



Dr Azfar Zaman

Director, Interventional Cardiology
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

At the time of writing NEVO was not available for use.

The first generation stents, Cypher and Taxus were clinically effective and helped to set the scene in terms of the elution profile necessary for clinical efficacy. Much debate about the role of polymers in inducing inflammation and subsequent stent thrombosis accelerated development of DES with reduced or no polymers. Whilst intellectually appealing, they also had the advantage of reducing total strut thickness and thereby enhancing stent deliverability. In amongst the glitz of new products, the allure of reduced or no polymers and rumours of limited deliverability, the wealth of data showing clinical efficacy for the first generation stents was conveniently forgotten.

The interventional community had its fingers burnt with Janus and Conor (both, drug in reservoir) but the demand for newer "more deliverable" DES was a force whose time had come. Enter Xience, Promus, and Resolute Integrity. Whilst Xience has cut its teeth with large RCT's against Cypher and others, Promus and Resolute Integrity are still catching up, but early data look promising.

For this operator, the differences in deliverability between the three new kids on the block are too subtle to allow objective adjudication. Deliverability has improved when compared to the first generation stent but enough to persuade one to ignore a treasure trove of effective clinical data for Cypher? Not sufficient, in my opinion to have a Cypher free lab, yet.

Life Stream Presents Solution to Reduce NHS Waiting Lists

Patient waiting lists are a major issue within the NHS. Winchester and Salisbury-based company Life Stream has developed a potential solution: a live video linking device, allowing hospitals and surgeons to quickly decide treatment for NHS patients suffering with heart conditions. The new technology could reduce surgery-waiting times by a third.

In front of an audience of MPs and senior officials from the Department of Health, Life Stream joined some of UK's top cardiologists, radiologists, and surgeons to present the product at the House of Commons.

Professor Roger Boyle, National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke Vascular Programme, at the Department of Health, was present at the event and said: "Life Stream is an innovative new device that will enable patients to get the right choice of treatment, quickly. There is a huge waste of beds in hospitals, with people waiting for decisions to be made. It should not be underestimated how important new technology like this is to advancing healthcare in the UK."

Streamed over a secure high quality video, Life Stream enables cardiologists and surgeons to collaborate remotely and share patient images and videos of medical and surgical procedures in real time. With increasing pressures on clinicians to deal with a greater number of cases per year, this timesaving – and life saving – process allows critical patient diagnosis at the click of a switch.

Life Stream has been trialled in several hospitals across the country and is effective even in areas with little Internet signal. Kate Willmer, consultant cardiologist at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven, has tested the device. "When a patient comes to see me with a heart problem, I have to communicate their symptoms to a surgeon via letters and post CDs showing footage of tests I have run. It can often take weeks to communicate what action, if any, needs to be taken on this patient. When you are dealing with critical illnesses, time is precious. This new system enables me to speak directly to the surgeon in a matter of hours."



Inventor John Cooper, who developed the Life Stream technology from his tele-visuals business in Salisbury, said: "We have a device that will make a real difference to patients with heart conditions. The system could also be used for patients suffering with cancer, neurological issues or strokes; it's the future of communication in the NHS. I am very proud to have developed something that will have such a great impact to people's lives."

Following its strong reception in Westminster, Life Stream now seeks further support from local health officials to get the technology into hospitals across the country.

Visit www.life-stream.co.uk

Left: Professor Roger Boyle CBE standing with the Life Stream system at the House of Commons, London