



# Effect of PEAR1 Genetic Variants on 1-Year Outcomes in Chinese Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention

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**Aims:** Platelet endothelial aggregation receptor-1 (PEAR1) is a platelet transmembrane protein that plays an important role on platelet aggregation. The aim of this study was to investigate whether PEAR1 genetic variations are associated with 1-year outcomes in Chinese patients with acute myocardial infarction after percutaneous coronary intervention.

**Methods:** A total of 647 consecutive Chinese patients with acute myocardial infarction that underwent percutaneous coronary intervention and that were exposed to standard dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel were enrolled in this study. Six single nucleotide polymorphisms of PEAR1 were detected using the ligase detection reaction method. The follow-up period was 12 months.

**Results:** Overall, 66 (10.2%) adverse ischemic events occurred. Multivariate Cox regression analysis showed that carriage of the PEAR1 rs56260937 minor allele was an independent predictor of revascularization events (OR=2.15, 95% CI 1.12-4.15,  $p=0.022$ ) after adjusting for confounding factors.

**Conclusions:** Genetic testing for PEAR1 variants can be helpful in predicting adverse ischemic events in Chinese patients with acute myocardial infarction after percutaneous coronary intervention.

**Key words:** Platelet endothelial aggregation receptor 1, Polymorphism, Outcome, Acute myocardial infarction, Percutaneous coronary intervention

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## Introduction

Platelet activation and aggregation plays a crucial role in the progression of acute thrombotic complications such as myocardial infarction and stent thrombosis. Dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel is a corner stone treatment for patients with acute coronary syndrome or those undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)<sup>1, 2</sup>. However, in clinical practice it has been found that some patients

are resistant to antiplatelet drugs and are more likely to experience adverse ischemic clinical events than others<sup>3</sup>. Genetic polymorphisms are known to contribute to such variations in drug response<sup>4, 5</sup>.

Platelet endothelial aggregation receptor-1 (PEAR1) is a platelet transmembrane protein which is activated by platelet-platelet contact and agonist stimulation. Once activated it sends signals to enhance and stabilize platelet thrombi in a manner dependent on functionality of GPIIb/IIIa<sup>6-8</sup>. Some clinical trials have shown that genetic variation in PEAR1 is an important determinant of platelet reactivity during antiplatelet therapy<sup>9, 10</sup>. However, less is known about the relationship between PEAR1 gene polymorphisms and adverse outcomes, especially in Chinese patients. The present study aimed to assess the impact of PEAR1 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) on 1-year outcomes in Chinese patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI) after PCI.

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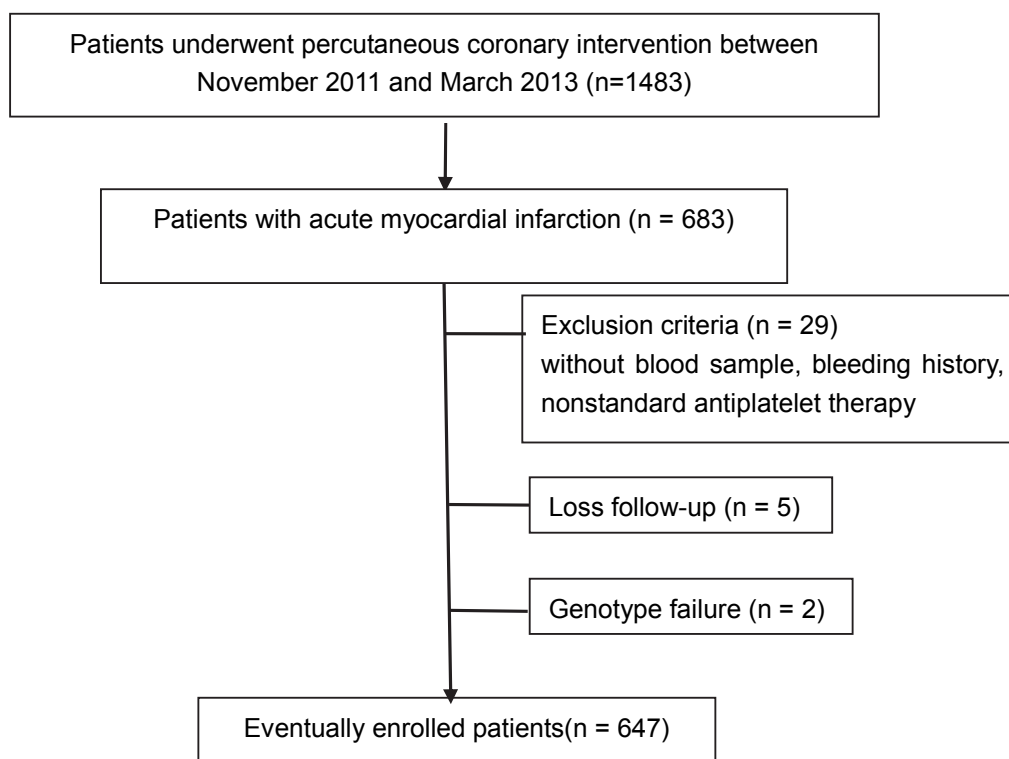


Fig. 1. Flow diagram describing the study design

## Methods

### Study Population

Patients with AMI admitted to the Fuwai Hospital with an uneventful PCI and who underwent standard dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel between November 2011 and March 2013 were enrolled in the study. The major exclusion criteria were: without blood sample, bleeding events within 1 year, usage of intensified antiplatelet agents, and other therapies than standard dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel. All patients received a 300 mg loading dose (LD) of aspirin and a 300 mg LD of clopidogrel before PCI, followed by a 100 mg/day maintenance dose of aspirin for life and 75 mg/day of clopidogrel for 1 year. The decision for PCI was based on the coronary angiography results and all interventions were conducted according to the European society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) Guideline<sup>11</sup> on myocardial revascularization. The study was approved by the Fuwai Hospital Institutional Ethical Review Board. Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants. The study conformed to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki.

### Genetic Analysis

PEAR1-SNPs that were associated with high platelet reactivity ( $P$  values  $< 0.1$ ) as measured by Thromboelastography in our previous study<sup>12</sup> were included in the analysis. Blood samples from a peripheral vein were obtained from each patient and stored in 4-mL ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) anticoagulated vacuum tubes. Genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood samples according to the salting-out protocol. All selected PEAR1-SNPs were genotyped using improved multiple ligase detection reaction (im LDR) with technical support from the Shanghai Genesky Biotechnology company. DNA sequencing techniques were used for quality control.

### Patient Follow-Up

The incidences of all-cause death, cardiac death, myocardial infarction, revascularization, and stent thrombosis were recorded during a 1-year follow up. All patients were evaluated by clinic visit or by phone at 1, 6, and 12 months. Death that could not be attributed to a non-cardiac etiology were considered cardiac death. Myocardial infarction (MI) was defined by the Third Universal Definition of Myocardial Infarction<sup>13</sup>. Revascularization (RV) was defined as repeated revascularization for ischemic symptoms and events driven by PCI or surgery of any vessel. Stent thrombosis (ST) was

**Table 1.** Clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients enrolled ( $n=647$ )

Patients characteristics	Values
Age (years), mean $\pm$ SD	58.94 $\pm$ 11.60
Male, n (%)	518 (80.1)
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ), mean $\pm$ SD	25.67 $\pm$ 3.45
Risk factor, n (%)	
Current smoking	294 (45.4)
Current alcohol drinking	149 (23.0)
Diabetes mellitus	199 (30.8)
Hypertension	378 (58.4)
Hyperlipemia	540 (83.5)
Laboratory measurements, mean $\pm$ SD	
Platelet count, ( $\times 10^9$ /L)	210.20 $\pm$ 62.96
Hemoglobin, (g/L)	138.03 $\pm$ 17.06
Serum creatinine, (umol/L)	78.03 $\pm$ 19.76
Blood urea nitrogen, (mmol/L)	6.15 $\pm$ 2.25
Low density lipoprotein, (mmol/L)	2.69 $\pm$ 0.90
Left ventricular ejection fraction, (%)	55.13 $\pm$ 8.43
Type of acute myocardial infarction, n (%)	
ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction	309 (47.8)
non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction	338 (52.2)
Infarct-related artery, n (%)	
Left anterior descending	364 (56.26)
Left circumflex	132 (20.40)
Right coronary artery	319 (49.30)
Left main	32 (4.95)
Number of stent, mean $\pm$ SD	2.02 $\pm$ 1.3
Drug eluting stent, n (%)	602 (93.04)
Bare metal stent, n (%)	13 (2.01)
Concomitant medications, n (%)	
ACEI or ARB	451 (69.7)
Beta-blocker	578 (89.3)
Calcium channel blocker	93 (14.4)
Nitrates	597 (92.3)
Statin	618 (95.5)
Proton pump inhibitor	329 (50.9)

SD: standard deviation; ACEI: angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker

defined according to the Academic Research Consortium as definite, probable, or possible<sup>14</sup>. Composite ischemic events indicated the composite of cardiac death, MI, RV, and ST. All endpoints were adjudicated by 2 independent cardiologists, and disagreement was resolved by consensus.

### Statistical Analyses

Continuous variables were presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) and comparisons between groups of means were performed using the Student's *t*-test. Categorical variables were reported as counts (percentages) and Chi-square test ( $\chi^2$ ) was used to compare

groups. Multivariate stepwise Cox regression analysis was conducted to identify independent risk PEAR1-SNPs related to adverse ischemic events after adjusting for potential confounders which may affect outcomes including age, sex, BMI, DM, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, smoking, alcohol, platelet count, hemoglobin, Scr, BUN, LDL cholesterol, LVEF, type of AMI, stent types, and number of infarct-related artery. The relationships between all enrolled SNPs and adverse events were analyzed in a recessive model. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS ver. 20.0, and a 2-tailed  $P < 0.05$  was considered to be indicative of statistical significance.

**Table 2.** Effect of PEAR1 SNPs on clinical outcomes

SNP	Group (n)	All-cause death	Cardiac death	MI	RV	Composite events
rs11264580 (T/C)	TT + TC ( <i>n</i> = 563)	6 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.9)	52 (9.2)	56 (9.9)
	CC ( <i>n</i> = 84)	2 (2.4)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	9 (10.7)	10 (11.9)
	<i>P</i> value	0.309	0.473	0.787	0.665	0.580
rs2644592 (A/G)	AA + AG ( <i>n</i> = 529)	6 (1.1)	3 (0.6)	5 (0.9)	47 (8.9)	51 (9.6)
	GG ( <i>n</i> = 118)	2 (1.7)	1 (0.8)	1 (0.8)	14 (11.9)	15 (12.7)
	<i>P</i> value	0.618	0.725	0.920	0.317	0.319
rs3737224 (C/T)	CC + CT ( <i>n</i> = 564)	6 (1.1)	3 (0.3)	5 (0.9)	52 (9.2)	56 (9.9)
	TT ( <i>n</i> = 83)	2 (2.4)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	9 (10.8)	10 (12.0)
	<i>P</i> value	0.300	0.465	0.778	0.637	0.551
rs41273215 (C/T)	CC + CT ( <i>n</i> = 563)	6 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.9)	52 (9.2)	56 (9.9)
	TT ( <i>n</i> = 84)	2 (2.4)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	9 (10.7)	10 (11.9)
	<i>P</i> value	0.309	0.437	0.787	0.665	0.580
rs56260937 (C/T)	CC + CT ( <i>n</i> = 581)	8 (1.4)	4 (0.7)	6 (1.0)	50 (8.6)	55 (9.5)
	TT ( <i>n</i> = 66)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (16.7)	11 (16.7)
	<i>P</i> value	0.337	0.499	0.407	0.034	0.067
rs822442 (C/A)	CC + CA ( <i>n</i> = 582)	6 (1.0)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.9)	54 (9.3)	58 (10.0)
	AA ( <i>n</i> = 65)	2 (3.1)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	7 (10.8)	8 (12.3)
	<i>P</i> value	0.157	0.318	0.588	0.696	0.554

MI: myocardial infarction, RV: revascularization

## Results

### Study Population

A total of 647 AMI patients undergoing PCI and standard dual antiplatelet therapy were enrolled and available for genetic analysis. A flow chart describing the study design is shown in **Fig. 1**. The average age of patients was  $58.94 \pm 11.60$  years and 518 (80.06%) of patients were male. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of study subjects are shown in **Table 1**.

### PEAR1 SNPs and Clinical Outcomes

At the 1-year follow-up, 66 (10.2%) adverse ischemic events occurred: 8 (1.2%) all-cause deaths, 4 (0.6%) cardiac deaths, 6 (0.9%) myocardial infarctions, and 61 (9.4%) revascularizations. There were no ST events during 1-year follow-up. Six PEAR1-SNPs that were associated with high platelet reactivity from our previous study were enrolled in the present study for analysis: rs11264580 (T/C), rs2644592 (A/G), rs3737224 (C/T), rs41273215 (C/T), rs56260937 (C/T) and rs822442 (C/A)<sup>12</sup>. In the recessive model analysis, when compared to major allele, minor allele-T at rs56260937 showed a significant higher level of carrying frequency in the patients occurring revascularization events (16.7% vs. 8.6%,  $P=0.034$ ). The effects of PEAR1-SNPs on clinical outcomes are shown in **Table 2**. After adjusting for confounding factors including age, sex, BMI, DM, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, smoking, alcohol, platelet count, hemoglobin, Scr, BUN, LDL cho-

lesterol, LVEF, type of AMI, stent types and number of infarct-related arteries using stepwise Cox regression analysis, our results showed that rs56260937 was an independent predictor of revascularization events (OR = 2.15, 95% CI 1.12-4.15,  $P=0.022$ ).

## Discussion

PEAR1 is a platelet transmembrane protein that is activated by platelet-to-platelet contact or agonist stimulation and that plays an important role in platelet function. A few foreign clinical trials have shown that genetic variations in PEAR1 result in high on-treatment platelet reactivity and adverse outcomes during antiplatelet therapy<sup>9, 10, 15, 16</sup>. To our knowledge, this is the first study to analyze the association between PEAR1-SNPs and outcomes in Chinese patients with AMI after PCI. Univariate and multivariate analysis both showed that minor allele-T at rs56260937 was significantly associated with higher incidences of revascularization events.

Kim *et al.*<sup>15</sup> sequenced the region on chromosome 1q23.1, including the entire PEAR1 gene, in 104 subjects to analyze the effect of PEAR1 variants on platelet function. Platelet function was tested using the PAP-4 Aggregometer after stimulating with collagen (2 ug/ml), adenosine diphosphate (10 uM), or epinephrine (2 uM). The results showed that rs56260937 significantly correlated with higher platelet reactivity for all 3 agonist phenotypes. Heightened platelet reactiv-

ity is generally associated with a greater risk of ischemic events. Thus, this finding supports our results that show that rs56260937 had a significant effect on revascularization events.

Apart from rs56260937, previous studies have reported other PEAR1-SNPs associated with adverse endpoints. Lewis *et al.*<sup>16)</sup> showed that in patients treated with dual antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel) after percutaneous coronary intervention, minor A-allele carriers of rs12041331 were more likely to have composite adverse cardiovascular events compared with the major G allele; in aspirin-alone treated patients, rs12041331 A-allele carriers had a significantly increased risk of myocardial infarction. These findings further suggested that PEAR1-SNPs were genetic contributors to interindividual different prognosis. Thus, PEAR1 genetic testing might be used to identify patients who carry PEAR1-SNPs that related to high platelet reactivity and so as to guide individualized treatment, for example, increasing drug dosage, using triple antiplatelet therapy or switching to a new antiplatelet agent like ticagrelor or prasugre, thus improve patient prognosis. The reason the SNP different from our findings might be due to differences in the ethnic groups of study populations.

The association between high platelet reactivity and adverse ischemic events has been shown in many studies<sup>17)</sup>. Mounting evidence suggests that genetic variants have a significant effect on platelet function<sup>18)</sup>. However, caution has been noted that high platelet reactivity associated with different genetic polymorphisms may have differential prognostic impact<sup>19, 20)</sup>: some SNPs related to high platelet reactivity are associated with higher incidence of adverse events<sup>19)</sup>, whereas other SNPs were not as reported by Voora D *et al.*<sup>20)</sup>, In our present study only minor allele-T at rs56260937 showed association with higher incidence of ischemic events. The mechanism why some SNPs were associated with higher incidence of adverse events whereas other SNPs were not is currently unclear and remains to be investigated.

### Study Limitations

The limitations of the current study are as follows: first, CYP2C19 polymorphisms, which are well known to affect platelet reactivity in patients treated with aspirin and clopidogrel, were not evaluated in the present study. Further studies are necessary to define the precise role of rs56260937 after adjusting for CYP2C19 genotype. Second, our study was a single center retrospective study and only included one cohort. Thus, further multicenter prospective studies with larger sample sizes are required to consolidate our findings.

### Conclusions

Genetic testing of PEAR1 variants can provide valuable information for predicting adverse ischemic events in Chinese patients with AMI-PCI Chinese.

### Acknowledgment

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### Conflicts of Interest

None.

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