Coronary Artery Disease

Clinical Outcome of Double Kissing Crush Versus Provisional Stenting of Coronary Artery Bifurcation Lesions

The 5-Year Follow-Up Results From a Randomized and Multicenter DKCRUSH-II Study (Randomized Study on Double Kissing Crush Technique Versus Provisional Stenting Technique for Coronary Artery Bifurcation Lesions)

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Background—Provisional stenting is effective for anatomic simple bifurcation lesions. Double kissing crush stenting reduces the 1-year rate of target lesion revascularization. This study aimed to investigate the 5-year clinical results of the DKCRUSH-II study (Randomized Study on Double Kissing Crush Technique Versus Provisional Stenting Technique for Coronary Artery Bifurcation Lesions).

Methods and Results—A total of 370 patients with coronary bifurcation lesions who were randomly assigned to either the double kissing crush or provisional stenting group in the DKCRUSH-II study were followed for 5 years. The primary end point was the occurrence of a major adverse cardiac event at 5 years. Patients were classified by simple and complex bifurcation lesions according to the DEFINITION criteria (Definitions and Impact of Complex Bifurcation Lesions on Clinical Outcomes After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Using Drug-Eluting Stents). At 5 years, the major adverse cardiac event rate (23.8%) in the provisional stenting group was insignificantly different to that of the double kissing group (15.7%; P=0.051). However, the difference in the target lesion revascularization rate between 2 groups was sustained through the 5-year follow-up (16.2% versus 8.6%; P=0.027). The definite and probable stent thrombosis rate was 2.7% in each group (P=1.0). Complex bifurcation was associated with a higher rate of target lesion revascularization (21.6%) at 5 years compared with 11.1% in patients with a simple bifurcation (P=0.037), with an extremely high rate in the provisional stenting group (36.8% versus 12.5%, P=0.005) mainly because of final kissing balloon inflation (19.4% versus 5.2%, P=0.036).

Conclusions—The double kissing crush stenting technique for coronary bifurcation lesions is associated with a lower rate of target lesion revascularization. The optimal stenting approach based on the lesions’ complexity may improve the revascularization for patients with complex bifurcations.

Clinical Trial Registration—URL: http://www.chictr.org. Unique identifier: ChiCTR-TRC-0000015.

(Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2017;10:e004497. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCINTERVENTIONS.116.004497.)

Key Words: angiography • aspirin • coronary artery bifurcation lesions • double kissing crush • myocardial infarction • stents • thrombosis

Several studies1-4 have pointed out that provisional stenting (PS), stenting the main vessel (MV) with provisional side branch (SB) stenting if suboptimal results (Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction <3 or greater than type B dissection or a higher grade residual stenosis) in SB occur, is comparable to systematic 2-stent techniques for coronary bifurcation lesions in terms of short-term1-4 or 5-year5 clinical outcomes. However, the wide discrepancy...
WHAT IS KNOWN

• Provisional side branch stenting is effective for the majority of coronary artery bifurcation lesions.
• Double kissing crush stenting technique is reported to be associated with lower risk of 1-year clinical events.
• Long-term results after double kissing crush are unknown.

WHAT THE STUDY ADDS

• Our data showed that the benefits of double kissing crush stenting for true coronary bifurcation lesions were sustained through 5-year follow-up.
• This was also true for complex bifurcation lesions.

The DKCRUSH-II study was an international, multicenter, and randomized study designed to compare the DK crush and the PS techniques for patients with Medina 1,1,1 and 0,1,1 bifurcation lesions.3 The primary endpoint of the primary publication was the 12-month composite major adverse cardiac event (MACE), including cardiac death, myocardial infarction (MI), and target vessel revascularization. Repeat angiography was performed only after the recurrence of symptoms after the indexed stenting procedure. The rate of definite and probable ST served as a safety end point. MI was diagnosed if the plasma level of creatine kinase (CK)-MB and troponin I/T increased to >3× the upper normal limit in no fewer than 2 blood samples. All deaths were considered as cardiac in origin unless noncardiac reasons were indicated. TLR and target vessel revascularization were defined as any repeat revascularization (percutaneous coronary intervention or coronary artery bypass graft) for target lesions and target vessels, respectively, in the presence of symptoms or objective signs of ischemia. ST was defined according to the Academic Research Consortium definition.4

Methods

Study Design and Patient Population

The DKCRUSH-II study was an international, multicenter, and randomized study designed to compare the DK crush and the PS techniques for patients with Medina 1,1,1 and 0,1,1 bifurcation lesions.3 The primary endpoint of the primary publication was the 12-month composite major adverse cardiac event (MACE), including cardiac death, myocardial infarction (MI), and target vessel revascularization, whereas angiographic follow-up was performed 8 months after the indexed procedures. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee in 7 participating centers, and written consent was obtained from all patients or their legally authorized representatives. The clinical follow-up was scheduled ≤5 years as shown in Figure 1. Finally, between April 2007 and June 2009, a total of 370 patients were enrolled (185 in each group). In brief, patients were eligible if they had ischemic symptoms or evidence of myocardial ischemia in the presence of a Medina3 1,1,1 or 0,1,1 de novo coronary bifurcation lesions. For inclusion, the maximum treatable lesion length by visual estimation for each individual branch had to be completely covered by 2 Excel stents (JW Medical Systems, Weihai, China). Excel stent is a rapamycin-coated stent with biodegradable polymer launched in 2004 in China. The exclusion criteria have been described in detail previously.1 Patients were randomly assigned to the study groups in a 1:1 ratio before undergoing balloon dilation. The main stenting techniques have been described previously.1 Final kissing balloon inflation (FKBI) was recommended for all DK crush and some of the PS group after balloononing SB.

Definition of Study End Points

The primary end point was the occurrence of a MACE at 5 years, which included MI, cardiac death, and clinically driven target vessel revascularization. Repeat angiography was performed only after the recurrence of symptoms after the indexed stenting procedure. The rate of definite and probable ST served as a safety end point. MI was diagnosed if the plasma level of creatine kinase (CK)-MB and troponin I/T increased to >3× the upper normal limit in no fewer than 2 blood samples. All deaths were considered as cardiac in origin unless noncardiac reasons were indicated. TLR and target vessel revascularization were defined as any repeat revascularization (percutaneous coronary intervention or coronary artery bypass graft) for target lesions and target vessels, respectively, in the presence of symptoms or objective signs of ischemia. ST was defined according to the Academic Research Consortium definition.4

Statistical Analysis

The calculation of the patient sample size has been described previously.3 The treatment group differences were evaluated with a t test or the Wilcoxon rank-sum score for continuous variables when appropriate. The χ2 test or Fisher exact test was used to analyze categorical variables. Survival rates free from events were generated by the Kaplan–Meier analysis and were compared using the log-rank test. Patients were classified by simple and complex subgroups according to DEFINITION criteria.4 Briefly, complex bifurcation was defined

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Figure 1. Study flowchart of the DKCRUSH-II study (Randomized Study on Double Kissing Crush Technique Versus Provisional Stenting Technique for Coronary Artery Bifurcation Lesions). Eight months after an indexed stenting procedure, 91.6% of patients underwent angiographic follow-up. DK indicates double kissing.
as SB diameter stenosis minimal 90% and SB lesion length ≥10 mm, plus at least 2 minor criteria (including MV lesion length ≥25 mm, MV reference diameter <2.5 mm, moderate or severe calcification, a bifurcation angle ≤45° or ≥70°, multiple lesions, and thrombus-containing lesions). Statistical significance was taken as a 2-sided *P* value <0.05. All analyses were performed with the statistical program SPSS 16.0 (SPSS Institute Inc, Chicago, IL).

### Results

**Baseline Characteristics**

Four patients were lost to the 5-year follow-up, with 2 patients in each group. Finally, 366 patients (183 in each group) formed the basis of this study. Baseline clinical and procedural characteristics are shown in Tables 1 and 2. In brief, of 366 patients, 16.5% had recent MI (>2 weeks), 33.5% had 3 vessel diseases, and 16.6% localized at the distal left main. Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) assessment was used in >46% of patients. FKBI was not performed in 38 (27.7%) cases in the PS group. Angiographic success was achieved in >99% of the patients. Complete revascularization was achieved in 92.4% of the DK group and 97.8% of the PS group. An 8-month angiographic follow-up after indexed procedures was available for 91.6% (n=337) of the patients.

### Medication

No patient was intolerable to 300 mg per day of aspirin in the first month after the stenting procedure. At the end of the 5-year follow-up, aspirin was not taken by 36 (19.7%) patients in the DK group and 35 (19.1%) patients in the PS group (*P*=1.0) because patients who had no ST were intolerable to aspirin-induced gastrointestinal symptoms. For these patients, traditional Chinese medicine was used to replace aspirin. Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) was prescribed in 70 (37.8%) patients in the DK group and to 74 (40.0%) patients in the PS group, and the difference was not significant (*P*=0.749).

### The 5-Year Follow-Up

At 5-year follow-up, the cumulative incidence of MACE was 23.8% in the PS group and 15.7% in the DK group (hazard ratio, 1.679; 95% confidence interval, 0.997–2.827; *P*=0.051; Table 3; Figure 2). The significant difference in TLR between the DK group (8.6%) and the PS group (16.2%, *P*=0.027) was not significant.

### Table 1. Baseline Clinical and Angiographic Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>DK Crush (n=183)</th>
<th>PS (n=183)</th>
<th><em>P</em> Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>63.9±11.1</td>
<td>64.7±10.0</td>
<td>0.464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>145 (78.8)</td>
<td>138 (75.8)</td>
<td>0.534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus, n (%)</td>
<td>36 (19.6)</td>
<td>42 (23.1)</td>
<td>0.445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia, n (%)</td>
<td>62 (33.7)</td>
<td>53 (29.1)</td>
<td>0.399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, n (%)</td>
<td>120 (65.2)</td>
<td>111 (60.9)</td>
<td>0.409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous MI, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (17.4)</td>
<td>24 (14.2)</td>
<td>0.310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous CABG, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>0.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous PCI, n (%)</td>
<td>39 (21.2)</td>
<td>38 (20.9)</td>
<td>0.991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stable angina, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (15.3)</td>
<td>20 (11.0)</td>
<td>0.279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable angina, n (%)</td>
<td>123 (66.8)</td>
<td>125 (68.7)</td>
<td>0.544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute MI, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (16.3)</td>
<td>30 (16.3)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silent ischemia, n (%)</td>
<td>3 (1.6)</td>
<td>7 (3.8)</td>
<td>0.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVEF &lt;40%, n (%)</td>
<td>28 (15.3)</td>
<td>21 (11.5)</td>
<td>0.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated vessels, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.752</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left anterior descending</td>
<td>112 (60.9)</td>
<td>107 (58.8)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Circumflex artery</td>
<td>23 (12.5)</td>
<td>30 (16.5)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Right coronary artery</td>
<td>17 (9.2)</td>
<td>16 (8.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left main</td>
<td>32 (17.4)</td>
<td>29 (15.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseased vessels, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.079</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single vessel disease</td>
<td>56 (30.4)</td>
<td>63 (34.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multivessel disease</td>
<td>127 (69.6)</td>
<td>120 (65.4)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medina 1,1,1, n (%)</td>
<td>154 (84.2)</td>
<td>144 (78.7)</td>
<td>0.285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medina 0,1,1, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (15.8)</td>
<td>39 (21.3)</td>
<td>0.282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex bifurcation, n (%)</td>
<td>31 (17.5)</td>
<td>20 (10.5)</td>
<td>0.054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CABG indicates coronary artery bypass graft; DK, double kissing; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; and PS, provisional stenting.

### Table 2. Procedural Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>DK Crush (n=183)</th>
<th>PS (n=183)</th>
<th><em>P</em> Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of IVUS, n (%)</td>
<td>85 (46.2)</td>
<td>88 (47.8)</td>
<td>0.672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesion length, mm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main vessel</td>
<td>28.5±12.9</td>
<td>25.8±14.5</td>
<td>0.519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side branch</td>
<td>15.3±11.1</td>
<td>14.6±11.9</td>
<td>0.755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference vessel diameter, mm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main vessel</td>
<td>2.87±0.49</td>
<td>2.79±0.48</td>
<td>0.161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side branch</td>
<td>2.39±0.44</td>
<td>2.35±0.49</td>
<td>0.479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stent length, mm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main vessel</td>
<td>28.6±12.4</td>
<td>28.8±13.5</td>
<td>0.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side branch</td>
<td>16.2±9.1</td>
<td>16.7±8.6</td>
<td>0.503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predilation, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main vessel</td>
<td>77 (42.0)</td>
<td>103 (56.6)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side branch</td>
<td>81 (44.1)</td>
<td>67 (36.8)</td>
<td>0.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FKBI, n (%)</td>
<td>183 (100.0)</td>
<td>144 (79.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>DK Crush (n=183)</th>
<th>PS (n=183)</th>
<th><em>P</em> Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angiographic success, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main vessel</td>
<td>183 (100.0)</td>
<td>180 (98.8)</td>
<td>0.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side branch</td>
<td>183 (100.0)</td>
<td>175 (96.5)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete revascularization, n (%)</td>
<td>170 (92.5)</td>
<td>173 (95.5)</td>
<td>0.390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median procedural time, min</td>
<td>38 (12–146)</td>
<td>37 (10–235)</td>
<td>0.609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median contrast volume, mL</td>
<td>146 (30–150)</td>
<td>136 (10–576)</td>
<td>0.402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median total fluoroscopy time, min</td>
<td>23 (5–123)</td>
<td>22 (5–188)</td>
<td>0.677</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DK indicates double kissing; FKBI, final kissing balloon inflation; IVUS, intravascular ultrasound; and PS, provisional stenting.
Chen et al 5-Year Follow-Up of DKCRUSH-II Study

sustained through the 5-year follow-up. Among 183 patients in the PS group, 144 (72.3%) underwent FKBI, and it was associated with a higher rate of TLR (19.4%, n=28) compared with 38 patients who had no FKBI (5.2%, n=2; \( P = 0.036 \)). Similarly, for all 366 patients, an IVUS assessment had a lower rate of MI (1.8%) compared with 5.4% in the angiographic guidance subgroup (\( P = 0.043 \)).

By 5 years after the indexed procedures, the rate of definite and probable ST was 2.7% (n=5) in both groups (\( P =1.0 \)). The rates of event-free survival of definite and probable ST are shown in Figure 3. The rate of early (<30 days), late (within 1 year), and very late (>1 year) ST was 0.5%, 1.1%, and 1.1% in the PS group, and 2.2%, 0.5%, and 0% in the DK group, respectively, and the difference was not significant (all \( P>0.05 \)). Three patients (2 in the DK group and 1 in the PS group) had a definite or probable ST while not taking DAPT.

Simple Versus Complex Lesions

According to the DEFINITION criteria, 6 51 (13.9%) patients were classified by complex subgroup, and 315 (86.1%) were included in the simple bifurcation subgroup. There was a significant difference in the 5-year rates of TLR between simple (11.1%) and complex (21.6%, \( P=0.037 \); Table 4; Figure 4), particularly in patients with complex bifurcation lesions treated by PS (Table 5).

Replacing MI by target vessel MI to perform a post hoc analysis, the rate of target lesion failure at the end of the 5-year follow-up was 11.4% in the DK group and 20.4% in the PS group (\( P=0.011 \)).

Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first report of long-term follow-up results from a multicenter and randomized study comparing

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**Table 3. The 5-Year Clinical Outcomes After DK Crush and PS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DK Crush, (n=183)</th>
<th>PS (n=183)</th>
<th>Hazard Ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>( P ) Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MACE, n (%)</td>
<td>29 (15.7)</td>
<td>44 (23.8)</td>
<td>1.670 (0.997–2.827)</td>
<td>0.051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac death</td>
<td>4 (2.2)</td>
<td>6 (3.2)</td>
<td>1.534 (0.426–5.529)</td>
<td>0.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>7 (3.8)</td>
<td>6 (3.2)</td>
<td>0.714 (0.222–2.293)</td>
<td>0.572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR</td>
<td>16 (8.6)</td>
<td>30 (16.2)</td>
<td>2.072 (1.087–3.951)</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABG</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>1.011 (0.063–16.288)</td>
<td>0.994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVR</td>
<td>23 (12.4)</td>
<td>35 (18.9)</td>
<td>1.667 (1.941–2.952)</td>
<td>0.080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>5 (2.7)</td>
<td>5 (2.7)</td>
<td>0.804 (0.213–3.045)</td>
<td>0.749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite</td>
<td>4 (2.2)</td>
<td>2 (1.1)</td>
<td>0.249 (0.028–2.246)</td>
<td>0.215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable</td>
<td>1 (0.5)</td>
<td>3 (1.6)</td>
<td>3.067 (0.316–29.762)</td>
<td>0.334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CABG indicates coronary artery bypass grafting; CI, confidence interval; DK, double kissing; MACE, major adverse cardiac event; MI, myocardial infarction; PS, provisional stenting; ST, stent thrombosis; TLR, target lesion revascularization; and TVR, target vessel revascularization.

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**Figure 2.** Kaplan–Meier analysis. The cumulative survival rate free from major adverse cardiac event (MACE; **A**) and target lesion revascularization (TLR; **B**) at a 5-year follow-up after the double kissing (DK) crush and provisional stenting techniques.
DK crush and PS for patients with real true coronary bifurcation lesions. We found that a significant difference in TLR between the 2 strategies was sustained through the 5-year follow-up, with the data favoring DK crush, even though the 5-year MACE rate did not achieve statistical significance.

Of 4 major randomized clinical studies1–4 that compared PS with systematic 2-stent techniques, only the Nordic Bifurcation study5 reported long-term clinical outcomes. The authors reported that the rate of composite MACE at a 5-year follow-up after the indexed procedure was not different between the 2 groups, which is similar to but slightly different from our results (23.8% in the PS group and 15.7% in the DK group) with a P value at the marginal level (P=0.05); this implied that this difference in MACE would have significant if the sample size was expanded. Notably, the Nordic Bifurcation study 5-year results showed that the definite (angiographically confirmed) ST in PS increased by 2× (3.0% versus 1.5%; P=0.32) although without significant difference.5 Our analysis found a catch-up phenomenon of ST in the PS group, with ST defined as late and very late. Even though 26.2% of the patients were not taking DAPT at the 5-year follow-up, only 1 patient had ST in PS, a result indicating that the progression of lesions in SB might be the main reason for the increased ST beyond 30 days. Thus far, there has been lack of studies showing the progression of lesions (particularly in SB) after PS treatment during long-term follow-up. Using analysis from the PS technique, FKBI is recommended mostly if ballooning SB is required. An intravascular study10 showed that KBI significantly reduced SB stenosis and repaired distorted stents in the MV. However, a recent randomized study did not show any significant benefit of routine KBI11 after PS. Our subgroup analysis demonstrated that FKBI induced an increase in TLR after stenting MV alone, a finding supported by the DKCRUSH-VI study,12 a randomized clinical study comparing fractional flow reserve (FFR)-guided versus angiography-guided PS, from which we found: (1) FKBI after bailed-out SB stenting or SB angioplasty alone was associated with a higher rate of ISR in distal MV, with a resultant higher TLR rate and (2) in the FFR-guided group, FKBI after ballooning SB because of decreased SB FFR after stenting MV had a 7.8% of SB FFR <0.80, indicating the development of ischemia at the area supplied by the related SB. Furthermore, a prospective, multicenter study by Burzotta et al13 showed that patients receiving the second stent as a bailout had worse survival free from MACE than those who received it as a planned technique (P=0.045). Taking

Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier analysis. The cumulative survival rate from target lesion revascularization (TLR; A) and target vessel revascularization (TVR; B) at a 5-year follow-up in patients with complex and simple bifurcation lesions after stent implantation.

Table 4. The 5-Year Clinical Outcomes After Stenting in Patients With Complex and Simple Coronary Bifurcation Lesions From 366 Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Complex (n=51)</th>
<th>Simple (n=315)</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
<td>13 (25.5)</td>
<td>59 (18.7)</td>
<td>0.259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac death</td>
<td>2 (3.8)</td>
<td>8 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>2 (3.8)</td>
<td>11 (3.4)</td>
<td>0.867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR</td>
<td>11 (21.6)</td>
<td>35 (11.1)</td>
<td>0.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABG</td>
<td>2 (3.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVR</td>
<td>14 (27.4)</td>
<td>44 (13.8)</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>2 (3.8)</td>
<td>8 (2.5)</td>
<td>0.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite</td>
<td>2 (3.8)</td>
<td>4 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (1.2)</td>
<td>0.287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CABG indicates coronary artery bypass grafting; MACE, major adverse cardiac event; MI, myocardial infarction; ST, stent thrombosis; TLR, target lesion revascularization; and TVR, target vessel revascularization.
together, less FKBI (34%) and less SB stenting (4.4%) may be a possible explanation for the lower 5-year rate of TLR after PS in the Nordic Bifurcation study 5-year follow-up. Furthermore, even this study included more patients with multivessel disease (68%), but complete revascularization was achieved in >94% of patients. This might be 1 reason to exclude the effect of multivessel disease on the clinical outcome in our study.

When comparing the results between the DKCRUSH-II study and the Nordic Bifurcation study, it should be noted that there are wider discrepancies among these 2 studies, such as unstable angina (>67% versus 33%), acute myocardial infarction (16% versus 0%), previous MI (15.5% versus 0%), left ventricular ejection fraction <40% (13% versus 0%), Medina 1,1,1/0,1,1 (100% versus <72%), left main bifurcation (16.7% versus 1.5%), SB lesion length (15 mm versus 5 mm) and diameter stenosis (68.3% versus <50%), and FKBI after 2 stents (100% versus 74%). These anatomic characteristics reflected more high-risk patients and more complex bifurcation lesions in our study, which predicted a more frequent occurrence of TLR in line with the DEFINITION study. According to DEFINITION criteria, the subgroup analysis from DKCRUSH-II study (these patients not included in DEFINITION analyses) showed that stenting complex bifurcation lesions in 51 patients had worse clinical outcomes than simple bifurcated lesions, with an extremely higher TLR rate in the PS group. Consequently, the selection of stenting technique (PS versus DK crush or other 2 stents) should be expected to be based on the classification of the lesions’ complexity.

PS is usually considered to be a simple stenting technique. In fact, PS with SB stenting is somewhat difficult if there is severe proximal tortuous, moderate to severe calcification, and an uncomfortable SB anatomy. Furthermore, the coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5. The 5-Year Clinical Outcomes in Simple and Complex Bifurcation Lesions After Either DK Crush or PS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK Crush (n=183)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CABG indicates coronary artery bypass grafting; DK, double kissing; MACE, major adverse cardiac event; MI, myocardial infarction; NS, not significant; PS, provisional stenting; ST, stent thrombosis; TLR, target lesion revascularization; and TVR, target vessel revascularization.

*Indicated the comparison between complex DK and complex Culotte.
of ostial SB in the case of a narrow bifurcation angle is commonly challenging. In a bench test, Zhang et al found that PS with the T and protrusion technique was always associated with 1 to 2 floating struts in the MV after FKBI for bifurcations with an angle varying from 45° to 60°, which may be at least a partial mechanism for the occurrence of late and very late ST after PS. Furthermore, diameters (balloon/vessel ratio) and patterns of balloons during FKBI (as short overlapping as possible in the MV) were not fixed in the previous studies, which also influences the short- and long-term results. Bench tests and clinical analysis have addressed the importance of the proximal optimization technique after FKBI to improve immediate and 1-year results; the technique was proposed before the start of either Nordic Bifurcation study or the DKCRUSH-II study. Consequently, the routine use of the proximal optimization technique should be recommended in further clinical studies. Finally, there is a lack of a randomized study showing the significance of IVUS-guided stenting bifurcation lesions. However, several reports showed the positive effect of IVUS guidance, particularly for 2-stent procedures, on the reduction of MI and cardiac death after stenting bifurcations. Obviously, almost half of the stenting procedures were guided by IVUS in the DKCRUSH-II study, which may be another factor reducing the requirement of revascularization after DK crush at a 5-year follow-up.

Notably, SB diameter is 1 indication for stenting technique selection. For bifurcation lesions with small SB (usually <2.0 mm in diameter), keep it open is recommended. In the COBIS II registry study (Korean Coronary Bifurcation Stenting), SB with a diameter ≥2.3 mm was enrolled, similar to previous studies and our study. An agreement among the studies was that a sizable SB was associated with adverse clinical outcomes. In the current analysis, the average SB diameter was <2.5 mm; however, it should be noted that a diffuse lesion (14.9 mm, Table 2) may underestimate the real SB reference diameter, which recalls the importance of IVUS to determine the anatomic features of a diseased SB. Furthermore, our ongoing DEFINITION 2 study, which only includes true bifurcation lesions with an SB minimally 2.5 mm in diameter, will provide new data for the difference in clinical outcomes after PS or systematic 2-stent techniques.

**Study Limitations**

First, 71 patients were not taking aspirin on the 5-year follow-up; however, the effect of stopping aspirin on TLR could not be excluded even if none of them had ST. Second, of 26.2% patients who were not put on DAPT, 2 in the DK group and 1 in the PS group had ST, indicating that a longer DAPT duration might be beneficial for patients with more complex bifurcation lesions. Third, IVUS data were not included in the analysis. However, the higher rate of MI in angiography guidance addressed the importance of IVUS, in line with the previous reports. Fourth, as the angiographic follow-up was scheduled before the 1-year clinical follow-up, vision reflex could not be excluded. However, revascularization was not performed for patients with angiographic stenosis and without clinical symptoms, suggesting clinically driven TLR in this analysis. Finally, this study was not originally meant to compare complex and simple bifurcation lesions. Moreover, this study included some patients with an SB diameter <2.5 mm. Thus, our data should be very cautiously translated.

**Conclusions**

The 5-year clinical follow-up of the DKCRUSH-II study showed the reduction of TLR by DK crush, with a marginal difference in composite MACE when compared with PS. Given the universal acceptance of PS as recommended for simplex bifurcation lesions, patients with more complex bifurcations benefited from the DK crush technique under the IVUS guidance. Improvement of stenting techniques is crucial to achieve optimal postprocedural results and better clinical results. Further clinical study is required to compare DK crush with PS for complex bifurcated lesions.

**Acknowledgments**

We deeply appreciate Ling Lin, Tian Xu, Jing Kan, Hai-Mei Xu, Ying-Ying Zhao, and Ling-Ling Liu for their great contributions to data collection and remote monitoring. Most importantly, we acknowledge Bao-Xian Duan, who worked hard as an independent member for analyzing clinical events.

**Sources of Funding**

This study was granted by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC 81270191, NSFC 91439118, and NSFC 91639303).

**Disclosures**

None.

**References**


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Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2017;10:
doi: 10.1161/CIRCINTERVENTIONS.116.004497
Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 1941-7640. Online ISSN: 1941-7632

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