1000-1420 PCI’s annually with operators using a default femoral (F) access for PCI then progressing to a R approach. Data on patient demographics, procedure details, fluoroscopy time and radiation doses and outcomes were collected from internal and national databases.

Results: 6575 patients underwent PCI over a 5 yr period. In 5yrs, R access increased from 31.4% to 90% (p<0.0001). The access change from was seen amongst all operators and patient groups. The x–over rate from R to F access to finish the PCI was 1.5% compared to a F to R x–over of 6.2% (p<0.001). There was an increase in fluoroscopy (R1097.8 vs (F)8518.1 sec (p<0.001) and radiation dose (R:63.9vs(F):57.3Gycm2p<0.01) during yr1 when operators went from 32 to 67% R approach. There were no differences in fluoroscopy time (R:1919.9vs(F):1906.3sec,p<0.05) and radiation dose (R:192,7vs(F):192,7Gycm2p<0.001) when use was 90% of cases; fluoroscopy time (R:919.4vs(F):1124.4sec, P=0.007 and radiation dose (R:70.4vs(F):86.4Gycm2p<0.01) decreased observed. Over 5yrs, vascular complications and major bleeding were higher in the F group (p<0.0001) while length of stay was shorter in the R group 0.75 vs 1.07 days, p<0.0001)

Conclusions: Adoption of the R approach in centres performing PCI predominantly via the F route is feasible within 5yrs and translates into both clinical and economic benefits with reductions in hospital stay and vascular/bleeding complications. There is however a ‘learning curve’ which results in increased fluoroscopy time and radiation doses in the initial phases, which is reversible when the access route is used in >60% of PCI cases.

TCT-28
Is the rate of femoral access site complications increased in the hands of “radialists”? 
Stefano Rigattieri1, Cristian Di Russo1, Maria Cera1, Silvio Fedele1, Giuseppe Ferruaio1, Giuliano Altamura, Francesco Pagliesi1, Paolo Locchiav1
1Sandro Pertini Hospital, ROME, Italy

Background: Transradial approach (TRA) for coronary angiography and interventions was shown to be associated with a striking reduction in the rate of vascular complications (VASC) as compared to transfemoral approach (TFA). As a result, the procedure of TRA is increasingly performed worldwide, with a growing proportion of physicians who select TRA as their preferred approach in the vast majority of cases (so called “radialists”). A possible drawback of this behaviour could be the loss of expertise in TFA, potentially leading to an increased rate of VASC when TFA is needed due to clinical (e.g. cardiogenic shock) or technical reasons (e.g. need for large guiding catheters).

Methods: We designed a prospective, single center, 3 years registry aimed to investigate whether high-volume TRA operators (HTRAop; >75% TRA) experience an increased rate of femoral VASC as compared to lower-volume TRA operators (LTRAop; <75% TRA). All femoral VASC requiring interventions or prolonging hospital stay were recorded.

Results: Between May 2009 and May 2012 2749 procedures, of which 1255 percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) were performed by 2 independent investigators. 91% of all procedures were performed with 6F sheaths; 4.5% of procedures were only used in 25 patients (0.91%). We observed 12 femoral VASC: 8 pseudoaneurysms (6 of which treated by echo-guided compression, the remaining by surgery), 3 cases of limb ischemia, treated by surgery, and 1 case of femoral vein thrombosis. In TFA procedures, the rate of femoral VASC was not different between HTRAop and LTRAop (0.96% vs 1.84%; p<0.01). Over 5yrs, vascular complications and major bleeding were significantly reduced (0.91% vs 3.4%; p<0.001, especially in the subgroup of pts with a moderate, high or very high CRUSADE bleeding score (0.9% vs 7.5%, p=0.012). 30-day mortality was significantly lower in the subgroup of operators who performed their procedures as a transradial approach as compared to the femoral approach (1.7% vs 4.8%, p=0.014). However, radial access was not an independent predictor for the primary endpoint (HR 0.417; 95% CI, 0.125–1.316, p=0.136), as for 30-day mortality (HR 0.50; 95% CI, 0.182–1.415, p=0.195).

Conclusions: Although radial access significantly reduced in-hospital non CABG-related major and minor bleeding and 30-day mortality as compared to femoral access, the difference was no longer significant after multivariate correction for differences in baseline and angiographic characteristics between the groups.

TCT-30
Clinical Outcomes Following Radial Versus Femoral Artery Access In Primary Or Rescue Percutaneous Coronary Intervention In Scotland: Retrospective Cohort Study Of 4534 Patients
Colin Berry1, Cathy Johansson1, Miles Behan1, Daniel Mackay2, Rachel Slack1
1University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 2Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Background: Bleeding during emergency percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) predicts reduced survival. Radial access potentially reduces the risk of bleeding. We aimed to assess short-term and medium-term outcomes following radial and femoral artery access for primary or rescue percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was performed in Scotland. UK. All 4534 patients who had primary PCI in Scotland between April 2000 and March 2009, and had been identified using the Scottish Coronary Revascularisation Register. The outcome measures were procedural success; peri-procedural complications; 30-day and 1-year mortality, myocardial infarction or stroke and long-term mortality.

Results: Use of the radial approach increased from no cases in 2000 to 924 (20.5%) in 2009 (p<0.001). Patients in whom the radial approach was used were more likely to be male (p=0.041) and to have multiple comorbidities (p<0.001), including hypertension (p<0.001) and left ventricular dysfunction (p<0.001). They were less likely to have renal impairment (p=0.017), multi-vascular coronary disease (p=0.001) and cardiogenic shock (p<0.001). In multivariable analysis, radial intervention predicted reduced survival. Radial artery access potentially reduces the risk of bleeding. We conclude that PCI can be performed safely and effectively using the radial route.

Conclusions: Compared with femoral artery access, use of the radial artery for primary or rescue PCI is associated with improved clinical outcomes.

TCT-31
Clinical Benefit of Radial Versus Femoral Approach in Percutaneous Coronary Intervention with Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump Support 
Enrico Romagnoli1, Maria De Vit1, Francesco Barzotta1, Francesco Summaria2, Roberto Patrizi1, Alessandro Sciacchitano, Valerio Lucchi, Gianluca Pendenza1, Caterina Cavazza2, Niccoli Giampaolo3, Leone Antonio Maria1, Trani Carlo1, Giuseppe Biondi-Zoccai1,2,3, Fabio Tarantino2, Ernesto Lioy1, Crea Filippo1, Giuseppe Sangiorgi1
1Policlinico Ca’ Foscari, Rovigo, Italy, 2Morgagni-Pierantoni hospital, Forlì, Italy, 3University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy, 4SS. Filippo e Nicola hospital, Avezzano, Italy, 5San Giovanni Hospital-Cli foundation, Rome, Italy, 6Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Background: Peri-procedural bleeding complications have been associated with a worse outcome in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), especially in the case of acute coronary syndromes (ACS). This study aims to assess if the selection of transradial approach to perform PCI still represents an advantage in terms of bleeding reduction also in patients needing intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) support.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed 241 consecutive patients receiving IABP support during PCI in four independent high-volume centers. Patients were further divided into two groups: 116 patients receiving double femoral access (FF) and 125 receiving both radial and femoral (RF) approaches. Primary endpoints were assessed by in-hospital Net Adverse Clinical Events (NACE, composite of post-procedural bleeding, cardiac death, myocardial infarction, target lesion revascularization or stroke) and bleeding (defined according to ACC/AHA classification).

Results: Median patient age was 71 [14-3rd quartile 61-79] years and diagnosis at admission was ACS in 91% of patients, including acute ST elevation myocardial infarction in 73%. High-risk patient profile included Killip class 3-4 presentation in 78%, mean systolic arterial pressure 90 [70-100] mmHg, mean left ventricular ejection fraction 30% [25-40] and multivessel coronary artery disease in 70% involving left main trunk in 26% of cases. Cumulative 30-day NACE rate was 54% (130), while a bleeding occurred in 29% of patients. NACES were more frequent in the FF group when compared to the RF
group (67% vs. 41%, p<0.01). In particular, this difference stemmed from an increase of access site-related bleeding (21% vs. 7%, p<0.01) and cardiac death (41% vs. 25%, p<0.01) in the FF group. The adjusted multivariable regression analysis confirmed radial approach as an independent outcome predictor (OR 0.53 CI 95% 0.29-0.96, p=0.037).

Conclusions: Transradial approach use for PCI requiring IABP support positively impacts periprocedural outcome by means of a significant access-site-related bleeding and cardiac death prevention. Thus, its use seems strongly recommended in patients at increased risk of bleeding, such as those admitted for an ACS.

TCT-32
Neurological complications following PCI - incidence and trends during a period of transition from femoral to radial access. Observational data from the british cardiovascular intervention society PCI database
Karim Ratib1, Mamas Mamas2, Adrian Large1, Samer Arnous3, Helen Routledge3, Peter Ludman4, Doug Fraser5, Jim Nolan6
1University Hospital of North Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, UK; 2Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester, UK; 3Worcestershire Royal Hospital, Worcester, WRS 1DD, UK, Worcester, UK; 4University Hospital Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

Background: There has been a significant increase in use of transradial access (TRA) for PCI in the UK. Early on in the TRA learning curve, procedures are associated with more catherer exchanges, longer screening times and with more contrast use. These factors are all associated with increased risk of periprocedural neurological complications (NC). Using the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society PCI database we assessed changes in NC through a period of transition during which radial access became the dominant access for PCI.

Methods: This study includes data collected by the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society under the auspices of the Central Cardiac Audit Database. We performed a retrospective analysis of the BCIS database between January 2006 and December 2010. The data was split into 2 cohorts based on access site: either radial or femoral (mixed access site use and other access sites were excluded from the analysis). A NC was defined as a periprocedural TIA, ischemic stroke or hemorrhagic stroke.

Results: Between 2006 and 2010 a total of 348,092 procedures were recorded exclusively using either transradial (TRA) or transfemoral (TFA) access. Over 5 years, the use of TFA for PCI increased from 17.1% to 58.8% of procedures. There was no difference in the incidence of NC during this period. Following multivariate analysis of the whole 5 year cohort, no difference in NC was observed between TRA and TFA (HR 1.005 CI 0.81-1.248; p=0.96).

Conclusions: These results are reassuring and suggest that a switch from TFA to TRA is not associated with any increased risk of periprocedural neurological complications.

TCT-33
Intracoronary Optical Coherence Tomography and Histology of Overlapping Everolimus-Eluting Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffolds in a Porcine Coronary Artery Model: The Potential Implications for Clinical Practice
Vasim Parooq1, Patrick Serruys2, Jung Heo3, Bill Gogas4, LAURA Perkins5, Yosikinobu Onuma6, Roberto Diletti7, Maria Rada8, Loren9, Christos Bourantas10, Eric van Remore11, Ravindra Pawar12, Richard Raposa13, Jennifer Powers14, Heleen Beusekom15, Hector Garcia-Garcia16, Renu Virmani17
1Thorax Center, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2Professor Interventional Cardiology, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 3ThoraxCenter, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 4Abbott Vascular, Massatoni, VA, 5Thoraxcenter, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 6Rigshospitalet, COPENHAGEN, Denmark, 7Bern University Hospital, Bern, Switzerland, 8Cardiology, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 9Abbott, Santa Clara, CA, 10Bioscaffold, Santa Clara, CA, 11CVPath Inc, Gaithersburg, United States

Background: The everolimus-eluting Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (Absorb) is a novel approach to treating coronary lesions. A persistent inflammatory response, fibrin deposition and delayed endothelialisation have been reported with overlapping first-generation drug eluting stents. We report optical coherence tomography and histological findings in a porcine coronary artery model after implantation of overlapping Absorb or second-generation everolimus-eluting metallic platform stents (XIENCE V [XV]).

Methods: 41 overlapping Absorb and overlapping XV devices (3.0 x 12 mm) were implanted in the main coronary arteries of 17 non-atherosclerotic pigs with a balloon artery ratio of 1.1:1 (10% over-stretch). Implanted coronary arteries were evaluated by OCT at 28 (Absorb: n=11, XV: n=7) and 90 days (Absorb: n=11, XV: n=8), with immediate histological evaluation following euthanasia at the same time points. One animal from each time point was evaluated with scanning electron microscopy alone.

Results: 1407 cross-sections were analysed by OCT and 148 cross-sections analysed histologically. At 28 days in the overlap, OCT analyses indicated 80.1% of Absorb struts and 99.4% of XV struts to be covered (p<0.0001), corresponding to histological observations of struts with cellular coverage of 75.4% and 99.6% respectively (p<0.001). Uncovered struts were almost exclusively related to the presence of ‘stacked’ Absorb struts, i.e. with a directoverlay configuration. At 90 days overlapping Absorb and overlapping XV struts demonstrated >99% strut coverage by OCT and histology, with no evidence of a significant inflammatory process, and comparable % volume obstructions.

Conclusions: In porcine coronary arteries implanted with overlapping Absorb, strut coverage is dependent on the overlay configuration of Absorb struts at 28 days and not at 90 days. The potential clinical implications of increased strut thickness in the management of long lesions & coronary bifurcations may have important clinical (e.g. duration of antplatelet therapy) and design considerations (e.g. longer devices & the requirement of dedicated bifurcation devices to avoid overlapping the device) for current and future devices with bioresorbable platforms.

TCT-34
ABSORB EXTEND: An Interim Report on the 12-month Clinical Outcomes from the First 250 Patients Enrolled
Antonio Bartorelli1
1Associate Professor University of Milan-Centro Cardiologico Monzino, Milan, Italy

Background: The safety and performance of the Absorb Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS) System (Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA) has been previously established in 131 patients from Cohort A and Cohort B of the First-in-Man ABSORB trial. Results out to 2 years have been presented in 101 patients from the ABSORB Cohort B trial. At 12 months, the MACE rate was 6.9%, with no scaffold thrombosis reported, which was sustained out to 2 years with a MACE rate of 9.0%. Following this trial, ABSORB EXTEND was initiated as a global continued access study (outside of the US) to expand experience with the Absorb BVS to different geographies. Additionally, patients were treated for longer coronary lesions than those in the ABSORB trial using either longer scaffold lengths or planned overlap of the Absorb BVS.

Methods: ABSORB EXTEND is a prospective, single-arm, open-label clinical study that is planning to enroll up to 1,000 subjects at up to 100 sites. Included are patients with lesions ≤ 28 mm in length and reference vessel diameter of 2.0 - 3.3 mm (as assessed by on-line QCA or IVUS). Treatment of a maximum of two de novo native coronary artery lesions, each in a different epicardial vessel, is permitted.

Results: Interim 12-month data in the first 250 patients enrolled in ABSORB EXTEND will be available for the first time in October 2012 and will provide additional data on the