

DETERMINANTS OF THE CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF
ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROMESMAXIMILIANO DE ABREU^{1, 2}, MARCELO ZYLBERMAN^{3, 4}, NATALIA VENSENTINI^{1, 2},
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Abstract Introduction: Two clinical presentations of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) have been defined: ST-segment elevation ACS (STEACS) or non-ST-segment elevation ACS (NSTEMACS). The mechanism that determines the clinical presentation of ACS is not clearly understood. The aim of this study was to define the association between cardiovascular risk factors and other clinical variables with the clinical presentation of ACS as STEACS or NSTEMACS. **Methods:** We analyzed data of patients prospectively included in the Epi-Cardio Registry with a diagnosis of ACS from April 2006 to April 2018. A total of 10 019 patients were included in the study. **Results:** In the multivariate analysis, male sex (OR 1.5) and active smoking (OR 1.71) were positively associated with STEACS presentation. Conversely, hypertension (OR 0.71), dyslipidemia (OR 0.74), age (OR 0.97 per quintile), history of myocardial infarction (OR 0.57), chronic angina (OR 0.44), presence of comorbidities (OR 0.64), and extension of coronary heart disease (OR 0.84) were negatively associated with STEACS. Women differed from men by presenting a higher incidence of NSTEMACS, due to a greater proportion of ACS without obstructive coronary heart disease. **Conclusion:** Some cardiovascular risk factors and other clinical variables are independently associated with the presentation of ACS as STEACS or NSTEMACS. These findings confirm the influence of risk factors and clinical history on the pathophysiology, clinical and electrocardiographic presentation of ACS.

Key words: acute coronary syndrome, risk factors, myocardial infarction

Resumen Determinantes de la presentación clínica de los síndromes coronarios agudos

Introducción: Existen dos formas de presentación clínica de los síndromes coronarios agudos (SCA): con elevación del segmento ST (SCACEST) y sin elevación (SCASEST). Los mecanismos que determinan ambas presentaciones no se conocen completamente. El objetivo del estudio fue definir la asociación entre factores de riesgo cardiovascular y otras variables clínicas con la presentación de los SCA como SCACEST o SCASEST. **Métodos:** Analizamos información de pacientes incluidos prospectivamente en el Registro Epi-Cardio con diagnóstico de SCA desde abril de 2006 a abril de 2018. Se incluyeron un total de 10 019 pacientes. **Resultados:** En el análisis multivariado, el sexo masculino (OR 1.5) y el tabaquismo activo (OR 1.71) se asociaron positivamente con el SCACEST. Contrariamente, la hipertensión (OR 0.71), las dislipidemias (OR 0.74), la edad (OR 0.97 por quintil), historia de infarto (OR 0.57), angina crónica (OR 0.44), presencia de comorbilidades (OR 0.64), y la extensión de enfermedad coronaria (OR 0.84) se asociaron negativamente con el SCACEST. Las mujeres presentaron mayor incidencia de SCASEST, debido a una mayor proporción de SCA sin obstrucción coronaria significativa. **Conclusión:** Concluimos que algunos factores de riesgo cardiovascular y otras variables clínicas se asociaron independientemente con la presentación clínica como SCACEST o SCASEST, confirmando su influencia en la fisiopatología y en la presentación clínica y electrocardiográfica de los SCA.

Palabras clave: síndrome coronario agudo, factores de riesgo, infarto de miocardio

KEY POINTS

Current knowledge

- Determinants of the clinical presentations of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) as ST-segment elevation ACS (STEACS) or non-ST-segment elevation ACS (NSTEACS) are not well established
- Patient's risk profile and other clinical variables could influence the clinical presentation of ACS.

Contribution of the study

- Sex, active smoking, hypertension, dyslipidemia, age, prior myocardial infarction, chronic angina, comorbidities, and extension of coronary heart disease were associated with the clinical presentation of ACS.
- Our study confirms and define the influence of risk factors and clinical history on the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of ACS.

Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of global mortality and accounts for 50% of cardiovascular deaths^{1,2}. Atherosclerotic plaque disruption with associated thrombosis plays a key role in the pathogenesis of acute coronary syndromes (ACS)³⁻⁵. Clinical presentation of ACS will depend on the degree of acute coronary obstruction: if a total occlusion without distal coronary flow occurs, an ST-segment elevation ACS (STEACS) develops, and in the case of an incomplete obstruction with persistent distal flow, it manifests as a non-ST-segment elevation ACS (NSTEACS)³. Prothrombotic factors, local vasospastic response, and coronary collateral circulation may influence the clinical presentation, and a subgroup of patients may develop ACS with non-atherosclerotic causes⁶⁻⁸. Some risk factors and other clinical variables may predispose to a certain cardiovascular event more than others. As an example, elevated plasma cholesterol is more related to ischemic heart disease than to stroke^{9, 10}; hypertension predisposes more to stroke than to ischemic heart disease¹¹; and stroke is more associated with female sex than with the male sex, which is more related to ischemic heart disease^{12, 13}. Similarly, prior reports indicate that the patient's risk profile and other clinical variables could influence the clinical presentation of ACS as STEACS or NSTEACS¹⁴⁻¹⁷. However, this evidence is weak because it is based on studies not designed for this purpose. To date, the independent association between risk factors and other clinical variables with the clinical presentation of ACS has not been defined. We hypothesize that risk factors and some clinical variables influence the clinical presentation of ACS. The aim of this study was thus to identify the risk factors and clinical variables that are associated with and influence the clinical presentation of ACS as STEACS or NSTEACS, describing the magnitude of this association and their interactions.

Materials and methods

All patients prospectively enrolled in the Epi-Cardio Registry from April 2006 to April 2018 with a diagnosis of ACS were included in the analysis, which was not pre-specified. Epi-Cardio is an observational, prospective, multicenter Argentine registry of patients with acute cardiovascular disease admitted to cardiovascular care units. Methods have been previously published¹⁸. Our study complies with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Epi-Cardio registry has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Argentine Society of Cardiology.

Inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18 years old, admitted for ACS or confirmed diagnosis during the hospital stay. Exclusion criteria: patients with secondary causes of myocardial ischemia, such as severe anemia, active bleeding, sepsis, and tachyarrhythmia were excluded from the analysis. Patients with prior revascularization procedures (prior percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty or coronary artery bypass grafting) were excluded because they might develop ACS due to pathological mechanisms such as stent restenosis or thrombosis, or graft occlusion, which exceeded the objective of this study.

The diagnosis of myocardial infarction was made following the contemporary universal definition, and that of unstable angina according to specific clinical practice guidelines definitions^{6, 7, 19, 20}. The definitions accepted by scientific societies were used for risk factors and clinical variables. The clinical presentation of ACS was determined according to the electrocardiogram performed on admission, which classified patients as STEACS or NSTEACS. ST-segment elevation was considered as new ST-elevation at the J-point in two contiguous leads with the following cut-off points: 0.2 mV in men or 0.15 mV in women in leads V2-V3 and/or 0.1 mV in other leads, according to the universal definition of myocardial infarction^{6, 7, 20}. Patients with presumed new left bundle branch block were classified as STEACS. Patients without ST-segment elevation criteria were considered as NSTEACS. Patients with myocardial infarction without ST-segment elevation but with a new Q wave (as the evolution of STEACS) were classified as STEACS.

We considered obstructive coronary heart disease when one or more epicardial coronary arteries had an obstruction $\geq 70\%$ or $\geq 50\%$ in the left main coronary artery.

Follow-up of the patients included in the Epi-Cardio Registry was limited to hospitalization.

Statistical methods

Continuous variables were described as median and interquartile range and compared with the Kruskal Wallis test. Categorical variables were described as percentages and compared using the χ^2 test. The χ^2 test for trend was used to evaluate the association between age by quintiles and clinical presentation of ACS. Univariate and multivariate associations between age, sex, hypertension, smoking, dyslipidemia, diabetes, extension of coronary heart disease, prior myocardial infarction, chronic angina, prior heart failure, major comorbidities (chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and prior stroke) and clinical presentation of ACS were evaluated. The selection of the analyzed variables was based on previous reports from the medical literature. Logistic regression models were performed to define independent associations and to detect potential confounders. A stratified analysis and an interaction test were used to assess effect modifiers, as applicable. The area under the ROC curve (AUC) was used to assess discrimination, and calibration was evaluated with the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness-of-fit test. Extension of coronary heart disease was quantified according to the number of

coronary arteries with obstructive disease. It was included in the multivariate analysis as a continuous variable (1, 2, or 3 vessels). Left main coronary artery obstruction was quantified as 2 vessel-disease.

Due to the exploratory nature of the analysis, a prospective sample size calculation was not performed. However, 10 000 patients were considered a sufficient number to evaluate the proposed associations, even in smaller subpopulations.

All tests were two-tailed and $\alpha \leq 0.05$ was considered significant. The analysis was restricted to patients with complete data, as only 0.2% of patients had missing data for clinical variables and the cardiac catheterization report was complete in more than 96% of patients. Data analysis was performed using STATA® 13.0 and Epi-Info® 7.2.4.0.

Results

A total of 64 health institutions enrolled 13 685 patients with ACS in the Epi-Cardio registry from April 2006 to April 2018. The final analysis included 10 019 patients (Fig. 1). Table 1 shows baseline characteristics of the total population and stratified by ACS clinical presentation.

Univariate associations between risk factors, clinical variables, and clinical presentation as STEACS are shown in Table 1. After multivariate analysis, male sex and smoking were positively associated

Fig. 1.– Patient flow chart

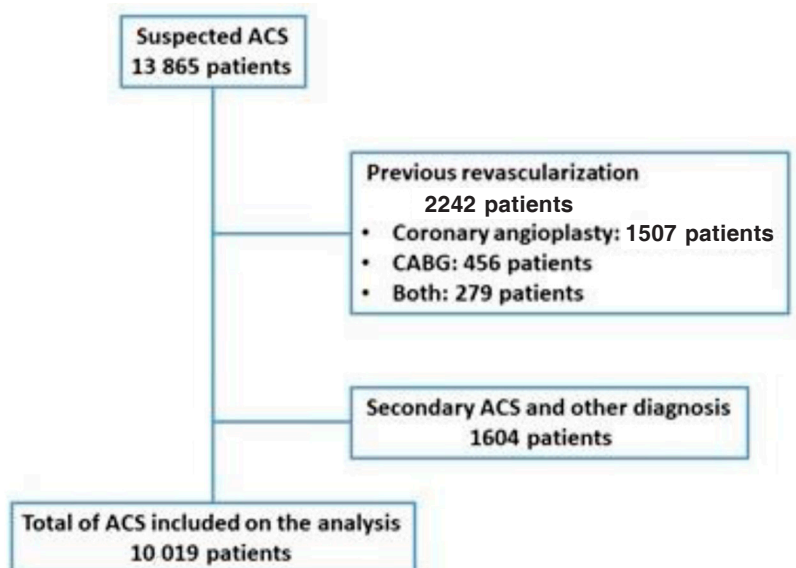


TABLE 1.– Baseline characteristics in the total population, and in STEACS and NSTEMACS patients

Variable		STEACS N = 4974 Median (IQR)	NSTEMACS N = 5045 Median (IQR)			p
Age	–	59 (51.5-67.5)	62 (54-71)	–	–	< 0.001
	Total	STEACS	NSTEMACS	Odds ratio	95% CI	p
	%	%	%			
Male	72.9	78.3	67.5	1.74	1.59 to 1.90	< 0.001
Hypertension	57.4	50	64.7	0.55	0.50 to 0.59	< 0.001
Diabetes	19.5	17.3	21.6	0.76	0.69 to 0.84	< 0.001
Dyslipidemia	38.3	33	43.6	0.65	0.59 to 0.69	< 0.001
Smoking	35.9	43.5	28.5	1.93	1.77 to 2.09	< 0.001
Prior myocardial infarction	10	6.8	13.1	0.49	0.42 to 0.56	< 0.001
Chronic angina	6.6	3.6	9.7	0.35	0.29 to 0.41	< 0.001
Comorbidities	9.2	6.5	11.8	0.52	0.45 to 0.60	< 0.001
Prior heart failure	2.2	1.3	3.1	0.41	0.30 to 0.55	< 0.001
Coronary angiography	62	67.7	56.4	1.62	1.50 to 1.76	< 0.001
Mortality	3.7	5.4	2	2.75	2.19 to 3.47	< 0.001

IQR: interquartile range; NSTEMACS: non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome; STEACS: ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome

with STEACS. Hypertension, dyslipidemia, age, prior myocardial infarction, chronic angina, and comorbidities were negatively associated with STEACS (Table 2). The AUC was 0.66, and the Hosmer-Lemeshow test $p = 0.58$.

Among men, patients with NSTEMACS were older than those with STEACS, but there was no association between age and the clinical presentation of ACS in women (Table 3).

Age presented the following distribution: first quintile, < 51 years old; second quintile, 51 to 57 years old; third quintile, 58 to 63 years old; fourth quintile, 64 to 72 years old; fifth quintile, ≥ 72 years old. Figure 2-A shows the proportion of STEACS by age quintiles, stratified by sex. In both sexes, the proportion of STEACS decreased with age; however, among women, the association was less progressive and less strong (χ^2 for trend in men and women, $p < 0.0001$ and $p = 0.02$, respectively).

TABLE 2.– *Multivariate association between clinical variables and risk factors with STEACS in total population, men and women*

Total population			
Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	p
Age (by quintile)	0.97	0.94 to 0.99	0.04
Male	1.50	1.37 to 1.65	< 0.0001
Hypertension	0.71	0.65 to 0.78	< 0.0001
Dyslipidemia	0.74	0.67 to 0.80	< 0.0001
Smoking	1.71	1.56 to 1.87	< 0.0001
Prior myocardial infarction	0.57	0.50 to 0.66	< 0.0001
Chronic angina	0.44	0.37 to 0.53	< 0.0001
Comorbidities	0.64	0.55 to 0.75	< 0.0001
Men			
Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	p
Age (by quintile)	0.94	0.90 to 0.97	< 0.001
Hypertension	0.72	0.65 to 0.80	< 0.0001
Dyslipidemia	0.73	0.66 to 0.80	< 0.0001
Smoking	1.60	1.44 to 1.77	< 0.0001
Prior myocardial infarction	0.56	0.47 to 0.65	< 0.0001
Chronic angina	0.48	0.39 to 0.59	< 0.0001
Comorbidities	0.65	0.54 to 0.77	< 0.0001
Women			
Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	p
Age (by quintile)	1.05	0.99 to 1.12	0.10
Hypertension	0.68	0.57 to 0.81	< 0.0001
Dyslipidemia	0.75	0.64 to 0.89	< 0.001
Smoking	2.1	1.76 to 2.58	< 0.0001
Prior myocardial infarction	0.62	0.46 to 0.85	< 0.01
Chronic angina	0.36	0.25 to 0.51	< 0.0001
Comorbidities	0.64	0.48 to 0.84	< 0.01

TABLE 3.– *Univariate association between age and clinical presentation of ACS stratified by sex*

Sex	ACS	Age (median-IQR)	p
Female	STEACS	65 (55.5-76.5)	0.08
	NSTEMACS	66 (57-76)	
Male	STEACS	58 (51.5-65.5)	< 0.001
	NSTEMACS	60 (53.5-69)	

IQR: interquartile range; NSTEMACS: non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome; STEACS: ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome

Multivariate analysis stratified by sex is shown in Table 2. Models were built with the same variables and associations were similar, except for age. Older age was associated with NSTEMACS in men. In women, there was no independent association between age and clinical presentation (p for interaction = 0.01). The AUC was 0.64 in men and 0.65 in women, with Hosmer-Lemeshow test $p > 0.05$ in both models.

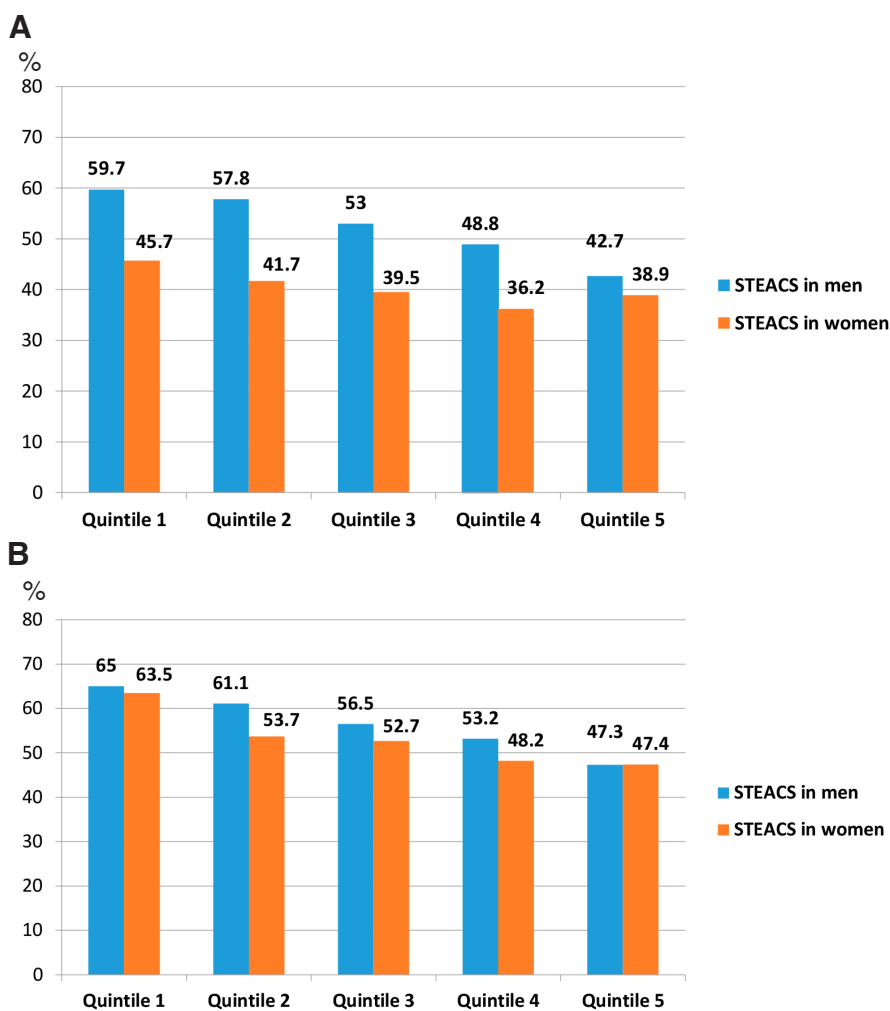
Cardiac catheterization was performed in 6210 patients (62% in the total population, 67.7% in STEACS and 56.4% in NSTEMACS; OR 1.62; $p < 0.001$) and a total of 5970 cases (96.1%) had a complete report. The extension of coronary heart disease and its association with the clinical presentation of ACS is shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. Among patients with obstructive coronary heart disease, a greater extension of coronary heart disease was associated with a lower presentation of STEACS (OR 0.84;

95% CI 0.78 to 0.91; $p < 0.0001$). After the extension of coronary heart disease was included in the model, sex did not show an association with the clinical presentation (OR 1.13; 95% CI 0.98 to 1.3; $p = 0.09$ for men). The AUC was 0.65, and the Hosmer-Lemeshow test $p = 0.72$.

In the total population, men presented a greater extension of coronary atherosclerotic disease than women (Fig. 4-A), but after the patients with non-obstructive coronary arteries were excluded, the differences were minimized and the extension of coronary heart disease was very similar in both sexes (Fig. 4-B), as well as the clinical presentation of ACS in all age quintiles (Fig. 2-B).

Multivariate analysis showed that male sex, diabetes, smoking, prior myocardial infarction, and STEACS were associated with obstructive coronary heart disease, and female sex and hypertension were associated with non-obstructive coronary arteries (Table 4).

Fig. 2.– Clinical presentation as STEACS according to age quintile, stratified by sex. A: Total population. B: Patients with severe coronary heart disease



NSTEMACS: non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome; STEACS: ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome

Fig. 3.– Association between the number of coronary arteries with obstructive coronary heart disease and clinical presentation of ACS

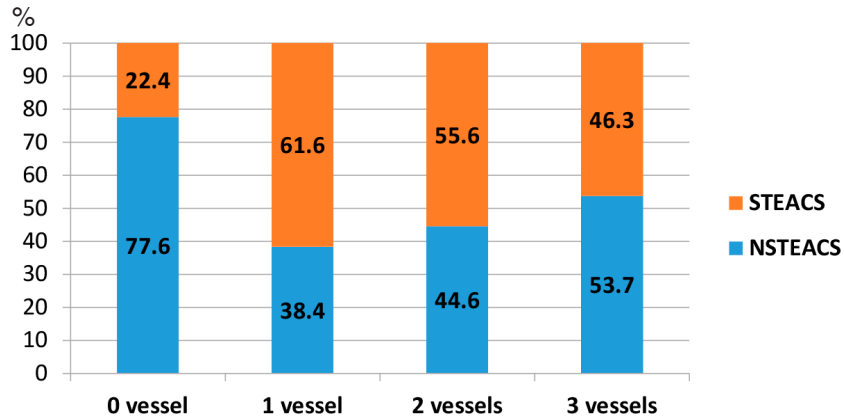
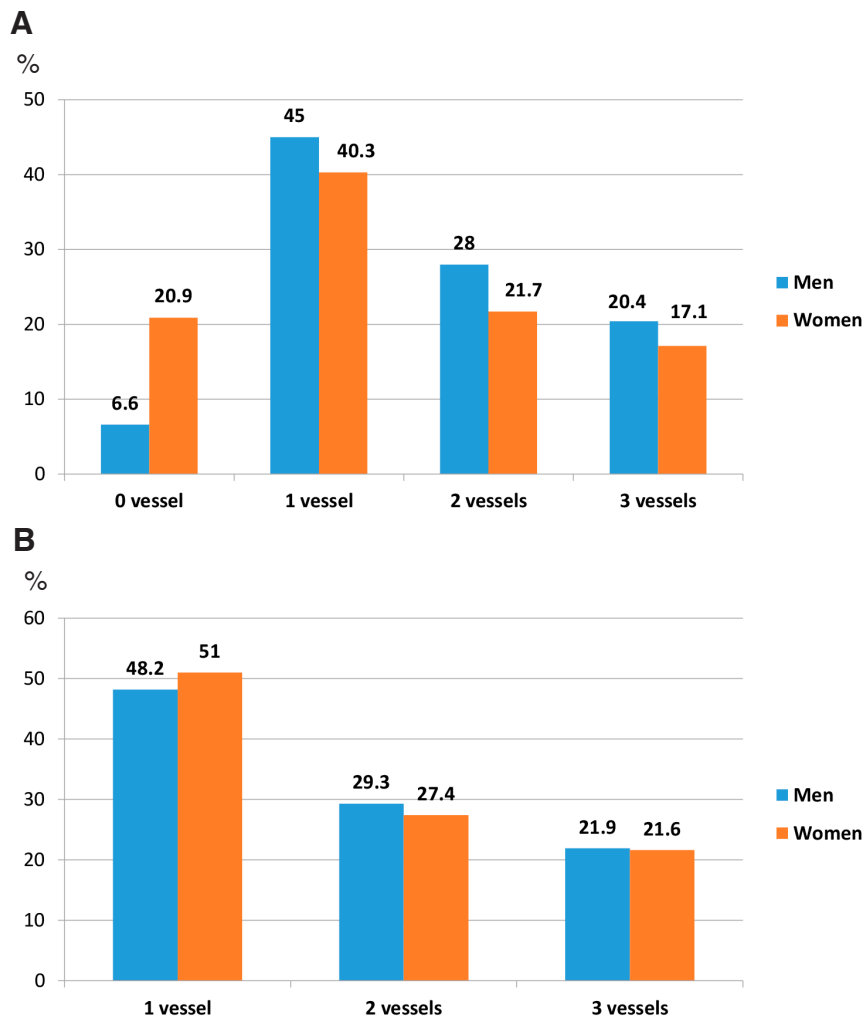


Fig. 4.– Extension of coronary heart disease in both sexes. A: Patients with cardiac catheterization. B: Patients with obstructive coronary heart disease



NSTEACS: non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome; STEACS: ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome

TABLE 4.– Multivariate association between clinical variables, risk factors and severe coronary heart disease

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI	p
Age (by quintile)	1.29	1.20 to 1.38	< 0.0001
Male	3.88	3.21 to 4.68	< 0.0001
Hypertension	0.76	0.63 to 0.93	< 0.01
Dyslipidemia	1.30	1.07 to 1.57	< 0.01
Smoking	1.58	1.29 to 1.94	< 0.0001
Diabetes	1.77	1.38 to 2.29	< 0.0001
Chronic angina	1.80	1.24 to 2.61	< 0.01
Prior myocardial infarction	1.55	1.12 to 2.14	< 0.01
STEACS	4.71	3.83 to 5.81	< 0.0001

STEACS: ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome

The multivariate analysis repeated using a cut-off value of $\geq 50\%$ obstruction, according to the current MINOCA (myocardial infarction and non-obstructive coronary arteries) definition²¹, showed similar associations (data not shown).

Discussion

The population of our study represents a broad spectrum of ACS, with baseline characteristics similar to those of series of patients with ACS in the real world^{14, 16, 17}. Our results show a proportion of STEACS higher than in other studies, due to the exclusion of patients with secondary ACS or previous revascularization procedures. After the excluded patients were added to the analysis, the proportion of STEACS and NSTEACS was 42.9% and 57.1% respectively.

The statistical associations and regression models developed in our study confirmed our hypothesis: the clinical presentation of ACS is influenced by the patient's risk profile and other clinical variables. The *p* values confirm strong statistical associations, with a negligible probability of incurring in a type I error.

Smoking had the greatest positive association with STEACS, and our results confirm a solid and independent association. The prothrombotic effect of smoking appears to contribute to the pathophysiological mechanism^{3, 5, 22}.

Previous studies showed a relationship between younger age and STEACS, and older age and NSTEACS, but did not evaluate the multivariate association in both sexes^{14-16, 23}. Our results confirm a strong association in men, with an increase in the proportion of NSTEACS associated with advanced age. Among women, there was no independent association between age and the clinical presentation of ACS due to a higher proportion of NSTEACS among younger women.

In our population, diabetes was more common in patients with NSTEACS than among those with STEACS. However, the multivariate analysis did not show an independent association. Diabetes is related to older age, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and prior myocardial infarction, all associated with NSTEACS. These variables could be confounding factors in the association between diabetes and the clinical presentation of ACS. Based on our findings, we can conclude that diabetes is not independently associated with the clinical presentation of ACS, a result that had not been previously defined in other studies.

We reported a higher prevalence of hypertension and dyslipidemia among patients with NSTEACS compared with STEACS. The multivariate analysis confirmed both independent associations.

In our study, a history of myocardial infarction was associated with NSTEACS independently of other variables, which means that the probability of presenting STEACS is greater in the first ACS than in the next coronary event.

Chronic angina was the variable most strongly associated with the clinical presentation as NSTEACS. Usually, this symptom is related to older age, female sex, and diabetes. Our results confirm that chronic angina is independently associated with NSTEACS.

Major comorbidities are normally related to older age, history of myocardial infarction, extensive coronary heart disease, and NSTEACS^{17, 24, 25}. In our study, comorbidities maintained an independent association with the clinical presentation as NSTEACS after the multivariate analysis.

Including the extension of coronary heart disease in our analysis was very important to understand some associations, and to unmask others. Logically, older age is related to a greater extension of coronary heart disease. Both variables are associated with a higher proportion of fibrotic and calcified lesions and with a lower proportion of lipid-rich lesions, as shown in pathological and invasive coronary imaging studies²⁶⁻³⁰. These findings are char-

acteristic of NSTEMI. Among patients with ACS and obstructive coronary heart disease, a greater extension of coronary heart disease was associated with the clinical presentation as NSTEMI. A finding of great importance emerges from this analysis: after coronary heart disease extension was included in the multivariate analysis, sex lost statistical association with the clinical presentation of ACS because women had less extension of coronary heart disease than men due to a more frequent occurrence of ACS without obstructive coronary lesions (20.9% vs. 6.6%) (Fig. 4-A). When selecting patients with obstructive coronary heart disease, its extension, and the clinical presentation stratified by age quintile were very similar in men and women (Fig. 4-B and Fig. 2-B), and sex lost an independent association with the clinical presentation. Therefore, in the presence of obstructive coronary heart disease, the association between risk factors and clinical variables with the clinical presentation of ACS was similar in both sexes. It seems that the main difference between sexes is that the pathophysiological mechanisms related to ACS with non-obstructive coronary arteries develop more frequently among women. Younger age, female sex, hypertension, and clinical presentation as NSTEMI were associated with ACS with non-obstructive coronary arteries.

The statistical models developed in this study confirm our hypothesis. However, the discriminative capacity of the models was low or moderate, which means that risk factors and clinical variables were associated with the clinical presentation of ACS, but they were not the only determinants. The magnitude of the associations was low to moderate since the ORs were mostly between 0.4 and 2.

The heterogeneity of ACS "subtypes" added to the overlap between risk factors and clinical variables makes it difficult to develop a unique association model with high discriminative capacity.

Our study has some limitations. We must mention the lack of survey of some variables, as family history of coronary heart disease and the use of illicit drugs such as cocaine, which can influence the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of ACS. Neither were socioeconomic and psychosocial risk factors surveyed.

The main analysis was based on statistical associations between risk factors and some clinical variables with electrocardiographic findings that define clinical syndromes. Although the clinical-pathophysiological and clinical-pathological correlations described are supported by previous studies, we did not use Optical Coherence Tomography, Intravascular Ultrasound or pathological studies to corroborate them in our population.

The results of our study do not allow us to define whether the inability to develop statistical models with high discriminative capacity was due to the lack of survey of some variables or to a random component in the clinical presentation of ACS.

Previous studies have shown a univariate association between some risk factors and clinical variables with the clinical presentation of ACS. However, these studies did not evaluate the independent association between each variable and the clinical presentation of ACS. Defining the independent association between each variable and the clinical presentation as STEMI or NSTEMI in a large ACS population was the main strength of our study. The inclusion of a large and heterogeneous ACS population, with broad inclusion criteria, supports the generalizability of the findings.

Our study, based on a real-world population of 10 000 ACS, shows that some cardiovascular risk factors and other clinical variables are independently associated with the clinical presentation of ACS as STEMI or NSTEMI. These findings confirm the influence of risk factors and clinical history on the clinical presentation of ACS.

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Conflicts of interest: None to declare

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Appendix 1. Participating health institutions

Institution	Province	City
<i>CEMIC</i>		CABA
<i>Centro Gallego</i>		CABA
<i>Clínica Bazterrica</i>		CABA
<i>Clínica 25 de Mayo</i>	Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata
<i>Clínica Colón</i>	Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata
<i>Clínica Constituyentes</i>	Buenos Aires	Morón
<i>Clínica de Nefrología y Enfermedades Cardiovasculares</i>	Santa Fe	Santa Fe
<i>Clínica del Sol</i>		CABA
<i>Clínica Independencia</i>	Buenos Aires	Munro
<i>Clínica Santa Isabel</i>		CABA
<i>Clínica Vélez Sarsfield</i>	Córdoba	Córdoba
<i>Fundación Médica de Río Negro y Neuquén</i>	Río Negro	Cipolletti
<i>HIGA Dr. Luis Güemes</i>	Buenos Aires	Haedo
<i>HIGA Eva Perón</i>	Buenos Aires	San Martín
<i>HIGA General José de San Martín</i>	Buenos Aires	La Plata
<i>HIGA Luisa Cravenna de Gandulfo</i>	Buenos Aires	Lomas de Zamora
<i>Hospital Carlos G. Durand</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital César Milstein</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital de Clínicas Gral. José de San Martín</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital Del Carmen</i>	Mendoza	Mendoza
<i>Hospital Delicia Concepción Masvernat</i>	Entre Ríos	Concordia
<i>Hospital Donación Francisco Santojanni</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital Dr. Castro Rendón</i>	Neuquén	Neuquén
<i>Hospital Dr. Cosme Argerich</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital Dr. Eduardo Wilde</i>	Buenos Aires	Avellaneda
<i>Hospital Dr. Felipe Glasman</i>	Buenos Aires	Bahía Blanca
<i>Hospital Dr. José Penna</i>	Buenos Aires	Bahía Blanca
<i>Hospital Dr. Juan A. Fernández</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital Dr. Lucio Molas</i>	La Pampa	Santa Rosa
<i>Hospital Dr. Teodoro Álvarez</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital El Cruce</i>	Buenos Aires	Florencio Varela
<i>Hospital Escuela José de San Martín</i>	Corrientes	Corrientes
<i>Hospital Español</i>	Buenos Aires	La Plata
<i>Hospital Español</i>		CABA
<i>Hospital Evita Pueblo</i>	Buenos Aires	Berazategui
<i>Hospital Horacio Cestino</i>	Buenos Aires	La Plata
<i>Hospital José María Cullen</i>	Santa Fé	Santa Fé
<i>Hospital Misericordia de Nuevo Siglo</i>	Córdoba	Córdoba
<i>Hospital Profesor Alejandro Posadas</i>	Buenos Aires	Haedo
<i>Hospital Regional de Río Grande</i>	Tierra del Fuego	Río Grande
<i>Hospital Regional de Usuahia</i>	Tierra del Fuego	Ushuaia
<i>INCOR</i>	La Rioja	La Rioja
<i>Instituto Alexander Fleming</i>		CABA
<i>Instituto Cardiovascular San Luis</i>	San Luis	San Luis
<i>Instituto Médico Central</i>	Buenos Aires	Ituzaingó
<i>Instituto Médico Quirúrgico Garat</i>	Entre Ríos	Concordia
<i>ITEC</i>	Tucumán	Tucumán
<i>Policlínico Rafaela</i>	Santa Fe	Rafaela
<i>Sanatorio Anchorena</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio Belgrano</i>	Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata

<i>Sanatorio Boratti</i>	Misiones	Posadas
<i>Sanatorio de la Mujer</i>	Santa Fe	Rosario
<i>Sanatorio de la Providencia</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio de la Trinidad Mitre</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio Dr. Julio Méndez</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio Dupuytren</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio El Carmen</i>	Salta	Salta
<i>Sanatorio Franchin</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio Güemes</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio Las Lomas</i>	Buenos Aires	San Isidro
<i>Sanatorio Nosti</i>	Santa Fé	Rafaela
<i>Sanatorio Otamendi y Mirolí</i>		CABA
<i>Sanatorio San Carlos</i>	Río Negro	Bariloche
<i>Sanatorio San Gerónimo</i>	Santa Fe	Santa Fe

CABA: Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires