

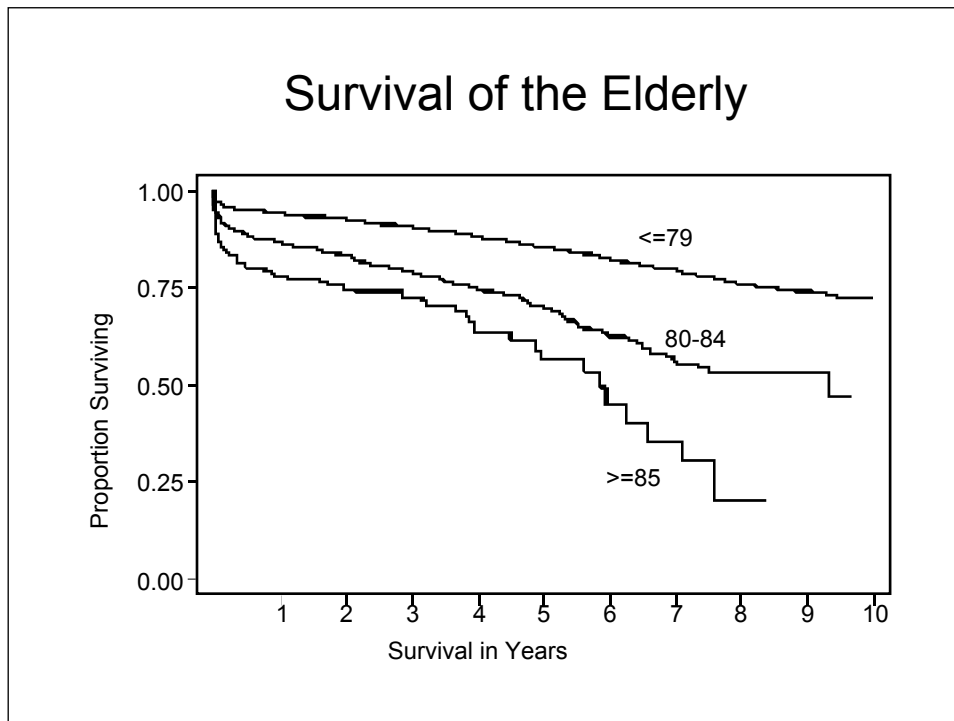
# Long Term Survival of the Very Elderly Undergoing CABG Surgery

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**Background:** Increasing numbers of the very elderly are undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG). Short-term results have been studied, little data are available concerning long-term outcomes.

**Methods:** We conducted a cohort study of 27,064 consecutive patients undergoing CABG surgery between 1987-97. Patient records were linked to the National Death Index to assess survival.

**Results:** During 103,087 person years of follow-up there were 3,805 deaths. There were 1140 patients age 80-84 (4.2%), and 207 patients  $\geq 85$  (0.8%) who underwent CABG surgery. Crude in-hospital mortality was 7.6% (80-84 years), and 14% for those  $\geq 85$ . Patients  $\geq 80$  were more likely to be female (44%), less likely to be elective priority (25%), and more likely to have associated comorbidities than younger patients. In patients 80-84, median survival time was 9.3 years, with an annual incidence rate of death of 8.6%. In patients  $\geq 85$ , median survival time was 5.8 years, and the annual incidence of death was 15.2%.



**Conclusions:** Although the very elderly have more comorbidities and more acute presentation than younger patients and their in-hospital mortality is high, their long-term survival is surprisingly good.