Abstract

Introduction and Aim: To investigate the influence of diabetes on trends in 3-year survival in patients hospitalized with heart failure (HF).

Method: The Swedish Hospital Discharge and Cause of Death Registers were used to estimate age and gender-specific trends in 3-year case-fatality in 404,480 patients hospitalized with HF in 1987 to 2004, among whom 73,153 (18%) had diabetes.

Results: 3-year case-fatality was 28% higher among HF patients with diabetes compared to non-diabetics (age- and sex-adjusted HR 1.28, 95% CI 1.26-1.30). Overall, case-fatality among men with HF aged < 65 years decreased by more than half and among men aged 65 years and older by 30%, irrespective of the presence of diabetes. Women aged 65 and over with diabetes also displayed a decrease of 30%, whereas there was a leveling off in survival after the mid-90s among women without diabetes, such that the difference in survival between diabetic and non-diabetic women decreased.

Conclusions: 3-year mortality in patients with HF decreased more for younger, compared to older individuals and more for men than women. Coexistence of diabetes did not influence the trends in outcome adversely, with continuing improvement in prognosis also for heart failure patients with diabetes.