

Information for follow-up by telephone

Dear patient,

Some time ago, you were diagnosed with Takotsubo cardiomyopathy and we, the International Takotsubo Registry Zurich, want to investigate this disease. For that reason, we might have contacted you by telephone call.

The International Takotsubo registry was established in 2010/2011 and it is the database with the largest patient cohort with Takotsubo cardiomyopathy in the world. In order to extend the registry, we cooperate with different centers worldwide.

Takotsubo cardiomyopathy is an unexplored heart-disease. Characteristics of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy are a strong female predominance and psychological and physical stress is often found as a trigger factor. Therefore, it is also called "broken heart syndrome". In the acute phase typical symptoms are chest pain (angina pectoris) and shortness of breath (dyspnoea). These are similar to symptoms of myocardial infarction, therefore the Takotsubo cardiomyopathy is often misdiagnosed.

The gold standard for the diagnosis is coronary angiography, which shows in most cases an apical ballooning pattern with a hyperkinesis of the basal left ventricular segments in the absence of any obstructive epicardial coronary artery disease. So far, this is the only way to distinguish Takotsubo cardiomyopathy from myocardial infarction. Recently our group has found a novel biomarker to distinguish Takotsubo cardiomyopathy from acute coronary syndrome, however this has not yet been established in clinical routine. Additional information can be found on our homepage.

The exact mechanism of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy is still unclear. Because of this, we would like to perform a follow-up study by telephone call. We will perform an interview and would like to ask you about cardiovascular complications, new co-morbidities and your current medication. This telephone-interview will be conducted by a member of the Takotsubo team and it will take only a few minutes. Beside this interview you will not have any other obligations.

All data will be anonymised using a code comprising special of numbers and letters. If you do have any questions about our privacy policy do not hesitate to contact us (team -> leading hospital -> members).

The observation of the natural history and follow-up will help to improve the morbidity and mortality of patients with Takotsubo cardiomyopathy. The data of the registry will help to develop new therapeutic strategies.

If you decide to participate in our telephone follow-up we will be pleased to contact you again to interview you about your current situation.

We would like to thank you in advance for your participation and for your contribution to medical research!

With best regards,

Your Takotsubo team