

Change of Etiology of Valvular Heart Disease in Korea

Seung Woo Park, MD

Department of Medicine

Samsung Medical Center Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea

The rapid development of economy in Korea changed the environmental and personal hygiene. It also prolonged life span. Those changes have an influence on the pattern of the disease such as the infection related disease and the aging related degenerative disease, both of which are associated with the cause of valvular heart disease. In this study, the changes in the causes of valvular heart disease between 2006 and 2011 in Korea was assessed. Data were collected from the Korean National Health Insurance Service from 2006 through 2011. These data consisted of primary diagnoses related to valvular heart disease regardless of other conditions. Valvular heart disease included non-rheumatic mitral valve disorders, non-rheumatic aortic valve disorders, rheumatic mitral valve disorders, and rheumatic aortic valve disorders. Overall, the age-standardized cumulative prevalence of non-rheumatic valvular heart disease was 70.6 per 100,000 persons in 2006 and 110.3 in 2011. This represented an increase from 42.2 to 65.2 in women and from 28.4 to 45.1 in men. In particular, there was a greater increase in prevalence in patients aged 65 years or older compared with groups aged 20–44 years or 45–64 years for both genders. The age standardized cumulative prevalence of rheumatic valve disease did not change dramatically between 2006 and 2011. The overall age-standardized cumulative prevalence of non-rheumatic valvular heart diseases increased between 2006 and 2011, especially in individuals older than 65 years. These changes should be considered in future designs of cardiovascular healthcare services because we live in a rapidly aging society.