Correspondence

Transluminal angioplasty of a stenosis of an internal mammary artery graft

Sir,
In a recent paper (1986;56:473–5) Crean et al reported successful dilatation of the anastomotic stricture of an internal mammary artery graft. They stated that “early and late stenoses develop with a similar aetiology to those in vein grafts”. This is not the conclusion of the study they quote.1 On page 255 of the cited article it says “Failure of mammary grafts, early or late, was so infrequent that determinants of stenosis or occlusion could not be identified”.

We would also like to point out that several recent reports suggest that an early anastomotic stricture is not due to atherosclerosis but is a surgical complication of suture technique.2–4

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References

Long term improvement in global left ventricular function after early thrombolytic treatment in acute myocardial infarction

Sir,
We were interested to read the report of long term improvement in global left ventricular function after early thrombolytic treatment in acute myocardial infarction by Res et al (1986;56:414–21). They noted that the improvement in left ventricular ejection fraction (9%) after thrombolysis was greater in patients who had sustained an anterior infarction than in those with inferior infarctions. They claimed then this was due to photon attenuation. Because this difference between anterior and inferior infarction has been reported by other groups including ourselves1 it is worth examining the question of photon attenuation more closely.

Res et al used the theoretical calculations of Yeh and Yeh2 as a basis for their statement; however Yeh and Yeh examined why the ejection fraction measured by radioisotope methods gave a lower value