

FORECASTING RISK IN ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

By

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Dedicated to Faye and David O'Connell

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY.....	V
STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE	VI
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	VII
PUBLICATIONS	VIII
ACRONYMS.....	IX
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Risk factors for mortality following acute myocardial infarction	1
1.2 Uses of risk indexes in AMI	3
1.3 Prediction methods	4
1.4 Risk assessment strategies in AMI.....	5
1.5 Global burden of AMI	6
1.6 Rationale for the thesis.....	7
1.7 Variations in risk by geographic region – other factors	7
1.8 Challenges for models based on randomised trials	9
1.9 Objectives of the thesis.....	11
1.10 Outline of chapters	12
CHAPTER 2: METHODS	14
2.1 Model building approach	14
2.1.1 Candidate predictors	14
2.1.2 Missing data	14
2.1.3 Functional form	15
2.1.4 Interactions	15
2.1.5 Overfitting considerations.....	16
2.1.6 Variable selection	16
2.1.7 Derivation dataset.....	17
2.1.8 Simplifying the final model.....	17
2.2 Predictive performance	17

2.3	Internal and external validation	20
2.4	Updating prediction models for a new setting	21
2.5	Software.....	21

CHAPTER 3: RISK MODELS FOR ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION BASED ON A GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE TRIAL POPULATION 22

3.1	Introduction	22
3.2	Methods.....	23
3.2.1	HERO-2 trial.....	23
3.2.1.1	Study population	23
3.2.1.2	Treatments	23
3.2.1.3	Geographical regions.....	24
3.2.2	RISK MODELING	25
3.2.2.1	Baseline clinical information.....	25
3.2.2.2	Missing data.....	25
3.2.2.3	Risk model development	25
3.2.2.4	Internal validation	27
3.2.2.5	Risk estimation from a risk index.....	27
3.2.2.6	Predictive performance	27
3.2.2.7	External validation.....	30
3.3	Results	31
3.3.1	HERO-2 multivariable models and risk score	31
3.3.2	TIMI risk score and HPI-CAT risk equations.....	31
3.3.3	Comparison of the predictive performance of risk strategies applied in HERO-2	34
3.3.4	Summary of HPI-CAT and TIMI risk score performance in HERO-2.....	39
3.3.5	External validation in GUSTO-I trial.....	40
3.4	Discussion	44

CHAPTER 4: INTERNATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN CLINICAL OUTCOMES AFTER ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION 48

4.1	Introduction	48
4.2	Methods.....	49
4.2.1	Clinical outcomes	49
4.2.2	Statistical analysis.....	49
4.2.3	HERO-2 screening log substudy.....	50
4.2.3.1	Data collection and patient population.....	50
4.2.3.2	Sample size	51
4.2.3.3	Analysis	51
4.3	Results	51
4.3.1	Baseline characteristics	51
4.3.2	Patterns of care	53
4.3.3	Clinical outcomes by region	53
4.3.4	HERO-2 screening log substudy results.....	56

4.3.5	Other explanatory regional variables	56
4.3.6	Multilevel modeling	60
4.3.7	Treatment effects by region	60
4.4	Discussion	63

CHAPTER 5: RISK OF MORTALITY AFTER ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION: PERFORMANCE OF MODEL UPDATING METHODS FOR APPLICATION IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS..... 67

5.1	Introduction	67
5.2	Methods.....	68
5.2.1	Model updating methods.....	68
5.2.2	Internal validation	69
5.2.3	External validation.....	69
5.3	Results	70
5.3.1	Performance of HGR model and simple re-calibration	70
5.3.2	Performance of model revision	72
5.3.3	External validation in GUSTO-I trial	73
5.4	Discussion	76

CHAPTER 6: CROSS-TRIAL COMPARISONS OF RISK MODELS..... 80

6.1	Introduction	80
6.2	Methods.....	82
6.2.1	Trials and included patients	82
6.2.2	ASSENT-2 model development.....	84
6.2.3	Application of risk models	84
6.2.4	Missing data	85
6.2.5	Treatment offset	85
6.2.6	Approach to chapter objectives	86
6.2.6.1	Comparison of trials	86
6.2.6.2	Comparison of models.....	86
6.2.6.3	Re-calibration	86
6.2.6.4	Calibration of prognostic indices and comparison with HPI-FULL.....	87
6.2.6.5	Predictive performance	87
6.3	RESULTS	88
6.3.1	Trial characteristics	88
6.3.2	Patient characteristics by trial.....	88
6.3.3	Mortality by trial.....	90
6.3.4	Comparison of models	91
6.3.5	Performance of models.....	95
6.3.5.1	Discriminatory ability.....	95
6.3.5.2	R ² comparisons	96
6.3.5.3	Intercept and calibration slope assessment	100
6.3.5.4	Calibration plots	104

6.3.6	Performance of prognostic indices.....	111
6.3.6.1	Discriminatory ability.....	111
6.3.6.2	R^2 results	112
6.3.6.3	Calibration slope.....	114
6.3.6.4	Calibration plots	115
6.4	Conclusion.....	122
CHAPTER 7: DISCUSSION		126
7.1	Overall findings	126
7.2	Model updating	127
7.3	Generalisability	127
7.4	Simplified risk scores	130
7.5	Other issues.....	130
7.6	Summary	132
REFERENCES.....		133
APPENDICES		138
APPENDIX A.....		139
	Example Splus code for shrinkage of region-specific regression coefficients in Asia.....	139
APPENDIX B		140
	TABLE A1: Trial characteristics	140
	TABLE A2: ASSENT-3 day 0 30-day mortality model [9]	142
	TABLE A3: c statistics by region for uncalibrated models.....	143
	TABLE A4: Overall c statistic results after trial-region level recalibration	144
	TABLE A5: Nagelkerke's R^2 statistics (%) for uncalibrated models	145
	TABLE A6: Nagelkerke's R^2 statistics (%) after trial-level recalibration	146
	TABLE A7: Nagelkerke's R^2 statistics (%) after trial-region level recalibration	147

SUMMARY

Coronary heart disease is the most common cause of death worldwide with an estimated 7 million deaths per year. The majority of these deaths are due to acute myocardial infarction (AMI) so the burden of illness and mortality from AMI worldwide is immense. Existing short-term risk assessment strategies in AMI are limited to Western patient populations. In this thesis we have proposed risk models for prediction of mortality after AMI based on the geographically diverse Hirulog and Early Reperfusion or Occlusion (HERO-2) trial. The HERO-2 trial randomised 17 073 patients to either unfractionated heparin or bivalirudin in conjunction with fibrinolytic therapy with streptokinase, for the treatment of ST-segment Elevation MI. Patients were recruited from 46 countries from Europe, North and Latin America and Asia, including Australia, New Zealand and Russia. We have developed a comprehensive risk model to identify significant predictors of 30-day mortality. This model was subsequently simplified to a basic risk index and predictive accuracy was compared. We have also proposed two new methods for directly comparing the calibration and ranking performance of two risk strategies.

The geographical diversity of the HERO-2 trial also provided a unique opportunity to examine international differences in clinical outcomes following AMI. We have undertaken a comprehensive comparison of patient characteristics, treatment and outcomes across 5 pre-specified regions: Western countries, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Russia and Asia. We found that mortality rates were lower in Western countries and that these differences could not be attributed to patient case-mix, treatments or national health and economic statistics.

An important issue in applying findings from randomised clinical trials is the procedure to estimate risk among members of other patient populations. Using the HERO-2 trial we compared methods for updating risk models for AMI. A variety of re-calibration and model revision strategies were compared with a global modeling strategy having a built-in region effect. The relative performance of these methods in the different geographical regions, which vary in sample size, was of primary interest. Model revision was found to only provide a slight improvement in predictive performance over the global model. We concluded that a global model with regional re-calibration is adequate.

We also studied data from 5 additional multinational trials: GUSTO-1, GUSTO-2b, GUSTO-3, ASSENT-2 and ASSENT-3. We further explored the adequacy of applying simple re-calibration to update a model for the context of applying a previously developed model to a new trial. We found that new models do not need to be developed for risk assessment in new trials; prior models with re-calibration will suffice.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

I certify that the work in this thesis entitled “**Forecasting risk in acute myocardial infarction**” has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of the requirements for a degree to any other university or institution other than Macquarie University.

I also certify that the thesis is an original piece of research and it has been written by me. Any help and assistance that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself have been appropriately acknowledged.

In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in this thesis.

Rachel O’Connell (40759350)

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PUBLICATIONS

The following publications have resulted from work contained in this thesis:

1. O'Connell RL and Hudson HM. Risk of mortality after acute myocardial infarction: Performance of model updating methods for application in different geographical regions. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* 2009; 53(3): 834-46.
2. Simes RJ, O'Connell RL, Aylward PE, Varshavsky S, Diaz R, Wilcox RG, Armstrong PW, Granger CB, French JK, Van de Werf F, Marschner IC, Califf R, White HD; for the HERO-2 Investigators. Unexplained international differences in clinical outcomes after acute myocardial infarction and fibrinolytic therapy: lessons from the Hirulog and Early Reperfusion or Occlusion (HERO)-2 trial. *American Heart Journal* 2010; 159(6): 988-97.

In both publications I took the lead on all analyses. I also took the lead in writing paper 1 and contributed to the writing of paper 2. For inclusion in this thesis paper 2 has been expanded with the inclusion of additional analyses and rewritten to focus on the statistical aspects of the work.

Other related publications on which I am a coauthor:

3. The Hirulog and Early Reperfusion or Occlusion (HERO)-2 Trial Investigators. Thrombin-specific anticoagulation with bivalirudin versus heparin in patients receiving fibrinolytic therapy for acute myocardial infarction: the HERO-2 randomised trial. *Lancet* 2001; 358: 1855-63.
4. Edmond JJ, French JK, Stewart RAH, Aylward PA, De Pasquale CG, Williams BF, O'Connell RL, Simes RJ, and White HD, for the HERO-2 Investigators. Frequency of recurrent ST elevation myocardial infarction after fibrinolytic therapy in a different territory as a manifestation of multiple unstable coronary arterial plaques. *American Journal of Cardiology* 2006; 97(7): 947-51.
5. Edmond JJ, French JK, Aylward PE, Wong CK, Stewart RA, Williams BF, De Pasquale CG, O'Connell RL, Van den Berg K, Van de Werf FJ, Simes RJ, and White HD, for the HERO-2 Investigators. Variations in the use of emergency PCI for the treatment of re-infarction following intravenous fibrinolytic therapy: impact on outcomes in HERO-2. *European Heart Journal* 2007; 28(12):1418-24.

ACRONYMS

ACS	Acute Coronary Syndrome
AMI	Acute Myocardial Infarction
ANN	Artificial Neural Network
ASSENT-2	Assessment of the Safety and Efficacy of a New Thrombolytic
ASSENT-3	Assessment of the Safety and Efficacy of a New Thrombolytic Regimen
AUC	Area under the curve
BNP	Brain Natriuretic Peptide
CABG	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
CART	Classification and Regression Trees
CHD	Coronary Heart Disease
CI	Confidence Interval
CT	Computed Tomography
CV	Cross-validation
DALE	Disability Adjusted Life Expectancy
ECG	Electrocardiographic
EPV	Events per variable
GDF-15	Growth Differentiation Factor-15
GISSI	Gruppo Italiano per lo Studio della Sopravvivenza nell'Infarto Miocardico
GNI	Gross National Income
GRACE	Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events
GUSTO-I	Global Utilisation of Streptokinase and Tissue Plasminogen Activator for Occluded Coronary Arteries
GUSTO-IIb	Global Use of Strategies to Open Occluded Coronary Arteries in Acute Coronary Syndromes
GUSTO-III	Global Use of Strategies to Open Occluded Coronary Arteries
HERO-2	Hirulog and Early Reperfusion or Occlusion
HF	Heart Failure
HGR	HERO-2 Global Risk
HPI	HERO-2 Prognostic Index
IDI	Integrated Discrimination Improvement
InTIME-II	Intravenous NPA for the Treatment of Infarcting Myocardium Early
IP	Integral of “one minus specificity”
IQR	Interquartile range
IS	Integrated Sensitivity
IV	Intravenous
LP	Linear Predictor
MAGIC	Magnesium In Coronaries trial
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NGRP	Net Gain in Reclassification Proportion
NRI	Net Reclassification Improvement
NSTEMI	Non-ST-segment Elevation MI
NT-ProBNP	N-terminal Pro β -type Natriuretic Peptide
OR	Odds Ratio
PCI	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
PREDICT	Predicting Risk of Death In Cardiac Disease Tool
PURSUIT	Platelet glycoprotein IIb/IIIa in Unstable angina: Receptor Suppression Using Integrilin (eptifibatide) Therapy
RCT	Randomised Clinical Trial
ROC	Receiver Operating Characteristic
SE	Standard Error
SYSBP	Systolic Blood Pressure
TIMI	Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction
t-PA	Tissue Plasminogen Activator
UA	Unstable Angina
VIGOUR	Virtual Coordinating Centre for Global Collaborative Cardiovascular Research