

## Registry-based evidence generation in Middle Eastern patients undergoing PCI: a Jordanian case study examining CKD



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Leveraging “real-world” data via administrative claims, registries or other curated sources is increasingly utilised to inform clinical practice, characterise disease epidemiology and guide public policy. The digitisation of medical records, coupled with rapid advances in computational speed and sophistication, has enabled this electronic transition. Resources such as the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) provide ongoing and representative estimates of various health, nutrition and fitness metrics for the US adult population. In contrast, dedicated registries focused on disease or procedural domains provide temporal trends on healthcare resource utilisation, variation in practice patterns and consequences of policy or guideline implementation (Table 1). In certain instances, registries are increasingly utilised to facilitate the conduct of pragmatic clinical trials that increase study efficiency, and reduce costs and time to trial completion<sup>1</sup>. These data also enable the evaluation of aetiologic associations between various exposures and disease epidemiology, which may be discerned more reliably from real-world as opposed to clinical trial cohorts<sup>2</sup>. One illustration of this concept was the seminal paper by Go et al demonstrating the prevalence and impact

of renal impairment on cardiovascular outcomes using administrative claims data from a million healthcare plan participants<sup>3</sup>. Subsequent reports have confirmed these earlier observations in both primary and secondary prevention settings, and chronic kidney disease (CKD) is now included as a risk-enhancing feature that warrants a more aggressive approach towards risk factor modification and control of blood lipids<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, the evidence base for CKD and related prognosis is primarily derived from Western European and North American populations comprised of European or African ancestry. Indeed, validated equations that provide estimates of glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) include terms for self-described African or non-African race<sup>5,6</sup>. Analogous data evaluating similar associations among individuals in lower middle-income countries in the Middle East or other non-Western regions remain limited.

To address this gap, Hammoudeh et al examined the prevalence, clinical profile and impact of CKD using data from the first, national all-comer Jordanian PCI registry (n=2,426)<sup>7</sup>.

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Despite a relatively young mean age of only 56 years, the prevalence of reduced eGFR (<90 ml/min) was 60%, with

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**Table 1. Selected national PCI registries.**

Registry	Country	Inception	Details
CathPCI	USA	1998	Voluntary participation; in-hospital outcomes
SWEDEHEART*	Sweden	1989	National coverage; longitudinal outcomes via unique identifiers
BCIS-CCAD	United Kingdom	1994	Captures over 90% of all PCI procedures performed in UK
K-PCI	Korea	2014	Voluntary participation; in-hospital outcomes

\*SWEDEHEART is a merger of multiple registries with the PCI component starting in 1989. BCIS-CCAD: British Cardiovascular Intervention Society Central Cardiac Audit Database; K-PCI: Korea PCI registry; PCI: percutaneous coronary intervention; SWEDEHEART: Swedish Web-system for Enhancement and Development of Evidence-based care in Heart disease Evaluated According to Recommended Therapies

approximately 14% of patients presenting with at least moderate to severely reduced kidney function (eGFR <60 ml/min). Not surprisingly, patients with more advanced CKD were characterised by older age and more comorbidities including hypertension, diabetes mellitus and prior revascularisation. Discharge pharmacotherapy, including use of beta-blockers and statins, did not vary substantially in relation to renal function. With respect to outcomes, in-hospital bleeding was relatively uncommon yet higher among those with the most severe renal impairment, a finding entirely consistent with the well-known association between CKD and bleeding risk<sup>8</sup>. Similar numerical patterns were observed at 30 days and one year, albeit not statistically significant due to limited power. With regard to ischaemic events, CKD emerged as an independent correlate of cardiovascular death, while differences in rehospitalisation for acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and revascularisation did not vary by renal function.

An intriguing result from the present report is the excess risk for cardiovascular death observed among those with CKD in the absence of a concordant rise in ACS hospitalisation, which may serve as a crude surrogate for non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI). Indeed, this finding is consistent with the transition in cardiovascular epidemiology that occurs as renal function worsens. Specifically, while atherosclerosis-mediated mechanisms modulate cardiac risk in mild CKD, vascular calcification, myocardial fibrosis and electrical instability emerge as contributors at more advanced levels of renal impairment<sup>9,10</sup>. The numerical trend suggesting more frequent heart failure hospitalisation with worsening CKD in the current study is also consistent with this paradigm. Hence, treatments that target the unique vascular phenotype present in moderate to advanced CKD<sup>11</sup> may provide greater benefit than established therapies commonly used to treat atherosclerosis in the absence of renal dysfunction.

The authors contend that PCI is safe and effective among those with CKD and that an invasive strategy should be considered more frequently in such patients. While this may be true, inferential

claims based upon observational data should be interpreted cautiously. In addition, the relatively low rate of adverse events may have introduced a type II error when comparing across different levels of renal function. In contrast, stent thrombosis occurred relatively frequently (~1.5-2%), a substantially higher rate in comparison to other contemporary registries<sup>12</sup>. This is a concerning result, and more details on stent type and one-year adherence would be insightful, along with the type of P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitor prescribed at discharge. More granularity for these data elements would certainly be welcome in future reports from this registry.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the authors and investigators leading JoPCR1 should be commended for these efforts. In addition to evaluating outcomes in a broad population of Jordanian patients undergoing PCI, this resource will provide opportunities for data sharing, academic collaboration and identification of risk factors and treatment approaches unique to the Middle East versus other regions. As with any registry-based product it will be important to implement processes, such as periodic auditing, to ensure that data are valid, reproducible and high-quality. Representing the latest entry into the global market of outcome-oriented PCI registries, additional insights from JoPCR1 are eagerly awaited.

### Conflict of interest statement

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