

# Heart Attack: New Insights for the Healthcare Professional

2011 Edition

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SCHOLARLY EDITIONS™

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*Heart Attack: New Insights for the Healthcare Professional / 2011 Edition: A ScholarlyEditions™ eBook.*

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ISBN: 978-1-464-90144-7

Published by ScholarlyEditions,™ Atlanta, Georgia.

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### Comparison of C-reactive protein and albumin excretion as prognostic markers for 10-year mortality after myocardial infarction

Scientists discuss in 'Comparison of C-reactive protein and albumin excretion as prognostic markers for 10-year mortality after myocardial infarction' new findings in prognostic markers. "C-reactive protein (CRP) is an established prognostic marker in the setting of acute coronary syndromes. Recently, albumin excretion rate also has been found to be associated with adverse outcomes in this clinical setting," investigators in Italy report.

"Our aim was to compare the prognostic power of CRP and albumin excretion rate for long-term mortality following acute myocardial infarction (AMI). To determine whether albumin excretion rate is a better predictor of long-term outcome than CRP in post-AMI patients. We prospectively studied 220 unselected patients with definite AMI (median [interquartile] age 67 [60-74] y, female 26%, heart failure 39%). CRP and albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR) were measured on day 1, day 3, and day 7 after admission in 24-hour urine samples. Follow-up duration was 10 years for all patients. At survival analysis, both CRP and ACR were associated with increased risk of 10-year all-cause mortality, also after adjusting for age, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, prehospital time delay, creatine kinase-MB isoenzyme peak, heart failure, and creatinine clearance. CRP and ACR were associated with nonsudden cardiovascular (non-SCV) mortality but not with sudden death (SD) or noncardiovascular (non-CV) death. CRP was not associated with long-term mortality, while ACR was independently associated with outcome both in short- and long-term analyses. At C-statistic analysis, CRP did not improve the baseline prediction model for all-cause mortality, while it did for short-term non-SCV mortality. ACR improved all-cause and non-SCV mortality prediction, both in the short and long term," wrote G. Berton and colleagues, General Hospital, Department of Cardiology.

The researchers concluded: "ACR was a better predictor of long-term mortality after AMI than CRP."

Berton and colleagues published their study in *Clinical Cardiology* (Comparison of C-reactive protein and albumin excretion as prognostic markers for 10-year mortality after myocardial infarction. *Clinical Cardiology*, 2010;33(8):508-15).

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