P163: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN GEOMETRICAL FEATURES AND LAYER-SPECIFIC RESIDUAL STRESSES IN THE BOVINE DESCENDING THORACIC AORTA

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Introduction: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is an inflammatory rheumatic disease associated with accelerated atherosclerosis and increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: To assess the local arterial stiffness in carotid artery in subjects with AS compared with controls evaluated by carotid artery pulse wave velocity (carPWV).

Methods: Ultrasound examinations were conducted with a Mylab One color Doppler ultrasound diagnostic system (Esaote, Firenze, Italy), the right common carotid artery (RCCA) was scanned, using a 5-12 MHz vascular probe with built-in quality arterial stiffness (QAS) which calculate carPWV.

Results: Forty-seven male subjects (20 with Ankylosing Spondylitis and 27 with built-in quality arterial stiffness (QAS) which calculate carPWV. Smoking). Higher carPWV was observed in patients with AS (6.27 ± 0.72 vs 5.56 ± 1.02 m/sec, \( p = 0.0123 \)) compared with controls, respectively.

Conclusions: AS subjects showed higher carPWV compared with controls, this novel assessment for local arterial stiffness could be useful in the future to calculate cardiovascular risk, more studies should be developed with this method in this pathology in our population.

Poster Session II – Other

P161 RELATIONSHIP OF FIBRINOGEN WITH ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IS DIFFERENT ACCORDING TO GENDER. EVA STUDY

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Objectives: To analyze the association of arterial stiffness with the fibrinogen in general population without previous cardiovascular diseases. Differences by gender.

Methods: A cross-sectional study. Study population: From the population assigned to the participating healthcare centres, a cluster random sampling stratified by age and gender was performed to obtain 501 participants aged between 20 and 75, 100 per decade, (50% women) without cardio or cerebrovascular disease. Measurements: pulse wave velocity femoral carotid (cfPWV) was determined using the Sphygmocor System and Cardio Ankle Vascular Index (CAVI) using the VAsera. Plasma fibrinogen was measured in blood.

Results: Mean values: age 55.9 ± 14.2 years (Males = 65.9 ± 14.3 years, Females = 55.8 ± 14.2 years, p = 0.935); CAVI:8.0 ± 1.4 (Males = 8.1 ± 1.5, Females = 7.9 ± 1.4, p = 0.043); cfPWV: 6.5 ± 2.0 m/sec (Males = 6.8 ± 2.2 m/sec, Females = 6.2 ± 1.8m/sec, p < 0.001) and fibrinogen: 314 ± 70 mg/Dl (Males = 198 ± 65 mg/Dl, Females = 330 ± 71 mg/Dl, p < 0.001). CAVI and cfPWV showed positive correlation with fibrinogen (r = 0.248 and r = 0.147 in males p < 0.05 in both cases), but not in the females (r = 0.126 and r = 0.101 p > 0.05 in both cases). In the multiple regression analysis after adjusting for age, cardiovascular risk factors, drugs and lifestyles, the association of CAVI with fibrinogen was \( \beta = 0.249 \) (95% CI 0.033 to 0.464) \( p = 0.024 \), and of the cfPWV with fibrinogen was \( \beta = 0.01 \) (95% CI -0.031 to 0.042) \( p = 0.684 \) in males, without finding association between CAVI, cfPWV with fibrinogen in the case of females (p = 0.144 and p = 0.825 respectively).

Conclusions: CAVI and cfPWV showed a positive correlation to fibrinogen in males in general population without previous cardiovascular diseases, but not in females. However, after adjusting for confounding factors, the association only remains with CAVI in males.

References


P162 ARTERIAL STIFFNESS AND BODY COMPOSITION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

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Methods: We prospectively recruited 88 healthy children (mean age = 11.0 ± 5.3 years old). Age, weight, height, and blood pressure were measured. cfPWV was assessed using a semi-automated cuff-based device (Sphygmocor XCEL; AtCor Medical, Australia), and body composition using air displacement plethysmography (BOD POD; Cosmed, Italy) (3). Associations with cfPWV were determined by multivariable linear regression, with subsequent mediation analyses to inform likely causal pathways.

Results: After adjusting for age and sex, cfPWV was significantly associated with weight, body mass index (BMI), systolic blood pressure, mean blood pressure, heart rate, and lean body mass (LBM), while LBM remained significantly associated with cfPWV (ß = 0.68; p = 0.007). Mediation analyses indicate that weight mediates the association between age and cfPWV (PM = 76%), and that LBM mediates the relationship between weight and cfPWV (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Higher cfPWV in healthy children and adolescents is a function of growth, and this association may be in turn mediated by higher LBM rather than adiposity.

P163 REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN GEOMETRICAL FEATURES AND LAYER-SPECIFIC RESIDUAL STRESSES IN THE BOVINE DESCENDING THORACIC AORTA

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Background: The Opening Angle (OA) is widely used as an index of the residual stresses and strains present in the arterial wall not subjected to internal
pressure. The aim of this work was to quantify regional variation of the layer-specific OA in the bovine descending thoracic aorta. **Methods:** Descending thoracic aortae from 7 cows were segmented into 3–4 mm-thick rings. Geometrical features (mean internal/external radius Rin and Rout, wall thickness h) were measured. A radial cut was made on the anterior region of each ring, and then the rings were placed in a temperature-controlled water bath (37 °C) for 1.5 h to homogenize the OA. The rings were separated into their three layers and the layer-specific OA was investigated. The separation of the intima from the media is a complex procedure due to its limited thickness. The isolated intima was therefore thicker than values reported in the literature. **Results:** Except for the most proximal region, h/Rin decreased towards the periphery (table 1). The medial and whole aortic wall OA increased moving towards the periphery, whilst the adventitia showed the opposite behaviour. The intimal OA was significantly higher and relatively constant (figure 1). **Conclusions:** The present set of experiments indicates that the compressive residual stresses are concentrated mainly in the internal part of the intima-media layer independently from the considered axial region. The other layers exhibit comparable OAs to the whole arterial wall.

**PHOTOPLETHYSMOGRAM: IN SILICO AND IN VIVO TESTING**

**P164**

INDICES TO ASSESS AORTIC STIFFNESS FROM THE FINGER PHOTOPLETHYSMOGRAM: IN SILICO AND IN VIVO TESTING

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**Purpose:** Aortic stiffness is predictive of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. However, the gold standard method for assessing aortic stiffness, carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity, is time-consuming and requires a trained operator. An alternative approach could be to derive an arterial stiffness index (ASI) from the easily measured finger photoplethysmogram (PPG). Our aim was to investigate the performance of PPG-derived ASIs for assessing aortic stiffness. **Methods:** An in silico dataset of arterial pulse waves (PWs) was generated using a model of pulse wave propagation (1). PWs were generated for virtual healthy subjects aged 25 to 75. Several simulations were run for each age decade to mimic population-level variation in cardiac and vascular properties. PPG PWs were simulated from blood pressure PWs (2). The dataset was used to design an algorithm to calculate over 30 ASIs described in the literature from the finger PPG. In vivo testing was performed using 6,506 subjects from the Airwave Health Monitoring Study of police officers and staff in Great Britain: Rationale, design and methods Environmental Research. 2014; 134: 280-285

**Results:** The separation of the intima from the media is a complex procedure due to its limited thickness. The isolated intima was therefore thicker than values reported in the literature. **Results:** Except for the most proximal region, h/Rin decreased towards the periphery (table 1). The medial and whole aortic wall OA increased moving towards the periphery, whilst the adventitia showed the opposite behaviour. The intimal OA was significantly higher and relatively constant (figure 1). **Conclusions:** The present set of experiments indicates that the compressive residual stresses are concentrated mainly in the internal part of the intima-media layer independently from the considered axial region. The other layers exhibit comparable OAs to the whole arterial wall.

**P165**

EVALUATING CAROTID FEMORAL PULSE WAVE VELOCITY MEASURED BY CUFF-BASED APPROACH AGAINST THE TONOMETRY-BASED REFERENCE STANDARD IN A PAEDIATRIC POPULATION

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**Background:** Carotid femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV) is directly associated with arterial stiffness in major elastic arteries and predicts future cardiovascular events (1). Little is known of cfPWV as a marker of vascular health in children. Semi-automated cuff-based devices for assessing cfPWV are increasingly popular, although these utilize an algorithm developed and validated in adults (2). Physiological differences between adults and children may thus reduce the accuracy of cuff-based. **Methods:** We sought to determine the accuracy of a cuff-based cfPWV device in healthy children and determine whether an age-appropriate algorithm increases accuracy. Methods we prospectively recruited 29 healthy children (mean age = 11.3 ± 5.2 years old). cfPWV was measured using a tonometer on the carotid artery and an inflated cuff on the thigh (Sphygmocor XCEL; AtCor Medical, Australia), and using a tonometer on both the carotid artery and femoral artery (SphygmoCor Carotid; AtCor Medical, Australia) as a reference method. We assessed the accuracy of the cuff-based device with its standard algorithm that was developed in adults, and an adjusted algorithm corrected for physiological differences in leg (femoral to thigh cuff) PWV between adult and children (3). **Results:** Cuff-based device estimates of cfPWV in children had excellent agreement to the reference standard (r = 0.85; D = 0.26 m s⁻¹ [SD 0.44]). The adjusted algorithm improved the accuracy of the cuff-based method (r = 0.84; D = 0.02 m s⁻¹ [SD 0.44]) (Figure 1). **Conclusions:** Although the cuff-based semi-automatic approach estimates cfPWV with excellent agreement to the reference standard, adjusting the algorithm for known differences in leg PWV improves the accuracy of cuff-based measurement in children.

![Figure 1. Bland-Altman analysis of a cuff-based pulse wave velocity device versus a reference tonometry-based pulse wave velocity device.](image-url)