Predictive value of CHA2DS2-VASc score combined with hs-CRP for new-onset atrial fibrillation in elderly patients with acute myocardial infarction

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Abstract

Background: New-onset atrial fibrillation (NOAF) is common during acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and independently associated with worse prognosis. We aimed to validate the discrimination performance of CHA2DS2-VASc score combined with hs-CRP in the prediction of NOAF after AMI in elderly Chinese population.

Methods: 311 consecutive elderly patients (age ≥ 65 years old) with AMI from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2019 without atrial fibrillation history were enrolled in our study. Univariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses were used to identify risk factors of NOAF. The discrimination performance of different score models were evaluated using ROC curve analysis and AUCs were compared using the Z test.

Results: 30 (9.65%) patients developed NOAF during hospitalization. The NOAF group were older and had higher hs-CRP, initial Killip class, BNP, LAD, CHADS2 score, CHA2DS2-VASc score, in-hospital mortality and lower LVEF and ACEI/ARB use (P < 0.05 vs group without NOAF for all measures). In multivariate regression analyses, age (OR = 1.127, 95% CI 1.063–1.196, P < 0.001) and hs-CRP (OR = 1.034, 95% CI 1.018–1.05, P < 0.001) were independent predictors of NOAF. In ROC curve analyses, both CHADS2 score (AUC = 0.624, 95% CI 0.516–0.733, P = 0.026) and CHA2DS2-VASc score (AUC = 0.687, 95% CI 0.584–0.79, P = 0.001) had acceptable but unsatisfactory discrimination performance in predicting NOAF after AMI. The combined model with CHA2DS2-VASc score and hs-CRP showed a significant better predictive value (AUC = 0.791, 95% CI 0.692–0.891, P < 0.001) compared to that of the CHA2DS2-VASc score alone (Z test, P = 0.008).

Conclusion: The combined model with CHA2DS2-VASc score and hs-CRP had high accuracy in predicting post-AMI NOAF.

Keywords: New-onset atrial fibrillation, Acute myocardial infarction, CHA2DS2-VASc score, Elderly, Risk estimation

Introduction

New-onset atrial fibrillation (NOAF) is a common arrhythmia during acute myocardial infarction (AMI), with a incidence ranging from 3 to 20% [1]. The development of NOAF in AMI patients has been proved as an independent factor of short- and long-term mortality [1, 2]. Therefore, early identification of patients with high risk of NOAF is essential to prevent complications and improve prognosis. Previous studies have demonstrated several risk factors associated with NOAF, such as older age, B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP), high sensitive c-reactive protein (hs-CRP) and left atrium diameter.
(LAD) [3–6]. However, valid risk stratification model to predict NOAF during AMI remains unclear, especially in elderly AMI population. The CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score have been demonstrated as good predictors of stroke risk in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF) [7, 8]. However, the discriminate power seems unsatisfactory when applying these two score models in AMI population for the prediction of NOAF [9, 10]. The aim of our study was to identify risk factors of NOAF in elderly patients hospitalized for AMI, and determine whether the CHA2DS2-VASc score combined with admission biomarkers, such as hs-CRP, can be a valid model to predict NOAF.

Methods

Study population
This is a one-center retrospective study of 314 consecutive elderly patients (age ≥ 65 years old) with AMI who admitted to Beijing Chaoyang Hospital between 1 January 2018 and 1 January 2019, without a history of pre-existing atrial fibrillation (AF). 3 patients with incomplete medical record were excluded from the present study. Patients were divided into two groups: with NOAF and without NOAF during hospitalization. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Beijing Chaoyang Hospital (2020-3-17-16). Since this is a retrospective analysis, informed consent was not applicable.

AMI was classified as ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) and non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI). The Diagnostic criteria of STEMI were: (1) typical, prolonged ischemic symptoms (usually > 30 min) consistent with coronary artery disease (CAD); (2) a typical rise and fall of serum cardiac troponin-I (CTnI); (3) ST-segment elevation ≥ 1 mm in 2 or more contiguous leads on a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG), or a newly developed left bundle branch block (LBBB) on an initial ECG [11]. NSTEMI was defined as: (1) typical, prolonged ischemic symptoms (usually > 30 min) consistent with CAD and a typical rise and fall of serum CTnI; (2) absence of ECG changes of STEMI criteria, for example, with ST-segment depression and/or prominent T-wave inversion on an initial ECG [12]. Patients with type 2 myocardial infarction were excluded in the present study [13].

An initial ECG was conducted in the first 5 min after patients’ admission and all patients received continuous electrocardiography monitoring to detect arrhythmia during AMI. AF was diagnosed as the absence of P waves, an irregular R-R interval, an unidentifiable isoelectric line and lasting at least 30 s. [8] NOAF was defined as patients with no pre-existing AF who presented with sinus rhythm on admission and developed AF during hospital stay. NOAF was classified as early-NOAF (onset within 24 h after admission) and late-NOAF (onset after 24 h after admission) [14].

Data collection

Anthropometric measurements and general data collection
Data about patients’ demographics, family and medical history, weight, height and status of smoking were collected upon their admission. BMI was calculated as weight divided by height squared (kg/m²). Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was calculated with Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) formula (Chinese version) [15]. Transthoracic echocardiography was performed within the first 6 h after patients’ admission. Left atrial diameter (LAD) was measured by M mode ultrasound at the parasternal view. The left ventricular end-systolic diameter (LVESd), left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDd) and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) were evaluated using the Simpson’s method. Coronary angiography (CAG) information was collected and infarct related artery (IRA) was identified by CAG results combined with ECG changes.

Risk score calculation

The CHADS2 score was calculated by assigning 1 point each for congestive heart failure (CHF), hypertension, age ≥ 75 years and diabetes mellitus (DM), and 2 points for previous stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) [16]. The CHA2DS2-VASc score was calculated by assigning 1 point each for CHF, hypertension, age 65–74 years, DM, vascular disease and female gender, and 2 points for age ≥ 75 years and previous stroke or TIA [17].

Laboratory parameters
Venous blood samples (5 mL) were collected from the antecubital vein immediately after an initial ECG recording, and then analyzed with a Dimension RxLMax™ automated analyzer. All biochemical variables were measured with Hitachi 7600 automatic analyzer.

Statistical analysis
Continuous variables were tested for normal distribution using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Normally-distributed data are presented as mean ± standard deviation (SD) and analyzed by the Student’s t-test. Non-normally distributed variables are presented as median (interquartile range) and analyzed by the Mann–Whitney U test. Dichotomous variables were presented as percentages and were analyzed with the Pearson Chi-squared test. Univariable analysis and multivariable logistic regression were used to identify the risk factors of NOAF. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and the
area under the curve (AUC) were analyzed to evaluate the discrimination performance of the CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score. Youden index equals to sensitivity + specificity-1 [18]. AUC = 1.0 represents perfect discriminatory ability while AUC < 0.5 indicates the absence of predictive power [19]. The predictive power (AUCs) of different risk scores were compared using Z test. A 2-tailed \( P < 0.05 \) was considered statistically significant. SPSS 24.0 (IBM Corp, Armonk, NY) and STATA software (Version 16.0; Stata Corporation) were used for all statistical analyses.

**Results**

**General characteristics**

A total of 311 consecutive elderly AMI patients (81.03% male) with no history of AF were enrolled in the present study, and the mean age of all participants was 75.26 ± 9.84 years old. Baseline characteristics of relevant patients are shown in Table 1. The median follow-up time was 11 (6–16) days. Thirty patients (9.65%) developed NOAF during hospitalization: 8 (2.57%) early-NOAF cases and 22 (7.07%) late-NOAF cases. The median time NOAF during hospitalization: 8 (2.57%) early-NOAF was 11 (6–16) days. Thirty patients (9.65%) developed NOAF during hospitalization: 8 (2.57%) early-NOAF cases and 22 (7.07%) late-NOAF cases. The median time NOAF onset was 42 (20.5, 72) hours, with the earliest NOAF happened 4 h after admission and the latest NOAF happened 168 h after admission. NOAF patients were older and more likely to have higher Killip class, hs-CRP, B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP), LAD, the CHADS2 score, the CHA2DS2-VASc score and in-hospital mortality (\( P < 0.05 \) vs. patients without NOAF for all measures). Meanwhile, LVEF and angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEI)/ angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) use were lower in NOAF group (\( P < 0.05 \) vs. patients without NOAF for all measures).

**The discriminatory ability of CHADS2 and CHA2DS2-VASc score**

The CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score of NOAF patients were significantly higher than that of patients without NOAF [2 (1–3) vs. 1 (1–2), \( P = 0.019 \); 4 (3–5) vs. 3 (2–4), \( P = 0.001 \); Table 1]. ROC curve analyses were performed and both the CHADS2 score and the CHA2DS2-VASc score showed an acceptable discriminatory ability for the prediction of NOAF after AMI as evidenced by an AUC = 0.624 (95% CI 0.516–0.733, \( P = 0.026 \), Fig. 1) and an AUC = 0.687 (95% CI 0.584–0.79, \( P = 0.001 \), Fig. 2), respectively.

**Independent risk factors of NOAF**

In multivariate logistic regression analyses, age and hs-CRP remained as independent predictors of NOAF after the adjustment for clinical characteristics (BNP, Killip class and ACEI/ARB use, Table 2, model 1) and echocardiography index (LAD and LVEF, Table 2, model 2). Logistic regression analyses that included the CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score as independent variables also indicated that hs-CRP is an independent risk factor of NOAF (Table 2, model 3 and 4). The ROC curve analysis demonstrated that the best cut-off point of hs-CRP to predict post-AMI NOAF was 21.25 mg/L (sensitivity:57.69%, specificity: 81.74%, AUC 0.671, 95% CI 0.535–0.807, \( P = 0.004 \), Fig. 3).

**ROC curve analysis: the CHA2DS2-VASc score combined with hs-CRP**

hs-CRP was proved as an independent risk factor of NOAF and we wanted to evaluate the additive prognostic value of it in addition to the CHA2DS2-VASc score. As a result, another ROC curve analysis was performed and AUC of the CHA2DS2-VASc score combined with hs-CRP to predict NOAF after AMI in elderly population was 0.791 (95% CI 0.692–0.891, \( P < 0.001 \), Fig. 4), significantly higher than that of the CHA2DS2-VASc score alone. (Z test, 0.791 vs. 0.687, \( P = 0.008 \), Fig. 5).

**Discussion**

The main findings of the present study were: (1) older age and high hs-CRP were two independent risk factors of NOAF in elderly Chinese AMI patients. (2) the CHA2DS2-VASc score system is a convenient model to predict post-AMI NOAF with acceptable but unsatisfactory discriminatory ability. The predictive value of the score can be significantly enhanced by combing with hs-CRP.

Occurrence of NOAF during the course of AMI is a common phenomenon and it is associated with worse prognosis such as increased thromboembolic events, heart failure (HF) and all-cause mortality [1, 2, 20]. The incidence of post-AMI NOAF was 9.65% in our study, which is consistent with the incidence reported in previous studies (3–20%) [1, 14]. Moreover, the in-hospital mortality was significant higher in NOAF group (10% vs. 1.06%, \( P < 0.001 \)). Most NOAF (7.07%) developed after 24 h after admission (late-NOAF) with the ratio of late-NOAF to early-NOAF was nearly 3 to 1, similar results were reported in former surveys [14, 21].

Several risk factors of post-AMI NOAF have been reported in previous studies, such as older age, higher Killip class, hs-CRP, BNP, LAD and lower LVEF [3, 5, 6, 22]. For instance, a study by Wang et al. showed that older age is independently related to NOAF in patients with ACS, and similar conclusions were showed in some other studies [3, 5, 23]. In the present study, older age was still an independent risk factor of post-AMI NOAF, even we only focused on elderly population. A study by Parashar et al. demonstrated that admission biomarkers such as hs-CRP and NT-proBNP were independently
| Variables                          | NOAF (n = 30) | Without NOAF (n = 281) | P value |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|
| Age, years                        | 82.43 ± 9.21  | 73.37 ± 10.31          | <0.001  |
| Male, n (%)                       | 23 (76.67)    | 229 (81.49)            | 0.322   |
| STEMI, n (%)                      | 19 (63.33)    | 175 (62.78)            | 0.925   |
| HT, n (%)                         | 18 (60)       | 156 (55.52)            | 0.761   |
| DM, n (%)                         | 9 (30)        | 95 (33.81)             | 0.546   |
| History of MI, n (%)              | 8 (26.67)     | 50 (17.79)             | 0.179   |
| History of PCI, n (%)             | 5 (16.67)     | 39 (13.88)             | 0.159   |
| History of CABG, n (%)            | 2 (6.67)      | 7 (2.49)               | 0.192   |
| History of CHF, n (%)             | 2 (6.67)      | 29 (10.32)             | 0.564   |
| History of stroke, n (%)          | 6 (20)        | 38 (13.52)             | 0.218   |
| Current smoker, n (%)             | 16 (53.33)    | 166 (59.07)            | 0.45    |
| BMI, kg/m²                        | 24.33 ± 2.39  | 26.19 ± 3.07           | 0.061   |
| SBP, mmHg                         | 122.37 ± 22.82| 126.49 ± 19.83         | 0.172   |
| DBP, mmHg                         | 66.37 ± 12.41 | 65.49 ± 13.29          | 0.223   |
| HR at admission, bpm              | 74 ± 13.6     | 78.56 ± 12.49          | 0.074   |
| IRA                               |               |                        |         |
| RCA, n (%)                        | 8 (26.67)     | 92 (32.74)             | 0.304   |
| LAD, n (%)                        | 13 (43.33)    | 123 (43.77)            | 0.932   |
| LCX, n (%)                        | 7 (23.33)     | 57 (20.28)             | 0.21    |
| Killip class                      |               |                        |         |
| I, n (%)                          | 7 (23.33)     | 118 (41.99)            | 0.003   |
| II, n (%)                         | 13 (43.33)    | 132 (46.98)            | 0.317   |
| III, n (%)                        | 8 (26.67)     | 22 (7.83)              | 0.001   |
| IV, n (%)                         | 2 (6.67)      | 9 (3.2)                | 0.135   |
| WBC, 10^9/L                       | 9.88 ± 2.83   | 10.34 ± 3.42           | 0.543   |
| Hb, g/L                           | 135.78 ± 20.36| 139.74 ± 19.18         | 0.263   |
| PLT, 10^9/L                       | 210.2 ± 58.74 | 223.17 ± 65.39         | 0.053   |
| HbA1c, %                          | 6.1 (5.85–7.4)| 6.3 (5.6–7.2)          | 0.684   |
| ESR, mm/h                         | 11.3 (5.55–24.78)| 8.1 (4.08–15.1)       | 0.084   |
| Hs-CRP, mg/L                      | 28.03 (2.64–91.38)| 5.2 (2.21–19.04)     | 0.003   |
| D-dimer, mg/L FEU                 | 0.35 (0.22–0.89)| 0.29 (0.2–0.61)        | 0.144   |
| CK-MB, ng/ml                      | 18.54 (9.6–100.44)| 35.29 (6.2–133.41)     | 0.677   |
| Ctnl, ng/ml                       | 17.22 (7.11–106.3)| 30.01 (6.32–109.71)   | 0.747   |
| TC, mmol/L                        | 4.3 ± 1.02    | 4.49 ± 1.11            | 0.169   |
| TG, mmol/L                        | 1.37 (0.92–1.77)| 1.41 (1.01–2.1)        | 0.171   |
| LDL-C, mmol/L                     | 2.67 ± 1.18   | 3.03 ± 1.16            | 0.079   |
| HDL-C, mmol/L                     | 0.97 ± 0.24   | 0.96 ± 0.25            | 0.994   |
| LP(a), mg/dl                      | 16.4 (8.51–23.6)| 14.04 (8.43–29.82)     | 0.961   |
| BNP, pg/ml                        | 384 (184–866.41)| 151.3 (72.56–278.53)  | <0.001  |
| SCR, µmol/L                       | 68.1 (56.1–95.47)| 67.42 (58.77–81.39)   | 0.948   |
| eGFR, ml/min/1.73 m²              | 99.37 ± 32.51 | 107.24 ± 30.57         | 0.125   |
| SUA, umol/L                       | 397.81 ± 141.27| 384.19 ± 103.99        | 0.211   |
| LVEF, %                           | 53.6 (40.72–63.19)| 61.4 (48.79–66.3)      | 0.023   |
| LVEF, mm                          | 34 (30.1–38.1) | 32 (28–39)             | 0.109   |
| LVEDd, mm                         | 48.4 (44.91–54.2)| 48 (44–52)             | 0.362   |
| LAD, mm                           | 38.1 (34.7–42.59)| 35.2 (33.2–38.4)      | 0.031   |
| Medications                       |               |                        |         |
| ACEI/ARB, n (%)                   | 5 (16.67)     | 107 (38.08)            | 0.046   |
| Beta blocker, n (%)               | 14 (46.67)    | 186 (66.19)            | 0.069   |
associated with NOAF, irrespective of gender and race [6]. We observed a similar results in our study as well. However, after multivariate logistic regression analyses, only one admission blood biomarker, hs-CRP, was independent risk factor of NOAF in elderly AMI population.

The mechanisms for the association between increased hs-CRP and NOAF is not entirely clear. Previous studies suggest that inflammation is involved in the development and persistence of AF [9, 24]. Hs-CRP is a simple biomarker for the magnitude of inflammation and higher hs-CRP level observed in NOAF group may suggest a potential link between the more severe systemic inflammation caused by myocardial necrosis and the development of NOAF after AMI [25]. Moreover, CRP can bind to the phosphocholine groups exposed in the membrane of necrotic cardiomyocyte, causing the activation of complement and thus leading to more intense CRP deposition and local inflammation, which may facilitate the genesis and development of post-AMI NOAF [26]. In our study, when elderly AMI patients present with

**Table 1** (continued)

| Variables                        | NOAF (n = 30) | Without NOAF (n = 281) | P value |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------|
| Statin, n (%)                    | 28 (93.33)   | 272 (96.78)            | 0.367   |
| IABP, n (%)                      | 5 (16.67)    | 28 (9.96)              | 0.055   |
| CHA2DS2 score                    | 2 (1–3)      | 1 (1–2)                | 0.019   |
| CHA2DS2-VASc score               | 4 (3–5)      | 3 (2–4)                | 0.001   |
| ln-hospital mortality, n (%)     | 3 (10)       | 3 (1.06)               | <0.001  |

Data are number (%), mean (SD), or median (IQR)

NOAF, new-onset atrial fibrillation; STEMI, ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; HT, hypertension; DM, diabetes mellitus; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG, coronary artery bypass grafting; CHF, chronic heart failure; BMI, body mass index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; HR, heart rate; IRA, infarct related artery; RCA, right coronary artery; LAD, left anterior descending artery; LCX, left circumflex coronary artery; WBC, white blood cell; Hb, haemoglobin; PLT, platelet; HbAlc, glycosylated hemoglobin; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; Hs-CRP, high sensitive c-reactive protein; HCY, homocysteine; CK-MB, creatine kinase MB; CtnI, cardiac troponin I; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LP(a), Lipoprotein (a); BNP, B-type natriuretic peptide; SCR, serum creatinine; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; SUA, serum uric acid; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LVESd, left ventricular end-systolic diameter; LVEDd, left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; LAD, left atrium diameter; ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; IABP, intra-aortic ballon pump

**Fig. 1** Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis for the CHADS2 score in predicting post-AMI NOAF. The area under the curve was 0.624 (95% CI 0.516–0.733, P = 0.026)

**Fig. 2** Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis for the CHA2DS2-VASc score in predicting post-AMI NOAF. The area under the curve was 0.687 (95% CI 0.564–0.721, P = 0.001)
hs-CRP > 21.25 mg/L at admission, they are more likely to develop NOAF during hospitalization.

The CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score are used for thromboembolic risk stratification and have been recommended by modern guideline in the management of patients with NVAF [27]. However, the discriminative

| Table 2 Multiple logistic regression analyses for independent risk factors of NOAF |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Estimated β | OR (95% CI) | P value |
| Model 1    |              |                |
| Age, years | 0.12         | 1.127 (1.063–1.196) | P < 0.001 |
| Hs-CRP, mg/L | 0.034      | 1.034 (1.018–1.05)   | P < 0.001 |
| BNP, pg/ml | 0.001        | 1 (0.999–1.001)      | 0.446 |
| Model 2    |              |                |
| Age, years | 0.118        | 1.125 (1.036–1.221)  | 0.005 |
| Hs-CRP, mg/L | 0.026      | 1.026 (1.01–1.048)   | 0.013 |
| LAD, mm    | 0.055        | 1.057 (0.921–1.213)  | 0.43 |
| LVEF, %    | −0.018       | 0.983 (0.932–1.036)  | 0.516 |
| Model 3    |              |                |
| Hs-CRP, mg/L | 0.028      | 1.028 (1.016–1.04)   | P < 0.001 |
| CHADS2 score | 0.338      | 1.403 (1.025–1.92)   | 0.035 |
| Model 4    |              |                |
| Hs-CRP, mg/L | 0.028      | 1.028 (1.015–1.041)  | P < 0.001 |
| CHA2DS2-VASc score | 0.432   | 1.529 (1.173–1.994) | 0.002 |

Variables included in model 1 are age, hs-CRP and BNP. Variables included in model 2 are age, hs-CRP, LAD and LVEF. Variables included in model 3 are hs-CRP and the CHADS2 score. Variables included in model 4 are hs-CRP and the CHA2DS2-VASc score.

NOAF, new-onset atrial fibrillation; Hs-CRP, high sensitive c-reactive protein; BNP, B-type natriuretic peptide; ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; LAD, left atrium diameter; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction;
value of these two score models in predicting post-AMI NOAF was unsatisfactory [9, 10]. In the study by Lau et al., when applying the CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score for the prediction of post-AMI NOAF, the discriminate power was relatively poor as evidenced by a AUC of 0.632 and 0.676, respectively [10]. In our study, the CHADS2 and the CHA2DS2-VASc score were significantly higher in NOAF group, and we observed a similar discriminate power evidenced by AUC (0.624 and 0.687, respectively). These evidences also illustrating the need for a scoring model that is more accurate than the CHA2DS2-VASc score in predicting post-AMI NOAF.

For this purpose, we combined the CHA2DS2-VASc score with hs-CRP. The AUC of the combined model was statistically greater than that of the CHA2DS2-VASc score (0.791 vs. 0.687, \( P = 0.008 \)) after Z test, suggesting the diagnostic performance of this new model to predict NOAF in elderly AMI patients was relatively high and significantly better than the CHA2DS2-VASc score alone. With the use of this new combined model, it will be convenient to identify elderly patients with AMI who are at higher risk to develop NOAF, and help clinicians in making therapeutic strategies to improve prognosis. For instance, previous studies had proved the protective value of statins use against AF in ACS patients, thus aggressive statin therapy might be beneficial [28]. Moreover, AF patients benefit from anticoagulant therapy, early identification of patients with higher risk of NOAF and early diagnosis of NOAF has clinical importance for a timely initiation and adjustment of anticoagulant therapy [27]. However, these beneficial effects should be verified in future randomized controlled trials.

Limitations
As a single-center retrospective study, the sample size was relatively small, which could limit the number of risk factor identified. The potential cause-effect relationship could not be determined as well. Thus, the present findings should be warranted in future large multicenter trials.

Conclusions
Older age and high hs-CRP at admission were independent predictors of NOAF in elderly Chinese patients presenting with AMI. The discriminate power of the CHA2DS2-VASc score in predicting post-AMI NOAF was acceptable, and could be enhanced significantly when combing with hs-CRP.

Abbreviations
NOAF: New-onset atrial fibrillation; AMI: Acute myocardial infarction; AF: Atrial fibrillation; BNP: B-type natriuretic peptide; LAD: Left atrium diameter; LVEF: Left ventricular ejection fraction; ACEI: Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB: Angiotensin receptor blocker; Hs-CRP: High sensitive c-reactive protein; CRP: C-reactive protein; NVAF: Non-valvular atrial fibrillation; STEMI: ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; NSTEMI: Non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; CAD: Coronary artery disease; Ctnl: Cardiac troponin-I; LBBB: Left bundle branch block; ECG: Electrocardiogram; eGFR: Estimated glomerular filtration rate; MDRD: Modification of Diet in Renal Disease; LVESd: Left ventricular end-systolic diameter; LVEDd: Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; CAG: Coronary angiography; IRA: Infarct related artery; CHF: Congestive heart failure; DM: Diabetes mellitus; TIA: Transient ischemic attack; SD: Standard deviation; ROC: Receiver operating characteristic; AUC: Area under the curve.

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Authors’ contributions
Dr. YF and YXP participated in the design, conducted data analysis and drafted the manuscript. Dr. YCY and MLC aided interpretation of data, commented on this study design and provided critical review. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials
The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due to the restrictions by the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital, but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate
This study was approved by the institutional review board of Beijing Chaoyang Hospital and performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments. Written informed consent forms were obtained from all participants and their legal relatives.

Consent for publication
Not applicable.

Competing interests
This manuscript is the authors’ original work and has not been published elsewhere. All authors declare no conflict of interest.

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