Correspondence

Response to Letter Regarding Article, “Optimal Duration of Dual Antiplatelet Therapy After Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation: A Randomized, Controlled Trial”

We thank Dr Sardar and colleagues for their interest in our recent article and appreciate the opportunity to reply. We agree that medication adherence is associated with clinical outcomes and remains an important issue in clinical drug trials. Unfortunately, there are no definite methods for assessing adherence to medications. In our study, pill count was used to determine medication adherence, and pharmacy data were electronically checked by medical insurance system. Medical adherence in this type of study is considered generally poor. Even in the Platelet Inhibition and Patient Outcome (PLATO) trial, medical adherence was ≈80%.

In this context, we believe that medical adherence in our study seems to be acceptable.

Time from index procedure to randomization was rather variable, but most patients were enrolled between 12 and 18 months after the index procedure. Furthermore, clinical outcomes were not different after adjusting for the duration before the randomization process. As described in the study limitations, however, our findings may not be extrapolated to high-risk populations, such as those with recurrent events within 12 months after the index procedure. Bleeding risk is known to be increased in patients with chronic kidney disease. In our study, however, only a small number of patients (0.8%) had significant renal dysfunction (serum creatinine ≥ 2 mg/dL), making it difficult to analyze the association between kidney dysfunction and bleeding complication.

Finally, we agree that clopidogrel is a prodrug requiring activation in the liver, and its antiplatelet effect can be enhanced in current smokers. In our study, however, there were no significant differences of clinical outcomes in dual antiplatelet therapy group according to smoking status. Further studies may be needed to demonstrate whether there is a clopidogrel–smoking interaction in patients receiving long-term clopidogrel therapy.

Disclosures

Dr Park has received research grants and lecture fees from Abbott Vascular, Boston Scientific, and Medtronic. The other authors report no conflicts.

Sang-Gon Lee, MD
Ulsan University Hospital
Ulsan, South Korea

In-Whan Seong, MD
Chungnam National University Hospital
Daejeon, South Korea

Seung-Woon Rha, MD
Korea University Guro Hospital
Seoul, South Korea

Myung-Ho Jeong, MD
Chonnam National University Hospital
Gwangju, South Korea

Do-Sun Lim, MD
Korea University Anam Hospital
Seoul, South Korea

Jung-Han Yoon, MD
Yonsei University Wonju College of Medicine
Wonju Christian Hospital
Wonju, South Korea

Seung-Ho Hur, MD
Keimyung University Dongsan Medical Center
Daegu, South Korea

Yun-Seok Choi, MD
The Catholic University of Korea
Yeouido St. Mary’s Hospital
Seoul, South Korea

Joo-Young Yang, MD
National Health Insurance Corporation, Ilsan Hospital
Ilsan, South Korea

Nae-Hee Lee, MD
Soon Chun Hyang University Hospital Bucheon
Bucheon, South Korea

Hyun-Sook Kim, MD
Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital
Anyang, South Korea

Bong-Ki Lee, MD
Kangwon National University Hospital
Chunchon, South Korea

Kee-Sik Kim, MD
Daegu Catholic University Medical Center
Daegu, South Korea

Seung-Uk Lee, MD
Kwangju Christian Hospital
Kwangju, South Korea

Jei-Keon Chae, MD
Chonbuk National University Hospital
Jeonju, South Korea

Seung-Jung Park, MD
Cheol Whan Lee, MD
Jung-Min Ahn, MD
Duk-Woo Park, MD
Soo-Jin Kang, MD
Seung-Whan Lee, MD
Young-Hak Kim, MD
Seong-Wook Park, MD

The Heart Institute, Center for Medical Research and Information
University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Asan Medical Center
Seoul, South Korea

Seungbong Han, PhD
Division of Biostatistics, Center for Medical Research and Information
University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Asan Medical Center
Seoul, South Korea

(Circulation. 2014;130:e161-e162.)

© 2014 American Heart Association, Inc.

Circulation is available at http://circ.ahajournals.org

DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.011890

e161
References


Response to Letter Regarding Article, "Optimal Duration of Dual Antiplatelet Therapy After Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation: A Randomized, Controlled Trial"

Circulation. 2014;130:e161-e162
doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.011890

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/18/e161

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/