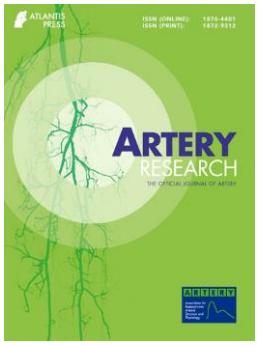

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PO-23: DEPENDENCY OF ARTERIAL STIFFNESS INDICATORS ON ACUTE BLOOD VOLUME CHANGES

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the differences in markers of vascular function between Hispanics (HS), Caucasians (CA), and African Americans (AA). This study sought to assess the differences in vascular function at the endothelial cell level between these racial groups.
Methods: Three human umbilical vein endothelial cell (HUVEC) lines from different donors with HS, CC, and AA backgrounds were used. All cells were grown until confluent before cell medium and cell lysate was harvested. The cell medium was collected for the measurement of Interleukin 6 (IL-6) in an ELISA assay kit. The harvested cell lysate was used for western blotting for the measurement of Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase (eNOS), Phosphorylated Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase (p-eNOS), and Endothelin Converting Enzyme (ECE).
Results: The expression of eNOS in both the CC and HS cell lines was significantly lower when compared to the AA cell lines ($p \leq 0.001$). p-eNOS expression was significantly higher in the HS cell lines compared to both the AA and the CA cell lines ($p \leq 0.001$). The p-eNOS to eNOS ratio was significantly lower in both the AA ($p \leq 0.03$) and CA ($p \leq 0.001$) cell lines compared to the HS cell lines. ECE expression was significantly higher in the HS cell lines compared to the AA cell lines ($p \leq 0.001$). IL-6 levels were significantly higher in the CA and HS cell lines compared to the AA cell lines ($p \leq 0.001$).
Conclusions: Differences in endothelial cell biology that could affect function were evident among cell lines of different racial origin.

PO-22
HIGHER AORTIC STIFFNESS AND CAROTID SYSTOLIC AND PULSE PRESSURE ARE SELECTIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER WHITE MATTER INTEGRITY IN THE GENU AND FRONTAL CORTEX IN OLDER HEALTHY ADULTS

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Introduction: Previous studies have demonstrated an association between higher aortic stiffness and central pulse pressure (PP) with lower brain white matter structural integrity (WMI) and neuropsychological functioning in older adults. However, it is unknown if aortic stiffness and central PP are associated with lower WMI in select brain regions or if they relate to cognitive abilities that decline with age such as processing speed.
Objectives: We hypothesized that greater aortic stiffness and carotid PP would be associated with lower regional WMI and slower processing speed.
Methods and results: In younger (n = 12, age 23.2 ± 2.3 yrs) and older (n = 7, 67.7 ± 2.7 yrs) healthy adults, aortic stiffness (carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity, cfPWV) and carotid blood pressure (BP) were determined non-invasively using applanation tonometry and brachial cuff BP (Cardiovascular Engineering, Inc.). Fractional anisotropy (FA) (3T MRI, Siemens) assessed from diffusion imaging measured WMI. The association between vascular variables and FA was determined using voxel-wise and region-of-interest (ROI) analyses. Letter and pattern comparison assessed processing speed.
Results: In the entire cohort, cfPWV (adjusted for age, mean BP) and carotid and brachial PP (adjusted for age) were not correlated with WMI in any brain regions using voxel-wise or ROI. Among older adults using ROI, cfPWV (adjusted for mean BP) was correlated with genu corpus callosum ($r = -0.90$, $p < 0.05$) and frontal ($r = -0.77$, $p < 0.05$) FA values and corroborated in voxel-wise analyses. Carotid, but not brachial systolic BP or PP, was negatively correlated with genu and superior frontal gyrus and medial prefrontal cortex FA values ($p < 0.05$) using voxel-wise analysis. cfPWV, but not FA in the genu or frontal ROIs, was correlated with processing speed ($p < 0.05$) in older adults.
Conclusion: Preliminary results suggest that greater aortic stiffness is selectively associated with lower WMI in the genu and frontal cortex, and slower processing speed in older adults.

PO-23
DEPENDENCY OF ARTERIAL STIFFNESS INDICATORS ON ACUTE BLOOD VOLUME CHANGES

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Increased arterial stiffness is associated with greater risk for cardiovascular disease. It is unknown if indicators of stiffness are dependent on acute changes in cardiovascular conditions (such as altered central blood volume).
Objectives: To examine if arterial stiffness indicators change with acute reductions in stroke volume (SV) within normal physiological variability.
Methods: Seven young healthy volunteers (4M, 3F) were recruited to participate in this study. To acutely alter blood volume, subjects were sealed from their waist down into a lower body negative pressure (LBNP) box and a vacuum was used to create a pressure gradient of 30mmHg. Heart rate (HR) was continuously monitored and SV was obtained with Doppler ultrasound. Aortic and femoral artery velocity profiles were obtained with Doppler ultrasound to determine central pulse wave transit time (cPWTT). cPWTT was calculated by subtracting the time between the peak of the R-wave and the foot of the aortic velocity profile from the time between the peak of the R-wave and the foot of the femoral velocity profile. Common carotid distensibility (cDa) was determined with simultaneous tonometry to determine pulse pressure (PPcar) and ultrasound imaging to determine diastolic and systolic diameters (cDa = systolic area − diastolic area / PPcar − carotid diastolic area).
Results: The increase in HR from baseline to LBNP was not significant while SV was significantly lower at LBNP (45±13mL/beat) compared to baseline (69±11mL/beat; $p = 0.002$). PPcar was lower at LBNP (43±6mmHg) compared to baseline (48±5mmHg; $p = 0.007$). While cDa was significantly decreased (Baseline = $0.00732 \pm 0.00186 mmHg^{-1}$ vs. LBNP = $0.00592 \pm 0.00219 mmHg^{-1}$; $p = 0.033$), cPWTT tended to get faster with LBNP (baseline = 95±17sec vs. LBNP = 87±13sec; $p = 0.089$).
Conclusions: The arterial stiffness indicators, cDa and cPWTT, might be affected by acute changes in central blood volume and cardiac SV within normal physiological variations.

PO-24
SEX DIFFERENCES IN HEMODYNAMIC RESPONSES FOLLOWING ACUTE INFLAMMATION: WAVE SEPARATION ANALYSIS

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Acute inflammation temporarily increases risk of cardiovascular events and alters hemodynamics. However, it is unknown whether acute inflammation differentially affects blood pressure and pulse wave characteristics, including forward or reflected pressure waves, in males versus females.
Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the potential sex differences in the response to acute inflammation in blood pressure and pulse wave characteristics, measured with wave separation analysis.
Methods: 63 adults (29 males, 34 females) participated in the study. Participants received an influenza vaccine to induce acute inflammation. Central blood pressure and pulse waves were measured using tonometry and separated into forward and reflected waves, at baseline, 24hr post, and 48 hr post-vaccination. 2 x 3 repeated measure Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was performed to investigate sex differences in acute inflammation.

PO-24. Table 1

	Brachial DBP(mmHg)†			Aortic DBP(mmHg)†			Aortic MAP(mmHg)†			Forward wave pressure(mmHg)			Reflected wave pressure(mmHg)		
	Baseline	24 hr Post	48 hr post	Baseline	24 hr Post	48 hr post	Baseline	24 hr Post	48 hr post	Baseline	24 hr Post	48 hr post	Baseline	24 hr Post	48 hr post
Male	69±9	67±9	69±9	70±9	68±9	69±9	87±10	84±9	85±10	29±5	29±5	28±6	19±7	17±7	18±6
Female	66±8*	63±7	64±7	66±8*	64±7	64±7	82±11*	79±8	79±9	27±5	27±5	26±5	17±7	15±5	15±4

∗ Different from other time point, $p < 0.05$.
† Sex difference. Significant at $p < 0.05$.