

## Glossary of vascular terms

**Angina**–Sharp, suffocating pain in the chest, usually due to interference with the supply of oxygenated blood to the heart muscle; sometimes called angina pectoris.

**Angiographic binary restenosis (ABR)**–Percentage of patients with a follow-up percent diameter stenosis of greater or equal to 50% determined by quantitative coronary angioplasty. ABR can occur without the presence of clinical symptoms.

**Angioplasty**–A procedure used to unblock an artery clogged with plaque; also known as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), or balloon angioplasty. Often followed by the placement of a stent in the unclogged area.

**Anticoagulant**–A blood thinning agent used to prevent or reduce clotting.

**Antiproliferative drug**–A medication used to prevent the abnormal growth of tissue following stent implantation.

**ARC definitions**–Expanded definitions of stent thrombosis created by the Academic Research Consortium, a group of physicians, research groups, major stent manufacturers and others (also called the “Dublin definitions”).

**Arteriosclerosis**–A group of diseases characterized by thickening or hardening of the arteries and loss of blood flow to the heart due to plaque; can lead to angina (chest pain) or myocardial infarction (heart attack).

**Bare metal stent**–A stent not coated with an antiproliferative drug for inhibiting restenosis.

**Catheter**–A tube-like instrument used to access a body cavity; in angioplasty, a catheter provides access to the artery for the delivery of a balloon or stent.

**Catheterization**–A test in which contrast dye is injected into blood vessels, allowing a physician to view via X-ray where an artery is narrowed.

**Cobalt alloy**–The material used in next-generation drug-eluting stents; this material is denser, stronger and more flexible than previous generation stainless steel stents.

**Coronary angiogram**–A fluoroscopic picture of the blood vessels of the heart, in which contrast dye is injected into the arteries, enabling a physician to view narrowing or blockages.

**Coronary artery**–An artery of the heart that supplies oxygenated blood.

**Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)**–An invasive medical procedure in which a section of an artery from another portion of the body is used to bypass a blockage in a coronary artery to improve blood flow to the heart.

**Deliverability**–The ease with which a stent can be advanced through the coronary vasculature.

**De novo**–New, untreated; such as a coronary artery that has not been previously treated.

**Drug-eluting stent (DES)**–A stent coated with an antiproliferative drug such as zotarolimus that inhibits restenosis.

**Dual antiplatelet therapy**–The combination of aspirin and a second anticlotting medication such as clopidogrel (also called Plavix<sup>®</sup>) to reduce the risk of blood clots following stent implantation.

**Endothelialization**–Following stent implantation, the healing process of tissue regrowth over the stent to prevent thrombosis.

**Femoral artery**–An artery in the leg used as an access point to insert a device such as a catheter or stent, which are pushed through the artery to the site of the lesion or blockage.

**In-segment**–A measurement of the length of a deployed stent plus 5 millimeters on either side of the stent.

**In-stent**–A measurement of the length of the deployed stent.

**Interventional Cardiology**–Medical specialty devoted to the practice of minimally-invasive cardiac procedures.

**Late loss**–The difference in measurements of a blood vessel lumen diameter before and after a stent procedure, as shown with angiography.

**Late stent thrombosis**–A blood clot that forms on the stent 30 days to 1 year post-implant. See stent thrombosis.

**Lesion**–A blockage in a blood vessel that is interrupting blood flow to the heart, often due to plaque; also called stenosis.

**Lumen**–The cavity or hollow space inside a blood vessel.

## Glossary of vascular terms *(continued)*

**Major adverse cardiac events (MACE)**—Clinical events following a stent procedure that include death, myocardial infarction, emergent CABG and target lesion revascularization.

**Malapposition**—When a stent is not positioned properly (flush) against the interior arterial wall; late incomplete malapposition occurs when the stent later pulls away, or degrades, leaving a space.

**Neointimal hyperplasia**—A medical term indicating the abnormal growth of new tissue over a stent.

**Occlusion**—A blockage; a state of being closed.

**Paclitaxel**—An antirestenotic drug used on some drug-eluting coronary stents.

**Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)**—A minimally invasive procedure to treat narrowed arteries.

**Platelet**—Cell fragments circulating in the blood that can lead to blood clots and thrombosis if they aggregate.

**Plavix**—An antiplatelet drug often prescribed for patients following a stent procedure; also known as clopidogrel.

**Polymer**—A special molecular compound that coats a stent and helps control the release of the restenosis-inhibiting drug into the heart vessel wall.

**Restenosis**—The renarrowing of an artery in the same location of a previous treatment; clinical restenosis is the manifestation of an ischemic event, usually in the form of recurrent angina. (See angiographic binary restenosis.)

**Revascularization**—A procedure to unblock or bypass a clogged artery.

**Sirolimus**—An antirestenotic drug used on some drug-eluting coronary stents.

**Stent**—A tiny mesh cylinder that expands within a blood vessel and props open a previously clogged artery.

**Stent thrombosis**—A blood clot that forms on the stent; categorized as early stent thrombosis (0–30 days post-implant), late stent thrombosis (30 days – 1 year post-implant) and very late stent thrombosis (more than 1 year post-implant).

**Target lesion revascularization (TLR)**—Any repeat percutaneous intervention of the target lesion or bypass surgery of the target lesion.

**Target vessel failure (TVF)**—When a patient experiences death, myocardial infarction (heart attack), emergent CABG or TLR that cannot be attributed to a vessel other than the target vessel; the combination of TVR and MACE.

**Target vessel revascularization (TVR)**—Revascularization needed when a patient experiences a recurrence of symptoms and the lesion is somewhere along the length of the previous vessel treated.

**Thrombosis**—The formation of blood clots in arteries that can lead to myocardial infarction or death.

**Very late stent thrombosis**—A blood clot that forms on the stent 1 year or more post-implant. See stent thrombosis.

**Zotarolimus**—A noncytotoxic drug used on the Medtronic Endeavor drug-eluting stent.