

Stent wars: Overuse of drug-eluting stents raising costs, study suggests | MassDevice.com On Call

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Over-reliance on drug-eluting stents over bare-metal stents may represent an unnecessary burden on healthcare system, a new study suggests.



MASSDEVICE ON CALL — Physicians may be relying too heavily on drug-eluting stents for patients who aren't at significant risk of restenosis, a preference that could represent an unnecessary financial burden on the healthcare system, a new study suggests.

Opting for less expensive bare-metal stents for patients whose blood vessels aren't at high risk of re-narrowing could save hundreds of millions of dollars per year without significantly increasing patients' risk of requiring a repeat procedure, according to a retrospective study of the National Cardiovascular Data Registry CathPCI .

If just half of the low-risk patients currently receiving DES got bare-metal stents instead it would mean more than \$200 million saved and only about a 0.5% increase in target lesion revascularization procedures, [TheHeart.org](http://www.theheart.org) [1] reported.

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[1] http://www.theheart.org/article/1423473.do?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Theheartorg+%28theheart.org%29