

Are racial differences in hospital mortality after coronary artery bypass graft surgery real? A risk-adjusted meta-analysis



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ABSTRACT

Background: Despite several reports, there are still conflicting data on the influence of ethnicity on mortality rates associated with coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). We aimed to get further insights into the effect of race on mortality following CABG by performing a risk adjusted meta-analysis.

Methods: Relevant studies were searched on PubMed, Embase, BioMed Central, and the Cochrane Central register. Pairwise meta-analysis was used to estimate the relative risk of hospital death of black, Hispanic, and Asian patients using white patients as reference. Risk adjusted meta-analytic estimates were obtained using generic inverse variance methods with random effect model.

Results: A total of 28 studies were selected for analysis. A total of 21 studies reported on hospital mortality in black ($n = 222,892$) versus white ($n = 3,884,043$) patients, 7 studies reported on Hispanic ($n = 91,256$) versus white ($n = 1,458,524$) and 9 studies reported on Asian ($n = 27,820$) versus white ($n = 1,081,642$). When compared with white patients, adjusted risk of hospital death was significantly greater for black patients (adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.25; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.13-1.39; $P < .001$), and not statistically different for Asian (OR, 1.33; 95% CI, 0.99-1.77; $P = .05$) and Hispanic patients (adjusted OR, 1.08; 95% CI, 0.94-1.23; $P = .26$). Meta-regression showed a significant trend toward lower mortality rates in most recent series in both black ($P = .02$) and white ($P = .0007$) and Asian ($P = .01$) but not for Hispanic ($P = .41$). However, as mortality rates were lower across the different races, the relative disadvantage between the study groups persisted, which may explain the lack of interaction between study period and race effect on mortality for black (adjusted $P = .09$), Asian (adjusted $P = .63$), and Hispanic (adjusted $P = .97$) patients.

Conclusions: The present meta-analysis showed that despite progress is being made in lowering in-hospital mortality rates among the major racial/ethnic groups, ethnic disparities in hospital mortality after CABG remain. (J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2019;157:2216-25)

Although multiple studies have found that non-white patients, in particular black and Hispanic, have lower rates

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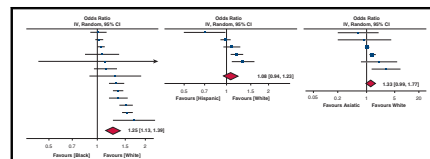
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Meta-analytic risk-adjusted estimates of race effect on operative mortality.

Central Message

Despite progress being made in lowering in-hospital mortality rates among the major racial/ethnic groups, ethnic disparities in hospital mortality after coronary bypass surgery remain.

Prospective

The effect of race on mortality after coronary bypass surgery remains uncertain, and current guidelines and risk stratification systems make no differentiation by race. We showed that despite progress being made in lowering in-hospital mortality rates among the major racial/ethnic groups, ethnic disparities in hospital mortality after CABG remain.

See Commentary on page 2226.

of cardiovascular procedures, including cardiac catheterization, percutaneous coronary intervention, and coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG),¹ there are still limited and conflicting data on the influence of ethnicity on mortality and complication rates associated with CABG.²⁻⁶ One



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

- CABG = coronary artery bypass grafting
- CI = confidence interval
- OR = odds ratio

potential concern is that if racial minorities are less likely to be referred for cardiac catheterization and coronary revascularization, then only those with particularly advanced disease or compelling indications may undergo these procedures, leading to worse outcomes.²⁻⁴ Previous studies evaluating the impact of ethnicity on mortality following CABG surgery have had mixed conclusions. Several studies have reported greater mortality for black patients following the operation.^{5,6} Other studies have suggested similar risk-adjusted survival for black patients following CABG surgery.²⁻⁴ Therefore, the effect of race on mortality after CABG remains uncertain,² and current CABG guidelines⁷ and risk-stratification systems^{8,9} make no differentiation by race. We aimed to get further insights into the effect of race on mortality following CABG by performing a risk-adjusted meta-analysis of comparative studies.

METHODS

Literature Search Strategy

The search strategy adopted is in accordance with the Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines.¹⁰ We searched PubMed, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and

EMBASE from their inception to March 2017, without language restrictions. Search algorithm used was “race” OR “ethnicity” AND (“coronary artery bypass” OR CABG OR “bypass surgery” OR “coronary bypass”). In addition, reference lists of the identified reports and relevant reviews were manually screened by 2 reviewers (U.B., M.K.) to identify relevant studies. Studies reporting hospital outcomes after CABG across different ethnic groups including white, black, Hispanic, and Asian patients were selected. When centers have published duplicate trials with accumulating numbers of patients, only the largest reports were included for qualitative appraisal (Online Data Supplement). Non-English articles were not excluded. Abstracts, case reports, conference presentations, editorials, and expert opinions were excluded. Disagreements were resolved by consensus. The quality of included studies was assessed with the Newcastle–Ottawa scale for observational studies.¹¹ The total score was 9 stars, and the quality was graded as low level (<6 stars) or high level (≥6 stars). Baseline characteristics and hospital outcomes in different ethnic groups were independently abstracted by 2 investigators (U.B., M.K.). The primary outcome of the present meta-analysis was hospital mortality. Hospital mortality crude incidence rates for different ethnic groups were obtained from individual studies. As different ethnic groups can present different patient-level and hospital-level factors distribution, we also extracted fully adjusted estimates obtained by multivariate models from individual studies. Other operative outcomes investigated were stroke, wound infection, renal failure/dialysis, re-exploration for bleeding, and respiratory failure/tracheostomy.

Statistical Analysis

Pairwise meta-analysis methods were used to estimate operative mortality relative risk for different ethnic groups (black, Hispanic, and Asian) using the white group as reference. A subgroup analysis was done to compare South Asian with white. Individual study and pooled operative mortality were reported as odds ratio (OR) with a 95% confidence interval (CI). Unadjusted pooled estimates were obtained using the model of DerSimonian and Laird.¹² Individual studies risk-adjusted estimates were pooled as log OR and standard error using the generic inverse variance method.¹³

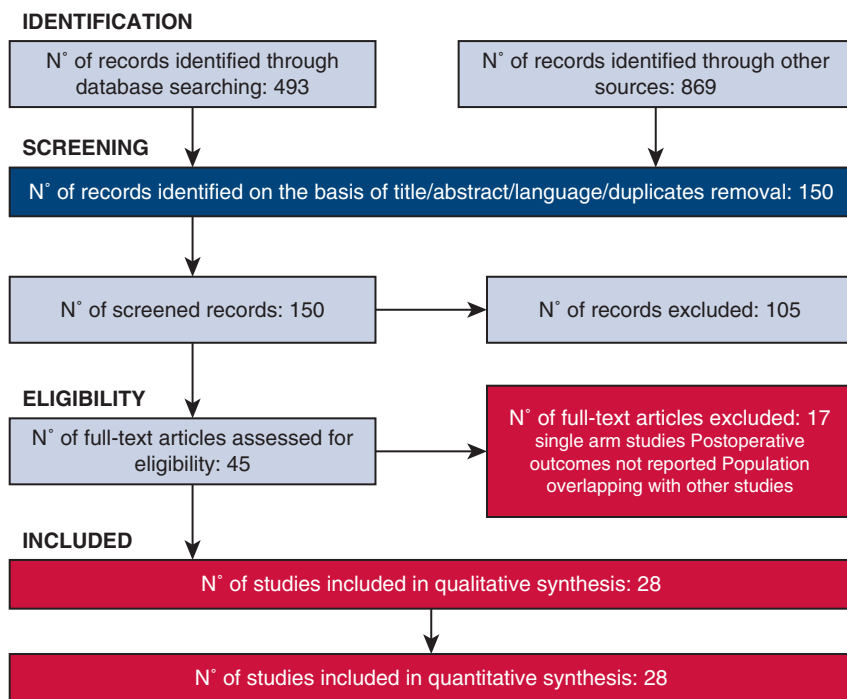


FIGURE 1. Study selection process for meta-analysis.

TABLE 1. Overview of studies included in the meta-analysis

N of study	First author and year of publication	Country	Single vs multi-institution	Years of enrollment	Information on source of data	White patients (N)	Black patients (N)	Asian patients (N)	Hispanic Patients (N)	Race identification
1	Anderson et al, ³¹ 2016	US	Multi-institution	2011-2012	California CABG Reporting Program	14,389	975	3196	4614	*
2	Andrews et al, ³⁴ 2015	US	Multi-institution	2009	Healthcare Research and Quality (NIS)	194,440	15,534			*
3	Becker and Rahimi, ⁶ 2006	US	Multi-institution	1993-2002	Healthcare Research and Quality (NIS)	1,040,641	63,991	20,353	67,554	*
4	Bridges et al, ⁵ 2000	US	Multi-institution	1994-1997	Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)	555,939	25,850			Self-identified
5	Brister et al, ²² 2007	Canada	Single institution	1994-2003	–	917		917		Self-identified & patients' name
6	Chowdhury et al, ³³ 2017	US	Single institution	2006-2010	–	3107	389			Self-identified
7	Cooper et al, ²⁸ 2009	US	Multi-institution	1997-2007	Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)	10,841	2033			*
8	Efird et al, ¹⁶ 2015	US	Single institution	1992-2011	–	11,395	2379			Self-identified
9	Gasevic et al, ²⁰ 2013	Canada	Multi-institution	1999-2003	British Columbia Cardiac Registry	1507		180		Patients' name
10	Goldsmith et al, ³⁷ 1999	UK	Single institution	1994-1997	–	190		194		*
11	Gray et al, ²⁵ 1996	US	Single institution	1984-1992	–	3113	115			*
12	Hadjinikolaou et al, ³⁶ 2010	UK	Single institution	2002-2007	–	2623		274		Self-identified
13	Kaila et al, ¹⁸ 2014	Canada	Multi-institution	1999-2012	APPROACH database	737		252		Patients' name
14	Keeling et al, ³² 2017	US	Single institution	2002-2014	–	13,569	2810			*
15	Kim et al, ²¹ 2008	US	Multi-institution	2002-2005	University HealthSystem Consortium	63,487	8462			*
16	Konety et al, ²³ 2005	US	Multi-institution	1997-2000	Medicare Provider and Analysis Review	566,785	24,354			*
17	Lucas et al, ³⁵ 2006	US/Canada	Multi-institution	1994-1999	Medicare Provider and Analysis Review	829,037	33,367			*
18	Maynard and Ritchie, ²⁴ 2001	US	Multi-institution	1994-1999	Veterans Affairs	27,439	2380			*
19	Mehta et al, ³⁰ 2016	US	Multi-institution	2010-2011	Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)	136,362	14,375			*
20	O'Neal et al, ²⁹ 2014	US	Single institution	2002-2011	–	3460	970			Self-identified
21	Pollock et al, ¹⁷ 2015	US	Single institution	2004-2011	–	6365	612		593	*
22	Rangrass et al, ¹⁹ 2014	US	Multi-institution	2007-2008	Medicare Analysis Provider and Review	159,043	9390		3016	*
23	Rumsfeld et al, ⁴ 2002	US	Multi-institution	1995-2001	Veterans Affairs	29,333	2570		1525	*
24	Smith et al, ²⁷ 2006	US	Multi-institution	1993-2005	Multi-institutional database	1932	644			*

(Continued)

TABLE 1. Continued

N of study	First author and year of publication	Country	Single vs multi-institution	Years of enrollment	Information on source of data	White patients (N)	Black patients (N)	Asian patients (N)	Hispanic Patients (N)	Race identification
25	Trivedi et al, ²⁶ 2006	US	Multi-institution	1998-2001	Healthcare Research and Quality (NIS)	193,684	11,393		11,393	*
26	Yeo et al, ³ 2007	US	Multi-institution	2003	California CABG Outcomes Reporting Program	15,069	785	1772	2561	*
27	Zacharias et al, ² 2005	US	Single institution	1991-2003	–	6073	304			*
28	Zindrou et al, ³⁸ 2001	UK	Single institution	1993-1997	–	1458		436		Self-identified

CABG, Coronary artery bypass graft; NIS, National Inpatient Sample. *As reported in single/multiple institutional or national databases.

Random effect was used in all meta-analyses to obtain more conservative estimates.¹⁴ We used the I^2 statistic, which estimates the percentage of total variation across studies that is due to heterogeneity rather than chance. Suggested thresholds for heterogeneity were used, with I^2 values of 25% to 49%, 50% to 74%, and $\geq 75\%$, indicative of low, moderate, and high heterogeneity.^{15,16} For each study, median year of enrollment was obtained and changes in estimates across different eras were tested using meta-regression model (mixed-effects model). Meta-analytic estimates were computed using Review Manager (RevMan, Computer program, Version 5.2; The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark) and meta R package (R Core Team, 2016. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria; <https://www.R-project.org/>).

RESULTS

Study Selection

A total of 1362 references were identified through electronic database searches and references lists. After exclusion of duplicate or irrelevant references, 45 potentially relevant articles were retrieved. After detailed evaluation of these articles, 28 studies were selected for analysis.^{2-6,16-38} (Figure 1). Study overview, patients' characteristics, and severity of coronary artery disease are reported in Table 1, Table 2, and Table E1, respectively. A total of 21 studies reported on hospital mortality in black (n = 222,892) versus white (n = 3,884,043) patients, 7 studies reported on Hispanic (n = 91,256) versus white (n = 1,458,524) patients, and 9 studies reported on Asian (n = 27,820) versus white (n = 1,081,642) patients. Of the 9 studies that reported on Asian patients, 5 studies reported on South Asians, 1 study reported on South Asians and Chinese, and 3 studies did not distinguish between the different Asian ethnicities. Fully adjusted estimates including patient-level and hospital-level covariates were reported by 12 studies for black versus white comparison, 4 studies for Hispanic versus white comparison, and 4 studies for Asian versus white comparison. The methods and variables used in adjustment are listed in Table E2. Quality assessment of individual studies is reported in Table 3.

Meta-Analysis

Meta-analysis of unadjusted rates (Figure 2) showed that when compared with white patients, black (unadjusted OR, 1.24; 95% CI, 1.20-1.28; $P < .001$) and Asian patients (unadjusted OR, 1.33; 95% CI, 1.05-1.69; $P = .02$) were associated with a significantly increased risk for hospital death whereas Hispanic patients presented a comparable risk (unadjusted OR, 0.98; 95% CI, 0.87-1.09; $P = .66$). This trend was confirmed when reported adjusted estimates for hospital mortality were pooled (Figure 3). When compared with white patients, adjusted risk of hospital death was significantly greater for black patients (adjusted OR, 1.25; 95% CI, 1.13-1.39; $P < .001$), and not statistically different for Asian (OR, 1.33; 95% CI, 0.99, 1.77; $P = .05$) and Hispanic patients (adjusted OR, 1.08; 95% CI, 0.94-1.23; $P = .26$).

A subgroup analysis showed that South Asian patients had greater risk of crude hospital mortality compared with white patients (unadjusted OR, 1.72; 95% CI, 1.12-2.66; $P = .01$). However, there was no difference in the risk of hospital mortality between South Asian and white patients after adjusting for possible confounding factors (adjusted OR, 1.73; 95% CI, 0.71-4.18; $P = .23$) (Figure E1).

Meta-regression (Figure 4) showed a significant trend toward lower mortality rates in most recent series in both black ($P = .02$) and white ($P = .0007$) and Asian ($P = .01$) patients but not for Hispanic patients ($P = .41$). However, as mortality rates were lower across the different races, the relative disadvantage between the study groups persisted, which may explain the lack of interaction between study period and race effect on mortality for black (unadjusted $P = .29$, adjusted $P = .09$), Asian (unadjusted $P = .15$, adjusted $P = .63$), and Hispanic (unadjusted and adjusted $P = .97$) patients.

Postoperative Complications

For the comparison between black and white patients, several studies reported also on unadjusted rate of postoperative complication (Figure E2). Pooled estimates showed

TABLE 2. Patients' characteristics in studies included in the meta-analysis

Study	Mean age, y				% Female				% Diabetes mellitus			
	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic
Anderson et al, ³¹ 2016												
Andrews et al, ³⁴ 2015					27.10%	42.60%						
Becker and Rahimi, ⁶ 2006					28.40%	44%	27.70%	31.40%				
Bridges et al, ⁵ 2000	65	62			27.93%	44.45%			27.82%	43.78%		
Brister et al, ²² 2007	62		61		23.50%		23.60%		37.30%		39.40%	
Chowdhury et al, ³³ 2017	58	56			10%	21%						
Cooper et al, ²⁸ 2009	63	60			27%	42%			33.60%	47.00%		
Efird et al, ¹⁶ 2015	65	62			27.30%	42%			32.00%	48.00%		
Gasevic et al, ²⁰ 2013					21%		18%		21.30%		31.00%	
Goldsmith et al, ³⁷ 1999	58		58						11.60%		38.70%	
Gray et al, ²⁵ 1996	67	65			21%	35%			23.00%	36.00%		
Hadjnikolaou et al, ³⁶ 2010	66		63		19.70%		23%					
Kaila et al, ¹⁸ 2014					20.30%		21.40%		47.80%		44.40%	
Keeling et al, ³² 2017	64	61							37.10%	50.30%		
Kim et al, ²¹ 2008												
Konety et al, ²³ 2005	74	72			34.40%	51.40%			8.30%	18.40%		
Lucas et al, ³⁵ 2006					34.30%	51.50%						
Maynard and Ritchie, ²⁴ 2001	64	63			1%	1%			30.00%	34.00%		
Mehta et al, ³⁰ 2016	66	62			25.30%	40.40%			39.10%	53.00%		
O'Neal et al, ²⁹ 2014	64	61			25%	38%			37.20%	50.00%		
Pollock et al, ¹⁷ 2015	65	62		61	23.70%	44%		27.50%	37.10%	46.60%		61.20%
Rangrass et al, ¹⁹ 2014	74				30.50%				29.30%			
Rumsfeld et al, ⁴ 2002	63.6	62.2		63.8	1.10%	1.10%		0.50%	31.40%	38.10%		47.80%
Smith et al, ²⁷ 2006	64.6	63.7			28.60%	45.70%			30.40%	47.20%		
Trivedi et al, ²⁶ 2006												
Yeo et al, ³ 2007	66.91	63.17	65.6	64.02	25%	43%	27%	31%	33.00%	49.00%	47.00%	56%
Zacharias et al, ² 2005	64	62			29.80%	46.10%			32.40%	43.40%		
Zindrou et al, ³⁸ 2001	61.6		59.6		15.98%		19.70%		17.50%		43.00%	

that rate for stroke (unadjusted OR, 1.78; 95% CI, 1.49-2.13; $P < .001$), bleeding (unadjusted OR, 1.24; 95% CI, 1.09-1.41), tracheostomy/reintubation (unadjusted OR, 1.37; 95% CI, 1.15-1.61; $P = .0003$), and renal failure (adjusted OR, 1.54; 95% CI, 1.38-1.73; $P < .001$) but not wound infection (OR, 1.16; 95% CI, 0.98-1.36; $P = .09$) were greater among black patients.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we investigated the effect of race by performing a meta-analysis and meta-regression of comparative studies available. We showed that black race was associated with increased mortality rates when compared with white race also after adjusting for patient-level and

hospital-level factors. We also showed that despite the fact that mortality rates declined over the years for black patients, a specular reduction in mortality was observed for white patients. Therefore, the gap between black and white patients remained stable. Black race was also shown to be associated with significant increased risk of postoperative complications, including bleeding, stroke, renal failure/dialysis, and respiratory failure/tracheostomy. Although not statistically significant, there was a strong trend toward an increased risk of mortality in Asian when compared with white subjects ($P = .05$). In contrast, Hispanic patients were consistently found to have mortality rates comparable with those observed in white patients without significant changes across different eras.

TABLE 3. Study quality assessment using Newcastle Ottawa Scale

Study	Selection	Comparability	Exposure	Sum
Anderson et al, ³¹ 2016	4	2	3	9
Andrews et al, ³⁴ 2015	4	2	3	9
Becker and Rahimi, ⁶ 2006	4	0	3	7
Bridges et al, ⁵ 2000	4	0	3	7
Brister et al, ²² 2007	4	2	3	9
Chowdhury et al, ³³ 2017	4	0	3	7
Cooper et al, ²⁸ 2009	4	2	3	9
Efird et al, ¹⁶ 2015	4	0	3	7
Gasevic et al, ²⁰ 2013	4	0	3	7
Goldsmith et al, ³⁷ 1999	4	0	3	7
Gray et al, ²⁵ 1996	4	2	3	9
Hadjinikolaou et al, ³⁶ 2010	4	0	3	7
Kaila et al, ¹⁸ 2014	4	2	3	9
Keeling et al, ³² 2017	4	2	3	9
Kim et al, ²¹ 2008	4	2	3	9
Konety et al, ²³ 2005	4	2	3	9
Lucas et al, ³⁵ 2006	4	2	3	9
Maynard and Ritchie, ²⁴ 2001	4	2	3	9
Mehta et al, ³⁰ 2016	4	2	3	9
O'Neal et al, ²⁹ 2014	4	0	3	7
Pollock et al, ¹⁷ 2015	4	0	3	7
Rangrass et al, ¹⁹ 2014	4	2	3	9
Rumsfeld et al, ⁴ 2002	4	2	3	9
Smith et al, ²⁷ 2006	4	0	3	7
Trivedi et al, ²⁶ 2006	4	2	3	9
Yeo et al, ³ 2007	4	0	3	7
Zacharias et al, ² 2005	4	2	3	9
Zindrou et al, ³⁸ 2001	4	0	3	7

Despite several studies that have suggested ethnic disparities in operative outcomes following CABG,^{5,6} final conclusions are still lacking, and current CABG guidelines and risk stratification systems including the Society of Thoracic Surgeons scoring system (<http://riskcalc.sts.org/stswebriskcalc/>)⁸ and the European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation (<http://www.euroscore.org/>)⁹ make no differentiation by race in terms of operative mortality. The present study consistently demonstrated that black patients remain associated with a greater operative mortality, although this disparity was found to be relevant only among male patients.

There are a number of possible explanations for these persistent differences in outcomes between the different racial groups. First, it is well documented that disparities

in access to health care system persist by race and black patients are likely to be referred to surgery with poorer health conditions.^{39,40} Although the present National Inpatient Sample analysis and meta-analysis controlled for many more patient, organizational, and socioeconomic aspects of CABG patients' condition, there still may be other unmeasured social phenomena of the patient's background, health condition, or hospital stay that may help explain racial/ethnic differences. In addition, many aspects of the physician-patient relationship that involve patients' education, trust, and the physician's sensitivity to a patient's culture might also play a critical role.⁴⁰ Finally, others have identified genetic differences in race/ethnicity that could account for differences in outcomes. For patients with heart disease, some studies have suggested subtle differences among race/ethnicities in the biology of hypertension. Potential differences in the biology of hypertension may result in more frequent and more severe hypertension and ventricular hypertrophy in black patients.⁴¹

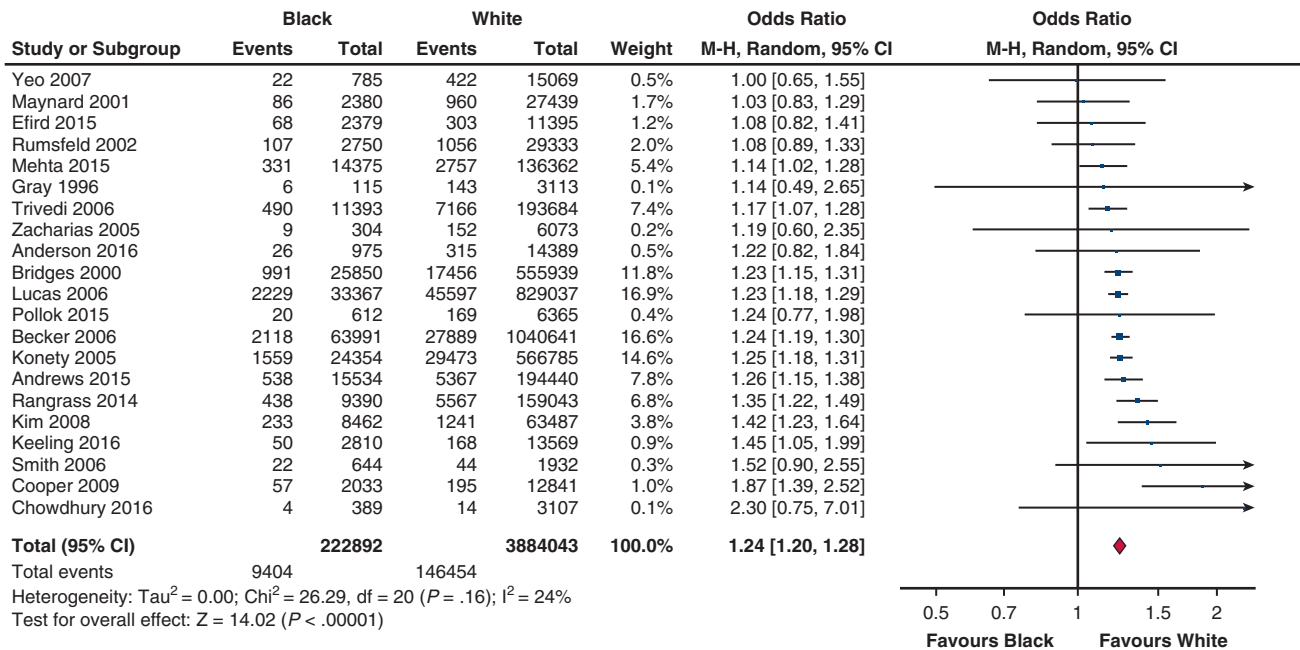
The present meta-analysis presents several limitations. The vast majority of the included studies did not mention the definitions used for race identification, a factor that may have influenced the results. Although we performed a risk-adjusted analysis, we cannot exclude the presence of residual confounding factors accounting for differences in outcomes between ethnic groups, which may have not been considered by individual studies. In particular, data on predicted risk of mortality (ie, SYNTAX score) were not provided in most of the studies. Moreover, detailed information on patients' socioeconomic status and surgeon and hospital volume were limited. The study focused primarily on operative mortality and did not compare the differences in long-term outcomes between the different race groups. Most of the series included in the present analysis were from US databases, and this might partially limit the generalizability of the present findings. In addition, despite we attempt to avoid cohort overlapping among different studies, we cannot exclude that different US nationwide databases might have reported on similar study populations. Finally, we acknowledge the difficulties and uncertainties that may sometimes be associated with defining individual patients' ethnicities, particularly for those residing in North America, where the population diversity may lead to racial mixing.

In conclusion, the present meta-analysis confirmed that despite progress is being made in lowering in-hospital mortality rates among the major racial/ethnic groups including black patients, significant disparities in outcomes still remain that warrant further investigation.

Conflict of Interest Statement

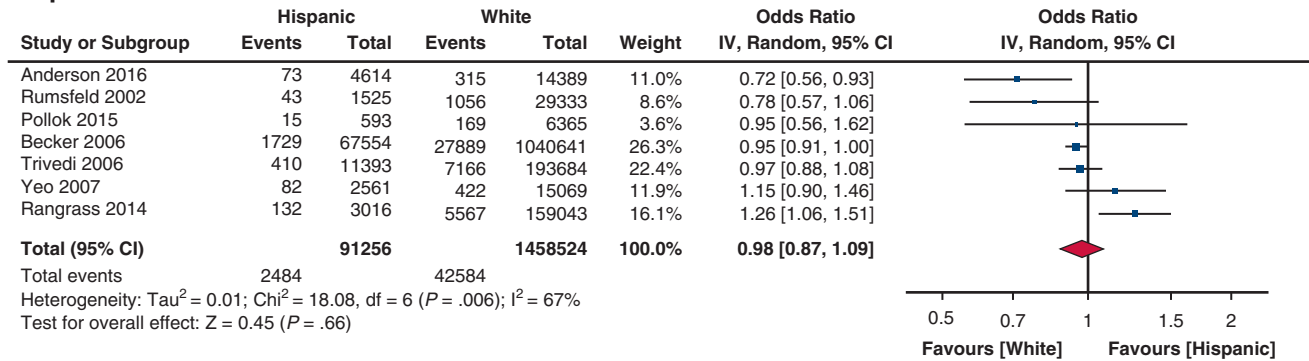
Authors have nothing to disclose with regard to commercial support.

Black vs white



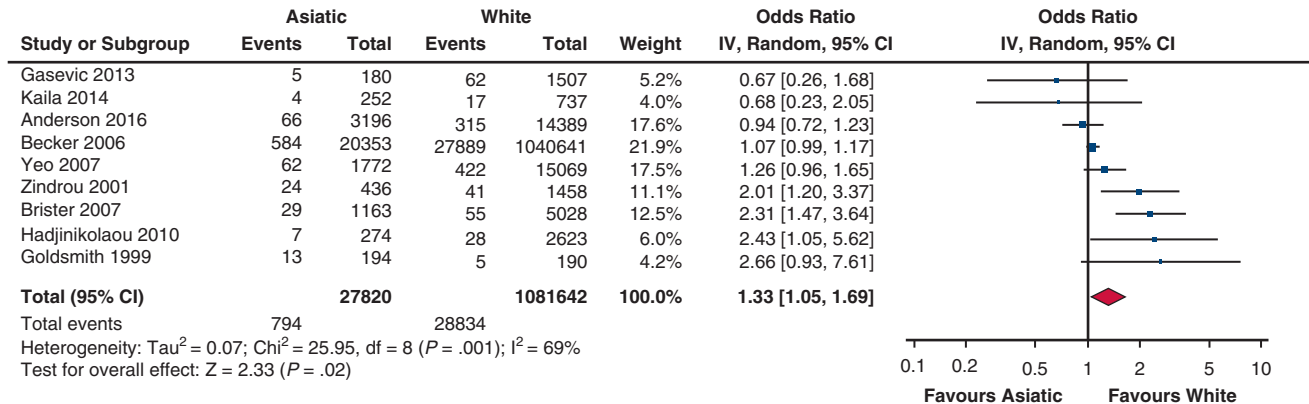
A

Hispanic vs white



B

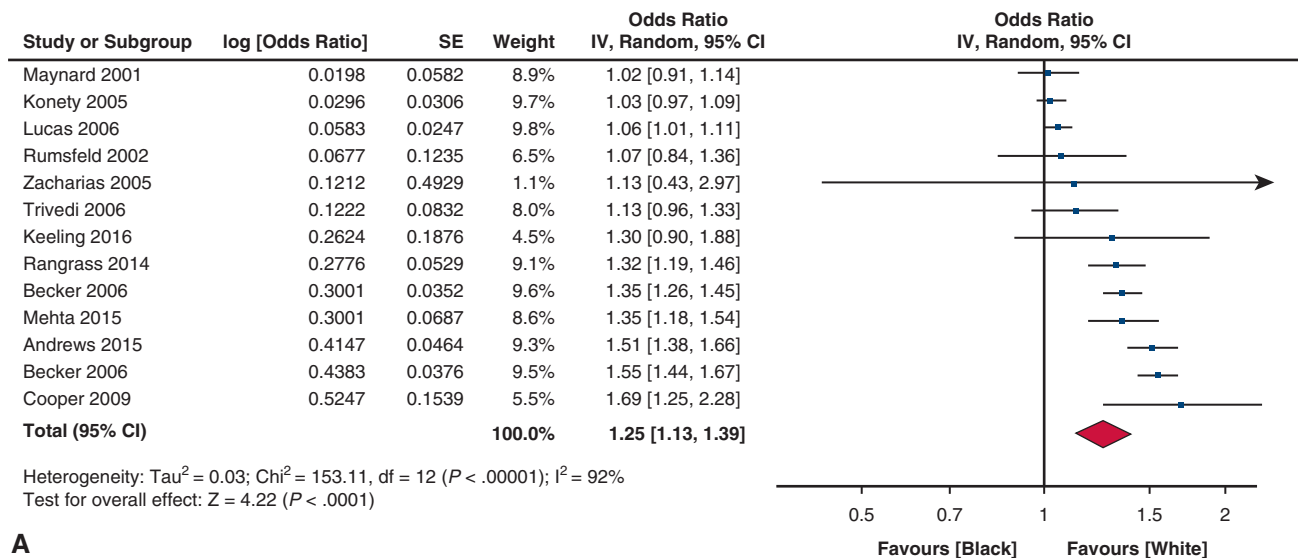
Asiatic vs white



C

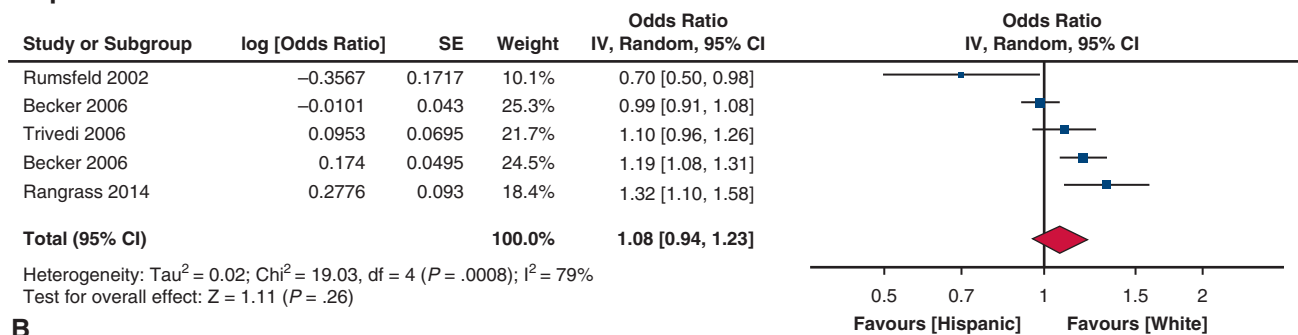
FIGURE 2. Meta-analytic unadjusted estimates of race effect on operative mortality (white as reference). *M-H*, Mantel-Haenszel; *CI*, confidence interval; *IV*, inverse variance.

Black vs white



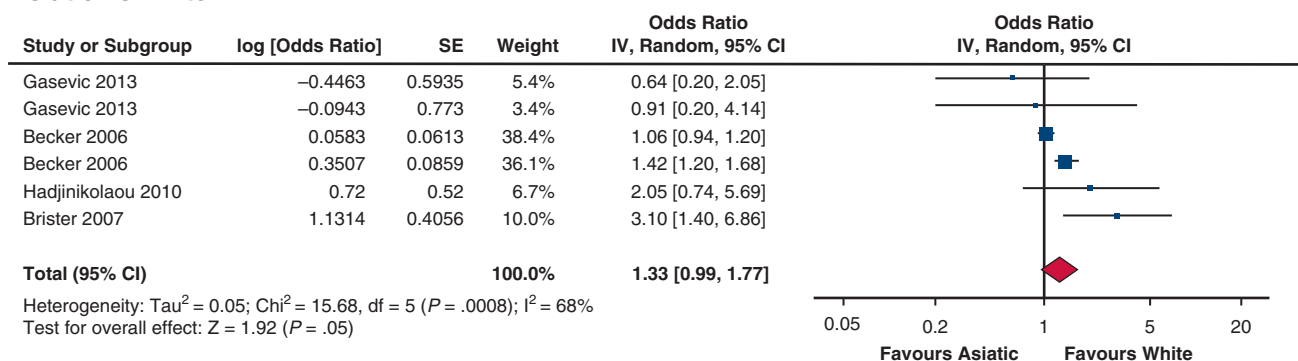
A

Hispanic vs white



B

Asiatic vs white



C

FIGURE 3. Meta-analytic risk-adjusted estimates of race effect on operative mortality (white as reference). *SE*, Standard error; *IV*, inverse variance; *CI*, confidence interval.

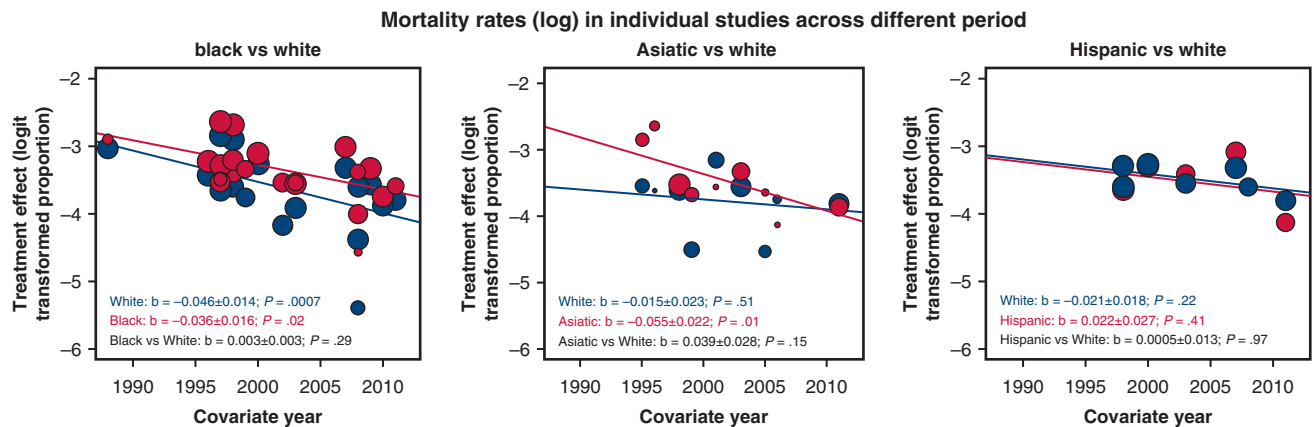


FIGURE 4. Meta-regression of crude mortality rate in separate ethnic groups and race effect on mortality across different study periods (median year of enrollment).

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Key Words: coronary artery bypass grafting, outcomes, meta-analysis, ethnicity, mortality

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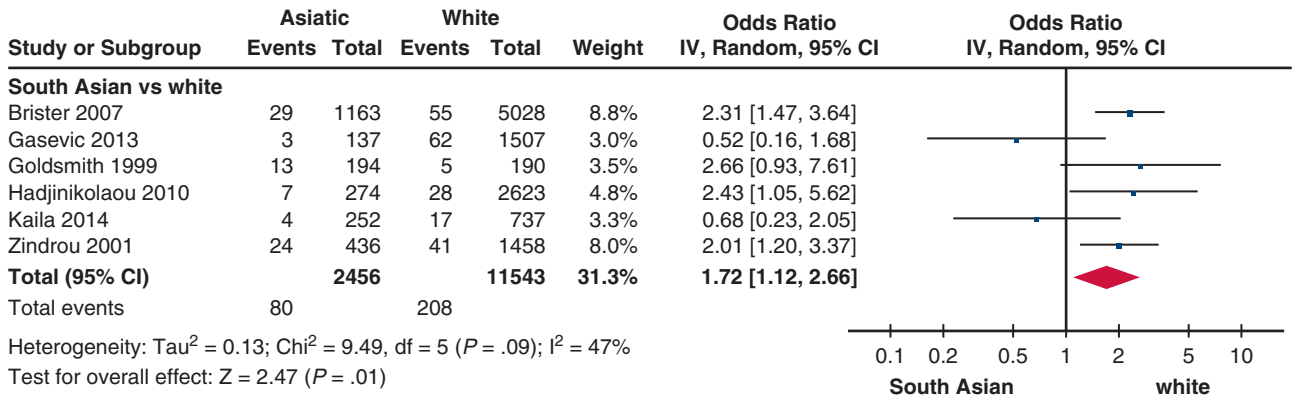
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Unadjusted risk of mortality



Adjusted risk of mortality

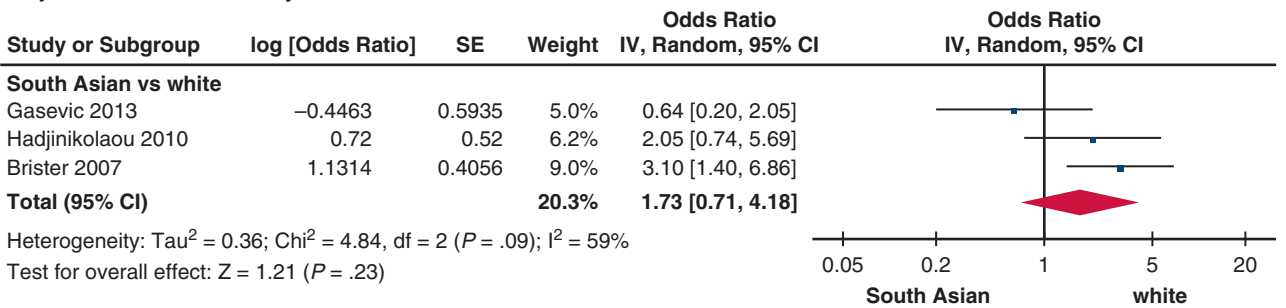


FIGURE E1. Meta-analytic unadjusted and adjusted risk of operative mortality in South Asian compared with white patients. *IV*, inverse variance; *CI*, confidence interval; *SE*, standard error.

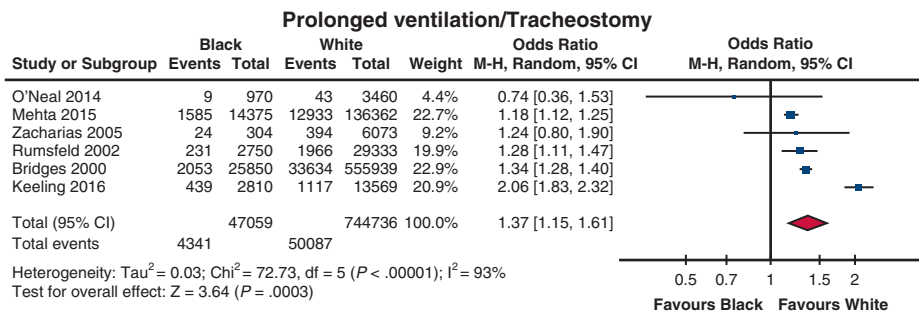
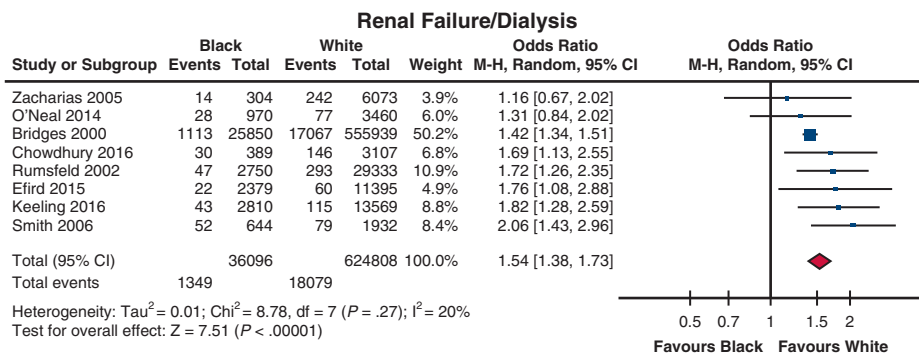
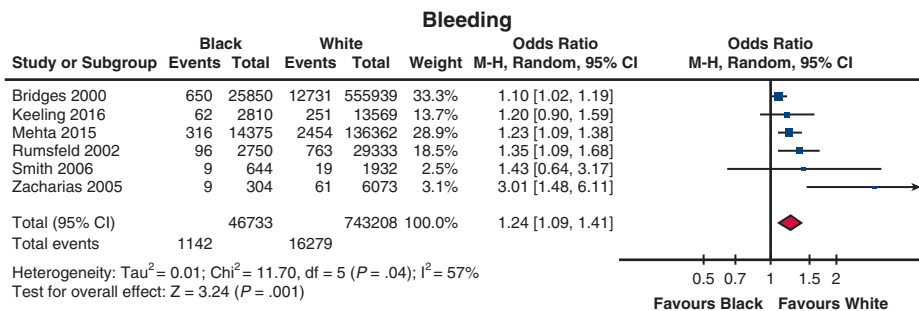
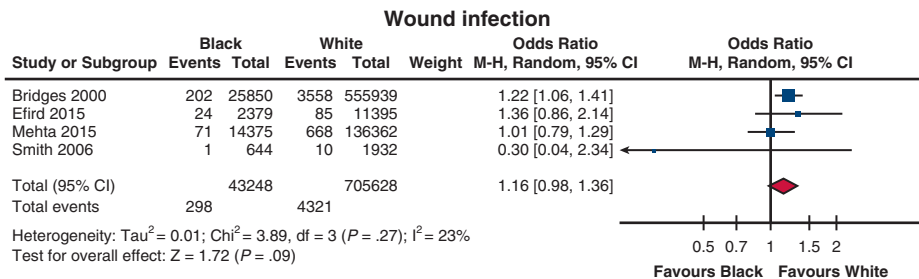
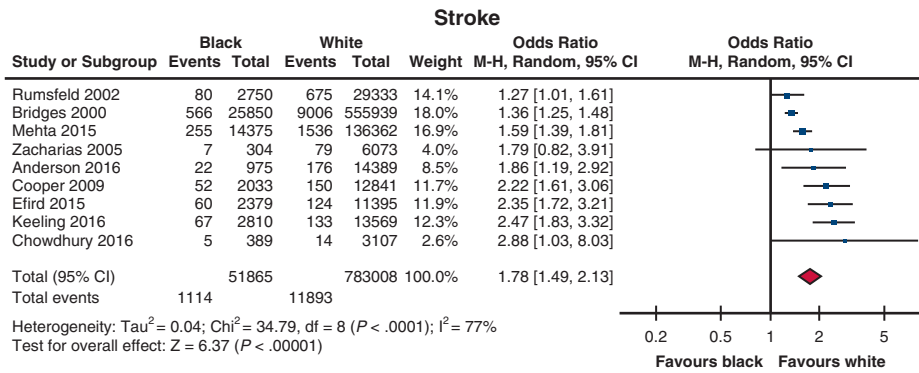


FIGURE E2. Meta-analytic estimates of unadjusted effect of black vs white race on postoperative complications. *M-H*, Mantel-Haenszel; *CI*, confidence interval.

TABLE E1. Severity of coronary artery disease in studies included in the meta-analysis

Study	EF expressed as	EF, %					Triple-vessel disease, %					Left main coronary artery disease, %				
		White	Black	Asian	South Asian	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian	South Asian	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian	South Asian	Hispanic
Anderson et al, ³¹ 2016																
Andrews et al, ³⁴ 2015																
Becker and Rahimi, ⁶ 2006																
Bridges et al, ⁵ 2000	Mean (SD)	51% (14)	48% (14)				70%	69%				20%	19%			
Brister et al, ²² 2007							76%			79%		22%			8%	
Chowdhury et al, ³³ 2017																
Cooper et al, ²⁸ 2009	Mean	50%	49%									23%	20%			
Efird et al, ¹⁶ 2015							66%	68%				21%	21%			
Gasevic et al, ²⁰ 2013							28%		28%	27%		3%		5%	3%	
Goldsmith et al, ³⁷ 1999	Good EF	52%			56%		63%			66%						
Gray et al, ²⁵ 1996							64%	68%				24%	22%			
Hadjinikolaou et al, ³⁶ 2010	EF ≥ 30%	93%			95%											
Kaila et al, ¹⁸ 2014	EF >35%	72%			68%							7%			6%	
Keeling et al, ³² 2017	Mean (SD)	52% (12)	50% (13)													
Kim et al, ²¹ 2008																
Konety et al, ²³ 2005																
Lucas et al, ³⁵ 2006																
Maynard and Ritchie, ²⁴ 2001																
Mehta et al, ³⁰ 2016	Median	55%	53%				95%	94%				32%	29%			
O'Neal et al, ²⁹ 2014							67%	68%				26%	27%			
Pollock et al, ¹⁷ 2015	Mean (SD)	49% (14)	47% (16)			47% (14)						29%	28%			29%
Rangrass et al, ¹⁹ 2014																
Rumsfeld et al, ⁴ 2002	EF >35%	89%	87%			88%	72%	73%				76%				
Smith et al, ²⁷ 2006	EF >40%	78%	75%													
Trivedi et al, ²⁶ 2006																
Yeo et al, ³ 2007	EF >30%	92%	89%			89%	77%	77%			78%	24%	23%			23%
Zacharias et al, ² 2005	Mean (SD)	50% (11)	49% (12)				72%	73%				19%	18%			
Zindrou et al, ³⁸ 2001	EF >35%	88%			85%							1%				1%

EF, Ejection fraction; SD, standard deviation.

TABLE E2. Methods and variables used in adjusting for hospital mortality

Study	Adjustment methods	Adjustment variables	
		Patient-level factors	Hospital-level factors
Anderson et al, ³¹ 2016	Logistic regression analysis	Age, age–sex interaction, sex	All patient-refined DRG
Becker and Rahimi, ⁶ 2006	Logistic regression analysis	Admission type, sex, insurance status, procedure characteristics, SES, smoking, year of procedure, cardiomyopathy, COPD, CHF, CLD, CRF, CVD, dysrhythmias, DM, HD, HTN, MI, obesity, previous CABG, PVD, RF, unstable angina, valve disease	
Brister et al, ²² 2007	Logistic regression analysis	Age, EF, HTN, and unstable angina	
Cooper et al, ²⁸ 2009	Logistic regression analysis	Age, anticoagulants, beta blockers, BMI, BSA, diuretics, EF, sex, height, IABP, immunosuppressive therapy, inotropes, nitrates, last creatinine level, resuscitation, smoking, status, weight, cardiogenic shock, COPD, CVA, CVD, DM, HD, HF, HLD, HTN, left main disease, MI, number of diseased vessels, PVD, RF	
Gasevic et al, ²⁰ 2013	Logistic regression analysis	Age, distance from nearest hospital, sex, SES, time from MI to revascularization, arrhythmia, ARF, cancer, cardiogenic shock, CHF, CRF, CVD, DM, severity of CAD	
Hadjinikolaou et al, ³⁶ 2010	Logistic regression analysis	BMI, logistic EuroSCORE, DM, previous PCI	
Keeling et al, ³² 2017	Logistic regression analysis	Age, creatinine level, EF, sex, height, IABP, immunosuppressive therapy, resuscitation, single/multiple graft, status, weight, angina, arrhythmia, cardiogenic shock, COPD, CVD, DM, endocarditis, HF, HTN, MI, PAD, previous CV intervention, RF, valve disease	
Konety et al, ²³ 2005	Logistic regression analysis	Admission priority, age, sex, SES, year of surgery, DM, CAD, CHF, COPD, CRF, CVD, HTN, PVD, previous CABG or PCI	
Lucas et al, ³⁵ 2006	Logistic regression analysis	Age, sex, SES, urgency of admission, year of operation, Charlson comorbidity score	Hospital volume, clustering by hospital
Maynard and Ritchie, ²⁴ 2001	Logistic regression analysis	Age, IMA grafting, Deyo score, COPD, DM, HTN, MI	
Mehta et al, ³⁰ 2016	Logistic regression analysis	Patient characteristics, surgeon, SES	Hospital identity
Rangrass et al, ¹⁹ 2014	Logistic regression analysis	Age, emergency admission, sex, SES, Elixhauser comorbidity index	Hospital quality
Rumsfeld et al, ⁴ 2002	Logistic regression analysis	Age, BSA, EF, sex, IMA graft use, number of anastomoses, preoperative ECG, preoperative diuretics and IV nitroglycerin, preoperative IABP, priority of surgery, serum creatinine, smoking, CAD, COPD, CVD, DM, HTN, MI, NYHA class, preoperative mortality risk, previous heart surgery, previous PCI, PVD, 3-vessel CAD	
Trivedi et al, ²⁶ 2006	Logistic regression analysis	Age, sex, urgency of admission, COPD, CHF, DM, Elixhauser comorbidity index, PVD, HTN, MI	Hospital volume and clustering by hospital
Zacharias et al, ² 2005	Logistic regression analysis	Age, beta blockers, BSA, EF, sex, insurance status, preoperative IABP, priority of procedure, procedure characteristics, SES, smoking, arrhythmia, CHF, CVA, CVD, COPD, DM, double vessel disease, HLD, HTN, left main disease, MI, NYHA class, obesity, PVD, RF, triple-vessel disease, unstable angina.	

DRG, Diagnosis-Related Group; SES, socioeconomic status; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CHF, congestive heart failure; CLD, chronic liver disease; CRF, chronic renal failure; CVD, cerebrovascular disease; DM, diabetes mellitus; HD, hemodialysis; HTN, hypertension; MI, myocardial infarction; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; PVD, peripheral vascular disease; RF, renal failure; EF, ejection fraction; BMI, body mass index; BSA, body surface area; IABP, intra-aortic balloon pump; CVA, cerebrovascular accident; HF, heart failure; HLD, hyperlipidemia; ARF, acute renal failure; CAD, coronary artery disease; PAD, peripheral arterial disease; CV, cardiovascular; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; IMA, internal mammary artery; ECG, electrocardiogram; IV, intravenous; NYHA, New York Heart Association.