

International registries show PCI rates increased in Japan, US

7 September 2020

Japan and the U.S. have seen an increase in percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures, which is driven primarily by a rise in elective PCIs in Japan compared to non-elective in the U.S., according to a study in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Since adoption of large-scale PCI trial results vary internationally, the study sought to analyze large national registries in both countries to illuminate international variation in PCI practice as a foundation for further quality improvement.

In a study looking at NCDR CathPCI Registry data in the U.S. and J-PCI registry data in Japan, researchers from the Japanese Association of Cardiovascular Intervention and Therapeutics in Tokyo and several U.S.-based hospitals, compared temporal trends in procedural volume, patient characteristics, pre-procedural testing, procedural characteristics and quality metrics in the U.S. and Japan between 2013 and 2017.

Researchers found that PCI volume increased by 15.8% in the U.S.—from 550,872 in 2013 to 637,650 in 2017—primarily due to an increase in non-elective PCIs. In Japan, PCIs increased by 36%—from 181,750 in 2013 to 247,274 in 2017—primarily due to an increase in elective PCIs. Elective PCI rates were more than two-fold greater in Japan (72.7%) than in the U.S. (33.8%).

Data also showed the ratio of non-elective vs. elective PCI and the performance of non-invasive stress testing in stable disease was lower in Japan than in the U.S. Computed tomography angiography was more commonly used in Japan.

Provided by American College of Cardiology
APA citation: International registries show PCI rates increased in Japan, US (2020, September 7) retrieved 17 May 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-09-international-registries-pci-japan.html>

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