TAKOTSUBO CARDIOMYOPATHY MAY BE MORE COMMON THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN PRESENTING AS ACS

Background: Takotsubo cardiomyopathy (TC) often masquerades as an acute coronary syndrome (ACS) with ECG changes, elevated troponins and/or chest discomfort. Its exact incidence in ACS is unknown but most studies suggest a rate of 1-2%. As most patients with TC are postmenopausal women (PMW), it was hypothesized that the incidence would be higher in this population.

Methods: A prospective evaluation was carried out in all PMWs (women >45 years of age) with an elevated troponin presenting to a large Community Hospital over a 1 year period (July 20, 2011 to July 19, 2012). Troponin results above the upper limit of normal (0.04 ng/mL) were screened on a daily basis through a computerized system. The patient’s in-hospital charts were reviewed by 2 cardiologists and determined if they fulfilled the criteria for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) based on the Universal Definition of myocardial infarction. Pre-specified criteria (clinical and imaging data) were utilized to identify all patients with probable or definite TC.

Results: Among the 1297 PMWs screened for positive troponins, 323 patients (24.9%) fulfilled the criteria for acute myocardial infarction and of these, 22 (6.8%) met the criteria for TC. Only 3 patients with TC had acute neurologic events. There was a seasonal predilection during the summer months (40.9%) and the majority of patients (81.8%) had the apical variant of TC.

Conclusion: Takotsubo cardiomyopathy may be more common than reported in postmenopausal women with clinical and laboratory criteria suggesting AMI. Heightened awareness of TC in this population appears warranted.