

Drug-eluting coronary stents (DES)

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Primary percutaneous intervention is the treatment of choice for acute coronary syndromes, and many patients receive stents and are on dual antiplatelet therapy for 12 months. If surgery is absolutely necessary within the period of dual antiplatelet therapy, the management strategy should be decided jointly by the surgeon, cardiologist, anaesthetist and patient, as it is essential to consider the balance of risk of continuing antiplatelet agents (with the risk of increased bleeding) and stopping them (with the risk of stent thrombosis).

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