AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

Temporal changes in the current practice of primary angioplasty: A real life experience of a single high-volume center

This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1568532> since 2020-06-17T13:08:18Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1016/j.carrev.2015.10.004

Terms of use:

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

This Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM) is copyrighted and published by Elsevier. It is posted here by agreement between Elsevier and the University of Turin. Changes resulting from the publishing process - such as editing, corrections, structural formatting, and other quality control mechanisms - may not be reflected in this version of the text. The definitive version of the text was subsequently published in *CARDIOVASCULAR REVASCULARIZATION MEDICINE*, 17 (1), 2016, 10.1016/j.carrev.2015.10.004.

You may download, copy and otherwise use the AAM for non-commercial purposes provided that your license is limited by the following restrictions:

- (1) You may use this AAM for non-commercial purposes only under the terms of the CC-BY-NC-ND license.
- (2) The integrity of the work and identification of the author, copyright owner, and publisher must be preserved in any copy.
- (3) You must attribute this AAM in the following format: Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>), 10.1016/j.carrev.2015.10.004

The publisher's version is available at:
<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1553838915002675>

When citing, please refer to the published version.

Link to this full text:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1568532>

Temporal Changes in the Current Practice of Primary Angioplasty: a Real Life Experience of a Single High-Volume Center

Francesco Tomassini MD^a, Lorena Charrier MD^b, Ferdinando Varbella MD^a, Enrico Cerrato MD^a, Andrea Gagnor MD^a, Cristina Rolfo MD^a, Mauro Echavarria-Pinto, MD^b, Sara Palacio Restrepo MD^a, Rosa Nevola MD^a, Denise Baricocchi MD^a, Javier Escaned, MD, PhD^c, Davide Minniti MD^c, Maria Rosa Conte MD^d, Paola Berchiolla PhD^e, Maria Michela Gianino PhD^e

^aDepartment of Cardiology, Infermi Hospital, Rivoli, Italy;

^bHospital General ISSSTE, Querétaro, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, México

^cCardiovascular Institute, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid 28040, Spain

^dDepartment of Public Health and Pediatrics, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; ^e Health Directorate, Infermi Hospital, Rivoli, Italy;

^d Department of Cardiology, Mauriziano Hospital, Turin, Italy;

^eDepartment of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Funding: none

Conflict of Interest: none

Corresponding author: Enrico Cerrato MD, Ospedale degli Infermi, strada Rivalta 29, 10098

Rivoli (Italy) tel. +39011/9551421; Fax +39011/9551422; e-mail address: enrico.cerrato@gmail.com.

Website: www.cardiogroup.org.

Abstract

Background. In the last years, new techniques, drugs and devices have been introduced in the current practice of primary angioplasty (PPCI) and validated by pivotal studies. The objective of our study was to evaluate if these studies have led to significant changes on the current practice of primary PCI in our center.

Methods. From March 2003 to December 2013 1980 patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction underwent PPCI within 12-hours of onset of symptoms. We considered 2 periods of our activity: from 2003 to 2009 (P1) with 1078 patients and from 2010 to 2013 (P2) with 902 patients, and compared them in terms of pharmacological and arterial access strategies and of devices utilization.

Results. In P2 there was a significant increase of radial access (34.1% vs 1.5, $p<0.001$), as well as of the use of bivalirudin (22.7% vs 0.5%, $p<0.001$) and of new antiplatelet drugs (prasugrel or ticagrelor) (18.3% vs 0%, $p<0.001$) whereas the use of GP IIb-IIIa and of intraaortic balloon pump significantly decreased (from 82.3% to 52%, $p<0.001$ and from 17% to 7.5%, $p<0.001$ respectively). In the P2 there was a significant increase of the procedural efficacy (97.2% vs 95.1%, $p=0.01$) that persisted after the logistic regression adjustment (OR 2.09, CI 95%, 1.04-4.21).

Conclusions. Our study shows that in the last years, in a high-PCI center, after the publication of pivotal randomized trial and nationwide registries, there were significant changes in the PPCI current practice that could have had an impact on procedural efficacy.

Introduction

Primary angioplasty (PPCI) has been demonstrated to be superior to fibrinolytic therapy in the management of patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) ¹⁻³ becoming the leading treatment in this setting ⁴. In the last years, new drugs and devices have been introduced in the practice of PPCI which have been validated by pivotal studies. In particular, the Radial versus femoral access for coronary angiography and intervention in patients with acute coronary syndromes (RIVAL) and the Radial Versus Femoral Randomized Investigation in ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndrome (RIFLE-STEACS) randomized trials ^{5,6}, have demonstrated that the transradial artery access (TRA) can reduce bleeding complications and even the 30-days mortality, compared to transfemoral artery access (TFA) in patients with STEMI. The same result was achieved by a direct thrombin inhibitor, bivalirudin, in the Harmonizing Outcomes with Revascularization and Stents in Acute Myocardial Infarction (HORIZONS-AMI) trial ^{7,8}, compared to unfractionated heparin (UFH) plus Glicoproteins (GP) IIb-IIIa inhibitors, and these advantages were extended at 12 months. Finally, the Plateler Inhibition and Patient Outcomes (PLATO) and the Therapeutic Outcomes by Optimizing Platelet Inhibition with Prasugrel–Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 38 (TRITON-TIMI 38) ^{9,10} showed that new antiplatelet drugs, ticagrelor and prasugrel respectively, reduced the cardiovascular and the total mortality compared to clopidogrel, even if they increased the bleeding complications at least in more frail patients. Furthermore, the Bavarian Reperfusion Alternatives Evaluation-3 (BRAVE-3) randomized trial ¹¹ did not show any superiority of GP IIb-IIIa over UFH in terms of reduction of infarct size. As a result, the 2010 European Guidelines on revascularization put the bivalirudin use, as well as that of new antiplatelet drugs in class I, whereas they downgraded the upstream use of GP IIb-IIIa inhibitors in class III ¹². Yet, the net benefit effect demonstrated in randomized clinical trials (RCT) might not be the same as that observed in different clinical settings, because most RCT focus on the assessment of a single maneuver, and the investigated population might not be representative of the real-world

practice¹³. Therefore, large observational registries are needed in order to assessing treatment effectiveness in patients encountered in day-to-day clinical practice, undergoing everyday therapy. Aim of this large observational registry is to assess the impact of these recent pivotal studies in terms of changing the current practice of PPCI in an high volume hospital.

Methods

The Infermi Hospital in Rivoli, Italy, is a community hospital without cardiac surgery backup with a high volume catheterization laboratory (>900 PCI and >200 PPCI per year), which provides a 24-hour PCI service and is only 14 Km far from the nearest hospital with cardiac surgery backup. In 2008, the catchment area increased up to 583,000 inhabitants, including another hospital with intensive cardiac care unit, but without PCI facility.

Study population

The data of all consecutive patients with STEMI admitted to the Infermi Hospital hospital between march 2003 and December 2013 and treated by primary PCI within 12 hours of symptom onset were reviewed. Demographic, clinical and procedural data were prospectively collected in a dedicated database (Cardioplanet V.3.0.8, Ebit Aet S.p.A., Genoa, Italy).

The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of our Institution (ASL 103, Piemonte Region, Italy) and informed consent was obtained in all patients.

Study definitions, procedures and medications

STEMI was defined as typical chest pain lasting more than 30 minutes associated with ≥ 0.1 mV ST-segment elevation in ≥ 2 contiguous electrocardiogram (ECG) leads or with new left bundle branch block. Door-to-balloon (D2B) time was defined as the time interval from arrival to the hospital (the initial referral hospital for transferred patients) to the first balloon inflation during PPCI. Total ischemic time was defined as the time interval from symptom onset to first balloon

inflation during PPCI. Lesion characteristics were evaluated according to the ACC/AHA classification ¹⁴.

All STEMI patients who complained symptoms for ≤ 12 hours were immediately transferred to the catheterization laboratory for urgent coronary angiography.

The indications to manual thrombus aspiration (TA) were driven by few parameters evaluated after diagnostic angiography as already reported ¹⁵: a) visual estimation of infarct related artery (IRA) diameter ≥ 3 mm; b) the absence of severe proximal tortuosity and/or calcifications; c) complete vessel occlusion with distal convex contrast stain and the presence of visual thrombus in case of a patent IRA. However, the final decision to its use of TA as well as of intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) support was left to the discretion of the operator.

A successful procedure was defined as a residual stenosis of treated vessels $< 30\%$ associated with a Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) 3 grade flow ¹⁶.

All patients were routinely given aspirin (325 mg upon arrival, and then 100 mg daily) and an intravenous bolus of UFH (5000 U) in ambulance or in emergency room. The use of either bivalirudin (bolus of 0.75 mg/Kg and 1.75 mg/Kg/h thereafter), or UFH (100 U/Kg or 60 U/Kg if abciximab was used) or abciximab (bolus of 0.25 mg/Kg and 0.125 mcg/Kg/min for 12 hours) was left to the discretion of the operator. UFH therapy was stopped after the procedure, but, in case of IABP use, it was continued until its removal. When used, abciximab infusion was continued for 12 hours after the procedure. At the beginning of this use, we used to stop bivalirudin at the end of the procedure, but, since the publication of the European Ambulance Acute Coronary Syndrome Angiography (EUROMAX) randomized trial ¹⁷, it has been continued for 4 hours thereafter.

Until 2010, clopidogrel (loading dose 300 or 600 mg and 75 mg daily thereafter) was given as second antiplatelet drug but, afterwards, prasugrel (60 mg loading dose and 10 mg daily thereafter) and ticagrelor (180 mg loading dose and 90 mg bid thereafter) were used as well. Beta-adrenergic

blockers, ACE inhibitors and statins were used as in-hospital standard therapy, if not contraindicated.

Study Objectives

Two time-frames of activity were considered: from 2003 up to the end of 2009 (P1) and from 2010 up to the end of 2013 (P2). We chose this cut-off since our current practice did not have significant modifications up to the end of 2009 ¹⁸, whereas at the beginning of 2010, bivalirudin and the new antiplatelet drugs became available in our center. Furthermore, in the same year, a TRA intervention program in the urgency setting has been set up. We also took into account the differences in using TA, drug-eluting stents (DES) as well as of IABP support.

The aim of the study was to evaluate the changes in procedural characteristics in terms of vascular access, pharmacological treatment and device utilization. Thus we investigated the impact of these changes on procedural efficacy rate (defined as TIMI III grade flow and residual stenosis <30%) and in terms of in-hospital outcomes, defined as Major Cardiovascular Cardiac Events (MACE), i.e. death, recurrent myocardial infarction, stroke and target vessel revascularization. The rate of definite and probable stent thrombosis (ST) defined according to the Academic Research Consortium ¹⁹ and of bleeding complications according to Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (BARC) classification ²⁰ were also taken into account.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive data are shown as absolute and relative frequencies of the different modalities for categorical data; as median and interquartile range (IQR) for continuous variables. Chi-square test for categorical variables and Wilcoxon test for independent data for continuous variables were carried out to assess whether significant differences could be demonstrated between time periods (before and after 2010).

Temporal Changes of Primary Angioplasty

Due to the observed differences in patients' characteristics between time periods, a propensity score analysis was carried out using a logistic regression model with time period as outcome. In the propensity score model, patient's characteristics which resulted associated with the time period (obesity, hypercholesterolemia, anterior location and transfer from other hospitals) were entered in the model.

Validation of the model was done through graphical examination of the residual diagnostics. Discrimination Index D (the higher the better) and the Somer's concordance index Dxy (the closer to 1 the better) were also computed. In absence of an external data source for model validation, to account for the degree of optimism in model accuracy induced by the use of the same data for training and testing purposes, goodness of fit indexes were computed using bootstrap (20 runs). Checking of the balance after the matching was performed using Chi-square and t test. Using individual propensity score, 876 patients in time period 2010-2013 were matched to 876 patients in time period 2003-2009; a caliper size equal to one-fifth of the standard deviation of the logit of the estimated propensity score was used. Finally, the analysis of the propensity score-matched sample was carried out using conditional logistic regression model, which accounts for correlation within matched pairs, including variables: period (pre-post 2010), hypercholesterolemia and total ischemic time (superior vs inferior to 3h). All tests were performed at a significance level of 5%. Analyses were done with R version 3.02 (R Core Team, Wien, Austria).

Results

From March 2003 to December 2013 1980 patients with STEMI underwent PPCI in our catheterization laboratory, whose 1078 in P1 and 902 in P2. The clinical characteristics of the two groups are shown in table 1. The patients of P2 were significantly more obese (body mass index ≥ 30 Kg per square meter), hypercholesterolemic, more likely to be transferred from another hospital without PCI facility and presented lower rate of anterior infarction. Furthermore, patients of P2 had

a significant longer D2B time and a lower rate of them underwent PPCI within 3 hours from the beginning of the symptoms.

Procedural characteristics are depicted in figure 1 showing a significant increase of TRA in P2, along with the use of bivalirudin, new antiplatelet drugs and DES implantation. In parallel, in the same period, the use of GP IIb-IIIa and of IABP significantly decreased. Furthermore, the rate of TA and multivessel PCI did not significantly change (table 2).

At 30-days (table 3) a significant increase of the procedural efficacy (from 95.1 to 97.2% , $p=0.01$) as well as a significant decrease of in-hospital mortality (from 6.3% to 3.9%, $p=0.01$), of ST (from 1.3 to 0.4%, $p=0.046$) and of overall MACE (from 6.9% to 4.2%, $p=0.01$) occurred in P2 as compared to P1. The rate of bleeding complications remained almost unchanged (from 2.2% to 2.0%, $p=0.7$). Before matching with the propensity score (figure 2), the efficacy of the procedure was significantly associated to P2 (OR 1.81, CI 95%, 1.12-2.94) as well as MACE and mortality at 30 days resulted significantly reduced after 2010 (in P2). Logistic regression analyses on matched patients confirmed the before matching results for the efficacy of the procedure (OR 2.09, CI 95%, 1.04-4.21, figure 3), whereas MACE and mortality at 30 days did not result significantly associated to the time period anymore. Moreover ST showed a trend towards a significant reduction (OR 0.3; 0.09-1.03).

Discussion

Our large observational registry showed that, after 2010, the current practice of PPCI in our centre significantly changed, with a significant increase of TRA, of the use of either bivalirudin or new antiplatelet drugs or DES and a significant decrease of the use of either GP IIb-IIIa inhibitors and IABP, whereas the rates of TA and multivessel PCI remained almost unchanged. Despite the

significant increase of the D2B time and the decrease of the number of the patients who underwent PPCI within 3 hours from the beginning of the symptoms (probably due to the widening of the catchment area), there was a significant increase of the efficacy of the procedure and a trend towards the significance of the reduction of ST. Our findings are in agreement either with randomized or non-randomized studies ^{5–10} or large registries ^{21–25}. Moreover, our study did not show significant differences in bleedings between the two study periods. This finding can further support the hypothesis that the decrease of cardiovascular events related to TRA and bivalirudin use can go beyond the simple reduction of bleeding complications ^{26,27}. More recent Unfractionated heparin versus bivalirudin in primary percutaneous coronary intervention (HEAT-PPCI) randomized trial ²⁸, has raised concerns with regard to the increase of acute ST and even of the mortality. As a result, the last guidelines downgraded the bivalirudin use to a IIa class ²⁹. We did not find this relationship but rather a reduction, although not significant, of ST. The longer period of infusion at higher concentration, as stated by the EUROMAX ¹⁷ randomized trial, the use of new antiplatelet drugs and the UFH bolus given in emergency room or in ambulance, that has already shown to reduce the composite endpoint of death and ST compared to bivalirudin alone ³⁰, can have overcome this negative effect.

Limitations

Our study offers the advantages and limitations of carefully performed observational registries: first, it is a retrospective analysis and is therefore subject to the limitations of such analyses. In particular, the procedural increase and decrease in rates of MACE cannot be attributed to a specific covariate. As a matter of fact our work was not powered, to find differences in the clinical outcomes, either because of the relatively small number of the patients, or of the non-randomized nature of the study. Secondly, the addition of a referral source with an intensive cardiac care unit but not PCI capability, could have somewhat changed significantly the referral population. For this reason, propensity score matching further enhanced the comparability of the patients..Third, the

data are derived from a single center, which limits their applicability. Finally, we analyzed only the 30-days outcomes. Therefore, it is not possible to extend the results beyond the acute phase.

Conclusions

Our large retrospective registry shows that in the last years, after the publication of pivotal randomized trial and large registries, there were significant changes in the current practice of primary PCI in a high primary PCI-volume catheterization laboratory, in particular either the increase of the TRA, bivalirudin, new antiplatelet drugs and DES, or the decrease of IABP and GP IIb-IIIa. These changes could have had an impact on procedural efficacy. However, due to the single centre retrospective evaluation, these findings need to be confirmed by further studies.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the professional contribution of our nursing and technical staff: Antonio Badali, Giovanni Bovì, Lello Castaldo, Nadia Fornero, Anna Isabello, Giuliana Podio, Alessandra Poletti, Silvio Schiari, Teresa Strizzi.

References

1. Grines CL, Browne KF, Marco J, Rothbaum D, Stone GW, O'Keefe J, Overlie P, Donohue B, Chelliah N, Timmis GC. A comparison of immediate angioplasty with thrombolytic therapy for acute myocardial infarction. The Primary Angioplasty in Myocardial Infarction Study Group. *N Engl J Med*. 1993;328:673–679.
2. Schömig A, Kastrati A, Dirschinger J, Mehilli J, Schricke U, Pache J, Martinoff S, Neumann FJ, Schwaiger M. Coronary stenting plus platelet glycoprotein IIb/IIIa blockade compared with tissue plasminogen activator in acute myocardial infarction. Stent versus Thrombolysis for Occluded Coronary Arteries in Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction Study Investigators. *N Engl J Med*. 2000;343:385–391.
3. Keeley EC, Boura JA, Grines CL. Primary angioplasty versus intravenous thrombolytic therapy for acute myocardial infarction: a quantitative review of 23 randomised trials. *Lancet*. 2003;361:13–20.
4. Task Force on the management of ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), Steg PG, James SK, Atar D, Badano LP, Blömlundqvist C, Borger MA, Di Mario C, Dickstein K, Ducrocq G, Fernandez-Aviles F, Gershlick AH, Giannuzzi P, Halvorsen S, Huber K, Juni P, Kastrati A, Knuuti J, Lenzen MJ, Mahaffey KW, Valgimigli M, van 't Hof A, Widimsky P, Zahger D. ESC Guidelines for the management of acute myocardial infarction in patients presenting with ST-segment elevation. *Eur Heart J*. 2012;33:2569–2619.
5. Jolly SS, Yusuf S, Cairns J, Niemelä K, Xavier D, Widimsky P, Budaj A, Niemelä M, Valentin V, Lewis BS, Avezum A, Steg PG, Rao SV, Gao P, Afzal R, Joyner CD, Chrolavicius S, Mehta SR, RIVAL trial group. Radial versus femoral access for coronary angiography and intervention in patients with acute coronary syndromes (RIVAL): a randomised, parallel group, multicentre trial. *Lancet*. 2011;377:1409–1420.
6. Romagnoli E, Biondi-Zoccai G, Sciahbasi A, Politi L, Rigattieri S, Pendenza G, Summaria F, Patrizi R, Borghi A, Di Russo C, Moretti C, Agostoni P, Loschiavo P, Lioy E, Sheiban I, Sangiorgi G. Radial versus femoral randomized investigation in ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome: the RIFLE-STEACS (Radial Versus Femoral Randomized Investigation in ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndrome) study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2012;60:2481–2489.
7. Stone GW, Witzenbichler B, Guagliumi G, Peruga JZ, Brodie BR, Dudek D, Kornowski R, Hartmann F, Gersh BJ, Pocock SJ, Dangas G, Wong SC, Kirtane AJ, Parise H, Mehran R, HORIZONS-AMI Trial Investigators. Bivalirudin during primary PCI in acute myocardial infarction. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;358:2218–2230.
8. Mehran R, Lansky AJ, Witzenbichler B, Guagliumi G, Peruga JZ, Brodie BR, Dudek D, Kornowski R, Hartmann F, Gersh BJ, Pocock SJ, Wong SC, Nikolsky E, Gambone L, Vandertie L, Parise H, Dangas GD, Stone GW, HORIZONS-AMI Trial Investigators. Bivalirudin in patients undergoing primary angioplasty for acute myocardial infarction

(HORIZONS-AMI): 1-year results of a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2009;374:1149–1159.

9. Wallentin L, Becker RC, Budaj A, Cannon CP, Emanuelsson H, Held C, Horrow J, Husted S, James S, Katus H, Mahaffey KW, Scirica BM, Skene A, Steg PG, Storey RF, Harrington RA, PLATO Investigators, Freij A, Thorsén M. Ticagrelor versus clopidogrel in patients with acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med*. 2009;361:1045–1057.
10. Wiviott SD, Braunwald E, McCabe CH, Montalescot G, Ruzyllo W, Gottlieb S, Neumann F-J, Ardissino D, De Servi S, Murphy SA, Riesmeyer J, Weerakkody G, Gibson CM, Antman EM, TRITON-TIMI 38 Investigators. Prasugrel versus clopidogrel in patients with acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med*. 2007;357:2001–2015.
11. Mehilli J, Kastrati A, Schulz S, Früngel S, Nekolla SG, Moshage W, Dotzer F, Huber K, Pache J, Dirschinger J, Seyfarth M, Martinoff S, Schwaiger M, Schömig A, Bavarian Reperfusion Alternatives Evaluation-3 (BRAVE-3) Study Investigators. Abciximab in patients with acute ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention after clopidogrel loading: a randomized double-blind trial. *Circulation*. 2009;119:1933–1940.
12. Task Force on Myocardial Revascularization of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS), European Association for Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI), Wijns W, Kolh P, Danchin N, Di Mario C, Falk V, Folliguet T, Garg S, Huber K, James S, Knuuti J, Lopez-Sendon J, Marco J, Menicanti L, Ostojic M, Piepoli MF, Pirlet C, Pomar JL, Reifart N, Ribichini FL, Schali J MJ, Sergeant P, Serruys PW, Silber S, Sousa Uva M, Taggart D. Guidelines on myocardial revascularization. *Eur Heart J*. 2010;31:2501–2555.
13. Nallamothu BK, Hayward RA, Bates ER. Beyond the randomized clinical trial: the role of effectiveness studies in evaluating cardiovascular therapies. *Circulation*. 2008;118:1294–1303.
14. Ryan TJ, Faxon DP, Gunnar RM, Kennedy JW, King SB, Loop FD, Peterson KL, Reeves TJ, Williams DO, Winters WL. Guidelines for percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty. A report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Assessment of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Cardiovascular Procedures (Subcommittee on Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty). *Circulation*. 1988;78:486–502.
15. Varbella F, Gagnor A, Luceri S, Bongioanni S, Nannini C, Masi AS, Tripodi R, Pron PG, Mainardi L, Badalì A, Conte MR. Primary angioplasty and routine utilization of thrombus aspiration devices: feasibility and results in a consecutive series of 486 patients. *J Cardiovasc Med Hagerstown Md*. 2007;8:258–264.
16. The Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) trial. Phase I findings. TIMI Study Group. *N Engl J Med*. 1985;312:932–936.
17. Steg PG, van 't Hof A, Hamm CW, Clemmensen P, Lapostolle F, Coste P, Ten Berg J, Van Grunsven P, Eggink GJ, Nibbe L, Zeymer U, Campo dell' Orto M, Nef H, Steinmetz J, Soulat L, Huber K, Deliargyris EN, Bernstein D, Schuette D, Prats J, Clayton T, Pocock S, Hamon M, Goldstein P, EUROMAX Investigators. Bivalirudin started during emergency transport for primary PCI. *N Engl J Med*. 2013;369:2207–2217.

18. Tomassini F, Gagnor A, Montali N, Infantino V, Tizzani E, Tizzani P, Lanza GA, Conte MR, Varbella F. Primary percutaneous coronary intervention without on-site cardiac surgery backup in unselected patients with ST-segment-Elevation Myocardial Infarction: The RIVOLI ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (RISTEMI) registry. *Cardiovasc Revasc Med*. 2013;14:9–13.
19. Mauri L, Hsieh W, Massaro JM, Ho KKL, D'Agostino R, Cutlip DE. Stent thrombosis in randomized clinical trials of drug-eluting stents. *N Engl J Med*. 2007;356:1020–1029.
20. Mehran R, Rao SV, Bhatt DL, Gibson CM, Caixeta A, Eikelboom J, Kaul S, Wiviott SD, Menon V, Nikolsky E, Serebruany V, Valgimigli M, Vranckx P, Taggart D, Sabik JF, Cutlip DE, Krucoff MW, Ohman EM, Steg PG, White H. Standardized bleeding definitions for cardiovascular clinical trials: a consensus report from the Bleeding Academic Research Consortium. *Circulation*. 2011;123:2736–2747.
21. Feldman DN, Swaminathan RV, Kaltenbach LA, Baklanov DV, Kim LK, Wong SC, Minutello RM, Messenger JC, Moussa I, Garratt KN, Piana RN, Hillegass WB, Cohen MG, Gilchrist IC, Rao SV. Adoption of radial access and comparison of outcomes to femoral access in percutaneous coronary intervention: an updated report from the national cardiovascular data registry (2007-2012). *Circulation*. 2013;127:2295–2306.
22. Hibbert B, MacDougall A, Labinaz M, O'Brien ER, So DYF, Dick A, Glover C, Froeschl M, Marquis J-F, Wells GA, Blondeau M, Le May MR. Bivalirudin for primary percutaneous coronary interventions: outcome assessment in the Ottawa STEMI registry. *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*. 2012;5:805–812.
23. Pinto DS, Ogbonnaya A, Sherman SA, Tung P, Normand S-LT. Bivalirudin therapy is associated with improved clinical and economic outcomes in ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention: results from an observational database. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes*. 2012;5:52–61.
24. Patel H, Shivaraju A, Fonarow GC, Xie H, Gao W, Shroff AR, Vidovich MI. Temporal trends in the use of intraaortic balloon pump associated with percutaneous coronary intervention in the United States, 1998-2008. *Am Heart J*. 2014;168:363–373.e12.
25. [http://www.bcis.org.uk/resources/documents/BCIS% 20Audit%20web.pdf](http://www.bcis.org.uk/resources/documents/BCIS%20Audit%20web.pdf).
26. Di Mario C, Secco G. Radial primary angioplasty: the gold standard treatment for STEMI patients. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv*. 2013;6:707–708.
27. Stone GW, Clayton T, Deliargyris EN, Prats J, Mehran R, Pocock SJ. Reduction in cardiac mortality with bivalirudin in patients with and without major bleeding: The HORIZONS-AMI trial (Harmonizing Outcomes with Revascularization and Stents in Acute Myocardial Infarction). *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014;63:15–20.
28. Shahzad A, Kemp I, Mars C, Wilson K, Roome C, Cooper R, Andron M, Appleby C, Fisher M, Khand A, Kunadian B, Mills JD, Morris JL, Morrison WL, Munir S, Palmer ND, Perry RA, Ramsdale DR, Velavan P, Stables RH, HEAT-PPCI trial investigators. Unfractionated heparin versus bivalirudin in primary percutaneous coronary intervention (HEAT-PPCI): an open-label, single centre, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2014;384:1849–1858.

29. Windecker S, Kolh P, Alfonso F, Collet J-P, Cremer J, Falk V, Filippatos G, Hamm C, Head SJ, Jüni P, Kappetein AP, Kastrati A, Knuuti J, Landmesser U, Laufer G, Neumann F-J, Richter DJ, Schauerte P, Uva MS, Stefanini GG, Taggart DP, Torracca L, Valgimigli M, Wijns W, Witkowski A. 2014 ESC/EACTS Guidelines on myocardial revascularization. *Eur Heart J*. 2014;35:2541–2619.
30. Koutouzis M, Lagerqvist B, James S, Omerovic E, Matejka G, Grip L, Albertsson P. Unfractionated heparin administration in patients treated with bivalirudin during primary percutaneous coronary intervention is associated lower mortality and target lesion thrombosis: a report from the Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry (SCAAR). *Heart Br Card Soc*. 2011;97:1484–1488.

Figure legend

Figure 1. Temporal changes trend in procedural characteristics between 2003 and 2013. Vertical axis represents the percentage of cases. DES: Drug Eluting Stents; IABP: Intra Aortic Balloon Pump; New Antiplatelet Drugs: Prasugrel or Ticagrelor

Figure 2. Multiple logistic regression analysis. OR: Odds Ratio; MACE: Major Adverse Cardiac Events

Figure 3. Individual propensity score matching analysis. OR: Odds Ratio; MACE: Major Adverse Cardiac Events

- Net benefit effect demonstrated in randomized clinical trials (RCT) might not be the same as that observed in different clinical settings. Large observational registries are needed in order to assessing treatment effectiveness in patients encountered in day-to-day clinical practice, undergoing everyday therapy.
- After the publication of pivotal randomized trial and large registries, there were significant changes in the current practice of primary PCI in a high primary PCI-volume catheterization laboratory.
- We reported an increase of the trans-radial approach, of the use of either bivalirudin or new antiplatelet drugs or DES and a significant decrease of the use of either GP IIb-IIIa inhibithors and IABP. Conversely the rates of manual thrombus aspiration and multivessel PCI remained almost unchanged.
- These changes could have had an impact on procedural efficacy

Figure 1
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

Figure 2
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

Figure 3
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

Table I. General Characteristics

	P1 (2003-2009)	P2 (2010-2015)	p Value
Number of patients	1078	902	
Male Gender	801 (74.4)	695 (77.1)	0.17
Age (years)*	66 (56-75)*	65 (56-75)*	0.37
Age $\geq$ 80 years	139 (12.9)	123 (13.6)	0.63
Transferred from another hospital	248 (23)	290 (32.2)	<0.001
Current Smokers	323 (30.0)	307 (34.4)	0.053
Hypertension	738 (68.5)	632 (70.1)	0.47
Hypercholesterolemia	324 (30.1)	418 (46.3)	<0.001
Diabetes	243 (22.5)	224 (24.8)	0.73
Obesity [^]	142 (13.2)	165 (18.3)	0.002
Renal Failure [§]	33 (3.1)	20 (2.2)	0.25
Anterior Infarction	490 (46.8)	357 (40.8)	0.008
LVEF (%) [#]	48.1 $\pm$ 9.6**	48.9 $\pm$ 8.3**	0.87
Killip Class $\geq$ 3	118 (11.0)	84 (9.3)	0.23
Symptom onset-to-door time (min)	121 (68-267)*	120 (72-239)*	0.64
Door-to-Balloon time (min)	59 (36-98)*	76 (53-119)*	<0.001
Total ischemic time $\geq$ 3 hours	383 (55.9)	518 (61.6)	0.025

Data are n (%) unless otherwise stated.

* Median (interquartiles ranges)

** Mean $\pm$ SD

[^] Body Mass Index $\geq$ 30

[§] Renal failure defined as baseline creatinine $\geq$ 2.5 mg/deciliter.

[#] Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

Table II. Angiographic Findings and Procedural Characteristics

	P1 (2003-2009)	P2 (2010-2013)	P Value
Number of patients	1078	902	
Multivessel Disease	558 (52.0)	486 (54.1)	0.11
Radial Access	17 (1.5)	308 (34.1)	<0.001
Bivalirudin	5 (0.5)	205 (22.7)	<0.001
GP IIb-IIIa Inhibitors	887 (82.3)	469 (52.0)	<0.001
IABP	183 (17.0)	68 (7.5)	<0.001
Multivessel PCI	55 (5.2)	36 (4.0)	0.28
Thrombus Aspiration	601 (55.8)	500 (55.4)	0.89
DES	120 (11.1)	138 (15.3)	0.006
New Antiplatelet Drugs*	0	165 (18.3)	<0.001

Data are n (%) unless otherwise stated

IABP = Intra Aortic Balloon Pump

DES = Drug-Eluting Stents

*Prasugrel or Ticagrelor

Table III. 30-Days outcomes

	P1 (2003-2009)	P2 (2010-2013)	P Value
Number of patients	1078	902	
Efficacy of the procedure*	1025 (95.1)	877 (97.2)	0.015
In-Hospital Death	68 (6.3)	35 (3.9)	0.015
Bleeding Complications**	24 (2.2)	18 (2.0)	0.72
Re-AMI	1 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	0.46
Target Vessel Revascularization	5 (0.5)	1 (0.1)	0.15
Mechanical Complications	14 (1.3)	5 (0.6)	0.11
Stroke	6 (0.6)	2 (0.2)	0.30
MACEs	74 (6.9)	38 (4.2)	0.01
Stent Thrombosis§	14 (1.3)	4 (0.4)	0.046

Data are n (%) unless otherwise stated

*TIMI 3 grade flow and residual stenosis $\leq 30\%$

**BARC ≥ 3

MACEs = Major Adverse Cardiac Events

§ Acute and Subacute