CGA/16/04 - Establishing the Incidence of Tako-tsubo Cardiomyopathy in Scotland

Acute stress-induced (Tako-tsubo) cardiomyopathy presents like a heart attack and is triggered by intense emotional or physical stress. Although heart arteries are unobstructed, the risk of death is similar to a heart attack. There is little understanding of this strong brain-heart interaction with harmful cardiac consequences and little knowledge about any predisposing factors. We plan to conduct a Scottish-wide study to determine if patients who presented with an acute episode of Tako-tsubo or their immediate relatives carry a genetic susceptibility to developing this condition. In order to plan this study it is essential to know how many cases we can identify in the past 5 years in Scotland, which is the aim of this pilot project.