



Hospital readmission among patients with unruptured intracranial aneurysms undergoing stent-assisted endovascular coiling using the ENTERPRISE[®] 2 stent versus Neuroform[®] Atlas stent

Reade DeLeacy¹ , Zhiqiang Yao⁴ , Rahul Khanna^{*,2} , Emilie Kottenmeier³ 
& Yiran Rong² 

¹Department of Neurosurgery, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, NY 10029, USA

²MedTech Epidemiology & Real-World Data Science, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, USA

³Health Economics & Market Access, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Irvine, CA 92618, USA

⁴Department of Interventional Neuroradiology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, Henan, China

*Author for correspondence: Tel.: +1 732 258 5944; rkhann14@its.jnj.com

Aim: Stent-assisted endovascular coiling is a safe and effective treatment for unruptured intracranial aneurysms (UIAs). This study compared 180-day inpatient readmission and cost among patients with UIA who underwent stent-assisted coiling (SAC) using the ENTERPRISE[®] 2 or Neuroform[®] Atlas stent.

Materials & methods: In this retrospective cohort study, adults with UIA undergoing SAC were identified in the Premier Healthcare Database (2016–2022) and grouped based on the stent used: ENTERPRISE 2 or Neuroform Atlas. Outcomes included all-cause and UIA-related inpatient readmission in the 180 days following treatment, index admission and supply cost. Inverse probability of treatment weighting of propensity score method balanced the two cohorts on study covariates. A weighted generalized estimating equation model assessed study outcomes. **Results:** A total of 1017 patients were included (ENTERPRISE 2, n = 126; Neuroform Atlas, n = 891). Hospital and patient characteristics except race were well-balanced after weighting. Patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas were 55% less likely to have an all-cause inpatient readmission in the 180-day follow-up period (odds ratio 0.45, 95% CI: 0.20–0.98, p = 0.04). Further, the ENTERPRISE 2 cohort had significantly lower index supply cost (\$20,442 vs \$27,561, exponentiated ratio 0.74, 95% CI: 0.61–0.90, p = 0.002) compared with the Neuroform Atlas cohort. No significant differences were observed in UIA-related inpatient readmission or total index admission cost between cohorts. **Conclusion:** Among patients with UIA undergoing SAC, the use of ENTERPRISE 2 stent was associated with a significantly reduced risk of all-cause inpatient hospital readmission and significantly lower index supply cost compared with the Neuroform Atlas stent.

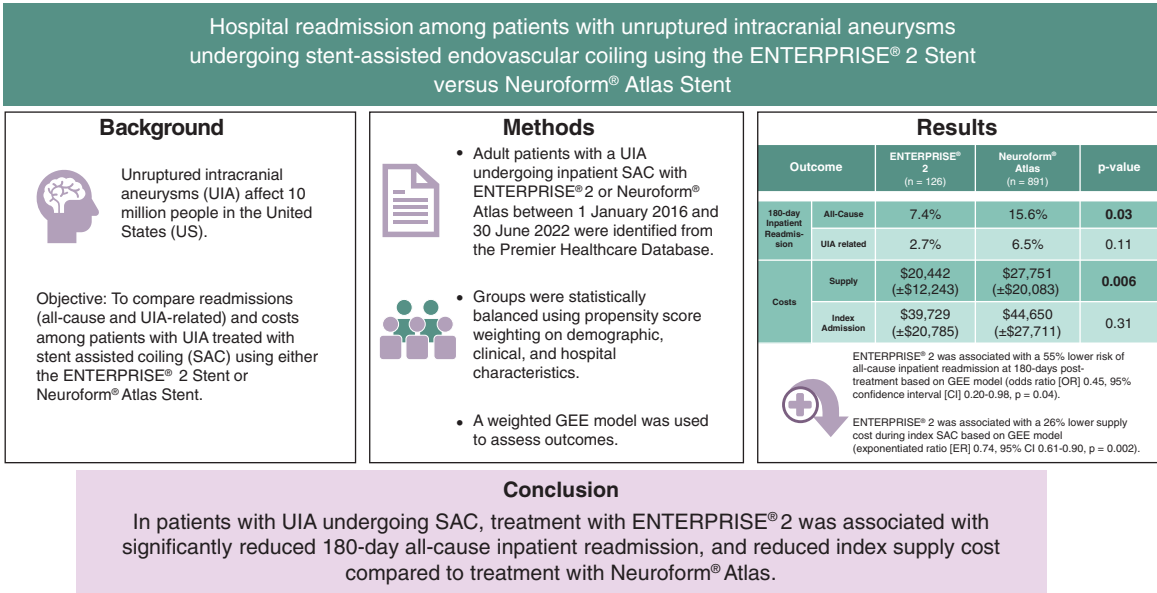
Plain language summary

What is this article about? Unruptured intracranial aneurysms (UIAs) affect about 3% of the population. Stent-assisted endovascular coiling is a common treatment modality for UIA. This study compared readmissions and costs among UIA patients undergoing stent-assisted endovascular coiling using the ENTERPRISE[®] 2 stent versus Neuroform[®] Atlas stent.

What were the results? Patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 stent had a significantly lower risk of all-cause inpatient hospital readmission and lower cost of supplies during admission for coiling procedure compared with those treated with Neuroform Atlas stent. There were no differences in UIA related inpatient readmission or total admission cost between the two groups.

What do the results mean? The use of ENTERPRISE 2 stent (vs Neuroform Atlas stent) was associated with lower costs and hospital readmission rates following stent-assisted endovascular coiling for UIA.

Graphical abstract:



ENTERPRISE and Neuroform stents. Several features of ENTERPRISE 2 differ from its previous generation, (ENTERPRISE 1), including a novel geometric design to improve conformability, radiopacity, delivery system, outward force and shelf-life. Studies comparing ENTERPRISE 2 to its earlier generation have found significant improvements in wall apposition in curved vessels [25,26], lower procedure complication rates, and shorter operation times for the treatment of UIA [27]. Several design improvements have also been made to the Neuroform Atlas® stent compared with its previous generation (Neuroform EZ®), including improved trackability, smaller cell size with improved coil support and retention, decreased internal microcatheter diameter for a lower profile, improved recrossing and stability from the closed cell design at the proximal end, and an open-cell design for improved conformability to the vessel wall [28]. SAC with Neuroform Atlas has improved rates of immediate Raymond-Roy Class 1 occlusion and the need for retreatment compared with Neuroform EZ [29]. The differential features offered by ENTERPRISE 2 and Neuroform Atlas may impact patient outcomes including rehospitalization and cost associated with UIA treatment.

As the prevalence and burden of UIA on the healthcare system escalates, there is a need to evaluate patient outcomes and cost associated with different SAC devices. The objective of this study was to examine patient outcomes including all-cause and UIA-related inpatient readmission in the 180 days following treatment among patients with UIA who underwent endovascular coiling using ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas stent. Further, we compared cost differentials (index admission and supply) associated with treatment using the two devices.

Materials & methods

Data source

Using a retrospective cohort design, we analyzed the Premier Healthcare Database (PHD) from July 2015 to December 2022. The PHD includes billing data from more than 1000 hospitals representing different bed sizes, teaching statuses and geographic regions across the US. Information on billed medications, diagnostic and therapeutic services, and primary and secondary diagnoses associated with hospitalizations detailed from a cost-accounting department is available in the PHD, in addition to patient demographic and payer information. As dictated by Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR 46.101(b)(4)) (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2011-title45-vol1/pdf/CFR-2011-title45-vol1.pdf>), Institutional Review Board oversight was not required for our analysis using the PHD. No individuals were identified in the aggregated data.

Study sample

Adult patients with a primary diagnosis of UIA undergoing an elective inpatient SAC procedure with ENTERPRISE 2 or Neuroform Atlas between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2022 were identified from the PHD. The first observed hospital admission during this period meeting these criteria was designated as the index hospital admission. Patients were required to have undergone their SAC procedure at a hospital that contributed to the PHD during the 180-day pre- and 180-day post-index period and were then classified into the ENTERPRISE 2 or Neuroform Atlas cohort.

Patients who had a diagnosis present on admission of SAH or ruptured aneurysm, or those who had undergone inpatient endovascular coiling or surgical clipping in the 180-day pre-index period with a primary diagnosis of UIA or SAH were not included.

Study covariates

Patient demographics evaluated included age (18–49, 50–59, 60–69 and 70+ years), sex (male, female), race/ethnicity (white, non-white), marital status (married, non-married) and payer type (commercial, Medicare, Medicaid/other). Patient clinical characteristics including the Elixhauser Comorbidity Index score, presence of diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure, transient ischemic attack, obesity and depression were also assessed based on diagnoses present during the index admission. Hospital characteristics included size (000–499 beds, 500+ beds), geographic region (Midwest, South, Northeast, West), type (teaching, non-teaching) and 180-day pre-index endovascular coil volume.

Study outcomes

Primary study outcomes were 180-day all-cause inpatient readmission and 180-day UIA-related inpatient readmission (i.e., primary diagnosis of UIA) in the post-index SAC procedure period. Secondary outcomes were index

admission cost and index supply cost. We evaluated the secondary outcomes based on a subset of the study cohort in which patients had validated cost information during their index admission.

Statistical analysis

Inverse probability of treatment weighting

The inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) of propensity score approach was used to minimize the effect of potential confounders and balance the cohorts on study covariates [30]. Each patient was assigned a weight using IPTW and an estimation of average treatment effect. A logistic regression model was used to estimate the propensity score of an individual to use ENTERPRISE 2. The inverse of the propensity score was used to generate the weight for each patient. Stabilized IPTW weights were calculated for each patient and applied in the analysis. The absolute standardized mean difference (SMD) was used to determine if the distribution of covariates were well-balanced after weighting, with a value of ≥ 0.25 to ≤ -0.25 indicating an unbalanced distribution.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics for the pre- and post-weighted cohorts were reported for all study variables. To examine study outcomes between the cohorts on covariates, bivariate comparisons were conducted post-weighting using chi-square tests. To examine differences in readmission outcomes between cohorts, a weighted generalized estimating equation (GEE) model with logit link and binomial distribution function was used. GEE model with log link and gamma distribution was used to evaluate the cost outcomes between cohorts. The GEE models adjusted for hospital clustering to adjust for correlations in outcomes among patients who underwent treatment in the same hospital. Any covariate that emerged as significant post-weighting (based on the absolute SMD outside of the ≥ 0.25 to ≤ -0.25 range) was further controlled for in the GEE model. The Benjamini–Hochberg (BH) correction method was used to account for Type I errors caused by multiple comparisons for outcomes assessed in the regression analysis. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant (for BH corrections, the highest p smaller than the BH critical value was identified [using a false discovery rate of 0.10], with all p s above the highest p -value considered significant). All analyses were conducted using R software (Version 4.1.2; R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

Results

Patient characteristics

A total of 1017 patients met the study criteria, of whom 126 (12%) were treated with ENTERPRISE 2 and 891 (88%) were treated with Neuroform Atlas. [Supplementary Figure 1](#) shows the study patient attrition.

Prior to IPTW, several covariates were unbalanced between the groups ([Table 1](#)). There was a significant difference in age (aSMD = 0.287), where a lower proportion of the ENTERPRISE 2 group were over age 60 years (52.4% [66/126] vs 63.7% [567/891] for Neuroform Atlas). There was a significant difference in payer type (aSMD = 0.394), with a significantly higher proportion of the ENTERPRISE 2 group having commercial insurance (50.8% [64/126] vs 32.2% [287/891]) versus those treated with Neuroform Atlas. Mean Elixhauser score was lower for the ENTERPRISE 2 group (1.87 ± 1.69 vs 2.31 ± 1.60 for Neuroform Atlas, aSMD = 0.268), which had a higher proportion of scores 0–1 (50.8% [64/126] vs 33.5% [298/891] for Neuroform Atlas, aSMD = 0.361). The ENTERPRISE 2 group had a lower proportion of patients with hypertension (59.5% [75/126] vs 74.7% [666/891], aSMD = 0.328), and obesity (5.6% [7/126] vs 16.8% [150/891], aSMD = 0.364) than Neuroform Atlas group. A greater proportion of patients in the ENTERPRISE 2 group were treated in hospitals with 500+ beds (86.5% [109/126] vs 57.0% [508/891] for Neuroform Atlas, aSMD = 0.693), and in hospitals in the South (76.2% [96/126] vs 53.2% [474/891] for Neuroform Atlas, aSMD = 0.497) versus those in Neuroform Atlas group. Mean endovascular coiling volume was higher in the ENTERPRISE 2 group (24.54 ± 13.23 vs 19.96 ± 14.26 , aSMD = 0.333) versus the Neuroform Atlas group. After weighting, the study cohorts were well-balanced for all covariates except race (post-weighting aSMD = 0.326). To adjust for any potential impact of race on study outcomes, we controlled for race in the GEE analyses.

Outcomes

All-cause inpatient readmission in the 180-day post-index stent-assisted endovascular coiling period was significantly lower for patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 compared with Neuroform Atlas in the bivariate analysis after weighting (7.4 vs 15.6%, $p = 0.03$). No significant difference in 180-day UIA related inpatient readmission was

Table 1. Patient demographic, clinical and hospital characteristics pre- and post-weighting.

	Pre-weighted			Post-weighted		
	ENTERPRISE® 2, n (%) (n = 126)	Neuroform® Atlas, n (%) (n = 891)	aSMD	ENTERPRISE® 2, %	Neuroform® Atlas, %	aSMD
Age range, years			0.287			0.127
18–49	28 (22.2%)	118 (13.2%)		17.0%	13.4%	
50–59	32 (25.4%)	206 (23.1%)		25.8%	23.6%	
60–69	33 (26.2%)	323 (36.3%)		29.4%	34.9%	
70+	33 (26.2%)	244 (27.4%)		27.8%	27.1%	
Gender			0.061			0.060
Male	38 (30.2%)	244 (27.4%)		30.5%	27.8%	
Female	88 (69.8%)	647 (72.6%)		69.5%	72.2%	
Race			0.113			0.326[†]
White	95 (75.4%)	627 (70.4%)		84.7%	71.3%	
Non-white	31 (24.6%)	264 (29.6%)		15.3%	28.7%	
Marital status			0.196			0.139
Married	71 (56.3%)	415 (46.6%)		40.9%	47.8%	
Non-married	55 (43.7%)	476 (53.4%)		59.1%	52.2%	
Payer type			0.394			0.126
Commercial	64 (50.8%)	287 (32.2%)		29.2%	34.6%	
Medicare	48 (38.1%)	437 (49.0%)		49.4%	47.6%	
Medicaid/Other	14 (11.1%)	167 (18.8%)		21.4%	17.8%	
Elixhauser score						
Mean (SD)	1.87 (1.69)	2.31 (1.60)	0.268	2.11 (1.61)	2.25 (1.61)	0.085
0–1	64 (50.8%)	298 (33.5%)	0.361	39.3%	35.6%	0.162
2–3	45 (35.7%)	412 (46.2%)		47.2%	44.9%	
4+	17 (13.5%)	181 (20.3%)		13.5%	19.5%	
Diabetes	19 (15.1%)	173 (19.4%)	0.115	12.9%	18.8%	0.164
Hypertension	75 (59.5%)	666 (74.7%)	0.328	71.2%	72.8%	0.036
Congestive heart failure	3 (2.4%)	56 (6.3%)	0.193	4.0%	5.8%	0.083
TIA/Stroke	22 (17.5%)	106 (11.9%)	0.158	15.0%	12.8%	0.064
Obesity	7 (5.6%)	150 (16.8%)	0.364	13.6%	15.4%	0.052
Depression	13 (10.3%)	140 (15.7%)	0.161	22.6%	15.1%	0.191
Hospital bed size			0.693			0.036
<500	17 (13.5%)	383 (43.0%)		41.1%	39.4%	
500+	109 (86.5%)	508 (57.0%)		58.9%	60.6%	
Hospital region			0.497			0.172
Midwest/West	21 (16.7%)	281 (31.5%)		33.5%	29.8%	
Northeast	9 (7.1%)	136 (15.3%)		18.8%	14.3%	
South	96 (76.2%)	474 (53.2%)		47.7%	55.9%	
Hospital type			0.211			0.175
Teaching	98 (77.8%)	610 (68.5%)		61.2%	69.5%	
Non-teaching	28 (22.2%)	281 (31.5%)		38.8%	30.5%	
Endovascular coiling volume (mean, SD)	24.54 (13.23)	19.96 (14.26)		21.74 (14.65)	20.58 (14.33)	

[†] Race was controlled in the GEE regression analyses.
 Boldface data are aSMD values that exceed the 0.25 cutoff.
 aSMD: Absolute standardized mean difference; SD: Standard deviation; TIA: Transient ischemic attack.

observed among patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas (2.7 vs 6.5%, $p = 0.11$). Results from the GEE analysis showed that patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 had a 55% lower risk of all-cause inpatient readmission in the 180-day post-endovascular procedure period versus those treated with Neuroform Atlas (odds

Table 2. Hospital readmission and index costs in the 180-days post-index period.

ENTERPRISE® 2 [†]	Neuroform® Atlas [†]	Chi-square test, p-value	OR	95% CI	GEE regression model, p-value [‡]
All-cause inpatient readmission					
7.4%	15.6%	0.03	0.45	0.20–0.98	0.04
UIA related inpatient readmission [‡]					
2.7%	6.5%	0.11	0.39	0.12–1.26	0.12
		T-test, p-value	ER	95% CI	GEE regression model, p-value [‡]
Index admission cost					
\$39,729 (\$20,785)	\$44,650 (\$27,711)	0.31	0.91	0.76–1.09	0.29
Index supply cost					
\$20,442 (\$12,243)	\$27,561 (\$20,083)	0.006	0.74	0.61–0.90	0.002

[†] Rates or costs of weighted cohort.
[‡] UIA-related readmission was defined as hospitalization with a primary diagnosis of UIA.
 Bold p-values indicate a significant difference.
 Benjamini–Hochberg (BH) critical values were: 0.025 for index supply cost; 0.05 for all-cause readmissions; 0.075 for UIA related readmissions; and 0.100 for index admission cost. As such, the results after BH correction remained consistent and indicated significant differences for all-cause inpatient readmissions and index supply cost.
 ER: Exponential ratio; OR: Odds ratio; UIA: Unruptured intracranial aneurysm; CI: Confidence interval.

ratio [OR]: 0.45 [0.20–0.98], $p = 0.04$). No significant difference in 180-day UIA related inpatient readmission was observed among the ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas cohort (OR: 0.39 [0.12–1.26], $p = 0.12$).

We examined cost outcomes in a subset of patients ($n = 887$) with 119 patients were treated with ENTERPRISE 2 and 768 were treated with Neuroform Atlas. In the bivariate analysis, no significant difference in index admission cost was observed between the ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas cohort (\$39,729 [\$20,785] vs \$44,650 [\$27,711], $p = 0.31$); however, the ENTERPRISE 2 cohort had significantly lower index supply cost versus the Neuroform Atlas cohort (\$20,442 [\$12,243] versus \$27,561 [\$20,083], $p = 0.006$). Variables including race, Elixhauser score, presence of depression and hospital region were not well-balanced post weighting, therefore these variables were further controlled in the GEE models. Results from the GEE analysis did not reveal any significant difference in the index admission cost among the ENTERPRISE 2 and Neuroform Atlas cohort (exponentiated ratio [ER]: 0.91 [0.76–1.09], $p = 0.29$). The use of ENTERPRISE 2 was associated with a 26% lower supply cost versus Neuroform Atlas in the GEE analysis (ER: 0.74 [0.61–0.90], $p = 0.002$) (Table 2).

Discussion

In this retrospective cohort study of patients with UIA who underwent stent-assisted endovascular coiling, those treated with the ENTERPRISE 2 stent were 55% less likely to have all-cause inpatient readmission in the 180 days following treatment compared with patients treated with Neuroform Atlas. Further, the use of ENTERPRISE 2 stent was associated with cost savings, as reflected in the significantly lower index supply cost associated with its use versus Neuroform Atlas. No significant difference in other study outcomes were observed between the two cohorts. These findings may have important implications for healthcare utilization and cost when choosing a device for endovascular treatment in patients with UIA.

Though not directly comparable (due to the difference in device generations studied), the results of our investigation are consistent with those of a recent real-world cohort study that found a significant reduction by 28–38% in all-cause, cardiovascular and UIA related readmission, along with a trend toward lower cost among patients who underwent treatment with ENTERPRISE compared with Neuroform stent [19]. Our results may be attributed to the higher physical strength, strut tension strength, compression strength, circumferential radial force and visibility of ENTERPRISE 2 compared with Neuroform Atlas stent [31,32].

Compared with ENTERPRISE 1, the ENTERPRISE 2 stent introduced several design changes such as improved radiopacity with platinum and tungsten markers in the hypotubing, an increased diameter of 0.5 mm, increased efficiency of prepping by adding flushing holes in the introducer, improved robustness of the delivery wire, minimized kink ratio and increased outward force. Improved radiopacity in ENTERPRISE 2's hypotubing enhances visibility compared with its earlier generation. Optimal visibility enables precise navigation and stent placement and has been associated with lower rates of procedure related complications such as in-stent thrombosis [27], which

may be related to lower index supply cost by eliminating the need for management with additional stents or therapy such as thrombectomy, angioplasty or antithrombotic agents.

The minimized kink ratio and increased outward force in ENTERPRISE 2 enhances flexibility, allowing the outer curve to elongate and the inner curve to compress. These modifications may lead to better wall apposition [27] and a smaller gap between the stent and vessel wall [25] compared with ENTERPRISE 1. Apposition is critical for achieving optimal occlusion without coil herniation and in minimizing the potential for thromboembolic complications [33]. Altogether, the improved features introduced in ENTERPRISE 2 may potentially be associated with cost savings through more efficient and accurate procedures and minimizing the need for repeated attempts, and potentially reducing procedure time. Indeed, shorter operation times have been observed when using ENTERPRISE 2 compared with its earlier generation [27].

Although UIA related inpatient readmission was not significantly different between groups, examination of the GEE results suggested a trend favoring lower UIA related inpatient readmission in patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas (OR: 0.39, 95% CI: 0.12–1.26). Additionally, further investigation revealed that around 60–65% of all-cause readmission were aneurysm-related in both study cohorts. Taken together, it is assumed that the design advancements made to ENTERPRISE 2 in terms of improved visibility, navigation precision, stent placement and procedural efficiency could potentially have contributed to the reduced rate of all-cause readmission as observed in the current study among patients treated with ENTERPRISE 2 stent compared with Neuroform Atlas stent.

Limitations

The current study has a few limitations. First, in the PHD, a readmission can only be assessed if the patient were to return to the same hospital. If a patient undergoes readmission in another hospital (other than the one in which they had index procedure), then that readmission cannot be assessed. As such, our rate of readmission may have been an underestimate of the true rate of readmission; however, this limitation is likely to cause non-differential bias and not influence the directionality of our results. Second, the device search strategy was based on a combination of the device name and catalog identifiers. This is a reasonable approach for device identification as unique device identifiers are not universally adopted and listed; however, this may have led to device misidentification. Third, hospitals in the PHD are not federally funded and are based in the US, which may limit the generalizability of our findings. Additionally, the data we collected lacked specificity of diagnosis and procedural codes which prevented us from identifying patients being treated specifically for wide-neck aneurysms or other clinical details about aneurysm-specific features including the precise location, size or neck width of the aneurysm, which could influence both device selection and study outcomes. Finally, data on physician experience level was not available, which could potentially impact patient outcomes and cost.

Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first retrospective database study to compare outcomes among patients with UIA who underwent stent-assisted endovascular coiling using ENTERPRISE 2 versus Neuroform Atlas. Study results showed that treatment with ENTERPRISE 2 may potentially be associated with a significant decrease in all-cause inpatient readmission in the 180-day period following treatment, and a significantly reduced index supply cost compared with treatment with Neuroform Atlas. These results should be interpreted in light of limitations typically associated with the use of secondary observational data sources including potential device misclassification, incomplete readmission assessment, and limited generalizability. As the incidence of UIA increases, it is important to compare the impact of different devices on patient outcomes and cost. Our findings may help guide clinical decision-making that could improve patient outcomes and reduce cost for the management of UIA.

Supplementary data

To view the supplementary data that accompany this paper please visit the journal website at: <https://becarispublishing.com/doi/epdf/10.57264/cer-2025-0096>

Author contributions

RD Leacy, R Khanna, E Kottenmeier, Y Rong: Conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, funding acquisition, investigation, methodology, project administration, resources, software, supervision, validation, visualization, writing – original draft, review and editing.

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Competing interests disclosure

R DeLeacy has received consulting fees and participated on a scientific advisory board for CERENOVUS, and served as the secretary for the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery (2022–2023). R Khanna, E Kottenmeier and Y Rong are employed by Johnson & Johnson. The authors have no other competing interests or relevant affiliations with any organization or entity with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript apart from those disclosed.

Writing disclosure

Medical writing and editorial support were provided by Superior Medical Experts.

Ethical conduct of research

The use of PINC AI Healthcare Database was reviewed by the New England Institutional Review Board and was determined to be exempt from broad Institutional Review Board approval, as this study does not involve human subjects' research. Confidentiality of data subject records were maintained at all times. All study reports contained aggregate data only and did not identify individual data subjects or physicians.

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Summary points

- This is a retrospective cohort study assessing admission costs and 180-day inpatient hospital readmissions post stent-assisted endovascular coiling using ENTERPRISE® 2 versus Neuroform® Atlas for the treatment of unruptured intracranial aneurysm.
- A multihospital nationwide database (PHD) was used for study purposes.
- After propensity weighting to balance the study cohorts on underlying covariates, results showed a 55% lower risk of 180 day all-cause inpatient readmissions and 26% lower supply cost during the admission for coiling procedure for the ENTERPRISE 2 stent group versus Neuroform Atlas stent group.
- No statistically significant differences in unruptured intracranial aneurysm related inpatient readmissions and total admission cost were observed between the two groups.
- Study results highlight lower costs and better outcomes associated with the use of ENTERPRISE 2 stent, which may help guide clinical decision making in stent selection.

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