

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Table SI - Cardiovascular risk factors and comorbidities of the studied population

Cardiovascular risk factors	Studied Population (n=177)
Male (n; %)	141; 79.66
Hypertension (n; %)	121; 68.36
Smoker/ex-smoker (n; %)	112; 63.28
Smoking load (PY)	28.15 ± 31.86
Dyslipidemia (n; %)	110; 62.15
Diabetes (n; %)	66; 37.29
HbA1c (%)	6.53±3.01
Coronary artery disease (n; %)	23; 12.99
Medication	
Statins (n; %)	143; 80.79
Fibrate (n; %)	14; 7.91
Ezetimibe (n; %)	9; 5.09
Antiplatelet (n; %)	126; 71.19
ACEi/ARA (n; %)	53; 29.94
Beta-blockers (n; %)	38; 21.47
Calcium channel blockers (n; %)	51; 28.81

Table SII - Atherosclerotic characteristics at the right and left carotid bifurcation: grade of carotid stenosis, type of carotid atherosclerotic plaque and type of plaque surface

Carotid characteristics	Studied Population (n=177)	
	Right side	Left side
IMT (mm)	0.90 ± 0.31	0.89 ± 0.26
Presence of plaques (n; %)	122; 68.93	120; 67.80
Number of plaques	1.46 ± 1.39	1.44 ± 1.31
Area of the largest plaque (mm ²)	23.46 ± 31.48	20.86 ± 30.65
Stenosis (n; %)	≥ 50%	21; 11.86
	≥ 70%	21; 11.86
Type of carotid plaque (n; %)	Type 1	4; 2.26
	Type 2	9; 7.34
	Type 3	59; 33.33
	Type 4	46; 25.99
	Type 5	0; 0
Plaque surface (n; %)	Smooth	54; 30.51
	Irregular	66; 37.29
	Ulcerated	2; 1.13

Table SIII - Mean EMT and echogenicity of carotid plaques at the right and left carotid bifurcation

Echogenicity of carotid plaques		Present		Non-Present		U	P - value	r
		Mean EMT (mm)						
		Median	IQR	Median	IQR			
Right side	Type 1	1.30	-	1.00	0.47	153	.087	.49
	Type 2	1.13	0.70	1.00	0.48	626	.101	.47
	Type 3	1.02	0.42	1.00	0.52	2752	.705	.11
	Type 4	1.02	0.45	1.02	0.49	2323	0.614	0.142
Left side	Type 1	1.35	0.54	1.00	0.47	162	.099	.43
	Type 2	1.18	0.30	1.99	0.49	613	.155	.37
	Type 3	0.99	0.59	1.03	0.43	2898	.754	.08
	Type 4	1.04	0.30	1.01	0.57	2532	.873	.04

Note: Mean EMT was calculated as the mean between the right and the left EMT
 EMT: extra-media thickness.

Table SIV – Ipsilateral EMT at the right and left sides and echogenicity of the right and left carotid plaques

Echogenicity of carotid plaques		Present		Non-Present		U	p -value	r
		Ipsilateral EMT (mm)						
		Median	IQR	Median	IQR			
Right side	Type 1	1.30	-	0.98	0.53	174	.148	.48
	Type 2	1.01	0.96	1.00	0.52	794	.666	.12
	Type 3	1.04	0.60	0.96	0.50	2555	.518	.19
	Type 4	0.97	0.47	1.00	0.28	2332	.587	.09
Left side	Type 1	1.42	0.76	0.95	0.45	162	.099	.43
	Type 2	1.18	0.30	0.94	0.45	582	.109	.41
	Type 3	0.95	0.50	0.97	0.47	2918	.808	.06
	Type 4	0.96	0.38	0.95	0.54	2521	.841	.05

EMT: extra-media thickness.