

Prevalence of Risk Factors of Coronary Artery Disease above 30 Years of Age in an Urban Setting

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Abstract: The prevalence of coronary artery disease is dependent upon the presence of multiple risk factors. These risk factors specially the modifiable one, can be brought under control by life style modifications. World health organization has recommended a STEPs approach for the assessment of risk factors of coronary artery disease. It has two component, core and expanded. Objectives: There is paucity of data as far as expanded assessment is concerned. The present study was conducted with the objective to find out the prevalence of risk factors of coronary artery disease using WHO standardised STEPs approach including investigations specially fasting blood sugar and total cholesterol. Materials and Methods: The sample size was calculated by using the formula $n = Z^2pq/d^2$. For a two sided at 95% confidence interval, the value of $Z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$, p is prevalence, $q = 1 - p$ and d is relative precision. In present study the prevalence of hypertension was taken as 40% with 10% relative precision. The sample size came out to be 576. Results: Amongst modifiable risk factors, the high salt intake was found to be highest in 48.6% subjects followed by hypertension in 44.4% subjects. 25.2% subjects were having raised blood sugar. 37.7% were pre-obese while only 16.8% were obese. Only 5.4% subjects were having hypercholesterolemia as per WHO cut-off.

Keywords: CHD, NCD, NPCDCS, STEPS, WHO,

I. Introduction

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is an impairment of heart function due to inadequate blood flow to the heart compared to its needs, caused by obstructive changes in the coronary circulation to the heart.¹ There have been a sharp increase in the number of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases in the last two decades, in 1990 there were an estimated 50 million deaths globally and approximately 14 million (28%) were due to cardiovascular diseases,² which rose to 38 million deaths in 2012 and it is predicted that by 2030 CVD will be responsible for 52 million deaths alone. Approximately 42% of all NCDs deaths globally occurred before the age of 70 years; 48% of NCD deaths in low- and middle-income countries and 28% in high-income countries were individuals aged under 70 years.³

In India, cardiovascular disease (CVD) accounts for 53.5% of NCD mortality, and cardiovascular risk factors, which were initially confined to more affluent strata with inappropriate diet and lack of physical activity, are becoming more common among middle and lower socioeconomic strata of Indian urban and rural populations.^{4,5}

WHO has predicted that from year 2000 to 2020 DALYs lost from CHD in India shall double in both men and women from the current 7.7 and 5.5 million respectively.⁶

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed STEP wise Surveillance (STEPS) approach of Risk Factors as a part of global surveillance strategy in response to the growing need for country-level trends in non-communicable diseases. By using the same standardized questions and protocols, all countries can use STEPS information not only for monitoring within-country trends but also for making between-country comparisons. There is paucity of data in urban Meerut as far as CHD risk factors is concerned. The present study was conducted with the objective to find out the prevalence of risk factors of coronary artery disease using WHO standardised STEPs approach, in which in STEP 3 only core investigations fasting blood sugar and total cholesterol were taken.

II. Materials And Methods

There were 80 wards in Meerut, one ward was selected randomly, which came out to be ward 45. Ward 45 voter list was procured from Nagar Nigam. The sample size was calculated by using the formula $n = Z^2pq/d^2$. For a two sided at 95% confidence interval, the value of $Z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$, p is prevalence, $q = 1 - p$ and d is relative precision. In present study the prevalence of hypertension was taken as 40% with 10% relative precision. The

sample size came out to be 576. Total individuals of age 30 years and above were found to be 8346. To derive the sampling interval 8346 was divided by 576 and then resultant was 14. Then a random number less than 14 was selected which came out to be 10, then every 14th individual were choose to complete the sample size of 576.

III. Results

Table 1 is showing socio-demographic distribution of study participants.

Variable		Total (n=576)	Percentage (%)
Age	30 – 39 years	104	18.1%
	40 – 49 years	180	31.3%
	50 – 59 years	127	22.0%
	60 – 69 years	110	19.1%
	≥ 70 years	55	9.5%
Sex	Male	245	42.5%
	Female	331	57.5%
Caste	General	309	53.7%
	OBC	120	20.8%
	SC	147	25.5%
Marital status	Married	565	98.1%
	Un-married	11	1.9%
Type of family	Nuclear	370	64.2%
	Joint	206	35.8%
Socio-economic status	Upper class (I)	01	0.2%
	Upper middle class (II)	45	7.8%
	Lower middle class (III)	234	40.6%
	Upper lower class (IV)	252	43.8%
	Lower class (V)	44	7.6%

Table no. 1 is showing the demographic profile of the study population. The maximum number of participants were found in 40 – 49 years of age (31.3%) followed by 22.0% in 50 – 59 years while the minimum participants 9.5% were found 70 years and above age group. Among 576 population, 57.5% were found to be females and 42.5% were male. Caste wise 53.7%, 25.5% and 20.8% were General, SC and OBC respectively. Majority of population 98.1% were married while only 1.9% were unmarried. Nuclear family was found to be more (64.2%) than joint family (35.8%). According to modified Kuppaswamy socio-economic scale 0.2%, 7.8%, 40.6%, 43.8% and 7.6% were belongs to upper class (I), upper middle class (II), lower middleclass (III), upper lower class (IV) and lower class (V) respectively.

Table 2: Prevalence of life style risk factors among study population

Risk Factors	Prevalence Total study population (n=576)			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Alcohol intake	67 (27.4%)	00 (0.0%)	67 (11.6%)	$\chi^2 = 99.8, df 1, p = 0.0001$
High salt intake	114(46.5%)	166 (50.2%)	280 (48.6%)	$\chi^2 = 0.74, df 1, p = 0.39$
Moderate intensity activity for >10 min.	200 (81.6%)	280 (84.6%)	480 (83.3%)	$\chi^2 = 0.88, df 1, p = 0.35$
Smoking	58 (23.7%)	03 (0.9%)	61 (10.6%)	$\chi^2 = 77.1, df 1, p = 0.000$

Prevalence of alcohol intake among males was 11.6% while none of females have been found alcoholic which was found to be statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) with Yate's correction. The prevalence of high salt intake was 48.6% in this study. Table 32 shows the history of high salt intake was found more in females (50.2%) than the males (46.5%) but this gender wise difference was not found to be significant ($p > 0.05$). 84.6% females and 81.6% male were found to be physically active respectively and this difference was not found to be significant ($p > 0.05$). Overall prevalence of smoking was significantly higher among males (23.7%), only 3 (0.9%) females reported to suffer of smoking addiction. The difference of smoking in relation to gender was found to be significant ($p < 0.05$).

Table 3: Prevalence of physical and biochemical risk factors among study population

Risk Factors	Prevalence Total study population (n=576)			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
High blood pressure	118 (48.2%)	138 (41.7%)	256 (44.4%)	$\chi^2 = 2.39$, df 1, p = 0.12
High blood sugar	73 (29.8%)	72 (21.8%)	145 (25.2%)	$\chi^2 = 4.84$, df 1, p = 0.02
Hypercholesterolemia	13 (5.3%)	18 (5.5%)	31 (5.4%)	$\chi^2 = 0.48$, df 1, p = 0.94
Nutritional status				
> Pre-obese	96 (39.2%)	121 (36.6%)	217 (37.7%)	$\chi^2 = 0.56$, df 1, p = 0.45
> Obese	42 (17.1%)	55 (16.6%)	97 (16.8%)	$\chi^2 = 0.17$, df 1, p = 0.67

As shown in table 3, amongst modifiable risk factors, hypertension was found to be highest in 44.4% subjects. Among all the subjects pre-obese, raised blood sugar and obesity were found to be 37.7%, 25.2% and 16.8% subjects respectively. Only 5.4% subjects were having hypercholesterolemia as per WHO cut-off.

IV. Discussion

In the present study the prevalence of hypertension in males was 48.2% and in females 41.7%. Low prevalence was reported by, Parikh S. et al⁷ in Ahmedabad city which was 37% in males and 36% in females. Garg A. et al⁸ reporting 33.7% males and 31.5% females were hypertensive while Sekhri T. et al⁹ reported that 22.4% of males and 13.4% of females were hypertensive.

The overall prevalence of high blood sugar level was found 25.2% which is similar to study done by Singh A et al¹⁰ which is 23.2%. In the present study the prevalence of high blood sugar was 29.8% and 21.8% in males and females respectively and the difference was also found to be statistically significant. Lower prevalence of diabetes was reported by Reddy K.S. et al¹¹ which was 11.2% in males and 8.2% in females, Parikh S. et al⁷ who reported 9.7% males and 10.9% in females and Garg A. et al⁸ who reported that it which was 15.7% in males and 19.8% in females.

In the present study the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia as per cut-off value of WHO was 5.3% in males and 5.5% in females. High prevalence was reported by Gupta R. et al¹² in Jaipur 33% in males and 32.7% in females, Garg A. et al⁸ also reported the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia 30.3% in males and 36.9% in females and other^{9,13,14} also reported similar findings.

The overall prevalence of obesity was 56.3% in males and 53.2% in females. The findings of present study were supported by, Mohan V. et al¹⁵ reported 36.5% males and 52% females were obese, whereas Prabhakaran D. et al¹⁴ reported prevalence of obesity among males (35%) only. High prevalence were reported by, Garg A. et al⁸ reported obesity in 46% males and 61% females, Reddy K.S. et al¹¹ reported that 50.9% males and 51.9% females were obese. Low prevalence were reported by, Gupta R. et al¹³ reported obesity in 8.3% of males and 15.8% of females, Gupta R. et al¹² and Sekhri T. et al⁹ also reported low prevalence in male and female participants.

In present study, statistically significant association was found between alcohol use and sex and the prevalence of current/ever drinkers was 27.3% in males and 0% in females. Garg A. et al⁸ reported 55% males and 2.7% females were current drinkers and Sugathan T.N. et al¹⁶ reported 51% males and 0.9% females were current/ever users. Lower prevalence of alcohol use were reported by, Mohan V. et al¹⁵ reported 30.2% males and 0% females were ever drinkers and Gupta R. et al¹³ reported 13.1% males and 0% females were ever drinkers. High prevalence was reported by Mishra P.J. et al¹⁷, 81.6% males and 49.7% females were current users of alcohol.

In our study, subjects with their work involvement of moderate physical activity for more than 10 minute was reported in 84.6% of females in comparison of 81.6% of males. A lower prevalence was also reported by, Gupta R. et al¹³ among 53.9% of females and 61.2% of males were physically active, supported by Sugathan T. et al¹⁶ and Aroor B. et al¹⁸. The overall prevalence of physical activity in our study was 83.3%.

In present study, the prevalence of ever smoker was 23.7% in males but 0.3% among the females. Similar results were observed by, Mohan V. et al¹⁵ reported 56.3% males and 0.5% females were ever smokers. Low prevalence were observed by, Garg A. et al⁸ reported 32.6% in males and 4.5% in females, Gupta R. et al¹³, Gupta et al¹¹, Reddy K.S. et al¹¹, Sekhri T. et al⁹, Aroor B. et al¹⁸ and Mishra P.J. et al¹⁷ all reported low prevalence. Higher prevalence was reported by, Sugathan T. et al¹⁶. Prabhakaran D. et al¹⁴.

V. Conclusion

The prevalence of hypertension (44.4%) was maximum followed by high blood sugar (25.2%) which is very alarming and need corrective action on the war footing. On the other hand hypercholesterolemia is found

only 5.4% above the age of 30 years which is also astonishing as high cholesterol is consider to be main cause of coronary heart disease. Further studies are required to break this myth.

VI. Recommendation

It is high time to accelerate the implementation of NPCDCS (NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CANCER, DIABETES, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND STROKE) programme into the whole country as well as the screening of the population above the age of 30 years by STEPS approach to identify the coronary heart disease risk factors as well as to treat and prevent these so that the overall burden of coronary heart disease can be minimized.

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