

# Changes in the Baseline Clinical Characteristics of Hospitalized Patients with Congestive Heart Failure

Natsumi MORITO, Shin-ichiro MIURA, Keijiro SAKU

*Department of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka University.*

**Abstract** : Background : The epidemiology of heart failure (HF) has changed over time because of an increasingly aging population and lifestyle-related disorders. We studied the changes in the clinical characteristics of hospitalized patients with CHF. Methods and Results : We conducted a retrospective study of 121 patients who were hospitalized due to HF between 2000-2002 (Group 2000) and 131 patients who were hospitalized between 2007-2009 (Group 2008) in the Department of Cardiology, Fukuoka University Hospital. We analyzed the differences in the characteristics at admission, including medication and laboratory and echocardiographic parameters, between the groups. The major causes of HF were ischemic and hypertensive heart disease in both groups. Although higher levels of B-type natriuretic peptide were seen in Group 2008, there were no differences in the left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDd) or left atrial dimension (LAd) between the groups. In addition, the EF was negatively correlated with the LVEDd in both groups. Interestingly, the LVEDd was positively correlated with the LAd in Group 2008, but not in Group 2000, whereas the EF was positively correlated with the LAd in Group 2000, but not in Group 2008. In addition, 68% of the patients in Group 2008 initially started treatment with carperitide compared to 22% in Group 2000. Conclusions : The differences in the clinical characteristics of hospitalized patients with CHF may have important therapeutic implications.

**Key words** : Heart failure, Clinical characteristics, B-type natriuretic peptide, Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter