Plain Language Summary

Why was this study done?

Intravascular lithotripsy (IVL) is a treatment used to help open severely calcified coronary arteries during a heart procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Although IVL is effective, little is known about whether patients experience more pain or anxiety during this procedure.

What did we do?

We studied 100 patients undergoing PCI. Fifty patients were treated with IVL, while 50 underwent conventional PCI without IVL. Patients were asked to report their level of pain and anxiety during the procedure using standardized assessment scales.

What did we find?

Patients treated with IVL had more complex coronary artery disease than those undergoing conventional PCI. Despite this, their reported levels of pain and anxiety were not significantly different from those of patients undergoing conventional PCI. The number of IVL pulses used during the procedure was also not associated with higher pain or anxiety.

What does this mean?

Our findings suggest that IVL-assisted PCI does not cause more pain or anxiety than conventional PCI, even when more complex coronary disease is treated. These results provide reassurance that IVL is a well-tolerated treatment option for patients with severely calcified coronary arteries.