

Device used in europe promising for refractory angina

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Shmuel Banai, M.D., director of interventional cardiology at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center in Israel, and colleagues recruited 104 patients with class 3 or 4 angina who'd failed to improve with medication and could not have the standard invasive procedures. The team randomly assigned half of the patients to have the Reducer device implanted, which involves threading a catheter into the coronary sinus under local

anesthesia. The rest of the patients were assigned to a sham procedure, in which the catheter was inserted but no device was implanted.

Over the next six months, 35 percent of patients with the device saw their symptoms improve by at least two angina classes. That compared with 15 percent of the sham-treatment group. Other patients got relief, too. In all, 71 percent of those with the device improved by at least one [angina](#) class, versus 42 percent of the sham group. One patient who received the implant suffered a myocardial infarction soon after the procedure. But in general, the treatment appears relatively safe, according to Banai.

It's been estimated that [refractory angina](#) affects up to two million people in the United States, according to Christopher Granger, M.D., director of the Cardiac Care Unit at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., who cowrote an editorial published with the study. Still, larger and longer-term studies are needed, Granger stressed. "This is a well-done study, and it's an important study," he told *HealthDay*. "But it's still a small study."

Neovasc, the company that markets the device, funded the new research.

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