



21. Göğüs Kalp Damar  
Anestezi ve Yoğun Bakım Derneği  
ULUSAL KONGRESİ

23 - 26 Nisan 2015  
Perissia Otel - KAPADOKYA

[www.gkda2015.com](http://www.gkda2015.com)

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European Association of  
Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologists



# and Anaesthesia



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# Disclosures

**No financial disclosures**

**POISE investigator**

**...and...**



When I get a  
**headache**, I take  
**2 Aspirin** and keep  
away from  
**children.**



Just like  
it says  
on the  
**bottle**

# Learning Objectives

**Short history of aspirin**

**Antiplatelet drug – how does it work?**

**To know whether or not periop. administration of aspirin**

- **improves outcome in all patients at cardiac risk**
- **improves outcome in subgroups of patients at risk**
- **worsens outcome (in some subgroups?)**

# Aspirin – an old drug

**Initially (only) a drug against pain**

**Who knows when it was discovered / invented?**

# The history of aspirin

THE NIGHT,  
WHEN ASPIRIN  
WAS INVENTED

# *true* The history of aspirin

- **Ancient peoples already knew salicylic acid (from the bark of the willow tree) and used it as a drug**
  - **1859: Hermann Kolbe succeeds to synthesize salicylic acid chemically**
  - **1897: Bayer chemist Arthur Eichengrün and pharmacist Felix Hofmann develop acetylsalicylic acid: **ASPIRIN****
- **An incredible success story begins**

# **Aspirin**

—

# **Indications**





*Demand*



# ASPIRIN

SAY "BAYER ASPIRIN" - *Genuine*

Proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians for

Headache   Colds   Neuralgia   Lumbago  
Pain   Toothache   Neuritis   Rheumatism

*Safe*

Accept only "Bayer" package  
which contains proven directions.  
Handy "Bayer" boxes of 12 tablets.  
Also bottles of 24 and 100—Druggists.

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monasietlenchlorid of S. Hovitz...

## Aspirin — Indications

# How does aspirin “affect the heart”?

## Aspirin is an “antiplatelet” drug

❖ it irreversibly acetylates cyclooxygenase

➤ inhibits the production of thromboxane A<sub>2</sub>

➤ platelet aggregation by adenosine and collagen ↓

➤ platelets exposed to aspirin have diminished aggregation in response to thrombogenic stimuli<sup>1,2</sup>

1 Lancet 1968;1:1431

2 Curr Ther Res 1978;23:194–

# How does aspirin “affect the heart”?

**Aspirin is an “antiplatelet” drug**

- **prevents thrombotic events**

**Meta-analysis of 195 studies /135 000 high-risk patients**

- **22% reduction of death rate from any vascular cause by aspirin administration**

# Aspirin can cut death rates

PUGH



*'Guess what?! I've got  
some fantastic news'*

# Does aspirin work in all populations?

## Antiplatelet therapy with aspirin in patients with

- **Established CV disease** (secondary prevention)
- **Risk factors for CV disease** (primary prevention)
- **Coronary stents** to prevent restenosis + thrombosis
- **Bioprosthetic valves** to reduce thromboemboli
- **Scientific evidence in all groups?**

# Evidence in favour of aspirin in

**Secondary prevention: strong meta-analytic evidence<sup>1</sup>**

**❖ AHA guideline<sup>2</sup>:**

**➤ Patients with CAD, cerebrovascular D, PAVD should receive aspirin indefinitely unless the risk of bleeding outweighs the benefit**

**➤ Patients with stents: dual antiplatelet therapy**  
**– ≥6 weeks (bare-metal stent) ≥ 12 months (DES)**

1 Antithrombotic Trialists Collaboration. BMJ 2002;324:71–86

2 Circulation 2011;124:2458–73



# Evidence in favour of aspirin in

**Primary prevention: less robust evidence!**

❖ **Position statement / consensus document<sup>1</sup>:**

- **Aspirin therapy in patients with diabetes (men >50, women >60) who have  $\geq 1$  additional risk factor:**  
tobacco use, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, albuminuria, or a significant family history of CV disease

*1 Position statement of the **American Diabetes Association**, a scientific statement of the **AHA**, and an expert consensus document of the **ACC Foundation**. *Circulation* 2010;121:2694–701*

# Aspirin prevents thrombotic events

➤ **Give aspirin to all surgical patients?**

- **Prevention of thrombotic events**
- **Increased risk of bleeding**

# **Risk of bleeding –**

## **Why not stop aspirin prior to surgery?**

### **Surgery increases thrombotic risk**

- **Inflammatory and hypercoaguable state**
- **Reduces fibrinolysis**
- **Unstable hemodynamics**
- **Pre-existing cv disease -> risk of myocardial infarction**
  - **Major periop. cardiac events in risk patients: 4%**
  - **Mortality of perioperative MI up to 25%!**

# Prospective periop. studies on aspirin

- **Oscarsson et al<sup>1</sup>**

- 210 pts at high cardiac risk
- 75 mg aspirin vs. placebo 7d preop – 3 days postop
- MACE ↓, bleeding complications ≅

- **STRATAGEM trial<sup>2</sup>**

- 295 pts on aspirin for secondary prevention
- MACE ≅, bleeding complications ≅

*1 Br J Anaesth 2010;104:305–12*

*2 Br J Anaesth 2011;107:899–910*

# POISE-2 Trial<sup>1</sup>

**“To determine the impact of low-dose aspirin on at-risk patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery”**

- randomized controlled multicenter international double-blinded trial conducted from 2010 to 2013
- 10 010 patients undergoing noncardiac surgery
- Aspirin: 200 mg, then 100mg x 7d vs. placebo
- Initiation stratum and continuation stratum
- Primary outcome: composite of death + nonfatal MI at 30d

*1 Devereaux PJ, et al; POISE-2 Investigators. Aspirin in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1494–503*

# POISE-2 Trial

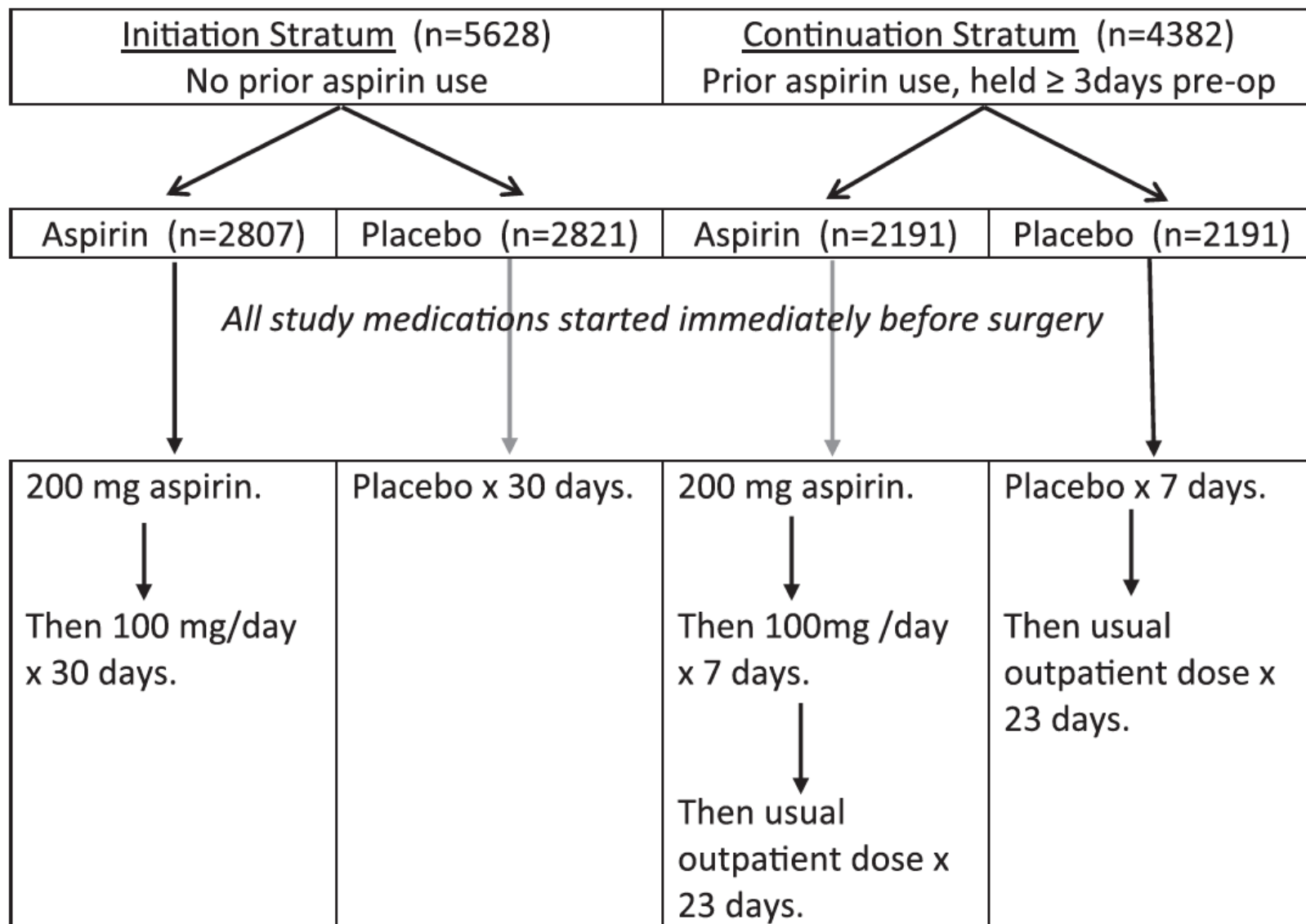




Table 2. Effects of Aspirin on 30-Day Outcomes.\*

Outcome	Aspirin (N = 4998)	Placebo (N = 5012)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Primary composite outcome: death or nonfatal myocardial infarction	351 (7.0)	351 (7.0)	1.00 (0.86–1.14)	0.92
Secondary outcomes				
Death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke	271 (5.4)	271 (5.4)	1.00 (0.86–1.13)	0.80
Death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, cardiac revascularization, nonfatal pulmonary embolism, or deep venous thrombosis	351 (7.0)	351 (7.0)	0.99 (0.86–1.14)	0.90
Safety outcomes				
Life-threatening bleeding	57 (1.1)	73 (1.5)	1.19 (0.88–1.63)	0.26
Major bleeding	230 (4.6)	188 (3.8)	1.23 (1.01–1.49)	0.04
Minor bleeding	87 (1.7)	73 (1.5)	1.19 (0.88–1.63)	0.26
Important hypotension	2143 (42.9)	2096 (41.8)	1.03 (0.97–1.09)	0.37
Congestive heart failure	44 (0.9)	38 (0.8)	1.16 (0.75–1.79)	0.50
Infection	488 (9.8)	495 (9.9)	0.99 (0.87–1.12)	0.86
Sepsis	243 (4.9)	258 (5.2)	0.94 (0.79–1.13)	0.52

the risk of continuing perioperative aspirin may be greater than the risk of cessation<sup>1,2</sup>

1 Devereaux PJ, et al; POISE-2 Investigators. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1494–503  
 2 Vaishnava P, Eagle KA. N Engl J Med 2014;370:1554–5 Editorial to POISE-2 Study

# Aspirin cannot help preventing a heart attack without the risk of bleeding?



**“An aspirin a day will help prevent a heart attack if you have it for lunch instead of a cheeseburger.”**

# Limitations of the POISE-2 Trial

- Only 23% of patients had known CAD
- Only 36% of patients in the aspirin group fulfilled AHA guideline criteria for aspirin treatment for primary or secondary prevention
- Continuation stratum: indications for previous aspirin use unclear – how many fulfilled AHA guideline criteria for primary / secondary prevention?
  - 2/3 of patients did not fulfil AHA guideline criteria for aspirin treatment and were included into POISE-2 because of high risk surgery (but only 5% vascular!)
  - ***Patients at low risk for thrombotic complications***

# Limitations of the POISE-2 Trial

- Patients at low risk for thrombotic complications
- Anticoagulation and antiplatelet treatment within 3d of sx
  - 65% prophylactic anticoagulation
  - 4% / 4.5% therapeutic anticoagulation
  - 1.2% P2Y12 inhibitors (clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor)
- Administration of NSAIDS in aspirin strata (9.5%)
  - Substrate competition: Inability of aspirin to access the receptor binding sites of the cyclooxygenase-1 enzyme
    - Possible cause for aspirin resistance
- ***Antithrombotic distinctions between groups attenuated***

# Limitations of the POISE-2 Trial

- Major **bleeding** 4.6% vs. 3.8% (p=0.04)
- No differences in life-threatening bleeding and hypotension
- Post-hoc analysis: major + life-threatening bleeding postop
  - 1.2% increase in risk for composite until day 30 in aspirin group
  - Predictor of MI (hazard ratio 1.82 (1.40-2.36; p<0.001))
- Large meta-analysis<sup>1</sup> & prospective trial<sup>2</sup>: risks of bleeding non-significant with aspirin in non-closed space surgery
- Populations with high thrombotic risk excluded in POISE-2: carotid endarterectomy, recent coronary stents

<sup>1</sup> *J Intern Med* 2005;257:399–414

<sup>2</sup> *Br J Anaesth* 2010;104:305–12

➤ ***POISE-2 cannot affirm that aspirin risk > benefit in high-risk pts***

# Limitations of the POISE-2 Trial

- **DVT** (0.5% vs. 0.7%) and **PE** (0.7% vs. 0.6%) = similar
- POISE-2 was not powered to study these tertiary outcomes
- Pulmonary embolism prevention trial<sup>1</sup>
  - 17444 patients undergoing hip surgery
  - Aspirin vs. placebo preoperatively – day 35
  - PE risk ↓ 43%, symptomatic DVT risk ↓23% in aspirin group independent of heparin use

*1 Lancet 2000;355:1295–302*



# Perioperative prevention of DVT & venous thromboembolism (VTE)

## ■ ACCP guidelines for prophylaxis of VTE<sup>1</sup> (1B)

- use of a single drug from the following list:

aspirin, LMW heparin, low-dose unfractionated heparin, fondaparinux, dabigatran, apixaban, and rivaroxaban

## ■ Secondary prophylaxis of VTE<sup>2</sup>

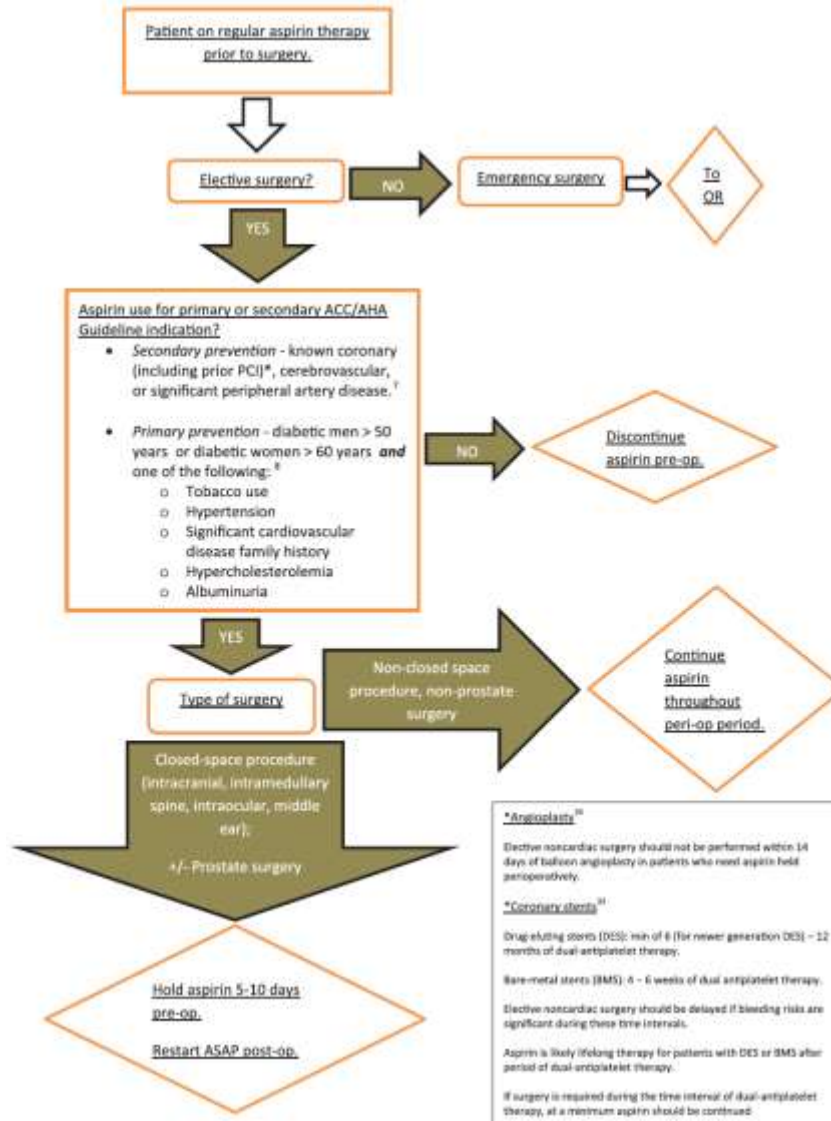
- High-risk: life-long anticoagulation
- Moderate risk: aspirin



*"To play it safe, I still take one aspirin every other day."*

CN  
COLLECTION

# Algorithm for patients on aspirin presenting for surgery

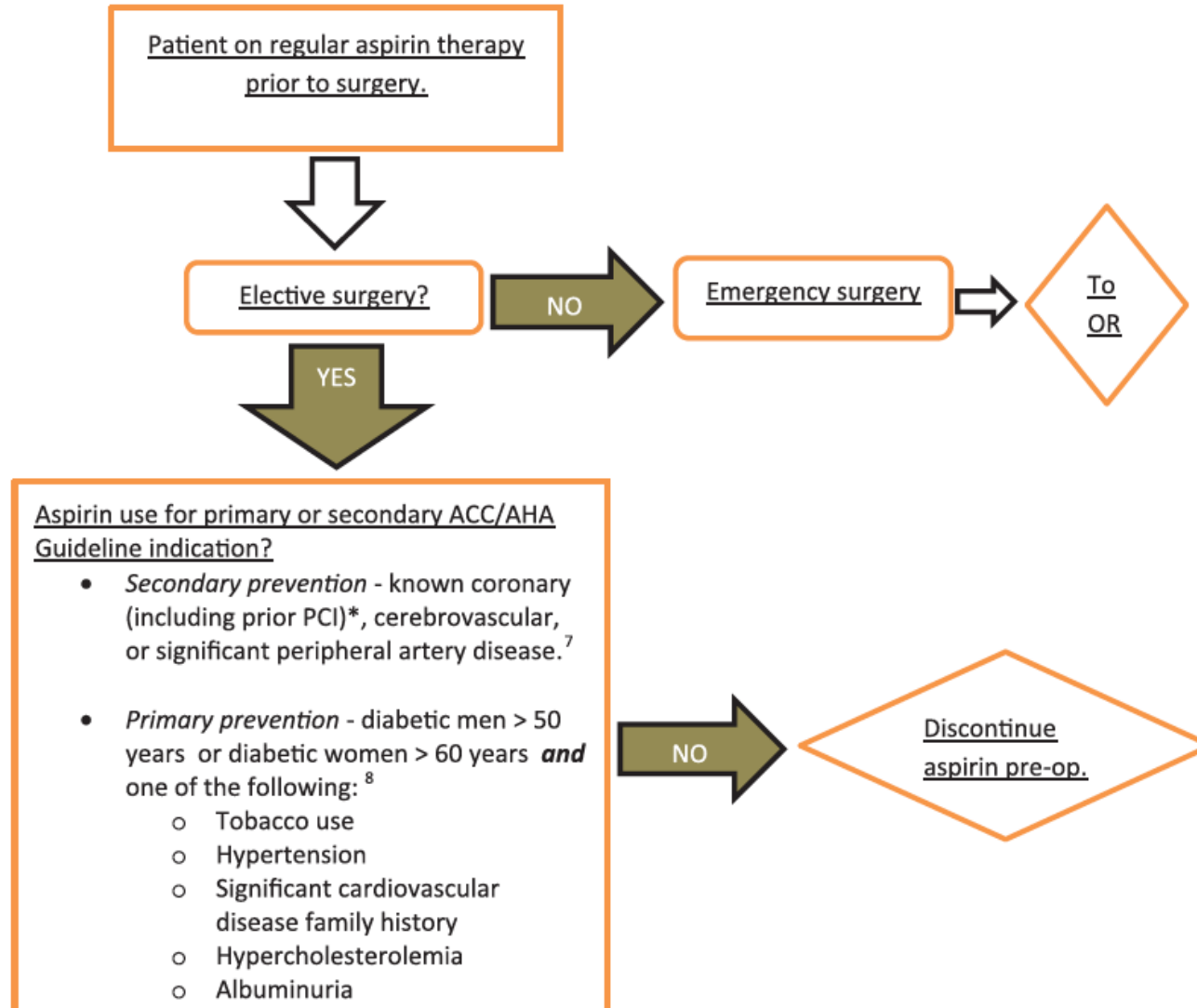


## Perioperative Aspirin Management After POISE-2: Some Answers, but Questions Remain

Neal Stuart Gerstein, MD, FASE,\* Michael Christopher Carey, MD,\* Joaquin E. Cigarroa, MD,† and Peter M. Schulman, MD‡

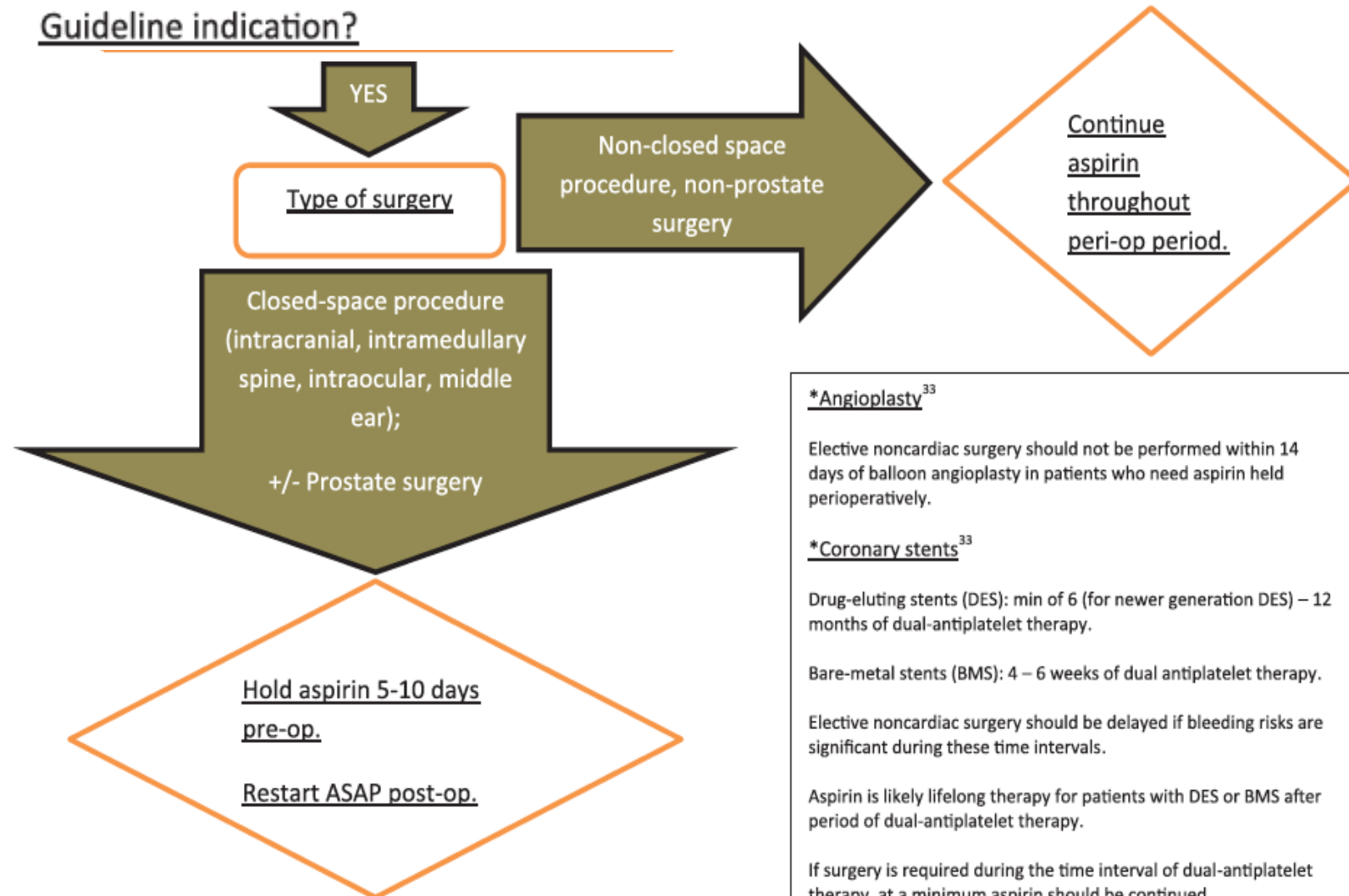
(Anesth Analg 2015;120:570-5)

# Algorithm for patients on aspirin presenting for surgery



# Algorithm for patients on aspirin presenting for surgery

Aspirin use for primary or secondary ACC/AHA  
Guideline indication?



## \*Angioplasty<sup>33</sup>

Elective noncardiac surgery should not be performed within 14 days of balloon angioplasty in patients who need aspirin held perioperatively.

## \*Coronary stents<sup>33</sup>

Drug-eluting stents (DES): min of 6 (for newer generation DES) – 12 months of dual-antiplatelet therapy.

Bare-metal stents (BMS): 4 – 6 weeks of dual antiplatelet therapy.

Elective noncardiac surgery should be delayed if bleeding risks are significant during these time intervals.

Aspirin is likely lifelong therapy for patients with DES or BMS after period of dual-antiplatelet therapy.

If surgery is required during the time interval of dual-antiplatelet therapy, at a minimum aspirin should be continued





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May 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Basel, Switzerland**

With support from the City of Basel

