Outcome of acute myocardial infarction versus stable coronary artery disease patients treated with coronary bypass surgery

Markus Malmberg, Jarmo Gunn, Päivi Rautava, Jussi Sipila, Ville Kyto

ABSTRACT

Objective: To study the long-term outcome differences between acute myocardial infarction (MI) and stable coronary artery disease (CAD) patients treated with coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG).

Methods: We studied retrospectively patients with MI (n = 1882) or stable CAD (n = 13117) treated with isolated CABG between 2004 and 2014. Inverse propensity probability weight adjustment for baseline features was used. Median follow-up was 7.9 years.

Results: In-hospital mortality (8.6% vs. 1.6%; OR 5.94; p < .0001) and re-sternotomy (5.5% vs. 2.7%; OR 2.07; p < .0001) were more common in MI patients compared to stable CAD patients. Hospital surviving MI patients had higher all-cause mortality (28.2% vs. 22.2%; HR 1.37; p = .002) and MACE rate (34.4% vs. 27.4%; HR 1.22; CI 1.00–1.50; p = .049) at 10-year follow-up. Cardiovascular mortality (15.9% vs. 12.7%; HR 1.36; p = .017) and rate of new myocardial infarction (12.0% vs. 9.8%; HR 1.40; p = .034) were also higher in MI patients during follow-up. In follow-up of stabilized first-year survivors, the difference in all-cause (26.5% vs. 20.7%; HR 1.40; p = .003) and cardiovascular (14.2% vs. 11.4%; HR 1.37; p = .027) mortality continued to increase between MI and stable CAD patients.

Conclusion: MI patients have poorer short- and long-term outcomes compared to stable CAD patients after CABG and risk difference continues to increase with time.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Patients with myocardial infarction have poorer short- and long-term outcomes compared to stable coronary artery disease patients after coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG).
2. Higher risk of death continues also in stabilized first-year myocardial infarct survivors.
3. The importance of efficient secondary prevention and follow-up highlights in post-myocardial infarct population after CABG.

1. Introduction

Coronary artery disease (CAD) and its acute manifestation myocardial infarction (MI) are the leading causes of mortality globally and they significantly increase morbidity and the overall health care burden [1]. In acute MI and stable CAD, the choice of revascularization by coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) or percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is based on clinical presentation, patients age and comorbidities and coronary lesion characteristics [2–4]. Revascularization by CABG improves outcomes in stable multivessel or left-main CAD [5] and has good results also in MI patients not suitable to percutaneous treatment [6, 7]. Acute coronary syndrome (ACS), including both unstable angina pectoris (UA) and MI, is an independent risk-factor for early mortality after CABG [8, 9]. Post-MI patients are known to be at high risk beyond acute phase after infarction [10]. Little is however known on long-term prognostic significance of MI for CABG-treated patients. Thus, we sought to investigate the short- and long-term
outcome impact of undergoing CABG due to MI versus stable CAD in a real-world baseline adjusted population-based setting.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Study design

We studied differences in outcomes of baseline adjusted MI and stable CAD patients treated with isolated CABG. Short-term outcomes were in-hospital all-cause mortality, re-sternotomy (for all operated patients) and duration of hospital stay (of hospital survivors). Sequential admissions in different wards and hospitals after surgery were all combined. Long-term outcomes were all-cause mortality, combined major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE; cardiovascular mortality, MI or stroke) and individual components of MACE. Long-term outcomes were studied in patients discharged alive after CABG. In addition, outcomes were studied in patients surviving without MACE for 1 year after CABG. Long-term outcomes were studied for 10-year occurrence after CABG. Follow-up ended for mortality 10 years after index hospitalization or 31.12.2016, whichever came first. For other outcome, follow-up ended 31.12.2014. Study design and outcomes are described in more detail in the Supplementary. The study was approved by the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (permissions no: THL/143/5.05.00/2015 and THL/1569/5.05.00/2016), the Statistics Finland (TK53-1410-15) and the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (91/522/2015). Patient consent was waived due to study design.

2.2. Patient

All patients aged ≥18 who underwent CABG as primary operation between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2014 were retrospectively recognized from the Care Register for Healthcare in Finland. This nationwide, mandatory registry includes data on all hospital admissions in Finland [11]. Myocardial infarction was recognized with ICD-10 code I21 as primary diagnosis and stable CAD with I25 as primary diagnosis. Bypass surgery for acute MI or stable CAD patients was performed in six public hospitals in Finland, which all were included in the study. Patients with prior cardiac surgery (including prior CABG), concomitant surgery of heart valves, surgery of aorta, surgery of other cardiac or pulmonary vasculature defects, bypass using other arterial grafts than in situ left or right internal thoracic artery, or any other coronary surgery were excluded. Co-morbidities were recognized from the Care Register for Healthcare and the Nationwide database of permissions for drug reimbursements in Finland using previously described ICD coding [12] and applicable drug purchase reimbursement codes (https://www.kela.fi/web/en/medicine-expenses). Each comorbidity was accounted separately in the adjustment for outcome analysis. Mortality data of patients was obtained from nationwide, mandatory cause of death registry held by Statistics Finland.

2.3. Statistical analysis

Inverse probability weighting (IPW) was used to balance baseline differences of MI and stable CAD patients [13]. Propensity score including age, sex, age*sex, atrial fibrillation, cerebrovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease, dementia, diabetes, heart failure, hemi- or paraplegia, hypertension, liver disease, malignancy, peptic ulcer disease, peripheral vascular disease, prior MI, rheumatic disease, renal disease, type of by-pass graft, number of grafted anastomoses, study year and surgical centre were created using logistic regression. In order to improve balancing, propensity scores were trimmed to overlapping area. Inverse probability weights were calculated based on propensity score. Propensity scoring and IPW were re-performed for hospital survivors and first-year survivors. Weighting resulted in balanced groups (Table 1; Supplementary Table) with standardized difference of propensity score of 0.021 (variance ratio 1.01). Mean of unstabilized weights was 2.03 (min 1.01, max 81.2) and mean of stabilized weights was 1.00 (min 0.18, max 10.14).

Standardized difference scores were used for evaluation of effect sizes in baseline characteristics between groups. Differences between groups were studied Chi-Square test. Re-sternotomy and in-hospital mortality were studied using logistic regression. Mortality, MACE, MI and stroke were studied using the Kaplan–Meier method and Cox regression. Proportional hazard assumptions were confirmed by visual examination of Schoenfeld residuals. Cause-specific hazard models for competing risk due to death were applied in analysis of outcomes. Admission duration from surgery to discharge (beginning days) of hospital survivors was studied using negative binomial regression. Stable CAD was used as the reference in regression modelling. Adjustment for baseline covariates was performed by weighting with stabilized IPWs. Robust sandwich type estimates were used in regression analyses [14]. Median follow-up for mortality was evaluated by reverse
3. Results

Of all 15,059 patients 1882 (12.5%) were operated due to MI and 13,177 (87.5%) due to stable CAD. Proportion of MI patients increased significantly during study period from 3.0% in 2004 to 29.5% in 2014 (Table 1). Majority of all operated patients were men (79.1%). Women were slightly over represented in MI patients (23.5% females) compared to stable patients (20.5%; \( p = 0.003 \)). Mean age of all patients was 67.1 (8.9) years (Table 1). Prior MI was more common in MI patients (Table 1). Revascularization using only venous grafts was more common in patients with MI, but the number of grafted anastomoses did not differ between study groups (Table 1). Median time from admission to the surgery in MI group was 2 days (IQR 1–6 days). Median follow-up was 7.9 years.

### 3.1. In-hospital outcomes

In-hospital outcomes after CABG were poorer in patients with MI (Table 2). Adjusted in-hospital mortality was 8.6% with MI and 1.6% with stable CAD patients (OR 5.94; CI 4.44–7.94; \( p < .0001 \)). Re-sternotomy after CABG was performed to 5.5% of MI patients and 2.7% of stable CAD patients (OR 2.07; CI 1.46–2.94; \( p < .0001 \)). Duration of hospital admission from operation to discharge was longer in MI patients (median 13 days, IQR 10–118) than in stable CAD patients (median 11, IQR 9–14; adjusted \( p < .0001 \)) with estimated RR per 1 day increase in admission of 1.28 (CI 1.18–1.39; \( p < .0001 \)).
3.2. First year outcomes

All-cause mortality at 1-year among hospital survivors after CABG was 2.8% in MI group and 2.1% in stable CAD group (HR 1.33; CI 0.83–2.11; p = .23, Figure 1). Cumulative adjusted MACE rate of hospital survivors at 1-year was 5.7% in MI and 3.6% in stable CAD patients (HR 1.60; CI 1.16–2.21; p = .004, Figure 2). First-year adjusted all-cause mortality of all operated patients was 11.2% in MI and 3.7% in stable CAD groups (HR 3.20; CI 2.53–4.04; p < .0001, Figure 1). One-year cardiovascular mortality rate in hospital survivors was 2.1% in MI vs. 1.6% in stable CAD group (HR 1.34; CI 0.79–2.27; p = .279). Myocardial infarction occurred to 2.7% of MI and 1.2% of stable CAD patients (hospital survivors) within first year after CABG (HR 2.33; CI 1.49–3.64; p = .0002, Figure 3). Stroke rate was 2.3% in MI and 1.6% in stable CAD patients at 1-year (HR 1.42; CI 0.80–2.532; p = .226, Figure 3).

3.3. Ten-year outcomes

All-cause mortality of hospital survivors was 28.2% in MI and 22.2% (HR 1.38; CI 1.12–1.68; p = .002, Figure 1). Among all operated patients the 10-year all-cause mortality was 33.7% in MI and 23.5% in stable CAD (HR 1.75; CI 1.49–2.06; p < .0001, Figure 1). Ten-year MACE rate was 34.4% in MI patients compared to 27.4% in stable CAD patients (HR 1.22; CI 1.00–1.50; p = .049, Figure 2). Cumulative incidence of cardiovascular mortality at 10 years was 15.9% in MI group and 12.7% in stable CAD group in hospital survivors (HR 1.36; CI 1.06–1.75; p = .017). Myocardial infarction rate within 10-years was 12.0% in MI group and 9.8% in stable CAD group (HR 1.40; CI 1.03–1.90; p = .034, Figure 3). Occurrence of stroke did not differ significantly within 10-year follow-up (13.2% in MI vs. 10.8% in stable CAD; HR 0.93; CI 0.65–1.32; p = .676, Figure 3).

3.4. Outcomes of first-year survivors

Difference between MI and stable CAD patients in all-cause (26.5 vs. 20.7%; HR 1.40; CI 1.12–1.73; p = .003) and cardiovascular mortality (14.2 vs. 11.4%; HR 1.37; CI 1.04–1.81 p = .027) continued to increase during 9-year follow-up beyond the first year after CABG. Rates of new MACE (30.5 vs. 25.1%), MI (9.9 vs. 8.8%), or stroke (11.3 vs. 9.5%) were comparable in follow-up beyond first year after CABG (Table 2).

4. Discussion

This population-based, multicenter nationwide study investigated the outcome differences of baseline adjusted patients with MI or stable CAD who underwent CABG. Myocardial infarction patients had poorer outcomes at short-term, but also at long-term follow-up. Importantly, stabilized post-MI survivors continued to be at higher risk of mortality in long-term follow-up.
In agreement with previous studies of ACS and MI patients [9,15], we found in-hospital mortality to be significantly higher when CABG was performed for patients with MI (8.6%) compared to patients with stable CAD (1.6%). This mortality rate is well in line with previous findings of 2.7–21.6% early mortality after CABG in MI patients [7,15]. Increased mortality of MI patients is associated with higher risk of both procedural (e.g. early bypass dysfunction) and MI related complications [7,15], reflected also to a longer hospitalization period after surgery found in our data.

Optimal timing of CABG after MI for maximal benefit-risk gain is unclear [15,16]. Urgent revascularization may be necessary, but night-time emergency surgery with reduced operating team may also contribute for poorer outcome in MI [15,16]. Our data does not allow studying the timing of surgery after MI, but previous

Figure 1. Cumulative adjusted all-cause mortality of all (A) and hospital surviving (B) myocardial infarction (MI) and stable coronary artery disease (CAD) patients after coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). HR: inverse probability weight adjusted hazard ration. CI = 95% confidence interval.

Figure 2. Cumulative adjusted occurrence of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) on hospital surviving myocardial infarction (MI) and stable coronary artery disease (CAD) patients after coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). HR: inverse probability weight adjusted hazard ration. CI = 95% confidence interval.

Figure 3. Cumulative adjusted occurrence of myocardial infarction (A) and stroke (B) in hospital surviving myocardial infarction (MI) and stable coronary artery disease (CAD) patients after coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). HR: inverse probability weight adjusted hazard ration. CI = 95% confidence interval.
results suggests that optimal of timing for CABG can be appropriately determined by clinicians [17].

We also found that the rate of re-sternotomy reflecting major bleeding to be significantly higher after CABG for MI patients compared to stable CAD patients (5.5 vs. 2.7%). Due to increased platelet action, it is a common practice advocated by guidelines [18] to pretreat MI patients with antiplatelet adenosine diphosphate P2Y12 receptor antagonist (clopidogrel, prasugrel or ticagrelor) before coronary angiography. However, in recent findings, the increased re-sternotomy and bleeding rates [19] in MI patients undergoing CABG and non-effectiveness of pre-treatment prior to PCI [20], question the benefits of routine P2Y12 inhibitor preloading in NSTEMI patients, especially if left main or multivessel disease is suspected.

Worse prognosis of MI patients after surgery continued beyond hospital discharge. Occurrence of MACE was high in post-CABG MI patients with 34% of hospital surviving MI patients facing cardiovascular death, new MI or stroke within 10 years. Difference compared to stable CAD patients (MACE rate 27.4%) was driven by higher rates of new onset MI and cardiovascular mortality. Previous data on long-term outcomes of CABG-treated MI patients is sparse. Japanese single-centre study of 1233 patients found comparable late mortality and major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events between propensity matched ACS and stable CAD patients [9]. However, patients with MI have poorer prognosis than those with UA who are also included in ACS [21]. Despite the fact that patients who underwent CABG following unstable angina had better long-term survival than patients with NSTEMI, patients with unstable angina remain at high risk also after PCI when compared with stable CAD [22,23]. Although long-term mortality and cardiovascular outcomes are more common in MI patients after CABG, quality of life 10 years after surgery is nevertheless found to be excellent and comparable to matched control population in both acute and stable CAD post-CABG patients [24].

Importantly, we found the stabilized post-MI patients to have poorer survival also beyond first MACE-free year after CABG. This continuing risk-difference compared to non-MI CAD patients is most likely associated with differences in conventional CAD risk factors and MI-related myocardial injury, but also to other factors such as coronary plaque stability [25] and thrombogenesis [26]. Detailed mechanisms remain to be further clarified. There is substantial evidence on efficient pharmacotherapy including, e.g. beta-blockers, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, antiplatelet and anti-coagulative agents in addition to non-pharmacotherapeutic intervention including, e.g. smoking cessation, rehabilitation and physical exercise in preventing cardiovascular outcomes in CAD and post-MI patients [27]. Although there is evidence of improving usage of secondary prevention [28], improvements are still called upon for initiation and adherence of effective therapies [29]. Our finding underlines the importance of usage of effective secondary prevention therapy especially in post-MI population after CABG. Improving long-term adherence to effective secondary prevention requires adequate follow-up program especially in post-MI CABG patients.

There are limitations in this study. The major limitation is retrospective design with usage of registry data. In this study, combination of previously validated nationwide, mandatory by law registries was used [30]. Treating physicians were responsible for diagnoses in the registries and coding errors are therefore possible. We did not have access to detailed clinical or operative information (e.g. SYNTAX or EuroScore), or to usage of pharmacotherapies. Although registries used are mandatory and have good coverage, it is possible that some co-morbidities and non-fatal outcomes may be underestimated. Co-morbidity burden in different studies varies due to differences in patient populations, data collection and in definitions. In our study, the rates of major co-morbidities (e.g. diabetes, prior MI, heart failure, peripheral vascular disease) were similar to those reported in prospective study of ACS patients treated with CABG [9] or large-scale Swedish registry study of CABG patients [31]. Proportions of atrial fibrillation and hypertension patients have larger variation between studies [9,31]. It is however not likely that these limitations would have significantly different influence on study groups in the current study setting. Propensity score weighting for number of baseline features was used to balance study groups, but it is nevertheless possible that additional non-recognizable co-founders may impact the results.

Since we did not study post-CABG parameters (such as pharmacotherapy, laboratory results including markers of myocardial cell destruction such as creatine kinase, or development of left ventricular systolic function after MI), our study is unable to highlight detailed mechanisms of poorer outcome in MI patients. It is plausible that reduced left ventricle ejection fraction contributes for poorer long-term outcome in CABG patient following MI [7].

As a conclusion, MI patients have poorer short- and long-term outcomes compared to stable CAD patients
after CABG. Higher risk of death continues also in stabilized first-year MI survivors. These results underline the importance of efficient secondary prevention and follow-up in post-MI population after CABG.

Disclosure statement

Markus Malmberg has received travel grants and congress sponsorship (Abbott, Boston Lifesciences, Medtronic). Jarmo Gunn has received an unrestricted research grant form Vifor Pharma. Päivi Rautava has received speaker fee and travel grant (Roche Oy). Jussi Sipilä has received honoraria (Merck, Pfizer, Sanofi), has received a consultancy fee (Rinneko Foundation), has received travel grants and congress sponsorship (Abbvie, Orion Pharma, Merck Serono, Sanquin, Lundbeck, Novartis) and holds shares (Orion Corporation). Ville Kytö has received a scientific consultancy fee (AstraZeneca), speaker fee (Bayer, AstraZeneca, Roche), and travel grants and congress sponsorship (AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, Pfizer).

Author contributions

Conceptualization, V.K., M.M. and J.G.; methodology, V.K., J.G.; software, V.K.; validation, V.K., J.G., J.S.; formal analysis, V.K.; investigation, M.M., V.K.; resources, V.K., P.R.; data curation, V.K., J.S., P.R.; writing—original draft preparation, M.M., V.K.; writing—review and editing, J.G., P.R., J.S., V.K.; visualization, V.K.; supervision, V.K.; project administration, V.K.; funding acquisition, V.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding

This research was funded by Government’s Special Financial Transfer tied to academic research in Health Sciences (Finland) of the hospital district of Southwestern Finland and grant funding of the Finnish Cultural Foundation and Finnish Cardiac Society.

References

[1] Naghavi M, Abjabbor AA, Abbafati C, et al.; GBD 2016 causes of death collaborators. Global, regional, and national age-sex specific mortality for 264 causes of death, 1980–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. Lancet. 2017; 390(10100):1151–1210.
[2] Neumann FJ, Sousa-Uva M, Aklsson A, et al.; ESC Scientific Document Group. ESC/EACTS guidelines on myocardial revascularization. Eur Heart J. 2019;40(2):87–165.
[3] Patel MR, Calhoon JH, Dehmer GJ, et al. ACC/AATS/ AHA/ASE/ASNC/SCAI/SCCT/STS 2016 appropriate use criteria for coronary revascularization in patients with acute coronary syndromes: a report of the American College of Cardiology Appropriate Use Criteria Task Force, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Heart Association, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2017;69(5):570–591.
[4] Patel MR, Calhoon JH, Dehmer GJ, et al. ACC/AATS/ AHA/ASE/ASNC/SCAI/SCCT/STS 2017 appropriate use criteria for coronary revascularization in patients with stable ischemic heart disease: a report of the American College of Cardiology Appropriate Use Criteria Task Force, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Heart Association, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2017;69(17):2212–2241.
[5] Windecker S, Stortecky S, Stefaniini GG, et al. Revascularisation versus medical treatment in patients with stable coronary artery disease: network meta-analysis. BMJ. 2014;348:g3859.
[6] Freitas P, Madeira M, Raposo L, et al. Coronary artery bypass grafting versus percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction and left main or multivessel coronary disease. Am J Cardiol. 2019;123(5):717–724.
[7] Grothusen C, Friedrich C, Loehr J, et al. Outcome of stable patients with acute myocardial infarction and coronary artery bypass surgery within 48 hours: a single-center, retrospective experience. J Am Heart Assoc. 2017;6:e005498.
[8] Louagie YA, Jamart J, Buche M, et al. Operation for unstable angina pectoris: factors influencing adverse in-hospital outcome. Ann Thorac Surg. (5)1995;59:1141–1149.
[9] Fukui T, Tabata M, Morita S, et al. Early and long-term outcomes of coronary artery bypass grafting in patients with acute coronary syndrome versus stable angina pectoris. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2013;145(6):1577–1583.
[10] Kytö V, Prami T, Khanfir H, et al. Usage of PCI and long-term cardiovascular risk in post-myocardial infarction patients: a nationwide registry cohort study from Finland. BMC Cardiovasc Disord. 2019;19(1):123.
[11] Kytö V, Ahtela E, Sipilä J, et al. Mechanical versus biological valve prosthesis for surgical aortic valve replacement in patients with infective endocarditis. Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg. 2019;29(3):386–392.
[12] Kytö V, Myllykangas ME, Sipilä J, et al. Long-term outcomes with mechanical versus biological aortic valve prosthesis in patients >70 years. Ann Thorac Surg. 2019;108(5):1354–1360.
[13] Austin PC. The use of propensity score methods with survival or time-to-event outcomes: reporting measures of effect similar to those used in randomized experiments. Stat Med. 2014;33(7):1242–1258.
[14] Austin PC. Variance estimation when using inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) with survival analysis. Stat Med. 2016;35(30):5642–5655.
[15] Caceres M, Weiman DS. Optimal timing of coronary artery bypass grafting in acute myocardial infarction. Ann Thorac Surg. 2013;95:365–372.

[16] Nichols EL, McCullough JN, Ross CS, et al.; Northern New England Cardiovascular Disease Study Group. Optimal timing from myocardial infarction to coronary artery bypass grafting on hospital mortality. Ann Thorac Surg. 2017;103(1):162–171.

[17] Parikh SV, de Lemos JA, Jessen ME, et al. Timing of in-hospital coronary artery bypass graft surgery for non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction patients results from the National Cardiovascular Data Registry ACTION Registry-GWTG (Acute Coronary Treatment and Intervention Outcomes Network Registry-Get With The Guidelines). JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2010;3(4):419–427.

[18] Roffi M, Patrono C, Collet JP, et al.; ESC Scientific Document Group. 2015 ESC guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation: task force for the management of acute coronary syndromes in patients presenting without persistent ST-segment elevation of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). Eur Heart J. 2016;37(3):267–315.

[19] Badri M, Abdelbaky A, Li S, et al. Percatheterization use of P2Y12 Inhibitors in non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients undergoing early cardiac catheterization and in-hospital coronary artery bypass grafting: insights from the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (R). J Am Heart Assoc. 2017;6:e006508.

[20] Montalescot G, Bolognese L, Dudek D, et al.; ACCOAST Investigators. Pretreatment with prasugrel in non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndromes. N Engl J Med. 2013;369(11):999–1010.

[21] Puelacher C, Gugala M, Adamson PD, et al. Incidence and outcomes of unstable angina compared with non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction. Heart. 2019;105(18):1423–1431.

[22] Hochholzer W, Buettner HJ, Trenk D, et al. Percutaneous coronary intervention versus coronary artery bypass grafting as primary revascularization in patients with acute coronary syndrome. Am J Cardiol. 2008;102(2):173–179.

[23] Hirsch A, Verouden NJ, Koch KT, et al. Comparison of long-term mortality after percutaneous coronary intervention in patients treated for acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction versus those with unstable and stable angina pectoris. Am J Cardiol. 2009;104(3):333–337.

[24] Bjessmo S, Sartipy U. Quality of life ten years after surgery for acute coronary syndrome or stable angina. Scand Cardiovasc J. 2010;44(1):59–64.

[25] Ahmadi A, Argulian E, Leipsic J, et al. From subclinical atherosclerosis to plaque progression and acute coronary events: JACC state-of-the-art review. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(12):1608–1617.

[26] Eikelboom JW, Connolly SJ, Bosch J, et al. Rivaroxaban with or without aspirin in stable cardiovascular disease. N Engl J Med. 2017;377(14):1319–1330.

[27] Knuutila J, Wijns W, Saraste A, et al. 2019; ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of chronic coronary syndromes. Eur Heart J. 41:407–477.

[28] Setoguchi S, Glynn RJ, Avorn J, et al. Improvements in long-term mortality after myocardial infarction and increased use of cardiovascular drugs after discharge: a 10-year trend analysis. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2008;51(13):1247–1254.

[29] Mathews R, Wang W, Kaltenbach LA, et al. Hospital variation in adherence rates to secondary prevention medications and the implications on quality. Circulation. 2018;137(20):2128–2138.

[30] Sund R. Quality of the Finnish Hospital discharge register: a systematic review. Scand J Public Health. 2012;40(6):505–515.

[31] Bjorklund E, Nielsen SJ, Hansson ECG, et al. Secondary prevention medications after coronary artery bypass grafting and long-term survival: a population-based longitudinal study from the SWEDHEART registry. Eur Heart J. 2019;41:1653–1661.