5.4: PULSE WAVE VELOCITY DISTRIBUTION IN A COHORT STUDY–FROM ARTERIAL STIFFNESS TO EARLY VASCULAR AGEING (EVA)

P. Cunha, J. Cotter, P. Oliveira, I. Vila, P. Boutouyrie, S. Laurent, P. Nilsson, A. Scuteri, N. Sousa

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hyperpolarising factor. EETs are synthesised from arachidonic acids by cytochrome P450 enzymes, and soluble epoxide hydrolase (SEH) inhibition may up-regulate EETs. EETs signaling may be implicated in cardiovascular risk groups. The effects of two agonists in stimulating EETs release were compared, and the best agonist was chosen to investigate this pathway in cardiovascular patient groups, and to confirm target engagement in a first in human clinical trial of a novel SEH inhibitor.

Methods: Healthy volunteers (12 male, 12 female) underwent 4 forearm venous occlusion plethysmography studies to compare the effects of intra-arterial bradykinin and acetylcysteine co-infused with saline, fluconazole (cytochrome P450 inhibitor), L-monomethylarganine (nitric oxide synthase inhibitor) plus aspirin (cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor) (LNMMA+ASA), or with all three inhibitors (Triple). Data were analysed by repeated measures analysis of variance. Mean±SEM are presented.

Results: Fluconazole had no effect on basal tone (p=0.25). Bradykinin and acetylcysteine both caused dose related vasodilatation (p=0.001 vs. p=0.001). Fluconazole inhibited bradykinin-induced flow, but not acetylcysteine (p=0.0001 vs. p=0.08). LNMMA+ASA inhibited bradykinin and acetylcysteine induced vasodilatation (p=0.0001 vs. p=0.0001). There was no additive effect with triple inhibition. At top agonist doses, fluconazole inhibited bradykinin-induced flow, but not acetylcysteine (p=0.18±0.08% vs. 3.36±0.07%; p=0.01). LNMMA+ASA inhibited bradykinin and acetylcysteine induced flow (r=35.74±17.57% vs. –32.78±10.60% p=0.74). There were no gender differences.

Conclusions: Basal tone is not dependent on EETS signaling. Bradykinin-induced flow is EETS dependent, therefore bradykinin was chosen to probe EETs in cardiovascular patient groups.

5.2 A NEW PRESSURE-WAVEFORM DERIVED VASCULAR STIFFNESS INDEX AND ITS COMPARISON TO PRESSURE-DEPENDENT ARTERIAL COMPLIANCE

T. S. Phan, J. Li
Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, USA

Background: Vascular stiffness increases with age and is accelerated by disease. The arterial system also becomes more amenable to a Windkessel model incorporating pressure-dependent compliance (C(P)), that requires pressure waveform only and can explicitly account for pressure-dependence to permit isobaric comparisons.

Methods: A modified Windkessel model incorporating pressure-dependent compliance C(P), that requires pressure waveform only and can explicitly account for pressure-dependence to permit isobaric comparisons.

Results: CPI evaluated at various pressures (range 49-177 mmHg) presented the same inverse exponential shape as C(P) values (range 0.194-1.31 mL/ mmHg) obtained using both aortic pressure and flow waveforms. There were no gender differences.

Conclusions: Basal tone is not dependent on EETS signaling. Bradykinin-induced flow is EETS dependent, therefore bradykinin was chosen to probe EETs in cardiovascular patient groups.

5.3 PLATELET AGGREGATION IS MODULATED BY ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IN END STAGE RENAL DISEASE

L. Tran a,b, T. Serrato a, P. Lacolley b, Y. Bezze c, S. Marchais a, V. Regnaut b, B. Pannier a
aManhés Hospital, Fleury-Merogis, France
bINSERM Unit 1116, Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France
cSaint Joseph Hospital, Paris, France

Cardiovascular diseases are the main cause of mortality in end stage renal disease (ESRD) and arterial stiffness is major determinant of mortality. Platelet aggregation contributes to thrombosis. We tested it in ESRD according to aortic pulse wave velocity (PWV, measure of aortic stiffness) and augmentation index (AI, index of central wave reflections).

Methods: 50 ESRD were explored with aortic PWV (Compilayre), and central blood pressure measurement (Sphygmocor®) plus plateau aggregation (Ag) at 3 and 6 minutes and surface under the curve at 4 minutes (5D Innovation®), with collagen 2 and 20 μg/mL, and ADP 5 and 10 μM, just before one hemodialysis. Analysis included ANOVA, ANCOVA adjusted on age, gender, SBP, diabetes, treatments (hypertension, lipids), and multiple robust regression (NCSS®).

Results: 24 patients received anti-platelet treatment: age =72±3 years, men/women=17/7, SBP/DBP=143±73/72 mmHg, PWV=12.1±0.7 m/s, AI%=41±2%, vs 26 patients without anti-platelet drugs: respectively 69±3 years, m/w=7/19, 141±57/52 mmHg, 11.3±0.4 m/s, 42±2 % (NS comparisons: NS).

Aggregation with the low concentration of ADP was positively correlated with PWV for the whole population as for both groups.

Conclusion: PWV and AI were associated with platelet aggregation characteristics in ESRD independently of anti-platelet drugs. Interface vascular wall-platelet, at the level of macrocirculation and microcirculation, may impact the cardiovascular risk of mortality in ESRD.

5.4 PULSE WAVE VELOCITY DISTRIBUTION IN A COHORT STUDY FROM ARTERIAL STIFFNESS TO EARLY VASCULAR AGEING (EVA)

P. Cunha a,b, J. Cotter a,b, P. Oliveira d, J. Vila a,b, P. Boutouryrie e, S. Laurent a, P. Nilsson f, A. Scuteri g, N. Sousa h
aCentro Hospitalar do Alto Ave / Minho University, Guimarães, Portugal
bUniversity of Minho, Braga, Portugal
cICVS/3B’s - PT Government Associate Laboratory, Braga/Guimarães, Portugal
dUniversidade do Porto, Oporto, Portugal
eUniversité Paris Descartes, Paris, France
fLund University, Skane University Hospital, Malmo, Sweden
gSan Raffaele Pisana IRCCS, Rome, Italy

By contrast with other southern European people, north Portuguese population registers an especially high prevalence of hypertension and stroke incidence. We designed a cohort study to identify subjects presenting accelerated and premature arterial ageing in the Portuguese population. Pulse Wave Velocity (PWV) was measured in randomly sampled population dwellers aged 18 - 96 years from northern Portugal, and used as a marker of early vascular aging (EVA). Of the 3038 subjects enrolled, 2542 completed the evaluation. Mean PWV value for the entire population was 8.4 m/s (men: 8.6 m/s; women: 8.2 m/s; p<0.02). Subjects were classified with EVA if their PWV was > 97.5th percentile of z-score for mean PWV values adjusted for age (using normal European Reference values as comparators). The overall prevalence of EVA was 12.5%; 26.1% of individuals below 30 years presented this feature, and 40.2% of subjects in that same age strata were placed above the 90th percentile of PWV. 18.7% of the population exhibited PWV values above 10 m/s, with male predominance (17.2% of men aged 40-49 years had PWV>10m/s). Logistic regression models indicated gender differences concerning the risk of developing large artery damage, with women having the same odds of PWV>10m/s 10 years later than men. Conclusions: population PWV values were higher than expected in a low CV risk area (Portugal). High prevalence rates of EVA and noteworthy large artery damage in young ages were found.

5.5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LARGE ARTERIES CHANGES, ANTIANGIOTIC DRUGS PHARMACOKINETICS AND CANCER RESPONSE

M. Alivon a,b, B. Blanchet c, M. Vidal c, F. Goldwasser c, S. Laurent a,b, P. Boutouryrie a,b
aInserm U970, Paris, France
bParis Descartes University, Paris, France
cCochin Hospital Pharmacology Department, Paris, France
dCochin Hospital Oncology Department, Paris, France

Introduction: Antiangiogenic drugs (AAD) are indicated in various solid tumors and induce hypertension. We previously reported a pressure-indepen- dence in large arteries stiffening under AAD. We hypothesized that large arteries stiffening could be related to the intensity of AAD exposure and that exposure to AAD is related to cancer progression.