

Supplementary Table 3. Assessment of balance of variables included in propensity-score model for ARB vs ACEi analysis (M2) before and after weighting

Characteristic	Before propensity-score—weighting			After propensity-score—weighting		
	ACEi	ARB	Standardised	ACEi	ARB	Standardised
	N=96,602	N=40,553	difference	N=96,602	N=40,553	difference
Age - year	70.8 ± 9.0	71.2 ± 8.7	0.047	71.2 ± 8.9	71.1 ± 9.0	0.009
Blood pressure – mmHg	147.4 ± 20.7 / 80.1 ± 10.7	148.1 ± 20.7 / 79.7 ± 10.5	0.035 / 0.041	147.4 ± 20.3 / 79.5 ± 10.7	148.2 ± 20.8 / 80.1 ± 10.7	0.041 / 0.054
Body-mass index (kg/m²)	28.3 ± 5.3	28.8 ± 5.4	0.097	28.3 ± 5.7	28.6 ± 5.4	0.044
Female sex – no. (%)	45508 (47.1)	22690 (56.0)	0.178	75304.7 (51.8)	68530.9 (50.5)	0.026
Ethnic group – no. (%)						
Black	1280 (1.3)	736 (1.8)	0.039	2064.1 (1.4)	2053.2 (1.5)	0.008
Other	1134 (1.2)	607 (1.5)	0.028	1742.9 (1.2)	1747.3 (1.3)	0.008
South Asian	3026 (3.1)	1799 (4.4)	0.068	8632.0 (5.9)	5073.8 (3.7)	0.103
White	91162 (94.4)	37411 (92.3)	0.028	132818.6 (91.4)	126718.0 (93.5)	0.076
Clinical history – no. (%)						
CAD ^{1,2}	68009 (70.4)	28202 (69.5)	0.019	100440.6 (69.2)	94474.9 (69.7)	0.011
Cerebrovascular disease ^{1,3}	8695 (9.0)	3140 (7.7)	0.046	12626.5 (8.7)	11840.2 (8.7)	0.001
PAD ^{1,4}	9999 (10.4)	4078 (10.1)	0.010	14359.7 (9.9)	14463.3 (10.7)	0.026
Diabetes ⁵	43751 (45.3)	20003 (49.3)	0.081	69713.4 (48.0)	64739.6 (47.8)	0.005
High-risk diabetes ^{1,6}	30736 (31.8)	14757 (36.4)	0.097	50469.3 (34.7)	46151.9 (34.0)	0.015
Smoking status – no. (%)						
Non-smoker	34503 (35.7)	16470 (40.6)	0.101	55849.7 (38.5)	50717.2 (37.4)	0.022

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	ACEi N=96,602	ARB N=40,553	Standardised difference	ACEi N=96,602	ARB N=40,553	Standardised difference
Current smoker	12921 (13.4)	3552 (8.8)	0.148	16659.7 (11.5)	16627.5 (12.3)	0.024
Past smoker	49178 (50.9)	20531 (50.6)	0.006	72748.3 (50.1)	68247.6 (50.3)	0.005
Alcohol status – no. (%)						
Drinker	76756 (79.5)	31840 (78.5)	0.023	116186.3 (80.0)	106324.0 (78.4)	0.039
Medication⁷ – no. (%)						
Antiplatelet agent	12334 (12.8)	2482 (6.1)	0.229	14649.6 (10.1)	13131.5 (9.7)	0.014
Aspirin	44011 (45.6)	9325 (23.0)	0.489	53048.8 (36.5)	50799.3 (37.5)	0.020
Beta-blocker	34178 (35.4)	6756 (16.7)	0.437	40751.5 (28.1)	38741.4 (28.6)	0.012
Calcium-channel blocker	28820 (29.8)	8515 (21.0)	0.204	38254.1 (26.3)	37864.7 (27.9)	0.036
Diuretics	32002 (33.1)	8838 (21.8)	0.256	40789.2 (28.1)	41887.5 (30.9)	0.062
Diabetic treatment	20060 (20.8)	4910 (12.1)	0.235	25257.7 (17.4)	25561.6 (18.9)	0.038
Nitrates	14862 (15.4)	3172 (7.8)	0.238	17721.7 (12.2)	16577.2 (12.2)	0.001
Statins	52925 (54.8)	11474 (28.3)	0.558	64630.3 (44.5)	61779.5 (45.6)	0.021
Index of multiple deprivation (IMD) – no.(%)						
1 (least deprived)	19805 (20.5)	8996 (22.2)	0.041	32568.7 (22.4)	28190.3 (20.8)	0.040
2	21977 (22.8)	9603 (23.7)	0.022	34344.3 (23.6)	30971.3 (22.8)	0.019
3	20644 (21.4)	8674 (21.4)	0.001	30255.9 (20.8)	28911.6 (21.3)	0.012

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	ACEi	ARB	Standardised	ACEi	ARB	Standardised
	N=96,602	N=40,553	difference	N=96,602	N=40,553	difference
4	18462	7312	0.028	26032.4	25280.3	0.019
	(19.1)	(18.0)		(17.9)	(18.6)	
5 (most deprived)	15714	5967	0.043	22056.5	22238.8	0.033
	(16.3)	(14.7)		(15.2)	(16.4)	
Health utilisation⁸						
No. of hospital admissions	0.42 ± 1.0	0.31 ± 0.9	0.118	0.38 ± 0.9	0.36 ± 0.9	0.017
No. of GP apt.	27.9 ± 27.3	15.2 ± 25.4	0.482	22.8 ± 26.9	24.3 ± 29.5	0.058
No. of different drug types	8.5 ± 4.3	9.7 ± 4.6	0.273	9.2 ± 4.5	9.0 ± 4.6	0.035
Time-related variables						
Time since first eligible period (days)	131.3 ± 496.5	377.6 ± 759.1	0.384	544.7 ± 1444.4	223.6 ± 625.4	0.501
No. of prior ARB periods	0.04 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.5	0.163	0.1 ± 0.4	0.1 ± 0.4	0.117
No. of prior ACEi periods	0.1 ± 0.5	0.6 ± 0.7	0.739	0.3 ± 0.8	0.3 ± 0.6	0.053
Calendar year	2007.1 ± 4.0	2007.6 ± 4.1	0.131	2007.9 ± 4.6	2007.3 ± 4.1	0.152

Notes: Cohort includes 1 randomly selected eligible period per patient in each group

¹ Any diagnosis prior to start of eligible period

² Includes diagnosis of: MI at least 2 days prior, angina at least 30 days prior, angioplasty at least 30 days prior, CABG at least 4 years prior

³ Includes diagnosis of: stroke/TIA

⁴ Includes diagnosis of: limb bypass surgery, limb/foot amputation, intermittent claudication

⁵ DM prior to start of eligible period

⁶ Includes DM with: retinopathy, neuropathy, chronic kidney disease or proteinuria

⁷ Within 3 months prior to eligible start date. Antiplatelet agent= clopidogrel/ ticlopidine

⁸ Within 6 months prior to eligible start date.

no. (%)=number (percent); CAD=coronary artery disease; MI=myocardial infarction; PAD=peripheral artery disease.