Efficacy and Safety of Dual Acetylsalicylic Acid Plus Ticagrelor or Ticagrelor Alone Antiplatelet Strategy After Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery at 12 Months: A Randomized Multicentre Trial

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Discussant

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Disclosures

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Conflict-of-interest disclosures available at http://www.dcri.duke.edu/research/coi
• Congratulations
Objective / Design / Conduct

• Is the objective relevant?
  – Effect of post-CABG antiplatelet therapy w/ ticagrelor on VG patency

• Is the trial design appropriate?
  – Population – first isolated CABG, mostly off-CBP
  – Study Intervention – started early, not blinded
  – Endpoints – 1\textsuperscript{0} SVG patency, 2\textsuperscript{0} MACE & TIMI bleeding
  – Analysis – per graft vs. per patient, adjusted for multiple comparisons

• Was the trial conducted well?
  – SVG patency assessed in 90-95% of patients / grafts
  – Study drug compliance? Concomitant therapy?
Results

• More patent vein grafts (per graft) at 1 year
  – T+A (89%, p=0.0006) vs. T (83%, p=0.0962) vs. A (77%)

• Numerically fewer MACE*
  – T+A (3, 1.8%) vs. T (4, 2.4%) vs. A (9, 5.4%)

• More bleeding and numerically more major bleeding
  – Any bleeding: T+A (51, 30%) vs. T (20, 12%) vs. A (15, 9%)
  – Major bleeding*: T+A (3, 1.8%) vs. T (2, 1.2%) vs. A (0)

*very few events, underpowered
Conclusions

• The effect of ticagrelor on SVG patency from DACAB is compelling but will be insufficient to drive changes in practice.
  – Effect on MACE and bleeding trade-off not adequately addressed.

• Clinical trials of DAPT post-CABG with clinical outcomes needed.
  – Relationship between SVG failure & subsequent outcomes not clear.
  – Ticagrelor may have benefits beyond SVG patency.

• Such trials are coming.
  – Netherlands: ticagrelor on VG patency (n=700) NCT02352402
  – US/CN: ticagrelor on VG patency (n=300) NCT02053909
  – Germany: ticagrelor on MACE (n=3800) NCT01755520
  – Brazil: prasugrel on MACE (n≈4000) planning
  – Other trials w/ ticagrelor on MACE proposed
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Thank You

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