The mortality analysis of primary prevention patients receiving a cardiac resynchronization defibrillator (CRT-D) or implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) according to guideline indications in the Improve SCA Study.

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Abstract

Background: Despite a proven mortality benefit in primary prevention (PP) patients, the utilization of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICD) and cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillators (CRT-D) remains low in many geographies. Purpose: The objective of this analysis was to examine the mortality benefit in PP patients by guideline-indicated device type: implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) and cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator (CRT-D). Methods: Improve SCA was a prospective, non-randomized, non-blinded multicenter trial that enrolled patients from regions where ICD utilization is low. PP patient's CRT-D or ICD eligibility was based upon the 2008 ACC/AHA/HRS and 2006 ESC guidelines. Mortality was assessed according to guideline-indicated device type comparing implanted and non-implanted patients. Cox proportional hazards methods were used, adjusting for known factors affecting mortality risk. Results: Among 2,618 PP patients followed for a mean of 20.8 ± 10.8 months, 1,073 were indicated for a CRT-D, and 1,545 were indicated for an ICD. PP CRT-D-indicated patients who received CRT-D therapy had a 58% risk reduction in mortality compared to those without implant (adjusted HR 0.42, 95% CI: 0.28-0.61, P<0.0001). PP patients with an ICD indication had a 43% risk reduction in mortality with an ICD implant compared with no implant (adjusted HR 0.57, 95% CI: 0.41-0.81, P=0.002). Conclusions: This analysis confirms the mortality benefit of adherence to guideline-indicated implantable defibrillation therapy for PP patients in geographies where ICD therapy

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was underutilized. These results affirm that medical practice should follow clinical guidelines when choosing therapy for PP patients who meet the respective defibrillator device implant indication.

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