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Increasing long-term mortality of acute myocardial infarction

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Background: In the last 15 years, there has been a marked decline in in-hospital case-fatality for patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI). However, the long-term outcome and the trends in non-cardiovascular mortality of AMI patients needs to be investigated in detail.

Methods: We studied 222,944 admissions included in the Myocardial Infarction Data Acquisition System (MIDAS) including all AMI admission in the state of New Jersey from 1990-2004.

Results: AMI patients were studied into three categories by the length of follow-up time (1990-1999, 1999-2003, and 2003-2004). Figure 1 shows the temporal trends in age-adjusted survival for all cause and for cardiovascular disease death. The age and co-morbidities (eg. diabetes, hypertension, anemia) of AMI patients increased and the long-term outcome and the trends in non-cardiovascular mortality of AMI patients need to be investigated.

Conclusions: The gain in decreased in-hospital CVD mortality of AMI was not maintained during longer follow-up time. Total mortality increased due to higher non-CVD mortality.