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Trends and characteristics in patients with acute myocardial infarction undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention in South Korea

[Purpose] We sought to evaluate nationwide trends and characteristics of patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI) undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) in South Korea.

[Methods] From national health insurance (NHI) claims data in South Korea, 33,390 patients aged 18 years or older without known history of coronary artery disease, who underwent PCI as a diagnosis of AMI between 2009 and 2013, were analyzed.

[Results] The mean age of study participants was 62.1 ± 12.7 years and 24,847 (74.4 %) were men. Diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension were observed in 10,014 (30.0%), 7,012 (21.0%), and 13,602 (40.7%) patients, respectively. Between July 2009 and June 2013, NHI claims data indicated that PCI became more prevalent over time, increasing from 6,743 in 2009-2010 to 9,674 in 2012-2013 (a 41% increase). Additionally, a 13% increase in the number of PCI-providing hospitals occurred between 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 (141 versus 160 hospitals), with a gradual increase in the mean caseload per hospital (47.8 ± 41.3 in 2009-2010 versus 60.5 ± 55.2 in 2012-2013). In addition, statin, beta-blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker, calcium channel blocker, or diuretics were provided to 31,383 (94.0%), 19,963 (59.8%), 26,129 (78.3%), 7,500 (22.5%), or 10,398 (31.1) patients, respectively.

[Conclusion] From 2009 to 2013, AMI in the South Korea has markedly increased. Appropriate healthcare strategies reflecting trends and characteristics of AMI are needed in South Korea.