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Incidence and epidemiology of PSVT in Sweden 1987 – 2010

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Background: Studies on prevalence and demographic constitution in the general population with the diagnosis paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT) are sparse. Though the diagnosis itself is rather common in a hospital setting. Aim Calculate the PSVT incidence between 1987 and 2010 in Sweden overall. Examine the incidence rate over time. Examine the descriptive epidemiology of patients with a PSVT diagnosis. Compare incidence rates between men and women, overall and over time.

Methods: Patients were identified according to international classification codes for PSVT in in-patient care (1987–2010) in the nationwide Swedish Patient Register.

Results: A total of 39 973 individuals with physician-diagnosed PSVT were diagnosed in Sweden between 1987 and 2010 (mean age 60 years; 44% men). A total age-adjusted incidence of 19 per 100 000 person years were seen. The incidence increased with age, and peaked in women at ages 80–84 and men in ages 75–79.

Conclusions: The Swedish nationwide register-based PSVT incidence was lower compared with previous international estimates. The only other study describing PSVT in the general population are based on a patient material with 1 000 fold less diagnosed cases. The sheer size of the patients diagnosed with PSVT in our dataset and the well documented validity of the registers used makes the results very reliable.