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To cite this article: Rebecca Gosling, Momina Yazdani, Yasir Parviz, Ian R Hall, Ever D. Grech, Julian P Gunn, Robert F. Storey & Javaid Iqbal (2017): Comparison of P2Y₁₂ inhibitors for mortality and stent thrombosis in patients with acute coronary syndromes: Single center study of 10 793 consecutive 'real-world' patients, Platelets, DOI: [10.1080/09537104.2017.1280601](https://doi.org/10.1080/09537104.2017.1280601)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09537104.2017.1280601>



Published online: 07 Mar 2017.



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Comparison of P2Y₁₂ inhibitors for mortality and stent thrombosis in patients with acute coronary syndromes: Single center study of 10 793 consecutive 'real-world' patients

Rebecca Gosling^{1,2}, Momina Yazdani², Yasir Parviz¹, Ian R Hall¹, Ever D. Grech¹, Julian P Gunn^{1,2}, Robert F. Storey^{1,2}, & Javaid Iqbal¹

¹South Yorkshire Cardiothoracic Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, UK and ²Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Abstract

Three oral platelet P2Y₁₂ inhibitors, clopidogrel, prasugrel, and ticagrelor, are available for reducing the risk of cardiovascular death and stent thrombosis in patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS). We sought to compare the efficacy of these antiplatelet drugs in contemporary practice.

Data were collected for 10 793 consecutive ACS patients undergoing coronary angiography at Sheffield, UK (2009–2015). Since prasugrel use was mostly restricted to the STEMI subgroup, clopidogrel and ticagrelor were compared for all ACS patients, and all three agents were compared in the STEMI subgroup. Differences in outcomes were evaluated at 12 months by KM curves and log-rank test after adjustment for independent risk factors.

Of 10 793 patients with ACS (36% STEMI), 43% (4653) received clopidogrel, 11% (1223) prasugrel and 46% (4917) ticagrelor, with aspirin for all. In the overall group, ticagrelor was associated with lower all-cause mortality compared with clopidogrel (adjusted hazard ratio (adjHR) 0.82, 95% confidence intervals (CI) 0.71–0.96, $p = 0.01$). In the STEMI subgroup, both prasugrel and ticagrelor were associated with a lower mortality compared with clopidogrel (prasugrel vs. clopidogrel: adjHR 0.65, CI 0.48–0.89, $p = 0.007$; ticagrelor vs. clopidogrel: adjHR 0.70, CI 0.61–0.99, $p = 0.05$). Of the 7595 patients who underwent PCI, 78 (1.0%) had definite stent thrombosis by 12 months. Patients treated with ticagrelor had a lower incidence of definite stent thrombosis compared with clopidogrel (0.6% vs. 1.1%; adjHR 0.51, CI 0.29–0.89, $p = 0.03$). In the STEMI subgroup, there was no significant difference between the three groups (ticagrelor 1.0%, clopidogrel = 1.5%, prasugrel = 1.6%; $p = 0.29$).

In conclusion, ticagrelor was superior to clopidogrel for reduction in both mortality and stent thrombosis in unselected invasively managed ACS patients. In STEMI patients, both ticagrelor and prasugrel were associated with lower mortality compared with clopidogrel, but there was no significant difference in the incidence of stent thrombosis.

Keywords

Acute coronary syndromes, clopidogrel, percutaneous coronary intervention, prasugrel, stent thrombosis, ticagrelor

History

Received 09 December 2016

Revised 03 January 2017

Accepted 05 January 2017

Published online 6 March 2017

Introduction

Antiplatelet agents are the mainstay of treatment for patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) [1]. The majority of patients with ACS undergo coronary revascularization with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or, less frequently, coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) [2,3]. Antiplatelet therapy is vital in these patients to prevent future ischemic events and, in PCI-treated patients, stent thrombosis [4–8]. The choice of antiplatelet agents for patients with ACS, especially those with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), remains debatable. It is recommended that all these patients should receive dual

antiplatelet therapy for at least 12 months [1]. Aspirin should be continued indefinitely, and low dose (75–100 mg daily) is preferred over higher doses. Clopidogrel, a P2Y₁₂ inhibitor, was the commonly used second antiplatelet agent in the last decade. However, it is a pro-drug that requires hepatic activation by the cytochrome P450 system, and some patients produce ineffective levels of active metabolite leading to poor pharmacodynamic response or 'resistance' [9]. Consequently, newer P2Y₁₂ inhibitors, prasugrel and ticagrelor, have been developed in recent years [9]. Prasugrel therapy, compared with clopidogrel, in ACS patients undergoing PCI has significantly reduced rates of ischemic events, including stent thrombosis, but with an increased risk of bleeding and no significant effect on one-year mortality [10]. Ticagrelor, a non-thienopyridine P2Y₁₂ inhibitor, is an active drug, which, following intestinal absorption, can rapidly achieve adequate levels of platelet inhibition. The PLATO trial has shown that ticagrelor reduces one-year mortality in patients with ACS, compared with clopidogrel [11]. In PLATO, there was

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Correspondence: Professor Robert F. Storey, Cardiovascular Research Unit, Centre for Biomedical Research, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 114 2159554; Fax: +44 114 2711863; E-mail: r.f.storey@sheffield.ac.uk

no difference in CABG-related bleeding with ticagrelor compared with clopidogrel, but the relative increase in non-CABG-related bleeding, including those managed with planned invasive strategy, was similar to that seen previously with prasugrel [11,12]. However, there are very limited data on comparison of newer P2Y₁₂ inhibitors with clopidogrel in unselected ACS patients [13]. Furthermore, only one clinical trial with a modest sample size (1230 patients) has directly compared prasugrel with ticagrelor, and this has shown no difference in outcomes, although it was terminated early for futility [14], and the results of further comparative efficacy studies are awaited [15]. We aimed to investigate the effect of the introduction of prasugrel and ticagrelor on all-cause mortality and stent thrombosis in this large single-center, all-comers registry.

Methods

Study design and population

Data were collected prospectively for consecutive patients attending the cardiac catheterization laboratory of South Yorkshire Cardiothoracic Centre and undergoing coronary angiography between Jan 2009 and June 2015 for the management of ACS. This center is the only one providing a PCI and CABG service to the population in and around Sheffield, a total of 1.8 million people. For patients undergoing PCI, the procedure and adjunctive pharmacotherapy were at the discretion of the operator, but adhered to relevant local, national, and international guidelines. Consequently, there was a gradual evolution of treatment during the course of the study from use of clopidogrel as the only P2Y₁₂ inhibitor in 2009 to introduction of the option of prasugrel in 2010, predominantly for STEMI, followed by the introduction of ticagrelor as first-line therapy in February 2012, according to our previously published protocols that included the prescription of high-intensity statin therapy, angiotensin pathway inhibitors, and beta-blockers throughout the study period [16]. Of particular note, dual antiplatelet therapy for 12 months for all ACS patients was the default approach throughout the study period. After 12 months, patients were prescribed aspirin indefinitely, and so, to study the impact of dual antiplatelet therapy on clinical outcomes, follow-up was limited to 12 months. Data on adherence and switching of antiplatelet therapy were not collected and, therefore, our analysis was based on the intention to treat patients with dual antiplatelet therapy for 12 months. The groups were defined as per the antiplatelet agent prescribed on admission to the catheter laboratory. Any patient who had an event whilst in hospital resulting in a change of antiplatelet was defined as per the original antiplatelet prescribed. Intra-procedural unfractionated heparin, and not bivalirudin, was the default anticoagulation therapy, along with selective use of a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor, at the operators' discretion. All patients were treated with second-generation drug-eluting stents or bare-metal stents, at the operators' discretion. There were no exclusion criteria. There was increasing provision of a primary PCI service to the population during the course of the study, accounting for a higher proportion of patients with STEMI in the later years.

Data collection

Demographic, clinical, and angiographic data were collected prospectively. Renal failure was defined as creatinine level of >200 µmol/L and cardiogenic shock as systolic blood pressure <100 mmHg along with signs or symptoms of hypoperfusion. The outcome data were collected using the national mortality database and the hospital electronic database and patient records for South Yorkshire Cardiothoracic Centre. Other patient records were not available for this analysis, and so, we were not able to

assess non-fatal ischemic and bleeding outcomes. The Academic Research Consortium (ARC) criteria were used to define definite stent thrombosis [17], and our data were based on the assumption that survivors of stent thrombosis would present or be referred back to our catheter laboratory since this is the only PCI center for the region, and there was no change in this arrangement during the course of the data collection. The cases were adjudicated by review of the angiography films by two cardiologists independently and, in cases of difference of opinion, by a third cardiologist as a referee.

Data analysis

Data are presented as mean ± SD or as percentages (proportions) unless stated otherwise. Analysis was carried out using Student's *t*-test or one-way ANOVA for continuous variables and Chi-squared or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables. Variables with significant trend ($p \leq 0.1$) were entered in a Cox proportional hazards model to identify factors independently associated with mortality and stent thrombosis. Difference in outcomes amongst patients receiving different P2Y₁₂ inhibitors was evaluated by Kaplan-Meier survival curves and log-rank test. Clopidogrel and ticagrelor were compared for all ACS patients, and all three agents were compared in the STEMI subgroup. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 21 (IBM SPSS Inc., New York, USA) and R software version 2.13.1 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

Results

Patient characteristics

During the study period, 10 793 patients with ACS underwent coronary angiography. The mean age was 63.6 ± 12.7 years; 70% of the patients were males, and 15% had diabetes. About two-thirds (64%) of the procedures were performed for non-ST elevation acute coronary syndrome (NSTEMI-ACS), and the remaining (36%) were for STEMI. Of all ACS patients, 43% ($n = 4653$) received clopidogrel, 46% ($n = 4917$) received ticagrelor, and 11% ($n = 1223$) received prasugrel. Of the prasugrel-treated patients, 93% ($n = 1136$) had STEMI, and only 7% ($n = 87$) had NSTEMI-ACS so only the STEMI cohort was included in the analyses. ACS patients treated with clopidogrel were slightly older but less frequently had STEMI or renal failure compared to those treated with ticagrelor (Table I). This partly reflected an increasing provision of primary PCI for STEMI during the years in which prasugrel and then ticagrelor were introduced as options.

Of the 3920 (36%) of patients who underwent coronary angiography for STEMI, the mean age was 62.9 ± 12.9 ; 73% were male and 12% had diabetes. 29% ($n = 1130$) received clopidogrel, 29% ($n = 1136$) prasugrel and 42% ($n = 1654$) ticagrelor. Differences were noted in some clinical characteristics between the three groups (Table II): prasugrel-treated patients were younger and clopidogrel-treated patients older than those treated with ticagrelor; prior history of stroke/TIA was more common in clopidogrel-treated patients; and cardiogenic shock was more common in ticagrelor-treated patients.

All-cause mortality at one year

Of the 10 793 patients with ACS, 787 (7.3%) died within one year. The use of ticagrelor was associated with significantly lower all-cause mortality at one-year compared with clopidogrel (Figure 1A). The use of clopidogrel was an independent risk factor for mortality in multiple regression analysis (Table III). After adjustment for the independent risk factors, there was still lower mortality in patients treated with ticagrelor (Figure 1B).

Table I. Clinical characteristics of all ACS patients stratified by antiplatelet.

Characteristic	Clopidogrel N = 4653	Ticagrelor N = 4917	p
Age (years)	64.4 (±12.9)	63.5 (±12.7)	<0.001
Male	3166 (68%)	3466 (70%)	0.009
STEMI	1130 (24%)	1654 (34%)	<0.001
Renal impairment	45 (1%)	107 (2%)	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus	687 (15%)	798 (16%)	0.05
Previous stroke/TIA	143 (3%)	144 (3%)	0.68
Previous PCI	320 (7%)	359 (7%)	0.42
Previous CABG	149 (3%)	141 (3%)	0.34
GP IIb/IIIa inhibitor	581 (12%)	634 (13%)	0.55
LMS >50%	340 (7.3%)	226 (4.6%)	<0.001
Hypertension	1882 (40%)	2140 (44%)	0.002
Dyslipidemia (treated)	2144 (46%)	1903 (39%)	<0.001
Three-vessel disease	1002 (22%)	745 (15%)	<0.001
PCI	2880 (62%)	3353 (68%)	<0.001
No. of vessels attempted	1.2 ± 0.48	1.2 ± 0.47	0.801
No. of stents used	1.59 ± 0.92	1.47 ± 0.87	<0.001
Referred for CABG	458 (10%)	292 (6.2%)	<0.001

STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction; TIA: transient ischemic attack; PCI: percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG: coronary artery bypass graft surgery; GP: glycoprotein; LMS: Left main stem.

Of the 3920 patients with STEMI, 340 (8.7%) died within one year. The use of prasugrel and ticagrelor (vs. clopidogrel) was associated with significantly lower all-cause mortality at 1 year (Figure 1C). After adjustment for independent risk factors, there was still lower mortality in patients treated with prasugrel and ticagrelor compared with clopidogrel (Figure 1D).

Incidence of definite stent thrombosis

Out of all ACS patients, 7595 (70%) were treated with PCI. Out of these patients, 2880 (38%) patients received clopidogrel and 3493 (46%) ticagrelor. The remaining 1222 (16%) received prasugrel.

Amongst PCI-treated ACS patients, 78 (1.0%) developed definite stent thrombosis within 12 months. Of these, 24 (31%) were

acute (<24 hours), 32 (41%) subacute (1–30 days) and 22 (28%) late (31–365 days). Half of the stent thrombosis events in patients treated with prasugrel or ticagrelor were acute, whereas about one-quarter of these events were acute in clopidogrel-treated patients (Table IV).

The use of ticagrelor was associated with a lower incidence of definite stent thrombosis at one year compared with clopidogrel (Figure 2A). Clopidogrel was an independent risk factor for definite stent thrombosis in multiple regression analysis (Table V). After adjustment for independent risk factors, there was still lower risk of stent thrombosis in ticagrelor-treated patients (Figure 2B).

Of the 3881 patients undergoing PCI for STEMI, 51 (1.3%) developed stent thrombosis within 12 months. There was no significant difference in the incidence of stent thrombosis between clopidogrel-, prasugrel-, and ticagrelor-treated patients in unadjusted (Figure 2C) or adjusted analysis (Figure 2D).

Discussion

In this ‘real-world’ registry of 10 793 patients with ACS, we found that ticagrelor was associated with a reduction in mortality compared with clopidogrel in invasively managed ACS patients, including after we had adjusted for differences in baseline characteristics that were attributable to increasing provision of primary PCI for STEMI during the study period and contraindications to the use of ticagrelor or prasugrel. Additionally, both ticagrelor and prasugrel were associated with a reduction in mortality compared to clopidogrel in the STEMI cohort. In all ACS patients, ticagrelor was also associated with lower rates of stent thrombosis compared to clopidogrel; however, there was no significant difference in the STEMI subgroup.

Dual antiplatelet therapy in the form of aspirin and a P2Y₁₂ inhibitor decreases the risks of myocardial infarction, recurrent ischemia, and cardiovascular death in a broad spectrum of ACS patients and reduces the risk of stent thrombosis and its sequelae in PCI-treated patients [18,19]. The original dual antiplatelet regimen consisted of aspirin plus ticlopidine, which showed superiority to aspirin alone or aspirin plus warfarin [20,21]. Ticlopidine fell out of favor due to haematological side effects and was replaced by the safer and equally effective alternative of

Table II. Clinical characteristics of ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients according to antiplatelet therapy.

Characteristic	Clopidogrel N = 1130	Prasugrel N = 1136	Ticagrelor N = 1654	p
Age (years)	65.2 ± 13.7	60.8 ± 11.7	62.8 ± 12.9	<0.001
Male	804 (71%)	870 (77%)	1189 (72%)	0.005
Renal impairment	12 (1%)	7 (1%)	23 (1%)	0.144
Diabetes mellitus	141 (13%)	121 (11%)	216 (13%)	0.147
Hypertension	413 (37%)	388 (34%)	593 (36%)	0.477
Dyslipidemia	444 (39%)	419 (37%)	470 (29%)	<0.001
Previous stroke/TIA	57 (5%)	32 (2.8%)	40 (2%)	<0.001
Previous PCI	76 (7%)	78 (7%)	139 (8%)	0.172
Previous CABG	19 (2%)	16 (1%)	24 (1%)	0.805
Cardiogenic shock	23 (2%)	18 (2%)	64 (4%)	<0.001
GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors	391 (35%)	364 (32%)	529 (32%)	0.299
LMS >50%	61 (5.4%)	31 (2.7%)	53 (3.2%)	0.001
Three-vessel disease	234 (21%)	181 (16%)	208 (13%)	<0.001
PCI	1130 (100%)	1135 (100%)	1616 (98%)	<0.001
No. of vessels attempted	1.12 ± 0.39	1.10 ± 0.35	1.09 ± 0.39	0.139
No. of stents used	1.54 ± 0.81	1.50 ± 0.82	1.35 ± 0.77	<0.001
Referred for CABG	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (0.4%)	<0.001

TIA: transient ischemic attack; PCI: percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG: coronary artery bypass graft surgery; LMS: Left main stem; GP: Glycoprotein.

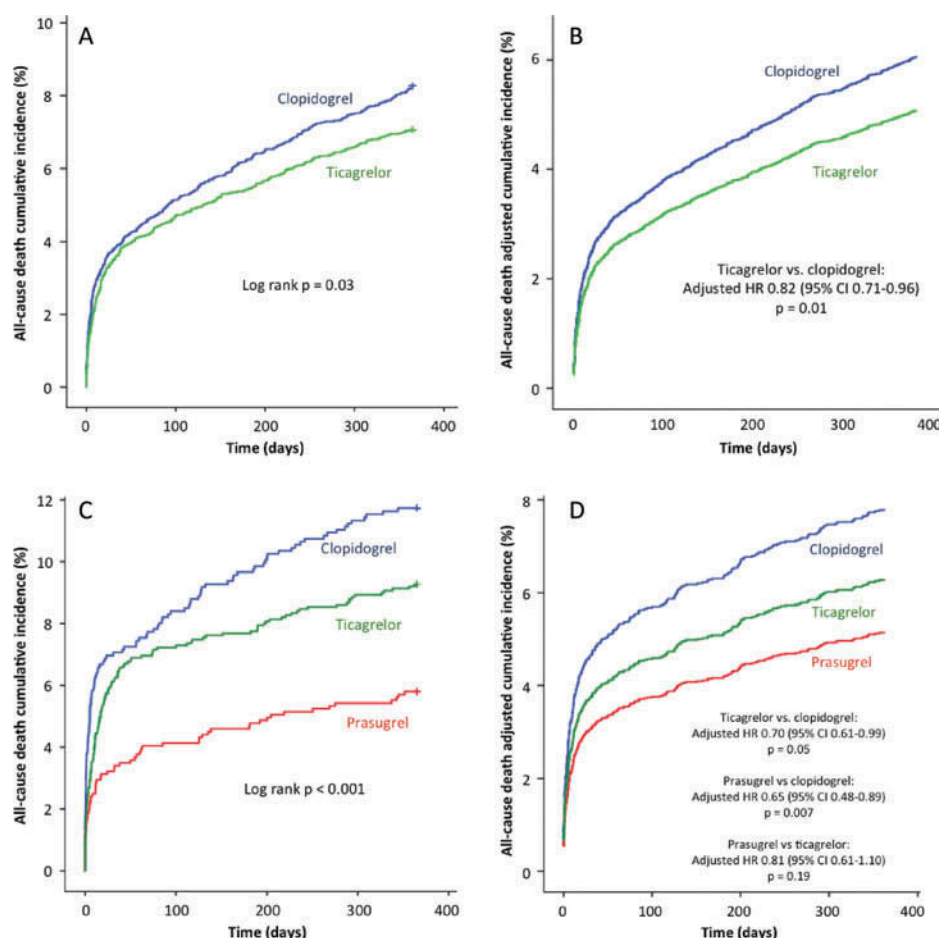


Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of all-cause mortality over 1 year showing (A) unadjusted rates in all ACS patients treated with either clopidogrel or ticagrelor, (B) adjusted rates in all ACS patients treated with either clopidogrel or ticagrelor, (C) unadjusted rates in STEMI patients treated with clopidogrel, prasugrel, or ticagrelor, and (D) adjusted rates in STEMI patients treated with clopidogrel, prasugrel, or ticagrelor. HR: hazard ratio; CI: confidence intervals.

Table III. Independent predictors of mortality in all acute coronary syndrome patients.

Variable	HR	95% CI	p
Cardiogenic shock	7.006	5.247–9.353	<0.001
Renal impairment	3.048	2.199–4.226	<0.001
Emergency procedure	2.396	1.959–2.929	<0.001
LMS disease	1.693	1.350–2.124	<0.001
Three-vessel disease	1.358	1.054–1.750	0.02
Clopidogrel	1.188	1.020–1.382	0.03
Age (years)	1.057	1.050–1.064	<0.001
STEMI	0.805	0.649–0.999	0.05
Dyslipidemia (treated)	0.796	0.681–0.932	0.004

LMS: left main stem; STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

clopidogrel [18,22]. However, more contemporary concerns of resistance and drug–drug interactions with clopidogrel have led to the development of the newer oral P2Y₁₂ antagonists, prasugrel and ticagrelor [23,24]. Prasugrel is a pro-drug metabolized to its active form by CYP3A4 and CYP2B6 with a more rapid onset and higher mean level of platelet inhibition compared to clopidogrel. Patients with ACS undergoing PCI and treated with dual antiplatelet including prasugrel had lower rates of myocardial infarction, urgent target-vessel revascularization, and stent thrombosis as compared to dual antiplatelet therapy with clopidogrel at 15-months follow-up of their index PCI in TRITON-TIMI-38 [10]. This benefit was mostly related to a reduction in the rates

Table IV. Incidence and timing of definite stent thrombosis according to antiplatelet therapy

	Clopidogrel	Prasugrel	Ticagrelor	p Value
<i>All PCI-treated ACS patients, n</i>	2880	–	3353	
Definite ST, n (%)	33 (1.1%)	–	21 (0.6%)	0.02
Acute (% of total)	11 (33%)	–	6 (29%)	
Subacute (% of total)	15 (45%)	–	5 (24%)	
Late (% of total)	7 (21%)	–	10 (48%)	
<i>All PCI-treated STEMI patients, n</i>	1130	1136	1654	
Definite ST, n (%)	17 (1.5%)	18 (1.6%)	16 (1%)	0.29
Acute (% of total)	6 (26%)	11 (61%)	6 (38%)	
Subacute (% of total)	7 (48%)	5 (28%)	4 (25%)	
Late (% of total)	4 (26%)	2 (11%)	6 (38%)	

PCI: percutaneous coronary intervention; ACS: acute coronary syndromes; ST: stent thrombosis; STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

of non-fatal myocardial infarction (7.4% with prasugrel vs. 9.7% with clopidogrel; HR 0.76; 95% CI 0.67 to 0.85; $p < 0.001$) and lower rates of stent thrombosis (1.1% vs. 2.4%; $p < 0.001$). Ticagrelor is a direct-acting, reversibly binding agent with similarly rapid onset of action compared to clopidogrel and requires twice-daily administration. In the PLATO study, amongst patients

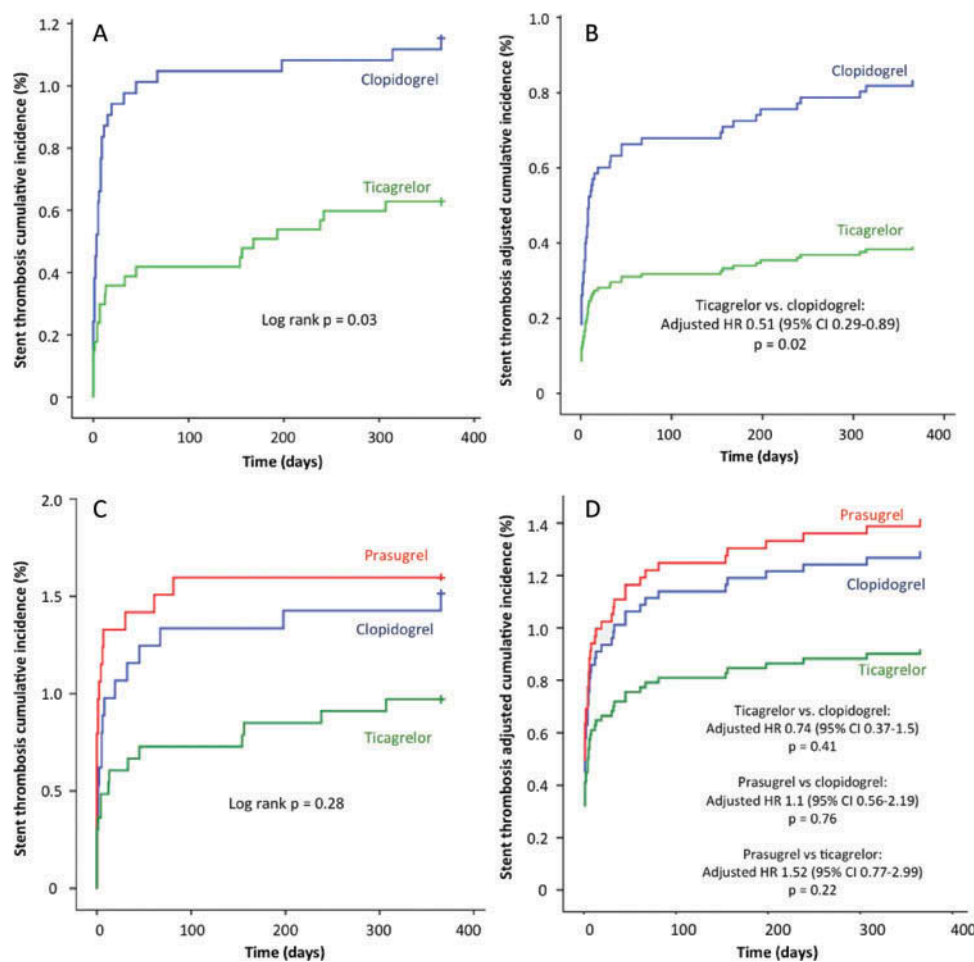


Figure 2. Cumulative incidence of definite stent thrombosis over 1 year showing (A) unadjusted rates in all ACS patients treated with either clopidogrel or ticagrelor, (B) adjusted rates in all ACS patients treated with either clopidogrel or ticagrelor, (C) unadjusted rates in STEMI patients treated with clopidogrel, prasugrel, or ticagrelor, and (D) adjusted rates in STEMI patients treated with clopidogrel, prasugrel, or ticagrelor. HR: hazard ratio; CI: confidence intervals.

Table V. Independent predictors of definite stent thrombosis within 12 months.

Variable	HR	95% CI	<i>p</i>
STEMI	2.232	1.286–3.872	0.004
Diabetes	2.191	1.189–4.037	0.01
Clopidogrel	2.057	1.187–3.565	0.01
Age	0.967	0.947–0.987	0.001

STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

with ACS treated with or without an invasive strategy, there was a reduction in the composite endpoint of death from vascular causes, myocardial infarction, or stroke when ticagrelor was included in the dual antiplatelet therapy regimen as compared to clopidogrel (9.8% for ticagrelor vs. 11.7% with clopidogrel; HR 0.84; 95% CI 0.77 to 0.92; $p < 0.001$) [11]. Ticagrelor also significantly reduced the rate of stent thrombosis [25]. A recent meta-analysis of the randomized trials has also shown the beneficial effect of new P2Y₁₂ inhibitors over clopidogrel [26]. The SWEDEHEART registry confirmed the benefit of ticagrelor (vs. clopidogrel) in a real-world registry of 45,073 patients albeit with a higher bleeding rate [13]. Our data from a large all-comers population have further confirmed the benefit of ticagrelor in all ACS patients on both mortality and stent thrombosis that was seen in the clinical trials and recent registry.

Both prasugrel and ticagrelor were associated with reduced mortality compared to clopidogrel in patients with STEMI; however, there was no significant difference between the two newer agents (Figures 1D and 2D). For patients with NSTEMI-ACS, ticagrelor is recommended in preference to clopidogrel regardless of treatment strategy [1]. In the PLATO trial, ticagrelor was superior to clopidogrel for patients with NSTEMI-ACS whether treated medically or with revascularization [27,28]. Whereas the TRITON-TIMI 38 trial showed benefits of prasugrel compared to clopidogrel in patients with NSTEMI-ACS treated with PCI, the TRILOGY ACS trial found no benefit with prasugrel compared to clopidogrel in patients with medically treated ACS [29]. Consequently, prasugrel is only recommended for NSTEMI-ACS managed with PCI. For patients with STEMI managed with primary PCI, both prasugrel and ticagrelor are recommended in preference to clopidogrel for patients without contraindications [3,30]. Studies of platelet reactivity in STEMI patients have shown similar onsets of action of prasugrel and ticagrelor loading doses, with evidence of both being delayed in some of these patients, at least partly due to morphine treatment [31–34]. We found no significant difference in stent thrombosis rates in the STEMI group with the newer P2Y₁₂ inhibitors (prasugrel and ticagrelor) compared to clopidogrel. Furthermore, a higher proportion of the stent thrombosis seen in STEMI occurred acutely (<24 hours) (STEMI 45%, all ACS 31%). This may in part be explained by the increased administration of morphine in these patients. There may potentially be a role of intravenous P2Y₁₂ inhibitors in these patients [35,36].

Our results are also consistent with the PRAGUE-18 study [14], where 1230 patients undergoing primary PCI for ACS were randomly assigned to prasugrel or ticagrelor. There was no significant difference in the primary outcome comprising death, re-infarction, urgent target vessel revascularization, stroke, or serious bleeding observed at 30 days. Currently, most centers are using one or other newer P2Y₁₂ inhibitor for patients with STEMI treated with primary PCI; however, it may be appropriate to have both drugs available and use one or the other based on clinical profile of individual patients and relative contraindications or side effects of these drugs. Prasugrel is generally not recommended in older (>75 years) patients and is contraindicated in those with a history of stroke, whereas ticagrelor may be avoided in patients with sinoatrial node dysfunction untreated with permanent pacemaker or with intolerable dyspnoea related to ticagrelor.

Study limitations

This is an observational study, with the data derived from a prospectively compiled registry. Data for bleeding complications, myocardial infarction, or stroke were not available, and we relied on referral of survivors of stent thrombosis back to our PCI center for recording of this complication. In addition, some aspects of the data were unconfirmed; for example, we did not evaluate patients' adherence to their antiplatelet treatment, and our results are based on antiplatelet prescription at index admission. Rates of stent thrombosis in the STEMI subgroup were low making interpretation difficult. Because of the nature of the registry, we did not include ACS patients who did not undergo coronary angiography, and so, our results only provide data on ACS patients who are managed invasively.

Conclusion

Ticagrelor is associated with improved survival and a reduction in stent thrombosis compared with clopidogrel in invasively managed ACS patients. Both ticagrelor and prasugrel are associated with reduced mortality in the STEMI cohort compared with clopidogrel, but no significant difference in stent thrombosis was seen in this group. Further, head-to-head comparison of prasugrel and ticagrelor for STEMI patients is warranted in an adequately powered clinical trial.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to all the interventional cardiologists at South Yorkshire Cardiothoracic Centre. We would also like to thank Louisa Alcock for help with data extraction.

Declaration of interest

RF Storey reports research grants, consultancy fees, and honoraria from AstraZeneca; research grants and consultancy fees from PlaqueTec; and consultancy fees from Aspen, Bayer, ThermoFisher Scientific, Bristol-Myers Squibb/Pfizer alliance, and The Medicines Company. The other authors report no conflicts of interest.

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