

Impact of pre-admission morphine on re-infarction in patients with STEMI treated with PPCI: a meta-analysis

Ying X. GUE MB BS, MRCP ^{1,2}, Nikolaos SPINTHAKIS MD ^{1,2}, Mohamed FARAG MB BS, MRCP, PhD ^{1,3}, Jacek KUBICA MD, PhD ⁴, Jolanta M. SILLER-MATULA MD, PhD ⁵, Manivannan SRINIVASAN MB BS, MD, FRCP ², Diana A. GOROG MB BS, MD, PhD, FRCP ^{1,2,6}

1. Department of Postgraduate Medicine, University of Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom
2. Cardiology Department, Lister Hospital, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Stevenage, United Kingdom
3. Cardiology Department, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Papworth Everard, Cambridge, United Kingdom
4. Department of Cardiology and Internal Medicine, Collegium Medicum, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Bydgoszcz, Poland
5. Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine II, Medical University of Vienna Austria
6. National Heart & Lung Institute, Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

Key words: Morphine, reinfarction, STEMI, PPCI

Corresponding author: Prof. Diana A Gorog, d.gorog@imperial.ac.uk
National Heart & Lung Institute,
Imperial College, Dovehouse Street,
London SW3 6LY, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 207 034 8934

Conflict of Interest

All authors declared no competing interests for this work.

Funding

This article was not funded by any external sources.

Abstract

Opiates are the traditional analgesics used for pain relief in patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Pharmacodynamic studies indicate that opiates delay the absorption of orally-administered P2Y₁₂ inhibitors and the onset of platelet inhibition. Whether the negative effect of opiates on platelet inhibition impacts on clinical outcomes is unclear.

A systematic review and meta-analysis was performed searching PubMed, MEDLINE and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials to identify studies comparing morphine and no-morphine treatment in STEMI patients undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI). The primary endpoint was the occurrence of in-hospital recurrent myocardial infarction, and secondary endpoints included in-hospital stroke and death.

Four observational studies, including a total of 3220 patients, were identified. Amongst patients with STEMI, those treated with morphine had a higher rate of re-infarction compared to patients not receiving morphine (1.5% vs. 0.67%, odds ratio [OR] 2.41; 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.11-5.21; p=0.03). Mortality rate was lower in morphine-treated patients (1.7% vs. 4.2%, OR 0.43, 95% CI 0.23-0.81; p=0.009). There was no difference in stroke according to morphine treatment.

Patients undergoing PPCI who are pre-treated with morphine have a higher rate of re-infarction than patients not receiving morphine. This may be attributable to opiate-related delay in P2Y₁₂ inhibitor absorption and resultant delay in onset of platelet inhibition. These concerning findings indicate the need for prospective, randomised trials to assess the impact of opiates on clinical outcomes in STEMI.

Abstract word count: 231 words

59 **Abbreviations**

60

61 ACS Acute coronary syndrome

62 GPI Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor

63 MACE Major adverse cardiovascular event

64 MRI Magnetic resonance imaging

65 NSTEMI Non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction

66 PCI Percutaneous coronary intervention

67 PPCI Primary percutaneous coronary intervention

68 STEMI ST-elevation myocardial infarction

Introduction

Morphine is the traditional analgesic mainstay for patients presenting with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) and has been used in this setting for >100 years. Whilst opiates continue to be used to relieve the symptoms of chest pain, without evidence base, the other treatment strategies for STEMI have significantly evolved, through the use of primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI) to establish epicardial flow and the need to minimise re-occlusion and stent thrombosis through the use of potent P2Y₁₂ inhibitors¹. However, concerns have arisen in the last few years about the potential adverse effects of morphine in the setting of acute coronary syndrome (ACS), where it may delay the absorption of orally-administered P2Y₁₂ inhibitors and potentially result in delayed onset of P2Y₁₂ inhibitor-mediated platelet inhibition^{2,3}.

The CRUSADE (Can Rapid Risk Stratification of Unstable Angina Patients Suppress Adverse Outcomes with Early Implementation of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guidelines) registry⁴ was one of the first to report a possible negative effect of morphine administration in ACS. Subsequently, a number of studies evaluating the effect of morphine on clinical outcomes in patients with ACS have shown that morphine delays and attenuates the effect of oral P2Y₁₂ inhibitors⁵⁻⁷. The Platelet Aggregation with Ticagrelor Inhibition and Fentanyl (PACIFY) randomized trial showed that fentanyl, in the same way as morphine, delayed the absorption and action of oral ticagrelor loading in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), evidenced by reduced platelet inhibition, indicating that this is likely to be a class effect⁸. Based on these and other studies, the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)¹ and the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association (ACCF/AHA)⁹ have downgraded the level of evidence for the use of intravenous opioids in the setting of STEMI from level I to level IIa.

However, it is unclear whether the observed effect of opiates on platelet inhibition is simply a laboratory phenomenon without clinical sequelae, or whether the effects directly translate into an adverse effect on clinical outcomes is unclear, with small observational studies showing varying impact on hard clinical endpoints such as death and reinfarction^{10–12}. The potential adverse impact of opiates on P2Y₁₂ inhibitor effects is likely to be of greatest significance in the setting of STEMI, yet no prospective randomised trials have addressed this.

Therefore, it was our aim to evaluate the current evidence base in the literature to determine the impact of opiates, in particular morphine or diamorphine, on in-hospital clinical outcomes in the setting of STEMI, and in particular in patients undergoing PPCI.

Methods

We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis of studies assessing the impact of morphine administration on clinical outcomes and cardiac enzymes in patients presenting with STEMI and treated with PPCI. Our work complies with the recommendations in the consensus statement outlined by the Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology group¹³.

Search strategy

We performed a systematic search of online databases PubMed, MEDLINE and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials up until June 2019 for studies comparing morphine and no-morphine treatment in patients with STEMI treated with PPCI. The search strategy was broad and included the following keywords separately and in combination: “morphine”, “opioids”, “opiates”, “PCI”, “PPCI”, “STEMI”, “myocardial infarction”, and “ACS”, and we restricted the search to full length articles published in the English language and in peer-

reviewed journals. Abstracts were screened for suitability and relevant studies retrieved. In an attempt to identify all studies, references of relevant manuscripts were searched for additional studies not identified from the initial database search. Two reviewers (Y.G. and N.S.) independently performed the search and literature screen, with disputes resolved by consensus following discussion with a third author (D.A.G.).

The PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses)¹⁴ guidelines for reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The following inclusion criteria were applied: 1) studies comparing morphine or opioids to no opioids, 2) observational or randomised, 3) reporting on patients with STEMI undergoing PPCI, 4) follow-up data available up to at least the end of index hospital stay, 5) reporting in-hospital clinical outcomes that included myocardial infarction, stroke and death.

The following studies were excluded: 1) non-English language studies, 2) only abstract available, 3) not reporting outcome of interest. Definitions of outcomes in each of the included studies are detailed in supplementary material [Supplemental Table 1]. Selected trials were compared, and disagreement was resolved by team discussion and consensus.

Endpoints

Our primary outcome of interest was the occurrence of recurrent myocardial infarction in hospital. Secondary outcomes of interest were in-hospital death and stroke.

Data Extraction

Data were independently extracted from relevant published articles by two authors (Y.G. and N.S.) after determining their eligibility for inclusion. Data extracted included baseline patient

characteristics, treatment of STEMI, medications in particular antiplatelet and anticoagulant treatment, and clinical outcomes.

Statistical analysis

Pooled odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) were estimated for binary variables using a random-effects model with the method of DerSimonian and Laird¹⁵.

Heterogeneity between individual studies was explored by X^2 statistic and characterized with I^2 statistic. All analyses were performed using RevMan Version 5.3.5 software (The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2014).

Included studies were assessed using the Risk of Bias in Non-randomized Studies of Interventions (ROBINS-I) tool, which considers biases from confounding, selection of participants into the studies, missing data, and measurement of outcomes¹⁶. Tests for publication bias were not performed since less than 10 studies were included in the analysis. Results were reported in accordance with the PRISMA guideline¹⁴.

Results

Our initial search screen yielded a total of 663 potential articles, of which 25 full text articles were retrieved and reviewed for inclusion (Figure 1). Of these, 2 studies were excluded since only infarct size, based on cardiac MRI, was reported as an outcome^{17,18}, a further study was excluded since it included a mixed group of patients with both STEMI and non-ST elevation ACS where STEMI data could not be extricated⁷, and another study excluded as it included only patients with non-ST elevation ACS⁴. A further 17 studies were excluded for not reporting the clinical outcome of interest^{5,8,10,19–32}.

Four publications (5 studies) involving a total of 4946 patients with STEMI were identified as suitable for inclusion^{6,11,12,33} (Figure 1). One publication, the French Registry of Acute ST-elevation and non-ST-elevation Myocardial Infarction (FAST-MI) programme¹¹, reported data from 2010 and additional data from another observational study in 2005 within the paper. However, as there were few patients within the FAST-MI 2005 cohort who were treated with PCI (35.1% of entire cohort) and since 27.4% of those patients were treated with pre-hospital fibrinolysis, we felt the cohort of FAST-MI 2005 was significantly different to the cohorts of other studies in the analysis, where PPCI was the default strategy. In particular, the pre-hospital fibrinolysis would have likely negated any adverse effect of the morphine-P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction. Hence, we excluded FAST-MI 2005 from the main analysis.

The characteristics of the studies included in the analysis are detailed in Table 1 and definition of outcomes in the studies in Supplementary Table 1. Baseline clinical characteristics of patients in both treatment arms are shown in Table 2. In the FAST-MI 2010 study, patients treated with morphine were significantly lower risk, being younger, with lower GRACE score and lower prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and left ventricular

impairment than patients not receiving morphine. In the other three studies, patients in the morphine and no-morphine groups were well matched for clinical characteristics.

Amongst patients with STEMI, those treated with morphine had a higher rate of re-infarction compared to patients not receiving morphine (1.5% vs. 0.67%, OR 2.41; 95% CI 1.11-5.21; $p=0.03$) (Figure 2 and Figure 3). Mortality rate was lower in morphine-treated patients (1.7% vs. 4.2%, OR 0.43, 95% CI 0.23-0.81; $p=0.009$). There was no difference in stroke according to morphine treatment. Sensitivity analysis with exclusion of data from FAST-MI showed the difference in in-hospital re-infarction rate (1.3% vs 0.5%, OR 2.02; 95% CI 0.39-10.43; $p=0.40$) and mortality (2.07% vs 3.04%, 95% CI 0.28-1.99; $p=0.56$) was no longer significant.

Trial quality was assessed using the ROBINS-I tool and is shown in Supplemental Table 2. As all the studies were observational cohort studies, the potential for confounding of the effect of morphine cannot be underestimated and would therefore provide bias towards all the studies. The studies by Bellandi *et al.* and Parodi *et al.* had some selection bias due to the presence of predefined exclusion criteria whilst the other studies included consecutive unselected patients. The comparison groups were clearly defined in all the studies and outcome data of interest were provided for all participants within each study. The overall risk of bias is low in the studies included.

Discussion

The main finding of our study is that patients with STEMI treated with morphine appear to have a higher rate of early reinfarction than patients treated without morphine. Prior publications show that there is an important pharmacodynamic interaction between opiates and P2Y₁₂ inhibitors. Opiates, such as morphine and fentanyl, appear to delay the onset of effect and reduce the maximal platelet inhibition achieved by oral P2Y₁₂ inhibitors (clopidogrel, ticagrelor, prasugrel) in patients with ACS,^{5,24,33,34} by reducing gastrointestinal absorption³⁵. In an elegant cross-over trial in patients with stable coronary artery disease, morphine, compared to saline, significantly delayed prasugrel absorption and delayed the onset of adequate platelet inhibition²². However, the clinical impact of this pharmacodynamic interaction is less well understood, and there have been no prospective randomised trials comparing clinical outcomes of patients with STEMI treated with morphine and without morphine. Our study provides evidence that the morphine-P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction may have more than just pharmacodynamic impact, and may have important adverse clinical consequences.

Reinfarction within the first few days after PPCI for STEMI is usually attributable to stent thrombosis. The aetiology of this relates to patient-related, lesion-related, procedural, and post-procedural factors³⁶. These factors predispose to stent thrombosis generally by triggering a recurrent or persistent prothrombotic state attributable to exposure of blood to stent struts, and/or polymer material, leading to activation of the extrinsic pathway of the coagulation cascade, persistent slow coronary flow and low shear stress leading to activation of the intrinsic pathway or inadequate pharmacological suppression of platelet activation.

The role of suboptimal platelet inhibition as a contributor to early stent thrombosis is well recognised. A large-scale meta-analysis of 221,066 patients with 4,276 episodes of stent thrombosis, reported early DAPT discontinuation amongst the 3 most consistently reported

predictors of stent thrombosis³⁷. Sub-group analysis of patients in the PLATO trial treated with PPCI revealed that stent thrombosis occurred significantly less often in ticagrelor- than in clopidogrel-treated patients³⁸ and the role of potent platelet inhibition in reducing stent thrombosis is further supported by the observation that glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor (GPI) treatment in ACS reduces acute stent thrombosis compared with heparin alone^{39,40}.

In addition to the studies reported here, the potential adverse clinical impact of a morphine-P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction is supported by a study in 276 STEMI patients treated with PPCI, in which morphine use was an independent predictor of larger infarct size on cardiac MRI¹⁸ and an observational study of nearly 1000 patients with anterior STEMI, showing a non-significant trend towards a higher rate of recurrent MI in patients treated with, compared to those not treated with, morphine (3.8% vs. 1.7%, $p=0.08$)²⁷.

Baseline differences in clinical characteristics between STEMI patients treated with morphine and without morphine, could underlie the difference in mortality between the morphine and no-morphine groups in our meta-analysis. In the largest study included in this analysis, the FAST MI 2010 study, patients receiving morphine were significantly lower risk, with significantly lower age, lower prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, and lower GRACE score than patients treated without morphine¹¹. Meta-regression analysis of the baseline characteristics did not show any significant correlation with in-hospital mortality. However, as patient-level data was unavailable, we could not perform further analysis to adjust for the clinical difference.

The study by Parodi *et al.*³³ did not report time from onset of symptoms to PPCI, whilst in the studies of Farag *et al.*¹² and Bellandi *et al.*⁶ the symptom-to-balloon time was similar in the morphine and no-morphine groups, whereas in the FAST-MI 2010 study,¹¹ patients not receiving morphine had significantly longer time from symptom onset to revascularization, that may have impacted on outcome in this cohort. Our findings are supported by the recently

published ATLANTIC-Morphine study⁴¹. In this retrospective analysis of 1862 patients with STEMI who received ticagrelor 180 mg with (49%) or without (51%) concomitant morphine in the ATLANTIC study, morphine-treated patients less often had pre-PPCI TIMI 3 flow, were more frequently given GPI and more frequently underwent mechanical thrombus aspiration, suggestive of larger thrombus burden, than patients who did not receive morphine⁴¹. Furthermore, morphine-treated patients tended to be younger, with shorter time from symptom onset to ECG diagnosis and treatment, which is an important determinant of prognosis. The shorter time to diagnosis and greater GPI use may have ameliorated the adverse effects of the morphine-P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction.

Interestingly, addition of FAST-MI 2005 data into the analysis showed that in-hospital mortality remained significant in favour of morphine whilst re-infarction was no longer significant [Supplement Figure 1]. This may reflect non-contemporaneous data where there was lesser PPCI but could also reflect the protective impact of fibrinolysis negating the impact of morphine on platelet inhibition.

Our findings lend support to the concept that non-opioid analgesics such as intravenous paracetamol should be considered to relieve pain in STEMI patients, in order to mitigate against the effects of the opiate-P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction. The SCADOLII (Comparison of MEOPA [nitrogen monoxide-oxygen mixture] plus Paracetamol Versus Morphine Treatment in Acute Coronary Syndrome Analgesia) randomised trial (NCT02198378) will provide valuable insight into the use of non-opioid analgesia in the setting of STEMI.

If opioids are used, consideration should be given to maximal concomitant P2Y₁₂ inhibition through the use of the intravenous P2Y₁₂ inhibition cangrelor^{2,34} or through the use of additional parenteral antithrombotic agents such as GPI^{2,31,34}. Newer P2Y₁₂ inhibitors given subcutaneously such as selatogrel⁴² may offer an alternative way of achieving rapid P2Y₁₂ inhibition even in the pre-hospital ambulance setting. Finally, it is worth noting that the

absorption of oral antiplatelet agents can be improved by the administration of crushed ticagrelor or prasugrel through a nasogastric tube^{26,43}, or using orodispersible ticagrelor⁴⁴. The PERSEUS (Platelet Inhibition After Pre-hospital Ticagrelor Using Fentanyl Compared to Morphine in Patients With ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Undergoing Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) randomised trial (NCT02531165) will investigate the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of pre-hospital ticagrelor in patients with STEMI receiving either fentanyl or morphine. Co-administration of the antiemetic metoclopramide with morphine was recently shown to enhance ticagrelor absorption and platelet inhibition compared to morphine treatment alone in patients with unstable angina⁴⁵.

Limitations

As the studies included were observational cohort studies, there is a strong likelihood of selection bias and confounders that cannot be measured or accounted for. Exclusion of non-English studies also produces a significant limitation. The significant difference in baseline clinical characteristics between morphine and no-morphine groups in the FAST-MI study have already been discussed. Another significant risk is that patients needing morphine analgesia may be fundamentally different from those not requiring morphine. Patients with severe pain (those most likely to receive morphine) are likely to seek earlier medical attention and reperfusion may be therefore more prompt, than in patients with less severe pain or a more innocuous presentation, where diagnosis and treatment may be more delayed. It was not possible to compare the studies for pain-to-reperfusion time in the morphine and no-morphine groups, which may be a significant confounder. We cannot determine the bias possibly resulting from concomitant GPI treatment since this was not easily obtainable in all studies and would be expected to attenuate the negative impact of morphine on P2Y₁₂ inhibitor effect on platelet function. Furthermore, the studies differed with respect to the type

313 of P2Y₁₂ inhibitor used, and the dose of morphine given was not explicitly stated. These
314 variables may have been significant confounders, since the magnitude of the morphine-P2Y₁₂
315 inhibitor interaction may vary by type of P2Y₁₂ inhibitor and may be morphine dose-
316 dependent.
317
318

Conclusion

The use of morphine treatment in patients with STEMI is associated with a higher rate of re-infarction in hospital compared to patients not receiving morphine. This may be attributable to morphine-induced delay in the absorption of orally-administered P2Y₁₂ inhibitors and resultant delay in onset of platelet inhibition. These concerning findings indicate the need for prospective, randomised trials to assess the impact of opiates on clinical outcomes in STEMI. Until then, measures to mitigate the morphine-oral P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction should be considered.

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

What is the current knowledge on the topic?

Pharmacodynamic studies indicate that opioids, given to relieve pain, delay the absorption of orally-administered P2Y₁₂ inhibitors and the onset of platelet inhibition in patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Whether such delay in platelet inhibition impacts adversely on clinical outcomes is unclear.

What question did this study address?

Does the co-administration of opioids with orally-administered P2Y₁₂ inhibitors in STEMI increase the risk of short-term adverse cardiac events?

What does this study add to our knowledge?

The use of morphine treatment in patients with STEMI is associated with a higher rate of re-infarction in hospital compared to patients not receiving morphine.

How might this change clinical pharmacology or translational science?

These concerning findings indicate the need for a prospective, randomised trial to assess the impact of opioids on clinical outcomes in STEMI. Until then, measures to mitigate the morphine-oral P2Y₁₂ inhibitor interaction should be considered through the use of intravenous P2Y₁₂ inhibition.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Y.X.G, N.S. and D.A.G. wrote the manuscript; M.F, J.K., J.M.S, M.S and D.A.G. designed the research; Y.X.G and N.S. performed the search; Y.X.G, M.F, J.M.S and D.A.G. analysed the data.

References

1. Ibanez B, James S, Agewall S, et al. 2017 ESC Guidelines for the management of acute myocardial infarction in patients presenting with ST-segment elevation. *Eur Heart J* 2018; 39: 119–177. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehx393
2. Giannopoulos G, Deftereos S, Kolokathis F, et al. P2Y12 Receptor Antagonists and Morphine: A Dangerous Liaison? *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*; 9. Epub ahead of print September 2016. DOI: 0.1161/circinterventions.116.004229.
3. Farag M, Spinthakis N, Srinivasan M, et al. Should STEMI Patients Receive Opiate Analgesia? The Morphine Paradox. *Curr Vasc Pharmacol* 2018; 16: 477–483. doi: 10.2174/1570161116666180117145704.
4. Meine TJ, Roe MT, Chen AY, et al. Association of intravenous morphine use and outcomes in acute coronary syndromes: Results from the CRUSADE Quality Improvement Initiative. *Am Heart J* 2005; 149: 1043–1049. DOI: 10.1016/j.ahj.2005.02.010
5. Silvain J, Storey RF, Cayla G, et al. P2Y12 receptor inhibition and effect of morphine in patients undergoing primary PCI for ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. *Thromb Haemost* 2016; 116: 369–378. doi: 10.1160/TH15-12-0944
6. Bellandi B, Zocchi C, Xanthopoulou I, et al. Morphine use and myocardial reperfusion in patients with acute myocardial infarction treated with primary PCI. *Int J Cardiol* 2016; 221: 567–571. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2016.06.204
7. Kubica J, Adamski P, Ostrowska M, et al. Morphine delays and attenuates ticagrelor exposure and action in patients with myocardial infarction: the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled IMPRESSION trial. *Eur Heart J* 2016; 37: 245–252. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehv547
8. Ibrahim K, Shah R, Goli R, et al. Fentanyl Delays the Platelet Inhibition Effects of

- Oral Ticagrelor: Full Report of the PACIFY Randomized Clinical Trial. *Thromb Haemost* 2018; 118: 1409–1418. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1666862
9. O’Gara PT, Kushner FG, Ascheim DD, et al. 2013 ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Management of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction. *Circulation* 2013; 127: e362-425. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0b013e3182742cf6
10. McCarthy CP, Bhambhani V, Pomerantsev E, et al. In-hospital outcomes in invasively managed acute myocardial infarction patients who receive morphine. *J Interv Cardiol* 2018; 31: 150–158. doi: 10.1111/joic.12464.
11. Puymirat E, Lamhaut L, Bonnet N, et al. Correlates of pre-hospital morphine use in ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients and its association with in-hospital outcomes and long-term mortality: the FAST-MI (French Registry of Acute ST-elevation and non-ST-elevation Myocardial Infarction) pr. *Eur Heart J* 2016; 37: 1063–1071. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehv567
12. Farag M, Spinthakis N, Srinivasan M, et al. Morphine Analgesia Pre-PPCI Is Associated with Prothrombotic State, Reduced Spontaneous Reperfusion and Greater Infarct Size. *Thromb Haemost* 2018; 118: 601–612. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1629896.
13. Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, et al. Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology: a proposal for reporting. Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) group. *JAMA* 2000; 283: 2008–12. DOI: 10.1001/jama.283.15.2008
14. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA Statement. *Open Med* 2009; 3: e123-30.
15. DerSimonian R, Laird N. Meta-analysis in clinical trials. *Control Clin Trials* 1986; 7: 177–88. DOI: 10.1016/0197-2456(86)90046-2
16. Sterne JA, Hernán MA, Reeves BC, et al. ROBINS-I: a tool for assessing risk of bias

- 416 in non-randomised studies of interventions. *BMJ* 2016; 355: i4919. doi:
417 <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i4919>
- 418 17. Gwag H Bin, Park TK, Song Y Bin, et al. Morphine Does Not Affect Myocardial
419 Salvage in ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction. *PLoS One* 2017; 12:
420 e0170115. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0170115
- 421 18. de Waha S, Eitel I, Desch S, et al. Intravenous morphine administration and
422 reperfusion success in ST-elevation myocardial infarction: insights from cardiac
423 magnetic resonance imaging. *Clin Res Cardiol* 2015; 104: 727–734. doi:
424 10.1007/s00392-015-0835-2
- 425 19. Eshraghi A, Tayyebi M, Sajjadi SS, et al. Morphine Post-Conditioning Effect on QT
426 Dispersion in Patients Undergoing Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention on
427 Anterior Descending Cardiac Artery: A Cohort Study. *Electron physician* 2017; 9:
428 3468–3474. doi: 10.19082/3468
- 429 20. Xanthopoulou I, Davlourous P, Tsigkas G, et al. Factors Affecting Platelet Reactivity 2
430 Hours After P2Y₁₂ Receptor Antagonist Loading in Primary Percutaneous Coronary
431 Intervention for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction – Impact of Pain-to-Loading
432 Time. *Circ J* 2016; 80: 442–449. doi: 10.1253/circj.CJ-15-0495
- 433 21. Flierl U, Zauner F, Sieweke J-T, et al. Efficacy of prasugrel administration
434 immediately after percutaneous coronary intervention in ST-elevation myocardial
435 infarction. *Thromb Haemost* 2017; 117: 99–104. doi: 10.1160/TH16-07-0569
- 436 22. Thomas M, Morton A, Hossain R, et al. Morphine delays the onset of action of
437 prasugrel in patients with prior history of ST-elevation myocardial infarction. *Thromb*
438 *Haemost* 2016; 116: 96–102. doi: 10.1160/TH16-02-0102
- 439 23. Parodi G, Bellandi B, Valenti R, et al. Comparison of double (360 mg) ticagrelor
440 loading dose with standard (60 mg) prasugrel loading dose in ST-elevation myocardial

- infarction patients: The Rapid Activity of Platelet Inhibitor Drugs (RAPID) primary
PCI 2 study. *Am Heart J* 2014; 167: 909–914. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2014.03.011
24. Johnson TW, Mumford AD, Scott LJ, et al. A Study of Platelet Inhibition, Using a
‘Point of Care’ Platelet Function Test, following Primary Percutaneous Coronary
Intervention for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction [PINPOINT-PPCI]. *PLoS One*
2015; 10: e0144984. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0144984
25. Parodi G, Valenti R, Bellandi B, et al. Comparison of Prasugrel and Ticagrelor
Loading Doses in ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients. *J Am Coll*
Cardiol 2013; 61: 1601–1606. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2013.01.024
26. Rollini F, Franchi F, Hu J, et al. Crushed Prasugrel Tablets in Patients With STEMI
Undergoing Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2016; 67:
1994–2004. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2016.02.045.
27. Bonin M, Mewton N, Roubille F, et al. Effect and Safety of Morphine Use in Acute
Anterior ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction. *J Am Heart Assoc*; 7. Epub
ahead of print 20 February 2018. DOI: 10.1161/JAHA.117.006833.
28. Franchi F, Rollini F, Cho JR, et al. Impact of Escalating Loading Dose Regimens of
Ticagrelor in Patients With ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Undergoing
Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv* 2015; 8: 1457–
1467. doi: 10.1016/j.jcin.2015.02.030.
29. Iakobishvili Z, Porter A, Battler A, et al. Effect of Narcotic Treatment on Outcomes of
Acute Coronary Syndromes. *Am J Cardiol* 2010; 105: 912–916. doi:
10.1016/j.amjcard.2009
30. Zeymer U, Mochmann H-C, Mark B, et al. Double-Blind, Randomized, Prospective
Comparison of Loading Doses of 600 mg Clopidogrel Versus 60 mg Prasugrel in
Patients With Acute ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Scheduled for

- 466 Primary Percutaneous Intervention. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv* 2015; 8: 147–154. doi:
467 10.1016/j.jcin.2014.09.007.
- 468 31. Siller-Matula JM, Specht S, Kubica J, et al. Abciximab as a bridging strategy to
469 overcome morphine-prasugrel interaction in STEMI patients. *Br J Clin Pharmacol*
470 2016; 82: 1343–1350. doi: 10.1111/bcp.13053
- 471 32. Everts B, Karlson B, Abdon N-J, et al. A comparison of metoprolol and morphine in
472 the treatment of chest pain in patients with suspected acute myocardial infarction - the
473 MEMO study. *J Intern Med* 1999; 245: 133–141. DOI: 10.1046/j.1365-
474 2796.1999.00415.x
- 475 33. Parodi G, Bellandi B, Xanthopoulou I, et al. Morphine Is Associated With a Delayed
476 Activity of Oral Antiplatelet Agents in Patients With ST-Elevation Acute Myocardial
477 Infarction Undergoing Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. *Circ Cardiovasc*
478 *Interv*; 8. Epub ahead of print January 2015. DOI:
479 10.1161/CIRCINTERVENTIONS.114.001593.
- 480 34. Kubica J, Kubica A, Jilma B, et al. Impact of morphine on antiplatelet effects of oral
481 P2Y12 receptor inhibitors. *Int J Cardiol* 2016; 215: 201–208. doi:
482 10.1016/j.ijcard.2016.04.077.
- 483 35. Nimmo WS, Heading RC, Wilson J, et al. Inhibition of gastric emptying and drug
484 absorption by narcotic analgesics. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 1975; 2: 509–13. DOI:
485 10.1111/j.1365-2125.1975.tb00568.x
- 486 36. Claessen BE, Henriques JPS, Jaffer FA, et al. Stent Thrombosis. *JACC Cardiovasc*
487 *Interv* 2014; 7: 1081–1092. doi: 10.1016/j.jcin.2014.05.016.
- 488 37. D’Ascenzo F, Bollati M, Clementi F, et al. Incidence and predictors of coronary stent
489 thrombosis: Evidence from an international collaborative meta-analysis including 30
490 studies, 221,066 patients, and 4276 thromboses. *Int J Cardiol* 2013; 167: 575–584.

- doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2012.01.080.
38. Velders MA, Abtan J, Angiolillo DJ, et al. Safety and efficacy of ticagrelor and clopidogrel in primary percutaneous coronary intervention. *Heart* 2016; 102: 617–625. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2015-308963.
39. Stone GW, Witzenbichler B, Guagliumi G, et al. Bivalirudin during Primary PCI in Acute Myocardial Infarction. *N Engl J Med* 2008; 358: 2218–2230. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa0708191.
40. Dangas G, Aymong ED, Mehran R, et al. Predictors of and outcomes of early thrombosis following balloon angioplasty versus primary stenting in acute myocardial infarction and usefulness of abciximab (the CADILLAC trial). *Am J Cardiol* 2004; 94: 983–988. DOI: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2004.06.050
41. Lapostolle F, Van't Hof AW, Hamm CW, et al. Morphine and Ticagrelor Interaction in Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction: ATLANTIC-Morphine. *Am J Cardiovasc Drugs* 2019; 19: 173–183. doi: 10.1007/s40256-018-0305-0.
42. Juif P, Boehler M, Dobrow M, et al. Clinical Pharmacology of the Reversible and Potent P2Y₁₂ Receptor Antagonist ACT-246475 After Single Subcutaneous Administration in Healthy Male Subjects. *J Clin Pharmacol* 2019; 59: 123–130. doi: 10.1002/jcph.1296.
43. Parodi G, Xanthopoulou I, Bellandi B, et al. Ticagrelor Crushed Tablets Administration in STEMI Patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2015; 65: 511–512. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014
44. European Medicines Agency. Brilique, <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/medicines/human/EPAR/brilique> (accessed 2 July 2019).

- 516 45. Sikora J, Niezgoda P, Barańska M, et al. METoclopramide Administration as a
517 Strategy to Overcome MORPHine-ticagrelOr Interaction in PatientS with Unstable
518 Angina PectorIS-The METAMORPHOSIS Trial. *Thromb Haemost* 2018; 118: 2126–
519 2133. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1675605.
520
521
522

523 **List of figures**

524

525 Figure 1. PRISMA flow-chart

526 Figure 2. Forest plot comparing in-hospital outcomes

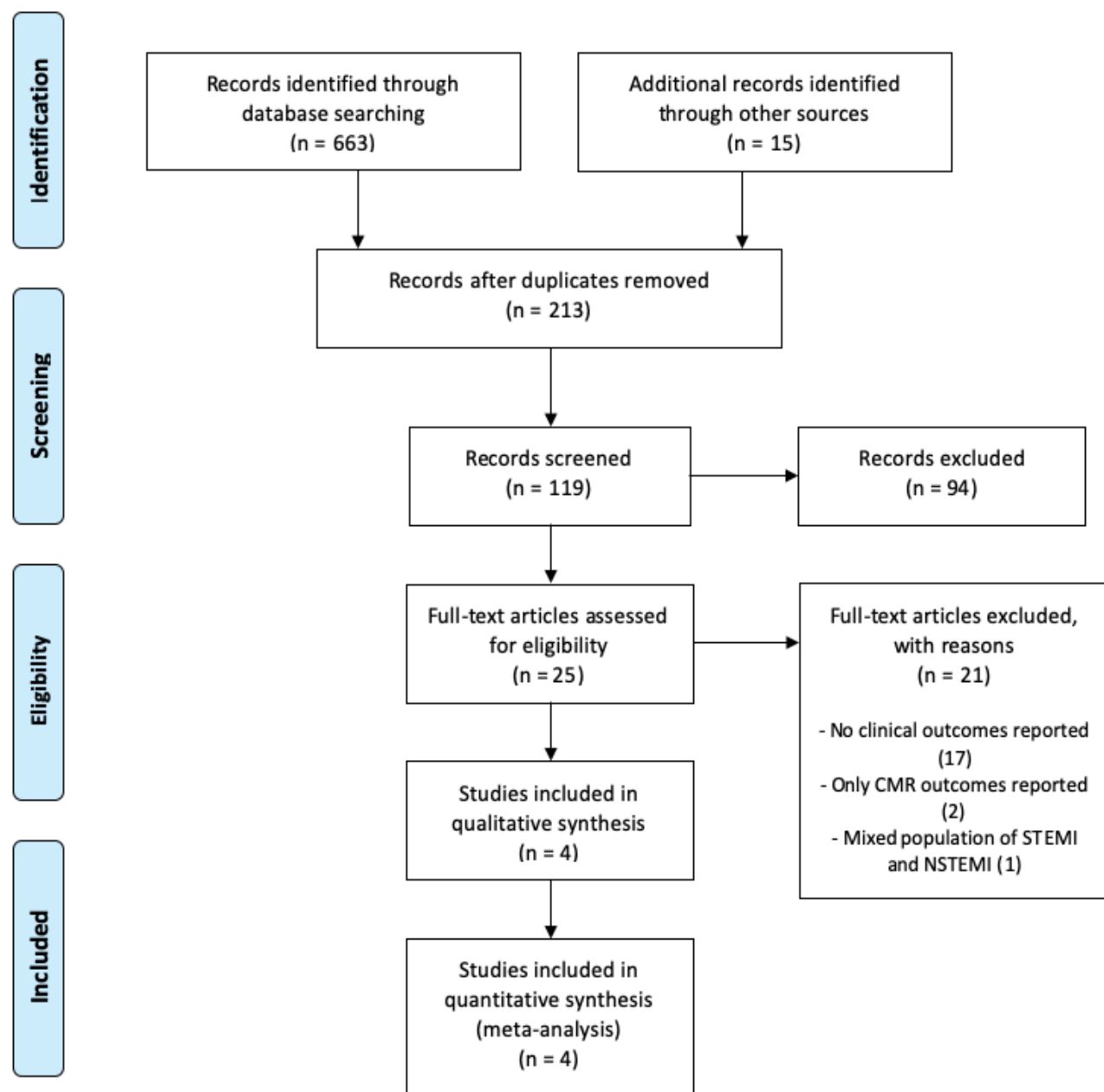
527 Figure 3. Summary key message

528

529

530 Figure 1. **PRISMA flow chart**

531

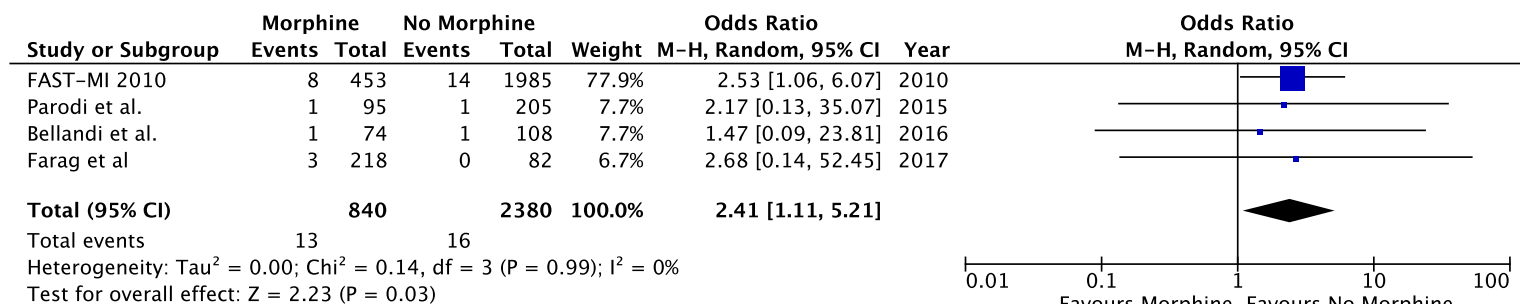


532 Figure 2. Forest plot comparing in-hospital outcomes

522

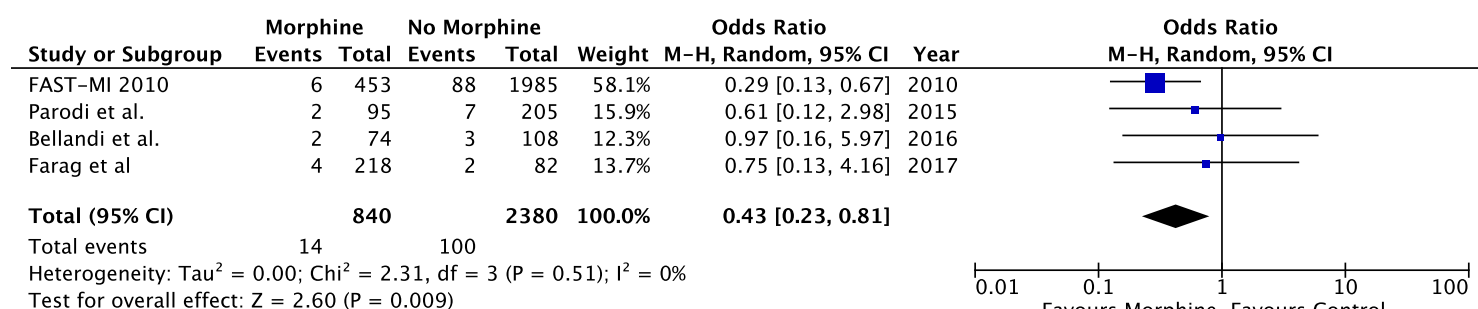
Reinfarction

534



535

Death



Stroke

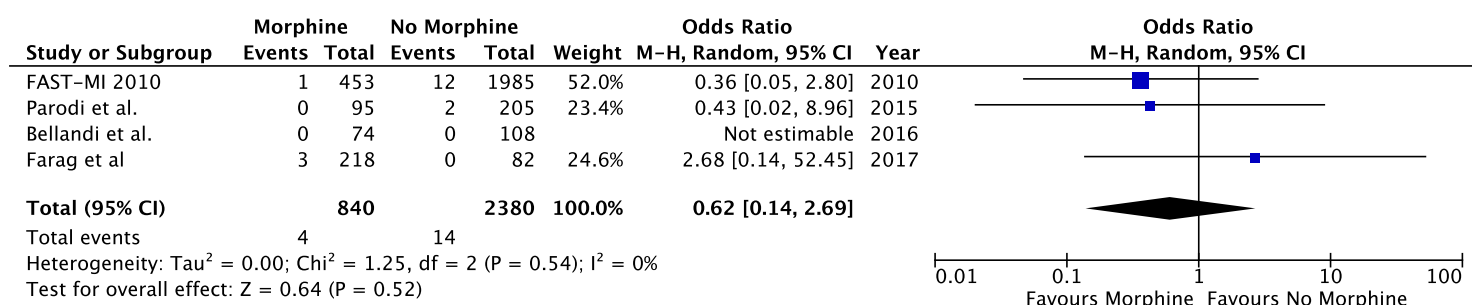
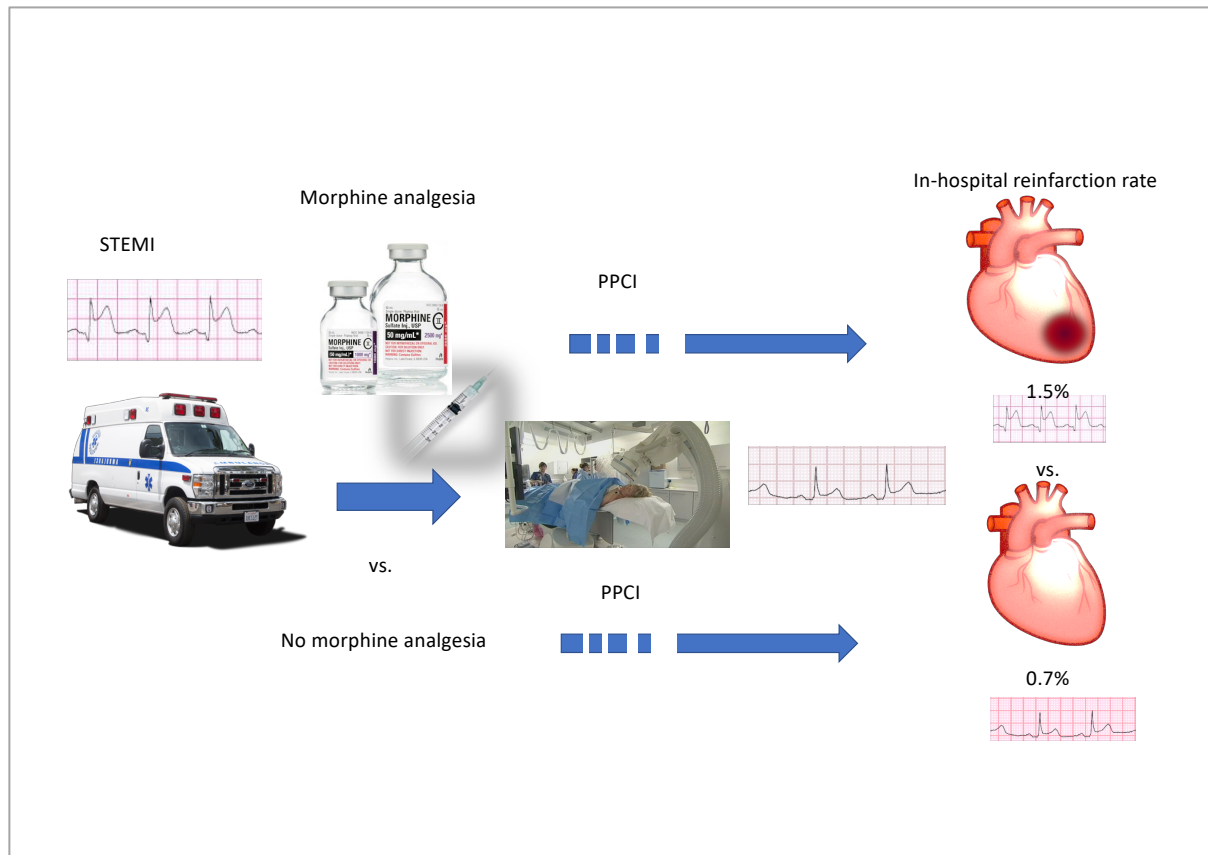


Figure 3. Summary key message



List of Tables

Table 1. Characteristics of included STEMI studies

Table 2. Baseline characteristics of included studies

563 Table 1. **Characteristics of included STEMI studies**
564

Study	Year	Design	Study centres	P2Y12 inhibitors used	Reperfusion strategy	Follow up duration	Outcomes of interest reported	Total STEMI patients
FAST-MI 2010	2010	Retrospective cohort study	Multi-centre	Clopidogrel Prasugrel	PPCI	In-hospital 1 year	Death Recurrent MI Stroke	2438
Parodi et al.	2015	Prospective cohort study	Multi-centre	Prasugrel Ticagrelor	PPCI	In-hospital	Death Reinfarction Stroke	300
Bellandi et al.	2016	Observational study	Multi-centre	Prasugrel Ticagrelor	PPCI	In-hospital	Death Reinfarction Stroke	182
Farag et al.	2017	Observational study	Single centre	Clopidogrel Ticagrelor	PPCI	In-hospital 30-day	Death Reinfarction Stroke	300

Table 2. **Baseline clinical characteristics of patients in included studies.**

Data expressed as number N (percentage %) of patients

*p<0.05 for difference between morphine and no morphine groups for given clinical characteristic

DM = Diabetes mellitus, HTN = Hypertension, MI = Myocardial infarction, PCI = Percutaneous coronary intervention, CABG = Coronary artery bypass grafting

Study	Age Mean (SD)	Female N (%)	DM N (%)	HTN N (%)	Smoker N (%)	Dyslipidaemia N (%)	Previous MI N (%)	Previous PCI N (%)	Previous CABG N (%)
FAST-MI 2010									
<i>Morphine</i>	59.3 (13.9)*	86 (19)*	56 (12)*	175 (39)*	239 (53)*	178 (39)	50 (11)	53 (12)	21 (5)
<i>No morphine</i>	64.2 (14.6)	533 (27)	333 (17)	986 (50)	762 (38)	807 (41)	210 (11)	190 (10)	100 (5)
Parodi et al.									
<i>Morphine</i>	62 (13)	25 (27)	14 (15)	46 (48)	54 (57)	29 (31)	8 (8)	7 (7)	1 (1)
<i>No morphine</i>	61.1 (12.6)	43 (21)	23 (11)	111 (54)	108 (53)	77 (38)	14 (7)	11 (5)	2 (1)
Bellandi et al.									
<i>Morphine</i>	64 (13)	20 (27)	12 (16)	41 (55)	36 (49)	18 (24)	6 (8)	4 (6)	1 (1)
<i>No morphine</i>	64 (13)	26 (24)	25 (23)	65 (60)	49 (45)	32 (30)	9 (8)	9 (8)	1 (1)
Farag et al.									
<i>Morphine</i>	64 (13)	48 (22)	34 (16)	107 (49)	75 (34)	NA	24 (11)	25 (12)	3 (1)
<i>No morphine</i>	63 (12)	16 (20)	18 (22)	44 (54)	23 (29)		10 (12)	8 (10)	1 (1)