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side of measurement did not influence pulse waveform analysis results in this clinical sample.

PO-27

A NEW SOFTWARE FOR DETERMINING CHANGES IN ARTERIAL DIAMETER OVER TIME

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Objectives: The purpose was to investigate the ability of a new software, developed by our group, to provide continuous measures of arterial diameter from recorded ultrasound video.

Methods: Software (MAUI) was developed to assess arterial diameter using active contours to accurately detect the vessel walls in recorded ultrasound video. Ultrasound imaging was used to acquire longitudinal, B-Mode images of the common carotid artery (CCA) with videos recorded for later analysis. A single recorded 10s video was used to gain an indication of the reproducibility and repeatability of MAUI. For this assessment, two investigators (E1 and E2) each performed 10 measurements of the test video using the MAUI software. MAUI was then used to process several longer videos (~5min) to assess the ability of the software to continuously process data over longer periods of time.

Results: MAUI provided a measurement of vessel diameter (media to media border) for each frame of the recorded video. The ten assessments of the test video resulted in average standard deviation of 0.002 ± 0.003 cm for E1 and 0.003 ± 0.003 cm for E2 for each frame measurement. Overall analysis of the test video resulted in an average diameter, measured across eight cardiac cycles, of 0.781 ± 0.0005 cm and 0.780 ± 0.0007 cm for E1 and E2 respectively. Measures by E1 and E2 ranged from 0.781 to 0.782cm and 0.779 to 0.781cm respectively. When processing the 5min videos, MAUI was able to continuously track the vessel walls throughout the entire video.

Conclusions: Preliminary assessments suggest that MAUI software represents a viable method for the continuous assessment of arterial diameter over time with high repeatability and low interrater variability. Use of this software may be especially applicable for studies investigating acute changes in vessel dimensions as well as the study of vascular properties in health and disease. Supported by the Canadian Space Agency and NSERC

PO-30

EFFECT OF LOW-DOSE ACETYLSALICYLIC ACID ON ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IN HIGH-RISK PREGNANCIES: AN OBSERVATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY

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Objectives: Low-dose acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) has been shown to reduce the risk for pre-eclampsia in high-risk pregnancies when prescribed before 16 weeks of gestation. It remains unknown whether this anti-inflammatory agent has effects on arterial stiffness. Our objective was to characterize arterial stiffness indices throughout pregnancy in women with high-risk pregnancies who were and were not prescribed low-dose ASA.

Methods: In this prospective longitudinal study, women with high-risk singleton pregnancies were recruited from obstetrical clinics in Montreal, Canada. Arterial stiffness was measured using applanation tonometry (SphygmoCor; AtCor) in the 1st trimester, every 4 weeks thereafter until delivery, and at 6 weeks' post-partum. Arterial stiffness was compared between women who were prescribed low-dose ASA (81 mg) before 16 weeks' gestation and women who were not prescribed any prophylactic medication for pre-eclampsia.

Results: Of the 152 participants who delivered in this ongoing study, 26 women were prescribed ASA. Longitudinal analyses adjusted for family history of pre-eclampsia, past history of pre-eclampsia, and development of an outcome showed no significant differences in carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV), carotid-radial PWV, augmentation index adjusted for a heart rate of 75 beats per minute, or start time of wave reflection (T1R) throughout pregnancy in women who were taking low-dose ASA (all $p > 0.05$). Additionally, 13 women developed pre-eclampsia and ASA did not confer any significant change in adjusted odds for the complication (OR: 4.85 95% CI: 0.5 – 41; $p = 0.15$).

Conclusion: In this high-risk pregnant population, ASA before 16 weeks' gestation was not associated with differences in arterial stiffness or wave reflection throughout pregnancy and did not have an effect on the odds for developing pre-eclampsia. Our ongoing study will provide definite evidence on the association between ASA use and arterial stiffness.

PO-31

EFFECT OF POOR GLYCEMIC CONTROL ON ARTERIAL STIFFNESS IN PREGNANCY

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Objectives: Poor glycemic control during pregnancy is associated with increased adverse perinatal outcomes. Our objective was to characterize the association between glycemic control and arterial stiffness in pregnancy.

Methods: In this prospective longitudinal study, women with high-risk singleton pregnancies were recruited from obstetrical clinics in Montreal, Canada. Arterial stiffness was measured in women with gestational diabetes (GDM) or pre-existing diabetes mellitus (DM) using applanation tonometry (SphygmoCor; AtCor) starting at 24 weeks' gestation (the period at which GDM screening is performed for all women according to standard clinical practice) and every 4 weeks thereafter until delivery. Arterial stiffness indices were compared between women with poor glycemic control and women with adequate glycemic control. Poor glycemic control was defined as average HbA1C $> 7\%$, average fasting glucose > 5.3 mmol/L, average 1h post-prandial glucose > 7.8 mmol/L, insulin dosage > 30 units, large for gestational age fetus, or maximal vertical pocket > 8 cm.

Results: Of the 35 women who delivered in this ongoing study and had GDM ($n=18$) or DM ($n=17$), 12 had poor glycemic control throughout their pregnancy. Longitudinal analyses adjusted for maternal age, body mass index, and medical history, showed women with poor glycemic control had significantly increased carotid-radial pulse wave velocity (PWV) at each timepoint: 26-30 weeks: 8.4 vs. 8.0 m/s, $p = 0.04$; 30-34 weeks: 8.4 vs. 8.1 m/s, $p < 0.01$; 34-38 weeks: 8.5 vs. 8.1 m/s, $p = 0.02$. No differences were found in carotid-femoral PWV, augmentation index adjusted for a heart rate of 75 beats per minute, or start time of wave reflection between these 2 cohorts.

Conclusion: Women who had poor glycemic control throughout pregnancy showed increased peripheral arterial stiffness from the late 2nd trimester until delivery. Our ongoing study will provide more definite conclusions with increased population size.

PO-32

DIETARY CALCIUM INTAKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH: IS THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP?

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Introduction: Calcium intake, recommended for osteoporosis prevention, has been associated with cardiovascular (CV) outcomes. We examined the association of dietary calcium intake (dCa) with surrogate CV markers, including carotid intima-media thickness (cIMT), arterial stiffness and hemodynamics in healthy postmenopausal women.

Methods: Healthy postmenopausal women without any CV risk factors, from a randomized controlled trial studying the effect of calcium supplementation