**EMBARGOED UNTIL**

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**SCAI Publishes New Treatment Recommendations for Common Form of**

**Peripheral Artery Disease**

*New Series Recommends Appropriate Use Expert Consensus Guidelines for Treatment of
Growing Population of Patients with PAD*

**Las Vegas, Nev. (May 28, 2014) –** Recommendations issued today by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) provide new anatomic, clinical and technical guidance for the endovascular treatment of aorto-iliac peripheral artery disease (PAD). The paper, the first in a series of appropriate use expert consensus guidelines developed by SCAI to address PAD, was e-published today in *Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions (CCI).*

Aorto-iliac PAD is a serious condition that occurs when blockages form in the main artery in the body (the aorta), specifically where the artery splits to form the iliac arteries in the lower abdomen. These blockages can significantly reduce patients’ quality of life by limiting blood flow to the legs, causing pain and (rarely) placing patients at risk of losing a limb. Men with the disease may experience erectile dysfunction. While medication and a walking program are recommended first treatments, endovascular interventions are recommended when lifestyle and medication approaches are no longer effectively controlling symptoms and the patient’s quality of life is impacted.

“Treating these blockages with open surgery is often a last approach due to the surgical risks and the requirement for an inpatient hospital stay,” said Andrew J.P. Klein, M.D., FACC, FSCAI, director of Endovascular Services and Cardiovascular Research at the St. Louis VA, and lead author of the consensus paper. “Endovascular treatment has a success rate of more than 90 percent and a low mortality rate, making it an appropriate treatment strategy when lifestyle approaches and exercise are no longer effectively controlling symptoms.”

The new paper reviews strategies for vascular access; use of antiplatelet therapies; angioplasty and stenting, including stent selection; and hybrid procedures involving an open surgical procedure followed by stenting in patients with multiple blockages. The paper builds on existing American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association practice guidelines for the treatment PAD, which recommend stenting as the preferred approach for patients with aorta-iliac occlusive disease. The authors note that, while several types of stents are available, clinical evidence does not support one type over another at this time. The paper also discusses approaches to managing potential complications.

“In keeping with SCAI’s mission, this document provides physicians with recommendations on issues to be considered when treating patients with aorto-iliac disease,” said SCAI 2013-14 President Ted A. Bass, M.D., FSCAI. “Our goal is to support appropriate patient selection as well as treatment strategies that are the safest and most effective for our patients.”

The paper, titled “Appropriate Use for Aorto-Iliac Arterial Intervention: An Expert Consensus Document from the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention (SCAI),” is published in *CCI* and is available at [www.SCAI.org](http://www.SCAI.org). The remainder of the series, addressing femoropopliteal and infrapopliteal PAD as well as renal artery stenosis, will publish in *CCI* in summer 2014.

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**About SCAI**

The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions is a 4,000-member professional organization representing invasive and interventional cardiologists in approximately 70 nations. SCAI's mission is to promote excellence in invasive/interventional cardiovascular medicine through physician education and representation, and advancement of quality standards to enhance patient care. SCAI's public education program, Seconds Count, offers comprehensive information about cardiovascular disease. For more information about SCAI and Seconds Count, visit <http://www.SCAI.org/>or [www.SecondsCount.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CKathy%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CQPKMFQD1%5Cwww.SecondsCount.org). Follow [@SCAI](http://www.Twitter.com/SCAI) and [@SCAINews](http://www.Twitter.com/SCAINews) on Twitter for the latest heart health news.