The heart team approach to acute type A dissection: a new paradigm in the era of the integrated Penn classification and the Essen concept

John G.T. Augoustides*, Prakash A. Patel†, Joseph S. Savino* and Joseph E. Bavaria

* Cardiothoracic and Vascular Section, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, USA
† Thoracic Aortic Program, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, USA

Keywords: Acute type A dissection • Stanford classification • DeBakey classification • Penn classification • Heart team concept • Hybrid operating room

Despite recent advances, acute type A aortic dissection remains a challenging surgical emergency with a high mortality rate [1]. The ability to intervene expeditiously is essential for an optimal outcome [1]. Recent therapeutic advances include the open distal anastomosis concept, advanced circulatory management techniques, an integrated team approach, transoesophageal

---

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

**The heart team approach to acute type A dissection: a new paradigm in the era of the integrated Penn classification and the Essen concept**

K. Tsagakis et al. / European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery