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AJNR

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AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 2017, 38 (12) 2288

doi: <https://doi.org/10.3174/ajnr.A5367>

<http://www.ajnr.org/content/38/12/2288>

This information is current as
of March 20, 2024.

WEB Device: Ready for Ruptured Aneurysms?

We read with great interest the article by van Rooij et al entitled “WEB Treatment of Ruptured Intracranial Aneurysms: A Single-Center Cohort of 100 Patients.”¹ Following our first report on the use of Woven EndoBridge devices (WEB; Sequent Medical, Aliso Viejo, California) for ruptured aneurysms,² this is the fourth publication to emphasize the great interest in using WEB devices to treat intracranial aneurysms in the acute phase of a subarachnoid hemorrhage.^{3,4} Indeed, the WEB enables fast procedures and broadens the range of aneurysms suitable for endovascular treatment without the use of material inside the parent artery: 2 points that are essential for optimal management of ruptured cases.

However, although results from these retrospective and uncontrolled cases series are promising, some points still require further investigation. Because thromboembolic complication rates appear high in ruptured WEB cases, standard procedural management of anticoagulation and aggregation should still be defined here. van Rooij et al reported a 9% thrombotic complication rate. In a recent meta-analysis,⁵ thrombotic complication rates were 21% in ruptured cases versus 5% in nonruptured cases (when patients are usually premedicated with antiplatelet therapy).

In addition, the major point requiring evaluation before the expansion of this technique is the protection against bleeding offered by the device compared with standard coiling. Some cases of early rebleeding previously have been described following WEB treatment.⁶ We believe that rebleeding is very unlikely in cases in which WEB sizing and positioning are properly performed because intra-aneurysmal occlusion is usually very fast in ruptured cases (especially because no antiplatelet medications are used). When coils are used, a complete and compact filling of the aneurysm is required to prevent rebleeding. When one uses the WEB device, we believe that it is essential to ensure complete neck sealing to secure the aneurysm. The best way to do so is to systematically use a C-arm VasoCT (Philips Healthcare, Best, the Netherlands)⁷ before device detachment in ruptured cases.

To address these issues, we have initiated a prospective multicenter study that follows good clinical practice guidelines: CLinical Assessment of WEB Device in Ruptured aneurYSms.⁸

The primary outcome measure is the rebleed rate at 1 month. The enrollment is almost complete, and the results are expected to be available within 1 year.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.3174/ajnr.A5367>