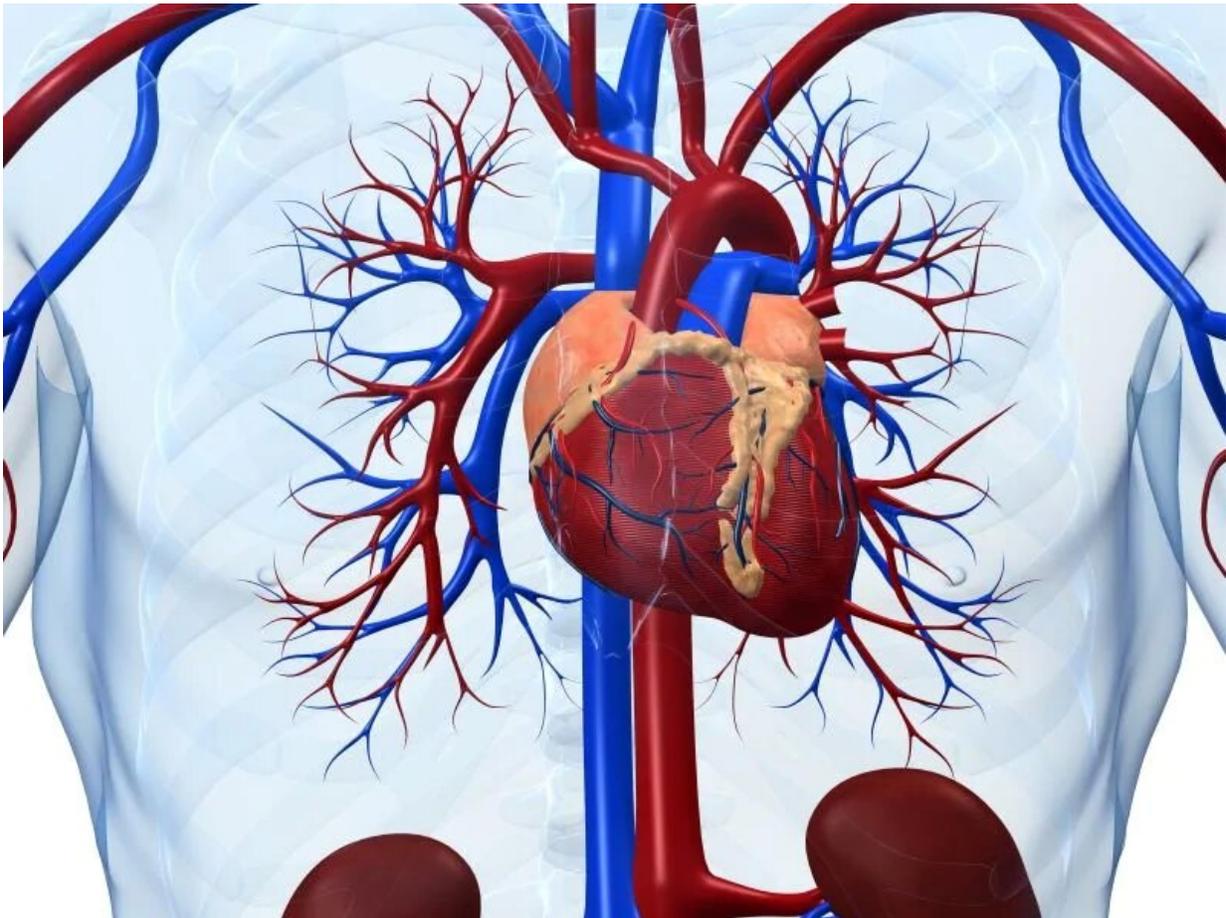


# Paclitaxel exposure in vascular device not linked to mortality

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(HealthDay)—Exposure to paclitaxel in drug-coated balloons used in

procedures for the treatment of symptomatic femoropopliteal peripheral arterial disease is not associated with mortality, according to a study published online Jan. 25 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Peter A. Schneider, M.D., from Hawaii Permanente Medical Group in Honolulu, and colleagues conducted an independent patient-level meta-analysis of 1,980 [patients](#) with up to five years of follow-up in an effort to examine the correlation between paclitaxel exposure and mortality. Data were included from four prospective studies of paclitaxel drug-coated balloons (DCB; 1,837 patients) and uncoated percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA; 143 patients).

The researchers found that all-cause mortality did not differ significantly between patients treated with DCB and PTA through five years (9.3 versus 11.2 percent;  $P = 0.399$ ). An independent clinical events committee did not adjudicate any deaths as device-related. Nominal paclitaxel dose was stratified by low, middle, and upper tertiles, with mean doses of 5,019, 10,007.5, and 19,978.2  $\mu\text{g}$ , respectively. Through five years, the three groups did not differ significantly in all-cause mortality.

"Results from this independent patient-level meta-analysis show no difference in mortality between DCB and PTA at five years and no correlation between varying levels of paclitaxel exposure and [mortality](#)," the authors write. "Data transparency and additional analyses are needed to better understand how other factors influence long-term outcomes in this complex patient population."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to medical technology companies, including Medtronic, which funded the analysis.

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