

Bleeding and stent thrombosis on P2Y₁₂-inhibitors: collaborative analysis on the role of platelet reactivity for risk stratification after percutaneous coronary intervention

Dániel Aradi^{1*}, Ajay Kirtane^{2†}, Laurent Bonello^{3†}, Paul A. Gurbel⁴, Udaya S. Tantry⁴, Kurt Huber⁵, Matthias K. Freynhofer⁵, Jurrien ten Berg⁶, Paul Janssen⁶, Dominick J. Angiolillo⁷, Jolanta M. Siller-Matula⁸, Rossella Marcucci⁹, Giuseppe Patti¹⁰, Fabio Mangiacapra¹⁰, Marco Valgimigli¹¹, Olivier Morel¹², Tullio Palmerini¹³, Matthew J. Price¹⁴, Thomas Cuisset¹⁵, Adnan Kastrati^{16,17,18}, Gregg W. Stone^{2‡}, and Dirk Sibbing^{18,19‡}

¹Department of Cardiology, Heart Center Balatonfüred and Semmelweis University, Heart and Vascular Center, 2 Gyogy Ter Balatonfüred, Budapest 8230, Hungary; ²Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital and the Cardiovascular Research Foundation, New York, NY, USA; ³Département de Cardiologie, Hôpital Universitaire Nord, Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France; ⁴Sinai Center for Thrombosis Research, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, USA; ⁵3rd Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Emergency Medicine, Wilhelminen Hospital, Vienna, Austria; ⁶Department of Cardiology, St. Antonius Hospital, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; ⁷Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, FL, USA; ⁸Department of Cardiology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; ⁹Department of Medical and Surgical Critical Care, University of Florence, Florence, Italy; ¹⁰Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome, Rome, Italy; ¹¹Thoraxcenter, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; ¹²Pôle d'activité médico-chirurgicale Cardiovasculaire, Nouvel Hôpital Civil, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France; ¹³Cardiovascular Department, Policlinico S. Orsola, Bologna, Italy; ¹⁴Scripps Clinic and Scripps Translational Science Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA; ¹⁵Département de Cardiologie, CHU Timone, Marseille F-13385, France; ¹⁶Department of Cardiology, Deutsches Herzzentrum München, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany; ¹⁷Medizinische Klinik, Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany; ¹⁸DZHK (German Center for Cardiovascular Research), Partner Site Munich Heart Alliance, Munich, Germany; and ¹⁹Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik I, Klinikum der Universität München, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany

Received 1 November 2014; revised 1 February 2015; accepted 16 March 2015; online publish-ahead-of-print 20 April 2015

See page 1714 for the editorial comment on this article (doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehv137)

Aims

Although platelet reactivity during P2Y₁₂-inhibitors is associated with stent thrombosis (ST) and bleeding, standardized and clinically validated thresholds for accurate risk stratification after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) are lacking. We sought to determine the prognostic value of low platelet reactivity (LPR), optimal platelet reactivity (OPR), or high platelet reactivity (HPR) by applying uniform cut-off values for standardized devices.

Methods and results

Authors of studies published before January 2015, reporting associations between platelet reactivity, ST, and major bleeding were contacted for a collaborative analysis using consensus-defined, uniform cut-offs for standardized platelet function assays. Based on best available evidence for each device (exploratory studies), LPR–OPR–HPR categories were defined as <95, 95–208, and >208 PRU for VerifyNow, <19, 19–46, and >46 U for the Multiplate analyser and <16, 16–50, and >50% for VASP assay. Seventeen studies including 20 839 patients were used for the analysis; 97% were treated with clopidogrel and 3% with prasugrel. Patients with HPR had significantly higher risk for ST [risk ratio (RR) and 95% CI: 2.73 (2.03–3.69), $P < 0.00001$], yet a slight reduction in bleeding [RR: 0.84 (0.71–0.99), $P = 0.04$] compared with those with OPR. In contrast, patients with LPR had a higher risk for bleeding [RR: 1.74 (1.47–2.06), $P < 0.00001$], without any further benefit in ST [RR: 1.06 (0.68–1.65), $P = 0.78$] in contrast to OPR. Mortality was significantly higher in patients with HPR compared with other categories ($P < 0.05$). Validation cohorts ($n = 14$) confirmed all results of exploratory studies ($n = 3$).

* Corresponding author. Tel: +36 302355639, Fax: +36 87584588, Email: daniel_aradi@yahoo.com

† These authors contributed equally.

‡ These senior authors contributed equally.

Conclusions

Platelet reactivity assessment during thienopyridine-type P2Y₁₂-inhibitors identifies PCI-treated patients at higher risk for mortality and ST (HPR) or at an elevated risk for bleeding (LPR).

Keywords

P2Y₁₂-inhibitors • Platelet reactivity • Stent thrombosis, Bleeding

Introduction

Dual antiplatelet treatment (DAPT) consisting of aspirin and a P2Y₁₂-inhibitor is recommended in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary interventions (PCIs) to prevent thrombotic complications.¹ However, adjunctive administration of all currently available P2Y₁₂-inhibitors has been associated with an increased risk for bleeding.^{2–4} Since both ischaemic and bleeding events are important correlates of overall patient survival, attempts minimizing both complications in PCI-treated patients are highly warranted.⁵ Monitoring platelet reactivity during P2Y₁₂-inhibitors was hoped to help prevent bleeding and/or stent thrombosis (ST) as numerous prior studies have linked high platelet reactivity (HPR) to a greater risk for ischaemic complications, while low platelet reactivity (LPR) has been associated with greater bleeding events.^{6,7} However, the published cut-offs for HPR and LPR are highly heterogeneous, usually non-validated outside of the exploratory studies, leading to controversies on the prognostic relevance of platelet function testing in patients undergoing PCI. Such methodical uncertainties might be—in part—the reasons for failures of two randomized studies^{8,9} evaluating the impact of platelet function testing guidance of antiplatelet therapy.

In the setting of a collaborative analysis, we sought to analyse the data from a large number of published studies to determine the prognostic impact of platelet reactivity, classified as low (LPR), optimal (OPR), or high (HPR) by applying standard cut-off criteria in patients treated with P2Y₁₂-inhibitors.

Methods

Study selection and literature search

For this collaborative analysis, we identified published studies reporting the rates of major (or clinically relevant) bleeding, mortality, and ST according to different levels of platelet reactivity in PCI-treated patients. In line with the recommendations of two prior consensus papers, only studies using standardized platelet function assays, such as the VerifyNow P2Y₁₂ assay, the Multiplate analyser with ADP test, or the VASP assay, were included.^{6,7} We conducted a PubMed database search for published articles until January 2015 using the following pre-defined search terms alone or in combination: platelet reactivity, clopidogrel, ticagrelor, prasugrel, VerifyNow, Multiplate, VASP, ST, and bleeding. Abstracts from major scientific meetings and reference lists of published reviews were also checked to identify relevant studies. Authors of selected studies were contacted for collaboration, and after a positive response, original data were provided by responsible authors for all analyses (Figure 1).

Eligibility criteria and data extraction

We restricted our analysis to studies that met all of the following inclusion criteria: (i) patients with stable or acute coronary artery disease undergoing PCI with an assessment of platelet reactivity during or in close

proximity (≤ 30 days) to the performed intervention; (ii) patients receiving aspirin and a P2Y₁₂-receptor inhibitor for PCI; (iii) assessment of platelet function with the VerifyNow, Multiplate analyser, or VASP assay; and (iv) reporting clinical outcomes in relation to platelet reactivity findings including ST, major or clinically relevant bleeding, and mortality. Exclusion criteria included application of less widely available or non-standardized assays for platelet function testing (e.g. light transmission aggregometry), studies using other types of antiplatelet agents (e.g. cilostazol, vorapaxar). In addition, studies primarily conducted in non-Western patients were also excluded due to the hypothesized differences in the pharmacodynamic response to P2Y₁₂-inhibitors across races, also referred to as the 'East-Asian paradox'.¹⁰ The authors agreed that the cut-offs identified by exploratory studies (defined below) might not be applicable to the non-Western population given the low number of such ancestry in these cohorts. In studies where parallel results with different platelet function assays were presented in the same cohort, the assay with the largest numbers of tested individuals was used for the analysis to prevent over-representation of the studies in the analysis.

Platelet reactivity assessment and cut-off values

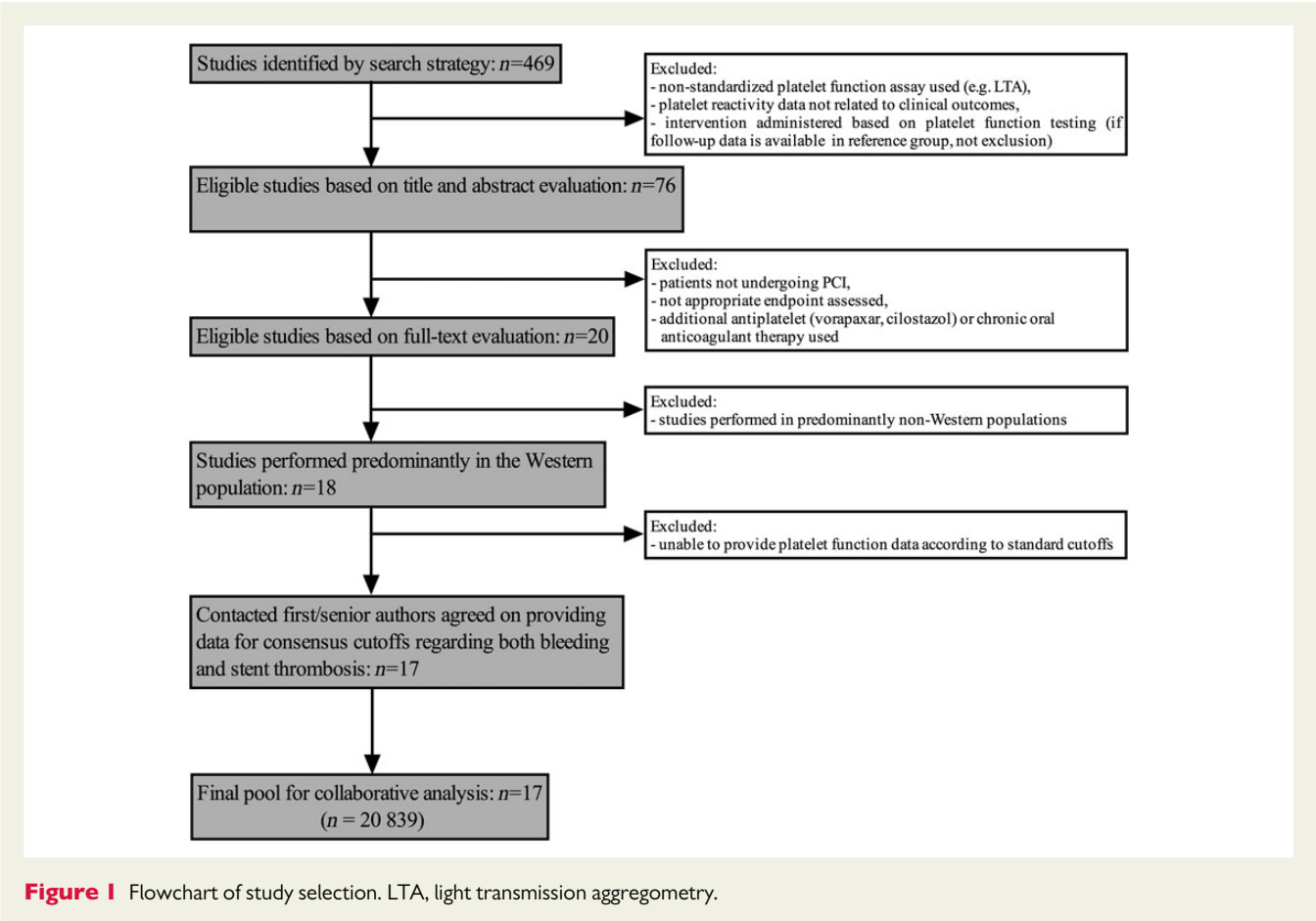
To test the prognostic relevance of platelet reactivity classified as low (LPR), optimal (OPR), or high (HPR), we used the best available evidence to identify cut-off values for the included platelet function assays. The chosen cut-off values were in line with recent recommendations of two expert opinion papers,^{6,7} except for the LPR cut-off of the VerifyNow assay which was based on results of the large ADAPT-DES registry that was not available at the time of the consensus papers.¹¹ Therefore, the selected cut-off values for LPR, OPR, and HPR categories were <95 , $95–208$, and >208 PRU for VerifyNow,^{11,12} <19 , $19–46$, and >46 U for the Multiplate analyser,^{13,14} and <16 , $16–50$, and $>50\%$ for VASP¹⁵ assays, respectively.

Clinical endpoint definitions and subgroups

Definite or probable ST was defined according to the Academic Research Consortium (ARC) criteria. Clinically relevant major bleeding complications were recorded with the definition used in each study. Accepted bleeding scales included TIMI major, BARC type ≥ 2 , and ADAPT-defined clinically relevant bleeding. When rates of major bleeding were not available, the combined rate of major and minor events was used in the analysis. All-cause mortality was used if available; otherwise cardiovascular mortality was substituted. Outcomes were analysed for the longest follow-up period available within each study. Pre-specified subgroup analyses were planned for different platelet function assays, ACS vs. non-ACS patients, prasugrel/ticagrelor vs. clopidogrel treatment, and exploratory vs. validation trials.

Statistical analysis

For this collaborative analysis, responsible authors were contacted individually to provide the rate of ST, bleeding, and mortality according to the standardized cut-off values for LPR, OPR, and HPR groups in their specific cohorts. Using the obtained dataset, we performed a



weighted fixed-effect meta-analysis using the Mantel–Haenszel method to compare the relative risk (risk ratio, RR) of outcome events in the HPR and LPR groups in contrast to patients with OPR, used as reference. Sensitivity analyses were performed in all outcomes with random-effect modelling. When risks of bleeding and ST were compared according to platelet reactivity categories in the same plot, absolute risk estimates were preferred rather than RR to demonstrate the clinical relevance of the trade-off between ST and bleeding. Therefore, fixed-effect Mantel–Haenszel weighted risk differences (RDs) were calculated with the OPR group as reference. To further corroborate our statistical findings, unweighted analyses were performed to obtain RR from pooled crude event rates. Consistency of the obtained results was analysed in pre-defined subgroups by interaction testing. A two-sided P -value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant in all comparisons. Statistical analyses were performed with Review Manager (RevMan) computer program version 5.1 (Copenhagen: The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2011.) and the Comprehensive Meta-analysis software version 2 (Biostat, Englewood, NJ, USA).

Results

Study cohorts

Overall, 17 studies^{9,12,13,15–28} with 20 839 patients were identified and included in the analysis (Figure 1). Median follow-up time was 8.5 months (minimum–maximum: 1–17). Baseline characteristics and clinical results of the included studies are summarized in

Table 1. All studies reported definite/probable ST according to the ARC criteria. Thirteen of the 17 studies reported bleeding events according to the TIMI scale, two studies^{22,28} used the BARC definition, one study reported moderate/several events on the GUSTO scale,⁹ and one study used an own bleeding definition (ADAPT-DES)¹² for clinically relevant bleeding (Table 1). In total, data were available for 13 377 patients with the VerifyNow device, for 3908 patients with the Multiplate analyser, and for 3554 patients with the VASP assay. The vast majority of patients (97%) was treated with clopidogrel and only 3% received prasugrel. No eligible study was identified in patients on ticagrelor.

Outcome data

By applying standard cut-off values, 41% ($n = 8554$) of the patients had HPR, 20% ($n = 4073$) LPR, and 39% ($n = 8212$) OPR. Patients with HPR demonstrated a significantly higher risk for ST compared with those with OPR (2.73, 95% CI: 2.03–3.69, $P < 0.00001$, Figure 2, Supplementary material online, Figure S1), while the risk of ST did not further differ between patients with LPR and OPR (RR: 1.06, 95% CI: 0.68–1.65, $P = 0.78$, Figure 2, Supplementary material online, Figure S2) Unweighted analyses were consistent with these findings (Figure 2). Regarding bleeding, patients with HPR showed a slight decrease compared with those with OPR (RR: 0.84, 95% CI: 0.71–0.99, $P = 0.04$), but patients with LPR had a significant, 1.7-fold higher risk in comparison to those with OPR (RR: 1.74,

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of the 17 studies included in the collaborative analysis

First author	Acronym	Year	n	Expl study	Device	P2Y ₁₂ -inhibitor	Definition of bleeding	HPR (%)	LPR (%)	Age (mean)	Female gender (%)	DM (%)	ACS (%)	DES (%)	Median length of follow-up (months)
Bonello ¹⁵	—	2012	301	Yes	VASP	Prasugrel	TIMI major	25.2	27.9	68	11	23	100	53	12
Breet ¹⁹	POPular	2010	1052	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	53.3	7.8	64	25	18	0	64	12
Campo ²⁰	—	2011	300	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major + minor	20.7	27.0	66	23	24	61	71	17
Cuisset ²²	POBA	2013	1542	No	VASP	Clopidogrel, prasugrel	BARC type ≥ 2	30.0	8.5	64	20	30	100	58	6
Freyenhofer ¹⁷	WILMAA	2011	300	No	VASP	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	75.0	3.3	62	32	27	64	65	7
Mangiacapra ²³	ARMYDA-PROVE	2012	732	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	48.1	7.1	66	27	30	0	27	1
Marcucci ²⁷	—	2009	683	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	45.1	15.8	69	24	26	100	18	12
Morel ²⁴	—	2011	433	No	VASP	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	6.9	57.3	65	25	37	76	45	9
Patti ²⁶	ARMYDA-PRO	2008	160	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	59.4	4.4	66	19	34	54	26	1
Patti ²⁵	ARMYDA-BLEEDING	2011	310	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	59.4	4.2	67	22	37	32	25	1
Palmerini ²⁸	GEPRESS	2014	978	No	VASP	Clopidogrel	BARC type ≥ 2	48.9	7.7	67	24	27	100	59	12
Price ⁹	GRAVITAS	2011	1692 ^a	No	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	GUSTO mod/severe	70.0	8.0	63	30	41	15	100	5.7
Sibbing ¹³	ISAR	2010	2533	Yes	Multiplate	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	16.9	38.5	68	24	29	12	100	1
Sibbing ²¹	ISAR-REACT 4	2012	564	No	Multiplate	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	36.3	27.0	68	22	31	100	100	1
Siller-Matula ¹⁸	MADONNA	2012	395 ^a	No	Multiplate	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	36.2	28.4	64	24	34	37	91	1
Siller-Matula ¹⁶	PEGASUS PCI	2012	416	No	Multiplate	Clopidogrel	TIMI major	36.3	28.6	64	24	32	34	99	12
Stone ¹²	ADAPT-DES	2013	8,448	Yes	VerifyNow	Clopidogrel	ADAPT-defined	42.7	20.0	64	26	32	52	100	12

ACS, acute coronary syndrome; DES, drug-eluting stent; DM: diabetes, Expl, exploratory studies that formed the basis of the standardized cut-off definitions; HPR, high platelet reactivity; LPR, low platelet reactivity.

^aOnly patients on 75 mg clopidogrel without adjustment included from these studies.

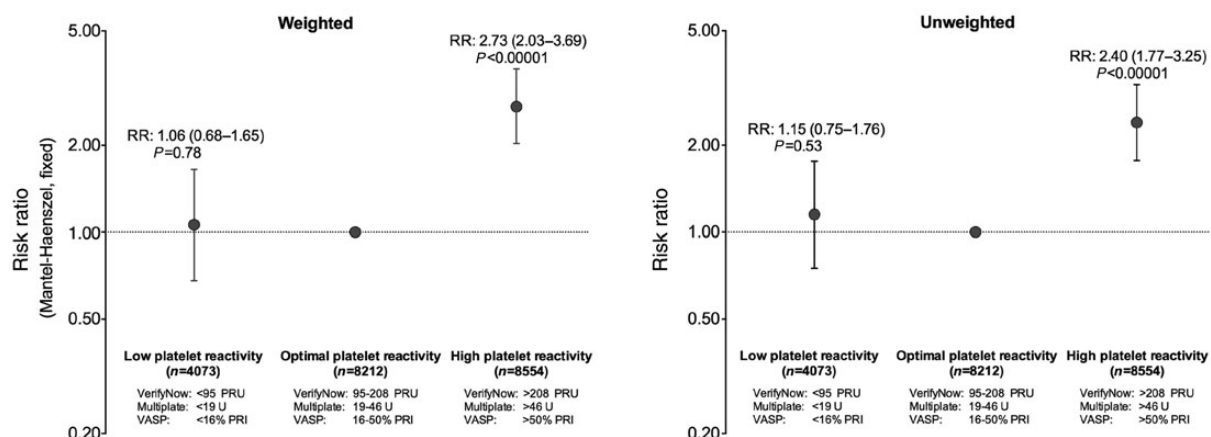


Figure 2 Relative risk of stent thrombosis according to platelet reactivity levels. RR, risk ratio.

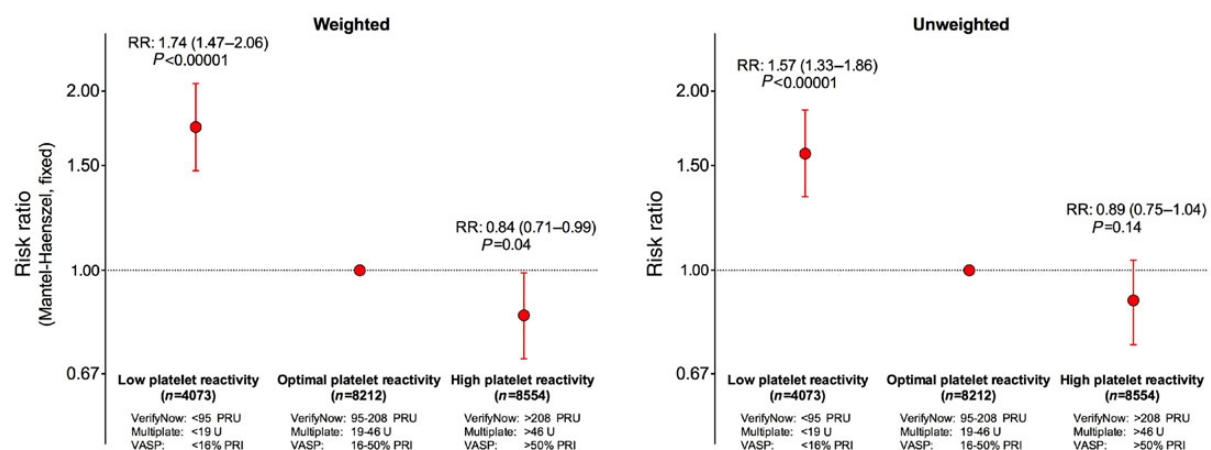


Figure 3 Relative risk of bleeding events according to platelet reactivity levels. RR, risk ratio.

95% CI: 1.47–2.06, $P < 0.00001$, Figure 3, Supplementary material online, Figures S3 and S4) Unweighted analyses confirmed the higher risk of bleeding in the LPR group; however, the risk of bleeding did not differ between patients with HPR and OPR (Figure 3). In case of mortality, patients with HPR had a significantly higher risk compared with patients with OPR (HR: 1.54, 95% CI: 1.22–1.94, $P = 0.0002$) or LPR (HR: 1.45, 95% CI: 1.04–2.02, $P = 0.03$, Figure 4, Supplementary material online, Figures S5 and S6).

Outcome data: rationale for the ‘optimal’ range of platelet reactivity

Since bleeding events were 3.4-fold more frequent than ST (total: 797 vs. 236 events) during the mean follow-up of 8.5 months, absolute RDs were used to better capture the trade-offs in bleeding and ST between various platelet reactivity groups (Figure 5). When platelet reactivity levels were grouped only as low or high, the results suggested that a significant reduction in ST in the non-HPR group may

only be achieved at the price of a large increase in bleeding, and vice versa, lower risk for bleeding in the non-LPR group was associated with an excess risk of ST (Figure 5A). However, when an ‘optimal’ range of platelet reactivity (OPR) was introduced and used as a reference, a large reduction in bleeding was observed in this group without any excess in ST compared with LPR (Figure 5B). Similarly, the OPR group had a significantly lower risk for ST, with only a slight absolute increase in bleeding compared with patients with HPR (Figure 5B).

Subgroup and sensitivity analyses

Based on interaction analyses, the impact of HPR on ST was consistent in all subgroups (Figure 6). The predicted risk of bleeding was also directionally similar for LPR in the tested subgroups; however, significant interactions for even stronger associations were observed in some subgroups (Figure 6). Random-effects modelling demonstrated similar results to fixed-effect analyses for all outcomes (Supplementary material online, Table S1).

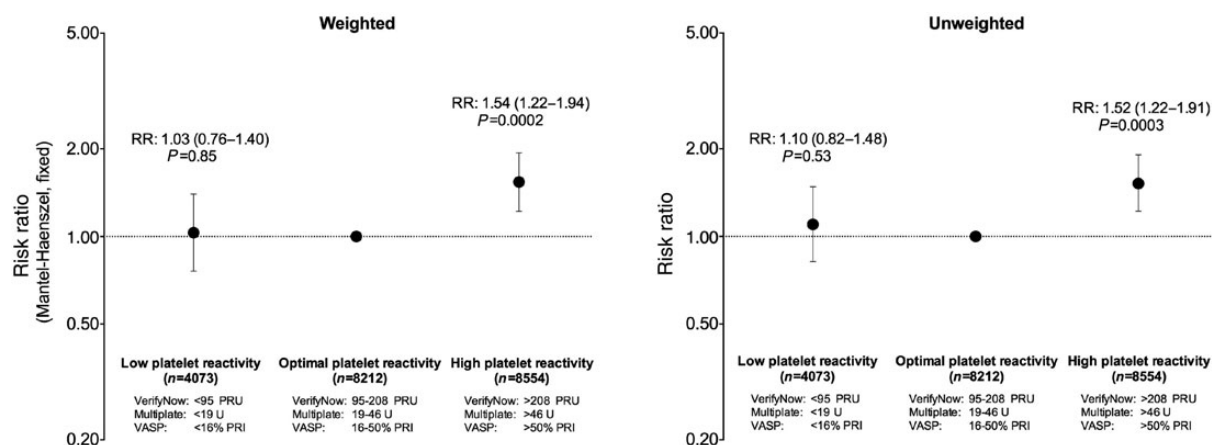


Figure 4 Relative risk of mortality according to platelet reactivity levels. RR, risk ratio.

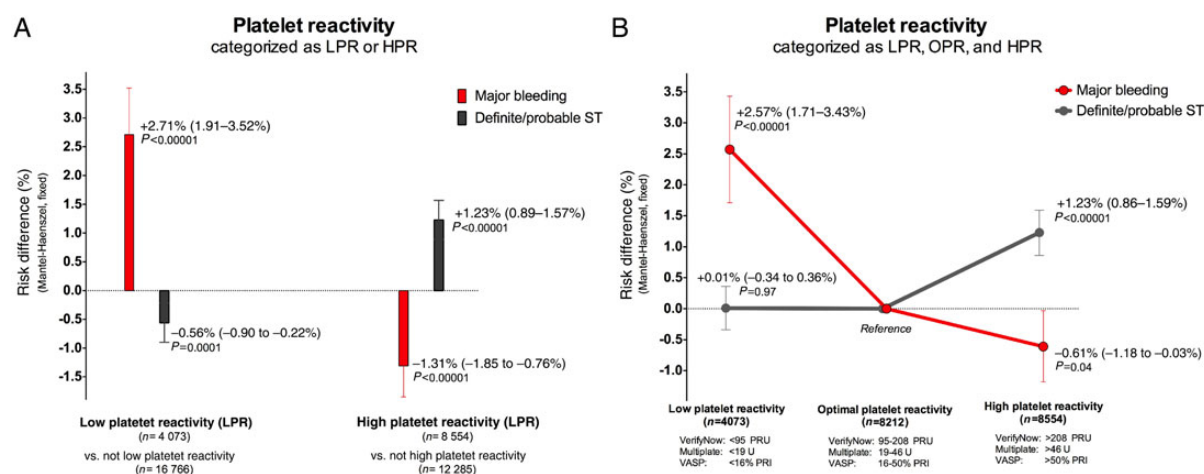


Figure 5 Absolute risk of stent thrombosis and bleeding according to platelet reactivity levels. (A) Risk estimates when platelet reactivity is categorized into groups of low platelet reactivity or high platelet reactivity. (B) A comparison of platelet reactivity categorized as low, optimal, or high. ST, stent thrombosis.

Discussion

This collaborative analysis represents the first attempt towards clinical validation of standardized cut-off points for platelet function testing in a large sample of patients undergoing PCI. Main results can be summarized as follows:

- Thienopyridine-treated patients with HPR have a 2.7-fold higher risk for ST and a 1.5-fold higher risk for mortality compared with those with OPR following PCI.
- Patients with LPR show a 1.7-fold higher risk for major bleeding complications without any further reduction in the risk of ST compared to patients with OPR.
- These results suggest the existence of an optimal range of P2Y₁₂-inhibition (OPR) that can be considered as a therapeutic

window, within which the predicted risk of ST and major bleeding is the lowest after PCI.

Finding the balance between efficacy and safety for patients treated with P2Y₁₂-inhibitors is a key aspect to improve prognosis in patients after PCI. Despite demonstrated reductions in ischaemic complications (including ST) with currently available P2Y₁₂-inhibitors among patients undergoing PCI, the price to pay has always been a higher risk for bleeding.²⁻⁴ Prior analyses have confirmed that the higher the level of P2Y₁₂-inhibition, the lower the rate of thrombotic events²⁹; however, an inverse association exists for bleeding.^{3,4} Moreover, active metabolite generation and platelet reactivity inhibition of available thienopyridine-type P2Y₁₂-inhibitors are highly variable between patients, affected by common genetic variants and clinical factors that further complicate accurate risk assessment and

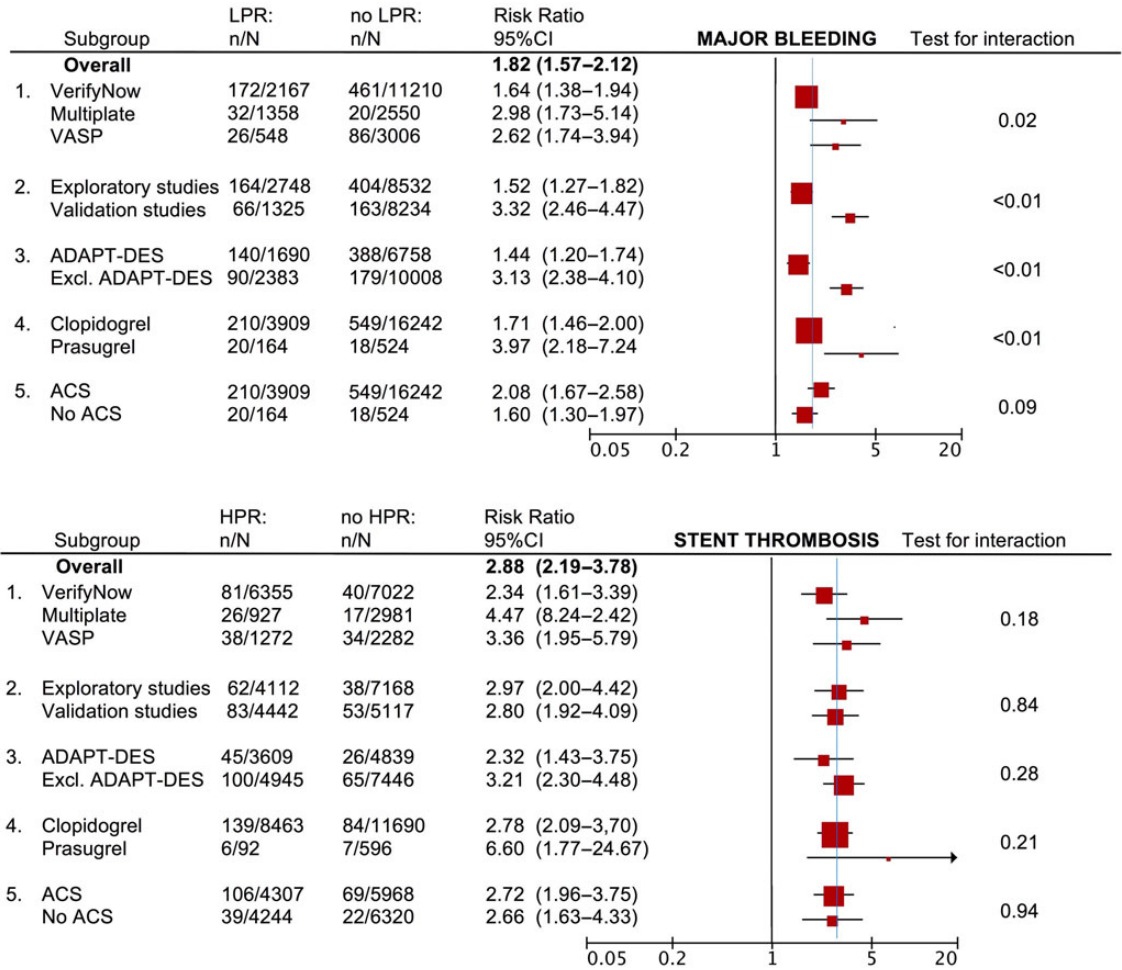


Figure 6 Interaction analysis according to pre-defined subgroups. ACS, acute coronary syndrome; HPR, high platelet reactivity; LPR, low platelet reactivity.

selection of the optimal P2Y₁₂-inhibitor for the individual.⁷ Risk stratification by clinical scores is often flawed by the fact that most of the used risk markers for thrombotic complications are also predictors of bleeding events (such as age, hypertension, or renal failure). Therefore, clinical scores might help to predict bleeding and thrombosis, but have limited usefulness in balancing such complications in clinical practice because they do not well discriminate between the two unwanted outcomes. With this respect, measuring residual platelet reactivity during P2Y₁₂-inhibitor treatment was suggested as a valuable option to help stratifying patients according to bleeding and thrombosis, as several observational studies have linked HPR to higher risk for ST and LPR to increased risk for bleeding.^{12,14,15}

Despite these promising observations, major drawbacks towards recommending platelet function testing for risk assessment after PCI were the large methodical heterogeneity in assessing on-treatment platelet reactivity and lack of generally applicable cut-off values to define patients with HPR and LPR. In addition, it was also unclear how the two extreme platelet reactivity categories are related to an intermediate range of platelet inhibition, hypothesized as 'optimal' (OPR).¹⁴ In spite of these limitations, two recent

expert consensus papers^{6,7} proposed specific cut-off values to define HPR and LPR, acknowledging; however, the preliminary nature of these values and lack of proper validation in sufficient studies.

Therefore, the present collaborative analysis represents an important step forward in defining standard cut-off points for selected platelet function assays and validating them in a large population of patients undergoing PCI. Based on our results, the proposed and herein tested cut-off values were highly significantly ($P < 0.00001$) associated with ST (46 U for Multiplate, 208 PRU for VerifyNow, and 50% PRI for VASP) and bleeding (19 U for Multiplate, 95 PRU for VerifyNow, and 16% for VASP). According to the observed pattern of risk for bleeding and ST, patients in the OPR range had the lowest net rates of adverse events, enabling a unique and sharp discrimination of bleeding and ischaemia by a single biomarker assessment (Figure 5B). Interestingly, the more traditional view of platelet reactivity, categorizing it as only low (LPR) or high (HPR), suggested that the risk of bleeding and ST is complementary; i.e. a decreased risk in one side is always accompanied by a significant increase on the other (Figure 5A). This paradigm may be challenged by introducing

the group of OPR, where a significant reduction in bleeding was observed without an excess risk in ST compared with LPR, and also, a significant reduction in ST was observed with only a minor, even doubtful (see *Figure 3*) increase in bleeding in contrast to HPR.

Importantly, interaction testing confirmed that our findings might be relevant in several subgroups: most importantly, validation cohorts corroborated the selection of cut-off points for HPR and LPR based on exploratory trials (*Figure 6*). Based on the interaction analyses for bleeding, some subgroups showed even stronger associations between LPR and bleeding; however, we believe these differences should be viewed and interpreted carefully given the heterogeneity of patients included in various subgroups.

It is important to highlight that despite the potential value of platelet reactivity to stratify patients into categories of risk for bleeding and ST, the clinical benefits of adjusting platelet reactivity based on monitoring treatment, by targeting the optimal range considered as a therapeutic window is still unknown, and cannot be answered on the basis of our analysis. In this regard, prior randomized clinical trials (GRAVITAS, TRIGGER-PCI, and ARCTIC)^{8,9,30} using the VerifyNow assay were disappointing due to lack of clinical improvements after treatment adjustments based on platelet function testing. However, none of these studies targeted an optimal range of platelet reactivity, were characterized by no⁹ or only minimal utilization⁸ of potent antiplatelet agents, focused mainly on stable coronary artery disease patients³⁰ and were underpowered.³¹ Additionally, the two large, completed randomized trials used cut-off values different from those proposed and validated in our analysis.^{8,9} Thus, the concept of tailored antiplatelet treatment and its possible benefits remains *unproven* but cannot be deemed *disproved* based on these trials.^{8,9,30} Future studies (NCT01959451, NCT01538446) are therefore required, using the validated cut-off values, focusing on high-risk cohorts of patients and implementing the therapeutic window concept of platelet inhibition to assess the clinical relevance of tailored P2Y₁₂-inhibition therapy.

Although our analysis provides new evidence in a large sample of patients by validating cut-off points for risk stratification, we are aware of limitations. First, we were unable to perform adjusted Cox-proportional hazard analyses based on individual time-dependent data. This limitation does not influence our conclusions regarding the prognostic importance of platelet reactivity for risk assessment. Although adjusted analyses are useful to understand whether the associations between platelet reactivity values and outcomes are independent from confounding factors, platelet function results are never adjusted according to these at the bedside. Conversely, adjusted analyses would be useful to project whether treatment adjustments based on platelet reactivity could reduce bleeding or ST; however, such adjustments are never perfect and cannot account for all known confounders. Secondly, although there were no meaningful interaction for outcomes between prasugrel and clopidogrel-treated patients, the low number of prasugrel-treated subjects may suggest that the associations between validated cut-offs and outcomes might be relevant for clopidogrel but need further confirmation for prasugrel. Moreover, any platelet function assessment in ticagrelor-treated patients would not be capable to measure possible pleiotropic effects of the drug, which might in fact be the underlying cause of the observed reduction in mortality

risk in the PLATO trial.⁴ Finally, we admit that the pooled studies were heterogeneous regarding the length of follow-up that may introduce bias towards the exact determination of early-, and long-term risk of ST and bleeding in relation to platelet reactivity levels after PCI.

In conclusion, the present analysis shows in a large sample of thienopyridine-treated patients that HPR, defined by validated cut-offs using standardized platelet assays, is associated with a significantly higher risk for ST and mortality, while LPR predicts a higher risk for bleeding. The lowest rates of net adverse events in patients within an intermediate range of platelet reactivity (OPR) suggest that platelet reactivity may be a valuable marker to discriminate between ST and bleeding in patients after PCI. Further randomized trials are warranted to test the potential benefit of tailoring treatment into the optimal range of platelet reactivity.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available at *European Heart Journal* online.

Funding

The research was supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to DA.

Conflict of interest: D.A.: Consulting fees from Verum Diagnostica; Lecture fees from DSI/Lilly, AstraZeneca, Verum Diagnostica, Roche, Krka. A.J.K.: Institutional research grants (to Columbia University) from Boston Scientific, Medtronic, St Jude Medical, Abiomed, Eli Lilly, Vascular Dynamics, and Abbott Vascular. L.B.: Consulting fees from AstraZeneca, Lecture fees from DSI/Lilly and research grants from AstraZeneca. P.G.: Lecture fees from Daiichi Sankyo, Lilly, Pozen, Novartis, Bayer, AstraZeneca, Accumetrics, Nanosphere, sanofi-aventis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck, Medtronic, Iverson Genetics, CSL, Haemonetics; grants from National Institutes of Health, Daiichi Sankyo, Lilly, Pozen, CSL, AstraZeneca, sanofi-aventis, Haemoscope, Medtronic, Harvard Clinical Research Institute, and Duke Clinical Research Institute, outside the submitted work; in addition, Dr Gurbel has a patent in the area of personalized antiplatelet therapy and interventional cardiology. U.T.: Lecture fees from Accumetrics. D.J.A.: received payment as an individual for (i) consulting fee or honorarium from Bristol Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Aventis, Eli Lilly, Daiichi Sankyo, The Medicines Company, AstraZeneca, Merck, Evolva, Abbott Vascular, Bayer, and PLx Pharma and (ii) participation in review activities from Johnson & Johnson, St Jude, and Sunovion. Institutional payments for grants from Bristol Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Aventis, Glaxo Smith Kline, Otsuka, Eli Lilly, Daiichi Sankyo, The Medicines Company, AstraZeneca, Evolva, Gilead. M.V.: Consulting fees from Abbott, CID, DSI/Lilly, Medtronic, The Medicines Company; Speaker's fees from Abbott, AstraZeneca, Accumetrics, DSI/Lilly, Iroko Pharma, Terumo; grant support from Iroko Pharma, Medtronic, The Medicines Company.

T.P.: Research grant from Eli Lilly; Speaker's fee from Abbott Vascular. M.P.: Consulting fees/honoraria: Bristol Myers Squibb/Sanofi-aventis, Accumetrics, DSI/Lilly, AstraZeneca, The Medicines Company, Cordis. Speaker Honoraria: DSI/Lilly, The Medicines Company, Boston Scientific, Medtronic. Research Support: Bristol Myers Squibb/sanofi-aventis, Accumetrics. T.C.: Consulting fees from DSI/Lilly; Lecture fees from Abbott, AstraZeneca, Biotronik, Boston Scientific, DSI/Lilly, Cordis, Sanofi, Edwards, Medtronic. A.K.: Stent-related patent holder and has received consulting or lecture fees from Abbott, Biosensors, and Biotronik. G.W.S.: Consulting fees from Boston Scientific, DSI/Lilly, AstraZeneca. D.S.: Reports having received speaker fees and honoraria for

consulting from Eli Lilly, Daiichi Sankyo, Bayer Vital, Astra Zeneca, Verum Diagnostica and Roche Diagnostics and research grants from Roche Diagnostics.

References

- Windecker S, Kolh P, Alfonso F, Collet JP, Cremer J, Falk V, Filippatos G, Hamm C, Head SJ, Juni P, Kappetein AP, Kastrati A, Knuuti J, Landmesser U, Laufer G, Neumann FJ, Richter DJ, Schauerte P, Sousa Uva M, Stefanini GG, Taggart DP, Torracca L, Valgimigli M, Wijns W, Witkowski A, Authors/Task Force m. 2014 ESC/EACTS Guidelines on myocardial revascularization: The Task Force on Myocardial Revascularization of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) Developed with the special contribution of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI). *Eur Heart J* 2014;**35**:2541–2619.
- Mehta S, Yusuf S, Peters R, Bertrand M, Lewis B, Natarajan M, Malmberg K, Rupprecht H, Zhao F, Chrolavicius S, Copland I, Fox K. Clopidogrel in Unstable angina to prevent Recurrent Events trial I. Effects of pretreatment with clopidogrel and aspirin followed by long-term therapy in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention: the PCI-CURE study. *Lancet* 2001;**358**: 527–533.
- Wiviott SD, Braunwald E, McCabe CH, Montalescot G, Ruzyllo W, Gottlieb S, Neumann FJ, Ardissino D, De Servi S, Murphy SA, Riesmeyer J, Weerakkody G, Gibson CM, Antman EM, Investigators T-T. Prasugrel versus clopidogrel in patients with acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med* 2007;**357**:2001–2015.
- Wallentin L, Becker RC, Budaj A, Cannon CP, Emanuelsson H, Held C, Horowitz J, Husted S, James S, Katus H, Mahaffey KW, Scirica BM, Skene A, Steg PG, Storey RF, Harrington RA, Investigators P, Freij A, Thorsen M. Ticagrelor versus clopidogrel in patients with acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med* 2009;**361**: 1045–1057.
- Steg PG, Huber K, Andreotti F, Arnesen H, Atar D, Badimon L, Bassand JP, De Caterina R, Eikelboom JA, Gulba D, Hamon M, Helft G, Fox KA, Kristensen SD, Rao SV, Verheugt FW, Widimsky P, Zeymer U, Collet JP. Bleeding in acute coronary syndromes and percutaneous coronary interventions: position paper by the Working Group on Thrombosis of the European Society of Cardiology. *Eur Heart J* 2011;**32**:1854–1864.
- Tanzy US, Bonello L, Aradi D, Price MJ, Jeong YH, Angiolillo DJ, Stone GW, Curzen N, Geisler T, Ten Berg J, Kirtane A, Siller-Matula J, Mahla E, Becker RC, Bhatt DL, Waksman R, Rao SV, Alexopoulos D, Marcucci R, Reny JL, Trenk D, Sibbing D, Gurbel PA. Consensus and update on the definition of on-treatment platelet reactivity to adenosine diphosphate associated with ischemia and bleeding. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2013;**62**:2261–2273.
- Aradi D, Storey RF, Komocsi A, Trenk D, Gulba D, Kiss RG, Husted S, Bonello L, Sibbing D, Collet JP, Huber K, Working Group on Thrombosis of the European Society of C. Expert position paper on the role of platelet function testing in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention. *Eur Heart J* 2014;**35**:209–215.
- Collet JP, Cuisset T, Range G, Cayla G, Elhadad S, Pouillot C, Henry P, Motreff P, Carrie D, Boueri Z, Belle L, Van Belle E, Rousseau H, Aubry P, Monsegu J, Sabouret P, O'Connor SA, Abtan J, Kerneis M, Saint-Etienne C, Barthelemy O, Beygui F, Silvain J, Vicaut E, Montalescot G, Investigators A. Beside monitoring to adjust antiplatelet therapy for coronary stenting. *N Engl J Med* 2012;**367**: 2100–2109.
- Price MJ, Berger PB, Teirstein PS, Tanguay JF, Angiolillo DJ, Spriggs D, Puri S, Robbins M, Garratt KN, Bertrand OF, Stillabower ME, Aragon JR, Kandzari DE, Stinis CT, Lee MS, Manoukian SV, Cannon CP, Schork NJ, Topol EJ, Investigators G. Standard- vs high-dose clopidogrel based on platelet function testing after percutaneous coronary intervention: the GRAVITAS randomized trial. *JAMA* 2011;**305**:1097–1105.
- Levine GN, Jeong YH, Goto S, Anderson JL, Huo Y, Mega JL, Taubert K, Smith SC Jr. Expert consensus document: World Heart Federation expert consensus statement on antiplatelet therapy in East Asian patients with ACS or undergoing PCI. *Nat Rev Cardiol* 2014;**11**:597–606.
- Kirtane AJ, Stuckey T, Xu K, Witzensichler B, Weisz G, Rinaldi MJ, Neumann F-J, Metzger DC, Henry TD, Cox D, Duffy PL, Brodie BR, Mazzaferri EL, Cristea E, Parise H, Mehran R, Stone G. Is there a therapeutic window for platelet responsiveness among PCI patients? Analysis from the ADAPT-DES study. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2013;**62**:B48–B49.
- Stone GW, Witzensichler B, Weisz G, Rinaldi MJ, Neumann FJ, Metzger DC, Henry TD, Cox DA, Duffy PL, Mazzaferri E, Gurbel PA, Xu K, Parise H, Kirtane AJ, Brodie BR, Mehran R, Stuckey TD, Investigators A-D. Platelet reactivity and clinical outcomes after coronary artery implantation of drug-eluting stents (ADAPT-DES): a prospective multicentre registry study. *Lancet* 2013;**382**:614–623.
- Sibbing D, Schulz S, Braun S, Morath T, Stegherr J, Mehilli J, Schomig A, von Beckerath N, Kastrati A. Antiplatelet effects of clopidogrel and bleeding in patients undergoing coronary stent placement. *J Thromb Haemost* 2010;**8**:250–256.
- Sibbing D, Steinhilber SR, Schulz S, Schomig A, Kastrati A. Platelet aggregation and its association with stent thrombosis and bleeding in clopidogrel-treated patients: initial evidence of a therapeutic window. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2010;**56**:317–318.
- Bonello L, Mancini J, Pansieri M, Maillard L, Rossi P, Collet F, Jouve B, Wittenberg O, Laine M, Michelet P, Bessereau J, Lemesle G, Dignat-George F, Paganelli F, Camoin-Jau L. Relationship between post-treatment platelet reactivity and ischemic and bleeding events at 1-year follow-up in patients receiving prasugrel. *J Thromb Haemost* 2012;**10**:1999–2005.
- Siller-Matula JM, Delle-Karth G, Lang IM, Neunteufl T, Kozinski M, Kubica J, Maurer G, Linkowska K, Grzybowski T, Huber K, Jilma B. Phenotyping vs. genotyping for prediction of clopidogrel efficacy and safety: the PEGASUS-PCI study. *J Thromb Haemost* 2012;**10**:529–542.
- Freynhofer MK, Brozovic I, Bruno V, Farhan S, Vogel B, Jakl G, Willheim M, Hubl W, Wojta J, Huber K. Multiple electrode aggregometry and vasodilator stimulated phosphoprotein-phosphorylation assay in clinical routine for prediction of post-procedural major adverse cardiovascular events. *Thromb Haemost* 2011;**106**: 230–239.
- Siller-Matula JM, Francesconi M, Dechant C, Jilma B, Maurer G, Delle-Karth G, Gouya G, Ruzicka K, Podczek-Schweighofer A, Christ G. Personalized antiplatelet treatment after percutaneous coronary intervention: the MADONNA study. *Int J Cardiol* 2013;**167**:2018–2023.
- Breet NJ, van Werkum JW, Bouman HJ, Kelder JC, Ruven HJ, Bal ET, Deneer VH, Harmsze AM, van der Heyden JA, Rensing BJ, Sutorp MJ, Hackeng CM, ten Berg JM. Comparison of platelet function tests in predicting clinical outcome in patients undergoing coronary stent implantation. *JAMA* 2010;**303**:754–762.
- Campo G, Parrinello G, Ferraresi P, Lunghi B, Tebaldi M, Miccoli M, Marchesini J, Bernardi F, Ferrari R, Valgimigli M. Prospective evaluation of on-clopidogrel platelet reactivity over time in patients treated with percutaneous coronary intervention relationship with gene polymorphisms and clinical outcome. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2011;**57**: 2474–2483.
- Sibbing D, Bernlochner I, Schulz S, Massberg S, Schomig A, Mehilli J, Kastrati A. Prognostic value of a high on-clopidogrel treatment platelet reactivity in bivalirudin versus abciximab treated non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction patients. ISAR-REACT 4 (Intracoronary Stenting and Antithrombotic Regimen: Rapid Early Action for Coronary Treatment-4) platelet substudy. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2012;**60**: 369–377.
- Cuisset T, Grosdidier C, Loundou AD, Quilici J, Loosveld M, Camoin L, Pankert M, Beguin S, Lambert M, Morange PE, Bonnet JL, Alessi MC. Clinical implications of very low on-treatment platelet reactivity in patients treated with thienopyridine: the POBA study (predictor of bleedings with antiplatelet drugs). *JACC Cardiovasc Interv* 2013;**6**:854–863.
- Mangiacapra F, Patti G, Barbato E, Peace AJ, Ricottini E, Vizzi V, Gatto L, D'Ambrosio A, De Bruyne B, Wijns W, Di Sciascio G. A therapeutic window for platelet reactivity for patients undergoing elective percutaneous coronary intervention: results of the ARMYDA-PROVE (Antiplatelet therapy for Reduction of MYocardial Damage during Angioplasty-Platelet Reactivity for Outcome Validation Effort) study. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv* 2012;**5**:281–289.
- Morel O, El Ghannudi S, Jesel L, Radulescu B, Meyer N, Wiesel ML, Caillard S, Campia U, Moulin B, Gachet C, Ohlmann P. Cardiovascular mortality in chronic kidney disease patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention is mainly related to impaired P2Y12 inhibition by clopidogrel. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2011;**57**: 399–408.
- Patti G, Pascari V, Vizzi V, Ricottini E, Di Sciascio G. Usefulness of platelet response to clopidogrel by point-of-care testing to predict bleeding outcomes in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (from the Antiplatelet Therapy for Reduction of Myocardial Damage During Angioplasty-Bleeding Study). *Am J Cardiol* 2011;**107**:995–1000.
- Patti G, Nusca A, Mangiacapra F, Gatto L, D'Ambrosio A, Di Sciascio G. Point-of-care measurement of clopidogrel responsiveness predicts clinical outcome in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention results of the ARMYDA-PRO (Antiplatelet therapy for Reduction of MYocardial Damage during Angioplasty-Platelet Reactivity Predicts Outcome) study. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2008;**52**:1128–1133.
- Marcucci R, Gori AM, Panizza R, Giusti B, Valente S, Giglioli C, Buonamici P, Antonucci D, Abbate R, Gensini GF. Cardiovascular death and nonfatal myocardial infarction in acute coronary syndrome patients receiving coronary stenting are predicted by residual platelet reactivity to ADP detected by a point-of-care assay: a 12-month follow-up. *Circulation* 2009;**119**:237–242.
- Palmerini T, Calabro P, Piscione F, De Servi S, Cattaneo M, Maffeo D, Toso A, Bartorelli A, Palmieri C, De Carlo M, Capodanno D, Barozzi C, Tomasi L, Della Riva D, Mariani A, Taglieri N, Reggiani LB, Bianchi R, De Rosa R, Mariani M,

- Podda G, Genereux P, Stone GW, Angiolillo DJ. Impact of gene polymorphisms, platelet reactivity, and the SYNTAX score on 1-year clinical outcomes in patients with non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention: the GEPRESS study. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv* 2014;**7**: 1117–1127.
29. Aradi D, Komocsi A, Vorobcsuk A, Serebruany VL. Impact of clopidogrel and potent P2Y₁₂-inhibitors on mortality and stroke in patients with acute coronary syndrome or undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Thromb Haemost* 2013;**109**:93–101.
30. Trenk D, Stone GW, Gawaz M, Kastrati A, Angiolillo DJ, Muller U, Richardt G, Jakubowski JA, Neumann FJ. A randomized trial of prasugrel versus clopidogrel in patients with high platelet reactivity on clopidogrel after elective percutaneous coronary intervention with implantation of drug-eluting stents: results of the TRIGGER-PCI (Testing Platelet Reactivity In Patients Undergoing Elective Stent Placement on Clopidogrel to Guide Alternative Therapy With Prasugrel) study. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2012;**59**:2159–2164.
31. De Caterina R, Marchioli R, Andreotti F. Bedside monitoring of antiplatelet therapy for coronary stenting. *N Engl J Med* 2013;**368**:871.