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# Journal of the Arab Board of Health Specializations

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Besides, the Journal publishes selected important medical abstracts which have recently been accepted for publication elsewhere, along with their Arabic translation to facilitate communication. The Journal will also publish the activities and news of the Arab Board of Health Specializations.

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Correspondence to:

**Journal of the Arab Board of Health Specializations**

The Arab Board of Health Specializations

P.O. Box 7669, Damascus, Syria.

Tel: +963-11-6119741/6119740   Fax: +963-11-6119739/6119259.

E-mail: jabhs@arab-board.org

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*A Medical Journal Encompassing all Health Specializations*

*Issued Quarterly*

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### **Diabetes Mellitus**

**Types of diabetes:** Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in childhood. Many patients are diagnosed when they are older than age 20. In this disease, the body makes little or no insulin. Daily injections of insulin are needed. The exact cause is unknown. Genetics, viruses, and autoimmune problems may play a role.

Type 2 diabetes is far more common than type 1. It makes up most of diabetes cases. It usually occurs in adulthood, but young people are increasingly being diagnosed with this disease. The pancreas does not make enough insulin to keep blood glucose levels normal, often because the body does not respond well to insulin. Many people with type 2 diabetes do not know they have it, although it is a serious condition. Type 2 diabetes is becoming more common due to increasing obesity and failure to exercise.

Gestational diabetes is high blood glucose that develops at any time during pregnancy in a woman who does not have diabetes. Women who have gestational diabetes are at high risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease later in life.

**Tests:** A urine analysis may be used to look for glucose and ketones from the breakdown of fat. However, a urine test alone does not diagnose diabetes. The following blood tests are used to diagnose diabetes:

- Fasting blood glucose level: diabetes is diagnosed if higher than 126 mg/dL on two occasions. Levels between 100 and 126 mg/dL are referred to as impaired fasting glucose or prediabetes. These levels are considered to be risk factors for type 2 diabetes and its complications.

- Hemoglobin A1c test: this test has been used in the past to help patients monitor how well they are controlling their blood glucose levels. In 2010, the American Diabetes Association recommended that the test be used as another option for diagnosing diabetes and identifying pre-diabetes. Levels indicate:

Normal: Less than 5.7%

Pre-diabetes: Between 5.7% - 6.4%

Diabetes: 6.5% or higher

- Oral glucose tolerance test: diabetes is diagnosed if glucose level is higher than 200 mg/dL after 2 hours. (This test is used more for type 2 diabetes).

- Random (non-fasting) blood glucose level: diabetes is suspected if higher than 200 mg/dL and accompanied by the classic diabetes symptoms of increased thirst, urination, and fatigue. (This test must be confirmed with a fasting blood glucose test).

**Treatment:** Medications to treat diabetes include insulin and glucose-lowering pills called oral hypoglycemic drugs.

Type 1 diabetes: daily insulin injections.

Type 2 diabetes: may respond to treatment with exercise, diet, and medicines taken by mouth. There are several types of medicines used to lower blood glucose in type 2 diabetes. Medications may be switched to insulin during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

Gestational diabetes may be treated with exercise and changes in diet.

I wish everybody the best health

Professor M. Hisham Al-Sibai

Editor-in-chief

Secretary General of the Arab Board of Health Specializations

## PREVALENCE OF HAPATITIS C AMONG PATIENTS WITH HEREDITARY BLEEDING DISORDERS IN BABYLON HEREDITARY BLOOD DISEASES CENTER IN BABYLON GOVERNORATE

انتشار التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C عند مرضى الأمراض النزفية الوراثية في مركز  
أمراض الدم الوراثية في محافظة بابل

Ahmed Shemran Metlaq Al-Wataify, MD

د. أحمد شمران مطلق الوطيفي

### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** يعتبر مرضى الأمراض النزفية الوراثية مرضى عاليي الخطورة للإصابة بالإنتان بفيروس التهاب الكبد C نتيجة التعرض لمنتجات الدم والبلازما. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد انتشار الإصابة المصلية لفيروس التهاب الكبد C عند الأطفال المصابين بالأمراض النزفية الوراثية وتحديد عوامل الخطورة للإنتان بهذا الفيروس.

**طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 100 مريضاً من المصابين بالأمراض النزفية الوراثية (94 ذكراً و6 إناث) صنفوا إلى 67 مريضاً مصاباً بنقص العامل الثامن (الهيموفيليا A)، 26 مريضاً بنقص العامل التاسع (الهيموفيليا B)، 6 مرضى مصابين بداء فون ويلبراند (VWD) ومريض واحد فقط مصاب بنقص العامل السابع، والذين راجعوا مركز أمراض الدم الوراثية في مستشفى بابل للولادة والأطفال في الفترة بين 1 آذار ولغاية 1 أيلول لعام 2010. تراوحت أعمار المرضى بين 1 و17 سنة بمتوسط أعمار  $7 \pm 1.5$  سنة، كما تمت مقارنة هذه الحالات مع 100 من الأطفال الأصحاء أعمارهم بين 1 و17 سنة بمتوسط أعمار  $6 \pm 1.4$  سنة شكلوا مجموعة الشاهد. تم سحب عينات دم من جميع الأطفال في المجموعتين لدراسة وظائف الكبد وإجراء الاختبارات المسحية (أضداد فيروس التهاب الكبد C، المستضد السطحي لالتهاب الكبد B وأضداد فيروس عوز المناعة البشري HIV).

**النتائج:** أظهرت الدراسة أن انتشار الإصابة بالتهاب الكبد الفيروسي C عند مرضى الأمراض النزفية الوراثية قد بلغ 30%، وهو رقم مقارب لما أظهرته الدراسات المجراة في أماكن أخرى حول العالم.

**الاستنتاجات:** تظهر هذه الدراسة أن انتشار الإنتان بفيروس التهاب الكبد C أعلى عند مرضى الأمراض النزفية الوراثية، كما أن حدوثه يزداد بتقدم العمر، زيادة عدد وحدات منتجات الدم المنقولة، ازدياد شدة الحالة، كما أن له علاقة بالجنس ومكان السكن.

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Patients with inherited bleeding disorders are at high risk of post-transfusion hepatitis C infection because of wide spread use of plasma derived products. This study was carried out to determine the prevalence of HCV sero-positivity in children with hereditary bleeding disorders, and identify risk factors enhance acquire HCV infection.

**Methods:** The study was conducted on 100 patients (94 males and 6 females) with inherited bleeding disorders, classified as 67 patients with factor VIII deficiency, 26 patients with factor IX deficiency, 6 patients with VWD and one patient with factor VII deficiency; who were attending the hereditary blood disorders center at Babylon Maternity and Children Hospital from 1<sup>st</sup> of March to 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2010, their ages ranged from 1-17 years with mean age  $7 \pm 1.5$

\*Ahmed Shemran Metlaq Al-Wataify, Department of Pediatrics, Babylon College of Medicine, Babylon University, Babylon, Iraq.  
E-mail: dr\_ahmed\_ahemran@yahoo.com.

years, in comparison to healthy 100 randomly healthy children, their ages ranged from 1-17 years with mean age  $6 \pm 1.4$  years. Blood samples were obtained for all patients and control group and send for infection screen (HCV antibodies, Hbs Ag, HIV antibodies) and liver function tests.

**Results:** This study has revealed that the prevalence of hepatitis C among patients with hereditary bleeding tendency is 30%, it is approximately similar to other studies done in other areas of the world.

**Conclusions:** Prevalence of hepatitis C virus is higher among patients with hereditary bleeding disorders and its incidence is increased with increasing age, number of blood products, and severity of diseases, and affected by sex and address.

## InTRoDuCTIon

Hereditary bleeding disorder is general term for wide range of medical problems that lead to poor blood clotting and continuous bleeding,<sup>1</sup> caused by platelets disorders and qualitative or quantitative abnormalities in plasma procoagulant factors (the commonest coagulation defects is intrinsic pathway defects as haemophilia A in 85% of cases and 15% are due to factor IX deficiency and rare bleeding disorder in extrinsic pathway like factor VII deficiency).<sup>2</sup>

Hepatitis C viral infection (HCV) is a major problem among hemophilia patients who have been treated with plasma derived concentrates of factor VIII or IX (FVIII/IX).<sup>3</sup> HCV infection may contribute to morbidity and mortality in children with hemophilia,<sup>4,5</sup> although end stage liver disease is uncommon before adulthood.<sup>4,5</sup>

Many routes play a role in getting HCV infection, but most reliably transmitted through transfusion of infected blood or blood products. Before routine blood screening for anti-HCV antibodies was implemented in 1992, 17% of new infections were attributed to transfused blood products while after blood screening was implemented, the risk decreased to 4%.<sup>5,6</sup>

The incubation period for hepatitis C is 6-10 weeks, hepatitis C alone does not cause fulminant hepatitis. The clinical course and natural history is variable and depend on the age at which infection occur.<sup>7</sup>

Infection in infancy and early childhood is asymptomatic in majority of patients. In children, jaundice may be inapparent or evanescent, or it can be severe, so may persist for many weeks.<sup>8</sup>

Chronic hepatitis C is clinically silent until a complication develops. Serum aminotransferase levels fluctuate and are sometimes normal, but histological inflammation is universal.<sup>9</sup>

Hepatitis C virus is detected by an ELISA assay, designed to measure antibodies directed against specific hepatitis C antigens. The most recent generation of this test (E12) has greater than 95% sensitivity and a high positive predictive value. There is often a prolonged interval between the exposure to HCV and the onset of illness or presence of detectable level of anti-HCV antibodies. Anti-HCV is usually detectable within 4-6 weeks of community exposure to HCV.<sup>10</sup>

The most characteristic sensitive tests of hepatocellular damage are elevation of aminotransferases: aspartate aminotransferase (AST), and the more liver specific alanine aminotransferase (ALT), both may reach level 20-100 times normal when jaundice appears.<sup>11</sup> Although serum aminotransferase levels are not consistently related to disease severity in HCV infected patients (one third had normal aminotransferase levels despite substantial histopathological evidence of inflammation); however, serum measurements may be used to monitor disease activity.<sup>10</sup>

The most commonly used viral assay for HCV is a PCR assay (polymerase chain reaction), which permits detection of small amounts of HCV RNA in serum and tissue samples within days of infection.<sup>9</sup>

This study was carried out to determine the rate of HCV sero-positivity in children with hereditary bleeding disorder, and identify risk factors that enhance acquired HCV infection.

## METHoDS

The study was conducted on 100 patients (94 males and 6 females) with hereditary bleeding disorders, classified as 67 patients with factor VIII deficiency



(hemophilia A) and 26 patients with factor IX deficiency (hemophilia B), 6 patients with VWD and one patient with factor VII deficiency, who were attending the hereditary bleeding diseases center at Babylon Maternity and Children Teaching Hospital in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of March to 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2010, their ages range from 1 to 17 years with mean age  $7 \pm 1.5$  years, in comparison to 100 healthy children, their ages range from 1 to 17 years, with a mean age of  $6 \pm 1.4$  years, none of them had history of transfusion of blood products and no family history of bleeding disorder. The verbal consent from their parents was taken for examination and blood investigation. All patients of bleeding disorders and control group were investigated through aspiration of blood for infection screen including; HCV antibodies, HIV antibodies and Hbs antigen were detected using a third generation ELISA test and liver function tests (sGPT, sGOT, ALP and TSB).

Hereditary bleeding disorders are diagnosed by history of recurrent attacks of bleeding disorder with or without positive family history and measurement of hemostatic tests like PT, PTT and bleeding time (prolonged PTT alone with normal PT and bleeding time indicate intrinsic pathway defect, prolonged PT with normal PTT and bleeding time indicates a defect in extrinsic pathway, prolonged PTT and bleeding time is highly suggestion of VWD and confirmed by factor assay).

Normal value: PTT (partial thromboplastin time): 35-40 sec, PT (prothrombin time): 11-13 sec, bleeding time: 2-6 minutes. The degree of hemophilia severity has been classified as mild, moderate and severe according to

the plasma clotting factor activity level (6-30%, 1-5%, <1%, respectively).

The statistical analysis was done by using Fisher exact test and t-test (by SPSS). P-value of less than 0.05 is considered to be significant, and of less than 0.01 is considered to be highly significant.<sup>12</sup>

### RESul TS

The prevalence of HCV infection among patients with bleeding disorders is 30% in comparison to control group (1%), and the rate increased by increased number of blood products in 73.33% of more than 40 units given, severe deficiency in 64% of sero-positive cases, haemophilia A type in 83.3% of total positive patients, increased age of patients in 56.6% of more than 10 years and also prevalence is increased in male gender and urban address (96.6% and 73.33% respectively) and not affected by liver function tests.

	Anti HCV sero-positivity		HbsAg sero-positivity		Anti HIV sero-positivity		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Patients	30	30%	0	0%	0	0%	100
Control	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	100

Table 1. Prevalence of anti-HCV, HBsAg and anti-HIV sero-positivity among patients and controls.

There was a highly significant difference in anti-HCV sero-positivity among patients with hereditary bleeding disorder in comparison to control group, ( $p < 0.0001$ ), Table 1.

Type of bleeding disorder	Sero-positive		Sero-negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Factor VIII deficiency	25	83.33%	42	60%	67
Factor IX deficiency	4	13.33%	22	31.42%	26
Factor VWB deficiency	1	3.33%	5	7.14%	6
Factor VII deficiency	0	0%	1	1.42%	1
Total	30		70		100

Table 2. Distribution of anti-HCV sero-positivity related to number of transfusion among different types of bleeding disorders.

Hemophilia A is commonest hereditary bleeding disorder associated with sero-positivity of anti-HCV in comparison to others, ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 2. There was a highly significant difference of anti-HCV sero-positivity with increasing number of factor injected and blood products transfused (of  $>40$  units), ( $p < 0.001$ ), Table 3.

Number of factor and blood products units	Sero-positive		Sero-negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
$<20$	3	10%	10	14.28%	13
20-40	5	16.66%	15	21.42%	20
$>40$	22	73.3%	45	64.28%	67
Total	30		70		100

Table 3. Distribution of anti-HCV sero-positivity among patients according to number of blood products.

There was a significant difference of anti-HCV sero-positivity with increasing age of patients, ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 4.

Times of diagnosis/ (years)	Sero-positive		Sero-negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
$\leq 5$	3	10%	27	38.57%	30
5-10	10	33.33%	24	34.28%	34
10-17	17	56.66%	19	27.14%	36
Total	30		70		100

Table 4. Distribution of anti-HCV sero-positivity according to duration of the disease (age of patient).

There was a significant difference with increased severity among patients with hemophilia A, ( $p < 0.05$ ). But no significant difference observed with increased severity among patients with hemophilia B, ( $p > 0.05$ ), Table 5.

There was no significant difference between sero-positivity and sero-negativity of liver function tests among each group of bleeding disorder, ( $p > 0.05$ ), Table 6.

There was no significant difference of sero-positivity of liver function tests among patients with bleeding

disorders sero-positive for HCV, in comparison to control group, ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Factor assay	Haemophilia A		Haemophilia B	
	No.	%	No.	%
Severe (0-1%)	16	64%	2	50%
Moderate (1-5%)	7	28%	1	25%
Mild (5-35%)	2	8%	1	25%
Total	25	100%	4	100%

Table 5. Distribution of sero-positivity in hemophilia according to severity.

There was a significant difference of anti-HCV sero-positivity among males in comparison to females, also patients lived in urban area in comparison to rural areas, ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 7.

Sex/address	Sero-positive		Sero-negative		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Male	29	96.6%	65	92.8%	94
Female	1	3.3%	5	7.14%	6
Urban	22	73.33%	55	78.5%	77
Rural	8	26.66%	15	21.4%	23

Table 7. Distribution of anti-HCV sero-positivity according to gender and address.

## DISCUSSION

The results of our study showed that 30% of hemophilic patients were sero-positive for HCV and 0% for both HBV and HIV. This indicate that bleeding disorder patients including hemophilia constitute a high risk group for acquisition of HCV infection and transmission of this virus via blood products has a significant source of infection<sup>13</sup> owing to a lack of new detection techniques based on determination of viral genetic material before appearance of antibodies (window period).<sup>14</sup>

The 0% of both HBV and HIV may be due to small sample size, used of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation ELISA for screening viral gene of donated blood and the use of hepatitis B vaccine in the immunization schedules.

Liver function tests	Haemophilia A		Haemophilia B		VWD disease		Factor VII deficiency		Control
	HCV positive	HCV negative	HCV positive	HCV negative	HCV positive	HCV negative	HCV positive	HCV negative	
Mean SGPT IU/L $\pm$ SD	21.08 $\pm$ 1.2	22.6 $\pm$ 2.5	20.4 $\pm$ 0.9	19.7 $\pm$ 2.7	18	16.4 $\pm$ 1.7	Nil	20.5	20.3 $\pm$ 1.8
Mean SGOT IU/L $\pm$ SD	13.7 $\pm$ 1.7	16.4 $\pm$ 1.4	15.7 $\pm$ 1.5	17.09 $\pm$ 1.7	16	16.6 $\pm$ 1.9	Nil	16	17.6 $\pm$ 2.1
Mean ALP IU/L $\pm$ SD	105.4 $\pm$ 5.4	112.7 $\pm$ 7.8	113.4 $\pm$ 6.2	111.04 $\pm$ 4.2	114.87	113.2 $\pm$ 6.3	Nil	110	112.3 $\pm$ 5.07
Mean TSB ( $\mu$ mol/l) $\pm$ SD	8.1 $\pm$ 1.3	7.7 $\pm$ 1.8	8.1 $\pm$ 1.6	7.09 $\pm$ 2.3	8	7.06 $\pm$ 1.2	Nil	8.3	1.6 $\pm$ 2.2

Table 6. Distribution of cases according to changes in liver function tests among sero-positive patients with hereditary bleeding disorder in comparison to controls.

These results are approximately similar to other studies done in other areas of the world like Hamburg 36%,<sup>15</sup> Brazil 42.2%,<sup>16</sup> Iran 40.8%<sup>13</sup> and Jamaica 41%.<sup>17</sup>

Our results are higher than the results done in Asfahan 22.6%,<sup>17</sup> South part of Iran 15%<sup>17</sup> and lower than results done in England 76.3%,<sup>18</sup> and Sao paulo of Brazil 48.4%.<sup>19</sup>

The difference in these results from different countries could be explained by different methods of screening including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation ELISA with variability and specificity, giving high false positive results, in addition to high frequency of blood products use in treatment, while those with lower results owing to use PCR in many areas which detect viral antigens which exclude possibility of window period or from sample size with using 3<sup>rd</sup> generation ELISA with very high sensitivity and specificity (in our study, we used 3<sup>rd</sup> generation ELISA).<sup>20</sup>

The prevalence of anti-HCV were higher among hemophilia A patients (83.3%) than those with hemophilia B (13.3%) or VWD (3.3%) for total sero-positive patients, which explained by high number of blood products used in maintenance of hemostasis for hemophilia A, in comparison to hemophilia B or VWD as half life of factor VIII is 8-12 hours and factor IX 24 hours. Similar results were obtained in Germany (Hamburg)<sup>15</sup> and Brazil.<sup>16</sup>

The risk of HCV is increased with increasing number of factor or blood products used in treatment (statistically significant) as factor or blood products are increased with increasing age of patients or increasing severity of the disease from mild to severe, (in spite of being statistically not significant for hemophilia B but their percentage is higher among patients with severe disease than others) and the same results were appeared in Brazil.<sup>16,19</sup>

There was no significant difference of liver function tests among all types of hemophilia including A, B and VWD as chronicity of infection may progress slowly (many patients may have no symptoms leading to relatively normal liver)<sup>21</sup> and serum amino transferases are not consistently related to disease severity<sup>22</sup> and remained normal in one third of the patients despite substantial histopathological evidence of inflammation.<sup>22</sup> Similar result was noted in other area like new England.<sup>18</sup>

There were a highly significant difference of sero-positivity among males patients in comparison to females as hemophilia A and B, both of them are X-linked disease (29 patients out of 30 total of sero-positivity are hemophilia).

There was statistically significant difference of anti-HCV positivity among urban patients (73.33%), in comparison to rural area (26.66%), the same results

appeared in Brazil<sup>16</sup> as education and care are increased in urban area, associated with increased number of visit and received treatment (blood products) to prevent or treat early.<sup>16</sup>

## ConCluSIonS & RECoMMEnDATIonS

The rate of hepatitis C virus is higher among patients with hereditary bleeding disorders and risk factors including type of bleeding disorders, age, number of blood products, severity, sex and address.

We hope to include PCR in checking any blood donor for HCV antigens to get rid of window period and using recombinant VIII factor.

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## ANATOMICAL ANALYSIS OF CERVICAL SPINAL CANAL MORPHOMETRY IN A GROUP OF NORMAL SUBJECTS IN NINEVAH PROVINCE/IRAQ USING MRI

التحليل التشريحي للقياسات الشكلية للقناة الفقرية العنقية لمجموعة من الأفراد الطبيعيين  
في محافظة نينوى/العراق باستخدام التصوير بالرنين المغناطيسي

Luma Ibraim Khalel Al-Allaf, MBChB, MSc; Udai Talal Yahia, MBChB, RICMS

Hazim Khalil Qasim Al-Allaf, MBChB, MSc; Ahmed Hamid Al-Jewary, MBChB, MSc

Hisham Ibraim Khalel Al-Allaf, MBChB

د. لى ابراهيم خليل العلاف، د. عدي طلال حسن، د. حازم خليل قاسم العلاف

د. أحمد حامد الجوّاري، د. هشام ابراهيم خليل العلاف

### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** تحديد قياس القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية لدى مجموعة من الأشخاص الطبيعيين في محافظة نينوى في شمال العراق ومعرفة المستوى الفقري الأضيق عند كلا الجنسين. كما تهدف أيضاً إلى تحديد المدى الطبيعي للنسبة المتأينة من قسمة قياس القطر السهمي للقناة الفقرية العنقية على قطر جسم الفقرة العنقية (نسبة Torg's) عند مجموعة من الأشخاص الأصحاء وتحديد الاختلافات الموجودة بين الجنسين في هذه النسبة، ومعرفة القيمة الدنيا لها في المستويات الفقرية المختلفة عند كلا الجنسين. كما شملت أهداف الدراسة أيضاً مقارنة قياس القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية ونسبة Torg's بين المجموعة المدروسة في هذا البحث مع القيم الملاحظة عند تجمعات سكانية أخرى. وأخيراً تحري العلاقة بين القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية ونسبة Torg's لدى مجموعة من الأشخاص الطبيعيين.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء هذه الدراسة المستقبلية في وحدة الأشعة والأمواج فوق الصوتية في المستشفى الجمهوري التعليمي في دائرة صحة نينوى وقسم التشريح والأنسجة والأجنة في كلية الطب بجامعة الموصل في العراق خلال الفترة بين 1 تموز وحتى 1 أيلول لعام 2010، حيث شملت 52 شخصاً (21 امرأة و31 رجلاً) راجعوا المستشفى لإجراء تصوير بالأمواج فوق الصوتية لأسباب غير عنقية. تم قياس القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية وقطر جسم الفقرة العنقية عن طريق الصورة الشعاعية الجانبية البسيطة وذلك في وضع الرقبة بوضع الاعتدال وبوضعية الوقوف. تم حساب القياسات من الفقرة الرقبية الثالثة إلى السابعة وجرى قياس القطرين المذكورين بالمليمتر. تم إيراد النتائج الملاحظة ونسبة Torg's الناتجة عن قسمة القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية على القطر السهمي لجسم الفقرة العنقية لكل حالة. ثم تم وضع الشخص بوضعية الاستلقاء على لوح خاص دون وسادة قفوية لإجراء التصوير بالرنين المغناطيسي لتحديد القياس الحقيقي للقناة الفقرية العنقية في المستويات الرقبية الثالثة إلى السابعة. تم إجراء وتقييم جميع القياسات السابقة من قبل الفاحص نفسه وهو أحد أعضاء فريق البحث الأخصائي في التشخيص الشعاعي. تم تطبيق تحليل ارتباط Pearson لتحديد وجود علاقة هامة بين قياس القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية ونسبة Torg's في الحالات الطبيعية باستخدام برنامج SPSS. تم اعتبار قيمة p الأقل من 0.05 قيمة ذات دلالة إحصائية معنوية. تم القول بأن مشعر Torg's إيجابي أو غير طبيعي عندما تكون قيمته دون 0.80.

\*Luma Ibraim Khalel Al-Allaf, MBChB, MSc (Anatomy), Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, College of Medicine, University of Mousl, Mousl, Iraq. E-mail: Lumaallaf1971@yahoo.com.

\*Udai Talal Yahia, MBChB, RICMS (Radiology), Radiology and Ultrasound Institute, Al-Jumhori Teaching Hospital, Ninevah Health Office, Mosul, Iraq.

\*Hazim Khalil Qasim Al-Allaf, MBChB, MSc (Radiology), Department of Radiology, College of Medicine, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq.

\*Ahmed Hamid Al-Jewary, MBChB, MSc (Anatomy), Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, College of Medicine, University of Mousl, Mousl, Iraq.

\*Hisham Ibraim Khalel Al-Allaf, MBChB, Al-Qusd Center for Family Medicine, Ninevah Health Office, Mousl, Iraq.



**النتائج:** كان معدل أعمار الذكور والإناث المشاركين في البحث  $2.3 \pm 36.4$  و  $1.6 \pm 41.1$  سنة على الترتيب. بلغ متوسط القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية (بدءاً من الفقرة الثالثة وحتى السابعة) 14.4 ملم عند الذكور (تراوح بين 12.7 و 16.5 ملم)، و 14.2 ملم عند الإناث (تراوح بين 12.6 و 16.1 ملم). أظهرت هذه الدراسة أن القيمة الوسطية الدنيا للقطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية بلغت 12.6 ملم عند الذكور و 12.7 ملم عند الإناث، دون وجود اختلافات هامة إحصائياً في الأقطار السهمية بالنسبة للجنس. توضع الأقطار السهمية الدنيا للقناة الفقرية في مستوى الفقرة الرقبية السابعة حيث بلغ القطر 12.7 ملم عند الذكور و 12.6 ملم عند الإناث. لوحظ أن الأقطار السهمية للقناة الفقرية العنقية كانت أقل عند الإناث مقارنة بالذكور في جميع المستويات باستثناء الفقرة السابعة. بلغ متوسط قيمة نسبة Torg's في المستويات الرقبية الثالثة إلى السابعة 0.8 لدى كلا الجنسين. لوحظت قيمة أقل من 0.8 لهذه النسبة في مستوى فقري واحد على الأقل في 42 حالة (بنسبة 80.7%) من أصل 52. وجد من خلال هذه الدراسة أن أقل قيمة لنسبة Torg's (في المستويات الرقبية الثالثة إلى السابعة) بلغت 0.78 عند الذكور و 0.77 عند الإناث، وكانت كليهما في مستوى الفقرة الرقبية الرابعة. كانت العلاقة بين قياس القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية ونسبة Torg's علاقة ضعيفة (قيمة  $2\text{-tailed } < 0.05$ ).

**الاستنتاجات:** أظهرت هذه الدراسة أن متوسط القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية بين الفقرة الثالثة والسابعة كان 14.4 ملم عند الذكور و 14.2 ملم عند الإناث. كما أن أقل قيمة لهذا القطر توضع في مستوى الفقرة السابعة عند كلا الجنسين وقد بلغت 12 ملم، دون وجود فارق هام إحصائياً في القطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية بين الذكور والإناث. بلغ وسطي قيمة نسبة Torg's 0.8 عند كلا الجنسين، كما أن أقل قيمة لهذه النسبة بلغت 0.78 و 0.77 عند الذكور والإناث على الترتيب وقد توضع في مستوى الفقرة الرقبية الرابعة عند كل منهما. كما خلصت هذه الدراسة إلى وجود علاقة ضعيفة بين القياس الحقيقي للقطر السهمي الناصف للقناة الفقرية العنقية ونسبة Torg's. يمكن من خلال وجود التباينات التشريحية الشكلية القول بأن استخدام النسب الناتجة عن القياسات التشريحية داخل الفقرات العنقية لا يمكن الاعتماد عليه في تحديد القطر الحقيقي للقناة الفقرية.

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** (1) To determine the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal in a group of normal population in Ninevah province/North of Iraq and identify the narrowest vertebral level for each gender. (2) To set the normal range of the sagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal/vertebral body diameter ratio (Torg's ratio) in healthy adults and determine the variations of Torg's ratios by gender and the lowest value in the different vertebral levels for each gender. (3) To know if there are any differences in the cervical spinal canal size and Torg's ratios of the cervical vertebrae between people enrolled in this study compared to other populations. (4) To examine the relationship between the Torg's ratio and the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal in normal subjects.

**Methods:** This prospective study was carried out in Radiology and Ultrasound Waves Unit in Al-Jumhori Teaching Hospital, Ninevah Health Office and Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, College of Medicine, University of Mosul, Iraq during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. It included 52 subjects (21 women and 31 men) who were reported to that hospital for ultrasonic assessments for problems rather than cervical. The sagittal spinal canal diameter and vertebral body diameter of the cervical spine were measured using a lateral cervical plain

radiographs. X-ray films were taken with the neck in a neutral position in standing postures. The sagittal spinal canal diameter and vertebral body diameter were measured from C3 to C7 vertebrae. The measurement of both diameters was in mm. All values were reported and the Torg's ratio for each subject was found. The Torg's ratio was determined by dividing the sagittal spinal-canal diameter by the corresponding sagittal vertebral-body diameter. Then all subjects were positioned supine on a spine board with no occipital padding for the MRI to determine the true diameter of the cervical canal at each level from C3 to C7. All imaging and measurements were performed and evaluated by the same observer -a member of the research team U.T.Y- a diagnostic radiologist. Pearson correlation analysis was applied to determine if any significant relationship existed among the Torg's ratio and the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal in normal subjects using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). P-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The term "abnormal" or "positive Torg's index" were used to indicate that vertebral canal/body relationship was less than 0.80.

**Results:** Mean ages of male and female participants were  $36.4 \pm 2.3$  and  $41.1 \pm 1.6$  years respectively. The mean sagittal spinal canal diameter in male participants (starting from C3 to C7) was 14.4 mm (ranged from 12.7 mm to 16.5 mm), and 14.2 mm in females (ranged from

12.6 to 16.1 mm). The smallest mean sagittal spinal canal diameters in male and female participants were 12.6 mm, 12.7 mm respectively. This study revealed no significant statistical differences in the sagittal's diameters by gender. The narrowest sagittal spinal canal diameters were at C7 which was 12.7 mm for males and 12.6 mm for females. Females had smaller sagittal spinal canal diameter at all levels except C7. The mean Torg's ratio value from C3 to C7 was 0.8 in both genders. Torg's ratio less than 0.8 existed in at least one vertebral level in 42 (80.7%) out of 52 subjects. This study revealed that the smallest values of Torg's ratio in male and female participants (from C3 to C7) were 0.78, 0.77 respectively and both of them were present at the level of C4. Poor correlation was found between Torg's ratio and the mid-sagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal (significant 2-tailed is  $>0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** This study showed that the mean sagittal spinal canal diameter from C3 to C7 was 14.4 mm in males and 14.2 mm in females. This diameter was smallest at C7 and the smallest sagittal diameter from C3 to C7 in both sexes was 12 mm and there was a significant difference between the sagittal diameters between the males and females. The mean Torg's ratio values was 0.8 in both sexes with the smallest Torg's ratio of males and females participants being 0.78, 0.77 respectively and both of them were at the level of C4. This study concluded that there is a poor correlation between the true diameter of the canal and the ratio of its sagittal diameter to that of the vertebral body. The variability in anatomical morphology means that the use of ratios from anatomical measurements within the cervical spine is not reliable in determining the true diameter of the cervical canal.

## InTRoDuCTIon

Cervical spine is one of the most complicated joint systems in the human body. Thirty seven separate joints which participate in many movements of the head and neck are related with the trunk, eye, ear and tongue. During daily activities, neck performs over 600 motions. Factors, such as daily stresses, normal movements, sitting, walking, rotation and laying, continuously change motion of cervical spine.<sup>1,2</sup>

It is beyond doubt that an adequate sagittal diameter

of the cervical spinal canal is essential for the spinal cord to maintain normal functions.<sup>3</sup> Many studies tried to predict the level and degree of cervical spinal canal cord compression using routine cervical spine radiographings.<sup>4</sup>

Stenosis or narrowing of the spinal canal has been previously associated with neurologic injury.<sup>5,6</sup> The Torg's's ratio (or Pavlove's ratio) is commonly used as a universal indicator of cervical canal stenosis despite reports of differences among varied genders and races.<sup>7</sup>

The Torg's ratio is determined by dividing the sagittal diameter of the spinal canal by the sagittal diameter of the vertebral body.<sup>8</sup> The sagittal spinal-canal diameter is measured from the middle of the posterior vertebral body to the laminar line, (Figure 1). The sagittal vertebral-body diameter is measured at its midpoint.<sup>9</sup>

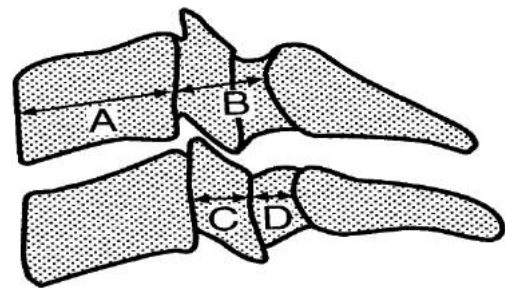


Figure 1. The technique for measuring the diameters of the vertebral body (A), canal (B), anteroposterior lateral mass (C), and the posterior facet to spinolaminar line (D).

Assessment of the diameter of the cervical canal from plain radiographs is unreliable because direct measurements are subject to variation due to magnification.<sup>10</sup> Torg's et al used this ratio to assess the presence of stenosis of the canal as a predisposing factor for cervical neuropraxia.<sup>11</sup> They found that a ratio of less than 0.80 indicated stenosis and correlated with a history of episodes of cervical neuropraxia.<sup>12,13,14,15</sup>

Another study showed that a ratio of less than 0.70 indicated significant spinal stenosis.<sup>9</sup> In previous studies it was reported that males and females showed different values of Torg's ratio.<sup>16</sup>

The canal/body ratio is used to screen athletes who are at risk of this injury.<sup>13,14,16</sup> A stenosis measure that

uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) would be of benefit because MRI avoids the magnification errors common with radiographs.<sup>9</sup> The space available for the cord (SAC) measurement has been performed previously using MRI.<sup>17,18</sup> The SAC is determined by subtracting the sagittal diameter of the spinal cord from the sagittal diameter of the spinal canal. Because stenosis is the spinal canal's encroachment on the spinal cord and spinal-cord size varies among individuals, it has been believed that this measurement technique may be best for identifying stenosis.<sup>17,18</sup>

This study aimed to determine the mid-sagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal in a group of normal subjects in Ninevah Province/Northern Iraq and to identify the narrowest vertebral level for each gender. In addition, we also aimed to set the normal range of cervical spinal canal/vertebral body ratio (Torg's ratio) in healthy adults and meanwhile to determine the variations of Torg's ratio by gender. Another aim was to compare our findings with the already published literature that gives data on other populations. Beside all, the last aim was to assess the relationship between the Torg's ratio and the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal in normal control subjects.

## METHoDS

This study was carried out at Radiology and Ultrasound Waves Unit in Al-Jumhori Teaching Hospital in Mosul city/Ninevah Province in Northern Iraq during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 to 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2010. It enrolled 52 normal adult subjects (21 women and 31 men) who were reported to that hospital of U/S examination of complaints rather than cervical. The informed consents were signed by all participating volunteers and standard questionnaire forms were obtained. The sagittal spinal canal diameter and vertebral body diameter were measured on the lateral plain X-ray films in standing position. The neck was filmed in neutral position and the radiographs were taken with a 180 cm film to tube distance. The sagittal spinal canal diameter and vertebral body diameter were measured from C3 to C7 vertebrae. The measurement points were marked on the radiograph with a marker pen. The distances between markings were measured.

Vernier caliper was used to get accurate measurements. The measurements of both diameters were expressed in mm. All values were reported and the Torg's ratio for each subject was calculated. The Torg's ratio was determined by dividing the sagittal spinal-canal diameter (B) by the corresponding sagittal vertebral-body diameter (A) as shown in Figure 1. The measures calculated included the sagittal developmental diameter of the cervical canal (SDD), the distance between the cephalocaudal midpoint of the posterior aspect of the vertebral body to the nearest point on the corresponding spinal laminar line. All measurements were taken three times by the same observer<sup>19</sup> so that, after drawing lines and making calculations, they were erased and the procedure was repeated without the reference of the previous drawing, at the five levels of the fifty-two radiographs. In the following conditions the film was discharged and replaced: quality was bad, spine rotation, deformity or bone deviation, previous disease as a formation or segmentation defect, cervical lordosis inversion, congenital abnormality of the skull-spine transition and "limbus" vertebra. The plain radiographs were of unknown magnification.

Then all subjects were positioned supine on a spine coil with no occipital padding for the MRI to determine the true diameter of the cervical canal at each level from C3 to C7. Head position was standardized so that the lateral canthus of the eye and the top of the ear formed a line perpendicular to the horizontal. The MRI scans were evaluated midsagittally at each spinal level (C3 to C7). Sagittal-diameter of the spinal-canal was traced manually and assessed using the General Electric software. The sagittal spinal-canal diameter was measured as the shortest distance from the midpoint between the vertebral body's superior and inferior endplates to the spinolaminar line. The average of three measurements was reported by the same observer.<sup>19</sup>

Subjects who reported a history of cervical spine injury or disease or a condition for which MRI was contraindicated (e.g., claustrophobia, size restrictions in the MRI bore, ferromagnetic implantation) were excluded from the study. Those outside the age range of 15 to 50 years and patients with spinal abnormalities, degenerative changes, traumatic injury or a history of



antecedent neurological symptoms which could be related to the cervical spine were excluded as well. The subjects were randomly identified, and those referring any kind of neurological symptoms, disease and/or previous surgery related to cervical spine, were excluded from the study.<sup>20</sup>

A polycarbonate board (182.88 cm 3 39.37 cm 3 1.27 cm) was custom manufactured (Rohm and Haas, Bristol, PA) for use in the MRI scanner. It simulated a wooden spine board but contained no metal supports that would otherwise create “noise” in the MRI scanner. A 1.5-Tesla superconducting MRI scanner with a sense spine coil was used to collect the data. MRI consisted of a volume 3-dimensional, T2-weighted, fast spin-echo pulse sequence (TR 2500 ms; TE 120 ms; FOV RL 200; AP 200 mm, one stack, 11 slicer per stack; matrix 25 t image time 6 minutes). This pulse sequence was selected because the 3-dimensional, fast spin-echo pulse sequence provides a higher resolution and signal-to-noise ratio than conventional 2-dimensional, fast spin-echo imaging and has been successfully used in the clinical setting for the assessment of spinal stenosis and degenerative disc diseases. All imaging and measurements were performed and evaluated by the same observer who was a member of the research team U.T.Y- a diagnostic radiologist.<sup>19</sup>

**Statistical Analysis:** A database file was set up using Microsoft Excel for Windows to facilitate data entry and retrieval. Statistical analysis was performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (version 10, SPSS) for all statistical analyses. A Pearson correlation co-efficient was calculated to determine if any significant relationship existed among the selected variables (Torg’s ratio and the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal). P-value less than 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.<sup>21</sup> The term abnormal or positive Torg’s index, as mentioned in this work, used to indicate that the relationship (canal/body) of the evaluated vertebra is less than 0.80.<sup>5,6,8</sup>

## RESul TS

This study analyzed data of the lateral radiographic profiles of the lateral cervical spines and the

corresponding MRI of 52 healthy adult control subjects. The mean ages of the male and female participants were  $36.4 \pm 2.3$  and  $41.1 \pm 1.6$  years respectively. Table 1 shows the mean sagittal spinal canal diameter values for males and females in each cervical vertebral level. The mean sagittal spinal canal diameter (from C3 to C7) was 14.4 mm in males (ranged from 12.7 to 16.5 mm), and 14.2 mm in females (ranged from 12.6 to 16.1 mm), (Figures 2, 3, and 4).

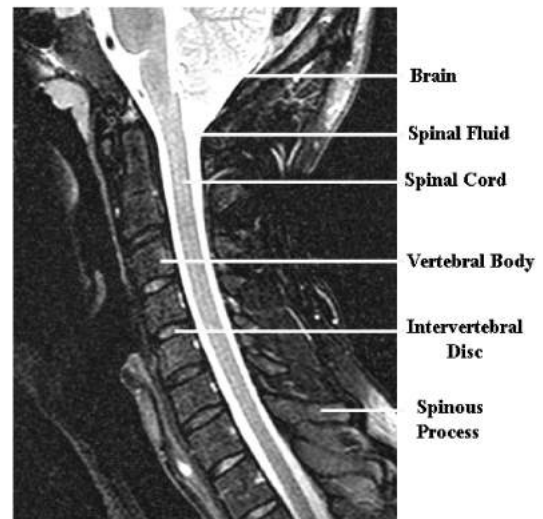


Figure 2. T2 weighted. Normal midline sagittal section through the cervical spine shows the normal landmarks.



Figure 3. T1 weighted. Normal oblique section of the cervical spine.



Figure 4. T2 weighted. Image of a 24 year old normal subject.

This study revealed that the smallest mean sagittal spinal canal diameters of male and female participants from C3 to C7 were 12.6 and 12.7 mm respectively, Table 1. This study revealed a significant gender-dependent difference in the sagittal diameter at the levels of C3, C5 and C6. The narrowest sagittal spinal canal diameter was at the level of C7 which (12 mm in both sexes). Females had smaller sagittal spinal canal diameter at all levels except C7.

Cervical vertebral level	Mean sagittal spinal diameter in males	Mean sagittal spinal diameter in females	p-value
C3	16.56±0.3	16.19±0.2	<0.05
C4	15.37±0.4	15.19±0.1	>0.05
C5	14.4±0.3	14.1±0.2	<0.05
C6	13.5±0.7	13.1±0.1	<0.05
C7	12.6±0.4	12.7±1.4	>0.05

Table 1. The mean sagittal spinal diameter values for males and females according to cervical vertebral levels.

Table 2 shows the Torg's ratio values for males and females at each cervical vertebral level. The mean Torg's ratio from C3 to C7 was 0.8 in both sexes. A Torg's ratio less than 0.8 existed in at least one vertebral level in 42 (80.7%) out of 52 subjects with the males representing 59.5%, and females representing 41.5%.

Cervical vertebral level	Torg's ratio in males	Torg's ratio in females	p-value
C3	0.83±1.3	0.82±1.8	>0.05
C4	0.78±1.7	0.77±2.6	>0.05
C5	0.81±8.3	0.81±8.7	>0.05
C6	0.80±9.4	0.81±1.0	>0.05
C7	0.80±8.1	0.80±1.2	>0.05

Table 2. Torg's ratio values according to cervical vertebral levels by gender.

This study revealed that the smallest mean Torg's ratio of male and female participants from C3 to C7 were 0.78 and 0.77 respectively, both of them were at the level of C4. The lowest value of Torg's ratio was 0.72 in females at C4 and 0.75 in males at C4.

Torg's ratio was poorly related to the midsagittal diameter of cervical spinal canal (significant 2-tailed is >0.05 using Pearson correlation study). The data of MRI of one of the subjects in this study was shown in Figure 2, 3, and 4.

## DISCUSSION

Cervical spinal stenosis is a common disease that results in considerable morbidity and disability. MRI imaging is commonly used in the evaluation of patients with symptoms related to cervical spinal stenosis. Key parameters for MR evaluation of cervical stenosis include the levels of involvement, degree of stenosis, and causes of stenosis.<sup>22,23</sup>

Spinal canal measurements obtained from radiographic imaging studies are an integral part of diagnostic evaluation of cervical spine stenosis. Before abnormal spinal morphometry can be determined, it is first necessary to establish normal values for the specific



patient population being evaluated.<sup>24</sup> Cervical spinal canal stenosis increase risk of quadriplegia after “minor trauma” in the head or neck, mainly in athletes who participate in contact or collision sports.<sup>24</sup>

The Torg’s ratio is used as a universal indicator of cervical canal stenosis and it is used to screen athletes who are at risk of this injury despite reports of differences between gender and race. Normal values of this ratio have been established for subjects of different ethnicity, but the differences between genders and race have not been critically compared.<sup>7,13,14</sup>

This study showed that the mean sagittal spinal canal diameter from C3 to C7 was 14.4 mm in males (ranged from 12.7 to 16.5 mm), and 14.2 mm in females (ranged from 12.6 to 16.1 mm). Our subjects had mean sagittal spinal canal diameter of about 1 to 2 mm less than measurements reported by other researches elsewhere like Stanley et al in 1986,<sup>25</sup> Matsuura et al in 1989,<sup>26</sup> Tierney et al in 2002,<sup>27</sup> Magbool in 2003,<sup>28</sup> and Karabulut Ö and Karabulut Z in 2007.<sup>29</sup> In some cases, the difference was as much as 4 mm (Gupta et al in 1982).<sup>30</sup> These differences may be attributed to the fact that we used MRI in determining measurements, while other previous studies used radiographs or computed tomography scans. Race differences are ultimately another valuable determinant.

On the other hand, there was a difference of about 1 to 2 mm larger than measurements reported by previous authors. Lee et al in 1994 have reported that the comparison with previous reports demonstrated consistent variation in the SDD, which increased serially from Japanese, through Chinese and Indian, to white subjects which reflect the different race.<sup>31</sup>

This study revealed that sagittal spinal canal diameter decreased from C3 down to C7. This diameter was smallest at C7 and the smallest sagittal diameter from C3 to C7 in both sexes was 12 mm. These findings are similar to that of Gupta et al in 1982,<sup>30</sup> Karabulut Ö and Karabulut Z in 2007,<sup>29</sup> and Lee et al in 1994.<sup>31</sup>

In general, our results revealed that the sagittal

diameters in females were about 1 mm less than in males at all vertebral levels. This finding is similar to that of Gupta et al in 1982,<sup>30</sup> Magbool in 2003,<sup>28</sup> and Karabulut Ö and Karabulut Z in 2007.<sup>29</sup> They reported that there is a significant difference between the sagittal diameters by gender.

In this study, the mean Torg’s ratio values from C3 to C7 were 0.8 in both males and female. In fact, this is similar to that of Karabulut Ö and Karabulut Z in 2007,<sup>29</sup> Lim and Wong in 2004,<sup>7</sup> Herzog et al in 1991<sup>16</sup> and Tierney et al in 2002.<sup>27</sup> It can be suggested that the vertebral body dimensions are proportionately larger than their corresponding canal diameters in both women and men. This would result in small Torg’s ratios both in women and in men. However, the mean Torg’s ratio values reported in this study were smaller than those reported by others like Lee et al in 1994,<sup>31</sup> Torg’s et al in 1996,<sup>7</sup> and Magbool et al in 2003.<sup>28</sup>

Lee et al in 1994 tried to ascertain the normal values of the mid-sagittal canal diameter and the canal/body ratio of the cervical spine in Korean adults and they have concluded that measurement of the canal/body ratio is more reliable than direct measuring of the mid-sagittal diameter of the cervical spinal canal in the diagnosis of cervical spinal stenosis or predicting the prognosis of cervical spinal cord injury.<sup>31</sup> Torg’s et al in 1996 suggested that the vertebral body dimensions reported were numerically similar to their corresponding canal diameters, resulting in ratios approaching unity throughout the cervical spine.<sup>6</sup> However, the study of Herzog et al demonstrated that the vertebral bodies were proportionately larger than the canal diameters at each level.<sup>16</sup> This resulted in smaller sagittal diameter to vertebral body ratios of around 0.86 whereas the ratios reported by Torg’s et al were significantly larger at around 1.00.<sup>16</sup>

This study showed that the Torg’s ratio less than 0.8 existed in at least one vertebral level in 42 (80.7%) out of 52 subjects. These findings are consistent with that of Tierney et al in 2002.<sup>27</sup> We revealed that the smallest mean Torg’s ratio of male and female participants from C3 to C7 were 0.78 and 0.77 respectively and both of

them were present at the level of C4. These findings are similar to that of Karabulut Ö and Karabulut Z in 2007.<sup>29</sup>

This study revealed no significant relationship ( $r$  less than 1) between the Torg's ratio and the sagittal spinal canal diameter. The vertebral body is used in the Torg's ratio as a way of controlling for magnification errors. Previous authors have noted problems using the vertebral body in an athletic population. Herzog et al explained that on the basis that the Torg's ratio relies on both the spinal-canal size and vertebral-body size.<sup>16</sup> Athletes had significantly larger vertebral bodies than did normal subjects in a previous study. The authors noted that the significantly larger vertebral bodies of the athletes could result in low Torg's ratios. Eventhough we analyzed normal subjects, 42 (80.7%) out of 52 subjects exhibited a Torg's ratio below 0.80 at a minimum of one spinal level. These data and our findings are together supporting that the Torg's ratio relied more on vertebral body than on the spinal; the hypothesis already presented by Herzog et al.<sup>16</sup>

Lim and Wong in 2004<sup>7</sup> reported that the relationship of VB to the corresponding SDD displayed wide variation between reports. This resulted in Torg's ratios differing between subjects of different ethnicity and he suggested that the Torg's ratio is not a consistent indicator of the SDD and may not be used to reliably identify the presence of cervical canal stenosis.

As one of our objectives, we examined the accuracy of the canal-to-body ratio as a reflection of the true diameter of the cervical canal since it was concerned that both the diameter of the canal and of Torg's ratio are variable. In order to compare it with other studies similar exclusion criteria were used.<sup>11</sup> In previous studies, the canal-to-body ratio has been described as a reliable determinant of the true diameter of the cervical canal.<sup>8,11</sup> Then Torg's et al<sup>6</sup> analyzed the data of several populations using the ratio method, and concluded that a canal-to-body ratio of 0.80 or less had a high sensitivity but a low specificity and low positive predictive value for cervical neuropraxia. Moskovich et al<sup>15</sup> compared radiological and direct measurement in 368 adult male cervical vertebrae in cadavers and obtained similar

Pearson's correlation coefficients for the canal-to-body ratio. They found this to be independent of radiological magnification but possibly misleading, erroneously indicating stenosis of the cervical canal. They attributed these errors to the positioning of the patient during radiography.

To indicate the strength of the relationships between the true diameter of the canal and the Torg's ratios investigated using the Pearson's correlation this study revealed that the canal-to-body ratio is of limited value in the assessment of the true diameter of the canal (Significant 2-tailed is  $>0.05$ ). These findings are similar to that of Blackley et al in 1999.<sup>32</sup>

### ConCluSIonS

Our study shows that the mean sagittal spinal canal diameter from C3 to C7 is a bit longer in males (14.4 mm vs. 14.2 mm in females). This diameter was smallest at C7 and the smallest sagittal diameter from C3 to C7 in both sexes was 12 mm. There was a significant difference between the sagittal diameters according to sex variation. The mean Torg's ratio values from C3 to C7 in this study was 0.8 in both males and females, the smallest Torg's ratio of male and female participants from C3 to C7 were 0.78 and 0.77 respectively and both of them were present at the level of C4. We conclude that there is a poor correlation between the true diameter of the canal and the ratio of its sagittal diameter to that of the vertebral body. The variability in anatomical morphology means that the use of ratios from anatomical measurements within the cervical spine is not reliable in determining the true diameter of the cervical canal.

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## OSCE APPLICATION ANALYSIS IN AL-MUSTANSIRIYA MEDICAL COLLEGE

### تحليل تطبيق الامتحان السريري التركيبي الموضوعي (الأوسكي) في كلية طب المستنصرية

Haider Abdulameer Jaafar Ailumerab, M.B.Ch.B, CABP, FICMS

د. حيدر عبد الأمير جعفر البومرعب

#### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لتقييم طريقة جديدة في التعليم الطبي في مجال طب الأطفال من خلال استبيان مدى قبول الطلاب للامتحان السريري التركيبي الموضوعي OSCE.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء مسح مقطعي مستعرض باستخدام نموذج استبائي تم ملؤه من قبل مجموعات متعاقبة من الطلاب بشكل مباشر بعد أداء الامتحان السريري التركيبي الموضوعي OSCE في نهاية كل شوط تعليمي بحيث يتضمن إدراك الطالب للامتحان من حيث نوعية التعليمات والتنظيم، نوعية الأداء، صدق وعدالة عملية التقييم، وفائدة هذا الامتحان بالمقارنة مع الأشكال الأخرى المستخدمة في عملية التقييم الطبي المطبقة في برامج طب الأطفال التدريبية.

**النتائج:** قام جميع طلاب الطب المؤهلين وعددهم 214 طالباً بإكمال النموذج الاستبائي الخاص بالدراسة. أظهرت الدراسة موافقة معظم الطلاب حول اتساع المعارف والمهارات السريرية التي يغطيها الامتحان (175 طالباً بنسبة 81.8%)، عدالة الامتحان (150 طالباً بنسبة 70.1%)، موثوقية المهام المطلوبة (156 طالباً بنسبة 72.9%)، وجود فرصة جيدة للتعلم (151 طالباً بنسبة 70.6%)، إبراز مواطن الضعف لدى الطالب (156 طالباً بنسبة 72.9%)، وضوح وكفاية التعليمات الخاصة بالامتحان (136 طالباً بنسبة 60.8%) والقدرة على التعويض (130 طالباً بنسبة 60.7%). من جهة أخرى فقد عبر 129 طالباً (60.3%) عن كون الامتحان تجربة مثيرة للقلق، كما أن 112 طالباً (52.4%) أثاروا تساؤلات حول عدم كفاية الوقت الممنوح لإنجاز بعض المهام، منهم 58 طالباً (27.1%) قالوا بوجود بعض الغموض في بعض الأسئلة.

**الاستنتاجات:** لوحظ بالإجمال أن نتائج تطبيق الامتحان السريري التركيبي الموضوعي OSCE في طب الأطفال كانت مشجعة جداً وقد حظيت بقبول واسع لدى الطلاب، وبناءً على ذلك يوصى بالاستمرار في تقييم وتطوير الامتحان السريري التركيبي الموضوعي في أقسام طب الأطفال.

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study implemented to evaluate a new method of assessment in medical education in pediatrics by exploring students' acceptance of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

**Methods:** A cross-sectional survey using a self administered questionnaire was completed by successive groups of students immediately after the OSCE at the end

of each clerkship rotation involving student perception of examination attributes, which included the quality of instructions and organization, the quality of performance, authenticity and fairness of the process, and usefulness of the OSCE as a comprehensive assessment instrument compared to other forms of medical assessments that were used during the pediatrics course training.

**Results:** All the 214 eligible medical students completed the questionnaire. The study demonstrated

\*Haider Abdulameer Jaafar Ailumerab, M.B.Ch.B, CABP, FICMS (Pediatrics), Pediatrician, Senior Lecturer, Pediatrics Department, College of Medicine, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad, Iraq. E-mail: hay\_jaafar@yahoo.com



*students' agreement in respect to the wide knowledge area and the range of clinical skills covered in 175 (81.8%) of responders, fairness in 150 (70.1%), authenticity of the required tasks in 156 (72.9%), the good learning opportunity in 151 (70.6%), highlighting areas of weakness in 156 (72.9%), the clearness and adequacy of instructions in 136 (60.8%), and allowance to compensate in 130 (60.7%) students. However, 129 (60.3%) students felt that it was a strong anxiety-producing experience. As well as, 112 (52.4%) expressed concerns regarding inadequacy of time for expected tasks and the ambiguity of some questions in 58 (27.1%) of them.*

**Conclusions:** Overall, students' evaluation of OSCE in pediatrics was remarkably encouraging as there was great acceptance of the OSCE. To this end, it is recommended continuing appraisal and refinement of OSCE be done by the department.

## InTRoDuCTIon

The assessment of student's clinical competence is of fundamental importance, and there are several means of evaluating students performance in medical examinations.<sup>1,2</sup> The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a method of student assessment in which aspects of clinical competence are evaluated in a comprehensive, consistent and structured manner, with close attention to the objectivity of the process.

When two or more examiners evaluate a student, the variability between them tends to be large and there are differences of opinion based on subjective perception of the examiners. In contrast, the OSCE pattern of examination is highly objective and all the candidates are exposed to a pre-determined set of questions and thus minimizing the subjectivity. Another problem is that there is insufficient supervision of students while they examine the patients. This leads to the lack of acquisition of good clinical skills. One way to overcome this is to observe the students while they take a history and do a physical examination and to give them feedback.<sup>3</sup>

The OSCE was first introduced by Harden in 1975,<sup>4</sup> and first described as an assessment method in pediatric by Waterson and colleagues.<sup>5</sup> Since its inception, the

OSCE has been increasingly used to provide formative and summative assessment in various medical disciplines worldwide,<sup>6</sup> including non-clinical disciplines.<sup>7</sup>

The conventional methods of examination that included long case and oral examination were preserved until recent changes in the curriculum. The Pediatrics Department at Al-Mustansiryia Medical College and the Central Child Teaching Hospital initiated the OSCE to be used in the end-of course and final clinical exams for students in the 6<sup>th</sup> year.

The use of OSCEs in pediatrics is not as common as in adult medicine. This is mostly due to the difficulty in having standardized patients in the pediatric age group, and with large number of students, the children or the parents become bored with giving their histories many times or become upset when the students examine their children in an inexperienced way. The success of OSCE is dependent on adequacy of resources, including the number of stations, construction of stations, method of scoring (checklists and/or global scoring), the number of students assessed, and adequate time and money.

The students were divided in their training into 4 groups. Each group had 8 weeks clerkship pediatrics training course. The OSCE, as an end-of course exam was run in the last week over 2 days with different sets of questions daily, in each day there were 2 rounds of OSCE. The OSCE round was composed of a circuit of 14 stations (11 clinical and 3 rest stations). The clinical stations involved completion of a number of tasks as follow:

- Pediatrics history station (focused or part of history: on patient or standard patient). One station.
- Pediatrics examination station (general or local: on patient or dummy). Two stations.
- Procedures or instruments station (paper and pencil task). One station.
- Investigation, data interpretation or treatment options station (paper and pencil task). Two stations.
- Growth chart station (paper and pencil task). One station.
- Communication or patient education station (on patient or standard patient). One station.



- Slides, photos or X-rays interpretation station (paper and pencil task). Two stations.
- Medical knowledge and discussion station (between examiner and examinee). One station.

The time allotted for each station was 5 minutes. One minute was given between stations to facilitate movement and reading of instructions. All students in one OSCE round completed the stations over an 85 minutes time. While preparation the OSCE stations, contents of the examination were selected on the basis of common pediatrics problems, curricular goals and objectives, and to reflect authentic clinical situations. Through discussions, consensus was achieved on the checklist items and structure.

A standardized criterion-based scoring format was used for marking at each station, with each checklist item scored as 0-5-10 (performed competently, performed but not fully competent, not performed or incompetent, respectively). Checklists were designed to include the features thought to be most important.

The study was designed to evaluate students' overall perception of OSCE, and determine acceptability of the process for students and provide feedback to enhance further development of the assessment.

## METHoDS

The study was conducted during the period of July 2010 to April 2011. All four groups of students in their 6<sup>th</sup> year participated in the process (214 students), during their respective clerkship training. Students groups had at least two extended discussion tutorials during their rotation and a few days just before the OSCE time, including orientation about the examination process and video CD of a non pediatrics OSCE of another medical college.

A cross-sectional survey using a self administered questionnaire was completed by each student upon finishing the end-of course OSCE. Students were asked to evaluate the content, structure, and organization of the OSCE, rate the quality of performance and objectivity of the OSCE process, and to give their opinion about

the usefulness of the OSCE as an assessment instrument compared to other forms which they had experienced (multiple choice questions - MCQs, essay questions, data and cases questions, log book clerkship rating, and weekly short written quizzes). Difficult to understand English words in the questionnaire form were translated and explained by the researcher.

Following completion of the questionnaire, an OSCE review session was conducted between the students and the researcher for feedback and teaching purposes. Students were given the opportunity to review their individual performances at the respective stations.

Basic statistical analysis of the Likert items was conducted by calculating frequencies. Inclusion into the survey was entirely on a voluntary basis and students were reassured that there wouldn't be any repercussion for declining to respond.

## RESul TS

**General oSCE evaluation (Table 1):** All of the 214 eligible medical students respond to the questionnaire. A total of 150 (70.1%) students agreed that the OSCE was fair and 175 (81.8%) students felt that it covered a wide knowledge area and the range of clinical skills. Moreover, 156 (72.9%) students agreed that OSCE helped to highlight areas of weakness and gaps in their competencies. Many students, 130 (60.7%) believed that OSCE allow them to compensate and 139 (65%) students believed that it was well structured, sequenced and administered. Further, 134 (62.6%) students were aware the level of information needed to pass OSCE, 135 (63.1%) were taught about OSCE performance during their training sessions and 132 (61.7%) felt that training sessions were adequate to pass OSCE. Many students, 129 (60.3%) found that OSCE was very stressful and more stressful than other exam forms in 96 (44.9%) students. More than half of the students felt that they need more time at stations (52.4%) and that OSCE minimizes chance of failing (53.3%).

**Performance testing (Table 2):** One hundred thirty five (63.1%) students felt that they were aware of nature of exam, 136 (60.6%) students indicated that

the instructions at each station were clear and adequate; and that instructions were unambiguous for 124 (58%) of them. Of all students, 151 (70.6%) reported that sequence of stations were logical and appropriate, 151 (70.6%) felt that OSCE provides a good opportunity to learn, for 156 (72.9%) of them settings at each station felt authentic, 162 (75.7%) students indicated that tasks asked to perform were fair and they reflected those taught in 140 (65.4%) students.

**Student perception of validity and reliability (Table 3):** Of all students, 124 (58%) found that OSCE provide true measure of their clinical skills in pediatrics, 136 (63.6%) students felt that OSCE was practical, useful experience and standardized and for 149 (69.6%)

of them personality, ethnicity and gender will not affect OSCE scores.

**Comparing assessment methods (Table 4):** Upon analysis of the different test formats for degree of difficulty, 118 (55.1%) of students noted that MCQs was the easiest followed by weekly short written quizzes in 109 (51%) students, log book clerkship ratings in 97 (45.3%) students, and then data and cases in 89 (41.6%) students. While OSCE represents the most difficult of all in 112 (52.4%) students followed by the essay questions in 104 (48.6%) students.

In terms of fairness, OSCE was rated to be the first most fair test format as indicated by 170 (79.3%) students

Question	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	No comment
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Exam was fair	150 (70.1)	54 (25.2)	7 (3.3)	3 (1.4)
Wide knowledge area and range of clinical skills covered	175 (81.8)	23 (10.7)	14 (6.5)	2 (1)
Needs more time at stations	112 (52.4)	42 (19.6)	52 (24.3)	8 (3.7)
Exam very stressful	129 (60.3)	48 (22.4)	36 (16.8)	1 (0.5)
Exam less stressful than other exam forms	61 (28.5)	50 (23.3)	96 (44.9)	7 (3.3)
Exam allows student to compensate	130 (60.7)	45 (21)	32 (15)	7 (3.3)
Highlights areas of weakness	156 (72.9)	36 (16.8)	17 (8)	5 (2.3)
Exam minimizes chance of failing	114 (53.3)	36 (16.8)	61 (28.5)	3 (1.4)
Well structured, sequenced and administered	139 (65)	50 (23.3)	17 (8)	8 (3.7)
Student aware the level of information needed to pass OSCE	134 (62.6)	47 (22)	25 (11.7)	8 (3.7)
Students were taught about OSCE performance during their training sessions	135 (63.1)	46 (21.5)	27 (12.6)	6 (2.8)
Training sessions were adequate to pass OSCE	132 (61.7)	45 (21)	32 (15)	5 (2.3)

Table 1. General OSCE evaluation.

Question	To a great extent	Neutral	Not at all
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Student was aware the nature of exam	135 (63.1)	46 (21.5)	33 (15.4)
Instructions were clear and adequate	136 (63.6)	44 (20.5)	34 (15.9)
Instructions were unambiguous	124 (58)	32 (14.9)	58 (27.1)
Sequence of stations was logical and appropriate	151 (70.6)	37 (17.3)	26 (12.1)
OSCE provides a good opportunity to learn	151 (70.6)	45 (21)	18 (8.4)
Settings at each station felt authentic	156 (72.9)	35 (16.4)	23 (10.7)
Tasks asked to perform were fair	162 (75.7)	28 (13.1)	24 (11.2)
Tasks reflected those taught	140 (65.4)	40 (18.7)	34 (15.9)

Table 2. Performance testing.

Question	To a great extent	Neutral	Not at all
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
OSCE provide true measure of clinical skills in pediatrics	124 (58)	50 (23.3)	40 (18.7)
OSCE practical, useful experience and standardized	136 (63.6)	51 (23.8)	27 (12.6)
Personality, ethnicity and gender will not affect OSCE scores	149 (69.6)	35 (16.4)	30 (14)

Table 3. Student perception of validity and reliability.

Which of the following methods is easiest?	Difficult	Easy	Undecided
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Multiple choice questions (MCQs)	64 (29.9)	118 (55.1)	32 (15)
Essay	104 (48.6)	35 (16.4)	75 (35)
Data and cases	65 (30.4)	89 (41.6)	60 (28)
OSCE	112 (52.4)	54 (25.2)	48 (22.4)
Log book clerkship ratings	85 (39.7)	97 (45.3)	32 (15)
Weekly short written quizzes	57 (26.6)	109 (51)	48 (22.4)
Which of the following methods is fairest?	Fair	Unfair	Undecided
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Multiple choice questions (MCQs)	128 (59.8)	61 (28.5)	25 (11.7)
Essay	89 (41.6)	90 (42)	35 (16.4)
Data and cases	133 (62.1)	55 (25.7)	26 (12.2)
OSCE	170 (79.4)	27 (12.6)	17 (8)
Log book clerkship ratings	91 (42.5)	92 (43)	31 (14.5)
Weekly short written quizzes	122 (57)	60 (28)	32 (15)
From which of the following methods do you learn most?	Learn a lot	Learn very little	Undecided
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Multiple choice questions (MCQs)	137 (64)	56 (26.2)	21 (9.8)
Essay	86 (40.2)	97 (45.3)	31 (14.5)
Data and cases	160 (74.8)	33 (15.4)	21 (9.8)
OSCE	163 (76.2)	26 (12.1)	25 (11.7)
Log book clerkship ratings	116 (54.2)	68 (31.8)	30 (14)
Weekly short written quizzes	137 (64)	43 (20.1)	34 (15.9)
Which of the following methods should be used more often in the next clinical years?	Used much more	Used much less	Undecided
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Multiple choice questions (MCQs)	143 (66.8)	39 (18.2)	32 (15)
Essay	62 (29)	123 (57.5)	29 (13.5)
Data and cases	150 (70.1)	30 (14)	34 (15.9)
OSCE	157 (73.4)	36 (16.8)	21 (9.8)
Log book clerkship ratings	94 (44)	81 (37.8)	39 (18.2)
Weekly short written quizzes	130 (60.7)	49 (22.9)	35 (16.4)

Table 4. Student rating of assessment methods.

followed by data and cases, MCQs, weekly short written quizzes, log book clerkship ratings and essay questions in 133 (62.1%), 128 (59.8%), 122 (57%), 91 (42.5%) and 89 (41.6%) students respectively.

OSCE was rated to offer the best learning method compared to the other assessment formats by 163 (76.2%) students, 157 (73.4%) of them also suggested that OSCE needs to be used more often in the next clinical years.

## DISCUSSION

In spite of its popularity in medical student evaluation systems in many medical colleges across the globe, OSCE remains the least used assessment tool in clinical clerkships in most, if not all, Iraqi medical colleges.

Application of OSCE by the pediatrics department of Al-Mustansiriyah Medical College was not an easy one for many causes like: most of the faculty is not oriented to its use, it requires special effort and money to design OSCE stations needed to measure the essential professional competencies, the difficulty in having standardized patients in the pediatric age group, and with large number of students, the children or the parents become bored with giving their histories many times or become upset when the students examine their children in an inexperienced way.

Students overwhelmingly perceived that the OSCE in pediatric had good construct validity. This was demonstrated by the favorable responses concerning transparency and fairness of the examination process, the authenticity of the required tasks per station and the good learning opportunity. The high student response rate has helped to ensure that the findings presented are a valid representation of student opinion. Excellent levels of acceptance of the OSCE by students have been previously described in the literature like Belay 2008,<sup>8</sup> Russell et al 2004<sup>9</sup> and Duerson 2000.<sup>10</sup>

Many of students felt that the examination was stressful and intimidating, yet paradoxically some students perceived it as an enjoyable, practical

experience. Studies surveying student attitudes during the OSCE have documented that the OSCE can be a strong anxiety-producing experience, and that the level of anxiety changes little as students progress through the examination as reported by Allen et al in 1998.<sup>11</sup>

Concerns were expressed by some students regarding inadequacy of time for expected tasks and the ambiguity of some questions. Faculty perceived that the concerns about time allocation per station and the degree of stress expressed by the students were due to inadequate preparation for the examination, particularly in competences not previously assessed in the 'traditional' examination as well as the timing of the inquiry (immediately after the examination); hence student stress and fatigue. Similar results were also found by some authors like Russell et al in 2004<sup>9</sup> and Sabri in 2001.<sup>12</sup> They however expressed concerns and uncertainty about whether the process would minimize their chances of failing or that the results were a true reflection of their clinical skills. This was understandable, since it was their first encounter with this type of assessment in pediatrics.

Students perceived the OSCE to be fairer than any other assessment format to which they were exposed. This findings were somewhat similar to the views of students at West Indies, Jamaica Medical School reported by Russell et al 2004<sup>9</sup> and Duffield 2002<sup>13</sup> at Newcastle Medical School.

Feedback from students and faculty has been useful in effecting improvements to the teaching and evaluation process. It is also sending a clear message to students that the achievement of overall competence is imperative to clinical practice in the current environment. Ultimately, these provide the loop necessary to drive the continuum of curriculum development.

## CONCLUSIONS

Student feedback was invaluable in influencing faculty teaching, curriculum direction and appreciation of student opinion. Overall, students' evaluation of OSCE was remarkably encouraging and reassuring regarding the validity, objectivity, comprehensiveness and overall

organization of OSCE in the department of pediatrics. Nevertheless, the added advantages of the evaluation of medical students can be maximized only if standard procedures are followed in its preparation and timely feedback are offered on the performance of candidates. To this end, it is recommended continuing appraisal and refinement of OSCE be done by the department.

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## CHARACTERIZATION OF UNDIFFERENTIATED MALIGNANT SPINDLE CELL TUMORS: A PRACTICAL IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL STUDY IN KURDISTAN REGION, IRAQ

توصيف الأورام الخبيثة غير المتميزة ذات الخلايا مغزلية الشكل: دراسة كيميائية  
نسيجية مناعية عملية في إقليم كردستان العراق

Intisar S Pity, MBChB, MSc; Jalal A. Jalal, MSc; Sarbar ME Napaki, MBChB

د. انتصار بيتي، د. جلال جلال، د. سربار ناباكي

### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** تقييم دور الكيمياء النسيجية المناعية في توصيف الأورام الخبيثة غير المتميزة ذات الخلايا مغزلية الشكل في إقليم كردستان في العراق.

**طرق البحث:** امتدت الدراسة من شهر نيسان لعام 2008 وحتى حزيران لعام 2010، بحيث شملت بشكل إجمالي 102 حالة مسجلة تحت بند "أورام خبيثة ذات خلايا مغزلية الشكل" في أقسام التشريح المرضي النسيجي في إقليم كردستان في العراق. تم إجراء التمييز المناعي بطريقة streptavidin-biotin على مقاطع البارافين.

**النتائج:** لوحظ في العينة المدروسة أن أعلى نسبة من الأورام الخبيثة غير المتميزة ذات الخلايا مغزلية الشكل تقع في أنسجة العظام والأنسجة الرخوة (بنسبة 28.4%)، يليها السبيل المعدي المعوي (17.6%)، السبيل التنفسي (12.8%)، السبيل التناسلي الأنثوي (9.8%)، الجهاز العصبي المركزي (7.8%)، السبيل البولي (5.9%)، العقد اللمفاوية (4.9%) والجلد (3.9%)، مع توزيع النسبة المتبقية (8.6%) في أعضاء متفرقة. احتل الغرن (الساركوما) أعلى قائمة التشخيص وشكل الجزء الأكبر الرئيسي (50%)، يليه السرطانة الساركومية (10.8%)، الأورام السدية في السبيل المعدي المعوي (7.8%) والورم الميلانيني (الصبغي) في الجلد (6.9%). تم تشخيص الأورام الأرومية الدبقية عديدة الأشكال، الأورام السحائية الخبيثة وأورام الظهارة المتوسطة mesothelioma في 2.9% من الحالات لكل منها، في حين تم تشخيص ورم Wilm's وحيد الطور، ورم الكيس المحي والساركوما السرطانية في 1.9% من الحالات لكل منها.

**الاستنتاجات:** تبين هذه الدراسة أن الكيمياء النسيجية المناعية تشكل أداة مفيدة جداً في تقييم وتوصيف الأورام الخبيثة غير المتميزة ذات الخلايا مغزلية الشكل. إن الربط بين الموجودات السريرية والتشريح المرضية ومعطيات التمييز المناعي أدى إلى توصيف معظم الحالات الأكثر تحدياً. ومع ذلك، لا تزال نسبة صغيرة من هذه الأورام غير قابلة للتوصيف وتتطلب المزيد من التقنيات المعقدة للوصول للتشخيص النهائي.

### ABSTRACT

Kurdistan region, Iraq.

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the role of immunohistochemistry in characterization of undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors in

**Methods:** The study extended from April 2008 to June 2010. Overall, 102 cases were reported as undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors in the histopathology departments of Kurdistan region, Iraq.

\*Intisar S Pity, MBChB, MSc, FIBMS, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Duhok University, Duhok, Kurdistan Region, Iraq.

E-mail: dani2000fadi@yahoo.com

\*Jalal A. Jalal, MBChB, MSc, FIBMS, Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Hawler Medical University, Iraq. E-mail: jajpishdary@yahoo.com

\*Sarbar ME Napaki, MBChB, FRCPA, Southern IML Pathology, Wollongong, NSW, Australia. E-mail: snapaki@yahoo.com.au

*Immunophenotyping done was streptavidin-biotin method on paraffin sections.*

**Results:** *In the studied sample, malignant spindle cell tumors were more frequently located in the bone and soft tissue (28.4%), followed by gastrointestinal tract (17.6%) and respiratory tract (12.8%), female genital tract formed (9.8%), central nervous system (7.8%), urinary tract (5.9%), lymph nodes (4.9%) and skin (3.9%). The remainder cases were (8.6%) were miscellaneous. Sarcoma group was at the top of the diagnosis list and the main bulk (50%) followed by sarcomatoid carcinoma (10.8%), gastrointestinal stromal tumor (7.8%) and melanoma (6.9%). Glioblastoma multiforme, malignant meningioma and mesothelioma were diagnosed in 2.9% of cases each while monophasic Wilm's tumor, yolk sac tumor and carcinosarcoma were found in 1.9% of cases each.*

**Conclusions:** *Immunohistochemistry is a very helpful ancillary tool in characterization of undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors in our locality. A combination of clinico-pathological correlation and immunophenotyping resulted in characterization of most challenging cases. However, a small percentage still remains uncharacterized and requires more sophisticated techniques for final diagnosis.*

## InTRoDuCTIon

Malignant spindle cell tumors comprise a diverse group of malignant tumors that appear morphologically as spindle cells. Histogenetically, these tumors could be sarcoma, melanocytic tumor, carcinoma, meningeal tumor or glioma. Although the diagnosis of these tumors, based on the clinical and morphological basis may be quite enough, categorization appears to be challenging in some cases because of their heterogeneous histologic appearances. They may exhibit fibromatosis-like, fibrosarcoma-like, myxoid, epithelioid, pleomorphic or inflammatory spindle cell pattern of growth.<sup>1</sup> The assessment is further complicated by the range of tissues from which such lesions arise, the frequently small sized biopsy specimens nowadays and the subtle distinguishing morphologic features of the tumors.<sup>1-5</sup> Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is widely used in surgical pathology and serves as a diagnostic, prognostic, and predictive tool.<sup>1-7</sup> The impact of IHC has been enhanced

by the increasing number of good quality antibodies in addition to the improvements in antigen retrieval techniques.<sup>8-13</sup> Nonetheless, it is vital that the accuracy of clinical evaluation and morphologic differential diagnosis will definitely determine the success of IHC as a supplementary tool.<sup>1-8</sup>

In the current study, we present an overview of undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors in Kurdistan Region, Iraq with inconclusive clinico-morphological diagnosis and detail the immunohistochemical approach to these biopsies. The occurrence of these tumors and the way in which they were distributed according to the localization were also evaluated.

## METHoDS

Over a 27 month period, from April 2008 to June 2010, a total of 102 undifferentiated malignant tumors with spindle cell morphology were registered in the histopathology departments of Suleimani, Erbil and Duhok, the three cities of Kurdistan Region, Iraq. These challenging cases which were uncharacterized on morphological basis, using the routine hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stains, were received in the department of histopathology of Duhok Central Laboratory, Directorate of Health, Duhok, Iraq, for immunophenotyping. Data included age of the patients and site of the tumors were obtained from the surgical request forms. The samples were fixed in 10% buffered formalin and embedded in paraffin wax. Four  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sections were taken and stained again with H&E, and with periodic acid Schiff/periodic acid Schiff-diastase ((PAS/PASD) and van Gieson's stains for glycogen, mucus, basement membrane and collagen, Gomori's stain for reticulin fibers and Schmorls stain for melanoma. Other sections were processed for immunohistochemical (IHC) analysis using poly-l-lysine-coated slides. Sections were placed in oven at 56-60°C overnight then deparaffinized in xylene and rehydrated in a series of descending concentrations of ethanol (100%, 90%, 70%, and 50%) followed by several washes in distilled water ( $\text{dH}_2\text{O}$ ) to remove residual alcohol and rinsed in Tris buffer saline (TBS, Dako Denmark A/S) solution for 2 minutes. Then slides were immersed in phosphate-buffered saline

solution (PBS, Dako Denmark A/S) for 5 min. An antigen retrieval procedure using citrate buffer (Dako Denmark A/S) was performed and brought up to a rapid boil in a conventional microwave oven (at 750W for 3-11 minutes or at 600W for 5-15 minutes according to the target antigen) and the slides were washed in fresh PBS for 5 min. Samples were then incubated in 3% hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) to quench any endogenous peroxidase activity, rinsed with  $dH_2O$  and then dipped in hydrochloric acid for 30 seconds followed by additional washes in  $dH_2O$ . Primary antibodies (mouse or rabbit, monoclonal or polyclonal, depending on the target antigen) manufactured by DAKO Corporation (Dako Denmark A/S) were added to completely cover the tissue, and slides were incubated in a high-humidity chamber with PBS at temperature ranging from 4°C overnight to ambient temperature for 20 minutes according to the target antigen. Sections were then rinsed in  $dH_2O$  and incubated for an additional 30 minutes with biotinylated secondary antibody (linking reagent) followed by incubation with peroxidase labeled Streptavidin-biotin complex reagent (Dako Denmark A/S) for 10 to 20 minutes according to the reaction and put again in fresh PBS for 5 min. Then 3,3-diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride chromogen (DAB) ready to use (Dako Denmark A/S) was applied to sections to initiate peroxidase reaction. Upon visualizing brown color formation, slides were washed several times in  $dH_2O$  and counterstained with hematoxylin. Following sequential dehydration of sections with rising titers of ethanol (50%, 70%, 90%, and 100%), slides were immersed in xylene and mounted with glass coverslips using DPX. Strong positive controls (samples with known expression of the antibody) and negative controls using parallel sections of tumor samples with the primary antibody omitted and replaced by PBS were included in the analyses.

Basic panels formed of a various combination of antibodies were applied first with respect to the patient's age, tumor location, and tumor morphological pattern. These antibodies included vimentin, pankeratin (CK), epithelial membrane antigen (EMA), S-100 protein, HMB45, desmin, smooth muscle actin (SMA), CD99, CD34 and glial fibrillary acid protein (GFAP). Subsequently additional antibodies were added for

further characterization as follows; leiomyosarcoma: calponin, h-caldesmon; rhabdomyosarcoma: MyoD-1 and myogenin; malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor: CD56 and nerve growth factor receptor; high grade squamous cell carcinoma: high molecular weight keratin and p63; malignant myoepithelioma: calponin and p63; gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST): CD117; melanoma: melanA-1; sex cord gonadal stromal tumor: inhibin and calretinin; yolk sac tumor: alfa fetoprotein; myofibrosarcoma and low grade fibromyxoid sarcoma: calponin; mesothelioma: calretinin, thrombomodulin and WT-1; transitional cell carcinoma: high molecular weight keratin, cytokeratin 7, cytokeratin 20 and p63; thymic carcinoma: CD5 and CD70; osteosarcoma: osteopontin; Kaposi sarcoma and angiosarcoma: CD31 and factor VIII-related antigen.

### RESul TS

Table 1 presents the anatomic site of the studied cases (n=102). Bone and soft tissue were the most frequently involved locations (28.4%) followed by the gastrointestinal tract (17.6%), respiratory tract (12.8%) and female genital tract (9.8%) whereas in the central nervous system, urinary system, lymph nodes and skin, the involvement was frequently less (7.8%, 5.9%, 4.9%, and 3.9%) respectively.

Application of IHC provided characterization of 96 cases (94.1%). Of these, 79 (77.5%) were found to be primary and 17 (16.7%) appeared to be metastatic. In the remaining 6 (5.9%) cases, lineage determination was not achievable; 3 cases (1 from each of the brain,

Organ/tissue	No. (%)	Organ/tissue	No. (%)
Bone/soft tissue	29 (28.4)	Skin	4 (3.9)
Gastrointestinal tract	18 (17.6)	Eye ball	2 (1.9)
Respiratory tract	13 (12.8)	Liver	2 (1.9)
Female genital tract	10 (9.8)	Male genital tract	2 (1.9)
Central nervous system	8 (7.8)	Breast	2 (1.9)
Urinary system	6 (5.9)	Thyroid gland	1 (1)
Lymph nodes	5 (4.9)		

Table 1. Distribution of cases on the basis of location (n=102).

Diagnosis	No. (%)	Diagnosis	No. (%)
Sarcoma	51 (50)	Mesothelioma	3 (2.9)
Carcinoma	11 (10.8)	Wilm's tumor	2 (1.9)
GIST	8 (7.8)	Yolk sac tumors	2 (1.9)
Melanoma	7 (6.9)	Carcinosarcoma	2 (1.9)
GBM	3 (2.9)	Miscellaneous*	4 (3.9)
Meningioma	3 (2.9)	Uncertain	6 (5.9)

\*Miscellaneous cases included malignant myoepithelioma, malignant phylloides tumor, malignant solitary fibrous tumor, and malignant sex cord gonadal stromal tumor. GIST: Gastrointestinal stromal tumor, GBM: Glioblastoma multiforme.

**Table 2. Final diagnoses of the studied cases (n=102).**

retroperitoneum and uterine cervix) were only focally positive for vimentin, focally for pankeratin and focally for S-100 protein, otherwise, were negative for EMA, high molecular weight keratin, HMB45, desmin, SMA, CD99, CD34, GFAP, CD56, CD117, inhibin, calretinin, thrombomodulin, alfa fetoprotein, calponin and WT-1. The remaining 3 cases (1 from each of small intestine, lung, and peritoneal cavity) were completely negative for all the above applied markers. Therefore, they were referred to as malignant spindle cell tumor of uncertain origin.

Table 2 presents the final diagnoses. At the top of the diagnosis list was sarcoma group (50%) which made the main bulk of cases followed by sarcomatoid carcinoma (10.8%), gastrointestinal stromal tumor (7.8%) and melanoma (6.9%). Glioblastoma multiforme, malignant meningioma and mesothelioma were less frequently diagnosed (2.9% each). Other less frequent diagnoses are given in Table 2.

Table 3 illustrates the types of sarcoma cases. They included rhabdomyosarcoma (8.8%), leiomyosarcoma (7.8%) and liposarcoma (5.9%). Malignant fibrous histiocytoma, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor and synovial sarcoma formed 3.9% each while high grade osteogenic sarcoma was characterized in 2.9% and dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans in 1.9% of cases. There were 4 cases of poorly differentiated chondrosarcoma, angiosarcoma, Kaposi sarcoma and myofibrosarcoma. The remaining 6.9% were sarcoma

Sarcoma	No. (%)	Sarcoma	No. (%)
Rhabdomyosarcoma	9 (8.8)	DFSP	2 (1.9)
Leiomyosarcoma	8 (7.8)	Chondrosarcoma	1 (1)
Liposarcoma	6 (5.9)	Angiosarcoma	1 (1)
MFH*	4 (3.9)	Kaposi sarcoma	1 (1)
MPNST	4 (3.9)	Myofibrosarcoma	1 (1)
Synovial sarcoma	4 (3.9)	Sarcoma (NOS)	7 (6.9)
Osteosarcoma	3 (2.9)		

DFSP: Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, MFH: Malignant fibrous histiocytoma, MPNST: Malignant peripheral nerve sheath, NOS: Not otherwise specified. \*MFH included low grade fibrosarcoma (2) and pleomorphic MFH (2).

**Table 3. Characterization of sarcoma cases (n=51).**

not otherwise specified (NOS). The four cases of malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH) were further characterized into low grade fibromyxoid sarcoma and pleomorphic MFH, 2 cases each.

Table 4 clarifies carcinoma cases, sarcomatoid carcinoma formed 5.9% of squamous cell carcinoma and 1.9% renal cell carcinoma. The remainders (n=3) were transitional cell carcinoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma and thymic carcinoma, one case each.

In 7 cases, a totally different diagnosis from that expected on the clinical and morphological basis was found after application of panels of antibodies, summarized in Table 5 (Figures 1-7).

Carcinoma	No. (%)
Squamous cell carcinoma	6 (5.9)
Renal cell carcinoma	2 (1.9)
Transitional cell carcinoma	1 (1)
Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	1 (1)
Thymic carcinoma	1 (1)

**Table 4. Characterization of carcinoma cases (n=11).**

## DISCUSSION

Since a variety of malignant spindle cell tumors share a common microscopic pattern, IHC is a valuable ancillary tool that contributes to the conventional morphology in determining the tumor cell lineage and



Case series	Age	Gender	Diagnosis before IHC	Diagnosis after IHC	Antibody panel
24	47	Female	High grade sarcoma	Astrocytoma	GFAP+, vimentin-, CK-, HMB45-
39	72	Male	Squamous carcinoma	Synovial sarcoma	CK+, vimentin+, EMA+, Bcl-2+, CD99+
52	59	Female	Metastatic infiltrative duct carcinoma of the breast	Metastatic malignant myoepithelioma of the breast	CK5+, Ck14+, S-100+, p63+, calponin+, CK8-, CK18-, ER-, PR-, Her2/neu-
59	79	Male	Metastatic adenocarcinoma	Malignant solitary fibrous tumor	Vimentin+, CD34+, CD99+, Bcl-2+, CK-, desmin-, S-100 protein-
75	80	Male	Metastatic adenocarcinoma	Rhabdomyosarcoma	Vimentin+, desmin+, MyoD1+, myogenin+, h-caldesmon-, CK-, CEA-
78	41	Male	Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	Myofibrosarcoma	Vimentin+, calponin+, SMA+, h-caldesmon-, desmin-, CK-, EMA-
92	36	Female	Mesothelioma	Fibrosarcoma	Vimentin+, CK-, WT-1-, calretinin-, EMA-thrombomodulin-

IHC: immunohistochemistry, GFAP: glial fibrillary acid protein, CK: cytokeratin, EMA: epithelial membrane antigen, ER: estrogen receptors, PR: progesterone receptors, SMA: smooth muscle actin, CEA: carcinoembryonic antigen, WT-1: Wilm's tumor-1.

Table 5. Summary of pre and post immunohistochemistry diagnoses of 7 interesting cases.

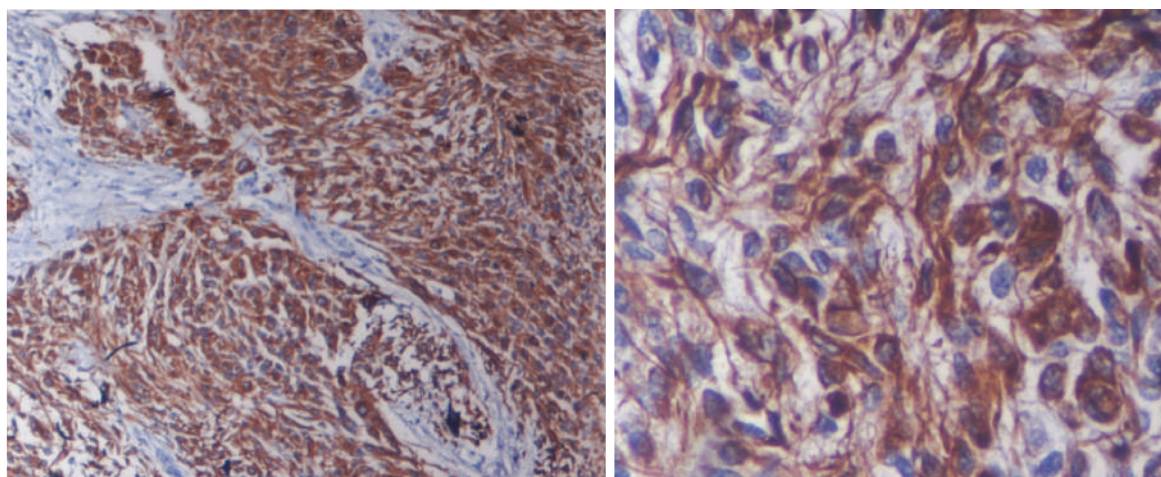


Figure 1. GFAP positive glioblastoma in the scalp.

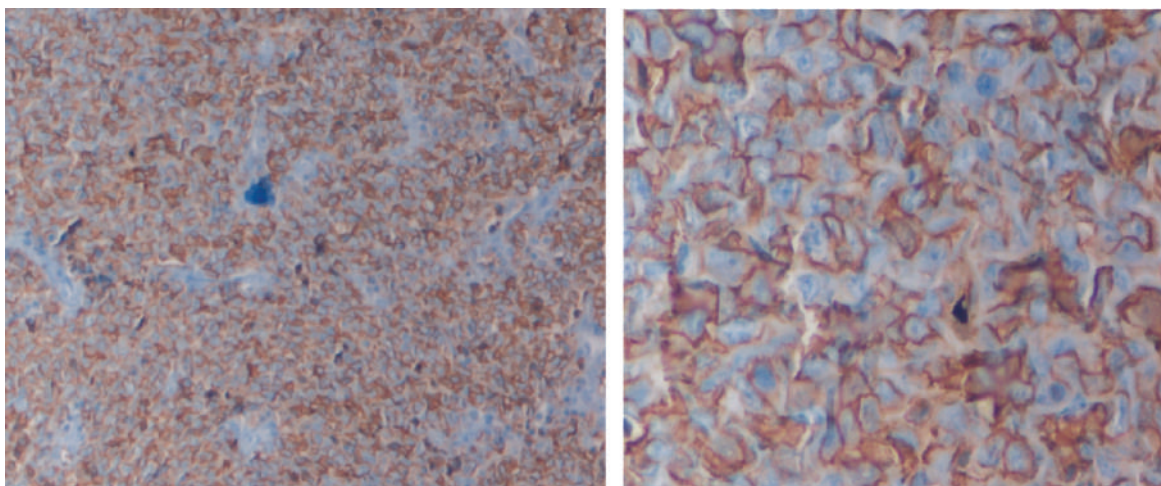


Figure 2. CD99 positive synovial sarcoma.

hence in establishing accurate diagnosis.<sup>1-11</sup> On the basis of immunohistochemical analysis, using panels of antibodies, we reached a conclusive diagnosis in 94.1% of undifferentiated spindle cell malignant tumors. The rate of unclassifiable cases in the current study (5.9%) is lower than that reported in India, Pakistan, Brazil and Nigeria.<sup>4,5,10,14</sup> Differences in the technique used for antigen retrieval in addition to the antibody clones and antibody panels applied or even the variable experience of the microscopists reflected in their different subjective agreement about the positively staining cells may account for these differences.<sup>2-11,14</sup>

In the current study, undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors were accurately diagnosed and subcategorized into leiomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, low grade fibromyxoid sarcoma, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor, synovial sarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberance, astrocytoma, malignant meningioma, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, mesothelioma, melanoma, carcinoma, carcinosarcoma, Wilm's tumor, germ cell tumor, sex cord stromal tumor, myoepithelioma, solitary fibrous tumor, phylloides tumor, osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, angiosarcoma, Kaposi sarcoma, and

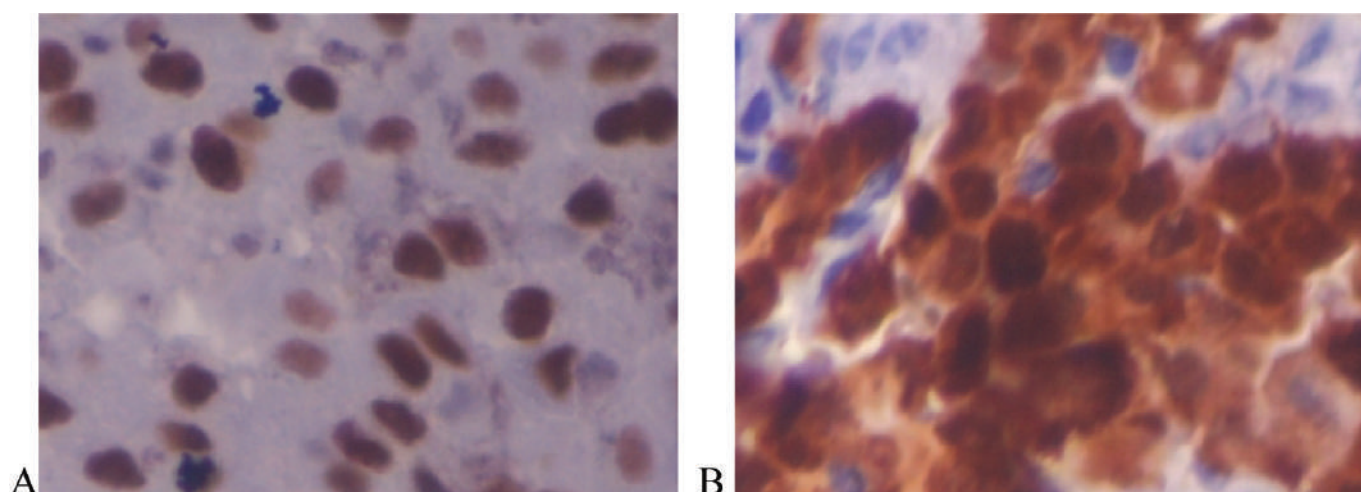


Figure 3. Myoepithelioma showing positivity for p63 (A) and S-100 protein (B).

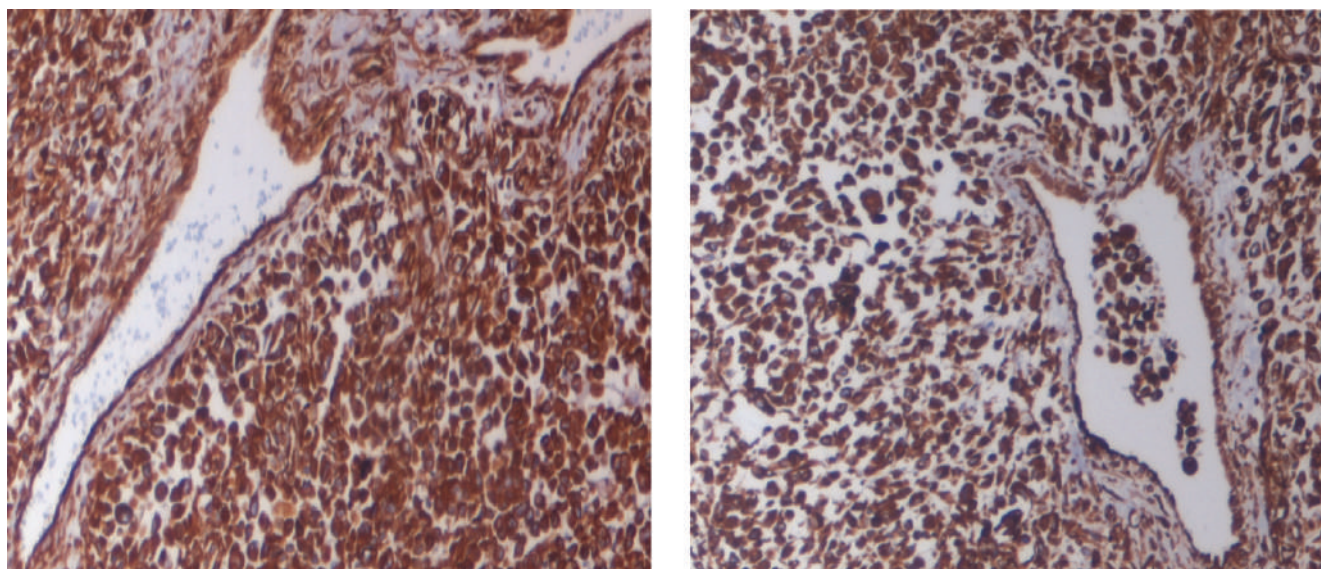


Figure 4. CD34 positive malignant solitary fibrous tumor.



myofibrosarcoma. In the course of this experiment we have faced a number of interesting cases which are worth mentioning. An adult female treated for glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) 4 years ago who presented with an irregular soft tissue mass of the scalp posed a diagnostic challenge. The clinical diagnosis favoured sarcoma, fine needle aspiration cytology showed poorly preserved malignant spindle cells. Biopsy from the lesion revealed a malignant spindle cell tumor with extensive necrosis. Immunophenotyping showed negativity for all markers of sarcoma, carcinoma and melanoma but a strong and diffuse positivity for GFAP, confirming the diagnosis of

extracranial astrocytoma, probably implanted from the previous surgery. Similarly, a 73 year old male with a malignant spindle cell tumor of the chest misdiagnosed and treated before as squamous cell carcinoma, has recently developed a high grade spindle cell tumor of the nasopharynx. After application of panels of antibodies on both old and recent tumors sections, the tumor turned to be synovial sarcoma. In a middle aged woman with a history of malignancy of the right breast 4 years ago, misdiagnosed and treated as infiltrative duct carcinoma, has recently developed cervical lymphadenopathy, the clinical diagnosis favored metastatic infiltrative

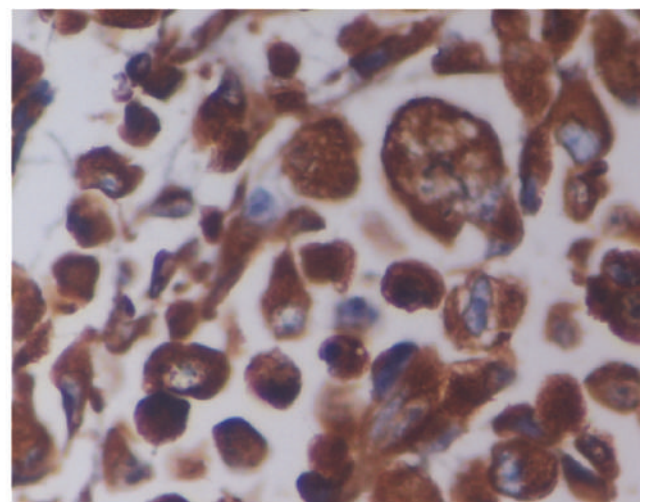
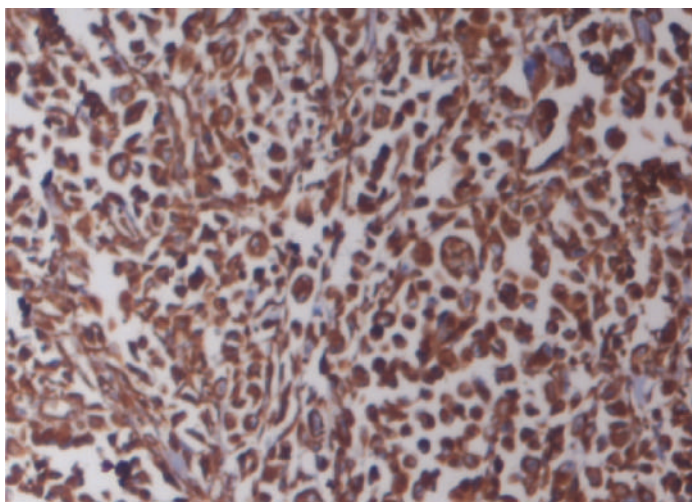


Figure 5. Desmin positive rhabdomyosarcoma.

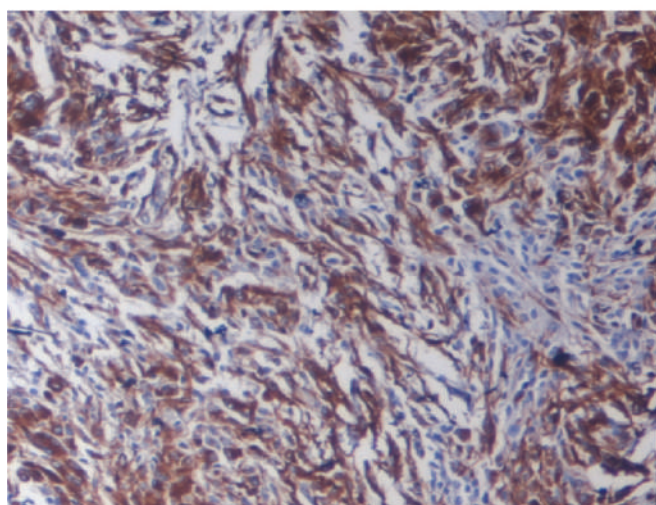


Figure 6. Calponin positive myofibrosarcoma.

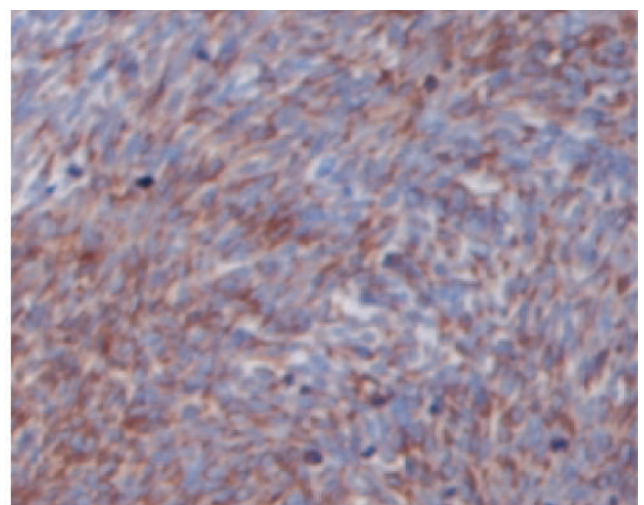


Figure 7. Vimentin positive fibrosarcoma.

duct carcinoma of the breast. Touch imprint cytology showed singly dispersed epithelioid spindle cells. The same lymph node was submitted for biopsy and showed replacement of the node by a mitotically active malignant epithelioid spindle cell tumor. Immunophenotyping of both old and recent specimens revealed negativity for lumen-type cytokeratins (CK8, CK18), ER, PR, and Her2/neu, while strongly positive for basal-type cytokeratins (CK5, Ck14), S-100 protein, p63, and calponin, thus substantiating the diagnosis of metastatic malignant myoepithelioma from the breast.

There were four more interesting cases; a 66 year old man presented with multiple soft tissue masses 5 years after a previous operation for pancreatic adenocarcinoma, clinically suspected to be metastatic adenocarcinoma. Microscopically the lesion formed a hemangiopericytoma-like spindle cell growth with a frequent mitotic activity, vascular invasion and areas of necrosis. Immunohistochemically, it was found to be malignant solitary fibrous tumor. Similarly, a case of colonic adenocarcinoma operated upon 7 years ago and received cytotoxic drugs and radiotherapy, later on presented as a testicular high grade malignant spindle cell tumor. On IHC, the diagnosis was turned to be a primary paratesticular rhabdomyosarcoma which is a rather rare entity. The third case represented myofibrosarcoma of the nasopharynx which is an extremely rare, low grade malignant tumor bearing an excellent prognosis as compared with other soft tissue sarcomas considered in the differential diagnosis.<sup>1</sup> The forth case was a malignant spindle cell tumor involving the peritoneum proved to be a locally spread sarcomatoid element (fibrosarcoma) of the right ovarian carcinosarcoma. The diagnosis of these seven cases, support the fact that IHC clearly characterizes undifferentiated malignant spindle tumors especially in difficult and challenging cases.

Carcinomas of various organs (including the breast) comprise a large proportion of malignant tumors in any diagnostic pathologic practice. In the present study, only 11 cases challenged the routine histopathological diagnosis. These tumors were either crushed on biopsy or were microscopically tiny lesions. Final diagnosis was only given after application of panels of antibodies. This finding strengthens the view that IHC can definitely

characterize spindle cell carcinomas especially in difficult and challenging cases.<sup>2-11</sup>

Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs), a distinctive type of malignant stromal tumors occurring mostly in the gastrointestinal tract, were diagnosed in 8 cases. These histologically heterogeneous tumors are required to be distinguished from other mesenchymal tumors arising in the gastrointestinal tract or elsewhere in the body. CD117 (c-kit), its immuno-expression especially with CD34 is characteristic of GIST.<sup>1,11,15-17</sup> Here another important role of IHC is illustrated where treatment regimens are modified based of IHC results. In the case of c-kit positivity requires administration of the effective targeted immune therapy (Imatinib) especially in patients with metastatic GIST.<sup>15,16</sup>

Melanoma comprises another diverse group and often presents difficulties in diagnosis.<sup>1,4,5,11,18</sup> In the current series, IHC was extremely helpful in diagnosing 7 cases of challenging melanoma, 3 of which were been diagnosed and treated as squamous cell carcinoma. The diagnosis of melanoma was made after using a panel of antibodies in the form of S-100 protein, HMB45 and MelanA.

Other diagnostic problems included malignant central nervous system tumors where distinction between astrocytic and meningeal tumors and metastases was challenging. Using a combination of the glial marker (GFAP), vimentin, and EMA was of extreme help in reaching a conclusive diagnosis in 3 cases of anaplastic meningioma and other 3 cases of high grade astrocytoma.

In the current study, IHC was also essential to confirm the diagnosis of 3 cases of mesothelioma which is another heterogeneous tumor that is difficult to be differentiated from metastatic adenocarcinoma in the pleura and peritoneum.<sup>11,19,20</sup> Diagnosis was confirmed in 3 cases using calretinin, WT-1, and thrombomodulin.

Site and distribution patterns of immuno-staining whether nuclear, cytoplasmic, membranous, or any combination, were of great importance for final diagnosis. For example, EMA, CD31 and CD99 stain



the cell membrane; WT-1 and p63 are localized in the nucleus; S-100 protein is nuclear +/- cytoplasmic (only cytoplasmic is nonspecific); intermediate filaments like CK, GFAP, vimentin, NFP, desmin, calponin and actin are cytoplasmic.<sup>11-20</sup>

Despite all attempts, the diagnosis remained inconclusive by IHC in 5.9% in the present study. Bianchini et al reported 18.6%, Gatter et al showed 6.7% and Adisa et al reported 8.1% inconclusive results. This could be due to antigen destruction or masking during tissue processing, poor antigenic expression or true absence of cellular differentiation. The use of inappropriate antibodies may also be responsible for absence of immunoreactivity. In addition, some poorly-differentiated tumors might require other techniques such as electron microscopy and molecular studies before an accurate diagnosis can be achieved.<sup>11,17,21</sup>

### ConCluSIonS & RECoMMEnDATIonS

Immunohistochemistry is a very useful adjunctive technique for characterization of undifferentiated malignant spindle cell tumors. The accuracy of clinical evaluation and morphologic differential diagnosis remains crucial for the success of IHC as an aiding diagnostic tool. They resulted in a conclusive diagnosis of 94.1% cases of malignant spindle cell tumors. However, diagnosis still remains challenging in some cases even after the application of extensive panels of antibodies because of the presence of overlapping morphologic and immunophenotypic features. Updating and adding more sophisticated techniques such as electron microscopy and molecular studies may assist for characterization of such difficult cases.

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RENAL FUNCTION TESTS IN HYPERTENSIVE PATIENTS  
USING CAPTOPRIL

## اختبارات وظائف الكلية لدى مرضى فرط ضغط الدم المعالجين بعقار CAPTOPRIL

Ahmed Yahya Dallal Bashi, BScPharm MSc; Batool Mohammed Ali Arafat, MBCh B MSc

د. أحمد يحيى دلال باشي. د. بتول محمد علي عرفات

## ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** دراسة تأثير عقار captopril على اختبارات وظائف الكلية عند مرضى فرط التوتر الشرياني، ومقارنتها مع النتائج الملاحظة عند المرضى المشخصين حديثاً بفرط التوتر الشرياني غير المعالجين بعد. بالإضافة إلى مقارنة نتائج هاتين المجموعتين مع مجموعة من الأصحاء ظاهرياً من سكان مدينة الموصل كمجموعة شاهد.

**طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 80 مريضاً مصابين بفرط التوتر الشرياني الأساسي، تم تقسيمهم إلى مجموعتين: ضمت المجموعة الأولى 50 مريضاً (المجموعة A) تتراوح أعمارهم بين 37 و62 سنة بوسطي 47.86 سنة جميعهم يتناولون عقار captopril كعلاج لفرط ضغط الدم، بينما شملت المجموعة الثانية (المجموعة B) 30 مريضاً مشخصين حديثاً بفرط ضغط الدم ولم يستعملوا بعد أي علاج، تتراوح أعمارهم بين 36 و57 سنة بوسطي 44.9 سنة. أما المجموعة الثالثة وهي مجموعة الشاهد (المجموعة C) فتضمنت 30 شخصاً سويي ضغط الدم بأعمار تتراوح بين 35 و58 سنة وبوسطي 45.9 سنة. شملت الاستقصاءات الكيميائية الحيوية المجرة للمرضى اختبارات وظائف الكلية والتي تضمنت قياس التراكيز المصلية للبول، الكرياتينين، تصفية الكرياتينين، حمض البول، الصوديوم والبوتاسيوم بالإضافة إلى قياس بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة.

**النتائج:** أظهرت النتائج وجود انخفاض هام في مستوى حمض البول في المصل لدى مرضى المجموعة A مقارنةً بمجموعة الشاهد C، كما أن مستوى بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة لنفس المجموعة كان أعلى وبشكل هام بالمقارنة مع المجموعة C. كما أظهرت النتائج أيضاً وجود ارتفاع هام في تراكيز البول، حمض البول في المصل وارتفاع في معدل بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة لدى مرضى المجموعة B مقارنةً بمرضى المجموعة C. كما تم في هذا البحث دراسة تأثير عمر المريض على اختبارات وظائف الكلية حيث لوحظ تراجع هام في تصفية الكرياتينين، وزيادة هامة في مستوى بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة لدى مرضى المجموعة A مقارنةً بالمجموعة C. من جهة أخرى فقد أظهرت دراسة تأثير الجرعة الدوائية ومدة العلاج بعقار captopril على اختبارات وظائف الكلية لدى مرضى المجموعتين A وB وجود زيادة هامة في مستوى بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة لديهم بالمقارنة مع المجموعة C.

**الاستنتاجات:** يشير التحليل الإحصائي الإجمالي لاختبارات وظائف الكلية أن عقار captopril دواء آمن نسبياً حيث يتمتع بتأثيرات سلبية طفيفة، ولهذا يبدو بأنه دواء مناسب لمعالجة مرضى فرط التوتر الشرياني وخاصةً بحالة وجود بيلة الألبومين الدقيقة أو ارتفاع في مستوى حمض البول في المصل حيث يتميز بتأثيره الإيجابي على هذين المشعرين.

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To study the renal function tests in hypertensive patients using captopril and comparing the results with that observed in newly diagnosed untreated hypertensive patients. In addition comparing

these results with results of apparently normal residents living in Mosul city as a control group.

**Methods:** Eighty essential hypertensive patients were included in this study. They were divided into two groups, the first group included 50 patients (called group A), with ages ranged from 37-62 years and a mean of

\*Ahmed Yahya Dallal Bashi, BScPharm MSc, Assistant Professor in Medical Biochemistry, Reporter of the Department of Medical Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq. Email: ahmed\_dallalbashi@yahoo.com

\*Batool Mohammed Ali Arafat, MBCh B MSc, Specialist in Clinical Biochemistry, The General Hospital, Nineveh Health General Office, Mosul, Iraq.

47.86 years, all were used captopril as antihypertensive therapy. The second group included 30 patients of newly diagnosed untreated hypertensive patients (called group B), with ages ranged from 36-57 years with a mean of 44.9 years. A third group was the control group (called group C), consisted of 30 normotensive subjects with ages ranged from 35-58 years with a mean of 45.9 years. The biochemical investigations carried were the renal function tests including serum urea, creatinine, creatinine clearance, uric acid, sodium and potassium in addition to urine microalbuminuria.

**Results:** The results of the present study showed that serum uric acid level was significantly lower in group A in comparison with group C. In addition, microalbuminuria level was significantly higher in group A in comparison to group C. The results of this study also showed that serum urea level, serum uric acid level and microalbuminuria were significantly higher in group B in comparison with group C. This study also included the effect age on the renal function tests and showed a significant decrease in creatinine clearance and a significant increase in microalbuminuria level in the samples of the group A in comparison to the group C. Whereas, the effect of the dose and the duration of treatment in both cases on the renal function tests showed significant increase in microalbuminuria level in comparison with group C.

**Conclusions:** The overall analysis of renal function tests indicates that captopril is relatively safe antihypertensive drug with mild undesirable effects, and it seems to be suitable antihypertensive drug for patients with microalbuminuria, and/or with high serum uric acid level as it indicates improvement in these parameters.

## InTRoDuCTIon

Hypertension is the state of having high blood pressure.<sup>1</sup> Primary hypertension is also known as essential hypertension, and about 90% of high blood pressure (BP) is of this type.<sup>2</sup> Hypertension can damage the kidneys, as the kidney's blood vessels can be thickened with high BP.<sup>1</sup> Hypertension is considered to be present when systolic BP is consistently 140 mmHg or greater, and or diastolic BP is consistently 90 mmHg or greater.<sup>3</sup> Hypertension is regarded as an important public health challenge, because of the associated

morbidity and mortality and the cost to the society.<sup>4</sup> The aim of treatment is to maintain BP<140/90 mmHg for most patients, and to lower than this level in certain contexts such as diabetes or kidney diseases.<sup>5</sup>

Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors are regarded now as one of the most frequently used classes of antihypertensive drugs.<sup>6</sup> The mechanism of action of ACE inhibitors is by blocking the renin-angiotensin system, so inhibit the conversion of the inactive angiotensin I to the active angiotensin II and the degradation of bradykinin.<sup>7</sup> Potentiation of bradykinin also contributes to the blood pressure-lowering action of ACE inhibitors.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the fall in aldosterone production may also contribute to the blood pressure lowering action of ACE inhibitors.<sup>8</sup> Captopril is an ACE inhibitor used for the treatment of hypertension and some types of congestive heart failure, it was the first ACE inhibitor developed.<sup>9</sup>

Captopril also has protective effect against deterioration in renal function in type 1 and type 2 diabetic nephropathy.<sup>10</sup> Proteinuria and microscopic hematuria occurs in hypertensive patients because of glomerular lesions, and about 10% of deaths caused by hypertension result from renal failure.<sup>11</sup> Hypertension is both a cause and an effect of renal impairment and its treatment influences renal outcomes.<sup>12</sup>

The aim of the present study was to investigate the effects of captopril on renal function tests and to compare the effects of hypertension on the renal function tests in untreated hypertensive patients, and comparing these results with that of normal residents living in Mosul city as a control.

## METHoDS

Eighty hypertensive patients of both sexes were included in this study, which was conducted during a period of 7 months from October 2008 till May 2009 with the co-operation of the medical staff of the out patient's clinic in Ibn-Sina Teaching Hospital. The patients were divided into two groups: The first group (group A) consisted of fifty patients whose blood pressure was controlled by using the antihypertensive



drug captopril (monotherapy) in a dose ranged from 25-150 mg/day. The duration of treatment ranged from 4 months to 7 years and their ages ranged from 37 to 62 years with a mean of  $47.86 \pm 6.84$  years. The second group (group B) consisted of thirty patients who were newly diagnosed hypertensive patients with no treatment, and their ages ranged from 36-57 years with a mean of  $44.9 \pm 4.4$  years. The control group (group C) consisted of thirty apparently healthy individuals with ages ranged from 35-58 years with a mean of  $45.9 \pm 6.0$  years of both sexes.

Patients or individuals with a history of heart, renal disease or diabetes mellitus or any other disease which may interfere with this study were excluded.

**Specimens and methods:** Venous blood (5 milliliters) were obtained from each individual of the three groups by antecubital venepuncture, using disposable sterile plastic syringes. The blood samples were collected in plain tubes, allowed to clot for 15 minutes in a water bath at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Serum samples were obtained by centrifugation of blood samples at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes, then stored in frozen condition at  $(-20^{\circ}\text{C})$  waiting for analysis. Analysis was done within three days after storing. For accuracy and reproducibility internal quality control (QC) of pooled serum was used within batch and between batch respectively through out the study. Serum samples were used for the determination of urea, creatinine, creatinine clearance, sodium, potassium, and uric acid.

**urine samples:** The first voided morning urine specimens were collected in clean disposable tubes then centrifugation of the each sample at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes was done before determining the level of microalbuminuria.

All the biochemical analysis was performed at the laboratory of higher study in the department of Biochemistry, Mosul College of Medicine, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq. Serum levels of sodium and potassium was done at the laboratory of the kidney dialysis unit of Ibn-Sina Teaching Hospital. The selection of reagents used in the study was based on accuracy, reliability, availability and were purchased as kits.

Serum creatinine was measured by Jaffe reaction method<sup>13</sup> using a kit supplied by SYRBIO diagnostic reagents for laboratories under license of EURO BIO laboratories PARIS-France. Creatinine clearance was measured by using the Cockcroft and Cault equation.<sup>14</sup> Serum urea was measured by enzymatic method,<sup>15</sup> using a kit supplied by Biomerieux (France). Serum sodium and potassium were measured using FP20 flame photometer according to Burtis,<sup>16</sup> using reagents supplied by SEAC-Italy. Serum uric acid was measured by enzymatic method,<sup>17</sup> using a kit supplied by BioLabo, France. Urine microalbumin was measured by Micral test, according to Sacks and Bruns,<sup>18</sup> using strips supplied by Roche Company, Germany.

**Statistical analysis:** The standard statistical methods used for the analysis of the data in this study were used to determine the mean and standard deviation (SD). The unpaired t-test was used to compare between cases with control. Fisher Freeman Halton test was used for the analysis of microalbuminuria result, and the ANOVA (One way analysis of variance) test was used to find the correlation between the various biochemical parameters and the dose, duration of drugs used and age of the subjects.<sup>19</sup> The statistical results were considered significant at  $p \leq 0.05$ .<sup>19</sup>

## RESul TS

**Serum urea:** A comparison between the means of serum urea in group A and the group C showed no significant difference. Whereas, a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the mean of serum urea in group B when compared with group C, (Table 1).

**Serum creatinine:** There was no significant changes in the means of serum creatinine in all the three groups studied (Table 1), while the effect of age on serum creatinine showed a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in group B in comparison with group C, (Table 4).

**Creatinine clearance (Crcl):** The comparison of the means of Crcl in all the three groups showed no significant changes (Table 1), while the effect of age on Crcl showed a significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) in group A in comparison with group C, (Table 3).

Serum uric acid: The mean of serum uric acid in group A showed a significant decrease when compared with group C ( $p<0.01$ ) (Table 1), while there was a significant increase in serum uric acid in group B ( $p<0.001$ ) in comparison with group C, (Table 1).

Microalbuminuria (MA): The mean of MA level showed a significant increase in group A in comparison with group C ( $p<0.01$ ), (Table 2), while there was a

highly significant increase of MA level group B in comparison with group C ( $p<0.001$ ) (Table 2), and a significant increase of MA level group B in comparison with group A ( $p<0.05$ ), (Table 2).

In addition, the effect of captopril dose on MA levels showed a significant increase ( $p<0.05$ ) in group A (Table 5), while the effect of duration of treatment in group A on MA levels showed a significant increase ( $p<0.01$ ), (Table 6).

Parameters	Control group (C) (n=30)	Captopril group (A) (n=50)	Newly diagnosed group (B) (n=30)	T-test	p-value
Sodium (mmol/l)	138.97±1.92	138.76±2.47	139.97±4.02	A/C A/B B/C	0.696 0.224 0.100
Potassium (mmol/l)	4.04±0.29	4.12±0.39	4.16±0.44	A/C A/B B/C	0.321 0.215 0.680
Urea (mg/dl)	30.08±4.3	32.11±5.35	32.75±4.75	A/C A/B B/C	0.086 0.039 0.631
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.78±0.14	0.75±0.16	0.80±0.20	A/C A/B B/C	0.502 0.660 0.284
Uric acid (mg/dl)	5.14±0.92	4.51±1.01	5.67±0.81	A/C A/B B/C	0.007 0.020 0.001
Crcl (ml/min)	90.07±16.71	86.39±14.44	88.21±16.61	A/C A/B B/C	0.317 0.675 0.609

Table 1. Comparison of renal function parameters between the groups (ABC).

Microalbuminuria (MA)	Captopril group		Control group		Newly diagnosed group	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MA <20 mg/l (-ve)	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	3.3
MA ca.20 mg/l	3	6.0	0	0.0	3	10.0
MA ca.50 mg/l	8	16.0	0	0.0	8	26.7
MA ca.100 mg/l	38	76.0	30	100	18	60.0
Total	50	100	30	100	30	100

Group A x group C ( $p=0.002$ ), group A x group B ( $p=0.013$ ), group C x group B ( $p<0.001$ ) according to Fisher Freeman Halton test.

Table 2. Microalbuminuria levels in the studied groups.

Parameters	Age (years)		p-value
	40-50 (n=35)	51-60 (n=15)	
Sodium (mmol/l)	139.14±2.38	137.87±2.53	0.094*
Potassium (mmol/l)	4.10±0.42	4.17±0.32	0.566*
Urea (mg/dl)	31.98±5.06	32.41±6.15	0.801*
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.76±0.17	0.73±0.12	0.484*
Uric acid (mg/dl)	4.45±1.07	4.65±0.87	0.511*
Crcl (ml/min)	90.70±11.31	76.35±16.28	0.001

\*Not significant using unpaired t-test.

**Table 3. Effect of age on renal function parameters in group A.**

Serum sodium: There was no significant changes in the means of serum sodium in all the three groups studied, (Table 1).

Serum potassium: There was no significant changes in the means of serum potassium in all the three groups studied, (Table 1).

## DISCUSSION

In the present study the comparison between serum urea level in group A showed no significant difference in the level of serum urea in the group C, Table 1. This indicates that captopril has no adverse effect on renal function in excreting urea. Also, no significant change seen in serum urea level between group A and group B, Table 1. These results are in agreement with the results of other studies.<sup>20,21</sup> They concluded that captopril can be considered as an effective antihypertensive drug that is not associated with adverse renal effects.

On the other hand, in the present study the level of serum urea in group B was significantly higher than group C, Table 1. This may be due to structural changes in the glomeruli of the kidneys in those patients, may be due to continued elevation of blood pressure,<sup>11</sup> or due to the effect of hypertension on renal functions, which

Parameters	Age (years)		p-value
	40-50 (n=27)	51-60 (n=3)	
Sodium (mmol/l)	139.96±4.21	140.00±2.0	0.988*
Potassium (mmol/l)	4.15±0.46	4.27±0.31	0.677*
Urea (mg/dl)	32.18±4.52	38.5±3.54	0.071*
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.77±0.14	1.03±0.47	0.025
Uric acid (mg/dl)	5.69±0.83	5.50±0.72	0.708*
Crcl (ml/min)	88.65±16.58	84.23±20.08	0.670*

\*Not significant using unpaired t-test.

**Table 4. Effect of age on renal function parameters in group B.**

leads to decrease GFR and finally increase in serum urea level. This result is in agreement with the result of certain study,<sup>22</sup> where they studied the renal functions in patients with mild to moderate hypertension and they found that serum urea level was higher in hypertensive patients than control group.

The comparison between serum creatinine level in group A and group C in this study shows no significant difference, Table 1, which means that captopril has no adverse effect on renal functions in excreting creatinine. This result is in agreement with the result of other investigators who studied the effect of captopril on hypertensive patients.<sup>23,24, 25</sup>

In the present, study the comparison between the level of serum creatinine in group B and group C shows that there is an increase in serum creatinine level (although not significant), Table 1. This non significant increase may be due to short duration of hypertensive effect on renal tissues or the disease is not severe enough to cause significant increase in serum creatinine level.

In addition, there is no significant difference in serum creatinine level when comparison between group A and group B is done (Table 1), that may be account to the same reasons mentioned.

Microalbuminuria (MA)	Captopril dose						p-value
	25 (mg/day)		50 (mg/day)		100 (mg/day)		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MA <20 mg/l (-ve)	0	0.0	1	3.7	0	0.0	0.018
MA ca.20 mg/l	2	10.5	1	3.7	0	0.0	
MA ca.50 mg/l	3	15.8	5	18.5	0	0.0	
MA ca.100 mg/l	14	73.7	20	74.1	4	100	
Total	19	100	27	100	4	100	

Using Fisher Freeman Halton.

Table 5. Effect of captopril doses on microalbuminuria levels.

Duration	<1 year		1-2.5 years		2.5-5 years		p-value
Microalbuminuria (MA)	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MA <20 mg/l	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0067
MAca.20 mg/l	1	4.8	1	6.7	1	7.1	
MAca.50 mg/l	4	19.0	3	20.0	1	7.1	
MAca.100 mg/l	15	71.4	11	73.3	12	85.8	

Using Fisher Freeman Halton.

Table 6. Effect of duration of hypertension on microalbuminuria levels in group A

Other researchers,<sup>26,27</sup> studied the effect of high blood pressure on renal functions, they found a significant increase in serum creatinine level in hypertensive patients, this elevation may be due to decreased renal blood flow which leads to decrease in GFR, so high blood pressure is a risk factor for progressive loss in the renal functions. However, other studies,<sup>28,29</sup> attribute this increase in serum creatinine in hypertensive patients to the alteration of the renal auto regulation due to endothelial dysfunction which lead to impaired vasodilatation of the afferent arteriole in response to the changes in arterial blood pressure.

In this study, the comparison between group A and the group C revealed no significant changes in creatinine clearance level, Table 1. Similar results were obtained when comparison was carried between group A and group B, this may indicate that captopril has no adverse effect on creatinine clearance as a function of the kidneys, Table 1. This result of the present study is in agreement with other studies,<sup>23,30</sup> concerned with effect of captopril on renal functions in patients with essential hypertension.

In the present study, the comparison between the level of creatinine clearance in group B and group C showed that there was a decrease in the level of creatinine clearance in group B. However, this change was not statistically significant, Table 1. This non-significant result may be due to short duration of hypertensive effect on renal tissues, or the disease is not severe enough to cause significant decrease in creatinine clearance level.

The result of this study -although statistically is not significant- but it is in agreement with the result of a study by another investigators,<sup>31</sup> who studied the renal functions in essential hypertensive patients and they found a decrease in creatinine clearance level, so estimation of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) help to facilitate the early identification of patients with renal impairment.

In the present study, the comparison between serum uric acid in the group A and group C showed a significant decrease of serum uric acid ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 1. In addition, serum uric acid level was significantly lower in group A when compared with group B, Table 1. This



decrease may be due to a decrease in the reabsorption of uric acid in the proximal tubules which is finally leads to a decrease in serum level of uric acid.<sup>32</sup> The result of this study is in agreement with the result of others,<sup>32,33</sup> which studied the effect of captopril on serum uric acid level and found that captopril increased uricosuria. This result indicate that captopril have hypouricemic effect.

In the present study the level of serum uric acid in group B was significantly higher than serum uric acid level in group C ( $p < 0.02$ ), Table 1. It may be due to a decrease in renal blood flow which accompanies the hypertension which finally leads to increase uric acid reabsorption.<sup>34</sup> This result is in agreement with the result of the studies done by many investigators,<sup>35,36,37</sup> where they found an association between serum uric acid and development of hypertension, and they suggested that uric acid was an independent predictor for the development and incidence of hypertension.

The results of the present study showed a significant increase in microalbuminuria in group A when compared with group C ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 2. This result is in agreement with the result obtained by others,<sup>38,39,40</sup> who studied the effect of captopril on microalbuminuria in hypertensive patients with type II diabetes mellitus and they found that captopril slowed the progressive rise of albumin in the treated patients. They concluded that captopril has an antiproteinuric effect, slows the rate of renal tissue damage, and so can safely and effectively be used in the management of non-insulin dependent diabetic hypertensive patients.

Ngai<sup>41</sup> found that ACE inhibitors reduce protein excretion by decreasing intraglomerular pressure, and improve size selective properties of the glomerular capillary wall.

In the present study, the comparison between group A and group B showed a significant increase in microalbuminuria level in group B ( $p < 0.01$ ). In addition, the prevalence of microalbuminuria in group B was significantly higher in comparison with group C ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 2. This result is in agreement with the result of many other studies,<sup>22,42,43</sup> on the prevalence of microalbuminuria in patients with essential

hypertension, they found that microalbuminuria was significantly higher in hypertensive patients and found that microalbuminuria was higher in those with longer duration and greater severity of hypertension. They also concluded that patients with microalbuminuria have high incidence for developing target organ damage like stroke and hypertensive retinopathy. They also found that the variation in the presence of microalbuminuria in essential hypertension depends on the age, race, and severity of hypertension and coexistent of renal disease so the presence of microalbuminuria is important predictor of progressive renal damage.

In the present study, the comparison between the group A and group C revealed no significant changes in serum level of sodium, Table 1. In addition, no significant change was found in comparison between the group A and group B and group B and group C, Table 1. This indicates that captopril has no adverse effect on serum sodium metabolism. This may be due to effective homeostatic mechanism of the kidney which plays a central role in the body ability to maintain appropriate sodium and potassium balance.<sup>44</sup>

The result of this study was fit with that of Osterziel et al<sup>24</sup> who studied the effect of captopril on hypertensive patients with heart failure; they found no significant changes in serum level of sodium.

In the present study, the comparison of serum potassium level between all the three groups (A, B and C) showed no significant change in serum potassium level, Table 1. This may be due to effective homeostatic mechanism of the kidney which plays a central role in the body ability to maintain appropriate sodium and potassium balance.<sup>44</sup>

The result of this study was fit with that of Osterziel et al<sup>24</sup> who studied the effect of captopril on hypertensive patients with heart failure, they found no significant changes in serum level of potassium. Another investigator,<sup>45</sup> reported that hyperkalemia is more common with long than short acting ACE-inhibitors, that probably reflects differences in the duration of angiotensin II suppression and suggested that all patients on ACE-inhibitors should have their serum

potassium measured occasionally. One more opinion<sup>46</sup> believed that reduction in aldosterone secretion caused by captopril promotes sodium excretion and potassium retention.

The effect of the dose of captopril on renal function tests in this study showed no significant changes in all parameters except for MA which showed a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in group A, Table 5. This result may be due to the effect of hypertension on renal functions, which lead to increase protein excretion in the urine. This result is in agreement with the result of previous studies,<sup>47,48</sup> where they studied the effect of captopril on renal functions in doses ranged between 25-100 mg.

In addition, the effect of duration of treatment with captopril therapy on the renal function parameters in this study showed no significant changes except for MA where it showed a significant increase ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 6. This result may be due to the effect of hypertension on renal functions, which lead to increase protein excretion in the urine. This result is in agreement with the result of another study,<sup>49</sup> where they studied the effect of captopril on renal functions over a period of 48 weeks (long-term study).

The effect of age on the renal function parameters on patients of group B for serum creatinine showed a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 4), and a significant decrease on group A for creatinine clearance in comparison with group C in the present study ( $p < 0.001$ ), Table 3. This increase of serum creatinine and reduction of creatinine clearance may be attributed to decreased GFR due to decreased renal blood flow with advancing age.

## ConCluSIonS

The findings in the present study indicate that captopril has hypouricemic effect in addition to it is anti proteinuric effect which lead to decrease protein excretion in the urine, so it is preferable for the treatment of hypertensive patients with albuminuria. However, captopril has some undesirable effects on renal functions; these effects are mild and not significant.

Moreover, untreated hypertensive patients shows more signs of undesirable effects of renal function tests than treated patients with captopril specially in its effect on microalbuminuria excretion. It is advisable that hypertensive patients with microalbuminuria to have periodic check of renal function parameters because it is an early sign for renal tissues damage.

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## STRATEGIES TO REDUCE NEONATAL BILIRUBIN-INDUCED COMPLICATIONS

## طرق الحد من الاختلاطات المحرصة بالبيليروبين عند حديثي الولادة

Jasim M. Al-Marzoki, CABP; Haider H. Shaker, FIBMS

د. جاسم المرزوكي، د. حيدر شاكر

## ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** يعتبر اليرقان أشيع الحالات التي تتطلب العناية الطبية لدى حديثي الولادة (حيث يصيب 60% من المواليد بتمام الحمل و 80% من المواليد قبل الأوان وذلك خلال الأسبوع الأول من الولادة). يعتبر فرط بيليروبين الدم لدى حديثي الولادة السبب الأكثر شيوعاً للقبول في المشفى خلال الأسبوعين الأولين من الحياة، مع وجود خطر تطور الاختلاطات المرافقة (اعتلال الدماغ بالبيليروبين، اليرقان النووي، اختلاطات تبادل الدم والتكلفة العالية للمعالجة). وعلى الرغم من أهمية هذه الحالة فلا توجد حتى الآن برامج للوقاية من هذه الاختلاطات في العراق. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد عوامل الخطورة لحالة اليرقان عند حديثي الولادة.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء دراسة مقطعية مستعرضة شملت 100 حالة يرقان عند حديثي الولادة في مشفى بابل للنسائية والأطفال التعليمي في الحلة في العراق. تم الحصول على قصة مرضية كاملة من أقرباء الطفل، مع إجراء فحص سريري شامل مع إجراء الاستقصاءات الضرورية. تم تصنيف المرضى إلى مجموعتين تبعاً لنمط المعالجة المعتمد على مستويات البيليروبين غير المباشر وتقييم عوامل الخطورة. تمت معالجة إحدى المجموعتين بالمعالجة الضوئية فقط بينما عولجت المجموعة الأخرى بالمعالجة الضوئية مع تبادل الدم.

**النتائج:** شملت المتغيرات التي شكلت عوامل خطورة لتبديل الدم بقيمة p هامة أو هامة جداً من الناحية الإحصائية ما يلي: الجنس المذكر، عمر حديث الولادة أكبر من 3 أيام عند القبول، ظهور اليرقان في الأيام الثلاثة الأولى من العمر، مدة اليرقان عند القبول 3 أيام أو أقل، مستوى البيليروبين في المصل عند القبول <70% (كنسبة مئوية من مستوى البيليروبين المتطلب لتبديل الدم)، وجود عدم توافق في الزمر ABO، عدم وجود متابعة خلال الأيام الثلاثة الأولى من الولادة، البدء المتأخر بالمعالجة الضوئية، عدم وجود قصة سابقة للقبول في المشفى، وجود قصة خروج من المشفى بوجود يرقان، المعالجة الضوئية المتأخرة مع تأخر المتابعة. كما اعتبرت المتغيرات التالية كعوامل خطورة أيضاً: طفل بتمام الحمل مع وزن طبيعي، قيم طبيعية لحجم الكريات الحمراء المكسدة PCV وسكر الدم عند القبول، عدم وجود قصة عائلية لليرقان عند الأخوة، والولادة المهبلية الطبيعية في المشفى.

**الاستنتاجات:** تتعلق عوامل الخطورة للحاجة لتبديل الدم في حالة اليرقان عند حديثي الولادة بما يلي: الخروج الباكر من المشفى، عدم تحري مستويات البيليروبين خلال الساعات 24 الأولى من الحياة، عدم تمييز عوامل الخطورة لتطور فرط بيليروبين الدم الشديد، التقييم السريري الخاطئ لشدة اليرقان، التأخر في البدء بالمعالجة الضوئية، ونقص الاهتمام اللازم بوجود اليرقان.

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Jaundice is the most common condition requiring medical attention in newborns (affects 60% of full-term infants and 80% of preterm infants in the first week after birth). Neonatal hyperbilirubinemia is

the most common reason for hospital readmission in the first 2 weeks of life, with risk of bilirubin induced complications (bilirubin encephalopathy, kernicterus, complications of exchange blood transfusion and expensive cost requirement), in spite of all the above there is no schedule to prevent these complications in

\*Jasim M. Al-Marzoki, CABP, Department of Pediatrics, Babylon Medical College, Babylon University, Babylon Gynecology and Pediatrics Teaching Hospital, Hilla, Babil, Iraq. E-mail:jalmarzoki@yahoo.com.

\* Haider H. Shaker, FIBMS, Department of Pediatrics, Babylon Medical College, Babylon University, Babylon Gynecology and Pediatrics Teaching Hospital, Hilla, Babil, Iraq.

*Iraq till now. The aim of present study was to define risk factors of jaundice.*

**Methods:** *A cross-sectional study was conducted on one hundred jaundiced neonates attending the Babylon Gynecology and Children Teaching Hospital, Hilla, Babil, Iraq. A full history was taken from their close family members. Thorough clinical examination and important investigations were done for them. They were classified into two groups according to mode of therapy depended on serum level of indirect bilirubin and evaluation of risk factors. One group was treated by phototherapy only and the other group was treated by phototherapy and exchange blood transfusion.*

**Results:** *The variables which found to be as risk factors for exchange blood transfusion with significant or highly significant p-value include; male gender, age of neonates more than 3 days on admission, appearance of jaundice in the first 3 days, duration of jaundice on admission of 3 days or less, serum bilirubin level on admission (as % from bilirubin level of exchange) of >70%, ABO incompatibility, no follow up in first 3 days of life, delayed initiation of phototherapy treatment, no history of hospital admission, history of discharge from hospital with jaundice, and delayed phototherapy with delayed follow up. The following variables are also regarded as risk factors: term active baby with normal body weight, normal packed cell volume and blood sugar on admission, no family history of jaundice in other siblings, and normal vaginal delivery in side hospital.*

**Conclusions:** *The risk factors for jaundiced neonates to have exchange transfusion is related to, early discharge from hospital, failure to check bilirubin level in first 24 hours of life, failure to recognize risk factors for development of severe hyperbilirubinemia, clinical underassessment of jaundice severity, delay in initiation phototherapy, and lack of concern regarding presence of jaundice.*

## InTRoDuCTIon

Jaundice is a yellow discoloration of the skin and sclera.<sup>1</sup> It is the most common condition requiring medical attention in newborns.<sup>2</sup> Neonatal jaundice affects 60% of full-term infants and 80% of preterm

infants in the first 3 days after birth.<sup>3</sup> Although transient, the condition accounts for up to 75% of hospital readmissions in the first week after birth.<sup>4</sup> In some infants, serum bilirubin levels may raise excessively, which can be cause for concern because unconjugated bilirubin is neurotoxic and can cause death in newborns, lifelong neurologic sequels in infants who survive (kernicterus), complications of treatment by exchange blood transfusion and expensive cost requirements. For these reasons, the presence of neonatal jaundice frequently needs diagnostic evaluation.<sup>5</sup> Infants without identified risk factors rarely have total serum bilirubin levels above 12 mg/dl (205 µmol/l). As the number of risk factors increases, the potential to develop markedly elevated bilirubin levels also increases.<sup>6</sup> The major risk factors are: total serum bilirubin/transcutaneous bilirubin level at discharge in the high-risk zone of normogram, jaundice observed in the first 24 hours, blood group incompatibility with positive direct antiglobulin test, other known hemolytic disease (G6PD deficiency), gestational age 35-36 weeks, previous sibling who had treated with phototherapy, cephalohematoma or significant bruising, exclusive breast feeding particularly if nursing is not going well and weight loss is excessive and East Asian race.<sup>7</sup> Those at high risk for kernicterus are more likely to be males that may be related to increase incidence and severity of hemolysis due to G6PD deficiency.<sup>1</sup> Prevention of severe hyperbilirubinemia is important in avoiding acute bilirubin encephalopathy and kernicterus.<sup>1</sup> All infants who are term or near term should be examined for jaundice every eight to 12 hours and before hospital discharge. Transcutaneous or blood measurements of the bilirubin level is recommended for all infants. Alternatively, infants may be examined for jaundice, and testing done if needed. All infants who are jaundiced before 24 hours of age or who are jaundiced below the level of the umbilicus should undergo blood testing.<sup>2</sup> Parents should understand the risks of hyperbilirubinemia and the importance of close follow up. Breastfeeding is encouraged, and lactation counseling is helpful for all breastfeeding mothers. Contact phone numbers (both day and night) should be available for parents who have questions or problems.<sup>2</sup> Follow-up visit at home or clinic within 2 days of discharge has been recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) since 1995 for newborns

discharge less than 48 hours after delivery. A visit at this time allows an infant to be observed by a clinician at 3 to 5 days of life, which is the usual peak of serum bilirubin concentration.<sup>2</sup> Studies indicate that providers have not consistently followed the AAP guidelines for early follow-up.<sup>2</sup> Severe hyperbilirubinemia is relatively uncommon, but infants at risk must be carefully monitored.<sup>8</sup> Kernicterus has increased in incidence as neonatal hospital stays have become shorter.<sup>9</sup> Newborns that are discharged within 48 hours of birth are at increased risk for re-hospitalization and morbidity from conditions such as jaundice that do not occur until the third or fourth day of life.<sup>10</sup> First-week follow-up of newborns after hospital discharge is critical to prevent severe jaundice and other problems because hyperbilirubinemia among newborns is becoming more prevalent, which some attribute to earlier discharge of newborns and lack of early discharge follow-up by a physician or home health nurse.<sup>11,12</sup>

The aim of this study was to define risk factors of jaundice.

## METHoDS

A cross sectional study was conducted on one hundred neonates attending the Babylon Gynecology and Children Teaching hospital with pathological jaundice (clinically and biochemically). A full history was taken from their close family members including the age gender, weight, mode and place of delivery, maturity, age on appearance of jaundice, history of early follow up, history of hospital admission, family history of sibling with (neonatal jaundice, phototherapy, exchange blood transfusion and kernicterus), pattern and state of feeding. Thorough clinical examinations for all jaundiced neonates were done, where those with good general health and positive primitive reflexes were regarded as active neonates and if they had sluggish or absent reflexes were regarded as lethargic neonates. The following investigations were done for all neonates, including determination of total serum bilirubin concentration (TSB) with fractionation of direct and indirect bilirubin concentration, PCV, blood group typing and Rh of the mother and her baby, reticulocyte

count, Coombs test, blood film, semi-quantitative assay of G6PD activity by using methemoglobin reduction test and blood sugar. Blood culture and C-reactive protein were done (for suspected cases of infection). All jaundiced neonates were classified in to two groups according to mode of therapy depended on serum level of indirect bilirubin and evaluation of risk factors. One group was treated by phototherapy only (75 jaundiced neonates) and the other group was treated by phototherapy and exchange blood transfusion (25 jaundiced neonates). Study of risk factors was done for each group. Neonates risk factors classified in to two groups; those admitted during first three days of life or after third day of life, appearance of jaundice in first three days of life or after that age, duration of jaundice three days and less or more than three days, presence of history of follow up in first three days of life (early follow up) or not, to estimate the most important age on which schedule organization can be done. Early phototherapy means initiation of phototherapy when serum bilirubin level is 50-70% of level that requires treatment by exchange blood transfusion, which depends on (age, level of indirect bilirubin concentration with consideration of risk factors).

The data were analyzed statistically by using computerized SPSS system to determine Chi-square test, which was carried out to measure the relative importance of various variables. P-value less than 0.05 considered as statistically significant, and values less than 0.01 were considered to be highly significant.

## RESul TS

The variables recruited in this study in relation to the mode of therapy and the risk of development of severe hyperbilirubinemia and the percentage of exchange transfusion with its significance are mentioned in Table 1. The variables which found to be as risk factors for exchange transfusion with significant or highly significant p-value include: male gender, age of neonates more than 3 days on admission, appearance of jaundice in the first 3 days, duration of jaundice on admission of 3 days or less, TSB level on admission

(as % from TSB level of exchange) of >70%, ABO incompatibility, no follow up in first 3 days of life, delayed initiation of phototherapy treatment, no history of hospital admission, history of discharge from hospital with jaundice, and delayed phototherapy with delayed

follow up. The following variables are also regarded as risk factors: term active baby with normal body weight, normal PCV% and blood sugar on admission, no family history of jaundice in other siblings, and normal vaginal delivery in side hospital, Table 2.

Variables		Mode of therapy		Exchange transfusion (%)	p-value
		Phototherapy (75)	Exchange transfusion (25)		
Gender	Male	42 (67.74%)	20 (32.25%)	80	<0.001
	Female	33 (86.84%)	5 (13.15%)	20	
Gestational age (weeks)	<37	11 (84.61%)	2 (15.38%)	8	<0.001
	37-42	64 (73.56%)	23 (26.43%)	92	
Weight (gram)	<1500	2 (100%)	0 (0%)		<0.05
	1500-2500	15 (68.18%)	7 (31.81%)		
	2500-4000	52 (74.28%)	18 (25.71%)	28	
	>4000	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	72	
General condition of neonates	Active	48 (77.41%)	14 (22.58%)	56	<0.05
	Lethargic	27 (71.05%)	11 (28.94%)	44	
Age of neonates on admission	First 3 days	19 (79.16%)	5 (20.83%)	20	<0.001
	After 3 days	56 (73.68%)	20 (26.31%)	80	
Age on appearance of jaundice	First 3 days	56 (71.79%)	22 (28.20%)	88	<0.001
	After 3 days	19 (86.36%)	3 (13.63%)	12	
Duration of jaundice on admission	3 days or less	57 (76%)	18 (24%)	72	<0.05
	More than 3 days	18 (72%)	7 (28%)	28	
History of hospital admission	Yes	33 (82.50)	7 (17.49%)	28	<0.001
	No	42 (70%)	18 (30%)	72	
History of discharge from hospital with jaundice	Yes	7 (50%)	7 (50%)	28	<0.001
	No	21 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	
Positive family history of jaundice in sibling	Yes	21 (72.41%)	8 (27.58%)	32	<0.05
	No	54 (76%)	17 (24%)	68	
Mode of delivery	Normal vaginal delivery mid wife	13 (76.47%)	4 (23.52%)	16	<0.05
	Hospital	40 (74%)	14 (26%)	56	
	C/S	22 (75.86%)	7 (24.13%)	28	

Table 1. Distribution of clinical variables according to mode of therapy and the percentage of exchange transfusion and its significance.



Variables		Mode of therapy		Exchange transfusion (%)	p-value
		Phototherapy (75)	Exchange transfusion (25)		
Serum bilirubin level on admission (as % from bilirubin level of exchange)	<50%	11 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	<0.001
	50-70%	23 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	
	>70%	41 (62.12%)	25 (37.87%)	100	
Causes of jaundice	ABO incompatibility	22 (73.33%)	8 (26.66%)	32	<0.05
	Rh incompatibility	7 (63.63%)	4 (36.36%)	16	
	Rh and ABO incompatibility	2 (66.66%)	1 (33.33%)	4	
	G6PD deficiency	8 (66.66%)	4 (33.33%)	15	
	Sepsis	16 (84.21%)	3 (15.78%)	12	
	No identified cause	20 (80%)	5 (20%)	21	
PCV % on admission	>65	19 (95%)	1 (5%)	4	<0.05
	45-65	44 (74.57%)	15 (25.42%)	60	
	<45	12 (57.14%)	9 (42.85%)	36	
Blood sugar on admission	Normal	61 (76.25%)	19 (23.74%)	76	<0.05
	Low	14 (70%)	6 (30%)	24	
Follow-up in first three days of life	Yes	15 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	<0.001
	No	60 (70.58%)	25 (29.41%)	100	
Time of initiation of phototherapy	Early	37 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	<0.001
	Delayed	38 (60.31%)	25 (39.68%)	100	
Early phototherapy and time of follow up	Early follow up	14 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	>0.05
	Delayed follow up	23 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	
Delayed phototherapy and time of follow up	Early follow up	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0	<0.001
	Delayed follow up	37 (59.67%)	25 (40.32%)	100	

Table 2. Distribution of laboratory and management variables.

## DISCUSSION

Male neonates had highly significant risk for exchange blood transfusion (p-value<0.001), that agree with a study included a registry of 125 cases of kernicterus cases in the USA, and showed that 69% were males.<sup>2</sup> A 3-year prospective study in the Henry Ford Health System on 5507 healthy, racially and ethnically diverse newborns, comparing rates of severe jaundice to 11 other hospitals reported that severe jaundice was associated with male sex. This fact may be related

to that G6PD deficiency is more common and more severe in males.<sup>2,13</sup> Age of neonates and appearance of jaundice in first three days of life and the duration of jaundice of three days or less had significant risk for exchange transfusion (p-value <0.001, <0.001 and <0.05, respectively) which could be explained by that jaundice in first three days of life was more likely to be pathological, parents' visual assessment of possible jaundice is not very accurate<sup>1,2,10,14</sup> and because elevated bilirubin levels are not treated in a timely manner so that serious complications can occur.<sup>1</sup> Total serum bilirubin

level more than 70% of level that require treatment by exchange blood transfusion had highly significant risk for exchange transfusion ( $p$ -value $<0.001$ ) that could be explained by that there is severe increment in TSB level more than excretion.<sup>14,16,17</sup> Hemolytic conditions had highly significant risk for exchange transfusion than those with non-hemolytic conditions and/or no cause identified (ABO incompatibility, Rh incompatibility, ABO incompatibility and Rh incompatibility, G6PD deficiency, sepsis, no cause identified), ( $p$ -value $<0.001$ ) which could be explained by that hemolytic causes of jaundice had more severe course than non-hemolytic causes and ABO incompatibility is the most common hemolytic cause of jaundice.<sup>7,15</sup> Jaundiced neonates with no early follow up had highly significant risk for exchange transfusion ( $p$ -value $<0.001$ ), which agree with a USA study.<sup>2</sup> In a sample of almost 30000 discharges newborn with early follow up had only 127 readmission for jaundice, rate of 4.2/1000 and in a sample of 420 discharges newborn with early follow up readmission for jaundice was only one, rate of 2.3/1000.<sup>17</sup> Neonates with early follow up had early initiation of phototherapy and treatment of some of risk factors (e.g. infection, dehydration....etc.) which decrease the risk of severe hyperbilirubinemia.<sup>1</sup> Delayed phototherapy in jaundiced neonates had highly significant risk for exchange blood transfusion ( $p$ -value $<0.001$ ), which could be explained by that phototherapy is the first and most common treatment for jaundice in newborns, and in most cases is the only treatment required.<sup>1</sup> The effectiveness of phototherapy was demonstrated by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development cohort study of 1339 infants, where only 4% of those treated with phototherapy required exchange transfusion.<sup>18</sup> Neonates who had no history of admission to hospital had significant risk for exchange transfusion ( $p$ -value $<0.05$ ), that could be explained by that, most of admissions were in the first few days of life, so the jaundice noted by physicians and treated with evaluation of risk factors and by family education about jaundice in side the hospital. History of discharge with jaundice had highly significant risk for exchange blood transfusion ( $p$ -value $<0.001$ ), which may be related to the lack of concern to jaundice by physician and family,<sup>2</sup> underestimating severity of jaundice and failure to measure bilirubin level in the first 24 hours in jaundiced neonates.<sup>7</sup> Term

active baby with normal body weight, normal PCV% and blood sugar on admission, no family history of jaundice in other siblings, and normal vaginal delivery in side hospital appeared to be risk factors for exchange transfusion in this study, which may be because the current study is limited cross sectional hospital based design, and so most of our 100 jaundiced neonates were term, active and delivered normally inside the hospital.

## ConCluSIonS

The risk factors for jaundiced neonates to have exchange transfusion is related to: early discharge from hospital, failure to check bilirubin level in first 24 hours of life, failure to recognize risk factors for development of severe hyperbilirunemia, clinical underassessment of jaundice severity, delay in initiation phototherapy, and lack of concern regarding presence of jaundice.

## RECoMMEnDATIonS

There is a need for organizing an Iraqis schedule to prevent bilirubin induced complications (bilirubin encephalopathy, kernicterus, complications of exchange blood transfusion and expensive cost requirement). Strategies for organizing schedule are:

- Early phototherapy, that depends on: evaluation of risk factors before discharge, follow up within 2-3 days to all neonates discharged before 48 hours of age, discharging after 72 hours of delivery, screening for jaundice in the first three days of life by (clinical assessment of jaundice measuring of TSB or TCB and use of normogram), family education about jaundice severity, treatment and complications.
- Treat risk factors for development of severe hyperbilirubinemia (e.g. use of intravenous immunoglobulins, antibiotics...etc) and risk factors that increase neural toxicity of bilirubin on brain (e.g. acidosis, hypoglycemia, asphyxia...etc).
- Decrease risk of mortality and morbidity from exchange blood transfusion (e.g. screen blood for infectious diseases, use of warm fresh blood, aseptic procedure doing by scaled doctors...etc).

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## FREQUENCY OF GASTROINTESTINAL LESIONS IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY UNEXPLAINED IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

شيوخ الآفات الهضمية لدى مرضى فقر الدم بعوز الحديد غير المبررة سريريا

Maamoun Dabeh, MD; Mahmoud Nasser, PhD

د. مأمون ضبع، د. محمود ناصر

### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** تحديد شيوخ آفات السبيل المعدي المعوي لدى مرضى فقر الدم بعوز الحديد وتحديد العوامل التي تنبئ بوجودها. **طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 96 مريضاً لديهم فقر دم بعوز الحديد، تم تحديد المتغيرات السريرية والكيميائية الحيوية لديهم، مع إجراء تنظير مريء ومعدة مع تنظير كولون لتقصي آفات السبيل المعدي المعوي وتحديد عوامل الخطورة التنبؤية للإصابة. **النتائج:** بلغ العمر الوسطي للمرضى 50 عاماً، شكلت الإناث 60% من الحالات، وجدت آفات هضمية مفسرة لفقر الدم عند 74% من المرضى. لوحظت آفات في السبيل الهضمي العلوي والسفلي عند 54.7% و 53.3% من المرضى على الترتيب. شكل كل من تقدم العمر، نقص الوزن والإمساك عوامل خطورة تنبؤية لآفات السبيل المعدي المعوي. **الاستنتاجات:** تعتبر آفات السبيل المعدي المعوي سبباً مهماً لفقر الدم بعوز الحديد، شملت عوامل الخطورة التنبؤية للآفات الهضمية كلاً من تقدم العمر، الإمساك ونقص الوزن. إن وجود الأعراض الهضمية العلوية قد ينبئ بوجود آفات في السبيل الهضمي العلوي من خلال تنظير المريء والمعدة والعفج.

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Our aims were to determine the frequency and predictors of gastrointestinal tract lesions in patients with the iron deficiency anemia.

**Methods:** Ninety six patients with iron deficiency anemia were interviewed and their clinical and biochemical variables were recorded. Esophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy were performed and the prevalence of gastrointestinal tract lesions and predictive risk factors were identified.

**Results:** Ninety six patients were enrolled, with mean age 50 years; 58 (60%) were females. Underlying etiology was identified in 74% of patients. Upper and

lower gastrointestinal tract lesions were found in 54.7% and 53.3% of patients, respectively. Age, weight loss and constipation were the predictive factors for gastrointestinal lesions.

**Conclusions:** Gastrointestinal lesions were an important cause of iron deficiency anemia. Advanced age, constipation and weight loss can predict gastrointestinal lesions in iron deficiency anemia. Upper gastrointestinal symptoms can predict gastrointestinal lesions on esophagogastroduodenoscopy.

### InTRoDuCTIon

Iron deficiency anemia (IDA) is the most common type of anemia in adults.<sup>1</sup> Chronic gastrointestinal (GI)

\*Maamoun Dabeh, Master Degree in Gastroenterology, Gastroenterology Division, Internal Medicine Department, Aleppo University Hospital, Aleppo, Syria.  
E-mail: dr.maamon.dabeh@gmail.com.

\*Mahmoud Nasser, PhD, Professor of Gastroenterology, Gastroenterology Division, Internal Medicine Department, Aleppo University Hospital, Aleppo, Syria.



bleeding is the leading cause of IDA in men above age 50 and postmenopausal women.<sup>1</sup> The main concern is excluding malignancy.<sup>2</sup> Upper and lower GI investigations should be considered in all post-menopausal female and all male patients with IDA.<sup>3</sup> In patients with site-specific symptoms, the sequence of diagnostic testing is guided by the symptoms.<sup>4</sup> If esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) is done as the initial GI investigation only the presence of gastric cancer or celiac disease should deter lower GI investigation.<sup>3</sup> Our study's aim was to identify the prevalence and predictors of GI lesions in IDA patients.

## METHODS

**Study design:** Prospective cohort study included adult patients who were referred or admitted to gastroenterology department of a university teaching hospital between October 2009 and July 2011.

**Patients:** Enrollment criteria included adults  $\geq 18$  years old with iron-deficiency anemia. Anemia was defined as hemoglobin (Hb)  $< 13$  g/dl for men and  $< 12$  g/dl for women, using the World Health Organization criteria. Iron-deficiency was considered to be present if the serum ferritin level was  $< 15$  ng/ml (normal range 50-200 ng/ml) or transferrin saturation (serum iron  $\times$  100/total iron binding capacity)  $< 18\%$  (normal range 25-50%).<sup>15</sup>

Patients were excluded if they had clinically explained causes of IDA: (1) overt blood loss (gastrointestinal or extraintestinal); (2) known cancer; (3) hemoglobinopathy; (4) renal failure; (5) recent surgery or; (6) previous gastric surgery.

During the study period, 96 patients were referred to the gastroenterology department for evaluation of iron deficiency anemia.

A detailed history was obtained by interview, focusing on GI symptoms, medications and chronic diseases. A complete physical examination was performed. A blood sample was taken for analysis of biochemical variables: complete blood count (CBC), Fe, TIBC, ferritin, LDH, creatinine, urea and fecal occult blood test (FOBT). Routine biochemical variables were measured by

standardized methods on autoanalyzers. Endoscopies were performed using standard video endoscopes. EGD and colonoscopy were done in 95 and 92 patients respectively, EGD was refused by one patient and four patients were not compliant to bowel preparation and refused to repeat it. Duodenal biopsies were taken during EGD. In all colonoscopies, the caecum was intubated.

The following abnormalities of the GI tract were considered as potential causes of IDA: erosive esophagitis, hiatal hernia with erosions, erosive gastritis, gastric and duodenal ulcers, gastric tumors, celiac disease and other malabsorptive diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases, colorectal tumors, hemorrhoids, angiodysplasia and colonic polyps  $\geq 1$  cm. All suspected lesions and detected tumors were biopsied for pathology diagnosis.

All patients gave informed consent. This study was approved by the committee on Human Research of our university.

**Statistical analysis:** Continuous variables were reported as means and SDs. Differences at baseline were investigated between patients with and without GI lesions by means of Student t test used for continuous variables and chi-square test for discrete variables. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression tests were used to check the risk factors of GI lesions. All tests were two-sided, and a probability value of less than 0.05 was considered to be significant. The SPSS version 17 software was used for statistical analysis.

## RESULTS

The study group consisted of ninety six patients with iron deficiency anemia. The mean age was 50 (range 18-91 years), 58 of whom were women (60.4%). Only nine patients were asymptomatic (9.6%), 35 patients (36.4%) used aspirin or another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) regularly and only one took warfarin. FOBT was done in 55 patients and was positive in 28 cases (50.9%). Demographic and laboratory parameters of the patients are provided in Table 1. Symptoms are provided in Table 2.

Laboratory data	
Hemoglobin (g/dl) mean±SD	8.3±2
Hematocrit (%) mean±SD	27.2±6
MCV (fl) mean±SD	69±10
Serum ferritin (ng/ml) mean±SD	8.2±9
Serum iron (µg/dl) mean±SD	41±20
TIBC (mg/dl) mean±SD	429.4±109.1
Transferrin saturation (%) mean±SD	9.6±4.3
LDH (U/l) mean±SD	406.7±131

SD, Standard deviation; NSAID, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; MCV, Mean corpuscular volume; TIBC, Total iron binding capacity; LDH, Lactate dehydrogenase.

Table 1. Laboratory data of the study patients.

Symptom	Percent %
Abdominal pain	66.7%
Weight loss	46.9%
Anorexia	43.8%
Constipation	42.7%
Heart burn	28.1%
Nausea and vomiting	25%
Dysphagia	19.8%
Diarrhea	13.5%
Changes of bowel habit	9.4%
Odynophagia	4.2%

Table 2. Symptoms of the study patients.

The cause of IDA was identified in 71 (74 %) patients. Fifty two (54.7 %) of 95 patients who underwent EGD had a lesion which explained their anemia in the upper GI tract, 49 (53.2 %) of 92 patients who underwent colonoscopy had a lesion which explained their anemia in the lower GI tract and 30 (33%) patients had lesions in both upper and lower GI tract. Erosive gastritis was the most common lesion detected by EGD (27.4%), hemorrhoids and colon cancer were the most common lesions detected by colonoscopy (25% and 12% respectively). In 15 (15.6 %) patients, a malignancy was responsible for the IDA: colonic adenocarcinoma in 11 patients; gastric adenocarcinoma in two patients; gastric carcinoid in one patient and gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) in one patient. Celiac disease was diagnosed in seven patients (8.4%).

The frequency of GI lesions was slightly higher in patients with positive FOBT (82.1% versus 70.4%) but

no significant association was found between FOBT positivity and the presence of GI lesions ( $p=0.6$ ). GI lesions were more frequent in patients taking NSAID (82% versus 69%), but this difference was not significant ( $p=0.16$ ). Endoscopic findings are provided in Table 3.

On univariate analysis: age ( $p<0.001$ ; OR=1.1; 95%CI: 1.05-1.13), weight loss ( $p=0.03$ ; OR=2.9; 95%CI: 1.2-8), constipation ( $p=0.01$ ; OR=4.1; 95%CI: 1.4-12.2) and dysphagia ( $p=0.02$ ; OR=8.2; 95%CI: 1-64.6) were significantly related to GI lesions as a cause of IDA, whereas other symptoms, sex, smoking, hemoglobin, transferrin saturation, NSAID use were not significantly different between patients with and without GI lesions. On multivariate logistic regression predictors of GI lesions were: age ( $p<0.001$ ; OR=1.1; 95%CI: 1.06-1.19), weight loss ( $p=0.01$ ; OR=8.1; 95%CI: 1.6-42) and constipation ( $p<0.01$ ; OR=7.2; 95%CI: 1.7-31.5). as provided in Table 4.

Total number: 96	Frequency	Percent %
EGD	95/96 patients	
Hiatal hernia with erosions	2	2.1%
Reflux esophagitis	15	15.8%
Esophageal varices	1	1.1%
Esophageal web	1	1.1%
Erosive gastritis	26	27.4%
Gastric ulcer	11	11.6%
Gastric cancer	4	4.2%
Gastric polyp	2	2.1%
Duodenal ulcer	7	7.4%
Erosive duodenitis	3	3.2%
Angiodysplasia	3	3.2%
Colonoscopy	92/96 patients	
Adenocarcinoma	11	12%
Polyps	11	12%
Diverticulosis	3	3.3%
Angiodysplasia	6	6.5%
Hemorrhoid	23	25%
Chron's disease	1	1.1%
Colitis	1	1.1%

EGD: Esophagogastroduodenoscopy

Table 3. Endoscopic findings of the study patients.

Risk factor	With univariate analysis		With multivariate analysis	
	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Age	1.1 (1.05-1.13)	<0.001	1.1 (1.06-1.19)	<0.001
Weight loss	2.9 (1.2-8)	0.03	8.1 (1.6-42)	0.01
Constipation	4.1 (1.4-12.2)	0.01	7.2 (1.7-31.5)	0.008
Dysphagia	8.2 (1-64.6)	0.02	8 (0.7-87.6)	NS

CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio; NS, non-significant.

**Table 4. Predictors of GI lesions.**

Patients were divided into two groups by site-specific symptoms to identify the importance of site specific symptoms in predicting endoscopic lesions in patients with IDA. Upper GI symptoms could predict endoscopic lesions in upper GI tract ( $p=0.01$ ; OR=3.2; 95% CI: 1.2-8.6), while lower GI symptoms could not predict colonoscopic lesions ( $p=0.08$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia in patients all over the world.<sup>1</sup> IDA in adults without obvious cause of blood loss is believed to result mostly from occult GI blood loss. Recently, IDA has attracted more and more attention for its association with GI tract malignancy.<sup>15,16</sup> A full investigation of the GI tract (including EGD and colonoscopy) is therefore the mainstay investigations.

The present study identified significant GI lesions in 74% of patients. This prevalence is close to the results of Western studies (40-84%).<sup>7,8,10,16,17</sup>

A similar rate of upper and lower GI tract lesions alone (54.7% and 53.2%, respectively) and a relatively high rate of dual lesions (33%) were demonstrated in our study. In the study of KEPCZYK et al the frequency of detecting upper and lower GI lesions was (56% and 30%, respectively) and dual lesions were found in 17% of patients.<sup>17</sup> This difference may be explained by the geographic and ethnic variation. We found a high rate of malignancy (15.6% of the study patients), predominantly colon adenocarcinoma in 11 patients (seven of them was in the right side), which is close to the 10-17% prevalence reported in the previous studies.<sup>16-19</sup>

The prevalence of vascular malformations in our study (6.5% colonic and 3.2% gastric) is consistent with the results of Rockey et al.<sup>16</sup>

Our finding of celiac disease in 8.4% of patients is similar to the 1.5-8.7% prevalence reported in the literature.<sup>17, 20-25</sup>

In our study the prevalence of endoscopic lesions was 79.3% in symptomatic patients, which is close to the results of other studies.<sup>8-10</sup> Only 22.2% of asymptomatic patients had endoscopic lesion in our study, which is dissimilar to the 85% prevalence reported in the study of Annibale et al.<sup>19</sup> This difference may be explained by the fact that only 9.4% of our patients were asymptomatic.

FOBT was not a significant predictor of GI lesions in the study of KEPCZYK et al, which is similar to our results.<sup>17</sup>

Ioannou et al reported that positive FOBT is the only predictor of GI lesions in patients with IDA which is dissimilar to our results; this difference could be explained by the little number (31 patient) of IDA patients who underwent endoscopy in Ioannou's study and by the high frequency of missing values for FOBT in our study.<sup>15</sup>

Ioannou et al found that male gender, NSAIDs use and low hemoglobin concentration could not predict GI lesions in IDA patients; which is similar to our results.<sup>15</sup>

NSAIDs can cause esophagogastrroduodenopathy which may lead to IDA. However our study showed

that aspirin and NSAIDs use was not associated with significant increase in the frequency of IDA causative lesions, this result is similar to that of previous studies.<sup>15-16</sup>

Male gender was not a significant predictor of GI lesions in our study. This finding confirms the results of the studies of Ioannou et al<sup>15</sup> and Sriprayoon et al.<sup>26</sup>

Serefhanoglu et al which was conducted in Turkey found that advanced age, male gender, low hemoglobin, weight loss, epigastric tenderness, chronic diarrhea and change of bowel habits were risk factors of GI lesions in IDA patients; while in our study the risk factors were advanced age, weight loss and constipation.

Site-specific symptoms were significant predictors of upper GI lesions, while were not significant for lower GI lesions in our study. This results is close to the results of KEPCZYK et al,<sup>17</sup> but are somewhat different from those of Rockey and Cello, who reported that site-specific symptoms were strongly associated with site-specific lesions for both the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract.<sup>16</sup>

There are some limitations in the present study. First, the study was conducted in a university hospital setting, thus the results may not be generalized to other institutions, where the prevalence of the diseases may differ, and the small size of study sample. A large multicenter study may be needed to clarify the real prevalence. Second, the present study did not further investigate the small bowel in patients with negative bidirectional endoscopy e.g. by capsule endoscopy (CE), double-balloon enteroscopy (DBE) or single balloon enteroscopy (SBE). Thus, the true prevalence of GI lesions in IDA patients should be higher.

## ConCluSIonS

A relatively high rate of GI lesions, especially GI malignancies, as a cause of IDA obligates a complete and rigorous GI tract evaluation, especially in high risk groups (patients with advanced age, weight loss and constipation). An almost equal prevalence of anemia-causing lesions in the upper and lower GI

tract demonstrates that both parts of the GI tract are equally suspicious, and should be done to all patients with IDA. Starting the investigation may be directed by site-specific symptoms, but endoscopic sequence should not be ceased unless a malignancy or celiac disease have been diagnosed. Considering the fact that most tumors in these patients were found in the right colon, colonoscopy should probably be the first diagnostic procedure in asymptomatic patients. Small bowel investigation should be considered in refractory IDA with negative work-up. However these conclusions need validation in further studies.

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## SERUM LEVELS OF IL-8 IN CHILDREN WITH IDIOPATHIC NEPHROTIC SYNDROME RELAPSE

المستويات المصلية للإنترلوكين-8 لدى الأطفال المصابين بانتكاسة المتلازمة الكلوية مجهولة السبب

Nariman Fahmi Ahmed Azat, MD; Sammer Salman Al-Sarai, MS

د.نرمان فهمي أحمد عزت. د.سامر سلمان السراي

### ملخص البحث

**هدف البحث:** تقترح العديد من الموجودات وجود دور لجهاز المناعة عند مرضى المتلازمة الكلوية مجهولة السبب (INS). وبهدف الكشف عن التغيرات المحتملة التي قد تسهم في إمراضية هذه المتلازمة فقد تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لتقييم المستويات المصلية من الإنترلوكين-8 عند مرضى المتلازمة الكلوية.

**طرق البحث:** تم قياس التراكيز المصلية للإنترلوكين-8 من خلال المقاييس المناعية الامتزازية المرتبطة بالأنزيم ELISA عند 80 طفلاً من مرضى المتلازمة الكلوية مجهولة السبب الحساسة للستيروئيدات خلال طور النكس والمراجعين للعيادة الاستشارية لمستشفى حماية الأطفال التعليمي في مجمع مدينة الطب ببغداد. تراوحت أعمار المرضى بين 1-15 سنة بمتوسط أعمار 3.4 سنة، كما تم إدراج 20 طفلاً من الأصحاء موافقين عمرياً لمجموعة المرضى كمجموعة شاهد.

**النتائج:** لوحظ وجود مستويات أعلى من الإنترلوكين-8 في مصل الأطفال مرضى المتلازمة الكلوية مجهولة السبب الحساسة للستيروئيدات خلال طور النكس مقارنةً بمجموعة الشاهد.

**الاستنتاجات:** يمكن للإنترلوكين-8 أن يلعب دوراً في إمراضية المتلازمة الكلوية مجهولة السبب عند الأطفال.

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Several findings suggest the role of the immune system in patients with idiopathic nephrotic syndrome (INS). To disclose possible changes that might contribute to the pathogenesis of this syndrome, the present study aimed to evaluate specifically serum levels of IL-8.

**Methods:** The concentration of IL-8 were measured by ELISA in serum of 80 children with steroid sensitive idiopathic nephrotic syndrome during relapse who attending Children Welfare Teaching Hospital Consultation Clinic, Baghdad medical complex city, their ages ranged between 1-15 years, median 3.4 years, another 20 healthy age-matched controls were included in the study.

**Results:** We found significantly higher levels of IL-8 in the serum of relapsing children with steroid sensitive idiopathic nephrotic syndrome compared to controls.

**Conclusions:** IL-8 may have a role in the pathogenesis of idiopathic nephrotic syndrome in children.

### InTRoDuCTIon

More recently, it has been proposed that alterations in the cytokine and chemokine profile of INS patients might contribute to proteinuria and glomerular damage.<sup>1,2</sup>

IL-8 a chemokine produced by endothelial cells and macrophages that attracts neutrophils and lymphocytes to the inflammation site,<sup>3,4</sup> may be involved in the

\*Nariman Fahmi Ahmed Azat MD, Assistant Professor, Baghdad College of Medicine, Iraq. E-mail: nariman\_zainal@yahoo.com

\*Sammer Salman Al-Sarai, MS, Medical Laboratory Science Technology, Iraq.

pathogenesis of proteinuria in INS<sup>1,5</sup> by altering glomerular permeability and it has been reported an increased serum concentration of IL-8 and the presence of its mRNA in mononuclear cells from patients with minimal change disease during relapses.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of this study was to evaluate plasma levels of IL-8 in pediatric patients with steroid sensitive INS during relapse and before initiation of steroid therapy and compare it with healthy subjects to disclose possible changes that might contribute to the pathogenesis of this syndrome.

## METHODS

This cross-sectional study consisted of 80 children with steroid sensitive INS, followed-up at the Pediatric Nephrology Consultation Clinic of Children Welfare Teaching Hospital from 2010 to 2012 to assess IL-8 serum level during relapse.

Children with steroid resistant, congenital or secondary forms of nephrotic syndrome were all excluded from the study.

None of the steroid sensitive (SS) patients in the study was treated with other medications rather than corticosteroids and none of them were taking corticosteroids at the time of blood collection due to present or recent disease relapse.

The control group consisted of 20 age-matched healthy children from our Pediatric Primary Care Center while undergoing routine check up.

Five milliliters of venous blood samples were taken for the determination of serum IL-8 level from the patients during active disease before initiation of steroid therapy, after their parents gave their consent to participate in the study and from 20 healthy subjects served as a control group while undergoing routine blood exams.

All samples were investigated and measured for IL-8 levels in the teaching laboratories of the medical city.

The definitions used to describe patients with INS in

the study:<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>

- Nephrotic syndrome (NS): the presence of proteinuria  $>40 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{h}$  or above  $100 \text{ mg/m}^2/24 \text{ h}$ , plasma albumin  $<25 \text{ g/l}$ , hyperlipidemia and edema.

- Idiopathic nephrotic syndrome: which refers to nephrotic syndrome in the absence of an identifiable systemic disease.

- Remission : urinary protein excreting  $<40 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{h}$  or Albustix = +, trace or /0 for protein for 3 consecutive days.

- steroid sensitive (responsive): remission achieved with steroid therapy alone.

- Relapse : urinary protein excretion  $>40 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{h}$  or equal to ++ on dipstick for 3 consecutive days, having previously been in remission.

- Steroid resistant: children who continue to have proteinuria (2+ or greater) after 8 weeks of steroid therapy are considered blood samples.

The concentration of IL-8 in each individual sample serum was measured by double sandwich enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) following manufactures instructions. IL-8 enzyme immunoassay kit (immunotech company, France) reagent using equipments (dynex technologies company, USA).

The components of the kit were let to equilibrate 30 minute at room temperature before use, 10 minute to be left after solubilization of lyophilized components with gentle mixing without vortex to avoid foaming.

The wash solution was diluted with 950 ml of distilled water stated on the vial label, which resulted in 20 ng/ml IL8 solution.

From 20 ng/ml standard solution and the appropriate diluents, fresh dilution series were prepared in plastic tubes as follows:

Standard concentration: 2000 pg/ml, 500 pg/ml, 125 pg/ml, 312 pg/ml and 0 pg/ml.

Diluent: 450  $\mu\text{l}$ , 300  $\mu\text{l}$ , 300  $\mu\text{l}$ , 300  $\mu\text{l}$ , 300  $\mu\text{l}$ .

Protocol: 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of sample was added per well, wells were incubated for 2 hours at 18-25 C with shaking and washed for three times.

Step 2: 50 µl of biotinylated antibody and 100 µl of streptavidin -HRP conjugate were added to the wells and incubated for 30 minutes at 18-25 °C with shaking. After incubation, wells were washed for three times with the washing solution.

Step 3: 100 µl of substrate was added to each well, wells were incubated for 20 minutes at 18-25°C with shaking. 50 µl of stop solution was added to the wells. Absorbance was read at 450 nm.

The concentration of IL-8 for both patients and control samples were calculated to the plotted standard curve.

**Statistical analysis:** Statistical tables included observed frequencies with their percentages; the values are expressed as means and SD, when appropriate. Matched paired t-test was used to test correlations for repeated measurements.

All the statistical analyses were done using SPSS program (Version-10) and excel application. The level of significance was set at p-value less than 0.01.

## RESul TS

A total of 80 children with steroid sensitive idiopathic

NS during relapse were included in the present study. Their ages ranged between 1-15 years, 51 (63.75%) were males and 29 (36.25%) were females with male to female ratio 1.75:1.

Our study group median age at onset was 2.5 (range 1.1-8) years. The number and percentage of the patients in the study group with age range (10-12 years) and (1-3 years) were higher than other age groups, with highly significant difference ( $p < 0.01$ ), as shown in Table 1.

There was a significant rise in mean concentration of IL-8 ( $383.8 \pm 430.3$  pg/ml) in sera of patients group in comparison with its serum concentration of control ( $10.6 \pm 2.04$  pg/ml), ( $p < 0.01$ ), Table 2.

## DISCUSSION

Idiopathic nephrotic syndrome (INS) is the most common glomerular disease in childhood.<sup>10</sup> The assessment of cytokines as a possible pathogenic factor in the nephrotic syndrome may increase our understanding about mechanism of renal injury.

The international study of kidney disease in children (ISKDC) reported that 87.1% of children with INS respond to corticosteroid therapy.<sup>6</sup> Our study included changes of serum IL-8 level in this common presenting form of childhood nephrotic syndrome.

Age range (years)	Nephrotic patients No.(%)	Healthy controls No.(%)	p-value	C.S by Kruskal Wallis test
1-3	17 (21.25)	5 (25)	0.000	$p < 0.01$
4-6	12 (15.0)	3 (15.0)		
7-9	13 (16.25)	3 (15.0)		
10-12	22 (27.5)	5 (25)		
13-15	16 (20)	4 (20)		
Total	80 (100)	20		

Table 1. Distribution of patients and healthy controls according to age range groups.

Studied group	No.	Mean concentration of serum IL-8 (pg/ml)	S.d (±)	p-value	C-S by t-test
Patients	80	383.8	430.3	0.00	$p < 0.01$
Controls	20	10.6	2.04	-	

Table 2. Mean concentration of serum IL-8 in patients and controls.



The cross-sectional design of our study used strictly defined inclusion criteria in order to increase the strength of our findings, because the previous use of immunosuppressive drugs and the steroid treatment during disease activity at the time of collection may interfere with chemokine measurements, only steroid sensitive patients before starting treatment were included in this study .

The finding of male predominance (63.75%) and median age at onset 2.5 years in our study group was similar to that reported in literature.<sup>7,9</sup>

A characteristic feature of steroid sensitive nephrotic syndrome is the tendency to relapse. Relapses are usually triggered by infection and they are usually responsive as the initial episodes.<sup>9</sup>

The number of our patients during relapse were more common with the age range groups (1-3 years and 10-12 years), a finding that cannot be explained in this study, various disorders might contribute to this finding if taking in consideration the epidemiological, racial, socioeconomic, geographical criteria of various disorders that might affect patients.

The pathogenesis of INS is not yet fully understood. Many studies have proposed a role for the immune system,<sup>11,12,13</sup> and this hypothesis is supported by a favorable response to anti-inflammatory drugs,<sup>11</sup> a relation between relapses and viral infections or allergic reactions,<sup>14</sup> the recurrence of the disease in transplanted patients<sup>10</sup> and an association with immunologic disorders.<sup>11</sup>

IL-8, IL-1 and TNF $\alpha$  are expressed in normal mesangial and glomerular epithelial cells so they are involved in kidney diseases.<sup>15</sup> In a number of studies, some authors have suggested that the cytokines produced by monocytes /macrophages (IL-1, IL-B, IL-8 and TNF $\alpha$ ) and by T cells (IL-2, IFN $\gamma$ , IL-4, IL-6 and IL-10) may induce proteinuria in INS patients,<sup>16,17</sup> the role of these cytokines and their receptors in the pathogenesis of INS is still controversial.

A mediator of interest when studying the INS pathogenesis is IL-8, infusion of this chemokine induced proteinuria in rats,<sup>2</sup> in this context the present study aimed to evaluate circulating IL-8 levels in steroid sensitive INS pediatric patients during their disease activity and to compare it with healthy controls to disclose possible changes that might contribute to the pathogenesis of this syndrome.

Eduardo H, et al observed the ability of IL-8 to increase glomerular permeability to plasma proteins by altering the glomerular basement heparin sulfate metabolism; this observation was further supported by the capability of anti IL-8 neutralizing antibody to abolish the effect of IL-8 on GBM in patients with lipoid nephrosis.<sup>18</sup>

Laflam et al suggested that elevated serum level of IL-8 in nephrotic syndrome may be due to increased IL-8 mRNA expression and stability, suggested prolonged persistence of IL-8 mRNA expressions due to an altered post transcription regulation. Ultimately this will lead to accumulation of IL-8 mRNA, perhaps due to delay in the degradation of newly synthesized IL-8 mRNA.<sup>19</sup>

Most studies that assessed this chemokine have reported higher serum levels of IL-8 in INS children in relapse versus remission or control. Our findings of increased serum IL-8 levels in relapsing INS compared to healthy controls is in accordance with previous studies.<sup>1,2,20,21</sup>

Cho et al<sup>22</sup> reported high concentrations of IL-8 not only in the plasma but also in the urine of pediatric patients with minimal change nephrotic syndrome (MCNS) during relapse.

## ConCluSIonS

The increased serum IL-8 level in relapsing children with steroid sensitive idiopathic nephrotic syndrome compared to controls support the findings that suggest the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of idiopathic nephrotic syndrome. Further studies are obviously necessary to address this issue.

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## Case Report

## تقرير حالة طبية

### H1N1 INFLUENZA (SWINE FLU) CASE COMPLICATED WITH ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME (ARDS)

#### حالة من إنفلونزا الخنازير (H1N1) مختلطة بمتلازمة الكرب التنفسي الحاد

Ammar M H Shehadeh, MS

د. عمار شحادة

#### ملخص الحالة

قامت منظمة الصحة العالمية في 11 حزيران من عام 2009 برفع مستوى الإنذار لوباء إنفلونزا الخنازير (H1N1) للدرجة السادسة والتي تشير لحالة وباء عالمي. يمكن لإنفلونزا الخنازير (H1N1) أن تسبب طيفاً واسعاً من الاختلالات قد يكون بعضها مهدداً للحياة وبخاصة متلازمة الكرب التنفسي الحاد ARDS التي تعتبر الاختلال الأكثر خطورة في سياق هذه الحالة. سيتم في هذه الورقة إيراد حالة طفلة كويتية في الثانية من العمر عانت من حالة إنفلونزا الخنازير (H1N1) مختلطة مع متلازمة الكرب التنفسي الحاد، تم قبول المريضة في قسم العناية المركزة حيث تحسنت بشكل ملحوظ لدى تطبيق المعالجة المناسبة.

#### ABSTRACT

*On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the alert level of H1N1 influenza A pandemic to phase 6, indicating a global pandemic. H1N1 influenza A may result in a wide array of complications, some of them are serious and may be life threatening especially ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) which is one of the most serious complications of H1N1 influenza A; we reported a case of two year-old Kuwaiti female with H1N1 influenza complicated with ARDS, admitted in intensive care unit, treated properly, and improved dramatically.*

#### InTRoDuCTIon

Influenza is one of the most significant upper respiratory tract infections, typical symptoms of influenza begin 2-3 days after exposure to the virus.

Influenza produces an acute febrile respiratory illness with cough, headache, and myalgia for 3-4 days, with symptoms that may persist for up to 2 weeks. Patients may present with sudden onset of high fever, chills, myalgia, headache, sore throat, fatigue. Subsequent respiratory symptoms include nasal congestion, rhinitis, nonproductive cough, cervical lymphadenopathy and conjunctivitis.

Since the declaration of the H1N1 influenza A pandemic, a great concern has evolved about its deleterious complications which include: viral pneumonia, secondary bacterial pneumonia, Croup, myocarditis, myositis, Reye syndrome, ARDS and others.

Young children less than 2 years old are considered at high risk of developing these complications so that our reported case.

\*Ammar M H Shehadeh, Ms, Arab Board Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Kalamoon Hospital, Syria. E-mail: Ammarsh75@Gmail.Com

## CASE PRESENTATION

A two year old Kuwaiti female presented with shortness of breathing, low grade fever, coughing and poor feeding for one week before becoming more distress with total refusal of feeding and dusky color the day she presented to our hospital. Several contacts (the sister, two cousins, two uncles) had symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection the week before she become symptomatic, but all of them are not investigated for H1N1 influenza, treated symptomatically and improved.

Our patient was a full term without any previous hospitalization, and no risk factor other than the small age.

Upon admission the patient was cyanosed, grunting and in severe respiratory distress. Chest examination showed decreased air entry, crackles, and wheezing in both sides. Oxygen saturation was 85% on room air so connected to oxygen 5 l/m by face mask then to CPAP due to clinical deterioration, the child failed to maintain oxygen saturation so intubated and ventilated on SIMV mode.

The next day on admission the patient progressed rapidly to a full picture of ARDS with respiratory distress, bilateral infiltrates on chest radiograph sparing costophrenic angles, and  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2=65$  ( $<200$ ), so in view of her hypoxia on conventional ventilation she was shifted to high frequency ventilation and started on sildenafil nitric oxide and diuretics until her oxygen saturation improved. While on high frequency ventilation she developed right side pneumothorax resolved after insertion of chest tube. She improved gradually and weaned from nitric oxide then returned back to conventional ventilation until extubated after 10 days on ventilator.

After extubation, our case developed moderate stridor with respiratory distress that required nasal CPAP for one day, adrenalin nebulisation, and dexamethasone injection. Gradually her stridor improved, the patient could maintain oxygen saturation on room air, and given her total feed orally, so discharged in a good condition after a full 25 days in hospital admission.

Investigations showed positive nasopharyngeal swab for H1N1 influenza A, all bacterial cultures (blood-ETT secretions) were negative. The patient was given 10 days course of oseltamivir, vancomycin and meropenem.

## DISCUSSION

On April 26th, 2009, the US Department of Health and Human Services issued a nationwide public health emergency regarding human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus (swine flu).<sup>1</sup> In the preceding weeks, an outbreak of the virus was reported in Mexico. The outbreak is due to a new strain of influenza virus that contains a combination of swine, avian, and human influenza virus genes. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the pandemic alert level to phase 6, indicating a global pandemic, because of widespread infection beyond North America to Australia, the United Kingdom, Chile, Spain, and Japan.<sup>2,3</sup>

The new virus is resistant to the antiviral agents amantadine and rimantadine but sensitive to oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza).<sup>4</sup> Initiation of antiviral agents within 48 hours of symptom onset is imperative to provide treatment efficacy against influenza virus. The usual vaccine for influenza administered at the beginning of the influenza season is not effective for this viral strain.

Typical symptoms of influenza begin 2-3 days after exposure to the virus. Influenza produces an acute febrile respiratory illness with cough, headache, and myalgia for 3-4 days, with symptoms that may persist for up to 2 weeks. Patients may present with sudden onset of high fever, chills, myalgia, headache, sore throat and fatigue. Subsequent respiratory symptoms include nasal congestion, rhinitis, nonproductive cough, cervical lymphadenopathy and conjunctivitis.

ARDS is considered to be present in the setting of bilateral infiltrates on chest radiography, a  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$  ratio of less than 200, and a left atrial filling pressure of less than 18 mm Hg or no clinical or radiological evidence of elevated left atrial pressure.<sup>5</sup>

Management of ARDS aim at maintaining good tissue



oxygenation with avoidance of ventilation associated lung injury,<sup>6</sup> noninvasive ventilation has been used early to avoid endotracheal intubation. Most patients with ARDS require endotracheal intubation for airway control and invasive mechanical ventilation.

Traditional ventilatory strategies maintained normal blood gas values, often at the expense of high tidal volumes and pressures, with high morbidity and mortality rates. The strategy of open lung ventilation has grown from recognizing that repetitive opening and closing of alveoli exacerbated lung injury and that there was often little harm associated with high partial pressures of carbon dioxide ( $\text{PaCO}_2$ ), which is termed the permissive hypercapnic strategy.

The twin goals of permissive hypercapnia and open lung maintenance are achieved by optimizing positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) and minimizing delivered tidal volumes. PEEP is optimized by keeping it above the lower inflection point on a pressure-volume curve and below the upper inflection point where overdistension occurs.

Two modes of high-frequency ventilation are high-frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) and high-frequency jet ventilation (HFJV). HFJV is rarely applied in children. HFOV may be thought of as the ultimate in high-PEEP low-tidal-volume strategy. Because of the extremely small tidal volumes used, HFOV minimizes repetitive opening and closing and possibly reduces VILI.

**nitric oxide (no) therapy :** NO is a potent vasodilator, first described in 1989. Its use as a specific pulmonary vasodilator was first described almost a decade ago in neonates with persistent pulmonary hypertension. Subsequent trials confirmed the efficacy of inhaled NO (iNO) in this population, in whom iNO decreased the use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). iNO have numerous attractive properties in patients with ARDS. By reducing hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction (HPV), iNO may reduce right-sided pulmonary pressures. This, in turn, lessens the degree of leftward septal shift, which improves

cardiac output. Oxygenation benefits that occur while iNO diffuses to only relatively well-aerated parts of the lung lessen any local HPV. Other benefits may include decreased pulmonary edema while pulmonary pressures are reduced.

Although numerous trials have shown an improvement in various physiologic indices, these results have not translated to tangible benefits, such as decreased mortality rates. A systematic review and meta-analysis showed that although NO temporarily improves oxygenation, it does not improve survival.<sup>7</sup>

Prevention of the numerous complications associated with intensive care is paramount in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Have a high index of suspicion for nosocomial infections, specifically line-related bacteremia and ventilator-associated pneumonia. Continue aggressive nutrition to maintain anabolism or at least to prevent catabolism. Use neuromuscular blockers judiciously, especially in conjunction with steroids, to minimize the risk of myopathy and long-term weakness.

**Prognosis:** Increasing evidence suggests that mortality rates due to ARDS have been decreasing over the last decade. Many studies have revealed data demonstrating a mortality rate of less than 30% in patients with ARDS. Many patients with ARDS die not from their lung disease but from the primary insult or secondary organ failure. For those who survive ARDS, the outcome is generally good.

Pulmonary function testing in adults has demonstrated restrictive defects with decreased diffusing capacity, which may improve over a year after discharge. Many patients have residual, mild restrictive defect. Negative prognostic factors include elevated cytokine levels in plasma and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid, concomitant sepsis, and multiorgan failure.

In patients with ARDS, diabetes is associated with an improved outcome. The reasons for this are unclear but may be related to diminish neutrophil function, which, in turn, attenuates an inflammatory cascade that is partly responsible for the severity of ARDS.

In 1993, Davis et al reported that an A-a difference in oxygen tension ( $P[A-a]O_2$ ) of more than 420 mmHg was the best early predictor of death (sensitivity, 80%; specificity, 87%; positive predictive value, 87%; negative predictive value, 80%).<sup>8</sup> Flori et al conducted a prospective study of risk factors associated with mortality in pediatric acute lung injury, which demonstrated 3 independent factors, all associated with prolonged mechanical ventilation.<sup>9</sup> Initial severity of oxygenation defect ( $PaO_2/FiO_2$  ratio), nonpulmonary and non-CNS organ dysfunction and CNS dysfunction.

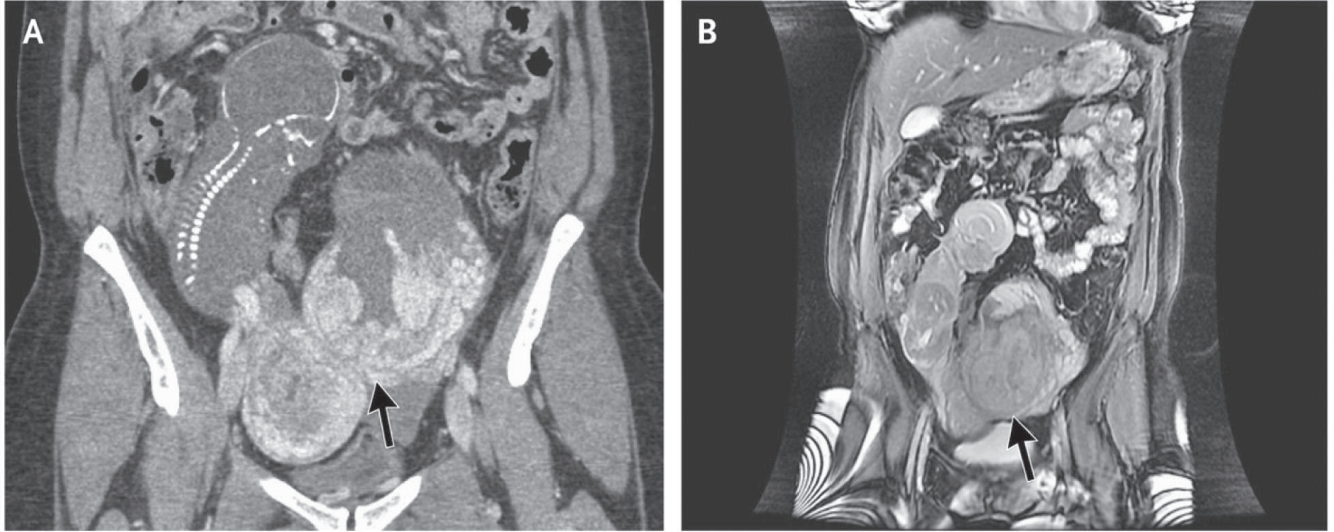
## ConCluSIonS

ARDS is a possible complication of H1N1 influenza A, especially in the high risk patients. Early treatment with neuraminidase inhibitor plus proper ventilation and careful monitoring in the intensive care unit can give a great hope to such patients. Total cure of ARDS in H1N1 influenza A patient is a realistic aim, but we are still in need for more studies to find the best treatment and ventilation option for such cases.

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## Medical Case



### Abdominal Ectopic Pregnancy

#### حمل هاجر في البطن

A 30-year-old woman who had a history of two pregnancies and one birth presented with an uncomplicated pregnancy until routine ultrasonography at 19 weeks revealed severe oligohydramnios and a fetus that appeared to be extrauterine. Computed tomography (Panel A) and magnetic resonance imaging (Panel B) of the abdomen and pelvis confirmed an abdominal ectopic pregnancy, with no uterine wall visible surrounding the pregnancy. The fetus was visualized in the right abdomen with a crown-to-rump length of 14 cm, with the placenta attached to the serosa of the uterine fundus (Panel A, arrow). No amniotic fluid surrounded the fetus. The pregnancy was terminated, and surgical removal of the fetus was performed. An abdominal pregnancy refers to a pregnancy that has implanted in the peritoneal cavity, external to the uterine cavity and fallopian tubes. In contrast to tubal ectopic pregnancies, abdominal pregnancies may go undetected until an advanced gestational age. Abdominal pregnancies are associated with a high rate of maternal complications.

امرأة عمرها 30 سنة لديها قصة حملين سابقين وولادة واحدة حامل بحمل سار دون اختلاطات لحين إجرائها لتصوير دوري بالأمواج فوق الصوتية في الأسبوع 19 والذي أظهر حالة شديدة من قلة السائل الأمينوسي مع ظهور الجنين خارج الرحم. أكد التصوير الطبقي المحوسب (الشكل A) والتصوير بالرنين المغناطيسي للبطن والحوض (الشكل B) وجود حمل هاجر في البطن دون ظهور جدار الرحم

المحيط بالحمل. ظهر الجنين في القسم الأيمن للبطن بطول رأسي ذيلي 14 سم، مع مشيمة ملتصقة بالطبقة المصلية لقاع الرحم (السهم في الشكل A). لم يلاحظ وجود سائل أمينوسي محيط بالجنين. تم إنهاء الحمل مع إجراء إزالة جراحية للجنين. يشير الحمل البطني إلى انغراس الحمل في جوف البريتوان خارج جوف الرحم وأنابيب فالوب، وبخلاف حالات الحمل الهاجر الأنبوبي يمكن لحالات الحمل الهاجر البطني أن تبقى غير مكتشفة حتى أعمار حملية متقدمة. تترافق حالات الحمل الهاجر البطني مع معدلات عالية من الاختلاطات لدى الأم.

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*Gabriela Gayer, M.D, Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA.*

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*Prepared and translated by Samir Aldalati, MD*



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### **Urology And Nephrology.....(P93)**

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### **Dermatology.....(P94)**

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### **Ophthalmology.....(P95)**

\*Clinical characterization and mitochondrial DNA sequence variations in Leber hereditary optic neuropathy.

### **Diagnostic Radiology.....(P96)**

\*Towards real-time detection of tumor margins using photothermal imaging of immune-targeted gold nanoparticles.

### **Psychiatry.....(P97)**

\*Comparison of prevalence of postpartum depression symptoms between breastfeeding mothers and non-breastfeeding mothers.

### **Otorhinolaryngology.....(P98)**

\*Multidetector computed tomography in nonmalignant laryngeal disease.

## Public Health

### صحة عامة

#### Breastfeeding and brain structure in adolescence

#### الرضاعة الطبيعية وبنية الدماغ عند المراهقين

Kafouri S, et al.

Int J Epidemiol 2012 Nov 21.

**Background:** The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate an association between duration of exclusive breastfeeding and structure of cortical regions implicated in general intelligence.

**Methods:** We studied adolescents (n=571; aged 12-18 years) participating in the Saguenay Youth Study; half of the participants were exposed to maternal cigarette smoking during pregnancy. Hierarchical linear modeling was used to assess whether breastfeeding is an important predictor of cortical thickness when other predictors, such as age, sex, parental education and exposure to maternal smoking during pregnancy, are also considered. Target cortical regions were identified using a meta-analysis of functional neuroimaging studies of cognitive abilities relevant for general intelligence.

**Results:** We found that duration of exclusive breastfeeding was associated with cortical thickness in the superior and inferior parietal lobules ( $t=2.31$ ,  $P=0.02$ ). We also replicated the association between breastfeeding and general intelligence ( $t=2.69$ ,  $P=0.008$ ).

**Conclusion:** In this study, we showed that breastfeeding is associated with variations in the thickness of the parietal cortex in a community-based sample of adolescents. We also found association of breastfeeding duration with full scale and performance IQ, as observed previously.

**خلفية البحث:** تم إجراء هذا الاستقصاء بهدف تقييم الترابط المحتمل بين مدة الرضاعة الطبيعية الحصرية وبنية المناطق القشرية ذات الصلة بالذكاء العام.

**طرق البحث:** تم في هذا البحث دراسة مجموعة من المراهقين (571 مراهقاً تراوحت أعمارهم بين 12-18 سنة) من المشاركين في دراسة Saguenay للشباب، تعرض نصفهم لتدخين الأم خلال الحمل. تم استخدام النموذج الخطي التسلسلي الهرمي في تقييم كون الرضاعة الطبيعية تمثل بالفعل مشعراً تنبؤياً لسماكة القشر الدماغي عند المراهقين مع الأخذ بالاعتبار المشعرات التنبؤية الأخرى مثل العمر، الجنس، مستوى التعليم لدى الأبوين والتعرض للتدخين خلال الحمل. تم تحديد المناطق القشرية المستهدفة من خلال التحليل النهائي لدراسات التصوير العصبي الوظيفي للقدرات المعرفية ذات الصلة بالذكاء العام.

**النتائج:** لوحظ وجود علاقة بين مدة الرضاعة الطبيعية الحصرية وسماكة القشر الدماغي في الفصيصات الجدارية العلوية والسفلية ( $t=2.31$ ,  $p=0.02$ )، كما وجدت أيضاً علاقة بين الرضاعة الطبيعية والذكاء العام ( $t=2.69$ ,  $p=0.008$ ).

**الاستنتاجات:** أظهرت هذه الدراسة وجود علاقة بين الرضاعة الطبيعية والاختلافات في سماكة القشر الدماغي الجداري في عينة مجتمعية من المراهقين، كما بينت أيضاً وجود علاقة بين مدة الرضاعة الطبيعية ودرجات مشعر الذكاء IQ والأداء كما هو ملاحظ سابقاً.

## Pediatrics

### طب الأطفال

#### Steroid pulse therapy for Kawasaki disease unresponsive to additional immunoglobulin therapy

المعالجة النبضية بالستيروئيدات في حالات داء كاواساكي غير المستجيبة للمعالجة بالغلوبيولينات المناعية

Miura M, et al.

Paediatr Child Health 2011 Oct;16(8):479-84.

**Background:** The optimal management of Kawasaki disease (KD) unresponsive to intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy remains unclear.

**objective:** To prospectively evaluate the efficacy and safety of intravenous methylprednisolone pulse (IVMP) therapy in KD cases unresponsive to additional IVIG.

**Methods:** KD patients who initially received IVIG (2 g/kg/24 h) and acetylsalicylic acid within nine days after disease onset were studied. Patients who did not respond received additional IVIG (2 g/kg/24 h), and those who still did not respond were given IVMP (30 mg/kg/day) for three days, followed by oral prednisolone. The response to treatment, echocardiographic findings and adverse effects were evaluated.

**Results:** Among 412 KD cases, 74 (18.0%) were treated with additional IVIG; 21 (28.4%) of the latter cases did not have a high-grade fever during treatment with prednisolone for two to six weeks. Four weeks after disease onset, coronary artery lesions (CAL) were diagnosed according to the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare or the American Heart Association criteria in two of the 21 cases treated with IVMP plus prednisolone; among all 412 cases, three (0.7%) and eight (1.9%) had CAL according to each criteria, respectively. All CAL regressed completely one year after disease onset. Adverse effects of IVMP, such as hypothermia and sinus bradycardia, resolved spontaneously.

**Conclusions:** In KD patients unresponsive to additional IVIG, IVMP promptly induced defervescence, and subsequent oral prednisolone suppressed recurrence of fever. IVMP followed by prednisolone therapy may prevent CAL, without severe adverse effects.

**خلفية البحث:** يبقى التدبير الأمثل لحالات داء كاواساكي التي لم تحقق استجابة بالمعالجة بالغلوبيولينات المناعية الوريدية IVIG غير واضح بعد. **هدف البحث:** إجراء تقييم مستقبلي لفعالية وسلامة المعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone (IVMP) في حالات داء كاواساكي غير المستجيبة للغلوبيولينات المناعية الوريدية.

**طرق البحث:** تمت دراسة مجموعة من مرضى داء كاواساكي الذين خضعوا للمعالجة البدئية بالغلوبيولينات المناعية عبر الوريد (بجرعة 2 غ/كغ/24 ساعة) مع حمض acetylsalicylic وذلك خلال 9 أيام من بدء المرض. تم في الحالات غير المستجيبة للجرعة الأولى من الغلوبيولينات المناعية الوريدية إعطاء جرعة إضافية ثانية (2 غ/كغ/24 ساعة)، وعند عدم حدوث استجابة لهذه المعالجة فقد تم إعطاء معالجة نبضية وريدية بـ methylprednisolone بجرعة 30 ملغ/كغ/يومياً لمدة 3 أيام يليها إعطاء prednisolone فمويًا. تم تقييم الاستجابة الملاحظة للعلاج، الموجودات الملاحظة بتصوير القلب بالأشعة فوق الصوتية (الإيكو) والتأثيرات غير المرغوبة.

**النتائج:** من بين 412 حالة داء كاواساكي فقد احتاج 74 مريضاً (بنسبة 18.0%) للمعالجة الإضافية بالغلوبيولينات المناعية الوريدية، وقد خضع 21 منهم (28.4%) إلى المعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone (IVMP) يليها إعطاء prednisolone فمويًا. زالت الحمى في

جميع الحالات بشكلٍ فوري بالمعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone ولم يلاحظ تطور حمى عالية الدرجة في أيٍّ منها خلال المعالجة بـ prednisolone الممتدة من 2-6 أسابيع. تم بعد 4 أسابيع على بدء الحالة تشخيص وجود آفاتٍ في الأوعية القلبية الإكليلية تبعاً لمعايير وزارة الصحة اليابانية والجمعية الأمريكية للقلب عند 2 من أصل 21 حالة تمت معالجتها بالمعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone مع prednisolone، ومن بين 412 حالة إجمالية تطور لدى 3 (0.7%) و 8 (1.9%) حالات آفاتٍ في الأوعية الإكليلية تبعاً للمعايير المعتمدة من الهيئتين السابقتين على الترتيب. تراجعت جميع حالات الآفات في الأوعية الإكليلية بشكلٍ كاملٍ خلال عامٍ واحدٍ من بدءها. كما تراجعت التأثيرات غير المرغوبة للمعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone مثل انخفاض الحرارة ويطء القلب الجيبي بشكلٍ عفوي.

**الاستنتاجات:** يلاحظ عند مرضى داء كاواساكي غير المستجيبين للمعالجة بالغلوبولينات المناعية الوريدية أن المعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone تعرض على هبوط الحمى، كما أن المعالجة التالية بـ prednisolone الفموي تثبط نكس الحمى. يمكن للمعالجة النبضية الوريدية بـ methylprednisolone المتبوعة بـ prednisolone أن تمنع تطور آفات الأوعية القلبية الإكليلية دون وجود تأثيراتٍ جانبيةٍ شديدة.

### Evaluating iron status and the risk of anemia in young infants using erythrocyte parameters

#### تقييم حالة الحديد وخطر تطور فقر الدم عند الرضع باستخدام مناسب الكريات الحمراء

Torsvik IK, et al.

Pediatr Res 2012 Nov 20.

**Background:** Correct evaluation of iron status is important in young infants, as both iron deficiency and excess may have negative effects on development, growth and morbidity.

**Methods:** We evaluated iron status by using erythrocyte parameters, including reticulocyte hemoglobin content (CHr) in infants with birth weight <3000 grams (g) (n=80). Blood samples and infant's characteristics were recorded at 6 weeks, 4 and 6 months. Infants with a birth weight ≤2500 g (n=36) were recommended iron supplementation.

**Results:** Despite a significantly poorer status at 6 weeks, iron supplemented infants had significantly higher hemoglobin level (Hb): 12.2 (SD 0.8) and CHr: 28.3 (SD 1.4) at 6 months, compared to non-supplemented infants, Hb: 11.7 (SD 1.0) g/dl,  $p=0.02$  and CHr: 26.5 (SD 2.5) pg,  $p<0.001$ . Prolonged exclusive breastfeeding, high weight gain and male gender were predisposing factors for a low iron status at 6 months. A CHr cut-off level of 26.9 pg at 4 months, proved to be a sensitive predictor for anemia at 6 months.

**Discussion:** Signs of an iron-restricted erythropoiesis were observed in non-supplemented infants (birth weight 2501-3000 g), and CHr was a useful tool for evaluating iron status. The need for iron supplementation in certain infant risk populations should be further evaluated.

**خلفية البحث:** يعتبر التقييم الصحيح لحالة الحديد من الأمور الهامة عند الرضع، حيث أن عوز الحديد وفرطه قد يسببا تأثيراتٍ صحيةٍ سلبيةً على صعيد التطور، النمو والمراضة.

**طرق البحث:** تم تقييم حالة الحديد باستخدام مناسب الكريات الحمراء والمتضمنة محتوى الخضاب في الشبيكات CHr عند مجموعة من الرضع بوزن ولادة دون 3000 غرام (وعدهم 80 رضيعاً). تم الحصول على عيناتٍ دموية مع تسجيل المميزات الملاحظة عند الرضع بأعمار 6 أسابيع، 4 و 6 أشهر. تم إعطاء معالجة داعمة بالحديد للرضع بوزن ولادة دون 2500 غرام (36 حالة).

**النتائج:** على الرغم من وجود حالة أضعف للحديد لدى الرضع بعمر 6 أسابيع فقد أظهر الرضع الخاضعون للمعالجة الداعمة بالحديد مستويات أعلى وبشكلٍ هام من الخضاب الدموي Hb (12.2 غ/دل بانحراف معياري 0.8) وخضاب الشبيكات CHr (28.3 بيكوغرام بانحراف معياري 1.4) وذلك بعمر 6 أشهر بالمقارنة مع الرضع غير المعالجين بالمعالجة الداعمة (الخضاب 11.7 غ/دل بانحراف معياري 1.0 وقيمة  $p=0.02$ ، خضاب الشبيكات CHr 26.5 بيكوغرام بانحراف معياري 2.5 وقيمة  $p>0.001$ ). يعتبر الاعتماد الحصري المطول على حليب الأم، الاكتساب الكبير للوزن والجنس المذكور عوامل مؤهبة لانخفاض حالة الحديد بعمر 6 أشهر. أثبتت القيمة الحرجة 26.9 بيكوغرام لخضاب الشبيكات CHr بعمر 4 أشهر دورها كمشرع تنبؤي حساس لفقر الدم بعمر 6 أشهر.

**المناقشة:** لوحظت علامات تكون الكريات الحمر المحدود الحديد عند الرضع غير المعالجين بالمعالجة الداعمة (بوزن ولادة 2501-3000 غرام)، كما



أن خضاب الشبكيات CHr شكل أداة مفيدة في تقييم حالة الحديد. يجب إجراء المزيد من التقييم لمدى الحاجة لإعطاء المعالجة الداعمة بالحديد في بعض المجموعات من الرضع ذوو الخطورة.

### A new technique for fast and safe collection of urine in newborns

#### طريقة جديدة لتحقيق جمع آمن وسريع للبول من حديثي الولادة

Herreros Fernández ML, et al.

Arch Dis Child 2012 Nov 21.

**Aim:** To describe and test a new technique to obtain midstream urine samples in newborns.

**Design and methods:** This was a prospective feasibility and safety study conducted in the neonatal unit of University Infanta Sofía Hospital, Madrid. A new technique based on bladder and lumbar stimulation manoeuvres was tested over a period of 4 months in 80 admitted patients aged less than 30 days. The main variable was the success rate in obtaining a midstream urine sample within 5 min. Secondary variables were time to obtain the sample and complications.

**Results:** This technique was successful in 86.3% of infants. Median time to sample collection was 45 s (IQR 30). No complications other than controlled crying were observed.

**Conclusions:** A new, quick and safe technique with a high success rate is described, whereby the discomfort and waste of time usually associated with bag collection methods can be avoided.

**هدف البحث:** وصف طريقة جديدة للحصول على عينات منتصف البول عند حديثي الولادة.

**نمط وطرق البحث:** تم إجراء هذه الدراسة المستقبلية للملاءمة والسلامة في قسم حديثي الولادة في مستشفى Infanta Sofía الجامعي للأطفال في مدريد-إسبانيا. تم تطبيق طريقة جديدة تعتمد على مناورات التنبيه المثانية القطنية خلال فترة 4 أشهر عند 80 من المرضى حديثي الولادة المقبولين في المشفى بعمر دون 30 يوماً. تم اعتماد معدل النجاح في الحصول على عينة بولية (منتصف البول) خلال 5 دقائق كمتغير أساسي في الدراسة، بينما شملت المتغيرات الثانوية الزمن اللازم للحصول على العينة والاختلاطات المرافقة.

**النتائج:** حققت هذه التقنية نجاحاً في 86.3% من الحالات، فيما بلغ وسيط الزمن اللازم لجمع العينة 45 ثانية (IQR 30). لم تلاحظ اختلاطات هامة باستثناء بكاء الطفل.

**الاستنتاجات:** تم وصف تقنية جديدة، سريعة وأمنة تتمتع بمعدلات نجاح عالية في جمع عينات منتصف البول عند حديثي الولادة، يمكن عبر هذه الطريقة تجنب المشقة وهدر الوقت المرافق لطرق جمع البول باستخدام أكياس جمع البول.

### Candidate gene linkage approach to identify DnA variants that predispose to preterm birth

#### تطبيق مقارنة مورثة الارتباط المحتملة في تحديد تغيرات DnA المؤهبة للولادة المبكرة

Bream EN, et al.

Pediatr Res 2012 Nov 20.

**Background:** To identify genetic variants contributing to preterm birth using a linkage candidate gene approach.

**Methods:** We studied 99 single nucleotide polymorphisms for 33 genes in 257 families with preterm births segregating. Nonparametric and parametric analyses were used. Premature infants and mothers of premature infants were defined as affected cases in independent analyses.

**Results:** Analyses with the infant as the case identified two genes with evidence of linkage: CRHR1 (p=0.0012) and CYP2E1 (p=0.0011). Analyses with the mother as the case identified four genes with evidence of linkage: ENPP1 (p=0.003), IGFBP3 (p=0.006), DHCR7 (p=0.009), and TRAF2 (p=0.01). DNA sequence analysis of the coding

exons and splice sites for CRHR1 and TRAF2 identified no new likely etiologic variants.

**Conclusion:** These findings suggest the involvement of six genes acting through the infant and/or the mother in the etiology of preterm birth.

**خلفية البحث:** تحديد المتغيرات المورثية ذات الصلة بالولادة المبكرة باستخدام مقارنة مورثة الارتباط المحتملة.  
**طرق البحث:** تمت دراسة 99 من التعدديات الشكلية وحيدة النكليوتيد في 33 مورثة عند 257 من عائلات الولادات المبكرة. تم تطبيق التحليل التثابتي واللاتثابتي. تم تعريف الخدج وأمهاتهم بكونهم حالات متأثرة في التحليل المستقل.  
**النتائج:** أظهر تحليل الرضع كحالات وجود مورثتين أظهرتا دلائل على وجود ارتباط: CRHR1 ( $p=0.0012$ ) و CYP2E1 ( $p=0.0011$ )، أما تحليل الأمهات كحالات فقد أظهر 4 مورثات ذات دلائل على وجود ارتباط: ENPP1 ( $p=0.003$ )، IGFBP3 ( $p=0.006$ )، DHCR7 ( $p=0.009$ ) و TRAF2 ( $p=0.01$ ). أظهر تحليل تسلسل DNA للإكسونات المشفرة ومواقع التضفير للمورثات CRHR1 و TRAF2 عدم وجود تغيرات مسببة محتملة جديدة.  
**الاستنتاجات:** تقترح هذه الموجودات تدخل 6 مورثات تعمل عبر الرضيع و/أو الأم وتسهم في سببية الولادة المبكرة.

### Childhood recurrent urinary tract infection in southern Thailand

إنتانات السبيل البولي الناكسة عند الأطفال في جنوب تايلاند

Vachvanichsanong P, et al.  
Ren Fail 2012 Nov 21.

**Introduction:** Recurrent urinary tract infection (UTI) is one of the major health problems in children because of its high rate of occurrence.

**objective:** Our aim of the study was to evaluate the prevalence and determine risk factors of recurrent UTI in Thai children.

**Patients and methods:** The medical records of children aged less than 15 years diagnosed with UTI at the Department of Pediatrics, Songklanagarind Hospital were reviewed.

**Results:** A total of 307 children (144 boys, 163 girls) were followed up for at least 1 year. Fifty-six children, 31 (19.0%) boys and 25 (17.4%) girls, developed at least one recurrence totaling 153 recurrent UTI episodes. The recurrence rate was not statistically different between the sexes ( $p=0.8$ ). On multivariate analysis, genitourinary system (GU) anomalies, particularly vesicoureteral reflux (VUR), were the most significant risk factors. Children aged greater than 5 years had a slightly higher risk of recurrence, irrespective of gender. Comparison of organisms associated with recurrent UTI with those associated with first UTI showed that the prevalence of Escherichia coli decreased from 76.9% to 56.2% but was still the major causative agent. In contrast, the prevalence of Klebsiella pneumoniae and unusual or mixed organisms significantly increased from 7.8% to 15.0% and 6.2% to 16.3%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** One-fifth of children who had UTI developed recurrence and the rates were similar for males and females. Independent risk factors for recurrent UTI were found to be at age of >5 years and underlying disease of either GU anomaly or VUR.

**مقدمة:** تعتبر إنتانات السبيل البولي الناكسة إحدى المشكلات الصحية الهامة عند الأطفال نتيجة المعدلات العالية للنكس.  
**هدف البحث:** تقييم الانتشار وتحديد عوامل الخطورة لإنتانات السبيل البولي الناكسة عند الأطفال في تايلاند.  
**مرضى وطرق البحث:** تمت مراجعة السجلات الطبية للأطفال بعمر دون 15 سنة المشخصين بوجود إنتان في السبيل البولي في قسم الأطفال بمشفى Songklanagarind.

**النتائج:** شمل البحث 307 أطفال (144 صبياً و163 فتاة) تمت متابعة حالتهم لمدة سنة على الأقل. تطور لدى 56 طفلاً (31 صبياً بنسبة 19.0%

و25 فتاة بنسبة 17.4%) نكس لمرة واحدة على الأقل في إنتان السبيل البولي بمجموع كلي بلغ 153 حالة نكس. لم يلاحظ وجود اختلاف هام إحصائياً في معدلات النكس بالنسبة للجنس ( $p=0.8$ ). تبين من خلال التحليل متعدد المتغيرات أن التشوهات في السبيل البولي التناسلي وخاصةً الجزر المثاني الحالب VUR هي أكثر عوامل الخطورة أهمية. لوحظ أن الأطفال بعمر فوق 5 سنوات لديهم خطورة أعلى بقليل لحدوث النكس وذلك بغض النظر عن الجنس. أظهرت مقارنة المتعضيات المرافقة للإنتانات البولية الناكسة مع تلك المسببة للمرة الأولى من الإنتان أن انتشار جراثيم الإشيريشيا الكولونية قد تناقص من 76.9% إلى 56.2%، إلا أنها حافظت على ترتيبها كمسبب أول للإنتان. ويخالف ذلك فقد ازداد انتشار جراثيم الكلبسيلا الرئوية والمتعضيات الاستثنائية أو المختلطة من 7.8% إلى 15.0% ومن 6.2% إلى 16.3% على الترتيب.

**الاستنتاجات:** يتطور النكس عند خمس الأطفال المصابين بإنتانات في السبيل البولي، كما أن معدلات النكس متشابهة بين الجنسين. شملت عوامل الخطورة المستقلة للنكس في إنتانات السبيل البولي العمر فوق 5 سنوات ووجود أمراض مستبنة كالتشوهات البولية التناسلية والجزر المثاني الحالب.

## obstetrics And Gynecology

### التوليد والأمراض النسائية

#### Admission cardiotocography: Its role in predicting foetal outcome in high-risk obstetric patients

#### دور مراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول في التنبؤ بالنتائج عند الجنين في الحالات التوليدية عالية الخطورة

Rahman H, et al.

Australas Med J. 2012;5(10):522-7.

**Background:** Routine and continuous electronic monitoring of foetal heart rate (FHR) in labour has become an established obstetric practice in high-risk pregnancies in industrialised countries. However, the same may not be possible in non-industrialised countries where antenatal care is inadequate with a large number of high-risk pregnancies being delivered in crowded settings and inadequate health care provider to patient ratios.

**Aims:** The objective of this study was to evaluate the predictive value of the admission cardiotocogram (CTG) in detecting foetal hypoxia at the time of admission in labour and to correlate the results of the admission CTG with the perinatal outcome in high-risk obstetric cases.

**Method:** This was a prospective observational study conducted in the labour and maternity ward of a hospital in Gangtok, India, during the period 2008 to 2010. The study included high-risk pregnant women, admitted via the emergency or outpatient department with a period of gestation  $\geq 36$  weeks, in first stage of labour with foetus in the cephalic presentation. All women were subjected to an admission CTG, which included a 20 minute recording of FHR and uterine contractions.

**Results:** One hundred and sixty patients were recruited. The majority of women were primigravida in the 21-30 years age group. About 42% patients were postdated pregnancy followed by pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH) (15.6%) and premature rupture of membranes (PROM) (11.3%) as the major risk factors. The admission CTG were 'reactive' in 77%, 'equivocal' in 14.4% and 'ominous' in 8.7% women. Incidence of foetal distress, moderate-thick meconium stained liquor and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission was significantly more frequent among patients with ominous test results compared with equivocal or reactive test results on admission. Incidence of vaginal delivery was more common when the test was reactive.

**Conclusion:** The admission CTG appears to be a simple non-invasive test that can serve as a screening tool in 'triaging' fetuses of high-risk obstetric patients in non-industrialised countries with a heavy workload and limited resources.

**خلفية البحث:** لقد أصبحت المراقبة الالكترونية الروتينية والمستمرة لمعدل نبض القلب عند الجنين FHR خلال المخاض من الأمور الأساسية في الممارسة اليومية في طب التوليد في الحمل عالية الخطورة في البلدان الصناعية. إلا أن هذه المراقبة قد لا تكون ممكنة في البلدان النامية غير الصناعية حيث لا تكون العناية قبل الولادة بالمستوى المطلوب مع وجود أعداد كبيرة من الحمل عالية الخطورة في بيئة عمل مزدحمة بالتزامن مع قلة الخبرات الطبية المتوفرة بالنسبة لعدد المرضى.

**هدف البحث:** تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم القيمة التنبؤية لإجراء مراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول CTG في كشف نقص الأكسجة عند الجنين عند القبول في قسم المخاض وربط نتائج مراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول مع النتائج الملاحظة حول الولادة في الحالات التوليدية عالية الخطورة.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء هذه الدراسة المستقبلية المراقبة في قسم الأمومة والولادة في مستشفى Gangtok في الهند خلال الفترة بين عامي 2008 و2010. تضمنت الدراسة النساء ذوات الحمل عالية الخطورة اللواتي تم قبولهن عبر قسم الإسعاف أو قسم المرضى الخارجيين بعمر حمل  $\leq 36$  أسبوعاً في المرحلة الأولى من المخاض وبوضعية مجيء رأسي للجنين. خضعت جميع الحوامل لمراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول والذي تضمن تسجيل لمدة 20 دقيقة لمعدل نبض القلب الجنيني والتقلصات الرحمية.

**النتائج:** تم تضمين 160 مريضة، معظمهن من الخروسات وبعمر 21-30 سنة. شملت عوامل الخطورة الأساسية الملاحظة وجود حمل مديد في 42%، ارتفاع التوتر الشرياني المحرض بالحمل PIH في 15.6%، وانبثاق الأغشية الباكر PROM في 11.3% من الحالات. كانت مراقبة قلب الجنين CTG عند القبول تفاعلية في 77%، غير حاسمة في 14.4% وسلبية الدلالة في 8.7%. لوحظ أن حدوث الضائقة الجنينية، وجود سائل مختلط بالعقي متوسط للزوجة، والقبول في قسم العناية المشددة لحديثي الولادة NICU كان أكثر توارداً وبشكل هام لدى مريضات مجموعة النتائج سلبية الدلالة في مراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول بالمقارنة مع مجموعة النتائج التفاعلية والنتائج غير الحاسمة، كما ترافقت نتائج مراقبة قلب الجنين التفاعلية مع معدلات أعلى لحدوث الولادة المهبلية.

**الاستنتاجات:** تعتبر مراقبة قلب الجنين عند القبول CTG طريقة بسيطة وغير راضية تسهم كأداة مسحية في معرفة حالة الأجنة في الحالات التوليدية عالية الخطورة في البلدان النامية غير الصناعية ذات الموارد المحدودة وضغط الحالات الكبير.

### High expression of n-acetylglucosaminyltransferase IVa promotes invasion of choriocarcinoma

ارتفاع مستوى التعبير عن n-acetylglucosaminyltransferase IVa يعزز غزو السرطان المشيمية

Niimi K, et al.

Br J Cancer 2012 Nov 20.

**Background:** Gestational trophoblastic diseases (GTDs) are related to trophoblasts, and human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is secreted by GTDs as well as normal placentas. However, the asparagine-linked sugar chains on hCG contain abnormal biantennary structures in invasive mole and choriocarcinoma, but not normal pregnancy or hydatidiform mole. N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase-IV (GnT-IV) catalyses  $\beta$ 1,4-N-acetylglucosamine branching on asparagine-linked oligosaccharides, which are consistent with the abnormal sugar chain structures on hCG.

**Methods:** We investigated GnT-IVa expression in GTDs and placentas by immunohistochemistry, western blot, and RT-PCR. We assessed the effects of GnT-IVa knockdown in choriocarcinoma cells in vitro and in vivo.

**Results:** The GnT-IVa was highly expressed in trophoblasts of invasive mole and choriocarcinoma, and moderately in extravillous trophoblasts during the first trimester, but not in hydatidiform mole or other normal trophoblasts. The GnT-IVa knockdown in choriocarcinoma cells significantly reduced migration and invasive capacities, and suppressed cellular adhesion to extracellular matrix proteins. The extent of  $\beta$ 1,4-N-acetylglucosamine branching on  $\beta$ 1 integrin was greatly reduced by GnT-IVa knockdown, although the expression of  $\beta$ 1 integrin was not changed. In vivo studies further demonstrated that GnT-IVa knockdown suppressed tumour engraftment and growth.

**Conclusion:** These findings suggest that GnT-IVa is involved in regulating invasion of choriocarcinoma through modifications of the oligosaccharide chains of  $\beta$ 1 integrin.



**خلفية البحث:** تتعلق أمراض الطبقة الأرومة المغذية الحملية GTDs بالخلايا الأرومة المغذية، حيث يتم إفراز الحائثة التناسلية المشيمية البشرية hCG من خلايا المشيمة الطبيعية بالإضافة إلى خلايا أمراض الطبقة الأرومة المغذية الحملية. إلا أن سلاسل السكاكر المرتبطة بالأسبارجين في الحائثة التناسلية المشيمية البشرية hCG تتضمن تراكم ثنائية شاذة في حالات الرحي الغازية والسرطانة المشيمية، دون وجود هذه التراكمات الشاذة في حالات الحمل الطبيعي أو الرحي العذارية. يقوم N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase-IV (المعروف اختصاراً بـ GnT-IVa) بتحفيز تشكل الروابط الجانبية المتفرعة 1,4-N-acetylglucosamine  $\beta$ 1 على سلسلة قليل السكر المرتبط بالأسبارجين والذي يتماشى مع سلاسل سكر شاذة البنية في الحائثة التناسلية المشيمية البشرية hCG.

**طرق البحث:** تم استقصاء التعبير عن GnT-IVa في أمراض الطبقة الأرومة المغذية الحملية والمشيمة من خلال الكيمياء النسيجية المناعية، لطخة Western وتفاعل سلسلة البوليميراز بالزمن الفعلي RT-PCR. تم تقييم تأثيرات GnT-IVa في خلايا السرطانة المشيمية في الزجاج وفي الحياة. **النتائج:** لوحظ وجود تعبير عالٍ عن GnT-IVa في الخلايا الأرومة المغذية في حالات الرحي الغازية والسرطانة المشيمية، مع وجود تعبير متوسط الدرجة في الخلايا الأرومة المغذية خارج الزغابية خلال الثلث الأول من الحمل، دون وجود هذا الارتفاع في التعبير في حالات الرحي العذارية أو خلايا الأرومة المغذية في المشيمة الطبيعية. إن تفكك GnT-IVa في خلايا السرطانة المشيمية يؤدي إلى الحد من الهجرة والقدرة على الغزو بشكل كبير، كما أنه يثبط التصاق الخلايا بالبروتينات خارج الخلوية في المطرق. إن مدى تفرع 1,4-N-acetylglucosamine  $\beta$ 1 في سلسلة  $\beta$ 1 integrin تراجع بشكل كبير عبر تفكك GnT-IVa، وذلك على الرغم من عدم تأثير التعبير عن  $\beta$ 1 integrin. أظهرت الدراسات المجراة في الحياة أيضاً أن تفكك GnT-IVa يثبط نمو الورم وتبرعمه.

**الاستنتاجات:** تقترح هذه الموجودات تدخل GnT-IV في تنظيم عملية الغزو الورمي في حالات السرطانة المشيمية وذلك عبر التعديلات في سلاسل قليل السكر في  $\beta$ 1 integrin.

### Associations between vaginal bacteria and levels of vaginal defensins in pregnant women

#### الترافق بين الجراثيم المهبليّة ومستويات defensins المهبليّة عند الحوامل

Mitchell C, et al.

Am J Obstet Gynecol 2012 Nov 19.

**objective:** We evaluated vaginal defensin concentrations and levels of BV-associated bacterial species in pregnant women.

**Study design:** Self-collected vaginal swabs from two visits during pregnancy were tested with qPCR for nine bacterial species. Beta defensin 2 (HBD2), HBD3 and alpha defensins 1-3 (HNP1-3) were measured by ELISA.

**Results:** Our 126 participants were primarily African American (60%), had a mean gestational age at enrollment of 10 weeks ( $\pm 3$ ) and at follow-up of 25 weeks ( $\pm 6$ ). At enrollment, prevalence of BV was 74% (94/126), which decreased to 60% (75/126) at follow-up. At enrollment, HBD3 concentrations were significantly lower in women with BV ( $2.64 \pm 0.91$  vs.  $3.25 \pm 0.99$  log(10) pg/mL;  $p=0.003$ ). Higher concentrations of Atopobium vaginae, BVAB1 and BVAB2 were associated with significantly lower concentrations of HBD3 ( $p<0.01$ ).

**Conclusions:** BV was associated with lower vaginal concentrations of HBD3, but not HBD2 or HNP1-3, in pregnant women.

**هدف البحث:** تقييم تراكيز defensin المهبليّة ومستويات الذراري الجرثومية المرافقة لالتهاب المهبل الجرثومي BV عند النساء الحوامل.

**نمط البحث:** تم فحص مسحات مهبليّة مأخوذة ذاتياً من قبل المريضات وذلك خلال زيارتين ضمن الحمل من خلال تفاعل سلسلة البوليميراز الكمي لتسعة من الذراري الجرثومية. تم من خلال المقايسة المناعية الامتزازية المرتبطة بالأنزيم ELISA قياس مستويات beta defensin 2، beta defensin 3 و alpha defensins 1-3 (HBD2، HBD3 و HNP1-3 على الترتيب).

**النتائج:** شارك في البحث 126 من الحوامل معظمهن من العرق الأفريقي الأمريكي (60%)، بعمر حمل وسطي عند الدخول في الدراسة 10 أسابيع

(3±) وبفترة متابعة 25 أسبوعاً (6±). بلغ انتشار التهاب المهبل الجرثومي BV لدى المريضات عند الدخول في الدراسة 74% (94 من أصل 126 مريضة)، وتناقص إلى 60% (75 من أصل 126) خلال فترة المتابعة. لوحظ عند البدء بالدراسة أن تراكيز HBD3 كانت أخفض وبشكل هام عند مريضات التهاب المهبل الجرثومي BV (0.91±2.64 مقابل 0.99±3.25 لوجاريم (10) بيكوغرام/مل،  $p=0.003$ ). توافقت التراكيز الأعلى من جراثيم Atopobium المهبليّة، BVAB1 وBVAB2 مع تراكيز أخفض وبشكل هام من HBD3 ( $p>0.01$ ).  
الاستنتاجات: يترافق التهاب المهبل الجرثومي BV عند الحوامل مع تراكيز أخفض من HBD3 المهبلي، دون وجود علاقة لها مع HBD2 أو HNP1-3.

### Comparison of the effects of electrical stimulation and posterior tibial nerve stimulation in the treatment of overactive bladder syndrome

مقارنة تأثيرات التنبيه الكهربائي وتنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي في معالجة متلازمة المثانة مفرطة النشاط

Gungor Ugurlucan F, et al.  
Gynecol Obstet Invest 2012 Nov 16.

**Aim:** To compare the effects of transvaginal electrical stimulation (ES) and posterior tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS) in the treatment of overactive bladder syndrome (OAB).

**Methods:** Women applying with symptoms of urgency, frequency, and nocturia with or without incontinence and diagnosed with OAB were divided into an ES or PTNS group. Bladder diary, urodynamics, 1-hour pad test, and King's Health Questionnaire were performed before and after treatment. ES was applied for 20 min, 6-8 weeks with pulses of 10-50 Hz square waves at a 300-μs or 1-ms pulse duration and a maximal output current of 24-60 mA with 5-10 Hz frequency, three times per week. PTNS was applied for 30 min once a week for 12 weeks.

**Results:** Thirty-five patients received ES, 17 patients received PTNS. Pad test, urinary diary, and quality of life parameters after both treatments decreased significantly; the decrease in the ES group was greater. The number of patients who describe themselves as cured was higher in the ES group.

**Conclusion:** PTNS and ES are both effective in the treatment of OAB with significant improvement in objective and subjective parameters. Objective results show no significant difference between the two groups; however, the number of patients who describe themselves as cured in the ES group was significantly higher.

**هدف البحث:** مقارنة تأثيرات التنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES وتنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي PTNS في معالجة حالات متلازمة المثانة مفرطة النشاط OAB.

**طرق البحث:** شمل البحث مجموعة من النساء بأعراض إلحاح بولي، تبول متكرر، بوال ليلي مع أو بدون سلس تم تشخيص حالتهن بوجود متلازمة المثانة مفرطة النشاط تم تقسيمهن إلى مجموعتين: مجموعة المعالجة بالتنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES ومجموعة المعالجة بتنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي PTNS. تم تسجيل اليوميات المثانية، الحرائك البولية، اختبار الوسادة البولية بعد ساعة واستجواب King's الصحي وذلك قبل وبعد المعالجة. تم تطبيق التنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES لمدة 20 دقيقة لمدة 6-8 أسابيع بنبضات بموجات 10-50 هرتز، وبمدة نبضات 300 ميكروثانية أو 1 ميلي ثانية وتيار أعظمي 24-60 ميلي أمبير وتواتر 5-10 هرتز ثلاث مرات أسبوعياً. تم تطبيق تنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي PTNS لمدة 30 دقيقة مرة أسبوعياً لمدة 12 أسبوعاً.

**النتائج:** خضعت 35 مريضة للمعالجة بالتنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES، 17 مريضة لتنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي PTNS. لوحظ أن اختبار الوسادة البولية، اليوميات المثانية ومشعرات نوعية الحياة قد تناقصت بشكل هام بعد نمطي المعالجة، إلا أن التناقص كان أكبر في مجموعة المعالجة بالتنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES. كان عدد المريضات اللاتي اعتبرن أنفسهن وصلن للشفاء أكبر في مجموعة المعالجة بالتنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES.  
الاستنتاجات: يعتبر كل من التنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES وتنبيه العصب الظنبوبي الخلفي PTNS تقنيتين فعاليتين في معالجة متلازمة المثانة

مفرطة النشاط بتحسين ملحوظ في المشعرات الشخصية والموضوعية. لم تظهر النتائج الموضوعية وجود فارق هام بين المجموعتين العلاجيتين، إلا أن عدد المريضات اللواتي اعتبرن أنفسهن قد شفين كان أكبر في مجموعة المعالجة بالتنبيه الكهربائي عبر المهبل ES.

## Surgery

## الجراحة

### Alternative diagnoses to suspected appendicitis at CT

### الحالات التشخيصية البديلة لحالات الشك بالتهاب الزائدة بالتصوير الطبقي المحوسب

Pooler BD, et al.

Radiology 2012 Sep 27.

**Purpose:** To assess alternative diagnoses in adults undergoing computed tomography (CT) for suspected acute appendicitis in routine clinical practice.

**Materials and methods:** This retrospective study was HIPAA compliant and institutional review board approved; informed consent was waived. A total of 1571 consecutive adults were referred from emergency department or urgent care settings for evaluation of suspected acute appendicitis at a single academic medical center from January 2006 to December 2009. Diagnoses given by board-certified radiologists at nonfocused abdominopelvic CT and ultimate clinical diagnoses by a combination of clinical, surgical, pathologic, and other radiologic findings were analyzed. Comparisons were made by using the Fisher exact test and Mann-Whitney test, where appropriate, with a two-tailed P value of less than 0.05 used as the criterion for statistical significance.

**Results:** A specific diagnosis at CT examination was made in 867 of 1571 (55.2%) patients. Acute appendicitis was favored in 371 of 1571 (23.6%) patients. An alternative diagnosis other than appendicitis was suggested in 496 of 1571 (31.6%) patients. Among patients with an alternative CT diagnosis, 204 of 496 (41.1%) were hospitalized and 109 of 496 (22.0%) underwent surgical or image-guided intervention for diagnoses other than appendicitis, compared with rates of 14.1% and 4.4%, respectively, among patients in whom a specific diagnosis was not made at CT ( $P < 0.0001$ ). The most common broad categories of disease included nonappendiceal gastrointestinal conditions (46.0%), gynecologic conditions (21.6%), genitourinary conditions (16.9%), and hepatopancreaticobiliary conditions (7.7%).

**Conclusion:** In adult patients clinically suspected of having acute appendicitis, abdominopelvic CT frequently identifies an alternative cause for symptoms, which often requires hospitalization and surgery for treatment.

**هدف البحث:** تقييم الحالات التشخيصية البديلة عند البالغين الخاضعين لإجراء تصوير طبقي محوسب CT نتيجة الشك بالتهاب الزائدة الحاد خلال الممارسة السريرية الاعتيادية.

**مواد وطرق البحث:** تميزت هذه الدراسة الراجعة بمراعاتها لشروط HIPAA وموافقة المجلس الإداري بحيث تم الاستغناء عن الحصول على موافقة المريض. تم تحويل 1571 حالة متتالية لبالغين لقسم الطوارئ أو العناية الحرجة لإجراء التقييم اللازم للشك بوجود التهاب زائدة حاد وذلك في أحد المراكز الطبية الأكاديمية خلال الفترة بين كانون الثاني 2006 وكانون الأول 2009. تم تحليل التشخيص الموضوع من قبل أخصائي التشخيص الشعاعي المجاز على الصور الطبقيّة المحوسبة البطنية الحوضية غير المركزة، بالإضافة إلى التشخيص السريري النهائي الموضوع بناءً على جملة الموجودات السريرية، الجراحية، التشريحية المرضية والشعاعية. تم إجراء مقارنة من خلال اختبار Fisher exact واختبار Mann-Whitney تبعاً للأنسب منهما باعتبار قيمة p دون 0.05 كمعيار للأهمية الإحصائية.

**النتائج:** تم وضع تشخيص دقيق بالتصوير الطبقي المحوسب CT عند 867 من أصل 1571 مريضاً (بنسبة 55.2%). كان تشخيص التهاب الزائدة

الحاد هو المرجح عند 371 من أصل 1571 مريضاً (23.6%)، كما اقترح تشخيص بديل عنه عند 496 مريضاً (بنسبة 31.6%). قبل 204 مريضاً من أصل 496 مريضاً من مرضى التشخيص البديل لالتهاب الزائدة (41.1%) في المشفى، كما خضع 109 من أصل 496 مريضاً (22.0%) لإجراء جراحي أو تدخل موجه بالتصوير الشعاعي لحالات تشخيصية غير التهاب الزائدة وذلك بالمقارنة مع نسبة 14.1% و 4.4% على الترتيب عند المرضى الذين لم يوضع لديهم تشخيص دقيق بناءً على التصوير الطبقي المحسوب ( $p > 0.0001$ ). شملت المجموعات التشخيصية العامة الأكثر شيوعاً الحالات المعدية المعوية غير المتعلقة بالزائدة (46.0%)، الحالات النسائية (21.6%)، الحالات البولية التناسلية (16.9%) والحالات الكبدية الصفراوية البنكرياسية (7.7%).

**الاستنتاجات:** لوحظ عند المرضى البالغين المشكوك لديهم بوجود التهاب زائدة حاد أن التصوير الطبقي المحسوب CT للبطن والحوض يظهر حالات تشخيصية بديلة عن التهاب الزائدة كسبب للأعراض في حالات كثيرة والتي غالباً ما تتطلب بدورها القبول في المشفى واللجوء للمعالجة الجراحية.

### Comparison of results and economic analysis of surgical and transcatheter closure of perimembranous ventricular septal defect

التحليل الاقتصادي ومقارنة النتائج لعملية الإصلاح الجراحي والإصلاح بالقثطرة لعيوب الحاجز البطني حول الغشائية

Liu S, et al.

Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2012 Sep 28.

**objectives:** The last decade has witnessed considerable improvement in design and implantation techniques for the percutaneous closure of perimembranous ventricular septal defects. This study was undertaken to compare the results and economic analysis of traditional surgery and percutaneous closure with a modified double-disk occluder during hospitalization.

**Methods:** A total of 345 consecutive patients who underwent isolated perimembranous ventricular septal defect closure were identified between July 2009 and July 2011 in our institution. A total of 157 patients with perimembranous ventricular septal defect (45.5%) underwent percutaneous closure and the remaining 188 patients (54.5%) were treated surgically.

**Results:** In the percutaneous closure group, 156 patients (99.4%) had immediate complete closure and 186 (98.9%) in the surgical group were treated successfully ( $P=0.671$ ). The surgical group was significantly younger ( $P=0.000$ ) and larger in size ( $P=0.000$ ). One case of irreversible complete atrioventricular block and one death occurred in the surgical group. There was no significant difference in terms of hospital stay between the two groups. The total medical cost in the percutaneous closure group was lower compared with that in the surgical group ( $P=0.005$ ). Charges for medication, bed occupancy and nursing care of patients undergoing surgical closure were greater than those for patients undergoing transcatheter closure ( $P=0.000$ ,  $P=0.000$ ,  $P=0.000$ , respectively). None of the patients in the percutaneous closure group required blood transfusion during hospitalization. Charges for radiography, lab and ultrasound in the percutaneous closure group were higher compared with those in the surgical group ( $P=0.000$ ,  $P=0.000$ , respectively).

**Conclusions:** Compared with surgical repair at our institution, the superior clinical outcomes and economic benefits of percutaneous closure are inspiring. Percutaneous closure is a valuable alternative to surgery and allows more patients to be effectively treated in China.

**هدف البحث:** شهد العقد الأخير تطوراً كبيراً في تقنيات التصميم والزرع في عمليات الإغلاق عبر الجلد للعيوب حول الغشائية في الحاجز البطني. تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لمقارنة النتائج الملاحظة وإجراء تحليل اقتصادي للتكلفة بين إجراء الجراحة التقليدية وعمليات الإغلاق عبر الجلد باستخدام قرص مزدوج ساد معدل.

**طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 345 مريضاً متتالياً من الخاضعين لعملية إغلاق لعيوب حول غشائي في الحاجز البطني خلال الفترة بين تموز 2009



والشهر نفسه لعام 2011 في مركز البحث. خضع 157 مريضاً (45.5%) لعملية إغلاق للعيب عبر الجلد، بينما خضع البقية (188 مريضاً بنسبة 54.5%) للمعالجة الجراحية التقليدية.

**النتائج:** لوحظ في مجموعة الإغلاق عبر الجلد الوصول لانغلاق كامل وفوري للعيب الحاجزي عند 156 مريضاً (بنسبة 99.4%)، كما أن 186 مريضاً (98.9%) في مجموعة المعالجة الجراحية تمت معالجتهم بنجاح ( $p=0.671$ ). لوحظ أن مرضى مجموعة المعالجة الجراحية كانوا أصغر عمراً ( $p=0.000$ ) مع قياس أكبر للعيب ( $p=0.000$ ). تطورت حالة واحدة من الحصار الأذيني البطيني التام غير العكوس ووفاة واحدة في مجموعة المعالجة الجراحية. لم يلاحظ وجود فروقات هامة إحصائياً بالنسبة لمدة البقاء في المشفى بين المجموعتين، إلا أن التكلفة الطبية الإجمالية في مجموعة الإغلاق عبر الجلد كانت أقل من التكلفة الملاحظة في مجموعة الإغلاق الجراحي ( $p=0.005$ )، حيث أن تكاليف الأدوية، حجز سرير للمريض والعناية التمريضية كانت أعلى لدى مرضى الإغلاق الجراحي مقارنةً بالإغلاق عبر الجلد ( $p=0.000$ ،  $p=0.000$ ،  $p=0.000$  على الترتيب). لم يحتج أي من مرضى الإغلاق عبر الجلد لنقل الدم خلال فترة مكوثه في المشفى. من جهة أخرى كانت تكاليف الإجراءات الشعاعية، الفحوصات المخبرية والأمواج فوق الصوتية أعلى لدى مرضى الإغلاق عبر الجلد مقارنةً بمرضى الإغلاق الجراحي ( $p=0.000$  و  $p=0.000$  على الترتيب).

**الاستنتاجات:** لوحظ بالمقارنة مع الإصلاح الجراحي أن أفضلية النتائج السريرية والاقتصادية لعملية إغلاق عبر الجلد لعيوب الحاجز البطيني كانت رائعة. يشكل الإغلاق عبر الجلد بديلاً قيماً عن الجراحة حيث يسمح بمعالجة فعالة لعدد أكبر من المرضى في الصين.

### Transcatheter «thrombin-blood patch» injection: A novel and effective approach to treat catheterization-related arterial perforation

#### حقن رقعة الدم-الترومبين عبر القثطرة: مقاربة فعالة وواعدة في معالجة حالات الانتقاب الشرياني خلال إجراء القثطرة

Maluenda G, et al.

Catheter Cardiovasc Interv 2012 Sep 28.

**objective:** This study aimed to describe the safety and feasibility of transcatheter “thrombin-blood patch” (TBP) injection to treat catheterization-related arterial vascular access perforation.

**Background:** Vascular access complications are infrequent but potentially life threatening conditions related to percutaneous procedures. Surgical vascular repair are associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality due to advanced cardiovascular disease.

**Methods:** From October 2007 to July 2010 we studied 23 patients who presented active access arterial bleeding after percutaneous procedures and underwent transcatheter angiographic guided TBP injection across the entry site of the arterial perforation as a primary approach.

**Results:** The mean age of the population was 67 years, predominantly female (78.3%) with high rate of comorbidities including diabetes (30.4%), prior coronary revascularization (50.0%), chronic renal failure (43.5%), and heart failure (56.5%). Thirteen patients (56.5%) developed severe hypotension after the index procedure. The repair procedure had a mean duration of  $82 \pm 57$  minutes. TBP was injected in all patients. One case additionally required covered-stent to obtain hemostasis. Angiographic success was achieved in the 23 patients; however, one case required a second intervention due to recurrent bleeding, which was effectively treated using covered-stent. All patients were discharged alive and no major cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction/stroke, were observed.

**Conclusions:** Transcatheter “thrombin-blood patch” injection is a safe, novel technique that allows prompt percutaneous approach to treat catheterization-related arterial perforation. This strategy appears particularly attractive to treat patients who cannot tolerate “open” vascular reconstruction and repair.

**هدف البحث:** تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف سلامة وجدوى حقن رقعة الدم-الترومبين TBP عبر القثطرة في معالجة حالات انتقاب المدخل الوعائي الشرياني خلال إجراء القثطرة.

**خلفية البحث:** تعتبر الاختلاطات المتعلقة بالمدخل الوعائي من الأمور النادرة ولكن المهددة للحياة خلال إجراء المداخلات عبر الجلد. يترافق الإصلاح الوعائي الجراحي لهذه الآفات مع معدلات عالية للمراضة والوفيات نتيجة وجود أمراض قلبية وعائية متقدمة مرافقة.

**طرق البحث:** تم خلال الفترة بين تشرين الأول 2007 وتموز 2010 دراسة 23 مريضاً تظاهرت حالتهم بنزف شرياني فعال حاد إثر إجراء مداخلات عبر

وخضعوا لحقن رقعة الدم-الترومبين TBP موجهة بالقطرة عبر مكان الدخول لمعالجة الانتقاب الشرياني كمقاربة علاجية أساسية.

**النتائج:** بلغ متوسط عمر المرضى 67 سنة، كما أن غالبيتهم من الإناث (78.3%) مع وجود معادلات عالية للمراضة المرافقة من ضمنها الداء السكري (30.4%)، وجود عملية إعادة توعية إكليلية سابقة (50.0%)، قصور كلوي مزمن (43.5%)، وقصور قلب (56.5%). تطور لدى 13 مريضاً (56.5%) هبوط ضغط شديد بعد الإجراء. تطلبت عملية الإصلاح مدة وسطية بلغت  $57 \pm 82$  دقيقة. تم إجراء حقن رقعة الدم-الترومبين عند جميع المرضى، فيما احتاج مريض واحد لوضع مجازة مغطاة كإجراء إضافي للوصول للإرقاء. تم إجراء التصوير الوعائي بنجاح عند 23 مريضاً، بينما احتاجت حالة واحدة لإجراء تداخل ثانٍ نتيجة للنزف الناكس والذي تمت معالجته بنجاح باستخدام مجازة مغطاة. تم تخريج جميع المرضى بحالة جيدة دون ملاحظة تطور حوادث قلبية وعائية هامة كاحتشاء العضلة القلبية أو السكتة.

**الاستنتاجات:** يعتبر إجراء حقن رقعة الدم-الترومبين TBP تقنية آمنة وواحدة توفر مقاربة فعالة عبر الجلد لمعالجة حالات الانتقاب الشرياني خلال إجراء القطرة. تحتل هذه التقنية أهمية خاصة في معالجة المرضى غير القادرين على تحمل عمليات الترميم والإصلاح الوعائي المفتوحة.

### negative pressure wound therapy in the prevention of wound infection in high risk abdominal wound closures

#### دور معالجة الجروح بالضغط السلبي في الوقاية من إنتانات الجروح عند مرضى الجروح البطنية عالية الخطورة

Vargo D.

Am J Surg 2012 Dec;204(6):1021-4.

**Background:** Wound infections continue to be an issue in abdominal surgery. Tissue perfusion may be a contributing factor. Negative pressure application may have promise in decreasing wound complication.

**Method:** A retrospective review of prospectively collected data in patients with high-risk abdominal wounds was undertaken. Comorbidities, risk factors for infection, wound classification, and wound outcomes were all evaluated. The primary outcome measure was wound infection rate. Secondary outcomes included device safety and overall surgical site complication rate.

**Results:** Thirty patients were identified who had skin flaps in whom negative pressure was used. Negative pressure was applied for an average of 5.6 days (range, 5-7 days). No patient developed ischemia or necrosis of the skin flaps. No wound infections were identified. The overall wound complication rate was 3%. The comparable historical control wound complication rate was 20%, and  $\chi^2(2)$  analysis showed a statistically significant decrease in the infection rate with negative-pressure wound therapy ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Negative-pressure wound therapy applied to a closed, high-risk surgical wound is safe, with no evidence of skin necrosis and decreased wound infection rate.

**خلفية البحث:** تبقى إنتانات الجروح من الأمور المطروحة على الدوام في مجال جراحة البطن. يعتقد بأن الإرواء النسيجي يمثل عاملاً مساهماً في تطور هذه الإنتانات. يمكن لتطبيق الضغط السلبي أن يمثل إجراءً واعداً في الحد من اختلاطات الجروح.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء تقييم راجع للمعطيات التي تم جمعها مستقبلياً من مرضى الجروح البطنية عالية الخطورة. تم تقييم المراضة المرافقة، عوامل الخطورة للإنتان، تصنيف الجرح والنتائج الملاحظة في الجرح. شملت النتائج الأساسية المقاسة في الدراسة المعدلات الملاحظة لحدوث إنتان في الجرح، أما النتائج الثانوية فشملت سلامة التقنية ومعدل الاختلاطات الكلي في مكان الجراحة.

**النتائج:** تم تحديد 30 مريضاً خضعوا لوضع ثنيات جلدية استخدم لديهم الضغط السلبي. تم تطبيق الضغط السلبي لمدة وسطية 5.6 يوماً (تراوح بين 5-7 أيام). لم يتطور نقص تروية أو تنخر في الثنية الجلدية لدى أي من المرضى، كما لم تلاحظ إنتانات في الجرح في أية حالة. بلغ معدل الاختلاطات الكلية الملاحظة في الجرح 3%، فيما بلغ معدل الاختلاطات في الجرح في حالات شاهد مشابهة 20%، كما أظهر تحليل كاي مربع تراجعاً هاماً من الناحية الإحصائية في معدل الإنتان لدى تطبيق المعالجة بالضغط السلبي ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**الاستنتاجات:** يعتبر تطبيق المعالجة بالضغط السلبي للجروح الجراحية المغلقة عالية الخطورة إجراءً آمناً يترافق مع تناقص في معدلات حدوث إنتان الجرح دون وجود دلائل على حدوث تنخر جلدي.

**laparoscopic versus open resection of gastrointestinal  
stromal tumors of the stomach**  
الاستئصال بالتنظير مقارنةً بالاستئصال المفتوح للأورام السدوية المعدية المعوية في المعدة

De Vogelaere K, et al.  
Surg Endosc 2012 Dec 12.

**Background:** Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) are the most common mesenchymal tumors of the gastrointestinal tract. Surgical treatment is the only chance of cure for patients with a primary localized GIST. A laparoscopic approach has been considered reasonable for these tumors of gastric origin. The current study compares the outcome of laparoscopic versus open resection of gastric GISTs and compares our series with the few published studies comparing the open versus the laparoscopic approach.

**Methods:** From a prospectively collected database, we found 53 primary gastric GIST resections that were performed in our department. Laparoscopic (LAP) resections were performed in 37 patients and traditional (OPEN) resections in 16 patients. Clinical and pathologic characteristics and surgical outcomes were analyzed according to surgical procedure.

**Results:** Patients who underwent LAP or OPEN resection of gastric GISTs did not differ with respect to age at operation, gender, clinical presentation, and tumor size. Operative time was significantly lower for LAP than for OPEN resection, with a mean duration of 45 and 132.5 min, respectively ( $p < 0.001$ ). LAP resection yielded a significantly shorter length of stay (median 7 vs. 14 days;  $p = 0.007$ ) and lower 30-day morbidity rate (2.7 % vs. 18.9 %;  $p = 0.077$ ). The operative mortality was 12.5 % after OPEN resection and there was no operative mortality after LAP ( $p = 0.087$ ). The recurrence rate was significantly lower after LAP surgery (0 % vs. 37.5 %;  $p < 0.001$ ). All patients in the LAP group are alive without recurrence, and 25 % (4/16) of the OPEN group are alive with recurrence but in complete remission under imatinib mesylate treatment. Two patients of the open group died due to progression of GIST ( $p = 0.087$ ).

**Conclusions:** Compared to open resection, laparoscopic resection of gastric stromal tumors is associated with a shorter operation time, a shorter hospital stay, and a lower recurrence rate.

**خلفية البحث:** تعتبر الأورام السدوية المعدية المعوية GISTs أشيع أورام اللحمية المتوسطة في السبيل المعدي المعوي. يعتبر الاستئصال الجراحي الفرصة الوحيدة للشفاء عند مرضى الأورام السدوية المعدية المعوية البدئية الموضوعة. لقد اعتبر الاستئصال بالتنظير مقارنة معقولة لهذه الأورام عند توضعها في المعدة. سيتم في هذه الدراسة مقارنة نتائج الاستئصال بالتنظير مع نتائج الاستئصال المفتوح للأورام السدوية GISTs في المعدة ومقارنة النتائج مع نتائج الدراسات الأخرى المنشورة حول نفس الموضوع.

**طرق البحث:** وجد من المعطيات التي تم جمعها مستقبلياً 53 حالة استئصال لورم GIST بدئي في المعدة تم إجراؤها في مشفى البحث. تم إجراء الاستئصال عبر التنظير عند 37 مريضاً فيما أجري الاستئصال بالطريقة التقليدية (الجراحة المفتوحة) عند 16 مريضاً. تم تحليل الخصائص السريرية والتشريحية المرضية والجراحية تبعاً للطريقة الجراحية المعتمدة في الاستئصال.

**النتائج:** لم تسجل اختلافات بين مجموعتي الاستئصال السابقتين (الاستئصال بالتنظير والاستئصال المفتوح) للأورام السدوية في السبيل المعدي المعوي GISTs في المعدة من حيث العمر عند إجراء العملية، الجنس، التظاهر السريري وحجم الورم. لوحظ أن مدة الجراحة كانت أقل وبشكل هام في مجموعة الاستئصال بالتنظير بالمقارنة مع الاستئصال المفتوح بمدة وسطية 45 دقيقة و 132.5 دقيقة على الترتيب ( $p > 0.001$ ). من جهة أخرى وفر الاستئصال بالتنظير مدة أقل وبشكل هام للبقاء في المشفى (الوسيط 7 مقابل 14 يوماً،  $p = 0.007$ )، ومعدل مرآضة أقل خلال مدة 30 يوماً (2.7 مقابل 18.9 %،  $p = 0.077$ ). بلغ معدل الوفيات المرافق للجراحة المفتوحة 12.5 % فيما لم تسجل أية وفيات جراحية مرافقة لعمليات الاستئصال بالتنظير ( $p = 0.087$ ). تبين أن نسبة النكس كانت أقل وبشكل هام من الناحية الإحصائية بعد عمليات الاستئصال بالتنظير (0 % مقابل 37.5 %،  $p > 0.001$ ). كان جميع مرضى مجموعة الاستئصال بالتنظير على قيد الحياة ودون نكس، بينما بقي 25 % (4 من أصل 16 مريضاً) من مرضى مجموعة الاستئصال بالجراحة

المفتوحة على قيد الحياة مع نكس الحالة ولكن بهجوع تام تحت العلاج بـ imatinib mesylate. توفي مريضان في مجموعة الاستئصال المفتوح نتيجة ترقى في حالة الورم السدوي المعدي المعوي GIST ( $p=0.087$ ).  
**الاستنتاجات:** لوحظ بالمقارنة مع الاستئصال المفتوح أن استئصال الأورام السدوية المعدية بالتنظير يترافق مع مدة أقل للعملية، مدة أقل للبقاء في المشفى ومعدلات أقل لنكس الحالة.

## Cardiovascular Diseases

### الأمراض القلبية الوعائية

**Effect of intensive rosuvastatin therapy on adhesion molecules and the upstream mechanism in patients with peripheral atherosclerosis**  
تأثير المعالجة المركزة باستخدام rosuvastatin على جزيئات الالتصاق والآلية المضادة للممكنة عند مرضى التصلب العصيدي في الأوعية المحيطية

DU RX, et al.

Nan Fang Yi Ke Da Xue Xue Bao 2012 Nov;32(11):1610-4.

**objective:** To investigate the effect of intensive rosuvastatin therapy on adhesion molecules in patients with peripheral atherosclerosis and explore the possible upstream mechanism.

**Methods:** Twenty asymptomatic patients with peripheral atherosclerosis were enrolled and given 5-20 mg/day rosuvastatin for 3 months. Before and after the treatment, the lipid profile and plasma vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) levels were examined. The expression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) in the mononuclear cells was measured using flow cytometry, and the mRNA and protein expressions of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\gamma$  (PPAR $\gamma$ ) were detected using RT-PCR and Western blotting, respectively.

**Results:** Compared with the baseline levels, ICAM-1 expression decreased and PPAR $\gamma$  protein expression increased in the lymphocytes. Rosuvastatin therapy did not produce obvious effects on plasma VCAM-1 level or ICAM-1 expression in the monocytes in these patients.

**Conclusion:** Rosuvastatin produces anti-inflammatory effects by decreasing the expression of ICAM-1 in mononuclear cells, and its upstream mechanism may involve the PPAR $\gamma$  pathway.

**هدف البحث:** استقصاء تأثير المعالجة المركزة باستخدام rosuvastatin على جزيئات الالتصاق عند مرضى التصلب العصيدي في الأوعية المحيطية وتحري الآلية المضادة للممكنة لذلك.

**طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 20 من مرضى التصلب العصيدي في الأوعية المحيطية اللاعرضيين تمت معالجتهم بجرعة 5-20 ملغ/يومياً من rosuvastatin لمدة 3 أشهر. تم تقييم شحوم المصل ومستويات جزيء التصاق الخلايا الوعائية-1 (VCAM-1) في البلازما قبل وبعد المعالجة. تم من خلال قياس الجريان الخلوي تحديد مستوى التعبير عن جزيء الالتصاق داخل الخلوي-1 (ICAM-1) في الخلايا وحيدة النوى، كما تم تحري التعبير عن الرنا المرسال mRNA والبروتين لمستقبل العامل النكاثري المفعول غاما في البيروكسيروم (PPAR $\gamma$ ) وذلك عبر تفاعل سلسلة البوليميراز بالزمن الفعلي RT-PCR ولطخة Western على الترتيب.

**النتائج:** لوحظ بالمقارنة مع المستويات القاعدية تناقص في التعبير عن ICAM-1، مع حدوث زيادة في التعبير عن بروتين PPAR $\gamma$  في الخلايا للمفاوية. لم يظهر العلاج بـ rosuvastatin تأثيرات واضحة على مستوى VCAM-1 في البلازما أو التعبير عن ICAM-1 في الخلايا الوحيدة عند هؤلاء المرضى.

**الاستنتاجات:** يظهر rosuvastatin تأثيرات مضادة للالتهاب من خلال خفض التعبير عن ICAM-1 في الخلايا وحيدة النوى، كما أن هذه الآلية المضادة قد تتدخل في الطريق التفاعلي الخاص بـ PPAR $\gamma$ .



**Risk of life threatening cardiac events among patients  
with long QT syndrome and multiple mutations**  
خطر الحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة عند مرضى متلازمة تطاول QT بوجود طفرات متعددة

Mullally J, et al.

Heart Rhythm 2012 Nov 19.

**Background:** Patients with long QT syndrome (LQTS) who harbor multiple mutations (i.e. >2 mutations in >1 LQTS-susceptibility gene) may experience increased risk for life-threatening cardiac events.

**objectives:** The present study was designed to compare the clinical course of LQTS patients with multiple mutations to those with a single mutation.

**Methods:** The risk for life-threatening cardiac events (comprising aborted cardiac arrest, implantable defibrillator shock, or sudden cardiac death) from birth through age 40 years, by the presence of multiple vs. single mutations, was assessed among 403 patients from the LQTS Registry.

**Results:** Patients with multiple mutations (n=57) exhibited a longer QTc at enrollment compared with those with a single mutation (mean±SD: 506±72 vs. 480±56 msec, respectively; p=0.003) and had a higher rate of life threatening cardiac events during follow-up (23% vs. 11%, respectively; p<0.001). Consistently, multivariate analysis demonstrated that patients with multiple mutations had a 2.3-fold (p=0.015) increased risk for life threatening cardiac events as compared to patients with a single mutation. The presence of multiple mutations in a single LQTS gene was associated with a 3.2-fold increased risk for life threatening cardiac events (p=0.010) whereas the risk associated with multiple mutation status involving > 1 LQTS gene was not significantly different from the risk associated with a single mutation (HR 1.7, p=0.26).

**Conclusions:** LQTS patients with multiple mutations have a greater risk for life-threatening cardiac events as compared to patients with a single mutation.

**خلفية البحث:** قد يواجه مرضى متلازمة تطاول QT الحاملين لطفرات متعددة (وجود أكثر من طفرتين في أكثر من مورثة من مورثات الاستعداد لمتلازمة تطاول QT) زيادة في خطر تطور الحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة.

**هدف البحث:** تم تصميم هذه الدراسة لمقارنة السير السريري لمرضى متلازمة تطاول QT بوجود طفرات متعددة مع حالات وجود طفرة وحيدة.  
**طرق البحث:** تم تقييم خطر الحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة (المتضمنة لتوقف القلب المجهض، صدمة مزيل الرجفان القابل للغرس أو الموت القلبي المفاجئ) وذلك بدءاً من الولادة وحتى عمر 40 سنة بوجود طفرات متعددة أو طفرة وحيدة عند 403 من المرضى المسجلين في سجل متلازمة تطاول QT.

**النتائج:** أظهر مرضى الطفرات المتعددة (57 مريضاً) تطاولاً أكبر في QT عند القبول بالمقارنة مع حالات وجود طفرة واحدة (المتوسط±الانحراف المعياري: 506±72 مقابل 480±56 ميلي ثانية على الترتيب، p=0.003)، مع وجود معدلات أعلى للحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة لديهم خلال فترة المتابعة (23% مقابل 11% على الترتيب، p<0.001). وبشكل متسق فقد أظهر التحليل متعدد المتغيرات أن مرضى الطفرات المتعددة لديهم زيادة بمقدار 2.3 ضعفاً (p=0.015) في خطر الحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة بالمقارنة مع مرضى الطفرات الوحيدة. ترافق وجود طفرات متعددة في مورثة واحدة فقط لمتلازمة تطاول QT مع زيادة 3.2 ضعفاً في خطر الحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة (p=0.010)، أما الخطر المرافق لوجود طفرات متعددة تصيب أكثر من مورثة من مورثات متلازمة تطاول QT فلم يختلف بدرجة هامة عن الخطر المرافق لوجود طفرة وحيدة (نسبة الخطورة 1.7، p=0.26).

**الاستنتاجات:** يلاحظ لدى مرضى متلازمة تطاول QT ذوو الطفرات المتعددة وجود خطورة أكبر للحوادث القلبية المهددة للحياة مقارنة بالمرضى الحاملين لطفرة وحيدة.

## Pulmonary Diseases

### الأمراض الصدرية

#### Analysis on the pathogenesis of symptomatic pulmonary embolism with human genomics

#### تحليل إمراضية الصمة الرئوية العرضية في المادة الوراثية البشرية

Wang H, et al.

Int J Med Sci 2012;9(5):380-6.

**Background:** In the present study, the whole human genome oligo microarray was employed to investigate the gene expression profile in symptomatic pulmonary embolism (PE).

**Methods:** Twenty patients with PE and 20 age and gender matched patients without PE as controls were enrolled into the present study in the same period. The diagnosis of PE was based on the clinical manifestations and findings on imaging examinations. Acute arterial and/or venous thrombosis was excluded in controls. The whole human genome oligo microarray was employed for detection. Statistical analysis was performed with t test following analysis of very small samples of repeated measurements and Gene Ontology (GO) analysis.

**Results:** Genomic data showed no damage to vascular endothelial cells in PE patients. Genomic data only found increased mRNA expression of a small amount of coagulation factors in PE patients. In the PE group, anticoagulant proteins, Fibrinolytic system and proteins related to platelet functions only played partial roles in the pathogenesis of PE. In addition, the mRNA expressions of a fraction of adhesion molecules were markedly up-regulated. Gene Ontology analysis showed the genes with down-regulated expressions mainly explain the compromised T cell immunity. Symptomatic VTE patients have compromised T cell immunity.

**Conclusion:** The damage to vascular endothelial cells is not necessary in the pathogenesis of VTE, and only a fraction of factors involved in the shared coagulation cascade are activated. Genomic results may provide a new clue for clinical diagnosis, treatment and prevention of VTE.

**خلفية البحث:** تم في هذه الدراسة تطبيق المصفوفات الدقيقة القليلة على المادة الوراثية البشرية الإجمالية بغية استقصاء نموذج التعبير الوراثي في حالات الصمة الرئوية العرضية PE.

**طرق البحث:** تم في هذه الدراسة تضمين 20 مريضاً من مرضى الصمة الرئوية و20 شخصاً موافقين من ناحية العمر والجنس غير مصابين بالصمة الرئوية وذلك خلال نفس الفترة الزمنية. تم وضع تشخيص الصمة الرئوية بناءً على التظاهرات السريرية وموجودات الفحوصات التشخيصية الشعاعية. تم تطبيق تقنية المصفوفات الدقيقة القليلة على المادة الوراثية البشرية الإجمالية. تم إجراء التحليل الإحصائي باختبار t بعد تحليل عينات صغيرة جداً من القياسات المعادة وتحليل علم الوجود الوراثي Gene Ontology.

**النتائج:** أظهرت المعطيات الوراثية عدم وجود أذية في خلايا البطانة الوعائية عند مرضى الصمة الرئوية، حيث أظهرت فقط وجود زيادة في التعبير عن الرنا المرسال mRNA لكمية قليلة من عوامل التخثر عند مرضى الصمة الرئوية. لوحظ في مجموعة مرضى الصمة الرئوية أن البروتينات المضادة للتخثر، الجهاز الحال للفيبرين والبروتينات المتعلقة بوظيفة الصفائح تلعب أدوراً جزئية في إمراضية الصمة الرئوية. بالإضافة لذلك تبين حدوث تنظيم إيجابي كبير في التعبير عن الرنا المرسال mRNA لنسبة من جزيئات الالتصاق. أما تحليل الوجود الوراثي فقد أظهر المورثات التي خضع التعبير عنها لتنظيم سلبي والذي يفسر تراجع الوظيفة المناعية للخلايا التائية الذي يلاحظ لدى مرضى الانصمام الوريدي الخثري VTE العرضيين.

**الاستنتاجات:** إن وجود أذية في الخلايا البطانية الوعائية ليس أمراً ضرورياً في إمراضية الداء الانصمامي الخثري، كما أن نسبة قليلة فقط من العوامل ذات الصلة بشلال التخثر يتم تفعيلها. يمكن لنتائج الدراسة الوراثية أن تعطي دليلاً جديداً للتشخيص السريري، المعالجة والوقاية في حالات الداء الانصمامي الخثري.

## Endocrinology

### أمراض الغدد الصم

#### Association of glycaemic variability and carotid intima-media thickness in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus

العلاقة بين تبدلات مستوى سكر الدم وسماكة الطبقة البطانية-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي عند مرضى النمط الثاني للداء السكري

Yang XJ, et al.

Sichuan Da Xue Xue Bao Yi Xue Ban 2012 Sep;43(5):734-8.

**objective:** To investigate the relationship between blood glucose fluctuations and carotid intima-media thickness (CINT) in type 2 diabetic patients.

**Methods:** 64 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, West China Hospital from July 2009 to March 2012 were recruited in this study. The CINT were measured bilaterally with high-resolution ultrasonography. The glucose excursions were assessed by the following parameters obtained from the continuous glucose monitoring system (CGMS) for 72 h: mean blood glucose (MBG) and its standard deviation (SD), mean amplitude of glycemic excursion (MAGE), mean of daily differences (MODD). Glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol (TC), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c), and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c) of the participants were also determined. According to the levels of CINT, 64 diabetic patients were classified into two groups: diabetes mellitus without atherosclerosis (A group, n=37) and diabetes mellitus with atherosclerosis (B group, n=27). The relationship between the parameters of glycaemic variability and CINT was examined.

**Results:** (1) There were no differences between A group and B group with regard to gender composition, course of diabetes, body mass index (BMI), diabetic chronic complications, family history of diabetes, smoking, alcohol drinking, diastolic blood pressure (DBP), TG, TC, HDL-c, SD and MAGE ( $P>0.05$ ). A group had younger age and lower levels of systolic blood pressure (SBP), LN(LDL-c) and LN (MODD) than B group ( $P<0.05$ ). (2) Pearson correlation analyses showed that CINT was positively correlated with age ( $r=0.370$ ,  $P=0.005$ ), LN (LDL-c) ( $r=0.325$ ,  $P=0.009$ ), SD ( $r=0.251$ ,  $P=0.045$ ) and LN (MODD) ( $r=0.346$ ,  $P=0.005$ ). (3) Age, smoking, LN (LDL-c) and LN (MODD) were identified as predictors for CINT in the multiple linear regression analysis.

**Conclusion:** Glucose excursions may contribute to the development of atherosclerosis in patients with type 2 diabetes, which is independent from HbA1c levels.

**هدف البحث:** استقصاء العلاقة بين التقلبات في مستوى سكر الدم وسماكة الطبقة البطانية-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي CINT عند مرضى النمط الثاني للداء السكري.

**طرق البحث:** شملت الدراسة 64 من مرضى النمط الثاني للداء السكري في قسم أمراض الغدد الصم والإستقلاب في مستشفى West China خلال الفترة بين تموز 2009 وأذار 2012. تم قياس سماكة الطبقة البطانية-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي CINT في الجانبين باستخدام التصوير بالأموح فوق الصوتية عالي الوضوحية. تم تقييم التقلبات في مستوى سكر الدم من خلال المشعرات التالية التي تم الحصول عليها من تطبيق نظام مراقبة السكر المستمر CGMS لمدة 72 ساعة: متوسط سكر الدم MBG وانحرافه المعياري، المستوى الوسطي لتذبذب سكر الدم MAGE، متوسط الاختلافات اليومية MODD. كما تم تحديد مستويات الخضاب السكري HbA1c، الشحوم الثلاثية، الكوليسترول الكلي، كوليسترول البروتين الشحمي عالي الكثافة HDL-c

وكولسترول البروتين الشحمي منخفض الكثافة LDL-c. تم بناءً على قيم سماكة الطبقة البطانة-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي CIMT تصنيف المرضى إلى مجموعتين: مجموعة الداء السكري دون وجود تصلب عصيدي (المجموعة A، 37 مريضاً) ومجموعة الداء السكري مع وجود تصلب عصيدي (المجموعة B، 27 مريضاً). تم استقصاء العلاقة بين مشعرات تبدل مستوى السكر وسماكة الطبقة البطانة-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي CIMT.

**النتائج:** (1) لم يلاحظ وجود اختلافات بين المجموعتين A و B بالنسبة للجنس، سير الداء السكري، مؤشر كتلة الجسم BMI، الاختلافات المزمنة للداء السكري، القصة العائلية للسكري، التدخين، تناول الكحول، ضغط الدم الانبساطي DBP، الشحوم الثلاثية، الكولسترول الكلي، كولسترول البروتين الشحمي عالي الكثافة HDL-c، الانحراف المعياري والمستوى الوسطي لتذبذب سكر الدم MAGE ( $p < 0.05$ ). لوحظ أن مرضى المجموعة A أصغر عمراً مع مستويات أخفض لضغط الدم الانقباضي SBP، كولسترول البروتين الشحمي منخفض الكثافة LDL-c ومتوسط الاختلافات اليومية MODD بالمقارنة مع المجموعة B ( $p > 0.05$ ). (2) أظهر تحليل ارتباط Pearson أن سماكة الطبقة البطانة-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي CIMT ترتبط بعلاقة إيجابية مع العمر ( $r = 0.370$ ,  $p = 0.005$ )، كولسترول البروتين الشحمي منخفض الكثافة LDL-c ( $r = 0.325$ ,  $p = 0.009$ )، الانحراف المعياري ( $r = 0.251$ ,  $p = 0.045$ ) ومتوسط الاختلافات اليومية MODD ( $r = 0.346$ ,  $p = 0.005$ ). (3) اعتبر كل من العمر، التدخين، كولسترول البروتين الشحمي منخفض الكثافة LDL-c ومتوسط الاختلافات اليومية MODD مشعرات لسماكة الطبقة البطانة-المتوسطة للشريان السباتي من خلال تحليل التقهقر الخطي المتعدد.

**الاستنتاجات:** يمكن للتقلبات في مستوى سكر الدم أن تساهم في تطور التصلب العصيدي عند مرضى النمط الثاني للداء السكري وذلك بشكل مستقل عن مستويات الخصاب السكري.

## Gastroenterology

### الأمراض الهضمية

#### Perception of pain during sigmoidoscopy flexible as an additional diagnostic method for irritable bowel syndrome

إدراك الألم خلال تنظير السين بالمنظار المرن كطريقة تشخيصية إضافية في حالات متلازمة الكولون المتهيج

Chacaltana Mendoza A, et al.

Rev Gastroenterol Peru 2012 Apr;32(2):178-83.

**Introduction:** Visceral hypersensitivity has been proposed as a biological marker of Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

**Methods:** A prospective case-control study in patients who underwent sigmoidoscopy for the evaluation of gastrointestinal symptoms. All patients completed Rome III criteria questionnaires and divided into two groups: IBS and non-IBS. All participants reported pain scores on visual analog scales after of study. Differences were evaluated. We calculated a receiver-operator characteristic curve (ROC), sensitivity, specificity and diagnostic efficiency.

**Results:** We analyzed 20 patients with IBS and 20 controls. The pain scores were higher in IBS patients compared with non-IBS patients (median, 52.5 vs. 27.5,  $p = 0.006$ ). The area under the curve was 0.84, at pain score level of  $\geq 40$  mm with a sensitivity, specificity and diagnostic efficiency of 85%, 75% and 80%, respectively.

**Conclusions:** The degree of pain perception was higher in IBS patients than in non-IBS patients during sigmoidoscopy. A score of pain perception in  $\geq 40$  mm may predict the diagnosis of IBS with good sensitivity (85%) and specificity (75%).

**مقدمة:** لقد اقترح وجود دور لفرط الحساسية الحشوية كواسم حيوي في متلازمة الكولون المتهيج IBS.

**طرق البحث:** تم إجراء دراسة مستقبلية من نمط الحالات والشواهد لمرضى خضعوا لإجراء تنظير للسين لتقييم الأعراض المعوية لديهم. أكمل



المرضى استجاب معايير Rome III وتم تقسيمهم إلى مجموعتين: الأولى مجموعة متلازمة الكولون المتهيج IBS والثانية مجموعة عدم وجود هذه المتلازمة. أورد جميع المشاركين نقاط الألم على سلم المحاكاة البصرية بعد الدراسة. تم تقييم الفروقات بين المجموعتين، كما تم حساب منحنى خصائص المشغل-المستقبل ROC، قيم الحساسية، النوعية والكفاءة التشخيصية.

**النتائج:** تم تحليل حالة 20 مريضاً بمتلازمة الكولون المتهيج و20 حالة شاهد. لوحظ أن نقاط الألم كانت أعلى لدى مرضى متلازمة الكولون المتهيج مقارنة بمرضى المجموعة الثانية (الوسيط 52.5 مقابل 27.5،  $p=0.006$ ). بلغت المنطقة تحت المنحني ROC 0.84، بمستوى نقاط ألم  $\leq 40$  ملم وحساسية 85%، نوعية 75% وكفاءة تشخيصية 80%.

**الاستنتاجات:** لوحظ أن درجة إدراك الألم خلال إجراء تنظير السين كانت أعلى لدى مرضى متلازمة الكولون المتهيج بالمقارنة مع حالات عدم وجود هذه المتلازمة. يمكن لنقاط إدراك الألم  $\leq 40$  ملم التنبؤ بتشخيص متلازمة الكولون المتهيج وقيم جيدة للحساسية (85%) والنوعية (75%).

## Hematology And oncology

### أمراض الدم والأورام

#### Safety and efficacy of decitabine in combination with temozolomide in metastatic melanoma

سلامة وفعالية استخدام decitabine بالمشاركة مع temozolomide في حالات نقائل الورم الصباغي

Tawbi HA, et al.  
Ann Oncol 2012 Nov 21.

**Background:** Temozolomide (TMZ) is widely used for chemotherapy of metastatic melanoma. We hypothesized that epigenetic modulators will reverse chemotherapy resistance, and in this article, we report studies that sought to determine the recommended phase 2 dose (RP2D), safety, and efficacy of decitabine (DAC) combined with TMZ.

**Patients and methods:** In phase I, DAC was given at two dose levels: 0.075 and 0.15 mg/kg intravenously daily 5 days/week for 2 weeks, TMZ orally 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> qd for weeks 2-5 of a 6-week cycle. The phase II portion used a two-stage Simon design with a primary end point of objective response rate (ORR).

**Results:** The RP2D is DAC 0.15 mg/kg and TMZ 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>. The phase II portion enrolled 35 patients, 88% had M1c disease; 42% had history of brain metastases. The best responses were 2 complete response (CR), 4 partial response (PR), 14 stable disease (SD), and 13 progressive disease (PD); 18% ORR and 61% clinical benefit rate (CR + PR + SD). The median overall survival (OS) was 12.4 months; the 1-year OS rate was 56%. Grade 3/4 neutropenia was common but lasted >7 days in six patients.

**Conclusions:** The combination of DAC and TMZ is safe, leads to 18% ORR and 12.4-month median OS, suggesting possible superiority over the historical 1-year OS rate, and warrants further evaluation in a randomized setting.

**خلفية البحث:** يستخدم عقار temozolomide بشكل واسع في المعالجة الكيميائية لحالات نقائل الورم الصباغي (الميلانوما). لقد افترض أن معدلات التخلق المتوالي يمكن أن تعكس حالة المقاومة للمعالجة الكيميائية، سيتم في هذا المقال إيراد الدراسات التي بحثت في موضوع جرعة الطور الثاني الموصى بها RP2D، سلامة وفعالية عقار decitabine (DAC) بالمشاركة مع temozolomide (TMZ).

**مرضى وطرق البحث:** تم في الطور الأول إعطاء DAC بمستويي جرعة: 0.075 و 0.15 ملغ/كغ يومياً عبر الوريد ولمدة 5 أيام في الأسبوع لمدة أسبوعين، و TMZ فموياً بجرعة 75 ملغ/م<sup>2</sup> يومياً في الأسابيع 2-5 من الشوط العلاجي البالغ 6 أسابيع. استخدم الطور الثاني نموذج Simon ثنائي المرحلة بنقطة نهائية أساسية هي معدل الاستجابة الموضوعي ORR.

**النتائج:** بلغت الجرعة المنصوح بها بالنسبة لعقار DAC 0.15 ملغ/كغ وبالنسبة لعقار TMZ 75 ملغ/م<sup>2</sup>. أدخل في الطور الثاني 35 مريضاً، لدى

88% منهم داء بالمرحلة M1c، 42% لديهم قصة وجود نقائل دماغية. شملت حالات الاستجابة الأمثل حالي استجابة كاملة CR، 4 حالات استجابة جزئية PR، 14 حالة داء مستقر SD، و 13 حالة داء متروك PD، بمعدل استجابة موضوعي 18% ومعدل فوائد سريرية 61% (CR+PR+SD). بلغ وسيط مدة البقاء الإجمالية 12.4 شهراً، ومعدل البقاء الإجمالي لسنة 56%. شكل حدوث الدرجة 4\3 من نقص العدلات أمراً شائعاً ولكنه استمر لأكثر من 7 أيام عند 6 مرضى فقط.

**الاستنتاجات:** تعتبر المشاركة بين DAC و TMZ مشاركة آمنة تحقق معدل استجابة موضوعي 18% ووسيط فترة بقاء إجمالية 12.4 شهراً، الأمر الذي يقترح أفضليتها المحتملة على صعيد البقاء الإجمالية لسنة ويوجه لإجراء المزيد من التقييم لهذه المعالجة عبر الدراسات العشوائية.

### Severe neutropenia in patients with chronic hepatitis C

#### نقص العدلات الشديد عند مرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C المزمن

Sheehan V, et al.

Acta Haematol 2012 Nov 21;129(2):96-100.

**Background/ims:** Patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection may develop neutropenia, which can delay or prevent treatment. Severe neutropenia, absolute neutrophil counts (ANC)  $\leq 0.500 \times 10^9/l$ , is a rare finding, with only two isolated reports published in the literature. The aim of this study was to evaluate the incidence and natural history of severe neutropenia in hepatitis C patients.

**Methods:** The records of 685 patients with active HCV were reviewed to identify those with severe neutropenia. The laboratory parameters and clinical history data of patients with severe neutropenia were then compared to a cohort of patients with HCV patients who had the more common minor neutropenia (ANC=1.000-1.500  $\times 10^9/l$ ).

**Results:** There was no significant difference in race, MELD (Model for End Stage Liver Disease) scores, portal hypertension, splenomegaly, viral load, viral type, or hemoglobin or platelet levels. Neither group suffered serious systemic infections.

**Conclusions:** Severe neutropenia in HCV patients is underreported and not associated with serious HCV complications such as elevated MELD score or cirrhosis. Serious infection is rare and patients respond well to granulocyte colony-stimulating factor. Severely neutropenic patients with HCV appear to have a benign course and may be candidates for antiviral therapy.

**خلفية وهدف البحث:** يمكن لمرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C المزمن (HCV) أن يطوروا نقصاً في تعداد العدلات الأمر الذي قد يؤدي إلى تأخير أو إيقاف المعالجة. تعتبر حالة نقص العدلات الشديد (المعرفة بتعداد العدلات المطلق  $ANC \leq 0.500 \times 10^9/l$ ) من الموجودات النادرة حيث نشر في الأدب الطبي حالتين فقط. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم الحدوث والسير الطبيعي لحالات نقص العدلات الشديد عند مرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C المزمن.

**طرق البحث:** تمت مراجعة سجلات 685 مريضاً من مرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C الفعال بغية تحديد حالات نقص العدلات الشديد. تمت مقارنة المشعرات المخبرية ومعطيات القصة السريرية لمرضى نقص العدلات الشديد مع مجموعة أترابية أخرى من مرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C عانوا من الحالة الأشيع من نقص العدلات الخفيف الشدة (تعداد العدلات المطلق  $ANC = 1.000-1.500 \times 10^9/l$ ).

**النتائج:** لم يلاحظ وجود اختلافات هامة بالنسبة للعرق، نقاط MELD (نموذج الأمراض الكبدية بالمرحلة النهائية)، فرط التوتر البابي، ضخامة الطحال، الحمل الفيروسي، النمط الفيروسي، مستويات الخضاب الدموي والصفائح الدموية. لم يعاني أي من مرضى المجموعتين من إنتانات جهازية هامة. **الاستنتاجات:** يوجد نقص في إبراد حالة نقص العدلات الشديد لدى مرضى التهاب الكبد الفيروسي C، كما أن هذه الحالة لا تتوافق بالضرورة مع الاختلالات الخطرة للإنتان بفيروس التهاب الكبد C كارتفاع في نقاط MELD أو تشمع الكبد. يندر حدوث الإنتان الشديد في هذه الحالة كما أن استجابة المرضى لإعطاء العامل المحرض لمستعمرات المحببات كانت جيدة. ظهر لدى مرضى حالات نقص العدلات الشديد بوجود التهاب كبد فيروسي C سير حسن للحالة كما أنهم قد يرشحوا للمعالجة بالمضادات الفيروسية.

## neurology

### الأمراض العصبية

#### Anxiety is related to Alzheimer cerebrospinal fluid markers in subjects with mild cognitive impairment

إرتباط القلق بواسمات داء الزهايمر في السائل الدماغي الشوكي في حالات الخلل البسيط في الوظائف المعرفية

Ramakers IH, et al.

Psychol Med 2012 Sep 7:1-10.

**Background:** Anxiety, apathy and depression are common in subjects with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and may herald Alzheimer's disease (AD). We investigated whether these symptoms correlated with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) markers for AD in subjects with MCI.

**Methods:** Subjects with MCI (n=268) were selected from the 'Development of screening guidelines and criteria for pre-dementia Alzheimer's disease' (DESCRIPA) and Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) studies. We measured amyloid  $\beta$ (1-42) protein (A $\beta$ 42) and total tau (t-tau) in CSF. Neuropsychiatric symptoms were measured with the Neuropsychiatric Inventory.

**Results:** Depressive symptoms were reported by 55 subjects (21%), anxiety by 35 subjects (13%) and apathy by 49 subjects (18%). The presence of anxiety was associated with abnormal CSF A $\beta$ 42 [odds ratio (OR) 2.3, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.6-3.3] and t-tau (OR 2.6, 95% CI 1.9-3.6) concentrations and with the combination of abnormal concentrations of both A $\beta$ 42 and t-tau (OR 3.1, 95% CI 2.0-4.7). The presence of agitation and irritability was associated with abnormal concentrations of A $\beta$ 42 (agitation: OR 1.6, 95% CI 1.1-2.3; irritability: OR 2.2, 95% CI 1.5-3.3). Symptoms of depression and apathy were not related to any of the CSF markers.

**Conclusions:** In subjects with MCI, symptoms of anxiety, agitation and irritability may reflect underlying AD pathology, whereas symptoms of depression and apathy do not.

**خلفية البحث:** يعتبر القلق، اللامبالاة والاكتئاب من الأمور الشائعة في حالات الخلل المعرفي الخفيف MCI، كما أنها قد تسبق تطور داء الزهايمر AD. سيتم في هذه الدراسة استقصاء ارتباط هذه الأعراض بواسمات داء الزهايمر في السائل الدماغي الشوكي في حالات الخلل المعرفي الخفيف. سيتم في هذه الدراسة استقصاء ارتباط هذه الأعراض بواسمات داء الزهايمر في السائل الدماغي الشوكي في حالات الخلل المعرفي الخفيف.

**طرق البحث:** تم اختيار مجموعة من حالات الخلل المعرفي الخفيف (268 حالة) من برنامج تطوير تعليمات المسح ومعايير داء الزهايمر ما قبل العتاهة (DESCRIPA) والدراسات التمهيدية لتقنيات التصوير العصبي في حالات داء الزهايمر (ADNI). تم قياس مستويات بروتين الأميلويد  $\beta$ (1-42) (A $\beta$ 42) ومستوى tau الكلي (t-tau) في السائل الدماغي الشوكي. تم قياس الأعراض العصبية النفسية باستخدام القائمة العصبية النفسية.

**النتائج:** تم إيراد وجود أعراض اكتئابية في 55 حالة (21%)، قلق في 35 حالة (13%) ولا مبالاة في 49 حالة (18%). ترافق وجود القلق مع الشذوذات في تراكيز A $\beta$ 42 (نسبة الأرجحية 2.3، بفواصل ثقة 95%: 1.6-3.3)، و t-tau (نسبة الأرجحية 2.6، بفواصل ثقة 95%: 1.9-3.6)، وفي كليهما معاً (نسبة الأرجحية 3.1، بفواصل ثقة 95%: 2.0-4.7) في السائل الدماغي الشوكي. ترافق وجود الهياج مع التراكيز الشاذة لـ A $\beta$ 42 (الهياج: نسبة الأرجحية 1.6، بفواصل ثقة 95%: 1.1-2.3، التهيج: نسبة الأرجحية 2.2، بفواصل ثقة 95%: 1.5-3.3). أما أعراض الاكتئاب واللامبالاة فلم تتوافق مع أي من الواسمات في السائل الدماغي الشوكي.

**الاستنتاجات:** يلاحظ في حالات الخلل المعرفي الخفيف أن أعراض القلق، الهياج والتهيج قد تعكس وجود إمرضية كامنة بداء الزهايمر، أما أعراض الاكتئاب واللامبالاة فلا تتمتع بهذه العلاقة مع هذا الداء.

## Rheumatology And orthopedics

### الأمراض الرثوية وأمراض العظام

#### Efficacy and safety of mavrilimumab in subjects with rheumatoid arthritis

#### فعالية وسلامة mavrilimumab في حالات التهاب المفاصل الرثوي

Burmester GR, et al.

Ann Rheum Dis 2012 Dec 12.

**objectives:** Mavrilimumab, a human monoclonal antibody targeting the alpha subunit of the granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor receptor, was evaluated in a phase 2 randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to investigate efficacy and safety in subjects with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Methods:** Subcutaneous mavrilimumab (10 mg, 30 mg, 50 mg, or 100 mg) or placebo was administered every other week for 12 weeks in subjects on stable background methotrexate therapy. The primary endpoint was the proportion of subjects achieving a  $\geq 1.2$  decrease from baseline in Disease Activity Score (DAS28-CRP) at week 12.

**Results:** 55.7% of mavrilimumab-treated subjects met the primary endpoint versus 34.7% placebo ( $p=0.003$ ) at week 12; for the 10 mg, 30 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg groups, responses were 41.0% ( $p=0.543$ ), 61.0% ( $p=0.011$ ), 53.8% ( $p=0.071$ ), and 66.7% ( $p=0.001$ ) respectively. Response rate differences from placebo were observed at week 2 and increased throughout the treatment period. The 100 mg dose demonstrated a significant effect versus placebo on DAS28-CRP  $< 2.6$  (23.1% vs 6.7%,  $p=0.016$ ), all categories of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (ACR20: 69.2% vs 40.0%,  $p=0.005$ ; ACR50: 30.8% vs 12.0%,  $p=0.021$ ; ACR70: 17.9% vs 4.0%,  $p=0.030$ ), and the Health Assessment Questionnaire Disability Index (-0.48 vs -0.25,  $p=0.005$ ). A biomarker-based disease activity score showed a dose-dependent decrease at week 12, indicating suppression of disease-related biological pathways. Adverse events were generally mild or moderate in intensity. No significant hypersensitivity reactions, serious or opportunistic infections, or changes in pulmonary parameters were observed.

**Conclusions:** Mavrilimumab induced rapid clinically significant responses in RA subjects, suggesting that inhibiting the mononuclear phagocyte pathway may provide a novel therapeutic approach for RA.

**هدف البحث:** تم تقييم عقار mavrilimumab -وهو أضداد بشرية وحيدة النسيلة موجهة ضد تحت الوحدة ألفا من مستقبل العامل المحرض لسلاسلات المحببات- البالعات- في الطور الثاني من دراسة عشوائية، مزدوجة التعمية مضبوطة بمعالجة إرضائية بغية استقصاء فعاليته وسلامته عند مرضى التهاب المفاصل الرثوي RA.

**طرق البحث:** تم إعطاء عقار mavrilimumab تحت الجلد (بجرعات 10، 30، 50 أو 100 ملغ) أو معالجة إرضائية بفواصل أسبوعين لمدة 12 أسبوعاً لحالات مستقرة موضوعة على معالجة باستخدام methotrexate. شملت النقطة النهائية الأساسية للدراسة نسبة المرضى الذين حققوا تناقص  $\leq 1.2$  في نقاط فعالية الداء DAS28-CRP بدءاً من الحالة القاعدية وذلك في الأسبوع 12.

**النتائج:** حققت 55.7% من الحالات المعالجة بـ mavrilimumab النقطة النهائية الأساسية المدروسة مقابل 34.7% من حالات المعالجة الإرضائية (0.003=p) في الأسبوع 12، بلغت معدلات الاستجابة للجرعات 10 ملغ، 30 ملغ، 50 ملغ و 100 ملغ 41.0% (0.543=p)، 61.0% (0.011=p)، 53.8% (0.071=p) و 66.7% (0.001=p) على الترتيب. لوحظ اختلاف في معدل الاستجابة عن مجموعة المعالجة الإرضائية في الأسبوع الثاني وازداد خلال فترة المعالجة. أظهرت الجرعة 100 ملغ تأثيراً مهماً بالمقارنة مع المعالجة الإرضائية على صعيد نقاط فعالية الداء DAS28-CRP  $> 2.6$  (23.1% مقابل 6.7%، 0.016=p)، جميع فئات معايير الجمعية الأمريكية للأمراض الرثوية (ACR20: 69.2% مقابل 40.0%، 0.005=p).



ACR50: 30.8% مقابل 12.0% ،  $p=0.021$  ، ACR70: 17.9% مقابل 4.0% ،  $p=0.030$  ، ومشعر تقييم سوء الوظيفة (-0.48 مقابل -0.25 ،  $p=0.005$ ). أظهرت نقاط شدة الداء المعتمدة على الواسمات الحيوية تناقصاً معتمداً على الجرعة في الأسبوع 12 ، وهو ما يشير إلى تثبط الطرق الحيوية التفاعلية المرتبطة بالداء. كانت التأثيرات غير المرغوبة طفيفة إلى متوسطة، ولم تلاحظ تفاعلات فرط حساسية هامة، أو إلتانات خطيرة أو انتهازية أو تغيرات في مشعرات الوظائف الرئوية.

الاستنتاجات: يحرض mavrilimumab على حدوث استجابة سريعة وهامة سريرياً عند مرضى التهاب المفاصل الرثوي، الأمر الذي يقترح بأن تثبيط الخلايا وحيدة النوى والبالعات يوفر مقاربة علاجية واعدة في هذا المجال.

## Allergic And Immunologic Diseases

### أمراض المناعة والتحسس

#### Role of allergy in children with adenotonsillar hypertrophy

#### دور الحساسية الأرجية عند الأطفال في حالات ضخامة الناميات واللوزات

Karaca CT, et al.

J Craniofac Surg 2012 Nov;23(6):e611-3.

**objective:** The goal of this prospective study is to investigate the correlation between allergen sensitivity and radiographic evaluation of adenoidal obstruction and tonsil size.

**Methods:** A total of 82 children with upper airway obstructive symptoms were evaluated for their tonsil size. All patients underwent digital lateral soft tissue radiographs. Assessment of nasopharyngeal obstruction in radiographs was done according to the Cohen and Konak method. Skin prick tests with multitest applicator including 14 allergens were carried out to investigate their allergic background.

**Results:** All children reacted positive to at least one of the 14 allergens tested. We found a statistically significant correlation between tonsil size and skin prick tests ( $P<0.01$ ). However, there was no statistically significant correlation between the adenoid size and skin prick test results ( $P>0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Although the degree of nasopharyngeal obstruction caused by adenoid hypertrophy does not increase with the degree of positivity to specific allergens in skin prick tests, allergic sensitivity may play an important role in children with tonsillar hypertrophy.

**هدف البحث:** تهدف هذه الدراسة المستقبلية إلى استقصاء العلاقة بين وجود الحساسية الأرجية والتقييم الشعاعي للانسداد بالناميات وحجم اللوزتين عند الأطفال.

**طرق البحث:** شمل البحث 82 طفلاً بأعراض انسداد في الطرق التنفسية العلوية تم تقييم حجم اللوزتين لديهم. خضع جميع المرضى لتصوير شعاعي رقمي جانبي للأنسجة الرخوة. جرى تقييم الانسداد في البلعوم الأنفي على الصور الشعاعية تبعاً لطريقة Cohen و Konak. تم استقصاء وجود خلفية أرجية لدى المرضى من خلال إجراء اختبارات الوخر الجلدية المتضمنة 14 مادة مؤرجة.

**النتائج:** أظهر جميع الأطفال تفاعلاً إيجابياً لمادة واحدة على الأقل من 14 مادة تم اختبارها. لوحظ وجود علاقة هامة إحصائياً بين حجم اللوزتين واختبارات الوخر الجلدية ( $p>0.01$ )، بينما لم تلاحظ علاقة ارتباط هامة إحصائياً بين حجم الناميات ونتائج اختبارات الوخر الجلدية ( $p<0.05$ ).

**الاستنتاجات:** على من عدم تأثر درجة الانسداد في البلعوم الأنفي الناتج عن ضخامة الناميات بزيادة درجة الإيجابية في اختبار الوخر الجلدي تجاه مؤرجات معينة، إلا أن الحساسية الأرجية قد تلعب دوراً هاماً عند الأطفال المصابين بضخامة اللوزتين.

## urology And nephrology

### أمراض الكلية والجهاز البولي

#### Protective effect of amlodipine against contrast agent-induced renal injury in elderly patients with coronary heart disease

تأثيرات الـ amlodipine الوقائية من الأذية الكلوية المحرصة بالمادة الظليلة عند مرضى آفات القلب الإكليلية المسنين

Hui HP, et al.

Nan Fang Yi Ke Da Xue Xue Bao 2012 Nov;32(11):1580-3.

**objective:** To evaluate the protective effect of amlodipine against contrast agent-induced renal injury in elderly patients with coronary heart disease.

**Methods:** A total of 189 elderly patients (>60 years) with coronary heart disease undergoing coronary artery angiography were randomly assigned into amlodipine group and control group to receive amlodipine or placebo, respectively, before and after administration of the contrast agent. At 24 h, 48 h and 5 days after contrast agent administration, the parameters of renal function were measured including serum cystatin C, urea nitrogen, creatinine, creatinine clearance rate, urine  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, and urine N-acetyl- $\beta$ -glucosaminidase.

**Results:** In both groups, the contrast agents obviously affected the renal functions of the patients ( $P<0.05$ ). At 24 h after contrast administration, the levels of serum cystatin C, urine  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin and urine NAG were significantly lower in amlodipine group than in the control group, but the other functional parameters showed no significant difference. At 48 h after contrast administration, the glomerular and tubular functional parameters were all superior in amlodipine group ( $P<0.05$ ). At 5 days, the two groups showed significant differences in such glomerular and tubular functional parameters as urea nitrogen, creatinine, creatinine clearance rate, urine  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, and urine NAG ( $P<0.05$ ), but not in serum cystatin C level. The incidence of contrast agent-induced nephropathy was significantly lower in amlodipine group than in the control group (5/95 vs 10/94,  $P<0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Amlodipine offers protection against radiographic contrast agent-induced renal injury in elderly patients with coronary heart disease.

**هدف البحث:** تقييم التأثيرات الوقائية لعقار amlodipine ضد الأذية الكلوية المحرصة بالمواد الظليلة للأشعة لدى مرضى آفات القلب الإكليلية المسنين.

**طرق البحث:** شمل البحث 189 من المرضى المسنين (بأعمار >60 سنة) مشخصين بوجود آفات في الأوعية الإكليلية خضعوا لإجراء تصوير للشرابين الإكليلية تم تقسيمهم عشوائياً إلى مجموعتين: مجموعة amlodipine ومجموعة الشاهد تبعاً لإعطاء amlodipine أو المعالجة الإرضائية على الترتيب وذلك قبل وبعد إعطاء المادة الظليلة. تم قياس مشعرات الوظيفة الكلوية بعد 24 ساعة، 48 ساعة و 5 أيام من إعطاء المادة الظليلة والمتضمنة للقياسات المصلية لكل من cystatin C، نتروجين البولة، الكرياتينين، معدل تصفية الكرياتينين، مستوى  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin و N-acetyl- $\beta$ -glucosaminidase في البول.

**النتائج:** لوحظ وجود تأثير واضح للمادة الظليلة على الوظيفة الكلوية عند المرضى في كلتا المجموعتين ( $p>0.05$ ). تبين بعد 24 ساعة من إعطاء المادة الظليلة أن مستويات cystatin C في المصل ومستويات  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin و N-acetyl- $\beta$ -glucosaminidase في البول كانت أخفض لدى المرضى في مجموعة amlodipine بالمقارنة مع مجموعة الشاهد، في حين لم يلاحظ وجود اختلافات هامة في بقية المشعرات الوظيفية بين

المجموعتين. تبين بعد 48 ساعة أن جميع مشعرات الوظيفة الكبيبية والأنبوبية كانت أفضل في مجموعة amlodipine ( $p > 0.05$ ). أظهرت المجموعتان السابقتان وجود اختلافات هامة في مشعرات الوظيفة الكبيبية والأنبوبية بعد 5 أيام من إعطاء المادة الظليلة مثل نتروجين البولة، الكرياتينين، معدل تصفية الكرياتينين،  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin البولي و N-acetyl- $\beta$ -glucosaminidase البولي دون وجود اختلافات هامة بالنسبة لمستوى cystatin C في المصل. لوحظ أن حدوث اعتلال الكلية المعرض بالمواد الظليلة للأشعة كان أخفض وبشكل هام في مجموعة amlodipine مقارنةً بمجموعة الشاهد (5 من 95 مقابل 10 من 94،  $p > 0.05$ ).  
**الاستنتاجات:** يوفر إعطاء amlodipine تأثيرات واقية من الأذية الكلوية المعرضة باستخدام المواد الظليلة للأشعة عند المرضى المسنين المصابين بأفات الأوعية القلبية الإكليلية.

## Dermatology

### الأمراض الجلدية

#### Increased plasma concentration of vascular endothelial growth factor in patients with atopic dermatitis and its relation to disease severity and platelet activation

زيادة التراكيز البلازمية من عامل نمو البطانة الوعائية عند مرضى التهاب الجلد التأتبي وعلاقته بشدة الداء وتفعيل الصفائح الدموية

Koczy-Baron E, et al.  
Inflamm Res 2012 Aug 23.

**Background:** Overproduction of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in atopic dermatitis (AD) lesions has previously been observed. It is also known that platelet is an important source of VEGF and platelet factor 4 (PF-4), a potential marker of AD severity.

**Aim:** To evaluate concentrations of VEGF and its soluble receptors (sVEGF-R1 and sVEGF-R2) in the plasma of AD patients and to examine its possible correlation with disease severity and plasma concentrations of PF-4, a platelet activation marker.

**Methods:** Plasma concentrations of VEGF and its receptors and levels of PF-4 were measured by an immunoenzymatic assay in 51 AD patients and in 35 healthy non-atopic controls. The severity of the disease was evaluated using the eczema area and severity index.

**Results:** AD patients showed significantly increased VEGF and PF-4 plasma concentrations as compared with the controls. Plasma concentrations of sVEGF-R1 and sVEGF-R2 did not differ between the groups. There were no remarkable correlations between plasma VEGF concentration and disease severity or between VEGF and PF-4 concentration.

**Conclusions:** This study shows that plasma concentration of VEGF may be increased in patients suffering from AD. It seems that plasma VEGF concentration is not a useful marker of disease severity and, apart from platelets; other cells might also release the cytokine.

**خلفية البحث:** لوحظ سابقاً وجود فرط في إنتاج عامل نمو البطانة الوعائية VEGF عند مرضى التهاب الجلد التأتبي AD، ومن المعروف أيضاً دور الصفائح الدموية كمصدر هام لعامل نمو البطانة الوعائية والعامل الصفحي 4 (PF-4) والذي يمثل اسماً محتملاً لشدة الحالة في التهاب الجلد التأتبي.

**هدف البحث:** تقييم تراكيز عامل نمو البطانة الوعائية VEGF ومستقبلاته المنحلة (sVEGF-R1 و sVEGF-R2) في البلازما لدى مرضى التهاب الجلد التأتبي، واستقصاء علاقته المحتملة مع شدة الداء والتراكيز البلازمية من العامل الصفحي 4 الواسم لتفعيل الصفائح.

**طرق البحث:** تم قياس التراكيز البلازمية لعامل نمو البطانة الوعائية ومستقبلاته بالإضافة إلى مستويات العامل الصفحي 4 من خلال المقايسة المناعية

الأنزيمية عند 51 من مرضى التهاب الجلد التأتبي و35 من الشواهد الأصحاء. تم تقييم شدة الداء من خلال مشعر مساحة الأكزيما والشدة. **النتائج:** أظهر مرضى التهاب الجلد التأتبي زيادة ملحوظة في التراكيز البلازمية لعامل نمو البطانة الوعائية VEGF والعامل الصفحي 4 بالمقارنة مع حالات الشاهد، أما التراكيز البلازمية من المستقبيلات sVEGF-R1 و sVEGF-R2 فلم تظهر اختلافات بين المجموعتين. لم يلاحظ وجود علاقة قوية بين التراكيز البلازمية لعامل نمو البطانة الوعائية وشدة الداء أو بين تراكيز عامل نمو البطانة الوعائية وتراكيز العامل الصفحي 4. **الاستنتاجات:** تظهر هذه الدراسة أن التراكيز البلازمية من عامل نمو البطانة الوعائية قد تزداد عند المرضى الذين يعانون من حالة التهاب جلد تأتبي. يبدو أن التراكيز البلازمية لعامل نمو البطانة الوعائية لا تمثل واسماً مفيداً دالاً على شدة الداء، حيث أنه وبالإضافة للصفائح الدموية فإن خلايا أخرى قد تقوم بتحرير هذا السيتوكين أيضاً.

## ophthalmology

## الأمراض العينية

### Clinical characterization and mitochondrial DnA sequence variations in leber hereditary optic neuropathy

التوصيف السريري والتغيرات في تسلسل الدنا المتقدري في حالات اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي leber

Kumar M, et al.

Mol Vis 2012;18:2687-99.

**Purpose:** Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON), a maternally inherited disorder, results from point mutations in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). MtDNA is highly polymorphic in nature with very high mutation rate, 10-17 fold higher as compared to nuclear genome. Identification of new mtDNA sequence variations is necessary to establish a clean link with human disease. Thus this study was aimed to assess or evaluate LHON patients for novel mtDNA sequence variations.

**Materials and methods:** Twenty LHON patients were selected from the neuro-ophthalmology clinic of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India. DNA was isolated from whole blood samples. The entire coding region of the mitochondrial genome was amplified by PCR in 20 patients and 20 controls. For structural analysis (molecular modeling and simulation) the MODELER 9.2 program in Discovery Studio (DS 2.0) was used.

**Results:** MtDNA sequencing revealed a total of 47 nucleotide variations in the 20 LHON patients and 29 variations in 20 controls. Of 47 changes in patients 21.2% (10/47) were nonsynonymous and the remaining 78.72% (37/47) were synonymous. Five nonsynonymous changes, including primary LHON mutations (NADH dehydrogenase subunit 1 [ND1]:p.A52T, NADH dehydrogenase subunit 6 [ND6]:p.M64V, adenosine triphosphate [ATP] synthase subunit a (F-ATPase protein 6) [ATPase6]:p.M181T, NADH dehydrogenase subunit 4 [ND4]:p.R340H, and cytochrome B [CYB]:p.F181L), were found to be pathogenic. A greater number of changes were present in complex I (53.19%; 25/47), followed by complex III (19.14%; 9/47), then complex IV (19.14%; 9/47), then complex V (8.5%; 4/47). Nonsynonymous variations may impair respiratory chain and oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) pathways, which results in low ATP production and elevated reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels. Oxidative stress is the underlying etiology in various diseases and also plays a crucial role in LHON.

**Conclusions:** This study describes the role of mtDNA sequence variations in LHON patients. Primary LHON mutations of mtDNA are main variants leading to LHON, but mutations in other mitochondrial genes may also play an important role in pathogenesis of LHON as indicated in the present study. Certain alleles in certain haplogroups have protective or deleterious roles and hence there is a need to analyze a large number of cases for correlating phenotype and disease severity with mutation and mtDNA haplogroups.

**هدف البحث:** ينتج اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي (LHON) Leber - وهو اضطراب موروث عن طريق الأم - عن طفرات نقطية في الدنا المتقدي mtDNA. يتميز الدنا المتقدي بوجود تعددية شكلية عالية في طبيعته مع معدلات عالية جداً للطفرات (10-17 ضعفاً بالمقارنة مع الدنا النووي). يعتبر تحديد التغيرات الجديدة في تسلسل الدنا المتقدي من الأمور الضرورية لوضع ربط واضح مع الأمراض عند الإنسان. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم مرضى اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber لتحديد التغيرات الواعدة في تسلسل الدنا المتقدي.

**مواد وطرق البحث:** تم اختيار 20 من مرضى اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber من العيادة العصبية العينية في مركز All India للخدمات الصحية في نيودلهي في الهند. تم عزل الدنا DNA من عينات الدم الكامل، كما أُجري تضخيم لكامل منطقة التشفير في المادة الوراثية للمتقدرات من خلال تفاعل سلسلة البوليميراز PCR عند 20 مريضاً و 20 من الشواهد. استخدم برنامج MODELER 9.2 في Discovery Studio (DS 2.0) لإجراء التحليل البنيوي (إعداد النموذج الجزيئي والتحريض).

**النتائج:** بالإجمال أظهر تحديد تسلسل الدنا المتقدي وجود 47 من التغيرات النكليوتيدية عند مرضى اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber (20 مريضاً) و 29 تغايرية عند الشواهد (20 حالة شاهد). لوحظ أن 10 من أصل 47 من التغيرات الملاحظة لدى مجموعة المرضى (21.2%) كانت تغيرات غير مترادفة، في حين كانت الحالات 37 المتبقية (78.72%) تغيرات مترادفة. أظهرت 5 من التغيرات غير المترادفة دوراً مرضياً وتضمنت طفرات اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber (NADH dehydrogenase subunit 1 [ND1]:p.A52T، NADH dehydrogenase subunit 6 [ND6]:p.M64V، adenosine triphosphate [ATP] synthase subunit a (F-ATPase protein 6) [ATPase6]:p.M181T، cytochrome B [CYB]:p.F181L و NADH dehydrogenase subunit 4 [ND4]:p.R340H). وجدت أعداد أكبر من التغيرات في المعقد I (53.19%، 25 من أصل 47)، يليها المعقد III (19.14%، 9 من أصل 47)، المعقد IV (19.14%، 9 من أصل 47)، ومن ثم المعقد V (8.5%، 4 من أصل 47). يمكن للتغيرات غير المترادفة أن تضعف عمل الطرق التفاعلية في السلسلة التنفسية والفسفرة التأكسدية OXPHOS والتي تؤدي بالنتيجة إلى انخفاض في إنتاج ATP وارتفاع في مستويات جذور الأوكسجين التفاعلية ROS. يعتبر الإجهاد التأكسدي الآلية السببية الكامنة في العديد من الأمراض كما أنه يلعب دوراً هاماً في إمرضية اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي (LHON).

**الاستنتاجات:** تم في هذه الدراسة وصف دور التغيرات في تسلسل الدنا المتقدي عند مرضى اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber. تعتبر طفرات LHON الأساسية في الدنا المتقدي التغيرات الأساسية التي تقود لتطور هذا الداء، إلا أن الطفرات في المورثات المتقدرة الأخرى قد تلعب أيضاً دوراً هاماً في إمرضية اعتلال العصب البصري الوراثي Leber كما أُشير في هذه الدراسة. يمكن لأليلات معينة في مجموعات فردانية محددة haplogroups أن تحمل دوراً واقعياً أو مؤدياً وبالتالي توجد حاجة لتحليل أعداد كبيرة من الحالات لربط الأنماط الظاهرية ومدى شدة الداء مع الطفرات والمجموعات الفردانية في الدنا المتقدي.

## Diagnostic Radiology

### التشخيص الشعاعي

#### Towards real-time detection of tumor margins using photothermal imaging of immune-targeted gold nanoparticles

كشف الحواف الورمية بالزمن الفعلي باستخدام التصوير الحراري الضوئي لجسيمات الذهب الدقيقة الموجهة مناعياً

Jakobsohn K, et al.

Int J Nanomedicine 2012;7:4707-13.

**Background:** One of the critical problems in cancer management is local recurrence of disease. Between 20% and 30% of patients who undergo tumor resection surgery require reoperation due to incomplete excision. Currently, there are no validated methods for intraoperative tumor margin detection. In the present work, we demonstrate the potential use of gold nanoparticles (GNPs) as a novel contrast agent for photothermal molecular imaging of cancer.

**Methods:** Phantoms containing different concentrations of GNPs were irradiated with continuous-wave laser and measured with a thermal imaging camera which detected the temperature field of the irradiated phantoms.



**Results:** The results clearly demonstrate the ability to distinguish between cancerous cells specifically targeted with GNPs and normal cells. This technique, which allows highly sensitive discrimination between adjacent low GNP concentrations, will allow tumor margin detection while the temperature increases by only a few degrees Celsius (for GNPs in relevant biological concentrations).

**Conclusion:** We expect this real-time intraoperative imaging technique to assist surgeons in determining clear tumor margins and to maximize the extent of tumor resection while sparing normal background tissue.

**خلفية البحث:** يعتبر النكس الموضعي للورم إحدى العقبات التي تواجه خطة تدبير السرطان، حيث أن 20-30% من المرضى الخاضعين لجراحة استئصالية للورم يحتاجون لإعادة الجراحة نتيجة عدم الاستئصال التام للورم. لا توجد حالياً طرق موثوقة لكشف الحواف الورمية خلال الجراحة. سيتم في هذا البحث استعراض إمكانية استخدام جسيمات الذهب الدقيقة GNPs كعامل تباين ممكن في التصوير الحراري الضوئي الجزيئي للسرطان.

**طرق البحث:** تم تشييع أطراف حاوية على تراكيز مختلفة من جسيمات الذهب الدقيقة GNPs باستخدام الليزر مستمر الموجة وقياسها باستخدام كميرا التصوير الحراري والتي تكشف الحقل الحراري للأطراف المشععة.

**النتائج:** أظهرت هذه النتائج بوضوح القدرة على التمييز بين الخلايا السرطانية المستهدفة بشكل انتقائي بجسيمات الذهب الدقيقة GNPs والخلايا الطبيعية. يمكن من خلال هذه التقنية التي تتمتع بحساسية تمييز عالية بين التراكيز المنخفضة المجاورة لجسيمات الذهب الدقيقة GNPs كشف الحواف الورمية حيث تزداد الحرارة فيها بدرجات مئوية قليلة (لجسيمات الذهب الدقيقة بشكل متوافق مع تراكيزها الحيوية).

**الاستنتاجات:** يتوقع من هذه التقنية للتصوير خلال الجراحة بالزمن الفعلي أن تساعد الجراحين في تحديد حواف ورمية واضحة وزيادة مدى استئصال الورم للحد الأقصى مع الحفاظ على النسيج الطبيعية المجاورة.

## Psychiatry

### الطب النفسي

#### Comparison of prevalence of postpartum depression symptoms between breastfeeding mothers and non-breastfeeding mothers

#### مقارنة انتشار أعراض الاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة بين الأمهات المرضعات وغير المرضعات

Tashakori A, et al.

Iran J Psychiatry 2012 Spring;7(2):61-5.

**objectives:** There is a relationship between infant feeding method and maternal postpartum depression (PPD). This study was carried out in an Iranian population to compare the prevalence of PPD symptoms between breast feeding and non-breast feeding mothers for first time.

**Methods:** Four health centers in Ahvas were selected by random sampling in 2009. At first 78 non-breast feeding mothers at two months postpartum were recruited in the study and then 78 breast feeding mothers were recruited through random sampling. They were re-assessed in six months postpartum period. Demographic and obstetric data questionnaire and Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) were used.

**Results:** There was a significant difference in prevalence of Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale positive between breast feeding (2.5%) and non-breast feeding mothers (19.4%) ( $p=0.004$ ).

**Conclusion:** Infant feeding method may be related to maternal mood disorder and breast feeding mothers are less depressed. Breastfeeding may decrease PPD.

**هدف البحث:** توجد علاقة بين طريقة الإرضاع المعتمدة لدى الأم وأعراض حالة الاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة PPD. تم إجراء هذه الدراسة على مجموعة سكانية في إيران لمقارنة انتشار أعراض الاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة بين الأمهات المعتمدات على الرضاعة الطبيعية من الثدي مع الأخريات غير المعتمدات

على هذا النمط من الرضاعة.

**طرق البحث:** أجري اختيار عشوائي لأربعة مراكز صحية في منطقة الأهواز في عام 2009. تم في البداية تضمين 78 من الأمهات غير المعتمدات على الرضاعة الطبيعية من الثدي خلال أول شهرين بعد الولادة، تم بعدها اختيار 78 من الأمهات المعتمدات على الرضاعة الطبيعية عبر الانتقاء العشوائي. تم إعادة تقييم الأمهات بعد فترة 6 أشهر من الولادة. تم جمع المعطيات السكانية والتوليدية من خلال استبيان خاص مع استخدام سلم Edinburgh للاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة (سلم EPDS).

**النتائج:** لوحظ وجود اختلاف هام في انتشار الحالات الإيجابية تبعاً لسلم Edinburgh للاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة بين مجموعة أمهات الإرضاع الطبيعي (2.5%) والمجموعة غير المعتمدة على الرضاعة الطبيعية (19.4%) ( $p=0.004$ ).

**الاستنتاجات:** يمكن للطريقة المعتمدة في إرضاع الوليد أن ترتبط مع الحالة المزاجية لدى الأم، حيث أن الأمهات المعتمدات على الرضاعة الطبيعية من الثدي أقل اكتئاباً. يمكن للرضاعة الطبيعية من الثدي أن تحد من حالة الاكتئاب ما بعد الولادة PPD.

## otorhinolaryngology

### أمراض الأذن والأنف والحنجرة

#### Multidetector computed tomography in nonmalignant laryngeal disease

#### التصوير المقطعي المحوسب متعدد الكواشف في آفات الحنجرة غير الخبيثة

Storck C, et al.

Curr Opin Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 2012 Dec;20(6):443-9.

**Purpose of review:** Multidetector computed tomography (MDCT) is the examination of choice for laryngeal imaging in benign and malignant lesions. This review gives an overview of the MDCT scanning technique and discusses the advantages and disadvantages in investigation of benign lesions of the larynx.

**Recent findings:** MDCT is not the primary diagnostic method for benign lesions on the vocal folds. However, CT is indispensable for the diagnostic investigation of immobility of the vocal fold, for laryngoceles, and for laryngeal trauma, and may allow the exact delineation of extension and nature of benign laryngeal disease. The improved spatial resolution with consecutive high-quality two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) reconstructions using thin-slice MDCT allows a better detection of laryngeal anatomic structures and benign pathologies.

**Summary:** The investigation of choice in diagnosing the cause of hoarseness is laryngoscopy and/or laryngostroboscopy, respectively. Nevertheless, thin-slice MDCT with multiplanar 2D and 3D volume-rendered reconstructions is essential for exact anatomic definition and extension and diagnosis of subtle benign laryngeal diseases.

**هدف المراجعة:** يعتبر التصوير المحوسب متعدد الكواشف MDCT الفحص الأمثل لتصوير الحنجرة في الآفات السليمة والخبيثة. تعطي هذه المراجعة نظرة شاملة عن هذه التقنية ومناقشة محاسنها ومساوئها في استقصاء الآفات السليمة في الحنجرة.

**الموجودات الحديثة:** لا تعتبر تقنية MDCT طريقة تشخيصية أولية في حالات الآفات السليمة في الحبال الصوتية، إلا أن التصوير الطبقي يعتبر إجراءً لا مفر منه في الاستقصاء التشخيصي في حالات عدم حركية الحبال الصوتية، القيلات الحنجرية، رضوض الحنجرة كما أنه قد يسمح بتحديد دقيق لامتداد وطبيعة الآفات الحنجرية السليمة. يسمح التحسن في الوضوحية التجسيمية لاستخدام مقاطع رقيقة متتالية عالية النوعية ثنائية أو ثلاثية الأبعاد في التصوير المحوسب متعدد الكواشف MDCT بكشف أدق للبنى التشريحية الحنجرية والآفات المرضية السليمة.

**الخلاصة:** إن الاستقصاء الأمثل في تشخيص سبب البحة الصوتية هو تنظير الحنجرة و/أو تنظير الحنجرة الاصطرابي laryngostroboscopy على الترتيب. ومع ذلك يبقى إجراء التصوير المحوسب متعدد الكواشف MDCT متعدد السطوح ثنائي أو ثلاثي الأبعاد مع إعادة التركيب إجراءً أساسياً في التحديد التشريحي الدقيق والامتداد والتشخيص في الآفات الحنجرية السليمة الدقيقة.

## دليل النشر في مجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية

تتبع المقالات المرسلّة إلى مجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية الخطوط التالية المعتمدة من قبل الهيئة الدولية لمحري المجالات الطبية URN، وإن النص الكامل لها موجود على الموقع الإلكتروني [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)

1- المقالات التي تتضمن بحثاً أصيلاً يجب أن لا تكون قد نشرت سابقاً بشكل كامل مطبوعة أو بشكل نص الكتروني، ويمكن نشر الأبحاث التي سبق أن قدمت في لقاءات طبية.

2- تخضع كافة المقالات المرسلّة إلى المجلة للتقييم من قبل لجنة تحكيم مؤلفة من عدد من الاختصاصيين، بشكل ثنائي التعمية، بالإضافة إلى تقييمها من قبل هيئة التحرير. يمكن للمقالات أن تقبل مباشرة بعد تحكيمها، أو تعاد إلى المؤلفين لإجراء التعديلات المطلوبة، أو ترفض.

3- تقبل المقالات باللغتين العربية أو الانكليزية. يجب أن ترسل صفحة العنوان باللغتين العربية والانكليزية، متضمنة عنوان المقال وأسماء الباحثين بالكامل باللغتين مع ذكر صفاتهم العلمية. يجب استخدام الأرقام العربية (1، 2، 3...) في كافة المقالات.

4- يجب أن تطابق المصطلحات الطبية الواردة باللغة العربية ما ورد في المعجم الطبي الموحد (موجود على الموقع الإلكتروني [www.emro.who.int/umhd/](http://www.emro.who.int/umhd/) أو [www.emro.who.int/ahsn](http://www.emro.who.int/ahsn))، مع ذكر الكلمة العلمية باللغة الانكليزية أو اللاتينية أيضاً (يمكن أيضاً إضافة المصطلح الطبي المستعمل محلياً بين قوسين).

5- يجب احترام حق المريض في الخصوصية مع حذف المعلومات التي تدل على هوية المريض إلا في حالات الضرورة التي توجب الحصول على موافقة المريض عند الكشف عن هويته بالصور أو غيرها.

6- تذكر أسماء الباحثين الذين شاركوا في البحث بصورة جدية، يجب تحديد باحث أو اثنين للتكفل بموضوع المراسلة حول الشؤون المتعلقة بالبحث مع ذكر عنوان المراسلة والبريد الإلكتروني.

7- يجب أن تتبع طريقة كتابة المقال مايلي:

- يكتب المقال على وجه واحد من الورقة وبمسافة مضاعفة بين الأسطر (تنسيق الفقرة بتباعد أسطر مزدوج)، ويبدأ كل جزء بصفحة جديدة. ترقيم الصفحات بشكل متسلسل ابتداء من صفحة العنوان، يليها الملخص، النص، ومن ثم الشكر والمراجع، يلي ذلك الجداول ثم التعليق على الصور والأشكال. يجب أن لا تتجاوز الأشكال الإيضاحية 254×203 ملم (10×8 بوصة)، مع هامش لا يقل عن 25 ملم من كل جانب (أبوصة). ترسل كافة المقالات منسوخة على قرص مكنز CD، مع إرسال الورقة الأصلية مع 3 نسخ. يمكن إرسال المقالات بالبريد الإلكتروني ([jahbs@arab-board.org](mailto:jahbs@arab-board.org)) إذا أمكن من الناحية التقنية. يجب ان يحتفظ الكاتب بنسخ عن كافة الوثائق المرسلّة.

- البحث الأصلي يجب أن يتضمن ملخصاً مفصلاً باللغتين العربية والانكليزية لا يتجاوز 250 كلمة، يشمل أربع فقرات على الشكل التالي: هدف البحث، طرق البحث، النتائج، والاستنتاجات.

- البحث الأصلي يجب ألا يتجاوز 4000 كلمة (عدا المراجع)، وأن يتضمن الأجزاء التالية: المقدمة، طرق البحث، النتائج، المناقشة، والاستنتاجات. يجب إيراد شرح وافٍ عن طريقة الدراسة مع تحديد مجموعة الدراسة وكيفية اختيارها، وذكر الأدوات والأجهزة المستعملة (نوعها واسم الشركة الصانعة) والإجراءات المتبعة في الدراسة بشكل واضح للسماح بإمكان تكرار الدراسة ذاتها. الطرق الإحصائية يجب أن تذكر بشكل واضح ومفصل للتمكن من التحقق من نتائج الدراسة. يجب ذكر الأساس العلمي لكافة الأدوية والمواد الكيميائية المستخدمة، مع تحديد الجرعات وطرق الإعطاء المعتمدة. يجب استخدام الجداول والصور والأشكال لدعم موضوع المقال، كما يمكن استخدام الأشكال كبديل عن الجداول مع مراعاة عدم تكرار نفس المعطيات في الجداول والأشكال. يجب أن يتناسب عدد الجداول والأشكال المستخدمة مع طول المقال، ومن المفضل عموماً عدم استخدام أكثر من ستة جداول في المقال الواحد. يجب أن تتضمن المناقشة النقاط الهامة في الدراسة والاستنتاجات المستخلصة منها، مع ذكر تطبيقات وانعكاسات النتائج ومحدوديتها، مع مقارنة نتائج الدراسة بدراسات مماثلة، مع تجنب دراسات غير مثبتة بالمعطيات. توصيات الدراسة تذكر حسب الضرورة.

- الدراسات في الأدب الطبي يفضل أن لا تتجاوز 6000 كلمة (عدا المراجع)، وبنية المقال تتبع الموضوع.

- تقبل تقارير الحالات الطبية حول الحالات الطبية السريرية النادرة. مع ضرورة إيراد ملخص موجز عن الحالة.

- تقبل اللوحات الطبية النادرة ذات القيمة التعليمية.

- يمكن استعمال الاختصارات المعروفة فقط، يجب ذكر التعبير الكامل للاختصار عند وروده الأول في النص باستثناء وحدات القياس المعروفة.

- يستعمل المقياس المتر (م، كغ، لتر) لقياسات الطول والارتفاع والوزن والحجم، والدرجة المئوية لقياس درجات الحرارة، والمليمترات الزئبقية لقياس ضغط الدم. كافة القياسات الدموية والكيمائية السريرية تذكر بالمقياس المترى تبعاً للقياسات العالمية SI.

- فقرة الشكر تتضمن الأشخاص الذين أدوا مساعدات تقنية، مع ضرورة ذكر الجهات الداعمة من حيث توفير المواد أو الدعم المالي.

- المراجع يجب أن ترقيم بشكل تسلسلي حسب ورودها في النص، ترقيم المراجع المذكورة في الجداول والأشكال حسب موقعها في النص. يجب أن تتضمن المراجع أحدث ما نشر من معلومات. تختصر أسماء المجلات حسب ورودها في Index Medicus، يمكن الحصول على قائمة الاختصارات من الموقع الإلكتروني [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov). يجب أن تتضمن المراجع المكتوبة معطيات كافية تمكن من الوصول إلى المصدر الرئيسي، مثال: مرجع المجلة الطبية يتضمن اسم الكاتب (يتضمن جميع المشاركين)، عنوان المقال، اسم المجلة، سنة الإصدار، رقم المجلد ورقم الصفحة. أما مرجع الكتاب فيتضمن اسم الكاتب (جميع المشاركين)، المحرر، الناشر، مؤسسة النشر ومكانها، رقم الجزء ورقم الصفحة. للحصول على تفاصيل أوفى حول كيفية كتابة المراجع الأخرى يمكن زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org) مع التأكيد على مسؤولية الكاتب عن دقة المراجع الواردة في المقال.

8- إن المقالات التي لا تحقق النقاط السابقة تعاد إلى الكاتب لتصحيحها قبل إرسالها إلى هيئة التحكيم.

إن المجلس العربي ومجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية لا يتحملان أية مسؤولية عن آراء وتوصيات وتجاربه مؤلفي المقالات التي تنشر في المجلة، كما أن وضع الإعلانات عن الأدوية والأجهزة الطبية لا يدل على كونها معتمدة من قبل المجلس أو المجلة.

\* هذه المجلة مفعرة في سجل منظمة الصحة العالمية IMEMR Current Contents

<http://www.emro.who.int/HIS/VHSL/Imemr.htm>

## مجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية

### الإشراف العام

رئيس الهيئة العليا للمجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية

الأستاذ الدكتور فيصل رضي الموسوي

### رئيس هيئة التحرير

الأمين العام للمجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية

الأستاذ الدكتور محمد هشام السباعي

### نائب رئيس هيئة التحرير

الدكتور سمير الدالاتي

### هيئة التحرير

الأستاذ الدكتور محمد الهادي السويحلي (ليبيا)	الأستاذ الدكتور فيصل الناصر (البحرين)
الأستاذ الدكتور فالح فاضل البياتي (العراق)	الأستاذ الدكتور احتيوش فرج احتيوش (ليبيا)
الأستاذ الدكتور محمد حسن الظاهر (مصر)	الأستاذ الدكتور مهيدي أبو مديني (السعودية)
الأستاذ الدكتور عبد الوهاب الفوزان (الكويت)	الأستاذ الدكتور عمر الدرديري (السودان)
الأستاذ الدكتور جمال بليق (لبنان)	الأستاذ الدكتور صلاح منصور (لبنان)
الأستاذ الدكتور ابراهيم زيتون (مصر)	الأستاذ الدكتور بسام الصواف (سورية)
الأستاذ الدكتور عبد الوهاب المصلح (قطر)	الأستاذ الدكتور محسن جاد الله (مصر)
الأستاذ الدكتور غازي الزعتري (لبنان)	الأستاذ الدكتور ماريو بيانيزي (إيطاليا)
الأستاذ الدكتور صالح المحسن (السعودية)	الأستاذ الدكتور علي عليان (مصر)
الأستاذ الدكتور روبرت هاريسون (أيرلنده)	الأستاذ الدكتور زيد بقاعين (الأردن)
الأستاذة الدكتورة سلوى الشيخ (سورية)	الأستاذ الدكتور أنيس بركة (لبنان)
الأستاذ الدكتور عبد الحميد عطية (مصر)	

### مساعداو التحرير

لى الطرابلسي لينة الكلاس لينة جيرودي الصيدلانية لانا سومان

### الهيئة الاستشارية

أ.د. أكبر محسن محمد	أ.د. سمير فاعوري	أ.د. ميسون جابر	أ.د. محمود بوظو
أ.د. هيام بشور	أ.د. معاوية البدور	أ.د. ظافر الخضيرى	أ.د. محمد الباقر أحمد
أ.د. سهيلة غلوم	أ.د. صبيحة البياتي	أ.د. زايد عاطف	أ.د. أحمد العمادي
أ.د. محمد عوض الله سلام	أ.د. مصطفى جيعان	أ.د. محمد القطاع	أ.د. محسن جورج نعوم

مجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية هي مجلة طبية محكمة تصدر كل ثلاثة أشهر. تعنى بكافة الاختصاصات الطبية. تهدف إلى نشر أبحاث الأطباء العرب لتقوية التبادل العلمي والطبي بين البلدان العربية. كما تقوم المجلة أيضاً بنشر ملخصات منتقاة من المقالات المهمة المنشورة في المجالات العلمية والطبية العالمية. مع ترجمة هذه الملخصات إلى اللغة العربية بهدف تسهيل إيصالها إلى الطبيب العربي. علاوة على ذلك تعمل المجلة على نشر أخبار وأنشطة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية.

### للمراسلة:

مجلة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية - المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية

ص.ب: 7669 دمشق - الجمهورية العربية السورية

هاتف 963-11-6119740/6119741 فاكس 963-11-6119739/6119259

E-mail: jabhs@arab-board.org







أخبار وأنشطة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية  
خلال الفترة من 2012/10/1 لغاية 2012/12/31



## أخبار وأنشطة المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية خلال الفترة من 2012/10/1 لغاية 2012/12/31 أنشطة المجالس العلمية

### اختصاص الأشعة

في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: طرابلس، وصنعاء، ودمشق، ودبي، وبيروت، وبنغازي، وبغداد، وايرد، والمنامة، والقاهرة، والدوحة، والخرطوم. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 286 طبيباً، نجح منهم 160 طبيباً، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 59.7%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
ايرد	39	17	25%
طرابلس	7	1	14%
بنغازي	4	1	25%
دبي	4	0	0%
بغداد	84	76	90%
الدوحة	23	15	65%
الخرطوم	4	0	0%
صنعاء	54	38	70%
القاهرة	5	3	60%
دمشق	24	5	21%
بيروت	10	2	20%
المنامة	10	2	20%
المجموع	268	160	59.7%

### 3- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الجراحة العامة:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الجراحة العامة بتاريخ 2012/11/19 في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: طرابلس، وصنعاء، ودمشق، ودبي، وبغداد، وايرد، والمنامة، والقاهرة، والدوحة، والخرطوم. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 137 طبيباً، نجح منهم 104 طبيباً، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 76%.

### 1- الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص الأشعة:

جرى الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص الأشعة بتاريخ 2012/10/9:

70 130 53.6% 70 130 53.6%

### 2- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الأشعة:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الأشعة بتاريخ 2012/10/9:

69 106 65% 69 106 65%

### اختصاص الجراحة العامة

### 1- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة الأطفال:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة الأطفال بتاريخ 2012/11/19 في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: ايرد، والدوحة، ودمشق. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 17 طبيباً، نجح منهم 16 طبيباً، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 94%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
ايرد	11	11	100%
الدوحة	3	3	100%
دمشق	3	2	67%
المجموع	17	16	94%

### 2- الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص الجراحة العامة:

جرى الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص الجراحة العامة بتاريخ 2012/11/19:

5- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة المسالك البولية:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة المسالك البولية بتاريخ 2012/11/19 في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: الخرطوم، وصنعاء، ودمشق، وبغداد، واريد، والقاهرة، والدوحة. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 47 طبيباً، نجح منهم 40 طبيباً، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 85%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
الخرطوم	1	0	0
اريد	9	6	67%
بغداد	19	19	100%
الدوحة	3	3	100%
صنعاء	6	5	83%
القاهرة	3	3	100%
دمشق	6	4	67%
المجموع	47	40	85%

6- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الجراحة العصبية:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص الجراحة العصبية بتاريخ 2012/11/19 في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: الخرطوم، وصنعاء، وببيروت، ودمشق، واريد، والمنامة. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 15 طبيباً، نجح منهم 9 أطباء، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 60%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
الخرطوم	1	1	100%
بيروت	1	0	0
اريد	4	4	100%
صنعاء	4	3	75%
دبي	1	1	100%
المنامة	2	0	0
دمشق	2	0	0
المجموع	15	9	60%

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
اريد	20	17	85%
طرابلس	1	0	0
دبي	10	5	50%
بغداد	49	45	92%
الدوحة	5	2	40%
الخرطوم	11	7	64%
صنعاء	22	17	77%
القاهرة	1	0	0
دمشق	14	8	57%
المنامة	4	3	75%
المجموع	137	104	76%

4- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة العظام:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص جراحة العظام بتاريخ 2012/11/19 في المراكز الامتحانية التالية: صنعاء، ودمشق، ودبي، وبغداد، واريد، والمنامة، والقاهرة، والدوحة. وقد تقدم لهذا الامتحان 75 طبيباً، نجح منهم 49 طبيباً، أي أن نسبة النجاح هي 65%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
اريد	10	4	40%
دبي	8	3	40%
بغداد	21	21	100%
الدوحة	5	4	80%
صنعاء	10	10	100%
القاهرة	10	6	60%
دمشق	8	1	13%
المنامة	3	0	0
المجموع	75	49	65%





اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
الدوحة	7	3	42.8%
بغداد	14	12	85.7%
بنغازي	8	0	0%
بيروت	2	2	100%
دمشق	4	1	25%
صنعاء	13	2	15.3%
عمان	19	11	57.8%
المجموع	67	31	46%

## 2- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص طب العيون وجراحاتها:

جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص طب العيون وجراحتها بتاريخ 2012/10/10 ••

70 . حيث تقدم لهذا الامتحان

طبيياً، نجح منهم 53 طبيبياً، أى أن نسبة النجاح هي 75.7%.

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
الدوحة	10	6	60%
بغداد	17	17	100%
بنغازي	1	0	0
دمشق	16	9	56%
صنعاء	10	9	90%
عمان	16	12	75%
المجموع	70	53	75.7%

## اختصاص جراحة الفم والوجه والفكين

## 1- الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص جراحة الفم والوجه والفكين:

تم عقد الامتحان الأولي لاختصاص جراحة الفم والوجه والفكين بتاريخ 2012/10/1 في خمسة مراكز امتحانية: القاهرة، حلب، دمشق، والعراق، والأردن. %٢٠ ± ... , f 26 ••• , -€ 18 •••

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
الخرطوم	4	3	75%
الرياض	17	13	76%
الكويت	2	2	100%
أبو ظبي	1	1	100%
بغداد	9	8	88%
دمشق	14	11	78%
سلطنة عمان	4	2	50%
صنعاء	8	3	37%
طرابلس	6	1	16%
عمان	1	1	100%
المجموع	66	45	68%

## اختصاص طب المجتمع

## 1- الامتحان الأولي الكتابي لاختصاص طب المجتمع:

جری الامتحان الأولي الكتابي لاختصاص طب المجتمع بتاريخ  
2012/12/19 :

## 2- لجنة الامتحانات والوثائق لاختصاص طب الأسرة والمجتمع:

عقدت لجنة الامتحانات لكلا الاختصاصين طب الأسرة وطب المجتمع  
خلال الفترة 8-10/11/2012 ، € - • •  
• € • • • • • € • • • • •  
• € • • • • • € • • • • •

.2012/12/19 “ ” • —

## اختصاص طب العيون وجراحاتها

### 1- الامتحان الأولي الكتابي لاختصاص طب العيون وجراحاتها:

جری الامتحان الأولی الكتابی لاختصاص طب العیون وجراحنا بتاریخ  
2012/10/10 > æ : TMŞ , € ~  
طبیباً، نجح منهم 31 طبيباً، أى أن نسبة النجاح هی 46%.





41 61 .  
• •• • - € • ,f,, • ... .67% ,† € •  
•

اسم المركز	عدد المتقدمين	عدد الناجحين	%
دمشق	2	0	0
سلطنة عمان	2	2	%100
الأردن	4	2	%50
البحرين	8	1	%12
دبي	14	13	%93
الخرطوم	5	3	%60
اليمن	5	1	%20
قطر	7	7	%100
الرياض	8	7	%87
بغداد	6	5	%83
المجموع	61	41	%67

2- الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص طب الطوارئ:  
جرى الامتحان النهائي الكتابي لاختصاص طب الطوارئ بتاريخ  
2012/10/18.....





## خريجو المجلس العربي للاختصاصات الصحية خلال الفترة من 2012/10/1 لغاية 2012/12/31

اختصاص طب الأطفال		اسم الطبيب		مركز التدريب	
أفراح مصلح محمد الجوفي	لونا سعيد عبد الله باعنفود	معتز مجيد علي راضي العبودي	يوسف عبد الله يوسف علي	سوسن أحمد محمد الجوفي	مفتاح أحمد سالم العلوص
هناء عبد الرحمن علي الأديمي	سانيا فتحي الهندي	رقية محمد ابراهيم المجرب	صالح أحمد سعيد بريك	غالب حسين صالح السعدي	نعيمه سلطان ظافر
فطيمة أبو القاسم حدود	محمد علي سعيد عفيف	رجاء محمد شرهان	عواطف محمد عبيد أبو شهيوه	محمد أحمد عبد الله قشنون	غسان محمد سعيد القباطي
هدى محمد أبو غرارة الصل	أسامة عبد الغني بديع	نجاه محمد حسن الجربي	ياسر محمد أحمد المعمري	فادي حسيب شحود	محمود يسين جسري
يارة علي رنجوس	مناف موفق أحمد	لينا سعيد علي مصطفى زكارنة			
اسم الطبيب		مركز التدريب		اسم الطبيب	
م. السبعين - اليمن	م. الوحدة التعليمي - اليمن	م. حماية الأطفال - العراق	ج. العرب الطبية - ليبيا	م. السبعين - اليمن	م. الجلاء - ليبيا
م. السبعين - اليمن	م. الجلاء - ليبيا	م. السبعين - اليمن	م. الأطفال - سوريا	م. الجلاء - ليبيا	م. الكويت الجامعي - اليمن
م. الجمهورية التعليمي - اليمن	ج. الفاتح - ليبيا	ج. الفاتح - ليبيا	م. الثورة العام - اليمن	دائرة اليرموك الطبية - العراق	ج. الفاتح - ليبيا
م. الثورة العام - اليمن	ج. الفاتح - ليبيا	م. الولادة - السعودية	ج. الفاتح - ليبيا	م. الوحدة التعليمي - اليمن	م. الأطفال - سوريا
م. حلب الجامعي - سوريا	م. حلب الجامعي - سوريا	م. حلب الجامعي - سوريا	م. تشرين العسكري - سوريا	م. حماية الأطفال - العراق	م. الأردن - الأردن
اسم الطبيب		مركز التدريب		اسم الطبيب	
مؤيد مهدي حسين	نعيمه محمد الادريسي	لطيفة أحمد محمود القلظاف	وسيم عبد الله دحكول	معروف محمد فواز الموصلي	حميد قاسم حسين غرسان
نجيب ناصر طاهر الخيلي	شهرزاد محمد عبد الكريم باعلوي	أحمد طالب ابراهيم عبد الله	إيمان مصطفى الكردي	نور أحمد عبد الله العاقل	محمد أحمد محمد المولد
فهد أحمد محمد الشامي	منال شحود الأسود				
اسم الطبيب		مركز التدريب		اسم الطبيب	
كارين أنطون الزعني	محمد حسين محمد علي	عبد العزيز عبد الجليل وفاة	ابراهيم محمود أحمد عبد العال	هبة محمود أحمد عرفات	محمد محمود محمد أحمد
عيسى مطيع شاهين أشهب	أسعد أحمد عبد الفتاح مصطفى	أسامة صالح عمر عبد المجيد	فادي نافع بني النفار	أحمد محمد عبد الحكيم الضوي	

اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب	اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب
مراد ماهر علي شنب	إعفاء	أحمد محمود حسن سلطان	م. دار المقطم- مصر
محمد أحمد اسماعيل أحمد	إعفاء	الأمين حسين الطيب الشيخ	م. بعشر- السودان
وليد محمد جلال الجندي	إعفاء	تيسير يس محمد حجر	م. بعشر- السودان
مصطفى عصام فاضل محمد	معهد ناصر - مصر	عبد العزيز عوض عثمان	م. التيجاني الماحي- السودان
أنس أحمد محمد عبد الحي	م. أحمد ماهر - مصر	محمد أحمد عبد الرحيم محمد	م. التيجاني الماحي- السودان
مصطفى عبد الكريم الربابعة	م. الجامعة الأردنية - الأردن	محمد حسن محمد أحمد	م. التيجاني الماحي- السودان
أشرف عبد الستار البساطي	م. الخرطوم - السودان	صلاح سلمان عبد البندي	م. بغداد التعليمي- العراق
وائل محمد المهدي	م. الخرطوم - السودان	أميرة بنت ابراهيم فلمبان	م. م. فهد- السعودية
يوليا فيكتروفنا الكسندروفنا علقم	م. الإسلامي - الأردن	ياسر بن جبران القحطاني	م. الصحة النفسية- السعودية
ندى كامل خليل الزهري	م. الخولي - سلطنة عمان	حافظ أحمد علي طوهرى	ه. السعودية للتخصصات- السعودية
عصام أحمد عبد الله النبهاني	م. الثورة - اليمن	سارة عابد مرزوق الحازمي	م. م. فهد- السعودية
أحمد سالم جابر عليمي	م. الثورة - اليمن	نور رياض الابراهيم	م. م. فهد- السعودية
ميمونة هلال عبد الله الهادي	م. السلطاني - سلطنة عمان	نهى سالم صالح الشمري	م. م. فهد- السعودية
محمد منصر بازرعة	م. الجمهورية - اليمن	رياب عبد الله الشنقيطي	م. م. فهد- السعودية
نادر فايز حنا غبريال	م. الساحل التعليمي - مصر	أحمد عبد الله محمد النعمي	م. العسكري- السعودية
ضياء محمود	م. حمد العام - قطر	محمد زائد حسن العسيري	م. م. فهد- السعودية
محمد عاصي جبار	مدينة الطب - العراق	محمد بن عبد الوهاب بن محمد م. م. فهد- السعودية	
وفاء مصطفى النعسان	م. المواساة - سوريا	صالح بن عبد الله التويجري	م. م. عبد العزيز الطبية- السعودية
		شادي حسن عاشور	م. العسكري- السعودية
		عبد الإله الحديثي	ه. السعودية للتخصصات- السعودية
		بندر عابد عبد الله الثمالي	م. م. فهد- السعودية
		ثرثيا بنت عبد الله الهاشمي	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		منى سعيد راشد الشكلي	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		نازك برغش سعيد آل سعيد	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		فاطمة بنت سعيد السليمانى	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		حنان محمد خلفان الشكري	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		زكية بنت علي الدفاعي	ج. السلطان قابوس- سلطنة عمان
		منى بنت عبد الله السالمي	م. ابن سينا- سلطنة عمان
		هاني فرج غبرش	م. حمد الطبية- قطر
		حراء صفر محمد سعيد	م. حمد الطبية- قطر
		نجاة أرا محمد أجمل	م. حمد الطبية- قطر
		محمد يحيى أحمد الأشول	م. الأمراض النفسية والعصبية- اليمن
		عايش الخادم عبده ناصر	م. الأمراض النفسية والعصبية- اليمن
		صالح بن أحمد الغامدى	م. الأمل للصحة النفسية- السعودية

## اختصاص جراحة الفم والوجه والفكين

اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب
حيدر عبد الرحيم عباس	م. الطب - بغداد
عبد الخضر عكاب علوان	م. الطب - بغداد
أسامة محمد عبد الأمير	م. الطب - بغداد
وائل يوسف مقبل	م. الجامعة الأردنية - عمان
ساجدة جواد البنا	م. الجامعة الأردنية - عمان
أحمد مرمش	م. الجامعة الأردنية - عمان
حسنين أحمد هادي	م. الطب - بغداد
وليد زهير أبو فارس	م. الحسين الطبية - عمان
رانيا محمد زين العايديين	جامعة الاسكندرية - مصر
علاء الدين حسين	م. الجامعة الأردنية - عمان
إيمان منير خطاب	جامعة الاسكندرية - مصر
مصطفى محمود عبد الراضي	جامعة الاسكندرية - مصر
عمر محمد عبد المطلب	جامعة الاسكندرية - مصر
يحيى السهو	م. الرازي - حلب

## اختصاص طب الطوارئ

اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب
عاصم السعيد	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
أنس الحسن	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
عبد العزيز العلي	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
علي حسن صالح	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
سوسن حنفي	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
سعد البيز	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
ياسر الأصقة	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
علي المالكي	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
إيهاب عباس	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
محمد الجهني	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
يوسف العواد	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
عبد الله المرشد	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
مرزوقه الغنزي	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
بيان عبد الله العبد الباقي	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
مي الشمري	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
سمر النهاش	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية
عبد الرحمن علي حسين	مجمع مستشفيات السعودية - السعودية

## اختصاص الأمراض الباطنة

اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب
مصعب عبد الوهاب اسماعيل	م. الإسلامي - عمان
إياد سمين كاكه حمه	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
ساجد علي حسين	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
صباح شلال حسين ولي	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
محمد ابراهيم شهاب العثمان	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
محمد يونس قادر وهاب	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
مقدام محمد عبيد علي	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
وليد خالد محمد حمود	م. الموصل التعليمي - الموصل
ابراهيم عبود زبون زبين	م. البصرة العام - البصرة
طلال هادي نون شطب	م. البصرة العام - البصرة
كمال بريسم لفته ناهض	م. البصرة العام - البصرة
نوار عبد الحسين منصور	م. البصرة العام - البصرة
حاتم ذياب عبد الجبوري	م. الكاظمية التعليمي - بغداد
علي خلف محمد تعيب	م. الكاظمية التعليمي - بغداد

اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب	اسم الطبيب	مركز التدريب
عايدة محمد زيد درويش	م. الثورة العام- اليمن	أنوب ماثاي	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
محمد حسين بامعروف	م. الثورة العام- اليمن	بتسيا كنهمون	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
أحمد الجابري	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	نرجس قيوم	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
عبد الله العبدلي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	رزال محي الدين علي	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
سعد آل جمعة	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	سميع الله سيد روشن الدين	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
بدر الحمراشدي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	زينب محمد العزب	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
خالد الراشدي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	رنا جعفر حامد حسين	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
نورة السكيّتي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	نوشاد ثايبيل	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
لوزة العنقودي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	نوشيك بوثيريتيل	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
أحمد الحبيشي	م. العماني للتخصصات-سلطنة عمان	يوسف شاه	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة
هاني حسين كامل	م. حمد الطبية- الدوحة		





