

# The ATACAS Trial: Aspirin and Tranexamic Acid for Coronary Artery Surgery Trial. A prospective, randomised, double blind, factorial trial testing whether aspirin, tranexamic acid, or both, can reduce mortality and/or major morbidity after elective coronary artery surgery.

Published: 27-03-2014

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Should low-dose aspirin be continued up until the day of CABG or OPCAB surgery? Should TxA be used for all at-risk CABG or OPCAB surgery?

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Coronary artery disorders
<b>Study type</b>	Interventional

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON40015

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

ATACAS Trial

### Condition

- Coronary artery disorders
- Cardiac therapeutic procedures

**Synonym**

CABG, heart bypass surgery

**Research involving**

Human

**Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Alfred Hospital

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Opdrachtgever (Australian NHMRC Project Grant (ID 334015))

**Intervention**

**Keyword:** Aspirin, CABG, Cardiac Surgery, Tranexamic Acid

**Outcome measures****Primary outcome**

Composite: 30-day mortality or major morbidity (myocardial infarction, cardiogenic shock, stroke, pulmonary embolism, cardiac tamponade).

**Secondary outcome**

Each of the above, plus blood transfusion, re-operation, respiratory failure, renal failure, serious wound infection, prolonged hospitalisation.

**Study description****Background summary**

There are more than 10,000 cardiac surgery cases done each year in The Netherlands. About 5% have a serious complication or die; this adds substantially to healthcare costs. Cardiac surgery activates platelets and coagulation factors, and the fibrinolytic pathway. Excessive bleeding is common. This may require surgical re-exploration and increases morbidity and mortality. Recent aspirin exposure increases surgical bleeding. It is routine practice in most cardiac surgical centres for aspirin to be ceased 1 wk before elective cardiac surgery. But a recent landmark study found that aspirin had a lower mortality, as well as less stroke, renal failure and bowel infarction (all  $P < 0.01$ ), presumably because of its anti-thrombogenic effects.

Another drug, Tranexamic Acid (TxA), is sometimes used to reduce bleeding after cardiac surgery. It works by blocking the activation fibrinolysis ("clot breakdown") that often occurs during bypass and surgery. It can block the bleeding risk associate with aspirin, and does not increase thrombotic risk. Meta-analyses of trials have shown that antifibrinolytic therapy reduces blood loss, need for blood transfusion and re-operation for bleeding in cardiac surgery. Such therapy may also reduce mortality. Large outcome trial data are lacking.

## **Study objective**

Should low-dose aspirin be continued up until the day of CABG or OPCAB surgery?  
Should TxA be used for all at-risk CABG or OPCAB surgery?

## **Study design**

Large, multi-centre, prospective, randomised, double blind, factorial trial. Patients will be randomly allocated to aspirin, Tranexamic Acid, aspirin + Tranexamic Acid or placebo.

## **Intervention**

On the morning of surgery patients are randomised to one of 4 groups:

Group 1 = Aspirin

Group 2 = Tranexamic acid

Group 3 = Aspirin plus tranexamic acid

Group 4 = Placebo

## **Study burden and risks**

Patients get the usual care around their CABG procedure. The use of aspirin and Tranexamic Acid is standard of care in the UMC Utrecht. Sampling of blood for study purposes is combined with regular blood sampling. Participation is not causing extra burden for the patient.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Alfred Hospital

Commercial Road 55  
Melbourne Victoria 3004  
AU

### **Scientific**

Alfred Hospital

Commercial Road 55  
Melbourne Victoria 3004  
AU

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

1. Males and females, age 18 years and over
2. Written, informed consent
3. Elective coronary artery surgery (on-pump or off-pump)
4. Patient is at increased risk of major complications, defined by any of:
  - \* Age 70 years and over
  - \* Left ventricular impairment (fractional area change <20%, ejection fraction <40%, or at least moderate impairment on ventriculography)
  - \* Concomitant valvular or aortic surgery
  - \* Aneurysmectomy
  - \* Repeat cardiac surgery (\*re-do\*)
  - \* Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
  - \* Renal impairment (se. creatinine >150  $\mu$ mol/l or creatinine clearance <45 ml/min)
  - \* Obesity (body mass index >25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - \* Pulmonary hypertension (mPAP >25 mmHg)
  - \* Peripheral vascular disease.

### Exclusion criteria

1. Poor (Dutch) language comprehension
2. Clinician preference for antifibrinolytic therapy
3. Urgent surgery for unstable coronary syndromes where for clinical reasons antiplatelet

medication cannot be discontinued

4. Active peptic ulceration

5. Allergy or contraindication to aspirin or tranexamic acid

6. Aspirin therapy within 4 days of surgery

7. Warfarin or clopidogrel therapy within 7 days of surgery, or GIIb/IIIa antagonists within 24 h of surgery

8. Thrombocytopaenia or any other known history of bleeding disorder

9. Severe renal impairment (serum creatinine >250  $\mu$ mol/l, or estimated creatinine clearance <25 ml/min)

10. Recent haematuria

11. Thromboembolic disease relating to: history of postoperative or spontaneous pulmonary embolism, spontaneous arterial thrombosis or familial hypercoaguability (eg. Lupus anticoagulant, protein C deficiency)

12. Pregnancy.

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Double blinded (masking used)
Control:	Placebo
Primary purpose:	Prevention

### Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	13-06-2014
Enrollment:	400
Type:	Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 27-03-2014

Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

Register	ID
Other	ACTRN 12605000555651
CCMO	NL39627.041.13

## Study results

Date completed:	15-10-2016
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Actual enrolment:	29
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### Summary results

Trial is ongoing in other countries