Background: Takotsubo cardiomyopathy (TC) is a transient systolic dysfunction of the apical/mid segments of left ventricle that mimics myocardial infarction but without any obstructive coronary artery disease. It is an increasingly reported entity with unclear etiopathogenesis. This study was done to identify the patient and hospital characteristics of patients diagnosed with TC in USA.

Methods: We queried Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project's Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) data using for patients discharged with primary diagnosis of TC using ICD9 code of 429.83 for TC. NIS represents 20% stratified sample of US community hospitals data in US. Data was extracted for years from 2007 to 2011. Patient characteristics (age, gender, insurance, residence) and hospital characteristics (ownership, teaching, size, and location) were identified and analyzed. For individual variables, analysis was done for available data, missing data being excluded.

Results: We identified 26,090 patients diagnosed with TC. Age was available for 19,469 patients, with 65-84 being affected most commonly (45.5%) and 69.5% patients were above the age of 65. Females were affected more than males (89.3% vs 10.7%). Most patients were covered by Medicare insurance (48.89%). Most of diagnoses were made in Private, not-for-profit hospitals (84.5%), hospitals in metropolitan areas (93.6%), hospitals with large bedside number (54.8%). Both teaching and non-teaching hospitals were equally associated with diagnosis of TC (50.1% vs 49.9%) Geographically, most patients were diagnosed in southern part of USA (31.4%) and least in north-east part (19.1%).

Conclusion: This study, largest on TC till date, identifies epidemiology of TC in USA with most patients being elderly (>65 years of age) and females. Further studies need to be done to identify risk factors in detail to better prevent and manage TC.