A new study protocol for heart failure in Turkey (APOLLON) and the others…

Heart failure (HF) is a clinical syndrome with many causes and presentations. The pump function of the heart is the most important measurement of HF. Recently, HF patients have been divided into 3 categories according to ejection fraction (EF):

- reduced EF <40%,
- mid-range EF between 40% and 49%, and
- preserved EF >50%

We know that HF is a major worldwide epidemic associated with high morbidity and mortality. The prevalence of HF is approximately 1% to 2% of the adult population in developed countries. As age increases, the prevalence increases to more than 10%. In order to deal with this very important problem, we need to know how many patients we have in our country. Previously, the Turkish Society of Cardiology carried out a country-based study called HAPPY (Heart failure prevalence and predictors in Turkey: HAPPY study), which found a prevalence of HF in Turkey of approximately 7% (1).

A new, observational, multicenter registry study protocol, APOLLON (A ComPrehensive, ObservationaL Registry of Heart FaiLure with Mid-range and Preserved EjectiON Fraction), designed according to the 2016 European Society of Cardiology Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic HF is on the way. The results of this study will give us more information about HF patients in Turkey and will lead us to proper treatment.

Catalpol, used in traditional Chinese medicine, has been used in rats with isoproterenol-induced myocardial infarction. Fangjie Bi et al. concluded that catalpol protects the myocardium in many ways and inhibits cardiomyocyte apoptosis. Can we extrapolate these findings to clinical situations?

Camelia Lang et al. studied the effects of energy drinks (ED) on rats. This study highlights biochemical and ultrastructural changes in the heart muscle with the long-term consumption of ED and/or alcohol. At present, the consumption of ED is a serious problem for young people.

A very comprehensive study conducted by Zuhal Eroğlu et al. about mutations of the PCSK9, R496W, and D374Y in Turkish patients with primary dyslipidemia will complete the data previously published in our journal by Kaya et al. (2).

Huyut and Yamaç concluded in their study that the radial approach was as fast and successful as the femoral approach in chronic total occlusion percutaneous coronary intervention, even in a complex lesion subset.

Derya Karpuz et al. discussed the importance of the microvolt T-wave alternans (MTWA) in children and adolescents with Eisenmenger syndrome and controls. MTWA measurement could be a non-invasive predictive factor for arrhythmias or cardiovascular mortality in these patients.

I hope readers will be happy with this new issue of our journal.

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