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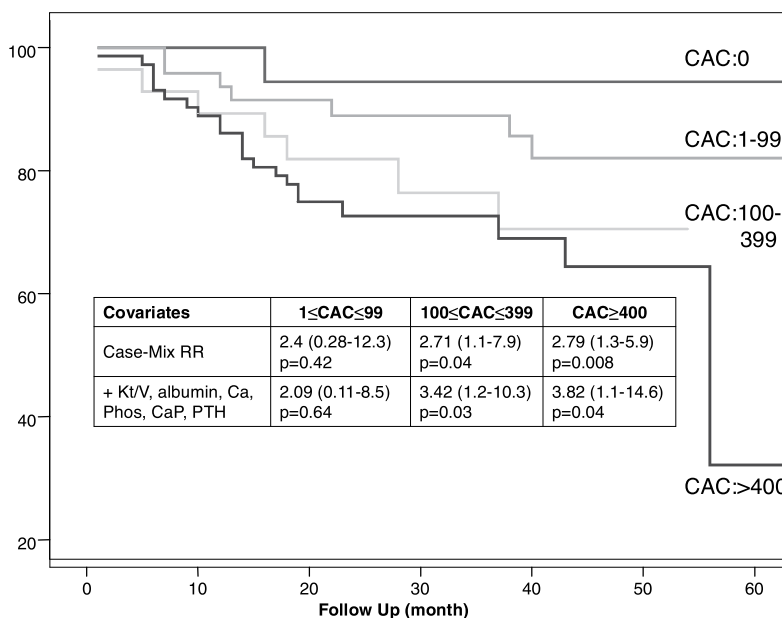
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**CORONARY ARTERY CALCIUM SCORE, INFLAMMATION AND MORTALITY IN MAINTENANCE HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS**

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**Introduction:** Vascular calcification in maintenance hemodialysis (MHD) patients (pts) may be a cause of high mortality. We examined whether the coronary artery calcification scores (CACs) provides incremental value to predict all-cause mortality in MHD pts. **Methods:** Survival analyses were conducted in the 5-year (2001-06) cohort of *Nutritional and Inflammatory Evaluation in Dialysis* (NIED) Study.

**Results:** In 166 MHD pts who underwent CACS (aged 56±13 yrs), the Charlson comorbidity score, C-reactive protein, interleukin-6, TNF-a, and homocysteine were increased in proportion from CACS=0 to 1≤CACs≤99 to 100≤CACs≤399 to CACS≥400. CACS≥400 and 100≤CACs≤399 were associated with a significantly higher adjusted risk of death than CACS=0 (Figure):



**Conclusion:** These results suggest that significant CACS can predict incrementally worsening inflammation and also all-cause mortality of MHD pts independent of conventional risk factors and inflammation.