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# **Acute coronary syndromes**

## **An Essay**

**Submitted for partial fulfillment of  
Master degree of Intensive Care**

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

## Acute coronary syndromes المتلازمات المرضيه الحادة للشرايين التاجية

خطة بحث إيفاء جزئيا لشروط الحصول على درجة الماجستير فى الرعاية المركزة مقدمة  
من الطبيب أحمد محمد أحمد عبد السلام بكالوريوس الطب والجراحة (طب الاسكندرية).  
Protocol of an essay in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the  
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### Introduction

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## **Key Words**

<b>ACC</b>	American College of Cardiology
<b>ACEI</b>	angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
<b>ACLS</b>	advanced cardiac life support
<b>ACS</b>	acute coronary syndrome
<b>ACT</b>	activated clotting time
<b>ADP</b>	adenosine diphosphate
<b>AED</b>	automated external defibrillator
<b>AF</b>	atrial fibrillation
<b>AHA</b>	American Heart Association
<b>AHCPR</b>	Agency of Health Care Policy and Research
<b>ALS</b>	advanced life support
<b>AMI</b>	acute myocardial infarction
<b>aPTT</b>	activated partial thromboplastin time
<b>ARB</b>	angiotensin receptor blocker
<b>ARD</b>	absolute risk difference
<b>AV</b>	atrioventricular
<b>BCS</b>	British Cardiac Society
<b>CABG</b>	coronary artery bypass graft surgery
<b>CABRI</b>	Coronary Angioplasty versus Bypass Revascularisation Investigation
<b>CAPRIE</b>	Clopidogrel vs. Aspirin in Patients at Risk of Ischemic Events
<b>CAPTIM</b>	Comparison of Primary Angioplasty and Prehospital Thrombolysis in Acute Phase of Myocardial Infarction
<b>CARS</b>	Coumadin Aspirin Reinfarction
<b>CASS</b>	Coronary Artery Surgery Study
<b>CCS</b>	Canadian Cardiovascular Society
<b>cGMP</b>	cyclic guanosine monophosphate
<b>CHD</b>	Coronary Heart Disease
<b>CHF</b>	congestive heart failure
<b>CI</b>	confidence interval
<b>CK</b>	creatinine kinase
<b>COPD</b>	chronic obstructive pulmonary
<b>CRP</b>	C-reactive protein
<b>cTnI</b>	cardiac-specific TnI
<b>cTnT</b>	cardiac-specific TnT
<b>CURE</b>	Clopidogrel in Unstable angina to Prevent Recurrent Ischemic Events
<b>DRS</b>	Diltiazem Reinfarction Study
<b>DTS</b>	Duke Treadmill Score
<b>ECG</b>	12-lead electrocardiogram, electrocardiographic
<b>ED</b>	emergency department
<b>EF</b>	ejection fraction (left ventricle)
<b>EMS</b>	emergency medical services
<b>EMT</b>	emergency medical technician
<b>EP</b>	electrophysiology

<b>ESC</b>	European Society of Cardiology
<b>FRAXIS</b>	FRAxiparine in Ischaemic Syndrome
<b>FRIC</b>	FRagmin In unstable Coronary artery
<b>FTT</b>	Fibrinolytic Therapy Trialists
<b>GIK</b>	glucose-insulin-potassium
<b>GP</b>	glycoprotein
<b>GRACE</b>	Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events
<b>GUSTO-II</b>	Global Use of Strategies to Open Occluded Coronary Arteries-II
<b>GUSTO-III</b>	Global Use of Strategies to Open Occluded Coronary Arteries-III
<b>HDL</b>	high-density lipoprotein
<b>HDL-C</b>	high-density lipoprotein cholesterol
<b>HRT</b>	hormone replacement therapy
<b>hsCRP</b>	high-sensitivity C-reactive protein
<b>IABP</b>	intra-aortic balloon pump
<b>ICAM</b>	intra-cellular adhesion molecule
<b>ICD</b>	implantable cardioverter defibrillator
<b>ICH</b>	intracranial hemorrhage
<b>INR</b>	international normalized ratio
<b>IV</b>	intravenous
<b>ISIS</b>	International Study of Infarct Survival
<b>LAD</b>	left anterior descending coronary
<b>LBBB</b>	left bundle-branch block
<b>L-CAD</b>	Lipid Coronary Artery Disease Study
<b>LDL</b>	low-density lipoprotein
<b>LDL-C</b>	low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
<b>LMCA</b>	Left Main Coronary Artery
<b>LMWH</b>	low-molecular-weight heparin
<b>LV</b>	left ventricular, left ventricle
<b>LVAD</b>	left ventricular assist device
<b>LVEF</b>	left ventricular ejection fraction
<b>MB</b>	cardiac muscle isoenzyme of creatine kinase
<b>MCP</b>	Monocyte chemo-attractant protein
<b>MDPIT</b>	Multicenter Diltiazem Postinfarction therapy
<b>MET</b>	metabolic equivalent
<b>MI</b>	myocardial infarction
<b>MM</b>	skeletal muscle isoenzyme of creatine kinase
<b>MR</b>	mitral regurgitation
<b>MVO2</b>	myocardial oxygen consumption
<b>NCEP</b>	National Cholesterol Education program
<b>NHAAP</b>	National Heart Attack Alert Program
<b>NICE</b>	National Investigators Collaborating on Enoxaparin Trail
<b>NRMI</b>	National Registry of Myocardial infarction
<b>NSTEMI</b>	non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction
<b>OR</b>	odds ratio
<b>PCI</b>	percutaneous coronary intervention



<b>PCWP</b>	pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
<b>PH</b>	parenchymal hemorrhage
<b>PRAGU</b>	Primary Angioplasty in patients transferred from General Community hospitals to specialized PTCA Unites
<b>RBBB</b>	right bundle-branch block
<b>RR</b>	relative risk
<b>RRR</b>	relative risk reduction
<b>RV</b>	right ventricular, right ventricle
<b>SAVE</b>	Survival and Ventricular Enlargement
<b>SCD</b>	sudden cardiac death
<b>SHOCK</b>	SHould we emergently revascularize Occluded Coronaries for cardiogenic shock
<b>SPECT</b>	single-photon emission computed
<b>STEMI</b>	ST-elevation myocardial infarction
<b>STS</b>	Society of Thoracic Surgeons
<b>SVG</b>	saphenous vein graft
<b>TEE</b>	transesophageal echocardiography
<b>TIA</b>	transient ischemic attack
<b>TIMI</b>	Thrombolysis In Myocardial infarction
<b>TLC</b>	Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes
<b>TnC</b>	troponin C
<b>TNF</b>	Tumor Necrosis Factor
<b>TnI</b>	troponin I
<b>TnT</b>	troponin T
<b>tPA</b>	tissue plasminogen activator
<b>TTP</b>	thrombotic thrombocytopenia
<b>UA</b>	unstable angina
<b>UFH</b>	unfractionated heparin
<b>VALIANT</b>	Valsartan in Acute Myocardial Infarction Trial
<b>VF</b>	Ventricular Fibrillation
<b>VSR</b>	Ventricular Septal Rupture
<b>VT</b>	Ventricular Tachycardia
<b>WARIS</b>	Warfarin- Aspirin Reinfarction Study
<b>WHI</b>	Women Health Initiative
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# **Introduction**

The acute coronary syndromes encompass a spectrum of unstable coronary artery disease from unstable angina to transmural myocardial infarction. All have a common aetiology in the formation of thrombus on an inflamed and complicated atheromatous plaque. The principles behind the presentation, investigation and management of these syndromes are similar with important distinctions depending on the category of acute coronary syndrome.

An epidemic of coronary heart disease (CHD) began during the 20th century in most industrialized countries, where CHD is a leading cause of mortality among adults. Developing countries show the beginnings of the same epidemic.

Reliable information on population incidence, prevalence, and case-fatality rates of CHD is essential in understanding, treating, and controlling the epidemic but is generally unavailable. Consistent and universal definitions of cases of CHD allow the determination of rates and comparisons within and between populations.

These case definitions are essential to epidemiological studies and other research, such as clinical trials, quality assurance, and economic analysis of healthcare costs. The need for standardization is clear, and this statement recommends updated definitions.

The WHO estimated that in 2002, 12.6% of deaths worldwide were from ischemic heart disease. Ischemic heart disease is the leading cause of death in developed countries, but third to AIDS and lower respiratory infections in developing countries. (*World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 2002*).

Internationally: Cardiovascular diseases account for 12 million deaths annually throughout the world.

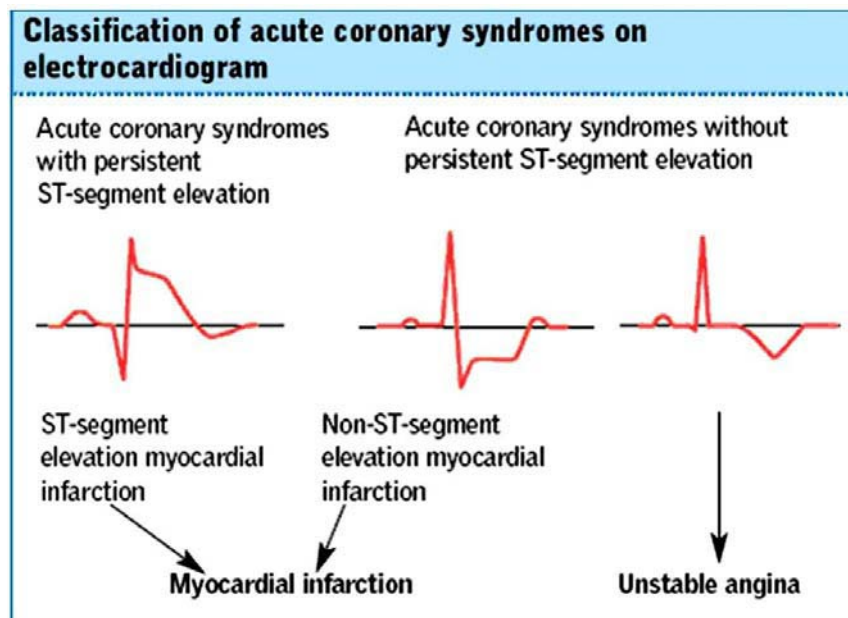
This essay addresses the diagnosis and management of patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) these life-threatening disorders are a major cause of emergency medical care and hospitalization worldwide.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Definition of Acute Coronary Syndromes**

**DEFINITION OF ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROMES:**

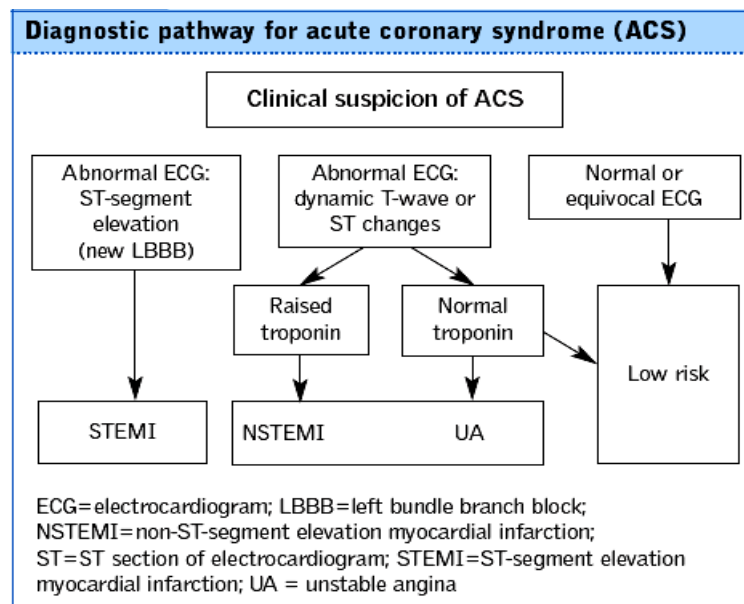
Acute coronary syndromes (ACS) are conditions characterized by the sudden onset of coronary insufficiency as a result of thrombotic occlusion of one or more coronary arteries. Three such conditions are identified: ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), non ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (non-STEMI), and unstable angina (UA). (Fig. 1-1) (*Rationale ,2001*).



**Figure(1-1):Classification of acute coronary syndromes on electrocardiogram (*Rationale ,2001*).**

The first condition (STEMI) is the result of complete and sustained thrombotic coronary occlusion, while the last two conditions (non-STEMI and UA) are result of either partial thrombotic coronary occlusion or transient complete occlusion with spontaneous revascularization. The definition of acute coronary syndrome depends on the specific characteristics of each element of the triad of clinical presentation (including a history of coronary artery disease), electrocardiographic

changes and biochemical cardiac markers. An acute coronary syndrome may occasionally occur in the absence of electrocardiographic changes or elevations in biochemical markers, when the diagnosis is supported by the presence of prior documented coronary artery disease or subsequent confirmatory investigations.



**Figure(1-2): Diagnostic pathway for acute coronary syndrome (ACS)**

*(Rationale ,2001)*

The immediate management of a patient with an acute coronary syndrome is determined by the characteristics of the presenting electrocardiogram and, in particular, the presence or absence of ST segment elevation. In combination with the clinical presentation, an ST segment elevation acute coronary syndrome is defined by the presence of  $\geq 1$  mm ST elevation in at least two adjacent limb leads,  $\geq 2$  mm ST elevation in at least two contiguous precordial leads, or new onset left bundle branch block. In the absence of ST segment elevation (non-ST segment elevation acute coronary syndrome); patients are initially managed without emergency reperfusion therapy.(fig 1-2)

The main diagnostic categories of acute coronary syndrome, unstable angina and myocardial infarction, are defined by the serum concentration of cardiac enzymes and markers. The cardiac markers, troponin T and troponin I, are extremely sensitive to myocardial injury and damage; Minimal damage can be detected, allowing identification of 'micro- infarcts' where there is an elevation in the troponin concentration without a significant rise in creatine kinase or other cardiac enzymes. One consequence of the use of troponin measurement has been a blurring of the distinction between unstable angina and myocardial infarction.

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and American College of Cardiology (ACC) state that any elevation, however small, of a troponin or the creatine kinase MB (muscle, brain) isoenzyme is evidence of myocardial necrosis and that the patient should be classified as having myocardial infarction, however small. (*Van de Werf F, et al. 2003*).

The global registry of acute coronary events (GRACE) uses these diagnostic criteria for acute myocardial infarction and unstable angina as shown below.

**GRACE diagnostic criteria for acute myocardial infarction and unstable angina:**

**I. Acute myocardial infarction.**

Symptoms felt to be consistent with cardiac ischemia within 24 hours of hospital presentation and at least one of the following: increase in cardiac enzymes: Creatine kinase MB fraction >2 times upper limit of the hospital's normal range OR if no creatine kinase MB fraction available, then total creatine phosphokinase >2 times upper limit of the hospital's normal range and/or positive troponin I or T results (if performed). ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction is defined as persistent ST segment elevation of  $\geq 1$  mm in 2 contiguous electrocardiographic leads or the presence of a new left bundle branch block in the setting of positive cardiac enzyme results. Non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction is defined as occurrence of acute myocardial infarction in the setting of