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Early surgery for infective endocarditis: results for a multicentre nationwide epidemiological study


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Fourth Dept of Internal Medicine, ATTIKON University General Hospital, NKUA, Athens GR1, Second Dept of Medicine, "Sotira" Hospital, Athens GR2, First Dept of Internal Medicine, "G Gennimatas" General Hospital, Athens, GR3, First Dept of Internal Medicine, "Thriassio" General Hospital, Elefsina, Attiki, GR4, Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Heraklion, Crete, Greece5, Cardiosurgical Dept "Evangelismos" General Hospital, Athens GR6, Second Dept of Cardiology, ATTIKON University General Hospital, NKUA, Athens GR7, Dept of Internal Medicine, Larissa University Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly, Larissa, GR8, Dept of Internal Medicine, Rio University Hospital, University of Patras, Rio GR9, First Dept of Internal Medicine, "Laikon" Hospital, NKUA, Athens, GR10, Cardiology Dept, "Elips" Hospital, Athens, GR11, First Dept of Internal Medicine - Infectious Diseases, Hygeia Hospital, Athens GR12

Dept of Clinical Therapeutics, "Alexandra" Hospital, NKUA, Athens GR13, Dept of Internal Medicine, "Amalia Fleming" Hospital, Athens, GR14, Dept of Internal Medicine, Alexandroupoli University General Hospital, Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupoli, GR15, First Dept of Internal Medicine, "Agia Olga" Hospital, Athens GR16, Second Cardiology Dept Papageorgiou General Hospital, University of Thessaloniki, GR17, Departments of Informatics and Telecommunications19, Pathophysiology Dept "Laiko": General Hospital of Athens, NKUA10

Objective: Early cardiac surgery for IE is a challenging issue. Data on optimal timing of surgical treatment for IE are controversial.

Methods: We conducted a nationwide multi-centre prospective study on IE during the era of economic crisis (2011-2014). Definite cases of native valve endocarditis (NVE), prosthetic valve endocarditis (PVE) and cardiac electronic implantable device (CEID) IE were analysed through survival regression models. Surgery for IE was evaluated in the subset of patients with a clear surgical indication.

Results: Among 224 IE patients, we evaluated a subset of 121 patients with clear indication of cardiac surgery for IE according to recent ESC guidelines. Patients (mean age +/- SD=62.25+-16.07) were male (n=86,71%), with comorbidities (n=87,72%). Cases were also identified as left-sided IE (n=103,85.1%), PVE (n=28,23.1%) CEID (n=7,5.8%) and Health-care associated IE (n=29,24%). Staphylococcus aureus predominated (n=28) followed by Enterococci (n=20), Viridans group Streptococci (n=20) and Candida spp (n=8). Age more than 60 years old [OR 0.382, CI95%:0.164-0.890; p=0.026], duration of symptoms of IE less than one month [OR 0.290, CI95%:0.125-0.673; p=0.004] and lack of compliance with antimicrobial treatment guidelines [OR 0.325, CI95%:0.116-0.912; p=0.033], were associated with less surgery despite indication. Early surgery, (within a mean time +/-SD of 15.85+-11.2 days from indication to operation) was performed in 43.5% of patients bearing a strong, independent from other factors, protective effect against in-hospital mortality (HR 0.271, CI95%:0.116-0.634; p=0.003); if operation was performed within 7 days from indication, 100% of patients had survived.

Conclusions: Upon indication, early surgery was strongly beneficial and independently associated with decreased 60-day mortality.