BACKGROUND: Bypass versus Angioplasty in Severe Ischemia of the Leg (BASIL) trial remains the only randomized controlled trial to compare endovascular therapy to open surgery for critical limb ischemia due to infrainguinal disease. This trial recommends that patients expected to live more than 2 years, based on their other comorbidities, should usually be offered bypass surgery first, using the saphenous vein, if possible.

We report a clinical case with bilateral critical limb ischemia, where both options (surgical and endovascular) were offered, according to the clinical state of the patient.

The patient had a non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction and was admitted to the coronary unit where the investigation revealed three-vesSEL disease, severe aortic stenosis and preocclusive stenosis of the right carotid artery.

The patient underwent:
- implantation of biological aortic prosthesis,
- two coronary bypass (with the left saphenous vein),
- a right carotid endarterectomy.

CONCLUSIONS: The decision between endovascular intervention versus open surgical bypass should be based on patient’s surgical risk, the availability of autologous vein, severity of limb threat and anatomical pattern of the disease. In this case report, both proved to be effective in two different phases of the patient’s medical state.