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Multiple Calcified Stenoses of Old Degenerated Saphenous Vein Grafts

Poor long-term patency of saphenous vein graft (SVG) has been recognized in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, with thrombotic occlusion commonly experienced in need of percutaneous coronary intervention. Meanwhile, little has been focused about calcification of SVG. An 89-year-old man with 3-year history of hemodialysis was admitted to our hospital with the diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome. He underwent CABG using 2 SVGs to diagonal branch and distal right coronary artery 28 years earlier. Coronary angiography showed multiple stenoses of both SVGs consistent with the culprit lesions. Intravascular ultrasound showed no thrombosis but heavily calcified plaques at the stenotic sites, which were successfully dilated thereafter by balloon angioplasty without distal emboli. Calcified plaques should be considered as a possible cause of acute coronary syndrome in old degenerated SVGs.

