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P7.1: INCREASED PLATELET REACTIVITY IS RESPONSIBLE OF MODIFICATIONS OF THROMBIN GENERATION IN PATIENTS WITH UNCONTROLLED ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

Jeremy Lagrange*, Yvonne Weihert, Susanne Karbach, Philip Wenzel

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to cardiovasular risk factors remain unclear. We attempted to compare the contribution of cardiovascular risk factors to the variance in cIMT and WLR. Methods: Noninvasive measurements of cIMT and WLR were made with highresolution ultrasonography in 5,983 subjects. They were male aged 40 to 55 and female aged 50 to 65 without previous cardiovascular events, participating in the Lithuanian High Cardiovascular Risk primary prevention program. We performed a multiple linear regression on cIMT and WLR incorporating traditional and less traditional cardiovascular risk factors. Results: Mean left and right cIMT was 0.66 \pm 0.12 mm and 0.65 \pm 0.11 mm respectively, whereas mean WLR was 0.092 \pm 0.015. We found that cardiovascular risk factors could explain 8.9% of left cIMT and 8.3% of right cIMT. Strikingly, traditional and less traditional factors (namely age, male sex, LDL/HDL ratio, mean arterial blood pressure and triglyceride) contributed to a significantly larger proportion of WLR variance, amounting to 14.2%. Conclusions: Adjustment for carotid lumen diameter in analyses evaluating common carotid artery intima-media thickness should be considered. The precise role of WLR as an ultrasound marker of subclinical atherosclerosis remains a topic of interest for future research.

P6.18

CARDIOVASCULAR TARGET ORGAN DAMAGE IN PREMENOPAUSAL SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS AND IN CONTROLS; ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES?

A. Paini ^{1,*}, L. Andreoli ², M. Salvetti ¹, F. Dall'Ara ², S. Piantoni ², C. Donini ¹, C. Agabiti Rosei ¹, F. Bertacchini ¹, D. Stassaldi ¹, E. Agabiti Rosei ¹, A. Tincani ², M. L. Muiesan ¹

¹Internal Medicine, University of Brescia, Italy

²Rheumatology, University of Brescia, Italy

Background: In patients with Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) a greater prevalence of structural and functional cardiovascular (CV) alterations has been described, possibly explaining the higher incidence of CV events, as compared to subjects matched for age and sex.

Aim of this study was to analyze the presence of target organ damage in premenopausal women with SLE and in controls matched not only for demographic characteristics but also for other cardiovascular risk factors.

Subjects and methods: 4 patients with SLE clinically stable(SLEDAI Score 2.5+1.5)(age 32+7)(age 32+7) age 19-44) and 34 controls matched for severage

 $2.5\pm1.5) (age~32\pm7 years,~range~19-44) and~34~controls~matched~for~sex,~age,~BMI,~clinic~blood~pressure(BP)~and~antihypertensive~treatment(if~present),~underwent:24~hours~BP~monitoring,~echocardiography~with~tissue~Doppler~analysis(TDI)~for~the~evaluation~of~left~ventricular(LV)structure~and~of~systolic~and~diastolic~function,~carotid~ultrasound~for~intima-media~thickness(IMT),~carotid~distensibility~measurement,~and~pulse~wave~velocity~measurement(PWV).$

Results: By definition no difference was observed for age, sex, BMI and clinic BP values and a similar Framingham risk score was observed between SLE and controls(1.3 ± 2.7 vs $1.5\pm2.3\%$, p=ns). No significant differences were observed for all echocardiographic parameters except LV longitudinal systolic function(Sm), an early index of LV systolic dysfunction(see Table). Carotid IMT and distensibility, as well as PWV and the prevalence of an abnormal aortic stiffness were both similar in the two groups. At the logistic analysis, PWV was independently associated with LV mass in controls and with the steroid weekly dose in SLE patients.

Conclusions: In patients with SLE and low activity index of the disease we did not observe significant vascular alterations as compare to controls with similar cardiovascular risk. The early LV systolic impairment observed in this group of patients needs confirmation in larger cohorts.

P6.19

GENDER DIFFERENCES OF ARTERIAL STIFFNESS AND CENTRAL BLOOD PRESSURE IN PATIENTS WITH ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND THE INFLUENCE OF MENOPAUSE

Valéria Costa-Hong ¹, Henrique Muela ¹, Allan Sales ², Luiz Bortolotto ^{1,*}

¹Heart Institute (Incor), University of São Paulo Medical School,
Hypertension Unit, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

²Heart Institute (Incor), University of São Paulo Medical School,
Cardiovascular Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology Unit, São Paulo, São
Paulo, Brazil

Introduction: In general population women seems to have greater arterial stiffness and central blood pressure(BP), measured by augmentation index (Alx), than men, but in hypertension this condition is poorly studied. Objectives: To evaluate differences of central BP and arterial stiffness between men and women with arterial hypertension and the influence of postmenopausal status.

Methods: We studied 128 subjects with stage 1-3 arterial hypertension, mean age 51.1 ± 11 years, 48% males, BP = $141\pm24/87\pm13$ mmHg, hypertension duration 10.1 ± 8 years. Noninvasive central aortic BP and wave form characteristics (Alx and Alx corrected by heart rate of 75 bpm — Alx75) were synthesized from radial arterial pressure waves (applanation tonometry) by SphygmoCor®. Brachial BP was obtained by an automatic device(OMRON®).

Results: Brachial systolic BP was higher (145 \pm 26 vs. 136 \pm 20 mmHg, p=0.04) and, weight (76.2 \pm 14 vs. 86.4 \pm 13.2, p<0.01) and height (1.59 \pm 0.06 vs. 1.72 \pm 0.08, p<0.01) were lower in females than in males. Central systolic BP (137 \pm 30 vs 125 \pm 23 mmHg, p<0.01), Alx(32.7 \pm 9.8 vs 19.5 \pm 11.7, p<0.01), Alx75(29.6 \pm 6.9 vs 18.0 \pm 9.3, p<0.01) were higher in females, even after adjustments for weight, height and systolic BP. Postmenopausal status was present in 70% of females and mean age of menopause beginning was 47.8 years. Women at postmenopausal status older than 48 years showed worse Alx(35.3 \pm 9.4) than younger women(26.8 \pm 8.9) and also than men(23.2 \pm 12.4) at same age(p<0.05).

Conclusions: Hypertensive females have higher brachial and central systolic BP than hypertensive males. Arterial stiffness is higher in hypertensive females than in men, at all ages, and in postmenopausal status is worse than in fertile period.

P6.20

ROLE OF ALTERED VASCULAR REACTIVITY IN THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF ACUTE MOUNTAIN SICKNESS

Rosa Maria Bruno ^{1,*}, Guido Giardini ³, Sandro Malacrida ², Bruna Catuzzo ³, Sabina Armenia ⁴, Lorenzo Ghiadoni ⁴, Raffaele Brustia ⁵, Paolo Laveder ², Paolo Salvi ⁶, Emmanuel Cauchy ⁷, Lorenza Pratali ¹
¹Institute of Clinical Physiology, CNR, Pisa, Italy
²University of Padua, Padua, Italy
³Valle d'Aosta Regional Hospital, Aosta, Italy
⁴University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy
⁵Hôpital Saint-Antoine, Paris, France
⁶Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milan, Italy
⁷IFREMMONT, Chamonix, France

Purpose: The aim of this study is to explore the physiological vascular adaptation to exposure to high altitude and to test the hypothesis that its impairment might play a role in the pathophysiology of acute mountain sickness (AMS).

Methods: 34 healthy volunteers (age 38 ± 11 years, 13 women) were studied at the sea-level and after passive ascent to 3842 m (Aguille du Midi, France). Blood pressure (BP), O2 saturation (SO2), endothelial function (flow-mediated dilation, FMD), carotid distensibility coefficient (DC), carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV), peak systolic velocity in the middle cerebral artery (MCA-PSV) were performed at sea level (T0) and after 4-h hypobaric hypoxia (T1). AMS was defined as a Lake-Louise Score>5 after 24-h hypobaric hypoxia (T2).

Results: At T2 12 individuals developed AMS (AMS+). AMS+ had a greater SO2 worsening at T1 as compared to AMS- (AMS+: 97.2 ± 1.2 to $79.3\pm5.8\%$; AMS-: 97.3 ± 1.2 to $83.1\pm5.7\%$, p=0.03), with similar heart rate increase and unchanged BP. FMD was significantly reduced in AMS+ (5.75 ± 3.01 to $3.27\pm1.87\%$, p=0.04), but not in AMS- (4.74 ± 2.47 to $4.02\pm2.36\%$). Mean carotid diameter was increased at T1 in both groups. DC tended to be increased in AMS- but not in AMS+, while PWV was unchanged. MCA-PSV was increased in AMS-, but not in AMS+.

Conclusions: In healthy asymptomatic individuals exposed to high altitude, conduit artery endothelial function is preserved in the cerebral district vaso-dilatation, increased elasticity and blood flow occurs. This compensatory response is early blunted in AMS+, before symptoms onset, thus suggesting a pathogenetic role.

P7.1

INCREASED PLATELET REACTIVITY IS RESPONSIBLE OF MODIFICATIONS OF THROMBIN GENERATION IN PATIENTS WITH UNCONTROLLED ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

Jeremy Lagrange ^{1,*}, Yvonne Weihert ¹, Susanne Karbach ^{1,2}, Philip Wenzel ^{1,2}

¹Center for Thrombosis and Hemostasis, Mainz, Germany

²Department of Medicine 2 University Medical Center, Mainz, Germany

Background: Hypertensive crisis is an extreme phenotype of increased blood pressure that can lead to organs failure and thrombotic complications. Recently, we were able to show an angiotensin II driven FXI-thrombin amplification loop leading to vascular injury in experimental hypertension.

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Objective: The aim of this study was to evaluate the thrombin generation (TG) in patients with uncontrolled arterial hypertension (AHt).

Patients and methods: We prospectively examined 27 patients with uncontrolled AHt at the emergency department of the medical center of Mainz, and 26 age match controls. TG was measured by calibrated automated thrombography (CAT) in platelet rich and platelet poor plasma (PRP/PPP). Results: AHt patients had an increased systolic blood pressure, compared to control patients (182±10.7 versus 134±9.6 mmHg); age, BMI and weight were not different. Unexpectedly, CAT assay performed in PPP showed a decreased of TG in uncontrolled AHt patients (1269±55 versus 1444±51 nM.min) as well as a decrease in the peak of generation. The TG performed in PRP was identical between uncontrolled AHt and control patients (1550 \pm 65 versus 1513 \pm 58 nM.min), but the peak of generation, as well as the velocity, were increased in uncontrolled AHt patients. In both groups, TG was reduced by blocking the apple 3 domain of FXI, indicating an involvement of the FXI thrombin loop in thrombin generation in PRP of uncontrolled AHt patients.

Conclusion: These results point out the important role of platelet overreactivity in hypertension. Monitoring the prothrombotic state of platelets might add to risk stratification of patients with AHt.

VERY EARLY CLINICAL VASCULAR AND HEART MARKERS OF NEWLY RECOGNIZED HYPERTENSION IN MIDDLE AGE ADULTS

Olga Siga *, Jarosław Królczyk, Anna Dzieża-Grudnik, Jolanta Walczewska, Barbara Wizner, Tomasz Grodzicki

Department of Internal Medicine and Gerontology, Jagiellonian University Medical College/University Hospital, Cracow, Poland

The aim of this study was to evaluate vascular and echocardiographic markers of hypertension (HT) in subjects with newly diagnosed HT before treatment started.

We studied 32 patients with newly diagnosed HT without pharmacological therapy (HT group) and 31 healthy ones (control group). ABPM were performed to exclude or confirm HT. Cardiovascular risk factors and pulse wave velocity (PWV) were assessed. Measurements of left ventricle, size of left atrium and parameters of diastolic function of left ventricle were measured using echocardiography. The student's T-test, U Mann-Whitney and Chi2 tests were used to compare differences between groups.

There were no significant differences in cardiovascular risk factors (sex, age, total cholesterol level. HbA1c) between groups with exception of BMI (p<0,05). We observed significant differences between HT group and control group in PWV, LVMI, LAVI, IVSd, LVIDd, LVPWd, E/A, E/E', although there were no such differences in IVRT. DcT and E'.

```
Control group
N = 31
HT group
N=32
Men, n[%]
12[39]
19[59]
Age[year]
45±10
44 + 12.5
BMI[kg/m2]*
24 + 3.5
```

 $28,5\pm4,0$ SBP[mmHg]* $119,4\pm 9,5$

 $142,3 \pm 15,0$

DBP[mmHg]*

 81.1 ± 8.8

97,6±11,1 Total cholesterol[mmol/l]

 $5,1\pm1,0$ 5,5±0,9

HbA1c[%] 5,4±0,4 5.5±0.4

PWV[m/s]* 8,7±2,0

10.2 + 2.6LVMI[g/m2]* $83,1\pm18,4$

96.3+24.7 IVSd[mm]* 9,4±1,8 10.7 + 2.0LVIDd[mm]* 46,4±4,4 49,4±4,7 LVPWd[mm]* 9.2 + 1.710,7±1,7 LAVI[ml/m²]* 16.9 ± 6.2 22.2±6.5 IVRT[s] $0,097\pm0,024$ 0.094 ± 0.017 DcT[s] $0,293\pm0,078$ $0,266\pm0,083$ E/A* $1,3\pm0,3$ 1.1 + 0.310.7 + 2.19.2 + 3.3

E'[m/s]

E/E'*

8.3 + 2.39,7±2,7

*-p<0,05

In the study group, increase in pulse wave velocity concomitant with changes in diastolic function characterize middle age patients with newly diagnosed hypertension. It is difficult to separate the effect of high blood pressure from the importance of overweight.

P7.3 RISK FACTORS CONTROL IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE

Barbara Gryglewska 1,*, Dorota Studzinska 2

¹Department of Internal Medicine and Gerontology, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland

²Department of Internal Medicine and Angiology, Hospital of the Order of Brothers Hospitallers, Kraków, Poland

Objective: The assessment of control of modifiable risk factors among elderly patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD) admitted to the hospital angiology ward.

Methods: The results of treatment of dyslipidemia (DL), hypertension (HT), diabetes mellitus (DM) and prevalence of cigarette smoking were assessed among older (>65 years old, group I) and younger patients (group II) with PAD in a admission day to hospital. Statistical analysis was performed with U Mann-Whitney and Chi² tests.

Results: The study population included 154 patients (I - 92 and II - 65 subjects) aged 67,4 \pm 9,4 years, 69,5% men. The study groups presented similar grades of PAD classification by Rutherford. Group II was older (73,5 \pm 6,4 vs $58,3\pm4,7yrs$), had lower frequency of current smokers (21,7 vs 48,4%) than groups II. Diagnosis of DL, HT and DM were equally frequent in both groups. However, coronary heart disease was diagnosed more frequently in group I than II (52,2 vs 29,0%). Both groups were similar according to systolic blood pressure (BP) values and levels of glucose and HDL cholesterol. Group I had lower diastolic BP than group II (69,5 \pm 11,1 vs 74,0 \pm 9,9 mmHg), but control of HT was similar in both groups (71,7 vs 67,7%). LDL cholesterol were lower in a group I than II $(2,2\pm1,0 \text{ vs } 2,5\pm1,1 \text{ mmol/l})$, but LDL cholesterol values < 1,8 mmol/l were observed with similar frequency in both groups (40,2 vs

Conclusions: Elderly patients with PAD presented slightly better control of modifiable risk factors than younger patients.

P7.4 MORNING CENTRAL BLOOD PRESSURE SURGE DOES NOT DIFFER BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

Agnieszka Bednarek 1,* , Piotr Jankowski 1 , Agnieszka Olszanecka 1 , Adam Windak ², Kalina Kawecka-Jaszcz ¹, Danuta Czarnecka ¹Jagiellonian University, 1st Department of Cardiology, Interventional