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## Ischaemic Heart Disease Is A World Epidemic. What Have We Done ?

**Dr. Chiang Chung-seung**

Editor



Dr. Chiang Chung-seung

Ischaemic heart disease is an important health care problem worldwide which causes considerable morbidity and mortality. It was estimated by the World Health Organisation that by the year 2020, ischaemic heart disease will be the number one killer in the world. In Hong Kong ischaemic heart disease results in 46000 hospital admissions and about 5000 deaths each year.

In an endeavour to conquer this world epidemic, the recent few decades have seen considerable advances in the diagnosis and management of ischaemic heart disease. Particularly worth mentioning are the rapid advances in cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography. The advent of the drug eluting stents was also a scientific breakthrough in the treatment of restenosis which is the Achilles' heel of percutaneous coronary interventional procedures.

In this issue of the Medical Diary, I have written a summary on "Diagnosis and management of ischaemic heart disease" and have also selected a paper from Dr. C. H. Lee on "An update on drug eluting stents" which was well written and will be of interest to all healthcare professionals besides cardiologists. Nowadays intracoronary stents are implanted in 80% of patients during percutaneous coronary interventional procedures and drug eluting stents account for about 60% of the stents implanted which reflects its popularity and importance in the treatment of ischaemic heart disease.

I have selected another paper from Dr. Norman Chan discussing on uric acid as a cardiovascular risk factor and 4 abstracts from the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Congress of the Hong Kong College of Cardiology on angiogenesis, benefits of angiotensin receptor blockers and some epidemiological discussions on cardiovascular diseases and risk factors. I hope our readers will find this issue of the Medical Diary interesting and educational.