

## **Air Medical Transport of Patients Following Acute Myocardial Infarction**

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**BACKGROUND:** This study describes our experience regarding air medical transport of patients following acute myocardial infarction (AMI). **METHODS:** Retrospective study of 117 patients undergoing air medical transport after AMI between Jan. 1 2000 to Sept. 30 2008 by AIRMED. Average age was 60.8 y (range 33-90). **RESULTS:** Average flight duration was 6.68 hours (range 0.58-27.50). 33 patients (28.2%) were transported to another hospital for further treatment (T) 21 of them by air ambulance (AA) and 84 patients (72.8%) were transported home (H) by commercial (C) flight. 40 (34.1%) patients underwent PCI or CABG before transport. During the years 2007, 2008 more patients (48% and 74% respectively) underwent PCI or CABG before transport and fewer (4%) were transported by AA. Ten patients (Gr.1) were transported within 1-4 days after AMI- all of them for T and 9 of them by AA. None of those patients underwent PCI or CABG prior transportation. The condition of none of those patients deteriorated during the flight. 86 patients (Gr.2) were transported between 5-14 days after AMI- 23 (26%) for T 12 (14%) by AA. Of those patients one patient died unexpectedly one hour after landing. 20 patients (Gr. 3) were transported between 15-30 days after AMI all of them H on an uneventful C flight. **CONCLUSIONS:** these data suggest that the rate of patients requiring urgent transportation for further treatment after AMI in AA decreases in the last two years. Urgent transportation for treatment after AMI by AA is feasible. Transportation by C flight should be considered after hospital discharge even 5 days after AMI with in flight medical care.