Disappearance of the Dressier Syndrome

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Dear Sir,

I read with interest the article by Shahar et al. [1] on the disappearance of Dressier's syndrome following the introduction of thrombolysis therapy for acute myocardial infarction, but the decrease in incidence or near disappearance of Dressier's syndrome has been reported by previous observers [2, 3] before the era of thrombolysis.

In contrast to the 3-4% reported originally in 1959 by Dressier [4], in 1982, Lichstein et al. [2] did not find one single case in a retrospective study of 229 patients treated in the same institution as Dressler's patients. Therefore, I propose that the near disappearance of Dressler's syndrome is more likely related to the decreased use of oral anticoagulants and to more aggressive treatment of early postmyocardial infarction pericarditis [2, 3] than to the advent of thrombolytic therapy [1].

References

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