



# Risk factors for poor prognosis in nosocomial infective endocarditis

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**Background/Aims:** The aim of our study was to compare the characteristics of nosocomial infective endocarditis (NIE) with community-acquired infective endocarditis (CIE) and to determine independent risk factors for in-hospital death.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 560 patients diagnosed with infective endocarditis. NIE was defined by a diagnosis made > 72 hours after hospital admission or within 2 months of hospital discharge.

**Results:** Among the 560 cases reviewed, 121 were classified as NIE. Compared with patients with CIE, patients with NIE were older (mean  $\pm$  SD, 51.30 $\pm$ 18.01 vs. 59.76 $\pm$ 14.87,  $p < 0.001$ ). The in-hospital death rate of the NIE group was much higher than that of the CIE group (27.3% vs. 5.9%,  $p < 0.001$ ). More patients with NIE had central intravenous catheters, and were undergoing hemodialysis ( $p < 0.001$ ). Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was the most common causal microorganism of NIE, and MRSA ( $p < 0.001$ ) and fungus ( $p = 0.002$ ) were more common in NIE compared with CIE. On multiple analysis, age, liver cirrhosis, cancer chemotherapy, central intravenous catheter, hemodialysis, and genitourinary tract manipulation were independent clinical risk factors for NIE. Among the patients with NIE, 33 died during their hospital admission. The independent risk factors for in-hospital death were older age (adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.04; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.01 to 1.07;  $p = 0.037$ ) and chemotherapy for malignancy (adjusted OR, 3.89; 95% CI, 1.18 to 12.87;  $p = 0.026$ ).

**Conclusions:** Because of the considerable incidence of NIE and its poor prognosis, we should pay attention to early diagnosis and active management of NIE, especially for older patients and patients receiving chemotherapy.

**Keywords:** Nosocomial infective endocarditis; Clinical risk factors; Risk factors for in-hospital death

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past 20 years, the etiology, epidemiology, and outcomes of infective endocarditis (IE) have changed [1-3]. In particular, the population at risk for IE is no longer young people with known rheumatic valvulopathy, but rather now includes elderly people with degener-

ative valve disease [4]. In addition, invasive therapeutic interventions such as placement of central intravenous catheters, intracardiac devices, and hemodialysis have increased the risk of nosocomial infections including bacteremia and endocarditis in this population [5-8]. Nosocomial infective endocarditis (NIE) is a serious complication of nosocomial bacteremia and results in

prolonged hospitalization and high mortality rates [5,7]. NIE has various clinical manifestations that depend on the patient's underlying disease, the causal microorganism, and the presence of complications [9]. As a result, appropriate diagnosis and management of patients with NIE, as well as estimation of prognosis, are very important.

To our knowledge, however, few reports have evaluated the clinical characteristics of NIE in Asia. Therefore, the aim of our study was to describe the clinical characteristics of and risk factors for NIE compared with community-acquired infective endocarditis (CIE) and to determine the associated risk factors for short-term clinical outcomes such as in-hospital mortality.

## METHODS

### Patient population and data collection

All consecutive adult patients ( $\geq 15$  years of age) who were diagnosed with IE between January 2000 and July 2014 at Samsung Medical Center (Seoul, Korea), a tertiary university hospital, were screened for inclusion in this study. We retrospectively reviewed medical records from each of these patients including blood culture results and echocardiographic data. The diagnosis of IE was confirmed by modified Duke criteria (2000) and medical records [10]. A total of 560 patients met the modified Duke criteria for definite or possible IE. From their electronic medical records, additional information was collected including demographic characteristics, underlying medical disease, recent history of predisposing manipulations, microbiological and echocardiographic features, short-term outcomes, surgical treatment, and complications. This study was approved by Institutional Review Board of Samsung Medical Center, and the requirement of informed consent was waived.

### Echocardiographic findings

All patients analyzed in this study underwent transthoracic echocardiography (TTE). Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) was also performed in most of the patients. We investigated the vegetation site, vegetation size, presence of valve disease, and complications such as abscess or tissue perforation. The vegetation size was measured in various planes according to maximal

length and width. The severity of valvular regurgitation was estimated by Doppler examination with semiquantitative standard criteria, and the presence of a perivalvular abscess was identified as an abnormal localized echogenic mass without internal blood flow.

### Microbiological etiology

The microbiological information was obtained from blood cultures, intraoperative heart tissue sample cultures and serological studies. Blood samples for culture were drawn under sterile conditions according to the hospital's standard guideline. The microorganism isolated from blood cultures was considered to be the cause of IE in all patients with clinical manifestations of IE. Culture-negative IE was diagnosed when the patients with clinical manifestations of IE showed negative blood and/or intraoperative cultures.

### Surgery

All information was collected by the attending physicians who established the indication for cardiac surgery according to guideline [3].

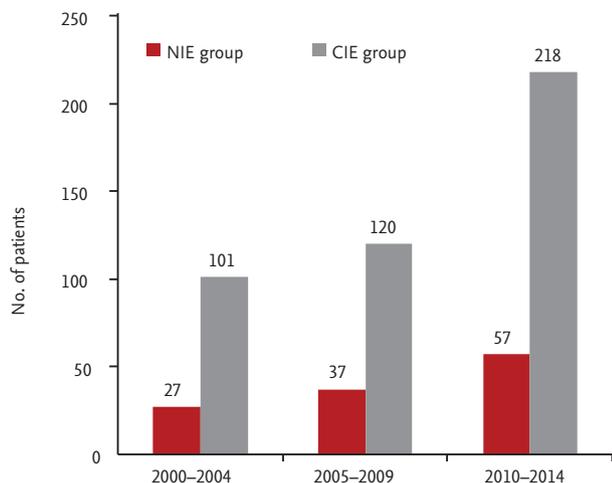
### Definitions

IE was classified as NIE if the diagnosis was made  $> 72$  hours after hospital admission and there was no evidence of infection at the time of admission. Additionally, NIE was diagnosed if IE occurred within 60 days after hospital discharge when a high risk procedure for bacteremia was performed or when any predisposing factor for IE was present during hospitalization [11-15]. The underlying cardiac condition was classified according to the presence of a native valve, congenital heart disease, or a prosthetic valve.

Large vegetations were defined as those equal to or larger than 2 cm in maximal length [11]. Systemic and pulmonary embolic events as well as mycotic aneurysmal events confirmed on imaging studies such as computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, or echocardiography were recorded. The short-term outcome studied was in-hospital death, which was defined as death from any cause during hospitalization [11].

### Statistical analysis

Quantitative variables are reported as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD). On univariate analysis, Student *t* tests



**Figure 1.** Number of patients with nosocomial infective endocarditis (NIE) and community-acquired infective endocarditis (CIE) from 2000 to 2014 in 5-year intervals.

were used for continuous variables and chi-square tests were used for categorical variables in comparing the distribution of NIE with CIE. *p* values less than 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant. Clinical risk factors associated with NIE were determined on multiple analysis. Clinical variables affecting in-hospital death that were determined on univariate analysis ( $p < 0.05$ ) were analyzed by logistic regression in patients with NIE. All analyses were performed using SPSS version 20.0 (IBM Co., Armonk, NY, USA).

## RESULTS

A total of 560 cases of IE were diagnosed between 2000 and 2014. Among them, 121 cases were diagnosed as NIE and 439 as CIE. In assessing cases in 5-year periods over 15 years, we observed an increasing trend in the absolute number of patients with NIE; the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd period contained 27, 37, and 57 cases, respectively (Fig. 1). Likewise, there was a pattern of increase in the number of patients with CIE; the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd period contained 101, 120, and 218 cases, respectively (Fig. 1).

### Patients and clinical characteristics

The clinical characteristics of NIE compared with CIE are summarized in Table 1. NIE patients were older than the CIE patients (mean  $\pm$  SD, 59.76  $\pm$  14.87 years vs.

51.30  $\pm$  18.01 years,  $p < 0.001$ ). With respect to underlying medical diseases, the incidence of liver cirrhosis (LC) ( $p = 0.002$ ), diabetes mellitus (DM) ( $p = 0.045$ ), malignancy (solid and hematologic) ( $p < 0.001$ ), chemotherapy for malignancy ( $p < 0.001$ ), and chronic kidney disease (CKD) ( $p < 0.001$ ) were higher in NIE patients. IE occurring on native valves was more common in the NIE group (84.3% vs. 74.9%,  $p = 0.038$ ), while IE occurring in patients with congenital heart disease was more frequent in the CIE group (4.1% vs. 21.6%,  $p < 0.001$ ). The presence of a central intravenous catheter (33.1% vs. 2.1%,  $p < 0.001$ ) and hemodialysis (15.7% vs. 3.4%,  $p < 0.001$ ) were more common in the NIE group. Predisposing procedures related with the occurrence of IE were present in 15 of 121 NIE cases (12.4%), and in 52 of 439 CIE cases (11.8%) (Table 1). A history of acupuncture or articular injection ( $p = 0.031$ ) and dental manipulation ( $p = 0.002$ ) were more common in the CIE group (Table 1), whereas more specific procedures were more common in NIE patients; four patients in the NIE group had a history of endoscopic esophageal variceal ligation, compared with one patient in the CIE group ( $p = 0.009$ ). Genitourinary tract manipulation was performed in four patients with NIE and two patients with CIE ( $p = 0.022$ ).

On multiple analysis, age, LC, chemotherapy, presence of a central intravenous catheter, hemodialysis, and genitourinary tract manipulation as predisposing procedure were independently associated with NIE as clinical risk factors (Table 2).

### Echocardiographic findings

Echocardiographic findings for both groups are also shown in Table 1. The mitral valve was the most common vegetation site in both groups, and its incidence was higher in the CIE group ( $p = 0.023$ ). Vegetation involvement of the right atrium was more common in the NIE group ( $p = 0.006$ ). Both TTE and TEE were performed in 417 patients. The vegetations were found in the 387 patients. Among them, 103 patients were found to have vegetations in TEE only. Among 103 patients, 75 patients (72.8%) did not have the significant valvular regurgitant lesion, 88 patients (85.4%) had single site involvement of vegetation, and 83 patients (80.6%) had small size of vegetation such as  $< 1$  cm. In addition, 38 patients (36.9%) were belonged to prosthetic valve or repaired valve endocarditis.

**Table 1. Baseline clinical characteristics and clinical outcomes of NIE compared with CIE**

Characteristic	CIE (n = 439)	NIE (n = 121)	p value
Age, yr	51.30 ± 18.01	59.76 ± 14.87	< 0.001
Male sex	281 (64.0)	64 (52.9)	0.027
Definite infective endocarditis	312 (71.1)	94 (77.7)	0.170
<b>Underlying medical disease</b>			
Liver cirrhosis	14 (3.2)	13 (10.7)	0.002
Alcoholism	8 (1.8)	4 (3.3)	0.300
Diabetes mellitus	32 (7.3)	16 (13.2)	0.045
Chemotherapy	16 (3.6)	35 (28.9)	< 0.001
Malignancy	32 (7.3)	52 (43.0)	< 0.001
Chronic kidney disease	22 (5.0)	20 (16.5)	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	15 (3.4)	19 (15.7)	< 0.001
Solid organ transplantation	1 (0.2)	1 (0.8)	0.390
Coronary artery disease	13 (3.0)	7 (5.8)	0.160
Rheumatologic disease	4 (0.9)	2 (1.7)	0.620
Cerebrovascular accident	13 (3.0)	2 (1.7)	0.750
Cardiomyopathy	5 (1.1)	1 (0.8)	1.000
Recurrent infection (biliary, urinary)	4 (0.9)	1 (0.8)	1.000
Other site abscess	11 (2.5)	4 (3.3)	0.540
COPD & ILD	5 (1.1)	2 (1.7)	0.650
Tuberculosis	15 (3.4)	3 (2.5)	0.780
Vascular disease (vasculitis)	3 (0.7)	1 (0.8)	1.000
<b>Underlying cardiac condition</b>			
Congenital heart disease	95 (21.6)	5 (4.1)	< 0.001
Prosthetic valve	84 (19.1)	17 (14.0)	0.230
Native valve	329 (74.9)	102 (84.3)	0.038
Central intravenous catheter	9 (2.1)	40 (33.1)	< 0.001
Past history of infective endocarditis	31 (7.1)	3 (3.3)	0.200
<b>Predisposing manipulation</b>			
Acupuncture or articular injection	17 (3.9)	0	0.031
Dental manipulation	26 (5.9)	0	0.002
Endoscopy with procedure	1 (0.2)	4 (3.3)	0.009
TACE or liver biopsy	2 (0.5)	2 (1.7)	0.210
Genitourinary tract manipulation	2 (0.5)	4 (3.3)	0.022
Orthopedic prosthesis	1 (0.2)	2 (1.7)	0.120
Perivertebral area procedure	2 (0.5)	2 (1.7)	0.210
Intracardiac device (PPM, ICD)	1 (0.2)	1 (0.8)	0.390
<b>Echocardiographic finding</b>			
Transesophageal echocardiogram	342 (77.9)	75 (62.0)	< 0.001
<b>Vegetation</b>			
Mitral valve	258 (58.8)	57 (47.1)	0.023

Table 1. Continued

Characteristic	CIE (n = 439)	NIE (n = 121)	p value
Aortic valve	163 (37.1)	48 (39.7)	0.670
Tricuspid valve	30 (6.8)	12 (9.9)	0.250
Pulmonary valve	17 (3.9)	1 (0.8)	0.140
Right ventricle	15 (3.4)	1 (0.8)	0.210
Right atrium	7 (1.6)	8 (6.6)	0.006
Other site	22 (5.0)	6 (5.0)	1.000
Significant valvular regurgitation	214 (48.7)	40 (33.1)	0.003
Large vegetation (> 2 cm)	34 (7.7)	10 (8.3)	0.750
Perivalvular abscess	60 (13.7)	15 (12.4)	0.770
Perforation	36 (8.2)	7 (5.8)	0.450
Causative organism			
Viridans group streptococci	128 (29.2)	8 (6.6)	< 0.001
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>			
Methicillin-sensitive	63 (14.4)	19 (15.7)	0.770
Methicillin-resistant	22 (5.0)	28 (23.1)	< 0.001
<i>Enterococcus</i>	31 (7.1)	15 (12.4)	0.060
Coagulase-negative <i>Staphylococcus</i>	19 (4.3)	11 (9.1)	0.060
HACEK	7 (1.6)	0	0.360
Fungus	2 (0.5)	6 (5.0)	0.002
Other bacteria	55 (12.5)	20 (16.5)	0.290
Culture negative infective endocarditis	129 (29.4)	16 (13.2)	< 0.001
Clinical outcomes			
In-hospital death	26 (5.9)	33 (27.3)	< 0.001
Cardiac surgery	298 (67.9)	46 (38.0)	< 0.001
On indication of cardiac surgery (but not done)	41 (9.3)	29 (24.0)	< 0.001
Embolic event	157 (35.8)	48 (39.7)	0.460
Brain	118 (26.9)	34 (28.1)	0.820
Kidney	14 (3.2)	5 (4.1)	0.580
Spleen	21 (4.8)	6 (5.0)	1.000
Lung	18 (4.1)	7 (5.8)	0.460
Extremities	14 (3.2)	6 (5.0)	0.410
Liver	2 (0.5)	1 (0.8)	0.520
Eye (retina)	6 (1.4)	2 (1.7)	0.690
Mycotic aneurysm	20 (4.5)	5 (4.1)	1.000
Duration of hospitalization, day	35.80 ± 21.70	47.33 ± 37.59	< 0.001

Values are presented as mean ± SD or number (%).

NIE, nosocomial infective endocarditis; CIE, community-acquired infective endocarditis; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; ILD, interstitial lung disease; TACE, transcatheter arterial chemoembolization; PPM, permanent pacemaker; ICD, implantable cardioverter defibrillator; HACEK, *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Haemophilus aphrophilus*, *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Cardiobacterium hominis*, *Eikenella corrodens*, and *Kingella kingae*.

**Table 2. Univariate and multiple analysis of clinical factors associated with nosocomial infective endocarditis**

Variable	Crude		Adjusted	
	OR (95% CI)	p value	OR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	p value
Age	1.03 (1.02–1.04)	< 0.001	1.02 (1.001–1.04)	0.006
Male sex	1.58 (1.06–2.38)	0.027	1.43 (0.86–2.38)	0.170
Liver cirrhosis	3.65 (1.67–8.00)	0.001	4.57 (1.86–11.21)	0.001
Diabetes mellitus	1.94 (1.03–3.67)	0.042	1.47 (0.67–3.25)	0.340
Chemotherapy	10.76 (5.70–20.31)	< 0.001	5.03 (2.29–11.06)	< 0.001
Central intravenous catheter	23.59 (11.0–50.50)	< 0.001	10.18 (4.21–24.62)	< 0.001
Hemodialysis	5.27 (2.59–10.72)	< 0.001	2.58 (1.02–6.53)	0.046
Endoscopy with procedure	14.97 (1.66–135.25)	0.016	10.53 (0.98–13.54)	0.052
Genitourinary tract manipulation	7.47 (1.35–41.59)	0.021	11.22 (1.84–68.36)	0.009

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup>Estimated by multiple linear regression analysis of the variables indicated in the table.**Table 3. Clinical characteristics in dead patients compared with survived patient for the group of NIE and CIE by univariate analysis**

Characteristic	NIE			CIE		
	Survived (n = 88)	Died (n = 33)	p value	Survived (n = 413)	Died (n = 26)	p value
Age, yr	58.08 ± 15.72	64.24 ± 11.36	0.020	50.34 ± 17.62	66.54 ± 17.65	< 0.001
Male sex	52 (59.1)	12 (36.4)	0.040	264 (63.9)	17 (65.4)	1.000
Underlying medical disease						
Liver cirrhosis	9 (10.2)	4 (12.1)	0.750	12 (2.9)	2 (7.7)	0.200
Alcoholism	4 (4.5)	0	0.570	8 (1.9)	0	1.000
Diabetes mellitus	14 (15.9)	2 (6.1)	0.230	31 (7.5)	1 (3.8)	0.710
Chemotherapy	20 (22.7)	15 (45.5)	0.023	15 (3.6)	1 (3.8)	1.000
Malignancy	32 (36.4)	20 (60.6)	0.023	28 (6.8)	4 (15.4)	0.110
Chronic kidney disease	18 (20.5)	2 (6.1)	0.100	19 (4.6)	3 (11.5)	0.130
Hemodialysis	17 (19.3)	2 (6.1)	0.100	13 (3.1)	2 (7.7)	0.220
Solid organ transplantation	0	1 (3.0)	0.270	1 (0.2)	0	1.000
Coronary artery disease	6 (6.8)	1 (3.0)	0.670	12 (2.9)	1 (3.8)	0.550
Rheumatologic disease	1 (1.1)	1 (3.0)	1.000	4 (1.0)	0	1.000
Cerebrovascular accident	1 (1.1)	1 (3.0)	1.000	13 (3.1)	0	1.000
Cardiomyopathy	1 (1.1)	0	1.000	4 (1.0)	1 (3.8)	0.260
Recurrent infection (biliary, urinary)	1 (1.1)	0	1.000	3 (0.7)	1 (3.8)	0.220
Other site abscess	4 (4.5)	0	0.570	9 (2.2)	2 (7.7)	0.130
COPD & ILD	0	2 (6.1)	0.070	5 (1.2)	0	1.000
Tuberculosis	3 (3.4)	0	0.560	15 (3.6)	0	1.000
Vascular disease (vasculitis)	1 (1.1)	0	1.000	3 (0.7)	0	1.000
Underlying cardiac condition						
Congenital heart disease	4 (4.5)	1 (3.0)	1.000	95 (23.0)	0	0.002

Table 3. Continued

Characteristic	NIE			CIE		
	Survived (n = 88)	Died (n = 33)	p value	Survived (n = 413)	Died (n = 26)	p value
Prosthetic valve	12 (13.6)	5 (15.2)	0.780	76 (18.4)	8 (30.8)	0.130
Native valve	15 (17.0)	4 (12.1)	0.590	308 (74.6)	21 (80.8)	0.640
On indication of cardiac surgery (but not done)	16 (18.2)	13 (39.4)	0.030	24 (5.8)	17 (65.4)	< 0.001
Central intravenous catheter	28 (31.8)	12 (36.4)	0.670	8 (1.9)	1 (3.8)	0.430
Past history of infective endocarditis	1 (1.1)	3 (9.1)	0.060	29 (7.0)	2 (7.7)	0.700
Predisposing manipulation						
Acupuncture or articular injection	0	0	NA	17 (4.1)	0	0.610
Dental manipulation	0	0	NA	24 (5.8)	2 (7.7)	0.660
Endoscopy with procedure	4 (4.5)	0	0.570	1 (0.2)	0	1.000
TACE or liver biopsy	1 (1.1)	1 (3.0)	0.470	2 (0.5)	0	1.000
Genitourinary manipulation	3 (3.4)	1 (3.0)	1.000	2 (0.5)	0	1.000
Orthopedic prosthesis	2 (2.3)	0	1.000	1 (0.2)	0	1.000
Perivertebral area procedure	2 (2.3)	0	1.000	2 (0.5)	0	1.000
Intracardiac device (PPM, ICD)	1 (1.1)	0	1.000	1 (0.2)	0	1.000
Causative organism						
Viridans group streptococci	5 (5.7)	3 (9.1)	0.680	127 (30.8)	1 (3.8)	0.002
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>						
Methicillin-sensitive	19 (21.6)	0	0.002	59 (14.3)	4 (15.4)	0.780
Methicillin-resistant	17 (19.4)	11 (33.3)	0.150	17 (4.1)	5 (19.2)	0.006
Enterococcus	8 (9.1)	7 (21.2)	0.120	28 (6.8)	3 (11.5)	0.420
Coagulase-negative <i>Staphylococcus</i>	10 (11.4)	1 (3.0)	0.290	18 (4.4)	1 (3.8)	1.000
HACEK	0	0	NA	7 (1.7)	0	1.000
Fungus	2 (2.3)	4 (12.1)	0.046	1 (0.2)	1 (3.8)	0.120
Other bacteria	16 (18.2)	4 (12.1)	0.590	52 (12.6)	3 (11.5)	1.000
Culture negative	11 (12.8)	4 (12.1)	0.410	121 (29.3)	8 (30.8)	0.830

Values are presented as mean ± SD or number (%).

NIE, nosocomial infective endocarditis; CIE, community-acquired infective endocarditis; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; ILD, interstitial lung disease; NA, not assessed; TACE, transcatheter arterial chemoembolization; PPM, permanent pacemaker; ICD, implantable cardioverter defibrillator; HACEK, *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Haemophilus aphrophilus*, *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*, *Cardiobacterium hominis*, *Eikenella corrodens*, and *Kingella kingae*.

### Causative microorganisms of NIE

Blood culture data for the NIE and CIE groups are also presented in Table 1. Overall, blood culture positive IE was more frequently observed in the NIE group. Viridans group streptococci were the most frequent microorganisms involved in CIE (n = 128 cases, 29.2%), followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* (n = 85 cases, 19.4%). However, *S. aureus* was the most frequent pathogen in the NIE group (n = 47 cases, 38.3%), with methicillin-resistant *Staphylo-*

*coccus aureus* (MRSA) as the major pathogen. Fungus was also a common cause of NIE.

### Clinical outcomes

Clinical outcomes such as in-hospital death, frequency of cardiac surgery, and occurrence of an embolic event or mycotic aneurysm are shown in Table 1. The in-hospital death rate of the NIE group was much higher than that of the CIE group (27.3% vs. 5.9%, p < 0.001). Cardi-

**Table 4. Association between clinical characteristics and in-hospital death in patients with nosocomial infective endocarditis by multiple analysis**

Variable	Crude		Adjusted	
	OR (95% CI)	p value	OR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	p value
Age	1.03 (1.01–1.06)	0.045	1.04 (1.01–1.07)	0.037
Male sex	0.40 (0.17–0.90)	0.028	0.42 (0.17–1.08)	0.070
Liver cirrhosis	1.21 (0.35–4.24)	0.770	2.80 (0.64–12.34)	0.170
Chemotherapy	2.83 (1.21–6.61)	0.016	3.89 (1.18–12.87)	0.026
Hemodialysis	0.27 (0.06–1.24)	0.090	0.36 (0.07–1.91)	0.230
Central intravenous catheter	1.22 (0.53–2.83)	0.640	0.82 (0.26–2.63)	0.740
On indication of cardiac surgery (but not done)	2.93 (1.21–7.08)	0.017	2.18 (0.81–5.88)	0.120
Fungus	5.93 (1.03–34.09)	0.046	4.43 (0.61–31.94)	0.140

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup>Estimated by multiple linear regression analysis of the variables indicated in the table.

ac surgery was conducted for the treatment of IE significantly less often in cases of NIE than in cases of CIE (38.0% vs. 67.9%,  $p < 0.001$ ). Furthermore, the number of cases that had surgical indication for management, but had not undergone surgery, was higher in the NIE group than in the CIE group (24.0% vs. 9.3%,  $p < 0.001$ ). A total of 157 cases (35.8%) in the CIE group and 48 cases (39.7%) in the NIE group experienced embolic events during their hospitalization ( $p = 0.460$ ). The duration of hospitalization was longer in NIE group ( $47.33 \pm 37.59$  days vs.  $35.80 \pm 21.70$  days,  $p < 0.001$ ).

The association between clinical characteristics and in-hospital death in patients with NIE is depicted in Tables 3 and 4. On univariate analysis (Table 3), the factors associated with in-hospital death in patients with NIE were age, gender, cancer chemotherapy, surgical indication but not performed, and fungal pathogens. However, on multiple logistic regression (Table 4), only older age (adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.04; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.01 to 1.07;  $p = 0.037$ ) and chemotherapy treatment for malignancy (adjusted OR, 3.89; 95% CI, 1.18 to 12.87;  $p = 0.026$ ) remained as independent risk factors associated with in-hospital mortality.

In patients with CIE, the association between clinical characteristics and in-hospital death is depicted in Tables 3 and 5, as the same method of analysis was used for NIE. On univariate analysis (Table 3), the factors associated with in-hospital death in patients with CIE were age, indication of cardiac surgery but not performed,

and causative pathogens like as viridans group streptococci and MRSA. However, on multiple logistic regression (Table 5), it was concluded that older age (adjusted OR, 1.04; 95% CI, 1.01 to 1.07;  $p = 0.012$ ), indication of cardiac surgery but not done (adjusted OR, 29.83; 95% CI, 10.19 to 87.31;  $p < 0.001$ ), and MRSA (adjusted OR, 9.58; 95% CI, 2.27 to 40.45;  $p = 0.002$ ) as virulent pathogen were clinically significant variables in the analysis.

## DISCUSSION

In recent years, there have been major changes in the epidemiology of IE, including increased age of patients, presence of predisposing factors, and higher rates of NIE, which is related to more frequent use of intravascular devices and procedures [1,5,16]. NIE reported in other studies accounts for 10% to 30% of all IE cases, similar to what was seen in our study (21.6% of all patients) [2,9,11,17-19]. This finding could be explained by increases in the number of nosocomial blood stream infections, the number of patients admitted to intensive care units, the number of invasive vascular procedures performed, and in the higher incidence of degenerative valve disease in the aged population [11,15,18-24]. In addition, other reasons for the growing numbers of reported NIE cases include the greater diagnostic yield of TEE [25] and extension of incubation periods to culture a greater range of causal organisms [5].

**Table 5. Association between clinical characteristics and in-hospital death in patients with community-acquired infective endocarditis by multiple analysis**

Variable	Crude		Adjusted	
	Crude OR (95% CI)	p value	Adjusted OR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	p value
Age	1.06 (1.03–1.09)	< 0.001	1.04 (1.01–1.07)	0.012
Male sex	1.07 (0.46–2.45)	0.880	1.09 (0.38–3.16)	0.870
Liver cirrhosis	2.79 (0.59–13.15)	0.200	1.13 (0.17–7.30)	0.900
On indication of cardiac surgery (but not done)	30.62 (12.36–75.84)	< 0.001	29.83 (10.19–87.31)	< 0.001
Viridans group streptococci	0.09 (0.01–0.67)	0.019	0.14 (0.01–1.16)	0.070
MRSA	5.55 (1.87–16.49)	0.002	9.58 (2.27–40.45)	0.002

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

<sup>a</sup>Estimated by multiple linear regression analysis of the variables indicated in the table.

In this study, we found that the ratio of NIE cases remained stationary over three 5-year periods. However, the absolute number of patients with NIE has increased continuously. The growing problem of NIE as a large part of all IE cases calls for more careful monitoring of complications after procedures and more appropriate management of immunosuppressed patients, especially in light of recent increased frequencies of invasive procedures and or aggressive medical management.

The clinical features of NIE and its prognosis were evaluated in the current study. There was significant association of NIE with central intravenous catheter-related infections, hemodialysis, and underlying disease such as LC, DM, malignancy, chemotherapy for malignancy, and CKD. Among these factors, increased age, LC, malignancy, and presence of a central intravenous catheter were independently associated with NIE on multivariate analysis, suggesting an increased frequency of NIE in immunocompromised patients as above. Also, these underlying diseases could predispose the patient to the development of concomitant infections due to associated immunosuppression, more invasive procedures, and more frequent hospitalizations [9,19].

The procedural source of infection determined the causative organism in cases of NIE. When the source was an intravascular device or procedure, staphylococci were the most frequent etiologic agent [12,26,27]. In NIE patients of our study, the microbiological etiology was analyzed by predisposing procedures. With endoscopic procedures, two cases of viridans group streptococci, one case of methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*,

and one case of enterococcus were identified. Two cases of MRSA were found, one in transcatheter arterial chemoembolization, and other in liver biopsy. Two cases as MRSA in the procedure of orthopedic prosthesis, and one case of MRSA with intracardiac device was recognized. It showed staphylococcal infection was dominant in NIE. In the procedure of genitourinary tract manipulation, however, three cases of enterococcus among four patients were found. Furthermore, in our study, the greater frequency of a central intravenous catheter (33.1% vs. 2.1%,  $p < 0.001$ ) and hemodialysis (15.7% vs. 3.4%,  $p < 0.001$ ) in the NIE group could explain why the most common etiologic agent causing NIE was MRSA, which was found in 23.1% of patients of the NIE group.

Despite advances in medical and surgical treatment, mortality rates for IE have remained unchanged over the last 20 years, which can be explained by the remarkable epidemiologic shift that now includes elderly patients with multiple comorbidities [9]. Our study showed that patients with NIE were frailer than those with CIE, as indicated by their underlying health issues. In-hospital mortality was higher in the NIE group than in the CIE group. Older age was an independent clinical factor in both groups that determined in-hospital mortality. Among other associated risk factors for in-hospital mortality, chemotherapy treatment was the other independent clinical risk factor for the NIE group. In the CIE group, MRSA as the causative pathogen was an additional clinical risk factor that determined in-hospital mortality. These results suggest that the mortality of NIE is influenced mainly by patients' general health

conditions, whereas the virulence of the disease-causing pathogen is an additional important mortality factor of CIE.

The percentage of patients who were indicated for but did not undergo cardiac surgery was higher in the NIE group than the CIE group (Table 1). In another study [19], cardiac surgery that was indicated but not performed was an associated clinical risk factor in patients with NIE. However, it was not confirmed as an independent risk factor in the current study. This could be because other mortality related risk factors, such as older age and serious underlying disease, were the main causes for patients not to undergo cardiac surgery. This could also be explained by the small number of this subset of patients in the NIE group.

Our study has several limitations. It is subject to referral bias since it was conducted at a large tertiary care medical center and is retrospective in design. Although increase in the number of NIE patients was shown, there was no proportional increase of NIE patients. The authors do not have a correct answer to explain the phenomenon. There may be a proportional increase of invasive procedures in response to increase of high risk patients for IE. However, it needs a multicenter prospective study to find out the answer.

Some of the underlying diseases may be associated with the in-hospital mortality in patients with NIE, but we could not confirm any independent associations of these underlying diseases with mortality. This might be because of the small number of patients with each underlying disease. However, the total 560 cases enrolled in our study between 2000 and 2014 were larger than those of other studies [18,21].

In conclusion, the incidence of NIE is not low, and the general in-hospital mortality of NIE is quite high. Therefore, it is important that clinicians, particularly those in tertiary care hospital centers where a great number of ambulatory procedures (e.g., hemodialysis and chemotherapy for malignancy) are performed, be aware of the risk of endocarditis in patients who have undergone invasive procedures that could potentially cause bacteremia. Prompt diagnosis by echocardiography and active management would be warranted if NIE is suspected.

## KEY MESSAGE

1. It is important that clinicians, particularly those in tertiary care hospital centers where a great number of ambulatory procedures are performed, be aware of the risk of endocarditis in patients who have undergone invasive procedures that could potentially cause bacteremia.
2. Prompt diagnosis by echocardiography and active management would be warranted if nosocomial infective endocarditis is suspected.

## Conflict of interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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