



Dear colleague,

We are writing to you as president of the Spanish Society of _____ so that you may convey this information to the members of your society.

In the official data of 2005, 51,689 PCIs were carried out in Spain, & the used drug eluting stents were used in 50% of the PCIs. The forecast for 2006 will be around 58.500 PCI, & drug eluting stent will represent 60% of the PCIs.

Drug eluting stents have shown their efficacy in treating heart disease, but anti platelet treatment must be rigorous if unwanted events (stent thrombosis) are to be prevented. The most important cause of stent thrombosis is stopping anti platelet treatment. The consequences are catastrophic: patients may develop acute myocardial infarction with possibly fatal consequences.

Recently, a group of American cardiology experts, surgeons and dentists met and produced a document to prevent premature stoppage of anti platelet in patients treated with stents (Circulation 2007; 115: 813-818).

We are pleased to inform you of their conclusions, which we at the **Working Group on PCI of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC: Sociedad Española de Cardiología)** fully support.



- Minor dental surgery, cleaning or extraction can be performed with hardly any risk of bleeding. **Without requiring the suspension of antia platelet treatment** (Oral Surg Oral. Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod. 2006; 102:326).
- Non-urgent invasive procedures with a significant chance of bleeding **should be postponed** for one month in patients treated with bare metal stents and for 12 months in patients treated with drug eluting stents, instead of suspending anti platelet.
- In patients who need to undergo surgery that requires anti platelet with Clopidogrel to be stopped, the aspirin should be maintained and Clopidogrel re-established as soon as possible to avoid thrombosis of the stents.
- Patients who have been treated with drug eluting stents should maintain continuous treatment with aspirin for life.

Given the importance of this matter, we would be grateful if you could convey this information to as many people as possible.