

Zenith® t-Branch™ endovascular stent graft provides immediate treatment options

Mr Donald Adam and Mr Martin Claridge, Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgeons, implanted Europe's first urgent Zenith® t-Branch™ endovascular stent graft in a patient with a symptomatic thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm some 10 days after the device's European launch. The case was carried out at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, UK and took just under 4 hours to perform.

The 77 year old man was referred to the vascular team at Heartlands Hospital having presented to another hospital with increasing back pain. CT scan demonstrated a 63 mm diameter extent III thoraco-abdominal aneurysm. Despite antihypertensive treatment, the patient's symptoms did not settle and the clinicians decided that the patient required urgent aneurysm repair. A staged procedure was performed to reduce the risk of spinal cord ischaemia. The first stage consisted of deployment of the t-branch device, unibody device and right iliac limb extension with four bridging stent-grafts for the target vessels. The second stage was performed 11 days later and involved deployment of the left iliac limb extension. The patient was discharged home four days after the second-stage procedure without complications and CT scan at 2 months confirmed aneurysm exclusion with all target vessels preserved. The patient remains well at four months. The team have since successfully treated a second patient presenting with an acute extent III thoraco-abdominal aneurysm with good outcome.

The Zenith® t-Branch™ endovascular stent graft from Cook Medical is an off-the-shelf disease-specific solution for thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms which can be supplied the next day. The device has a proximal diameter of 34mm, a body length of 202 mm and four downward facing branches for the visceral and renal arteries. The modular design permits sizing to a wide range of patient anatomy, with a wide selection of versatile components, including various proximal components and a universal distal body.

"We were pleased to be able to complete the t-branch procedure in less than 4 hours with successful exclusion of the aneurysm and preservation of the target vessels using a staged approach. The t-branch device was straightforward to deploy and tapering of the device to 18 mm at the level of the branches assisted cannulation." Said Martin Claridge.

"The Zenith t-branch allows the majority of patients who are anatomically suitable for a four-branch device to be treated with significantly reduced waiting times compared to the custom-made grafts. I expect that it will become the treatment of choice for patients requiring elective and urgent treatment in those experienced centres who have the necessary facilities to manage patients with thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms. With increasing experience, visceral hybrid procedures and chimney or sandwich techniques will become a thing of the past for the majority of patients." Said Donald Adam.

The Zenith® t-Branch™ offers the only CE-marked off-the-shelf solution for the endovascular management of patients with thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms, saving time when treating critical patients. Compared to other treatment options, Zenith's strong clinical data and history of performance provide peace of mind in standard or complex anatomies.

