

BroadcastMed | Emergency Treatment Longer for Heart Attack Victims Arriving at Hospital During Off-Hours

SPEAKER: So we wanted to know if the current health care system provides consistent quality of care 24 hours a day, seven days a week for patients with heart attack. Therefore, we searched the literature and assembled evidence and assessed if patient outcomes for heart attack are different when they come to the hospital during the night or at weekends.

We found 48 studies describing about two million patients in several countries, including the United States and Canada. We found that risk of death is approximately 5% higher, and the emergency procedure which is called cardiac catheterization is more likely to be delayed when they come to the hospital with a heart attack during the night or at weekends.

Our results suggest that thousands of extra deaths may be due to patients presenting to the hospital during the night or weekends. We have to note that regular office hours comprise only one-third of the entire week, and the patient don't get to choose when to develop heart attack. Therefore, we have to, as a society, create a system that provides consistent quality of care 24 hours a day, seven days a week to achieve comparable outcome, regardless of time when patient come to the hospital.