P29: MECHANISMS OF VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR INHIBITION INDUCED HYPERTENSION


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removal) to aortic mean and diastolic BP. For MoG, central pressure was derived through standard systolic-diastolic calibration (MoGC1) as well as mean-diastolic calibration (MoGC2).

Results: Means±SD differences between device and intra-arterial BP are presented in the Table. There was moderate correlation between device and intra-arterial brachial systolic BP (R = 0.58 XCEL, R = 0.47 MoG, P < 0.01) and central systolic BP (R = 0.69 XCEL, R = 0.64 MoGC1, R = 0.43 MoGC2, P < 0.01). Intra-arterial central-to-brachial pulse amplification factor was 1.17 ± 0.16 (range 0.88 to 1.55), but there was no correlation between device and intra-arterial amplification (R = 0.07 XCEL, R = 0.07 MoGC1, R = 0.19 MoGC2, P > 0.18). Results in sub-groups ≥13 and <13 years were similar.

Conclusion: Both oscillometric devices overestimated brachial and central systolic/pulse BP, exceeding the validation criteria of 5 ± 8 mmHg, and there was no correlation between intra-arterial and device-derived central-to-brachial pulse amplification. Diastolic BP was acceptable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Systolic (mmHg)</th>
<th>Diastolic (mmHg)</th>
<th>Pulse (mmHg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XCEL</td>
<td>112.3 ± 8.9</td>
<td>71.3 ± 6.0</td>
<td>41.0 ± 5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoG</td>
<td>129.3 ± 11.7</td>
<td>74.7 ± 5.4</td>
<td>44.7 ± 5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central XCEL</td>
<td>8.8 ± 6.6</td>
<td>3.2 ± 6.6</td>
<td>5.0 ± 7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central MoGC1</td>
<td>7.7 ± 10.3</td>
<td>3.1 ± 6.1</td>
<td>10.6 ± 11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central MoGC2</td>
<td>22.3 ± 14.3</td>
<td>-3.2 ± 6.6</td>
<td>25.4 ± 15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**P25**

24-HOUR AORTIC AMBULATORY BLOOD PRESSURE IS BETTER ASSOCIATED WITH COMMON CAROTID ARTERY HYPERTROPHY THAN 24-HOUR BRAHIAL PRESSURE – THE SAFAR STUDY

Antonios Argyris 1, Evaggelia Aissopou 1, Efthymia Nasothymiou 1, Theodoros Papaioannou 2, Jacques Blacher 3, Michel Safar 3, Theodoros Papaioannou 2, Jacques Blacher 3, Michel Safar 3

1Cardiovascular Prevention and Research Unit, Pathophysiology Department, "Laiko" Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
2Biomedical Engineering Unit, 1st Department of Cardiology, "Hippokration" Hospital, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
3Paris Descartes University, AP-HP, Diagnosis and Therapeutic Center, Hôtel-Dieu, Paris, France
41st Department of Propaedeutic Medicine, "Laiko" Hospital, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Objective: Evidence suggests the superiority of office aortic pressure over brachial on the evaluation of vascular damage and prognosis of cardiovascular disease (CVD); 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) is regarded the optimal method for assessing blood pressure (BP) profile. The non-invasive 24-hour aortic ABPM is feasible and superior to 24-hour brachial regarding the association with left ventricular hypertrophy and diastolic dysfunction. The aim of our study was to examine the association of 24-hour aortic and brachial ABPM with common carotid artery (CCA) hypertrophy.

Methods: Consecutive subjects referred for CVD risk assessment underwent 24-hour aortic and brachial ABPM using a validated oscillometric brachial cuff-based devise (Mobil-O-Graph). CCA hypertrophy was assessed by high-resolution ultrasound (assessment of intima media thickness - IMT).

Results: 497 subjects (aged 54 ± 13 years, 57% men, 80% hypertensives) were examined. Using Hotelling's-Williams test it was shown that 24-hour aortic BP was significantly better correlated with IMT as compared with brachial BP (r = 0.254 vs. r = 0.202 for right IMT, r = 0.244 vs. r = 0.207 for left IMT, p < 0.05). Multivariate analysis (adjusted for possible confounders) revealed superiority of 24-hour aortic BP regarding the association with IMT as well as carotid hypertrophy. Last, in ROC analysis, aortic BP had a higher discriminatory ability compared to brachial for the detection of carotid hypertrophy (AUC: 0.707 vs. 0.656 for right carotid artery hypertrophy, AUC: 0.636 vs. 0.602 for left carotid artery hypertrophy, p < 0.05).

Conclusions: Non-invasively assessed 24-hour aortic pressure is more strongly associated with CCA IMT and provides a higher discriminatory ability for the detection of CCA hypertrophy.

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INVASIVE CENTRAL PULSE PRESSURE IS RELATED TO AORTIC ROOT DILATION

Francesco Tosello 1, Andrea Gualla 2, Dario Leone 1, Martina Bollati 1, Luca Sabia 1, Fabrizio D’Ascenzo 3, Claudio Moretti 3, Franco Veglio 1, Luca Ridolfi 1, Alberto Milan 1

1Internal and Hypertension Division, Department of Medical Sciences, AOU Citta’ Salute e Scienza di Turin, University of Turin, Turin, Italy
2Vall d’Hebron Institute of Research, Barcelona, Spain
3Hemodynamic Laboratory, Department of Medical Sciences, AOU Citta’ Salute e Scienza di Turin, University of Turin, Turin, Italy
4DIATI, Politecnico di Torino, Turin, Italy

Background: Aortic root dilation is an established risk factor for aortic dissection. Despite the relations between aortic root remodeling, carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV) and aortic blood pressure have been advocated by several clinical studies and is supported by physical law, invasive data are lacking. We aimed to investigate the relationship between aortic root remodeling, invasively-measured central blood pressure and cfPWV in patients referred for invasive hemodynamic evaluation for suspected coronary disease.

Methods: In 71 patients aortic pulse pressure (aoPP) was measured in the proximal aorta with a calibrated fluid-filled pressure catheter. Before entering the hemodynamic room all patients underwent 2D echocardiographic quantification of aortic root diameter and measurement of cfPWV. Aortic root diameter was then expressed into z-score following age, sex and height adjusted reference values (1).

Results: Mean age was 67 ± 10 years and 76.1% of patients were men. Invasive aortic systolic pressure was 146 ± 23 mmHg, diastolic pressure was 78 ± 13 mmHg, and aoPP was 68 ± 21 mmHg. Aortic Z-score was -0.32 ± 1.7, while cfPWV was 9.8 ± 3 m/s. While Log10cfPWV and aoPP showed a positive relation (r = -0.26, p < 0.001) both aoPP and aortic Z-score were inversely associated (r = -0.271, p < 0.02). In a multivariable linear regression analysis, Z-score and Log10cfPWV were statistically-significant independent predictors of aoPP (p = 0.01 and p < 0.01, respectively) after adjustment for age, sex, BSA, heart rate, invasive ABP, and stroke volume.

Conclusions: In a population referred to invasive coronary hemodynamic evaluation for suspected coronary disease, aortic root remodeling and aortic stiffness were independently associated with a lower aoPP.

References

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MECHANISMS OF VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR INHIBITION INDUCED HYPERTENSION

Kaisa Maki-Petaja 1, Adam McGeoch 2, Lucy Yang 1, Annette Hubsch 1, Carmel McNerney 1, Fraz Mir 1, Parag Gajendragadkar 1, Nicola Ramenatte 1, Gayathri Anandappa 1, Christoph Brune 1, Yoori Boink 1, Carola Bibiane-Schonleib 1, Paul Meyer 1, Simon Bond 1, Ian Wilkinson 1, Duncan Jodrell 1, Joseph Cherian 1

1Division of Experimental Medicine and Immunotherapeutics, University of Cambridge, UK
2Division of Experimental Medicine and Immunotherapeutics, University of Cambridge, UK
3Dept of Oncology, University of Cambridge, UK
4Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Twente, the Netherlands

Introduction: Drugs targeting Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) signaling pathway are approved therapies for cancer. Unfortunately, VEGF
inhibitors lead to hypertension in 30-80% patients. Reduced nitric oxide synthase activity and increased vascular resistance have been proposed as potential mechanisms. We aimed to assess these mechanisms in oncology patients receiving VEGF inhibitor, pazopanib (NCT01392352).

Methods: 27 normotensive patients received pazopanib 800mg od. Endothelial function was assessed using forearm plethysmography with intra-arterial infusion of Acetylcholine (ACH), Sodium Nitroprusside (SNP) and L-N-monomethyl-arginine (L-NMA). Also, Blood Pressure (BP), Pulse Wave Velocity (PWV), Cardiac Output (CO), and Peripheral Vascular Resistance (PVR) and capillary density in the eye were assessed. All measurements were taken at baseline, 2 and 12 weeks after initiation of the treatment.

Results: Following 12 weeks of treatment, systolic BP rose by 12 (95% CI: 4-19) mmHg; P = 0.003, diastolic by 10 (95% CI: 5-15) mmHg; P < 0.001, PWV by 1.3 (95% CI: 0.3-2.2) m/s; P = 0.01, PVR by 11.1 (95% CI: 7.7-14.6) mmHg*L/min; P < 0.001. Capillary density in the sciera reduced by 12 ± 18%; P = 0.02. Forearm blood flow response to ACh improved (P = 0.001), whereas SNP and L-NMA responses were unchanged. A post-hoc colorimetric assay revealed in whole blood from healthy volunteers that pazopanib inhibited acetylcholinesterase activity by 35%.

Conclusion: Unexpectedly, pazopanib led to an increase in ACh response, but this is most likely due to the inhibition of acetylcholinesterase activity by pazopanib. Interestingly, we found that PVR was increased and capillary density reduced in the treatment, suggesting that capillary rarefaction could be one of the mechanisms behind VEGF inhibition induced hypertension.

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A 12-WEEK EXERCISE TRAINING PROGRAM REDUCES ENDOTHELIAL DAMAGE IN RESISTANT HYPERTENSION

Susana Lopes 1, Catarina Garcia 1, Ana Gonçalves 2, Ilda Ribeiro 1, Joana Barbosa de Melo 1, Verónica Ribau 1, Daniela Figueiredo 2, João Viana 1, Catarina Garcia 1, Ana Gonçalves 1, Ilda Ribeiro 1, Alberto Alves 1, Fernando Ribeiro 1

1School of Health Sciences and Institute of Biomedicine - iBIMED, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
2Center of Investigation on Environment Genetics and Oncobiology (CIMAGO), Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology and Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Life Sciences (CNC, IIBLI), Coimbra, Portugal
3Cardiology Department, Hospital Infantile D. Pedro, Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga, Aveiro, Portugal
4School of Health Sciences and CINTESIS@UA, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
5Sports Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Development, CIDESD, University Institute of Mala, Mala, Portugal
6Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto & Hypertension Unit, ULS Matosinhos, Porto, Portugal
7Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto & Hypertension Unit, ULS Matosinhos, Porto, Portugal
8Sports Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Development, CIDESD, University Institute of Mala, Mala, Portugal

Background: Resistant Hypertension (RH) is associated with an increased risk of cardio-vascular events and poor prognosis. Exercise training studies in RH patients have shown promising outcomes, nonetheless, none determine the impact of exercise on endothelial damage and repair. Circulating endothelial cells (CECs) are a reliable indicator of vascular damage and dysfunction. Recent studies in hypertension suggest that increased levels of endothelial progenitor cells (EPCs), a marker of endothelial repair, are related to increased CECs in order to compensate endothelial damage. Purpose: This study aimed to determine the effect of 12-week aerobic exercise program on the percentage of EPCs and CECs in RH patients.

Methods: Patients with RH were randomized to a 12-week aerobic exercise program (3 x 2 weeks) (n = 13) and a usual care control group (n = 8). Outcome measures included clinical data, ambulatory blood pressure data and circulating levels of EPCs, hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) and CECs, quantified by flow cytometry. (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT03090529).

Results: Baseline characteristics were similar between groups, including the number of antihypertensive drugs (5.0 ± 0.9 vs. 4.8 ± 0.7, p = 0.517). After 12 weeks, no significant changes were found in the levels of HSCs in both groups. The levels of CECs decreased in the exercise group [0.0073 (0.0016%) to 0.0058 (0.0029), p = 0.019]; no changes were observed in the control group. EPC’s decreased only in the exercise group [0.0071 (0.0027%) to 0.0052 (0.0037%), p = 0.046].

Conclusions: Exercise training reduces endothelial injury/damage (reduced CECs levels) in RH patients, a specific group who is a challenge for clinicians as the available treatment options have reduced success.

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DO TREATMENT INDUCED CHANGES IN ARTERIAL STIFFNESS AFFECT LEFT VENTRICULAR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION? — A META-ANALYSIS

Koen van der Waaij 1, Maarten Heusinkveld 1, Tammo Delhaas 2, Abraham Kroon 1, Koen Reesink 2

1Department of Biomedical Engineering and Internal Medicine, CARIM School for Cardiovascular Diseases, the Netherlands
2Department of Biomedical Engineering, CARIM School for Cardiovascular Diseases, Maastricht, the Netherlands

Background: Vascular research demonstrated that pulse wave velocity (PWV), a measure of arterial stiffness, is inherently blood pressure-dependent. Considering the hypothesised pathophysiological chain of increased arterial stiffness leading to increased blood pressure load with consequent left ventricle hypertrophy (LVH) development, we conducted a systematic review of antihypertensive and lifestyle intervention studies to determine the association between on the one hand changes in arterial stiffness and blood pressure, and on the other hand changes in LV mass (LVM).

Methods: Using PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane and Web of Science, we identified 23 studies, containing 2573 patients. Studies reported changes in arterial stiffness (assessed by means of PWV), systolic- and diastolic blood pressure (SBP, DBP), and LVM index (LVMi), respectively.

Results: Statistically significant reductions in SBP, PWV and LVMi were reported in 16, 14, and 20 studies, respectively. Pooled analysis of studies showed that the proportion in SBP reduction did not correlate significantly to the proportion in reductions of the other two variables. On the other hand, we found a significant positive correlation (r = 0.58, p = 0.007) between arterial stiffness and LVM regression, expressed as a relevant reduction in LVMi of 6.5 g/m2 per 1.0 m/s reduction in PWV.

Conclusions: Our findings provide evidence that a decrease in arterial stiffness is associated with regression of LVH. To investigate whether there exists a causal relation between LVH due to arterial stiffness increases and in turn blood pressure load increases, future studies should strive for a multiple followup design and use of blood pressure-independent or -corrected stiffness indices.

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DETERMINING CARDIAC AND ARTERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL PULSE PRESSURE

Samuel Vennin, Ye Li, Marie Willemet, Henry Fok, Haotian Gu, Peter Charlton, Jordi Alastruey, Phil Chowienczyk

King’s College London, UK

We examined the ability of a simple reduced model comprising a proximal characteristic impedance linked to a Windkessel element to accurately predict central Pulse Pressure (PP) from aortic blood flow, verified that parameters of the model corresponded to physical properties, and applied the model to examine PP dependence on cardiac and vascular properties. PP obtained from the reduced model was compared with theoretical values obtained in silico and measured values in vivo. Theoretical values were obtained using a distributed multisegment model in a population of virtual (computed) subjects in which cardiovascular properties were varied over the pathophysiological range (n = 3,095). In vivo measurements were in normotensive subjects during modulation of physiology with vasoactive drugs (n = 13) and in hypertensive subjects (n = 156). Central PP derived from the reduced model agreed with theoretical values (mean difference ±SD, -0.09 ± 1.96 mmHg) and with measured values (means differences -1.95 ± 3.74 and -1.18 ± 3.67 mmHg for normotensive and hypertensive subjects, respectively). Parameters extracted from the reduced model agreed closely with theoretical and measured physical properties. Central PP was seen to be determined mainly by total arterial compliance (inversely associated with central arterial stiffness) and ventricular dynamics: the