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Prevalence And Risk Factors For Atrial Fibrillation in the Elderly Korean Population

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Background: Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common arrhythmia in elderly persons and associated with increased risk for thromboembolism and stroke. However, prevalence and risk factors for AF have not been known well in Korean population. Also, electrocardiographic (ECG) screening for AF in general population showed inconsistent results for reducing thromboembolism. We aimed to evaluate prevalence, risk factors for AF and benefit for ECG screening the elderly single cohort study. **Methods:** Consecutive 1,483 participants over 60 yr-old underwent ECG screening at the Bitgoel senior health town from March 2014.This cohort study include questionnaire for quality of life, physical examination, and further laboratory and echocardiographic findings in patients with AF. Multivariate analysis was performed to evaluate independent risk factors for AF. Benefit for ECG screening will be evaluated after 5-year completion of participants enrollment. **Results:** Prevalence of AF was 3.1% and increased with stepwise manner according to age group (1.0% vs. 3.3% vs. 7.2%, $p<0.001$). Patients with AF was elder, and more likely to be male, smoker and obese. Also, they had higher prevalence of diabetes mellitus and heart failure compared with patients without AF. Nearly half patients with AF (43.4 %) were newly detected via ECG screening. CHA2DS2-VASc and HAS-BLED score were not different between the patients with newly detected AF and already diagnosed AF. Anticoagulation was done 12 (26%) patients with CHA2DS2-VASc ≥2. Multivariable analysis demonstrated that AF was associated with increasing age (adjusted odds ratio [OR] 1.10, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.04-1.16, $p<0.001$), male gender (adjusted OR 4.92, 95% CI 1.75-13.82, $>p=0.002$), obesity (BMI >25, adjusted OR 2.25, 95% CI 1.19-4.24, $p=0.012$) and heart failure (adjusted OR 7.28, 95% CI 1.17-45.24, $p=0.033$). **Conclusions:** The prevalence of AF was 3.1% in the elderly, which was much lower than western countries. Most of them were under-detected and under-treated in terms of anticoagulation. Further studies will determine that routine ECG screening might reduce the risk for thromboembolism in patients with AF.

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Successful Removal of 15-year-old Pacemaker Leads by Weight and pulley method

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Extraction of old pacemaker leads remains a complex procedure owing to fibrotic encapsulation and lead adhesions. We report a case of extraction of 15-year-old pacemaker leads by weight and pulley method. A 81-year-old man presented with exposed pacemaker leads out of body with purulent discharge from a pacemaker insertion site. He inserted DDD (dual chamber pacing, dual chamber sensing dual function) pacemaker implantation 15 years ago for SSS. Previously pacemaker battery was removed 3 years ago due to recurrent infection of pacemaker scar site. We extracted the pacemaker leads by weight and pulley method successfully without any complications.