

# ACC.26

**10-year Follow-up of** (control number 27857)  
**Clopidogrel Vs Aspirin Monotherapy**  
**in Stable CAD**  
**after PCI With Drug-Eluting Stent**  
**: HOST-EXAM 10Y**

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Each presenter will have  
**10 minutes**  
and each discussion period  
is **5 minutes**.



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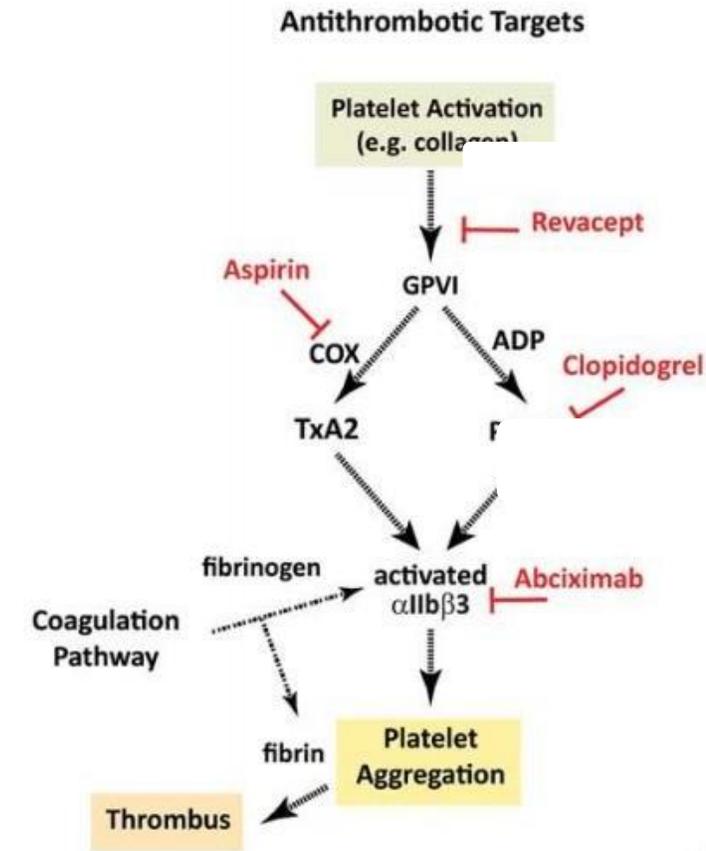
- The **HOST-EXAM** trial,  
(**H**armonizing **O**ptimal **S**trategy for **T**reatment of coronary artery diseases –  
**EX**tended **A**ntiplatelet **M**onotherapy)  
*is an investigator-initiated, randomized, open-label, multicenter trial sponsored by  
Seoul National University Hospital*
- The **HOST-EXAM** trial has received research funds from,
  - *The Ministry of Health & Welfare, Republic of Korea*
  - *A consortium of four Pharmaceutical Companies*
    - *ChongKunDang, SamJin, HanMi, and DaeWoong*

# Background around 10 years ago

- After PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention), guidelines recommend indefinite maintenance of SAPT (single antiplatelet therapy) after the initial 6- to 12-months of DAPT (dual antiplatelet therapy).
- **Aspirin** is the most widely used, standard antiplatelet agent (**Class 1, LOE A**).

Post-interventional and maintenance treatment		
Life-long single antiplatelet therapy, usually aspirin, is recommended. <sup>681,683</sup>	I	A
Instruction of patients about the importance of complying with antiplatelet therapy is recommended.	I	C
In patients with SCAD treated with coronary stent implantation, DAPT consisting of clopidogrel in addition to aspirin is generally recommended for 6 months, irrespective of the stent type. <sup>c 690-694</sup>	I	A
In patients with SCAD treated with BRS, DAPT should be considered for at least 12 months and up to the presumed full absorption of the BRS, based on an individual assessment of bleeding and ischaemic risk.	IIa	C

- **Clopidogrel** is recommended as an alternative strategy.
  - Previous trials have shown that clopidogrel may have potential benefits in patients with atherosclerotic vascular disease.
- However, no trial has addressed which antiplatelet agent may be the optimal choice during the chronic maintenance period after PCI with DES.



- To compare the efficacy and safety between aspirin versus clopidogrel monotherapy as chronic maintenance therapy in patients who received PCI with a DES.
- **The HOST-EXAM trial**
  - *H*armonizing *O*ptimal *S*trategy for *T*reatment of coronary artery diseases
    - *EX*tended *A*ntiplatelet *M*onotherapy

## Working Hypothesis

In the chronic maintenance period after PCI,  
**Clopidogrel will be superior to Aspirin,**  
In terms of patient oriented composite outcomes (POCO)

- **Endpoints**

- **Primary Endpoint: POCO (Patient Oriented Composite outcome) at 24 months**

- All-cause death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, stroke, readmission due to acute coronary syndrome, and major bleeding complications (defined as Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (BARC) type  $\geq 3$  bleeding)

- **Key Secondary Endpoints**

- **Thrombotic composite endpoint:** Cardiac death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, readmission due to acute coronary syndrome and stent thrombosis
- **Any Bleeding endpoint:** BARC type  $\geq 2$  bleeding

- **Sample size calculation**

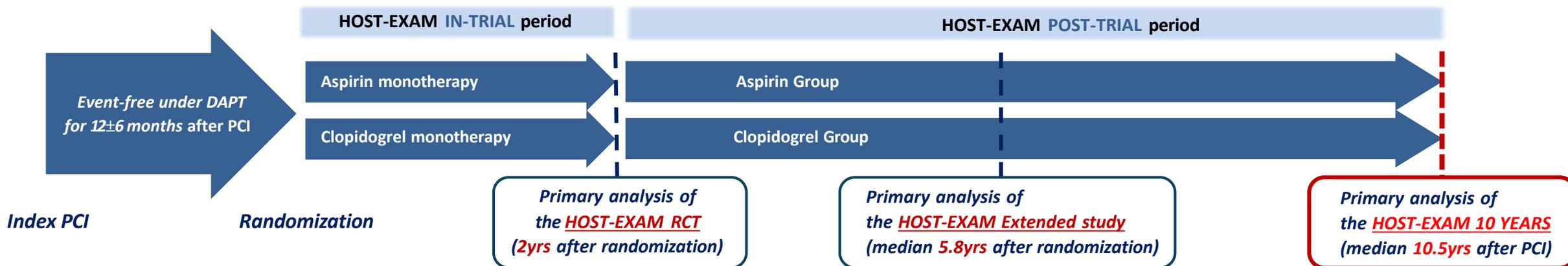
- Assumed 24-month POCO in the aspirin monotherapy group: 12.0%
- Assumed 24-month POCO in the clopidogrel monotherapy group: 9.6%
- Type I error: 0.05, Power: 80%
- Estimated withdrawal rate: 5%

A total of 5,530 patients was needed to prove superiority of clopidogrel

# Study Design



- **5,530 eligible patients** screened, from 37 centers in Korea



## ✓ Key criterias

Patients who recieved PCI with a drug-eluting stent (DES) and maintained DAPT without any clinical event during 12 ± 6 months after PCI.

No exclusion criteria of the clinical risk factors / clinical diagnosis / complexity of the PCI

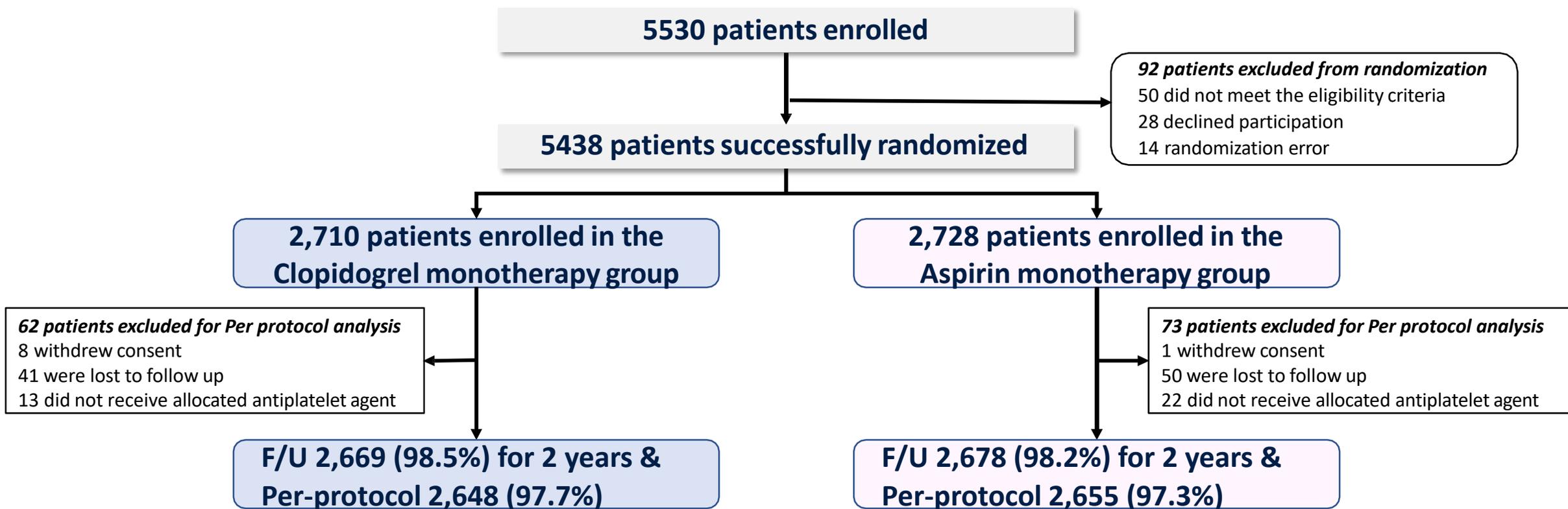
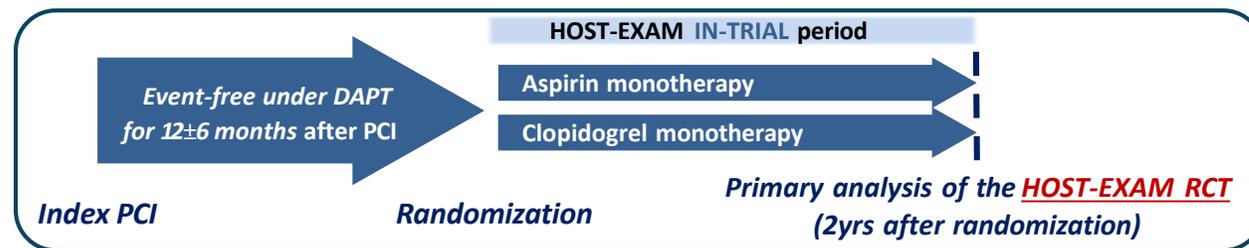
### Inclusion Criteria

- Subject must be  $\geq 20$  years
- Maintenance of DAPT for at least  $12 \pm 6$  months after PCI with DES
- No history of clinical event after PCI with DES before enrollment
- Agreement to give written informed consent

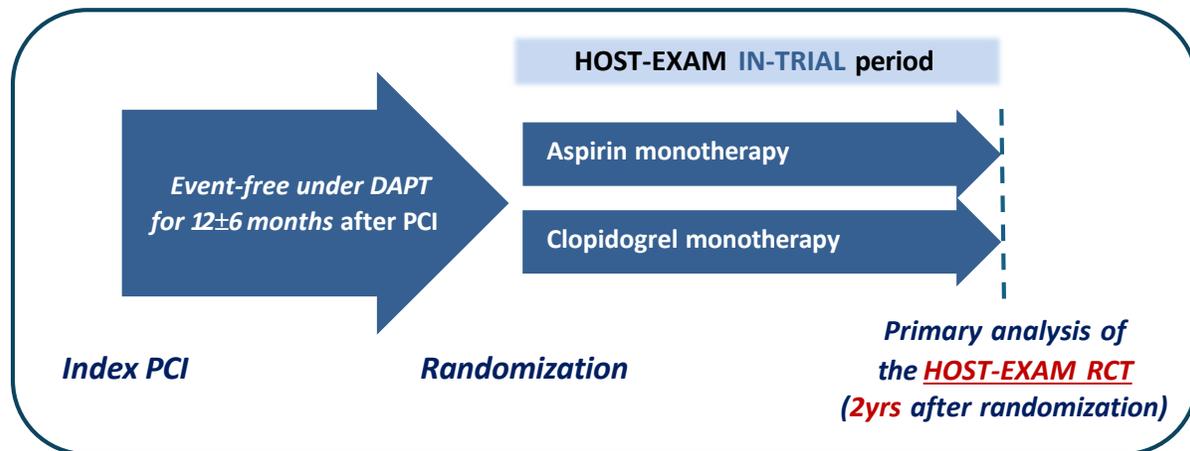
### Exclusion Criteria

- Known hypersensitivity or **contraindication** to key **medications**
- Patients with **active** pathologic **bleeding**
- Female of **childbearing** potential, unless a pregnancy test is negative
- History of bleeding diathesis, known **coagulopathy**
- Non-cardiac co-morbid conditions with **life expectancy**  $< 1$  year

# Trial Flow 2yrs after randomization

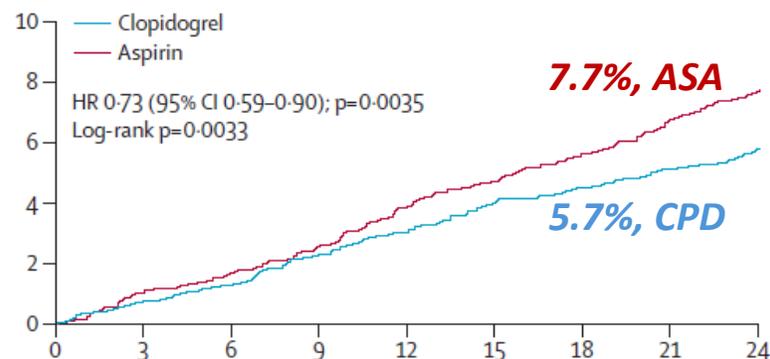


# HOST-EXAM 2yrs after randomization; Intention-to-treat

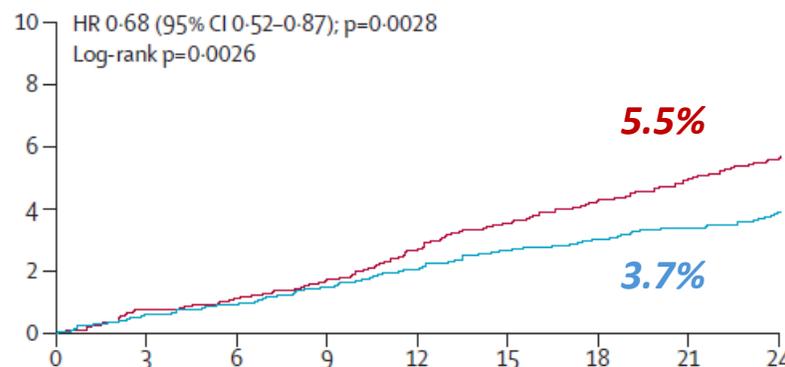


	Clopidogrel (n=2710)	Aspirin (n=2728)	Hazard ratio (95% CI)*	p value
Primary composite endpoint†	152 (5.7%)	207 (7.7%)	0.73 (0.59–0.90)	0.003
Thrombotic composite endpoint‡	99 (3.7%)	146 (5.5%)	0.68 (0.52–0.87)	0.003
Any bleeding (BARC type ≥2)§	61 (2.3%)	87 (3.3%)	0.70 (0.51–0.98)	0.036

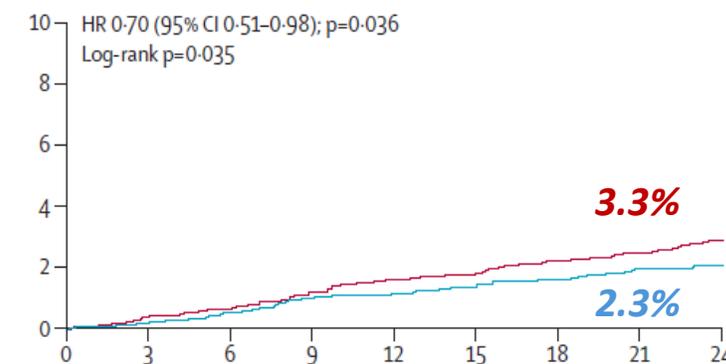
<Patient Oriented Composite outcome>



<Thrombotic outcome>



<Bleeding outcome>



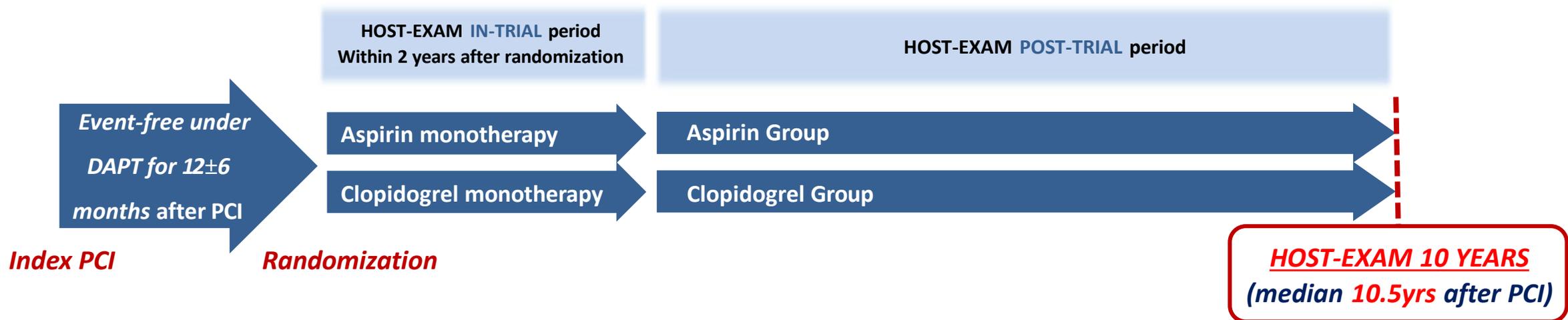
# HOST-EXAM 10 YEAR RESULT

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# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study

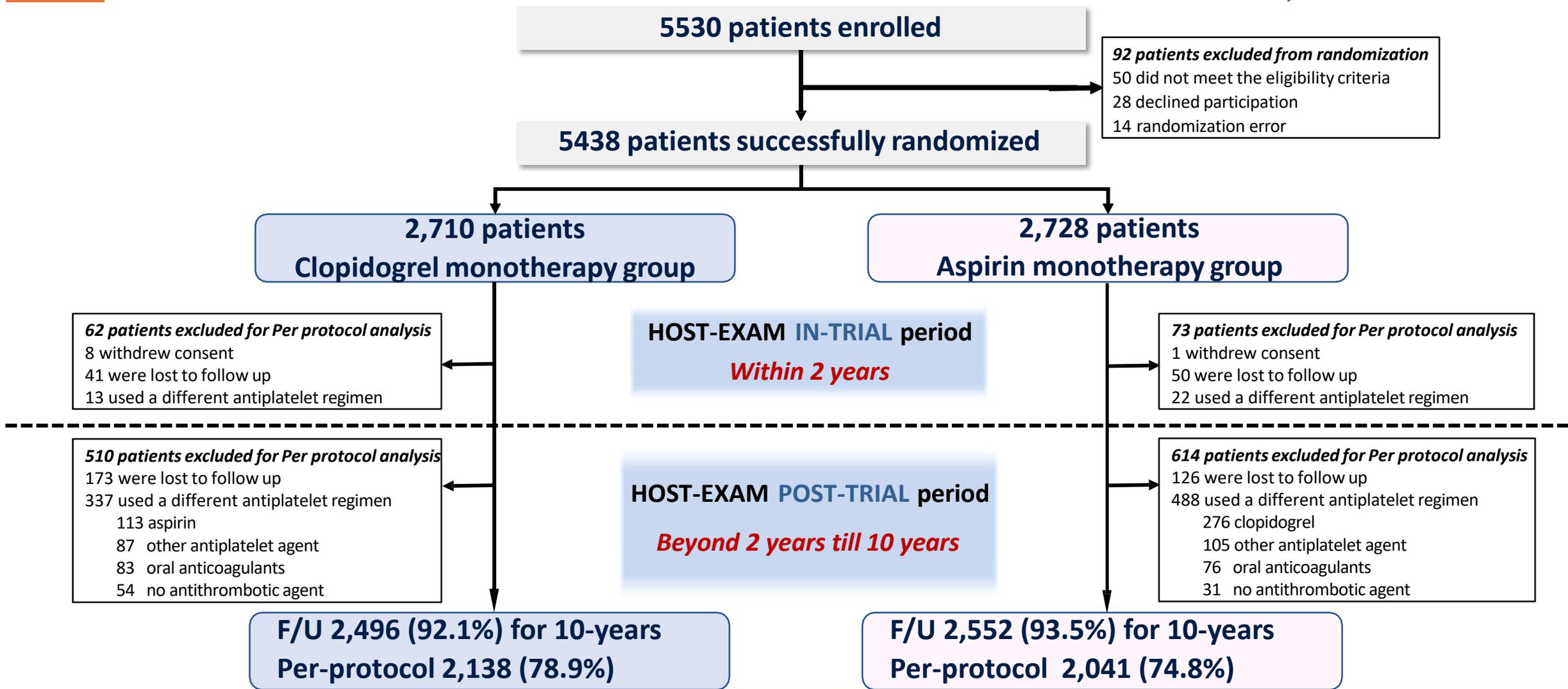


- **5,530 eligible patients** screened, from 37 centers in Korea during March 26, 2014 to May 29, 2018



- **Median duration**
  - 10.5 yrs after PCI (interquartile range, 9.4 & 11.4 yrs)
  - 10.7 yrs after PCI (interquartile range, 9.8 & 11.5 yrs) in survivors

# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study



# Baseline Characteristics

	Clopidogrel (n=2710)	Aspirin (n=2728)		Clopidogrel (n=2710)	Aspirin (n=2728)
	No. of patients (%)			No. of patients (%)	
<b>Demographic &amp; Comorbidity</b>			<b>Laboratory results</b>		
Age	64 (IQR 56, 72)	64 (IQR 56, 72)	White blood cells – /uL	6.7 ± 1.9	6.8 ± 1.9
Male	74.4% (2015)	74.7% (2039)	Hemoglobin, – g/dL	13.7 ± 1.7	13.8 ± 1.6
Diabetes mellitus	34.1% (925)	34.3% (935)	Creatinine – mg/dL	1.0 ± 0.7	1.0 ± 0.7
Insulin dependent DM	2.0% (55)	2.3% (62)	Total cholesterol – mg/dL	136.8 ± 29.8	138.2 ± 30.5
Hypertension	61.4% (1664)	61.4% (1674)	Triglyceride – mg/dL	126.8 ± 86.5	125.2 ± 70.8
Dyslipidemia	69.5% (1884)	69.0% (1883)	HDL-cholesterol – mg/dL	46.3 ± 12.0	46.5 ± 12.2
Current smoker	20.1% (545)	21.3% (581)	LDL-cholesterol – mg/dL	70.7 ± 23.7	72.1 ± 23.2
Chronic kidney disease	13.1% (356)	12.4% (337)	HbA1c – %	6.5 ± 1.1	6.5 ± 1.2
Previous MI	16.1% (437)	15.9% (435)	Days (PCI to Randomization)	383 (357-424)	380 (358-421)
Previous CVA	4.4% (120)	4.9% (133)	<b>DAPT at Randomization Point</b>		
<b>Clinical Indication of PCI</b>			Aspirin + Clopidogrel	81.8% (2218)	81.1% (2212)
Silent ischemia	2.1% (58)	2.6% (70)	Aspirin + Ticagrelor	9.8% (266)	9.8% (268)
Stable angina	25.4% (688)	25.7% (701)	Aspirin + Prasugrel	7.8% (212)	8.6% (235)
Unstable angina	36.0% (975)	35.2% (959)	Aspirin + Clopidogrel + Cilostazol	0.5% (14)	0.5% (13)
NSTEMI	19.4% (526)	19.4% (528)			
STEMI	17.1% (463)	17.2% (470)			

# Baseline Characteristics - continued

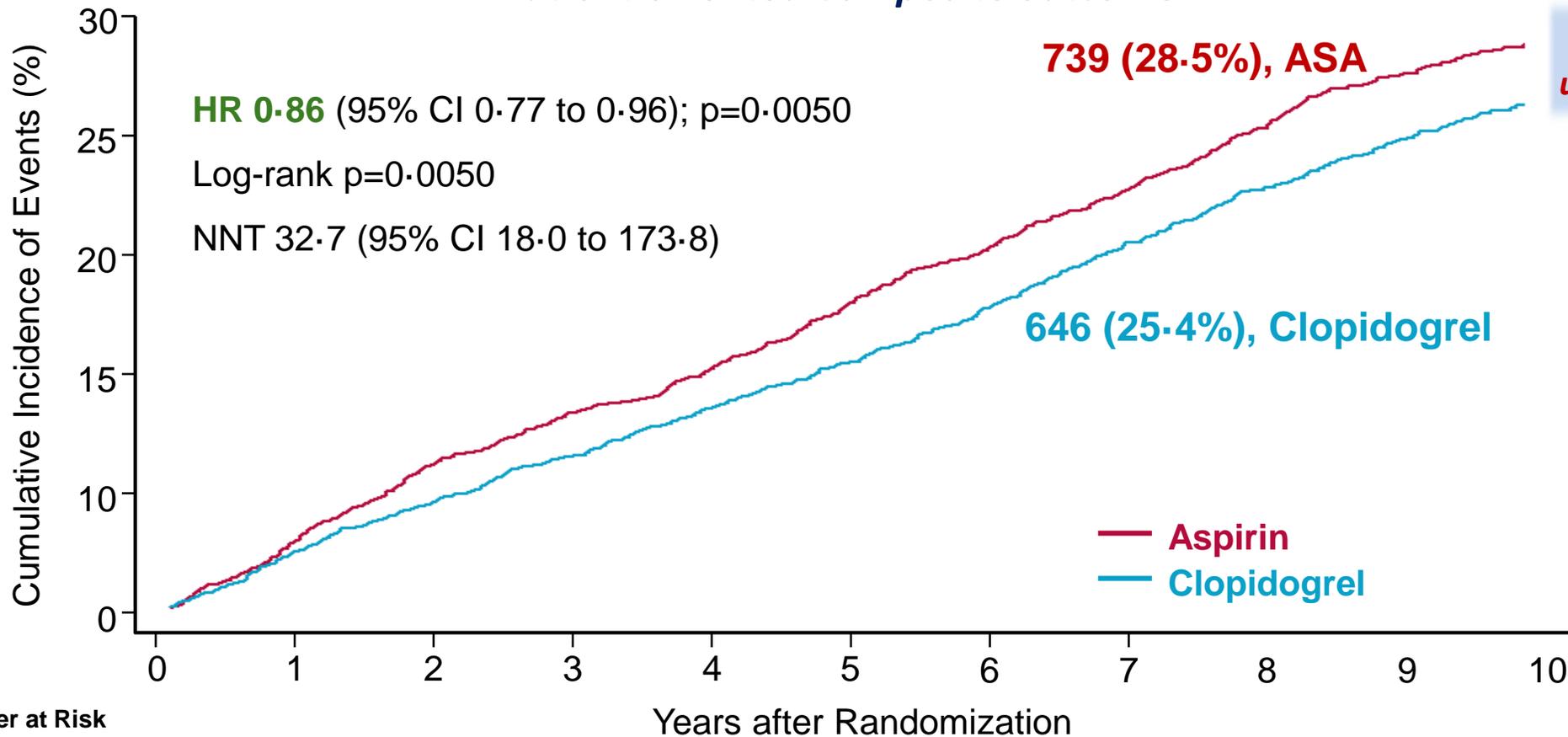


		Clopidogrel (n=2710)	Aspirin (n=2728)
		No. of patients (%)	
	<b>Extent of CAD</b>		
	1-vessel disease	50.4% (1367)	50.4% (1376)
	2-vessel disease	31.5% (855)	30.9% (844)
	3-vessel disease	18.0% (488)	18.6% (507)
	Left main disease	5.2% (142)	4.8% (130)
	<b>PCI for bifurcation lesion</b>	<b>10.5% (285)</b>	<b>10.8% (295)</b>
	2-stenting for bifurcation PCI	1.7% (46)	1.5% (42)
	<b>PCI for CTO lesion</b>	<b>9.5% (257)</b>	<b>9.3% (254)</b>
	Number of treated lesions	1.3 ± 0.6	1.3 ± 0.6
	Mean diameter of implanted stents	3.1 ± 0.4	3.1 ± 0.4
	Minimum diameter of implanted stents	3.0 ± 0.5	3.0 ± 0.5
	<b>Total length of implanted stents</b>	<b>36.1 ± 24.2</b>	<b>35.7 ± 23.6</b>
	Total number of implanted stents	1.5 ± 0.8	1.5 ± 0.8
	<b>Generation of DES</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup> generation DES	2.0% (54)	1.9% (52)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> generation DES	96.9% (2627)	97.2% (2651)
	Unknown generation	1.1% (29)	0.9% (25)

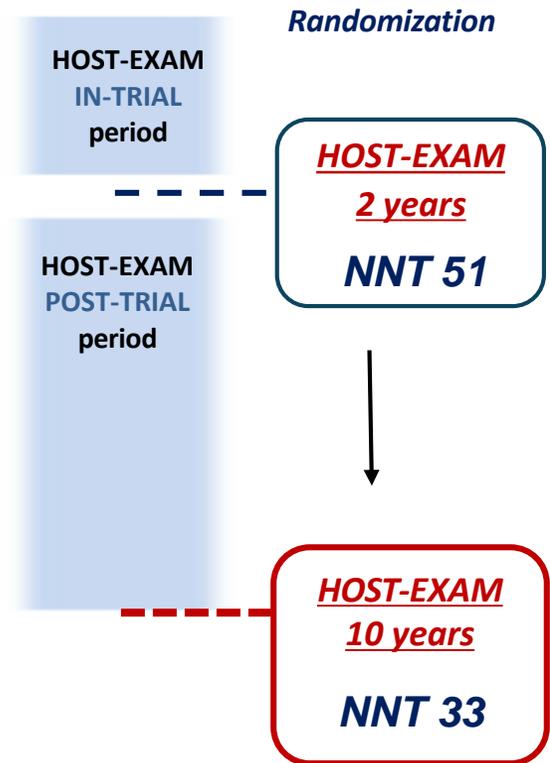
# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study; Intention-to-treat



## <Patient Oriented Composite outcome>



Number needed to treat, NNT  
*under intention-to-treat analysis*



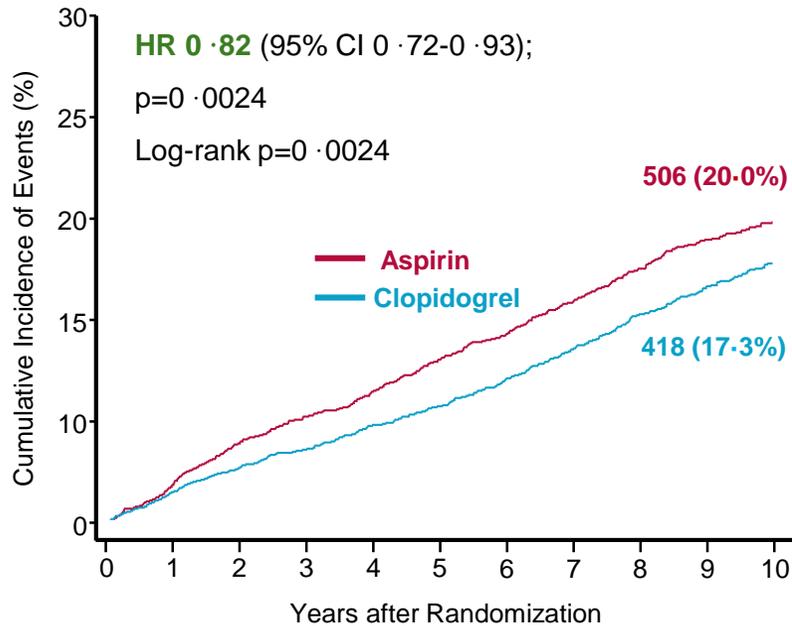
### Number at Risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Aspirin	2728	2621	2516	2442	2383	2290	2217	2138	1834	1352	779
Clopidogrel	2710	2625	2552	2481	2412	2345	2267	2187	1880	1410	820

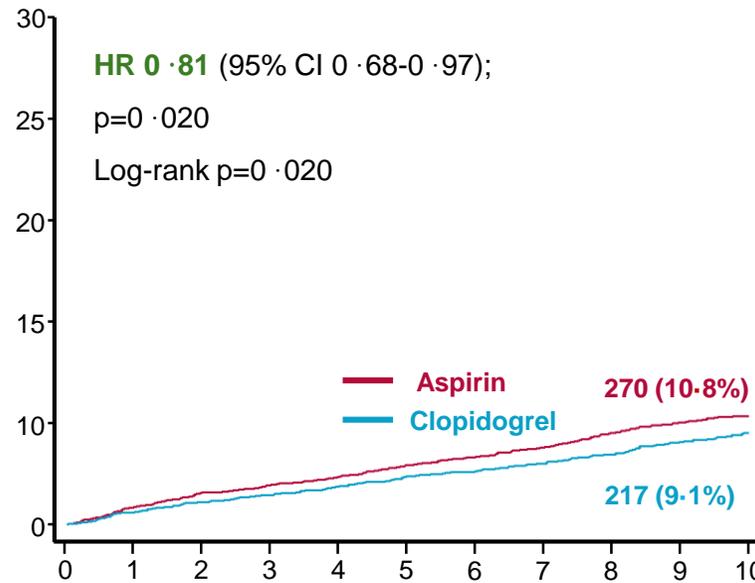
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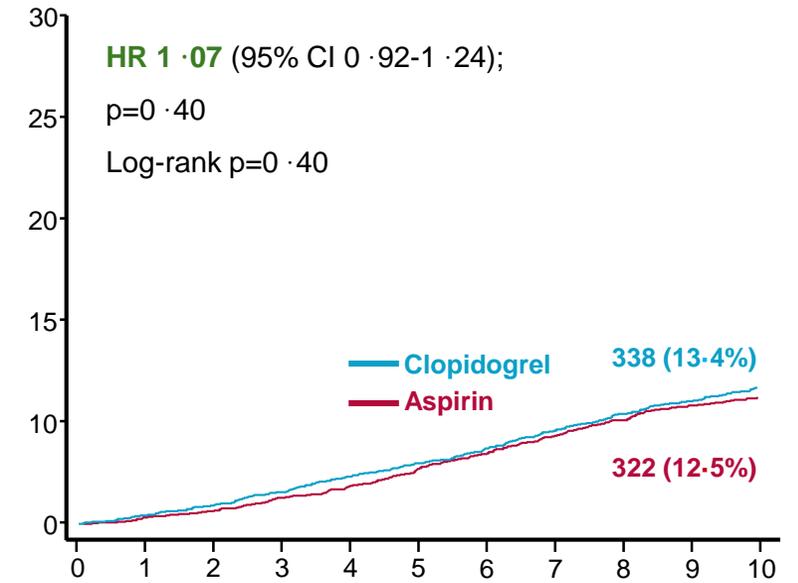
## <Thrombotic outcome>



## <Bleeding outcome>



## <All-cause death>



### Number at Risk

Aspirin	2728	2644	2554	2489	2431	2349	2286	2215	1920	1428	828
Clopidogrel	2710	2641	2575	2516	2452	2393	2324	2252	1939	1458	843

	2728	2663	2609	2555	2510	2442	2392	2328	2022	1529	888
	2710	2649	2600	2543	2483	2422	2368	2307	2022	1533	902

	2728	2707	2687	2645	2614	2562	2521	2473	2185	1670	977
	2710	2681	2653	2609	2563	2517	2473	2427	2138	1642	976

# 10-year clinical outcomes of HOST-EXAM Study; Intention-to-treat



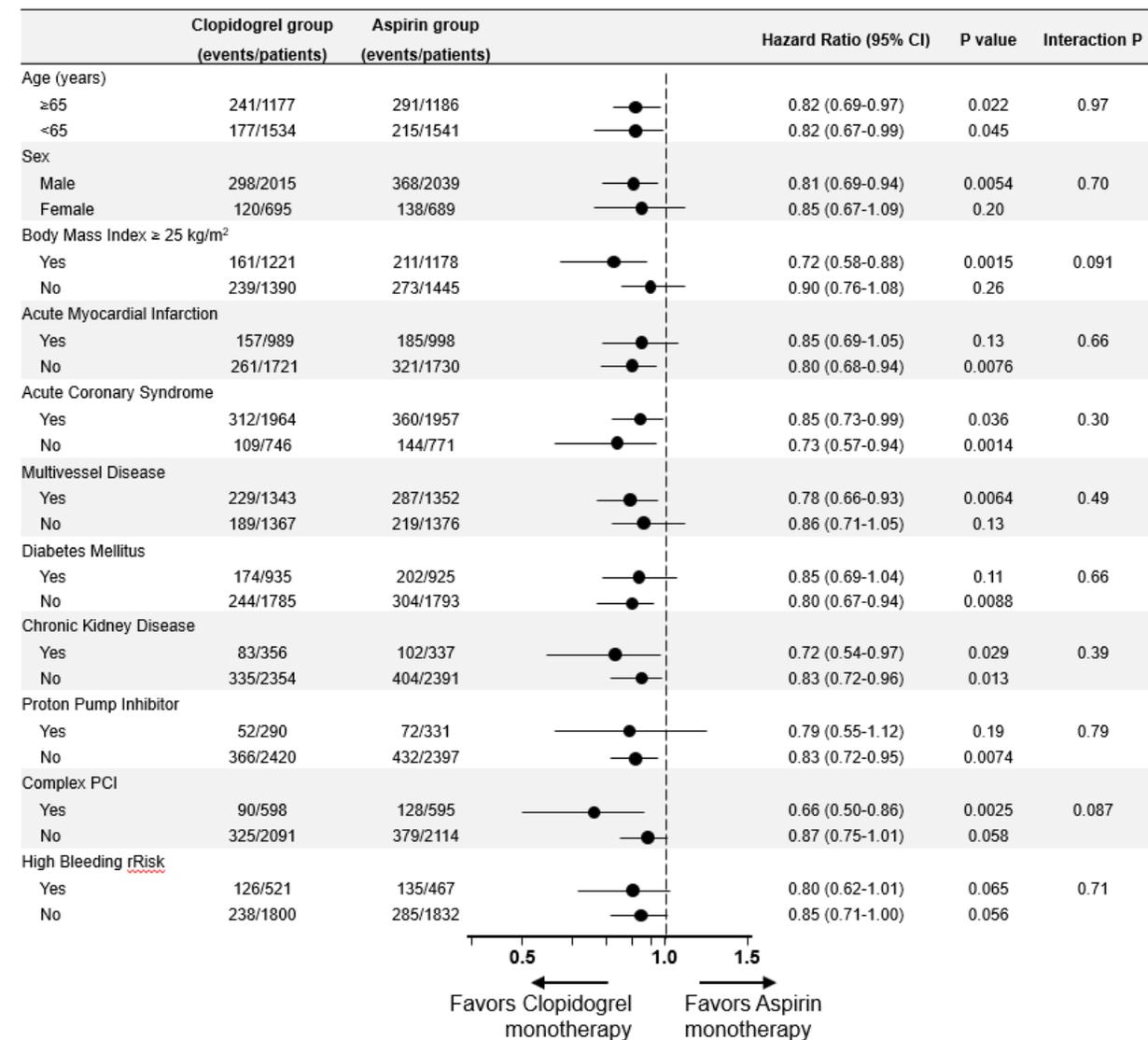
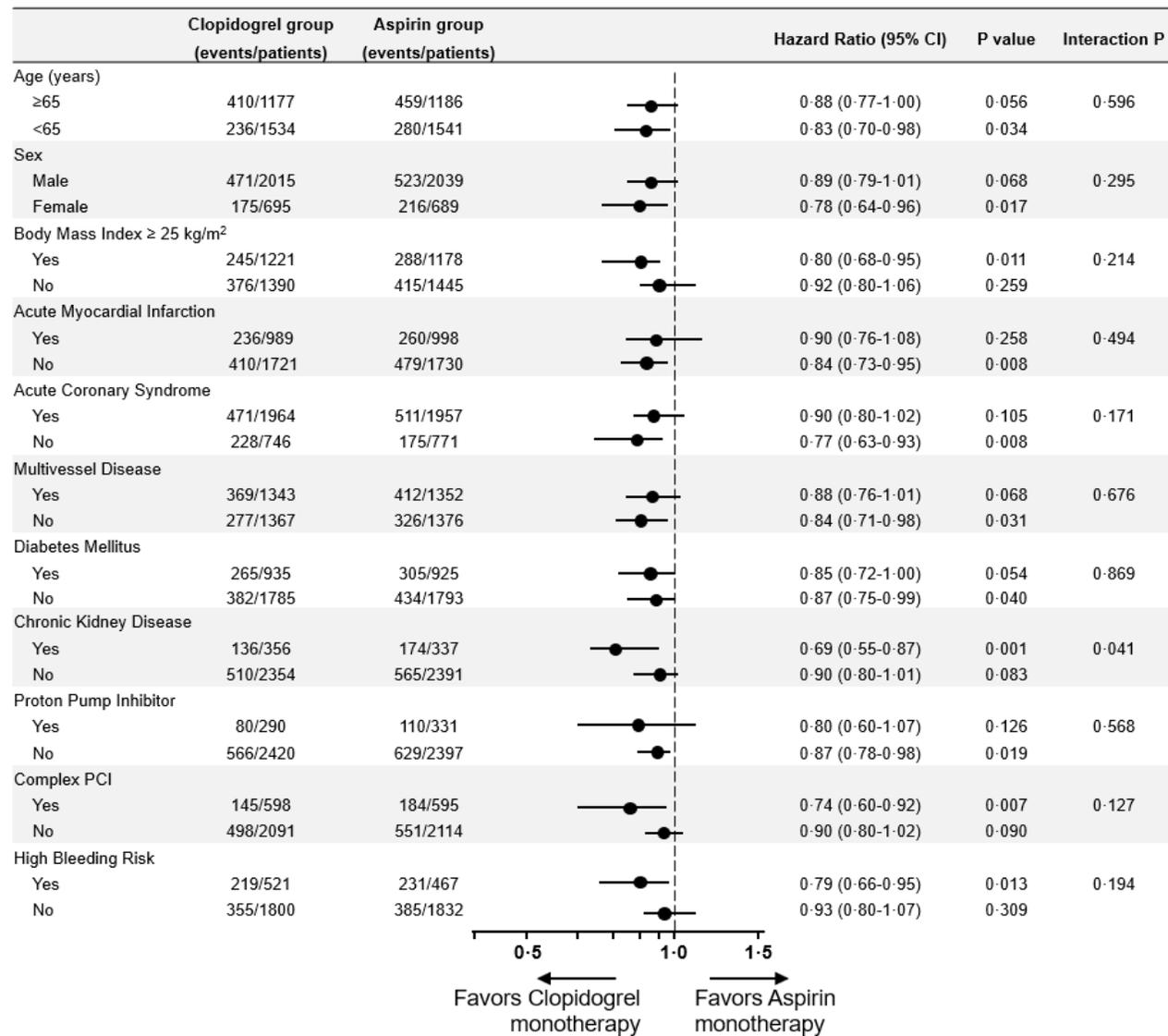
	Clopidogrel (n=2710)	Aspirin (n=2728)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P value	Absolute risk reduction (95% CI)
	<i>No. of patients (%)</i>				
<b>Primary composite endpoint</b>	<b>646 (25.4%)</b>	<b>739 (28.5%)</b>	<b>0.86 (0.77-0.96)</b>	0.005	3.1 (0.6, 5.6)
<b>Thrombotic composite endpoint</b>	<b>418 (17.3%)</b>	<b>506 (20.0%)</b>	<b>0.82 (0.72-0.93)</b>	0.002	2.8 (0.6, 5.0)
<b>Any bleeding (BARC type ≥2)</b>	<b>217 (9.1%)</b>	<b>270 (10.8%)</b>	<b>0.81 (0.68-0.97)</b>	0.020	1.7 (0.0, 3.4)
<b>All-cause death</b>	338 (13.4%)	322 (12.5%)	1.07 (0.92-1.24)	0.399	-0.9 (-2.8, 0.9)
<b>Cardiac death</b>	167 (7.1%)	171 (6.9%)	0.99 (0.80-1.23)	0.953	-0.1 (-1.6, 1.4)
<b>Non-cardiac death</b>	171 (6.9%)	151 (6.0%)	1.15 (0.93-1.43)	0.205	-0.9 (-2.3, 0.5)
<b>Non-fatal myocardial infarction</b>	85 (3.6%)	105 (4.2%)	0.82 (0.62-1.09)	0.168	0.6 (-0.5, 1.7)
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>110 (4.6%)</b>	<b>154 (6.4%)</b>	<b>0.72 (0.56-0.92)</b>	0.008	1.8 (0.4, 3.1)
<b>Ischemic stroke</b>	85 (3.6%)	104 (4.0%)	0.81 (0.61-1.08)	0.159	0.8 (-0.4, 1.9)
<b>Hemorrhagic stroke</b>	25 (1.0%)	50 (2.1%)	0.50 (0.31-0.81)	0.005	1.1 (0.4, 1.8)
<b>Readmission due to ACS</b>	208 (8.7%)	277 (11.0%)	0.75 (0.63-0.90)	0.002	2.3 (0.6, 4.0)
<b>PCI</b>	157 (6.8%)	207 (8.5%)	0.76 (0.62-0.93)	0.008	1.7 (0.1, 3.2)
<b>CABG</b>	5 (0.2%)	8 (0.3%)	0.62 (0.20-1.90)	0.405	0.1 (-0.2, 0.4)
<b>Medical treatment</b>	46 (1.8%)	62 (2.4%)	0.74 (0.51-1.09)	0.126	0.6 (-0.2, 1.4)
<b>Major bleeding (BARC type ≥3)</b>	<b>133 (5.6%)</b>	<b>190 (7.7%)</b>	<b>0.71 (0.57-0.88)</b>	0.002	2.1 (0.7, 3.5)

# Subgroup analysis of *HOST-EXAM 10Y*; Intention-to-treat



## <Patient Oriented Composite outcome>

## <Thrombotic outcome>

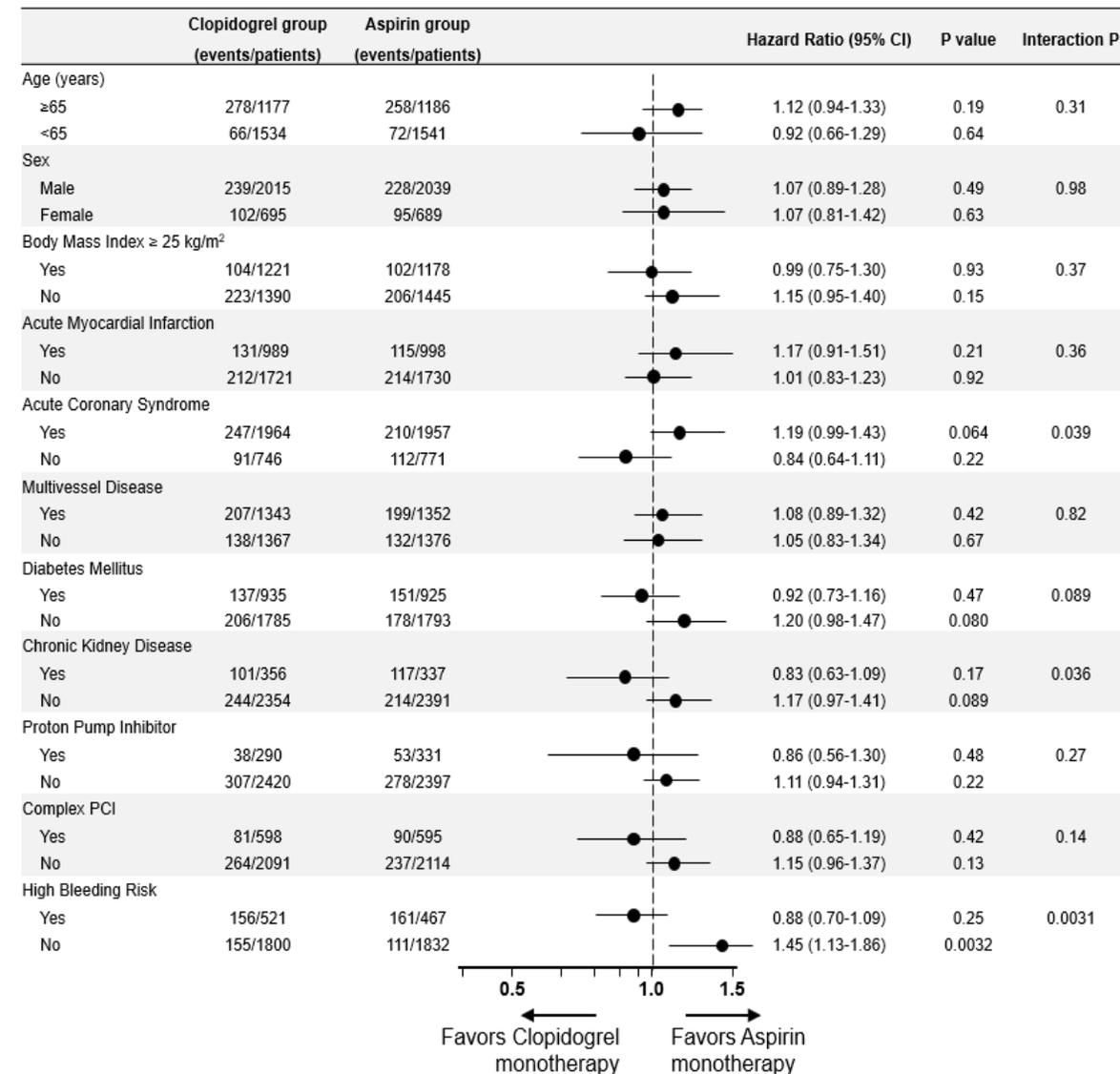
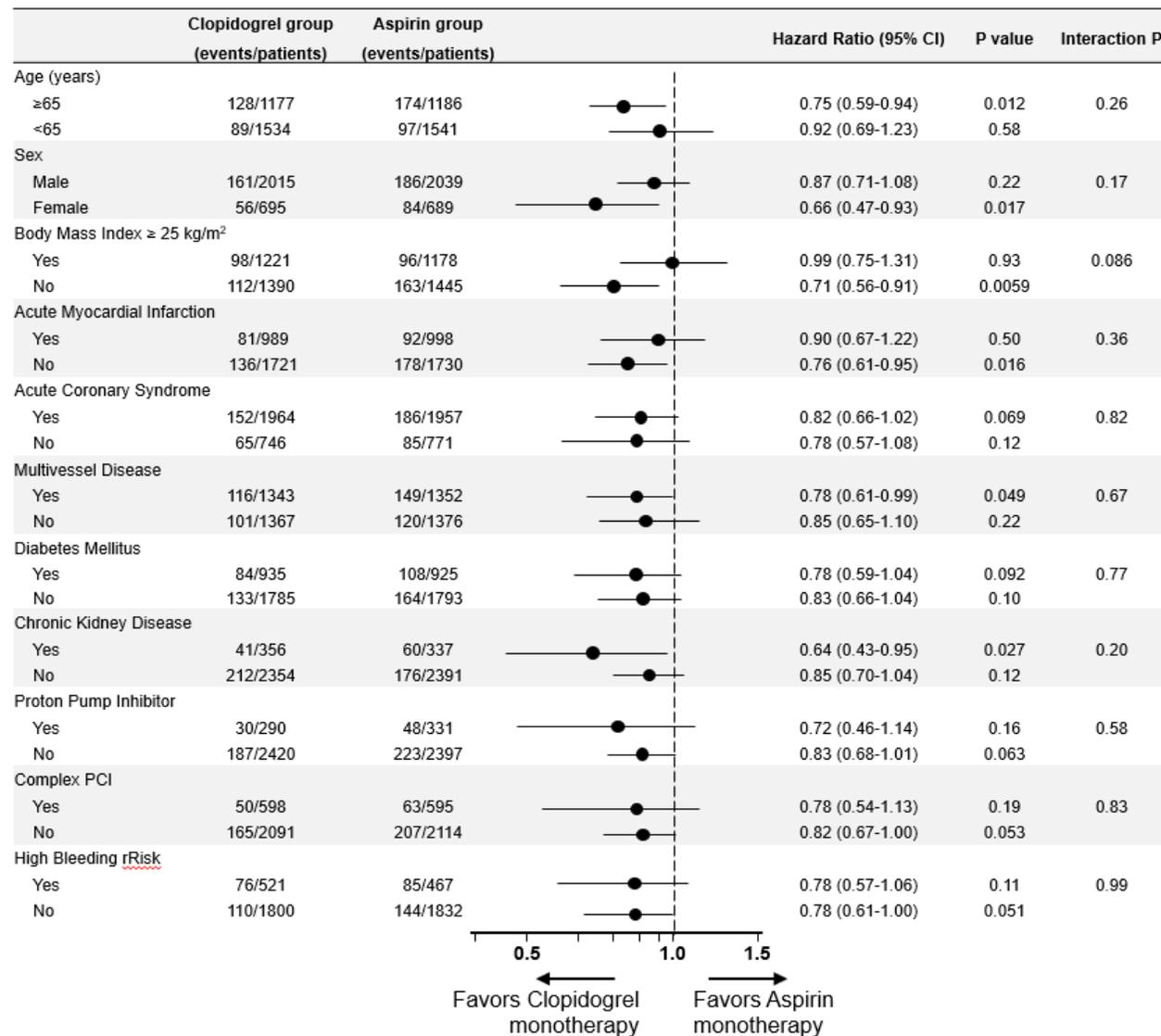


# Subgroup analysis of *HOST-EXAM 10Y*; Intention-to-treat

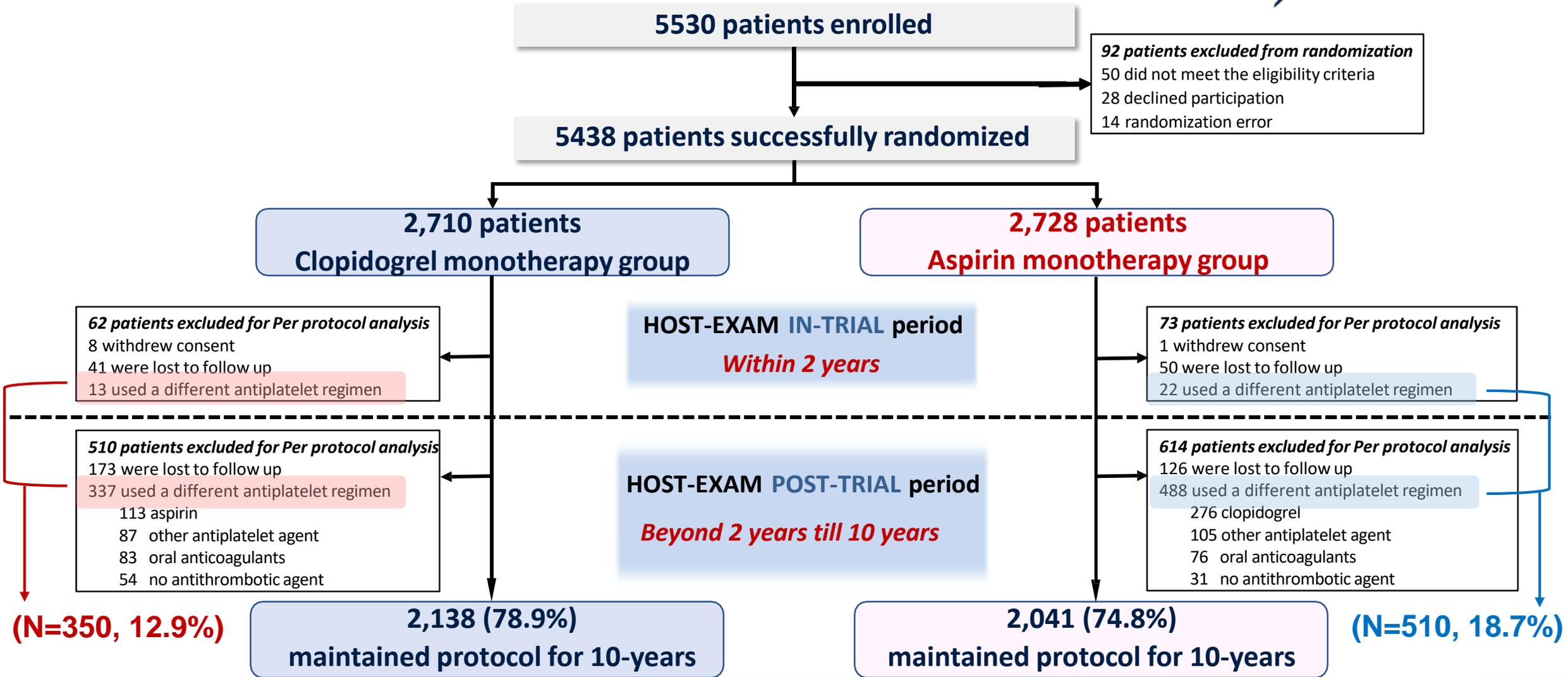


## < Bleeding outcome >

## < All-cause death >



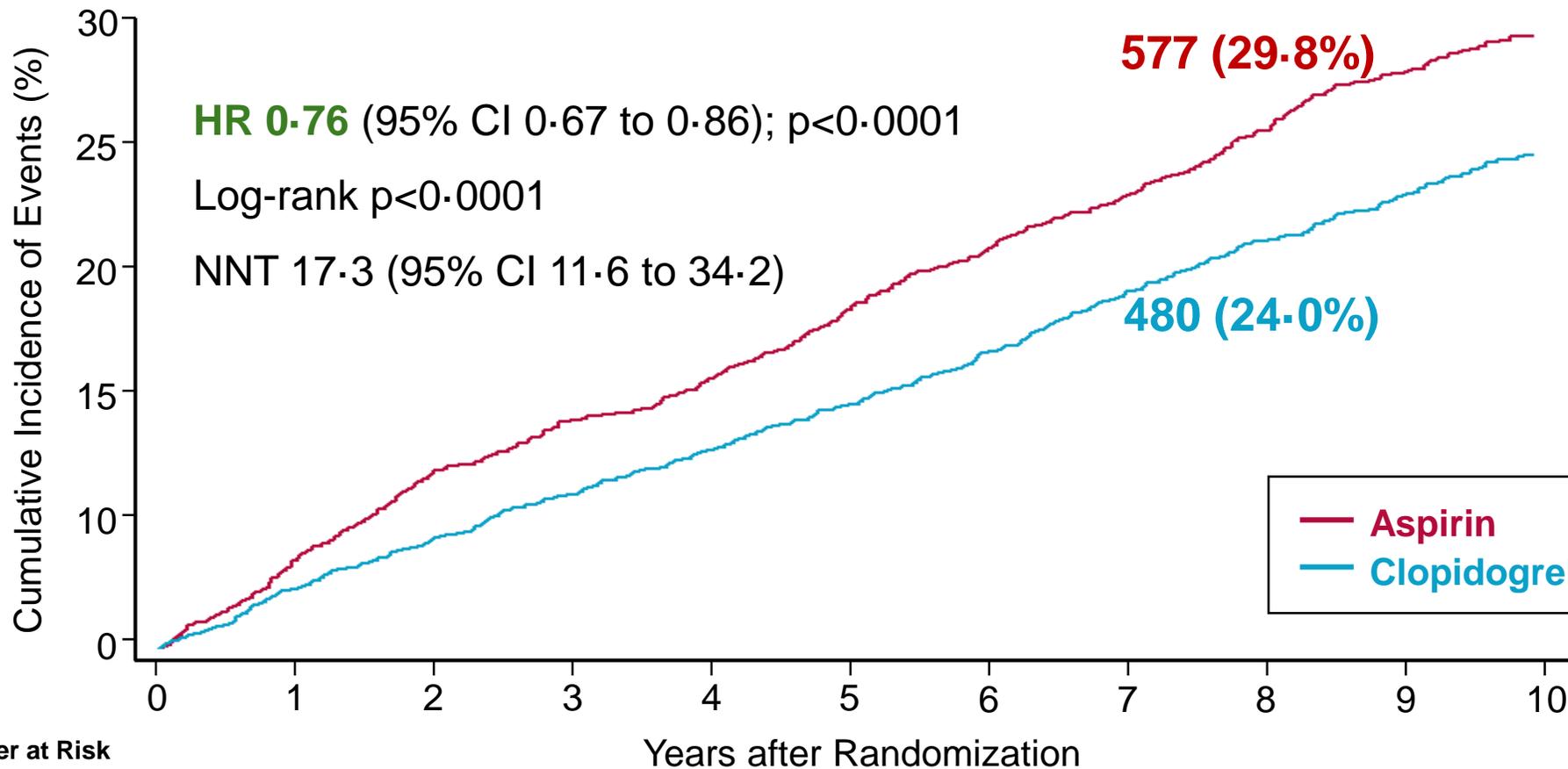
# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study; Per-protocol



# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study; Per-protocol

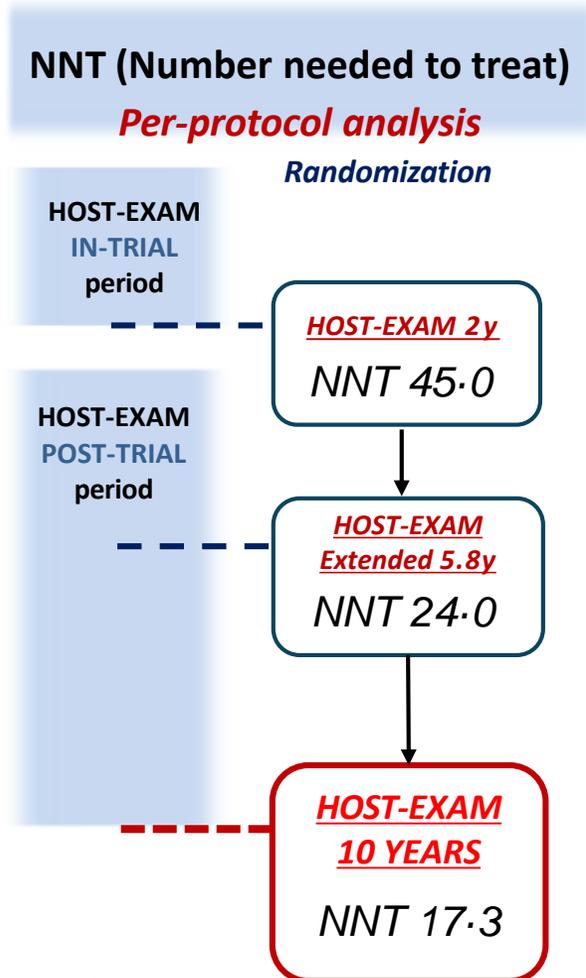


## <Patient Oriented Composite outcome>



### Number at Risk

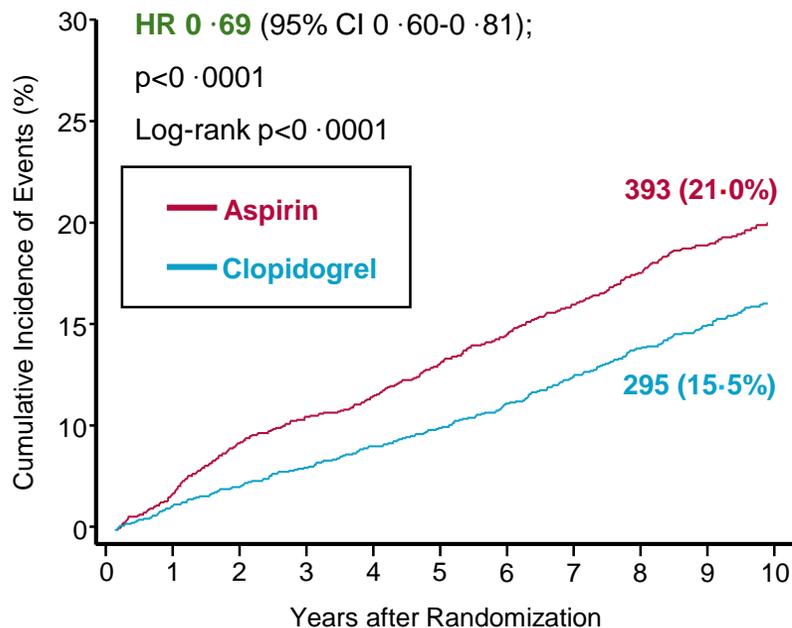
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Aspirin	2041	1953	1865	1808	1768	1695	1638	1584	1353	971	551
Clopidogrel	2138	22075	2021	1963	1913	1864	1805	1749	1503	1137	660



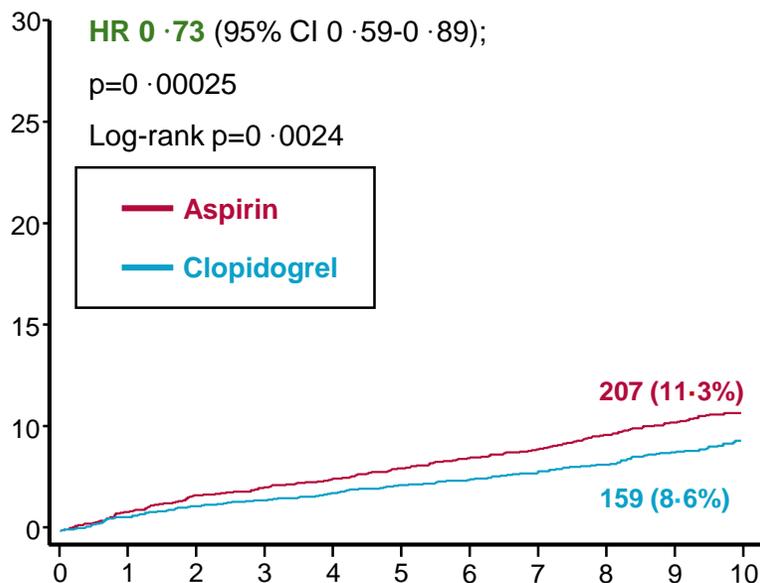
# 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM Study; Per-protocol



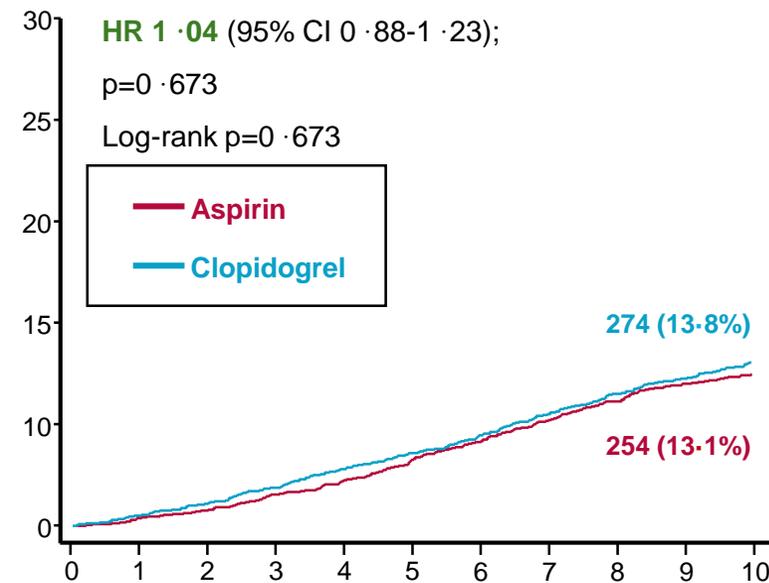
## <Thrombotic outcome>



## <Bleeding outcome>



## <All-cause death>



### Number at Risk

Aspirin	2041	1971	1893	1844	1805	1740	1692	1641	1420	1033	592
Clopidogrel	2138	2087	2038	1989	1944	1902	1848	1796	1544	1171	679

Aspirin	2041	1989	1944	1901	1866	1815	1778	1733	1497	1106	631
Clopidogrel	2138	2088	2044	1997	1953	1911	1871	1826	1595	1216	705

Aspirin	2041	2023	2006	1970	1945	1905	1877	1840	1622	1217	707
Clopidogrel	2138	2114	2087	2048	2011	1978	1945	1910	1675	1292	761

# 10-year clinical outcomes of HOST-EXAM Study; Per-protocol

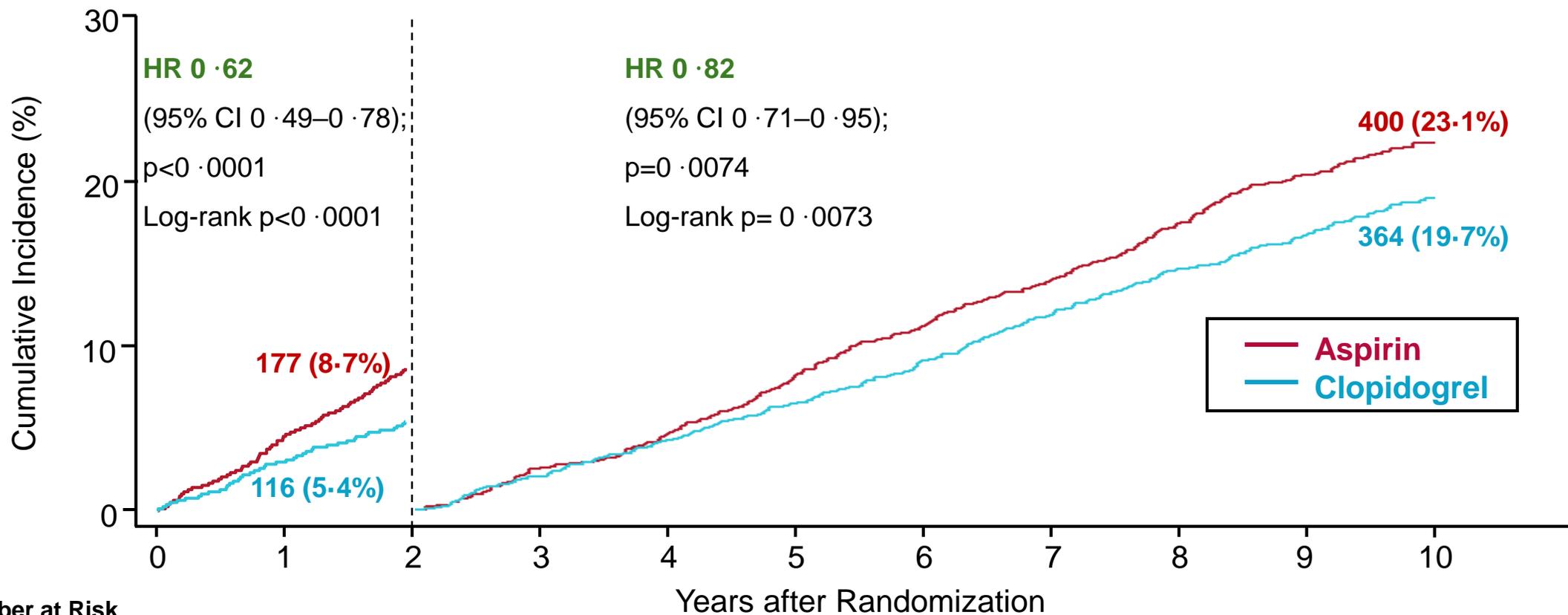


	<b>Clopidogrel (n=2138)</b> <i>No. of patients (%)</i>	<b>Aspirin (n=2041)</b> <i>No. of patients (%)</i>	<b>Hazard Ratio</b> <b>(95% CI)</b>	<b>P value</b>	<b>Absolute risk</b> <b>reduction (95% CI)</b>
<b>Primary composite endpoint</b>	<b>480 (24.0%)</b>	<b>577 (29.8%)</b>	<b>0.76 (0.67-0.86)</b>	< 0.001	5.8 (2.9, 8.6)
<b>Thrombotic composite endpoint</b>	<b>295 (15.5%)</b>	<b>393 (21.0%)</b>	<b>0.69 (0.60-0.81)</b>	< 0.001	5.5 (3.0, 8.0)
<b>Any bleeding (BARC type ≥2)</b>	<b>159 (8.6%)</b>	<b>207 (11.3%)</b>	<b>0.73 (0.59-0.89)</b>	0.003	2.7 (0.7, 4.7)
<b>All-cause death</b>	274 (13.8%)	254 (13.1%)	1.04 (0.88-1.23)	0.673	0.7 (-2.9, 1.5)
<b>Cardiac death</b>	132 (7.1%)	136 (7.4%)	0.93 (0.73-1.19)	0.571	0.4 (-1.4, 2.1)
<b>Non-cardiac death</b>	142 (7.3%)	118 (6.2%)	1.16 (0.91-1.48)	0.240	-1.1 (-2.7, 0.5)
<b>Non-fatal myocardial infarction</b>	53 (3.0%)	87 (4.8%)	0.58 (0.41-0.81)	0.002	1.8 (0.5, 3.1)
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>66 (3.6%)</b>	<b>119 (6.7%)</b>	<b>0.52 (0.39-0.71)</b>	< 0.001	3.1 (1.7, 4.6)
<b>Ischemic stroke</b>	51 (2.8%)	80 (4.5%)	0.60 (0.42-0.86)	0.005	1.7 (0.5, 3.0)
<b>Hemorrhagic stroke</b>	15 (0.8%)	39 (2.3%)	0.36 (0.20-0.66)	< 0.001	1.5 (0.7, 2.3)
<b>Readmission due to ACS</b>	140 (7.5%)	214 (11.5%)	0.61 (0.50-0.76)	< 0.001	4.0 (2.1, 5.9)
<b>PCI</b>	100 (5.6%)	160 (8.9%)	0.58 (0.46-0.75)	<0.001	3.3 (1.5, 5.0)
<b>CABG</b>	4 (0.2%)	7 (0.4%)	0.53 (0.16-1.82)	0.317	0.2 (-0.2, 0.6)
<b>Medical treatment</b>	36 (1.8%)	47 (2.5%)	0.72 (0.47-1.12)	0.142	0.7 (-0.2, 1.6)
<b>Major bleeding (BARC type ≥3)</b>	<b>97 (5.3%)</b>	<b>148 (8.2%)</b>	<b>0.62 (0.48-0.80)</b>	< 0.001	2.9 (1.2, 4.6)

# Landmark analysis at 2yrs till 10yrs; Per-protocol



## <Patient Oriented Composite outcome>



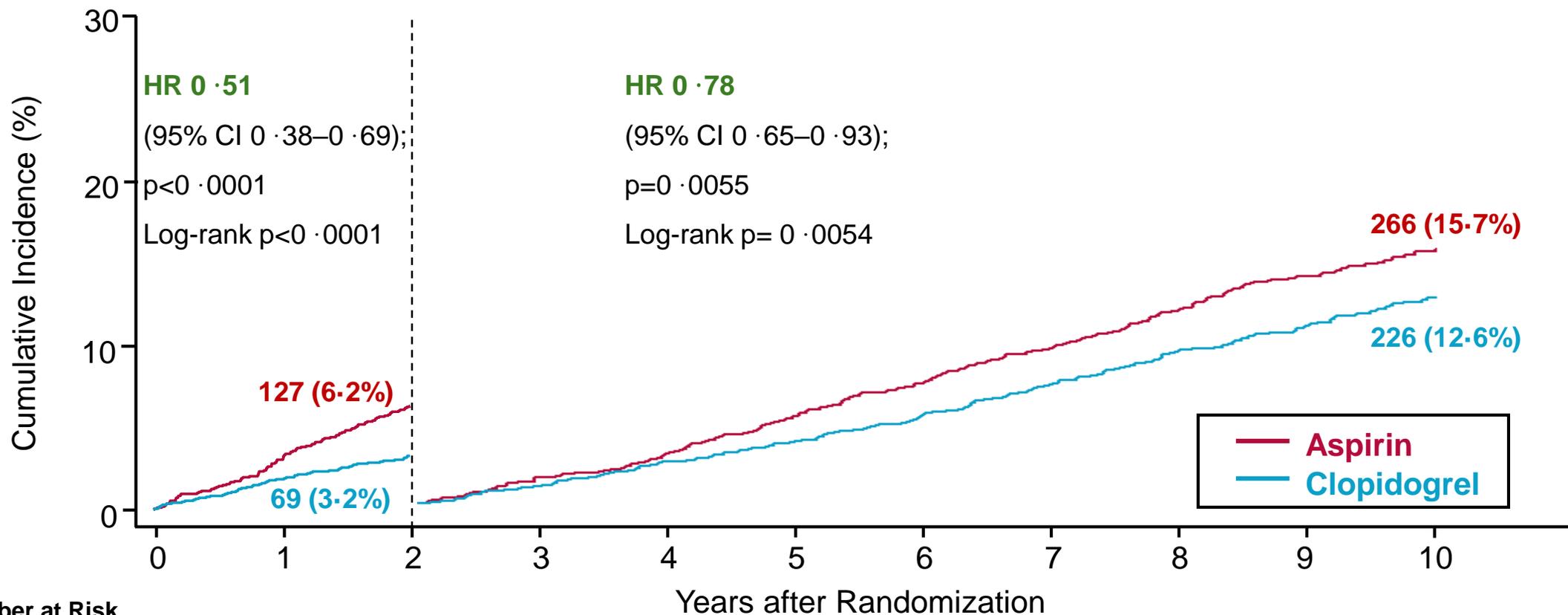
### Number at Risk

Aspirin	2041	1953	1865	1808	1768	1695	1638	1584	1353	971	551
Clopidogrel	2138	2075	2021	1963	1913	1864	1805	1749	1503	1137	660

# Landmark analysis at 2yrs till 10yrs; Per-protocol



## <Thrombotic outcome>



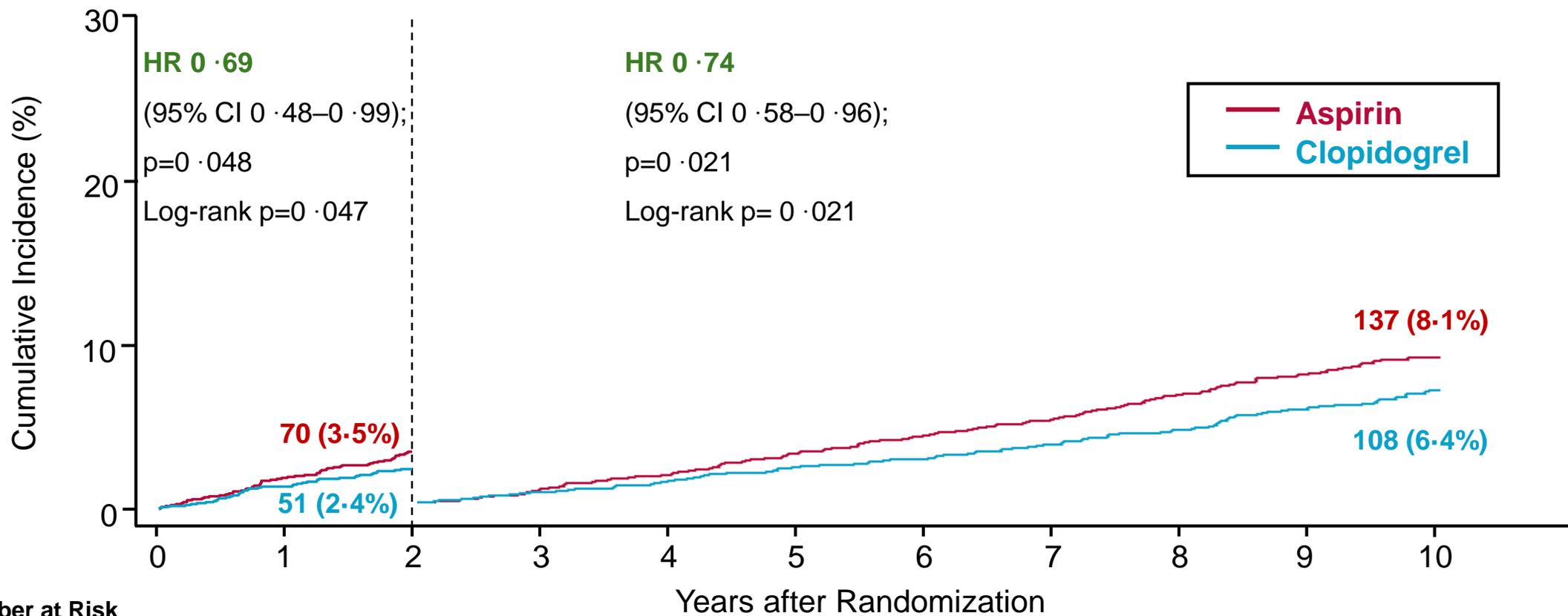
### Number at Risk

Aspirin	2041	1971	1893	1844	1805	1740	1692	1641	1420	1033	592
Clopidogrel	2138	2087	2038	1989	1944	1902	1848	1796	1544	1171	679

# Landmark analysis at 2yrs till 10yrs; Per-protocol



## <Bleeding outcome>



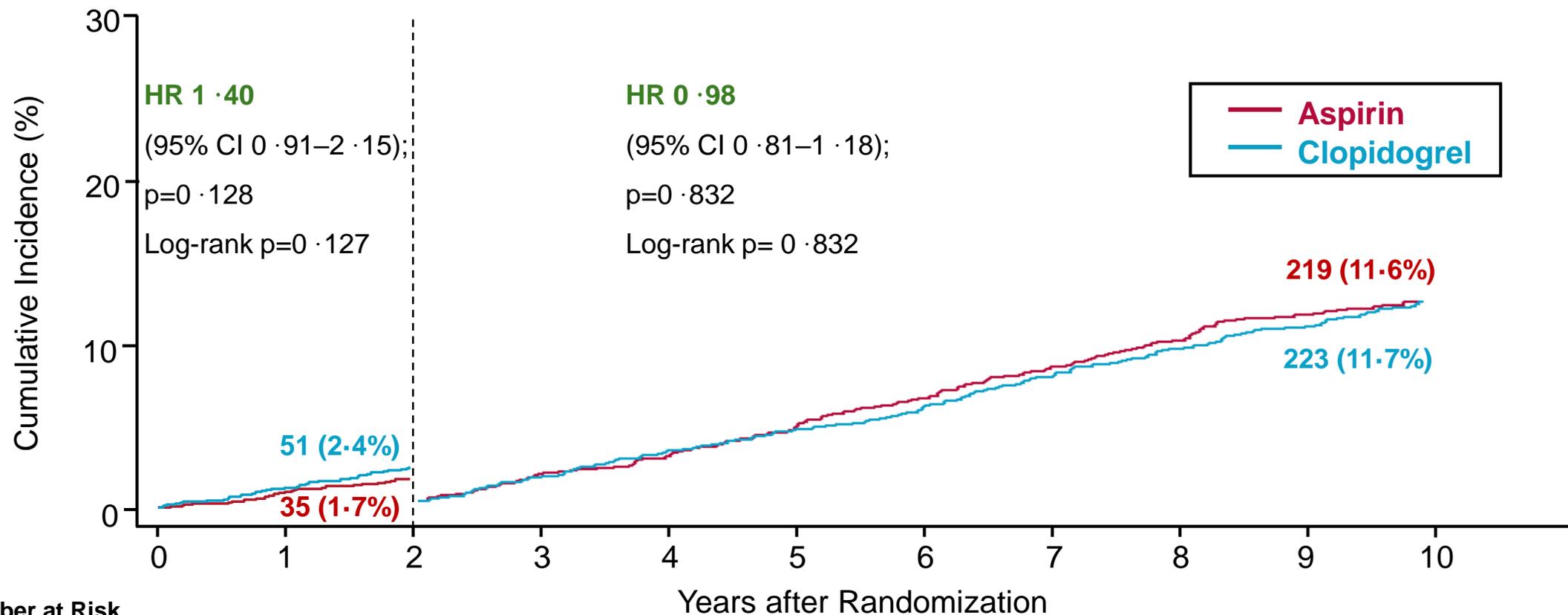
### Number at Risk

Aspirin	2041	1989	1944	1901	1866	1815	1778	1733	1497	1106	631
Clopidogrel	2138	2088	2044	1997	1954	1911	1871	1826	1595	1216	705

# Landmark analysis at 2yrs till 10yrs; Per-protocol



## < All-cause death >



### Number at Risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Aspirin	2041	2023	2006	1970	1945	1905	1877	1840	1622	1217	707
Clopidogrel	2138	2114	2087	2048	2011	1978	1945	1910	1675	1292	761

# Limitation: HOST-EXAM 10Y



- ✓ **Extended follow-up of an original RCT**
  - There was no mandatory antiplatelet regimen after the 2-year period
  - The physicians' discretion on antiplatelet selection could have been influenced by multiple factors
- ✓ **Phenotypic and genetic testing for clopidogrel** was not performed
  - Despite the high prevalence of LOF mutations of the CYP2C19 gene, thrombotic event rates are lower in East Asians (East Asian paradox)
- ✓ **Open-label design of the HOST-EXAM** introduce **bias** in the adjudication of certain clinical endpoint
  - such as 'readmission due to ACS', which may be more susceptible to physician discretion than harder endpoints
- ✓ We did **not systematically collect data on the temporary discontinuation** due to urgent or elective invasive procedures which are not related with study
- ✓ **Adjustment** of multiple testing and the multiple outcomes **were not performed**
- ✓ **Under-representation of female participants (26%)** may limit the generalizability of the findings to the broader population

# Conclusion : HOST-EXAM 10Y



In patients who received **PCI with a DES** and

were **event-free** under DAPT for 6~18 months after PCI,

- **Clpidogrel monotherapy** as compared with **Aspirin monotherapy** significantly reduced the risk of the composite of “all-cause death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, stroke, readmission due to ACS, and majore bleeding (BARC type  $\geq 3$ )” over **10-year follow-up period**
- The beneficial effect of clopidogrel was observed in **thrombotic composite endpoints** as well as **any bleeding endpoint**.
- **clpidogrel may be considered as the preferred agent for long-term antiplatelet monotherapy during the chronic maintenance phase after PCI.**

# Aspirin versus clopidogrel for chronic maintenance monotherapy after percutaneous coronary intervention: 10-year follow-up of the HOST-EXAM trial

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## Summary

**Background** The long-term clinical outcomes of clopidogrel monotherapy versus aspirin monotherapy after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) remain uncertain. We conducted a randomised controlled trial to assess the very long-term effects of

## Methods

Patients were randomised to clopidogrel 75 mg once daily or aspirin 100 mg once daily. The primary composite endpoint was the occurrence of cause death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, stroke, readmission due to acute coronary syndrome, and Bleeding Academic Research Consortium type  $\geq 3$  bleeding. The primary analysis was done

**Simultaneously published in the Lancet today on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2026 !**