RESEARCH ARTICLE

Antiplatelet Therapy of Cilostazol or Sarpogrelate with Aspirin and Clopidogrel after Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: A Retrospective Cohort Study Using the Korean National Health Insurance Claim Database

Yoojin Noh1, Jimin Lee1, Sooyoung Shin1, Hong-Seok Lim2, Soo Kyung Bae3, Euichul Oh3, Grace Juyun Kim4, Ju Han Kim4, Sukhyang Lee1*

1 College of Pharmacy, Ajou University, Suwon, South Korea, 2 Department of Cardiology, School of Medicine, Ajou University, Suwon, South Korea, 3 College of Pharmacy, The Catholic University of Korea, Bucheon, South Korea, 4 Division of Biomedical Informatics, College of Medicine, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

* suklee@ajou.ac.kr

Abstract

Background/Objectives
Addition of cilostazol or sarpogrelate to the standard dual antiplatelet therapy of aspirin and clopidogrel has been implemented in patients that underwent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with stents in Korea. This study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of triple antiplatelet therapies.

Methods
This retrospective cohort study was performed using the Korean National Insurance Claim Data of the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2014. The study cohort population consisted of patients with ischemic heart diseases and a history of PCI. They were treated with antiplatelet therapy of aspirin, clopidogrel (AC); aspirin, clopidogrel, cilostazol (ACSi); or aspirin, clopidogrel, sarpogrelate (ACSa) during the index period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011. During the follow-up period up to December 31, 2014, the major adverse cardiac or cerebral events (MACCE) including death, myocardial infarction, target lesion revascularization, and ischemic stroke were assessed. Bleeding complications were also evaluated as adverse drug events.

Results
Out of 93,876 patients with PCI during the index period, 69,491 patients started dual (AC) or triple therapy (ACSa or ACCi). The clinical outcomes of comparing ACSa and ACCi therapy showed beneficial effects in the ACSa group in the prevention of subsequent cardiac or...
cerebral events. After Propensity score-matching between ACSa and ACCi groups, there were significant differences in MI and revascularization, with corresponding HR of 0.38 (95% CI, 0.20–0.73) and 0.66 (95% CI, 0.53–0.82) in ACSa vs. ACCi at 12 months, respectively. At the 24-month follow-up, the triple therapy groups (ACS or ACC) had a higher incidence of MACCE compared to the dual therapy (AC) group; ACSa vs. AC HR of 1.69 (95% CI, 1.62–1.77); ACC vs. AC HR of 1.22 (95% CI, 1.06–1.41). There was no significant difference in severe or life-threatening bleeding risk among three groups; ACSa vs. AC, HR of 0.68 (95% CI, 0.37–1.24), ACCi vs. AC, HR of 0.91 (95% CI, 0.77–1.09).

Conclusion

Sarpogrelate-containing triple antiplatelet therapy demonstrated comparable rates of MACCE prevention to the conventional dual antiplatelet therapy after PCI without significantly increasing bleeding risk during the two-year follow-up period.

Introduction

Dual antiplatelet therapy consisting of aspirin and P2Y12-receptor antagonist, especially clopidogrel, prasugrel or ticagrelor is currently recommended for prevention of cardiovascular events in clinical guidelines as standard therapy for patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with coronary stent [1–3]. However, treatment failure has occurred due to heterogeneity in the response of individual patients to aspirin or clopidogrel [4]. Resistance to aspirin or clopidogrel has been seen clinically, and there is a relatively high prevalence of clopidogrel resistance in Asia [5–7].

Triple antiplatelet therapy consisting of aspirin, clopidogrel, and cilostazol has been suggested as an effective measure to address the possibility of treatment failure due to resistance. The increased risk of bleeding over the standard dual drug therapy could be a safety concern, but safety as well as efficacy of triple therapy with cilostazol had been studied and reported previously [8–13]. The guideline of antiplatelet therapy in Korea also recommends cilostazol as a triple antiplatelet therapy to overcome resistance of clopidogrel [14].

Sarpogrelate is another potential agent for adjunctive antiplatelet therapy, and has been approved in Japan since 1993. Sarpogrelate is a selective 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor subtype 2A antagonist, which acts as a platelet aggregation inhibitor to improve peripheral circulation in the treatment of ischemic symptoms observed in patients with chronic arterial obstruction [15]. Studies have reported on the effectiveness of sarpogrelate in patients with ischemic heart disease or peripheral vascular disease [16, 17]; however, most of the studies were small clinical trials investigated in the Asian population. Data on its efficacy as part of triple antiplatelet therapy (aspirin, clopidogrel, and sarpogrelate) in patients undergoing stent procedures are scarce [18, 19].

Considering Asian individual characteristics, it is necessary to evaluate the efficacy and safety of triple therapy with sarpogrelate or cilostazol after PCI with coronary stent, because no studies have compared the efficacy and safety of the two therapy combinations. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the treatment pattern and effect in large-scale healthcare claim data of two triple antiplatelet therapy options commonly used in Korea after stent implantation.

Methods

Study Design and Population

The retrospective cohort study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of antiplatelet therapies after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with stent implantation. This study
used the administrative data from the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service (HIRA) database in Korea. The HIRA database includes the demographic information and medical benefit claim information of approximately 50 million Korean people. The HIRA database includes data on all ambulatory and inpatient claims regarding ambulatory care service, inpatient orders, and prescriptions dispensed at pharmacies. The national health insurance (NHI) program is a universal health care system, requiring a contribution of a monthly premium and a copayment, which allows beneficiaries to access any of the contracted medical facilities and institutions in Korea. The majority of Korean people are represented in the NHI claims database.

To protect patient privacy, personal identification numbers were codified or blocked. The authors were blinded to the personal identification numbers. The diagnoses were coded according to the Korean Classification of Disease (KCD-6) modification of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10). The clinical procedures were coded by the HIRA coding system. Information for prescribed drugs included brand name, generic name, dose, prescription date, and duration of therapy.

We obtained the claim information for patients who were diagnosed with ischemic heart disease (ICD-10 codes I21-I25) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013. The study population undergoing stent from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 was collected out of the claim database for patients who were diagnosed with the ischemic heart disease during the relevant period. The coronary stent classification codes used were “Percutaneous Transcatheter Placement of Intracoronary Stent-Single Vessel” and “Percutaneous Transcatheter Placement of Intracoronary Stent-Additional Vessel”. The index date was defined as the first date of stent procedure during the study period (Fig 1). Inclusion criteria were patients treated with the target antiplatelet agents for 12 months: aspirin and clopidogrel, with or without cilostazol or sarpogrelate as a third agent. Eligible patients were classified into one of three study groups: dual therapy group (aspirin + clopidogrel, AC); triple therapy group (aspirin + clopidogrel + cilostazol, ACCi); or triple therapy group (aspirin + clopidogrel + sarpogrelate, ACSa). Current guidelines recommend the duration of antiplatelet therapies up to 12 months depending on the patients’ characteristics [1–3]. Patients was treated with the study therapy for 12 months, and considered continuously exposed to a study therapy until patients discontinued their therapy or switched to the other antiplatelet therapy. The censored time was calculated for the treatment duration.

Patients treated with other antiplatelet agents from the index date were excluded. Exclusion criteria also included the following: (1) patients with severe liver disease (ICD-10 code K72.1), chronic renal disease (stage 4 and 5, ICD-10 codes N18.4, N18.5), and heart failure (ICD-10 codes I50), (2) under 18 years of age, (3) patients treated with other antiplatelet and anticoagulants such as warfarin, GP IIb/IIIa, vitamin K antagonist and factor Xa inhibitors (4) patients who had over 500 mg of aspirin or clopidogrel double dose over 7 days, (5) patients treated with cilostazol or sarpogrelate as a triple therapy for fewer than 28 days, (6) patients who received both cilostazol and sarpogrelate concomitantly for the study period, and (7) patients who took the study drug therapy for 6 months or less.

Study Endpoint, Definitions, and Follow-Up

The primary efficacy endpoint was a major adverse cardiac or cerebral event (MACCE), which was defined as one of the following: all-cause death (ICD-10 codes R96, R98, R99, and I46.1) [20], ischemic stroke (ICD-10 codes I63, I64), recurrent MI (ICD-10 codes I21, I22), or revascularization. The safety assessment was severe or life-threatening or minor bleeding event at 12 months. Severe or life-threatening bleeding was defined as subarachnoid, intra-cerebral, or
intracranial hemorrhage. Bleeding definition was based on the GUSTO criteria [21], but it was determined by ICD-10 code which was an available data in this study. MI was determined after the discharge dates. To ensure only appropriate inclusion of myocardial infarction event as a recurrence, both the second MI diagnosis code and a revascularization code should occur within the same period. Revascularization was determined as a stent procedure code or bypass surgery, occurring more than 7 days from the index date to exclude pre-planned procedures. Ischemic stroke as the primary diagnosis should be recorded more than twice in order to be a qualifying diagnosis. The patients were followed up to 24 months from the index date, and all
of the endpoints were measured at 12 months and 24 months. For determining impact of long term period therapies, the maximum follow up period was defined 24 months [11, 22].

Clinical outcomes of antiplatelet therapies were assessed according to the characteristics of the patient, including age at index date, gender, comorbidities, and concomitant medications. Comorbidities included hypertension, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus. The appropriate ICD-10 codes must be recorded more than twice in the 1 year prior to the index date to qualify as comorbidity. The Charlson comorbidity score was calculated in the year prior to the index date [23]. Concomitant medications considered were angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, β-blockers, calcium channel blockers, nitrates, statins, other lipid lowering agents, and proton pump inhibitors between 60 days before and 60 days after the index date. These medications were not included as concomitant medications if prescribed only one time for a period of less than 7 days.

Statistical Analysis

Baseline characteristics and incidence of events are presented as numbers with percentage for categorical variables. Continuous variables expressed as mean and standard deviation were compared using ANOVA statistical analysis. Categorical variables were compared with the Mantel–Haenszel chi-squared test. The patient characteristics were also compared by standardized mean difference [24]. A propensity score analysis was used to compare the difference between the two triple therapy regimens. A propensity score analysis was also carried out to control for selection biases and compared effects between AC and ACCi or between AC and ACSa on incidence of cardiac or cerebral events. Propensity scores were calculated using a multivariate logistic regression analysis. After the matching of each group, we performed a Cox proportional hazard analysis to evaluate the effect of dual and triple therapies on the incidence of MACCE. The analysis was adjusted for the following baseline covariates: age, sex, comorbidities, and concomitant medications. Outcomes were presented as hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals. The proportional hazard assumption was checked by examining the log-log plots of the hazard functions for each group. All of the statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA)

Ethical Approval

The study obtained an official approval from the HIRA inquiry commission. Each patient’s personal privacy was protected by de-identification of the national insurance claim data for analysis.

Results

Total patients of the study cohort were 4,341,608 with a diagnosis of ischemic heart disease between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013. Out of 93,876 patient with a stent procedure identified in the cohort, 69,491 patients were included in the study who were administered with the antiplatelet therapy of aspirin, clopidogrel, cilostazol or sarpogrelate as the study drug regimens. Dual therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel (AC) was administered in 50,117 (72.1%); triple therapy aspirin, clopidogrel, and cilostazol (ACCi) in 18,002 (25.9%); and aspirin, clopidogrel, and sarpogrelate (ACSa) in 1,372 (2.0%) patients (Fig 1).

Baseline characteristics, comorbidity and concomitant medications are reported in Table 1. The triple therapy ACCi and ACSa groups had not only higher Charlson comorbidity scores, but also higher rates of hypertension, diabetes, peripheral atrial diseases, and previous PCI compared with the AC group. The ACSa group was older than AC and ACCi groups (ACSa:
Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the study population.

| Overall population (n = 69,491) | ACSa (n = 1,372) | ACCi (n = 18,002) | AC (n = 50,117) | SMD (ACSa) | SMD (ACCi) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Age, years                    |                  |                  |                 |            |            |
| Mean ± SD                     | 65.7 ± 10.1      | 63.8 ± 10.9      | 63.6 ± 6.0      | 0.34       | 0.02       |
| Age, n (%)                    |                  |                  |                 |            |            |
| Less than 65 years            | 575 (41.9)       | 8,922 (49.6)     | 25,481 (50.8)   | 0.006      | 0.029      |
| 65–74 years                   | 510 (37.2)       | 6,081 (33.8)     | 15,680 (31.3)   |            |            |
| 75 years and older            | 287 (20.9)       | 2,999 (16.7)     | 8,956 (17.9)    |            |            |
| Male, n (%)                   | 816 (59.5)       | 12,559 (69.8)    | 34,114 (68.1)   | 0.054      | 0.059      |
| Charlson Comorbidities        |                  |                  |                 |            |            |
| Hyperlipidemia                | 1,089 (79.4)     | 14,576 (80.9)    | 39,353 (78.5)   | 0.005      | 0.007      |
| Hypertension                  | 1,150 (83.8)     | 14,802 (82.2)    | 38,638 (77.1)   | 0.016      | 0.009      |
| Type II diabetes mellitus     | 746 (54.4)       | 9,302 (51.7)     | 19,117 (38.1)   | 0.002      | 0.004      |
| Cerebrovascular disease       | 273 (19.9)       | 3,139 (17.4)     | 6,563 (13.1)    | 0.003      | 0.032      |
| MI                            | 318 (23.2)       | 5,903 (32.8)     | 15,404 (30.7)   | 0.014      | 0.016      |
| CRD (stage 1–3)               | 5 (0.36)         | 20 (0.11)        | 69 (0.14)       | 0.007      | 0.005      |
| PAD                           | 240 (17.5)       | 2,327 (12.9)     | 4,312 (8.6)     | 0.004      | 0.042      |
| Coagulopathy                  | 10 (0.73)        | 54 (0.30)        | 165 (0.32)      | 0.009      | 0.004      |
| AF                            | 54 (3.96)        | 572 (3.18)       | 1564 (3.12)     | 0.012      | 0.006      |
| Previous PCI                  | 94 (6.9)         | 1,147 (6.4)      | 1,866 (3.7)     | 0.016      | 0.049      |
| Previous CABG                 | 2 (0.15)         | 33 (0.18)        | 87 (0.17)       | 0.011      | 0.001      |
| Clinical diagnosis, n (%)     |                  |                  |                 |            |            |
| Stable angina                 | 304 (22.2)       | 4,263 (23.7)     | 12,857 (25.7)   | 0.067      | 0.038      |
| Unstable angina               | 576 (42.0)       | 6,249 (34.7)     | 16,109 (32.1)   | 0.084      | 0.054      |
| Silent ischemia               | 5 (0.36)         | 58 (0.32)        | 213 (0.43)      | 0.013      | 0.022      |
| MI                            | 287 (20.1)       | 5,297 (29.4)     | 14,286 (28.5)   | 0.009      | 0.014      |
| Unknown                       | 200 (14.6)       | 2,135 (11.9)     | 6,652 (13.3)    | 0.015      | 0.041      |
| 1 vessel                      | 1,284 (93.6)     | 15,873 (88.2)    | 47,012 (93.8)   | 0.006      | 0.102      |
| >1 vessel                     | 88 (6.4)         | 2,129 (11.8)     | 3,105 (6.2)     |            |            |
| Concomitant medications, n (%)|                  |                  |                 |            |            |
| ACEIs/ARBs                    | 759 (55.3)       | 10,451 (58.1)    | 27,273 (54.4)   | 0.008      | 0.012      |
| Nitrates                      | 132 (9.6)        | 2,028 (11.3)     | 4,837 (9.7)     | 0.019      | 0.038      |
| BB                            | 711 (51.8)       | 10,401 (57.8)    | 27,392 (54.7)   | 0.002      | 0.018      |
| CCB                           | 672 (49.0)       | 6,942 (38.6)     | 19,662 (39.2)   | 0.066      | 0.043      |
| Statins                       | 1,064 (77.6)     | 14,951 (83.1)    | 41,386 (82.6)   | 0.052      | 0.008      |
| Other lipid lowering agents   | 115 (8.4)        | 1,215 (6.8)      | 3,976 (7.9)     | 0.007      | 0.049      |
| PPI                           | 65 (4.7)         | 1,005 (5.6)      | 2,088 (4.2)     | 0.002      | 0.057      |

AC, aspirin+clopidogrel; ACCi, aspirin+clopidogrel+cilostazol; ACSa, aspirin+clopidogrel+sarpogrelate
MI, myocardial infarction; CRD, Chronic renal disease; PAD, peripheral arterial disease; AF, atrial fibrillation; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft surgery; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; BB, beta blocker; CCB, calcium channel blocker; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; SMD (ACSa), standardized mean difference between AC and ACSa groups after the propensity score matching (10:1); SMD (ACCi), standardized mean difference between AC and ACCi groups after the propensity score matching (3:1)

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0150475.t001
65.7 ± 10.1, ACCi: 63.8 ± 10.9, AC: 63.6 ± 6 years), and had a higher percentage of females compared to the other groups (ACSa: 40.5%, ACCi: 30.2%, AC: 31.9%). The ACSa group exhibited a higher rate of treatment of more than two vessels compared with other groups (ACSa: 11.8%, ACCi: 6.4%, AC: 6.2%). The mean time of duration until the censored event was 273± 151 days.

The clinical outcomes of ACSa therapy showed the beneficial effects in the prevention of subsequent cardiac or cerebral events. After propensity score matching with age, gender and comorbidity between ACSa and ACCi groups, 2,045 (24.8%) patients out of total 8,232 developed MACCE including 111 all cause death, 201 MI, 842 ischemic stroke and 1,049 revascularization at 24 months after PCI. There were significant differences in incidents of MI and revascularization, with corresponding HR of 0.38 (95% CI, 0.20–0.73) and 0.66 (95% CI, 0.53–0.82) in the ACSa vs. ACCi at 12 months after PCI, respectively (Table 2 and Fig 2).

Clinical outcomes of triple antiplatelet therapies, ACSa and ACCi, compared to a dual antiplatelet therapy, AC are shown in Table 2. During the follow-up period, 12,138 (17.5%) out of 69,491 patients developed MACCE, including 984 all-cause death, 1,028 MI, 4,930 ischemic strokes, and 5,883 revascularizations. The HR of death, MI, and ischemic stroke for the ACCi group compared with the AC group were 0.89 (95% CI, 0.74–1.07), 2.55 (95% CI, 2.18–2.98), and 1.043 (95% CI, 1.10–1.27), respectively. The HR of revascularization for the ACCi group compared with the AC group was 2.24 (95% CI, 2.10–2.39). When potential confounding factors were adjusted for, the risk of the ACSa groups compared with the AC group had no difference for all cardiac adverse events except revascularization. The HR of death, MI, ischemic stroke, and revascularization at 12 months for the ACSa group compared to the AC group were 1.01 (95% CI, 0.59–1.76), 1.04 (95% CI, 0.54–1.99), 1.19 (95% CI, 0.97–1.46), and 1.38 (95% CI, 1.11–1.72), respectively. As shown in Table 3, there was no significant difference in severe or life-threatening bleeding risk among three groups. Multivariable Cox regression analysis of severe or life-threatening bleeding showed that the ACCi and ACSa groups had no significant increase in risk compared to the AC group; ACCi vs. AC, HR 0.91 (95% CI, 0.77–1.09) and ACSa vs. AC, HR 0.68 (95% CI, 0.37–1.24).

Discussion
The prevention of MACCE is a key clinical goal in patients with stent procedure of PCI. Triple therapy with cilostazol or sarpogrelate has been used for patients with additional needs, such as diabetes or other comorbidities. In this study, we found that sarpogrelate showed a clinical outcomes as antiplatelet drugs that can be added to dual antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel) in terms of prevention of cardiac or cerebral events in patients with a stent procedure. Dual antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel) have been widely used in patients undergoing PCI. However, several studies have reported that up to 30% of patients with cardiovascular disease are resistant to clopidogrel, and 10% of patients undergoing PCI exhibit poor outcomes when taking aspirin and clopidogrel [25, 26]. Studies have confirmed that clopidogrel resistance is explained by inter-individual differences in genetic polymorphism of CYP2C19 expression [7]. The variant CYP2C19 allele causes decreased formation of the active metabolite of clopidogrel, and thereby reduces efficacy of clopidogrel in inhibiting ADP-induced platelet activation [27]. Platelet reactivity on clopidogrel detected by P2Y12 assay was associated with increased long-term cardiovascular events after PCI in a meta-analysis [28].

Increasing the dose of clopidogrel had been suggested as a measure to overcome resistance; however, the GRAVITAS trial showed that there was no added benefit from a high dose of clopidogrel [29]. Maruyama H. showed that adding cilostazol to aspirin and clopidogrel can attenuate the clopidogrel resistance [30, 31]. Shim et al. also reported that triple therapy with
Table 2. Clinical outcomes of Incidence rates and relative risks of cardiac or cerebral events.

|                    | ACSa | ACCi | AC   | ACSa vs. ACCi | ACSa vs. AC | ACCi vs. AC |
|--------------------|------|------|------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| **At 12 month**    |      |      |      |               |             |             |
| MACCE              | 210  | 3,489| 5,402| 0.76 (0.66–0.88)| 1.22 (1.06–1.41)| 1.69 (1.62–1.77) |
| Patients with events (n) | 210  | 3,489| 5,402|               |             |             |
| Patient-years (PYs)  | 499,196| 6,244,739| 18,601,499| p <0.001| p = 0.01| p <0.001 |
| Incidence rate per 100 PYs (IR/100 PYS) | 4.2  | 5.6  | 2.9  |               |             |             |
| All-cause death    | 14   | 165  | 485  | 1.21 (0.67–2.17)| 1.01 (0.59–1.76)| 0.89 (0.74–1.07) |
| Patients with events (n) | 14   | 165  | 485  |               |             |             |
| PYs                | 547,572| 7,171,289| 19,954,125| p = 0.53| p = 0.96| p = 0.21 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  |               |             |             |
| Myocardial Infarction | 10   | 360  | 380  | 0.38 (0.20–0.73)| 1.04 (0.54–1.99)| 2.55 (2.18–2.98) |
| Patients with events (n) | 10   | 360  | 380  |               |             |             |
| PYs                | 544,861| 7,081,427| 19,919,603| p = 0.01| p = 0.92| p <0.001 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |               |             |             |
| Ischemic Stroke    | 106  | 1204 | 2300 | 1.00 (0.81–1.23)| 1.19 (0.97–1.46)| 1.19 (1.10–1.27) |
| Patients with events (n) | 106  | 1204 | 2300 |               |             |             |
| PYs                | 520,979| 6,856,165| 19,378,555| p = 0.99| p = 0.08| p <0.001 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 2.0  | 1.8  | 1.8  |               |             |             |
| Revascularization  | 93   | 1934 | 2432 | 0.66 (0.53–0.82)| 1.38 (1.11–1.72)| 2.24 (2.10–2.39) |
| Patients with events (n) | 93   | 1934 | 2432 |               |             |             |
| (PCI+CABG)         | 533,791| 6,879,861| 19,662,565| p <0.01| p = 0.01| p <0.001 |
| At 24 month        |      |      |      |               |             |             |
| MACCE              | 279  | 4,636| 7,223| 0.75 (0.66–0.85)| 1.24 (1.09–1.40)| 1.72 (1.65–1.79) |
| Patients with events (n) | 279  | 4,636| 7,223|               |             |             |
| PYs                | 948,444| 11,744,441| 36,053,497| p <0.001| p = 0.00| p <0.001 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 2.9  | 3.9  | 2.0  |               |             |             |
| All-cause death    | 26   | 236  | 722  | 1.51 (0.97–2.34)| 1.19 (0.79–1.78)| 0.84 (0.72–0.97) |
| Patients with events (n) | 26   | 236  | 722  |               |             |             |
| PYs                | 1,090,608| 14,087,477| 39,788,881| p = 0.07| p = 0.41| p = 0.02 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |               |             |             |
| Myocardial Infarction | 17   | 534  | 531  | 0.46 (0.28–0.76)| 1.13 (0.69–1.87)| 2.69 (2.37–3.07) |
| Patients with events (n) | 17   | 534  | 531  |               |             |             |
| PYs                | 1,087,832| 14,087,477| 39,769,609| p = 0.01| p = 0.63| p <0.001 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 0.2  | 0.4  | 0.1  |               |             |             |
| Ischemic Stroke    | 143  | 1,673| 3,114| 0.98 (0.82–1.17)| 1.26 (1.06–1.49)| 1.27 (1.19–1.35) |
| Patients with events (n) | 143  | 1,673| 3,114|               |             |             |
| IR/100 PYS         | 1,019,428| 13,476,971| 38,334,927| p = 0.83| p = 0.01| p <0.001 |
| Incidence rate per 100 PYs | 1.4  | 1.2  | 0.8  |              |             |             |
| Revascularization  | 114  | 2,539| 3,230| 0.59 (0.49–0.72)| 1.26 (1.04–1.54)| 2.22 (2.10–2.35) |
| Patients with events (n) | 114  | 2,539| 3,230|               |             |             |
| (PCI+CABG)         | 1,039,675| 13,152,732| 38,530,830| p <0.001| p = 0.02| p <0.001 |
| IR/100 PYS         | 1.1  | 1.9  | 0.8  |              |             |             |

MACCE, Major adverse cardiac or cerebral events; MI, Myocardial Infarction; AC, aspirin + clopidogrel; ACSa, aspirin + clopidogrel + sarpogrelate; ACCi, aspirin + clopidogrel + cilostazol

†PS Matching (ACCi:ACSa = 5:1 matching, AC:ACCi = 3:1 matching, AC:ACSa = 10:1 matching)
Cilostazol was more effective than dual therapy in overcoming clopidogrel resistance in patients undergoing PCI [32]. The efficacy of the triple combination using cilostazol has been studied in several randomized controlled trials in various populations. Lee et al. reported the efficacy of a triple combination using cilostazol after stenting in the DECLARE-DIABETES and DECLARE-LONG trial [10, 11, 33]. Chen et al. and Han et al. also demonstrated the efficacy of triple therapies with cilostazol [8, 9]. Other P2Y12-receptor antagonists, such as prasugrel and ticagrelor were recommended instead of clopidogrel, especially to high-risk patients in clinical practice guidelines [1, 2]. However, the guidelines have been developed by published data based on European or American population rather than Asian. Based on several RCT trials conducted with Asian population, Korean guidelines of antiplatelet therapy recommends cilostazol with aspirin and clopidogrel to reduce clopidogrel resistance [14]. Cilostazol and sarpogrelate were preferred in patients with diabetes or peripheral vascular disease and have been added as a third agent instead of using prasugrel and ticagrelor in place of clopidogrel in Korea. In addition, the FDA and EMA recently approved vorapaxar in addition to aspirin and clopidogrel to reduce ischemic events in patients with MI [34]. Vorapaxar, an antagonist of the protease-activated receptor-1 (PAR-1) expressed on platelets, inhibits platelet aggregation irreversibly [35]. It is used once orally in combination with aspirin and/or clopidogrel with contraindication in patients with history of stroke, TIA, or ICH [36]. There were no experience...
with use of vorapaxar as monotherapy or with antiplatelet agents other than aspirin and clopidogrel. Vorapaxar was not approved in Korea yet and should be assessed in the future.

Sarpogrelate is considered as an alternative drug that can potentially prevent incidence of further cardiac events after undergoing PCI. It has been used as a platelet aggregation inhibitor to improve peripheral circulation in the treatment of ischemic symptoms observed in chronic arterial obstruction in South Korea [15]. Previous studies have reported on several aspects of sarpogrelate that indicate improved benefit in particular populations. First, vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation in response to vascular injury is mediated by 5-HT released from adhering platelets. Sarpogrelate inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation by direct activation 5-HT2A receptors, which functions to prevent restenosis. Fujita et al. demonstrated a significantly lower rate of restenosis after coronary stenting in patients with sarpogrelate added to the standard dual therapy [18]. In addition, sarpogrelate may also be beneficial in treating ischemia by inhibiting 5-HT levels in the heart and reducing infarct size. The S-ACCESS trial showed that sarpogrelate was more effective in preventing recurrence in patients with recent ischemic stroke compared to aspirin [37].

A national insurance claims data was used to include enough number of patients in the retrospective study from the real-world clinical practice. For comparing efficacy between two triple therapies, ACSa and ACCi groups were similar to each other in terms of baseline patient characteristics with propensity score matching. As a result, ACSa group had a lower incidence of revascularization compared to ACCi group, as well as a much lower incidence of MI. Sarpogrelate might help to reduce the platelet adhesion and aggregation by inhibition of 5-HT2 receptors, because serotonin increased residual platelet reactivity [38].

In this retrospective cohort study, both triple therapy groups (ACSa and ACCi) had much higher comorbidity of hypertension, DM, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and cerebrovascular disease (CVD) at baseline compared to the AC group. Therefore, each triple therapy groups also were matched with AC group with propensity score matching for comparing impact between the triple therapy and the dual therapy. The risk of incidence of MACCE in triple therapy groups was shown to be higher than the AC group. A significant difference in revascularization incidence was shown in the ACCi group compared with the AC group. In the DECLARE randomized trials, adding cilostazol to the standard care conveyed significant reductions in TLR and angiographic restenosis. In other RCT studies, however, there was no difference in revascularization between a triple therapy group and the standard dual therapy [8, 9]. In the observation study, there was also no difference for reduction of revascularization between two therapies [39]. The possible reason for this discrepancy could be a difference in type of stents used or lesions treated. In our data, ACCi group was shown to much higher number of treated multiple vessels, which might influence to the results. While the difference in baseline characteristics was adjusted statistically, this adjustment could not completely correct for the uneven distribution of unobservable factors, such as stent types.

There was no statistically significant difference in comparing incidence of other cardiac or cerebral events in ischemic stroke and all-cause death among three groups. Han et al. and Song et al. also reported no difference in preventing ischemic stroke in groups taking triple antiplatelet therapy [8, 39]. In our studies, increase in bleeding risk in the ACCi and ACSa groups was not reported in this study. Although minor bleeding risk in ACSa groups was a little higher than other groups, there was no statistically significant difference. In contrast, the severe bleeding risk in ACSa group was shown relatively lower than others. Previous studies reported that the bleeding risk of the triple antiplatelet was not significantly high [5, 8–10, 40]. Our results of bleeding based on GUSTO were consistent with previous studies. The criteria of bleeding of ISTH or TIMI could not be applied in this study due to the limitation of database which did not provide the hemoglobin level or the amount of blood transfusion. The finding of this study...
must be interpreted with caution, there is still concern that concomitant use of multiple anti-
platelet agents could increase the bleeding risk. Even though the data did not show the signifi-
cantly higher bleeding risk statistically, the monitoring of bleeding would be necessary with
triple antiplatelet therapy.

In this study, cilostazol in combination with standard dual antiplatelet therapy did not
improve significantly efficacy in preventing MACCE, but sarpogrelate in combination with
standard therapy was more effective to the cilostazol. Several pharmacological advantages of
sarpogrelate make it a good candidate for antiplatelet therapy after PCI with stent procedures.
It has a relatively short half-life and is reversible, therefore it can be used if a short withdrawal
period is desired. Furthermore, adverse effects due to vasodilation are relatively low compared
to prostaglandin agonists or cilostazol, which may improve adherence to therapy.

Use of the national health insurance claims database for a retrospective analysis was a strength
of the study, since the results could represent the general population of Korea, or about 50 million
people. Follow-up data of most patients was complete, because the entire claim data of the patient
was been collected in the database, regardless of the setting in which they received care.

Limitation

Our study also had some limitations. Because this study was an observational study using insur-
ance administration data, certain clinical information that may have influenced the outcome
were not included, such as family history, tobacco use, or BMI. Second, the data were isolated on
the basis of ICD-10 diagnosis codes, and coding errors may have led to under- or over-estimation
of the outcomes. However, previous studies have reported the accuracy of ICD-10 codes in myo-
cardial infarction and cerebrovascular disease, which is correct more than 70% of the time for MI
and 83.4% for ischemic stroke [41]. Third, the number of patients in sarpogrelate is small since it
is not included in the PCI guideline and not the reimbursement of insurance. The efficacy of sar-
pogrelate and cilostazol is a high interest in patients with additional risk factors of atherosclerosis.
Sarpogrelate was considered as alternative addition of triple therapy in Korea. The clinical inves-
tigation, SERENADE is in progress for prevention of MACCE after PCI in patients with renal
impairment or diabetes [42]. The efficacy and safety of sarpogrelate need more evidence com-
pared to the existing treatment with real world data and controlled clinical trial. We tried to ana-
lyze the practical data although the difference number of population in three groups were
significant. The characteristics of three groups was adjusted by propensity score matching to
reduce the bias from the difference among groups. Fourth, the number of vessels were identified
as one or multiple vessels in the procedure code of the claim data, but the type of stents or loca-
tion of treated vessels could not be identified. The genetic testing for clopidogrel low response
has not been carried out and reimbursed yet in Korea. The information of the genetic testing was
not available in our claim data. Fifth, sarpogrelate has been studied only in the Asian population.
To verify the efficacy of sarpogrelate in a global population, a large randomized study including
patients from other ethnicities is also needed.

In conclusion, our study suggests that using sarpogrelate as an adjunct to conventional dual
antiplatelet therapy after PCI could be of benefit in certain populations such as patients who
experienced treatment failure due to clopidogrel resistance or high risk patients, and it showed
comparable rates of clinical outcomes without significantly increasing bleeding risk over a two-
year follow-up period.

Supporting Information

S1 Table. Defined ICD-10 codes.
(DOCX)
S2 Table. Baseline characteristics of ACS vs. ACC after PS Matching.

(Discovery)

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Bio & Medical Technology Development Program of the National Research Foundation funded by the Ministry of Science, ICT & Future Planning, Republic of Korea (No. 2013M3A9B5075838).

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: YJN JML SYS SHL SKB. Performed the experiments: YJN JML SYS SHL. Analyzed the data: YJN JML SYS SHL. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YJN JML SYS SHL SKB ECO GJK JHK HSL. Wrote the paper: YJN JML SYS SHL.

References

1. Levine GN, Bates ER, Blankenship JC, Bailey SR, Bittl JA, Cercek B, et al. 2011 ACCF/AHA/SCAI Guideline for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions. Circulation. 2011; 124(23):e574–651. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0b013e31823ba622 PMID: 22064601.
2. Windecker S, Kolh P, Alfonso F, Collet JP, Cremer J, Falk V, et al. [2014 ESC/EACTS Guidelines on myocardial revascularization]. Kardiologia polska. 2014; 72(12):1253–379. doi: 10.5603/KP.2014.0224 PMID: 25524605.
3. O’Gara PT, Kushner FG, Ascheim DD, Casey DE Jr., Chung MK, de Lemos JA, et al. 2013 ACCF/AHA guideline for the management of ST-elevation myocardial infarction: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. Circulation. 2013; 127(4):e362–425. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0b013e3182742cf6 PMID: 23247304.
4. Wiviott SD, Antman EM. Clopidogrel resistance: a new chapter in a fast-moving story. Circulation. 2004; 109(25):3064–7. doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.0000134701.40946.30 PMID: 15226220.
5. Park KW, Kang SH, Park JJ, Yang HM, Kang HJ, Koo BK, et al. Adjunctive cilostazol versus double-dose clopidogrel after drug-eluting stent implantation: the HOST-ASSURE randomized trial (Harmonizing Optimal Strategy for Treatment of Coronary Artery Stenosis-Safety & Effectiveness of Drug-Eluting Stents & Anti-platelet Regimen). JACC Cardiovascular interventions. 2013; 6(9):932–42. doi: 10.1016/j.jcin.2013.04.022 PMID: 24050860.
6. Chen M, Liu XJ, Yan SD, Peng Y, Chai H, Li Q, et al. Association between cytochrome P450 2C19 polymorphism and clinical outcomes in Chinese patients with coronary artery disease. Atherosclerosis. 2012; 220(1):168–71. doi: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2011.04.008 PMID: 22071359.
7. Oh IY, Park KW, Kang SH, Park JJ, Na SH, Kang HJ, et al. Association of cytochrome P450 2C19*2 polymorphism with clopidogrel response variability and cardiovascular events in Koreans treated with drug-eluting stents. Heart. 2012; 98(2):139–44. doi: 10.1136/ht1.2011.227722 PMID: 21700758.
8. Han Y, Li Y, Wang S, Jing Q, Wang Z, Wang D, et al. Cilostazol in addition to aspirin and clopidogrel improves long-term outcomes after percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with acute coronary syndromes: a randomized, controlled study. American heart journal. 2009; 157(4):733–9. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2009.01.006 PMID: 19332203.
9. Han KY, Rha SW, Li YJ, Poddar KL, Jin Z, Minami Y, et al. Triple versus dual antiplatelet therapy in patients with acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention. Circulation. 2009; 119(25):3207–14. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.108.822791 PMID: 19528339.
10. Lee SW, Park SW, Kim YH, Yun SC, Park DW, Lee CW, et al. Drug-eluting stenting followed by cilostazol treatment reduces late restenosis in patients with diabetes mellitus the DECLARE-DIABETES Trial (A Randomized Comparison of Triple Antiplatelet Therapy with Dual Antiplatelet Therapy After Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation in Diabetic Patients). Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2008; 51(12):1181–7. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2007.11.049 PMID: 18355656.
11. Lee SW, Park SW, Kim YH, Yun SC, Park DW, Lee CW, et al. A randomized, double-blind, multicenter comparison study of triple antiplatelet therapy with dual antiplatelet therapy to reduce restenosis after...
drug-eluting stent implantation in long coronary lesions: results from the DECLARE-LONG II (Drug-Eluting Stenting Followed by Cilostazol Treatment Reduces Late Restenosis in Patients with Long Coronary Lesions) trial. Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2011; 57(11):1264–70. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2010.10.035 PMID: 21392640.

12. Lin GM, Chu KM, Han CL. Triple antiplatelet therapy reduces ischemic events after drug-eluting stent implantation: Drug-Eluting stenting followed by Cilostazol treatment REDuces Adverse Serious cardiac Events (DECREASE registry). American heart journal. 2010; 160(3):e21; author reply e3. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2010.06.016 PMID: 20826238.

13. Chen J, Meng H, Xu L, Liu J, Kong D, Chen P, et al. Efficacy and safety of cilostazol based triple antiplatelet treatment versus dual antiplatelet treatment in patients undergoing coronary stent implantation: an updated meta-analysis of the randomized controlled trials. Journal of thrombosis and thrombolysis. 2015; 39(1):23–34. doi: 10.1007/s11399-014-1090-5 PMID: 24869717.

14. Guideline for pharmacotherapy of anti-platelet agent for acute coronary syndrome. Korea Society of Interventional Cardiology. 2012.

15. Saini HK, Takeda N, Goyal RK, Kumamoto H, Arneja AS, Dhalla NS. Therapeutic potentials of sarpogrelate in cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular drug reviews. 2004; 22(1):27–54. PMID: 14978517.

16. Miyazaki M, Higashi Y, Goto C, Chayama K, Yoshizumi M, Sanada H, et al. Sarpogrelate hydrochloride, a selective 5-HT2A antagonist, improves vascular function in patients with peripheral arterial disease. Journal of cardiovascular pharmacology. 2007; 49(4):221–7. doi: 10.1097/FJC.0b013e3180325af3 PMID: 17438407.

17. Satomura K, Takase B, Hamabe A, Ashida K, Hosaka H, Ohsuzu F, et al. Sarpogrelate, a specific 5HT2-receptor antagonist, improves the coronary microcirculation in coronary artery disease. Clinical cardiology. 2002; 25(1):28–32. PMID: 11808836.

18. Fujita M, Mizuno K, Ho M, Tsukahara R, Miyamoto A, Miki O, et al. Sarpogrelate treatment reduces restenosis after coronary stenting. American heart journal. 2003; 145(3):E16. doi: 10.1067/mhj.2003.176 PMID: 12660685.

19. Chen YX, Wang WD, Song XJ, Gu YQ, Tian HY, Hu JJ, et al. Prospective Randomized Study of Sarpgrelate Versus Clopidogrel-based Dual Antiplatelet Therapies in Patients Undergoing Femoropopliteal Arterial Endovascular Interventions: Preliminary Results. Chinese medical journal. 2015; 128(12):1563–6. doi: 10.4103/0366-6999.158285 PMID: 26063354.

20. Kim YJ, Choi NK, Kim MS, Lee J, Chang Y, Seong JM, et al. Evaluation of low-dose aspirin for primary prevention of ischemic stroke among patients with diabetes: a retrospective cohort study. Diabetology & metabolic syndrome. 2015; 7.8. doi: 10.1186/s13098-015-0022-y PMID: 25733983; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4346109.

21. An international randomized trial comparing four thrombolytic strategies for acute myocardial infarction. The GUSTO investigators. The New England journal of medicine. 1993; 329(10):673–82. doi: 10.1056/NEJM199309023291001 PMID: 8204123.

22. Lee SW, Chun KJ, Park SW, Kim HS, Kim YH, Yun SC, et al. Comparison of Triple antiplatelet therapy and dual antiplatelet therapy in patients at high risk of restenosis after drug-eluting stent implantation (from the DECLARE-DIABETES and -LONG Trials). The American journal of cardiology. 2010; 105(2):168–73. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2009.08.667 PMID: 20102913.

23. Sundararajan V, Henderson T, Perry C, Muggivan A, Quan H, Ghali WA. New ICD-10 version of the Charlson comorbidity index predicted in-hospital mortality. Journal of clinical epidemiology. 2004; 57(12):1288–94. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2004.03.012 PMID: 15617955.

24. Mamdani M, Sykora K, Li P, Normand SL, Streiner DL, Austin PC, et al. Reader’s guide to critical appraisal of cohort studies: 2. Assessing potential for confounding. Bmj. 2005; 330(7497):960–2. doi: 10.1136/bmj.330.7497.960 PMID: 15845982; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC556348.

25. Uzun F, Biyik I, Akturk IF, Erturk M, Yalcin AA, Surgit O, et al. Antiplatelet resistance and the role of associated variables in stable patients treated with stenting. Postepy w kardiologii interwencyjnej = Advances in interventional cardiology. 2015; 11(1):19–25. doi: 10.5116/pwki.2015.000823 PMID: 25848366; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4372627.

26. Lepantalo A, Virtanen KS, Heikilä J, Wartiovaara U, Lassila R. Limited early antiplatelet effect of 300 mg clopidogrel in patients with aspirin therapy undergoing percutaneous coronary interventions. European heart journal. 2004; 25(6):476–83. doi: 10.1016/j.ehj.2003.12.016 PMID: 15039127.

27. Jia DM, Chen ZB, Zhang MJ, Yang WJ, Jin JL, Xia YQ, et al. CYP2C19 polymorphisms and antiplatelet effects of clopidogrel in acute ischemic stroke in China. Stroke; a journal of cerebral circulation. 2013; 44(6):1717–9. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.113.000823 PMID: 23640828.

28. Brar SS, ten Berg J, Marcucci R, Price MJ, Valgimigli M, Kim HS, et al. Impact of platelet reactivity on clinical outcomes after percutaneous coronary intervention. A collaborative meta-analysis of individual
participant data. Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2011; 58(19):1945–54. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2011.06.059 PMID: 22032704.

29. Price MJ, Berger PB, Teirstein PS, Tanguay JF, Angiolillo DJ, Spriggs D, et al. Standard- vs high-dose clopidogrel based on platelet function testing after percutaneous coronary intervention: the GRAVITAS randomized trial. JAMA. 2011; 305(11):1097–105. doi: 10.1001/jama.2011.290 PMID: 21406646.

30. Maruyama H, Takeda H, Dembo T, Nagoya H, Kato Y, Fukuoka T, et al. Clopidogrel Resistance and the Effect of Combination Cilostazol in Patients with Ischemic Stroke or Carotid Artery Stenting Using the VerifyNow P2Y12 Assay. Internal Medicine. 2011; 50(7):695–8. doi:10.2169/internalmedicine.50.4623 PMID: 21467700.

31. Maruyama H, Fukuoka T, Deguchi I, Ohe Y, Nagoya H, Kato Y, et al. Dual Antiplatelet Therapy Clopidogrel with Low-dose Cilostazol Intensifies Platelet Inhibition in Patients with Ischemic Stroke. Internal Medicine. 2013; 52(10):1043–7. doi:10.2169/internalmedicine.52.9550 PMID: 23676588.

32. Shim CY, Yoon SJ, Park S, Kim JS, Choi JR, Ko YG, et al. The clopidogrel resistance can be attenuated with triple antiplatelet therapy in patients undergoing drug-eluting stents implantation. International journal of cardiology. 2009; 134(3):351–5. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2008.02.016 PMID: 18579227.

33. Lee SW, Park SW, Kim YH, Yun SC, Park DW, Lee CW, et al. Comparison of triple versus dual antiplatelet therapy after drug-eluting stent implantation (from the DECLARE-Long trial). The American journal of cardiology. 2007; 100(7):1103–8. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2007.05.032 PMID: 17884371.

34. Roffi M, Patrono C, Collet JP, Mueller C, Valgimigli M, Andreotti F, et al. 2015 ESC Guidelines for the Management of Acute Coronary Syndromes in Patients Presenting Without Persistent ST-segment Elevation. Revista espanola de cardiologia. 2015; 68(12):1125. doi:10.1016/j.rec.2015.10.009 PMID: 26675199.

35. Ueno M, Ferreiro JL, Angiolillo DJ. Mechanism of action and clinical development of platelet thrombin receptor antagonists. Expert review of cardiovascular therapy. 2010; 8(8):1191–200. doi:10.1586/erc.10.49 PMID: 20670195.

36. Morrow DA, Braunwald E, Bonaca MP, Ameriso SF, Dalby AJ, Fish MP, et al. Vorapaxar in the secondary prevention of atherothrombotic events. The New England journal of medicine. 2012; 366(15):1404–13. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1200933 PMID: 22443427.

37. Shinohara Y, Nishimaru K, Sawada T, Terashi A, Handa S, Hirai S, et al. Sarpogrelate-Aspirin Comparative Clinical Study for Efficacy and Safety in Secondary Prevention of Cerebral Infarction (S-ACCESS): A randomized, double-blind, aspirin-controlled trial. Stroke; a journal of cerebral circulation. 2006; 39(6):1827–33. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.107.505131 PMID: 18388340.

38. Duerschmied D, Ahrens I, Mauler M, Brandt C, Weidner S, Bode C, et al. Serotonin antagonism improves platelet inhibition in clopidogrel low-responders after coronary stent placement: an in vitro pilot study. PloS one. 2012; 7(2):e32656. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0032656 PMID: 22384279.

39. Song PS, Song YB, Yang JH, Hahn JY, Choi SH, Choi JH, et al. Triple versus dual antiplatelet therapy after percutaneous coronary intervention for coronary bifurcation lesions: results from the COBIS (Coronary Bifurcation Stent) II Registry. Heart and vessels. 2015; 30(4):458–68. doi:10.1007/s00380-014-0500-0 PMID: 24682436.

40. Youn YJ, Lee JW, Ahn SG, Lee SH, Choi H, Yu CW, et al. Multicenter randomized trial of 3-month cilostazol use in addition to dual antiplatelet therapy after biolimus-eluting stent implantation for long or multivessel coronary artery disease. American heart journal. 2014; 167(2):241–8 e1. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2013.08.028 PMID: 24439986.

41. Kimm H, Yun JE, Lee SH, Jang Y, Jee SH. Validity of the diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction in korean national medical health insurance claims data: the korean heart study (1). Korean circulation journal. 2012; 42(1):10–5. doi: 10.4070/kcj.2012.42.1.10 PMID: 22363378; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3287984.

42. Lee SA, Suh JW, Park JJ, Yoon CH, Cho YS, Youn TJ, et al. Study design of the influence of SERotonin inhibition on patients with RENAImpairment or diabetes undergoing drug-eluting stent implantation (SERENADE) study: A multicenter, open-label, prospective, randomized study. Contemporary clinical trials. 2015; 43:20–4. doi: 10.1016/j.cct.2015.04.005 PMID: 25891091.