**Article**

"Development of the European Network in Orphan Cardiovascular Diseases"

„Rozszerzenie Europejskiej Sieci Współpracy ds Sierocych Chorób Kardiologicznych”

**Title: Mechanisms of invasive treatment of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension**

**RCD code: II**

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**Background**

After confirming the diagnosis of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH) the next step is to determine by a multidisciplinary team of experts (including cardiac surgeon experienced in the treatment of CTEPH) whether it is possible to perform pulmonary artery endarterectomy (PEA called. Pulmonary endarterectomy), which remains the treatment of choice. If the disease is non-operational due to a distal location of the lesions, as well as in case of persistent pulmonary hypertension after PEA the recommended treatment is riociguat which improves exercise capacity of patients, but in contrast to the PEA can not cure the patient [1].

**Discussion**

Recent reports show that normalization of pulmonary artery pressure in inoperable patients can be achieved with use of balloon pulmonary angioplasty (BPA) [2].  
 PEA procedure begins with the separation of the tunica adventitia, by creating a circular cutting plane. Dissection is continued distally to the level of segmental and subsegmental branches. Then, the material is pulled out of the artery, leaving the thin wall of the vessel [3].  
 The two available studies based on the histology indicate that the mechanism of BPA is to compress organized thrombus through expanded balon.[4,5] In some cases, an the balloon is expanded in microcanals of the partly recanalized thrombus - the true lumen of the artery is widened. In other cases, the balloon is expanded in the vessel wall which leads to its dissection - filling the balloon moves thrombus to one side of the vessel and produces a false lumen.   
 Own [6] observations indicated that during BPA the organized thrombus is compressed, the lumen diameter increases without increase of the total vessel cross sectional area. The susceptibility of the individual components of organized thrombus to compression is different.

**References**

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