

# Pioneering anti-clotting medication halves stent blockage in heart attack patients

November 18 2014, by Amy Pullan

---



Ticagrelor prevents stent blockage in heart patients

Treating heart attack patients with ticagrelor reduces the risk of stents blocking with blood clots according to a ground breaking new study conducted by researchers from the University of Sheffield.

The new findings confirm that treating [heart attack patients](#) with the pioneering drug ticagrelor, instead of the previous standard treatment clopidogrel, could halve the risks of stents blocking with [blood clots](#), which usually requires a repeat operation or can even be fatal.

The results of the study were announced at the American Heart Association 2014 Meeting in Chicago, by Dr Javid Iqbal from the

University's Department of Cardiovascular Science.

After leading UK investigations into ticagrelor, the city of Sheffield and the surrounding region adopted ticagrelor as the preferred treatment for heart attack patients in February 2012.

This analysis, which was led by doctors from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, shows that the early adoption of this pioneering treatment has reduced the risk of patients needing a repeat operation as a result of stent blockage.

Early indications suggest that this might have prevented premature deaths, as had been suggested in the PLATO study, which included over 18,000 patients worldwide.

Professor Robert Storey, from the University's Department of Cardiovascular Science and Honorary Consultant in Cardiology at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, the study senior investigator who led UK investigations of ticagrelor, said: "Having previously demonstrated benefits of ticagrelor in comparison to clopidogrel in our research and then having used our research findings to change our practice, we have now shown what benefits this can bring to heart attack patients.

"Our findings now confirm what we had seen in clinical trials and show how clinical research can really improve the outlook for heart attack victims.

"We are really grateful to all the patients who have participated in our research studies and can now demonstrate how beneficial their contributions have been."

Ticagrelor was invented by scientists in the UK and developed by AstraZeneca. The National Institute for Clinical Health and Excellence

(NICE) approved ticagrelor as a cost-effective treatment for heart attack patients in October 2011.

After waiting for this approval, hospitals and GP practices across South Yorkshire were early adopters of ticagrelor and have used this instead of clopidogrel in the majority of heart attack victims since February 2012, in line with recommendations by the European Society of Cardiology.

However, some areas of the UK have faced barriers to the introduction of ticagrelor as a consequence of its higher cost compared to clopidogrel, despite the endorsement by NICE that ticagrelor is cost-effective. This has led to inequity of access to a treatment that has the best evidence for reducing the risk of dying in the year after a [heart attack](#).

Professor Storey added: "Hopefully our new data will help to convince other doctors of the benefits of adopting this new [treatment](#)."

Provided by University of Sheffield

Citation: Pioneering anti-clotting medication halves stent blockage in heart attack patients (2014, November 18) retrieved 25 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-11-anti-clotting-medication-halves-stent-blockage.html>

|  |
|--|
| <p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p> |
|--|