

Recently, the 2007 SCAI/ACCF/AHA Expert Consensus Document on Percutaneous Coronary Intervention without On-Site Surgical Backup has been updated. The consensus document has found no indication of increased mortality or a greater need for emergency bypass surgery (CABG) for heart attack or elective PCI patients at centres without on-site cardiac surgery.

According to the consensus' view, the procedures can be performed safely without on-site surgery; however, those facilities without backup cardiac surgery should have strict protocols for PCI to ensure the highest level of patient safety. Also the low-volume PCI programs, defined as performing PCI