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OPEN ACCESS

## Knowledge about Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) and attitudes to medical care seeking—A comparison between patients and the general public

PDF (Size: 136KB) PP. 372-378 DOI: 10.4236/ojn.2012.24055

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Patients with acute myocardial infarction often have long decision times before seeking medical care. The decision time is influenced by knowledge of AMI-symptoms, psychological factors and the response of people near the patient to the symptoms. **Aim:** To investigate and compare the knowledge of AMI, intended actions in response to AMI-symptoms and attitudes toward seeking medical care of patients and the general public. **Method:** This was a multicentre study with descriptive and comparative design, using questionnaires as an instrument. The population consisted of AMI-patients and representatives of the general public. **Results:** There was good knowledge about typical AMI-symptoms among the participants. The majority thought an AMI always starts suddenly. Patients did not know more about the time-dependency of treatment outcome than the general public. A greater proportion of the general public would contact an additional person before consulting medical professionals. **Conclusions:** Patients had no better knowledge about AMI than the general public, but would more commonly act appropriately in case of AMI-symptoms.

### KEYWORDS

Acute Myocardial Infarction; Decision Making; Patient; General Public; Knowledge and Attitudes

### Cite this paper

Henriksson, C. , Larsson, M. , Arnetz, J. , Herlitz, J. , Karlsson, J. , Svensson, L. , Thuresson, M. , Zedigh, C. , Wernroth, L. and Lindahl, B. (2012) Knowledge about Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) and attitudes to medical care seeking—A comparison between patients and the general public. *Open Journal of Nursing*, 2, 372-378. doi: 10.4236/ojn.2012.24055.

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