

# Serum glycated albumin is associated with in-stent restenosis in patients with acute coronary syndrome after percutaneous coronary intervention with drug-eluting stents : An observational study

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## Research Article

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# Abstract

**Background:** Glycated albumin (GA) is a useful glycaemic index that reflects short-term blood glucose control. Previous studies have been confirmed the predicted value of GA in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD). However, The relationship between GA and the development of in-stent restenosis (ISR) after drug-eluting stent (DES) implantation has not been verified in patients with the acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

**Method:** A total of 797 patients diagnosed with ACS who underwent re-coronary angiography more than six months after the first successful DES-based percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) were eventually included in this study. Patients were categorized into two groups based on the median GA levels of 14.94%. Moreover, multivariate logistic regression analysis models, the net reclassification improvement (NRI) and integrated differentiation improvement (IDI) risk models were also constructed to assess the relationship between the GA and DES-ISR with ACS patients.

**Results:** A total of 202 ( 25.3%) patients had DES-ISR during the follow-up period. The GA was significantly association with an increased risk of DES-ISR, Upon adjusting for confounding factors (As nominal variate: OR 1.868, 95% CI 1.191–2.932, P = 0.007; As continuous variate: OR 1.109, 95% CI 1.040–1.183, P =0.002). The addition of GA to a baseline risk model and an incremental effect on the predictive value for DES-ISR (AUC: GA vs. Baseline model, 0.714 vs. 0.692, comparison P = 0.017; Category-free net reclassification improvement (NRI) 0.080, P = 0.035; integrated discrimination improvement (IDI) 0.023, P < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** GA level was significantly associated with a high risk of DES-ISR in patients with ACS treated with PCI. Moreover, the addition of the GA to a baseline risk model has an incremental effect on the predictive potential for DES-ISR.

## Introduction

Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) is one of the most common diseases threatening human health and life span worldwide[1]. Due to Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) reducing the invasiveness and shortening the operation time, it has become the primary treatment strategy for coronary heart disease (CAD)[2]. Despite significant advances in interventional techniques, drug therapy, and the use of drug-eluting stents (DES), the incidence of in-stent restenosis (ISR) has declined. However, the incidence of DES-ISR remains high, and it is reported that the occurrence rate of ISR ranges from 3 to 20% after coronary DES implantation[3]. Patients with DES-ISR are more likely to have symptoms of unstable angina than patients with de-novo stenosis[4] and have a higher prevalence of acute myocardial infarction (approximately 5–10%)[5]. Given the high incidence of DES-ISR and the adverse events associated with ISR, the search for biomarkers to predict DES-ISR is still of great significance and practical clinical value.

Diabetes mellitus (DM) has been identified as an independent risk factor for DES-ISR[6], and glycated albumin (GA) is closely related with the prevalence of DM[7]. In a report published in 1979[8], Dolhofer and Weiland firstly found elevated GA in diabetic patients. After eight years, other researchers reported that GA was associated with Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) in diabetic patients and was suggested as another clinical indicator for blood glucose monitoring[9, 10]. With the comparative study of GA and HbA1c, the researchers found that GA reflects blood glucose control for the previous 2–3 weeks, while HbA1c demonstrates glycemic control status in the preceding 2–3 months[11, 12]. Furthermore, GA is superior to HbA1c for monitoring blood glucose in some clinical situations[13], and multiple studies have been confirmed the predicted value of GA in ASCVD[14], While the relationship between the GA and the ISR has been rarely reported. Only one study from Lu et al.[15] showed that Increased GA was associated with ISR in Chinese patients with diabetes. However, this study only evaluated ISR occurrence in diabetic patients who received bare-metal stent implantation, and the sample size is small. Additionally, the interventional techniques, medical therapies were much more backwards, and ISR incidence was much higher than now. Due to these limitations, The results of this study do not reflect the proper relation between GA and ISR.

At present, This is the era of DES implantation during PCI. But to date, the relationship between GA and the development of DES-ISR has not been verified in patients with ACS. Moreover, Studies comparing various glycemic index for predicting the occurrence of DES-ISR are lacking. Therefore, We intend to investigate GA for its predictive value for ISR in ACS patients after DES-based PCI.

## **Method**

### **Study Population**

The present study is a single-centre, retrospective observational cohort study. From January 2019 to June 2021, 797 consecutive patients diagnosed with ACS undergoing PCI at Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Capital Medical University, were enrolled. The main exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) age less than 18 years, (2) Missing clinical or coronary angiography data, (3) PCI failure, PCI-related complications or only PTCA, (4) Underwent follow-up angiography after successful PCI less than six months, (5) Chronic inflammatory disease, Malignant tumour or severe hepatic dysfunction (Fig. 1). The present study was performed by the Helsinki Declaration of Human Rights (2000) and approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Beijing AnZhen Hospital, Capital Medical University. Alternatively, Written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

### **Angiographic analysis and Stent implantation**

Coronary angiography was performed using the standard Judkins technique through the radial or femoral approach. Coronary intervention and Stent implantation was performed according to current practice guidelines[16]. The stent material was G2-DESs which included zotarolimus-eluting stents, domestic sirolimus-eluting stents, and everolimus-eluting stents. Coronary angiographic analysis and stents

selection were performed by experienced interventional cardiologists. Before the procedure, all patients have received aspirin (300mg loading dose followed by 100mg/day) combined with clopidogrel (300mg loading dose followed by 75mg/day) or ticagrelor (180 mg loading dose followed by 90mg 2 times/day). During the procedure, patients received anticoagulation with heparin (100IU/kg) to maintain an activated clotting time > 250 s.

## Demographic and clinical data

Patients' data of demographic and clinical characteristics regarding the age, sex, BMI, Systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), smoking status, previous medical history and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) were collected from Beijing An Zhen Hospital's medical information recording system. Meanwhile, We also record laboratory examinations included the white blood cell count, Hemoglobin, Platelet count, high sensitivity-C reactive protein (hs-CRP), eGFR, Uric acid, FBG, HbA1c, GA, total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein-C (LDL-C), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and triglyceride (TG), which were determined at the central laboratory of Beijing Anzhen Hospital. Furthermore, Two experienced investigators recorded coronary angiogram data such as stent diameter, stent length, and stenosis percent at baseline and follow-up for coronary angiography analysis.

## Disease definitions

ISR was defined as  $\geq 50\%$  lumen restenosis of the artery within 5 mm proximal or distal of the stent segment or stent region after PCI, which was determined by angiography.[17]. The target lesion was the most severe narrowing vessel identified by angiographic appearance with electrocardiograph (ECG) changes. Multivessel disease (MVD) was defined as diameter stenosis of  $\geq 50\%$  occurring in 2 or more vessels.

## Statistical analysis

Continuous variables were presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation is consistent with a normal distribution, otherwise as to the median and interquartile range (IQR). Categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages. A one-way ANOVA or Mann-Whitney U test was used to analyze differences in continuous variables. The Pearson chi-square test (Pearson X<sup>2</sup> test), Fisher's exact test, or the Cochran-Armitage Trend test were used to analyze categorical variables. The admission values of serum GA were divided into two groups based on median GA to stratify the incidence rates of DES-ISR. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression were used to estimate the incidence of ISR. the baseline variables showed  $p < 0.05$  in univariate analysis were included in the multivariate analysis. In multivariate logistic regression analysis, three models were established for evaluating the prognosis of GA in DES-ISR: Model 1, adjust for age, BMI, Diabetes; Model 2, adjusted for variates in Model 1 and Previous MI, Previous PCI, FBG, HbA1c, LDL-C, LVEF; Model 3, adjusted for variates in Model 2 and Onevessel disease, Multivessel/LM disease, Number of stents, Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ ), Total length of stents, Minimal stent diameter; The analysis results were presented as odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). To verify the robustness of our results, sub-group analyses were performed to explore the association between the GA and DES-ISR.

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were constructed, and the area under the curve (AUC) was calculated to reflecting the GA's predictive value for the developing DES- ISR. Meanwhile, to evaluate whether introducing the GA into the model of baseline risk model could improve the predictive value, the C-statistic was compared by Delong's test[18]. The net reclassification improvement (NRI) and integrated differentiation improvement (IDI) risk models were used to further evaluate the incremental predictive value of GA. Data were analyzed by IBM SPSS statistics 24 and R software. For all comparisons, two-sided probability values < 0.05 indicated statistical significance.

## Result

### Baseline characteristics

A total of 797 patients diagnosed with ACS who underwent re-coronary angiography more than six months after the first successful DES-based PCI were eventually included in this study. As shown in Table 1. The male-to-female ratio was about 3:1, and the mean age was  $59.03 \pm 9.55$  years. Among these populations, 394 (49.4%) participants were previous or current smoking, 525 (65.9%) participants were hypertension, 288 (36.1%) participants were diabetes, 561 (70.4%) participants were dyslipidemia, and 211 (26.5%) participants were the previous PCI. Regarding coronary angiography and PCI, 84.1% of the lesions were Multiverse/LM disease. LAD and RCA accounted for nearly 79% of target vessel interventions, 36.4% of patients had two or more stents implanted, and half of the stent materials were DES-sirolimus.

Table 1  
Baseline characteristics of the study patients

	<b>Total popultaion (n = 797)</b>	<b>Lower GA(≤ 14.94; n = 399)</b>	<b>Higher GA(&gt; 14.94; n = 398)</b>	<b>P- value</b>
Age, years	59.03 ± 9.55	56.68 ± 9.59	61.38 ± 8.92	< 0.001
Male, n (%)	600 (75.3)	320 (80.2)	280 (70.4)	0.002
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	26.49 ± 3.27	26.77 ± 3.49	26.21 ± 3.01	0.017
Systolic BP, mmHg	128.91 ± 16.64	127.58 ± 16.23	130.25 ± 16.96	0.024
Diastolic BP, mmHg	76.82 ± 10.92	77.84 ± 11.09	75.80 ± 10.67	0.008
Heart rate, bpm	70.97 ± 9.45	70.57 ± 9.73	71.37 ± 9.16	0.234
<b>Medical history, n (%)</b>				
Previous or current Smoking, n (%)	394 (49.4)	209 (52.4)	185 (46.5)	0.111
Previous or current Drinking, n (%)	251 (31.5)	134 (33.6)	117 (29.4)	0.232
Hypertension, n (%)	525 (65.9)	258 (64.7)	267 (67.1)	0.518
Diabetes, n (%)	288 (36.1)	33 (8.3)	255 (64.1)	< 0.001
Dyslipidemia,n(%)	561 (70.4)	265 (66.4)	296 (74.4)	0.017
Previous MI, n (%)	132 (16.6)	61 (15.3)	71 (17.8)	0.382
Previous PCI, n (%)	211 (26.5)	88 (22.1)	123 (30.9)	0.006
Previous Stroke, n (%)	84 (10.5)	38 (9.5)	46 (11.6)	0.412
Laboratory values at hospital admission				
WBC count, ·10 <sup>9</sup> /L	7.54 ± 2.48	7.64 ± 2.90	7.44 ± 1.97	0.267
Hemoglobin, g/L	141.76 ± 15.13	144.19 ± 14.50	139.33 ± 15.38	< 0.001
Abbreviations:				
BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.				

	<b>Total popultaion (n = 797)</b>	<b>Lower GA(≤ 14.94; n = 399)</b>	<b>Higher GA(&gt; 14.94; n = 398)</b>	<b>P- value</b>
Platelet count, ·10 <sup>9</sup> /L	227.18 ± 60.14	231.50 ± 56.18	222.84 ± 63.64	0.042
Hs-CRP, mg/L	1.54(0.64,3.96)	1.39(0.60,3.54)	1.71(0.70,4.43)	0.035
eGFR, mL/min	92.97 ± 16.55	95.08 ± 16.66	90.85 ± 16.19	< 0.001
Uric acid, umol/L	348.96 ± 98.49	365.04 ± 96.54	332.83 ± 97.90	< 0.001
FBG, mmol/L	6.72 ± 2.47	5.68 ± 1.19	7.75 ± 2.95	< 0.001
HbA1c, %	6.61 ± 1.34	5.88 ± 0.75	7.34 ± 1.40	< 0.001
TC (mmol/L)	3.97 ± 0.91	4.00 ± 0.93	3.94 ± 0.88	0.365
TG (mmol/L)	1.74 ± 1.22	1.73 ± 1.09	1.75 ± 1.34	0.825
LDL-C (mmol/L)	2.39 ± 0.81	2.43 ± 0.81	2.35 ± 0.80	0.170
HDL-C (mmol/L)	1.05 ± 0.25	1.05 ± 0.26	1.05 ± 0.24	0.889
LVEF (%)	61.57 ± 7.74	61.46 ± 7.91	61.68 ± 7.57	0.682
<b>Angiography</b>				
Onevessel disease, n (%)	132 (16.6)	64 (16.0)	68 (17.1)	0.763
Multivesse/LM disease, n (%)	670 (84.1)	339 (85.0)	331 (83.2)	0.551
Chronic total occlusion, n (%)	46 (5.8)	25 (6.3)	21 (5.3)	0.655
<b>Intervention</b>				
Target vessel, n (%)				
LM	21 (2.6)	15 (3.8)	6 (1.5)	0.078
LAD	334 (41.9)	162 (40.6)	172 (43.2)	0.499

**Abbreviations:**

BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.

	<b>Total popultaion (n = 797)</b>	<b>Lower GA(<math>\leq</math> 14.94; n = 399)</b>	<b>Higher GA(&gt; 14.94; n = 398)</b>	<b>P- value</b>
LCX	146 (18.3)	66 (16.5)	80 (20.1)	0.227
RCA	291 (36.5)	155 (38.8)	136 (34.2)	0.194
Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ )	290 (36.4)	146 (36.6)	144 (36.2)	0.963
Total length of stents, mm/patients	37.35 $\pm$ 23.31	37.65 $\pm$ 23.93)	37.04 $\pm$ 22.70	0.711
Minimal stent diameter, mm	2.95 $\pm$ 1.27)	3.04 $\pm$ 1.68)	2.86 $\pm$ 0.64	0.046
DES-sirolimus, n (%)	424 (53.2)	210 (52.6)	214 (53.8)	0.802
DES-zotarolimus, n (%)	162 (20.3)	81 (20.3)	81 (20.4)	0.986
DES-everolimus, n (%)	208 (26.1)	105 (26.3)	103 (25.9)	0.952
<b>Clinical diagnosis</b>				
STEMI, n (%)	68 (8.5)	36 (9.0)	32 (8.0)	
NSTEMI, n (%)	69 (8.7)	38 (9.5)	31 (7.8)	
UA, n (%)	644 (80.8)	318 (79.7)	326 (81.9)	
<b>Medications in hospital, n (%)</b>				
Aspirin	797 (100.0)	399 (100.0)	398 (100.0)	> 0.99
Clopidogrel/Ticagrelor	797 (100.0)	399 (100.0)	398 (100.0)	> 0.99
Statin	797 (100.0)	399 (100.0)	398 (100.0)	> 0.99
$\beta$ -block	507 (63.6)	252 (63.2)	255 (64.1)	0.846
ACEI/ARB	351 (44.0)	175 (43.9)	176 (44.2)	0.975
Insulin	71 ( 8.9)	3 (0.8)	68 (17.1)	< 0.001

**Abbreviations:**

BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.

Based on the median GA, patients were divided into two groups (Table 1). As shown in Table 1, patients with a higher GA group showed higher age and Systolic BP, Diastolic BP, lower Body Mass Index, and had a higher proportion of females, Diabetes, Dyslipidemia, Previous PCI. For laboratory values at hospital admission, lower levels of Hemoglobin, eGFR, Uric acid, and higher levels of FBG, HbA1c were observed in the higher GA groups.

At the same time, differences between the ISR group and the non-ISR group were analyzed (Table 2). As demonstrated in Table 2, age, BMI, DM, previous MI, previous PCI were significantly higher in the ISR group than the non-ISR group. Correspondingly, LVEF was lower, whereas serum FBG, HbA1c, and GA were higher in subjects with the ISR group. Moreover, patients in the ISR group were more likely to suffer from one vessel disease, have two or more stents implanted, and have a longer total length of stents.

Table 2  
Baseline characteristics of patients with and without ISR

	<b>Total popultaion (n = 797)</b>	<b>Non-ISR group (n = 595)</b>	<b>ISR group (n = 202)</b>	<b>P- value</b>
Age, years	59.03 ± 9.55	58.63 ± 9.80	60.19 ± 8.68	0.045
Male, n (%)	600 ( 75.3)	447 (75.1)	153 (75.7)	0.935
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	26.49 ± 3.27	26.35 ± 3.36	26.90 ± 2.95	0.038
Systolic BP, mmHg	128.91 ± 16.64	129.02 ± 16.43	128.60 ± 17.30	0.761
Diastolic BP, mmHg	76.82 ± 10.92	77.17 ± 11.08	75.79 ± 10.38	0.119
Heart rate, bpm	70.97 ± 9.45	70.95 ± 9.65	71.04 ± 8.86	0.904
<b>Medical history, n (%)</b>				
Previous or current Smoking, n (%)	394 ( 49.4)	291 (48.9)	103 (51.0)	0.667
Previous or current Drinking, n (%)	251 ( 31.5)	187 (31.4)	64 (31.7)	0.946
Hypertension, n (%)	525 ( 65.9)	398 (66.9)	127 (62.9)	0.339
Diabetes, n (%)	288 ( 36.1)	192 (32.3)	96 (47.5)	< 0.001
Dyslipidemia,n(%)	561 ( 70.4)	417 (70.1)	144 (71.3)	0.815
Previous MI, n (%)	132 ( 16.6)	87 (14.6)	45 (22.3)	0.016
Previous PCI, n (%)	211 ( 26.5)	141 (23.7)	70 (34.7)	0.003
Previous Stroke, n (%)	84 ( 10.5)	59 (9.9)	25 (12.4)	0.395
Laboratory values at hospital admission				
WBC count, ·10 <sup>9</sup> /L	7.54 ± 2.48	7.47 ± 2.59	7.74 ± 2.10	0.185
Hemoglobin, g/L	141.76 ± 15.13	141.81 ± 14.66	141.63 ± 16.49	0.884

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.

	Total population (n = 797)	Non-ISR group (n = 595)	ISR group (n = 202)	P-value
Platelet count, ·10 <sup>9</sup> /L	227.18 ± 60.14	225.71 ± 58.61	231.50 ± 64.39	0.238
Hs-CRP, mg/L	1.54 (0.64, 3.96)	1.53 (0.62, 3.94)	1.65 (0.71, 4.10)	0.566
eGFR, mL/min	92.97 ± 16.55	92.72 ± 16.54	93.68 ± 16.62	0.479
Uric acid, umol/L	348.96 ± 98.49	351.97 ± 94.98	340.10 ± 107.93	0.139
FBG, mmol/L	6.72 ± 2.47	6.54 ± 2.24	7.24 ± 3.00	0.001
HbA1c, %	6.61 ± 1.34	6.47 ± 1.24	7.00 ± 1.55	< 0.001
GA, %	16.24 ± 4.19	15.72 ± 3.76	17.79 ± 4.92	< 0.001
TC (mmol/L)	3.97 ± 0.91	3.97 ± 0.90	3.94 ± 0.93	0.664
TG (mmol/L)	1.74 ± 1.22	1.77 ± 1.17	1.64 ± 1.34	0.200
LDL-C (mmol/L)	2.39 ± 0.81	2.34 ± 0.74	2.54 ± 0.97	0.002
HDL-C (mmol/L)	1.05 ± 0.25	1.05 ± 0.25	1.06 ± 0.26	0.495
LVEF (%)	61.57 ± 7.74	61.89 ± 7.38	60.62 ± 8.66	0.043
<b>Angiography</b>				
Onevessel disease, n (%)	132 ( 16.6)	88 (14.8)	44 (21.8)	0.028
Multivesse/LM disease, n (%)	670 ( 84.1)	510 (85.7)	160 (79.2)	0.038
Chronic total occlusion, n (%)	46 ( 5.8)	32 (5.4)	14 (6.9)	0.520
<b>Intervention</b>				
Target vessel, n (%)				
LM	21 ( 2.6)	17 (2.9)	4 (2.0)	0.676

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.

	Total population (n = 797)	Non-ISR group (n = 595)	ISR group (n = 202)	P-value
LAD	334 (41.9)	239 (40.2)	95 (47.0)	0.104
LCX	146 (18.3)	116 (19.5)	30 (14.9)	0.171
RCA	291 (36.5)	219 (36.8)	72 (35.6)	0.832
Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ )	290 (36.4)	198 (33.3)	92 (45.5)	0.002
Total length of stents, mm/patients	37.35 $\pm$ 23.31	35.67 $\pm$ 22.17	42.28 $\pm$ 25.82	< 0.001
Minimal stent diameter, mm	2.95 $\pm$ 1.27	2.99 $\pm$ 1.45	2.82 $\pm$ 0.43	0.106
DES-sirolimus, n (%)	424 (53.2)	317 (53.3)	107 (53.0)	0.940
DES-zotarolimus, n (%)	162 (20.3)	122 (20.5)	40 (19.8)	0.910
DES-everolimus, n (%)	208 (26.1)	154 (25.9)	54 (26.7)	0.885
<b>Clinical diagnosis</b>				
STEMI, n (%)	68 (8.5)	56 (9.4)	12 (5.9)	
NSTEMI, n (%)	69 (8.7)	55 (9.2)	14 (6.9)	
UA, n (%)	644 (80.8)	474 (79.7)	170 (84.2)	
<b>Medications in hospital, n (%)</b>				
Aspirin	797 (100.0)	595 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	> 0.99
Clopidogrel/Ticagrelor	797 (100.0)	595 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	> 0.99
Statin	797 (100.0)	595 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	> 0.99
$\beta$ -block	507 (63.6)	378 (63.5)	129 (63.9)	0.932
ACEI/ARB	351 (44.0)	265 (44.5)	86 (42.6)	0.686
Insulin	71 (8.9)	47 (7.9)	24 (11.9)	0.116
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IQR, interquartile range.				

## GA and the occurrence of DES-ISR after successful PCI

As shown in Fig. 2A, patients with a lower GA group had 70 (8.8%) participants who were ISR and 132 (16.6%) participants were ISR in the higher GA group. Generally speaking, the prevalence of ISR is higher in the higher GA group than in the lower group. In the meantime, as revealed in Fig. 2B, patients with the ISR group had a higher concentration of serum GA than the lower non-ISR group, and this difference is statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

## **Evaluate the predictive value of GA for DES-ISR in univariate analysis and multivariable analysis**

Univariate logistic regression analysis was performed to analyze the relationship between the GA and incidence of ISR are presented in Table 3. The result showed that the serum of GA, as a continuous variable, was independently associated with ISR incidence (OR = 1.12, 95% CI 1.08–1.16,  $p < 0.001$ ). Beyond GA, age, BMI, Diabetes, Previous MI, Previous PCI, FBG, HbA1c, LDL, LVEF, Onevessel or Multivessel/LM disease, Number of stents, Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ ), Total length of stents and minimal stent diameter were risk factors for ISR in ACS patients after PCI (all  $p < 0.05$ )

Table 3  
Univariate logistic regression analysis for ISR

	ISR		
	OR	95% CI	Pvalue
Age	1.02	1.00-1.04	0.04
Male	1.03	0.71–1.50	0.86
BMI	1.05	1.00-1.10	0.04
Systolic BP	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.76
Diastolic BP	0.99	0.97-1.00	0.12
Heart rate	1.00	0.98–1.02	0.90
Previous or current Smoking	1.09	0.79–1.50	0.61
Previous or current Drinking	1.01	0.72–1.43	0.95
Hypertension	0.84	0.60–1.17	0.30
Diabetes	1.9	1.37–2.63	< 0.001
Dyslipidemia	1.06	0.75–1.51	0.75
Previous MI	1.67	1.12–2.50	0.01
Previous PCI	1.71	1.21–2.41	< 0.001
Previous Stroke	1.28	0.78–2.11	0.33
WBC count	1.04	0.98–1.11	0.20
Hemoglobin	0.99	0.99–1.01	0.88
Platelet count	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.24
Hs-CRP	1.01	0.98–1.04	0.43
eGFR	1.00	0.99–1.01	0.48
Uric acid	1.00	0.99-1.00	0.14
FBG	1.11	1.04–1.18	< 0.001

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

	ISR		
	OR	95% CI	Pvalue
HbA1c	1.31	1.17–1.47	< 0.001
GA	1.12	1.08–1.16	< 0.001
TC	0.96	0.81–1.15	0.66
TG	0.91	0.78–1.05	0.20
LDL-C	1.36	1.12–1.65	< 0.001
HDL-C	1.25	0.66–2.34	0.49
LVEF	0.98	0.96-1.00	0.04
Onevessel disease	1.6	1.07–2.40	0.02
Multivesse/LM disease	0.63	0.42–0.96	0.03
Chronic total occlusion	1.31	0.68–2.51	0.41
LM	0.69	0.23–2.07	0.50
LAD	1.32	0.96–1.82	0.09
LCX	0.72	0.46–1.12	0.14
RCA	0.95	0.68–1.33	0.77
Number of stents	1.44	1.16–1.80	< 0.001
Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ )	1.68	1.21–2.32	< 0.001
Total length of stents	1.01	1.00-1.02	< 0.001
Minimal stent diameter	0.63	0.44–0.89	0.01
DES-sirolimus	0.99	0.72–1.36	0.94
DES-zotarolimus	0.96	0.64–1.43	0.83
DES-everolimus	1.04	0.73–1.50	0.81
Aspirin	NA	NA-NA	NA

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

	ISR		
	OR	95% CI	Pvalue
Clopidogrel/Ticagrelor	NA	NA-NA	NA
Statin	NA	NA-NA	NA
β-block	1.01	0.73–1.41	0.93
ACEI/ARB	0.92	0.67–1.27	0.63
Insulin	1.57	0.93–2.64	0.09

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; WBC, white blood cell; Hs-CRP, high sensitivity c-reactive protein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglycerides; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex artery; RCA, right coronary artery; DES, drug-eluting stents; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI, non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; UA, unstable angina; ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

In multivariate logistic regression models, three models, including variables that had statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ), were constructed to evaluate the predictive potential of GA for the risk of DES-ISR. After adjusting for variates in the three models, regardless of the GA as a nominal or continuous variable, GA remained a significant independent risk predictor of ISR in all models (Table 4). The detailed information of Model 3 was presented in Fig. 3.

Table 4  
Predictive value of GA for the risk of ISR

	As nominal variate <sup>a</sup>		As continuous variate <sup>b</sup>	
	OR (95% CI)	P value	OR (95% CI)	P value
Crude Model	2.332 (1.674–3.250)	< 0.001	1.117 (1.076–1.160)	< 0.001
Model 1	2.040 (1.349–3.085)	0.001	1.110 (1.057–1.166)	< 0.001
Model 2	1.849 (1.191–2.870)	0.006	1.108 (1.040–1.180)	0.001
Model 3	1.868 (1.191–2.932)	0.007	1.109 (1.040–1.183)	0.002
Model 1: adjust for age, BMI, Diabetes				
Model 2 : adjusted for variates in Model 1 and Previous MI, Previous PCI, FBG, HbA1c, LDL-C, LVEF				
Model 3: adjusted for variates in Model 2 and Onevessel disease, Multivesse/LM disease, Number of stents, Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ ), Total length of stents, Minimal stent diameter				
a The OR was evaluated regarding the lower median of GA as reference				
b The OR was evaluated by per 1-unit increase of GA				
OR, odds ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.				

Further confirm the risk stratification value of GA for the risk of DES-ISR was performed in subgroup analysis, As presented in Fig. 4. The result shows that in the subgroup of age (< 65 or  $\geq 65$  years), sex (male or female), BMI (< 25 or  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>), smoking history (no or yes), hypertension (no or yes), eGFR (< 90 or  $\geq 90$  ML/min/m<sup>2</sup>), LDL (< 1.81 or  $\geq 1.81$  mmol/L), there were no differences in the predictive power of GA for incidence of DES-ISR (all p for interaction > 0.05). Interesting, there was a slightly significant (p = 0.048) interaction existed between the GA and Diabetes Mellitus status concerning the risk of occurrence DES-ISR [OR (95% CI) Diabetes Mellitus no 1.256 (1.125–1.402) vs Diabetes Mellitus yes 1.022 (0.940–1.193)].

## Incremental effects of the GA on the predictive value for DESISR

The addition of GA had moderate incremental effects on the AUC obtained from the baseline risk model which consisted of age, BMI, Diabetes, Previous MI, Previous PCI, LDL-C, LVEF, Onevessel disease, Multivesse/LM disease, Number of stents, Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ ), Total length of stents and minimal stent diameter (AUC: baseline risk model + GA, 0.714 vs. Baseline risk model, 0.692, p for comparison = 0.017) (Table 5, Fig. 5C). Moreover, adding GA to baseline risk model could improve the reclassification and discrimination ability (Category-free INR = 0.080, P = 0.035; IDI = 0.023, P < 0.001) (Table 6). However, the addition of FBG (AUC: baseline risk model + FBG, 0.694 vs. Baseline risk model, 0.692, p for comparison = 0.417; Category-free INR = 0.005, P = 0.829; IDI = 0.003, P = 0.229) or HbA1c (AUC: baseline risk model +

HbA1c, 0.700 vs. Baseline risk model, 0.692, p for comparison = 0.127; Category-free INR = 0.027, P = 0.366; IDI = 0.009, P = 0.023) neither enhanced the ability of the baseline risk model to predict occurrence of ISR nor had a significant incremental effect on the reclassification and discrimination ability (Table 6, Fig. 5A, Fig. 5B).

Table 5  
The ROC Curve analysis of the GA with poor ISR

	<i>AUC</i>	<b>95% CI</b>	<i>P</i> value	<b>Z value</b>	<i>P</i> for comparison
Baseline Model	0.692	0.651–0.733	< 0.001	-	-
+ FBG	0.694	0.653–0.738	< 0.001	-0.8123	0.417
+ HbA1c	0.700	0.659–0.743	< 0.001	-1.5262	0.127
+ GA	0.714	0.675–0.754	< 0.001	-2.3957	0.017

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LM, left main; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; AUC: area under curve; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval.

Notes: The Baseline Model included age, BMI, Diabetes, Previous MI, Previous PCI, LDL-C, LVEF, Onevessel disease, Multivesse/LM disease, Number of stents, Multiple stents ( $\geq 2$ ), Total length of stents, Minimal stent diameter

Table 6  
Category-free NRI and IDI for the incremental predictive values of various models

	<b>Category-free NRI</b>			<b>IDI</b>		
	Index	95% CI	<i>P</i> value	Index	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
Baseline Model	-	-	-	-	-	-
+ FBG	0.005	-0.038-0.048	0.829	0.003	-0.002-0.007	0.229
+ HbA1c	0.027	-0.031-0.084	0.366	0.009	0.001–0.017	0.023
+ GA	0.080	0.006–0.154	0.035	0.023	0.011–0.036	< 0.001

Abbreviations: FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; GA, glycated albumin; NRI, net reclassification improvement; IDI, integrated discrimination improvement; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval

## Discussion

This study demonstrated that subjects with higher GA levels had a significantly higher risk of developing DES-ISR than those with lower levels in ACS patients who underwent PCI. After adjustment for confounding factors, GA, either as a continuous or nominal variable, remained an independent risk factor for DES-ISR development. Moreover, adding serum GA value to the baseline risk model could enhance the

ability of the baseline risk model to predict the occurrence of DES-ISR and improve the reclassification and discrimination ability. These findings provide new perspectives on applying GA in clinical practice, particularly about early risk stratification for DES-ISR in patients with ACS.

HbA1c is widely recognized as one of the recommended diagnostic criteria for diabetes[19]. It reflects the glycaemic control status in 2–3 months[20]. However, it does not reflect the state of blood glucose control perfectly, and it has the following limitation. Firstly, HbA1c was influenced by the lifespan of the erythrocyte. Therefore, it does not accurately reflect blood glucose status in patients with haemoglobin variants, iron deficiency and anaemia, G6-PD poverty, pregnancy, and advanced chronic kidney disease[21–23]. In contrast, serum GA levels are unaffected by red blood cell lifespan, making it more accurate than HbA1c. Secondly, GA includes multiple glycation sites, whereas, HbA1c has only one glycation site. It has been reported that the rate of glycosylation of GA is approximately 4.5 times faster than that of HbA1c[24], resulting in GA responding more rapidly than HbA1C when blood glucose changes[20]. Finally, HbA1c only responds to long-term blood glucose control, while GA responds to short-term blood glucose and fluctuations in blood glucose[20, 25]. Accordingly, GA was superior to HbA1c in monitoring the effect before and after drug treatment.

In recent years, many studies have shown that elevated GA levels help identify populations susceptible to cardiovascular disease. The cross-sectional study from the Japanese people has reported that serum GA levels were prominently associated with the development of carotid artery intima-media thickness, which suggests the increased levels of serum GA can predict the progression of atherosclerosis[26, 27]. Meanwhile, several studies further demonstrate that higher serum GA levels are positively associated with CVD development[28]and the severity of CAD[29, 30]. Furthermore, a series of evidence also confirmed that increased GA levels were collected with heart failure[14], impaired coronary collateralization with CTO patients[31], and adverse coronary artery remodelling[32]. In addition, serum GA levels were associated with a low response to clopidogrel[33] and a collection with clinical prognosis in ACS patients. A study from Zhang et al.[34]evaluated the prognostic value of GA in patients diagnosed with ACS who were treated with PCI showed that Elevated GA levels in the serum were associated with poor intermediate-term outcomes in low-risk ACS patients who underwent PCI, especially in patients with preexisting diabetes. Another observational study from Liu et al.[35]followed up 2247 NSTEMI-ACS patients who were treated with PCI during 48 months and found that GA is highly correlated with cardio-cerebral events, including all-cause death, non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI), non-fatal ischemic stroke and ischemia-induced revascularization. Extending the above findings, Our result showed that GA is a positive association with DES-ISR in patients with ACS who underwent PCI. On account of our discovery, More effective management strategies to prevent the occurrence of ISR after coronary stenting is needed for these patients.

Subsequently, the reliability and stability of the study results were confirmed by multivariate and subgroup analysis, both of which indicated that GA was an independent risk factor for DES-ISR. Unexpectedly, the predictive value of GA was higher in the non-diabetic subgroup than in the diabetic subgroup, and there was an interaction between the two subgroups. The exact mechanism is unclear, but

it may mean that in non-diabetic patients, elevated GA is closely related to the progression and occurrence of DES-ISR. This is consistent with previous studies suggesting that GA can be used as a predictor of cardiovascular events in non-diabetic patients[28]. Moreover, The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study showed that adding serum GA levels to models with known CVD risk factors can improve the prognostic ability for CVD[14]. In accordance with the previous study, Our findings suggest that the prognostic of serum GA and risk of developing DES-ISR improved by the introduction of GA into the established baseline risk model, and its incremental predictive value for DES-ISR was moderate. This suggests that introducing GA into risk prediction models can better help us identify DES-ISR in clinical practice.

The potential mechanism inducing the association between elevated levels of serum GA with the development and progression of DES-ISR remains uncertain. However, it may be related to the following points: Firstly, High serum GA was associated with a low response to clopidogrel[33], which contribute to inadequate antiplatelet, promote platelet activation and aggregation, increases thrombosis. Furthermore, serum GA levels reflect glycemic variability[36], which leads to endothelial dysfunction[37], and numerous studies suggest that endothelial dysfunction play a crucial role in restenosis after coronary stent implantation[38, 39]. Finally, GA induces inflammatory mediators in vessel walls and promotes proliferation and migrations of VSMCs[40], which is a significant manifestation in the pathology of ISR.

## Limitation

There are several limitations in the present study. (1) This is a single-centre observational study, and in addition to being unable to establish a causal relationship between GA and ISR, the power and persuasiveness of our findings are reduced. (2) Serum GA was measured only once at baseline, and changes in GA were not dynamically monitored during follow-up. Because of these constraints, serum GA levels may have been misclassified. (3) The results of this study are only for the Chinese population, and it is unknown if they apply to other racial or ethnic populations. (4) In the present study, recognition of ISR was primarily based on the visual assessment by angiography rather than more accurate and informative endoluminal imaging such as IVUS or OCT. (5) This study did not exclude patients who received anti-diabetic treatment before admission, which may affect the actual GA level to some extent.

## Conclusion

GA level was significantly associated with a high risk of DES-ISR in patients with ACS who were treated with PCI. Moreover, the addition of the GA to a baseline risk model has an incremental effect on the predictive potential for DES-ISR. This conclusion needs further large-scale, randomized, multicentre studies for further confirmation.

## Declarations

**Ethics approval and consent to participate**

The present study was performed by the Helsinki Declaration of Human Rights and approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Beijing An Zhen Hospital, Capital Medical University. Given the retrospective nature of this study, and written / oral informed consent was obtained from all patients.

### **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

### **Availability of data and materials**

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the present study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

### **Competing interests:**

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest.

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### **Authors' contributions:**

X-IL takes responsibility for all aspects of the reliability and freedom from bias of the data presented and their discussed interpretation. QF, X-IL take responsibility for research design. H-xS, Q-yL, D-hZ take responsibility for data collection. J-hL take responsibility for the data review. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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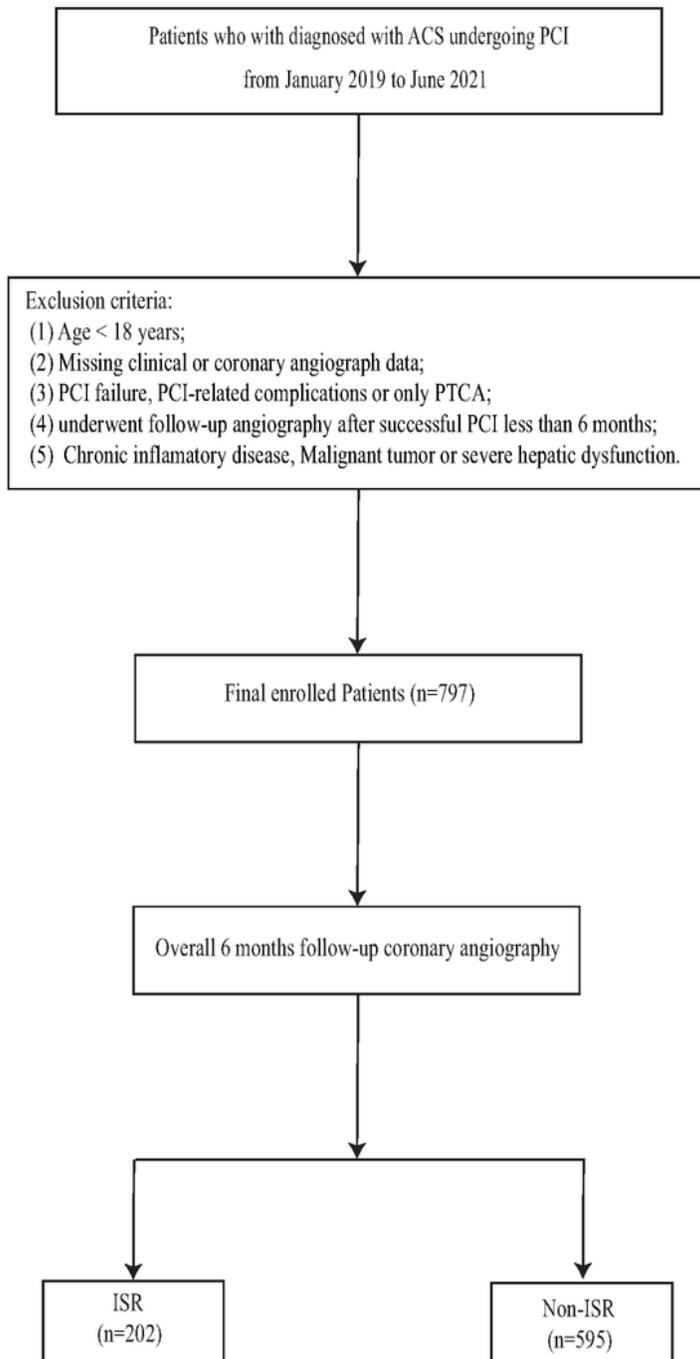
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## Figures

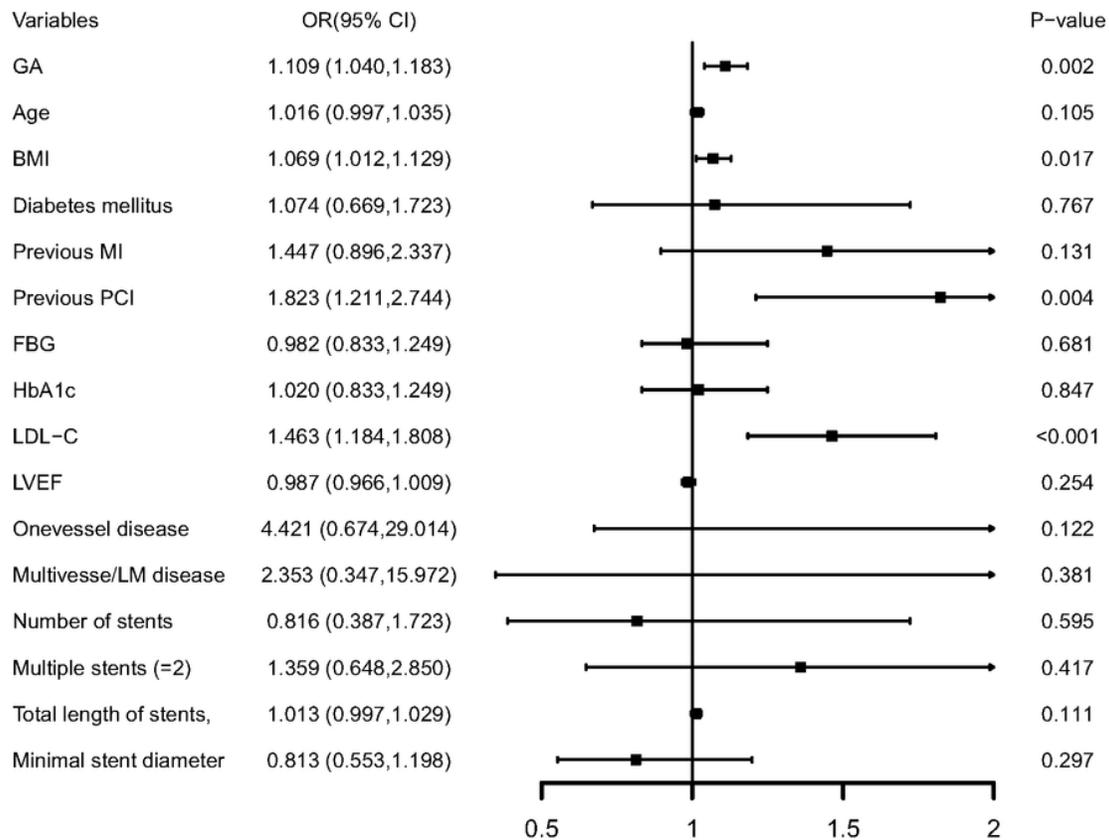


**Figure 1**

Flow chart of the selection of study enrollment

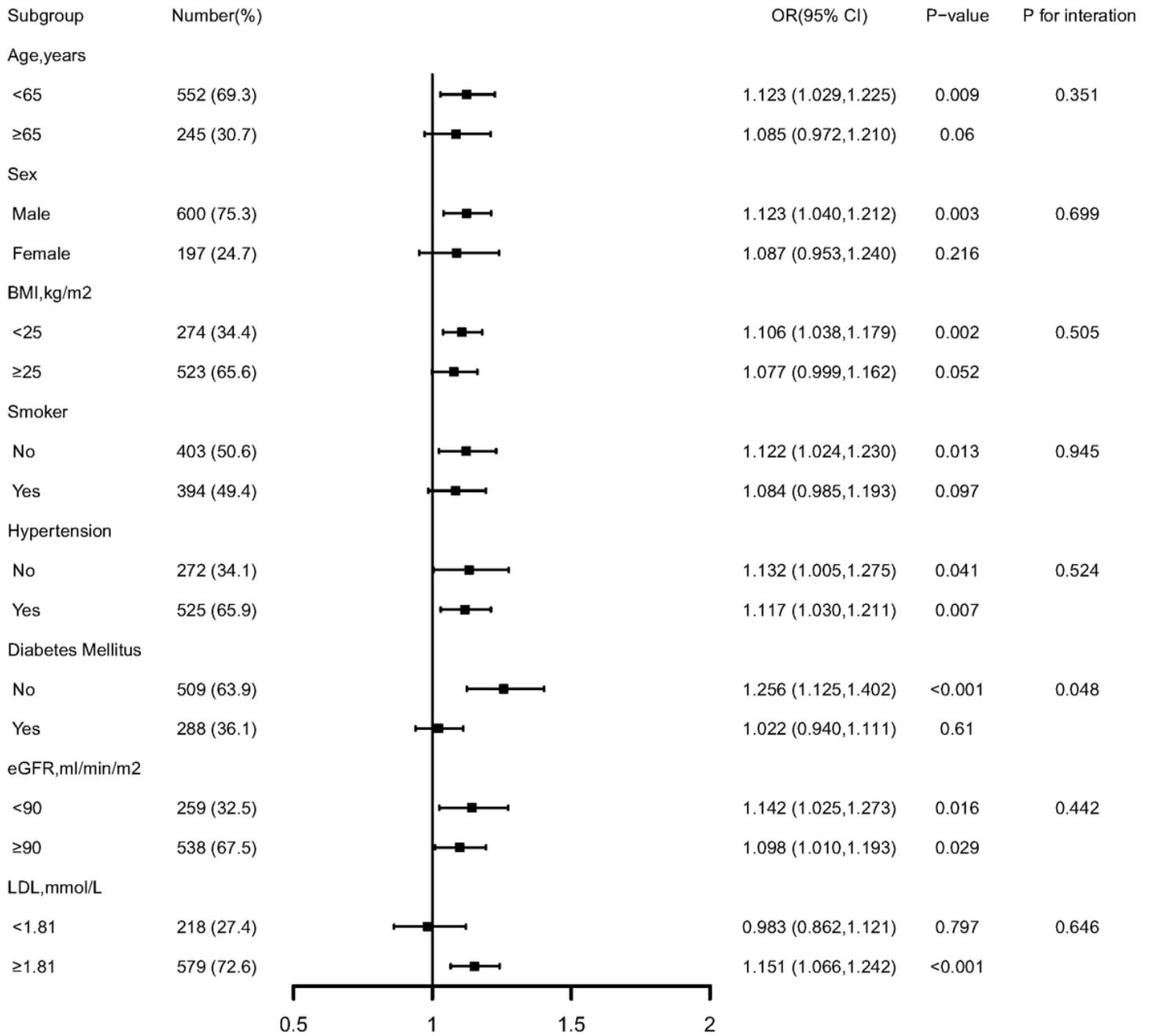
**Figure 2**

The impacts of the GA levels on the prevalence of DES-ISR (A) and comparison of the GA levels between the Non-ISR and ISR groups (B) in the patients with ACS. ACS: acute coronary syndrome; GA: glycated albumin; DES: drug-eluting stent; ISR: in-stent restenosis



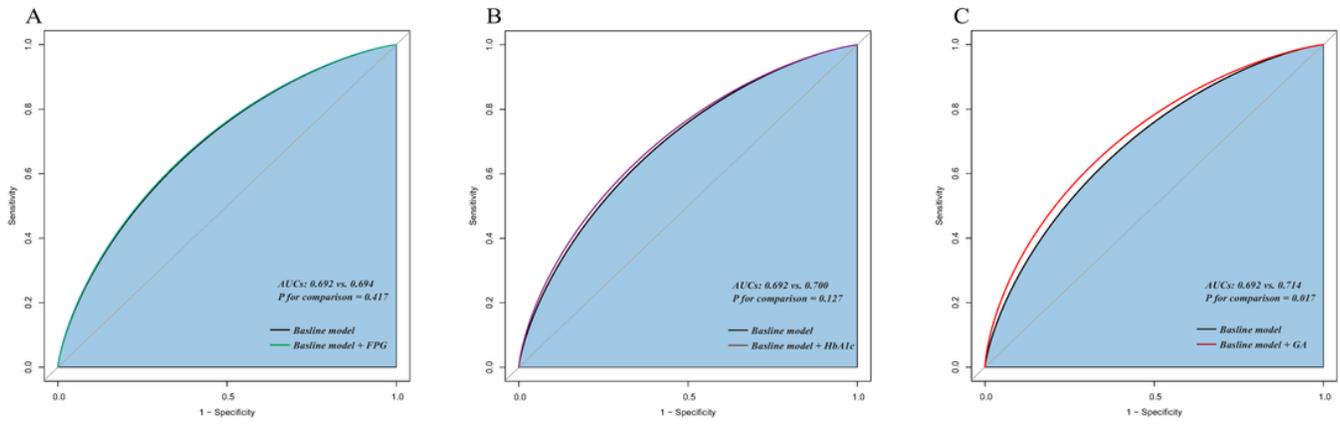
**Figure 3**

Forest plot of the multivariable logistic regression analysis model in patients with ACS evaluating association of the GA and the risk of DES-ISR. ACS: acute coronary syndrome; GA: glycated albumin; DES: drug-eluting stent; ISR: in-stent restenosis; BMI, body mass index; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval



**Figure 4**

Forest plot investigating the association between GA and the prevalence of DES-ISR in different subgroups. DES: drug-eluting stent; ISR: in-stent restenosis; BMI: body mass index; BMI: body mass index; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; LDL-C: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval



**Figure 5**

C-statistics evaluating incremental effect of FBG, HbA1c,GA beyond baseline risk model. (A) Baseline risk model vs. +FBG; (B) baseline risk model vs. +HbA1c; (C) baseline risk model vs. +GA AUC: area under curve; GA: glycated albumin; FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin A1c