PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND COMORBIDITIES OF PATIENTS WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN JAPAN

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Abstract

Although studies have investigated the prevalence of patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) and comorbidities in Japan, these studies are not representative of the whole Japanese population. This study aimed to assess the patient characteristics, medication use, and comorbidities of an AF sample from a representative data source in Japan to make broad cross-region comparisons.

Introduction

Previous publications derive data from the United States (US) and Europe.2,3 While there is evidence on the prevalence of AF and its comorbidities in Japan, these data are not representative of the whole Japanese population.4-7 In the US, Li and colleagues6 (2011) found that nearly 81% of patients with AF are over the age of 65 years. In Europe, Gupta and colleagues7 (2010) found that 61% of AF patients are over the age of 80 years, with 12% being aged 65-80.8

However, the Japanese AF population is somewhat unique with respect to its lower body weight and its dramatic gender split.9 Despite this risk for stroke, only 64.2% of patients were currently being treated for AF. Patients with AF were more likely to have dyspepsia (25.3%), and pain (32.7%) than those without AF. Patients with AF were less likely to have hypertension (27%), heart failure (15%), and stroke (7%), compared to those without AF.8

Objective

The aim of the current study was to assess the patient characteristics, medication use, and comorbidities of an AF sample from a representative data source in Japan to make broad cross-region comparisons.

Methods

Data source

The data were collected from the Japan National Health and Welfare Survey (JNHWS), a national, cross-sectional health survey of entire Japanese people aged >18 years in 2008. A total of 2,622 people (respondents) were interviewed through face-to-face interviews and mailed questionnaires. The survey included a wide range of questions on health and lifestyle, including questions related to AF and its comorbidities. These data were used to generate estimates for the whole Japanese population.10

Data from the 2008, 2009, and 2010 JNHWS were combined and used for the purpose of this study. In total, there were 6,466 people who were in the AF group and 19,428 people who were not in the AF group. The age range was 20-90 years, and there were 774 people (4.7%) who had AF.

Measures

Sociodemographic and health characteristics

• Age (years)
• Gender
• Employment
• Smoking history
• Education
• Marital status
• Family history of AF
• BMI

Bodyweight of AF patients in Japan in comparison with international samples. (Figure 1)

Conclusion

Although studies have investigated the prevalence of patients with AF and comorbidities in Japan, these studies are not representative of the whole Japanese population. This study aimed to assess the patient characteristics, medication use, and comorbidities of an AF sample from a representative data source in Japan to make broad cross-region comparisons.