



Cardiovascular

SY01-2

The Status of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging in South Korea – The present

Cherry Kim

Korea University Ansan Hospital, Korea

At the recent ASCI 2025 meeting held in Busan, the “Current Status of South Korea” session included a presentation of survey results on the current state of cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) in Korea. This nationwide survey targeted major medical institutions and covered a wide range of topics, including the number of CMR examinations performed, clinical indications, equipment and software environments, reading personnel, insurance coverage, examination duration, and the degree of protocol standardization. The findings provided an objective overview of CMR practice in Korea and highlighted variations across regions and institutions.

The survey revealed that while certain tertiary hospitals have integrated CMR as a key tool for the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases, many institutions still face limitations in examination volume, infrastructure, or workforce. Although CMR is frequently used for major indications such as myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, and ischemic heart disease, the adoption and utilization of advanced techniques—such as parametric mapping and stress perfusion MRI—remain in the early stages in many centers. Key barriers identified included limited insurance reimbursement, lack of standardized protocols, shortage of specialized readers, and scheduling delays.

This lecture will present the survey data and analysis, providing a balanced view of the strengths and limitations of CMR in Korea. The aim is not only to report the current situation but also to propose realistic and actionable strategies for advancing CMR practice in Korea.

Keywords: Cardiac MRI, South Korea, Current status