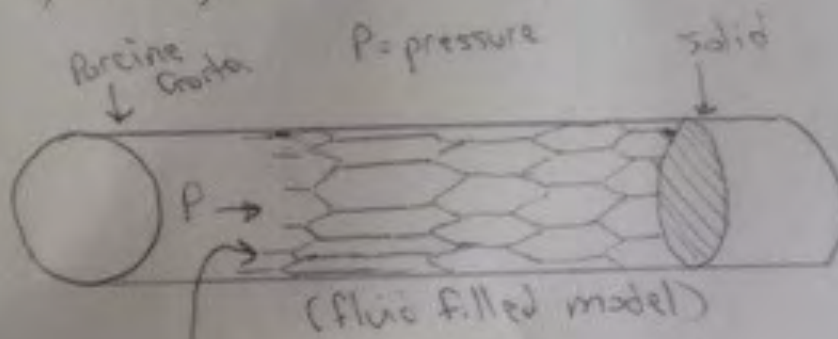


5/26/99

Dear DR. Davis,

I can appreciate your skepticism regarding a percutaneously placed aortic valve. As a proof of concept experiment I propose an intermediate step. I propose that a porcine aorta serve as a platform to prove that a stent through adherence alone can withstand the pressures encountered in a typical aorta. The drawing below illustrates my thoughts.



Self expanding stent - this ensures constant pressure. (no other mechanisms employed to maintain stents position)

Goals

1. To prove through surface adherence alone a stent could seat an aortic valve and withstand arterial force.
2. Experimentally derive the surface area needed