

# Risk Stratification of Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention

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The field of interventional cardiology has witnessed enormous change in the armamentarium of hardware and the technique of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). There has always been an unmet need for developing feasible risk score to predict the major adverse cardiovascular events in patients planned for PCI. These days PCI is in vogue as the method of revascularization in complex coronary lesions, often in high-risk patients.

In this original article titled “Factors influencing survival outcomes in patients with left ventricular dysfunction after coronary revascularization,” the author has tried to correlate the factors responsible for major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE), in severe LV dysfunction (EF < 30%) patients undergoing percutaneous intervention.

The study was a single-center prospective study. Severe LV dysfunction patients who underwent percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) were included in the study and followed up for one year. At the end of one year, the impact of gender, age, hypertension (HTN), obesity, cerebrovascular accident (CVA), type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM), chronic kidney disease (CKD), hypothyroidism, smoking, and alcohol intake on one-year mortality and MACE were analyzed. The MACE included nonfatal reinfarction, recurrence of angina, repeat PCI or coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), and heart failure. These factors were statistically analyzed and approached to observe the impact of those risk factors on one-year mortality. It was also observed whether the timing and mode of revascularization and the number of coronary arteries involved had any influence on mortality or MACE. To compare different parameters of the study with respect to mortality, a regression analysis was made at the end of one year.

It was observed that in patients with severe LV dysfunction, no significant relationship could be ascertained between the mortality or MACE and gender, age, DM, HTN, CKD, alcohol intake, or smoking at the end of one year after

revascularization. MACE or mortality may be attributed directly to left ventricular dysfunction itself, and the observed mortality was higher than that in patients with normal LV function. Hence, in this study, it was observed that LV dysfunction is the cause of mortality in the study population but not the other associated variables.

The limitations of the study, as already mentioned, are that it is a single-center study and followed patients for one year, and the sample being from a single center may not represent geographic and social heterogeneity to apply for generalization.

In The Texas Heart Institute risk score,<sup>1</sup> data collected from 9,494 patients who underwent PCI were analyzed. Predictors of MACE—death, myocardial infarction, stroke, and repeat revascularization by emergency CABG or PCI—were identified by multivariate logistic regression analysis using baseline clinical, angiographic, and procedural variables. A simple integer score was constructed by multiplying the  $\beta$  coefficient for each variable by a constant and rounding the result to the nearest integer. Validation of the score was done by applying it in 5,545 patients who underwent PCI. Multivariate regression analysis identified urgent procedure, type C lesion, thrombus, unstable angina, acute myocardial infarction, renal insufficiency, HTN, emergent procedure, congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, and number of stents placed as independent predictors of adverse events after PCI. The model had good overall discrimination (area under the receiver operator characteristic curve 0.701), and the model fitted the validation cohort adequately.

Risk–benefit analysis is essential, both for the patient and the treating doctor, to be able to select the best strategy for management out of the available ones; hence, a reliable risk score that can be used as a simple bedside tool is the need of the hour to predict MACE after PCI. Several risk scores are being developed in the past for prediction of MACE after PCI.<sup>2–9</sup> Some of the models were developed in the era of bare

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metal stents and were designed to predict mortality only. With ever-changing technology and its application, predicting MACE by risk stratification models is always challenging target. The best risk stratification score should always be feasible to apply at bedside and it should take into consideration clinical, angiographic, and procedural parameters (number of stents used, type of stents used, physiological assessment usage, imaging usage, etc.); hence, there is always a scope and possibility for the development of such scores.

#### Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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