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Publication date: 2018

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link to publication from Aalborg University

Citation for published version (APA):

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Coronary artery calcification in patients diagnosed with severe mental illness

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Background

• Patients diagnosed with severe mental illness (SMI) have an excess mortality, primarily caused by cardiovascular disease.
• The majority of deaths are related to an increased incidence of coronary artery disease, but efforts to predict and manage cardiovascular risk in patients with SMI have been ineffective.
• Coronary artery calcification (CAC) is a clinical predictor for coronary artery disease, which can be measured by cardiac CT.
• CAC is widely used in the general population to predict future cardiovascular events, but no others have compared any outcomes between patients with SMI and the general population to date.

Aim

• To investigate the effect of coronary artery calcification on mortality in patients diagnosed with SMI compared to the effect in the general population.

Methods

• Design
  • A Danish population based cohort study
• Study period
  • 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2016
• Study population
  • Patients diagnosed with SMI
    • Schizophrenia (ICD-10; F20)
    • Bipolar disorder (ICD-10; F30+F31)

Background Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coronary calcium score</th>
<th>General population (n=48,193)</th>
<th>Severe mental illness (n=564)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-100</td>
<td>36,049 (74.80)</td>
<td>452 (80.14)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>12,144 (25.20)</td>
<td>112 (19.86)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of deaths, n (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of death, n (%)</th>
<th>General population</th>
<th>Severe mental illness</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular death</td>
<td>343 (33.99)</td>
<td>6 (28.57)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other natural death</td>
<td>628 (62.24)</td>
<td>10 (47.62)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unnatural death</td>
<td>38 (3.77)</td>
<td>5 (23.81)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coronary calcium score</th>
<th>Crude HR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>Adjusted HR*</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-100</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>2.95-3.77</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.38-1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe mental illness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-100</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.51-4.22</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>2.31-6.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>1.98-9.90</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>1.37-6.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

• Patients with SMI are not demonstrating signs of early coronary artery calcification.
• Mortality rates were still markedly higher in patients with SMI compared to the general population, suggesting a more rapid progression of ischemic heart disease in SMI patients.