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Incidence and predictors of outcomes after a first definite coronary stent thrombosis

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Running title: Predictors of outcomes after stent thrombosis

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ABSTRACT

Aims: Stent thrombosis (ST) is a rare but potentially fatal complication of coronary artery stenting. Little is known about the optimal treatment strategy at the time of a ST event. We identified the incidence and predictors of adverse cardiac events after treatment of a definite ST.

Methods and results: 695 patients with definite ST were included between 1996 and 2017 in 2 academic medical centres. The primary endpoint was the composite of cardiac death, myocardial infarction (MI) and target vessel revascularization (TVR) (MACE).

Mean age was 62.8 ± 12.1 years and 76.3% were male. ST occurred at a median of 22 days (IQR 3-551 days); 50.8% were early and 49.2% were late/very late ST. At 60 months follow-up, MACE was 43.7%, cardiac death 19.5%, MI 17.9%, TVR 24.8%, and repeat definite ST was 12.1% (10.5% in target vessel). **Independent predictors of MACE were cardiogenic shock (HR 2.54; 95%CI 1.75-3.70; $p < 0.001$), ST in LAD (HR 1.76; 95%CI 1.32-2.35; $p < 0.001$) prior CVA/TIA (HR 1.68; 95%CI 1.08-2.62; $p = 0.020$), peripheral vascular**

disease (HR 1.55; 95%CI 1.00-2.39; p=0.046), multivessel disease (HR 1.53; 95%CI 1.12-2.08; p=0.007), and final TIMI flow 2-3 (HR 0.54; 95% CI 0.34-0.85; p=0.009). No specific treatment of ST influenced MACE, however, new generation P2Y12 inhibitors reduced the risk of MI (HR 0.56; 95% CI 0.32-0.99; p=0.049).

Conclusion: The incidence of adverse events remains high after a first episode of ST. New generation P2Y12 inhibitors reduce the risk of MI. Additional stenting, GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors and thrombectomy did not improve outcomes following ST.

Classifications

ACS / NSTEMI-ACS; Adjunctive pharmacotherapy; Coronary occlusion; Stent thrombosis; Other technique.

Abbreviations

BMS, Bare Metal Stent; CABG, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft; DES, Drug-Eluting Stent; DAPT, Dual Antiplatelet Therapy; MACE, Major Adverse Cardiac Events; MI, Myocardial Infarction; PCI, Percutaneous Coronary Intervention; ST, Stent Thrombosis; TIMI, Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction; TVR, Target Vessel Revascularization.

Condensed abstract

Several patient, lesion and procedural characteristics have been identified at the index procedure as potential factors of stent thrombosis (ST), however, little is known about ST treatment strategies and their impact on future adverse events. We included all first definitive ST from 1996 to 2017 (695 cases). At 60 months, the cumulative incidence of MACE was 43.7%. New P2Y12 inhibitors reduced the incidence of myocardial infarction. Additional stenting, GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors or thrombectomy did not improved outcomes.

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, improvements in stent technology reduced the incidence of future target lesion failure.(1) Conversely, stent thrombosis (ST) emerged as a safety concern associated with high rates of death and myocardial infarction (MI).(2) Amongst others, the problem was linked to stent-related factors like underexpansion, malapposition, polymer-related hypersensitivity reactions, neoatherosclerosis and incomplete stent coverage, and patient-related factors such as premature discontinuation of antiplatelet therapy.(3-5)

The risk of early or late ST appeared to occur at a rate of 0.6% per year after the implantation of a first-generation drug-eluting stent (DES),(6) and up to 0.3% per year in novel generation DES.(7, 8) The latter triggered the development of more biocompatible and bioresorbable polymers and pushed guideline committees to review dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) strategies.(9) At the same time, exhaustive attempts were made to identify baseline patient and procedural characteristics associated with an increased risk for ST.(10-13)

To date little is known about ST treatment strategies applied in daily clinical practice and their impact on adverse events, therefore, the purpose of our study was to identify incidence and predictors of future adverse cardiac events after treatment of a first definitive ST.

METHODS

Population

This is a retrospective study including two academic hospitals (Erasmus University Medical Centre, The Netherlands and Bern University Hospital, Switzerland). All patients who presented with a first definite ST between 1996 to 2017 were included.

Endpoints and definitions

The primary endpoint was Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE), a composite of cardiac death, non-fatal MI, and ischemia-driven target vessel revascularization (TVR) at 60 months follow-up after the first ST event. Death was classified as cardiac or non-cardiac. Secondary endpoints included the components of MACE and repeat definite ST in the target vessel (ST-TV). Cardiac death was defined as any death due to a clear cardiac cause, unwitnessed death or death of unknown cause, and all procedure-related deaths, including those related to concomitant treatment. Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) revascularization was considered an event if not part of the initial ST treatment. TVR MI and ST were defined according to the Academic Research Consortium definitions.⁽¹⁴⁾ Repeat ST-TV was identified as any new definite ST in the target vessel after the successful treatment of the index ST.

Clinical follow-up

Survival data were obtained from municipal civil registries. A health questionnaire was sent to all living patients with questions on re-admission and major adverse cardiac events. For patients who had an adverse event at another centre, medical records or discharge summaries were systematically reviewed. General practitioners, referring cardiologists, and patients were contacted as necessary for additional information. There was no independent or external monitoring of data entry. We performed censoring at 60 months with 14 patients lost to follow-up. **Clinical events were adjudicated by trained study personnel not involved in the specific procedures during the course of the study. All patients provided written informed consent for the procedure and the use of anonymous datasets for research purposes in alignment with the Dutch Medical Research Acts and the appropriate Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act waiver/authorization or the appropriate informed consent documentation per institutional policy for the collection of data in Switzerland.**

Statistical analysis

Categorical variables are expressed as numbers and frequencies and compared using χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test when appropriate. Continuous variables are presented as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and tested using Student's t-test or as the median and Inter-quartile range (IQR: 25th-75th percentile) and tested with Mann-Whitney rank sum test.

Missing values for covariates were present in less than 5%, except for smoking (6.6% missing values), statins prescription (6.8% missing values) index stent type (15.5% missing values) multivessel disease (MVD) (17.6% missing values), and estimated glomerular filtrate rate <60 ml/min/1.73m² (34.2% missing values). Therefore, we applied multiple imputation to handle missing values. Values were imputed using a regression approach based on patients' clinical data. Results from 5 imputed data sets were pooled to obtain risk estimates.

Univariate predictors of outcomes were identified using Cox proportional-hazards models. Predictors with a p value < 0.1 were introduced in the multivariate Cox proportional-hazards model using the 'enter' method. In case of outcomes with insufficient number of events, the most strongly associated covariates were included in the model. Data are presented as Hazard-Ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CI 95%). All tests were two-tailed and a P value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. The Kaplan-Meier method was applied to show the cumulative incidence of the primary and secondary endpoints.

SPSS software version 24.0 for Windows (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, USA) was used to execute all the analysis.

RESULTS

Clinical presentation

A total of 695 patients presenting with a first episode of definite ST were included. Mean age was 62.8 ± 12.1 years and 76.3% were male. The first ST occurred at a median of 22 days (25-

75th percentile: 3–551 days; min 0, max 5859 days) after the index PCI. Early ST (0-30 days) and late/very late ST (>30 days) occurred in 50.8% and 49.2% of the cases respectively. MI was the presenting symptom in 87.2% of the cases and accompanied by cardiogenic shock in 11.8%. Aspirin was used by 88.9% of the patients at baseline and 53.8% used P2Y12 inhibitors. (Table 1 and 2).

According to the timing of ST (Early vs late/very late), patients with early ST were older (64.1 ± 12.1 vs 61.4 ± 11.9 years respectively, $p=0.004$), presented more often with MI (93.4% vs 80.6% respectively $p<0.001$) and hemodynamic instability (16.9% vs 6.9% respectively $p<0.001$), had multivessel ST (5.2% vs 1.5% $p=0.007$) or left coronary system as culprit (for LAD 58.6% vs 48.5% $p=0.009$; for left circumflex artery 21.2% vs 14.1% respectively $p=0.015$). (Supplementary tables 1 and 2).

Treatment

Thrombectomy and Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa (GpIIb/IIIa) inhibitors were used in 47.9% and 57.6% of the patients, respectively. In 27.6% of the patients, intracoronary imaging was used to assess the mechanism of the ST, with neoatherosclerosis (31.8%), malapposition (25.5%) and underexpansion (17.7%) as the main findings. (Table 2) Additional stenting was performed in 59.8% of the patients with the use of DES in 90.8%. Balloon angioplasty alone (POBA) was performed in 34.4% of the cases and CABG in 0.9%. DAPT was prescribed in 95.7% of the patients, of which 28.1% received either Prasugrel or Ticagrelor. The remaining patients were treated with a combination of oral anticoagulant (OAC) and 1 antiplatelet therapy (ATP) (1.1%), 1 ATP (1.8%) or OAC alone (0.3%); in 1.1% of the cases no ATP or OAC was prescribed due to concomitant major bleeding. (Table 2)

As compared to late/very late ST, patients with early ST received more often treatment with POBA (45.6% vs 24.3% respectively $p < 0.001$) and GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors (66.6% vs 47.9 %

$p<0.001$), but fewer patients with early ST underwent intracoronary imaging assessment as compared to those with late/very late ST (24.3% vs 30.8% respectively $p=0.058$).(*Supplementary table 2*).

Outcomes

At 60 months, the cumulative incidence of the primary composite endpoint was 43.7% (238 cases). Cardiac death occurred in 19.5% (111 cases), MI in 17.9% (82 cases) and TVR in 24.8% (118 cases). Repeat definite ST occurred in 12.1% (58 cases) and repeat definite ST-TV in 10.5% (51 cases) (acute 9.8% (5 cases), subacute 27.5% (14 cases), late 23.5% (12 cases), and very late 39.2% (20 cases)).*Figure 1*.

Independent predictors of MACE were cardiogenic shock (HR 2.54; 95%CI 1.75-3.70; $p<0.001$), ST in LAD (HR 1.76; 95%CI 1.32-2.35; $p<0.001$) prior CVA/TIA (HR 1.68; 95%CI 1.08-2.62; $p=0.020$), peripheral vascular disease (HR 1.55; 95%CI 1.00-2.39; $p=0.046$) and MVD (HR 1.53; 95%CI 1.12-2.08; $p=0.007$). Final TIMI flow 2-3 was inversely associated with MACE (HR 0.54; 95% CI 0.34-0.85; $p=0.009$) and cardiac death (HR 0.33; 95% CI 0.18-0.60; $p<0.001$) at 60 months. Treatment with new generation P2Y₁₂ inhibitors was inversely associated with future MI events (HR 0.56; 95% CI 0.32-0.99; $p=0.049$), and the use of intracoronary imaging was associated with an increased risk for repeat ST-TV (HR 1.85; 95% CI 1.06-3.23; $p=0.032$). No other modifiable procedural characteristics predicted any of the outcomes.(*Table 3*).

According to the timing of the ST, similar predictors were found for MACE following early ST as for the total population. Cardiogenic shock and final TIMI flow 2-3 were the only independent predictors for MACE in patients with late/very late ST. Intracoronary imaging increased the risk for future MI, TVR and ST-TV in patients with early ST, and index stent type DES reduced future MI events in patients with late/very late ST. No procedural

characteristics predicted any of the outcomes in patients presenting with late/very late ST.(*Supplementary tables 3 and 4*).

When considering the time point of the index ST (years 1996-2007 and 2008-2017), similar predictors of MACE were found for both groups as for the total population, except for additional stenting which increased the risk of adverse events in the first group (HR 1.82; 95% CI 1.16–2.86; $p=0.008$).(*Supplementary table 5*).

DISCUSSION

Patients presenting with ST have a significantly increased risk for morbidity and mortality following PCI. While extensive research has been performed on finding predictors of ST,(10-13) little to no evidence is available on the optimal treatment strategy of those presenting with the event. Furthermore, the low incidence of ST and the lack of systematic follow-up entail great difficulty in recognizing the real incidence of adverse events and their predictors. In the present investigation we assessed the incidence and predictors of future MACE after the treatment of a first definitive ST in the largest series of patients thus far.

At first, we quantified the incidence of MACE after the index ST. At 60 months, almost every second ST patient suffered from MACE (43.7%), mainly driven by a high mortality rate (25.8%), of which 75% were cardiac. Furthermore, the incidence of TVR was as high as 24.8%. Interestingly, 51 out of 118 TVR (43.2%) resulted from a repeat ST-TV event, indicating that the applied ST treatment was ineffective in a substantial proportion of patients. Looking for baseline predictors, we found that cardiogenic shock, ST in LAD and post-procedural TIMI flow were strong predictors of MACE; similar patient and lesion-related factors have been found in previous studies with smaller patients' cohorts and shorter follow-up. (15-19)

With a specific focus on modifiable procedural characteristics, we found that 59.8% of the patients were treated with additional stents (90.8% were DES). Their use, however, did not

impact future MACE. The latter, puts the findings of the Dutch Stent Thrombosis registry (DSR) in which the use of additional stents increased cardiac death and repeat ST up to 73% at 3 years in perspective.(17) Merely 26% of the patients in the DSR presented with late or very late ST as compared to 49.2% in our study; an important difference given the substantially higher incidence of neoatherosclerosis in patients with late or very late ST as compared to early ST. Furthermore, the difference in timing between both studies should be taken into account resulting in significant difference in the use of BMS and new P2Y12 inhibitors (\pm 50% and 0% respectively in the DSR).

Thrombus aspiration did not emerge as protective measure against future MACE. The latter extends the findings of several recent randomized trials in which thrombus aspiration failed to reduce future events in STEMI patients.(17, 20, 21)

Significant improvement in the risk of future MI was also found with the use of either Prasugrel or Ticagrelor in patients presenting with ST, a finding that adds to previous studies including ACS populations.(22-24)

Differences in treatment profiles were found in patients presenting with early versus late/very late ST. Patients with early ST event were more likely to receive treatment with POBA and GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors which is in line with the assumption that stent-deployment related issues and an initial impaired response to ADP-receptor antagonist therapy during a prothrombotic state mostly explain an early ST event.(2, 25) Intravascular imaging findings confirmed a higher incidence of procedure-related issues (underexpansion and edge dissections) in this population. Moreover, additional stenting was more frequent in patients with late or very late ST, which could suggest a higher incidence of neoatherosclerosis.

A stratified analysis following either early or late/very late ST revealed one remarkable finding: the risk for future MI, TVR and repeat ST-TV appeared to be significantly increased when intravascular imaging was performed. **Intravascular imaging was performed more**

frequently in younger and male patients, cases where the index stent was bioresorbable, the LAD was the culprit, and the presentation of the ST was “very late”. Furthermore, those patients also received more often treatment with GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors, thrombectomy, and direct stenting, with a larger stent number and length. However, we were not able to identify a consistent and significantly higher risk profile of patients receiving imaging versus those who did not. (*Supplementary table 6*) Finally, a play of chance could not be excluded.

It is essential to remark that including patients over almost 20 years is both our strength and our main limitation. Several important changes have taken place in the coronary field and this entails great difficulty in finding individual predictors of future outcomes. **Periprocedural treatment strategies have been influenced by novel insights, the availability of pharmacological and technical resources, and improvements in stent technology; as such, optical coherence tomography was only introduced in 2008, the new generation P2Y12 inhibitors became available in 2009, and stents have evolved from BMS to DES (1st and 2nd generations) to platforms with bioresorbable polymers/backbone).** Nevertheless, a sensitivity analysis regarding the time of presentation showed similar predictors as for the whole population; of note, additional stenting was a strong predictor of MACE only in the population 1996-2007, which could be explained by a higher use of earlier stent technologies. (26)

Limitations:

This a retrospective study including patients over a long period of time; changes in treatment strategies over the years might have influenced our results. An important selection bias might

be present on the use of intracoronary imaging. Information on lesion complexity was not available. Data on compliance to antiplatelet agents was not accessible. Finally, given the retrospective nature of the study analysis, there was some missing baseline data and multiple imputation technique was performed. Hence, our results are hypothesis-generating only and must be confirmed with larger-scaled randomized studies.

CONCLUSION

The incidence of adverse events remains high after a first episode of ST. Treatment with new generation P2Y₁₂ inhibitors reduces the risk of future MI. The use of new stents, GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors and thrombectomy was not associated with improved cardiovascular outcomes following ST.

Impact on daily practice

There is a significantly increased risk for morbidity and mortality following the treatment of a first ST episode. While placing stents and using GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors did not show to improve outcome, treatment with new generation P2Y₁₂ inhibitors might be preferable to Clopidogrel in order to reduce the risk of myocardial infarction. Larger and randomized studies are needed to compare the effect of procedural and medical treatment strategies of ST in the current era.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Outcomes at 60 months follow-up.

Major adverse cardiac events (MACE), Stent thrombosis (ST); Target vessel revascularization (TVR).

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TABLES

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

| Characteristics | Patients (695) |
|--|-----------------------|
| Age | 62.8 ± 12.1 |
| Male | 530/695 (76.3) |
| Prior myocardial infarction | 368/692 (53.2) |
| Prior cerebrovascular accident/transient ischemic attack | 52/685 (7.6) |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 60/685 (8.8) |
| Coronary artery bypass graft | 54/685 (7.9) |
| Dyslipidaemia | 415/692 (60) |
| Hypertension | 367/692 (53) |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 152/693 (21.9) |
| Current smoking | 203/649 (31.3) |
| Estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m² | 91/457 (19.9) |
| Family history of cardiovascular disease | 248/691 (35.9) |
| Index stent | |
| Bare metal stent | 76/587 (12.9) |
| Drug-eluting stent | 446/587 (76) |
| Bare metal stent + Drug-eluting stent | 4/587 (0.7) |
| Bioresorbable scaffold | 15/587 (2.6) |
| Bioresorbable polymer | 46/587 (7.8) |
| Aspirin | 576/648 (88.9) |
| P2Y12 inhibitor | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Clopidogrel | 286/648 (44.1) |
| Ticagrelor | 33/650 (5.1) |
| Prasugrel | 30/650 (4.6) |
| Anticoagulation | 40/672 (6) |
| Presentation | |
| Myocardial infarction | 592/679 (87.2) |
| Unstable angina | 69/679 (10.2) |
| Stable angina | 18/679 (2.7) |
| Cardiogenic shock | 82/693 (11.8) |
| Stent thrombosis timing | |
| Acute | 104/679 (15.3) |
| Subacute | 241/679 (35.5) |
| Late | 115/679 (16.9) |
| Very late | 219/679 (32.3) |

Categorical data are presented as counts and percentages. Continuous data are presented as mean \pm SD or median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR_{25th}-75th).

Table 2. Peri-procedural characteristics

| Characteristics | Patients (695) |
|--|----------------|
| Multivessel disease | 257/573 (44.9) |
| Multivessel stent thrombosis | 23/695 (3.3) |
| Stent thrombosis location: | |
| Left main | 14/695 (2) |
| Left anterior descending coronary | 372/695 (53.5) |
| Left circumflex coronary | 124/695 (17.8) |
| Right coronary artery | 194/695 (27.9) |
| Bypass Graft | 24/695 (3.5) |
| Bifurcation involved | 144/695 (20.7) |
| Thrombolysis in myocardial infarction flow pre | |
| 0 | 475/683 (69.5) |
| 1 | 65/683 (9.5) |
| 2 | 67/683 (9.8) |
| 3 | 76/683 (11.1) |
| Thrombolysis in myocardial infarction flow post | |
| 0 | 28/683 (4.1) |
| 1 | 13/683 (1.9) |
| 2 | 36/683 (5.3) |
| 3 | 606/683 (88.7) |
| Intracoronary imaging | 192/695 (27.6) |
| IVUS | 117/695 (16.8) |
| OCT | 80/695 (11.5) |
| Intracoronary imaging findings: | |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Underexpansion | 34/192 (17.7) |
| Malapposition | 49/192 (25.5) |
| Edge dissection | 27/192 (14.1) |
| Edge disease | 17/192 (8.9) |
| Neoatherosclerosis | 61/192 (31.8) |
| Uncovered struts | 2/192 (1) |
| Gap | 9/192 (4.7) |
| Broken stent | 2/192 (1) |
| Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor | 392/680 (57.6) |
| Thrombectomy | 322/672 (47.9) |
| Rheolytic | 77/283 (27.2) |
| Aspirin prescribed | 649/666 (97.4) |
| P2Y12 Inhibitor prescribed | |
| Clopidogrel | 431/666 (64.7) |
| Ticagrelor | 76/666 (11.4) |
| Prasugrel | 139/666 (20.9) |
| Anticoagulation prescribed | 43/666 (6.5) |
| Statins prescribed | 635/648 (98) |
| Treatment of stent thrombosis | |
| Additional stent | 415/694 (59.8) |
| Balloon angioplasty alone (POBA) | 239/694 (34.4) |
| Coronary artery bypass graft | 6/694 (0.9) |
| Conservative | 34/694 (4.9) |
| Additional stent characteristics | |
| Direct stenting | 102/410 (24.9) |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bare metal stent | 35/413 (8.5) |
| Drug-eluting stent | 375/413 (90.8) |
| Drug-eluting stent + Bare metal stent | 3/413 (0.7) |
| Number | 1 (1-2) |
| Average diameter (mm) | 3 (2.75-3.5) |
| Length (mm) | 28 (16-40) |
| Overlapping | 190/415 (45.8) |

POBA characteristics

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Non-compliant | 54/236 (22.9) |
| Plain (No drug-eluting balloon) | 177/236 (75) |
| Cutting | 3/236 (1.3) |
| Drug-coated | 3/239 (1.3) |

Categorical data are presented as counts and percentages. Continuous data are presented as mean \pm SD or median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR_{25th}-75th).

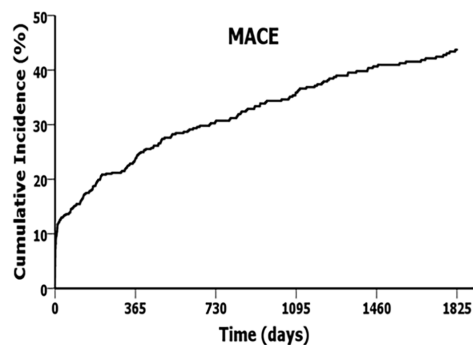
Table 3. Independent predictors of outcomes at 60 months

| Events | HR (CI 95%) | P value |
|---|------------------|---------|
| Major adverse cardiac events | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 2.54 (1.75-3.70) | <0.001 |
| ST in LAD | 1.76 (1.32-2.35) | <0.001 |
| Prior CVA/TIA | 1.68 (1.08-2.62) | 0.020 |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 1.55 (1.00-2.39) | 0.046 |
| Multivessel disease | 1.53 (1.12-2.08) | 0.007 |
| TIMI flow post 2-3 | 0.54 (0.34-0.85) | 0.009 |
| Cardiac death | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 3.41 (2.17-5.38) | <0.001 |
| ST in LAD | 1.76 (1.16-2.67) | 0.007 |
| Estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m ² | 1.64 (1.02-2.63) | 0.040 |
| Age | 1.04 (1.02-1.06) | <0.001 |
| TIMI flow post 2-3 | 0.33 (0.18-0.60) | <0.001 |
| Myocardial Infarction | | |
| Multivessel ST | 2.54 (1.09-5.94) | 0.031 |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 2.22 (1.17-4.22) | 0.014 |
| Male | 1.84 (1.03-3.28) | 0.039 |
| ST in LAD | 1.72 (1.08-2.72) | 0.021 |
| Prasugrel/Ticagrelor prescribed | 0.56 (0.32-0.99) | 0.049 |
| Target vessel revascularization | | |
| Prior CVA/TIA | 1.97 (1.11-3.51) | 0.021 |
| Stent thrombosis in target vessel | | |

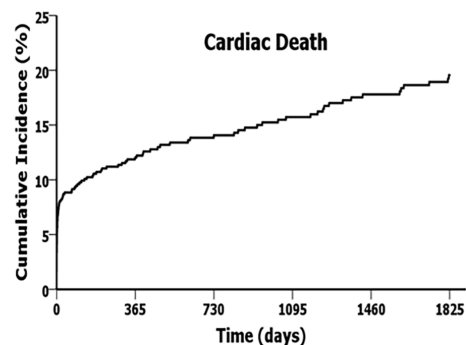
| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Prior coronary artery bypass graft | 4.02 (1.72-9.39) | 0.001 |
| ST in LAD | 2.50 (1.28-4.89) | 0.007 |
| Intracoronary imaging | 1.85 (1.06-3.23) | 0.032 |

Cerebrovascular accident/transient ischemic attack (CVA/TIA). Left Anterior Descending Coronary (LAD). Stent thrombosis (ST). Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI). Data are presented as Hazard ratios (HR) and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI).

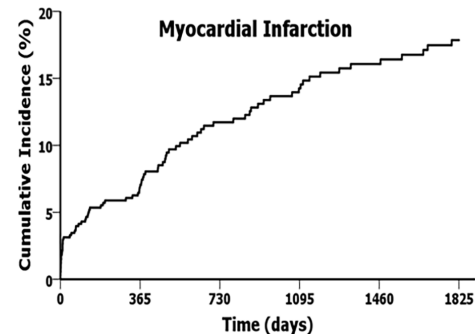
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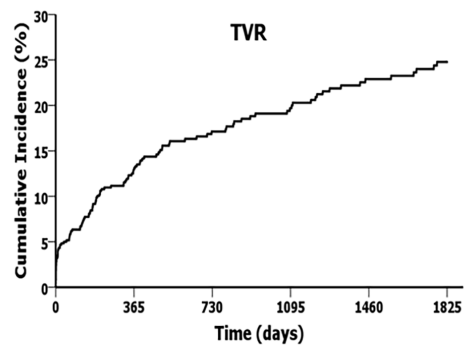
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|--------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 438 | 297 | 256 | 206 | 175 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 156 | 189 | 210 | 228 | 238 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 23.9 | 30.7 | 35.9 | 40.7 | 43.7 |



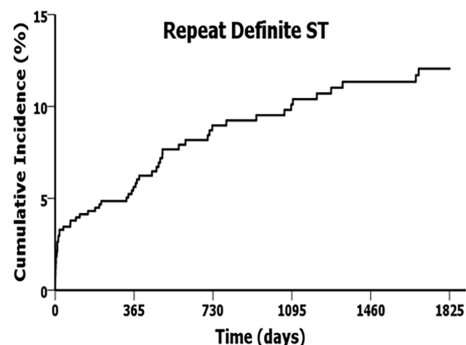
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|--------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 510 | 380 | 347 | 299 | 262 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 80 | 90 | 97 | 105 | 111 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 12 | 14.1 | 15.7 | 17.8 | 19.5 |



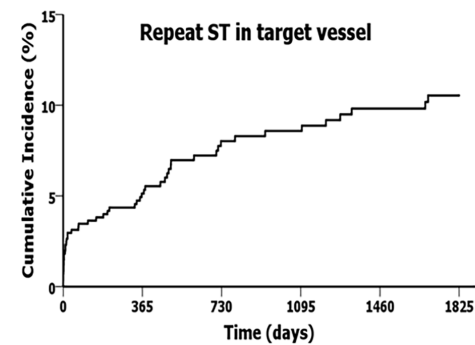
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|--------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 474 | 332 | 295 | 246 | 213 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 42 | 62 | 71 | 77 | 82 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 7 | 11.7 | 14.3 | 16.1 | 17.9 |



| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 437 | 305 | 270 | 219 | 187 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 77 | 94 | 103 | 113 | 118 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 13.1 | 17.1 | 19.7 | 22.9 | 24.8 |



| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 479 | 340 | 309 | 259 | 229 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 34 | 48 | 52 | 56 | 58 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 5.6 | 9 | 10.1 | 11.3 | 12.1 |



| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Risk (n) | 695 | 480 | 343 | 314 | 264 | 231 |
| Events (n) | 0 | 31 | 43 | 45 | 49 | 51 |
| Cum. Incidence (%) | 0 | 5.1 | 8 | 8.6 | 9.8 | 10.5 |

Supplementary material

Supplement to: **Incidence and predictors of outcomes after a first definite coronary stent thrombosis**

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Supplementary table 1. Baseline characteristics according to ST timing

| Characteristics | Early ST (345) | Late/Very late ST (334) | P value* |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Age | 64.1 ± 12.1 | 61.4 ± 11.9 | 0.004 |
| Male | 256/345 (74.2) | 267/334 (79.9) | 0.076 |
| Prior MI | 159/343 (46.4) | 203/333 (61) | <0.001 |
| Prior CVA/TIA | 24/338 (7.1) | 26/331 (7.9) | 0.711 |
| Prior PVD | 24/338 (7.1) | 36/331 (10.9) | 0.087 |
| Prior CABG | 21/338 (6.2) | 33/331 (10) | 0.075 |
| Dyslipidaemia | 185/342 (54.1) | 221/334 (66.2) | 0.001 |
| Hypertension | 175/342 (51.2) | 183/334 (54.8) | 0.346 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 81/343 (23.6) | 69/334 (20.7) | 0.354 |
| Current smoking | 89/312 (28.5) | 109/321 (34) | 0.141 |
| eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m ² | 38/213 (17.8) | 51/237 (21.5) | 0.328 |
| Family history of CVD | 113/341 (33.1) | 132/334 (39.5) | 0.085 |
| Index stent | | | |
| BMS | 38/321 (11.8) | 38/266 (14.3) | 0.379 |
| DES | 240/321 (74.8) | 206/266 (77.4) | 0.450 |
| BMS + DES | 2/321 (0.6) | 2/266 (0.8) | 1.000 |
| BRS | 8/321 (2.5) | 7/266 (2.6) | 0.915 |
| BRP | 33/321 (10.3) | 13/266 (4.9) | 0.016 |
| Aspirin | 297/329 (90.3) | 270/309 (87.4) | 0.245 |
| P2Y12 inhibitor | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| Clopidogrel | 221/329 (67.2) | 65/309 (21) | <0.001 |
| Ticagrelor | 29/330 (8.8) | 4/310 (1.3) | <0.001 |
| Prasugrel | 21/330 (6.4) | 9/310 (2.9) | 0.038 |
| Anticoagulation | 20/330 (6.1) | 20/327 (6.1) | 0.976 |
| Presentation | | | |
| MI | 311/333 (93.4) | 266/330 (80.6) | <0.001 |
| Unstable angina | 19/333 (5.7) | 49/330 (14.8) | <0.001 |
| Stable angina | 3/333 (0.9) | 15/330 (4.5) | 0.004 |
| Cardiogenic shock | 58/344 (16.9) | 23/333 (6.9) | <0.001 |
| ST timing | | | |
| Acute | 104/345 (30.1) | N/A | N/A |
| Subacute | 241/345 (69.9) | N/A | N/A |
| Late | N/A | 115/334 (34.4) | N/A |
| Very late | N/A | 219/334 (65.6) | N/A |

Bare Metal Stent (BMS). Bioresorbable scaffold (BRS). Bioresorbable polymer (BRP). Cardiovascular Disease (CVD). Cerebrovascular Accident/Transient Ischemic Attack (CVA/TIA). Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). Diabetes Mellitus (DM). Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR). Myocardial Infarction (MI). Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Categorical data are presented as counts and percentages. Continuous data are presented as mean \pm SD or median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR_{25th}-75th).

*** P values represent early vs. late/very late ST**

Supplementary table 2. Peri-procedural characteristics according to ST timing

| Characteristics | Early ST (345) | Late/Very late ST (334) | P value* |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Multivessel disease | 113/249 (45.4) | 136/308 (44.2) | 0.772 |
| Multivessel ST | 18/345 (5.2) | 5/334 (1.5) | 0.007 |
| 2 vessel ST | 17/345 (4.9) | 5/334 (1.5) | 0.012 |
| 3 vessel ST | 1/345 (0.3) | 0/334 (0) | 1.000 |
| ST location: | | | |
| LM | 6/345 (1.7) | 8/334 (2.4) | 0.548 |
| LAD | 202/345 (58.6) | 162/334 (48.5) | 0.009 |
| LCX | 73/345 (21.2) | 47/334 (14.1) | 0.015 |
| RCA | 85/345 (24.6) | 105/334 (31.4) | 0.048 |
| Bypass Graft | 3/345 (0.9) | 21/334 (6.3) | <0.001 |
| Bifurcation involved | 78/345 (22.6) | 62/334 (18.6) | 0.193 |
| TIMI flow pre | | | |
| 0 | 250/338 (74) | 215/329 (65.3) | 0.015 |
| 1 | 25/338 (7.4) | 39/329 (11.9) | 0.051 |
| 2 | 30/338 (8.9) | 33/329 (10) | 0.610 |
| 3 | 33/338 (9.8) | 42/329 (12.8) | 0.220 |
| TIMI flow post | | | |
| 0 | 19/338 (5.6) | 9/329 (2.7) | 0.063 |
| 1 | 8/338 (2.4) | 5/329 (1.5) | 0.429 |
| 2 | 20/338 (5.9) | 14/329 (4.3) | 0.329 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 3 | 291/338 (86.1) | 301/329 (91.5) | 0.027 |
| Intracoronary imaging | 84/345 (24.3) | 103/334 (30.8) | 0.058 |
| IVUS | 58/345 (16.8) | 57/334 (17.1) | 0.930 |
| OCT | 26/345 (7.5) | 51/334 (15.3) | 0.001 |
| Intracoronary imaging findings: | | | |
| Underexpansion | 18/84 (21.4) | 15/103 (14.6) | 0.221 |
| Malapposition | 19/84 (22.6) | 30/103 (29.1) | 0.314 |
| Edge dissection | 24/84 (28.6) | 3/103 (2.9) | <0.001 |
| Edge disease | 1/84 (1.2) | 15/103 (14.6) | 0.001 |
| Neoatherosclerosis | 2/84 (2.4) | 55/103 (53.4) | <0.001 |
| Uncovered struts | 0/84 (0) | 2/103 (1.9) | 0.503 |
| Gap | 5/84 (6) | 4/103 (3.9) | 0.733 |
| Broken stent | 1/84 (1.2) | 1/103 (1) | 1.000 |
| GpIIb/IIIa inhibitor | 221/332 (66.6) | 159/332 (47.9) | <0.001 |
| Circulatory support | 29/340 (8.5) | 21/330 (6.4) | 0.286 |
| Thrombectomy | 147/332 (44.3) | 164/324 (50.6) | 0.104 |
| Rheolytic | 42/114 (36.8) | 33/158 (20.9) | 0.004 |
| Aspirin prescribed | 312/322 (96.9) | 321/328 (97.9) | 0.438 |
| P2Y12 Inh prescribed | | | |
| Clopidogrel | 200/322 (62.1) | 219/328 (66.8) | 0.215 |
| Ticagrelor | 41/322 (12.7) | 33/328 (10.1) | 0.284 |
| Prasugrel | 71/322 (22) | 66/328 (20.1) | 0.547 |
| Anticoagulation prescribed | 25/322 (7.8) | 18/328 (5.5) | 0.243 |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------|
| Statins prescribed | 314/321 (97.8) | 307/313 (98.1) | 0.815 |
| Treatment of ST | | | |
| Additional stent | 165/344 (48) | 235/334 (70.4) | <0.001 |
| POBA | 157/344 (45.6) | 81/334 (24.3) | <0.001 |
| CABG | 1/344 (0.3) | 5/334 (1.5) | 0.118 |
| Conservative | 21/344 (6.1) | 13/334 (3.9) | 0.187 |
| Additional stent characteristics | | | |
| Direct stenting | 32/162 (19.8) | 64/233 (27.5) | 0.079 |
| BMS | 20/164 (12.2) | 15/234 (6.4) | 0.045 |
| DES | 141/164 (86) | 219/234 (93.6) | 0.011 |
| DES + BMS | 3/164 (1.8) | 0/234 (0) | 0.069 |
| Number | 1 (1-2) | 1 (1-2) | 0.814 |
| Av. Diam (mm) | 3 (2.5-3.25) | 3 (2.75-3.5) | <0.001 |
| Length (mm) | 23.5 (14-37.5) | 28 (20-43) | 0.001 |
| Overlapping | 81/165 (49.1) | 101/235 (43) | 0.227 |
| POBA characteristics | | | |
| NC | 35/156 (22.4) | 19/79 (24.1) | 0.781 |
| Plain (No DEB) | 120/156 (76.9) | 56/79 (70.9) | 0.313 |
| Cutting | 0/156 (0) | 3/79 (3.8) | 0.037 |
| Drug-coated | 1/157 (0.6) | 2/81 (2.5) | 0.268 |

Average diameter (Av. Diam). Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). Bare Metal Stent (BMS). Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Drug-Eluting Balloon (DEB). Intravascular Ultrasound

(IVUS). Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD). Left Circumflex coronary artery (LCX). Left Main (LM). Non-Compliant (NC). Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). Plain Old Balloon Angioplasty (POBA). Right Coronary Artery (RCA). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI). Categorical data are presented as counts and percentages. Continuous data are presented as mean \pm SD or median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR25th-75th).

* P values represent early vs. late/very late ST.

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Supplementary table 3. Independent predictors of outcomes up to 60 months in patients presenting with early ST

| Early ST (0-30 days) | Hazard ratio (CI 95%) | P value |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| MACE | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 2.07 (1.30-3.31) | 0.002 |
| ST in LAD | 1.87 (1.22-2.87) | 0.004 |
| Multivessel disease | 1.65 (1.01-2.72) | 0.046 |
| TIMI flow post intervention 2-3 | 0.43 (0.24-0.77) | 0.005 |
| Cardiac death | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 2.69 (1.55-4.66) | <0.001 |
| ST in LAD | 2.16 (1.25-3.73) | 0.005 |
| Multivessel disease | 2.13 (1.14-3.97) | 0.018 |
| Age | 1.04 (1.02-1.06) | <0.001 |
| TIMI flow post intervention 2-3 | 0.32 (0.15-0.65) | 0.002 |
| MI | | |
| Multivessel ST | 4.73 (1.83-12.20) | 0.001 |
| ST in LAD | 3.15 (1.99-4.98) | 0.012 |
| Intracoronary imaging at ST | 2.24 (1.11-4.53) | 0.024 |
| TVR | | |
| Multivessel ST | 3.17 (2.20-4.58) | 0.022 |
| Intracoronary imaging at ST | 2.37 (1.29-4.37) | 0.005 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 2.03 (1.10-3.74) | 0.023 |
| ST in LAD | 2.02 (1.06-3.87) | 0.041 |

ST-TV

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Multivessel ST | 7.68 (2.33-25.31) | 0.001 |
| Intracoronary imaging at ST | 5.36 (2.07-13.89) | 0.001 |

Cardiovascular disease (CVD). Cerebrovascular Accident/Transient Ischemic Attack (CVA/TIA). Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD). Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE). Myocardial Infarction (MI). Target Vessel Revascularization (TVR). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Stent Thrombosis in Target Vessel (ST-TV). Data is presented as Hazard ratio (HR) and 95% Confidence Interval (CI).

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Supplementary table 4. Independent predictors of outcomes up to 60 months in patients presenting with late/very late ST

| Late/very late ST (>30 days) | Hazard ratio (CI 95%) | P value |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| MACE | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 3.03 (1.67-5.51) | <0.001 |
| TIMI flow post intervention 2-3 | 0.46 (0.21-0.99) | 0.047 |
| Cardiac death | | |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 10.06 (4.69-21.61) | <0.001 |
| Age | 1.06 (1.03-1.10) | <0.001 |
| MI | | |
| ST in RCA | 0.32 (0.14-0.74) | 0.007 |
| Index stent DES | 0.46 (0.22-0.94) | 0.035 |
| TVR | | |
| Peripheral vascular disease | 2.04 (1.04-4.00) | 0.038 |
| ST-TV | | |
| No predictors found | N/A | N/A |

Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE). Myocardial Infarction (MI). Right Coronary Artery (RCA). Target Vessel Revascularization (TVR). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Stent Thrombosis in Target Vessel (ST-TV). Data is presented as Hazard ratio (HR) and 95% Confidence Interval (CI).

Supplementary table 5. Independent predictors of MACE up to 60 months according to the time-point of the ST event

| Predictors of MACE | HR (CI 95%) | P value |
|--|------------------|---------|
| ST between 1996-2007 (296 patients) | | |
| ST in LAD | 1.99 (1.29-3.09) | 0.002 |
| Cardiogenic shock at ST | 1.77 (1.03-3.04) | 0.039 |
| Additional stent | 1.82 (1.16-2.86) | 0.008 |
| TIMI flow post intervention 2-3 | 0.34 (0.16-0.70) | 0.004 |
| ST between 2008-2017 (399 patients) | | |
| Cardiogenic shock | 3.22 (1.90-5.46) | <0.001 |
| Multivessel disease | 1.66 (1.03-2.68) | 0.037 |
| Age | 1.02 (1.00-1.03) | 0.015 |
| TIMI flow post intervention 2-3 | 0.47 (0.25-0.87) | 0.016 |

Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE). Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI). Data is presented as Hazard ratio (HR) and 95% Confidence Interval (CI).

Supplementary table 6. Differences between patients receiving intravascular imaging (IVUS/OCT) during the index stent thrombosis event.

| Baseline and procedural characteristics | No imaging (503) | Imaging (192) | P value* |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Age | 63.7 ± 12.1 | 60.6 ± 11.8 | 0.002 |
| Male | 373/503 (74.2) | 157/192 (81.8) | 0.035 |
| Prior MI | 265/500 (53) | 103/192 (53.6) | 0.879 |
| Prior CVA/TIA | 36/493 (7.3) | 16/192 (8.3) | 0.647 |
| Prior PVD | 47/493 (9.5) | 13/192 (6.8) | 0.251 |
| Prior CABG | 44/493 (8.9) | 10/192 (5.2) | 0.105 |
| Dyslipidemia | 300/500 (60) | 115/192 (59.9) | 0.980 |
| Hypertension | 268/500 (53.6) | 99/192 (51.6) | 0.631 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 109/501 (21.8) | 43/192 (22.4) | 0.856 |
| Current smoking | 148/457 (32.4) | 55/192 (28.6) | 0.348 |
| eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73 m² | 66/319 (20.7) | 25/138 (18.1) | 0.527 |
| Family history of CVD | 167/499 (33.5) | 81/192 (42.2) | 0.032 |
| Index stent | | | |
| BMS | 53/435 (12.2) | 23/152 (15.1) | 0.351 |
| DES | 332/435 (76.3) | 114/152 (75) | 0.743 |
| BMS + DES | 2/435 (0.5) | 2/152 (1.3) | 0.277 |
| BRS | 6/435 (1.4) | 9/152 (5.9) | 0.005 |
| BRP | 42/435 (9.7) | 4/152 (2.6) | 0.006 |
| Aspirin | 406/466 (87.1) | 170/182 (93.4) | 0.022 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| New P2Y12 inhibitor | 43/468 (9.2) | 20/182 (11) | 0.486 |
| Anticoagulation | 35/483 (7.2) | 5/189 (2.6) | 0.023 |
| Presentation | | | |
| MI | 421/487 (86.4) | 171/192 (89.1) | 0.359 |
| Unstable angina | 50/487 (10.3) | 19/192 (9.9) | 0.885 |
| Stable angina | 16/487 (3.3) | 2/192 (1) | 0.101 |
| Cardiogenic shock | 73/501 (14.6) | 9/192 (4.7) | <0.001 |
| ST timing | | | |
| Acute ST | 80/492 (16.3) | 24/187 (12.8) | 0.268 |
| Subacute ST | 181/492 (36.8) | 60/187 (32.1) | 0.253 |
| Late ST | 87/492 (17.7) | 28/187 (15) | 0.400 |
| Very late ST | 144/492 (29.3) | 75/187 (40.1) | 0.007 |
| Year of ST | | | |
| 1996-2007 | 226/503 (44.9) | 70/192 (36.5) | 0.043 |
| 2008-2017 | 277/503 (55.1) | 122/192 (63.5) | |
| Multivessel disease | 200/389 (51.4) | 57/184 (31) | <0.001 |
| Multivessel ST | 19/503 (3.8) | 4/192 (2.1) | 0.264 |
| ST location: | | | |
| LM | 8/503 (1.6) | 6/192 (3.1) | 0.198 |
| LAD | 255/503 (50.7) | 117/192 (60.9) | 0.015 |
| LCX | 94/503 (18.7) | 30/192 (15.6) | 0.346 |
| RCA | 149/503 (29.6) | 45/192 (23.4) | 0.104 |
| Bypass Graft | 22/503 (4.4) | 2/192 (1) | 0.031 |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bifurcation involved | 98/503 (19.5) | 46/192 (24) | 0.193 |
| TIMI flow pre 0-1 | 400/492 (81.3) | 140/191 (73.3) | 0.021 |
| TIMI flow post 2-3 | 454/492 (92.3) | 188/191 (98.4) | 0.002 |
| GpIIb/IIIa inhibitor | 249/488 (51) | 143/192 (74.5) | <0.001 |
| Thrombectomy | 191/481 (39.7) | 131/191 (68.6) | <0.001 |
| Aspirin prescribed | 457/474 (96.4) | 192/192 (100) | 0.008 |
| New P2Y12 inhibitor prescribed | 150/474 (31.6) | 65/192 (33.9) | 0.581 |
| Anticoagulation prescribed | 34/474 (7.2) | 9/192 (4.7) | 0.237 |
| Statins prescribed | 454/467 (97.2) | 181/181 (100) | 0.023 |
| Treatment of ST | | | |
| Additional stent | 292/502 (58.2) | 123/192 (64.1) | 0.156 |
| POBA | 186/502 (37.1) | 53/192 (27.6) | 0.019 |
| CABG | 6/502 (1.2) | 0/192 (0) | 0.195 |
| Conservative | 18/502 (3.6) | 16/192 (8.3) | 0.010 |
| Additional stent characteristics | | | |
| Direct stenting | 57/287 (19.9) | 45/123 (36.6) | <0.001 |
| BMS | 26/290 (9) | 9/123 (7.3) | 0.582 |
| DES | 263/290 (90.7) | 112/123 (91.1) | 0.906 |
| DES + BMS | 1/290 (0.3) | 2/123 (1.6) | 0.213 |
| Number | 1 (1-2) | 1 (1-2) | 0.043 |
| Av. Diam (mm) | 3 (2.75-3.50) | 3.12 (2.88-3.50) | 0.006 |
| Length (mm) | 26 (16-40) | 31 (18-43) | 0.041 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Overlapping | 133/292 (45.5) | 57/123 (46.3) | 0.882 |
| POBA characteristics | | | |
| NC | 33/184 (17.9) | 21/51 (40.4) | 0.001 |
| Plain (No DEB) | 146/184 (79.3) | 31/52 (59.6) | 0.004 |
| Cutting | 3/184 (1.6) | 0/52 (0) | 1.000 |
| Drug-coated | 3/186 (1.6) | 0/53 (0) | 1.000 |

Average diameter (Av. Diam). Bare Metal Stent (BMS). Bioresorbable scaffold (BRS). Bioresorbable polymer (BRP). Cardiovascular Disease (CVD). Cerebrovascular Accident/Transient Ischemic Attack (CVA/TIA). Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR). Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS). Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD). Left Circumflex coronary artery (LCX). Left Main (LM). Myocardial Infarction (MI). Non-Compliant (NC). Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). Plain Old Balloon Angioplasty (POBA). Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD). Right Coronary Artery (RCA). Stent Thrombosis (ST). Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI). Categorical data is presented as counts and percentages and tested by χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test when appropriate. Continuous data is presented as mean \pm SD and tested by the student's t-test or median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR_{25th}-75th) and tested by Mann-Whitney rank sum test.