MANUAL OF
PERCUTANEOUS TREATMENT OF CALCIFIED CORONARY LESIONS

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To our families

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Foreword

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"As you set out for Ithaka
hope your road is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery."
Constantine P. Cavafy, 1911

Coronary calcium is the enemy of PCI: it can hinder equipment delivery, can be hard to modify so as allow stent expansion and is associated with increased risk of potentially lethal complications, such as coronary perforation.

At the same time coronary calcium is increasingly encountered in daily practice, as the patients are getting older and more complex. This often leads with both under- and over-treatment as many physicians may not feel comfortable to treat calcium and proceed with medical therapy or referral to surgery.

Fortunately, treatment options for coronary calcium have been steadily expanding: microcatheters and various guidewires can facilitate crossing; plaque modification balloons, very high pressure balloon, atherectomy (orbital, rotational, laser), and lithotripsy can all help with lesion modification and are available at most centers.

Advanced training is essential for optimal implementation all aforementioned tools but is not always easily accessible despite the proliferation of online sources. While "hands-on" training in each device is irreplaceable, deep understanding of the underlying principles and algorithms is the foundation upon which solid calcium treating skills can be built.

The Manual of Percutaneous Treatment Of Calcified Coronary Lesions by Drs Jurado-Román, Gonzálvez, Tébar, Galeote, Jiménez-Valero and Moreno is an incredible resource for building this foundation. It provides a thoughtful and practical guidance of how to treat coronary calcium. While the book is concise it is also complete, covering intravascular imaging, all treatment modalities, complex subgroups (in-stent and calcified nodules), complications, and a systematic, algorithmic approach. It is simple enough for the beginner but also complete enough for the advanced operator.

The journey of treating coronary calcium can be daunting, long and perilous. The Manual of Plaque Modification can be a loyal companion that can make the journey easier, more successful and safer but also "full of adventure and full of discovery"!

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