The ongoing TAXUS trials

Dr Stephen G Ellis (Cleveland Clinic) showed preliminary 30-day results from the 1326 patients in the TAXUS IV-SR (slow-release) trial. The study is examining the EXPRESS™ stent coated with 1 g/mm² of paclitaxel for the treatment of de novo lesions. The data has not yet been unblinded, so Ellis showed only that MACE rates at 30 days were 0 in both groups, which, he said, "was reassuring with regard to safety." Nine-month results will be available by the summer of 2003, Ellis stated.

One-year results from TAXUS I, which randomized patients with de novo lesions to either a bare stent or a slow- or fast-release paclitaxel-coated NIR Conformer stent were presented by Dr Sigmund Silber (Cardiology Assoc, Gruenwald, Germany). Silber reported that the binary restenosis rate using the slow-release formula stent at 6 months was 0%, "just as lucky as the RAVEL investigators," compared with 10% in the control patients, although the numbers were not statistically different. One-year MACE was 10% in the control group and 3% in the coated-stent group.

Related links
1. Sirolimus-eluting stent recommended for approval by unanimous vote [HeartWire > News; Oct 23, 2002]
2. After SIRIUS and TAXUS II: Waiting for approval [HeartWire > IndustryPulse; Oct 4, 2002]
3. TAXUS II: 6-month data show significant benefits of paclitaxel-eluting stents [HeartWire > News; Sep 27, 2002]
4. SIRIUS final results show 3.2% in-stent, 8.9% in-segment restenosis rates with sirolimus-eluting stents [HeartWire > News; Sep 24, 2002]
5. High cost preventing extensive use of sirolimus stent in Europe [HeartWire > News; Sep 10, 2002]

Shelley Wood
shelley@conceptis.com