

Letter to the Editor

What is the actual prevalence and clinical characteristics of mitral valve prolapse?

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article "The prevalence and clinical characteristics of mitral valve prolapse in a large population-based epidemiologic study: the MELEN study" written by Turker et al¹. They aimed to determine the prevalence, demographic, clinical and echocardiographic characteristics of mitral valve prolapse (MVP) in a large population-based epidemiologic study. They found that the echocardiographic prevalence of MVP was 0.36% and no major adverse events occurred in patients with MVP during the follow-up of 36 months. They have concluded that MVP is a benign disorder and the prevalence of MVP is lower than previously studies. We believe that this findings will act as a guide for further studies regarding the prevalence, demographic and clinical characteristics of MVP.

Mitral valve prolapse has been known as the most common cardiac valvular disease and the major cause of isolated mitral regurgitation in industrialized countries². Its prevalence and clinical features are not defined clearly because of the lack of specific M-mode or two-dimensional echocardiographic views for the diagnosis. Freed et al³ classified MVP as classic prolapse and nonclassic prolapse. Classic MVP was defined as superior displacement of the mitral leaflets of more than 2 mm during systole and as a maximal leaflet thickness of at least 5 mm during diastasis, and nonclassic prolapse was defined as displacement of more than 2 mm, with a maximal thickness of less than 5 mm. They found that total prevalence of MVP was 2.4%: classic prolapse was 1.3% and nonclassic prolapse was 1.1%. However, in the current study, the authors have not described and classified MVP clearly¹. Probably, they have not included nonclassic MVP patients. Therefore, they have found that the echocardiographic prevalence of MVP is 0.36%.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

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