

Aalborg Universitet

Ischemic heart failure as a complication of incident acute myocardial infarction: Timing and time trends

A national analysis including 78,814 Danish patients during 2000-2009

Sulo, Gerhard; Sulo, Enxhela; Jørgensen, Torben; Linnenberg, Allan; Prescott, Eva; Tell, Grethe S; Osler, Merete

Published in:

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health

DOI (link to publication from Publisher): 10.1177/1403494819829333

Creative Commons License CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Publication date: 2020

Document Version Accepted author manuscript, peer reviewed version

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

Sulo, G., Sulo, E., Jørgensen, T., Linnenberg, A., Prescott, E., Tell, G. S., & Osler, M. (2020). Ischemic heart failure as a complication of incident acute myocardial infarction: Timing and time trends: A national analysis including 78,814 Danish patients during 2000-2009. Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 48(3), 294-302. https://doi.org/10.1177/1403494819829333

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
 You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
 You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from vbn.aau.dk on: December 05, 2025

Ischemic heart failure as a complication of incident acute myocardial infarction: timing

and time trends – a national analysis including 78 814 Danish patients during 2000-2009

Running title: Trends in heart failure following acute myocardial infarction

Gerhard Sulo^{1,2} MD, PhD; Enxhela Sulo^{1,2} MD, PhD; Torben Jørgensen^{2,3,4} MD, D.M.Sci;

Allan Linnenberg^{2,5,6} PhD; Eva Prescott⁷ MD, D.M.Sci; Grethe S. Tell^{1,8} MPH, PhD; Merete

Osler^{2,3} MD, DMSc.

1. Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen, Norway

2. Research Centre for Prevention and Health, Capital Region of Denmark, Denmark

3. Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of

Copenhagen, Denmark

4. Faculty of Medicine, University of Aalborg, Denmark

5. Department of Clinical Experimental Research, Rigshospitalet, Denmark

6. Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of

Copenhagen, Denmark

7. Department of Cardiology, Bispebjerg Frederiksberg Hospital, University of Copenhagen,

Denmark

8. Division of Mental and Physical Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway

Corresponding author: Gerhard Sulo

Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care

Kalfarveien 31, N-5018 Bergen, Norway

Phone: +4755586154

Fax: +4755586130

E-mail: gerhard.sulo@uib.no

1

Abstract

Aim: Heart failure (HF) is a serious complication of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) leading to poor prognosis. We aimed at exploring time trends of HF and its impact on mortality among patients with an incident AMI.

Methods: We collected from the National Patient Danish Registry (NPDR) all patients hospitalized with an incident AMI during 2001-2009 and identified cases with in-hospital HF (presented on admission or developing HF during AMI hospitalization) or post-discharge HF (an hospitalization or outpatient visit following AMI discharge) and assessed in-hospital, 30-day and one-year mortality.

Results: Of 78 814 patients included in the study, 10 248 (13.0%) developed in-hospital HF. The odds of in-hospital HF declined 0.9% per year [odds ratio (OR)=0.991, 95% CI: 0.983–0.999]. In-hospital HF was associated with 13% (OR=1.13, 95% CI: 1.06–1.20) and 14% (OR=1.14, 95% CI: 1.07–1.20) higher in-hospital and 30-day mortality, respectively.

Of 61 637 patients discharged alive, without in-hospital HF, 5978 (9.7%) experienced post-discharge HF; 4116 (6.7%) were hospitalized and 1862 (3.0%) diagnosed at outpatient clinics. The risk of HF requiring hospitalization declined 5.5% per year [hazard ratio (HR)=0.945, 95% CI: 0.934–0.955] while the risk of HF diagnosed at outpatient clinics increased 13.4% per year (HR=1.134, 95% CI: 1.115–1.153). Post-discharge HF was associated with 239% (HR=3.39, 95% CI: 3.18–3.63) higher one-year mortality.

Conclusion: In-hospital and post-discharge HF requiring hospitalization decreased while post-discharge HF diagnosed at outpatient clinics increased among incident AMI patients during 2000-2009. The development of HF - especially after AMI discharge - indicate a poor prognosis.

Keywords: Heart failure; Time trends; Prognostic significance; Acute myocardial infarction; Denmark.

Introduction

Heart failure (HF) is a serious health condition affecting 38 million patients worldwide ¹. Its prevalence is increasing ² due to improved survival of cardiac patients and aging of the population.

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is the most common underlying condition for HF ^{3 4}. The risk of HF in influenced by many factors, including clinical presentation and anatomical extend of CHD, quality of acute coronary care, prior use of cardiac drugs in the primary and secondary prevention setting and burden of comorbidities. The complex interplay between these factors each displaying individual trends – make it difficult the prediction of trends of HF over time in coronary patients. This, is reflected by the discrepant results of published studies, with some demonstrating increases ^{5 6} and others declines ⁷⁻¹⁰ in the risk of HF among coronary patients.

The negative effect of HF among AMI patients has mainly been studied in association with short-term mortality ¹¹⁻¹³. Few studies have extended the follow up beyond discharge. Of those, some did not distinguish between in-hospital or post-discharge HF ^{9 14} and others included a mixture of incident and prevalent AMI cases ¹⁵. A recent nationwide analysis from Norway focusing on the excess mortality associated with post-discharge HF, could only identify HF cases requiring hospitalization due to the lack of data from outpatient clinics ¹⁶. Using data from the Danish National Patient Registry (DNPR) we aimed at i) exploring trends in the risk of HF (separately for in-hospital and post-discharge HF) as a complication of an incident AMI and ii) assessing the prognostic impact of HF on short and long-term mortality after an AMI, with additional focus on its potential changes over time.

Materials and methods

The DNPR has collected information on in-patients from all somatic (from 1977) and psychiatric (from 1995) hospitals as well as outpatient contacts (from 1995) in Denmark. Detailed information on the content, structure and quality of data in the registry is provided here ¹⁷. Shortly, data in the DNPR include patient's age, gender, admission and discharge dates, one primary and all secondary discharge diagnoses as well as information on medical diagnostic and treatment procedures.

The positive predictive values (PPV) of first time AMI in the DNPR is >90%¹⁸ while the HF diagnosis has a somehow lower PPV (80%) ¹⁸ but a very high specificity (99%)¹⁹. Cardiac procedures relevant to this study have a very high PPV (100% for coronary angiography and 98% for PCI and CABG)²⁰.

The Danish Civil Registration System was established in 1968 for administrative purposes ²¹. It assigns a unique Civil Personal Register number to all persons residing in Denmark, allowing individual-level linkages between different registers.

For these analyses, we identified all Danish residents \geq 40 years, hospitalized with an incident AMI (ICD–10 codes, I21, I22) as the primary discharge diagnosis from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2009. We excluded from the analyses patients a) with history of HF (ICD–10 codes, I11.0, I13.0, I13.2, I42.0, I42.2; I42.6; I42.7, I42.8; I42.9; I50.0; I50.1; I50.2; I50.3; I50.8 and I50.9) prior to incident AMI hospitalization, b) missing information on age and/or gender and c) unusually long hospital stays (> 99th percentile of the hospital stay distribution). Clinically relevant complications during the incident of AMI included pulmonary edema (J81), cardiogenic shock (R57.0), second (I44.1) or third (I44.2) degree atrioventricular block (AV), ventricular fibrillation (I49.0) or mechanical complication (I23).

We followed patients up to one year from incident AMI discharge. New episodes of HF were classified based on their timing in relation to the incident AMI hospitalization into two mutually exclusive categories; HF presented on admission or developing during AMI hospitalization (in-hospital HF) and a new hospitalization or outpatient visit with a HF diagnosis following AMI discharge (post-discharge HF). In the analyses of post-discharge HF, we included only patients discharged without in-hospital HF from the incident AMI hospitalization.

The diagnosis of HF was based on ICD-10 codes suggestive for HF (I11.0, I13.0, I13.2, I42.0, I42.2; I42.6; I42.7, I42.8; I42.9; I50.0; I50.1; I50.2; I50.3; I50.8 and I50.9).

We estimated the excess mortality associated with HF by calculating the ratio of risk of dying between AMI patients with HF and those without HF. We estimated the impact of in-hospital HF on in-hospital and 30-day mortality and the impact of post-discharge HF on one-year mortality.

Data analyses

Categorical variables are presented as proportions and continuous variables as mean and standard deviation (SD) or median and interquartile range (IQR).

Trends of in-hospital HF were explored using logistic regression and results presented as odds ratios (ORs) and corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CIs). To account for the potential competing effect of early deaths on in-hospital HF occurrence, we conducted additional analyses, including only patients who survived the first AMI hospitalization day.

Trends of post-discharge HF were explored using Cox regression models and results presented as hazard ratios (HRs) and corresponding 95% CIs. In addition to overall analyses, we stratified the analyses on the diagnostic settings of HF (hospitalization vs outpatient contacts).

The impact of in-hospital HF on early (in-hospital and 30-day) mortality was explored using logistic regression. The impact of post-discharge HF on one-year mortality was explored using Cox models with HF as a time-varying covariate.

Models were adjusted for age, sex and relevant comorbidities which a) predict HF ^{3 22} [hypertension, (ICD–10 codes, I10–I15), diabetes mellitus (DM) (ICD–10 codes, E10–E14), renal failure (ICD–10 codes, N17–N19), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (ICD–10 codes, J40–J44, J47), valvular heart disease (ICD–10 codes, I05–I09; I34–I35) and atrial fibrillation (ICD–10 code, I48)] and b) showed different distribution among AMI patients across study years. These covariates were identified through discharge diagnoses (primary or secondary) from previous hospitalizations or outpatient visits within five years prior to, or during the incident AMI hospitalization.

Results

Study population and excluding criteria

Information on selecting procedures, study population and outcomes is provided in Figure 1.

Of 86 055 eligible patients, 1224 patients lacked information on age and gender, 5206 patients had history of HF and 811 patients had long AMI hospital stays. At the end, 78 814 patients were included in the analyses.

Baseline characteristics of study participants

Patients' age declined while the prevalence of comorbidities increased over the study period. The proportion of patients with AMI complications was generally low and did not show a clear trend while utilization of invasive coronary procedures increased substantially over time (Table 1). The length of AMI hospitalization shortened over time in both men and women (both age-adjusted P_{trend}<0.001) (Supplemental material, Table S1).

Time trends in heart failure

Overall, 13.0% of AMI patients developed in-hospital HF (Table 2). Adjusted analyses revealed a relatively small decline in the odds of in-hospital HF (0.9% per year; P_{trend} <0.001) (Figure 2). Restricting the analyses to 76 874 patients surviving the first hospitalization day, yielded very similar results to those of the main analyses (a decline of 1.0% per year; P_{trend} <0.001).

Of patients discharged alive, without in-hospital HF, another 9.7% developed post-discharge HF (Table 2). The adjusted risk of overall post-discharge HF did not change significantly during the study period (Supplemental material, Figure S1). When analyzed separately, the risk of HF requiring hospitalization declined 5.5% per year while the risk of HF diagnosed in outpatient settings increased 13.4% per year (both P_{trend}<0.001) (Figure 3).

HF cases requiring hospitalizations outnumbered those diagnosed at outpatient clinics. Over time, the diagnostic settings of post-discharge HF shifted from hospitals to outpatient clinics (Supplemental material, Table S2). To illustrate, the proportion of post-discharge HF cases required hospitalization dropped from 82.0% in 2000-2001 to 53.3% in 2008-2009.

The baseline characteristics of patients with post-discharge HF according to diagnostic setting are given in the Supplemental material (Table S3). Hospitalized cases were older, more often women, had a higher burden of comorbidities and received less often invasive coronary procedures compared to patients diagnosed with HF at outpatient clinics. We observed a shorter time from AMI discharge to HF diagnosis for outpatient contacts compared to those requiring hospitalization. (Supplemental material, Table S3).

Prognostic impact of heart failure

Overall, 10.7% of patients did not survive the incident AMI hospitalization. Among patients discharged without in-hospital HF, 9.6% died within one year from AMI discharge (Table 2). Among AMI patients without in-hospital HF, 10.1% died at the hospital. The corresponding proportion among those with in-hospital HF was 14.8% (Table 3).

In-hospital HF was associated with 1.13 times higher odds (OR=1.13, 95% CI: 1.06–1.20) of dying at the hospital and 1.14 time higher odds (OR=1.14, 95% CI: 1.07–1.20) of dying within 30 days of AMI hospitalization (Table 3).

Post-discharge HF was associated with 3.39 times higher HF (HR=3.39, 95% CI: 3.18–3.63) one-year mortality (Table 4).

Over the study period, the excessive mortality associated with HF changed significantly (inhospital mortality: $P_{interaction}$ =0.001; 30-day mortality: $P_{interaction}$ =0.003 and one-year mortality: $P_{interaction}$ =0.008) but these changes did not display a clear increasing or decreasing trend (Tables 3 and 4).

Discussion

Among patients hospitalized with an incident AMI in Denmark during 2000-2009, the risk of in-hospital HF slightly declined while the overall risk of post-discharge HF did not change over time. The proportion of HF cases requiring hospitalization decreased and the proportion of HF cases diagnosed in outpatient clinics increased. HF, especially following AMI discharge remained an important source of excessive mortality.

Trends in the risk of heart failure

In line with our findings, the risk of in-hospital HF declined among AMI patients in Sweden (from 46% in 1996 to 26.6% in 2008) 10 and in Western Australia (from 21.7% in 1996-1998 to 12.1% in 2005-2007) 8 . In Norway, the risk of in-hospital HF increased by 20% from 2001 to 2009 23 .

Post-discharge HF rates declined by 14.6% in USA (1998-2010) ¹⁵ and 6.3% per year in

Norway (2001-2009) ²³. In Italy, one-year risk of HF following an incident AMI remained stable during 2001-2011 ²⁴. The only study conducted previously in Denmark reported a decline of 23% in risk of HF within 90 days from incident AMI discharge (1997-2010) ⁹. Beside differences in the length of follow up, other methodological issues may account for differences in results between our study and that published by Gjesing et al.⁹. We defined incident episodes of HF as new hospitalizations or outpatients contacts while in the previous study, Gjesing et al.⁹ combined a discharge diagnosis of HF with use of loop diuretics.

Many factors can influence the risk of HF among AMI patients. The use of PCI within 30 days of hospitalization increased substantially during 1999-2008 in Denmark ⁹. Over the same period, there was a significant increase in the use of cardiac drugs, including beta-blockers, statins, inhibitors of the renin-angiotensin system and antiplatelet agents among AMI patients ⁹ as well as in the general population ²⁵. The increase in the utilization of these drugs contribute in the reduction of HF risk through at least two mechanisms. First, use of cardiac

therapy prior to an AMI has shown to reduce the severity of AMI expression ²⁶, thus reducing the risk of early HF. Second, in patients with AMI, increases in the use of evidence-based therapy have the potential to reduce the risk of adverse events, including ischemic recurrences and post-discharge HF. Further contribution in HF risk reduction may have been provided by declines in the prevalence of smoking, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia ²⁷.

Of note, the risk of post-discharge HF requiring hospitalization and that of post-discharge HF diagnosed at outpatient clinics went in opposite directions. The proportion of outpatient contacts within all HF cases varied widely; from 13.2% in Minnesota ²⁸ to 50% in Canada ²⁹. In our study, the outpatient contacts accounted for 31.1% of all post-discharge HF cases. We did not observe differences between groups with regard to AMI severity but patients who later experienced a HF episode requiring hospitalization had a greater burden of comorbidities at baseline compared to those diagnosed with HF in outpatient clinics. It is plausible that the presence of these comorbidities has an influence on the decision to hospitalize patients as hospitals offer a more convenient setting for diagnosing and/or treating comorbidities. The opposite trends in post-discharge HF requiring hospitalization and those diagnosed at outpatient clinics may have several explanations. The increase over time in the proportion of outpatient contacts corresponded with an increase in the number of outpatient heart failure clinics affiliated to Danish hospitals. An increased use of echocardiographic imaging and surveillance of HF over time in a period in which there has been great improvement in treatment of heart failure may have led to diagnosing HF at an early stage, preventing thus the need for hospitalization. The shorter time from AMI discharge to HF diagnosis among outpatient contacts compared to hospitalized cases in our study supports this hypothesis. Other possible explanation involve financial and availability constrains that hospital are increasingly facing over time.

Excess mortality associated with HF

Our study confirms previous findings of an excess early mortality associated with in-hospital HF among various subsets of acute coronary patients ³⁰⁻³². The excess one-year mortality associated with post-discharge HF in our study was similar to that observed among acute coronary syndrome patients in Canada during 2002-2008 ²⁹ and Norway during 2001-2009 ¹⁶. Despite overall improvement in survival following an AMI in Denmark ³³, HF remains a source of excessive mortality. The HF correlates with the extension of CHD and was associated in our study with higher incidence of pulmonary edema, cardiogenic shock and AV blocks. Patients with HF had also a greater burden of comorbidities and received less often invasive coronary procedures compared to those without HF (data not shown). This finding is in line with previous publications ^{31 34}. However, due to the observational nature of our study and lack of date for in-hospital HF, we cannot establish a temporal relationship between myocardial revascularization and in-hospital HF. It seems plausible that certain comorbidities may represent contraindication to invasive interventions. Further, the rates of success of revascularization procedures are lower among patients with, compared to those without in-hospital HF ³⁵.

Although accounting for the minority of all HF cases, post-discharge HF in the context of CHD conveys a far greater excess mortality compared to that of in-hospital HF. Therefore, focused efforts on identification of factors associated with post-discharge HF would help reducing the mortality in this subset of AMI patients.

Strength and limitations

Our study included all individuals with an incident AMI in Denmark, without age, gender or geographical restrictions, maximizing thus the generalizability of our findings. The study period followed the introduction of troponin in AMI diagnostic criteria in Denmark (around year 2000); therefore, our results are minimally, if at all, influenced by changes in the AMI's

diagnostic criteria. We excluded with high probability previous episodes of AMI and HF using a fairly long retrospective search of five years ³⁶, avoiding the mixture of incident with prevalent AMI. Our study is the first to include in the analyses and separately analyze trends in the risk of HF diagnosed as outpatient contacts.

Our study carries some limitations inherent to the nature of data sources. No information on some relevant lifestyle factors such as smoking, obesity, physical activity and lipid profile was available. No information on echocardiographic evaluation of ventricular function and/or number of vessels involved and degree of stenosis was available either. A distinction between ST-elevation MI (STEMI) and non ST-elevation MI (NSTEMI) based on the ICD-10 coding system was not possible. However, previous analyses have revealed that the excess mortality associated with HF among AMI patients did not differ by HF type (3.5 times higher for HF with reduced ejection fraction versus 3.1 times higher for HF with preserved ejection fraction; $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} = 0.31$) ¹⁴. Other studies conducting stratified analyses for STEMI and NSTEMI have shown that the magnitude and time trends of HF complicating the two AMI types are similar ^{10 37 38}.

Lastly, many factors such as the study period, methodological differences in defining the study population and/or ascertaining the outcome, as well as the quality of register data can potentially influence the findings, however we are not able to quantify such influence.

Conclusions: In patients hospitalized with an incident AMI during 2000-2009, we observed a modest decline over time in the risk of in-hospital HF while the risk of post-discharge HF did not change. When complicating AMI, HF conveys an increased risk of death, more pronounced for cases of HF developing after the AMI discharge.

Declaration of conflicting interest:

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Carsten Thye Agger at the Research Centre for Prevention and Health,

Copenhagen, Denmark for his valuable contribution in preparing the data material used in this

work.

References

- 1. Braunwald E. The war against heart failure: the Lancet lecture. Lancet 2015;385:812-24.
- 2. Roger VL. Epidemiology of heart failure. Circulation research 2013;113:646-59.
- 3. Dunlay SM, Weston SA, Jacobsen SJ, et al. Risk factors for heart failure: a population-based case-control study. *Am J Med* 2009;122:1023-8.
- 4. He J, Ogden LG, Bazzano LA, et al. Risk factors for congestive heart failure in US men and women: NHANES I epidemiologic follow-up study. *Arch Intern Med* 2001;161:996-1002.
- 5. Velagaleti RS, Pencina MJ, Murabito JM, et al. Long-term trends in the incidence of heart failure after myocardial infarction. *Circulation* 2008;118:2057-62.
- 6. Ezekowitz JA, Kaul P, Bakal JA, et al. Declining in-hospital mortality and increasing heart failure incidence in elderly patients with first myocardial infarction. *JACC* 2009;53:13-20.
- 7. Shafazand M, Rosengren A, Lappas G, et al. Decreasing trends in the incidence of heart failure after acute myocardial infarction from 1993-2004: a study of 175,216 patients with a first acute myocardial infarction in Sweden. *European journal of heart failure* 2011;13:135-41.
- 8. Hung J, Teng TH, Finn J, et al. Trends from 1996 to 2007 in incidence and mortality outcomes of heart failure after acute myocardial infarction: a population-based study of 20,812 patients with first acute myocardial infarction in Western Australia. *Journal of the American Heart Association* 2013;2:e000172.
- 9. Gjesing A, Gislason GH, Kober L, et al. Nationwide trends in development of heart failure and mortality after first-time myocardial infarction 1997-2010: A Danish cohort study. *Eur J Intern Med* 2014;25:731-8.

- 10. Desta L, Jernberg T, Lofman I, et al. Incidence, temporal trends, and prognostic impact of heart failure complicating acute myocardial infarction. The SWEDEHEART Registry (Swedish Web-System for Enhancement and Development of Evidence-Based Care in Heart Disease Evaluated According to Recommended Therapies): a study of 199,851 patients admitted with index acute myocardial infarctions, 1996 to 2008. *JACC Heart Fail* 2015;3(3):234-42.
- 11. Wu AH, Parsons L, Every NR, et al. Hospital outcomes in patients presenting with congestive heart failure complicating acute myocardial infarction: a report from the Second National Registry of Myocardial Infarction (NRMI-2). *JACC* 2002;40:1389-94.
- 12. Alsheikh-Ali AA, Al-Mallah MH, Al-Mahmeed W, et al. Heart failure in patients hospitalized with acute coronary syndromes: observations from the Gulf Registry of Acute Coronary Events (Gulf RACE). *Eur J Heart Fail*. 2009;11:1135-42.
- 13. Velazquez EJ, Francis GS, Armstrong PW, et al. An international perspective on heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction complicating myocardial infarction: the VALIANT registry. *Eur Heart J* 2004;25:1911-9.
- 14. Gerber Y, Weston SA, Enriquez-Sarano M, et al. Mortality Associated With Heart Failure

 After Myocardial Infarction: A Contemporary Community Perspective. *Circ Heart*Fail 2016;9:e002460.
- 15. Chen J, Hsieh AF, Dharmarajan K, et al. National trends in heart failure hospitalization after acute myocardial infarction for Medicare beneficiaries: 1998-2010. *Circulation* 2013;128:2577-84.
- 16. Sulo G, Igland J, Nygard O, et al. Prognostic Impact of In-Hospital and Postdischarge Heart Failure in Patients With Acute Myocardial Infarction: A Nationwide Analysis

- Using Data From the Cardiovascular Disease in Norway (CVDNOR) Project. *JAHA* 2017;6:pii: e005277.
- 17. Schmidt M, Schmidt SA, Sandegaard JL, et al. The Danish National Patient Registry: a review of content, data quality, and research potential. *Clin Epidemiol* 2015;7:449-90.
- 18. Sundboll J, Adelborg K, Munch T, et al. Positive predictive value of cardiovascular diagnoses in the Danish National Patient Registry: a validation study. *BMJ Open* 2016;6:e012832.
- 19. Kumler T, Gislason GH, Kirk V, et al. Accuracy of a heart failure diagnosis in administrative registers. *Eur J Heart Fail* 2008;10:658-60.
- 20. Adelborg K, Sundboll J, Munch T, et al. Positive predictive value of cardiac examination, procedure and surgery codes in the Danish National Patient Registry: a population-based validation study. *BMJ Open* 2016;6:e012817.
- 21. Pedersen CB. The Danish Civil Registration System. *Scand J Public health* 2011;391:22-5.
- 22. Lewis EF, Solomon SD, Jablonski KA, et al. Predictors of heart failure in patients with stable coronary artery disease: a PEACE study. *Circ Heart Fail* 2009;2:209-16.
- 23. Sulo G, Igland J, Nygard O, et al. Trends in the risk of early and late-onset heart failure as an adverse outcome of acute myocardial infarction: A Cardiovascular Disease in Norway project. *Eu J Prev Cardiol* 2017;24:971-80.
- 24. Greco C, Rosato S, D'Errigo P, et al. Trends in mortality and heart failure after acute myocardial infarction in Italy from 2001 to 2011. *Int J Cardiol* 2015;184:115-21.
- 25. Mortensen MB, Falk E, Schmidt M. Twenty-Year Nationwide Trends in Statin Utilization and Expenditure in Denmark. *Circ Cardiovasc Quality Outcomes* 2017;10:e003811.
- 26. Smedegaard L, Charlot MG, Gislason GH, et al. Temporal trends in acute myocardial infarction presentation and association with use of cardioprotective drugs: A

- nationwide registry-based study. *Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Pharmacother* 2018;4:93-101.
- 27. Joensen AM, Jensen MT, Sehested TSG, et al. Country report: Denmark 2016 [Available from:
 - https://www.escardio.org/static_file/Escardio/Subspecialty/EACPR/Country%20of%2 0the%20month/Documents/denmark-country-of-the-month-full-report.pdf.
- 28. Gerber Y, Weston SA, Enriquez-Sarano M, et al. Atherosclerotic Burden and Heart Failure After Myocardial Infarction. *JAMA Cardiol* 2016;1:156-62.
- 29. Kaul P, Ezekowitz JA, Armstrong PW, et al. Incidence of heart failure and mortality after acute coronary syndromes. *Am Heart J* 2013;165:379-85 e2.
- 30. Segev A, Strauss BH, Tan M, et al. Prognostic significance of admission heart failure in patients with non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndromes (from the Canadian Acute Coronary Syndrome Registries). *Am J Cardiol* 2006;98:470-3.
- 31. Steg PG, Dabbous OH, Feldman LJ, et al. Determinants and prognostic impact of heart failure complicating acute coronary syndromes: observations from the Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events (GRACE). *Circulation* 2004;109:494-9.
- 32. Bahit MC, Lopes RD, Clare RM, et al. Heart failure complicating non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome: timing, predictors, and clinical outcomes. *JACC Heart failure* 2013;1:223-9.
- 33. Schmidt M, Jacobsen JB, Lash TL, et al. 25 year trends in first time hospitalisation for acute myocardial infarction, subsequent short and long term mortality, and the prognostic impact of sex and comorbidity: a Danish nationwide cohort study. *BMJ* 2012;344:e356.

- 34. Spencer FA, Meyer TE, Gore JM, et al. Heterogeneity in the management and outcomes of patients with acute myocardial infarction complicated by heart failure: the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction. *Circulation* 2002;105:2605-10.
- 35. Wang N, Zhao D, Liu J, et al. Impact of heart failure on in-hospital outcomes of acute coronary syndrome patients in China results from the Bridging the Gap on CHD Secondary Prevention in China (BRIG) project. *Int J Cardiol* 2012;160:15-9.
- 36. Sulo G, Igland J, Vollset SE, et al. Effect of the Lookback Period's Length Used to Identify Incident Acute Myocardial Infarction on the Observed Trends on Incidence Rates and Survival: Cardiovascular Disease in Norway Project. Circ Cardiovasc Quality Outcomes 2015;8:376-82.
- 37. McManus DD, Piacentine SM, Lessard D, et al. Thirty-year (1975 to 2005) trends in the incidence rates, clinical features, treatment practices, and short-term outcomes of patients <55 years of age hospitalized with an initial acute myocardial infarction. *Am J Cardiol* 2011;108(4):477-82.
- 38. Fox KA, Steg PG, Eagle KA, et al. Decline in rates of death and heart failure in acute coronary syndromes, 1999-2006. *JAMA* 2007;297:1892-900.

Figure legends

Figure 1

Flow chart of study participants

Figure 2

Changes in the adjusted odds of in-hospital heart failure among patients hospitalized with an incident acute myocardial infarction in Denmark during 2000-2009

Figure 3

Changes in the adjusted risk of post-discharge heart failure requiring hospitalization (a) or diagnosed at outpatient clinics (b) among patients hospitalized with an incident acute myocardial infarction in Denmark during 2000-2009

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients hospitalized with an incident acute myocardial infarction in Denmark during 2000–2009, overall and by study period

Characteristics	All	2000-2001	2002-2003	2004-2005	2006-2007	2008-2009
of patients	$(n=78\ 814)$	(n=16 117)	(n=17 167)	(n=16 174)	(n=14 893)	(n=14 463)
Male gender, %	63.9	63.1	63.4	63.7	64.3	65.2
Age (years), mean (SD)	69.3 (12.8)	69.5 (12.5)	69.6 (12.7)	69.5 (12.9)	69.0 (13.0)	69.1 (13.1)
Previous history of CHD, %	` 9.9	9.3	10.4	10.1	10.0	9.5
Comorbidities, %						
Diabetes mellitus	13.3	12.4	13.3	13.6	13.7	13.8
Hypertension	26.2	15.4	22.5	27.7	32.7	34.3
Renal failure	2.9	2.1	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.6
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	8.4	7.8	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.6
Valvular heart disease	4.5	3.1	4.2	4.9	5.0	5.6
Atrial fibrillation	10.2	9.0	10.0	10.5	10.3	11.3
Complications of AMI, %						
Ventricular fibrillation	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Pulmonary oedema	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.4
Cardiogenic shock	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Atrioventricular block (2 nd or 3 ^d degree)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
Mechanical complications	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Invasive coronary procedures, %						
Coronary angiography	52.4	24.1	46.3	57.7	65.3	72.1
Percutaneous coronary intervention	36.6	14.6	31.2	41.7	47.7	50.7
Coronary artery bypass graft	4.5	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.4
Any revascularization	41.7	22.0	37.1	46.0	51.4	54.4

CHD: coronary heart disease

AMI: acute myocardial infarction

Table 2. The proportion of study population developing heart failure or dying during the follow up in Denmark during 2000-2009

Study outcomes	Age categories			
	All ages	40-59 years	60-79 years	80+ years
In-hospital outcomes, n (%)	(n=78 814)	(n=19 385)	(n=39 754)	(n=19 675)
In-hospital heart failure	10 248 (13.0)	1203 (6.2)	5214 (13.1)	3831 (19.5)
In-hospital deaths	8449 (10.7)	578 (3.0)	3671 (9.2)	4200 (21.3)
Post-discharge outcomes*, n (%)	(n= 61 637)	(n=17 674)	(n=31 547)	(n=12 416)
Post-discharge heart failure	5978 (9.7)	975 (5.5)	3215 (10.2)	1788 (14.4)
Hospitalizations	4116 (6.7)	512 (2.9)	2127 (6.7)	1477 (11.9)
Outpatient contacts	1862 (3.0)	463 (2.6)	1088 (3.5)	311 (2.5)
Post-discharge deaths	5925 (9.6)	341 (1.9)	2398 (7.6)	3186 (25.7)

^{*} Patients discharged from the incident acute myocardial infarction hospitalization without in-hospital heart failure.

Table 3. The adjusted* excess early (in-hospital and 30-day) mortality associated with in-hospital heart failure among patients hospitalized with an incident acute myocardial infarction in Denmark, 2000-2009

Study period	In-hospital	heart failure	Odds ratio	Pinteraction**
			(95% CI)	
	No	Yes		
In-hospital mortality				
2000-2009	68 566/6929 (10.1)	10 248/1520 (14.8)	1.13 (1.06-1.20)	0.001
2000-2001	14 052/1775 (12.6)	2065/318 (15.4)	0.88 (0.77-1.01)	
2002-2003	14 879/1584 (10.7)	2288/362 (15.8)	1.11 (0.97-1.27)	
2004-2005	14 050/1352 (9.6)	2124/347 (16.3)	1.32 (1.15-1.51)	
2006-2007	13 058/1241 (9.5)	1835/261 (14.2)	1.16 (1.00-1.35)	
2008-2009	12 527/977 (7.8)	1936/232 (12.0)	1.24 (1.06-1.46)	
30-day				
mortality				
2000-2009	68 566/7837 (11.4)	10 248/1733 (16.9)	1.14 (1.07-1.20)	0.003
2000-2001	14 052/1957 (13.9)	2065/364 (17.6)	0.92 (0.81-1.04)	
2002-2003	14 879/1780 (12.0)	2288/422 (18.4)	1.17 (1.03-1.33)	
2004-2005	14 050/1561 (11.1)	2124/391 (18.4)	1.28 (1.12-1.46)	
2006-2007	13 058/1394 (10.7)	1835/279 (15.2)	1.08 (0.93-1.26)	
2008-2009	12 527/1145 (9.1)	1936/277 (14.3)	1.26 (1.08-1.46)	

^{*} Adjusted for age, gender, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, valvular heart disease, renal failure and atrial fibrillation.

^{**} Between in-hospital heart failure and year of the incident acute myocardial infarction.

Table 4. The adjusted* excess one-year mortality associated with post-discharge heart failure among patients hospitalized with an incident acute myocardial infarction in Denmark, 2000-2009

Study period	Post-discharge heart failure		Hazard ratio	Pinteraction**
One-year mortalitty			(95% CI)	
	No	Yes		
2000-2009	55 659/4731 (8.5)	5978/1194 (20.0)	3.39 (3.18-3.63)	0.008
2000-2001	11 113/994 (8.9)	1164/273 (23.5)	4.31 (3.75-4.96)	
2002-2003	12 028/1057 (8.8)	1267/255 (20.1)	3.11 (2.69-3.60)	
2004-2005	11 457/945 (8.3)	1241/251 (20.2)	3.50 (3.02-4.05)	
2006-2007	10 692/867 (8.1)	1125/199 (17.7)	3.05 (2.60-3.59)	
2008-2009	10 369/868 (8.4)	1181/216 (18.3)	3.11 (2.67-3.63)	

^{*} Adjusted for age, gender, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, valvular heart disease, renal failure and atrial fibrillation.

^{**} Interaction between in-hospital heart failure and year of the incident acute myocardial infarction.

Figure 1

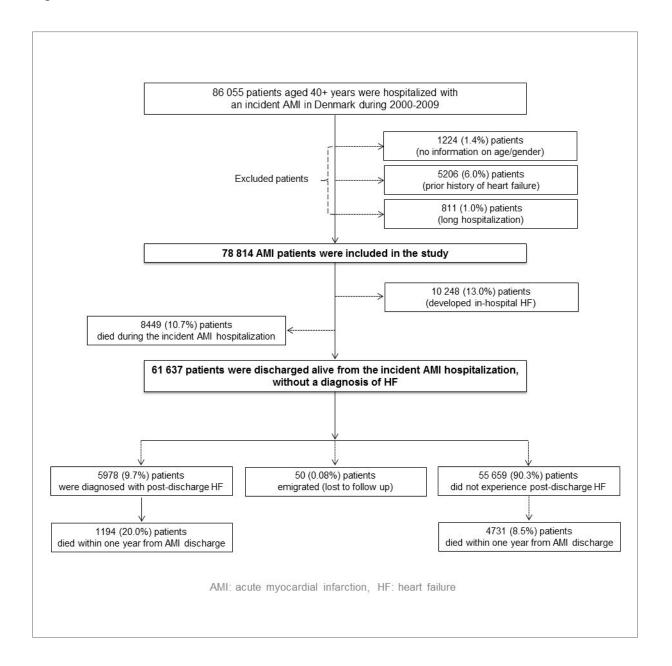


Figure 2

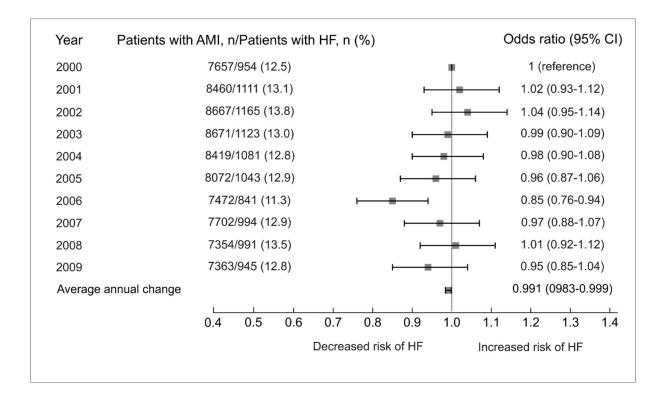


Figure 3

