

## Operations Memo No. 20



### VA COOPERATIVE STUDIES PROGRAM # 424

### Clinical Outcomes Utilizing Revascularization and Aggressive Drug Evaluation

Date: April 24, 2000

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Subj: Use of 5F Catheters During Coronary Angiography

To: All Study Personnel

Thru: Trial Leadership

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Patients in whom a qualifying angiogram has been obtained via the radial artery approach, using a 5 French (5F) diagnostic catheter, are eligible for inclusion in the COURAGE Trial, provided they have fulfilled all other study entry criteria.

5F catheter usage is *strongly discouraged* for catheterization ***approaches other than the radial artery technique***, since the Coronary Angiographic Core Laboratory has indicated that, from a quantitative coronary angiography (QCA) perspective, the small size of the 5F catheter precludes an acceptable degree of reliability for measuring absolute coronary artery diameters. Despite this limitation, certain relative measures such as percent diameter stenosis can still be obtained. However, given the importance of QCA measurements in the overall data analysis of the COURAGE Trial, we would urge you from using 5F catheters, except as outlined above.

Patients who qualify for the COURAGE Trial with a 5F catheter via the radial artery approach and who are randomized to either the "PCI plus medical therapy" or the "medical therapy alone" arm will **not** require a repeat study-related coronary angiogram using catheters larger than 5F. Again, for all other patients, it is imperative to use catheters larger than 5F during the procedure.