**Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology**

**Manuscript NO: 34684**

**Manuscript Type: ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

***Retrospective Cohort Study***

**Postoperative bleeding in patients on antithrombotic therapy after gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection**

Sato C *et al*. Post-ESD bleeding in antithrombotic agent users

Chiko Sato, Kingo Hirasawa, Ryonho Koh, Ryosuke Ikeda, Takehide Fukuchi, Ryosuke Kobayashi, Hiroaki Kaneko, Makomo Makazu, Shin Maeda

**Chiko Sato, Kingo Hirasawa, Ryonho Koh, Ryosuke Ikeda, Takehide Fukuchi, Ryosuke Kobayashi, Hiroaki Kaneko, Makomo Makazu,** Endoscopy Division, Yokohama City University Medical Center, Yokohama 232-0024, Japan

**Shin Maeda,** Department of Gastroenterology, Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine, Yokohama 236-0004, Japan

**Author contributions:** Hirasawa K and Sato C contributed to conception and design; Hirasawa K, Sato C, Koh R, Ikeda R, Fukuchi T, Kobayashi R, Kaneko H and Makazu M contributed to acquisition of data; Hirasawa K and Sato C contributed to analysis and interpretation of data; Hirasawa K contributed to drafting of the article; Hirasawa K and Maeda S contributed to critical revision of the article; Hirasawa K and Sato C contributed to statistical analysis; Hirasawa K and Maeda S final approved the article; all authors listed have contributed substantially to the design, data collection and analysis, and editing of the manuscript.

**Institutional review board statement:** This research was approved by the research ethics committee in our hospital (Approval number: D1602024).

**Informed consent statement:** Patients were not required to provide informed consent to the study because the analysis used anonymous clinical data that were obtained after each patient agreed to treatment by written consent.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** All the authors have no conflict of interest related to the manuscript.

**Data sharing statement:** No additional data are available.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

**Manuscript source:** Unsolicited manuscript

**Correspondence to:** **Kingo Hirasawa, MD, PhD,** Endoscopy Division, Yokohama Medical University Center Hospital, 4-57, Urafune-cho, Minami-ku, Yokohama 232-0024, Japan. kingo-h@urahp.yokohama-cu.ac.jp

**Telephone:** +81-45-2615656

**Fax:** +81-45-2535382

**Received:** May 17 2017

**Peer-review started:** May 19, 2017

**First decision:** June 8, 2017

**Revised:** June 26, 2017

**Accepted:** July 12, 2017

**Article in press:**

**Published online:**

**Abstract**

***AIM***

To investigated the relationship between postoperative bleeding following gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) and individual antithrombotic agents.

***METHODS***

A total of 2488 gastric neoplasms in 2148 consecutive patients treated between May 2001 and June 2016 were studied. The antithrombotic agents were categorized into antiplatelet agents, anticoagulants, and other antithrombotic agents, and we included combination therapies [*e.g.*, dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT)]. The risk factors associated with post-ESD bleeding, namely, antithrombotic agents overall, individual antithrombotic agents, withdrawal or continuation of antithrombotic agents, and bleeding onset period (during the first six days or thereafter), were analyzed using univariate and multivariate analyses.

***RESULTS***

The en bloc resection and complete curative resection rates were 99.2% and 91.9%, respectively. Postoperative bleeding occurred in 5.1% cases. Bleeding occurred in 10.3% of the patients administered antithrombotic agents. Being male (*p =* 0.007), specimen size (*p <* 0.001), and antithrombotic agent used (*p <* 0.001) were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding. Heparin bridging therapy (HBT) (*p =* 0.002) and DAPT/multidrug combinations (*p <* 0.001) were independent risk factors associated with postoperative bleeding. The bleeding rate of the antithrombotic agent continuation group was significantly higher than that of the withdrawal group (*p <* 0.01). Bleeding within postoperative day (POD) 6 was significantly higher in warfarin (*p =* 0.015), and bleeding after POD 7 was significantly higher in DAPT/multidrug combinations (*p =* 0.007). No thromboembolic events were reported.

*C****ONCLUSION***

We must closely monitor patients administered HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations after gastric ESD, particularly those administered multidrug combinations after discharge.

**Key words:** Gastric cancer; Endoscopic submucosal dissection; Postoperative hemorrhages; Antithrombotic agent; Heparin

**© The Author(s) 2017.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip:** The major complication of gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) is postoperative bleeding. Previous studies reported the relationship between postoperative bleeding and antithrombotic agents. We aimed to investigate postoperative bleeding following gastric ESD in relation to specific antithrombotic agents. We showed that antithrombotic agents, in particular heparin bridging therapy and dual antiplatelet therapy/multidrug combination, were independent risk factors for delayed bleeding. Furthermore, bleeding in the early period was significantly higher for warfarin, and bleeding in the late period was significantly higher for multidrug combination. We must strictly observe multidrug combination users especially after discharge.

Sato C, Hirasawa K, Koh R, Ikeda R, Fukuchi T, Kobayashi R, Kaneko H, Makazu M, Maeda S. Postoperative bleeding in patients on antithrombotic therapy after gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection. *World J Gastroenterol* 2017; In press

**Introduction**

Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for early gastric cancer is routinely performed worldwide, because it is minimally invasive and effective[1–3]. The most common complication associated with gastric ESD is postoperative bleeding, which has a frequency of 3.1%–6.5%[4–6].

The number of individuals administered antithrombotic agents has increased over recent years. The Japan Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Society (JGES) guidelines indicate that withdrawal or continuation of antithrombotic agents depends on whether the patient is at a high or low risk of thromboembolism during ESD[7]. The risk of postoperative bleeding increases when gastric ESD is performed on patients on antithrombotic agent therapy[8–10], and antithrombotic agent therapy is an independent risk factor for postoperative bleeding[11]. Heparin bridging therapy (HBT) is recommended for patients who are on anticoagulant therapy and are at a high risk of thromboembolism[7], and postoperative bleeding associated with gastric ESD worsens with HBT[12–14]. Furthermore, the preventive effect of HBT on thromboembolism is low[15]. By contrast, the risk of thromboembolism following antithrombotic agent withdrawal is 0.6%–4.2%[16–18]. Thus, caution is required when deciding whether to withdraw or continue antithrombotic agents in preparation for endoscopic treatment.

Few studies have investigated the incidence of thromboembolism following gastric ESD in relation to the different types of antithrombotic agent. Moreover, the safety and validity of HBT remain controversial. This study aimed to evaluate postoperative bleeding, the washout periods, and the thromboembolism incidence in relation to different antithrombotic agents following gastric ESD performed on patients administered antithrombotic agents.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Between May 2001 and June 2016, ESD was performed on 2148 patients and 2488 early gastric cancer lesions. Of these patients, 50 with cancer in their remnant stomachs and four with gastric tubes were excluded; thus, 2094 patients and 2434 lesions were evaluated. Multiple lesions resected en bloc were included in this study, and since the analysis was based on ESD-induced ulcers, 2094 patients and 2378 ulcers were investigated. We retrospectively reviewed the clinical records of all patients after obtaining approval from the institutional review board.

ESD is indicated for differentiated mucosal cancer lesions without ulcers (UL[-]), regardless of size, differentiated mucosal cancer lesions ≤ 3 cm with ulcers (UL[+]), UL[-] undifferentiated mucosal cancer ≤ 2 cm in size[19–21], and for lymph node metastasis-free and distant metastasis-free lesions that have been confirmed by preoperative computed tomography.

The antithrombotic agents were categorized into antiplatelet agents (low-dose aspirin and thienopyridine), anticoagulants [warfarin and direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC)], and other antithrombotic agents, and we included combination therapies, for example, dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT). Of the patients who received HBT, 94.9% were switched from warfarin; therefore, the warfarin group was called the non-HBT warfarin monotherapy group and it was analyzed separately from the group administered HBT.

The risk factors associated with postoperative bleeding were investigated in relation to age, sex, the size of the specimen, the tumor’s morphology, the tumor’s depth, the presence or absence of ulcerative findings, antithrombotic agent use, and the treatment outcomes. The postoperative bleeding risk was investigated in relation to the aforementioned drug categories. The time to bleeding with respect to each drug was separated into an early period, that is, before postoperative day (POD) 6, and a late period, that is, after POD 7. The withdrawal and continuation of the antithrombotic agents, including HBT, were investigated.

***Management and procedure***

If a patient was taking an oral antithrombotic agent, we consulted the attending physician before the procedure began and determined the feasibility of treatment withdrawal and the duration of the withdrawal period using the JGES guidelines. If patients were taking DAPT or multiple antithrombotic agents, we changed their treatment to low-dose aspirin monotherapy following preprocedural consultations with their attending physicians.

The patients in the antithrombotic agent continuation and withdrawal groups were hospitalized the day before the ESD. Patients switched to HBT from anticoagulant therapy were hospitalized three days before the ESD, and continuous intravenous drip infusions of unfractionated heparin were initiated. In the HBT group, we adjusted the dose to increase the activated partial thromboplastin time to 1.5–2-times that of the pretreatment value. We confirmed that the prothrombin time (PT)-international normalized ratio (INR) was not excessively prolonged on the day of the ESD. We interrupted the HBT 6 h before the ESD, and after the ESD, we confirmed adequate hemostasis at the ulcer’s base and restarted the HBT 3 h later. Anticoagulant therapy was reinstated from POD 2 following second-look endoscopy (SLE) on POD 1 to confirm hemostasis. To reach the peak plasma concentrations rapidly, the patients received twice their usual doses of anticoagulant therapy on POD 2, 1.5-times their doses on POD 3, and their usual doses from POD 4 onwards. In the HBT group, we stopped treatment after confirming that the PT-INR had reached its optimum range following the reinstatement of oral treatment. We also reinstated oral treatment in the withdrawal group from POD 2 onwards following SLE. All of the patients received omeprazole drip infusions (40 mg/day) on POD 1. From POD 2 onwards, they received an oral proton pump inhibitor (PPI) that, until 2014, comprised omeprazole (20 mg/day) and after 2015, comprised esomeprazole (20 mg/d); this treatment continued for at least eight weeks after ESD.

The gastric ESDs were performed using a conventional procedure[11,22]. After making the incision, a coagulation procedure was performed on the exposed blood vessels that remained in the ulcer’s base using hemostatic forceps (Coagrasper; Olympus Medical Systems Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). A mixture containing aluminum hydroxide gel, liquid magnesium hydroxide, and 10000 U thrombin (approximately 100 mL) was dispersed.

SLE was performed on all patients on POD 1 to check the bleeding from the ulcers’ bases, and if exposed blood vessels were detected, prophylactic hemostasis using a clip or coagulation hemostasis was performed. After confirming hemostasis, fluid intakes were resumed, and liquid meals were reinstated from POD 2. Solid meals, oral antithrombotic agents, and PPIs were reinstated simultaneously.

***Postoperative bleeding definitions***

Postoperative bleeding was defined as clinical evidence of bleeding in ESD-induced ulcers, which included the occurrence of overt hematemesis, the presence of melena, the presence of blood or clots in the stomach, spots of bleeding observed endoscopically, or a reduction in the hemoglobin level of > 2 g/dL. Preventive hemostasis of visible vessels without evidence of bleeding during SLE was not included in the analysis. Most patients were hospitalized for six days after the ESD; hence, bleeding that occurred during hospitalization was defined as early-phase postoperative bleeding, and that which occurred after discharge was defined as late-phase postoperative bleeding.

***Statistical analysis***

Some of the patients had more than one gastric neoplasm and underwent one or more ESDs. For the statistical analyses, the data from different ESD-induced ulcers were considered to represent statistically independent observations. The patients’ characteristics are expressed as the means and the standard deviations. The groups’ mean quantitative values were compared using analyses of variance followed by t tests. To investigate the potential risk factors associated with post-ESD bleeding, we analyzed the following variables: age; sex; the use of antithrombotic agents, including aspirin, thienopyridine, warfarin, DOACs, HBT, other antithrombotic agents, and DAPT/multidrug combinations; the resected specimen’s maximum diameter; the tumor’s location; pathological factors, including the macroscopic type, histological depth, and lymphovascular invasion; the ulcer’s characteristics; the procedure time; complications, including perforations, postoperative perforations, postoperative bleeding, and thromboembolism; drug withdrawal or continuation; and the bleeding time frame. For the univariate analyses, the categorical variables were compared using the chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test, as appropriate, followed by Fisher’s least significant difference post hoc test, and those variables with *p* values < 0.05 were included in the multivariate analyses. The odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using logistic regression analyses to identify the factors associated with postoperative bleeding. *P* values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. All of the statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS, version 13.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, United States).

**Results**

The ESD procedures were well tolerated by the patients, and their cardiac and respiratory parameters remained stable throughout the procedures. Table 1 presents the clinicopathological characteristics of and the treatment outcomes from the 2094 patients (2434 lesions and 2378 ulcers).

The en-bloc resection and complete curative resection rates were 99.2% and 91.9%, respectively. There were 74 (3.1%) cases with perforations, two (0.08%) postoperative perforations, and 122 (5.1%) cases of postoperative bleeding. No thromboembolic events occurred.

***Risk factors associated with postoperative bleeding***

To investigate the risk factors associated with postoperative bleeding, the ulcers (*n =* 2378) were divided into a bleeding group (*n =* 122) and a non-bleeding group (*n =* 2256). Overall, 447 ulcers (18.8%) occurred in the patients administered antithrombotic agents, and the rate of bleeding was 10.3% (46/447). The univariate analysis showed that being male (*p =* 0.002), a large specimen (*p <* 0.001), submucosal invasive cancer (*p =* 0.045), and antithrombotic agent use (*p <* 0.001) were significantly associated with post-ESD bleeding (Table 2). The multivariate analysis revealed that being male (OR = 2.103, 95%CI: 1.224–3.611, *p =* 0.007), the specimen size (OR = 1.025, 95%CI: 1.013–1.037, *p <* 0.001), and antithrombotic agent use (OR = 2.643, 95%CI: 1.796–3.889, *p <* 0.001) were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding (Table 3).

***Risk factors for post-ESD bleeding according to the drug(s) administered***

The antithrombotic agent group comprised 447 ulcers, and postoperative bleeding occurred in 211 (47.2%) cases on low-dose aspirin, 19 (4.3%) cases on thienopyridine, 17 (3.8%) cases on warfarin, 18 (4.0%) cases on DOACs, 70 (15.7%) cases on other antithrombotic monotherapies, 39 (8.7%) cases on HBT, and 75 (16.8%) cases on DAPT/multidrug combinations (Table 4). In addition, 94.9% (37 cases) of the HBT cases were warfarin users who were switched to HBT.

The bleeding rates were 5.7% (12/211 cases, *p =* 0.224) in the low-dose aspirin group, 0% (0/19 cases, *p =* 0.379) in the thienopyridine group, 5.9% (1/17 cases, *p =* 0.498) in the warfarin group, 5.6% (1/18 cases, *p =* 0.725) in the DOAC group, 4.3% (3/70 cases, *p =* 0.883) in the other antithrombotic monotherapy group, 15.4% (6/39 cases, *p <* 0.01) in the HBT group, and 30.7% (23/75 cases, *p <* 0.01) in the DAPT/multidrug combination group. The multivariate analysis determined that HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations were independent risk factors for post-ESD bleeding (HBT: OR = 4.244, 95%CI: [1.736–10.380], *p =* 0.002; DAPT/multidrug combinations: OR = 10.325, 95%CI: [6.060–17.593], *p <* 0.001) (Table 5).

***Rates of bleeding associated with antithrombotic agent withdrawal or continuation***

The postoperative bleeding rates in the control (1931 ulcers) and withdrawal (401 ulcers) groups were 3.9% (76/1931 ulcers) and 8.0% (32/401 ulcers), respectively, a difference that was significant (*p <* 0.01) (Table 6). The postoperative bleeding rates in the withdrawal (401 ulcers) and continuation (46 ulcers) groups were 8.0% (32/401 ulcers) and 30.4% (14/46 ulcers), respectively, a difference that was significant (*p <* 0.01) (Table 6).

***Bleeding times according to the drug(s) administered***

Bleeding during the early period (up to POD 6) was common among the patients administered warfarin (*p =* 0.015), and bleeding during the late period (from POD 7 onwards) was common among the patients administered DAPT/multidrug combinations (*p =* 0.007) (Table 7). Bleeding was commonly observed during the early period in patients administered HBT, a difference that was not significant compared with the other treatments.

**Discussion**

In this study, we investigated the risk of bleeding associated with gastric ESD, the bleeding time, and the risk of bleeding associated with treatment withdrawal or continuation according to the antithrombotic agent(s) administered. We determined that being male, a large specimen, and antithrombotic agent use were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding. Previous reports revealed that the prevalence of ischemic heart disease and stroke is higher for male than for female[23-25]. Furthermore, since ischemic heart disease and stroke are closely related to antithrombotic therapy, we considered that male sex is an independent risk factor.

Furthermore, HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding. This study’s findings showed that postoperative bleeding was significantly higher in the group that continued antithrombotic agents compared with the group that withdrew antithrombotic agents. Our findings also showed that early-phase bleeding was more frequent in association with HBT and that late-phase bleeding was more frequent in association with DAPT/multidrug combinations.

The bleeding rate for patients on antithrombotic agents is high at 23.3%–35.5%[26,27], that associated with HBT is higher at 23.8%–61.5%, and it is even higher in association with multidrug combinations[12–14,28,29]. We found that HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations were independent risk factors associated with postoperative bleeding, which concurs with previous reports. However, until now, the risk of post-ESD bleeding and the bleeding time frames in the context of individual antithrombotic agents had not been investigated in a large number of subjects. Furthermore, this is the first study to compare the risk of bleeding in a control group and a treatment withdrawal group, and in a withdrawal group and treatment continuation group.

In this investigation, 94.9% (37/39) of the patients treated with HBT were switched from warfarin therapy. When HBT patients are administered warfarin, they will be affected by the HBT; hence, the effect of warfarin alone on postoperative bleeding cannot be analyzed. Consequently, this study’s analysis involved assigning the patients to an HBT group or a non-HBT warfarin monotherapy group. In the warfarin group, 94% (16/17) of the patients continued their treatment, but there was no significant difference in relation to bleeding, a finding that has never been reported before.

The postoperative bleeding rate was high in the antithrombotic agent continuation group compared with the control and withdrawal groups. Therefore, to reduce the bleeding risk, antithrombotic agent withdrawal is preferable. However, between 1% and 4.2% of patients at a high risk of thromboembolism develop thromboembolisms following drug withdrawal[15–18]. Thus, drug withdrawal may trigger serious life-threatening complications. In contrast, another report states that the prognosis is significantly worse following the onset of gastrointestinal bleeding after percutaneous coronary intervention[30]. Regarding therapy withdrawal or continuation, physicians should examine a patient’s thromboembolism risk and the drug type, and consider implementing tailor-made treatment for each case.

The JGES guidelines recommend that for patients at a high risk of thromboembolism during endoscopic procedures that are associated with a high risk of bleeding, including ESD, it is preferable to administer aspirin alone with no treatment withdrawal. The guidelines from the USA and Europe also recommend continuing aspirin therapy[7,31,32]. Therefore, the continuation of aspirin therapy was permitted in this study. However, the times at which drug treatments other than aspirin are resumed in DAPT and combination therapy regimens to reduce the risk of bleeding must be investigated. On the other hand, withdrawing anticoagulants, for example, warfarin, will likely induce serious thromboembolism. Therefore, HBT after withdrawal is recommended for endoscopic procedures[7]. Patients administered warfarin and periprocedural HBT are at a higher risk of bleeding compared with those who are not administered HBT[33,34]. Currently, insufficient evidence exists that supports the prevention of thromboembolism by HBT, and reports have been published that state that it either has no effect on or it has an equivalent efficacy at preventing arterial thromboembolism and reducing the risk of bleeding[15,33]. In this study, perioperative thromboembolism did not occur in any of the patients; hence, the prophylactic effect of HBT on blood clots could not be verified. This study’s results demonstrated that HBT is an independent risk factor associated with bleeding, and considering previous reports, we recommend that patients on warfarin should either be switched to DOAC rather than HBT, or that they should continue warfarin treatment when ESD is indicated.

The times at which HBT and antithrombotic agent treatments are reinstated are determined once hemostasis has been confirmed; however, definitive timings have not been established. We reinstated heparin treatment from 3 h after ESD, after performing adequate hemostasis of the ulcer base and accounting for the thromboembolism risk. Furthermore, we performed SLE on the day after ESD, and we performed preventive hemostasis on the exposed blood vessels in the ulcers’ bases, even if there was no bleeding. Early bleeding was common before POD 6 in the HBT group. This may have been caused by the synergistic pharmacological effects of the heparin and the anticoagulants, which were reinstated from POD 2 onwards, reaching their peak plasma concentrations. In contrast, in the DAPT/multidrug combination group, the plasma concentrations of the respective antithrombotic agents were stable and required time to reach their peak ranges, and late bleeding became common from POD 7 onwards.

Many reports describe post-ESD bleeding prevention, and coagulation immediately after ESD is commonly used and is effective[5]. Applying a polyglycolic acid sheet to and spreading fibrin glue on ESD-induced ulcer bases are novel, easy, and effective approaches to the management of post-ESD bleeding in patients on antithrombotic agents[35–37], and they will be useful for patients who are at a high risk of bleeding.

The findings from a multicenter prospective randomized study of SLE undertaken by Mochizuki *et al*[38] showed that the postoperative bleeding rates did not differ significantly between the SLE and the non-SLE groups. These investigators reported that scheduled SLE could not be expected to reduce bleeding. However, another report states that SLE and third-look esophagogastroduodenoscopy are useful for preventing post-ESD bleeding in patients on antithrombotic agents[39]. Further investigations into these approaches are warranted.

The limitations of this study are as follows. First, this is a single-center retrospective cohort study. Second, the relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) and postoperative bleeding after gastric ESD was not investigated. We could not confirm the information about *H. pylori* infection and eradication, particularly in the initial cases, because of the long research period. As a result, only about 60% of the total information of *H. pylori* could be obtained; [thus, the state of *H. pylori* infection was excluded as a factor for postoperative bleeding in this study.](https://jp.mg5.mail.yahoo.co.jp/neo/)

This study’s findings demonstrated that HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations are independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding in patients on antithrombotic agents who undergo gastric ESD. Adequate management that considers the prevention of bleeding and thromboembolism is important.

***What is already known on this topic***

Antithrombotic agent therapy increases the risk of bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD). Serious thromboembolism may occur following antithrombotic agent withdrawal.

***What this study adds to our knowledge***

Heparin bridging therapy and dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT)/multidrug combinations are independent risk factors for bleeding post-ESD. Early-phase bleeding was more frequently associated with HBT, and late-phase bleeding was more frequently associated with DAPT/multidrug combinations. When patients on warfarin monotherapy and those who are switched from warfarin to HBT are investigated separately, HBT alone becomes a risk factor.

**comments**

***Background***

The most common complication associated with gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) is postoperative bleeding. An increasing number of reports have revealed that antithrombotic agent therapy is a risk factor after ESD. Withdrawal or continuation of antithrombotic agents is decided depending on the patient’s risk of thromboembolism. However, many reports showed that antithrombotic agents promote the risk of postoperative bleeding and withdrawal promotes thrombosis. Although it is clinically questionable whether all types of antithrombotic agents can be equally treated, detailed investigation has not yet been performed and the risk and benefit of continuation or withdrawal remain controversial. Thus, this study aimed to evaluate postoperative bleeding, the washout periods, and the thromboembolism incidence in relation to different antithrombotic agents following gastric ESD performed on patients administered antithrombotic agents.

***Research frontiers***

A previous retrospective study showed that the bleeding rate for gastric ESD patients on antithrombotic agents is high at 23.3%–35.5%, that associated with heparin bridge therapy (HBT) is higher, and it is even higher in association with multidrug combinations. The Japan Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Society (JGES) guidelines indicate that withdrawal or continuation of antithrombotic agents depends on whether the patient is at a high or low risk of thromboembolism during ESD. The JGES guidelines recommend that for patients at a high risk of thromboembolism during ESD, administration of aspirin alone with no treatment withdrawal is preferred, and the guidelines from the United States and Europe also recommend continuing aspirin therapy. Although HBT after withdrawal is also recommended for endoscopic procedures in the JGES guidelines, patients administered warfarin and periprocedural HBT are reported at a higher risk of bleeding compared with those who are not administered HBT. Furthermore, only few reports are available on the relationship with direct oral anticoagulants or dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT). Studies on drug continuation or withdrawal, by each drug, and the period to bleeding also remain unreported.

***Innovations and breakthroughs***

The authors determined that being male, a large specimen, and antithrombotic agent use were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding; this finding is almost the same as previously reported. Furthermore, HBT and DAPT/multidrug combinations were independent risk factors for postoperative bleeding. These study’s findings showed that postoperative bleeding was significantly higher in the group that continued antithrombotic agents compared with the group that withdrew antithrombotic agents. These findings also showed that early-phase bleeding was more frequent in association with HBT and that late-phase bleeding was more frequent in association with DAPT/multidrug combinations. The authors recommend paying strict attention to observe multidrug combination users, especially after discharge. However, until now, the risk of post-ESD bleeding and the bleeding time frames in the context of individual antithrombotic agents have not been investigated in a large number of subjects. The present study is the first to compare the risk of bleeding in a control group and a treatment withdrawal group, and in a withdrawal group and a treatment continuation group.

***Applications***

The results of this study serve as additional evidence to support the calculation of the risk of postoperative bleeding after gastric ESD posed by each antithrombotic agent based on continuation or withdrawal of the antithrombotic agent. Based on the present research, more robust evidence can be obtained in a prospective study.

***Terminology***

ESD is one of the endoscopic treatment procedures for superficial gastrointestinal cancer, which can be resected in en-bloc manner.

***Peer-review***

This original research paper investigates retrospectively postoperative bleeding in patients on antithrombotic therapy after gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection from the clinical records of patients in a large cohort. The authors showed that antithrombotic agent in particular heparin bridging therapy and dual antiplatelet therapy/multidrug combination were independent risk factors for delayed bleeding, and furthermore, bleeding in the early period was significantly higher for warfarin, and bleeding in the late period was significantly higher for multidrug combination. They recommend to pay attention strictly to observe multidrug combination users especially after discharge. The structure of the manuscript is complete. The scientific question and the aim of the study was stressed clearly in the introduction. The study is well-designed, and all methods and techniques were explained in details. The results add new findings and information to current knowledge. The results were discussed comprehensively.

**REFERENCES**

1 **Fujishiro M**. Endoscopic submucosal dissection for stomach neoplasms. *World J Gastroenterol* 2006; 12: 5108–5112 [PMID: 16937520 doi: 10.3748/wjg.v12.i32.5108]

2 **Gotoda T**, Yamamoto H, Soetikno RM. Endoscopic submucosal dissection of early gastric cancer. *J Gastroenterol* 2006; **41**: 929-942 [PMID: 17096062 DOI: 10.1007/s00535-006-1954-3]

3 **Gotoda T**. Endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer: the Japanese perspective. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol* 2006; **22**: 561-569 [PMID: 16891890 DOI: 10.1097/01.mog.0000239873.06243.00]

4 **Akasaka T**, Nishida T, Tsutsui S, Michida T, Yamada T, Ogiyama H, Kitamura S, Ichiba M, Komori M, Nishiyama O, Nakanishi F, Zushi S, Nishihara A, Iijima H, Tsujii M, Hayashi N. Short-term outcomes of endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for early gastric neoplasm: multicenter survey by osaka university ESD study group. *Dig Endosc* 2011; **23**: 73-77 [PMID: 21198921 DOI: 10.1111/j.1443-1661.2010.01062.x]

5 **Takizawa K**, Oda I, Gotoda T, Yokoi C, Matsuda T, Saito Y, Saito D, Ono H. Routine coagulation of visible vessels may prevent delayed bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection--an analysis of risk factors. *Endoscopy* 2008; **40**: 179-183 [PMID: 18322872 DOI: 10.1055/s-2007-995530]

6 **Okada K**, Yamamoto Y, Kasuga A, Omae M, Kubota M, Hirasawa T, Ishiyama A, Chino A, Tsuchida T, Fujisaki J, Nakajima A, Hoshino E, Igarashi M. Risk factors for delayed bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection for gastric neoplasm. *Surg Endosc* 2011; **25**: 98-107 [PMID: 20549245 DOI: 10.1007/s00464-010-1137-4]

7 **Fujimoto K**, Fujishiro M, Kato M, Higuchi K, Iwakiri R, Sakamoto C, Uchiyama S, Kashiwagi A, Ogawa H, Murakami K, Mine T, Yoshino J, Kinoshita Y, Ichinose M, Matsui T; Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society. Guidelines for gastroenterological endoscopy in patients undergoing antithrombotic treatment. *Dig Endosc* 2014; **26**: 1-14 [PMID: 24215155]

8 **Ono S**, Fujishiro M, Kodashima S, Takahashi Y, Minatsuki C, Mikami-Matsuda R, Asada-Hirayama I, Konno-Shimizu M, Tsuji Y, Mochizuki S, Niimi K, Yamamichi N, Kaneko M, Yatomi Y, Koike K. Evaluation of safety of endoscopic biopsy without cessation of antithrombotic agents in Japan. *J Gastroenterol* 2012; **47**: 770-774 [PMID: 22350697 DOI: 10.1007/s00535-012-0538-7]

9 **Iwatsuka K**, Gotoda T, Kusano C, Fukuzawa M, Sugimoto K, Itoi T, Kawai T, Moriyasu F. Clinical management of esophagogastroduodenoscopy by clinicians under the former guidelines of the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society for patients taking anticoagulant and antiplatelet medications. *Gastric Cancer* 2014; **17**: 680-685 [PMID: 24399493 DOI: 10.1007/s10120-013-0333-z]

10 **Fujita M**, Shiotani A, Murao T, Ishii M, Yamanaka Y, Nakato R, Matsumoto H, Tarumi K, Manabe N, Kamada T, Hata J, Haruma K. Safety of gastrointestinal endoscopic biopsy in patients taking antithrombotics. *Dig Endosc* 2015; **27**: 25-29 [PMID: 24766557 DOI: 10.1111/den.12303]

11 **Koh R**, Hirasawa K, Yahara S, Oka H, Sugimori K, Morimoto M, Numata K, Kokawa A, Sasaki T, Nozawa A, Taguri M, Morita S, Maeda S, Tanaka K. Antithrombotic drugs are risk factors for delayed postoperative bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection for gastric neoplasms. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2013; **78**: 476-483 [PMID: 23622974 DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2013.03.008]

12 **Matsumura T**, Arai M, Maruoka D, Okimoto K, Minemura S, Ishigami H, Saito K, Nakagawa T, Katsuno T, Yokosuka O. Risk factors for early and delayed post-operative bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection of gastric neoplasms, including patients with continued use of antithrombotic agents. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2014; **14**: 172 [PMID: 25280756 DOI: 10.1186/1471-230X-14-172]

13 **Yoshio T**, Nishida T, Kawai N, Yuguchi K, Yamada T, Yabuta T, Komori M, Yamaguchi S, Kitamura S, Iijima H, Tsutsui S, Michida T, Mita E, Tsujii M, Takehara T. Gastric ESD under Heparin Replacement at High-Risk Patients of Thromboembolism Is Technically Feasible but Has a High Risk of Delayed Bleeding: Osaka University ESD Study Group. *Gastroenterol Res Pract* 2013; **2013**: 365830 [PMID: 23843783 DOI: 10.1155/2013/365830]

14 **Shindo Y**, Matsumoto S, Miyatani H, Yoshida Y, Mashima H. Risk factors for postoperative bleeding after gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection in patients under antithrombotics. *World J Gastrointest Endosc* 2016; **8**: 349-356 [PMID: 27076874 DOI: 10.4253/wjge.v8.i7.349]

15 **Douketis JD**, Spyropoulos AC, Kaatz S, Becker RC, Caprini JA, Dunn AS, Garcia DA, Jacobson A, Jaffer AK, Kong DF, Schulman S, Turpie AG, Hasselblad V, Ortel TL; BRIDGE Investigators. Perioperative Bridging Anticoagulation in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation. *N Engl J Med* 2015; **373**: 823-833 [PMID: 26095867 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1501035]

16 **Garcia DA**, Regan S, Henault LE, Upadhyay A, Baker J, Othman M, Hylek EM. Risk of thromboembolism with short-term interruption of warfarin therapy. *Arch Intern Med* 2008; **168**: 63-69 [PMID: 18195197 DOI: 10.1001/archinternmed.2007.23]

17 **Blacker DJ**, Wijdicks EF, McClelland RL. Stroke risk in anticoagulated patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing endoscopy. *Neurology* 2003; **61**: 964-968 [PMID: 14557569]

18 **Maulaz AB**, Bezerra DC, Michel P, Bogousslavsky J. Effect of discontinuing aspirin therapy on the risk of brain ischemic stroke. *Arch Neurol* 2005; **62**: 1217-1220 [PMID: 16087761 DOI: 10.1001/archneur.62.8.1217]

19 **Japanese Gastric Cancer Association.** Japanese gastric cancer treatment guidelines 2010 (ver. 3). *Gastric Cancer* 2011; **14**: 113-123 [PMID: 21573742 DOI: 10.1007/s10120-011-0042-4]

20 **Japanese Gastric Cancer Association.**. Japanese gastric cancer treatment guidelines 2014 (ver. 4). *Gastric Cancer* 2017; **20**: 1-19 [PMID: 27342689 DOI: 10.1007/s10120-016-0622-4]

21 **Japanese Gastric Cancer Association**. Japanese Classification of Gastric Carcinoma - 2nd English Edition - *Gastric Cancer* 1998; **1**: 10-24 [PMID: 11957040]

22 **Hirasawa K**, Kokawa A, Oka H, Yahara S, Sasaki T, Nozawa A, Morimoto M, Numata K, Taguri M, Morita S, Maeda S, Tanaka K. Risk assessment chart for curability of early gastric cancer with endoscopic submucosal dissection. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2011; **74**: 1268-1275 [PMID: 22015001 DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2011.07.067]

23 **Kannel WB**, Hjortland MC, McNamara PM, Gordon T. Menopause and risk of cardiovascular disease: the Framingham study. *Ann Intern Med* 1976; **85**: 447-452 [PMID: 970770]

24 **Yusuf S**, Hawken S, Ounpuu S, Dans T, Avezum A, Lanas F, McQueen M, Budaj A, Pais P, Varigos J, Lisheng L; INTERHEART Study Investigators. Effect of potentially modifiable risk factors associated with myocardial infarction in 52 countries (the INTERHEART study): case-control study. *Lancet* 2004; **364**: 937-952 [PMID: 15364185 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(04)17018-9]

25 **Michel P**, Odier C, Rutgers M, Reichhart M, Maeder P, Meuli R, Wintermark M, Maghraoui A, Faouzi M, Croquelois A, Ntaios G. The Acute STroke Registry and Analysis of Lausanne (ASTRAL): design and baseline analysis of an ischemic stroke registry including acute multimodal imaging. *Stroke* 2010; **41**: 2491-2498 [PMID: 20930152 DOI: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.110.596189]

26 **Takeuchi T**, Ota K, Harada S, Edogawa S, Kojima Y, Tokioka S, Umegaki E, Higuchi K. The postoperative bleeding rate and its risk factors in patients on antithrombotic therapy who undergo gastric endoscopic submucosal dissection. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2013; **13**: 136 [PMID: 24010587 DOI: 10.1186/1471-230X-13-136]

27 **Tounou S**, Morita Y, Hosono T, Harada H, Hayasaka K, Katsuyama Y, Suehiro S, Nagano S, Shimizu T. Endoscopic submucosal dissection for early gastric cancer without interruption of warfarin and aspirin. *Endosc Int Open* 2015; **3**: E307-E310 [PMID: 26357675 DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1392018]

28 **Toyoda K**, Yasaka M, Iwade K, Nagata K, Koretsune Y, Sakamoto T, Uchiyama S, Gotoh J, Nagao T, Yamamoto M, Takahashi JC, Minematsu K; Bleeding with Antithrombotic Therapy (BAT) Study Group. Dual antithrombotic therapy increases severe bleeding events in patients with stroke and cardiovascular disease: a prospective, multicenter, observational study. *Stroke* 2008; **39**: 1740-1745 [PMID: 18388341 DOI: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.107.504993]

29 **Hallas J**, Dall M, Andries A, Andersen BS, Aalykke C, Hansen JM, Andersen M, Lassen AT. Use of single and combined antithrombotic therapy and risk of serious upper gastrointestinal bleeding: population based case-control study. *BMJ* 2006; **333**: 726 [PMID: 16984924 DOI: 10.1136/bmj.38947.697558.AE]

30 **Nikolsky E**, Stone GW, Kirtane AJ, Dangas GD, Lansky AJ, McLaurin B, Lincoff AM, Feit F, Moses JW, Fahy M, Manoukian SV, White HD, Ohman EM, Bertrand ME, Cox DA, Mehran R. Gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with acute coronary syndromes: incidence, predictors, and clinical implications: analysis from the ACUITY (Acute Catheterization and Urgent Intervention Triage Strategy) trial. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2009; **54**: 1293-1302 [PMID: 19778672 DOI: 10.1016/j.jacc.2009.07.019]

31 **ASGE Standards of Practice Committee.**, Acosta RD, Abraham NS, Chandrasekhara V, Chathadi KV, Early DS, Eloubeidi MA, Evans JA, Faulx AL, Fisher DA, Fonkalsrud L, Hwang JH, Khashab MA, Lightdale JR, Muthusamy VR, Pasha SF, Saltzman JR, Shaukat A, Shergill AK, Wang A, Cash BD, DeWitt JM. The management of antithrombotic agents for patients undergoing GI endoscopy. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2016; **83**: 3-16 [PMID: 26621548 DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2015.09.035]

32 **European Atrial Fibrillation Trial Study Group.**. Optimal oral anticoagulant therapy in patients with nonrheumatic atrial fibrillation and recent cerebral ischemia. *N Engl J Med* 1995; **333**: 5-10 [PMID: 7776995]

33 **Siegal D**, Yudin J, Kaatz S, Douketis JD, Lim W, Spyropoulos AC. Periprocedural heparin bridging in patients receiving vitamin K antagonists: systematic review and meta-analysis of bleeding and thromboembolic rates. *Circulation* 2012; **126**: 1630-1639 [PMID: 22912386 DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.112.105221]

34 **Li HK**, Chen FC, Rea RF, Asirvatham SJ, Powell BD, Friedman PA, Shen WK, Brady PA, Bradley DJ, Lee HC, Hodge DO, Slusser JP, Hayes DL, Cha YM. No increased bleeding events with continuation of oral anticoagulation therapy for patients undergoing cardiac device procedure. *Pacing Clin Electrophysiol* 2011; **34**: 868-874 [PMID: 21410724 DOI: 10.1111/j.1540-8159.2011.03049.x]

35 **Tsuji Y**, Fujishiro M, Kodashima S, Ono S, Niimi K, Mochizuki S, Asada-Hirayama I, Matsuda R, Minatsuki C, Nakayama C, Takahashi Y, Sakaguchi Y, Yamamichi N, Koike K. Polyglycolic acid sheets and fibrin glue decrease the risk of bleeding after endoscopic submucosal dissection of gastric neoplasms (with video). *Gastrointest Endosc* 2015; **81**: 906-912 [PMID: 25440679 DOI: 10.1016/j.gie.2014.08.028]

36 **Fukuda H**, Yamaguchi N, Isomoto H, Matsushima K, Minami H, Akazawa Y, Ohnita K, Takeshima F, Shikuwa S, Nakao K. Polyglycolic Acid Felt Sealing Method for Prevention of Bleeding Related to Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection in Patients Taking Antithrombotic Agents. *Gastroenterol Res Pract* 2016; **2016**: 1457357 [PMID: 27022390 DOI: 10.1155/2016/1457357]

37 **Tan ES**, Wang H, Lua GW, Liu F, Shi XG, Li ZS. Fibrin Glue Spray as a Simple and Promising Method to Prevent Bleeding after Gastric Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection. *Dig Surg* 2016; **33**: 455-461 [PMID: 27220883 DOI: 10.1159/000446252]

38 **Mochizuki S**, Uedo N, Oda I, Kaneko K, Yamamoto Y, Yamashina T, Suzuki H, Kodashima S, Yano T, Yamamichi N, Goto O, Shimamoto T, Fujishiro M, Koike K; SAFE Trial Study Group. Scheduled second-look endoscopy is not recommended after endoscopic submucosal dissection for gastric neoplasms (the SAFE trial): a multicentre prospective randomised controlled non-inferiority trial. *Gut* 2015; **64**: 397-405 [PMID: 25301853 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2014-307552]

39 **Tano S**, Horiki N, Omata F, Tanaka K, Hamada Y, Katsurahara M, Ninomiya K, Nishikawa K, Nojiri K, Yamada R, Inoue H, Gabazza EC, Katayama N, Takei Y. Second and third-look endoscopy for the prevention of post-ESD bleeding. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2015; **94**: e491 [PMID: 25674738 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000000491]

**P-Reviewer:** Arigami T, Kadayifci a **S-Editor:** Ma YJ **L-Editor:** **E-Editor:**

**Specialty type:** Gastroenterology and hepatology

**Country of origin:** Japan

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): B, b

Grade C (Good): 0

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**Table 1 clinicopathological features and treatment outcomes of all 2094 patients (2434 lesions and 2378 ulcers) *n* (%)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| age (mean ± SD, yr) | 72 ± 6.9 |
| Gender | |
| Male | 1786 (75.1) |
| Female | 592 (24.9) |
| Location | |
| U | 17.3 (412) |
| M | 31.2 (742) |
| L | 51.5 (1224) |
| Morphology | |
| Protruded | 1042 (43.8) |
| Flat/depressed | 1336 (56.2) |
| specimen size, (mean±SD, mm) | 39 ± 9.8 |
| Depth of invasion | |
| M | 2227 (93.7) |
| SM | 151 (6.3) |
| Ulcerative findings | |
| (+) | 203 (8.5) |
| (-) | 2175 (91.5) |
| Anticoagulant agents | |
| (+) | 447 (18.8) |
| (-) | 1931 (81.2) |
| En-bloc resection | 99.2% |
| R0+curative resection | 91.9% |
| Mean procedure time ± SD (min) | 49 ± 30.1 |
| Complications | |
| Perforation | 74 (3.1) |
| Delayed perforation | 2 (0.8) |
| Delayed bleeding | 122 (5.1) |
| Thromboembolism | 0 |

**Table 2 Univariate analysis of risk factors of delayed bleeding *n* (%)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***n* = 2378** | **Delayed bleeding** | | ***p* value** | **OR** | **95%CI** |
| **(+) *n =* 122** | **(-) *n =* 2256** |
| age (mean± SD, yr) |  | 71.5 ± 8.7 | 71.1 ± 8.8 | 0.6222 | 1.005 | 0.984-1.027 |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Male | 1786 (75.1) | 106 (5.9) | 1680 (94.1) | 0.0021 | 2.271 | 1.331-3.875 |
| Female | 24.9 (592) | 2.7 (16) | 97.3 (576) |  |  |  |
| Location | | | | | | |
| U | 412 (17.3) | 17 (4.1) | 395 (95.9) |  | Reference | 1.0 |
| M | 742 (31.2) | 40 (5.4) | 702 (94.6) | 0.342 | 1.303 | 0.755-2.250 |
| L | 1224 (51.5) | 65 (5.3) | 1159 (94.7) | 0.344 | 1.324 | 0.741-2.366 |
| Morphology | | | | | | |
| Protruded | 1042 (43.8) | 49 (4.7) | 993 (95.3) | 0.4041 | 0.854 | 0.589-1.238 |
| Flat/depressed | 1336 (56.2) | 73 (5.5) | 1263 (94.5) |  |  |  |
| specimen size (mean ± SD, mm) | 38.9±2.2 | 44.4±15.1 | 38.9±13.1 | < 0.0012 | 1.025 | 1.014-1.037- |
| Depth of invasion | | | | | | |
| M | 93.7 (2227) | 109 (4.9) | 2118 (95.1) | 0.0451 | 1.83 | 1.004-3.336 |
| SM | 151 (6.3) | 13 (8.6) | 138 (91.4) |  |  |  |
| Ulcerative findings | | | | | | |
| (+) | 203 (8.5) | 12 (5.9) | 191 (94.1) | 0.5981 | 1.179 | 0.638-2.179 |
| (-) | 2175 (91.5) | 110 (5.1) | 2065 (94.9) |  |  |  |
| Anticoagulant agents | | | | | | |
| (+) | 447 (18.8) | 46 (10.3) | 401 (89.7) | < 0.0011 | 2.8 | 1.911-4.101 |
| (-) | 1931 (81.2) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |  |  |  |
| En-bloc resection rate | 99.2% | 99.1% | 99.2% | 0.979 | 0.973 | 0.129-7.329 |
| R0+curative resection rate | 91.9% | 95.1% | 97.1% | 0.198 | 1.744 | 0.740-4.017 |
| Median procedure time (min) | 49 ± 30.1 | 50±30.8 | 50±32.2 | 0.8852 | 1.033 | 0.840-2.354 |

1**2 test; 2*t*-test.

**Table 3 Multivariate analysis of risk factors of delayed bleeding**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***p* value** | **OR** | **95%CI** |
| Male | 0.007 | 2.103 | 1.224-3.611 |
| Median specimen size | < 0.001 | 1.025 | 1.013-1.037 |
| SM | 0.187 | 1.516 | 0.817-2.812 |
| Anticoagulant agents (+) | < 0.001 | 2.643 | 1.796-3.889 |

**Table 4 Univariate analysis of risk factors for delayed bleeding by each antithrombotic agent *n* (%)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Delayed bleeding** | | ***p* value1** | **OR** | **95%CI** |
| **(+)** | **(-)** |
| Aspirin | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 211) | 12 (5.7) | 199 (94.3) | 0.224 | 1.472 | 0.787-2.753 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |
| Thienopyridine | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 19) | 0 (0) | 19 (100) | 0.379 | 0.99 | 0.985-0.994 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |
| Warfarin | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 17) | 1 (5.9) | 16 (94.1) | 0.498 | 1.525 | 0.200-11.653 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 3.9 (76) | 1855 (96.1) |
| DOAC | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 18) | 1 (5.6) | 17 (94.4) | 0.725 | 1.436 | 0.189-10.930 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 3.9 (76) | 1855 (96.1) |
| Others | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 70) | 3 (4.3) | 67 (95.7) | 0.883 | 1.093 | 0.336-3.554 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |
| HBT | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 39) | 6 (15.4) | 33 (84.6) | < 0.01 | 4.438 | 1.805-10.911 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |
| DAPT/multidrug combination | | | | | |
| (+) (*n =* 75) | 23 (30.7) | 52 (69.3) | < 0.01 | 10.796 | 6.280-18.558 |
| (-) (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) |

1**2 test. DOAC: direct oral anticoagulants; HBT: Heparin bridging therapy; DAPT: dual antiplatelet therapy.

**Table 5 Multivariate analysis of risk factors for delayed bleeding by each antithrombotic agent**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***p* value** | **OR** | **95%CI** |
| HBT | 0.002 | 4.244 | 1.736-10.380 |
| DAPT/multidrug combination | < 0.001 | 10.325 | 6.060-17.593 |

HBT: Heparin bridging therapy; DAPT: dual antiplatelet therapy.

**Table 6 Investigation of rate of bleeding based on withdrawal or continuation of antithrombotic agent *n* (%)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Delayed bleeding** | | ***p* value1** | **OR** | **95%CI** |
| **(+)** | **(-)** |  |  |  |
| Control group/ withdrawal group | | | | | |
| Control (*n =* 1931) | 76 (3.9) | 1855 (96.1) | < 0.01 | 0.472 | 0.308-0.725 |
| Withdrawal (*n =* 401) | 32 (8.0) | 369 (92.0) |
| Withdrawal group /continuation group | | | | | |
| Withdrawal (*n =* 401) | 32 (8.0) | 369 (92.0) | < 0.01 | 5.045 | 2.445-10.411 |
| Continuation (*n =* 46) | 14 (30.4) | 32 (69.6) |

1**2 test.

**Table 7 Investigation of bleeding time by each drug**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Bleeding (+)*n =* 46** | | ***p* value1** | **OR** | **95% CI** |
| **Early phase** | **Late phase** |  |  |  |
| Aspirin (*n =* 12) | 6 | 6 | 0.477 | 0.619 | 0.164-2.332 |
| Thienopyridine (*n =* 0) | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| Warfarin (*n =* 7) | 6 | 1 | 0.015 | 0.083 | 0.009-0.767 |
| DOAC (*n =* 1) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.038 | 0.964-1.118 |
| Others (*n =* 3) | 2 | 1 | 0.561 | 0.327 | 0.027-3.892 |
| HBT (*n =* 6) | 5 | 1 | 0.068 | 0.108 | 0.011-1.015 |
| DAPT/multidrug combination (*n =* 23) | 5 | 18 | 0.007 | 5.6 | 1.530-20.492 |

1Fisher’s exact test. DOAC: direct oral anticoagulants; HBT: Heparin bridging therapy.