

PREVALENCE OF ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AMONG MIDDLE-AGED AND ELDERLY KAUNAS POPULATION WITH ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION IN 1996-1997

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Objective: The aim of the present study was to determine and compare the prevalence of arterial hypertension (AH) (%) among middle-aged (25-64 yrs.) and elderly (65-84 yrs.) Kaunas men and women with the first or the recurrent acute myocardial infarction (AMI), who were hospitalized in 1996-1997.

Methods: Kaunas community-based ischemic heart disease register was the source of data. The methods used for the data collection were those applied by the WHO MONICA Project. All permanent residents of Kaunas aged 25-84 years who experienced AMI and were hospitalized in 1996-1997 and were assigned to the epidemiological diagnostic categories (EDC): “definite” AMI or “possible” AMI have been considered. The difference between the age and sex groups was evaluated by means of Student’s t test. AH was estimated according to the data of clinical records of persons with AMI.

Results: During 1996-1997, the data of 1,997 persons: 1,090 (54.6%) men and 907 (45.4%) women aged 25-84 yrs. had been analyzed. The prevalence of AH among men aged 25-84 yrs. was 35.8% and 45.4% among women of the same age ($p=0.00001$). Analysis of the data on AH in two age groups (25-64 and 65-84 yrs.) revealed the statistically significant differences among men and women: in the group aged 25-64 yrs. – 36.6 % and 47.9%, respectively, $p=0.004$, and in the group of 65-84 yrs. – 34.9% and 44.7%, respectively, $p=0.0005$.

The difference in the prevalence of AH among men and women aged 25-84 yrs. with the first AMI was statistically significant (37.3% and 46.8%, respectively, $p=0.0006$). The same difference was estimated while analyzing the data of middle-aged men and women with the first AMI (35.8% and 50.0%, respectively, $p=0.002$). Meanwhile, the significant difference in the prevalence of AH among elderly men and women was not determined.

Analyzing the prevalence of AH among men and women aged 25-84 yrs. with the recurrent AMI statistically significant difference was estimated (33.3% and 42.6%, respectively, $p=0.001$). Statistically significant difference was estimated while analyzing the data of elderly men and women (29.7% and 43.1%, respectively, $p=0.002$). Meanwhile, the prevalence of AH among middle-aged men and women with the recurrent AMI was not statistically significant. Evaluated the difference of the prevalence of AH in two age groups (25-64 and 65-84 yrs) were estimated only strong tendency among men with the recurrent AMI, 38.5% and 29.7%, respectively, $p=0.06$.

Conclusions: The prevalence of AH among men with AMI aged 25-84, 25-64 and 65-84 yrs. was lower than among women of the same age groups. The prevalence of AH among middle-aged men with the first AMI and the prevalence of AH among elderly men with the recurrent AMI was significantly lower than among the same age women.