Letters to the Editor

Does Educational Level Predict Mortality After Myocardial Infarction Independently of Left Ventricular Function and Medical Treatment?

¿El nivel de estudios predice la mortalidad tras un infarto de miocardio de manera independiente de la función ventricular izquierda y del tratamiento médico?

To the Editor,

I read the article by Consuegra-Sánchez et al1 with great interest. In their study, the authors report an inverse and independent relationship between educational level and long-term mortality in post-myocardial infarction patients. I would like to make a few points about the methodology and results of the article.1 In their study, the authors report the mean left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of all patients and indicate LVEF as a predictor of long-term mortality. However, there are no data about the mean LVEF for each group. It is known that LVEF < 40% is an independent predictor of mortality after myocardial infarction.2 Therefore, the authors should state the mean LVEF and incidence of patients with LVEF < 40% for each group and compare the mean LVEF among the groups. A higher incidence of patients with LVEF < 40% in illiterate and primary education patient groups may be another significant reason for higher mortality rates. Additionally, the study by Consuegra-Sánchez et al1 includes patients with impaired left ventricle systolic function (mean LVEF = 49% for all patients). Aldosterone antagonists significantly reduce all-cause mortality in post-myocardial infarction patients with LVEF < 40%, in addition to standard medical therapy.3 In the study by Consuegra-Sánchez et al,1 there are no data on the incidence of patients treated with aldosterone antagonists. A higher incidence of treatment with aldosterone antagonists in secondary education and higher education patient groups may be the reason for lower mortality rates.

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Available online 11 September 2015

REFERENCES


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Does Education Level Predict Mortality After Myocardial Infarction Independently of Left Ventricular Function and Medical Treatment? Response

¿El nivel de estudios predice la mortalidad tras un infarto de miocardio de manera independiente de la función ventricular izquierda y del tratamiento médico? Respuesta

To the Editor,

We certainly agree with Dr. Eyuboglu that left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) is a major determinant of outcome in patients with acute myocardial infarction. The author of the letter questions whether the independent association observed in our study1 between low educational level and outcome might be confounded by a different LVEF across the educational levels. Indeed, we observed an ascending gradient between educational levels and LVEF: illiterate 47% ± 10%, primary education 48% ± 11%, secondary education 50% ± 10% and university 50% ± 10% (P for trend = .004). However, as indicated in Table 5 of the original manuscript,1 LVEF was entered in the multivariable model thus virtually rejecting the hypothesis suggested by Dr. Eyuboglu. Furthermore, when interaction analyses were performed in patients with and without depressed LVEF, the association between educational level and outcome remained virtually unchanged.10.1016/j.rec.2015.07.014

The in-hospital prescription of aldosterone antagonists was globally low in our study cohort (n = 141, 2.4%). They were mainly prescribed to illiterate patients (16, 3.9%). To satisfy this reader’s concern we have performed a new multivariable analysis considering aldosterone antagonists as a new covariate in