Simple point of care risk stratification in acute coronary syndromes: the AMIS model

Kurz, D J; Bernstein, A; Hunt, K; Radovanovic, D; Erne, P; Siudak, Z; Bertel, O
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Abstract

Background: Early risk stratification is important in the management of patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS).

Objective: To develop a rapidly available risk stratification tool for use in all ACS.

Design and methods: Application of modern data mining and machine learning algorithms to a derivation cohort of 7520 ACS patients included in the AMIS (Acute Myocardial Infarction in Switzerland)-Plus registry between 2001 and 2005; prospective model testing in two validation cohorts.

Results: The most accurate prediction of in-hospital mortality was achieved with the “Averaged One-Dependence Estimators” (AODE) algorithm, with input of 7 variables available at first patient contact: Age, Killip class, systolic blood pressure, heart rate, pre-hospital cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, history of heart failure, history of cerebrovascular disease. The c-statistic for the derivation cohort (0.875) was essentially maintained in important subgroups, and calibration over five risk categories, ranging from <1% to >30% predicted mortality, was accurate. Results were validated prospectively against an independent AMIS-Plus cohort (n=2854, c-statistic 0.868) and the Krakow-Region ACS Registry (n=2635, c-statistic 0.842). The AMIS model significantly outperformed established “point-of-care” risk prediction tools in both validation cohorts. In comparison to a logistic regression-based model, the AODE-based model proved to be more robust when tested on the Krakow validation cohort (c-statistic 0.842 vs. 0.746). Accuracy of the AMIS model prediction was maintained at 12-months follow-up in an independent cohort (n=1972, c-statistic 0.877).

Conclusions: The AMIS model is a reproducibly accurate point-of-care risk stratification tool for the complete range of ACS, based on variables available at first patient contact.
Simple point of care risk stratification in acute coronary syndromes: The AMIS model

David J. Kurz,1 Abraham Bernstein,2* Katrin Hunt,2* Dragana Radovanovic,3 Paul Erne,4 Zbigniew Siudak,5 Osmund Bertel.6

1Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Triemli Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland; 2Dynamic and Distributed Information Systems Group, Department of Informatics, University of Zurich, Switzerland; 3AMIS-PLUS Data Centre, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland; 4Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Kantonsspital Luzern, Switzerland; 5Department of Interventional Cardiology, University Hospital, Krakow, Poland; 6Cardio-Vascular Center Zurich, Klinik im Park, Zurich, Switzerland

*equal contributions

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Address for correspondence:
David J. Kurz, MD
Cardiology
Triemli Hospital
Birmensdorferstrasse 497
CH-8063 Zurich
Switzerland
Email: david.kurz@triemli.stzh.ch
Tel: +41 44 466 15 51
Fax: +41 44 466 27 97
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Conclusions: The AMIS model is a reproducibly accurate point-of-care risk stratification tool for the complete range of ACS, based on variables available at first patient contact.
INTRODUCTION

The risk of short-term death for patients suffering from acute coronary syndromes (ACS) is widely heterogeneous. Reliable risk stratification remains an essential part of their care,[1] especially with regard to the time point of revascularisation, use of antithrombotic therapies, and to the length and level of their specialized care and monitoring. For this goal, a number of risk prediction models have been developed,[2-13] and among these, models developed from randomised controlled trials and later validated in large registries have reached broad acceptance.[11, 14, 15]

Nonetheless, questions have arisen concerning the performance of these scores in patients treated according to current standards. First, some of these scores were developed in an era prior to the introduction of potent antiplatelet / antithrombotic agents and the establishment of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) as the treatment of choice for most patients with ACS, and the impact of these changes in treatment strategy on the accuracy of risk scores remains unclear. Second, many high risk patients were excluded from the trials from which the scores were developed, including patients with cardiogenic shock or pre-hospital resuscitation, patients with a history of cerebrovascular disease und coagulation disorders, and patients with ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) presenting too late for fibrinolytic treatment.[6, 7, 9, 11] Third, these scores were all applicable selectively to patients with either STEMI or non ST elevation ACS (non-STE-ACS).[6-9, 11-13]

Recently, the Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events (GRACE) investigators reported a prediction score valid over the complete spectrum of ACS.[16] This score has undergone extensive validation and has reached broad acceptance. Treatment guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology for non-STE-ACS recommend use of the GRACE score as the preferred risk stratification tool in routine practice.[1] However, in contrast to the TIMI risk scores for STEMI,[7, 9] but in line with the TIMI risk score for Non-STE-ACS,[8] this score requires the input of blood test results, thus delaying the availability of the prediction result.

With these questions in mind, this study aimed to develop a rapidly applicable model for use in all kinds of ACS, based on outcomes in unselected, contemporary patients. An additional goal of this study was to evaluate the use of modern data mining / machine learning techniques for model development. Most established risk scores have been developed using traditional statistical methods such as logistic regression techniques. We hoped that more advanced, partially non-linear algorithms, which have only rarely been applied in medical science, would prove useful in optimising model accuracy.

METHODS

Patient cohorts

Derivation cohort
The AMIS (Acute Myocardial Infarction in Switzerland) registry was initiated in 1997 and prospectively collects data from ACS patients admitted to 67 Swiss hospitals.[17] While initially only patients with myocardial infarction were included, the database was extended in 2001 to include patients suffering from the complete spectrum of ACS (hence called “AMIS-Plus”). Collection and analysis of data in the AMIS-Plus registry has been approved by the regional ethics committees of all participating hospitals. The derivation cohort for model development consisted of patients included in this registry between October 2001 and May 2005. After exclusion of 185 datasets with missing (or nonsensical) values for age (>120
years), systolic blood pressure (<30 or > 300 mm Hg) or heart rate (<15 or > 300/minute)
7520 sufficiently complete datasets remained.

**AMIS validation cohort**
All patients included in the AMIS-Plus database between June 2005 and July 2006 (n = 2854)
represented the independent validation dataset for the model. No patients were excluded from
the AMIS validation dataset.

**External validation cohort**
The Krakow Region (Malopolska State) ACS registry selectively included patients treated
with a non-invasive strategy in 29 hospitals without on-site PCI facilities in Malopolska State,
Poland between 2002 and 2006 (n = 2635).[18, 19] No patients were excluded.

**Model development**
The development of the AMIS model followed typical machine learning methodology.[20]
After establishing the variable to be predicted – in-hospital death – the data were pre-
processed into a format suitable for algorithm consumption. In a second step a variety of
algorithms were tested regarding their predictive performance. Software packages used for
data preparation were SPSS Clementine 10.0, and for model development the open source
software Weka 3.4.7 (available at http://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/~ml/weka/index.html).

Of the information collected in the AMIS-Plus registry 86 variables are assessed at admission.
From these, variable selection was performed using the J48 decision tree learner (a variant of
C4.5 provided by Weka).[20] combined with a sequential backward deletion process, which
starts by learning a model with all variables and then repeatedly tests which variable can be
discarded without decreasing the overall model prediction quality.[21] Since some machine
learning algorithms are limited to categorical variables, the data were pre-processed either by
applying categories or by using the fixed-bin discretisation algorithm provided by Weka. We
used 10-fold cross-validation to establish the predictive power of the model, as assessed using
the c-statistic (i.e. the area under the curve, range 0-1) of the model’s receiver operating
characteristic (ROC).[22]

To determine the best suitable prediction algorithm we compared the performance with
respect to the c-statistic and computational complexity of 30 data mining algorithms from the
Weka data mining toolkit using 10-fold cross validation and the variables determined by the
sequential backward deletion process.

**Comparisons with other ACS risk scores**
Model performance of the AMIS model was compared with the TIMI risk score for STEMI
and the Simple Risk Index.[7, 9] These two risk prediction scores were chosen for comparison
with the AMIS model because of their similar applicability at first patient contact, without
input of blood test results. The GRACE risk model could not be directly compared to the
AMIS model due to absence of the variables “elevated cardiac enzyme levels at admission”
and “initial serum creatinine level” in the AMIS-Plus database.[16] The c-statistics achieved
with the different models were compared according to the non-parametric method described
by DeLong.[23]

**RESULTS**

**Patient characteristics**
The derivation cohort consisted of 7520 entries to the AMIS-Plus registry between October
2001 and May 2005. The presenting characteristics of these patients are summarized in Table
1. Hospital mortality for this cohort was 7.5%.
Table 1. Admission characteristics of patients from the AMIS-Plus registry used in model development and validation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>65.9 (13.4)</td>
<td>66.1 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, n (%)</td>
<td>5415 (72.0%)</td>
<td>2062 (72.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systolic BP, mm Hg</td>
<td>134 (27)</td>
<td>136 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart rate, min⁻¹</td>
<td>79 (20)</td>
<td>79 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killip ≥ II</td>
<td>1858 (25.3%)</td>
<td>503 (17.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resuscitation before admission</td>
<td>341 (4.5%)</td>
<td>87 (3.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous MI, angina or PCI</td>
<td>2560 (34.0%)</td>
<td>1117 (39.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of heart failure</td>
<td>341 (4.5%)</td>
<td>121 (4.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of stroke / TIA</td>
<td>422 (5.6%)</td>
<td>168 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation</td>
<td>376 (5.0%)</td>
<td>140 (4.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>4075 (54.2%)</td>
<td>1680 (58.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypercholesterolemia</td>
<td>4169 (55.4%)</td>
<td>1419 (49.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker</td>
<td>2836 (37.7%)</td>
<td>947 (33.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>1506 (20.0%)</td>
<td>542 (19.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEMI</td>
<td>4571 (60.8%)</td>
<td>1597 (56.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-STE-ACS</td>
<td>2949 (39.2%)</td>
<td>1257 (44.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECG at presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST elevation</td>
<td>4300 (57.2%)</td>
<td>1491 (52.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q wave</td>
<td>1228 (16.3%)</td>
<td>283 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST depression</td>
<td>2264 (30.1%)</td>
<td>800 (28.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T wave changes</td>
<td>2120 (28.2%)</td>
<td>704 (24.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBBB</td>
<td>372 (5.0%)</td>
<td>129 (4.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBBB</td>
<td>428 (5.7%)</td>
<td>121 (4.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are number (percent) or mean (SD). BP, blood pressure; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; TIA, transient ischemic attack; LBBB, left bundle branch block; RBBB, right bundle branch block.

Model characteristics

Selection of input variables was performed according to data analysis algorithms as described in the Methods section. We found that a critical mass of prognostic information was achieved using 7 key variables. The c-statistic did not improve, but rather tended to decrease when additional input variables were included in the model (Figure 1). The combination of input variables found to provide the best discriminative performance were 1) age, 2) Killip class, 3) systolic blood pressure, 4) heart rate, 5) pre-hospital cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, 6) history of heart failure, and 7) history of cerebrovascular disease. Notably, all 7 variables are available at first patient contact at the bedside. Model output was an estimate of in-hospital mortality risk for each patient. The best performing – in terms of accuracy and robustness – of the 30 machine learning algorithms tested was the “Averaged One-Dependence Estimators” (AODE) algorithm, an extension of the Naïve Bayes algorithm first reported in 2002.[24, 25] This provided the basis for the final model, which we named the “AMIS model”. The AODE algorithm also has the advantage of delivering a computationally highly efficient model with a complexity of the order (2*7²) for classification, allowing its implementation on a variety of devices including hand-held computers or mobile telephones.
Performance of the AMIS model
Using the AMIS model, the c-statistic for the derivation cohort was 0.875 (95% CI 0.86 – 0.89). As shown in Figure 2A, the discriminatory capacity of the AMIS model compared favourably to the TIMI risk score, which delivered a c-statistic of 0.803 (95% CI 0.79 – 0.82). Similarly, the AMIS score clearly outperformed the Simple Risk Index, which thanks to its simplicity can be considered to be a pre-hospital, bedside point of care risk prediction tool (c-statistic 0.813, 95% CI 0.79 – 0.83). The AMIS model performed significantly superior to both other scores (p <0.0001 for both comparisons), while the performance of the TIMI risk index and the Simple Risk index were similar (p = 0.24). Since differences exist between patient characteristics of the AMIS model development cohort (registry of complete ACS spectrum) and the other scores (thrombolysis trials), subgroup analysis was performed in STEMI vs. non-STE-ACS patients, younger and older patients, and patients treated by thrombolysis vs. primary PCI or a primary conservative strategy (Table 2). This demonstrated a consistently superior performance of the AMIS model in all subgroups. Interestingly, when tested on our derivation cohort, similar performance for patients with and without STEMI could also be observed for the TIMI score and the Simple Risk Index, despite the fact that these models were developed and validated on STEMI cohorts.
Calibration of predictions was tested by dividing the cohort into 5 categories based on increasing predicted risk, as shown in Figure 2B. Calibration of the model proved to be excellent, delivering close matches between mean predicted and effective hospital mortality rates for each category.
Table 2. Discriminative capacity of different risk prediction models in subgroup analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Derivation cohort</th>
<th>Validation cohort</th>
<th>Krakow cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>AMIS</td>
<td>TIMI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole cohort</td>
<td>7520</td>
<td>0.875</td>
<td>0.803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEMI vs. Non-STE-ACS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEMI</td>
<td>4571</td>
<td>0.879</td>
<td>0.816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-STE-ACS</td>
<td>2949</td>
<td>0.868</td>
<td>0.794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥65 years</td>
<td>4013</td>
<td>0.805</td>
<td>0.712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;65 years</td>
<td>3507</td>
<td>0.886</td>
<td>0.844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary treatment strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary PCI</td>
<td>4453</td>
<td>0.884</td>
<td>0.783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombolysis</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>0.853</td>
<td>0.833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No revasc. Tx.</td>
<td>2087</td>
<td>0.788</td>
<td>0.673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values represent the number of patients in each subgroup and the c-statistic for the corresponding cohort, model and subgroup. AMIS, AMIS model; STEMI, ST elevation myocardial infarction; Non-STE-ACS, Non ST elevation acute coronary syndrome; TIMI, TIMI risk score; SRI, Simple Risk Index; No revasc. Tx., no primary revascularisation therapy. N/A, not applicable.
Validation of the AMIS model

Prospective validation of the AMIS model was performed on an independent cohort of 2854 patients subsequently included in the AMIS-Plus registry – with no exclusions – between June 2005 and July 2006, with an overall in-hospital mortality rate of 5.5%. The c-statistic of the AMIS model for this validation cohort was 0.868 (95% CI 0.84 – 0.90). The performance of the AMIS model on the whole cohort (Figure 2C) and in the subgroup analyses (Table 2) basically mirrored the results achieved for the derivation cohort, also in comparison to the TIMI score (0.835, 95% CI 0.81 – 0.86) and Simple Risk Index (0.817, 95% CI 0.78 – 0.85). Again, the AMIS model significantly outperformed both other scores (p = 0.004 compared to the TIMI risk score, p = 0.0002 compared to the Simple Risk Index). Importantly, the ROC curve of the AMIS model was positioned above the curves of the other models, with no crossover points, during their whole course, indicating its superiority over the complete range of risks (Figure 2C). We attributed the similar accuracy of the AMIS model in both its derivation cohort and independent validation dataset to the fact that 10-fold cross-validation had already been used as in internal validation technique while developing the model in the derivation dataset.

Since the AMIS model was developed and validated on a Swiss dataset in which the majority of patients were treated by primary PCI, we sought further validation of the model on an external cohort treated with a more conservative strategy. The Krakow Region (Malopolska) ACS registry selectively included patients treated with a non-invasive strategy in 29 hospitals in the greater Krakow area (Poland) between 2002 and 2006.[18, 19] Among the 2635 patients included in this registry (57% male, mean age 68.2 ± 11.5 years, 31% STEMI) hospital mortality was 7.6%. The c-statistic using the AMIS model for this cohort was 0.842 (95% CI 0.82 – 0.87), compared to 0.724 (95% CI 0.69 – 0.76) for the TIMI risk score and 0.784 (95% CI 0.75 – 0.82) for the Simple Risk Index (Figure 2E). In this heterogenous cohort, the AMIS model was significantly more accurate than both other scores (p <0.0001 for both comparisons). Risk calibration was maintained with the AMIS model over the complete range of risks (Figure 2F). Subgroup analysis for the performance of the three risk prediction models in this cohort is listed in Table 2.

Prediction of late mortality

Although developed and validated for the prediction of in-hospital mortality, we also tested the predictive accuracy of the AMIS model on mortality of ACS patients at 12 months. The AMIS-Plus study group began enrolling patients in a registry to assess post-discharge mortality in July 2006. Up until August 2008 post-discharge mortality during the first year was 3.8%, so that 1-year total mortality – including hospital mortality – came to 8.9% for this cohort of 1972 patients with ACS. The c-statistic for the AMIS model in predicting 12 month mortality in this cohort was 0.877 (95% CI 0.86 – 0.90).

Comparison of machine learning algorithms

A pre-specified goal of this study was to evaluate the use of modern machine learning techniques for model development in comparison to more traditional statistical methods such as logistic regression. When using the same 7 variables, models based on the AODE algorithm (the AMIS model) or logistic regression performed similarly well in the derivation cohort (c-statistic 0.875, 95% CI 0.86 – 0.89, and 0.874, 95% CI 0.86 – 0.89, respectively, p = ns). However, when these two models, both developed on the same derivation cohort, were tested on the more heterogeneous Krakow validation cohort, the AODE-based model proved to be much more robust and clearly outperformed the logistic regression-based model (c-statistic 0.842, 95% CI 0.82 – 0.87, vs. 0.746, 95% CI 0.70 – 0.79, p <0.0001).
DISCUSSION

In this paper we report the development and validation of a novel risk prediction model for ACS. The AMIS model had excellent predictive performance both in the derivation cohort and in two independent validation cohorts, which differed from each other in important aspects. The model performed well both with regard to discriminative precision (c-statistic) and risk calibration.

Since a number of risk prediction scores for patients with myocardial infarction or ACS are already established, the specific advantages of the new AMIS model will be recapitulated here. First, the AMIS model is applicable to the complete range of ACS. We could show similar discriminative capacity for different subgroups, such as patients with STEMI or non-STE-ACS, for younger and more elderly patients, and for patients managed with different treatment strategies (Table 2). Furthermore, the model was developed on patients from a contemporary nationwide Swiss registry, which included all subsets of patients not traditionally represented in the databases of randomised controlled trials. This is reflected by the inclusion of the variables “pre-hospital mechanical resuscitation” and “history of cerebrovascular disease” in the model. These variables have not been included in most previously reported risk prediction tools.

Second, all 7 variables required for risk calculation with the AMIS model (Table 2) are rapidly available at first patient contact in the pre-hospital phase. Once a brief clinical assessment has been made, risk prediction can be calculated without the input of blood test results. Since a major goal of a risk prediction model is to optimise early patient management, this early availability appears advantageous. The absence of ECG or blood test variables from the AMIS model may seem counter-intuitive. However, during model development we found that many variables known to be independent predictors of risk did not improve discriminative precision with the AODE algorithm. These included STEMI versus non-STE-ACS, time from symptom onset to revascularisation therapy, the presence of atrial fibrillation at admission, or a history of diabetes.

Third, the AMIS model is very easy to use. The mortality risk is available directly upon entering the 7 variables into an appropriate calculator. This could be the online calculator publicly available at the AMIS-Plus web site (www.amis-plus.ch), or, for use by ambulance personnel or during house visits, the model could be loaded on a handheld computer or even a mobile telephone, digital aides which are currently widely available.

A prespecified goal of this study was to apply advanced data mining / machine learning techniques for model derivation, an approach which proved to be most valuable. A main strength of the AMIS model lies less in the choice of variables, but rather in the way in which variable information is processed by the model – based on the AODE algorithm[24, 25] – to calculate predicted risk. This became evident in the manner in which the AODE-based model clearly outperformed a conventional logistic regression model in the Krakow validation cohort, although both models were derived from the same cohort using the same variables (see results section).

In medical science, logistic regression has been the mainstay of model generation. An alternative approach in machine learning is the Naive Bayes algorithm. Numerous approaches have been proposed to improve the classification accuracy of Naive Bayes by weakening the attribute independence assumption. To maintain the simple structure and low computational cost, research has focussed on the one-dependence estimator, an approach chosen by the “averaged one-dependence estimator” (AODE) algorithm, initially described by Webb in 2002. The strength of this dynamic algorithm is the ability to alter the co-efficient of each
variable used in the model in dependence of the value of the previous variable in the decision tree. Thus, for example, the co-efficient assigned to systolic blood pressure of an individual will vary according his age. We are unaware of other prediction tools used in medical science applying the AODE algorithm.

Up until now the only model which estimated risk based on bedside clinical variables alone was the Simple Risk Index, using age, systolic blood pressure and heart rate. Although modelled and validated for patients with STEMI, it was noteworthy that when tested on our cohort – a contemporary, broad ACS population – the Simple Risk Index performed similarly in STEMI and non-STE-ACS (Table 2). This is consistent with a previous report on the discriminative capacity of the Simple Risk Index (c-statistic 0.73) in a large non-STE-ACS database.[26] In our independent and external validation datasets the c-statistics of the Simple Risk Index remained inferior to the AMIS model.

The AMIS model, as any other risk stratification tool, estimates risk for patients treated according to current standards, and does not represent the natural course of ACS. It should therefore be emphasized that the model should not be used to delay hospital admission or withhold treatment from patients estimated to be at low risk of short-term mortality. That being said, there is evidence to support the concept that patients with increased baseline risk have the largest benefit from early and aggressive therapy.[27] Despite this, data from the CRUSADE quality improvement initiative and the GRACE registry clearly showed that high-risk ACS patients are being treated less aggressively than their low-risk counterparts, and that this undertreatment was associated with increased risk-adjusted in-hospital mortality.[28, 29] One might hope that more widespread use of simple, point of care risk prediction tools such as the AMIS model might improve this “risk-treatment paradox”.

Limitations

The Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events (GRACE) score,[16] a robust and well validated model which was recently developed on the basis of a large international ACS registry, is recommended for risk prediction across the entire spectrum of ACS.[1] The fact that we were not able to compare its performance directly with the AMIS model, due to the absence of two required variables in our datasets (“elevated cardiac enzyme levels at admission” and “initial serum creatinine levels”), is a limitation of this study. In its original publication,[16] c-statistics of the GRACE model in its derivation (0.83) and validation datasets (0.85 in a subsequent, independent GRACE registry cohort, and 0.79 in the external GUSTO IIb cohort) were comparable to those achieved by the AMIS model in its corresponding independent validation cohorts, suggesting similar levels of predictive accuracy.

Like the GRACE score, the AMIS model includes the variable “pre-hospital resuscitation”. This may appear of questionable value to the everyday clinical use of the model in decision-making, since these patients, which accounted for 4.5% of the derivation cohort and 3.0% of the validation cohort, evidently need to be managed on a “high risk” basis. Similarly, the “high risk” variables “history of heart failure” and “history of stroke” were present in all cohorts at a frequency of below 6% (see Table 1). When these 3 variables were omitted from the model, the c-statistic declined only moderately from 0.879 to 0.845 with an AODE-based model in the derivation cohort (Figure 1A). This underscores the limited value of additional variables beyond age and baseline parameters of haemodynamic status (Killip class, systolic blood pressure and heart rate) for the prediction of early ACS mortality. However, we felt that the added accuracy warranted the inclusion of these 3 easily assessed and clinically important variables, especially with regard to use of the model in population-based analyses, such as risk-adjusted benchmarking or quality control.
Conclusion
The AMIS model reproducibly provides risk prediction of sufficient quality for daily clinical practice for patients suffering from the entire spectrum of acute coronary syndromes at a very early stage of patient care, enabling optimisation of management decisions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
We gratefully acknowledge the work of the steering committee and all participating hospitals of the AMIS-Plus project (www.amis-plus.ch) and the Krakow Region ACS registry.

FUNDING
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COMPETING INTERESTS
Conflicts of interest: none declared.

FIGURE LEGENDS
Figure 1: Critical mass of prognostic information for model optimisation. 
A, Bar chart depicting discriminative performance (c-statistic) in relation to the number of variables included in the model. B, Receiver Operator Characteristic Curves for the AMIS model (7 variables), the Simple Risk Index (3 variables) and the Killip Classification when used as a single variable in the derivation dataset.

Figure 2: Performance of the AMIS model in comparison to established risk prediction tools. 
A,C,E, ROC curves and c-statistic of the AMIS model, the TIMI risk score, and the Simple Risk Index. B,D,E, Risk calibration of the AMIS model, depicting effective mortality of patients discreditized into 5 categories of increasing predicted risk. A and B depict results from the derivation dataset, C and D from the independent AMIS-Plus validation dataset, E and F from the Krakow Region (Malopolska) ACS registry.
REFERENCES