**ADVERSE IMPACT OF HYPERTENSION ON MORTALITY IN ELDERLY WOMEN AND MEN PRESENTING WITH ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION**

**V.N. Singh**1, N.N. Singh2, J. Levine3, N.N. Singh1, M. Nelson1, L. Marlow1

1University of South Florida College of Medicine, Tampa, FL, 2Suncoast Cardiovascular Research, St Petersburg, FL, 3Bayfront Medical Center, St Petersburg, FL, USA

Background: Even though hypertension is a major risk factor for coronary atherosclerosis, it is the presence of low blood pressure at the time of acute myocardial infarcion that predicts greater in-hospital mortality in all men and women including the elderly. It is uncertain whether presence of hypertension at the time of acute myocardial infarction impacts the in-hospital outcome in the elderly men and women as compared with younger cohort.

Methods: We compared the in-hospital mortality rates in 519 patients (180 hypertensives, and 339 non-hypertensives) admitted with acute myocardial infarction over a two-year period. Mortality rate in 146 elderly patients above 70 years of age was contrasted with that in the 373 patients who were younger than 70.

Results: The mortality rate in the patients presenting with hypertension at the time of acute myocardial infarction (n=180) was 17.2% as compared with the mortality rate (9.1%) in those without hypertension (n=339)(p<0.01). Elderly patients with hypertension experienced highest mortality (22.2%) as compared with younger cohort (15%, p<0.05). Among the 160 women (71 elderly) patients, the mortality rate was 18.3% as compared with 359 men (109 elderly) with 9.2% mortality. Presence of hypertension increased the mortality rates in both men and women to 17.2%. Conclusions: Presence of hypertension at the time of acute myocardial infarction is a significant predictor of increased in-hospital mortality. In particular, the elderly men and women with acute myocardial infarction who present with hypertension appear to have the highest in-hospital mortality.