However, fewer than 50% of those eligible is receiving treatment to reduce the risk of experiencing another heart attack – secondary prevention – according to the World Health Organization, even though this is generally low cost.

Secondary Prevention in Myocardial Infarction

Myocardial infarction (MI), or heart attack, occurs when the blood supply to the heart is suddenly blocked. Lack of blood to the heart can cause damage to the heart muscle and may be life-threatening.  

MI is a serious health problem with an estimated 7 million MIs a year. Those who experience an MI are at significant risk of a subsequent cardiovascular (CV) event within 12 months of the attack, and a real-world study of 100,000+ MI survivors found that the risk of another MI was persistent, even if they had received treatment at the time of their initial MI.

In a review of the medical records of more than 4,000 people with a median age of 74, who had experienced a heart attack and who also had chronic health problems such as diabetes, kidney disease or heart failure, up to 1 in 6 people went on to experience another MI, stroke or death in the following 3 years.

REFERENCES:  