

## MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY MEN AND WOMEN OF KAUNAS WITH ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION IN 1996

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**The aim** of the present study was to evaluate the peculiarities of the medical care provided for Kaunas men and women aged 65-84 years, who experienced acute myocardial infarction (AMI) in 1996, during the acute period of illness.

**Material and methods.** The source of data was Kaunas community-based ischemic heart disease (IHD) register. The methods used for the data collection were those applied by the WHO "MONICA" Project. A special standardised questionnaire designed for a coronary care investigation was used in the present study. All permanent residents of Kaunas city, affected by AMI and hospitalised to Kaunas city hospitals from 1st January to 31st December, 1996, was the object of the study.

**Results.** During the one-year study period, 150 men and 197 women aged 65-84 yrs. with non-fatal AMI were registered. Till 4 hours from the start of pain in the chest, men aged 65-84 yrs. sought for a medical advice as frequently as women: 36.0% and 36.5%, respectively. First medical aid for the AMI patients was given by a mobile team: 60.7% of men and 68.5% of women ( $p>0.05$ ). 28.0% of the elderly men and 24.4% of the elderly women received the first medical aid from the general practitioner ( $p>0.05$ ). Thrombolytic therapy was applied for 4.0% men and for hardly 2.5% women ( $p>0.05$ ), while percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty was performed for 2.0% and 0.5% men and women, respectively ( $p>0.05$ ). The prescribed medications administered for elderly men and women were similar, but only treatment with inotropics among elderly men and women were significant differ, respectively, 12.0% and 20.3%.

**Conclusion.** Elderly men with acute myocardial infarction were treated very similar compared to women.