

## Lifestyle Changes among Patients with Myocardial Infraction

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### Abstract

**Background:** Myocardial infarction (MI), also known as a heart attack, occurs when blood flow decreases or stops to a part of the heart, causing damage to the muscle. **Aim of the study:** To assess life style changes among patients with MI through: assessing demographic data, patients knowledge about the disease, also assessing life style practices among patient with MI. **Study Design:** A descriptive exploratory research design was utilized. **Setting:** The study was conducted in the cardiac care unites at Ain shams university hospital. **Study Subjects:** A purposive sample of 100 patients with MI was included in the study. **Data Collection Tools:** Patients' structured interviewing questionnaire, Patients Level of Knowledge Questionnaire & Lifestyle Practices Questionnaire. **Results:** This study revealed that 53% of the studied patients had correct knowledge about definition of the disease and its causes. Also, 72% of them had unsatisfactory level of knowledge about myocardial infarction. Regarding to total physical lifestyle practices 70% of the studied patients have unhealthy physical lifestyle practices. Regarding to psychological state 62% of the studied patients always felt bad tempered and 65% of them were stressed. Regarding to social status 58% of the studied patients always have lack of motivation to think about the future. **Conclusion** Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that near three quarters of the studied patients had un-satisfactory level of knowledge about MI and two thirds of them had un-satisfactory level of total knowledge regarding life style changes after MI. Even though the majority of studied patients were commitment to the treatment. This part had answered the first question. Also, three quarters of studied patients had un-healthy life style practices.. **Recommendations:** Include rehabilitation program must held for patients with MI to meet the needs (therapeutic regiment, follow up, exercise and dietary information after MI) and Coping strategies must be delivered for patients with MI about life style changes.

**Keywords:** Myocardial Infraction, Lifestyle

### Introduction

Myocardial infarction (MI), is commonly known as a heart attack, is defined pathologically as the irreversible death of myocardial cells caused by ischemia. MI is a syndrome that can be recognized by a set of symptoms, chest pain being the hallmark of these symptoms in most cases, supported by biochemical laboratory changes, electrocardiographic (ECG) changes, or findings on imaging modalities able to detect myocardial injury and necrosis (*Chapman, et al., 2020*).

Myocardial infarction occurs because of sustained ischemia, causing irreversible myocardial cell death (necrosis).When a thrombus develops, there is no blood flow to

the myocardium distal to the blockage, resulting in necrosis. Contractile function of the heart stops in the necrotic area. The degree of altered function depends on the area of the heart involved and the size of the infarction (*Lewis,et al., 2019*).

The most common type of CVD is MI, which is the outcome of coronary vessels occlusion and ischemia of myocardium . MI is a major cause of mortality among heart patients. One MI happens in the USA every 20 second and every minute one dies due to this disease. It is one of the main reasons for hospitalization of heart patients, which is usually assumed as a threatening situation for the patient and the family (*Marquis-Gravel et al., 2020*).

Treatment should be start within 5 minutes for any unrelieved chest pain. The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends chewing one uncoated adult aspirin at the onset of chest pain. Delays in seeking care can limit treatment options and result in more cardiac damage (*Aronow, 2019*).

A survey in general practice has shown that 90% of patients with previously identified coronary heart disease have at least one and usually two or more lifestyle related cardiovascular risk factors such as smoking, poor diet or a sedentary lifestyle. These risk factors are likely to have contributed to their heart disease and, following a myocardial infarction (MI) (*Vasankari et al., 2021*).

A life style changes is a multidisciplinary approach, combining physical exercises with medical, social worker and nutritional consultations, developed to bring the patient to optimal levels of physical, mental, and social functioning .For patients, the process of adopting a more active and healthier lifestyle through behavioral changes is difficult and complex. They need to implement several lifestyle changes at once and for some time, as well as struggle against uncertainty and the overprotection of their family members (*Adams & Linke 2019*).

### **Significance of the study:**

In Egypt, the number of people with MI continue to rise. Egypt is the most populous country in the Middle East and North Africa and has more than 15% of the cardiovascular deaths in the region, but little is known about the prevalence of traditional risk factors and treatment strategies in acute coronary syndrome patients across Egypt (*Reda et al., 2019*).

### **Aim of the Study**

This study aim to:

- ◆ Assess life style changes among patients with MI through: Assessing patients clinical data and patients knowledge about the disease.
- ◆ Assessing life style practice to patient with MI.

### **Research questions:**

**This study will answer the following question**

- What are the life style changes among patients with MI?

### **Research Design:**

A descriptive exploratory research design was utilized to carry out the current study.

### **Setting:**

The current study was carried out at cardiac care unites CCU,at Ain Shams University hospital, affiliated to Ain shams university. This unit is in the second floor medicine and the total capacity of the CCU is 20 patients.

### **Subjects and Methods**

The study subjects composed of purposive sample of 100 patients who were included in this study according to sensitive analysis in relation to number of patients exposed to MI within the previous year from the above mentioned setting and agreed to participate in the study .The calculation of sample size done based on power analysis equation. As about 800 patients with MI in the year 2019 admitted to the previous mentioned setting.

### **Tools for data collection:**

**1- Patient's Interviewing Questionnaire:** it was developed by the researcher in simple Arabic language based on recent and related literatures review to assess the following :

#### **First part: patients demographic data:**

It is concerned with assessing socio demographic data of patients under study as (age, gender, level of education, marital status, work, housing, good ventilation in housing ,number of rooms, residence, number of family members )

#### **Second part: Patients medical data:**

This part was developed by the researcher and it was used to collect data about patient medical history .it consisted of present health history include seven MCQ questions(duration of the disease, current symptoms, actions to be taken when these

symptoms occur, current treatment, adherence to treatment and its schedule, side effect of treatment, disease diagnosis and Latest lab tests).past health history include the following three items (presence of chronic disease, its type, any surgery before, entering hospital before). family health history includes the following items(presence of cardiac disease, its type. (*Alberti and Piovesan, 2014;Khalil et al, 2015;Taha et al, 2015*).

### Third part: Patients Level of Knowledge Questionnaire:

It is concerned with assessment of patient knowledge regarding myocardial infraction it was developed by the investigator in an Arabic language based on reviewing of scientific literature and the sheet.it involves 20 questions in the form of multiple choices question (MCQ). It was related to knowledge regarding definition of MI (one question), causes (one question), signs and symptoms (three questions), Complications (two question), Medical examination (two question), Life style change after MI (12 questions).

### 3- Lifestyle Practices Questionnaire:

This tool was adopted from MI Dimensional Assessment Scale it comprises of (35) items to assess health domains physical functioning includes exercise, activity, nutrition, medications and smoking: from 1to(20) questions, psychological functioning include feeling of isolated, lonely, vulnerable, insecure, irritable and so on : from 21to33 questions, social functioning includes self-confidence, Inner feeling and feeling toward others and social performance from 34to53 (*Libby et al., 2008 and Timby & Smith, 2010*).

### ❖ Scoring system of MI Dimensional Assessment Scale Questionnaire:

The total score ranging from (0-to 100),the items equal or more than 85% is healthy life style, while the items less than 85%is un-healthy life style.

## Results

**Table (1):** illustrates that half of the studied patients(50%) their ages were  $\geq$  50 years, with mean SD of age is  $51.4 \pm 13.8$  years. Two third of the studied patients(68%) were male and near to three quarters(72%) were married. Moreover, more than half (58%) of

the studied patients were working after illness, slightly more than half (55.2%) of them have jobs that requires mental effort and two third(65.5%) of them were working all the time.

**Table (2):** shows that slightly more than half (55%) of the studied patients received myocardial infarction treatment for less than one year. Also, half (50%) of the studied patients have palpitations and irregular heartbeats. Moreover, slightly more than half (55%) of them do complete rest symptoms of MI occur, while almost (94%) of them took Aspirin.

**Table (3):** Table 3 shows that, half (52%) of the studied patients have correct knowledge about definition and more than half (56%) of them have correct knowledge about the most important causes of myocardial infarction, respectively. While, three fifths (60%) of them have incorrect knowledge about the causes of pain and discomfort after myocardial infarction and the most common complications that occurs in patients with myocardial infarction, respectively. Moreover, more than half (58%) of them have incorrect knowledge about nature of chest pain and near to three quarters (72%) have incorrect knowledge about the most important medical tests that indicate the level of performance of the heart muscle, respectively.

**Table (4):** displays that, slightly more than half (52% & 55%) of the studied patients have correct knowledge about the benefits of following specific diet for a patient with myocardial infarction and the benefits of reducing salts, respectively. While, more than half (56% & 58%) of them have incorrect knowledge about the importance of exercise for the types of sports allowed for patients with myocardial infarction, respectively. Moreover, three fifths (60%) of them have incorrect knowledge about the complications of passive smoking for patients with myocardial infarction and two third (66%) of them have incorrect knowledge about the actions when drug complications occur, respectively.

**Table (5):** illustrate that, near to half (48%) of the studied patients sometimes practices light exercise and slightly more than half (55%) of them practices vigours exercise, respectively. Also, slightly more than half

(55%) of them always needed to rest more and felt unable to perform their domestic duties, respectively. Also, half (50% & 52%) of the studied patients always found the weather made their pain worse and felt the cold more, respectively.

**Table (6):** shows that, three fifths (62%) of the studied patients sometimes felt concerned about their diet and more than half (57%) of them sometimes eat green leafy salad, with or without other vegetables, respectively. Also, slightly more than half (54%) of the studied patients sometimes concerned about their cholesterol level and slightly more than half (55%) of them sometimes eat fruits include fresh, candy or frozen, but don't include juices, respectively.

**Table (7):** displays that, more than half (58% & 55% )of the studied patients sometimes worried about taking tablets and always worried about side effects from tablets, respectively. Also, more than half (56%) of the studied patients don't smoke.

**Table (8):** shows that, three fifths (62% & 65%) of the studied patients always felt bad tempered and stressed, respectively. Also, more than half (58%) of the studied patients always worried or felt anxious about the future and three fifths (60%) of them were irritable, respectively. Likewise, more than half (55% & 56%) of the studied patients always felt vulnerable and anxious about dying, respectively.

**Table (9):** reveals that, more than half (58% & 55%) of the studied patients always have lack of motivation to think about the future and concerned about their health, respectively. Also, three fifths (60% & 62%) of the studied patients do not feel physical security and always have difficulty adjusting to their health now, respectively. Likewise, more than half (56%) of the studied patients sometimes feeling aggressive towards others and three fifths (62%) sometimes rely on others to achieve their goals, respectively.

#### Part (I): Sociodemographic characteristics of the studied patients.

**Table (1):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their demographic characteristics(n=100).

| Items  | Frequency percent |      |
|--|-------------------|------|
|  | No                | %    |
| <b>Age</b>   |                   |      |
| 18-<30 yrs.  | 14                | 14   |
| 30-<50 yrs.  | 36                | 36   |
| ≥ 50 yrs.  | 50                | 50   |
| <b>Mean SD</b>                                       | <b>51.4±13.8</b>  |      |
| <b>Gender</b>  |                   |      |
| Male   | 68                | 68   |
| Female   | 32                | 32   |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                |                   |      |
| Single   | 28                | 28   |
| Married  | 72                | 72   |
| <b>Working status after illness</b>                  |                   |      |
| Working  | 58                | 58   |
| Not Working  | 42                | 42   |
| <b>If working, what is the nature of work (n=58)</b> |                   |      |
| Work that requires muscular effort                   | 18                | 31   |
| Work that requires mental effort                     | 32                | 55.2 |
| Work that requires muscular and mental effort        | 8                 | 13.8 |
| <b>What is your working period (n=58)</b>            |                   |      |
| All the time   | 38                | 65.5 |
| part time  | 20                | 34.5 |

**Part (II): Patients' clinical data.****Table (2):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their current history.

| Items  | Studied patients (n = 100) |    |
|--|----------------------------|----|
|  | N                          | %  |
| <b>Duration of treatment for myocardial infarction</b>   |                            |    |
| Less than one year   | 55                         | 55 |
| From one year old to less than 5 years   | 28                         | 28 |
| From 5 to less than 10 years   | 10                         | 10 |
| Ten years and more   | 7                          | 7  |
| <b>Current symptoms</b>  |                            |    |
| Dizziness and lightheadedness  | 6                          | 6  |
| Nausea and vomiting  | 20                         | 20 |
| Dyspnea  | 24                         | 24 |
| Palpitations and irregular heartbeats  | 50                         | 50 |
| <b>Measures do you take when these symptoms occur</b>  |                            |    |
| Call an ambulance immediately or call someone you know who will take you to the hospital           | 50                         | 50 |
| While waiting for the ambulance, take any medications prescribed by the doctor, such as (aspirin). | 20                         | 20 |
| Complete rest and not make any effort.   | 55                         | 55 |
| Breathe calmly and avoid stress  | 15                         | 15 |
| <b>The current treatment</b>   |                            |    |
| Aspirin.   | 94                         | 94 |
| Atropine.  | 12                         | 12 |
| Concor.  | 86                         | 86 |
| Fastrel  | 36                         | 36 |
| Epinephrine  | 15                         | 15 |
| Atenolol   | 55                         | 55 |
| Plavix   | 32                         | 32 |
| Lisinopril   | 25                         | 25 |
| Digoxine   | 18                         | 18 |
| Nitroglycerin  | 65                         | 65 |
| Furosemide (Lasix)   | 92                         | 92 |

**Part (III): Patients' Level of Knowledge regarding myocardial infarction disease****Table (3):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their knowledge about myocardial infarction (n=100)

| Items  | Studied patients (n = 100) |    |           |    |
|--|----------------------------|----|-----------|----|
|  | Correct                    |    | Incorrect |    |
|  | No                         | %  | No        | %  |
| <b>Definition of the disease and its causes.</b>         |                            |    |           |    |
| Definition of Myocardial infarction                      | 52                         | 52 | 48        | 48 |
| The most important causes of myocardial infarction       | 56                         | 56 | 44        | 44 |
| <b>Symptoms of the disease</b>                           |                            |    |           |    |
| Nature of chest pain                                     | 42                         | 42 | 58        | 58 |
| The warning signs that indicate a myocardial infarction  | 45                         | 45 | 55        | 55 |
| Cause of pain and discomfort after myocardial infarction | 40                         | 40 | 60        | 60 |
| <b>Complications of the disease</b>                      |                            |    |           |    |
| The most common complications                            | 38                         | 38 | 62        | 62 |
| <b>Medical examinations</b>                              |                            |    |           |    |
| The most important medical tests                         | 28                         | 28 | 72        | 72 |
| Reasons for conducting medical tools                     | 45                         | 45 | 55        | 55 |

**Table (4):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their knowledge about lifestyle changes after myocardial infarction.

| Items  | Correct |    | Incorrect |    |
|--|---------|----|-----------|----|
|  | N       | %  | N         | %  |
| <b>Nutrition:</b>  |         |    |           |    |
| Benefits of following specific diet                              | 52      | 52 | 48        | 48 |
| Benefits of reducing salts                                       | 55      | 55 | 45        | 45 |
| Compilations of eating fatty foods                               | 50      | 50 | 50        | 50 |
| <b>Exercise</b>  |         |    |           |    |
| Importance of exercise.  | 44      | 44 | 56        | 56 |
| Types of sports prohibited                                       | 46      | 46 | 54        | 54 |
| Types of sports allowed  | 42      | 42 | 58        | 58 |
| <b>Complications of smoking</b>                                  |         |    |           |    |
| Complications of passive smoking                                 | 40      | 40 | 60        | 60 |
| Complications of active smoking                                  | 45      | 45 | 55        | 55 |
| <b>Medications</b>   |         |    |           |    |
| Benefits of commitment to take medication on time                | 55      | 55 | 45        | 45 |
| Benefits of organizing the taking of the drug at different times | 50      | 50 | 50        | 50 |
| Actions when drug complications occur                            | 34      | 34 | 66        | 66 |

**Part (IV) : Life style Practices among patients after myocardial infarction.****Table (5):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their physical status (exercise, activities of daily living)

| Items  | Studied sample (n=100) |    |           |    |       |    |
|--|------------------------|----|-----------|----|-------|----|
|  | Always                 |    | Sometimes |    | Never |    |
|  | N                      | %  | N         | %  | N     | %  |
| <b>Exercise</b>  |                        |    |           |    |       |    |
| Light exercise   | 22                     | 22 | 48        | 48 | 30    | 30 |
| Moderate exercise  | 18                     | 18 | 36        | 36 | 46    | 46 |
| Vigours exercise   | 15                     | 15 | 55        | 55 | 30    | 30 |
| <b>Activities of daily living</b>  |                        |    |           |    |       |    |
| Thought twice before you undertook physical activity (e.g., housework or going to the shops) | 20                     | 20 | 30        | 30 | 50    | 50 |
| Needed for more rest   | 55                     | 55 | 30        | 30 | 15    | 15 |
| Feel reduced social life   | 40                     | 40 | 50        | 50 | 10    | 10 |
| Feel un able to perform domestic duties  | 55                     | 55 | 30        | 30 | 15    | 15 |
| Cold weather made pain worse   | 50                     | 50 | 33        | 33 | 17    | 17 |
| Feel cold more   | 52                     | 52 | 30        | 30 | 18    | 8  |

**Table (6):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their nutritional status changes.

| Items  | Studied sample (n=100) |    |           |    |       |    |
|--|------------------------|----|-----------|----|-------|----|
|  | Always                 |    | Sometimes |    | Never |    |
|  | N                      | %  | N         | %  | N     | %  |
| Felt concerned about diet                                    | 24                     | 24 | 62        | 62 | 14    | 14 |
| Felt concerned about cholesterol level                       | 18                     | 18 | 54        | 54 | 28    | 28 |
| Worried about weight   | 45                     | 45 | 45        | 45 | 10    | 10 |
| Eat green leafy salad, with or without other vegetables      | 16                     | 16 | 57        | 57 | 27    | 27 |
| Eat fresh fruits, candy or frozen , but don't include juices | 18                     | 18 | 55        | 55 | 27    | 27 |
| Eat high fiber cereals or whole green breads                 | 24                     | 24 | 50        | 50 | 26    | 26 |

**Table (7) cont.:** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their medication's commitment and smoking.

| Medication's commitment and smoking  | Studied sample (n =100) |    |           |     |       |    |
|--|-------------------------|----|-----------|-----|-------|----|
|  | Always                  |    | Sometimes |     | Never |    |
|  | N                       | %  | N         | %   | N     | %  |
| <b>Medication's commitment</b>   |                         |    |           |     |       |    |
| Worried about taking tablets   | 30                      | 30 | 58        | 58  | 12    | 12 |
| Worried about side effects from your tablets   | 55                      | 55 | 32        | 32  | 13    | 13 |
| Experienced side effects (e.g., cold hands or feet / going to the toilet at night) from your medication. | 36                      | 36 | 50        | 50  | 14    | 14 |
|  | <b>Yes</b>              |    | <b>No</b> |     |       |    |
|  | N                       | %  | N         | %   |       |    |
| Positive smoking (n =44)   | 44                      | 44 | 0         | 0.0 |       |    |
| Negative smoking (n =56)   | 56                      | 56 | 0         | 0.0 |       |    |

**Table (8):** Number and percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their psychological state.

| Psychological state                          | Studied sample (n =100) |    |           |    |       |     |
|--|-------------------------|----|-----------|----|-------|-----|
|  | Always                  |    | Sometimes |    | Never |     |
|  | N                       | %  | N         | %  | N     | %   |
| Felt frightened having another heart attack? | 36                      | 36 | 52        | 52 | 12    | 12  |
| Felt isolated?                               | 38                      | 38 | 50        | 50 | 12    | 12  |
| Felt lonely?                                 | 35                      | 35 | 52        | 52 | 13    | 13  |
| Felt anxious about travelling?               | 42                      | 42 | 50        | 50 | 8     | 8   |
| Felt vulnerable?                             | 55                      | 55 | 30        | 30 | 15    | 15  |
| Felt insecure?                               | 40                      | 40 | 50        | 50 | 10    | 10  |
| Felt your confidence has been affected?      | 42                      | 42 | 52        | 52 | 6     | 6   |
| Felt anxious about dying?                    | 56                      | 56 | 24        | 24 | 20    | 20  |
| Felt anxious about the future?               | 58                      | 58 | 30        | 30 | 12    | 12  |
| Felt irritable?                              | 60                      | 60 | 28        | 28 | 12    | 12  |
| Felt down or depressed?                      | 52                      | 52 | 30        | 30 | 18    | 18  |
| Felt bad tempered?                           | 62                      | 62 | 28        | 28 | 10    | 10  |
| Felt stressed?                               | 65                      | 65 | 35        | 35 | 0     | 0.0 |

**Table (9):** Percentage distribution of the studied patients according to their social status changes (n =100)

| Social state   | Always |    | Sometimes |    | Never |    |
|--|--------|----|-----------|----|-------|----|
|  | N      | %  | N         | %  | N     | %  |
| <b>Self Confidence</b>   |        |    |           |    |       |    |
| Feeling incompetent  | 53     | 53 | 24        | 24 | 23    | 23 |
| Lack of motivation to think about the future                                     | 58     | 58 | 30        | 30 | 12    | 12 |
| Lack of specific meaning or purpose for life                                     | 42     | 42 | 50        | 50 | 8     | 8  |
| Concerned about my health  | 55     | 55 | 30        | 30 | 15    | 15 |
| <b>Inner feeling and feeling toward others</b>                                   |        |    |           |    |       |    |
| Had few relationships with other   | 38     | 38 | 52        | 52 | 10    | 10 |
| Feeling aggressive towards others  | 35     | 35 | 56        | 56 | 9     | 9  |
| Control the environment around me  | 30     | 30 | 52        | 52 | 18    | 18 |
| Rely on others to achieve my goals   | 26     | 26 | 62        | 62 | 12    | 12 |
| Feeling uneasy and near to die   | 28     | 28 | 56        | 56 | 16    | 16 |
| Feeling distrust of others and doubt them  | 20     | 20 | 50        | 50 | 30    | 30 |
| <b>Social performance</b>  |        |    |           |    |       |    |
| Have no satisfactory relations with my family                                    | 12     | 12 | 34        | 34 | 54    | 54 |
| Lack friends and social relationships  | 15     | 15 | 35        | 35 | 50    | 50 |
| Lack the work that gives the sense that useful and increase self-confidence      | 55     | 55 | 30        | 30 | 15    | 15 |
| Not satisfied with my work   | 60     | 60 | 25        | 25 | 15    | 15 |
| Haven't interment activities   | 29     | 29 | 41        | 41 | 30    | 30 |
| Need to practice recreational activities that satisfy me and renew my activities | 25     | 25 | 50        | 50 | 25    | 25 |
| Do not participate in community activities                                       | 56     | 56 | 35        | 35 | 9     | 9  |
| Do not care about community affairs or activities that affect others             | 40     | 40 | 20        | 20 | 40    | 40 |
| Do not feel physical security  | 60     | 60 | 25        | 25 | 15    | 15 |
| Have difficulty adjusting to my health now                                       | 62     | 62 | 28        | 28 | 10    | 10 |

## Discussion

MI occurs from a partial or complete blockage of a coronary artery, which decreases the blood supply to the cells of the heart supplied by the blocked coronary artery. The extent of the cardiac damage varies depending on the location and amount of blockage in the coronary artery. This is a potentially devastating condition. The ability of the heart to contract, relax, and propel blood throughout the body requires healthy cardiac muscle. Results depends on the speed and effectiveness of treatment (*Ignatavicius & Workman, 2019*).

Concerning the **demographic characteristics** Regarding the age of the studied patients, the finding of the current study revealed that, half of the studied patients were aged  $\geq 50$  years with mean age is  $51.4 \pm 13.8$  years. It may be due to this age group considered as a high risk for exposure to myocardial infarction that increase with age where there are many changes that occur within the cardiovascular system as changes in its structure and function. This result is similar with the result of study performed by **Azab and Elsayed (2017)**, who performed a study entitled "Acute myocardial infarction risk factors and correlation of its markers with serum lipids" who found that the age of the patients were from 45-65 years. Also the study performed by **Metwaly and Zaton (2020)**, who performed a study entitled "Effect of health educational program on self-efficacy and therapeutic compliance among patients with myocardial infarction" and found that the mean  $\pm$  SD age of the acute Myocardial infarction patients in his study were  $58.21 \pm 11.12$  years.

Related to gender the result revealed that more than two third of the studied patients were male, This result might be due to sex hormones (Estrogen) play very important role to provide protective mechanism against CAD during premenopausal years in women. This result similar with the results of the study performed by **El-Moselhy, et al (2018)**, who performed a study entitled "Coronary artery disease among elderly Egyptian patients: socio-demographic, lifestyle, psychosocial, medical, and biochemical risk factors" and found that around two thirds of the patients in the study were male. Also, the study performed by

**Narang et al (2018)**, and entitled "Risk factors and demographic profile in acute myocardial infarction" who found that above two thirds of the patients under the study were male.

Regarding to marital status, the finding of the current study revealed that, near three quarters of the studied patients were married. This result might be due to most of the study subjects were within 45-55 years, and usually by this age they are becoming married according to Egyptian society culture. This results are similar to that a study performed by **Endalew et al. (2021)** and entitled "Health-Related Quality of Life and Associated Factors among Myocardial Infarction Patients at Cardiac Center" who found that around two thirds of studied patients were married.

Regarding to work status, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under study their working require mental effort. This results may due to half of the studied patients, their age are more than 50 years and can, not bearing muscular efforts. This result were similar with that of a study performed by **Alsaqri, et al. (2020)** "Saudi myocardial infarction patients' learning needs: Implications for cardiac education program" and found that more than half of the patients in jobs need mental efforts.

On the other hand this result was inconsistent with the result of a study performed by **Sharif and Lafi 2021**. and entitled "Common risk factors of myocardial infarction and some socio demographic characteristics" who found that three fifths of the patients under the study were working in jobs need muscular efforts.

Concerning the **Patients' clinical data**, duration of treatment for myocardial infarction the finding of the current study revealed that, slightly more than half of the studied patients received treatment for less than one year This results not supported with the results of the study performed by **Chow et al.(2019)** and entitled "Secondary prevention therapies in acute coronary syndrome and relation to outcomes" and found that majority of the studied patients were received treatment for more than two years.

Regarding to current symptoms the finding of the current study revealed that, half of the studied patients had palpitations and irregular heartbeats, This results not supported with the study done by **Ferry et al.(2019)** and entitled “Presenting symptoms in men and women diagnosed with myocardial infarction using sex-specific criteria” who revealed that, Chest pain was the most common presenting symptom of patients with myocardial infraction.

Regarding to action take when these symptoms occur the finding of the current study revealed that, slightly more than half of the studied patients do complete rest and not make any effort. That is related to patient culture and financial level. This results not supported with the study done by **Kamal et al (2019)**. and entitled “Assessment of Knowledge and Practices of myocardial Infarction, Patients After Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention at Outpatient Clinic in Heart Hospital Assiut University” Who found that near two fifth of the studied patients take analgesics.

Regarding to current treatment, the finding of the current study revealed that, almost of the studied patients took Aspirin. This result might be due to it is very helpful for people with CAD and can reduce the risk for heart attack and ischemic stroke. This results similar with the results of study performed by **Chow et al.(2019)** and entitled “Secondary prevention therapies in acute coronary syndrome and relation to outcomes” who revealed that, the majority of the patients were on aspirin.

Regarding to complications of the disease and medical examinations, the finding of the current study revealed that, around to two third of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about most common complications and medical tests after MI. These results not supported by the result of study performed by **Khaled et al (2020)**. who found that near to half of the patients aware of the most common complications.

**Regarding patient knowledge about the disease**, regarding patient knowledge about the

disease, the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study had correct knowledge about definition and the most important causes of MI. That is related to communication with the medical team and ask them about everything related to MI. This results not supported with the results of study performed by **Kamal et al (2019)**. who performed a study entitled “Assessment of Knowledge and Practices of myocardial Infarction, Patients After Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention at Outpatient Clinic in Heart Hospital Assiut University” Who found that one fifths of patients know the definition of AMI correctly While, less than one fifths from the total patients know the main causes of AMI.

Regarding to symptoms of the disease the current study revealed that, three fifths of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about the causes of pain and discomfort after MI. This results not supported with the results of study performed by **Shang, et al (2019)**. who performed a study entitled “Association between medication adherence and 1-year major cardiovascular adverse events after acute myocardial infarction” who found that near to half of the studied patients were had correct knowledge about the causes of symptoms after MI.

Regarding to complications of the disease the current study revealed that, slightly more than three fifths of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about the about the complications. This results supported with the results of study performed by **Ebada Elsayed and M Mohamed (2021)**. And entitled “Effect of Multimodal Cardiac Rehabilitation Program on Patients after Acute Myocardial Infarction” who found that slightly more than half of the studied patients were had incorrect knowledge about the about the complications.

Regarding to nutrition the, finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study had correct knowledge about the benefits of specific diet for a patient with myocardial infarction and the benefits of reducing salts .This results similar with the result of study performed by **Kitakata et al.(2018)** and entitled “Patient confidence regarding secondary lifestyle modification and

knowledge of heart attack” who found that more than half of the patients under the study considered that nutritional guidance were useful of them.

Regarding to exercise, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about the importance of exercise, in relation to the types of sports allowed for patients with myocardial infarction. This results may due to the uncommon practice of exercise for the Egyptian population, and most of Egyptian do not know the importance of sports. These results not supported with the result of study performed by **Coull, & Pugh (2021)** “Maintaining physical activity following myocardial infarction” who found that the majority of patients described excellent experiences about importance of exercise.

Regarding to complications of smoking, the finding of the current study revealed that, three fifths of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about the complications of passive smoking for patients with myocardial infarction. This results similar with the result of study performed by **Sia et al (2021)**, who found that the patients under the study still smoke so much and had incorrect knowledge about the complications of smoking.

Moreover, regarding to medications, the finding of the current study revealed that, two third of the patients under the study had incorrect knowledge about the actions taken when drug complications occur. These results similar with the results of study performed by **Piekarz et al(2022)**.“Medication-taking for secondary prevention of acute myocardial infarction” who found that above two third of the patients were had incorrect knowledge about what to do when side effects from medications occur.

**Life style practices among patients after myocardial infraction.** Regarding to exercise, the finding of the current study revealed that, slightly more than half of the patients under the study sometimes had practices vigours exercise. These result similar with the result of study performed by **Xing et al(2020)** and entitled “The beneficial role of

exercise training for myocardial infarction treatment in elderly” who found that half of the patients had low and high-intensity exercise.

Regarding to activities of daily living, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study always had needed to rest more and felt unable to perform their domestic duties. This result similar with the result of study performed by **Hajduk et al(2020)**. Who performed a study entitled “Risk Model for Decline in Activities of Daily Living Among Older Adults Hospitalized With Acute Myocardial Infarction”, who found that half of the patients under the study were impaired in all ADLs. Also, disagree with the result of study performed by **Narang et al (2018)**, and entitled “Risk factors and demographic profile in acute myocardial infarction” who found that half of the patients under the study had sedentary lifestyle and perform ADLs.

Regarding to nutritional status, the finding of the current study revealed that, three fifths of the patients under the study sometimes felt concerned about their diet, Also, more than half of them sometimes eat green leafy salad, with or without other vegetables. This result similar with the result of study performed by **Kamal et al.(2019)** Who performed a study entitled “Assessment of Knowledge and Practices of myocardial Infarction, Patients After Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention at Outpatient Clinic” who found that more than half of the patients sometimes Taking foods that contain fiber, fruits and vegetables.

Regarding to medication’s commitment, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study sometimes worried about taking tablets and always worried about side effects from tablets. This result supported by the results of study performed by **Shang et al (2019)**. Who performed a study entitled “Association between medication adherence and 1-year major cardiovascular adverse events after acute myocardial infarction” who found that around half of the patients belief that one’s condition had improve and no longer required medications and exposure to its side effects.

Regarding to smoking, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study don't smoke, These results not supported with the result of study performed by **Shlomo et al (2022)**. Who performed a study entitled "Active Lifestyle Post First Myocardial Infarction" who found that half of the patients were smoker. In the same field, a study performed by **Ebada Elsayed and M Mohamed (2021)**. and entitled "Effect of Multimodal Cardiac Rehabilitation Program on Patients after Acute Myocardial Infarction" who found that more than half of the patients were current smoker.

Regarding to psychological state, the finding of the current study revealed that, two thirds of the patients under the study always felt bad tempered and stressed, and three fifths of them always worried or felt anxious about the future and irritable. Likewise, more than half of the patients under the study always felt vulnerable and anxious about dying.

This results in accordance with **Sreenivasan et al.(2021)** Who performed a study entitled "Mental health disorders among patients with acute myocardial infarction" who found that three quarter of the patients were stress and irritable. In the same field, a study performed by **Fleetwood et al.(2021)** and entitled "Severe mental illness and mortality and coronary revascularization following a myocardial infarction" who found that two third of the patients were had anxiety disorder followed by bipolar disorder.

Regarding to social status, the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study their self-confidence always have lack of motivation to think about the future and concerned about their health. These results in accordance with **Shajrawi et al(2021)** entitled who found that half of the patients were had lack of motivation about the life and future.

Regarding to Inner feeling and feeling toward others the finding of the current study revealed that, more than half of the patients under the study sometimes feeling aggressive towards others and three fifths of them sometimes rely on others to achieve their goals. This results may due to the psychological,

physical and social changes accompanying the disease. This results supported with the result of study performed by **Liu et al (2018)** who performed a study entitled "Correlations among psychological resilience, self-efficacy, and negative emotion in acute myocardial infarction patients" and found that more than half of the patients under the study were feeling aggressive in dealing with others and were had a life problems after the disease.

Moreover, regarding to social performance, the finding of the current study revealed that, Three fifths of the patients under the study always do not feel physical security and always have difficulty adjusting to their health now. This results may due to the new pathological changes that appeared in their lives. This results not supported with the result of study performed by **Shlomo et al (2022)**. who performed a study entitled "Active Lifestyle Post First Myocardial Infarction" and found that the majority of the patients were retained social leisure activities.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that near three quarters of the studied patients had un-satisfactory level of knowledge about MI and two thirds of them had un-satisfactory level of total knowledge regarding life style changes after MI. Even though the majority of studied patients were commitment to the treatment. This part had answered the first question. Also, three quarters of studied patients had un-healthy life style practices.

### **Recommendation**

**Based on the findings of the present study, the following recommendations are suggested:**

- 1- Rehabilitation program must held for patients with MI to meet the needs (therapeutic regiment, follow up, exercise and dietary information after MI).
- 2- Continous follow up of patients involvement in rehabilitations programs by health care providers to early detection for any post MI complications.
- 3- Coping strategies must be delivered for patients with MI about life style changes.
- 4- Patients are in need of a simplified and comprehensive Arabic booklet including

information about life style modification for patients after MI.

- 5- Further studies about the effect of the life style modification regarding patients with MI should be encouraged.

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