



To:
Ukrainian Association of interventional cardiologists
(prof. Dr. Y. Sokolov, FESC.)
Kiev, Ukraine

Prague, February 22, 2013

Dear prof. Sokolov,
we are pleased to hear, that cardiologists in Ukraine are actively working to implement acute percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) into the treatment of patients with acute coronary syndromes. We strongly recommend you to follow the principles applied not only in the Czech Republic, but in the entire European Union and also worldwide (United States, Canada, etc.). The key principles are:

1. Interventional cardiology must be an integral part of the specialty cardiology. This means, that every interventional cardiologist should first complete its cardiology education (i.e. to obtain the board certificate from cardiology) with subsequent 1-2 years training in interventional cardiology.
2. Due to the fact, that in modern cardiology centers majority (50-70%) of all PCI procedures should be done for acute coronary syndromes (including STEMI) it is absolutely necessary, that the physicians performing PCI are well trained in acute cardiology. Thus, performance of acute PCI by physicians of other specialties (e.g. radiologists, surgeons, etc.) should be avoided as they are not trained to treat acute situations as pulmonary edema, cardiogenic shock, malignant arrhythmias, etc.
3. Cardiologists should perform also other (non-coronary) cardiac interventions (e.g. valvular interventions, interventions in congenital heart disease). Performance of catheter-based interventions in other areas (outside the heart – i.e. peripheral arteries) can be done by any of the mentioned specialties (radiologists, cardiologists, surgeons trained in catheter interventions).
4. One cardiology center (performing interventions) should serve the population between 0,3 – 1,0 million inhabitants to be able to cover all acute patients.

We wish you success in your effort and are prepared to help you by expert advise, lectures, training.

Best regards

Prof. Petr Widimský, MD., DrSc., FESC., FACC.
President of the Czech Society of Cardiology 2011-2015
Chairman of the Accreditation Board for Cardiology by the Czech Ministry of Health 2005-2015
Vice-president of the European Society of Cardiology 2006-2008

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