From our perspective, substantial heterogeneity of endpoint definitions in individual trials included in the present meta-analysis clearly hamper both the deduction of meaningful conclusions and the generalizability of results from the present meta-analysis.2–4 There were subtle but crucial differences among included individual studies regarding all three endpoints analysed. First, there was a substantial variability in the definitions of immediate technical success by residual stenosis thresholds between <20 and <50% rendering a direct comparison of results very challenging.2 Second, TVR was defined as ‘repeat revascularization of the same superficial femoral artery disease: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials’.

References

Routine stent implantation vs. percutaneous transluminal angioplasty in femoropopliteal artery disease: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

We read with great interest the article on routine stent implantation vs. plain balloon angioplasty in femoropopliteal artery obstructions by Kasapis et al.1 The endpoints of interest in the present meta-analysis were immediate technical success rate of target vessel revascularization (TVR) as well as restenosis rates. From our perspective, substantial heterogeneity of endpoint definitions in individual trials included in the present meta-analysis clearly hamper both the deduction of meaningful conclusions and the generalizability of results from the present meta-analysis.2–4 There were subtle but crucial differences among included individual studies regarding all three endpoints analysed. First, there was a substantial variability in the definitions of immediate technical success by residual stenosis thresholds between <20 and <50% rendering a direct comparison of results very challenging.2 Second, TVR was defined as ‘repeat revascularization of the same superficial femoral artery disease: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials’.2

Routine stent implantation vs. percutaneous transluminal angioplasty in femoropopliteal artery disease: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials: reply

We are thankful to Diehm et al. for their interest in our meta-analysis on routine stent implantation vs. percutaneous transluminal angioplasty in femoropopliteal artery