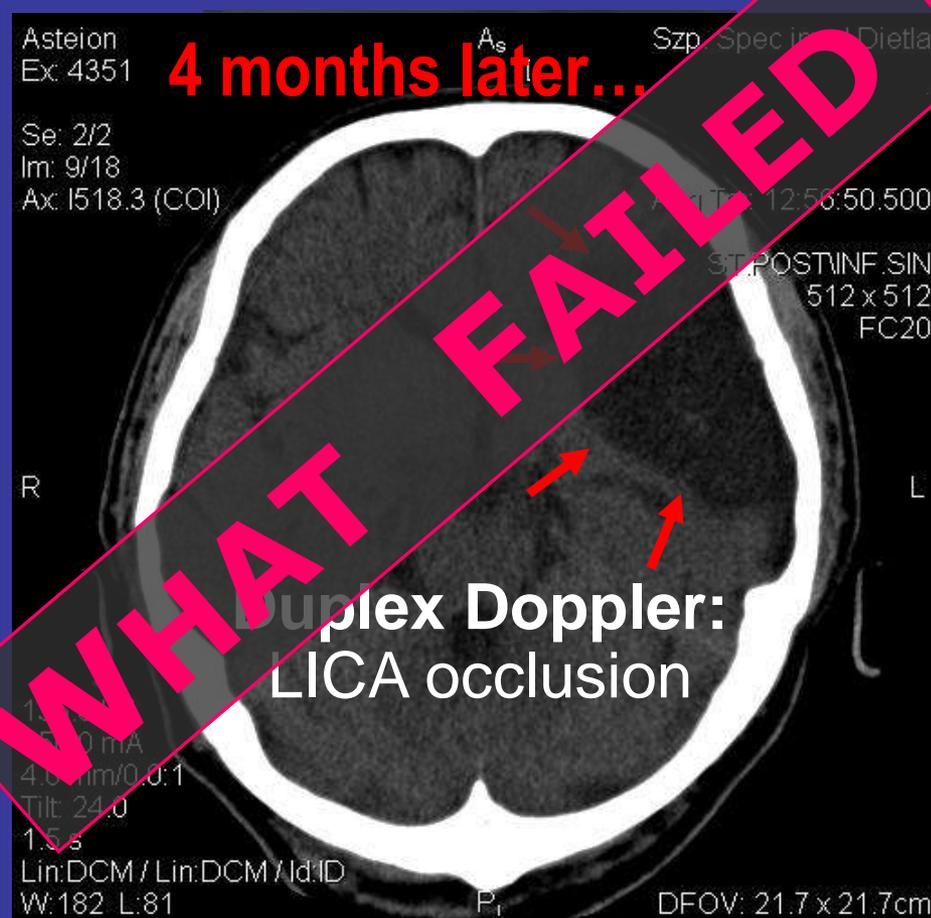
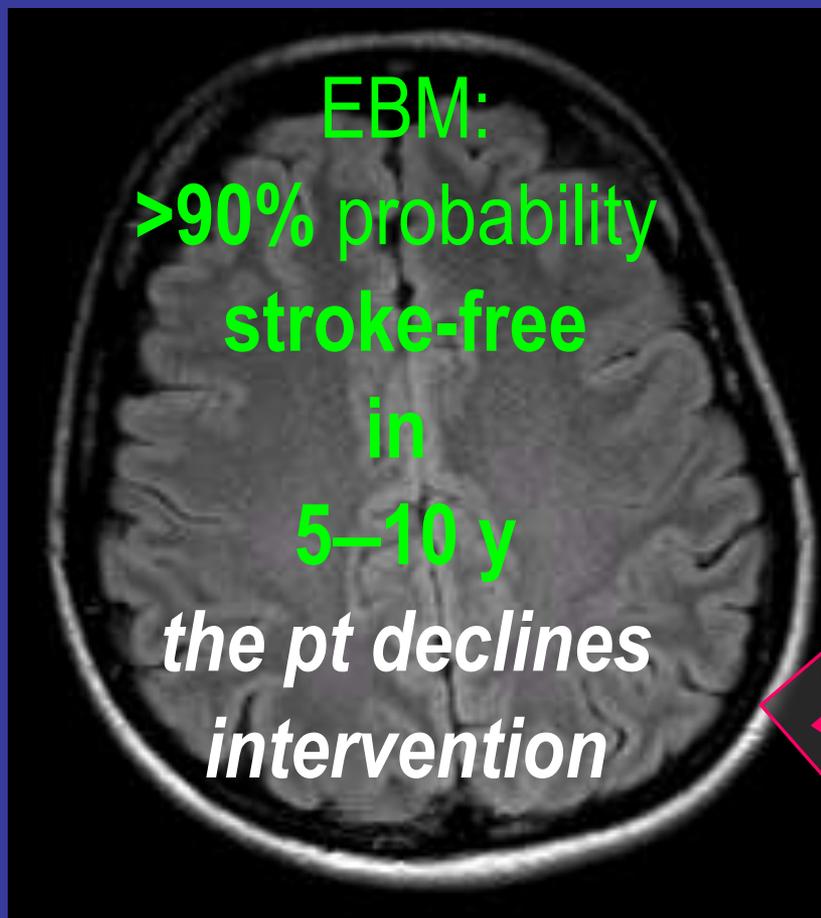


no indication NIH-SS 5
to CEA / CAS Rankin 3

motoric aphasia 4/5
right hemiparesis 3/5

74y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis 85%

SZ, 65y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis ~40%



WHAT FAILED?!

indication
to CEA / CAS

no indication NIH-SS 5
to CEA / CAS Rankin 3

motoric aphasia 4/5
right hemiparesis 3/5

TREATMENT OF CAROTID STENOSIS = TREATMENT OF STATISTICS

symptomatic > (50)-60%

NNT = 6

complications < 6%

asymptomatic \geq 80%

NNT = 12
(20-30)

complications < 3%

TREATMENT OF CAROTID STENOSIS = TREATMENT OF STATISTICS

symptomatic > (50)-60%

NNT = 6

complications < 6%

asymptomatic \geq 80%

NNT = 12
(20-30)

complications < 3%

but 80% major strokes occur
w/o **ANY** prodromal signs (TIA)

'The tighter the lesion the higher the risk' ...

'The tighter the lesion the higher the risk' ...not necessarily !

TABLE 2. Relationship Between Severity of Stenosis and Stroke Rate

Stenosis Severity*	Patient Stroke Rate					
	NASCET (2-Year) ¹¹		ECST (3-Year) ¹²		ACAS (3-Year) ¹³	
60%–69%	428†	13%	137	11%	131	6%
70%–79%	43	21%	170	9%	94	5%
80%–89%	33	27%	159	21%		NS
90%–99%	24	35%	60	32%		NS
80%–99%	57	31%	219	24%	88	3%

Values given are the ipsilateral stroke rates at the time points stated. NS indicates not stated.

*Definition of stenosis varied.

†For patients with 50%–69% stenosis.¹⁷

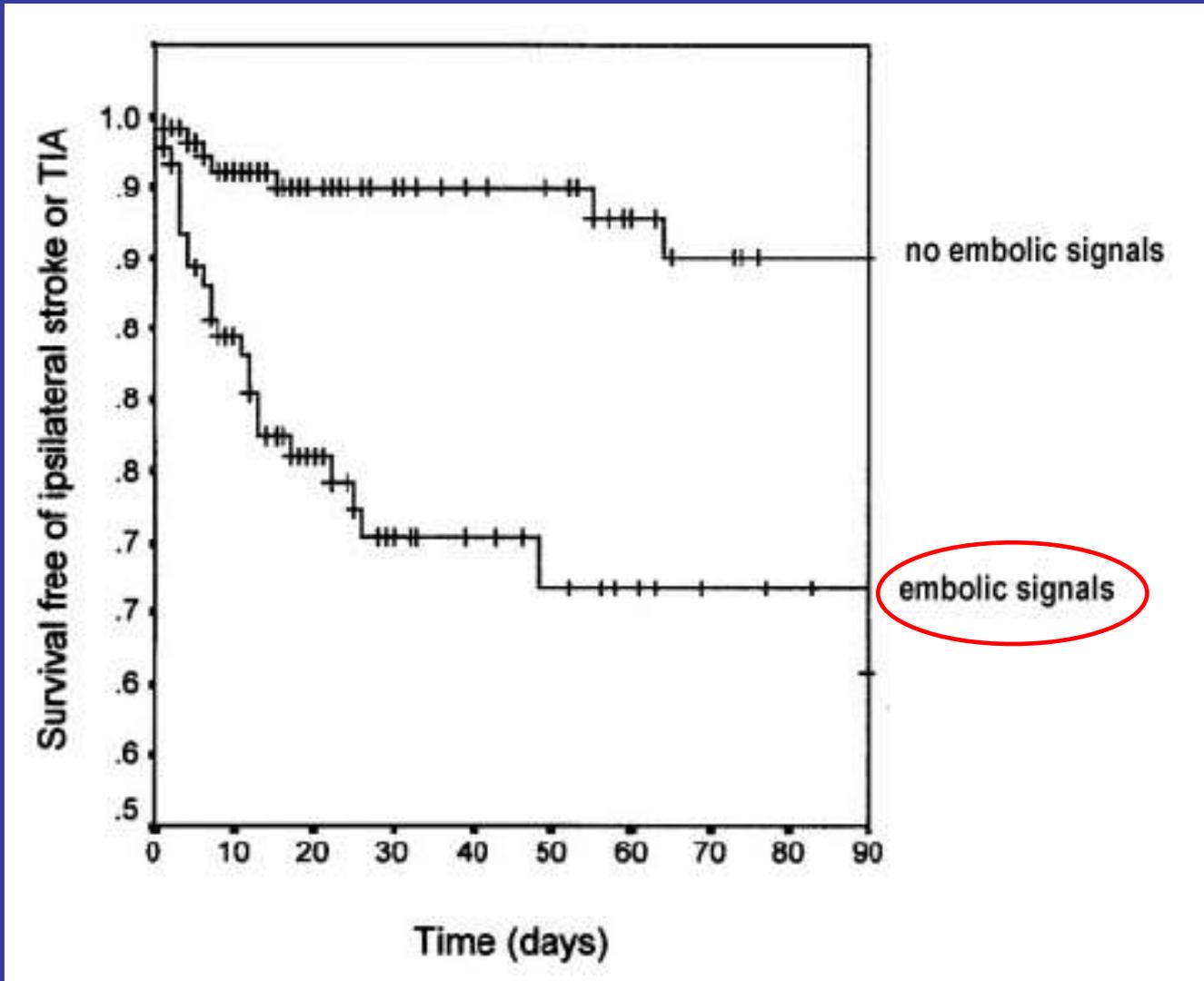
Golledge J, *Stroke* 2000

TABLE 2. Relationship Between Degree of Stenosis and Risk of Stroke With Medical Therapy (Pooled From ACAS and ACST)

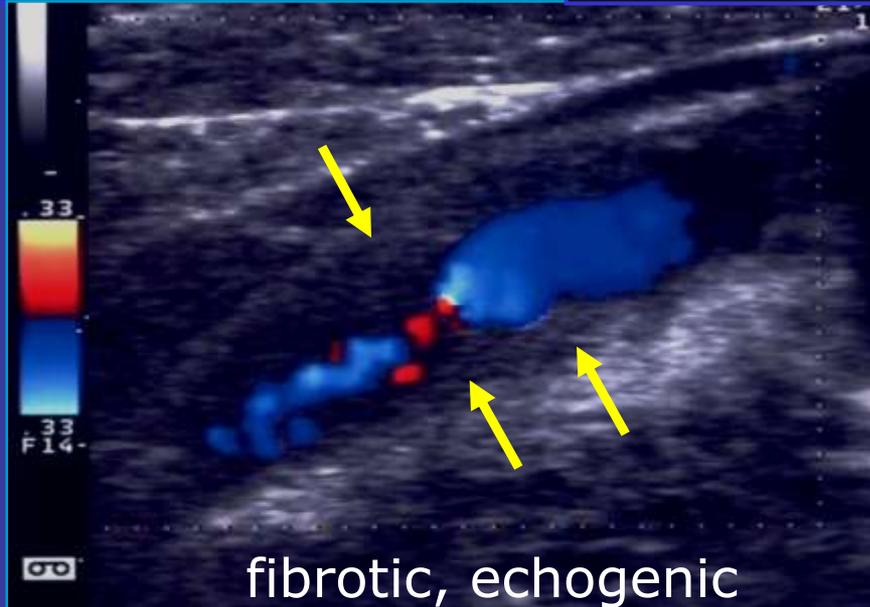
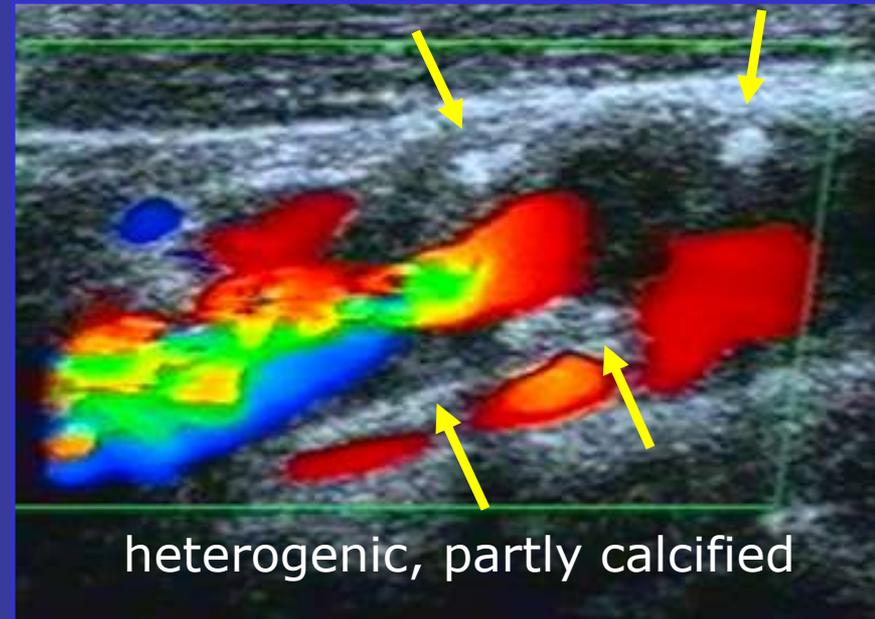
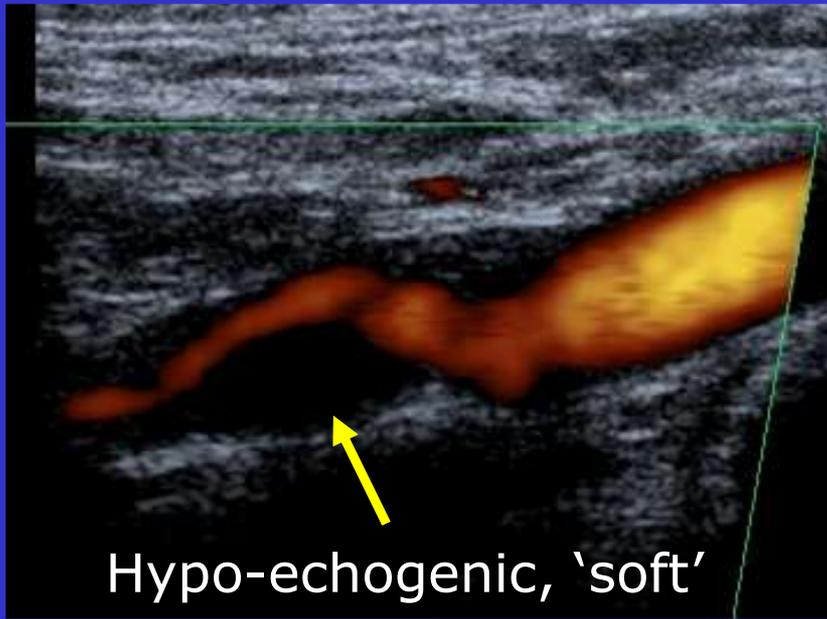
Stenosis	60%–69%	70%–79%	≥80%
No. with stroke/total No.	60/774 (7.8%)	40/541 (7.4%)	28/550 (5.1%)

Derdeyn CP, *Stroke* 2007

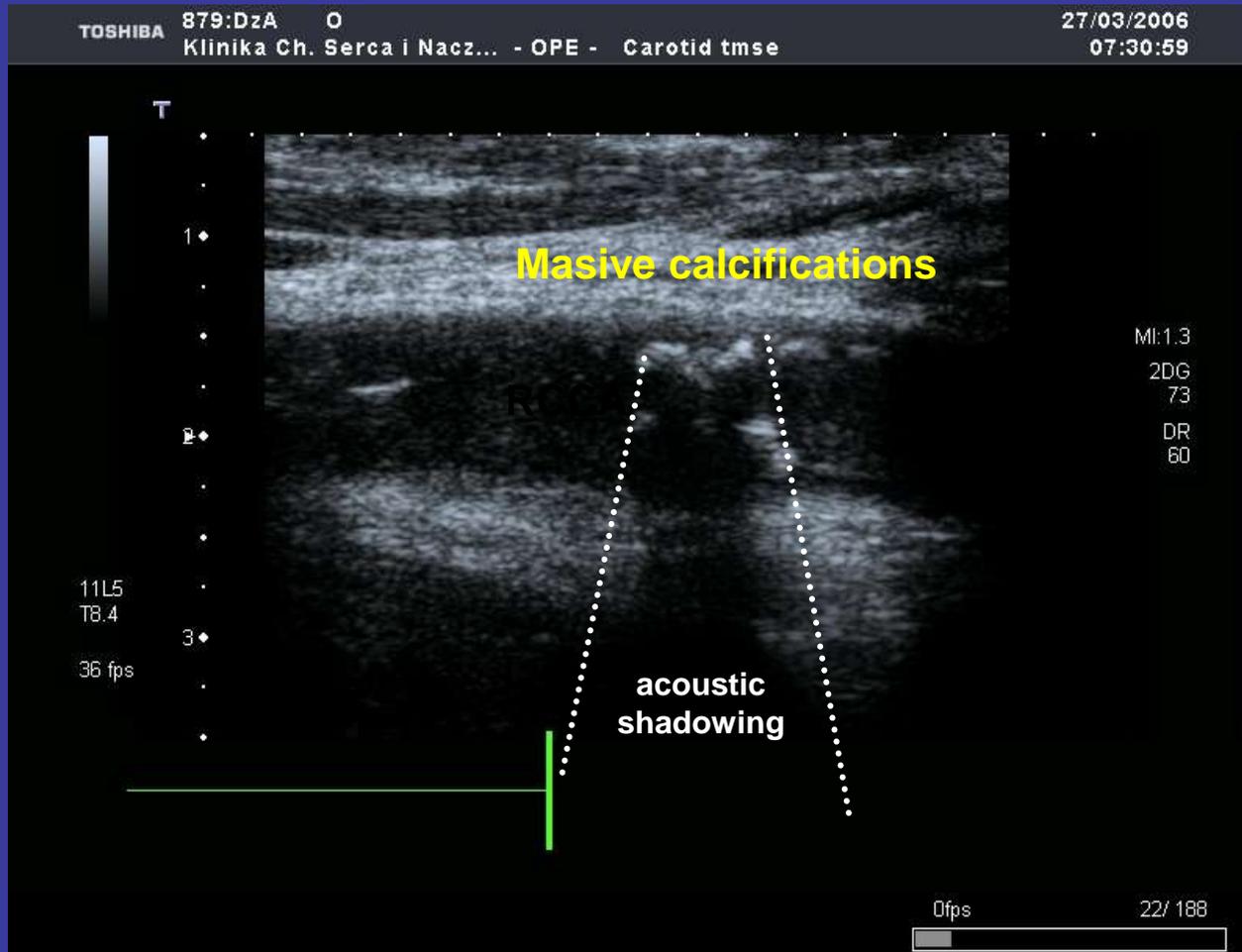
Asymptomatic embolization from the carotid plaque vs. Stroke risk



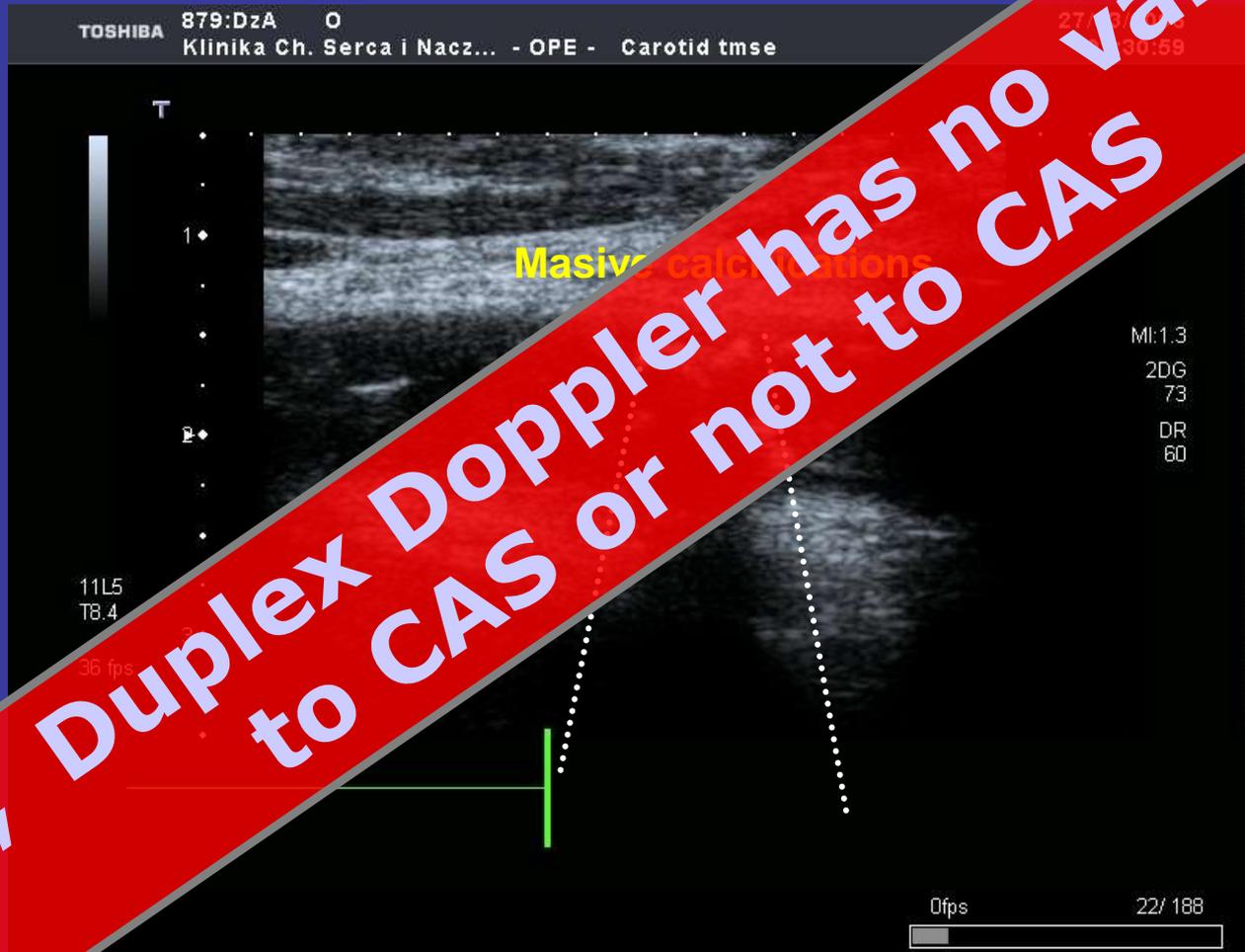
Can Duplex Doppler help?



Duplex Doppler has limitations



Duplex Doppler has limitations



today, Duplex Doppler has no validation to CAS or not to CAS

but Duplex Doppler can help in the selection of EPD and stent type !

◆ CLINICAL INVESTIGATION ◆

Carotid Artery Stenting With Patient- and Lesion-Tailored Selection of the Neuroprotection System and Stent Type: Early and 5-Year Results From a Prospective Academic Registry of 535 Consecutive Procedures (TARGET-CAS)

Piotr Pieniazek, MD, PhD¹; Piotr Musialek, MD, PhD¹; Anna Kablak-Ziembicka, MD, PhD¹; Lukasz Tekieli, MD¹; Rafal Motyl, MD, PhD²; Tadeusz Przewlocki, Zbigniew Moczulski, MD³; Mieczyslaw Pasowicz, MD, PhD³; Andrzej Sokolowski, MD, PhD⁴; Agata Lesniak-Sobelga, MD, PhD⁴; Krzysztof Zmudka, MD, PhD⁵; and Wieslawa Tracz, MD, PhD¹

Departments of ¹Cardiac and Vascular Diseases and ⁵Hemodynam Angiocardiology, Jagiellonian University Institute of Cardiology Centers of ²Clinical Neurology and ³Diagnostics and Rehabilitation Pulmonary Diseases, John Paul II Hospital, Krakow, Poland. ⁴Dep Krakow University of Economics, Krakow, Poland.

◆ ◆
Purpose: To develop and prospectively evaluate the safety and efficacy of an algorithm for tailoring neuroprotection devices (NPD) and stent types to the patient/lesion in carotid artery stenting (CAS).

Methods: From November 2002 to October 2007, 499 patients (360 men; mean age 65.2±8.4 years, range 36–88) were prospectively enrolled in a safety and efficacy study of tailored CAS using proximal (flow blockade or reversal) or distal (filters or occlusion) NPDs and closed- or open-cell self-expanding stents. Of the 535 lesions treated in the study, 175 (32.7%) were “high risk” by morphology. Half (50.1%) the patients were symptomatic.

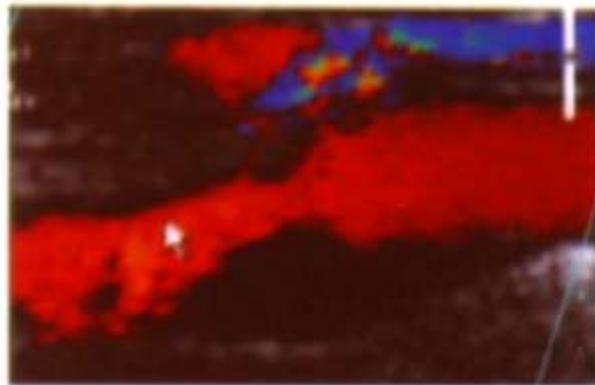
Results: A quarter (137, 25.6%) of the procedures were performed under proximal protection and the remainder (398, 74.4%) with distal NPDs; the direct stenting rate was 66.9%. High-risk lesions were treated predominantly with a proximal NPD and closed-cell stent (77.1% and 82.9%, respectively) and less frequently by direct stenting (37.1%, p<0.0001 versus non-high-risk lesions). The in-hospital death/stroke rate was 2.0% (95% CI 0.85% to 3.23%), and the death/major stroke rate was 0.7% (95% CI 0.02% to 1.48%). There were no myocardial infarctions, but there was 1 (0.2%) further death within 30 days. With the tailored approach, symptom status and high-risk lesion morphology were not risk factors for an adverse outcome after CAS; only age >75 years (p<0.001) was a predictor of short-term death. Long-term survival (95.4% at 1 and 88.3% at 5 years) was similar for symptomatic versus asymptomatic patients, direct stenting versus predilation, and closed- vs. open-cell stent design; only coronary artery disease adversely impacted survival (p=0.04). The rates of freedom from death/ipsilateral stroke were 94.9% at 1 year and 85.9% at 5 years.

Conclusion: Tailored CAS is associated with a low complication rate and high long-term efficacy. CAS operators should have a practical knowledge of different NPDs, including at least one proximal type.

Carotid plaque on DD and symptom risk

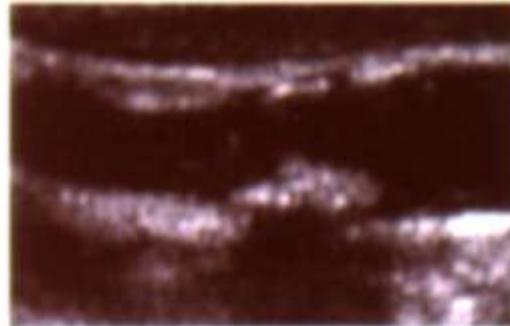
Homogenous

Type I (6%) : OR 3.8



*Hypo-
-echogenic*

Type IV (21%) : OR 1.0



*Hyper-
-echogenic*

Heterogenous

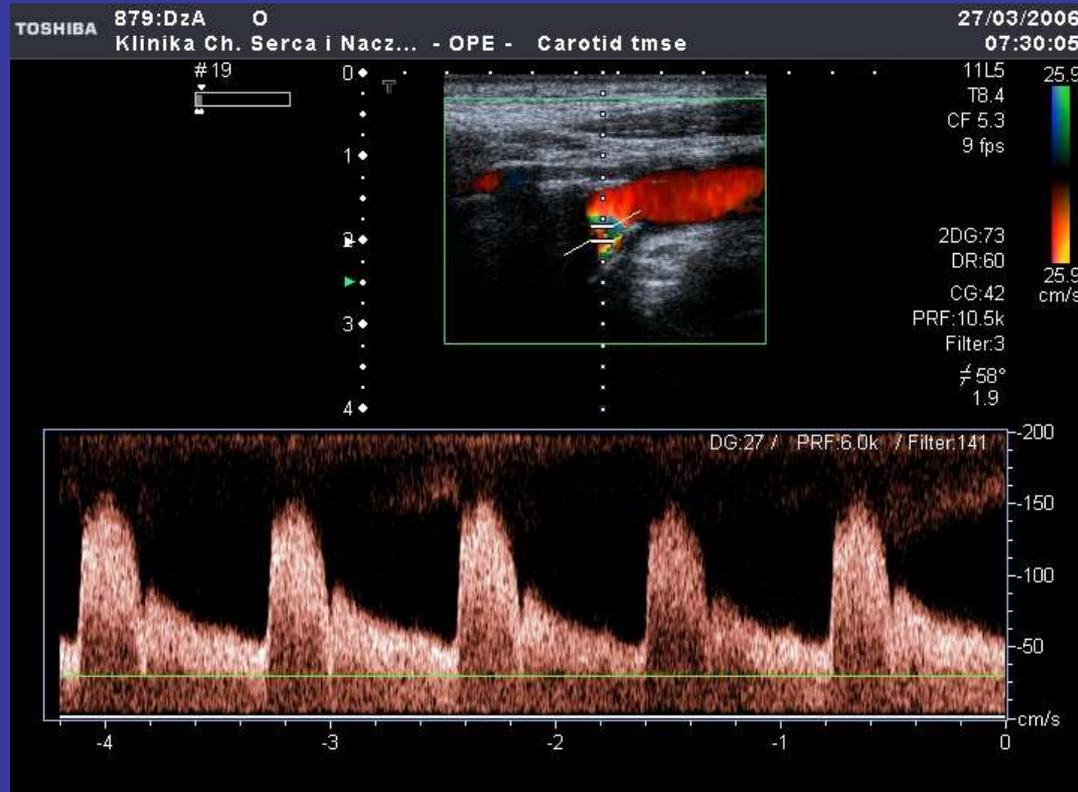
Type II (28%) : OR 4.5



Type III (45%) : OR 3.3



Classic ('*gray-scale*') IVUS in border-line carotid lesions



V max 1.6 / 0.54 m/s
indicates

non-significant RICA stenosis (ca. 50%)

[in this patient – recent L hemisph stroke, **LICA occluded**]

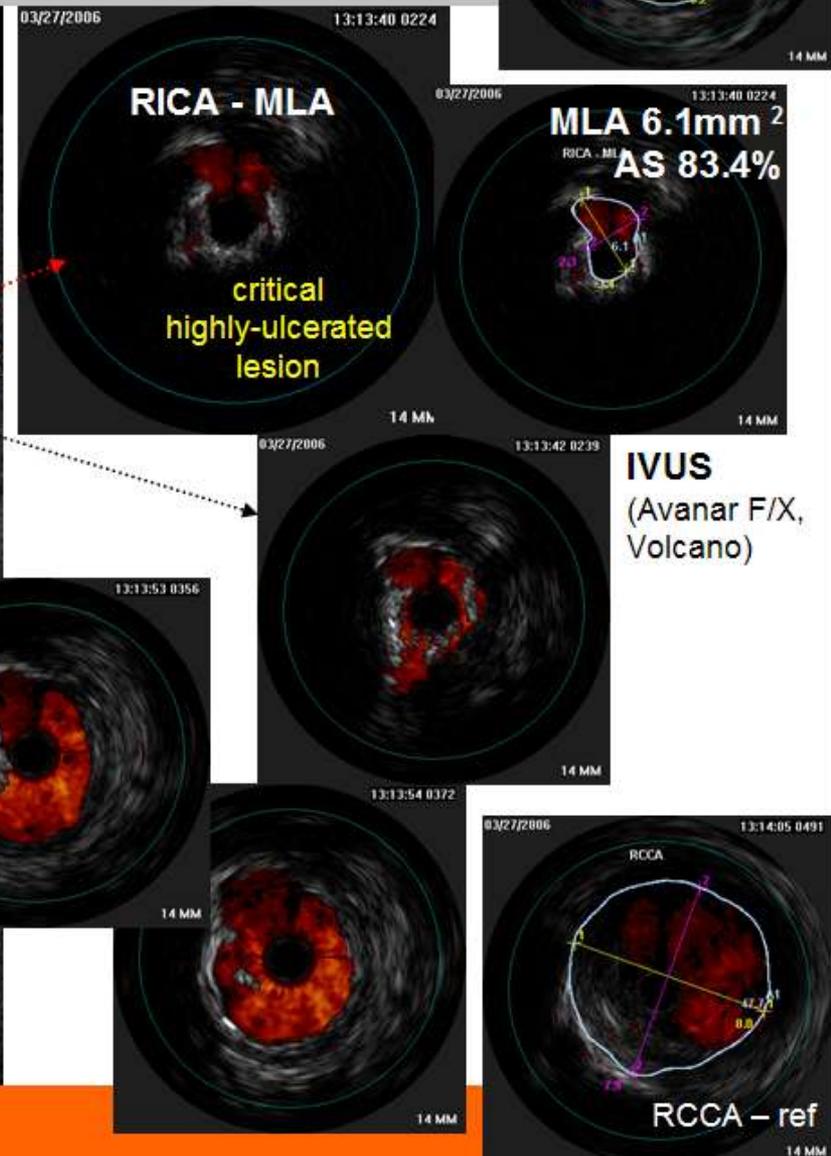
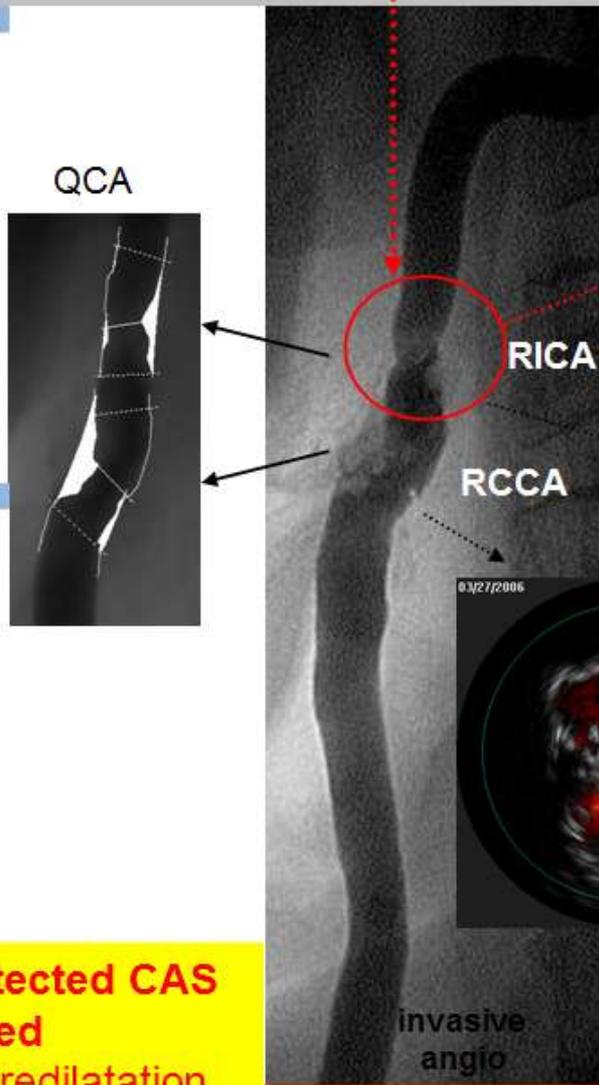
reduced contrast opacification
(‘brightening’)
indicates that plaque burden might be higher...

COMPUTER DEFINED OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

RICA	
MLD	3.73 mm
% diameter stenosis	30 %
Reference diameter	5.31 mm
Length stenotic segment	10.20 mm
Position of proximal border	1.78 mm
MLA densitometry	7.88 mm ²
MLA circular	10.93 mm ²
% area stenosis densitometry	64 %
% area stenosis circular	51 %
Reference area	22.18 mm ²

COMPUTER DEFINED OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

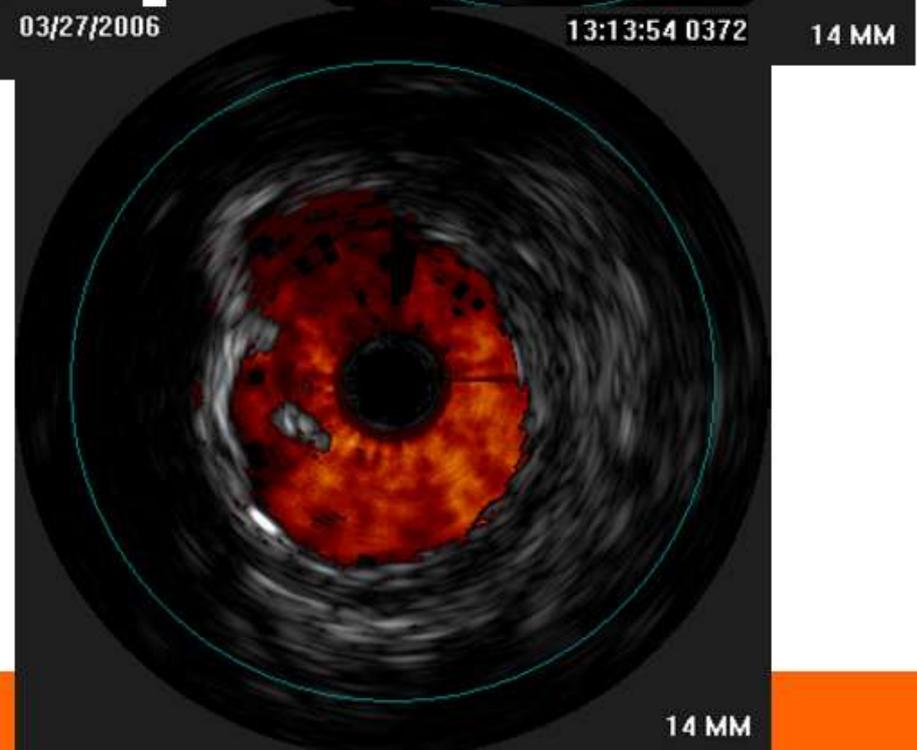
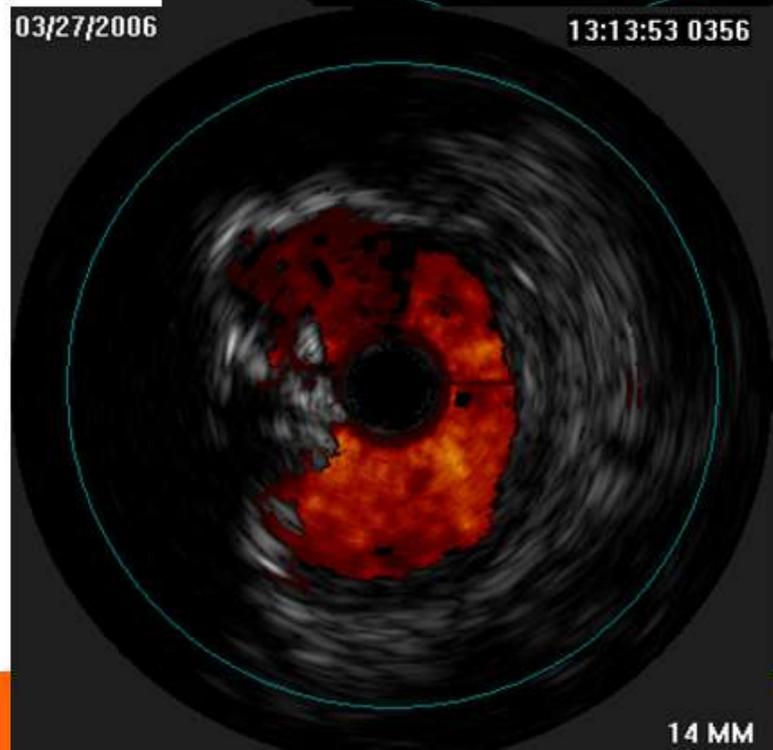
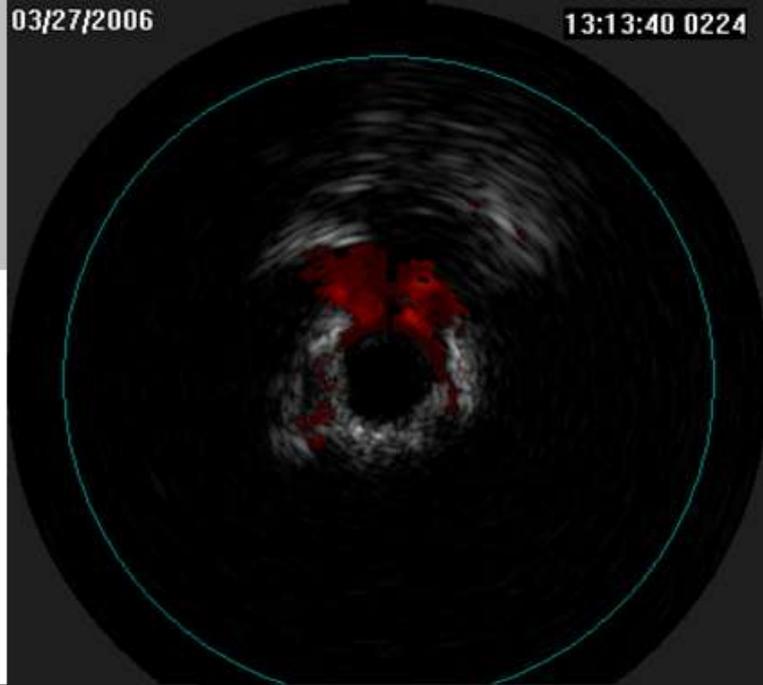
RCCA	
MLD	4.04 mm
% diameter stenosis	32 %
Reference diameter	5.98 mm
Length stenotic segment	11.32 mm
Position of proximal border	1.60 mm
MLA densitometry	23.89 mm ²
MLA circular	12.83 mm ²
% area stenosis densitometry	15 %
% area stenosis circular	54 %
Reference area	28.10 mm ²

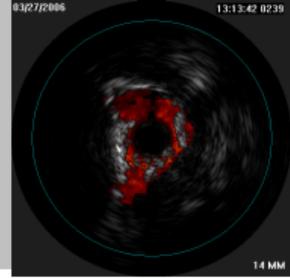


Emboshield-protected CAS performed

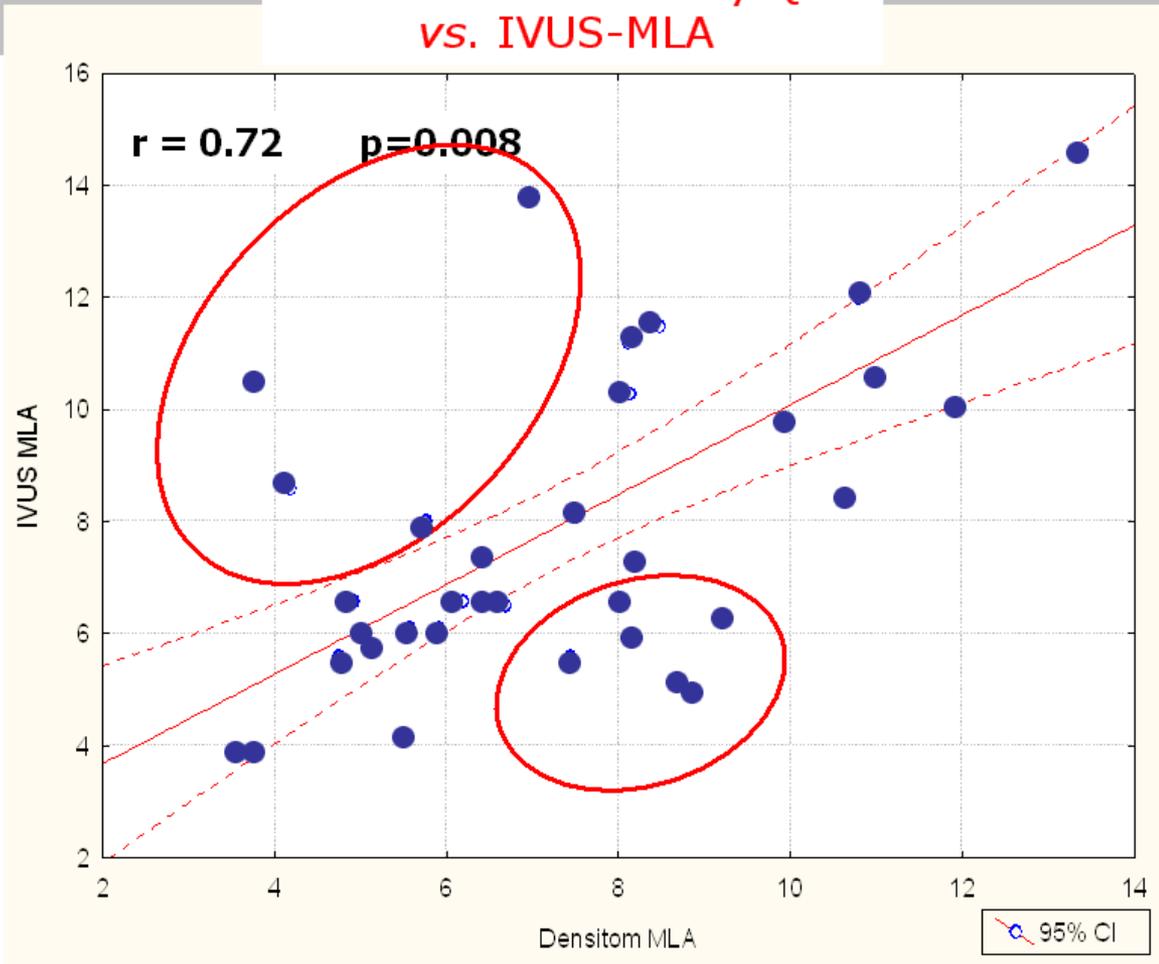
- cutting balloon predilatation
- Carotid Wallstent 7.0 x 30mm







Densitometric MLA by QCA vs. IVUS-MLA

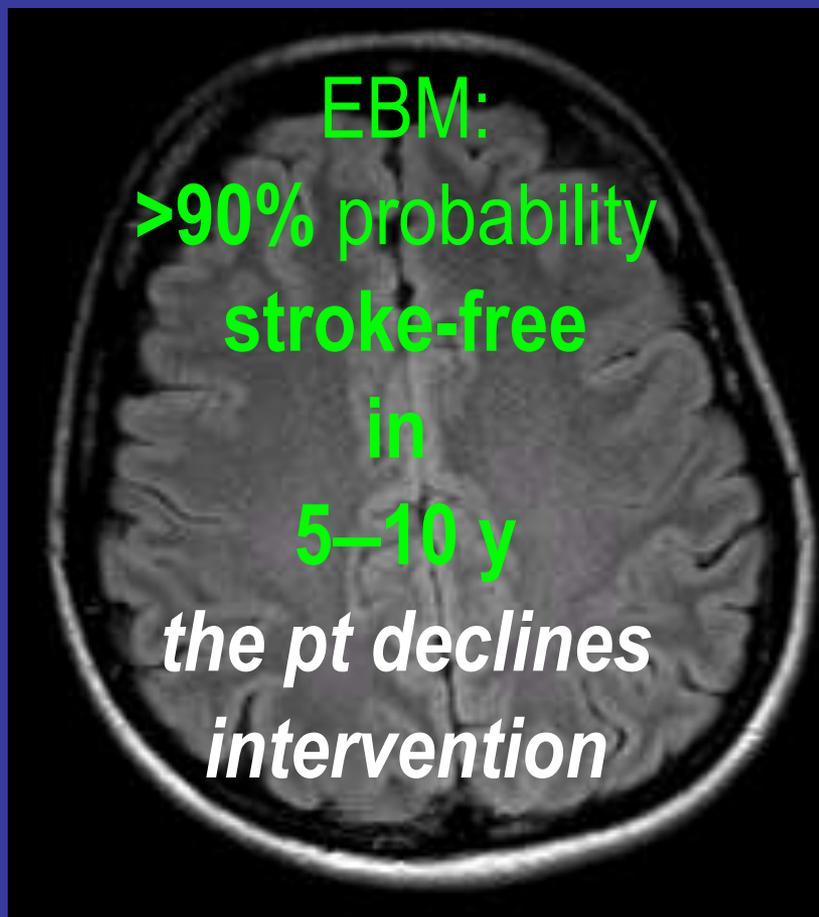


→ but densitometric MLA still not accurate enough
to replace IVUS in decision-making

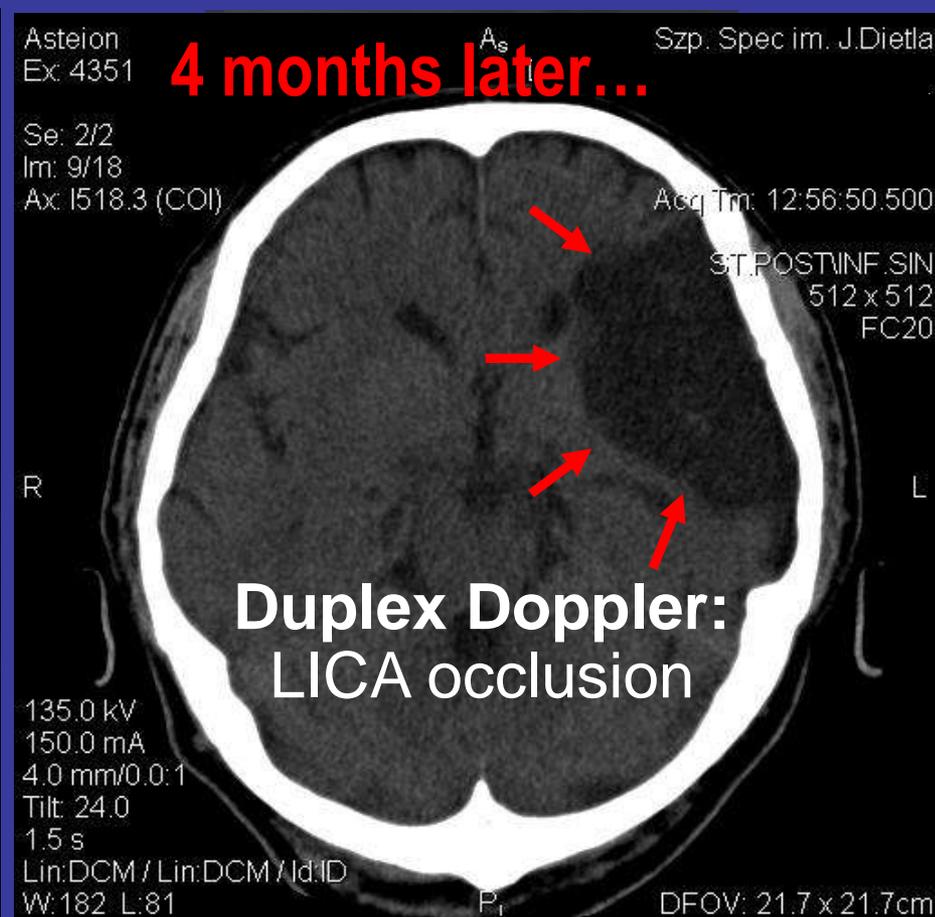
TRANSCATHETER
INTERVENTIONAL
NEUROLOGY
TECHNIQUES

MZ, 74y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis 85%

SZ, 65y, asymptomatic
LICA stenosis ~40%



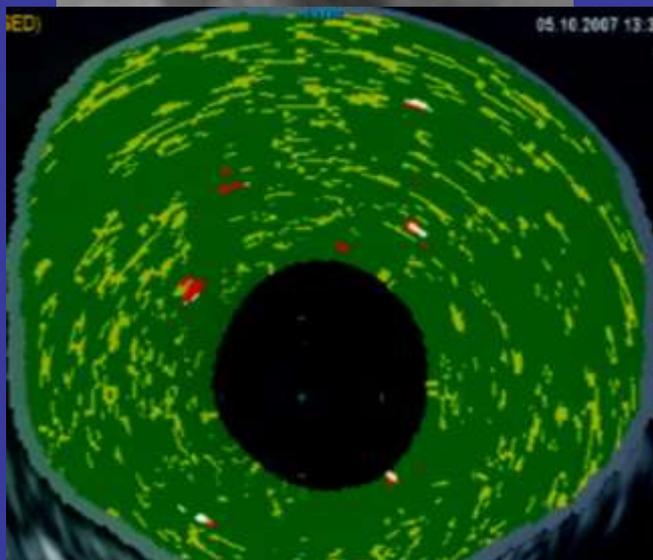
indication
to CEA / CAS



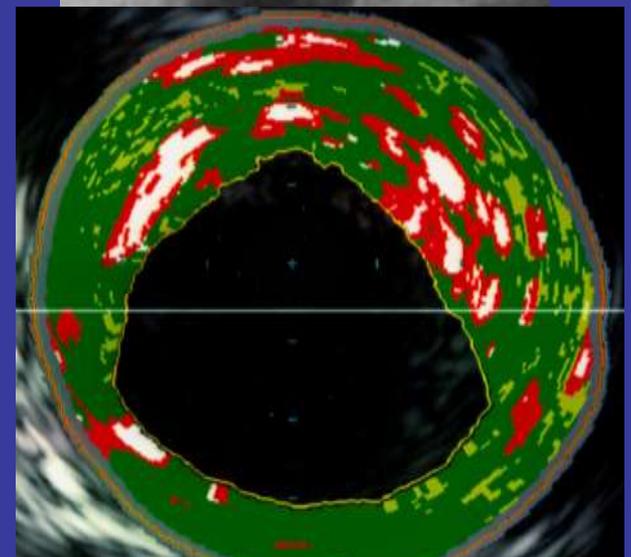
no indication NIH-SS 5
to CEA / CAS Rankin 3

motoric aphasia 4/5
right hemiparesis 3/5

MZ, 74y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis 85%



SŽ, 68y, *asymptomatic*
LICA stenosis ~40%



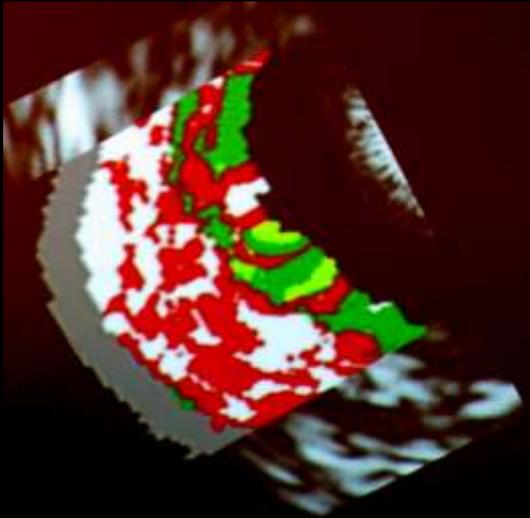
November 2006



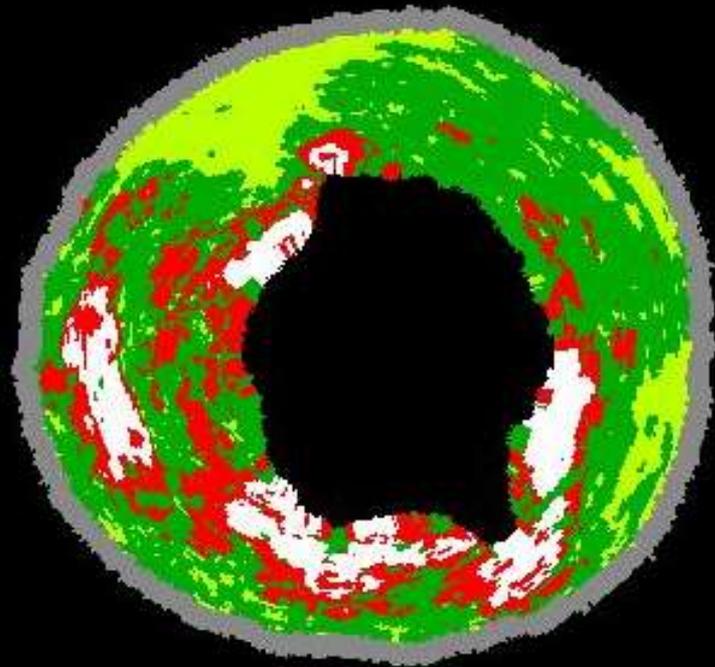
COMPUTER DEFINED OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

MLD	:	2.95	mm
% diameter stenosis	:	51	%
Reference diameter	:	5.98	mm
Length stenotic segment	:	7.37	mm
Position of proximal border	:	2.97	mm
MLA densitometry	:	9.63	mm ²
MLA circular	:	6.85	mm ²
% area stenosis <u>densitometry</u>	:	70	%
% area stenosis circular	:	66	%
Reference area	:	22.26	mm ²
Volume stenotic segment	:	83.11	mm ³
Plaque area	:	10.23	mm ²
Plaque volume	:	56.24	mm ³

IVUS – Virtual Histology (VH)



- *Calcifications*
- *Fibrotic*
- *Fibro-fatty*
- *Necrotic core*

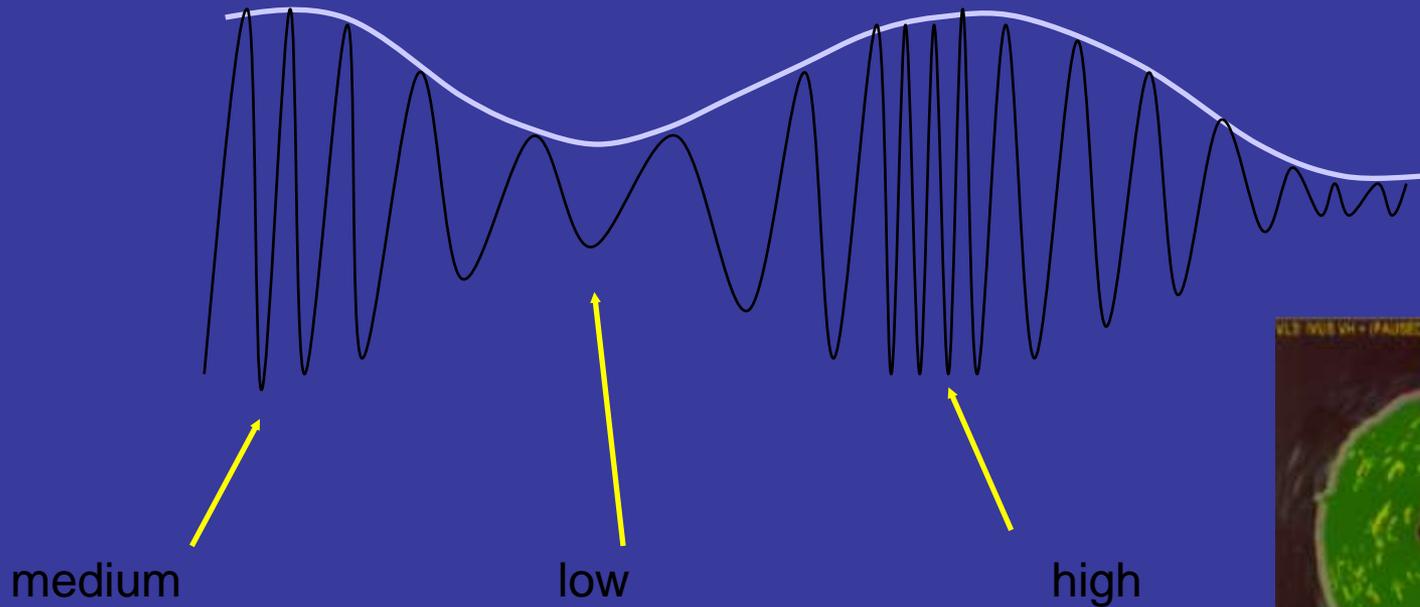


IVUS – VH

IVUS-LICA

Combined analysis of
AMPLITUDE + FREQUENCY
of tissue-reflected ultrasound

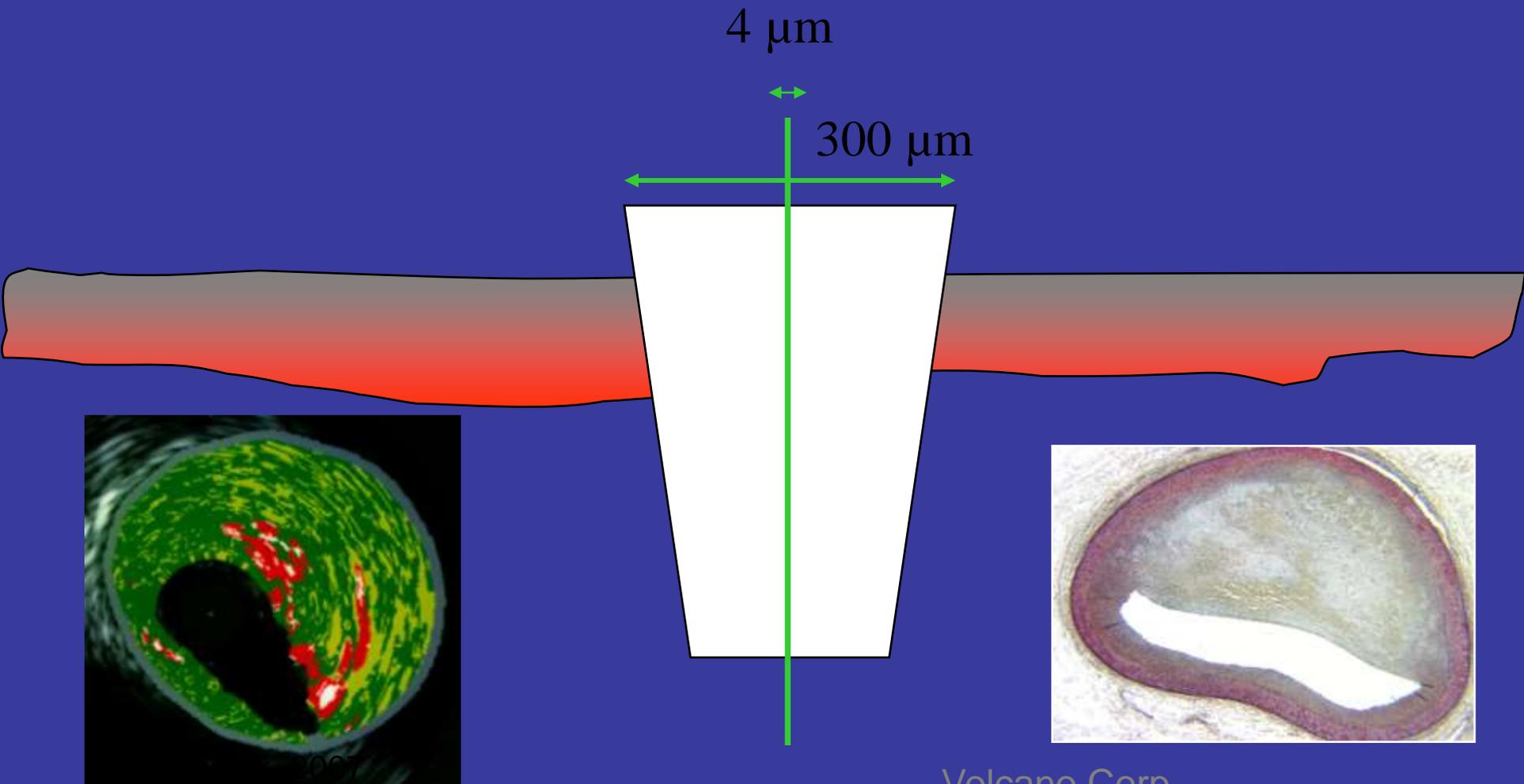
Musiątek, 2007



Volcano Corp.



VH 'slice' vs. histology slice



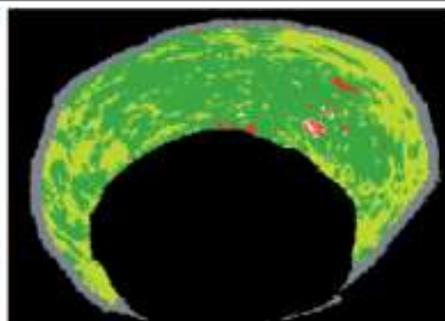
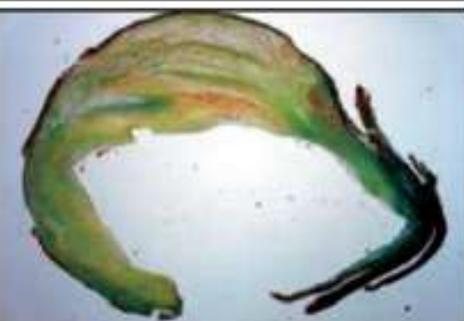
IVUS–VH: validated for the carotids

EB Diethrich et al.

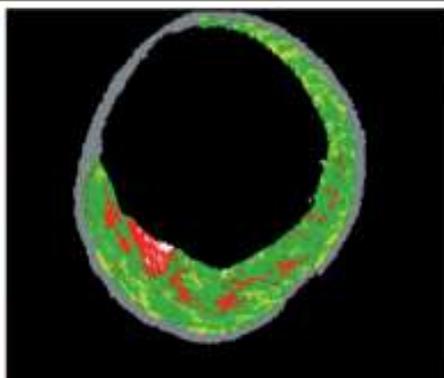
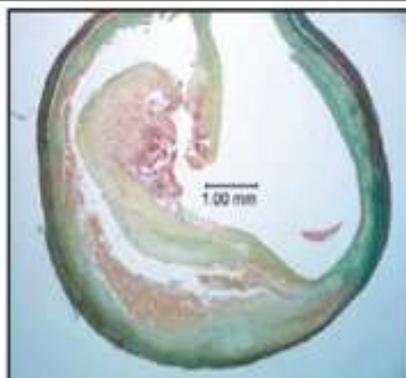
J ENDOVASC THER
2007;14:676–686

TABLE 3
VH IVUS Accuracy by Plaque Types

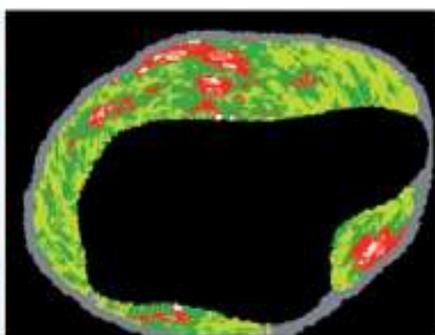
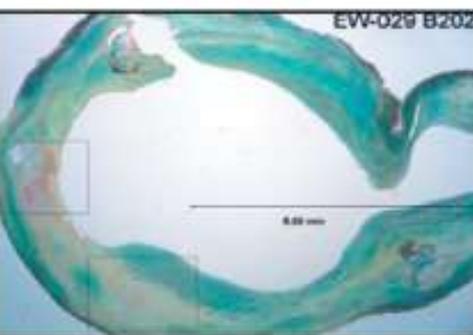
	Diagnostic Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity
Thin-cap fibroatheroma	99.4%	75.0%	100%
Calcified thin-cap fibroatheroma	96.1%	90.0%	97.1%
Fibroatheroma	85.9%	54.1%	96.9%
Fibrocalcific	85.5%	87.1%	84.5%
Pathological intimal thickening	83.4%	88.5%	82.0%
Calcified fibroatheroma	72.4%	32.5%	93.0%



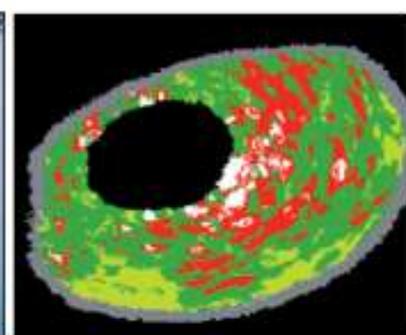
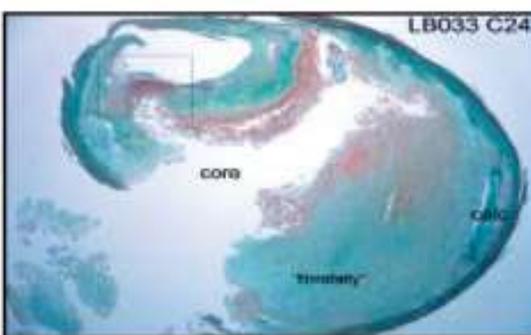
Pathological Intimal Thickening



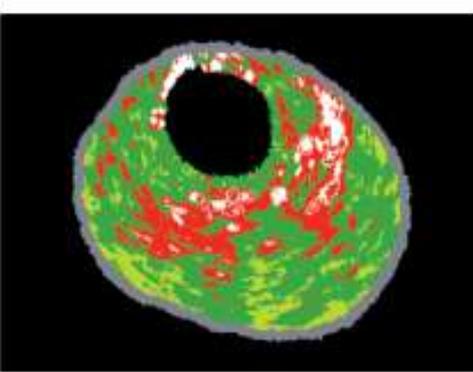
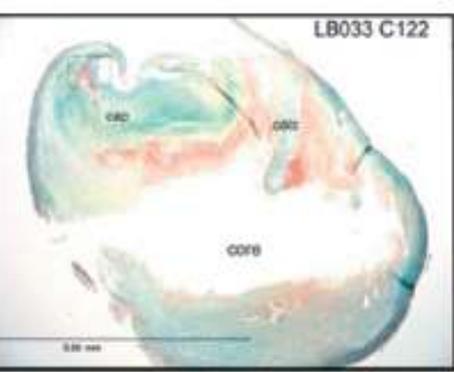
Thin-Cap Fibroatheroma



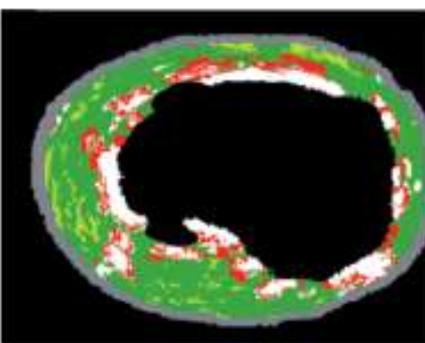
Fibroatheroma



Calcified Thin-Cap Fibroatheroma



Calcified Fibroatheroma



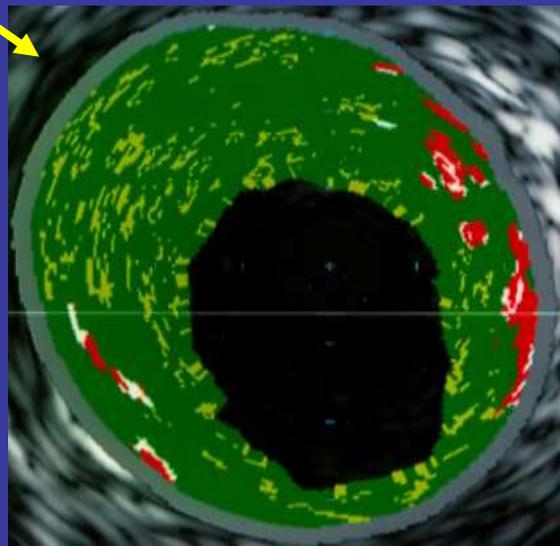
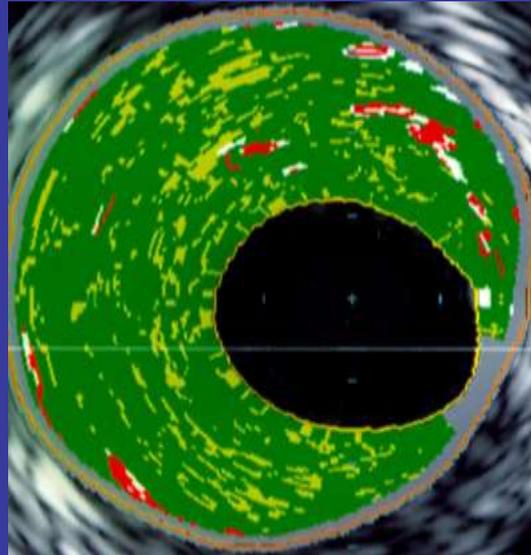
Fibrocalcific

CRACK-VH



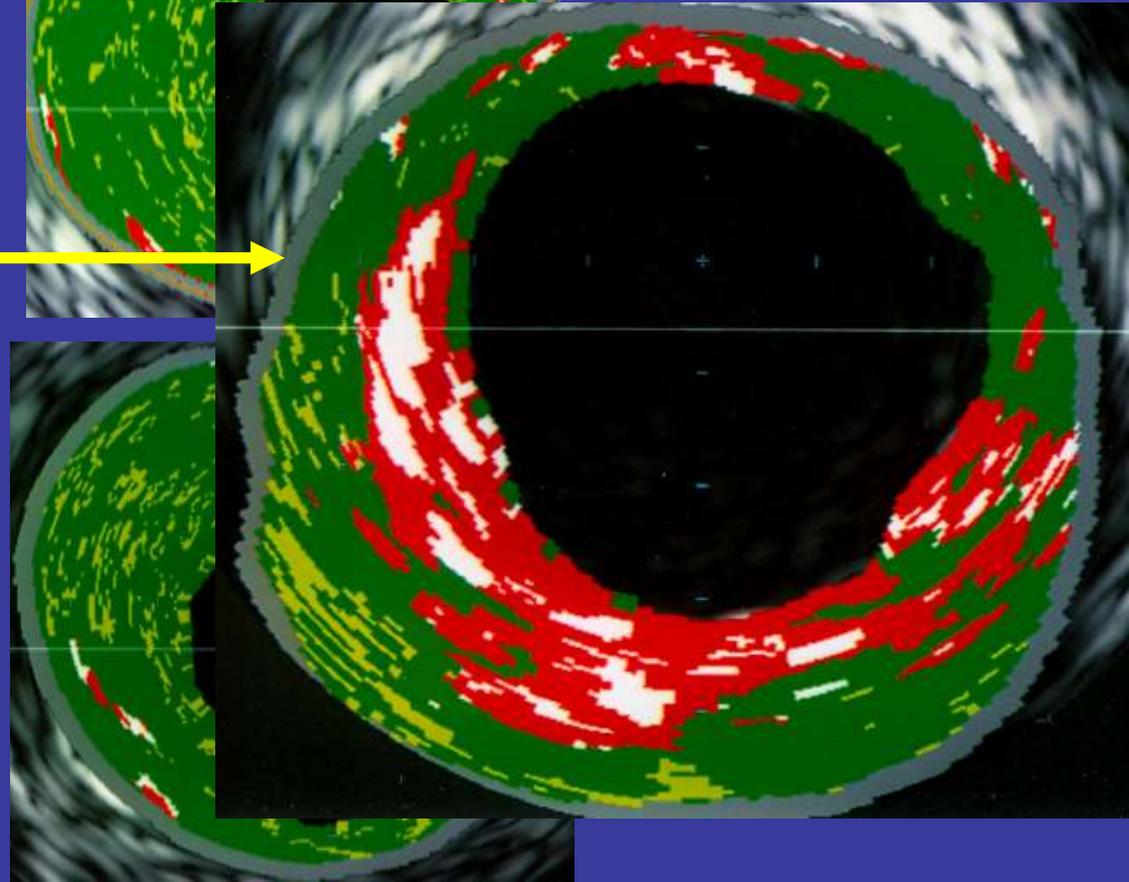
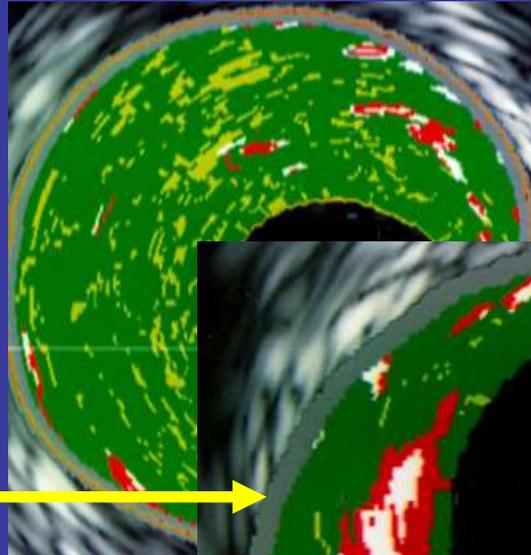
- a prospective academic study to establish the value of VH-carotid plaque characteristics combined with biomarkers in evaluating carotid atherosclerosis in relation to neurological symptoms/symptom risk
- study began in 2006, first **CRACK-VH** data submitted to NFIC (Nov 2007), ESC (Feb 2008) and TCT (April 2008)
- **206** patients recruited (**102** symptomatic or previously symptomatic) (age 66 ± 8 years, range 38-82y, 67% men)
–all referred for CAS after consultation by independent neurologist–
- **226** carotid arteries imaged with IVUS-VH { **cross-sectional** }
in **64** IVUS imaging without EPD (28.3%)
in **35** IVUS imaging under a proximal EPD (GoreFR or MoMa) (15.5%)
- **58** lesions (25.7%) not stented (i.e., left for f/u) { **longitudinal, prosp.**}
- Ethical Committee–approved, no industry funding/sponsorship

IVUS – VH: cross-section @ max stenosis site can be misleading!



MR, man 54y
1 x TIA?

IVUS – VH: cross-section @ max stenosis site can be misleading!

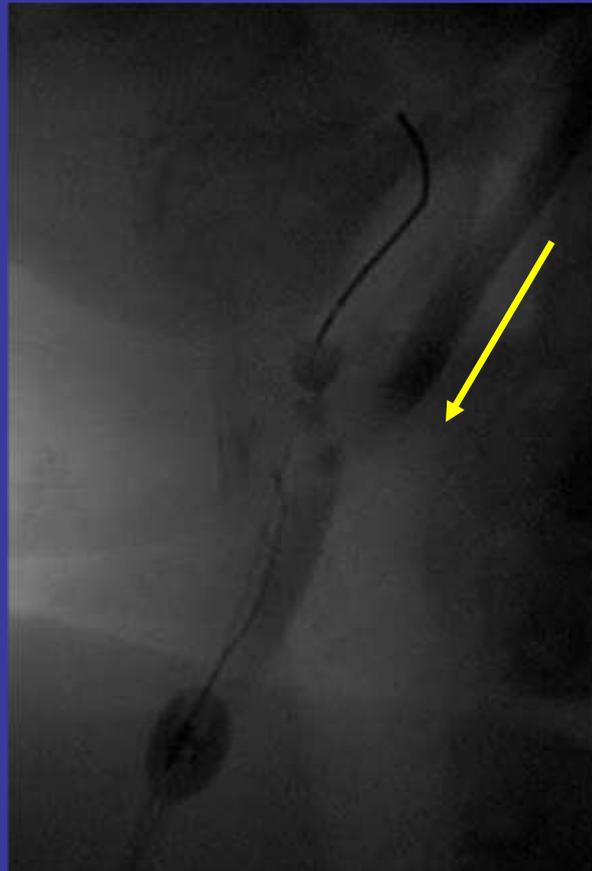


MR, man 54y
1 x TIA?

IVUS-VH acquired under proximal EPD (ICA flow reversal, Gore NPS)



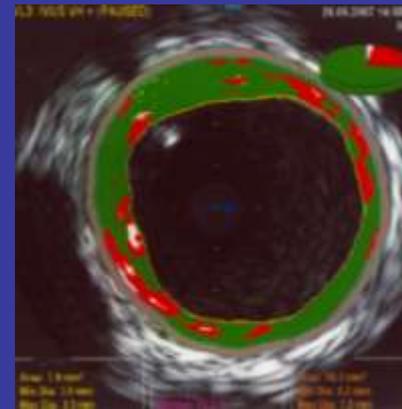
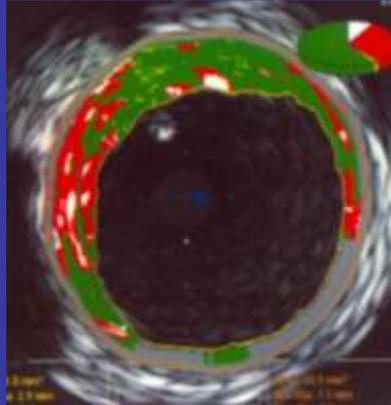
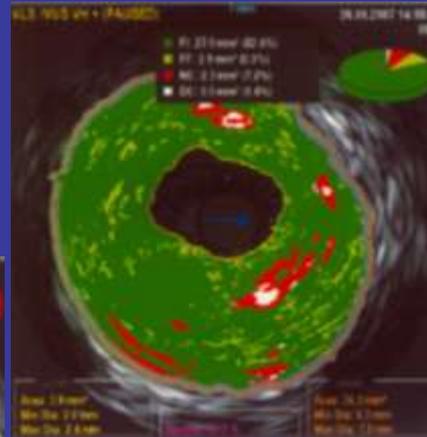
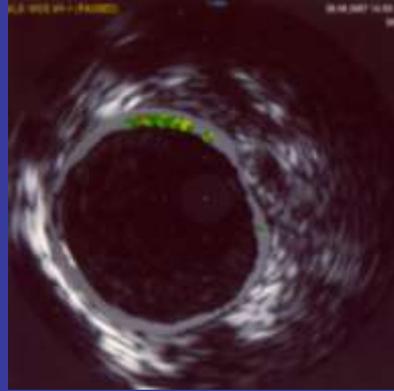
woman, 48y,
asympt. LICA
father – stroke 53 y.



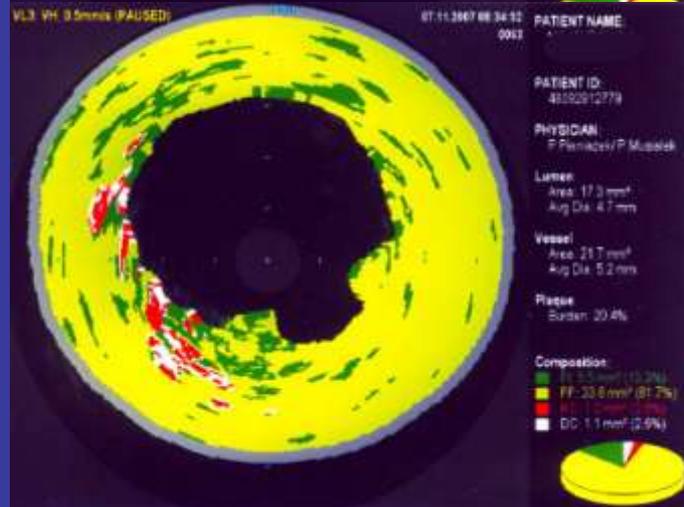
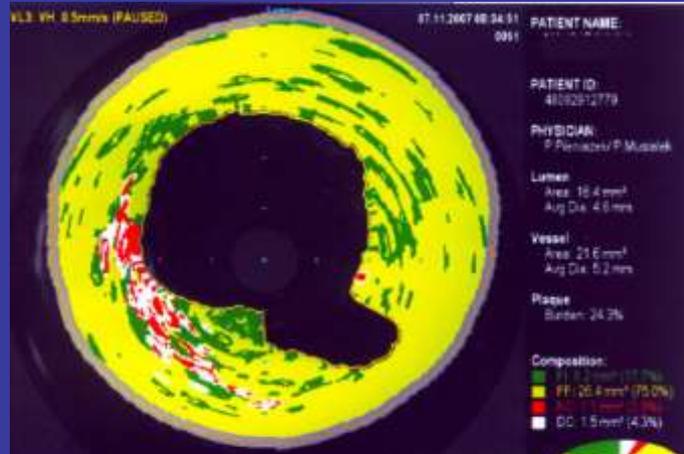
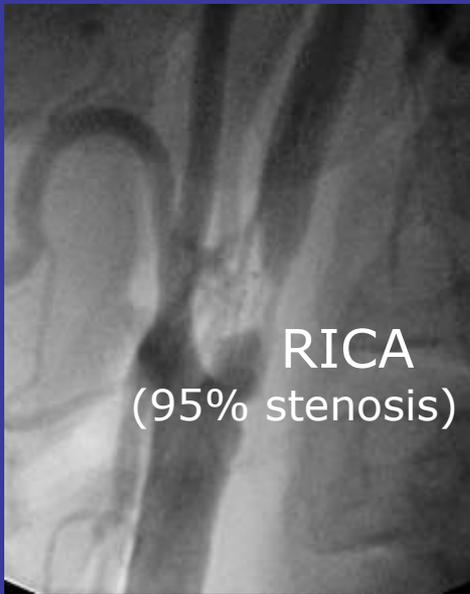
lesion crossing
with a guidewire



then IVUS-VH
acquisition



man 56y, bilateral carotid stenosis



LICA: highly lipidic, ulcerated plaque



- 'worst' frame (NC, TCFA?)
single?
average from 3-5 consecutive?
- volumetric analysis ('out of field' problem)
- how to reconcile divergent findings from the same plaque at different 'levels' – those are 'natural'
- virgin asymptomatic vs. past-symptomatic (>6mo)
- clinical symptoms or eg. brain MRI



Results

- IVUS-VH imaging was performed w/o complications.

Pilot analysis indicated:

- No difference in angiographic stenosis severity between S and aS (52-84% vs. 49-88%, $p=0.37$).
- Plaque ulceration on IVUS more prevalent in S (63.2 vs. 29.0%, $p<0.05$).
- In aS, average MLA larger (7.1 vs. 5.8mm², $p=0.02$) and plaque burden lower (76.8% vs. 84.9%, $p=0.01$).

Results (pilot analysis, cont'd)

- Peak DENSE CALCIUM (DC) similar in both groups (S vs. aS): 3.3 (0.6–7.2) vs. 4.4 (0.3–18.2)%.
- Peak FIBRO-FATTY (FF) and Peak NECROTIC CORE (NC) tended to be higher in S 17.7 (4.3–81.7) vs. 15.1 (7.6–32.1)% and 10.2 (1.5–29.3) vs. 6.8 (2.0–17.3)% (but $p > 0.05$)
- NECROTIC CORE in direct contact with the lumen (by VH), indicating fibrous cap $< 150\mu\text{m}$, was more prevalent in S (89.5 vs. 52.9%, $p < 0.01$).
- Macroscopic evidence of plaque debris captured by EPD was 57.9% in S and 35.3% aS ($p = 0.06$).

RICA

2.28/0.95 m/s

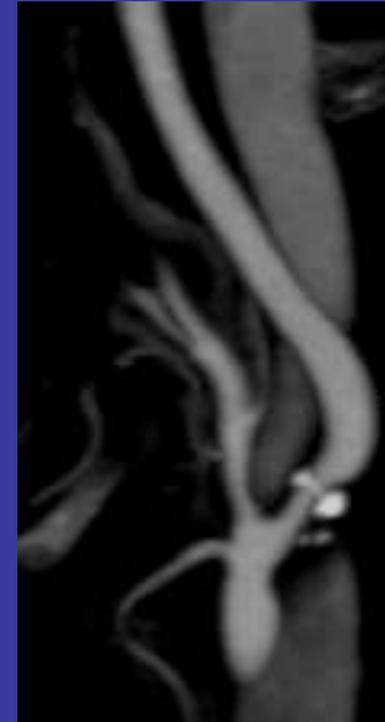
'AS'



LICA

1.85/0.52 m/s

'S'



Neuro consultation Sept. 14, 2009

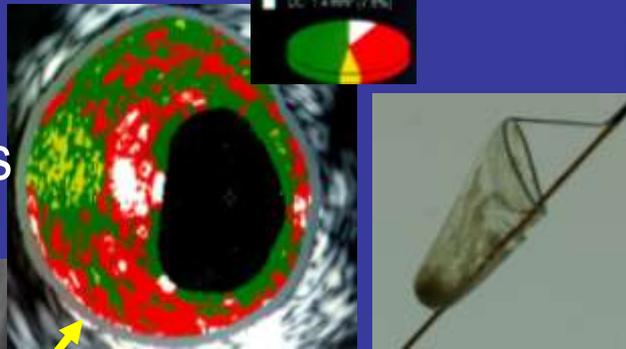
- R upper limb weakness
- motoric aphasia
- NIH-SS 4

Conclusion: Symptomatic LICA, Asymptomatic RICA stenosis
For **LICA-CAS** (RICA stenosis to be monitored)

CRACK-VH

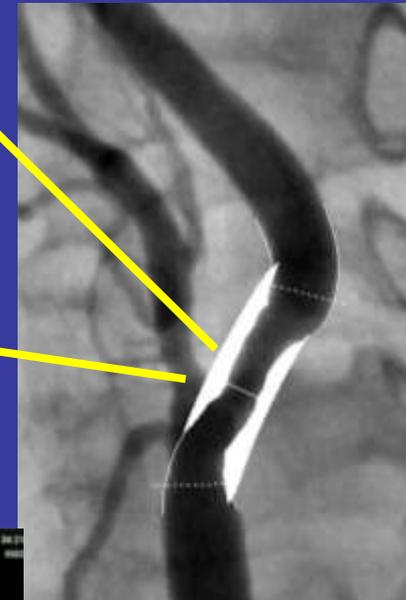
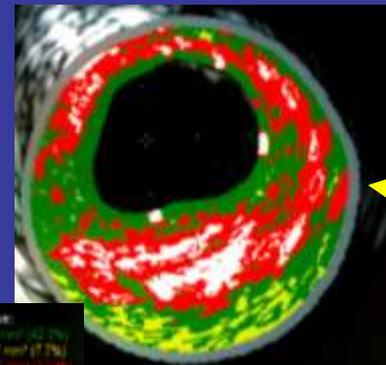
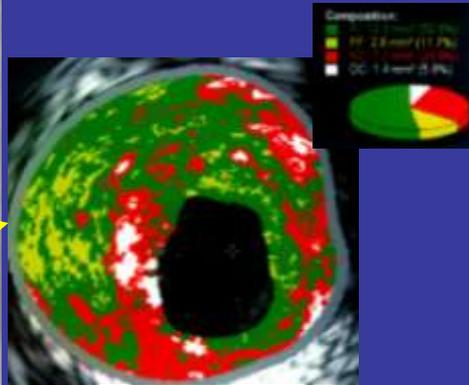
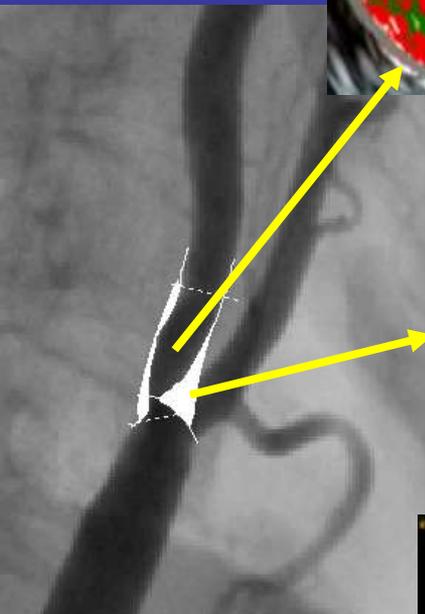
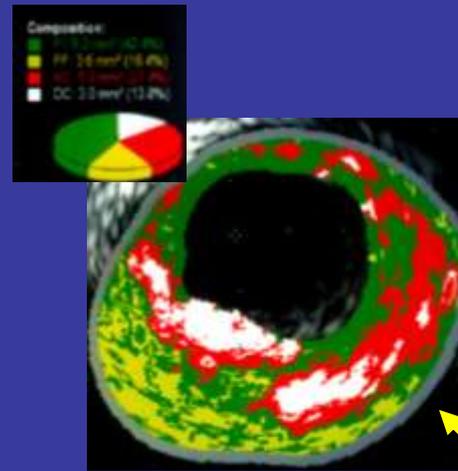
RICA

2.28/0.95 m/s



LICA

1.85/0.52 m/s

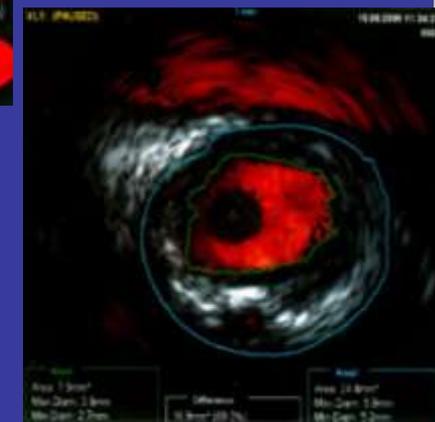


COMPUTER-DEFINED OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

MLD	0.86 mm
% diameter stenosis	77 %
Reference diameter	3.80 mm
Length stenotic segment	9.16 mm
Position of proximal border	2.72 mm
MLA densitometry	2.55 mm ²
MLA circular	0.58 mm ²
% area stenosis densitometry	78 %
% area stenosis circular	95 %



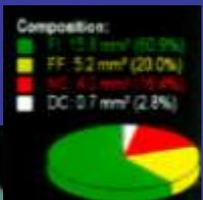
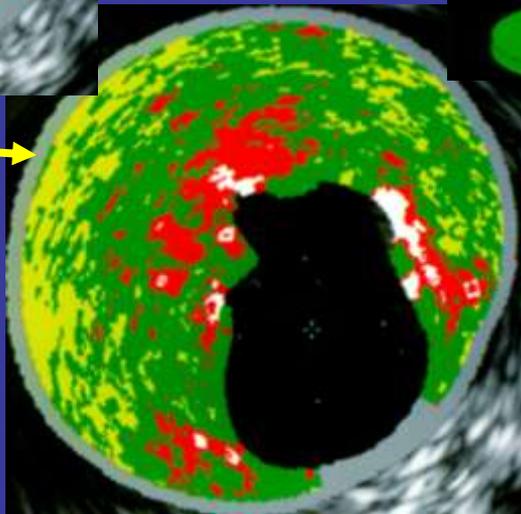
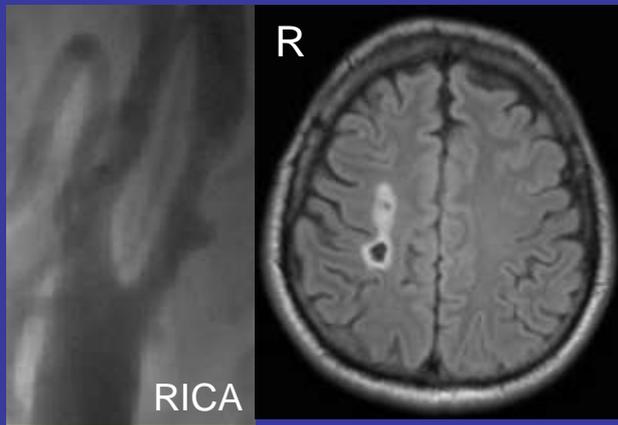
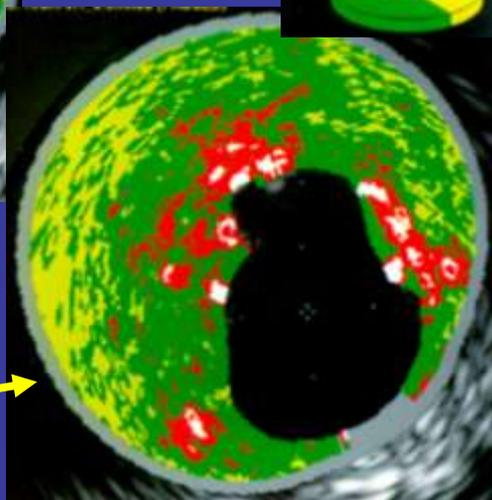
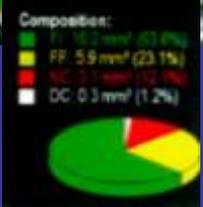
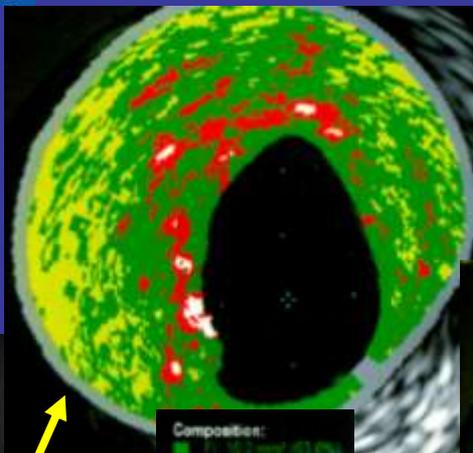
15.09.2009



COMPUTER-DEFINED OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

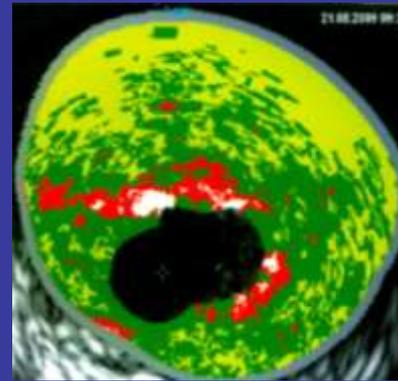
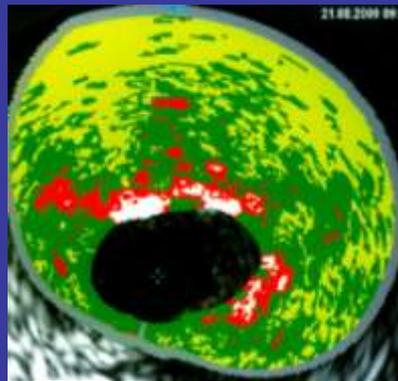
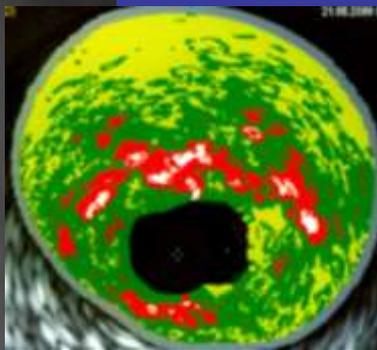
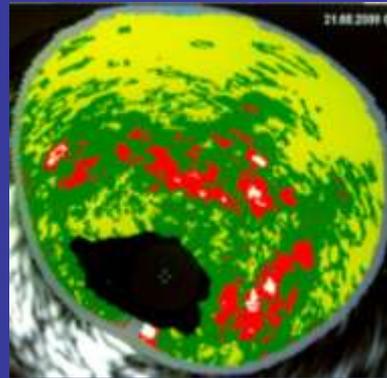
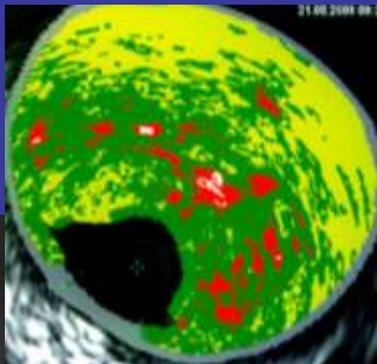
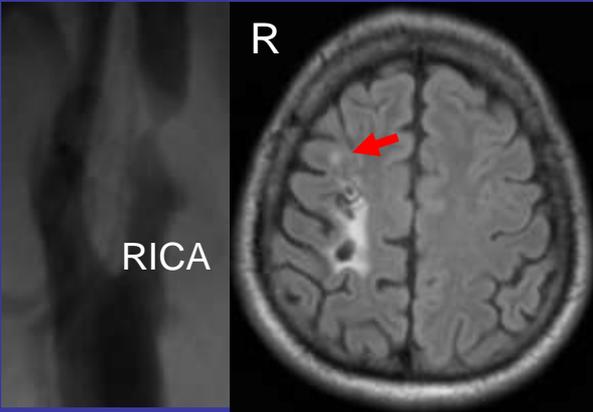
MLD	2.61 mm
% diameter stenosis	48 %
Reference diameter	5.05 mm
Length stenotic segment	15.89 mm
Position of proximal border	5.46 mm
MLA densitometry	10.26 mm ²
MLA circular	5.33 mm ²
% area stenosis densitometry	49 %
% area stenosis circular	73 %

RICA
0.85/0.38 m/s



05.03.2008

+ 3 x TIA Aug. 2009

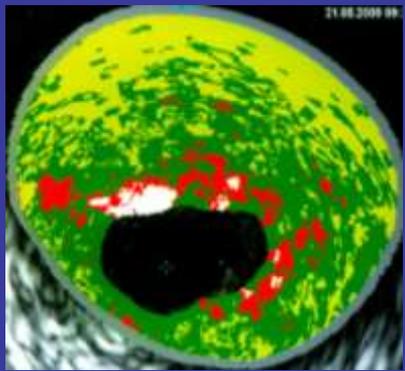


COMPUTER DEFINED OBSERVATION AREA (CDOA)

MLD : 0.48 mm
% diameter stenosis : 91 %
Reference diameter : 5.35 mm
Length stenotic segment : 25.25 mm
Position of proximal border : 1.82 mm

MLA densitometry : 0.78 mm2
MLA circular : 0.18 mm2
% area stenosis densitometry : 97 %
% area stenosis circular : 99 %

Composition:
FI: 14.2 mm² (49.1%)
FF: 11.5 mm² (39.6%)
NC: 2.5 mm² (8.5%)
DC: 0.8 mm² (2.8%)



21.08.2009

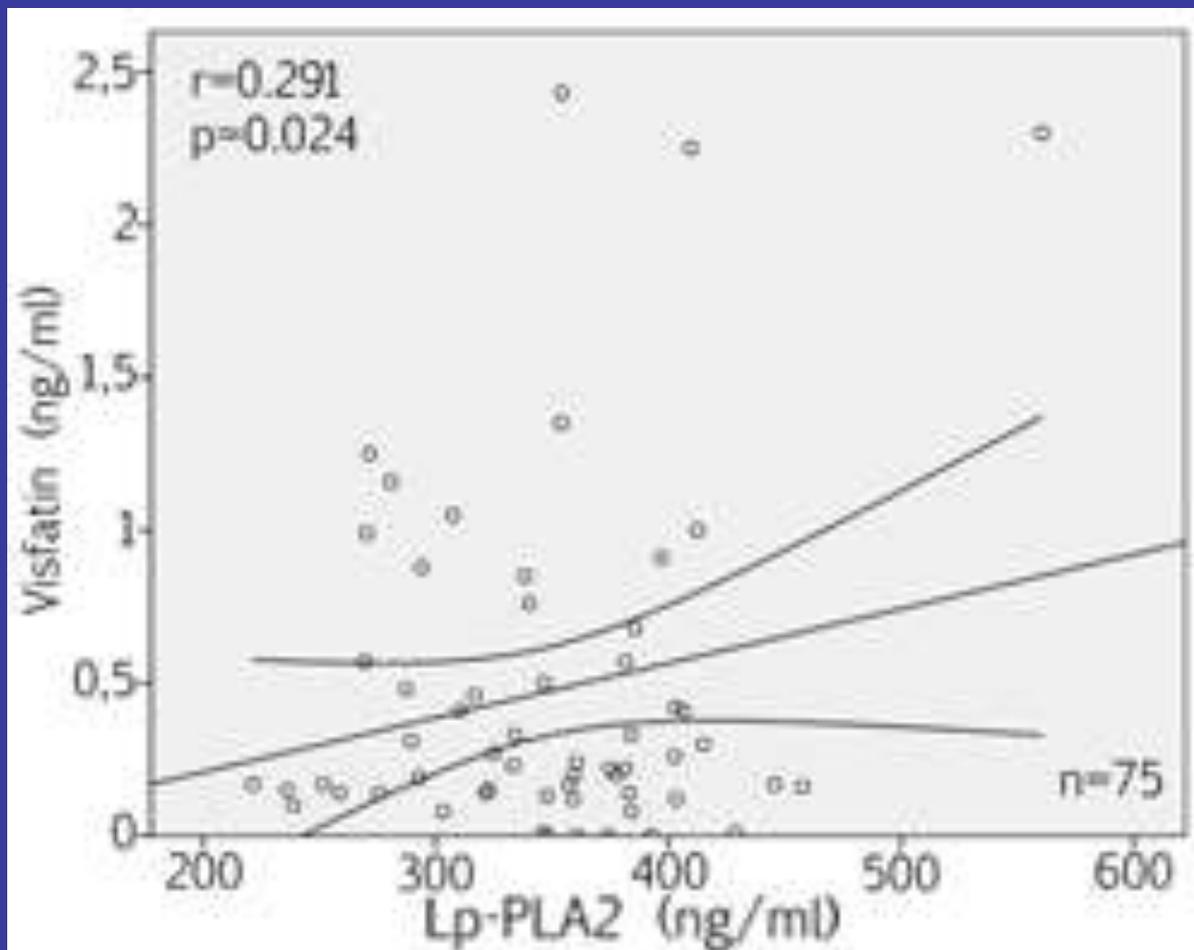
Biomarkers (first n=75 pts)

• hsCRP	(ng/mL)	5.01 ± 8.19	(0.50 – 74.20)
• IL-1B	(pg/mL)	0.12 ± 0.27	(0.00 – 1.90)
• IL-6	(pg/mL)	3.93 ± 7.83	(0.02 – 52.69)
• IL-8	(pg/mL)	11.37 ± 1.50	(9.00 – 21.25)
• CD 40L	(pg/mL)	321.13 ± 252.8	(42.5 – 1238.6)
• MMP-9	(ng/mL)	123.47 ± 79.4	(13.0 – 444.0)
• MMP-10	(pg/mL)	665.59 ± 373.8	(223.4 – 2156.3)
• Visfatin	(ng/mL)	0.967 ± 3.59	(0.00 – 29.87)
• Lp-PLA ₂	(ng/mL)	349.39 ± 63.4	(221.4 – 560.6)
• MCP-1	(pg/mL)	284.16 ± 112.9	(75.86 – 657.4)
• sVCAM	(ng/mL)	836.55 ± 112.9	(0.0 – 2101.0)

Pilot biomarker analysis

indicated significant correlations between:

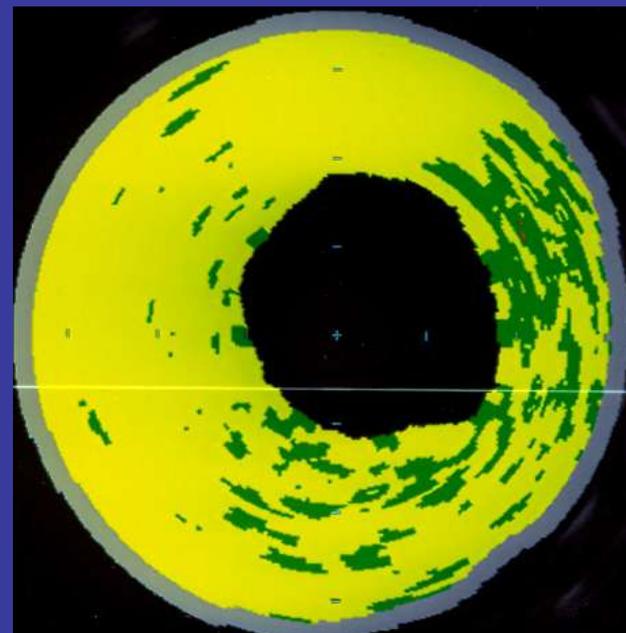
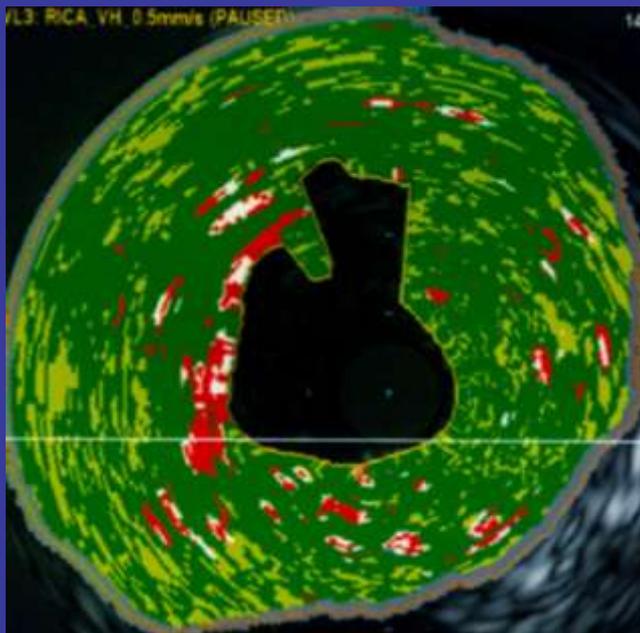
- CD40L/IL-1 β $r=0.44$
- IL-8/IL-1 β $r=0.46$
- IL-8/CD40L $r=0.42$
- Visfatin/Lp-PLA2 $r=0.29$ ($p<0.05$ for all)



P. Musialek et al. 2009

CRACK-VH

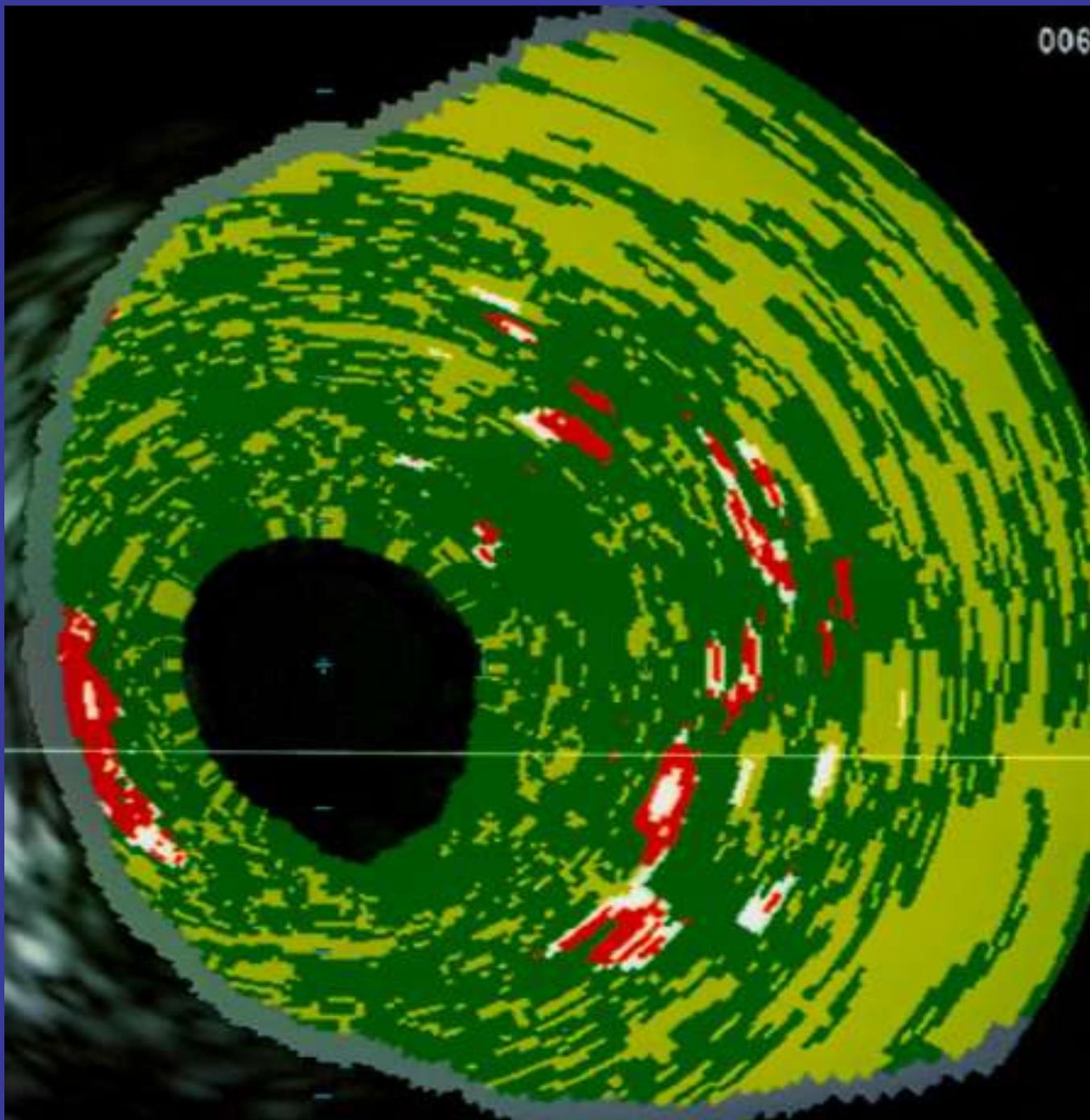
EPD-captured embolic particles vs. VH



Carotid VH: current limitations

- thrombus imaging, stent imaging
- 'out of field' (10mm) problem
- no metabolic or vasa vasorum imaging
- need for manual contour adjustment (each frame) => v. laborious
- carotid media often difficult to define
- v. tight plaques should not be imaged (unless predilated) (risk of iatrogenic embolization!)
- fibrous cap of 150 μ m: thin enough or thick enough?
- massive calcifications are a problem



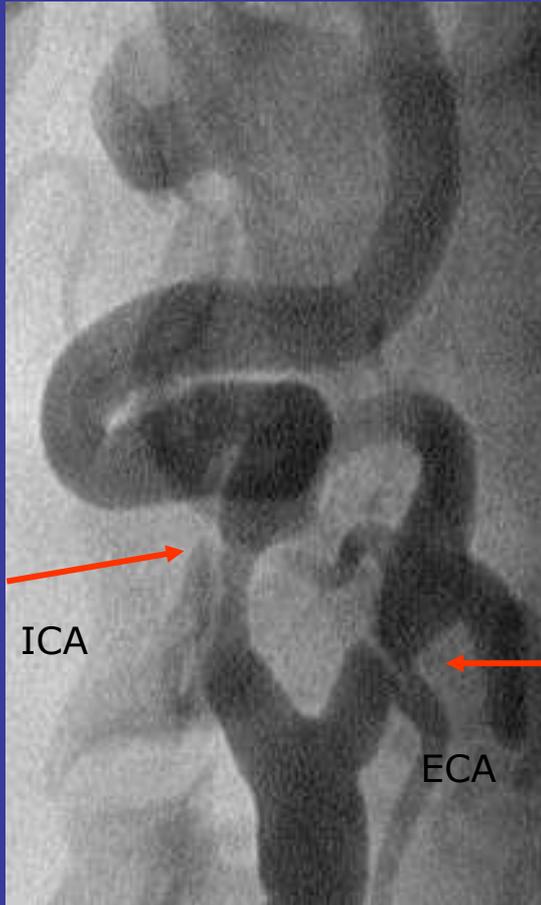


Conclusions



- Carotid plaque evaluation with IVUS-VH is safe.
- IVUS-VH can be acquired under proximal EPDs
- Plaque ulceration and the thin fibrous cap appeared more prevalent in the symptomatic carotid plaques.
- Initial findings seem consistent with the role of carotid plaque rupture and distal (brain) embolization as a mechanism of ischaemic stroke in a proportion of patients with non-critical carotid artery stenosis.

Woman, 68y, asymptomatic lesion



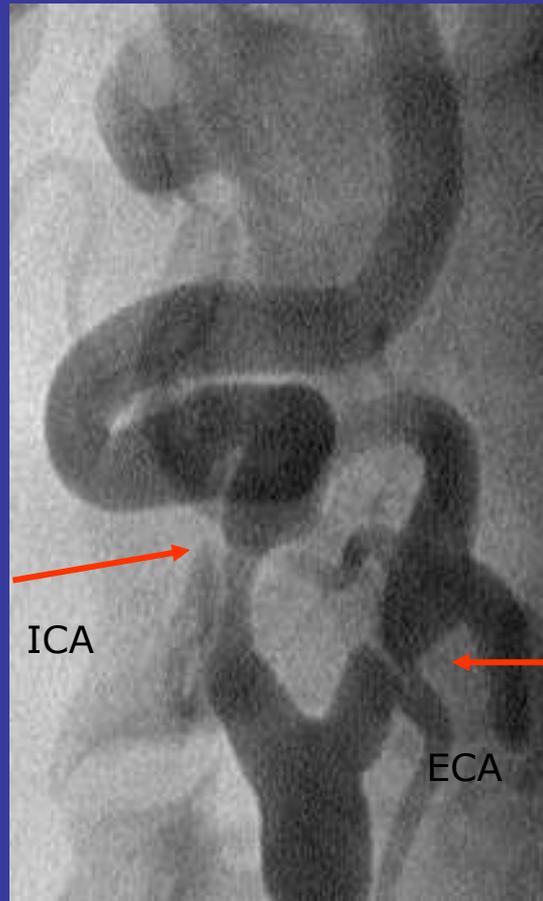
2009

- CAS (or CEA) ?
- Clinical & DD follow-up
+ pharmacotherapy ?

Woman, 68y, asymptomatic lesion

Within the next 5 years...

- CAS (or CEA) ?
- Clinical & DD follow-up
+ pharmacotherapy ?

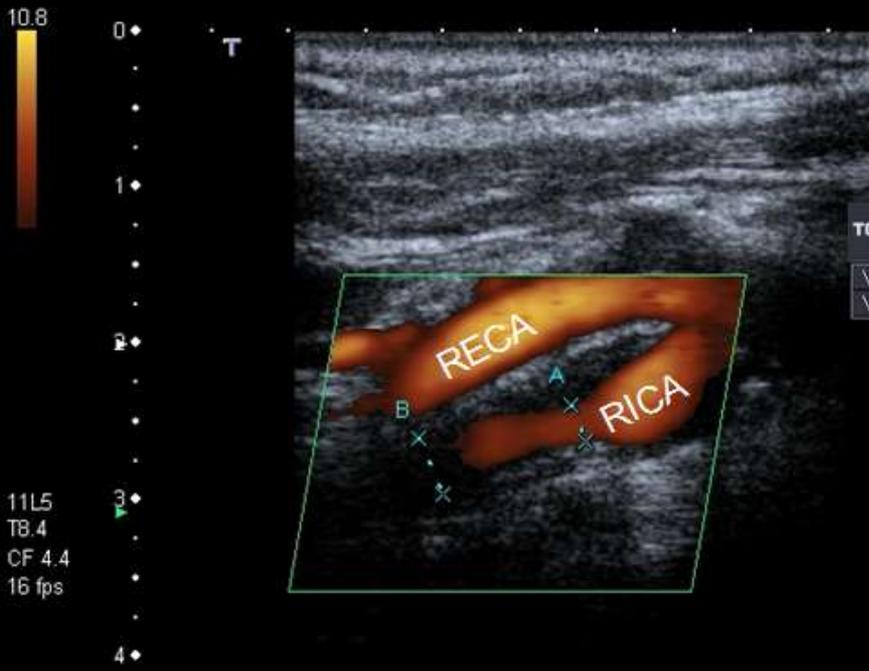


- RISK of symptoms ?
(MRI? CT? **IVUS-VH** ?)
('biomarkers' ?)
- **IVUS-VH** for decision-making?

Man, 63y, 'asymptomatic' RICA lesion (in 2001 CEA for a tight LICA stenosis + TIAs)

Duplex Doppler (July 2008): RICA 2.1 / 0.6 m/s

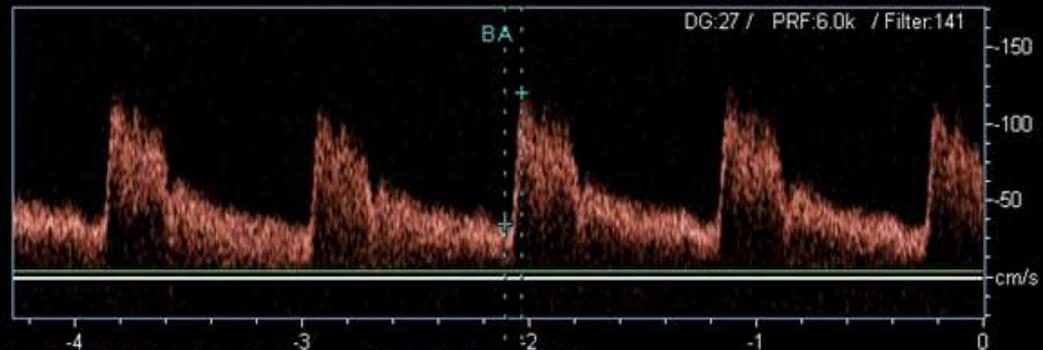
TOSHIBA :20080917.125848.N.N. O 17/09/2008
Klinika Ch. Serca i Nacz... - OPE - Carotid tmse 13:07:10



TOSHIBA :20080917.125848.N.N. O
Klinika Ch. Serca i Nacz... - OPE - Carotid tmse
Vel A -120.9 cm/s
Vel B -35.1 cm/s



Dist A 2.5 mm Dist B 3.9 mm

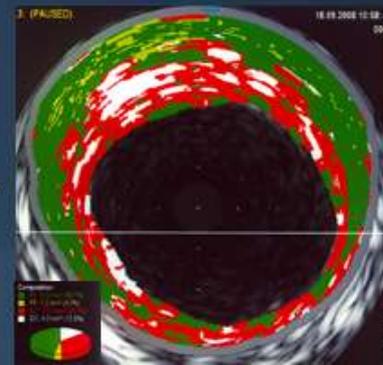
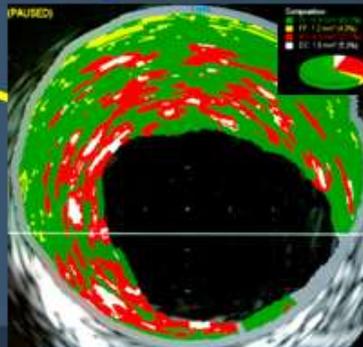
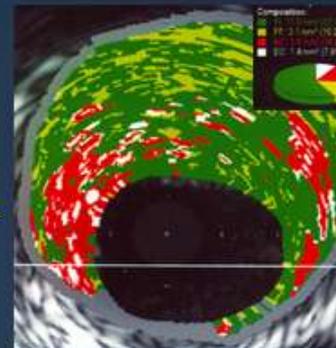
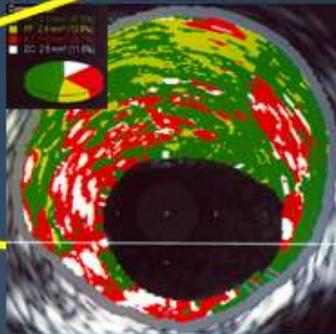
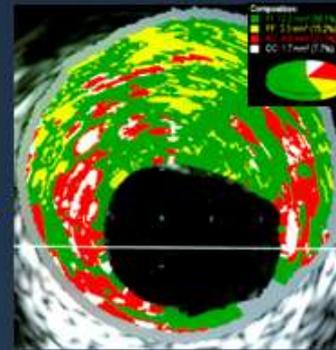
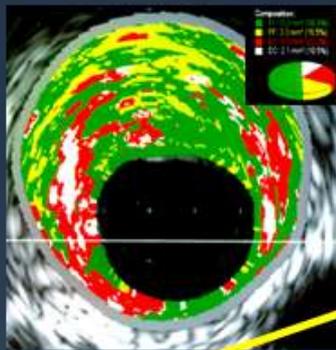
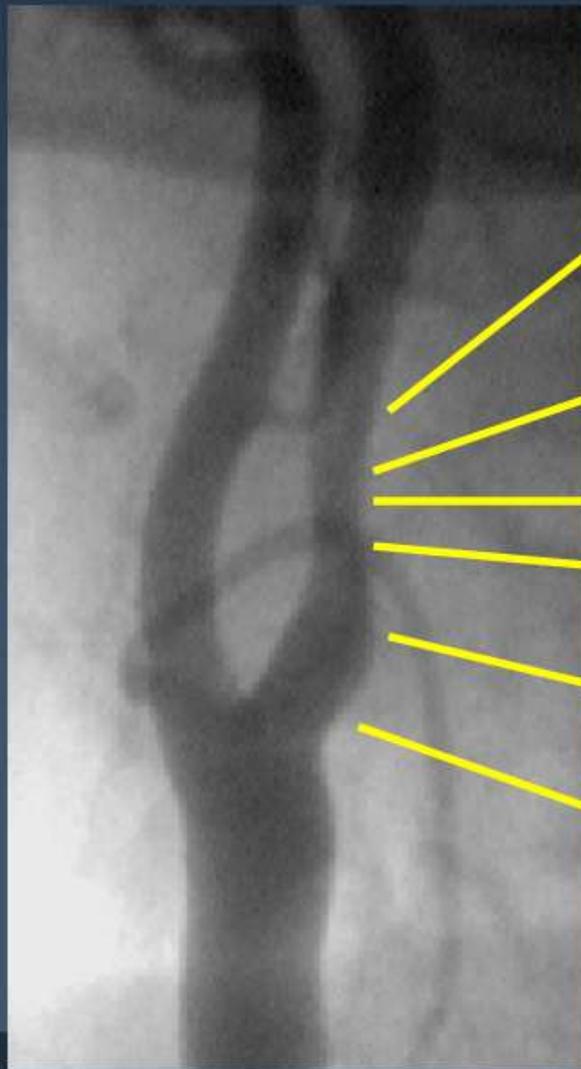


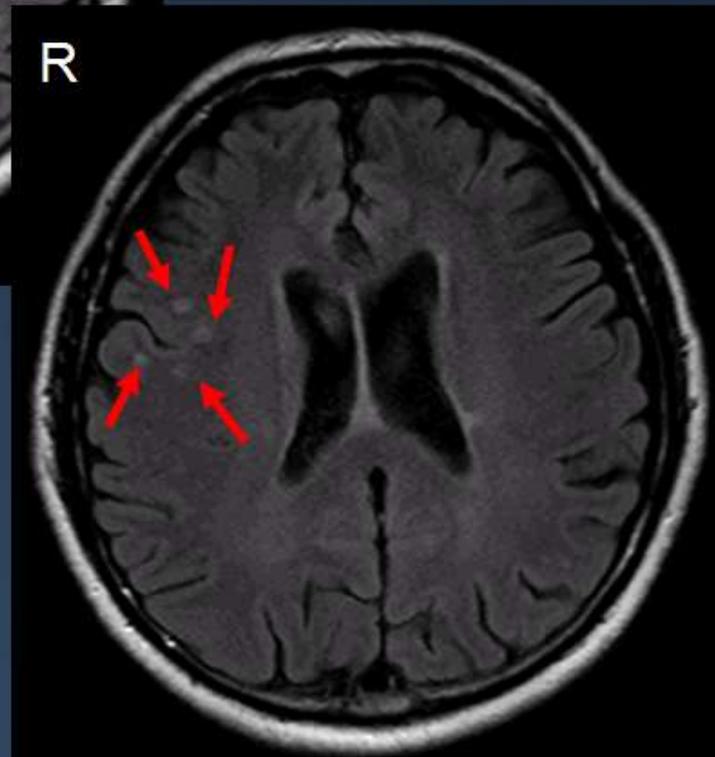
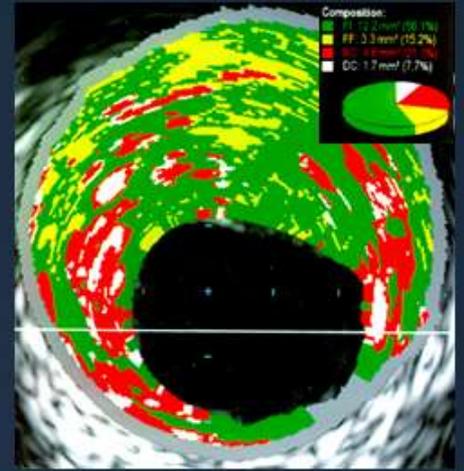
Man, 63y, 'asymptomatic' RICA lesion (in 2001 CEA for a tight LICA stenosis + TIAs)

Duplex Doppler (July 2008): RICA 2.1 / 0.6 m/s



what would you do ?

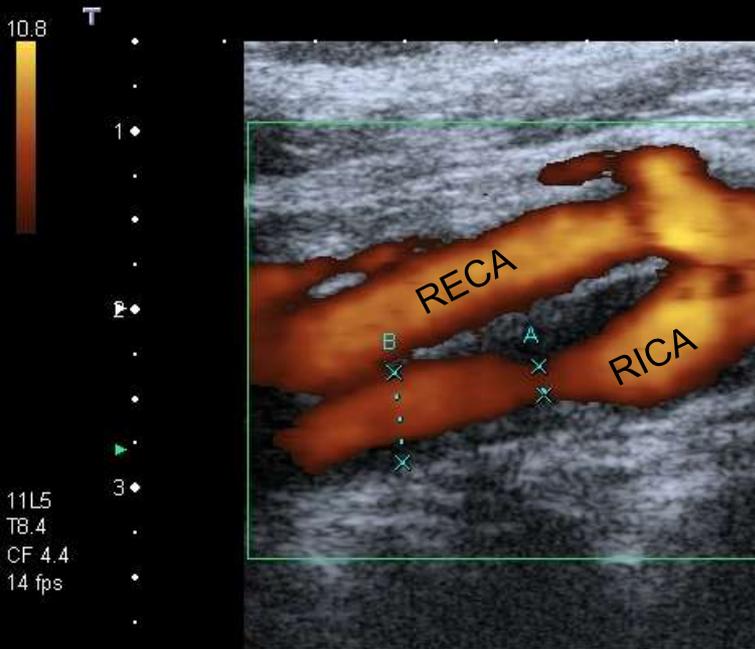




MM, man, 64y, RICA lesion **still** 'asymptomatic'

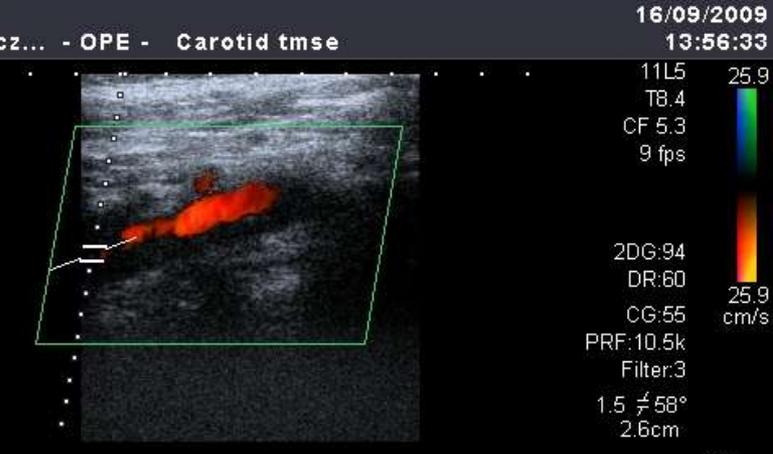
Duplex Doppler (Sept 2009): RICA 1.9 / 0.4 m/s

TOSHIBA MM 79:- - O
Klinika Ch. Serca i Nacz... - OPE - Carotid tmse
16/09/2009 14:00:24



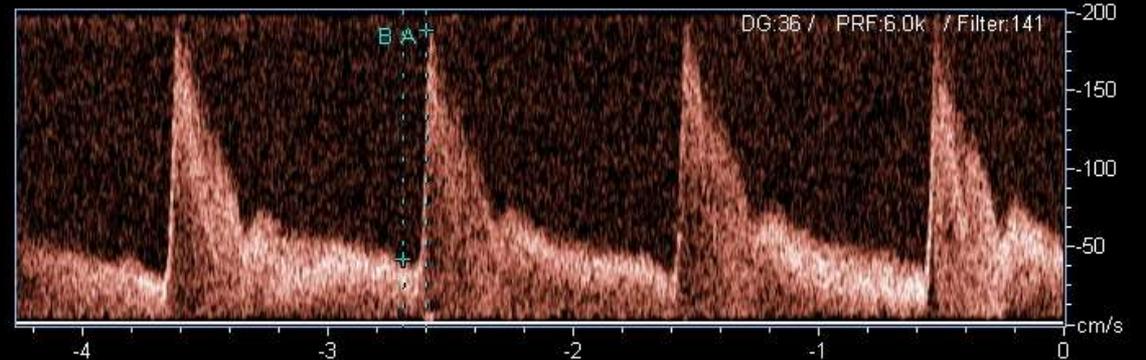
TOSHIBA MM 79:- - O
Klinika Ch. Serca i Nacz... - OPE - Carotid tmse
16/09/2009 13:56:33

Vel A -188.1 cm/s
Vel B -41.4 cm/s



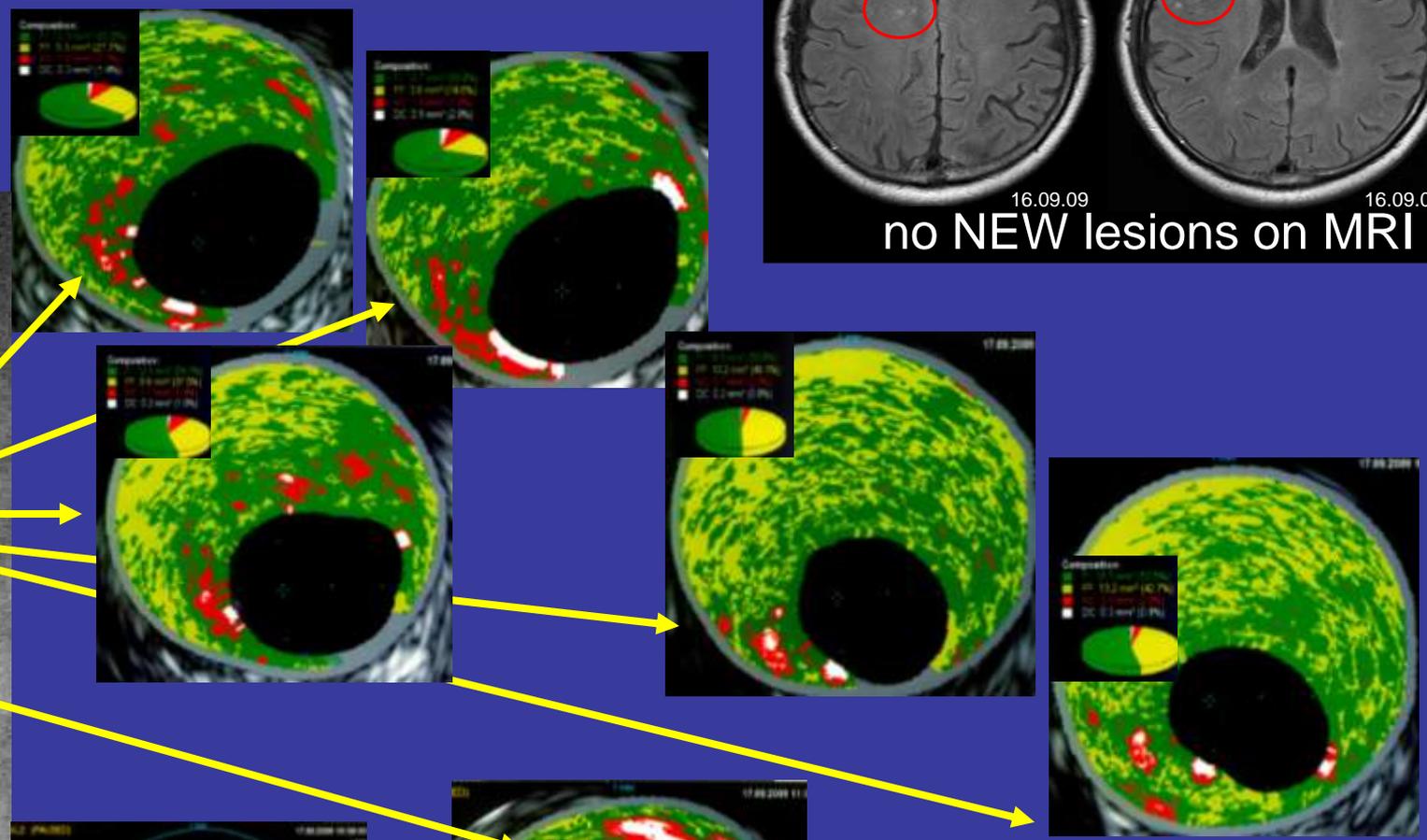
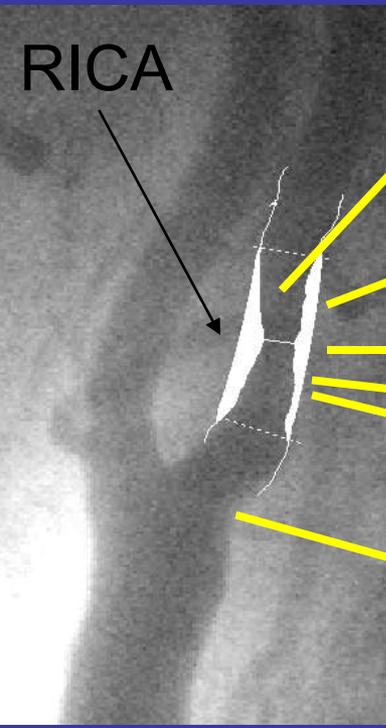
Dist A 1.6 mm Dist B 5.1 mm

*'mild RICA
stenosis
progression'*



A. Kablak-Ziembicka, Sept, 2009

what would you do now (Sept 17, 2009)?



COMPUTER DRIVEN OBSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

MLD	1.87 mm
% diameter stenosis	53 %
Reference diameter	3.98 mm
Length stenotic segment	9.53 mm
Position of proximal border	4.54 mm
MLA densitometry	6.16 mm ²
MLA circular	2.75 mm ²
% area stenosis densitometry	50 %
% area stenosis circular	78 %

