# RESEARCH

Open Access

Cardiovascular Diabetology

# Drug-coated balloon-based versus drugeluting stent-only revascularization in patients with diabetes and multivessel coronary artery disease

Ae-Young Her<sup>1</sup>, Eun-Seok Shin<sup>2\*</sup>, Sunwon Kim<sup>3</sup>, Bitna Kim<sup>2</sup>, Tae-Hyun Kim<sup>4</sup>, Chang-Bae Sohn<sup>4</sup>, Byung Joo Choi<sup>4</sup>, Yongwhi Park<sup>5</sup>, Jung Rae Cho<sup>6</sup> and Young-Hoon Jeong<sup>7</sup>

# Abstract

**Background** Data on drug-coated balloon (DCB) treatment in the context of diabetes mellitus (DM) and multivessel coronary artery disease (CAD) are limited. We aimed to investigate the clinical impact of DCB-based revascularization on percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) in patients with DM and multivessel CAD.

**Methods** A total of 254 patients with multivessel disease (104 patients with DM) successfully treated with DCB alone or combined with drug-eluting stent (DES) were retrospectively enrolled (DCB-based group) and compared with 254 propensity-matched patients treated with second-generation DES from the PTRG-DES registry (n = 13,160 patients) (DES-only group). Major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) comprised cardiac death, myocardial infarction, stroke, stent or target lesion thrombosis, target vessel revascularization, and major bleeding at 2 years.

**Results** The DCB-based group was associated with a reduced risk of MACE in patients with DM (hazard ratio [HR] 0.19, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.05–0.68, p = 0.003], but not in those without DM (HR 0.52, 95% CI 0.20–1.38, p = 0.167) at the 2-year follow-up. In patients with DM, the risk of cardiac death was lower in the DCB-based group than the DES-only group, but not in those without DM. In both patients with or without DM, the burdens of DES and small DES (less than 2.5 mm) used were lower in the DCB-based group than in the DES-only group.

**Conclusions** In multivessel CAD, the clinical benefit of a DCB-based revascularization strategy appears to be more evident in patients with DM than in those without DM after 2 years of follow-up. (Impact of Drug-Coated Balloon Treatment in De Novo Coronary Lesion; NCT04619277)

**Keywords** Diabetes mellitus, Multivessel, Drug-coated balloon, Drug-eluting stent, Coronary artery disease, Percutaneous coronary intervention

\*Correspondence:

Eun-Seok Shin

sesim1989@gmail.com

<sup>1</sup>Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kangwon National University College of Medicine, Kangwon National University School of Medicine, Chuncheon, South Korea

<sup>2</sup>Department of Cardiology, Ulsan University Hospital, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, 877 Bangeojinsunhwan-doro, Dong-gu, Ulsan 44033, South Korea <sup>3</sup>Department of Cardiology, Korea University Ansan Hospital, Ansan-si, South Korea

<sup>4</sup>Department of Cardiology, Ulsan Medical Center, Ulsan, South Korea <sup>5</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Center, Gyeongsang National University School of Medicine, Gyeongsang, South Korea <sup>6</sup>Cardiology Division, Department of Internal Medicine, Kangnam Sacred Heart Hospital, Hallym University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea <sup>7</sup>Division of Cardiology, Chung-Ang University Gwangmyeong Hospital, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Gwangmyeong, South Korea



© The Author(s) 2023. **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.

# Introduction

Patients with diabetes mellitus (DM) undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) have worse clinical outcomes, such as increased risk of in-stent restenosis (ISR), stent thrombosis, myocardial infarction, and death, compared with that of patients without DM [1–3]. Furthermore, patients with DM often have disease that is diffuse, long, and multivessel, and they require multivessel revascularization by either PCI or coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) [4, 5]. Although PCI with drugeluting stent (DES) has significantly reduced the rates of repeat revascularization in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), PCI with DES for multivessel disease in patients with DM has been challenging as a revascularization option.

Drug-coated balloon (DCB) treatment leaves nothing of lesions behind, and it reduces the risk of stentassociated maladaptive biologic responses causative of restenosis and thrombosis, and allows for favorable natural vascular healing [6, 7]. In particular, using DCB or combined with DES as part of a hybrid procedure (DCBbased revascularization strategy) to reduce stent burden (stent length or number) may be an alternative and useful treatment approach for multivessel disease. Recently, we reported the benefits of a DCB-based revascularization strategy for multivessel PCI involving DCB used alone or in combination with DES that resulted in a reduced stent burden compared to a DES-only treatment group [8]. However, the benefit of DCB-based revascularization for multivessel CAD in the patients with DM has not been fully verified in the contemporary DES era. Therefore, we sought to evaluate the clinical impact of a DCB-based revascularization strategy in patients with DM and multivessel disease who underwent PCI with contemporary DES.

# Methods

# Patient population

A total of 254 patients with successful PCI for multivessel CAD including patients with DM who received DCB alone or in combination with DES were retrospectively enrolled between 2012 and 2020 from three teaching hospitals in South Korea (Ulsan University Hospital, Ulsan Medical Center, and Korea University Ansan Hospital) with experienced physicians providing treatment for patients with multivessel CAD using DCB (Impact of Drug-coated Balloon Treatment in de Novo Coronary Lesion; NCT04619277). Eligible patients were those who had lesions with  $\geq$  50% narrowing and who the investigator considered to require PCI for two or more major epicardial coronary lesions. Patients with DM were defined as patients with a history of DM under medication or fasting plasma glucose  $\geq$  126 mg/dL. All patients were diagnosed with Type 2 DM in this study. Patients were excluded from the analysis if they had previously undergone CABG; presented with cardiogenic shock, thrombolysis before PCI, single-vessel disease, or suboptimal or failed PCI for target lesions; or were lost to follow-up. Additionally, patients' vessels were required to be sufficiently large to accommodate DES implantation. The results of the hybrid approach in these patients were compared with those of 254 propensity-matched patients from the PTRG-DES consortium, who were treated with DES-only (https://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (unique identifier: NCT04734028). This consortium combined nine prospective registries from 32 Korean academic centers, contributing data from 13,160 patients who were treated with DES between July 2003 and August 2018 [9]. Out of a total of 13,160 PTRG-DES consortium patients, 11,226 patients received second-generation DES, and among them, 4,460 patients underwent multivessel DES implantation. Propensity score matching was performed for 4,427 patients, excluding 33 patients who had previously undergone CABG.

The study protocol was approved by the institutional review board of each participating center, and all patients provided written informed consent at the time of enrollment.

#### Procedure

For patients with multivessel disease, the PCI target lesions were first determined, then balloon angioplasty was performed to determine whether DCB treatment would be possible. The DCB-based treatment group received interventions performed according to international and Asia-Pacific consensus recommendations for DCB treatment [10, 11]. Specifically, predilation with a plain balloon at the recommended balloon-to-vessel ratio of 0.8 to 1.0 was mandatory. After predilation balloon angioplasty, stenting was deferred for all types of dissections (A to E), provided that thrombolysis in myocardial infarction (TIMI) grade 3 flow had been achieved. In cases of flow-limiting dissection after predilation (TIMI flow grade<3) and >30% visual residual stenosis, PCI with stent implantation without use of a DCB was recommended. As an exception, even with normal (i.e., TIMI grade 3) flow and residual diameter stenosis  $\leq$  30%, the operator could choose to use either DES or DCB if the patient complained of new-onset chest pain after balloon angioplasty or if a change in the ST-segment or progression of dissection was noted [8]. The DCB was inflated to its nominal pressure for at least 60 s, taking care to extend it at least 2 mm beyond the predilation balloon length. All DCB were coated with 3.0  $\mu$ g/mm<sup>2</sup> paclitaxel combined with iopromide (SeQuent Please© by B. Braun, Germany), as a carrier for the drug. After DCB use, the final assessment was performed at least 5 min after administering a bolus of an intracoronary vasodilator,

to prevent any remaining acute vessel closure. In cases of high thrombus burden, a bailout glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitor strategy was used. The duration of the prescribed dual antiplatelet therapy was at the discretion of the attending physician.

#### **Clinical follow-up and endpoints**

All 508 patients underwent a clinical follow-up following the index procedure via telephone interviews and outpatient clinic visits. The study endpoint was cumulative major adverse cardiac events (MACE) at 2 years, a composite of cardiac death, myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, probable or definite stent or target lesion thrombosis, target vessel revascularization (TVR), and major bleeding. Cardiac death was defined as any death that was not clearly of extracardiac origin, including MI, according to previously published guidelines [12]. Additionally, probable or definite stent or target lesion thrombosis was defined according to the definition by the Academic Research Consortium [13], and major bleeding was defined as Bleeding Academic Research Consortium type 3 to 5 bleeding [14].

#### Statistical analysis

Clinical characteristics are reported as percentages for categorical variables and as means with standard deviations for continuous variables. Comparisons between groups were made using either Pearson's chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables, and Student's t-test for continuous variables, as appropriate. In comparing clinical outcomes between the groups, the cumulative incidences of MACE and other outcomes were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method, and the curves were compared using the log-rank test. To reduce the effect of potential confounding factors, we used propensity score matching to adjust for differences in baseline characteristics. The propensity score was estimated using logistic regression by considering demographic and clinical variables (age, sex, hypertension, DM, current smoking, end-stage renal disease, previous history of MI, previous history of PCI, left main disease, presentation of acute MI, chronic total occlusion, total number of treated vessels, total number of devices used, total length of devices used, and mean diameter of devices used). Without setting the caliper size (R default caliper size=NULL), patients were 1:1 matched using the nearest-neighbor method with respect to the calculated score. All p-values were two-sided, and a value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant. R version 4.1.2 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria) was used for all statistical analyses in this study.

## Results

Among a total of 508 patients with multivessel disease, 219 patients (43.1%) composed the DM group, and 289 patients (56.9%) composed the non-DM group. DCBbased treatment was performed in 47.5% (n=104) of the DM group and 51.9% (n=150) of the non-DM group. The baseline clinical and procedural characteristics of the patients are described by DM group and treatment strategy in Table 1. In the DM group, those receiving DCB-based compared to DES-only treatment had lower total number of DES used (n=0.9 for DCB-based vs. n=2.5 for DES-only; p<0.001), shorter total length of DES (21.5 mm for DCB-based vs. 64.9 mm for DESonly; p<0.001), larger mean diameter of DES (3.2 mm for DCB-based vs. 2.8 mm for DES-only; p<0.001), and less use of small DES ( $\leq 2.5$  mm) (10.1% for DCB-based vs. 42.6% for DES-only; p<0.001). In the non-DM group, those receiving DCB-based compared to DES-only treatment showed less presentation of stable angina (25.3% for DCB-based vs. 38.1% for DES-only; p=0.027), lower total number of DES used (n=1.0 for DCB-based vs. n=2.6 for DES-only; p<0.001), shorter total length of DES (24.4 mm for DCB-based vs. 63.6 mm for DESonly; p<0.001), larger mean diameter of DES (3.3 mm for DCB-based vs. 2.8 mm for DES-only; p<0.001), and less use of small DES (≤2.5 mm) (6.1% for DCB-based vs. 43.2% for DES-only; p<0.001). Of patients in the DM group receiving DCB-based treatment, 33.7% were treated with DCB alone and 66.3% were treated with the hybrid approach combining DCB and DES, while of those in the non-DM group who received DCB-based treatment, 34.7% were treated with DCB alone and 65.3% were treated with the hybrid approach. For those receiving DCB-based treatment, the number of stents used was significantly reduced (by 66.5% and 62.6% in the DM and non-DM groups, respectively [Fig. 1A]) compared to those receiving the DES-only treatment.

Table 2 shows the comparison of the cumulative incidences of major clinical outcomes between groups for the 2-year follow-up period (interquartile range [IQR]: 1.1-4.5 years). In the DM group, those receiving DCB-based treatment had both a significantly lower cumulative incidence of MACE at 2 years than those in the DES-only treatment (n=3 [2.9%] for DCB-based vs. n=16 [13.9%] for DES-only; hazard ratio [HR]: 0.19; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.05–0.68; log-rank p=0.003) (Table 2; Fig. 2A, and Fig. 1B) and a significantly lower incidence of cardiac death compared to those receiving DES-only treatment (n=0 for DCB-based vs. n=4 [3.5%] for DESonly; log-rank p=0.044) (Table 2; Fig. 2B). However, in the non-DM group, the cumulative incidences of MACE and cardiac death did not significantly differ for those receiving DCB-based compared to DES-only treatment (MACE: n=7 [4.7%] for DCB-based vs. n=12 [8.6%]

# Table 1 Clinical and procedural characteristics of the patients according to DM and treatment strategy

|   | DM (n=219)    |               |         | Non-DM (n = 289) |                       |         |  |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------|------------------|-----------------------|---------|--|
|   | DCB-based     | DES-only      | p Value | DCB-based        | DES-only<br>treatment | p Value |  |
|   | treatment     | treatment     | -       | treatment        |                       |         |  |
|   | (n = 104)     | (n=115)       |         | (n=150)          | (n=139)               |         |  |
| Age, years                                  | 64.3 ±9.2     | 64.4 ±10.8    | 0.926   | 62.1 ±10.6       | 63.7 ±11.1            | 0.219   |  |
| Men   | 75 (72.1)     | 73 (63.5)     | 0.223   | 111 (74.0)       | 96 (69.1)             | 0.424   |  |
| Hypertension                                | 84 (80.8)     | 96 (83.5)     | 0.729   | 97 (64.7)        | 94 (67.6)             | 0.684   |  |
| Smoking                                     | 36 (34.6)     | 33 (28.7)     | 0.426   | 51 (34.0)        | 49 (35.3)             | 0.921   |  |
| Prior MI                                    | 8 (7.7)       | 12 (10.4)     | 0.639   | 17 (11.3)        | 19 (13.7)             | 0.673   |  |
| Prior PCI                                   | 13 (12.5)     | 21 (18.3)     | 0.323   | 25 (16.7)        | 19 (13.7)             | 0.586   |  |
| End-stage renal disease                     | 9 (8.7)       | 12 (10.4)     | 0.828   | 3 (2.0)          | 4 (2.9)               | 0.919   |  |
| Clinical presentation                       |               |               |         |                  |                       |         |  |
| Stable angina                               | 34 (32.7)     | 44 (38.3)     | 0.473   | 38 (25.3)        | 53 (38.1)             | 0.027   |  |
| Unstable angina                             | 47 (45.2)     | 37 (32.2)     | 0.066   | 64 (42.7)        | 45 (32.4)             | 0.093   |  |
| Acute myocardial infarction                 | 23 (22.1)     | 34 (29.6)     | 0.271   | 48 (32.0)        | 41 (29.5)             | 0.739   |  |
| DCB-only treatment                          | 35 (33.7)     | 0             | -       | 52 (34.7)        | 0                     | -       |  |
| Target lesion and procedure characteristics |               |               |         |                  |                       |         |  |
| Left main                                   | 11 (10.6)     | 17 (14.8)     | 0.467   | 21 (14.0)        | 23 (16.5)             | 0.661   |  |
| LAD   | 83 (79.8)     | 89 (77.4)     | 0.787   | 111 (74.0)       | 109 (78.4)            | 0.458   |  |
| LCX   | 80 (76.9)     | 69 (60.0)     | 0.011   | 119 (79.3)       | 94 (67.6)             | 0.034   |  |
| RCA   | 54 (51.9)     | 80 (69.6)     | 0.011   | 82 (54.7)        | 83 (59.7)             | 0.455   |  |
| Chronic total occlusion                     | 20 (19.2)     | 26 (22.6)     | 0.655   | 32 (21.3)        | 22 (15.8)             | 0.294   |  |
| Total number of diseased vessel             | $2.4 \pm 0.5$ | $2.4 \pm 0.5$ | 0.447   | $2.4 \pm 0.5$    | $2.4 \pm 0.5$         | 0.876   |  |
| Total number of treated vessel              | $2.2 \pm 0.4$ | $2.2 \pm 0.4$ | 0.987   | $2.2 \pm 0.4$    | $2.2 \pm 0.4$         | 0.356   |  |
| Total number of device used                 | 2.6 ± 0.8     | 2.5 ± 0.9     | 0.744   | 2.6 ± 1.0        | $2.6 \pm 0.9$         | 0.727   |  |
| Total device length, mm                     | 66.1 ± 23.8   | 64.9 ± 30.6   | 0.741   | 64.6 ± 26.6      | 63.6 ± 29.9           | 0.760   |  |
| Device diameter, mm                         | $2.8 \pm 0.2$ | $2.8 \pm 0.4$ | 0.222   | $2.8 \pm 0.3$    | $2.8 \pm 0.4$         | 0.613   |  |
| Total number of DCB used                    | 1.7 ± 0.8     | 0             |         | $1.6 \pm 0.8$    | 0                     |         |  |
| Total DCB length, mm                        | 44.5 ± 23.9   | 0             |         | $40.2 \pm 23.4$  | 0                     |         |  |
| DCB diameter, mm                            | 2.6 ± 0.2     | 0             |         | $2.6 \pm 0.3$    | 0                     |         |  |
| Small DCB used (diameter ≦ 2.5 mm)          | 64/104 (61.5) | 0             |         | 96/150 (64.0)    | 0                     |         |  |
| Total number of DES used                    | $0.9 \pm 0.8$ | 2.5 ± 0.9     | < 0.001 | $1.0 \pm 0.9$    | $2.6 \pm 0.9$         | < 0.001 |  |
| Total DES length, mm                        | 21.5 ± 20.7   | 64.9 ± 30.6   | < 0.001 | 24.4 ± 24.7      | 63.6 ± 29.9           | < 0.001 |  |
| DES diameter, mm                            | $3.2 \pm 0.5$ | 2.8 ± 0.4     | < 0.001 | $3.3 \pm 0.5$    | 2.8 ± 0.4             | < 0.001 |  |
| Small DES used ( $\leq 2.5$ mm)             | 7/69 (10.1)   | 49/115 (42.6) | < 0.001 | 6/98 (6.1)       | 60/139 (43.2)         | < 0.001 |  |

Values are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SD or n (%)

DM=diabetes mellitus; DCB=drug-coated balloon; DES=drug-eluting stent; MI=myocardial infarction; PCI=percutaneous coronary intervention; LAD=left anterior descending artery; LCX=left circumflex artery; RCA=right coronary artery

for DES-only [HR: 0.52; 95% CI: 0.20–1.38; log-rank p=0.167]; cardiac death: n=1 [0.7%] for DCB-based vs. n=2 [1.4%] for DES-only [HR: 0.43; 95% CI: 0.03–5.34; log-rank p=0.481]) (Table 2; Fig. 2C and D, and Fig. 1B). There were no cases of MI or target lesion thrombosis in patients receiving DCB-based treatment in either the DM or the non-DM group.

# Discussion

The main findings of this study were as follows: (1) in patients with DM, DCB-based treatment significantly reduced the risk of MACE and cardiac death compared with DES-only treatment for de novo multivessel CAD at 2-year follow-up; (2) in patients with non-DM, the clinical outcomes were similar with both DCB-based treatment and DES-only treatment for multivessel CAD. Therefore, a DCB-based revascularization strategy may be an acceptable approach for patients with DM and multivessel CAD.

DM accelerates atherosclerosis in multiple vascular beds and is associated with a significantly higher risk of CAD, and its prevalence is still growing globally [15]. It has been demonstrated that CAD in the DM population is more likely to involve diffuse and multivessel disease and is associated with more severe cardiovascular events and worse clinical outcomes. DM is also associated with adverse stent-related outcomes after PCI, with increased risk of stent restenosis and thrombotic obstruction [16– 18]. A pooled analysis of the BIO-RESOR and BIONYX trials demonstrated that patients with DM had higher **Table 2** Comparison of clinical outcomes between DCB-based treatment and DES-only treatment according to the presence of DM at 2 years follow-up

|                                   | DM (n=219)             |                       |                     |          | Non-DM (n = 289)       |                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                                   | DCB-based<br>treatment | DES-only<br>treatment | HR<br>(95% CI)      | p Value* | DCB-based<br>treatment | DES-only<br>treatment | HR<br>(95% CI)      | p<br>Value* |
|                                   | (n=104)                | (n=115)               |                     |          | (n = 150)              | (n = 139)             | _                   |             |
| MACE                              | 3 (2.9)                | 16 (13.9)             | 0.19<br>(0.05–0.68) | 0.003    | 7 (4.7)                | 12 (8.6)              | 0.52<br>(0.20–1.38) | 0.167       |
| Cardiac death                     | 0                      | 4 (3.5)               | -                   | 0.044    | 1 (0.7)                | 2 (1.4)               | 0.43<br>(0.03–5.34) | 0.481       |
| Myocardial infarction             | 0                      | 1 (0.9)               | -                   | 0.290    | 0                      | 2 (1.4)               | -                   | 0.155       |
| Stroke                            | 0                      | 1 (0.9)               | -                   | 0.333    | 0                      | 0                     | -                   | -           |
| Stent or target lesion thrombosis | 0                      | 0                     | -                   | -        | 0                      | 1 (0.7)               | -                   | 0.316       |
| Target vessel revascularization   | 2 (1.9)                | 8 (7.0)               | 0.27<br>(0.05–1.34) | 0.077    | 6 (4.0)                | 8 (5.8)               | 0.69<br>(0.23–2.07) | 0.492       |
| Major bleeding                    | 1 (1.0)                | 4 (3.5)               | 0.26<br>(0.03–2.34) | 0.196    | 0                      | 3 (2.2)               | -                   | 0.063       |

Values are presented as n (%). p value\* was obtained from the log-rank test

MACE was composed of cardiac death, myocardial infarction, stroke, stent or target lesion thrombosis, target vessel revascularization, and major bleeding (Bleeding Academic Research Consortium bleeding type 3 or greater)

DM=diabetes mellitus; DCB=drug-coated balloon; DES=drug-eluting stent; MACE=major adverse cardiovascular events

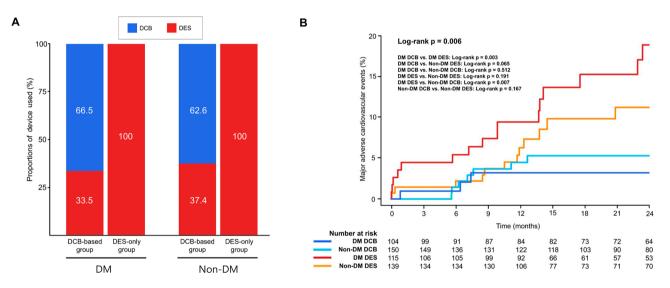


Fig. 1 Clinical impact of DCB-based PCI in patients with DM and multivessel CAD

A. Proportions of DCB and DES devices used in the DM and non-DM groups

B. Cumulative incidence of MACE during 2 years of follow-up by treatment strategy and the presence of DM

risks of target lesion failure than patients without DM after PCI [18]. Thus, PCI is expected to be more challenging and have potentially worse outcomes in the DM population. Furthermore, the higher risk of both adverse patient-related and stent-related outcomes raises concerns about whether aggressive revascularization is beneficial in the setting of DM.

The current guidelines suggest that for patients with DM and multivessel CAD, revascularization with CABG might be the preferred approach [5, 19]. In PCI with DES, the rates of new MI and repeat revascularization procedures for new lesions are significantly higher for PCI using DES than for CABG. Protection from both

new MI and the need for repeat revascularization has been suggested to be the main mechanism of benefit of CABG in patients with diffuse atherosclerosis such as in DM [20, 21]. These explanations are consistent with the results of recent observational and meta-analysis studies comparing multivessel PCI with DES and CABG [22–24]. Additionally, a recent study showed that the clinical long-term benefit of complete revascularization with relief of residual CAD is more prominent in patients with versus without DM (POCO [patient-oriented composite outcome]; aHR: 0.70; 95% CI: 0.52–0.93, p=0.016) [25]. However, stent implantation at all visible coronary lesions is not practical or appropriate. According to the

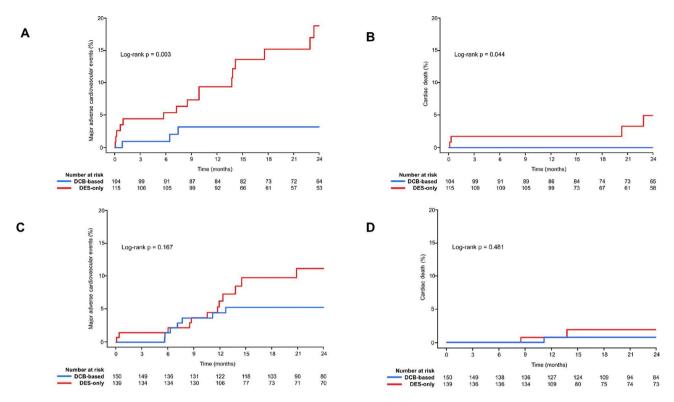


Fig. 2 Cumulative incidence of MACE and cardiac death after DCB-based and DES-only revascularization in the DM group (A, B) and the non-DM group (C, D)

results of this study, although the total number of treated vessels and the number of devices used were comparable in the DCB-based group and the DES-only group in DM patients, MACE was better in the DCB-based group. This shows that the target lesions in multivessel disease can be treated similarly to the DES-only group while reducing the stent burden, and that the outcome can be improved. When DCB-based treatment is applied to PCI, further research is needed to see how much outcome improvement can be achieved compared to CABG.

The advantages of DCB treatment include homogeneous drug delivery to the vessel wall, immediate drug release without the use of a polymer, and the freedom of leaving no foreign object behind in the vessel. The DCB treatment, involving no-metallic stent struts or polymer, may reduce intimal hyperplasia and vessel inflammation, preserving vessel anatomy and flow compared with DES. Furthermore, although the exact mechanism of late lumen increase is not well understood, DCB treatment of de novo coronary lesions after predilation was known to lead to late lumen enlargement. Therefore, considering the nature of DM in CAD, a DCB-based strategy (DCB alone or combined with DES) may be a good alternative to a DES-only strategy in treating multivessel CAD in patients with DM.

In the present study, we showed that in patient with DM who had multivessel CAD, DCB-based treatment

was significantly associated with a lower risk of MACE and cardiac death than DES-only treatment; however, this association was not seen in patients without DM. Although it showed no statistical significance, we demonstrated that the need for TVR in the DM group was numerically lower with DCB-based treatment compared with DES-only treatment (1.9% vs. 7.0%; aHR: 0.23; 95% CI: 0.03-1.46; log-rank p=0.077). Our study results are consistent with those of previous studies on the longterm clinical impact regarding TVR of DCB versus DES treatment in patients with DM having de novo coronary lesions [26]. A previous subgroup analysis of the BASKET-SMALL 2 trial with 3 years of follow-up demonstrated that in patients with DM, rates of TVR were significantly lower in the DCB compared to the DES group (9.1% for DCB vs. 15.0% for DES; HR: 0.40; 95% CI: 0.17–0.94; p=0.036 [26]; P for interaction=0.011), but not in patients without DM.

Patients with DM have a relatively smaller vessel caliber, with longer and more diffuse de novo lesions, compared to patients who do not have DM [27]. This makes it challenging to choose an appropriate stent size and length to cover the entire disease segment, leading to varying degrees of geographical miss at the initial PCI; it further predisposes the patients to the development of restenosis and thrombosis [28]. In this context, the clinical benefit of DCB-based treatment for patients with DM seems to be due to reduction of the risk associated with small-sized DES through treatment of small vessel lesions without stenting. Our results suggest that DCB use can be an alternative approach to DES for the treatment of DM with multivessel CAD, either alone for smaller coronary vessels, or in combination with DES for large lesions. Further studies are required for comprehensive evaluation of the role of DCB in this setting.

There are some limitations in this study. First, this study has the innate limitations of its observational nature and the use of registry data. Laboratory test results such as glycosylated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) during the followup period, which may be associated with DM management status and could impact the outcome, but we could not provide these data. In addition, leaving the choice of treatment strategy to the discretion of the physician inevitably introduces the limitation of selection bias. We addressed this issue by applying extensive sensitivity analyses in which measured or unmeasured confounders were adjusted to minimize the bias from different baseline characteristics. Second, each patient enrolled in this study was treated at an expert center in DCB-only treatment for de novo CAD. Thus, these results may not be reproducible without an adequate learning curve. Third, differences between the enrollment periods of the two groups might have led to differences in results related to technological changes. However, although the PTRG-DES registry was established in 2003, the patients whose data were used in the propensity match analysis had received second-generation DES. Therefore, differences between groups related to device development and PCI technique improvement are not expected to be significant. Further prospective randomized non-inferiority or superiority clinical trials with larger numbers of patients are needed to evaluate long-term outcomes after DCBbased treatment in patients with DM and multivessel CAD.

# Conclusion

In multivessel CAD, a DCB-based treatment approach (DCB alone or combined with DES) was associated with a reduced risk of MACE in patients with DM, but not in patients without DM. The role of DCB in this setting should be assessed in prospective randomized controlled trials.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

- DMDiabetes mellitusPCIPercutaneous coronary interventionISRIn-stent restenosisCABGCoronary artery bypass graftDESDrug-eluting stentCADCoronary artery diseaseDCBDrug-coated balloon
- TIMI Thrombolysis in myocardial infarction MACE Major adverse cardiovascular events
- TVR Target vessel revascularization

- MI Myocardial infarction
- POCO Patient-oriented composite outcome

#### Acknowledgements

None.

#### Authors' contributions

Her AY, Shin ES and Kim S performed study, and Her AY, Shin ES and Kim B had statistical analysis. Her AY and Shin ES wrote manuscript. Her AY, Shin ES, Kim TH, Sohn CB, Choi BJ, Park Y, Cho JR and Jeong YH designed study and contributed discussion and revised manuscript. Her AY and Shin ES edited manuscript.

#### Funding

This study has been worked with the support of a research grant of Kangwon National University in 2023.

#### Data Availability

Not applicable.

#### Declarations

#### Ethical approval and consent to participate

The study protocol was approved by the institutional review board of each participating center, and all patients provided written informed consent at the time of enrollment.

#### **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

#### **Competing interests**

All authors have reported that they have no relationships relevant to the contents of this paper to disclose.

### Received: 28 March 2023 / Accepted: 7 May 2023 Published online: 20 May 2023

#### References

- Elezi S, Kastrati A, Pache J, Wehinger A, Hadamitzky M, Dirschinger J, Neumann FJ, Schomig A. Diabetes mellitus and the clinical and angiographic outcome after coronary stent placement. J Am Coll Cardiol. 1998;32(7):1866–73.
- Koskinas KC, Siontis GC, Piccolo R, Franzone A, Haynes A, Rat-Wirtzler J, Silber S, Serruys PW, Pilgrim T, Raber L, et al. Impact of diabetic status on outcomes after revascularization with drug-eluting stents in relation to coronary artery disease complexity: patient-level pooled analysis of 6081 patients. Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2016;9(2):e003255.
- Nogic J, Nerlekar N, Soon K, Freeman M, Chan J, Roberts L, Brenan A, Dinh D, Lefkovits J, Brown AJ. Diabetes mellitus is independently associated with early stent thrombosis in patients undergoing drug eluting stent implantation: analysis from the victorian cardiac outcomes registry. Catheter Cardiovasc Interv. 2022;99(3):554–62.
- Farkouh ME, Domanski M, Sleeper LA, Siami FS, Dangas G, Mack M, Yang M, Cohen DJ, Rosenberg Y, Solomon SD, et al. Strategies for multivessel revascularization in patients with diabetes. N Engl J Med. 2012;367(25):2375–84.
- Lawton JS, Tamis-Holland JE, Bangalore S, Bates ER, Beckie TM, Bischoff JM, Bittl JA, Cohen MG, DiMaio JM, Don CW, et al. 2021 ACC/AHA/SCAI guideline for coronary artery revascularization: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. Circulation. 2022;145(3):e18–14.
- Ann SH, Balbir Singh G, Lim KH, Koo BK, Shin ES. Anatomical and physiological changes after paclitaxel-coated balloon for atherosclerotic de novo coronary lesions: serial IVUS-VH and FFR study. PLoS ONE. 2016;11(1):e0147057.
- Jun EJ, Shin ES, Teoh EV, Bhak Y, Yuan SL, Chu CM, Garg S, Liew HB. Clinical outcomes of drug-coated balloon treatment after successful revascularization of de novo chronic total occlusions. Front Cardiovasc Med. 2022;9:821380.
- Shin ES, Jun EJ, Kim S, Kim B, Kim TH, Sohn CB, Her AY, Park Y, Cho JR, Jeong YH, et al. Clinical impact of drug-coated balloon-based percutaneous

coronary intervention in patients with multivessel coronary artery disease. JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2023;16(3):292–9.

- Her AY, Jeong YH, Kim BK, Joo HJ, Chang K, Park Y, Song YB, Ahn SG, Suh JW, Lee SY, et al. Platelet function and genotype after DES implantation in east asian patients: Rationale and characteristics of the PTRG-DES Consortium. Yonsei Med J. 2022;63(5):413–21.
- Jeger RV, Eccleshall S, Wan Ahmad WA, Ge J, Poerner TC, Shin ES, Alfonso F, Latib A, Ong PJ, Rissanen TT, et al. Drug-coated balloons for coronary artery disease: third report of the International DCB Consensus Group. JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2020;13(12):1391–402.
- Her AY, Shin ES, Bang LH, Nuruddin AA, Tang Q, Hsieh IC, Hsu JC, Kiam OT, Qiu C, Qian J, et al. Drug-coated balloon treatment in coronary artery disease: recommendations from an Asia-Pacific Consensus Group. Cardiol J. 2021;28(1):136–49.
- Yahagi K, Kolodgie FD, Otsuka F, Finn AV, Davis HR, Joner M, Virmani R. Pathophysiology of native coronary, vein graft, and in-stent atherosclerosis. Nat Rev Cardiol. 2016;13(2):79–98.
- Cutlip DE, Windecker S, Mehran R, Boam A, Cohen DJ, van Es GA, Steg PG, Morel MA, Mauri L, Vranckx P, et al. Clinical end points in coronary stent trials: a case for standardized definitions. Circulation. 2007;115(17):2344–51.
- Mehran R, Rao SV, Bhatt DL, Gibson CM, Caixeta A, Eikelboom J, Kaul S, Wiviott SD, Menon V, Nikolsky E, et al. Standardized bleeding definitions for cardiovascular clinical trials: a consensus report from the bleeding Academic Research Consortium. Circulation. 2011;123(23):2736–47.
- Beckman JA, Paneni F, Cosentino F, Creager MA. Diabetes and vascular disease: pathophysiology, clinical consequences, and medical therapy: part II. Eur Heart J. 2013;34(31):2444–52.
- Holmes DR Jr, Kereiakes DJ, Garg S, Serruys PW, Dehmer GJ, Ellis SG, Williams DO, Kimura T, Moliterno DJ. Stent thrombosis. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2010;56(17):1357–65.
- Machecourt J, Danchin N, Lablanche JM, Fauvel JM, Bonnet JL, Marliere S, Foote A, Quesada JL, Eltchaninoff H, Vanzetto G, et al. Risk factors for stent thrombosis after implantation of sirolimus-eluting stents in diabetic and nondiabetic patients: the EVASTENT Matched-Cohort Registry. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2007;50(6):501–8.
- Ploumen EH, Pinxterhuis TH, Zocca P, Roguin A, Anthonio RL, Schotborgh CE, Benit E, Aminian A, Danse PW, Doggen CJM, et al. Impact of prediabetes and diabetes on 3-year outcome of patients treated with new-generation drug-eluting stents in two large-scale randomized clinical trials. Cardiovasc Diabetol. 2021;20(1):217.
- Sousa-Uva M, Neumann FJ, Ahlsson A, Alfonso F, Banning AP, Benedetto U, Byrne RA, Collet JP, Falk V, Head SJ, et al. 2018 ESC/EACTS guidelines on myocardial revascularization. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2019;55(1):4–90.

- 20. Investigators BARI. Seven-year outcome in the Bypass Angioplasty Revascularization Investigation (BARI) by treatment and diabetic status. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2000;35(5):1122–9.
- Park SJ, Ahn JM, Kim YH, Park DW, Yun SC, Lee JY, Kang SJ, Lee SW, Lee CW, Park SW, et al. Trial of everolimus-eluting stents or bypass surgery for coronary disease. N Engl J Med. 2015;372(13):1204–12.
- 22. Hlatky MA, Boothroyd DB, Bravata DM, Boersma E, Booth J, Brooks MM, Carrie D, Clayton TC, Danchin N, Flather M, et al. Coronary artery bypass surgery compared with percutaneous coronary interventions for multivessel disease: a collaborative analysis of individual patient data from ten randomised trials. Lancet. 2009;373(9670):1190–7.
- Lee MS, Yang T, Dhoot J, Iqbal Z, Liao H. Meta-analysis of studies comparing coronary artery bypass grafting with drug-eluting stenting in patients with diabetes mellitus and multivessel coronary artery disease. Am J Cardiol. 2010;105(11):1540–4.
- Park DW, Kim YH, Song HG, Ahn JM, Kim WJ, Lee JY, Kang SJ, Lee SW, Lee CW, Park SW, et al. Long-term outcome of stents versus bypass surgery in diabetic and nondiabetic patients with multivessel or left main coronary artery disease: a pooled analysis of 5775 individual patient data. Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2012;5(4):467–75.
- Hwang D, Park J, Yang HM, Yang S, Kang J, Han JK, Park KW, Kang HJ, Koo BK, Kim HS. Angiographic complete revascularization versus incomplete revascularization in patients with diabetes mellitus. Cardiovasc Diabetol. 2022;21(1):56.
- Wohrle J, Scheller B, Seeger J, Farah A, Ohlow MA, Mangner N, Mobius-Winkler S, Weilenmann D, Stachel G, Leibundgut G, et al. Impact of diabetes on outcome with drug-coated balloons versus drug-eluting stents: the BASKET-SMALL 2 Trial. JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2021;14(16):1789–98.
- Jensen LO, Thayssen P, Mintz GS, Maeng M, Junker A, Galloe A, Christiansen EH, Hoffmann SK, Pedersen KE, Hansen HS, et al. Intravascular ultrasound assessment of remodelling and reference segment plaque burden in type-2 diabetic patients. Eur Heart J. 2007;28(14):1759–64.
- Paramasivam G, Devasia T, Jayaram A, U KA, Rao MS, Vijayvergiya R, Nayak K. In-stent restenosis of drug-eluting stents in patients with diabetes mellitus: clinical presentation, angiographic features, and outcomes. Anatol J Cardiol. 2020;23(1):28–34.

## **Publisher's Note**

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.