Coronary artery disease: Novel perspectives in prevention and revascularization

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Coronary disease remains the leading cause of death in Germany and the developed countries. Recent clinical and genetic studies have indicated important causal factors for disease progression that now can be therapeutically targeted. One example represents PCSK9 inhibition that can now be performed using several biological and molecular therapeutic approaches. In this respect, the largest phase-2 study using a siRNA in humans for PCSK9 in patients at high risk for cardiovascular and coronary events has been completed. Moreover, non-coding RNAs have been identified that are associated with an adverse outcome in patients after an acute coronary syndrome.

Moreover, current clinical translational studies implicate the innate immune system and microbiome in the pathophysiology of acute coronary syndromes and cerebrovascular events that may present interesting novel therapeutic targets as well. With respect to coronary revascularization recent studies have indicated which patients may benefit from catheter-based or coronary bypass revascularisation. A recent focus with respect to improving catheter-based coronary revascularization is in particular in the use of intracoronary imaging for complex coronary lesions. Here a large clinical outcome trial for the impact of high-resolution intracoronary imaging on outcome after coronary interventions is planned.

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