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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CLINICAL RESEARCH

CORONARY

Bivalirudin and radial access are 2 strategies to avoid bleeding in patients with acute coronary syndrome. The interaction between those strategies is unclear. This analysis included trials that compared bivalirudin to heparin with or without glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors. Meta-analyses of outcomes on the basis of access site and anticoagulation regimen were performed. Bivalirudin lowered major bleeding in patients with femoral access but not in patients with radial access. Moreover, radial access lowered major bleeding in patients treated with heparin and not in patients treated with bivalirudin. In conclusion, the combined use of bivalirudin and radial access will not likely provide additional benefit compared with the use of either one separately.

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The aim of the present study was to determine the prognostic impact of chronic total occlusion (CTO) in patients with coronary artery disease. The study, based on 14,441 patients with CTO, demonstrates that the presence of CTO is associated with increased risk for mortality. The increased risk attributable to CTO was lowest in patients with stable angina and highest in younger patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Future randomized clinical trials are needed to determine whether routine revascularization of CTO in patients with stable angina and acute coronary syndromes is associated with improved outcome.

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CONTENTS

AUGUST 8, 2016 VOLUME 9, NUMBER 15