



Poll Results: Another Take on STEMI During the Pandemic

Apr 27, 2020 | [George W. Vetovec, MD, MACC](#)

Poll

The recent COVID-19 poll asked if respondents have seen a reduction in ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) presentations since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. While this poll was on the site, data from 9 US centers were published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*¹ that documented a 38% decline in STEMI presentations. Similar declines have also been reported in other countries, including Spain² and Austria.³

Of the roughly 500 respondents, only 6% noted no decline in STEMI presentations. Of those who did note a decline, 23% thought there had been a <50% reduction, 56% thought there had been a >50% reduction, and 15% thought that there were essentially no STEMI cases being seen. Regarding reasons for the decline, about half of respondents attributed it to under-recognition due to late presentations. Less job stress because of stay-at-home orders was the major reason according to 32% of respondents, and 18% felt that patients were going to and/or being transferred to smaller hospitals to protect bed availability in larger hospitals prepared for patients with COVID-19.

As always, thanks to the participants. These results pose some interesting questions: Are we seeing even fewer STEMIs than we think? Do environmental circumstances play a role? Going forward, we will hopefully start to understand the dynamics involved in these results.

References

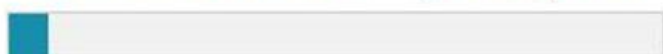
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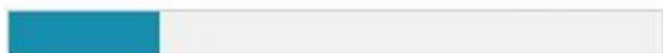
Poll: Another Take on STEMI During the Pandemic

1. Have you noted a decline in STEMI and NSTEMI admissions to your hospital?

No difference in volume (31 votes) 6.04%



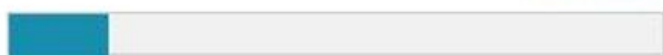
Less than 50% reduction in volume 23% (118 votes)



Greater than 50% reduction in volume (287 votes) 55.95%



Almost no STEMI/NSTEMI cases 15.01% (77 votes)

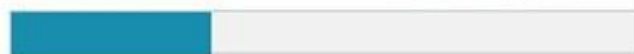


Total Votes: 513

2. If reports of fewer STEMI and NSTEMI cases are confirmed, what is the most likely reason?

Less on-the-job stress due to shelter in place orders

(159 votes) 31.8%



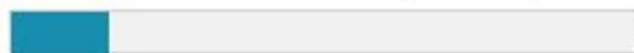
STEMI/NSTEMI are under-recognized due to delayed presentations

(253 votes) 50.6%



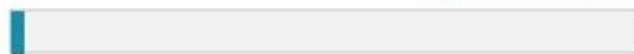
Patients going to smaller, less-busy hospitals out of fear of infection

(78 votes) 15.6%



Patients are being sent to smaller hospitals to minimize over-crowding

(10 votes) 2%



Total Votes: 500

S, Albaghdadi MS, Meraj PM, et. al. Reduction in ST-Segment Elevation Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Activations in the United States during COVID-19 Pandemic. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2020;Apr 9:[Epub ahead of print].

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Clinical Topics: Invasive Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention, Noninvasive Imaging, Interventions and Imaging, Angiography, Nuclear Imaging

Keywords: *Coronary Angiography, ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, COVID-19, Coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2*

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