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Airway bypass via transbronchial fenestration has been shown to improve forced expiratory volume and flow in emphysematous lungs. This study evaluated the influence of controlled release paclitaxel airway bypass stents on prolongation of patency. A specifically designed expandable stainless steel stent (3 mm long × 3 mm wide) imbedded in a sleeve of silicone rubber was placed within the transbronchial passage and expanded until secured about the bronchial wall. Fifty control stents (no paclitaxel impregnation) and 107 paclitaxel eluting stents were placed in 25 dogs. At 1, 4, 8 and 12 weeks, the patency rate for control stents was 10%, 0%, 0%, 0% and for paclitaxel stents was 100%, 96%, 76%, 65% respectively. This study found that in a canine model, the use of specifically designed paclitaxel eluting airway bypass stents was feasible and safe and resulted in a significant prolongation of patency.

Cliff K Choong, FRACS

Reference