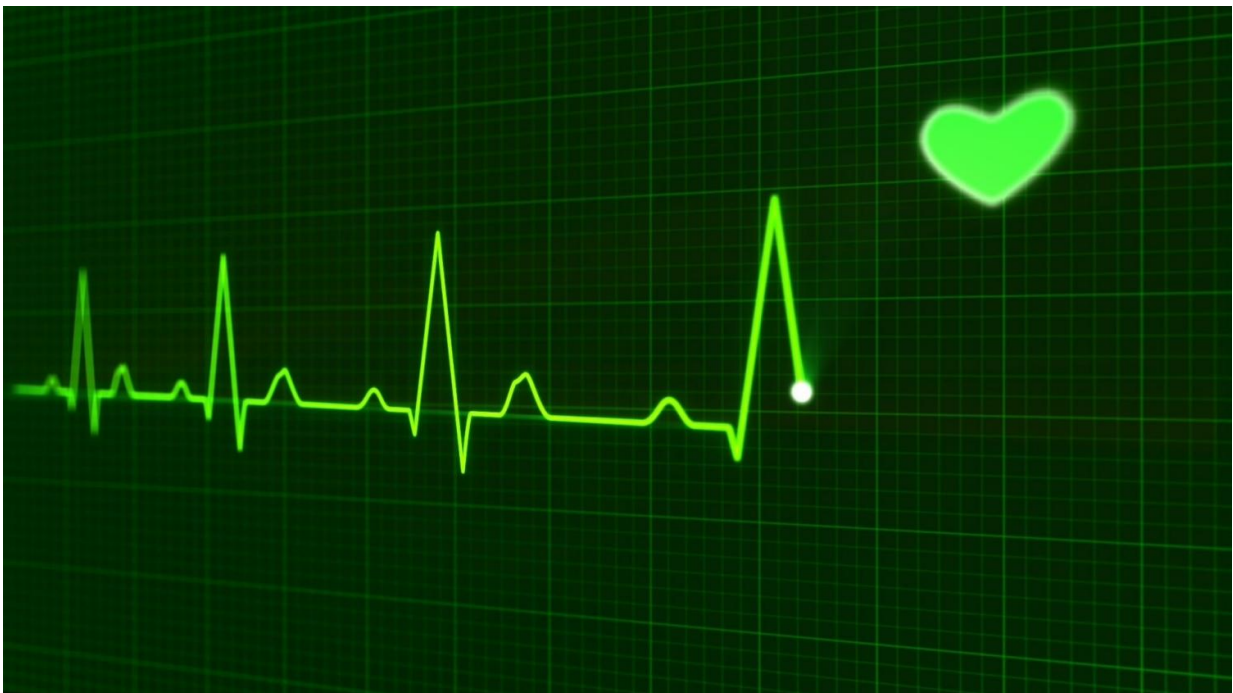


Certain older adults don't get to the hospital soon enough when experiencing a heart attack

October 18 2017



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For individuals experiencing a heart attack, delays in getting to the hospital can have life-threatening consequences. A new study in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* found that certain factors—non-white race, atypical symptoms, and heart failure—are

linked with such delays in older individuals.

The study included 2500 patients aged 75 or older hospitalized for heart attack. Pre-hospital delay (six or more hours before getting to the hospital) was much more common (42%) than in studies of younger [heart attack](#) populations, in whom the reported prevalence ranges from 20% to 25%.

"Delays in presentation can have huge consequences for older adults with heart attacks. Based on the results of our study, we need to develop better clinical and [public health strategies](#) to ensure timely presentation, especially among non-white communities, those with [atypical symptoms](#), and those with heart failure," said lead author Dr. Gregory Ouellet, of Yale University.

More information: *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/jgs.15102](https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.15102)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Certain older adults don't get to the hospital soon enough when experiencing a heart attack (2017, October 18) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-10-older-adults-dont-hospital-experiencing.html>

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