

# Age and diabetes mellitus associated with worse outcomes after percutaneous coronary intervention in a multi-ethnic Asian dialysis patient population

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**INTRODUCTION** There is limited literature on clinical outcomes following percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) in Asian dialysis patients. We evaluated the angiographic characteristics and clinical outcomes of dialysis patients treated with PCI in an Asian society.

**METHODS** A retrospective analysis was performed of 274 dialysis patients who underwent PCI in a tertiary care institution from January 2007 to December 2012. Data on clinical and angiographic characteristics was collected. The primary endpoint was major adverse cardiac events (MACE), defined as a composite of cardiac death, acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and stroke at two years.

**RESULTS** 274 patients (65.0% male, median age 62.0 years) with 336 lesions (81.8% Type B2) were treated. 431 stents (35.0% drug-eluting stents) with a mean diameter of 2.96 mm and mean length of 21.30 mm were implanted. The MACE rate was 55.8% (n = 153) at two years, from death (36.5%) and AMI (35.0%). In multivariable analysis, age and diabetes mellitus were significant predictors of both mortality (odds ratio [OR] 1.09, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.05–1.12, p < 0.001; OR 2.65, 95% CI 1.46–4.82, p = 0.001, respectively) and MACE (OR 1.06, 95% CI 1.03–1.08, p < 0.001; OR 1.84, 95% CI 1.07–3.15, p = 0.027, respectively). Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) (OR 0.97, 95% CI 0.95–0.99, p = 0.006) was a significant predictor of mortality but not MACE.

**CONCLUSION** Asian dialysis patients who underwent PCI had a two-year MACE rate of 55.8% due to death and AMI. Age, LVEF and diabetes mellitus were significant predictors of mortality at two years.

Keywords: coronary artery disease, percutaneous coronary intervention, renal dialysis

## INTRODUCTION

Patients with ESRD (end-stage renal disease) on dialysis have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD),<sup>(1,2)</sup> and tend to develop diffuse and complex lesions in the coronaries. In addition, dialysis patients tend to have more calcified lesions,<sup>(3)</sup> which may be associated with an increased risk of adverse clinical outcomes.<sup>(4)</sup> CVD is also one of the main causes of death in ESRD patients, with a reported annual mortality rate of 18%–20%.<sup>(5–10)</sup> Local data shows that approximately one-third of deaths in dialysis patients are due to cardiac causes.<sup>(11)</sup>

Among CVD patients, the presence of chronic renal disease is associated with worse cardiovascular outcomes.<sup>(12)</sup> Reasons postulated for this causal relationship include the presence of oxidative stress and inflammation, which are linked to the pathogenesis of plaque formation and rupture, mineralocorticoid excess,<sup>(13)</sup> platelet dysfunction, and disruption in calcium and bone metabolism,<sup>(14)</sup> possibly contributing to monocyte activation and endothelial dysfunction of the coronaries.

Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) has been the mainstay of treatment options in patients with ischaemic heart disease. However, PCI in patients with ESRD has been shown to be associated with high periprocedural mortality and poor clinical outcome, with increased rates of in-hospital and long-term mortality, myocardial infarction (MI), bleeding complications, and

clinical and angiographic restenosis when compared to patients without ESRD.<sup>(15–18)</sup> As there is limited data on the extent of this relationship in Asian patients, the present study aimed to evaluate the clinical outcomes following PCI in ESRD patients on dialysis in an Asian geopolitical setting.

## METHODS

We conducted a retrospective analysis of patients who (a) underwent PCI from January 2007 to December 2012 in our centre; and (b) had been on dialysis for three months or longer. Baseline clinical and angiographic characteristics were collected from our institutional database.

Dedicated personnel from an institution performed all data management and analysis. Prespecified demographic data, clinical data and diagnosis codes were obtained from hospital data. The primary endpoint was major adverse cardiac events (MACE), defined as the composite endpoint of cardiac death, MI and stroke at two years, and was hierarchical in nature. The events of death, MI and stroke were individually tracked from national registries whose disease codes were based on hospital diagnosis codes and national registry data. Deaths were considered cardiac unless a non-cardiac cause was definitely identified. Angiographic success rate was defined as improvement in thrombolysis in myocardial infarction (TIMI) flow and improvement in stenosis

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of the lesion to less than 30% (based on visual estimation). Procedural success rate was defined as angiographic success rate without any periprocedural or intrahospital complications of mortality, acute MI or stroke. Target vessel revascularisation was defined as any repeat percutaneous intervention of any segment of the target vessel.

Continuous variables were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) or median (interquartile range [IQR]) as appropriate, while categorical variables were expressed as number and percentage. For cumulative event rates, Kaplan-Meier estimates were described and non-hierarchical counts were used. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed to model independent predictors of clinical outcomes. Variables included in the multivariable model were age, diabetes mellitus (DM), saphenous vein graft intervention, hypertension, smoking, acute coronary syndrome, hyperlipidaemia and left ventricle ejection fraction (LVEF). Variables with missing values of more than 20% were imputed using the mean value. Two sets of data (i.e. with and without imputation) were analysed and the results of the former were reported if similar results were found in the latter. Statistical analysis was performed using SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC, USA). A  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered significant.

## RESULTS

A total of 18,239 patients who underwent elective PCI between January 2007 and December 2012 were identified. 274 (1.5%) patients were on dialysis for a period longer than three months at the time of PCI. Baseline clinical and demographic results are shown in Table I. 65.0% of the patients were male and the median age was 62.0 (IQR 54.0–69.0) years. DM and hypertension were present in 63.9% and 94.5% of the dialysis patients, respectively. 9.5% ( $n = 26$ ) and 27.4% ( $n = 75$ ) of all the patients were admitted for ST-elevation MI and acute coronary syndrome, respectively. The majority (86.5%,  $n = 237$ ) of the patients underwent haemodialysis and 38.7% ( $n = 106$ ) had been on dialysis for 2–5 years.

Angiographic results are shown in Table II. A total of 336 lesions were treated. The most common vessel treated was the left anterior descending artery (43.8%,  $n = 147$ ). The majority (81.8%,  $n = 275$ ) of the lesions were complex lesions (i.e. American Heart Association type B2) and moderately to heavily calcified (65.5%,  $n = 220$ ). 431 metallic stents, 35.0% of which were drug-eluting stents (DES), were implanted in 308 lesions (Table III). The remaining lesions were treated with balloon angioplasty (8.3%,  $n = 28$ ). Mean stent diameter and length were  $2.96 \pm 0.48$  mm and  $21.30 \pm 7.47$  mm, respectively. Intravascular ultrasonography was used in 4.7% of the procedures. Lesion preparation was required in the majority of the procedures. Predilation was performed in 89.5% of them, while debulking using scoring/cutting balloons and rotational atherectomy were performed in 4.0% ( $n = 11$ ) and 5.8% ( $n = 16$ ) of the procedures, respectively. Post-stenting balloon dilation was also performed in 61.7% of the procedures.

Clinical outcomes are shown in Table IV. The procedural angiographic success rate was 96.4% ( $n = 264$ ), and the

**Table I. Clinical and demographic characteristics of the patients ( $n = 274$ ).**

Characteristic	No. (%)
Age* (yr)	62.0 (54.0–69.0)
Male gender	178 (65.0)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Chinese	196 (71.5)
Malay	54 (19.7)
Indian	18 (6.6)
Others	6 (2.2)
<b>Prior MI</b>	88 (32.1)
<b>STEMI</b>	26 (9.5)
<b>ACS</b>	75 (27.4)
<b>Prior revascularisation</b>	89 (32.5)
<b>Prior PTCA</b>	51 (18.6)
<b>Prior CABG</b>	46 (16.8)
<b>Diabetes mellitus</b>	175 (63.9)
<b>Hypertension</b>	259 (94.5)
<b>Hyperlipidaemia</b>	218 (79.6)
<b>Smoking<sup>†</sup></b>	33 (12.0)
<b>LVEF</b>	45.0 (35.0–57.0)
<b>Haemodialysis</b>	237 (86.5)
<b>Duration of dialysis</b>	
> 3 mth to < 2 yr	71 (25.9)
$\geq 2$ yr to 5 yr	106 (38.7)
6–10 yr	62 (22.6)
> 10 yr	35 (12.8)
<b>Concomitant kidney disease</b>	
Glomerulonephritis	25 (9.1)
Pyelonephritis	1 (0.4)
Polycystic kidney disease	9 (3.3)
Others	6 (2.2)

\*Data is presented as median (interquartile range). †Current smoker/recent smoker (within 1 yr) prior to hospital admission. ACS: acute coronary syndrome; CABG: coronary artery bypass surgery; ESRF: end-stage renal failure; LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction; MI: myocardial infarction; PTCA: percutaneous coronary angioplasty; STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction

procedural success rate was 91.6% ( $n = 251$ ). There were 12 (4.4%) cases of in-hospital mortality. The hierarchical MACE rate was 55.8% ( $n = 153$ ) at two years, contributed mainly by death (36.5%,  $n = 100$ ; Appendix, Supplementary Fig. 1) and acute MI (35.0%,  $n = 96$ ). Target vessel revascularisation rate at one and two years was 9.9% ( $n = 27$ ) and 13.1% ( $n = 36$ ), respectively. 2.2% ( $n = 6$ ) of patients underwent coronary artery bypass surgery within two years after the index PCI.

Predictors of clinical outcomes are shown in the Appendix. In multivariable analysis, age (odds ratio [OR] 1.09, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.05–1.12;  $p < 0.001$ ), LVEF (OR 0.97, 95% CI 0.95–0.99;  $p = 0.006$ ) and the presence of DM (OR 2.65, 95% CI 1.46–4.82;  $p = 0.001$ ) were significant predictors of mortality at two years. Of note, ethnicity was not a significant predictor of clinical outcomes in this study. Survival curves for two-year mortality in the presence of DM and LVEF are shown in Fig. 1. The two-year survival rate was significantly lower in patients with

**Table II. Angiographic characteristics of the lesions (n = 336).**

Characteristic	No. (%)
<b>Vessel location</b>	
Left main	12 (3.6)
Left anterior descending	147 (43.8)
Left circumflex	55 (16.4)
Right coronary	106 (31.5)
Saphenous vein graft	14 (4.2)
Arterial graft	2 (0.6)
<b>Ostial</b>	3 (0.9)
<b>Bifurcation</b>	164 (66.1)
<b>Chronic total occlusion</b>	19 (5.7)
<b>Calcification</b>	
Mild	116 (34.5)
Moderate	168 (50.0)
Severe	52 (15.5)
<b>AHA classification</b>	
Type A	3 (0.9)
Type B1	25 (7.4)
Type B2	275 (81.8)
Type C	33 (9.8)
<b>De novo lesion</b>	329 (97.9)
<b>In-stent restenosis</b>	7 (2.1)
<b>No. of lesions that underwent balloon angioplasty</b>	28 (8.3)
<b>No. of lesions stented</b>	308 (91.7)
<b>TIMI grade</b>	
Preprocedure	
0	28 (8.3)
1	10 (3.0)
2	15 (4.5)
3	283 (84.2)
Postprocedure	
0	8 (2.4)
1	2 (0.6)
2	2 (0.6)
3	324 (96.4)

\*Data presented as median (interquartile range) or mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.  
 †Bifurcation is defined as side branch  $\geq$  2 mm. AHA: American Heart Association; TIMI: thrombolysis in myocardial infarction

DM compared to those without DM (two-year survival rate: 57% vs. 76%;  $p = 0.0025$ ). In multivariable analysis, age (OR 1.06, 95% CI 1.03–1.08;  $p < 0.001$ ) and the presence of DM (OR 1.84, 95% CI 1.07–3.15;  $p = 0.027$ ) were significant predictors of MACE at two years. There was a trend towards lower two-year MACE-free survival in DM compared to non-DM patients (39% vs. 54%;  $p = 0.0670$ ), although this relationship was not statistically significant (Appendix, Supplementary Fig. 2).

## DISCUSSION

Although advances in interventional techniques have led to improvement in clinical outcomes in patients who undergo PCI, cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in dialysis patients, and the presence of chronic kidney disease is

**Table III. Procedural details for the 274 patients, based on 431 implanted stents.**

Parameter	No. (%)
<b>Mean stent diameter* (mm)</b>	2.96 $\pm$ 0.48
<b>Mean stent length* (mm)</b>	21.30 $\pm$ 7.47
<b>Total stent length* (mm)</b>	29.80 $\pm$ 17.90
<b>Treatment of lesions (n = 431)</b>	
Bare metal stents	280 (65.0)
Drug-eluting stents	151 (35.0)
<b>No. of stents per vessel*</b>	1.4 $\pm$ 0.7
<b>Multiple vessels treated (n = 274)</b>	
Triple vessel	4 (1.5)
Left main	12 (4.4)
<b>IVUS (n = 274)</b>	13 (4.7)
<b>OCT (n = 274)</b>	0 (0)
<b>Scoring/cutting balloon (n = 274)</b>	11 (4.0)
<b>Rotational atherectomy (n = 274)</b>	16 (5.8)
<b>Predilation performed (n = 248)</b>	222 (89.5)
<b>Postdilation performed (n = 248)</b>	153 (61.7)

Percentages are calculated based on number of stents or patients, as appropriate.  
 \*Data presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. IVUS: intravascular ultrasound; OCT: optical coherence tomography

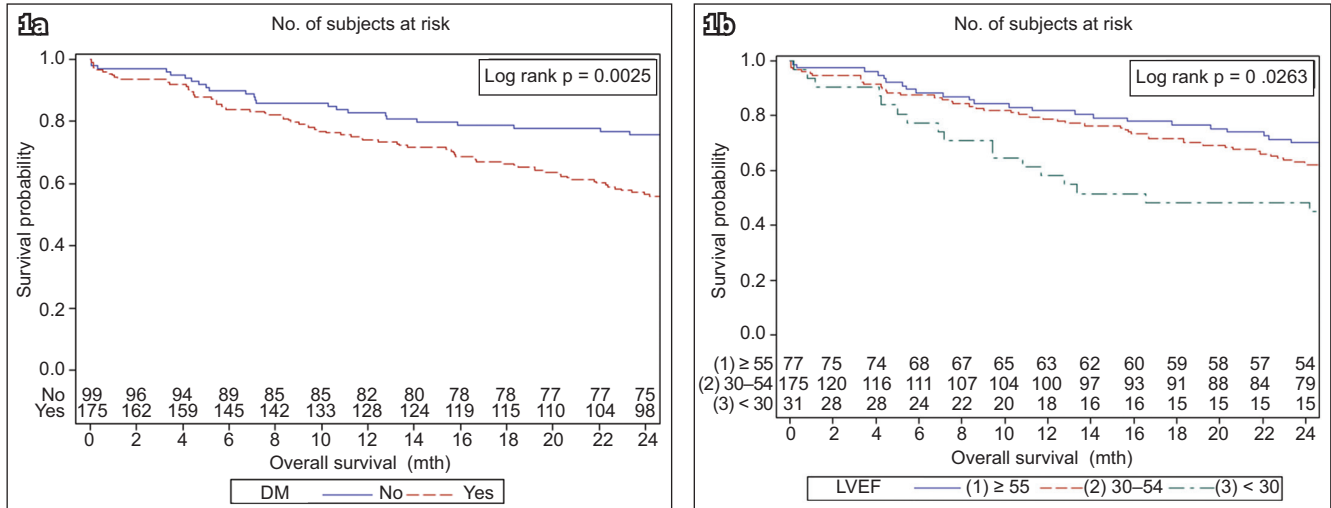
**Table IV. Clinical outcomes of the patients (n = 274).**

Outcome	No. (%)
<b>Procedural outcome</b>	
Angiographic success	264 (96.4)
Clinical success	251 (91.6)
<b>1-year outcome</b>	
Death	62 (22.6)
AMI	52 (19.0)
Stroke	8 (2.9)
MACE*	88 (32.1)
<b>2-year outcomes</b>	
Death	100 (36.5)
AMI	96 (35.0)
Stroke	11 (4.0)
MACE*	153 (55.8)
<b>Target vessel revascularisation</b>	
At 1 yr	27 (9.9)
At 2 yr	36 (13.1)
<b>Coronary artery bypass surgery</b>	
At 1 yr	5 (1.8)
At 2 yr	6 (2.2)

\*Hierarchical. AMI: acute myocardial infarction; MACE: major adverse cardiovascular events

an independent risk factor for MACE in high-risk populations.<sup>(19,20)</sup> Unfortunately, most major randomised clinical trials that form the basis for evidence-based use of revascularisation procedures exclude patients who are on renal dialysis.<sup>(21)</sup>

Initial reports appeared in 2000 addressing the impact of chronic renal failure on outcome after PCI, based on a small case-control study with 66 patients<sup>(22)</sup> and a large cross-sectional study of 362 patients.<sup>(23)</sup> Both trials assessed long-term survival



**Fig. 1** (a) Two-year Kaplan-Meier curve for hierarchical major adverse cardiovascular events stratified by the presence of diabetes mellitus (DM) shows that the two-year survival rate was significantly lower in DM compared to non-DM patients (57% vs. 76%;  $p = 0.0025$ ). (b) Kaplan-Meier curve for two-year survival stratified by left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) shows that the two-year survival rate was significantly lower in patients with reduced LVEF (48% for LVEF  $< 30\%$ , 62% for LVEF 30%–54%, 70% for LVEF  $\geq 55\%$ ;  $p = 0.0263$ ).

in patients with chronic renal disease and without a history of haemodialysis. They found markedly higher in-hospital and long-term mortality in these patients, with an overall survival of only 60% after 3–4 years. However, limited data was available on renal dialysis patients, particularly in the Asian population, which may have a higher prevalence of DM and renal disease.<sup>(24)</sup>

The two-year mortality rate of 36.5% in this study was comparable to those of earlier studies done in other populations.<sup>(5–10)</sup> In the study by Hertzog et al<sup>(17)</sup> on dialysis patients in the United States, two-year survival was 48.4%  $\pm$  2.0% in the stent group and 48.2%  $\pm$  1.5% after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA). In our study, the risks of all-cause mortality and MACE at two years were considerably higher in older patients and in patients with DM. Age was also shown to be a significant risk factor affecting prognosis in an earlier study by Rubenstein et al,<sup>(23)</sup> in which 362 renal failure patients were compared with 2,972 patients with normal renal function who underwent PCI between 1994 and 1997. Patients with renal failure were older and had more associated comorbidities, reduced procedural success (89.5% vs. 92.9%;  $p < 0.007$ ) and greater in-hospital combined major event rates (i.e. death, Q-wave MI and emergent coronary artery bypass surgery) (10.8% vs. 1.8%;  $p < 0.0001$ ). Cox regression analysis identified age  $> 74$  years (relative risk [RR] 1.8, 95% CI 1.3–2.5;  $p < 0.001$ ), PTCA strategy (RR 1.7, 95% CI 1.1–2.5;  $p < 0.01$ ) and female gender (RR 1.4, 95% CI 1.0–2.0;  $p < 0.07$ ) as independent predictors of MACE at long-term follow-up in the renal group.

In our study, DM was a significant independent predictor of clinical outcomes following PCI in dialysis patients. The presence of DM was associated with a nearly twofold increase in mortality (OR 2.65, 95% CI 1.46–4.82;  $p = 0.001$ ) and MACE (OR 1.84, 95% CI 1.07–3.15;  $p = 0.027$ ) (Appendix, Supplementary Tables I & II). This was consistent with previous studies,<sup>(19)</sup> which suggested that DM was associated with higher ischaemic burden in ESRD patients.

The poor prognosis for post-PCI Asian dialysis patients may be multifactorial. Possible reasons include greater complexity of the lesions treated (greater calcification and medial thickness of the coronary plaque), increased risk of in-stent restenosis after PCI, poor control of underlying cardiovascular risk factors, greater vascular inflammation, and increased thrombogenicity from endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerosis secondary to the accumulation of uremic toxins.<sup>(25,26)</sup> In addition, patients on dialysis are typically also older and have more comorbidities.<sup>(16,27)</sup> The higher event rates seen in our study may partially be attributed to the relatively low usage of DES, which were shown to have better clinical outcomes than bare metal stents (BMS).<sup>(28)</sup> In one study<sup>(29)</sup> that compared the results of PCI using BMS with those of DES in 350 chronic renal failure patients (defined as creatinine clearance  $< 60$  mL/minute), cardiovascular death and MACE occurred less frequently in DES groups. The target lesion revascularisation (TLR) rate was not significantly different in the chronic renal failure groups (BMS 9.8% vs. DES 7.1%;  $p = 0.44$ ). No excess of stent thrombosis was observed in the DES groups, and the use of DES was independently associated with absence of MACE and TLR. In our study, the relatively low rate of unplanned target vessel revascularisation on follow-up (Table IV) suggested that the patients were subsequently treated medically, which may partially contribute to the high mortality rate. Commonly, patients who undergo medical therapy are likely to be those who have advanced age, multiple comorbidities and high bleeding risk, and are therefore considered high risk for further invasive procedures.

The results of our study reinforce our understanding of the high MACE rate following PCI in Asian chronic dialysis patients. More studies are needed to evaluate the impact of different revascularisation options in dialysis patients, the impact of bleeding complications on PCI outcomes and the effect of new pharmacological therapies on clinical outcomes.

The limitations of our study include the inherent limitations of a retrospective study and its relatively small sample size of a single centre. Further research is needed to assess whether the



use of additional clinical characteristics or biomarkers might contribute to more effective risk prediction and better care for dialysis patients undergoing PCI.

In conclusion, Asian dialysis patients who underwent PCI have a two-year MACE rate of 55.8%, mainly due to death and acute MI. Age, impaired LVEF and DM were significant predictors of mortality at two years. Dialysis patients represent a group of high-risk patients who are frequently excluded from clinical trials involving treatment with coronary artery stents. This study shows that dialysis patients in this multiracial Asian geopolitical setting have a relatively high incidence of adverse medical outcomes up to two years post PCI and should be counselled appropriately. Further studies are needed to further evaluate the impact of revascularisation on long-term clinical outcomes.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Appendix is available online at <https://doi.org/10.11622/smedj.2020025>.

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