The Maltese Acute Myocardial Infarction (MAMI) Study

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Atherosclerosis results in myocardial infarction (MI) or stroke, which are the major causes of death in developed countries. Whilst lifestyle factors influencing risk for this disease are known, the genetic component, although shown to be present, has not been determined. The MAMI Study, a collaborative effort between the University of Malta and the Malta Department of Health, aims to study the etiology of MI. It has three research arms to it: inflammation, lipids and coagulation. A collection of data and samples from Maltese patients with a history of MI and controls is being set up, together with their families where appropriate. Samples for DNA, RNA, protein and biochemical analysis are being collected and banked as part of a project funded through National Research and Innovation Programme organised by the Malta Council for Science and Technology entitled ‘Inflammation, Atherosclerosis, and Myocardial Infarction (MI) in the Maltese Population’. A vast array of genetic and protein tests are being planned with a view to search for biomarkers and for determining causes of MI. Approaches include focusing on combined effects of molecules, combined effects of genetic and lifestyle factors, on the role of alternative transcripts and splicing mutations.