



Stable Ischemic Heart Disease

LONG TERM MORTALITY RATES IN UNITED STATES VETERANS WITH CORONARY RISK FACTORS, WITH OR WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE

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Background: Coronary artery disease (CAD) is a major cause of death in United States. Mortality rate in US Veterans with coronary risk factors, with or without CAD are not well known. We did a retrospective study to compare the all-cause mortality rate in patients with obstructive CAD, nonobstructive CAD and normal coronaries based on angiographic findings.

Methods: Cardiac catheterization data in a Veterans Affairs hospital was retrospectively collected on 1002 patients (Oct 2001-Jul 2004). Based on angiographic data, patients were divided into 3 groups, obstructive CAD, nonobstructive CAD and normal coronaries, and all-cause mortality rate was assessed after a mean follow up of 7.5±3.5 years.

Results: The clinical characteristics are listed in table 1. All-cause mortality rates were 49.5% (obstructive CAD), 39.9% (non-obstructive CAD), and 31.6% in normal coronaries. These rates are higher compared to non-Veteran population as shown in REACH Registry, where the all-cause mortality rate in patients with risk factors only was 8.3% after a mean follow up of 4 years. Relatively high mortality rate in this cohort, without significant CAD may be due to excess burden of major cardiovascular risk factors as shown in table 1.

Conclusion: In this study, high mortality rate was noted in all 3 groups with or without significant CAD. The association of risk factor burden with mortality needs further evaluation in this population.

Table 1

Variable	Obstructive CAD n=728	Nonobstructive CAD n=138	Normal coronaries n=136
Age (years)	64.3±10.1	62.8±10.3	57.1±12.1
BMI	29.7±5.6	30.2±6.3	30.5±7.1
Hypertension (%)	650 (89.3)	121 (87.7)	103 (75.7)
Diabetes (%)	343 (47.2)	55 (39.9)	38 (28.1)
Hyperlipidemia (%)	606 (83.2)	111 (80.4)	73 (53.7)
Smoking (%)	290 (40.1)	52 (37.7)	54 (40)
LDL (mg/dl)	100.5±36.3	93.8±33.8	105.3±32.7
Creatinine (mg/dl)	1.1±0.9	1.1±0.8	1.06±0.4
CKD (%)	119 (16.3)	17 (12.3)	13 (9.5)
LVEF (%)	45±12	49±13	52±12
LBBB (%)	37 (5.1)	8 (5.8)	4 (2.9)