Impact of Diabetes on Long-Term Outcome After Primary Angioplasty

Insights from the DESERT cooperation

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OBJECTIVE—Diabetes has been shown to be associated with worse survival and repeat target vessel revascularization (TVR) after primary angioplasty. The aim of the current study was to evaluate the impact of diabetes on long-term outcome in patients undergoing primary angioplasty treated with bare metal stents (BMS) and drug-eluting stents (DES).

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS—Our population is represented by 6,298 ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients undergoing primary angioplasty included in the DESERT database from 11 randomized trials comparing DES with BMS.

RESULTS—Diabetes was observed in 972 patients (15.4%) who were older (P < 0.001), more likely to be female (P < 0.001), with higher prevalence of hypertension (P < 0.001), hypercholesterolemia (P < 0.001), and longer ischemia time (P < 0.001), and without any difference in angiographic and procedural characteristics. At long-term follow-up (1,201 ± 441 days), diabetes was associated with higher rates of death (19.1% vs 7.4%; P = 0.001), reinfarction (10.4% vs 7.5%; P < 0.001), stent thrombosis (7.6% vs 4.8%; P = 0.002) with similar temporal distribution—acute, subacute, late, and very late—between diabetes and control patients, and TVR (18.6% vs 15.1%; P = 0.006). These results were confirmed in patients receiving BMS or DES, except for TVR, there being no difference observed between diabetic and non diabetic patients treated with DES. The impact of diabetes on outcome was confirmed after correction for baseline confounding factors (mortality, P < 0.001; repeat myocardial infarction, P = 0.006; stent thrombosis, P = 0.007; TVR, P = 0.027).

CONCLUSIONS—This study shows that among STEMI patients undergoing primary angioplasty, diabetes is associated with worse long-term mortality, reinfarction, and stent thrombosis in patients receiving DES and BMS. DES implantation, however, does mitigate the known detrimental effect of diabetes on TVR after BMS.

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was performed for stent thrombosis events that were divided into four groups: acute (within 24 h); subacute (between 24 h and 30 days); late (between 1 and 12 months); and very late (later than 12 months of follow-up).

**Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis was performed with the SPSS 15.0 statistical package. Continuous data were expressed as mean ± SD and categorical data as percentage. The ANOVA was appropriately used for continuous variables. The χ² test or the Fisher exact test was used for categorical variables. The differences in event rates between groups during the follow-up period were assessed by the Kaplan-Meier method using the log-rank test. Cox proportional hazard method analysis was used to calculate relative risks adjusted for different baseline clinical and angiographic characteristics that were all entered in block.

**RESULTS**

**Patient population**

Our population is represented by 6,298 STEMI patients. Diabetes was observed in 972 (15.4%) patients. As shown in Table 1, patients with diabetes were older (63 ± 11.4 vs 60.2 ± 12 years; P < 0.001), more likely to be female (71.6% vs 77.6%; P < 0.001), and more likely to have hypertension (61% vs 40.5%; P < 0.001), hypercholesterolemia (53.6% vs 34.6%; P < 0.001), and longer ischemia time (358 ± 258 vs 264 ± 199 min; P < 0.001). No difference was observed in terms of angiographic and procedural characteristics. Almost 50% of patients underwent PCI of left anterior descending artery. Glycoprotein IIb-IIIa inhibitors were equally administered in both groups (71.9% vs 69.9%), as much as statin therapy at discharge (96.5% vs 95.1%).

As reported in Table 1, diabetic patients were less often using clopidogrel at follow-up.

**Diabetes and long-term outcome**

Follow-up data were available at a mean of 1,201 ± 441 days. At long-term follow-up, diabetes was associated with a significantly higher rate of death (19.1% vs 7.4%; hazard ratio [HR], 2.38; 95% CI, 1.97–2.93; P < 0.0001) (Fig. 1) and reinfarction (10.4% vs 7.5%; HR, 1.58[1.23–2.04]; P < 0.001) (Fig. 1), stent thrombosis (7.6% vs 4.8%; 1.57[1.17–2.11]; P = 0.002) (Fig. 2), with similar temporal distribution (acute, subacute, late, and very late) between diabetes and control patients (Fig. 3) and TVR (18.6% vs 15.1%; 1.28[1.07–1.52]; P = 0.006) (Fig. 2). These results were confirmed in patients receiving BMS or DES, except for TVR, in which no difference was observed between diabetic and nondiabetic patients treated with DES (Fig. 2).

The impact of diabetes on outcome was confirmed after correction for baseline confounding factors (age, gender, hypertension hypercholesterolemia, ischemia time) (mortality: HR, 1.76; 95% CI, 1.35–2.29; P < 0.001; reinfarction: 1.48[1.12–1.97]; P = 0.006; stent thrombosis: 1.5[1.12–2.02]; P = 0.007; TVR: 1.22[1.02–1.46]; P = 0.027).

The main finding of the current study was that diabetes was associated with a significantly higher mortality, reinfarction, TVR, and stent thrombosis. These results were similarly observed among patients treated with BMS or DES, except for TVR, in which no difference was observed among patients treated with DES.

Several studies have demonstrated that hyperglycemia at admission, even independently from the presence of diabetes (stress hyperglycemia), is associated with larger infarct size and higher mortality in patients with STEMI (24–28). In fact, several in vitro and in vivo experiments have shown that hyperglycemia is involved in the reperfusion injury (29–34). Acute hyperglycemia increases intercellular adhesion molecule-1 levels (29), which could augment plugging of leukocytes in the capillaries (30). Hyperglycemia also may augment thrombus formation. Blood glucose has been demonstrated to be an independent predictor of platelet-dependent thrombosis.
even in the normal range (31). A recent study suggested that a microthrombus in the capillaries play a crucial role in the no-reflow phenomenon after STEMI (32).

In a recent report, De Luca et al. (7) found that among patients treated with glycoprotein IIb-IIIa inhibitors, diabetes was associated with higher occurrences of distal embolization and impaired myocardial reperfusion and higher mortality. However, diabetes is associated with a significantly higher rates of restenosis (13,14). In a previous report, De Luca et al. (35) found that BMS did not provide significant benefits in outcome compared with balloon angioplasty in unselected diabetic patients undergoing primary angioplasty. The recent introduction of DES certainly has reduced the risk of restenosis, which may be counterbalanced by a higher rate of late in-stent thrombosis, especially among STEMI. Few data have been reported regarding diabetic patients with STEMI in the era of DES. A recent individual patient data meta-analysis showed that among STEMI diabetic patients undergoing primary angioplasty, the use of DES was safe and associated with a significant reduction in TVR at 1-year follow-up. However, a late catch-up phenomenon in terms of restenosis has been described with a potential risk of late in-stent thrombosis. A subanalysis of the PASEO trial showed that at 5-year follow-up, diabetes was associated with a significantly worse outcome with both DES and BMS (36,37). However, diabetes did not affect the long-term occurrence of TVR among patients treated with DES. This is first large report on the impact of diabetes on long-term outcome of STEMI patients undergoing primary angioplasty with BMS or DES. We found that diabetes was associated with significantly higher mortality, reinfarction, and in-stent thrombosis, irrespective of DES or BMS. However, although diabetes was associated with a significantly higher rate of TVR among patients treated with DES, it did increase TVR among patients treated with DES. A similar temporal distribution was observed in terms of stent thrombosis between diabetic and control patients with both BMS and DES.

**Figure 1**—Kaplan-Meier survival curves show the impact of diabetes on survival (left graphs) and reinfarction (right graphs) in the overall population (A), in patients with BMS (B), and in patients with DES (C).
Limitations
Our patients were enrolled in randomized trials, and few patients had cardiogenic shock. Thus, the conclusion of this meta-analysis cannot be extended to all patients undergoing primary PCI for STEMI. The results of the current analysis apply only to sirolimus-eluting stent and paclitaxel-eluting stent because substantial randomized studies in STEMI have not yet been performed with newer DES. Admission glucose and HbA1c levels that have been shown as major determinants of outcome in STEMI patients were not routinely collected. Data regarding the duration of diabetes and the therapeutic regimen were not available, and the type of diabetes was not uniformly defined among studies (IDDM/NIDDM in some or any insulin-requiring diabetes in some others). Therefore, the prognostic impact of such variables could not be analyzed. Finally, the levels of LDL, triglyceride, and BMI were not collected in our database. Their availability certainly would have improved our results.

CONCLUSIONS—This study shows that among STEMI patients undergoing primary angioplasty, diabetes is associated with worse long-term mortality, reinfarction, and in-stent thrombosis, even with DES implantation, which was able to overcome the known deleterious effect of diabetes on TVR. Diabetes did not impact on the temporal distribution of stent thrombosis events with BMS and DES.

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Figure 3—Bar graphs show time distribution of stent thrombosis in overall population. BMS Kaplan-Meier survival curves show the impact of diabetes on event-free survival from stent thrombosis in overall population (A), in patients with BMS (B), and in patients with DES (C).


