



**Title**      **The Role of Clopidogrel in the Secondary Prevention of Recurrent Ischemic Vascular Events after Acute Myocardial Ischemia: A Critical Appraisal of the CURE Trial**

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**Reference**   **CCOHTA Technology Report, Issue 32, November 2002. ISBN 1-894620-18-6 (print); ISBN 1-894620-17-8 (online): <http://www.ccohta.ca>**

## Aim

- To determine the population most likely to benefit from using a combination of clopidogrel and acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) to prevent recurrent ischemic vascular events after an episode of acute coronary syndrome (ACS)
- To assess the efficacy and safety of the clopidogrel/ASA combination.

## Conclusions and results

*Target Population:* The randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled CURE trial examined two co-primary outcomes: a) the composite of cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI, or stroke, and b) the composite of (a) or refractory ischemia. Secondary outcomes included severe ischemia, recurrent angina, a need for coronary revascularization procedures, and heart failure. The population studied in the CURE trial included mainly ACS patients with non-ST-segment elevation who were at high risk of cardiac ischemia or necrosis.

*Efficacy and Safety:* Results suggest that the early addition of clopidogrel to ASA reduces subsequent cardiovascular morbidity, compared to ASA alone, in this specific group of patients. In the CURE trial, this clinical benefit was mainly due to a reduced number of non-fatal heart attacks. The advantages of using the clopidogrel/ASA combination must, however, be interpreted in light of the increased risk of bleeding complications experienced by patients.

## Recommendations

Not applicable.

## Methods

A literature search confirmed that only two clinical trials addressing the objectives of this report have been conducted: CURE (Clopidogrel in Unstable angina to prevent Recurrent Events) and CAPRIE (Clopidogrel versus Aspirin in Patients at Risk of Ischemic Events). A Canadian representative of the manufacturer of clopidogrel was invited to submit information. The CURE trial was critically appraised, including an overall assessment of the quality of the trial using the Jadad scale.

## Further Research/Reviews Required

Not applicable.