

# Optimum of Dual Antiplatelet Duration and Followed Monotherapy in Diabetes Mellitus After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention With Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation: A Bayesian Network Meta-Analysis of 20536 Patients From 18 Randomized Trials

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## Original investigation

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# Abstract

**Background:** To evaluate the efficacy and safety of short-term ( $\leq 3$ -month) dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT), midterm (6-month) DAPT, standard-term (12-month) DAPT and extended-term ( $\geq 12$ -month) DAPT in diabetes after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with drug-eluting stent (DES). To Compare discontinuation of DAPT followed by aspirin with P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy for detailed optimal scheme.

**Methods:** Randomized, controlled trials were searched using PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, Cochrane library and clinicaltrials.gov. up to October 10, 2020. A Bayesian network meta-analysis was conducted with a random-effect model.

**Results:** A total of 18 randomized trials encompassing 20536 diabetic patients were included. Network analysis showed that short-term DAPT is best for reducing primary endpoint, which is superior to extended-term DAPT (odds ratio 0.48, 95% CI 0.25 to 0.85). Standard-term was also associated with reduce risk of primary endpoint in comparison with prolonged DAPT (0.56, 0.32 to 0.90). There was no noticeable difference with respect to primary endpoint between short-term DAPT followed by aspirin monotherapy and P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy. No significant differences were observed in secondary endpoints, including all-cause mortality, cardiac mortality, MI, stroke, TVR, definite or probable stent thrombosis and major bleeding.

**Conclusions:** Short-term DAPT was associated with the better primary endpoint benefit for patients with diabetes after PCI with DES, compared with extended-term DAPT. Although the optimal duration should balance risk-benefit ratio between personal ischemic and bleeding events, this study suggested short term DAPT followed by P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy may be the optimal therapy for most diabetes after PCI with DES.

## Background

Diabetes mellitus (DM) patients are a well-known high-risk group of severe coronary artery disease (CAD), and the incidence of postoperative adverse clinical events is higher than that of general population[1, 2]. Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT), aspirin and a P2Y12 inhibitor, is the cornerstone to prevent the stent thrombosis and reduce ischemic events after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with drug-eluting stent (DES) implantation[3, 4]. As the contradiction between ischemia benefits and hemorrhagic risks of DAPT, the optimal duration is pivotal factor to strike a balance for patients to benefit ultimately[5]. Due to impaired glucose metabolism, usage of hypoglycemic and hypolipemic drugs, such as statins which share the same cytochrome P450 isoenzyme 3A4 (CYP3A4) pathway with clopidogrel, and glucose fluctuation, the standard 6-12-month DAPT following DES implantation that current clinical practice guidelines recommend for general population may not be suitable for the diabetes in particular[6].

Furthermore, debates that whether prolong or abbreviate the DAPT treatment still exist[7, 8]. Multiple randomized clinical trials (RCTs) and observational studies have explored the fit time with contradictory

conclusions among diabetes[9, 10, 11]. Previous meta-analysis qualitatively showed that there is no significantly difference between extended and short term DAPT therapy in ameliorating adverse clinical outcomes among subjects with diabetes mellitus, except ascending bleeding in prolonged DAPT use[12, 13]. Yet the evidence appraising the role of diabetes in the choice of the optimal time remains limited.

In addition, despite the safety and efficacy of discontinuing aspirin in favor of P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy remains ambiguous, there are currently no head-to-head RCTs comparing discontinuation of DAPT followed by aspirin or P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy[14]. Further network analysis compared among diabetes could be conducted to shed a light from indirect comparison.

Therefore, we performed this network meta-analysis (NMA) on a variety of DAPT duration strategies to probe the favorable duration and discontinuation of DAPT followed appropriate monotherapy which is applicable for diabetic population for clinical guidance and subsequent studies.

## Methods

### Search strategy and data sources

An electronic search was conducted systematically for literature published up to October 10, 2020. The database comprised PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, clinicaltrials.gov. and Cochrane Library, and references of related articles were also searched to ensure the integrity of the data as far as possible. The following search terms were made of use: “dual antiplatelet”, “drug-eluting stent”, “percutaneous coronary intervention” and “randomized controlled trial”. The detailed search strategy was provided in Additional file 1.

### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Screening of retrieved articles was carried out on the basis of the predefined inclusion criteria below: (1) studies were clinical RCTs; (2) participants were adults with DM who received DAPT after PCI after DES; (3) the therapies were candidate durations of DAPT, like short term ( $\leq 6$  months), standard term (12 months) and extended term ( $\geq 12$  months); (4) outcomes were reported such as primary endpoint, all-cause mortality, cardiac mortality, myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, target vessel revascularization (TVR), stent thrombosis and bleeding events; (5) at least 12-month follow-up.

Studies that met the following criteria were excluded: (1) they were pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies, meta-analyses, observational research, case studies or editorials; (2) patients involved were not DM; (3) they did not set adverse outcome events as their clinical endpoints; (4) they were involved the identical or reduplicate trials.

### Data extraction and quality evaluation

Two independent investigators (KA and PG) assessed the studies involved, adjudicated data and reviewed the methodological quality of each eligible trial. Any disagreement occurred during the data

extraction process, the opinion of a third researcher (SHW) was sought to make a final decision. Information concerning trial names, year of publication, sample size, treatment and control group, outcomes, clinical events reported in diabetes group, follow-up period. The bias risk among the trials and the methodological quality of the included studies was assessed by Risk of Bias 2 according to the Cochrane Collaboration's tool [15], which contains preliminary considerations, signaling questions and 5 domains plus overall risk of bias: bias arising from the randomization process, bias due to deviations from intended interventions, bias due to missing outcome data, bias in measurement of the outcome, bias in selection of the reported result and plus 'Overall risk of bias'. Items were scored as low risk, some concerns, or high risk of bias.

## Statistical analysis

We performed Bayesian NMA conducted a random effects model, using the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. The Gemtc package was run in R to call the JAGS software to achieve the Bayesian NMA. The effect was expressed by odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) to summary statistics to quantify the effects of different duration. Based on non-informative uniform and normal prior distributions [16], the initial values were set for four different chains, 100,000 interactions with 50,000 burn-in samples were produced to obtain the model parameters from the posterior distributions, and 1 thinning rates were adopted for each chain. Convergence was assessed using the trace plots and Brooks-Gelman-Rubin method to check if the error was  $\leq 5\%$  of the standard deviation of the effect estimates and between-study variance [17]. The estimates of Bayesian NMA were reported as rank probabilities to identify the relative rankings of DAPT duration based on the surface under the cumulative ranking curve (SUCRA), ranging from 0% (statistically certain to be the worst treatment) to 100% (statistically certain to be the best treatment) [18, 19, 20].

Result heterogeneity was examined with Cochran's Q statistic and quantified with inconsistency statistic ( $I^2$ ), which was considered as low, moderate, or high for  $I^2$  values under 25%, between 25% and 50%, and over 50%, respectively [21].  $P$  less than 0.05 was considered as statistical significance.

Inconsistency was conducted by Gemtc package in R, comparing the deviance residuals and deviance information criterion (DIC) statistics in fitted consistency and inconsistency models to identify any loops in the treatment network where inconsistency was existed [22]. The node splitting approach was also used to assess the inconsistency of the model, in which direct and indirect evidence was separately contrasted on a particular comparison. All statistical analyses were performed using R 3.6.3 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria) and Stata 14.2 (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA).

## Outcomes variables

Outcomes consisted of primary endpoint and secondary outcomes. We incorporated definitions of the primary endpoint as applied in each trial. The secondary outcomes were the individual components of the primary outcome, containing mortality, cardiac mortality, MI, stroke, TVR, definite or probable stent

thrombosis and major bleeding. Stent thrombosis was defined according to criteria from the academic research consortium[23]. The other outcomes were defined differently in Additional file 2.

## Results

### Study search and study characteristic

Of 3506 articles, 652 were screened after duplicates were deleted, 2830 were excluded by reviewing the title and abstract level, and additional 6 related studies were removed for unpublished data, observational trial or cannot be grouped[24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29] (Figure 1). Eighteen trials were ultimately included with a total of 20536 diabetic patients randomly assigned to receive one of the following four kinds of DAPT durations: short-term ( $\leq 3$ -month), midterm (6-month), standard-term (12-month), extended-term ( $\geq 12$ -month)[10, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45]. Besides, short-term DAPT followed by aspirin monotherapy in comparison with P2Y12 monotherapy was conducted for further study. The characteristics of included RCTs for the NMA are shown in Table 1. Detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria of trials are represented in Additional file 3.

### Quality of evidence

The detailed risk of bias assessments was summarized in Figure 2. The overall heterogeneity assessment of the results showed that the heterogeneity was low for cardiac mortality ( $I^2 = 0\%$ ), stroke ( $I^2 = 0\%$ ), TVR ( $I^2 = 6.27\%$ ) and major bleeding ( $I^2 = 0\%$ ). However, moderate to high heterogeneity was detected in comparisons of the primary endpoint ( $I^2 = 28.75\%$ ), all-cause mortality ( $I^2 = 28.19\%$ ), MI ( $I^2 = 25.51\%$ ), stent thrombosis (definite or probable) ( $I^2 = 64.76\%$ ) observation indicators, although the 95% CIs showed that this heterogeneity was not statistically significant. Forest plots of feasible pairwise comparisons with heterogeneity estimates were generated in Additional file 4.

The fit of the consistency model was similar to or better than that of the inconsistency model (Additional file 5). Inconsistency between direct and indirect estimates from the node splitting analysis did not show significant differences in each comparison (Additional file 6). The convergence diagnosis model can be used to predict the data effectively. We evaluated the convergence of iterations by visual inspection of the chains to establish homogenous parameter estimates and to comply with the Brooks – Gelman – Rubin diagnostic standard (Additional file 7).

### Network meta-analysis

#### Efficacy and safety

Network plots for different outcomes were generated to illustrate the geometries, to clarify which treatments were compared directly or indirectly in the included studies[46]. The network evidence plot of primary endpoint and was shown in Figure 3, while that of short-term DAPT followed by P2Y12 inhibitor or aspirin monotherapy and secondary outcomes was shown in Additional file 8. All of contribution plot was also demonstrated in Additional file 8. Moreover, the primary endpoint result of NMA using random-

effects were summarized in Table 2. Other NMA clinical events result were demonstrated in Additional file 9.

### **Primary endpoint**

Compared with extended-term DAPT, short-term DAPT and standard-term DAPT was associated with a reduced risk of primary endpoint (OR 0.48, 0.25 to 0.85; 0.56, 0.32 to 0.9), whereas midterm DAPT showed no significant difference (OR 0.62, 0.33 to 1.06). Furthermore, short-term DAPT followed by P2Y12 inhibitor or aspirin monotherapy had no remarkable difference compared to short-term DAPT followed by aspirin monotherapy (OR 0.90, 0.54 to 1.5). According to the accumulative rankings by SUCRA, we found that the possible best treatment improving primary endpoint was 3-month DAPT, while the effect is consistent with midterm and standard term DAPT. In addition, in the analyses of the primary endpoint, the worst treatment was extended-term DAPT.

### **Secondary outcomes**

All-cause mortality was similar in extended-term DAPT, 12-month DAPT, mid-term DAPT or short-term DAPT. No noticeable difference was also shown for cardiac mortality. Compared with 12-month DAPT, extended-term DAPT, mid-term DAPT and short-term DAPT showed no significant differences in the matter of MI or in respect of stroke. In terms of definite or probable stent thrombosis, compared with 12-month DAPT, extended-term DAPT, mid-term DAPT and short-term DAPT showed no significant differences. Similar result was also shown on the subject of TVR. There were no significant differences with respect to major bleeding between the different DAPT strategies.

### **Rank probabilities**

Figures 4 and Figure 5 show the ranking probabilities for all treatments included (with detail ranking results for other outcomes summarized in Additional file 10 and 11). For the treatment effect of ameliorating primary endpoint, short-term DAPT and standard-term DAPT ranked first with the highest probability (72.18% and 63.55%, respectively), while midterm and extended-term DAPT ranked last with the highest probability (62.84% and 95.32%, respectively). For the effect of reducing all-cause mortality, midterm DAPT ranked first with the highest probability (37.59%), while the extended-term DAPT had the highest probability of ranking last in the incidence of more all-cause mortality (53.43%). The short-term DAPT had the highest probability of ranking first in the incidence of less cardiac mortality and MI (42.98% and 64.05%), while the midterm DAPT had the highest probability of ranking last in the incidence of more cardiac mortality and MI (52.57% and 54.27%, respectively). According to the analysis of stroke and TVR, midterm DAPT (76.61%) and standard-term (44.92%) were the treatments with the highest probability of achieving a good prognosis. In contrast, the treatments with the lowest probability were short-term and midterm DAPT, with a probability of 46.15% and 43.52%, respectively. For the effect of delaying the progression of definite or probable stent thrombosis, short-term DAPT was the most appropriate treatment strategy for ranking first with the highest probability (52.67%), while midterm ranked last with

the highest probability (81.18%). To postpone the event of major bleeding, midterm DAPT was favorable treatment for diabetes (59.08%), while extend-term DAPT achieved the worst outcome (89.32%).

## Discussion

In this NMA, which included 18 randomized trials covering 20536 patients, we comprehensively summarized and analyzed the comparative efficacy and safety of various duration of DAPT among diabetes patients after PCI with DES. The results showed that short-term DAPT had the highest cumulative probability of ranking first in the effect of improving primary endpoint. The analysis of primary endpoint data showed that short-term and standard-term DAPT was significantly superior to extend-term DAPT. In addition, short-term DAPT followed by P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy had a potential advantage over short-term DAPT followed by aspirin monotherapy. There was no obvious statistical difference for secondary outcomes among most treatments. In terms of cardiac mortality, MI, and definite or probable stent thrombosis, short-term DAPT had the greatest probability of ranking first (the lowest cardiac mortality, the lowest MI, and the lowest definite or probable stent thrombosis), and midterm DAPT had the greatest probability of ranking last (the highest cardiac mortality, the highest MI, and the highest definite or probable stent thrombosis). According to the evaluation of all-cause mortality, stroke and major bleeding among diabetes patients, we found that midterm DAPT was the treatments with the highest probability of achieving a good prognosis. In the matter of TVR, the treatments with the highest probability were standard-term DAPT. Our finding provided a clue to understand the prognostic significance of optimal DAPT duration in special diabetic subjects after PCI with DES.

Our current study indicated that short-term DAPT was correlated with better primary endpoint and there was no difference with aspect of stent thrombosis or major bleeding between short-term and extended term DAPT duration, which overturned the traditional idea that diabetes as high-risk population should prolongate DAPT duration for the risk of revascularization and better prognosis.

The finding could be explained in several aspects below. Firstly, it has been shown that statin did not influence the platelet activation and aggregation in patients receiving clopidogrel by our previous meta-analysis[47]. Furthermore, with the refinements in DES technologies and the application of new upgrading DES and even degradable stents, it become possible to shorten the time course of DAPT rather than reduce the risk of thrombosis at the expense of bleeding even in high-risk diabetic patients[48].

A number of recent clinical trials have explored the efficacy and safety of long-term P2Y12 inhibitors monotherapy after short-term DAPT ( $\leq 3$  months) after PCI among general population, including STOPDAPT-2 (ShorT and OPTimal duration of Dual AntiPlatelet Therapy-2)[49], TWILIGHT (Ticagrelor With Aspirin or Alone in High-Risk Patients After Coronary Intervention)[50], SMART- CHOICE (SMart Angioplasty Research Team: Comparison between P2Y12 Antagonist MonotHerapy and Dual Antiplatelet Therapy in Patients UndergOing Implantation of Coronary Drug-Eluting Stents) [51] etc., which makes people begin to consider the possibility of stopping aspirin when DAPT is converted to monotherapy. The mentioned studies which were based on the comparison of P2Y $\infty$  monotherapy and long-term DAPT

(12–15 months), did not directly answer the question of which is better between aspirin and P2Y<sub>12</sub> receptor inhibitor when PCI patients are converted to monotherapy. A recent network meta-analysis which was included 17 RCTs with a total of 54625 patients also confirmed that among general population, there were no significant differences in the incidence of all-cause death, myocardial infarction, stent thrombosis and stroke, or bleeding events between aspirin and P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors (clopidogrel) when DAPT was converted to monotherapy in the short-term (< 6 months)[52]. Our results which focused on specified diabetes status found the similar result that the efficacy and safety of P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors long-term monotherapy was not better than aspirin in aspect of composite primary endpoint.

Our study was consistent with recent NMA suggested that 6-month DAPT may be considered for most patients after PCI with DES[7], meanwhile the other NMA found the similar result that among general patients, 6-month DAPT followed by P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitor monotherapy reduced major and extended-term DAPT reduced MI at the expense of more bleeding risk[8]. Our result also indicated that even among high-risk diabetic population, short-term DAPT remained be considered first to reduce composite primary endpoint.

Although there have been traditional meta-analysis studies in diabetic population, there is currently no NMA to compare various time courses of DAPT. Our research and finding fill the gap in this area, and provide direction for clinical and future research of diabetic population.

Our NMA is the first to focus on specified diabetes patients, while most studies pay more attention to general population at current time when people performed the RCT or meta-analysis of dual antiplatelet duration and followed monotherapy after PCI with DES. In addition, duration of DAPT was divided into four detailed categories with standard term as control for NMA, and the stratifications can provide more vehicles in understanding the clinical significance of short-term DAPT in diabetes. NMAs often bring out substantially accurate summary results with a combination of direct and indirect comparisons[53].

Of course, there are still some limitations to this study. Firstly, the data source of NMA is based on the collection of published clinical studies, which were consist of inevitable confounding factors in the included data. The heterogeneity indicated by the  $I^2$  values among the studies remained, despite the usage of a random-effects model. Although all the included articles in this study are officially published RCTs, the consistency and transmissibility of the data should still be paid attention to in the estimation and interpretation of the results. Secondly, we performed a quantitative NMA based mostly on secondary data, which could lead to inaccurate results for a shortage of original individual patient data. Thirdly, we conducted analysis of some outcomes with pooled definitions. Finally, P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors further cannot be further subdivided into clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor and other new kind of P2Y inhibitors. Further research should differentiate the classification of P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitor.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, we have found that short-term DAPT was correlated with the better primary endpoint benefit for patients with diabetes after PCI with DES, compared with extended-term DAPT. Although the optimal duration should consider risk-benefit ratio between personal ischemic and bleeding events, this study suggested short term DAPT followed by P2Y12 inhibitor monotherapy may be the optimal therapy for most diabetes after PCI with DES.

## Abbreviations

DAPT  
dual antiplatelet therapy; PCI:percutaneous coronary intervention; DES:drug-eluting stent; DM:Diabetes mellitus; CAD:coronary artery disease; CYP3A4:cytochrome P450 isoenzyme 3A4; RCT:randomized clinical trial; NMA:network meta-analysis; MI:myocardial infarction; TVR:target vessel revascularization; MCMC:Markov chain Monte Carlo; OR:odds ratio; CI:confidence interval; SUCRA:surface under the cumulative ranking curve; DIC:deviance information criterion; STOPDAPT-2:ShorT and OPTimal duration of Dual AntiPlatelet Therapy-2; TWILIGHT:Ticagrelor With Aspirin or Alone in High-Risk Patients After Coronary Intervention; SMART- CHOICE:SMart Angioplasty Research Team:Comparison between P2Y12 Antagonist Monotherapy and Dual Antiplatelet Therapy in Patients UndergOing Implantation of Coronary Drug-Eluting Stents.

## Declarations

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### Authors' contributions

SHW and KA conceived and designed the research, KA and PG acquired the data, performed statistical analysis. KA drafted, revised and approved the manuscript submitted. SHQ, WWZ, WYC and JJS assisted with the writing of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### Availability of data and materials

Data are available from the authors on request.

### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

## Consent for publication

Not applicable.

## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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## Tables

Table 1  
Characteristics of included trials

Trial	Year	Sample size	DAPT groups	Endpoints for diabetes	Mean follow-up (month)
REAL/ZEST-LATE	2010	704	12-month v 36-month	Primary endpoint, death from any cause, MI, stroke, definite ST, repeat revascularization, TIMI major bleeding	19.7
RESET	2012	292	3-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, death from cardiovascular cause, MI, TVR, definite or probable ST, major or minor bleeding	12
EXCELLENT	2012	550	6-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, total death, cardiac death, MI, death/MI, cerebrovascular accident, target-lesion revascularization, TVR, any revascularization, ST, any bleeding, TIMI major bleeding, MACCE	12
OPTIMIZE	2013	1103	3-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, definite/probable ST	12
ARCTIC-Interruption	2014	420	12-month v 30-month	Primary endpoint,	17
DAPT	2014	3391	12-month v 30-month	Definite ST, probable ST, cardiac death, vascular death, non-cardiovascular death, MI, stroke, BARC type 2 bleeding, BARC type 3 bleeding, BARC type 5 bleeding, GUSTO severe bleeding, GUSTO moderate bleeding,	17
DES LATE	2014	1418	12-month v 36-month	Primary endpoint	36
ISAR-SAFE	2015	979	6-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint	15
ITALIC	2015	685	6-month v 24-month	Primary endpoint, all-cause death, cardiac death, MI, TVR, minimal bleeding, minor bleeding	24

MI: myocardial infarction, ST: stent thrombosis, TVR: target vessel revascularization, TLR: target lesion revascularization

<b>Trial</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>DAPT groups</b>	<b>Endpoints for diabetes</b>	<b>Mean follow-up (month)</b>
OPTIDUAL	2015	435	12-month v 48-month	All-cause mortality, cardiac mortality, MI, stroke, TVR, definite or probable ST, TIMI major bleeding	48
SECURITY	2016	429	6-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, all-cause mortality, cardiac mortality, MI, definite or probable ST, TVR, stroke, type 3 or 5 BARC bleeding	24
I-LOVE-IT 2	2016	414	6-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, TLF, cardiac death, MI, TLR, all-cause death, BARC 3 or 5 major bleeding	12
IVUS-XPL	2016	506	6-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint	12
GLOBAL LEADERS	2018	4038	1-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, BARC 3 or 5 bleeding	24
STOPDAPT-2	2019	1159	1-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint	12
SMART-CHOICE	2019	1122	3-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint, BARC 2,3 or 5 bleeding	12
REDUCE	2019	298	3-month v 12-month	Primary endpoint	24
TWILIGHT	2020	2593	3-month v 12-month	BARC 2,3 or 5 bleeding, BARC 3 or 5 bleeding, TIMI major or minor bleeding, GUSTO moderate or severe bleeding, ISTH major bleeding, all-cause death, cardiovascular death, MI, stroke, definite or probable ST, NACE	15
MI: myocardial infarction, ST: stent thrombosis, TVR: target vessel revascularization, TLR: target lesion revascularization					

Table 2  
Estimate results according to the network meta-analysis on primary endpoint

<b>short-term DAPT</b>			
0.77 (0.46, 1.32)	midterm DAPT		
0.85 (0.62, 1.19)	1.1 (0.73, 1.66)	standard-term DAPT	
<b>0.48 (0.25, 0.85)</b>	0.62 (0.33, 1.06)	<b>0.56 (0.32, 0.9)</b>	extended-term DAPT

## Figures

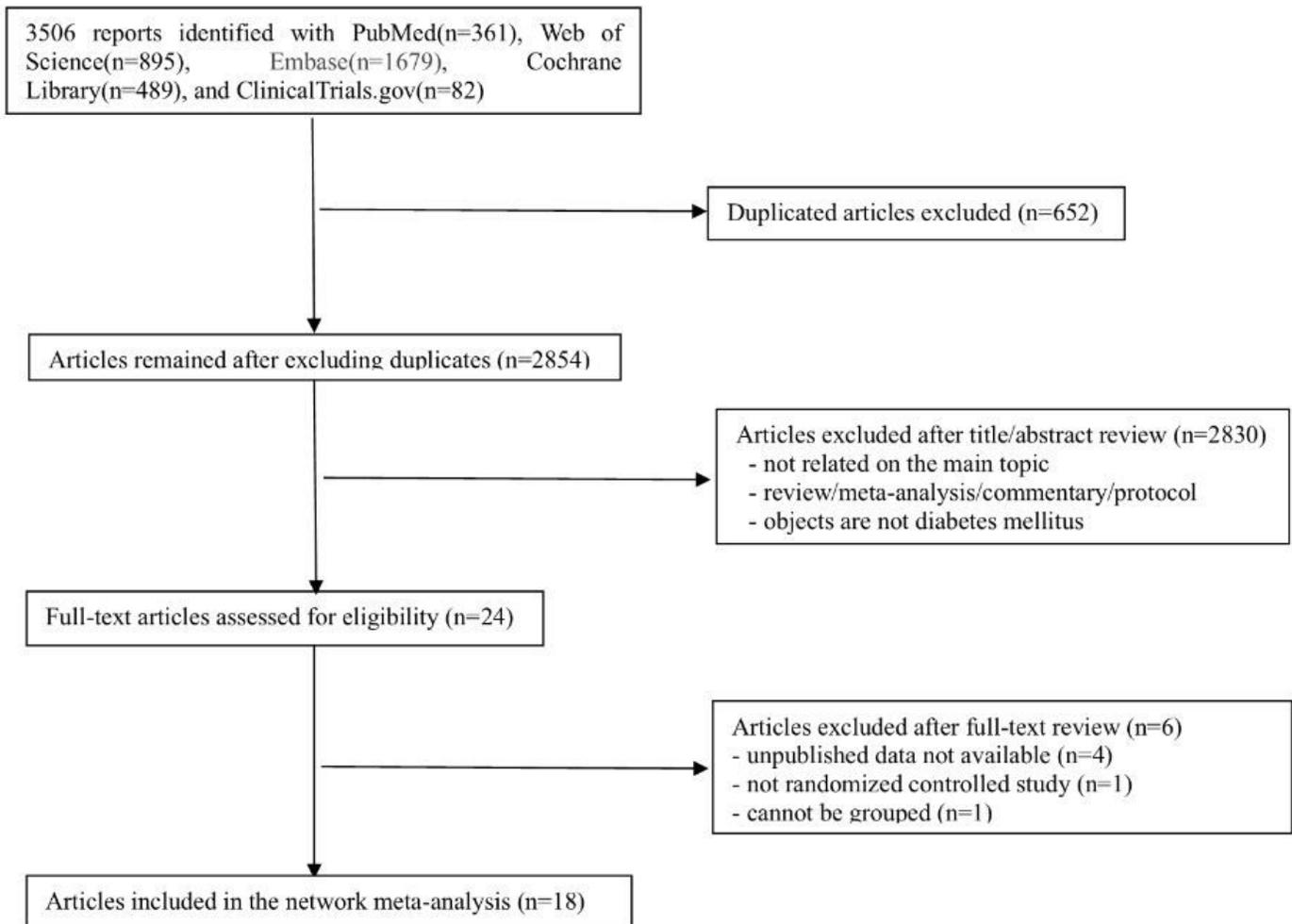


Figure 1

Flow diagram

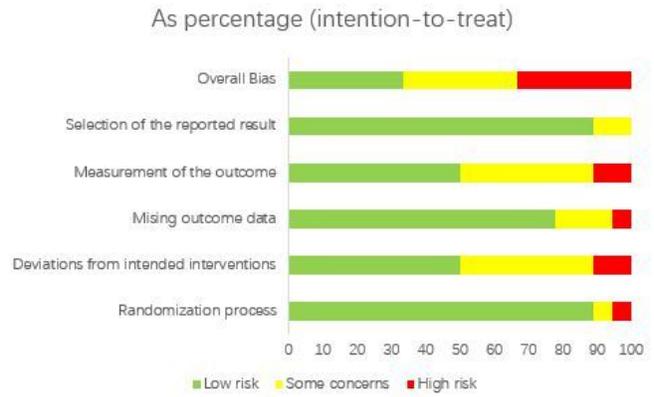
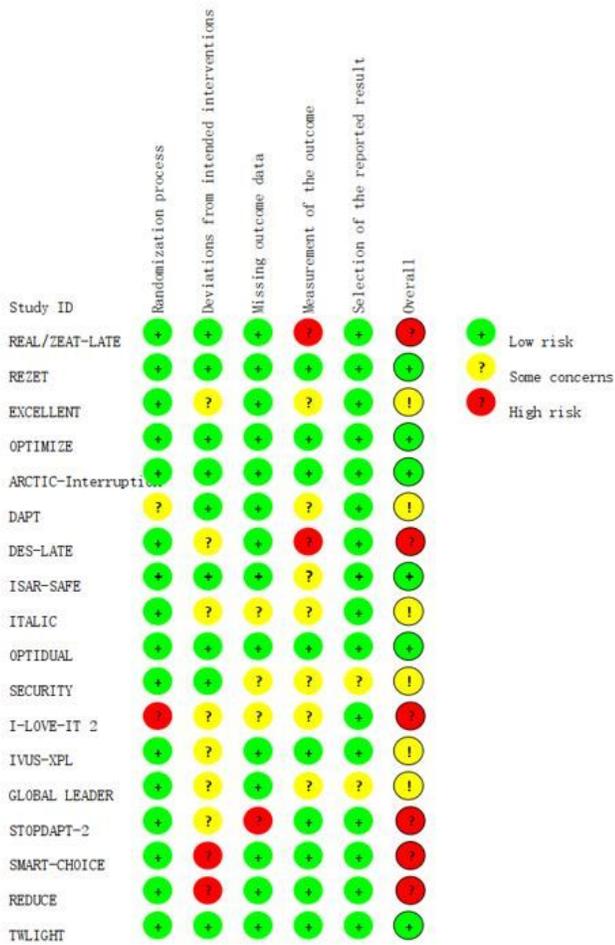
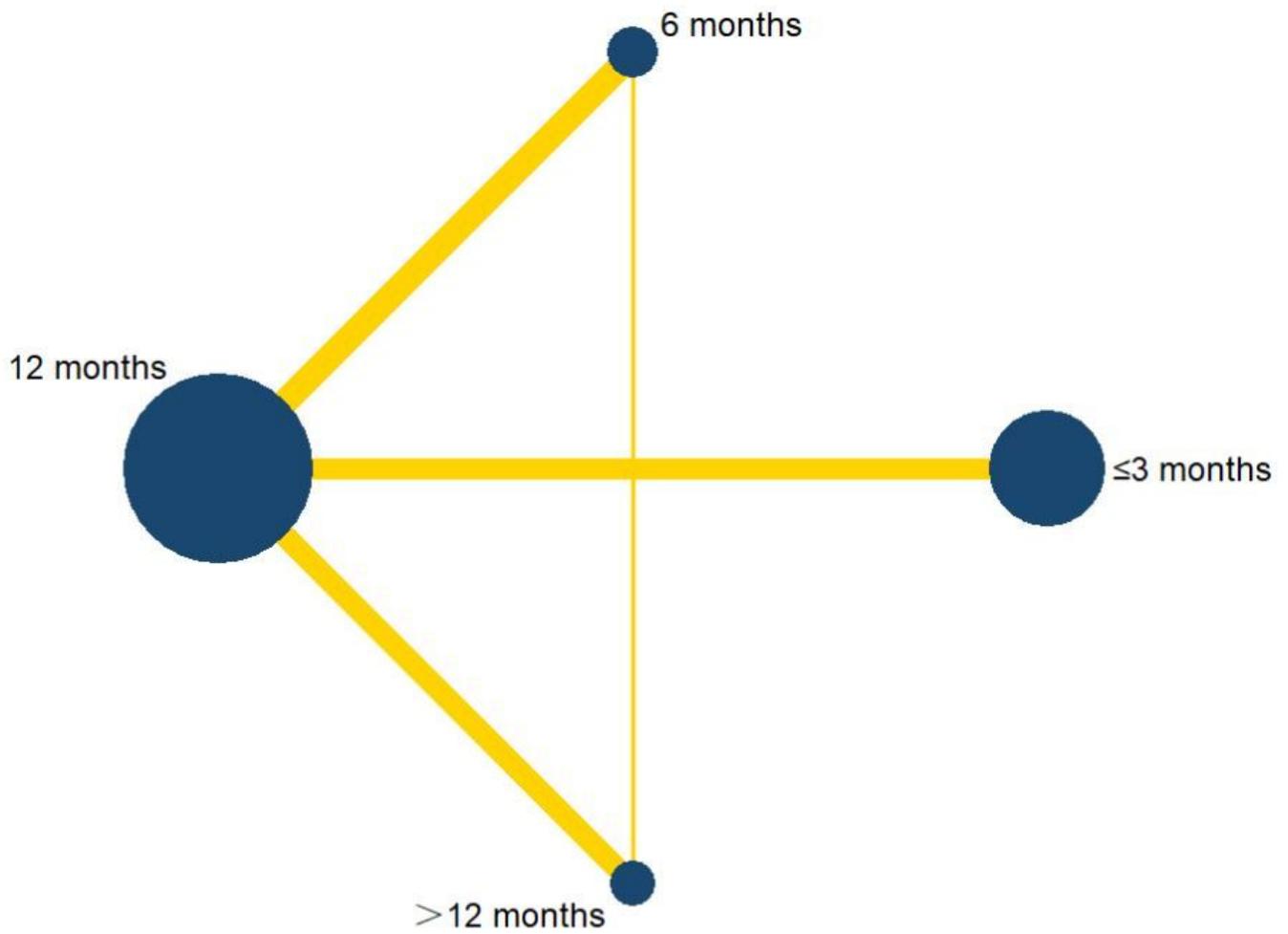


Figure 2

Results from the assessment of the studies

# Network evidence plot for primary endpoint



**Figure 3**

Network evidence plot for primary end point

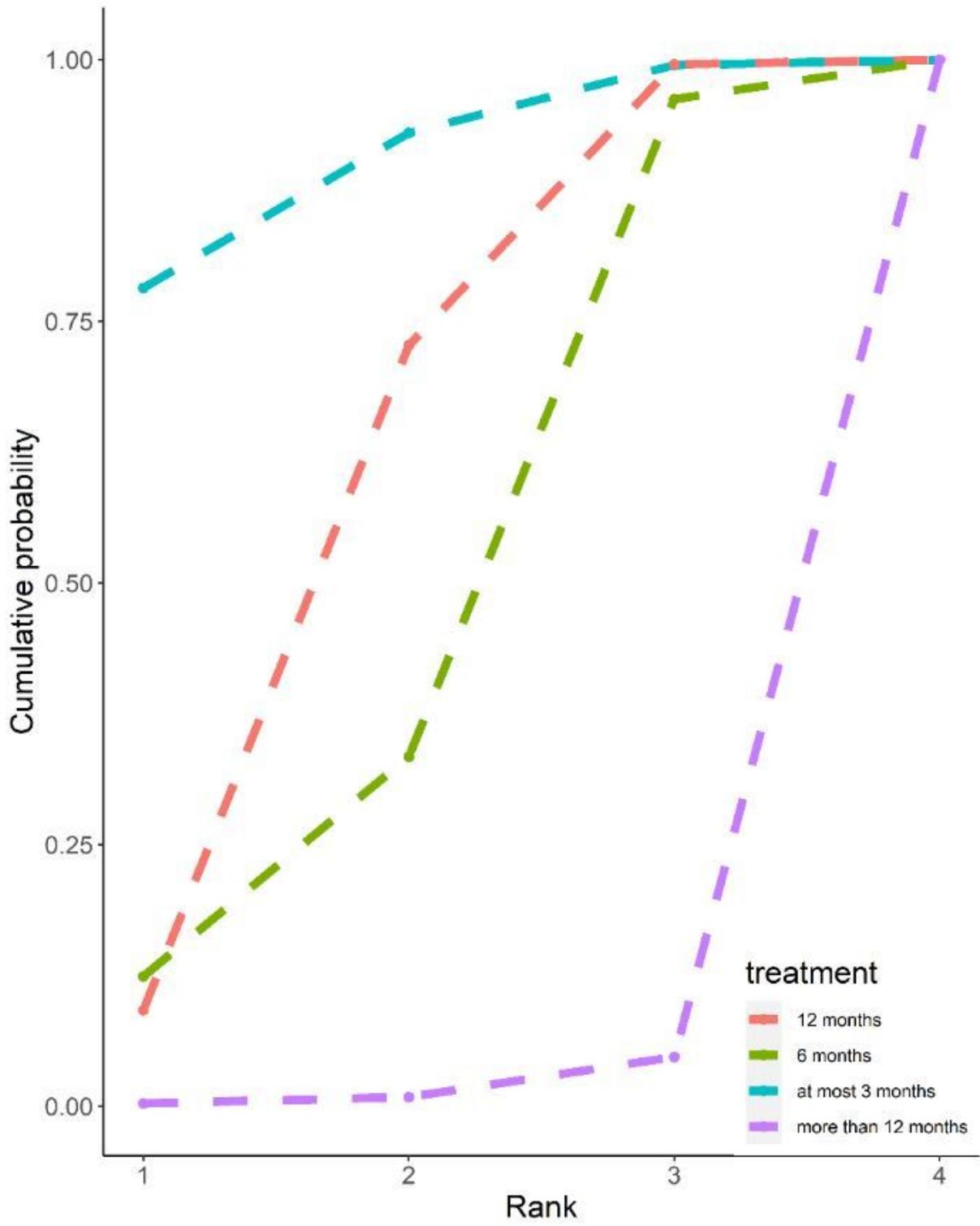
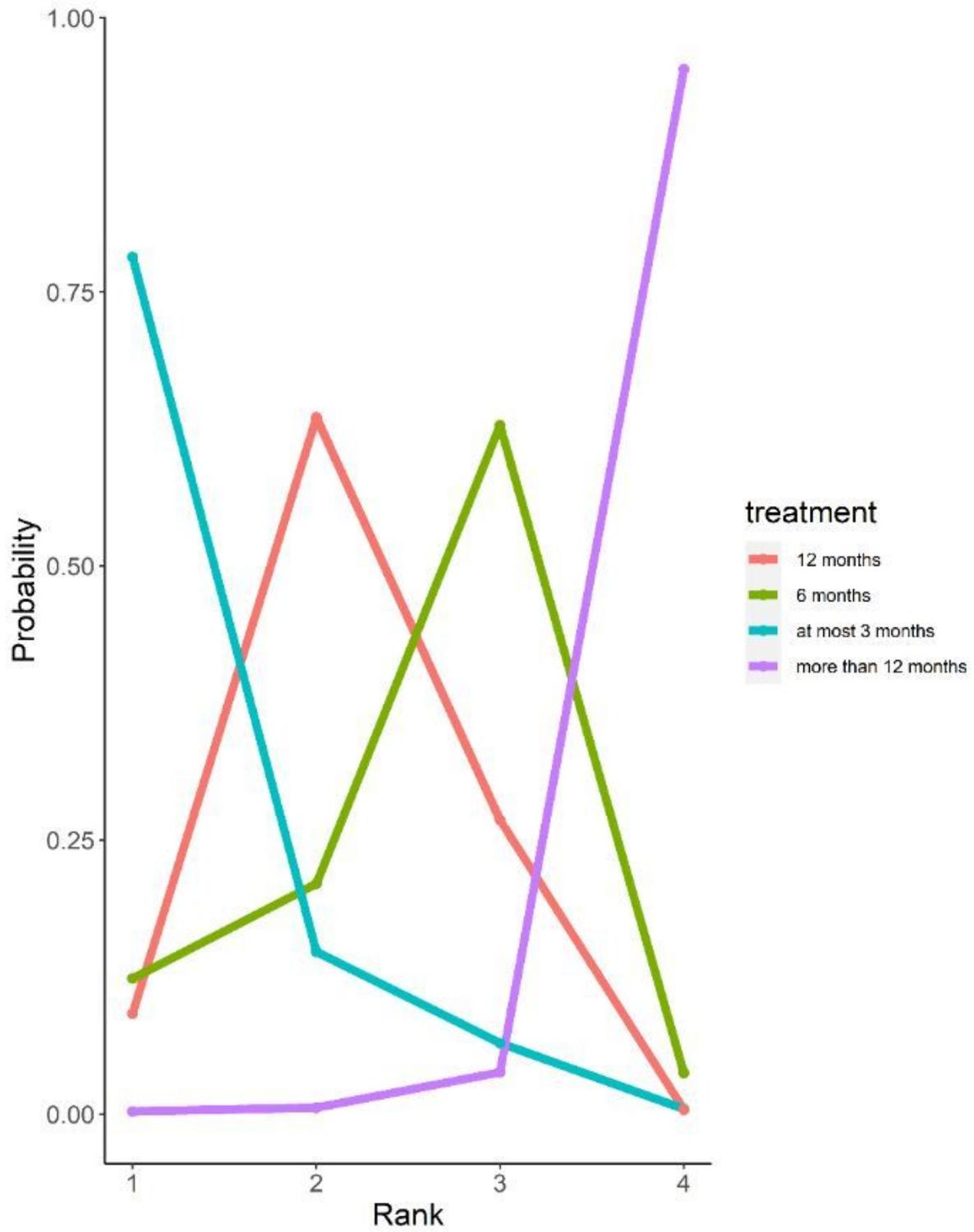


Figure 4

Cumulative ranking curve of primary end point



**Figure 5**

Ranking curve of primary end point

## Supplementary Files

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