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# Catheterization laboratory or cardiology intensive care unit : destination of ST-elevation myocardial infarction



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**Background and objective:** The European Society of Cardiology recommends primary percutaneous intervention (pPCI) for ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) <2h when the delay between the first medical contact (FMC) and the balloon inflation is expected to be <90 min with a target of 60 min. The choice to send MICU towards a cardiology intensive care unit (CICU) or a catheterization laboratory (cath-lab) depends on the medical assessment, the regulator doctor and the decision of the cardiologist. Aim : Knowing the distribution of patients, management delays and mortality.

**Methods:** Data derived from a prospective register including STEMI having primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), managed by 6 medical care intensive units (MCIU), from 2003 to 2014. Variables collected : chest pain onset schedule, emergency call schedule, first medical contact schedule, destination to CICU or cath-lab and mortality.

**Results:** **1066 STEMI** were included: 88.7% (n=946) in cath-lab and 11.3% (n=120) in CICU. Chest pain – emergency call delay influences the patient's destination 55 minutes (min) [20 ; 144] for cath-lab versus 90 min [25 ; 332] for CICU (p<0,05). MICU – hospital door delay is faster for the cath-lab group : 50 min [43 ; 60] versus 55 min [47 ; 67] (p<0,05). Mortality is 3 times higher for the CICU group : 5.9% versus 1,9%(p<0,05).

**Discussion:** Chest pain – emergency call delay influences the patient's destination to cath-lab. The recommendations are not applied to some patients CICU group because they have delay compatible with cath-lab admission. Mortality is more important for CICU's patients. An epidemiological description of these patients would optimize medical care.

	Cath-lab	CICU	p	
N	946 (88,7%)	120 (11,3%)		
Median age [Q1;Q3]	59 [50;69]	63 [51;75]	0,2948	Khi2
Median delay pain to call 15/112	55 [20;144]	90 [25;332]	0,0092	Wilcoxon
Median Delay call 15 to MCIU first contact	19 [13;29]	20 [15;31]	0,2160	
Median delay MCIU first contact to hospital arrival	50 [43;60]	55 [47;67]	0,0016	
Mortality	1,9%	5,9%	0,0101	Khi2

**Variables collected**