

DRUG EFFECTS ON SHORT-TERM OUTCOME IN OUTPATIENTS FOLLOWING ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

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AIMS: This study aimed to establish evidence-based effects of drugs in post myocardial infarction outpatients.

METHODS: The sample consisted of 1430 post acute myocardial infarction patients. Our data were taken from claim forms provided by the Central Region Branch of the Bureau of National Health Insurance in Taiwan. Chi-square automatic interaction detection was applied to the patients' 1-year outcome to evaluate evidence-based effects of clinical drugs in outpatients after a first episode of acute myocardial infarction (AMI).

RESULTS: We found a significant variation across homogeneous groups, with the probabilities of having better outcome varying according to drug action such as lipid-lowering drugs, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers and anticoagulants. The study also explored the influence of interactions among patient characteristics. The post-hoc sensitivity, specificity and positive predictive value of our study were 96.0%, 36.4% and 92.4%, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS: The results of this study suggest that the benefit of prescription drugs post AMI can be significantly enhanced by an effective evidence-based prediction model that takes interactions between drugs into account.

Key words: Drug effect, Acute myocardial infarction, Outpatient