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## Original Investigation

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# Extended Clopidogrel Monotherapy vs DAPT in Patients With Acute Coronary Syndromes at High Ischemic and Bleeding Risk

## The OPT-BIRISK Randomized Clinical Trial

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Abstract



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## Key Points

**Question** What is the optimal antiplatelet regimen in patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) undergoing percutaneous coronary interventions (PCIs) who are at both high bleeding and ischemic risks (birisk)?

**Findings** In this double-blind, randomized clinical trial including 7758 PCI-treated birisk patients with ACS who completed 9 to 12 months of dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) after PCI, clopidogrel monotherapy for an additional 9 months resulted in a 25% reduction in the risk of Bleeding Academic Research Consortium types 2, 3, or 5 bleeding compared with clopidogrel plus aspirin.

**Meaning** Among birisk patients with ACS who completed 9 to 12 months of DAPT after PCI, subsequent treatment with clopidogrel was superior to continuing DAPT with aspirin and clopidogrel in reducing clinically relevant bleeding.

## Abstract

**Importance** Purinergic receptor P2Y<sub>12</sub> (P2Y<sub>12</sub>) inhibitor monotherapy after a certain period of dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) may be an attractive option of maintenance antiplatelet treatment for pa-

tients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) who are at both high bleeding and ischemic risk (birisk).

**Objective** To determine if extended P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitor monotherapy with clopidogrel is superior to ongoing DAPT with aspirin and clopidogrel after 9 to 12 months of DAPT after PCI in birisk patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS).

**Design, Setting, and Participants** This was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial including birisk patients with ACS who had completed 9 to 12 months of DAPT after drug-eluting stent implantation and were free from adverse events for at least 6 months at 101 China centers between February 2018 and December 2020. Study data were analyzed from April 2023 to May 2023.

**Interventions** Patients were randomized either to clopidogrel plus placebo or clopidogrel plus aspirin for an additional 9 months.

**Main Outcomes and Measures** The primary end point was Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (BARC) types 2, 3, or 5 bleeding 9 months after randomization. The key secondary end point was major adverse cardiac and cerebral events (MACCE; the composite of all-cause death, myocardial infarction, stroke or clinically driven revascularization). The primary end point was tested for superiority, and the MACCE end point was tested for sequential noninferiority and superiority.

**Results** A total of 7758 patients (mean [SD] age, 64.8 [9.0] years; 4575 male [59.0%]) were included in this study. The primary end point of BARC types 2, 3, or 5 bleeding occurred in 95 of 3873 patients (2.5%) assigned to clopidogrel plus placebo and 127 of 3885 patients (3.3%) assigned to clopidogrel plus aspirin (hazard ratio [HR], 0.75; 95% CI, 0.57-0.97; difference, -0.8%; 95% CI, -1.6% to -0.1%;  $P = .03$ ). The incidence of MACCE was 2.6% (101 of 3873 patients) in the clopidogrel plus placebo group and 3.5% (136 of 3885 patients) in the clopidogrel plus aspirin group (HR, 0.74; 95% CI, 0.57-0.96; difference, -0.9%; 95% CI, -1.7% to -0.1%;  $P < .001$  for noninferiority;  $P = .02$  for superiority).

**Conclusions and Relevance** Among birisk patients with ACS who completed 9 to 12 months of DAPT after drug-eluting stent implantation and were free from adverse events for at least 6 months before randomization, an extended 9-month clopidogrel monotherapy regimen was superior to continuing DAPT with clopidogrel in reducing clinically relevant bleeding without increasing ischemic events.

**Trial Registration** ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: [NCT03431142](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT03431142)

**Invited Commentary**

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