



Poll Results: Updating CV Management in the Face of COVID-19: Decisions About a Return to Normalcy

May 13, 2020 | [George W. Vetrovec, MD, MACC](#)

Poll

Are we reopening? Yes, but somewhat cautiously.

In the most recent poll addressing how practices are evolving in the face of COVID-19, the overall response to the acute management of ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) appears to be following recent guidelines¹ that emphasize use of primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and the avoidance of thrombolytics except in special circumstances. Fewer than 8% of respondents are continuing thrombolytics as the primary treatment, while just over 50% are continuing primary PCI as the standard care for STEMI, with another 10% re-adopting primary PCI. One third suggest a case-by-case decision, which may be reasonable based on many factors. But hopefully most cases are being treated by primary PCI.

Regarding the introduction of cardiovascular testing, only 15% limited introduction to noninvasive testing, while 50% included selective invasive testing. Overall, 65% favored beginning some level of testing, most commonly including selected invasive procedures. Roughly one-third still favored waiting an additional 2 weeks before resuming testing and awaiting evidence of declining rates of new infections.

Thanks to the nearly 150 respondents; as usual, all comments are appreciated.

1. Regarding the controversial use of thrombolytic therapy for STEMI in patients with COVID-19, what do you plan to do moving forward?

Continue with thrombolytic treatment as a primary strategy

(11 votes) 7.59%



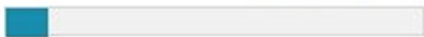
Continue with primary PCI as a primary strategy

(76 votes) 52.41%



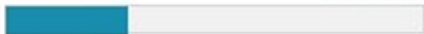
Return to primary PCI as a primary strategy

(15 votes) 10.34%



Decide on a case-by-case basis

29.66% (43 votes)

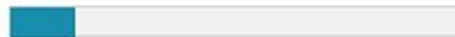


Total Votes: 145

2. Assuming the hospital system has needed capacity/resources, when should nonurgent cardiovascular testing begin?

Now, with selected outpatient/noninvasive testing only

(22 votes) 14.77%



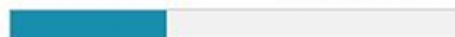
Now, with outpatient and inpatient tests including selective invasive procedures

(75 votes) 50.34%



Delay for 2 additional weeks awaiting evidence of declining infection rate

(52 votes) 34.89%



Total Votes: 149

References

1. Mahmud E, Dauerman HL, Welt FG, et al. Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2020;Apr 21: [Epub ahead of print].

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