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Procedural simplification of left atrial appendage occlusion using the VersaCross connect system: First in-human experience

HIGHLIGHTS

- First in-human experience using the **VersaCross Connect**™ LAAC Access Solution for **WATCHMAN FLX**™ implantation was successful in all patients with no procedural complications.
- **VersaCross Connect**™ improved procedure efficiency and saved six steps compared to the standard needle-based workflow.

INTRODUCTION

- Left atrial appendage closures (LAAC) traditionally require several device exchanges from transseptal puncture (TSP) to device delivery.
- The new **VersaCross Connect**™ LAAC Access Solution (Baylis Medical*) is designed to integrate with the **WATCHMAN FLX**™ delivery sheath (Boston Scientific) to access the left atrium (LA).
- This study reports the first in-human experience using the **VersaCross Connect**™ LAAC Access Solution.

METHODS

- Prospective case series using the **VersaCross Connect**™ system for **WATCHMAN FLX**™ LAAC device at two different centers.
- Preprocedural planning involved cardiac computed tomography for all patients and all LAAC procedures were guided by transesophageal echocardiography (TEE).
- After vascular access, the **VersaCross Connect**™ system, comprised of the **VersaCross**™ RF Wire and the **VersaCross Connect**™ dilator, was used in conjunction with the WATCHMAN sheath to canulate the superior vena cava (SVC), and perform infero-posterior TSP to access the LA (Figure 1).
- The WATCHMAN sheath was placed in the left atrial appendage (LAA) over the pigtail **VersaCross**™ RF Wire for **WATCHMAN FLX**™ device placement.

RESULTS

- Nine consecutive cases of **WATCHMAN FLX**™ LAAC were performed using the **VersaCross Connect**™ system.
- LAAC was successful in 100% of patients with no procedural complications.
  - Time from TSP to **WATCHMAN FLX**™ release was 12.2 ± 1.9 min.
  - Overall procedure time was 31 ± 6.3 min.
  - Fluoroscopy time was 6.7 ± 4.9 min.
- The **VersaCross Connect**™ system was directly inserted into the right femoral vein in all but one patient.

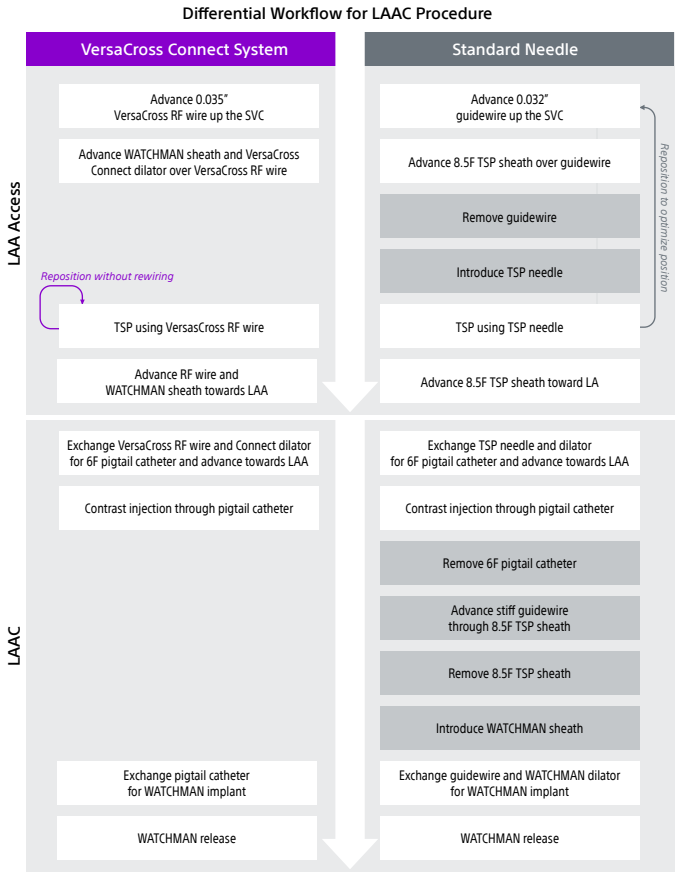

Figure 1. VersaCross Connect™ LAAC Access Solution (Baylis Medical*) eliminates six steps from **WATCHMAN FLX**™ (Boston Scientific) LAAC procedures compared to standard needle workflow. LA: left atria. LAAC: left atrial appendage closure. RF: radiofrequency. SVC: superior vena cava. TSP: transseptal puncture

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- Streamlining LA access and simplifying LAAC procedures by eliminating multiple sheath exchanges can reduce the risk of air embolism and perforation.
- Short overall procedure time (31 min) and interval between LAA access and device deployment (12 min) were observed with the **VersaCross Connect**™ Access Solution system.
- The **VersaCross Connect**™ LAAC Access Solution allowed for safer and more efficient **WATCHMAN FLX**™ LAAC procedures.

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