Five-Year Clinical Outcomes After Coronary Bioresorbable Scaffolds and Drug-Eluting Stents: The ABSORB IV Randomized Trial

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## Five-Year Clinical Outcomes and Angina Recurrence After Coronary Bioresorbable Scaffolds and Drug-Eluting Stents: The ABSORB IV Randomized Trial

Gregg W. Stone, MD, Dean J. Kereiakes, MD, Stephen G. Ellis, MD, for the ABSORB IV Investigators

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#### **ABSORB IV** study organization and sites

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Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) Image Archival and

Transfer of Angiograms, IVUS and OCT: Bioclinica, Inc, Princeton, NJ, USA

Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) support: Bracket Global LLC, San Francisco,

CA, USA.

Data Management: Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA, USA.

Biostatistics and Data Analysis: Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA, USA.

Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB): Axio Research, Seattle, WA, USA: Robert N.

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Sponsor and funding: Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA, USA.

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MedSTAR Washington Hospital Center, Hyattsville, MD: Ron Waksman, Lowell Satler; Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA: Neal Gaither; Rex Hospital, Inc., Raleigh, NC: James Zidar; MedSTAR Union Memorial Hospital, Hyattsville, MD: John Wang; Baptist Medical Center, Jacksonville, FL: Marc Litt; St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Liverpool, NY: Ronald Caputo; Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland, CO: Anthony Doing; AnMed Health, Anderson, SC: Brent McLaurin; Northwest Texas Healthcare System, Amarillo, TX: Joaquin Martinez-Arraras; Washington Hospital, Fremont, CA: Ash Jain; Seton Medical Center, Austin, TX: Osvaldo Gigliotti; Sharp Memorial Hospital, San Diego, CA: John Gordon; Chandler Regional Medical Center, Gilbert, AZ: Nabil Dib; Jewish Hospital, Louisville, KY: Naresh Solankhi; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti, MI: Herbert Aronow, Zakir Sahul; East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, TX: Robert Carney; Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, PA: Rajesh Dave; Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA: Kimberly Skelding; Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, Haddon Heights, NJ: Vijayendra Verma, Audrey Sernyak; Northern Michigan Hospital, Petoskey, MI: Louis Cannon; The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, OH: Vincent Pompili, Konstantinos Boudoulas; Mercy Hospital Springfield, Springfield, MO: Robert Merritt; UF Health Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL: Theodore Bass; Doylestown Hospital, Doylestown, PA: Steven Guidera: University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington, KY: Khaled Ziada; Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Lebanon, NH: Aaron Kaplan; Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY: Annapoorna Kini, Samin Sharma; Pinnacle Health at Harrisburg Hospital, Wormleysburg, PA: William Bachinsky; Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA: Habib Samady; St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL: Gregory Mishkel, Shailesh Nandish; Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, ME: Peter Ver Lee; NYP Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY: Shing Wong; Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee, FL: Wayne Batchelor;

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Rochester, NY: Frederick Ling; Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Portland, OR: Ethan Korngold; Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN: John McPherson, Mark Glazer: Holy Cross Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, FL: Joshua Purow; The Miriam Hospital plus Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI: Paul Gordon; Franciscan St. Francis Health, Indianapolis, IN: Saeed Shaikh, William Berg; William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI: Amr Abbas, Simon Dixon; Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH: Russel Raymond; Providence Everett Med Center, Everett, WA: Mahesh Mulumudi; Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA: Gene Chang; Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA: Tony Farah; Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA: Raj Makkar, Mamoo Nakamura; Good Samaritan Medical Center, Zanesville, OH: Abdulhay Albirini; Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, FL: Fadi Matar; Aultman Hospital, Canton, OH: John Paulowski; Memorial Regional Hospital, Hollywood, FL: Luis Tami; Sanford USD Medical Center, North Sioux Falls, SD: Tomasz Stys; Banner Heart Hospital, Mesa, AZ: Alphonse Ambrosia; Loyola University Medical Center, Chicago, IL: Ferdinand Leya; Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY; Vankeepuram Srinivas, Anna Bortnick; Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO: Jasvindar Singh; Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, IL: Paul Silverman; St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX: Emersonerin; Bergan Mercy Medical Center, Omaha, NE: Himanshu Agarwal; Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center, Dearborn, MI: Samir Dabbous; St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN: James Hermiller; Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Torrance, CA: Ray Wyman; Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, NJ: Matthew Bach; Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC: Robert Applegate; Greenville Memorial Hospital, Greenville, SC: Jesse Jorgensen; Bay Regional Medical Center, Bay City, MI: Daniel Lee; Baptist Health Louisville, Louisville, KY: Thomas Tu; Texas Health Harris Methodist, Fort Worth, TX: Gurpreet Baweja;

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Germany (335 randomized): Johannes Gutenberg- Universitaet Langenbeckstr, Mainz, Germany: Tommaso Gori; Kliniken Oberallgäu GmbH, Immenstadt, Germany: Jan Torzewski; Universitätsklinik um Ulm ALBERT- EINSTEIN, Ulm, Germany: Jochen Wöhrle; Universitätsklinik um Giessen und Marbug, Giessen, Germany: Holger Nef; Segeberger Kliniken GmbH, Bad Segeberg, Germany: Ralph Tölg, Mohammed Abdel-Wahab; Elisabeth-Krankenhaus, Essen, Germany: Christoph Naber; Immanuel Klinikum, Bernau, Germany: Christian Butter; Universitätsklinik um Bonn, Bonn, Germany: Nikos Werner; Klinikum Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany: Albrecht Elsässer; Universitätsklinik um Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany: Constantin von Zur Mühlen.

Singapore (5 randomized): National Heart Center Singapore, Singapore: Tian Hai Koh.

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Canada (54 randomized): CHUM-Hotel Dieu, Qc, Canada: André Kokis; Hôpital du Sacré-

Coeur, PQ, Canada: Eric Schampaert; Montreal Heart Institute, Qc, Canada: Jean Francois

Tanguay; St. Michael's Hospital, ON, Canada: Christopher Buller.

## Table S1. Patient inclusion and exclusion criteria for the ABSORB IV trial

Inclusion Criteria (all must be present)				
I. Gen	I. General Inclusion Criteria			
1.	Subject must be at least 18 years of age.			
2.	Subject or a legally authorized representative must provide written Informed Consent			
	prior to any study related procedure, per site requirements.			
3.	Subject must have evidence of myocardial ischemia (e.g., silent ischemia, stable or unstable angina, non-ST-segment elevation MI (NSTEMI), OR recent ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI). Patients with stable coronary syndromes can be enrolled any time after symptom onset if eligibility criteria are otherwise met. Patients with acute coronary syndrome can be enrolled under the following conditions: a. Unstable angina or NSTEMI within 2 weeks of the index procedure. b. STEMI >72 hours ≤2 weeks prior to the index procedure. Note: Subjects with UA or NSTEMI or STEMI occurring >2 weeks of the index procedure can be included in the trial but should be categorized			
	based on their current angina class.			
4.	Subjects must be suitable for PCI. Subjects with stable angina or silent ischemia and <70% diameter stenosis must have objective signs of ischemia as determined by one of the following: abnormal stress echocardiogram, nuclear scan, ECG, PET, MRI, and/or fractional flow reserve (FFR). (Note: subject with silent ischemia must have a prior history of typical angina, angina-equivalent symptoms, or atypical angina within the past year to be included in the trial.)			
5.	Subject must be an acceptable candidate for coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery.			
6.	Female subject of childbearing potential who does not plan pregnancy for up to 1 year following the index procedure. For a female subject of childbearing potential a pregnancy test must be performed with negative results known within 7 days prior to the index procedure per site standard.			
7.	Female subject is not breast-feeding at the time of the screening. visit and will not be breast-feeding for at least 1 year following the index procedure.			
8.	Subject agrees to not participate in any other investigational or invasive clinical study for a period of 5 years following the index procedure.			
II. An	giographic Inclusion Criteria			
1.	Treatment of up to three <i>de novo</i> lesions in a maximum of two epicardial vessels, with a maximum of two lesions per epicardial vessel. If only a single lesion is to be treated,			

it must be a target lesion. Up to one non-target lesion can be treated. Non-target lesion treatment can occur only in a non-target vessel. If there are two target lesions within the same epicardial vessel, the two target lesions must be at least 15 mm apart per visual estimation; otherwise this is considered as a single target lesion for lesion (and stent) length determination and must be treated with a single study device.

- 2. Target lesion(s) must be located in a native coronary artery with a visually estimated or quantitatively assessed %DS of ≥50% and <100%, with a TIMI flow of ≥1, and one of the following: stenosis ≥70%, an abnormal functional test (e.g., fractional flow reserve ≤0.80 AND/OR a positive stress test), or presentation with an acute coronary syndrome (unstable angina or NSTEMI within 2 weeks of index procedure, or STEMI >72 hours but ≤2 weeks prior to the index procedure). Note: Subjects with UA or NSTEMI or STEMI occurring >2 weeks of the index procedure can be included in the trial but should be categorized based on their current angina class.
- 3. Target lesion(s) must be located in a native coronary artery with RVD by visual estimation of ≥2.50 mm and ≤3.75 mm. Note: To exclude enrollment of excessively small vessels, if the operator believes that based on visual angiographic assessments, the distal reference vessel diameter is ≤2.75 mm such that the plan is to implant a 2.5 mm device (stent or scaffold) in a target lesion, it is strongly recommended that either on-line QCA or intravascular imaging (ultrasound or optical coherence tomography) is used and demonstrates that the measured distal RVD for this target lesion is ≥2.50 mm (by at least one of these imaging modalities). This measurement may be performed before or after pre-dilatation, but before randomization. If the distal RVD measures <2.5 mm, that lesion IS NOT ELIGIBLE for randomization. Such a lesion may be treated as a non-target lesion.</p>
- 4. Target lesion(s) must be located in a native coronary artery with length by visual estimation of  $\leq 24$  mm.

### **Exclusion Criteria (all must be absent)**

### I. General Exclusion Criteria

- 1. Any surgery requiring general anesthesia or discontinuation of aspirin and/or a P2Y12 receptor inhibitor is planned within 12 months after the procedure.
- 2. Subject has known hypersensitivity or contraindication to device material and its degradants (everolimus, poly(L-lactide), poly(DL-lactide), lactide, lactic acid) and cobalt, chromium, nickel, platinum, tungsten, acrylic and fluoropolymers that cannot be adequately pre-medicated. Subject has a known contrast sensitivity that cannot be adequately pre-medicated.
- 3. Subject has known allergic reaction, hypersensitivity or contraindication to any of the following: aspirin; or clopidogrel and prasugrel and ticagrelor; or heparin and bivalirudin, and therefore cannot be adequately treated with study medications.
- 4. Subject had an acute STEMI (appropriate clinical syndrome with  $\geq 1 \text{ mm of ST-segment elevation in } \geq 2 \text{ contiguous leads}$ ) within 72 hours of the index procedure.

- 5. Subject has a cardiac arrhythmia identified at the time of screening for which at least one of the following criteria is met: a. Subject requires coumadin or any other agent for chronic oral anticoagulation. b. Subject is likely to become hemodynamically unstable due to their arrhythmia. c. Subject has poor survival prognosis due to their arrhythmia.
- 6. Subject has a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) <30% assessed by any quantitative method, including but not limited to echocardiography, MRI, multiple-gated acquisition (MUGA) scan, contrast left ventriculography, PET scan, etc. LVEF may be obtained within 6 months prior to the procedure for subjects with stable CAD. For subjects presenting with ACS, LVEF must be assessed within 1 week of the index procedure and after ACS presentation, which may include contrast left ventriculography during the index procedure but prior to randomization in order to confirm the subject's eligibility.</p>
- 7. Subject has undergone prior PCI within the target vessel during the last 12 months. Prior PCI within the non-target vessel or any peripheral intervention is acceptable if performed anytime >30 days before the index procedure, or between a minimum of 24 hours and 30 days before the index procedure if successful and uncomplicated.
- Subject requires future staged PCI of any lesion other than a target lesion identified at the time of index procedure; or subject requires future peripheral vascular interventions < 30 days after the index procedure.</li>
- 9. Subject has received any solid organ transplants or is on a waiting list for any solid organ transplants.
- 10. At the time of screening, the subject has a malignancy that is not in remission.
- 11. Subject is receiving immunosuppressant therapy or has known immunosuppressive or severe autoimmune disease that requires chronic immunosuppressive therapy (e.g., human immunodeficiency virus, systemic lupus erythematosus, etc.). Note: corticosteroids are not included as immunosuppressant therapy.
- 12. Subject has previously received or is scheduled to receive radiotherapy to a coronary artery (vascular brachytherapy), or the chest/mediastinum.
- 13. Subject is receiving or will require chronic anticoagulation therapy (e.g., coumadin, dabigatran, apixaban, rivaroxaban, edoxaban or any other related agent for any reason).
- 14. Subject has a platelet count <100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or >700,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.
- 15. Subject has a documented or suspected hepatic disorder as defined as cirrhosis or Child-Pugh ≥ Class B.
- 16. Subject has renal insufficiency as defined as an estimated GFR <30 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> or dialysis at the time of screening.
- 17. Subject is high risk of bleeding for any reason; has a history of bleeding diathesis or coagulopathy; has had a significant gastrointestinal or significant urinary bleed within the past six months.
- 18. Subject has had a cerebrovascular accident or transient ischemic neurological attack (TIA) within the past six months, or any prior intracranial bleed, or any permanent

r	
	neurologic defect, or any known intracranial pathology (e.g. aneurysm, arteriovenous
	malformation, etc.).
19	Subject has extensive peripheral vascular disease that precludes safe 6 French sheath
	insertion. Note: femoral arterial disease does not exclude the patient if radial access
	may be used.
20	Subject has a life expectancy <5 years for any non-cardiac or cardiac cause.
21	Subject is in the opinion of the Investigator or designee, unable to comply with the
	requirements of the study protocol or is unsuitable for the study for any reason. This
	includes completion of Patient Reported Outcome instruments.
22	Subject is currently participating in another clinical trial that has not yet completed its
	primary endpoint.
23	Subject is part of a vulnerable population who, in the judgment of the investigator, is
	unable to give Informed Consent for reasons of incapacity, immaturity, adverse
	personal circumstances or lack of autonomy. This may include: Individuals with a
	mental disability, persons in nursing homes, children, impoverished persons, persons in
	emergency situations, homeless persons, nomads, refugees, and those incapable of
	giving informed consent. Vulnerable populations also may include members of a group
	with a hierarchical structure such as university students, subordinate hospital and
	laboratory personnel, employees of the Sponsor, members of the armed forces, and
	persons kept in detention.
II. An	giographic Exclusion Criteria
All ex	clusion criteria apply to the target lesion(s) or target vessel(s).
1.	Unsuccessful pre-dilatation, defined as the presence of one or more of the following
	(note: successful pre-dilatation of at least one target lesion is required prior to
	randomization): a. Residual %DS after pre-dilatation is $\geq 40\%$ (per visual estimation).
	Note: achieving a %DS $\leq 20\%$ prior to randomization is strongly recommended. b.
	TIMI flow grade <3 (per visual estimation). c. Any angiographic complication (e.g.
	distal embolization, side branch closure). d. Any dissection NHLBI grade D-F. e. Any
	chest pain lasting > 5 minutes. f. Any ST-segment depression or elevation lasting > 5
	minutes.
2.	Lesion is located in left main or there is a $\geq$ 30% diameter stenosis in the left main
	(unless the left main lesion is a protected left main (i.e. a patent bypass graft to the
	LAD and/or LCX arteries is present), and there is no intention to treat the protected left
	main lesion).
3.	Aorto-ostial RCA lesion (within 3 mm of the ostium).
4.	Lesion located within 3 mm of the origin of the LAD or LCX.
	Lesion involving a bifurcation with a a) side branch $\geq 2$ mm in diameter, or b) side
	branch with either an ostial or non-ostial lesion with diameter stenosis >50%, or c) side
	branch requiring dilatation.
	cranen regioning unuturion.

- 6. Anatomy proximal to or within the lesion that may impair delivery of the Absorb BVS or XIENCE stent: a. Extreme angulation (≥ 90°) proximal to or within the target lesion.
  b. Excessive tortuosity (≥ two 45° angles) proximal to or within the target lesion. c. Moderate or heavy calcification proximal to or within the target lesion. If IVUS used, subject must be excluded if calcium arc in the vessel prior to the lesion or within the lesion is ≥180°.
- 7. Lesion or vessel involves a myocardial bridge.
- 8. Vessel has been previously treated with a stent and the target lesion is within 5 mm proximal or distal to a previously stented lesion.
- 9. Target lesion located within an arterial or saphenous vein graft or distal to any arterial or saphenous vein graft.

Reprinted with minor revisions from Stone GW, Ellis SG, Gori T, et al. Blinded outcomes and angina assessment of coronary bioresorbable scaffolds: 30-day and 1-year results from the ABSORB IV randomised trial. Lancet. 2018;392:1530-1540.

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## Table S2. Primary and secondary endpoints for the ABSORB IV trial

### **Primary endpoint**

TLF through 30 days, tested for non-inferiority of Absorb BVS against the control

### Powered secondary endpoints

1. TLF through 1 year, tested for non-inferiority of Absorb BVS against the control

2. The percentage of patients who experienced angina within 1 year, tested first for noninferiority of Absorb BVS against the control, with reflex to superiority if noninferiority is met

### Additional secondary endpoints

#### Acute Success

- Device success (lesion level analysis)
- Procedural success (patient level analysis)

**Clinical Endpoints** (assessed in-hospital and at 30 days, 90 days, 180 days, 270 days and at 1 year, and then annually for at least 5 years and at most 10 years.\*)

Component endpoints

Death

- Cardiac
- Vascular
- Non-cardiovascular

Myocardial Infarction

- Attributable to target vessel (TV-MI)
- Not attributable to target vessel (NTV-MI)

Target Lesion Revascularization (TLR)

- Ischemia-driven TLR (ID-TLR)
- Non-ID-TLR (NID-TLR)

Target Vessel Revascularization (TVR)

- ID-TVR
- Non-ID-TVR

All coronary revascularization

Composite Endpoints

- Death/All MI
- Cardiac Death/All MI
- Cardiac Death/TV-MI/ID-TLR (TLF)
- Cardiac Death/All MI/ID-TLR (MACE)
- Cardiac Death/All MI//ID-TVR (TVF)
- Death/All MI/All revascularization (PoCE)

Scaffold/Stent Thrombosis

- Evidence (definite, probable, definite or probable)
- Timing (acute, sub-acute, late and very late)

**Rehospitalization** 

- Coronary artery disease related
- Cardiovascular, non-CAD related
- Non-cardiovascular related
- Repeat coronary arteriography

Landmark analyses\*

- 30d-1 year/1-2/2-3/3-4/3-5 years for TLF and components
- 30d-1 year/1-2/2-3/3-4/3-5 years for MACE and TVF and their components
- 30d-1 year/1-2/2-3/3-4/3-5 years for scaffold/stent thrombosis

\*Patients were consented for up to 10-year follow-up. Follow-up in the present trial was concluded after 5 years. CAD, coronary artery disease; ID, ischemia-driven; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; MI, myocardial infarction; PoCE, patient oriented composite endpoint; TLF, target lesion failure; TLR, target lesion revascularization; TV, target vessel; TVF, target vessel failure; TVR, target vessel revascularization. Modified from Stone GW, Ellis SG, Gori T, et al. Blinded outcomes and angina assessment of coronary bioresorbable scaffolds: 30-day and 1-year results from the ABSORB IV randomised trial. Lancet. 2018;392:1530-1540.

Acute Success			
Device success (lesion level)	Successful delivery and deployment of study		
	scaffold/stent at intended target lesion, and		
	successful withdrawal of delivery system and		
	final in-scaffold/stent DS <30% (QCA)		
Procedural success (patient level)	Successful delivery and deployment of at		
	least one study scaffold/stent at intended		
	target lesion, and successful withdrawal of		
	delivery system and final in-scaffold/stent DS		
	<30% (QCA), and no in-hospital (maximum 7		
	days) TLF		
	Angina		
Any angina or angina equivalent symptoms	determined by the physician and/or research		
coordinator after interview of the patient, an	d as adjudicated by the clinical events committee		
(CEC). This endpoint will exclude angina or	r angina equivalent symptoms that occurred		
following the index procedure through hosp	ital discharge or 7 days, whichever occurs		
first.			
	Death		
Cardiac	Any death due to proximate cardiac cause		
	(e.g. MI, low-output failure, fatal arrhythmia),		
	unwitnessed death and death of unknown		
	cause, all procedure related deaths including		
	those related to concomitant treatment. Note:		
	All deaths are considered cardiac unless an		
	unequivocal non-cardiac cause can be		
	established. Specifically, any unexpected		
	death even in patients with coexisting		
	potentially fatal non-cardiac disease (e.g.		
	cancer, infection) are classified as cardiac.		
Vascular	Death due to non-coronary vascular causes		
	such as cerebrovascular disease, pulmonary		
	embolism, ruptured aortic aneurysm,		
	dissecting aneurysm, or other vascular cause.		
Non-cardiovascular	Any death not covered by the above		
	definitions, such as death caused by infection,		
	malignancy, sepsis, pulmonary causes,		
	accident, suicide or trauma.		
Mvocar	dial infarction <sup>1</sup>		

# Table S3. Definitions of the major endpoints for the ABSORB IV trial

Periprocedural MI (within 48 hours after a		
revascularization procedure)*		
1. Patients with a) stable CAD, or b)	Absolute CK-MB rises within 48 hours of the	
silent ischemia, or c) acute coronary	procedure to >5x ULN for post-PCI or CK-	
syndromes with at least 2 baseline troponin	MB >10x ULN for post-CABG <sup>2,3</sup>	
values which remained <uln, acute<="" d)="" or="" th=""><th>real from the provide the t</th></uln,>	real from the provide the t	
coronary syndromes in whom the troponin		
and/or CK-MB levels were elevated but all		
returned to <uln prior="" procedure<="" th="" the="" to=""><th></th></uln>		
2. Patients with stable CAD and elevated	Absolute incremental CK-MB rise within 48	
baseline CK-MB, or acute coronary	hours of the procedure from the most recent	
syndromes in whom at least 2 baseline	CK-MB level by >5x ULN for post-PCI or	
troponin and CK-MB values were drawn and	>10x ULN for post-CABG	
the most recent troponin and CK-MB		
values were less than the preceding measures		
by $>25\%$	O.	
3. Patients with elevated baseline CK-MB in	The CK-MB rises within 48 hours of the	
whom the biomarker levels have not been	procedure by an absolute increment from the	
shown to be stable or falling as defined above	most recent CK-MB level of >5x ULN for	
(either because only one CK-MB was	post-PCI or >10x ULN for post-CABG plus	
measured, or the most recent CK-MB	new ST-segment elevation or depression plus	
measure in a series was either still increasing	signs consistent with a clinically relevant MI,	
or had not decreased by $>25\%$ from the most	such as new onset or worsening heart failure	
recent measure)	or sustained hypotension	
	Plus	
	The following must also be present:	
5	1. New ST-segment elevation or depression,	
	and	
	2. Signs consistent with a clinically relevant	
	MI, such as new onset or worsening heart	
	failure or sustained hypotension.	
Spontaneous MI (before or >48 hours after	Troponin >ULN or CK-MB >ULN	
any coronary revascularization procedure)	Plus	
	One or more of the following must also be	
	present:	
	- Symptoms of ischemia;	
	- ECG changes indicative of new ischemia -	
	(new ST-T changes or new LBBB),	
	- Development of pathological Q waves;	

myocardium or a new regional wall motion abnormality         Q-wave MI       Development of new, pathological Q waves on the ECG (≥0.04 seconds in duration and ≥1 mm in depth) in ≥2 contiguous precordial leads or ≥2 adjacent limb leads)         Non-Q-wave MI       All MIs which are not Q-wave MIs         Target vessel-related MI       MIs adjudicated to the epicardial coronary artery containing the target lesion on the basis of electrocardiographic, imaging or angiographic findings; MIs which cannot be definitely adjudicated to a non-target vessel are considered target vessel-related MI         Non-target vessel-related MI       All MIs which are not target vessel-related MI         Non-target vessel-related MI       All MIs which are not target vessel- are considered target vessel-related MI         Target lesion revascularization       Any repeat percutaneous intervention of the target lesion or bypass surgery of the target vessel performed for restenosis or other complication of the target lesion. All TLR should be classified prospectively as ischemia-driven or not ischemia-driven by the investigator prior to repeat angiography. An independent angiographic core laboratory should verify that the severity of percent diameter stenosis meets requirements for clinical indication and will overrule in cases where investigator reports are not in agreement. The target lesion is defined as the treated segment from 5 mm proximal to the stent and to 5 mm distal to the stent.		- Imaging evidence of a new loss of viable		
abnormality         Q-wave MI         Development of new, pathological Q waves on the ECG (≥0.04 seconds in duration and ≥1 mm in depth) in ≥2 contiguous precordial leads or ≥2 adjacent limb leads)         Non-Q-wave MI       All MIs which are not Q-wave MIs         Target vessel-related MI       MIs adjudicated to the epicardial coronary artery containing the target lesion on the basis of electrocardiographic, imaging or angiographic findings; MIs which cannot be definitely adjudicated to a non-target vessel are considered target vessel-related MI         Non-target vessel-related MI       All MIs which are not target vessel-related MIs         Target lesion revascularization       Any repeat percutaneous intervention of the target lesion or bypass surgery of the target vessel performed for restenosis or other complication of the target lesion. All TLR should be classified prospectively as ischemia-driven or not ischemia-driven by the investigator prior to repeat angiography. An independent angiographic core laboratory should verify that the severity of percent diameter stenosis meets requirements for clinical indication and will overrule in cases where investigator reports are not in agreement. The target lesion is defined as the treated segment from 5 mm proximal to the stent and to 5 mm distal to the stent.         Non-target lesion target vessel revascularization       Any revascularization in the target lesion a lesion other than the target lesion (includes all of the branches of the epicardial coronary artery containing the target lesion)         Target vessel revascularization       TAR				
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containing a target lesion at the time of the	Target vessel revascularization	TLR or Non-TLR TVR		
	Non-target vessel revascularization	Revascularization of any vessel not		
index procedure. This vessel may or may not		containing a target lesion at the time of the		
		index procedure. This vessel may or may not		

	have been treated previously with a non-study		
	device.		
Any revascularization	Any TVR or Non-TVR, whether by PCI or		
	CABG		
Ischemia-driven revascularization	A revascularization is considered ischemia-		
	driven if associated with any of the following:		
	1) Positive functional ischemia study		
	including positive FFR; or 2) Ischemic		
	symptoms and angiographic diameter stenosis		
	$\geq$ 50% by core laboratory QCA; or 3)		
	Angiographic diameter stenosis $\geq$ 70% by core		
	laboratory QCA without angina or a positive		
	functional study.		
Non-ischemia-driven revascularization	A revascularization which is not ischemia-		
	driven.		
	X		
Stent or Scaffold Thrombosis <sup>4</sup>			
Protocol definition of device thrombosis	Definite or probable		
Definite device thrombosis	Requires angiographic or pathologic		
	confirmation. Angiographic confirmation of		
	stent/scaffold thrombosis is defined as the		
	presence of a thrombus that originates in the		
	stent/scaffold or in the segment 5 mm		
	proximal or distal to the stent/scaffold, with at		
	least 1 of the following criteria within a 48-		
	hour time window: 1) acute onset of ischemic		
	symptoms at rest; 2) new ischemic ECG		
	changes that suggest acute ischemia; 3)		
	typical rise and fall in cardiac biomarkers		
	(refer to definition of spontaneous MI); 4)		
	nonocclusive thrombosis (a spheric, ovoid, or		
	irregular noncalcified filling defect or lucency		
	surrounded by contrast material on 3 sides or		
	within a coronary stenosis seen in multiple		
	projections, or persistence of contrast material		
	within the lumen), or a visible embolization		
	of intraluminal material downstream; 5)		
	occlusive thrombus (TIMI 0 or TIMI 1		
	intrastent/scaffold or proximal to a		
	stent/scaffold up to the most adjacent		

	proximal side branch or main branch (if
	originates from the side branch). Pathological
	confirmation of stent/scaffold thrombosis is
	defined as evidence of recent thrombus within
	the stent/scaffold determined at autopsy or via
	examination of tissue retrieved following
	thrombectomy. Note: The incidental
	angiographic documentation of stent/scaffold
	occlusion in the absence of clinical signs or
	symptoms is not considered a confirmed
	stent/scaffold thrombosis (silent occlusion).
Probable device thrombosis	1) any unexplained death within the first 30
	days after intracoronary stent/scaffold
	implantation (note: for patients presenting
	with STEMI, one may consider the exclusion
	of unexplained death within 30 days as
	evidence of probable stent thrombosis); OR
	2) irrespective of the time after the index
	procedure, any MI that is related to
	documented acute ischemia in the territory of
	the implanted stent/scaffold without
	angiographic confirmation of stent/scaffold
	thrombosis and in the absence of any other
	obvious cause
Acute device thrombosis	0 - 24 hours post stent/scaffold implantation
	(note: time 0 is defined as the time point after
5	the guiding catheter has been removed and the
	subject has left the catheterization lab)
Subacute device thrombosis	>24 hours - 30 days post stent/scaffold stent
	implantation
Early device thrombosis	0 - 30 days post stent/scaffold implantation
	(i.e. acute or subacute)
Late device thrombosis	30 days - 1 year post stent/scaffold
	implantation
Very late device thrombosis	>1-year post stent/scaffold implantation
Primary device thrombosis	A stent/scaffold thrombosis of a device which
	had not been re-treated since its original
	implant
	mpan

econdary device thrombosis A stent/scaffold thrombosis after a		
	stent/scaffold revascularization for restenosis	
	or other non-thrombosis related events	
Major adverse cardiovascular events		

The composite of cardiac death, all myocardial infarction, or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization

#### Patient-oriented composite endpoint

The composite of all death, all myocardial infarction, or all revascularization

#### **Target lesion failure**

The composite of cardiac death, myocardial infarction attributable to the target vessel, or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization

### **Target vessel failure**

The composite of cardiac death, all myocardial infarction, or ischemia-driven target vessel revascularization

\*All sites were required to routinely measure CK-MB to assess peri-procedural MI. At least two postprocedure CK-MB draws were required, between 6 and 12 hours post-procedure and between 18 and 24 hours post-procedure. Troponins were not utilized for peri-procedural MI assessment.

1. Modified from Moussa ID, Klein LW, Shah B, et al. Consideration of a new definition of clinically relevant myocardial infarction after coronary revascularization: an expert consensus document from the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI). J Am Coll Cardiol. 2013;62:1563-70.

2. Baseline CK-MB value is required before study procedure and presumes a typical rise and fall post procedure to diagnose a peri procedure MI.

 Whenever at least one baseline and one post procedure CK-MB measure are available in a patient with stable CAD, adjudication of MI will be based solely on these biomarker values. If the patient has stable ischemic heart disease and the baseline CK-MB measures are not available, they will be assumed to be within normal limits and MI will be adjudicated by the CEC solely according to the post procedure CK-MB measures.
 From Cutlip DE, Windecker S, Mehran R, et al. Clinical end points in coronary stent trials: a case for standardized definitions. Circulation. 2007;115:2344-51.

CK-MB, creatine kinase, MB fraction; ECG, electrocardiography; ID, ischemia-driven; LBBB, left bundle branch block; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; MI, myocardial infarction; Non-TLR TVR, nontarget lesion target vessel revascularization; Non-TVR, non-target vessel revascularization; POCE, patient oriented composite endpoint; TLF, target lesion failure; TLR, target lesion revascularization; TV, target vessel; TVF, target vessel failure; TVR, target vessel; ULN, upper limits of the local laboratory normal (collected from each hospital laboratory prior to study commencement).

Reprinted from Stone GW, Ellis SG, Gori T, et al. Blinded outcomes and angina assessment of coronary bioresorbable scaffolds: 30-day and 1-year results from the ABSORB IV randomised trial. Lancet. 2018;392:1530-1540.

	Absorb BVS	Xience CoCr-EES	<b>P-value</b>
During procedure			
Per patient	N=1296	N=1308	
- Bivalirudin use	344/1296 (26.5%)	362/1308 (27.7%)	0.52
- Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor use	174/1296 (13.4%)	165/1308 (12.6%)	0.54
- Cangrelor use	4/1296 (0.3%)	6/1308 (0.5%)	0.75
Number of vessels treated*	$1.1\pm0.3$	$1.1 \pm 0.3$	0.64
- 1	1128/1292 (87.3%)	1135/1307 (86.8%)	0.72
- 2	164/1292 (12.7%)	170/1307 (13.0%)	0.81
- 3	0/1292 (0%)	2/1307 (0.2%)	0.50
Number of lesions treated*	$1.2 \pm 0.4$	$1.2 \pm 0.5$	0.66
- 1	1049/1292 (81.2%)	1061/1307 (81.2%)	0.99
- 2	226/1292 (17.5%)	220/1307 (16.8%)	0.66
- ≥3	17/1292 (1.3%)	26/1307 (2.0%)	0.18
Any assigned study device implanted	1236/1296 (95.4%)	1299/1308 (99.3%)	< 0.0001
Only assigned study devices implanted	1200/1296 (92.6%)	1298/1308 (99.3%)	< 0.0001
Any unassigned device implanted	90/1296 (6.9%)	7/1308 (0.5%)	< 0.0001
Only unassigned devices implanted	54/1296 (4.2%)	6/1308 (0.5%)	< 0.0001
Unplanned overlapping devices	76/1296 (5.9%)	60/1308 (4.6%)	0.14
Pre-dilatation performed	1291/1292 (99.9%)	1304/1307 (99.8%)	0.62
Post-dilatation performed	1088/1290 (84.3%)	714/1305 (54.7%)	< 0.0001
Intravascular imaging guidance	201/1291 (15.6%)	167/1306 (12.8%)	0.04
Procedure duration (min)	$46.2\pm25.2$	$38.1 \pm 21.1$	< 0.0001
Per lesion	L=1446	L=1457	
- Total study device length (mm)	$20.5\pm8.3$	$20.1\pm7.9$	0.25
- Maximum device <sup>†</sup> diameter (mm)	$3.22\pm0.44$	$3.16\pm0.44$	< 0.0001
- Maximum device <sup>†</sup> /vessel diameter ratio	$1.12\pm0.12$	$1.10\pm0.11$	< 0.0001
- Post-dilatation performed	1195/1446 (82.6%)	788/1457 (54.1%)	< 0.0001
- Maximum device <sup>†</sup> pressure (atm.)	$16.3 \pm 3.1$	$15.9 \pm 3.1$	0.002
- Device success	1347/1424 (94.6%)	1436/1450 (99.0%)	< 0.0001
Post-procedure			
Per patient	N=1,296	N=1,308	

# Table S4. Procedural outcomes in the randomized groups

- Procedure success	1203/1282 (93.8%)	1250/1303 (95.9%)	0.02
Per vessel (core laboratory)	V=1368	V=1382	
- TIMI flow			
- 0/1	1/1360 (0.1%)	0/1369 (0%)	0.50
- 2	25/1360 (1.8%)	28/1369 (2.0%)	0.70
- 3	1334/1360 (98.1%)	1341/1369 (98.0%)	0.80
Per lesion (core laboratory)	L=1446	L=1457	
- In-device measures			
- Acute gain (mm)	$1.85\pm0.46$	$1.92\pm0.46$	< 0.0001
- Minimum luminal diameter (mm)	$2.66\pm0.39$	$2.74\pm0.41$	< 0.0001
- Diameter stenosis (%)	$9.9 \pm 8.3$	$7.2 \pm 7.9$	< 0.0001
- In-segment measures			
- Acute gain (mm)	$1.59 \pm 0.47$	$1.60\pm0.46$	0.72
- Minimum luminal diameter (mm)	$2.41\pm0.40$	$2.41\pm0.41$	0.71
- Diameter stenosis (%)	$18.6\pm8.5$	$18.2\pm8.4$	0.26

\*Randomized target lesions (or vessels) plus non-randomized non-target lesions (or vessels). <sup>†</sup>Stent or scaffold or post-dilatation balloon. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = everolimus-eluting stents. N = number of patients. V = number of vessels. L = number of target lesions. Reprinted from Stone GW, Ellis SG, Gori T, et al. Blinded outcomes and angina assessment of coronary bioresorbable scaffolds: 30-day and 1-year results from the ABSORB IV randomised trial. Lancet. 2018;392:1530-1540.

	At discharge			At 1 year		
Quartice	Absorb BVS	Xience CoCr-EES	P-	Absorb BVS	Xience CoCr-EES	P-
Question	(N=1296)	(N=1308)	value	(N=1296)	(N=1308)	value
Do you think you know which device you received?						
- Yes	133/1206 (11.0%)	114/1207 (9.4%)	0.20	183/993 (18.4%)	169/1031 (16.4%)	0.23
- No	1073/1206 (89.0%)	1093/1207 (90.6%)	0.20	810/993 (81.6%)	862/1031 (83.6%)	0.23
If yes, which device do you think you received?						
- Standard metal stent	14/127 (11.0%)	6/111 (5.5%)	0.12	21/180 (11.7%)	28/160 (17.5%)	0.13
- Temporary dissolving stent	113/127 (89.0%)	105/111 (94.6%)	0.12	159/180 (88.3%)	132/160 (82.5%)	0.13
If yes, are you certain?		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~				
- Yes	32/126 (25.4%)	39/111 (35.1%)	0.10	92/178 (51.7%)	60/161 (37.3%)	0.008
- No	94/126 (74.6%)	72/111 (64.9%)	0.10	86/178 (48.3%)	101/161 (62.7%)	0.008
If yes, why do you think you know?	.0.					
- I was told by/overheard the doctor who did the procedure	16/130 (12.3%)	15/110 (13.6%)	0.76	28/179 (15.6%)	20/168 (11.9%)	0.31
- I was told by/overheard another person in the procedure room/cath lab	13/130 (10.0%)	10/110 (9.1%)	0.81	13/179 (7.3%)	9/168 (5.4%)	0.47
- I was told by/overheard another person in the hospital before discharge	6/130 (4.6%)	7/110 (6.4%)	0.55	7/179 (3.9%)	11/168 (6.5%)	0.27
- I was told by/overheard a family member or friend who was told	5/130 (3.8%)	0/110 (0%)	0.04	6/179 (3.4%)	0/168 (0%)	0.02
- I believe so because I am feeling better	24/130 (18.5%)	16/110 (14.5%)	0.42	18/179 (10.1%)	17/168 (10.1%)	0.98
- I believe so because I am not feeling better	0/130 (0%)	0/110 (0%)	-	1/179 (0.6%)	3/168 (1.8%)	0.28
- Other*	66/130 (50.8%)	62/110 (56.4%)	0.39	106/179 (59.2%)	108/168 (64.3%)	0.33

## Table S5. Results of the blinding and perception questionnaire at discharge and 1 year

\*Most common reason given was guess/hope/intuition. Reprinted from Stone GW, Ellis SG, Gori T, et al. Blinded outcomes and angina assessment of coronary bioresorbable scaffolds: 30-day and 1-year results from the ABSORB IV randomised trial. Lancet. 2018;392:1530-1540.

	Absorb BVS (n=1296)	Xience CoCr-EES (n=1308)	Difference (95% CI)	P value	
Aspirin		(== ====;	(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Total days taking, mean ± SD	$1615\pm465$	$1627\pm454$	-12 [-48, 23]	0.50	
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	1285/1287 (99.8%)	1295/1301 (99.5%)		0.29	
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	1216/1238 (98.2%)	1236/1259 (98.2%)		0.93	
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	1174/1209 (97.1%)	1191/1232 (96.7%)		0.54	
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	1121/1174 (95.5%)	1147/1204 (95.3%)		0.80	
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	1075/1140 (94.3%)	1105/1163 (95.0%)		0.45	
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	1024/1099 (93.2%)	1064/1118 (95.2%)		0.045	
P2Y12 inhibitor					
Total days taking, mean ± SD	$1101\pm655$	$1110\pm656$	-9 [-60, 41]	0.72	
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	1280/1287 (99.5%)	1295/1301 (99.5%)		0.77	
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	1147/1238 (92.6%)	1185/1259 (94.1%)		0.14	
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	740/1209 (61.2%)	752/1232 (61.0%)		0.93	
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	646/1174 (55.0%)	653/1204 (54.2%)		0.70	
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	582/1140 (51.1%)	598/1163 (51.4%)		0.86	
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	538/1099 (49.0%)	555/1118 (49.6%)		0.75	
Dual anti-platelet therapy					
Total days taking, mean ± SD	$1070\pm652$	$1076\pm655$	-6 [-57, 44]	0.81	
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	1279/1287 (99.4%)	1289/1301 (99.1%)		0.38	
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	1133/1238 (91.5%)	1170/1259 (92.9%)		0.19	
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	720/1209 (59.6%)	732/1232 (59.4%)		0.94	
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	616/1174 (52.5%)	620/1204 (51.5%)		0.63	
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	551/1140 (48.3%)	562/1163 (48.3%)		1.00	
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	504/1099 (45.9%)	520/1118 (46.5%)		0.76	
Chronic oral anticoagulation					
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	13/1287 (1.0%)	8/1301 (0.6%)		0.26	
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	22/1238 (1.8%)	17/1259 (1.4%)		0.39	

# Table S6. Medication use through 5-year follow-up

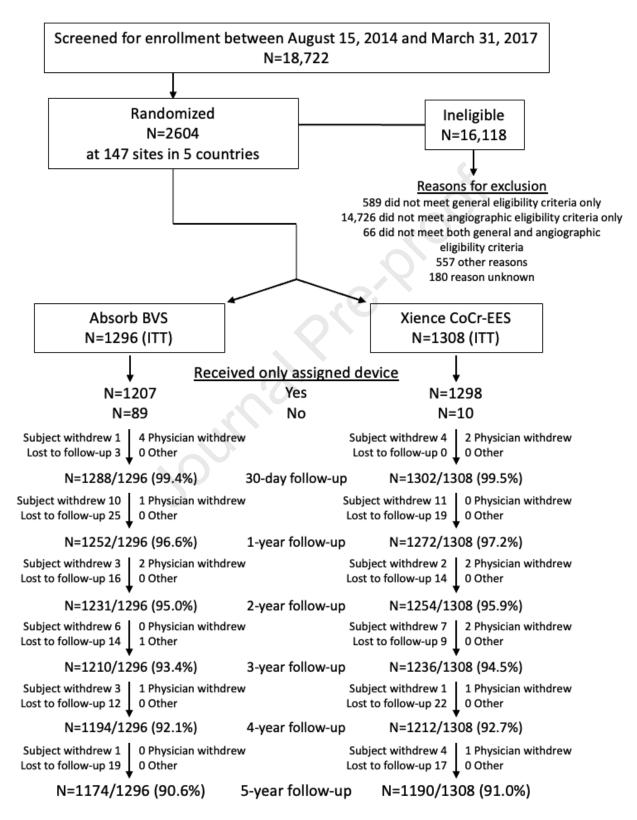
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	32/1209 (2.6%)	28/1232 (2.3%)	0.55
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	46/1174 (3.9%)	38/1204 (3.2%)	0.31
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	56/1140 (4.9%)	44/1163 (3.8%)	0.18
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	63/1099 (5.7%)	48/1118 (4.3%)	0.12
Angiotensin converting enzym	ne inhibitors, angiotensi	n receptor blockers or renin inhil	bitors
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	835/1287 (64.9%)	833/1301 (64.0%)	0.65
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	791/1238 (63.9%)	791/1259 (62.8%)	0.58
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	757/1209 (62.6%)	773/1232 (62.7%)	0.95
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	720/1174 (61.3%)	745/1204 (61.9%)	0.78
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	699/1140 (61.3%)	723/1163 (62.2%)	0.67
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	673/1099 (61.2%)	696/1118 (62.3%)	0.62
Beta-blocker			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	915/1287 (71.1%)	924/1301 (71.0%)	0.97
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	827/1238 (66.8%)	860/1259 (68.3%)	0.42
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	800/1209 (66.2%)	812/1232 (65.9%)	0.89
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	764/1174 (65.1%)	777/1204 (64.5%)	0.78
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	735/1140 (64.5%)	757/1163 (65.1%)	0.76
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	702/1099 (63.9%)	739/1118 (66.1%)	0.27
Calcium channel blocker			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	261/1287 (20.3%)	276/1301 (21.2%)	0.56
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	275/1238 (22.2%)	267/1259 (21.2%)	0.54
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	270/1209 (22.3%)	279/1232 (22.6%)	0.85
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	268/1174 (22.8%)	279/1204 (23.2%)	0.84
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	261/1140 (22.9%)	275/1163 (23.6%)	0.67
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	252/1099 (22.9%)	276/1118 (24.7%)	0.33
Nitrates			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	407/1287 (31.6%)	399/1301 (30.7%)	0.60
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	394/1238 (31.8%)	403/1259 (32.0%)	0.92
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	388/1209 (32.1%)	397/1232 (32.2%)	0.94
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	389/1174 (33.1%)	389/1204 (32.3%)	0.67

Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	392/1140 (34.4%)	375/1163 (32.2%)	0.28
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	370/1099 (33.7%)	364/1118 (32.6%)	0.58
Ranolazine			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	11/1287 (0.9%)	19/1301 (1.5%)	0.15
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	19/1238 (1.5%)	26/1259 (2.1%)	0.32
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	22/1209 (1.8%)	29/1232 (2.4%)	0.36
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	19/1174 (1.6%)	27/1204 (2.2%)	0.27
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	18/1140 (1.6%)	30/1163 (2.6%)	0.09
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	16/1099 (1.5%)	27/1118 (2.4%)	0.10
Statin			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	1125/1287 (87.4%)	1163/1301 (89.4%)	0.12
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	1060/1238 (85.6%)	1099/1259 (87.3%)	0.22
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	1027/1209 (84.9%)	1068/1232 (86.7%)	0.22
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	996/1174 (84.8%)	1040/1204 (86.4%)	0.28
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	965/1140 (84.6%)	1002/1163 (86.2%)	0.31
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	928/1099 (84.4%)	961/1118 (86.0%)	0.31
Other lipid-lowering agent			
Use on day 30 (1 month)*	136/1287 (10.6%)	129/1301 (9.9%)	0.58
Use on day 365 (1 year)*	133/1238 (10.7%)	147/1259 (11.7%)	0.46
Use on day 730 (2 years)*	138/1209 (11.4%)	150/1232 (12.2%)	0.56
Use on day 1095 (3 years)*	137/1174 (11.7%)	154/1204 (12.8%)	0.40
Use on day 1460 (4 years)*	139/1140 (12.2%)	160/1163 (13.8%)	0.26
Use on day 1825 (5 years)*	141/1099 (12.8%)	165/1118 (14.8%)	0.19

 $*\pm7$  day window. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = everolimus-eluting stents.

#### Figure S1. Patient screening, randomization and follow-up

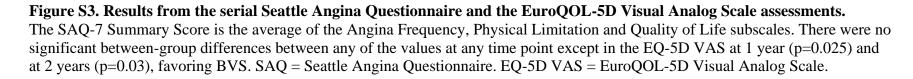
BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents. ITT = intention-to-treat.



#### Figure S2. Subgroup analyses for the 5-year rate of target lesion failure.

Event rates under the BVS and CoCr-EES columns in parentheses are Kaplan-Meier estimates (%), so differ from the number of events within 5 years (numerator) divided by the number of patients at risk at time 0 (denominator). The P-value for interaction (P [Int]) represents the likelihood of interaction between the variable and the relative treatment effect. Patients with multiple target lesions were categorized into the vessel with either the smallest RVD or the longest lesion. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents. ACS = acute coronary syndrome. CAD = coronary artery disease. RVD = reference vessel diameter

Target Lesion Failure at 5 years	BVS N=1296	CoCr-EES N=1308	1	Hazard Ratio [95% Cl]	P [Int]
All Patients (n=2604)	216/1296 (17.5%)	180/1308 (14.5%)	<b>⊢</b> ●-,	1.24 [1.02, 1.52]	
Age, years (median)					
≥ 63.0 (n=1375)	127/709 (18.5%)	92/666 (14.6%)	<b>⊢_●</b>	1.32 [1.01,1.73]	0.49
< 63.0 (n=1229)	89/587 (16.4%)	88/642 (14.4%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.15 [0.86,1.54]	0.45
Sex					
Female (n=730)	65/369 (18.5%)	52/361 (15.1%)	·	1.28 [0.89,1.85]	0.83
Male (n=1874)	151/927 (17.1%)	128/947 (14.2%)	<b>⊢</b> ●−1	1.23 [0.97,1.55]	0.05
Diabetes Status					
Diabetes (n=826)	80/409 (20.9%)	76/417 (19.5%)	<b>⊢●</b> −1	1.10 [0.80,1.50]	0.31
No Diabetes (n=1776)	136/887 (16.0%)	104/889 (12.2%)	<b>⊢</b> ●−1	1.35 [1.04,1.74]	0.51
Clinical Syndrome					
Stable CAD (n=1980)	168/983 (17.9%)	130/997 (13.7%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.35 [1.07,1.69]	0.18
Biomarker Positive ACS (n=622)	48/311 (16.4%)	50/311 (17.0%)	<b>⊢</b>	0.99 [0.66,1.46]	0.18
Number of Treated Lesions					
1 (n=2110)	162/1049 (16.2%)	138/1061 (13.7%)	<b>⊢</b> ●1	1.21 [0.96,1.52]	0.52
≥ 2 (n=489)	54/243 (23.3%)	41/246 (17.5%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.41 [0.94,2.12]	0.52
Minimum RVD, mm (median)					
< 2.86 (n=1284)	112/630 (18.7%)	92/654 (15.0%)		1.31 [1.00,1.73]	0.65
≥ 2.86 (n=1306)	104/657 (16.5%)	87/649 (13.9%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.20 [0.90,1.59]	0.05
Lesion Length, mm (median)					
< 14.79 (n=1285)	92/637 (15.2%)	83/648 (13.5%)	<b>⊢−</b> −1	1.15 [0.85,1.55]	0.41
≥ 14.79 (n=1288)	123/639 (20.1%)	95/649 (15.4%)	<b>⊢</b> −−−1	1.36 [1.04,1.77]	0.41
Smallest Device Implanted,					
≤ 2.5 (n=612)	64/314 (21.7%)	41/298 (14.8%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.57 [1.06,2.32]	
2.75 - 3.0 (n=1109)	92/526 (18.2%)	83/583 (14.8%)	<b>⊢</b> 1	1.27 [0.95,1.71]	0.10
≥ 3.25 (n=817)	50/399 (13.1%)	53/418 (13.3%)	<b>⊢</b>	0.98 [0.67,1.44]	
Total Device Length Implanted, mm (tertil	es)				
< 18 (n=611)	31/229 (14.3%)	46/382 (12.6%)	⊢ <b>−</b> −−1	1.15 [0.73,1.82]	
≥ 18 - < 23 (n=961)	89/587 (15.8%)	48/374 (13.5%)	<b>⊢</b>	1.21 [0.85,1.71]	0.43
≥ 23 (n=966)	86/423 (21.3%)	83/543 (16.1%)	<b>└──●</b> ──'	1.37 [1.02,1.86]	
	0.1	0.2	0.5 1.0 2.0	5.0	



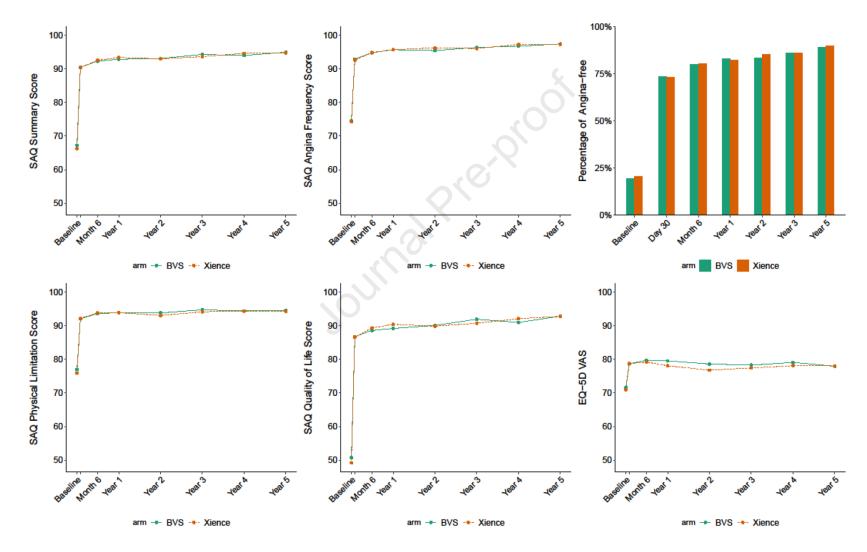
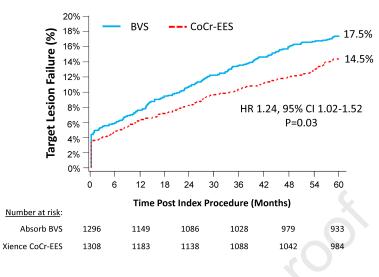


Figure 1A



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Figure 1B

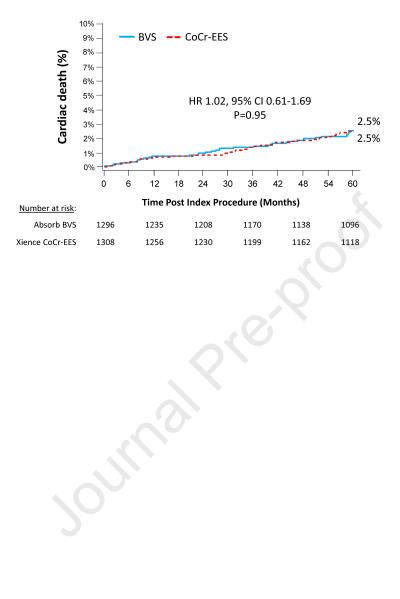
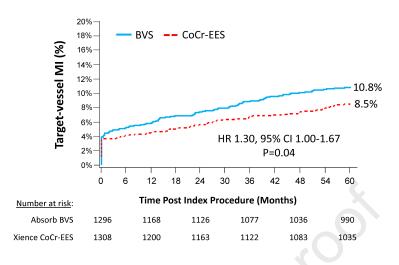
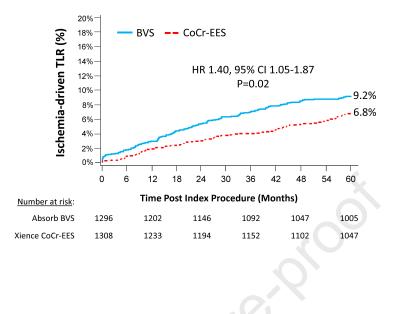


Figure 1C



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Figure 1D



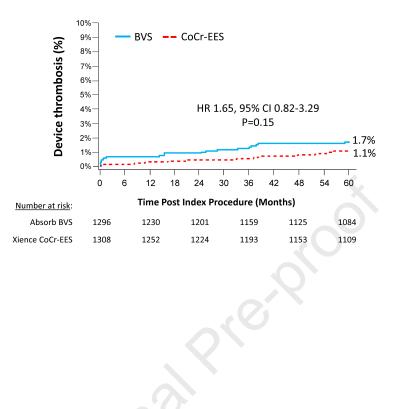
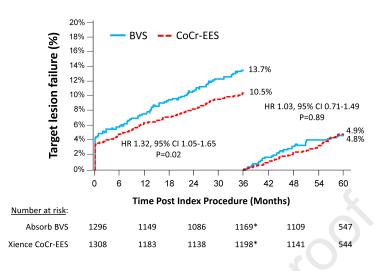
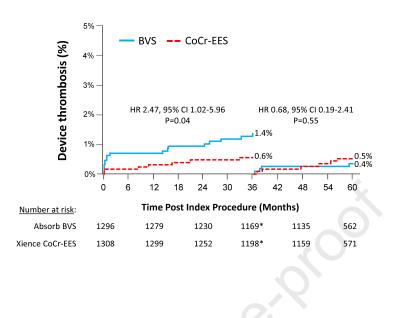


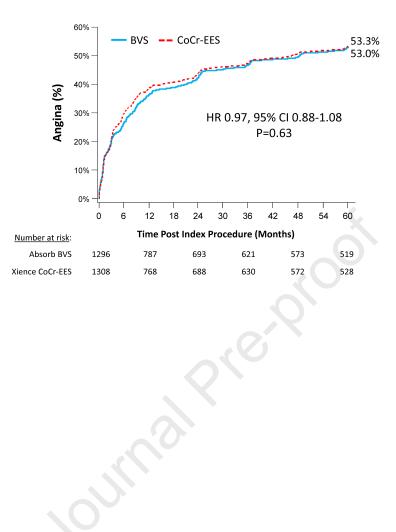
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Five-Year Clinical Outcomes After Coronary Bioresorbable Scaffolds and Drug-Eluting Stents: The ABSORB IV Randomized Trial

**Brief title: Late Outcomes of Bioresorbable Scaffolds** 

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\*The investigators, institutions and research organizations participating in A Clinical Evaluation of Absorb<sup>™</sup> BVS, the Everolimus Eluting Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold in the Treatment of Subjects with de novo Native Coronary Artery Lesions (ABSORB IV) trial are listed in reference 12.

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## Abstract

**Background.** Bioresorbable vascular scaffolds (BVS) were designed to improve late event-free survival compared with metallic drug-eluting stents. However, initial trials demonstrated worse early outcomes with BVS, in part due to suboptimal technique. In the large-scale, blinded ABSORB IV trial, polymeric everolimus-eluting BVS implanted with improved technique demonstrated non-inferior 1-year outcomes compared with cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents (CoCr-EES).

**Objectives.** To evaluate the long-term outcomes from the ABSORB IV trial.

**Methods.** We randomized 2,604 patients at 147 sites with stable or acute coronary syndromes to BVS with improved technique vs. CoCr-EES. Patients, clinical assessors and event adjudicators were blinded to randomization. Five-year follow-up was completed.

**Results.** Target lesion failure (TLF) at 5 years occurred in 216 patients (17.5%) assigned to BVS and 180 patients (14.5%) assigned to CoCr-EES (P=0.03). Device thrombosis within 5 years occurred in 21 (1.7%) BVS and 13 (1.1%) CoCr-EES patients (P=0.15). Event rates were slightly greater with BVS than CoCr-EES through 3-year follow-up and similar between 3-5 years. Angina, also centrally adjudicated, recurred within 5 years in 659 patients (cumulative rate 53.0%) assigned to BVS and 674 patients (53.3%) assigned to CoCr-EES (P=0.63).

**Conclusions.** In this large-scale, blinded randomized trial, despite improved implantation technique the absolute 5-year rate of TLF was 3% greater after BVS compared with CoCr-EES. The risk period for increased events was restricted to 3 years, the time point of complete scaffold bioresorption; event rates were similar thereafter. Angina recurrence after intervention was frequent during 5-year follow-up but was comparable with both devices.

**Condensed abstract:** To determine whether the long-term outcomes of first-generation polymeric bioresorbable vascular scaffolds (BVS) implanted with improved technique are similar to contemporary metallic drug-eluting stents, we performed a blinded randomized trial in which 2,604 patients were assigned to BVS with improved technique vs. cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents (CoCr-EES). At 5-year follow-up, rates of target lesion failure (TLF) were higher with BVS than CoCr-EES (17.5% vs. 14.5%, P=0.03). TLF and device thrombosis rates were greater with BVS than CoCr-EES through 3-year follow-up and similar between 3-5 years. Angina recurred frequently within 5 years but was similar with both devices.

**Key words:** Stent, bioresorbable scaffold, randomized trial, coronary artery disease, prognosis, angina

### Abbreviations

ACS = acute coronary syndromes

- BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds
- CoCr-EES = cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents.
- DES = drug-eluting stents
- ID-TLR = ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization
- MACE = major adverse cardiac events
- MI = myocardial infarction.
- PoCE = patient-oriented composite endpoint
- TLF = target lesion failure
- TVF = target vessel failure

Clinical Trial: ClinicalTrials.gov number NCT02173379

Journal Pre-proof

## Introduction

Metallic drug-eluting stents (DES) prevent recoil and inhibit restenosis within the first year after coronary artery implantation, thereby improving outcomes in patients with coronary artery disease. However, metallic DES permanently cage the coronary artery, impair cyclic pulsatility and vasomotion, and serve as a rigid frame within which neointimal proliferation and neoatherosclerosis may develop, chronically narrowing the stent lumen. Longitudinal studies have demonstrated an ongoing  $\sim 2\%$  per year rate of very late (>1-year) metallic stent-related adverse events (restenosis and less commonly stent thrombosis) that continues for at least 15 years.<sup>1,2</sup> Drug-eluting bioresorbable vascular scaffolds (BVS) were designed to provide the early mechanical support functions of a metallic DES and then completely resorb over the next several years, normalizing vascular structure and function and removing the nidus for very late adverse events.<sup>3,4</sup> BVS have also been shown to "un-jail" covered side branches, "un-jacket" long treated segments (restoring late surgical options), "un-layer" treated in-stent restenosis, eliminate artifacts with non-invasive imaging (e.g. computed tomographic angiography), and address individual patients' cultural, religious, or personal preferences to avoid a permanent implant.<sup>3</sup> One early randomized trial even reported lower rates of recurrent angina with BVS compared with DES, although the lack of blinding led to uncertainty regarding this post hoc finding.<sup>5</sup>

The most widely studied bioresorbable scaffold is the Absorb everolimus-eluting poly(Llactide) BVS. Unfortunately, most randomized trials demonstrated an increase in early adverse event rates with this device compared with metallic DES.<sup>3,4,6-8</sup> This risk was limited to the first 3 years after BVS implantation, coinciding with the time of its complete bioresorption; thereafter, event rates were similar with BVS and DES.<sup>9</sup> The higher 3-year event rates with BVS have been attributed to suboptimal mechanical properties of the first-generation scaffold (thick struts (~157

μm), limited expansion range with propensity to fracture, and greater recoil). Suboptimal implantation technique has also contributed to increased adverse event rates with BVS. Specifically, BVS outcomes were improved if vessels were appropriately sized (avoiding very small (<2.25 mm) or very large (>4.0 mm) reference vessel diameters [RVD]), if lesion pre-dilatation and preparation were adequate, and if post-dilatation was routinely performed at high-pressure with non-compliant balloons.<sup>10,11</sup>

To address these issues, we performed the ABSORB IV trial, the largest (n=2,604) randomized trial of any BVS vs. metallic DES to date.<sup>12</sup> Novel aspects of this trial included: 1) active investigator training and monitoring during patient recruitment to ensure patients with very small (or large) target vessels were not enrolled; 2) mandatory target lesion pre-dilatation and strong recommendation for high-pressure non-compliant balloon post-dilatation; 3) inclusion of patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) who typically have soft, lipid-rich lesions that might respond well to BVS;<sup>13-15</sup> 4) frequent assessment and adjudication of all possible angina and anginal equivalent symptoms; and 5) blinding of all patients, their families, research and healthcare personnel and outcomes assessors after the procedure completion to minimize bias. Early results from this trial demonstrated that the Absorb poly(L-lactide) everolimus-eluting BVS was non-inferior to the Xience cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stent (CoCr-EES) at 30 days and 1 year for target lesion failure (TLF) and angina.<sup>12</sup> Longer-term outcomes from this trial have not been described. We herein report the final 5-year outcomes from the ABSORB IV randomized trial.

## Methods

**Study design.** ABSORB IV was a multicenter, blinded, active-treatment-controlled randomized trial that enrolled patients from 5 countries (U.S., Canada, Germany, Australia, and

Singapore). The study organization and participating centers have been previously reported<sup>12</sup> and are listed in the Appendix. The protocol was designed by the principal investigators and sponsor (Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, CA), in concert with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The study protocol was approved by the institutional review board or ethics committee at each participating center. The sponsor funded the trial, was involved in protocol design, site selection and management, and data analysis. The principal investigators had unrestricted data access, prepared the manuscript and vouch for the accuracy and completeness of the reported data. The ABSORB IV trial is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01751906.

Patients, procedures, blinding and follow-up. Complete inclusion and exclusion criteria are shown in Appendix Table S1. Patients  $\geq$ 18 years of age with stable ischemic heart disease or ACS (unstable angina, non-ST-segment elevation MI or recent ST-segment elevation MI undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) of one, two or three *de novo* native coronary artery lesions in up to two epicardial coronary arteries were enrolled. Each lesion was  $\leq$ 24 mm in length and had RVD 2.5-3.75 mm by visual assessment. Eligible patients were randomized to receive the Absorb BVS or Xience CoCr-EES (both Abbott Vascular). The PCI procedure has been previously described.<sup>12</sup> BVS pre-dilatation was mandatory, and high-pressure post-dilatation with a non-compliant balloon sized up to 0.5 mm larger than the nominal scaffold diameter was strongly encouraged. Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) was continued for at least one year, and aspirin indefinitely.

Patients were blinded to randomization arm by use of conscious sedation and musicplaying headphones. Clinical follow-up was performed by blinded personnel not present at the index procedure. The success of blinding was assessed at discharge and 1 year by administration of a patient blinding questionnaire.<sup>12</sup> Clinical follow-up was performed at 30 days, 1 year and

then annually through 5 years. In addition to standard clinical assessments, at each follow-up visit patients were asked detailed questions about the presence, frequency, characteristics, severity and inciting features of all possible angina or anginal equivalent symptoms at any time since the last visit using a custom 6-page script, as previously described.<sup>12</sup> Quality-of-life (QoL) was also assessed at baseline, 6 months and then at each annual visit with the Seattle Angina Questionnaire (SAQ)-7 and the EuroQOL-5D Visual Analog Scale (EQ-5D VAS).

**Outcomes.** Cardiac events and angina classification and severity were adjudicated by an independent clinical events committee (CEC) blinded to treatment assignment. The primary endpoint was TLF, a composite of cardiac death, target-vessel myocardial infraction (MI) or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization (ID-TLR) at 30 days. Major secondary endpoints were TLF and adjudicated angina at 1 year, the latter consisting of typical angina or anginal equivalent symptoms. Other composite measures assessed included target vessel failure (TVF), major adverse cardiac events (MACE), and the patient-oriented composite endpoint (PoCE). The components of these and other pre-specified secondary endpoints and detailed endpoint definitions are listed in Appendix Tables S2 and S3.

**Statistical analysis.** An intended sample size of 2600 patients was sufficient to determine whether BVS was non-inferior to CoCr-EES for the primary endpoint of 30-day TLF, as previously described.<sup>12</sup> Secondary endpoints through 5-year follow-up, the subject of the present report, were not specifically powered. Categorical variables were compared by Chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test. Continuous variables were compared by t-test. All principal analyses were performed in the intention-to-treat population, consisting of all patients randomized, regardless of treatment received. Time-to-first event rates were estimated using Kaplan-Meier methodology and compared by log-rank test. Hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were

calculated from a univariable Cox model. Consistency of device treatment effects for TLF at 5 years was examined with formal interaction testing in relevant subgroups. Landmark analysis was performed at 3 years to determine whether relative device effects varied before and after 3 years, the timepoint of complete BVS bioresorption, as previously described.<sup>9</sup> A two-sided P-value <0.05 was considered significant for all superiority testing. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS v9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

## Results

Patients and procedures. Between August 15, 2014, and March 31, 2017, 2604 patients were randomized at 147 sites to Absorb BVS (n=1296) or Xience CoCr-EES (n=1308) (Appendix Figure S1). The baseline clinical and angiographic characteristics of the groups were well matched (Table 1). Procedural outcomes are shown in Appendix Table S4. Only 78/2893 (2.7%) treated lesions had a RVD <2.25 mm by quantitative coronary analysis. Pre-dilatation and post-dilatation were performed in 1291/1292 (99.9%) and 1088/1290 (84.3%) of BVS-treated lesions respectively. Maximum device to vessel diameter ratios were greater with BVS than CoCr-EES, as was maximum device pressure. Nonetheless, mean in-device acute gain was lower and residual diameter stenosis was higher with BVS compared with CoCr-EES, and device and procedural success rates were correspondingly lower in the BVS group. Intravascular imaging guidance was used in only 201/1291 (15.6%) BVS and 167/1306 (12.8%) CoCr-EES procedures (P=0.04).

**Clinical outcomes.** As previously reported,<sup>12</sup> most patients were effectively blinded to their treatment assignment at discharge and 1 year (Appendix Table S5). Five-year follow-up was complete in 1174 (90.6%) BVS patients and in 1190 (91.0%) CoCr-EES patients (Appendix

Figure S1). Use of anti-platelet, anti-anginal and lipid-lowering agents were similar with both devices during follow-up (Appendix Table S6).

Five-year outcomes are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. TLF at 5 years occurred in 216 patients (Kaplan-Meier rate 17.5%) assigned to BVS and 180 patients (14.5%) assigned to CoCr-EES (HR 1.24, 95% CI 1.02-1.52, P=0.03). This difference was driven by increased rates of target-vessel MI and ID-TLR after BVS, whereas the 5-year rates of cardiac and all-cause death after BVS and CoCr-EES were similar. There were no significant differences in the rates of TVF, MACE or the PoCE among patients treated with BVS compared with CoCr-EES. Nor were there significant differences in the rates of device thrombosis within 5 years after BVS and CoCr-EES (21 events (1.7%) vs. 13 (1.1%) events respectively, HR 1.65, 95% CI 0.82-3.29; P=0.15).

In landmark analysis, TLF and device thrombosis rates were higher with BVS compared with CoCr-EES within the first 3 years after treatment, and similar between 3 and 5 years (Figure 2). The relative hazards of BVS vs CoCr-EES for the 5-year rate of TLF were consistent across all pre-specified subgroups (Appendix Figure S2).

Angina recurrence and quality-of-life. By 5 years, adjudicated angina or angina equivalent symptoms had recurred in 659 patients treated with BVS (53.0%) and in 674 patients (53.3%) treated with CoCr-EES (HR 0.97, 95% CI 0.88-1.08; P=0.63) (Figure 3 and Table 3). The rates of angina at each annual follow-up visit were substantially less but again did not differ between the two devices (Table 4). Nor were there differences in the SAQ overall summary or component scores or the EuroQOL-5D between BVS and CoCr-EES (Appendix Figure S3). Discussion

In the blinded randomized ABSORB IV trial, the largest randomized trial of BVS to date, polymeric everolimus-eluting Absorb BVS implanted in an expanded patient population and with improved lesion selection and technique (compared with most prior studies) were noninferior to Xience CoCr-EES for the rates of TLF at 30 days and TLF and recurrent angina at 1 year.<sup>12</sup> With follow-up now complete through 5 years, the principal long-term outcomes from this trial (as summarized in the Central Illustration) are as follows: 1) Patients treated with BVS had higher 5-year rates of TLF compared with CoCr-EES (3.0% absolute difference), driven by increased rates of TV-MI and ID-TLR, although the risk period for TLF was confined to the first 3 years; 2) In contrast, the 5-year rates of other composite outcomes, including TVF, MACE and the PoCE, were not significantly higher with BVS compared with CoCr-EES; 3) Overall 5-year device thrombosis rates were also not significantly different with BVS compared with CoCr-EES, although device thrombosis rates were 0.8% higher within 3 years after treatment and then similar thereafter; 4) Adjudicated typical angina or anginal equivalent symptoms recurred in >50% of patients within 5 years after PCI in this trial, although with nearly identical frequency between BVS and CoCr-EES; and 5) Conversely, the rates of typical angina or anginal equivalent symptoms measured at any discrete time point were much lower (<10%), but again were similar after BVS and CoCr-EES; 6) QoL measures during 5-year follow-up as assessed by the SAQ and the EuroQOL-5D were also similar between devices.

In the present study BVS were evaluated in an expanded patient population enriched with ACS (~50% of patients) and compared with the prior ABSORB trials were implanted with improved lesion selection and techniques based on insights from earlier studies.<sup>10</sup> While the 5-year rates of TLF remained higher with BVS than CoCr-EES, the absolute difference was only 3.0%, a relatively modest increase given the 5-year timeframe. In addition, other commonly used

composite endpoints that reflect overall patient outcomes, including MACE, TVF and PoCE, were not significantly different between the devices, occurring in only ~2% more patients within 5 years treated with BVS. Improved patient and lesion selection (especially the near elimination of lesions with RVD <2.25 mm, the leading cause of adverse outcomes with the Absorb BVS in prior trials),<sup>10</sup> and optimized technique (including routine lesion preparation and high-pressure post-dilatation in ~85% of lesions) were likely responsible for these improved results.

Similar to that reported from four prior ABSORB randomized trials, the risk period for BVS in ABSORB IV ended at 3 years, the approximate time of complete bioresorption of the scaffold.<sup>9</sup> Within this initial 3-year period TLF and device thrombosis occurred in 3.2% and 0.8% more patients treated with BVS than CoCr-EES. BVS outcomes in this 3-year risk period may be further improved by the routine use of intravascular imaging, which was used to guide scaffold implantation in only 15.6% of BVS patients. Intravascular imaging may improve outcomes even more so with BVS than with metallic DES by ensuring both 1) maximal device expansion, and 2) acute scaffold apposition to the vessel wall, thereby promoting endothelial coverage of the resorbable struts which may prevent intraluminal scaffold dismantling during bulk erosion, the leading cause of the excess risk of thrombosis with BVS.<sup>16,17</sup> DAPT use at 3 years was 48% in both groups. While the administration of DAPT for 3 years in all BVS patients may be considered, prolonged DAPT beyond 1 year has not been associated with decreased scaffold thrombosis.<sup>18</sup>

Despite improved lesion selection and implantation technique in the present study, the indevice acute gain was less and the residual diameter stenosis was greater after BVS compared with CoCr-EES, likely contributing to the increased risk of events prior to complete scaffold bioresorption. Outcomes would likely be improved with scaffolds with better expansion

characteristics and lower recoil than the first generation BVS, and with thinner struts to improve fluid dynamics and promote more rapid and complete endothelization. For example, the Firesorb sirolimus-eluting polymeric BVS has 100-125 µm strut thickness. In the FUTURE-II randomized trial (n=433), this device had nearly identical angiographic in-segment late loss and tissue strut coverage by optical coherence tomography as CoCr-EES at 1 year, with 0.9% and 1.9% TLF rates, respectively, and no scaffold thrombosis.<sup>19</sup> A 99-µm strut thickness poly(L-lactide) everolimus-eluting BVS with improved mechanical properties has been developed (Esprit-BTK, Abbott Vascular) and is currently being tested in patients with peripheral vascular disease (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04227899). An iron-based resorbable scaffold (IBS) with 70 µm strut thickness has shown similar 1-year efficacy and safety as CoCr-EES in porcine coronary arteries.<sup>20</sup>

Between 3 and 5 years after randomization in the present study the rates of TLF and device thrombosis were similar with BVS and CoCr-EES, similar to that reported from a pooled experience from the four prior ABSORB randomized trials.<sup>9</sup> Notably the device-oriented outcome of TLF after 3 years occurred at a constant rate of 2.5% per year with both BVS and CoCr-EES. The modest numbers of events in this period and the truncated follow-up at 5 years precludes drawing firm conclusions as to whether the theoretical potential of BVS to reduce the ongoing long-term risk of adverse events common to all metallic stents will be realized.<sup>1,2</sup>

Cardiac and all-cause death rates at 5 years were similar after BVS and CoCr-EES. Angina also recurred with nearly identical frequency, a finding consistent with the results from prior studies demonstrating similar rates of angiographic restenosis,<sup>3</sup> myocardial blood flow and coronary flow reserve<sup>21</sup> after both devices. Nor were the SAQ or EuroQOL-5D scores meaningfully different between BVS and CoCr-EES. Thus, the long-term impact of BVS and

CoCr-EES on survival, patient-oriented outcomes and QoL in this trial were comparable. Notably, however, the comprehensive continuous assessment and adjudication of angina and anginal equivalent symptoms documented recurrent ischemic symptoms in ~53% of patients in both groups at some point during the 5-year follow-up. In contrast, eliciting the rate of angina symptoms present at discrete annual follow-up visits yielded rates of <10% at each time point, markedly under-estimating the symptomatic burden during the follow-up course. The 53% recurrence rate of adjudicated typical angina or anginal equivalent symptoms within 5 years is particularly striking given that ischemia-driven revascularization (of any vessel) was performed in only ~15% of patients. In some patients symptoms may have been transitory or mild, enabling medical management alone without repeat revascularization. Untreated diffuse coronary artery disease may also contribute to recurrent angina.<sup>22</sup> However, this disparity reinforces the increasing awareness that vasoreactivity and microvascular disease may strongly contribute to the chronic symptomatology of a large proportion of patients with obstructive epicardial coronary artery disease (as well as in patients with angina without obstructive disease).<sup>23</sup>

Limitations. ABSORB IV had less restrictive enrollment criteria than most prior trials. Nonetheless, many high-risk lesions were excluded, including severely calcified lesions, true bifurcation lesions, and chronic total occlusions. The characteristics of these lesions may favor metallic DES, although improved BVS design and more aggressive lesion preparation may narrow the differences. Conversely, some excluded patients and lesions such as those with acute ST-segment elevation MI (soft plaque) and left main disease (large RVD, short lesion length) may have favorable outcomes after BVS. As previously discussed, the use of intravascular imaging guidance was not strongly promoted; its routine use may be of particular benefit with BVS. The present results were not powered and so should be considered hypothesis generating.

Even larger studies with longer-term follow-up (e.g. 10 years) may be required to determine whether BVS reduce late events after 3 years compared with metallic DES, although even if not, if the long-term results are truly non-inferior, the other benefits of "leaving nothing behind" may be of utility in certain clinical scenarios and be preferred by some patients. Finally, the present results apply only to the first-generation Absorb BVS. As improved BVS emerge, they will require randomized comparison with best-in-class contemporary metallic DES with long-term follow-up.

## Conclusions

In the present large-scale, blinded randomized trial, Absorb BVS implanted with improved lesion selection and technique in patients with both acute and chronic coronary syndromes resulted in slightly higher rates of TLF and device thrombosis within 3 years compared with CoCr-EES, with absolute increments in this period of 3% and 1% respectively. In contrast, the rates of these outcomes were nearly identical with both devices after 3 years. Both devices resulted in comparable 5-year rates of death, patient-oriented composite events and quality-of-life. Notably, more than half of patients developed recurrent anginal or anginal equivalent symptoms within 5 years at some time after PCI, a much greater symptom burden than is appreciated by simply assessing angina at discrete time points only. Further study is warranted to examine the extent to which microvascular disease and vasospasm contribute to the high rate of recurrent symptoms after PCI in patients with obstructive coronary artery disease.

## **Clinical Perspectives**

<u>Competency in Medical Knowledge</u>: In the ABSORB-IV trial, implantation of the first generation polymeric everolimus-eluting bioresorbable vascular scaffold (BVS) with optimal technique in appropriately sized coronary arteries resulted in slightly increased rates of target lesion failure (TLF) and device thrombosis compared with metallic drug-eluting stents (DES) within the first 3 years prior to their complete bioresorption, but overall similar 5-year rates of death, patient-oriented composite events, angina recurrence and quality-of-life.

<u>Competency in Patient Care</u>: Angina recurred within 5 years after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) at some time in more than half of patients treated with either BVS or DES, although is reported in <10% of patients at any discrete time point, and often can be managed medically without revascularization.

<u>Translational Outlook 1</u>: Further studies are required to determine whether BVS with improved mechanical properties implanted with intravascular imaging will have comparable 3-year outcomes compared with metallic DES, with improved long-term event-free survival. <u>Translational Outlook 2</u>: Additional studies are also required to evaluate the extent that microvascular disease and altered vasoreactivity contribute to the high recurrence rate of angina in patients with (and without) obstructive coronary artery disease after PCI.

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## **Figure Legends**

## Figure 1. Time-to-first event curves for 5-year TLF and its components.

A) Target lesion failure; B) Cardiac death; C) Target-vessel myocardial infarction; D) Ischemiadriven target lesion revascularization; E) Device thrombosis (definite or probable). BVS = Absorb bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = Xience cobalt chromium everolimuseluting stents. MI = myocardial infarction. TLF = target lesion failure. TLR = target lesion revascularization.

## Figure 2. Landmark analysis at 3 years for TLF and device thrombosis.

A) Target lesion failure; B) Device thrombosis (definite or probable). \*In the landmark analysis, all patients still alive are included in the numbers at risk at 3 years, regardless of whether an event occurred before this time. The interaction p values for the comparison of the relative hazards for BVS vs. CoCr-EES between 0-3 years and 3-5 years were 0.046 and 0.11 for target lesion failure and device thrombosis respectively. BVS = Absorb bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = Xience cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents. TLF = target lesion failure.

## Figure 3. Cumulative incidence of angina through 5-year follow-up.

Angina was defined as typical angina or angina equivalent symptoms as adjudicated by the clinical events committee. BVS = Absorb bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = Xience cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents.

### Central Illustration. Principal 5-year results from the ABSORB IV trial.

Among 2406 patients randomized to the Absorb everolimus-eluting poly(L-lactide) bioresorbable vascular scaffold (BVS) or the Xience cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stent (CoCr-EES), the 5-year rates of target lesion failure with BVS were increased by an absolute

difference of 3.0%, whereas there were no significant differences in the 5-year rates of device thrombosis. BVS was associated with higher event rates during the first 3 years after randomization, until the time of its complete bioresorption. Thereafter event rates were similar with BVS and CoCr-EES. Angina recurred in >50% of patients during the 5-year follow-up, to a comparable degree with both stents. The burden of recurrent angina was substantially under-estimated by only considering angina prevalence at discrete time points. Cum = cumulative through 5 years. y = year.

De the stand stress stress st	Absorb BVS	Xience CoCr-EES (N=1308)	
Patient measures	(N=1296)		
Age (years)	63.1 ± 10.1	$62.2 \pm 10.3$	
Sex (male)	927/1296 (71.5%)	947/1308 (72.4%)	
Race/ethnicity (Caucasian)	1135/1296 (87.6%)	1160/1308 (88.7%)	
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	30.3 ± 5.9	$30.2\pm6.1$	
Hypertension treated with medications	966/1296 (74.5%)	981/1308 (75.0%)	
Dyslipidemia treated with medications	921/1296 (71.1%)	920/1307 (70.4%)	
Diabetes mellitus	409/1296 (31.6%)	417/1306 (31.9%)	
- Insulin-treated	150/1296 (11.6%)	145/1306 (11.1%)	
Prior myocardial infarction	230/1279 (18.0%)	252/1297 (19.4%)	
Current tobacco use	286/1294 (22.1%)	304/1306 (23.3%)	
Renal insufficiency*	180/1294 (13.9%)	170/1306 (13.0%)	
Clinical presentation			
- Stable CAD	983/1294 (76.0%)	997/1308 (76.2%)	
- Silent ischemia or ischemia not documented	95/1294 (7.3%)	98/1308 (7.5%)	
- Stable angina	661/1294 (51.1%)	670/1308 (51.2%)	
- Unstable angina, biomarker negative	227/1294 (17.5%)	229/1308 (17.5%)	
- Recent MI	311/1294 (24.0%)	311/1308 (23.8%)	
- Non-ST-segment elevation MI	288/1294 (22.3%)	290/1308 (22.2%)	
- ST-segment elevation MI	8/1294 (0.6%)	11/1308 (0.8%)	
- Post-MI angina, MI type unspecified	15/1294 (1.2%)	10/1308 (0.8%)	
Target vessel measures (core laboratory)	V=1368	V=1382	

## Table 1. Baseline clinical and angiographic characteristics of the randomized groups

TIMI flow

- 0/1	43/1362 (3.2%)	27/1377 (2.0%)
- 2	180/1362 (13.2%)	187/1377 (13.6%)
- 3	1139/1362 (83.6%)	1163/1377 (84.5%)
Target lesion measures (core laboratory)	L=1446	L=1457
Coronary artery location		
- Left anterior descending	629/1443 (43.6%)	635/1453 (43.7%)
- Left circumflex	374/1443 (25.9%)	376/1453 (25.9%)
- Right	440/1443 (30.5%)	442/1453 (30.4%)
ACC/AHA lesion class B2/C	677/1443 (46.9%)	663/1453 (45.6%)
Moderate or severe calcification	346/1438 (24.1%)	341/1451 (23.5%)
Moderate or severe tortuosity	125/1439 (8.7%)	109/1451 (7.5%)
Bifurcation	246/1425 (17.3%)	252/1442 (17.5%)
Reference vessel diameter (mm)	$2.90\pm0.39$	$2.89\pm0.38$
- <2.25 mm	36/1441 (2.5%)	42/1452 (2.9%)
Minimum luminal diameter (mm)	$0.82\pm0.35$	$0.81\pm0.34$
Diameter stenosis (%)	$71.8 \pm 11.2$	$71.8\pm10.9$
Lesion length (mm)	$14.8\pm6.2$	$15.1\pm6.9$

\*Calculated glomerular filtration rate <30 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents. N = number of patients. L = number of target lesions. MI = myocardial infarction. TIMI = Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction. V = number of target lesions.

	Absorb BVS	Xience CoCr-EES		
	(N=1296)	(N=1308)	HR [95% CI]	P value
Target-lesion failure	216 (17.5%)	180 (14.5%)	1.24 [1.02, 1.52]	0.03
Cardiac death	30 (2.5%)	30 (2.5%)	1.02 [0.61, 1.69]	0.95
Target-vessel MI	134 (10.8%)	106 (8.5%)	1.30 [1.00, 1.67]	0.04
Ischemia-driven TLR	111 (9.2%)	82 (6.8%)	1.40 [1.05, 1.87]	0.02
Major adverse cardiovascular events	233 (18.9%)	207 (16.7%)	1.16 [0.97, 1.40]	0.11
Target vessel failure	262 (21.3%)	240 (19.3%)	1.13 [0.95, 1.35]	0.16
Patient-oriented composite endpoint	310 (25.0%)	284 (22.7%)	1.13 [0.96, 1.33]	0.13
All-cause death	77 (6.4%)	72 (5.9%)	1.09 [0.79, 1.50]	0.60
Vascular death	4 (0.3%)	6 (0.5%)	0.68 [0.19, 2.41]	0.55
Non-cardiovascular death	47 (4.0%)	42 (3.5%)	1.14 [0.75, 1.73]	0.54
All MI (protocol definition)	154 (12.5%)	134 (10.8%)	1.18 [0.93, 1.48]	0.16
Q-wave	20 (1.6%)	14 (1.2%)	1.46 [0.74, 2.88]	0.28
Non-Q-wave	139 (11.3%)	123 (9.9%)	1.16 [0.91, 1.47]	0.24
Peri-procedural	51 (4.0%)	45 (3.5%)	1.15 [0.77, 1.71]	0.50
Spontaneous	108 (8.9%)	92 (7.6%)	1.20 [0.91, 1.59]	0.19
All revascularization	198 (16.3%)	167 (13.7%)	1.23 [1.00, 1.51]	0.047
Ischemia-driven	197 (16.2%)	167 (13.7%)	1.22 [1.00, 1.50]	0.054
TVR	165 (13.6%)	131 (10.8%)	1.31 [1.04, 1.65]	0.02
Non-TVR	71 (5.9%)	82 (6.7%)	0.88 [0.64, 1.21]	0.43
Non-ischemia-driven	7 (0.6%)	3 (0.2%)	2.37 [0.61, 9.16]	0.20
Device thrombosis (definite/probable)	21 (1.7%)	13 (1.1%)	1.65 [0.82, 3.29]	0.15
Definite	20 (1.6%)	13 (1.1%)	1.57 [0.78, 3.15]	0.20

## Table 2. Five-year clinical outcomes in the randomized groups

Probable	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	-	0.32
Early (≤30 days)	8 (0.6%)	2 (0.2%)	4.05 [0.86, 19.06]	0.06
Late (31 days – 1 year)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.2%)	0.51 [0.05, 5.59]	0.57
Very late (1 year – 5 years)	12 (1.0%)	10 (0.8%)	1.23 [0.53, 2.84]	0.63

Data are number of events (Kaplan-Meier estimated rates). BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = cobalt chromium everolimus-eluting stents. MI = myocardial infarction. MI = myocardial infarction. TLR = target lesion revascularization. TVR = target vessel revascularization. Major adverse cardiovascular events are the composite of cardiac death, all myocardial infarction, or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization. Target lesion failure is the composite of cardiac death, myocardial infarction attributable to the target vessel, or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization. Target vessel failure is the composite of cardiac death, all myocardial infarction attributable to the target vessel, or ischemia-driven target lesion revascularization. Target vessel failure is the composite of cardiac death, all myocardial infarction.

	Absorb BVS Xience CoCr-EES			
	(N=1296)	(N=1308)	HR (95% CI)	P value
From randomization through 5 years				
Angina	452 (36.3%)	473 (37.5%)	0.95 [0.84, 1.08]	0.44
Class I*	188 (15.2%)	185 (14.8%)	1.03 [0.84, 1.26]	0.76
Class II*	211 (17.1%)	220 (17.5%)	0.96 [0.80, 1.16]	0.69
Class III*	137 (11.2%)	162 (13.0%)	0.85 [0.67, 1.06]	0.15
Class IV*	105 (8.5%)	100 (7.9%)	1.06 [0.81, 1.40]	0.66
Anginal equivalent symptoms	357 (29.0%)	357 (28.4%)	1.01 [0.87, 1.17]	0.89
Class I*	50 (4.0%)	58 (4.6%)	0.87 [0.60, 1.27]	0.47
Class II*	200 (16.3%)	193 (15.5%)	1.06 [0.87, 1.29]	0.57
Class III*	178 (14.6%)	181 (14.5%)	0.99 [0.81, 1.22]	0.95
Class IV*	39 (3.2%)	36 (2.9%)	1.10 [0.70, 1.73]	0.68
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	659 (53.0%)	674 (53.3%)	0.97 [0.88, 1.08]	0.63
Class I*	233 (18.9%)	228 (18.2%)	1.04 [0.87, 1.25]	0.69
Class II*	369 (29.9%)	377 (30.0%)	0.99 [0.86, 1.14]	0.86
Class III*	275 (22.3%)	307 (24.5%)	0.89 [0.76, 1.05]	0.16
Class IV*	136 (11.0%)	129 (10.3%)	1.07 [0.84, 1.36]	0.60
Landmark analyses				
Between 0 and 1 year	463 (36.3%)	497 (38.6%)	0.93 [0.82, 1.05]	0.23
Between 1 and 2 years*	197 (16.2%)	172 (13.9%)	1.19 [0.97, 1.46]	0.10
Between 2 and 3 years*	169 (14.2%)	171 (14.1%)	1.02 [0.82, 1.26]	0.86
Between 3 and 4 years*	154 (13.4%)	127 (10.8%)	1.26 [1.00, 1.60]	0.05
Between 4 and 5 years*	139 (12.5%)	117 (10.3%)	1.23 [0.96, 1.57]	0.10

# Table 3. Cumulative angina recurrence through 5-year follow-up

Non-anginal symptoms

743 (59.6%) 711 (56.1%) 1.09 [0.98, 1.21] 0.11

Event rates are number of events (Kaplan-Meier estimated rates). In-hospital symptoms are excluded. \*Symptoms of this class reported anytime within 5 years. Thus, the total may add up to >100%. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = everolimus-eluting stents.

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	Absorb BVS	Absorb BVS Xience CoCr-EES	
	(N=1296)	(N=1308)	P value
At 1 year (365 ± 28 days)	N=1203	N=1224	
Angina	28 (2.3%)	36 (2.9%)	0.35
Anginal equivalent symptoms	86 (7.1%)	70 (5.7%)	0.15
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	114 (9.5%)	105 (8.6%)	0.44
Class I	23 (1.9%)	16 (1.3%)	0.24
Class II	48 (4.0%)	44 (3.6%)	0.61
Class III	35 (2.9%)	45 (3.7%)	0.29
Class IV	8 (0.7%)	7 (0.6%)	0.77
Non-anginal symptoms	101 (8.4%)	126 (10.3%)	0.11
At 2 years $(730 \pm 28 \text{ days})$	N=1162	N=1186	
Angina	35 (3.0%)	25 (2.1%)	0.17
Anginal equivalent symptoms	77 (6.6%)	73 (6.2%)	0.64
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	112 (9.6%)	97 (8.2%)	0.21
Class I	20 (1.7%)	14 (1.2%)	0.27
Class II	46 (4.0%)	44 (3.7%)	0.75
Class III	39 (3.4%)	32 (2.7%)	0.35
Class IV	9 (0.8%)	8 (0.7%)	0.78
Non-anginal symptoms	91 (7.8%)	94 (7.9%)	0.93
At 3 years (1095 ± 28 days)	N=1129	N=1162	
Angina	23 (2.0%)	22 (1.9%)	0.80
Anginal equivalent symptoms	79 (7.0%)	70 (6.0%)	0.34
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	100 (8.9%)	91 (7.8%)	0.37

## Table 4. Recurrent angina at each follow-up visit

Class I	12 (1.1%)	11 (0.9%)	0.78
Class II	45 (4.0%)	37 (3.2%)	0.30
Class III	35 (3.1%)	34 (2.9%)	0.81
Class IV	10 (0.9%)	10 (0.9%)	0.95
Non-anginal symptoms	92 (8.1%)	99 (8.5%)	0.75
At 4 years (1460 ± 28 days)	N=1133	N=1132	
Angina	22 (1.9%)	12 (1.1%)	0.08
Anginal equivalent symptoms	67 (5.9%)	56 (4.9%)	0.31
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	89 (7.9%)	68 (6.0%)	0.08
Class I	12 (1.1%)	8 (0.7%)	0.37
Class II	27 (2.4%)	24 (2.1%)	0.67
Class III	38 (3.4%)	31 (2.7%)	0.39
Class IV	12 (1.1%)	5 (0.4%)	0.09
Non-anginal symptoms	74 (6.5%)	75 (6.6%)	0.93
At 5 years (1825 ± 28 days)	N=1110	N=1128	
Angina	7 (0.6%)	7 (0.6%)	0.98
Anginal equivalent symptoms	73 (6.6%)	60 (5.3%)	0.21
Angina or anginal equivalent symptoms	80 (7.2%)	67 (5.9%)	0.23
Class I	3 (0.3%)	7 (0.6%)	0.34
Class II	35 (3.2%)	17 (1.5%)	0.01
Class III	37 (3.3%)	39 (3.5%)	0.87
Class IV	5 (0.5%)	4 (0.4%)	0.75
Non-anginal symptoms	83 (7.5%)	66 (5.9%)	0.12

Rates at each time point are binary data. BVS = bioresorbable vascular scaffolds. CoCr-EES = cobalt

chromium everolimus-eluting stents.

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