

**A PROSPECTIVE STUDY ON CHA2DS2-VASC SCORE AS A NOVEL PREDICTOR FOR CONTRAST-INDUCED NEPHROPATHY AFTER PERCUTANEOUS CORONARY INTERVENTION IN ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME IN NORTH KARNATAKA**

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**Abstract**

**Objective:** This study aims at analyzing the predictive value of the CHA2DS2-VASc score as a simple tool for predicting CIN in patients with ACS undergoing PCI.

**Background:** CHA2DS2-VASc is a prediction tool for the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation. It is a composite scoring system including congestive heart failure (CHF)/left ventricular dysfunction, hypertension, age  $\geq 75$  years, diabetes mellitus, previous stroke, vascular disease, age 65–74 years, and sex (female).

**Patients and method:** This study included 130 patients presented with the acute coronary syndrome who underwent percutaneous coronary intervention Sri Jayadeva Institute of cardiovascular sciences and research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka from September 2020 to March 2022. CHA2DS2 VASC score was calculated for each patient. Patients were divided into two groups as group 1 (patients who did not develop CIN) while group 2 (patients who developed CIN). Whole History taking, thorough clinical examination, echocardiography, and laboratory investigations were done for all patients included in this study. serum creatinine at admission & 48 hrs after PCI were done to search for CIN. CIN was defined as increase in serum creatinine level more than 0.5 mg/dl or more than 25% increase from baseline within 48 h after PCI.

**Results:** There was a significant difference between studied groups as regards CHA2DS2 VASC score. The cutoff value of the CHA2DS2 VASC score for the prediction of contrast-induced nephropathy cases is 4 with sensitivity of 69.57% & specificity of 76.64%.

**Conclusion:** CHA2DS2-VASc score serves as a simple yet effective tool for predicting CIN pre-procedure, which can be easily implemented in day-to-day clinical practice.

**Keywords:** Acute Coronary syndrome, CHA2DS2-VASc, Contrast induced nephropathy, percutaneous Coronary intervention.

**Introduction**

The CHA2DS2-VASC risk score (CVRS) was developed for embolic risk stratification in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) to provide further optimal anticoagulant therapy [1]. Studies have confirmed that the CVRS could be used for the prediction of coronary artery disease [2, 3] and long-term prognosis in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) [4, 5]. Moreover, it was feasible in predicting acute stent thrombosis in AF-free patients [6] and the no-reflow phenomenon among patients with ST-segment

elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) who underwent primary PCI [7]. Since the CVRS is widely used, whether it can be useful to predict contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN), which is one of the most common complications in patients who undergo PCI, is unclear. Evidences have suggested that the scoring system also has a predictive value for CIN after PCI among patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) [8] and STEMI [9]. However, the usefulness of the CVRS in predicting the occurrence of CIN among patients with chronic total occlusion (CTO) undergoing PCI remains unknown. In this study, we aimed to determine CVRS as a predictor of CIN among these patients.

### **Materials & Method**

This study included 130 patients presented with the acute coronary syndrome who underwent percutaneous coronary intervention Sri Jayadeva Institute of cardiovascular sciences and research, Kalaburagi, Karnataka from September 2020 to March 2022. The serum creatinine level was monitored for 72 h after the procedure to determine the occurrence of CIN. Exclusion criteria included patients who underwent haemodialysis or those with glomerular filtration rate (GFR)  $< 15 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$ , severe heart failure [New York Heart Association (NYHA) IV], pulmonary oedema, recent (past 2 days) use of contrast, and the use of potential nephrotoxic drugs within 72 h prior to the procedure and 72 h after the catheterization. PCI was performed among patients with angina or silent ischaemia with viable myocardium in the occluded coronary artery using the myocardial nuclear scan, stress dobutamine echo-cardiography, or cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. All patients were prescribed a loading dose of aspirin 300 mg and clopidogrel 300 mg prior to the procedure. The CAG was performed via the radial artery approach, and bilateral CAG was performed when necessary. We attempted to open the CTO lesion using antegrade crossing techniques. The femoral artery path was used during vasospasm or vascular tortuosity or based on the operator's decision. Retrograde crossing techniques were used if the antegrade crossing techniques failed and the patient had a good collateral circulation. Heparin 100 U/kg was administered as an anticoagulant. The use of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitor and the type of stents were based on the physician's discretion. All patients signed an informed consent. Iopromide [for patients with estimated GFR (eGFR)  $\geq 40 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$ ] and iodixanol (for patients with eGFR  $< 40 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$ ) were used during the procedure. Patients with a baseline eGFR  $< 40 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$  received intravenous hydration with a standard normal saline at a rate of 1 mL/kg/h (or 0.5 mL/kg/h in patients with heart failure) for at least 12 h before and after the cardiac catheterization. Potential nephrotoxic drugs were withdrawn for at least 72 h before and after the catheterization.

### **Statistical analysis**

Normally distributed continuous variables were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, and non-normally distributed variables were represented as median (min-max). Similarly, categorical variables were expressed as percentages. To compare the differences of continuous data, the analysis of variance was used to analyse parametric data, and the Kruskal–Wallis H test was carried out for nonparametric data. Categorical data were analysed using the Chi-square or Fisher's exact test based on the actual situation. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was used to determine the optimum cutoff values of the CVRS to predict the incidence of CIN. Additionally, the logistic regression model was used to determine the independent predictors of CIN that were not included in the CVRS. A P-value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results and Observation**

A total of 130 patients with CTO (82 females, 34.3%) who underwent angiography were included in this study, and all enrolled patients were followed-up for 72 h after the procedure. The incidence of CIN was 16.3%. In this study, the incidence of CTO lesions was predominant in the right coronary artery (97, 40.6%). Transradial approach was the predominant access route (69%). The retrograde approach accounted for 23.8% of the procedures, and the success rate of the operation was 92.1%. None of the patients had SRD which required early dialysis and major bleeding which needed transfusion; however, a groin haematoma > 5 cm was observed in 2.1% (n = 5) of the patients

**Table 1: Clinical characteristics of study population according to CHA2DS2-VASC**

Variable	CHA2DS2-VASc Score			p-value
	low risk (1 point, n=64)	intermediate risk (2–3 points, n=135)	high risk (≥4 points, n=40)	
Age (years), mean (SD)	53.0 ± 7.5	59.1 ± 6.4	67.9 ± 7.9	P<0.001
Gender (female), n(%)	0	63 (47.4)	19 (47.5)	P<0.001
Body mass index (Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.3 ± 1.8	24.4 ± 2.9	24.3 ± 2.6	0.04
Diabetes Mellitus, n(%)	0	20 (14.8)	20 (50.0)	P<0.001
Hypertension, n(%)	0	34 (25.2)	27 (67.5)	P<0.001
Stroke history, n(%)	0	2 (1.5)	6 (15.0)	P<0.001
Current smoker, n(%)	17 (26.6)	45 (33.3)	8 (20.0)	0.23
Previous MI, n(%)	19 (29.2)	46 (34.1)	11 (25.5)	0.67
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	119.1 ± 13.7	121.8 ± 12.1	124.6 ± 14.2	0.28
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	74.7 ± 10.0	74.2 ± 9.3	72.4 ± 5.8	0.015
Pulse pressure (mmHg)	44.4 ± 10.2	47.6 ± 9.7	52.2 ± 12.2	0.001
LVEF	0.51 ± 0.04	0.45 ± 0.06	0.43 ± 0.04	P<0.01
NYHA 2–3 on admission	0	20 (14.8)	17 (42.5)	P<0.01
Total Cholesterol (mmol/L)	4.2 ± 1.0	4.3 ± 1.1	4.3 ± 0.9	0.70
LDL-C (mmol/L)	2.6 ± 0.6	2.5 ± 0.6	2.7 ± 0.6	0.23
HDL-C (mmol/L)	1.1 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.4	0.25
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	1.6 ± 1.2	1.5 ± 1.3	1.3 ± 0.8	0.59
Fasting Glucose (mmol/L)	5.3 ± 0.5	5.5 ± 0.8	5.8 ± 1.0	0.027
eGFR baseline (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	102.0 ± 13.8	92.8 ± 17.0	89.5 ± 17.6	P<0.001
eGFR after PCI (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	98.4 ± 14.2	87.4 ± 19.5	76.2 ± 21.3	P<0.001
First Day Creatinine (µmol/l)	68.8 ± 19.2	69.5 ± 16.9	65.0 ± 17.6	0.37
Uric acid (µmol/l)	330.3 ± 69.9	330.8 ± 69.8	336.1 ± 75.6	0.90
Total amount of contrast (ml)	181.8 ± 63.5	241.8 ± 104.0	320.3 ± 92.5	P<0.001
Total time of procedure (min)	74.4 ± 45.6	96.1 ± 47.7	129.7 ± 51.6	P<0.001
The retrograde approach, n(%)	14 (21.5)	29 (21.5)	14 (35.0)	0.19
Transradial + transfemoral approach, n(%)	21 (32.8)	42 (31.1)	17 (42.5)	0.40
IABP, n(%)	4 (6.3)	6 (4.4)	7 (17.5)	0.02
IVUS, n(%)	4 (6.3)	9 (6.7)	5 (12.5)	0.42
Stent number	1.9 ± 0.3	2.3 ± 0.6	2.6 ± 1.1	P<0.001
Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitor, n(%)	12 (18.8)	24 (17.8)	13 (32.5)	0.12
CIN	4 (6.3)	20 (14.8)	15 (37.5)	P<0.001

*MI* myocardial infarction, *LVEF* left ventricular ejection fraction, *NYHA* New York Heart Association (classification), *LDL-C* low density lipoprotein-cholesterol, *HDL-C* high density lipoprotein-cholesterol, *IABP* intra-aortic balloon pump, *IVUS* intravascular ultrasound, *CIN* contrast induced nephropathy

The mean age of our study population was  $59.4 \pm 9.9$  years, and the mean CVRS was  $2.3 \pm 1.3$ . The patients' demographic and clinical characteristics were compared among the 3 groups (Table 1). Data on the age, female gender, and the incidence of hypertension, pulse pressure, diabetes mellitus, stroke, and NYHA II–III on admission were higher in the group with CVRS  $\geq 4$ . The patients in the high-risk group had higher pulse pressure, total contrast volume, total procedure time, rate of intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) insertion, and number of stent implantation and lower eGFR and diastolic blood pressure. The overall rate of CIN was 16.3%, and a significant difference was noted in the high-risk group compared to the low-risk and intermediate-risk groups (6.3% VS 14.8% VS 37.5%,  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Table 2 Clinical characteristics of the patients with and without contrast-induced nephropathy**

Variable	contrast-induced nephropathy		P-value
	Yes (n = 39)	NO (n = 200)	
Age (years), mean (SD)	$58.4 \pm 8.4$	$64.5 \pm 14.7$	$P < 0.001$
Gender (female), n(%)	17 (43.6)	65 (32.5)	0.13
Body mass index (Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	$24.6 \pm 2.7$	$24.7 \pm 2.4$	0.85
Diabetes Mellitus, n(%)	11 (28.2)	29 (14.5)	0.04
Hypertension, n(%)	21 (53.8)	40 (20.0)	$P < 0.001$
Stroke history, n(%)	5 (12.8)	3 (1.5)	0.004
Current smoker, n(%)	7 (17.9)	63 (31.5)	0.06
Previous MI, n(%)	15 (38.5)	50 (25.0)	0.11
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	$120.6 \pm 12.6$	$126.5 \pm 13.8$	0.009
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	$74.5 \pm 9.2$	$72.1 \pm 8.1$	$P < 0.001$
Pulse pressure (mmHg)	$54.4 \pm 12.1$	$46.1 \pm 9.7$	$P < 0.001$
LVEF	$0.47 \pm 0.07$	$0.44 \pm 0.06$	0.02
NYHA 2–3 on admission	7 (17.9)	30 (15.0)	0.40
Total Cholesterol (mg/dl)	$4.4 \pm 0.7$	$4.3 \pm 1.1$	0.33
LDL-C (mmol/L)	$2.8 \pm 0.5$	$2.5 \pm 0.6$	0.007
HDL-C (mmol/L)	$1.0 \pm 0.2$	$1.1 \pm 0.3$	0.09
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	$1.4 \pm 0.6$	$1.5 \pm 1.3$	0.35
Fasting Glucose (mmol/L)	$5.4 \pm 0.7$	$5.8 \pm 1.3$	0.004
Baseline eGFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	$94.6 \pm 17.6$	$92.7 \pm 20.3$	0.53
Baseline Creatinine ( $\mu$ mol/l)	$69.2 \pm 18.0$	$65.3 \pm 15.6$	0.21
Uric acid ( $\mu$ mol/l)	$355.4 \pm 72.4$	$326.9 \pm 69.4$	0.02
Total amount of contrast (ml)	$299.2 \pm 105.2$	$227.1 \pm 98.3$	$P < 0.001$
The retrograde approach, n(%)	6 (15.4)	51 (25.5)	0.12
Transradial + transfemoral approach, n(%)	12 (30.8)	68 (34.0)	0.85
Procedural duration (min)	$91.0 \pm 50.0$	$120.9 \pm 48.4$	$P < 0.001$
IABP, n(%)	3 (7.7)	14 (7.0)	0.75
IVUS, n(%)	4 (10.3)	14 (7.0)	0.51
Stent number	$2.2 \pm 0.9$	$2.2 \pm 0.6$	0.96

Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitor, n(%)	18 (46.2)	31 (15.5)	P<0.001
CHA2DS2-VASc Score	3.1 ± 1.2	2.1 ± 1.1	P<0.001

MI myocardial infarction, LVEF left ventricular ejection fraction, NYHA New York Heart Association (classification), LDL-C low density lipoprotein-cholesterol, HDL-C high density lipoprotein-cholesterol, IABP intra-aortic balloon pump, IVUS intravascular ultrasound

The incidence of CIN was 16.3%. Table 2 demonstrates that patients diagnosed with CIN were older and required longer procedure time. A significant difference was observed in the age, female, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, pulse pressure, and incidence of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and stroke history between the 2 groups. Furthermore, patients with CIN had higher LDL-C, fasting glucose, uric acid, total contrast volume, rate of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitor, and CVRS than those without CIN (3.1 ± 1.2 VS 2.1 ± 1.1; P < 0.001). The ROC curve analysis revealed that the area under the curve for predicting CIN was 0.742 (sensitivity, 69.2%; specificity, 78.0%; 95% CI, 0.682–0.797;

**Table 3: Independent Predictors of Pre-procedural Contrast-Induced Nephropathy in Patients with CTO**

Variable	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	OR	P-value	OR(95%)	P-value
Pulse pressure (mmHg)	1.126	0.042	1.042 (1.012–1.197)	0.014
LDL-C (mg/dl)	1.014	<0.001	1.174 (1.023–1.347)	0.492
Uric acid (µmol/l)	1.008	0.029	1.002 (1.000–1.013)	0.193
Baseline eGFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	0.549	<0.001	0.662 (0.521–0.789)	0.012
Total amount of contrast (ml)	1.971	<0.001	1.772 (1.342–2.128)	0.039
CHA2DS2-VASC risk score ≥ 3	7.743	<0.001	6.679 (3.169–15.531)	<0.001
LDL-C low density lipoprotein-cholesterol				

The incidence of CIN increased as the risk score increased. Multivariate analysis showed that higher pulse pressure [odds ratio (OR), 1.042; 95% CI, 1.012–1.197; P = 0.004] and contrast volume (OR, 1.772; 95% CI, 1.342–2.128; P = 0.039), lower baseline eGFR (OR, 0.662; 95% CI, 0.521–0.789; P = 0.012), and CVRS ≥3 (OR, 6.679; 95% CI, 3.169–15.531; P < 0.001) were independent predictors of CIN pre-procedure in CTO patients (Table 3).

**Discussion**

This is the first study demonstrating that CVRS ≥3 was an independent predictor of CIN among patients with CTO who underwent PCI. CIN is one of the most important complications of PCI, especially in patients with CTO lesions, and its pathogenesis is still not completely elucidated. It is a common complication and iatrogenic renal failure following invasive procedures, resulting in increased medical resources, longer hospital stay, and higher mortality [10–14]. According to the literature, the incidence of CIN is between 0.6 and 2.3% after contrast exposure in the general population [15]. A systematic review revealed that the incidence of CIN is approximately 3.8% among patients with CTO undergoing PCI [16]. Although identification of high-risk patients for CIN is challenging before the procedure, other studies suggested that congestive heart failure, hypertension, advanced age, diabetes mellitus, female gender, and pre-existing renal insufficiency are risk factors for CIN [17–20]. In this study, the CVRS had a similar predictive value with

the Mehran risk score, which is the most widely used and classic model for predicting CIN. However, it is used for CIN risk assessment only after contrast medium exposure, which is restricted in clinical practise. In addition, inclusion of peri-procedural factors may restrict the application of precautionary measures before the procedure. Although CVRS excludes peri-procedural factors (e.g. contrast volume), it has a similar predictive value to the Mehran risk score. Patients with CTO undergoing PCI may be older and have poor cardiac and renal function, which are risk factors of CIN. The long procedure time for CTO-PCI requires a large contrast volume, which adds to the problem of CIN. Hence, it is of utmost clinical importance to identify high-risk patients for CIN before PCI and prepare pre-procedural therapeutic intervention to minimise the risk of such complication. In addition, CVRS is widely used in clinical practise and it is easy to be calculated and remembered. We found that the incidence of CIN was 5.6 times higher in the high-risk group than that in low-risk patients according to the CVRS. Thus, we need to pay attention to high-risk patients and initiate preventive measures to minimise the risk of CIN, such as intravenous hydration and sodium bicarbonate and N-acetylcysteine administration before the procedure [21, 22]. Compared to other CIN risk stratification tools, the CHA2DS2-VASC scoring system may be convenient and easily applied in clinical practise.

### Conclusion

In this study, we concluded that the CHA2DS2-VASc score serves as a simple, effective tool for predicting the development of CIN, which can be easily implemented in day-to-day clinical practice. The present study demonstrated that the CHA2DS2-VASC score >4 was independently associated with the development of CIN in patients presenting with Acute Coronary Syndrome who were treated by PCI. The more CHADS2-VASC score, the more risk for developing CIN after PCI, Thus CHA2DS2 VASC Score can be used as a simple pre-procedural predictor of CIN among patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome undergoing.

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