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A State-of-the-Art on slow flow and no reflow; a Viewpoint on intracoronary imaging and drug-coated balloon treatment; the 2-year outcomes of FAVOR III Europe; predicting changes in coronary plaque burden by IVUS; drug-coated balloons for CABG failure; plaque redistribution after DCB angioplasty; and more

Here is a selection of thought-provoking research and insightful commentary on a wide range of subjects to keep you engaged and learning as we count down to seeing everyone at EuroPCR 2026!

Slow flow and no reflow

A State-of-the-Art by **Salvatore Brugaletta, Manel Sabaté and colleagues** discusses the pathophysiology of the slow-flow and no-reflow phenomena occurring in some acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction patients. This in-depth review also covers the currently available invasive and non-invasive diagnostic tools, as well as the pharmacological and interventional treatments that have been tested in clinical studies.

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Predicting changes in coronary plaque burden

Using baseline geometric features of lumen and vessel contours generated by intravascular ultrasound, **Hector M. García-García, Lorenz Räber and colleagues** have developed a deep learning model capable of predicting changes in plaque dynamics. By analysing the plaque burden change in adjacent frames, their model demonstrated high accuracy in predicting the progression/regression of the coronary artery disease in non-culprit vessels of patients with acute myocardial infarction.

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Two-year outcomes of FAVOR III Europe

Birgitte K. Andersen, Evald H. Christiansen and colleagues present the 2-year outcomes of FAVOR III Europe, which compared quantitative flow ratio (QFR) guidance with fractional flow reserve (FFR) guidance for patients undergoing revascularisation of intermediate coronary stenoses. The surprising 1-year outcomes were confined to that first year – while at 2 years, major adverse cardiac event rates were similar between QFR and FFR. **Gianluca Campo and Simone Biscaglia** discuss the results in an accompanying editorial.

This article is the subject of this month's Editor's Choice podcast.

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Also in this issue

A Viewpoint on intracoronary imaging guidance with drug-coated balloons (DCB) from **Nicolas Amabile, Fernando Alfonso and colleagues** and a Research Correspondence from **Alexander Marschall, Fernando Macaya-Ten and colleagues** on DCB angioplasty for *de novo* and in-stent restenosis lesions in bypass grafts.

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