Bending Tests of Stents

Dynatek Labs has performed bend testing of carotid artery stents in a tester custom-designed to replicate the motion of the carotid artery during head turning and bending. In addition, bend testing of renal artery stents in customized testers designed to replicate the bending of the renal artery during respiration has also been performed. Both tests are performed to evaluate the integrity of the stents under non-radial fatigue such as bending stresses, and data obtained from the tests were used for FDA submission. In addition to renal and carotid artery devices, Dynatek Labs offers testing to replicate radial and non-radial forces of other anatomical locations, including the superficial femoral artery, popliteal artery, and axillary artery.

Dynatek Labs’ custom-designed Three-Point Bend Test and Flexion Bending Test platforms are designed to ensure that your stents meet FDA and ISO bend testing requirements.

Testing to Success and Testing to Failure

Durability testing up to 400 million cycles is often called ‘testing to success,’ since stents that have successfully withstood the stresses and strains of 400 million cycles are understood to have passed the test. Testing to success is indicative of the durability of the stent under physiological conditions of systolic/diastolic pressures encountered in accelerated radial pulsatile durability testing. However, testing to success does not predict the endurance limit or fatigue life of the stent, i.e., there is no way to know under what conditions, including conditions that may exceed physiological parameters, the stent or stent graft would fail.

To address this weakness, new regulations outline test requirements that are now concerned with predicting fatigue lifetime of the stent or stent graft and require stent manufacturers to test their products under a ‘testing to failure’ or ‘test to fracture’ regime. The 2010 FDA Guidance Document recommends that stents and stent grafts be tested up to their ‘endurance limit,’ and ISO requires the implant to be tested under ‘a worst-case physiological load.’ While ISO does not require manufacturers to test implants under conditions that may exceed physiological conditions, the FDA’s testing to failure recommendation has no such restriction.

Dynatek Labs has radial pulsatile durability testers that can test stents and stent grafts under testing to success and testing to fracture regimes. According to ASTM and ISO, the best way to define the fatigue life of an implanted device is to combine appropriate stress/strain analysis with tools like finite element analysis (FEA) combined with physical test to failure or test to fracture. We have in-house protocols for durability testing and testing to fracture, and we would be happy to either work with your test protocol or develop one for you based on your requirements.
Protocol for durability testing:

Dynatek Labs has standard protocols for testing your vascular stent, based on the standards and regulations listed above. However, we routinely create custom protocols for specific requirements for virtually any vascular device and would be happy to develop a custom protocol for you.

Dynatek Labs fabricates our own silicone mock vessels to meet FDA requirements and ISO 7198 regulations. We fabricate the most accurate and consistently precise mock vessels needed for your durability testing, and these vessels can be straight, curved, bent, bifurcated or completely custom per your specifications.

Test Monitoring and Reports

Dynatek offers visual inspections, as well as still, and optional video and high-speed photography during pulsatile durability and coating durability testing of stents and stent grafts.

All testing, inspections, monitoring and reporting are GLP-compliant. Dynatek’s test reports are detailed and comprehensive documents that can be directly submitted to regulatory agencies and typically include the following sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Scope
3. Methods and Materials
4. Sample Description
5. Test Parameters
6. Observations
7. Results

The report also contains a copy of the actual protocol used to run the test, sample photographs and tester photographs, and copies of relevant certificates of calibration of sensors used on the test platform. In addition to a hard copy of the report, we also include a complete digital version of the same material on a CD and ship it to you.