
We appreciate the comments and suggestions made by Bouguin et al. As they point out, there are several important limitations of our analysis, including the lack of cause-specific mortality in long-term follow-up. ¹ Although the Early Glycoprotein IIb/IIa Inhibition in NSTE ACS (EARLY ACS) trial captured cause of death at 30 days, these data were unavailable at 1 year. However, our suggested recommendations are well supported by the data. A key finding in our analysis was that ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation is just as likely to occur ≥48 hours after a non–ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome as within the immediate post–acute coronary syndrome period (0–48 hours). Thus, aggressive in-hospital monitoring through discharge seems warranted. We agree with Bouguin et al that management of arrhythmic risk after discharge in patients who develop ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation in the setting of an acute coronary syndrome is more difficult. Current guidelines advocate revascularization as the primary therapy. As we suggested in our discussion, given the competing risks of heart failure death and arrhythmic death, interventions to decrease arrhythmic risk after discharge require further study in randomized clinical trials. These interventions could include wearable cardioverter-defibrillators, pharmacological therapies, and novel risk stratification techniques that might help to clarify which patients are at risk for recurrent ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation despite revascularization.

Disclosures

Dr Piccini reports grants for clinical research (to the institution) from Boston Scientific, Johnson & Johnson, and Bayer Healthcare and consulting fees from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Forest Laboratories, and Sanofi-Aventis. Dr Al-Khatib reports research funding and consulting fees from Medtronic and speaking fees from Biotronik. Dr Tricoci reports a research grant from Merck & Co, Inc, and advisory board membership for Merck & Co, Inc. Dr Pollack reports research support from Schering-Plough and Sanofi-Aventis. Dr Montalescot reports research grants (to the institution) from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Boston Scientific, Centocor, Cordis, Eli Lilly, Fédération Française de Cardiologie, Fondation de France, Guerbet Medical, INSERM, ITC Edison, Medtronic, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis Group, and Société Française de Cardiologie and consulting or lecture fees from Accumeetrics, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Menarini, MSD, Novartis, Portola, Sanofi-Aventis Group, Schering-Plough, and The Medicines Company. Dr Van de Werf reports research grants from Schering-Plough (now Merck) and Roche and advisory board membership and speakers fees from Schering-Plough, Merck & Co, Inc, and Roche. Dr Gibson reports research support from Schering-Plough and Merck & Co, Inc. Dr Giugliano reports research grant support, advisory board membership, and honoraria for lectures from Schering-Plough, Inc, and Merck & Co, Inc; research grant support from Daiichi Sankyo; and consulting fees/honoraria for lectures from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi-Aventis. Dr Califf reports research funding and consulting with Schering-Plough, now Merck & Co, Inc (all consulting funds donated to not-for-profit institutions). A complete listing of Dr Califf’s relationships with industry is available at http://www.dcri.duke.edu/research/coi.jsp. Dr Harrington reports research funding and consulting with Schering-Plough, now Merck & Co, Inc. A complete listing of Dr Harrington’s relationships with industry is available at http://www.dcri.duke.edu/research/coi.jsp. Dr Newby reports research grants from Schering-Plough and Merck & Co, Inc, through the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and consulting honoraria from Schering-Plough. A complete listing of Dr Newby’s relationships with industry is available at www.dcri.duke.edu/research/coi.jsp. The other authors report no conflicts.

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Circulation. 2013;127:e634
doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.112.147546
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

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