Table. Proportion of Polymer Surface Damaged, Microparticles Shed, and Microparticles Adherent to Delivery Balloon[a]

Stent	Mean Proportion of Surface Damaged, % (95% CI)[b]		Microparticles[c]		Obstruction of Open Cells, Webbing
	Adluminal	Abluminal	Shed, Trapped by Filter	Adherent to Delivery Balloon	
A	41.7 (40.4-43.3); ridging, cracking, peeling, delamination	11.8 (9.2-14.5); cracking, ridging	Yes; (large size; smallest No.)	Yes; (small to large size; smallest No.)	No
B	14.7 (11.7-17.5); webbing, ridging	12.3 (10.1-14.6); webbing, ridging	Yes; (small size; intermediate No.)	Yes; (small size; intermediate No.)	Yes
C	4.6 (2.3-7.0); ridging, cracking, peeling	7.1 (5.2-9.0); ridging, cracking	None observed	None observed	No
D	100 (100-100); cracking, delamination, ridging, peeling	100 (100-100); cracking, ridging, peeling	Yes; (small to moderate size; largest No.)	Yes; (small to large size; largest No.)	No
BMS	0	0	None observed	None observed	No

Abbreviation: BMS, bare-metal stent.
[a] No significant difference existed between different conditions for each stent.
[b] Principal type of damage is listed in order of frequency.
[c] Parenthetical description is relative size (small, <10 μm; moderate, 10-100 μm; large, >100 μm [particles bordering on macroscopic]) and number (relative to other drug-eluting stents for which microparticles were shed or were adherent to delivery balloon).

fragments from other intravascular devices have been described and correlated with subsequent adverse clinical events.[6] However, there have been no published reports pertaining to DES.

Polymer damage and detached microparticles could theoretically contribute to DES-associated complications, including thrombosis, restenosis, and microvascular and endothelial dysfunction. Confirmation of our results would be useful, and further studies should determine physiological and clinical consequences of polymer damage and microparticle detachment. Additionally, the role of other components of DES (eg, drug and stent superstructure) require investigation. Data from this study may be used to calculate sample size for future biomaterial and engineering studies focusing on polymers and microparticles.

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CORRECTION

Missing Letter Grouping Title: In the Letters section, a group of 2 letters to the editor and a reply letter published in the May 2, 2012, issue of *JAMA* (2012; 307[17]:1797-1798) were missing a title. On page 1797, first column, after the letter by Pletcher and Kertesz, the title "Patient Requests for Nonbeneficial Care" should have preceded the letters by Cassel, Laws, and Brett and McCullough. This was corrected online.