

# Nationwide real-world database of 20,462 patients enrolled in the Japanese Acute Myocardial Infarction Registry (JAMIR): Impact of emergency coronary intervention in a super-aging population

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cardiovascular diseases, including acute myocardial infarction (AMI), are leading causes of death among the Japanese, who have the longest life expectancy in the world. Over the past 50 years in Japan, the percentage of elderly individuals has increased 4-fold, from 5.7% in 1960 to 23.1% in 2010. To explore medical practices and emergency care for AMI in this aging society, the Japan Acute Myocardial Infarction Registry (JAMIR) was established as a nationwide real-world database.

**Methods:** JAMIR conducted retrospective analysis of 20,462 AMI patients (mean age,  $68.8 \pm 13.3$  years; 15,281 men [74.7%]) hospitalized between January 2011 and December 2013.

**Results:** The rates of ambulance use and emergency PCI were 78.9% and 87.9%, respectively. The median door-to-balloon time was 80 min (interquartile range, 53–143 min). Overall in-hospital mortality was 8.3%, including 6.6% due to cardiac death. JAMIR included 4837 patients aged  $\geq 80$  years (23.6%). In this age group, patients who underwent PCI (79.9%) had significantly lower in-hospital mortality than those who did not (11.1% vs. 36.9%,  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** The large JAMIR database, with 24% of AMI patients aged  $\geq 80$  years, could provide useful information about medical care in an aging society. The reasonable in-hospital outcomes observed may justify consideration of PCI for patients with AMI aged  $\geq 80$  years.

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## 1. Introduction

Japan is a society that leads the world in terms of population aging. The proportion of the population aged  $\geq 65$  years is estimated to increased to nearly 30% in 2025 and 40% in 2060 ([http://www8.cao.go.jp/kourei/whitepaper/w-2016/html/zenbun/s1\\_1\\_5.html](http://www8.cao.go.jp/kourei/whitepaper/w-2016/html/zenbun/s1_1_5.html)). According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, life expectancy at birth in 2016 was approximately 80.8 years for men and 87.1 years for women (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-hw/lifetb16/dl/lifetb16-01.pdf>). Cardiovascular diseases, including acute myocardial infarction (AMI), are leading causes of deaths in Japan (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/youran/aramashi/shibou.pdf>). A nationwide database is therefore required to better prevent the onset and progression of AMI. Comprehensive information from Japan, with its rapidly aging population, will be crucial for developing future perspectives in other countries.

The Japan Acute Myocardial Infarction Registry (JAMIR) was established by integrating 10 regional registries. The present study

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analyzing the nationwide database was designed to explore medical practices and emergency care for AMI in the aging Japanese society.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. The JAMIR study

Clinical data were collected from 10 representative regional AMI registry groups or institutions in Japan (Supplementary Fig. 1) (Supplementary Table) and analyzed retrospectively. Initially, 20,596 consecutive patients with spontaneous, acute universal classification type 1 myocardial infarction (MI) as proposed by the Joint European Society of Cardiology/American Heart Association/World Heart Federation Task Force [1] who were hospitalized within 24 h from onset between January 2011 and December 2013 were included. Criteria for AMI from the WHO MONICA Project (Monitoring of Trends and Determinants in Cardiovascular Disease) were also used when troponin levels were difficult to assess [2]. JAMIR did not include patients with AMI associated with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) (universal classification type 2) [1].

ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI) was diagnosed when ST elevation  $\geq 1$  mm was seen in at least two contiguous leads at any location on the index or qualifying electrocardiogram, when new left bundle branch block was presumed, or when new Q waves were observed. In the absence of ST-segment elevation, patients meeting the diagnostic criteria for MI were considered to have non-STEMI (NSTEMI).

Risk factors for cardiovascular disease were defined as hypertension ( $>140/90$  mm Hg or use of antihypertensive medications), diabetes mellitus (fasting plasma glucose level of  $\geq 126$  mg/dL, 2-hour value of  $\geq 200$  mg/dL in a 75-g oral glucose tolerance test, casual plasma glucose level of  $\geq 200$  mg/dL, hemoglobin A<sub>1c</sub>  $\geq 6.5\%$ , or use of medications for diabetes mellitus), dyslipidemia (high-density lipoprotein cholesterol  $<40$  mg/dL, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol  $\geq 140$  mg/dL, or use of lipid-lowering medications) [3], and current smoking (smoking within the preceding year). Emergency coronary angiography (CAG) and PCI were defined as procedures performed within 24 h from AMI onset. In the JAMIR study, the decision for reperfusion was made by the individual cardiologist in charge. Major outcomes in the present study were in-hospital mortality and cardiac mortality. The study was conducted in accordance with the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. The institutional review boards of all participating centers approved the present study.

### 2.2. Data analysis

Characteristic of patients and clinical variables were summarized as means with standard deviations. Categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages. Non-normally distributed continuous variables were expressed as medians (interquartile range). Continuous variables were compared using the *t*-test or Mann-Whitney *U* test, as appropriate. Categorical variables were analyzed using the chi-squared test. Logistic regression models were used to evaluate clinical variables that were significantly associated with in-hospital mortality. In addition, logistic regression was used to evaluate associations with adjusting for emergency PCI status and clinical variables. Statistical significance was defined as  $P < 0.05$ . All analyses were performed using the SAS software package version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Patient characteristics and outcomes

Of the 20,596 consecutive AMI patients, 134 patients aged  $<20$  years were excluded. Ultimately, 20,462 patients (15,281 men and 5181 women) with a mean age of  $68.8 \pm 13.3$  years were included. The age distribution of the study patients was as follows:  $<60$  years, 4935 (24.1%); 60–69 years, 5169 (25.3%); 70–79 years, 5521 (27.0%);

80–89 years, 4074 (19.9%); and  $>90$  years, 763 (3.7%). Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of the study patients. STEMI was diagnosed in 79.7% of patients. The rate of ambulance use was 78.9%. Importantly, 87.9% of patients underwent PCI, of whom 91.6% had a final TIMI grade of 3. PCI was inversely associated with high age (no PCI,  $73.3 \pm 14.0$  vs. PCI,  $67.8 \pm 13.0$  years;  $P < 0.0001$ ), female sex (no PCI, 35.4% vs. PCI, 23.3%;  $P < 0.0001$ ), Killip class  $\geq 2$  (no PCI, 47.6% vs. PCI, 25.0%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) and culprit lesion in the left main trunk (LMT) (no PCI, 10.7% vs. PCI, 2.4%;  $P < 0.0001$ ).

In-hospital and cardiac death occurred in 8.3% and 6.6% of patients, respectively. The median door-to-balloon time was 81 min (interquartile range, 53–143 min). In-hospital mortality was associated with door-to-balloon time quartiles (0–52 min, 4.5%; 53–80 min, 5.1%; 81–142 min, 6.6%; 143–1440 min, 6.0%;  $P$  for trend = 0.003). In addition, in-hospital mortality by Killip class was as follows: Killip 1 (2.3%), Killip 2 (8.6%), Killip 3 (18.0%), and Killip 4 (41.9%), with  $P$  for trend  $<0.0001$ . A higher prevalence of Killip class  $\geq 2$  was observed with increasing age ( $<60$  years, 17.2%; 60–69 years, 23.4%; 70–79 years, 29.9%; 80 years, 40.5%;  $\geq 90$  years, 53.8%;  $P$  for trend  $<0.001$ ) (Supplementary Fig. 2).

### 3.2. Sex differences and daily, weekly, and monthly variation in AMI

Fig. 1 shows the age distribution of study participants by gender. Women had a significantly higher mean age than men ( $76.0 \pm 11.6$  vs.  $66.3 \pm 12.9$  years;  $P < 0.0001$ ). Among men, the most common age group was 60–69 years, compared with 80–89 years in women. By gender, there were significant differences in the prevalence of STEMI (women, 77.7% vs. men, 80.3%;  $P = 0.0004$ ), Killip class  $\geq 2$  (women, 35.3% vs. men, 25.8%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) and hypertension (women, 68.9% vs. men, 61.7%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) (Table 1). Emergency CAG (women, 83.9% vs. men, 91.6%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) and primary PCI (women, 82.7% vs. men, 89.6%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) were less commonly performed in women. Door-to-balloon time (women, 85 [55–150] vs. men, 80 [51–139] minutes;  $P = 0.001$ ) and onset-to-balloon time (women, 237 [150–460] vs. men, 225 [138–408] minutes;  $P < 0.001$ ) were significantly longer in women. In-hospital mortality (women, 12.4% vs. men; 6.9%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) and cardiac mortality (women, 10.4% vs. men, 5.2%;  $P < 0.0001$ ) were significantly higher in women.

A circadian variation was observed among all AMI patients, with a peak at 8 AM (6.0%) and a trough at 1 AM (2.9%) (Supplementary Fig. 3A). The difference between peak and trough was significant ( $P < 0.001$ ). However, a circadian variation with a morning surge was similarly observed in both sexes (Supplementary Fig. 4A left,  $P = 0.615$ ) and patients aged  $<65$  versus  $\geq 65$  years (Supplementary Fig. 4A right,  $P = 0.871$ ). Regarding day of the week, AMI occurred most frequently on Mondays (15.3%) and least frequently on Sundays (13.4%) (Supplementary Fig. 3B), with a significant difference between these two days ( $P < 0.001$ ). Patients aged  $<65$  years seemed to have a higher incidence of AMI on Mondays compared to those aged  $\geq 65$  years (Supplementary Fig. 4B right,  $P = 0.076$ ). However, there was no statistically significant difference by sex (Supplementary Fig. 4B left,  $P = 0.915$ ). We also examined the seasonal variation in AMI. January (9.8%) was the most common month and September (7.3%) was the least common month (Supplementary Fig. 3C,  $P < 0.001$ ) but this relationship was not significantly different by sex (Supplementary Fig. 4C left,  $P = 0.783$ ) and age  $< 65$  versus  $\geq 65$  years (Supplementary Fig. 4C right,  $P = 0.114$ ).

### 3.3. AMI patients aged $\geq 80$ years

In the JAMIR study, 23.6% of patients were aged  $\geq 80$  years ( $n = 4837$  [2543 men and 2294 women]). Therefore, we performed subanalyses focusing on this age cut-off, comparing patients aged  $\geq 80$  and  $< 80$  years ( $n = 15,625$  [12,738 men and 2887 women]) (Table 1). Patients aged  $\geq 80$  years included a significantly lower proportion of males and patients with STEMI, and a higher proportion of

**Table 1**  
Characteristics of the study patients.

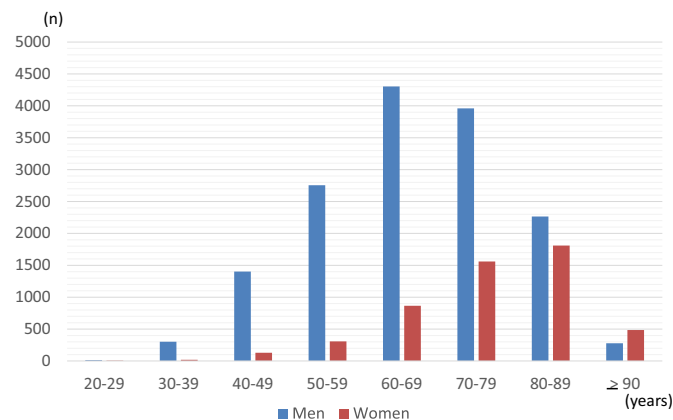
	Overall (n = 20,462)	Men (n = 15,281)	Women (n = 5181)	P	Age < 80 years (n = 15,625)	Age ≥ 80 years (n = 4837)	P
Age, y	68.8 ± 13.3	66.3 ± 12.9	76.0 ± 11.6	<0.0001	63.7 ± 10.8	85.2 ± 4.3	<0.001
Men, %	74.7	100.0	0.0	–	81.5	52.6	<0.001
STEMI, %	79.7	80.3	77.7	0.0004	80.7	76.3	<0.001
Killip classification, %				<0.0001			<0.001
1	71.8	74.2	64.7		76.2	57.5	
2	11.8	10.8	14.8		10.1	17.3	
3	6.3	5.4	8.9		4.7	11.6	
4	10.1	9.6	11.6		9.0	13.6	
Coronary risk factors, %							
Hypertension	63.6	61.7	68.9	<0.0001	61.4	70.4	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus	32.8	33.0	32.2	0.299	34.0	28.9	<0.001
Dyslipidemia	46.2	46.7	44.5	0.010	49.9	34.8	<0.001
Active smoking	34.5	42.1	11.9	<0.0001	40.7	14.3	<0.001
Transportation, %				0.046			
Ambulance	78.9	78.6	79.7		78.3	80.8	0.043
Self	18.3	18.7	17.2		19.1	15.8	
In-hospital onset	2.8	2.7	3.1		2.6	3.4	
Emergency CAG, %	89.6	91.6	83.9	<0.0001	92.9	79.0	<0.001
Anterior MI, %	47.6	47.8	47.2	0.495	48.1	45.8	0.010
LMT culprit lesion, %	3.0	3.2	2.4	0.020	2.9	3.4	0.186
Primary PCI, %	87.9	89.6	82.7	<0.0001	90.3	79.9	<0.001
Door-to-balloon time, min	80 (52–142)	80 (51–139)	85 (55–150)	0.001	79 (51–138)	87 (55–159)	<0.001
Onset-to-balloon time, min	230 (141–420)	225 (138–408)	237 (150–460)	<0.001	220 (138–398)	250 (162–488)	<0.001
Final TIMI flow, %				0.279			0.002
0	2.1	2.1	1.9		2.0	2.5	
1	1.1	1.1	1.4		1.1	1.4	
2	5.2	5.1	5.6		4.9	6.4	
3	91.6	91.7	91.1		92.0	89.8	
In-hospital mortality, %	8.3	6.9	12.4	<0.0001	5.5	17.4	<0.001
Cardiac death	6.6	5.2	10.4	<0.0001	4.2	14.1	<0.001

CAG, coronary angiography; LMT, left main trunk; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; STEMI, ST-elevation myocardial infarction.

patients with advanced Killip class. The rate of ambulance use was higher, door-to-balloon and onset-to-balloon times were longer, and PCI and successful recanalization (TIMI grade 3) rates were lower in patients aged ≥80 years. These factors might have contributed to higher in-hospital mortality (≥80 years, 17.4% vs. <80 years, 5.5%;  $P < 0.001$ ) and cardiac mortality (≥80 years, 14.1% vs. <80 years, 4.2%;  $P < 0.001$ ) among patients aged ≥80 years. Importantly, in patients aged ≥80 years, in-hospital mortality was 3-fold higher among those who did not undergo emergency PCI (36.9%) compared to those who underwent PCI (11.1%,  $P < 0.001$ ). Although age was comparable between patients with STEMI and those with NSTEMI (STEMI;  $85.1 \pm 4.2$  vs NSTEMI;  $85.2 \pm 4.2$  years,  $P = 0.282$ ) in patients aged

≥80 years, the rate of emergent PCI was higher in STEMI patients than that in NSTEMI patients (STEMI; 86.6 vs NSTEMI; 71.8%,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Table 2 shows the results of a multivariate analysis of in-hospital mortality in patients aged ≥80 years; STEMI, advanced Killip class, dyslipidemia, anterior wall MI, and not undergoing PCI were independent predictors of in-hospital mortality.

We then compared patients in their 80s ( $n = 4074$ ) with patients in their 90s ( $n = 763$ ). The proportion who underwent emergency PCI was lower (90s, 62.4% vs. 80s, 82.9%;  $P < 0.001$ ) (Fig. 2A left) and in-hospital mortality was higher (90s, 31.2% vs. 80s, 14.8%;  $P < 0.001$ ) among patients in their 90s (Fig. 2A right). Fig. 2B shows in-hospital mortality in these two age groups by PCI status. Among patients who

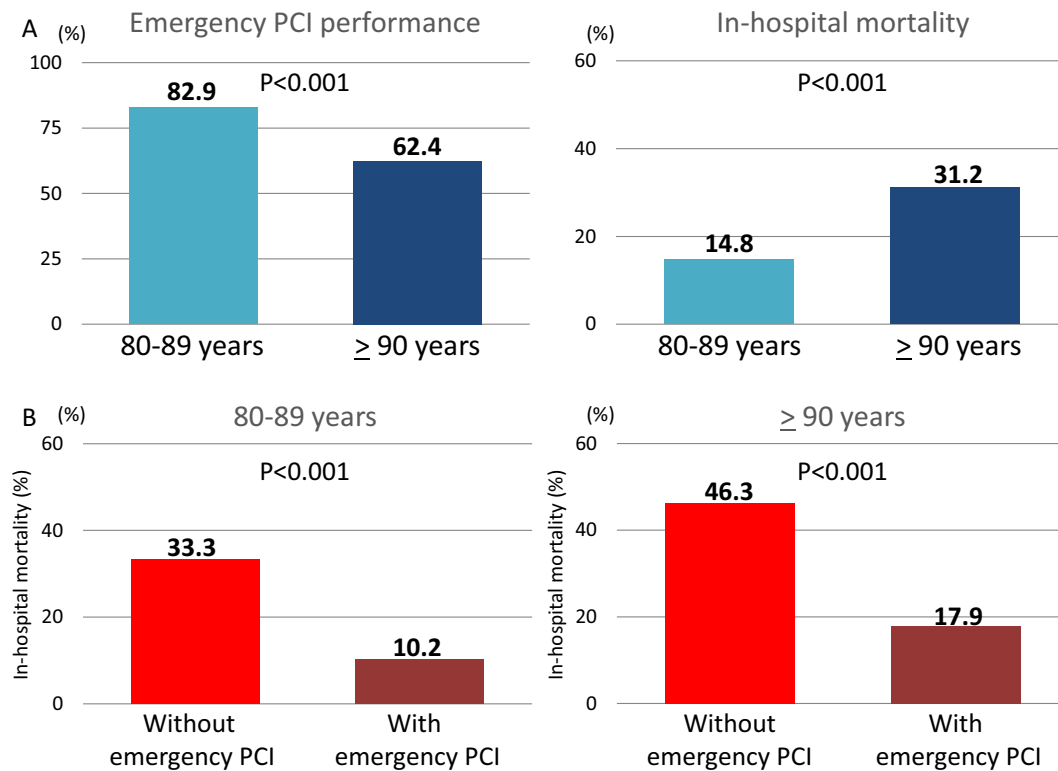


**Fig. 1.** Distribution of age among male (blue) and female (red) acute myocardial infarction patients in the JAMIR study, 23.6% of patients were aged ≥80 years ( $n = 4837$  [2543 men and 2294 women]). JAMIR, Japan Acute Myocardial infarction Registry. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

**Table 2**  
Factors associated with in-hospital mortality in patients aged ≥80 years.

	Unadjusted			Adjusted		
	OR	95% CI	P	OR	95% CI	P
Male sex	0.77	0.66–0.89	0.0005	1.23	0.91–1.66	0.18
STEMI	1.51	1.20–1.91	0.0004	1.81	1.20–2.72	0.005
Killip classification						
1	1.00			1.00		
2–4	6.83	5.59–8.34	<0.0001	4.99	3.63–6.85	<0.0001
Coronary risk factors						
Hypertension	0.99	0.83–1.18	0.91	1.08	0.78–1.50	0.65
Diabetes mellitus	1.01	0.85–1.21	0.89	1.03	0.75–1.42	0.84
Dyslipidemia	0.56	0.47–0.67	<0.0001	0.52	0.37–0.74	0.0002
Active smoking	0.75	0.58–0.97	0.026	0.94	0.60–1.47	0.78
Transportation						
Ambulance	1.60	1.26–2.04	0.0001	1.73	1.00–3.01	0.052
Self	1.00			1.00		
In-hospital onset	1.65	1.04–2.63	0.033	2.17	0.92–5.07	0.075
Anterior MI	1.71	1.43–2.06	<0.0001	1.68	1.25–2.26	0.0006
No emergency PCI	4.71	3.96–5.60	<0.0001	2.49	1.62–3.82	<0.0001

MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; STEMI, ST-elevation myocardial infarction.



**Fig. 2.** A: Frequency of emergency PCI (left) and in-hospital mortality (right) in patients aged 80–89 years versus ≥ 90 years B: In-hospital mortality in patients aged 80–89 years (left) and ≥ 90 years (right) with and without PCI. PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention.

underwent PCI, in-hospital mortality occurred in 10.2% of patients in their 80s and 17.9% in patients in their 90s, which was significantly lower than in those who did not undergo PCI (33.3% in 80s,  $P < 0.001$ ; 46.3% in 90s,  $P < 0.001$ ). Logistic regression analysis in patients aged ≥ 80 years revealed that emergency PCI was performed significantly more often in patients with STEMI (OR, 2.24; 95% CI, 1.62–3.10;  $P < 0.0001$ ) but was less often performed in patients with Killip class ≥ 2 disease (OR, 0.50; 95% CI, 0.37–0.68;  $P < 0.0001$ ). Patients in the 90s might be less likely to undergo emergency PCI (OR, 0.69; 95% CI, 0.44–1.08;  $P = 0.103$ ).

#### 4. Discussion

The nationwide real-world JAMIR database with 20,462 AMI patients demonstrated that in-hospital mortality and cardiac mortality were 8.3% and 6.6%, respectively, with a high rate of ambulance use and emergency PCI. JAMIR data were characterized by the advanced age of the study population (24% of patients were aged ≥ 80 years). Reasonable in-hospital outcomes may justify consideration of PCI for patients of extremely advanced age with AMI.

##### 4.1. Comparison of JAMIR and nationwide claims-based data

JAMIR is the largest registry consisting of 20,462 Japanese patients with AMI with a mean age of  $68.8 \pm 13.3$  years (men,  $66.3 \pm 12.9$  years; women,  $76.0 \pm 11.6$  years) and overall in-hospital mortality of 8.3%. The Japanese Registry of All Cardiac and Vascular Diseases (JROAD)-DPC, using data from the Japanese Diagnosis Procedure Combination / Per Diem Payment System (DPC/PDPS), recently provided nationwide data from hospitalization records between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013. It has 35,824 patients with AMI [4]. The mean age of the male ( $n = 25,788$ , 72.0%) and female ( $n = 10,036$ , 28.0%) AMI patients was  $67 \pm 13$  and  $77 \pm 13$  years, respectively. Overall in-hospital mortality in patients with AMI was 14.5%. By Killip class, in-hospital mortality was 1.7% for Killip

1, 4.0% for Killip 2, 13.5% for Killip 3, and 47.5% for Killip 4. Important characteristics such as age, sex, and in-hospital mortality by Killip classification were similar between JAMIR and JROAD-DPC data. These validated findings indicate that the present nationwide JAMIR study may reflect the status of current AMI patients in Japan.

JAMIR additionally provided detailed data about medical practices and emergency care including ambulance use, direct PCI, and door-to-balloon time. Despite the high prevalence of STEMI among patients with advanced Killip class (28.2% of patients had ≥ class 2 disease), relatively low in-hospital mortality was associated with high performance of emergency care. Rates of ambulance use and emergency PCI were high, 78.9% and 87.9%, respectively, and the median door-to-balloon time was 80 min.

The present study confirmed that AMI onset was more common in the morning, on Mondays, and in the winter. Many studies have demonstrated that the onset of AMI had a distinct pattern, with a peak incidence in the morning within the first few hours after awakening [5–8]. The early morning-awakening peak for AMI is related to circadian differences in endogenous levels of circulating catecholamines and other stress hormones and hypercoagulability during the early morning [7, 8]. Regarding the day of the week, a Monday predominance was observed for AMI [9]. Several potential triggering factors such as occupational stress, higher blood pressure, and unfavorable biochemical status have been proposed [9–11]. This study and past studies have shown a peak incidence of AMI during the winter and the lowest incidence during the summer. Social events, emotional reactions, physical activity, and low temperature during the winter could alter blood pressure, prothrombotic state, and myocardial oxygen supply, leading to increased ventricular wall stress and reduced coronary blood flow [12–15].

##### 4.2. Comparison of clinical characteristics among JAMIR and other registries

A large-scale, multi-center, nationwide JAMIR registry could allow for characterizing Japanese patients with AMI and medical practices

and comparing them to those in other countries. Recently, representative nationwide registries of AMI include the Korea Acute Myocardial Infarction Registry–National Institute of Health (KAMIR–NIH) [16] and the Swedish Web-System for Enhancement and Development of Evidence-Based Care in Heart Disease Evaluated According to Recommended Therapies (SWEDEHEART) [17]. The KAMIR–NIH registry included 13,624 patients (mean age, 64.1 years; male, 73.5%) enrolled between 2011 and 2015 from 20 centers. The PCI rate and in-hospital mortality were 87.4% and 3.9%, respectively. A disparity in in-hospital mortality may be related in part with the presentation and severity of AMI (STEMI, 48.2%; Killip class  $\geq 2$ , 21.7%), although further studies are needed. The SWEDEHEART registry described temporal changes in treatment and outcomes from 1995 to 2014 in consecutive 105,674 patients with STEMI hospitalized at 72 hospitals. In particular, among the approximately 20,000 STEMI patients (median age, 69 [60–79] years; male, 68.4%) enrolled between 2011 and 2014, the PCI rate was over 75%. Despite relatively low in-hospital mortality (7.8–7.9% during 2011–2014 in the SWEDEHEART registry), the median time from symptom onset to primary PCI was 190 min. Taken together with the median onset-to-balloon time of 230 min in JAMIR, efforts to minimize onset-to-balloon time are recommended to improve clinical outcome in patients with STEMI.

Gender-related disparities continue to exist and AMI mortality in women remains substantial. KAMIR investigators previously demonstrated that cardiac death after AMI was more frequently observed in women than men, possibly because acute cardiac procedures were less commonly performed in women, who are older at AMI presentation [18]. Recently, the SWEDEHEART registry demonstrated that excess mortality among women was reduced after adjusting for the use of guideline-indicated treatments for AMI such as revascularization therapies and medications [19]. The present JAMIR study demonstrated that in-hospital mortality and cardiac mortality were significantly higher in women, which might be associated with older age and fewer PCI procedures performed in women. Further prospective studies are needed to clarify whether an early invasive strategy could benefit patients, especially women, with AMI.

#### 4.3. Impact of coronary intervention for patients aged $\geq 80$ years

Although current guidelines recommend early coronary revascularization with PCI in patients with AMI, there has been very limited information of its use in patients aged  $\geq 80$  years, in particular those aged  $\geq 90$  years. One of the unique features of JAMIR was the advanced age of the study population, with a substantial proportion of patients being  $\geq 80$  years ( $n = 4837$ , 24%). This age group had a PCI rate of 79.9% (80s, 82.9% and 90s, 62.4%) and in-hospital mortality of 17.4% (80s, 14.8% and 90s, 31.2%). In the KAMIR registry ( $n = 14,885$ , 2005–2007), 2415 AMI patients (16%) were aged  $\geq 80$  years. The PCI rate was 71.7% in patients in their 80s and 57.2% in patients in their 90s (overall, 70.1%) and in-hospital mortality was 11.4% in patients in their 80s and 15.7% in patients in their 90s [20]. Lower in-hospital mortality despite a lower PCI rate in KAMIR compared to JAMIR might be related in part to AMI presentation and severity. In the London Heart Attack Group Cohort ( $n = 10,249$ , all treated with PCI, 2005–2011), 1051 STEMI patients (10.3%) were  $\geq 80$  years and had in-hospital mortality of 7.7% (2.2% in patients aged  $< 80$  years treated with PCI) [21].

In this JAMIR study, in addition to STEMI, advanced Killip class, and anterior wall MI, non-emergency PCI was an independent factor for in-hospital mortality in patients aged  $\geq 80$  years. Considering the results of our multivariate analysis, AMI patients aged  $\geq 80$  years with complicated conditions may benefit from emergency PCI. Recently, the After Eighty study, a randomized, controlled multicenter trial, revealed that an invasive strategy such as PCI was superior to a conservative strategy in patients aged  $\geq 80$  years with NSTEMI or unstable angina. However, the efficacy of an invasive strategy may be attenuated in patients aged over approximately 90 years [22]. Advances in PCI technology

(e.g., new generation DES) and techniques (e.g., the transradial approach) and pharmacotherapy (e.g., tailored antithrombotic therapy) over the past decade have led to better outcomes and a lower risk of complications [23].

Our study has some limitations. As a retrospective observational study, residual confounding or selection bias cannot be completely excluded as an alternative explanation of our findings. The database merged several registries and intertrial variability in care may have influenced results in the present pooled patient population. Our study findings only apply to AMI patients with onset-to-door time  $\leq 24$  h. Several agents such as P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors are critical not only for the improvement of prognosis in AMI patients but also for the safety including bleeding in particular in advanced age population. However, the data of these agents as well as lipidemic status were not included in this study and therefore further study is needed.

## 5. Conclusions

The large-scale JAMIR database of patients with AMI could provide useful information about medical care in the aging society of Japan. In this registry characterized by the advanced age of the study population, with one-quarter of AMI patients aged  $\geq 80$  years, reasonable in-hospital outcomes may justify consideration of PCI for very elderly patients with AMI.

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## Conflict of interest

There are no financial or other relationships that could lead to a conflict of interest.

## Appendix A. JAMIR Investigators

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