



## SA HEART ASSOCIATION/SASCI STEMI EARLY REPERFUSION PROJECT

Delays in early reperfusion for ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction –  
an observational multi-centre study in South African hospitals



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Co-Workers: Cardiologists from the SA Heart Association / SASCI

### *Background*

The South African Heart Association has embarked on an educational project which aims to improve the quality of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) care, to improve the network of care to give more patients access to reperfusion therapy, and to decrease AMI mortality. This project is to be informed by a cross-sectional observational study in which we aim to investigate whether primary PCI/Thrombolysis is performed in a timely and appropriate way, and to identify barriers to effective STEMI management. Change in the above parameters is deemed to reflect impact of educational interventions and national / regional networking initiatives.

### *Method*

The study will be conducted as a cross-sectional observational study by cardiologists from public and private hospitals across different regions of South Africa. Questionnaires will be used for data capturing purposes and are to be completed by the treating cardiologist (or a designated person).

Data to be recorded:

- Demographic data and risk factors
- Previous treatment interventions
- History of symptoms and actions taken
- Diagnosis and treatment intervention
- Time lapses along the referral pathway and arrival-in-cathlab intervals
- Discharge medication
- Outcome at follow-up (6mo and 12mo).

Cardiologists could either make photocopies of the questionnaires themselves, or the questionnaires could be supplied on request. A copy of the signed consent and information leaflet is retained by the patient and the cardiologist. The cardiologist keeps the questionnaire on file for follow-up purposes and submits a copy / scan of the questionnaire to the coordinator (Fax: 012 3541390 / email: [rhenadelport@up.ac.za](mailto:rhenadelport@up.ac.za)). Alternatively, a research assistant could collect the forms at the hospital. Please contact the coordinator at 082 445 4500 in case of logistical / other problems.

### *Ethical considerations*

Approval of the Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Review Committee (ERC) has been obtained (417/2014). Approval from CEOs from all participating hospitals has to be obtained prior to commencement of the study at the hospital and the regional champion submits the approval form and a CV to the coordinator for submission to the ERC. The data will be anonymized by using codes to protect patient-, cardiologist- and hospital privacy. Informed consent to participate will be sought from each patient. Confidentiality of the highest order will be adhered to throughout the study.

### *Reporting*

The research findings will be presented at a national cardiology conference and may possibly be published, depending on the scientific merit and significance of the findings.

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