

Supplementary Table 1 Previous cross-referencing studies of myocardial infarction (MI) recording in hospital discharge databases, death registry and other sources

Author and reference	Year	Country	N sources	Sources compared				N MI patients	What was compared?	Findings
				Primary care	MI registry	Hospital data	Death registry			
Hammar ⁶⁰	1975-1981	Sweden	3	No	Local	Yes	Yes	5832	MI recorded in hospital discharge or mortality data <i>versus</i> MI community register.	81% of 5832 cases in the community register were found in hospital discharge and mortality data. 83% of 6582 cases in hospital discharge and mortality were found in the community register.
Pietila ⁶¹	1980-1990	Finland	3	No	No	Yes	Yes	214	MI recorded in hospital discharge and coronary death recorded in the cause of death registers <i>versus</i> the Helsinki Heart Study.	In 1980-86, 94% of hospital/fatal cases were confirmed and in 1987-90, 92% of hospital/fatal cases were confirmed.
Madsen ³⁹	1982-1991	Denmark	3	No	Local	Yes	Yes	6157	MI recorded in the National Heart Registry <i>versus</i> MI recorded in MONICA Denmark.	96% of 6157 cases in the National Heart Registry were found in MONICA within 28 days.
Merlo ⁶²	1982-1994	Sweden	3	No	No	Yes	Yes	128	MI recorded in the National Patient Register <i>versus</i> MI recorded in the County Patient Register <i>versus</i> MI in the National Mortality Register.	128 cases identified: 77% in the National Patient Register, 73% in the County Patient Register, 49% in the Mortality Register.
Rapola ¹⁹	1985-1993	Finland	3	No	No	Yes	Yes	408	MI and fatal coronary disease in National Hospital Discharge Register and the Register of Causes of Death <i>versus</i> medical record review against WHO MONICA criteria.	94% of 408 hospital/mortality register cases categorised as definite or possible MI according to WHO criteria.
Boyle ³⁸	1986-1991	Australia	3	No	Local	Yes	Yes	7117	MI recorded in hospital and in death certificates <i>versus</i> MI recorded in MONICA Newcastle.	78.9% of hospital cases were confirmed by MONICA Newcastle. 96.0% of death certificate MIs were confirmed by MONICA Newcastle.
Hammar ²⁰	1987, 1995	Sweden	3	No	No	Yes	Yes	713	MI recorded in hospital <i>versus</i> medical record review against strict diagnostic criteria.	86% of 713 MI cases were classified as definite MI.

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Merry ²⁴	1987-1997	Netherlands	5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	413	MI recorded in hospital discharge versus Cardiology Information System gold standard.	97% of 413 hospitalised cases were found in the Cardiology Information System.
Pajunen ²³	1988-2002	Finland	3	No	Local	Yes	Yes	37 062	MI recorded in hospital discharge and coronary death recorded in the cause of death registers <i>versus</i> MI recorded in the MONICA study.	90% of cases from hospital discharge and cause of death were identified in the MONICA study. Hospital discharge and cause of death registries identified 83% of MONICA MIs.
WOSCOPS ¹	1989-1991	Scotland	2	No	No	Yes	Yes	1109	Hospitalised MI identified in active follow-up in WOSCOPS trial (pravastatin for primary prevention) <i>versus</i> in the Scottish Record Linkage System.	94% of 1109 hospitalisations with myocardial infarction identified in active follow-up were identified in the Record Linkage System. 78% of 1330 hospitalisations with MI in the Record Linkage System were identified in active follow-up.
Wright ²²	1997-2005	England	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	130	Hospital discharge MI diagnosis <i>versus</i> general practitioner questionnaire.	89.2% of 130 hospital discharge MIs had a diagnosis of MI in general practice.
Barchielli ²¹	2003	Italy	3	No	No	Yes	Yes	372	Hospital discharge MI diagnosis <i>versus</i> medical record review.	86.0% of 372 cases had definite MI according to American Heart Association criteria, and 52.7% according to MONICA criteria.
Current study	2001-2009	England	4	Yes	National	Yes	Yes	21 489	Hospital discharge MI <i>versus</i> primary care MI <i>versus</i> acute coronary syndrome registry MI <i>versus</i> death registry MI.	30% of non-fatal cases were captured by three sources.

Abbreviations: MI, myocardial infarction; MONICA, Multinational MONItoring of trends and determinants in CARDiovascular disease; WHO, World Health Organisation; WOSCOPS, West of Scotland Coronary Prevention Study

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