

# Dual Antiplatelet and Glycoprotein Inhibitors in Emergency PCI

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Alan Yean Yip Fong and Hwei Sung Ling

## 8.1 Introduction

Platelet inhibition remains the core pharmacotherapy component in patients undergoing emergency or primary percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI). This can be achieved using a number of intravenous and oral preparations. Intravenous (iv) antiplatelets include various glycoprotein IIb/IIIa (GPIIb/IIIa) inhibitors and the only available intravenous P<sub>2</sub>Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitor, cangrelor. Available oral agents include aspirin and various P<sub>2</sub>Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors or their analogues. These are usually used in combination with the intention to maintain dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) for a period of time (generally up to 12 months) after the index PCI procedure.

Understanding and appropriate use of antiplatelet agents are vital in optimizing clinical outcomes of patients with acute coronary syndromes, particularly in the emergency setting where the patient may be naïve to all pharmacological agents. In this review, an overview on antiplatelet therapy for patient needing emergency PCI is described, including evidence from important clinical trials and suggested antiplatelet therapy regimens by published clinical practice guidelines.

## 8.2 Aspirin

Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) ( $\geq 75$  mg daily) permanently inhibits platelet-dependent cyclooxygenase 1 (COX-1) enzyme and consequently preventing synthesis of and thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> (TXA<sub>2</sub>), which is a powerful promoter of platelet aggregation [1]. At higher doses, aspirin inhibits COX-2 which offers analgesic and

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© The Author(s) 2018  
T. J. Watson et al. (eds.), *Primary Angioplasty*,  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1114-7\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1114-7_8)

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ISBN 978-981-13-1113-0      ISBN 978-981-13-1114-7 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1114-7>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018947504

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Printed on acid-free paper

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The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Historical Perspectives on Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
	Zhen Vin Lee and Bashir Hanif	
<b>2</b>	<b>Prehospital Diagnosis and Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	Adam J. Brown, Francis J. Ha, Michael Michail, and Nick E. J. West	
<b>3</b>	<b>Primary Angioplasty: Efficacy and Outcomes</b> .....	<b>31</b>
	Ian Patrick Kay and Brittany Georgia Kay	
<b>4</b>	<b>ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction Networks and Logistics: Rural and Urban</b> .....	<b>41</b>
	Jithendra B. Somaratne, James T. Stewart, Peter N. Ruygrok, and Mark W. Webster	
<b>5</b>	<b>Utilization of PCI After Fibrinolysis</b> .....	<b>53</b>
	Peter McKavanagh, George Zawadowski, and Warren J. Cantor	
<b>6</b>	<b>Catheter Laboratory Design, Staffing and Training</b> .....	<b>69</b>
	Cara Hendry and Rizwan Rashid	
<b>7</b>	<b>Patient Preparation, Vascular Access, and Guiding Catheter Selection</b> .....	<b>83</b>
	Fuminobu Yoshimachi and Yuji Ikari	
<b>8</b>	<b>Dual Antiplatelet and Glycoprotein Inhibitors in Emergency PCI</b> .....	<b>99</b>
	Alan Yean Yip Fong and Hwei Sung Ling	
<b>9</b>	<b>Anticoagulants and Primary PCI</b> .....	<b>109</b>
	Fahim H. Jafary	
<b>10</b>	<b>Management of Intracoronary Thrombus</b> .....	<b>119</b>
	Janarthanan Sathanathan, Timothy J. Watson, Dale Murdoch, Christopher Overgaard, Deborah Lee, Deanna Khoo and Paul J. L. Ong	

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A Practical Guide

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