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# Ahi Evran Medical Journal



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## Cognitive Functions and Intelligence Quotient in Patients with Metabolic

### Syndrome Through the Window of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

### Tip 2 Diabetes Mellitus Penceresinden Metabolik Sendromlu Hastalarda Bilişsel

### Fonksiyonlar ve Zeka Katsayısı

Ulaş Serkan TOPALOĞLU<sup>1</sup>  Kamil DEVEÇİ<sup>1</sup>  Mehmet Fatih GÖL<sup>2</sup>  Melih KIZILTEPE<sup>1</sup> 

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Metabolik sendrom (MetS) olan hastalarda bilişsel işlevleri ve zeka katsayısı (IQ) değerini, tip 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) hastalığını dikkate alarak değerlendirmek.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Ocak-Mart 2020 tarihleri arasında kesitsel bir çalışma yürütüldü. Bu çalışmaya katılanlar üçüncü basamak bir hastanedendir. Sağlık kontrolü veya DM takibi ile poliklinike başvuran hastalar çalışmaya dahil edildi. Çalışmaya 18-75 yaşlarında toplam 80 hasta (44 MetS'li ve 36 MetS'siz hasta) art arda dahil edildi. Hastaların klinik ve laboratuvar parametreleri, Mini Mental Durum Muayenesi (MMSE) ve Kent E-G-Y skorları ile ölçüldü.

**Bulgular:** MetS'li hastalarda glikozile hemoglobin (HbA1c) ve triglycerid düzeyleri daha yüksek, yüksek dansiteli lipoprotein-kolesterol (HDL-c) ve ferritin düzeyleri daha düşüktü. MMSE skoru MetS'li katılımcılarda MetS'siz katılımcılardan daha düşükken, Kent E-G-Y skoru her iki grupta da benzerdi. Tüm hastaların DM ve/veya MetS olup olmadığına bağlı olarak, alt grup analizleri yapıldı ve değerlendirildi. Diyabetli hastalar, diğer alt gruppala kıyasla daha düşük IQ puanlarına sahipti.

**Sonuç:** MetS, bilişsel işlevleri azaltır, ancak bunun genel olarak IQ üzerinde bir etkisi olmadığı gösterilmiştir. Bununla birlikte, DM varlığının MetS'lu hastalarda zeka üzerine kötüleştiren bir faktör olduğu gösterilmiş olsa da, daha fazla çalışmaya ihtiyaç vardır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** bilişsel işlev; diyabetes mellitus; metabolik sendrom; zekâ katsayısı

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To evaluate the cognitive functions and intelligence quotient (IQ) in patients with metabolic syndrome (MetS) by also considering Type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM).

**Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted from January to March 2020. Participants in this study are from a tertiary care hospital. Patients admitted to the outpatient clinic with health check-up, or follow-up of DM were included in the study. A total of 80 patients (44 patients with MetS and 36 patients without MetS), 18-75 years old, were recruited to the study consecutively. Clinical and laboratory parameters, Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Kent E-G-Y scores of patients were measured.

**Results:** Glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) and triglycerides levels were higher, whereas high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-c) and ferritin levels were lower in patients with MetS. MMSE score was lower in participants with MetS than without MetS, whereas Kent E-G-Y score was similar in both groups. Depending on whether all patients have DM and/or MetS, subgroup analyzes were performed and evaluated. Patients with diabetes had lower IQ scores compared to the other subgroups.

**Conclusion:** MetS reduces cognitive functions, whereas it has been shown that this generally does not have any effect on IQ. However, even though DM presence has been shown to be a worsening factor on intelligence in MetS, further studies are needed.

**Keywords:** cognitive function; diabetes mellitus; intelligence quotient; metabolic syndrome

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## INTRODUCTION

Metabolic syndrome (MetS), which has become a more common public health issue, is associated with diseases, including non-alcoholic fatty liver, cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and dyslipidemia.<sup>1</sup> Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is a progressive complex disease, and achieving normoglycaemia is the first goal in diabetics. On the way to the target, it is necessary to increase the quality of life of the patients, to reduce the complications and to consider the comfort of the patient while performing this.<sup>2,3</sup>

Health is defined as "not only the absence of illness and disability but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being" by the World Health Organization.<sup>4</sup> The importance of cognitive functions and intelligence is increasing day by day while suffering from chronic diseases.<sup>5</sup> It is already known that the factors increased on intelligence quotient (IQ) improve the quality of life.<sup>6</sup> From this perspective, the effect of MetS and DM on mental functions is as important as its effect on physical functions. A Turkish proverb says: healthy mentality takes place in the healthy body.

Despite many studies on cognitive functions, there are comparatively scarce data on IQ in people with MetS. With this study, we aimed to evaluate the cognitive functions and IQ in patients with MetS by also considering type 2 DM for the first time in the literature (PubMed and Google Scholar) to our best knowledge.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Participants

A cross-sectional study was conducted from January to March 2020. Participants are from a tertiary care hospital in this study. Patients admitted to the outpatient clinic with health check-up or follow-up of DM were included in the study. Participants without metabolic syndrome consist of healthy or diabetic subjects. A total of 80 patients (44 patients with MetS and 36 patients without MetS), 18-75 years old, were recruited to the study consecutively. Waist circumference, height and weight of patients were measured, then they were used to calculate body mass index

(BMI), weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared.

Renal disorders (nephrotic syndrome, lupus, vasculitis, recent urinary tract infection, urinary calculus, chronic kidney disease stage 3 and above), endocrinological disorders (clinically significant thyroid dysfunctions, Cushing disease, acromegaly, Type 1 DM), chronic neuropsychiatric diseases (Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, bipolar disorders, cerebrovascular disease) malignancies, treatment with corticosteroids, acute or chronic infection, chronic anemias, pregnancy, malabsorption syndrome, gastrointestinal surgery, chronic hepatitis, chronic alcohol abuse, smokers, being vegetarian who do not consume eggs or meat were exclusion criteria, because of their effects on the cognitive function.

Ethics approval needed for the study is received from Erciyes University Local Ethical Committee (Date and Decision number: 29.01.2020-2020/57). This trial was performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice. All study participants gave written consent before any trial-related activities, and the researcher retained the consent forms.

### Measurement of Laboratory Parameters

A fasting venous blood sample was collected after an overnight fast for at least 8-hour for biochemical investigations and samples were processed at the hospital laboratory on the same day. FPG, serum blood urea nitrogen (BUN), serum creatine (SCre), Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI), aspartate transaminase (AST), alanine transaminase (ALT), total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (LDL-c), high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-c), triglycerides, thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), hemoglobin, folate, vitamin B12 and ferritin were estimated using a Roche Cobas 8000 immunoassay analyzer (Roche Diagnostics, USA). Glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) was estimated using an Adams A1c HA-8180V automatic analyzer (Arkray Diagnostics, USA). All assays were performed with specific kits and calibrators supplied by the manufacturers.

### Diagnostic criteria of MetS<sup>7</sup>

1. Elevated waist circumference (obligatory component):  $\geq 94$  cm in man;  $\geq 80$  in woman.
2. Elevated triglycerides:  $\geq 150$  mg/dL (1.7 mmol/L) or drug treatment for elevated triglycerides.
3. Reduced HDL-c:  $<40$  mg/dL (1.0 mmol/L) in man;  $<50$  mg/dL (1.3 mmol/L) in woman or drug treatment for reduced HDL-c.
4. Elevated blood pressure: Systolic  $\geq 130$  and/or diastolic  $\geq 85$  mm Hg; or antihypertensive drug treatment.
5. Elevated fasting glucose  $\geq 100$  mg/dL or drug treatment of elevated glucose is an alternate indicator.

### Diagnostic criteria of DM<sup>8</sup>

1. Elevated HbA1c:  $\geq 6.5$  %
2. Elevated FPG:  $\geq 126$  mg/dL (7.0 mmol/L)
3. Elevated 2<sup>nd</sup> hour plasma glucose level after oral glucose tolerance test:  $\geq 200$  mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L)
4. Elevated random plasma glucose level:  $\geq 200$  mg/dL (11.1 mmol/L)

### Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)

MMSE consists of a set of questions that evaluate different aspects of cognitive functioning, which are categorized as orientation to place, registration, attention, and calculation, recall and language.<sup>9</sup> Neither severe hypoglycemia ( $<70$ mg/dl) nor severe hyperglycemia ( $>400$  mg/dl) was observed during the evaluation of MMSE.

### Kent E-G-Y

The Kent E-G-Y is a short, individually administered verbal test, composed of 10 simple questions (What are used when building a house? Where is sand used? If a flag is flying south, which side is the wind blowing from? Tell me the names of some fish/birds? At what time of day is our shadow the shortest? Tell me the name of some big cities? Why does the moon appear larger than the stars? Which mine does the magnet attract? If our shadow falls towards

the north-east, where is the sun? How many cusps does a star on the Turkish flag have?), originally intended to provide a rough estimate of the intellectual ability of children. Since its development, it has frequently been used as a brief test of IQ in adults and has been found useful as a quick screening instrument.<sup>10</sup> Neither severe hypoglycemia ( $<70$  mg/dl) nor severe hyperglycemia ( $>400$  mg/dl) was observed during the evaluation of the Kent E-G-Y.

### Statistical Analysis

SPSS 22.0 (IBM Corp. Released 2013. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) program was used for statistical analyses. Frequencies were expressed in percentage (%). For comparison of categorical data, the Chi-square test was used. Whether the numeric (digital) data is distributed normally or not was determined by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and Histogram graphs. Numeric (digital) data relating to independent groups demonstrating a normal distribution were compared by the Student's t-test. Variables, which demonstrated normal distribution, were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. If it was a non-normal distribution, the Mann-Whitney U test was used. Variables, which were demonstrating non-normal distribution, were expressed in median (interquartile range).  $p<0.05$  was accepted and considered as significant.

### RESULTS

Age, weight, educational status, and waist circumference were similar in both groups ( $p=0.162$ ,  $p=0.537$ ,  $p=0.740$ , and  $p=0.256$ , respectively). When the levels of FPG, BUN, Creatin, CKD-EPI, AST, ALT, total cholesterol, LDL-c, hemoglobin, vitamin B12 and folate were evaluated, there was no statistical difference between the groups ( $p=0.082$ ,  $p=0.109$ ,  $p=0.656$ ,  $p=0.262$ ,  $p=0.373$ ,  $p=0.735$ ,  $p=0.448$ ,  $p=0.977$ ,  $p=0.711$ ,  $p=0.433$ , and  $p=0.095$ , respectively). MetS was more common in women ( $p<0.001$ ). While patients with MetS were shorter, their BMI was higher ( $p<0.001$  and  $p=0.002$ , respectively). HbA1c and triglycerides levels were higher, whereas HDL-c, ferritin, and TSH levels were lower in patients with MetS ( $p=0.034$ ,  $p<0.001$ ,  $p<0.001$ ,  $p=0.011$ , and  $p=0.041$  respectively). The total score of MMSE was lower in participants with MetS than without MetS, whereas Kent E-G-Y

scores were similar in both groups ( $p=0.006$  and  $p=0.627$ , respectively). Data on these comparisons are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Clinical status and laboratory parameters of patients with and without MetS.

Variables	Patients with MetS (n=44)	Patients without MetS (n=36)	p
Gender (F/M), n (%)	35/9 (79.6/20.4)	13/23 (36.1/63.9)	<0.001
Age (year), median (IQR)	55.5 (21.5)	45.0 (13.5)	0.162
Education, n (%)			
Illiteracy	3 (6.8)	2 (5.6)	
Primary school	31 (70.5)	24 (66.7)	0.740
High school	8 (18.2)	6 (16.7)	
University	2 (4.6)	4 (11.1)	
Weight (kg), mean $\pm$ SD	84.5 $\pm$ 15.0	82.2 $\pm$ 13.4	0.537
Height (cm), mean $\pm$ SD	163.6 $\pm$ 7.61	171.1 $\pm$ 6.86	<0.001
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ), mean $\pm$ SD	31.63 $\pm$ 5.47	27.95 $\pm$ 3.52	0.002
Waist circumference (cm), median (IQR)	98.5 (18.5)	98.0 (12.0)	0.256
FPG (mg/dL), median (IQR)	124.5 (139.0)	98.0 (45.0)	0.082
HbA1c (%), median (IQR)	6.7 (4.0)	5.8 (1.4)	0.034
Serum BUN (mg/dL), median (IQR)	11.2 (5.7)	12.6 (3.3)	0.109
Serum Creatin (mg/dL), median (IQR)	0.7 (0.3)	0.7 (0.3)	0.656
CKD-EPI (mL/m <sup>1.73m2</sup> ), mean $\pm$ SD	96.1 $\pm$ 24.1	102.0 $\pm$ 16.2	0.262
AST (U/L), median (IQR)	19.0 (6.0)	19.0 (7.0)	0.373
ALT (U/L), median (IQR)	20.5 (12.3)	21.0 (8.0)	0.735
Total cholesterol (mg/dL), median (IQR)	196.0 (54.5)	186.0 (45.0)	0.448
LDL-c (mg/dL), median (IQR)	105.0 (43.8)	100.0 (57.0)	0.977
HDL-c (mg/dL), median (IQR)	40.0 (10.5)	48.0 (16.0)	<0.001
Triglycerides, median (IQR)	233.0 (112.8)	116.0 (101.0)	<0.001
Hemoglobin (g/dL), mean $\pm$ SD	14.14 $\pm$ 1.40	14.90 $\pm$ 1.64	0.711
Ferritin ( $\mu$ g/L), median (IQR)	54.0 (84.8)	119.0 (97.5)	0.011
Vitamin B12 (ng/L), median (IQR)	265.5 (204.8)	277.0 (159.5)	0.433
Folate (ng/mL), median (IQR)	8.8 $\pm$ 3.5	10.2 $\pm$ 3.9	0.095
TSH, (mU/L), median (IQR)	1.34 (1.13)	1.95 (1.37)	0.041
MMSE, median (IQR)	28.0 (3.0)	29.0 (2.0)	0.006
Kent E-G-Y, median (IQR)	90.0 (13.0)	90.0 (9.0)	0.627

F/M: female/male; MetS: metabolic syndrome; BMI: body mass index; FPG: fasting plasma glucose; HbA1c: glycated hemoglobin; BUN: blood urea nitrogen; CKD-EPI: Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration; AST: aspartate transaminase; ALT: alanine transaminase; LDL-c: low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; HDL-c: high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; TSH: thyroid-stimulating hormone; MMSE: Mini Mental State Examination. ( $p<0.05$  considered statistically significant)

Depending on whether all patients have DM and/or MetS, subgroup analyzes were performed and evaluated. Patients with Type 2 DM had lower IQ scores compared to other subgroups ( $p<0.001$  and  $p<0.001$ , respectively). Detailed statistical evaluations are given in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Comparison of cognitive and intelligence status in sub-groups.

IQR	DM (-) MetS (-)	DM (+) MetS (-)	DM (-) MetS (+)	DM (+) MetS (+)	p
MMSE, median	30.0 (1.0)a,g	27.5 (3.0)a,e	29.5 (2.0)b,e	26.0 (3.0)b,g	<0.001
Kent E-G-Y, median	90.0 (7.3)d,h	88.0 (14.0)f	98.0 (6.0)c,d,f	86.0 (4.0)c,h	<0.001

pa<0.001; pb<0.001; pc<0.001; pd<0.001;  
pe<0.005; pf<0.049; pg<0.001; ph<0.017

DM: Diabetes mellitus; MetS: Metabolic syndrome; MMSE: Mini Mental State Examination.

(Firstly, the groups were compared collectively to determine the p values in the rightmost column. Secondly, significant p values were reported in the bottom line by comparing groups with the same letter in pairs with each other.  $p<0.05$  considered statistically significant.)

## DISCUSSION

We evaluated the cognitive functions and IQ in patients with MetS in terms of the presence of DM. As expected, patients with MetS had lower levels of cognitive function. Also, there was no difference between the two groups in IQ values. When the scores of IQ in patients without MetS were evaluated, it was found that patients with DM were at lower levels than those without. When the scores of IQ in patients with DM were evaluated, there was also no difference between patients with MetS and those without. When evaluated by subgroup analyzes, the presence of DM has been shown to have an important contribution to intelligence in MetS.

Comparing the frequency of MetS in terms of gender varies between countries, it is more common in men in the USA.<sup>11</sup> However, it is more common in women in Turkey.<sup>12</sup> In many societies, various conditions have been shown to decline cognitive functions in women more than men.<sup>13,14</sup> The majority of people with MetS were women in our study, which also covers these data in the literature.

Many large studies in the literature have already shown that MetS worsen cognitive functions.<sup>15-17</sup> There are studies known that obesity deteriorates cognitive functions.<sup>18,19</sup>

HDL-c level has been shown to be an independent risk factor that adversely affects cognitive functions in men.<sup>20</sup> In addition, the height of the triglyceride level is negatively correlated with cognitive functions in adults.<sup>21</sup> The relationship of ferritin levels is positively correlated with cognitive functions, whether the hemoglobin level is low or not, has been shown in both children and adults. Moreover, it has been emphasized in many studies that the condition that most affects cognitive functions in people with MetS is hyperglycemia.<sup>17,22,23</sup> In the study conducted by Wang et al., it was reported that hyperglycemia is a risk factor for cognitive functions in patients with MetS.<sup>23</sup> In our study, we revealed that cognitive functions of people with MetS are impaired, which was compatible with the literature. In addition, patients with MetS in our study had higher BMI and triglyceride values while having lower HDL and ferritin levels than those without MetS. These findings, which confirm previous studies, may be the causes of poor cognitive functions in MetS.

In our study, evaluation of cognitive functions according to the MMSE scale and the privileged location of the presence of DM with subgroups are shown in Tables 1 and 2. When the total score of MMSE in patients without DM was evaluated, there was no difference between patients with and without MetS. When the MMSE scores of patients with DM were evaluated, there was also no difference between patients with and without MetS. When the MMSE scores of patients without MetS were evaluated, it was found that patients with DM were at lower levels than those without DM ( $p^a < 0.001$ ). When the MMSE scores of patients with MetS were evaluated, patients with DM were also found to be at lower levels than those without DM ( $p^b < 0.001$ ). These outcomes demonstrated that DM has a unique place and focal point in cognitive functions in patients with MetS.

To the best of our knowledge, IQ and its relationship with DM in MetS was compared firstly in the literature (PubMed and Google Scholar). Moreover, there are scarce data in the literature on DM and IQ. It has been shown that DM does not have a negative effect on intelligence, especially in studies in which the relationship between intelligence and DM in the population under the age of 18 has been revealed.<sup>24</sup> In another study, it was shown that DM in

adults is associated with lower level of intelligence. In a study in the literature, a modest difference was found in Type 2 diabetics with a history of hypoglycemia when using insulin compared with a healthy population.<sup>25</sup>

In our study, evaluation of IQ according to the Kent E-G-Y are shown in Tables 1 and 2. When the Kent E-G-Y scores of patients without MetS were evaluated, there was also no difference between patients with DM and those without. When the Kent E-G-Y scores of patients with MetS were evaluated, it was found that those with DM had lower intelligence scores than those without ( $p^c < 0.001$ ). When the Kent E-G-Y scores of patients without DM were evaluated, it was found that those with MetS had higher intelligence ( $p^d < 0.001$ ). When the Kent E-G-Y scores of patients with DM were evaluated, there was also no difference between patients with MetS and those without. In addition, the group with DM without MetS had significantly lower intelligence scores than the group with MetS without DM. These outcomes demonstrate to us that intelligence deteriorates with the effect of the presence of diabetes in patients with metabolic syndrome.

Our study also has some limitations. Firstly, because of the cross-sectional design, cognitive function and metabolic status were measured once, and these could be changed over time. Therefore, we cannot make causal outcomes in our study. Secondly, the number of participants was only 80, which may affect results. This number was limited as we were very meticulous in exclusion criteria. Thirdly, we did not adjust for all confounding variables, such as age, education, family history of cognitive impairment. Despite all these limitations, our study is valuable due to the findings on the mental effects of MetS by looking at the literature through the window of diabetes.

MetS reduces cognitive functions, whereas it has been shown that this generally does not affect IQ. However, even though DM presence has been shown to be a worsening factor on IQ in MetS, further studies are needed.

#### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

## Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: UST, KD, MFG, EKU. Data Collection and/or Processing: UST, KD, MK, BS. Data analysis and interpretation: UST, KD, EKU, DMU, MFG. Literature Search: KD, MK, DMU. Drafting manuscript: UST. Critical revision of manuscript: KD, BS, MK, MFG. Supervision: KD, MFG, BS, EU, DMU.

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## Evaluation of Clinical and Epidemiological Features of Patients Receiving High-Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygen Therapy in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

### Çocuk Yoğun Bakım Ünitesinde Yüksek Akımlı Nazal Kanül Oksijen Tedavisi Alan Hastaların Klinik ve Epidemiyolojik Özelliklerinin Değerlendirilmesi

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Akut solunum yetmezliğinde solunum desteği yöntemlerinden biri, giderek kullanım sıklığı artan yüksek akımlı nazal kanül oksijen tedavisidir (YANKOT). Bu çalışmada, solunum yetmezliği nedeniyle çocuk yoğun bakım ünitesine yatırılan ve YANKOT uygulanan hastaların retrospektif olarak değerlendirilmesi amaçlandı.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Çalışma retrospektif olarak, Ocak 2015- Aralık 2017 tarihleri arasında çocuk yoğun bakım ünitesinde yatan ve YANKOT uygulanmış 104 hasta alınarak yapıldı.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya katılan hastaların yaşlarının medyan değeri 5 ay olarak saptandı. En sık yatış endikasyonu %97.1 oranında alt hava yolu hastalığı ve hastaların %52.9'unda tip 1 solunum yetmezliği saptandı. Çocuk yoğun bakımındaki yatış süresi medyan değeri 7 gün iken, YANKOT uygulama süresi medyan değeri 48 saat olarak saptandı. YANKOT alırken entübe olan hastalarda (%28.8) kronik hastalık ve kronik akciğer hastalığı entübe olmayanlara göre belirgin olarak yüksekti ( $p=0.001$ ,  $p=0.033$ , sırasıyla). Hastalarda komplikasyon olarak %8.7'sinde nazal bölgelerde cilt hasarı, %1.9'unda pnömotoraks geliştiği saptandı. Çocuk yoğun bakım ünitesine yatıp YANKOT alırken ölen hastalarda kronik hastalık ve konjenital kalp hastalığı oranları hayatı kalan hastalara göre belirgin olarak yüksekti ( $p=0.043$ ,  $p=0.003$ , sırasıyla).

**Sonuç:** Son yıllarda çocukların solunum yetmezliği tedavisinde kullanılmaya başlanan YANKOT'un sonuçları genellikle yüz güldüründür. Bununla birlikte bu yeni yöntemde komplikasyonların gelişebilmesi nedeniyle uygulama süresince yakın izlem gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** çocuk; çocuk yoğun bakım ünitesi; solunum yetersizliği; oksijen tedavisi

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** One of the respiratory supports in acute respiratory failure (ARF) is high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen therapy, which is being increasingly used in this study. We aimed to evaluate the patients with ARF who received HFNC oxygen therapy in the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU).

**Materials and Methods:** The study was done retrospectively in 104 patients who were admitted to the pediatric ICU and received HFNC oxygen therapy between January 2015 and December 2017.

**Results:** The median age of the patients participating in the study was 5 months. The most common cause of hospitalization was lower respiratory disease (97.1%), and 52.9% of the patients had type 1 respiratory failure. The median length of stay in the pediatric ICU was 7 days, while the median duration of HFNC oxygen therapy was 48 hours. In patients who were intubated during HFNC oxygen therapy (28.8%), the proportions of having a chronic disease and chronic lung disease were significantly higher than those who were not intubated ( $p=0.001$ ,  $p=0.033$ , respectively). In terms of complications, nasal skin damage (8.7%) and pneumothorax (1.9%) were developed. The proportions of chronic diseases and congenital heart disease of the patients who were admitted to pediatric ICU and died after HFNC oxygen therapy were significantly higher than the survivors ( $p=0.043$ ,  $p=0.003$ , respectively).

**Conclusion:** The results of HFNC oxygen therapy, which is being increasingly used in the treatment of respiratory failure in children, are generally satisfactory. However, due to possible complications, close monitoring is required during the application.

**Keywords:** child; pediatric intensive care unit; respiratory failure; oxygen therapy

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## INTRODUCTION

Respiratory support is a frequently used treatment method in patients being followed up in the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU). This supportive care may be needed in case of lung infections, neuromuscular disorders, cardiac problems, upper airway obstructions, trauma, or post-surgical conditions.<sup>1,2</sup> Oxygen therapy can be given to critically ill patients hospitalized in pediatric ICU using different methods. High-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen therapy is a new treatment method that is being increasingly used in all age groups ranging from premature babies to adult patients in the world and our country.<sup>3,4</sup>

HFNC oxygen therapy is a method of delivering heated and humidified air, containing a high concentration of oxygen, to the patient at a specific flow rate through the nasal cannula. There is no universally accepted definition of minimum flow rate that defines the term "high flow". High flow rate is defined as  $\geq 2$  L/min in newborns, while it is accepted as  $\geq 4-6$  L/min for older children.<sup>5</sup> By delivering the heated and humidified oxygen at a high flow rate, the airway resistance and the dead space in the nasopharyngeal passage are reduced, ensuring sufficient inspiration and better gas exchange. In addition, heating and humidifying the air helps to establish effective mucociliary activity, prevent insensible fluid loss, and avert the energy loss required to warm the air. Another advantage of HFNC oxygen therapy is the positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) it creates in the airways. As a result of this effect, the development of atelectasis is prevented by providing sufficient functional residual capacity. However, as the PEEP created by the system is not measurable, it has been predicted that possible complications such as pneumothorax may occur due to high pressure.<sup>5,6</sup>

In recent years, the use of HFNC oxygen therapy in respiratory support in children has increased rapidly, particularly in ICUs. However, there is a small number of case reports and observational studies related to the use of this new method in pediatric ICU.<sup>1,7</sup> Questions such as the type of respiratory failure that will benefit from the treatment, the method to be chosen according to the severity of the patient, the complications of the method and its effectiveness in the case of additional chronic disease await response.

Therefore, randomized-controlled, prospective studies, including more patients, should be conducted.<sup>7</sup>

In this study, we aimed to evaluate the indications of HFNC oxygen therapy in pediatric ICU, to define the suitable patient profile, its effectiveness in patients with comorbidities, the necessity of intubation required during the application, the effect of the procedure on blood gas parameters, the duration of the application and the complications related to the HFNC oxygen therapy.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

Patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy in the pediatric ICU of SBU Haseki Training and Research Hospital between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017 were included in the study. The pediatric ICU has ten beds, ten ventilators and five HFNC devices. The HFNC oxygen therapy was delivered using a high-flow respiratory system (Vapotherm®, Exeter, NH, USA). The flow rate was set to 2L/kg/min. Fraction of inspired oxygen concentration (FiO<sub>2</sub>) was started as 100%, the oxygen saturation was kept between 92-97%, and the temperature of the given air was set as 36°C in all patients.

Demographic data, laboratory results, and radiological images of patients were analyzed retrospectively. The study was designed as a descriptive trial. Patients' age, gender, causes of hospitalization, type of respiratory failure, history of previous chronic diseases, blood gas parameters such as pH and pCO<sub>2</sub>, the method of oxygen delivery before and after HFNC oxygen therapy, need for invasive mechanical ventilation, duration of application, the length of stay in the pediatric ICU, complications that developed after HFNC oxygen therapy, and survival were recorded in a standardized form.

In terms of admission diagnosis, diseases such as bronchiolitis, acute asthma, and pneumonia involving the lung parenchyma were classified as lower respiratory tract diseases, and diseases causing narrowing of the upper airways such as croup (laryngotracheobronchitis) were classified as upper respiratory tract diseases. The presence of concomitant chronic disease in the patients was classified and recorded as chronic lung disease, congenital heart disease, congenital metabolic, genetic, and neurological/muscular

disorders and other diseases. The children were classified into two groups due to type of respiratory failure. Type 1 ARF (hypoxemic) is defined as a low level of oxygen with either a normal or low level of carbon dioxide. Type 2 ARF (hypercarbic) involves low oxygen with high carbon dioxide.

Since not all patients had arterial catheters, the results of capillary blood gas testing, a less invasive and more practical method for children, were determined. Therefore, PaO<sub>2</sub> values of blood gas samples were not evaluated. The pH and PCO<sub>2</sub> levels in the capillary blood gas before and four hours after the HFNC oxygen therapy were measured and recorded.

pH levels were classified as follows:

- a. Below 7.25;
- b. Between 7.25 - 7.35;
- c. Between 7.35 - 7.45;
- d. Between 7.45 - 7.55;
- e. Over 7.55, and

PCO<sub>2</sub> values were classified as

- a. Below 35 mm Hg;
- b. Between 35 - 45 mm Hg;
- c. Between 45 - 55 mm Hg;
- d. Between 55 - 65 mm Hg;
- e. Over 65 mm Hg

#### **Exclusion Criteria of the Patients**

The patients were excluded from the study, if:

1. The patient was delivered HFNC oxygen therapy in a place other than the pediatric ICU,
2. The patient used other oxygen delivery methods that can meet the definition of HFNC oxygen therapy (delivery of oxygen with a simple nasal cannula, application of nasal continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP),
3. The patient was intubated at admission and received HFNC oxygen therapy after extubation.

On the other hand, the patients who were intubated during HFNC oxygen therapy and those who received HFNC oxygen therapy after extubation were included in the study.

SBÜ Haseki Education and Research Hospital Clinical Research Ethics Committee approved the study with the number 01R/2018/23.01.2018.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

SPSS software (version 15.0; SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA) program was used for statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics were given as numbers and percentages for categorical variables and as mean, standard deviation, median, minimum, and maximum for numerical variables. If the numerical variables were not normally distributed, independent groups were compared using the Mann-Whitney U test. Categorical variables were analyzed using Chi-square Test and McNemar-Bowker Test. The statistical significance level of alpha was taken as p<0.05.

#### **RESULTS**

One hundred and four patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy were included in the study. The demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients are given in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Demographic and clinical characteristics of children who received HFNC.

Parameters	Mean (n=104)
Age (month), median (min-max)	5 (1-216)
Sex, (Male), % (n)	65.4 (68)
*Diagnosis (Lower respiratory tract diseases), n (%)	101 (97.1)
Chronic diseases	
Cardiac disease, % (n)	32.3 (31)
Neurologic/ muscular disease, % (n)	25.0 (24)
Lung disease, % (n)	15.6 (15)
Inborn errors of metabolism, % (n)	4.2 (4)
Other diseases, % (n)	12.5 (12)
Genetic disease, % (n)	10.4 (10)
Type of Respiratory failure	
Type 1 (Hypoxemic) respiratory failure, % (n)	52.9 (55)
Type 2 (Hypercapnic) respiratory failure, % (n)	47.1 (49)
Oxygen delivery method before HFNC	
Mask/nebul, % (n)	95.2 (99)
Duration of HFNC (hour), median (min-max)	48 (1-576)
Length of hospitalization (day), median (min-max)	7 (2-99)
Complications	
Pneumothorax, % (n)	1.9 (2)
Nasal injury, % (n)	8.7 (9)
Outcome (Mortality), % (n)	6.7 (7)

HFNC, High flow nasal cannula; CPAP, continuous positive airway pressure. Values are expressed as n (%) and median (min-max) \*More than one disease has been marked.

Sixty-eight (65.4%) of the patients were male and 36 (34.6%) were female. The median age was 5 (min.1-

max.216) months. Of 104 patients, 101 (97.1%) were diagnosed with a lower respiratory tract disease. The most common type of respiratory failure among the patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy was Type 1 (hypoxicemic) ARF (52.9%). Of patients, 62.5% had at least one concomitant chronic disease. The top three chronic diseases were congenital heart diseases (29.8%), neurological and/or muscular disorders (23.1%) and chronic lung diseases (14.4%).

The most common oxygen delivery methods before HFNC oxygen therapy were a simple oxygen mask or nebulizer mask (95.2%). The median length of stay in the pediatric ICU for those who received HFNC oxygen therapy due to respiratory failure was 7 (min.2-max.99) days. The median time of HFNC oxygen therapy was 48 (min.1-max.576)

**Table 2.** Progression of pCO<sub>2</sub> values in blood gas before HFNC and after the 4th hour of HFNC.

	pCO <sub>2</sub> (After 4 hours of HFNC)										Total	
	pCO <sub>2</sub> <35		35 ≤ pCO <sub>2</sub> ≤ 45		45 < pCO <sub>2</sub> < 55		55 ≤ pCO <sub>2</sub> < 65		pCO <sub>2</sub> ≥ 65			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
<b>pCO<sub>2</sub></b> <b>(Before HFNC)</b>	pCO <sub>2</sub> <35	3	50.0	3	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6
	35 ≤ pCO <sub>2</sub> ≤ 45	2	4.1	39	79.6	6	12.0	2	4.1	0	0.0	49
	45 < pCO <sub>2</sub> < 55	0	0.0	17	48.6	16	45.7	0	0.0	2	5.7	35
	55 ≤ pCO <sub>2</sub> < 65	0	0.0	1	10.0	5	50.0	3	30.0	1	10.0	10
	pCO <sub>2</sub> ≥ 65	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	4

p=0.075, according to McNemar-Bowker Test HFNC, High flow nasal cannula

**Table 3.** Progression of pH values in blood gas before HFNC and after the 4th hour of HFNC.

	pH (After 4 hours of HFNC)								Total	
	Ph <7.25		7.25 ≤ Ph < 7.35		7.35 ≤ Ph ≤ 7.45		7.45 < Ph ≤ 7.55			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
<b>pH</b> <b>(Before HFNC)</b>	Ph <7.25	0	0.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	0	0.0	5
	7.25 ≤ Ph < 7.35	2	5.7	12	34.3	21	60.0	0	0.0	35
	7.35 ≤ Ph ≤ 7.45	1	1.6	8	12.7	53	84.1	1	1.6	63
	Ph>7.55	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100	0	0.0	1

p=0.075, according to McNemar-Bowker Test HFNC, High flow nasal cannula

In 24 of 40 (60%) patients whose initial pH value was below 7.35, the pH values came within the physiological limits ( $7.35 \leq \text{pH} \leq 7.45$ ) after HFNC oxygen therapy. However, the pH values of 53 of 63 (84.1%) patients, who were within the normal range at the beginning, remained within limits, while pH decreased below 7.35 in 9 (14.3%) patients. There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of pH changes (p=0.075).

While 30 (28.8%) of the patients needed invasive mechanical ventilation during HFNC oxygen therapy, 64 (70.2%) of the patients showed clinical improvement and their treatment was continued with a simple oxygen mask. In our study, 21.8% of the patients with Type 1 (hypoxicemic) ARF and 36.7% of the patients with Type 2 (hypercapnic)

hours. When we compared the pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> levels in the capillary blood gases taken just before and 4 hours after HFNC oxygen therapy, we found that the pCO<sub>2</sub> value, which was initially above 45 mm Hg, returned to normal range ( $35 \leq \text{pCO}_2 \leq 45$  mm Hg) after therapy in 18 of 49 (36.7%) patients. On the other hand, pCO<sub>2</sub> values of 39 of 49 (79.6%) patients remained within the normal range, while the values exceeded 45 mm Hg in 8 (16.3%) patients following HFNC oxygen therapy. There was no statistically significant difference in pCO<sub>2</sub> changes between the two groups (p=0.075) (Table 2).

The changes in the pH value of the capillary blood gas taken at the beginning and 4 hours after the HFNC oxygen therapy are shown in Table 3.

ARF were intubated, as they were unable to tolerate HFNC oxygen therapy. The length of hospitalization showed no significant difference between patients with Type 1 ARF and Type 2 ARF (p>0.05).

Of these 30 patients who were intubated during HFNC oxygen therapy, 4 (13%) were extubated and kept on receiving HFNC; however, out of necessity, they had to be reintubated. Unfortunately, 23.3% (7) of the intubated patients died. We also examined the situations related to intubation during the HFNC oxygen therapy. In patients who were intubated during HFNC oxygen therapy, the proportions of having a chronic disease and chronic lung disease were significantly higher than those who were not intubated (p=0.001, p=0.033, respectively) (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Comparison of children's outcome due to intubation.

Parameters	Intubation			p
	Yes	No	n	
<b>Length of HFNC (hour), Mean±SD (min-max)</b>	31.6±32.1 (1-144)	92.7±105.6 (10-576)		<0.001
<b>Length of hospitalization (day) Mean,±SD (min-max)</b>	16.7±10.7 (3-40)	10.4±15.0 (2-99)		<0.001
	n	%	n	%
Lung disease	8	26.7	7	9.5
Cardiac disease	11	36.7	20	27.0
<b>*Chronic diseases</b>	Neurologic/ muscular disease	10	33.3	14
IEM	2	6.7	2	2.7
Genetic disease	4	13.3	6	8.1
Other diseases	4	13.3	8	10.8
<b>Diagnosis at admission</b>	Upper airway disease	0	0.0	3
	Lower airway disease	30	100	71
<b>Type of respiratory failure</b>	Type 1 (hypoxemic)	5	16.7	25
	Type 2 (hypercapnic)	25	83.3	49
				66.2

Values are mean (SD) or n (%) and (min-max) HFNC, High flow nasal cannula; IEM, Inborn errors of metabolism

\*More than one disease has been marked

**Table 5.** Evaluation of the factors that affected the survival in patients received HFNC

Parameters	Outcome				p
	Alive	Mortality	n	%	
<b>Length of HFNC Mean±SD (min-max)</b>	78.2±97.1 (1-576)	31.1±25.1 (2-62)			0.083
<b>Length of hospitalization Mean ±SD (min-max)</b>	12.7±14.6 (2-99)	5.9±3.0 (3-11)			0.182
	n	%	n	%	
<b>Chronic disease</b>	58	59.8	7	100.0	0.043
Lung disease	14	14.4	1	14.3	0.999
Cardiac disease	25	25.8	6	85.7	0.003
Neurologic/muscular disease	23	23.7	1	14.3	0.999
IEM	3	3.1	1	14.3	0.246
Genetic disease	9	9.3	1	14.3	0.518
Other diseases	12	12.4	0	0.0	0.999
<b>Diagnosis at admission</b>	Upper respiratory disease	3	3.1	0	0.0
	Lower respiratory disease	94	96.9	7	100.0
<b>Type of respiratory failure</b>	Type 1 (hypoxemic)	29	29.9	1	14.3
	Type 2 (hypercapnic)	68	70.1	6	85.7
<b>Oxygen therapy before HFNC</b>	None	5	5.2	0	0.0
	Nebul-face mask	92	94.8	7	100.0
	Ph <7.25	4	4.1	1	14.3
<b>pH (Before HFNC)</b>	7.25 ≤ Ph < 7.35	32	33.0	3	42.9
	7.35 ≤ Ph ≤ 7.45	60	61.9	3	42.9
	Ph>7.55	1	1.0	0	0.0
	PCO <sub>2</sub> <35	6	6.2	0	0.0
<b>PCO<sub>2</sub> (Before HFNC)</b>	35 ≤ PCO <sub>2</sub> ≤ 45	46	47.4	3	42.9
	45 < PCO <sub>2</sub> < 55	33	34.0	2	28.6
	55 ≤ PCO <sub>2</sub> < 65	9	9.3	1	14.3
	PCO <sub>2</sub> ≥65	3	3.1	1	14.3
<b>Complications</b>	Pneumothorax	2	2.1	0	0.0
	Nasal injury	9	9.3	0	0.0

Values are mean (SD) or n (%) and (min-max) HFNC, High flow nasal cannula

When we investigated the complications that developed during HFNC oxygen therapy, we found that 93 (89.4%) of the patients did not develop any complications, while 9 (8.7%) had skin damage in the nasal area, and 2 (1.9%) had pneumothorax.

The proportions of chronic diseases and congenital heart disease of the patients who were admitted to pediatric ICU and died after HFNC oxygen therapy were significantly higher than the survivors ( $p=0.043$ ,  $p=0.003$ , respectively) (Table 5). Among all patients, 6.7% of them died after being admitted to the pediatric ICU.

## DISCUSSION

In this retrospective descriptive study, we found that HFNC oxygen therapy has been widely used in type 2 ARF as often as type 1 ARF. One of the most important steps in the treatment approach to ARF is oxygen therapy. Oxygen delivered under appropriate conditions and with proper methods not only accelerates the healing process of the disease but also reduces mortality and morbidity by preventing the worsening of the current situation.<sup>8</sup>

Recently, many invasive and non-invasive methods have been developed regarding the method of oxygen delivery. Non-invasive methods are preferred as much as possible because invasive methods extend the duration of hospital stay and are more susceptible to the development of complications.<sup>1,9</sup> It has been emphasized that in order to get the most benefit from the oxygen to be delivered, it should be humidified, heated and given the concentration that the patient required.<sup>5,10,11</sup> In addition, considering that the flow rate of the supplied air can also increase the efficacy of the treatment, high-flow oxygen delivery methods have been developed.<sup>1,7</sup>

HFNC oxygen therapy is an oxygen delivery method that is being increasingly used in various age groups and in in-patient pediatric wards, emergency departments and ICUs.<sup>3,4</sup> Even though it is frequently used, the number of studies investigating its indications, efficacy and safety has not reached the desired level yet. In our study, HFNC oxygen therapy was used in all pediatric age groups ranging between 1-216 months who were admitted to the pediatric ICU. It has been shown that HFNC oxygen therapy can be

used effectively in children with pneumonia, bronchiolitis, asthma, cardiogenic and pulmonary edema.<sup>7,12,13</sup> Most of our patients had lower respiratory tract infections, depending on the unit where the study was conducted. If the study was planned in the emergency department, upper respiratory tract infections might be the leading disease. It has been reported that the HFNC oxygen therapy can increase the success proportion of treatment for ARF, especially if it is given in the early period.<sup>3,14</sup> Although some studies have shown its benefits after extubation, exacerbation of chronic respiratory failure, and Type 1 (hypoxemic) respiratory failure, the studies on the efficacy of HFNC oxygen therapy in children with ARF is limited.<sup>15</sup> Our study group consisted of both Type 1 and Type 2 ARF. There were studies on the use of HFNC oxygen therapy in cases of hypoxemic (Type 1) ARF.<sup>1,6,7</sup> HFNC oxygen therapy has been shown favorable benefits in adults, though there was no strong evidence about the utility of HFNC for type 1 ARF in children.<sup>16</sup> The results of our study also showed that HFNC could be beneficial in the cases of hypercapnic (Type 2) ARF in children. Accordingly, prospective, randomized-controlled trials which will investigate the efficacy of HFNC oxygen therapy on Type 2 ARF and concomitant diseases in pediatric patients are needed.<sup>17</sup>

Studies have shown that HFNC oxygen therapy reduces the need for intubation by 8-19% in patients with ARF.<sup>17,18</sup> Another study has reported the proportion of intubation as 20% in patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy due to ARF.<sup>15</sup> The patients with Type 1 and Type 2 ARF have been shown no significant difference according to intubation proportions and length of hospitalization in our study. A study of adult patients with hypoxemic respiratory failure found higher partial pressure of oxygen (PO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations when managed with HFNC compared with oxygen delivery using a face mask.<sup>19</sup> At this point, close monitoring seems an essential component of the proper use of HFNC.

It has been reported that 78.7% of patients, who underwent non-invasive ventilation, had a concomitant chronic disease, and the most common comorbidities were chronic neurological, neuromuscular and congenital metabolic disorders and congenital heart diseases.<sup>9</sup> In a study of Yurtseven and Saz, 53% of patients had chronic diseases,

and the most common one was neuromuscular disease. We also found similar proportions in our study, except cardiac diseases were in the first place. They reported that there were not statistical differences between patients, who have a chronic disease or not, in treatment failure and intubation proportion.<sup>20</sup> Unlike their study, we demonstrated that in patients who were intubated due to failure of HFNC oxygen therapy, chronic lung disease was the most common. Therefore, we can suggest that one should not be insistent on HFNC oxygen therapy in children with chronic lung disease and that non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation should be started earlier.

Blood gas monitoring is considered to be one of the most important parameters in the assessment of respiratory support, especially in evaluating the efficacy of the administered oxygen. Baudin et al.<sup>21</sup> mentioned that HFNC improved pH and PCO<sub>2</sub> levels in children aged between 1-18 years old. Oto et al.<sup>15</sup> have used HFNC oxygen therapy in 50 patients admitted to the pediatric ICU due to hypoxicemic ARF. They have shown that the treatment has significantly decreased the heart and respiratory rates of the patients. The levels of sPO<sub>2</sub> have decreased between the baseline and 30-minute, but they have remained similar between the 30<sup>th</sup> minute and the 12<sup>th</sup> hour.<sup>15</sup> They have not reported any significant changes in pH, PaCO<sub>2</sub>, paO<sub>2</sub>, SBP, and DBP values of the patients.<sup>15</sup> Testa et al.<sup>17</sup> have compared the conventional oxygen therapy with HFNC oxygen therapy in a group of 89 pediatric patients that underwent cardiac surgery, and they have reported that there was no difference between the two groups in terms of PaCO<sub>2</sub> values and re-intubation rates, while PaO<sub>2</sub> values were higher in the HFNC oxygen therapy group. In our study, we showed that the patients whose pCO<sub>2</sub> values were closer to the physiological limit returned to normal more frequently after the HFNC oxygen therapy. Even though there was no statistically significant difference, we found that pH values were improved after HFNC oxygen therapy. Prospective studies involving a larger number of patients may help classify patients according to their age and chronic disease so that blood gas parameters can be used to determine which patients will benefit from treatment.

In studies showing the beneficial effects of HFNC oxygen therapy, the complications have not been mentioned adequately. Capan et al.<sup>18</sup> have reported a case of pneumothorax who received HFNC oxygen therapy due to respiratory failure. Hegde et al.<sup>22</sup> have published three cases in which pneumothorax and pneumomediastinum developed, and one patient was lost during HFNC oxygen therapy. Koksoy et al.<sup>9</sup> have reported a case of pneumothorax in one of fourteen patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy. Inappropriate use of nasal cannula, inadequate sedation, and patient's adaptation problems have been suggested as the causes of these complications.<sup>9,18,22</sup> Another study has reported that, when compared to nasal CPAP, HFNC oxygen therapy did not make a significant difference in terms of complications such as treatment failure, pneumothorax, intraventricular bleeding, and acidosis.<sup>23</sup> In our study, we detected pneumothorax and skin damage in the nasal area in a few patients. None of the patients died due to complications of HFNC oxygen therapy. Close monitoring in ICU and early intervention (e.g., intubation and chest tube) before clinical deterioration may have prevented death due to complications, such as pneumothorax. Lin et al.<sup>24</sup> reported that there had been no differences in length of hospitalization, duration of oxygen therapy, intubation rate, and adverse events between children who received HFNC or other oxygen therapies. Another study showed that using HFNC oxygen therapy has increased the pediatric ICU stay.<sup>25</sup> In our study the length of pediatric ICU stay was widely distributed due to the characteristics of the patients.

Mortality is higher in patients with metabolic acidosis (pH<7.25) and hypercarbia (PaCO<sub>2</sub>>65 mmHg). This suggests that other invasive and non-invasive respiratory support methods should be considered primarily in patients with significant acidosis and high PaCO<sub>2</sub> values instead of HFNC.

There were some limitations in this study. This was a small retrospective, descriptive study that evaluated the data of patients who received HFNC oxygen therapy in our pediatric ICU only in the past two years. Due to the study nature, we could not compare the HFNC oxygen therapy with other therapy options.

The results of HFNC oxygen therapy, which is being increasingly used in the treatment of ARF in children, are generally satisfactory. However, due to possible complications of nasal skin damage and pneumothorax, close monitoring is required during the application. Further trials might focus on the development and validation of models with traits predicting success or failure of HFNC in children, aiding earlier recognition of those likely to succeed or require invasive ventilation.

### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: OB, SB, ME. Data Collection and/or Processing: OB, SB. Data analysis and interpretation: OB, SB, ME. Literature Search: OB, SB. Drafting manuscript: OB, SB. Critical revision of the manuscript: OB, SB, ME. Supervision: OB, SB, ME.

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## Choice of Approach in Hemiarthroplasty For Intertrochanteric Femur Fractures: Anterolateral or Posterolateral?

### İntertrokantik Femur Kırıkları Tedavisinde Hemiarthroplastide Yaklaşım Seçimi: Anterolateral ya da Posterolateral?

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Kalça kırıklarında hemiarthroplasti uygulanurken hem anterolateral hem de posterolateral sık tercih edilen yaklaşılardandır. Bu yaklaşımın birbirlerine üstünlikleri tam olarak anlaşılmamış değildir. Bu çalışmada intertrokanterik femur kırığı olan hastalara hemiarthroplasti uygulamasında anterolateral ve posterolateral yaklaşımı karşılaştırmayı amaçladık.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** AO tip 31-A1, A2 ve A3 proksimal femur kırığı olan 79 hasta iki gruba ayrıldı. Grup 1'deki 38 hastaya anterolateral yaklaşım ile, grup 2'deki 41 hastaya posterolateral yaklaşım ile hemiarthroplasti uygulandı. Demografik bulgular, ameliyat sırasında kan kaybı miktarı, ameliyat süresi, hastanede yediş süresi, ameliyat sonrası kan replasman miktarı, ameliyat sırası ve sonrası komplikasyonlar, ameliyat sonrası mobilizasyon süresi, ameliyat öncesi ve sonrası serum hemoglobin değerleri, Harris kalça skoru (HKS) ve Likert ağrı skoru değerlendirildirildi.

**Bulgular:** Yaş, cinsiyet, vücut kitle indeksi ve kırık tiplerinde grupları arası anlamlı fark saptanmadı ( $p=0.356$ ,  $p=0.981$ ,  $p=0.343$ ,  $p=0.631$ ). Ortalama ameliyat sırasında kan kaybı 1. grupta 413.15 ml iken 2. grupta 475.60 ml idi ( $p=0.012$ ). Benzer şekilde ameliyat sonrası ortalama kan transfüzyon miktarı 1. grupta 0.94 ünite iken, 2. grupta 1.95 ünitesiydi ( $p<0.001$ ). HKS ve likert ağrı skorları son kontrolde her iki grupta benzerdi ( $p=0.567$ ,  $p=0.388$ ).

**Sonuç:** İntertrokantik kalça kırıklarında anterolateral ve posterolateral yaklaşım benzer ve kabul edilebilir klinik skorlara sahip yaklaşımlardır. Daha az ameliyat sırasında kan kaybı ve ameliyat sonrası transfüzyon miktarı açısından anterolateral yaklaşım daha avantajlı görülmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** anterolateral; artroplasti; cerrahi yaklaşım; kalça eklemi; posterolateral

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Both anterolateral and posterolateral approaches are commonly chosen for hemiarthroplasty in hip fractures. The superiority of these approaches to each other is not well understood. In this study, we aimed to compare the outcomes of posterolateral and anterolateral approaches in hip hemiarthroplasty for intertrochanteric hip fractures.

**Materials and Methods:** 79 patients who had AO type 31-A1, 31-A2 and 31-A3 fractures were divided into two groups: 38 patients in group I underwent anterolateral approach, and 41 patients in group II underwent posterolateral approach. Demographic findings, intraoperative blood loss, operation duration, hospital stay duration, blood transfusion amount, intraoperative and postoperative complications, postoperative mobilization time, preoperative and postoperative serum hemoglobin values, Harris Hip Score, and Likert pain scales were all assessed.

**Results:** There was no significant difference between the groups in terms of age, gender, BMI and AO fracture types, respectively ( $p=0.356$ ,  $p=0.981$ ,  $p=0.343$ ,  $p=0.631$ ). The mean intraoperative blood loss amount in Group I and II were 413.15 ml ( $SD\pm96.34$ ) and 475.60 ml ( $SD\pm117.32$ ), respectively ( $p=0.012$ ). Compatible with this result, the mean postoperative blood transfusion unit in Group I and II were 0.94 units ( $SD\pm0.86$ ) and 1.95 unit ( $SD\pm1.02$ ), respectively ( $p<0.001$ ). HHS and Likert scores following both techniques were statistically similar between both groups ( $p=0.567$ ,  $p=0.388$ , respectively).

**Conclusion:** Our results show that hemiarthroplasty with both anterolateral and posterolateral approaches are viable treatments for intertrochanteric femur fractures, yielding similar clinical outcomes and complication rates. Less intraoperative blood loss and postoperative transfusion rates make the anterolateral approach more favorable compared to the posterolateral approach.

**Keywords:** anterolateral; arthroplasty; hip joint; posterolateral; surgical approach

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## INTRODUCTION

Many various surgical approaches for hip arthroplasty, such as hemiarthroplasty, have been described in the literature.<sup>1,2</sup> Direct anterior, anterolateral, direct lateral and posterolateral approaches were identified. There is often confusion in naming these approaches. The two most commonly used approaches are the anterolateral (modified Watson-Jones) and the posterolateral (Moore, Gibson, or posterior).<sup>3,4</sup> Ganz and Weber reported that the anterolateral approach was first described by von Sprengel and Bardenheuer.<sup>5</sup> Bauer et al., Watson-Jones, Harris, Muller and Charnley all modified this approach.<sup>1,4,6-8</sup> Intermuscular planes between the tensor fascia lata and gluteus medius are used by this approach. Superior gluteal nerve innervates these muscles. Relaxing of the abductor mechanism and adequate acetabular exposure can be achieved by either a trochanteric osteotomy or a partial detachment of the gluteus medius and minimus off the greater trochanter.<sup>8</sup> The posterior approach was first described by Von Langenbeck and then Kocher according to Mehlman et al.<sup>9</sup> Gluteus maximus is passed split at posterior to the gluteus medius and minimus without cutting them.<sup>10</sup> After that, detaching the short external rotators (piriformis, superior and inferior genelli, and obturator internus) from trochanter major and dividing the posterior hip capsule is performed. The direct anterior approach uses interval between tensor fascia lata and sartorius, and a decreased dislocation rate is obtained when compared to the posterior approach. Direct lateral approach splits gluteus medius and vastus lateralis, and violation of abductor mechanism is a disadvantage. However, this approach allows access to both anterior and posterior hip joints without osteotomy.

Which surgical approach is superior for hemiarthroplasty after hip fracture is still subject to debate. Both approaches have merits and limitations. A previous study reported that there were no differences in Oxford hip score and dislocation or revision rates between the two approaches.<sup>2</sup> Yue et al. reported faster recovery with anterior approach compared to posterolateral approach.<sup>11</sup> There are limited studies comparing posterolateral and anterolateral approaches in hip hemiarthroplasty for intertrochanteric hip fractures. In this study, we aimed to compare the

outcomes of posterolateral and anterolateral approaches in hip hemiarthroplasty for intertrochanteric hip fractures.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

After Kırşehir Ahi Evran University ethics committee approval (Approval date, number: 18/05/2021, 2021-09/106), the medical records of 175 patients who underwent hemiarthroplasty between June 2018 and January 2020 with hip fractures were evaluated retrospectively. Of these, 76 patients were excluded because they either had an intracapsular femur fracture or subtrochanteric fracture. Also, 20 patients with pathological fractures, previous contralateral hip fractures, and reverse oblique fractures were excluded from the study. Finally, 79 patients who had AO type 31-A1 and 31-A2 fractures were included in the study. Patients were divided into two groups: 38 patients in group I underwent hemiarthroplasty with anterolateral approach, and in group II, 41 patients underwent hemiarthroplasty with posterolateral approach. The 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later updates were followed while performing this study.

Inclusion criteria of this study were patients who were older than 18 years old, had a proximal femur fracture of AO type 31-A1 and A2, underwent primary hemiarthroplasty, and had a minimum 12 months follow-up.

Excluded patients were patients with pathologic fractures, presence of previous ipsilateral and/or contralateral hip surgery, patients under 18 years old, follow-up period less than 12 months, who underwent revision arthroplasty, patients with multiple fractures and presence of ipsilateral neurological deficit.

All operations were performed by one experienced surgeon with the same surgical technique except the choice of surgical approach under general or regional anaesthesia. In Group 1, anterolateral hip approach was applied. At the center of the trochanter major, an approximately 14-15 cm incision was made. After passing fascia lata, the adhesion point of the gluteus medius to the anterior trochanter major was partially separated. After exposure of the capsule, the hip joint was reached with a T-shaped opening. The

femoral head was dislocated to the anterior side. In group 2, posterolateral hip approach was applied. With this approach, a curved incision was made behind the trochanter through the skin and fascia. The gluteus maximus was bluntly dissected alongside the fibers. The short external rotators were released, and the joint capsule was identified. A capsulectomy was performed, and the joint was assessed. The prosthesis was implanted, and the posterior structures were resutured. After implantation, joint capsules were sutured with absorbable sutures at both approaches. For displaced trochanters, according to displacement amount and bone quality, trochanters were secured by one or more cables. Preoperative and postoperative x-ray views of a patient are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Preoperative and postoperative x-ray images of a patient. A: preoperative, B: postoperative

Under the supervision of a physiotherapist, full weight-bearing mobilization on the first postoperative day was performed on all patients. Flexion beyond 90 degrees, adduction and internal rotation of the operated hip were avoided following operation at least 6 weeks. After the postoperative 1st day, hip, knee, ankle joint range of motion exercises were started. The same rehabilitation protocol was applied to all patients.

Age, gender, body mass index, fracture classification according to AO,<sup>12</sup> intraoperative blood loss (measured the amount of blood which is collected at the container of aspirator), operation duration, hospital stay duration, blood transfusion amount (blood transfusion was performed to patients who had serum hemoglobin value less than 10 g/dL), intraoperative and postoperative complications,

intensive care requirement, postoperative mobilization time, preoperative and postoperative serum hemoglobin values and follow-up time were all assessed.

At the last follow-up, for the functional evaluation of patients, Harris Hip Score (HHS)<sup>13</sup> was used. A 4-point Likert scale was used for pain measurement. (0=none, 1=mild, 2=moderate, or 3=severe).<sup>14</sup>

### Statistical Analysis

The mean ± Standard Deviation (SD) was used in the presentation of descriptive statistics. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used for the evaluation of the distribution of variables. The Chi-Square test and Student t-test were used in the comparison between groups. A P-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. All statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS for Windows, version 24 (SPSS Inc, Chicago IL, USA).

## RESULTS

Table 1 presents the general patient demographics, disease-specific characteristics and some of the outcomes of the 79 patients included in this study (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Demographic and disease-specific characteristics of the patients

Variable	Entire Study Population	Group 1	Group 2	p
Patient number, n (%)	79 (100)	38 (48.1)	41 (51.9)	0.431
Age, year, SD	81.36±7.25	80.57± 6.88	82.09± 7.59	0.356
Gender, n (%)				
Female	50 (63.3)	24 (63.2)	26 (63.4)	0.981
Male	29(36.7)	14 (36.8)	15 (36.6)	
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> , SD	26.67±4.44	26.18± 4.25	27.13± 4.62	0.343
AO fracture classification, n (%)				
A2-1	29 (36.7)	16 (42.1)	13 (31.7)	
A2-2	23 (29.1)	10 (26.3)	13 (31.7)	0.631
A2-3	27 (34.2)	12 (31.6)	15 (36.6)	
Surgery duration, minutes, SD	62.46± 9.73	63.81± 10.02	61.21± 9.40	0.239
Postoperative hospital stay, days, SD	8.31± 5.15	7.76± 3.80	8.82± 6.15	0.362
Intraoperative blood loss, ml, SD	445.56± 111.57	413.15 ±	475.60 ±	0.012
Postoperative blood transfusion, unit, SD	1.46± 1.07	0.94± 0.86	1.95± 1.02	<0.001
Follow-up time, months, SD	33.09± 12.63	29.42± 12.29	32.15± 12.26	0.590
Postoperative mobilization, day, SD	1.75± 0.85	1.78± 0.96	1.71± 0.73	0.689

Abbreviations: SD standard deviation, p<0.05 was defined as significant and defined in bold

The mean follow-up period in Group I and II were 29.42 months (SD 22.29) and 32.15 months (SD 22.26), respectively ( $p=590$ ). There was no significant difference between the groups in terms of age, gender, BMI and AO fracture types, respectively ( $p=0.356$ ,  $p=0.981$ ,  $p=0.343$ ,  $p=0.631$ ). The mean intraoperative blood loss amount in Group I and II were 413.15 ml (SD 96.34) and 475.60 ml (SD 117.32), respectively ( $p=0.012$ ). Compatible with this result, the mean postoperative blood transfusion units in Group I and II were 0.94 unit (SD 0.86) and 1.95 unit (SD 1.02), respectively ( $p<0.001$ ).

Table 2 presents intraoperative and postoperative complications for both groups.

**Table 2.** Intraoperative and postoperative complications

Complications	Entire Study Population	Group 1	Group 2	
Intraoperative complications n, (%)	3	0	3	0.089
Trochanter major fracture	3 (3.8)	0 (0)	3 (7.3)	
Postoperative complications n, (%)	17	5	12	
Infection	6 (7.6)	3 (7.9)	3 (7.3)	
Loosening	4 (5.1)	0 (0)	4 (9.8)	
Protrusion	1 (1.3)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)	0.165
Dislocation	2 (2.5)	1 (2.6)	1 (2.4)	
Trochanter major fracture	2 (2.5)	0 (0)	2 (4.9)	
Pulmonary embolus	2 (2.5)	0 (0)	2 (4.9)	

Abbreviations: SD standard deviation,  $p<0.05$  was defined as significant and defined in bold

All postoperative infections were superficial and treated with surgical debridement and intravenous antibiotics. No implant-related infection was seen. Complication rates were statistically similar between the two groups (Table 2).

Harris hip score, Likert pain score, mobilization time after the operation, and preoperative and postoperative serum hemoglobin differences were reported in Table 3. All clinical outcomes were statistically similar between groups (Table 3). 5 (13.2%) patients in group I and 7 (17.1%) patients in group II were followed at intensive care unit at postoperative term, and results were not statistically significant ( $p=0.628$ ).

**Table 3.** Clinical score, mobilization time and hemoglobin difference outcomes

Clinical score	Entire Study Population	Group 1	Group 2	p
Harris Hip Score, SD	77.24± 11.80	76.45± 14.59	78.05± 8.14	0.567
Likert Pain Score, SD	1.79± 0.64	1.72± 0.69	1.86± 0.59	0.388
Hgb difference, mg/dL, SD	1.39± 1.12	1.22± 0.96	1.54± 1.25	0.209

Abbreviations: SD standard deviation, hgb hemoglobin,  $p<0.05$  was defined as significant and defined in bold

## DISCUSSION

The most important finding of this study was that clinical scores and complication rates were not significantly different in patients undergoing hemiarthroplasty with anterolateral and posterolateral approaches for intertrochanteric femur fractures. Only intraoperative blood loss and postoperative blood transfusion rates were different between groups. Both parameters were significantly higher in patients with the posterolateral approach. There was no difference between the two groups regarding gender, BMI, age, fracture pattern according to AO, surgical duration, postoperative hospital stay, postoperative mobilization day. Trochanter major fracture occurred during operation at three patients in group 2, although none of the patients had this kind of fracture, and the difference was statistically insignificant. Likert pain scores and HHS values at the last follow-up were higher in group 2, but differences were insignificant.

Hardinge described the direct lateral approach to the hip in 1982.<sup>15</sup> Adequate exposure of hip joint is provided by this approach, and postoperative dislocation rates were reported as very low.<sup>16,17</sup> Moore popularized posterior/posterolateral approach to hip in 1950.<sup>3,4</sup> Popularity of posterolateral approach increased year by year. Adequate exposure to the hip region and protection of adductor muscles during exposure are obtained. Sciatic nerve has to be protected, and external rotator muscles and posterior capsule have to be repaired.<sup>17</sup>

It was reported by many previous studies that preserving posterior joint capsule and posterior soft tissue envelope with non-posterior approaches reduces hip dislocation rates. The main advantage of anterior approach is reported not to damage the posterior capsule and short external rotator muscles.<sup>17,18</sup> We found one dislocation in both

approach groups. We did not find similar rates to the literature. We think that meticulous capsular repair and transosseous fixation of short external rotator muscles might reduce dislocations, and similar dislocation rates were found in both groups in our study.

One of the most important risks of posterolateral approach is sciatic nerve injury, and it is reported as 0.6% to 3.7% in the literature<sup>19</sup>. However, due to the anterior retractor replacement, femoral nerve injury may occur with anterolateral approach. Also, superior gluteal nerve palsy can occur during the direct lateral approach to hip as it is about 5 cm proximal to the greater trochanter<sup>20</sup>. In our study, no nerve injury occurred in the two groups. Greater sample size may give more accurate results regarding complications related to nerve injuries.

It was reported that muscle sparing and less soft tissue<sup>19</sup> literature properties of anterior approach lead to less blood loss and shorter hospital stay.<sup>17,21</sup> In modified Hardinge or anterolateral approach which we applied, this outcome was not seen as compared to posterior approach in the literature.<sup>18</sup> Our study did not confirm this finding. We found that intraoperative blood loss and postoperative blood transfusion rates were significantly higher in patients with posterolateral approach. A more extended approach and dissection of short external rotator muscles may lead to this result.

Likert pain scores and HHS values at the last follow-up were higher in group 2, but differences were insignificant. Our findings are similar to the literature about approaches for hemiarthroplasty;<sup>17,18</sup> however, there is no previous study that compares both approaches for intertrochanteric fractures.

Some limitations are present: patients were not randomized but rather applied hemiarthroplasty with anterolateral or posterolateral approaches after consulting with the senior author, which may have influenced our results due to selection bias. Randomization may give more reliable results. Follow-up time is relatively short, and this shortness may affect the results. The small sample size may also limit the reliability of results for a larger population. Another limitation is the retrospective nature

of the study. Randomized controlled prospective studies may be better.

Our results show that hemiarthroplasty with both anterolateral and posterolateral approaches are viable treatments for intertrochanteric femur fractures, yielding similar clinical outcomes and complication rates. Less intraoperative blood loss and postoperative transfusion rates make anterolateral approach more favorable compared with posterolateral approach.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: MY, GE, MÖ. Data Collection and/or Processing: MY, GE, MÖ. Data analysis and interpretation: MY, GE, MÖ. Literature Search: MY, GE. Drafting manuscript: GE, MÖ. Critical revision of manuscript: GE. Supervision: MY.

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## Investigation of Outer Hair Cell Function of the Cochlea in Psoriasis Patients

### Psöriazis Hastalarında Koklear Dış Tüp Hücre Fonksiyonunun Araştırılması

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Psöriazis, T hücre aracılı sistemik bir hastalık olarak kabul edilmektedir ve sistemik inflamatur yanıt immun sistem aracılı işitme kaybına neden olabilir. Çalışmamızda, psöriazis hastalarında koklear fonksiyonunun göstergesi olan otoakustik emisyon (OAE) ölçümlü ile hastalık süre ve şiddeti ile arasında bir ilişki olup olmadığını değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Çalışmaya psöriasis tanılı 44 hasta dahil edildi. Kontrol grubu 35 sağlıklı gönüllüden oluşturuldu. Hastaların yaşı, cinsiyeti, hastalık başlangıç yaşı ve süresi, aile öyküsü ve ek hastalıkları sorgulandı ve psöriazis alan şiddet indeksi (PASI) hesaplandı. Odyolojik ve otolojik değerlendirmeler yapıldı. Distortion Product Otoakustik Emisyon (DPOAE) 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000 ve 10000 Hz frekanslarında ölçüldü.

**Bulgular:** 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000 ve 10000 Hz'deki DPOAE değerleri karşılaştırıldığında hasta grubu ile sağlıklı gönüllüler arasında anlamlı fark yoktu. PASI skoru ile 1000 Hz'deki SNR değeri arasında ( $p=0.031$ ) ve hastalık süresi ile 4000 ve 6000 Hz'deki DPAOE değerleri arasında (sırasıyla  $p=0.033$ ,  $p=0.038$  anlamlı fark bulundu).

**Sonuç:** Psöriazisin uzun süreli, kronik sistemik bir hastalık olduğu göz önüne alındığında, hastaların erken dönemde işitme yakınlaması olmasa dahi yakından takip edilmesi önemlidir ve hastalığın süresi ve şiddeti arttıkça hastaların işitme duyusu etkilenebilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** dış tüp hücreleri; otoakustik emisyon; koklea; psöriazis

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Psoriasis has been accepted as a T-cell mediated systemic disease and systemic inflammation may also cause immune-mediated hearing loss. We aimed to evaluate cochlear function with otoacoustic emission (OAE) measurement in psoriasis patients and to evaluate whether there is a relationship between duration and severity of the disease and OAEs.

**Materials and Methods:** Forty-four patients diagnosed with psoriasis were included in the study. The control group consisted of 35 healthy volunteers. The patients' age, gender, onset age, family history, disease duration, and additional diseases were questioned, and psoriasis area severity index (PASI) was calculated. Audiological and otological evaluations were performed. Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emission (DPOAE) were measured at 500, 1000, 2,000, 4,000, 6000, 8000 and 10000 Hz frequencies.

**Results:** There was no significant difference in DPOAE values at 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000, and 10000 Hz between healthy volunteers and psoriasis patients. There was a significant difference between PASI score and SNR value at 1000 Hz ( $p=0.031$ ), disease duration, and DPAOE values at 4000 and 6000 Hz ( $p=0.033$ ,  $p=0.038$  respectively)

**Conclusion:** Considering that psoriasis is a long-term, chronic systemic disease, patients should be follow-up closely even if they do not have hearing complaints in the early period, and as the duration and severity of the disease increases, the hearing of the patients may be affected.

**Keywords:** cochlea; otoacoustic emission; outer hair cell; psoriasis

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## INTRODUCTION

Psoriasis, which can be seen at any age, is a life-long disease that affects the quality of life negatively by significantly impairing physical and psychosocial health.<sup>1-3</sup> In recent years, it has been recognized as a T-cell mediated systemic disease. T cells are responsible for the release of inflammatory cytokines, and this systemic inflammation may also cause immune-mediated hearing loss.<sup>4</sup>

Kemp has proven for the first time that the cochlea is not only an organ that receives sound but also produces acoustic energy.<sup>5</sup> These sounds obtained by a probe placed in the external auditory canal are called otoacoustic emissions (OAE). Outer hair cells in the cochlea are highly susceptible to damage due to exogenous factors. Otoacoustic emissions are an ideal, non-invasive and objective instrument that measures the function of outer hair cells.<sup>6</sup>

Inner ear involvement can be seen in all systemic autoimmune diseases. However, studies evaluating cochlear function and high-pitched frequency hearing loss in psoriasis are extremely rare.

Therefore, in our study, we aimed to evaluate cochlear function with otoacoustic emission measurement in psoriasis patients and to evaluate whether there is a relationship between the duration and severity of the disease and OAEs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Forty-four patients who presented to the dermatology department and were diagnosed with psoriasis and 35 healthy controls between July 2020 and February 2021 were included in this prospective controlled study. Ethics committee approval was received from the ethics committee of Adiyaman University (23.06.2020-2020/6-46). After a detailed explanation of the study, informed consent was obtained from each patient.

The patients' age, gender, onset age, family history, disease duration, smoking habit and alcohol consumption, medical treatments, and additional diseases were questioned. Psoriasis area severity index (PASI) was calculated by a dermatologist. Patients with other autoimmune skin diseases were excluded.

Audiological and otological evaluations were performed by an otolaryngologist. Patients were examined otoscopically, and those with normal ear examinations were included in the study. Exclusion criteria were congenital ear anomaly, history of temporal bone fracture and cranial trauma, reported hearing loss, ototoxic drug usage, noise exposure, acute or chronic otitis media and otitis externa, previous ear surgery. Appropriate ear probes were placed in the external ear canal. A sensitive microphone and two different speakers were used for frequencies of f1 and f2. The results were presented at 500, 1000, 2,000, 4,000, 6000, 8000, and 10000 Hz frequencies and Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emission (DPOAE) and Signal Noise Ratio (SNR) were measured.

## Statistical Analysis

All of the data obtained were analyzed by Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, version 22.0 for Windows (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Number, percentage, median, maximum, minimum, mean, and standard deviation values were used in descriptive statistic methods. When investigating the normal distribution of variables, the Shapiro-Wilk test was used due to the number of units. While examining the differences between the groups, T-Test was used if the variables displayed a normal distribution, and Mann Whitney U-Test was utilized if the variables did not have a normal distribution. Chi-Square Test was used for qualitative variables. The Spearman Correlation Test was used for the relationship between PASI score and DPOAE test, psoriasis duration and DPOAE test. A p-value below 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

The psoriasis group comprised 44 patients (17 male and 27 female). The mean age of the psoriasis group was 39,29 years (range 18-71years). The healthy control group comprised 13 males and 22 females. The mean age of the control group was 38.82 years (range 18-69 years). There was no statistically significant difference between the ages and genders of the groups ( $p=0.897$ ,  $p=0.987$  respectively) (Table 1).

Family history was present in 12 patients (27%), and the PASI score was  $9.75\pm6.20$ . Disease duration was

8.70±5.73 years, and disease onset age was 31±11.53 years. Nine patients had arthritis (20.5%), and 21 patients had nail involvement (47.7%).

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of psoriasis patients and healthy controls

Characteristics	Psoriasis Group	Control Group	P-value
Age (mean ± SD) years	39.29 ±16.65	38.82 ± 15.12	.897 <sup>a</sup>
Sex (male/female)	17/27	13/22	.987 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>T test, <sup>b</sup>Chi-square test

Otoscopic examinations of all participants were normal, and all were questioned in terms of vestibular symptoms, but none had vestibular complaints. There was no significant difference between the DPOAE and SNR values at 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000, and 10000 Hz with healthy controls ( $p>0.05$ ) (Table 2). There was a significant difference between PASI score and SNR value at 1000 Hz ( $p=0.031$ ), disease duration, and DPAOE values at 4000 and 6000 Hz ( $p=0.033$ ,  $p=0.038$  respectively) (Table 3).

**Table 2.** Comparison of DPAOE and SNR values in psoriasis patients and healthy controls

Frequency (Hz)	Right ear		p-value	Left ear		p-value
	Psoriasis n = 44	Control n = 35		Psoriasis n = 44	Control n = 35	
500 SNR	2.02 ± 5.92	1.56 ± 4.85	0.703 <sup>a</sup>	4.34±5.69	2.21±6.45	0.113 <sup>a</sup>
500 DP	8.82 ± 8.14	8.36 ± 9.89	0.821 <sup>a</sup>	10.5 (0-29)	8(-10-28)	0.090 <sup>b</sup>
1000 SNR	7.50 (-11-22)	11 (-13-33)	0.181 <sup>b</sup>	7.30±9.12	9.46±7.57	0.246 <sup>a</sup>
1000 DP	8.00 (-20-19)	9.0(-11-21)	0.698 <sup>b</sup>	6.73 ± 9.04	8.10±7.68	0.461 <sup>a</sup>
2000 SNR	12.55±8.05	12.38±8.89	0.931 <sup>a</sup>	12.27±9.96	13.03±8.81	0.718 <sup>a</sup>
2000 DP	6.02±8.00	6.18±8.46	0.931 <sup>a</sup>	5.61±9.38	6.69±8.69	0.590 <sup>a</sup>
4000 SNR	9.52 ± 7.08	9.38±7.47	0.931 <sup>a</sup>	10 (-17-25)	11.0(-10-25)	0.541 <sup>a</sup>
4000 DP	-4.50 ± 5.81	-3.72 ± 7.35	0.590 <sup>a</sup>	- 4.66±8,67	-4.85±6.37	0.912 <sup>a</sup>
6000 SNR	5(-12-19)	7.0(-19-27)	0.866	4.57±7.49	4.82±6.73	0.873 <sup>a</sup>
6000 DP	6.25±5.90	5.74±9.24	0.764 <sup>a</sup>	-6.34±7.94	6.13±7.58	0.901 <sup>a</sup>
8000 SNR	4.50 (-10-14)	6 (-18-14)	0.794 <sup>b</sup>	7.0(-7-14)	6(-18-15)	0.458 <sup>b</sup>
8000 DP	-6.5 (-21-6)	-7 (-24-7)	0.602 <sup>b</sup>	-4-(18-5)	-4 (-26-4)	0.916 <sup>b</sup>
10000 SNR	6.0 (-20-16)	5 (-18-19)	0.444 <sup>b</sup>	5.0 (-18-14)	7 (-19-9)	0.225 <sup>b</sup>
10000DP	-3 (-26-13)	-3 (-30-13)	0.651 <sup>b</sup>	-3(-39-8)	-2 (-20-12)	0.568 <sup>b</sup>

Note: Mean ± SD is presented in cases where the data were distributed normally, and median (minimum-maximum) values in cases where the data were not normally distributed.

<sup>a</sup>T test.

<sup>b</sup>Mann-Whitney U test.

**Table 3.** The relationship between hearing frequencies and disease severity and disease duration in psoriasis patients

Frequency (Hz)	Psoriasis area severity index (PASI)		Psoriasis Disease Duration (year)	
	Spearman's R	Pc	Spearman's R	Pc
500 DP	-0.130	0.402	0.126	0.414
500SNR	-0.094	0.546	-0.096	0.536
1000DP	-0.241	0.115	-0.229	0.135
1000SNR	-0.325	0.031	-0.226	0.140
2000DP	-0.201	0.190	-0.122	0.432
2000SNR	-0.172	0.265	-0.082	0.596
4000DP	-0.135	0.383	-0.322	0.033
4000SNR	-0.194	0.206	-0.004	0.979
6000DP	-0.030	0.845	-0.314	0.038
6000SNR	-0.006	0.971	-0.108	0.484
8000DP	-0.054	0.730	-0.075	0.627
8000SNR	-0.073	0.638	-0.151	0.328
10.000DP	-0.267	0.080	-0.234	0.126
10.000SNR	-0.069	0.474	-0.236	0.123

<sup>c</sup>Spearman correlation test

## DISCUSSION

The etiopathogenesis of psoriasis has not been fully elucidated. But in the etiology, an autoimmune mechanism characterized by T cell-mediated hyperproliferation of keratinocytes is involved.<sup>7</sup> Although psoriasis is defined as a skin disease, it has been reported to be associated with many other comorbidities and autoimmune diseases that may result from chronic inflammation in psoriasis. Diabetes mellitus, obesity, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, atherosclerosis, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and psoriatic arthritis are reported.<sup>8</sup>

Lehnhardt points out that sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) may first occur as a result of an autoimmune response against the inner ear. The autoimmune mechanism

in the etiology of psoriasis suggests that it may be associated with sensorineural hearing disorders.<sup>7</sup>

OAE is a non-invasive measurement method developed to understand the mechanism of SNHL and to shed light on the function of the cochlea.<sup>9</sup>

It can detect very early changes and even slight changes in the cochlear micromechanics that patients may not notice.

Psoriasis, which has been thought to be a completely cutaneous disease for a long time, is now accepted as a systemic inflammatory disease that shares pathogenic pathways with many chronic and progressive diseases.<sup>10</sup>

For this reason, dermatologists play an active role not only in relieving symptoms with dermatological treatment but also in preventing physical comorbidities and coordinating early diagnosis and treatment if they develop.<sup>8</sup>

The inner ear may be the target of an autoimmune attack, and SNHL may occur as a complication of a number of non-organ-specific autoimmune diseases, or it may be indirectly affected by immune complex deposition or other mechanisms.<sup>11</sup> Studies on hearing in autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, polyarteritis nodosa, ankylosing spondylitis, systemic lupus erythematosus, Behcet's disease, and Sjögren's syndrome have been published.<sup>12-18</sup>

Karabulut et al. examined the results of pure tone audiometry between 250-8000Hz and DPAOE between 1000-8000Hz in 42 patients with psoriasis and 60 healthy controls and found no significant difference in any frequency.<sup>9</sup>

However, Yen et al. found that patients with psoriasis had a significantly higher incidence of sensorineural hearing loss than the healthy group.<sup>19</sup>

Güneş et al. compared 24 patients with psoriatic arthritis and 38 healthy controls. In the evaluation of hearing frequencies between 4000 and 6000 Hz, a statistically significant difference was found. When DPOAE values were analyzed within the 1000–4000 Hz interval, they found a statistically significant difference at 3000 and 4000 Hz. However, DPOAE was not observed at higher frequencies.<sup>20</sup>

Vir et al. examined pure tone audiometry at frequencies of 250-16000 Hz in 29 psoriasis patients and 30 healthy controls, and a significant difference was found at high frequencies. They also stated that there is a significant difference in DPOAEs measured between 357-5694 Hz.<sup>21</sup>

DPOAE measurement is closely related to the physiological state of cochlea outer hair cells. Its main purpose of the use is to evaluate the effect of pathological conditions associated with SNHL on cochlear function. DPOAE, if normal, provides extremely strong evidence that cochlear function is normal regardless of audiometric data. It is tested in less time than pure tone audiometry and provides objective data specific to the frequency.

Dikici et al. performed a study on patients with rheumatoid arthritis. While there was no statistically significant difference in pure tone audiometry between the patient group and the control group, a statistically significant difference was found regarding the responses to transient evoked otoacoustic emission (TEOAE) at frequencies of 1, 1.5, 2 and 3 kHz. The authors suggested that SNHL that cannot be detected by pure tone audiometry in patients with rheumatoid arthritis can be detected earlier using TEOAE.<sup>22</sup>

Therefore, we use DPOAE and SNR values at 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000 and 10000 Hz instead of other audiological evaluations such as pure tone audiometry and tympanometry, taking into account the loss of time and cost. There was no significant difference between the patient group and healthy controls. We found a negative correlation between both PASI score and disease duration and all DPOAE and SNR values but a significant difference was observed only between PASI score and SNR value at 1000 Hz and disease duration and DPAOE values at 4000 and 6000 Hz. As the severity and duration of the disease increased, DPOAE values of the patients decreased. This result shows that the long duration and increased severity of the disease may have a negative effect on cochlear function. However, further studies with a larger number of patients are needed.

Considering that psoriasis is a long-term, chronic systemic disease, it should be taken into consideration that patients should be closely monitored even if they do not have hearing complaints in the early period, and as the duration and

severity of the disease increases, the hearing of the patients may also be affected.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: OYA, EID. Data Collection and/or Processing: OYA, EID. Data analysis and interpretation: OYA, EID. Literature Search: OYA, EID. Drafting manuscript: OYA, EID. Critical revision of manuscript: OYA, EID. Supervision: OYA, EID.

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## Lymph Node Ratio Predictive of Survival in Node-Positive Head and Neck Cancer

### Lenf Nodu Pozitif Baş-Boyun Kanserli Hastalarda Sağ Kalımı Öngören Lenf Nodu Oranı

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Mehmet ARTAÇ<sup>1</sup> 

#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Lenf nodu oranı (LNR), pozitif lenf nodlarının toplam eksize edilmiş lenf nodlarına oranını temsil eder. Baş ve boyun SCC'si nedeniyle cerrahi yapılmış hastalarda LNR ile sağkalım arasındaki ilişki değerlendirildi.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Çalışmaya cerrahi rezeksiyon ve boyun diseksiyonu yapılan baş ve boyun skuamöz hücreli karsinomlu 33 hasta dahil edildi. Kaplan-Meier analizi ve log-rank testi, hastalıksız sağkalım (DFS) ve genel sağ kalımdaki (OS) farklılıklarını karşılaştırmak için kullanıldı.

**Bulgular:** Ortalama LNR değeri 0.1, ortalama yaş 57, 28 erkek ve 5 kadın hasta dahil edildi. Medyan DFS 10.4 aydı ve medyan OS 32.5 aydı. Kaplan-Meier sağkalım analizi ile DFS ve OS karşılaştırıldığında, medyan  $LNR \geq 0.1$  olan hastaların, oranları bu eşik değerlerin altında olan hastalara göre anlamlı derecede daha kötü DFS ( $p=0.029$ ) ve OS ( $p=0.036$ ) olduğunu bulduk. Diğer bilinen rekürrens ve sağkalım prediktörleri göz önüne alındığında, LNR'nin DFS ( $p=0.036$ , HR 0.38, % 95 CI 0.15-0.93) ve OS ( $p=0.042$ , HR 0.40% 95 CI 0.17-0.96) ile anlamlı şekilde ilişkili olduğu bulundu.

**Sonuç:** Çalışmamız, yüksek LNR'nin baş-boyun kanserli hastalarda sağkalım için bağımsız bir prediktörü olduğunu gösterdi. Baş-boyun kanserli hastalarda LNR, rekürrens ve sağkalımı tahmin etmek için ek bir parametre olarak kullanılabilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** baş-boyun kanseri; lenf nodu oranı; lenf nodu pozitif; rekürrens; sağ kalım

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Lymph node ratio (LNR) represents the ratio of positive lymph nodes to total excised lymph nodes. We analyzed the correlation between LNR and outcomes in patients who have undergone surgery for SCC of the head and neck.

**Materials and Methods:** Thirty-three patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) who underwent surgical resection and neck dissection were included. Kaplan-Meier analysis and log-rank test were used to compare differences in disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS).

**Results:** In total, 28 males and 5 females with a median of age 57 years were identified, with a median recorded LNR of 0.1. The median DFS was 10.4 months, and the median OS was 32.5 months. When DFS and OS were compared by Kaplan-Meier survival analysis, we found that patients with the median  $LNR \geq 0.1$  had significantly worse DFS ( $p=0.029$ ) and OS ( $p=0.036$ ) than patients with ratios below these threshold values. Considering other known predictors of recurrence and survival, we found that LNR was significantly associated with DFS ( $p=0.036$ , HR 0.38, 95% CI 0.15-0.93) and OS ( $p=0.042$ , HR 0.40, 95% CI 0.17-0.96).

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that high LNR was an independent predictor of outcome in patients with HNSCC. In HNSCC, LNR can be used as an additional parameter to predict recurrence and survival.

**Keywords:** head and neck cancer; lymph node ratio; recurrence; survival

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## INTRODUCTION

Cervical lymph node involvement is an important prognostic factor for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), and even the presence of a positive lymph node is associated with a decrease in overall survival (OS) of up to 50%.<sup>1</sup> For nodal (N) staging, the 8th edition of the American Joint Cancer Committee (AJCC) uses for metastatic lymph node number, contralateral lymph node status, metastatic lymph node size, and extracapsular extension (ECE).<sup>2</sup> Pathological factors currently used in the risk stratification of patients and to guide treatment include advanced tumor (T) classification, advanced N classification, perineural invasion (PNI), lymphovascular space invasion (LVSI), vascular tumor embolism, close/involved margins, and ECE.<sup>3</sup>

Lymph nodes ratio (LNR), defined as the ratio of the number of positive lymph nodes to the total number of lymph nodes removed, is used as a prognostic factor in patients with multiple cancers, such as oral SCC, bladder cancer, esophageal cancer, colorectal adenocarcinoma, papillary thyroid carcinoma, and cervical cancer.<sup>4-5</sup>

In our study, we aimed to show whether LNR is a prognostic factor that can guide the treatment decision and predict survival.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Patients

We collected all HNSCC patients who underwent treatment with surgical resection and neck dissection at the Department of Medical Oncology, Necmettin Erbakan University, from October 2009 to January 2020. Clinicopathological data were obtained retrospectively from the patients' records of our hospital. Exclusion criteria included patients without lymph node metastasis in lymph node dissection were excluded from the study. In addition, patients with metastasis at the time of diagnosis and missing data were excluded from the study. Data of a total of 33 patients who met the inclusion criteria were analyzed.

Necmettin Erbakan University clinical research ethics committee approval was obtained (Decision number: 2020/2750 Date: 17.7.2020).

### Lymph Node Ratio

The LNR was calculated using the ratio of the number of positive lymph nodes reported to the total number of lymph nodes excised.

### Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using the SPSS statistical software package (version 22.0). Survival analysis was performed by Kaplan-Meier curves with log-rank tests for significance. Univariate Cox regression analysis was performed to identify predictors of disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS). Two-sided p values of <0.05 were considered statistically significant.

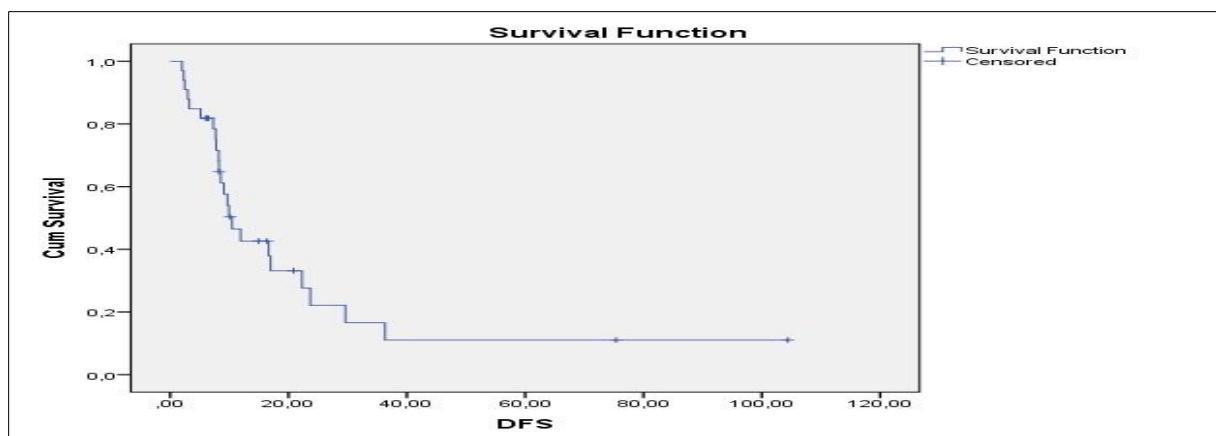
## RESULTS

### Clinicopathological Characteristics of Patients

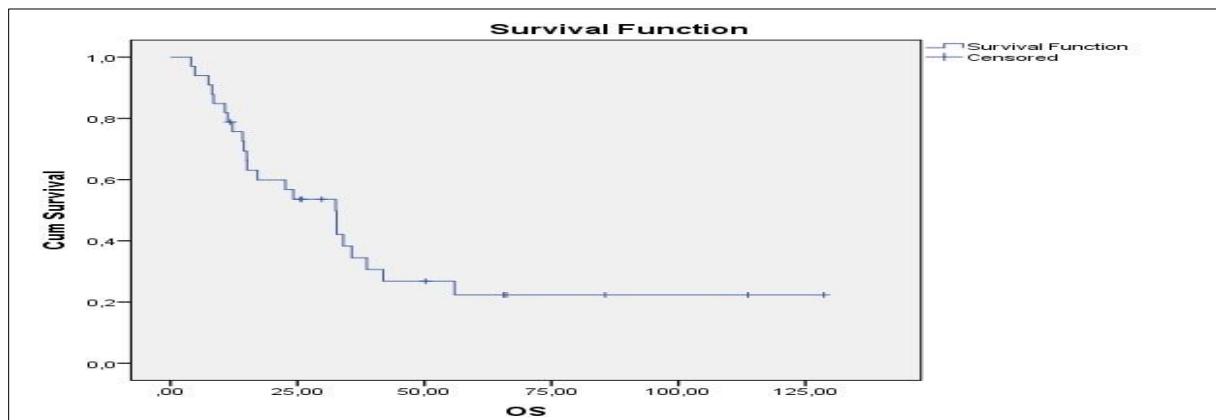
Among the 33 patients, 84.8% were male and 15.2% were female. The median age of this cohort was 57 years. Most of the primary tumor sites were larynx (54.6%) and tongue (24.2%). The median number of lymph nodes excised was 27 (range 7–50), and the median number of metastatic lymph nodes was 3 (range 1-34). The median LNR was 0.1. Patients with an LNR higher than 0.1 accounted for 51.5% of the whole cohort. As adjuvant therapy, 5 patients received radiotherapy, and 23 patients received platinum-based concurrent chemoradiotherapy. Five patients did not receive adjuvant therapy. Table 1 shows the clinicopathological parameters of the patients.

### Prognostic Impact of LNR

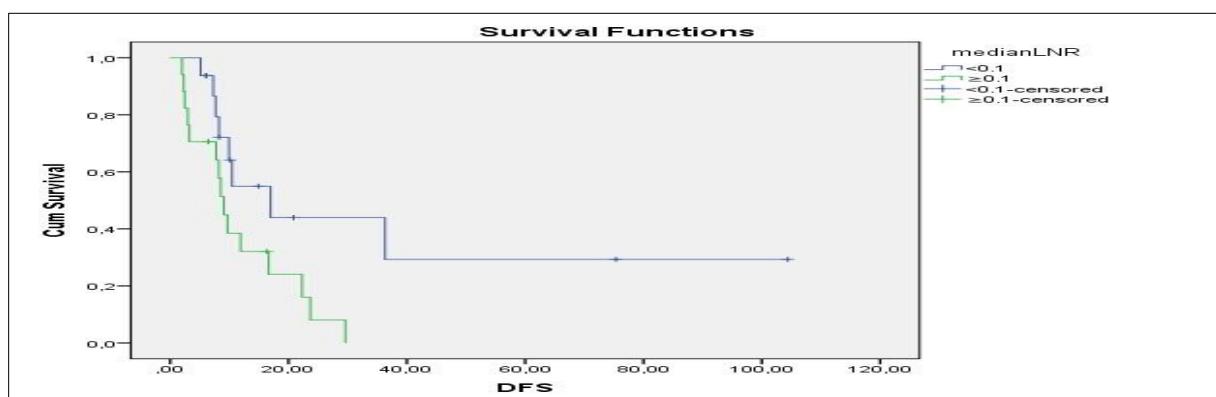
The median DFS and OS of this cohort were 10.4 months and 32.5 months, respectively (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Kaplan-Meier survival analysis revealed a correlation between LNR and overall and disease-free survival times. Patients with LNR higher than 0.1 had significantly poorer DFS (9 months vs. 16.9 months, p:0.029) and OS (22.6 months vs. 38.6 months, p: 0.036) than those with LNR less than 0.1. The Kaplan-Meier curves of DFS and OS based on LNR are shown in Figures 3 and 4.



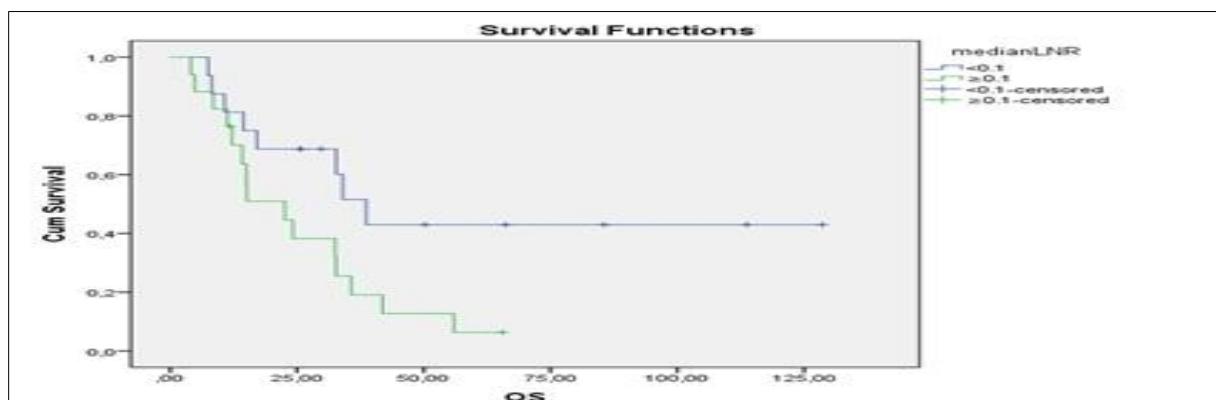
**Figure 1.** Kaplan-Meier curve of DFS for all patients



**Figure 2.** Kaplan-Meier curve of OS for all patients



**Figure 3.** Kaplan-Meier curve of DFS based on LNR



**Figure 4.** Kaplan-Meier curve of OS based on LNR

In univariate analysis, the LNR was the only statistically significant predictors of a shorter DFS (hazard ratio (HR) 0.38, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.15-0.93; p = 0.036) and OS (HR 0.40, 95% CI 0.17-0.96; p=0.042). In multivariate analysis, the LNR was the only statistically significant predictors of a shorter DFS (HR 0.40, 95% CI 0.15-1.05; p = 0.043) and OS (HR 0.36, 95% CI 0.14-0.36; p:0.037). The results of univariate and multivariate analyses are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

**Table 1.** Patient characteristics

Characteristics	Mean
Age (median, min.-max.)	57 (36-80)
Gender (n,%)	
Male	28 (84.8)
Female	5 (15.2)
TNM stage (n,%)	
III	4 (12.1)
IVa	9 (27.3)
IVb	19 (57.6)
IVc	1 (3)
LVI (n,%)	
Yes	14 (42.4)
No	19 (57.6)
Histological grade (n,%)	
Well	15 (45.5)
Moderately	8 (24.2)
Poorly	10 (30.3)
ECE (n,%)	
Yes	20 (60.6)
No	13 (39.4)
Number of lymph nodes excised (median, range)	27 (7-50)
Number of metastatic lymph nodes (median, range)	3 (1-34)
LNR (n,%)	
<0.1	16 (48.5)
≥0.1	17 (51.5)

Abbreviations: LVI: Lymphovascular invasion; ECE: Extracapsular extension; LNR: Lymph node ratio

**Table 2.** Univariate analysis of factors associated with DFS and OS

Variables	DFS		OS	
	p	HR (%95 CI)	p	HR (%95 CI)
Age	0.91	0.99 (0.95-1.03)	0.91	0.99 (0.95-1.04)
Gender (Male vs. Female)	0.64	0.73 (0.21-2.58)	0.15	0.40 (0.12-1.28)
T stage (T1-2 vs. T3-4)	0.90	0.95 (0.41-2.20)	0.58	0.78 (0.33-1.86)
Number of metastatic lymph nodes	0.24	1.02 (0.98-1.07)	0.38	1.02 (0.97-1.07)
LVI (Yes vs. No)	0.26	0.59 (0.24-1.44)	0.26	0.61 (0.26-1.43)
ECE (Yes vs. No)	0.49	0.74 (0.31-1.77)	0.65	1.21 (0.51-2.85)
LNR (<0.1 vs. ≥0.1)	0.036	0.38 (0.15-0.93)	0.042	0.40 (0.17-0.96)

Abbreviations: LVI: Lymphovascular invasion; ECE: Extracapsular extension; LNR: Lymph node ratio; DFS: Disease-free survival; OS: Overall survival; HR: Hazard ratio; CI: Confidence interval

**Table 3.** Multivariate analysis of factors associated with DFS and OS

Variables	DFS		OS	
	p	HR (%95 CI)	p	HR (%95 CI)
LVI (Yes vs. No)	0.48	0.72 (0.29-1.78)	0.48	0.72 (0.28-1.79)
ECE (Yes vs. No)	0.99	1.00 (0.40-2.51)	0.17	1.94 (0.73-5.12)
LNR (<0.1 vs. ≥0.1)	0.043	0.40 (0.15-1.05)	0.037	0.36 (0.14-0.93)

Abbreviations: LVI: Lymphovascular invasion; ECE: Extracapsular extension; LNR: Lymph node ratio; DFS: Disease-free survival; OS: Overall survival; HR: Hazard ratio; CI: Confidence interval

## DISCUSSION

We evaluated the association of LNR with DFS and OS in a small cohort of patients with HNSCC who underwent surgical resection and neck dissection. We found that LNR≥0.1 was independently associated with worse DFS and OS in the overall study population.

Locoregional disease carries a high risk for local recurrence (15 to 40%) and distant metastasis in head and neck cancers and is associated with a poor prognosis (5-year overall survival, <50%).<sup>6</sup> In addition, high-risk factors for recurrence and metastasis include adverse pathological factors such as ECE, positive resection margins, PNI or vascular tumor embolism, and oral cavity or oropharyngeal tumors with IV or V level lymph nodes.<sup>7</sup> In the literature, the location and number of positive nodes in head and neck cancers with lymph node metastasis are shown as the most important prognostic factors.<sup>8</sup> Combined therapies (surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy) are used to minimize this risk.<sup>9</sup> Factors such as the number of metastatic lymph nodes, ECE, and LVI, which were shown to be prognostic factors in many previous studies, were not found to be significant in our study. We think that this is due to the small number of patients in our study.

Lymph node ratio, the ratio of positive lymph nodes to total excised lymph nodes have been proposed to overcome a limited neck dissection and the resulting under-staging effect.<sup>10</sup> In some studies, LNR has been shown to predict clinical outcomes in head and neck cancer patients. Moreover, recent studies have shown that LNR is an independent and perhaps better prognostic factor for OS than pathological N staging.<sup>11</sup> Chen et al. Classified patients as LNR

<0.1 and LNR>0.1 in all patient groups (with or without lymph node metastasis), and they found that 3-year OS, local failure-free survival (LFFS), and distant metastasis-free survival (DMFS) were better in the group with LNR<0.1 than in the group with LNR>0.1. Only lymph node-positive patients were divided into 3 groups as LNR <0.06, 0.06-0.17, and >0.17. In the group with LNR>0.17, 3-year OS and LFFS were statistically significantly worse, DMFS was also worse, but not statistically significant.<sup>5</sup> Adeyrim et al. in the meta-analysis of 13 studies involving hypopharyngeal and laryngeal cancers, showed that higher LNR was significantly associated with shorter OS, disease-specific survival (DSS), and DFS. The cut-off of eligible studies ranged from 0.03 to 0.14, with the least significant LNR being 0.044.<sup>12</sup> Wang YL et al. classified larynx cancer patients with lymph node metastasis into three risk groups LNR cutoff points (LNR≤0.09, 0.09–0.2, >0.2). They found that 5-year cause-specific survival and OS for LNR≤0.09, 0.09–0.2, >0.2 were 55.1%, 40.2%, 28.8% and 43.1%, 31.5%, 21.8%, respectively. Mizachi A. et al. found that 5-year OS and DSS in patients with LNR>0.1 in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck were 43.1% and 67.8% (LNR<0.1: 5-year OS and DSS; 66.3% vs. 91.3%, respectively). Similarly, in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, Tseros et al. found that the mean times to disease progression (TTDP) and OS in patients with LNR>0.21 were 31.8 months and 36 months (LNR<0.21: TTDP and OS; 38.6 months vs. 42 months, respectively), these values were statistically significant.<sup>13-15</sup>

A common cut-off value for LNR has not been established. The statistically significant LNR cut-off values for local recurrence, OS, and DFS in the literature are >6% for cutaneous HNSCC, >20% for oral cavity and laryngeal cancer, >0.2 for laryngeal cancer, >0.1 for hypopharyngeal cancer, >0.1 for cutaneous HNSCC, >0.21 for cutaneous HNSCC, >13 % for oral cavity cancer.<sup>13-19</sup> Prabhu et al. showed that the patients with LNR> 20% were at high risk of locoregional recurrence and death and suggested that these patients should be evaluated for adjuvant chemoradiation.<sup>17</sup>

Our study has some limitations. First, it was a retrospective analysis of a relatively small cohort. Second, all patients

underwent surgical resection and neck dissection and had lymph node metastasis, whereas adjuvant therapy and primary tumor locations were heterogeneous.

As a result, we found that LNR was a prognostic factor for recurrence and survival, in accordance with the literature data. We believe that the cut-off value and the definition of LNR will be determined by more comprehensive studies in the future; it will be included in the staging system and will directly affect the treatment decision.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: MK, MKE. Data Collection and/or Processing: MKE, MK, MK. Data analysis and interpretation: MK, MA. Literature Search: MK. Drafting manuscript: MK.

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**Hemolitik Üremik Sendrom; 10 Yıllık Tek Merkez Deneyimi****Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome; 10 Year Single Center Experience**

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**ÖZ**

**Amaç:** Hemolitik üremik sendrom (HÜS) mikroangiopatik hemolitik anemi, trombositopeni ve akut böbrek hasarı ile karakterize bir tablodur. Şiga toksini üreten Escherichia coli ilişkili HÜS (STEC-HÜS) çocuklarda en sık nedendir. Farklı dönemlerde salgınlar şeklinde karşımıza çıkan HÜS vakalarında son yıllarda merkezimizde de artış görülmüştür ve bu yazımızda on yıllık HÜS ile takipli hastaların klinik özellikleri değerlendirilmiştir.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** 2008-2018 yılları arasında HÜS tanısı alan hastalar çalışmaya alındı. Hastaların demografik özellikleri, başvuru klinik bulguları, başvuru anında ve hastalığın akut fazında hematolojik ve biyokimyasal bulguları, kompleman değerleri, HÜS'e bağlı organ tutulumları, uygulanan tedaviler ve böbrek yerine koyma tedavileri değerlendirildi.

**Bulgular:** Kırk üç hasta çalışmaya alındı. Hastaların %86'sında ishal öyküsü vardı ve bu hastaların yarısında ishal kanlı idi. Nörolojik tutulum hastaların %30'unda vardı. On sekiz hastaya eculizumab tedavisi verildi. Eculizumab tedavisi alan hastaların proteinüri, hipertansiyon gibi böbrek hastalığının progresyonunu gösteren parametreleri daha belirgin idi. İki hastada takipte son dönemde böbrek yetmezliği gelişti.

**Sonuç:** Akut böbrek hasarının önemli bir nedeni olan HÜS çocuk hastalarda en sık ishal ilişkili olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Nörolojik tutulum en sık böbrek dışı tutulum şeklidir. Hastaların çoğunda (%70) böbrek yerine koyma tedavisine gereksinim duyulmakta ve eculizumab tedavisini progesyonu kötü olan olgularda daha sık kullanılmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** eculizumab; hemolitik üremik sendrom; pediatri

**ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is a clinical syndrome characterized by microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, and acute kidney injury. Shiga toxin producing Escherichia coli-associated HUS (STEC-HUS) is the most common cause in children. In recent years, an increase has been observed in our center in the cases of HUS, which appeared as outbreaks in different periods, and in this study, the clinical characteristics of patients with HUS were evaluated.

**Materials and Methods:** Patients diagnosed with HUS between 2008-2018 were included in the study. The demographic characteristics of the patients, clinical findings at admission, hematological and biochemical findings at the time of admission and in the most active period of the disease, complement values, organ involvement due to HUS, applied treatments and kidney replacement treatments were evaluated.

**Results:** Forty-three patients were included in the study. 86% of the patients had a history of diarrhea and half of these patients had diarrhea with blood. Neurological involvement was present in 30% of the patients. Eighteen patients were given eculizumab treatment. Parameters showing the progression of kidney disease such as proteinuria and hypertension were more prominent in patients who received eculizumab treatment. End-stage kidney disease developed in two patients during follow-up.

**Conclusion:** HUS, which is an important cause of acute kidney damage, is most frequently associated with diarrhea in pediatric patients. Neurological involvement is the most common extra-renal manifestation. Kidney replacement therapy is required in most patients (70%) and eculizumab therapy is used more frequently in severe cases.

**Keywords:** eculizumab; hemolytic uremic syndrome; pediatrics

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## GİRİŞ

Hemolitik üremik sendrom (HÜS) mikroanjiopatik hemolitik anemi, trombositopeni ve akut böbrek hasarı ile karakterize bir tablodur.<sup>1-3</sup> İlk olarak 1955 yılında Gasser C ve ark<sup>4</sup> tarafından tanımlanmıştır. Hemolitik üremik sendrom sınıflaması zaman içinde değişmiş ve günümüzde primer/sekonder HÜS olarak gruplandırılmaya başlanmıştır.<sup>3-6</sup> Çocuklarda HÜS'e en sık enfeksiyöz etkenler sebep olmaktadır. Enfeksiyon ilişkili olguların %85-90'nından şiga-toksin üreten Escherichia coli (STEC-HÜS) sorumludur.<sup>1,2,7,8</sup> Sıklıkla altı ay ile beş yaş arasında saptanmaktadır. Avrupa ve Kuzey Amerika'da <15-18 yaş altında yıllık vaka 100.000 çocukta 0.6-0.8 vaka iken <3-5 yaş altında ise 100.000 çocukta 1.9-2.9 vaka olarak görülmektedir.<sup>8</sup> Farklı dönemlerde salgınlara da neden olmaktadır. Örneğin 2011 yılında Almanya'da büyük bir STEC-HÜS salgını görülmüştür. Bu salgında 845 STEC-HÜS vakası saptanmış ve ilginç olarak olguların çoğunu erişkinler oluşturmaktadır.<sup>9</sup> Ülkemizde de salgın şekilde olmasa da 2011 yılında<sup>10</sup> ve sonrasında benzer şekilde zaman zaman HÜS vakalarında artma olduğu dikkati çekmiştir. Son dönemde kliniğimizde de HÜS vakalarının arttığını saptamamız üzerine merkezimizde son 10 yılda takip ettiğimiz HÜS vakalarını değerlendirmek için bu çalışmayı planladık.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

Çalışmaya Erciyes Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Çocuk Nefroloji Kliniğine 2008-2018 yılları arasında HÜS tanısı alan hastalar alındı. Etik kurul komitesinden çalışma için izin alındı (Etik kurul no: 20.03.2019/213). Retrospektif olarak hastaların dosyaları ve hastane veri tabanı tarandı. Hemolitik üremik sendrom tanı kriterleri mikroanjiopatik hemolitik anemi (anemi, retikülositoz, periferik yasmada şistozit varlığı, direkt coombs negatifliği, laktat dehidrogenaz yüksekliği, haptoglobin düşüklüğü), trombositopeni ve akut böbrek hasarı (oliguri-anüri, hiperürisemi, hematüri, proteinüri, böbrek fonksiyon bozukluğu) olarak kabul edildi.<sup>2,3</sup> Hastaların demografik özellikleri, başvuru klinik özellikleri, başvuru anında ve hastalığın akut fazındaki hematolojik ve biyokimyasal parametreleri, kompleman de-

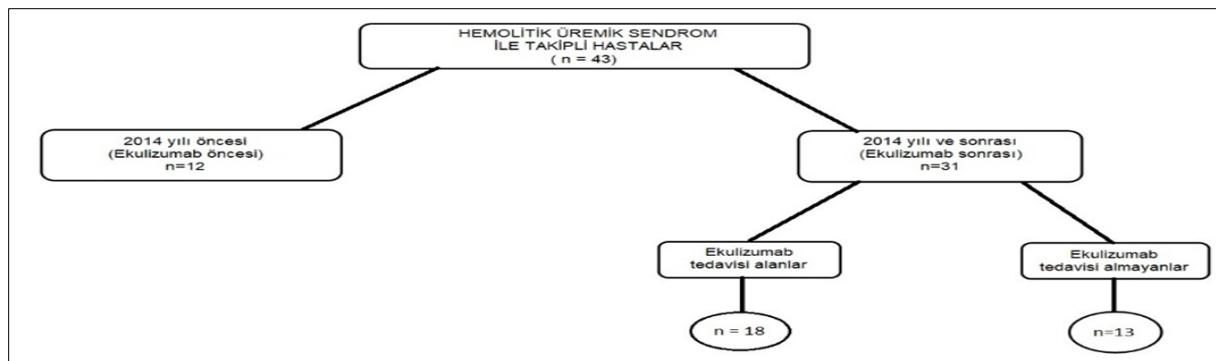
ğerleri, HÜS'e bağlı organ tutulumları, uygulanan tedaviler ve böbrek yerine koyma tedavileri kayıtlardan elde edildi. Teknik problemler/imkansızlıklardan dolayı STEC bakılamayan olgular da çalışmaya alındı. Hastaların oliguri-anüri sürelerine erişilemediği için oliguri-anüri süreleri değerlendirme dışı bırakıldı.

Nefrotik düzeyde proteinüri spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranın  $>2$  mg/gr üzeri olması veya 24 saatlik idrarda  $>40$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>/saat olması olarak kabul edildi. Nefrotik düzeyde olmayan proteinüri ise spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranının 0.2-2 mg/gr arasında olması veya 24 saatlik idrarda 4-40 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/saat olması olarak kabul edildi. Proteinürünün olmaması ise spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranının  $<0.2$  mg/gr olması veya 24 saatlik idrarda  $<4$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>/saat olarak kabul edildi.<sup>11</sup> Kronik böbrek hastalığı evreleri KDIGO 2012 kronik böbrek hastalığı kılavuzundaki tahmini GFH sınıflamasına göre yapıldı.<sup>12</sup>

Kliniği stabil olan hastalarda hemoglobin  $<6$  gr/dl ve trombosit  $<10.000$  /mm<sup>3</sup> olduğu zaman eritrosit ve trombosit süspansiyonu desteği verildi. Transfüzyon miktarı yüklenme bulguları olmayan hastalarda 10-15 ml/kg olacak şekilde ve yüklenme bulguları olan hastalar için 5 ml/kg olacak şekilde verildi. Çalışma retrospektif olması nedeniyle her hastanın transfüzyon miktarına ulaşılmadı bu sebeple kaç kez transfüzyon ihtiyacı olduğu not alındı.

Ekulizumab tedavisi hastanemizde 2014 yılı ve sonrasında kullanılmaya başlanması nedeniyle hastalar önce 2014 yılı öncesinde takip edilen ve sonrasında takip edilenler olmak üzere iki gruba ayrıldı. Daha sonra ise 2014 yılı ve sonrasında takip edilen hastalar ekulizumab tedavisi alıp almadıklarına göre iki gruba ayrılarak verileri istatistik olarak karşılaştırıldı (Şekil 1).

Hastalar klinik bulguları stabilleşene kadar yatırılarak takip edildiler. Böbrek yerine koyma tedavisi ihtiyacı olmayan ve geçici olarak diyaliz ihtiyacı olan hastalar için hemolizin durduğu, böbrek fonksiyon testlerinin düzeldiği, diürezin sağlandığı zamana kadar ( $>1$  ml/kg/sa), böbrek yerine koyma tedavisine devam edilmesi gereken hastalar için ise hemolizin durduğu ve diyaliz eğitiminin tamamlandığı döneme kadar yataş yapılmıştır.



**Şekil 1.** Eculizumab tedavisinin ülkemizde kullanılmaya başlandığı 2014 yılı öncesi ve sonrasında göre hastaların dağılım

### İstatistiksel Analiz

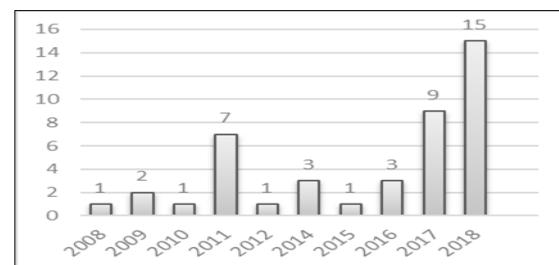
Verilerin normal dağılımı Kolmogorov-Smirnov testi ile, devamlı değişkenler Student-t testi veya Mann-Whitney U testi ile değerlendirildi. Kategorik değişkenler ki-kare testi ile değerlendirildi.  $p < 0.05$  değeri istatistikî olarak anlamlı kabul edildi. Bütün analizler için Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) 22,0 versiyonu kullanıldı.<sup>13</sup>

### Sonuçlar

Çalışmaya 2008-2018 yılları arasında takip edilen 43 HÜS hastası alındı. Hastaların ortanca yaşı 27 (min-maks: 4.5-195) aydı ve %53.5'ı kız idi. Ebeveynlerin üçünde akraba evliliği vardı ve yedi ailede böbrek hastalığı öyküsü vardı. Hastaların yaşadıkları iller incelendiğinde %34'ü Kayseri, %23'ü Sivas'ta iken %7'si yurtdışında ikamet etmekteydi.

Başvuru yılları incelendiğinde 2011 ve 2017-2018 yıllarında HÜS vakalarında artış olduğu görülmektedir (Şekil 2). Başvuru öncesi semptomların başlangıç süresi ortalama  $7 \pm 5.4$  gün, ortalama yatış süresi  $19.7 \pm 10.5$  gün, yoğun bakım ihtiyacı olan 15 (%34.8) hastanın ortalama yoğun bakım yatış süresi  $4.6 \pm 3.6$  gün idi. Başvuru sırasında hastaların %86'nında ishal, %4.6'sinde üst solunum yolu enfeksiyonu, %4.6'sında diğer enfeksiyon öyküsü varken %4.6'sında enfeksiyon bulgusu yoktu. İshal öyküsü olan 37 hastanın 20'sinde (%52) kanlı ishal mevcuttu. Teknik problemler nedeniyle STEC yalnızca 19 (%44.1) hastada çalışılabilirdi. Bu olguların 10'unda (%52.6) kanlı ishal vardı. Kanlı ishali olan hastaların dördünden (%40) STEC pozitif olarak gelirken altısında (%60) negatifti. STEC negatif olan bu altı hastanın beşinde (%83.3) başvuru öncesi antibiyotik kullanım öyküsü mevcuttu. Toplamda 7 olguda

(%16.3) STEC pozitifliği saptandı. On sekiz hastada (%41.9) başvuru öncesi antibiyotik kullanım öyküsü mevcuttu.



**Şekil 2.** Hemolitik üremik sendrom ile takip edilen hastaların yıllara göre dağılımı

Hastaların hepsinde hematolojik ve böbrek tutulumu vardı. Nöbet ve letarji şeklinde olmak üzere 13 hastada (%30.2) nörolojik tutulum görüldü. Yapılan kranial görüntülemelerde; dört hastada patoloji saptanmazken, dört hastada posterior reversible ensefalopati sendromu ile uyumlu görünüm vardı. Diğer üç hastada ise beynin farklı bölgelerinde difüzyon kısıtlılığı saptandı. Hastaların başvuru sırasında ve hastalığın akut fazındaki ortalama laboratuvar değerleri Tablo 1'de gösterilmiştir. Hastalığın akut fazında hastaların hemoglobin ortalamları  $6.53 \pm 0.75$  g/dl idi ve çoğu hastaya ortalama  $2.15 \pm 1.6$  kez eritrosit süspansiyonu verildi (41 hasta-%95.3). Trombosit süspansiyonu ise 13 hastaya  $1.69 \pm 1.65$  kez verildi. Başvuru sırasında bakılan ve klinik seyri etkileyebilecek beyaz küre sayısı, komplement gibi değerler Tablo 1'de gösterilmiştir. Anti-hipertansif tedavi ihtiyacı olan 24 hasta (%55.8) vardı ve ortanca anti-hipertansif tedavi süreleri 52.5 gündü (min-max: 10-8640). En çok tercih edilen anti-hipertansif ajan kalsiyum kanal blokeri idi ve 16 hastada (%37.2) kullanılmıştı. On iki hastada tekli, yedi hastada ikili, üç hastada üçlü ve bir hastada dörtlü antihipertansif tedavi ihtiyacı olmuştu. Hastaların %30'unda böbrek yerine koyma tedavisi ihtiyacı ol-

mazken %40'ında hemodiyaliz, %30'unda ise periton diyalizi yapıldı. İki hastaya hem hemodiyaliz hem de periton diyalizi yapılırken, iki hastaya devamlı böbrek replasman tedavisi uygulandı. Periton diyalizi ortanca 17 gün (min-max: 7-300), hemodiyaliz ise ortanca 6 seans (min-max: 1-312) uygulandı. Plazma değişimi 12 hastaya ortalaması  $3.58 \pm 1.24$  seans uygulandı. Bu hastalardan dokuzunda nörolojik tutulum mevcuttu. Beş (%11.6) hastaya plazma tedavisi verildi.

**Tablo 1.** Başvuru anında ve hastalığın akut fazında hastaların ortalaması laboratuvar değerleri

Laboratuvar analizleri	Başvuru anı	Akut faz
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	$8.84 \pm 1.95$	$6.53 \pm 0.75$
Trombosit (mm3)	$113372 \pm 125328$	$74813 \pm 63239$
Hemotokrit (%)	$25.6 \pm 6.06$	$19.25 \pm 2.76$
Retikülosit (%)	$3.26 \pm 2.44$	$5.45 \pm 3.7$
Kreatinin (mg/dl)	$3.38 \pm 2.27$	$4.66 \pm 2.53$
GFH (ml/dk/1.73m2)	$19.7 \pm 15.8$	$13.68 \pm 11.72$
LDH (U/L)	$1886 \pm 902$	$2135 \pm 1078$
Beyaz Küre Sayısı ( $\mu\text{l}/\text{ml}$ )	$14060 \pm 6194$	
C3 (MG/DL) (N = 30)	$95.82 \pm 25.11$	
C3 Düşük Hasta Sayısı	14 (% 32.6)	
C4 (MG/DL) (N = 28)	$18.59 \pm 8.44$	
C4 Düşük Hasta Sayısı	5 (% 11.6)	

Merkezimizde 2014 yılından sonra kullanılmaya başlanan C5 monoklonal antikoru olan ekulizumab ise 18 hastaya (%41.9) ortanca 2.5 doz (min-max: 1-34) olarak uygulandı. Ekulizumab tedavisinin ortalama başlama süresi ise  $10.94 \pm 6.02$  gün idi. 2014 yılından sonra takip edilen 31 hasta ekulizumab tedavisi alıp olmadığına göre iki gruba ayrıldığında ekulizumab tedavisi alan hastaların yatış, nefrotik düzeyde proteinürük olma ve diyaliz sürelerinin daha uzun olduğu görüldü. Bu iki grup arasında hematolojik parametrelerde ve böbrek fonksiyon bozukluğunun şiddeti açısından fark saptanmadı. İstatistiksel anlamlılığa ulaşmasa da ekulizumab tedavisi alan hastaların daha büyük yaşıda olduğu görüldü (Tablo 2). Kompleman C3 düşüklüğü olan 14 hastadan 12'si 2014 yılı ve sonrasında başvurmuştu ve 7'si (%58.7) ekulizumab tedavisi aldı. Ekulizumab tedavisi alan 18 hasta daha ayrıntılı incelendiğinde bu olguların 14'ünde STEC çalışıldığı ve 5 olguda STEC pozitifliği saptandığı görüldü. Ekulizumab tedavisi alan hastaların klinik özelliklerini Tablo 3'te gösterilmiştir.

**Tablo 2.** 2014 yılı ve sonrasında takip edilen ve ekulizumab tedavisi alan/almayan hastaların karşılaştırılması

Değişkenler	Ekulizumab Tedavisi		
	Alan Ortanca(min-maks)	Almayan Ortanca (min-maks)	p
Yaş (Ay)	63.0 (4.5-189.0)	27.5 (15.0-81.0)	0.733
Yatış süresi (Gün)	21 (13-35)	15 (10-19)	<0.001*
Başvuru Değerleri			
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	9.50 (6.50-11.50)	9.33 (7.70-10.6)	0.262
Hemotokrit (%)	26.5 (19.9-34.1)	27.65 (24.0-33.5)	0.840
Retikülosit (%)	2.18 (0.93-7.47)	2.47 (1.72-14.72)	0.057
Lökosit ( $\mu\text{l}/\text{ml}$ )	12350 (9070-25730)	16540 (12360-23960)	0.317
Platelet (k/mm3)	52000 (21000-183000)	87500 (57000-597000)	0.920
GFH (ml/dk/1.73m2)	16.2 (5.8-40.22)	12.97 (10.08-44.25)	0.968
Kreatinin (mg/dl)	2.83 (1.15-7.30)	3.05 (0.71-4.39)	0.968
LDH (U/L)	2225 (918-4001)	1789 (632-2733)	0.779
Kompleman C3 (mg/dl)	103 (46.7-131)	100.5 (73.7-149.0)	0.878
Kompleman C4 (mg/dl)	19.9 (8.26-31.2)	19.0 (6.75-46.0)	0.391
Hastalığın akut faz döneminde			
En Düşük Hemoglobin (g/dl)=	6.4 (5.6-7.5)	6.45 (5.50-7.30)	0.434
En Düşük Hematokrit (%)	18.1 (16.4-22.2)	20.55 (16.8-24.0)	1.000
En Yüksek Retikülosit (%)	5.51 (2.5-10.32)	4.12 (1.30-14.70)	0.150
En Düşük Platelet (k/mm3)	34000 (10000-282000)	61500 (42000-207000)	0.968
En Yüksek LDH (U/L)	2984 (918-4001)	2126.5 (685-2883)	0.603
En Yüksek Kreatinin (mg/dl)	4.66 (1.86-7.66)	4.32 (0.78-10.12)	0.603
En Düşük tahmini GFH (ml/dk/1.73m2)	8.20 (4.87-24.80)	9.51 (4.0-39.71)	0.471
Diyaliz Süresi (Gün)	7 (0-17)	6 (0-12)	0.018*
Proteinüri Süresi (Gün)			
Nefrotik	28.0 (10-80)	18.5 (5-70)	0.019*
Nefrotik düzeyde olmayan	90 (20-360)	152.5 (5-900)	0.756
Son Kontroldeki			
Kreatinin (mg/dl)	0.39 (0.29-0.95)	0.36 (0.29-1.17)	0.389
Tahmini GFH (ml/dk/1.73m2)	106.0 (39.5-137.0)	110.3 (41.3-125.0)	0.575
Takip Süresi (gün)	210 (35-750)	180 (10-960)	

**Tablo 3.** Eculizumab alan hastaların klinik özellikleri

Hasta No	Cinsiyet	Yaş (ay)	Başvuru kliniği	STEC	Nörolojik tutulum	Diyaliz	Plazma değişimi	Ecu dozu	Ecu başlama günü	Son GFH
1	Kız	21	Kanlı ishal	Negatif	Yok	PD	Yok	1	5	99.2
2	Erkek	27	Kanlı ishal	Pozitif	Yok	PD	Var	24	6	11.1
3	Kız	19	Kanlı ishal	Negaif	Yok	HD	Var	4	7	64.7
4	Kız	4.5	İshal	-	Var	PD	Yok	1	6	104
5	Kız	11	İshal	Negatif	Var	PD	Yok	1	4	78.4
6	Kız	74	Kanlı ishal	-	Yok	HD	Var	4	8	137
7	Kız	63	Kanlı ishal	-	Var	HD	Yok	2	5	122
8	Kız	13	Kanlı ishal	Negatif	Yok	PD	Var	8	17	91.6
9	Kız	15	İshal	Negatif	Var	PD	Yok	3	20	37.7
10	Erkek	24	İshal	Pozitif	Yok	PD	Yok	2	15	39.5
11	Erkek	42	Kanlı ishal	Pozitif	Yok	HD	Var	2	9	135
12	Erkek	67	İshal	Negatif	Var	Yok	Yok	2	10	127
13	Erkek	189	Kanlı ishal	Negatif	Yok	HD	Var	26	22	88.5
14	Kız	81	İshal	Pozitif	Var	Yok	Yok	1	7	139
15	Erkek	97	ÜSYE	Negatif	Var	Yok	Yok	1	18	106
16	Kız	195	Kanlı ishal	Pozitif	Var	HD	Yok	3	11	133
17	Erkek	19	Kanlı ishal	Negatif	Yok	PD	Yok	9	20	34
18	Erkek	32	-	-	Var	HD	Var	34	7	15

STEC: Siga toksin üreten Escherichia coli, Ecu: Eculizumab, GFH: glomerüler filtrasyon hızı

Hemolitik üremik sendromun uzun dönem etkilerine bakıldığından, son kontrolde tüm hastaların %60.7'sinde ve eculizumab tedavisi alan hastaların %38.7'sinde nefrotik düzeyde olmayan proteinürü devam etmekte idi. Kan basıncıları değerlendirildiğinde eculizumab tedavisi alınmayan hastaların hiçbirinin antihipertansif tedavi ihtiyacı kalma-mışken eculizumab tedavisi alanların %27.7'sinde antihipertansif ihtiyacı devam etmekteydi. Hastaların yaklaşık yarısında (%53.7) tahmini GFH 90 ml/dk/1.73m<sup>2</sup>'nin üzerinde idi. Eculizumab tedavisi de alan 18 hastanın ikisinde son dönem böbrek yetmezliği (SDBY) gelişti (Tablo 4). Bu iki hastadan birisinde pozitif aile hikayesi nedeni ile atipik HÜS düşünüldü. Olgu ilk başvuruda 16 yaşında idi ve büyük kardeşi TTP/HÜS nedeniyle SDBY'e ilerlemiş ve vefat etmiştir. Olgunun çalışılan kompleman genetik çalışmada kompleman faktör H (CFH), kompleman faktör B ve C5 genlerinde heterozigot mutasyon saptandı. Toplamda 34 doz eculizumab tedavisine rağmen SDBY gelişti. Diğer olguda ise 27 aylık STEC pozitif HÜS nedeni ile periton diyalizine başlanmış olup 2,5 yıldır devam edilmektedir. 24 doz eculizumab tedavisine yanıt vermemeyen hastanın genetik sonucunda CFH'da önemi bilinmemeyen bir varyant saptandı. Takipleri sırasında hiçbir hastada hastalık rekurrensi olmadı ve hiçbir hasta hayatını kaybetmedi.

**Tablo 4.** Hastaların son kontrolleri sırasında prognozu etkileyen parametreleri

Parametreler	2014 Yılı ve Sonrası Takip Edilen Hastalar (n=31)	
	Ekulizumab tedavisi alanlar (n=18)	Ekulizumab tedavisi almayanlar (n=13)
<b>PROTEİNÜRİ</b>		
Proteinüri yok	1 (%5,5)	3 (%23,0)
Nefrotik düzeyde olmayan	12 (%66,6)	7 (%53,8)
Nefrotik düzeyde	5 (%27,7)	3 (%23,0)
<b>KAN BASINCI</b>		
Antihipertansif ihtiyacı Var	5 (%27,7)	0 * (%)
Yok	13 (%72,2)	13 (%100)
<b>Kronik Böbrek Hastalığı</b>		
Evre 1	10 (%55,5)	10 (%76,9)
Evre 2	3 (%16,6)	0 (%)
Evre 3	3 (%16,6)	3 (%23,0)
Evre 4	0 (%)	0 (%)
Evre 5	2 (%11,1)	0 (%)

\*P&lt;0.05

## TARTIŞMA

Bu çalışmada çocuklarda akut böbrek hasarının önemli sebeplerinden biri olan ve son yıllarda daha sık görülen HÜS'ün demografik özellikleri, klinik bulguları, tedavi ve prognozu değerlendirilmiştir. Ekstrarenal tutulum olarak en sık santral sinir sistemi tutulumunun görüldüğü, hastaların çoğunda böbrek yerine koyma tedavisine gereksinim duyduğu (%70), eculizumab tedavisinin daha çok prog-

resyonu kötü seyreden olgularda tercih edildiği ve bu araştırmada nedeni gösterilemese de bazı yıllarda muhtemel çevresel etkenler nedeni ile daha sık görüldüğü tespit edildi.

Japonya'da bir fabrika bölgesinde olduğu gibi küçük salgınlar şeklinde<sup>13</sup> ve mevsimsel olarak zaman zaman artış görülen HÜS vakaları Almanya'da 2011 yılında ciddi bir salgın şeklinde karşımıza çıkmıştır. *Escherichia coli* O104:H4 serotipinin sebep olduğu bu salgında 3842 kişi etkilendi ve 845'inde HÜS gelişmiştir. Özellikle beş yaş altı çocuklarda sık gördüğümüz bu hastalık Almanya salgınında ilginç olarak erişkinlerde daha fazla görülmüştür (%80, ortalama yaşı 47).<sup>9</sup> Ancak aynı yıl ülkemizde de salgın şeklinde olmasa da vaka sayılarında artış olduğunu bildiren yayınlar vardır.<sup>10,15</sup> 2017 ve 2018 yılları içinde artışının olduğunu gösteren başka bir literatür verisine ulaşlamamıştır. Türkiye'de pek çok merkezde son yıllarda HÜS vakalarında artış olduğu yerel toplantılarında gündeme gelmiştir. Ancak henüz yayın haline gelmediği için sıklığı hakkında net bilgi elimizde yoktur. Çalışmamızla aynı çalışma dönemini kapsayan Kore'de yapılan bir çalışmada STEC-HÜS vakaları için yaz aylarında dikkatli olunması gerektiği vurgulanmış ancak vaka sayılarında yıllar içinde artış olduğuna dair bir bilgi paylaşılmamıştır.<sup>16</sup>

Takip ettiğimiz hastaların çoğunda başvuru şikayetinin ishal (%86) olması nedeniyle çevresel faktörlerin hastalığın görülme sıklığını artırdığı düşünülmüştür. Ana tedavi şeklimiz destek tedavisi iken kötü seyir gösteren 18 (%41.8) hastada ekulizumab tedavisi ve literatürle benzer şekilde hastaların %70'ine böbrek yerine koyma tedavisi uygulandı.<sup>17</sup> Yaş ortalamasının düşük olduğu çalışma grubumuzda periton diyalizi yapılan hasta oranının yüksek olması beklenirken hemodiyaliz yapılan hastaların daha fazla olduğu dikkati çekmektedir. Bunun nedeninin plazma değişimi ihtiyacı olan hastalara katater takıldıktan sonra hemodiyaliz ile devam edilebilmesinden kaynaklandığını düşünmektedir.

Çocukluk çağında HÜS vakalarının %90'ından STEC-HÜS sorumludur. Akut dönemde STEC-HÜS olgularında mortalite oranı %3-5 iken kronik böbrek yetmezliğine ilerleme olasılığı %10 civarındadır. Ancak ishali olan her olgu STEC-HÜS olarak kabul edilmemelidir. Kompleman iliş-

kili HÜS olgularının %23-28'inde ishal ile hastalığın tetiklendiği bilinmektedir.<sup>17</sup> Bu nedenle HÜS ile başvuran her hastada şiga toksin çalışılması gerekmektedir. Ancak merkez olarak sadece Refik Saydam Hıfzıssıhha Merkezinin STEC çalıştığı dönemlerde numune gönderilebilmesi nedeniyle hastalarımızın hepsinden STEC çalışmamadı. Hastalarımız %90'a yakını ishal öyküsü olması ve bu hastaların arasında da kanlı ishal öyküsünün olması, mortal seyreden hastamızın olmaması ve SDBY'ne ilerleyen hasta oranımızın düşük olması nedeniyle hastalarımızın büyük çoğunluğunun STEC-HÜS olduğunu düşünmektedir.

Şiga toksin gastrointestinal sisteme mikrovilluslara hasar vererek kanlı ishale yol açmaktadır. Ayrıca toksin beraberinde polimorfonükleer lökositler ile dolaşma karışmaktadır ve dokularda inflamasyona ve trombotik mikroanjiopatiye yol açmaktadır. Plazma değişimi ile toksin dolaşımından temizlenerek endotel hasarı ve inflamasyonun engelleneceği düşünülmektedir. Erişkin çalışmalarla da pediyatrik çalışmalarla da plazma değişiminin etkinliği net gösterilememiştir.<sup>18,19</sup> Mevcut çalışmada dokuzunda nörolojik tutulum olan 12 hastamızda plazma değişimi uygulandı ve bu hastaların yedisi ekulizumab tedavisi de aldı. Hasta sayılarının az olması nedeniyle gruplar arasında istatistikî karşılaştırma yapılmadı. Ancak hiçbir hastada nörolojik sekel kalmaması nedeniyle özellikle ağır nörolojik tutulumu olan hastalarda plazma değişiminin uygulanması gerektiğini güncel veriler ışığında düşünmektedir.

Halen ekulizumab tedavisinin hangi hastada ve ne kadar süre kullanılması gerektiği ile ilgili literatürde net bilgi yoktur. Özellikle CFH mutasyonuna bağlı HÜS'de ekulizumab ile عمر boyu tedavi önerilirken, STEC-HÜS'da ekulizumab kullanımının yeri çok tartışımalıdır.<sup>20</sup> STEC-HÜS'de şiga toksin 2 CFH'in SCR kısımlarına bağlanarak kompleman sisteminin regülasyonunu bozmaktadır. Bu nedenle ekulizumab tedavisinin STEC-HÜS tedavisinde etkin olabileceği düşünülmektedir.<sup>20</sup> Çocuklarda STEC-HÜS'de ekulizumab etkinliğini gösteren küçük hasta gruplarında yapılmış az sayıda çalışma vardır. İlk olarak 2011 yılında üç STEC-HÜS hastasında ekulizumabın faydasının gösterilmesinin ardından Alman Nefroloji Derneği ağır böbrek hasarı, nörolojik tutulumu veya trombotik olay yaşayan hastalarda ekulizumab tedavisini önermektedir.<sup>21,22</sup>

Erişkinlerde yapılan başka bir çalışmada ise 491 HÜS hastasının 241'ine sadece plazma değişimi, 193'üne plazma değişimi ve ekulizumab, 57'sine destek tedavi verilmiş. Plazma değişimi ve ekulizumab tedavisi alan hastaların başlangıç renal ve nörolojik etkileşimleri daha kötü olmasına rağmen ekulizumabin kısa dönem etkisinin beklenenden daha iyi olduğunu belirtmişlerdir.<sup>19</sup> Ekulizumabin STEC-HÜS'deki etkisi 2022'de bitmesi planlanan ECUSTEC gibi randomize kontrollü çift kör çalışmaların sonuçlarına göre daha net söylemeyecektir. Ekulizumab tedavisinin merkezimizde uygulanmaya başlandığı 2014 yılı sonrası hastalar incelendiğinde hipertansiyon, proteinürü gibi renal progresyonun kötü olduğunu gösteren parametelerin ekulizumab verdigimiz hastalarda daha kötü olduğunu görüldü. Bu sonuç ekulizumabin progresyon üzerine etkisi konusunda soru işaretleri oluştursa da ekulizumab alan hastaların kliniklerinin daha kötü olması ve ortalama 10.günde başlanması gibi faktörlerin etkili olabileceğini düşünüyoruz.

Merkezimizde 10 yıl boyunca HÜS ile takip ettiğimiz hastaların hiçbir mortal seyretmezken sadece iki hasta (%4.3) ekulizumab tedavisine de cevap vermeyerek SDBY'e ilerlemiştir. Bu hastalardan biri kompleman ilişkili HÜS olarak düşünülmekte iken diğer STEC-HÜS hastası idi. HÜS'da SDBY'e ilerleme alitta yatan etiyolojiye göre değişmektedir. STEC-HÜS'de klinik progresyon genelde iyidir. Mortalite oranı %5'in altındadır ancak %5'inde SDBY gibi ciddi hasarlar kalabilmektedir.<sup>23</sup> 770 ishal ilişkili HÜS hastasının değerlendirildiği bir çalışmada mortalite oranı %2.9 bulunur iken SDBY'e ilerleyen hasta oranı ise %7.3 olarak tespit edildiği bildirilmiştir.<sup>24</sup>

Çalışmamızın önemli kısıtlamaları vardı. Bunların başında gaitada şiga toksin analizinin hastaların hepsinde çalışmamış olmasıydı. Hastaların %86'sında ishal öyküsü olması nedeniyle bu hastalar STEC-HÜS ön tanısı ile takip edilmişti. Son tabloya bakıldığına hastalık rekurrensinin hiçbir hastada olmaması ve hastaların çok azında SDBY'i gelişmesi nedeniyle vakalarımızı STEC-HÜS olarak düşünmekteyiz. Ayrıca infantlarda DGKE mutasyonu ya da kobalamin C eksikliğinin irdelenmemesi, atipik seyir göstergen veya kötü progresyonu sahip olan hastalarda alternatif kompleman yolağında görev alan proteinleri kodlayan

gen defektlerine veya bu proteinlere karşı oluşan antikorlara bakılamaması çalışmamızın kısıtlılıklarındandır.

Sonuç olarak akut böbrek hasarının önemli bir nedeni olan HÜS çocuk hastalarda en sık ishal ilişkili olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Bu hasta grubunda özellikle STEC-HÜS varlığının araştırılarak tedavinin planlanması önemlidir. Küçük yaş grubunda genetik nedenlerin HÜS'e sebep olabileceği ve bu durumda bile ishal ile hastalığın karşımıza çıkabileceği akılda tutulmalıdır. Merkez olarak teknik imkansızlıklar nedeniyle her zaman STEC-HÜS'ü tespit edememiş olsak da önemli sayıda pediatrik hastayı klinik özelliklerile değerlendirdik. Ekulizumab alan hastalarda HÜS'ün uzun dönem etkilerini gösteren hipertansiyon veya proteinürü gibi parametrelerin daha kötü olduğunu saptasak da SDBY'ne ilerleyen hasta oranımız düşük saptanmıştır. Ekulizumab ve plazma değişimi gibi tedavilerin HÜS'deki etkilerini daha net değerlendirildiği, daha geniş prospектив pediatrik çalışmalara ihtiyaç vardır.

### **Cıkar Beyannamesi**

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışmasının olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

### **Araştırmacıların Katkı Oranı Beyanı**

Ana fikir/Planlama: ASP, NG, İD, MHP, ZG, RD. Veri toplama/İşleme: ASP, NG, SY. Veri analizi ve yorumlama: ASP, SY, NG. Literatür taraması: ASP, NG, SY, AB. Yazım: ASP, NG. Gözden geçirme ve düzeltme: MHP, İD, ZG, RD. Danışmanlık: İD, MHP, ZG, RD.

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## Is Single Puncture Arthrocentesis Type-1 Superior to Double Puncture Arthrocentesis in Temporomandibular Joint Disc Displacement Without Reduction?

### Temporomandibular Eklem Redüksiyonsuz Disk Deplasmanlarında Tip-1 Tek Girişili Artrosentez Çift Girişili Artrosenteze Göre Daha Başarılı mı?

Fatih TAŞKESEN<sup>1</sup>  Burak CEZAİRLİ<sup>2</sup> 

#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı temporomandibular ekleminde (TME) redüksiyonsuz disk deplasmanı olan hastalarda tip-1 tek girişili ve çift girişili artrosentezin tedavi etkinliklerinin karşılaştırılmasıdır.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Bu randomize prospektif çalışmaya tip-1 tek girişili veya çift girişili TME artrosentezi yapılan 36 hasta dahil edilmiştir. Fonksiyona bağlı ağrı, maksimum ağız açılığı ve çiğneme etkinliği gibi çeşitli parametreler tedavi başlangıcında ve takip randevularında kaydedilmiştir. Ayrıca hastaların işleme toleransı, ihtiyaç duydukları analjezik miktarı, işlemin kolaylığı ve süresi de değerlendirilmiştir. Her bir zaman noktasında gruplar arasındaki fark ve altıncı ay ile başlangıç değerleri yüzdelik değişimleri Mann-Whitney U testi ile belirlendi. Değişkenlerin grup içi değerlendirilmesinde Wilcoxon testi kullanıldı. İstatistiksel anlamlılık düzeyi  $p < 0.05$  olarak kabul edildi.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmanın sonunda değerlendirme parametrelerindeki değişiklikler iki grup arasında istatistiksel olarak benzer bulunmuştur ( $p > 0.05$ ). Bununla birlikte, çift girişili artrosentez teknığının süresi, tip-1 tek girişili artrosentez teknigine göre, anlamlı olarak daha kısa bulunmuştur ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Tip-1 tek girişili artrosentez tedavisinde teknığın uygulama kolaylığı istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede yüksek bulunmuştur ( $p < 0.001$ ). Çift girişili artrosentez uygulamasının hastalar tarafından tolere edilebilirliği tip-1 tek girişili artrosentez uygulamasına göre ilk gün ve ilk hafta kontrollerinde daha yüksek bulunmuş olsa da ilk ay sonunda iki teknığın de hastalar tarafından tolere edilebilirliği benzer bulunmuştur.

**Sonuç:** Tip-1 tek girişili ve çift girişili artrosentez tedavilerinin etkinlikleri temporomandibular eklem redüksiyonsuz disk deplasmanında benzerdir. Tip-1 tek girişili artrosentez teknigi, düşük morbidite ve uygulama kolaylığı gibi avantajları nedeni ile temporomandibular eklem redüksiyonsuz disk deplasmanı vakalarında ilk tedavi yöntemi olarak düşünülebilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** artrosentez; temporomandibular eklem; temporomandibular eklem diski

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The aim of the study was to compare the effectiveness of single puncture arthrocentesis type-1 (SPA Type-1) and double puncture arthrocentesis (DPA) in patients with disc displacement without reduction (DDwoR) of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ).

**Materials and Methods:** This randomized prospective study included 36 consecutive patients who had TMJ arthrocentesis either with DPA or SPA Type-1. Several outcome parameters, such as pain on function, maximum mouth opening, and chewing efficiency were recorded at baseline and multiple follow-up assessments. Additionally, treatment tolerability, easiness and duration of the procedures and analgesics required postoperatively were also evaluated. The difference between the groups at each time point and percentages of sixth month-baseline changes were determined by the Mann-Whitney U test. Wilcoxon test was used for intra-group evaluation of variables according to baseline. Statistical significance level was accepted as  $p < 0.05$ .

**Results:** The rates of improvement of the outcome variables were not significantly different between the two groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, the duration of the DPA technique was significantly shorter than the SPA Type-1 ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The ease of the procedure was statistically significantly higher in SPA Type-1 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Treatment tolerability was statistically higher in DPA than SPA Type-1 in one day and one-week period however was similar in the one-month period.

**Conclusion:** Both SPA Type-1 and DPA techniques are similarly effective in DDwoR. SPA Type-1 may be considered the first treatment modality in DDwoR due to its advantages over DPA as low morbidity and easiness.

**Keywords:** arthrocentesis; temporomandibular joint; temporomandibular joint disc

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## INTRODUCTION

Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) disc displacement without reduction (DDWoR) refers to articular disc dislocation that the disc cannot be self-reduced in mouth maximum opening position.<sup>1,2</sup> DDWoR gives rise to mainly pain and limitation of mouth opening. Radiological findings represent an anterior position disc that cannot be reduced in mouth open position.<sup>3</sup>

The treatment of patients with DDWoR aims to relieve pain and restore function. Various conservative and surgical methods are used in the treatment of DDWoR. The conservative treatments include drugs, splints, and physiotherapy exercises. The surgical procedures include invasive and non-invasive modalities. Arthrocentesis is one of the most used minimally invasive procedures to treat TMJ DDWoR.<sup>4,5</sup>

TMJ arthrocentesis was first described by Nitzan<sup>6</sup> and developed as a modification of TMJ arthroscopy.<sup>4,5</sup> Conventional arthrocentesis refers to washing out joint cavity under hydraulic pressure by inserting two needles into superior joint cavity to lyse adhesions and flush out inflammatory mediators that cause pain.<sup>5,7</sup>

Many modifications have been described in the literature to decrease morbidity and to increase the comfort of both the patient and the surgeon in arthrocentesis procedure.<sup>4,8,9</sup> Guarda et al.<sup>10</sup> proposed a new arthrocentesis technique that uses a single needle for both injection and aspiration to avoid possible complications of two needles as facial nerve injury.<sup>11</sup> This technique was later described as single puncture arthrocentesis Type-1 by Senturk and Cambazoglu.<sup>12</sup> They classified TMJ arthrocentesis techniques according to the number of puncture sites as either single-puncture arthrocentesis (SPA) or double-puncture arthrocentesis (DPA). Further classification according to the number of needles used was made: Type-1: is a single needle cannula method in which the inflow and outflow occur through the same cannula and lumen; Type-2 is a double-needle or dual-needle cannula method in which the inflow and outflow occur through the same cannula but different lumens.<sup>12</sup>

A limited number of studies comparing the treatment efficacy of single puncture arthrocentesis (SPA) and double puncture arthrocentesis (DPA) have been reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup> Also, few of them have included an intraoperative comparison of these techniques.<sup>7,13,14</sup>

The objective of this study was to compare the intraoperative data concerning the duration and easiness along with the clinical efficacy of the conventional double puncture versus single puncture type-1 arthrocentesis for the management of temporomandibular joint disc displacement without reduction (DDWOR).

## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Study Design

This study recruited 36 patients with temporomandibular joint disc displacement without reduction (DDwoR), who were referred to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University in April to July 2020. Patients were treated by SPA Type-1 or DPA. Informed consent was taken from all patients included in this study. This prospective randomized study was conducted with ethical approval (2020/03-17) in Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University clinical research and ethics committee.

### Eligibility

#### Inclusion Criteria

Clinical diagnosis of unilateral TMJ disc displacement without reduction with limited opening based on Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders (DC/TMD)<sup>15</sup> and confirmed by the findings of magnetic resonance images (MRI).

#### Exclusion Criteria

Presence of any systemic disease affecting TMJ, history of previous TMJ surgery, bilateral TMJ disc displacement and unavailable clinical records.

### **Sample Size**

Thirty-six patients were randomly assigned into two groups based on the order in which they referred to the clinic: Group 1 (n=18), single puncture Type-1 arthrocentesis; Group 2 (n=18), conventional double puncture arthrocentesis. All arthrocentesis was conducted by a single experienced surgeon.

### **Outcome Measures**

Pain on Function (PoF) was rated by patients (pain during chewing or speaking etc.) on a Numeric Rating Scale (NRS) (0-10 where 0 is no pain and 10 is the worst pain imaginable).

Pain-free maximum mouth opening (MMO) in millimeters was measured as the distance between the incisal edges of the upper and lower incisors by a caliper while patient's mouth is open as possible without any assistance and without pain in the masseter muscle.

Pain at rest (PaR) was rated by patients on a Numerical Rating Scale (NRS) (0-10 where 0 is no pain and 10 is the worst pain imaginable).

Duration of the Procedure was noted at the end of the procedure in minutes.

The number of analgesics used by the patients in the post-operative first week was noted.

Ease of the procedure was rated by the surgeon as the degree of easiness of the procedure on a VAS as 0-very easy 10-very difficult to perform at the end of the procedure.

Treatment tolerability, the degree to which overt adverse effects and post-operative complications (pain, feeling of pressure in TMJ area and disturbing sound) can be tolerated by the patient. Patients were asked to rate the tolerability on a 5-point scale (0- lowest, 4-highest) at operation day, 1st week, end of follow up period (6th month).

Chewing efficiency was rated by the patients on a VAS as 0-can only eat semi-liquid foods, 10-eat any solid food.

Subjective perceived effectiveness of the treatment was rated by patients on a 5-point Likert-type scale as 0- lowest, 4 highest values at the end of the follow-up period (6th month).

Lateral Movement of the mandible towards the affected Temporomandibular joint (LT) was measured as the distance between the midlines of the upper and lower incisors by a caliper in millimeters while patient's mandible was shifted towards the affected TMJ.

Lateral Movement of the mandible away from the affected Temporomandibular joint (LA) was measured as the distance between the midlines of the upper and lower incisors by a caliper in millimeters while the patient's mandible was shifted away from the affected TMJ.

Protrusive movement of the mandible was measured as the distance in horizontal direction between the incisal edges of upper and lower incisors by a caliper in millimeters when mandible moves forward.

Pain on function, pain at rest, pain-free maximum mouth opening chewing efficiency, lateral and protrusive mandibular movement values were evaluated preoperatively and postoperatively 1st week, 1st month, 3rd month, and 6th month.

### **Arthrocentesis Procedure**

Posterior puncture method was used as described by Alkan and Etoz for DPA.<sup>11</sup> A straight line was drawn with a marker pen along the skin from the middle portion of the auricular tragus to the lateral cantus. The first puncture point was determined as 10 mm anterior and 2 mm inferior to the tragus, and the second 7 mm anterior and 2 mm inferior to the tragus. After injection of local anesthesia, the upper joint cavity was irrigated with 200 mL of Lactated Ringer's (RL) solution by inserting two 21-gauge needles. At the end of the procedure, after the withdrawal of one of the needles, 1 mL of sodium hyaluronate (SH) (Ostenil®, TRB Chemedica SA, Vouvry, Switzerland) was injected into the upper TMJ compartment through the other needle. The first reference point in DPA was used as the needle entry point for the SPA Type-1. With this technique, the inflow and outflow of solution were provided through the

same cannula and lumen of one 21-gauge needle as described by Guarda-Nardini et al.<sup>10</sup> The joint was irrigated with 200 mL of RL solution under high pressure. At the end of the procedure, 1 mL of SH was injected through the needle. All patients were prescribed one 20 mg of tenoxicam (Tilcotil, Roche, Basel, Switzerland) tablet once a day and recommended to use if they have pain.

### Statistical Analysis

IBM SPSS 22 was used to analyze the data (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.). Descriptive statistics of the variables were presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation in statistical analysis. The compatibility of the variables with the nominal distribution was tested with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The difference between the groups at each time point and percentages of sixth month-baseline changes were determined by the Mann-Whitney U test when the normal distribution was not assumed. Wilcoxon test was used for intra-group evaluation of PoF and MMO variables according to baseline. Statistical significance level was accepted as  $p < 0.05$ .

### RESULTS

All patients were evaluated for six months and no complications during or after the procedures were reported. In the DPA group ( $n=18$ ), the mean age was  $32.11 \pm 10.05$  years; 17 were female and one was male. In the SPA Type-1 group ( $n=18$ ), the mean age was  $31.77 \pm 10.16$  years; 17 were female and one was male. The mean age ( $p=0.922$ ) and sex distribution ( $p=0.863$ ) between the two groups were not significantly different.

Baseline values of the variables were not statistically significant (Table-1).

**Table 1.** Baseline values for the outcome variables.

Outcome parameters	Groups		
	(N = 18)	DPA (N = 18)	p
PoF	7.33 $\pm$ 1.32	6.88 $\pm$ 1.07	0.279
PaR	3.83 $\pm$ 0.85	3.44 $\pm$ 0.70	0.171
Chewing Efficacy	4.72 $\pm$ 1.56	4.44 $\pm$ 1.42	0.584
MMO	27.11 $\pm$ 2.02	26.16 $\pm$ 2.70	0.226
La	6.55 $\pm$ 1.42	6.00 $\pm$ 1.32	0.214
Lt	7.55 $\pm$ 1.29	6.66 $\pm$ 1.49	0.104
Protrusion	5.72 $\pm$ 0.75	5.38 $\pm$ 0.77	0.161

PoF, pain on function; PaR, pain at rest; MMO, maximum mouth opening; La, lateral movement of the mandible away from the affected side; Lt, lateral movement of the mandible towards the affected side; SPA Type-1, single-puncture arthrocentesis type-1 group; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group.

The MMO values increased significantly in both groups at the end of the follow-up period. This increase was statistically similar between the groups (Table-2,3). The PoF values decreased significantly in both groups at the end of the follow-up period. This decrease was statistically similar between the groups (Table-2,3) (Figure-1).

**Table 2.** Comparison of study variables between groups.

Outcome parameters	Follow-up	Groups		p*
		Med (Min-Max)	Med (Min-Max)	
PoF	Baseline	7.5 (5 - 9)	7 (5 - 9)	0.279
	1. week	4 (1 - 6)	3 (2 - 5)	0.239
	1. month	3 (2 - 5)	3 (1 - 5)	0.279
	3. month	3.5 (2 - 5)	3 (2 - 5)	0.355
	6. month	4 (2 - 5)	4 (2 - 5)	0.265
MMO	Baseline	27 (24 - 30)	25 (22 - 31)	0.226
	1. week	39.5 (36 - 43)	36 (20 - 42)	0.001
	1. month	40.5 (36 - 43)	36 (30 - 42)	0.001
	3. month	40.5 (36 - 43)	38 (35 - 43)	0.265
	6. month	40 (36 - 43)	38 (35 - 43)	0.181

PoF, pain on function; MMO, maximum mouth opening; SPA Type-1, single-puncture arthrocentesis group; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group; Med, median; Min, minimum; Max, maximum.

\* Mann-Whitney U test was used for comparing groups at follow-up periods.

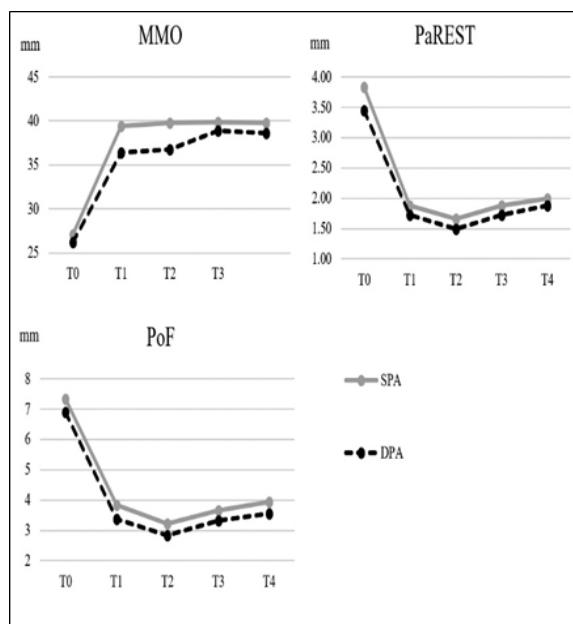
**Table 3.** Comparison follow-up periods with baseline values.

Outcome parameters	Follow-up	Groups		p*
		Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	
PoF	Baseline	7.33 $\pm$ 1.32	6.88 $\pm$ 1.07	
	1. week	3.83 $\pm$ 1.33	3.38 $\pm$ 0.97	< 0.00
MMO	Baseline	27.11 $\pm$ 2.02	26.16 $\pm$ 2.70	
	1. week	39.44 $\pm$ 2.52	36.38 $\pm$ 2.63	< 0.00
	1. month	39.72 $\pm$ 2.44	36.72 $\pm$ 2.63	< 0.00
	3. month	39.88 $\pm$ 2.37	38.83 $\pm$ 2.50	< 0.00
	6. month	39.72 $\pm$ 2.44	38.55 $\pm$ 2.47	< 0.00

PoF, pain on function; MMO, maximum mouth opening; SPA, single-puncture arthrocentesis group type-1; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group;

SD, standard deviation.

\*, Statistically significant when compared with baseline value in both groups ( $p < 0.05$ , Wilcoxon test was used)



**Figure 1.** Maximum mouth opening, pain on function and pain at rest changes over time in the study groups.

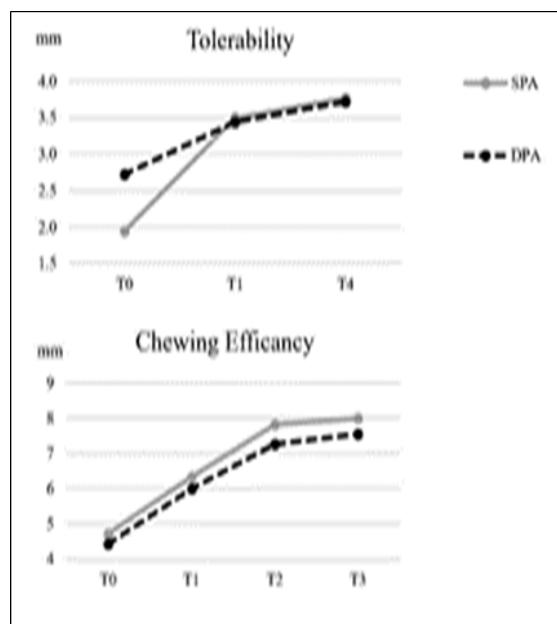
PoF, pain on function; PaR, pain at rest; MMO, maximum mouth opening; SPA, single-puncture arthrocentesis group; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group

The percentage change in MMO, PoF, PaR, LA, LT, protrusion, and chewing efficiency values from baseline to end of the follow-up period was statistically similar between the groups (Table-4). Ease of procedure was statistically significantly higher in the SPA Type-1 group than the DPA group ( $p<0.001$ ) and treatment tolerability was statistically significantly higher in the DPA group than the SPA Type-1 group in the post-operative first day and first week ( $p<0.007$ ) (Figure-2).

**Table 4.** Changes of the outcome variables at the end of the follow-up period compared to baseline values.

Outcome parameters	Groups		
	SPA Type-1 (N = 18)	DPA (N = 18)	p
PoF (%Δ)	-44.61 ± 15.45	-47.75 ± 14.39	0.533
PaR (%Δ)	-47.40 ± 13.10	-45.27 ± 17.22	0.839
Chew (%Δ)	91.16 ± 78.19	85.71 ± 59.94	0.816
MMO (Δ)	12.61 ± 2.09	12.38 ± 4.07	0.864
La (Δ)	1.22 ± 0.64	0.94 ± 1.62	0.696
Lt (Δ)	0.16 ± 0.92	0.27 ± 0.46	0.606
Protrusion (Δ)	0.72 ± 0.82	0.61 ± 1.14	0.839

PoF, pain on function; PaR, pain at rest; MMO, maximum mouth opening; La, Lateral movement of the mandible away from the affected side; Lt, Lateral Movement of the mandible towards the affected side; SPA Type-1, single-puncture arthrocentesis type-1 group; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group; (%Δ); change in percentage; (Δ) difference.



**Figure 2.** Tolerability and Chewing efficacy changes over time in the study groups.

SPA Type-1, single-puncture arthrocentesis group; DPA, double-puncture arthrocentesis group

However, this finding was not significant at post-operative 1<sup>st</sup> month measurements ( $p>0.05$ ). Perceived treatment effectiveness was statistically similar between the groups at the end of the follow-up period ( $p=0.791$ ) (Figure-2). Duration of the procedure was statistically significantly longer in the SPA Type-1 group ( $15.72 \pm 1.67$ ) group than in the DPA group ( $9.38 \pm 1.50$ ) ( $p<0.001$ ). The amount of analgesics used in a one-week period was not statistically significant between the groups ( $p=0.588$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Single needle arthrocentesis technique and the other SPA modifications (combining two needles as one cannula) were suggested in the literature to decrease the morbidity of two needle insertions and to increase the easiness of the procedure. The methods developed generally aimed to prevent traumatizing tissues and to injure superficial temporal vessels and facial nerves caused by the second needle insertion in conventional arthrocentesis.<sup>10,13</sup> It is obvious that washing out the joint with one needle will cause higher hydraulic pressure and this pressure will cause more lysis and expansion of the joint cavity.<sup>13,16</sup>

The hypothesis in this study is whether the more hydraulic pressure in SPA-1 will come out with better treatment outcomes in DDwoR than DPA technique. Another aspect of

this study was to evaluate these techniques intraoperatively to find out the effect of higher pressure in SPA Type-1 and the second needle insertion of DPA on treatment tolerability as well as post-operative pain. Moreover, the effect of using a second needle in DPA on difficulty and the duration of the operation was aimed to evaluate.

Many studies have been published in the literature comparing SPA and DPA techniques.<sup>7,13,14,17,18</sup> While most of these studies focused on comparing the success of treatment efficacy of SPA and DPA techniques, only few studies evaluated and compared SPA Type-1 and DPA techniques intraoperatively.<sup>7,13,17</sup>

In the present study, MMO, pain, lateral and protrusive movements of mandible, and perceived treatment effectiveness values were measured to compare the efficacy of SPA Type-1 and DPA. Additionally, treatment tolerability and also easiness and duration of the procedure were measured to compare these techniques intraoperatively.

Statistically significant improvements were observed at six months with respect to baseline in MMO, pain on function, pain at rest, chewing efficacy, lateral and protrusive movements for both groups. These findings are consistent with previous studies.<sup>8,13,17,19</sup> The rate of improvement for these outcome variables was not significantly different between the SPA Type-1 and DPA groups. Guarda-Nardini et al. also reported no significant differences in any of these outcome variables in their study comparing two-needle and single-needle arthrocentesis.<sup>13</sup> Bayramoglu et al.<sup>17</sup> conducted a study comparing SPA Type-1 and DPA, including six months follow up and they concluded that SPA Type-1 and DPA are equally effective in terms of MMO and pain. Similarly Grossman et al.<sup>18</sup> and Senturk et al.<sup>19</sup> reported no statistical difference between these two techniques in terms of pain and MMO.

Perceived treatment effectiveness was statistically similar between the groups ( $p=0.791$ ). Chewing efficiency was improved in both groups and was statistically similar between the groups at all follow-up periods. Guarda-Nardini et al. also found similar results in their study in terms of subjective treatment efficacy and chewing efficiency.<sup>13</sup>

Previous studies reported no statistically significant differences between SPA and DPA in terms of treatment tolerability.<sup>13,17</sup> However, in the present study, treatment tolerability was statistically significantly higher in the DPA group than in the SPA Type-1 group at short term (1 day and 1 week period that can be explained by the discomforting higher hydraulic pressure in SPA Type-1.

Senturk et al.<sup>7</sup> found a statistically significant difference in the duration of the procedure between the SPA Type-2 group and the SPA Type-1 group and DPA group in their study comparing SPA Type-1, SPA Type-2 and DPA techniques. They reported no difference between SPA Type-1 and DPA. Talaat et al.<sup>14</sup> reported a shorter operative time in SPA Type-2 than DPA. Bayramoglu et al. reported a statistically significant longer operation time in SPA Type-1 than DPA.<sup>17</sup> In the present study, the duration of SPA Type-1 was 15.7 minutes and 9.4 minutes for DPA. Duration of the procedure was statistically significantly longer in SPA Type-1 than DPA; as parallel with Bayramoglu et al. finding. This can be explained by the continuing circuit of inflow and outflow in the same cannula and lumen in SPA Type-1 causing operator to wait outflow of solution for a new inflow. This circuit takes more time than the DPA.<sup>4,17</sup>

The same amount of solution (200 mL RL) was used in both SPA Type-1 and DPA in the present study. The need to use as many solutions as in DPA, in SPA Type-1 technique should be discussed. It is likely to think that much smaller amounts of solution will be sufficient due to higher pressure during SPA Type-1 in DDwoR cases. Thus, SPA Type-1 treatment time will not be as long as expected and patients' tolerance will increase.

Senturk et al. found no statistical significant difference between the SPA Type-1 and DPA groups in terms of the easiness of the procedure to the operator however they found SPA Type-1 is easier. In the present study SPA Type-1 was found easier to perform than DPA. This result may be due to the difficulty of inserting the second needle in the DPA technique as mentioned in the studies previously.<sup>10,11</sup>

The amount of analgesics used in postoperative period was evaluated in a previous study by Bayramoglu et al.<sup>17</sup> They

reported that the amount of analgesics used by patients was not statistically significant between SPA Type-1 and DPA groups. However, they did not give any information about the amount of analgesics required or any statistical results. In the present study, analgesic pills were prescribed once a day and the number of pills in the first week were noted for each patient. The number of analgesics used was not statistically significant between the SPA Type-1 and DPA groups. It can be claimed that the high pressure in the SPA Type-1 group did not cause more pain postoperatively.

The SPA Type-2 (Sheppard Cannula and modifications) technique, which is rarely used in clinics because it requires special equipment, was not included in this study. Furthermore, it may not be necessary to compare this technique with DPA since it was unlikely to generate more pressure in the SPA Type-1 than the DPA technique.

To conclude, this study showed that the SPA Type-1 and DPA techniques had similar positive treatment efficacy outcomes in DDwoR cases. While DPA has superiority to SPA Type-1 in terms of the duration and the tolerability of the procedure in the short term, SPA Type-1 appeared much easier to perform. Further studies are required using fewer solutions in SPA Type-1 on equal terms, to gain more fair results in terms of tolerability, easiness, and duration of the techniques.

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: FT, BC. Data Collection and/or Processing: FT, BC. Data analysis and interpretation: FT, BC. Literature Search: FT, BC. Drafting manuscript: FT, BC. Critical revision of manuscript: FT, BC. Supervision: FT, BC.

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## Tiroid Hormon İlişkili Deiyodinaz Enzim Seviyelerindeki Değişikliklere Selenyumun Etkisi

### The Effect of Selenium on Changes in Thyroid Hormone-Related Deiodinase Enzyme Levels

Ercan BABUR<sup>1</sup>  Umut BAKKALOĞLU<sup>1</sup>  Cem SÜER<sup>2</sup>  Nurcan DURSUN<sup>2</sup> 

#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı selenyumun tiroid hormon ilişkili deiodinaz enzim seviyeleri üzerine etkisini araştırmaktır.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Deneyler 2 aylık, yetişkin, erkek Wistar Albino sincanlar üzerinde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışmada toplam 32 adet sincan kullanılmıştır. Kontrol grubu (Kontrol, n=8, serum fizyolojik uygulanmıştır), hipotiroid (6-n-propil thiourasil (Ptu), n=8, 1mg/kg/gün Ptu, hipotiroid+sodyum selenit (Sena, n=8, Ptu+0.5mg/kg/gün sodyum selenit) ve hipotiroid+seleno-L-metionin (Semet, n=8, Ptu+0.7mg/kg/gün seleno-L-metionin) grubu olmak üzere 4 grup oluşturulmuştur. Tüm maddeler 21 gün boyunca gastrik gavaj tekniği ile uygulanmıştır. Deney sonrası sakrifiye edilen sincanlardan heparinli tüp içine alınan kan örnekleri 4000 rpm' de 5 dakika süre ile santrifüj edilerek plazmaları ayrılmıştır. Dekapit edilen sincanların hipokampüsleri çıkarılmıştır. Hipokampus deiodinaz 2 (DIO2) ve deiodinaz 3 (DIO3) protein seviyeleri western blot yöntemi ile ölçülmüştür. Plazma ve beyin selenyum değerleri, kütle spektrometre yöntemi ile ölçülmüştür. Plazma serbest Triyodotironin (T3) ve Tiroksin (T4) seviyeleri ticari ELISA kiti kullanılarak ölçülmüştür.

**Bulgular:** Hipokampus DIO2 enzim seviyeleri Pt grubunda kontrol grubuna göre artmış ( $p=0.04$ ), DIO3 ise azalmıştır ( $p=0.001$ ). Selenyum takviyeli grupta ise hipotiroidide gelişen bu farklılık ortadan kalkmıştır.

**Sonuç:** Bu bulgular hipotiroidi hastalarında selenyum takviyesinin tiroid hormon seviyesindeki bozuklukları iyileştirebileceğini düşündürmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** deiodinaz; hipokampus; selenyum; tiroid hormonları

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of selenium on thyroid hormone-related deiodinase enzyme levels.

**Materials and Methods:** The experiments were carried out on adult male Wistar rats aged 2 months. In total, 32 rats were used in the study. The rats were divided into 4 groups; control (Control, n=8, saline was applied), hypothyroid (6-n-propyl thiouracil (Ptu), n=8, 1mg/kg/day Ptu), hypothyroid+sodium selenite (Sena, n=8, Ptu+0.5mg/kg/day sodium selenite) and hypothyroid+seleno-L-methionine (Semet, n=8, Ptu+0.7mg/kg/day seleno-L-methionine) group. All drugs were administered with gastric gavage technique for 21 days. After the experiment, the blood samples taken from the rats sacrificed in a heparin tube were centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 5 minutes and their plasmas were separated. The hippocampus of the decapitated rats was removed. Hippocampus (deiodinase 2) DIO2 and (deiodinase 3) DIO3 protein levels were measured with western blot method. Se values on plasma and hippocampus were measured with inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. Plasma-free Triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4) levels were measured using a commercial ELISA kit.

**Results:** Hippocampus DIO2 enzyme levels increased in the Pt group compared to the control group ( $p=0.04$ ) and DIO3 decreased ( $p=0.001$ ). In the selenium (Se) supplemented groups, this difference in hypothyroidism disappeared.

**Conclusion:** These findings suggest that selenium supplementation may improve thyroid hormone levels in patients with hypothyroidism.

**Keywords:** deiodinase; hippocampus; selenium; thyroid hormones

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## GİRİŞ

Tiroïd hormonları, insan fizyolojisinde önemli roller üstlenen ve geniş bir etki alanına sahip düzenleyici proteinlerdir. Özellikle fetal ve postnatal dönemde sinir sistemi gelişimi dahil olmak üzere erişkin beyin fonksiyonlarının sürdürülmesi için gereklidir.<sup>1</sup> Tiroid hormonlarının genel etkisi, çok sayıda genin nükleer transkripsyonunu aktive etmesidir. Bu etkinin sonucu olarak hücrelerin neredeyse tümünde fonksiyonel aktivite artışı görülür.<sup>2</sup> Karbonhidrat metabolizmasının uyarılması, glukozun hücreler tarafından kullanımında artış, yağ dokusundan lipitlerin dolaşım serbestlenmesi ve yağ asitlerinin hücreler tarafından hızlı oksidasyonu besinlerin enerji için kullandıkları artış ve dolayısıyla yüksek metabolik hızın oluşturduğu enerji açığına işaret eder.<sup>3</sup> Dolaşım, solunum, merkezi sinir sistemi ve diğer birçok sistem üzerine gösterdiği etkiler nedeniyle vücuttaki tiroid hormon seviyelerinin homeostazis sınırları içerisinde tutulması önemlidir. Tiroid hormon metabolizmasının düzenlenmesi, kanda tiroid hormon taşıyıcılarının ekspresyonu, tiroid hormon reseptör izoformlarının aktivitesi, monokarboksilik taşıyıcılarının ekspresyonu ve deiyodinazlar (DIO) gibi kompleks mekanizmaların birlikte çalışması ile gerçekleşir.<sup>4</sup> Ayrıca çekirdekte yer alan tiroid hormon reseptörlerin aktivitesi korepresör ve koaktivatör düzenleyiciler ile kontrol edilir.<sup>5,6</sup> Hücresel düzeyde bakıldığından tiroid hormonlarının aktivitesi hücre içinde lokal olarak bulunan Triyodotironin (T3) miktarı ile ilişkilidir.<sup>7</sup> Hücre içindeki tiroid hormon seviyelerinin kontrolü ise iyodotironin deiyodinazlar ile sağlanır. Deiyodinasyon Tirosinin (T4) T3' e dönüşümünde kritik bir süreçtir. İyodotironin deiyodinazlar, tiroid hormon aktivasyonu veya inaktivasyonuna neden olarak dokularda tiroid hormonlarının etkisini düzenler.<sup>8</sup> Omurgalılarda 3 tip deiyodinaz (DIO1, DIO2 ve DIO3) tanımlanmıştır. Deiyodinazların katalitik merkezlerindeki selenosistein rezidüleri dahil birçok ortak özelliğinin olmasının yanı sıra tipe özgü farklılıklar görülür.<sup>9</sup> DIO2 sadece dış halka deiyodinasyonu yapmasının yanı sıra esas olarak hipofiz, iskelet kası, beyin ve kahverengi yağ dokusunda eksprese edilir. Aynı zamanda DIO2 sıçan cerebral korteksindeki T4-T3 dönüşümünün %75'inden sorumludur.<sup>10</sup> DIO3, T3 ve T4 hormonlarını Diyodotironin ve reverse Triyodotironine çevirerek inaktive eden deiyodinazdır. Tiroid hormon homeostazındaki temel işlevi, dokuları aşırı miktarda aktif hormondan

korumaktır.<sup>11</sup> DIO1 enzime bakıldığından non-selektif olarak hem iç hemde dış halka deiyodinasyonu yapan yoğun olarak karaciğer ve böbreklerde eksprese olan bir enzimdir.<sup>12</sup> DIO2 ile birlikte periferik T4-T3 dönüşümünde rol alır ve plazmada dolaşan T3'ün önemli bir kaynağını oluşturur.

Selenyum (Se), büyümeye, immün fonksiyonlar, tiroid hormonları, üreme ve antioksidasyon ile yakından ilişkili esansiyel bir elementdir.<sup>13</sup> Kofaktör formunda proteinlerle etkileşimde bulunan diğer metal elementlerden farklı olarak Se, polipeptid zincire selenosistein (Sec) aminoasidin bir parçası olarak katılır. Polipeptid zincirlerinde Sec içeren proteinlere selenoproteinler adı verilir.<sup>14</sup> İnsan selenoproteinleri, benzer fonksiyonlara sahip birçok gene sahip 17 selenoprotein ailesi içerir. Bunlardan bazıları glutatyon peroksidaz (5 gen), tiyoredoksin redüktaz (3 gen), iyodotironin deiyodinaz (DIO, 3 gen) ve selenofosfat sentetaz 2' dir.<sup>15</sup> Selenumu tiroid hormon metabolizmasına bağlayan ilişki deiyodinazlar aracılığı ile kurulur. Deiyodinazların yapısında selenosistein aminoasidi içermesi, selenyum eksikliği durumunda bu enzimlerin fonksiyonlarının bozulmasına neden olur.<sup>16</sup> Önceki çalışmalarımızda selenyum eksikliğinin sinaptik plastisite üzerine olumsuz etkileri gösterilmiştir.<sup>17</sup> Literatürde, selenyumun kendi iç düzenlenmesi ve deiyodinazlar ile ilişkisi hakkında yeterli veri bulunmamaktadır. Bu yüzden bu çalışmanın esas hedefi, tiroid hormonu eksikliğinde deiyodinaz enzim aktivitelerindeki değişikliğin gözlenmesi ve aynı zamanda selenyum takviyesinin bu değişiklikler üzerine etkisini tartışmaktadır.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

### Deney Hayvanları ve Gruplandırma

Bu çalışmada, Erciyes Üniversitesi Hayvan Deneyleri Etik Kurulu'ndan 13.04.2016 tarih ve 16/072 sayılı onayı ile ve Erciyes Üniversitesi Hakan Çetinsaya Deneysel ve Klinik Araştırma Merkezinden sağlanan, vücut ağırlıkları 200-300 gr olan, 2 aylık 32 adet Wistar Albino sıçan kullanılmıştır. Gruplar Tablo 1'de sunulmuştur. Propiltiourasil 0.1N NAOH çözeltisi içinde, seleno-L-metionin ve sodiyum selenit ise serum fizyolojik içerisinde çözülmüşdür. Tüm maddeler serum fizyolojik içine katılarak en fazla

1 ml verilecek şekilde gastrik gavaj tekniği ile 21 gün boyunca sıçanlara uygulanmıştır. Deney prosedürüne takiben sıçanlar intraperitoneal ketamin (100mg/kg) + ksilazin (2.5mg/kg) enjeksiyonu ile oluşturulan anestezi sonrası sakrifiye edilmiştir.

**Tablo 1.** Gruplar ve uygulanan maddeler

Gruplar	(n)	Uygulanan maddeler
Kontrol	8	Serum fizyolojik
Ptu	8	Propiltiourasil 1mg/kg/gün
Sena	8	Propiltiourasil 1mg/kg/gün + 0.5 mg/kg/gün sodyum selenit
Semet	8	Propiltiourasil 1mg/kg/gün + 0.7 mg/kg/gün seleno-L-metiyonin

### Selenyum Seviyeleri Ölçümü

Sakrifikasyon sonrası heparinli tüp içine alınan kan örnekleri 4000 rpm' de 5 dakika süre ile santrifüj edilerek plazmaları ayrıldı. Dekapite edilen sıçanların hipokampüsleri çıkarıldı. Alınan kan ve doku örnekleri ölçüm yapılacak güne kadar -80°C'de saklandı. Plazma ve hipokampüs selenyum ölçümleri İstanbul Adli Tıp Enstitüsünde ICP-MS (inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry yöntemi) hizmet alımı şeklinde yapıldı.

### Tiroïd Hormon Seviyelerinin Ölçümü

Plazma tiroïd hormon seviyelerinin ölçümü için -80°C'de bekletilen plazma örnekleri kullanıldı. Ölçümler ticari ELISA kiti (GenWay Biothech Inc, San Diego, CA) kullanılarak MultiskanTM FC Microplate Photometer ile gerçekleştirildi. Tüm numuneler iki kopya halinde ve eş zamanlı olarak analiz edildi (T3 için duyarlılık 0.2 pg/ml, T4 0.0023 ng/dl ).

### Western Blot ile Deiyodinaz Seviyelerinin Belirlenmesi

Western blot çalışmaları için, deney sonrası sıçanların beynleri dekapite edilerek çıkartıldı. Beyin dokusu sağ ve sol hemisferler ayrıldıktan sonra her iki hipokampüs beyin dokusundan ayrıldı. Doku örnekleri lizis solüsyonuyla homojenize edildikten sonra protein izolasyonu yapıldı. Bicinkonik asit belirteci ile 520 nm'de protein konsantrasyon tayini yapıldı. Tüm gruplara ait örnekler her kuyucukta 20 µg protein olacak şekilde sodyum dodesil sülfat jеле yüklendi. Proteinlerin yürütülme işlemi, maksimum voltaj ve

jel başına 25 mili amper olacak şekilde elektroforez tanıkında gerçekleştirildi. Daha sonra elde edilen sodyum dodesil sülfat jeller, maksimum voltaj, 240 mA'da 90 dakika boyunca poliviniliden diflorür membrana aktarılma işlemi uygulandı. İşlem sonunda membranlar, %3 süt tozu (tris tamponlu salin ve Polisorbat 20 (TBS-T) içinde hazırlanmış) içine alınarak, bir saat bloklama yapıldı. Bloklama sonrası membranlar TBS-T solüsyonu ile her seferinde 5 dakika olmak üzere 5 kez yıkandı. Yıkama sonrası membranlar primer antikorlar ile (DİO2, 1:1000, DİO3, 1:1000) 12-16 saat, +4 °C'de gece inkübasyonuna bırakıldı. İnkübasyondan sonra TBS-T ile her seferinde 5 dakika olmak üzere 5 kez yıkandı. Daha sonra Horseradish peroxidase (HRP) ile konjugé edilmiş sekonder antikor (%5 süt tozu içinde hazırlanan, anti-mouse ve anti-rabbit, 1:5000) ile 1 saat muamele edildi. Enhanced chemiluminescence solüsyonu ile sinyal almak için Chemidoc cihazında görüntüleme işlemi yapıldı. Elde edilen membran görüntülerini Image-J programı kullanılarak değerler hesaplandı.

### İstatistiksel Analiz

Sonuçların istatistiksel analizi için SPSS Versiyon 16 paket programı kullanıldı.<sup>18</sup> Tiroïd hormonu ve selenyum seviyeleri tek yönlü ANOVA testi ile değerlendirildi. Western Blot ile elde değerler için kontrol grubu 100 kabul edildi ve diğer grupların kontrol grubuna göre değişimleri hesaplandı. Elde edilen veriler Shapiro-Wilk normallik testine göre normal dağılım gösterdiğinde gruplar arası karşılaştırma parametrik testlerden tek örneklem T-testi ile yapıldı. İstatistiksel anlamlılık için olasılık düzeyi p<0.05 olarak kabul edildi. Değerler ortalama ± standart hata şeklinde ifade edildi.

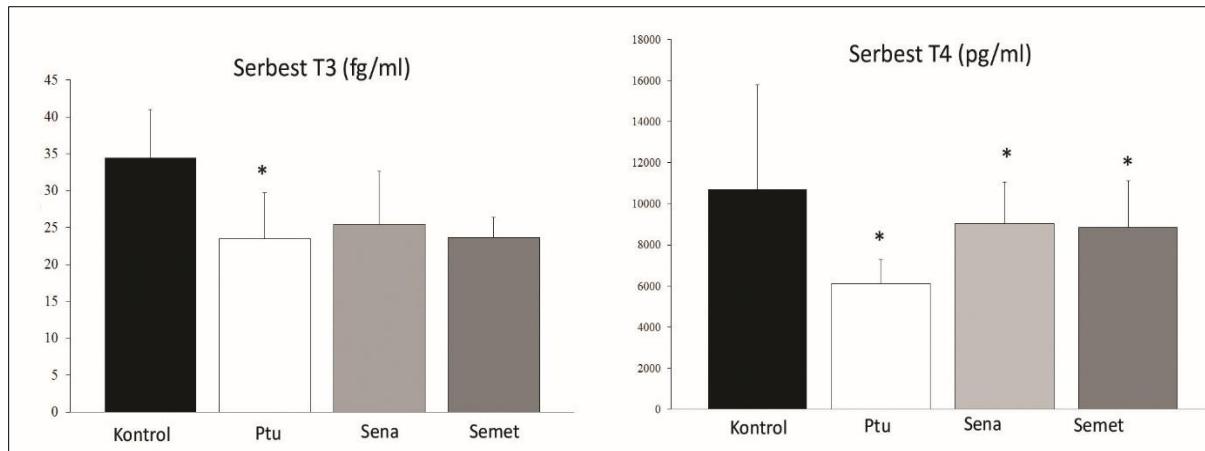
### BULGULAR

#### Serum Tiroïd Hormon Seviyeleri

Plazma T3 seviyeleri Şekil 1A'da gösterilmektedir. Tek yönlü ANOVA testi gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir ( $F_{3,27}=3.074$ ,  $p=0.047$ ). Post hoc Tukey testinde PtU grubuna ( $p=0.032$ ) ait plazma T3 seviyeleri kontrol grubuna anlamlı derecede düşük bulunmuştur. Selenyum desteği yapılan gruplar kontrol grubundan farklılık göstermemiştir.

Şekil 1B, grupların plazma T4 seviyelerini göstermektedir. Tek yönlü ANOVA testi ile yapılan istatistiksel karşılaştırma sonucu kontrol ve deney grubu sincanların plazma serbest T4 seviyeleri, gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir ( $F_{3,30}=4.713$ ,  $p=0.009$ ).

Post-hoc Tukey testine göre Ptu ( $p=0.009$ ), Sena ( $p=0.037$ ) ve Semet ( $p=0.045$ ) gruplarının serum T4 seviyeleri kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir düşüş göstermiştir.

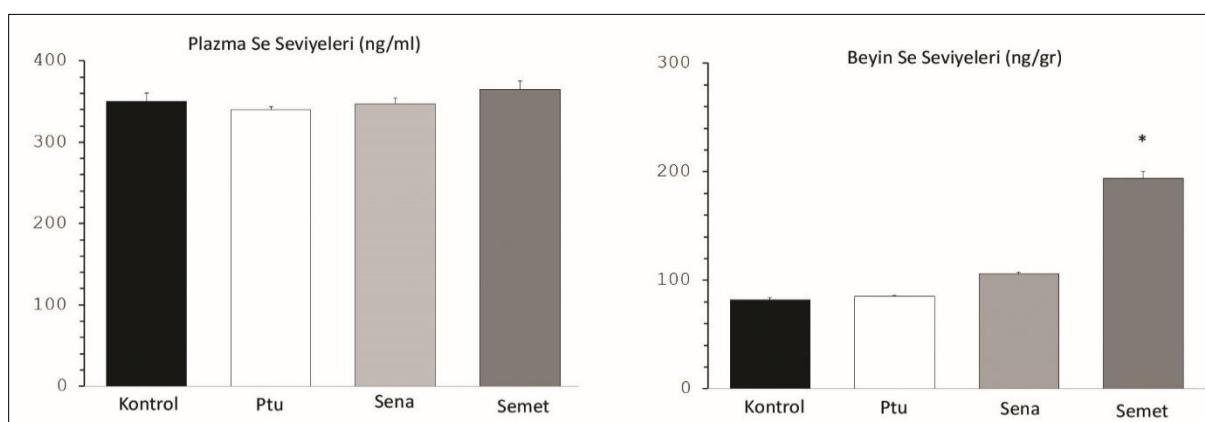


Şekil 1. Grupların Plazma Triiyodotironin (A) ve Tiroksin (B) Değerleri

#### Beyin ve Plazma Selenyum Seviyeleri

Plazma Se seviyeleri Şekil 2A'da görülmektedir. 21 günlük farklı selenyum formlarının desteği ve Ptu ile induklenen hipotiroidizm, plazma Se seviyelerinde değişiklik oluşturmuştur ( $F_{3,23}=0.27$ ,  $p=0.846$ ). Beyin Se seviyeleri incelendiğinde Tek yönlü ANOVA testi gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir.

( $F_{3,22}=37.260$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Post hoc testler Semet grubu beyin Se seviyelerinin kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir şekilde arttığını göstermiştir ( $p=0.005$ ). Sodyum selenit desteği verilen diğer Se grubunda (Sena) beyin selenyum seviyeleri artmış ancak istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık oluşmamıştır ( $p=0.06$ ).



Şekil 2. Grupların Plazma (A) ve Beyin (B) Selenyum Seviyeleri

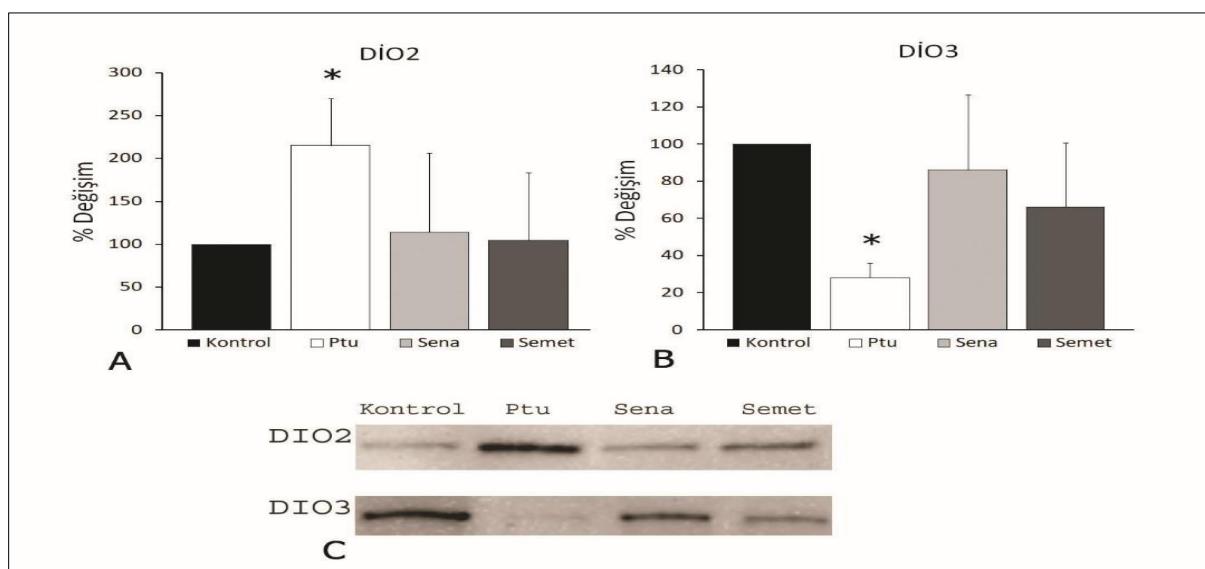
#### Hipokampüs DO2 ve DO3 Enzim Seviyeleri

Gruplara ait western blot membran görüntüleri (A), hipokampüs DO2 (B) ve hipokampüs DO3 (C) protein seviyelerinin kontrol grubuna yüzdesel değişimi şekil 3'te sunulmaktadır. Gruplar Shapiro-Wilk normalilik testine göre normal dağılım gösterdiğinden gruplar arası karşılaştırma parametrik testlerden tek örneklem T-testi ile yapılmıştır.

Ptu grubu ve kontrol grubu DO2 protein seviyeleri istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir ( $df=3$ ,  $t=3.279$ ,  $p=0.046$ ). Ptu grubu DO2 protein seviyeleri kontrol grubuna göre artmıştır. Sena, Semet ve kontrol grubu arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık bulunmamıştır. (Sena:  $df=3$ ,  $t=0.626$ ,  $p=0.579$ , Semet:  $df=3$ ,  $t=0.425$ ,  $p=0.700$ ). DO3 seviyeleri, Ptu grubu ve kontrol grubu arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermiştir ( $df=3$ ,  $t=-$

18.306,  $p<0.001$ ). Ptu grubu D $\circ$ O3 seviyeleri azalmıştır. Sena ve Semet grupları kontrol grubundan istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık oluşturmamıştır (Sena:  $df=3$ ,  $t=$

0.686,  $p=0.542$ , Semet:  $df=3$ ,  $t=-1.961$ ,  $p=0.145$ ). Gruplar D $\circ$ O2 ve D $\circ$ O3 protein seviyeleri yüzdesel değişimini rakamsal değerleri Tablo 1' de verilmiştir.



Şekil 3. Grupların D $\circ$ O2 (A) ve D $\circ$ O3 (B) Protein Seviyeleri Yüzdesel Değişim Grafiği ve Western Blot Membran Görüntüsü (C)

## TARTIŞMA

Bu çalışmada hipotiroidizmin indüklenmesinde kullanılan Ptu klinikte hipertiroidizm tedavisinde kullanılan tiyoüre türevi bir ilaçtır. Etkisini tiroid peroksidaz inhibisyonu, diyodotironin ve monoiyodotironinin birbirine bağlanmasıının engellenmesi ve dolaşımındaki T4'ün T3'e dönüşmesinde rol alan 5-deiyodinaz enzim inhibisyonu ile gösterir.<sup>19</sup> Bu çalışmada, serbest T4 seviyeleri gruplar arasında karşılaştırıldığında yalnızca Ptu verilen grupta (Ptu grubu), kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ( $p=0.009$ ) bir düşüş görülmüştür. Ptu ile birlikte Se verilen Sena ve Semet gruplarında düzeltici bir etki görülmemiştir. Ancak serbest T3 düzeyleri karşılaştırıldığında serbest T3 seviyeleri Ptu grubunda kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı seviyede ( $p=0.032$ ) azalmış, Sena ve Semet gruplarında ise normal seviyelere dönmüştür. Se takviyesi hipotiroidizm oluşturulmuş grupta görülen serbest T3 düşüküğünü ortadan kaldırılmış ve düzeltici etki göstermiştir. Bu sonuçlar Esposito ve arkadaşlarının Hashimoto hastalarına uygulan Se takviyesinin serbest T3 düzeyini artırırken serbest T4 düzeylerini azalttığı bulgusu ile uyumludur.<sup>20</sup> Se takviyesinin serbest T4 üzerine etki göstermezken serbest T3 düzeyini artttırması selenyumun tiroid hormon sentezi üzerine etkisinden çok T4, T3 dönüşümünü katalizle-

yen D $\circ$ O1 enzim aktivitesini artttırmasına bağlı görünmektedir. Tip 2 deiyodinaz enzimi santral sinir sistemindeki tiroid hormon seviyesi değişiklerine adapte olmada önemli bir faktördür. Hipotiroidi gibi beyin tiroid hormon seviyesinin azaldığı durumlarda T4'ün T3'e dönüşümünde rol alan D $\circ$ O2 enzimi aktivitesi artarak beyin hücrelerini hipotiroidi durumundan korumaya çalışır. Dışarıdan T3 ve T4 uygulaması ile D $\circ$ O2 mRNA seviyelerinin hızlı bir şekilde azalması, bu etkilerin gen transkripsiyonu ve post-translasyonel mekanizmalar ile gerçekleştiğini düşündürmektedir.<sup>21</sup> Bu çalışmada Ptu grubu D $\circ$ O2 enzimi seviyesi kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir artış göstermiştir. Hipotiroidi durumundaki bu artış D $\circ$ O2 enzimi üretiminin tiroid hormonunun baskılıyıcı etkisinden kurulmasına bağlı görülmektedir. Sena ve Semet gruplarının D $\circ$ O2 seviyeleri ile kontrol grubu arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık bulunmamıştır ( $p>0.05$ ).

Tip 3 deiyodinaz fizyolojik olarak tiroid hormonlarının inaktivatörü konumundadır. T3 ve T4 hormonlarını iç halka deiyodinasyonu ile daha az aktif olan T2 ve rT3'e çevirir.<sup>22</sup> D $\circ$ O3'ün bu rolü, hücreleri aşırı tiroid hormonu etkisinden korumak üzerindedir. Bu çalışmada Ptu grubu D $\circ$ O3 enzim seviyeleri düşüklüğü istatistiksel olarak anlamlılık göstermiştir ( $p=0.001$ ). Bu durum beyin doku-

sunda T3 hormonunun direk etkiyle D<sub>i</sub>O<sub>3</sub> gen transkripsiyonunu artırması ile açıklanabilir. Ancak plasentada bu düzenlenmenin olmaması farklı dokularda farklı mekanizmaların rol oynayabileceğini düşündürmektedir.<sup>23</sup> Retinoik asit, serum büyümeye faktörleri, östrojen, progesteron, TGF-b, Wnt-b katenin ve Shh/Gli gibi farklı faktörlerin D<sub>i</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ekspresyonunu artırırken glukokortikoidlerin ve büyümeye hormonunun D<sub>i</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ekspresyonunun azalduğu gösterilmiştir.<sup>11</sup>

Selenyum deiyodinaz gibi selenoproteinlerin yapısında yer alan eser bir elementtir ve tiroid hormonları metabolizmasında önemli rol alır. Selenyum doğada organik ve inorganik formda bulunur. Bu çalışmada hipotiroidi oluşturulan siçanlara selenyumun iki farklı formu iki farklı gruba verilmiştir (Sena: Sodyum selenit, inorganik form ve Semet: Seleno-L-metionin, organik form). Beyin Se seviyeleri gruplar arasında kıyaslandığında Semet grubu kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ( $p=0.005$ ) artış göstermiştir. Sodyum selenit verilen Sena grubu aynı artışı göstermemiştir ( $p=0.06$ ). Daha önceki çalışmalarımızda her iki formun karaciğer, böbrek, testis ve kalpte birikimi kıyaslandığında seleno-L-metionin sodyum selenitten daha fazla birikim gösterdiği bulunmuştur. Çeşitli insan ve hayvan çalışmalarında seleno-L-metionin ve selenatin barsaktan emilme oranının selenit ve selenosisteine göre yüksek bulunduğu bildirilmiştir.<sup>24</sup> Burada öne sürülen mekanizma seleno-L-metionin ve selenatin barsaklardan emiliminde aktif transportu kullandığı selenit ve selenosisteinin ise pasif transportu kullandığı üzerindedir. Ayrıca seleno-L-metionin, proteinlere metionin pozisyonundan eklenerken unregüle selenyum havuzuna girerken selenit barsaklardan absorbsiyon sırasında selenide indirgenir ve metabolize olmak için karaciğere gelir.<sup>15</sup> Seleno-L-metioninin vücutta daha iyi dağılım göstermesi proteinlerin yapısına katılarak karaciğerde metabolize olmaktan kaçınması ile açıklanabilir.

Çalışmamızda beyin Se seviyeleri haricinde plazma Se seviyeleri de değerlendirilmiştir. Grupların plazma Se seviyeleri kıyaslandığında dört grup arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ( $p>0.05$ ) bir farklılık bulunmamıştır. Literatürde çeşitli Se formlarının plazma Se seviyesi üzerine etkilerine bakıldığında 16 haftalık selenit uygulanmasının plazma Se seviyelerini arttırmadığı gösterilmiştir.<sup>25</sup> Ancak

aynı çalışma 16 haftalık seleno-L-metionin takviyesinin plazma Se seviyelerini artttrdığını göstermiştir. Grupların plazma Se seviyeleri arasında farklılık bulunmamasının sebebi plazma Se seviyelerinin optimum düzeyde tutulması için karaciğerin selenyumlu glutatyon peroksidaz 1 enzimi yapısında depolamasına yahut uygulanan selenyum takviye süresinin kısa olmasına bağlı olabilir. Karaciğer glutatyon peroksidaz 1 enzim seviyesi ölçümü ve idrarla atılan Se miktarlarının tespiti gibi daha detaylı araştırmalar bu konunun aydınlatılmasında faydalı olacaktır.

Çalışmanın yetersizlikleri; tek merkezli bir çalışma olması, hipokampüs selenyum seviyelerinin ölçülememesi, tiroid hormon seviyesindeki değişikliklerin nöron düzeyinde gösterilememesi ve selenyum metabolizmasına ait literatürdeki bilgi eksikliğidir.

Çıkar Beyannamesi

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışması olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

Teşekkür

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## Kronik Bel Ağrılı Bireylerde Kayropraktik Manipülasyonu İle Mulligan Mobilizasyonu Tekniğinin Ağrı ve Fonksiyonellik Üzerine Etkisinin Karşılaştırılması

**Comparison of the Effect of Chiropractic Manipulation and Mulligan Mobilization Technique on Pain and Functionality in Individuals with Chronic Low Back Pain**

*Emrah ÖZCAN<sup>1</sup>  Sefa Haktan HATIK<sup>2</sup>  Demet TEKİN<sup>3</sup> *

### **ÖZ**

**Amaç:** Çalışmanın amacı, kronik bel ağrısı tanısı almış sağlık çalışanlarında, kayropraktik manipülasyon ve mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği yöntemlerinin ağrı ve fonksiyonellik üzerine etkinliğini karşılaştırmaktır.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Kronik bel ağrılı, 20-50 yaşları arasındaki (Mulligan grubu  $27.70 \pm 6.57$ , Kayropraktik grubu  $31.15 \pm 8.15$ ) gönüllü 40 birey çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Tüm olgular antropometrik olarak değerlendirildikten sonra randomize olarak kayropraktik manipülasyon grubu (KMG) ( $n:20$ ; 11 kadın, 9 erkek) ve mulligan mobilizasyon grubu (MMG) ( $n:20$ ; 17 kadın, 3 erkek) olmak üzere 2 gruba ayrılmıştır. Tedavi öncesinde bütün gruplar numerik ağrı skalası (NAS) ve Oswerty bel ağrısı engellilik anketi ile değerlendirilmiştir ve ardından goniometre ile kalça ve belin normal eklem hareket açıklığına bakılmıştır. Haftada 2 kez, 4 hafta süresince KMG'ye kayropraktik manipülasyon, MMG'ye ise mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği uygulanmıştır. Katılımcılara bu uygulamalar dışında ekstra hiçbir tedavi uygulanmamıştır ve ilave bir aktivite içinde bulunmamalarına özen gösterilmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Tedavi öncesi ve sonrası olmak üzere 2 farklı zaman diliminde yapılan testlerle uygulamaların etkinlikleri karşılaştırılmıştır. Antropometrik ölçüm değerleri açısından gruplar arasında bir farklılık bulunmamıştır ( $p>0.05$ ). Grup içi analiz sonuçlarında her iki grupta bütün değerlendirme parametrelerinde anlamlı farklılıklar bulunmuş olup olumlu yönde bir iyileşme görülmüştür ( $p<0.05$ ). Gruplar arası değerlendirme sonucunda ise MMG ve KMG arasında tedavi öncesi ve sonrası değerler açısından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmamıştır ( $p>0.05$ ).

**Sonuç:** Kronik bel ağrısı tedavisinde kayropraktik manipülasyon ve mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği yöntemleri arasında başarılı sonuçlar açısından bir üstünlük bulunamamıştır. Kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda her iki yöntemin de uygun koşullara göre kullanımı kabul görülmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** bel ağrısı; fonksiyonellik; kayropraktik; kronik; mulligan mobilizasyon

### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** This study was to compare the effectiveness of chiropractic manipulation and mulligan mobilization on pain and functionality in health care workers diagnosed with chronic low back pain.

**Material and Methods:** Forty volunteers aged 20-50 years (Mulligan group (MMG)  $27.70 \pm 6.57$ , chiropractic group (CMG)  $31.15 \pm 8.15$ ) who were diagnosed with chronic low back pain were included in the study. All cases were randomly divided into two groups as CMG ( $n:20$ ; 11 females, 9 males) and MMG ( $n:20$ ; 17 females, 3 males). All treatment groups were evaluated with a numerical pain scale, Oswestry questionnaire, and goniometer. Chiropractic manipulation was applied to CMG and mulligan mobilization was applied to MMG twice a week for 4 weeks. No extra application has been made other than these treatments.

**Results:** Evaluation was done before and after treatment. There is no difference between groups in terms of anthropometrics. ( $p>0.05$ ). In-group analysis results showed significant differences in all evaluation parameters in both groups and showed a positive improvement ( $p<0.05$ ). As a result of the intergroup evaluation, there was no statistically significant difference between MMG and CMG in terms of pre- and post-treatment values ( $p>0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** There was no superiority between chiropractic manipulation and mulligan mobilization techniques in terms of successful results in the treatment of chronic low back pain. The use of both methods according to appropriate conditions is accepted in patients with chronic low back pain.

**Keywords:** back pain; chiropractic; functionality; mulligan mobilizationchronic

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## GİRİŞ

Bel ve boyun ağrısı sosyal, psikolojik ve ekonomik problemlere neden olan yaygın bir sorundur. Yetişkinlerin %15 ile %20'sinin bir yıl boyunca en az bir kez, %50 ile %80'inin ise yaşam boyunca en az bir kez bel ağrısı yaşadığı tahmin edilmektedir.<sup>1</sup> Üç ayı geçen bel ağrısının kronik bel ağrısı olduğu söylemektedir ve genellikle omurganın pozisyonundan, disk ve vertebra dejenerasyonundan, muskuloskeletal sprain ve strain gibi mekanik problemlerden kaynaklandığı,<sup>2</sup> inflamasyon gibi alta yatan bir durum ile bağlantısının olmadığı düşünülmektedir. Bu problemde omurganın lumbosakral bölgeye ve alt ekstremiteye yayılabilen ağrıları olmakta ve bundan dolayı normal eklem hareket açıklığında azalma meydana gelebilmektedir.<sup>3,4</sup>

Akut ve kronik bel ağrısı tedavisinde farklı yöntemleri uygulanmaktadır. Fonksiyonellikten ziyade özellikle farmakolojik<sup>5,6</sup> özellikle uygulamalar fazla sayıdadır. Ancak günlük yaşam aktivitelerinde fonksiyonelliğin de oldukça önemli olduğu düşüncesiyle kombine tedaviler uygulanmaya başlamıştır. Bu uygulamalar arasında karşılaştırmalar yapılmış, etkinlikleri ortaya konulmuştur. Bir çok farklı uygulamanın etkinliği kanıtlanmış olmakla birlikte özellikle manuel olarak yapılanların tedavideki başarısı dikkat çekmektedir. Bunlardan bir tanesi, omurga üzerinde düzeltmeler yaparak ağrının azaltılmasına ve fonksiyonelliğin artışına sebep olan Kayropraktik uygulamasıdır. Bu uygulamanın icra edildiği Kayropraktistik; kas-iskelet sisteminde meydana gelen mekanik bozuklıkların teşhis, tedavi ve önlenmesi ile ilgilenen profesyonel bir meslek olup 2001 yılında Kayropraktik Federasyonu tarafından resmi tanımı yapılmıştır.<sup>7</sup> Kayropraktikte kullanılan manipülasyon tekniği, problemlı spinal segment üzerindeki “spesifik temas noktasına”, “kısa kaldırış kolu” kullanılarak uygulanan “yüksek hızlı-düşük amplitüdü” (HVLA) itme manevrasıdır. Düzeltici uygulamalar (adjustment) manuel veya mekanik olarak, aktif veya pasif olarak da uygulanabilir.<sup>8</sup> Yine manuel olarak yapılan ve oldukça sık tercih edilen yöntemlerden birisi de Mulligan mobilizasyon tekniğidir. Bu yöntem, eklemde hareket kısıtlılığını, ağrı ve fonksiyonel bozuklukları gidermek amacıyla uygulanan bir tedavidir. Brain Mulligan tarafından geliştirilen, eklem mobilizasyonu temel alan bu tedavinin

asıl amacı biyomekaniği düzeltmektir. Tekniğin uygulanması ise etkilenmiş eklemi fizyolojik hareketi sırasında uygulanan mobilizasyon yöntemidir.<sup>9</sup> Bu yöntemin temel prensibine göre tüm uygulamalar ağrı oluşturmadan, kısa sürede var olan ağrıyı ortadan kaldıracak nitelikte olmalıdır.<sup>10</sup> Bu iki yöntemin ortak noktası uygulamaların el ile yapılması ve biyomekanik temellere dayanmasıdır. Farklılıklarına bakıldığına ise temelde kayropraktik manipülasyon uygularken, mulligan tekniğide mobilizasyon odaklanmıştır. Yani kayropraktik eklemi bozulmuş veya fizyolojik sınırını anlık olarak geçer ve eklemi manipülasyon ile sağlıklı haline getirmeye çalışırken, mulligan ise eklemi fizyolojisini geçmeden ve ağrıya sebep vermeden düzeltmeye çalışır.

Yapılan literatür taramasında, kronik bel ağrısı tedavisinde genel olarak egzersiz,<sup>4,11</sup> mobilizasyon,<sup>12,13</sup> manipülasyon<sup>7,14</sup> gibi tedavi yöntemleri yer almaktadır ve bu yöntemlerin karşılaştırması yapılmaktadır. Ancak kayropraktik manipülasyon ve mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği yöntemlerini karşılaştırın çalışmalar bulunmamakta olup dolayıyla bu uygulamaların hastalarda oluşturduğu etkilerin birbirlerine olan üstünlüğü bilinmemektedir. Bu nedenle çalışmamızda; kronik bel ağrılı sağlık çalışanlarında bu iki yöntemin etkinliği test edilmiştir.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

Çalışma Helsinki Deklarasyonu Prensipleri'ne uygun olarak planlanıp, yapılabilmesi için Acıbadem Mehmet Ali Aydınlar Üniversitesi Tıbbi Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu'ndan 07.03.2019 tarihinde, 2019-5/17 karar numarası ile onay alınmıştır. Ön ve son test modelini içeren klinik bir çalışmadır.

Çalışma Özel Acıbadem Atakent Hastanesi Fizik Tedavi ve Rehabilitasyon Polikliniği'ne gelen ve bir hekim tarafından kronik bel ağrısı tanısı konulmuş 20-50 yaşları arasındaki 40 hasta ile yapılmıştır. Uygulamalar hekim gözetiminde ve hastane ortamında, bu konuda Kayropraktik (Tezli) Yüksek Lisan eğitimini tamamlamış ve Uluslararası Geçerli Mulligan Mobilizasyon tekniği sertifikasına sahip uzman bir fizyoterapist tarafından uygulanmış ve hastalar değerlendirilmiştir.

Çalışmaya dahil edilme kriterleri; 20-50 yaş arasında sağlık çalışanı olmak, kronik bel ağrısı tanısı almış olmak ve çalışmaya katılmaya gönüllü olmaktadır. Bel ağrısına yönelik son 3 ay içerisinde operasyon, enjeksiyon vb. tedavi öyküsü olanlar, bir tedavi veya ilaç vb. protokolüne devam edenler, herhangi bir spor aktivitesi yapanlar, gebeler, kardiyopulmoner, nörolojik, ortopedik ya da psikolojik hastalığı olanlar ise çalışma dışında tutulmuştur.

Dahil edilme ve dışlanma kriterlerine uygun olan Kronik Bel Ağrısı tanısı almış sağlık çalışanları bu çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Tüm katılımcılara çalışmanın amacı ve yöntemi hakkında detaylı olarak bilgi verilmiş ve gönüllü onam formu imzalatılmıştır. Ardından tam randomizasyon yöntemi ile tüm katılımcılar 2 gruba ayrılmıştır.

Gruplar; Kayropraktik Manipülasyon Grubu (KMG) (n:20; 11 kadın, 9 erkek) ve Mulligan Mobilizasyon Grubu (MMG) (n:20; 17 kadın, 3 erkek) olarak belirlenmiştir. Tedavi öncesinde bütün tedavi grupları numerik ağrı skaliası (NAS) ve Oswerty bel ağrı engellilik anketi değerlendirilmiştir ve gonyometre ile kalça ve belin normal eklem hareket açıklığı ölçülmüştür. Haftada 2 kez 4 hafta süresinde KMG'ye Kayropraktik manipülasyon, MMG'ye ise Mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği uygulanmıştır. Diversified Leg Check testi ile manipülasyon uygulanacak alanlar tespit edilmiştir (KMG; sağ taraf 10 kişi, sol taraf 10 kişi / MMG; sağ taraf 10 kişi, sol taraf 10 kişi). Katılımcılara bu uygulamalar dışında ekstra hiçbir tedavi uygulanmamış olup herhangi ilave bir aktivite içinde bulunmamalarına özen gösterilmiştir. Tedavi protokolünün sonunda hasta tekrar değerlendirilerek çalışma sonuçlandırılmıştır.

Mulligan Mobilizasyon ve Kayropraktik Manipülasyon olarak 2'ye ayrılan grupların tüm ölçümleri değerlendirilemenin hem grup içinde hem de gruplar arasında zamana

göre farklılık gösterip göstermediği incelenmiştir. Çalışmada sağ veya sol taraftan tedavi alanlarda tedavi öncesi ve sonrası arasındaki farklara da yapılan analizlerde yer verilmiştir.

### **İstatistiksek Analiz**

Tanımlayıcı istatistikler sayı, standart sapma ve ortalama şeklinde özetlenmiştir. Normallik varsayımları Shapiro Wils testi ile değerlendirilmiş ve karşılanmadığı için non-parametrik testler uygulanmıştır. Gruplar arası karşılaştırma yapılırken Mann Whitney U testi, grup içi karşılaştırımda ise Wilcoxon Rank testleri kullanılmıştır. Çalışmada verilerin değerlendirilmesi için SPSS 25.0 paket programı (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) kullanılmıştır ve anlamlılık değeri  $p \leq 0.05$  olarak kabul edilmiştir.

### **BULGULAR**

Çalışmada yer alan 2 gruba ait demografik bulgular Tablo 1'de gösterilmiştir. Bulgulara göre; Mulligan grubunun yaş ortalaması  $27.70 \pm 6.57$  yıl; Kayropraktik grubunun  $31.15 \pm 8.15$  yıl ( $p=0.115$ ), Mulligan grubunun boy ortalaması  $164.75 \pm 7.76$  cm; Kayropraktik grubunun  $168.95 \pm 9.63$  cm ( $p=0.193$ ), Mulligan grubunun vücut ağırlıkları ortalaması  $64.25 \pm 15.23$  kg; Kayropraktik grubunun  $70.35 \pm 14.12$  kg ( $p=0.072$ ) ( $p=0.072$ ), Mulligan grubunun vücut kitle indeksi ortalaması  $23.56 \pm 4.29$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>; Kayropraktik grubunun  $24.51 \pm 3.19$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>dir ( $p=0.133$ ) olarak tespit edilmiştir.

Her iki grupta da 10 katılımcıya sağdan, 10 katılımcıya soldan uygulama yapılmıştır. Gruplar arasında yaş, boy uzunluğu, vücut ağırlığı, vücut kitle indeksi açısından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılıklar bulunmamıştır ( $p>0.05$ ) (Tablo 1).

**Tablo 1.** Tedavi gruplarının demografik özellikleri

Parametreler	Ortalama ± SS (Min-Maks)		Mann Whitney U Değeri	Z Değeri	p değeri
	Mulligan Tedavi Grubu (n:20)	Kayropraktik Tedavi Grubu (n:20)			
Yaş (yıl)	$27.70 \pm 6.57$ (21-42)	$31.15 \pm 8.15$ (20-45)	142.00	-1.58	0.115
Boy uzunluğu (cm)	$164.75 \pm 7.76$ (150-179)	$168.95 \pm 9.63$ (153-186)	152.00	-1.30	0.193
Vücut ağırlığı (kg)	$64.25 \pm 15.23$ (46-120)	$70.35 \pm 14.12$ (53-108)	133.50	-1.80	0.072
Vücut kitle endeksi (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	$23.56 \pm 4.29$ (19-38)	$24.51 \pm 3.19$ (19-31)	144.50	-1.50	0.133

\*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001

Mulligan grubunda sağdan ve soldan tedavi alanlarda NAS skorları ( $p<0.001$ ) ve Oswerty Bel Ağrısı Engellilik Skoru ( $p<0.001$ ) ölçümleri analiz edilmiştir ve tedavi sonrası skorlar, tedavi öncesine göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde düşmüştür ( $p<0.001$ ) (Tablo 2).

**Tablo 2.** Numerik Ağrı Skalası (NAS), Oswerty Bel Ağrısı Engellilik Skoru ve Bel NEH parametrelerinin ön ve son test değerlendirmelerinin grup içi ve gruplar arası karşılaştırmaları

<b>Parametreler</b>		<b>Ortalama ± SS / (Min-Maks)</b>		<b>Mann Whitney U Değeri</b>	<b>Z Değeri</b>	<b>p Değeri</b>
		<b>Mulligan Mobilizasyon Tedavi Grubu</b>	<b>Kayropraktik Manipülasyon Tedavi Grubu</b>			
Numerik Ağrı Skalası (NAS)	TÖ	5.08±1.52/(3-9)	5.1±0.91(4-7)	188.500	-0.327	0.743 <sup>m</sup>
	TS	2.88±1.9 / (0-6)	2.3±0.98(1-4)	175.500	-0.675	0.500 <sup>m</sup>
Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	<0.001***w	<0.001***w			
	TÖ	29.4±11.93/(8-52)	30.5±10.82(10-48)	191.500	-0.231	0.818 <sup>m</sup>
Oswerty Bel Ağrısı Engellilik Skoru	TS	15.4±9.76/(0-34)	14.75±10.47(3-40)	185.000	-0.407	0.684 <sup>m</sup>
	P değeri	<0.001***w	<0.001***w			
Grup İçi Farklılık	TÖ	84.7±8.66/(60-90)	79.55±11.44(55-95)	143.000	-1.626	0.104 <sup>m</sup>
	TS	89.75±6.78/(70-110)	85.0±8.27(60-95)	134.000	-2.057	0.040 <sup>*m</sup>
Bel Fleksiyon (°)	P değeri	0.011 <sup>*w</sup>	0.003 <sup>*w</sup>			
	TÖ	22.05±7.5/(5-35)	22.05±6.0(10-30)	199.500	-0.014	0.989 <sup>m</sup>
Bel Ekstansiyon (°)	TS	25.55±7.84/(10-35)	30.35±5.31(20-35)	126.500	-2.049	0.040 <sup>*m</sup>
	P değeri	0.002 <sup>**w</sup>	<0.001 ***w			
Grup İçi Farklılık	TÖ	31.1±8.03/(20-40)	30.4±7.88(15-40)	188.000	-0.330	0.741 <sup>m</sup>
	TS	34.65±6.75/(20-40)	36.05±5.53(20-40)	182.500	-0.515	0.607 <sup>m</sup>
Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.005 <sup>*w</sup>	0.001 <sup>*w</sup>			
	TÖ	32.2±5.85/(23-40)	30.85±6.52(20-40)	170.500	-0.819	0.413 <sup>m</sup>
Bel Lateral Fleksiyon Sol (°)	TS	34.65±4.45/(30-40)	35.5±4.88(25-40)	176.500	-0.668	0.504 <sup>m</sup>
	P değeri	0.011 <sup>*w</sup>	0.003 <sup>*w</sup>			

\* $p<0.05$ ; \*\* $p<0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p<0.001$ , TÖ: Tedavi öncesi, TS: Tedavi sonrası, NEH: Normal eklem hareketi, w: Wilcoxon Rank test, m: Mann Whitney U test

Tüm grupta kalça bölgesi NEH parametreleri incelendiğinde ise; hem sağ tarafta fleksiyon (MMG;  $p=0.017$ , KMG;  $p=0.005$ ), ekstansiyon (KMG;  $p=0.020$ ), abdüksiyon (MMG;  $p=0.003$ ), internal rotasyon (MMG;  $p=0.002$ , KMG;  $p=0.002$ ) ve eksternal rotasyon (MMG;  $p=0.001$ , KMG;  $p=0.001$ ) hem sol tarafta fleksiyon (MMG;  $p=0.026$ , KMG;  $p=0.003$ ), ekstansiyon (KMG;  $p=0.046$ ), abdüksiyon (MMG;  $p=0.024$ ), internal rotasyon (MMG;  $p=0.005$ , KMG;  $p=0.001$ ) ve eksternal rotasyon (MMG;  $p=0.007$ , KMG;  $p<0.001$ ) değerleri tedavi öncesine göre tedavi sonrasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde artmıştır ( $p<0.05$ ;  $p<0.01$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) (Tablo 3).

Tüm grubun bel bölgesi NEH ölçüm (MMG fleksiyon;  $p=0.011$ , ekstansiyon;  $p=0.002$ , sağ lateral fleksiyon;  $p=0.005$ , sol lateral fleksiyon;  $p=0.011$ ) (KMG fleksiyon;  $p=0.003$ , ekstansiyon;  $p<0.001$ , sağ lateral fleksiyon;  $p=0.001$ , sol lateral fleksiyon;  $p=0.003$ ) parametreleri in-

Kayropraktik Manipülasyon grubunda, NAS skorları ( $p<0.001$ ) ve Oswerty Bel Ağrısı Engellilik Skoru ( $p<0.001$ ) ölçümleri incelendiğinde; tedavi sonrası skorlar, tedavi öncesi skorlara göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde düşmüştür ( $p<0.001$ ) (Tablo 2).

celendiğinde tedavi sonrası ölçümler, tedavi öncesi ölçümüne göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde artmıştır ( $p<0.05$ ;  $p<0.01$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) (Tablo 2). Kalça bölgesi NEH parametreleri incelendiğinde de; hem sağ hem de sol tarafta Kalça Fleksiyon ( $p=0.731$ ,  $p=0.502$ ), Kalça Ekstansiyon ( $p=0.999$ ,  $p=0.999$ ), Kalça Internal Rotasyon ( $p=0.526$ ,  $p=0.526$ ) ve Kalça Eksternal Rotasyon ( $p=0.792$ ,  $p=0.639$ ) değerleri tedavi öncesine göre tedavi sonrasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde artmıştır ( $p<0.05$ ;  $p<0.01$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) (Tablo 3).

İki grup arasında yapılan analizlerde bel fleksiyon ( $p=0.040$ ) ve ekstansiyon ( $p=0.040$ ) NEH ölçüm sonuçlarının arasında tedavi sonrası değerlerinde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmaktadır ( $p<0.05$ ) (Tablo 3). Mulligan Mobilizasyon tedavi grubunun bel fleksiyon ( $p=0.011$ ) NEH değeri Kayropraktik Manipülasyon ( $p=0.003$ ) gruba göre anlamlı derecede yüksektir ( $p<0.05$ ;  $p<0.01$ ). Bel ekstansiyon NEH değeri ise Kayropraktik

Manipülasyon ( $p<0.001$ ) grubunda Mulligan Mobilizasyon ( $p=0.002$ ) grubuna göre anlamlı derecede yüksek bulunmuştur ( $p<0.01$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). İki grup arasında diğer pa-

rametrelerde tedavi öncesi ve sonrası değerlerde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık bulunmamaktadır ( $p>0.05$ ) (Tablo 3).

**Tablo 3.** Sağ ve Sol Kalça NEH parametrelerinin ön ve son test değerlendirmelerinin grup içi ve gruplar arası karşılaştırmaları

Parametre-ler			Ortalama ± SS (Min-Maks)		Mann Whitney U Değeri	Z Değeri	p Değeri
			Mulligan Tedavi Grubu	Kayropraktik Tedavi Grubu			
Sağ Kalça	Kalça Fleksiyon (°)	TÖ	104±13.44/(80-125)	102.05±14.2/(75-125)	180.500	-0.533	0.594 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	108.25±11.62/(80-125)	109.45±11.57/(80-125)	187.500	-0.344	0.731 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.017 <sup>*w</sup>	0.005 <sup>**w</sup>			
	Kalça Ekstansiyon (°)	TÖ	9.3±1.3/(5-10)	9.05±1.36/(5-10)	177.500	-0.725	0.468 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	9.8±0.62/(8-10)	9.8±0.62/(8-10)	200.000	0.000	1.000 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.066 <sup>w</sup>	0.020 <sup>*w</sup>			
	Kalça Abdüksiyon (°)	TÖ	35.55±6.26/(25-45)	38.65±4.83/(25-45)	140.500	-1.1674	0.094 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	40.3±3.73/(35-45)	40.15±4.34/(25-45)	192.500	-0.225	0.822 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.003 <sup>**w</sup>	0.066 <sup>w</sup>			
	Kalça Addüksiyon (°)	TÖ	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	200.000	0.000	1.000 <sup>m</sup>
Sol Kalça	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.999 <sup>w</sup>	0.999 <sup>w</sup>			
	Kalça Internal Rotasyon (°)	TÖ	34.85±7.67/(20-45)	33.25±8.34/(15-45)	180.000	-0.549	0.583 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	37.4±7.1/(25-45)	37.2±6.79/(23-45)	194.500	-0.152	0.879 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.002 <sup>*w</sup>	0.002 <sup>**w</sup>			
	Kalça Eksternal Rotasyon (°)	TÖ	29±6.36/(20-40)	29.3±7.47/(14-40)	191.500	-0.234	0.815 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	35.9±5.32/(30-45)	35.05±6.82/(20-45)	190.500	-0.263	0.792 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.001 <sup>**w</sup>	0.001 <sup>**w</sup>			
	Kalça Fleksiyon (°)	TÖ	107.4±12.14/(88-125)	97.3±15.77/(60-115)	130.500	-1.891	0.059 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	110.75±10.17/(90-125)	107.65±12.03/(75-125)	175.500	-0.671	0.502 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.026 <sup>*w</sup>	0.003 <sup>**w</sup>			
	Kalça Ekstansiyon (°)	TÖ	9.4±1.57/(5-10)	9.6±0.8/(8-10)	194.000	-0.246	0.806 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	200.000	0.000	1.000 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.102 <sup>w</sup>	0.046 <sup>*w</sup>			
	Kalça Abdüksiyon (°)	TÖ	34.75±6.38 / (25-45)	37.75±6.38 / (25-45)	144.500	-1.564	0.118 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	37.25±5.73 / (25-45)	39.25±5.45 / (25-45)	157.000	-1.252	0.211 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.024 <sup>*w</sup>	0.083 <sup>w</sup>			
	Kalça Addüksiyon (°)	TÖ	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	200.000	0.000	1.000 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	10.0±0.0/(10-10)	10.0±0.07(10-10)	200.000	0.000	1.000 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.999 <sup>w</sup>	0.999 <sup>w</sup>			
	Kalça Internal Rotasyon (°)	TÖ	34.55±8.49/(20-45)	30.45±9.47/(14-45)	150.000	-1.371	0.170 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	38±6.27/(25-45)	36.9±6.32/(25-45)	177.000	-0.635	0.526 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.005 <sup>**w</sup>	0.001 <sup>**w</sup>			
	Kalça Eksternal Rotasyon (°)	TÖ	30.2±6.88/(20-45)	29.75±8.91/(15-45)	194.500	-0.151	0.880 <sup>m</sup>
		TS	33.5±6.3/(25-45)	34.05±7.46/(20-45)	183.000	-0.469	0.639 <sup>m</sup>
	Grup İçi Farklılık	P değeri	0.007 <sup>**w</sup>	<0.001 <sup>***w</sup>			

\* $p<0.05$ ; \*\* $p<0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p<0.001$ , TÖ: Tedavi öncesi, TS: Tedavi sonrası, NEH: Normal eklem hareketi, w: Wilcoxon Rank test, m: Mann Whitney U testi

## TARTIŞMA

Kronik bel ağrılı bireylerde Kayropraktik Manipülasyonu (KM) ile Mulligan Mobilizasyonu Tekniğinin (MMT) ağrı ve fonksiyonellik üzerine etkisini karşılaştırmak amacıyla yapılan bu çalışmanın sonucunda her iki yöntem de

olumlu etkileri olduğu ortaya konulmuştur. İki uygulama arasında etkinlik açısından istatistik olarak fark bulunamamış ve kullanım kolaylığına göre her iki yöntemin de tercih edilebileceği sonucuna varılmıştır. Bulunan temel sonuçlardan biri; KM uygulamasının NAS (Numerik Ağrı Skalası), OBEA (Oswertly Bel Ağrısı Engellik Anketi), bel

bölgesi fleksiyon, ekstansiyon, lateral fleksiyon NEH (Normal Eklem Hareket) açıklığı yanı sıra, sağ-sol kalça fleksiyon, abduksiyon, internal ve eksternal rotasyon NEH açıklığında anlamlı derecede bir iyileşme sağlamış olmasınadır. Diğer ise MMT uygulamasının NAS, OBEA, bel bölgesi fleksiyon, ekstansiyon, lateral fleksiyon NEH açıklığı ile kalça fleksiyon, ekstansiyon, internal ve eksternal rotasyon NEH açıklığında artış oluşturmasıdır.

Bel ağrısı yaşam kalitesini etkileyen, günlük yaşamda bağımsızlığı azaltan en belirgin ağrılardan birisidir. Literatürde kronik bel ağrısı tedavisinde başarılı birçok yöntem bulunmaktadır. Yapılan uygulamalarda özellikle egzersiz kombini ile çalışmalar yapılmış ve etkinliği ortaya konulmuştur. Kankaapaa ve arkadaşlarının randomize kontrollü olarak yaptığı çalışmada 12 aylık takip süresinin sonunda egzersiz programına dahil olanların ağrı ve engellilik derecesi skorları yarıya inerken, masaj uygulanan kontrol grubunda skor açısından bir değişiklik olmadığı görülmüştür.<sup>11</sup> Heymans ve arkadaşları bel okulunun etkinliğini değerlendirdiği cochrane incelemesinde, kısa vadede diğer tedavi yöntemlerine göre daha iyi sonuçlar sağladığını yönelik orta derecede kanıtlar bulmuştur.<sup>15</sup> Van Tulder ve arkadaşlarının akut ve kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda konservatif tedavi yöntemlerini içeren sistematik derlemesinde, manipülasyon ve egzersizin kısa vadedeki etkilerine dair güçlü kanıtlar bulunmuştur.<sup>3</sup> Wenban ve arkadaşlarının yapmış olduğu çalışmada, kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda kayropraktik manipülasyonun yaşam kalitesinde iyileşme sağladığı ve spinal fonksiyonlarda artışa işaret eden belirtiler olduğu görülmüştür.<sup>16</sup> Çalışmamızda da egzersiz uygulamasının etkinliği yeterince ortaya konulduğu düşüncesiyle spesifik Kayropraktik Manipülasyon ve Mulligan Mobilizasyon tekniğinin etkinliği araştırılmıştır.

Moseley'in kronik bel ağrısında manuel terapi, egzersiz ve hasta eğitimini karşılaştırdığı çalışmada, hastaları değerlendirmek için numerik ağrı skalası ve Roland Morris engellilik anketi kullanılmıştır.<sup>17</sup> Niagara ve Manchikanti'nın kronik bel ağrısının tedavisinde floraskopik kaudal epidural enjeksiyonların eşdeğerliğini araştıran çalışması, Oswerty bel ağrısı engellilik anketi ve numerik ağrı skalası ile değerlendirilmiştir.<sup>18</sup> Kronik bel ağrısında yoganın etkinliğini inceleyen bir çalışmada, hastaları değerlendirmek için vizüel analog skala, Oswerty bel ağrısı

engellilik anketi ve Beck depresyon ölçeği kullanılmıştır.<sup>19</sup> Akut ve kronik bel ağrısı olan hastalarda lomber lordoz dereesinin değerlendirildiği bir başka çalışmada ise radyolojik yöntemler ile normal eklem hareketi açısı incelenmiştir.<sup>20</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda da güncel literatürde olduğu gibi kronik bel ağrısının tedavisinde kullanılan yöntemlerin ağrı ve fonksiyonellik üzerine etkisini değerlendiren benzer analiz yöntemleri seçilmiştir.

Kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda randomize kontrollü bir çalışmada; spinal manipülasyon tekniği, motor kontrol ve genel egzersizlerin etkinliğini karşılaştırılmıştır. Motor kontrol ve genel egzersiz gruplarına 4'er hafta, haftada 3 gün düzenli egzersiz uygulanmıştır. Spinal manipülasyon grubuna ise ek bir tedavi uygulanmadan yalnızca 12 seans HVLA yöntemi ile manipülasyon yapılmıştır. Ancak bu grupta bazı hastalara 12 seanstan daha az uygulama yapılmıştır çünkü daha erken süreçte tamamen iyileşme gözlemlenmiştir.<sup>21</sup> Bu durum 12 seanstan daha az spinal manipülasyon yapılan hastalarda da iyileşme görüldüğünün bir göstergesidir. Subakut veya kronik bel ağrısı olan 55 yaş ve üzeri yetişkinler için farklı 2 türdeki spinal manipülasyon tekniğinin ve minimal konservatif tedavi yöntemlerinin karşılaştırıldığı bir başka randomize kontrollü çalışmada, manipülasyon gruplarına 4 haftalık uygulama yapılmıştır.<sup>22</sup> Mulligan Mobilizasyon tekniğini ve düşük seviye lazer tedavisinin kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda fiziksel engellilik, ağrı ve normal eklem hareket aralığı üzerindeki etkilerini araştıran bir randomize kontrollü pilot çalışmada, 4 haftalık bir tedavi ve değerlendirme protokolü kullanılmıştır.<sup>23</sup> Kronik bel ağrısı kaynaklı disfonksiyon tedavisinde kullanılan Mulligan ve Maitland mobilizasyon yöntemlerini vizüel analog skala ve normal eklem hareket açıklığı düzeyi ile karşılaştırın bir çalışmada 12 seanstan oluşan 4 haftalık bir tedavi protokolünü izlenmiştir.<sup>24</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda da literatürde yer alan protokollerdeki tedavi seans ve sürelerine benzer uygulamalar kullanılmış ve olumlu sonuçlara ulaşılmıştır.

Cecchi ve arkadaşlarının yaptığı randomize kontrollü çalışmaya 210 kronik bel ağrılı hasta dahil edilmiştir. Çalışmada kayropraktik manipülasyonun, bel okulu ve bireysel egzersiz programına göre yakın ve uzak dönemde daha fazla oranda fonksiyonel iyileşme ve ağrında azalma sağladığını göstermişlerdir.<sup>25</sup> Wilkey ve arkadaşları, kronik bel

ağrısında uygulanan kayropraktik manipülasyonun tedavi süresince yaralanma oranlarında ve hissedilen ağrının azaltılmasında etkili olabileceğini göstermişlerdir.<sup>14</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda da 4 hafta boyunca, haftada 2 kez KM yapılan çalışma grubunda hem tüm grup analizinde hem de sağdan veya soldan tedavi alanlar ayrimında NAS, OBAE ve NEH skorlarında olumlu etkiler elde edilmiş olup, sonuçların literatürü desteklediği görülmüştür.

Hussein ve arkadaşları rastgele iki gruba ayırdıkları kronik bel ağrılı hastalara, her gruba geleneksel fizyoterapi programı uygulayıp gruplardan birine ek olarak Mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği uygulamışlardır. Mobilizasyon grubunda diğer gruba göre ağrı ve fonksiyonellik açısından daha iyi sonuçlar elde edilmiştir.<sup>13</sup> Hidalgo ve arkadaşları, placebo kontrol yaptığı çalışmada mulligan tekniğinin spesifik olmayan kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda hareket açılığı, ağrı ve fonksiyonellik için kinematik algoritmalar üzerinde kısa vadeli olumlu bir etkiye sahip olduğuna dair kanıtlar göstermiştir.<sup>26</sup> Waggar ve arkadaşlarının Mckenzie eksansiyon egzersizleri ile mulligan mobilizasyon tekniğini karşılaştırdığı çalışmada kronik mekanik bel ağrısında McKenzie ekstansiyon egzersizlerinin ağrı ve engellilik yönetiminde Mulligan'a göre daha etkili olduğu bulunmuştur. Ancak bel eklem hareket açılığının erken süreçte kazanılmasıyla Mulligan tekniğinin McKenize ekstansiyon egzersizlerine göre daha başarılı ortaya konulmuştur.<sup>27</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda da 4 hafta boyunca, haftada 2 kez MMT uygulanan grupta NAS, OBAE ve NEH açısından olumlu sonuçlar görülmüş olup, Hidalgo, Hall ve Waggar'ın yaptığı çalışmalarla benzerlik içermektedir.

Bronfort ve arkadaşları, bel ve boyun ağrısında spinal manipülasyon ve mobilizasyon tekniklerinin karşılaştırıldığı kanıt dayalı sistematik bir derleme yapmışlardır. Akut bel ağrısında spinal manipülasyonun ve mobilizasyonun kısa dalga diatermine göre kısa sürede daha başarılı olduğu vesine ulaşılmıştır. Kronik bel ağrısında ise manipülasyon ve mobilizasyon tekniklerinin kısa sürede placebo, uzun sürede ise klasik fizik tedavi uygulamalarına göre daha etkili olduğuna dair orta düzeyde kanıtlara ulaşmışlardır.<sup>28</sup> Çalışmamızda ise KM ile MMT'i karşılaştırdığımızda NAS, OBAE, bel bölgesi NEH, kalça fleksiyon, internal ve eksternal rotasyon NEH değerlerinde, kronik bel ağrı-

sında başarılı olan bu iki yöntem arasında bir farklılık bulunamamıştır. Her iki grupta da başarılı sonuçların elde edilmesi ve gruplardan elde edilen tedavi öncesi ve tedavi sonrası parametrelerin birbirine yakın olmasından dolayı bu iki tedavi yöntemi arasında bir üstünlük söz konusu değildir.

Yapılan tedaviler sonucunda hastanın bel ağrısına sebep olan biyomekanik probleme uygulayıcı tarafından dinamik ve statik palpasyon analizleri ve diversfield leg check test yöntemi ile bir düzelleme meydana geldiği belirlenmiştir. Her iki tedavi yönteminde de bu düzelleme sayesinde ağrıda azalma meydana gelmiştir. Ağrının azalması ile günlük yaşam aktivitesinde bağımsızlık artmış, hastanın OBEA skorları olumlu yönde etkilenmiştir. Ağrı ve biyomekanik bozukluk nedeniyle hastaların kısıtlı olan bel ve kalça bölgesi NEH açılığı değerleri tedavi sonucunda iyileşme göstermiştir.

Çalışmamızda yer alan her iki yöntem de literatürde farklı araştırmalarda kullanılmış ve belirtilen sürelerde kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda olumlu sonuçlar ortaya koymuştur. Her iki yöntemin bir arada kullanıldığı bir karşılaştırma çalışmasının olmaması nedeniyle tasarladığımız bu çalışmada, ayrı ayrı iki yöntem de kronik bel ağrılı hastalarda ağrı, fonksiyonellik ve bel-kalça NEH parametrelerinde olumlu etkilere sahip olduğunu göstermiştir. Bu olumlu sonuçların her iki yöntemin de kinematik ve biyomekanik bozukluğu düzeltici etkiye sahip olmasından ve çalışmamızda literatürle benzer protokollerin tercih edilmesinden kaynaklandığı düşüncemizdeyiz.

Çalışmamızda grupların homojen olması ve sadece iki yöntemin karşılaştırılması güçlü yönleri arasında yer almaktadır. Literatürde kronik bel ağrısı olan kişilerde her iki yöntemin de izole olarak uygulandığı ve etkinliğinin araştırıldığı ilk çalışmадır. Tedavi programının kısa bir sürede tamamlanması ve cinsiyet ayrimının yapılabilmesi için yeteri kadar katılımcı sayısının olmaması çalışmamızın limitasyonudur.

Kronik bel ağrısına yönelik 4 hafta boyunca, haftada 2 kez uygulanan kayropraktik manipülasyon ve mulligan mobilizasyon tekniği yöntemlerinin etkinliğini karşılaştırılan çalışmamızda her iki yöntem de kendi içlerinde ağrıda

azalmaya neden olmuş, günlük yaşam aktivitelerinde iyileşme sağlamış ve bel fleksiyon, ekstansiyon, lateral fleksiyon, kalça fleksiyon, internal ve eksternal rotasyon değerlerinde artışa neden olmuştur. Gruplar arası yapılan karşılaştırmalarda ise; ağrıda azalma değerinde, eklem hareket açılığı derecelerinde ve günlük yaşam aktivitelerindeki artışa her iki tedavi yöntemi arasında bir üstünlük bulunamamıştır. Tedavisi süresinin ve olgu sayısının artırılması ayrıca farklı ölçüm parametrelerinin de çalışmaya dahil edilmesi ile litaretüre katkı sağlayacak yeni çalışmaların oluşturulmasını temenni ederiz.

### **Çıkar Beyannamesi**

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışmasının olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

### **Teşekkür**

Gönüllü katılan herkese ve makalede fotoğraf paylaşımına izin veren hastamiza teşekkür ediyoruz.

### **Araştırmacıların Katkı Oranı Beyani**

Ana fikir/Planlama: EÖ, DT. Veri toplama/İşleme: EÖ, SHH, DT. Veri analizi ve yorumlama: EÖ, SHH, DT. Literatür taraması: EÖ, SHH, DT. Yazım: SHH, DT. Gözden geçirme ve düzeltme: SHH, DT. Danışmanlık: DT

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## Hysteroscopic Evaluation of Chronic Endometritis Incidence in Unexplained Infertile Women with Recurrent Implantation Failure: Six Years Experience

### Tekrarlayan İmplantasyon Başarısızlığı Olan Açıklanamayan İnfertilite Olgularında Kronik Endometrit Sıklığının Histeroskopik Olarak Değerlendirilmesi: Altı Yıllık Deneyim

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Tekrarlayan implantasyon başarısızlığı (TİB) olan açıklanamayan infertilite olgularında histeroskopik kronik endometrit (KE) insidansının değerlendirilmesi.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Bu kesitsel retrospektif çalışmaya, Ocak 2014-Ağustos 2020 tarihleri arasında hastanemizin tüm bebek kliniğine başvurmuş olan 529 katılımcı dahil edilmiştir. Katılımcıların yaşları 18-39 aralığında değişmektedir. Katılımcılar, TİB olan açıklanamayan infertil olguları (Grup:1; n:187) ve TİB olmayan açıklanamayan infertil olguları (Grup:2; n:342) olmak üzere iki gruba ayrılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Kadınların ortalama yaşı  $31.6 \pm 5.1$  olup, katılımcılara ait ortalama vücut kitle indeksi (VKİ)  $24.6 \pm 2.5$  olarak hesaplanmıştır. Histeroskopik bulgular ise şu şekildedir: 14 katılımcıda (%2.6) kronik endometritis, 19 katılımcıda (%3.6) polip bulunurken, katılımcıların 496'sında (%93.8) patolojik bulguya rastlanmamıştır. İki grup arasında yaş, VKİ, AMH seviyesi, toplam gonadotropin dozu, stimülasyon süresi, kazanılan oosit sayısı, MII ve PN bakımından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık bulunmadığı görülmüştür. Yine, iki grup arasında, infertilite tipi ( $p=0.09$ ) ve sigara kullanımı ( $p=0.5$ ) bakımından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark bulunmamaktadır. Ancak test sayısı bakımından iki grup arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık ( $p=0.000$ ) tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca, iki grup arasında KE ( $p=0.1$ ) ve polip ( $p=0.8$ ) bakımından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık bulunmamış olup, endometriyal patoloji varlığı bakımından iki grup arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık ( $p<0.001$ ) söz konusudur.

**Sonuç:** Bu çalışma, TİB olan kadınların daha yüksek KE insidansına sahip olmadığını, fakat bu hasta gruplarında endometriyal patolojilerin sayısının arttığını ortaya koymuştur. Bundan dolayı, açıklanamayan infertilitesi olan TİB hastalarında histeroskopik işlemiinin yapılması gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** açıklanamayan infertilite; histerokopi; kronik endometritis; tekrarlayan implantasyon başarısızlığı

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To evaluate hysteroscopically-proved chronic endometritis (CE) incidence in unexplained infertility cases with recurrent implantation failure (RIF).

**Materials and Methods:** This cross-sectional retrospective study was done on 529 participants who attended our hospital's infertility clinic from January 2014 to August 2020. The participants were at the age of 18-39 years. We divided the subjects into two groups, i.e., unexplained infertile patients with RIF (Group:1; n:187) and unexplained infertile patients without RIF (Group:2; n:342).

**Results:** The women had a mean age of  $31.6 \pm 5.1$  years. Hysteroscopic findings were as follows: 14 (2.6%) had chronic endometritis, 19 (3.6%) had polyps, and 496 (93.8%) had no pathological findings. Age, BMI, AMH level, total dose of gonadotropin, duration of stimulation, number of retrieved oocytes, Metaphase II (MII), and Pronucleus (PN) showed no significant difference between the two groups. Also, infertility type ( $P=0.09$ ) and smoking( $P=0.5$ ) were not statistically different between the two groups. In addition, the two groups showed no statistically significant difference in polyps ( $p=0.8$ ) and CE ( $p=0.1$ ), while the two groups showed a statistically significant difference in endometrial pathology ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** In this study, it was shown that those with RIF did not show a higher incidence of CE, but endometrial pathologies were increased in this group of patients. So hysteroscopy should be done in RIF patients with unexplained infertility.

**Keywords:** chronic endometritis; hysteroscopy; recurrent implantation failure; unexplained infertility

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## INTRODUCTION

Endometrium undergoes cyclical changes every month as a unique tissue resulting in proliferation, menstruation, and decidualization influenced by ovarian steroids.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes, higher cell density of the stroma, infiltration of lymphocytes and plasma cells present in the endometrial stroma, stromal fibroblasts, asynchronous maturation of epithelial cells, and superficial mucosal oedema results in chronic endometritis (CE).<sup>2</sup> CE is referred to as a type of inflammation in which there are plasma cells persistently in endometrium stroma and usually has no symptoms or has negligible symptoms, such as leucorrhea, pelvic pain, abnormal uterine bleeding, and dyspareunia.<sup>3</sup> The oligosymptomatic or asymptomatic inflammation is also accompanied by vaginal discharge, lower abdominal pain, fever, and abnormal menstrual function,<sup>4</sup> mild gastro-intestinal discomfort and, recurrent cystitis.<sup>5</sup> Since it is difficult to establish a diagnosis with no invasive endometrial biopsy, it remains unclear whether CE is prevalent among women at reproductive age.<sup>6</sup> However, it was reported that the CE incidence rate ranged between 2.8 and 56.8% among infertile women.<sup>7,8</sup> There is an increasing body of evidence that endometriosis is commonly associated with CE, and they have unexplained recurrent pregnancy losses, infertility with ambiguous etiology, and recurrent implantation failures (RIF) after in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments.<sup>9,10</sup> Regardless of advancements in IVF practice, RIF is still a challenge that must be solved. RIF means when women have had failed IVF attempts three times with high-quality embryos.<sup>11</sup> The possible reasons for RIF include advanced maternal age, smoking status of both parents, elevated body mass index, and stress levels. Immunological factors such as cytokine levels and the presence of specific autoantibodies should be examined, as well as any infectious organisms in the uterus leading to CE. Uterine pathologies, such as polyps and myomas, as well as congenital anatomical anomalies, should be ruled out. Sperm analysis, pre-implantation genetic screening and endometrial receptivity should be considered and evaluated, and IVF protocols should be tailored to patients.<sup>11</sup> Those with recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) and RIF had a higher incidence rate of CE, i.e., 9.3–67.6%,<sup>9,12</sup> and 14–67.5%,<sup>13,15</sup> respectively. These findings show a correlation

between CE and RIF, which even displays a causal relationship with RPL. Although there have been recent innovations in reproductive immunology, testing techniques, stimulation protocols, and embryo culture, implantation continues to be one of the main factors limiting IVF success. Implantation is performed through several stages, including embryo apposition, adhesion, penetration, endometrial decidualization, and trophoblast invasion. Immune cells and cytokines tightly regulated these processes. The initial phase of the implantation process is "adplantation." This first phase requires the newly hatched blastocyst to loosely adhere to the endometrial epithelium, often "rolling" to the eventual site of implantation where it firmly adhered. This process requires both the blastocyst adhesion interaction with the endometrium during the "receptive window."<sup>16</sup> In many mammalian species, the processes of early pregnancy occur in a hypoxic environment. However, the mechanisms underlying maternal adaptation to hypoxia during early pregnancy remain unclear.<sup>17</sup> Also, N-glycosylation of uterine endometrium determines its receptivity. Glycosylation alters the molecular and functional features of glycoproteins, which is closely related to many physiological processes and diseases.<sup>18</sup> Single-cell RNA sequencing of cells from cultured human blastocysts has enabled us to define the transcriptomic landscape of placental trophoblast (TB) that surrounds the epiblast and associated embryonic tissues during the enigmatic day 8 (D8) to D12 peri-implantation period before the villous placenta forms.<sup>19</sup> The decidual cells secrete many interleukins, growth factors, and other factors that can be classified as either supporting implantation (pro-invasive) or inhibiting (anti-invasive). Pro-invasive factors - IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-13, IL-15, Eotaxin CCL11, IP-10 and RANTES. Anti-invasive factors - IL-10, IL-12 and VEGF.<sup>20</sup> Recent studies have shown a negative effect of CE on implantation by impairing decidualization.<sup>21</sup> CE has attracted much attention among fertility care providers and scientists because it has been potentially associated with reproductive issues in the last decades. Several studies have shown a high prevalence of CE among women with recurrent IVF failures (13.95 - 57.55%), unexplained infertility (UEI) (40.7-55.7%), and repeated loss of early pregnancy (42.9-56%).<sup>22,23</sup> Several authors recently have studied the possible mechanisms of the endometrium re-

productive health hampered by CE. Improvement in technology and increased training has led to widespread use of hysteroscopy, and it has become the method of choice for the diagnosis and treatment of intrauterine pathologies. During operative hysteroscopy, uterine perforation, bleeding, and air emboli because of used distention medium and hyponatremia which resulted from infusion of large amounts of distention medium into circulation and allergic reactions may occur.<sup>24</sup> The present study aims to assess the incidence of CE in women with UEI and RIF depending on hysteroscopic findings.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

This cross-sectional retrospective study was done on 529 participants who attended our hospital's infertility clinic between January 2014 and August 2020. The participants were at the age of 18-39 years. We divided the subjects into two groups, i.e., unexplained infertile cases with RIF (Group:1;n:187) and unexplained infertile cases without RIF (Group:2;n:342). They had no additional chronic illnesses like thyroid problems, diabetes or hypertension. All of the participants had unexplained infertility. All patients have undergone hysteroscopy. Demographical and clinical characteristics, including age, body mass index (BMI), total dosage of used gnd, duration of stimulation, total number of retrieved oocytes, Anti mullerian hormone (AMH), smoking, hysteroscopic findings were compared. The participants submitted the informed consent. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Beykoz University, Turkey (Date: 06.11.2020-Decision No: 2020/3). All procedures conducted in studies, including human participants, conformed to ethical standards of the national or institutional research committee and the Helsinki Declaration 1964 and subsequent amendments or other ethical standards.

## Statistical Analysis

SPSS version 26.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was applied to perform statistics. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test results show that all quantitative variables are not normally distributed. The relationship between the quantitative variables in the two groups is studied using the Mann-Whitney test. The factors of group exposure were assessed using logistic regression analysis. In this case, in which we

have zero events in a subgroup, penalized maximum likelihood estimation was used.

## RESULTS

This study sample consisted of 529 participants (187 cases with RIF and 342 without RIF) with unexplained infertility. Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics of the variables.

**Table 1.** Descriptive statistics of the variables

Variable	n	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Sd
Female Age (y)	529	18	39	31.6	5.1
BMI(body mass index)	529	18	33	24.6	2.5
Total use of gonadotropin(IU)	529	900	3000	2146.9	312.5
Duration of stimulation(days)	529	7	12	9.99	0.98
Number of retrieved oocytes	529	7	13	8.1	0.6
AMH(ng/ml)	529	1	3.81	1.43	0.6
MII	529	6	10	6.2	0.6
PN	529	5	8	6.005	0.3
Variable	Frequency Percent				
<b>Infertility type</b>					
Primary	370 69.9				
Secondary	159 30.1				
<b>Smoking</b>					
No	457 86.4				
Yes	72 13.6				
<b>Hysteroscopical Findings</b>					
Chronic Endometritis	14 2.6				
Polyps	19 3.6				
No pathology	496 93.8				
<b>Group</b>					
With recurrent implantation failure (Group:1)	187 35.3				
Without recurrent implantation failure (Group:2)	342 64.7				

AMH: Anti-Mullerian Hormone, BMI: body mass index, MII: Metaphase II, PN: Pronucleus

As Table 1 shows, the participants have a mean age of 31.6 years  $\pm 5.1$ . The mean BMI of the participants is  $24.6 \pm 2.5$ . The total use of gonadotropin is  $2146.9 \pm 312.5$ . The mean duration of stimulation is  $9.99 \pm 0.98$  days. The mean AMH level is  $1.43 \pm 0.6$ . The total number of retrieved oocytes is  $8.1 \pm 0.6$ . The mean number of MII and PN are  $6.2 \pm 0.6$  and  $6.005 \pm 0.3$ , respectively. Of 370 (69.9%) women have primary and 159 women (30.1%) have secondary infertility. 457 subjects (86.4%) are not smokers. The hysteroscopy findings showed that 14(2.6%) have CE, 19(3.6%) have endometrial polyps, and 496 (93.8%) have no endometrial pathology.

Table 2 shows the relationship between the studied variables in both groups using Mann-Whitney Test.

**Table 2.** Comparison of two groups using Mann-Whitney test

Variable	Group		p
	Group:1 (n:187) Mean (Sd)	Group:2 (n:342) Mean (Sd)	
Age female(y)	31.8(4.5)	31.6(5.7)	0.4
BMI(kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.7(2.5)	24.6(2.6)	0.7
AMH(ng/ml)	1.4(0.5)	1.4(0.6)	0.8
Total dose of gonadotropin (IU)	2113.8 (420.6)	2165.05 (231.9)	0.6
Duration of stimulation (days)	9.9 (0.9)	10.03 (1.01)	0.06
Number of retrieved oocytes	8.03(0.3)	8.1(0.7)	0.1
MII	6.4(0.8)	6.1(0.5)	0.06
PN	5.9(0.1)	6.02(0.4)	0.7

MII:Metaphase II,PN:Pronucleus

Table 2 shows no significant difference in BMI, age, AMH level, total dose of gonadotropin, duration of stimulation, number of retrieved oocytes, MII, and PN between the two groups.

Table 3 shows the relationship between the variables studied in both groups using Chi-Square and exact Fisher Tests.

**Table 3.** The relationship between the studied variables in both groups using Chi-Square and exact Fisher Tests

Variable	Group		p
	Group:1 (n:187) frequency (%)	Group:2 (n:342) frequency (%)	
<b>Infertility type</b>			0.09
Primary	122(65.2)	248(75.2)	
Secondary	65(34.8)	94(27.5)	
<b>Number of trial</b>			<0.001
1.00	0	119(34.8)	
2.00	0	223(65.2)	
3.00	141(75.4)	0	
4.00	28(15)	0	
5.00	16(8.6)	0	
6.00	2(1.1)	0	
<b>Smoking</b>			0.5
No	161(86.1)	296(86.5)	
Yes	26(13.9)	46(13.5)	

Table 3 shows that the two groups show no statistically significant difference in infertility type (P=0.09) and smoking(P=0.5). The two groups are statistically significantly different in the number of trial (p=0.000).

Table 4 shows the relationship between the hysteroscopic variables of both groups using Chi-Square and exact Fisher Tests.

**Table 4.** The comparison of hysteroscopic findings in both groups

Variable	Group		p
	Group:1 (n:187) frequency (%)	Group:2 (n:342) frequency (%)	
<b>Hysteroscopy</b>			
Chronic Endometritis	10(5.3)	4(1.2)	0.1
Polyps	9(4.8)	10(2.9)	0.8
No endometrial pathology	168(89.9)	328(95.9)	<0.001

Table 4 shows that the two groups show no statistically significant difference in CE (p=0.1) and polyps (p=0.8), while the two groups are statistically significantly different in the presence of endometrial pathology(p=0.000). The results of the study showed that those women who had RIF did not show a higher incidence of CE, but endometrial pathologies (EP) were increased in this group of patients.

Table 5 shows the logistic regression analyses for some risk factors and chronic endometritis.

**Table 5.** Logistic regression analyses for some risk factors and chronic endometritis

Variable	OR (95%CI)	p
Female Age	1(0.97,1.04)	0.7
BMI	0.9(0.9,1.05)	0.6
Total dose of gonadotropin	1(0.99,1)	0.07
Duration of stimulation	1.12(0.9,1.3)	0.2
Number of retrieved oocytes	1.5(1.04,2.16)	0.02
AMH	1.08(0.8,1.4)	0.6
MII	0.5(0.4,0.6)	0.000
PN	1.35(0.8,2.22)	0.
<b>Infertility type</b>		
1.00		
2.00		
<b>Total number of trial</b>		
1.00	1	
2.00	1.87(0.03-94.8)	0.7
3.00	0.00001(2.91e-07-0.0007)	0.000
4.00	0.00007(1.43e-06-0.003)	0.000
5.00	0.0001(2.43e-06-0.006)	0.000
6.00	0.0008(0.00001-0.05)	0.001
<b>Smoking</b>		
No	0	
Yes	0.95(0.57-1.59)	0.8
<b>Hysteroscopy</b>		
Chronic Endometritis	1	
Polyps	2.57(0.6-1.5)	0.1
Diagnostic	4.5(1.4-13.9)	0.008
<b>Embryo transfer</b>		
1.00	1	
2.00	0.05(0.01-0.19)	0.000

AMH: Anti-Mullerian Hormone, BMI:body mass index,MII:Metaphase II,PN:Pronucleus

In Table 5, Age, BMI, total dose of gonadotropin, duration of stimulation, AMH, and smoking were not the significant risk factors for chronic endometritis. Regarding the association between the risk factors and prevalence of the CE, the total number of oocytes was associated with the increased risk of CE(OR=1.5), MII was associated with the decreased risk of CE(OR=0.5).

## DISCUSSION

Implantation is the result of a complex interaction between the blastocyst and the endometrium. Different signaling pathways participate in this unique biological link and an appropriate endometrium is requested for the implantation success. Many pathologies of the endometrium and uterus affect endometrial receptivity. The potential mechanisms whereby endometrial polyps could adversely impact fertility include both mechanical interference and the release of molecules that adversely affect sperm transport or embryo implantation. There exists evidence of increased levels of glycodelin,<sup>25</sup> aromatase<sup>26</sup> inflammatory markers,<sup>27</sup> and reduced levels of HOXA-10 and -11 messenger RNA.<sup>28</sup> (No studies were found comparing these expressions before and after polypectomy. Adenomyosis on the molecular expressions is thought to be important for optimal endometrial receptivity. Decreased Hox-A10 gene expression, LIF dysregulation, downregulation of NR4A and FOXO1A and increased levels of IL-1b, corticotropin-releasing hormone), NK cells, macrophages, and a spectrum of cytokines are seen.<sup>29</sup> In myomas also, Hox-A10 gene expression decreases. Especially, submucous leiomyomas produce substances that can alter the endometrial milieu in the midluteal phase in a way that is associated with reduced implantation success.<sup>29</sup> Several studies have been done on the effect of endometritis, especially CE, on human pregnancy in the last decade and most of them showed the potential association. The present study aimed to assess the CE incidence in unexplained infertile women with RIF depending on hysteroscopic findings. The findings showed that those who had RIF did not show an increased frequency of CE. In other words, CE incidence was similar in UEI patients with or without RIF. Considerable efforts have been made recently to clarify the relationship between CE and infertility, helping manage women suffering from a poor reproductive outcome.<sup>30</sup> Song et al. found

an association between CE and undesirable reproductive outcomes, including implantation failure and recurrent loss of pregnancy.<sup>31</sup> CE has the prevalence of varying between 1.4 % among those with non-normal uterine bleeding and 56% in those with recurrent pregnancy loss and infertility,<sup>32</sup> while our study did not find any association between CE and RIF. Cicinelli et al. found that a reliable diagnostic characteristic of CE is the presence of micropolyps during hysteroscopy.<sup>33</sup> It has been found that several women experiencing RIF have CE due to bacterial colonization, which has the lowest or no symptoms of infection.<sup>13</sup> Kushnir et al. found CE in 45% of the infertile patients, particularly those who had RIF, which is not consistent with our study results.<sup>34</sup> Matteo et al. state that CE impedes endometrial receptivity and consequently leads to infertility since the endometrium is characterized by abnormal inflammatory mediators and an aberrant endometrial microenvironment in the endometrial lining, such as cytokines, leukocytes, and immunoglobulins.<sup>35</sup> A body of evidence found the adverse effect of CE on pregnancy outcome by disordering the endometrial microenvironment and hampering endometrial receptivity.<sup>15,36</sup> The infertile subjects who have endometrial polyps have more prevalent CE than fertile women. The infertile subjects with cured CE had the same pregnancy outcome as the infertile ones without CE. According to multivariate analysis, there is a significant association between infertility and diagnosis of CE among those with EP.<sup>37</sup> Despite the lack of comparison between fertile and infertile groups, the previous studies have shown that infertile women experienced a high CE prevalence, which is not in line with our study results.<sup>8</sup> CE reversibly causes infertility, and its recognition and treatment may improve the chances at the next IVF attempts and may improve the outcome of IVF among those with RIF.<sup>23</sup> Sfakianoudis et al. have found an association between CE and infertility and RIF, which does not support our study findings.<sup>2</sup> Saxtorph et al. conducted endometrial investigations and found that chronic endometritis was more prevalent in the RIF cohort.<sup>37,38</sup> EC has been associated with RIF in some trials, which is prevalent between 8 and 57%, depending on the diagnosis criteria, and those with RIF were found to have more prevalent endometrial dysfunction biomarkers, which is not in line with our study results.<sup>12,23</sup> Johnston et al. found a signifi-

cantly lower implantation rate among the non-fertile women with RIF and CE during the IVF-ET cycle following endometrial biopsy than women with RIF but not with CE (15% vs. 46%), and there is an association between CE and poor reproductive outcomes, including RPL and implantation failure, which is not in line with our study results.<sup>39</sup> Also, in the study of Tanacan et al., it was shown that performing diagnostic hysteroscopy prior to the first IVF treatment cycle without correcting any anatomic abnormalities did not improve live birth rates(LBRs).<sup>40</sup>

The low number of patients and retrospective study design were among the limitations of our study. In this study, those with RIF did not show a higher incidence of CE, but endometrial pathologies were increased in this group of patients. So hysteroscopy should be a part of our work-up in RIF patients with unexplained infertility.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: NDG, TG, AY. Data Collection and/or Processing: NDG, TG, AY. Data analysis and interpretation: NDG, TG, AY. Literature Search: NDG, TG, AY. Drafting manuscript: NDG, TG, AY. Critical revision of manuscript: NDG, TG, AY. Supervision: NDG, TG, AY.

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## **Yayın Evre Küçük Hücreli Akciğer Kanserinde Lenfosit/Monosit Oranının Prognostik Önemi**

### **Prognostic Significance of the Lymphocyte/Monocyte Ratio in Patients with Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer**

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#### **ÖZ**

**Amaç:** Küçük Hücreli akciğer kanseri (KHK) kemoterapiye duyarlı ancak kötü прогнозu olan bir akciğer kanseri türüdür. Bu çalışmamızda lenfosit/monosit oranının ile birlikte diğer klinik ve laboratuvar parametrelerinin prognostik önemini araştırmayı amaçladık.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Bu çalışmamızda retrospektif olarak Ocak 2014 ile Aralık 2019 tarihleri arasında KHK tanısı almış ve yaygın evrede olan 146 hastanın tıbbi kayıtları incelendi. Kemoterapi öncesi alınan kan tetkiklerinden lenfosit/monosit oranı (LMO) hesaplandı.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya alınan hastalarda medyan genel sağ kalım süresi 8.78 (aralık 1.07-54.80) ay, progresyonuz sağ kalım süresi (PSK) 5.6 (1.07-44.03) ay olarak bulundu. Tüm hastaların cohort analizinde, LMO düşük grupta medyan PSK 4.5 ay, genel sağ kalım süresi (GSK) 7.5 ay olup, LMO yüksek grupta medyan PSK 6.5 ay, GSK 10.1 ay olarak saptandı. Tek değişkenli analiz ile incelenliğinde LMO yüksek olan hastaların düşük olan hastalara göre genel sağ kalım süreleri de daha uzundu (HR 0.591 %95 CI 0.42-0.83 p=0.003). Çok değişkenli analiz ile incelenliğinde ise LMO yüksekliği sağ kalım için iyi prognostik göstergelerden biri olma özelliğini devam ettiriyordu (HR: 0.54 %95 CI 0.38-0.77. p=0.001)

**Sonuç:** Yüksek LMO, yaygın evre küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri hastalarında uzun PSK ve GSK'yi gösteren bağımsız bir prognostik parametre olabileceği kanıtlandı.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri; lenfosit/monosit oranı; prognostik faktör; sağkalım

#### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) is a type of lung cancer that is sensitive to chemotherapy but has a poor prognosis. In this study, we aimed to investigate the prognostic significance of the lymphocyte / monocyte ratio and clinical and laboratory parameters.

**Materials and Methods:** In this study, medical records of 146 patients who were diagnosed with SCLC between January 2014 and December 2019 and were in the extensive stage were analyzed retrospectively. The lymphocyte / monocyte ratio (LMO) was calculated from the blood tests taken before chemotherapy.

**Results:** Median overall survival (OS) was 8.78 (range 1.07-54.80) months, progression-free survival (PFS) was 5.6 (1.07 - 44.03) months in the patients enrolled in the study. In the cohort analysis of all patients, the median PFS was 4.5 months, OS 7.5 months in the low group with LMO and 6.5 months, OS 10.1 months in the high group with LMO. When examined by univariate analysis, patients with high LMO also had longer OS than patients with low (HR 0.591 95% CI 0.42-0.83 p=0.003). When analyzed by multivariate analysis, LMO continued to be one of the good prognostic parameter for survival (HR: 0.54% 95 CI 0.38-0.77. p=0.001)

**Conclusion:** It has been shown that high LMO can be an independent prognostic parameter showing long PFS and OS in patients with extensive stage small cell lung cancer.

**Keywords:** lymphocyte/monocyte ratio; prognostic factor; small cell lung cancer; survival

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## GİRİŞ

Küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri (KHAK), akciğer kanseri hastaların yaklaşık olarak %13'ünü oluşturan nöroendokrin tümör olup, ağırlıklı olarak sigara içen bireyleri etkiler.<sup>1</sup> Agresif seyirli bir tümördür. Erken metastaz gelişimi, tümör hücrelerinin ikiye katlanma hızı ve kötü prognozu ile küçük hücreli dışı akciğer kanserinden (KHDAK) ayrılır.

Hastalık klasik evrelendirmeye göre sınırlı evre ve yaygın evre olarak ikiye ayrılır. KHAK yaygın evresinde kemoterapiye kısa sürede iyi yanıt alınsa da aylar içerisinde nüks eder. En iyi tedaviyle bile ancak 9.6 aylık bir medyan genel sağ kalım süreleri (GSK) bildirilmiştir.<sup>2</sup>

Toraksa sınırlı hastalık evresi, yaygın evre hastalıkğa göre KHAK için en önemli prognostik faktördür. Tedavi öncesi sigara içmek, genomik profil, dolaşan tümör hücreleri, Geriatric Nutritional Risk Index, delta-like protein 3 ve serum laktat dehidrogenaz seviyeleri bildirilmiş prognostik faktörlerdir.<sup>3-8</sup>

Kanser gelişimi ve progresyonunda inflamasyon hücreleri ve kemokinler önemli temel prognostik belirtecidir.<sup>9</sup> Lenfositler doğal immünitenin bir parçası olarak sitotoksik hücre ölümünü tetiklemektedir. Lenfositler aynı zamanda tümör hücrelerinin proliferasyon ve migrasyonunu baskılarlar.<sup>10,11</sup> Bu mekanizmalar ile kanser hücrelerine karşı bir immün cevap oluştururlar. Yapılan çalışmalarda KHAK'lı hastalarda tanı anındaki lenfosit sayıları ile son değerlendirmedeki lenfosit sayılarında hızlı düşüş olmasının kötü прогноз ile ilişkili olduğu bildirilmiştir.<sup>10</sup> Aksine, monositler çeşitli mekanizmalar aracılığı ile konakçıdaki anti-tümör bağışıklığı baskılamaktadır. Tümör mikroçevresinde monositlerden ve monosit benzeri hücrelerden ekspresse edilen programlanmış ölüm ligandi (PD-L1) bazı hematolojik malignitelerde konak immünitesini baskılar.<sup>12</sup> Bu nedenle, düşük lenfosit sayısı ve yüksek monosit sayısını gösteren düşük bir Lenfosit/monosit oranı (LMO), lenfoid maligniteler dahil olmak üzere birçok kanser türünde kötü прогноз ile ilişkili olduğu düşünülmektedir.<sup>13-17</sup> Ancak LMO'nun prognostik önemi henüz KHAK hastalarında yeteri kadar anlaşılamamıştır.

Bu çalışmamızda yaygın evre hastalığı olan SCLC hastalarında, LMO'nun prognostik önemini ve diğer prognostik olabilecek biyobelirteçleri ile karşılaştırılmayı amaçladık.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

### Hasta Seçimi

Bu çalışmamızda retrospektif olarak Ocak 2014 ile Aralık 2019 tarihleri arasında KHAK tanısı almış ve 18 yaş üzerinde olan hastaların tıbbi kayıtları incelendi. Uzak metastazları, malign perikardiyal veya plevral efüzyonlar ve/veya kontralateral supraklavikuler ve kontralateral hiler lenf nodu tutulumu olan yaygın evre hastalar dahil edildi. Sadece bir akciğerde ve bölgesel lenf düğümleri ile sınırlı olan ve güvenli bir radyoterapi alanına dahil edilebilen sınırlı evre KHAK olan hastalar dışlama kriteri olarak değerlendirildi. Çalışmaya katılan tüm hastalar birinci basamak tedavi olarak sisplatin-etoposid (sisplatin uygun olmayanlarda karboplatin) uygulandı. Progrese olan hastalarda 2.basamakta irinotekan kemoterapisi ya da en iyi destek tedavisi uygulandı. Bu çalışma 26.01.2021 tarih ve 2021.13.01.13 protokol numarası ile Tekirdağ Namık Kemal Üniversitesi Etik Kurulu tarafından onaylanmıştır.

### Verilerin Toplanması

Hastaların doğum, tanı, progresyon ve ölüm tarihi, cinsiyet, ile hematolojik parametreleri hastane kayıtlarından tarandı. Tanı anındaki yaş hesaplandı. Hastaların inflamasyon durumlarını gösteren LMO hastaların tanı anında tedavi öncesi alınan tam kan sayımı parametrelerinden lenfosit sayısının monosit sayısına bölünmesi ile hesaplandı. Dünya sağlık örgütüne göre tanı anındaki hemoglobin değerinden erkekte 13 g/dl'nin, kadında 12 g/dl'ın altı anemi olarak tanımlandı.<sup>18</sup>

### İstatistiksel Analiz

İstatistiksel analiz SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Versiyon 24.0; SPSS Inc. Chicago, Illinois, ABD) paket programı kullanılarak yapıldı. Progresyonsuz sağ kalım süresi (PSK) hastalığın tanı tarihinden itibaren, klinik ya da radyolojik olarak progresyona kadar olan süre olarak tanımlandı. Genel sağ

kalım süresi (GSK) hastalığın tanı tarihinden ölüm tarihine veya sağ kalanlarda son klinik izlem tarihine kadar olan süre olarak tanımlandı. Tedavi yanıtları “Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST) version 1.1”e göre belirlendi.<sup>19</sup>

Lenfosit monosit oranına göre hastaları iki gruba ayıran ideal eşik değer, “receiver-operating characteristic (ROC)” analizi kullanılarak “youden index” ile hesaplandı.<sup>20</sup> Verilerin normal dağılımında Kolmogorov-Smirnov testinden faydalandı. Sağ kalım analizleri Kaplan-Meier metodu, gruplar arası karşılaştırılmasında Log-Rank testi kullanıldı. Sağ kalım üzerinde etkili olan diğer faktörler ile LMO’nın tek değişkenli ve çok değişkenli olarak karşılaştırılmasında Cox regresyon analizi kullanıldı. İstatistiksel anlamlılık p değerinin 0.05’in altında olduğu ve Tip 1 hata düzeyinin %5’in altında olduğu durumlar olarak yorumlandı.

## Sonuçlar

Çalışmamıza toplam 146 hasta dahil edildi. Hastaların medyan yaşı 62’di (minimum-maksimum 40-81). Lenfosit monosit oranının tedavi yanıtına göre hastaları 2 ye ayıran ideal eşik değeri roc-curve ile 2.39 olarak hesaplandı. (N=146 AUC: 0.62, %95 güven aralığında AUC 0.58-0.74, p=0.011) (grafik 1) Bu değerin özgüllüğü (spesifitesi) %57.6 ve duyarlılığı (sensitivesi) %69.9 hesaplandı. Hastalar LMO’na göre 2.39’dan büyük (79 hasta), 2.39’dan küçük (67 hasta) olarak ikiye ayrıldı. Hastaların klinik ve laboratuvar özelliklerinin LMO’na göre karşılaştırıldı ve çalışmada değerlendirilen tüm parametreler iki grup için de benzerdi. (Tablo 1) Lenfosit monosit oranı yüksek olan 55 (50.9%), LMO düşük olan 53 (49.1%) hastaya palyatif radyoterapi uygulanmıştır. İyi yanıt, oligometastatik hastalık nedeni ile profilaktik kraniyal işinlanma alan bir hasta bu grplarda kategorize edilmemiştir.

**Tablo 1.** Hastaların Lenfosit/monosit oranına göre klinik ve laboratuvar parametrelerinin karşılaştırılması

Değişkenler	LMO Düşük 67 (45.9%)	LMO Yüksek 79 (54.1%)	p	PSK (ay) (medyan)	GSK (ay) (medyan)
<b>Yaş</b>					
Medyan(aralık)	63 (40-81)	62 (42-78)	0.223*		
Ortalama	63.5 ± 9.45	61.7 ± 8.50			
<b>Cinsiyet</b>					
Kadın	3 (37.5%)	5 (62.5%)	0.726	3.5	3.5
Erkek	64 (46.4%)	74 (53.6%)		5.8	8.8
<b>Sigara içimi öyküsü</b>					
Yok (<10 paket/yıl)	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0.787	5.7	11.3
Var (>10 paket/yıl)	62 (45.6%)	74 (54.4%)		5.5	8.7
<b>ECOG performans skoru</b>					
0-1	55 (43.7%)	71 (56.3%)	0.173	6.2	9.5
2-3	12 (60.0%)	8 (60.0%)		2.3	2.3
<b>Palyatif Radyoterapi</b>					
Evet	53 (49.1%)	55 (50.9%)	0.193	6.5	10.4
Hayır	14 (36.8%)	24 (63.2%)		5.2	8.3
<b>Anemi</b>					
Var	27 (40.9%)	39 (59.1%)	0.272	5.1	8.7
Yok	40 (50.0%)	40 (50.0%)		6.3	8.8
<b>Lenfosit Monosit Oranı</b>					
Düşük				4.5	7.5
Yüksek				6.5	10.1

\*Yas değişkeni, normallik varsayımini sağlamasından dolayı p değeri bağımsız örneklem student t-testine göre belirtilmiş olup, diğer değişkenlerin p değeri chi-square testi ile tanımlanmıştır.

LMO: Lenfosit/monosit oranı, PSK: Progresyonsuz sağ kalım süresi, GSK: Genel sağ kalım süresi

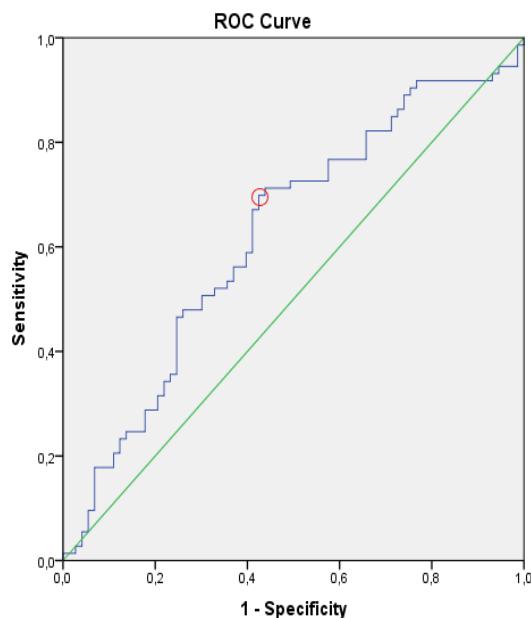
Çalışmaya alınan hastalarda medyan genel sağ kalım 8.78 (aralık 1.07-54.80) ay, progresyonsuz sağ kalım 5.6 (1.07 - 44.03) aydı. Tüm hastaların kohort analizinde, LMO düşük grupta medyan PSK 4.5 ay, GSK 7.5 ay olup, LMO yüksek grupta medyan PSK 6.5 ay, GSK 10.1 ay olarak saptandı. (Grafik 2-3). LMO yüksek grup, düşük olan grup ile istatistiksel olarak karşılaştırıldığında hem daha iyi PSK (p=0.012) ve daha iyi GSK(p=0.002)

sağladığı saptanmıştır. Tek değişkenli Cox regresyon analizi ile incelendiğinde LMO yüksek olan hastaların düşük olan hastalara göre genel sağ kalım süreleri de daha uzundu (HR 0.59 %95 CI 0.42-0.83 p= 0.003). Çok değişkenli Cox regresyon analizi ile incelendiğinde ise LMO yüksekliği sağ kalım için iyi prognostik göstergelerden biri olma özelliğini devam ettiriyordu. (HR: 0.54 %95 CI 0.38-0.77. p = 0.001) (Tablo 2)

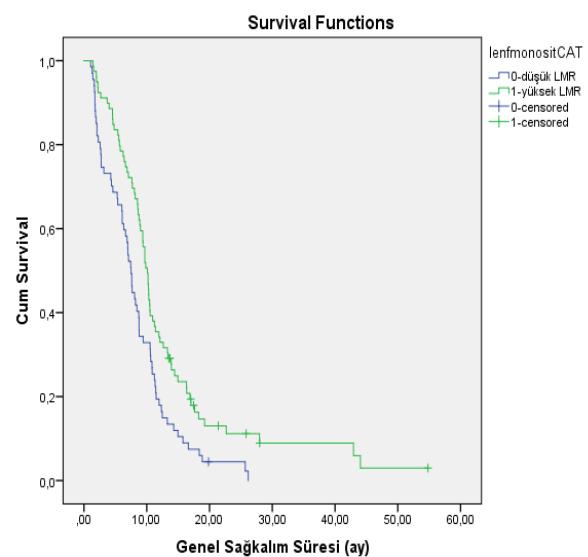
**Tabelo 2.** Hastaların klinik ve laboratuvar değerlerine göre genel sağ kalım sürelerin tek değişkenli ve çok değişkenli cox regresyon analizleri

Değişkenler	HR	(95% CI)	p	HR*	(95% CI)	p
Yüksek LMO (düşük'e karşı)	0.59	0.42-0.83	0.003	0.54	0.38-0.77	0.001
Erkek Cinsiyet(kadına'a karşı)	0.51	0.25-1.06	0.073			
ECOG PS. 2-3 (0-1'e karşı)	4.03	2.42-6.69	<0.001	4.52	2.69-7.57	<0.001
Sigara içmek (içmeyene karşı)	1.31	0.66-2.58	0.433			
Anemi olması (olmamasına)	1.00	0.71-1.40	0.983			
Yaş (her yıl)	1.02	1.00-1.04	0.019	1.02	1.00-1.05	0.012

\*HR: Hazard Ratio , LMO: Lenfosit/Monosit Oranı, , ECOG PS.: ECOG Performans Skoru

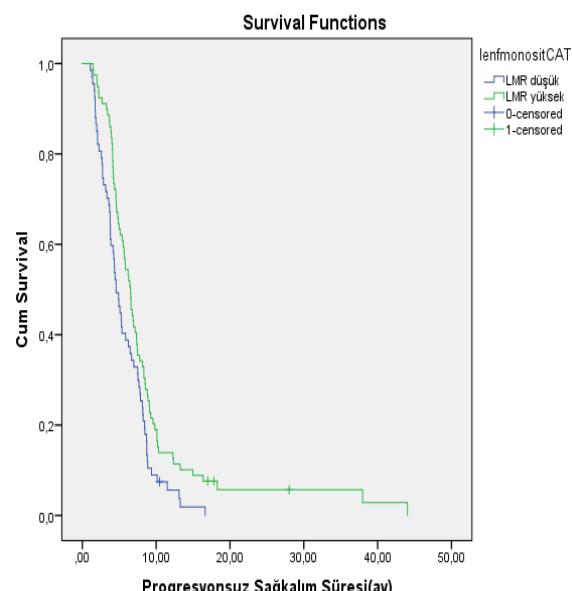


**Grafik 1.** Roc-Curve eğrisinde LMO'nun sağ kalım analizi (kırmızı çember ile ideal olduğu düşünülen eşik değeri temsil etmektedir)



**Grafik 3.** LMO düşük olan hastalar ile LMO yüksek olan hastaların genel sağ kalım süreleri-nin Kaplan-Meier analizi ile karşılaştırılması

## TARTIŞMA



**Grafik 2.** LMO düşük olan hastalar ile LMO yüksek olan hastaların progresyonsuz sağ kalım sürelerinin Kaplan-Meier analizi ile karşılaştırılması

Bu çalışmamızda yaygın evre küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri olan 146 hastanın klinik ve laboratuvar verilerini inceledik ve LMO'nun prognostik önemini araştırdık. Hastalar LMO'na göre düşük ve yüksek LMO olarak ikiye ayrıldı. LMO düşük olan hastalar, yüksek olan hastalara göre hem PSK hem de GSK olarak daha kötü gelişiyordu. Hem tek değişkenli analizde hem de çok değişkenli analizde LMO, yaş ve tanı anındaki ECOG performans skorunun prognostik bir marker olarak kullanılabileceğini saptadık.

Akciğer kanseri, klinik özellikleri, tedavi yaklaşımları ve klinik sonuçlarındaki farklılıklara göre küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri (KHAK) ve küçük hücreli dışı akciğer kanseri (KHDAK) olarak ikiye ayrılır. Küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri tüm akciğer kanserlerinin %13' ini

oluşturan ve sigara ile çok yakın ilişkili nöroendokrin bir tümördür. Hastalık ilk defa 1957 yılında yapılan ve günümüzde de standart olmuş evreleme sistemine göre tek bir radyoterapi hacminde tedavi edilenler, sınırlı (limited) evre ve edilemeyen, yaygın (extensive) evre şeklinde sınıflandırılır.<sup>21</sup>

Yayın evre KHAK agresif seyirli olan bir kanser türü olup, hastalar en iyi palyatif destek ile birkaç aylık sağ kalım süresine sahiptir. Platin içeren bir kemoterapi rejimi ile ortalama genel sağ kalım süreleri 9.6 aya, progresyonuz sağ kalım süreleri ise 5.5 aya kadar çıkmamıştır.<sup>22,2</sup> Güncel tedavi yaklaşımlarından olan immunoterapi KHAK etkili bulunmuş olup, yapılan bir çalışmada standart kemoterapi kolunda 10.3 aylık bir median genel sağ kalım süresine karşın, atezolizumab ve kemoterapi birlikteliğinde bu süre 12.3 ay olarak bildirildi.<sup>23</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda bütün hastalar için genel sağ kalım süresi 8.7 ay iken ortanca PSK 5.6 aydı ve literatür veriler ile uyumluyu.

Hastalar LMO'na göre ayrıldığında LMO düşük olan hastalarda OS 7.5 ay iken, LMO yüksek olan grupta bu süre 10.1 aydı. Go ve arkadaşları tarafından yapılan ve sınırlı evre dahil bütün KHAK hastalarında LMO düşük olan hastalarda OS 13.3 ay iken LMO yüksek olan grupta bu süre 19.7 aydı. Bu çalışmanın alt grup analizlerinde yaygın evre hastalarda bu süre LMO yüksek grupta 11.2 aya karşın düşük grupta 10.5 aydı ancak istatistiksel anlamlılığı sağlayamamıştı.<sup>14</sup>

LMO yüksek olmasının iyi prognostik olması başka kanser türlerinde de ortaya konulmuştur.<sup>24-28</sup> Bu etkinin mekanizmasına bakıldığından daha çok meme kanserine yönelik çalışmalarla sonuca ulaşılmıştı. Giorgi ve ark. meme kanseri üzerinde yaptığı çalışmada lenfositlerin çoğalmasının tümör hücrelerinin göçünü engellediği ve tümöre karşı bağışıklığı güçlendirdiğini göstermişlerdir.<sup>29</sup> Düşük lenfosit düzeyleri ise bu nedenlerden dolayı kötü prognoz ile ilişkiliydi.<sup>30</sup> Aksine yüksek monosit türevi olan makrofajlar ise kötü prognoz göstergesiydı.<sup>31</sup>

Sonuç olarak yaygın evre KHAK hastalarında lenfosit/monosit oranında azalma kötü prognoz ile ilişkili olduğunu bu çalışmamızda ortaya koyduk ve bu LMO'nun prognostik bir belirteç olarak

kullanılabileceğini düşündürmektedir.

Çalışmamızın sınırlılıkları bulunmaktadır. En önemli çalışmamızın retrospektif olmasıdır. Bir diğer önemli nokta, bu kadar hızlı ilerleyen ve tedavisiz sağ kalım süreleri kısa olan hastalarda progresyonun ölüm ile oluşması ve bütün hastaların birinci sıra tedavilerini tamamlayamamalarıdır. İlk basamak tedaviyi tamamlayan hastalarda da performans skorlarının düşmesinden dolayı ikinci basamak tedaviler için homojenitenin sağlanmasının zor olmasıdır. Palyatif bakım süreçlerinde aldıkları destek tedavilerinin bilinmezliği (yükün bakım gibi) de sınırlılıklarımızdan biridir. Diğer bir önemli konu hemogram parametrelerinin birçok faktörden bağımsız olarak etkilenmesidir.

### **Cıkar Beyannamesi**

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışması olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

### **Araştırmacıların Katkı Oranı Beyanı**

Ana fikir/Planlama: Yi. Veri toplama/İşleme: EÇ, AY. Veri analizi ve yorumlama: Yi. Literatür taraması: Yi, EÇ, AY. Yazım: Yi, EÇ, AY. Gözden geçirme ve düzeltme: Yi, EÇ, AY. Danışmanlık: Yi, EÇ, AY.

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## ATP-Binding Cassette Transporters Mediated Chemoresistance in MCF-7 Cells: Modulation by PhTAD-Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds

### MCF-7 Hücrelerinde ATP-Bağlayıcı Kaset Taşıyıcıları Aracılı Kemorezistansı PhTAD-Sübstítüe Dihidropirol Bileşikleri ile Modülasyonu

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#### **ÖZ**

**Amaç:** ABC proteinleri, antibiyotikler ve ilaçlar gibi birçok substrati taşırlar. ABC'lerin artması kanserde kemorezistansa yol açmaktadır. Bu bilgiler ışığında, çalışmamızda hem PhTAD türevli dihidropirol bileşiklerinin MCF7 hücrelerinde ABC Transporterlerin gen ekspresyonları üzerindeki etkisini hem de bu bileşikler için insan ABCB1 yapısını hedef alan öngörücü moleküller bağlanma bölgelerini araştırmayı planladık.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** MCF-7 hücrelerindeki ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC10, ABCC11 ve ABCG2'nin mRNA ekspresyon seviyeleri qPCR ile ölçülmüştür. Moleküler kenetlenme testleri hem AutoDock Tools 4.2 hem de PyMOL 2.4 programları ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. Ayrıca etkileşim analizi ProteinsPlus web servisi üzerinden yapılmıştır.

**Tartışma:** Bulgularımız, PhTAD ikameli dihidropirol içeren moleküllerin, kanser kemoresistansının potansiyel bir düzenleyicisi olan ABC Transporterleri etkilediğini göstermektedir.

**Sonuç:** Sonuçlarımız, bileşik (B) I, II, III, BV, BVII ve BXII'nin ABCB1'i arturdığını, BIV, BVI, BVII, BX, BIX, BXI, BXIII ve BXIV'ün ise ABCB1'i azalttığını ortaya koymuştur. Ayrıca, BI, BIV, BVI ve BVIII, ABCC3'ü yukarı regule etmesine rağmen, BVII, BX, BXII, BXIII ve BXIV, ABCC3'ü aşağı regule eder. Ayrıca, tüm bileşikler ABCC10 ekspresyonunu artırmıştır. Tersine, ABCC11'in ekspresyonu ise tüm bileşikler tarafından azaltılmıştır. Ayrıca BII, BV ve BVI, ABCG2'yi artırırken, BI, BVII, BVIII, BIX, BX, BXI, BXII, BXIII ve BXIV, ABCG2'yi azaltmıştır. Bunun yanında ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC11 ve ABCG2 miktarları, BVII, BIX, BX, BXI, BXIII ve BXIV ile paralel olarak azalmıştır. Ayrıca, yüksek bağlanma enerjisine sahip BXI ve BXIV'ün moleküller kenetlenme hesaplama sonuçları, ABCB1'in sıkı bir şekilde modüle edildiğini göstermiştir. Özellikle bu bileşikler, ABCB1 üzerindeki birçok hidrojen bağlama ve hidrofobik bölge ile etkileşime girmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** ABCB1; ABCC3; kemorezistans; meme kanseri; PhTAD-dihidropirol

#### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** ABC proteins transport many substrates such as antibiotics and drugs. Increase of ABCs lead chemoresistance in cancer. In view of this information, in our study, we planned to investigate both PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrole compound's impact on gene expressions of ABC Transporters in the MCF7 cells, and predictive molecular binding sites target on human ABCB1 structure for these compounds.

**Materials and Methods:** The mRNA expression levels of ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC10, ABCC11, and ABCG2 in the MCF-7 cell were measured by qPCR. Molecular docking assays were realized with both the AutoDock Tools 4.2 and PyMOL 2.4. Also, the interaction analysis was performed by ProteinsPlus web service.

**Results:** Our results revealed that CI, CII, CIII, CV, CVIII, and CXII increased ABCB1 while compound CIV, CVI, CVII, CX, CIX, CXI, CXIII, and CXIV decreased ABCB1. Besides, CI, CIV, CVI, and CVIII upregulate ABCC3, although CVII, CX, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV downregulate ABCC3. Moreover, ABCC10 expression is induced by all compounds. Conversely, ABCC11 expression is reduced by all compounds. Furthermore, CII, CV, and CVI increased ABCG2, while CI, CVII, CVIII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV decreased ABCG2. Also, ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC11, and ABCG2 parallelly reduced by CVII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV. Also, the molecular docking calculation results of CXI and CXIV with high binding energy have shown that tightly modulated ABCB1. Especially, these compounds interact with many hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic site on ABCB1.

**Conclusion:** Our findings indicate that the PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrol containing molecules affect ABC transporters as a potential regulator of cancer chemoresistance.

**Keywords:** ABCB1; ABCC3; breast cancer; chemoresistance; PhTAD-dihydropyrrole

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## INTRODUCTION

Cancer ranks second among the diseases that cause the most deaths in the world and it is expressed as unregulated DNA replicating itself and cell division.<sup>1,2</sup> Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in cancer cases in women.<sup>3</sup> Breast cancer is rare in men, but it is a common type of cancer in women.<sup>4,5</sup> Breast cancer has been shown to be caused by a variety of mechanisms caused by the multidrug resistance (MDR).<sup>6</sup> In previous studies, it was reported that MDR mechanisms in breast cancer caused multidrug resistance by decreasing drug concentration in the cell, and by detecting its up-expression in breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP), it decreased the effectiveness of drugs.<sup>7,8</sup>

MDR hypothesis is related to the development of pharmacokinetic resistance mechanism, the inability of the drug to reach sufficient concentration in the target area because of the overexpression and activities of drug transporters in the cancer chemotherapy resistance. This hypothesis was first explained and popularized in chemotherapy resistance in cancer.<sup>9-11</sup> Research continues in many areas to figure out MDR in cancer and to explore new drugs which can inhibit the improvement of drug resistance in cells. Many findings have demonstrated that the P glycoprotein, also known as multidrug delivery protein, is expressed in large amounts in many cancer cells because of genetic changes. This situation causes cancer cells to develop resistance to many anticancer drugs.<sup>12-14</sup>

The ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) transporters gene family is identified according to the sequence and structure of ATP binding sites. They are responsible for the transport of many substrates such as hormones, lipids, sugars, amino acids, ions, polysaccharides, peptides, proteins, antibiotics, xenobiotics, drugs, and toxins, through intracellular and extracellular membranes.<sup>15,16</sup> ABC proteins use the energy from ATP hydrolysis and contain 49 different ABC genes that are divided into seven subfamilies (ABCA-ABCG).<sup>17,18</sup>

Genetic and molecular investigations have found that multidrug-resistant cancer cells raised MDR1 (Pgp / ABCB1)

gene expression levels in humans. P-glycoprotein encoding by the MDR1 gene is produced at prominent amounts in many cancers.<sup>19-22</sup> Multidrug carriers are one of two important mechanisms defined in the flow of drugs pumped from cells. The other mechanism for drug flow involves the expression of a gene called multidrug resistance-associated protein (MRP). Both MDR1 and MRP genes are members of a superfamily of ATP-dependent carriers. Presumably, other members of this superfamily that have not yet been identified also play an effective role in drug resistance. MDR etiology can be multifactorial; however, standard drug resistance to cytotoxic drugs mentioned above is mostly on account of upregulation of P-glycoprotein that conducts as a drug exit pump and its overexpressed in human tumors.<sup>12,23</sup> In cancerous tissue, expression of P-glycoprotein results in the highest potential for resistance in tumors provided from tissues that normally express P-glycoprotein, such as epithelial cells of the pancreas, liver, adrenal, colon, and kidney. P-glycoprotein levels could be low at that case of determination in tumors before chemotherapy begins; however, they rise after exposure to chemotherapy agents, causing the exploration of MDR in these cells.<sup>24</sup> An important mechanism of cancer cell multidrug resistance is thought to involve apoptosis or suppression of other cell death pathways.<sup>25,26</sup>

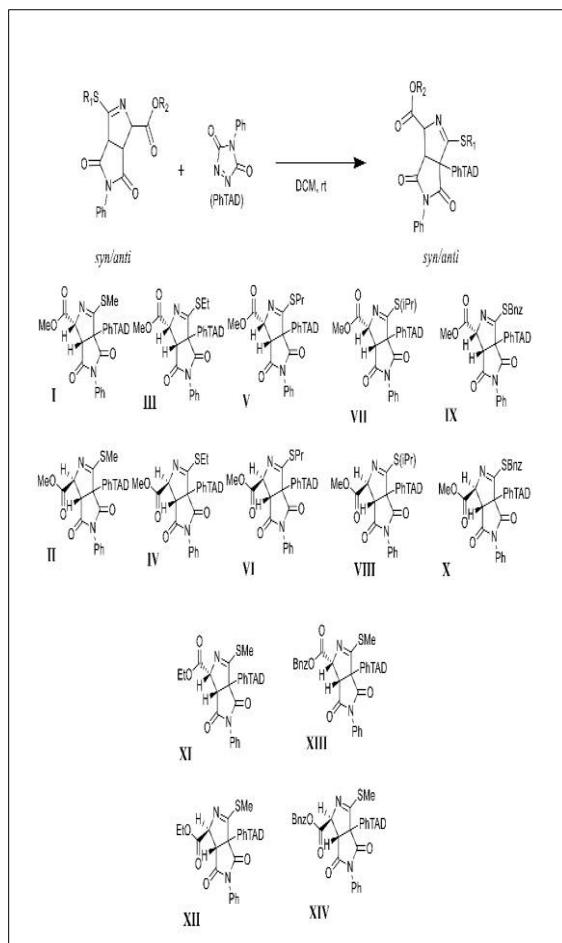
Dihydropyrrole derivatives are important compounds that exhibit a variety of biological activities and are useful intermediates in the synthesis of natural products.<sup>27</sup> It has been stated in many studies by researchers that dihydropyrrole compounds have antitumor activity on various types of cancer and have been shown to have low toxicity effectively.<sup>28</sup> The resistance that occurs in cancer cells with the excretion of drugs from the cell can be overcome with dihydropyrrole compounds.<sup>29</sup> The number of pyrrole-based drugs is high, so pyrroles are among the most researched heterocyclics in drug discovery for therapeutic fields. There are many studies such as anticancer, antimicrobial and antiviral belonging to pyrrole compounds which are a specific target in biological activities.<sup>30</sup> However, related to pyrrole-derived compounds, sufficient studies have not been found for compounds' effect on the drug resistance mechanism.

In view of this information, we planned to investigate PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrole compounds' impact on gene expressions of ATP-Binding Cassette Transporters in the MCF7 cells. Besides, we explored the compound I-XIV against the binding of human ABCB1 in the complex structure of PDB:7A69 ([www.rcsb.org](http://www.rcsb.org)) using a molecular docking approach. Our findings indicate that the PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrole containing molecules alternate ABC transporter gene levels as a potential regulator of cancer chemoresistance. Also, these molecules could be a likely inhibitor for ABCs.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Structure of Compounds

According to our previous study, we were synthesized PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds.<sup>31</sup> The structures of these compounds (C) were listed as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Structure of syn and anti PhTAD derivative compounds.

### Cell Culture

The Human breast adenocarcinoma cell line (MCF-7, ATCC® HTB22™, Manassas, VA, USA) was used for cell culture. MCF-7 cells were cultured using media containing 25 g/100 mL sodium bicarbonate (Sigma–Aldrich), 10 % fetal bovine serum (Sigma–Aldrich), RPMI-1640 (Sigma–Aldrich), penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma–Aldrich), and cells were incubated condition properly which are humidified atmosphere of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and at 37 °C in the incubator. After that, the cells had grown to 75% saturation, and the cells were washed with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and detached from flasks with 1X Trypsin (Sigma–Aldrich). Nearly 2×10<sup>6</sup> cells were seeded per well of a 6-well culture plate in 3 mL of growth medium. Cells were incubated at 37 °C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and 90 % humidity for 24 h until applied for PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds.

### Total RNA Isolation, Determination, and cDNA Synthesis

Properly amount of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds were dissolved in Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and diluted in a culture medium. In our previous study, the effect of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds on cell viability was measured by the methyl thiazolyl diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay. Briefly, the cells were seeded in a 96-well plate at a density of 1x10<sup>4</sup> cells/well in a final volume of 100 μL and incubated for 24 h. The final concentrations of compounds were applied on cells as 1.56, 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, 100 μM incubated for 24 h. MTT was added to the plate. After two hours, the medium was removed and then formazan crystals were dissolved in 100 μL DMSO. The absorbance was measured at 570 nm via a microplate reader (Thermo Multiskan Go). The cell viability percentage was determined with the help of the Microsoft Excel program and 50% suppressive concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) was calculated by logarithmic slope graph.

Cell viability % = (compound treatment absorbance)/(negative control absorbance value×100)

According to the IC<sub>50</sub> results we obtained in our previous study applied appropriate doses on MCF-7 as shown in Table 1.<sup>32</sup> These compounds were applied to the 2x10<sup>6</sup> cells at the specified doses; after that, cells were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. Total RNA was isolated with the GeneJET RNA Purification Kit (Cat No: K0731, Thermo Scientific). Both the concentration and purity of total RNA in the samples were measured at 260 and 280 nm via spectrophotometer (Multiskan Go μDrop, Thermo Scientific). Total RNA concentrations and purity values were shown in Table 2. cDNA was synthesized from 100 ng total RNA using the Maxima First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Cat No: K1671, Thermo Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**Table 1.** Applied cytotoxic doses of PhTAD derivative compounds on MCF7 cells.

Compounds Name	IC <sub>50</sub> Dose (μM)
I	25
II	25
III	25
IV	25
V	50
VI	12.5
VII	12.5
VIII	12.5
IX	6.25
X	12.5
XI	12.5
XII	50
XIII	25
XIV	25
Negative Control	-

**Table 2.** Total RNA concentrations and A<sub>260/280</sub> values.

Compounds	Total RNA (ng/μL)	A <sub>260/280</sub> value
I	95.69	2.002
II	373.2	1.997
III	102.1	2.001
IV	242.5	2.058
V	162	2.022
VI	400	2.058
VII	466	2.068
VIII	334	2.066
IX	198	2.059
X	321	2.058
XI	174	2.052
XII	238.6	2.054
XIII	110	2.099
XIV	353.7	2.054
Negative Control	219.5	2.109

## qPCR

The cDNA was used for quantitative real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) analysis using the Maxima SYBR Green/ROX qPCR Master Mix (2X) (Cat No: K0221, Thermo Scientific), and the threshold cycle (CT) was

measured by Real-Time PCR System (PikoReal™, Thermo Scientific). Relative gene expression levels of ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC10, ABCC11, and ABCG2 were calculated as a fold change using the 2<sup>-ΔΔCT</sup> method. According to this calculation, ΔCT = CT (target gene)-CT (β-actin) and Δ(ΔCT) = ΔCT (negative control)-ΔCT (treatment of compound). The primer pairs used for qPCR are shown in Table 3. Estimated target gene specificity and PCR product sizes were confirmed using NCBI Primer-BLAST (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/tools/primer-blast/>).

**Table 3.** Nucleotide sequences of forward (F) and reverse (R) primers, size of the products and primer specific annealing temperatures (Ta) for the real-time PCR detection.

Gene	Primer Sequences (5'-3')	Product Length (bp)	Ta (°C)
β-Actin F	TGACGTGGACATCGCAAAG	205	51
β-Actin R	CTGGAAAGTGGACAGCGAGG		
ABCB1 F	GITCAGGTGGCTCTGGATAAG	93	55
ABCB1 R	AGCGATGACGTCAGCATTAC		
ABCC3 F	TACTCCAAGACAGAGACAGAGG	111	53
ABCC3 R	CCGGTAGCGCACAGAATAAT		
ABCC10 F	TCACCCCTGTCTCCACTGTAT	133	49
ABCC10 R	AACTGGCACCTCTGGTTAG		
ABCC11 F	GTGGTGCTGATCGTCTTCTT	106	53
ABCC11 R	CCATGGTTCCATTGCTCTCT		
ABCG2 F	TCGTACTGGGACTGGTTATAGG	101	53
ABCG2 R	GTTGGTCGTCAGGAAGAAGAG		

## Molecular Docking Simulation

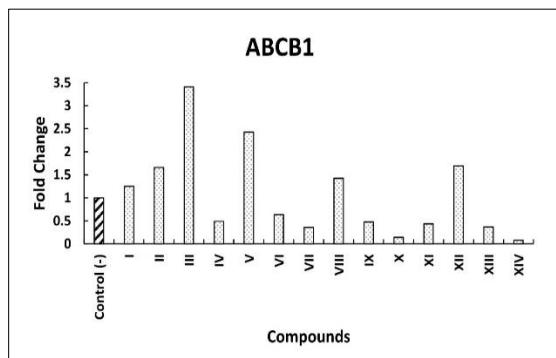
The multidrug resistance protein to the human ABCB1 in the complex structure of PDB:7A69 ([www.rcsb.org](http://www.rcsb.org)) was selected for molecular docking assay and modeled using AutoDock4.2 software (Ref M1). The binding site analysis was performed by PyMOL2.4 (refM2) and Protein-Ligand Interaction Profiler (PLIP) tools (RefM3).<sup>33-35</sup>

## RESULTS

### Effects of PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds Modulate ABCB1 Gene Expression In MCF-7 Cells

The mRNA expression of ABCB1 upregulated by CI (0.25-fold), CII (0.65-fold), CIII (2.5-fold), CV (1.5-fold), CVIII (0.4-fold), and CXII (0.7-fold) treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 2). However, CIV, CVI, CIX, and CXI treatment compared to negative

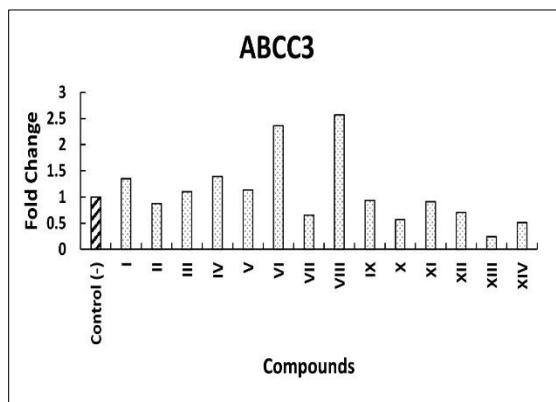
control approximately downregulated 50% of the mRNA expression of ABCB1. CVII and CXIII downregulated 70% of the mRNA expression of ABCB1. Also, CX and CXIV treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells markedly downregulated 6-fold and 13-fold ABCB1 gene expression levels, respectively.



**Figure 2.** Effects of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds on ABCB1 gene expression in MCF-7 cells.

#### Effects of PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds on ABCC3 Gene Expression in MCF-7 Cells

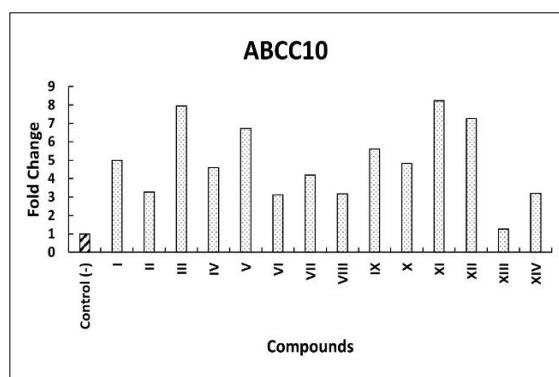
The mRNA expression of ABCC3 increased by CI (~0.3-fold), CIV (~0.4-fold), CVI (~1.4-fold), and CVIII (~1.5-fold) treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 3). But CVII and CXII treatment compared to negative control decreased 30% the mRNA expression of ABCC3. Besides, ABCC3 gene expression nearly decreased 50% by CX, and CXIV. Especially, CXIII treatment compared to negative control seriously decreased ~75% ABCC3 gene expression level.



**Figure 3.** Effects of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds on ABCC3 gene expression in MCF-7 cells.

#### Effects of PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds Induce ABCC10 Gene Expression in MCF-7 Cells

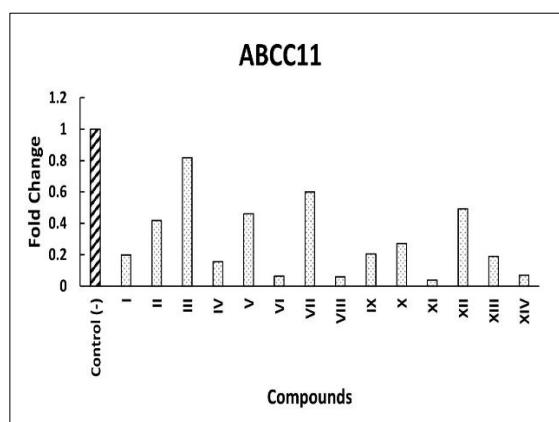
The mRNA expression levels of ABCC10 considerably increased by CI (4-fold), CII (2.25-fold), CIII (7-fold), CIV (3.5-fold), CV (5.75-fold), CVI (2-fold), CVII (3.2-fold), CVIII (2.2-fold), CIX (4.5-fold), CX (4-fold), CXI (7.2-fold), CXII (6.2-fold), CXIII (0.25-fold) and CXIV (2.2-fold) treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Effects of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds on ABCC10 gene expression in MCF-7 cells.

#### PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds Reduce ABCC11 Gene Expression in MCF-7 Cells

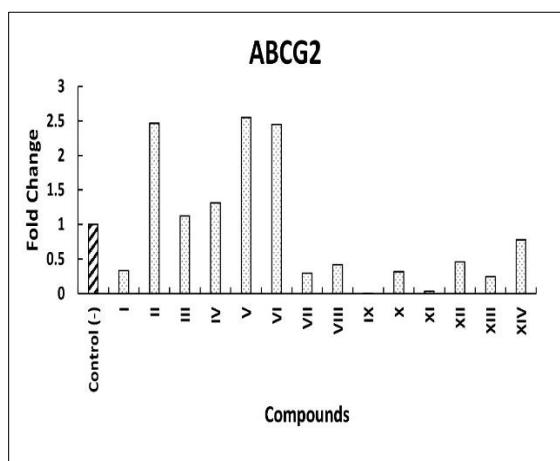
The mRNA expression levels of ABCC11 considerably downregulated by CI (4-fold), CII (1.3-fold), CIII (0.2-fold), CIV (5.5-fold), CV (1.2-fold), CVI (15-fold), CVII (1.2-fold), CVIII (16-fold), CIX (4-fold), CX (2.5-fold), CXI (26-fold), CXII (1-fold), CXIII (4.5-fold) and CXIV (13-fold) treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 5). Especially, CVI, CVIII, and CXI are extremely suppressed on ABCC11 gene expression.



**Figure 5.** Effects of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds reduce ABCC11 gene expression in MCF-7 cells.

### PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds on ABCG2 Gene Expression in MCF-7 Cells

CII, CV, and CVI treatment compared to negative control approximately increased 1.5-fold ABCG2 gene expression levels in MCF-7 cells (Figure 6) even though ABCG2 expression decreased by CI (2-fold), CVII (2.4-fold), CVIII (1.5-fold), CX (2.2-fold), CXII (1.2-fold), CXIII (3-fold), and CXIV (0.3-fold). Interestingly, CIX and CXI treatment compared to negative control markedly downregulated 220-fold and 31-fold the mRNA expression level of ABCG2, respectively.



**Figure 6.** Effects of PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds regulate on ABCG2 gene expression in MCF-7 cells.

### PhTAD Substituted Dihydropyrrole Compounds Target on ABCB1

Molecular docking study was performed on the compounds I-XIV to assay the mode of their interaction in the active site of the multi drug resistance protein on ABCB1 (PDB:7A69) using AutoDock Tools. Table 4 summarizes the binding depiction and binding energy values. From the docking assay, obtained poses were selected depending on the strong binding energy.

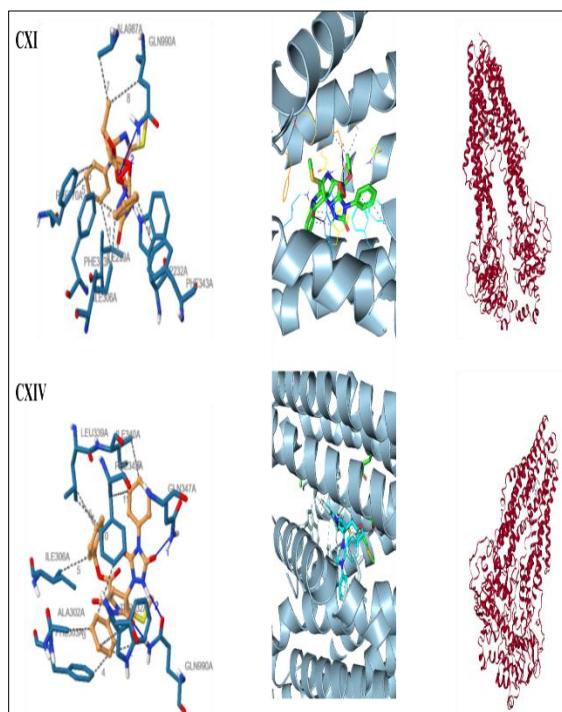
Furthermore, 3D interactions of compounds XI, and XIV, also interaction of the surface with corresponding amino acids were evaluated by molecular docking methods. Conventional hydrogen bonds were found between the GLN990, GLN725 and N-phenylmaleimide parts of the compounds. All compounds embedded into the hydrophobic pocket of the inhibitor pocked were occupied by

PhTAD, phenyl ring, or N-maleimide part which interacted with Ile306, Phe303, Trp232, Tyr307. The highest dock score was found as -10.38, -9.99, -9.28, -9.20, -9.19, -9.13, -8.91, -8.72 kcal/mol for compounds XI, II, XIV, X, IX, VI, VII, IV, respectively (Figure 7).

**Table 4.** Data from the molecular docking of the PhTAD derivatives compounds on 7A69.

Compounds	Binding Interaction	Binding Energy	No of H Bond
I	Imide-Ph(Phe728A, Tyr307A) Esterside (Gln990A) Imide C=O(Gln725A)	-8.39	3
II	PhTAD-Ph(Phe770A, Gln990A) NtriazoC=O(Gln725A, Phe303A) Imide-Ph (Phe303A, Trp232A)	-9.99	2
III	PhTAD-Ph( Phe994A) PhTAD-C=O(Gln838A) Imide-Ph (Phe728A, Tyr307A) Imide-C=O(Gln725A)	-9.00	2
IV	PhTAD-C=O(Gln990A) Imide-Ph (Phe728A, Tyr307A) Imide-C=O(Gln725A) PhTAD-Ph (Phe994A, Gln990A, Val991, Phe303A) PhTAD-C=O(Gln990A)	-8.72	2
V	PhTAD-Ph(Phe303A) Imide-C=O (Tyr310A) Imid-Ph(Phe983A, Phe336A) PhTAD-C=O(Gln725A)	-8.53	2
VI	Esterside (Gln990A) Imide-Ph (Phe738A, Tyr307A) Imide-C=O(Gln725A) PhTAD-Ph(Tyr307A, Ala987A, Val991) PhTAD-C=O(Ala987A)	-9.13	4
VII	PhTAD-Ph(Phe303A, Ile306A) Imide-C=O (Trp232A) Imide-Ph (Met994A)	-8.91	3
VIII	Imide-Ph (Met986A,Phe303A, Trp232A, Phe983A) PhTAD-Ph (Phe303A,Trp232A), Ala302A,Ile299A) PhTAD-C=O(Gln990A)	-8.40	3

IX	PhTAD-Ph(Phe728A,Trp232A)	-9.19	2
	Imide-Ph (Phe343A,Phe303A, Trp232A, Ala302) Imide-C=O (Gln990A)		
X	S-side (Gln725A) Imide-Ph (Ile340A)	-9.20	1
	PhTAD-Ph (Trp232A, Phe303A, Phe343A)		
XI	PhTAD-Ph(Phe303A,Phe343A)	-10.38	2
XII	Imide-Ph (Phe728A,Tyr307A)	-8.38	2
	Imide-C=O(Phe303A) PhTAD-Ph (Ile299A,Trp232A) PhTAD-C=O (Gln990A) Esterside (Phe303A)		
XIII	Imide-Ph (Ile306A,Tyr307A)	-9.04	2
	Imide C=O(Gln725A) Esterside (Phe343A, Leu339A)		
XIV	Imide-Ph (Phe303A,Trp232A)	-9.28	3
	PhTAD-Ph(Phe343A) PhTAD-C=O(Ile340A,Phe343A) Triazol H bond(Gln347A) Esterside (Leu339A)		
	Imideco(Trp232A,Gln990A, Ile306A)		



**Figure 7.** Compound XI and XIV superimposed in the human ABCB1 multidrug resistance protein active side and 3D predicted binding mode of XI and XIV (H-bond: blue, hydrophobic interaction: green).

## DISCUSSION

It is known that the structures and mechanisms of various cancer cells develop resistance to drugs, so the cells continue to grow and multiply abnormally. Multidrug resistance detected in cancer cells is overexpression of ABC transporters. Due to the mechanism caused by MDR, drugs are excreted from cancer cells, and the effectiveness of drugs is significantly weakened. ABC transporter modulators are an important strategy for overcoming drug resistance due to their potential to increase the effectiveness of anticancer drugs.<sup>9,18</sup> Pyrrole core stands out in many new drug discoveries by medical chemists due to its pharmaceutical and pharmacological properties.<sup>27</sup>

Boger et al. showed that the cytotoxic activity of the pyrrole compounds was determined and reversed sensitization of the multi-drug resistant in human colon cancer cell line (HCT116 / VM46).<sup>36</sup> Besides, according to another study, pyrrole-derived compounds exhibited significant cytotoxicity and reactivated multidrug-resistant cancer cell lines at non-toxic concentrations.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, a study related to TRPV1 agonistic and anticancer activities of pyrrole derived compounds have shown that these compounds have significant antiproliferative potency, and the compounds were found to be sensitive to those showing the MDR phenotype in apoptosis-resistant many cancer cells such as human glioblastoma (GBM, U373), human non-small cell lung cancer (A549), human melanoma (SKMEL-28), anaplastic oligodendrogloma (Hs683) and breast cancer (MCF-7).<sup>38</sup> In addition, Finiuk et al. demonstrate that pyrrole-derived compounds showed multidrug-resistant transporters effects in human pancreatic, hepatocarcinoma, and colon carcinoma cells. Also, these compounds have shown the most pronounced effect against human cervical carcinoma cells (KB3-1 and KBC-1).<sup>39</sup> As a result of the literature review of pyrrole-derived compounds, sufficient resources have not been found for the drug resistance mechanisms of the compounds. Therefore, the study has an important and original value.

In view of this information, in our study, we planned to investigate both PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrole compounds' impact on gene expressions of ABC Transporters in the MCF7 cells, and predictive molecular binding sites target on human ABCB1 structure for these compounds.

Our findings indicate that CI, CII, CIII, CV, CVIII, and CXII treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells increased ABCB1 gene expression levels, while CIV, CVI, CVII, CX, CIX, CXI, CXIII, and CXIV decreased ABCB1 gene expression levels (Figure 2). Especially, CX and CXIV markedly downregulated 6-fold and 13-fold ABCB1 gene expression levels, respectively.

In addition, CI, CIV, CVI, and CVIII treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells upregulate the mRNA expression of ABCC3, although CVII, CX, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV downregulate the mRNA expression of ABCC3 (Figure 3). Moreover, ABCC10 gene expression levels induced by CI, CII, CIII, CIV, CV, CVI, CVII, CVIII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 4). Conversely, the mRNA expression levels of ABCC11 reduced by CI, CII, CIII, CIV, CV, CVI, CVII, CVIII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells (Figure 5). Especially, CVI, CVIII, and CXI are extremely suppressed on ABCC11 gene expression.

Furthermore, CII, CV, and CVI treatment compared to negative control in MCF-7 cells increased ABCG2 gene expression levels, while CI, CVII, CVIII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXII, CXIII, and CXIV decreased ABCG2 gene expression (Figure 6). Interestingly, CIX and CXI treatment markedly downregulated 220-fold and 31-fold the mRNA expression level of ABCG2, respectively.

Our results revealed that gene expression levels of ABCB1, ABCC3, ABCC11 and ABCG2 were parallelly reduced by CVII, CIX, CX, CXI, CXIII, and CXIV. These findings indicate that PhTAD substituted dihydropyrrole compounds deactivated chemoresistance mechanisms of cancer cells.

In addition to gene expression analysis, we tested potential targets on ABCB1 for these molecules (Table 4). Moreover, our Docking assay revealed that compounds I-XIV could interact with key amino acid residues at the active site of the ABCB1-gene MDR protein on side. CXI, CII, CXIV, CX, CIX, CVI, CVII, and CIV have shown markedly highest dock scores for ABCB1 protein, respectively.

Especially, CXI and CXIV have important binding sites on ABCB1 and could be potential inhibitors (Figure 7).

In conclusion, our findings indicate that the PhTAD-substituted dihydropyrrole containing molecules alterate ABC transporter gene levels as a potential regulator of cancer chemoresistance. Besides, these molecules may have a considerable inhibitor effect on ABCB1. These compounds might be used as a potential molecule for cancer drug design. However, further studies on these compounds are needed.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: BY, SM, MA, AA, MG, TY. Data Collection and/or Processing: BY, SM, MA, AA, MG, TY. Data analysis and interpretation: BY, SM, AA, MG, TY. Literature Search: BY, SM, MG, TY. Drafting manuscript: BY, SM, MA, AA, MG, TY. Critical revision of manuscript: BY, SM, MA, AA, MG, TY. Supervision: BY.

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## Investigation of The Effects of Trpc4/5 Inhibitor M084 in Experimental Alzheimer's-Like Dementia Model

### Deneysel Alzheimer Benzeri Demans Modelinde Trpc4/5 İnhibitörü M084'ün Etkilerinin Araştırılması

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#### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmadaki amacımız skopolamin ile oluşturduğumuz deneysel Alzheimer benzeri demans modelinde N-butil-[1H]-benzimidazol-2-amin (M084)'in bilişsel fonksiyonlar üzerine etkilerini araştırmaktır.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Çalışmamızda erkek BALB/c fareler beş gruba (n:8) ayrıldı. Kontrol grubu; 14 gün boyunca günde 1 ml 0.9% salin çözeltisi intraperitoneal (i.p.) olarak uygulandı. Skopolamin grubu: İlk 7 gün günde 1 ml 0.9% salin çözeltisi, ardından 8-14. günler arasında günde 3 mg/kg skopolamini.p. olarak uygulandı. Skopolamin + M084 grubu; İlk 7 gün günde 1 ml 0.9% salin çözeltisi uygulanan farelere 8-14. günler arasında günde 3 mg/kg skopolamini.p. + 10-14 günler arası günde 20 mg/kg M084 günde tek doz i.p. olarak uygulandı. M084 grubu; farelere 0-14. günler arası günde 20 mg/kg M084 günde tek doz i.p. uygulandı. Donepezil grubu: Pozitif kontrol grubu olarak farelere 0-14. günler arası günde 5 mg/kg donepezili.p + 8-14 günler arasında günde 3 mg/kg skopolamini.p. uygulandı. Çalışmanın 14 ve 15. günlerinde pasif sakınma, yeni obje tanıma ve modifiye yükseltilmiş artı labirenti testi uygulamaları yapıldı.

**Bulgular:** Pasif sakınma testinde karanlık odaya geçiş süreleri skopolamin grubunda kontrol grubuna kıyasla daha kısaydı. Modifiye Yükseltilmiş Artı Labirenti Testinde 2. gün kapalı kollardan birine geçiş süreleri skopolamin grubunda kontrol ve donezepil grubuna göre daha fazla bulundu. Yeni obje tanıma testinde diskriminasyon indeks değerleri kontrol, skopolamin + M084, donezepil ve diğer gruplardaki değerler skopolamin grubuna göre daha fazla bulundu.

**Sonuç:** Sonuç olarak Alzheimer benzeri demans modelinde M084 görsel bellek üzerine olumlu sonuçlar vermiş, fakat diğer bellek türleri üzerine etkisiz bulunmuştur.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** alzheimer; bellekfonksiyonu; M084; skopolamin

#### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This study aimed to research the effects of N-butyl-[1H]-benzimidazole-2-amine (M084) on cognitive functions in an experimental Alzheimer-like dementia model.

**Materials and Methods:** In our study, male rats were divided into five groups (n:8). The control (C) had 1 ml 0.9% saline solution administered intraperitoneally (i.p.) for 14 days. Scopolamine (S) was administered intraperitoneally with 1 ml 0.9% saline solution for the first 7 days, followed by 3 mg/kg scopolamine on days 8-14. Scopolamine+M084 (SM) was administered i.p. dissolved in 1 ml 0.9% saline solution for the first 7 days, followed by 3 mg/kg scopolamine on days 8-14 and 20 mg/kg M084 on days 10-14. M084 (M) was administered i.p. 20 mg/kg M084 in a single daily dose from days 0-14. Positive control (D) had 5 mg/kg donepezil administrations on days 0-14 and 3 mg/kg scopolamine on days 8-14.

On days 14 and 15 of the study, passive avoidance, novel object recognition, and modified elevated plus maze tests were performed.

**Results:** In the passive avoidance test, transfer latencies were significantly lower in group S compared to group C. In the modified elevated plus maze test, the passing time to either closed arms on the 2nd-day test was significantly higher in group S compared to groups C and D. In the novel object recognition test, the values for groups C, SM, D, and other groups were significantly higher compared to group S.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, in an Alzheimer-like dementia model, M084 provided positive results for visual memory; however, it was ineffective for other memory types.

**Keywords:** alzheimer's; memory functions; M084; scopolamine

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## INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system characterized by progressive disruption of cognitive functions. It is estimated that there are more than 24 million cases in the world in general.<sup>1</sup> Considering the aging of the global population, it is expected that the number of cases will double by 2040. There is an apparent increase in AD incidence after age 65 years.<sup>1</sup> Memory loss is the first symptom observed.<sup>2</sup> The most prominent feature in the histopathology of AD is the formation of senile amyloid plaques (SP) in the amygdala, hippocampus, and neocortex in the brain<sup>3</sup> Additionally, hypotheses like the cholinergic and calcium were proposed for AD occurrence, and a variety of studies were performed about these topics.<sup>4-6</sup>

Ach is a neurotransmitter that enhances attention and helps learning processes in physiological conditions. The primary deficiency in AD is disruption of the cholinergic system, particularly brain regions related to learning and memory. In this regard, medications increasing cholinergic transmission are used for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Many studies revealed that the disruption in cholinergic functions is in parallel to the disruption of short-term memory, especially. In this regard, blockage of cholinergic muscarinic receptors with scopolamine causes memory impairment similar to AD, and this is one of the most widely used experimental dementia models.<sup>7,8</sup>

Ca<sup>+2</sup> has significant effects on neurons' survival and functions, and imbalances in calcium signals play an important role in AD pathogenesis. Disruption in the Ca<sup>+2</sup> balance plays a role in excitotoxicity, synaptic degeneration, and cell death, while reduced Ca<sup>+2</sup> secretion has a protective effect on neurons.<sup>4,9,10</sup>

Transient receptor potential channels (TRPC) are associated with many pathologic situations in addition to their physiological importance. One of these pathologic situations is neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Due to regulation of the intracellular Ca<sup>+2</sup> concentrations, TRPC channels come to the forefront more compared to other subfamilies.<sup>11</sup> TRPC4 was shown to be expressed with TRPC5, which plays an important role in neuronal Ca<sup>+2</sup> homeostasis. The

significant effects of Ca<sup>+2</sup> on survival and functions of neurons and the imbalance in calcium signals playing an important role in the AD pathogenesis comprise the basis of the Ca<sup>+2</sup> hypothesis in AD<sup>4,5,9,10</sup>. While normal expression of TRPC5 increases neurite extensions, overexpression of TRPC5 inhibits neurite growth.<sup>12</sup>

N-butyl-(1H)-benzimidazole-2-amine (M084) is a molecule inhibiting TRPC4/5. It is thought that inhibition of TRPC4/5 will be effective in regulating the intracellular Ca<sup>+2</sup> dysregulation. Additionally, studies stated that one of the main causes of symptoms in AD is cholinergic loss. At the same time, it is thought that inhibition of AchE destroying acetylcholine (Ach) with the acetylcholine esterase (AchE) and butyrylcholinesterase enzyme inhibitor M084 may reduce AD symptoms.<sup>13-15</sup> For these reasons, this study was planned with M084, with effects inhibiting TRPC4/5 and AchE.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

The study included 48 male BALB/c mice housed in a room with a 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycle at room temperature (22±2 °C). There were maximum 8 mice in each cage with free access to water and food.

According to the experimental protocol, daily intraperitoneal (ip) injections were given every day at the same time. Scopolamine and M084 doses to be administered to mice have been determined as 3mg/kg by researching the literature.<sup>16-17</sup> Medications were injected after being dissolved in 1 ml 0.9% saline. Groups were created as follows. The control group (C) had 1 ml 0.9% saline solution administered ip for 14 days. The scopolamine group (S) was administered 1 ml 0.9% saline solution ip for the first 7 days and then 3 mg/kg scopolamine ip from days 8 to 14. The scopolamine+M084 group (SM) was administered 1 ml 0.9% saline solution ip for the first 7 days and then 3 mg/kg scopolamine i.p. from days 8 to 14 and 20 mg/kg M084 single dose ip from days 10 to 14. In the M084 group (M), subjects were administered 20 mg/kg M084 in a single daily ip dose from days 0 to 14. In the donepezil group (D), the positive control group, subjects were administered 5 mg/kg donepezil ip from days 0 to 14 and 3 mg/kg scopolamine ip from days 8 to 14.

Thirty minutes after administration of the final medication dose on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, subjects underwent the new object recognition test, passive avoidance test and modified elevated plus maze test as observational tests to investigate the behavior of subjects. Five-minute video recordings taken during these tests were analyzed with the Ethovision-XT program. After each subject, the foreign object recognition test setup was wiped with 20% alcohol and then tapwater and dried.

Brain tissue samples taken from mice were homogenized after being added to 0.01 M pH 7.4 iced phosphate buffer solution with volume 9 times the weight of the sample. The homogenate was centrifuged at 5000 g for 5 minutes, and the supernatant was separated for analysis. The supernatants had BDNF, amyloid  $\beta$ -42, and TAU levels measured using a micro-ELISA reader device (Robonikreadwell touch Thane, India) with ELISA kits (Elabscience, China).

Approval was obtained from the local ethics committee for this research with 3 issues, dated 08.06.2016.

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### **Behavior Tests Used**

#### **New Object Identification Test**

A novel object recognition test was performed in an open field test setup (L 42 cm, W 42 cm, H 30 cm) to evaluate the visual memory of the animals. In the experiment protocol, mice were placed in an open area with two objects of the same shape and color for a habituation period and then expected to recognize these objects. After 90 minutes, one of the objects was exchanged for a new object with a different shape and color. Mice with disrupted cognitive functions will not notice the difference and will spend similar durations around both objects. Recordings for the novel object recognition test were analyzed using the Etho Vision XT 11 (Noldus Inf. Tech. Netherlands) program.

#### **Passive Avoidance Test**

The passive avoidance test setup was used to record affective (emotional) learning and memory functions. The experimental setup consisted of a light room, a dark room (both rooms are the same size: length 14 cm, width 7 cm, height 12 cm), and a door connecting them. The floor of the experimental setup comprised 0.3 cm diameter electrically conductive steel bars. The experiment lasted for 2 days. On the first day, 60 s after subjects were placed in the light chamber, the door was opened and subjects entering the dark chamber were subjected to an electric shock (0.25 mA for 1 s). If the subject did not enter the dark chamber within 5 minutes of the door opening on the first day, they were removed from the experiment. The duration for subjects to pass from the light chamber to the dark chamber was calculated.

#### **Modified Elevated Plus Maze Test**

To record cognitive performance, the modified elevated plus maze test setup was used. The setup comprised two open (25 x 5 x 0.5 cm) and two closed (25 x 5 x 16 cm) arms and a central platform (5 x 5 x 0.5 cm). The setup was placed 50 cm above the floor. The experiment lasted two days. On the first day, the mice were placed on the open arms end facing away from the platform and the duration to enter the closed arms was recorded and animals were left for 5 s to discover the closed arm. On the second day, mice were left on the open end in the same conditions and the duration to reach the closed arms were recorded.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Numerical variables are summarized as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, median, minimum and maximum values. According to whether the distribution was normal or not, unrepeatable measures were analyzed with the Kruskal-Wallis or one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) post hoc Dunn-Bonferroni test, while repeatable measures were analyzed with the Wilcoxon or two-way analysis of variance for repeated measures test. All statistical analyses took  $p < 0.05$  as statistical significance level. All analyses were performed with SPSS 21.0 (IBM Corp. Released 2012. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) software.

## RESULTS

### Weight Change in Subjects

Weight change in subjects in group C reduced compared to S, SM, M and D groups, but this difference was not statistically significant ( $p>0.05$ ).

### New Object Recognition Test Findings

In terms of learning index values, there were significant differences between S and C, SM, M and D groups. Subjects in group S allocated less time recognizing the novel object ( $p<0.001$ ). The mean and median values for group S were significantly lower than the other groups ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Novel object recognition test (n=8)

Groups	Mean ± standard deviation	Median [Min - Max]	SSG	p
C	80.775 ± 11.519	79.9 [62.48 - 99.74]	S	p<0.001
S	44.636 ± 15.495	48.6 [69.21 - 64.11]		p>0.05
SM	70.263 ± 14.095	73.03 [47.5 - 87.18]	S	p:0.015
M	68.619 ± 17.200	69.79 [40.22 - 88.58]	S	p:0.028
D	75.192 ± 13.190	79.79 [57.24 - 87.93]	S	p:0.003

C: Control. S: Skopolamine. SM: Skopolamine-M084. M: M084. D: Donepezil. SSG: statistically significant groups

### Passive Avoidance Test

When values on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> day are compared in the same group, there were statistically significant differences identified between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> day measurements in C, M, and D ( $p<0.05$ , for all). In each of these groups, 2<sup>nd</sup> day measurements were very high compared to 1<sup>st</sup> day measurements.

Results of analysis investigating the differences between the groups for each measurement showed significant differences between the groups only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day measurements ( $p<0.05$ ). Statistically significant differences were determined between D group with SM and S groups and between SM and C groups ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 2).

### Modified Elevated Plus Maze Test Findings

The variation in t-test values was found to be similar according to the all groups ( $p>0.05$ ).

According to analysis results on a group basis, comparisons of the t-test on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and 2<sup>nd</sup> day in separate groups did not identify differences between groups for the t-test 1<sup>st</sup> day variables ( $p>0.05$ ). There were significant differences between the groups for the t-test 2<sup>nd</sup> day variable. For the T-test 2<sup>nd</sup> day variable, there were statistically significant differences between the S group with C and D groups ( $p<0.05$ ) (Table 3).

**Table 2.** Passive avoidance test (n=8)

Groups	Mean ± standard deviation		[MedianMin - Max]		2.day SSG	p
	1. day	2. day	1. day	2. day		
C	20.875 ± 15.905	214.5 ± 53.439	17 [4 - 55]	191 [176 - 300]	SM	p:0.032
S	22.25 ± 13.583	86.25 ± 88.783	20.5 [10 - 53]	67 [1 - 222]	D	p:0.003
SM	12.25 ± 6.902	89.125 ± 78.755	9.5 [5 - 25]	108 [3 - 222]	D	p:0.002
M	11.5 ± 6.803	201.625 ± 86.774	11 [2 - 21]	211 [71 - 300]		p>0.05
D	19.75 ± 5.8	256.25 ± 39.536	19 [13 - 30]	249 [200 - 300]		p>0.05

C: Control S: Skopolamine. SM: Skopolamine-M084. M: M084. D: Donepezil. SSG: statistically significant groups

**Table 3.** Modified elevated plus maze test (n=8)

Groups	Mean ± standard deviation		[MedianMin - Max]		SSG	p
	1. day	2. day	1. day	2. day		
C	36.75 ± 11.973	20.875 ± 7.643	34 [23 - 55]	21 [11 - 31]	S	p:0.036
S	30.375 ± 17.509	34.625 ± 12.317	25 [15 - 68]	35 [12 - 51]		p>0.05
SM	36.875 ± 12.206	26.25 ± 11.158	33.5 [27 - 62]	24 [13 - 50]		p>0.05
M	38.875 ± 14.827	22.875 ± 2.478	38.5 [10 - 57]	22.5 [18 - 26]		p>0.05
D	24.125 ± 6.556	21.125 ± 7.549	25 [14 - 34]	20 [13 - 37]	S	p:0.042

C: Control. S: Skopolamine. SM: Skopolamine-M084. M: M084. D: Donepezil. SSG: statistically significant groups

## Biochemical Findings

BDNF measurements were significantly different between the S-C groups, S-D groups and S-M groups (Table 4)

(p<0.05). Tau measurements were different between M and SM groups (p<0.05) (Table 4).

The A $\beta$ 42 values were significantly differentiated between groups C and D (p<0.05) (Table 4).

**Table 4.**Biochemical Findings (n=8)

Variable	Groups	Mean ± standard deviation	[MedianMin - Max]	SSG	p
BDNF (ng/gr doku)	C	1.734± 0.558	1.815[0.85 - 2.43]	S D M	p:0.021 p:0.016 p:0.004
	S	0.494± 0.343	0.480[0.14 - 1.17]		
	SM	1.023± 0.755	1.040[0.14 - 1.87]		
	M	1.739± 0.889	1.610[0.6 - 2.86]		
	D	1.626± 0.496	1.575 [0.71 - 2.28]		
Tau(ng/gr doku)	C	0.585 ± 0.380	0.720[0.1 - 0.94]	M	p>0.05 p>0.05 p>0.05 p:0.023
	S	0.901 ± 0.215	0.855 [0.21 - 1.85]		
	SM	0.948 ± 0.292	0.890[0.79 - 1.15]		
	M	0.65 ± 0.14	0.645[0.55 - 0.78]		
	D	0.815 ± 0.068	0.840[0.41 - 1.11]		
A $\beta$ 42 (ng/gr doku)	C	0.319 ± 0.215	0.265 [0.09 - 0.73]	D	p:0.004 p>0.05 p>0.05 p>0.05
	S	0.761 ± 0.551	0.560[0.21 - 1.85]		
	SM	0.661 ± 0.147	0.675 [0.44 - 0.88]		
	M	0.543 ± 0.160	0.550[0.29 - 0.8]		
	D	0.749 ± 0.140	0.775 [0.44 - 0.89]		

C: Control. S: Skopolamine. SM: Skopolamine-M084. M: M084. D: Donepezil. SSG: statistically significant groups

## DISCUSSION

Studies found that N-butyl-1H]-benzimidazole-2-amine (M084) has functions both as a TRPC4/5 inhibitor and as an acetylcholinesterase and succinylcholine esterase inhibitor.<sup>13,11-22</sup> TRPC channels are associated with many pathologic situations in addition to physiological importance. One of these pathologic situations is neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.<sup>23</sup> The TRPC channels become more prominent compared to other subfamilies with the regulation of intracellular Ca<sup>+2</sup> concentration.<sup>24</sup> Studies showed that Ca<sup>+2</sup> ion imbalances play a role in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimers.<sup>10,24</sup> TRPC4 was shown to be expressed with TRPC5, which plays an important role in neuronal Ca<sup>+2</sup> homeostasis in CA1 pyramidal neurons in the hippocampus.<sup>25-27</sup> TRPC4 was shown to have a role in acute and delayed neuronal injury in focal cerebral ischemia. For this reason, inhibition of TRPC4 is thought to be protective against neuronal injury.<sup>25,27,28</sup> Normal expression of TRPC5 increases neurite extension, while overexpression of TRPC5 inhibits neurite growth.<sup>12</sup>

For this reason, channels involving TRPC5 may allow greater Ca<sup>+2</sup> flux than TRPC4/TRPC6 channels which may cause inhibition of neurite growth.<sup>12,28,29</sup> The TRPC4/5 inhibitor of M084 affects TRPC channels and acts as an acetylcholinesterase and succinylcholinesterase inhibitor.<sup>13,18-22</sup> In the new object recognition test measuring visual memory, the SM group had a statistically significantly longer duration examining the new object compared to the S group. This situation shows that the M084 molecule caused an improvement in visual memory. It is thought that this effect may be due to increased cholinergic activity due to inhibition of acetylcholinesterase enzyme, as well as inhibition of TRPC channels and/or regulation of Ca<sup>+2</sup> balance.

When the modified elevated plus maze test and passive avoidance test findings are investigated, data obtained from the medicated groups found no statistical significance compared to the S group. In the S group, though there were partial differences between the BDNF, A $\beta$ 42, and Tau levels between the groups, statistical significance was not present.

In this study, donepezil was used as a positive control as it inhibits acetylcholinesterase enzyme, which plays a role in increasing cholinergic activity. The interest in the novel object in group D was clearly increased compared to group S during the novel object recognition test. For the passive avoidance test, group D had clearly lengthened transition from the light area to the dark area. In the passive avoidance test, group D clearly lengthened the transition time from the light to the dark area. There was no difference observed between the D and S groups for the modified elevated plus maze test. There was a slight fall in A $\beta$ 42 levels in the group treated with D compared to S; however, this fall was not statistically significant. Studies stated that donepezil ameliorates Alzheimer's symptoms.<sup>30,31</sup>

Many methods are used on experimental animals in studies to induce Alzheimer-type dementia experimentally. One of these is scopolamine administration. This model inhibits the cholinergic muscarinic receptors playing an important role in learning and memory processes, creating a situation like AD.<sup>32,33</sup> In this study, scopolamine was used to induce AD. In the new object recognition test performed to assess visual memory, subjects in group S had reduced interest in the new object compared to subjects in group C. This situation is compatible with the literature.<sup>16,33</sup> In the passive avoidance test used to assess emotional learning and memory functions, the transition duration from the light area to the dark area was significantly reduced in group S compared to group C. Studies about this topic state that scopolamine administration reduced the transition duration of subjects and this situation showed disrupted emotional learning and memory.<sup>16,35</sup> The modified elevated plus maze test is a test used for spatial learning and memory recording. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of tests, the duration to enter the closed arms was longer in group C compared to group S. These findings are consistent with other studies in the literature.<sup>32</sup> When biochemical parameters are assessed, BDNF levels were observed to be significantly reduced in the scopolamine group compared to group C. Some studies identified that scopolamine administration had similar effects on BDNF level.<sup>32</sup> Although the A $\beta$ 42 and Tau levels, which play a role in AD pathogenesis, were higher in group S compared to group C, this finding was not statistically significant. Scopolamine is a compound

used to stimulate cortical cholinergic neural loss observed in AD.<sup>36,37</sup> For this reason, the A $\beta$ 42 and Tau amounts may not have increased. According to these findings, scopolamine is considered to have induced a successful dementia model.

Limitations of this study are the low number of animal subjects, the M084 drug used in the study being new and not having a standard dose, and the long duration for amyloid and TAU accumulation in the brain, so the 14-day duration of our study may not be sufficient for TAU and amyloid formation.

In conclusion, M084, which inhibits TRPC4/5, acetylcholinesterase, and succinyl cholinesterase, positively affected the novel object recognition test in an AD-like dementia model induced with scopolamine; however, it was ineffective on modified elevated plus maze test and passive avoidance test. We think it will be beneficial to perform this study with more subjects, longer duration and different doses of M084.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is not any conflict of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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### Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: AG, HA, EU. Data Collection and/or Processing: AG, HA, EU. Data analysis and interpretation: AG, HA, EU. Literature Search: AG, HA. Drafting manuscript: AG. Critical revision of manuscript: HA, EU. Supervision: HA.

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**Vitiligoda Dinamik Tiyol/Disülfid Homeostazın Rolü****Role of Dynamic Thiol/Disulfide Homeostasis in Vitiligo**

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**ÖZ**

**Amaç:** Vitiligo, melanositlerin progressif yıkımı sonucu oluşan pigment kaybı bozukluğudur. Melanosit kaybının patofizyolojisi günümüzde tam olarak çözülememiştir. Nedenler arasında oksidatif stres de yer almaktadır. Dinamik tiyol/disülfid homeostazı vücutun oksidan-antioksidan dengesinin önemli bir belirtecidir. Bu çalışmada vitiligo hastalarında sağlıklı bireylere göre tiyol/disülfid dengesini değerlendirdik.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Vitiligolu 64 hasta ile 34 sağlıklı bireyin serumunda total tiyol ve native tiyol düzeyleri ile paraoxonaz1 (PON1) aktivitesi spektrofotometrik yöntemle ölçüldü. Serum disülfid düzeyleri ise hesaplamaya bulundu.

**Bulgular:** Vitiligolu hastaların serumunda sağlıklı kişilere göre total ve native tiyol düzeyleri yüksekti (her ikisi de  $p<0.001$ ). Serum disülfid düzeylerinde ise her iki grup arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark yoktu.

**Sonuç:** Vitiligolu hastalarda tiyol/disülfid dengesinin yönü tiyol yönüne kaymıştır. Tiyol artışı hastalığın patofizyolojisinde görülen melanin kaybının sorumlusu olabilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** oksidatif stres; tiyol/disülfid homeostazisi; vitiligo

**ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** Vitiligo is a disorder of pigment loss caused by the progressive destruction of melanocytes. The pathophysiology of melanocyte loss has not been fully elucidated today. Oxidative stress is also among the causes. Dynamic thiol/disulfide homeostasis is an essential indicator of the body's oxidant-antioxidant balance. In this study, we evaluated the thiol/disulfide balance in vitiligo patients compared to healthy individuals.

**Materials and Methods:** Total thiol and native thiol levels and paraoxonase1 (PON1) activity were measured using a spectrophotometric method in the serum of 64 patients with vitiligo and 34 healthy individuals. Serum disulfide levels were calculated by calculation.

**Results:** Total and native thiol levels were higher in the serum of patients with vitiligo compared to healthy individuals (both  $p<0.001$ ). There was no statistically significant difference in serum disulfide levels between the two groups.

**Conclusion:** The thiol/disulfide balance direction has shifted to the thiol direction in patients with vitiligo. Thiol increase may be responsible for the loss of melanin seen in the pathophysiology of the disease.

**Keywords:** oxidative stress; thiol/disulfide homeostasis; vitiligo

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## GİRİŞ

Vitiligo, tüm dünyada yaklaşık %0.5'lik bir prevalansa sahip genetik, çevresel faktörler, metabolik veimmün değişikliklerin sonucu oluşan depigmente alanlarla karakterize bir deri hastalığıdır.<sup>1,2</sup> Etiyolojisi tam olarak bilinmeyen vitiligo'da patofizyolojide melanositlerin progressif kaybı söz konusudur. Melanosit kaybına yol açan nedenler arasında otoimmünite ilk sırada yer alırken, bunun yanında oksidatif stres, nöral mekanizmalar ve viral nedenlerin de olduğu bildirilmiştir.<sup>3-5</sup>

Tiyoller, sülphidril (-SH) grupları içeren ve oksidatif hasardan hücreleri koruyan antioksidan bileşiklerdir. Oksidasyon durumlarında tiyol bileşiklerinde yer alan sülphidril grupları, kovalent disülfid bağlarını oluştururlar. Bu reaksiyon geri dönüşümlü olduğundan disülfidler yeniden native tiyollere dönüşebilmektedir. Böylece hücrede oksidasyon-antioksidasyon dengesi sağlanmış olur, bu duruma dinamik tiyol/disülfid homeostazı adı verilir. Bu homeostaz, vücutta oksidasyondan korumanın yanında, apoptozis, hücresel sinyal iletimi ve hücresel bölünme gibi önemli roller de oynar.<sup>6</sup> Bu homeostazda yer alan total ve native tiyol ile disülfid parametrelerin düzeylerinin tespit edilmesi kalp damar hastalıkları, diabetes mellitus, böbrek yetmezliği, nörolojik ve psikiyatrik bozukluklar, astım gibi birçok hastalıktaki oksidan-antioksidan dengenin araştırılmasında yararlı olmuştur.<sup>7-12</sup>

Melanin pigmentini üreten melanositlerde çeşitli formlarda tiyol gruplarını içeren bileşikler bulunmaktadır. Bu tiyol bileşiklerinin melanin pigmentinin sentez reaksiyonlarında önemli rolleri vardır.<sup>13</sup> Bu çalışmadaki amacımız vitiligo hastalarında vitiligo patogenezinde olası rol oynadığı bilinen oksidatif stresi, dinamik tiyol/disülfid homeostazı temelinde değerlendirmekti.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

### Çalışma Grubunun Oluşturulması

Bu kesitsel çalışmaya Kırşehir Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi Dermatoloji polikliniğinde ilk kez nonsegmental vitiligo tanısı konan 64 hasta ile kontrol grubu için 34 sağlıklı gönüllü birey alındı. Vitiligo tanısı, klinik muayene bulguları ile birlikte bir wood lambası aracılığıyla konuldu. Sigara içenler, sürekli ilaç kullananlar, ek bir sistemik hastalığı olanlar, gebe ve emziren kadınlar, akut enfeksiyonu olanlar ile son bir hafta içinde vitamin ve benzeri takviyeler alan bireyler çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Kırşehir Ahi Evran Üniversitesi yerel Etik kurulundan 2017-16/196 karar no ve 31-10-2017 tarih ile onay alındı. Helsinki

deklarasyon kılavuzlarına uygun bir şekilde tüm katılımcılardan bilgilendirilmiş onam alındı.

### Kan Örneklerinin Alınması ve Laboratuvar Analizi

Venöz kan örnekleri önkol antekübital bölgeden, bir gece açlıkтан sonra sabah katkısız 5 ml serum tüplerine ve K<sub>2</sub>EDTA'lı tüplere alındı. Serum tüplerine alınan kan örnekleri 2000 x g'de 10 dakika santrifüj edildi. Üstte kalan serumun bir kısmından derhal rutin biyokimya testleri geleneksel yöntemlerle Cobas 501 (Roche Diagnostics A.Ş., Mannheim, Almanya) otoanalizöründe çalışıldı. Kalan yaklaşık 0,5 ml serum, kapaklı mikrosantrifüj tüplerine alınarak tiyol/disülfid ve paraoksonaz-1 (PON1) testleri çalışılacak tarihe kadar -80 °C'de saklandı.

K<sub>2</sub>EDTA'lı tüplere alınan tam kandan kan sayımı parametreleri, otomatik kan sayım cihazında (Sysmex XN-1000, Sysmex Corporation, Japonya) çalışıldı.

Serum PON1 aktivitesi ticari bir kit (Relassay Diagnostics, Gaziantep, Türkiye) ile Cobas 501 (Roche Diagnostics A.Ş., Almanya) otoanalizöründe çalışıldı.

Tiyol-disülfid homeostaz testleri, Erel ve ark.<sup>14</sup> tarafından geliştirilen bir yöntem kullanılarak Cobas 501 (Roche Diagnostics A.Ş., Mannheim, Almanya) otoanalizöründe ticari kitlerle (Relassay Diagnostics, Gaziantep, Türkiye) çalışıldı. Bu yönteme göre disülfid bağları önce sodyum borohidrid ile fonksiyonel tiyol grupları oluşturmak için indirgendi. Kullanılmayan indirgeyici madde olan sodyum borohidrid, DTNB'nin (5,5'-ditiobis-(2-nitrobenzoik) asidin) redüksyonunu önlemek için formaldehit ile çıkarıldı; indirgenmiş ve native tiyol grupları dahil olmak üzere total tiyol grupları, DTNB ile reaksiyondan sonra belirlendi.

Disülfid değerleri aşağıdaki formüle göre hesaplandı.

$$\text{Disülfid değeri} = (\text{Total tiyol değer} - \text{Native tiyol değer})/2$$

### İstatistiksel Analiz

İstatistiksel analizler SPSS 22.0 sürümü (IBM Co., Armonk, NY, ABD) kullanılarak gerçekleştirildi. Dağılımın normalliği Kolmogorov-Smirnov testi kullanılarak belirlendi. İki grup arasındaki farklar, sürekli veriler için Student t-testi veya Mann-Whitney U testi, kategorik veriler ise Ki-kare testi kullanılarak karşılaştırıldı. Korelasyonlar Pearson korelasyon katsayıları ile

hesaplandı. Sürekli veriler ortalama  $\pm$  SS veya ortanca (minimum-maximum) olarak ifade edildi. Grafik olarak kutu-çizgi grafiği ve saçılım grafikleri kullanıldı.  $p < 0.05$  değerleri istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

## BULGULAR

Hasta ve kontrollere ait demografik özellikler ile laboratuvar parametreleri Tablo 1'de özetlenmiştir. Hastalar ve kontrollerin yaşlarının ortalaması ile cinsiyet dağılımları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark yoktu.

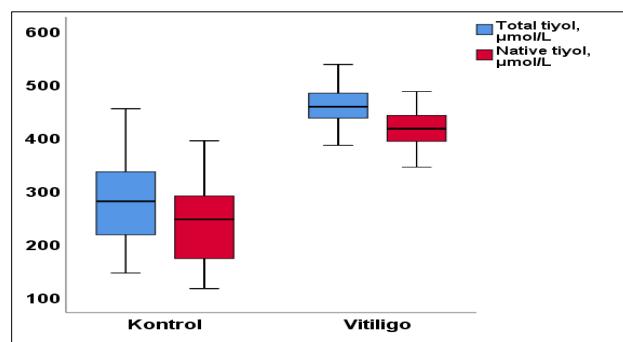
Dinamik tiyol-disülfid homeostaz parametreleri açısından vitiligo-golu hastaların total tiyol ( $p < 0.001$ ) ve native tiyol ( $p < 0.001$ ) düzeyleri kontrol grubundan daha yüksek iken disülfid düzeyleri arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark yoktu (Tablo 1, Şekil 1). Hastalarda kontrollere göre disülfid/total tiyol ve disülfid/native tiyol oranları anlamlı olarak daha düşüktü ( $p < 0.001$  ve  $p < 0.001$ , sırasıyla).

**Tablo 1.** Hasta ve kontrol grubunun demografik özellikleri ve laboratuvar parametreleri.

Değişkenler	Hasta Grubu (n=64)	Kontrol Grubu (n=34)	p
Cinsiyet Erkek/Kadın	24/40	9.25	0.271
Yaş, yıl	38.4 $\pm$ 13.7	35.8 $\pm$ 15.5	0.583
Total tiyol, $\mu\text{mol/L}$	460.5 $\pm$ 38.2	279.9 $\pm$ 74.8	<0.001
Native tiyol, $\mu\text{mol/L}$	416.9 $\pm$ 35.8	236.1 $\pm$ 67.3	<0.001
Disülfid, $\mu\text{mol/L}$	21.7 $\pm$ 2.2	21.8 $\pm$ 5.5	0.924
Native tiyol/Total tiyol, %	90.5 $\pm$ 0.8	83.9 $\pm$ 3.3	<0.001
Disülfid/Total tiyol, %	4.7 $\pm$ 0.4	8.0 $\pm$ 1.6	<0.001
Disülfid/Native tiyol, %	5.2 $\pm$ 0.5	9.6 $\pm$ 2.3	<0.001
PON1, U/L*	(107-1246)	(39-876)	0.001
Lökosit, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$	7.96 $\pm$ 2.02	7.83 $\pm$ 2.84	0.803
Nötrofil, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$	4.50 $\pm$ 1.59	5.05 $\pm$ 2.79	0.299
Lenfosit, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$	2.56 $\pm$ 0.68	2.09 $\pm$ 0.69	0.002
Eozinofil, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$ *	(0.01-1.03)	(0.02-1.01)	0.033
Monosit, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$ *	(0.04-1.32)	(0.01-1.13)	0.006
Bazofil, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$ *	(0.01-0.11)	(0.01-0.07)	0.001
Trombosit, x103 hücre/ $\mu\text{l}$	289 $\pm$ 70	273 $\pm$ 80	0.305
MPV, fl	10.4 $\pm$ 1.0	10.3 $\pm$ 0.8	0.658
Nötrofil/Lenfosit oranı	1.84 $\pm$ 0.71	2.77 $\pm$ 2.81	0.028
Trombosit/Lenfosit oranı	119.1 $\pm$ 36.6	141.5 $\pm$ 56.2	0.041
RDW, %*	13.2 (11.8-21.9)	12.9 (11.9-21.8)	0.335

MPV: Ortalama trombosit hacmi; PON1: Paraoksonaz1; RDW: Kırmızı hücre dağılım genişliği

\* ortanca (minimum-maximum), Mann-Whitney U testi ile karşılaştırıldı.



**Şekil 1.** Hasta ve kontrol gruplarının Total ve Native tiyol düzeylerinin kutu grafiği

Bir antioksidan enzim olarak bilinen PON1 aktivitesi vitiligo-golu hastalarda kontrollere göre anlamlı şekilde daha yükseltti ( $p=0.001$ ).

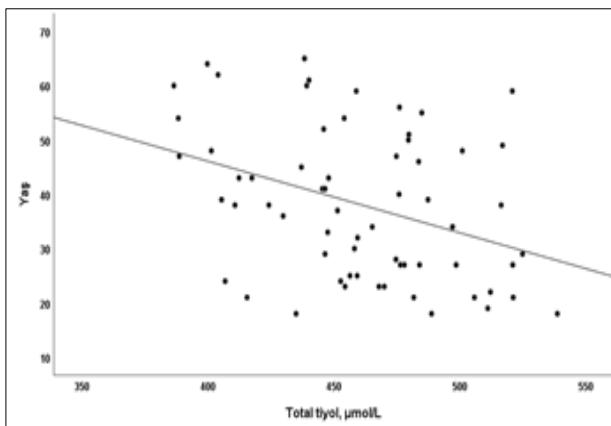
Hastalarda kontrollere göre inflamasyon parametrelerinden nötrofil/lenfosit oranı ile trombosit/lenfosit oranları istatistiksel olarak anlamlı şekilde daha düşüktü ( $p=0.028$  ve  $p=0.041$ , sırasıyla).

Vitiligo-golu hastalarda total tiyol değerleri ile diğer parametreler arasında yapılan korelasyon analizi Tablo 2'de gösterilmiştir. Bu analize göre total tiyol düzeyleri ile diğer dinamik tiyol-disülfid parametreleri arasında beklentiği gibi istatistiksel olarak anlamlı korelasyonlar vardı. Hastaların total tiyol düzeyleri ve yaşları arasında negatif yönde korelasyon vardı ( $r=-0.364$ ,  $p=0.003$ , Şekil 2).

**Tablo 2.** Vitiligo hastalarında Total tiyol ile diğer laboratuvar parametreleri arasındaki korelasyon analizi.

Değişkenler	r	p
Yaş	-0.364	0.003
Native tiyol	0.995	0.001
Disülfid	0.564	0.001
Native tiyol/Total tiyol	0.311	0.012
Disülfid/Total tiyol	-0.310	0.013
Disülfid/Native tiyol	-0.310	0.013
PON1	0.179	0.157
Lökosit	-0.091	0.478
Nötrofil	-0.066	0.606
Lenfosit	-0.133	0.298
Eozinofil	-0.004	0.974
Monosit	0.059	0.647
Bazofil	-0.011	0.933
Trombosit	-0.179	0.161
MPV	-0.006	0.964
Nötrofil/Lenfosit oranı	0.034	0.789
Trombosit/Lenfosit oranı	-0.019	0.883

MPV: Ortalama trombosit hacmi; PON1: Paraoksonaz1



Şekil 2. Hastalarda Total tiyol ile Yaş arasındaki saçılım grafiği.

## TARTIŞMA

Biz çalışmamızda vitiligolu hastalarda sağlıklı bireylere göre dinamik tiyol/disülfid homeostaz parametrelerinden antioksidan özellikle total ve native tiyol düzeylerinin arttığını, buna karşın oksidasyon göstergesi olan disülfid düzeylerinin benzer olduğunu bulduk. Yine antioksidan özelliği olan ve lipit peroksidasyonunu engelleyici fonksiyonu olan PON1 enziminin aktivitede artış bulduk.

Normal koşullarda hücrelerde endojen olarak bazal düzeylerde oksidanlar olan serbest radikallerin üretimi olmaktadır. Ancak travma, ultraviyole ışınlar, enfeksiyonlar, bazı ilaçlar ve stres gibi durumlarda daha yüksek düzeylerde oksidanlar oluşmaktadır. Organizmalar bu oksidanların zararlı etkilerine karşı enzimatik ve enzimatik olmayan antioksidan sistemleri geliştirmiştir. Vücutta oksidan-antioksidan bir denge söz konusudur, bu dengenin oksidan yönüne kayması çeşitli patolojik durumların ortayamasına yol açmaktadır.<sup>6</sup> Tiyoller, antioksidan bileşiklerin önemli üyeleriidir. Plazmadaki tiyollerin çoğunu albümin ve protein tiyoller oluşturanken daha az olarak homosistein, sistein ve glutatyon (GSH) gibi düşük molekül ağırlıklı tiyoller de bulunmaktadır.<sup>15</sup> Oksidatif koşullarda tiyol grupları oksitlenerek kovalent disülfid (-SS-) bağlarını oluşturur, bu bağlar yeniden tiyollere dönüsebilir. Bu durum dinamik tiyol/disülfid homeostazı olarak bilinir.<sup>16</sup>

Vitiligoda melanosit kaybının sebebi tam olarak bilinmemektedir. Hastalığın patogenezinde otoimmün nedenler daha çok düşünülmekte birlikte genetik yatkınlık, çevresel faktörler, inflamasyon ve oksidatif stres gibi etmenler de yer almaktadır.<sup>4</sup> Melanositlerdeki oksidatif stres artışının nedeni, melanin üretimi sırasında yan ürün olarak endojen olarak çıkan oksidatif bileşikler veya ultraviyole ışık, çeşitli sitotoksik kimyasallar, bazı ilaçlar,

kaşına gibi travmatik olaylar ekzojen olarak serbest radikal oluşumudur.<sup>17</sup> Aynı zamanda hastalarda katalaz, glutatyon peroksi daz, vitamin E ve C gibi antioksidan savunma mekanizmalarındaki yetersizlikler de oksidatif stresin oluşumunu uyarır.<sup>18, 19</sup> Bir tiyol bileşigi olan glutatyon, hücrelerde önemli bir antioksidan fonksiyonu olan bileşiktir. *In vitro* çalışmalarında glutatyonun ve özellikle sistein molekülünün tiyol bileşikleri melanin sentezindeki tirozinaz enziminin aktivesini inhibe ederek ciltte melanin oluşumunu engellediği gösterilmiştir.<sup>20</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda vitiligo hastaların total ve native tiyol düzeyleri sağlıklı kişilerden yüksekti. Hastalardaki bu tiyol düzeylerindeki yüksekliğin nedeni serbest radikal artısına yanıt olarak oksidatif strese karşı korumak için olabilir. Vitiligoda bu şekilde antioksidan yanıtlar, antioksidan bir enzim olan süperoksit dismutazın (SOD) aktivitesindeki artıslarda görülmüştür.<sup>21</sup> Çalışmamızdaki bu yüksek tiyol düzeyler, vitiligo hastalarının melanositlerinde yer alan tirozinaz enziminin aktivitesini inhibe ederek melanin sentezini engellemiştir olabilir.

Elde ettigimiz sonuçlara benzer olarak Akoğlu ve arkadaşlarının 73 non segmental vitiligolu hasta ve 69 sağlıklı kontrol grubu üzerinde yapmış oldukları çalışmada, hastaların total ve native tiyol düzeyleri yüksek, disülfid düzeyleri ise kontrol grubuya benzerdi. Onlar, çalışmalarında tiyollerin vitiligo'nun şiddetine ilişkili olduğunu gösterdiler.<sup>22</sup> Bizim çalışmamızdan farklı olarak Aksoy ve Çelik, 32 vitiligolu hasta ve 35 kontrol grubundan oluşan nispeten daha az katılımcı sayııyla yaptıkları çalışmada, dinamik disülfid homeostaz açısından hiçbir parametrede fark bulmadılar.<sup>23</sup> Pektaş ve arkadaşları, 76 jeneralize vitiligolu hasta ve 67 sağlıklı gönüllü üzerinde yaptıkları çalışmada bizim çalışmadan elde ettigimiz sonuçlardan farklı olarak, hastalarda kontrollere göre total ve native tiyol düzeylerinin düşük olduğunu, buna karşın disülfid düzeylerinin kontrollere göre benzer olduğunu buldular. Onların çalışmasında bizim çalışmaya benzer olarak hastalarda nötrofil/lenfosit oranı kontrollere göre daha düşüktü.<sup>24</sup>

Çalışmamızda vitiligolu hastalarda antioksidan bir enzim olan PON1 aktivitesini diğer antioksidan özellikle olan total ve native tiyol bileşikleriyle paralel olarak artmış olduğunu bulduk. Bizim sonuçlarımızın aksine El-Farargy ve ark., 20 aktif jeneralize vitiligolu hasta ve 20 sağlıklı gönüllüde yaptıkları çalışmada serum PON1 düzeylerinin vitiligo'lu hastalarda daha düşük buldular.<sup>25</sup> Ancak onların çalışması hem toplam katılımcı sayısı olarak bizimkine göre düşüktü hem de PON1 aktivitesi yerine PON1'in moleküler düzeyini çalışmış oldukları için sonuçlarımızla arasındaki farkı açıklamaktadır.

Çalışmamızın bir kısıtlaması söz konusudur. Sadece nonsegmental vitiligolu hastalar çalışmaya alınmıştır. Segmental vitiligolu hastalar da dahil edilebilmesi durumunda daha genel bir sonuç elde edilebilecektir.

Bu çalışmada vitiligo hastalarda tiyol-disülfid dengesinin tiyol yönüne kayması, melanin sentezini bozarak veya melanositlerde bir hasara yol açarak hastalığın patofizyolojisinde rol oynaması olasıdır. Ancak kesin mekanizmanın belirlenmesi için hücresel ve deneySEL modellerin olduğu ileri çalışmaların yapılmasına ihtiyaç vardır.

#### **Çıkar Beyannamesi**

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışması olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

#### **Araştırmacıların Katkı Oranı Beyanı**

Ana fikir/Planlama: Bİ, EMA. Veri toplama/İşleme: EMA, Bİ. Veri analizi ve yorumlama: Bİ, EMA. Literatür taraması: Bİ. Yazım: Bİ, EMA. Gözden geçirme ve düzeltme: Bİ, EMA.

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**Uyku Polikliniği'ne Başvuran Hastaların Bir Yıllık Verilerinin Genel Analizi****General Analysis of One-Year Data of Patients Applying to Sleep Polyclinic**

**Mehmet KABAK** <sup>1</sup>  **İclal HOCANLI** <sup>2</sup> 

**ÖZ**

**Amaç:** Obstrüktif uyku apne sendromu (OUAS) uyku esnasında hipofarenks bölgesinde tam veya kısmi daralmasıyla ve oksijen saturasyonundaki (SO2) düşme sonrasında solunum çabası ve intratorasik basıncın negatifleşmesi ile karakterize bir sendromdur. Horlama, gündüz aşırı uykululuk hali ve tanıklı apne OUAS'da en çok gözlenen semptomlardır. Polisomnografi (PSG), OUAS tanısı için kullanılan altın standart bir yöntemdir. Bir yıl boyunca uyku laboratuvarında takip edilen hastalarımızı değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

**Araçlar ve Yöntem:** Çalışmamızı 1 Ocak 2018-1 Ocak 2019 zaman aralığında uyku laboratuvarımızda yatan 111 hasta dahil edildi. Hastalar 4 gruba ayrılarak demografik ve klinik bulguları karşılaştırıldı.

**Bulgular:** Hastaların yaş ortalaması  $46.55 \pm 11.18$  yıl idi. Hipertansiyon (HT) görülme sıklığı açısından ağır OUAS grubunda, diğer gruplara kıyasla anlamlı farklılık mevcuttu ( $p=0.025$ ). Vücut kitle indeksi (VKİ) ağır OUAS grubunda, diğer gruplara göre istatistiksel olarak daha yüksek bulundu ( $p<0.001$ ). Ayrıca ağır OUAS grubundaki hastalarda hem rapid eye movement (REM) uyku süresi hemde SO2 düzeyi diğer gruptaki hastalara göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düşük saptandı ( $p=0.034$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Hastalarımızın çoğu, VKİ  $>30\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  olan olgularda ağır OUAS olarak saptanmıştır. Uyku laboratuvarları ve polisomnografi, bu hastalığın tanısında önemli rol oynamaktadır. Özellikle obezite ve HT tanılı olguların OUAS açısından sorulanması gerekmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** apne hipopne indeksi; komorbidite; polisomnografi; uyku

**ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** Obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS) is a syndrome characterized by complete or partial constriction of the hypopharynx region during sleep and negative respiration effort and intrathoracic pressure after a decrease in oxygen saturation (SO<sub>2</sub>). Snoring, witnessed apnea, and excessive daytime sleepiness are the most common symptoms in OSAS. Polysomnography (PSG) is the gold standard method used for the diagnosis of OSAS. We purposed to evaluate our patients who were followed up in the sleep laboratory for a year.

**Materials and Methods:** 111 patients hospitalized in our sleep laboratory between January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019 were included in our study. Patients were divided into 4 groups, and their demographic and clinical findings were compared.

**Results:** The mean age of the patients was  $46.55 \pm 11.18$  years. There was a significant difference in the incidence of hypertension (HT) in the severe OSAS group compared to the other groups. There was a significant difference in body mass index (BMI) in the severe OSAS group compared to the other groups. In addition, both rapid eye movement (REM), sleep time, and SO<sub>2</sub> levels were found to be statistically significantly lower in the patients in the severe OSAS group compared to the patients in the other group.

**Conclusion:** Most of our patients were found to have severe OSAS in cases with a BMI  $> 30\text{kg} / \text{m}^2$ . Sleep laboratories and polysomnography play an important role in the diagnosis of this disease. In particular, patients with a diagnosis of obesity and HT should be questioned in terms of OSAS.

**Keywords:** apnea hypopnea index; comorbidity; polysomnography; sleep

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## GİRİŞ

Uyku bozukluğu, başka patolojilere bağlı meydana gelebileceği gibi kendine özgü bir hastalık olarak da oluşabilir. 2014 yılında son versiyonu yayımlanan ICSD-3'te uyku bozuklukları sınıflandırmasında yer alan Uykuda solunum bozuklukları, hayatı risk taşıması ve çok sık gözlenen patolojiler olması nedeniyle önem arz etmektedir.<sup>1</sup> Uyku sırasında, en az 10 saniye süreyle solunum hacminde % 50 azalma ve oksijen saturasyonunda en az % 4 oranında düşme ile uyarılmışlık olması (hipopne) ve solunumun en az 10 saniye ile durması (apne) ile karakterize olan bu grupta Obstruktif uyku apne sendromu (OUAS), uykuda üst solunum yolu direnci sendromu, uyku ile ilişkili hipoventilasyon sendromu ve santral uyku apne sendromu yer almaktadır.<sup>2</sup>

OUAS, uyku esnasında hipofarenks bölgesinde tam veya kısmi daralmasıyla ve oksijen saturasyondaki düşme sonrasında solunum çabası ve intratorasik basıncın negatifleşmesi ile karakterize bir sendromdur.<sup>3</sup> OUAS prevalansı % 1-5 arasında değişmektedir.<sup>4</sup> Yaş, cinsiyet, vücut kitle indeksi (VKİ) bilinen risk faktörleridir.<sup>5</sup> Polisomnografi (PSG), OUAS tanısı için kullanılan altın standart bir yöntemdir.<sup>6</sup> PSG ile uyku evre süreleri ve apne hipopne indexi (AHİ) ölçülür. OUAS 'da horlama, gündüz aşırı uykululuk hali ve tanıklı apne en sık görülen semptomlar iken, sabah yorgunluğu, baş ağrısı ve kişinin yaşam kalitesi bozukluğuna bağlı sınırlılık, kişilik bozukluğu, depresyon gibi diğer semptomlar da görülmektedir.<sup>7</sup> En sık görülen komorbiditeler arasında hipertansiyon (HT), diabetes mellitus (DM) ve kardiovasküler hastalıklar (Kvh) yer almaktadır.

Ulusal literatüre katkı sağlamak ve OUAS ile ilgili deneyimlerimizi paylaşmak üzere, uyku laboratuvarlarında takip ettiğimiz hastaların bir yıllık verilerini değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

## ARAÇLAR ve YÖNTEM

Çalışmamızı 1 Ocak 2018-1 Ocak 2019 tarihleri arasında uyku laboratuvarımızda yatan 111 hasta retrospektif olarak dahil edildi. Çalışma için Harran Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu'ndan onam alındı (Etik kurul no: HRU.02.25, Etik kurul tarih: 18.01.2021).

Olguların demografik verileri, sigara kullanımı, horlama, gündüz uykululuk hali, tanıklı apne semptomlarının varlığı, ek hastalık, VKİ bilgileri kaydedildi ve Epworth Uykululuk Skalası (ESS), formlar dolduruldu. Uyku apne şüphesiyle başvuran hastalara uyku laboratuvarında randevu verildi. Randevu gecesi normal uyku düzende gelmesi söyleendi. Uyku düzenini etkileyebilecek ilaç kullanımları sorgulandı, varsa kullanılmaması önerildi. Hasta yatmadan önce uyku bozukluğuna neden olabilecek üst solunum yolu patolojileri açısından kulak burun boğaz muayenesi yapıldı.

Uyku ve solunum skorlamaları, American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) 2007 rehberine göre yapıldı.<sup>8</sup> Tüm hastalara 4 kanallı elektroensefalografi (EEG), sol ve sağ elektro-okülografi (EOG), submental elektromiyografi (EMG), burun basıncı izleme için burun kanülasyonu, büründen ve ağızdan hava akışını izlemek için bir termistör, iki taraflı ön tibialis hareket sensörleri, solunum eforunu ölçmek için torako-abdominal kayışlar, elektrokardiyografi (EKG), nabız oksimetresi, horlamayı izlemek için boyun mikrofonu ve torasik duruşu kaydetmek için bir göğüs sensörü ile birlikte tam nokturnal PSG uygulandı. Minimum PSG süresi 6 saat. Uyku evresi değerlendirmeleri ve solunumsal olay puanlaması standart kriterlere dayanıyordu. En az 10 saniye süreyle hava akımının tamamen kesilmesi apne % 4 desatürasyon ile kısmi kesilme ise hipopne olarak tanımlandı. AHİ, toplam apneik ve hipopneik olay sayısının toplam uyku süresine bölünmesiyle hesaplandı. Polisomnografi skorlaması uyku hastalıkları konusunda deneyimli olan iki hekim tarafından yapıldı.

18 yaş üstü, PSG test sonuçlarına göre test uyumu sağlamış ve AHİ>5 olan hastalar çalışmaya dahil edildi. 18 yaş altı, AHİ<5 olan madde bağımlılık öyküsü olan, PSG sonuçlarına göre yeterli uyku etkinliğine ulaşmamış veya test uyumu olmayan olgular çalışma dışı bırakıldı. PSG skorlamasına göre hastalar 4 gruba ayrıldı. AHİ<5 olanlar basit horlama, AHİ 5-15 olanlar hafif OUAS, AHİ 15-30 olanlar orta OUAS ve AHİ>30 olanlar ise ağır OUAS olarak tanımlandı. Gruplar arasında semptomlar, demografik veriler ve uyku evrelerinin özellikleri karşılaştırıldı.

## İstatistiksel Analiz

İstatistiksel analizler için SPSS for Windows 23.0 sürümü

(SPSS Inc., IL, ABD) kullanıldı. Sürekli verilerin normal dağılıp dağılmadığını değerlendirmek için Kolmogorov-Smirnov testi kullanıldı. Ortalama  $\pm$  SD olarak ifade edilen sürekli veriler Student t testleri kullanılarak karşılaştırılırken, sayı ve yüzde olarak ifade edilen kategorik veriler Kihare testi kullanılarak karşılaştırıldı. Ayrıca verilerin gruplar arasındaki değerlendirilmesi için ANOVA testi uygulandı.  $p<0.05$  istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

## BULGULAR

Çalışmaya 69 (%62.2)'u erkek, 42 (%37.8)'si kadın olmak üzere toplam 111 olgu dahil edildi. Olguların yaş ortalaması  $46.55 \pm 11.18$  yıl idi. Yaş ve cinsiyet açısından gruplar arasında anlamlı farklılık yoktu. AHİ'ye göre 7 (%6.3) hastada basit horlama 19 (%17.1) hastada hafif OUAS, 25 (%22.5) hastada orta OUAS, 60 (%54.1) hastada ağır OUAS saptandı (Tablo 1).

VKİ açısından ağır OUAS grubunda, diğer gruplara kıyasla istatistiksel farklılık mevcuttu ( $p<0.001$ ). 16 (%14) hastada HT, 14 (%12.6) hastada DM, 7 (%6.3) hastada Kronik Obstruktif Akciğer Hastalığı (KOAH) ve 4 (%3.6) hastada Astım bulunmaktaydı. HT açısından gruplar karşılaştırıldığında, ağır OUAS grubunda istatistiksel olarak daha yüksek bulundu ( $p=0.025$ ) (Tablo 1).

**Tablo 1.** Uyku laboratuvarında takip edilen hastaların demografik özellikleri

	Basit Horlama	Hafif Ouas	Orta Ouas	Ağır Ouas	p
Yaş, yıl	44.4 $\pm$ 14.4	42.9 $\pm$ 9.8	44.0 $\pm$ 10.0	48.9 $\pm$ 11.3	0.106
Cinsiyet (e/k)	4/3	11/5	19/9	35/25	0.777
VKİ (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	25.5 $\pm$ 2.7	27.5 $\pm$ 3.2	29.8 $\pm$ 5.1	33.4 $\pm$ 6.5	<0.001
Sigara (pk/yıl)	12.7 $\pm$ 9.4	10.0 $\pm$ 8.9	13.6 $\pm$ 11.6	7.7 $\pm$ 10.7	0.104
HT (%)	3 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.8)	11 (9.9)	0.025
DM (%)	2 (1.8)	2 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	10 (9.0)	0.088
KOAH (%)	1 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.8)	4 (3.6)	0.608

OVAS; obstruktif uyku apne sendromu, VKİ; vücut kitle indexi, HT; hipertansiyon, DM; diyabetes mellitus, KOAH; kronik obstruktif akciğer hastalığı.

Tablo 2 ve Tablo 3'de semptomların cinsiyete ve gruplara göre dağılımı gösterilmektedir. Her iki cinsiyette semp-

tomlar arasında farklılık görülmeyezen, diğer gruplarla karşılaştırıldığında ağır OUAS grubunda sınırlılık semptomu açısından anlamlı farklılık saptandı ( $p=0.036$ ).

**Tablo 2.** Cinsiyet ve semptomlar arasındaki ilişki

	Horlama	Gündüz aşırı uyku hali	Tankılı apne	Baş ağrısı	Yorgunluk	Sınırlılık
Kadın (%)	39 (35.1)	36 (32.4)	37 (33.3)	24 (21.6)	24 (21.6)	15 (13.5)
Erkek (%)	68 (61.2)	61 (54.9)	57 (51.3)	38 (34.2)	49 (44.1)	30 (27.0)

**Tablo 3.** Gruplar arasında semptomların görülmeye oranı

	Basit horlama	Hafif OUAS	Orta OUAS	Ağır OUAS	p
Horlama (%)	6 (85.7)	16 (100.0)	26 (92.6)	59 (98.3)	0.212
Gündüz aşırı uyku hali (%)	7 (100.0)	14 (85.7)	25 (89.3)	51 (85.0)	0.711
Tankılı apne (%)	4 (57.1)	13 (81.3)	24 (85.7)	53 (88.3)	0.185
Baş ağrısı (%)	2 (28.7)	12 (75.0)	18 (64.3)	30 (50.0)	0.106
Yorgunluk (%)	3 (42.9)	12 (75.0)	19 (67.9)	39 (65.0)	0.521
Sınırlılık (%)	1 (14.3)	4 (25.0)	17 (60.7)	23 (38.3)	0.036

OUAS; obstruktif uyku apne sendromu

Ağır OUAS grubundaki hastalarda, hem REM uyku süresi hem de SO2 düzeyi diğer gruptaki hastalara göre istatistiksel olarak daha düşük bulundu ( $p=0.034$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Ayrıca Epworth uyku skaliası açısından diğer gruplar ile karşılaştırıldığında ağır OUAS grubunda anlamlı farklılık elde edildi ( $p=0.011$ ) (Tablo 4).

**Tablo 4.** Gruplar arasında uyku evrelerinin ve SO2 düzeylerinin karşılaştırılması

	Basit Horlama	Hafif Ouas	Orta Ouas	Ağır Ouas	p
SO2 (%)	90.8 $\pm$ 1.7	85.8 $\pm$ 4.7	82.5 $\pm$ 5.5	73.7 $\pm$ 10.4	<0.001
Epworth	3.7 $\pm$ 1.1	3.8 $\pm$ 4.5	6.3 $\pm$ 4.0	8.0 $\pm$ 5.1	0.005
Evre N1(dk)	16.7 $\pm$ 8.3	20.7 $\pm$ 12.0	15.6 $\pm$ 11.8	18.3 $\pm$ 11.7	0.529
Evre N2(dk)	260.8 $\pm$ 5.5	263.9 $\pm$ 54.8	229.4 $\pm$ 4.7	246.5 $\pm$ 59.2	0.255
Evre N3(dk)	106.1 $\pm$ 25.7	87.3 $\pm$ 45.6	103.4 $\pm$ 0.8	84.6 $\pm$ 47.5	0.286
REM (dk)	56.8 $\pm$ 13.2	53.0 $\pm$ 21.2	62.4 $\pm$ 33.2	43.3 $\pm$ 29.1	0.034

SO2; Oksijen saturasyonu, OUAS; obstruktif uyku apne sendromu, N1; NREM (Non rapid eye movement) Evre 1, N2; NREM Evre 2, N3; NREM Evre 3, REM; rapid eye movement

## TARTIŞMA

Çalışmamızın ana bulguları; OUAS'ın erkek cinsiyeti daha çok etkilediği, ağır OUAS hasta sayısının daha yoğun olduğu ve HT, DM ve KOAH'ın bu hastalıklarla sık birlikte liginin olmasıdır.

OUAS, insanların yaşam kalitesini etkileyen ve toplumda prevalansı %1-5 arasında değişen bir hastalıktır. Erkek cinsiyette daha sık görülmektedir.<sup>9</sup> Erkek farenks yapısının kadınlara göre rezistansının fazla olması nedeniyle ve boğaz etrafının erkek tipi kilo alımına bağlı olarak obstrüksiyon yapabileceğinin bildirilmiştir.<sup>10</sup> Toplumda erkeklerde daha sık görülmekle birlikte, 30-60 yaşları arasında daha sık görüldüğü bildirilmiştir.<sup>11</sup> Yapılan başka bir çalışmada erkeklerde %24, kadınlarda yüzde %9 oranında OUAS görüldüğü saptanmıştır.<sup>12</sup> Çalışmamızda erkek cinsiyetin daha fazla ve hastaların orta yaşı grubunda olduğunu saptadık. OUAS'ın orta yaşı grubunun ve erkek cinsiyeti etkilediğini bunun da nedeninin yaşı ilerlemesiyle vücut kas tonusunun azalmasıyla ilgili olabileceğini düşünmektediriz.

Yapılan çalışmalara göre, VKİ'nin OUAS'ı etkileyen en önemli faktörlerden birisidir. VKİ 25-29.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> ise aşırı kilolu, 30-39.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> ise obez, ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> ise morbid obez olarak tanımlanmaktadır.<sup>13</sup> Çalışmalarda obezitenin boyun çevresinin artıldığı ve kas tonusunun azalttığı, böylece apne ve hipopne sikliğini artttığı gösterilmiştir.<sup>14</sup> VKİ >28 olması durumunda OUAS riski, obez olmayanlara göre 8-12 kat artmaktadır.<sup>5</sup> Ülkemizde OSAS olasılığı ile uyku ünitelerine başvuran bireyler ile yapılan çalışmalarda, bireylerin obezite oranları %30-%68 arasında değişmektedir.<sup>15</sup> Yapılan birçok çalışmada VKİ < 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> olan hastalarda çoğunlukla hafif OUAS, VKİ 25-29.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> olan hastalarda orta OUAS, VKİ >30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> olan obez hastalarda ise şiddetli OUAS gözlenmiştir.<sup>16</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda da VKİ arttıkça OUAS şiddetinin artığı ve bunun literatür verileri ile uyumlu olduğu görülmüştür.

OUAS'ta en sık görülen ve prevalansı yüksek olan kardiyovasküler komorbiditelerin başında hipertansiyon gelmektedir.<sup>17</sup> OUAS şiddetinin artmasıyla hastalarda kalp hastalıkları, DM, KOAH ve HT gibi komorbide oranları da artmaktadır.<sup>18</sup> Fletcher ve ark. yaptıkları bir çalışmada tedaviye dirençli HT hastalarının büyük bir kısmında (% 83)

OUAS saptamışlardır.<sup>19</sup> Aynı zamanda diyabetes mellitus, uykuya bozukluklarına neden olabilen önemli hastalıklardan biridir. Uyku problemleri, Tip 2 diyabet hastalarında yaygın olarak görülmektedir.<sup>20</sup> Ülkemizde uyku ünitesine başvuran bireyler ile yapılan benzer çalışmalarda hastaların %27.0-45.0'ında HT, %11.4-37.8'inde DM, %8.8-17.2'sinde Konjestif kalp yetmezliği (KKY), %4.1-9.9'unda astım/KOAH olduğu tespit edilmiştir.<sup>15,21</sup> Yurtdışında yapılan çalışmalarda hastaların %22.6-47.0'sinde HT, %9.3-26.9'unda DM, %16.7-22.7'sinde astım/KOAH, %8.6'sında KVH olduğu tespit edilmiş, elde edilen sonuçlar ile ülkemizde elde edilen sonuçların uyumlu olduğu gözlenmiştir.<sup>22-24</sup> Benzer olarak bizim çalışmamızda da en sık görülen hastalıklar HT (%14.4), DM (%12.6) ve KOAH (%6.3) olarak tespit edildi. Portekiz'de yapılan bir çalışmada OUAS riski ve komorbidite varlığı arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırılmış ve OUAS hastalarının %75'inde, ağır derece OUAS hastalarının ise %79.5'inde komorbidite varlığı saptanmıştır.<sup>25</sup> Biz de çalışmamızda OUAS hastalarının (n=94) %32.9'unda, ağır OUAS hastalarının (n=60) ise %41.6'nda eşlik eden komorbidite tespit ettik.

Gündüz uykululuk hali ve horlama erkeklerde daha sık görülmeye rağmen, kadınlarda ise sabah baş ağrısı, yorgunluk ve duygudurum bozukluğu semptomları görülmektedir.<sup>12</sup> Bizim çalışmamızda ise ana kardinal semptomlar her iki cinsiyet arasında karşılaştırıldı ancak anlamlı farklılık saptanmadı. Ancak sinirlilik semptomu, özellikle ağır OUAS grubunda istatiksel olarak anlamlı yükseltti.

OUAS'ta, gündüz aşırı uykulu hali (GAUH) sık görülen bir semptomdur. GAUH en rasyonel olarak ESS ile saptanabilmekte ve birçok çalışmada hastalığın şiddeti ile yakından ilişkili olduğu görülmüştür.<sup>26,27</sup> Ülkemizde yapılan bir çalışmada; hafif, orta, ağır derece OUAS gruplarında ESS sırasıyla 8.66, 8.77, 10.0 belirlenmiş, ancak bu gruplar arasında ESS ortalamaları açısından anlamlı bir farklılık tespit edilememiştir.<sup>18</sup> Başka bir çalışmada ise OUAS varlığı ile ESS arasındaki ilişkinin anlamlı olarak yüksek olduğu saptanmıştır.<sup>16</sup> Çalışmamızda ağır OUAS grubu hafif ve orta OUAS grubu ile karşılaştırılmış ve ağır OUAS grubunda ESS açısından istatiksel fark saptanmıştır.

OUAS, uykuya esnasında meydana gelen apne ve hipopneler

nedeniyle gece desatürasyonların geliştiği bir sendromdur.<sup>28</sup> Ayık ve ark.nın yapmış olduğu çalışmada VKİ'nin artması AHİ ile doğru orantılı iken SO2 ile ters oranlı olduğu gösterilmiştir.<sup>29</sup> Alacam ve ark. ise ağır OUAS hastalarında minimum ortalama SO2 değerini, hafif-orta OUAS grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak daha düşük bulmuşlardır.<sup>30</sup> Çalışmamızda da literatür verileri ile uyumlu olarak ağır OUAS hastalarında gece SO2 değerleri daha düşük bulunmuştur.

American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) 2007 yılında uyku evreleri; uyanıklık, NREM (Non rapid eye moves) evre 1, NREM evre 2, NREM evre 3 ve REM evresi olarak tanımlanmıştır.<sup>8</sup> Normal bir uyku süresinin %20-25'ni (90-120 dk) REM bölümü oluşturmaktadır. OUAS'ın karakteristik PSG bulguların biri de REM süresinde azalma olmasıdır.<sup>31</sup> Çalışmamızda REM süresinde kısalma en çok ağır OUAS grubunda idi ve diğer grplara kıyasla istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık mevcuttu. Bunu nedeni REM evresinde meydana gelen yoğun solunumsal olaylar (apne, hipopne vs) olduğunu söyleyebiliriz.

Çalışma kısıtlılıkları; tek merkezli, retrospektif çalışma ve klinik semptomları OUAS ile uyumlu ancak PSG sonucuna göre OUAS kriterlerine uymayan hasta sayısının az olması olarak sıralanabilir. Ancak bu kısıtlılıklara rağmen, çalışmamızın daha geniş olgular içeren prospektif çalışmalarla destekleneceği düşünüyoruz.

Sonuç olarak, olguların VKİ arttıkça OUAS şiddeti ve komorbidite oranları da artmaktadır. Bu nedenle obezite, HT, DM ve KOAH tanılı olgular OUAS açısından ayrıntılı olarak sorgulanmalı ve şüphe duyulanlar polisomnografi için uyku laboratuvarlarına yönlendirmelidir. Böylece hastalığın erken tanı ve tedavisi ile olguların hayat kalitesi artırılacak ve mortalite oranları azaltılacaktır.

### **Çıkar Beyannamesi**

Yazarlar herhangi bir çıkar çatışması olmadığını beyan etmektedirler.

### **Teşekkür**

Mardin uyku laboratuvarında çalışan tüm personellere teşekkür ederiz.

### **Araştırmacıların Katkı Oranı Beyanı**

Ana fikir/Planlama: MK, IH. Veri toplama/İşleme: MK, IH. Veri analizi ve yorumlama: IH. Literatür taraması: MK, IH. Yazım: IH, MK. Gözden geçirme ve düzeltme: MK, IH. Danışmanlık: IH, MK.

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## An Abnormal Relationship in Tarsal Tunnel: Case Report

### Tarsal Tünelde Anormal Bir İlişki: Olgu Sunumu

Ahmet ERTAŞ<sup>1</sup>  Burak KARİP<sup>2</sup> 

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#### ÖZ

Tarsal tünel hakkında şimdide kadar verilen tüm bilgiler hem önemli hem de değişkendir. Bu durumun nedeni tarsal tünelde n. tibialis ve dalları, arteria tibialis posterior, vv. tibiales posteriores ve bazı tendonlar gibi birçok yapının bulunmasıdır. Rutin bir diseksiyon sırasında, bir erkek kadavramız sağ tarafında n. tibialis ile rr. calcanei mediales arasında anormal bir ilişki gözlemlendi. Bu vakamızda, rr. calcanei mediales'ın diğer dalları ile bağlantı kuran bir varyatif durumu gösterip ve bu durumun klinik önemini tartışacağımız.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** ramus communicans; medial calcaneal sinir; tarsal tünel; nervus tibialis

#### ABSTRACT

All the information about the tarsal tunnel so far is both important and variable. The reason for this situation is that there are many structures in the tarsal tunnel, such as tibial nerve and its branches, posterior tibial artery, posterior tibial veins and some tendons. During routine dissection, we found an abnormal relationship between the tibial nerve and medial calcaneal nerve (MCN) on the right side of a male cadaver. In this case, we would show a variant condition that communicates with other branches of rr. calcanei mediales and discuss its clinical significance.

**Keywords:** communicating branch; medial calcaneal nerve; tarsal tunnel; tibial nerve

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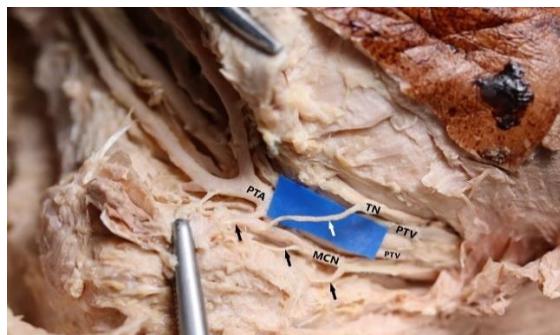
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## INTRODUCTION

There are several articles about the medial calcaneal nerve, which supplies the superficial fascia of the heel and medial side of the sole.<sup>1</sup> The tibial nerve usually gives off three branches which are called as medial plantar nerve, lateral plantar nerve and medial calcaneal nerve around the foot and ankle.<sup>2</sup> MCN has many variations according to its numbers and origination points. Generally, MCN arises from tibial nerve, lateral plantar nerve, or bifurcation point of the tibial nerve.<sup>3</sup> Even though types of the branching pattern is highly variable, the highest number of the types found is 21.<sup>4</sup>

## CASE REPORT

During a routine dissection for education, the MCN was observed with its abnormal branch which has the communicating branch on the right side of a male cadaver. The superficial fascia and the flexor retinaculum were carefully removed. The bifurcation of the tibial nerve and MCN were observed under the distal part of the flexor retinaculum. The communicating branch was found between the tibial nerve and MCN (Figure 1). There was no variation in the other parts.



**Figure 1.** the communicating branch (white arrow) between tibial nerve and MCN, other branches of MCN (black arrows), TN: tibial nerve, PTA: posterior tibial artery, PTV: posterior tibial veins

## DISCUSSION

In this case, MCN has four branches. Although three of them are normal, one of them is a communicating branch.

Normally, MCN has 4 branches at approximately 3.3 percent.<sup>3</sup> Compression of the tibial nerve and its branches by different structures, such as neuroma, surgical scar tissue causes tarsal tunnel syndrome which is a sort of neuropathy.<sup>3,5</sup> The knowledge of tibial nerve distribution and contents of tarsal tunnel are very important for surgical procedures like external nailing of tarsal bones. And the information about motor branching of the muscles of the foot sole may decrease surgical complications.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, the exact location and branching patterns of the neurovascular bundle in the tarsal tunnel are very essential for clinical situations such as heel pain, avascular necrosis of the talus, etc.<sup>7</sup>

## Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## Authors' Contributions

Concept/Design: AE, BK. Data Collection and Processing: AE, BK. Data analysis and interpretation: AE, BK. Literature Search: BK. Drafting manuscript: AE, BK. Critical revision of the manuscript: AE, BK. Supervision: AE.

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