Comparison of Bypass Surgery with Drug-Eluting Stents in Diabetic Patients with Left Main Coronary Stenosis

Xiaoxiao Zhao, Yujie Zhou, Hui Song, Like Guan, Guanbin Zheng, Zhehu Jin, Dongmei Shi, Yuzi Li, Yonghe Guo, Guo-Ping Shi, and Xian Wu Cheng

1Department of Cardiology, Yanbian University Hospital, Yanji, China; 2Department of Cardiology, Anzhen Hospital, Capital University of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China; 3Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; 4Department of Cardiology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan; 5Department of Internal Medicine, Kyung Hee University Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

Received: October 7, 2010
Revised: January 1, 2011
Accepted: January 24, 2011
Co-corresponding authors: Dr. Yujie Zhou, Department of Cardiology, Anzhen Hospital, Anzhen Avenue-2, Chaoyang-district, Beijing 10029, China. Tel: 86-10-64456489, Fax: 86-10-64452234 E-mail: yjzhou@hotmail.com and Dr. Xian Wu Cheng, Department of Cardiology, Nagoya University, Graduate School of Medicine, 65 Tsuruma-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya 466-8550, Japan. Tel: 81-52-744-2147, Fax: 81-52-744-2210 E-mail: xianwu@med.nagoya-u.ac.jp

- The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

Purpose: Several studies have compared the effects of coronary stenting and coronary-artery bypass grafting (CABG) on left main coronary artery (LMCA) disease. However, there are limited data on the long-term outcomes of these two interventions in diabetic patients. Materials and Methods: We evaluated 56 patients with LMCA stenosis who underwent drug-eluting stent (DES) implantation and 116 patients who underwent CABG in a single hospital in China between January 2004 and December 2006. We compared long-term major adverse cardiac events (death; a “serious outcome” composite of death, myocardial infarction, or stroke; and target-vessel revascularization). Results: In-hospital (30-day) mortality was 0% for the DES group and 3.4% for the CABG group (p=0.31). There was no difference between the two groups in terms of risk of death [hazard ratio for stenting group, 0.49; 95% confidence interval (CI), 0.13-1.63; p=0.55] or risk of serious outcome (hazard ratio for DES group, 1.11; 95% CI, 0.39-1.45; p=0.47). The target-vessel revascularization rate was higher in the DES group than in the CABG group (hazard ratio, 3.67; 95% CI, 1.24-11.06; p=0.018). Conclusion: In this cohort of diabetic patients with LMCA stenosis, there was no difference in composite endpoints between patients receiving DESs and those undergoing CABG. However, stenting was associated with higher rates of target-vessel revascularization than CABG. DES implantation in diabetic patients with LMCA disease was found to be at least as safe as CABG.

Key Words: Left main coronary artery disease, coronary intervention, drug-eluting stent, coronary-artery bypass grafting, diabetes mellitus

INTRODUCTION

As known, coronary-artery bypass grafting (CABG) has been considered standard therapy for patients with left main coronary artery disease and is recommended by current practice guidelines. However, these guidelines have been challenged by the widespread use of coronary stents in combination with improved antiplatelet
treatment and by the recent introduction of drug-eluting stents (DESs), which virtually eliminate the recurrence of acute coronary occlusion and also limit the occurrence of restenosis.\textsuperscript{3,4} Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is therefore being used increasingly in patients with left main coronary artery (LMCA) stenosis.\textsuperscript{5}

In patients with coronary artery diseases, diabetes mellitus (DM) increases the risk of cardiac mortality approximately two- to four-fold.\textsuperscript{6,7} Although the acute outcomes after PCI are similar in patients with and without diabetes, because of excessive neointimal proliferation, diabetic patients have higher rates of restenosis and repeat revascularization after PCI with or without stenting.\textsuperscript{8,9} Preliminary results from registries show that the implantation of DESs for unprotected LMCA disease in patients without diabetes is a feasible and safe approach.\textsuperscript{10} However, until now, no study has analyzed the treatment of LMCA lesions with PCI versus CABG in diabetic patients. The purpose of this study was to compare treatment of LMCA lesions with PCI and DES implantation versus surgical revascularization in patients with DM during their hospital stay (30 days) and long-term follow-up.

---

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Study population**

All diabetic patients with LMCA disease treated with PCI with DES implantation or CABG between January 2004 and December 2006 at Beijing’s Anzhen Hospital (Capital University of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China) were considered for inclusion in this study. In all cases, the selected revascularization approach appeared to be suitable for guaranteeing complete revascularization. We excluded patients who had undergone previous CABG or who underwent concomitant valvular or aortic surgery. We also excluded those who had primary cardiomyopathy or myocardial infarction (MI) with ST-segment elevation, or who presented with cardiogenic shock. During the same period, one of the patients who underwent PCI received a bare-metal stent and was therefore excluded from the study. DM was diagnosed on the basis of a history of using glucose-lowering medications or insulin, or a fasting plasma glucose concentration of ≥126 mg/dL.\textsuperscript{11} All patients were considered to have type 2 DM. The study protocol was approved by the appropriate local institutional ethics committee, and written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

**Revascularization procedure**

Patients underwent PCI instead of CABG due to their own or their physician’s preference or the high risk associated with CABG. Previous studies described about the methods of stent implantation for patients with LMCA disease.\textsuperscript{12,13} Standard interventional techniques were processed for all procedures. According to the operators’ discretion, the use of pre-dilation, an intra-aortic balloon pump, or intravascular ultrasound and the choice of the specific type of DES were applied for each patient treatment. Periprocedural anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy followed standard regimens. All patients undergoing stenting were prescribed clopidogrel for at least 12 months. Treatment beyond this duration was administered at the discretion of the physician (clopidogrel 79.2% at the end of follow-up in the PCI group). Aspirin was prescribed indefinitely for all patients who underwent either PCI with DES or CABG treatment. Surgical revascularization was performed with the use of standard bypass techniques.\textsuperscript{14} Whenever possible, the internal thoracic artery was used preferentially for revascularization of the left anterior descending artery. Complete revascularization was performed when possible with arterial conduits or saphenous vein grafts. A recognized standard of post-interventional care was recommended to the patients.\textsuperscript{15} Other procedural details are given in Table 1.

**Follow-up, end points, and definitions**

Clinical follow-up after PCI with DES and after CABG was stopped in March 2008, and major adverse cardiac events (MACE) that occurred during the follow-up period were studied. During the 30 days of in-hospital follow-up, renal events were also evaluated by biological analysis and calculated for major adverse cardiac cerebrovascular and renal events (MACCRE). Routine angiographic follow-up was recommended by the operators in PCI-group patients (22/56, 39.3%) 6 to 12 months after the procedure. However, patients who were at high risk of procedural complications of angiography and had no symptoms or signs of ischemia, as well as patients who declined to comply with this recommendation, did not undergo routine follow-up angiography. For CABG-group patients, angiographic follow-up was recommended only if there were ischemic symptoms or signs during follow-up (29/116, 25.0%). This is consistent with previous studies in which a low threshold for control coronary angiography was maintained.\textsuperscript{16}

The endpoints of the study were death, the “serious outcomes” composite (death, Q-wave myocardial infarction, or
stroke), and target-vessel revascularization (TVR). Clinical events were assessed annually by mail and/or telephone contact with the patients. The medical records of those patients who reported events were collected and the events adjudicated by the patient’s physician. Death was defined as death from any cause. Q-wave MI was defined as documentation of a new abnormal Q wave after the index treatment. Stroke, as indicated by neurologic deficits, was confirmed by a neurologist on the basis of imaging studies. TVR was defined as repeat revascularization of the treated vessel, including any segments of the left anterior descending artery and the left circumflex artery. Both PCI with DES and repeat CABG were judged as revascularization.

Ontario score calculation
The Ontario Province Risk system for cardiac surgery operates as a risk-stratification system. The Ontario score was used to stratify the risk of death during hospitalization in patients undergoing cardiac surgery. Relevant factors that contributed to the Ontario score calculation include age, sex, ejection fraction, urgency of surgery, type of surgery, and repeat operation.

Statistical analysis
Data are presented as mean±standard deviation (SD). We compared the baseline covariates between the DES and CABG groups. Comparisons of the continuous baseline characteristics were made using an unpaired t-test. Comparisons of categorical baseline characteristics were made using χ² tests. Statistical significance and the effects of both therapies on the outcomes of in-hospital (up to 30 days) or long-term follow-up were estimated. The Kaplan-Meier method

| Table 1. Procedural Characteristics of Patients Treated with CABG and PCI |
|--------------------------------------|
| **CABG (n=116)** | **PCI (n=56)** |
| **Off pump** | **Stent types** |
| 108/115 (93.9%) | **Cypher-stent (% of patients)** |
| | 53 (94.6) |
| Unprotected LMCA (% of patients) | **Endeavor-stent (% of patients)** |
| 166 (100%) | 3 (5.4) |
| Grafts per patient (number) | **Total number of stents in LMCA lesions** |
| 3.0±0.8 | 2.3±0.2 |
| Venous grafts (% of patients) | **Total length of stents in LMCA lesions** |
| 20 (17.4) | 27.8±27.1 |
| Artery grafts (% of patients) | **Total number of stents in a patients** |
| 96 (82.8) | 2.8±1.6 |
| Left anterior descending artery revascularization (% of patients) | **Maximal stent implantation pressure, atm** |
| 115 (99.1) | 17.0±1.6 |
| Requirement for permanent pacemaker (% of patients) | **Support of intro-aortic balloon pump (% of patients)** |
| 3 (2.6) | 4 (3.4) |
| Support of intro-aortic balloon pump (% of patients) | **Salvage (% of patients)** |
| 4 (3.4) | 5 (4.3) |
| Ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation (% of patients) | **Cases in 2004/2005/2006 (% of patients)** |
| 3 (2.6) | 29/37/50 (25.0/31.9/43.1) |
| Cases in 2004/2005/2006 (% of patients) | **Support of intro-aortic balloon pump (% of patients)** |
| 29/37/50 (25.0/31.9/43.1) | 0 (0) |
| **Use of glycoprotein IIb/IIa inhibitor (% of patients)** | **Requirement for permanent pacemaker (% of patients)** |
| 9 (16.1) | 0 (0) |
| Distal bifurcation-lesion (% of patients) | **Bifurcation stenting technology** |
| 42 (75.0) | 40 (71.4) |
| Single stenting (% of patients) | **Crush (% of patients)** |
| 33 (58.9) | 0 (0) |
| T stenting (% of patients) | **Kissing stenting** |
| 4 (7.1%) | 4 (7.1%) |
| Salvage (% of patients) | **Ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation (% of patients)** |
| 1 (1.8) | 0 (0) |
| Cases in 2004/2005/2006 (% of patients) | **Cases in 2004/2005/2006 (% of patients)** |
| 8/23/25 (14.3/41.1/44.6) |

PCI, percutaneous cardiac intervention; CABG, coronary-artery bypass grafting; LMCA, left main coronary artery disease.
Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.
was used to estimate the incidence of the clinical endpoints, death (overall survival), the “serious outcomes” composite (death, MI or stroke), and TVR, during the follow-up period. The Log-rank test was used to compare the Kaplan-Meier results.

Multivariable analysis was performed using Cox proportional hazards models adjusted for age, sex, body mass index (BMI), left ventricular ejection fraction, and Ontario scores. Cox proportional hazard regression analysis was performed to calculate the hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the clinical outcomes.

A p-value of <0.05 was considered to indicate statistical significance. Data processing and statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS 13.0 statistical program (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

RESULTS

Baseline characteristics
Between January 2004 and December 2006, 172 patients with LMCA disease met the criteria for inclusion. Fifty-six of these patients received PCI with DES and 116 received CABG. A total of 168 patients (97.7%: 52 DES, 116 CABG) had unprotected LMCA disease.

In the DES group, 53 patients received rapamycin-eluting stents (94.6%) and three received zotarolimus-eluting stents (5.4%). The mean (±SD) total length of stents was 27.8±27.1 mm, the total stent diameter was 3.4±0.6 mm, and the maximum stent implantation pressure was 17.0±1.6 atm. The mean total number of stents implanted in a patient (including left and other vessels) was 2.8±1.6.

In the CABG group, 108 patients (93.1%) underwent off-pump surgery. All of them received at least one arterial conduit, which was used in 115 of the patients (99.1%) towards the revascularization of the left anterior descending artery. One patient underwent concomitant left ventricular aneurysmectomy and one underwent pericardial cystectomy. The mean number of grafts used was 3.0±0.8 (17.2% venous and 82.8% arterial).

The baseline characteristics of the study patients in each group are shown in Table 1. The numbers of patients in the two groups were well balanced with regard to most of the baseline demographic and clinical characteristics. Patients undergoing PCI had a significantly higher prevalence of family history of hypertension and of diabetic, coronary artery, and cerebral disease (p<0.001); they were also significantly more likely to have had previous coronary bypass grafting than those receiving CABG (p=0.005). The PCI group included a significantly larger number of poorly controlled diabetic patients (hemoglobin A1c, 8.1%±2.0% vs. 7.0%±1.7%, p=0.016) (Table 2). Patients undergoing CABG had significantly lower ejection fractions (p=0.010) and Ontario scores (p=0.04), and had significantly more instances of double- or quadruple-vessel disease and involvement of the right coronary artery (p<0.05). There was no significant difference in the proportion of patients in the two groups receiving insulin treatment (39.3% for the PCI group and 38.8% for the CABG group, p=0.950). There were no significant differences in any other preoperative characteristics between the PCI and CABG groups (p>0.05) (Table 2).

In-hospital events
The rates of MACCARE and acute MI (AMI) were significantly higher in the CABG group (31.0% and 29.3%, respectively) than in the PCI group (both 8.9%, p<0.001) (Table 3), during the in-hospital (up to 30-day) follow-up period. In the CABG group, in-hospital cardiac and stroke death occurred in four patients with acute coronary syndrome. One patient, who underwent concomitant pericardial cystectomy, died from low cardiac output syndrome; two patients died from fatal AMI involving postoperative stroke; and one died from cardiac tamponade. The rates of cardiac tamponade, acute heart failure, permanent pacemaker implantation, ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation, postoperative pneumothorax, shock, dialysis requirement, repeat thoracotomy for bleeding or suppuration, and vascular hematoma requiring repair were higher in the CABG group, but the differences between the two groups were not significant (Table 3). The duration of the post-procedural hospital stay was significantly longer in the CABG group than in the PCI group (p<0.001) (Table 3).

Long-term outcomes
The median follow-up was 28.5 months (interquartile range, 18.5-29.5) in the PCI group and 28.4 months (17.9-38.9) in the CABG group (Table 4). Complete follow-up data for major clinical events were obtained in 97.4% of the subjects overall (98.2% for the PCI group and 96.6% for the CABG group). During follow-up, 10 patients (6.1%) died; seven of these (one from the PCI group and six from the CABG group) died of cardiovascular causes. Twelve (7.0%) patients (14.5% in the PCI group and 3.7% in the CABG group, p=0.022) underwent TVR. The incidence rates of MACE
and AMI tended to be greater in the PCI group (23.6% and 10.9%, respectively) than in the CABG group (13.0% and 8.3%, \(p=0.05\)), and the rate of cerebrovascular events tended to be greater in the CABG group (5.6%) than in the PCI group (0%, \(p=0.098\)) (Table 4). There was no significant difference between the PCI and CABG groups in terms of risk of death (hazard ratio for PCI group, 1.33; 95% CI, 0.68-2.59; \(p=0.27\)) or risk of serious outcome (hazard ratio for PCI group, 1.37; 95% CI, 0.75-2.67; \(p=0.59\)). The rate of TVR was significantly higher in the PCI group than in

| Table 2. Baseline Patient Characteristics |
|-----------------------------------------|
| **Variable**                             | PCI (n=56) | CABG (n=116) | \(p\) value |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| **Demographic characteristics**         |            |              |             |
| Age (yrs)                               | 51.4-61.5  | 54.8-72.0    | 0.353       |
| Female sex (% of patients)              | 15 (26.8)  | 33 (28.4)    | 0.820       |
| BMI ≥28 (% of patients)                 | 14 (25.0)  | 18 (15.8)    | 0.134       |
| **Cardiac or coexisting conditions**    |            |              |             |
| Family history                          | 23 (41.1)  | 12 (10.3)    | 0.000       |
| Non-smoking (% of patients)             | 28 (50.0)  | 65 (56.5)    | 0.457       |
| Hypertension (% of patients)            | 32 (57.1)  | 60 (51.7)    | 0.504       |
| Hypercholesterolemia (% of patients)    | 25 (44.6)  | 49 (42.4)    | 0.537       |
| Previous coronary angioplasty (% of patients) | 8 (14.3)  | 9 (7.8)      | 0.179       |
| Previous coronary artery bypass graft (% of patients) | 6 (10.7)  | 1 (0.9)      | 0.005       |
| Acute myocardial infarction <1 month (% of patients) | 7 (12.5)  | 27 (23.3)    | 0.096       |
| Previous myocardial infarction (% of patients) | 14 (25)    | 26 (22.4)    | 0.707       |
| Pulmonary artery hypertension (% of patients) | 2 (3.6)    | 7 (6.0)      | 0.720       |
| Cerebrovascular disease (% of patients)  | 8 (14.3)   | 25 (21.6)    | 0.257       |
| Thyroid disease (% of patients)          | 3 (5.4)    | 2 (1.7)      | 0.331       |
| Ejection fraction (%)                    |            |              | 0.010       |
| Median                                   | 64.2       | 59.7         |             |
| Interquartile range                      | 54.2-74.2  | 49.2-70.2    |             |
| Arrhythmia (% of patients)               | 5 (8.9)    | 9 (7.8)      | 0.773       |
| Unstable angina (% of patients)          | 46 (82.1)  | 89 (76.7)    | 0.418       |
| Ontario score                           | 2.6-3.2    | 1.9-2.5      | 0.049       |
| Ontario score ≥6 (% of patients)         | 11/52 (21.2) | 7/115 (6.1) | 0.006       |
| **Biological parameters**                |            |              |             |
| Creatinine >1.2 mg/dL (% of patients)    | 7 (12.5)   | 15 (12.9)    | 0.937       |
| Fasting blood glucose (mmol/L)           | 4.6-10.4   | 4.9-9.9      | 0.927       |
| Hemoglobin A1c (%)                       | 6.1-10.1   | 5.3-8.7      | 0.016       |
| **Diabetic therapy**                     |            |              |             |
| Oral hypoglycemic therapy (% of patients) | 24 (42.9)  | 59 (50.9)    | 0.119       |
| Insulin therapy (% of patients)          | 22 (39.3)  | 45 (38.8)    | 0.950       |
| **Angiographic characteristics**        |            |              |             |
| Involved location (% of patients)        |            |              |             |
| Distal bifurcation                       | 42 (75.0)  | 88 (75.9)    | 0.899       |
| Total occlusion lesion                   | 16 (28.6)  | 38 (32.8)    | 0.579       |
| Extent of vessel disease (% of patients)  |            |              |             |
| Left main only                           | 2 (3.6)    | 1 (0.9)      | 0.248       |
| Left main plus single-vessel disease     | 12 (21.4)  | 6 (5.2)      | 0.001       |
| Left main plus double-vessel disease     | 16 (28.6)  | 24 (20.7)    | 0.252       |
| Left main plus triple-vessel disease     | 26 (46.4)  | 85 (73.3)    | 0.001       |
| Right coronary artery disease (% of patients) | 32 (57.1)  | 101 (87.1)   | 0.000       |

PCI, percutaneous cardiac intervention; CABG, coronary-artery bypass grafting. Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding. Data are shown as mean±SD for continuous variables and absolute numbers (percentages) for dichotomous variables. \(p\) values are based on the unpaired t-test for continuous variables and on the \(\chi^2\) tests for categorical variables.
### Table 3. In-Hospital Events

| Event or variable                                                                 | PCI (n=56) | CABG (n=116) | p value |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Major adverse cardiac cerebrovascular and renal events (% of patients)            | 5 (8.9)    | 36 (31.0)    | 0.001   |
| Death (% of patients)                                                             | 0 (0)      | 4 (3.4)      | 0.305   |
| Cardiac tamponade (% of patients)                                                 | 0 (0)      | 1 (0.9)      | 1.00    |
| Acute myocardial infarction (% of patients)                                       | 5 (8.9)    | 34 (29.3)    | 0.003   |
| Non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (% of infarction patients)         | 1 (20)     | 5 (14.7)     | 0.408   |
| Acute left heart failure (% of patients)                                          | 0 (0)      | 2 (1.7)      | 0.819   |
| Requirement for permanent pacemaker (% of patients)                               | 0 (0)      | 2 (1.7)      | 0.819   |
| Ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation (% of patients)                           | 0 (0)      | 1 (0.9)      | 1.00    |
| Pleural effusion (medium or more volume) (% of patients)                           | 0 (0)      | 10 (8.6)     | 0.032   |
| Postoperative pneumothorax (% of patients)                                        | 0 (0)      | 3 (2.6)      | 0.552   |
| Shock (% of patients)                                                              | 1 (1.8)    | 4 (3.4)      | 0.901   |
| Requiring dialysis (% of patients)                                                | 0 (0)      | 3 (2.6)      | 0.552   |
| Repeat thoracotomy for bleeding or suppuration                                    | 0 (0)      | 5 (4.3)      | 0.175   |
| Repeat surgery for bleeding (% of patients)                                       | 0 (0)      | 1 (0.9)      | 1.00    |
| Vascular hematoma requiring vascular repair (% of patients)                       | 0 (0)      | 1 (0.9)      | 1.00    |
| Postoperative creatinine (Cr >1.5 mg/dL)                                          | 0 (0)      | 14 (12.1)    | 0.005   |
| In-hospital length of stay (days)                                                 | 9.0-13.8   | 20-27        | 0.000   |

PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG, coronary-artery bypass grafting.
Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding. P values are based on the unpaired t-test for continuous variables and on the χ² tests for categorical variables.

### Table 4. Follow-Up Outcomes

| Event or variable                                                                 | PCI (n=55) | CABG (n=108) | p value |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Followed-up cases (% of patients)                                                 | 55 (98.2)  | 108 (96.4)   | 0.666   |
| Follow-up period (months, mean±SD)                                                | 28.5±10.0  | 28.4±10.5    | 0.328   |
| Major adverse cardiac events (% of patients)                                      | 13 (23.6)  | 14 (13.0)    | 0.083   |
| Death (% of patients)                                                             | 3 (5.5)    | 7 (6.5)      | 0.995   |
| Acute myocardial infarction (% of patients)                                       | 6 (10.9)   | 9 (8.3)      | 0.591   |
| Target-vessel revascularization (% of patients)                                   | 8 (14.5)   | 4 (3.7)      | 0.022   |
| Cerebrovascular events                                                            | 0 (0)      | 6 (5.6)      | 0.098   |

PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG, coronary-artery bypass grafting.
Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding. Data are shown as mean±SD for continuous variables and absolute numbers (percentages) for dichotomous variables. P values are based on unpaired t-tests for continuous variables and on χ² tests for categorical variables. Data are shown as mean±SD for continuous variables and absolute numbers (percentages) for dichotomous variables.

### Table 5. Hazard Ratios for Clinical Outcomes after Stenting as Compared to after CABG

| Outcome                                                                 | Overall cohort (n=163) Hazard ratio (95% CI) | p value |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| Death                                                                  |                                             |         |
| Unadjusted                                                             | 1.33 (0.68-2.59)                            | 0.266   |
| Adjusted (age/sex/BMI/EF/ONTARIO score)                               | 0.51 (0.13-1.63)                            | 0.551   |
| Composite outcome of death, MI, and stroke                             |                                             |         |
| Unadjusted                                                             | 1.37 (0.75-2.67)                            | 0.591   |
| Adjusted (age/sex/BMI/EF/ONTARIO score)                               | 1.11 (0.39-1.45)                            | 0.470   |
| Target-vessel revascularization                                        |                                             |         |
| Unadjusted                                                             | 4.89 (1.78-13.02)                           | 0.000   |
| Adjusted (age/sex/BMI/EF/ONTARIO score)                               | 4.27 (1.24-11.06)                           | 0.018   |

CABG, coronary-artery bypass grafting; MI, myocardial infarction; BMI, body mass index; CI, confidence interval.
Values in parentheses are 95% CIs. CIs were estimated from Cox proportional-hazard regression with or without covariate adjustment.
the CABG group (hazard ratio, 4.89; 95% CI, 1.78-13.02; \( p < 0.001 \)). Following adjustment for age, sex, BMI, EF, and Ontario score, there was still no significant difference between the PCI and CABG groups in terms of risk of death (hazard ratio for PCI group, 0.49; 95% CI, 0.13-1.63; \( p = 0.55 \)) (Fig. 1A, Table 5) or risk of serious outcome (hazard ratio for PCI group, 1.11; 95% CI, 0.39-1.45; \( p = 0.47 \)) (Fig. 1B, Table 5). The rate of TVR was still significantly higher in the PCI group than in the CABG group (hazard ratio, 3.67; 95% CI, 1.24-11.06; \( p = 0.018 \)) (Fig. 1C, Table 5). On other hand, the rate of statins-treatment tended to be higher for the PCI group (51.2%) than for the CABG group (39.8%, \( p = 0.39 \)), and the rate of clopitigrel treatment was significantly higher for the PCI group (79.2%) than for the CABG group (17.8%, \( p < 0.001 \)).

**DISCUSSION**

During the in-hospital (up to 30-day) follow-up, DES implantation for diabetic patients with LMCA lesions was shown to be safe and was associated with a low rate of in-hospital events (including MACCER and AMI). Our long-term observations showed that the risks of death and serious outcomes (death, Q-wave MI, or stroke) were similar between the PCI and CABG groups. In contrast, the rate of TVR was significantly higher in the PCI group than in the CABG group.

Recent observational studies have reported that patients undergoing CABG have a significantly higher 30-day mortality rate than those receiving PCI\(^{19,20}\). Our observations here showed that the patients in the CABG group tended to have higher rates of MACCRE and AMI than CABG patients. Ninety-four percent of the patients in our CABG group were found to have coronary stenosis involving more than one vessel in addition to the LMCA segment (\( p < 0.05 \) v. PCI group), and the CABG group was found to have significantly lower Ontario scores and ejection fractions; these results were similar to those of previous studies\(^{19-21}\). It is likely that the patients who underwent PCI were those for whom the surgical risk was considered prohibitive, or those who were candidates for CABG but in whom PCI was considered feasible and relatively low-risk. Differences in the clinical baseline demographics as well as the extent of coronary stenosis might have caused the greater proportion of in-hospital events in the CABG group.

The assumption that CABG surgery is the best therapy for unprotected LMCA stenosis is based on the results of many historical studies performed two decades ago\(^{22}\) and on the disappointing results registered in early experience with PCI\(^{23,24}\). Another large observational study, published before the development of the DES, suggested that patients with LMCA disease did significantly better with CABG than with PCI\(^{25}\). Although this was a risk-adjusted analysis, patient-selection factors probably influenced the results. In contrast, favorable initial outcomes after LMCA intervention using DESs have been reported in select low-risk pa-
abetic patients, even though the one-year major adverse analyses by Banning and colleagues suggest that the com
protected LMCA disease.
abetic and nondiabetic individuals undergoing PCI for un
term mortality and rates of death, Q-wave MI, or stroke.
shown that DES stenting is similar to CABG for patients
considered to be poor candidates for CABG.
Despite endeavors to decrease in-stent restenosis after LMCA intervention with BMSs, such as by the use of ag
restenosis rate was still higher in patients with DM than in those without DM. The FRE
Here, we observed that the rate of TVR was higher in diabetic patients who underwent PCI than in pa
undergoing CABG, although we did not evaluate the impact of diabetic coronary risk factors on in-stent resteno
stenting with paclitaxel-eluting stents compared with CABG, due to the increase in repeat revascularization. We observed no increases in the risk of death or of composite serious outcomes. These findings suggest the early and long-term safety and efficacy of stenting versus CABG for unprotected LMCA disease in patients with or without DM. This notion is further supported by a recent study showing that the adjusted risks of death and of the composite (death, Q-wave MI, or stroke) were similar in diabetic patients who received DES and those who underwent CABG, and that diabetes had a minimal prognostic impact on the long-term treatment effects in patients who underwent DES or CABG. It should be noted that not only non-diabetic but also diabetic patients treated with DES show higher rates of TVR as compared to those treated with CABG. Effectiveness and durability are concerns related to stenting in coronary atherosclerotic ste
surgery can perfuse the distal myocardial territory, thus protecting, to some degree, against progressive atherosclerosis.
There are inherent limitations to our study. First, this was a single-center retrospective study; therefore, the results are not adequate to draw definite wide-ranging conclusions. Second, there were baseline clinical differences between the study groups, highlighting the inevitable bias related to patient selection. This was similar to previous studies of clinical outcomes following CABG and PCI for LMCA steno
Patients who underwent CABG had more multi-vessel lesions and a lower Ontario score and cardiac output, while patients who underwent PCI had a higher incidence of poorly controlled diabetes and a higher prevalence and family history of cardiovascular disease with previous coronary bypass grafting. Third, the number of study patients was too small to generalize our results to all diabetic patients with LMCA lesions.
In conclusion, these results provide new information regarding the safety and effectiveness of DES implantation in diabetic patients with LMCA lesions. These data highlight
the need for a large, long-term, multi-center randomized study comparing DES implantation and bypass surgery in diabetic patients with LMCA disease.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported in part by grants from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (no. 30960128).

REFERENCES

1. Caracciolo EA, Davis KB, Sopko G, Kaiser GC, Corley SD, Schaff H, et al. Comparison of surgical and medical group survival in patients with left main equivalent coronary artery disease. Long-term CASS experience. Circulation 1995;91:2335-44.

2. Eagle KA, Guyton RA, Davidoff R, Edwards FH, Exy GA, Gardner TJ, et al. ACC/AHA 2004 guideline update for coronary artery bypass graft surgery: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Committee to Update the 1999 Guidelines for Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery). Circulation 2004;110:e340-437.

3. Colombo A, Chieffo A. Drug-eluting stent update 2007: part III: technique and unapproved/unsettled indications (left main, bifurcations, chronic total occlusions, small vessels and long lesions, saphenous vein grafts, acute myocardial infarctions, and multivessel disease). Circulation 2007;116:1424-32.

4. Serruys PW, Morice MC, Kappetein AP, Colombo A, Holmes DR, Mack MJ, et al. Percutaneous coronary intervention versus coronary-artery bypass grafting for severe coronary artery disease. N Engl J Med 2009;360:961-72.

5. Bottner RK, Klein LW; Interventional Committee of The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions. Do the current ACC/AHA guidelines correctly reflect the attitudes and utilization of PCI in patients with unprotected left main coronary artery stenosis? Catheter Cardiovasc Interv 2005;64:402-5.

6. Kannel WB, McGee DL. Diabetes and glucose tolerance as risk factors for cardiovascular disease: the Framingham study. Diabetess Care 1979;2:120-6.

7. Stamler J, Vaccaro O, Neaton JD, Wentworth D. Diabetes, other risk factors, and 12-yr cardiovascular mortality for men screened in the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial. Diabetes Care 1993;16:434-44.

8. Stein B, Weintraub WS, Gebhart SP, Cohen-Bernstein CL, Grosswald R, Liberman HA, et al. Influence of diabetes mellitus on early and late outcome after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty. Circulation 1995;91:979-89.

9. Van Belle E, Ketelers R, Bauters C, Périé M, Abelmaali K, Richard F, et al. Patency of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty sites at 6-month angiographic follow-up: a key determinant of survival in diabetics after coronary balloon angioplasty. Circulation 2001;103:1218-24.

10. Park SJ, Kim YH, Lee BK, Lee SW, Lee CW, Hong MK, et al. Sirolimus-eluting stent implantation for unprotected left main coronary artery stenosis: comparison with bare metal stent implantation. J Am Coll Cardiol 2005;45:351-6.

11. Genuth S, Alberti KG, Bennett P, Buse J, Defronzo R, Kahn R, et al. Follow-up report on the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus. Diabetes Care 2003;26:3160-7.

12. Park SJ, Hong MK, Lee CW, Kim JJ, Song JK, Kang DH, et al. Elective stenting of unprotected left main coronary artery stenosis: effect of debulking before stenting and intravascular ultrasound guidance. J Am Coll Cardiol 2001;38:1054-60.

13. Park SJ, Lee CW, Kim YH, Lee JH, Hong MK, Kim JJ, et al. Technical feasibility, safety, and clinical outcome of stenting of unprotected left main coronary artery bifurcation narrowing. Am J Cardiol 2002;90:374-8.

14. Eagle KA, Guyton RA, Davidoff R, Edwards FH, Exy GA, Gardner TJ, et al. ACC/AHA 2004 guideline update for coronary artery bypass graft surgery: summary article. A report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Committee to Update the 1999 Guidelines for Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery). J Am Coll Cardiol 2004;44:e213-310.

15. Wang ZJ, Zhou YJ, Liu YY, Yu M, Shi DM, Zhao YX, et al. Obesity and cardiovascular thrombotic events in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention with drug-eluting stents. Heart 2009;95:1587-92.

16. Biondi-Zoccai GG, Giraudi E, Moretti C, Sciuto F, Omedè P, Sillano D, et al. Impact of routine angiographic follow-up after percutaneous coronary drug-eluting stenting for unprotected left main disease: the Turin Registry. Clin Res Cardiol 2010;99:235-42.

17. Tu JV, Jaglal SB, Naylor CD. Multicenter validation of a risk index for mortality, intensive care unit stay, and overall hospital length of stay after cardiac surgery. Steering Committee of the Provincial Adult Cardiac Care Network of Ontario. Circulation 1995;91:677-84.

18. Hirashiki A, Izawa H, Cheng XW, Unno K, Ohshima S, Murohara T. Dobutamine-induced mechanical alternans is a marker of poor prognosis in idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol 2010;37:1004-9.

19. Cheng CI, Lee FY, Chang JP, Hsueh SK, Hsieh YK, Fang CY, et al. Long-term outcomes of intervention for unprotected left main coronary artery stenosis: coronary stenting vs coronary artery bypass grafting. Circ J 2009;73:705-12.

20. Dubois C, Dens J, Sinnavee P, Belmans A, Van Cleemput J, Menez D, et al. Results of percutaneous coronary intervention of the unprotected left main coronary artery in 143 patients and comparison of 30-day mortality to results of coronary artery bypass grafting. Am J Cardiol 2008;101:75-81.

21. Seung KB, Park DW, Kim YH, Lee SW, Lee CW, Hong MK, et al. Stents versus coronary-artery bypass grafting for left main coronary artery disease. N Engl J Med 2008;358:1781-92.

22. Chaitman BR, Fisher LD, Bourassa MG, Davis K, Rogers WL, Maynard C, et al. Effect of coronary bypass surgery on survival patterns in subsets of patients with left main coronary artery disease. Report of the Collaborative Study in Coronary Artery Surgery (CASS). Am J Cardiol 1981;48:765-77.

23. Eldar M, Schulhoff N, Herz J, Frankel R, Feld H, Shani J. Results of percutaneous transluminal angioplasty of the left main coronary artery. Am J Cardiol 1991;68:253-6.

24. O'Keefe JH Jr, Hartzler GO, Rutherford BD, McConahay DR, Johnson WL, Giorgi LV, et al. Left main coronary angioplasty: early and late results of 127 acute and elective procedures. Am J Cardiol 1989;64:144-7.

25. Dzavik V, Ghlali WA, Norris C, Mitchell LB, Koshal A, Saunders
LD, et al. Long-term survival in 11,661 patients with multivessel coronary artery disease in the era of stenting: a report from the Alberta Provincial Project for Outcome Assessment in Coronary Heart Disease (APPROACH) Investigators. Am Heart J 2001;142:119-26.

26. Takagi T, Stankovic G, Finci L, Toutouzas K, Chieffo A, Spanos V, et al. Results and long-term predictors of adverse clinical events after elective percutaneous interventions on unprotected left main coronary artery. Circulation 2002;106:698-702.

27. Sarnmartin M, Baz JA, Claro R, Asorey V, Durán D, Pradas G, et al. Comparison of drug-eluting stents versus angiography for unprotected left main coronary artery disease. Am J Cardiol 2007;100:970-3.

28. Brener SJ, Galla JM, Bryant R 3rd, Sabik JF 3rd, Ellis SG. Comparison of percutaneous versus surgical revascularization of severe unprotected left main coronary stenosis in matched patients. Am J Cardiol 2008;101:169-72.

29. Silvestri M, Barragan P, Sainsous J, Bayet G, Simeoni JB, Roquebert PO, et al. Unprotected left main coronary artery stenting: immediate and medium-term outcomes of 140 elective procedures. J Am Coll Cardiol 2000;35:1543-50.

30. Hu FB, Tamai H, Kosuga K, Kyo E, Hata T, Okada M, et al. Intravascular ultrasound-guided directional coronary atherectomy for unprotected left main coronary stenoses with distal bifurcation involvement. Am J Cardiol 2003;92:936-40.

31. Fröbert O, Lagerqvist B, Carlsson J, Lindbäck J, Stenestrand U, James SK. Differences in restenosis rate with different drug-eluting stents in patients with and without diabetes mellitus: a report from the SCAAR (Swedish Angiography and Angioplasty Registry). J Am Coll Cardiol 2009;53:1660-7.

32. Farkouh ME, Dangas G, Leon MB, Smith C, Nesto R, Buse JB, et al. Design of the Future REvascularization Evaluation in patients with Diabetes mellitus: optimal management of Multivessel disease (FREEDOM) Trial. Am Heart J 2008;155:215-23.

33. Park DW, Seung KB, Kim YH, Lee JY, Kim WJ, Kang SJ, et al. Long-term safety and efficacy of stenting versus coronary artery bypass grafting for unprotected left main coronary artery disease: 5-year results from the MAIN-COMPARE (Revascularization for Unprotected Left Main Coronary Artery Stenosis: Comparison of Percutaneous Coronary Angioplasty Versus Surgical Revascularization) registry. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;56:117-24.

34. Park DW, Kim YH, Yun SC, Lee JY, Kim WJ, Kang SJ, et al. Long-term outcomes after stenting versus coronary artery bypass grafting for unprotected left main coronary artery disease: 10-year results of bare-metal stents and 5-year results of drug-eluting stents from the ASAN-MAIN (ASAN Medical Center-Left MAIN Revascularization) Registry. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;56:1366-75.

35. Morice MC, Serruys PW, Kappetein AP, Feldman TE, Stähle E, Colombo A, et al. Outcomes in patients with de novo left main disease treated with either percutaneous coronary intervention using paclitaxel-eluting stents or coronary artery bypass graft treatment in the Synergy Between Percutaneous Coronary Intervention with TAXUS and Cardiac Surgery (SYNTAX) trial. Circulation 2010;121:2645-53.

36. Kim YH, Park DW, Kim WJ, Lee JY, Yun SC, Kang SJ, et al. Impact of the extent of coronary artery disease on outcomes after revascularization for unprotected left main coronary artery stenosis. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;55:2544-52.

37. Sheffield I, Garrone P, Silliano D, Biondi-Zoccai G, Sciuto F, Omedè P, et al. Impact of diabetes mellitus on early and long-term results of percutaneous drug-eluting stent implantation for unprotected left main coronary disease. J Cardiovasc Med (Hagerstown) 2008;9:1246-53.

38. Meliga E, Garcia-Garcia HM, Valgimigli M, Chieffo A, Biondi-Zoccai G, Maree AO, et al. Diabetic patients treated for unprotected left main coronary artery disease with drug eluting stents: a 3-year clinical outcome study. The diabetes and drug eluting stent for LeFT main registry (D-DELFT). EuroIntervention 2008;4:77-83.

39. Banning AP, Westaby S, Morice MC, Kappetein AP, Mohr FW, Berti S, et al. Diabetic and nondiabetic patients with left main and/or 3-vessel coronary artery disease: comparison of outcomes with cardiac surgery and paclitaxel-eluting stents. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;55:1067-75.

40. Kim WJ, Park DW, Yun SC, Lee JY, Lee SW, Kim YH, et al. Impact of diabetes mellitus on the treatment effect of percutaneous or surgical revascularization for patients with unprotected left main coronary artery disease: a subgroup analysis of the MAIN-COMPARE study. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2009;2:956-63.

41. Sousa JE, Costa MA, Abizaid A, Feres F, Seixas AC, Tanajura LF, et al. Four-year angiographic and intravascular ultrasound follow-up of patients treated with sirolimus-eluting stents. Circulation 2005;111:2326-9.

42. Kunz RE. Importance of considering atherosclerosis progression when choosing a coronary revascularization strategy: the diabetes-percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty dilemma. Circulation 1999;99:847-51.

43. Lee MS, Kapoor N, Jamal F, Czer L, Aragon J, Forrester J, et al. Comparison of coronary artery bypass surgery with percutaneous coronary intervention with drug-eluting stents for unprotected left main coronary artery disease. J Am Coll Cardiol 2006;47:864-70.

44. Chieffo A, Morici N, Maisano F, Bonizzoni E, Cosgrave J, Montorfano M, et al. Percutaneous treatment with drug-eluting stent implantation versus bypass surgery for unprotected left main stenosis: a single-center experience. Circulation 2006;113:2542-7.