



# NMF Professional Advisory Board Statement on Endovascular Repair in Marfan Syndrome Patients

The Professional Advisory Board of the National Marfan Foundation is in agreement with the Expert Consensus Document on the Treatment of Descending Thoracic Aortic Disease Using Endo-Vascular Stent-Grafts (Ann Thorac Surg 2008;85:S1-41) and the American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines entitled "Surgical Management of Descending Thoracic Aortic Disease: Open and Endovascular Approaches (Circulation 2010; 121:1544–79) which indicate that stent-grafts are contraindicated in patients with Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

The American Heart Association and the Professional Advisory Board of the National Marfan Foundation agree that endovascular aortic repair is not recommended in patients with Marfan syndrome since patients are often young and long-term durability of stent-grafting in these patients is unknown. There is limited information regarding the impact of persistent radial forces of the stent-graft in the abnormal aortic tissue patients with Marfan syndrome. Additionally, in chronic aortic dissections, although stent grafting in patients with Marfan syndrome is feasible, post-intervention surveillance confirms that the aorta continues to expand despite successful endograft deployment, even when the false-lumen is thrombosed.

Patients who have been served very well with endovascular surgery for aneurysms have atherosclerotic aneurysms of the abdominal aorta or focal atherosclerotic aneurysms in the chest. These are much different than the aneurysms seen in Marfan syndrome and connective tissue disorders. In general, the National Marfan Foundation recommends open surgical repair for aneurysms in Marfan patients.

National Marfan Foundation  
22 Manhasset Avenue  
Port Washington, NY 11050

516-883-8712  
800-8-MARFAN  
516-883-8040 (fax)

[www.marfan.org](http://www.marfan.org)

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