

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Predicting Residual Angina After Chronic Total Occlusion Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: Insights from the OPEN-CTO Registry

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**BACKGROUND:** Given that percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) of a chronic total occlusion (CTO) is indicated primarily for symptom relief, identifying patients most likely to benefit is critically important for patient selection and shared decision-making. Therefore, we identified factors associated with residual angina frequency after CTO PCI and developed a model to predict postprocedure anginal burden.

**METHODS AND RESULTS:** Among patients in the OPEN-CTO (Outcomes, Patient Health Status, and Efficiency in Chronic Total Occlusion Hybrid Procedures) registry, we evaluated the association between patient characteristics and residual angina frequency at 6 months, as assessed by the Seattle Angina Questionnaire Angina Frequency Scale. We then constructed a prediction model for angina status after CTO PCI using ordinal regression. Among 901 patients undergoing CTO PCI, 28% had no angina, 31% had monthly angina, 30% had weekly angina, and 12% had daily angina at baseline. Six months later, 53% of patients had a  $\geq 20$ -point increase in Seattle Angina Questionnaire Angina Frequency Scale score. The final model to predict residual angina after CTO PCI included baseline angina frequency, baseline nitroglycerin use frequency, dyspnea symptoms, depressive symptoms, number of antianginal medications, PCI indication, and presence of multiple CTO lesions and had a C index of 0.78. Baseline angina frequency and nitroglycerin use frequency explained 71% of the predictive power of the model, and the relationship between model components and angina improvement at 6 months varied by baseline angina status.

**CONCLUSIONS:** A 7-component OPEN-AP (OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction) score can predict angina improvement and residual angina after CTO PCI using variables commonly available before intervention. These findings have implications for appropriate patient selection and counseling for CTO PCI.

**Key Words:** angina ■ angina frequency ■ chronic total occlusion ■ patient selection ■ percutaneous coronary intervention ■ prediction ■ score

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Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is often performed for patients with chronic stable coronary artery disease,<sup>1</sup> and has been shown to improve angina symptoms in large randomized controlled

trials.<sup>2</sup> Chronic total occlusion (CTO) of a coronary artery is often found on routine diagnostic angiography, but PCI of such lesions is not frequently attempted.<sup>3-7</sup> Newer approaches have made it possible to achieve

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## CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

### What Is New?

- The OPEN-AP score, a 7-component score including baseline angina frequency, nitroglycerin use frequency, dyspnea symptoms, depressive symptoms, number of antianginal medications, percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) indication, and presence of multiple chronic total occlusion (CTO) lesions, can predict angina improvement and residual angina after CTO PCI.
- Baseline angina frequency and nitroglycerin use frequency explained 71% of the predictive power of the model, and the relationship between model components and angina improvement at 6 months varied by baseline angina status.

### What Are the Clinical Implications?

- The novel OPEN-AP score presented in this study can enable clinicians to take patient heterogeneity of benefit into account in clinical decision-making for CTO PCI.
- Coupled with the knowledge of a patient's baseline symptoms and risk tolerance, the OPEN-AP tool can inform both the expected magnitude of angina reduction from attempted CTO PCI, as well as the amount of residual angina patients might expect at 6 months after the procedure.
- These findings have important implications for appropriate patient selection and counseling for CTO PCI.

## Nonstandard Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>CTO</b>	chronic total occlusion
<b>OPEN-AP</b>	OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction
<b>OPEN-CTO</b>	Outcomes, Patient Health Status, and Efficiency in Chronic Total Occlusion Hybrid Procedures
<b>PHQ-8</b>	Patient Health Questionnaire-8
<b>SAQ</b>	Seattle Angina Questionnaire

technical success in crossing CTO lesions,<sup>8–10</sup> though complication rates are higher.<sup>11</sup>

Understanding the expected angina relief from CTO PCI is essential to support shared decision-making with patients, particularly given the increased procedural risks associated with CTO PCI. Many studies have shown an improvement in anginal symptoms after CTO PCI,<sup>12–19</sup> but the patient response is not uniform.<sup>13</sup> Although there are models to predict technical success in CTO PCI,<sup>20–23</sup> data on patient-level predictors of angina improvement

after CTO PCI are lacking. Identifying which patients may be the most likely to experience angina improvement, and which others may have residual angina, is critically important to inform appropriate patient selection for these higher risk procedures.

To address this gap in knowledge, we leveraged a large registry of consecutive CTO PCI procedures to describe factors associated with residual angina after CTO PCI and developed a prediction model for post-procedure angina. Such results can guide individualized clinical decision-making, patient counseling, and patient selection.

## METHODS

### Study Population

The OPEN-CTO (Outcomes, Patient Health Status, and Efficiency in Chronic Total Occlusion Hybrid Procedures) registry is an investigator-initiated, observational cohort of 1000 consecutive patients undergoing CTO PCI at 12 high-volume centers in the United States. As previously described, all adults scheduled for a CTO PCI by an experienced CTO operator proficient with the hybrid approach were included if they were able to comply with telephone follow-up.<sup>24</sup> CTO was defined as a 100% occlusion of a coronary artery known to be occluded for at least 3 months with an antegrade intraluminal TIMI (Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction) flow grade of 0. Informed consent was obtained from every participant, and each institution's own institutional review board approved the study. The analytic cohort for this study included all patients in the OPEN-CTO registry with complete baseline and 6-month Seattle Angina Questionnaire (SAQ) Angina Frequency Scale scores. Anonymized data that support the findings of this study can be made available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

### Study Outcomes and Variables

Baseline data collection was performed by on-site research nurses who were trained by the project coordinator. An experienced, centralized call center with staff trained in health-status interviewing techniques performed all follow-up assessments at 6 months. In addition to a detailed health-status assessment, patients were queried about current medications, medication discontinuance and reason, and rehospitalization events and their causes. Patient-reported health status was captured using the SAQ (4-week recall, scale 0–100, with higher scores indicating less frequent angina, better function, and better quality of life),<sup>25</sup> the Rose Dyspnea Scale (scale 0 to 4, with higher scores indicating dyspnea with less strenuous activities),<sup>26</sup> and the Patient Health Questionnaire-8

(scale 0–24, with higher scores indicating more depressive symptoms).<sup>27</sup>

The primary outcome of this study was residual angina 6 months after CTO PCI, as assessed by the SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score (scale 0–100, with higher scores indicating less frequent angina).<sup>28</sup> The SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score has been used previously to assess symptoms in a CTO population.<sup>29,30</sup> For the purposes of prediction modeling, the SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score at 6 months was selected as the primary outcome in lieu of predicting change in angina scores to avoid the limitations imparted by floor and ceiling effects of the 0- to 100-point scale of the SAQ.<sup>31,32</sup> Nevertheless, baseline angina frequency was included in the model so a clinically interpretable improvement in angina frequency could be calculated from the model's output. As a secondary analysis, we examined a binary indicator for a  $\geq 20$ -point increase in the SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score, representing a clinically large improvement in angina,<sup>28</sup> 6 months after CTO PCI.

## Statistical Analysis

We evaluated the unadjusted associations between baseline characteristics and SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score at 6 months using the linear trend test for continuous variables and the Mantel-Haenszel trend test for categorical variables.

We then used an ordinal regression model to predict 6-month SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score while considering a range of candidate predictor variables. To mitigate the risk of overfitting, we divided these variables into those that were judged a priori to be likely associated with residual angina and those for which the association was less certain. The first group included the 2 SAQ Angina Frequency Scale questions (frequency of symptoms and frequency of nitroglycerin use), the individual items of the Rose Dyspnea Scale, presence of depressive symptoms (Patient Health Questionnaire-8 score  $\geq 10$ ), number of antianginal medications on arrival, indication for CTO PCI (symptom relief/ischemia reduction versus other), presence of multiple CTO lesions, and presence of any non-CTO lesions. These variables comprised the primary model. The remaining candidate predictors included age, sex, body mass index, current smoking status, diabetes, prior myocardial infarction, prior PCI, prior coronary artery bypass grafting, prior stroke/transient ischemic attack, chronic heart failure, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, left ventricular ejection fraction, and SAQ Physical Limitation and Quality of Life scores. We assessed the combined contribution of these secondary predictors as a whole by a likelihood ratio test comparing a model with all primary and secondary candidate predictors to one with only the primary predictors. The *P* value for this test was 0.80, suggesting no evidence of additional explanatory power provided by the secondary

predictors. Notably, we did not consider procedural success as a candidate variable for inclusion in our model, because we wanted all potential predictors to be available before the procedure to aid in clinical decision-making about whether to pursue CTO PCI intervention.

Examination of observed versus predicted outcomes and model Akaike information criterion suggested that a complementary log-log link provided reasonable fit to the data. Effects of numerical variables were fit using restricted cubic splines to allow for nonlinear relationships. Ordinal regression yielded predicted probabilities of each possible value of the outcome (SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score) for each patient. We converted these into an expected score for each patient by integrating the possible scores over their probabilities. We examined model calibration by smoothed plots of observed versus predicted values, and discrimination by the C index. We performed internal model validation using bootstrap methods and examined the bootstrap-corrected C index and calibration slope to assess the degree of overfitting risk. Finally, we constructed a simplified prediction rule using backward selection on the linear predictor, dropping variables with the smallest contribution to the model, as measured by the *F* value, until the reduced model explained no  $< 95\%$  of the predictive capacity of the full model.<sup>32</sup> We took the  $\beta$  weights from the simplified model and converted them into integer points, and then mapped the total points to expected 6-month Angina Frequency Scale scores.

We also assessed discrimination by the C statistic for observed and predicted values of our secondary outcome of a  $\geq 20$ -point increase in the SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score at 6 months.

In supplemental analysis, we assessed the possible contribution of the 5 J-CTO (Multicenter CTO Registry of Japan) score components (blunt cap, occlusion length  $\geq 20$ mm, bending  $> 45^\circ$ , calcification, retry of lesion)<sup>21</sup> as a whole by a likelihood ratio test comparing a model with all primary and J-CTO candidate predictors to one with only the primary predictors. The *P* value for this test was 0.51, suggesting no evidence of additional explanatory power provided by the J-CTO predictors. We additionally assessed performance of our model only on the subset of patients with procedural success to better understand the chance for angina improvement after a successful procedure. We performed multiple imputation using chained equations for missing values. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS software version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

## RESULTS

### Patient Population

Among 1000 patients enrolled between January 21, 2014, and July 22, 2015, 901 patients (90%) had SAQ

data available at baseline and 6 months and were included in this analysis. Patients included in the analyses were similar to those excluded with respect to baseline angina frequency, though excluded patients were more likely to have diabetes, prior MI, congestive heart failure, chronic kidney disease, and non-CTO lesions, and were less likely to have a CTO indication for symptom relief (Table S1).

Mean age was 65.7±9.9 years, 81% were men, 40% had diabetes, and 38% had prior coronary artery bypass grafting (Table). Fifty-four percent of patients were taking at least 2 antianginal medications. Mean baseline SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score was 70±27, and mean Rose Dyspnea Scale score was 2.2±1.5, with 41% of patients reporting weekly or daily angina within the prior 4 weeks.

### Angina Frequency After CTO PCI

At 6 months after CTO PCI, 78% of patients had no angina, whereas 3% had daily angina, 8% weekly angina, and 12% monthly angina (Table). Patients with more frequent angina at 6 months were more likely to have traditional risk factors including diabetes, hypertension, prior myocardial infarction, or prior coronary artery bypass grafting as well as social stressors (difficulty with finances at the end of the month, no employment). Additionally, patients with more angina at 6 months were more likely to have multiple CTO lesions, to have undergone CTO PCI for symptom relief, and to have been taking more antianginal medications before CTO PCI. Patients with greater residual angina were also much more likely to have had more angina at baseline (Figure 1). Specifically, 61% of those with daily angina after CTO had angina daily before CTO (with 22% of patients with 4 or more times per day), whereas only 25% of those with no angina after CTO PCI had daily angina at baseline (8% with angina 4 or more times/day). Similarly, 27% of patients with daily angina used nitroglycerin at least daily at baseline, whereas only 7% of patients with no angina after CTO PCI used nitroglycerin at least daily at baseline. Patients with higher 6-month angina frequency also had higher baseline Patient Health Questionnaire-8 scores and greater dyspnea as well as worse physical limitation and angina-related quality of life as assessed by the SAQ.

### Angina Prediction Model

The full model to predict 6-month Angina Frequency Scale score including all primary predictors had an apparent  $R^2$  of 0.25 and a C index of 0.78, as well as a bootstrap validation-adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.22, C index of 0.77, and calibration slope of 0.92, suggesting good model fit and discrimination. The final simplified model included 7 variables: baseline angina frequency and

baseline nitroglycerin use (ie, baseline SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score), Rose Dyspnea Scale score  $\geq 2$  (shortness of breath when walking with others), Patient Health Questionnaire-8 score  $\geq 10$ , number of antianginal medications, indication for PCI (symptom/ischemia reduction or not), and the presence of multiple CTO lesions (Figure 2; online calculator available at <https://myhealthoutcomes.org>). The reduced model had an  $R^2$  of 0.24 and a C index of 0.78. Baseline SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score explained 71% of the predictive power of the model. The median predicted risk of having at least weekly angina symptoms in this cohort was 6%, and 7% of patients had at least a 33% chance of daily or weekly angina after CTO PCI.

The OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction (OPEN-AP) score was able to separate patients into groups with different levels of residual angina at 6 months angina (Figure 3). Among those with the lowest preprocedure score (0–9), 97% of patients had no angina at 6 months, 3% of patients had monthly angina, and 0.5% of patients had daily or weekly angina. In contrast, among those with the highest preprocedure score (30–40), 42% of patients had no angina at 6 months, 19% of patients had monthly angina, and 40% of patients had daily or weekly angina. Similar results were obtained when stratified by baseline angina frequency status (Figure S1) and when limited to patients only with procedural success (C index 0.76 for 6-month Angina Frequency Scale score; Figure S2).

The OPEN-AP score was also able to predict whether patients would have a  $\geq 20$ -point improvement in SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score at 6 months based on baseline angina frequency status with a C statistic of 0.81 (Figure S3). Patients with more frequent angina at baseline, depressive symptoms, or dyspnea symptoms, as well as those taking greater numbers of antianginals or more frequent nitroglycerin preprocedure, were generally more likely to improve after CTO PCI, and those with multiple CTO lesions were less likely to improve after CTO PCI (Table S2). However, the relationship between several model components and angina improvement at 6 months varied by baseline angina status. Among those with daily or weekly baseline angina, those on a greater number of antianginal medications were less likely to improve, whereas, among those with monthly baseline angina, patients on a greater number of antianginal medications were more likely to improve. Among those with daily baseline angina, patients with depressive symptoms were more likely to improve, whereas depressed patients with less frequent baseline angina were less likely to improve. Conversely, among those with daily or weekly baseline angina, dyspneic patients were less likely to improve, whereas among those with monthly angina, dyspneic patients were more likely to improve.

**Table. Baseline Patient Characteristics by Angina Frequency at 6 Months**

Variable	Total	SAQ angina frequency, 6 mo				P value*
	n=901	Daily, 0–30, n=23	Weekly, 40–60, n=70	Monthly, 70–90, n=104	None, 100, n=704	
Sociodemographics						
Age, y	65.7±9.9	63.1±13.0	63.9±10.4	66.2±10.3	65.8±9.7	0.111
Sex						0.303
Men	728 (80.8%)	20 (87.0%)	51 (72.9%)	82 (78.8%)	575 (81.7%)	
Women	173 (19.2%)	3 (13.0%)	19 (27.1%)	22 (21.2%)	129 (18.3%)	
Marital status						0.121
Married	630 (70.2%)	15 (68.2%)	46 (65.7%)	62 (59.6%)	507 (72.2%)	
Divorced/separated	134 (14.9%)	2 (9.1%)	14 (20.0%)	25 (24.0%)	93 (13.2%)	
Widowed	81 (9.0%)	3 (13.6%)	5 (7.1%)	9 (8.7%)	64 (9.1%)	
Single/other	53 (5.9%)	2 (9.1%)	5 (7.1%)	8 (7.7%)	38 (5.4%)	
Missing	3	1			2	
Living alone	179 (20.1%)	2 (9.1%)	17 (24.6%)	27 (26.2%)	133 (19.1%)	0.551
Missing	12	1	1	1	9	
Completed high school	807 (90.3%)	19 (86.4%)	62 (88.6%)	88 (85.4%)	638 (91.3%)	0.124
Missing	7	1		1	5	
Finances at the end of the month						<0.001
Some money left over	537 (60.3%)	9 (40.9%)	32 (47.1%)	56 (53.8%)	440 (63.2%)	
Just enough to make ends meet	247 (27.8%)	7 (31.8%)	21 (30.9%)	28 (26.9%)	191 (27.4%)	
Not enough to make ends meet	106 (11.9%)	6 (27.3%)	15 (22.1%)	20 (19.2%)	65 (9.3%)	
Missing	11	1	2		8	
Working status						0.002
No	547 (61.0%)	19 (86.4%)	50 (72.5%)	74 (71.2%)	404 (57.5%)	
Yes, full time	278 (31.0%)	1 (4.5%)	13 (18.8%)	22 (21.2%)	242 (34.5%)	
Yes, part time	72 (8.0%)	2 (9.1%)	6 (8.7%)	8 (7.7%)	56 (8.0%)	
Missing	4	1	1		2	
Insurance coverage for medications	853 (95.0%)	21 (95.5%)	65 (92.9%)	97 (93.3%)	670 (95.4%)	0.347
Missing	3	1			2	
Have avoided health care because of costs						<0.001
Always	25 (2.8%)	1 (4.5%)	5 (7.1%)	4 (3.8%)	15 (2.2%)	
Frequently	38 (4.3%)	1 (4.5%)	8 (11.4%)	3 (2.9%)	26 (3.7%)	
Occasionally	56 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (4.3%)	7 (6.7%)	46 (6.6%)	
Rarely	80 (9.0%)	5 (22.7%)	15 (21.4%)	9 (8.7%)	51 (7.3%)	
Never	694 (77.7%)	15 (68.2%)	39 (55.7%)	81 (77.9%)	559 (80.2%)	
Missing	8	1			7	
Clinical characteristics						
BMI	30.4±5.9	29.9±5.3	32.1±6.8	30.7±6.8	30.2±5.7	0.899
Smoking history						0.027
Current smoker	111 (12.5%)	2 (8.7%)	14 (20.3%)	15 (14.7%)	80 (11.5%)	
Former smoker	459 (51.6%)	12 (52.2%)	35 (50.7%)	64 (62.7%)	348 (50.0%)	
Never smoked	320 (36.0%)	9 (39.1%)	20 (29.0%)	23 (22.5%)	268 (38.5%)	
Missing	11		1	2	8	
Diabetes	362 (40.2%)	15 (65.2%)	32 (45.7%)	41 (39.4%)	274 (38.9%)	0.024

(Continued)

**Table. Continued**

Variable	Total	SAQ angina frequency, 6 mo				P value*
	n=901	Daily, 0–30, n=23	Weekly, 40–60, n=70	Monthly, 70–90, n=104	None, 100, n=704	
Hypertension	771 (85.6%)	23 (100.0%)	63 (90.0%)	88 (84.6%)	597 (84.8%)	0.049
Prior MI	423 (46.9%)	14 (60.9%)	35 (50.0%)	57 (54.8%)	317 (45.0%)	0.044
Prior PCI	594 (65.9%)	19 (82.6%)	47 (67.1%)	75 (72.1%)	453 (64.3%)	0.059
Prior CABG	338 (37.5%)	19 (82.6%)	39 (55.7%)	44 (42.3%)	236 (33.5%)	<0.001
Prior stroke/TIA	82 (9.1%)	3 (13.0%)	4 (5.7%)	11 (10.6%)	64 (9.1%)	0.938
Congestive heart failure	194 (21.5%)	3 (13.0%)	17 (24.3%)	20 (19.2%)	154 (21.9%)	0.626
Chronic kidney disease	112 (12.4%)	5 (21.7%)	6 (8.6%)	20 (19.2%)	81 (11.5%)	0.264
Chronic lung disease	126 (14.0%)	5 (21.7%)	16 (22.9%)	11 (10.6%)	94 (13.4%)	0.061
No. of antianginal medications on arrival						<0.001
0	72 (8.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)	8 (7.7%)	63 (8.9%)	
1	342 (38.0%)	5 (21.7%)	16 (22.9%)	33 (31.7%)	288 (40.9%)	
2	342 (38.0%)	4 (17.4%)	29 (41.4%)	43 (41.3%)	266 (37.8%)	
3	122 (13.5%)	9 (39.1%)	22 (31.4%)	16 (15.4%)	75 (10.7%)	
4	23 (2.6%)	5 (21.7%)	2 (2.9%)	4 (3.8%)	12 (1.7%)	
Ischemia on stress test	438 (89.2%)	9 (100.0%)	27 (90.0%)	61 (92.4%)	341 (88.3%)	0.230
Missing	410	14	40	38	318	
LV ejection fraction	51.4±13.3	55.1±14.6	51.1±12.9	51.7±13.0	51.2±13.4	0.242
Missing	81	3	8	7	63	
CTO characteristics						
Indication for CTO intervention						<0.001
Symptom relief	659 (73.1%)	21 (91.3%)	64 (91.4%)	86 (82.7%)	488 (69.3%)	
Ischemia reduction	97 (10.8%)	1 (4.3%)	5 (7.1%)	9 (8.7%)	82 (11.6%)	
Staged procedure	48 (5.3%)	1 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (2.9%)	44 (6.3%)	
Reduced ejection fraction	42 (4.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.9%)	40 (5.7%)	
Other	55 (6.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)	4 (3.8%)	50 (7.1%)	
Primary CTO vessel						0.210
LAD	182 (20.2%)	6 (26.1%)	9 (12.9%)	13 (12.5%)	154 (21.9%)	
LCX	153 (17.0%)	4 (17.4%)	11 (15.7%)	23 (22.1%)	115 (16.3%)	
LM	8 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.0%)	6 (0.9%)	
RCA	558 (61.9%)	13 (56.5%)	49 (70.0%)	67 (64.4%)	429 (60.9%)	
Multiple CTO lesions	48 (5.3%)	3 (13.0%)	6 (8.6%)	12 (11.5%)	27 (3.8%)	<0.001
Any non-CTO lesions	117 (13.0%)	2 (8.7%)	8 (11.4%)	13 (12.5%)	94 (13.4%)	0.444
J-CTO score components						
Blunt cap	574 (63.7%)	18 (78.3%)	43 (61.4%)	71 (68.3%)	442 (62.8%)	0.272
Length >20	553 (61.4%)	19 (82.6%)	44 (62.9%)	69 (66.3%)	421 (59.8%)	0.040
Bending	494 (54.8%)	11 (47.8%)	40 (57.1%)	65 (62.5%)	378 (53.7%)	0.559
Calcification	297 (33.0%)	11 (47.8%)	23 (32.9%)	35 (33.7%)	228 (32.4%)	0.294
Retry	182 (20.2%)	6 (26.1%)	12 (17.1%)	22 (21.2%)	142 (20.2%)	0.930
Procedural success	745 (82.7%)	12 (52.2%)	53 (75.7%)	83 (79.8%)	597 (84.8%)	<0.001
Baseline health status						
SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score	70.3±27.0	38.7±24.0	46.6±20.7	58.7±25.0	75.4±25.4	<0.001
SAQ Angina Frequency Scale score categories						<0.001

(Continued)

**Table. Continued**

Variable	Total	SAQ angina frequency, 6 mo				P value*
	n=901	Daily, 0–30, n=23	Weekly, 40–60, n=70	Monthly, 70–90, n=104	None, 100, n=704	
Daily, 0–30	104 (11.5%)	9 (39.1%)	20 (28.6%)	19 (18.3%)	56 (8.0%)	
Weekly, 40–60	266 (29.5%)	11 (47.8%)	37 (52.9%)	45 (43.3%)	173 (24.6%)	
Monthly, 70–90	275 (30.5%)	3 (13.0%)	12 (17.1%)	29 (27.9%)	231 (32.8%)	
None, 100	256 (28.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)	11 (10.6%)	244 (34.7%)	
SAQ Question 3: Angina frequency						<0.001
4 or more times per d	93 (10.4%)	5 (21.7%)	15 (21.4%)	16 (15.4%)	57 (8.1%)	
1–3 times per d	174 (19.4%)	9 (39.1%)	25 (35.7%)	25 (24.0%)	115 (16.4%)	
3 or more times per wk	157 (17.5%)	7 (30.4%)	21 (30.0%)	30 (28.8%)	99 (14.1%)	
1–2 times per wk	109 (12.1%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (11.4%)	12 (11.5%)	89 (12.7%)	
Less than once a wk	98 (10.9%)	1 (4.3%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (6.7%)	90 (12.8%)	
None over the past 4 wk	267 (29.7%)	1 (4.3%)	1 (1.4%)	14 (13.5%)	251 (35.8%)	
Missing	3				3	
SAQ Question 4: Nitroglycerin frequency						<0.001
4 or more times per d	18 (2.0%)	1 (4.5%)	2 (2.9%)	1 (1.0%)	14 (2.0%)	
1–3 times per d	64 (7.1%)	5 (22.7%)	10 (14.5%)	12 (11.7%)	37 (5.3%)	
3 or more times per wk	48 (5.4%)	5 (22.7%)	12 (17.4%)	11 (10.7%)	20 (2.8%)	
1–2 times per wk	55 (6.1%)	5 (22.7%)	9 (13.0%)	14 (13.6%)	27 (3.8%)	
Less than once a wk	111 (12.4%)	3 (13.6%)	12 (17.4%)	11 (10.7%)	85 (12.1%)	
None over the past 4 wk	600 (67.0%)	3 (13.6%)	24 (34.8%)	54 (52.4%)	519 (73.9%)	
Missing	5	1	1	1	2	
SAQ quality-of-life score, baseline	49.7±27.1	30.8±20.0	27.9±18.7	40.7±23.3	53.8±27.0	<0.001
Missing	3	0	0	0	3	
SAQ physical limitation score, baseline	65.8±26.1	48.3±23.8	49.0±23.3	57.9±26.3	69.3±25.3	<0.001
Missing	57	2	1	9	45	
SAQ summary score, baseline	61.9±22.5	38.7±18.1	41.2±15.9	52.0±19.3	66.2±21.5	<0.001
PHQ-8 score, baseline	6.2±5.5	10.8±6.7	8.9±6.2	7.8±5.9	5.6±5.1	<0.001
Missing	21	2	2	0	17	
Rose Dyspnea Scale, baseline	2.2±1.5	2.7±1.5	3.0±1.2	2.8±1.4	2.0±1.5	0.023
Missing	12	1	3	1	7	

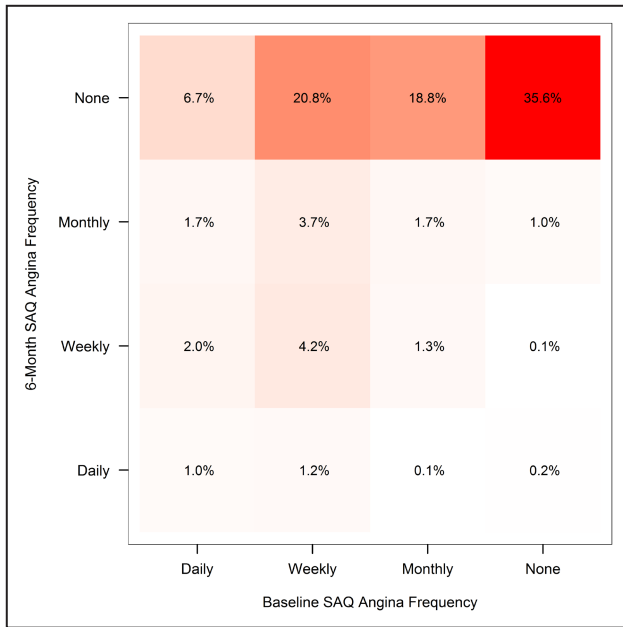
BMI indicates body mass index; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; CTO, chronic total occlusion; J-CTO, Multicenter CTO Registry of Japan; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; PHQ-8, Patient Health Questionnaire-8; SAQ, Seattle Angina Questionnaire; TIA, transient ischemic attack; LAD, left anterior descending coronary artery; LCX, left circumflex coronary artery; LM, left main coronary artery; and RCA, right coronary artery.

\*Continuous variables compared using linear trend test. Categorical variables compared using Mantel-Haenszel trend test.

## DISCUSSION

Given the higher risks of CTO PCI, engaging patients in shared decision-making about whether or not to undergo the procedure mandates providing an estimated outcome from treatment. As the primary benefit of PCI in stable coronary artery disease, including CTO, is to alleviate patients' angina, we leveraged a large prospective CTO PCI registry to identify specific patient

characteristics, identifiable before the procedure, that are associated with residual angina 6 months after treatment. To facilitate the use of these insights in clinical care, we developed the OPEN-AP score to predict angina frequency after CTO PCI based on information obtained from patients at the bedside. Coupled with knowledge of a patient's baseline symptoms and risk tolerance, this tool could inform both the expected magnitude of angina reduction from attempted CTO



**Figure 1. Observed 6-month angina frequency by baseline angina.** SAQ indicates Seattle Angina Questionnaire.

PCI, as well as the amount of residual angina patients might expect at 6 months after the procedure. Such results have implications for appropriate patient selection and counseling for CTO PCI.

This study adds to our understanding of patient characteristics that are most likely to affect improvement in angina frequency after CTO PCI. Although there is significant variation in patient-reported angina frequency after CTO PCI,<sup>13</sup> few studies have identified specific factors responsible for this variation. A subanalysis of the FlowCardia Approach to CTO Recanalization study found that improvements in patient symptoms, function, and quality of life differed based on whether patients had symptoms at baseline.<sup>33</sup> Prior studies from the OPEN-CTO registry have found greater improvements in angina among patients with depression at baseline, but no clinically meaningful differences in improvements by sex or diabetes status.<sup>34–36</sup> We extend this work and demonstrate that the relationship between patient characteristics and anginal improvement depends on baseline angina status. Broadly, those patients with more frequent angina before PCI, those taking greater numbers of antianginals and more frequent nitroglycerin, and those with dyspnea were the most likely to have significant improvements in angina with CTO PCI. However, some subtleties in bivariate relationships also emerged after accounting for baseline angina. For instance, among patients with more frequent baseline angina, those on a greater number of antianginal medications were less likely to improve, perhaps suggesting a more refractory anginal

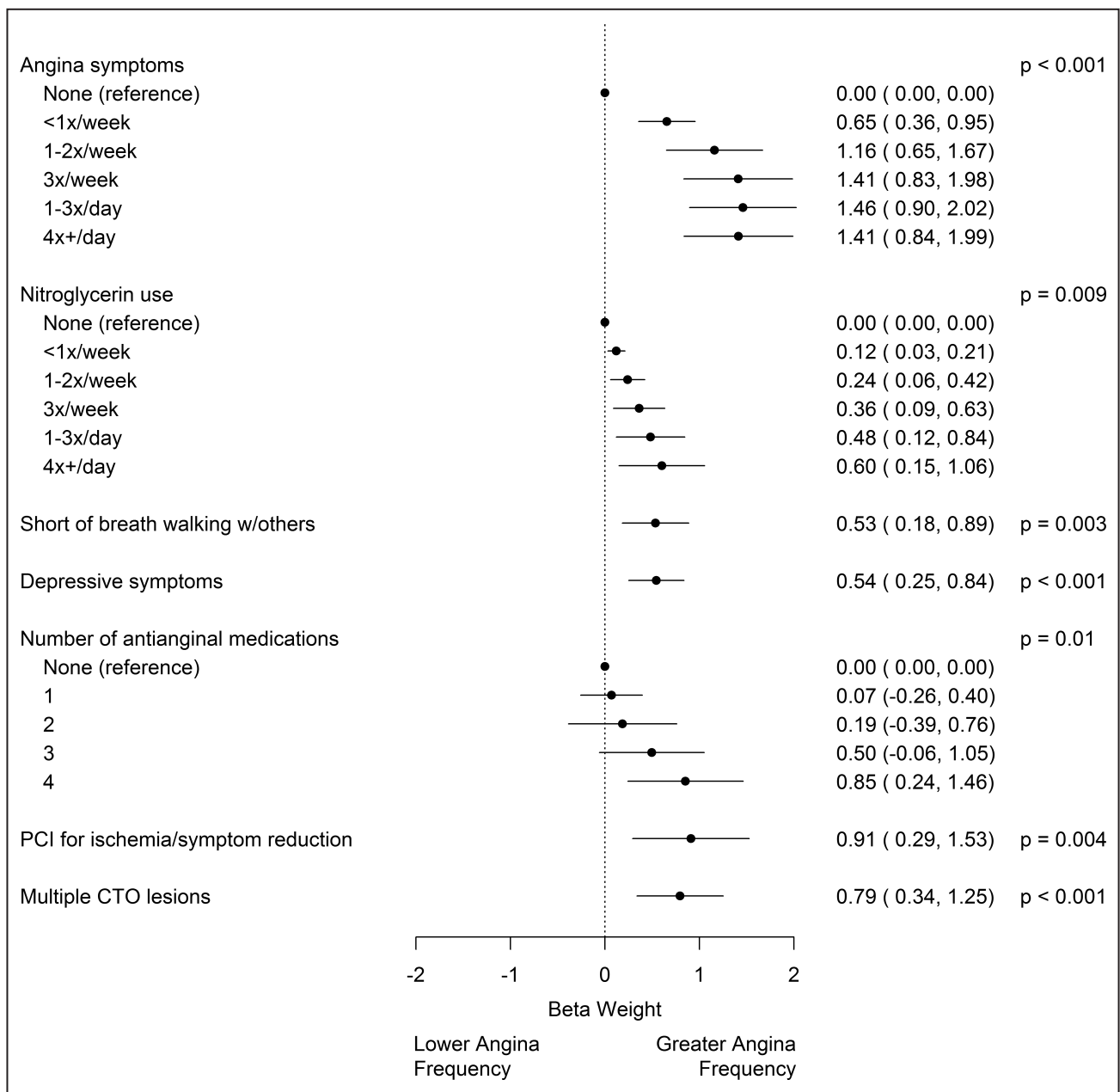
syndrome among this patient subset. Additionally, depressed patients with more frequent baseline angina were more likely to improve, but depressed patients with less frequent baseline angina were less likely to improve, suggesting that depression can compound the effects and expected relief from angina.

The OPEN-AP score can identify patients who might be the most likely to improve after CTO PCI using variables commonly available before intervention. The performance metrics of our model are generally similar in magnitude to other models using ordinal regression analysis in clinical medicine.<sup>31,37–40</sup> Our model is similar to a previously published prediction model for presence of residual angina after PCI of all types in that both models include baseline angina frequency, depressive symptoms, and number of anti-anginal medications as key components.<sup>41</sup> However, the general post-PCI residual angina prediction model includes additional variables such as age and avoidance of self-reported care because of costs, whereas the OPEN-AP score includes PCI indication and the presence of multiple CTO lesions as predictors. These differences make the OPEN-AP score uniquely suited to the CTO PCI context.

The OPEN-AP model predicts the specific frequency of angina for a particular patient at 6 months after CTO PCI, and, combined with knowledge about baseline angina, the predicted improvement in angina. This model provides additional detail beyond simply the presence or absence of angina predicted in the general post-PCI residual angina prediction model.<sup>41</sup> This additional granularity is crucial for CTO PCI in particular, because many patients with CTO may still have angina after PCI but will experience a clinically relevant improvement compared with their baseline state, which is important to consider. Importantly, among patients starting with severe angina at baseline, patients with lower scores derived significantly greater improvement in symptoms compared with those with higher scores.

This novel score has implications for counseling patients with CTO PCI. In a potentially high-risk procedure that is primarily indicated for symptom benefit, it is crucial to understand heterogeneity in patient symptoms to identify those patients who are most likely to benefit. Currently, patient conversations about the risks and benefits for CTO PCI are individualized to account for heterogeneity in procedural risk, because existing tools can identify likelihood of technical success for a particular patient based on their coronary anatomy.<sup>21,22</sup> However, clinicians previously did not have tools to account for heterogeneity in patient benefit. The OPEN-AP score enables clinicians to identify the predicted frequency of angina at the end of the procedure for a given patient based on their characteristics and individualize treatment decisions and patient counseling. In our cohort, 7% of patients would



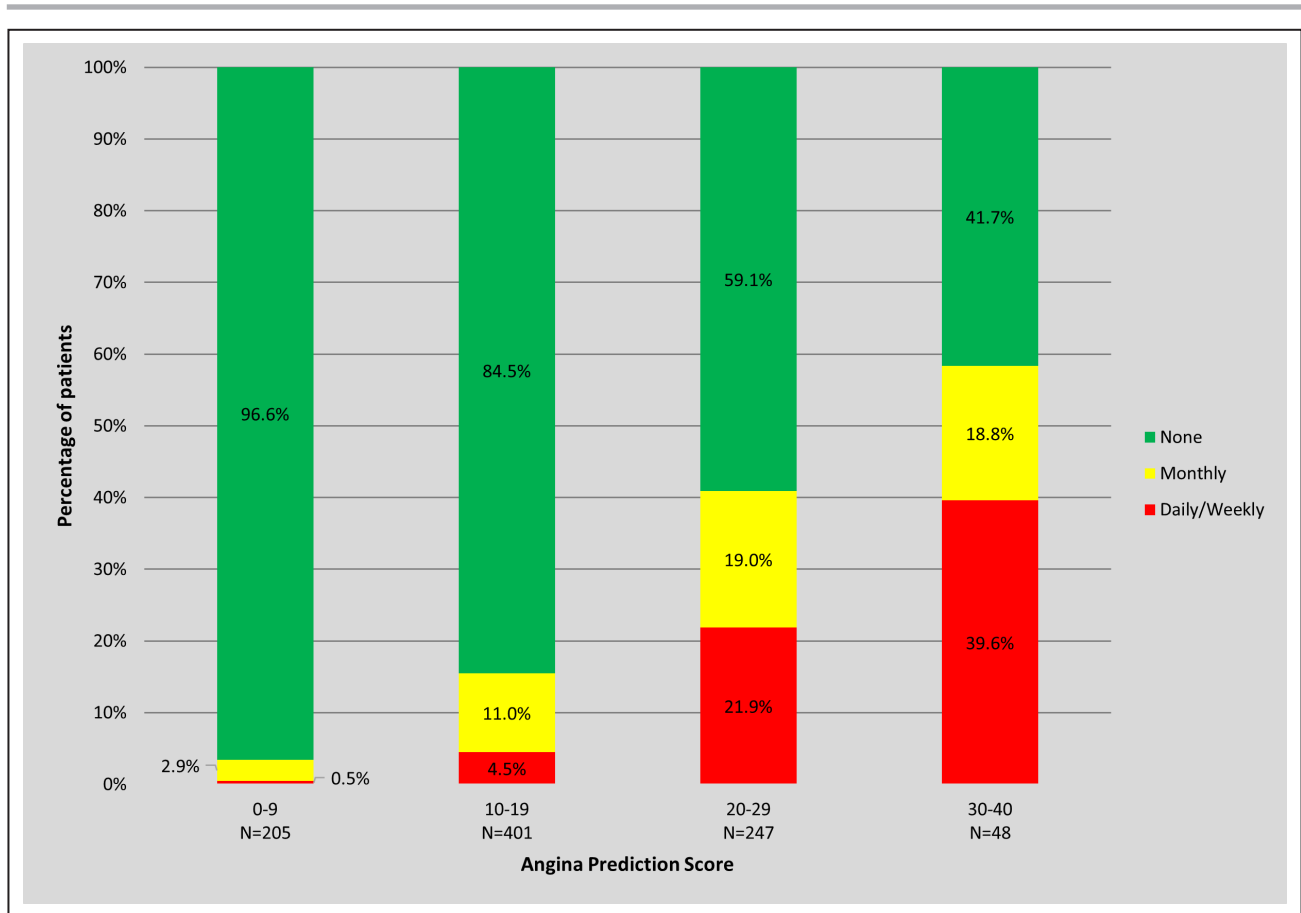


**Figure 2. Chronic total occlusion percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) angina prediction model.** The  $\beta$  coefficients are displayed for each variable in the chronic total occlusion (CTO) angina prediction model and indicate the relative weights of different variables. Coefficients are included in an ordinal regression model to generate the OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction (OPEN-AP) score, which indicates the predicted amount of residual angina after CTO PCI.

have been counseled that there would remain at least a 33% likelihood that they would have significant anginal symptoms even after CTO PCI and may reconsider their options. Notably, the overall complication rate in this same cohort was 14.5%.<sup>42</sup> Interestingly, factors included in existing scores to predict technical success did not have additional predictive ability for predicting residual angina after CTO PCI,<sup>21</sup> suggesting that factors that predict technical success are distinct from factors that predict patient-reported outcome. Thus, if

both technical success and angina prediction tools are applied in concert, clinicians can identify patients for CTO PCI who are most likely to benefit with the highest likelihood of technical success.

This study must be interpreted in context of its limitations. First, there were a limited number of patients with weekly or daily angina after CTO PCI, largely as a result of presumed efficacy of CTO PCI in our sample. As a result, model predictions of patients with frequent angina after CTO PCI may be less reliable. Second,



**Figure 3. Observed 6-month angina frequency by OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction (OPEN-AP) score.**

Higher values of the OPEN-CTO Angina Prediction (OPEN-AP) score are associated with more frequent angina in a graded manner. OPEN-CTO indicates Outcomes, Patient Health Status, and Efficiency in Chronic Total Occlusion Hybrid Procedures.

although our sample included real-world data from 12 hospitals, all centers and operators performed a high-volume of CTO PCIs, and thus our model needs to be externally validated. Furthermore, the high success rate of CTO PCI in OPEN-CTO reflects both careful patient selection and the technical skill of the participating operators, both of which could impact the outcomes of patients who undergo CTO PCI outside of these centers. As such, practitioners will need to modify interpretation of angina improvement based on this model based on their own likelihood of technical success for a particular procedure. Importantly, the OPEN-CTO registry mandated consecutive enrollment of patients, which reduces some selection bias and increases generalizability. Finally, given that this model was derived from a real-world registry, it is possible we did not include certain potentially relevant variables, such as ischemic burden, because such diagnostic tests were not mandated for all patients for inclusion in the registry.

In conclusion, we used a large observational cohort to identify patient factors associated with residual angina after CTO PCI and developed an angina

frequency prediction model. The novel OPEN-AP score presented in this study can enable clinicians to take patient heterogeneity of benefit into account in clinical decision-making and counseling on CTO PCI.

## ARTICLE INFORMATION

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## Supplemental Material

Tables S1–S2  
Figures S1–S3

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

**Table S1. Characteristics of patients included and not included in the analyses**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Included n = 901</b>	<b>Excluded n = 99</b>	<b>P-Value</b>
Age	65.7 ± 9.9	62.6 ± 12.7	0.005
Sex			0.337
Male	728 (80.8%)	76 (76.8%)	
Female	173 (19.2%)	23 (23.2%)	
Marital status			0.002
Married	630 (70.2%)	56 (57.7%)	
Divorced/separated	134 (14.9%)	25 (25.8%)	
Widowed	81 (9.0%)	5 (5.2%)	
Single/other	53 (5.9%)	11 (11.3%)	
Missing	3	2	
Living alone	179 (20.1%)	23 (24.0%)	0.378
Missing	12	3	
Completed high school	807 (90.3%)	81 (83.5%)	0.038
Missing	7	2	
Finances at the end of the month			< 0.001
Some money left over	537 (60.3%)	39 (40.6%)	
Just enough to make ends meet	247 (27.8%)	37 (38.5%)	
Not enough to make ends meet	106 (11.9%)	20 (20.8%)	
Missing	11	3	
Working status			0.765
No	547 (61.0%)	62 (63.9%)	
Yes, full-time	278 (31.0%)	29 (29.9%)	
Yes, part-time	72 (8.0%)	6 (6.2%)	
Missing	4	2	
Insurance coverage for medications	853 (95.0%)	88 (90.7%)	0.078
Missing	3	2	
Have avoided health care due to costs			0.237
Always	25 (2.8%)	4 (4.1%)	
Frequently	38 (4.3%)	7 (7.1%)	
Occasionally	56 (6.3%)	10 (10.2%)	
Rarely	80 (9.0%)	7 (7.1%)	
Never	694 (77.7%)	70 (71.4%)	
Missing	8	1	
BMI	30.4 ± 5.9	30.7 ± 6.8	0.613

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Included n = 901</b>	<b>Excluded n = 99</b>	<b>P-Value</b>
<b>BMI</b>			<b>0.629</b>
Underweight (<18.5)	7 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	
Normal (18.5 to <25)	131 (14.5%)	18 (18.2%)	
Overweight (25 to <30)	340 (37.7%)	31 (31.3%)	
Class I Obesity (30 to <35)	259 (28.7%)	28 (28.3%)	
Class II Obesity (35 to <40)	106 (11.8%)	15 (15.2%)	
Class III Obesity (40+)	58 (6.4%)	7 (7.1%)	
<b>Smoking history</b>			<b>0.026</b>
Current Smoker	111 (12.5%)	22 (22.2%)	
Former Smoker	459 (51.6%)	46 (46.5%)	
Never Smoked	320 (36.0%)	31 (31.3%)	
Missing	11		
<b>Diabetes</b>	362 (40.2%)	50 (50.5%)	<b>0.047</b>
<b>Hypertension</b>	771 (85.6%)	87 (87.9%)	<b>0.532</b>
<b>Prior MI</b>	423 (46.9%)	61 (61.6%)	<b>0.005</b>
<b>Prior PCI</b>	594 (65.9%)	63 (63.6%)	<b>0.648</b>
<b>Prior CABG</b>	338 (37.5%)	27 (27.3%)	<b>0.044</b>
<b>Prior stroke/TIA</b>	82 (9.1%)	9 (9.1%)	<b>0.997</b>
<b>Congestive heart failure</b>	194 (21.5%)	35 (35.4%)	<b>0.001</b>
<b>Chronic kidney disease</b>	112 (12.4%)	23 (23.2%)	<b>0.002</b>
<b>Chronic lung disease</b>	126 (14.0%)	18 (18.2%)	<b>0.258</b>
<b>Number of antianginal meds on arrival</b>			<b>0.059</b>
0	72 (8.0%)	2 (2.0%)	
1	342 (38.0%)	46 (46.5%)	
2	342 (38.0%)	37 (37.4%)	
3	122 (13.5%)	14 (14.1%)	
4	23 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	
<b>Ischemia on stress test</b>	438 (89.2%)	47 (94.0%)	<b>0.289</b>
Missing	410	49	
<b>LV ejection fraction</b>	51.4 ± 13.3	47.6 ± 17.0	<b>0.012</b>
Missing	81	6	
<b>LV ejection fraction</b>			<b>0.004</b>
Hyperdynamic: >70%	33 (4.0%)	6 (6.5%)	
Normal: 50-70%	505 (61.6%)	47 (50.5%)	
Mildly Reduced: 40-49%	138 (16.8%)	10 (10.8%)	
Moderately Reduced: 30-39%	78 (9.5%)	13 (14.0%)	
Severely reduced: ≤29%	66 (8.0%)	17 (18.3%)	
Missing	81	6	

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Included n = 901</b>	<b>Excluded n = 99</b>	<b>P-Value</b>
Indication for CTO intervention			0.036
Symptom relief	659 (73.1%)	59 (59.6%)	
Ischemia reduction	97 (10.8%)	13 (13.1%)	
Staged procedure	48 (5.3%)	8 (8.1%)	
Reduced EF	42 (4.7%)	10 (10.1%)	
Other	55 (6.1%)	9 (9.1%)	
Primary CTO vessel			0.526
LAD	182 (20.2%)	26 (26.3%)	
LCX	153 (17.0%)	16 (16.2%)	
LM	8 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	
RCA	558 (61.9%)	57 (57.6%)	
Multiple CTO lesions	48 (5.3%)	4 (4.0%)	0.584
Any non-CTO lesions	117 (13.0%)	20 (20.2%)	0.047
<i>JCTO Score Components</i>			
Blunt Cap	574 (63.7%)	62 (62.6%)	0.831
Length > 20mm	553 (61.4%)	63 (63.6%)	0.660
Bending	494 (54.8%)	49 (49.5%)	0.311
Calcification	297 (33.0%)	28 (28.3%)	0.345
Retry	182 (20.2%)	22 (22.2%)	0.635
PHQ-8 Score (BL)	6.2 ± 5.5	7.9 ± 6.6	0.006
Missing	21	4	
PHQ-8 Positive Screen (BL)	210 (23.9%)	36 (37.9%)	0.002
Missing	21	4	
SAQ Physical Limitation (BL)	65.8 ± 26.1	56.5 ± 25.9	0.001
Missing	57	12	
SAQ Angina Frequency (BL)	70.3 ± 27.0	72.2 ± 27.7	0.496
Missing	0	1	
SAQ Angina Frequency (BL)			0.641
Daily (0-30)	104 (11.5%)	12 (12.2%)	
Weekly (40-60)	266 (29.5%)	24 (24.5%)	
Monthly (70-90)	275 (30.5%)	29 (29.6%)	
None (100)	256 (28.4%)	33 (33.7%)	
Missing		1	



<b>Variable</b>	<b>Included n = 901</b>	<b>Excluded n = 99</b>	<b>P-Value</b>
SAQ Q3: Angina frequency			0.493
4 or more times per day	93 (10.4%)	13 (13.3%)	
1-3 times per day	174 (19.4%)	14 (14.3%)	
3 or more times per week	157 (17.5%)	12 (12.2%)	
1-2 times per week	109 (12.1%)	14 (14.3%)	
Less than once a week	98 (10.9%)	11 (11.2%)	
None over the past 4 weeks	267 (29.7%)	34 (34.7%)	
Missing	3	1	
SAQ Q4: Nitroglycerin frequency			0.828
4 or more times per day	18 (2.0%)	3 (3.1%)	
1-3 times per day	64 (7.1%)	8 (8.2%)	
3 or more times per week	48 (5.4%)	3 (3.1%)	
1-2 times per week	55 (6.1%)	5 (5.1%)	
Less than once a week	111 (12.4%)	10 (10.2%)	
None over the past 4 weeks	600 (67.0%)	69 (70.4%)	
Missing	5	1	
SAQ Angina Frequency (BL)			0.641
Daily (0-30)	104 (11.5%)	12 (12.2%)	
Weekly (40-60)	266 (29.5%)	24 (24.5%)	
Monthly (70-90)	275 (30.5%)	29 (29.6%)	
None (100)	256 (28.4%)	33 (33.7%)	
Missing		1	
SAQ Quality of Life (BL)	49.7 ± 27.1	43.0 ± 27.8	0.020
Missing	3	1	
SAQ Summary Score (BL)	61.9 ± 22.5	57.9 ± 22.0	0.094
Missing	0	1	
Rose Dyspnea Scale (BL)	2.2 ± 1.5	2.7 ± 1.5	0.001
Missing	12	1	

*BMI – body mass index; MI – myocardial infarction; PCI – percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG – coronary artery bypass graft; TIA – transient ischemic attack; LV – left ventricle; CTO – chronic total occlusion; EF – ejection fraction; PHQ – patient health questionnaire; BL - baseline*

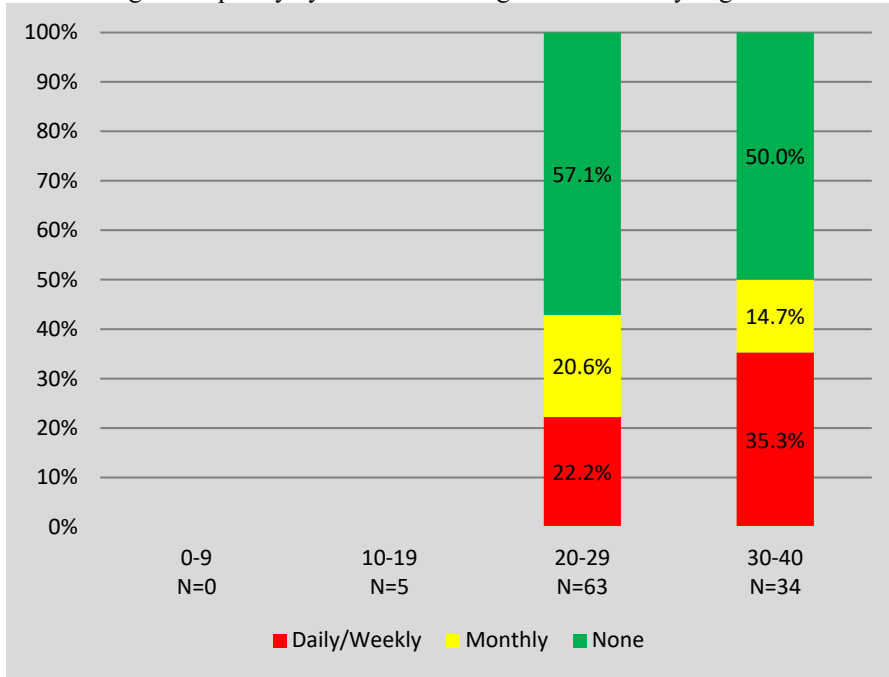
**Table S2. Percentage of patients with a  $\geq 20$  point change in SAQ angina frequency score by patient characteristics in final model and baseline angina**

Variable	Value	All patients N=901	Daily (0-30) N=104	Weekly (40-60) N=266	Monthly (70-90) N=275	None (100) N=256
All Patients	–	477/901 (52.9%)	95/104 (91.3%)	214/266 (80.5%)	168/275 (61.1%)	0/256 (0.0%)
Number of antianginal meds on arrival	0	24/72 (33.3%)	2/2 (100.0%)	10/11 (90.9%)	12/21 (57.1%)	0/38 (0.0%)
	1	151/342 (44.2%)	17/19 (89.5%)	65/77 (84.4%)	69/122 (56.6%)	0/124 (0.0%)
	2	206/342 (60.2%)	49/51 (96.1%)	97/113 (85.8%)	60/91 (65.9%)	0/87 (0.0%)
	3	81/122 (66.4%)	22/23 (95.7%)	35/55 (63.6%)	24/38 (63.2%)	0/6 (0.0%)
	4	15/23 (65.2%)	5/9 (55.6%)	7/10 (70.0%)	3/3 (100.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)
Indication for CTO intervention	Symptom relief/ischemia reduction	481/756 (55.3%)	88/97 (90.7%)	195/247 (78.9%)	135/221 (61.1%)	0/191 (0%)
	Staged procedure/reduced EF/Other	59/145 (40.7%)	7/7 (100%)	19/19 (100%)	33/54 (61.1%)	0/65 (0%)
Multiple CTO lesions	No	453/853 (53.1%)	88/95 (92.6%)	204/250 (81.6%)	161/261 (61.7%)	0/247 (0.0%)
	Yes	24/48 (50.0%)	7/9 (77.8%)	10/16 (62.5%)	7/14 (50.0%)	0/9 (0.0%)
PHQ-8 Positive Screen (BL)	No	343/670 (51.2%)	56/62 (90.3%)	158/184 (85.9%)	129/206 (62.6%)	0/218 (0.0%)
	Yes	125/210 (59.5%)	39/41 (95.1%)	51/75 (68.0%)	35/64 (54.7%)	0/30 (0.0%)
SAQ Q3: Angina frequency	4 or more times per day	82/93 (88.2%)	35/39 (89.7%)	47/54 (87.0%)		
	1-3 times per day	147/174 (84.5%)	52/57 (91.2%)	95/117 (81.2%)		
	3 or more times/week but not every day	121/157 (77.1%)	8/8 (100.0%)	53/72 (73.6%)	60/77 (77.9%)	

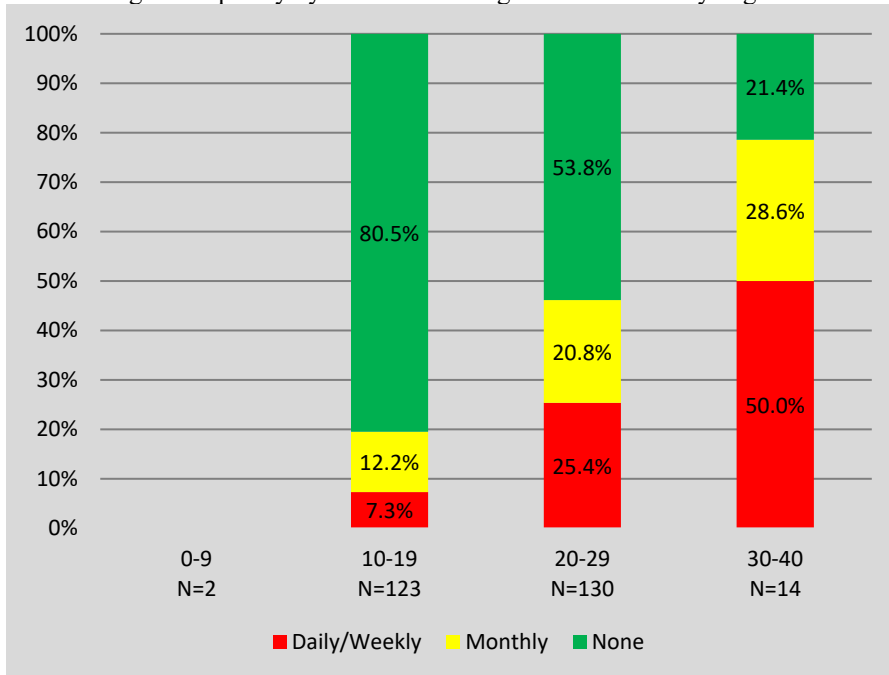
Variable	Value	All patients N=901	Daily (0-30) N=104	Weekly (40-60) N=266	Monthly (70-90) N=275	None (100) N=256
	1-2 times per week	95/109 (87.2%)		16/20 (80.0%)	79/89 (88.8%)	
	Less than once a week	29/98 (29.6%)		2/2 (100.0%)	27/96 (28.1%)	
	None over the past 4 weeks	2/267 (0.7%)			2/13 (15.4%)	0/254 (0.0%)
SAQ Q4: Nitroglycerin frequency	4 or more times per day	18/18 (100.0%)	17/17 (100.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)		
	1-3 times per day	58/64 (90.6%)	54/59 (91.5%)	4/5 (80.0%)		
	3 or more times/week but not every day	37/48 (77.1%)	18/20 (90.0%)	18/27 (66.7%)	1/1 (100.0%)	
	1-2 times per week	42/55 (76.4%)	4/5 (80.0%)	35/46 (76.1%)	3/4 (75.0%)	
	Less than once a week	86/111 (77.5%)		43/54 (79.6%)	43/57 (75.4%)	
	None over the past 4 weeks	233/600 (38.8%)		112/132 (84.8%)	121/213 (56.8%)	0/255 (0.0%)
Rose Dyspnea Scale >=2	No	127/329 (38.6%)	15/15 (100%)	60/67 (89.6%)	52/97 (53.6%)	0/150 (0%)
	Yes	346/560 (61.8%)	76/84 (90.5%)	154/197 (78.2%)	116/176 (65.9%)	0/103 (0%)

**Figure S1. Observed 6-month angina frequency by risk score stratified by baseline angina frequency**

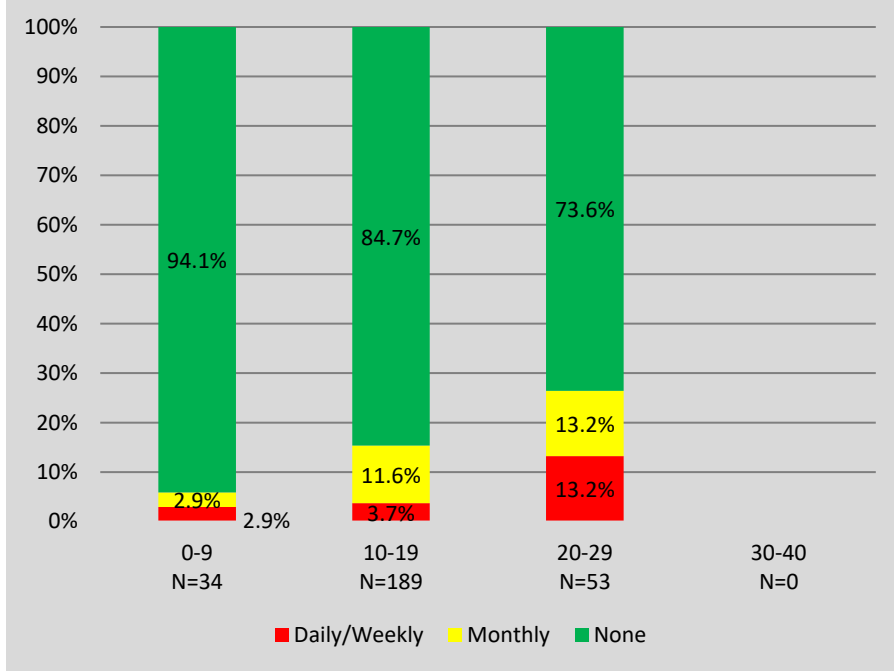
A. 6-month angina frequency by risk score among those with daily angina at baseline



B. 6-month angina frequency by risk score among those with weekly angina at baseline



C. 6-month angina frequency by risk score among those with monthly angina at baseline



D. 6-month angina frequency by risk score among those with no angina at baseline

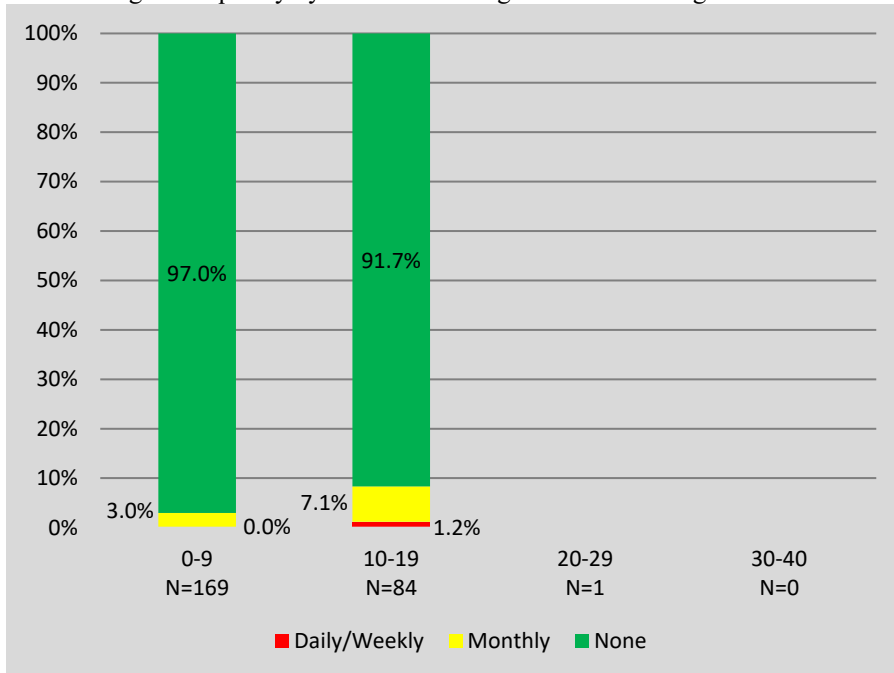


Figure S2. Observed 6-month angina frequency by risk score among patients with procedural success

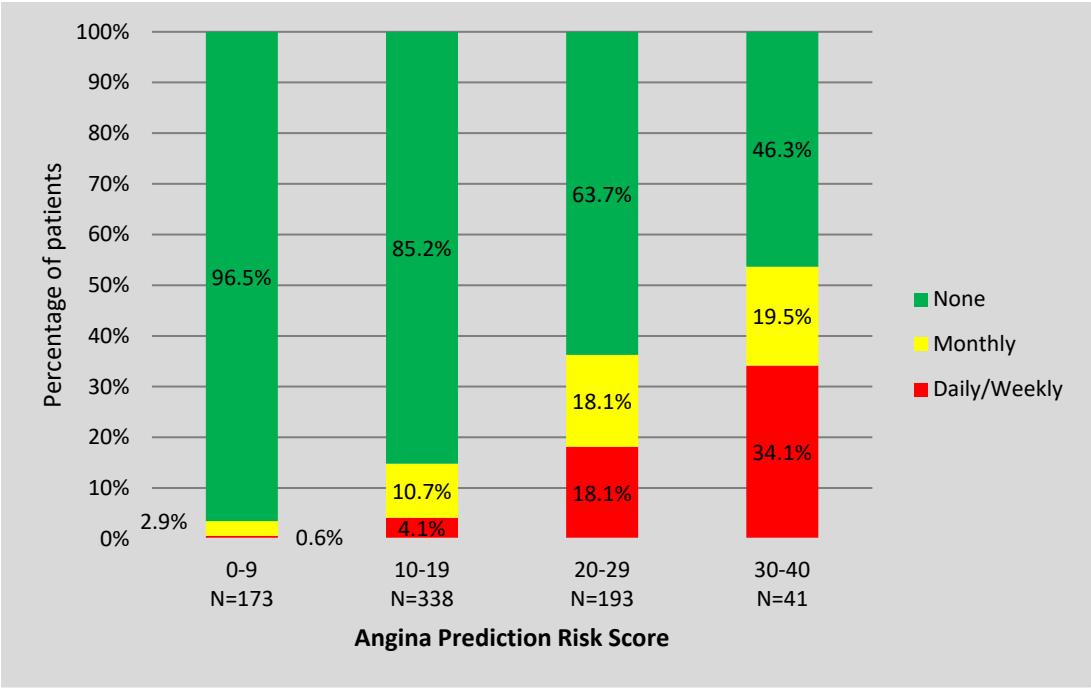


Figure S3. Receiver operating curve of CTO angina prediction model for outcome of  $\geq 20$ -point increase in SAQ Angina Frequency Score

