

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Comparison of Light Transmission Aggregometry and VerifyNow in Detecting Clopidogrel Resistance and Factors Affecting Clopidogrel Resistance in AMI-EST Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: A Cross-Sectional Study

Astuti Giantini^{1,2}, Ina Susianti Timan^{1,2}, Erlin Listiyaningsih³, Rahajuningsih Dharma^{1,2}, Rianto Setiabudy¹, Idrus Alwi⁴, Lia Gardenia Partakusuma³, Nuri Dyah Indrasari^{1,2}, Alida Roswita Harahap^{1,5}, Siskawati Suparmin^{1,*}, Windy Sahar³, Renan Sukmawan³

¹Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, Jl. Salemba Raya No.6, Jakarta, Indonesia

²Department of Clinical Pathology, Cipto Mangunkusumo National Central General Hospital, Jl. Pangeran Diponegoro No.71, Jakarta, Indonesia

³Harapan Kita Heart and Vascular Hospital, Jl. Letjen S. Parman Kav.87, Jakarta, Indonesia

⁴Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiology Division, Metropolitan Medical Centre (MMC) Hospital, Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. C-21, Jakarta, Indonesia

⁵Eijkman Institute, Jl. Pangeran Diponegoro No. 69, Jakarta, Indonesia

*Corresponding author. E-mail: siskawati.suparmin2@gmail.com

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Light transmission aggregometry (LTA) and VerifyNow is commonly used to measure platelet responsiveness to clopidogrel. This study aimed to compare the results of LTA and VerifyNow P2Y12 assay for assessing the clopidogrel resistance in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention and determine factors affecting clopidogrel resistance.

METHODS: The subjects were 119 patients who underwent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and had given loading dose of 600 mg clopidogrel. Blood samples were taken at 6 hour after clopidogrel loading dose. Platelet aggregation was measured by LTA and VerifyNow.

RESULTS: LTA and VerifyNow assay showed fair agreement with Kappa=0.270, $p=0.001$. The proportion of resistance to clopidogrel using VerifyNow was 21.8% and LTA was 47.1%. Patients with diabetes melitus were more likely to develop clopidogrel resistance than patients without diabetes (OR of 7.67; 95% CI: 1.87-31.50; $p=0.005$).

CONCLUSION: The ability of LTA and VerifyNow in detecting clopidogrel resistance were not comparable. Multivariate analysis results for VerifyNow shows diabetes mellitus as the greatest predictors of clopidogrel resistance.

KEYWORDS: agreement, clopidogrel resistance, LTA, predictor, VerifyNow

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Introduction

Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) consists of various clinical forms, ranging from unstable angina pectoris, acute non-ST elevation myocardial infarction and acute myocardial infarction with ST segment elevation (AMI-EST). The most important intervention to improve the survival of AMI-EST patients is with a reperfusion strategy by primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

within 12 hours of symptom onset.(1) Combination of aspirin, P2Y12 inhibitors and parenteral anticoagulants were standard therapy in AMI-EST patients to undergoing PCI.(2) Clopidogrel is an oral antiplatelet drug whose active metabolites inhibit platelet activation and aggregation irreversibly by inhibiting adenosine diphosphate (ADP) at P2Y12 receptor.(3)

The term of antiplatelet resistance is still a problem because it is used variously to indicate the failure of the agent to prevent the intended clinical condition or the

failure of the agent to achieve a biochemical effect (pharmacokinetics and/or pharmacodynamics).(4) The presence of this resistance is a challenge and a problem in preventing restenosis post-PCI. Various mechanisms of antiplatelet resistance have been proposed including decreased bioavailability, genetic variation, increased platelet turnover, activation of platelets by alternative pathways, and individual variation.(5)

Individual variations can cause clopidogrel resistance, including diabetes mellitus (DM) or insulin resistance, hypercholesterolemia, hypertension, elderly patients, obesity, gender, and family history of coronary heart disease (CHD).(5) In DM patients, there may be a decrease in the clopidogrel response due to increased platelet aggregation due to increased platelet turnover and exposure to ADP, and increase in fibrinogen which can be directly interact with GpIIb/IIIa. In addition, an increase in thrombin, epinephrine which is a platelet agonist triggers platelet aggregation.(6) Increased shear stress in hypertension can lead to platelet reactivation so this is thought to be the cause of failure of the antiplatelet response.(7) Smoking is associated with an increased response to therapy with clopidogrel which known as smoker paradox.(6) The results of other studies regarding the relationship between individual factors and the occurrence of clopidogrel resistance were various.(8)

Several tests are available to measure platelet function and the effect of antiplatelets.(4) Light transmission aggregometry (LTA) is recognized as the gold standard for examining platelet function. However, LTA are highly operator-dependent and show little correlation with other available tests for antiplatelet resistance.(5) The LTA test requires a long time and is intensive sample preparation. Its reproducibility is also questionable.(9) The ideal test criteria include assessing that antiplatelet therapy should use physiologically relevant agonists to induce platelet aggregation, be easy to perform, provide fast results, correlate with clinical events, have high sensitivity, and are affordable. Currently, no technique meets these criteria.(5) The VerifyNow examination is one of the easiest platelet function point-of-care (POCT) systems to use and the results are quick compared to other platelet function tests.(9)

In this research, we studied comparison of aggregometer analyzers between LTA and VerifyNow to evaluate clopidogrel resistance, and to find out the factors affecting clopidogrel resistance in AMI-EST patients who undergoing PCI.

Methods

This was a cross-sectional study with AMI-EST patients who underwent PCI in the Harapan Kita National Heart Center Hospital, Jakarta, from September 2018 to April 2019 as the subjects. For the comparison of two method, we used different principle of measurement of 100-200 specimen as recommended in previous study. (10) To analyzed the relationship of the various variable with clopidogrel resistance, we use rule of thumbs for determining sample size. Since we use 11 variables then we need minimum 110 subjects for the study. In this study we got 119 subjects participated. This study have been approved by ethical committee of Faculty of Medicine Universitas Indonesia (Registry No. LB.02.01/VII/294/KEP. 059/2018). The target population was AMI-EST patients who had undergone PCI and received clopidogrel therapy (loading dose 600 mg). Subjects were selected by consecutive sampling.

Blood samples were taken from the antecubital vein at 6 hour after the loading dose of 600 mg clopidogrel, exclusion criteria if the platelet count was less than $150 \times 10^9/L$ or more than $450 \times 10^9/L$, receiving P2Y12 adenosine diphosphate (ADP) receptor loading inhibitors in addition to clopidogrel. Not currently on Eptifibatide, Tirofiban HCl, and Abciximab, and not willing to participate in this research.

Platelet Function Tests

LTA assesses platelet aggregation associated with the glycoprotein GPIIb/IIIa. This test is based on measuring the increase in light transmission via a platelet-rich plasma (PRP) sample after the addition of an exogenous agonist. During the examination, PRP becomes clearer after agonist addition due to platelet aggregate precipitation.(11) The clopidogrel resistances determined by using the LTA assay were defined as $\geq 59\%$.(12)

The VerifyNow-P2Y12 Assay/VerifyNow P2Y12 Reaction Units (PRU) test is a rapid test that uses ADP to stimulate platelets in the presence of Prostaglandin E1 (PGE1) and which inhibits activation downstream of a second ADP receptor P2Y1 the assay system reagent is designed to specifically measure P2Y12-mediated platelet aggregation. Measurement of ADP-induced platelet activation is expressed as PRU. The clopidogrel resistances determined by using the VerifyNow assay were defined as $PRU \geq 208$.(6,13)

Statistical Analysis

The statistical test was performed using SPSS ver 20.0 program (IBM Cooperation, New York, USA). Agreement between the results obtained with the LTA and VerifyNow were established using quadratic weighted Kappa (κ) statistics. The relationship of demographic, risk factors, and laboratory results with clopidogrel resistance was determined by the Chi-Square test. In addition to conducting bivariate tests, the study also conducted multivariate tests with for determining variables affecting the clopidogrel resistance.

Results

Characteristics results of patients investigated are shown in Table 1. The proportion of clopidogrel resistance was 47.1% (56 of a total of 119 patients) with LTA and 21.8% (26 of a total of 119 patients) using the VerifyNow. The LTA and VerifyNow compatibility tested with Kappa coefficient. A fair agreement was obtained with Kappa=0.270, $p=0.001$ with the distribution of data as shown in Table 2. The relationship of demographic, risk factors, and laboratory results with clopidogrel resistance can be seen in Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5. Three demographic factors, sex, age and BMI do not have a significant with clopidogrel resistance. The risk factor for that had a significant relationship with the clopidogrel resistance measured by VerifyNow was DM with $p=0.001$. There was no significant relationship between laboratory results and the clopidogrel resistance as shown in Table 5.

The final results of the multivariate logistic regression analysis presented in Table 6. From the multivariate analysis for VerifyNow, it turns out that the variable which has a significant relationship with clopidogrel resistance is diabetes mellitus. The final results of the multivariate logistic regression analysis examined by LTA did not obtain statistically significant predictors of the occurrence of clopidogrel resistance as presented in Table 7.

Discussion

In our study, we get more male than female subjects. Several studies found the dominance of subjects based on different sexes. This study is in line with previous studies which found that the number of male patients with AMI was greater than that of women.(14)

The age range of the subjects in this study was 24-76 years with mean 52.9 years which younger than the 2018

Table 1. Characteristics of research subjects (n=119).

| Variable | n (%) |
|---|----------------------|
| Basic Demographic | |
| Sex | |
| Male | 109 (91.6) |
| Female | 10 (8.4) |
| Age | |
| <60 years | 84 (70.6) |
| ≥60 years | 35 (29.4) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 52.9±10.1 (24-76) |
| BMI | |
| <25.00 | 56 (47.1) |
| ≥25.00 | 63 (52.9) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 25.3±3.8 (17.3-34.8) |
| Risk Factors of ACS | |
| Hypertension | |
| No | 53 (44.5) |
| Yes | 66 (55.5) |
| Diabetes Melitus | |
| No | 85 (71.4) |
| Yes | 34 (28.6) |
| Family history of ACS | |
| No | 106 (89.1) |
| Yes | 13 (10.9) |
| Smoker | |
| No | 35 (29.4) |
| Yes | 84 (70.6) |
| Laboratory Results | |
| Total cholesterol | |
| Normal (<200 mg/dL) | 82 (78.1) |
| High (≥200 mg/dL) | 23 (21.9) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 170.8±40.5 (43-280) |
| HDL-C | |
| Normal (≤40 mg/dL) | 39 (37.1) |
| High (>40 mg/dL) | 66 (62.9) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 37.3±11.4 (4-120) |
| LDL-C | |
| Normal (<160 mg/dL) | 83 (79.0) |
| High (≥160 mg/dL) | 22 (21.0) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 124.9±38.5 (37-221) |
| Triglyceride (mg/dL) | |
| Normal (<200 mg/dL) | 86 (86.0) |
| High (>200 mg/dL) | 14 (14.0) |
| Mean±SD (95% CI) | 139.7±61.0 (57-382) |
| Platelet Aggregation Examination | |
| VerifyNow | |
| ≤208PRU (sensitive) | 93 (78.2%) |
| >208PRU (resistant) | 26 (21.8%) |
| Light Transmission Aggregometry | |
| <59% (sensitive) | 63 (52.9%) |
| ≥59% (resistant) | 56 (47.1%) |

RISKESDAS data which shown the highest prevalence of coronary heart disease was found in the age group of more than 75 years.(15) Most of the subjects were in the

Table 2. Agreement of LTA and Verifynow.

| | | Light Transmission Aggregometry | | Total |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | Resistant | Non-resistant | |
| VerifyNow | Resistant | 20 | 6 | 26 |
| | Non-resistant | 36 | 57 | 93 |
| Total | | 56 | 63 | 119 |

<60 years age group. The BMI variable may play role in this finding. From 119 subjects, 52.9% had abnormal BMI. This result was in line with previous study, which found the largest number of patients with ACS were in the <65 years group and was overweight.(16)

This study aims to assess the compatibility of the VerifyNow with the LTA test. We found that the VerifyNow and LTA shows fair agreement. This result was similar to other study comparing VerifyNow and LTA which found fair agreement between these two methods with kappa 0.36 (95% CI: 0.24-0.49).(17) Determination of clopidogrel resistance is very important in determining the success of therapy and reducing reinfarction due to clopidogrel resistance. The difference results of those two methods might resulted in difference serious clinical situation in patient with ACS. In most cases of disagreement, the LTA ranked patients in the normal platelet reactivity category whereas the VerifyNow measured it as platelet resistant, this also similar to previous study.(17) The proportion of clopidogrel resistance obtained from this study for VerifyNow was 21.8% and with LTA was 47.1%, whereas a similar study from Indonesia conducted before obtained a proportion of clopidogrel resistance as much as 36%.(16) There is agreement with several clinical studies conducted on patients China, Japan and Korea

revealed that the frequency of clopidogrel resistance in Asians varies between 20-65%.(18,19)

The proportion of patients with DM who experienced clopidogrel resistance was 47.1% compared to patients without DM 11.8%. There was a significant relationship between DM and clopidogrel resistance ($p=0.001$). Patients with comorbid DM were 6.7 times more likely to develop clopidogrel resistance when compared to patients without DM. The results of this study are consistent with another study which reported that the proportion of clopidogrel resistance in diabetic patients was higher than that of patients without diabetes, respectively 54.55% and 12.22% with a p -value<0.001.(20)

Insulin is a natural antagonist for platelet hyperactivity. Insulin causes decreased platelet response to various agonists including ADP. Insulin deficiency causes platelet reactivity through the substrate-dependent (IRS-dependent) insulin receptor mechanism which will increase intracellular calcium concentration and cause changes in platelet shape, thereby causing increased platelet degranulation and aggregation.(21)

The causes of clopidogrel resistance are still uncertain and very complex. Several factors behind the poor response to antiplatelet therapy in ACS patients, including drug

Table 3. Demographic factors affecting clopidogrel resistance using the VerifyNow and LTA.

| Basic Demographic Variables | VerifyNow | | | | Light Transmission Aggregometry | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Clopidogrel Effect [n (%)] | | <i>p</i> -value | OR (95% CI) | Clopidogrel effect [n (%)] | | <i>p</i> -value | OR (95% CI) |
| | Sensitive (n=93) | Resistant (n=26) | | | Sensitive (n=63) | Resistant (n=56) | | |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male (n=109) | 86 (78.9) | 23 (21.1) | 0.454 | 1.602 (0.394-6.687) | 59 (54.1) | 50 (45.9) | 0.513 | 1.77 (0.473-6.626) |
| Female (n=10) | 7 (70) | 3 (30) | | | 4 (40) | 6 (60) | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| <60 years (n=84) | 69 (82.1) | 15 (17.9) | 0.165 | 2.108 (0.852-5.218) | 46 (54.8) | 38 (45.2) | 0.678 | 1.282 (0.582-2.824) |
| ≥60 years (n=35) | 24 (68.6) | 11 (31.4) | | | 17 (48.6) | 18 (51.4) | | |
| BMI | | | | | | | | |
| Normal (n=56) | 41 (73.2) | 15 (26.8) | 0.314 | 0.578 (0.240-1.393) | 31 (55.4) | 25 (44.6) | 0.754 | 1.201 (0.583-2.473) |
| Overweight (n=63) | 52 (82.5) | 11 (17.5) | | | 32 (50.8) | 31 (49.2) | | |

Table 4. Risk factors for clopidogrel resistance measured with VerifyNow and LTA.

| ACS Risk Factor Variables | VerifyNow | | | | Light Transmission Aggregometry | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|
| | Clopidogrel Effect [n (%)] | | p-value | OR (95% CI) | Clopidogrel Effect [n (%)] | | p-value | OR (95% CI) |
| | Sensitive (n=93) | Resistant (n=26) | | | Sensitive (n=63) | Resistant (n=56) | | |
| Hypertension | | | | | | | | |
| No (n=53) | 40 (75.5) | 13 (24.5) | 0.681 | 0.755 (0.316-1.804) | 30 (56.6) | 23 (43.4) | 0.594 | 0.304 (0.631-2.697) |
| Yes (n=66) | 53 (80.3) | 13 (19.7) | | | 33 (50) | 33 (50) | | |
| Diabetes Melitus | | | | | | | | |
| No (n=85) | 75 (88.2) | 10 (11.8) | 0.001 | 6.697 (2.597-17.114) | 48 (56.5) | 37 (48.5) | 0.309 | 1.643 (0.737-3.662) |
| Yes (n=34) | 18 (52.9) | 16 (47.1) | | | 15 (44.1) | 19 (55.9) | | |
| Family History of ACS | | | | | | | | |
| No (n=106) | 83 (78.3) | 23 (21.7) | 1.000 | 1.083 (0.275-4.262) | 59 (55.7) | 47 (44.3) | 0.161 | 2.824 (0.819-9.746) |
| Yes (n=13) | 10 (76.9) | 3 (23.1) | | | 4 (30.8) | 10 (69.2) | | |
| Smoker | | | | | | | | |
| No (n=35) | 26 (74.3) | 9 (25.7) | 0.678 | 0.733 (0.290-1.851) | 14 (40) | 21 (60) | 0.104 | 0.476 (0.213-1.063) |
| Yes (n=84) | 67 (79.8) | 17 (20.2) | | | 49 (58.3) | 35 (41.7) | | |

interactions, diabetes, genetic factors, and other factors such as inflammation and platelet activation due to plaque rupture. Drug and cigarette interactions through CYP450, clinical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and genetic and epigenetic polymorphisms are thought to play an important role in the occurrence of clopidogrel resistance.(22)

The multivariate analysis for VerifyNow showed that the predictor associated with clopidogrel resistance was diabetes mellitus which had the greatest effect on clopidogrel resistance with an OR of 7.67 (95% CI: 1.87-31.50).

The weakness of this study is that it is not able to assess the interactions between other risk factors. Based on the literature, meaningful interactions are obtained from genetic and epigenetic risk factors, but this research has not been carried out so that other examinations are needed related to these factors.

Conclusion

This study confirms a fair agreement of clopidogrel resistance; tested by LTA and VerifyNow examination.

Table 5. Relationship of laboratory results and clopidogrel resistance with the VerifyNow and LTA.

| Laboratory Results Variables | VerifyNow | | | | Light Transmission Aggregometry | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|
| | Clopidogrel Effect [n (%)] | | p-value | OR (95% CI) | Clopidogrel Effect [n (%)] | | p-value | OR (95% CI) |
| | Sensitive (n=93) | Resistant (n=26) | | | Sensitive (n=63) | Resistant (n=56) | | |
| Total cholesterol | | | | | | | | |
| Normal (n=82) | 65 (79.3) | 17 (20.7) | 0.485 | 1.673 (0.593-4.715) | 42 (51.2) | 40 (48.8) | 0.959 | 1.145 (0.454-2.891) |
| High (n=23) | 16 (69.6) | 7 (30.4) | | | 11 (47.8) | 12 (52.2) | | |
| HDL-C | | | | | | | | |
| Normal (n=39) | 31 (79.5) | 8 (20.5) | 0.842 | 1.24 (0.475-3.238) | 19 (48.7) | 20 (51.3) | 0.94 | 0.894 (0.405-1.974) |
| High (n=66) | 50 (75.8) | 16 (24.2) | | | 34 (51.5) | 32 (48.5) | | |
| LDL-C | | | | | | | | |
| Normal (n=83) | 66 (79.5) | 17 (20.5) | 0.401 | 1.812 (0.638-5.144) | 43 (51.8) | 40 (48.2) | 0.772 | 1.29 (0.502-3.313) |
| High (n=22) | 15 (68.2) | 7 (31.8) | | | 10 (45.5) | 12 (54.5) | | |
| Triglyceride | | | | | | | | |
| Normal (n=86) | 67 (77.9) | 19 (22.1) | 0.314 | 1.959 (0.586-6.544) | 44 (51.2) | 42 (48.8) | 1.000 | 1.048 (0.339-3.242) |
| High (n=14) | 9 (64.3) | 5 (35.7) | | | 7 (50) | 7 (50) | | |

Table 6. Multivariate logistic regression analysis with VerifyNow examination.

| Predictor | B | p-value | Odd Ratio | 95% CI |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Sex | -1.336 | 0.372 | 0.263 | 0.014-4.929 |
| Age | 0.531 | 0.507 | 1.7 | 0.354-8.168 |
| BMI | -0.386 | 0.579 | 0.68 | 0.174-2.651 |
| Hypertension | -0.171 | 0.809 | 0.843 | 0.211-3.372 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 2.037 | 0.005* | 7.668 | 1.867-31.50 |
| Family History of ACS | -0.103 | 0.925 | 0.902 | 0.107-7.595 |
| Smoker | -0.001 | 0.999 | 0.999 | 0.192-5.189 |
| Total Cholesterol | -17.731 | 0.999 | 0 | - |
| HDL-C | 0.081 | 0.911 | 1.084 | 0.265-4.44 |
| LDL-C | 19.204 | 0.999 | 218872791.4 | - |
| Triglycerides | 1.039 | 0.317 | 2.826 | 0.369-21.623 |

Table 7. Multivariate logistic regression analysis with LTA examination.

| Predictor | B | p-value | Odd Ratio | 95% CI |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Sex | -0.923 | 0.417 | 0.397 | 0.043-3.696 |
| Age | 0.597 | 0.304 | 1.817 | 0.582-5.677 |
| BMI | 0.36 | 0.486 | 1.434 | 0.521-3.949 |
| Hypertension | -0.051 | 0.918 | 0.951 | 0.361-2.5 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 0.53 | 0.336 | 1.699 | 0.577-5.006 |
| Family History of ACS | 1.081 | 0.243 | 2.947 | 0.481-18.078 |
| Smoker | -0.033 | 0.958 | 0.968 | 0.291-3.216 |
| Total Cholesterol | -0.334 | 0.803 | 0.716 | 0.052-9.83 |
| HDL-C | -0.18 | 0.705 | 0.835 | 0.329-2.12 |
| LDL-C | 0.723 | 0.598 | 2.061 | 0.14-30.302 |
| Triglycerides | -0.371 | 0.62 | 0.69 | 0.159-2.989 |

Diabetes mellitus might be a significant predictor of clopidogrel resistance.

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Authors Contribution

AG and EL were involved in the planning of the manuscript, supervised the work, and also analyzed the data. IST and RS were involved in planning and

supervised the work. RD was involved in drafting the manuscript. RS, IA, LGP, NDI were involved in supervising the work. ARH were involved in drafting and reviewing manuscript. SS and WS were involved in literature searching, writing and data analysis. All authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

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