

RESEARCH

Off-hour presentation and outcomes in patients with acute myocardial infarction: systematic review and meta-analysis


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Abstract

Objective To assess the association between off-hour (weekends and nights) presentation, door to balloon times, and mortality in patients with acute myocardial infarction.

Data sources Medline in-process and other non-indexed citations, Medline, Embase, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and Scopus through April 2013.

Study selection Any study that evaluated the association between time of presentation to a healthcare facility and mortality or door to balloon times among patients with acute myocardial infarction was included.

Data extraction Studies' characteristics and outcomes data were extracted. Quality of studies was assessed with the Newcastle-Ottawa scale. A random effect meta-analysis model was applied. Heterogeneity was assessed using the Q statistic and I².

Results 48 studies with fair quality, enrolling 1 896 859 patients, were included in the meta-analysis. 36 studies reported mortality outcomes for 1 892 424 patients with acute myocardial infarction, and 30 studies reported door to balloon times for 70 534 patients with ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Off-hour presentation for patients with acute myocardial infarction was associated with higher short term mortality (odds ratio 1.06, 95% confidence interval 1.04 to 1.09). Patients with STEMI presenting during off-hours were less likely to receive percutaneous coronary intervention within 90 minutes (odds ratio 0.40, 0.35 to 0.45) and had longer door to balloon time by 14.8 (95% confidence interval 10.7 to 19.0) minutes. A diagnosis of STEMI and countries outside North America were associated with larger increase

in mortality during off-hours. Differences in mortality between off-hours and regular hours have increased in recent years. Analyses were associated with statistical heterogeneity.

Conclusion This systematic review suggests that patients with acute myocardial infarction presenting during off-hours have higher mortality, and patients with STEMI have longer door to balloon times. Clinical performance measures may need to account for differences arising from time of presentation to a healthcare facility.

Introduction

Acute myocardial infarction remains a leading cause of death worldwide.¹ Every year, approximately one million people in the United States have an acute myocardial infarction and 400 000 die from coronary heart disease.² Previous studies have suggested that patients with acute myocardial infarction who present to the hospital during off-hours (weekends and nights) may have higher mortality.³⁻⁶ Higher mortality during off-hours may be attributed to a lower likelihood of receiving evidence based treatment or timely reperfusion therapies.^{6,7} Furthermore, the number of hospital staff and their level of expertise may contribute to gaps in the quality of care during off-hours.^{4,8,9} Because of the high incidence and case fatality of acute myocardial infarction, small increases in the relative risk of mortality during off-hours can translate to important effects in the population.

Using data from the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction database, Magid et al showed that patients with ST elevation

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myocardial infarction (STEMI) who presented during off-hours had higher in-hospital mortality and longer door to balloon times.⁶ Kostis et al examined an administrative database in New Jersey and found that weekend admissions for patients with acute myocardial infarction were associated with higher in-hospital, 30 day, and one year mortality.⁴ Conversely, Jneid et al reported no significant difference in mortality between off-hours and regular hours for acute myocardial infarction patients in the Get With the Guidelines-Coronary Artery Disease (GWTG-CAD) national database, despite longer door to balloon times in off-hours for patients with STEMI.¹⁰ Other studies have also reported inconsistent results.¹¹⁻¹⁶

To date, no systematic reviews or meta-analyses of this literature have been done. Therefore, we aimed to synthesize the available evidence on the effects of off-hour presentation of patients on outcomes of acute myocardial infarction. Our primary outcome was the difference in-hospital or 30 day mortality for patients with acute myocardial infarction who presented during off-hours compared with those who presented during regular hours. The secondary outcome was door to balloon time for patients with STEMI.

Methods

This study was conducted according to guidance from the Cochrane Handbook of Systematic Reviews and is reported according to PRISMA (preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses) recommendations.^{17 18}

Data sources and search strategies

We did a comprehensive search of several databases from database inception to April 2013, any language. The databases included Ovid Medline in-process and other non-indexed citations, Ovid Medline, Ovid Embase, Ovid Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and Scopus. An experienced librarian designed and conducted the search strategy with input from the principal investigator. He used controlled vocabulary supplemented with keywords to search for comparative studies of off-hour effects for patients with acute myocardial infarction. The strategy is available in the web appendix (table A). We also manually searched PubMed, Ovid Medline, and references in pertinent articles that were identified in the screening processes.

Study selection

We considered all studies published in any language, with any study design, that evaluated the association between time of presentation and mortality or door to balloon times among adult patients who presented with acute myocardial infarction. Studies were eligible if they compared the outcomes between patients with off-hour versus regular hour presentation. We categorized the comparison of off-hours versus regular hours as weekend and night versus weekday regular hours, weekend versus weekday, or night versus daytime (appendix figure A). Time of presentation could be measured by arrival at the hospital, admission to hospital, or start of percutaneous coronary intervention. Eligible mortality outcomes included in-hospital mortality and 30 day mortality. Initial screening of abstracts excluded non-relevant or non-original studies. We then used full text screening to assess eligibility. Whenever reports pertained to the same set of patients, we retained the one with the most recent year of publication to obtain the most updated data. Two investigators (AS and AA) independently screened reports. Studies with discrepant decisions in screening of the abstract proceeded to full text screening. We resolved discrepancies in full text screening through consensus. We

calculated a κ statistic to quantify the agreement between the two reviewers on study selection.

Data extraction

We recorded information on studies' characteristics and demographics such as authors, publication year, country, years of enrollment of the cohort, data source, the definition of off-hours and regular hours, time of presentation measured for allocation, and the inclusion and exclusion criteria, as well as per group sample size, characteristics of the population, variables adjusted for, and outcomes. We recorded mortality by either number or proportion of deaths in each group and odds ratio or hazard ratio with confidence intervals. We recorded door to balloon time by either mean with standard deviation or median with interquartile range or by the proportion of patients whose door to balloon time was 90 minutes or less. For studies that implemented an intervention that could affect the outcome, we abstracted data from the observational (pre-intervention) period. One investigator abstracted data, which a second investigator independently verified. The discrepancies found in the verification process were solved by consensus or further review by a third investigator. SRS, DAR, and KMT abstracted data, and AS and AA verified data.

Assessment of methodological quality

We assessed the methodological quality of the included studies by using the Newcastle-Ottawa scale.¹⁹ This scale consists of three domains (cohort selection, comparability, and outcome) and evaluates the study's overall risk of bias. The maximum score for an observational study is 9 points. Two investigators independently assessed quality, and another resolved discrepancies.

Outcome definition and subgroup analyses

Mortality outcomes

We used in-hospital or 30 day mortality as the main outcome. For studies without in-hospital mortality results, we used 30 day mortality when available. We did the main analysis for all studies combined. We also separately analyzed each mortality outcome (in-hospital versus 30 day). For the main outcome, we did subgroup analyses by diagnosis of patient cohort (STEMI versus non-STEMI), type of off-hours (weekend and night versus weekend versus night), measured time of presentation (arrival versus admission versus start of percutaneous coronary intervention), data source (clinical registry versus administrative data), region (North America versus Europe versus others), and outcome adjustment (adjusted versus unadjusted). To evaluate the possibility of a time trend effect of mortality across studies, we did meta-regression using the mid-year of enrollment of the cohort as the independent variable and the natural log of the effect size as the dependent variable. Owing to concern about potential overlapping patient sets, we did sensitivity analyses by excluding each single cohort and by including only one cohort from each study. We also did sensitivity analyses by excluding studies that expressed results as a hazard ratio.

Door to balloon time

We analyzed the proportion of patients with STEMI whose door to balloon time was less than 90 minutes and the mean or median door to balloon times. For mean or median door to balloon times, we did subgroup analyses by type of off-hours determination, measured time of presentation, and region, as well as meta-regression using the mid-year of enrollment of the cohort to evaluate time trends in door to balloon times. We also did

sensitivity analyses limiting to studies that included only patients who were directly admitted to the hospital and excluding interventional studies.

Statistical analysis

For the mortality outcome, we retrieved or calculated the adjusted odds ratio and corresponding 95% confidence interval from each study. When adjusted estimates were unavailable, we used unadjusted ones. When a hazard ratio was reported, we considered it to approximate the relative effect measure reported in other studies that used odds ratios and tested this assumption in sensitivity analysis. For door to balloon times, we retrieved or calculated odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals for the proportion of patients who received percutaneous coronary intervention within 90 minutes. We estimated the mean difference and 95% confidence interval from the mean and standard deviation. When the standard deviation was not reported, we imputed it by using the methods reported in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews.¹⁸

We used the I^2 statistic to estimate the percentage of total variation across studies due to heterogeneity rather than chance (ranging from 0% to 100%).^{20 21} I^2 values of 25% or less, 50%, and 75% or greater represent low, moderate, and high inconsistency. We used the random effect model to pool results across studies, accounting for between study variance.²² We chose this model because of anticipated significant heterogeneity between studies in terms of population and methods used to ascertain outcomes. We used the Q statistic to assess the presence of statistically significant heterogeneity. To assess the potential effect of publication bias, we inspected funnel plots for asymmetry and used the Duval and Tweedie trim and fill method and the Begg and Mazumdar rank correlation test.^{23 24}

We used Comprehensive Meta-Analysis, version 2 (Englewood, New Jersey) for statistical analysis. All P values are two tailed, and we set $P < 0.05$ as the threshold for significance.

Results

We retrieved 487 citations; 48 studies met the inclusion criteria and provided data for 1 896 859 participants (fig 1).^{3-6 10-16 25-61} All of the studies had a cohort design; no case-control studies met the inclusion criteria. Four studies implemented an intervention during the study period and reported only door to balloon outcomes.²⁵⁻²⁸ The κ statistic was 0.77 for abstract screening and 0.72 for full text screening. Table 1 shows details of the studies' characteristics.

The year of publication ranged from 2001 to 2013, and the patient cohort included in the studies started as early as 1987. Six studies reported acute myocardial infarction outcomes as a subset of a patient cohort including other diagnoses.^{3 11 30 32 38 42}

A total of 20 studies took place in North America (United States and Canada) and 18 studies in Europe. Among the studies outside those two regions, two studies were written in a foreign language (Portuguese).^{37 40} The largest study included 922 074 Medicare patients.¹¹ A total of 15 studies used time of arrival at the hospital or emergency department for categorization of off-hour presentation, and 18 studies used admission time. Fifteen studies used time of start of percutaneous coronary intervention and thus included only patients who had such an intervention. Clinical registries and administrative data (through ICD (international classification of diseases) code or other coding system) were the main sources of data in 38 and 10 studies, respectively. Detailed quality ratings of study quality according to the Newcastle-Ottawa criteria are available in the appendix (table B). Thirty studies were deemed to have fair

quality (low to moderate risk of bias, with 8 or more points on the quality scale).

Mortality

A total of 36 studies reported in-hospital or 30 day mortality and provided data for 1 892 424 participants. Of these, 24 studies reported in-hospital mortality, seven studies reported 30 day mortality, and five studies reported both. Two studies reported results stratified by years of patient cohort,^{4 47} so each cohort was analyzed separately, resulting in 42 cohorts for the main analysis. Thirty cohorts reported adjusted mortality, and 12 reported unadjusted mortality. Off-hour presentation was associated with significantly higher in-hospital or 30 day mortality across all cohorts (odds ratio 1.06, 95% confidence interval 1.04 to 1.09; $I^2=74$; 42 cohorts) (fig 2). Off-hour presentation was also associated with higher in-hospital mortality (odds ratio 1.05, 1.03 to 1.08; $I^2=55$; 35 cohorts) and 30 day mortality (1.05, 1.02 to 1.09; $I^2=83$; 18 cohorts) (appendix figures B and C). A diagnosis of STEMI (odds ratio 1.12, 1.03 to 1.22; $I^2=42$; 25 cohorts) was associated with a larger increase in in-hospital or 30 day mortality during off-hours than was non-STEMI (0.96, 0.91 to 1.02; $I^2=0$; 2 cohorts). Studies in Europe (odds ratio 1.08, 1.02 to 1.15; $I^2=53$; 18 cohorts) and other regions (1.25, 1.15 to 1.36; $I^2=15$; 8 cohorts) seemed to be associated with a larger increase in mortality during off-hours than were North American studies (1.03, 1.01 to 1.04; $I^2=49$; 15 cohorts). We found no significant interaction between outcome adjustment and increase in mortality during off-hours (adjusted odds ratio 1.07, 1.04 to 1.10; $I^2=75$; 30 cohorts versus unadjusted odds ratio 1.19, 0.98 to 1.44; $I^2=48$; 12 cohorts). Otherwise, the remaining subgroup analyses were not statistically significant (table 2). Meta-regression showed a significant association between the mid-year of patient enrollment and the effect size, suggesting a larger off-hour increase in mortality in recent years ($P=0.03$) (appendix figure D). Sensitivity analyses did not alter the main outcome.

Visual inspection of the funnel plot including all cohorts showed asymmetry favoring positive association between off-hour presentation and higher mortality in small studies (appendix figure E). The Begg-Mazumdar test was not statistically significant ($P=0.052$). With the trim and fill approach, the imputed estimate was identical to that in the main analysis. However, assessment of publication bias was limited in the setting of heterogeneous effect size.

Door to balloon time

Door to balloon time was reported in 30 studies, providing data for 70 534 patients with STEMI. Of these studies, 23 reported mean or median door to balloon times, two reported the proportion of patients with door to balloon times within 90 minutes, and five reported both. One study reported median door to balloon times for two separate cohorts for weekend and night, and each result was analyzed separately.⁵ Thus, a total of 29 cohorts were available for the mean difference analyses. Patients who presented during off-hours were less likely to receive percutaneous coronary intervention within 90 minutes than were those who presented during regular hours (odds ratio 0.40, 0.35 to 0.45; $I^2=41$; 7 cohorts) (fig 3). The door to balloon time was longer in patients who presented during off-hours by 14.8 (95% confidence interval 10.7 to 19.0) minutes ($I^2=99$; 29 cohorts) (appendix figure F). Off-hour presentation was associated with longer door to balloon time in all of the studied subgroups, and measured time of presentation and regions of the cohorts were significant for interaction (table 3).

Meta-regression did not show a significant time trend effect on the difference in door to balloon time ($P=0.23$). Tests for publication bias were not statistically significant, although this conclusion is also limited by heterogeneity. Sensitivity analyses did not alter the above outcomes.

Discussion

This systematic review and meta-analysis shows that patients with acute myocardial infarction who presented during off-hours had higher mortality than did those who presented during regular hours. Higher mortality during off-hours was seen for both in-hospital and 30 day mortality. The difference in mortality may be larger for patients with a diagnosis of STEMI and for a non-North American location of the study and may have worsened in recent years.

Comparison with other studies

This review showed that patients with STEMI were less likely to receive percutaneous coronary intervention within 90 minutes and had longer door to balloon times during off-hours. An approximate 30 minute delay in door to balloon time is associated with a 20-30% relative increase in in-hospital mortality for STEMI patients, regardless of the baseline door to balloon time up to 180 minutes.^{62 63} Therefore, the 15 minute increase in door to balloon time observed during off-hours could increase mortality by as much as 10-15%, assuming linearity between door to balloon time and mortality. This is consistent with our point estimate of 12% increase in odds of mortality for STEMI, which suggests that the mortality increase in off-hours may well be partially explained by prolonged door to balloon times. Magid et al reported that the difference in mortality became non-significant when adjusted for reperfusion treatment time.⁶ Additionally, a lower rate of urgent percutaneous coronary intervention for STEMI patients may also partially explain higher mortality during off-hours.^{4 64}

Difference in door to balloon times and rate of percutaneous coronary intervention is likely associated with availability of cardiologists, support staff for the cardiac catheterization laboratory, or both. An around the clock on-site cardiology service is not uniformly available. During off-hours, many institutions need to assemble on-call staff and cardiologists to activate the cardiac catheterization laboratory. This is well illustrated in Magid's study,⁶ in which the increase in the time interval from obtaining an electrocardiogram to arriving at the catheterization laboratory explained nearly all of the increases in door to balloon time during off-hours.

Other potential attributes to the increase in mortality during off-hours are availability of skilled staff in the cardiac care unit, availability of diagnostic tests, number of physicians or nursing staff, and human factors such as sleep deprivation and fatigue.⁶⁵⁻⁶⁸ A recent study found that patients with acute myocardial infarction in regions with a low density of cardiologists had higher 30 day mortality than did patients in regions with a high density, suggesting that the availability of cardiologists in the regional system of care may affect the outcomes of patients with acute myocardial infarction.⁶⁹ Holmes et al reported that a successful regional care model can reduce the disparity of care between off-hours and regular hours for patients with STEMI.²⁷ Therefore, establishing a local healthcare delivery system to provide consistent quality of care during weekends and nights may be the key to closing the mortality gap between off-hours and regular hours.

An alternative explanation for the increase in mortality during off-hours may be that the case mix differs between off-hours

and regular hours. Some studies included in the meta-analysis show that patients who present during off-hours tend to be sicker when measured by the presence of cardiogenic shock or Killip class,^{6 36 44} whereas others suggest no difference.^{12 15 41 52 53 61} In studies that measured time from onset of symptoms to presentation at hospital, the pre-hospital delay during off-hours was shorter,^{30 36 54} longer,⁵ or not different,^{12 16 31 33 35 37 44 48 53 57} compared with regular hours. In fact, past studies showed that the pre-hospital delay was shorter during off-hours in both STEMI and non-STEMI patients.^{70 71} Furthermore, in studies in which mortality outcomes were adjusted (see table 1 for adjusted variables), the off-hours increase in mortality remained significant (table 2). Although residual confounding resulting from the difference in case mix cannot be excluded, these results suggest that increased mortality during off-hours is associated with factors that arise after presentation at hospital.

In meta-regression, we noted a significantly higher difference in mortality between off-hours and regular hours in the most recent years. We postulate that this may be due to the increase in shift work or hand-offs for off-hour coverage or to disproportionate improvement in the application of evidence based treatment during regular hours compared with off-hours; however, this could be also a chance finding and is certainly subject to ecological bias. In contrast, the difference in door to balloon time between off-hour and regular hour presentation did not significantly change over time. This discrepancy between trends in mortality and door to balloon time may be due to high heterogeneity or may suggest that factors other than door to balloon times contribute to the difference in mortality between off-hours and regular hours. These results should be viewed against secular trends showing decreases in both the absolute mortality rate and door to balloon times,^{72 73} and thus call attention to the opportunity to improve quality of care provided during off-hours.

Population impact

Although the relative odds increase in off-hour mortality seems small, the implications at the population level may be substantial. Assuming a baseline population in-hospital mortality rate of 7% and 30 day mortality rate of 12% for acute myocardial infarction,^{4 10} the absolute increase in mortality rate during off-hours would be calculated as 0.4% and 0.6% respectively from the estimated odds ratio of 1.06. With an estimated 900 000 patients a year presenting to hospitals in the United States with acute myocardial infarction,² and two thirds of them presenting during off-hours,^{5 6 33} annual excess deaths in acute myocardial infarction due to off-hour presentation would be about 2300 for in-hospital deaths and 3800 for deaths within 30 days. In other words, one in 27 in-hospital deaths, or one in 29 deaths within 30 days after admission, would be prevented if the higher mortality during off-hours was resolved. Alternatively, if we use the estimated odds ratio of 1.03 in the North American region, the excess deaths would be about 1200 for in-hospital deaths and 1900 for deaths within 30 days.

Strengths and limitations

The strengths of this review include the exhaustive and reproducible search strategy, inclusion of non-English studies, and a large sample size of over a million. If our point estimates for increase in mortality during off-hours is true, one would need a sample size of at least 10 000 per group to detect the difference in mortality between off-hours and regular hours with adequate power. Therefore, some past studies may have failed to detect the difference in mortality owing to lack of power. The meta-analysis included studies representing various countries,

definitions of off-hours, measured time to define off-hour presentation, and mixes of acute myocardial infarction diagnoses. However, the increased mortality in off-hours was fairly robust across subgroups, indicating the consistency of the finding.

This study has certain limitations. The results were derived from observational studies in which patients were not randomized. Therefore, the difference in mortality between off-hours and regular hours may be confounded by patients' clinical characteristics. Although adjustment for mortality outcomes did not explain heterogeneity, inclusion of different confounding variables for adjustment by study may reduce the validity of the finding. Another limitation is high heterogeneity. We anticipated that differences in mortality or door to balloon time between off-hours and regular hours would be heterogeneous by healthcare system, care delivery model of specific institutions, staffing or resource availability, or population demographics included in the study.¹⁰ We found that type of acute myocardial infarction and region of study are potential explanations of heterogeneity, but our choice of covariates was determined a priori and was parsimonious to decrease the chances of false positive findings. Different definitions of weekends or nights, types of facility, or mixes of patients may explain some of the unexplained heterogeneity. Therefore, the pooled effect size of this study should be viewed as an average estimate expected across a range of different settings. High heterogeneity also reduces the validity of assessment of publication bias. Although the statistical analyses did not reach significance, publication bias is likely to be present given the visual inspection of the funnel plot. Additionally, potential exists for overlapping of patients in different cohorts. As we were unable to determine quantitatively the extent of overlap, we did sensitivity analyses to exclude such overlapping cohorts. No sensitivity analyses altered our conclusions, lessening the concern about this limitation. Furthermore, the associations reported in this review could be overstated because of the use of odds ratios to estimate the risk of a common event.⁷⁴ Therefore, the overall level of evidence found by this review may be reduced by methodological limitations and heterogeneity.⁷⁵

Conclusions and policy implications

In conclusion, this meta-analysis suggests that mortality is higher for patients with acute myocardial infarction who present during off-hours compared with regular hours. This finding may be partially attributed to longer door to balloon times during off-hours for patients with ST elevation myocardial infarction. Future studies should explore the variation in the quality of care by time of day, such as number of staff, expertise of staff, and other structural and process attributes in systems of care during off-hours. Performance measures used for value based purchasing, such as the 30 day risk standardized mortality rate, may need to account for differences by time of presentation to a healthcare facility to assess the quality of care.⁷⁶ Efforts to improve systems of care should ensure that comparable outcomes are achieved for patients regardless of the time of day or day of the week that patients present to the healthcare system.

Contributors: AS designed the study; collected, analyzed, and interpreted the data; and drafted and revised the paper. AA designed the study, collected and analyzed the data, and drafted and revised the paper. SRS, KMT, and DAR collected and analyzed the data and revised the paper. LP collected the data and revised the paper. NDS conceptualized and designed the study, interpreted the data, and revised the paper. MHM conceptualized and designed the study, analyzed and interpreted

the data, and drafted and revised the paper. HHT conceptualized and designed the study, oversaw and managed the progress, planned analysis and interpreted the data, and drafted and revised the paper. All authors had full access to all of the data in the study and can take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. AS is the guarantor.

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Competing interests: All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf and declare: no support from any organization for the submitted work other than those listed above; no financial relationships with any organizations that might have an interest in the submitted work in the previous three years; no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

Ethical approval: The study did not require an ethics committee approval.

Transparency: The lead author (the manuscript's guarantor) affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; that no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

Data sharing: The dataset is available from the corresponding author at Ting.Henry@mayo.edu.

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What is already known on this topic

Past studies suggest that patients with acute myocardial infarction may or may not have higher mortality when they present to hospital during off-hours (weekends and nights) compared with regular hours

No systematic reviews or meta-analyses of this topic have been done

What this study adds

Patients with acute myocardial infarction presenting during off-hours have higher mortality, and those with ST elevation myocardial infarction have longer door to balloon times

Efforts to improve systems of care should ensure comparable outcomes for patients regardless of time of presentation to hospital

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Tables

Table 1 | Characteristics of eligible cohort studies

First author, year (country)	Description of study participants	Years of patient cohort	Measured time of presentation	Definition of off-hours	Data source	Outcomes assessed	Adjusted variables
Abi Rafeh et al, ²⁵ 2009 (USA)	91 STEMI patients at tertiary care center in New York	2005-06	Procedure	Weekend	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Afolabi et al, ²⁹ 2007 (USA)	167 STEMI patients at Cleveland Clinic, Florida	2001-04	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Ahmer et al, ²⁶ 2008 (Australia)	38 STEMI patients at Royal Melbourne Hospital	2005	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Al Faleh et al, ³⁰ 2012 (Saudi Arabia)	1139 STEMI patients from 17 hospitals in SPACE registry	2005-07	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	—
Assali et al, ³¹ 2006 (Israel)	273 patients with anterior wall STEMI at Rabin Medical Center	2001-04	Admission	Night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, 30 day mortality, door to balloon	Age, left ventricular ejection fraction, anemia, renal failure, Killip class, final TIMI flow, number of coronary vessels diseased
Aylin et al, ³² 2010 (England)	68 932 AMI admissions to all public acute hospitals	2005-06	Procedure	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, deprivation, comorbidities
Becker et al, ³³ 2009 (Hungary)	1890 STEMI patients admitted to PCI network in Budapest	2003-05	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	30 day mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex
Becker et al, ³⁴ 2007 (USA)	922 074 Medicare patients admitted with new diagnosis of AMI	1989-98	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	30 day mortality	—
Bell et al, ¹¹ 2001 (Canada)	160 220 AMI patients admitted to hospitals in Ontario	1988-97	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, Charlson comorbidity index score
Beohar et al, ³⁵ 2001 (USA)	220 STEMI patients undergoing PCI at single center in Chicago	NA	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Berger et al, ³⁶ 2008 (Switzerland)	12 480 STEMI patients from 66 hospitals in AMIS registry	1997-2006	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, smoking status, overweight, comorbidities, Killip's classification at admission, time from symptom onset to admission
Cardoso et al, ³⁷ 2010 (Brazil)	112 STEMI patients at single center in Brazil	2009-10	Procedure	Night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	—
Casella et al, ¹² 2011 (Italy)	3072 STEMI patients in Italian Region Emilia-Romagna STEMI network (REAL registry)	2004-06	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, Charlson comorbidity index score, cardiogenic shock, inter-hospital transfer for primary PCI, left ventricular ejection fraction, multivessel primary PCI, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor use, treatment center
Clarke et al, ³ 2010 (Australia)	17 910 AMI patients in Queensland database	2002-06	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality, 30 day mortality	Age, sex, indigenous status, remote residence, socioeconomic status, comorbidities
Cram et al, ³⁸ 2004 (USA)	42 974 AMI patients admitted to hospitals in California	1998	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, race, comorbidities
Cubeddu et al, ³⁹ 2013 (multinational)	2440 STEMI patients who underwent primary PCI in HORIZONS-AMI trial	2005-07	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, Killip class, baseline TIMI flow, creatinine, hemoglobin, left ventricular ejection fraction, randomization to bivalirudin, smoking history, diabetes mellitus, door to balloon time, total ischemic time, affected coronary vessel, clopidogrel use

Table 1 (continued)

First author, year (country)	Description of study participants	Years of patient cohort	Measured time of presentation	Definition of off-hours	Data source	Outcomes assessed	Adjusted variables
Cubeddu et al, ¹³ 2009 (USA)	747 STEMI patients admitted to Massachusetts General Hospital for primary PCI	2003-07	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, body surface area, sex, family history of coronary artery disease, smoking, comorbidities, serum creatinine
De Albuquerque et al, ⁴⁰ 2009 (Brazil)	274 STEMI patients admitted to single center in Brazil	2004-08	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	—
De Boer et al, ⁴¹ 2012 (Netherlands)	4352 STEMI patients who underwent primary PCI at single institution	2000-09	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	30 day mortality	Age, sex, comorbidities, shock, multivessel disease
Evangelista et al, ⁴² 2008 (Brazil)	869 patients with suspected AMI admitted to public and private hospitals	2002	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, admission specialty, intensive care unit admission, hospital type, direct admission
Garceau et al, ⁴³ 2007 (Canada)	69 STEMI patients directly admitted to Quebec Heart and Lung Institute	2004-05	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Glaser et al, ⁴⁴ 2008 (USA)	685 STEMI patients in national Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Dynamic Registry	1997-2006	Procedure	Night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	Age, comorbidities, cardiogenic shock, characteristics of affected and treated coronary vessels
Gonzalez et al, ⁴⁵ 2010 (USA)	786 STEMI patients transferred to single institution	2006-09	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	—
Graham et al, ⁴⁶ 2011 (Canada)	1664 STEMI patients from APPROACH registry in Alberta	1999-2006	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	30 day mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, left ventricular ejection fraction, comorbidities, number of affected coronary vessels, intervened coronary vessels, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitor, stent, intra-aortic balloon pump, inotrope use
Hansen et al, ⁴⁷ 2012 (Denmark)	92 169 AMI patients in Danish National Patient Registry	1997-2009	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality, 30 day mortality	Age, sex, comorbidities
Henriques et al, ⁴⁸ 2003 (Netherlands)	1702 STEMI patients who underwent PCI at single institution	1994-2000	Admission	Night	Clinical registry	30 day mortality, door to balloon	—
Holmes et al, ²⁷ 2008 (USA)	60 STEMI patients presented to Mayo Clinic Rochester	2003	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Hong et al, ¹⁴ 2010 (South Korea)	97 466 AMI patients admitted to hospitals in South Korea	2003-07	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	30 day mortality	Age, sex, comorbidities, length of stay, complications
Horst et al, ⁴⁹ 2012 (USA)	268 STEMI patients who underwent PCI at single community hospital in Pennsylvania	2006-07	Arrival	Weekend and night	Administrative data	Door to balloon	Mode of presentation, pre-notification, chest pain, portable radiograph, cardiology group
Jneid et al, ¹⁰ 2008 (USA)	62 814 AMI patients in GWTG-CAD national database	2000-05	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, race, body mass index, insurance type, systolic blood pressure, cardiac diagnosis, ST elevation or left bundle branch block, comorbidities
Khot et al, ²⁸ 2007 (USA)	60 STEMI patients at tertiary care center in Indiana	2004-05	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Kostis et al, ⁴ 2007 (USA)	231 164 AMI patients admitted to New Jersey hospitals in MIDAS database	1987-2002	Admission	Weekend	Administrative data	In-hospital mortality, 30 day mortality	Age, sex, site of myocardial infarction, comorbidities
Kruth et al, ⁵ 2008 (Germany)	11 516 STEMI patients from 131 hospitals in MITRA-PLUS registry	1994-2002	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, comorbidities, pre-hospital delay, tachycardia

Table 1 (continued)

First author, year (country)	Description of study participants	Years of patient cohort	Measured time of presentation	Definition of off-hours	Data source	Outcomes assessed	Adjusted variables
Lairez et al, ⁵⁰ 2009 (France)	2266 AMI patients undergoing emergency PCI at single institution	2005-08	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, year of procedure, history of myocardial infarction and coronary angioplasty, number of affected and treated vessels
Magid et al, ⁶ 2005 (USA)	102 086 STEMI patients in NMRI registry	1999-2002	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, race, insurance status, smoking status, family history of coronary artery disease, comorbidities
Maier et al, ¹⁵ 2010 (Berlin)	2131 STEMI patients in Merlin Myocardial Infarction Registry	2004-07	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, cardiogenic shock on admission, comorbidities, prolonged door to balloon time, treatment by physician escorted EMS
Nakamura et al, ⁵¹ 2013 (Japan)	1974 STEMI patients in Japan Acute Myocardial Infarction registry	2011	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Noman et al, ⁵² 2012 (UK)	2571 STEMI patients undergoing primary PCI at single center	2008-11	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, admission systolic blood pressure, admission heart rate, total ischemic time, admission creatinine and hemoglobin, diabetes, previous CABG, anterior myocardial infarction, multivessel disease
Otolani et al, ⁵³ 2007 (Italy)	985 STEMI patients in Bologna PPCI STEMI registry	2003-05	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, prolonged ECG to balloon time, left ventricular ejection fraction, cardiogenic shock, multivessel disease, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa use, final TIMI flow
Parikh et al, ⁵⁴ 2008 (USA)	184 STEMI patients presenting to single center	2000-06	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	Language, previous stroke, cardiogenic shock
Pedersen et al, ⁵⁵ 2009 (Denmark)	847 STEMI patients admitted to two hospitals in Denmark	2004	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	Age, sex, admission to invasive centers, smoking status, comorbidities, characteristics of affected coronary vessel, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa use, drug eluting stent use
Pollack et al, ⁵⁶ 2009 (USA)	34 297 NSTEMI patients in CRUSADE registry	2001-03	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	Age, sex, race, body mass index, insurance status, smoking status, family history of coronary artery disease, comorbidities, ischemic ST changes, signs of heart failure, heart rate, systolic blood pressure at presentation, cardiologist care, number of hospital beds and region, teaching status, interventional capability
Rodriguez-Leor et al, ⁵⁷ 2011 (Spain)	457 STEMI patients at single center	2007-09	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	Door to balloon	—
Sadeghi et al, ¹⁶ 2004 (USA)	2036 STEMI patients who underwent PCI in CADILLAC trial	1997-99	Arrival	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	30 day mortality, door to balloon	Sex, comorbidities, left ventricular ejection fraction, affected coronary vessel
Siudak et al, ⁵⁸ 2011 (European countries)	1650 STEMI patients in EUROTRANSFER Registry	2005-07	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, 30 day mortality	—
Slonka et al, ⁵⁹ 2007 (Poland)	1778 STEMI patients at single center	1998-2003	Admission	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality	—
Srimahachota et al, ⁶⁰ 2007 (Thailand)	256 STEMI patients at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital	1999-2003	Procedure	Weekend and night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Sex, hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiogenic shock, angiographic success

Table 1 (continued)

First author, year (country)	Description of study participants	Years of patient cohort	Measured time of presentation	Definition of off-hours	Data source	Outcomes assessed	Adjusted variables
Uyarel et al, ⁶¹ 2009 (Turkey)	2644 STEMI patients presenting to single center	2003-08	Procedure	Night	Clinical registry	In-hospital mortality, door to balloon	Age, sex, comorbidities, admission cardiogenic shock, admission hyperglycemia, left ventricular ejection fraction, infarction site, reperfusion time, procedural characteristics

AMI=acute myocardial infarction; CABG=coronary artery bypass graft; ECG=electrocardiography; EMS=emergency medical services; PCI=percutaneous coronary intervention; STEMI=ST elevation myocardial infarction; TIMI=Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction.

Table 2| Subgroup analyses for odds ratio of in-hospital or 30 day mortality due to acute myocardial infarction during off-hours compared with regular hours

Subgroup	No of cohorts	Odds ratio (95% CI)	I ² (%)	P value for interaction
Diagnosis*:				
STEMI	25	1.12 (1.03 to 1.22)	42	<0.01
Non-STEMI	2	0.96 (0.91 to 1.02)	0	
Type of off-hours:				
Weekend and night	22	1.09 (1.00 to 1.18)	57	0.25
Weekend	16	1.06 (1.03 to 1.09)	85	
Night	4	1.88 (0.93 to 3.80)	70	
Measured time of presentation:				
Arrival	6	1.02 (0.93 to 1.10)	56	0.27
Admission	24	1.07 (1.04 to 1.10)	82	
Start of PCI	12	1.20 (0.97 to 1.47)	47	
Data source:				
Clinical registry	27	1.11 (1.02 to 1.21)	58	0.29
Administrative data	15	1.06 (1.03 to 1.09)	86	
Region†:				
North America	15	1.03 (1.01 to 1.04)	49	<0.01
Europe	18	1.08 (1.02 to 1.15)	53	
Others	8	1.25 (1.15 to 1.36)	15	
Outcome adjustment:				
Adjusted	30	1.07 (1.04 to 1.10)	75	0.28
Unadjusted	12	1.19 (0.98 to 1.44)	48	

PCI=percutaneous coronary intervention; STEMI=ST elevation myocardial infarction.

*One study reported results by two different diagnosis groups (STEMI and non-STEMI).

†One study reported outcome from 11 countries across continents.

Table 3| Overall and subgroup analyses for mean difference of door to balloon times for STEMI patients during off-hours compared with regular hours

Subgroup	No of cohorts	Mean difference (95% CI) in minutes	I ² (%)	P value for interaction
All studies	29	14.8 (10.7 to 19.0)	99	
Type of off-hours*:				
Weekend and night	21	15.8 (10.5 to 21.0)	99	0.37
Weekend	3	17.8 (9.0 to 26.6)	70	
Night	7	10.6 (3.7 to 17.4)	93	
Measured time of presentation:				
Arrival	12	20.0 (16.1 to 23.8)	98	<0.01
Admission	8	12.3 (4.5 to 20.1)	83	
Start of PCI	9	7.1 (3.2 to 11.0)	92	
Region†:				
North America	12	20.8 (16.5 to 25.0)	83	<0.01
Europe	11	7.2 (3.6 to 10.9)	97	
Others	5	21.3 (4.4 to 38.2)	89	

PCI=percutaneous coronary intervention; STEMI=ST elevation myocardial infarction.

*Two studies reported results for weekend presentations as subgroup analysis.^{49 50}

†One study reported outcome from 11 countries across continents.³⁹

Figures

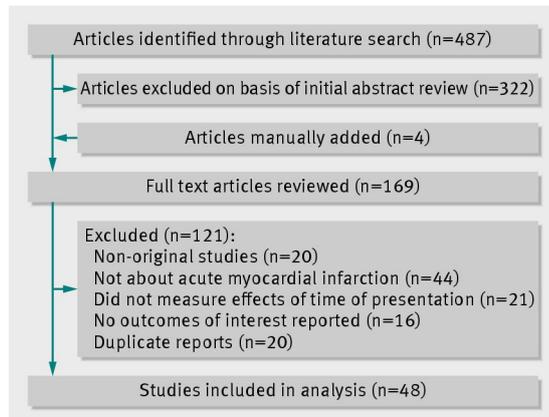


Fig 1 Flow chart for selection of eligible studies

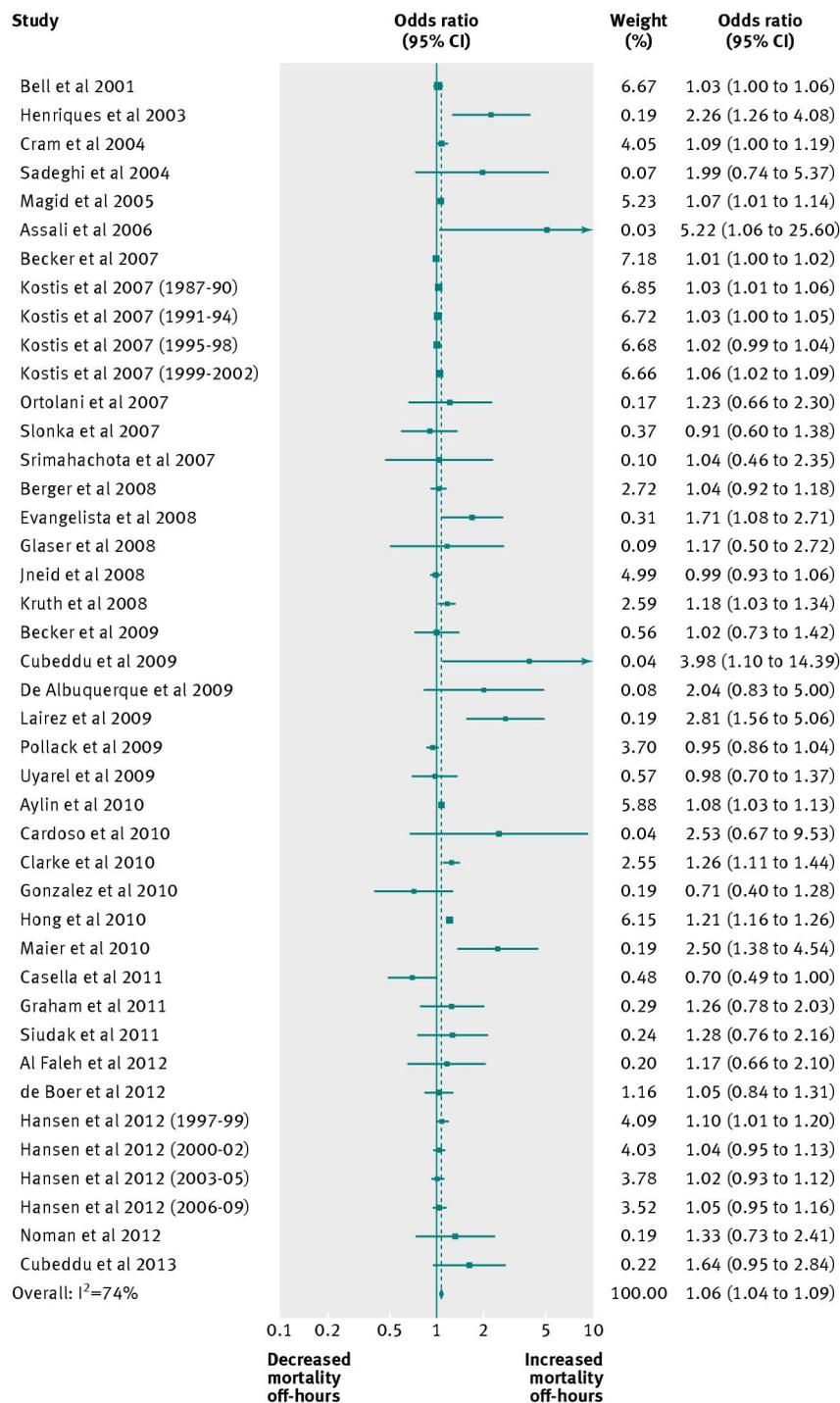


Fig 2 Odds ratio for in-hospital or 30 day mortality due to acute myocardial infarction during off-hours versus regular hours. Forest plot of 42 cohorts. PCI=percutaneous coronary intervention

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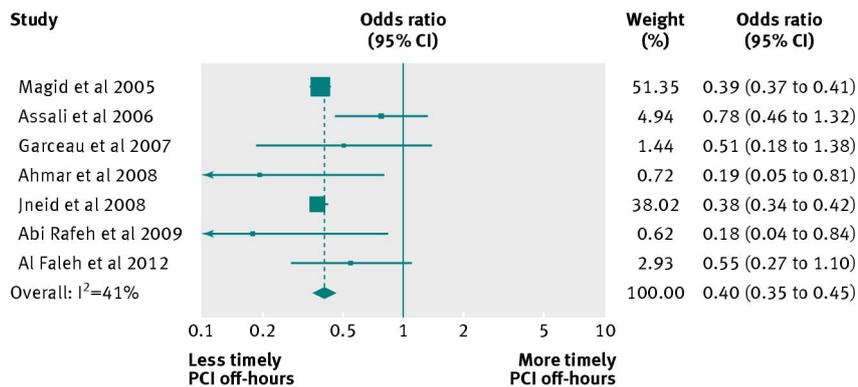


Fig 3 Odds ratio for proportion of STEMI patients with door to balloon times within 90 minutes during off-hours versus regular hours. Forest plot of 7 cohorts

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