

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Eligibility criteria for patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS)

Inclusion criteria were: 1) aged 18–85 years; 2) confirmed ACS by investigation (the presence of ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction was determined by >30 min of continuous chest pain, a new ST-segment elevation ≥ 2 mm on at least two contiguous electrocardiographic leads, and creatine kinase-MB more than three times normal; the presence of non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction was diagnosed by chest pain and a positive cardiac biochemical marker without new ST-segment elevation; and the presence of unstable angina was determined by chest pain within the preceding 72 h with or without ST-T wave changes or positive cardiac biochemical markers); 3) ability to complete study questionnaires; and 4) ability to understand the study objectives and sign informed consent.

Exclusion criteria were: 1) occurrence of ACS while hospitalized for another reason; 2) ACS developing less than 3 months after a coronary artery bypass graft procedure; 3) uncontrolled hypertension (systolic blood pressure [BP] >180 mm Hg or diastolic BP >100 mm Hg); 4) resting heart rate <40/min; 5) severe physical illnesses threatening life or interfering with the recovery from ACS; and 6) persistent clinically significant laboratory abnormalities in complete blood cell counts, thyroid or renal function tests.