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Official Journal of Akdeniz University Medical School

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Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi (Akd Tıp Derg) / Akdeniz Medical Journal (Akd Med J)

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AMAÇ ve KAPSAM

Derginin amacı, sağlık bilimleri ile ilgili alanlarda Akdeniz Tıp Fakültesi ve Türkiye'de yapılan araştırmaları ulusal ve uluslararası bilim çevrelerine sunarak, duyurulması ve paylaşılmasına katkı sağlamak, bu bağlamda Türkiye'nin tanıtılmasına katkıda bulunmaktır. Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, öncelikle Türkiye ve dünyada konuyla ilgili tüm tıbbi kurum ve bilgi merkezlerine ücretsiz olarak basılı ya da elektronik ortamda dergiye kolayca erişilmeyi sağlamanın yanı sıra, ulusal ve uluslararası dizinlerde de yer almayı hedeflemektedir. Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, Akdeniz Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi'nin bilimsel yayın organı olup, etik ilke ve kurallara bağlı olarak yılda üç kez olmak üzere (Ocak, Mayıs, Eylül) dört ayda bir yayınlanan bilimsel ve hakemli, disiplinlerarası bir tıp dergisidir.

Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, TÜBİTAK-ULAKBİM Türk Tıp Dizini, Türk Medline, Sobiad, İndex Copernicus ve Academindex Türkiye tarafından dizinlemektedir. Derginin amacı, sağlık bilimleri ile ilgili alanlarda Akdeniz Tıp Fakültesi ve Türkiye'de yapılan araştırmaları ulusal ve uluslararası bilim çevrelerine sunarak, duyurulması ve paylaşılmasına katkı sağlamak, bu bağlamda Türkiye'nin tanıtılmasına katkıda bulunmaktır. Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, öncelikle Türkiye ve dünyada konuyla ilgili tüm tıbbi kurum ve bilgi merkezlerine ücretsiz olarak basılı ya da açık erişim ile elektronik ortamda dergiye kolayca erişilmeyi sağlamanın yanı sıra, ulusal ve uluslararası dizinlerde de yer almayı hedeflemektedir. Bu hedefler doğrultusunda, Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi'nde yayınlanması istenilen makalelerin daha çok özgün araştırmaları (temel, klinik ve epidemiyolojik) içermesi gerekmektedir. Ayrıca editör görüşü, derleme, olgu sunumu, editöre mektup, teknik notlar, tıp eğitimi ile ilgili yazılar, tıp tarihçesi ile ilgili yazılar, biyografi yazıları da kabul edilmektedir. Gönderilen yazıların, daha önce yazılı olarak veya elektronik bir formatta yayınlanmamış veya yayınlanma amacıyla bir başka dergiye veya elektronik ortama gönderilmemiş olması gerekmektedir. Gönderilecek yazılarda, Türk dergilerinde yayınlanmış makalelere de atıf yapılması özellikle aranmaktadır. Daha önceden basılı olarak yayınlanan Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi yayın hayatına elektronik olarak devam ettiğinden daha önceden 1300-1779 olan ISSN numarası 08.08.2019 tarihinden itibaren 2687-2781 şeklinde değişmiştir. Derginin yayın dili Türkçe ve İngilizce'dir. Türkçe yazılarda, Türk dilinin bütünlüğünün korunmasına dikkat edilmeli ve Türk Dil Kurumu'nun güncel baskı Yazım Kılavuzu ve Türkçe Sözlüğü esas alınmalıdır.

Tıp terimlerinin kullanılmasında olabildiğince "Türkçe Bilim Terimleri" nin kullanımına özen gösterilmelidir. Bunun için yazarlar Türk Dil Kurumu'nun "Hekimlik Terimleri Kılavuzu" veya diğer Tıp Terimleri Sözlüklerinden yararlanabilir.

YAYIN POLİTİKASI

Açık Erişim ve Makale İşleme

Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, bilimsel yayınlara açık erişim sağlar. Yayımlanan sayıya ve içeriğinde yer alan yazıların tam metinlerine ücretsiz ulaşılabilir. Yazar(lar)dan yazılarının yayımı için herhangi bir ücret talep edilmez.

Okuyucular dergi içeriğini akademik veya eğitsel kullanım amaçlı olarak ücretsiz indirebilirler. Dergi herkese, ücretsizdir. Bunu sağlayabilmek için dergi Akdeniz Üniversitesi'nin mali kaynaklarından, editörlerin ve hakemlerin süregelen gönüllü çabalarından yararlanmaktadır.

Yazıların tüm bilimsel sorumluluğu yazarlara aittir. Gönderilen yazılarda isim sıralaması ortak verilen bir karar olmalıdır. Sorumlu yazar, yazar sıralamasını "Yazar sorumluluk ve Yayın Hakkı Devir Formu"nu doldurup imzalayarak, tüm yazarlar adına kabul etmiş sayılır. Yazarlık için gerekli ölçütleri karşılamayan, ancak çalışmaya katkısı olan kişiler "Teşekkür" bölümünde sıralanabilir. Yazarlar, yayının özgün bir yazı olduğunu, daha önce herhangi bir yerde yayınlanmadığını ve değerlendirme süreci içerisinde başka herhangi bir yerde yayınlama girişiminde bulunmayacaklarına yönelik imzalı bir beyanda bulunmalıdırlar.

Yazarlar, bilimsel içerikte değişiklik yapılmaması koşuluyla, editörlük tarafından yapılacak değişiklik ve düzeltmeleri önceden kabul etmiş sayı-

lırlar. Gönderilen yazılar yayınlansın veya yayınlanmasın iade edilmez, yalnız yayınlanmayan resimler ve şekiller istek üzerine yazarına gönderilebilir.

Gönderilen yazıların, dergi kurallarına göre hazırlanmış ve eksiksiz olarak sayfa düzenlemesine hazır duruma getirilmiş olması gerekir. Yayın kurulu yazım kurallarına uymayan yazıları yayınlamamak, düzeltilmek üzere yazara iade etmek ya da şekil açısından yeniden düzenlemek yetkisine sahiptir. Editör ve dil editörleri, yazım dili, imla düzeltmeleri ve kaynakların yazım kurallarına uygunluğunun denetimi ve ilgili diğer konularda değişiklik ve düzeltmelerin yapılmasında tam yetkilidir. Makalede daha önce yayınlanmış alıntı yazı, tablo, resim vb. var ise, makalenin sorumlu yazarı, ilgili yayın hakkı sahibinden ve yazarlarından yazılı izin almak, ayrıca bunu makalede belirtmek zorundadır.

Yayın Süreci ve Makale Değerlendirme Süresi

Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi'ne gönderilen makaleler öncelikle Editörler Kurulu tarafından nesnel bir değerlendirmeye alınarak gözden geçirilir. Editörler yazıları doğrudan doğruya reddetme veya yeniden düzenlenmesi için geri gönderme hakkına sahiptir. Bu aşamada yazının reddini gerektirecek bir neden yoksa, yazı konu ile ilgili iki ayrı danışmana gönderilir. Makale değerlendirmesi için davet edilen hakemlerin azami 7 gün içerisinde daveti kabul etmesi istenir. Alan değerlendirmesinden iki olumlu hakem raporu alan makale yayınlanmaya hak kazanır. Bir olumlu bir olumsuz hakem raporu alan makale, üçüncü bir hakeme gönderilir ve makalenin yayınlanıp yayınlanmaması üçüncü hakemin raporu ve/veya editör kararı doğrultusunda belirlenir. Daveti kabul eden hakemlerin değerlendirme süreleri azami 30 gündür. Hakemlerin değerlendirmeyi kabul etmemesi veya gün sonunda değerlendirme raporunu göndermemesi durumunda makale değerlendirilmek üzere yeni bir hakeme gönderilir. Hakemler, makalevi değerlendirdikten sonra yorum ve önerilerini içeren değerlendirme formunu editöre gönderirler. Editör tarafından hakem yorum ve önerileri yazarlara iletilerek düzeltilmiş makaleyi tekrar sisteme yüklemeleri istenir. Yazarların düzeltme süresi azami 60 gündür. Hakemler düzeltme sonrası makaleyi tekrar görmek istemişse makale değerlendirilmek üzere hakemlere tekrar gönderilir. Bu süreç hakemlerin makalenin kabulü veya reddi yönünde görüşünü bildirmelerine kadar devam eder. Hakemlerden gelen görüşler, editör/ler tarafından en geç 15 gün içerisinde değerlendirilir. Bu inceleme sonucunda nihai kararını yazar(lar)a iletir.

Son yayın onayı kararını editörler verir. Yapılacak olan sayfa düzenlemeleri ve düzeltilerden sonra, sorumlu yazarlardan son kontrol istenecek ve yazılı olarak "yayım onayı" alınacaktır. Yayıma kabul edilen makaleler, kabul tarihi sırasına göre Erken Çevrim İçi makaleler kısmında yayımlanmaktadır. Bir makalenin erken görünümde olması bir sonraki sayıya dahil edileceğini göstermez. Erken görünüm sırasında yazarların makalelerini gözden geçirmeleri ve dergi yazım kuralları ve mizanpaj açısından düzeltme önerilerini yayın kuruluna bildirmeleri gerekmektedir. Yayımlanmak üzere kabul edilen makalelerin basımı 12-18 ay arasındadır. Bununla birlikte makalenin güncelliği, özgünlüğü, yayım için bekleyen makale sayısı gibi faktörlere bağlı olarak bu süre daha erken veya daha geç olabilmektedir. Dergi yayımlandıktan sonra makalelerde değişiklik yapılamamaktadır.

Yazılar körleme danışmanlık (peer-review) sistemi uyarınca, yazarların isimleri yazı metninden çıkartılarak danışmanlara gönderilir. Yazarlara da, yazının hangi danışmanlara gönderildiği ile ilgili bilgi verilmez. Danışmanlar ve Yayın Kurulu üyeleri, yazıları topluma açık bir şekilde tartışamaz. Bazı durumlarda, danışmanların bir yazıya ait yorumları, aynı yazıyı inceleyen diğer danışmanlara editör tarafından gönderilerek, danışmanların bu süreçte aydınlatılmaları sağlanabilir. Gönderilen yazıyı, verilen süre içerisinde değerlendirmeyen danışmanın yerine, başka bir danışmana da görev verilebilir.

ETİK İLKELER

Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, yazarlardan araştırma ve yayın etiğine uyumlu olunmasını istemektedir. İnsanlarda veya hayvanlarda gerçekleştirilen araştırmalarda ulusal ve uluslararası etik kılavuzlara uyum ve ilgili etik kurul-

lardan izin esastır. Alınan "Etik Kurul Onayı" çevrimiçi olarak, https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/akd adresine gönderilmelidir. Makalelerin etik kurallara uygunluğu yazarların sorumluluğundadır.

İnsanlar üzerinde yapılan araştırmalar: Dergi, "İnsan" öğesinin içinde bulunduğu tüm çalışmalarda WMA"Helsinki Bildirgesi", "İyi Klinik Uygulamalar Kılavuzu" ve "İyi Laboratuvar Uygulamaları Kılavuzu"'nda belirtilen esaslara ve T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı'nın ilgili yönetmeliklerine uygunluk ilkesini kabul eder. İnsanlar üzerinde yapılan araştırmalarda, "Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurul''undan izin alınması ve ilgili belgenin dergiye gönderilmesi zorunludur. Yazarlar, makalenin Gereç ve Yöntem bölümünde ilgili etik kuruldan ve çalışmaya katılmış insanlardan imzalı "Bilgilendirilmiş onam" (informed consent) belgesini aldıklarını belirtmek zorundadır. Olgu sunumlarında hastanın kimliğinin ortaya çıkmasına bakılmaksızın hastalardan veya gereği durumunda yasal temsilcisinden "Bilgilendirilmiş onam" (informed consent) belgesi alınmalı ve makalenin olgu sunumu başlığı altında yazılı olarak ifade edilmelidir. Hastadan veya yasal temsilcisinden alınan "Bilgilendirilmiş onam" belgesi dergiye yollanmalıdır.

Hayvanlar üzerinde yapılan araştırmalar: Hayvanlar üzerinde yapılan araştırmalarda, "Deney Hayvanları Etik Kurul"undan izin alınması ve ilgili belgenin bir kopyasının dergiye gönderilmesi zorunludur. Araştırmanın Gereç ve Yöntem bölümünde, deneysel çalışmalarda tüm hayvanların "Laboratuvar Hayvanlarının Bakım ve Kullanımı Kılavuzu"na (Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, www.nap. edu/catalog/5140.html) uygun olarak insancıl bir muameleye tabi tutulduğu ve Deney Hayvanları Etik Kurul onay raporu alındığı belirtilmelidir. Hayvanlar üzerinde yapılan çalışmalarda ağrı, acı ve rahatsızlık verilmemesi için neler yapıldığı açık bir şekilde belirtilmelidir. Etik Kurul onayının bir kopyasının dergiye gönderilmemesi durumunda yazı yayınlanmayacaktır.

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Maddi destek: Araştırma için alınmış finansal destek, bağış ve diğer bütün faaliyetler (istatistiksel analiz, İngilizce/Türkçe değerlendirme) ve/veya teknik yardım varsa açıkça makalenin kaynaklar bölümünden önce bildirilmek zorundadır. Ayrıca yazarlar aşağıda belirtilen alanlarda, varsa çalışmaya sponsorluk edenlerin rollerini beyan etmelidirler: 1) Çalışmanın tasarımı, 2) Veri toplanması, analizi ve sonuçların yorumlanması, 3) Raporun yazılması, 4) Yayın için gönderilmesine karar verilmesi.

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Derginin editörlük ve yayın süreçleri International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), Council of Science Editors (CSE), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), European Association of Science Editors (EASE) ve National Information Standards Organization (NISO) yönergelerine uygun olarak şekillenmektedir. Dergi, Principles of Transparaency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (doaj.org./bestpractice) ilkelerini benimsemiştir.

Yazarların Etik Sorumlulukları

- Çalışmayla ilişkili verilerin doğruluğundan emin olmak, araştırmasına ilişkin kayıtlarını düzenli tutmak ve olası bir talep üzerine bu verilere erişim verebilmek.
- Gönderdiği makalenin başka bir yerde yayınlanmadığından veya kabul edilmediğinden emin olmak.
- Sunduğu içerik yayınlanmış veya sunulan başka içerikle eşleşirse, bu çakışmayı kabul etmek ve alıntı yapmak. Gerektiğinde, çalışmasıyla ilgili benzer içeriğe sahip olabilecek herhangi bir çalışma varsa bunun bir kopyasını editöre sunmak. Başka kaynaklardan herhangi bir içeriği çoğaltmak ya da kullanmak için izin almak, atıf göstermek.
- İnsan veya hayvan denek içeren tüm çalışmalar için ulusal ve uluslararası yasalara ve yönergelere uygun olmasını sağlamak, (örneğin, WMA Helsinki Bildirgesi, NIH Laboratuvar Hayvanlarının Kullanımına İlişkin Politika, Hayvanların Kullanımına İlişkin AB Direktifi) gerekli onayların alındığını belirtmek, denek mahremiyete saygı göstermek. Çalışmasına dair ilgili etik kurul onaylarını ve araştırma detaylarını çalışmanın "Gereç ve Yöntem" kısmında belirtmek.
- Herhangi bir çıkar çatışması durumunda, makalesiyle ilgili etik bir ihlal tespit ettiğinde bunu editör ve yayıncı ile paylaşmak, hata beyanı, zeyilname, tazminat bildirimi yayınlamak veya gerekli görüldüğü durumlarda çalışmayı geri çekmek.

Editörlerin Etik Görev ve Sorumlulukları

- Yazarların cinsiyet, dinî veya politik inançlar, etnik veya coğrafi kökenleri üzerine ayrım yapılmaksızın görevlerini yerine getirirken dengeli, objektif ve adil bir şekilde hareket etmek.
- Dergiye gönderilen çalışmaları içeriğine göre değerlendirmek, hiçbir yazara ayrıcalık göstermemek.
- Olası çıkar çatışmalarını önlemek adına gerekli önlemleri almak ve varsa mevcut beyanları değerlendirmek.
- Sponsorlu çalışmaları veya özel konulardaki çalışmaları diğer çalışmalarla aynı şekilde ele almak.
- Etik ihlali niteliğinde bir şikâyet olması durumunda, derginin politika ve kurallarına bağlı kalarak gerekli işlemleri uygulamak. Yazarlara, gelen şikayete cevap vermek için bir firsat vermek, çalışma kime ait olursa olsun gerekli yaptırımları uygulamaktan kaçınmamak.
- Derginin amaç ve kapsamına uygun olmaması durumunda gelen çalışmayı reddetmek.

Hakemlerin Etik Sorumlulukları

 Editörün karar verme sürecine katkıda bulunmak için makaleyi objektif olarak zamanında incelemek ve sadece uzmanlık alanı ile ilgili çalışma değerlendirmeyi kabul etmek.



- Değerlendirmeyi nesnel bir şekilde sadece çalışmanın içeriği ile ilgili olarak yapmak. Dinî, siyasi ve ekonomik çıkarlar gözetmeden çalışmayı değerlendirmek.
- Yayınlanacak makalenin kalitesini yükseltmeye yardımcı olacak yönlendirmelerde bulunmak ve çalışmayı titizlikle incelemek. Yorumlarını yapıcı ve nâzik bir dille yazara iletmek.
- Editör ve yazar tarafından sağlanan bilgilerin gizliliğini korumak, gizlilik ilkesi gereği incelediği çalışmayı değerlendirme sürecinden sonra yok etmek, kör hakemliğe aykırı bir durum varsa editöre bildirmek ve çalışmayı değerlendirmemek.
- Olası çıkar çatışmalarının (mali, kurumsal, işbirlikçi ya da yazarlar arasındaki diğer ilişkiler) farkında olmak ve gerekirse bu yazı için yardımlarını geri çekmek konusunda editörü uyarmak.

Bilimsel araştırma ve yayın etiğine aykırı olduğu düşünülen eylemlerden bazıları:

- İntihal: Başkalarının özgün fikirlerini, metotlarını, verilerini veya eserlerini bilimsel kurallara uygun biçimde atıf yapmadan kısmen veya tamamen kendi eseri gibi göstermek.
- Sahtecilik: Bilimsel araştırmalarda gerçekte var olmayan veya tahrif edilmiş verileri kullanmak.
- Çarpıtma: Araştırma kayıtları veya elde edilen verileri tahrif etmek, araştırmada kullanılmayan cihaz veya materyalleri kullanılmış gibi göstermek, destek alınan kişi ve kuruluşların çıkarları doğrultusunda araştırma sonuçlarını tahrif etmek veya şekillendirmek.
- Tekrar yayım: Mükerrer yayınlarını akademik atama ve yükselmelerde ayrı yayınlar olarak sunmak.
- Dilimleme: Bir araştırmanın sonuçlarını, araştırmanın bütünlüğünü bozacak şekilde ve uygun olmayan biçimde parçalara ayırıp birden fazla sayıda yayımlayarak bu yayınları akademik atama ve yükselmelerde ayrı yayınlar olarak sunmak.
- Haksız yazarlık: Aktif katkısı olmayan kişileri yazarlar arasına dâhil etmek veya olan kişileri dâhil etmemek, yazar sıralamasını gerekçesiz ve uygun olmayan bir biçimde değiştirmek, aktif katkısı olanların isimlerini sonraki baskılarda eserden çıkartmak, aktif katkısı olmadığı halde nüfuzunu kullanarak ismini yazarlar arasına dâhil ettirmek.
- Destek alınarak yürütülen araştırmalar sonucu yapılan yayınlarda destek veren kişi, kurum veya kuruluşlar ile bunların katkılarını belirtmemek
- Henüz sunulmamış veya savunularak kabul edilmemiş tez veya çalışmaları, sahibinin izni olmadan kaynak olarak kullanmak.
- İnsan ve hayvanlar üzerinde yapılan araştırmalarda etik kurallara uymamak, yayınlarında hasta haklarına saygı göstermemek, hayvan sağlığına ve ekolojik dengeye zarar vermek, gerekli izinleri almamak.
- Bilimsel araştırma için sağlanan veya ayrılan kaynakları, mekânları, imkânları ve cihazları amaç dışı kullanmak.
- Akademik atama ve yükseltmelerde bilimsel araştırma ve yayınlara ilişkin yanlış veya yamıltıcı beyanda bulunmak.

YAZIM KURALLARI

Dergide yayınlanmak üzere editöre gönderilen yazılar A4 sayfasının bir yüzüne 12 punto, çift aralıkla ve kenarlarda 3'er cm boşluk bırakılarak Times Newroman karakterinde yazılmalıdır. Kullanılan kısaltmalar yazı içerisinde ilk geçtikleri yerde, parantez içinde, açık olarak yazılmalı, özel kısaltmalar yapılmamalıdır. Yazı içindeki 1-10 arası sayısal veriler yazıyla (Her iki tedavi grubunda, ikinci gün), 10 ve üstü rakamla belirtilmelidir. Ancak, yanında tanımlayıcı bir takısı olan 1-10 arası sayılar rakamla (.... 1 yıl) cümle başındaki rakamlar da (On beş yaşında bir kız hasta......) yazıyla yazılmalıdır. Özgün araştırma makaleleri ve derleme yazılarında özel bir kelime sayısı sınırlandırılması yoktur. Olgu sunumları Öz/Abstract hariç 1000 sözcük ile sınırlandırılmalı ve en az sayıda şekil, tablo ve kaynak içermelidir. Editöre çeşitli konularda ve dergide yayınla-

nan yazılarla ilgili görüşler yazılabilir ve yazarlarından cevaplandırılması istenebilir. Editöre mektuplar (en fazla 1000 sözcük, tablosuz ve şekilsiz) olmalı ve mektup, tüm yazarlar tarafından imzalanmış olmalıdır. Bunların dergide yayınlanıp yayınlanmaması editörün yetkisindedir. Ayrıca dergide tıp alanındaki bilimsel toplantılar, tarih, konu ve konuşmacıları duyurmak amacı ile yayınlanabilir. Yazılar aşağıda belirtilen sıra izlenerek düzenlenmelidir.

Başlık Sayfası:

Yazının Türkçe ve İngilizce başlığı, yazarların adları, görevleri (akademik unvanları) ve iletişim bilgileri (e-mail, telefon) ile, hangi kuruluştan gönderildiği, varsa çalışmayı destekleyen kurum yazılmalıdır. Tüm yazarların uluslararası geçerliliği bulunan "ORCID" bilgisine yer verilmelidir. Yazı daha önce herhangi bir toplantıda bildiri olarak sunulmuşsa, yeri ve tarihi belirtilmelidir. Ayrıca bu sayfada yazışma yapılacak yazarın adı, soyadı, adresi, telefon ve faks numaraları, e-posta adresi açıkça yazılmalıdır.

Öz

Ayrı bir sayfaya Türkçe ve İngilizce olarak hazırlanmalı, başlıklar dahil her biri 250 sözcüğü aşmamalıdır. Öz, makaleyi yansıtacak nitelikte olmalı, önemli sonuçlar verilmeli ve bunların kısaca yorumu yapılmalıdır. Özde açıklanmayan kısaltmalar kullanılmamalı, kaynak gösterilmemelidir. Türkçe ve İngilizce özler, bölümlü olmalı ve aşağıdaki gibi yapılandırılmalıdır: Amaç/Objective; Gereç ve Yöntem(ler)/Material and Method(s); Bulgular/Results; Sonuç /Conclusion.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

"Index Medicus: Medical Subject Headings" standartlarına uygun Türkçe ve İngilizce anahtar sözcükler verilmelidir. (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/authors.html) Tüm yazıların Türkçe ve İngilizce özlerinin altında, 3-10 adet anahtar sözcük yer almalıdır. Anahtar sözcüklerin belgeye erişimde en önemli öge olduğu gözönünde tutulmalıdır.

Bölümler:

Özgün araştırma makalelerinde giriş, gereç ve yöntem (çalışma tasarımı, olguların seçimi ve tanımlanması, teknik bilgi, istatistik vs), bulgular, tartışma ve sonuç bölümleri yer almalı, olgu sunumlarında ise giriş, olgu(ların) sunumu ve tartışma bölümleri yer almalıdır. Bu bölümlerden sonra, varsa araştırmaya veya makalenin hazırlanmasına katkıda bulunanlara "teşekkür" yazılabilir. Teşekkürlere yazının sonunda kaynaklardan önce yer verilir. Bu bölümde kişisel, teknik ve gereç yardımı gibi nedenlerle yapılacak teşekkür ifadeleri yer alır.

Kaynaklar:

Kaynaklar yazının sonunda (Kaynaklar/References) başlığı altında metindeki geçiş sırasına göre numaralandırılıp dizilmelidir. Metin içinde ise parantez içinde yazılmalıdır. Kaynakların listesiyle metin içinde yer alış sırası arasında bir uyumsuzluk bulunmamalıdır. Aslı görünmeden diğer bir kaynak aracılığı ile bilgi edinilen kaynaklar numaralandırılmaz, zorunlu hallerde parantez içinde verilir. Kaynakların doğruluğundan yazar(lar) sorumludur. Tüm kaynaklar metinde belirtilmelidir. Kaynaklar aşağıdaki örneklerdeki gibi gösterilmelidir. Tüm yazarlar belirtilmeli, "ve ark. - et al." ibaresi kullanılmamalıdır. Dergilerin isimleri Index Medicus'a uygun olarak kısaltılmış biçimde verilir. İndex'e girmeyen dergi isimlerinde kısaltıma yapılmamalıdır.

Kaynakların Yazımı İçin Örnekler:

Dergiler içir

Muzaale AD, Massie AB, Wang MC, Montgomery RA, McBride MA, Wainright JL, Segev DL. Risk of end-stage renal disease following live kidney donation. JAMA 2014; 311:579-86.

Kitaplar için

Chabner BA, Longo DL. Cancer Chemotherapy and Biotherapy: Principles and Practice, 5th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2011.

Kitaptan alınan bölümler için

Goadsby PJ. Pathophysiology of headache. In: Silberstein SD, Lipton RB,

Dalessio DJ, eds. Wolff's headache and other head pain. 7th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001:57-72.

Toplantı bildirileri için

Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton E, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer; 2002:182-91.

Çevrim-içi makaleler için

U.S. Renal Data System. USRDS 2007 annual data report. Bethesda, MD: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, 2007 (http://www.usrds.org/atlas07.aspx).

Dergi ekleri için

Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Acute Kidney Injury Work Group. KDIGO clinical practice guideline for acute kidney injury. Kidney Int 2012;24 Suppl 2:1-138.

Index Medicus'ta yer almayan Türkçe kaynaklarda yukardaki örneklere uyulur, ancak dergi isimleri kısaltılmadan yazılır.

Tablolar:

Tablolar, kaynaklar sayfasından sonra gelmeli, her bir tablo ayrı bir sayfada olacak şekilde yazılmalıdır. Tablolar, yazı içinde geçiş sırasına göre Romen rakamları ile numaralandırılmalıdır. Tablo başlıkları kısa, öz olmalı ve bu başlık tablonun üstünde yer almalıdır. Tablo açıklamaları ve kısaltmaları ise, tablonun altında yer almalıdır. Metin içinde her tabloya değinilmelidir.

Sekiller:

Metinden ayrı sayfaya yerleştirilmelidir. Şekiller ya profesyonel olarak çizilmeli ve fotoğraflanmalı ya da fotoğraf kalitesinde dijital olarak gönderilmelidir. Şekillerin basıma uygun versiyonlarının yanı sıra, JPEG ya da GIF gibi elektronik versiyonlarda yüksek çözünürlükte görüntü oluşturacak biçimlerde elektronik dosyaları gönderilmeli ve yazarlar göndermeden önce bu dosyaların görüntü kalitelerini bilgisayar ekranında kontrol etmelidir. Semboller, oklar ya da harfler fonla kontrast oluşturmalıdır. Mikroskopik resimlerde büyütme oranı ve kullanılan boyama tekniği belirtilmelidir. Eğer insan fotoğrafı kullanılacaksa ya bu kişiler fotoğraftan tanınmamalıdır ya da yazılı izin alınmalıdır. (Etik bölümüne bakınız) Şekil ve resimlerin yazıları altta, (1,2,3,...) arabik rakamlar ile birlikte yazılmalıdır. Şekiller metinde geçiş sıralarına göre numaralandırılmalıdır. Şekillerin metin içindeki yerleri belirtilmelidir. Metin içinde her şekle değinilmelidir. Renkli şekiller Editör gerekli gördüğünde ya da sadece yazar ek masrafı karşılarsa basılabilir.

Makalelerin Dergiye Gönderilmesi:

Makaleler, yazının yayınlanmak üzere gönderildiğini ve Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi'nin hangi bölümü (özgün araştırma, olgu sunumu, derleme) için başvurulduğunu belirten bir mektup, yazının elektronik formunu içeren Microsoft Word 2003 ve üzerindeki versiyonları ile yazılmış elektronik dosyası ile tüm yazarların imzaladığı "Telif Hakkı Devri Formu" eklenerek gönderilmelidir. Yazıların alınmasının ardından yazarlara makalenin alındığı, bir makale numarası ile bildirilecektir. Tüm yazışmalarda bu makale numarası kullanılacaktır. Makalelerde aşağıdaki sıra takip edilmelidir ve her bölüm yeni bir sayfa ile başlamalıdır:

Başlık sayfası
 Öz
 Kaynaklar
 Metin
 Tablo ve Şekiller.

Tüm sayfalar sırayla numaralandırılmalıdır. Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi, kendisine gönderilen yazıları, hem üç nüsha halinde, yazıcı çıktısı olarak ve hem de CD ve/veya E-posta uzantısı olarak elektronik makale gönderisi şeklinde kabul etmektedir. Elektronik gönderi, hem zaman kazandırıp posta ücretinden kurtarmakta, hem de değerlendirme süreci sırasında makalenin elektronik biçimi gönderildiğinden üstünlük sağlamaktadır. Çevrimiçi gönderim (on-line submission) ile birlikte Akdeniz Tıp Dergisi web sitesi (https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/akd) nin ilgili kısımlarındaki talimatlarına uyarak da makale gönderilip, hakem süreçleri de bu yolla değerlendirilmektedir. Yazarların makalelerini göndermeden önce bir eksiklik olmadığından emin olmaları için aşağıda bir kontrol listesi bulunmaktadır.

Son Kontrol Listesi:

- Editöre sunum sayfası; a) Makalenin kategorisi b) Başka bir dergiye gönderilmemiş olduğu bilgisi c) Sponsor veya ticari bir firma ile ilişkisi (varsa belirtiniz) d) İstatistik kontrolünün yapıldığı (araştırma makaleleri için) e) İngilizce yönünden kontrolünün yapıldığı
- 2. Telif hakları devri formu
- Daha önce basılmış belge (yazı, resim, tablo) kullanılmış ise izin belgesi
- İnsan ögesi bulunan çalışmalarda "gereç ve yöntemler" bölümünde HELSİNKİ Deklarasyonu ilkelerine uygunluk, etik kurul onayı ve hastalardan "bilgilendirilmiş olur" alındığının belirtilmesi.
- Hayvan ögesi kullanılmış ise "gereç ve yöntemler" bölümünde "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" ilkelerine uygunluğunun belirtilmesi.
- 6. Kapak sayfası a) Makalenin Türkçe ve İngilizce başlığı (tercihen birer satır) b) Yazarlar ve kurumları c) Tüm yazarların yazışma adresi, iş telefonu, GSM numarası, E-posta adresleri (bu bilgiler yalnızca makalenin orijinal nüshasında olmalı, diğer üç kopyada bulunmamalıdır.)
- 7. Özler: 250 sözcük (Türkçe ve İngilizce)
- 8. Anahtar sözcükler: 3-10 arası (Türkçe ve İngilizce)
- 9. Teşekkür
- 10. Kaynaklar
- 11. Tablolar Şekiller

Yazışma Adresi:

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AIMS and SCOPE

The Akdeniz Medical Journal is the scientific publication of Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine and is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary medical journal published every four months (January, May, September) according to ethical principles and rules.

The abbreviation of Akdeniz Medical Journal is Akd Med J / Akd Tip D. The Akdeniz Medical Journal is the scientific publication of Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine and is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary medical journal published every four months (January, May, September) according to ethical principles and rules. The abbreviation of Akdeniz Medical Journal is Akd Med J / Akd Tip D. The Akdeniz Medical Journal is indexed by Turkish Medical Index of TÜBİTAK-ULAKBİM, Turk Medline, Sobiad, Index Copernicus and Academindex Turkey. The aim of the journal is to present the studies conducted at the Akdeniz Faculty of Medicine and in Turkey in the fields of health sciences and related areas to the national and international science environment and contribute to their announcement and sharing and therefore to the promotion of Turkey in this context. The Akdeniz Medical Journal is targeting to provide free and easy access to the journal in printed or electronic form for all relevant medical institutions and information centers in Turkey and globally and also to be included in national and international indexes.

In line with these objectives, the articles containing original research (basic, clinical and epidemiologic) are preferred for publication in the Akdeniz Medical Journal. Editor reviews, collected studies, case presentations, letters to the editor, technical notes, articles on medical education, articles on medical history, and biographical articles are also accepted. The submitted work should not have been previously published as hard copy or in electronic format or currently sent to another journal or electronic media to be published. Using articles published in Turkish journals as references is especially preferred.

The Akdeniz Medical Journal that has previously been published as hard copy has now become an electronic journal and the ISSN number that used to be 1300-1779 has therefore now been changed to 2687-2781.

The publishing language of the Journal is Turkish and English. Care should be taken to protect the integrity of the Turkish language in Turkish articles and the current edition of the Spelling Guidelines and Turkish Dictionary of the Turkish Language Institution should be used as the basis. Care should be taken to use "Turkish Science Terminology" as much as possible in the use of medical terms. The authors can use the "Medicine Terminology Guide" of the Turkish Language Institution and other Medical Terminology Dictionaries.

PUBLICATION POLICY

Open Access and Article Processing

The Mediterranean Medical Journal provides open access to scientific publications. Access to the published issue and the full text of the articles within is available free of charge. No fee is requested from the author(s) for publication of their articles.

The readers can download the Journal content for free for academic or educational use. The Journal is free for everyone. To ensure this goal, the Journal uses the financial resources of Akdeniz University, and the ongoing voluntary efforts of the editors and referees.

All scientific responsibility for the articles belongs to the authors. The name order of the submitted articles should be a joint decision. The responsible author is considered to accept the author order in the name of all authors by signing the "Author responsibility and Copyright Transfer Form". Anyone who does not meet the criteria for authoring but has contributed to the study can be listed in "Acknowledgements". The authors should declare in writing that the article is an original paper that has not been published before and that they will not attempt to publish it somewhere else during the evaluation process.

The authors are considered to have accepted any changes and corrections made by the editor as long as the scientific content is not changed. The articles sent are not returned whether published or not, and only images and figures that are not published can be returned to the author upon request.

The articles sent should be prepared in accordance with the journal rules and be ready for page layout. The editorial board has the authority not to publish articles that do not comply with the spelling rules, to return the article to the author for correction or to re-edit the article. The editor and language editors have complete authority in making changes and corrections in the writing language and spelling, making sure the references comply with the spelling rules, and other relevant issues. If previously published quoted text, tables, images, etc. are present in the article, the responsible author of the article should obtain the written permission of the related copyright owner and authors and also state it in the article.

The Publication Process and the Article Evaluation Period

The articles sent to the Akdeniz Medical Journal first undergo an objective review by the Editorial Board. The editors have the right to reject the articles directly or to send them back for re-editing. If there is no reason to reject the article in this stage, it is sent to two separate reviewers familiar with the article subject. Referees invited for article evaluation are asked to accept the invitation within a maximum of 7 days. An article that receives two positive referee reports from the field assessment is entitled to be published. An article that receives a positive and a negative referee's report is sent to a third referee, and whether the article is published or not is determined in accordance with the third referee's report and/or the editorial decision. The evaluation period of the referees accepting the invitation is a maximum of 30 days. If the referees do not agree to the evaluation or do not submit the evaluation report at the end of the period, the article is sent to a new referee for evaluation. After evaluating the article, the referees send the evaluation form with their comments and suggestions to the editor. The editor then submits the editor comments and suggestions to the authors and asks them to upload the revised article back to the system. The authors' revision period is a maximum of 60 days. If the referees have asked to see the article again after the revision, the article is sent back to the referees for evaluation. This process continues until the referees provide their opinion as regards the acceptance or rejection of the article. The opinions of the referees are evaluated by the editors within 15 days at the latest. The final decision is declared to the author(s) as a result of this review.

The final decision for publication belongs to the editors. Once the page layout is prepared and corrections are made, the responsible authors will be asked for a final check and "publishing approval" to be provided in writing. Articles accepted for publication are published in the early online articles section in order of the date of acceptance. The presence of an article in early view does not indicate that it will be included in the next issue. During this early view period, the authors are required to review their articles and report their recommendations for revision according to the Journal writing rules and layout to the editorial board. The time to publication of the articles accepted for publication is 12-18 months. However, depending on factors such as the timeliness of the article, its originality, and the number of articles waiting for publication, this period may be shorter or longer. No changes can be made to the articles once the Journal is published.

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The aim is to have all stakeholders (authors, editors and reviewers) who put forward a scientific study to contribute to the appropriate advancement of science. Compliance with the scientific ethical principles is important in scientific studies prepared in accordance with this goal.

These principles have been adopted by us and their adoption has also been proposed by various stakeholders, some of which are presented below.

The editorial and publication processes of the Journal have been developed according to the directives of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), Council of Science Editors (CSE), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), European Association of Science Editors (EASE) and the National Information Standards Organization (NISO). The Journal has adopted the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (doaj.org./bestpractice).

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- To act in a balanced, objective, and fair manner when performing the duties without discrimination regarding the gender, religious or political beliefs, or the ethnic or geographical origin of the authors.
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- To refuse received work if it does not meet the purpose and scope of the Journal.

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- To objectively review the article in a timely manner to contribute to the editor's decision-making process and to agree to evaluate only the work related to the field of specialization.
- To make the assessment objectively and only in relation to the content of the study. To evaluate the work without regard to religious, political and economic interests.
- To make recommendations that will help improve the quality of the article to be published and to carefully evaluate the work. To communicate any comments to the author with a constructive and polite style.
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Some actions considered to violate scientific research and publication ethical principles:

- Plagiarism: Claiming the original ideas, methods, data or work of others as one's own work in part or in whole without providing a reference to them in accordance with scientific rules.
- Forgery: Using data that does not actually exist or is falsified in Scientific Research.
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 it appear as though devices or materials not used in the research were
 actually used, falsifying or reshaping research results in the interests
 of the persons and organizations providing support.
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 in the authors list or omitting those with an active contribution,
 changing the author order in an improper manner and without
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 influence although there is no active contribution.
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The Turkish and English title of the article, the authors' names, functions (academic titles) and contact information (e-mail, telephone) and also the sending institution and supporting institution, if any, should be specified. The "ORCID" information with international validity should be provided for all authors. The location and date should be declared if the text has previously been presented at a meeting. The name, surname, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author must also be clearly stated on this page.

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The abstracts should be prepared in Turkish and English on a separate page and each should not exceed 250 words including the titles for each language. The abstract should be designed to reflect the article and briefly provide significant results and a short analysis. All abbreviations should be explained and references must not be used in the abstract. Turkish and English abstracts should be in sections structured as follows: Amaç/Objective;Yöntem(ler)/Method(s); Bulgular/Results; Sonuç(lar)/Conclusion(s).

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References

The references should be numbered and listed under the title References at the end of the article according to their order in the text. They should be written in parentheses inside the text. No inconsistency should be



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Examples for Writing of References:

For Journals

Muzaale AD, Massie AB, Wang MC, Montgomery RA, McBride MA, Wainright JL, Segev DL. Risk of end-stage renal disease following live kidney donation. JAMA 2014; 311:579-86.

For Books

Chabner ba, Longo DL: Cancer Chemotherapy and Biotherapy: Principles and Practice, 5th ed. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2011.

For chapters taken from books

Goadsby PJ. Pathophysiology of headache. In: Silberstein SD, Lipton RB, Dalessio DJ, eds. Wolff's headache and other head pain. 7th ed. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2001:57-72.

For conference papers

Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton E, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer; 2002. p. 182-91.

For online articles

U.S. Renal Data System. USRDS 2007 annual data report. Bethesda, MD: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, 2007 (http://www.usrds.org/atlas07.aspx).

For journal annexe.

Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Acute Kidney Injury Work Group. KDIGO clinical practice guideline for acute kidney injury. Kidney Int Suppl 2012;2:1-138.

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1. Title page 4. Acknowledgements

2. Abstract 5. References

3. Text 6. Tables and Figures.

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- 9. Acknowledgements
- 10. References
- 11. Tables Figures

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Özgün Araştırma

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The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Distribution of Radiology Examinations

COVID-19 Pandemisi Radyoloji Tetkiklerinin Dağılımını Nasıl Etkiledi?

ABSTRACT

Objective:

The COVID-19 pandemic led to significant changes in healthcare practices. In the current study, we aim to determine the impact of the pandemic on imaging examinations in radiology department

Material and Methods:

Medical records of the patients who underwent radiological imaging between March 10 and December 31, 2019, and March 10 and December 31, 2020 were retrospectively reviewed. The clinical patient data and radiological imaging details were collected from the SARUS information network.

Results:

A total of 603.384 radiological examinations were performed on 222.328 patients within the 18-month period in two consecutive years. The total imaging volume decreased by 54.8% in 2020 when compared to 2019 (415.819 vs 187.565). The decrease was significant in April and May 2020 and the volume increased again in June 2020. The imaging volume requested from the emergency unit revealed that it was reduced by 29.4%. The rate and number of thoracic imaging among all radiologic examinations increased in 2020 (6495, 1.6% vs. 8663, 4.6%). On the other hand, abdominal, breast, neuroradiology and cardiovascular imaging were the most affected procedures by the pandemic.

Conclusion:

Hospital admissions decreased due to patient anxiety and restrictions during the pandemic. It is important to perform the necessary imaging procedures on patients based on the indications to prevent diagnosis delays by considering hospital conditions and providing the precautions recommended by the protective equipment and guidelines.

Key Words:

COVID-19, Pandemic, Radiology

ÖZ

Amaç:

COVID-19 pandemisi rutin sağlık uygulamalarımızda ciddi değişiklilere neden oldu. Bu çalışma ile, pandeminin Radyoloji bölümündeki görüntüleme tetkikleri üzerine etkisini saptamayı amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Antalya Atatürk Devlet Hastanesi Radyoloji Bölümü'ne 10 Mart–31 Aralık 2019 ve 10 Mart–31 Aralık 2020 tarihleri arasında yapılan istemler geriye dönük tarandı. Hastalara ait klinik özellikler ve radyolojik istemlerin içeriği SARUS bilgi ağı kullanılarak elde edildi.

Bulgular:

Ardışık iki yıla ait 18 aylık periyotta 222,328 hastaya 603,384 görüntüleme yapılmıştır. 2020 yılında yapılan toplam görüntüleme sayısı 2019 yılına göre %54,8 azalmıştır (415,819 vs 187,565). 2020 yılında özellikle Nisan ve Mayıs ayında gözlenen azalmanın Haziran ayı ile beraber yeniden artığı saptandı. Acil servis istemlerinde 2019 yılına göre gözlenen azalma %29,4 olarak bulundu. Toraks görüntülemelerinin 2020 yılında hem sayısı hem de tüm görünteleme yöntemleri arasındaki oranı artmış bulundu (6495, %1,6 vs 8663, %4,6). Buna karşın; 2020 yılında abdomen, meme, nöroradyoloji ve kardiyovasküler sisteme ait görüntülemelerin sayısının daha fazla etkilendiği gözlendi.

Sonuç:

Pandeminin başlangıcı ile beraber ortaya çıkan kaygı ve kısıtlamalar nedeni ile hastane başvuruları ve buna bağlı olarak görüntüleme sayıları azalmıştır. Tanıda gecikmeyi önlemek için; endikasyonu olan hastalarda gerekli görüntüleme tetkiklerinin zamanında yapılması önemlidir, bu konuda klavuzların önerdiği koruyucu ekipmanların sağlanması gereklidir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

COVID-19, Pandemi, Radyoloji

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 disease is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and was first identified in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2020. The first COVID-19 case was identified in Turkey on March 10, 2020. As of October 29, 2021, 245 million COVID-19 cases were recorded globally and more than 4.9 million individuals died of COVID-19 (World Health Organization web site). In the early stages of the pandemic, similar to several countries, non-urgent procedures were discontinued in Turkey, patient follow-ups were conducted with telemedicine as far as possible; thus, a significant decrease was observed in hospital admissions. The patient follow-up periods recommended by the guidelines were delayed with the mutual consensus of the doctors and the patients. These conditions also affected various radio-diagnostic procedures.

Neuroradiological imaging figures decreased by 50% during the pandemic when compared to the pre-pandemic figures (1).

A study that analyzed weekly variations in imaging after the COVID-19 pandemic conducted in Stanford reported that breast imaging, nuclear methods and musculoskeletal system imaging figures decreased significantly when compared to the pre-pandemic period (2). In a study carried out in Cleveland, it was observed that the pandemic led to a significant decrease in the number of mammographies and nuclear imaging (93% and 61%, respectively) (3). Vagal et al. compared the total imaging procedures in March and April, the initial months of the pandemic, and the same period in 2019, and reported that there was a 53.4% decrease (4). A decrease of 40.5% was observed in the requests of hospitalized patients, 72.3% in the requests of outpatient patients and 48.9% in the requests of emergency patients (4).

Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the whole world, the time and severity of the pandemic varied between the continents and countries. The current study aimed to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on imaging volume and variety of imaging modalities.

MATERIAL and METHODS

The medical records of the patients who underwent imaging procedures at Antalya Atatürk Public Hospital Radiology Department between March 10 and December 31, 2019, and March 10 and December 31, 2020 were reviewed retrospectively. The clinical patient data, the imaging types, and the departmental patient information were recorded on the electronic medical data network. Patients with incomplete medical records were excluded from the study. Patients were classified based on the age groups as recommended by the World Health Organization; 0-17 years old children, 18-65 years old young individuals, 66-79 years old adults and 80-99 years old seniors. Furthermore, since the patient age was higher than 50 years, a risk factor for COVID-19, the study group was categorized as vounger and older individuals than 50 years. Our research was carried out in accordance with publication ethics and necessary permissions were obtained from the institution where the study was conducted. The study was approved by the Antalya Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee (04.03.2021/2021-005). Informed consent forms were not signed by the participating patients due to the retrospective nature of the study. The study was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration principles. Since the study investigated the effects of COVID-19, Scientific Research Application approval was obtained from the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Health (Cihat Aksoy-2020-12-27T12 05 44)

Descriptive statistics are presented as frequencies, percentages, means, standard deviations (SD), medians, and interquartile ranges (IQR). The Shapiro Wilk test, histogram, and Q-Q graphics were employed to test normal distribution of the data. The chi-square analysis was conducted to analyze the correlations between categorical variables. "Student t-test" was used to determine the differences between the two independent group means, and "Kruskal Wallis" test was used for two or more groups. Statistical analyses were conducted with the SPSS version 21.0 software for Windows (IBM, Armonk, NY). A P value of <0.05 was accepted statistically significant.

RESULTS

A total of 603,384 radiologic examinations were performed on 222.328 patients during the 18-month period in 2019 and 2020. The mean patient age was 41.47 ± 20.80 and 44.0% of the participants were male. The total imaging volume decreased by 54.8% in 2020 when compared to 2019 (415.819 vs 187.565). The age, age group and application unit of the patients who underwent radiological evaluation in 2019 and 2020 were compared (Table I). The mean age of the patients in 2020 was found to be lower than in 2019, and the decrease in imaging volume of the old and elderly patients were more significant compared to the study population in that year (Table I).

Table I. Demographic and imaging characteristics of patients who underwent imaging in 2019 and 2020.

	2019	2020	Delta*
Mean age (years)	46.44±20.77	44.39±20.08	-
Age group, %, (n)			
Children	43736	19615	55.1 %
Young	286643	138284	51.7 %
Old	16377	5643	65.5 %
Elderly	69063	24023	65.2 %
Age, %, (n)			
< 50 years	220022	109323	50.3 %
> 50 years	195797	78242	60.0 %
Gender, %, (n)			
Male	159364	82521	48.2%
Female	253328	103394	59.1%
Screening method, (n)			
X-ray	236302	110321	53.3%
USG	92936	29215	68.5%
BT	33791	24293	28.1%
MRG	52790	23736	55.0%
Admission unit (n)			
Emergency room	80660	56892	29.4%
Inpatient	19627	8418	57.1%
Outpatient	312539	120712	61.3%
Intensive care unit	2993	1543	48.4%

^{*} The delta definition reflects the difference between 2020 and 2019.

In 2020, the reduction in the volume across patients who were older than 50 was higher when compared to the patients who were younger than 50 (47.1% vs 41.7%; p<0.001).

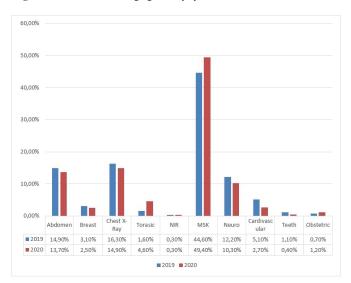
The monthly distribution of radiologic examinations was reviewed in both years, and the highest decrease in imaging volume was determined April and May 2020 when compared to the previous year, and the radiologic examination volume increased in June, 2020 (Table II).

Table II. Distribution of imaging by months in 2019 and 2020.

Months	2019	2020	Delta
March	36657.00	15489.00	57.7%
April	45161.00	7645.00	83.0%
May	43332.00	9996.00	76.9%
June	34502.00	24855.00	27.9%
July	44892.00	23925.00	46.7%
August	32226.00	20746.00	35.6%
September	43072.00	21109.00	50.9%
October	46395.00	21560.00	53.5%
November	44776.00	22943.00	48.7%
December	44806.00	19296.00	56.9%

Radiologic examinations were reviewed based on the admission unit, and it was determined that the volume of imaging procedures conducted on patients admitted by the emergency department decreased by 29.4% in 2020 when compared to 2019; however, its share in all radiologic examinations increased from 19.4% to 30.3% in 2020. The decrease in the number of radiologic examinations was 61.3% in outpatients, 57.1% in inpatients, and 48.4% in intensive care patients in 2020 (Table I). In 2020, while the rate of ultrasonography in all radiologic examinations decreased from 22.4% to 15.6%, the rate of tomographies in all examinations increased from 8.1% to 13.0%. In 2020, the decreases in the imaging volume were mostly observed in ultrasonography procedures, followed by MRI, X-ray and tomography (68.5%, 55.0%, 53.3% and 28.1%, respectively). The imaging methods were also analyzed separately, and it was observed that abdominal, breast, neuroradiology and cardiovascular procedures decreased in 2020 when compared to 2019 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Distribution of imaging rates by systems evaluated in 2019 and 2020.



NIR: Nonvascular interventional radiology

MSK: Musculoskeletal radiology

It was determined that the count and rate of Chest X-ray imaging did not increase in 2020. However, the thoracic imaging volume and its rate in all imaging procedures increased in 2020 (6495, 1.6% vs. 8663, 4.6%) (Figure 1). The frequency of male patients who underwent Chest CT were similar in 2019 and 2020 (56.7% vs. 57.9%, p=0.060).

DISCUSSION

In the current study, it was determined that the imaging volume in 2020 was approximately half of the imaging volume during the same period in the previous year. Also, the decrease was higher at the beginning of the pandemic and increased in the second half of the year; however, the cumulative volume did not reach the volume in the previous year. Similar to our study, a 50-70% decrease was reported in studies conducted in different regions of the USA that investigated the impact of the pandemic on radiological imaging (3,5). The decrease in imaging volume was determined by the surveys conducted with the radiologists

decrease included the postponement of elective procedures and a lack of adequate protective equipment against the disease. It should be noted that 16% of the radiologists participating in the survey were COVID-19 positive (5). Madhuripan et al. reported a 30-60% decrease in radiological imaging volume by early March, while the imaging volume began to increase in late April (2). The maximum decrease in the imaging volume in 2020 was in elderly patients. At the onset of the pandemic in Turkey, the restrictions implemented to minimize the spread of the virus were more effective on the elderly population when compared to young age groups. In this period, the anxiety of leaving home and the fear of entering crowded settings such as hospitals

employed in different states, who stated that the reasons for this

elderly patients. At the onset of the pandemic in Turkey, the restrictions implemented to minimize the spread of the virus were more effective on the elderly population when compared to young age groups. In this period, the anxiety of leaving home and the fear of entering crowded settings such as hospitals decreased hospital admission rates across elderly individuals (2). It is known that the males require more intensive care and prone to mortality associated with COVID-19 (6,7). We suggest that the decrease in the imaging volume across the male patients when compared to the female patients reported in our study was associated with the correlation between COVID-19 and the male gender.

During the pandemic, we observed that the decrease in ultrasonographic examinations was higher when compared to other imaging methods. The review of the variations based on the examination system revealed that the decrease was prevalent in abdominal, breast, neurological and cardiovascular examinations. González-Ortiz et al., analyzed the variations in neuroradiological imaging during the pandemic, and claimed that the reduction observed during the peak of the pandemic could be applied carefully in patients with post-peak indication (1). In the study that reviewed March and April figures, mammography and nuclear imaging methods were most affected by the pandemic (3). In our study, we observed that thoracic imaging volume and its share in all imaging methods increased in 2020 when compared to 2019 (1.6% vs 4.6%). In a survey conducted by the Italian Society of Medical and Interventional Radiology, radiologists asked the question "What should be the first imaging method performed in the patients admitted with COVID-19 diagnosis," and 76.3% replied that it should be chest X-ray, 39.4% preferred chest CT, and 9.3% chest ultrasound (8). Our findings demonstrated that the X-ray volume decreased in our hospital, and chest CT was preferred in suspected patients. Our study has some limitations. The study findings could not be generalized to the entire country since it reflects the experiences in a single center and the city where the study was conducted was not among the cities that reported highest cases in Turkey.

Furthermore, since the clinical patient data were not included in the study, the correlation between clinical findings and radiological imaging was not investigated.

CONCLUSION

Elective radiological imaging procedures were postponed in the early stages of the pandemic to reduce the spread of the virus and to ensure that imaging centers operated properly in the pandemic environment. Thus, it was observed that the imaging volume decreased by more than 50% when compared to the previous year. Considering the hospital conditions, the necessary imaging procedures should be performed on patients with an indication by following the precautions recommended by the protective equipment and guidelines. The current study would contribute to the literature since it analyzed the impact of the pandemic on radiological imaging methods in Turkey, and will be a helpful resource for future studies.

Ethics Committee Approval:

The current study was approved by the following ethics committee from Antalya Training and Research Hospital (decision no: 2021-005, date:04.03.2021). The study was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration principles (04.03.2021/2021-005).

Informed Consent:

Since the study data were based on retrospective medical data, informed consent was not obtained.

Author Contributions:

Concept – C.A.; Design – K.Ç.; Supervision – K.Ç.; Resources-C.A.; Funding – none; Materials – K.K.; Data Collection and/or Processing– E.D..; Analysis and/or Interpretation – E.E.Y.; Literature Review – Ö.Ö; Writing – C.A.; Critical Review – K.Ç.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Does the Duration of Postoperative Urinary Catheterization affect the Time to Gas and Faeces Passage in Women Undergoing Caesarean Section?

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Does the Duration of Postoperative Urinary Catheterization affect the Time to Gas and Faeces Passage in Women Undergoing Caesarean Section?

Sezaryen Sonrası İdrar Sondası Kalma Süresi, Gaz-Gaita Çıkış Süresini Etkiliyor mu?

ABSTRACT

Objective:

While some clinicians remove urine catheters immediately after caesarean section operations, others prefer that they are retained for 12-24 hours. This study aims to investigate the time of removal of urine catheter from patients after caesarean section operation and the potential benefits with respect to gastrointestinal motility during the postoperative period.

Method:

This prospective study included 100 women who had undergone caesarean section in the obstetrics department of Turhal State Hospital between March 2021 and June 2021. The urine catheters of the patients were removed at 4, 8, and 12 hours postoperatively, and the patients were separated into 3 groups accordingly. These 3 groups were compared in aspect of time to gas and faeces passage, need for enema, number of caesarean deliveries, urinary retention, and type of anaesthesia.

Results:

When compared to the women whose urinary catheters were removed 8 and 12 hours after cesarean delivery, the time to gas and faeces passage was significantly shorter in patients whose catheters were removed 4 hours later (p<0.001 for both). As the duration of urinary catheterization was prolonged, the need for enema increased significantly (p=0.033).

Conclusion:

As the duration of urinary catheterization was prolonged following caesarean delivery, the time to gas and faeces passage and the need for enema were increased significantly. This finding was attributed to the delay in mobilization.

Key Words:

Catheter, Cesarean delivery, Enema, Feces, Urine

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ÖZ

Amaç:

Sezaryen ameliyatından sonra idrar sondalarını bazı klinisyenler hemen çıkarırken, bazı klinisyenler ise 12-24 saat arasında tutmak ister. Bu çalışma, sezaryenle doğum yapan hastalarda idrar sondası çekilme süresinin gaz-gaita çıkışı süresini etkileyip etkilemediğini belirlemeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem:

Bu prospektif çalışmada Mart 2021 ile Haziran 2021 tarihleri arasında Turhal Devlet Hastanesi Kadın Hastalıkları ve Doğum Kliniği'nde sezaryenle doğum yapan 100 kadın alınmıştır. Hastaların idrar sondalarının postoperatif dönemde 4., 8. ve 12. saatlerde çekilmesine göre üç grup oluşturuldu. Bu üç gruptaki hastaların mobilizasyon sonrasındaki saatlerde gaz-gaita çıkışları, lavman gerekliliği, kaçıncı sezaryen ameliyatını geçirdikleri, sonda çekilmesi sonrası üriner retansiyon gelişmesi ve anestezi şekilleri açısından karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular:

Sonda kalma süreleri 8 ve 12 saat olan hastalar karşılaştırıldıklarında; sonda kalma süresi 4 saat olan hastalarda gaz ve gaita çıkış saatlerinin daha erken olduğu bulundu (her ikisi için p<0.001). Sonda kalma süresi artıkça lavman gereksinimi anlamlı olarak fazlaydı (p=0.033).

Sonuc:

Sezaryen sonrası hastada idrar sondasının uzun süre kalan hastalarda gaz-gaita çıkışı gecikmektedir ve lavman gereksinimi artmaktadır. Bu bulgu, cerrahi sonrası erken mobilizasyonun engellenmesinden kaynaklanabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Kateter, Sezaryen, Lavman, Gaita, İdrar

INTRODUCTION

Caesarean section (CS) is a commonly performed operation in obstetric surgery (1-3). Although CS has advantages in aspect of perinatal morbidity and mortality, there are also short and long-term complications which should not be ignored (4-6). The problems related with urinary system are one of the short term complications (7).

In order to prevent bladder injury and urine retention, urinary catheters are routinely applied in women undergoing cesarean section. However, urinary catheters have some disadvantages including infection, urethral pain, and urine retention in addition to the prolongation in postoperative mobilization and hospitalization (5). The period of urethral catheterization following CS remains uncertain (8). Some clinicians remove the catheter immediately after the operation while others keep the catheter in place for 12-24 hours (8). When the duration of urinary catheterization is prolonged, patient mobilization is delayed (9).

Postoperative mobilization enables a more rapid transition to the previous working level of the intestines and stomach which are affected by anesthesia. Therefore, mobilization of a patient and the application of exercises in the early postoperative period are of great importance for eliminating intestinal distension and accelerating peristaltism (10). Exercise also has a profound effect on evacuation of the stomach. Moreover, early mobilization accelerates the recovery process, and decreases the incidence of deep vein thrombosis and respiratory complications. It also assists in early discharge and a rapid return to daily life (11). This study aims to investigate the time of removal of urine catheter from patients after caesarean section operation and the potential benefits with respect to gastrointestinal motility during the postoperative period.

MATERIALS and METHODS

This prospective study included 100 female women who had undergone caesarean section in the obstetrics department of Turhal State Hospital between March 2021 and June 2021. All reported research involving "human beings" were conducted in accordance with the principles set forth in the Helsinki Declaration 2008. The urine catheters of the patients were removed at 4, 8, and 12 hours postoperatively, and the patients were separated into 3 groups accordingly. The patients included in the study were aged 18-45 years and had no co-morbidities. The patients with urinary tract infection, severe vaginal bleeding and preeclampsia were excluded from the study. Approval for the study was granted by the Ethics Committee of Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University (No:21-KAEK-059). All patients provided written informed consent.

All the operations were performed by the same surgeon. Ten minutes before the induction of general or spinal anaesthesia, 2 gr cefazolin was administered intravenously as prophylaxis for infection for all patients. A no.16 Foley catheter was used for urinary catheterization. As for the standard cesarean delivery, Pfannenstiel incision was made and the uterus was opened with a transverse incision. After the delivery of the fetus, the uterus was sutured in a single layer for closure. The urine catheters of the patients were removed at 4, 8, and 12 hours postoperatively, and the patients were separated into 3 groups accordingly. These 3 groups were compared in aspect of time to gas and faeces passage, need for enema, number of caesarean deliveries, urinary retention, and type of anaesthesia.

Urinary catheter was removed at 4th hour after cesarean delivery if vital findings of the patient were within normal limits and there was prior history of gastrointestinal dysfunction. Urinary catheter was removed at 8th hour after surgery if vital findings were normal and postoperative hemoglobin did not indicate excessive bleeding. Urinary catheter was removed at 12th hour after cesarean section if there was transient hypotension, tachycardia and insufficient urine output. After the removal of urinary catheter, the patient was mobilized. Postoperative infection was managed in all the patients with 1 gr cefazolin once every 12 hours. At the postoperative 8th hour, the patients were allowed to consume fluids.

Statistical Analysis

Collected data were analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 20.0 (SPSS IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). Descriptive statistics were reported as mean± standard deviation values for numerical variables and number (n) and percentage (%) for categorical variables. One-way ANOVA and chi-square

test were used for the statistical comparisons. A p value less than 0.05 was accepted as statistically significant.

RESULTS

Urinary catheter was removed after 4 hours in 24 patients, 8 hours in 34 patients, and 12 hours in 42 patients. Operative characteristics of the patients are shown in Table I. The patients in the 12-hour group were significantly older than the patients in the 4-hour group and the patients in the 8-hour group (27.14 \pm 3.95 years vs 25.33 \pm 5.88 years vs 25.82 \pm 4.13 years, p=0.222).

Table I: Operative characteristics of the patients.

	Catheter removal after 4 hours (n=24)	Catheter removal after 8 hours (n=34)	Catheter removal after 12 hours (n=42)	p
Age (years)	25.33 (±5.88)	25.82 (±4.13)	27.14(±3.95)	0.222
Time to gas output (hours)	12 (±4.71)	16.47 (±5.55)	18.48(±5.07)	0.001*
Time to feces output (hours)	27 (±7.29)	30.35 (±7.37)	40.57(±8.77)	0.001*
Requirement for enema	20.8%	17.6%	42.9%	0.033*
Number of caesarean deliveries	1.67 (±0.81)	1.76 (±0.74)	2.14(±0.84)	p:0.064
Urinary retention	20.8%	14.7%	19%	0.814
Spinal anesthesia	58.3%	73.5%	47.6%	0.074

Figure 1 and Figure 2 display that there were no statistically significant differences between the groups with respect to the number of caesarean deliveries (p=0.064), urinary retention (p=0.814) and spinal anesthesia (p=0.074). The mean time to gas output after the operation was 12 ± 4.71 hours in the 4-hour group, 16.47 ± 5.55 hours in the 8-hour group, and 18.48 ± 5.07 hours in the 12-hour group. The mean time to feces output was 27 ± 7.29 hours in the 4-hour group, 30.35 ± 7.37 hours in the 8-hour group, and 40.57 ± 8.77 hours in the 12-hour group. The percentage of patients requiring enema was 20.8% in the 4-hour group, 17.6% in the 8-hour group, and 42.9% in the 12-hour group. As the duration of urinary catheterization shortened, the time to gas and feces passage shortened and the need for enema decreased significantly (p=0.001, p=0.001 and p=0.033 respectively).

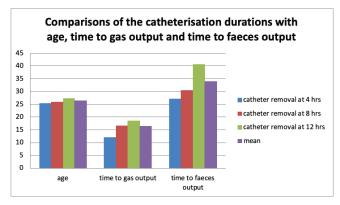


Figure 1: Duration of catheteterization with respect to age, time to gas and feces output.

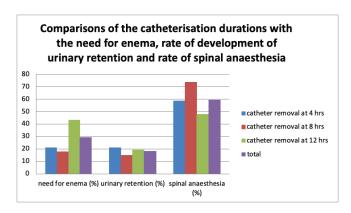


Figure 2: Duration of catheteterization with respect to need for enema, urinary retention and spinal anaesthesia.

DISCUSSION

Postoperative ileus occurs due to the temporary impairment in gastrointestinal motility. This complication emerges because of the intraoperative and postoperative actions such as medication for pain control and using isotonic solutions excessively (12,13). Although postoperative ileus is usually resolved 3-5 days after the operation, problems such as increased abdominal pain and cramps, and abdominal distension can be observed. In order to avoid postoperative ileus, physicians recommend early mobilization . It has been reported that the patients should be mobilized as soon as possible in 4-8 hours following caesarean section. Early mobilization is effective in the prevention of abdominal distension, deep vein thrombosis and atelectasis. It also has benefits such as regaining intestinal tonus and initiating intestinal movements. Although there is no specific period defined for patient mobilization in literature, the general tendency is to mobilize patients in the shortest time possible. The early removal of urinary catheters is required for comfortable mobilization of patients (14).

Postoperative mobilization enables a more rapid transition to the previous working level of the intestines and stomach which are affected by anesthesia. Therefore, mobilization of a patient and the application of exercises in the early postoperative period are of great importance. The patient standing up and performing active and passive movements in bed are known to be effective in eliminating intestinal distension and stimulating peristalsis (10). Exercise has a significant effect on evacuation of the stomach. Walking at the rate of 3.2 km/hr increases stomach evacuation by 39%, and when the walking rate is doubled, the increase in stomach evacuation increases at the same rate (14,15). On the other hand, immobility can lead to constipation by suppressing colon movements. Therefore, the patient should be kept active in bed with active-passive exercises, especially leg exercises, and should be mobilized in the early postoperative period (14,15).

Previous studies have reported that as the number of caesarean deliveries increased, there was an increase in intra-abdominal adhesions and therefore the duration of surgery was prolonged and mobilization was delayed. It has been claimed that with an increase in the number of operations there is an increase in intra-abdominal adhesions because the anatomy is disturbed in every operation performed. As the number of cesarean deliver-

ies increased, it would become harder to maintain intraoperative hemostasis (16-18). The prolongation in surgery time and excessive measures taken to perform surgery would take a longer time to gas-feces output.

In this study, no statistically significant difference was observed between the different times for catheter removal with respect to the number of cesarean deliveries, urinary retention, and type of anesthesia. In addition, the time to gas and feces passage shortened and the need for enema decreased significantly as the duration of urinary catheterization shortened. The power of the present study is limited by relatively small cohort size and lack of randomization and longitudinal data.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that the time to gas-feces output is shortened and the need for enema is decreased significantly with early removal of the urinary catheter. Since an in-dwelling catheter prevents early mobilization, the time to gas-feces output is prolonged and the need for enema is increased in patients with later removal of the urinary catheter. The patients with early and late removal of urinary catheters are found to be statistically similar with respect to the number of caesarean deliveries, urinary retention, and type of anesthesia.

Ethics Committee Approval:

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University (No:21-KAEK-059). All patients provided informed consent.

Informed Consent:

It was obtained.

Peer-review:

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The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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Baş Dönmesi ile Başvuran Tip 2 Diabetes Mellituslu Yetişkinlerde Vestibüler ve İşitsel Değerlendirme: Anket Çalışması Akd Tıp D 2024;10(1): 11-16

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Baş Dönmesi ile Başvuran Tip 2 Diabetes Mellituslu Yetişkinlerde Vestibüler ve İşitsel Değerlendirme: Anket Çalışması

Vestibular and Auditory Evaluation In Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Presenting with Diziness: A Survey Study

ÖZ

Amaç:

Dünya genelinde görülme sıklığı artan metabolik bir hastalık olan Tip 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM) işitme ve denge sistemini etkileyebilmektedir. Bu araştırmanın amacı baş dönmesi şikayeti olan Tip 2 DM'li bireylerde vestibüler semptomların, işitsel yetersizlik düzeyinin ve baş dönmesine bağlı engellilik düzeyinin değerlendirilmesidir.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Araştırmaya en az 1 yıl süre ile DM tanısı almış, yaşı 20 ve üzerinde, nörolojik, ortopedik, psikiyatrik hastalığı olmayan bireyler dahil edildi. Tüm bireylerin işitsel ve vestibüler semptomları sorgulandı. Tüm bireylerden Baş Dönmesi Engellilik Anketini (BDEA) ve Amsterdam İşitsel Yetersizlik ve Engellilik Anketini (AİYEA) doldurmaları istendi.

Bulgular:

Bireylerin %50'si kadın, %50'si erkekti. Tüm bireylerin %56'sı sersemlik, %90'ı dengesizlik, %68'i bulantı-kusma, %58'i konsantrasyon bozukluğu, %50'si araç tutması, %32'si düşme, %36'sı kulakta dolgunluk, %78'i yüksek sesten rahatsızlık, %76'sı kalabalık ortamdan rahatsızlık, %92'si tinnitus şikayeti bildirdi. Baş Dönmesi Engellilik Anketine göre kadınlarda baş dönmesinin fonksiyonelliği bozacak düzeyde şiddetli engelliliğe neden olduğu, erkeklerin ise orta derecede engellilik düzeyine sahip olduğu saptandı. Amsterdam İşitsel Yetersizlik ve Engellilik Anketi sonuçları değerlendirildiğinde kadın ve erkeklerde işitsel yetersizlik olduğu görüldü (kadınların toplam skor ortalaması 50,44±10,44, erkeklerin 47,72±10,51) ve cinsiyetler arasında anlamlı fark gözlenmedi.

Sonuç:

Tip 2 DM'li bireylerde; işitsel ve vestibüler semptomların ve işitsel yetersizliğin görüldüğü, baş dönmesine bağlı olarak kadınlarda şiddetli, erkeklerde orta derecede engelliliğin olduğu saptandı.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Tip 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Baş dönmesi, İşitme kaybı, Dengesizlik

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM), a metabolic disease that is increasing worldwide, can affect the hearing and balance system. Objective: This study aims to evaluate the vestibular symptoms, auditory insufficiency level and vertigo-related disability level in individuals with Type 2 DM who complain of vertigo.

Materials and Methods:

Individuals who were diagnosed with DM for at least 1 year, aged 20 and over, and who did not have a neurological, orthopedic or psychiatric disease were included in the study. Auditory and vestibular symptoms of all individuals were questioned. All individuals were asked to fill out the Dizziness Handicap Inventory (DHI) and the Amsterdam Inventory for Auditory Disability and Handicap (AIADH).

Results:

50% of the individuals were female and 50% were male. Of all individuals, 56% were dizzy, 90% were imbalanced, 68% had nausea-vomiting, 58% had impaired concentration, 50% had motion sickness, 32% had falls, 36% had ear fullness, 78% of them reported discomfort from loud noise, 76% of them complained of crowded environment, and 92% of them reported tinnitus. According to Auditory Disability and Handicap; it was determined that vertigo caused severe disability in women, while men had moderate disability. When the results of Amsterdam Inventory for Auditory Disability and Handicap were evaluated, it was observed that there was auditory disability in men and women (total mean score of women 50.44±10.44, men 47.72±10.51) and no significant difference was observed between genders.

Conclusion:

In individuals with type 2 DM; It was determined that auditory and vestibular symptoms and auditory disability were seen, severe disability in women and moderate disability in men due to dizziness was evident.

Key Words:

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Dizziness, Hearing loss, Imbalance

GİRİŞ

Diabetes Mellitus (DM), insan vücudunda kronik dejeneratif komplikasyonlara neden olan, insülin yetmezliği ile karakterize kronik metabolik bir hastalıktır (1). 2015'te Dünya çapında %8,8 olan DM prevalansının 2040'a kadar %10,4'e çıkacağı tahmin edilmekte, her 10 kişiden birinin DM hastası olacağı öngörülmektedir (2).

Diabetes mellitus; Tip 1 DM, Tip 2 DM, diğer özel DM türleri ve Gestasyonel DM olmak üzere dört farklı şekilde sınıflandırılmaktadır (1). Tip 2 DM, önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur ve DM vakalarının %90'ından fazlasını oluşturmaktadır (3). Tip 2 DM'nin etkisi ile; retinopati, körlük, böbrek yetmezliğine neden olabilen nefropati, ayak ülseri, ampütasyon riski taşıyan nöropati ve işitme kaybı görülebilmektedir (4).

Tip 2 DM, iç kulakta damar sistemini ve sinir sistemini etkileyerek işitme kaybına neden olabilmektedir. Tip 2 DM'li hastalarda tipik olarak hafif ve orta derecede sensörinöral işitme kaybı görülebilmektedir (5). İşitme kaybı, bireyin iş üretkenliğini, sosyal etkileşimlerini, işlevsel durumunu, refahını ve yaşam kalitesini etkileyen önemli bir sağlık sorunudur (6).

Tip 2 DM'nin bir diğer komplikasyonu vestibüler bozukluktur. Periferik end-organ patolojilerine bağlı vestibüler fonksiyon bozukluğu, DM'nin bir komplikasyonu olarak kabul edilmektedir (7). Diabetes mellitusun vestibüler fonksiyon üzerindeki etkilerini araştıran sınırlı sayıda çalışma mevcuttur (8). Diabetes Mellituslu hastalar arasında vestibüler disfonksiyon oranının, DM olmayanlara göre %70 daha yüksek olduğu saptanmıştır (9). Ayrıca histopatolojik olarak diabetik mikroanjiyopatinin glukoz metabolizmasında bozulmaya ve iskemiye neden olarak vestibüler sistemi etkilediği ileri sürülmüştür (10).

Baş dönmesi ve işitme kaybı şikayeti olan bireylerde detaylı değerlendirme, doğru teşhis için önemlidir. Doğru teşhis ise hastanın tedavisi ve rehabilitasyonunun planlanması için gereklidir (11). Araştırmamızda baş dönmesi şikayeti olan Tip 2 DM'li bireylerde vestibüler semptomların, işitsel yetersizlik düzeyinin ve baş dönmesine bağlı engellilik düzeyinin değerlendirilmesi amaçlandı.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

Araştırmaya, Bartın Devlet Hastanesi İç Hastalıkları Kliniğinde Amerikan Diyabet Birliği'nin tanı kriterlerine göre Tip 2 DM tanısı alan ve en az 1 yıldır takip edilen hastalardan, Kulak Burun Boğaz polikliniğine baş dönmesi şikayeti ile başvuran 20 yaş ve üzerindeki 50 birey dahil edildi. Bireylerin çalışmaya dahil edilme kriterleri; en az 1 yıl süre ile DM tanısı almış olmak, 20 yaş ve üzerinde olmak, nörolojik, ortopedik, psikiyatrik bir hastalığı olmamak ve araştırmaya katılım için gönüllü olmaktı. Çalışma için Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi Etik Kurulu tarafından etik kurul izni (16.04.2021-66) alındı ve katılımcılardan yazılı onam alındı. Araştırmamız Helsinki Deklerasyonuna, araştırma ve yayın etiğine uygun olarak gerçekleştirildi.

Bireylerden, baş dönmesi yakınması ile ilgili detaylı anamnez alınarak vestibüler semptomların varlığı değerlendirildi. Dengesizlik, sersemlik, bulantı-kusma, konsantrasyon bozukluğu, araç tutması, düşme öyküsü, yüksek sesten rahatsızlık, kalabalık ortamdan rahatsızlık ve kulakta dolgunluk varlığı sorgulanarak bireylerden "evet" ya da "hayır" cevabını vermeleri istendi ve cevaplar kaydedildi. Tüm bireylerden 25 sorudan oluşan Baş Dönmesi Engellilik Anketini (BDEA) ve 30 sorudan oluşan Amsterdam İşitsel Yetersizlik ve Engellilik Anketini (AİYEA) doldurmaları istendi.

Baş dönmesi engellilik anketi, 1990 yılında Jacobson ve Newman tarafından geliştirilmiştir (12). Fiziksel, emosyonel ve fonksiyonel engelliliği ölçen üç alt grupta yer alan toplam 25 sorudan oluşmaktadır. Her soru için puanlama evet (4 puan), bazen (2 puan), hayır (0 puan) şeklindedir. Alt gruplardan maksimum alınabilecek puanlar; fiziksel engellilik için 28 puan, emosyonel engellilik için 36 puan ve fonksiyonel engellilik için 36 puandır. Toplam alınabilecek maksimum puan 100'dür. Bireyin aldığı puan ne kadar fazla ise engellilik düzeyi o kadar yüksektir (12). Engellilik düzeyi hafif düzeyde engellilik (0-30

puan), orta düzeyde engellilik (31-60 puan) ve ileri düzeyde engellilik (61-100 puan) şeklindedir (13). Türkçe geçerlilik ve güvenilirliği Canbal ve arkadaşları tarafından yapılmıştır (14). Amsterdam İşitsel Yetersizlik ve Engellilik Anketi beş alt gruptan ve 30 sorudan oluşmaktadır. Alt gruplar; sessiz ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı (8, 11, 12, 14, 20. sorular), gürültülü ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı (1, 7, 13, 19, 25. sorular), seslerin lokalizasyonu (3, 9, 15, 21, 27. sorular), sesi fark etme (2, 10, 16, 22, 28. sorular) ve sesleri ayırt etme (4, 5, 6, 17, 23, 24, 26, 29. sorular) şeklindedir. Bu kategorilere girmeyen 18. ve 30. sorular müzik ile ilgilidir. Bireye yöneltilen sorulara neredeyse hiç (0 puan), bazen (1 puan), sıklıkla (2 puan), hemen hemen her zaman (3 puan) şeklinde yanıt vermesi istenir. Toplam puan tüm yanıtlar toplanarak elde edilir. Alınabilecek puan 0-90 arasındadır. Birevin aldığı puan ne kadar yüksekse işitsel yetersizliği o kadar fazladır. Anketin Türkçe geçerlilik ve güvenilirliği Müjdeci ve arkadaşları tarafından yapılmıştır (15).

İstatiksel analiz

İstatiksel analizler, SPSS 20 versiyon yazılımı kullanılarak gerçekleştirildi. Normal dağılıma uygunluk Kolmogorow Smirnov ve Shapiro-wilk testi ile değerlendirildi. Tanımlayıcı istatistiklerde ortalama ve standart sapma, kategorik verilerde yüzde değeri kullanıldı. Cinsiyete göre kategorik verilerin karşılaştırmalarında ki-kare testi kullanıldı. BDEA ve AİYEA skorlarının cinsiyete göre karşılaştırılması bağımsız örneklem-t testi ile yapıldı. p değerinin 0,05'in altında olduğu durumlar istatiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Çalışmaya katılan bireylerin %50'si (n=25) kadın, %50'si (n=25) erkekti. Kadınların yaş ortalaması 55,88±11,83 erkeklerin yaş ortalaması 60,48±12,80 olarak saptandı. Tüm bireylerin yaş ortalaması 58,18±12,42 olarak bulundu. Araştırmaya dahil edilen kadın ve erkeklerin yaş ortalamaları arasında anlamlı fark saptanmadı (p=0,193). Tüm bireylerin beden kitle indeksi (BKİ) incelendiğinde (Tablo I; %4'ünün BKİ açısından normal sınırlarda, %26'sının hafif şişman, %64'ünün şişman, %6'sının ağır şişman olduğu değerlendirildi (16).

Tablo I: Cinsiyete göre beden kitle indeksi.

Kad	Erkek		
(n)	%	(n)	%
0	0	2	8
5	20	8	32
18	72	14	56
2	8	1	4
	(n) 0 5	0 0 5 20 18 72	(n) % (n) 0 0 2 5 20 8 18 72 14

BKİ: Beden Kitle İndeksi

Ayrıntılı olarak incelendiğinde kadınlarda BKİ açısından normal gruba giren hiç birey bulunmamakla birlikte kadınların %20'si hafif şişman, %72'si şişman, %8'i ağır şişman olarak değerlendirildi. Erkeklerin %8'inin normal, %32'sinin hafif şişman, %56'sının şişman, %4'ünün ağır şişman olduğu saptandı. DM tanısı aldıktan sonra geçen sürenin; bireylerin %54'ünde 1-5 yıl, %24'ünde 6-10 yıl, %12'sinde 11-15 yıl,

%6'sında 16-20 yıl, %4'ünde ise 21-25 yıl aralığında olduğu saptandı (Tablo II).

Tablo II: DM tanısı aldıktan sonra geçen süreye göre kadın ve erkeklerin dağılımı.

	Kaa	lın	Erk	kek
	n	%	n	%
1-5 yıl	15	60	12	48
6-10 yıl	6	24	6	24
11-15 yıl	2	8	4	16
16-20 yıl	1	4	2	8
21-25 yıl	1	4	1	4

DM: Diabetes Mellitus

Çalışmaya dahil edilen bireylerin aile hikayesi (anne, baba ve/veya kardeş) değerlendirildiğinde; tüm bireylerin %56'sının ailesinde DM hikayesi bulunmaktaydı ve ailesinde DM görülme oranı kadınlar ve erkeklerde eşitti (Kadın %28, erkek %28). Tüm bireylerin %16'sında baş dönmesi hikayesi bulunmaktaydı ve bu oran kadın ve erkeklerde eşitti (Kadın %8; erkek %8). Hipertansiyon kadınlarda daha çok olmakla birlikte (%30) tüm bireylerin %56'sında görüldü.

Çalışmaya dahil edilen bireylere uygulanan tedavi yöntemi sorgulandığında, %70'ine oral antidiabetik, %6'sına insülin tedavisi uygulandığı, %24'üne ise her iki tedavinin de uygulandığı görüldü.

Tüm bireylerin %56'sı sersemlik, %90'ı dengesizlik, %68'i bulantı-kusma, %58'i konsantrasyon bozukluğu, %50'si araç tutması, %32'si düşme, %36'sı kulakta dolgunluk, %78'i yüksek sesten rahatsızlık, %76'sı kalabalık ortamdan rahatsızlık, %92'si tinnitus şikayeti bildirdi (Tablo III).

Tablo III: Bireylerde semptomların cinsiyete göre dağılımı.

Semptomlar	Kadın	Erkek	р
	(n)	(n)	
Sersemlik	16	12	0.254
Dengesizlik	21	25	0.037
Bulantı-Kusma	23	19	0.123
Konsantrasyon bozukluğu	15	14	0.774
Araç tutması	14	12	0.571
Düşme	8	8	-
Kulakta dolgunluk	11	7	0.239
Yüksek sesten rahatsızlık	19	20	0.733
Kalabalık ortamdan	20	18	0.508
Tinnitus	24	22	0.189

Kadın ve erkekler arasında sersemlik, bulantı-kusma, konsantrasyon bozukluğu, araç tutması, düşme, kulakta dolgunluk, yüksek sesten rahatsızlık, kalabalık ortamdan rahatsızlık ve tinnitus semptomlarının görülme sıklığı açısından anlamlı bir fark gözlenmezken (p>0,05), erkeklerin dengesizlik şikayetinin kadınlardan anlamlı şekilde fazla olduğu saptandı (p=0,37). Bireylerin tinnitus şikayetleri incelendiğinde; tüm bireylerin %92'sinde tinnitus şikayeti olduğu erkeklerde daha çok sağ kulakta, kadınlarda daha çok bilateral tinnitus şikayeti olduğu görüldü (Tablo IV).

Tablo IV: Tinnitus şikayeti görülme sıklığının cinsiyete göre dağılımı.

Tinnitus	Ka	dın	Erk	ek	Тор	lam
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Bilateral	10	40	4	16	14	28
Sağ	9	36	14	56	23	46
Sol	5	20	4	16	9	18
Toplam	24	96	22	88	46	92

Bireylerin BDEA'ya verdikleri yanıtlar değerlendirildiğinde kadınlar ve erkekler arasında alt kategorilerden elde edilen puanlar ve toplam puanlar açısından anlamlı fark elde edilememekle beraber kadınların fiziksel, emosyonel ve fonksiyonel engellilik puan ortalamalarının erkeklerden daha yüksek olduğu saptandı (p>0,05) (Tablo V).

Tablo V: BDEA bulgularının cinsiyete göre dağılımı.

	Kadın	Erkek	p
	Ort±SS	Ort±SS	
Fiziksel engellilik	20,4±6,78	18,16±6,22	0,229
Emosyonel engellilik	18,08±10,65	12,95±8,64	0,068
Fonksiyonel engellilik	22,8±10,03	18,0±7,53	0,062
BDEA toplam puan	61,28±25,72	49,36±20,89	0,078

BDEA: Baş Dönmesi Engellilik Anketi

Kadınların AİYEA toplam skor ortalaması 50,44±10,44, erkeklerin 47,72±10,51 olarak saptandı. Bireylerin AİYEA'ye verdikleri yanıtlar incelendiğinde kadınlar ve erkekler arasında tüm alt kategorilerden elde edilen puanlar ve toplam puan açısından anlamlı fark elde edilmedi (p>0,05) (Tablo VI).

Tablo VI: AİYEA bulgularının cinsiyete göre dağılımı.

	Kadın	Erkek	р
	Ort±SS	Ort±SS	
Seslerin ayrımı/tanımlanması	11,28±3,02	9,92±3,19	0,128
Seslerin lokalizasyonu	8,04±2,62	8,16±2,12	0,859
Gürültülü ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı	9,96±1,99	9,72±2,05	0,676
Sessiz ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı	8,76±2,30	7,92±2,08	0,182
Seslerin algılanması	6,84±2,29	6,64±2,23	0,756
AİYEA toplam puan	50,44±10,44	47,72±10,51	0,363

AIYEA: Amsterdam İşitsel Yetersizlik ve Engellilik Anketi

TARTIŞMA

Literatürde Tip 2 DM'nin vestibüler sistem ve işitme sistemi üzerine olumsuz etkileri olduğunu gösteren sınırlı sayıda çalışma mevcuttur (5,7,8). Bu nedenle çalışmamızda baş dönmesi şikayeti olan Tip 2 DM'li bireylerde vestibüler semptomların, işitsel yetersizlik düzeyinin ve baş dönmesine bağlı engellilik düzeyinin değerlendirilmesi amaçlandı.

Çalışmamıza dahil edilen tüm bireylerin yaş ortalamaları 58,18±12,42 olarak bulundu. Bulgumuz, Özcan'ın DM'li bireylerin yaş ortalamasını 54,73±7,3 olarak saptadığı "Diyabetli Hastalarda Hastalığa Uyumu Etkileyen Faktörlerin Değerlendirilmesi" başlıklı çalışması ile benzerlik göstermektedir (17).

Çalışmamızda BKİ verileri incelendiğinde, hem kadınlarda hem de erkeklerde BKİ değerinin normal BKİ sınırlarının üzerinde olduğu birey sayısının fazla olduğu, her iki grupta da pek çok bireyin şişman grubuna dahil olduğu dikkat çekmektedir. Literatürde araştırmamızla uyumlu şekilde DM'li bireylerin BKİ ortalamasının 35,4±6,3 olduğu ve bu bireylerin şişman grubuna dahil olduğu bildirilmiştir (18). Kadınların daha yüksek oranın, şişman grubuna dahil olduğunu saptadığımız çalışma bulgumuz kadınların BKİ skorlarının erkeklerden daha yüksek olduğunu tespit ettiği Özcan'ın çalışma bulgusu ile uyumludur (17).

Araştırmamızda kadınların %60'ında, erkeklerin %52'sinde, tüm bireylerin ise ortalama %56'sında Tip 2 DM'ye hipertansiyonun eşlik ettiği tespit edildi. Bulgumuz, literatürde Tip 2 DM ile birlikte hipertansiyon görülme sıklığının %65-71 oranında olabildiğini bildiren çalışmalar ile uyumludur (18,19).

Çalışmamızda ailede DM hikayesi açısından kadınlar (%16) ile erkeklerin (%16) eşit oranda olduğu bulundu ve tüm bireylerin ailesinde DM'li birey bulunma oranı %32 olarak saptandı. Literatürde araştırmamızla uyumlu olarak ailede DM görülme sıklığının %33,5 ile 37,5 aralığında olduğu belirtilmektedir (20,21).

Çalışmamızda bireylerde semptomlar incelendiğinde tüm bireylerde vestibüler ve işitsel semptomların görüldüğü saptandı. Diabetes mellitus nedeniyle bireylerin yaşadığı sorunlara vestibüler ve işitsel semptomların eşlik etmesi, hastalar açısından günlük yaşamda kısıtlayıcı olabilir. Diabetes mellituslu hastalarda eşik eden vestibüler ve işitsel semptomlar bireylerde düşme riskini artırabilir.

Çalışmamızda BDEA ile değerlendirilen baş dönmesinin kadınlarda fonksiyonelliği bozacak düzeyde şiddetli engelliliğe neden olduğu (BDEA toplam puan ortalaması; 61,28±25,72) erkeklerde ise orta derecede engelliliğe neden olduğu saptandı. Cinsiyetler arasında anlamlı fark olmamakla birlikte Tip 2 DM'li kadınların, erkeklere göre baş dönmesinden daha fazla yakındığı görüldü. Araştırmamızla uyumlu olarak literatürde Tip 2 DM'nin baş dönmesi ile ilişkili olduğu tespit edilmiş, kadınların, baş dönmesinden erkeklere oranla daha fazla yakındığı bildirilmiştir (19). Yapılan başka bir araştırmada baş dönmesi olan sağlıklı bireyler, baş dönmesi olan DM'li hastalar ve baş dönmesi olmayan DM'li hastalar arasında vestibüler uyarılmış miyojenik potansiyeller yanıtları açısından anlamlı fark tespit edilmemiş, DM'li bireylerde asemptomatik vestibüler bozukluk olabileceği düsünülmüstür (18).

Diabetes mellituslu bireylerin baş dönmesine yönelik kendi algısının değerlendirildiği çalışmamızda, bireylerin baş dönmesine bağlı hissettiği engellilik durumunun, vestibüler bir bozukluktan mı, bireyin kendi sübjektif algısından mı kaynaklandığı bilinmemektedir. Baş dönmesine vestibüler ve işitsel semptomlarında eşlik ettiğini saptadığımız çalışma bulgularımız, DM'li birevlerde rutin değerlendirmelere vestibüler ve isitsel değerlendirmelerin de dahil edilmesinin gerekliliği konusunda yol gösterici olabilir. Çalışmamızda AİYEA ile değerlendirilen Tip 2 DM'li bireylerin, işitsel yetersizliğe sahip oldukları görüldü (Kadınlarda toplam skor ortalaması 50,44±10,44, erkeklerde 47,72±10,51). İşitsel yetersizlik açısından cinsiyetler arasında anlamlı fark saptanmadı (p>0,05). Literatürde araştırmamızla uyumlu olarak Tip 2 DM'nin işitme sistemi üzerinde olumsuz etkilerinin olduğunu bildiren araştırmalar mevcuttur (22-24). Diabetes mellituslu kadınların DM'li erkeklere göre anlamlı derecede daha fazla işitme kaybı yaşadığı bildirilmiştir (25). Çalışmamızda da Tip 2 DM'li kadınların, Tip 2 DM'li erkeklere göre işitme ile ilgili yakınmalarının daha fazla olduğu görüldü. Kadınların seslerin ayrımı/tanımlanması, sessiz ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı, gürültülü ortamda konuşmanın anlaşılırlığı ve seslerin algılanması açısından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark oluşturmasa da, erkeklerden daha fazla yetersizliğe sahip olduğu saptandı. Diabetes mellituslu bireylerde işitsel yetersizliğe neden olabilecek olası işitsel etkilenimin belirlenmesine yönelik ilave çalışmalara ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır.

Calısmamızda DM tanısı aldıktan sonra geçen sürenin 1-25 yıl arasında dağılım gösterdiği görüldü. DM'nin etkilerinin belirlenmesinde, DM tanısı sonrası geçen sürenin benzer olduğu bireylerin dahil edildiği çalışmaların planlaması faydalı olacaktır. Calısmamızda DM'li birevlerde, sübjektif değerlendirmelerle ortaya koyduğumuz işitsel ve vestibüler etkilenim, objektif vestibüler ve işitsel değerlendirmelerin de yapılacağı çalışmaların gerekliliğine dikkat çekmektedir. Kapsamlı objektif işitme testleri ve vestibüler testler ile, DM'ye bağlı olası işitsel ve vestibüler bozuklukların belirlenmesi, bu bireylerin bağımsız olarak günlük yaşam aktivitelerini sürdürebilmelerini sağlayacak koruyucu yaklasımlar, erken tanı ve tedavi/terapilerin gerekliliği için belirleyici olabilir. Çalışmamızın limitasyonları; işitsel ve vestibüler değerlendirmede objektif test yöntemlerinin kullanılmaması, DM tanısı aldıktan sonra geçen sürenin geniş bir aralık oluşturması, bireylerde meslek, gelir seviyesi, diyet ve fiziksel aktivite düzeyinin değerlendirilmemiş olmasıdır.

SONUÇ

Sonuç olarak çalışmamızda Tip 2 DM'li bireylerde; işitsel ve vestibüler semptomların ve işitsel yetersizliğin görüldüğünü, baş dönmesine bağlı olarak kadınlarda şiddetli, erkeklerde orta derecede engelliliğin olduğunu saptadık. Bulgularımızın DM'li bireylerde; sübjektif ve objektif işitsel ve vestibüler değerlendirmelerin bir arada yapılmasının gerekliliği açısından belirleyici olabileceği kanaatindeyiz.

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Entübasyon Şekli ve Entübasyon Yapılan Yerin Ventilatör İlişkili Pnömoni Gelişimi Üzerine Etkisi

The Effect of Intubation Type and Location of Intubation on the Development of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia

ÖZ.

Amaç:

Çalışmamızda entübasyon şeklinin (elektif veya acil) ve entübasyonun yapıldığı yerin, ventilatör ilişkili pnömoni (VİP) gelişimi üzerine etkisinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

1 Şubat 2019 ve 28 Şubat 2020 tarihleri arasında VİP tanısı almış, erişkin hastalar çalışmaya alındı. Yatış nedeni, entübasyon sekli (elektif, acil), entübasyonun yapıldığı yer (hastane öncesi alanda, acil servis, yatan hasta servisi, yoğun bakım, ameliyathane), VİP gelisene kadar geçen süre ve mortalite durumları retrospektif olarak incelendi.

Bulgular:

Çalışmaya 180 VİP tanılı hasta dahil edildi. Hastaların %55'ine acil entübasyon, %45'ine elektif entübasyon yapıldığı saptandı. Entübasyon sonrası VİP gelişimine kadar geçen ortalama süre 7,9±5,9 gündü. Acil entübasyonlarda VİP gelişimine kadar geçen süre elektif entübasyonlara göre daha kısa idi (sırasıyla 6,8±4,6 vs 9,1±7,1 gün, p=0,023). Hastaların %33,9'unun yoğun bakımda, %26,7'sinin acil serviste, %17,2'sinin ameliyat öncesinde, %11,7'sinin yatan hasta servisinde ve %10,6'sının hastaneye getirilmeden önce hastane öncesi alanda entübe edildiği görüldü. Yedi gün mortalite %20, 14 gün mortalite %36,7, 30 gün mortalite %46,7 olarak saptandı. Kaba mortalite ile entübasyonun yapıldığı yer arasında istatistiksel anlamlı ilişki saptanmadı (p=0,366). Acil ve elektif entübasyon yapılan hastalarda VİP sonrası 7, 14 ve 30 gün mortalite oranları açısından fark saptanmadı.

Sonuç:

Acil entübasyonlarda elektiflere göre VİP gelişme süresinin daha kısa olduğu (p=0,023); ancak acil ve elektif entübasyonlar arasında tüm nedenlere bağlı kaba mortalite açısından fark olmadığı saptanmıştır. Aynı şekilde entübasyon yapılan yer ve mortalite arasında da anlamlı ilişki saptanmamıstır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Entübasyon şekli, Entübasyon yeri, Ventilatör ilişkili pnömoni, Mortalite

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

In this study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of intubation type (elective or emergent) and location of intubation on the development of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).

Material and Methods:

Between February 1, 2019 and February 28, 2020, adult patients diagnosed with VAP were included in the study. Type of intubation (elective or emergent intubation), location of intubation, onset time of VAP and mortality were evaluated retrospectively.

Results:

Hundred and eighty patients were included in the study. It was determined that 55% of the patients underwent emergent intubation and 45% of them had elective intubation. The mean time to onset of VAP was 7.9±5.9 days. The mean time to onset of VAP was shorter in emergent intubation than elective intubations (6.8±4.6 vs 9.1±7.1 days, respectively, p=0.023). It was observed that 33.9% of the patients were intubated in the intensive care unit, 26.7% in the emergency department, 17.2% before the operation, 11.7% in the inpatient service and 10.6% before arriving to hospital. It was found that; 7-day mortality was 20%, the 14-day mortality was 36.7%, and the 30-day mortality was 46.7%. There was no significant difference between mortality and the location of intubation. And there was no difference in mortality rates between patients who underwent emergent intubation and elective intubation.

Conclusion:

It was found that the development time of VAP was shorter in emergency intubations compared to electives (p=0.009). There was no difference in all-cause mortality between patients who underwent emergent intubation and elective intubation.

Key Words:

Intubation type, Location of intubation, Ventilator-associated pneumonia, Mortalitiy

GİRİŞ ve AMAÇ

Ventilatör ilişkili pnömoni (VİP) sık görülen nozokomiyal enfeksiyonlardan olup mortalitesinin yüksek olması, hastanede kalış süresini ve maliyeti artırması açısından önem arz etmektedir. Mekanik ventilasyon (MV) tek başına hastane kaynaklı pnömoni riskini 6-21 kat artırmaktadır (1).

Entübasyonun yapıldığı yer ve entübasyonun acil veya elektif olması VİP gelişimini etkileyen faktörlerdendir. Özellikle acil yapılan entübasyonlar VİP gelişimi açısından risk faktörlerinden kabul edilmektedir. Acil servis veya hastane dışında yapılan acil entübasyonlarda hastaların %20-25'inde VİP geliştiği gösterilmiştir (2,3). Bunun yanında travma hastalarına yapılan entübasyonlar sonrası VİP gelişimini inceleyen bir diğer çalışmada ise hastane öncesi entübasyonların VİP gelişimi için risk oluşturmadığı raporlanmıştır (4).

Bu konuda farklı görüşlerin olması ve enfeksiyon kontrol önlemlerine acil entübasyon sırasında yeterli uyumun olmadığı gözlemlendiğinden, çalışmamızda entübasyonun elektif veya acil koşullarda yapılmasının ve entübasyonun yapıldığı yerin, ventilatör ilişkili pnömoni gelişimi üzerine etkisinin incelenmesi amaçlandı.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

Ülkemizde SARS-CoV 2 pandemisi başlamadan önce, 1 Şubat 2019-28 Şubat 2020 tarihleri arasında hastanemiz yoğun bakım ünitelerinde yatan VİP tanısı almış, 18 yaş ve üzeri hastaların dosyaları retrospektif olarak incelendi. Veriler enfeksiyon hastalıkları uzman hekimince hasta takibi sırasında rutin olarak kaydedilen enfeksiyon hastalıkları yoğun bakım takip formlarından ve hastane otomasyon sistemindeki hasta epikrizlerinden elde edildi. On sekiz yaş altı hastalar, gelişinde pnömoni ile başvuran ve entübasyon sonrası 48 saat dolmadan pnömoni gelişen hastalar ile dosya taraması sırasında verilerine ulaşılamayan hastalar çalışma dışı bırakıldı.

Demografik veriler (yaş, cinsiyet, eşlik eden hastalık), yoğun bakıma yatış nedeni, entübasyonun şekli (elektif, acil), entübasyonun yapıldığı yer (hastane öncesi alanda, acil servis, yatan hasta servisi, yoğun bakım, ameliyathane), entübasyon sonrası VİP gelişene kadar geçen süre, VİP etkeni olan mikroorganizmalar ile 7., 14. ve 30. gün tüm nedenlere bağlı kaba mortalite kaydedildi. Taburcu olan hastalar için 30. gün mortalite bilgisi e-nabız sistemi üzerinden sağlandı.

Kardiyak veya pulmoner arrest durumları dışında hastaların bilinç bozukluğu, ajitasyon, hava yolu güvenliğinin sağlanması, ajitasyonunun yatıştırılması, oksijen saturasyon düşüklüğü veya cerrahi girişim gibi nedenlerle yapılan ve el dezenfeksiyonu, eldiven giyilmesi ve laringoskop setinin uygun açılması ve steril malzemelerin sterilliğinin devamlılığının sağlanması gibi davranışlara zaman kalan entübasyonlar elektif entübasyon olarak kabul edildi. Oldukça hızlı ve panik şekilde müdahale yapılan kardiyo-respiratuvar arrest durumlarında, enfeksiyon kontrol önlemlerine yeterince dikkat edilemediği gözlemlendiğinden, bu çalışmada sadece arrest sonrası entübasyonlar "acil entübasyon" olarak kabul edildi. Yatan hasta servislerinde de arrest sonucu yapılan entübasyonlar acil entübasyon olarak alındığı gibi, hastane öncesi alanda hasta arrest olmadan hava yolu güvenliği sağlamak için yapılan entübasyonlar elektif entübasyon olarak alındı.

Birden fazla VİP gelişme öyküsü olan hastaların entübasyondan sonraki sadece ilk VİP epizodu değerlendirmeye alındı. VİP; Sağlık Bakanlığı Ulusal Sağlık Hizmeti İlişkili Enfeksiyonlar Sürveyans Rehberi 2017 kriterlerine göre: "entübasyon sırasında pnömonisi olmayan, invazif mekanik ventilasyon desteğindeki hastada entübasyondan 48 saat sonra gelişen pnömoni" olarak tanımlandı (5).

İstatistik Analiz

SPSS software version 21.0 (Statistical Package for the Social-Sciences, IBM, USA) programı kullanıldı. Çalışmada yer alan kategorik değişkenler mutlak frekans (n) ve yüzde (%) ile; sürekli değişkenler ise ortalama ± standart sapma (minimum ve maksimum) olarak sunulmuştur. Normallik analizi

Shapiro-Wilk testi ile yapıldı. Kategorik değişkenler Pearson ki-kare veya Fisher's exact test ve sürekli değişkenler ise Student t-test veya Mann-Whitney testi kullanılarak analiz edildi. 0,05 in altındaki p değerleri istatistiksel anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Çalışmanın yapıldığı hastanemiz 1270 yatak kapasitesi ve 168 erişkin yoğun bakım yatak sayısı ile hizmet veren üçüncü basamak bir eğitim ve araştırma hastanesidir. 1 Şubat 2019 ve 28 Şubat 2020 tarihleri arasında yoğun bakıma yatan hastalardan 188 hastaya VİP tanısı konmuş olduğu tespit edildi. 2019 yılında VİP hızı; 1000 ventilatör günü için 3.07 saptandı. VİP tanısı alan ardışık 188 hastadan entübasyon verilerine ulaşılabilen 180 hasta çalışmaya dahil edildi.

Hastaların 114'ü (%63,3) erkek idi. Ortalama yaş 65,4±17,2 yıl (min: 18-maks: 93, med:68) saptandı. Hastaların yoğun bakıma yatış nedenleri incelendiğinde serebro-vasküler patolojilerin ilk sırada yer aldığı görüldü (%28,9). Yoğun bakım yatış nedenleri Tablo I'de gösterilmiştir.

Tablo I: Yoğun bakıma yatış nedenleri.

	n	%
Serebro-vasküler patolojiler	52	28,9
Genel durum ve bilinç bozukluğu	31	17,2
Post-operatif izlem	28	15,6
Kardiyak patoloji	21	11,7
Travma	21	11,7
Pulmoner patoloji	15	8,3
Enfeksiyon	6	3,3
İntra abdominal patolojiler	3	1,7
Diğer	3	1,7
Toplam	180	100

Hastaların komorbid hastalıkları değerlendirildiğinde ilk üç sırada hipertansiyon, serebro-vasküler hastalık ve diyabetes mellitus saptandı. Komorbid hastalıklar Tablo II'de gösterilmiştir.

Tablo II: Komorbid hastalıklar.

	n	%
Hipertansiyon	63	35
Serebro-vasküler olay	58	32,2
Diyabetes mellitus	54	30
Böbrek yetmezliği	48	26,7
Malignite	33	18,3
Koroner Arter Hastalığı	29	16,1
İmmunsupresyon	23	12,8
Kronik Obstruktif Akciğer Hastalığı	15	8,3

Hastalardan alınan endotrakeal aspirat kültürlerinde en sık Acinetobacter baumannii (%27,2) ve Pseudomonas aeruginosa (%18,3) izole edildi. Endotrakeal aspirat kültürlerinde üreyen etken mikroorganizmalar Tablo III'te sıklık sırası ile verilmiştir.

Tablo III: VİP etkeni mikroorganizmalar.

	n	%
Acinetobacter baumannii	49	27,2
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	33	18,3
Klebsiella spp.	19	10,6
MSSA	13	7,2
Burkholderia cepacia	8	4,4
Enterobacter aerogenes	7	3,9
Serratia marcescens	6	3,3
E. coli	5	2,8
Citrobacter spp	4	2,2
Stenotrophomonas maltophilia	3	1,7
Proteus mirabilis	3	1,7
MRSA	1	0,6
Multiple etken	4	2,2
Diğer	1	0,6
Üreme olmayan	24	13,3
Toplam	180	100

Çalışmamızda 180 VİP olgusunda entübasyon şekli geriye dönük olarak araştırıldı; vakaların 99'una (%55) acil entübasyon, 81'ine (%45) elektif entübasyon yapıldığı saptandı. Hastaların genelinde entübasyon sonrası VİP gelişimine kadar geçen ortalama süre 7,9±5,9 gün (min:2-maks:44) idi. Acil entübasyonlarda VİP gelişimine kadar geçen ortalama süre 6,8±4,6 gün iken; elektif entübasyonlarda bu süre 9,1±7,1 gün olup gruplar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark saptandı (p=0,023).

Entübasyon yapılan yer değerlendirildiğinde; 61 hastanın (%33,9) yoğun bakımda, 48 hastanın (%26,7) acil serviste, 31 hastanın (%17,2) ameliyat öncesinde, 21 hastanın (%11,7) yatan hasta servisinde ve 19 hastanın (%10,6) hastane öncesi alanda entübe edildiği görüldü.

Hastaların genelinde kaba mortalite oranları; 7 gün mortalite 36 hasta (%20), 14 gün mortalite 66 hasta (%36,7), 30 gün mortalite 84 hasta (%46,7) saptandı. Kaba mortalite ve entübasyonun yapıldığı yer arasında istatistiksel anlamlı ilişki saptanmadı (p=0.366).

Entübasyon şekli ile mortalite arasındaki ilişki değerlendirildiğinde ise acil ve elektif entübasyon grupları arasında 7, 14 ve 30 gün kaba mortalite oranları açısından anlamlı fark saptanmadı. Entübasyon şekline göre mortalite oranları Tablo IV'te verilmistir.

Tablo IV: Entübasyon şekli ve mortalite oranları.

Entübasyon şekli	7 gün mortalite	14 gün mortalite	30 gün mortalite
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Acil entübasyon	23 (% 63,9)	39 (%59,1)	46 (% 54,7)
Elektif entübasyon	13 (% 36,1)	27 (%40,9)	38 (% 45,3)
p değeri	0,264	0,439	1,000

TARTIŞMA

Çalışmamızda VİP etiyolojisinden sorumlu en sık üç etken sırası ile; Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa ve Klebsiella spp. olarak tespit edilmiş olup 2018 yılı verilerine göre ülkemiz genelindeki VİP etkeni sıklık sırası ile aynıdır (6). Travma sonrası hastaneve varmadan önce yapılan acil entübasyonlar ve pnömoni gelişiminin değerlendirildiği bir çalışmada, acil entübe edilen travma hastalarının %25'inde VİP geliştiği gösterilmiştir (3). Benzer bir diğer çalışmada ise hastane dışında gelişen kardiyak arrestler neticesinde yapılan acil entübasyonlarda VİP gelişme oranı %20 olarak rapor edilmiş (7). Ayrıca acil entübasyon sonrası VİP gelişim oranının elektif entübasyona göre daha fazla olduğunu gösteren çalışmalar da mevcuttur. Decelle ve arkadaslarının calısmasında entübasyon sebepleri; "kardiyo-respiratuvar arrest", "nörolojik veya metabolik nedenli koma", "travma" ve "kardiyo-respiratuvar yetmezlik" olmak üzere dört ana kategoride gruplandırılmış. Bu çalışmanın sonucunda kardiyo-respiratuvar arrest sonrası yapılan entübasyonun VİP gelişimi için bağımsız risk faktörlerinden biri olduğu belirtilmiştir (2). Çalışmamızda da entübasyon şekli geriye dönük olarak araştırıldığında; VİP tanılı bu vakaların 99'una (%55) acil entübasyon yapıldığı görüldü. Bu sonucun, acil entübasyonlar sırasında enfeksiyon kontrol önlemlerine yeterince uyum sağlanamaması ile ilişkili olabileceği düsünüldü.

Kalanuria ve arkadaşlarının derlemesinde VİP riskinin mekanik ventilasyonun ilk beş gününde en yüksek olduğu ve entübasyon ile VİP gelişimi arasındaki ortalama sürenin ise 3,3 gün olduğu belirtilmesine karşın, çalışmamızda hastaların genelinde entübasyon sonrası VİP gelişimine kadar geçen ortalama süre 7,9±5,9 gün (min:2-maks:44) saptandı (8). Nseir ve arkadaşlarının çalışmasında bu süre 15±10 gün olarak tespit edilmiş (9). Çalışmamızda acil entübasyonlarda VİP gelişimi için geçen sürenin elektif entübasyona göre daha kısa olduğu görüldü. Acil entübasyonlarda VİP gelişimine kadar geçen ortalama süre 6,8 gün iken; elektif entübasyonlarda bu süre 9,1 gün olup fark istatistiksel olarak anlamlı saptandı. Yapılan bir çalışmada ventilasyon sonrası ilk dört gün içinde gelişen erken başlangıçlı VİP'lerin %69,8'inin acil serviste yapılan entübasyonlara bağlı olduğu bildirilmiştir (10).

VİP ile ilişkili mortalite oranları gerek ülkemizde gerekse son kılavuzlarda %20-50 arasında bildirilmektedir (6). Yoğun bakımda entübe hastalarda pek çok faktör mortalite üzerine etkili olabileceğinden sadece VİP'e bağlı mortalitenin bilinmesi güç olmakla birlikte, bu konuda yapılan bir metaanalizde oran %13 olarak bildirilmistir (11).

Çalışmamızda hastaların genelinde kaba mortalite oranları; 7 gün mortalite %20, 14 gün mortalite %36,7, 30 gün mortalite %46,7 olarak saptandı. Kaba mortalite ve entübasyonun yapıldığı yer arasında istatistiksel anlamlı ilişki saptanmadı. Ayrıca acil ve elektif entübasyon grupları arasında 7, 14 ve 30 gün kaba mortalite oranları açısından istatistiksel anlamlı fark saptanmadı. Arumugam ve arkadaşlarının çalışmasında tüm sebeplere bağlı mortalite %7,5 olarak bildirilmiş ve entübasyonun yapıldığı yer göz önüne alındığında (hastane öncesi ve hastanede acil serviste yapılan entübasyonlarda) mortalite oranı açısından fark saptanmamıştır (12).

Çalışmanın Kısıtlılıkları

Bu çalışma, temel olarak acil entübasyon girişimlerinde enfeksiyon kontrol önlemlerine yeterince riayet edilmediği gözlemi ve varsayımı ile yola çıkılarak tasarlanmış bir çalışmadır. Arrest sonrası entübasyonlar "acil entübasyon" olarak kabul edilmiştir. Ancak çalışmanın retrospektif olması ve bu nedenle her entübasyon işleminin, enfeksiyon kontrol önlemlerine uyulup uyulmadığı ya da başarısız entübasyona bağlı deneme sayısı açısından direkt gözlemlenememiş olması bu çalışmanın kısıtlılıklarıdır. Konu ile ilgili daha fazla sayıda hasta içeren ve entübasyon işleminin enfeksiyon kontrol önlemleri açısından gözlemlenebildiği, prospektif tasarlanacak çalışmalara ihtiyaç vardır.

SONUC

Sonuç olarak, çalışmamızda acil entübasyonlarda elektiflere göre VİP gelişme süresinin daha kısa olduğu; ancak acil ve elektif entübasyonlar arasında tüm nedenlere bağlı kaba mortalite açısından fark olmadığı saptanmıştır. Aynı şekilde entübasyon yapılan yer ve mortalite arasında da anlamlı ilişki saptanmamıştır.

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N-3 Fatty Acid Supplementation After Burn Supports Wound Healing and Prevents Systemic Inflammation. An Experimental Study in Rats

Yanık Sonrası Destek Tedavisinde N-3 Yağ Asidi Kullanımı Yara İyileşmesini Destekler ve Sistemik Enflamasyonu Engeller. Sıçanlarda Yapılan Deneysel Çalışma

ABSTRACT Objective:

Burn may cause hypersensitivity towards infection, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, respiratory distress syndrome and multiple organ failure. Anti-inflammatory and resistance towards infection effects of omega-3 (n-3) fatty acids was shown before. But their effect on systemic inflammation and wound healing after burn was not investigated.

Material and Methods:

Seventy Wistar albino rats were used in the study. Fourteen rats without burn composed the control group. Cutaneous burn was created on remaining 56 rats which received 50 mg/kg/day intraperitoneal ringer lactat solution in two equal amounts. Twenty-eight rats with burn received injections of n-3 1 mg/kg/day throughout the study. Rats in control group were sacrificed on day 4 and rats in treatment groups were sacrificed on days 4 and 8. Leukocyte and mast cell infiltration, epidermal and collagen thickness measurements were used in histological evaluation. White blood cell, hematocrite, total protein, albumin, fibronectin, TNFα, IL1β and IL6 levels were measured for biochemical evaluations.

Results:

Elevation of leukocyte and mast cell infiltration was lower and collagen thickness was higher in n-3 receiving group on day 4. There was no difference in leukocyte infiltration on the 8th day whereas mast cell infiltration was lower and collagen thickness was higher in n-3 receiving group. Epidermal thickness was higher in n-3 receiving group on both evaluation days. White blood cell counts were higher in 8th day than 4th day groups. Total protein on 8th, IL-6 on 4th, and albumin levels on both days was lower than control.

Conclusion:

N-3 fatty acids used after burn enhances wound healing and prevents systemic inflammation.

Key Words:

Nutrition, Inflammation, N-3 Fatty Acids, Burn, Wound Healing

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ÖZ

Amac:

Yanık enfeksiyon, sistemik enflamatuar yanıt sendromu, solunum sıkıntısı sendromu ve çoklu organ yetmezliği yatkınlığını artırır. Omega-3 (n-3) yağ asitlerinin anti-enflamatuar ve enfeksiyona karşı direnç artırma etkileri daha önce gösterilmiştir. Ancak yanık sonrası sistemik enflamasyon ve yara iyilesmesi üzerine etkileri bilinmemektedir.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Çalışmada 70 Wistar albino sıçan kullanıldı. Yanık olmayan 14 sıçan kontrol grubunu oluşturdu. Geriye kalan 56 sıçanda yanık modeli oluşturuldu ve 50 mg/kg/gün olacak şekilde periton içi ringer laktat solüsyonu eşit iki dozda verildi. Yanığı olan 28 sıçana ayrıca 1 mg/kg/gün dozunda n-3 enjekte edildi. Kontrol grubundaki sıçanlar dördüncü günde, tedavi gruplarındaki sıçanlar dört ve sekizinci günlerde sakrifiye edildi. Histolojik incelemede lökosit ve mast hücre infiltrasyonu, epidermal ve kollajen kalınlık ölçümleri değerlendirildi. Biyokimyasal incelemede beyaz küre, hematokrit, total protein, albumin, fibronektin, TNF α , IL1 β ve IL6 seviyeleri ölçüldü.

Bulgular:

Dördüncü günde n-3 uygulanan grupta lökosit yüksekliği ve mast hücre infiltrasyonu daha düşük, kollajen kalınlığı daha yüksek bulundu. Sekizinci günde n-3 uygulanan grupta lökosit infiltrasyonu açısından fark yok iken mast hücre infiltrasyonu daha düşük ve kollajen kalınlığı daha yüksek bulundu. N-3 uygulanan grupta her iki değerlendirme zamanında da epidermal kalınlık daha yüksekti. Sekizinci günde beyaz küre sayısı dördüncü güne göre daha yüksek bulundu. Sekizinci günde total protein, dördüncü günde IL-6 ve her iki değerlendirme zamanında albumin seviyeleri kontrol grubuna göre daha düşük bulundu.

Sonuc:

Yanık sonrası n-3 yağ asidi tedavisi yara iyileşmesini destekler ve sistemik enflamasyonu önler.

Anahtar Klimeler:

Beslenme, Enflamasyon, N-3 Yağ Asidi, Yanık, Yara iyileşmesi

INTRODUCTION

Burn is a type of trauma that may cause infections, shock, multiple organ failure and death (1, 2). The cytokines released from leukocytes following injury may enhance host resistance. Furthermore, they may cause systemic inflammation and response of immune system cells and disturb remote organ functions. These types of effects in patients with major burns may result in susceptibility to infections, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, adults' respiratory distress syndrome, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome and even death (2, 3). Early initiation of nutrition support effects the cytokine induced stress response thus minimizes metabolic abnormalities and tissue damage. Enhancement of immune response in critical

patients by enrichment of standard nutritional solutions with

specific nutrients came into question recently.

For this purpose, glutamine, arginine, nucleotide and n-3 fatty acids are supplemented to the treatment regimen particularly or in combinations (4). It is also known that additional usage of n-3 fatty acids has anti-inflammatory function in critical care patients (5). The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of n-3 fatty acid rich emulsion on inflammatory cytokines and wound healing in experimental burn model.

MATERIAL and METHODS

This study is conducted in Experimental Medical Investigation Laboratory of Mersin University after approval of animal studies ethics committee (Application number: 40, Approval date: 23.01.2009). All procedures on animals were conducted according to global "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" rules. Study was also conducted according to research and publishing ethics.

Seventy female albino Wistar rats weighing 250-300 grams were used. All rats were housed in standard cages and room temperature, in 12 hours light-dark cycle, and fed with standard rodent diet (240 kcal/day approximately) and water. Rats were divided randomly into 5 groups:

Group K (n=14): Control group

Group R4 (n=14): Treated with ringer lactate solution (RLS) after burn and sacrificed in day 4.

Group RO4 (n=14): Treated with RLS and Omegaven $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathbb{R}}}$ after burn and sacrificed in day 4.

Group R8 (n=14): Treated with RLS after burn and sacrificed in day 8.

Group RO8 (n=14): Treated with RLS and Omegaven® after burn and sacrificed in day 8.

Omegaven® is an emulsion which is enriched with n-3 fatty acids. Rats in groups RO4 and RO8 received 1 ml/kg (5) of Omegaven® daily until sacrifice. In order to prevent dehydration rats received 50 ml/kg of RL intra-peritoneally after burn twice daily.

In order to acquire standard area of burn a mold with a window was formed (6). The dimensions of this window were calculated according to the 40 % of rats' surface area.

Rats were anesthetized with ketamine and xylazine. Dorsal side of the rats were shaved and placed in the mold. Molds holding the rats were immersed into the 96°C hot water for 10 seconds. Rats in the control group in the molds were immersed into 21°C water for 2 seconds. Pain control was achieved with subcutaneous injections of morphine (2,5 mg/kg) in 8 hour intervals.

Rats were sacrificed by cardiac punction. Blood samples were reserved for hematological and biochemical analyses. Skin samples from burn area borders were taken and placed in formaline for further investigation.

Histological investigations

Tissues were fixed in 10% neutral formaline, routinely processed for light microscopy evaluation and embedded in paraffin. Sections (5 μ m) were cut using a microtome and stained with hematoxylin-eosin to assess inflammatory changes with the number of leukocytes, epidermal thickness and toluidine blue for mast cells. Slides were examined with a light microscope and photographed by a digital camera.

Randomly selected ten areas were used for leukocytic infiltration, the total number of mast cells and epidermal thickness measurement. Epidermal thickness measurements were performed using commercially available software. Leukocytic infiltration was assessed using the following scale.

- •No extravascular leucocyte; 0
- •<20 leucocyte; 1
- •20-45 leucocyte; 2
- •>45 leucocyte; 3

For electron microscopic investigations, tissues were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde. Samples were postfixed in 1% osmium tetroxide, processed routinely for electron microscopy and embedded in resin kit. Ultrathin sections (50-70 nm) were cut by ultramicrotome and contrasted with uranyl acetate and lead citrate and were examined with an electron microscope. Randomly distributed collagen fibers were examined and cross sections were selected for measurement. These areas were photographed by a digital camera attached to the electron microscope. Photographes were transferred to a commercially available software and diameters of 500 collagen fibers of each animal were measured by this software.

Biochemical investigations

White blood cell (WBC) counts and hematocrite concentrations were analyzed in blood samples collected in tubes with EDTA. Samples were centrifuged with 5000 rpm for 10 minutes. Plasma was stored in -20°C for further quantification of IL-6, IL-1β, fibronectin, TNF- α, total protein and albumin levels.

Statistical analyses

Comparisons regarding epidermal thickness and collagen diameter variables were made with Kruskal Wallis and Mann-Whitney U tests with Bonferroni correction. Cross-table analyses were conducted for comparisons of epidermal leukocyte counts. Chi-square tests were used for comparisons of mast cell counts. P values under 0.05 were considered significant. Comparisons of hematocrite, IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF- α , fibronectin values were made with Kruskal Wallis tests. ANOVA were used for comparisons of WBC, total protein, albumin values.

RESULTS

Histological findings

Necrosis was evident macroscopically on forth day after burn. At day 8 epithelized areas were seen beneath the necrotic tissues.

Calculations of epidermal width and collagen diameter are given in Table I.

Table I: Mean epidermal width (EW) and collagen diameter (CD)

Groups	EW (μm)	CD (nm)
K	11.10 ± 3.60	71.31 ±15.86
R4	7.65 ± 2.59	62.67 ± 12.95
RO4	8.40 ± 2.36	73.88 ± 16.15
R8	8.36 ± 2.56	91.83 ± 15.89
RO8	9.37 ± 2.63	75.07 ± 14.17

Epidermal width was lower in all groups of burn than control group (p=0.001). Groups R4 and R8 had lower epidermal width than groups RO4 and RO8, respectively (p=0.007 and p<0.001, respectively). Epidermal widths in groups R8 and RO8 were higher than groups R4 and RO4, respectively (p<0.001 and p=0.001, respectively).

While the collagen diameter calculations were lower in group R4 than control (p=0.001), it was higher than control in groups RO4, R8 and RO8 (p=0.016, p=0.001 and p=0.001, respectively). Collagen diameter was lower in group R4 than group RO4 (p=0.001), and was higher in group R8 than group RO8 (p=0.001). While groups receiving ringer lactate only (R4 and R8) had higher collagen diameters on day 8 than day 4, (p=0.001), 4 and 8th day comparison of collagen diameters were similar in groups receiving omegaven (RO4 and RO8) (p=0.210). Results of leucocyte infiltration calculations are given in Table II.

Table II: Evaluations of leucocyte infiltration.

Leucocyte count	Group K	Group R4	Group RO4
<20	86	40	53
20-45	54	81	64
>45	0	9	3
		Group R8	Group RO8
<20		33	25
20-45		105	111
>45		2	4

Leucocyte counts were lower than 20 in most of Group K cross-sections. The number of cross-sections which had leucocyte counts below 20 were lower in group R4 than group RO4 and lower in group RO4 than group RO8 (p=0.027 and p=0.001, respectively). The number of cross-sections which had leucocyte counts between 20-45 were lower in group R4 than group R8 and lower in group RO4 than group RO8 (p=0.0024 and p=0.001, respectively). The number of cross-sections which had leucocyte counts more than 45 were lower in group R8 than group R4 (p=0.0024). Results of mast cell infiltration calculations are given in Table III.

Table III: Evaluations of mast cell infiltration.

Mast cell count	Group K	Group R4	Group RO4
<20	127	49	90
20-45	13	80	30
		Group R8	RO8
<20		79	116
20-45		61	24

In all study groups the number of cross-sections which had mast cell infiltration below 20 were lower than control group (p<0.05). The number of cross-sections which had mast cell infiltrations below 20 were higher in group R8 than group R4, higher in group RO4 than group R4 and higher in group R08 than group R8 (p=0.002, p=0.000 and p=0.000, respectively).

Biochemical results

Blood samples of 3 rats from group RO8 and 4 rats from group R8 were excluded because of hemolysis. IL-6, IL-1 β and TNF α evaluation of 1 rat from group RO8, TNF α evaluation of 3 rats and IL-1 β evaluation of 1 rat from group RO8 could not be completed because of insufficient serum centrifugation.

Serum WBC, albumin, total protein results are given in Table-IV.

Table IV: Mean serum white blood cell (WBC), albumin (Alb.) and total protein (T.Prot.) levels.

Groups	WBC (10 ³ /μl)	Alb. (g/dl)	T.Prot. (g/dl)
K	5.49 ± 1.64	4.11 ± 0.31	6.94 ± 0.36
R4	4.46 ± 1.90	3.46 ± 0.30	6.54 ± 0.42
RO4	4.84 ± 1.45	3.73 ± 0.26	6.97 ± 0.26
R8	$8.44 \pm 2{,}06$	3.68 ± 0.34	6.01 ± 0.42
RO8	7.27 ± 2.36	3.49 ± 0.29	5.80 ± 0.37

WBC values of group R8 were higher than control group (p=0.004). Groups R8 and RO8 had higher WBC values than R4 and RO4, respectively (p=0.00 and p=0.026, respectively). Serum albumin levels were lower in all rats with burn than control group (p<0.05). Albumin levels did not show any difference in comparisons of evaluation days and treatment groups (p>0.05). Total protein values were similar with control in groups R4 and RO4, but lower in groups R8 and RO8 (p=0.00). Hematocrite values were similar in all groups (p>0.05). Fibronectin, IL-1 β and TNF- α values were also similar (p>0.05) (Figure 1A, B and C). IL-6 values were lower in groups R4 and RO4 than control group (p=0.021 and p=0.009, respectively). Slight elevated values of IL-6 in groups R8 and group RO8 did not reach statistical significance (Figure 1D).

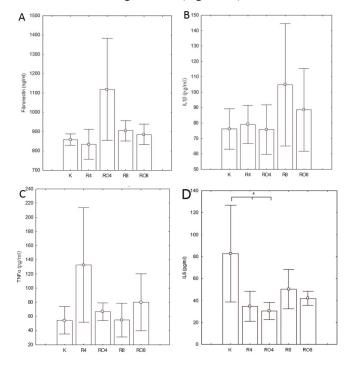


Figure 1: (A) Serum fibronectin, (B) IL-1 β , (C) TNF- α , and (D) IL-6 levels. * Group R4 and Group R04 vs Group K (p<0,05).

DISCUSSION

Protein denaturation after burn causes tissue loss and release of inflammatory mediators and migration of trombocytes, eritrocytes, leucocytes and macrophages occurs subsequently (7). The degree of inflammation is proportional with duration of exposure and degree of heat, and area of tissue exposed. In our study we made comparisons between groups for leucocyte and mast cell infiltration during inflammatory phase of burn and saw that rats treated with RLS and Omegaven® had lower values 4 days after burn. We think that this result is achieved by inhibition of proinflammatory cytokines by immunomodulatory effects of n-3 fatty acid alimentation (8). Similar effects are reported in pseuriasis and atopic dermatitis patients treated with parenteral n-3 fatty acids (9-11). Conversely, while leucocyte infiltrations did not differ between groups receiving and not receiving Omegaven®, mast cell infiltration was lower in groups treated with Omegaven at 8th day. Both treatment groups at day 8 had slightly elevated leucocyte levels than control. Therefore, it can be speculated that cellular inflammatory response required for tissue healing is not fully inhibited by n-3 fatty acids.

Reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are known to be responsible from local and systemic damage in burn pathophysiology, are produced mostly in burn area and in distant organs also (12). In their thermal damage study in rats, Friedl et al., reported elevated histamine secretion from activated mast cells in burned tissue and ROS in blood and organs as a result (13). Santos et al., believed that elevated ROS may be responsible from secretion of mediators from mast cells by degranulation as a result of their burn model study in rats (14). We found decreased infiltration of mast cells at burn area of rats treated with n-3 fatty acids. We also believe that they may also diminish production of ROS after burn.

Epidermis remodels by degredation and re-epithelisation of granulation tissue following inflammatory phase of wound healing. Epidermal healing after burn in rats is evaluated by Jeschke et al., and they reported that treatment consisting enriched vitamins, proteins, amino acids and n-3 fatty acids had an enhancement effect on healing (15). In their study Gerçek et al., evaluated the remodelation of incision wounds in rats and reported that Omegaven® and dexamethasone treatment had significant effect on epidermal width (5). In our study epidermal widths were larger in groups receiving both Omegaven® and RLS than groups treated with RLS only. In conjunction with histological findings discussed above, we think that n-3 fatty acids have an enhancement effect on wound healing along with controlling cellular inflammation.

Collagen formation is important during the initial phase of wound healing by their fibroblast stabilizing and barrier forming action. This granulation tissue initially (2nd-3rd day) contains type-3 collagen which is thinner, and type-1 collagen after, which is thicker and stiffer (16). Mast et al., realized that collagen fibrils in wounds are thinner and longer than the ones in normal tissue and related this with more type-3 collagen in wounds (17). Conversely, Peacock et al., interpreted that thin and long collagen fibrils are the result of pulling force during

wound contraction (18). Collagen diameters were found higher in group treated with Omegaven® plus RLS than group receiving only RLS on day 4. It can be speculated that n-3 fatty acids prevented harmful effect of hypermetabolic phase of wound healing on collagen synthesis. Thus, a healthy wound cover with a good collagen support should be able to act as a barrier towards infection during initial phase of healing. Conversely, collagen diameters were lower in group treated with Omegaven® plus RLS than group receiving only RLS on day 8. While elevated collagen fibril content and size is found protective in early wound healing, elevation of type-1/type-3 collagen ratio causes a risk of hypertrophic scar formation subsequently (16, 19). We think that n-3 fatty acids have controlled effect on collagen production similar to controlled effect on leucocyte infiltration.

Cytokines are important mediators in pathophysiological pathways after burn. They have complex interactions with each other where they take place as soon as burn occurs and inflammatory phase begins. It is important to recognize the dynamics of active cytokines because of their subsequent metabolic effects during wound healing in order to detect possible factors which may have effect on these dynamics. TNF- α is a strong mediator of shock and induces synthesis of cytokines like IL-1 and IL-6 and some humoral factors (20). IL-6 and IL-1 levels alter after burn (21, 22). Many of these cytokines are being used to detect the severity of burn damage (23-25). Agay et al., reported that cytokine levels varied according to body surface area and evaluation times in their rat burn damage study (26). Gauglitz et al., found that IL-6 levels start to increase soon after burn, takes peek at 6th hour and decrease gradually until a second increase after day 4 or 5 (27). IL-6 levels increase proportional with surface area of burn (26, 27). Our study did not include investigations soon after burn but we observed that IL-6 levels' being low at day 4 congruently reported in other studies, and elevated to values similar to control group at day 8. IL-1β increases acutely during first 3 hours after burn, reaches its peak level at 12th hour and after 48 hours it starts to decrease and normalize to basal levels at 4th day (27). Some studies show that even when IL-1β levels have no alteration in serum, high IL-1β levels can be observed in tissue samples from lung (26, 28). This is thought to be among mechanisms of pulmonary complications after burn. Our study showed normal levels of IL-1β at days 4 and 8 similar with the literature. Studies which quantify TNF-α levels after burn have variable results. TNF-α levels showed critical elevations at days 3 and 7 in a study of burn including 20% of body surface area (29). When larger areas are burnt TNF- α levels increased more rapidly (30, 31). There are also studies which report similar results of serum TNF-α levels with control groups after burn (26, 27). Likewise, we observed no difference of serum TNF-α from control. Complexities and unknown interactions of factors affecting cytokines during inflammatory phase after burn cause these contradictions between studies even with high levels of standardization. In our study we investigated the effect of n-3 fatty acids on cytokines after burn and observed that they did not change the normal course. One of the reasons (and handicap of the study) of this may be that we did not take samples during initial hours or days after burn in which serious alterations of cytokine levels occur. Another handicap of our study is that we did not evaluate tissue samples. Hence we can only speculate that metabolic advantages of n-3 fatty acids on wound healing found in histological findings may be the result of alterations of cytokine levels during acute phase after burn.

Hypovolemia is a clinical problem that must be addressed soon after burn. It is caused by inflammatory response which increases vascular permeability. Fluid replacement is mandatory for resuscitation in burn patients. Volume expanders and protein solutions are also infused for institution of osmotic pressure during first 24 hours (32). We observed lower levels of albumin in rats with burn. Total protein levels were low on day 8. Earlier decrease of albumin than protein is a finding which is compatible with the literature.

Fibronectin is an important protein found in granulation tissue as soon as after burn. The function of TGF- β 1 is dependent on fibronectin presence in extracellular matrix (33, 34). Fibronectin also have an opsonisation function in removal of bacteria remnants and debris in wound (34). Severe damage, burn or sepsis decreases the fibronectin level acutely during initial hours. At the end of the first day it returns to normal levels (35). Our study results showed normal levels of fibronectin as expected. We believe that decreased protein in conjunction with normal fibronectin levels was due to lack of protein containing dietary supplement rather than ongoing inflammatory process in our study.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, n-3 fatty acid supplementation in rats after burn supports wound healing and prevents systemic inflammation.

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Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Local Ethical Committee for Animal Studies of University of Mersin, (approval number: 2009/40).

Author Contributions:

Concept – C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Design - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Supervision - C.A.C., N.D.; Resources - C.A.C.; Materials - C.A.C.,; Data Collection and/or Processing - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Literature Search - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Writing Manuscript - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.; Critical Review - C.A.C., N.D., S.A.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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The Effectiveness and Safety of Concomitant Ticagrelor Use with Fibrinolytic In ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients

ST-Elevasyonlu Miyokard Enfarktüslü Hastalarda Fibrinolitik ile Birlikte Kullanılan Tikagrelorun Etkinliği ve Güvenliği

ABSTRACT Objective:

The effectiveness and safety of administration of ticagrelor simultaneously with fibrinolytic in ST-elevation miyocard infarction (STEMI) remains unclear. Our study aims to compare and evaluate ticagrelor and clopidogrel in STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic.

Material and Methods:

This retrospective and cross-sectional study was conducted in a non-PCI-capable hospital between November 2017 and January 2021. The study consisted of 180 STEMI patients over 18 years of age who were given fibrinolytic therapy and had no absolute contraindications for treatment. Ticagrelor was given to 94 patients and clopidogrel was given to 86 patients. Loading doses were given to patients concurrently with fibrinolysis, followed by maintenance doses. The primary outcome was six-month follow-up for all-cause mortality, major cardiovascular events, stroke, recurrent MI, target artery revascularization, and severe bleeding. The secondary outcome was to evaluate patients over 75 years of age, use of rivaroxaban, and major adverse events that will develop in patients with chronic kidney disease.

Results:

There was no substantial difference between the groups in terms of in-hospital death, GFR values ($<60/\ge60$ ml/min./1.73 m²), Rivaroxaban use, fatal bleeding, BARC Bleeding Type 1-2, intracranial bleeding, mortality, stroke, target vessel revascularization, and recurrent MI (p>0.05). Mortality was observed in 5 of 86 patients using clopidogrel and in 4 of 94 patients using ticagrelor. (Log-rank test, p:0.63 HR=0.72 (95%CI, 0.19-2.67)). The BARC type 3-5 bleeding in patients using ticagrelor and clopidogrel were statistically similar. (Log-rank test, p:0.77 HR=1.23 (95%CI, 0.31 - 4.79)).

Conclusions:

In this study, we found that ticagrelor was equally effective and safe as clopidogrel when used with fibrinolytic treatment.

Key Words:

Dual antiplatelet therapy, Fibrinolysis, Ticagrelor, Pharmaco-invasive reperfusion, Clopidogrel

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ÖZ

Amaç:

ST-elevasyonlu miyokard enfarktüste tikagrelorun fibrinolitik ile aynı anda uygulanmasının etkinliği ve güvenliği belirsizliğini koruyor. Çalışmamız fibrinolitikler ile tedavi edilen (ST-elevasyonlu miyokard enfarktüsü) STEMI hastalarında tikagrelor ve klopidogrel karşılaştırmayı ve değerlendirmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Geriye dönük ve kesitsel olan bu çalışma, Kasım 2017 ile Ocak 2021 tarihleri arasında, PCI yeteneği olmayan hastanede gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışmaya fibrinolitik tedavi verilen ve tedavi için mutlak kontrendikasyonu olmayan 18 yaş üstü 180 STEMI'li hasta dahil edildi. Tikagrelor 94 hastaya, klopidogrel ise 86 hastaya verildi. Hastalara fibrinoliz ile eş zamanlı olarak yükleme dozları verildi, ardından idame dozları verildi. Birincil sonuç, tüm nedenlere bağlı mortalite, majör kardiyovasküler olaylar, inme, tekrarlayan miyokard enfarktüsü (MI), hedef damar revaskülarizasyonu ve majör kanama için altı aylık takipti. İkincil sonuç, 75 yaşın üzerindeki hastaları, rivaroksaban kullanımını ve kronik böbrek hastalığı olan hastalarda gelişecek majör advers olayları değerlendirmekti.

Bulgular:

Hastane içi ölüm, GFR değerleri (<60/≥60 ml/dk/1.73 m²), Rivaroxaban Kullanımı, Ölümcül Kanama, BARC Kanama Tip 1-2, kafa içi kanama, mortalite, inme, hedef damar revaskülarizasyonu ve tekrarlayan miyokard enfarktüsü (MI) açısından anlamlı fark bulunmadı (p>0.05). Klopidogrel kullanan 86 hastanın 5'inde ve tikagrelor kullanan 94 hastanın 4'ünde mortalite gözlenmiştir (Log-rank testi, p:0.63 HR=0.72 (%95GA, 0.19-2.67). Tikagrelor ve klopidogrel kullanan hastalarda BARC tip 3-5 kanaması istatistiksel olarak benzerdi (Log-rank testi, p:0.77 HR=1.23 (%95GA, 0.31 - 4.79)).

Sonuç:

Bu çalışmada, tikagrelorun fibrinolitik tedavi ile birlikte kullanımının etkinlik ve güvenlik açısından klopidogrel ile benzer olduğunu bulduk.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

İkili antiplatelet tedavi, Fibrinoliz, Ticagrelor, Farmako-invaziv reperfüzyon, Klopidogrel

INTRODUCTION

STEMI is an acute coronary syndrome requiring emergency reperfusion therapy. It is vital to restore coronary flow by reperfusion of the infarct-related artery as soon as possible to decrease mortality and morbidity (1-4). In STEMI patients, primary percutaneous coronary intervention (pPCI) is the recommended reperfusion method if administered on time (<120 minutes), but if pPCI is not possible and there are no contraindications, the preferred reperfusion therapy is fibrinolysis (1,5-8).

Fibrinolysis, which breaks down thrombosis causing coronary artery occlusion, may induce a prothrombotic state (9-11). Therefore, additional treatment is needed to prevent the recurrence of thrombosis. In two large-scale randomized controlled trials (RCT), dual antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel) was found to decrease major cardiovascular events in STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic (10,11). Clinical experience with the use of ticagrelor in combination with fibrinolytic is limited. Therefore, there is no evidence of long-term effects of ticagrelor, which provides quicker and more effectively P2Y12 inhibition than clopidogrel in STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic (11-14). Current guidelines advise dual antiplatelet medication (aspirin and clopidogrel) for STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic (1,4,15).

Studies have shown that fibrinolytic-treated STEMI patients switching from clopidogrel to ticagrelor are linked with similar bleeding and ischemic results compared to patients continuing clopidogrel therapy (16-20). Information on co-administration of ticagrelor with fibrinolytic is insufficient.

In addition, there is little experience with patients over 75 years of age, those with chronic kidney disease (CKD), and patients at high risk of bleeding who take rivaroxaban.

Our study aims to compare and evaluate concomitant ticagrelor versus clopidogrel treatment in fibrinolytic-treated STEMI in terms of their effects on major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events (MACCE), death, myocardial infarction, target artery revascularization, stroke, and severe bleeding.

MATERIAL and METHODS Study design and settings

The retrospective cross-sectional study was carried out between November 2017 and January 2021 in Cizre Dr.Selahattin CIZRELIOGLU State Hospital (SIRNAK/TURKEY), a level 2 hospital without PCI capability. Fibrinolytic and ticagrelor were administered to patients diagnosed with STEMI in our hospital. Afterward, the patients were referred to the PCI-capable centers. The data of the patients who reapplied to our hospital for follow-up examination after discharge from PCI-capable centers were collected. The epicrisis reports were accessed from the hospital's digital archive with the official permission of the hospital management. Work permit and data usage permission were approved by the management of Cizre Dr.Selahattin CIZRELIOGLU State Hospital

(No: 84410283/469/E-84410283-469-623 Date: 27 July 2021).

The study was approved, and the requirement for informed consent was waived by the Ethics Commission. (No: 2021-208-decision number:11/6 Date: 05th August 2021). The study was conducted in line with the Declaration of Helsinki. Work permit and data usage permission were approved by the management of Cizre Dr.Selahattin CIZRELIOGLU State Hospital.(No: 84410283/469/E-84410283-469-623 Date: 27 July 2021).

Selection of participants

All STEMI patients over 18 (including those over 75) who applied with clinical and electrocardiogram (ECG) indications for fibrinolytic therapy and had no absolute contraindications were enrolled in the study (21). Patients with major contraindications, coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), or medical treatment decisions as a result of PCI, who did not undergo PCI due to bleeding and whose records could not be reached were excluded from the study.

Study Protocol

Patients who were found to have acute STEMI in the ECG at the time of admission to the emergency department within 12 hours after the commencement of symptoms and patients who were suitable for fibrinolytic treatment were included in the research. Intravenous doses of tenecteplase (half dose for patients over 75 years of age) calculated according to the administration protocol recommended in the guideline were administered to patients without absolute contraindications for fibrinolytic therapy (1). All patients received concomitant antiplatelet and anticoagulant therapy with fibrinolytic therapy. The patients were loaded with 300 mg of acetylsalicylic acid and then continued as 100 mg per day. Low molecular weight heparin was given as an anticoagulant according to the recommended dose in the guideline (1).

As the clopidogrel treatment protocol, patients were given 300 mg loading dose and 75 mg maintenance dose, and as the ticagrelor treatment protocol, patients were given 180 mg loading dose and 90 mg maintenance dose twice.

After discharge, the first given inhibitor was continued without change. Patients who switched from one inhibitor to another were excluded from the study. In addition, without delaying the referral to the emergency department, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and left atrial (LA) diameter were calculated by echocardiography. LVEF value was grouped according to the ESC Guidelines (1). Patients treated with fibrinolytic were referred to a certified PCI center for an early invasive coronary angiography procedure 2 to 24 hours later. Failed fibrinolytic ECG criterion was accepted as at least 50 percent unresolved ST elevation on the electrocardiogram (22). Chronic kidney disease (CKD) was defined as Cockcroft-Gault formula estimated Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <60 mL/min. (ml/min./1.73 m²) (23). The Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events (GRACE) risk score was calculated for pre-reperfusion risk assessment in the acute phase (24). The GRACE risk score was divided into groups as low (≤108), medium (109-140), and high (>140).

Pain to door time (minute), Door to needle time (minute), Pain-to-needle time (minute), Needle-to-balloon time (minute) were recorded. Collected data included demographic characteristics, existing disease histories, Killip classification, smoking history, and laboratory tests.

Clinical Follow-up

Bleedings were classified according to Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (BARC) definitions (25). BARC scale 3-5 bleeding was accepted as major bleeding. After concomitant P2Y12 inhibitor therapy with a fibrinolytic, patients were followed for six months with medical consultation or by phone call to record MACCE: mortality, myocardial infarction, target artery revascularization, stroke, and major bleeding.

Outcome Measures

Primary outcome: 6-month follow-up for all-cause mortality, major cardiovascular events, stroke, recurrent MI, target artery revascularization, and major bleeding.

Secondary outcome: Evaluation of patients at high risk for major adverse events, that is, those with CKD, over 75 years of age and using rivaroxaban.

Data Analysis (Evaluation of Data Collection Tools)

Parametric tests were employed instead of a normality test to comply with the Central Limit Theorem (26). Continuous variables were analyzed using mean±standard deviation, minimum and maximum values, while categorical data were analyzed using percentages and frequencies values. The student's t-test statistic was applied to compare the means of the two groups. The association among categorical data was evaluated using the Chi-Square, Fisher's Exact test, and Student's t-test statistic.

Total survival was calculated using Kaplan-Meier curves. The difference in mortality and bleeding time compared to the P2Y12 inhibitor group was determined by the Log-Rank test, and the Hazard ratio coefficient was given with a 95% confidence interval. TIME (day) was used as the variable, including the follow-up time or the time to reach the relevant event (Death and Bleeding).

The risk coefficients (Relative Risk) of the variables thought to be associated with the P2Y12 inhibitor were given a 95% Confidence interval. The data was accepted with a suitable statistical threshold of p<0.05. The www.e-picos.com New York software and the MedCalc statistical package tool were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS

A total of 180 patients, 24 of whom were over 75 years old, who were diagnosed with STEMI and started fibrinolytic therapy in the emergency department between 2017 and 2021 were included in the study. In this process, 9 STEMI patients with cardiac arrest in the emergency department and four data loss or inaccessibility were excluded (Figure 1).

The average age of the total patients included in the trial was 61.2 ± 11.4 , the mean age of those treated with clopidogrel was 60.5 ± 11.4 , and those treated with ticagrelor were 61.8 ± 11.5 , showing no substantial difference (Table I).

There was no difference in the mean GRACE risk score, symptom-door-needle-angio times, echocardiographic findings, length of hospital stay, and laboratory and cardiac parameters according to the P2Y12 inhibitor applied (Table I).

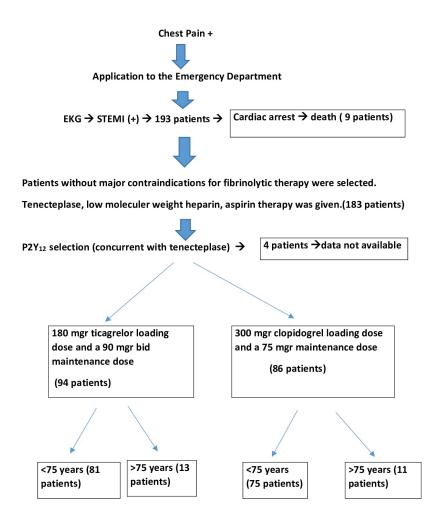


Figure 1: Patient Flow in the Study.

Total Clopidogrel Ticagrelol n=180 n=86 n=94 Properties **x**±SD **x**±SD ₹±SD P value 61.2±11.4 60.5±11.4 61.8±11.5 0.44 Age **Hospitalization Period** 5.8 ± 1.8 5.8±1.9 5.9±1.6 0.86 Glucose (mg/dL) 159.09±79.62 164.35±93.967 161.78±7.399 0.84 0.95±0.29 0.941±0.317 0.974±0.295 Creatinine (mg/dL) 0.46 Na (mmol/L) 139.17±3.26 138.77±3.03 139.62±3.373 0.08 K (mmol/L 4.138±0.53 4.155±0.53 4.134±0.535 0.79 Albumin (g/dL) 3.408±0.501 3.482±0.507 3.348±0.474 0.07 Total protein (g/dl) 7.669±1.075 7.794±1.086 7.538 ± 1.05 0.11 HBG (g/dL) 14.266±1.528 14.196±1.384 14 243±1 667 0.84 HCT (%) 42.586±4.314 42.327±3.754 42.627±4.739 0.64 AST (U/L) 29.39±21.389 27.62±16.95 29.96±24.26 0.45 21.18±16.32 19.3±10.14 22.31±19.95 ALT (U/L) 0.2 Total cholesterol, mg/dL 177.44±55.771 178.15±40.127 175.55±66.477 0.94 Triglyceride,mg/dL 139.318±100.831 135.365±68.188 141.894±121.998 0.66 HDL cholesterol, mg/dL 42.78±9.865 42.954±9.253 42.621±10.442 0.82 LDL cholesterol, mg/dL 110.349±31.455 110.242±30.823 111.182±31.516 0.84 WBC (103/mm3) 12.265±3.653 12.365±3.978 12.178±3.325 0.73 PLT (103/mm3) 269.512±66.149 269.459±61.513 269.395±70.186 0.99 MPV (um³) 9.757±0.813 9.739±0.754 9.804±0.903 0.61 CRP (mg/L) 1.78±2.235 1.636±1.454 1.945±1.706 0.35 INR 1.176±0.087 1.179±0.116 1.189 ± 0.093 0.54 LVEF (%) 0.462±0.115 0.464±0.116 0.453±0.12 0.49 LA diameter (cm) 3 437±0 503 3 469±0 485 3 413±0 535 0.46 eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m2 91.103±21.38 93.108±22.71 88.428±20.906 0.15 1.89±1.68 2.09±1.941 1.71±1.36 cTnI (ng/mL) 0.14 **GRACE Risk Score** 131.16±25.556 0.74 130.11±24.002 130±21.848 (Hospital Mortality) 151.1±73.5 Symptom to Door Time 0.16 160.1±87.2 169.8±99.6 (min) Door to Needle 25.9±6.7 0.42 25.6±6.6 25.2±6.4 Time(min) Symptom to Needle 177.1±73.9 0.18 185.7±87.9 195.1±100.6 Time(min) Needle angiography 358.1±117.9 0.48

371.5±137.6

364.5±127.5

Table I: Difference Evaluation with P2Y12 inhibitor Used in Patients with STEMI Diagnosis.

Values are reported as mean \pm SD for continuous traits. Na: sodium, K: potassium, Hemoglobin, HTC: Hematocrit, ALT: Alanine aminotransferase, AST: Aspartate aminotransferase, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, HDL: high-density lipoprotein, LDL: low-density lipoprotein, WBC: White blood cells, PLT: Platelets, MPV: mean platelet volume, CRP: C reactive protein, INR: international normalized ratio, LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction, LA: left atrium, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, cTnI, cardiac troponin-I, GRACE: Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events

Relationship of the used P2Y12 inhibitor with age: (Table II)

N:180		Clopidogr n=86	el	Ticagrelol n=94		
Age	≤75 n=75	>75 n=11	P value	≤75 n=81	>75 n=13	P value
	n(%)	n(%)		n(%)	n(%)	
Mortality						
No	70(93.3)	11(100)	0.99	77(95.1)	13(100)	0.99
Yes	5(6.7)	-		4(4.9)	-	
Stroke						
No	74 (98.79)	10 (90.9)	0.24	81(100)	11(84.6)	0.02
Yes	1(1.3)	1(9.1)		-	2(15.4)	
Revascularization						
No	71(94.7)	11(100)	0.99	78(96.3)	12(92.3)	0.45
Yes	4(5.3)	-		3(3.7)	1(7.7)	
Recurrent MI						
No	71(94.7)	11(100)	0.99	78(96.3)	12(92.3)	0.45
Yes	4(5.3)	-		3(3.7)	1(7.7)	
BARC bleeding type						
Type 1-2	8(72.7)	4(80)	0.99	5(55.6)	7(87.5)	0.29
Type 3-5	3(27.3)	1(20)		4(44.4)	1(12.5)	
Fatal Bleeding						
No	73(97.3)	11(100)	0.99	78(96.3)	13(100)	0.99
Yes	2(2.7)	-		3(3.7)	-	1
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m2						•
<60	5(6.7)	2(18.2)	0.22	6(7.4)	3(23.1)	0.11
≥60	70(93.3)	9(81.8)		75(92.6)	10(76.9)	1

time(min)

Table II: Age Relationship Evaluation by the P2Y12 inhibitor used.

^{*} Significant at the p<0.05 level (Student's t-test).

^{*} Significant at the p<0.05 level (Fisher's Exact Test). Values are reported as n (%) for dichotomous traits. MI: myocardial infarction, BARC: Bleeding Academic Research Consortium, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate

In patients treated with Clopidogrel; age (\leq 75/>75) was not associated with mortality, stroke, target vessel revascularization, MI, BARC bleeding Type (3-5/1-2), fatal bleeding, and GFR (p>0.05). In patients treated with Ticagrelor; age (\leq 75/>75) was not associated with mortality, target vessel revascularization, MI, BARC bleeding Type (3-5/1-2), fatal bleeding, and GFR (p>0.05). However, stroke was associated with age (p<0.05). While stroke did not develop in those younger than 75 years of age, 15.4% of those older than 75 years had an ischemic stroke.

Relationship and Difference of the used P2Y12 inhibitor with Mortality. (Table III)

N:180		Clopidogrel n=86			Ticagrelol n=94	
Mortality	Survival n=81	Non- Survival n=5	р	Survival n=90	Non- Survival n=4	р
	n(%)	n(%)		n(%)	n(%)	
Gender						
Male	55(67.9)	3(60)	0.66	67(74.4)	3(75)	0.99
Female	26(32.1)	2(40)		23(25.6)	1(25)	
HT No	52(64.2)	2/(60)		(2/(0.0)	1(25)	
Yes	52(64.2) 29(35.8)	3(60) 2(40)	0.99	62(68.9) 28(31.1)	3(75)	0.1
Hyperlipidemia	29(33.8)	2(40)		20(31.1)	3(73)	
No	66(81.5)	3(60)		69(76.7)	3(75)	
Yes	15(18.5)	2(40)	0.25	21(23.3)	1(25)	0.99
DM	15(10.5)	2(10)		21(23.3)	-(25)	
No	57(70.4)	2(40)	0.18	66(73.3)	3(75)	0.99
Yes	24(29.6)	3(60)		24(26.7)	1(25)	
CHF						
No	73(90.1)	5(100)	0.99	85(94.4)	4(100)	0.99
Yes	8(9.9)	-	0.77	5(5.6)	-	0.77
CHD	80/05 11	4/0.00		02/02 23	F/100	
No	70(86.4)	4(80)	0.54	83(92.2)	5(100)	0.3
Yes AF	11(13.6)	1(20)		7(7.8)	3(75)	
No No	73(90.1)	3(60)		76(84.4)	4(100)	
Yes	8(9.9)	2(40)	0.1	14(15.6)	4(100)	0.99
CVD	0(9.9)	2(40)		14(13.0)	- +	
No	81(100)	5(100)		87(96.7)	4(100)	
Yes	-	-	-	3(3.3)	- (100)	0.99
Smoking				-()		
No	22(27.2)	2(40)	0.72	22(24.4)	1(25)	0.00
Yes	59(72.8)	3(60)	0.62	68(75.6)	3(75)	0.99
Killip Classification						
1	63(77.8)	2(40)	0.09	67(74.4)	1(25)	0.06
2-4	18(22.2)	3(60)		23(25.6)	3(75)	
MI Type						
Anterior	31(38.3)	2(40)		37(41.1)	3(75)	
Lateral	20(24.7)	1(20)	0.7	23(25.6)	1/25	0.44
Inferior Posterior	17(21) 13(16)	2(40)		15(16.7) 15(16.7)	1(25)	
Failed Thrombolytic	13(10)	-		15(10.7)		
(ECG criterion)						
No	60(74.1)	2(40)		69(76.7)	1(25)	
Yes	21(25.9)	3(60)	0.13	21(23.3)	3(75)	0.05
Rivaroxaban Usage					İ	
No	73(90.1)	3(60)	0.1	76(84.4)	4(100)	0.99
Yes	8(9.9)	2(40)	0.1	14(15.6)	-	0.99
eGFR, mL/min/1.73						
m2	8/2 25	0//00		0/100		0.00
<60	5(6.2)	2(40)	0.051	9(10)	4(100)	0.99
≥60	76(93.8)	3(60)		81(90)	4(100)	
GRACE score	10/22 5		0.22	14/15 ()		0.57
Low Mod.	19(23.5) 36(44.4)	2(40)	0.32	14(15.6) 46(51.1)	3(75)	0.57
High	26(32.1)	3(60)		30(33.3)	1(25)	
LVEF	20(32.1)	5(00)		50(33.3)	1(23)	
Classification						
<40	21(25.9)	2(40)	0.34	28(31.1)	2(50)	0.63
40-49	17(21)	2(40)		18(20)	1(25)	
≥50	43(53.1)	1(20)		44(48.9)	1(25)	
BARC bleeding type						
Type 1-2	10(83.3)	2(50)	0.24	12(83.7)	-	0.01
Type 3-5	2(16.7)	2(50)		2(14.3)	3(100)	
	x±SD	x±SD	Р	x±SD	x ±SD	p
INR	1.16±0.08	1.42±0.28	0.11	1.18±0.09	1.25±0.13	0.18
Troponin I	2.07±1.98	2.26±1.26	0.84	1.72±1.42	1.43±0.35	0.22
CDACE Diek Soore	0.46±0.11	0.38±0.14	0.1	0.45±0.11	0.39±0.21	0.3
GRACE Risk Score	129.06±21.76	145.2±19.1	0.11	131.1±25.9	133.5±16.7	0.85

Table III: Relationship and Difference Evaluation with Mortality by the P2Y12 Inhibitor Used.

* Significant at the p<0.05 level (Chi-Square-Fisher's Exact test/Student's t-test).

Values are reported as mean \pm SD for continuous traits and n(%) for dichotomous traits. HT: hypertension, DM: diabetes mellitus, CHD: coronary heart disease, CHF: congestive heart failure, AF: atrial fibrillation, CVD: cerebrovascular disease, MI: myocardial infarction, ECG: electrocardiogram, eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate, GRACE: Global Registry of Acute Coronary Events, LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction, BARC: Bleeding Academic Research Consortium, INR: international normalized ratio

In patients treated with Clopidogrel; Mortality was not associated with gender, disease, and smoking history, Cardiac Parameter result, BARC blood type (3-5/1-2), LVEF value and Classification, target vessel revascularization, recurrent MI, Failed fibrinolytic ECG criteria, Rivaroxaban use, and GRACE risk score (p>0.05). However, GFR status was linked to mortality (p=0.05). In those with mortality, 40% had a GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m², and without mortality, 6.2% had GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m².

In patients treated with Ticagrelor; Mortality was not associated with gender, disease, and smoking history, LVEF value and Classification, target vessel revascularization, recurrent MI, Criteria for failed fibrinolytic ECG, Rivaroxaban use, GFR, and GRACE risk score (p>0.05). However, failed fibrinolytic ECG criteria were associated with mortality (p<0.05). Failed fibrino-

lytic ECG criteria were observed in 75% of those with mortality and 23.5% without mortality. BARC bleeding type (3-5 / 1-2) was also associated with mortality (p<0.05). BARC type 3-5 bleeding was detected in 3 patients (100%) with mortality and two patients (14.3%) without mortality.

There was no difference in the risks of in-hospital death, Killip classification 2-4, Failed fibrinolytic ECG criterion, GFR, Rivaroxaban USE, Fatal Bleeding, BARC Bleeding Type (3-5/1-2), Intracranial Bleeding, Mortality, ischemic stroke, target vessel revascularization, and presence of recurrent MI in patients treated with Ticagrelor against treated with Clopidogrel (p>0.05) (Figure 2).

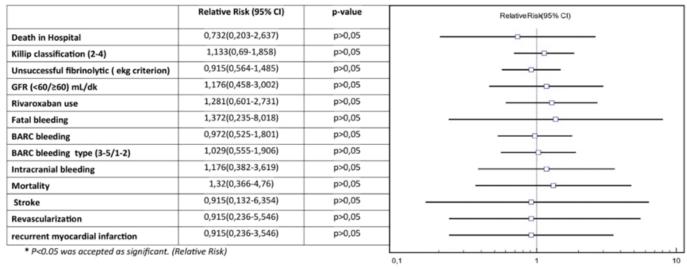
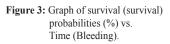
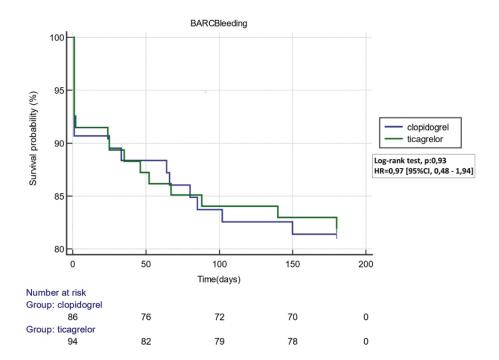


Figure 2: Relationship of clinical findings with P2Y12 inhibitor Use and relative risk coefficients (Ticagrelor/Clopidogrel).

As seen in Figure 3;

In this study, bleeding was detected in 16 of 86 patients using clopidogrel and in 17 of 94 patients using ticagrelor. In this case, chi-square statistic was 0.007, and the p-value was 0.93, greater than 0.05 (Log-rank test, p:0.93HR=0.97 (95%CI, 0.48 - 1.94)). Accordingly, the statistical result indicates that the survival curves did not differ significantly, or the factor (P2Y12 inhibitor) variable did not significantly affect the duration of bleeding (p>0.05).





As seen in Figure 4;

In this study, BARC Type 3-5 bleeding was detected in 4 patients using clopidogrel and five patients using ticagrelor. In this case, the chi-square statistic was 0.086, and the p-value was 0.77, greater than 0.05 (Log-rank test, p:0.77 HR=1.23 (95%CI,

0.31 - 4.79)). Accordingly, the statistical result indicates that the survival curves did not differ significantly, or the factor (P2Y12 inhibitor) variable did not have a significant effect on the BARC type 3-5 bleeding duration (p>0.05).

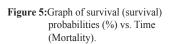
BARCBleeding Type 100 80 Survival probability (%) 60 clopidogrel ticagrelor 40 Log-rank test, p:0,77 HR=1,23 [95%CI, 0,31 - 4,79] 20 100 200 0 50 150 Time(days) Number at risk Group: clopidogrel 0 16 6 2 0 Group: ticagrelor 5 2 0 17

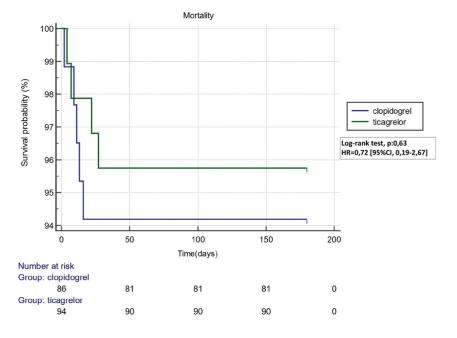
Figure 4: Graph of survival (survival) probabilities (%) vs. Time (BARC type 3-5/1-2).

As seen in Figure 5;

In this study, mortality was observed in 5 of 86 patients using clopidogrel and in 4 of 94 patients using ticagrelor (Log-rank test, p:0.63 HR=0.72 (95%CI, 0.19-2.67)).

Accordingly, the statistical result indicates that the survival curves did not differ significantly, or the factor (P2Y12 inhibitor) variable did not have a substantial effect on the time to exitus (p>0.05).





DISCUSSION

In this study, we found the use of ticagrelor with fibrinolytic treatment was similar to clopidogrel in terms of MACCE, mortality, myocardial infarction, target artery revascularization, stroke, and severe bleeding (p>0.05).

Despite the decrease in the use of fibrinolytic in STEMI patients worldwide, fibrinolytic therapy continues to maintain its importance because there are still hospitals far from a PCI-capable center. As a result, updated information about STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic is always needed. Although ticagrelor therapy provides many benefits compared to clopidogrel in reducing major cardiovascular events (MACE) in patients undergoing pPCI, data on its use with fibrinolytic are limited (27-29).

Therefore, new guidelines urge dual antiplatelet treatment with aspirin and clopidogrel in combination to fibrinolytic therapy in patients with STEMI (1,5,14,15). Use of ticagrelor was not recommended within 24 hours of fibrinolytic therapy due to the paucity of clinical studies supporting the safety of using ticagrelor with fibrinolytic in guidelines (1,5,14,15). Clinical studies of ticagrelor in STEMI patients receiving fibrinolytic have been done to fill this knowledge gap (16-20). Patients over 75 years of age were excluded from these studies, and some patients were switched to ticagrelor after using clopidogrel as first-line therapy. Ticagrelor was not advised for patients over 75 years of age treated with fibrinolytic. Our study is the first clinical trial to compare ticagrelor with clopidogrel simultaneously received with fibrinolytic in STEMI patients, including patients over 18 years of age (including 75 years of age), patients with CKD, and patients receiving rivaroxaban. The parameters in Table I in STEMI patients did not differ or correlate according to the P2Y12 inhibitor used, indicating no confounding effects between the patient groups (p>0.05). There was no difference or correlation between both the groups in terms of above 75 years of age, demographic and clinical characteristics, laboratory findings, left ventricular ejection fraction, MI type, GRACE risk score, symptom to needle time, failed thrombolytic ECG criteria, recurrent MI, BARC bleeding, and mortality (p>0.05). In STEMI patients younger than 75 years of age, similar TIMI major bleeding was detected within 30 days of a late switch from clopidogrel to ticagrelor after fibrinolytic therapy compared to patients who continued on clopidogrel (16).

According to the TREAT study, the 12-month major cardiovascular event rates of ticagrelor and clopidogrel were similar in fibrinolytic-treated STEMI patients younger than 75 years of age (17). Welsh RC et al., found that switching from clopidogrel to ticagrelor after fibrinolysis was associated with reduced recurrent ischemic events at one year. Additionally, in this study, there were no substantial differences between major bleeding and intracerebral hemorrhage (18). In the MIRTOS study, there was no substantial difference between the ticagrelor and clopidogrel treated randomized groups of STEMI patients receiving fibrinolytic therapy in terms of MACE and major bleeding events (19). Coner A. et al., determined that switching from clopidogrel to ticagrelor at 48 hours following fibrinolytic administration was similarly safe (MACE and major bleeding) in patients (20). In our

study, there was no difference in patients aged 18-75 year groups including the risks of; in-hospital death, fatal bleeding, barc bleeding type (3-5/1-2), intracranial bleeding, mortality, stroke, target vessel revascularization, and recurrent mi in those treated with ticagrelor compared with clopidogrel (p>0.05). There was no statistically significant difference between the ticagrelor and clopidogrel groups of major bleeding and mortality (major bleeding: Log-rank test, p:0.77 HR=1.23 (95% CI, 0.31 - 4.79) (mortality: Log-rank test, p:0.63 HR=0.72 (95%) CI, 0.19-2.67). We found that the concomitant administration of ticagrelor in STEMI patients who preferred pharmacoinvasive reperfusion therapy was safe for six months.

In a clinical study evaluating the factors affecting the in-hospital mortality of patients given fibrinolytic for STEMI, it was found that patients who developed mortality had high rates of CKD, diabetes mellitus (DM), GRACE score, Killip class 3-4, and had low LVEF found (30). Although the group of CKD patients using clopidogrel was associated with mortality in our study, it was not linked to patients using ticagrelor (p:0.051 p:0.99). There was no correlation between LVEF value, GRACE risk score, age, and history of diseases with mortality. Although the use of ticagrelor was not linked to major bleeding in patient groups with a high GRACE risk score, the use of clopidogrel was associated with increased major bleeding. Therefore, we determined that ticagrelor administration in addition to fibrinolytic therapy is safer than clopidogrel in patients with high GRACE risk scores. Considering its relationship with mortality, although major bleeding in patients using clopidogrel was not associated with mortality, major bleeding in the group of patients using ticagrelor had higher mortality.

In a trial comparing the effectiveness and safety of ticagrelor against clopidogrel in STEMI patients aged 75 and up, ticagrelor was linked to a lower risk of major cardiac and cerebrovascular events (MACCE) (31). However, it did not differ in terms of 1-year mortality and bleeding events. While there was no association with stroke in patients over 75 years of age using clopidogrel, it was linked to stroke in patients using ticagrelor (p>0.05 p<0.05, respectively). There is a paucity of evidence on the use of P2Y12 inhibitors in addition to fibrinolytic treatment in STEMI patients with chronic kidney disease (16,17). Studies have excluded patients with CKD (16,17). Since the administration of fibrinolytic in CKD patients is not a major contraindication, we included CKD patients in our study. Information in the literature regarding the use of fibrinolytic in CKD patients is generally based on experience with patients given alteplase (TPA) due to ischemic blood flow. There are currently no clinical studies comparing the use of ticagrelor and clopidogrel in CKD patients undergoing fibrinolytic treatment for STEMI (32,33). Although there are studies in the literature that reported increased major bleeding and mortality in CKD patients treated with fibrinolytic agents for ischemic stroke, there are also studies that concluded that CKD did not affect adverse outcomes such as major bleeding and death. In our study, although GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m², was not associated with major bleeding and mortality in patients using ticagrelor, an increase was found in major bleeding and mortality in those using clopidogrel. We found that ticagrelor is a safer

alternative than clopidogrel in CKD patients medicated with fibrinolytic. In STEMI patients, Mega JL et al. discovered that using aspirin, clopidogrel, or rivaroxaban decreased the risk of mortality, heart attack, or stroke owing to cardiovascular events, and there was no substantial elevated risk of lethal bleeding when compared to placebo (34). No patients were using fibrinolytic in this clinical study, nor were there any use of ticagrelor. Our study compared ticagrelor and clopidogrel in patients using rivaroxaban revealed no relationship with major bleeding and mortality. Co-administration of a potent antiplatelet agent such as ticagrelor along with fibrinolysis may result in an increased risk of bleeding. While the MACCE and major bleeding results of studies to date have been encouraging, evidence for concomitant use of ticagrelor and fibrinolytic is still lacking. The studies have done so far may encourage more comprehensive studies. Limitations: Four patients were ruled out of the research due to the difficulty of following up on patients whose places of residence changed. Due to the 6-month follow-up of our patients, we could not comment on the 12-month effects. The most rigorous way to evaluate the benefits of treatment is through randomized controlled clinical trials. Due to the small number of patients, our results cannot be generalized but may be informative for future large-scale randomized clinical trials.

CONCLUSION

In STEMI patients, regardless of being over or under 75, ticagrelor therapy given concurrently with fibrinolytic therapy is comparable to clopidogrel including all mortality, major cardiovascular events, stroke, recurrent MI, target artery revascularization, and major bleeding. In conclusion, compared to clopidogrel, ticagrelor shows a similar safety profile over six months in STEMI patients treated with fibrinolytic.

Ethics Committee Approval:

The study was approved, and the requirement for informed consent was waived by the Ethics Commission. (No: 2021-208- decision number:11/6 Date: 05th August 2021). The study was conducted in line with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Work permit and data usage permission were approved by the management of Cizre Dr.Selahattin CIZRELIOGLU State Hospital (No: 84410283/469/E-84410283-469-623 Date: 27 July 2021)

Informed Consent:

Informed consent was not obtained as it was a retrospective clinical study.

Author Contributions:

Concept – M.D.,S.G.; Design - M.D.,S.G.; Supervision - M.D.,S.G.; Resources - M.D.,S.G.; Materials- C M.D.,S.G.; Data Collection and/or Processing - M.D.,S.G.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - M.D.,S.G.; Literature Search - M.D.,S.G.; Writing Manuscript - M.D.,S.G.;; Critical Review - M.D.,S.G.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Evaluation with A/B Scan Ultrasonography of the Anterior Chamber, Posterior Chamber and Vitreous in Patients with Blunt Eye Trauma

Künt Göz Travmalı Hastalarda Ön Kamara, Arka Kamara ve Vitreusun A/B Scan Ultrasonografi ile Değerlendirilmesi

ABSTRACT Objective:

To detect common Ultrasonography (USG) findings in patients with blunt ocular trauma and compare them with clinical findings.

Material and Methods:

The anterior chamber depth, lens thickness, axial length and scleral thickness values were measured with USG (Aviso, Quantel Medical, Clermont-Ferrand, France).

Results:

In this study, we included 44 eyes of 44 patients; 77% of blunt ocular trauma patients were male and 31% were in the 20-40 age group. The most common cause of trauma was branch hit (23%). The most common examination findings were eyelid ecchymosis (60%) and hyphema (29%). Intravitreal hemorrhage (15%) and retinal detachment (4%) were the most common USG findings. Initial percentage of best-corrected visual acuity is 0.1 (1 Logarithm of the Minimum Angle of Resolution (logMAR)) and worse was 27%. This value decreased to 6% with medical or surgical treatments at the first month examination. There was no statistically significant difference between the initial, first week, and first month measurements of axial length, anterior chamber depth, lens thickness and scleral thickness (p = 0.724, 0.724, 0.717, 0.717, respectively).

Conclusion:

This study emphasizes the importance of USG in blunt ocular trauma and comparing the clinical findings showed that blunt trauma can damage ocular structures in different severities. The final result depends on the severity of the injury and the application of appropriate treatment.

Key Words:

Ocular trauma, Blunt ocular trauma, Ultrasonography

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ÖZ

Amaç:

Künt oküler travmalı hastalarda sık görülen Ultrasonografi (USG) bulgularını saptamak ve klinik bulgularla karşılaştırmak.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Ön kamara derinliği, lens kalınlığı, aksiyal uzunluk ve sklera kalınlık değerleri USG (Aviso, Quantel Medical, Clermont-Ferrand, France) ile ölçüldü.

Bulgular:

Toplam 44 hastanın 44 gözünün dahil edildiği bu çalışmada, künt oküler travmalı hastaların % 77'si erkekti. Hastaların % 31'i 20-40 yaş arasındaydı. En sık travma nedeni dal çarpmasıydı (% 23). En çok görülen muayene bulgusu ise sırasıyla kapak ekimozu (% 60) ve hifemaydı (% 29). Vitre içi kanama (% 15) ve retina dekolmanı (% 4) en sık görülen USG bulgularını oluşturmaktaydı. Başlangıç en iyi düzeltilmiş görme keskinliği 0,1 (1 Logarithm of the Minimum Angle of Resolution (logMAR)) ve daha kötü olanların oranı % 27 iken, birinci ay kontrollerinde bu oran yapılan medikal veya cerrahi tedaviler ile % 6'ya gerilemiştir. Hastaların USG ile ölçülen aksiyel uzunluk, ön kamara derinliği, lens kalınlığı ve sklera kalınlığında başlangıç, birinci hafta ve birinci ay arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir farklılık saptanmamıştır (sırasıyla p = 0,724; 0,724; 0,717; 0,717).

Sonuç:

Künt oküler travmada USG' nin öneminin vurgulandığı ve klinik bulguların karşılaştırıldığı bu çalışma künt travmanın oküler yapılara değişik şiddetlerde zarar verebileceğini ve nihai sonucun yaralanmanın şiddetine, yaralanan göz segmentine, uygun tedavi yönteminin uygulanması ve uzun vadeli komplikasyonların takibine bağlı olduğunu göstermiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Oküler travma, Künt oküler travma, Ultrasonografi

INTRODUCTION

Eye injuries are one of the most common causes of vision loss or decrease and affect the quality of life. Even the simplest ocular traumas cause pain and discomfort, leading to loss of workforce, care and treatment costs. Despite the advances in diagnosis and treatment methods, eye traumas continue to be socially and economically serious (1). Blunt ocular trauma can occur during industrial work as an occupational accident, as a sports accident, in-home accidents, or as part of in-vehicle accidents. Depending on these, temporary or permanent vision loss may develope (2).

The patient may not be able to open their lids due to severe pain or swelling, and this may make direct examination impossible. Since the 1950s, Ultrasonography (USG) has been used as a painless and noninvasive evaluation method of the traumatized globe. Today, with the advent of high-frequency probes and color Doppler USG has become a vital imaging modality in the evaluation of the traumatized globe and provides valuable

information that is often not available by other means (3). USG has revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of the traumatized eye, especially in opaque ocular media. Clinical examination of the posterior segment may be limited in anterior segment injuries that cause opacity such as hyphema and corneal edema. Traumatic posterior segment pathologies such as vitreous hemorrhage or vitritis may also limit the diagnostic information obtained from clinical examination. In these cases, control of the eye with USG can show pathological changes and guide us to the necessary treatment, so it is considered an important diagnostic and prognostic tool (4, 5).

The study aims to detect common USG findings in patients with blunt ocular trauma and compare them with clinical findings.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Forty-four consecutive patients with blunt ocular trauma admitted to Akdeniz University Hospital between 2015 and 2017 were included in this prospective study. The study protocol was approved by the Akdeniz University Hospital Clinical Research Ethics Committee. The study was carried out by the Declaration of Helsinki. Written informed consent was obtained from each patient. The study was conducted in accordance with research and publication ethics (Date: 23.07.2014, Number: 337). All patients underwent comprehensive ophthalmic examination with a history of blunt trauma. Visual acuity was measured with

All patients underwent comprehensive ophthalmic examination with a history of blunt trauma. Visual acuity was measured with a Snellen chart and converted to Logarithm of the Minimum Angle of Resolution (logMAR) and slit lamp and non contact lenses were used for the anterior segment and fundus examination. Intraocular pressures of the patients were recorded with a noncontact tonometer (Nidek NT-2000 NCT, Nidek CO, LTD., Hiroishi Gamagori, Aichi, Japan).

Patients with a history of penetrating ocular trauma or chemical burns and patients who did not have pathological findings after slit-lamp examination and USG were excluded from the study. All patients underwent B-scan USG to evaluate the posterior segment of the eye with AVISO A/B scan USG (Aviso, Quantel Medical, Clermont-Ferrand, France).

Patients' gender, age, cause of trauma (stone hit, metal object hit, bottle hit, branch hit, ball hit and after falling), examination findings (ecchymosis, corneal edema, hyphema, cataract, iridodialysis, zonular dialysis, commotio retina, vitreous hemorrhage, retinal detachment), USG data (axial length, anterior chamber depth, lens thickness, scleral thickness) at the first examination, first week, and first month were recorded and compared.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 18.0 software (SPSS Inc. Chicago IL USA). Fisher's exact test, t-test, and Pearson chi-square test were used to compare groups. A p value below 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

A total of 44 eyes of 44 patients were included in the study. 34 (77.3 %) of all patients were male, 10 (22.7 %) were female, 24 (54.5%) patients had left eye trauma, and 20 (45.5 %) patients had right eye trauma. The mean age of the patients was $40.93 \pm$

20.97 (6-82) years. The most common causes of blunt ocular injuries were branch fragments (23%) and metal object injuries (21%). Afterward, blunt ocular trauma was caused by beating (14%), other (11%), stone (11%), ball (9%), falling (7%), and bottle hit (4%) injuries, respectively. Other causes included plastic foreign body injury in 2 patients, in-vehicle traffic accident in 1 patient, out of vehicle traffic accident in 1 patient, and injury after heel strike in 1 patient (Table I).

Table I: Frequency and Percentage of Causal Factors

Frequency and Percentage of Causal Factors	Number (%)
Branch	10 (23)
Metal object	9 (21)
Beat	6 (14)
Other	5 (11)
Stone	5 (11)
Ball	4 (9)
Falling	3 (7)
Bottle	2 (4)

The most common anterior segment findings after trauma were found to be lid ecchymosis (60%), hyphema (29%), corneal edema (27%), traumatic cataract (11%), zonular dialysis (11%), iridodialysis (9%). On the other hand, commotio retinal detachment was seen in 11% of the patients, vitreous hemorrhage in 15%, and retinal detachment in only 2 patients (4%). USG was used to detect structural changes that could not be detected by clinical examination, especially in an opaque environment; vitreous hemorrhage and retinal detachment were the most common USG findings (Table II).

Table II: Frequency and Percentage of Findings by Total Cases

Findings	Number (%)
Lid ecchymosis	27 (60)
Hyphema	13 (29)
Corneal Edema	12 (27)
Traumatic Cataract	5 (11)
Zonular Dialysis	5 (11)
İridodialysis	4 (9)
Commotio Retina	5 (11)
İntravitreal Hemorrhage	7 (15)
Retinal Detachment	2 (4)

Visual acuity was 0.6 (0.22 logMar) or better in 16 patients (36%), but visual acuity was 0.1 (1 logMar) or worse in 12 patients (27%) and perception was positive. At the first month follow-up, the number of patients, having visual acuity 0.6 (0.22 logMar) and better, increased to 30 (69%), the number of patients having visual acuity 0.1 (1 logMar) and worse, decreased to 3 (6%). One of these patients had retinal detach-

ment and vitreous hemorrhage accompanying choroidal detachment, another patient had optic nerve avulsion, and 3 patients having corneal edema that did not regress after traumatic cataract surgery. It was observed that there was a statistically significant increase in the first examination's mean visual acuity if it's compared to the first week and first month (p=0.01). There was no statistically significant difference between the patients' axial length, anterior chamber depth, lens thickness, and scleral thickness measured by USG between the first examination, first week, and first month follow up (Table III).

Table III: Comparison of USG measurements

	First Examination	First Week	First Month	p Values
Axial length	23.29 mm	23.26 mm	23.24 mm	0.724
Anterior chamber depth	3.39 mm	3.23 mm	3.23 mm	0.724
Lens thickness	4.00 mm	3.9 mm	3.9 mm	0.717
Sclera thickness	1.03 mm	1.03 mm	1.01 mm	0.717

mm= milimeters

DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Causes such as inability to open the eyelids after blunt ocular trauma, hyphema, traumatic cataract development, or vitreous hemorrhage may make the evaluation of the posterior segment difficult or impossible. Although clinical findings suggest a complication such as retinal detachment, orbital USG is required for a comprehensive posterior segment evaluation. In our study, the incidence of eye injury was almost three times more common in men (77.3%) than in female patients (22.7%). Especially in the young age group, male patients 20 to 40 years of age (31%) constituted the group in which blunt ocular traumas were encountered most frequently. As in our study, Elshafie et al.(6) and Pai et al.(7) also reported that blunt ocular trauma was seen more intensely in males . They reported that, unlike our data, it was mostly encountered between the ages of 10-20 (31% and 28%, respectively). When we look at the causes, Pai et al.(7) stated that the most common cause was motor vehicle accidents (28%), but similar to the results of Elshafie et al. 6 (27%), in our study, it was seen that the most common cause was branch hit (23%). According to these results, a higher rate of ocular scarring in younger men compared to older individuals or women, was probably due to more risky jobs and the different categories of sports they do. It has been seen that the probability of scaling is higher and it is often caused by branches, metal objects or stones. In another study, it was observed that blunt eye traumas were more common especially in children and young adult males (8). In that study 38% of the traumas were caused by falling, 32% during play, 14% due to work accident, 9% to beating, 6% to traffic accident. It is stated that these accidents are preventable.

As well as the young population, blunt trauma after falls is frequently encountered in the elderly population. In a study, open globe injuries in the population over 70 years of age were examined and blunt trauma was found to play an important role (9). It's found that it is mostly related to falls, with a female predominance (in contrast to the male predominance in the young group) and a poor visual prognosis. It's concluded that to

prevent this condition, care should be taken to educate elderly patients and their caregivers on how to prevent falls.

A blunt eye injury can affect any structure of the eye. The most common finding in our study was valve ecchymosis with a rate of 60%. Pai et al.(7) also found that 62.5% of patients injured by blunt ocular trauma, similar to our study, showed signs of ecchymosis and edema on the eyelids. However, Elshafie et al.(6) showed that lid ecchymosis only represents 14% of cases, unlike this current study. Hyphema was found to be a common complication occurring in 29 % of patients with blunt injuries, whereas in some other studies this rate was found to be approximately 50 % (2, 6, 10). We consider that the difference in results can be explained by exposure to objects larger than the globe volume in most cases.

The most common findings detected in USG were intravital hemorrhage (15%) and retinal detachment (4%). Although trauma is the most common cause of vitreous hemorrhage in young patients, most causes of vitreous hemorrhage in the general population are non-traumatic (diabetic retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, posterior vitreous detachment) (11, 12). Commotio retinal, also known as Berlin edema, may also occur after recent blunt eye trauma. Studies have shown that this injury is present in 9% to 14% of orbital blowout fractures (13). In our study, 11% of patients had commotio retina. Retinal edema in these cases were resolved completely without the need for treatment. Trauma is the most common cause of retinal detachment in children and is responsible for approximately 10% of detachments in the general population (14). While retinal detachment was observed at the rate of 4% in our study, this rate was 21% in the studies of Elshafie et al.(6).

USG is a device that is frequently used after trauma because it is available in many clinics and is easily accessible. Nowadays, optical coherence tomography can be used as an effective method to show retinal damage in addition to USG. However, in order to obtain good quality optical coherence tomography images, there should be no opaque media, which is encountered in most blunt traumas. In such cases, ultrasound gains importance in providing us with information about the damage. In a recent study, optic coherence tomography and optical coherence tomography angiography images were compared between traumatized eyes and contralateral eyes of the patients with blunt ocular trauma (15). Although there were no evident findings on fundus examination or structural spectral domain-optical coherence tomography changes, optical coherence tomography angiography demonstrated a significant decrease in retinal deep capillary plexus vessel density of the eyes effected by blunt ocular trauma. These findings show that microvascular changes can be observed after blunt trauma that cannot be detected on examination and optical coherence

tomography. In conclusion blunt trauma can cause significant abrupt deterioration of the eyeball, causing more serious damage than appears clinically. As long as there is no penetration or globe rupture, even if there are pathological eve findings due to trauma, no difference was observed in the USG measurements of the anatomical structures of the eye, such as anterior chamber depth, lens thickness, axial length, scleral thickness and in serial follow-ups up to 1 month. Despite blunt eye trauma, good visual acuity can be achieved in the majority of patients after 1 month of follow-up or appropriate surgical intervention (69%). USG guides us in the treatment by allowing us to look at the posterior segment of the eye even in an opaque environment such as corneal edema, traumatic hyphema, opaque lens and vitreous hemorrhage, which prevents the diagnosis of eye pathology in the injured eye. This study showed that blunt trauma can damage ocular structures with varying degrees of severity, and the final outcome depends on the severity of the injury, the injured eye segment, the appropriate treatment modality, and the follow-up for long-term complications.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine Ethical Committee, Akdeniz University (Approval number: 2014/337).

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept –K.C.A, H.D.İ., E.B.T.; Design - K.C.A., H.D.İ., E.B.T. Supervision – K.C.İ. Resources –K.C.A. , M.E.D., Ç.E.P.; Materials - K.C.A. , M.E.D., Ç.E.P.; Data Collection and/or Processing – M.E.D., Ç.E.P. Analysis and/ or Interpretation - M.E.D., Ç.E.P.; Literature Search - M.E.D., Ç.E.P.; Writing Manuscript M.E.D., Ç.E.P.; Critical Review - K.C.A., H.D.İ., E.B.T., M.E.D., Ç.E.P.

Conflict of interest:

The authors declare that they have no confict of interest.

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Oosit Maturasyonu Sürecinde Global DNA Metilasyonunun Değişimi

Alteration of Global DNA Methylation in the **Oocyte Maturation Process**

ÖZ.

Amaç:

Bu çalışmada, global DNA metilasyonunun Germinal Vezikül (GV) aşamasından Metafaz II (MII) aşamasına kadar olan oosit maturasyonu sürecinde değişim gösterip göstermediğinin ortaya konulması amaçlanmıştır.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Bu çalışmada, 4 haftalık Balb/C farelerinin GV ve in vivo MII oosit evreleri arasındaki global DNA metilasyonu farkı immünofloresan yöntemi kullanılarak incelendi. Bu amaçla GV ve MII aşamasındaki oositlerde 5-metil sitozin (5mC) işaretlemesi sonrası Zeiss LSM-880 Airyscan konfokal mikroskopta alınan optik kesitlerinden elde edilen görüntülerden Image-J yazılımı kullanılarak hesaplanan sinyal yoğunlukları değerlendirildi.

Bulgular:

Global DNA metilasyonu, 5-metil sitozin (5mC) işaretlemesi sonrası değerlendirildiğinde, GV aşamasındaki oositlerde, çekirdek bölgesinde gözlemlenirken, MII aşamasındaki oositlerde metafaz plağına uygun lokasyonda olduğu izlendi.

Global DNA metilasyonunun göreceli sinyal yoğunluğu değerlendirildiğinde; MII aşamasında GV asamasına göre 3,2 katlık istatistiki olarak anlamlı bir azalma olduğu saptandı. Bu azalısın birinci mayoz sonrası DNA miktarındaki azalmaya bağlı olup olmadığı için yapılan hesaplamalar da bunun sadece DNA miktarındaki azalmadan kaynaklanmadığını gösterdi.

Sonuç:

Oositlerde, GV aşamasına kıyasla MII evresinde global DNA metilasyon seviyesinin üç kattan daha fazla azalmış olması, fertilizasyon öncesi oositteki DNA metilasyonunun çeşitli mekanizmalarla kontrol edildiğini ve bunun fertilizasyon dinamiğinde önemli olabileceğini göstermiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

Epigenetik, Global DNA metilasyonu, Oogenez, Oosit

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

In this study, it was aimed to reveal whether alteration of global DNA methylation occurs or not during the oocyte maturation from Germinal Vesicle (GV) to Metaphase II (MII).

Material and Methods:

The difference in global DNA methylation between the GV and in vivo MII oocyte stages of 4-week-old Balb/C mice was examined by using the immunofluorescence method. For this purpose, oocytes at GV and MII stages were labeled with anti-5-methyl cytosine (5mC) antibody and images from optical sections taken with Zeiss LSM-880 Airyscan confocal microscope were obtained. Signal intensities of the images were digitalized and calculated by using Image-J software.

Results:

When the global DNA methylation was evaluated after 5-methyl cytosine (5mC) labeling, 5mC signals were observed in nucleus of GV stage oocytes, whereas at metaphase plate of MII stage. Relative signal intensities of global DNA methylation were evaluated, and statistically significant (p<0.0001) 3.2-fold decrease was found at MII stage compared to GV. Calculations aiming to reveal whether this significant decrease depended on the reduction in the amount of DNA after meiosis I or not, showed that the decrease in global DNA methylation may not be caused by meiosis itself.

Conclusion:

The result that the global DNA methylation level was decreased more than three times at the MII stage compared to the GV stage oocytes suggests that DNA methylation is controlled by various mechanisms, and this may have vital role in fertilization dynamics.

Key Words:

Epigenetics, Global DNA methylation, Oogenesis, Oocyte

GİRİS

Memelilerde oogenez ve erken dönem embriyo gelişimi süreçlerinde epigenetik mekanizmaların görev aldığı bilinmektedir (1). Epigenetik mekanizmalar, doğrudan veya dolaylı olarak gen ifadesini kontrol etmektedir. Doğrudan gen ifadesini kontrol eden süreçlerden bir tanesi DNA metilasyonudur. DNA metilasyonu, genomdaki CpG (sitozin fosfat guanin) ya da CpG olmayan bölgelerdeki sitozin nükleotidlerinin beşinci karbon atomuna metil grubu eklenmesi ile gerçekleştirilir (2). DNA metilasyonunda sürdürme ve de novo metilasyon olmak üzere iki farklı mekanizma görev almaktadır. Her iki mekanizmayı da DNA Metil Transferaz (DNMT) enzimleri katalizler. Bu işlemlerde metil grubu vericisi S-adenozil-L-methionin (AdoMet)'dir (3). Bugüne kadar memelilerde DNMT1, DNMT2, DNMT3A, DNMT3B, DNMT3C ve DNMT3L olmak üzere altı farklı DNA metil transferaz enzimi tanımlanmıştır. DNMT enzimleri, yapısal olarak N-terminal düzenleyici bölge, C-terminal katalitik domain ve merkezi bağlayıcı domain olmak üzere üç ana domainden oluşmaktadır (4). N-terminal domain DNMT'lerin

hücre içi yerleşimlerini belirler ve metile olmamış ve yarı-metile DNA zincirlerinin tanımlanmasını sağlamaktadır. Avrıca, N-terminal bölge çoğalan hücre antijen-bağlayan (PBD), nükleer yerleşim sinyali (NLS), sitozin-zengin çinko parmak bağlayan (ATRX), polibromo homoloji (PHD) ve tetrapeptid kromatin bağlayan domainleri de içermektedir (5, 6). PBD domaini, DNMT'lerin DNA sekansı ve PCNA proteini ile ilişki kurmasını sağlarken PHD domaini replikasyon çatalında yeni DNA zinciri sentezini uyarmaktadır (7,8). C-terminal domain 10 farklı motif içermektedir. Bu 10 motifin altısı (I, IV, VI, VIII, IX ve X) evrimsel olarak korunmuş olup, her birinin metilasyon sürecinde yapısal bir görevi bulunmaktadır. Üçüncü DNMT bölgesi olan merkezi bağlayıcı domain, lizin-glisin dipeptid tekrarlarından oluşmakta olup N ve C-terminal bölgeleri arasında yapısal bağlayıcılık ilişkisi kurmaktadır (4).

Primordial germ hücresinden (PGH) olgun (MII) oosite kadar gelişen oositlerin epigenetik ve transkripsiyonel değişiklikler gösterdiği bilinmektedir (9). PGH'sinde genom çapında DNA demetilasyonu, gonadal kabartıya ulaştıktan hemen sonra meydana gelmektedir. Puberte öncesi oositlerde DNA metilasyon seviyesinin beşinci günden on beşinci güne kadar artığı ve olgun GV oositte maksimum seviyeye ulaştığı bilinmektedir (10). Fertilizasyon sırasında global demetilasyon gerçekleşir. Fertilizasyondan sonra ise paternal genom hızlı bir şekilde demetilasyona uğrarken maternal genomun demetilasyonu pasif gerçekleşir (11). GV aşamasından MII maturasyonuna kadar DNMT1, 3a, 3b ve 31 seviyelerinin artığı yapılan çalışmalarla gösterilmiştir (12, 13). Öte yandan global DNA metilasyonunun değişimine ilişkin literatürde çelişkili ifadeler söz konusudur. Bu çalışmada, folikülogenez sürecinde oosit gelişiminde önemli değişiklikler gösterdiği bilinen global DNA metilasyonunun, oosit mayozu sürecinde GV'den MII aşamasına geçen sürecte nasıl etkilendiğinin ortaya konulması amaçlanmıştır. Bu çerçevede, in vivo elde edilen GV ve MII oositler çalışma kapsamında değerlendirilmiş ancak MI oositler in vivo olarak elde edilemediği için çalışma dışı tutulmuştur. Bulgularımız, GV aşamasına kıyasla MII aşamasındaki metilasyon miktarının üç kattan daha fazla azaldığını ortaya koymuştur.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER Deney Hayvanları

Bu çalışma Ankara Üniversitesi Hayvan Bakım ve Kullanım Kurulu tarafından onaylandı (Protokol no: 2020-17-145). Çalışma kapsamında Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Araştırma Hayvanları Laboratuvarı Birimi'nden 4 haftalık dişi Balb/C fareler (n=18) kullanıldı. Tüm fareler, yiyecek ve suya sınırsız erişim ile barındırıldı ve 12 saatlik aydınlık/karanlık döngüsünde tutuldu. Her gruptaki deney tekrarları teknik ve biyolojik tekrar baz alınarak hesaplandı. İstatistiksel olarak değerlendirme yapılabilmesi için en az üç deney tekrarı planlandı.

Oositlerin Toplanması ve Fiksasyonu

Germinal vezikül aşamasındaki (GV) oositleri toplamak için sakrifiye edilen farelerin ovaryumları GMOPS (Vitrolife, 10130) medyumu içerisine alındı. Ardından stereo mikroskop

altında insülin enjektör iğnesi ile parçalanması gerçekleştirildi ve oositlerin medyum içerisine çıkması sağlandı. Daha sonra medyum içerisindeki GV oositler mikropipet ile toplanıp etrafındaki granüloza hücreleri mekanik olarak uzaklastırıldıktan sonra %4 PFA (paraformaldehit) içerisine alınarak 20 dakika fikse edildi. Süre sonunda oositler %2 BSA (sığır serum albumin) içeren PBS (fosfat tamponlu tuzlu su, yıkama solüsyonu) içerisine alınarak boyama asamasına kadar +4°C'de muhafaza edildi. İn vivo metafaz II (MII) aşamasındaki oositleri toplamak için farelere 5 IU Gebe Kısrak Serum Gonadotropini (Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin, PMSG, Abbexa, abx260389) enjeksiyonundan 48 saat sonra 5 IU İnsan Koryonik Gonadotropini (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, hCG, Sigma CG-10) uygulandı. On dört saat sonra fareler sakrifiye edildi ve tuba utarinalar GMOPS (Vitrolife, 10130) medyumu içerisine alındı. Ardından Stereo mikroskop altında insülin enjektör iğnesi ile tuba uterinaları patlatıldı ve MII oositlerinin medyum içerisine çıkması sağlandı. Ardından 1 mg/ml konsantrasyondaki hiyalüronidaz solüsyonu (Sigma, H-4272) içerisinde en fazla 20 saniye sürecinde mikropipet yardımıyla oositlerin etrafındaki kumulus hücreleri uzaklaştırıldı. Hiyalüronidaz enzimini uzaklaştırmak için kumulus hücreleri uzaklaştırılmış oositler GMOPS (Vitrolife, 10130) medyumundan geçirilerek yıkandı. Ardından yukarıda anlatıldığı şekilde fikse edilip boyama aşamasına kadar bekletildi.

İmmünofloresan Boyama

GV ve in vivo MII oositler PBS içinde hazırlanan %1 Tween-20 (v/v) (Sigma-Aldrich, ABD) ile oda sıcaklığında 15 dakika permeabilize edildi. Permeabilizasyonun ardından oositler oda sıcaklığında 30 dakika boyunca 2 mol/L HCl içinde bekletildi. Ardından PBS ile yıkanıp 60 dakika boyunca oda sıcaklığında bloklama solüsyonunda (%20 (v/v) normal keçi serumu (Vector Laboratory, ABD) ve %0,1 (v/v) Tween-20 (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) iceren PBS) tutuldu. Bloklama isleminin ardından oositler 5mC (1:100; Cell Signaling, USA; 28692S) primer antikoru içerisine alınarak gece boyu +4°C' de inkübe edildi. Primer antikor ile inkübe edilme işleminin ardından oositler 3x10 dakika yıkama solüsyonuyla (PBS-%2 BSA) yıkandı ve floresan işaretli sekonder antikor içerisine (Alexa-488 konjuge anti-tavșan antikoru (Kat. No: A-11094, Invitrogen, ABD)) aktarılarak 2 saat 37°C'de karanlık ortamda inkübe edildi. Sonrasında 3x10 dakika PBS-%2 BSA içinde yıkanan oositler 35 mm'lik cam tabanlı petri kaplarına konulan 4 µL'lik PBS damlalarına alındı ve üzeri parafin yağı (OVOIL, 10029, Vitrolife) ile kapatıldı. Zeiss LSM-880 Airyscan konfokal mikroskopta (Zeiss, Almanya) incelemeler yapıldı. Floresan proba uygun olarak 488 nm lazer hattı kullanıldı. Tüm lazer ve tarama parametreleri referans histogram kullanılarak optimize edildikten sonra sabit tutuldu. İki boyutlu (X-Y) ve üç boyutlu (X-Y-Z) analizlerde piksel çözünürlüğü tüm görüntülerde sabit tutuldu. Z aksında 5-metil sitozin sinyalinin başlangıç ve bitiş verlerinden 1 um aralıklarla optik kesitler alındı ve Zen Black programında kesitler bir araya getirilerek tek bir görüntü oluşturacak şekilde birleştirildi. Birleştirilen görüntülerden elde edilen sinyaller Image-J (NIH, ABD) yazılımı kullanılarak dijitalleştirildi ve ardından aynı yazılımın Görüntü Hesaplama

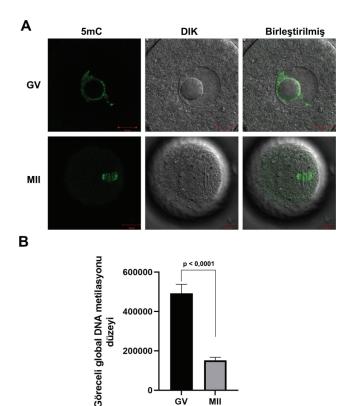
fonksiyonu kullanılarak sinyal yoğunlukları elde edildi.

İstatiksel Analiz

Tüm denevler üc kez tekrarlandı. Gruplar arasındaki farklılık GraphPad Prism 6.0 yazılımı kullanılarak Student'ın t testi ile değerlendirildi ve p<0,05 istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Bu çalışmada global DNA metilasyonunu değerlendirmek amacıyla, anti-5-metil sitozin (5mC) antikoru ile kromozom üzerinde metillenmiş CpG ve non-CpG bölgeleri işaretlendi. GV oositlerde 5mC sinyali, kromatinler üzerinde gözlemlenirken, MII oositlerde mayoz mekiği üzerindeki kromozomlarda gözlemlendi (Şekil 1A).



Şekil 1. 5mC işaretlemesi. A. İmmünfloresan sonuçları. Mikrograflardaki yeşil sinyal GV ve MII gruplarındaki global DNA metilasyonunu göstermektedir. B. Göreceli toplam global DNA metilasyon düzeyi (p<0,0001). GV; Germinal Vezikül, MII; Metafaz II, Ölçüm çubuğu=10 μm.

GV (n=39)

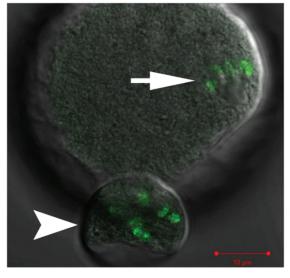
MII (n=65)

200000

Ayrıca gözlemlenebilen kutup cisimciklerinde 5mC sinyalinin varlığı izlendi. İmmün işaretleme protokolü gereği kullanılan HCl'in oositlerin zona pellusida tabakasını eritmesinden dolavı MII oositlerin bir kısmında kutup cisimciği izlenemedi ve bu nedenle ayrıca kutup cisimciği sinyal analizi yapılamadı. Öte vandan kutup cisimciği gözlenebilen MII oositlerin kutup cisimciklerinde de yoğun global DNA metilasyonunun varlığı saptandı (Şekil 2).

MII

5mC + DIK



Şekil 2. Kutup cisimciğinde ve metafaz plağında 5mC varlığı. Ok: Kutup cisimciği, Ok başı: Metafaz plağı, Ölçüm çubuğu=10 μm.

Global DNA metilasyonunu hesaplamak için çalışmamızda değerlendirilen GV aşamasındaki oositlerin (n=39) ortalama göreceli 5mC sinyal değerinin MII evresindeki oositlerden (n=65) 3,2 kat fazla olduğu gözlemlenmiştir (p<0,0001) (Şekil 1B). GV aşamasındaki oosit mayozunu tamamlamamış bir aşamadayken MII aşamasında ilk mayoz bölünmeyi tamamlandığı, dolayısıyla toplam DNA miktarının yarıya düştüğü bilgisi ışığında; 5mC sinyalindeki azalmanın mayoz bölünmeye bağlı olup olmadığı sorusu gündeme geldi. Bu çerçevede, GV aşamasındaki sinyal yoğunluklarının yarısı (DNA miktarının yarıya ineceği gerçeğiyle) hesaplanarak elde edilen veri MII aşamasından elde edilen veriyle karşılaştırıldığında saptanan yaklaşık 1,6 katlık azalmanın istatistiki olarak anlamlı olduğu bulundu (p<0,0007).

TARTIŞMA

Genomda gerçekleşen epigenetik modifikasyonlardan biri olan DNA metilasyonunun, oositlerin gelişimi, büyümesi ve olgunlaşması ile oogenez ve embriyogenez sırasında erken embriyonik gelişim için önemli bir rolü olduğu bilinmektedir (14). Literatürde, olgun GV oosit aşamasına yaklaştıkça ve oosit büyüdükçe global DNA metilasyonunun artığı ifade edilmiştir (9, 10). GV aşamasından MII maturasyonuna kadar ise, global DNA metilasyonunun artmaya devam ettiği ve MII aşamasına gelindiğinde en üst seviyeye ulaşabileceği ön görülmüştür (1, 12, 15, 16). DNA metilasyonunun sadece CpG adalarında değil, aynı zamanda CpG adaları dışındaki (non-CpG) sitozinlerde de gerçekleştiği ve oositlerin global DNA metilasyonu dinamiğinde non-CpG bölgelerinin önemli bir katkısı olduğu bilinmektedir (17). Smallwood ve arkadaşları, CpG bölgelerindeki DNA metilasyonunu değerlendirmiş ve metillenen CpG'nin tüm CpG'lere oranını kıyasladıklarında MII evresindeki DNA metilasyonunun GV evresine göre anlamlı derecede yüksek olduğunu bulmuşlardır (18, 19). Öte yandan

çalışmalarında tüm DNA'daki metilasyon değişimi gösterilmemiştir. Saadeh ve arkadaşlarının kaleme aldıkları derleme makalede GV'den MII aşamasına doğru global metilasyonun artığına iliskin bir cizim Smallwood ve arkadaslarının bulguları referans gösterilerek sunulmuş olmakla birlikte o çalışmada global DNA metilasyonunun değerlendirilmediğine dikkat etmek gereklidir (20). Costello ve arkadaşları yapmış oldukları çalışmada CpG dinükleotid içeriği yüksek olan ve fare genomunda fazlaca bulunan intrasisternal A partikülünün (IAP) CpG adalarındaki metilasyon seviyesini incelemiş ve GV evresine kıyasla MII aşamasında DNA metilasyonunun azaldığını göstermişlerdir (21). Yine çeşitli çalışmalarda CpG bölgelerindeki DNA metilasyonu değerlendirilerek GV'den MII aşamasına geçildiğinde CpG bölgelerindeki metilasyonun azaldığı gösterilmiştir (13, 22). Öte yandan, insan oositlerinde yapılan bir çalışmada, non-CpG bölgelerindeki DNA metilasyonunun GV evresine kıyasla MII oositlerinde fazla olduğu bulunurken, CpG bölgeleri incelendiğinde ise iki evre arasında anlamlı bir fark gözlemlenmemiştir (23). CpG veya non-CpG bölgelerindeki DNA metilasyonunun ayrı ayrı değerlendirildiği bu çalışmalar, GV'den MII'ye geçiş sürecinde tüm DNA'da global metilasyonunun nasıl değiştiği sorusunun doğmasına neden olmaktadır.

Yukarıdaki araştırmalardan farklı olarak, bu çalışmamız kapsamında, GV ve MII aşamalarındaki oositlerde hem CpG hem de non-CpG bölgelerindeki toplam metilasyonu göstermek için 5mC düzeyleri değerlendirilmiş ve global DNA metilasyon seviyesinin MII evresinde GV aşamasındaki oositlere kıyasla üç kattan daha fazla bir azalma gösterdiği izlenmiştir. Bilindiği üzere, Profaz I aşamasındaki GV oositin kromozom sayısı mayoz I bölünmesini tamamlamasıyla yarıya düşmektedir (24). Dolayısıyla MII aşamasındaki oosit, GV oositin yarısı kadar DNA'ya sahiptir. Bu bilgiler doğrultusunda, DNA metilasyonunun hiç etkilenmemesi halinde, MII oositlerdeki metilasyon düzeyinin, GV oositin yarısı kadar olması ön görülebilir. Bu fikir doğrultusunda GV evresindeki elde ettiğimiz metilasyon değerlerinin yarısını alarak (ilk mayoz sonunda DNA miktarının yarıya düşmesi nedeniyle) MII evresindeki metilasyon değerleriyle ayrıca bir karşılaştırma daha yaptığımızda; yine bu değerin MII oositlerinden elde edilen değerden anlamlı derecede yüksek olduğunu hesapladık (p<0,0007). Bu konuyla ilgili iki olasılık olabileceğini ön görmekteyiz. Birincisi, kutup cisimciğine daha fazla metillenmiş DNA'nın atılıyor olması; ikincisi, MII aşamasına geçişte demetilasyonun gerçekleşebileceği. Birinci hipotezle ilişkili literatür taramasında, MII oosit ile birinci kutup cisimciğinde metilasyon seviyesi ve dağılımlarının benzerlik gösterdiğini ortaya koyan çalışmalar söz konusudur (25, 26). Bu nedenle, bu azalış kutup cisimciğine aktarılan metillenmiş DNA miktarıyla ve kromozom sayısının yarıya düşmesiyle açıklanamayabilinir. Dolayısıyla GV'den MII oosit evresine geçiş sürecinde global DNA metilasyonunun çeşitli mekanizmalarla azaltılabileceğini ön görüyoruz.

SONUÇ

Sonuç olarak, bu çalışma, GV ve MII aşamalarında olan fare oositlerinin global DNA metilasyon farkını ortaya koymaktadır. Bu verinin ortaya konulması, literatürdeki çelişkili verilerin tekrar değerlendirilmesi ve global DNA metilasyon dinamiğinin oosit maturasyon sürecine etkisinin daha iyi anlaşılabilmesi açısından önem arz etmektedir. Bulgularımızın gösterdiği GV aşamasından MII aşamasına geçiş sürecinde metilasyon düzeylerinin azalmasında görev alan faktör ve yolakların ortaya konulmasını sağlayacak yeni çalışmalara gereksinim vardır.

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Comparison of the Results of Electrocautery and Scalpel Use in Abdominal Midline **Incisions**

Abdominal Orta Hat İnsizyonlarda Elektrokoter ile Bistüri Kullanım Sonuçlarının Karşılaştırılması

ABSTRACT

Objective:

Scalpel is the conventional instrument for laparotomy incisions. Electrocautery, on the other hand, can offer potential advantages such as blood loss, incision time, postoperative pain. In this study, we aimed to compare the clinical results of electrocautery and scalpel in abdominal midline surgical incisions.

Material and Methods:

One hundred forty-six cases who underwent elective abdominal midline incision between January 2020 – December 2021 were included in the study. The patients were divided into two randomized groups as electrocautery (n: 78) and scalpel (n: 68). The incision dimensions, incision time and blood loss during incision were noted intraoperatively. Postoperative pain and wound infection were recorded.

Results:

The age and sex distribution was similar in the two groups. Incision time (seconds) in the electrocautery group (35.4±18.1) (57.6±25.3) was significantly shorter compared with the time in the scalpel group (p<0.001). The amount of bleeding was lower in the electrocautery group (p<0.001). Postoperative day 1 VAS score was significantly higher in the scalpel group however, the day 5 VAS score was higher in the electrocautery group (respectively; p<0.013 and p<0.001). There was no difference between the two groups in terms of postoperative wound complications (p>0.05).

Conclusion:

Abdominal midline skin incisions performed by electrocautery are associated with faster and less blood loss compared with the incisions using scalpel. There was no difference between the two methods in terms of postoperative wound complications. The pain score of the scalpel on postoperative day 5 was lower than the pain score of the electrocautery.

Key Words:

Electrocautery, Scalpel, Midline laparotomy, Skin Incision

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ÖZ

Amac:

Laparotomi insizyonlarında geleneksel enstrüman bisturidir. Elektrokoter ise kan kaybı, insizyon süresi, postoperatif ağrı gibi potansiyel avantajlar sunabilmektedir. Bu çalışmada abdominal orta hat cerrahi insizyonlarda elektrokoter ile bisturinin klinik sonuçlarını karşılaştırmayı amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Ocak 2020 – Aralık 2021 tarihleri arasında elektif karın orta hat cilt insizyonu yapılan 146 olgu çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastalar elektrokoter (n:78) ve bistüri (n:68) olmak üzere iki randomize gruba ayrıldı. İnsizyon boyutları, kesi süresi ve kesi sırasındaki kan kaybı intraoperative olarak kaydedildi. Ameliyat sonrası ağrı ve yara enfeksiyonu kaydedildi.

Bulgular:

Yaş ve cinsiyet dağılımı iki grupta benzerdi. İnsizyon süresi(sn) elektrokoter grubunda (35,4±18,1) bistüri grubuna (57,6±25,3) göre anlamlı ölçüde daha kısaydı (p<0,001).

Kanama miktarı elektrokoter grubunda daha düşüktü (p<0,001). Postoperatif birinci gün VAS skoru, bistüri grubunda anlamlı ölçüde daha yüksek iken beşinci gün VAS skoru elektrokoter grubunda daha yüksekti (sırasıyla; p<0,013 ve p<0,001). Postoperatif yara komplikasyonları açısından iki grup arasında fark yoktu (p>0.05).

Sonuc:

Elektrokoter ile uygulanan abdominal orta cilt insizyonları bisturiye göre daha hızlı ve daha az kan kaybı ile ilişkilidir. Postoperatif yara komplikasyonları açısından iki metod arasında fark yoktur. Bistürinin postoperatif beşinci gün ağrı skoru elektrokotere göre daha düşüktür.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Elektrokoter, Bistüri, Orta hat insizyon, Cilt insizyon

INTRODUCTION

Surgical skin incisions are conventionally performed mostly using a scalpel. Diathermy provides an important alternative to scalpel with the advantage of hemostasis for skin incisions. There is no consensus in the literature regarding the safety and efficacy of the electrocautery versus scalpel in skin incisions (1). Electrocoagulation, the ability to provide intraoperative hemostasis, is widely used by surgeons in the separation of subcutaneous tissue, fascia and muscle layers. Despite this, it has currently not been preferred for skin incisions due to the concern of electric burns that it can cause on the skin.

On the other hand, scalpel was the standard method for surgical incisions until electrosurgical instruments were discovered because it had the advantage of reaching a controlled incision depth and with no possibility of electric burns. In experimental studies, it has been shown that the use of cautery has consequences such as high wound site infection rates and low wound tension force (2). Soballe et al. found that there was an increase in induration in the wound incision lips and infection in the

wound site, and poor tissue healing due to the use of electrocautery (3). In contrast, in various other studies, it has been observed that the complication rates of the use of scalpel with electrocautery are similar, there is less bleeding, shorter incision time and lower postoperative pain with electrocautery (4-6). This study aimed to compare the results of the use of electrocautery with scalpel, which are conventionally used in midline incisions in abdominal surgery.

MATERIALS and METHODS

The present prospective study was performed on 146 patients who underwent midline incision for abdominal surgery between January 2020 and December 2021. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Istanbul Kartal Lütfi Kirdar City Hospital (approval number: 2022/514/221/5). All proceduresperformed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/ organizational research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. Informed written consents were obtained from the patients. Patients over 18 years who underwent elective abdominal surgery (such as gastrointestinal surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, and umbilical surgery) were included in the study. Cases with a previous history of abdominal midline incision (such as incisional hernia, recurrent cancer surgery), cases with emergent abdominal surgery, cases under the age of 18, cases with an immunocompromised, cardiac pacemaker, and cases who did not agree to participate in the study were excluded from the study.

The patients were divided into two randomized groups; the Cautery group and the Scalpel group. The patients were randomized as electrocautery for one week and scalpel for one week in sequential order. The age, sex, incision length (cm), incision depth (cm), wound area (cm2), incision time (seconds), actual incision time (sec/cm2), the amount of bleeding from the incision (ml), postoperative wound complications, and the postoperative day 1 and day 5 Visual Analog Scale (VAS), (0-10) scores of the patients were recorded. The wound area was calculated according to the formula = incision length (cm) / incision depth (cm). Actual incision time was calculated according to the formula = incision time (sec) / wound area (cm2). The amount of bleeding that occurred during the incision was calculated by measuring the weight of gauze swabs. In all cases, 4x4 cm gauze swabs were used, and each 1 g weight gain in gauze on a sensitive digital scale was considered 1 ml of blood.

All cases were operated under general anesthesia. The abdominal region was washed and dried with 7.5% povidone-iodine before surgical intervention. Prophylactic intravenous administration of 1 g of cefazolin was performed in all cases. The operations were performed by two specialized general surgeons. In the scalpel group, the incision of all layers of the skin and subcutaneous tissue was made using a disposable scalpel of the appropriate size. In the cautery group, incisions were made with a standard diathermy pen electrode (Beybi, Turkey). In both groups, hemostasis was achieved with the help of electrocautery after opening the peritoneum. Abdominal fascia was closed with

looppolyglyconate (Maxon; DavisandGeck, Gosport, UK) and the skin incision was closed with a 3-0 polypropylene (Prolene; Ethicon, USA) suture.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0 program. The suitability of the variables for normal distribution was examined by histogram graphs and using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The mean, standard deviation and median values were used in presentation of the descriptive analyses. Categorical variables were compared with the Pearson Chi-Square Test. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test assessed normality of quantitative data distribution. Quantitative data, not normally distributed, were compared with the Mann-Whitney U test. If data is normally distributed, independent samples t-test were used. Cases where the P-value was below 0.05 were evaluated as statistically significant results.

RESULTS

A total of 146 patients, including 77 men and 69 women with a mean age of 50.65 years were enrolled in the study. There were 78 patients in the cautery group, and 68 patients in the Scalpel group. The mean incision time was 45.8±24.4 sec, incision length was 11.8±3.5 cm, incision depth was 4.9±1.4 cm, wound area was 2.6±1.0 cm2, actual incision time was 20.3±12.2 sec/cm2 and bleeding amount was 9.4±7.6 ml in all patients included in the study. The postoperative wound site infection developed in 12 patients and postoperative seroma developed in 39 patients (Table I). No electrocautery or scalpel-related organ injury occurred in any of the cases in our study.

Table I: The demographic, surgical and clinical features of all cases.

		Mean±s.d / n (%)
Age(year)	Age(year)	
Sex	Male	77
Sex	Female	69
Incision method	Cautery	78
incision incurod	Scalpel	68
Incision time (sec)		45.8±24.4
Incision length (cm)		11.8±3.5
Incision depth (cm)		4.9±1.4
Wound site (cm²)		2.6±1.0
Real incision time (sec/cm²)		20.3±12.2
Bleeding amount (ml)		9.4±7.6
Postoperative wound site infection		12 (8.2)
Postoperative seroma		39 (26.7)
Postoperative VAS score (Day 1)		6.7±1.5
Postoperative VAS score (Day 5)		4.2±1.1

There was no difference between cautery and scalpel groups in terms of age, sex, incision length and incision depth (p>0.05). The incision time and the actual incision time were significantly shorter in the Cautery group (p<0,001). The amount of bleeding was significantly lower in the Cautery group (p<0.001). Postoperative day 1 VAS score was significantly higher in the scalpel group however the day 5 VAS score was higher in the Cautery group (respectively; p<0.013 and p<0.001), (Table II).

Table II: Comparison of the electrocautery and scalpel groups.

	Electrocautery	Scalpel group	P
	group Mean±s.d / n	Mean±s.d / n	
	(%)	(%)	
Age(year)	52.6±13.7	51.8±15.6	0.849
Sex (F/M)	38/40	31/37	0.706
Incision time (sec)	35.4±18.1	57.6±25.3	<0.001 ^a
Incision length (cm)	11.5±3.4	12.1±3.6	0.217a
Incision depth (cm)	4.8±1.4	5.0±1.5	0.270ª
Wound site (cm ²)	2.6±0.98	2.6±1.1	0.761a
Real incision time (sn/cm²)	15.8±9.2	25.6±13.1	<0.001 ^a
Bleeding amount (ml)	5.9±1.9	13.4±9.5	<0.001 ^a
Postoperative VAS score (Day 1)	6.4±1.4	7.0±1.6	0.013 ^a
Postoperative VAS score (Day 5)	4.5±0.95	3.8±1.3	0.001a
Postoperative wound site infection	4 (5.1)	8 (11.7)	0.145 ^b
Postoperative seroma	25 (32.0)	14 (20.6)	0.118 ^b

^aMann Whitney U Test; ^bChi-square test

The rate of change in the postoperative VAS score between the incision techniques was compared with the analysis of repeated measurements. Accordingly, there was a significantly higher decrease in the VAS from day 1 to day 5 in the scalpel group (p:0.001). There was no significant difference between the two groups in terms of postoperative wound site infection and seroma (p>0.05).

DISCUSSION

Since Albrecht Theodor Middeldorpf performed the first electrical surgical procedure using galvanocautery in 1854, the electrocautery developed and plays an important role in surgical hemostasis has become an important instrument in the operating room, regardless of the procedure performed (7). The electrocautery which has become an integral part of modern surgery, depends on an alternating current that causes cleavage/coagulation without damaging nearby tissues (8). The safety and efficacy of the electrocautery in separating the subcutaneous tissue

and muscle layers is well known. However, the use of electrocautery in skin incision is still a matter of debate.

Surgeons detect postoperative wound site infection in abdominal surgery with a frequency of 15-25% (9). In our study, there was no significant difference between electrocautery and scalpel groups in terms of wound site infection. In a study with 240 patients conducted by Johnson et al., the rate of postoperative wound site infection was found to be similar in both methods (10). Similarly, Groot et al., also reported that electrocautery did not increase the risk of wound site infection (5). Researchers reported in a meta-analysis involving 6422 participants that the postoperative wound complication rate of electrocautery was similar to the rate of scalpel (11). However, inguinal hernioplasty, head, neck, breast, hemiarthroplasty surgeries were also included in addition to abdominal incision cases in the study. On the other hand, in order to reduce possible biases, our study was conducted in a homogeneous patient population in which only abdominal midline incisions were used.

We foundin our study that the time required to complete the incision was shorter in the use of electrocautery than the time required in scalpel. Chrysos et al., in cases of elective hernioplasty; Johnson et al., in their studies conducted in elective laparotomy cases, came to the same conclusion with our study (10,12). In contrast, in a double-blinded randomized controlled trial, it was reported that the incision time of scalpel and electrocautery use was similar (13). However, in a systematic review conducted by Charoenkwan et al. in 2012, it was concluded that there is inadequate reliable evidence for suggesting that electrocautery reduces the incision time (14).

The coagulation mode feature present in the electrocautery significantly reduces blood loss by ensuring hemostasis. In the present study, we found that the average blood loss was lower in the electrocautery group compared to the blood loss in the scalpel group. Kearns et al. reported that blood loss during the incision time was significantly lower in cases of elective midline laparotomy (15). Kumar et al., examined 80 patients who had undergone head and neck surgery and found that electrocautery significantly reduced blood loss during incision (16). In our study, the postoperative day 1 pain score was similar in both groups. However, the day 5 pain score was higher in the electrocautery group. Chrysos et al., stated that the use of scalpel increased the pain more in the postoperative period compared to the use of electrocautery and that more analgesic drugs were needed (12). Prakash et al., reported that the use of scalpel or electrocautery caused no significant difference in terms of pain in any postoperative period (13). It has been suggested in the literature that the lower pain score of electrocautery can be explained by the thermal destruction of cutaneous nerve endings, just like in full-layer burns (11, 17).

Limitations

The limitations of our study were that it was a single-center study, there was need for postoperative analgesics, the force of wound tension and the cosmetic satisfaction of the patients were not evaluated. We also accept that comparing the two methods in terms of incisional hernia development by making patient follow-ups longer is the other limitation.

CONCLUSION

In the light of the increasing clinical evidence, as a conclusion, electrocautery, which is an effective instrument in hemostasis, is a safe and effective surgical instrument as scalpel in abdominal midline incisions. With the data obtained from this study, we observed that electrocautery does not increase the risk of early wound complications, has the advantages of shorter incision time and less blood loss.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Istanbul Kartal Lütfi Kirdar City Hospital (approval number: 2022/514/221/5).

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept - G.A.; Design - G.A.; Supervision - G.A; Resources - O.A.; Materials - O.A; Data Collection and/or Processing - Y.T.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - Y.T.; Literature Search - G.A.; Writing Manuscript - G.A., O.A.; Critical Review - G.A., O.A., Y.T.

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The Effect of Altruistic Behaviors on Psychological Resilience and Care Burden in Caregivers

Bakım Vericilerde Özgecilik Davranışlarının Psikolojik Dayanıklılık ve Bakım Yüküne Etkisi

ABSTRACT Objective:

This study was conducted to investigate the predictive effect of altruistic behaviors on psychological resilience and care burden in caregivers of cancer patients.

Material and Methods:

The study consisted of 194 caregivers of 194 patients with cancer who were treated at the Hematology-Oncology Service, Day Treatment Center and General Surgery Service of Dokuz Eylül University Hospital. The study data were collected by using four data collection tools, namely Patient and Caregiver Information Form, Altruism Scale, Resilience Scale for Adults, and Clinically Adapted Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale. The mean score of caregivers was 74.96±12.02 on the total Altruism Scale, 129.86±23.72 on the total Resilience Scale for Adults and 30.20±13.05 on the total Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale.

Results:

A statistically significant and positive correlation was found between caregivers' scores on the altruism scale and resilience scale (p<0.01). The increase in altruistic behavior scores increased the resilience score (p<0.05). It was found that 24.1% of the variance in the level of caregivers' resilience was caused by the variance in the level of their altruistic behavior. A statistically significant and negative correlation was found between caregivers' scores on the Altruism Scale and the Zarit Care Burden Scale (p<0.01). An increase in altruistic behavior scores caused a decrease in the level of caregiver burden (p<0.05). It was determined that 13.2% of the variance in the level of caregivers' care burden was caused by the variance in their altruistic behavior.

Conclusion:

It was concluded that altruistic behaviors in caregivers of patients with cancer increased psychological resilience and reduced the burden of care. Nurses can take on an active role in increasing altruistic behavior that has an important role in the provision of effective care by caregivers.

Key Words:

Caregivers, Altruism, Psychological resilience, Care burden, Nursing

DOI: 10.53394/akd.1116494

ÖZ

Amac:

Bu çalışma, kanser hastalarının bakım vericilerinde özgecilik davranışlarının psikolojik dayanıklılık ve bakım yüküne yordayıcı etkisini incelemek amacıyla yapıldı.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Araştırmaya Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi Hastanesi Hematoloji-Onkoloji Servisi, Gündüz Tedavi Merkezi ve Genel Cerrahi Servisi'nde tedavi gören 194 kanser hastasının 194 bakım vericisi alınmıştır. Çalışmada veri toplama formu olarak, Hasta ve Bakım Verici Tanıtım Formu, Özgecilik Ölçeği (ÖÖ), Yetişkinler İçin Psikolojik Dayanıklılık Ölçeği (YPDÖ) ve Kliniğe Uyarlanan Zarit Bakım Yükü Ölçeği (ZBYÖ) olmak üzere dört veri toplama aracı kullanılmıştır.

Bulgular:

Bakım vericilerin Özgecilik Ölçeği toplam puan ortalaması 74,96±12,02, Yetişkinler İçin Psikolojik Dayanıklılık Ölçeği toplam puan ortalaması 129,86±23,72 ve Zarit Bakıcı Yük Ölçeği toplam puan ortalaması 30,20±13,05 olarak bulunmuştur. Bakım vericilerin; özgecilik ölçeği puanları ile psikolojik dayanıklılık ölçeği puanları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ve pozitif yönlü bir ilişki bulunmuştur (p<0,01). Özgecilik davranışı puanlarında meydana gelen artışın psikolojik dayanıklılık puanını artırdığı saptanmıştır (p<0,05). Bakım vericilerde meydana gelen psikolojik dayanıklılık düzeyindeki değişimin %24,1'inin bakım vericilerin özgecilik davranışları düzeyinde meydana gelen değişimden kaynaklandığı tespit edilmiştir. Bakım vericilerin Özgecilik Ölçeği puanları ile Zarit Bakım Yükü Ölçeği puanları arasında ise istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ve negatif yönlü bir ilişki bulunmuştur (p<0,01). Özgecilik davranışı puanlarında oluşan bir artışın bakım yükü düzeyinde azalmaya neden olduğu saptanmıştır (p<0,05). Bakım vericilerin bakım yükü düzeyinde meydana gelen değişimin %13,2'sinin bakım vericilerin özgecilik davranışları düzeyinde meydana gelen değişimden kaynaklandığı tespit edilmiştir.

Sonuç:

Kanser hastalarının bakım vericilerinde özgecilik davranışlarının psikolojik dayanıklılık düzeyini artırdığı, bakım yükü düzeyini ise azalttığı sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Hemşireler bakım vericilerin etkin bakım vermelerinde önemli rolü bulunan özgecilik davranışlarının bakım vericilerde görülmesinde etkin rol alabilirler.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

Bakım vericiler, Özgecilik, Psikolojik Dayanıklılık, Bakım yükü, Hemşirelik

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a disease that disrupts harmony, creates stress, and affects the quality of life for patients who are diagnosed with this disease and their families (1). A caregiver is a person who helps a person that is in need of physical care and struggles with a disease free of charge. Due to the uncertainty of the course of the disease and the treatment process, people who provide care for the patient as well as patients with cancer are affected physically, emotionally, and socially. Factors such as the extension of care given to the patient and the patient's condition negatively affect the care provided for the patient and reduce the quality of life of caregivers (2). The involvement of caregivers in a holistic care approach is a very distressing and challenging process for caregivers. The caregiver can take on an unrequited self-sacrifice role when he/she feels intimacy and love towards the sick person (3,4).

The concept of altruism, which is integrated into the concept of sacrifice, is a moral attitude and view that accepts self-sacrifice for the good of others as a principle without expecting a benefit and is based on the idea and belief that the main responsibility of each person is to devote themselves to society and other people. At the same time, it involves behaviors that the person exhibits autonomously of his/her own will only for the benefit of others without expecting anything in return. The idea of sacrificing oneself to help others has long attracted attention (5,6). The origin of the concept of altruism, which is at the center of medical practice, goes back to the Hippocratic Oath. The concept of altruism, which was first introduced by the French positivist philosopher Auguste Comte in the early nineteenth century, is also a fundamental component of most religious traditions (6,7). Altruism is influenced by factors, such as "empathy", "degree of kinship", "attachment styles", "helpfulness", "voluntariness", "compassion", and "tolerance". This concept is praised by all major religions. For example, in Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Torah, the 15th verse reads "You will open your hand for him and you will certainly meet his needs" (5). In some studies, it has been argued that high kinship supports altruism. Regarding this, Darwin said, "I believe the difficulty, though overwhelming, is lessened or disappears when it is remembered that the choice can be applied to the family" (5).

Altruistic individuals engage in many positive social behaviors, such as helping others, taking responsibility, making donations, self-sacrificing, devoting themselves to others and society, being compassionate, being fair and democratic, having tolerance, being responsible, and being charitable (6). All these factors affect the concepts of resilience and burden of care in caregivers.

The concept of resilience is defined as the ability of individuals to positively adapt to negative situations, such as exposure to significant health problems, a past trauma or threat, or familial or relational problems, to keep things under control, to overcome the problem, and to continue living in a positive way (8,9). Various studies have shown that patients with cancer, as well as their relatives, experience depression, anxiety, and psychological distress. In a study, it was found that lack of

social support and depression affected resilience negatively (10). Altruistic behavior is an important factor in coping with unfavorable conditions healthily and increases resilience. There is a positive relationship between altruistic behavior and life satisfaction, and the predictor of life satisfaction is altruism. Therefore, while exhibiting an altruistic attitude, the individual simultaneously contributes to his mental health and becomes more resilient and satisfied with his current life. It has been determined that altruistic behavior has a positive relationship with psychological well-being (11). Üzar-Özçetin and Dursun reported that resilience had direct and indirect effects on the quality of life and care burden in caregivers (12).

Depression and anxiety are negative effects of care burden. The term caregiver burden is expressed as the physical, psychosocial, or financial responses that can be experienced during the provision of care (13). Provision of home care for patients with cancer disrupts the routines of family members and causes the disease to enter the lives of family members completely. Therefore, the balance of the family may deteriorate and a role change or loss of role may occur in family members. This situation may increase the stress in the family of the patient with cancer (14). Family member caregivers have reported problems that may occur in various situations, such as uncertainty about social roles, limitations in daily activities, nervousness in marriage and family relationships, distress, and deterioration in physical health (13). In a study by Branstatter et al., it was found that increased sacrifice in family member caregivers of palliative care patients was a meaning-preserving factor in the lives of caregivers (15). In the study of Parmaksız (2020), it was found that altruism increased resilience (11).

Holistic care service forms the basis of nursing, which is a profession that helps maintain and develop the health of the family and the individual in society and aims to treat illness, rehabilitate the sick, and improve the quality of life in any case. Identification of factors affecting altruism, resilience, and the burden of care by the nurse who provides care for patients with cancer and is in constant communication with the caregivers of patients with cancer, and accordingly, conduction of interventions to increase altruistic behavior in caregivers of patients with cancer may be effective in increasing the resilience of caregivers and reducing the burden of care. It is thought that the altruistic behavior of individuals who provide care for patients with cancer will have a predictive effect on individuals' resilience and care burden. However, there are no research results on this subject. Therefore, this study will provide new data on this topic for the literature. This study was conducted to examine the predictive effect of altruistic behavior on resilience and care burden in caregivers of patients with cancer.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Ethical Considerations:

In accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Declaration, at the outset, necessary permissions were obtained from Dokuz Eylül University Ethics Committee for Non-Interventional Studies (date: April 12, 2021; protocol number: 6116-GOA; decision number: 2021/12-10), the head of the department of the

related clinics where the research was conducted, and the authors who conducted the Turkish validity and reliability studies of the scales that were used in the study. In addition, oral and written consent of the caregivers who volunteered to participate in the research were obtained after they were informed about the purpose of the research before the scales were applied. This study was conducted in accordance with research and publication ethics.

Design and Sample

This article was produced from the specialization thesis of Ayşegül Özge Şen at Dokuz Eylül University Oncology Nursing Department under the supervision of Ezgi Karadağ. The study data were collected via face-to-face interviews from the caregivers of patients with cancer treated at the Hematology-Oncology Service, Day Treatment Center, and General Surgery Service of a University Hospital in western Turkey between April and September 2021. The population of the study consisted of caregivers of all patients with cancer treated at the centers mentioned above, and the sample consisted of patient relatives who volunteered to participate in the study and met the inclusion criteria between April and September 2021. According to the inclusion criteria, the caregivers who could speak and understand Turkish, were literate, provided care for a patient with cancer for the first time, had been providing care for their patient for at least three months, were a family member of the patient, had no history of psychiatric disorder, and voluntarily participated in the study were included in the study. To determine the sample size, a power analysis was performed on the G*Power-3.1.9.2 software package. In the power analysis, it was determined that 194 individuals needed to be reached to achieve 99% power at a significance level of 0.05 and a confidence interval of 95%. The sample of the study consisted of 194 patients and their caregivers who met the study criteria.

Data collection tools

Data collection tools included a Patient and Caregiver Information Form, the Altruism Scale, the Resilience Scale for Adults, and the Clinically Adapted Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale.

The Patient and Caregiver Information Form

This form is a 20-item questionnaire that was created by the researcher based on a literature review. It consists of questions about the sociodemographic characteristics of patients and caregivers (16-19).

The Altruism Scale

This scale was developed by Perry London and Robert K Bower and was adapted into Turkish by Cantez, Aşkın, and Akbaba in 1991. The scale, which consists of a total of 20 questions, was designed to measure four dimensions: family dimension, social dimension, benevolence dimension, and responsibility dimension. Each dimension consists of 5 items. A high score on the family sub-dimension indicates that the individual perceives his/her relatives, himself, and his family as helpful; a high score on the benevolence sub-dimension indicates that the person is helpful; a high score on the responsibility sub-dimension

indicates that the person takes responsibility at a high rate; a high score on the social sub-dimension indicates that the person participates in social activities. In the reliability study of the Altruism Scale in Turkey, the relationship between even- and odd-numbered questions on the scale was examined, and the correlation coefficient between them was found as 0.81 and significant (p<0.01) (20,21). In this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found as 0.866.

The Resilience Scale for Adults

This scale was developed by Friborg et al. (2005) and adapted into Turkish by Basım and Çetin (2011). During the adaptation study, confirmatory factor analysis was performed on the scale by using two different samples (university students and bank employees) to increase the generalizability level of the study findings, and the 6-dimensional structure suggested by Fribog et confirmed $(\chi 2=1104,$ df = 480, al. was $\chi 2/df = 2.3$; RMSEA=0.055; TLI=0.90; CFI=0.91). The sub-dimensions of the 33-item scale are perception of self, planned future, structured style, social competence, family cohesion, and social resources. Cronbach's alpha reliability values of the sub-dimensions ranged between 0.66 and 0.81 for the student sample and between 0.68 and 0.79 for the employee sample. Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the total scale was found as 0.86 for both samples. In addition, test-retest reliability was found to range between 0.68 and 0.81. The answers are scored between 1 and 5, and items 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 27, 31, and 33 are reverse scored. High scores on the scale indicate high levels of resilience (22,23). In this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found as 0.937.

The Clinically Adapted Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale

The validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the ZCBS, which was developed by Zarit, Reever, and Bach-Peterson in 1980, was conducted by Özer, Yurttaş, and Akyıl (2012). The scale was adapted to family caregivers of inpatients in internal medicine and surgery clinics. The eigenvalue of the ZCBS, which was reduced to 18 items, was found as 5.71 and the variance as 55.05. Cronbach's alpha value of the ZCBS is .82 for the test and .87 for the retest items. The test-retest coefficient of stability (validity of the scale) is .72. Each item is scored between 0 and 4, with 0 = never, 1 = rarely, 2 = sometimes, 3 = quite often, and 4 = almost always. Total scores range from 0 to 72. The higher the total score is, the higher the caregiver burden is. The scores are interpreted as follows: <30, no burden; 30-59, moderate level of burden; ≥60, high level of burden (24,25). In our study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found as 0.942.

Statistical Analysis

The data obtained in the research were analyzed on the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for Windows 25.0 software package. Descriptive statistical methods (numbers, percentages, means, and standard deviation values) were used in data analysis. The normality of the data was checked by using normality tests and kurtosis and skewness values. The analyses included independent samples t-test, F test for comparison of

more than two groups, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), Bonferroni test for post-hoc comparisons, Cronbach's alpha coefficient, Pearson correlation analysis, and linear regression analysis.

RESULTS

In our study, 75.3% of caregivers were female and 24.7% were male. The mean age of caregivers was 41.68±13.19, the mean duration of the care was calculated as 400.84±54.38 (days). Also, 75.3% of caregivers had high school education or above. 68% were married, and 32% were single. It was found that 45.9% of them were employed and that 54.1% were not employed. Regarding the relation between the patient and the caregiver, 28.4% of them were spouses, 37.6% were the patient's son or daughter, and 6.2% were the patient's daughter-in-law or son-in-law. It was also found that 51.5% of the caregivers were self-sufficient in caregiving, 46.9% received support, and 50.5% of the caregivers had another dependent. In addition, 19.6% of caregivers had a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease was hypertension. Apart from these, 64.4% of caregivers lived in the same house with the patient and 59.8% considered providing care as a duty, 42.3% as a sacrifice, and 25.8% as an obligation. Furthermore, 7.2% thought that providing care exhausted the caregiver (Table I). The mean total scores obtained from scales were 74.96±12.02 for Altruism Scale, 129.86±23.72 for the RSA, and 30.20±13.05 for the ZCBS (Table II).

According to the analysis of the altruism scale, the social sub-dimension scores showed a statistically significant difference according to education level (p<0.05). The scores of the caregivers with a high school or above education were higher (p: 0.048; t: -2.011). The responsibility sub-dimension scores showed a statistically significant difference according to the marital status of the caregivers (p<0.05). The scores of married caregivers were higher than those of the single (p: 0.031; t: 2.182). The benevolence sub-dimension scores showed a statistically significant difference according to the self-sufficiency status of caregivers while they are giving care (p<0.05). It was determined that the caregivers who stated that they were self-sufficient while giving care had higher scores (p: 0.005; t: 2.844). The scores of caregivers on the social (p: 0.043; t: -2.035) and benevolence (p: 0.002; t:-3.166) sub-dimensions showed a statistically significant difference according to whether they received support while giving care. The scores of the caregivers who received support for care were lower. The scores of the caregivers who had other dependents in addition to the patient who they provided care for on the benevolence sub-dimension showed a statistically significant difference (p<0.05). The scores of the caregivers who had other dependents were higher (p: 0.037; t: 2.106). The scores of caregivers on the sub-dimensions of the altruism scale showed a statistically significant difference according to whether they had chronic diseases (p<0.05). The scores of the caregivers without chronic diseases were higher (p: 0.002; t: -3.149). The social sub-dimension scores of caregivers who considered giving care as an obligation showed a statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

Table I: Descriptive and care-related characteristics of caregivers (n: 194)

Characteristics	n	%
Gender		
Famale	146	75.3
Male	48	24.7
Age groups 18-39	86	44.3
≥55	72	37.1
40-54	36	18.6
Education		
Literate	7	3.6
Primary school	41	21.1
High school and above Marital status	146	75.3
Maritai status Married	132	8
Single	62	32
Working status		
Working	89	45.9
Non-working	105	54.1
Duration of care (min-maks / X±SS)		
(4,0-3650,0 / 400,84±54,38)		
Degree of kinship with the patient	55	20.4
Spouse Son/daughter	55 73	28.4 37.6
Son-in-law/dougher-in-law	12	6.2
Other family rember	54	27.8
Self-sufficiency status of		
the caregivers		
Sufficient	100	51.5
Insufficient	94	48.5
Whether the caregivers receive		
support while giving care	01	46.0
Yes No	91 103	46.9 53.1
Other dependents	103	33.1
Yes	98	50.5
No	96	49.5
Presence of a chronic disease		
Yes	38	19.6
No	156	80.4
Chronic diseases	19	9.8
Hypertension Diabetes	12	6.2
Asthma	4	2.1
Cardiovascular diseases	3	1.5
Other diseases	14	7.2
Characteristics	n	%
Whether the caregivers live in the sa	me	
house with the patient	125	
Yes No	125 69	64.4 35.6
Seeing caregiving as a duty	09	33.0
Agree	116	59.8
Disagree	78	40.2
Seeing as a sacrifice		
Agree	82	42.3
Disagree	112	57.7
Seeing caregiving as an obligation		
Agree	50	25.8
Disagree	144	74.2
Thinking that caregiving	107	-
exhausts the caregiver	\$ an	112.00
Agree	14	7.2
Disagree	180	92.8

Table II: Descriptive statistics and reliability levels of the scores of caregivers obtained from the altruism scale, the resilience scale for adults, and the Zarit caregiver burden scale adapted to the clinic (n:194)

Scales	Mean±SS	Min- Max	α
Altruism Scale	74.96±12.02	41-100	0.866
Resilience Scale for Adults	129.86±23.72	56-165	0.937
Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale			
Adapted to the Clinic	30.20±13.05	0-69	0.942

a: Cronbach's alpha coefficient

The scores of the caregivers who considered giving care as an obligation were lower (p: 0.015; t:-2.460) (Table III).

In this study, the scores of caregivers on the total ZCBS showed a statistically significant difference according to caregivers' education status, employment status, relation with the patient, chronic disease status, and what it meant to provide care for their patients (p<0.05). It was found that the burden of caregivers who had primary school or below education was higher (p: 0.000; t: 3.699). Caregivers who did not work were found to have a higher burden of care (p: 0.019; t: -2.367). In cases where the caregiver was the patient's daughter- or son-in-law, the burden of care was found to be higher than in other relations (p: 0.001; F: 5.363). The burden of caregivers who stated that they were not self-sufficient in providing care was higher (p: 0.005; t: -2.848). The burden of caregivers who received caregiving support was higher (p: 0.038; t: 2.087). It was found that caregivers with chronic diseases had a higher burden of care (p: 0.006; t: 2.768). Individuals who considered giving care as a duty (p: 0.000; t: 3.915), who saw it as an obligation (p: 0.001; t: 3.341), and who thought that providing care exhausted the caregiver (p: 0.004; t: 3.300) had higher care burden (Table III).

In this study, the scores of caregivers on the total RSA (p: 0.028; t: 2.211) and structured style (p: 0.000; t: -3.631) and perception of self (p: 0.006; t: -2.793) sub-dimensions showed a statistically significant difference according to their education level (p<0.05). The scores of the caregivers with high school or above education were higher. The scores on the family cohesion sub-dimension of the RSA showed a statistically significant difference according to the marital status of the caregivers (p<0.05). The resilience scores of married caregivers were higher than those of the single (p: 0.011; t: 2.554). The scores of caregivers on the structured style (p: 0.045; t: 2.016), planned future (p: 0.036; t: 2.110), and perception of self (p: 0.006; t: 2.726) sub-dimensions showed a statistically significant difference according to their employment status (p<0.05). The scores of working caregivers were higher than those of non-working ones. The scores of caregivers on the total RSA and all its sub-dimensions showed a statistically significant difference according to whether they had a chronic disease (p<0.05). The scores of caregivers with chronic diseases were lower. The scores of the caregivers who considered giving care as a duty on the total RSA (p: 0.023; t: -2.299), structured style (p: 0.018; t: -2.387), perception of self (p: 0.041; t: -2.053), and social resources (p: 0.004; t: -2.914) sub-dimensions showed a statistically significant difference (p<0.05). The scores of those who stated that giving care was a duty were lower. The scores of the

Tablo III: Comparison of the mean scores of caregivers on the total and sub-dimensions of the altruism scale and the total Zarit caregiver burden scale adapted to the clinic according to their descriptive and care-related characteristics (n:194)

		and care-related ics of caregivers	Altruism Sc	ale	Family Dimensi	ion	Social Dimension	n Ben	evolence Dimen	sion Res	ponsibility Dime	nsion	Zarit Caregiver B Scale	
			₹±ss	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value
Gender		Male	74.72 ±12.21	0.629	20.86 ±3.53	0.802	15.99±5.11	0.352	17.23 ±4.39	0.544	20.65±3.19	0.867	30.62 ±13.19	0.433
9		Famale	75.69 ±11.49		20.71±3.58		16.75 ±4.28		17.67 ± 4.23		20.56 ±3.06		28.92±12.68	
Age		18-39	74.57 ±11.85		21.09±3.88		16.13 ±4.75		16.85±4.29		20.5±2.75		29.02±12.94	
⋖		40-54	75.69 ±12.43	0.807	20.6±3.25	0.362	16.4±5.03	0.847	17.78 ±4.66	0.376	20.92 ±3.41	0.607	31.19±12.85	0.535
g.		≥55	74.42 ±11.84		20.61±3.25		15.83±5.21		17.61±3.8		20.36±3.54		31.03±13.85	
Education		Primary or below	20.02 ±3.17	0.191	20.02 ±3.17	0.071	14.75±6.01	0.048*	17.1±4.77	0.672	20.83 ±3.33	0.605	35.48±10.69	0.000*
		High school or above	21.08 ± 3.62		21.08 ±3.62		16.64±4.43		17.41±4.21		20.56±3.1		28.47±13.32	
Marital	status	Married	75.45 ±12.59	0.410	20.9± 3.51	0.639	16.08 ±4.95	0.682	17.52±4.24	0.382	20.95 ±3.26	0.031*	30.53±13.59	0.609
Š	st	Single	73.92 ±10.72		20.65 ±3.6		16.39 ± 4.88		16.94±4.57		19.95±2.81		29.50±11.89	
ii.		Working	76.38±11.7	0.129	21.04 ± 3.51	0.415	16.84 ± 4.45	0.082	17.62±4.28	0.405	20.88±3.18	0.315	27.82±12.89	0.019*
Working	status	Non-working	73.75±12.21		26.63 ±3.56		15.61 ± 5.24		17.1±4.41		20.42±3.12		32.22±12.91	
Jo		Spousa	74.44±12.85		20.47±3.55		16.11 ±5.31		17.45±4.13		20.4±3.42		30.56±13.77	
Degree of	kinship	Son/daughter	74.47±10.07	0.360	20.79 ±3.59	0.676	16.34 ± 4.38	0.412	17.04±4.38	0.536	20.29 ± 2.8	0.222	31.34±11.46	0.001*
Deg	kin	Son/doughter-in-law	70.92±15.02		20.5±3.15		13.92± 5.71		16.17±4.93		20.33±2.96		41.17±9.55	
٥		Other family member	77.06±12.1		21.28±3.75		16.52±5.02		17.87±4.42		21.39±3.3		25.85±13.48	
Chronic	disease	Yes	72.05±11.97	0.097	19.24 ± 3.19	0.002*	15.21±5.22	0.178	17.16 ±4.57	0.780	20.45±3.16	0.181	35.37±12.64	0.006*
	36	No	75.48±11.96		21.21±3.52		16.41±4.83		17.38±4.3		20.67±3.16		28.94±12.88	
Lives in the	same nouse with the	es No No	75.22±12.12		20.82 ±3.49		16.28 ±5.03		17.42±4.32		20.7±3.3		29.56±13.31	
Liv	wit	aNo	74.48±11.9	0.680	20.81±3.64	0.981	15.99 ±4.74	0.981	17.17±4.41	0.702	20.51±2.87	0.691	31.36±12.58	0.359

*p<0.05, independent samples t-test, independent samples variance analysis

Descriptive and care-related	Altruism S	cale	Family Dime	nsion	Social Dimen	sion	Benevolence Di	mension	Resposibility Din	nension Za	ırit Caregiver Bı	ırden Scale
characteristics of caregivers	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	₹±SS	p value	<u>₹</u> ±SS	p value	$\bar{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\bar{X}\pm SS$	p value	₹±SS	p value
Status of receiving support												
Yes	73.23±12.63	0.060	20.99±3.5	0.532	15.41±5.43	0.043*	16.31±4.22	0.002*	20.53 ± 3.13	0.675	32.26 ±12.28	0.038*
No	76.49±11.29		20.67±3.57		16.85 ±4.33		18.24±4.27		20.47±3.17		28.38 ±12.49	
Status of self-sufficiency												
Sufficient	76.57±11.38	0.054	20.87±3.38	0.838	16.74 ±4.39	0.101	18.18±4.25	0.005*	20.78 ±3.14	0.492	27.66±12.76	0.005*
Insufficient	73.24±12.29		20.77 ±3.71		15.57 ±5.38		14.44±4.29		20.47± 3.17		32.90±12.88	
Other dependents												
Yes	75.96±12.14	0.242	20.8 ±3.69	0.925	16.26 ±4.97	0.820	17.98 ±4.14	0.037 *	20.93 ±3.37	0.181	30.86±12.85	0.481
No	73.94±11.87		20.84±3.38		16.09±4.89		16.68±4.47		20.32±2.89		29.53±13.29	
Seeing caregiving as a duty												
Agree	73.91±12.27	0.137	20.67 ±3.35	0.481	15.82 ±5.21	0.219	16.89±4.51	0.081	20.53±3.06	0.580	33.10±12.82	0.000*
Disagree	76.53±11.53		21.04±3.81		16.71±4.43		18.0±4.03		20.78±3.29		25.88±12.24	
Seeing caregiving as a sacrifice												
Agree	75±11.73	0.968	20.43 ± 3.53	0.186	16.21±4.82	0.938	17.62 ±4.63	0.433	20.74 ±2.94	0.655	31.60±11.31	0.188
Disagree	74.93±12.27		21.11 ± 3.52		16.15 ±5.01		17.13 ±4.14		20.54 ±3.31		29.18±14.56	
Seeing caregiving as an												
obligation												
Agree	72.94±12.48	0.169	20.44±3.04	0.379	14.72±4.91	0.015 *	16.74± 4.79	0.262	21.04±3.1	0.285	35.38±9.76	0.001*
Disagree	75.66±11.82		20.95 ±3.69		16.68± 4.84		17.54±4.18		20.49 ±3.17		28.40±13.59	
Thinking that caregiving												
exhauts the caregiver												
Agree	74.86±13.96	0.974	21.29±2.87	0.610	15.29 ± 5.33	0.484	17.07±4.7	0.814	21.21±3.47	0.472	38.29±9.18	0.004*
Disagree	74.97±11.9		20.78 ±3.59		16.24±4.9		17.36±4.33		20.58 ±3.13		29.57±13.11	
p<0.05, independent samples t-test												

caregivers who considered giving care as an obligation on the total RSA (p: 0.0453; t: -2.036), planned future (p: 0.041; t: -2.057), and family cohesion (p: 0.023; t: 2.296) showed a

statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

The scores of those who considered giving care as an obligation were lower (Table IV).

Tablo IV: Comparison of the mean scores of caregivers on the total and sub-dimensions of the resilience scale for adults according to their descriptive and care-related characteristics (n:194)

	-		and care-related	Resilienc				Planned Fu	ture I	amily Cohe	sion	Perception o	f Self	Social Com	petence	Social Res	ources
cnara	cter	ısu	cs of caregivers	X±SS	ults p value	Style X±SS	p value	X ±SS	p value	X ±SS	p value	$\bar{X}\pm SS$	p value	₹±SS	p value	₹±SS	p value
	der		Male	129.73±22.37	0.900	14.73 ±2.91	0.705	15.70±3.55	0.351	23.46 ±4.36	0.856	24.01±4.68	0.529	23.75 ±4.68	0.861	28.09±5.88	0.922
	Gender		Famale	130.23±27.67		14.54±2.96		16.08 ±4.07		23.52 ± 5.87	1	24.52 ±5.29		23.60±5.47		28.19±6.62	
	•		18-39	130.51 ±23.32		14.69±3.14		15.99 ±3.76		23.12±4.77		20.55±4.72		23.72±4.89		28.45±5.57	
	Age		40-54	131.57 ±23.82	0.326	15±2.88	0.264	16.04±3.47	0.221	23.94 ±4.69	0.498	24.26±4.72	0.228	24.18±4.96	0.357	28.14 ±6.47	0.607
	_		≥55	124.86 ±24.44		14.03±2.32		14.83±3.82		23.08±4.94		22.92±3.33		22.75±4.64		27.25±6.37	
	Education		Primary or below	123.35 ±23.31	0.028*	13.40 ±2.51	0.000*	14.90±3.96	0.051	23.13±4.56	0.625	22.48 ±5.06	0.006 *	22.63±4.67	0.075	26.83±6.06	0.091
	Educ		High school or above	131.99 ±23.54		15.10 ±2.92		16.09±3.54		23.51±4.84		24.68±4.64		24.07±4.90		28.53±6.01	
	Marital	Status	Marriage	131.47 ±24.03	0.167	14.64 ± 2.75	0.800	16.00±3.68	0.255	24.01±4.61	0.011*	24.24 ±5.08	0.665	24.08±5.01	0.129	28.5±6.15	0.195
	Mai	Sta	Single	126.42 ±22.85		14.76 ±3.26		15.35 ±3.67		22.16±4.88		23.92±4.28		22.94±4.5		27.29±5.8	
	ing	**	Working	133.36±22.10	0.058	15.13 ± 2.80	0.045*	16.39 ±3.37	0.036*	23.91±4.40	0.185	25.15±4.23	0.006*	24.08±4.84	0.335	28.70±5.87	0.217
	Working	Status	Non-working	126.89±24.72		14.30 ± 2.97		15.29 ± 5.86		23.00±5.03		23.29±5.15		23.4±4.9		27.62±6.18	
		V 2	Spouse	126.69±24.36		14.44±2.62		15.29 ±3.69		22.96±4.82		23.45±5.11		23.31±4.71		27.24±6.23	
	Degree of	Kinship	Son/daughter	129.51±21.86	0.328	14.84±2.86	0.373	15.78 ±3.67	0.256	23.34±4.28	0.632	23.92 ±4.32	0.124	23.44±4.72	0.663	28.19±5.88	0.388
	Deg	Kin	Son/daughter-in-law	125.58±25.34		13.5±2.58		14.83 ± 4.06		22.92±4.62		22.92±5.98		24.33±5.03		27.08±5.66	
			Other family member	134.5±25.00		14.98±3.31		16.54±3.55		24.09±5.38		25.41±4.80		24.35±5.25		29.13±6.17	
	Chronic	disease	Yes	118.66±22.89	0.001*	13.84 ± 2.50	0.048*	14.34±3.754	0.006*	21.37±4.40	0.003*	21.79±4.94	0.001*	21.63±4.87	0.003 *	25.68±6.18	0.005*
			No	132.58±23.18		14.88±2.98		16.15±3.63		23.92±4.73		24.71±4.64		24.22±4.75		28.71±5.89	
	same	house with	Yes	128.91±24.65		14.78 ±2.91		15.57 ±3.82		23.32±5.08		23.56±4.92		23.40±4.98		27.83±6.18	
;	same	hous	No No	131.57±21.99	0.457	14.51±2.93	0.540	16.20 ±3.38	0.250	23.59±4.15	0.702	25.00±4.58	0.634	24.36±458	0.232	28.62±5.82	0.385

p<0.05, independent samples t-test, independent samples variance analysis

Descriptive and care-related characteristic of caregivers	Resilienc Adults	e Scale of	Structu	red Style	Planned I	Future	Family Col	nesion	Perception	of self	Social Comp	etence	Social Re	esouces
	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	<i>X</i> ±SS	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	$\overline{X}\pm SS$	p value	₹±SS	p value
Status of receiving support														
Yes	128.9±22.78	0.600	14.37±2.56	0.163	15.76±3.62	0.900	23.47±4.77	0.880	23.93 ±4.65	0.580	23.49 ±4.87	0.561	27.87±5.88	8 0597
No	130.7±24.59		14.95±3.18		15.83 ± 3.74		24.32±4.87		24.32±5.00		$23.90\; {\pm}4.97$		28.33±6.22	
Status of self-sufficiency														
Sufficient	131.42±23.74	0.345	14.94±3.28	0.197	15.93 ±3.66	0.596	23.65±4.67	0.485	24.41 ±4.91	0.422	23.94±4.85	0.502	28.55±5.85	0.301
Insufficient	128.19±23.71		$14.40\ \pm\!2.46$		15.65 ± 3.70		23.17±4.87		$23.85 {\pm}\ 4.76$		23.47±4.91		28.33±6.22	
Other dependent														
Yes	132.41±23.61	0.130	14.96 ±2.92	0.176	16.02±3.74	0.387	23.97 ±4.65	0.103	24.69±4.56	0.106	24.19±4.98	0.164	28.57±6.24	0.288
No	127.25±23.66		14.40±2.89		15.56±3.62		22.85±4.83		23.57±5.05		23.22±4.73		27.65±5.85	
Seeing caregiving														
as a duty														
Agree	126.68±23.68	0.023*	$14.28\; {\pm} 2.67$	0.018*	15.45 ± 3.66	0.111	22.91±4.80	0.068	23.56±4.92	0.041 *	23.40±4.98	0.274	27.09±6.07	0.004*
Disagree	134.58±23.12		15.28±3.17		16.31±3.65		24.18±4.63		25.00±4.58		24.18±4.69		29.63±5.74	
Seeing care as a														
sacrifice														
Agree	127.61±22.96	0.260	14.29 ± 2.83	0.113	15.57±3.57	0.476	24.41±4.49	0.994	23.54 ± 4.79	0.137	23.13±4.88	0.159	27.66±6.09	0.372
Disagree	131.50±24.22		14.96 ± 2.95		$15.96 \pm \! 3.76$		$23.42\; {\pm}4.97$		$24.58 \pm\! 4.83$		24.13±4.84		28.45±6.0,3	
Seeing caregiving as														
an obligation														
Agree	124.02±23.91	0.0453*	14.34±2.80	0.339	14.88±3.55	0.041 *	22.10 ± 4.88	0.023*	23.02±4.79	0.057	22.86±4.90	0.152	26.82±6.04	0.079
Disagree	131.88±23.39		14.80 ± 2.95		16.11±3.68		23.88±4.65		24.53 ± 4.80		24.01±4.84		28.56±6.01	
Thinking that caregiving														
exhauts the caregiver														
Agree	125.21±25.56	0.449	13.50±2.24	0.116	14.71 ± 3.77	0.255	22.93±5.23	0.691	23.29±5.38	0.494	23.79±5.59	0.953	27.00±5.46	0.476
Disagree •p<0.05 , independent samples t-test	13.22±23.61		14.77±2.94		15.88±3.67		23.46±4.74		24.21±4.79		23.71±4.83		28.20±6.10)

There was a statistically significant and positive relationship between caregivers' altruism and resilience (p<0.01: r= 0.495). As the total scores of caregivers on the altruism scale increased, their total resilience scores increased, as well. There was a statistically significant and negative correlation between caregivers' altruistic behaviors and care burden (p<0.01: r=-0.369). As the total score of the caregivers on the altruism scale decreased, their total burden of care score increased. A statistically significant and negative correlation was found between caregivers' burden of care and resilience (p<0.01: r=-0.524). As caregivers' total burden of care scores decreased, their total resilience scores increased (Table V).

Table V: The Relationship between the scores of caregivers on the altruism scale, the resilience scale, and the Zarit caregiver burden scale (n:194)

	1	2	3
1)Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale		-0.369*	-0.524*
2) Altruism Scale	-0.369*		0.495*
3) Resilience Scale of Adults	-0.524*	0.495*	
Correlation analysis, *p<0.01			

In this study, regression analysis was performed to determine the predictive effect of altruistic behaviors in caregivers of patients with cancer on caregivers' resilience. When the results were examined, it was found that F=62.331 in the first model and that models were found to be statistically significant (p<0.05). It was determined that caregivers' altruistic behaviors had an effect on their resilience and that an increase in caregivers' altruistic behavior scores increased their resilience score statistically (p<0.05). In addition, it was determined that 24.1% of the variance in the resilience level of caregivers was due to the variance in the level of their altruistic behaviors (R2=0.241). In the second model, it was found that F=30.344 and that models were statistically significant (p<0.05). It was determined that caregivers' altruistic behaviors had an effect on the burden of care and that an increase in caregivers' altruistic behavior scores caused a statistical decrease in the level of their burden (p<0.05). In addition, it was found that 13.2% of the variance in the level of caregivers' care burden was due to the variance in the level of their altruism (R2=0.132) (Table VI).

Table VI: The predictive effect of altruistic behaviors on the resilience and care burden of caregivers of patients with cancer (n:194)

Dependent variable: Resilience Model 1	Beta	Std error	t	p value	VIF value	F value	Model p	R ² value
Model 1								
Constant	56.610	9.395	6.025	0.000		62.331	0.000*	0.241
Altruism Scale	0.977	0.124	7.895	0.000				
Dependent variable:		Std		р	VIF	F value	Model	R ² value
Care burden	Beta	error	t	value	value		р	
Model 2								
Constant	60.280	5.530	10.901	0.000		30.344	0.000*	0.132
Altruism Scale	-0.401	0.073	-5.509	0.000				

Linear regression analysis, *p<0.05

DISCUSSION

In our study, 59.8% of the caregivers stated that they saw providing care for their patients as a duty, while 42.3% saw it as a sacrifice. Although the majority of caregivers considered providing care for their patients as a duty, the number of caregivers who stated they saw it as a sacrifice was also quite

high. There are studies in the literature that support both findings. For example, the results of Tarı-Selçuk and Avcı (2016), Kristani et al. (2019), and Yeşil et al. (2016) show parallelism with our study in terms of these findings (26-28). The reasons for seeing providing care as duty may include cases where the caregiver is the patient's son/daughter or spouse, he/she takes on the burden of care conscientiously, and he/she thinks that they have to take care of the spouse or mother/father who is sick due to the feudal cultural structure and Muslim origin of Turkey, and because there is no one else to take care of the patient. Reasons for seeing the provision of care as a sacrifice may include cases where the caregiver is compassionate and volunteering, he/she provides care for the patient willingly, or he/she loves the patient very much. In our study, when the caregivers were asked what it meant to care for their patient, they used expressions such as "We promised in sickness and in health", "I love my mother very much", "I would do anything for her", and "I would give my life for my child if necessary". These statements show the sacrifices of caregivers. In Turkey, caregivers with a traditional family structure see themselves as religiously responsible for providing care for their family members who are sick, and they are merciful, compassionate, helpful, and self-sacrificing as also required by Islam. In our study, the total mean score of caregivers on the altruism scale was found to be 74.96±12.02. It is seen that caregivers scored above the average. When the literature is examined, although there is no study that measures altruistic behaviors of caregivers in Turkey, in the study of Lök et al. (2015), caregivers compared the concept of caregiving to the example of a 'devoted individual', while in the studies of Tayaz (2018) and Zaybak (2012), it was stated that caregivers assumed the role of unconditional self-sacrifice (4,29,30). There are also examples from foreign literature. In their study with family-member caregivers, Klemz et al. (2015) found that cultural norms guided altruism and that medical and non-medical expenditures physically distanced the caregiver from the sick individual and reduced altruistic behaviors (31). In our study, reasons for high mean total altruism scores were found to possibly stem from factors such as giving care to loved ones, providing care devotedly and willingly, thinking that giving care is a sacrifice, level of close kinship with the person who is given care, and altruistic behaviors.

The mean score of caregivers on the total resilience scale was high (129.86±23.72). The mean score obtained from the total RSA was determined as 119.38±24.26 in the study of Uğurtay (2019), 130.93±14.60 in the study of Erkan (2019), and 129.98 in the study of Kahraman (2019) (32-34). Liu et al. (2018) found a high level of resilience in family members who provided care for their patients with cancer, and this was consistent with our findings (35). At this point, besides social support, it is possible to talk about the importance of giving care to the loved one, providing care voluntarily and devotedly, good family solidarity, and the belief of the caregiver that the patient will recover faster if he/she gives quality care to his/her patient.

In our study, the mean score of the ZCBS was found as 30.20 ± 13.05 . In other studies conducted with caregivers, the mean score on the total Zarit Caregiver Burden Scale was found as 42.35 ± 20.26 by Altay et al. (2018), 32.61 ± 14.83 by

Özkan-Tuncay et al. (2015), 29.49±9.83 by Tayaz and Koç (2018), and 36.24±12.65 by Kars-Fertelli and Özkan-Tuncay (2019) (4, 36-38). The mean scores for care burden vary in studies. In our study, 52.6% of the caregivers stated that they felt a moderate level of care burden. Decadt et al. (2021) also found that caregivers experienced moderate levels of care burden (39). This result is consistent with our study. The reasons for mainly moderate levels of care burden felt by the caregivers in our study compared to the results of other studies may have been because the caregivers in our study had high levels of altruistic behaviors and resilience, the number of caregivers with chronic diseases was less, and the duration of care ranged between 3 to 12 months. In addition, it can be said that the external support received by caregivers who were not self-sufficient while they were providing care played an important role in the moderate levels of care burden.

There was a statistically significant and positive relationship between caregivers' altruistic behaviors and resilience (p<0.01; r= 0.495). As the mean scores of caregivers on the total altruism scale increased, their mean scores on the total resilience scale increased, as well. Cetin et al. (2015) reported that when people had high levels of cohesion, even if conditions were not appropriate, they showed helpfulness, their resilience increased, and that there was a similar relationship between empathy and resilience (40). In the study of Lök et al. (2015), caregivers who believed that caregiving could not be performed without sacrifice said, "I usually forget myself; I think this is sacrifice. It cannot be done without sacrifice" (29). In the study conducted by Uğurtay (2019), a positive and significant relationship was found between the total score on the resilience scale and the mean score on the empathic thinking subscale. The "empathic thinking" subscale includes showing compassion and emotional empathy (32). Since altruistic behaviors include prosocial behaviors, it can be interpreted that caregivers' altruistic behaviors shown by helping, empathizing, and sacrificing may have increased their resilience. In Turkey, care is given to the sick individual selflessly, also as a requirement of Muslim origin, and because of the cultural structure. Especially in crowded families, the sick person is provided care by family members on a completely voluntary basis. It can be interpreted that the resilience of caregivers is high since this situation motivates them. In this study, a statistically significant and negative correlation was found between caregivers' altruistic behaviors and care burden (p<0.01: r= -0.369). As the mean score of caregivers on the total altruism scale decreased, their total score on the burden of care increased. Although there was no study in the literature that was conducted with caregivers on altruistic behavior and caregiver burden, Ming Yeh and Yuanmay Chang (2015) reported that altruistic behavior reduced the burden of care (41). In the study conducted by Arslantas and Adana (2012), extreme self-sacrifice and control behaviors by relatives in their relationships with the patient, the evaluation of warmth/closeness towards the patient, and the inability to separate their inner world from that of the patient were defined as emotional expression and it was concluded that as the emotional expression score of caregivers increased, the scores for the burden of care increased, as well (42). This result is not consistent with

our study. It can be said that the burden of care increased because the evaluation of care as only a duty or a task that caregivers had to fulfill may have caused them to display attitudes away from self-sacrifice and benevolence, lacking empathy and compassion. The examination of the results of the regression analysis in our study indicated that altruistic behaviors of caregivers had an effect on their resilience and that an increase in caregivers' scores on altruistic behavior increased their resilience score statistically (p<0.05). It was determined that 24.1% of the variance in the level of caregivers' resilience was due to the variance in the level of their altruistic behavior (R2=0.241). Caregivers who provide care voluntarily, devotedly, and without expecting anything in return will be individuals with better psychological well-being and coping mechanisms. Therefore, these caregivers may have higher levels of resilience. In this study, the results of the regression analysis indicated that altruistic behavior of caregivers had an effect on the burden of care and that an increase in the altruistic behavior scores of caregivers caused a statistical decrease in the level of caregiver burden (p<0.05). It was found that 13.2% of the variance in the level of caregivers' burden was due to the variance in the level of their altruism (R2=0.132). In the study conducted by Ming Yeh and Yuanmay Chang (2015), family caregivers stated that one of their perceptions of caregiving was self-sacrifice, and it was found that family caregivers with better relationship quality, psychological well-being, and caregiving knowledge had a lower care burden (41).

Limitation of the Study

The results of the findings regarding the predictive effect of altruistic behaviors on resilience and care burden in caregivers of patients with cancer are limited only to the hospital where the data were collected and include the caregivers of patients with cancer in this hospital. In this study, the predictive effects of resilience and care burden in caregivers of patients with cancer were investigated. It does not include caregivers of patients diagnosed with other diseases.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Altruism consists of prosocial behaviors characterized by positive social behaviors. In our study, it was determined that the altruistic behaviors seen in the caregivers of patients with cancer significantly affected their resilience and care burden. The concepts of benevolence, compassion, mercy, self-sacrifice, and empathy which are seen in caregivers gained importance in our study. The altruistic behaviors seen in caregivers while they are providing care will both increase the quality of care and reduce the burden on the caregiver. For this reason, it is recommended to inform and educate caregivers about positive social behaviors. In addition, since the increase in the resilience of caregivers will also affect their altruistic behaviors, it can be recommended to design training programs for caregivers on coping mechanisms, effective psychological support, communication techniques, and coping with potential problems. It is recommended that health professionals should identify the problems and care burden of caregivers during caregiving, observe their altruistic behavior, and revise their shortcomings.

In the literature, there is limited research into the predictive

effects of altruistic behaviors on resilience and care burden of caregivers of patients with cancer. Therefore, it is recommended to conduct quantitative, qualitative, and experimental studies on the topic. Moreover, it is thought that there is a need for experimental studies that will contribute to the development of altruistic behavior of caregivers in Turkey and the world and investigate the effects of these behaviors on other factors.

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Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration and has been approved by the Dokuz Eylül University Ethics Committee for Non-Interventional Studies (date: April 12, 2021; protocol number: 6116-GOA; decision number: 2021/12-10).

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept – A.Ö.Ş., E.K.; Design – A.Ö.Ş., E.K.; Supervision – A.Ö.Ş., E.K.; Resoucers – A.Ö.Ş.; Materials – A.Ö.Ş., E.K.; Data Collection and/ or Processing – A.Ö.Ş.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation – A.Ö.Ş.; Literature Search – A.Ö.Ş.; Writing Manuscript – A.Ö.Ş.; Critical Review – A.Ö.Ş., E.K.

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The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this study.

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Evaluation of the Effect of Prone Position in Intubated and Non-intubated COVID-19 **Patients**

Entübe ve Entübe Olmayan COVID-19 Hastalarında Prone Pozisyon Etkisinin Değerlendirilmesi

ABSTRACT **Objective:**

This study was conducted to evaluate the effect of prone position (PP) applied to intubated, and non-intubated patients followed up with COVID-19 in the intensive care unit (ICU).

Material and Methods:

One hundred eight COVID-19 patients followed in a single ICU were included in the study. PP was applied to the patients 12 hours a day. The effect of PP on outcome parameters such as PaO2:FiO2 ratio, development of complications, length of hospital stay and mortality was evaluated.

Results:

Baseline PaO2:FiO2 ratio significantly increased after PP was applied to the intubated group on the 1st day, and the increase continued after the supine position (p<0.01). In the non-intubated group, the baseline PaO2:FiO2 ratio increased significantly on the 1st day, but the increase did not continue after the supine position (p>0.05). After the positioning on the 3rd day, when the intubated group was placed in the supine position after PP, there was an increase in the PaO2:-FiO2 ratio, and this increase was statistically significant (p<0.001); however, the increase in the non-intubated group was not statistically significant (p>0.05). There was a statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of mortality (p<0.001); however, hospital stay was not statistically significant (p>0.05).

Conclusions:

PP improved oxygenation in the intubated group but was ineffective in reducing the length of hospital stay, complication, and mortality rates. Besides, in the non-intubated group, it is an effective method that improves oxygenation, delays intubation, and reduces complication development and mortality rates.

Key Words:

SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, Prone position, Nursing, Intubation, Patient

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ÖZ

Amaç:

Bu çalışma yoğun bakım ünitesinde (YBÜ) COVID-19 ile takip edilen entübe ve entübe olmayan hastalara uygulanan prone pozisyonunun (PP) etkisini değerlendirmek amacıyla gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Tek bir YBÜ'de takip edilen 108 COVID-19 hastası çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Hastalara PP uygulanmış ve PP'nin oksijenizasyon, komplikasyon gelişimi, hastanede yatış süresi ve mortalite gibi sonuç parametrelerine etkisi değerlendirilmiştir.

Bulgular:

Entübe gruba birinci gün uygulanan PP sonrası PaO2:FiO2 oranı başlangıç değerlerinden önemli ölçüde artmış ve artış supin sonrası da devam etmiştir (p<0.01). Etübe olmayan grupta ise birinci gün PaO2:FiO2 oranı başlangıç değerlerinden önemli ölçüde artmış ancak artış supin sonrası devam etmemiştir (p>.05). Uygulamanın üçüncü gününde pozisyonlama sonrası entübe grubun PP sonrası supin pozisyona alındığında PaO2:FiO2 oranında artış olduğu ve bu artışın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu (p<.001); ancak entübe olmayan gruptaki artışın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olmadığı belirlenmiştir (p>.05).

Sonuç:

PP'nin entübe grupta oksijenizasyonu düzelttiği ancak hastanede kalış süresi, komplikasyon ve mortalite oranlarını azaltmada etkili olmadığı; entübe olmayan grupta ise oksijenizasyonu düzelten, entübasyonu geciktiren, komplikasyon oluşumu ve mortalite oranlarını azaltan etkili bir yöntemdir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, Yüzüstü pozisyon, Hemşirelik, Entübasyon, Hasta

INTRODUCTION

In late December 2019, a new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, China (1,2). The virus triggers the inflammatory and oxidative process, causing the development of pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), and lung failure (3). It is reported that the incidence of acute hypoxemic respiratory failure and ARDS in patients followed up with COVID-19 pneumonia varies between 17-29%, and the intensive care requirement of these patients is around 23-32% (4). Viral interstitial pneumonia and hypoxemic respiratory failure pose significant challenges in the care of these patients (5). Moreover, mortality rates in cases with ARDS range from 25% to 62% (6-10). The mortality rate in patients with ARDS (CARDS) developing due to COVID-19 climbs up to 74% (8).

In COVID-19, ventilation-perfusion imbalance develops due to pulmonary vasoregulation impaired by endothelial damage (inflammation) (11). Lung protective ventilation strategies are needed to provide oxygenation of the perfused regions of the lung and reduce ventilatory-induced lung injuries (VILI) (5,12). In the supine position, dependent areas of the lungs lack

adequate ventilation associated with the weight of the ventral lungs, heart, and abdominal viscera (5). In the prone positioning (PP), the pressure of the heart and abdomen on the lungs is reduced, providing homogeneous distribution of oxygen throughout the alveoli, improving ventilation/perfusion (V/Q) ratios, and hypoxia (13,14). It was reported that PP delays intubation by increasing oxygenation in non-intubated patients while increasing oxygenation in intubated patients, reducing hospital stay, mortality rates and improving ventilation (13,15-17).

The literature review suggests that separate studies show that PP is effective in improving oxygenation and clinical outcomes in intubated and non-intubated patients with COVID-19, but studies comparing the two groups were not found. We designed this study to evaluate whether the prone position is more beneficial in correcting oxygen in non-intubated patients compared to intubated patients, how effective it is in preventing intubation in non-intubated patients, and whether there is a difference between the two groups in terms of length of hospital stay, death rates, and the development of complications.

This study was conducted to evaluate whether the effect of PP applied to intubated and non-intubated patients followed up with COVID-19 in an ICU differs between the two groups.

MATERIAL and METHODS Study design and participants

The research was carried out with a pretest-posttest experimental design without a control group. The research was carried out by Sanlıurfa Mehmet Akif Inan Health Application and Research Center of the Health Sciences University between July and September 2021.

The research population consisted of 142 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who were treated in the COVID-19 ICU of the hospital. The sample size was calculated based on data from previous studies (12,18). After the power analysis, it was determined that at least 41 patients should be included in the study with a margin of error of .05 and a confidence interval of 95%. It was decided to include 120 patients in the study, considering that there may be data loss during the study and to increase the power of the study. 8 patients were excluded from the study because PP was contraindicated (pregnancy and obesity), 16 patients could not tolerate PP (worsening in oxygenation and pain), and 10 patients could not communicate fully (who did not speak Turkish). The study was completed with 108 patients.

Those 18 years of age and older who were admitted to ICUs due to SARS-CoV-2 infection, who spoke Turkish, were included in the study. Those who cannot tolerate PP and those who do not speak Turkish, who have conditions such as extreme obesity, pregnancy, unstable spine, seizures, high intracranial pressure, and maxillofacial surgery, which are contraindicated for PP, were excluded from the study (5).

Intervention

Intubated patients receiving ICU treatment are divided into two groups: the intubation group and the non-intubated patients as the non-intubated group. PP was applied to both groups. Prone positioning was applied when the patients' arterial oxygen

pressure: fractional inspired oxygen (PaO2:FiO2) ratio was <150 mmHg (3,16,17). PP treatment was planned as a total of 12-16 hours of application, alternating the prone position for 4 hours and the supine position for 4 hours (5,19). PP was administered with other treatments and did not affect other treatments in any way. Conscious patients were told what PP is, and the positioning was applied until they felt comfortable. Those who could not tolerate PP initially were placed in the supine position for approximately 2 hours, and then the procedure was repeated. Patients who could not tolerate PP in any way were excluded from the study. Since the duration of the prone position is vital in improving oxygenation, it was emphasized that patients should tolerate this position as much as possible.

Measures

PaO2:FiO2 and arterial oxygen saturation (SpO2) values were determined before the patients were placed in the prone position, on the 1st day of prone positioning, 1 hour after the prone position, and one hour after they were placed back in the supine position, and one hour after the prone and supine positions on the 3rd day. Follow-up of the patients continued until they were discharged from the hospital. Follow-up included which patients died, length of stay in the ICU, extubated status of intubated patients, intubated status of non-intubated patients, oxygenation levels, fever, heart rate, total PP time, and development of complications (hospital infection, pressure ulcer). Besides, demographics of the patients such as age, gender, and comorbidities were also collected.

Ethical Approval of Research

Ethics approval was obtained from Non-interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University (01.07.2021/12). Institutional permission were obtained Sanliurfa Mehmet Akif Inan Health Application and Research Center of the Health Sciences University. Research was conducted in line with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice. Informed consent was also obtained from the patients or their relatives after official approval. Permission was obtained for the measurement tools used in the study.

Data analysis

IBM SPSS Statistics 25.0 software (IBM Corp. Released 2017. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 25.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp., USA) was used to assess the data. Numbers and percentages were used to present introductory information about patients. Distribution of data was analyzed with the Shapiro–Wilk normality test and graphical examinations. It was determined that the data was normally distributed. Paired sample t-test and ANOVA (single factor) in repeated measurements were used for comparisons between groups. The Tamhane's T2 test as a post hoc analysis method was employed to identify which group had a statistically significant difference from other groups. The sample size and effect size in the study were calculated with the Gpower v3.1.9.2 statistical analysis software. 0.05 was used as the significance level.

RESULTS

PP, which had perfect results in improving oxygenation in COVID-19 patients, was applied to a total of 108 patients, 92 of whom were intubated and 16 of which were non-intubated. The mean age of these patients was 64.72±16.80; 55.6% of them were male. There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of parameters other than respiratory support type and laboratory values (p>0.05). The characteristics of the patients are shown in Table I.

Table I: Demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients.

	All patients	Intubated	Non-intubated	
Characteristics	(n=108)	(n=92)	(n=16)	p value*
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	
Age, y	64.72±16.80	66.26±16.81	55.87±14.70	.107
Gender, Male, n (%)	60 (55.6)	52 (56.5)	8 (50.0)	.738
Having a chronic disease, n (%)				
Diabetes	40 (37.0)	34 (37.0)	6 (37.5)	
Hypertension	22 (20.4)	20 (21.7)	2 (12.5)	
Renal failure	6 (5.6)	6 (6.5)	0	632
COPD-Asthma	14 (13.0)	10 (10.9)	4 (25.0)	
Heart failure	12 (11.1)	10 (10.9)	2 (12.5)	
No chronic disease	14 (13.0)	12 (13.0)	2 (12.5)	
Type of respiratory support				
Invasive mechanical ventilation	72 (66.7)	72 (78.3)	0	
Non-invasive mechanical	24 (22.2)	16 (17.4)	9 (50.0)	<i>p</i> <.001
ventilation	24 (22.2)	16 (17.4)	8 (50.0)	
High flow nasal cannula	12 (11.1)	4 (4.3)	8 (50.0)	
Vital signs				
Temperature, °C	37.32±0.77	37.36 ± 0.80	37.11±0.58	409
Heart rate, m	111.64±21.94	123.54±21.04	100.75±25.31	129
Respiratory rate, m	39.44±6.84	39.73 ± 6.64	37.75±8.17	453
Laboratory parameters				
D-dimer, ng/mL	3.92±3.45	4.92±4.49	0.86 ± 0.53	<.001
Albumin	27.95±6.21	26.89±5.98	34.06±3.49	002
Arterial blood gases				
PaCO2 (mm Hg)	42.91±21.56	43.04±22.98	42.20±11.15	920
PaCO2 (mm Hg)	46.18±17.86	45.86±20.14	44.01±8.41	713
HCO3	21.96±6.53	21.62±6.62	23.91±6.00	366
pH	7.32±0.13	7.31±0.14	7.36±0.04	348
Base Excess	7.03±5.92	7.55±6.24	4.08±1.71	128
Vaccination status				
Single dose	36 (33.3)	26 (28.3)	10 (62.5)	.060
Double dose	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	.000
Unvaccinated	72 (66.7)	66 (71.7)	6 (37.5)	

Parameters are shown at baseline (the first day on ICU), COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, PaCO2 partial pressure of carbon dioxi

*: Intubated and non-intubated groups were compared.

PP on the 1st day significantly increased the PaO2:FiO2 ratio from baseline in all patients (intubated and non-intubated), and the increase continued after supine (baseline 216.85±70.08 mm Hg, 1 h after PP 234.07±71.86 mm Hg, and 1 h after SP 241.11±77.79 mmHg p<0.01). PaO2:FiO2 increased in the same way in intubated patients, and this increase was statistically significant (p<0.01). In non-intubated patients, the PaO2:FiO2 ratio increased significantly after PP compared to baseline, which was found to be statistically significant (baseline 225.00±47.80 mmHg, 1 h after PP 255.00±57.07, p=0.031). Post-hoc analysis to determine the source of difference revealed that the difference was between the pre-PP and 1 h after PP. After the non-intubated patients were placed in the supine position, the PaO2:FiO2 ratio decreased, and it was determined

that the change in the PaO2:FiO2 ratio of the patients was not statistically significant (p=0.081). It was indicated that the PaO2:FiO2 ratio increased when the patients who were intubated after positioning on the 3rd day were put back into the supine position after PP, and this increase was statistically significant (p<0.001). The PaO2:FiO2 ratio continued to increase after supine in non-intubated patients, which was not statistically significant (p>0.05). PP on the 1st day significantly increased SpO2 from baseline values in all patients, and the increase decreased after supine (baseline 77.42±6.89 mm Hg, 1 h after PP 85.55±5.24 mm Hg, and 1 h after SP 84.38±5.64 mmHg, p<0.01). Post-hoc analysis to determine the source of difference revealed that the difference was between the pre-PP and 1 h after PP. After positioning on the 3rd day, when all patients were re-positioned in the supine position after PP, it was determined that there was a slight decrease in SpO2 values, which was not statistically significant (p>0.05) (Table II, Figure 1,2).

Table II: Change in PaO2/FiO2 and SpO2 ratios on the 1st and 3rd days after the prone positioning

Prone characteristics	All patients (n=108)	Intubated (n=92)	Non-intubated (n=16)	p-value ^c
1st day PaO2:FiO2	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	
Before prone	216.85±70.08	215.43±73.59	225.00±47.80	.641
1 h after prone	234.07±71.86	230.431±74.05	255.00±57.07	.377
1 h after supine	241.11±77.79	240.21±82.98	246.25±38.89	.842
p value ^a	F= 19. 592, p<.001	F= 12.566, p<.001	F=3.920, p=.081	
PostHoc	Pre/post1h, (p<.001)	Pre/post1h, (p<.001)	•	
3rd day PaO2:FiO2	d)	(1-1-1-)		
1 h after prone	249.81±78.31	246.95±82.88	266.25±43.73	525
1 h after supine	265.37±78.63	263.47±83.85	277.50±40.97	647
p value ^b	t=-5.313, p<.001	t=-5.109, p<.001	t=-1.515, p=.174	
1st day SpO2				
before prone	77.42±6.89	76.67±7.03	81.74±4.20	054
1 h after prone	85.55±5.24	85.00±5.32	88.75±3.53	061
1 h after supine	84.38±5.64	83.71±5.65	88.25±3.91	035
p-value	F=109.960, p<.001	F=96.959, p<.001	F=39.940, p<.001	
PostHoc	Pre/post1h, (p<.001)	Pre/post1h, (p<.001)	Pre/post1h, (p<.001)	
3rd day SpO2	- /	- /	- /	
1 h after prone	88.03±5.49	87.50±5.56	91.12±4.05	085
1 h after supine	87.83±5.74	87.36±5.70	90.50±5.55	157
p value	t=.312, p=.757	t=0.193, p=.847	t=0.280, p=788	

*: ANOVA (single factor) in repeated measurements, *: Paired samples t-test, *: Intubated and non-intubated groups were compared.

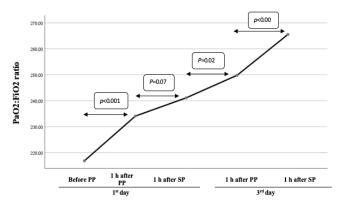


Figure 1. Graphic of patients' PaO2:FiO2 ratios over time on the 1st day and 3rd day. 1st day before prone positioning (PP), 1 h after PP, 1 h after supine positioning (SP), and 3rd day 1 h after PP and 1 h after SP. ANOVA (single factor) analysis was used in repeated measures to compare each time point. It was determined that the PaO2:FiO2 ratio increased with time, and the change in the PaO2:FiO2 ratio was statistically significant (p<0.001, p=0.028, p<0.001) at all times, except for the change in the 1 h after supine after PP on the 1st day (p=0.074).

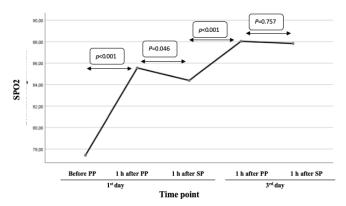


Figure 2. Graphic of patients' SpO2 values according to the 1st day and 3rd day: 1st day before prone positioning (PP), 1 h after PP, 1 h after supine positioning (SP), and 3rd day 1 h after PP and 1 h after SP. ANOVA (single factor) analysis was used in repeated measures to compare each time point. It was concluded that there was a significant increase in SpO2 values over time compared to the baseline after PP, a decrease in SpO2 values in supine after PP, and the changes in all times were statistically significant except for the change between PP and supine on the 3rd day (p=0.757) (p<0.001, p=0.046, p<0.001).

When the two groups were compared, it was found out that there was no statistically significant difference in terms of daily and total PP time, ICU, and hospital stay (p>0.05). It was determined that there was a statistically significant difference in terms of the development of complication (p<0.05). In the non-intubated group, 25% of the patients developed facial and edema in extremity, while 12.5% had corneal/conjunctival damage. In the intubated group, 31.5% of the patients developed edema in the face and extremities, and there was a statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of the type of complication (p<0.05).

There was a statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of discharge, mortality, and intubation rates (p<0.001). In the non-intubated group, it was indicated that 87.5% of the patients were discharged, 12.5% of them were intubated, and none of the patients died. 16.7% of the patients in the intubated group were initially extubated, and then they were included in the intubated patient group. It was found out that 80.4% of the patients died, 17.4% were intubated while initially extubated, and 2.2% were extubated while intubated (Table III).

Table III: Outcomes of the variables

Outcomes	All patients (n=108)	Intubated (n=92)	Non- intubated (n=16)	p value ^{a,b}
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	
PP time per day, h	9.57±1.86	9.52±1.89	9.87±1.80	626
Total time of PP, h	33.25±8.05	33.26±7.98	33.25±9.00	997
Complications, yes, n (%)	82 (75.9)	76 (82.6)	6 (37.5)	005
Corneal/conjunctival damage	18 (16.7)	18 (19.6)	2 (12.5)	
Facial/periorbital damage	8 (7.4)	8 (8.7)	0	
Edema of face and extremities	34 (31.5)	30 (32.6))	4 (25.0)	
Unplanned extubation	2(1.9)	2 (2.2)	0	.010
Displacement of tube or catheter	4 (3.7)	4 (4.3)	0	
Hospital infection	12 (11.1)	12 (13.0)	0	
No complication	30 (27.8)	18 (19.6)	8 (75.0)	
Outcomes, n (%)	. ,	` '	` ′	
Number of cured and discharged patients	14 (13.0)	0	14 (87.5)	
Being intubated while extubated	18 (16.7)	16 (17.4)	2 (12.5)	p<.001
Being extubated while intubated	2(1.9)	2 (2.2)	` ′	•
Mortality	74 (68.5)	74 (80.4)	0	
The total length of ICU, d	10.14±6.39	10.52±6,69	8.00±3.89	307
The total length of hospitalization, d	11.31±6.19	11.17±6.33	12.12±5.66	693

a: Intubated and non-intubated groups were compared. b: ANOVA (single factor) in repeated measurements.

This study, which evaluated the effectiveness of PP on the oxygenation of intubated and non-intubated patients with COVID-19 treated in the ICU, was completed with 54 (46 intubated and 8 non-intubated) patients. As a result of the study, it was concluded that PP was effective on oxygenation in both groups.

PP has long been known to improve oxygenation in mechanically ventilated patients with moderate to severe ARDS (20). Previous studies reported that PP was used in 76% of mechanical ventilation-dependent patients with COVID-19 and that PP was effective on oxygenation (17,21,22). In our study, the baseline PaO2:FiO2 ratio increased significantly in intubated patients, and the increase continued after supine. Similar to our findings, Parker et al. (2021) evaluated the effect of PP in intubated patients and reported that PP provided improvement in oxygenation (23). Mittermaier et al. (2020) also reported that PP improved oxygenation compared to the supine position in intubated patients with COVID-19 (17). Our study and other studies suggest that PP improves oxygenation.

Compared to the supine position, it is evident that PP has significant effects on oxygenation. Besides, the continuation of the improvement in oxygenation is another good progress. Our study determined that the improvement in the PaO2/FiO2 ratio continued even after the patients returned to the supine position. Similar to our study findings, it was reported that the improvement in oxygenation continued in some other studies (18,24). PP is considered a low-cost, life-saving adjunctive intervention that does not require special equipment and can be applied with short training, increasing lung ventilation (12). Our study inferred that there was increasing in SpO2 values compared to before PP. However, the change on the 3rd day is not significant. Similar to the 1st-day findings of our study, Retucci et al. reported an improvement in SpO2 after PP in non-intubated patients (25). In the study of Winearls et al. with non-intubated patients with COVID-19, it was reported that pre-PP SpO2 increased after PP administration (18). It is thought that the possible reason for similar results is that PP increases oxygenation by increasing lung capacity.

The prone positioning provides homogeneous distribution of the air taken into the lungs by inspiration, balances ventilation and tissue perfusion, relieves pressure and tension on the lungs, and improves oxygenation (3). It is applied to patients with COVID-19 as it provides an improvement in hypoxia in non-intubated patients (Elharrar et al., 2020). In our study, the PaO2:-FiO2 ratio on the 1st day increased from the baseline in non-intubated patients. On the 3rd day, there was no significant effect on the PaO2:FiO2 ratio in non-intubated patients. Similar to our study findings, studies with non-intubated patients reported that PP improves oxygenation parameters (24, 26-28).

Prone positioning is a life-saving intervention that improves oxygenation in mechanically ventilated patients with moderate-to-severe ARDS (29). However, pressure ulcers due to reasons such as patients with COVID-19 staying in the prone position for a long time, wrinkles on the bedspread, pressure applied to the skin of the devices attached to the patient's body,

dislocation of the tubes, edema in the face and extremities, hypotension, bronchoraspiration, and unexpected complications such as extubation may develop (30). It is of paramount importance for ICU nurses to closely monitor patients for these complications during and throughout positioning (3, 30-32). In our study, edema in the face and extremities, hospital infection, corneal damage, and pressure ulcer developed most frequently in intubated patients. Other studies reported that frequent but minor complications developed after PP was applied to mechanically ventilated patients, and pressure ulcers and compressive neuropathies were known complications (12, 23). In our study, it was identified that non-intubated patients had facial and extremity edema and corneal damage. In the study of Winearls et al. with non-intubated patients with COVID-19, no complications were reported except for two patients who could not tolerate PP (18). According to our study findings, the possible reason for the fewer complications in the non-intubated group may be that the conscious patients can adjust their position in the prone position, contributing to the reduction in the development of complications. Our findings also suggest that ICU nurses should make sure that the patient's bed sheets are not wrinkled and that the tubes are in place, support the pressure areas, frequently check the areas of the body in contact with each other for redness, and the application of corneal protective interventions are effective measures in reducing the complications that may develop (30). There are studies on prone position and complication development in intubated patients. However, studies on prone position and complication development in the non-intubated group are limited.

Our study concluded that the improvement in oxygenation was significant and was similar to the findings of other studies. However, it was clearly seen that mortality was independent of oxygenation. The mortem of the majority (80%) of the patients in the intubated group is an indication of this. Unlike our study findings, Ferrando et al.'s study with mechanically ventilated patients found that the all-cause mortality rate was 32% (22). Douglas et al. also reported the mortality rate as 31% (12). It is estimated that the possible reason for the high mortality rate was the low rate of vaccination (71.7% of patients were unvaccinated). With respect to this, the province where the study was conducted is the city with the lowest vaccination rate in Turkey as of the study period (33).

Recently, the use of PP in awake, non-intubated patients with COVID-19 has been suggested to prevent intubation, reduce hospital stay, and potentially improve patient-focused outcomes (34,35). It is emphasized that PP is especially effective in improving oxygenation and reducing progression to intubation (24,26,28,34). In our study, it was determined that only two (12.5%) of the sixteen patients from the non-intubated group was intubated during the follow-up, the majority of them were discharged (87.5%), and the length of hospital stay was 8.00±3.89 in the ICU, a total of 12.12±5.66 days. In the study conducted by Winearls et al. with 24 non-intubated patients with COVID-19, it was reported that 4 patients died, 18 were discharged, and 2 were intubated (18). Differently, in a systematic review by Pavlov et al. in which they compared PP applied

to non-intubated patients with COVID-19 with patients receiving standard care, it was reported that PP was effective in increasing oxygenation but did not decrease the intubation rate (27%) (27). According to the study findings, it can be argued that PP reduces the intubation rate. It is considered that including PP in routine treatment protocols could effectively improve clinical outcomes and reduce costs, especially in non-intubated patients.

Limitations

The limitation of this study is that the study was conducted within a certain date range in terms of time / it was a cross-sectional and nonrandomized study without a control group. Furthermore, the fact that data were collected from a single health center was accepted as a limitation in generalizing the results.

CONCLUSION

The results showed that PP had a positive effect on oxygenation in the intubated group but was not effective in reducing the length of hospital stay, complication, and mortality rates. In the non-intubated group, it was found to be effective in improving oxygenation, delaying intubation, developing complications, and reducing mortality rates.

In this study, complications such as unplanned extubation in 2 patient and displacement of the tube and catheter in 4 patients were experienced. In order to increase patient safety, it is recommended that each department using this method should receive training on the method and that the application steps of the method should be distributed to the units in written form. Particularly, ICU nurses receiving special training on this method are considered a precaution to prevent sudden complications.

In managing COVID-19 in the ICU, the administration of PP and routine practice appears to have an additive effect in improving oxygenation. Consequently, at this time, when the global COVID-19 epidemic is becoming more and more deadly with new variants coming out constantly, the implementation of PP is considered an intervention that will help achieve success in the fight against the high mortality rate of COVID-19. This intervention is a cost-effective and effective method to improve oxygenation in intubated patients, improve oxygenation and reduce the incidence of intubation and mortality in non-intubated patients.

This study is a potential source of information from which nurses caring for patients with COVID-19 in the ICU can benefit. The study findings could be used during PP administration to both intubated and non-intubated COVID-19 patients. The study is valuable in terms of comparing both intubated and non-intubated patient groups. In the study, the effect of PP on oxygenation provided strong evidence as the PaO2:FiO2 ratio as well as SpO2 values were examined. Additionally, holistic patient evaluation needs to consider parameters such as complications during PP application, length of hospital stay, transition to intubation, and mortality.

It is recommended that PP delays intubation in non-intubated patients, and that complications experienced during its application are preventable, and that the method should be applied together with preventive interventions for these complications in future studies.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Non-interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University (approval number: 01.07.2021/12).

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept – D.Ş., N.D.; Design - D.Ş., N.D.; Supervision - D.Ş., N.D., F.N.A.; Resources - D.Ş., N.D.; Materials - D.Ş., N.D.; Data Collection and/or Processing - D.Ş., N.D., F.N.A.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - D.Ş.; Literature Search – D.Ş.; Writing Manuscript – D:Ş.; Critical Review - D.Ş., N.D., F.N.A. Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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Evaluation of Segmental Distribution of Liver Metastases In Colorectal Carcinomas By Computed Tomography

Kolorektal Karsinomlarda Karaciğer Metastazlarının Segmental Dağılımının Bilgisayarlı Tomografi ile Değerlendirilmesi

ABSTRACT Objective:

We aimed to investigate the relationship between the localization of colorectal carcinomas and the topographic distribution of metastatic liver lesions.

Material and Methods:

Patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer and metastatic liver lesions constituted the target population of this study. Demographic data, primary tumor localization, and data regarding liver metastases were retrieved and retrospectively reviewed. Patients' files, endoscopy, and computed tomography reports were analyzed. In addition, data concerning segmental localization of the metastatic liver lesions based on the Couinaud classification were collected.

Results:

Ninety-six patients were diagnosed with colorectal cancer with liver metastases during the study period. A total of 251 metastases were detected. The number of metastases was 169 (67.3%) in the right and 80 (31.9%) in the left lobe (p<0.0001). Evaluation regarding Couinaud classification elucidated that the most frequently affected segment was segment VIII (23.1%), while segment 1 (i.e., caudate lobe) was the least commonly affected segment. The liver segments with the highest number of metastatic lesions were VIII, V, VII, VI, III, II, IV, and I, from greatest to least. There was no significant difference in the segmental distribution of metastases in patients with primary tumors in the right and left colon (p>0.05).

Conclusion:

Liver metastases of colorectal cancer are significantly more common in the right lobe than the left lobe, irrespective of the location of the colorectal tumor. Segment VIII of the right lobe is the main target of metastases.

Key Words:

Colorectal Carcinoma, Liver Metastasis, Segmental Distribution, Couinaud Classification

ÖZ Giris:

Bu çalışmada kolorektal karsinomlar ile metastatik karaciğer lezyonlarının topografik dağılımı arasındaki ilişki araştırılmıştır.

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Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Kolorektal kanseri ve metastatik karaciğer lezyonları olan hastalar bu çalışmanın hedef popülasyonunu oluşturdu. Demografik veriler, primer tümör lokalizasyonu, ve metastatik karaciğer lezyonlarının segmental dağılımına ilişkin veriler retrospektif olarak tarandı. Hasta dosyaları, endoskopi ve bilgisayarlı tomografi raporları gözden geçirildi. Ek olarak hastaların Couinaud klasifikasyonuna göre belirlenmiş olan metastatik karaciğer lezyonlarının segmental dağılım bilgileri tarandı.

Bulgular:

Doksan altı hastanın karaciğer metastazı yapmış kolorektal kanseri tanısı almış olduğu öğrenildi. Toplamda 251 metastatik karaciğer lezyonu saptandı. Bunların 169 (%67,3) tanesi sağ lobda, 80 (%31.9) tanesi ise sol lobda yer almaktaydı (p<0.0001). Couinaud klasifikasyonuna göre yapılmış olan değerlendirmede en sık etkilenmiş olanın segment VIII (%23.1), en nadir etkilenmiş olanın ise segment 1 (kaudat lob) olduğu anlaşıldı. En sık tutulan karaciğer segmentleri sırasıyla segment VIII, V, VII, VI, III, II, IV, ve segment I'di. Primer tümörü sağ ve sol kolonda olan hastalar kıyaslandığında metastatik lezyonların segmental dağılımı açısından belirgin fark saptanmadı (p>0.05).

Sonuç:

Kolorektal kanserlerin karaciğer metastazları kolorektal tümörün lokalizasyonundan bağımsız olarak daha sağ lobda sol lobdan daha sıktır. Segment 8 en sık tutulan segmenttir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

Kolorektal Karsinom, Karaciğer Metastazı, Segmental Dağılım, Couinaud Klasifikasyonu

INTRODUCTION

Colorectal carcinoma (CRC) is one of the most common types of cancer and causes of cancer-related death (1). In addition, the liver is the most common site for its metastasis (2,3).

The portal venous system constitutes one of the main routes for liver metastasis of colorectal cancer. Since the portal vein has a specific trajectory in the liver, it can be stated that colorectal cancer cells are conveyed to specific liver segments (4). Although numerous studies aimed to determine the relationship between primary colorectal tumor localization and the topographic distribution of liver metastases, this is still controversial. (5,6). However, it is known that early diagnosis of metastatic disease prolongs patient survival in patients with colorectal carcinoma (7).

Radiological determination of the exact localization of the metastatic liver lesion is also essential for planning the surgical management of these patients (8,9). Based on this assessment, decisions regarding partial hepatectomy, metastasectomy, or interventional radiological methods are also given. It was reported that the 5-year patient survival rate could be increased from 5-10% to 30-40% in patients by liver resection in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (10).

The Couinaud classification is widely used to describe function-

al liver anatomy (1,11). However, despite the above facts, literature analyzing the distribution of metastatic liver lesions in patients with colorectal cancer based on the Couinaud classification is scarce (3). Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the relationship between the segmental distribution of liver metastases and the primary tumor localization in patients with colorectal cancer.

MATERIALS and METHODS

This research was approved by our institutional ethical review committee (Turkiye Yuksek Ihtisas Hospital Ethical Review Committee- 2019/36). All procedures in this study fulfilled the ethical standards reported in the Helsinki Declaration. Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants. Patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer with liver metastasis constituted the target population of this study. Patient data were retrospectively collected from electronic patient folders. These data included age, gender, primary tumor localization, and the data regarding the segmental distribution of liver metastases. In addition, the endoscopic and radiological data were retrieved from the patients' rectosigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, and abdominopelvic computerized tomography (CT) reports and images. All abdominopelvic CT scans were performed by the same CT machine (Toshiba Activion 16, TSX-031A, 16-slice multidetector CT). Both unenhanced and enhanced images were obtained, and an experienced hepatobiliary radiologist reviewed all images. Data including localization of the primary colorectal tumor and number, size, and segmental localization of the metastatic liver lesions based on the Couinaud classification, were retrieved by retrospective review of the endoscopy reports and CT images.

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS V21.0, Armonk, NY, US) software. A frequency distribution table was used to analyze the number of occurrences (frequency). In addition, the chi-square test was used to examine the differences between categorical variables to analyze the fit between expected and observed results.

RESULTS

Our retrospective review revealed that 185 patients were diagnosed with colorectal carcinoma during the study period. Among these patients, 96 had liver metastasis. While 63 (65.6%) of these patients were male, 33 (34.4%) were female. The mean age of the male and female patients was 55 ± 6 and 57 ± 7 years. The primary tumor localization of all patients is displayed in Table I.

Table I: Colorectal tumor localizations

Localization	Right-sided colon cancer	Localization	Left-sided colon cancer
	(n=19)		(n=77)
Caecum	5	Descending	17
		colon	
Ascending colon	10	Sigmoid colon	31
Transverse colon	4	Rectum	29

The review of the CT images elucidated that these 96 patients had 251 metastatic liver lesions in total. Among these metastases, 2 (0.8%) were localized in the caudate lobe, 80 (31.9%) in the left lobe, and 169 (67.3%) in the right lobe. The distribution of liver metastases as per primary (i.e., colorectal) tumor localization is exhibited in Table II.

Table II: Distribution of liver metastases as per primary tumor localization

Primary tumor	Segment	Segment Total					
localization	Caudate lobe	Left lobe	Right lobe				
Left colon	1	58	127	186			
Right colon	1	22	42	65			
Total	2	80	169	251			

Fifty-six (70%) of the 80 metastases in the left lobe were in the median segment (i.e., segment IV). Among the 169 metastases in the right lobe, 100 (59.2%) were localized in the anterior segments (segments V and VIII), while 69 (40.8%) were in the posterior segments (segments VI and VII).

Comparison of the right and left lobes regarding the distribution of the metastatic liver lesions revealed that colorectal carcinomas more frequently metastasized to the right lobe (p<0.05). However, there was no difference between the right and left colon tumors in this regard. In 77 patients whose primary tumor was in the left colon, 69% of the liver metastases were located in the right lobe, and 31% were in the left lobe.

No significant difference was found in the segmental distribution of metastases in patients with primary tumors in the right and left colon (p>0.05). However, most metastases were found in the right lobe segments of the liver in both right (127/186; 68%) and left (42/65; 64%) colon tumors.

Evaluation regarding Couinaud classification revealed that the most frequently affected segment was segment VIII (23.1%), while segment 1 (i.e., caudate lobe) was the least commonly affected segment by the distant metastases of colorectal cancer. The rates of metastases to different liver segments are displayed in Table III. In addition, tomographic views of metastatic liver lesions in segments 3 and 7 are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Table III: Segmental distribution of liver metastases as per Couinaud classification

Parameter	Caudate lobe	Left lo	be		Right	lobe		
Segment	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Number of metastases	2	25	31	24	42	33	36	58
Rate (%)	0.8	10	12.4	9.6	16.7	13.1	14.3	23.1

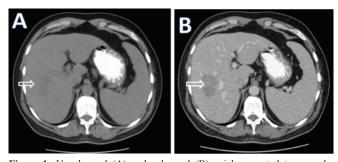


Figure 1: Unenhanced (A) and enhanced (B) axial computed tomography images of a metastatic liver lesion (arrow) in segment 7 of the right lobe

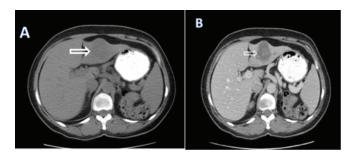


Figure 2: Unenhanced (A) and enhanced (B) axial computed tomography images of a metastatic liver lesion (arrow) in segment 3 of the left lobe

DISCUSSION

The liver is the most common target for metastatic colorectal cancer, and liver metastases play an essential role in the morbidity and mortality of colorectal cancer (12). It was reported that approximately 10% of patients with primary operable colorectal carcinoma already had associated liver metastases at the time of diagnosis. It is also known that the presence of liver metastases significantly worsens the prognosis and decreases the 5-year life expectancy in these patients (13). However, surgical resection is curative in 25% of the patients with isolated hepatic metastasis (14). Furthermore, it was stated that partial hepatic resection increased the 5-year survival rate from 5-10% to 30-40% in colorectal cancer patients with isolated liver metastases (10). In line with the advances in surgical oncology, radiological imaging methods' importance increased in the diagnostic and therapeutic management of these patients (15). Radiological data regarding the number, size, and segmental distribution of metastatic liver lesions can guide the surgical management of these patients. The segmental anatomy of the liver was defined by Claude Couinaud, and the Couinaud classification is widely used for describing the segmental distribution of metastatic liver lesions (16,17). According to this classification, the liver is divided into eight segments by an imaginary line drawn through the hepatic and portal veins (18). This anatomical classification is significantly important because the frequent occurrence of liver metastases in colorectal carcinoma is associated with the anatomy of the blood flow to the liver (19). Of note, most of these metastases occur via the portal venous system.

It is known that the volume and weight of the right lobe of the liver are higher than the left lobe and the right lobe receives more portal blood flow than the left lobe (3). This fact can be considered the reason for detecting metastatic lesions more frequently in the right lobe than the left lobe (2,3,20). Rhu et al. worked on patients with colorectal cancer who had histopathologically confirmed liver metastases (20). Among 652 metastatic lesions, 398 (61%) were in the right liver lobe, while 254 (39%) were detected in the left lobe. They reported that the right-to-left lobe metastatic lesion ratio was 1.57/1. We calculated this ratio as 2.11 (169/80). Similarly, Kadiyoran et al., who evaluated the segmental distribution of liver metastases in colorectal cancer patients, reported that the right-to-left lobe metastatic lesion ratio was 2.35 (21). They also noted that segment VIII was the most frequently involved liver segment in their cohort.

In line with these findings, Holbrook et al., who retrospectively reviewed the patterns of colorectal liver metastases as per Couninaud's segments in 270 patients, documented an overall predominance of the right liver lobe metastases irrespective of the site of the primary colorectal cancer (22). These authors reported that segment VIII was the most frequently involved liver segment in their cohort. The involvement rate of this right lobe segment was calculated as 15,3%. In our study, segment 8 was also the most commonly affected liver segment, with an involvement rate of 23,1%. The rate of metastasis to the right liver lobe was significantly higher than the left lobe in our study. This result is consistent with several previously published reports (2,3,20,21).

In the literature, there are several reports regarding the distribution of liver metastasis and the relation of these metastases to portal circulation (23-25). Some of these studies referred to double circulation theory and suggested that the distribution of liver metastases was characterized by a specific pattern. For example, Moore and Bridenbaugh et al., who investigated the distribution of portal blood flow in the liver using portal venography, showed that a significant portion of the splenic venous inflow was distributed to the left lobe of the liver (25). In contrast, most of the blood from the superior mesenteric vein was distributed to the right lobe of the liver.

Serege et al., who defined the streamline phenomenon, reported that colorectal tumor cells reached specific liver regions depending on whether the portal venous drainage of the primary tumor was via the superior mesenteric or the inferior mesenteric vein (24). These authors reported that the bloodstream from the superior mesenteric vein (SMV) supposedly flowed more along the right margin of the portal vein (PV) to the right lobe of the liver. In contrast, blood from the inferior mesenteric vein (IMV) flowed more along the left margin of the PV, draining into the left lobe of the liver. The streamline phenomenon is based on the fact that the SMV is a straight upward continuation of the PV, while the IMV hinged at a 90° angle to join the splenic vein (SV) (4,24). This phenomenon was related to the distribution of the liver metastases of the mesenteric tumors (26).

Shirai et al. tested the streamline phenomenon with a study including 85 patients with liver metastasis originating from colorectal cancer and underwent curative hepatectomy (27). While 18 patients had a right colon tumor, 67 had a left-sided colon tumor. One hundred and 95 metastatic deposits were detected in these patients; 135 were in the right lobe, and 60 were in the left lobe. In the right colon tumor group, 29 metastatic lesions were in the right liver lobe, while three were in the left. On the other hand, in the left colon tumor group, 106 metastatic foci were in the right lobe, and 57 were in the left lobe. Comparison of the metastatic lesions' distribution between patient groups with right and left colonic tumors revealed a significant difference regarding lobar distribution. They concluded that right colon cancers selectively involved the right lobe, while left colonic tumors involved the entire liver. Their findings supported the streamline phenomenon (24).

While it can be stated that the streamline phenomenon did not have clinical significance, it is known that it has great significance in portal circulation (20,24). The concept of streamlining suggests that the venous flows from the SMV and IMV are not fully mixed in the PV, resulting in a disproportionate blood flow to the right and left lobes of the liver. The streamline phenomenon explains the fact that right colon tumor cells can reach the right lobe of the liver through the SMV, and therefore the risk of metastasis to the right liver lobe is increased in these patients. However, this phenomenon cannot explain why left colon tumors predominantly metastasize to the right liver lobe. The fact that IMV usually joins the portal venous system at the level of or near the splenomesenteric junction and the exact location where the IMV opens to the portal venous system varies between patients should be considered while making decisions based on this phenomenon (24,28).

Aktan et al. conducted an autopsy study including 60 cases and reported that IMV opened to the SV in 56.3%, the SMV in 31.3%, and the splenomesenteric junction in 12.5% of the subjects (29). When these results are considered along with the streamline phenomenon, it can be proposed that more than 60% of the left colon tumors will metastasize to the left lobe of the liver via the IMV, which opens to the SV at a rate of 56.3% and the splenomesenteric junction at a rate of 12.5%. However, our study showed that left colon tumors metastasized to the right liver lobe in 69% and the left liver lobe in 31% of the patients. These findings do not align with the results Aktan et al. reported (29)

Some studies investigating the liver metastases of colorectal tumors focused on the weight and volumes of the liver lobes (3,6). In one of these studies, Schulz et al. detected that the ratio of the weight and volume of the right lobe of the liver to the weight and volume of the left lobe was 2:1 (6). Based on this finding, it was hypothesized that liver metastases occurring via the PV showed a homogeneous distribution, and thus the rate of right liver lobe metastases was twice as high as that of the metastases in the left lobe. Our results support this hypothesis since the ratio of the number of metastases observed in the right liver lobe to those in the left liver lobe was 2,11/1 in our cohort. Moreover, this ratio was similar in right and left colon tumors, with the former being 1.96/1 and the latter 2.18/1. These results are comparable to those obtained in the autopsy studies (29).

Desai et al. investigated the distribution of colorectal tumor metastases in the liver and found a significant relationship between the localization of the colorectal tumor and the distribution of liver metastases (4). Our study showed no significant difference regarding the segmental distribution of metastases in patients with primary tumors in the right and left colon. However, it showed that the direction of portal blood flow might be associated with the distribution of liver metastases and that the right colon tumors mostly metastasized to the right liver lobe. Similarly, liver metastases of the left colon carcinomas were mainly in the right liver lobe. Since the volume of the right liver lobe is twice as much as the left liver lobe and the diameter of the right PV is significantly larger than the left PV, and the exact location of the opening of IMV to the portal venous system varies from person to person; it can be concluded that left colon tumors may also metastasize to the right liver lobe.

Although numerous studies investigated the relationship between colorectal tumor localization and the topographic distribution of liver metastases, they did not reach a common conclusion (4,21,22,27). However, determining the distribution of liver metastases is very important in patients with colorectal cancer since the success of surgical resection depends on the number and localization of the metastatic lesions (30). Our study revealed that liver metastases were localized 2,1 times more frequently in the right liver lobe than the left liver lobe and that the main target was segment VIII of the right lobe, irrespective of the location of the primary colorectal tumor.

Our study has some limitations that must be considered while evaluating its findings. First, it is a retrospective study that could be affected by all inherent weaknesses stemming from its retrospective design. Second, the metastatic lesions were only radiologically confirmed, and a histopathological confirmation process was not included in the analysis. Third, radiological interpretations were performed by one expert hepatobiliary radiologist; the risk of interobserver variability could have been acknowledged if two radiologists had done the assessments.

CONCLUSION

Despite the weaknesses mentioned above, we conclude that liver metastases are more frequently encountered in the right lobe than the left lobe and segment VIII is the most common site for metastatic lesions. Therefore, in cases with indeterminate liver lesions detected on CT scans of patients with colorectal cancer, there should be high suspicion of metastasis if the lesion is in the right lobe, particularly in segment VIII. The location of the primary colorectal tumor should not affect this approach.

Ethical Committee Approval

This research was approved by our institutional ethical review committee (Turkiye Yuksek Ihtisas Hospital Ethical Review Committee- 2019/36). All procedures in this study fulfilled the ethical standards reported in the Helsinki Declaration.

Informed Consent:

Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept: N.K.S., G.K. Design: N.K.S., K.N.A. Supervision: N.K.S., G.K. Resources: N.K.S., K.N.A. Materials: G.K., K.N.A. Data Collection and Processing: G.K., K.N.A. Analysis or Interpretation: N.K.S., K.N.A. Literature Search: G.K., K.N.A. Writing Manuscript: N.K.S., G.K. Critical Review: N.K.S., G.K.

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Şizofreni Tanılı Hastalarda D Vitamini Düzeylerinin Psikotik ve Depresif Belirtilerle İlişkisinin Incelenmesi

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Şizofreni Tanılı Hastalarda D Vitamini Düzeylerinin Psikotik ve Depresif Belirtilerle İlişkisinin İncelenmesi

Evolation of the Relationship of Vitamin D Levels with Psychotic and Depressive Symptoms in Patients with Schizophrenia

ÖZ.

Amaç:

Şizofreni pozitif, negatif, afektif ve bilişsel belirtilerle karakterize nörogelişimsel bir bozukluktur. Şizofrenide etiyolojiyi aydınlatmaya yönelik çok sayıda çalışma yapılmıştır. Son dönem çalışmalar D vitamini düzeyleri ve şizofreni ilişkisine odaklanmıştır. Bu çalışmada D vitamini düzeyleri ile şizofreni hastalarındaki semptom şiddeti ilişkisinin araştırılması amaçlandı.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Çalışmaya Rize Devlet Hastanesi Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezine kayıtlı toplam 93 hasta dahil edildi. Katılımcıların D vitamini düzeylerini tespit etmek için dolaşımda en yüksek konsantrasyonda bulunan 25(OH)D vitamini formu kullanıldı. Tespit edilen D vitamini değerleri Negatif Belirtileri Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Scale for the Assesment of Negative Symptoms-SANS), Pozitif Belirtileri Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Scale for the Assesment of Positive Symptoms-SAPS), Calgary Depresyon Ölçeği (Calgary Depression Scale-CDÖ) ortalama puanları ve sosyodemografik verilerle karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular:

Çalışmamızda, şizofreni hastalarının % 61,3'ünde optimal seviyelerin altında D vitamin düzeyleri saptandı. Katılımcıların % 23,7' sinde D vitamini eksikliği, %37,6'sında D vitamini yetersizliği vardı. Ortalama ölçek puanlarının D vitamini düzeyleri ile ilişkisine bakıldığında SANS ve SAPS ölçek puanları ile D vitamini düzeyleri arasında anlamlı ilişki tespit edilmedi. CDÖ ölçeği puanları ile D vitamini düzeyleri arasında ise istatistiksel açıdan anlamlı negatif bir ilişki saptandı. D vitamini eksikliği olan grupta CDÖ puanları diğer gruplara göre anlamlı derecede yüksekti (p: 0,001).

Sonuc:

Calışmamızda şizofreni hastalarının büyük bir çoğunluğunda optimal seviyelerin altında D vitamini düzeyleri saptandı. Tespit edilen düşük D vitamini düzeylerinin de depresif belirtilerle ilişkili olduğu gözlendi.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Şizofreni, Vitamin D, Vitamin D eksikliği

ABSTRACT

Objective:

Schizophrenia is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by positive, negative, affective and cognitive symptoms. Numerous studies have been conducted to elucidate the etiology of schizophrenia. Recent studies have focused on the relationship between vitamin D levels and schizophrenia. In this study, the relationship between vitamin D levels and symptom severity in schizophrenia patients was investigated.

Material and Methods:

A total of 93 patients registered in Rize State Hospital Community Mental Health Center were included in this study. To determine the vitamin D levels of the participants, the 25(OH) D form of vitamin D, which has the highest concentration in circulation, was used. Detected vitamin D values were compared with the Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS), the Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms (SAPS), Calgary Depression Scale (CDS) mean scores and sociodemographic data.

Results:

In our study, vitamin D levels below optimal levels were found in 61.3% of schizophrenia patients. 23.7% of the participants had vitamin D deficiency and 37.6% had vitamin D insufficiency. Considering the relationship between mean scale scores and vitamin D levels, no significant relationship was found between SANS and SAPS scores and vitamin D levels. A statistically significant relationship was found between CDS scores and vitamin D levels. In the group with vitamin D deficiency, CDS scores were significantly higher than the other groups (p: 0.001).

Conclusion:

In our study, vitamin D levels below optimal levels were found in the majority of patients with schizophrenia. It was observed that low vitamin D levels detected were also associated with depressive symptoms.

Key Words:

Schizophrenia, Vitamin D, Vitamin D Deficiency

GİRİS

Şizofreni yaklaşık olarak toplumun % 1'ini etkileyen pozitif, negatif, afektif ve bilişsel belirtilerle karakterize nörogelişimsel bir bozukluktur (1,2). Yaşam boyu sürmesi ve ciddi yeti yitimiyle sonuçlanması nedeniyle tanımlandığı ilk günden beri bozukluğu anlamaya yönelik çok sayıda araştırma yapılmıştır. Bu çok sayıdaki araştırmaya rağmen ne yazık ki şizofrenideki birçok bilinmezlik halen aydınlatılamamıştır. Özellikle de şizofreninin etiyolojik temellerini aydınlatımaya yönelik çalışmalar halen bir sonuca varamamıştır (2,3). Son yıllarda bu çalışmalar nöroendokrin sistem üzerine odaklanmıştır. Bunlar içerisinde de D vitamini ve şizofreni ilişkisi son 20 yıldaki çalışmaların ilgi odağı olmuştur (4,5). D vitamini, ultraviyole ışık etkisiyle ciltte sentez edilebilen ya da eser miktarda diyetle alınan steroid yapılı bir hormondur. Ciltte sentez edildiği haliyle

aktif halde olmayan bu hormon karaciğer ve böbrekte geçirmiş olduğu iki adet hidroksilasyon reaksiyonu ile aktif hale gelebilmektedir. Aktif hale dönüştükten sonra da vücutta birçok sistemde etkili olabilmektedir (4-6). D vitamininin kemik metabolizması üzerindeki etkileri iyi bilinmesine rağmen diğer sistemler üzerindeki etkisi; özellikle de santral sinir sistemi üzerindeki etkisi görmezden gelinmiştir. Son dönemde yapılan çalışmalarla D vitamininin merkezi sinir sistemi üzerinde önemli etkilerinin olduğu (nörotransmiter sentezi, nörotrofik faktörlerin salınımı, nöroprotektif etki gibi) anlaşılmıştır.

Yine yapılan çalışmalarla düşük D vitamini düzeylerinin parkinson hastalığı, alzheimer hastalığı, otizm ve şizofreni gibi pek çok nörogelişimsel ve nörodejeneratif bozuklukla ilişkili olduğu ortaya konulmuştur (7-9). Ayrıca çalışmalarda güneş ışığından yeterince faydalanamama, kuzey enleminde yaşama, koyu pigmente deriye sahip olma ve kış mevsiminde doğma gibi faktörlerin hem D vitamini eksiliği ve hem de şizofrenide ortak nedensel faktörler olması, "şizofreni ve D vitamini eksikliği arasında bir ilişki olabilir mi?" sorusunu akla getirmiştir. D vitamini reseptörlerinin ve 1-alfa hidroksilaz enziminin beyinde tespit edilmesi ile beraber bu hipotez daha da güçlenmiştir (3,10). Yapılan çalışmalarda şizofreni hastalarının yaklaşık % 65'inde D vitamini eksikliğinin olduğu ve D vitamini seviyelerinin de sağlıklı kontrollere göre 5,91 ng/ml daha düşük olduğu ortaya konulmuştur (11). D vitamini seviyeleri ile şizofreni arasındaki ilişkiyi açıklamaya çalışan ilk çalışmalar Mc Grath ve arkadaşlarının bebeklerle yapmış olduğu çalışmalara dayanmaktadır.

Mc Grath ve arkadaşları bir yaş civarı bebeklerde D vitamini takviyesinin şizofreni riskini önemli ölçüde azalttığını göstermişlerdir (12). Yine Mc Grath ve arkadaşları 2010 yılında geriye dönük olarak 800 şizofreni hastasını taramış oldukları başka bir çalışmada ise bebeklikteki düşük D vitamini seviyelerinin ileri yaşta artmış şizofreni riski ile ilişkili olduğunu ortaya koymuşlardır (13). Benzer sonuçlar yaşamlarının ilk yılında D vitamini takviyesi alan bebeklerin almayanlara göre ileri yaşta şizofreni riskinin azaldığını gösteren bir Finlandiya çalışmasında da gösterilmiştir (14). Daha küçük ölçekli başka bir çalışmada üçüncü trimesterde anne kanında vitamin D düzeyine bakılmış ve doğan bebekler 30 yaşına kadar takip edilmişlerdir. Süreçte şizofreni tanısı alan çocukların annelerinde, şizofreni tanısı almayanlara oranla vitamin D düzeyi anlamlı derecede düşük bulunmuştur (15).

Yetişkinlik döneminde yapılan çalışmalara bakıldığında ise Schneider ve arkadaşları 2000 yılında 34 şizofreni, 30 alkol bağımlılığı ve 25 major depresyon tanılı toplam 89 hasta ile yapmış oldukları bir çalışmada; D vitamini seviyelerinin majör depresyon ve şizofreni tanılı gurupta alkol bağımlılığı olan gruba ve kontrol grubuna göre anlamlı derecede daha düşük olduğunu saptamışlardır (16). Valipour ve arkadaşları da yine yetişkinlik döneminde yapmış oldukları bir meta-analiz çalışmasında D vitamini eksikliğinin artmış şizofreni riski ile ilişkili olduğunu göstermişlerdir. Yapmış oldukları çalışmada D vitamini eksikliği olan gurupta şizofreni riskinin 2,16 kat artığını ortaya koymuşlardır (17). Tüm bunlara rağmen düşük D

vitamini seviyeleri ile şizofreni semptom ilişkisi çok fazla araştırılmamıştır. Kısıtlı sayıda yapılan çalışmada çelişkili sonuçlar elde edilmiştir. Psikotik tanılı göçmen ve Norveçlilerin kontrol grubu ile karsılastırılmış oldukları bir calısmada psikotik tanılı göçmen ve Norveçlilerde kontrol grubuna göre D vitamini düzeylerinin anlamlı derecede düşük olduğu gösterilmiştir. Yine aynı çalışmada düşük D vitamin düzeyleri ile şizofreninin negatif ve depresif belirtileri arasında negatif yönlü bir ilişki olduğu ortaya konulmuştur (18). İlk atak psikotik tanılı hastalarla yapılan başka bir çalışmada da benzer sonuçlar elde edilmiştir. Yapılan bu çalışmada düşük D vitamini düzeyleri negatif belirtiler ve bilişsel bozulma ile ilişkilendirilmiştir (19). Pozitif ve Negatif Sendrom Ölçeği (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale-PANSS) skorları ve Klinik Genel Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Clinical Global Impression Scale-CGIS) skorlarının D vitamini düzeyleri ile ilişkisinin incelendiği başka bir çalışmada ise orta düzeyde negatif bir korelasyon tespit edilmiştir (20). Diğer yandan İtzhaky ve arkadaşları D vitamini düzeyleri ile PANSS skorunu karşılaştırmış oldukları bir çalışmada hastalık şiddeti ile D vitamini düzeyleri arasında bir korelasyon olmadığını, benzer şekilde Crews ve arkadaşları da ilk atak psikoz tanılı hastaların D vitamini düzeyleri ile hastalık aktivitesi arasında bir ilişki bulamadıklarını ifade etmişlerdir (21,22). Biz de bu çalışmada D vitamini seviyeleri ile sizofreni semptom şiddeti arasında bir ilişkinin olup olmadığını araştırmayı ve konu ile ilgili literatüre katkı sunmayı amaçladık.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER Katılımcılar

Çalışmaya 01.01.2018-31.12.2020 tarihleri arasında Rize Devlet Hastanesi Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezine kayıtlı olan, 18-64 yaş arası ve Ruhsal Bozuklukların Tanısal ve Sayımsal El Kitabı-5'inci Basım (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5th Edition-DSM-5)'a göre remisyonda (son 6 aylık süreçte hastane yatışı ve tedavi değişikliği olmayan, klinik olarak atak döneminde olmayan) şizofreni tanı ölçütlerini karşılayan 100 hasta dahil edildi. Merkezimizde takipli bu hastaların kan sayımları ve biyokimyasal parametreleri (Hemogram, karaciğer fonksiyon testleri, böbrek fonksiyon testleri, lipit profili gibi) üç aylık periyotlarla düzenli olarak takip edilmekteydi. Düzenli takipler esnasında kan alınması planlanan hastalardan rutin tetkiklerine ilave olarak D vitamini düzeyleri için de örnek alındı.

D vitamini düzeyleri için dolaşımda en yüksek konsantrasyonda bulunan ve en uzun yarılanma ömrü olan 25(OH)D vitamini formu tercih edildi (23). D vitamini düzeyleri <10 ng/ml ise D vitamini eksikliği, 10-20 ng/ml ise D vitamini yetersizliği, >20 ng/ml ise optimal düzeyde D vitamini olarak değerlendirildi (24). Tespit edilen D vitamini değerleri ölçek puanları ve sosyodemografik veriler ile karşılaştırıldı. Araştırmaya katılan tüm katılımcılara araştırma hakkında bilgi verildi ve yazılı onamları alındı. Demans tanılı hastalar, nörolojik bozukluğu olanlar, alkol-madde kullanım bozukluğu olanlar, zeka geriliği olanlar, hamileler, emziren kadınlar, kalsiyum ve vitamin D metabolizmasını etkileyecek hastalığı olanlar ve son altı ay içerisinde vitamin D takviyesi alan hastalar değerlendirme dışı bırakıldı.

Çalışma esnasında D vitamini düzeyini etkileyecek ilaç kullanan ve D vitamini takviyesi alan 7 hasta çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Çalışma toplam 93 hasta ile tamamlandı.

Etik Kurul

Araştırmaya katılan tüm katılımcılara araştırma hakkında bilgi verildi ve yazılı onamları alındı. Yazılı onamları alınan hastaların görüşme yapabildiğimiz aile bireyleri ve yakınları da çalışma ile ilgili olarak bilgilendirildi. Çalışma öncesi Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Üniversitesi (RTEÜ) Tıp Fakültesi Etik Kurulundan 21.06.2017 tarihinde 2017/126 Karar No ile çalışmayla ilgili etik kurul onayı alındı. Çalışmamız Helsinki Deklarasyonu ilkelerine uygun olarak yürütülmüştür. Çalışmada bilimsel araştırma ve yayın etiğine uyulmuştur.

Veri Toplama Araçları Sosyodemografik Veri Formu

Çalışma için araştırmacılar tarafından hazırlanan, bireyin yaşı, cinsiyeti, medeni durumu, doğum yeri, eğitim durumu, mesleki durumu, klinik özellikleri ve kullanılan ilaçlar gibi araştırmanın bağımsız değişkenlerini sorgulayan bir form kullanıldı.

Pozitif Belirtileri Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Scale for the Assesment of Positive Symptoms-SAPS)

Şizofreninin pozitif belirtilerinin şiddet ve değişimini ölçmek amacıyla Andreasen (1990) tarafından geliştirilmiştir (25). Ölçek 4 alt ölçek ve 34 maddeden oluşur. Alt ölçekler sanrılar, varsanılar, dezorganize davranış ve yapısal düşünce bozukluğunu içerir. Ölçeğin içinde yönergesi vardır ve yönergede puanlamanın nasıl yapılacağı belirtilmiştir. Maddeler 0-5 arasında puanlarır. Toplam puan 0-170 arasındadır. Elde edilen puanların yüksekliği pozitif belirtilerin şiddetini göstermektedir. Türkçeye Erkoç ve arkadaşları (1991) tarafından uyarlanmıştır. Türkçe formunun geçerlilik çalışmaları yapılmamış olup ölçeğin iç tutarlılığı geçerliliğe gösterge olarak kullanılmıştır (26).

Negatif Belirtileri Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Scale for the Assesment of Negative Symptoms-SANS)

Şizofreninin negatif belirtilerinin şiddet ve değişimini değerlendirmek amacıyla 1990 yılında Andreasen tarafından geliştirilmiştir (25). Ölçek 5 alt ölçek ve 25 maddeden oluşmaktadır. Alt ölçekler aloji, apati, anhedoni, afektif küntleşme ve dikkat eksikliği gibi parametrelerden oluşmaktadır. Ölçeğin içinde yönergesi vardır ve yönergede puanlamanın nasıl yapılacağı belirtilmiştir. Elde edilen puanların yüksekliği negatif belirtilerin şiddetini göstermektedir.

Türkçeye uyarlanması ve Türkçe formunun güvenirlik çalışmaları Erkoç ve arkadaşları (1991) tarafından yapılmıştır. Geçerlilik çalışmaları ise yapılmamış olup ölçeğin iç tutarlılığı geçerliliğe gösterge olarak kullanılmıştır (27).

Calgary Depression Ölçeği (Calgary Depression Scale-CDÖ)

Şizofreni hastalarında depresif belirtilerin şiddet ve değişimini ölçmek amacıyla Addington ve arkadaşları tarafından geliştirilmiş olan bir ölçektir (28). Her maddenin 0 ile 3 arasında puanlandığı, görüşmeci tarafından uygulanan ve toplam 9 maddeden oluşan likert tipi bir ölçektir. Ölçekten alınan toplam puan 0-27 aralığındadır. Elde edilen puanların yüksekliği depresif belirtilerin şiddetini göstermektedir. Türkçe geçerlik ve güvenirlik çalışması Aydemir ve arkadaşları tarafından yapılmıştır (29).

D Vitamini Düzeylerinin Ölçümü

Katılımcılardan 12 saat açlık sonrası 2 ml venöz kan örnekleri antikoagulanlı tüplere alındı (BD Vacutainer Blood Collection Tube). Toplanan kanlar oda sıcaklığında 3000 rpm de 10 dakika süreyle santrifuj edildi (NF 1200R, NuveR). Santrifüj sonrası D vitamini düzeyleri (25(OH)D) serum kemilüminesans mikropartikul immunoassay (CMIA) teknolojisiyle çalışan Architect i2000 (Abbott, Diagnostics, Wiesbaden, Almanya) cihazı ile ölçüldü.

İstatistiksel Analiz

Verilerin analizi "SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for Windows 25.0 (SPSS Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.)" aracılığıyla yapıldı. Kategorik veriler sayı ve yüzde, sürekli veriler normal dağılıma uygunluklarına göre ortalama, standart sapma ya da median (minimum-maksimum) şeklinde ifade edildi. Normal dağılıma uygunluk Kolmogorov Smirnov testi ile sınandı. Kategorik veriler Ki-kare testi ile analiz edildi. Sürekli verilerin karşılaştırılmasında ANOVA veya Kruskal Wallis testi kullanıldı. Veriler arasındaki korelasyon spearman korelasyon testi ile incelenmiştir. p<0.05 anlamlılık sınırı olarak kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Çalışmaya dahil edilen katılımcıların yaş ortalaması 39,24 ± 10,34 idi. Katılımcıların % 68,8'i (n=64) erkek, % 31,2' si (n=29) kadındı. Medeni durum açısından bakıldığında katılımcıların % 65,6' sının (n=61) bekar, %34,4' ünün (n=32) evli olduğu gözlendi. Katılımcıların % 58,1'i (n=54) ilkokul mezunuydu ve % 50,5'i (n=47) çalışmıyordu. Katılımcılar, yaşanılan yer açısından değerlendirildiğinde % 58,1'i (n=54) il merkezinde, % 23,7' si (n=22) kırsal alanda yaşamaktaydı. Katılımcıların ortalama hastalık süreleri yıl bazında 15,00 (2,00-35,00) idi ve hastaların % 44,1'i (n=41) intihar düşüncesine sahipti (Tablo I).

Tablo I: Hastaların sosyodemografik ve klinik özellikleri

Değişken		n(%)
Yaş (ort+SD)		$39,24 \pm 10,34$
Cinsiyet	Kadın	29 (%31,2)
Chisiyet	Erkek	64 (%68,8)
Medeni durum	Evli	32 (%34,4)
Medeni durum	Bekar	61 (%65,6)
	Okur Yazar Değil	12 (%12,9)
Eğitim düzeyi	İlkokul	54 (%58,1)
	Lise	17 (%18,3)
	Üniversite	10 (%10,8)
	Çalışmıyor	47 (%50,5)
	Memur	17 (%18,3)
Meslek	İşçi	11 (%11,8)
	Serbest	14 (%15,1)
	Çiftçi	4 (%4,3)
	Köy	22 (%23,7)
Yaşanılan yer	İlçe-Kasaba	17 (%18,3)
	İl	54 (%58,1)
Hastalık süresi ort (min maks.)		15,00 (2,00-35,00)
İntihar	Var	41 (%44,1)
düşüncesi	Yok	52 (%55,9)

SD: Standart deviation, Ort: Ortalama, Min: Minimum, Maks: Maksimum

D vitamini düzeylerine göre hastaları 3 gruba ayırdığımızda hastaların % 23,7 sinde D vitamini eksikliği, % 37,6 sında D vitamini yetersizliği ve % 38,7 sinde optimal seviyede D vitamini düzeyleri saptandı.

D vitamini düzeylerine göre ayrılan 3 grup arasında yaş (p=0,145), cinsiyet (p=0,542), medeni durum (p=0,394), eğitim düzeyi (p=0,267), meslek (p=0,848), yaşanılan yer (p=0,968), ruhsal hastalık süresi (p=0,140) ve intihar düşüncesi (p=0,107) açısından anlamlı farklılık saptanmadı (Tablo II).

Tablo II: D vitamini düzeyine göre ayrılan grupların sosyodemografik ve klinik özellikleri

		Vitamin-D Eksikliği Olan Grup (<10 ng/ml)	Vitamin-D Yetersizliği Olan Grup (10-20 ng/ml)	Vitamin-D Düzeyleri Normal Olan Grup (≥20 ng/ml)	p değeri	
		(n=22)	(n=35)	(n=36)		
Yaş (ort+SD)		35,50 ± 10,04	38,94 ± 9,93	41,81 ± 10,44	0,145	
Cinsiyet	Kadın	7 (%31,8)	13 (%37,1)	9 (%25,0)	0,542	
Cinsiyet	Erkek	15 (%68,2)	22 (%62,9)	27 (%75,0)	0,342	
Medeni	Evli	5 (%22,7)	14 (%40,0)	13 (%36,1)	0,394	
durum	Bekar	17 (%77,3)	21 (%60,0)	23 (%63,9)	0,394	
	Okur Yazar Değil	5 (%22,7)	5 (%14,3)	2 (%5,6)		
Eğitim düzeyi	İlkokul	9 (%40,9)	19 (%54,3)	26 (%72,2)	0,267	
	Lise	5 (%22,7)	8 (%22,9)	4 (%11,1)		
	Üniversite	3 (%13,6)	3 (%8,6)	4 (%11,1)	ı	
	Çalışmıyor	11 (%50)	17 (%48,57)	19 (%52,78)		
	Memur	4 (%18,18)	5 (%14,29)	8 (%22,22)		
Meslek	İşçi	3 (%13,64)	5 (%14,29)	3 (%8,33)	0,848	
	Serbest	4 (%18,18)	5 (%14,29)	5 (%13,89)	0,040	
	Çiftçi	0 (%0)	3 (%8,57)	1 (%2,78)		
	Köy	5 (%22,73)	9 (%25,71)	8 (%22,22)		
Yaşanılan yer	İlçe- Kasaba	4 (%18,18)	7 (%20)	6 (%16,67)	0,986	
	İl	13 (%59,09)	19 (%54,29)	22 (%61,11)		
Ruhsal hastalık süresi ort (min- maks)		12,00 (2,00-27,00)	14,00 (2,00-30,00)	17,50 (2,00-35,00)	0,140	
İntihar	Var	11 (%50)	19 (%54,29)	11 (%30,56)	0.107	
düşüncesi	Yok	11 (%50)	16 (%45.71)	25 (%69.44)	0,107	

: ANOVA. b: ki-kare test. c: Kruskal Wallis test. SD: Standart deviation. Ort: Ortalama

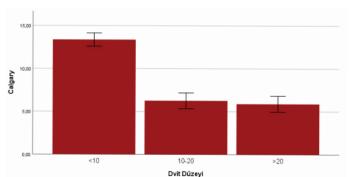
Gruplar ölçek puanlarına göre değerlendirildiğinde gerek SAPS (p=0,157) ve gerekse de SANS (p=0,944) toplam ölçek skorları D vitamini düzeylerine göre ayrılan hasta grupları arasında istatistiksel açıdan anlamlı farklılık göstermedi.

CDÖ'den alınan puanların ise D vitamini eksikliği olan grupta diğer gruplara göre daha yüksek olduğu izlendi (p= 0,001) (Tablo III, Şekil 1).

Tablo III: D Vitamini eksikliğinin psikotik ve depresif semptomlarla karşılaştırılması

	Vitamin-D eksikliği olan grup (<10 ng/ml)	Vitamin-D yetersizliği olan grup (10-20 ng/ml)	Vitamin-D düzeyleri normal olan grup (≥20 ng/ml)	p değeri*
SAPS Ortanca (minmaks.)	18,5 (3-81)	20 (2-73)	27 (3-90)	0,157
SANS Ortanca (minmaks.)	30 (7-64)	27 (6-79)	28 (8-54)	0,944
CDÖ Ortanca (minmaks.)	13 (3-20)	4 (0-16)	4 (0-19)	0,001

*Kruskal Wallis testi, Min: Minimum, Maks: maksimum, SAPS: Pozitif semptomları değerlendirme ölçeği, SANS: Negatif semptomları değerlendirme ölçeği, CDÖ: Calgary Depresyon Ölçeği



Sekil 1: Calgary Depresyon Olçeğinden alınan puanların D vıtamını düzeylerine göre dağılımı

Ölçek puanları ve D vitamini düzeyleri arasında yapılan korelasyon analizinde D vitamini düzeyleri ile CDÖ puanları arasında orta düzeyde negatif bir ilişki saptandı (p: 0,00001, r: -0,429) (Tablo IV).

Tablo IV: D vitamini düzeyleri ile ölçek puanlarının ilişkisi

D vitamini düzeyi	р	r	
CDÖ	0,00001	-0,429**	
SAPS	0,129	0,129	
SANS	0,838	-0,021	

Spearman korelasyon: ** p<0,05, SAPS: Pozitif semptomları değerlendirme ölçeği, SANS: Negatif semptomları değerlendirme ölçeği, CDÖ: Calgary Depresyon Ölçeği

TARTISMA

Çalışmamızda şizofreni hastalarının büyük bir çoğunluğunda optimal seviyelerin altında D vitamini düzeyleri saptandı. Tespit edilen düşük D vitamini düzeylerinin de depresif belirtilerle ilişkili olduğu gözlendi. Yapılan korelasyon analizinde D vitamini düzeyleri ile CDÖ skoru arasında orta düzeyde negatif bir ilişki tespit edildi.

Şizofreni oluşumu ile ilgili birçok hipotez ileri sürülmüştür. Bunlar içerisinde en kabul görenleri gen çevre ilişkisi ve nörogelişimsel hipotezdir (1). D vitamininin nöro-gelişim üzerindeki etkilerinin kesfinden sonra dikkatler D vitamini eksikliği ve şizofreni ilişkisine kaymıştır. Prenatal D vitamini eksikliğinin fetal nöral gelişimi olumsuz etkilediği ve dolayısıyla şizofreni riskini artırdığı varsayılmıştır (4,30). Özellikle de gebelik dönemi ve bebeklik çağında ortaya çıkan D vitamini eksiklerinin beynin büyümesini ve gelişimini etkilediği dolayısıyla da erişkin dönem şizofreni riskini artırdığı gösterilmistir (12,31,32). Yapılan epidemiyolojik çalısmalar, koyu tenli kişilerde, kış sonu/ilkbahar başında doğanlarda, daha yüksek enlemlerde dünyaya gelenlerde ve kentsel ortamlarda doğanlarda şizofreni riskinin artığını ve bu riske D vitamini eksikliğinin aracılık edebileceğini öne sürmüştür. Ancak bu konudaki veriler çelişkilidir (17,30,33). Biz de çalışmamızda D vitamini düzeyleri ile sosyodemografik veriler ve klinik özellikler arasına istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ilişki saptamadık. Erişkin dönem şizofreni hastalarında D vitamini eksikliklerine sıklıkla rastlanmaktadır (17,18,20,34-38). Yapılan çalışmalarda şizofreni hastalarının yaklaşık % 65'inde D vitamini eksikliğinin olduğu ve D vitamini seviyelerinin de sağlıklı kontrollere göre 5,91 ng/ml daha düşük olduğu vurgulanmıştır (11). Bu oranlar tedaviye dirençli grupta, ilk atak psikotik hastalarda ve hastaneye yatan hastalarda ise daha da yüksek olarak rapor edilmiştir (20,39,40). Kontrol grubu kullanılarak gerçekleştirilen çalışmalarda da yine benzer sonuçlar elde edilmiştir (17,20-22). Ancak bu durumu desteklemeyen çalışmalar da vardır (19,41). Hatta bazı çalışmalar yüksek D vitamini düzeylerini artan şizofreni riski ile de ilişkilendirmiştir (13). Biz de çalışmamızda literatürle uyumlu bir şekilde sizofreni hastalarının yaklaşık % 61,3'ünde optimal seviyelerin altında D vitamini düzeyleri saptadık. Sizofreni hastalarında saptanan D vitamini eksikliği bu hastalarının sedanter yaşam tarzları, güneş ışığından yeterince faydalanamamaları ve beslenme eksiklikleri ile ilişkili olabilir. Ayrıca bu hastaların kullanmış oldukları ilaçlar da bu duruma yol açmış olabilir (35).

Çalışmamızı D vitamini düzeylerine göre gruplandırdığımızda D vitamini eksikliği % 23,7, D vitamini yetersizliği % 37,6 ve normal D vitamini düzeyleri de % 38,7 idi. Bu bulgular 2016 yılında Bulut ve arkadaşlarının ülkemizde yapmış oldukları benzer bir çalışma ile de uyumlu idi (35). Bazı yöntemsel farklılıklar olmakla birlikte benzer sonuçlara Yüksel ve arkadaşları ile Aras ve arkadaşlarının yapmış oldukları çalışmalarda da rastlanmaktadır (20,42).

Şizofreni, pozitif negatif ve afektif semptomlarla giden bir bozukluktur. Şizofreni semptom şiddeti ve D vitamini ilişkisi birçok çalışma ile araştırılmıştır. Bu konuda yapılmış olan çalışmalar daha sıklıkla ilk atak ya da akut alevlenme dönemi ile ilgili çalışmalar olup bildirilen sonuçlar da oldukça değişkendir (20,35,38,42-44). Yapılan çalışmaların bir kısmı şizofreni hastalarında sadece negatif belirtilerle düşük D vitamini düzeyleri arasında ilişki saptarken bir kısmı ise hem negatif ve hem de pozitif belirtilerle D vitamini düzeyi arasında ilişki saptamıştır (9,19,20,33-35,38,43,45-47). Bunun aksine pozitif ve negatif belirtilerle D vitamini seviyeleri arasında ilişki olmadığını belirten çalışmalar da vardır. İtzhaky ve arkadaşları D vitamini düzeyleri ile PANSS puanları arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırmış oldukları çalışmalarında D vitamini düzeyleri ile PANSS puanları arasında anlamlı bir ilişki saptamamıştır (21).

Benzer bir ilişki de yine Crews ve arkadaşlarının yapmış oldukları çalışmada da gösterilmiştir (22). Biz de bu iki çalışmaya benzer şekilde çalışmamızda D vitamin düzeyleri ile şizofreninin pozitif ve negatif semptom şiddeti arasında istatistiksel açıdan anlamlı bir ilişki saptamadık. Benzer bulgular 2021 yılında ülkemizde yapılmış olan Aras ve arkadaşlarının çalışmalarında da gösterilmiştir (42). Çalışmamızda elde ettiğimiz bu sonuç seçilen örneklemle ilişkili olabileceği gibi remisyon dönemindeki hastaların seçilmiş olması ile de ilişkili olabilir. Oysaki şizofreni semptom şiddeti ile D vitamini düzeyleri arasında ilişki saptayan çalışmalar sıklıkla daha şiddetli semptom profiline sahip olan akut dönem ya da yatarak tedavi gören hastalardan oluşmaktaydı (20,39,40).

D vitamini eksikliği; psikotik bozukluklar, depresyon ve diğer birçok kronik fiziksel durumla ilişkilendirilmiş olup ruhsal bozukluğu olan kişilerde en güçlü kanıtlar düşük D vitamini düzeyleri ile depresyon arasındaki ilişkide saptanmıştır (30,38,48). Benzer bir iliskinin depresif belirtilerin sıklıkla görüldüğü şizofrenide de olabileceği ileri sürülmüştür (38,49). Nitekim yapılan çok sayıda çalışma ile de şizofreni hastalarındaki düşük D vitamini düzeylerinin depresif belirtiler ile olan bu ilişkisi ortaya konulmuştur (18,38,48). Bizde çalışmamızda literatürle uyumlu bir şekilde şizofreni hastalarında D vitamini seviyeleri ile CDÖ puanları arasında istatistiksel açıdan negatif bir ilişki saptadık. Bu sonuç 2016 yılında Nerhus ve arkadaşlarının psikotik hastalarda CDÖ puanları ile D vitamini düzeylerini karşılaştırmış oldukları çalışmayla benzerdi.Onlar da çalısmalarında düsük D vitamini düzevleri ile yüksek CDÖ puanları arasında anlamlı ters ilişki saptamışlardır (38). Bu durum şizofreni hastalarının içe kapanması, kapalı mekanlarda daha fazla vakit geçirmesi dolayısıyla da güneş ışığına maruziyetin azalması şeklinde açıklanabileceği gibi D vitamininin

serotonin sentezi üzerindeki düzenleyici etkileri şeklinde de açıklanabilir. Ayrıca D vitamininin antiinflamatuar ve antioksidatif etkileri de bu süreçte etkili olmuş olabilir (9).

Çalışmamızın bazı kısıtlılıkları da vardır. Çalışmamızın tek merkezde yürütülmüş olması, örneklem grubunun küçüklüğü, kesitsel bir çalışma olması, D vitamini eksikliğini etkileyecek faktörlerin dikkate alınmamış olması ve D vitamini seviyelerinin sağlıklı kontrollerle karşılaştırılmamış olması çalışmamızın kısıtlılığı olarak düşünülebilir. Ayrıca sadece remisyon dönemi hastaların tercih edilmesi de yine bir kısıtlılık olarak değerlendirilebilir.

SONUÇ ve ÖNERİ

Çalışmamızda şizofreni hastalarının büyük bir çoğunluğunda optimal seviyelerin altında D vitamini düzeyleri saptadık. Ayrıca tespit edilen bu düşük D vitamini düzeyleri ile depresif belirtiler arasında negatif bir ilişki olduğunu gözlemledik. Şizofreni hastalarında depresif belirtilerin sıklıkla gözden kaçtığı ve tedaviye uyumu olumsuz etkilediği düşünüldüğünde bu bulgu oldukça önemlidir. Bu bulgular ışığında şizofreni ve D vitamini düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkiyi aydınlatmaya yönelik bu alanda iyi tasarlanmış çok merkezli çalışmalara ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır.

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The Frequency of Fabry Disease in Hemodialysis Patients in the Western Mediterranean Region of Turkey

Türkiye'nin Batı Akdeniz Bölgesindeki Hemodiyaliz Hastalarında Fabry Hastalığı Sıklığı

ABSTRACT Objective:

The aim of the present study was to identify patients with chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology or of other detected etiology among those who were undergoing hemodialysis in the Western Mediterranean region and to detect the prevalence of Fabry mutation in these patients. In addition, we aimed to screen the family members of the cases with mutations in our study.

Methods:

A total of 664 patients over the age of 18 who received hemodialysis treatment in 11 different hemodialysis centers in the Western Mediterranean region of Turkey were screened. Alpha-galactosidase A enzyme levels were first tested in male patients, and for patients with alpha-galactosidase A levels < 3.3 nmol/mL/h, GLA gene sequence analysis was performed. GLA gene sequence analysis was performed directly in female patients.

Results:

In total 664 patients [313 (47.1%) male and 351 (52.9%) female] have been scanned. Fabry mutation was positive in eight female patients and one male patient.

Conclusion:

According to the output of the research, the prevalence of Fabry disease among the patients who received hemodialysis treatment was determined as 1.35%. In order to eliminate the conflicts upon whether the mutations which is effective on the etiology of Fabry disease are pseudo alleles it is required that new researches should be done, prospective scanning programs in a wider patient population and genetic consultancy and preventive medicine services should become more prevalent.

Key Words:

Fabry disease, Chronic kidney disease, Hemodialysis

DOI: 10.53394/akd.1136791

ÖZ

Amaç:

Bu çalışmanın amacı, Batı Akdeniz bölgesinde hemodiyaliz uygulanan ancak böbrek yetmezliği etiyolojisi bilinmeyen veya başka nedenlere bağlanan hastaları belirlemek ve bu hastalardaki Fabry mutasyonunun prevalansını saptamaktır. Ayrıca, çalışmamızda mutasyon saptanan olguların aile bireylerinde de tarama yapmayı amaçladık.

Yöntemler:

Türkiye'de Batı Akdeniz bölgesinde 11 farklı hemodiyaliz merkezinde hemodiyaliz tedavisi gören 18 yaş üstü 664 hasta tarandı. Erkek hastalarda ilk olarak Alfa-galaktosidaz A enzim seviyeleri test edildi ve alfa-galaktosidaz A seviyeleri < 3,3 nmol/mL/saat olan hastalarda GLA gen dizi analizi yapıldı. Kadınlarda ise GLA gen dizi analizi doğrudan yapıldı.

Bulgular:

Toplam 664 hasta [313 (%47,1) erkek ve 351 (%52,9) kadın] tarandı. Fabry mutasyonu sekiz kadın hastada ve bir erkek hastada pozitifti.

Sonuc:

Araştırmamızda hemodiyaliz tedavisi alan hastalarda Fabry hastalığı prevalansı %1,35 olarak belirlendi. Fabry hastalığının etiyolojisinde etkili olan mutasyonların yalancı alel olup olmadığı konusundaki çelişkileri ortadan kaldırmak için yeni araştırmaların yapılması, daha geniş hasta popülasyonunda prospektif tarama programlarının yapılması, genetik danışmanlık ve koruyucu hekimlik hizmetlerinin yaygınlaştırılması gerekmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Fabry hastalığı, Kronik böbrek hastalığı, Hemodiyaliz

INTRODUCTION

Fabry disease is an X-linked recessive inherited disorder of glycosphingolipid metabolism and a lysosomal storage disease. The absence or decreased activity of the alpha-galactosidase A enzyme encoded by the galactosidase alpha (GLA) gene on chromosome band Xq22 leads to inadequate lipid metabolism and progressive lysosomal accumulation of globotriaosylceramide (Gb3) that has terminal alpha-galactosyl residues (1,2). The worldwide prevalence of Fabry disease is estimated to be one in 117.000 live births and one in 40.000 men (3,4). Fabry disease, which is associated with a wide variety of symptoms and multisystemic involvement in the clinical presentation, including acroparesthesia, gastrointestinal symptoms, angiokeratoma, cornea verticillata, cerebrovascular disease, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, is also one of the rare causes of chronic kidney disease (CKD) (1,5,6). There are classic and severe forms of the disease as well as its cardiac and renal variants (7-9). Due to its variants and random X inactivation in women, it is observed with different phenotypic presentations, at different ages and with various systemic effects. In cases of renal involvement, it leads to fibrosis, glomerulosclerosis, and progressive renal insufficiency due to the accumulation of Gb3

in podocytes, mesangium, glomerular endothelium, distal tubular epithelium, arterial and arteriolar endothelial and smooth muscle cells, and interstitial cells (10,11).

Currently, among the existing CKD patients worldwide, there is a group of patients with unknown etiology. In patients from Turkey for whom first renal replacement therapy (hemodialysis) was started in 2018, a group comprising 15.1% patients with CKD of unknown etiology was detected (12). It is estimated that Fabry patients who have not yet been diagnosed are also included in this group with unknown etiology. Studies have been conducted around the world to screen high-risk populations [patients undergoing dialysis, patients who had a stroke at an early age (18-40 years), patients with ventricular hypertrophy without a cause etc.] for detecting undiagnosed Fabry patients (11,13,14). Increased screening and diagnostic programs facilitate the diagnosis of Fabry disease at an early stage before the development of clinical symptoms or in suspected cases.

The detection of alpha-galactosidase A levels and lyso-Gb3 (globotriaosylsphingosine) as well as genetic testing can be used for the screening and diagnosis of Fabry disease (15,16). Testing for alpha-galactosidase A in the blood is quite sensitive and specific for men, whereas it can give false-negative results in women (17). The deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)-based genetic test for detecting the sequence of GLA gene exons is the most important diagnostic test for Fabry disease (18). At present, a multisystemic approach, supportive treatment, enzyme replacement therapy (ERT), and/or chaperone therapy (migalastat) are used to treat the disease (19,20). It is important to diagnose the disease as early as possible and to start ERT for preventing multiorgan dysfunction without lysosomal Gb3 accumulation (18). The aim of the present study was to identify patients with CKD of unknown etiology or of other detected etiology among those who were undergoing hemodialysis in the Western Mediterranean region but had underlying Fabry disease and to detect the prevalence of Fabry mutation. In addition, we aimed to perform first-degree family screening of index cases and clinical screening in positive cases. Moreover, we aimed to draw attention to the fact that a rare storage disease such as Fabry disease may be the underlying etiology in these patients.

MATERIAL and METHODS

In the present study, 664 patients aged above 18 years who were undergoing hemodialysis at 11 different hemodialysis centers in the Western Mediterranean region were screened for Fabry disease after obtaining approval from the Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Protocol no: 397, 29th of June, 2016) and in accordance with the decisions of the Helsinki Declaration. The study was conducted in accordance with research and publication ethics, by obtaining written informed consent from the patients.

Alpha-galactosidase A enzyme levels were first tested using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay method in male patients, and for patients with alpha-galactosidase A levels < 3.3 nmol/m-L/h, GLA gene sequence analysis using "Sanger method" was performed. GLA gene sequence analysis was performed directly using the Sanger method in female patients. First-degree relatives of patients testing positive for GLA gene mutations

were also included in genetic screening. All patients diagnosed with Fabry disease underwent electrocardiogram (ECG) and echocardiography (ECHO) screenings as well as neurological, dermatological, and eye examinations.

A written consent was obtained from all patients who underwent the screenings. Data on age, gender, additional disease, dialysis duration, and CKD etiology were obtained from patients, dialysis centers databases, and Medulla Physician system database. Death-related information on patients who died was obtained from the Turkish Public Health Institution Notification System.

Descriptive statistics were used from the obtained data using SPSS 18.0 package program and were presented as frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation values.

RESULTS

In the present study, 664 patients [313 (47.1%) male and 351 (52.9%) female; age range, 20–96 years] from 11 different hemodialysis centers were included. The etiology of CKD was unknown in 122 (18.4%) of the 664 patients. The causes of CKD in patients with known etiology are listed in Table I.

Alpha-galactosidase A enzyme levels were tested in all male patients participating in the study; the levels were normal in 256 (81.8%) and low in 57 (18.2%) patients (Alpha-galactosidase A < 3.3 nmol/mL/h). Of the 57 male patients, seven could not be reached for performing gene analysis. Fabry mutation was positive in one of the 50 men in whom GLA gene analysis was

Table I: Diseases detected in chronic kidney disease etiology in patients participating in the study.

	Number of positive patients (n)	Percentage (%)
Diabetes Mellitus	157	23.6
Hypertension	298	44.9
Glomerulonephritis	80	12
Polycystic Kidney Disease	17	2.6
Tubulointerstitial Nephritis and Obstructive Nephropathies	81	12.1
Amyloidosis	12	1.8
Connective Tissue Disease - Vasculitis	15	2.2
Nephrolithiasis	14	2.1
Unknown Etiology	122	18.4
Other	32	4.8

Other: Gout, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, Sickle cell anemia, Renal cell cancer, Human acquired immunodeficiency virus infection, Atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome, Malignancy.

performed. GLA gene analysis was performed in all women who participated in the study. Fabry mutation was negative in 343 (97.8%) and positive in eight (2.2%) female patients. Thus, in the present study, there were nine patients (eight female, one male) with positive GLA gene mutation and Fabry mutation prevalence was 1.35% (Figure 1).

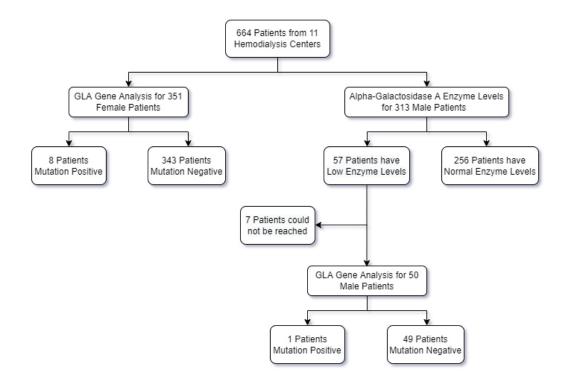


Figure 1: Distribution of patients according to enzyme level and mutation.

The male patient testing positive in the genetic analysis had a D313Y mutation; six of the positive female patients had a D313Y mutation, one had an S126G mutation, and the remaining one had an R363C mutation.

Five of the nine patients testing positive for genetic mutation refused to undergo further examinations and treatment, and their families refused to be screened. Relatives of one patient who died during the study period also refused to undergo genetic screening. The remaining three female patients who had tested positive for a mutation agreed to undergo further examinations and treatment, and their relatives agreed to undergo family screening; thus, their screening was performed.

Index case-1

In the first of the three female patients who underwent further examinations, D313Y mutation was positive. The medical history of the patient showed that she had diabetes mellitus and hypertension and had experienced myocardial infarction; furthermore, she had a history of vision loss and inferior vena cava thrombosis. T-wave negativity and minimal ST depression were detected on ECG, and concentric hypertrophy in the left ventricle was observed on ECHO. Electromyography (EMG) revealed mixed sensorimotor polyneuropathy. Her first-degree relatives were examined for Fabry disease, but no positive cases were detected.

Index case-2

In the second female patient, R363C mutation was positive. The medical history of the patient showed that she had diabetes mellitus and hypertension; furthermore, she had experienced myocardial infarction and had undergone bypass surgery. Her ECG revealed T-wave negativity, ST depression, and QRS enlargement and ECHO revealed left ventricular hypertrophy and hypokinesis in the inferior wall. Eye examination revealed bilateral optic atrophy and dot hemorrhage in the right eye macula. Mixed sensorimotor polyneuropathy was detected on EMG. Four persons among the first-degree relatives of the patient were screened, and in one son, the enzyme activity was below normal and lysosomal accumulation of lyso-Gb3 was high: 10.9 ng/mL (0-3.5 ng/mL). The GLA gene mutation detected in this son was the same as that in the mother, i.e., R363C mutation was present. His medical history showed that he had hypertension and asthma. Eye examination revealed lipid accumulation in the fovea in the inferotemporal and superior peripheral regions. Signs of hypertrophy were detected on ECG. Left ventricular hypertrophy was detected on ECHO. ERT was initiated for the patient before the clinical symptoms of Fabry disease developed.

Index case-3

In the third patient, D313Y mutation was positive. The patient's medical history showed that she had hypertension. ECG revealed signs of hypertrophy; ECHO showed left ventricular septal hypertrophy and relaxation defect. The patient's EMG report could not be accessed, but her neurological examination revealed that she had pain and paresthesia. Seven first-degree relatives of the patient were genetically analyzed, and D313Y

mutation was positive in one son and four daughters. The relatives of the patient in whom the mutation was detected refused to undergo further examination.

In summary, all of these three patients who were screened for other pathologies that may be associated with Fabry disease, had acroparasthesia, two had myocardial infarction, and one had cataract.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, a total of 664 patients, including 351 female and 313 male patients, undergoing hemodialysis at 11 different centers were screened. The GLA gene mutation was positive in nine patients (eight female and one male), including D313Y in seven, S126G in one, and R363C in one patient.

Fabry disease is a public health problem, and awareness levels regarding this disease are low (21). It is often overlooked in clinical practice due to its multisystemic and non-specific effects and different variants.

In the present study, 664 patients undergoing hemodialysis in the Western Mediterranean region were screened, and the prevalence of Fabry mutation was calculated to be 1.35% (9/664). In two similar studies conducted in Turkey, screening of 1136 patients revealed a prevalence of 0.17% and screening of 1527 patients revealed a prevalence of 0.3% (22,23). Compared with the results of these studies, the prevalence in the present study was higher. In two studies conducted on 5657 patients with renal transplant and 313 non-dialysis patients with end-stage renal disease who were at high risk for Fabry disease, the prevalence rates were found to be 0.67 and 0.95, respectively (24,25). Many studies have been conducted worldwide to determine the renal effects of Fabry disease. The prevalence of Fabry disease in patients undergoing dialysis was 0.02% in Japan, 0.24% in Italy, 0.12% in northern Brazil, and 0.36% in Russia (11,26-28). The results of the present study conducted in Turkey and those conducted worldwide are affected by regional differences in the studies and different interpretations of the detected genetic mutations.

The prevalence of Fabry mutation determined in the present study is higher than those reported in other studies. This is attributable to the number of patients screened in the present study being lower than those in other studies, regional factors such as high rate of marriages between relatives, and the assumptions of positive D313Y and S126G mutations. Consanguineous marriages and different genetic diseases such as Fabry disease are more common in closed societies such as the Middle East and Turkey (29-31). Some studies have reported that D313Y is a pseudoallel and that S126G is an ambiguous genetic variant (32-36). If we assume D313Y and S126G mutations as negative, the prevalence in the present study would be similar to those reported in studies from other countries (0.15%).

D313Y mutation was detected in seven (six female patients), R363C mutation in one, and S126G mutation in one of our index patients. D313Y mutation has previously been found in asymptomatic individuals, leading to a suspicion in terms of its clinical manifestation. A subsequent study has reported that D313Y mutation leads to organ findings and elevated lyso-Gb3 biomarker levels and that it plays a role in the appearance of

neurological symptoms and findings, such as pain and cerebrovascular accidents, and eye findings, but ERT should be administered in symptomatic patients with a D313Y mutation (37). However, some studies have reported that D313Y mutation leads to a lack of pseudo-alpha-galactosidase A activity (32-35,38). This issue has not been clarified yet.

While four of our GLA gene mutation-positive patients previously had CKD of unknown etiology, CKD was associated with different causes in five patients. This indicates that Fabry disease should be considered in some patients with CKD of known etiology as well as those with CKD of unknown etiology. In the present study, the number of female patients testing positive for mutation was higher than the number of such male patients. In some studies, only enzyme analysis was performed for female patients, but we directly analyzed GLA gene mutation due to false negativity concern (39,40). This may have made it easier for us to identify positive female patients. In addition, women were overlooked for Fabry screening in studies around the world considering that they were only carriers due to X-linked inheritance (28,41,42). However, studies have shown that the disease may clinically manifest itself in women as well due to random X inactivation (10). Eight of our index patients were female, and R363C mutation, which causes the classical Fabry phenotype, was found in one of them (43). In addition, the same mutation was detected and ERT was initiated in this patient's 40-year-old son, who was asymptomatic. This suggests that considering women to be the carriers of Fabry disease and not performing examinations for them can lead to overlooking of many patients.

CONCLUSION

An individualized patient approach is recommended because of the clinical heterogeneity of Fabry disease. Awareness of all clinicians, especially nephrologists, should be increased regarding Fabry disease, which may be easily overlooked, because it is rare, can be asymptomatic up to a certain age, and has variants. Evaluation of patients at risk for Fabry disease, primarily those who develop renal insufficiency of unknown etiology at an early age, may prevent potentially increased renal dysfunction as well as other tissue and organ damage that may eventually occur. Additionally, it is important to perform family screening of an index patient in whom the disease is detected so that diagnosis can be made and early treatment can be started in patients who are still asymptomatic.

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Ethics Committee Approval:

The study was carried out after obtaining approval from the Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Protocol no: 397, 29 June 2016), in line with the Helsinki Declaration decisions.

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author contributions:

E.N. S., and R. C. developed the study concept. All authors performed the study and wrote the manuscript. All authors assessed the results and critically reviewed the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Renal Replasman Tedavisi Almayan Evre 3-5 Kronik Böbrek Hastalığı Olan Hastalarda Vitamin D Düzeyinin İnflamatuvar Parametreler ve Proteinüri ile İlişkisi

The Association of Vitamin D Status with Inflammatory Parameters and Proteinuria in Patients with Stage 3-5 Chronic Kidney Disease who are not on Renal Replacement Therapy

ÖZ

Amaç:

Kronik böbrek hastalığı (KBH) ve proteinürisi olan hastalarda artan inflamasyon ve oksidatif stresin kardiyovasküler mortaliteyi artırdığı gösterilmiştir. Vitamin D'nin (VD) organizmada birçok işlevinin olduğu son dekatlarda VD reseptörünün farklı dokularda gösterilmesiyle anlaşılmıştır. Biz bu çalışmada KBH olan hastalarda VD düzeyinin, inflamatuvar parametreler ve proteinüri ile ilişkisini değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Bu çalışmaya nefroloji polikliniğinde takip edilen ve henüz renal replasman tedavisi almamış, evre 3-5 KBH hastaları arasından dahil etme kriterlerini karşılayan 314 hasta alındı. Katılımcıların verileri retrospektif ve kesitsel olarak incelendi. Demografik özellikleri, kreatinin, tahmini glomerüler filtrasyon hızı (GFH), serum kalsiyum, albumin, fosfor, 25(OH)D3 parathormon (PTH), spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı, nötrofil, lenfosit, platelet, nötrofil/lenfosit oranı (NLO) ve platelet/lenfosit oranı (PLO) kaydedildi. Serum 25(OH)D3 düzeyine göre; VD eksikliği olanlar, (<10 ng/ml), VD yetersizliği olanlar (10-29 ng/ml) ve VD düzeyi normal olanlar (>29 ng/ml) olmak üzere 3 grup oluşturuldu. Gruplar, inflamatuvar parametreler ve proteinüri düzeyi yönünden karşılaştırıldı. Analizler SPSS 23.0 programı ile yapıldı.

Bulgular:

VD grupları arasında inflamatuvar parametreler (CRP, NLO ve PLO) açısından fark saptanmadı. Spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı; VD eksikliği olanlarda, hem VD yetersizliği olanlardan (p=0,007) hem de VD düzeyi normal olanlardan (p=0,001) yüksekti. Ayrıca yapılan korelasyon analizinde VD düzeyi ile proteinüri arasında negatif korelasyon olduğu görüldü (r:-0,267; p<0,01). Nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan bireylerde de VD düzeyi ve proteinüri ilişkisinin korunduğu saptandı (p=0,018).

Sonuc:

VD eksikliği olan hastalarda proteinüri miktarı daha yüksek saptandı. Ayrıca proteinüri düzeyi ile VD düzeyinin negatif korelasyon gösterdiği ve bu ilişkinin nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan hastalarda da korunduğu görüldü. Bu noktada renal ve kardiyovasküler açıdan önemli bir risk faktörü olan proteinürinin azaltılması noktasında VD'nin rolü gündeme gelebilir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

D vitamini ve proteinüri, Kronik böbrek hastalığı ve inflamasyon, İnflamasyon, Proteinüri

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ABSTRACT Objective:

It has been demonstrated that increased oxidative stress and inflammation are associated with increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and proteinuria. In recent years, it has been understood that vitamin D (VD) has many roles, with the demonstration of the VD receptor in many tissues. In this study, we wanted to assess the association of VD level with inflammatory parameters and proteinuria in individuals with CKD.

Material and Methods:

The study included 314 patients who were followed up in the nephrology outpatient clinic with the diagnosis of CKD, had not received renal replacement therapy yet and met the inclusion criteria. The data of the participants were analyzed retrospectively and cross-sectionally. Demographic characteristics, creatinine, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), serum calcium, albumin, phosphorus, 25(OH)D3, parathormone (PTH), spot urine protein/creatinine ratio, neutrophil, lymphocyte, platelet, neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and platelet /lymphocyte ratio (PLR) were recorded. According to serum 25(OH)D3 level; three groups were formed those with VD deficiency (<10 ng/ml), those with VD insufficiency (10-29 ng/ml), and those with normal VD level (>29 ng/ml). The groups were compared in terms of inflammatory parameters and proteinuria levels. Analyses were performed by using the SPSS 23.0 program.

Results:

There is no difference between the VD groups in terms of inflammatory parameters (CRP, NLR, and PLR). The protein/creatinine ratio in spot urine is higher in patients with VD deficiency than both those with VD insufficiency (p=0.007) and those with normal VD levels (p=0.001). In addition, a negative correlation was found between VD level and proteinuria (r=-0.267; p<0.01). It was found that the association between VD level and proteinuria was preserved in individuals with proteinuria below the nephrotic level (p=0.018).

Conclusion:

It was observed that the proteinuria level was negatively correlated with the VD level and reached higher values in those with VD deficiency. At this point, the role of VD in reducing proteinuria, which is an important factor in renal and cardiovascular terms, may become a current issue.

Key Words:

Vitamin D and proteinuria, Chronic kidney disease and inflammation, Inflammation, Proteinuria

GİRİŞ

Kronik böbrek hastalığı (KBH) etiyolojik nedenden bağımsız olarak en az üç ay süren geri dönüşümsüz objektif böbrek hasarı ve/veya tahmini glomerüler filtrasyon hızının (GFH) 60 ml/dk/1,73 m²'nin altında olmasıdır (1). Tahmini GFH, böbrek fonksiyonunu değerlendirmede kullanılan en değerli metottur (1). KBH olan bireylerde mortalite hızı, KBH olmayanlara göre daha yüksektir (2). Ayrıca KBH olan hastaların büyük bir kısmı son dönem böbrek yetmezliğine (SDBY) ilerlemeden kaybedilmektedirler (3). KBH olanlarda yüksek morbidite ve mortalitenin en önemli nedenlerinden biri kronik inflamasyondur (4). Mevcut kanıtlar KBH olan hastalarda inflamasyonun ve oksidatif stresin artığını ve bu artışın yüksek oranda kardiyovasküler morbidite ve mortaliteye neden olduğunu göstermektedir (5).

D vitamini (VD) yağda eriyen bir hormondur. VD, deride üretildiği gibi dışarıdan hazır olarak da alınabilir. VD deride iki aşamalı non-enzimatik süreç ile sentezlenir (6). VD; endokrin, otokrin ve parakrin etkileri olan, feedback mekanizması ile kontrolü sağlanan bir hormondur (6).

Son yıllarda; mutlak nötrofil sayısının mutlak lenfosit sayısına bölünmesi ile elde edilen nötrofil/lenfosit oranı (NLO) yeni bir inflamatuvar belirteç olarak tanımlanmış ve farklı popülasyonlarda çalışılmıştır. Platelet/lenfosit oranı da (PLO) son yıllarda tanımlanmış bir diğer inflamatuvar belirteçtir. PLO'nun koroner arter hastalığı, periferik arter hastalığı ve kalp kapak hastalığı olanlarda olumsuz sonuçları göstermede prediktör olabileceği belirtilmektedir (7-10).

Biz bu çalışmamızda, henüz renal replasman tedavisi almamış KBH hastalarının serum 25(OH)D3 düzeyi ile inflamatuvar belirteçler ve proteinüri arasındaki ilişkiyi değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

GEREC ve YÖNTEMLER

Bu çalışma, Prof. Dr. Fettah Fevzi ERSOY'un danışmanlığında Dr. Hakan DOĞRUEL'in Akdeniz Üniversitesi Hastanesi İç Hastalıkları Anabilim Dalı'nda yapmış olduğu uzmanlık tezinden üretilmiş olup, Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği ile Helsinki Deklarasyon ilkelerine uygun olarak tasarlanmıştır. Akdeniz Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Klinik Araştırmalar Etik kurulundan Etik Kurul Onayı alınmıştır (Tarih: 23/8/2017, karar no: 523). Çalışmaya 18 Ağustos 2017 tarihine kadar hastanemiz erişkin Nefroloji Polikliniğine başvuran hastalar arasından tetkik ve tedavisi bu tarihe kadar tamamlanmış hastalar alındı. Dahil etme kriterleri; tahmini GFH'nın 60 ml/dk/1,73 m2'nin altında olması, renal replasman tedavisi almamış olmak ve 18 yaşın üzerinde olmak olarak belirlendi. Malign hastalık öyküsü olan, herhangi bir sebeple steroid tedavisi almakta olan, aktif infeksiyon belirti ve/veya bulgusu olan, immünsupressif ve/veya immünmodülatör ilaç kullanmakta olan, solid organ veya kemik iliği transplantasyonu öyküsü olan hastalar çalışmaya alınmadı. Hastaların; demografik özellikleri, kreatinin, tahmini GFH'ı, serum kalsiyum, albumin, fosfor, 25(OH)D3 parathormon (PTH), spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı, nötrofil düzeyi, lenfosit düzeyi, platelet düzeyi, nötrofil/lenfosit oranı (NLO) ve platelet/lenfosit oranı (PLO) kaydedildi. Veriler retrospektif ve kesitsel olarak incelendi.

Klasik KBH evreleme sistemine göre hastalar tahmini GFH 30-59 ml/dk/1,73 m² arasında olanlar evre 3, 15-29 ml/dk/1,73 m² arasında olanlar evre 4, 15 ml/dk/1,73 m² den düşük olanlar evre 5 olacak şekilde 3 gruba ayrıldı. 25(OH)D3 düzeyi, 10 ng/ml'den düşük ise VD eksikliği (grup 1), 10-29 ng/ml arasında ise VD yetersizliği (grup 2), 30 ng/ml ve üzerinde ise normal VD düzeyi (grup 3) olarak tanımlandı (11).

İstatistiksel Analiz

Verilerin analizinde IBM SPSS 23.0 programı kullanıldı. Tanımlayıcı istatistikler frekans, ortalama, standart sapma, medyan, minimum ve maksimum değerleri ile sunuldu. Kategorik verilerin analizinde beklenen değerin 5'den küçük olduğu hücre yüzdesi %20'den büyükse Fischer'in Kesin Testi (Ficher's Exact Test), küçük ise Pearson Ki-Kare (Pearson Chi-Square) testi kullanıldı. Normallik varsayımı Shapiro Wilks Testi ile değerlendirildi. Üç grubun VD düzeyleri arasındaki farkın analizinde Kruskal Wallis Testi kullanıldı. Anlamlı çıkan farkın sonucunda ikili karşılaştırmalarda Bonferroni-Dunn prosedürü uygulandı. Ordinal ve sayısal değişkenler arasındaki ilişki, Sperman Korelasyon Testi ile incelendi. p<0,05 istatistik-sel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Evre 3 KBH, evre 4 KBH ve henüz renal replasman tedavisi almayan evre 5 KBH grupları sırası ile 131, 134 ve 49 hastadan oluşmaktadır. Yaş ve cinsiyet dağılımı yönünden gruplar arasında fark saptanmadı. KBH gruplarının karşılaştırılmasında CRP değerleri arasında fark yokken (p>0,05), NLO değerinin evre 3 KBH hastalarında, hem evre 4 (p=0,009) hem de evre 5 (p=0,002) KBH hastalarından düşük olduğu görüldü. Hastaların demografik ve laboratuvar verileri Tablo I'de verildi.

Tablo I: Hastaların demografik ve laboratuvar verileri

	Evre 3 KBH (n:131)	Evre 4 KBH (n:134)	Evre 5 KBH (n:49)	Total (n:314)	P
	,	, ,	,	, , ,	
Hasta sayısı n(%)	131 (% 41,7)	134 (% 42,7)	49 (% 15,6)	314 (% 100)	
Yaş ort. (ss)	61,7 (± 12,9)	59,6 (± 14,1)	59,1 (± 12,3)	60,4 (±13,3)	0,12
Cinsiyet					0,82
Kadın n (%)	47 (% 43,2)	44 (% 40,3)	18 (% 16,5)	109 (% 100)	0,82
Erkek n (%)	84 (% 41)	90 (% 44)	31 (% 15)	205 (% 100)	
Kreatinin (mg/dL) ort. (ss)*	1,67 (± 0,33)ab	2,84 (± 0,69)ac	4,79 (± 1,3)bc	2,66 (±1,28)	<0,0
tGFH (ml/dk/1,73 m²) ort.(ss)*	40,4 (± 7,75) ^{ab}	21,8 (± 4,4)ac	11,2 (± 2,4)bc	27,9 (±12,6)	<0,0
Kalsiyum (mg/dL) ort. (ss)*	9,5 (± 0,53) ^{ab}	9,31 (± 0,68) ^{ac}	9,04 (± 0,67)bc	9,35 (± 0,64)	<0,0
Fosfor (mg/dL) ort. (ss)*	3,66 (± 0,66) ^{ab}	4,04 (± 0,66)ac	4,69 (± 0,88)bc	3,98 (± 0,78)	<0,0
Albumin (gr/dL) ort. (ss)	4,2 (± 0,34)	4,13 (± 0,30)	4,08 (± 0,35)	4,25 (± 0,33)	0,63
PTH (pg/mL)med.(min-maks)*	80(9,5-466)ab	135(9-493)ac	189(21-1900)bc	114(9-1900)	<0,0
25(OH)D ₃ (ng/mL) ort. (ss)	23,4 (± 21,1)	19,4 (± 12)	17,3 (± 10)	20,8 (± 16,3)	0,85
Nötrofil (bin/mm ³) ort. (ss)	5,13 (± 1,94)	5,28 (± 1,5)	5,56 (± 1,92)	5,26 (± 1,76)	0,93
Lenfosit (bin/mm³) ort. (ss)	2,02 (± 0,66) ^a	1,85 (± 0,66)	1,75 (± 0,55) ^a	1,90 (± 0,65)	0,01
Platelet (bin/mm ³) ort. (ss)	240 (± 73)	244 (± 78)	220 (± 73)	242 (± 75)	0,91
CRP (mg/dL) med.(min-maks)	0,4 (0,1-10)	0,30 (0-3,31)	0,43 (0,1-9)	0,4 (0-10)	0,46
NLO ort. (ss)	2,85 (± 1,73)ab	3,30 (± 2,19) ^a	3,39 (± 1,3)b	3,13 (± 1,9)	0,00
PLO ort. (ss)	132 (± 65,9)a	147,8 (±77,4) ^a	148 (± 56,6)	141 (± 70)	0,16

KBH: kronik böbrek hastalığı, tGFH: tahmini glomerüler filtrasyon hızı, PTH: parathormon, 25(OH)D₃: 25 hidroksi vitamin D, CRP: C-reaktif protein, NLO: nötrofil/lenfosit oranı PLO: platelet/lenfosit oranı

Toplam 64 (%20) hastada VD düzeyi eksikliği (grup 1) saptanırken, 186 (%60) hastada VD yetersizliği (grup 2), 64 (%20) hastada ise VD düzeyi normal (grup 3) saptandı. KBH grupları arasında VD eksikliğinin sıklığı yönünden fark saptanmadı (p=0,85) (Tablo II).

Tablo II: Kronik böbrek hastalığı evrelerine göre vitamin D durumu

Vitamin D durumu düzeyi	Evre 3 KBH (n:131)	Evre 4 KBH (n:134)	Evre 5 KBH (n:49)	Total (n:314)	р
Grup 1 n (%)	22 (% 16,8)	26 (%19,4)	16 (%32,7)	64 (%20)	
Grup 2 n (%)	77 (% 58,8)	85 (%63,4)	24 (% 49)	186 (%60)	0.85
Grup 3 n (%)	32 (% 24,4)	23 (%17,2)	9 (%18,3)	64 (%20)	

KBH: kronik böbrek hastalığı, grup 1: vitamin D düzeyi 10 ng/ml'den düşük olanlar, grup 2: vitamin D düzeyi 10-29 ng/ml arasında olanlar, grup 3: vitamin D düzeyi 30 ng/ml ve üzerinde olanlar

VD düzeyine göre oluşturulan grup 1, grup 2 ve grup 3 arasında CRP, NLO ve PLO değerlerinde fark saptanmadı (p>0,05). Spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı; grup 1'de hem grup 2'den (Sırası ile 1,49 mg/mg (0,04-10,1), 0,68 mg/mg (0,03-12) p=0,001) hem de grup 3'den (Sırası ile 1,49 mg/mg (0,04-10,1), 0,41 mg/mg (0,02-7,2), p<0,001) yüksek saptandı. Grup 2 ile grup 3 arasında ise spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı benzerdi (Sırası ile 0,68 mg/mg (0,03-12), 0,41 mg/mg (0,02-7,2) p=0,708) (Tablo III).

Tablo III: Vitamin D düzeyine göre inflamatuvar parametreler ve proteinüri miktarı

	Grup 1 (n:64)	Grup 2 (n:186)	Grup 3 (n:64)	p
Kreatinin (mg/dL) (ort±ss)	2,86 (±1,42)	2,62 (±1,18)	2,55 (±1,41)	0,252
tGFH (ml/dk/1,73 m²) (ort±ss)	25,2 (±13,1) ^a	27,7 (±11,6)	31,2 (±14,0) ^a	0,040
CRP (mg/dl) med.(min-maks)	0,5 (0,02-9)	0,36 (0,01-10)	0,32(0-10)	0,249
İdr.pro/kr(mg/mg)med.(min-maks)	1,49(0,04-10)bc	0,68(0,03-12)b	0,41(0,02-7,2)°	<0,001
NLO (ort±ss)	3,08 (±1,74)	3,16 (±2,09)	3,07 (±1,42)	0,762
PLO (ort±ss)	143,6 (±61,6)	145,1 (±79,5)	127,7 (±42)	0,389

Grup 1: vitamin D düzeyi 10 ng/ml'den düşük olanlar, grup 2: vitamin D düzeyi 10-29 ng/ml arasında olanlar, grup 3: vitamin D düzeyi 30 ng/ml ve üzerinde olanlar, tGFH: tahmini glomerüler filtrasyon hızı, CRP: C-reaktif protein, idr. pro/kr: spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı, NLO: nötrofil/lenfosit oranı, PLO: platelet/lenfosit oranı

VD düzeyi ile spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı arasında negatif korelasyon olduğu görüldü (r: -0,267; p<0,001). Proteinürisi nefrotik düzeyin altında olan hastalar (spot idrar protein/kreatinin<3,5 mg/mg; n:257) vitamin D düzeyi ile proteinüri miktarı arasındaki ilişki yönünden değerlendirildi. Grup 1'de spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı hem grup 2'den (Sırası ile 1,05 mg/mg (0,04-3,47); 0,60 mg/mg (0,03-3,48), p=0,022) hem de grup 3'den (Sırası ile 1,05 mg/mg (0,04-3,47); 0,35 (0,02-3,41), p=0,009) yüksek saptandı. Grup 2 ile grup 3 arasında (sırası ile 0,60 mg/mg (0,03-3,48), 0,35 mg/mg (0,02-3,41), p=0,24) fark saptanmadı (Tablo IV).

Tablo IV: Nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olanlarda Vitamin D düzeyine göre proteinüri miktarı

	Grup 1 (n:49)	Grup 2 (n:154)	Grup 3 (n:54)	P
İdr.pro/kr (mg/mg) med.(min- maks)	1,05(0,04-3,47)ab	0,60 (0,03-3,48)	0,35 (0,02-3,41) ^b	0,018

Grup 1: vitamin D düzeyi 10 ng/ml'den düşük olanlar, grup 2: vitamin D düzeyi 10-29 ng/ml arasında olanlar, grup 3: vitamin D düzeyi 30 ng/ml ve üzerinde olanlar, idr. pro/kr: spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı.

Proteinüri miktarı nefrotik düzeyin altında olan grupta VD düzeyi ile spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı arasında negatif korelasyon (r: -0.224; p<0.001) saptandı.

TARTIŞMA

Bu çalışmada KBH olan hastalar arasında VD eksikliği olanlarda proteinüri düzeyinin daha yüksek olduğu saptandı. KBH ile beraber nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan bireylerde de ilişkinin korunduğu gözlendi. VD düzeyine göre oluşturulan gruplar arasında inflamatuvar belirteçlerden CRP, NLO ve PLO değerlerinde fark saptanmadı. Proteinüri miktarı nefrotik düzeyin altında olan grupta VD düzeyi ile spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı arasında negatif korelasyon saptandı.

Ülkemizde KBH ve eşlik eden hastalıkların prevalansının incelendiği CREDIT çalışmasında; yetişkin popülasyonda KBH prevelansı %15,7 olarak raporlanmıştır. Bu hastaların yaklaşık 1/3'ünün evre 3-5 KBH hastası olduğu saptanmıştır (12). Bu veriler KBH'nın ülkemizde önemli bir sağlık sorunu olduğuna isaret etmektedir.

Özellikle SDBY hastalarında olmak üzere KBH hastalarında kronik inflamasyon oldukça sıktır. Organizmada oksidan ve anti-oksidan sistemler arasında denge vardır. Bu dengenin oksidasyon lehine bozulması neticesinde reaktif oksijen ürünleri ortamda artar ve hücresel hasar meydana gelir. Bu durum oksidatif stres olarak tanımlanmaktadır. Birçok hastalığın patogenezinde kritik öneme sahip bir olaydır (13). Kronik inflamasyon; üremi, artan proinflamatuvar sitokin düzeyleri, karbonil stres, oksidatif stres, artmış infeksiyon sıklığı, protein-enerji kaybı ve artmış kardiyovasküler risk ile ilişkilidir (14, 15). Akut faz yanıtı, inflamasyona eşlik eden temel fizyopatolojik olaydır (14). Nötrofiller vasküler endotelde moleküller salgılarken hasar olusturan lenfositlerin inflamasyonu düzenleyici ve anti-aterosklerotik özellikleri vardır (16). NLO'nun sistemik inflamasyon durumunda prognostik önemi olduğu gösterilmiştir (16-21). NLO'nun bazı malignitelerde mortalite ve nüks riskini belirleme amacı ile kullanılabilecek maliyet etkin bir belirtec olduğu da belirtilmektedir (17, 19, 21). Kardiyovasküler çalışmalarda ise miyokard enfarktüsü ve kalp yetmezliği olanlarda mortalite prediktörü olabileceği bildirilmiştir (16, 20). Birçok çalışmada NLO'nun farklı inflamatuvar belirteçlerle korelasyonu olduğu gösterilmiştir. Ayrıca son yıllarda yapılan bazı çalışmalarda; NLO'nun KBH olan hastalarda progresyon yönünden major bir prediktör olabileceği belirtilmektedir (22-24).

KBH olan hastalarda kardiyovasküler hastalık riski 10-20 kat artmış olup mortalitenin en önemli nedenidir (25). Geleneksel kardiyovasküler risk faktörleri (Diyabetes mellitus (DM), hipertansiyon (HT), hiperlipidemi vs.) KBH'da yüksek kardiyovasküler riski açıklamakta yetersiz kalmaktadır. KBH olan hastalarda artan inflamasyon ve oksidatif stresin kardiyovasküler mortalite ile ilişkili olduğu gösterilmiştir (3-5). Birçok çalışmada NLO ve PLO'nun diğer inflamatuvar parameterlerle (CRP, hs-CRP ve IL-6) korelasyonu saptanmıştır (23, 26, 27). Bu çalışmada evre 3 KBH olan hastalarda evre 4 ve 5'e göre daha düşük NLO değerleri saptandı. Evre 4 ve evre 5 KBH hastalarında ise NLO benzer saptandı (p: 0,641). Bu sonuç, KBH hastalarında ileri evrelerde kronik inflamasyonun artığını destekler niteliktedir.

KBH olan hastalarda VD eksikliğinin oldukça sık olduğu prediyaliz, hemodiyaliz (HD) ve periton diyalizi (PD) hastalarını içeren çalışmalarda gösterilmiştir (28-30). Bu çalışmada subop-

timal VD düzeyine sahip hasta oranı %80 olup sonuçlar literatür verileri ile benzerdir. Ayrıca tahmini GFH'nın VD düzeyi ile pozitif korelasyon gösterdiği saptandı (r: 0,158, p:0,005). Bu da KBH progrese oldukça daha düşük VD düzeyleri görüldüğünü göstermektedir.

1970'li yıllarda VD'nin sadece kemik, kalsiyum ve fosfor metabolizması ile ilişkili olduğu düşünülmekteydi. Ancak araştırmalar sonucunda vitamin D reseptörünün (VDR) birçok farklı dokuda (over, testis, meme, prostat, akciğer, plasenta, bağırsak, bağışıklık sistemi hücreleri vs.) gösterilmesinden sonra organizmada birçok görevi olduğu anlaşılmıştır (31). Birçok araştırmada VD'nin immün sistemde rolü gösterilmiştir (6, 32, 33). VD'nin inflamasyon ile ilişkisi birçok çalışmada gösterilmiş olmakla beraber iliskiyi gösteremeyen calısmalar da vardır. Mirchi ve ark. 'nın PD ve HD hastaları ile yaptığı çalışmada HD hastalarında serum VD düzeyinin NLO ve yüksek duyarlıklı CRP (hs-CRP) ile ilişkisi saptanmıştır. Düşük serum VD düzeyi olan hastalarda daha yüksek NLO ve hs-CRP değerleri saptanmıştır (11). Akbas ve ark.'nın serum kreatinin düzeyi <1,2 mg/dL olan toplam 4120 hasta ile yaptığı çalışmada serum VD seviyesi düşük olan grupta daha yüksek NLO ve PLO değerleri saptamıştır (34). Farklı bir çalışmada ise ne KBH'ı olmayan bireylerde ne de KBH'ı olan bireylerde serum VD düzeyi inflamatuvar belirteçler ile ilişkili bulunmamıştır (35). Bu çalışmada; VD eksikliği, yetersizliği ve normal VD düzeyine sahip hastalar arasında NLO, PLO ve CRP düzeyleri açısından fark saptanmadı. Ayrıca serum VD düzeyi ile inflamatuvar belirteçler arasında korelasyon saptanmadı. Çalışmamızda VD düzeyi ile inflamasyon belirteçleri arasında ilişki gösterilemedi.

Proteinüri, KBH'da hastalık progresyon faktörleri arasında tanımlanmış olmakla beraber azaltılması hastalığın ilerlemesini yavaşlatmak veya önlemek yönünden önem arz etmektedir (36-38). Proteinürinin kronik böbrek yetmezliğine ilerleme riski ile güçlü bir ilişkisi vardır (39). Renin-anjiyotensin aldosteron sistemi (RAAS) blokörleri [anjiyotensin reseptör blokörleri (ARB) ve anjiyotensin dönüştürücü enzim inhibitörleri (ACEİ)] proteinüriyi azaltmakta ve kronik böbrek hastalığının progresyonunu yavaşlatmaktadır (40). Momeni ve ark, yaptıkları bir çalışmada VD eksikliği veya VD yetersizliği olan tip 2 DM hastalarında VD replasmanını plasebo ile karşılaştırmışlardır. Söz konusu çalışmada VD replasmanının proteinüriyi azaltığı gösterilmiştir (41). Başka bir çalışmada diyabetik nefropati (DN) tanısı ile takip edilen ve RAAS blokörü kullanmakta olan hastalarda oral kolekalsiferol ile VD düzeyini düzeltmenin albuminüriyi azaltığı gösterilmiştir (42). Huang ve ark.'nın yaptığı çalışmada nefropatisi olan DM hastaları normoalbuminürik DM hastaları ile karşılaştırılmış olup nefropatisi olan hastalarda VD düzeyleri daha düşük saptanmıştır (43). Aynı çalışmada VD düzeyi düşük ve DN olanlarda 800 IU/gün oral kolekalsiferol verilmiş ve 2 aylık süreçte albuminürinin azaldığı görülmüştür (43).

Bu çalışmada, KBH olanlarda yapılan analizlerde grup 1, grup 2 ve grup 3 karşılaştırıldığında spot idrarda protein/kreatinin oranı en az iki grupta farklı saptandı. Yapılan ikili analizlerde ise grup 1'de spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı hem grup 2 hem de grup 3'ten daha yüksekti. Grup 2-3 spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı

ise benzer saptandı. Ayrıca serum VD düzeyi ile spot idrar protein/kreatinin oranı arasında negatif korelasyon olduğu görüldü. Nefrotik düzeyde proteinüri varlığı, bağlayıcı proteinlerin atılımı nedeni ile VD eksikliğine sebep olabilmektedir. Albejante ve ark. preeklampsi tanısı ile beraber proteinürisi olan gebelerde idrarda VD bağlayıcı protein ve kubilin atılımını normotansif kontrol ve proteinürisi olmayan preeklempsi tanılı gebelere göre daha yüksek saptamışlardır. Söz konusu çalışmada; VD bağlayıcı protein atılımı ile serum VD düzeyi arasında korelasyon ve gruplar arasında serum VD düzeyi yönünden farklılık saptanmamıştır (44). Bir başka çalışmada; idrarda VD bağlayıcı protein atılımı ile serum VD düzeyi arasında ilişki saptanmamıştır (n=682, median spot idrarda albumin/kreatinin oranı 0,54 (0,35-0,83) mg/mmol) (45). Nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan birevlerde proteinürinin bağlayıcı protein atılımı nedeni ile serum VD düzeyinde azalmaya neden olduğu net bir şekilde ortaya konulamamıştır (44, 45). Bu sebeple nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan bireylerde analiz yapıldı ve ilişkinin korunduğu gözlendi. Son yıllarda VD metabolitlerinin RAAS inhibasyonunda rolü olduğu ayrıca glomerülosklerozu önleyerek ve anti-proteinürik etki ile renoprotektif etkiye sahip olduğu bildirilmiştir (46, 47).

Çalışmamızda serum VD düzeyi ile proteinüri miktarı arasında ilişki saptanmış olup, elde edilen sonuçlar daha önce yapılmış çalışmaların sonuçları ile uyumludur. Bu sonuçlara göre düşük VD düzeyleri, diğer etiyolojik nedenler ve risk faktörleri ile beraber proteinüri sürecine katkıda bulunuyor olabilir.

Son yıllarda geleneksel kardiyovasküler risk faktörlerinin yanında kronik inflamasyon ve oksidatif stresin kardiyovasküler hastalık gelişimindeki rolü ve süreci etkileyen faktörler üzerinde durulmaktadır. VD eksikliğinin renal ve kardiyovasküler açıdan olumsuz sonuçlar ile ilişkili olduğu çok sayıda çalışmada gösterilmiştir (48-50). VD düzeyinin inflamasyon ile ilişkisini inceleyen bazı çalışmalarda bu ilişki gösterilmiş, bazı çalışmalarda ise gösterilememiştir (11, 34, 35, 39). Bu çalışmada KBH olanlarda serum VD düzeyi ile inflamatuvar belirteçler arasında fark saptanmadı. KBH olan hastalar arasında VD eksikliği olanlarda proteinürinin daha fazla olduğu saptandı. Ayrıca VD düzeyi ile proteinüri düzeyinin negatif korelasyon gösterdiği görüldü.

Hastaların ırk ve genetik özellikleri, yaşam tarzı ve diyet özellikleri, vücut kitle indeksleri, KBH'nın süresi, VD kullanım durumu ve 1, 25 dihidroksikolekalsiferol düzeyleri bilinmiyordu. İnflamatuvar belirteçlerden daha hassas olanları (hs CRP ve IL 6) çalışmamızda bakılmamıştır. Bu durumlarla beraber çalışmanın tek merkezli ve retrospektif olması kısıtlılıklar arasındadır.

SONUÇ

Risk faktörlerini tanımlamak; hastaları erken tanımak ve risk altındaki bireylerde önleyici stratejiler geliştirmenin yanında KBH olan bireylerde hastalık progresyonunu yavaşlatmak ve KBH'nın beraberinde getirdiği olumsuz sonuçları azaltmak yönünden önem taşımaktadır. VD eksikliği olan hastalarda proteinüri miktarı daha yüksek saptandı. Ayrıca proteinüri düzeyi ile VD düzeyinin negatif korelasyon gösterdiği ve bu ilişkinin nefrotik düzeyin altında proteinürisi olan hastalarda da korunduğu görüldü. Renal ve kardiyovasküler açıdan önemli bir risk faktörü olan proteinürinin azaltılması noktasında VD'nin rolü gündeme daha çok gelebilir.

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Hasta Onam Formu:

Çalışma retrospektif olduğu için aydınlatılmış onam formu doldurulmamıştır.

Yazar Katkıları:

Fikir/kavram – H.D., F.F.E.; Tasarım – H.D., F.B. F.F.E.; Denetleme/danışmanlık – F.B., F.F.E.; Veri toplama veya işleme – H.D., F.B.; Analiz/Yorum – H.D., F.B., F.F.E.; Literatür tarama – H.D.; Yazan – H.D.; Eleştirel inceleme – H.D., F.B., F.F.E.

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Determining the Level of Knowledge, Awareness, and Perception of Telemedicine In Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians

Fiziksel Tıp ve Rehabilitasyon Hekimlerinde Teletıpla İlgili Bilgi, Farkındalık ve Algı Düzeyinin Belirlenmesi

ABSTRACT Objective:

Telemedicine applications are becoming increasingly common. Our aim in this study was to measure the knowledge, awareness and perception levels of physiatrists on this subject.

Material and Methods:

This study was planned as a cross-sectional survey study. Physiatrists actively working in Turkey were asked to fill in the questionnaire created by the researchers, prepared with google docs and shared via email/WhatsApp/Telegram platforms.

Results:

The questionnaire was answered by a total of 109 physicians, 54 women (49.5%) and 55 men (50.5%). 63.3% of physicians stated that they knew telemedicine partially. Physicians who knew how to remotely apply physical examination was 10.09%. The disadvantages that physicians mostly agreed on were the increase in the risk of malpractice (73.4%) and the decrease in professional satisfaction (76.1%). 71.6% of physicians believe that physical contact increases the feeling of trust in the patients and positively affects the success of the treatment. Orthopedic and neurological rehabilitation came to the fore in the most difficult areas to evaluate in telemedicine. Neuropathic pain was a less challenging area with 36.6% of physicians.

Conclusion:

There is a lack of knowledge of our physicians about the content, application areas, responsibilities and jurisdictions of the concept of telemedicine. Our physicians think that their professional satisfaction will be less in this system with a higher malpractice risk. Potential barriers should be analyzed well and the system should be well planned so as not to victimize physicians and patients in physiatry practice. Our study will be a guide in this context.

Key Words:

Telemedicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Physiatry

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ÖZ

Amac:

Teletip uygulamaları giderek yaygınlaşmaktadır. Bu çalışmadaki amacımız fiziksel tip uzmanlarının bu konudaki bilgi, farkındalık ve algı düzeylerini ölçmektir.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Bu çalışma, kesitsel bir anket çalışması olarak planlanmıştır. Türkiye'de aktif olarak çalışan fizik tedavi uzmanlarından araştırmacılar tarafından oluşturulan, google docs ile hazırlanan ve e-posta/WhatsApp/Telegram platformları üzerinden paylaşılan anketi doldurmaları istendi.

Bulgular:

Anketi 54 kadın (%49,5) ve 55 erkek (%50,5) olmak üzere toplam 109 hekim yanıtlamıştır. Hekimlerin %63,3'ü teletip'ı kısmen bildiğini belirtmiştir. Uzaktan fizik muayene yapmayı bilen hekimlerin oranı %10,09'du. Hekimlerin en çok üzerinde uzlaştığı dezavantajlar ise malpraktis riskinin artması (%73,4) ve mesleki memnuniyetin azalması (%76,1) idi. Hekimlerin %71,6'sı fiziksel temasın hastalarda güven duygusunu artırdığına ve tedavi başarısını olumlu etkilediğine inanmaktadır. Teletipta değerlendirilmesi en zor alanlarda Ortopedik ve Nörolojik Rehabilitasyon ön plana çıkmıştır. Nöropatik ağrı, doktorların %36,6'sı ile daha az zorlayıcı bir alan olarak saptandı.

Sonuc:

Hekimlerimiz arasında teletip kavramının içeriği, uygulama alanları, sorumlulukları ve yetki alanları konusunda bilgi eksikliği bulunmaktadır. Hekimlerimiz malpraktis riskinin daha yüksek olduğu bu sistemde mesleki memnuniyetlerinin daha az olacağını düşünmektedirler. Fizik pratiğinde hekimleri ve hastaları mağdur etmemek için olası engeller iyi analiz edilmeli ve sistem iyi planlanmalıdır. Çalışmamız bu bağlamda yol gösterici olacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Teletip, Fiziksel Tip ve Rehabilitasyon, Fiziyatrist

INTRODUCTION

The restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the extraordinary intensity of the healthcare system have also affected many elective patients' access to healthcare. The telemedicine system covers all kinds of remote health services by meeting on common ground with the fields of medicine, telecommunications and information (1). World health organization (WHO) emphasizes that telemedicine uses information systems and communication technologies to overcome physical barriers, and increase access to health care services (2). Telemedicine in progress brings its own barriers, legal and ethical considerations to consider. When evaluating information technologies (IT) in health care, not only the technology itself but also the interaction between the technology, environment and human behaviors must be taken into account. Evaluation thus has to be unique by the community but also be broad enough to include standards for human being rights and health (3).

Developing technology brings multiple e-health interventions within the diagnosis, monitoring, and managing of diseases. Different forms of these interventions like teleconsultation, teleradiology, teledermatology, telepathology, even technologies like mobile applications, mobile devices, digital therapy, and artificial intelligence or machine learning can all be named under the telemedicine umbrella. Despite the almost 20 years of experience, the appropriate adoption and use of telemedicine in daily practice worldwide has been slow (4). Not surprisingly there has been a rapid improvement in telemedicine development after the Covid-19 outbreak (5). In Turkey, remote reporting of teleradiological imaging examinations is currently actively practiced and medical information is created. Teleradiology can be defined as non-synchronous or asynchronous applications of telemedicine (6). The term asynchronous means that the stored data can be processed at any time to produce information. The synchronous applications require real-time implementations for users. With the pandemic process, the tele-health project action plan was announced by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey in parallel with its pioneers in the world. One of the 3 main branches mentioned in the pilot application was physical medicine and rehabilitation. The application is planned as a pioneer in hospitals that continue to operate as pandemic hospitals. At present, the studies to establish the infrastructure of the synchronous telemedicine system are continuing. Our aim in this study is to measure the knowledge and awareness levels of physiatrists on this subject and to measure the advantages-disadvantages and comfort perceptions about clinical applications.

MATERIALS and METHODS

This study was planned as a cross-sectional survey study. The research was approved by the local ethics committee (Date 22 January 2021; reference number, 107/76). The study was carried out according to the ethical standards specified in the 1964 Helsinki Declaration. The physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians working actively in Turkey were asked to fill in the questionnaire created by the researchers. The questionnaire was formed mostly by the literature previously reported but expanded with the arrangements for the physiatry in particular (7-9). The questionnaire was prepared to collect information on four different topics. The first part is prepared for basic socio-demographic data (4 questions). The second part has been aimed to determine the level of knowledge and awareness about telemedicine (8 questions). In the third part, questions evaluating the perception of the advantages and disadvantages of telemedicine are included (14 questions). In the fourth section, questions about clinical applications of telemedicine in the physiatry practice were asked (10 questions). The questionnaire was prepared through google docs and delivered via e-mail/WhatsUp/telegram platforms that are specific for the physiatrist. The questionnaire had first came out on April 2021 and beheld active till December 2021. Reminders and encouragement to join the study were supplied by the researchers from time to time (twice a month). Since the questionnaire has been settled to show up only for the ones who give online approval, all the responders were asked to approve the enlightened consent form firstly when they reach out to the survey.

Statistical Analysis

The information gathered from the survey was analyzed by Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 22. Descriptive analyses were used for percentages and frequencies. Comparison of subgroups was done with chi-square tests. P value above 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

The questionnaire was shared twice a month in groups (during 8 months time) with physiatrists via electronic platforms. There were a total of 683 physicians in the groups but the survey answered only by a total of 109 physicians, 54 women (49.5%) and 55 men (50.5%). Responce rate was 15.9%. The socio-demographics of the responders were shown in Table I. The mean age of the responders was 36.69±8.43 years. The vast majority of the physicians were not using telemedicine in routine practice (84.4%).

Table I. Sociodemographic properties of physiatrists

	Responders n (%)
Age (years), mean±SD	Mean±SD:36.69±8.43
Sex	
-Female	54 (49.5)
-Male	55 (50.5)
Institution of employment	
- Public Hospital	39 (35.8)
- City hospital	35 (32.1)
- Private hospital/clinic	19 (17.4)
- University Hospital	16 (14.7)
Do you provide health services with	
telemedicine?	
-Yes	17 (15.6)
-No	92 (84.4)

Physicians' knowledge and awareness about telemedicine were shown in Table II. While very few physicians thought that they knew what telemedicine was (16.5%), the vast majority reported that they knew only partially (63.3%).

The number of physicians who know how to apply medical applications (physical examination, laboratory evaluation, imaging evaluation, etc.) related to the musculoskeletal system and diseases remotely via telemedicine system were only 11 (10.09%) unfortunately. Physicians who were familiar with the technological infrastructure and tools (computer, camera, microphone, application and applications, etc.) required for the telemedicine system were 73.4%. While no physician received any training on telemedicine applications at the faculty of medicine, only 3 (2.8%) physicians stated that they attended the courses after graduation. A great majority of physicians did not know their legal responsibilities and jurisdictions as a physician in the telemedicine system (75.2%). The percent of physicians who do not know whether the clinical practices performed with telemedicine are within the scope of the compulsory professional insurance was also quite high (89%).

Perceptions of the advantages of telemedicine were figured in Table III and the disadvantages and potential barriers were shown in Table IV. More than half of the physicians stated that telemedicine facilitates patients' access to physicians and medical services. Almost 75% of the physicians agreed that patients those living in rural areas should have priority access to telemedicine. According to responders telemedicine ensures more effective use of time for patients rather than physicians, 54.1% and 33% respectively. 74% of physicians stated that telemedicine would be a protective instrument from physical violence. The barrier most agreed upon by physicians was increased malpractice risk (73.4%) and decreased occupational satisfaction (76.1%). Most of the physicians (71.6%) believe that physical contact increases the feeling of trust in patients and positively affects the success of the treatment. Therefore, the perceived success of the treatment in the telemedicine system is lower. Another prominent barrier we identified was that physical examination requires one-to-one contact, it is not correct to do it remotely (61.5%). Consistent with the previous statement they agreed that telemedicine applications should be prioritized for patients who have previously been physically/face-to-face evaluated in a healthcare facility (67.9%). Although we could not detect a prominent opinion in terms of verbal/psychological

Table II. The results of physicians' knowledge and awareness about telemedicine

	Answer	n (%)
I know what telemedicine is, its scope, and its application	Yes	18 (16.5)
areas.	Partially	69 (63.3)
	No	22 (20.2)
I know how medical applications (physical examination,	Yes	11 (10.1)
laboratory evaluation, imaging evaluation, etc.) related	Partially	54 (49.5)
to the musculoskeletal system and diseases can be	No	44 (40.4)
applied remotely with the telemedicine		
I am familiar with the technological infrastructure and	Yes	30 (27.5)
tools (computer, camera, microphone, application and	Partially	50 (45.9)
applications, etc.) required for the telemedicine system	No	29 (26.6)
I received training on telemedicine applications during	Yes	0
my medical education	No	109 (100)
I received training or attended courses on telemedicine	Yes	3 (2.8)
applications after graduation	No	106 (97.2)
The clinical practices I will do with telemedicine are	Yes	6 (5.5)
within the scope of my compulsory professional	No	6 (5.5)
insurance	No idea	97 (89)
I know my legal responsibilities and jurisdictions as a	Yes	2 (1.8)
physician using telemedicine.	Partially	25 (22.9)
	No	82 (75.2)

Perception level of potential advantages of telemedicine ■ strongly agree ■ agree ■ no idea ■ don't agree ■ strongly not agree It is safer in terms of physical violence against the physician. Telemedicine is by no means an effective practice.. It is an application where time can be used effectively in terms of patients. It is an application where time can be used effectively in terms of physicians. Telemedicine should be a priority for patients in large cities (where there are fewer physicians relative to the... It should be a priority for patients in areas such as rural areas where access to healthcare providers or... It facilitates patients' access to physicians and medical services.

Table III. Advantages of telemedicine

Telemedicine applications should be prioritized for patients who can be included in telemedicine?	0 4		(0/)
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Table IV. Disadvantages and potential barriers of telemedicine

81,7

violence against physicians, not to be underestimated majority of the physicians (32.1%) reported the fear of being exposed to verbal/psychological violence. Another loudly stated anxiety was that they would feel uncomfortable about the protection of personal data and security/privacy (66.1%). One further notable barrier was nearly half of the physicians' incapability of using the system without help from someone else or at least requiring some help (5.5% and 40.4%, respectively). We have remade the analyses with the crosstabs in the view of gender, age (young and elder by the cutoff 40) and workplace differences but there were no meaningful differences on behalf of the opinions except the women's hesitations on the verbal violence against them.

According to our results, women physicians seem to have trouble ending up with a decision about the issue (p=0.032). Tables V-VI represents the comfort level and difficulty in clinical applications, respectively. It seems that physicians would feel uncomfortable while arranging any treatment or document in telemedicine. The most noticeable uneasiness was seen in the pediatric patient group (83.5%). The most difficult task to evaluate in telemedicine was found to be orthopedic and neurologic rehabilitation followed by regional pain syndromes. Neuropathic pain seems to be less of a concern in telemedicine, with 36.6% of physicians.

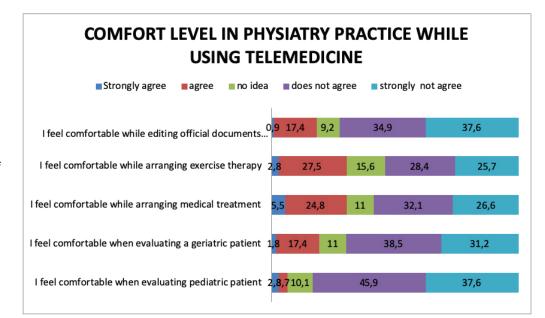


Table V: Comfort level in physiatry practice while using telemedicine

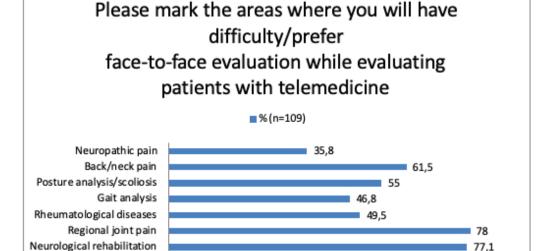


Table VI: Areas of difficulty in physiatry practice when using telemedicine

Orthopedic rehabilitation

DISCUSSION

As far as we know, this study is the first comprehended telemedicine knowledge and awareness survey applied in physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians particularly. Physiatrists reported telemedicine was useful for patients and had some potential advantages for themselves but were less satisfied or faced with malpractice. Physiatrists also agreed on physical examination can not be applied remotely and reported this as the reason for patients' low satisfaction. Physiatrists' struggled areas were reported as rehabilitation (orthopedics or neurologic) followed by regional pain syndromes (knee, shoulder, hip, etc). Our results were consistent with the other studies' results on the knowledge of telemedicine. Previously 96.6% of physicians reported low or very low levels of knowledge about telemedicine (8). Another study revealed 46.1% of the physicians among various specialties have low knowledge levels about telemedicine (7). We found very few physiatrists thought they knew what telemedicine was (16.5%), and the vast majority (63.3%) stated that they knew it partially.

Quite a few physiatrists (10.09%) reported that they knew how to apply medical applications (physical examination, laboratory evaluation, imaging evaluation, etc.) related to the musculoskeletal system and diseases remotely via telemedicine. A recent review provides a detailed virtual musculoskeletal examination with a specific set of guidelines to enhance the information obtained when evaluating the shoulder, hip, knee, ankle, and cervical and lumbar spine, which can be refined according to the capabilities of the patient and examiner (10). Iyer et al., acknowledged the limitations of a remote examination and discuss maneuvers that cannot be performed remotely. They emphasized a needed framework for the standardization of the remote physical exam (11). We can argue more than a standard virtual examination with the developing technology. A motion-based machine learning software seems to be a potential substitute for a shoulder range of motion examination (12). Besides lack of knowledge of remote examination details, the rate of physicians who were confident in their remote physical examination was quite low, only 2.8 percent. 31.2% of physiatrists thought that patients could not cooperate with the examination. Physiatrists also reported that physical examination requires one-to-one contact, it is not correct to do it remotely (61.5%). The most frequently reported barrier of telemedicine among rheumatologists was the inability to perform a proper physical examination (13). In a recent study 36.2% of general practitioners (GP) were not satisfied with the specific assessments of the hand, shoulder, spine, hip, knee, and ankle; and 51.0% thought that their patients were not satisfied with the current quality of remote musculoskeletal consultations. Of note, 77.6% of GP's said that they were more likely to request additional investigations, and 75.6% stated that they were more likely to refer patients to a specialist after a remote musculoskeletal consultation (14). Clinicians prefer face-to-face consultations at the initial visit to establish a doctor-patient relationship; telemedicine can be a reasonable option for long-term patients where physical examination may not be needed (15). For example close monitoring of patients on biological therapies, telemedicine can be a useful tool to reduce the number of

clinical visits (16). Our results were consistent with the previous studies since 67.9% of the physiatrists agreed that telemedicine applications should be prioritized for patients who have previously been physically/face-to-face evaluated in a healthcare facility.

According to our study, more than half of the physicians stated that telemedicine facilitates patients' access to physicians and medical services, also a time saver for them. Physiatrists also reported that telemedicine was effective in general and beneficial. Especially for the patients living those living in rural areas should have priority access to telemedicine. Time effectivity and cost-effectivity were major benefits of telemedicine to rural communities and consumers (17). Previously reported that, video-assisted orthopedic consultation to a remote clinic is more cost-effective rather than traveling for consultations (18). Donelan et al., reported that virtual video visits were preferred to office visits by patients for convenience and travel time (19). Poor access to digital services and additional weak technology support in rural areas also should be kept in mind on the contrary for patients' perspectives (20).

Major medico-legal barriers which were stated mainly by physiatrists were fear of malpractice (73.4%), anxiety on behalf of the protection of personal safety and privacy (66.1%). A recent review, repeated mostly the same concerns: informed consent, protecting data and confidentiality, malpractice, and liability (21). To embodiment the physicians' concerns about exposure to malpractice risk, Fogel AL et al., published cases of medical malpractice related to telemedicine from the LexisNexis legal case database (22). Whether telemedicine introduces a new form of malpractice or is not too different from the normal one being present, is still controversial. Reviewers summarised the protective approach for malpractice as extended insurance coverage and civil responsibility (21). While there were references to the importance of the protection and privacy of patients' personal data in reviews, in our study, physicians were concerned about their own data and violence against own privacy like unauthorized video and audio recording (20, 21). Data protection and privacy of both patients and physicians must be ensured by an authority and guaranteed by law. Even cybersecurity should be considered and provided (23).

Remote applications naturally provide a shield against physical insults; we reported 74% of physicians stated that telemedicine would be a protective instrument from physical violence. Workplace violence against physicians is an arising threat of medical practice across the globe (24). A study from Turkey reported that physicians were exposed to verbal and psychological violence more than physical violence (25). Previously telehealth has been explored in terms of its potential to be protective or useful against domestic violence (26). However, violence against a physician on telemedicine has never been mentioned in the literature before. We reported that 32.1% of the physicians reported the fear of being exposed to verbal/psychological violence while 35.8 % reported that telemedicine is safer in terms of verbal/psychological violence against physicians. Nonetheless, just as many physicians remained undecided. A study from Jordan revealed that male doctors are more exposed to violence or workplace abuse (27). In our study women physicians seem to be mostly undecided whether telemedicine is a protector or provoker against verbal or emotional violence.

Tenford et al., reviewed how telehealth may work in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Reviewers gathered the evidence for patients with cardiac diseases, orthopedic problems, neurologic diseases, and musculoskeletal conditions may get benefit the telemedicine. Physiatrists may use telehealth to deliver care to patients with impaired mobility and those living in locations with reduced access (28). Even though patients seem satisfied and take advantage of telemedicine since they are incapable or disabled, we reported that physicians would feel uncomfortable while arranging any treatment in telemedicine. The most noticeable uneasiness was seen in the pediatric patient group (83.5%). The most difficult task to evaluate in telemedicine was found orthopedic and neurologic rehabilitation followed by regional pain syndromes. Neuropathic pain seems to be less of a concern in telemedicine, with 36.6% of physicians. There is a lack of knowledge on behalf of the comfort levels of physiatrists on specific tasks via telemedicine. Physiatrists deal with different and various types of patients. Especially rehabilitation is a huge area that anyone can be needed from cradle to grave. One size fits all approach is not suitable even in real-time physiatry practice, whereas telemedicine without standards and convenient protocols seem quite a challenge for physiatrists. In the study with 14 physiatrists, even though clinicians reported satisfaction on telemedicine, researchers pointed out that they focused only on outpatient musculoskeletal and sports medicine practices; other patient groups may have different health care needs that would be better served with face-to-face visits (29).

There are some limitations of this study. We concluded a cross-sectional survey and completed it in approximately 8 months time. Responders' perceptions may be affected by time changes, for example, violence against physicians is quite a hot topic in Turkey and accumulated life experiences may affect perceptions. Selection bias should be mentioned since we used e-mails and electronic platforms to reach the participants; the selected ones may have been more familiar with the use of technology Although we reached the largest number of physiatrists in the literature, initially we aimed to reach more of them. Our results with this number of participants cannot be generalized, but we think that it will still give an idea. The reluctance of physicians to participate in surveys may be a separate research topic. On the other hand, even though telemedicine applications in hospitals are increasing day by day, we reached fewer physicians with experience. Nonetheless, we believe the findings of this study still provide useful insights for the standardization of telemedicine.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, telemedicine is quite a new area and is still in progress. This novel area with relatively little knowledge needs to be searched properly and our report will be a touchstone for further reports. Physiatrists need to be enlightened about ethics and legal rights. Physical examination is the most important determinant of patient management and proper diagnosis. Remote implementations of physical examination seem to be a major factor in both patients and physicians satisfaction or discomfort. Barriers and limitations of the system must be well defined. Our report, consistent with the previous literature, states that telemedicine can be a helpful tool for both patients and physiatrists, can save money, save time, and can offer a pinpoint solution for some patients. However uncontrolled and inappropriate use may create disappointment for both patients and physicians. Satisfaction does not mean always benefits for patients, and does not mean comfort always for the physicians. Matching the correctly selected patient with a well-structured telemedicine system maximizes the expected benefit. Our report will be a guide in this content to set standards.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Çukurova University ethics committee (Date 22 January 2021; reference number, 107/76).

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Author Contributions:

Concept – N.M.K., G.K., İ.T; Design -. N.M.K., G.K., İ.T; Supervision - N.M.K., İ.T.; Resources - N.M.K., G.K.; Materials - N.M.K., G.K., İ.T; Data Collection and/or Processing - N.M.K., G.K.; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - N.M.K., G.K.; Literature Search - N.M.K., G.K., İ.T.; Writing Manuscript - N.M.K., İ.T; Critical Review - N.M.K., G.K., İ.T.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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ÖZGÜN **ARAŞTIRMA** Original Article

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Vaka Yöneticileri İçin Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği (VITU): Türkçe Formunun Geçerlik ve Güvenirliği

Service Engagement Scale (SES): Reliability and Validity of The Turkish Version

ÖZ

Amac:

Kronik ruhsal rahatsızlığa sahip bireylere sağlanan hizmetler hastaların katılımı düşük olduğunda tedavinin istenilen düzeyde etki etmemesiyle sonuçlanabildiğinden önem verilmesi gereken bir durumdur. Bu araştırmanın amacı, hastaların toplum ruh sağlığı hizmetlerine katılımı ölçmek için Vaka Yöneticileri için Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği'nin (VİTU) geçerlilik ve güvenilirliğini değerlendirmektir.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Araştırma, Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezi'nde en az bir yıl süreyle izlenen sizofreni tanısı almış 119 hasta örneklemiyle tamamlanmıştır.

Bulgular:

Toplanan verilere doğrulayıcı faktör analizi yapılmıştır. Güvenirlik ölçümleri iç tutarlılık ve test-tekrar test ölçümleri ile yapılmıştır. Ölçeğin doğrulayıcı faktör analizi sonuçlarına göre kabul edilebilir değerlere sahip olduğu, toplam Cronbach's Alpha değeri 0.957, genel test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri(r) 0.684'dir.

Sonuç:

Bulgular, Vaka Yöneticileri için Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği'nin geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçme aracı olduğunu göstermektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

Hizmete uyum, Toplum ruh sağlığı, Güvenirlik ve geçerlik

ABSTRACT

Objective:

When patient attendance is low, services that are provided to patients with chronic mental illness may result in not having the desired treatment effect, so it is a situation that needs attention. The aim of this study was to assess the validity and reliability of the Service Engagement Scale (SES), to measure engagement with community mental health services.

Material and Methods:

Study was completed with the samples of 119 clients diagnosed with schizophrenia, and followed-up at least for one year in a Community Mental Health Center.

Results:

Confirmatory factor analysis has been carried out for collected data. Reliability measurements were carried out with internal consistency and test-retest measurements. According to the confirmatory factor analysis, the scale has acceptable values. The total Cronbach's Alpha value of the scale was 0.957 and test-retest correlation value (r) was 0.684.

Conclusion:

The findings show that the Turkish version of the Service Engagement Scale is a valid and reliable measurement tool.

Key Words:

Service engagement, Community mental health, Reliability and validity

GİRİŞ

Şizofreni; beyin gelişimini etkileyen, karmaşık bir genetik ve nörobiyolojik arka plana sahip, kronik bir psikiyatrik bozukluktur. Psikotik belirtiler, motivasyonel ve bilissel işlev bozukluklarının bir kombinasyonu olarak ifade edilir. Bölgesel farklılıklar ve kentleşme nedeniyle farklılık göstermekle birlikte şizofreninin yaşam boyu yaygınlığı yaklaşık olarak %1 olarak belirtilmektedir (1). Hastalık, tekrarlayan hastaneye yatış gerektiren ciddi vakalardan, tek bir hastalık dönemini tam remisyonun izlediği vakalara kadar farklı bir son durum yelpazesine sahiptir. Sosyodemografik faktörler, klinik ve tedavi özellikleri ile sosyoekonomik değişkenler dâhil olmak üzere çeşitli faktörler şizofreninin seyrini etkileyebilmektedir. Şizofrenide fonksiyonel sonuç hedefleyen terapötik müdahalelerin öncelikli önemi vardır. Farmakoterapi, psikososyal müdahaleler ve çevresel koşulları içeren entegre ve çok yönlü bir yaklaşım şizofrenide sonucu iyileştirebilir. Bu bağlamda, psikososyal müdahalelerin kanıta dayalı bir uygulama olarak şizofreninin standart tedavisinin bir parçası haline getirilmesi gerektiği belirtilmektedir (2).

Şizofreni ile ilişkili olumsuz belirtiler (motivasyon ve ifade azalması gibi) önemli bir sorundur. Yeterli tedavi, yaşam kalitesi ve topluma katılım açısından önemli ilerleme anlamına gelecektir (3). İşlevsellik ve yaşam kalitesi, tüm tıbbi durumlarda kritik sonuç göstergeleri olarak kabul edilmektedir (4). Hastalık ile ilişkili klinik değişkenlerin ve nörobilişsel faktörlerin şizofreni bozukluklarında psikososyal tedavilere uyumu etkilediği, aynı zamanda çocukluk çağı fiziksel kötüye kullanım öyküsü, hakları konusunda bilgi eksikliği, zayıf tedavi iş birliği ve bazı kişilik özelliklerinin de tedavi uyumunda etkili olduğu bildirilmektedir (5).

Hizmete uyum, ortak bir klinik ve fonksiyonel iyileşme hedefinde tedavinin kabulü, terapötik uyum ve işbirliğini içeren çok faktörlü bir süreç olarak tanımlanabilir (6). Hastaların sunulan hizmetlere uyumunun zayıf olmasının tedavi başarısını olumsuz etkilediği göz önüne alındığında bu uyumu değerlendirmenin önemi ortaya çıkmaktadır (7). Toplum ruh sağlığı hizmetleri ülkemiz özelinde psikolog, sosyal hizmet uzmanı, hemşire ve ergoterapistlerin vaka yöneticisi olarak görev aldığı

Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezlerinde yürütülmektedir. Vaka yöneticiliği, her kronik ruhsal hastalığa sahip bireyin tedavi sürecinde öncelikli tedavi danışmanı olarak görev almayı ve hastalık sürecinin her yönüyle takibini kapsayan geniş bir hizmet sunumunu kapsar. Ülkemizde toplum temelli ruh sağlığı modeliyle yeniden şekillenen ruh sağlığı hizmetlerinde hastaların verilen bu hizmetlere ne kadar uyum sağladığını ölçen, Türkçe'ye uyumluluğu sağlanmış bir değerlendirme aracının olmadığı bilinmektedir. Bu araştırmada, gerek bilimsel araştırmalarda gerekse ruh sağlığı hizmeti sunucularının vaka yönetimi sürecinde kullanımlarında yararlı olabileceği düşünülen VİTU'nun Türkçe'ye uyumu sağlanarak geçerlik ve güvenirliği irdelenmiştir (8).

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

Araştırmanın amacı, hastaların toplum ruh sağlığı hizmetlerine katılımı ölçmek için Vaka Yöneticileri için Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği'nin (VİTU) geçerlilik ve güvenilirliğini değerlendirmektir.

Bu araştırma bir ölçek uyarlama geçerlik güvenirlik çalışmasıdır. Araştırma örneklemi Hitit Üniversitesi Çorum Erol Olçok Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezinde (TRSM) ICD-10 tanı kriterlerine Şizofreni tanısı alan ve en az bir yıldır hizmet alan aktif takip altındaki 126 hastadan oluşturuldu. İstatistiksel analizlerde aykırı değer olduğu tespit edilen yedi hasta veri setinden çıkarılarak araştırma 119 hasta ile tamamlandı. Araştırmada kullanılan ölçek merkezde vaka yöneticisi olarak görev yapan üç hemşire, bir psikolog ve bir ergoterapist tarafından uygulandı. Her vaka yöneticisinin, takibi altında bulunan hastaların TRSM hizmetlerine genel olarak uyumu ile ilgili izlenimini değerlendirdiği bu araştırma ile toplanan veriler SPSS Windows 21.0 ve SPSS Amos paket programı ile değerlendirildi. Anlamlı p değeri p<0.05 olarak kabul edildi. Ölçümler iki ay sonrasında aynı hastalar için tekrarlandı.

Türkçe'ye Uyarlama İşlemi

Ölçek araştırma ekibi üyelerince bağımsız olarak Türkçe'ye çevrilmiş, ortak bir çeviri metni oluşturularak alanında uzman dört akademisyenden görüş alınmıştır. Alınan uzman görüşleri doğrultusunda ölçek maddeleri revize edilmiş ve beş uygulayıcının 50 hasta için ön uygulama yapması sağlanmıştır. Uygulayıcılar tarafından yapılan geri bildirim doğrultusunda ölçeğe son şekli verilerek ölçek maddelerinin bir dil bilimci tarafından tekrar İngilizceye çevirisi yaptırılmış ve araştırma ekibince orijinali ile yapılan karşılaştırma ile ölçeğe son hali verilmiştir.

Veri Toplama Araçları

Vaka Yöneticileri için Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği(VİTU)

Tait L, Birchwood M, Trower P. (2002) tarafından geliştirilen ve Orijinal adı "Service Engagement Scale" olan ölçek, vaka yöneticilerinin hastaların genel uyumu ile ilgili izlenimlerini değerlendirmekte olup 14 soruluk ölçeğin Hazır olma (3 soru), İşbirliği (3 soru), Yardım arama (4 soru) ve İlaç Uyumu (4 soru) şeklinde belirtilen dört alt ölçeği bulunmaktadır. Ölçeğin genel

Cronbach's Alpha değerinin 0,91 olarak bulunduğu belirtilmektedir (8). Uyumun vaka yöneticileri izlenimi ile değerlendirilmesinden dolayı geçerlik ve güvenirliği sağlanan ölçeğe "Vaka Yöneticileri için Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Hizmetlerine Uyum Ölçeği" ismi verildi. Ölçekte yer alan aykırı değerlerin atılmasından sonra 119 hastayla ilgili verilerin değerlendirildiği bu araştırmada kullanılan ölçeğin orijinalinde 14 soru bulunmasına rağmen, uygulama esnasında 10. soruda yer alan "Hasta aktif olarak yardım aramıyor" ifadesinin uygulayıcılar tarafından anlaşılmadığı veya mevcut durumda aktif bir belirtisi olup olmaması gibi farklı anlaşılabildiği değerlendirildiğinden ölçekten çıkarıldı. Orijinal ölçekteki 10. sorunun analiz dışı bırakılmasından sonra ölçek 13 soru ile son halini aldı. Ayrıca ölçeğin Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği alt faktörleri benzer özellik gösteren maddeler icerdiğinden birlestirildi. Sonuc olarak altı sorudan oluşan Hazır Olma ve İş Birliği, üç sorudan oluşan Yardım Arama ve dört sorudan oluşan İlaç Uyumu alt faktörleri ile ölçeğe son hali verildi. Ölçeğin 1,,2,,3,,4,,5. ve 6. soruların "Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği" alt faktöründe, "7.,8., ve 9." soruların "Yardım Arama" alt faktöründe, 10.,11.,12. ve 13. soruların ise "İlaç Uyumu" alt faktöründe yer aldığı belirlendi.

Dörtlü likert tipi (0: Hiç veya nadiren, 1: Bazen, 2: Sıklıkla, 3: Çoğu zaman) ölçeğin 2.,5.,6.,7.,9.,10. ve 11. sorular ters puanlanmaktadır. Ölçekten alınabilecek en yüksek puan 52 ve en düşük puan 13 şeklinde olup, alınan puanların yüksek olması hizmete uyumun düşük olduğu şeklinde yorumlanmaktadır.

İstatistiksel Değerlendirme Geçerlik Analizi:

Ölçekte yer alan maddelerin, hesaplanan toplam ölçek puanlarına ne derecede katkı yaptığını belirlemek ve bu sayede maddelerin ölçek ile ne düzeyde bir ilişkisi olduğunu test etmek amacıyla gerçekleştirildi. Bu değerlendirmelerde Pearson korelasyonundan yararlanıldı. Ölçeğe ait modelin denenmesi için doğrulayıcı faktör analizi gerçekleştirildi.

Güvenirlik Analizi:

Cronbach's Alpha değeri ile ölçeğin iç tutarlılığı değerlendirildi.

Tekrar-test Güvenirliği:

Ölçeğin benzer koşullarda belli bir zaman aralığında elde edilen ölçümler arasındaki ilişkiyi değerlendirmek için test-tekrar test korelasyonu ölçümleri yapıldı (9).

Etik Yönü

Araştırma kapsamında Hitit Üniversitesi Girişimsel Olmayan Araştırmalar Etik Kurulundan 02.05.2018 tarih ve 2018-67 sayılı onay alındı. Ayrıca Hitit Üniversitesi Çorum Erol Olçok Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesinden 05.07.2018 tarih ve 40600303-604.02 sayılı kurum uygulama izni alındı. Öncelikle ölçeği geliştiren ekipten Lynda Tait ile gerekli yazışmalar elektronik posta yoluyla yapılarak izin alındı. Tüm katılımcıların hakları korundu ve Helsinki Deklarasyonuna göre prosedürlerden önce yazılı bilgilendirilmiş onam alındı. Bu arastırma, bilimsel yayın etiğine uygun olarak yapıldı.

BULGULAR

Araştırmaya katılan hastaların %68,1'i (n=81) erkek ve %31,9'u (n=38) kadındı. Hastaların yaşları 20-65 arasında değişmekle birlikte yaş ortalaması 45,0±10,35'dir.

Geçerlik analizine ilişkin bulgular:

Eksik veriler kontrol edilerek doldurulmayan herhangi bir verinin olmadığı tespit edildi. Ardından normallik sayıltısına bakılarak basıklık-çarpıklık değerleri kontrol edildi. Bu değerler -3 ve +3 arasında olduğundan uygun kabul edildi. Daha sonra artık değerlerin tespiti sağlandı. Standartlaştırılmış artık değerlerin 0.005 anlamlılık düzeyinde kritik t değerleri olan -1,96 ile +1.96 aralığında yer alıp almadıkları yöntemi kullanılarak bu değerlerin saptanması sağlandı (10). Aykırı değerler incelendi ve veri setinde rastlanan üç aykırı değer veri setinden atıldı. Bu işlem sonucunda kalan 123 hastadan alınan veriyle çok değişkenli aykırı değerlerin bulunması aşamasına geçildi. Mahalanobis ve Cook's Uzaklığı olarak da bilinen, çok değişkenli aykırı değerleri tespit etmek için örneklemde yer alan çok değişkenli aykırı değerler Mahalanobis uzaklığı ile incelendiğinde tespit edilen dört aykırı değer araştırmadan çıkarıldı. Yüz yirmi üç veriden dört veri atıldı ve son olarak 119 veriyle analize geçildi. Ölçeğin Toplamsallık Niteliği, Tukey Toplanabilirlik Testi (Tukey's Test Of Additivity) ile incelendi. Bu inceleme sonucunda toplanamazlığın istatistiksel olarak anlamsız (nonadditivity<0,000), yani toplanabilir özellikte olduğu tespit edildi.

Faktör Analizi:

Faktör yapısı Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği, Yardım Arama ve İlaç Uyumu şeklinde üç faktör olarak sabitlendi (11). Analiz sonucunda üç faktörün öz değeri sırasıyla 8,599; 0,885; 0,801 olduğu belirlendi. Bu faktörlerin açıkladığı varyans ise %78,246 olarak tespit edildi. Faktör yük değerlerinin; birinci faktör için 0,693 ile 0,778, ikinci faktör için 0,727 ile 0,796, üçüncü faktör için 0,693, ile 0,777 arasında değiştiği görüldü (Tablo I).

Tablo I: Ölçeğinin Faktör Deseni (Dik Döndürme)

Sorular	Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği	Yardım Arama	İlaç Uyumu
1- Hasta randevulara katılmakta zorlanır.	0.761		
2- Bir ziyaret planlandığında hasta buna uymaya hazır olur. *	0.778		
3- Hasta randevu almaktan kaçınır.	0.693		
4- Hasta genellikle tavsiyelerinize karşı çıkar mı?	0.692		
5- Hasta hedef belirleme ya da tedavi planlamaya aktif olarak katılır.*	0.700		
6- Hasta, hastalığının yönetimine aktif olarak katılır.*	0.697		
7- Hasta ihtiyacı olduğunda yardım arar.*		0.796	
8- Hasta yardım istemekte zorlanır.		0.727	
9- Hasta bir krizi önlemek için yardım arar. *		0.782	
10-Hasta reçete edilen ilaçları kullanmayı kabul eder.*			0.777
11-Hasta hangi ilaçları ne amaçla kullandığının bilincindedir. *			0.760
12-Hasta tedavi konusunda iş birliğini reddediyor.			0.693
13-Hasta, reçete edilen ilaç tedavisine uyum göstermekte zorluk yaşıyor.			0.723

^{*} Ters puanlanan maddeler

Faktör yük değerleri büyüklük açısından incelendiğinde iyiden mükemmele doğru nitelendirilebilir (12). Analiz dışı bırakılan sorudan sonra tekrarlanan analizde, faktörlerin toplam varyansa yaptıkları katkı Tablo II'de yer almaktadır. Toplam varyansa faktörlerin yaptığı katkılar ise sırasıyla; % 31,762, %24,488, ve %22,867 olarak belirlendi. Toplam katkı da % 79,117 olarak gerçekleşti.

Tablo II: Analiz Dışı Bırakılan Sorudan Sonra VİTU'nun Faktör Yapıları, Güvenilirlik bulguları, Alt Faktörlerinin Test-Tekrar Test Puan Korelasyon değerleri

Faktör	Özdeğer	Varyans Yüzdesi	Toplam Varyans Yüzdesi	Cronbach' s Alpha	Test tekrar test korelasyonu (r)
Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği (6 soru)	4.129	31.762	31.762	0.924	0.623
Yardım Arama (3 soru)	3.183	24.488	56.250	0.895	0.614
İlaç Uyumu (4 soru)	2.973	22.867	79.117	0.920	0.723

Madde Ayırt ediciliği:

Alt faktör ve toplam puanlarının ayırt edicilikleri bağımsız grup t-testi ile belirlendi. Üst %27 ve alt %27'lik grupların aritmetik ortalamaları arasında anlamlı bir fark olup olmadığını tespit etmek amacıyla yapılan analizlerde tüm gruplar için farklılıklar istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulundu (p<0,001). Farklılıkların üst %27'lik gruplar tarafında gerçekleştiği görüldü. Elde edilen sonuçlar ölçekte yer alan üç faktörün ve toplam ölçek puanlarının ayırt edici olduğunu göstermektedir.

Doğrulayıcı Faktör Analizi (DFA):

RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation), GFI (Goodness-of-fit Index), AGFI (Adjusted Goodness-of-fit Index), RMR (Root Mean Square Residuals), NNFI (Non-normed fit Index) ve CFI (Comparative Fit Index) uyum ölçütleri kullanılarak gerçekleştirilen yapı geçerliliği analizlerinde elde edilen bulgular iyi bir uyum sağlandığını gösterdi. RMSEA incelendiğinde ise 0,081 şeklinde bir değer tespit edildi. RMSEA değerinin de 0,08'den küçük olmasının uyumun iyi olduğu yönünde değerlendirilebileceği belirtilmektedir (12). Bulduğumuz bu değer sınırda olduğundan kabul edilebilir bir değer olarak yorumlanabilir. Elde edilen bulgularda GFI; 0,872, AGFI; 0,809, Standardize edilmiş RMR uyum indeksi; 0,035, NFI; 0,926, CFI; 0,966 olarak belirlendi. Elde edilen bu sonuçlara göre GFI, AGFI, NNFI ve CFI değerleri 0,90'ın üzerinde ve 0,90'a yakın, RMR değerinin ise 0,08'in altında olmasının uyum açısından iyi olduğu belirtilmektedir (13-15). Bu sonuçlar göz önüne alındığında ölçeğin kabul edilebilir nitelikte olduğu ifade edilebilir. Ayrıca ölçeğin Chi-Square (χ^2) değeri 108,240, sd değeri 61, χ^2 /sd oranının ise 108,240/61=1,774 olduğu olarak tespit edilmiştir. Bu değerin 3'ün altında olmasının uyumun mükemmel olduğu şeklinde yorumlanabileceği belirtilmektedir (12). Doğrulayıcı faktör analizi sonuçları Şekil 1'de yer almaktadır.

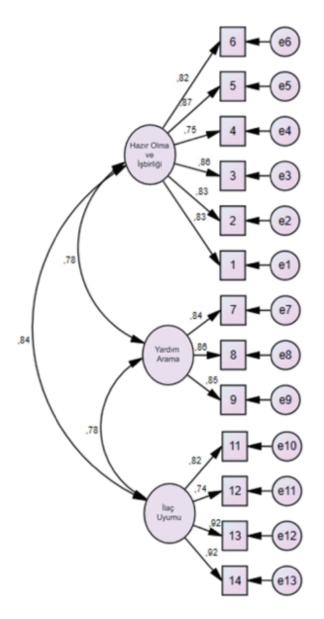
Güvenirlik analizine ilişkin bulgular:

VİTU'nun genel Cronbach's Alpha güvenirlik katsayısının 0,957 olduğu belirlendi. Bu bulgu, ölçeğin yüksek derecede güvenilir olduğunu gösterdi. Ayrıca ölçeğin üç alt faktörüne ait Cronbach Alpha değerlerine bakıldığında da orta yüksek düzeyde güvenilir olduğu sonucuna ulaşıldı (16). VİTU'ya ilişkin korelasyon matrisi Tablo III'de gösterilmiştir.

Tablo III: Ölçeğin Alt Faktörlerinin Korelasyon matrisi

	Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği	Yardım Arama	İlaç Uyumu	Toplam
Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği	1	0.765**	0.809**	0.958**
Yardım Arama		1	0.754**	0.879**
İlaç Uyumu			1	0.918**
Toplam				1

^{**}p<0.01 düzeyinde anlamlı



Şekil 1: DFA Sonuçları

Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği, Yardım Arama ve İlaç Uyumu Faktörleri arasında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunup bulunmadığını belirlemek amacıyla yapılan Pearson Çarpım Moment Korelasyon analizi

sonucunda faktörler arasında pozitif yönde anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu belirlendi. Bu ilişkiler en yüksek Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği faktörü ile İlaç Uyumu faktörü arasındadır (r=0,809; p<0,01). En düşük ilişki de Yardım Arama faktörü ile İlaç Uyumu faktörü arasında düzeyinde gerçekleşti (r=0,754; p<0,01). Elde edilen sonuçlar yapı geçerliliği açısından önemlidir.

Tekrar- test korelasyonu:

İki ay arayla uygulanan ölçeğin tümünün ve alt faktörlerinin test-retest güvenirlik katsayıları Pearson Momentler Çarpımı Korelasyonu ile değerlendirildi. Ölçeğin genel test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri(r) 0,684, Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği; Yardım Arama; İlaç Uyumu alt ölçeklerinin test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri ise sırasıyla 0,623; 0,614; 0,723 olarak bulundu. Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği, Yardım Arama ve İlaç Uyumu Faktörlerinin test-tekrar test puanları arasında istatistiksel olarak pozitif yönde anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu saptandı. Elde edilen bulgular analiz edildiğinde ölçeğin ICC değerinin 0,684 olarak tespit edildi. İç tutarlılık ise, bir sonuç ölçümünün homojen olup olmaması ile ilişkilidir. İç tutarlılığı "Cronbach's Alpha" ile değerlendirilmektedir. Ölçeğin iç tutarlılık Cronbach's Alpha değeri 0,812 olarak hesaplandı (t=-1,123, p=0,264). Alpha değerinin 0,80'nin üzerinde olması iç tutarlılığın yüksek olduğunu gösterir. Test tekrar-test güvenilirliği için iki testin toplam puan ortalamaları "bağımlı grupta t testi" ile karşılaştırıldı ve istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark bulunmadı (p> 0,05).

TARTIŞMA

Bu araştırma, hastane modelli ruh sağlığı hizmetlerinden toplum temelli ruh sağlığı hizmetlerine geçiş sürecinde olan Türkiye'de faaliyet gösteren Toplum Ruh Sağlığı Merkezlerinden hizmet alan hastaların verilen hizmetlere ne ölçüde uyum sağladığını değerlendirmeye yönelik olarak Türkçe'ye uyumluluğu sağlanmış geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçek ihtiyacının doğması üzerine gerçekleştirildi. Literatürde uyum, ilaç uyumu veya verilen hizmetlere uyum şeklinde iki farklı düzeyde değerlendirilmektedir. İlaç uyumunu değerlendiren ölçeklerin uzun süredir varlığı ve kullanıldığı bilinmektedir. Morisky, Gren, Levine DM (1986) tarafından geliştirilen Morisky Uyum Ölçeği (MUÖ) ve Thompson, Kulkarni, Sergejew (2000) tarafından geliştirilen Tıbbi Tedaviye Uyum Oranı Ölçeği literatürde ilaç uyumunu değerlendirmekte en sık kullanılan ölçeklerdir. Bu ölçeklerin yanı sıra Aker, Üstünsoy, Kuğu, Yazıcı (2000) tarafından geliştirmiş olan Psikotik Bozukluğu Olan Hastalarda İlaç Tedavisine Uyumsuzluğu Değerlendirme Ölçeği'nin (İTUDÖ) de birçok çalışmada kullanıldığı görülmektedir (17-19).

Kronik ruhsal hastalıklarda hizmet uyumunu bir ölçme aracıyla değerlendirebilmek için bilinen ilk çalışma 2001 yılında yapılmıştır. Ruh sağlığı hizmetlerinin yanı sıra "Girişken Sosyal Yardım Ekipleri" olarak tanımlanan "Assertive Outreach Teams" hizmetlerine uyumu da ölçen söz konusu çalışmada Türkçe'ye uyarlaması henüz yapılmamış olan "Engagement Measure" (EM) ölçeği Hall, Meaden, Smith, Jones (2001) tarafından geliştirilmiştir. Ölçek, randevuya katılım, danışan-terapist etkileşimi, iletişime açıklık, tedavinin faydası

ile ilgili danışan algısı, tedavi ile isbirliği, ilac kullanma isteği gibi altı alanda hasta uvumunu Terapist gözüvle değerlendiren 11 maddeli, 5'li likert tipi bir ölçektir (20). Meaden, Hacker, Villiers, Carbourne, Paget (2012) tarafından geliştirilen ve Türkçe'ye uyarlaması henüz gerçekleştirilmemiş olan Residential Rehabilitation Engagement Scale (RRES) ölçeği de EM ölçeğini temel alarak geliştirilen üç faktörlü ve 17 maddeden oluşan bir ölçektir. Bu ölçeğin de evde rehabilitasyon hizmetleri olarak adlandırılabilen "Residential Rehabilitation" hizmetlerine yönelik uyumu ölçtüğü belirtilmektedir (21). EM ve RRES ile benzer olarak bu araştırmada uyarlaması yapılan VİTU ölceği de klinisyen gözüyle uyumu değerlendiren bir ölcektir. Bu ölceklerden farklı olarak hastaların kendi uyumlarını değerlendirdikleri Singh O'Brien Level of Engagement Scale (SOLES) ölçeği ise 16 maddeden oluşan 10'lu likert tipi bir ölçektir. Herhangi bir vaka yöneticisi takibinde olmayan hastalar için 13 soruluk versiyonu da mevcut olduğu belirtilmektedir (22). EM, RRES, SOLES ve bu araştırma kapsamında dil geçerliği sağlanan, geçerlik ve güvenirliği değerlendirilen Service Engagement Scale (SES) ölçeği arasında Türkçe'ye en uyumlu kullanılabilecek ölçeğin SES olduğu öngörülmüştür.

Geçerlik

Yapılan DFA değerlendirmeleri neticesinde elde edilen RMSEA, GFI, AGFI, RMR, NNFI ve CFI bulguları da geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçme aracı olarak VİTU'nun kullanılabileceğini göstermektedir. Bunun yanında, literatürde uyumu ölçen ölçeklerde doğrulayıcı faktör analizi yapılmadığı görülmektedir. Bu da araştırmamızın güçlü bir yanı olarak değerlendirilebilir.

Güvenirlik

Orijinal ölçeğin Cronbach's Alpha değerinin 0,910, dört alt faktörünün Cronbach's Alpha değerlerinin de; Hazır olma (0,820), İşbirliği (0,760), Yardım arama (0,900) ve İlaç Uyumu (0,820) şeklinde olduğu belirtilmektedir (8). Bu araştırma kapsamında yapılan analizlerde VİTU'nun genel Cronbach's Alpha değeri'nin 0,957 olarak bulundu. Alt ölçekler için bu değerler ise sırasıyla Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği için 0,924, Yardım Arama için 0,895 ve İlaç Uyumu için 0,920 şeklindedir. Hizmete uyumu ölçen diğer benzer ölçeklerin Cronbach's Alpha değerleri ise benzer değerlerdedir. EM ölçeği için 0,89; RRES ölçeği için 0,92; SOLES'in 13 maddelik formu için ise 0,90; 16 maddelik formu için ise 0,91 olduğu belirtilmektedir (20-22).

Test-tekrar test

Orijinal ölçeğin test – tekrar test korelasyon değerleri bilinmemekle birlikte, Değerlendirici arası güvenilirlik (Inter-rater reliability) değerlerinin 0,80 ile 0,97 aralığında değiştiği belirtilmektedir. Fakat bu sonuçlar karşılaştırma yapmak için uygun değildir. Test-tekrar test güvenirliği değerlendirmek için Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC) değeri kullanılmaktadır. Bu değer, 0,00 ile 1,00 aralığında olup, 0,60-0,80 aralığındaki değerler güvenirlik açısından iyi olarak yorumlanmaktadır. Bu araştırma kapsamında Türkçe'ye uyarlanan ölçeğin ICC değerinin 0,684 olarak tespit edildi. Bu değerin de iyi olarak

yorumlanabileceği düşünülmektedir. Ölçeğin ayrıca genel test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri(r) 0,684, Hazır Olma ve İşbirliği; Yardım Arama; İlaç Uyumu alt ölçeklerinin test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri ise sırasıyla 0,623; 0,614; 0,723 olarak bulundu. Hizmete uyumu ölçen diğer benzer ölçeklerin test – tekrar test korelasyon değerlerinde de çalışmamızdan elde edilen bulgulardan daha yüksek sonuçlar elde edildiği belirlenmiştir. EM ölçeği için test – tekrar test korelasyon değeri 0,90, RRES ölçeği için 0,93 olarak belirtilmiştir. SOLES için test – tekrar test korelasyonu yapılmadığı belirlenmiştir (20-22).

SONUÇ

VİTU'nun hizmete uyumu ölçmede vaka danışmanları izlenimlerini yansıtan bir ölçek olduğu düşünüldüğünde, Türkçeye uyarlanmasının, ülkemizde yeni sayılabilecek bir hizmet olan toplum ruh sağlığı hizmetlerinin verimini değerlendirmede önemli bir araç olarak yer alacağı düşünülmektedir. Bununla birlikte gelecekte daha geniş örneklemde yapılacak araştırmalara ihtiyaç olduğu da söylenilebilir.

Bu ölçek her ne kadar vaka danışmanlarının izlemlerini yansıtsa da, hizmet alan hastaların kendi uyumlarını kendilerinin değerlendirebilecekleri geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçeğe de ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır.

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Have COVID-19 Quarantine Measures Triggered the Incidence of Stroke Patients Transported By Ambulance?

COVID-19 Karantina Önlemleri, Ambulansla Taşınan İnme Hastalarının İnsidansını Tetikledi mi?

ABSTRACT Objective:

The aim of this retrospective study was to determine to what extent the incidence of stroke in individuals whose physical activity was restricted due to the mandatory lockdown during the pandemic has been affected.

Material and Method:

The study population consists of patients with the International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes of stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhages, cerebrovascular situations, cerebrovascular diseases, subdural hemorrhages, hemiplegia and hemiparesis who were admitted to the Kayseri EMS between March 2019 and February 2021.

Results:

The average timeframe in which the assigned Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team reached stroke patients before the COVID-19 pandemic was 7.69±5.85 minute. The mean time to reach the patient during the COVID-19 process was found to be 8.94±6.51 minutes. Ambulance transportation times during COVID-19 were longer and statistically significant. The mean age pre-COVID-19 was 72.18±11.69 (min:42, max:99); The intrapandemic mean age was 71.46±11.79 (min:42.00, max:97.00). There was no significant difference between the mean age of the two groups (p=0.929).

Conclusion:

As a result of this single-center study conducted in Turkey, it was observed that the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the incidence of stroke patients and significantly affected the duration of transportation in emergency healthcare applications. More comprehensive multicenter studies are recommended.

Key Words:

Stroke, Ambulance, COVID-19

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ÖZ

Amac:

Bu retrospektif çalışmanın amacı, pandemi sırasında zorunlu tecrit nedeniyle fiziksel aktivitesi kısıtlanan bireylerde inme insidansının ne ölçüde etkilendiğini belirlemektir.

Gereç ve Yöntem:

Çalışma popülasyonu, Mart 2019 ile Şubat 2021 tarihleri arasında Kayseri acil sağlık servisini aktive eden inme, subaraknoid kanamalar, serebrovasküler durumlar, serebrovasküler hastalıklar, subdural kanamalar, hemipleji ve hemiparezi uluslararası hastalık kodlarına sahip hastalardan oluşmaktadır.

Bulgular:

Görevlendirilen acil sağlık servisi ekibinin inme hastalarına COVID-19 pandemisi öncesinde ulaştığı ortalama süre 7,69±5,85 dakikaydı. COVID-19 sürecinde hastaya ortalama ulaşım süresi 8,94±6,51 dakika olarak bulundu. COVID-19 sırasında ambulans taşıma süreleri daha uzundu ve istatistiksel olarak anlamlıydı. COVID-19 öncesi ortalama yaş 72,18±11,69 (min:42, maks.:99); Pandemi sırasında ortalama yaş 71,46±11,79 (min:42,00, maks:97,00) idi. İki grubun yaş ortalamaları arasında anlamlı fark yoktu (p=0,929).

Sonuc:

Türkiye'de yapılan bu tek merkezli çalışma sonucunda COVID-19 pandemisinin inme hastalarının insidansını etkilemediği ve acil sağlık hizmetleri uygulamalarında ulaşım süresini anlamlı olarak etkilediği gözlemlenmiştir. Daha kapsamlı çok merkezli çalışmaların yapılması önerilmektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler:

İnme, Ambulans Servisi, COVID-19

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization, stroke is the second leading cause of death and the third leading cause of loss of life years due to disability (1). Notably, more than 85% of fatal strokes are reported to occur in low-to-middle-income countries, placing a great burden on the health resources of these countries (1). There are many risk factors for stroke such as hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, obesity, smoking and physical inactivity (1,2). A meta-analysis showed that physical activity is a protective factor against stroke (OR 0.49 (95% CI 0.29-0.83) (2). Systematic observations and meta-analyses have shown that physical activity can reduce the risk, of stroke or death by 25% to 30% (2-4). According to the guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke, limited physical activity is an important risk factor for stroke. To reduce this risk, moderate to intense aerobic exercise three to four times per week for the duration of 40 minutes on average is recommended (5).

After the World Health Organization declared the epidemic COVID-19 a global emergency on the 30th of January 2020, governments were forced to take various measures such as closing the borders, imposing travel restrictions and quarantine and curfew measures (6-8). These measures, taken to contain the spread of infection, resulted in long stays at home and an

increase in sedentary behaviors such as sitting, lying down and watching television, a decrease in regular physical activity and consequently an increase in the risk for chronic health disorders (9). Another situation in which the COVID-19 pandemic triggers the incidence of stroke is the emergence of neurological complications such as stroke, especially in patients with concomitant diseases (10). Some studies in the literature emphasize that the number of recorded strokes decreases significantly during the pandemic (11, 12). This is probably because fewer patients are admitted with milder strokes, perhaps due to fears of infection when referred to the hospital during times of social distancing and lockdown. In some studies it has been suggested that despite the decrease in stroke incidence, COVID-19 infection itself may cause a stroke (13-16). However, no sufficient resources have been found which may reveal how the incidence of stroke patients who are not infected with COVID-19 has been affected (17). In addition, no studies have been carried out on this subject in Turkey, as far as we are aware. The aim of this retrospective study was to determine to what extent the incidence of stroke in individuals whose physical activity was restricted because of mandatory lockdown during the pandemic was affected.

MATERIAL and METHODS Setting and Design

This cross-sectional study was conducted using the retrospective record scanning method. The research was carried out in the province of Kayseri, which is one of the largest cities in Turkey. The total population in the province of Kayseri is 1.421.455 and emergency healthcare services are provided by the Kayseri EMS system through 52 emergency healthcare stations and a call center, a total of 656 healthcare personnel and 80 ambulances (18). All emergency services in Turkey are centralized on a single number. Central dispatch for the police, fire department and EMS and automatic location identification is present for the universal emergency number 1-1-2. If medical assistance is needed, the call is forwarded to an EMS employee who answers the call, reaffirms the address and activates the nearest ambulance. Calls, including the medical priority referral system, are answered in eight different languages including Turkish.

Participants

The study population consists of patients with ICD codes of stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, cerebrovascular situations, cerebrovascular disease, subdural hemorrhage, hemiplegia, and hemiparesis activated between March 2019 and February 2021 in Kayseri EMS. The first COVID-19 case was observed in Turkey on the 10th of March 2020 (19). Therefore, data were examined and compared in two groups, namely the pre-pandemic group (March 2019-February 2020) and intrapandemic group (March 2020-February 2021). Traumatic cerebral hemorrhages and records of patients younger than 18 years of age were excluded from the study.

Data Sourcing/Management

The data were taken from the ASOS system used by the Kayseri EMS. All patients and injured people who receive treatment

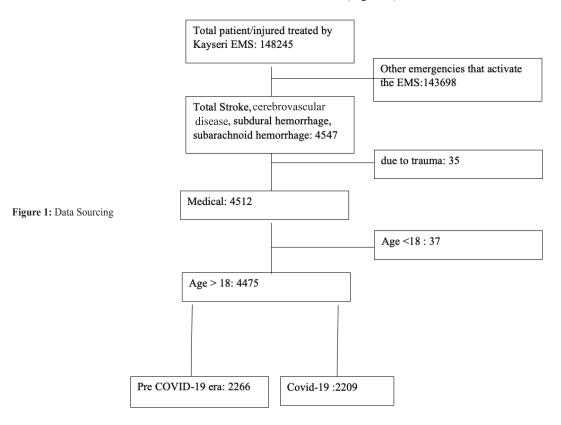
through EMS are recorded in the ASOS system, which is used on a national basis in Turkish EMS. A unique serial number is assigned to each patient/ injured person who activates EMS in the ASOS system.

During the examination of the records, socio-demographic characteristics of patients such as age, sex, social security and region (urban-rural), the timeframe in which an ambulance was sent to the patient and patient outcomes (transfer to a hospital, transfer between hospitals) were evaluated. The time it takes for the ambulance to reach the patient. The time it takes for the ambulance to reach the patient starts from EMS activates the team closest to the patient and ends when the patient is transported by the team from EMS. This time should not exceed 10 minutes in the city center and 30 minutes in the countryside. When the EMS team transports the patient from the scene of an accident to a hospital, the patient is said to be hospitalized. In some cases, a patient in the hospital is transferred to a higher level hospital. This situation is called an interhospital transfer. The patient's state of consciousness was divided into four groups: open, confused, unconscious, and unknown. The patient's state of consciousness is assessed by the paramedic or physician in charge of the EMS team. If the state of consciousness was not recorded in the ASOS system, it was classified as unknown. Since the Glasgow coma scale was missing in many patients, consciousness level data were used. Because the mean age of the data set was 71.81±11.74 years, the age variable was divided into two groups: younger than 72 years and 72 years and older.

In addition, the case outcome was divided into two groups as "Transportation to hospital" and "Transportation between hospitals". The patients that the ambulance intervened by going to the scene are included in the Transportation to hospital group. The transfer of outpatients admitted to the hospital to another hospital is grouped as Transportation between hospitals.

Sample Scope

The sample selection method was not used in this study. All non-traumatic EMS-treated stroke patients during the research period were included. A total of 4475 patient registration forms, 2266 patients before Covid-19 and 2209 patients during COVID-19, who met the criteria suitable for our research, were included (Figure 1).



Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis was performed using Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Version 23, NY, USA). Descriptive features are given as numbers and percentages. In addition, the chi-square analysis method was used to compare the situation of the data related to the independent variables before and during covid. The independent group t test was used to compare the ambulance transport time averages. p<0.05 was accepted for significance in the study.

Ethics

This research complies with all relevant national regulations, institutional policies and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Permission to carry out the study was obtained from the Provincial Directorate for Healthcare of Kayseri and the Ethics Commission for Nonclinical Studies of the Gazi University on 24.06.2021 by decision number 11. For conducting the study permission was obtained from the COVID-19 Scientific Studies Committee of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Turkey.

RESULTS

The mean age of the patients included in this study was 71.82±11.74 (min:42.00, max:99.00). The mean age pre-Covid-19 was 72.18±11.69 (min:42, max:99); The intrapandemic mean age was 71.46±11.79 (min:42.00, max:97.00).

There was no significant difference between the mean age of the two groups (p=0.929). According to Figure 2, the number of pre-COVID-19 and intra pandemic activation of EMS for stroke cases showed similar characteristics.

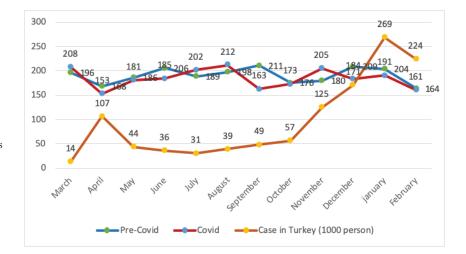


Figure 2: Monthly Pre-Covid-19 and Intrapandemic Distribution of the Number of Stroke Patients for whom EMS was Activated and Positive Covid-19 Cases in Turkey.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of ambulance transport times for stroke patients treated with EMS between the period before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the results of the t test in the independent group, the average ambulance transport time to stroke patients increased significantly during the pandemic period (p < 0.001).

The average timeframe in which the assigned EMS team reached stroke patients before the COVID-19 pandemic was 7.69±5.85 minute (min:1.00 minute, max:48.00 minute). The average transportation time to the patient during Covid-19 was 8.94±6.51 minute (Min:1.00 minute, max:49.00 minute). Ambulance transportation times during Covid-19 were longer and statistically significant (p<0.001).

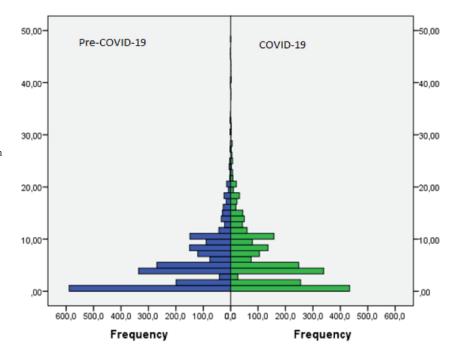


Figure 3: Pre-Covid-19 and Intrapandemic Distribution of Transportation Times to Stroke Patients transfer (minute).

Table 1: Some Characteristics of Stroke Patients for whom EMS was Activated Before and During Covid-19.

	Before C	Covid-19	During (Covid-19		
Age	n	%	n	%	f	P*
<72	797	35.2	839	38.0	3.805	0.051
72 and older	1469	64.8	1370	62.0	3.803	0.031
Sex						
Male	1097	48.4	1089	49.3	0.352	0.570
Female	1169	51.6	1120	50.7		0.570
Region						
Urban	1831	80.8	1722	78.0	5.552	0.018
Rural	435	19.2	487	22.0		
Consciousness						
Conscious	1351	59.6	1344	60.8		
Confused	466	20.6	448	20.3	1.086	0.781
Unconscious	89	3.9	77	3.5	1.080	0.781
Unknown	360	15,9	340	15,4		
Case result						
Transportation to	1156	51.0	1168	52.9		
hospital	1130	31.0	1108	32.9	1.550	0.213
Transportation	1110	40.0	1041	47.1	1.550	0.213
between hospitals	1110	49.0	1041	47.1		

^{*}Chi square

According to Table I the number of stroke cases transfer in rural areas during Covid-19 was higher than before Covid-19 and statistically significant (p=0.018). There has been an increase in the number of stroke cases younger than 72 years of age during the Covid-19 pandemic, but this increase is not significant. Most of the patients who were admitted to the ambulance due to stroke, both before and during covid, were conscious.

DISCUSSION

In this retrospective study at a single centre similar numbers were observed before COVID-19 and one year after the pandemic at EMS. In the literature, there are studies showing that the incidence of stroke has increased as a complication of COVID-19 and that hospital incidence of mild stroke patients have decreased due to the fear of transmission of Covid-19 (11,12,18-20). We are of the opinion that the difference in results of studies on this subject is due to the difference in characteristics such as the research population and the study region. In addition, people's concern about covid contamination may have affected their hospital admissions.

On the 21st of March 2020, individuals aged 65 and older were prohibited subjected to curfew in Turkey. Figure 2 shows that the number of patients who called an ambulance for stroke before and during the pandemic did not change significantly. Despite the second Covid-19 wave observed in Turkey in November 2020, no significant change was observed in stroke patients compared to the previous year. Similar results were observed in a study conducted by Bullrich et al. (2020) in a stroke center in London (17). According to a meta-analysis by

Bhati and Srivastava (2021), the association between covid-19 and stroke was explained by the fact that individuals who had covid-19 had risk factors for stroke. A small proportion of stroke patients were directly associated with Covid-19 infection (21). In this study, the mean age of stroke patients who admitted to EMS before and during Covid-19 showed similar characteristics. When the age groups of the patients included in the study were examined, no significant difference was found between the age groups before and during Covid-19. In the study conducted by Siegleer et al. (2020), in which stroke patients who applied to the Cooper University Emergency Service were evaluated, the mean age of the patients who applied before Covid-19 and during the Covid-19 pandemic was found to be similar (12). Gender-based characteristics of stroke patients applying to EMS were similar before and during Covid-19. The number of male stroke patients was lower than that of females, but this was not found to be significant. In the study conducted by Şensöz et al. (2018), concerning the determination of the stroke epidemiology in Turkey, the gender characteristics of patients were compatible with this study (22). According to the systematic review by Siow et al, most patients diagnosed with stroke during the Covid 19 pandemic were women, but there was no significant difference (23). Both population-based studies and studies conducted during the pandemic show that the prevalence of stroke is similar in both sexes.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the rate of stroke patients in rural areas increased significantly compared to the rate of urban stroke patients. We are of the opinion that the main reason for this is the migration of citizens residing in urban areas to rural areas during the lockdown implemented in Turkey and the fact that those with chronic diseases such as hypertension could not go to their regular checkups due to increased concerns about safe access to healthcare services. According to the results of a study conducted in the USA, the number of laboratory tests related to chronic diseases performed in primary care during the Covid-19 period decreased by 81-90% and new drug treatments decreased by 52-60%, which was found to be alarming (23). Suspending checkups and follow-ups of chronic diseases can lead to fatal results. For this reason, it is important for healthcare providers and especially family physicians to carefully monitor the general condition of the patients whom they follow up. It is necessary to develop at-home patient follow-up applications both in terms of technology and manpower.

According to the study conducted by Weldegebreal et al. (2020), which was planned to determine the risk factors affecting mortality in patients hospitalized for stroke, unconsciousness increases the severity and mortality in stroke patients (being unconscious (AOR=2.61, 95%CI:1.06-6.40, p=0.037) during admission were positively associated with mortality) (24). In this study, the number of patients who were confused and completely unconscious was similar in the pre-covid-19 and intrapandemic period.

The study conducted by Siegleer et al (2020), which evaluated patients admitted to the Cooper University emergency department for stroke, did note a decrease in emergency department admissions of stroke patients with mild symptoms, primarily

because of fear of COVID -19 contamination; however, this study did not note a change in the rate of hospital transfers and interhospital transfers of patients who went to the hospital on their own (12).

Limitations

This study is a single-center observational study of a short duration in the early phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, no generalization to the whole country can be made and the study may not indicate lasting consequences for the local stroke epidemiology. In addition, only some characteristics of stroke patients were evaluated in this data set and mortality rates and other risk factors determining severity were not evaluated. In the EMS registration system, there is no information about the presence of chronic diseases or COVID-19 positivity of the patients. For this reason, covid-19 positivity and risk factors for chronic diseases were not discussed in this study.

CONCLUSION

As a result of this single-center study conducted in Turkey, it was observed that the Covid-19 pandemic did not affect the incidence of stroke patients and significantly affected the duration of transportation in emergency healthcare applications. More comprehensive multicenter studies are recommended.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by Gazi University Ethical Committee (approval number: 24.06.2021/11).

Author Contribution:

Concept – İ.Ç., E.G.; Design - İ.Ç., E.G., C. Ç., H. K.; Supervision - İ.Ç., E.G.; References - İ.Ç., C. Ç.; Materials - İ.Ç., H.K.; Data Collection and/or Processing - İ.Ç.; Analysis and/or Interpretation - İ.Ç.; Literature Review - İ.Ç., E.G.; Writer - İ.Ç., E.G., C. Ç., H. K; Critical Review - İ.Ç., E.G.

Conflicting interests

There is no conflict of interest.

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The Clinical Significance of Erythrocytic Macrocytosis in Metastatic Renal Cell Cancer and Sarcoma Patients Treated with Pazopanib

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The Clinical Significance of Erythrocytic Macrocytosis in Metastatic Renal Cell Cancer and Sarcoma Patients Treated with Pazopanib

Pazopanib ile Tedavi Edilen Metastatik Renal Hücreli Kanser ve Sarkom Hastalarındaki Eritrositer Makrositoz'un Klinik Önemi

ABSTRACT Objective:

Pazopanib is a multi-kinase inhibitor used in metastatic renal cell carcinoma or sarcomas (mRCC or mSTS). We aimed to investigate the relationship between pazopanib and macrocytosis and evaluate the clinical significance of this effect in mRCC or mSTS.

Material and Methods:

Patients diagnosed with mRCC and mSTS and have been treated with pazopanib were included. Drug-induced macrocytosis was defined as MCV >100 fL during any mount of treatment. Δ MCV was defined as difference between MCV during pazopanib treatment and baseline MCV. Data was collected retrospectively.

Results:

Fifty patients were included the study. During the pazopanib treatment, significant increase in MCV levels was observed and the mean MCV at the 0, 1, 3, 6, and 9 months were found as 86.7 ± 7.6 fL, 87.8 ± 7.5 , 92.4 ± 8.9 , 94.8 ± 11.1 and 99.0 ± 10.7 fL, respectively (p<0.001). In the group with Δ MCV3 \geq 5fL, median PFS was found as 48.0 months (95% CI, 26.3-69.9); in the group with Δ MCV3 <5, it was 25 months (95% CI, 14.6-35.4) (p:0.036). Median PFS was 21.0 months (%95 CI, 0-46.3) for macrocytic patients compared to 4.0 months (%95 CI, 2.0-5.9) in normocytic patients (p:0.023). There was no statistically significant difference between the groups for overall survival.

Conclusion:

A significant increase in MCV values or the development of macrocytosis during the pazopanib treatment in mRCC and mSTS, can be used as an important biomarker for progression-free survival.

Key Words:

Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV), Macrocytosis, Pazopanib, Progression-free Survival

DOI: 10.53394/akd.1174869

ÖZ

Amaç:

Pazopanib, metastatik renal hücreli karsinom (mRHK) ve metastatik yumuşak doku kanserlerinde (mYDK) kullanılan multi-kinaz inhibitörüdür. Çalışmamızda pazopanib tedavisinin ortalama eritrosit hacmi (MCV) üzerine etkisinin ve progresyonsuz sağkalım süresi (PSS) ve genel sağkalım süresi (GSS) üzerine etkilerinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Çalışmamız tek merkezli, retrospektif olarak planlandı ve mRHK veya mYDK tanılı ve pazopanib kullanan hastalar dahil edilmiştir. Δ MCV, tedavinin belli bir ayındaki MCV ile başlangıç MCV arasındaki fark; makrositoz ise tedavinin herhangi bir ayında MCV >100 fL olarak tanımlanmıştır. MCV artışı ve makrositoz ile sağkalım ilişkisi istatiksel olarak analiz edilmiştir.

Bulgular:

Hasta sayısı 50 idi. Pazopanib ile 0.ay, 1.ay, 3.ay, 6.ay ve 9.ay ortalama MCV değerleri sırasıyla 86.7 ± 7.6 , 87.8 ± 7.5 , 92.4 ± 8.9 , 94.8 ± 11.1 ve 99.0 ± 10.7 fL olarak hesaplandı (p<0.001). Yirmi iki hastanın (%44) üçüncü MCV'si 5 fL ve üzeri artmış olarak bulundu. Hastaların 14' ünde (%28) makrositoz gelişti. Üçüncü ayda Δ MCV 5 fL ve üstü olanların mPSS 48.0 ay (%95 CI, 26.3-69.9) iken; 5'in altı olanlarda mPSS 25 ay (%95 CI, 14.6-35.4) olarak bulundu (p:0.036). Makrositoz olmayan hastalarda mPSS 4.0 ay iken (%95 CI, 2.0-5.9); makrositoz gelişen hastalarda mPSS 21.0 ay (%95 CI, 0-46.3) olarak bulundu (p:0.023). Δ MCV ve makrositoz gelişimi ile GSS arasında istatiksel anlamlı bir fark bulunmadı.

Sonuc:

Pazopanib ile tedavi edilen mRHK ve mYDK' de, MCV değerlerindeki anlamlı artışın veya makrositoz gelişiminin, prospektif çalışmalar ile valide edildiği takdirde önemli bir gösterge olabileceğini düşünmekteyiz.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Ortalama eritrosit hacmi (MCV), Makrositoz, Pazopanib, Progresyonsuz Sağkalım

INTRODUCTION

Pazopanib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) is frequently used in anti-cancer treatment. It is an oral small-molecule multi-kinase inhibitor that mainly inhibits vascular endothelial growth factor receptors 1,2 and 3, platelet endothelial growth factor receptor-alfa, and beta, and the stem-cell factor receptor c-kit. Although pazopanib has been investigated for various solid tumors, it is currently approved for metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC) and some subtypes of metastatic soft-tissue sarcomas (mSTS) (1).

A significant number of different clinical and laboratory side effects such as hypertension, hand-foot syndrome, and fatigue with different degrees of severity are known with TKIs (2). Historically, TKI-induced adverse events such as hand-foot skin reaction and hypertension, have been evaluated as potential

pharmacodynamic biomarkers of treatment effectiveness for different TKIs (3,4). Specific to pazopanib, in an Asian study, Huang et al demonstrated that hand-foot skin reaction is an independent predictive factor for better treatment outcomes in chemotherapy-refractory recurrent or metastatic soft tissue sarcoma who had received pazopanib treatment (5). Despite these studies, unfortunately, a major issue for clinicians is the inadequacy of validated predictive pharmacodynamic biomarkers for TKIs such as pazopanib that have been successfully used in routine clinical practice.

Macrocytosis defined as a mean corpuscular volume (MCV) greater than 100 fL, occurs in approximately 3 percent of the general population. It is usually seen in patients with vitamin B12 or folic acid deficiency, chronic alcoholism, and hypothyroidism (6,7). In the absence of such conditions, sometimes drug-induced macrocytosis can be also seen. Increases in MCV are defined with different drugs such as hydroxyurea, methotrexate, and capecitabine (8-10). In the last 10 years, macrocytosis after drug-using was described with different TKIs, especially with sunitinib and imatinib (2,7,11). The biggest hypothesis about this subject, the increase in MCV in patients treated with sunitinib or imatinib might be caused by inhibition of the stem cell factor (c-KIT). It is known that c-KIT is expressed on the surface of haematopoietic progenitor cells, where it regulates the proliferation, differentiation, and survival of the erythrocytes. So, inhibiting this pathway may be related to drug-induced macrocytosis (2,7). Pazopanib may also be related with macrocytosis, as it inhibits c-KIT like sunitinib. Contrary to sunitinib and imatinib, the data is very limited about the relationship between pazopanib, MCV, and macrocytosis (7,12). In our current trial, we aimed to investigate the relationship between pazopanib and macrosytosis in metastatic renal cell carcinoma or sarcomas. Moreover, we aimed to evaluate the clinical significance of this effect.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Patients diagnosed with metastatic renal cell carcinoma or metastatic soft tissue sarcomas and who have been treated with pazopanib were included in this study if at least one baseline MCV and one more MCV during treatment were available. Patients younger than 18 years old and with known brain metastases were excluded. Data were retrospectively obtained from the hospital database. Demographic characteristics of patients, laboratory values such as hemoglobin (Hb), MCV and related-factors, and oncological survival outcomes were recorded. MCV levels were collected at baseline, during the first mount, 3rd mount, 6th mount and 9th mount of pazopanib treatment.

Drug-induced macrocytosis was defined as MCV >100~fL during any mount of treatment. Δ MCV was defined as difference between MCV during pazopanib treatment and baseline MCV. Progression-free survival (PFS) was defined as the time between first day of treatment and the day of progressive disease or death from any cause. Overall survival (OS) was defined as the time between the first day of treatment and the date of death from any cause. If progression or death had not

occurred or the patient was lost to follow-up, PFS and OS were censored at the date of last follow-up.

The statistical package software system version 21.0 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL) was used for all data analyses. Descriptive analyses were presented using mean±SD, median (min-max) or n (%), where appropriate. The normality assumptions were controlled by the Shapiro-Wilk test. Categorical data were compared with the Pearson chi-square test. ANOVA and t-test were used to analyze numerical data. Survival curves were generated by the Kaplan-Meier method and the log-rank test was performed to compare overall and progression-free survival between the groups. A two-sided p value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

This research was designed and conducted in accordance with Good Clinical Practice and the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Akdeniz University Medical Faculty Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Approval Date/No. 23.02.2021/125). In our study, research and publication ethics were complied with.

RESULTS

A total of 50 patients were included the study. The number of patients diagnosed with mRCC and mSTS were 20 (40%) and 30 (60%), respectively. In general the mean age was 58.4 ± 13.4 , and 19 (38%) patients were male. When baseline conditions such as vitamin B12 level, folat level, hypothyroidism, and alcohol using were evaluated for the patients, there was no significant condition that could cause macrocytosis. The metastasis regions of patients were also recorded. The baseline characteristic of the patients are shown detail in Table I.

Table I. Patients' Demographic Characteristics (n:50)

Diagnosis	
mRCC	20 (40%)
• mSTS	30 (60%)
Gender	
 Male 	19 (38%)
Female	31 (62%)
Age, mean ± SD, (year)	58.4 ± 13.4
Lung Metastasis	
 No 	11 (22%)
• Yes	39 (78%)
Liver Metastasis	
• No	39 (78%)
• Yes	11 (22%)
Bone Metastasis	
 No 	33 (66%)
• Yes	17 (34%)
Other Metastasis	
• No	44 (88%)
• Yes	6 (12%)
Baseline Vitamin B12 Level	
• Low	3 (6%)
Normal	31 (62%)
Unknown	16 (32%)
Baseline Folate Level	
• Low	6 (12%)
 Normal 	21 (42%)
Unknown	23 (46%)
Hypothyroidism	
• No	33 (66%)
• Yes	3 (6%)
Unknown	14 (28%)
Alcohol Using	
• No	44 (88%)
• Yes	6 (12%)

The baseline mean hemoglobin for all patients was 11.9 ± 2.0 gr/dL. The baseline mean MCV was 86.7 ± 7.6 fL. When subgroups were evaluated it was found as 87.3 ± 8.0 fL and 86.3 ± 7.4 fL for mRCC and mSTS, respectively. During the pazopanib treatment, a significant increase in MCV levels was observed and the mean MCV at the 1, 3, 6, 9 months were found as 87.8 ± 7.5 , 92.4 ± 8.9 , 94.8 ± 11.1 and 99.0 ± 10.7 fL, respectively (p<0,001) (Table II).

Table II. Baseline and on-treatment levels

Baseline Hb, mean ± SD, g/dL	11.9 ± 2.0
Baseline MCV mean ± SD , fL	86.7 ±7.6
1.months MCV mean ± SD , fL	87.8 ± 7.5
3.months MCV mean ± SD , fL	92.4 ± 8.9
6.months MCV mean ± SD , fL	94.8 ± 11.1
9.months MCV mean ± SD , fL	99.0 ± 10.7

As mention before, Δ MCV was defined as difference between MCV during pazopanib treatment and baseline MCV. Δ MCV3 was defined as MCV difference between 3 months on-treatment and baseline MCV level. The MCV of 22 patients (44%) at 3. months was found to be increased by 5 fL or more. In the group with Δ MCV3 \geq 5fL, median PFS was found as 48.0 months (95% CI, 26.3-69.9); conversely, in the group with Δ MCV3<5, it was found as 25 months (95% CI, 14.6-35.4) (p:0.036) (Figure 1).

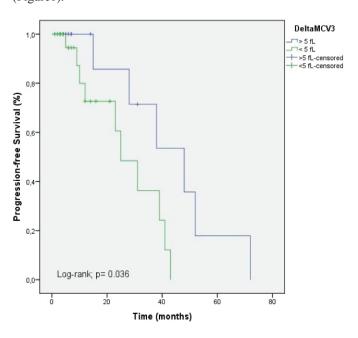


Figure 1: Progression-free survival graphic according to DeltaMCV3

Moreover, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups when evaluated in terms of overall survival (p:0.41). During the pazopanib treatment macrocytosis (MCV >100 fL) developed in 14 (28%) patients and they were defined as macrocytic patients. Macrocytic and normocytic patients were divided into 2 groups and survival analysis was performed. Median PFS was 21.0 months (95% CI, 0-46.3) for macrocytic patients compared to 4.0 months (95% CI, 2.0-5.9) in normocytic patients (p:0.023) (Figure 2).

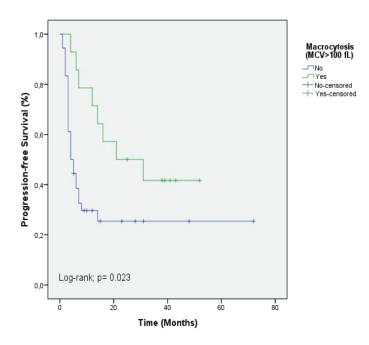


Figure 2: Progression-free survival graphic according to macrocytosis

Additionally, median OS was 42.0 months (95% CI, 33.4-50.5) for macrocytic patients compared to 22.0 months (95% CI, 12.4-31.5) in normocytic patients. There was no statistically significant difference between the groups (p:0.47).

Subgroup analyzes were performed for mRCC and mSTS. In the subgroup of mRCC, mPFS in the $\Delta MCV3 \geq 5fL$ and Δ MCV3<5 groups were 16.0 months (95% CI, 0-37.0) and 3.0 months (95% CI, 1.0-4.9), respectively (p:0.01). For STS patients, it was found as 4.0 months (95% CI, 0-12.3) and 7.0 months (95% CI, 0-28.2), respectively (p:0.36). There was no statistically significant relationship between the $\Delta MCV3$ and overall survivals in both subgroups. Furthermore, due to the small number of patients, subgroup analyzes were not performed in patients who developed macrocytosis because they would not be reliable. Finally, patients were also grouped for metastasis regions such as lung metastatic, liver metastatic and bone metastatic patients. There was no notable significant difference between the groups.

DISCUSSION

During the treatment with pazopanib for mRCC and mSTS, we observed a significant increase in MCV values after pazopanib treatment, and also in some of them macrocytosis was developed. In this retrospective analysis, we aimed to investigate the clinical significance of these effects. We demonstrated that there was a close and significant relationship between the increasing MCV or macrocytosis and progression-free survival. A similar relationship with increasing MCV or macrocytosis and overall survival was not demonstrated.

In our current study, during the pazopanib treatment, significant increase in MCV levels was observed and the mean MCV at the 0, 1, 3, 6, 9 months were found as 86.7±7.6 fL, 87.8 ± 7.5, 92.4 ± 8.9, 94.8 ± 11.1 and 99.0 ± 10.7 fL, respectively (p<0.001). When baseline conditions such as vitamin B12 level, folat level, hypothyroidism, and alcohol using were evaluated for the

patients, there was no significant condition that could cause these increases. So, these increases can be clearly considered as pazopanib-related. The increase in MCV in patients treated with sunitinib, imatinib, and other TKIs was shown in different previous research with small numbers of patients (2,7,13-15). Contrary to sunitinib and imatinib, the data is very limited about the relationship between pazopanib, MCV and macrocytosis. To the best of our knowledge, this effect was investigated in a small-scale study with 35 patients in 2015, and the authors considered that MCV changes may be a biomarker of pazopanib antitumor effects (12). Moreover, Kloth JSL et al., designed a study with several TKIs and in the subgroup of pazopanib-treated patients (n:66), they showed that the rise in MCV levels occurs roughly after 3 months of treatment (7). Similarly, we observed significant increase in MCV levels especially in the 3rd month of the pazopanib treatment.

In our current study, roc analysis was performed for the determining the most appropriate cut-off value for survival analysis and it was 5 fL (Δ MCV3). In the patients group with Δ $MCV3 \ge 5fL$, median PFS was found as 48.0 months (95% CI, 26.3-69.9); conversely, in the group with Δ MCV3 <5, it was found as 25 months (95% CI, 14.6-35.4) (p:0.036). But, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups when evaluated in terms of overall survival (p:0.41). Relationship between substantial increase in MCV levels after start of sunitinib-treatment and overall survival was shown in a study before (7). In the same trial, there was no relationship between the overall survival and pazopanib-induced MCV increase. Furthermore, to our knowledge, there is no study which have investigated pazopanib-induced MCV increase and survival except this study mentioned above. So, it can be clearly said that, our current study is the first study showed that 5 fL or more increasing MCV levels in the 3rd month of the pazopanib-treatment may be a strong potential biomarker for progression-free survival in mRCC and mSTS patients, if validated prospectively. Despite low number of patients, this relationship was also shown in mRCC subgroups. The same relationship was not shown for overall-survivals.

During the pazopanib treatment macrocytosis (MCV >100 fL) developed in 14 (28%) patients and they were defined as macrocytic patients. Median PFS was 21.0 months (95% CI, 0-46.3) for macrocytic patients compared to 4.0 months (95% CI, 2.0-5.9) in normocytic patients (p:0.023). Although median overall survival was numerically longer in macrocytic patients, there was no statistically significant difference (p:0.47). There were some studies about TKI-induced macrocytosis and clinical significance of these effects. Bourlon et al., investigated clinical significance of sunitinib-associated macrocytosis in mRCC in 2016. In this study, mPFS was higher among patients with macrocytosis compared to normocytic patients during sunitinib treatment (21 m vs. 4 m, respectively, p=0.0001). The authors hypothesized that sunitinib-induced macrocytosis may have a role as a predictive biomarker for sunitinib (11). In another small-scale study, Kucharz et al., also designed a study with 27 mRCC patients. Patients who had macrocytosis after 3 treatment cycles had significantly longer PFS than those whose

MCV stayed less than 100 fL (not reached vs.11.2 months, p: 0.001) (15). Furthermore, Kloth JSL et al., performed a study with a big number of patients (n:533) with several TKIs such as sunitinib, imatinib, sorafenib, pazopanib and vemurafenib. In this study, it was shown that in sunitinib-treated patients with RCC, the occurrence of macrocytosis could potentially be accepted as a positive prognostic factor for survival. But with other TKIs, especially with pazopanib this relationship was not shown in this study (7). It can be clearly understood from these studies that sunitinib-induced macrocytosis are well known and could potentially serve as a positive prognostic factor for survival. But data is limited for pazopanib-induced macrocytosis. In our knowledge, this is the first study about clinical significance of pazopanib-associated macrocytosis in mRCC and mSTS. In our study, we exhibited that this phenomenon could help clinicians to predict PFS during pazopanib treatment for mRCC and mSTS, but unfortunately our sample was small, more studies are essential.

Thus far, the mechanism of pazopanib-induced macrocytosis or MCV increases is still unclear. Our study was not planned to determine mechanism of macrocytosis. Nevertheless, the most important hypothesis about this subject is related with c-KIT. It is known that, c-KIT is expressed on the surface of haematopoietic progenitor cells, where it regulates differentiation, proliferation, and survival of the erythrocytes. So, inhibiting this pathway may be related with drug-induced macrocytosis (2,7). Pazopanib may also be related with macrocytosis, as it inhibits c-KIT like sunitinib, imatinib etc. Further research are necessary.

Retrospective design and relative small number of patients can said to be the most important limitations for our study. Despite baseline conditions such as vitamin B12 level, folate level, hypothyroidism, and alcohol using were evaluated and there was no significant condition that could cause macrocytosis in our study; other rare causes which can affect MCV levels were not recorded and it can be confusing.

CONCLUSION

In our study, we demonstared that a significant increases in MCV values or the development of macrocytosis during the pazopanib treatment in metastatic renal cell carcinoma and metastatic soft tissue sarcomas can be used as an important biomarker for progression-free survival if validated by prospective studies.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This study was approved by the Akdeniz University Medical Faculty Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Approval Date/No. 23.02.2021/125).

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The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in relation to this study.

Patients' Consent:

Because this study was retrospective, the condition of patients' consent was waived.

Authors' Contributions:

Y.I wrote the manuscript. YI, MFO were involved in the study design and data interpretation. The study concept was developed by SSG, AMT and HSC. YI analyzed the data. Manuscript was reviewed and edited by SSG. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Presented at Congress:

The abstract of our study had been sent to 9th Turkish Medical Oncology Congress and accepted for poster presentation.

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Rektum Kanseri Tanısıyla Radyoterapi ile Eş Zamanlı 5-Florourasil/Kapesitabin Uygulanan Hastaların 10 Yıllık Sağkalımına Etki Eden Faktörlerin Retrospektif Değerlendirilmesi

Retrospective Evaluation of Factors Affecting 10-Year Survival in Patients with Rectal Cancer Treated with 5-Fluorouracil/Capecitabine Concomitant to Radiotherapy

ÖZ

Amac:

Lokal ileri evre rektum kanseri tanısıyla, radyoterapi (RT) ile eş zamanlı 5-florourasil (5-FU) /kapesitabin uygulanan hastaların 10 yıllık sağkalım sonuçlarını ve sağkalıma etki eden faktörleri incelemeyi amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Ocak 2000-Ocak 2007 arasında radyoterapi merkezinde radyoterapi ile eş zamanlı 5-florourasil/kapesitabin uygulanan lokal ileri evre rektum adenokarsinomu tanılı 81 hasta (55 5-FU, 26 kapesitabin) retrospektif değerlendirildi. Hastaların nüks ve metastaz durumu ve yaş, T evresi, N evresi, patoloji, müsin komponent varlığı, vasküler invazyon, perinöral invazyon, lenfatik invazyon, lenfositik infiltrasyon, extrakapsüler invazyon, RT tipi, RT dozunun hastalıksız sağkalım (HSK) ve genel sağkalıma (GSK) etkisi araştırıldı.

Bulgular:

Medyan 35 aylık izlem süresi sonunda, kapesitabin uygulanan 26 hastada lokal nüks gelişmezken, üç hastada (%11) metastaz, 16 hastada (%61) ölüm olmuştur. 5-FU kolunda 55 hastanın 11'inde (%20) lokal nüks saptanmış, 13 hastada (%23) metastaz gelişmiş, 42 hasta (%76) ölmüştür. Kapesitabin için genel sağkalım medyan 24 ay (1-229 ay), hastalıksız sağkalım medyan 36 aydır (1-229 ay). İstatistiksel analizde N evresi (p=0.034), müsin komponent varlığı (p=0.039), vasküler invazyon varlığı (p=0.02) ve radyoterapi dozu (p=0.025) GSK ile ilişkili; yaş (p=0.041), lenfositik infiltrasyon varlığı (p=0.032) ve RT dozu (p=0.04) HSK ile ilişkili saptanmıştır.

Sonuc:

Literatürle uyumlu olarak çalışmamızda vasküler invazyon ve lenf nodu evresinin (N) GSK'ya istatistiksel anlamlı olarak etkili olduğunu saptadık. Lokal ileri evre rektum kanseri tedavisinde kapesitabinin iyi tolere edilmesi, tedaviye hasta uyumunun yüksek olması, 10 yıllık sağkalım sonuçlarının iyi olması; kemoradyoterapide günümüzde öncelikli olarak tercih edilmesini açıklamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Rektum kanseri, Kemoradyoterapi, 5-florourasil, Kapesitabin

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

We evaluated the 10-year survival results and factors affecting the survival of patients with locally advanced rectal cancer, who received 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) / capecitabine chemoradiotherapy.

Material and Methods:

Between January 2000 and January 2007, 81 patients administered with 5-FU/capecitabine (55 5-FU, 26 capecitabine) concurrently with radiotherapy (RT) at radiotherapy center, were evaluated retrospectively. The presence of recurrence and metastasis, and the effects of age, T stage, N stage, pathology, vascular invasion, perineural invasion, lymphatic invasion, lymphocytic infiltration, extracapsular invasion, presence of mucin component, RT type, the dose of RT on disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS) were analyzed.

Results:

At the end of a median follow-up period of 35 months, in the capecitabine arm none of 26 patients had a recurrence, three (11%) had metastases, 16 (61%) died. In the 5-FU arm, 11 patients (%20) had a recurrence, 13 (23%) had metastases, 42 (76%) died. For capecitabine, the median OS was 24 months (1-229 months), and DFS was 36 months (1-229 months). In statistical analysis, N stage (p=0.034), presence of vascular invasion (p=0.02), presence of mucin component (p=0.039) and radiotherapy dose (p=0.025) were associated with OS; age (p=0.041), presence of lymphocytic infiltration (p=0.032), and the dose of RT (p=0.04) were found to be associated with PFS.

Conclusion:

Consistent with the literature, we found that lymph node stage (N) and vascular invasion had a statistically significant effect on OS. Better patient compliance with capecitabine, and good 10-year survival results; explain to us why it is the first choice in rectal cancer chemoradiotherapy today.

Kev Words:

Rectal cancer, Chemoradiotherapy, 5-fluorouracil, Capecitabine

GİRİS

Rektal adenokarsinomlar (Anterior peritoneal refleksiyonun üzerindeki veya anal vergeden 12-15 cm'e kadar olan lezyonlar) tüm kolorektal kanserlerin yaklaşık üçte birini oluşturur ve dünya çapında kansere bağlı ölümlerin önemli bir nedenidir (1). 1990'da Ulusal Sağlık Enstitüleri'ne (National Institutes of Health Consensus) dayanarak evre II ve III rektum kanserli hastalarda cerrahi rezeksiyon ve ardından postoperatif adjuvan kemoradyoterapi (KRT) lokal kontrol ve genel sağkalımı anlamlı derecede artırdığı için standart tedavi kabul edilmiştir (2). Ancak son yıllarda yapılan klinik çalışmalarda preoperatif/neoadjuvan KRT lokal kontrolü, hastalıksız sağkalımı anlamlı derecede iyileştirdi ve postoperatif KRT ile karşılaştırıldığında hem akut hem de uzun süreli toksik etkileri azalttı (3-5).5-florourasil (5-FU) radyoterapi ile eş zamanlı olarak bolus ya da sürekli infüzyon şeklinde uygulanabilir. Sürekli infüzyon 5-FU 1994'te O'Connell arkadaşları tarafından yapılan çalışmada

bolus 5-FU'dan daha etkin olduğu gösterilmiş ve rektum kanserinin neoadjuvan tedavisinde altın standart olarak kabul edilmiştir (6). Sürekli infüzyon uygulama santral venöz kateterizasyon (port) gerektirir. Bu uygulamanın pnömotoraks ve kanama gibi olası komplikasyonları mevcuttur. Ayrıca uygulama sonrasında hastalarda inorganik materyale bağlı tromboz, selülit ve sepsis riski oluşmaktadır. Ayrıca port hem uygulanması ile hem de oluşan komplikasyonların ayaktan ya da yatarak tedavisi nedeniyle daha yüksek maliyete sebep olmaktadır (7). Bu nedenlerle hastalarda oral uygulanabilen ilaçların kullanımı gündeme gelmiştir.

Kapesitabin in vivo sitotoksik formu olan 5-fluorourasile dönüşen, oral yolla uygulanan bir ön ilaçtır (8). Kolon kanseri metastatik evrede ve adjuvan tedavisinde, kullanımının kolay ve toksisitesinin düşük olduğu ve 5-FU kullanımı ile benzer hastalıksız ve genel sağkalım elde edildiği bildirilmiştir (9-12). Rektum kanseri tedavisinde ise, kapesitabinin RT ile eşzamanlı olarak 1600-1700 mg/m²/ gün dozda, neoadjuvan ve adjuvan uygulamada etkin olduğu ve ilacın tolerasyonunun iyi olduğu saptanmıştır (13-19).

Çalışmamızda; lokal ileri rektum kanseri tanısıyla preoperatif ya da postoperatif RT eş zamanlı 5-FU/ kapesitabin uygulanan hastaların 10 yıllık sağkalım sonuçlarını ve sağkalıma etkili faktörleri değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

Bu makale 'Radyoterapi ile eş zamanlı Kapesitabin uygulanan lokal ileri evre rektum kanserli hastalarda etkinlik (lokal kontrol ve sağkalım) ve toksisitenin değerlendirilmesi / Efficacy (local control and survival) and tolerability of concomitant chemoradiation with capecitabine in locally advanced rectum cancer' isimli, 289277 numaralı Tıpta Uzmanlık Tezinden üretilmiştir.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

Radyasyon Onkolojisi Kliniği'nde preoperatif ve postoperatif kemoradyoterapi uygulanan evre II-III rektum adenokanserli olgularımızı inceledik. Eş zamanlı kemoradyoterapide Ocak 2000-Haziran 2004 yılları arasında sürekli infüzyon 5-FU uygulanan 55 hasta ve Mart 2004-Ocak 2006 yılları arasında kapesitabin uygulanan 26 hasta çalışmaya dahil edilmiş olup bu hastaların 10 yıllık sağkalım sonuçları, sağkalıma etkili faktörler retrospektif olarak incelenmiştir.

Eş zamanlı kemoradyoterapiye her iki kolda da cerrahi sonrası 3 aydan önce başlanmıştır. Radyoterapi supin pozisyonda dört alan pelvik box tekniği (AP-PA ve iki lateral) ve kişisel bloklar kullanılarak uygulanmıştır. Radyoterapide bilgisayarlı planlama yapılmış ve 6-15-25 MV foton enerjisi üreten lineer akseleratörler kullanılmıştır. Tüm hastalara radyoterapi 1.8 Gy fraksiyonlar ile haftada 5 gün ve 45 Gy uygulanmıştır. Radyoterapi alanları primer tümör, presakral bölge ve bölgesel lenf nodlarını içermektedir. Daha sonra primer tümörü 2-3 cm sınırla içerecek şekilde AP-PA alanlar ile 5.4-9 Gy boost dozu uygulanarak toplam 50.4-54 Gy radyasyon dozu verilmiştir. Radyasyon alanlarının üst sınırı rektosigmoid bölge tümörlerinde L4-5 arasına kadar yükseltilmiş, abdominoperineal rezeksiyon uygulanan hastalarda alt sınır perineal skarı 2 cm sınırla içerecek şekilde uzatılmıştır.

Eş zamanlı kemoterapide kullanılan 5-FU'in medyan dozu 300 (225-300) mg/m2/gündür ve Pazartesi-Cuma hafta içi 5 gün 120 saatlik sürekli infüzyon şeklinde uygulanmıştır.

Kapesitabinin medyan dozu 1650 (1300-1650) mg/m2/ gündür ve hastalara bu dozu günde iki defada, günlük ilk dozu radyoterapiden yaklaşık 2 saat önce olacak biçimde almaları tavsiye edilmistir.

İstatistiksel analizde prognostik faktörler; hastaların demografik özellikleri (yaş, cinsiyet), tümöre (T ve N evresi, histoloji, ekstrakapsüler invazyon (EKİ), vasküler, lenfatik, perinöral, lenfositik infiltrasyon ve müsinöz komponent varlığı) ve tedaviye ilişkin faktörler (RT tipi ve RT dozu) olarak incelendi. Bu faktörlerin hastalıksız sağkalım ve genel sağkalıma etkileri değerlendirildi.

Çalışma için Bursa Uludağ Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu'ndan 23.10.2007 tarihli 2007-17/9 sayılı etik kurul onayı alınmıştır. Bu araştırma, ilgili tüm ulusal düzenlemelere, kurumsal politikalara, Araştırma ve Yayın Etiğine ve Helsinki Bildirgesinin ilkelerine uygundur.

Verilerin normal dağılıma uygunluğu Shapiro-Wilks testi ile incelenmiştir. Verilerin normal dağılım göstermemesi nedeniyle betimleyici istatistikler medyan (min-mak) ve frekans (yüzde) olarak verilmiştir. Karşılaştırmalarda Pearson Ki-Kare, Kruskall Wallis ve Mann-Whitney U testleri kullanılmıştır. Sağkalım süresi Kaplan Meier yöntemi ile belirlenmiştir. Gözlemlenen son kişiler yaşıyor oldukları için sağ kalım süreleri medyan ±standart hata olarak verilmiştir. Çalışmada yaşam süresini etkileyen faktörler Forward Stepwise (Likelihood Ratio) methodu kullanılarak Cox regresyon analizi ile modellenmiştir. Modelde anlamlı olarak bulunan değişkenler risk faktörleri olarak belirlenmiştir. Anlamlılık seviyesi p=0,05 alınmıştır. Analizler IBM SPSS 21 programı ile yapılmıştır. Betimleyici istatistikler ve p değerleri tablolarda verilmiştir.

BULGULAR

Kapesitabin ve 5-FU alan hastalarımızın özellikleri Tablo I'de verilmiştir. Çalışmamıza toplam 81 hasta dahil edildi. Hastaların ortalama izlem süresi 35 aydır (1-229 ay). Genel sağkalım (GSK) medyan 24 ay (1-229 ay), hastalıksız sağkalım (HSK) medyan 36 aydır (1-229 ay). Çalışmamızda hastaların 5 yıllık sağkalım oranı %37; 10 yıllık sağkalım oranı %31'dir.

Kapesitabin uygulanan 26 hastada hiç lokal nüks gelişmezken, 5-FU skolunda 55 hastanın 11'inde lokal nüks saptanmıştır. Kapesitabin kolunda üç hastada, 5-FU kolunda 13 hastada metastaz gelişmiştir. Kapesitabin kolunda 10 hasta sağ, 16 hasta ölmüştür. 5-FU kolunda 13 hasta sağ, 42 hasta ölmüştür.

Yapılan istatistiksel analizde Cox regresyon yöntemiyle GSK ve HSK'yı etkileyen faktörler Tablo II ve Tablo III'de verilmiştir. Vasküler invazyon varlığı (p=0.015), lenf nodu evresinin (N1 ve N2 sırasıyla p<0.001, p=0.001), RT dozunun (RT dozu 5040-5400 cGy sırasıyla; p=0.008, p=0.044) GSK'ya etkili faktörler olduğu saptanmıştır. Elli yaş altında olmak (p=0.017), RT Dozu (RT dozu 5040-5400 sırasıyla; p=0.008, p=0.006) HSK'ya etkili faktörler olarak belirlenmiştir.

Yapılan tek değişkenli analizlerde; yaşın (p=0.029), EKİ varlığının (p=0.049), müsin komponent varlığının (p=0.037), histolojik tipin (p=0.030), RT dozunun (p=0.043) ölüme istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede etkili faktörler olduğu saptanmıştır. Nüks ile yaş arasında yapılan tek değişkenli analizde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ilişki saptanmıştır (p=0.026).

TARTIŞMA ve SONUÇ

Erken evre rektum kanserinin neoadjuvan ve adjuvan tedavisinde 5-FU'nun radyoterapi ile eş zamanlı olarak bolus ya da sürekli infüzyon şeklinde uygulanması standart bir tedavidir. Hastaya 5-FU infüzyon tedavisi için takılan port kateterin taşıma zorunluluğu, kanama ve pnömotoraks gibi komplikasyon gelişme riskleri vardır.

Sürekli infüzyon 5-FU ile tedavi edilen hastalar bolus kemoterapi alanlara göre daha az yan etki yaşamaktadır. Bolus 5-FU enjeksiyonu özellikle belirgin hematolojik toksisite yaparken, diğer görülen yan etkiler oral mukozit, gastrointestinal toksisite (ishal), miyelosupresyon ve cilt toksisitesidir (20,21).

Kapesitabin hem kullanım kolaylığı ve etkinliği açısından rektum kanserinin kemoradyoterapisinde günümüzde standart kullanılan bir ajan haline gelmiştir. Metastatik kolorektal kanserli hastalar üzerinde yapılan Faz III çalışmada kapesitabin, bolus 5-FU'dan daha az toksik bulunmuştur (22). Oral kapesitabin tedavisi, bolus 5-FU tedavisine göre anlamlı ölçüde daha düşük miyelosupresyon, diyare, stomatit, bulantı yapmaktadır. Grade 3 el-ayak sendromu, bolus 5-FU tedavisine göre oral kapesitabin tedavisinde daha sık gelişirken; yüksek doz sürekli infüzyon 5-FU alan hastalarda el-ayak sendromu sık görülen bir yan etkidir (23).

Kapesitabinin kolorektal kanser adjuvan ve metastatik hastalık birinci basamak tedavisindeki etkinliği kanıtlanmıştır. Bin iki yüz'den fazla metastatik kolorektal kanserli hastayı içeren iki büyük, randomize faz III çalışmasının sonuçları, oral kapesitabinin tümör yanıtı açısından bolus 5-FU'dan daha etkin olduğunu (kapesitabin yanıt oranı %26, 5-FU yanıt oranı %17), hastalıksız sağkalım ve genel sağkalımda eşit etkinliğe sahip olduğu saptanmıştır (24). Yine metastatik kolorektal kanserli hastalar üzerinde yapılan büyük bir faz III çalışmada yakın zamanda yayınlanmış veriler, progresyonsuz sağkalımda önemli bir iyileşme göstermiş, hastalıksız ve genel sağkalıma katkısının anlamlı olduğu saptanmıştır (25).

Literatürde kapesitabin kemoradyoterapisi, lokal ileri evre rektum kanserli faz I ve faz II çalışmalarla kapsamlı bir şekilde değerlendirilmiştir. Tek ajanlı faz I çalışmaları ile günde iki kez kesintisiz uygulanan 825 mg/m2 kapesitabin dozunun yanı sıra, rektum kanserinin neo-adjuvan tedavisi içinde aynı doz belirlenmiştir (26). Önerilen rejimin faz II değerlendirmesi, yüksek etkinliği ve olumlu güvenlik profilini doğrulamıştır (27,28).

Çalışmamızda preoperatif ve postoperatif rektum adenokanserli infüzyon 5-FU uygulanan ve kapesitabin uygulanan hastalarda 10 yıllık sağkalım sonuçları ile sağkalıma etkili faktörleri retrospektif olarak inceledik. Kapesitabin uygulanan 26 hastada hiç lokal nüks gelişmezken, 5-FU kolunda 55 hastanın 11'inde lokal nüks saptanmıştır. Kapesitabin kolunda 3 hastada, 5-FU kolunda 13 hastada metastaz gelişmiştir. GSK medyan 24 ay (1-229 ay), HSK medyan 36 ay (1-229 ay) saptanmıştır.

Yaş rektum kanserinde en önemli prognostik faktörlerden biridir. 20-39 yaşlar arasında rektum kanseri görülme olasılığı oldukça düşük olup, 40-50 yaş arasında önemli oranda artmaya başlar (29). Mehrkhani ve ark., 1090 hastada yaptıkları bir çalışmada yaşın tek değişkenli ve çok değişkenli analizde

Yaş Perinöral invazyon Ekstrakapsüler İnvazyon Var 6 Var 2 50 yaş ve altı 17 24 50 yaş ve üstü Yok 20 Yok T evresi** Vasküler İnvazyon Müsin komponent T3 25 T1 19 23 Yok Yok N evresi*** Lenfatik İnvazyon Histoloji N₀ 10 Var İyi differansiye adenokarsinom 3 N1 Yok 22 Orta differansiye adenokarsinom 19 N2 Kötü differansiye adenokarsinom Müsinöz karsinom 2 Taşlı yüzük hücreli karsinom 0 5-FU Cinsiyet RT uygulanma Lenfositik İnvazyon Kadın 21 şekli* Var 49 Erkek 34 Preoperatif 12 Yok Postoperatif 43 Perinöral invazyon Yaş Ekstrakapsüler İnvazyon 50 yaş ve altı 26 Var Var 50 yaş ve üstü 29 Yok 46 46 Yok T evresi** Vasküler İnvazyon Müsin komponent T1 2 T2 2 Yok 48 Yok 49 T3 42 T4 9 N evresi*** Lenfatik İnvazyon

Lenfositik İnvazyon

0

26

Var

Yok

5

21

Tablo I: Kapesitabin ve 5 FU uygulanan hastalarımızın özellikleri

Kapesitabin

Cinsiyet

Kadın

Erkek

RT*

sekli

Preoperatif

Postoperatif

19

uygulanma

1	RI: radyoterapi,	**1:	INM ye	gore tu	mor boyutu	evresi,	***	N: INN	A ye gore	ient
	nodu evresi									

47

Var

Yok

25

20

10

N₀

N1

N2

anlamlı bir prognostik faktör olduğunu belirtmektedirler (30). Bizim çalışmamızda da yaş her iki kolda HSK'ya etkili bir faktör olarak istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulundu (p=0.017). Rektum kanserlerin çoğunluğu adenokanser histolojik tipinde olup müsinöz kanserler yaklaşık %10, onun alt grubu olan taşlı yüzük hücreli kanserler %1 civarındadır (31,32). Chen ve ark., 45 taşlı yüzük hücreli, 332 müsinöz karsinom ve 2984 diğer histolojik tip kanserli hastalarda yaptıkları çalışmada taşlı yüzük hücreli kanserin müsinöz kansere göre, müsinöz kanserin ise

diğer tiplere göre sağkalımının belirgin olarak daha kötü olduğunu belirtmişlerdir (32). Bizim çalışmamızda histolojik tip yapılan tek değişkenli analizde GSK'ya anlamlı derecede etkili prognostik faktör olarak saptandı (p=0.030).

İyi differansiye adenokarsinom

Orta differansiye adenokarsinom

Kötü differansiye adenokarsinom

Taşlı yüzük hücreli karsinom

Müsinöz karsinom

Lenf nodu tutulumu da kolorektal kanserlerde sağkalımla yakın ilişkili olarak değerlendirilmiştir. Chang ve ark., 61.371 hastayı içeren bir sistematik incelemede lenf nodu tutulumunun kötü bir prognostik faktör olduğunu ve tutulan lenf nodu sayısının da sağkalımda önemli olduğunu belirtmişlerdir (33).

35

2

4

Wald istatistiği *Risk katsayısı (%95 G.A.) p-değeri N1** 14,41 0,028 (0,004:0,173) <0,001 11,399 0,001 N2** 0,043 (0,007:0,266) N3** 1 (referans kategori) 0,015 Vasküler invazyon yok 5,864 3,620 (1,278:10,257) Vasküler invazyon var 1 (referans kategori) RT dozu 5040*** 6,938 0,260 (0,095:0,708) 0,008 RT dozu 5400*** 0,044 4,039 0,358 (0,132:0,975) RT dozu_diğer*** 1 (referans kategori) model p<0,001 n=81

Tablo II: Genel sağkalım süresine etki eden değişkenler

^{***}RT: radyoterapi

	Wald istatistiği	*Risk katsayısı (%95 G.A.)	p-değeri
50 yaş altı	5,688	0,518 (0,302:0,889)	0,017
50 yaş üstü		1 (referans kategori)	
RT dozu_5040**		0,255 (0,093:0,694)	0,008
RT dozu_5400**	7,146	0,247 (0,090:0,673)	0,006
RT dozu_diğer**	7,476	1 (referans kategori)	

Uribarrena Amezaga ve ark., bölgesel lenf nodlarında mikrometastaz varlığının kötü prognozla ilişkili olmadığını belirtmişlerdir (34). Lenf nodu tutulumu bizim çalışmamızda da GSK'ya anlamlı derecede etkili (N1 ve N2 sırasıyla p<0.001, p=0.001) prognostik faktördür.

Tedavi sonuçlarını etkileyen prognostik faktörler incelenmeye devam edildiğinde Dalton P. ve arkadaşlarının yaptığı çalışmada vasküler invazyon ve ekstrakapsüler invazyon önemli faktörler olarak saptanmıştır (35). Bizim çalışmamızda da vasküler invazyon (p=0.015) ve ECİ varlığının (p=0.049) GSK'ya istatistiksel anlamlı derecede etkili bir faktörler olarak saptanmıştır.

Rektum kanserinde radyoterapi ile eş zamanlı 5-fluorourasil ve kapesitabin uygulanan hastalarımızın 10 yıllık sağkalımına etki eden faktörler literatürle uyumlu bulunmuştur. Her iki grup arasında fark olmaması kapesitabinin hem kullanım kolaylığı hemde etkinliği açısından rektum kanserinin kemoradyoterapisinde günümüzde standart kullanılan bir ajan olmasını açıklamaktadır.

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^{*}Risk katsayısı (Hazard ratio), %95 Güven aralığı **N: TNM'ye göre lenf nodu evresi,

Tablo III: Hastalıksız sağkalım süresine etki eden değişkenler

^{*}Risk katsayısı (Hazard ratio), %95 Güven aralığı ** RT: radyoterapi

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Our Experience in Brain Death and Organ Donation

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Our Experience in Brain Death and **Organ Donation**

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ABSTRACT Objective:

Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine is one of the important organ transplant centers of Türkiye. This study aimed to share experiences about cerebral death rate, follow-up, donor care, and organ donation in the adult intensive care unit (ICU).

Material And Methods:

The records of patients diagnosed with brain death in the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit of Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine between January 2003 and December 2016 were reviewed retrospectively. In these records, patients' demographic characteristics, admission diagnoses, intensive care coma scores, laboratory values, method and duration of evaluation tests, consultation times, and transport information are available.

Results:

In our study, 136 (66%) male and 71 (34%) female patients were included. Intracranial hemorrhage was the first line in the diagnosis of admission. This was followed by 56 (27.05%) subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), and 42 (20.28%) intraparenchymal hemorrhage. Among the confirmatory tests, SPECT (single-photon emission computed tomography) was the first in 70 (33.81%) patients. Spinal reflex was observed in 27 (13.04%) patients after cerebral death. Two patients (0.96%) had Lazarus sign. Sympathetic storms developed in 71 (34.29%) patients. Diabetes insipidus developed in 122 (58.93%) of the patients and all patients received medical treatment. Sixty-six (31.4%) of 207 brain death cases with detailed records donated their organs.

Conclusion:

A common diagnostic protocol is required to create an atmosphere of trust in organ transplant patients. We reiterate that more clinical research is needed in this area.

DOI: 10.53394/akd.1258467

Key Words:

Brain death, Intensive care diagnosis, Organ donation

ÖZ

Amaç:

Akdeniz Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Hastanesi Türkiye'nin önemli organ nakil merkezlerinden biridir. Bu çalışmada erişkin yoğun bakım ünitesinde (YBÜ) beyin ölüm oranı, izlemi, donör bakımı ve organ bağışı ile ilgili deneyimlerin paylaşılması amaçlanmıştır.

Gereç ve Yöntemler:

Akdeniz Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Anestezi ve Yoğun Bakım Ünitesinde Ocak 2003-Aralık 2016 tarihleri arasında beyin ölümü tanısı alan hastaların kayıtları retrospektif olarak incelendi. Bu kayıtlarda hastaların demografik özellikleri, başvuru tanıları, yoğun bakım koma skorları, laboratuvar değerleri, değerlendirme tetkiklerinin yöntem ve süreleri, konsültasyon süreleri ve sevk bilgileri yer almaktadır.

Bulgular:

Çalışmamıza 136 (%66) erkek, 71 (%34) kadın hasta dahil edildi. Başvuru tanısında intrakraniyal kanama ilk sırada yer aldı. Bunu 56 (%27,05) subaraknoid kanama (SAK) ve 42 (%20,28) intraparankimal kanama hastası izledi. Doğrulayıcı testler arasında SPECT (tek foton emisyonlu bilgisayarlı tomografi) ilk sırada yer aldı, 70 hastada (%33,81) kullanıldı. Serebral ölüm sonrası 27 (%13.04) hastada spinal refleks gözlendi. İki hastada (%0,96) Lazarus bulgusu vardı. Yetmiş bir (%34,29) hastada sempatik firtına gelişti. Hastaların 122'sinde (%58,93) diabetes insipidus gelişti ve tüm hastalar medikal tedavi aldı. Ayrıntılı kayıtları bulunan 207 beyin ölümü vakasının 66'sı (%31,4) organlarını bağışladı.

Sonuç:

Organ nakli hastalarında güven ortamı oluşturmak için ortak bir tanı protokolü gereklidir. Bu alanda daha fazla klinik araştırmaya ihtiyaç olduğunu yineliyoruz.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Beyin ölümü, Yoğun bakım tanıları, Organ nakli

INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE

"Brain death" is the permanent, irreversible loss of all functions of the brain, brain stem, and cerebellum, which are the part of the central nervous system that remains inside the skull (1, 2). The first publication on brain death was made in 1959 at the Paris Claude Bernard Hospital. Mollaret and Goulon described a new type of coma they encountered in 23 cases. These patients lived on mechanical ventilator support and were characterized by complete loss of consciousness, loss of all brainstem reflexes, absence of spontaneous breathing, and isoelectric electroencephalography (EEG). They named this "le coma de passe" (beyond coma) and separated cardiorespiratory functions from brainstem functions (3). In the same year, Wertheimer et al. saw that the patients did not have respiration after the ventilator connections were disconnected, and they called it "death of the

nervous system" and suggested that the ventilators could be stopped (4). The work of the Harvard Medical School Interim Board at the Massachusetts hospital was published in 1968. In this article, brain death was defined as the irreversible loss of all brain activities, including the brain stem, thus making the first official definition of brain death (5). Then, in 1981, the 'President's commission report containing the brain death guide allowed the standardization of the 'Death Act' (6).

Although it is widely believed that the concept of brain death has evolved to benefit organ transplants with the increase in successful organ transplants in the 1960s, however, when the historical process is examined, it is seen that both cases have different foundations and developments. While brain death is accompanied by developments in intensive care treatment and technologies; surgical techniques and immunosuppressive treatments come to the fore in the development of organ transplantation (7). Despite the advances in transplantation, one of the most important problems in organ transplantation today is the limited number of adequate donor resources and the inability to meet the increasing number of end-stage organ failure patients. Especially in developing countries, the number of cadaveric organs has not yet been increased at the desired level, and therefore the necessary organs are still being sought from living donors (8).

This study aimed to share experiences about cerebral death rate, follow-up, donor care, and organ donation in the adult intensive care unit (ICU).

MATERIAL and METHODS

The records of patients diagnosed with brain death in the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit of Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine between January 2003 and December 2016 were reviewed retrospectively. Patient data were obtained from the data processing system of our hospital and the Anesthesia Intensive Care observation forms. Detailed brain death detection reports are kept by the intensive care unit and archived in a separate place within the hospital. In these records, patients' demographic characteristics, admission diagnoses, intensive care coma scores, laboratory values, method and duration of evaluation tests, consultation times, and transport information are available. Patients who were hospitalized in the ICU and met the criteria for brain death as per the laws of the Republic of Türkiye were included in the study. Patients who did not have a brain death diagnosis in the file scan, who had brain stem death, and whose tests could not be defined were excluded from the study. This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Akdeniz Medical Faculty Ethical Committee, Akdeniz University. Ethics committee number is 676 and date is 15.11.2017. In all cases, the prerequisites for the diagnosis of brain death were met. The diagnosis of the disease or process with the potential to cause cerebral death was definite in all patients. Structural cerebral damage was observed in the irreversible process, and there was no treatment for the damage caused. Blood pressure was normal for the age group with or without vasopressor support, systolic blood pressure was ≥100mmHg, and the central temperature was ≥36 °C above 18 years of age.

There was no electrolyte imbalance or metabolic disorder that would affect the process. The patients were not under the influence of drugs that would affect the level of consciousness, and in the cases of drug exposure, the drug level was measured; in the cases where the drug level could not be measured, it was monitored five times its half-life.

Clinical brain death was diagnosed per the national guidelines, requiring irreversible coma, absence of brainstem reflexes, and a positive apnea test in a normothermic, feverless patient.

Coma was confirmed in all patients. The absence of brain stem reflexes was demonstrated, and an apnea test was performed. It was ensured that the pH and PaCO2 values of the arterial blood gas sample taken before the test were within normal limits, and the PO2 value was ≥ 200 mmHg. For the apnea test to be interpreted as positive (consistent with brain death), it was accepted that the patient did not have any breathing effort despite having a PaCO2 ≥ 60 mmHg at the end of the test and an increase of ≥ 20 mmHg compared to the baseline value.

The waiting time was 48 hours in infants younger than two months, 24 hours in children older than two months and younger than one year, 12 hours in children over one year old, and in adults, while it was 24 hours in cases of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or similar hypoxic ischemic acute cerebral injury. Except for the apnea test, other examinations were repeated in the patients who were included in the waiting period.

A second neurological examination was not expected for confirmatory tests. The clinical diagnosis of brain death was confirmed by the law dated 02.01.2014 by the "Brain Death Physicians Board" consisting of a neurology or neurosurgery specialist and an anesthesiologist or intensive care specialist and was finalized with the signatures of at least two physicians. After the diagnosis, the patient's relatives were informed of the death by the patient's doctor, and then the organ transplant coordination for brain death and organ donation was reported. The primary doctor of patient did not participate in the organ donation interviews.

Statistical Analysis

The data of our study were loaded into the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, USA) version 18.0 program. Parametric data are presented as mean SD (minimum-maximum) and categorical data as frequency (%).

RESULTS

It was determined that there were 411 patients diagnosed with brain death in the ICU between January 2003 and December 2016. Two hundred and four patients who did not have a registration form during the file scan, two patients who had a brain stem death, and 18 patients whose tests could not be completed after clinical suspicion were excluded from the study. A total of 207 patients' files were reviewed retrospectively. Demographic characteristics and hospitalization diagnoses of the patients are given in Table I.

Table I. Demographic data

Gender	
Female	71 (34%)
Male	136 (66%)
Age, years*	37.77 (2-78)
Hospitalization Diagnoses	
Intracranial hemorrhage	
Intraparenchymal bleeding	42 (20.28%)
SAH**	56 (27.05%)
Intracranial mass	16 (7.72%)
Multiple injuries due to trauma	59 (28.50%)
Infarct	7 (3.38%)
Post CPR***	7 (3.38%)
Central nervous system infection	7 (3.38%)
Drowning	4 (1.93%)
Intoxication	4 (1.93%)
Other	5 (2.41%)

Gender and the number of patients were expressed as (%), and the age was expressed as mean(min-max).

- *Data are presented as mean SD (minimum-maximum) and frequency (%)
- **SAH: Subarachnoid hemorrhage
- ***CPR: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

In our study, there were 136 (66%) male and 71 (34%) female patients, and the mean age was 37.77±SD. Intracranial hemorrhage was the first line in the diagnosis of admission. Of these, 56 (27.05%) were subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), and 42 (20.28%) were intraparenchymal hemorrhage. Multiple injuries due to trauma were seen in 59 (28.50%) patients, followed by infarction, post-CPR, and central nervous system infections with 7 (3.38%) people each. Drowning was seen in 4 (1.93%), intoxications were in 4 (1.93%), and 5 (2.41%) were seen in other causes (sarcoidosis, renal transplant rejection, rectus sheath hematoma, lymphoma).

While GCS was 6.69 in the admission of the patients to the emergency department, it was observed that it decreased to 4.65±SD in the time until ICU. Neurological examination was performed on all patients at the time of diagnosis. The apnea test was performed in all patients who met adequate conditions before the apnea test, but the test could not be completed in 14 (6.7%) patients. Among the confirmatory tests, SPECT (single-photon emission computerized tomography) was used in 70 (33.81%) patients, TCD (Transcranial Doppler Ultrasonography) was used in 57 (27.53%) patients, more than one diagnostic method, EEG (Electroencephalography) + TCD, EEG + SPECT, TCD + SPECT was used in 74 (35.74%) patients, cerebral angiography was performed in 6 (2.89%) patients (Table II).

Table II. Confirmatory Tests Used in the Diagnosis of Cerebral Death

•		•
	n	%
SPECT	70	33.81
TCD	57	27.53
Angiography	6	2.89
Multiple Test	74	35.74
SPECT: Scintigrap	hy	I

TCD: Transcranial Doppler Ultrasonography

Spinal reflex was observed in 27 (13.04%) patients after cerebral death. Two patients (0.96%) had Lazarus sign. Sympathetic storms developed in 71 (34.29%) patients, and 14 (19.71%) of these patients underwent medical intervention. Diabetes insipidus developed in 122 (58.93%) of the patients, and all patients were treated medically. Inotrope was needed in 147 (71,04%) patients whose hemodynamic stabilization deteriorated during the follow-ups. Noradrenaline was started in 64 (43.53%) of these patients (Table III).

Table III. Complications Observed in Brain Death Patients

	n	%
Spinal Reflex	27	13.04
Lazarus sign	2	0.96
Sympathetic Storm	71	34.29
Diabetes insipidus	122	58.93
Hemodynamic instability	147	71.04
Need for Vasoactive Agent	64	43.53

Between 2003 and 2016, 139 (33.8%) of 411 patients in total became organ donors, and 66 (31.4%) of 207 brain death cases with detailed records donated their organs.

DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Brain death is the complete and irreversible loss of brain and brain stem activity. It is very important that the history, examination, and neuroimaging of the brain injury be consistent with the irreversible catastrophic damage to the brain (9).

When brain death diagnosed patients were examined regarding gender, it was seen that the male gender was prominent in the literature. In the study of Karasu et al, the rate of male gender was 62%, while in the study of Battal et al., it was 72% (10,11). In our study, the male gender was more common with a ratio of 66% (136) which was consistent with the literature. Aneurysmatic subarachnoid hemorrhages, traumatic brain injury, and intracranial hemorrhages are the leading causes of brain death. While intracranial bleeding was 59.5% and cerebrovascular events were 11% in Karasu et al. study, in the study of Yorick J et al., this rate was approximately 80-90% (10,12). In our research, the three most common causes were intracerebral

hemorrhage (49.52%), traumatic cerebral injury (28.57%), and intracranial mass (7.24%).

The definition of brain death is controversial. There are no clear and generalized protocols for the definite brain death diagnosis. These tests should be reliable, specific, sensitive, and valid (13). In the initial evaluation, the apnea test is important in addition to the neurological examination. Apnea testing is an important part of the brain death diagnosis and is the most error-prone and controversial part of the examination. The patient must be hemodynamically stable before and during the apnea test; if not, the apnea test should be discontinued and an ancillary test should be performed instead (14). Although there is universal consensus that apnea testing is a requirement for the clinical determination of brain death in adults, prospective studies on its safety are lacking (15). In our study, the test was terminated in 14 (6.7%) patients due to hemodynamic instability during the apnea test. Pneumothorax occurred in two patients. Tracheal oxygen was given to these patients. The studies reported that limiting the flow rate to no more than 6-8 L/min minimizes the risk of pneumothorax in cases where the O2 catheter method is used (16). In the study of Goudreau et al.(17), the complication rate during the apnea test was 28%; they reported that cardiac complications occurred in approximately one out of every four patients, and complications doubled if the necessary support was not provided before the test. In the study conducted by Saposnik et al., it was reported that two-thirds of the patients developed apnea test-related complications, 12% of these patients developed hypotension, 63% acidosis, and 23% hypoxemia, and four patients experienced major complications (18). In the study of Ali Daneshmand et al., this rate was <2% (19). In our study, the rate of termination of the test due to complications related to the apnea test was 6.7%. The differences between studies are considered to be the differences in determining complications (19). We think that the differences between the studies and our study are due to the different termination criteria. While complications were evaluated in the first two studies, in our study termination of the test was accepted as a criterion.

Supportive tests used to confirm brain death aim to confirm the loss of bioelectric activity in the brain or the cessation of cerebral circulation (20). In our study, the diagnosis was made by SPECT in 70 (32.8%) patients, TCD in 57 (26.7%) patients, angiography in 6 (2.89%) patients, and multiple diagnostic methods were used in 74 (35.74%) patients. In more than one diagnostic method group, some patients underwent EEG and did not obtain satisfactory results in TCD; in this case, additional methods were used. In the study by Karasu et al., radiological imaging methods were used to support the diagnosis in 30.4% (23 patients) of the cases diagnosed with brain death (10). The 99mTc -HMPAO SPECT method that we used in our study is a common and reliable method that requires facilities.

In a significant majority of potential organ donors, the pituitary gland is compressed during brain herniation, potentially developing central diabetes insipidus. These patients have high hourly urine output. The development of hypernatremia and hypotension may be observed (21). Treatment of diabetes

insipidus is necessary to prevent hypovolemia and hypernatremia, which if left untreated can harm organ outcomes, particularly liver and kidney transplant outcomes. (22). In our study, the rate of diabetes insipidus was 57.2%, and all patients were treated with desmopressin. When we look at the literature, there are studies with a wide range of results. Diabetes insipidus was found in 925 (49%) of 1878 patients diagnosed with brain death, and this rate was 78% in another series of 78 patients (23,24). Desmopressin, a synthetic vasopressin analog lacking vasopressor property, was recommended as first-line treatment for diabetes insipidus in 23 guidelines (23/27; 85.2%) with or without combined vasopressin infusion (25). In a retrospective analysis of 10,431 donors, the use of AVP (Arginine vasopressin) was associated with an increased organ healing rate. This rate is 50.5% in those who take AVP and 35.6% in those who do not (20).

In our cohort, inotropic therapy was utilized in 147 (71.04%) cases whose hemodynamic stabilization deteriorated during follow-up. Noradrenaline was administered in 64 (43.53%) of these patients, and dopamine was started in 58 patients. In a series of 247 cases by Schnuelle P et al., dopamine was observed to be particularly protective in renal transplantation (26). Dopamine use is not recommended due to the rare occurrence of vasoconstriction in the use of low-dose dopamine for management in multi-organ donors and the lack of sufficient evidence for the beneficial effects of dopamine. Indeed, its use has been gradually replaced by norepinephrine in most countries worldwide (27).

An organ donor who had brain death usually has a functioning spinal cord and therefore, the donor may present unregulated sympathetic and motor spinal reflexes in response to stimulation. Various studies have reported that the frequency of spinal reflexes in patients with cerebral death was between 30% and 70%. Ivan examined 52 patients with brain death who had deep tendon reflexes (35%), plantar flexor responses (35%), and abdominal reflexes (40%) (28). Another study showed the presence of deep tendon reflexes in the upper extremity in 31 and the lower extremity in 24 of 63 patients with brain death. Withdrawal response was observed in the lower extremities in 50 patients, and arm and forearm pronation in response to extension and cutaneous stimulation in 21 patients (29). Saposnik et al. reported this response as 39% in their study and most frequently observed myoclonus and similar movements in the fingers (30). In our cohort, spinal reflex was observed after brain death in 27 (12.6%) of the cases. Lazarus sign developed in two patients, sympathetic storm developed in 71 (33.3%) patients and medical intervention was performed in 14 patients. None of these patients died and developed acute organ dysfunction.

Our study has some limitations. First, the study was planned as a retrospective file review. Secondly, the data used in the study are only detailed observation forms belonging to our clinic, so the current transplant rates data do not fully reflect the actual rates. It is thought that the number of brain death and transplant percentages will be higher, especially considering the inaccessible files.

The biggest problem in managing brain death is the lack of a valid accepted worldwide protocol and the differences in the

diagnosis of brain death. Recognition of brain death is a clinical condition that requires training and attention. It is very important to think about the diagnosis, to perform the tests leading to the diagnosis correctly, to make the necessary preparations before the tests, to apply the accepted algorithms carefully, and especially in cases who can be donors. The clinical situation expected during the follow-up should be well-known and correct, and timely intervention should be made. We think effective communication and working with the transplant unit will affect organ donation after the diagnosis of brain death. All these needs should be considered in a broad framework. Apart from medical approaches, the public's view of the subject should be discussed in detail as social and religious influences, and multiple approaches should be exhibited.

We reiterate that more clinical research is needed in this area. A common diagnosis protocol is required to establish an environment of trust. Successful management of trained and experienced teams will correct the results of public relations that do not allow for medically clear, legal complexity established by considering the dynamics of society.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the Akdeniz Medical Faculty Ethical Committee, Akdeniz University. Ethics committee number is 676 and date is 15.11.2017.

Informed Consent:

Our study was conducted retrospectively by scanning the files, and it was not necessary to obtain informed consent from the patients.

Author Contributions:

Concept - Ö.Ç.; Design - M.Y. ; Supervision - M.Y.A ; Resources - A.G.A. ; Materials - N.B. ; Data Collection and/or Processing - A.G.G. ; Analysis and/ or Interpretation - Ö.Ç. ; Literature Search - A.R. ; Writing Manuscript - Ö.Ç. ; Critical Review - M.C., Ü.A.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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Presented Congress:

Our study was presented at the 18th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation, 24-27 September 2017, Barcelona, Spain.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Radiological and Clinical Approach to Pediatric Non-Inflammatory Head and Neck Masses

Çocuklarda Enflamatuvar Olmayan Baş-Boyun Kitlelerine Radyolojik ve Klinik Yaklaşım

ABSTRACT Objective:

Head and neck masses in childhood have a wide variety of causes. These masses may be of congenital, inflammatory, or neoplastic origin. The purpose of imaging is to minimize radiation exposure while obtaining an effective diagnosis or differential diagnosis. Therefore, the first screening study preferred after physical examination is Ultrasonography (US). This study aims to draw attention to the radiological diversity and treatment options in patients presenting with a neck mass, regardless of age.

Material and Methods:

This retrospective study was conducted with pediatric patients who presented with a head-neck mass and underwent radiological imaging between 2018 and 2022. Inflammatory masses, lymphadenopathies, and malignant neoplasms were excluded. Demographic data, radiological diagnostic methods, radiological characteristics of the mass, treatment methods, and pathology results of the patients with congenital and acquired masses were obtained from the hospital system. The lesions of the patients were examined radiologically in 3 groups as cystic, solid, and mixed type.

Results:

The age and gender distribution of 64 patients was similar between the groups. Cystic masses were most commonly congenital, while solid masses were acquired. Head and neck masses were mostly located in the anterolateral cervical triangle. Thyroglossal duct cysts were the most common cystic masses and were mostly of mixed character. The second most common veno-lymphatic malformations (VLM) which constituted the second most common mass were mostly of cystic character. Hemangiomas were the most common solid masses. Among the patients who underwent imaging, 32 (50%) patients were treated surgically. Sclerotherapy was applied to 10 (15.6%) patients at least once. A non-selective beta-blocker drug was administered as medical treatment in 10 (15.6%) patients.

Conclusion:

The etiology of childhood head and neck masses is quite diverse. For this reason, adopting a multidisciplinary approach is extremely important in terms of making the diagnosis correctly and guiding the clinician in choosing the appropriate medical and/or surgical treatment.

Key Words:

Head and neck masses in children, Radiology, Ultrasonography

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ÖZ

Amaç:

Çocukluk çağındaki baş boyun kitlelerinin çok çeşitli nedenleri vardır. Bu kitleler konjenital, inflamatuar ve neoplastik kaynaklı olabilirler. Görüntülemenin amacı, etkili bir tanı veya ayırıcı tanı elde ederken radyasyon maruziyetini en aza indirmektir. Bu sebeple fizik muayene sonrasında tercih edilen ilk tarama çalışması ultrasonografidir (USG). Bu çalışma, boyunda kitle nedeniyle başvuran hastalarda radyolojik çeşitliliğine ve tedavi seçeneklerine dikkat çekmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Gerec ve Yöntemler:

Bu çalışma için 2018-2022 yılları arasında baş-boyun kitlesi ile başvuran ve radyolojik görüntülemesi yapılan çocuk hastaların kayıtlarına ulaşıldı. Enflamatuvar kitleler, lenfadenopatiler ve malign kitleler dışlandı. Doğuştan ve edinilmiş kitlesi olan hastaların demografik verileri, radyolojik tanı yöntemleri, lezyonların lokalizasyonları ile birlikte karekterizasyonları, tedavi yöntemleri ve patoloji sonuçları hastane sisteminden elde edildi. Hastaların lezyonları radyolojik olarak kistik, solid ve mikst tip olmak üzere 3 grupta incelendi.

Bulgular:

Altmış dört hastanın yaş ve cinsiyet dağılımı gruplar arasında benzerdi. Kistik kitleler en sık konjenital iken solid kitleler edinsel nedenliydi. Baş-boyun kitleleri en çok anterolateral servikal üçgende yer almaktaydı. Tiroglossal kanal kistleri en sık rastlanılan kistik kitleler olup daha çok mikst karekterdeydi. İkinci sıklıkla izlenen venolenfatik malformasyonlar (VLM) ise daha çok kistik karekterde görüldü. Hemanjiyonlar ise en sık rastlanılan solid kitlelerdi.

Görüntüleme yapılan hastaların 32'si (%50) cerrahi olarak tedavi edildi. Hastalardan 10'una (%15,6) en az bir kez skleroterapi uygulandı. Medikal tedavi 10 (%15,6) hastada selektif olmayan beta bloker ilaç uygulaması şeklindeydi.

Sonuç:

Çocukluk çağı baş boyun kitlelerinin etiyolojisi oldukça geniş spektrumludur. Bu nedenle tanının doğru konulabilmesi ve uygun medikal ve/veya cerrahi tedavi seçiminde klinisyene rehberlik etmesi açısından multidisipliner bir yaklaşımın benimsenmesi son derece önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Çocuklarda baş ve boyun kitleleri, Radyoloji, Ultrasonografi

INTRODUCTION

Superficial palpable masses of the head and neck are extremely common in the pediatric population, with most of these lesions being benign (1). Head and neck masses in children are divided into four groups as congenital, inflammatory, vascular, and neoplastic. While congenital lesions are more common, lymphadenopathies due to inflammatory masses are the most frequently encountered acquired neck masses (2).

Although the differential diagnosis is often narrowed down by history and physical examination, imaging is required in pediatric neck masses that do not respond to treatment and require surgical resection (3). Imaging techniques such as grayscale and Doppler ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, and MR angiography can be used to evaluate head and neck masses in children, and all of these methods have advantages and disadvantages (4). Also, imaging aims to achieve an effective diagnosis or differential diagnosis while minimizing radiation exposure (2). For this reason, ultrasonography is the first-line imaging method in the diagnosis and treatment planning of neck mass. In most cases, sufficient information can be obtained by the US (3).

The study aimed to evaluate the clinical and radiological features of neck masses in children and how they might help in diagnosis.

MATERIAL and METHODS

This retrospective study was approved by the "Ethical Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, S.B Istanbul Medeniyet University Göztepe Training and Research Hospital" with the ethics committee approval number 2022/0555, in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration. The patients, who were referred to the Pediatric or Pediatric Surgery clinics with a mass in the head and neck between January 2018 and January 2022 and who underwent imaging, were evaluated retrospectively.

Inclusion criteria were as follows 1- unilateral or bilateral neck masses; 2- age < 18 years. Patients with inflammatory masses and malignant neoplasms were excluded. Demographic data, radiological diagnostic methods, radiological characteristics of the mass, treatment methods, and pathology results of the patients with congenital and neoplastic masses were obtained from the hospital system. USG was performed by a single radiologist who had more than 10 years of pediatric radiology experience. The images were evaluated retrospectively by the same radiologist via the Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS). These congenital (C) and acquired (A) masses of the patients were examined radiologically in 3 groups as cystic, solid, and mixed type. In addition, the lesions were divided into 7 regions according to their anatomic location as calvarial, facial, parotitis, anterolateral, posterior, and multi-compartment. Based on the definite diagnosis, each patient underwent the appropriate medical and/or surgical treatment. The non-surgical group was classified as sclerotherapy, medical, and follow-up.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS 21.0, Chicago, IL, USA. Normality testing was performed with the Kolmogor-ov–Smirnov test. Normal distributions were evaluated with the Student's T test and non-normal distributions were evaluated with the one-way ANOVA test. Data for the continuous variables were given as mean standard deviation. A value of p<0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

Between 2018 and 2022, 64 children (32 boys, 32 girls) who had neck masses were admitted to the hospital because of diagnostic/prognostic difficulties and/or for treatment. The mean age of the patients was 83±64 months. The primary

complaint of all the patients was neck swelling. The most common physical examination finding was the presence of a neck mass in all patients.

As a radiological imaging method, USG was performed in all patients. As further imaging methods; computed tomography n:5 (7.8%); and/or; magnetic resonance imaging n:37 (57.8%), were performed. While 28 (43.7%) of these masses were congenital, 36 (56.2%) were acquired. As a result of the radiological evaluation, it was observed that the lesions were cystic in 21 (32.8%) patients and solid in 29 (45.3%) patients, while they had mixed features in 14 (21.8%) patients. Age and gender distribution were similar between the groups (Table I).

Table 1: Demographic data-radiological characteristics of patients according to groups

	CYSTIC n:21 (32,8%)	SOLID n:29 (45,3%)	MIXED n:14 (21,8%)	P Value
AGE (month)	104±68 m	68±62 m	81±60 m	0.165
Male Female	9(28%) 12 (37%)	17 (53%) 12 (37%)	6(18%) 8(25%)	0.455
Acquired	3 (8.3%)	28 (77.7%)	5(13.8%)	0.073
Congenital	18 (64.2%)	1 (3.57%)	9(32.1%)	
USG	13 (61.9%)	19 (65.5%)	11 (78.6%)	0.570
CT	0	4 (16%)	1 (7.1%)	0.131
MRI	15 (71.4%)	20 (69%)	2 (14.2%)	0.171

ABBREVIATIONS

USG: ultrasound CT: computed tomography MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging

The content and components of acquired and congenital lesions were similar. The smallest mass size was found to be 17.35±13.08 mm, while the largest was 32.26±20.85 mm. While venous-lymphatic malformations (VLM) were more

while venous-lymphatic malformations (VLM) were more common among pure cystic masses; (n:9, 42.8%), hemangioma (n:14, 48.2%) was the most common solid lesion, and thyroglossal duct cyst was the most common mixed type lesion (n:8, 57%) (Table II).

Table II: Radiological typing of lesions

Lesion	CYSTIC	SOLID	MIXED
type	n:21	n:29	n:14
	Venous-lymphatic malformation	Hemangioma n:14	Thyroglossal cyst
	n: 9	Branchial cleft cyst n:1	n:8
	Branchial cleft cyst	Thyroglossal cyst n:1	Epidermoid cyst
	n:7	Neurofibroma n:5	n:2
		Schwannoma n:1	Dermoid cyst n:2
	Thyroglossal cyst n:2 Epidermoid cyst n:2	Dermoid cyst n:3	Hemangioma n:1
	,	Lipoma n:2	Teratoma n:1
	Pyogenic granuloma n:1	Pilomatrixoma n:2	

When evaluated in terms of the radiological location of the lesions, cystic lesions were most frequently detected in the midline (23.8%) and parotid region (23.8%). Solid lesions were most commonly seen in the anterolateral cervical triangle (24.1%), while mixed lesions were located in the midline with a frequency of 50% (Table III).

Table III: Distribution of lesions by localization

Localization	Ant. lat	facial	calvary	midline	parotid	Post.	Multi-c	Total	P value
Pathology									
Hemangioma	3	6	2	1	3	-	-	15	0.042
NF-Schwan	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	6	0.042
Glomus tm	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.042
B.C.Cyst	5	-	-	-	2	-	1	8	0.042
Thy-cyst	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	11	0.042
Lipoma-LB	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.042
VLM	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	8	0.042
Epi-derm. C	-	5	-	3	1	-	-	9	0.042
Teratoma	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.042
Pilomatrixoma	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	0.042
Pyogenic granuloma	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.042

ABBREVIATIONS

NF-schwan: neurofibroma-schwannoma, BCC: branchial cleft cyst, Thy-cyst: thyroglossal cyst, lipoma-LB: lipoma-lipoblastoma, VLM: endolymphatic cyst, epi-der. C: epidermoid-dermoid cyst

The treatment planning of the patients who underwent imaging was made by the relevant clinics. Thirty-two (50%) of the patients were treated surgically. Surgical excision was performed in 8 (38%) cystic masses, 11 (37.9%) solid masses, and 13 (92%) mixed masses. The pathological findings of these patients were compatible with the radiological preliminary diagnosis. At least one session of sclerotherapy was applied to 10 (15.6%) patients in the non-surgical group. The cure was achieved in all patients who underwent sclerotherapy. A non-selective beta-blocker drug was administered as medical treatment in 10 (15.6%) patients. Twelve (18.7%) patients remained in clinical follow-up (Table IV). Almost all of these patients, who were followed up for an average of 2 years, showed regression.

Tablo IV: Treatment Methods

		CYSTIC n:21	SOLID n:29	MIXED n:14
OPERATED n:32	Excision	8 (%38)	11 (%37,9)	13 (%92)
	Biopsy	0	0	1(%7,1)
NONOPERATIVE n:32	Medical	0	9(%31)	1(%7,1)
	Scleroterapy	9(%42,8)	1(%3,4)	0
	Follow-up	4(%19)	8(%27,5)	0

DISCUSSION

Neck masses are common in childhood. These masses may originate from the skin, subcutaneous fat, muscle, or bone (5). 80 to 90% of childhood neck masses are benign, and the majority are of infectious origin. Other causes include congenital malformations, benign neoplasms, and rarely malignancies. A complete history and a complete physical examination are very important for treatment planning and prognosis in these patients in order to make a correct diagnosis (6). The highest frequency of correct pre-operative diagnosis, which was based on clinical and radiological findings, was seen in cases of acquired masses (56.2 % of the cases). At the same time, the ratio of boys to girls was equal. These results were different from the data of Shuaibu et al. (7).

Ultrasound is the first-line diagnostic method to be performed in children because it is easily accessible and does not contain radiation (7). It is highly diagnostic in cases of non-inflammatory neck masses, especially in cases of congenital cystic neck masses. Vascular flow can also be evaluated with Doppler while providing information about the size, location, and content of the lesion. Mild vascularity can be observed in the septa of multilobulated, septated cystic lesions, as in Figure 1 (3).

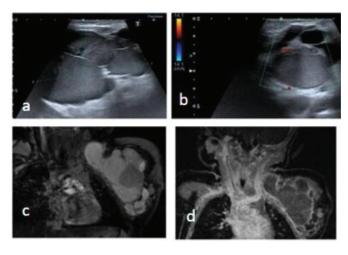


Figure 1: In a 1-year-old male patient with a giant lymphatic malformation extending from the left deltoidal region to the anteroinferior neck, the cyst was aspirated and a bleomycin injection was applied.

Figures 1a and 1b: Ultrasound and Doppler ultrasound images show vascularity in the wall and septa of the cyst.

Figure 1c: Coronal T2 weighted image shows a lobulated contoured cystic mass.

Figure 1d: Contrast-enhanced coronal fat-suppressed T1weighted shows contrast enhancement in the cystic periphery and septa.

Especially in cases of congenital cystic neck masses such as branchial, thyroglossal, and dermoid cysts, USG is highly diagnostic and eliminates the need for histopathological examination (7).

However, ultrasound is limited in case of very small or deeply located lesions (6). It is not always possible to favorably visualize deep structures of the neck, especially retropharyngeal soft tissues, using ultrasound. As in Figure 2, the extension of the solid lesion in the right carotid triangle to the deep neck structures can be better evaluated with MR. (1) CT and MR may be preferred for masses with undefined characteristics (5).

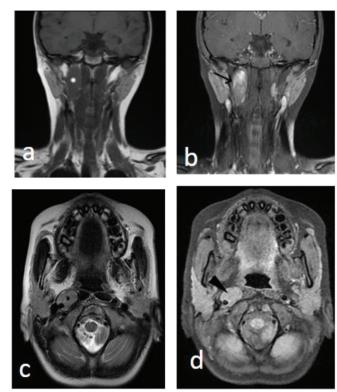


Figure 2: Operated schwannoma in the right carotid triangle in an 8 year old patient. **Figure 2a:** Coronal T1 weighted image (white point) and **Figure 2b:** contrast-enhanced coronal T1 weighted image (black arrow) shows a solid mass lesion with marked heterogeneous contrast enhancement. **Figure 2 c:** Axial T2 weighted image and **Figure 2d:** Axial contrast-enhanced T1 weighted image (black arrowhead) shows a solid mass with marked contrast enhancement.

Neck imaging in all of our patients started with USG. However, in 67.1% of our cases, CT and MR were preferred for differential diagnosis because the mass lesion was solid and mixed in character and clinically suspicious findings were present. While the rate of use of CT was 7.8% in our study, MR was used in 57.8% of the cases. CT is superior for detecting calcification, while MR may better characterize a lesion more accurately revealing its relationship with the surrounding structures, which provides important information for pre-surgical planning (4).

Presence from birth, speed of size changes, overlying skin color, erythema, fluctuation, tenderness, and high white blood cell count are among the clinical information that narrows the differential diagnosis. In these patients, cross-sectional examination has significant benefits before surgical treatment planning, or if an underlying congenital lesion is suspected (2). The most common cystic masses in the neck in childhood are thyroglossal duct cysts (7,8). Lymphatic malformations were the most common congenital purely cystic lesions in our study. Septa and remnants of proteinaceous material or internal echoes make the content of the thyroglossal cyst heterogeneous, and most of the thyroglossal cysts in our study were seen as mixed types. When all cystic lesions were examined, regardless of their content, thyroglossal cyst was the most common one in our study, which was consistent with the literature. Also we explain the reason for this by the fact that some thyroglossal duct cysts are operated without the need for radiological diagnosis.

Congenital masses encountered in childhood are generally benign and rarely malignant (5). In some suspicious cases, additional testing may be required. Normally, further investigation is often not required in the diagnosis of cystic lesions. In some cases, thyroglossal cysts can be easily recognized due to their congenital nature, midline localization, and mobility with tongue movements, but they may raise suspicion in terms of the presence of solid components on ultrasonographic imaging. The reason for this may be the protein content of the cyst, inflammation, infections, or ectopic thyroid tissue (9). Although branchial cysts are mostly cystic, atypical branchial cysts may contain solidified components that are leveled as in Figure 3.

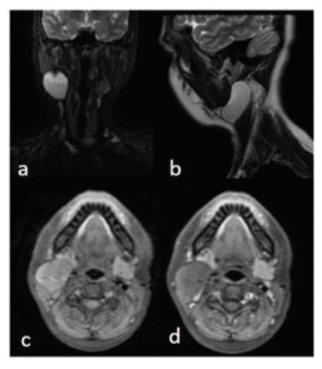


Figure 3: 16-year-old female patient, operated BKK.

Figure 3a: Coronal T2 weighted image and Figure 3b: Sagittal T2 weighted images show a cystic mass with leveling content on the right anterolateral neck. Figure 3c: Fat-suppressed axial precontrast T1 weighted, and

Figure 3d: Fat-suppressed axial postcontrast images show a non-enhancing

Again, cervical teratomas are mixed lesions and often contain calcifications. This may cause difficulties in diagnosis. Since the frequency of solid components was found to be 67.1% in this series, the history, and physical examination were not satisfactory, and additional examination was required to clarify the diagnosis and to show its relationship with the extension and surrounding tissues. In order not to miss a possible malignancy, it is important not to avoid further examination. Another radiological guide is the location of the lesion. Embryonic features and anatomy of the cervical region help narrow the differential diagnosis of neck lesions in children (9). In the presented series, mixed thyroglossal cysts were located in the midline, whereas branchial cysts, and solid lesions such as hemangiomas were located more often laterally. These findings were consistent with the literature (10). Venous-lymphatic malformations mostly had multi-compartment localization. Imaging methods have a significant role in the diagnostic journey of children presenting with a congenital or acquired mass in the neck. Radiology is both guiding

and helpful in the treatment and follow-up of interventional procedures (10). Sclerotherapy application was performed under US guidance in our patients. Besides its diagnostic use, ultrasound was used as a noninvasive method at follow-up visits in the patients who did and did not receive medical treatment in order to determine the lesion's depth and size and if the lesion regressed. After the diagnosis is clarified clinically and radiologically, surgical excision is satisfactory for masses that show spontaneous regression or that are not eligible for nonsurgical treatment methods. Excision is the recommended treatment method, especially in patients with congenital neck masses, to prevent problems such as future growth and secondary infection (7). In the presented series, half of the patients were treated surgically and the other half were treated non-surgically. Cure can be achieved by aspiration and sclerosing agent injection therapy performed by interventional radiology in lymphatic malformations which have a high risk of recurrence when operated. The limitation of our study was the fact that a selected group and a limited number of patients were included in this retrospective study. Further studies with higher numbers of patients are needed.

CONCLUSION

The etiology of childhood head and neck masses is quite diverse. Therefore, no clinical or radiological feature alone can predict the definitive diagnosis. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach in a complete and adequate clinical evaluation is extremely important to guide the selection of appropriate medical and/or surgical treatment.

Highlight key points:

- 1) The purpose of imaging is to minimize radiation exposure while obtaining an effective diagnosis or differential diagnosis.
- 2) It is extremely important to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to clinical and radiological lesions and to guide the selection of appropriate medical and/or surgical devices.
- 3) Head and neck masses in childhood have a wide variety of causes.

Ethics Committee Approval:

This research complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the S.B Istanbul Medeniyet University Göztepe Training and Research Hospital (approval number: (ID:2022/0555).

Informed Consent:

Since the data used in the study were obtained from retrospective medical data, written informed consent was not obtained.

Author Contributions:

Concept – GB.; Design – GB, NG.; Supervision – NG.; Funding - no.; Materials - Data Collection and/or Processing -GB, NG.; Analysis and/or Interpretation –GB.; Literature Review – GB, NG; Writing –

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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OLGU SUNUMU Case Report

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ÖZ

Covid-19 pandemisi Çin'in Wuhan kentinde ortaya çıkmış ve tüm dünyaya hızla yayılmıştır.

Covid-19 nedeniyle takip edilen hastalar, firsatçı mantar enfeksiyonları için risk faktörlerine sahip olmalarına rağmen bu konuyla ilgili literatür sınırlı sayıdadır. Covid-19'lu hastalarımızdan kandida enfeksiyonu saptadığımız dört olgunun özelliklerini konuya dikkat çekmek için sunmayı amacladık.

COVID-19 Pnömonisi ile Hastaneye Başvuran

Kandida Enfeksiyonu Saptanan Dört Olgu

Four Patients Admitted to Hospital with

COVID-19 Pneumonia Diagnosed with

Anahtar Sözcükler:

Candida Infection

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Kandida, Orofaringeal kandidiyazis

ABSTRACT

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic appeared in Wuhan, China, and has rapidly spread around the world. Although patients followed up for Covid 19 have risk factors for opportunistic fungal infections, the literature on this issue is limited. We aimed to present the characteristics of four Covid-19 patients in whom we detected candida infection, to draw attention to this issue.

Key Words:

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Candida, Oropharyngeal candidiasis

GIRIS

Ilk olarak Çin'in Wuhan eyaletinde Aralık 2019 tarihinde saptanan ve oradan dünyaya yayılan SARS-CoV-2(Covid-19) virüsü yayılımı ve şiddeti nedeniyle küresel salgın (pandemi) olarak tanımlanmıştır. Covid-19'lu hastalarda geniş spektrumlu antibiyotik kullanımı, yoğun bakım yatışı, invaziv veya noninvaziv mekanik ventilasyon uygulanması, immünsüpresif veya kortikosteroid tedaviler gibi bir çok nedene bağlı olarak fungal enfeksiyonlar görülmekte ve bu enfeksiyonlar morbidite ve mortalitenin artmasına neden olmaktadırlar (1). Covid-19 kliniğinde bir ay içinde yatarak takip ve tedavi ettiğimiz Covid-19'lu hastalarımızdan kandida enfeksiyonu saptadığımız dört olgunun özelliklerini konuya dikkat çekmek için sunmayı planladık.

OLGULAR

Gerçek-zamanlı reverse transkripsiyon polimeraz zincir reaksiyon (rRT-PCR) testi ile SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) pozitif saptanarak, hastaneye yatışı yapılan olgular T.C Sağlık Bakanlığı Covid-19 rehberine göre tedavi edildiler (2). Ayrıca, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı Sağlık Hizmetleri

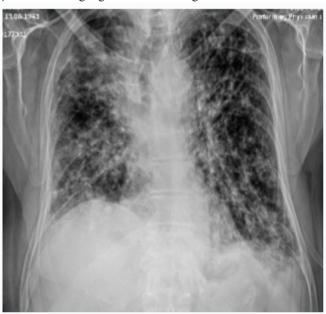
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Genel Müdürlüğü Bilimsel Araştırma Platformuna 18.1.2021 tarihinde başvurularak bu çalışmayı yapabilmek için onay alınmıştır. Olgulardan yapılacak olan prosedürler için bilgilendirilmiş onam formu alınmıştır.

Olgu 1:

Hastanemize başvurusundan bir gün önce nazofarengeal sürüntüde rRT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) testi pozitif saptanan 78 yaşında kronik obstrüktif akciğer hastalığı (KOAH), bronşektazi, ritim bozukluğu, diyabetes mellitus (DM), hipertansiyon (HT) tanıları olan hasta ateş ve nefes darlığı ile hastanemize başvurdu. Yatışındaki yüksek rezolüsyonlu bilgisayarlı tomografisinde (YRBT) yer yer buzlu cam opasiteleri, yer yer gruplaşma gösteren yaygın bronşektazik değişiklikleri mevcuttu. Favipravir, levofloksasin, deksametazon (1x6mg) uygulandı.

Nazal O2 ile takip edildi. Takibinde klinik ve laboratuar parametreleri kötüleşen, oksijen gereksinimi artan hastada hastane enfeksiyonu düşünülerek antibiyotik tedavisi piperasilin-tazobaktam olarak değiştirildi. Hastanın bu durumunda çekilen PA akciğer grafisi resim 1'de görülmektedir.



Resim 1.PA akciğer grafisinde bilateral infiltrasyon.

Hasta yüksek akımlı nazal kanül oksijen (HFNO) ile takibe başlandı. Altı gün piperasilin-tazobaktama rağmen enfeksiyon parametrelerinde gerileme olmayan hastadan balgam kültürü ve balgamda mantar kültürü gönderildi. Covid-19 pozitifliğinin on altıncı gününde balgam kültüründe Candida albicans ve Pseudomonas aeruginosa üreyen hastanın antibiyotik tedavisi amikasın, meropenem ve flukanazol olarak düzenlendi.

Bu tedavinin onuncu gününde hasta HFNO'dan ayrıldı, rezervuarlı maske ile takibe başlandı. Amikasin on güne, meropenem ve flukanazol 14 güne tamamlanarak kesildi. Hasta tüm yattığı süre boyunca toplam 778 mg metilprednizolon aldı.

Olgu 2:

Hastanemize başvurusundan altı gün önce nazofarengeal sürüntüde rRT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 pozitif saptanıp, filyasyon ekiplerince favipravir başlanan 65 yaşında DM tanılı hasta, nefes darlığı, öksürük şikayetinin artması üzerine hastanemiz acil servisine başvurmuş. Acil servise başvuru PA akciğer grafisi resim 2-b'de görülmektedir. Yoğun bakım ihtiyacının saptanması üzerine anestezi yoğun bakım ünitesine (YBÜ) yatırılmış. Hastanın yatış toraks BT'sinde her iki akciğerde tüm loblarda multifokal buzlu cam dansitesinde infiltrasyon, kaldırım taşı görünümleri mevcuttu.

Dört gün YBÜ'de nazal oksijen ile takip edilen hasta servisimize kabul edildi. YBÜ'de başlanan enoksaparin (2x0.6), piperasilin-tazobaktam (3x4,5gr) 80 mg metilprenizolon tedavisi, metilprednizolon 40 mg'a düşülerek devam edildi. Elektrokardiografide atrial fibrilasyon saptanan hasta kardiyolojiye danışılarak tedavisi düzenlendi. Takibinde genel durumu kötüleşen CRP değeri 105'ten 139'a (mg/dl), ferritin değeri 1281 (ng/dl)'den 1650'ye yükselen hastada piperasilin-tazobaktam kesilerek, ertapenem (1x1g)'e geçildi. Hastane yatışının onuncu gününde yutma güçlüğü, ses kısıklığı tarifleyen hastanın ağız içi mukozasında psödomembranöz yapılar /beyaz plaklar saptandı (Resim 2a).





Resim 2a-b: Dil üzerinde psödomembranöz plaklar ve PA akciğer grafisinde bilateral infiltrasyonlar

Dermatolojiye danışılan hastaya oral kandidiazis tanısıyla oral flukanazol ilk hafta; haftada 3 gün 200 mg 1x1, sonrasında haftada bir 200 mg 1x1 lezyonlar geçene kadar ve nistatin gargara (4x1,5 damlalık) 3 hafta kullanması önerildi. Bu tedavilerle hastanın şikayetleri geriledi. Hasta yattığı süre boyunca nazal oksijen ile takip edildi, toplamda 920 mg metilprednizolon aldı.

Olgu 3:

Hastanemize başvurusundan önce yakın temaslı olması nedeniyle karantinaya alınan ve semptom gelişmesi üzerine nazofarengeal sürüntüde rRT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 pozitif saptanan ve 5 gün favipiravir kullanan hasta; ateş ve nefes darlığının devam etmesi üzerine hastanemiz acil servisine başvurmuş, hipoksi saptanması üzerine servisimize yatırıldı. Özgeçmişinde KOAH, konjestif kalp yetmezliği, mitral kapak replasmanı ve hipertiroidi vardı. Posteroanterior (PA) akciğer grafisinde sol akciğer üst ve orta zonlarda yeni gelişen infiltrasyonlar tespit edildi. C-reaktif protein (CRP) 208 mg/L olması üzerine hastaya piperasilin-tazobaktam (3x4,5gr), deksametazon (1x6mg), tedavileri

başlandı. Hasta nazal oksijen ile takip edildi. Yatışının yedinci gününde yemek yerken dilinde ve yutma sırasında ağrısı olan hastanın muayenesinde ağız içi mukozasında psödomembranöz yapılar /beyaz plaklar tespit edildi (Resim 3).





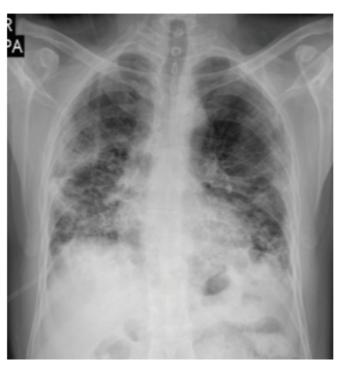
Resim 3a-b: Ağız içi mukozasında beyaz plaklar ve PA'akciğer grafisinde sol akciğer üst ve orta zonlarda infiltrasyon

Dermatolojiye danışılan hastaya oral kandidiazis tanısıyla oral flukanazol ilk hafta; haftada 3 gün 200 mg 1x1, sonrasında haftada bir 200 mg 1x1 lezyonlar geçene kadar ve nistatin gargara (4x1,5 damlalık) 3 hafta kullanması önerildi. Bu tedaviyle hastanın şikayetleri geriledi. Hasta yattığı süre boyunca toplam olarak 320 mg metilprednizolon aldı.

Olgu 4:

Nazofarengeal sürüntüde rRT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 pozitif saptanıp, filyasyon ekiplerince favipravir başlanan 58 yaşındaki erkek hasta, şikayetlerinin geçmemesi, nefes darlığının artması ve hipoksi gelişmesi üzerine dış merkezde yatarak favipravir, moksifloksasin, metilprednizolon ve enoksaparin tedavisi almıs. Genel durum bozukluğu, nefes darlığı ve hipoksi olması üzerine servisimize nakil alındı. Hastanın yatış PA akciğer grafisinde her iki akciğerde yaygın infiltrasyonlar izlendi. Piperasilin-tazobaktam (3x4,5gr), metilprednizolon (1x40mg) enoksaparin (2x0.6) başlandı.

Hastanın yatışının dokuzuncu gününde PA akciğer grafisinde infiltrasyonları devam ettiği için istenen balgam mantar kültüründe candida albicans üredi. İntravenöz flukanazol 1x200mg eklendi. İntravenöz flukanazol 3 gün, 3 günden sonra da bu tedaviye oral olarak devam edildi. Flukanazol tedavisi 14 güne tamamlanarak kesildi. Bu tedaviler ile genel durumu düzelen, balgamı kalmayan, oksijen ihtiyacı azalan hasta taburcu edildi. Hasta yattığı süre boyunca toplam olarak 420 mg metilprednizolon aldı (Resim 4).



Resim 4: PA akciğer grafisinde bilateral yaygın infiltrasyonlar.

TARTIŞMA

Bilindiği gibi lenfositler immün homeostasisin ve mikrobiyal invazyona karşı savunma cevabının sürdürülmesinde belirleyici rol oynayan hücrelerdir. Covid-19 saptanan hastalarda lenfopeninin oral kandidiyazis veya Pneumosistis Jiroveci gibi sekonder mantar enfeksiyonlarında anahtar rol oynadığı düşünülmektedir (3,4). Sunduğumuz olgularda Covid- 19' a sekonder lenfopeni mevcuttu (Tablo I).

Tablo I: Olguların sonuçları

Klinik özellikler	Olgu -1	Olgu - 2	Olgu -3	Olgu-4
Kandida saptanan yatış	16	12	7	9
günü				
Hastanede kalınan gün	33	18	9	27
sayısı				
Ko-morbidite	DM, HT,	DM, AF	KKY,	yok
	bronşektazi,		KOAH,	
	KOAH, ritm		Hipertiroidi,	
	bozukluğu		MVR	
Kullanılan antifungal	Flukanazol	Flukanazol,	Flukanazol,	Flukanazol
		Nistatin	Nistatin	
Solunumsal destek	HFNO,	Nazal oksijen	Nazal oksijen	Nazal
	Rezervuarlı			oksijen
	maske			
Laboratuar sonuçları				
Beyaz Küre	5920	20370	9220	13880
$(x10^3/\mu L)$				
Nötrofil	3630	19230	7620	13140
Lenfosit	1770	450	740	320
Eozinofil	0	0	10	0
Glukoz	390	380	130	130
AST	23	47	85	42
ALT	8	32	38	152
CRP	68	341	208	0,36
Toplam steroid dozu*	778	920	320	420

^{*}Metilprednizolon eş değeri olarak hesaplanmıştır.

Mellitus,HT:Hipertansiyon,AF:Atriyal Fibrilasyon,KOAH:Kronik Obstrüktif Akciğer Hastalığı,KKY:Konjestif Kalp Yetmezliği,MVR:Mitral Valf Replasmani, AST: Aspartat Transsminaz, ALT: Alanin Aminotransferaz, CRP: C-Reaktif Protein, HFNO: Yüksek Akımlı Nazal Oksijen

Candida albicans, sıklıkla insan vücudunun normal mikroflorasında bulunan firsatçı bir patojen olup orofarengeal kandidiazise neden olan en önemli türdür (>% 80). Bununla birlikte, C. tropicalis, C. glabrata, C. parapsilosis, C. krusei ve C. dubliniensis gibi albicans dışı türlerin de bu enfeksiyona katkıda bulunduğu bilinmektedir (5). Hastalarda lokal rahatsızlık, tat değişiklikleri, ağız içinde yanma, glossodinya, disfaji ve /veya nefes almada güçlük gibi şikayetler olabilir (6).

Olgularımızdan ikisinde disfaji ve glossodinya semptomları olması üzerine, oral kavite muayenesi ile oral kandidiyazis saptandı. Yapılan bir çalışmada hastanede yatan 1059 Covid-19'lu hastanın 53'ünde (%5) oral kandidiyazis saptandığı ve oral kandidiyazisin Covid-19 semptomları başlamasından sonra ortalama 8 gün içinde görüldüğü bildirilmiştir (6). Biz de bir ay içinde hastanede yatarak takip ettiğimiz 40 Covid-19'lu hastanın ikisin de oral mukozada eritemli pseudomembranöz beyaz plaklar saptadık. Hastaneye yatışın yedi ve onuncu günlerinde görülen bu lezyonlar oral kandidiyazis olarak değerlendirildi.

İki hastamızın ise balgam kültüründe hastane yatışının on altıncı ve dokuzuncu günlerinde candida albicans üremesi saptandı. Kan ve diğer steril vücut alanları dışındaki kültür üremeleri çoğu kez kolonizasyonu yansıtmakla beraber antifungal tedaviyle hastalarımızın klinikleri ve laboratuvar sonuçlarının düzelmesi kandida enfeksiyonunu düşündürmektedir. İnvaziv kandida enfeksiyonunu tanımlamak için bazı skorlama sistemleri (candida skoru, ostrosky klinik prediksiyon kuralı) geliştirilmişse de, bu skorlama sistemleri daha çok yoğun bakımda izlenen ve cerrahi öyküsü olan hastalar içindir. Covid-19 enfeksiyonu tüm dünya için yeni bir durum olup kandida enfeksiyonunu kolonizasyondan ayırmak için yeni skorlama sistemlerine ihtiyaç olduğunu düsünmekteyiz.

Covid-19 nedeni ile immünsüpresyon riski olan ve uzun süre hospitalize edilen hastalarda yukarıda bahsedilen semptomların sorgulanması, oral kavite muayenesi ve antibiyoterapiye rağmen enfeksiyon parametrelerinde gerileme olmayan hastalarda ise balgam kültürü alınması firsatçı enfeksiyonlara karşı morbidite ve/veya mortaliteyi azaltmada oldukça önemlidir.

Cornistein ve arkadaşlarının yaptığı çalışmada, Candida spp. izolasyonu için en önemli risk faktörleri antibiyotik tedavisi, steroid tedavisi ve yoğun bakımda takip olarak saptanmıştır (7). Bu veriler ışığında Covid-19 nedeniyle takip edilen hastaların da bu risk faktörlerine sahip olması nedeniyle kandida enfeksiyonlarına yatkın olduklarına dikkat çekmek istemekteyiz.

Hasta Onamı:

Olgulardan yapılacak olan prosedürler için bilgilendirilmiş onam formu alınmıştır.

Yazar Katkıları:

Çalışmanın konsepti ve dizaynı: DK, BBB, verilerin toplanması, yorumlanması: DK, BBB, NM, MT, makalenin yazılımı: DK, BBB, NM, MT, literatür araştırması: DK, BBB, NM, MT Kritik, gözden geçirme: DK, BBB

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CASE **REPORT** Olgu Sunumu

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Isolated Displaced Glenoid Fracture Caused by Minor Trauma: A Case Report

Minör Travmanın Neden Olduğu İzole Deplase Glenoid Fraktürü: Bir Olgu Sunumu

ABSTRACT

The glenoid is a shallow structure in the shoulder joint, facing the humeral head and located lateral to the scapula. Glenoid fossa intra-articular fractures account for only 1% of scapular fractures and are associated with high-energy trauma. An 84-year-old female patient admitted to the emergency department with the complaint of pain in her left arm and inability to move her arm as a result of falling over her shoulder from her own level. On the shoulder radiograph of the patient, a suspicious area that could be a fracture in the glenoid rim was observed. Computer tomography revealed a displaced fracture line starting from the glenoid rim and extending to the medial wall of the scapula. Velpeau bandage was applied to the patient. Elderly female patients should be carefully examined and necessary imaging should be performed, even if they are exposed to a low-energy trauma to the shoulder girdle (such as falling from one's own level). Computed tomography, which is one of the advanced imaging methods, should be applied when a suspicious image of a glenoid fracture is found on the radiography.

Key Words:

Scapular fracture, Isolated glenoid fracture, Emergency department, Minor trauma

ÖZ

Glenoid, omuz ekleminde humerus başına bakan ve skapulanın lateralinde yer alan sığ bir yapıdır. Glenoid fossa eklem içi kırıkları, skapular kırıkların sadece %1'ini oluşturur ve yüksek enerjili travma ile ilişkilidir. Kendi seviyesinden omzunun üzerine düşmesi sonucu sol kolunda ağrı ve kolunu hareket ettirememe şikayeti ile 84 yaşında kadın hasta acil servise başvurdu. Hastanın omuz grafisinde glenoid rimde kırık olabilecek şüpheli bir alan izlendi. Bilgisayarlı tomografide glenoid kenardan başlayan ve skapula medial duvarına uzanan deplase bir kırık hattı izlendi. Hastaya Velpeau bandajı uygulandı. Yaşlı kadın hastalar, omuz kuşağına düşük enerjili bir travmaya (kendi seviyesinden düşme gibi) maruz kalsalar dahi dikkatle muayene edilmeli ve gerekli görüntüleme yapılmalıdır. Gelişmiş görüntüleme yöntemlerinden biri olan bilgisayarlı tomografi, radyografide süpheli glenoid kırığı görüntüsü bulunduğunda uygulanmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Skapula fraktürü, İzole glenoid fraktürü, Acil servis, Minör travma

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INTRODUCTION

The glenoid is a shallow structure in the shoulder joint, facing the humeral head and located lateral to the scapula. The gleno-humeral joint is a complex joint with low stability. The shoulder ligaments and rotator cuff muscles provide most of the joint stabilization (1). Fractures of the scapula are rare and occur in less than 1% of all fractures and only 3% to 5% of shoulder girdle injuries (2). Glenoid fossa intra-articular fractures account for only 1% of scapular fractures and are associated with high-energy trauma (3).

Since the scapula is surrounded and protected by thick skeletal muscles, it is very difficult to damage. Scapular fractures, including the glenoid, occur secondary to high-impact blunt trauma and are generally associated with injuries to other anatomical adjacent structures (4). Fractures caused by low-energy trauma are only seen in anterior shoulder dislocations associated with glenoid rim and avulsion fractures (2).

Cases of scapula fractures occurring with various mechanisms have been reported before. In this article, we present a case of isolated glenoid fracture caused by a minor trauma such as falling from one's own level.

CASE REPORT

An 84-year-old female patient admitted to the emergency department with the complaint of pain in her left arm and inability to move her arm as a result of falling over her shoulder from her own level. On physical examination, the patient could not actively abduct, turn her shoulder inward or outward, and he felt severe pain when these movements were passively performed. The patient's peripheral pulses were intact and equal. The patient's sensory examination was normal. It was observed that there was no loss of flexion and extension strength at the wrist and metacarpophalangeal joint level of the patient.

On the shoulder radiograph of the patient, a suspicious area that could be a fracture in the glenoid rim was observed (Figure 1).

Then, joint computed tomography (CT) was performed on the patient. CT revealed a displaced fracture line starting from the glenoid rim and extending to the medial wall of the scapula (Figure 2-3).

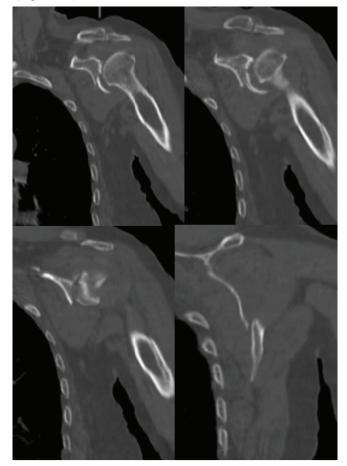


Figure 2: Joint CT coronal section: Displaced glenoid fracture.



Figure 1: Shoulder radiograph: black arrow points to suspected fracture of glenoid rim.

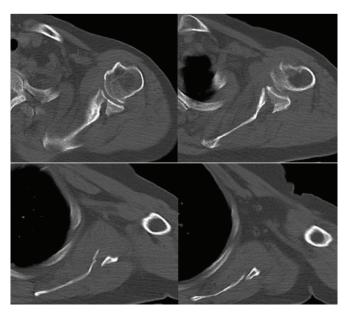


Figure 3: Joint CT horizontal section: Displaced glenoid fracture scapula extends to medial edge.

The patient was consulted to the orthopedic surgeon. Velpeau bandage was applied to the patient. The patient was given analgesic treatment. Orthopedic outpatient control was recommended to the patient.

DISCUSSION

A patient with a fracture of the scapula usually complains of pain and limitation of shoulder motion. Swelling and hematoma formation in scapula fractures may be mild due to closed fascial spaces. For this reason, the shoulder should be carefully examined in order not to miss the scapula fracture (5). Although our patient had similar complaints, there was no hematoma or swelling. Therefore, we resorted to radiological imaging methods. X-ray helps reveal glenoid fractures. However, if intra-articular involvement or severe displacement is suspected, use of computed tomography (CT) is recommended, as it aids in fracture classification and subsequent surgical decision (6). Fractures of the scapula can first be divided into intra-articular and extra-articular fractures. Classification for intra-articular glenoid fractures created by Ideberg after a retrospective study is shown in Table I (7).

Table I: Ideberg classification of glenoid fossa fractures

Type Ia	Anterior rim fracture Severe comminution
Type Ib	Posterior rim fracture
Type II	Fracture line through glenoid fossa exiting scapula laterally
Type III	Fracture line through glenoid fossa exiting scapula superiorly
Type VI	Fracture line through glenoid fossa exiting scapula medially
Type Va	Combination of types II and IV
Type Vb	Combination of types III and IV
Type Vc	Combination of types II, III, and IV
Type VI	Severe comminution

According to this classification, our patient's fracture is type 4 fracture. The results of this study showed that female patients with type 4 glenoid fractures had a mean age of 66 years and no other skeletal damage was found in this type of fracture. The age of the patient in our case is above this average. In addition, the occurrence of isolated glenoid fracture in our patient is also consistent with the literature.

It paves the way for fractures that can occur with such a minor trauma in osteoporotic conditions in elderly female patients. As a result of one study, 1/3 of elderly patients with fractures after minor trauma were subsequently diagnosed with osteoporosis (8). Our patient should be investigated in terms of osteoporosis after fracture treatment. More studies should be conducted for shoulder girdle fractures, especially isolated fractures, in the geriatric population, where they are vulnerable to injury by minor trauma.

CONCLUSION

Elderly female patients should be carefully examined and necessary imaging should be performed, even if they are exposed to a low-energy trauma to the shoulder girdle (such as falling from one's own level). Computed tomography, which is one of the advanced imaging methods, should be applied when a suspicious image of a glenoid fracture is found on the radiography.

Informed Consent:

All the participants' rights were protected and written informed consents were obtained before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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OLGU SUNUMU Case Report

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Cinsiyet Değişikliğinin Adli Tıp Açısından Değerlendirilmesi: Dört Olgu Sunumu

Evaluation of Gender Change in Terms of Forensic Medicine: Four Case Reports

ÖZ

Kişinin sahip olduğu biyolojik cinsiyeti ile cinsel eylemleri ve tercihlerinin uyumlu olmaması halinde çeşitli sorunlar ortaya çıkmaktadır. DSM-5'te, "cinsel kimlik uyumsuzluğu" veya "cinsiyet hoşnutsuzluğu" olarak ifade edilen tıbbi tanı; kişinin en az 6 ay süre ile deneyimlediği/ifade ettiği cinsel kimliğiyle, doğumda belirlenen cinsiyeti arasında açık bir uyumsuzluk olmasıdır. Kişilerin yaşamış olduğu bu uyumsuzluk ve çatışma "transseksüalite" olarak da adlandırılmaktadır.

Ülkemizde, 4721 sayılı Türk Medeni Kanunu'nun 40. maddesinde cinsiyet değişikliği ile ilgili düzenleme yapılmıştır. Bu çalışmada, Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza adli makamlar vasıtasıyla cinsiyet değişikliği açısından gönderilen 4 olgu sunulacak olup ilgili kanunun eksiklerinin tartışılması amaçlanmıştır.

Cinsiyet değişikliği süreci uzun bir hazırlık dönemi gerektiren, son derece zorlu ve karmaşık tıbbi müdahaleleri içinde barındıran, bu nedenle kişinin tam olarak aydınlatılmasını ve onamını gerektiren, büyük oranda geri dönüşümsüz bir süreçtir. Hukuki süreci başlatabilmek için gereken asgari şartlar, hormon tedavisine hangi aşamada başlanması gerektiği ve tedavinin ne kadar süreceği, mahkemeden herhangi bir izin almadan gerçekleşen cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatının hukuki akıbetinin ne olacağı, resmi bir sağlık kuruluna başvurarak "cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarının usulüne uygun olarak yapıldığını ve sonuçlandığını" belirten rapordaki ameliyatlardan nelerin kast edildiği, bu husustaki tartışmalı konulardandır. Türk Medeni Kanunu'nda yer alan cinsiyet değiştirme ile ilgili madde oldukça ayrıntılı olmakla birlikte uygulamada yaşanılan güçlüklerle ilgili tıp ve hukuk mensubu üyelerin işbirliği ile oluşacak yeni bir ek düzenlemeye ihtiyaç duyulduğu açıktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Cinsiyet değişikliği, Transseksüalite, Adli tıp

ABSTRACT

Problems arise if the individual's biological sex is incompatible with his or her sexual actions and preferences. In the DSM-5, medical diagnosis, referred to as "gender identity dissonance" or "gender discontent" indicates a mismatch between the sexual identity that an individual experiences/expresses for at least six months and the gender determined at birth. This disharmony and conflict experienced by individuals is also called "transsexuality". This study therefore aims at discussing the deficiencies of Article 40 of Turkish Civil Code No. 4721 based on case reports. This study presents four cases in terms of gender reassignment submitted to our department.

Gender reassignment process is an irreversible process that requires a period of preparation, involves extremely challenging and complex medical interventions, and therefore requires clarification of the individual. Among controversial issues are the minimum requirements for initiating

the legal process, at what stage hormone therapy should begin and the duration of the treatment, the legal consequence of gender reassignment surgery conducted without court authorization, clarification about the surgeries in the report stating the "duly performance and conclusion of gender reassignment surgeries" by applying to an official health committee. Although the article on gender reassignment in Turkish Civil Code is quite detailed, it seems clear that there is a need for a new additional regulation to be formed in collaboration with the members of medicine and law regarding the challenges in practice.

Key Words:

Gender reassignment, Transsexuality, Forensic medicine

GİRİŞ

Cinsiyet, erkek ve kadın arasındaki biyolojik farklılığı, cinsiyet değiştirme ise bir kadının erkeğe, erkeğin ise kadına dönüşmesine imkân tanıyan tıbbi müdahaleleri ifade etmek için kullanılan kavramlardır (1). Cinsel kimlik, cinsiyet değiştirme kavramı ile yakın ilişki içinde olan bir diğer kavramdır. Cinsel kimlik; biyolojik cinsiyet, cinsellik ve cinsel tercih (cinsel yönelim) unsurlarından oluşmaktadır (2). Biyolojik cinsiyet, bir kişinin erkek veya kadın olarak doğmasıdır. Cinsellik, kişinin cinsiyetine bağlı olarak gelişen, hukuki ve sosyal boyutları olan ve aktif davranışlarla gerçekleştirilen eylemlerdir (3). Cinsel tercih (yönelim) ise, bireyin cinselliği veya erotik ve romantik ilgilerini herhangi bir cinsiyete yönlendirmesi ya da herhangi bir cinsiyet tarafından cinsel olarak uyarılmasıdır (4,5). Kişinin, sahip olduğu biyolojik cinsiyeti ile cinsel eylemleri ve tercihlerinin uyumlu olmaması halinde çeşitli problemler ortaya çıkmaktadır. DSM-5'te, "cinsel kimlik uyumsuzluğu" veya "cinsiyet hoşnutsuzluğu" olarak ifade edilen tıbbi tanı; kişinin en az 6 ay süre ile deneyimlediği/ifade ettiği cinsel kimliğiyle, doğumda belirlenen cinsiyeti arasında açık bir uyumsuzluk olmasıdır (6,7). Kişilerin yaşamış olduğu bu uyumsuzluk ve çatışma "transseksüalite" olarak da adlandırılmaktadır (4,8,9).

Ülkemizde Cinsiyet Değişikliğinin Hukuki Boyutu

Cinsiyet Değişikliği İzni İçin Başvuracak Kişide Gerekli Şartlar

Cinsiyet değiştirme, kadının erkeğe veya erkeğin kadına dönüştürülmesini sağlayan tıbbi ve hukuki işlemlere verilen isimdir. Ülkemizde, cinsiyet değiştirmeyle ilgili yasal düzenleme 4721 sayılı Türk Medeni Kanunu (TMK)'nun 40. maddesinde yer almaktadır. Bu madde; cinsiyet değişikliğine izin verilmesi ile ilgili dava konusu ve cinsiyetin nüfus kütüğünde nasıl değiştirileceği şeklinde ikiye ayrılmıştır (4). Bu bölümde, cinsiyet değiştirme izni için aranan başvuru şartları detaylarıyla açıklanacaktır.

1. Türk Medeni Kanunu'na göre izin için başvuracak kişi şahsen başvuruda bulunmalıdır. Kişiler akrabaları, arkadaşları veya yasal temsilcileri aracılığıyla başvuruda bulunamayacaktır. Yargıtay Hukuk Genel Kurulunun 25.12.2013 tarih, 2013/18-464 Esas-2013/1698 Karar sayılı ilamında, kişilerin ikamet adresinin bulunduğu bölgedeki Asliye Hukuk Mahkem-

esine bizzat başvurarak "cinsiyet değişikliğine izin davası" açabileceği, belirtilmiştir (1,4).

- 2. Cinsiyet değiştirmek isteyen kişi reşit olmak, yani 18 yaşını doldurmuş olmak zorundadır. Ayrıca, kanun hükmünde belirtilmese de kişiler, ayırt etme gücünün varlığına sahip olmalıdır (10). Tam ehliyetsizlilerin, ayırt etme gücünün varlığı tamamıyla yok olduğundan, cinsiyet değiştirme sürecini başlatmaları mümkün gözükmemektedir.
- 3. Kişi, başvurduğu tarihte evli olmamalıdır. Burada amaç, evlilik devam ederken kişinin cinsiyet değişikliğine gitmesi durumunda ailevi yapıda oluşabilecek sosyal, psikolojik ve hukuki sorunların önüne geçmek olarak düşünülebilir. Diğer yandan kişilerin başvuru tarihinden önce evli veya çocuk sahibi olması ise mahkemeye başvurmasına engel nitelikte değildir (10).
- 4. Kişi, transseksüel yapıda olmalıdır. Transseksüalite, kişilerin hissettiği cinsel kimlik ile biyolojik cinsiyeti arasındaki uyumsuzluk olarak tanımlanmaktadır (4,8,9). Transseksüel yapıdaki kişiler sahip olduğu cinsiyeti reddederek diğer cinsiyetin özelliklerini benimsemektedir (11). Bu alanda, transvesti kavramını açıklamak isteriz. Transvesti, cinsel haz alma amacıyla, karşı cins gibi giyinme ve davranma isteğinde bulunan bireylere verilen isimdir. Bu bireyler, bedenlerinden (cinsiyetinden) hoşnutsuz değildir ve bu farklılık ile transseksüel bireylerden ayrılmaktadır (12).
- 5. Kişiler, yasal mevzuata göre bir Üniversite ya da Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesinden "kişinin transseksüel yapıda olduğunu ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu bulunduğunu gösteren" resmi sağlık kurulu raporunu almalıdır. İçerisinde Ruh Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları, Üroloji, Kadın Hastalıkları ve Doğum, Plastik, Rekonstrüktif ve Estetik Cerrahi, Adli Tıp ve Endokrinoloji uzmanlarının bulanabileceği bir kurul tarafından kişiler mevcut tıbbi bulgular ve kişisel faktörlere göre 6 ay-2 yıl arası süre boyunca, aralıklı takiplerle izlenerek bu raporları alabilmektedir (4). Sağlık kurulu niteliği taşımayan, belirtilen hastaneler dışındaki yerlerden alınan ve tek bir hekimin imzası bulunan raporlar bu kapsamda değerlendirilmemektedir (13). Sağlık kurulunda bulunan hekimlerde, bireyin cinsiyet değişikliği süreci hakkında yeterince aydınlandığına ve bu aydınlanmaya rıza gösterdiğine dair yeterli kanaat oluşmalıdır (1).
- 20 Mart 2018 tarih ve 30366 sayılı Resmî Gazete'de yayımlanan, 29 Kasım 2017 T. 2017/130 Esas ve 2017/165 Karar sayılı Anayasa Mahkemesi kararı ile kanun maddesinde daha önceden yer alan ve izin için gerekli şartlardan biri olan "üreme yeteneğinden sürekli biçimde yoksun bulunması" ibaresi kaldırılmıştır (14).

Hormon Kullanımı ve Cinsiyet Değiştirme Ameliyatları

Her ne kadar kanun hükmünde hormon kullanımının ne zaman başlaması gerektiği belirtilmese de, psikolojik gözlemin yeterli seviyeye geldiğine kanaat edilmesi halinde, kişilerin hormon terapisi için Endokrinoloji uzmanına sevk edilmesi en uygun yaklaşım olacaktır. Hormonların doktor kontrolünde verilmesi

önem arz etmektedir. Aksi durumda, hatalı kullanıma bağlı organların fizyolojik işlevlerinde geri dönüşü zor olabilen ciddi zararlar meydana gelebilecektir (9). Mevcut şartları taşıyan ve bu durumu belgeleyen kişiler, mahkemenin izni doğrultusunda tıbbi yöntemlere uygun cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatlarını olabilecektir (13). Cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatları büyük oranda geri dönüşü olmayan, birtakım riskleri içinde barındıran, karmaşık ve zahmetli işlemlerdir. Bu ameliyatları gerçekleştirecek uzman hekimler yeterli olanaklara sahip olmalı ve kişilerin anatomik yapısı, endokrinolojik durumu, psikiyatrik değerlendirmeleri, takip ve tedavilerini göz önünde bulundurmalıdır. Her türlü tıbbi müdahaleden önce kişilerden mutlaka aydınlatılmış onam alınmalıdır (1,4.8).

Cinsiyet Değiştirme Ameliyatlarından Sonra Yapılacaklar

Kanunda yer aldığı şekliyle, tüm ameliyat ve tedavilerini bitirdikten sonra kişiler, resmi bir sağlık kuruluşuna bir daha başvurarak durumunun belgelenmesini ister. Bu raporda, "cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarının usulüne uygun olarak yapıldığı ve sonuçlandığı" belirtilmelidir. Kanunda, cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarından hangisi ya da hangilerinin yapılması durumunda, ameliyat sürecinin sonuçlanacağından ise bahsedilmemiştir. Kişiler bu raporu mahkemeye sunduklarında, mahkeme tarafından nüfus kaydının düzeltilerek cinsiyet değişikliğinin nüfus siciline işlenebileceğine karar verilebilmektedir (4,10).

OLGU SUNUMLARI

Çalışmamızda, Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza adli makamlar vasıtasıyla cinsiyet değişikliği açısından gönderilen 4 olgu sunulacaktır. Kişilerin kimlik bilgilerine yer verilmemekle birlikte, kişilerden sözlü ve yazılı olarak aydınlatılmış onam alınmıştır. Onam kapsamında, kişisel bilgilerin gizliliği çerçevesinde bilimsel çalışma için izin verdiklerine dair onam da yer almaktadır.

Olgu 1

Yirmi altı yaşında, kadından erkeğe cinsiyet değişikliği için adli makamlarca tarafımıza yönlendirilen olgunun 2022 yılı Ocak ayı içerisinde alınan öyküsünde; çocukluk döneminde erkek oyuncakları ile oynadığı, ilkokul-ortaokul dönemlerinde erkek gibi hissettiği, ergenlik döneminde kadınlardan hoşlandığını fark ettiği, üniversiteyi bitirdikten sonra 2019 yılında (23 yaşında) cinsiyet değişikliği amacıyla hukuki süreci başlattığı, hukuki süreç başladıktan sonra transseksüel yapıda olduğunu ailesiyle paylaştığı ve ailesinin tepkisel yaklaşmadığı, 2020 yılında (24 yaşında) mastektomi ameliyatı olduğu, aynı yıl içerisinde bir üniversite hastanesi psikiyatri bölümünde 6 aylık takibinin yapıldığı ve takipleri sonucu düzenlenen raporla mahkeme tarafından cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatlarına izin verildiği, daha önce hormon kullanımı olmayıp mahkemenin cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatları olma hususundaki izin kararından sonra hormon kullanmaya başladığı ve 11 aydır devam ettiği, bu zamana kadar herhangi bir erkek partnerinin olmadığı, kişinin nüfus kaydının düzeltilerek cinsiyet değişliğinin nüfus siciline işlenebilmesi amacıyla ameliyatlarını tamamlama sürecinde olduğu, son olarak 04.01.2022 tarihinde laparoskopik histerektomi ve salpingoooferektomi ameliyatını olduğu anlaşılmaktadır.

Fizik Muayene ve Psikiyatrik Değerlendirme

Yüz elli sekiz cm boyunda, 56 kg ağırlığında, siyah kısa saçlı olduğu, erkek tipi kıllanmanın (sakal) çenede oluşmaya başladığı, meme dokusunun bulunmadığı, ses tonunun erkeksi, mimik, davranış ve hareketlerinin erkek özellikleriyle uyumlu olduğu, laporoskopik histerektomi ve salpingo-ooferektomi ameliyatı nedeniyle batın bölgesinde ameliyat kesi yerlerinin bandajla kapatıldığının görüldüğü, genital muayenesinde; kişi genital cerrahi ameliyatını henüz olmadığını ve genital organının kadın görünümünde olduğunu belirtmiş olup genital muayeneyi kabul etmediği, anlaşılmıştır.

Kişinin Adli Tıp Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza başvurduğu ve transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığı ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olup olmadığının tespiti için psikiyatriye sevk edildiği, yapılan psikiyatrik muayenesinde; psikotik/nevrotik bulgu saptanmadığı, psikiyatrik ilaç raporu bulunmadığı ve daha önce psikiyatri başvurusu olmadığı, genel görünümünün sosyoekonomik durumu ile uyumlu bulunduğu, konuşma hızı, ritmi, miktarının normal, düşünce yapısı ve belleğin olağan olduğu, aktif suisidal/homisidal düşünce ve planı olmadığı, 6 aylık takibi sonucu kişinin transseksüel yapıda ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olduğuna karar verildiği, anlaşılmıştır.

Olgu 2

Otuz bir yaşında, erkekten kadına cinsiyet değişikliği için adli makamlarca tarafımıza yönlendirilen olgunun, 2021 yılı Aralık ayı içerisinde alınan öyküsünde; çocukluk döneminde kendini kız gibi hissettiği ve saçlarının kıvırcık ve uzun olduğu, ergenlik döneminde erkeklerden hoşlandığı ve erkekler ile sosyal iletişiminde kendini daha rahat hissettiği, kendini kadın cinsiyetinde hissettiğini fark ettiği andan itibaren ailesinden uzaklaştığı, 2011-2013 yılları arasında (21-23 yaşları) doktor kontrolü olmadan eczaneden kendi imkânlarıyla temin ederek hormon kullanımına başladığı, 2012 yılında (22 yaşında) mamoplasti, 2013 yılında (23 yaşında) rinoplasti, 2016 yılında (26 yaşında) tekrar mamoplasti ameliyatlarını olduğu, 2019 yılında (29 yaşında) cinsiyet ve kimlik değişimi için resmi işlemleri başlattığı, 2020 yılında (30 yaşında) psikiyatri tarafından takibe alındığı ve bu süreci tamamladığı, aynı yıl ses değişikliği ameliyatı olduğu, 2021 yılı yaz aylarında (31 yaşında) sürecin uzaması nedeniyle vakın arkadasının önerisiyle cinsiyet değisikliği ameliyatlarını olmak için yurtdışına gittiği ve 1 ay boyunca kaldığı, orada kendisiyle bir kez psikiyatrik görüşme yapıldığı ve bu görüşme sonucu herhangi bir hukuksal süreç olmaksızın özel bir hastanede genital cerrahi (penektomi, orşiektomi, vajinoplasti, klitoroplasti ve vulvoplasti) ameliyatları yapıldığı, yaklaşık 2 aydır (Kasım 2021'den itibaren) doktor kontrolünde hormon ilacı (oral estradiol) ve ismini hatırlamadığı vaginal krem kullandığı, bu zamana kadar herhangi bir kadın partneri olmadığı, cinsiyet ve kimlik değişimi sürecinin tamamlandığı, anlaşılmıştır.

Fizik Muayene ve Psikiyatrik Değerlendirme

Yüz yetmiş beş cm boyunda, 90 kg ağırlığında, kahverengi uzun saçlı, yüz görünümü, mimik, davranış ve hareketlerinin kadın özellikleri ile uyumlu, ses tonunun kadınsı olduğunun görüldüğü, genital muayenede; vajen açıklığının doğal olduğu, penis bulun-

madığı, testislerin palpe edilemediği, anlaşılmıştır. Kişinin Adli Tıp Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza başvurduğu ve transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığı ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olup olmadığının tespiti için psikiyatriye sevk edildiği, yapılan psikiyatrik muayenesinde; psikotik/nevrotik bulgu saptanmadığı, psikiyatrik ilaç raporu bulunmadığı ve daha önce psikiyatri başvurusu olmadığı, genel görünümünün sosyoekonomik durumu ile uyumlu bulunduğu, konuşma hızı, ritmi, miktarının normal, düşünce yapısı ve belleğin olağan olduğu, aktif suisidal/homisidal düşünce ve planı olmadığı, 6 aylık takibi sonucu kişinin transseksüel yapıda ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olduğuna karar verildiği, anlaşılmıştır.

Olgu 3

Yirmi altı yaşında, kadından erkeğe cinsiyet değişikliği için adli makamlarca tarafımıza yönlendirilen olgunun, 2022 yılı Ocak ayı içerisinde alınan öyküsünde; çocukluk döneminde erkek oyuncakları ile oynadığı, küçük yaşlardan itibaren kendini erkek gibi hissettiği, ergenlik döneminde futbol ile ilgilendiği, 2020 yılında (24 yaşında) ailesine transseksüel yapıda olduğunu söylediği, ailesinin bu durumun farkında olduğunu belirttiği, anneannesi haricindeki aile bireylerinin tepkisel yaklaşmadığı, hukuki süreci de bu dönemde başlattığı, kimliğini özellikle üniversite diploması aşamasında sorun yaşamamak için değiştirmek istediği, psikiyatrik takibi sonrası 2021 yılında (25 yaşında) aldığı raporla mahkeme tarafından cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatları olmasına izin verildiği, aynı yıl içerisinde histerektomi ve salpingo-ooferektomi ameliyatlarını olduğu, mastektomi, ses tonu değişimi ve estetik amaçlı ameliyatlarını henüz olmadığı, penil protez ameliyatını düşünmediği (Türkiye'de olmak istemediği), hormon kullanmadığı, bir erkekle duygusal veya cinsel birliktelik yaşamadığı, muayene itibariyle hukuki sürecin tamamıyla bittiği, kimlik değişimi sürecini tamamladığı ve kimliğinin iki hafta sonra verileceği, cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarını tamamlayacağını belirttiği, anlaşılmıştır.

Fizik Muayene ve Psikiyatrik Değerlendirme

Yüz altmış sekiz cm boyunda, 66 kg ağırlığında, siyah kısa saçlı olduğu, erkek tipi kıllanma görülmediği, küçük meme yapısına sahip olduğu, mimik, davranış ve hareketlerinin erkek özellikleriyle uyumlu olduğunun görüldüğü, genital muayenesinde; dış genital organların kadın görünümünde olduğu, ameliyat yerinin temiz olduğu, anlaşılmıştır.

Kişinin Adli Tıp Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza başvurduğu ve transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığı ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olup olmadığının tespiti için psikiyatriye sevk edildiği, yapılan psikiyatrik muayenesinde; psikotik/nevrotik bulgu saptanmadığı, psikiyatrik ilaç raporu bulunmadığı ve daha önce psikiyatri başvurusu olmadığı, genel görünümünün sosyoekonomik durumu ile uyumlu bulunduğu, konuşma hızı, ritmi, miktarının normal, düşünce yapısı ve belleğin olağan olduğu, aktif suisidal/homisidal düşünce ve planı bulunmadığı, 6 aylık takibi sonucu kişinin transseksüel yapıda ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olduğuna karar verildiği, anlasılmıştır.

Olgu 4

Kırk sekiz yaşında, erkekten kadına cinsiyet değişikliği için adli makamlarca tarafımıza yönlendirilen olgunun, 2022 yılı Ocak ayı içerisinde alınan öyküsünde; çocukluk döneminde oyuncak bebeklerle oynadığı, temizlik ve yemek yapmayı sevdiği, annesinin kıyafetlerini giydiği, ergenlik döneminde erkeklerden hoşlandığını fark ettiği, ergenlikte meme gelişiminin olduğu, vücudunda erkek tipi kıllanma olmadığı, 1996 yılında (22 yaşında) cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatlarını olabilmek için bir hastaneye başvurduğu, o dönemde cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarını olabilmek için hukuki süreç gerekmediğini, farklı branşlardan hekimler tarafından verilen heyet raporu ile bu ameliyatların yapılabilmesinin mümkün olduğunu belirttiği ve aldığı rapor ile 1996 yılında (22 yasında) genital cerrahi (penektomi, orsiektomi, vajinoplasti, klitoroplasti ve vulvoplasti) ameliyatlarını olduğu, meme gelişimi olduğundan meme ameliyatı olmadığı, genital cerrahi ameliyatları sonrası doktor kontrolünde 1 sene boyunca (22-23 yaş) hormon tedavisi aldığı, 2001 yılında (27 yaşında) ailesine süreçten bahsettiği fakat ailesinin transseksüel yapıda olduğunu çocukluğundan beri tahmin ettiğinden ve bu ameliyatları olduğunu da anladığından tepkisel yaklaşmadığı, 2005 yılında (31 yaşında) nüfus kaydının düzeltilerek cinsiyet değişliğinin nüfus siciline işlenebilmesi amacıyla mahkemeye başvuruda bulunduğu fakat yurtdışına gitmesi ve bir süre orada vasaması nedeniyle sürece devam edemediği, herhangi bir kadın partneri olmadığı, kişinin nüfus kaydının düzeltilerek cinsiyet değişliğinin nüfus siciline işlenebilmesi amacıyla mahkemeye başvuruda bulunduğu ve tarafımıza yönlendirildiği, anlaşılmıştır.

Fizik Muayene ve Psikiyatrik Değerlendirme

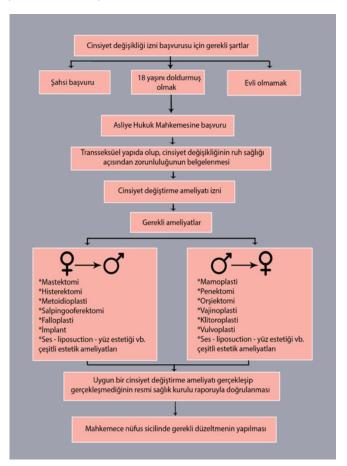
Yüz yetmiş iki cm boyunda, 75 kg ağırlığında olduğu, saçlarının uzun ve sarı, meme yapısı, yüz görünümü, mimik, davranış ile hareketlerinin kadın özellikleri ile uyumlu izlendiği, ses tonunun erkeğe göre ince, kadına göre biraz kalın olduğunun görüldüğü, dış genital muayenede; testis ve penis izlenmediği, vulva ve vajenin doğal izlendiği anlaşılmıştır.

Kişinin Adli Tıp Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığımıza başvurduğu ve transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığı ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olup olmadığının tespiti için psikiyatriye sevk edildiği, yapılan psikiyatrik muayenesinde; psikotik/nevrotik bulgu saptanmadığı, psikiyatrik ilaç raporu bulunmadığı, genel görünümünün sosyoekonomik durumu ile uyumlu bulunduğu, konuşma hızı, ritmi, miktarının normal, düşünce yapısı ve belleğin olağan olduğu, aktif suisidal/homisidal düşünce veya planı olmadığı, 01.02.2022 tarihindeki muayenesi itibariyle 6 aylık takibe alındığı, anlaşılmıştır.

TARTIŞMA

Ülkemizde cinsiyet değişimi için adli makamlara başvuran birey sayısı gün geçtikçe artmaktadır (15). Cinsiyet değişikliği süreci uzun bir hazırlık dönemi gerektiren, son derece zorlu ve karmaşık tıbbi müdahaleleri içinde barındıran, bu nedenle kişinin tam olarak aydınlatılmasını ve onamını gerektiren, büyük oranda geri dönüşümsüz bir süreçtir. Ülkemizde, 4721 sayılı TMK'nın madde (m.) 40 hükmü ile cinsiyet değişikliği ile ilgili düzenleme yapılmıştır. Yürürlükte olan TMK m. 40 hükmü, konuyu genel hatlarıyla düzenlemiş olup çalışmamızda kanun maddesinin

yetersiz kaldığı konular tartışılacak ve çözüm önerileri sunulacaktır. TMK m. 40'a göre cinsiyet değiştirme sürecinin aşamaları Şekil 1'de verilmiştir.



Şekil 1: TMK madde 40'a göre cinsiyet değiştirme süreci aşamaları

Kanunda, kişilerin transseksüel yapıda olup cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olduğunu bir Üniversite ya da Eğitim ve Arastırma Hastanesinden aldıkları resmi sağlık kurulu raporuyla belgelemesi gerektiği, düzenlenmiştir. Ancak raporu verecek kurulun kaç hekimden ve hangi uzmanlık dallarından oluşacağı düzenlenmemiştir. Bu konuda hâkime tanınan takdir hakkı farklı uygulamaların ortaya çıkmasına neden olmaktadır. Kanunun ilgili maddesinde, hormon tedavisine ne zaman başlanması gerektiği, tedavinin nasıl ilerleyeceği ve ne kadar süreceği hususları düzenlenmemiştir. Çalışmamızdaki olgularda hormon kullanımı ve zamanları arasında farklılıklar görülmektedir. Olgu 1'in cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatları olmak için aldığı mahkeme izin kararından sonra doktor kontrolünde, olgu 2'nin hukuki süreci başlatmasından yaklaşık 7 yıl önce doktor kontrolü olmadan arkadaşlarının önerisiyle eczaneden kendi imkânlarıyla temin ederek, olgu 4'ün ise genital bölge ameliyatlarından sonra 1 sene boyunca doktor kontrolünde hormon kullandıkları görülmüştür. Olgu 3'ün ise, cinsiyet ve kimlik değişimi hukuki sürecinin tamamlandığı halde henüz hormon kullanmadığı anlaşılmıştır. Keskin ve ark.'ları psikososyal değerlendirme yapıldıktan sonra, tibbi ve ruhsal bir kontrendikasyon yoksa hormon tedavisine başlanabileceğini, belirtmiştir (16). Harry Benjamin Uluslararası Cinsiyet Disforisi Derneği'nin 2001

yılında yayınlanan 6. versiyonunda "cinsiyet kimliği bozukluğu" tanısı konulduktan sonra, hormon tedavisine başlanmadan önce 3 aylık, cerrahi öncesi de 12 aylık kesintisiz tam zamanlı gerçek yaşam deneyimi uygulanması; 2012 yılında yayınlanan 7. versiyonunda ise bu ölçüt yerine sadece metoidoplasti veya falloplasti/vajinoplasti ameliyatları öncesi hormon tedavisi ile birlikte 12 aylık cinsel kimlikle uyumlu cinsel rolde yaşanması ölçütü getirilmiştir (17-19).

Çalışmamızda yurtdışına giderek cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarını olan olgu 2'de görülen, mahkemeden herhangi bir izin almadan gerçekleşen cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatının hukuki akıbetinin ne olacağı, farklı bir ülkede ameliyat olan birevin cinsiyetinin nüfus kütüğünde değiştirilmesini talep ettiğinde mahkemece nasıl bir yol izlenmesi gerektiği hususları günümüzde halen tartışılmaktadır. Türk Medeni Kanunu'na cinsiyet değişikliği kavramı girmeden önce, Yargıtay tarafından verilen kararlarda, bir şekilde cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatı geçiren kişinin nüfus sicilinde farklı görünen cinsiyetinin değiştirilmesi kabul edilmemiş, ancak tedavi amaçlı ve diğer amaçlarla cinsiyet değişikliği ameliyatlarının birbirinden ayrılması gerektiği, bildirilmiştir (20). 12.05.1988 tarihinde 3444 sayılı Kanun ile eklenen madde ile cinsiyet değişikliği Türk Hukuku'na girmistir. Yapılan düzenlemede, doğumdan sonra meydana gelen cinsiyet değişikliğinin asgarî sağlık kurulu raporu ile belgelendirilmesi hâlinde, nüfus sicilinde gerekli düzeltmenin yapılacağı belirtilmiş olup cinsiyet değişikliğinin hangi şartlarda ve hangi amaçlarla yapılacağı ise düzenlenmemiştir. Bu durum, cinsiyet değişikliğinin hiçbir ön şarta bağlanmamasına ve kişinin keyfine göre yaptıracağı cinsiyet değişikliklerine de izin verilmesine neden olmuş, mahkemeleri onay makamı hâline getirmiştir (13). TMK'nın yürürlüğe girmesinden sonra, izin kararı almadan cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatı geçiren ve nüfus kaydındaki cinsiyetini ve adını değiştirmek isteyen kişi tarafından açılan davada verel mahkemece verilen kararın temviz incelemesini yapan Yargıtay, talebin esasen TMK madde 40/fıkra I hükmü gereğince cinsiyet değişikliğine izin istemini de içerdiğini belirterek, davacının transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığının, cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu bulunup bulunmadığının bir Üniversite veya Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesinden alınacak raporla saptanmasından sonra izin isteği konusunda bir karar verilmesi gerektiğine işaret etmiştir (21). Doktrinde savunulan farklı bir görüşe göre, izin almaksızın ameliyat geçiren kişilerin başvuruları üzerine TMK madde 40/fikra I hükmünde aranılan şartların varlığı saptandığında, nüfus sicilinde gerekli düzeltmenin vapılmasına karar verilmesinin uygun olacağıdır (22). Kanunda yer aldığı şekliyle tüm ameliyat ve tedavilerini bitirdikten sonra kişiler, resmi bir sağlık kuruluşuna bir daha başvurarak "cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarının usulüne uygun olarak yapıldığını ve sonuçlandığını" belirten rapor almalıdır. Kanunda, cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarından hangisi ya da hangilerinin yapılması durumunda amelivat sürecinin sonuclanacağından ise bahsedilmemistir. Yerel mahkemenin davacının nüfus kaydında cinsiyet ve kimlik değişimi istediğini erkek dış genital organlarına sahip olmadığı gerekçesiyle reddetmiş olduğu bir olguda; Yargıtay yapılan amelivatların cinsivet değisikliği için veterli olmadığına, plastik cerrahi uzmanından alınan raporda "davacının kadın cinsiyetin-

den erkek cinsiyete geçebilmesi için gerekli ameliyatlardan birincisini olduğu, cinsiyet değişiminin ikinci aşama ameliyatının hastaya erkek cinsel organının takılması olduğu, bunun tıbbi açıdan mümkün olduğu" belirtildiğinden kişiye ameliyatların ikinci aşamasının tıbbi yöntemlere uygun olarak yapılması ve bunu "resmi sağlık kurulu raporu" ile belgelemesi için imkân tanınması, bu nedenle yerel mahkemenin verdiği red kararının bozulmasına karar vermiştir (23). Erkek cinsel organı takılmadan nüfus kaydında cinsiyet ve kimlik değişimi mahkeme tarafından onaylanan transseksüel erkek olgumuzda ve sahadaki birçok uygulamada ise bu durum farklılık göstermektedir. Avrupa Birliği ülkelerinde, cinsiyet değişikliği süreçlerinde farklı uygulamalar görülmektedir. Malta, İrlanda, Belçika, Danimarka, Hollanda, Lüksemburg, Norveç ve Portekiz'de kişilere kendi kaderini tayin etme hakkı tanınmış ve herhangi bir tıbbi sürec geçirme (ameliyat, hormon kullanımı gibi) veya kişinin transseksüel olduğuna ilişkin tıbbi bir tanının konulması zorunlu tutulmamıştır. Macaristan ve İngiltere'de, tercih edilen cinsiyetin mahkemece kabul edilmesi için herhangi bir ameliyat veya hormon tedavisi şartı aranmamıştır ancak bu ülkelerde diğerlerinden farklı olarak, kişilerin bir hekim ya da klinik alanında uzman psikolog karşısında cinsiyet disforisinin ortaya koyması istenmiştir. Almanya, Macaristan, İzlanda, İtalya, Polonya, Slovenya, İspanya ve İsveç'de bireylerin transseksüel yapıda olduğuna dair konulmuş tıbbi tanının varlığı yeterli görülmüş, bireyler ameliyata zorlanmamıştır. Bu ülkelerden bazılarında bir cerrahi müdahale şartı aranmasa da kişilerin belirli sürelerle hormon tedavisi görmüş olması şartı aranmıştır. Nispeten daha katı yaklaşım gösteren Letonya, Romanya, Slovakya, Güney Kıbrıs ve Çek Cumhuriyeti gibi bazı ülkelerde ise kişiler, cinsiyet değiştirebilmek için cerrahi ameliyatlara mecbur bırakılmıştır. Arnavutluk, Azerbaycan, Makedonya ve Kosova gibi sınırlı sayıdaki ülkelerde ise transseksüel bireylerin kimliklerindeki cinsiyetlerini değiştirmelerine izin verilmemektedir. Beş Avrupa ülkesinde ise (Bulgaristan, Kıbrıs, Letonya, Litvanya ve Lihtenstayn) şaşırtıcı şekilde cinsiyet değişikliği ile ilgili hazırlanmış yasal düzenleme mevcut değildir (9,24,25).

ÖNERİLER ve SONUÇ

- 1- Hastanelerde görülen farklı uygulamaların önüne geçmek, kişilerin takip ve tedavilerinin daha sağlıklı şekilde yürütülmesi amacıyla, "cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu olduğunu" belirten sağlık raporlarını düzenleyecek kurulun içerisinde Ruh Sağlığı ve Hastalıkları, Üroloji, Kadın Hastalıkları ve Doğum, Plastik, Rekonstrüktif ve Estetik Cerrahi, Adli Tıp ve Endokrinoloji uzmanlarının bulunması,
- 2- Yanlış veya hatalı hormon kullanımına bağlı oluşabilecek fiziksel, psikososyal ve biyolojik etkilerin ve mağduriyetlerin önlenmesi amacıyla psikolojik gözleminin yeterli seviyeye geldiğine kanaat edilmesi halinde, en kısa sürede kişilerin hormon tedavisi için Endokrinoloji uzmanına sevk edilmesi ve bu hormonları doktor kontrolünde kullanması,

- 3- İzin kararı almadan cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatı geçiren ve nüfus kaydındaki cinsiyetini ve adını değiştirmek isteyen kişilerin, izin için gerekli şartları sağlaması, yapılan ameliyatların cinsiyet değişikliği açısından uygun olup olmadığının uzman hekimlerce değerlendirilmesi, kişilerin psikiyatri uzmanı tarafından takip edilerek transseksüel yapıda olup olmadığının ve cinsiyet değişikliğinin ruh sağlığı açısından zorunlu bulunup bulunmadığının bir Üniversite veya Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesinden alınacak raporla saptanmasından sonra isteklerinin yerine getirilmesi,
- 4- Hangi cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarının yapılması halinde sürecin sonuçlanacağı kanunda açıkça belirtilmediğinden, oluşabilecek mağduriyet ve farklı uygulamaların önüne geçmek için, alanında uzman hekimlerden görüş alınarak hangi cinsiyet değiştirme ameliyatlarının yapılması halinde sürecin sonuçlanacağının tespit edilmesi hususlarının, mevcut kanuni düzenlemelere ek maddeler getirilerek veya yeni yapılacak kanuni düzenlemelerle açıkça ifade edilmesi kanaatindeyiz.

Sonuç olarak, konunun hassasiyeti de göz önünde bulundurularak tıp mensuplarının konu hakkındaki hukuki bilgi düzeylerinin artması gerekmektedir ve bu çalışmadaki amaçlardan biri de budur. Ayrıca yargı sürecinin uzamasının önüne geçilmesi ve bu bireylerin konu hakkındaki bilgi düzeylerini artıracak faaliyetler yapılmasının da faydalı olacağı açıktır. Türk Medeni Kanunu'nda yer alan cinsiyet değiştirme ile ilgili madde oldukça ayrıntılı olmakla birlikte, uygulamada yaşanılan güçlüklerle ilgili tıp ve hukuk mensubu üyelerin işbirliği ile oluşacak yeni bir ek düzenlemeye ihtiyaç duyulduğu açıktır.

Etik Komite Onayı:

Bu araştırma, ilgili tüm ulusal düzenlemelere, kurumsal politikalara ve Helsinki Bildirgesinin ilkelerine uygundur ve Akdeniz Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu tarafından onaylanmıştır (16.02.2022 tarih, KAEK-25 sayılı karar).

Hasta Onamı:

Tüm katılımcıların hakları korunmuş ve Helsinki Deklarasyonuna göre prosedürlerden önce yazılı bilgilendirilmiş onam alınmıştır.

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Yazarların beyan edecek çıkar çatışması yoktur.

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CASE REPORT

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A Dramatic Surgical Technique for A Mis (Un) diagnosed Breast Cancer: Toilet Mastectomy

Tanısı Konulamayan/Atlanan Meme Kanserinde Dramatik Bir Cerrahi Teknik: Tuvalet Mastektomi

ABSTRACT

Treatment options in metastatic breast cancer are limited, and the general approach is treatment with systemic chemotherapy. However, today, the survival of patients with advanced-stage breast cancer can be extended with targeted therapies. Surgical treatment of the primary tumour called toilet mastectomy is inevitable in cases of bleeding, infection, and advanced breast cancer with skin involvement. This case report is aimed to present the diagnosis and treatment process of a patient with advanced breast cancer who underwent toilet mastectomy.

Kev Words:

Breast cancer, Mastectomy, Surgical procedures

ÖZ

Metastatik meme kanserinde tedavi seçenekleri sınırlıdır ve genel yaklaşım sistemik kemoterapi ile tedavidir. Ancak günümüzde ileri evre meme kanserli hastaların yaşam süreleri hedefe yönelik tedaviler ile uzatılabilmektedir. Tuvalet mastektomi adı verilen primer tümörün cerrahi tedavisi, kanamalı, enfeksiyonlu ve deri tutulumu olan ilerlemiş meme kanseri durumlarında kaçınılmazdır. Bu olgu sunumunda ileri evre meme kanserli ve tuvalet mastektomi yapılan bir hastanın tanı ve tedavi sürecinin sunulması amaçlanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Meme kanseri, Mastektomi, Cerrahi işlemler

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is a severe health problem worldwide due to the high estimated number of new cases (at 1st place with 11.7%) and estimated deaths (at 5th place with 6.9%) (1). In the light of the Cancer Statistics 2022 report of Siegel et al., 290.560 new breast cancer cases are expected to be seen in the USA. In addition, the same report also predicted that approximately 43.780 people would die due to breast cancer in the USA (2).

Breast cancer can be detected early due to advanced imaging tools and widespread screening programs. According to screening programs, annual mammography control is recommended for women over 40 (3). With the detection of the disease at an early stage, good oncological outcomes such as more prolonged disease-free survival and longer survival can be obtained. However, in patients diagnosed in the advanced stages, both treatment options are limited, and oncological outcomes are poor.

Breast cancer treatment depends on the stage at diagnosis. Surgery is usually the first type of treatment for breast cancer. Surgery is usually followed by chemotherapy or radiotherapy or, in some cases, hormone or targeted therapies. However, surgical treatment is recommended in the advanced stages after chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy. In the presence of an overgrowth of tumour tissue, invasion of the chest wall, ulceration of the breast skin, discharge or bleeding, toilet mastectomy, which is performed without adhering to oncological principles, is committed to reducing the tumour burden and improving the quality of the patients' life (4).

This case report is aimed to present the diagnosis and treatment process of a patient with advanced breast cancer who underwent toilet mastectomy.

CASE REPORT

A 26-year-old female patient was admitted to the General Surgery Clinic of Erzurum Regional Training and Research Hospital, Erzurum, Turkey, with complaints of pain and swelling in the left breast for 15 months in November 2021. There was no obvious pathology in the ultrasonography (USG) taken at the beginning of her last pregnancy in an external centre. Her complaints have increased in the previous four months. The patient, who did not have a history of any disease in her personal history, has 4 alive children. The patient, whose third-degree relative had a history of breast cancer, gave birth 3 months ago and was in the breastfeeding period. Her ECOG (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group) scale was 2.

The patient's vital signs were as follows: arterial blood pressure: 125/82 mmHg, pulse rate: 86 beats/min, saturation of 95% (on room air), and fever: 37.1°C. On physical examination, it was observed that there was a tumoral mass of approximately 150x100 mm in size, filling the left breast, producing ulceration and haemorrhagic discharge on the skin (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Preoperative image of the tumour.

No pathology was found in the laboratory, except for CA 15-3 elevation (56 U/ml [normal range: 0-30 U/ml]). In the breast USG, there was a solid lesion with the dimensions of 150*100*50 mm, completely covering the left breast, with left axillary conglomerated lymphadenopathy 70 mm in diameter. In the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the breast, there was a multilobulate Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) 5 lesion completely covering the left breast with axillary lymphadenopathy (Figure 2).

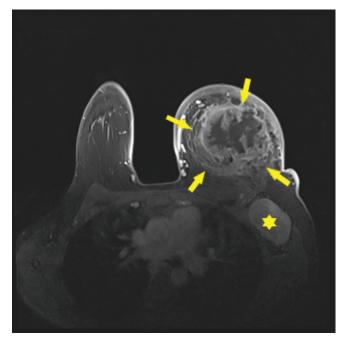
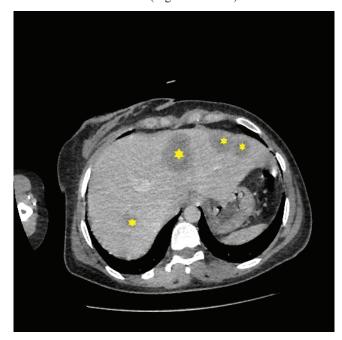
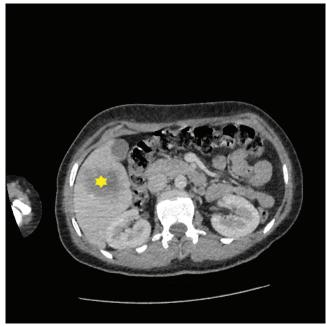


Figure 2. On magnetic resonance imaging, there was a solid mass completely covering the left breast with axillary lymphadenopathy (yellow arrows show the tumoral mass, and the yellow asterisk indicates the axillary lymphadenopathy).

In positron emission tomography / computed tomography (PET/CT), there were multiple lymph nodes in both axillary regions, with the primary focus covering the left breast completely. In addition, many metastatic lymph nodes in the mediastinal and abdominal cavity and multiple metastatic foci in the liver were observed (Figures 3 and 4).





Figures 3 and 4. Yellow asterisks indicated multiple liver metastatic foci on PET/CT scan.

Trucut biopsy material taken from the mass was compatible with carcinoma infiltration. Toilet mastectomy was performed because the patient had ulceration, pain, discharge or bleeding lesion on the breast skin. The patient was followed up in the service, and oral feeding was regained at the postoperative 6th hour. The patient was discharged on the 5th postoperative day without complications.

On pathological examination of mastectomy material, the specimen was consistent with invasive breast carcinoma (NOS=not otherwise specified) with a diameter of 120 mm, including diffuse necrosis and perineural and lymphovascular invasion. Oestrogen receptors, progesterone receptors and CERBB2 receptors are negative in immunohistochemical evaluation. Ki-67 proliferation index of the tumour was over 90%. According to the Modified Scarff Bloom Richardson Grading System, the cancer is eligible for a poorly differentiated high-grade tumour with a score of 8 (tubule formation=2, nuclear pleomorphism=3, mitotic figures=3).

Due to pathological evaluation and tumour staging with PET-CT, adjuvant chemotherapy was started. On a PET-CT scan taken after 6 courses of adjuvant chemotherapy, in the left breast operation site, a new tumoral lesion (SUDmax=3.2) adjacent to the pectoral muscle, multiple lymph nodes with increased metabolism in the left axillary region (SUDmax=16) and metastatic lesions with growing size and increased metabolism in both lobes of the liver (SUDmax=15.6) were detected (progressive disease). The patient is in the 8th month postoperatively and is currently being followed up with carboplatin therapy.

DISCUSSION

Breast cancer is a severe health problem worldwide due to the high estimated number of new cases and deaths. In the light of the Globocan 2020 report, 24.175 new breast cancer cases were seen in Turkey. In addition, the same report showed that 7.161 people died from breast cancer in Turkey (1). Although the incidence of breast cancer is increasing in Turkey, most patients are diagnosed at advanced stages. In the study of Ozmen et al., which included 20.000 breast cancer patients, most patients were identified as Stage II with 48.3%, while Stage IV was detected in 4% (5).

The critical measurement methods for effective cancer treatment, regardless of cancer type, are the 5- and 10-year survival rates. In developed countries, 5- and 10-year survival rates for breast cancer are given as 91% and 84% (6). Although the biological behaviour of breast cancer is better than other organ cancers, the 5-year survival rate in the case of distant metastasis falls below 30% (7).

The traditional approach is a systemic treatment in patients with Stage IV breast cancer at the time of diagnosis, and surgery has a minimal place in the treatment. Surgery is often performed in uncontrolled local disease, symptomatic cases such as bleeding, ulceration, and infection, and only for palliative purposes and is called "toilet mastectomy or salvage mastectomy" (8). It is a

fact that toilet mastectomy is needed in almost 4% of breast cancer patients in developing countries because of the symptoms caused by advanced breast cancer due to the delay in the initial diagnosis (9). In the last 20 years, with promising results for the survival of patients who underwent surgery for the primary tumour in stage IV breast cancer, this traditional approach has been questioned and changed gradually. To the "American College of Surgeons National Cancer Database", between 1990 and 1993, 57.2% of the 16.023 metastatic breast cancer patients underwent surgical treatment for the primary tumour, and the 3-year survival was found to be 24.9%, regardless of surgical margins. The survival rate was 26.9% in those who underwent partial mastectomy with negative surgical margins, while the survival rate was 31.9% in those who underwent total mastectomy (10). In a retrospective study conducted by Fields et al., the effect of surgery on long-term survival in the treatment of 409 patients diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer was examined, and no statistically significant difference was found in the effect of surgery on progression-free survival. However, in the multivariate analysis, survival was found to be longer in the surgical group compared to the non-surgical group (31.9 months and 15.4 months, respectively) (11). Some evidence suggests that palliative mastectomy may prolong life, but this is inconclusive (12). Conversely, there is evidence to suggest that palliative toilet mastectomy should be replaced by combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy, limiting the surgical procedure to cases in which a negative margin can be saved. Still, these are also inconclusive (13).

CONCLUSION

Toilet mastectomy or salvage mastectomy is a surgical method that should always be considered in advanced breast cancer cases with skin involvement (infection and/or bleeding). Although there is not enough data on its effect on survival, it remains a method accepted by patients and surgeons due to the reduction of tumour size, easier tumour control and positive cosmetic results.

Informed Consent:

The patient's rights were protected, and written informed consent was obtained from the patient before the procedures according to the Helsinki Declaration.

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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OLGU SUNUMU Case Report

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Nefrektomi Sonrası Tanı Almış İzole Renal Kist Hidatik Olgu Sunumu

Isolated Renal Hydatid Cyst Case Report Diagnosed After Nephrectomy

ÖZ

Kist hidatik hastalığı Echinococcus granulosus'un neden olduğu, hayvanlarda verimi düşüren, ekonomiyi olumsuz yönde etkileyen ve insanlarda önemli sağlık sorunlarına neden olan bir zoonozdur. E. granulosus kistleri çeşitli organları tutabilir ancak izole böbrek kist hidatik hastalığı nadiren görülür. Tüm vakaların yaklaşık % 2-3'ünü oluşturmaktadır. Bu yazıda malignite şüphesi ile nefrektomi yapılan, histopatolojik inceleme sonucu kist hidatik tanısı alan bir hasta bildirilmektedir. Ülkemizin de içinde yer aldığı, kist hidatik hastalığının sık görüldüğü ülkelerde böbrek kisti saptanan hastaların ayırıcı tanısında böbrek kist hidatiği akılda tutulmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Kistik ekinokokkozis, Hidatik kist, Zoonotik hastalıklar

ABSTRACT

Hydatid cyst disease is a zoonosis caused by Echinococcus granulosus which reduces animal productivity, negatively affects the economy and causes important health problems in humans. E. granulosus cysts can infest various organs but isolated kidney cyst hydatid disease is rarely seen. It constitutes about 2-3% of all cases. In this article, a patient who underwent nephrectomy with suspicion of malignancy and was diagnosed with hydatid cyst as a result of histopathological examination is reported. In countries where hydatid cyst disease is common, including our country, renal hydatid cyst should be kept in mind in the differential diagnosis of patients with renal cysts.

Key Words:

Cystic echinococcosis, Hydatid cyst, Zoonotic diseases

GİRİS

Kist hidatik hastalığı Akdeniz bölgesi (Türkiye, Yunanistan, Suriye, İspanya) ile Yeni Zelanda, Uruguay, Rusya, Meksika, Arjantin gibi hayvancılıkla uğraşan ülkelerde endemik olmak üzere tüm dünyada görülen Echinococcus granulosus'un neden olduğu bir zoonozdur (1). Ülkemizdeki prevalansının 100.000'de 50-400 arasında olduğu tahmin edilmekte, koyun ve sığır yetiştiriciliğinin yaygın olduğu İç Anadolu ve Doğu Anadolu bölgelerinde daha sık olmak üzere tüm bölgelerimizde görülmektedir (2). Ekinokok kistlerinin %90'ı karaciğer ve akciğerlerde görülmektedir. Kemik, pankreas, beyin gibi diğer organlarda daha az sıklıkla görülmekle birlikte

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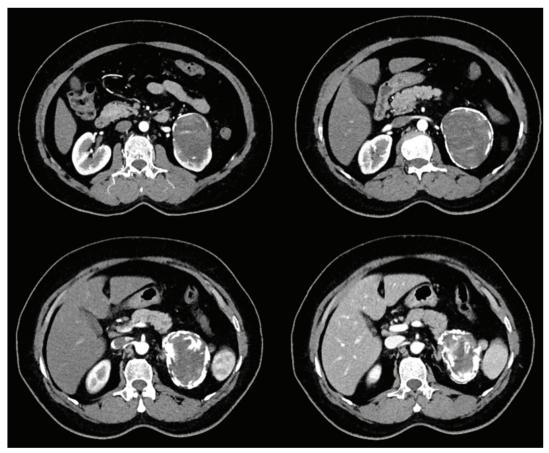
izole renal tutulum çok nadir olup teyit edilmiş kist hidatik vakalarının % 2-3'ünü oluşturmaktadır (3). Renal kist hidatik olgularının %10-20'sinde toplayıcı sisteme rüptür ve hidatiküri görülür. Makroskobik hidatiküri haricinde hastaların özgül olmayan klinik yakınmalarından dolayı renal kist hidatik tanısı almaları güçtür. Kistler sıklıkla rastlantısal olarak saptanırken; bazen de hematüri veya lomber bölgede künt ağrı ile gelen hastalara yapılan ileri tetkiklerde tanı konulabilir (4,13). Bu yazıda izole renal kist hidatik saptanmış bir vaka sunulmuştur.

OLGU SUNUMU

Hipotiroidi dışında bilinen bir hastalığı bulunmayan 50 yaşında kadın hasta yaklaşık 1 yıldır olan sol yan ağrısı şikayetiyle hastanemize yönlendirilmiştir. Tiroidektomi operasyonu dışında herhangi bir cerrahi girişim, taş, kum dökme öyküsü olmayan, şiddetli sol yan ağrıları nedeniyle hayat kalitesi ciddi derecede bozulan hastanın yapılan sistemik muayenesinde de patolojik bulguya rastlanmamıştır. Tam idrar tetkiki, böbrek-karaciğer fonksiyon testleri, tam kan sayımı, akut faz reaktanları normal sınırlar içerisinde olan hastanın ultrasonografisinde "sol böbrek üst polde ekzofitik 80x67 milimetre boyutlarında solid bileşene sahip septalı kistik lezyon" tespit edilmiştir. Çekilen dinamik bilgisayarlı tomografi tetkiki ise "sol böbrek üst polde ekzofitik ultrasonografik görüntüleme ile benzer boyutlarda, cidarı kalın ve yer yer nodüler tarzda kalsifikasyonlar içeren tüm fazlarda

izo-hiperdens olup heterojen, belirgin kontrast enhansmanı göstermeyen kitle lezyonu" şeklinde raporlanmıştır (Şekil 1). Ayırıcı tanıda onkositom ve benign kitlelerin akılda tutulması önerilen ancak bulguların Bosniak tip 4 komplike kist açısından yüksek derecede anlamlı olduğu belirtilen rapor doğrultusunda Üroloji Kliniği tarafından malignite riskinden ötürü hastaya sol radikal nefrektomi operasyonu yapılmıştır. Kontrol amaçlı 15 gün sonra Üroloji Polikliniğine başvuran hastanın nefrektomi materyali histopatoloji sonucu "hidatik kist ile uyumlu histopatolojik bulgular" olarak raporlanmıştır.

Bu sonuçla polikliniğimize yönlendirilen hastanın öyküsü detaylı bir biçimde sorgulandığında son 16 yıl boyunca neredeyse her yıl ortalama 11 ay serada çalıştığı, alandan ve seradan sebze tükettiği, o bölgede otçul hayvan kesiminin sık olduğu, ayrıca etrafta da çok sayıda sokak köpeğinin bulunduğu öğrenildi. Olası diğer organ tutulumları açısından hasta tetkik edildi, başka bir organ tutulumu saptanmadı. Serolojik olarak E. granulosus IgG tetkiki negatif sonuçlandı. İzole renal hidatik kist tanısı konan hastaya oral albendazol 400 mg tablet, 2x1 dozunda verildi. Takiplerinde ilaç yan etkisi gelişmeyen hastanın tedavi sonrası ultrasonografi ile organ taramaları tekrarlandı. Hidatik kist ile ilişkili lezyona rastlanmadı. Herhangi bir yakınması olmayan hastaya, hastalığı ile ilgili bulaş yolları ve korunma yöntemleri konusunda bilgilendirme yapıldı.



Şekil 1. Bilgisayarlı Tomografi Kesitlerinde Saptanmış Renal Kist Hidatik Görünümü

TARTIŞMA

Ülkemizde kist hidatik hastalığı sık görülmektedir. İnsana bulaş sıklıkla son konak olan enfekte köpek, kurt, çakal, tilki gibi et yiyen hayvanların dışkısı ile atılan yumurtaların ara konak tarafından alınmaları ile olur (5). Yumurtalar mide asiditesini geçer ve duodenumda alkali ortamda pankreatik sıvıların etkisiyle parçalanır, serbest hale geçen onkosfer barsak mukozasını delip hematojen yolla karaciğer ve akciğer başta olmak üzere çeşitli organlara gider. Kist hidatik karaciğer ve böbrekte sıklıkla primer olarak yerleşirken diğer organlarda primer veya sekonder olabilmektedir (6).

Kist hidatik hastalığı kistlerin yerleştiği bölgeye ve oluşturdukları bası etkisine bağlı olarak çeşitli klinik bulgular ile kendini gösterir. Karaciğer tutulumunda ağrı, bulantı, kusma, kist içeriğinin biliyer sisteme açılması sonucu obstrüksiyon, sarılık görülebilir. Kist içerisine bakteri girmesi piyojenik abse oluşumuna; akciğerdeki kist içeriğinin ise rüptüre olarak bronşlara dökülmesi mikroorganizmalarla enfeksiyona zemin hazırlayabilir. Kist rüptürü parazit antijenlerine karşı anafilaktik reaksiyonlara neden olabilmektedir (7,8). Hastalarda izole böbrek tutulumu nadirdir. Benchekroun ve arkadaşları, 20 yıl boyunca tedavi edilen 45 renal kist hidatik olgusunu değerlendirdikleri çalışmalarında hastaların %80'inde yan ağrısı, %13'ünde hematüri saptamışlardır (9). Kaya ve arkadaşları, 23 izole renal ve retroperitoneal kist hidatik olgusunu değerlendirdikleri çalışmalarında hastaların büyük bir bölümünde flank bölgesinde kitle ve yan ağrısı saptamışlar, yaptıkları incelemelerde 4 hastada eozinofili saptamışlar; 18 hastada da seroloji sonucunu pozitif bulmuşlardır (10). Hastamızın da hastaneye başvuru sebebi sol yan ağrısı idi. Böbrekte yer kaplayan kitle saptandığında renal kist hidatiğin diğer hastalıklardan ayırıcı tanısını yapmak zor olabilir. Ancak kistin yavaş büyümesi, radyolojik olarak karakteristik görüntüsü olması, serolojik test sonuçları klinisyenin tanıya ulaşmasında yardımcı olabilmektedir (11).

Serolojik testlerin pozitifliği tanıyı doğrularken negatifliği hastalığı ekarte ettirmez (12). Primer böbrek kist hidatiğinde serolojik testler preoperatif tanıda değerlidir. Olguların yaklaşık %50'sinde eozinofili görülür (13). Ultrasonografi kistlerin sayısını, yerleşimini, boyutlarını ve canlılığını tanımlamada altın standarttır. Kalp, vertebra gibi çevre doku ilişkisi olan olgularda veva hastada komplikasyon gelismesi halinde Bilgisayarlı tomografi (BT) ve manyetik rezonans (MR) görüntüleme yöntemlerinden de faydalanılmaktadır. Son zamanlarda BT ve MR görüntüleme yöntemlerinin sık kullanımı insidental olarak böbrek tümörü saptanma oranını artırmaktadır. Tomografide saptanan malign kistik kitlelerin benign olanlardan ayırımının yapılması gereklidir (14). Bosniak böbrek kisti sınıflandırması, böbrek kistlerinin kompleks yapısını ayırt etmede yaygın olarak kullanılan bir yöntemdir. Bu sınıflandırmanın temel amacı malignite şüpheli hastaların erken tanısını sağlayarak tedavilerinin yapılabilmesidir ve Tip 4 kistlerde tedavi cerrahidir (15). Olgumuzda saptanan kistin tip 4 Bosniak kist olarak yorumlanması sonucu hastaya nefrektomi uygulanmıştır. Operasyon öncesi tanı alamayan kist hidatik hastalığının kesin tanısı ise eozinofili görülmeyen, serolojik test sonucu negatif olan olgumuzda olduğu gibi ancak histopatolojik

inceleme ile konulabilir (11). Renal kist hidatik tedavisinde en etkili yol kistin cerrahi olarak çıkarılmasıdır. Kistin böbrek parankimine yayılım düzeyine göre cerrahi boyut değişkenlik gösterebilmekle birlikte mümkün olduğunca parankimin korunması için çaba gösterilmelidir. Belli durumlarda kullanılan perkütan ince iğne aspirasyon yöntemi ise parankimin sıklıkla korunduğu bir uygulama olmakla birlikte; kistin yayılımı ve anafilaktik şok gelişimi riski bu yaklaşımın kısıtlayıcı yönleri arasında sayılabilir. Cerrahi işlem öncesinde ve sonrasında kistin boyutunun küçültülmesi ve yayılımının önlenmesi adına mutlaka medikal tedavi uygulanmalıdır (16). Kist hidatik hastalığından korunma en az tedavisi kadar önemlidir. Kasaplar, mezbaha çalışanları, çobanlar başta olmak üzere tüm insanlar kist hidatik hastalığı hakkında bilgilendirilmelidirler. Tüm köpeklere hasta olup olmamalarına bakılmaksızın antihelmintik ilaçlar uygulanmalı, hayvan kesim yerleri veterinerler tarafından kontrol edilmelidir. Mezbahalar yerleşim yerlerinden uzağa yapılmalı, içerisine köpeklerin girişi engellenmeli, köpeklerin beslenmesinde çiğ et ve sakatattan kaçınılmalıdır (5,17). Enfekte atıklar sokak hayvanlarına yedirilmemeli, özel fırınlarda yakılmalı veya derin çukurlara gömülmelidir.

SONUÇ

Endemik bölgelerde böbrekte saptanan kistlere yaklaşımda kist hidatik hastalığı ayırıcı tanıda akılda tutulmalıdır. Hastanın mesleği ve risk faktörleri anamnezde mutlaka sorgulanmalıdır. Anamnez, fizik muayene, görüntüleme yöntemleri ve serolojik testler ile kist hidatik tanısına erkenden ulaşılabilirse hastalar medikal tedavi, kistektomi, parsiyel nefrektomi gibi böbreği koruyucu seçenekler ile tedavi edilebilirler.

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Hashimoto Tiroiditi Yönetiminde Glutensiz Beslenmenin Yeri

The Place of A Gluten-Free Diet in the Management of Hashimoto Thyroiditis

ÖZ

Hashimoto tiroiditi ve Graves hastalıkları, sırasıyla hipotiroidi ve hipertiroidiye yol açan ve en yaygın görülen otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarıdır. Son yıllarda Hashimoto tiroiditinde gluten tüketiminden kaçınmak, popüler bir eğilim haline gelmiştir. Glutensiz diyetin ana ilkesi, içerisinde gluten bulunan buğday, arpa, çavdar, yulaf ve bunları içeren bütün yiyecek, içecek, ilaç ve besin takviyelerinin diyetten çıkarılmasıdır. Ancak glutensiz diyet aslında bir ince bağırsak enteropatisi olan çölyak hastalığı için mevcut bir tedavi şeklidir. Ayrıca gluten eliminasyonundan sonra hastalar, selenyum, iyot, magnezyum, çinko ve bakır eksikliği açısından risk altında olmaktadır. Bunun yanında glutensiz diyetler, sürdürülmesi zor ve pahalı diyetlerdir. Glutensiz diyetin, Hashimoto tiroiditi gibi otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarının ilerlemesi ve potansiyel komplikasyonları açısından fayda sağlayabileceği bildirilmektedir. Hashimoto tiroiditi hastaları değerlendirilirken, mutlaka eşlik eden çölyak hastalığının varlığı da sorgulanmalıdır. Glutensiz diyetin Hashimoto tiroiditi hastalığının yönetiminde kullanılmasına dair yapılan çalışmalar yetersizdir ve glutensiz diyetin Hashimoto tiroiditi olan hastalara önerilmesi için yeterli kanıt bulunmamaktadır. Bu çalışmada, otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarından Hashimoto tiroiditinin yönetiminde glutensiz diyet uygulamaları ile ilgili yapılan çalışmaları derlemek, bilimsel açıdan değerlendirmek ve literatüre yeni bilgiler kazandırmak amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Otoimmün, Hashimoto tiroiditi, Glutensiz diyet

ABSTRACT

Hashimoto's thyroiditis and Graves' disease are the most common autoimmune thyroid diseases that cause hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism, respectively. In recent years, avoiding gluten consumption in Hashimoto's thyroiditis has become a popular trend. The main principle of the gluten-free diet is to exclude wheat, barley, rye, oats and all foods, beverages, medicines and nutritional supplements containing gluten from the diet. But the gluten-free diet is actually an existing form of treatment for celiac disease, a small intestinal enteropathy. In addition, after gluten elimination, patients are at risk for selenium, iodine, magnesium, zinc and copper deficiencies. In addition, gluten-free diets are difficult and expensive to maintain. It is reported that a gluten-free diet may provide benefits in terms of progression and potential complications of autoimmune thyroid diseases such as Hashimoto's thyroiditis. When evaluating patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis, the presence of concomitant celiac disease should also be questioned. Studies on the use of a gluten-free diet in the management of Hashimoto's thyroiditis are insuffi-

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cient and there is insufficient evidence to recommend a gluten-free diet to patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis. In this study, it was aimed to review the studies on gluten-free diet practices in the management of Hashimoto's thyroiditis, one of the autoimmune thyroid diseases, to evaluate them scientifically and to provide new information to the literature.

Key Words:

Autoimmune, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Gluten free diet

GİRİŞ

Tiroid bezi, otoimmün hastalıklardan en sık etkilenen organdır (1). Aktivitesi, hipofiz bezinden salgılanan tiroid stimülan hormon (TSH) tarafından düzenlenir. Hashimoto tiroiditi (HT) ve Graves hastalığı (GH), sırasıyla hipotiroidi ve hipertiroidiye yol açan en yaygın görülen otoimmün tiroit hastalıklarıdır (2). HT'nin dünya genelinde prevalansı %10-12 iken; GH'nın %1-1.5'tir ve kadınlarda, erkeklere göre daha yaygın görülmektedir (3-5). Hashimoto tiroiditinde, tiroid foliküler hücreleri, hücre ve antikorlar tarafından tahrip edilir ve iyot eksikliği olan bölgelerde en sık görülen otoimmün tiroid hastalığıdır (6). Hastalık, foliküler hücrelerin lenfositik infiltrat ve fibrozis ile yer değiştirmesinden kaynaklanmaktadır ve tiroid antikorlarından özellikle tiroid peroksidaz antikorları (anti-TPO), tiroglobulin antikorları (anti-TG) ve azalmış tiroid bezi ekojenitesi ile karakterizedir. Tiroid parankimasının sürekli yıkımı, hipotiroidizme neden olur ve levotiroksin gibi sentetik tiroid hormonları kronik tedavide yaygın olarak kullanılır (5).

Otoimmün tiroid hastalıkları (OİTH), muhtemelen ilk olarak 1912'de Japon bir doktor olan Hakaru Hashimoto tarafından, anti-tiroid antikorlarının üretimiyle sonuçlanan, tiroidin lenfositler tarafından infiltrasyonu olarak ortaya çıkan bir durum olarak tanımlanmıştır (7). Otoimmün tiroidit olarak da bilinen OİTH, hem genetik, hem çevresel hem de beslenmeyi içeren çok faktörlü bir etiyolojiye sahiptir (8). Bazı araştırmalar, gluten alımı ile HT gelişimi veya ilerlemesi arasında bir ilişki olduğunu düşündürmektedir (6, 9). Bu çalışmanın amacı, otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarından Hashimoto tiroiditi yönetiminde glutensiz diyet uygulamaları ile ilgili yapılan çalışmaları derlemek, bilimsel açıdan değerlendirmek ve literatüre yeni bilgiler kazandırmaktır.

Otoimmün Tiroid Hastalıklarının Patojenik Mekanizmaları

OİTH ile ilişkili genlerin polimorfizminin, hastalığın gelişiminde rolü olduğu bilinmektedir. Bu genler arasında, tiroid uyarıcı hormon reseptörü (TSHR) genindeki polimorfizmler Graves hastalığı duyarlılığını artırmaktadır (10). Tek nükleotit polimorfizmi (SNP) rs179247 reseptörü için homozigotluk veya hetetozigotluk, merkezi toleransın azalmasına ve GH gelişim riskini artıran TSHR mRNA transkriptlerinin intratimik ekspresyonunu azaltıcı etkiye sahiptir (11). Otoimmün regülatör (AIRE) geni, medüller timik hücrelerde birçok proteinin ekspresyonunu düzenleyen bir transkripsiyon faktörüdür. Bu gende meydana gelen defektler, merkezi immün toleransın disregülasyonu ve çoklu organ defektlerine neden olmaktadır (11).

İmmün cevabı düzenleyen genler, OİTH'nın ilerlemesinde anahtar role sahiptir. Majör histo-uyumluluk kompleksi (MHC) sınıf I ve II genleri ile birlikte, sitotoksik T lenfosit ilişkili faktör 4 (CTLA4), CD40, CD25 (FoxP3), protein tirozin fosfataz, reseptör olmayan tip 22 (PTPN22) ve sitokin düzenleyici genler, OİTH'nda ana faktörler olarak tanımlanmıştır (12). CTLA4, GH ile ilişkilendirilen ilk insan olmayan lökosit antijeni (HLA) genidir (13). CD40, tümör nekroz faktörü (TNF) süper ailesinin immün düzenleyici genidir ve tiroid foliküler hücrelerinde eksprese edilir. CD40, C/T1 polimorfizminin, GH ile korele olduğu bilinmektedir (14). İmmün düzenleyici yolları ve sitokin sinyalleşmesini düzenleyen transkripsiyon faktörü olan transkripsiyon (STAT) ailesi proteininin sinyal dönüştürücü ve aktivatöründeki SNP'nin, GH'nin yanı sıra HT ile de ilişkili olduğu bulunmuştur (15).

Tiroide özgü olmamakla birlikte selenoprotein (SEP), tiroid hormonunun deiyodinasyonunda görev almaktadır. Yapılan bir çalışmada, SEP S geninin (SEPS1) promotöründeki SNP ile HT hastalığı arasında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmuştur (16). Selenyum eksikliği; hipotiroidizm, subklinik hipotiroidizm, genişlemiş tiroid, tiroid kanseri, HT ve GH'nı da içeren OİTH gibi birçok olumsuz tiroid koşulu ile ilişkilendirilmiştir (14-16).

Otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarının çevresel tetikleyicileri üzerine yapılan son araştırmalar, selenyum ve D vitamininin başlıca diyet bileşenleri olduğunu belirlemiştir. Düşük D vitamini seviyeleri sadece etiyolojik bir faktör değil, aynı zamanda OİTH'nın şiddeti ile de ilişkilidir. Yapılan bir meta analizde, Graves hastalarının, D vitamini eksikliğine sahip olma olasılığının daha yüksek olduğu gösterilmiştir (17). D vitamini ve selenyumun OİTH'ndaki olumlu etkileri birçok çalışma ile gösterilse de konu ile ilgili olarak yapılan çalışmalar hala devam etmektedir. Ayrıca birçok antikanser ilacın (sitokinler, interferon-α ve tirozin kinaz inhibitörleri) tiroid fonksiyon bozukluğunu indükleyebileceğine dair güçlü kanıtlar vardır. Hızlı sanavileşme ve çevresel toksinlere maruz kalma da OİTH'nın nedensel faktörleri olarak kabul edilmektedir. Aynı zamanda iklimin de OİTH'nın gelişimi üzerinde etkisinin olduğu bilinmektedir. Küresel ısınma ve hava koşullarındaki hızlı değişimlerin, otoimmün hastalık insidansında artışa neden olabileceği bildirilmektedir (18).

Genetik faktörlere ve çevresel tetikleyicilere bağlı olarak, bağışıklık sisteminin düzensizliği, tiroid bezine bir bağışıklık saldırısı ile sonuçlanmaktadır. Otoimmün tiroid hastalıklarında tipik bir bulgu, OİTH patogenezinde kritik bir role sahip olan T ve B lenfositlerinin intratiroidal infiltrasyonudur. Hücresel bağışıklıkta, düzenleyici T hücreleri (Treg'ler) ve foliküler yardımcı T (Tfh) hücreleri, OİTH'nın patojenik mekanizmasındaki rolleri nedeniyle ön plana çıkmıştır. Treg'ler, CD4+ hücrelerinin %5 ile %10'unu temsil eder ve doğrudan hücre-hücre etkileşimi yoluyla veya dönüştürücü büyüme faktörü β (TGF-β) ve interlökin- 10 (IL-10) gibi sitokinler yoluyla dolaylı olarak bağışıklık tepkilerini ifade etmektedir. Treglerdeki defektler ve Tfh hücrelerinin aktivasyonu, genellikle OİTH'nı başlatan olaylar olarak kabul edilmektedir. IL-17 ve IL-22 gibi inflamatuar sitokinler de OİTH gelişiminde rol oynamaktadır (19).

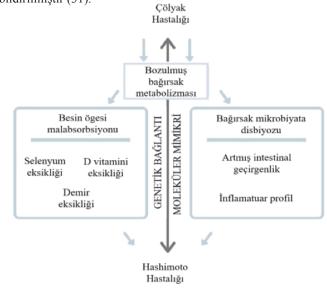
Gluten, Otoimmün Tiroid Hastalıkları ve Çölyak Arasındaki İliski

Gluten proteinleri, buğday unlarının pişme kalitesi üzerindeki yüksek etkilerinden dolayı gıda endüstrisinin uzun süredir ilgisini çekmektedir (20). Gluten, buğdayın depo proteinlerinden olan prolamin ve glutelin fraksiyonlarından oluşmaktadır (21). Prolaminler suda çözünmez, ancak alkolde çözünebilirken; glutelinler hem suda hem de alkolde çözünmezler (22). Gliadin ve glutelin terimleri buğdayın prolamin ve glutelin fraksiyonlarını açıklarken; secalin, hordein ve avenin terimleri sırasıyla çavdar, arpa ve yulafın prolamin fraksiyonunu tanımlamaktadır (22). Kodeks Alimentarius, gluteni "buğday, çavdar, arpa, vulaf veva bunların melez cesitlerinden ve bunların türevlerinden elde edilen, bazı kişilerin intoleransının olduğu ve su ile 0,5 molar NaCl'de çözünmeyen bir protein fraksiyonu" olarak tanımlamıştır (23). Sonuç olarak gluten günümüzde buğday, çavdar, arpa ve bazı durumlarda yulafın prolamin ve glutelin fraksiyonları için ortak bir terim olarak kabul edilmektedir. Gluten proteinlerinin içerdiği prolin ve glutamin amino asitleri açısından zengin tekrarlayan dizi bölümleri, insan mide-bağırsak enzimleri tarafından tamamen parçalanamamaktadır. Bu durum, ince bağırsakta nispeten uzun gluten peptitlerinin mevcudiyeti ile sonuçlanmaktadır. Çölyaklı hastalarda, bu tür gluten peptitleri bir inflamatuar reaksiyonu tetiklemekte, ancak sağlıklı bireylerin çoğunun ince bağırsağında bulunmalarının oldukça zararsız olduğu düşünülmektedir (22).

Çölyak hastalığı, genetik olarak duyarlı bireylerde ince bağırsakları etkileyen ve yaşam boyu süren; diyare, malabsorbsiyon sendromu ve vücut ağırlığı kaybı ile karakterize bir gastrointestinal sistem hastalığıdır. Birçok otoimmün hastalık, çölyak hastalığı ile ilişkilendirilmiştir. Çölyak hastalarının yaklaşık %30'u, bir veya daha fazla otoimmün hastalığa sahipken; genel popülasyonda otoimmün hastalık prevalansı %3 ile % 4,4 arasında değişmektedir (24). Cölyakla en çok ilişkisi bulunan hastalıklar, Tip1 diyabet ve OİTH'dır. On sekiz yaşın altındaki OİTH'na sahip bireylerin %7-26'sında çölyak gelişimi görülebilmektedir (25). Bu nedenle OİTH takibinde, hastaların düzenli serolojik taramasının yapılması önemlidir (26). Hem çölyak hastalarından, hem de sağlıklı kontrollerden alınan insan biyopsi eksplantlarıyla yapılan ex vivo çalışmalarının yanında; caco-2 hücre dizileri kullanılarak vapılan in vitro calısmalarda, gliadine maruz kalmanın bağırsak epitel bütünlüğünü bozduğu öne sürülmüştür (28,29). Gliadinin bağırsak geçirgenliği üzerindeki etkisine, zonulin protein sekresyonunun aracılık ettiğine inanılmaktadır. Zonulin, prehaptoglobulin-2 olarak tanımlanmaktadır ve serum zonulin sıklıkla bağırsak geçirgenliğinin bir belirteci olarak kullanılmaktadır. Otoimmün hastalıklarda zonulin düzeylerinin yükseldiği bulunmuştur (27).

Çölyak hastalığı ile OİTH arasındaki ilişki net olarak bilinmemektedir. Cölyakla OİTH, HLA DR3-DQ2 ve DR4-DQ8 haplotiplerini paylaşmaktadır. DR3-DQ2/DR4-DQ8, OİTH gelişim riski ile güçlü bir şekilde ilişkilidir (28). Ayrıca, çölyakta malabsorbsiyondan dolayı, selenyum ve iyot gibi anahtar elementlerin veya antikorların neden olduğu poliglandüler sendromunun bir parçası olarak, artan immüno-

sensitivitenin de OİTH gelişimine yol açan etmenlerden biri olabileceği düşünülmektedir (29). Otoimmün tiroid hastalıkları ve çölyak hastalığı arasındaki ilişkinin bir diğer olası sebebi ise; düsük selenyum ve D vitamini seviyelerinin, doku transglutaminaz-2 IgA antikorlarının, tiroid folikülleri ve tiroid ekstraselüler matriksi ile etkileşime girmesidir. Ekzojen D vitamini (kolekalsiferol) ve selenyum eksikliğinin HT'ne neden olabileceği bildirilmektedir (6). Çölyak ile HT arasındaki ilişkinin olası mekanizması Şekil 1'de gösterilmiştir (30). Bir meta analiz çalışmasında, bu iki hastalığın birlikte görülebilme riski olduğundan, tüm otoimmün tiroid hastalarının, çölyak hastalığına sahip olup olmadıklarının belirlenmesi için taranması önerilmiştir (31). Çalışmada, tüm HT hastalarının çölyak serolojik testlerinden geçmesi gerektiği ve bu testlerden herhangi birinin pozitif sonuc vermesi durumunda hastaların gastroduodenoskopi ve duodenal biyopsi ile araştırılması gerektiği savunulmuştur (31). Aynı şekilde, 6024 otoimmün tiroid hastasının incelendiği bir çalışmada; hastalarda biyopsi ile doğrulanmış çölyak hastalığı prevalansının yüksek olduğu bildirilmiştir (31).



Açık gri oklar: hastalıklar arasındaki dolaylı bağlantıyı; koyu gri oklar:

doğrudan bağlantıları göstermektedir.

Şekil 1. Her iki hastalığın bir arada bulunmasının olası nedenleri (30).

Hashimoto Tiroiditi Yönetiminde Glutensiz Diyetin Etkinliği

Glutensiz diyetin ana ilkesi, içerisinde gluten bulunan buğday, arpa, cavdar, vulaf ve bunları içeren bütün vivecek, içecek, ilaç ve besin takviyelerinin diyetten çıkarılmasıdır (32). Glutensiz diyet esas olarak, meyve, sebze, et, balık, baklagiller, kuruyemişler, süt ürünleri ve yumurta gibi gluten içermeyen besinlerden oluşmaktadır. Mısır, darı, pirinç, sorgum ve tef gluten içermeyen tahıllara örnek olarak verilebilir. Gluten, gıda endüstrisinde dolgu maddesi olarak veya gıda katkı maddesi olarak malt gibi ürünlerde kullanıldığı için, glutensiz diyet oldukça kısıtlayıcı olmaktadır (33). Günlük diyette gluten içeren tahılların fazla tüketimi özellikle Avrupa toplumlarında, çölyak dışı gluten duyarlılığı ve çölyak gelişim riskini artırmaktadır. Yaşam boyu glutensiz diyete bağlı kalmak, gluten alımıyla tetiklenen bir ince bağırsak enteropatisi olan çölyak hastalığı için mevcut bir tedavidir. Ancak glutensiz diyet, diğer eliminasyon diyetleri gibi çeşitli besin ögesi eksikliklerine (B vitaminleri, D vitamini, kalsiyum, demir, çinko, magnezyum, selenyum, bakır) neden olabilmektedir (32). Glutensiz ürünler aynı zamanda, geleneksel muadillerine kıyasla, daha düşük besin değerine sahiptir. Ayrıca, son derece işlenmiş ürünlerdir ve daha fazla yağ ve karbonhidrat içeriğine sahiptirler. Yüksek kalori içeriği nedeniyle bazı glutensiz ürünler, obezite gelişimine neden olabilmektedir. Glutensiz ürünlerin satın alınması, diyetin maliyetini %30 oranında artırmaktadır ve bu maliyet, "glutensiz" olarak etiketlenmiş ürünlerin satın alınmasıyla daha da artabilmektedir (34).

Avrıca, tüm otoimmün hastalıklar düsünüldüğünde; cölyak tanısından önceki gluten maruziyetinin süresinin, ileride tiroid otoimmünitesi gelişimi üzerine etkisinin olmadığı bildirilmektedir. Son klinik gelişmeler, glutensiz diyetin, otoimmün hastalıkların oluşumunu engellemediğini vurgulamaktadır (24). Kronik lenfositik tiroidit ve çölyak hastalığının sıklıkla birlikte görülmesi, araştırmacıları, HT'de glutensiz diyetin etkinliğini araştırmaya yöneltmiştir. Krysiak ve ark. yaptıkları çalışmada, HT hastalığına sahip kadınlardan bir gruba, altı ay boyunca glutensiz diyet uygulanmış, diğer gruba (kontrol grubu) ise herhangi bir diyet tedavisi uygulanmamış, normal beslenmelerine devam etmeleri istenmiştir (6). Semptomatik çölyak hastaları ve HT dışında endokrin hastalığı bulunan bireyler, çalışmaya dahil edilmemiştir. Çalışma sonunda kontrol grubunun serum tirotropin ve serbest tiroid hormon seviyeleri, serum 25-hidroksi vitamin D seviyeleri aynı kalmıştır. Glutensiz diyet uygulayan grupta, tiroid antikorları azalmış, 25-hidroksi vitamin D seviyeleri ve SPINA-GT indeksi (tirotropin ve serbest tiroid hormon seviyelerine dayalı hesaplanan bir indeks) biraz artmıştır. Aynı zamanda TPOAb ve TgAb seviyeleri, SPINA-GT indeksi ile korelasyon göstermiştir. Çalışmada, glutensiz diyetin, otoimmün tiroid hastalığı olan kadınlara klinik faydalar sağlayabileceği bildirilmiştir (6). Kus ve ark., 156 hastada glutensiz diyetin HT üzerindeki etkilerini incelemek için bir anket çalışması yürütmüşlerdir (9). Katılımcıların %75'i glutensiz diyet uyguladıklarını bildirmişlerdir. Ayrıca katılımcıların %88'i farmakolojik tedavi (levotiroksin) aldıklarını belirtmişlerdir. Farmakolojik tedavi almayan hastaların büyük çoğunluğunda TSH düzeylerinin düştüğü rapor edilmiştir. Katılımcıların büyük çoğunluğu, HT semptomlarında azalma olduğunu ifade etmişlerdir. Katılımcıların %43,5'inin önceden sindirim problemleri yaşadığı; glutensiz diyeti uygulamaya başladıktan sonra bu problemleri yaşamadıkları ve HT'de glutensiz diyetin olumlu etkilerinin olabileceğinin altı çizilmiştir. Ancak bunun bir anket çalışması olduğu ve verilen cevapların araştırmacılar tarafından doğrulanmadığı belirtilmiştir. Ayrıca hastalar, çölyak hastalığı açısından test edilmemiştir (9). Poblocki ve ark., hipotiroidizm nedeniyle levotroksin kullanan HT'na sahip olan kadınlarda glutensiz diyetin etkisini araştırdıkları çalışmada; katılımcılar iki gruba ayrılmıştır (5). Birinci gruba (n=31) 12 ay boyunca glutensiz diyet uygulanmıştır. İkinci grup (n=31) ise normal beslenmesine devam etmiş ve kontrol grubu olarak belirlenmiştir. Çölyak hastalığına sahip olanlar çalışmaya dahil edilmemiştir. On iki

aylık takip sırasında, iki grupta da anti-TPO, anti-TG antikorları, serbest T3 (Ft3) veya serbest T4 (Ft4) seviyeleri arasında bir fark bulunmamıştır. Ancak, glutensiz diyet uygulayan HT hastalarında, TSH seviyeleri önemli derece azalmıştır. Glutensiz diyetin bu etkiye, intestinal levotiroksin emilimini artırarak neden olabileceği bildirilmiştir (5).

Mainardi ve ark, otoimmün tiroid hastalarında (n=100) çölyak prevalansını %2 olarak bulmuşlardır. Bu iki çölyak hastasında glutensiz diyetin tiroid fonksiyonlarını ve antikor seviyelerini etkilemediği görülmüştür (35). Benzer bir çalışmada, yeni tanı almış çölyak hastalarında bir yıllık glutensiz diyet uygulamasının 10 hastada (%37) TPO antikorları üzerine bir etkisinin olmadığı rapor edilmiştir (36). Aksine, glutensiz diyet uygulamasından sonra bile tiroiditin sürekli ilerlediğinin bir göstergesi olarak; çölyağı olmayan hastalarla karşılaştırıldığında, tiroid hacmi önemli ölçüde azalmıştır (36).

Metso ve ark. (36) çölyak hastalarında glutensiz diyetin OİTH gelişimi üzerine etkisini araştırmak için, yeni tanı almış yetişkin çölyak hastalarına, bir yıl boyunca glutensiz diyet uygulamışlardır. Çölyak hastalığına sahip olmayan kontrol grubuna ise bir yıl boyunca gluten içerikli diyet uygulanmıştır. Başlangıçta çölyak hastalarının şiddetli veya subklinik tiroid hastalığına sahip olduğu belirlenmiştir. Takip sırasında çölyak hastalarının tiroid bezi hacmi, kontrol grubuna göre önemli derecede azalmıştır. Bu durum, çölyak hastalarında glutensiz diyete rağmen, tiroid bezi atrofisinin ilerlemesi şeklinde yorumlanmıştır. Glutensiz diyetin çölyak hastalarında bir yıllık takipte otoimmün sürecin ilerlemesini önlemediği bildirilmiştir (36). Sategna ve ark. yürüttükleri çok merkezli bir çalışmada; yeni tanı almış 128 çölyak hastasına bir yıl boyunca glutensiz diyet uygulanmış ve diyet uygulamasının öncesinde ve sonrasında, hastaların tiroid fonksiyonları değerlendirilmiştir. Glutensiz diyetin bazı hastalarda tiroid anormalliklerini tersine çevirdiği bulunmuştur (37).

Konieczny ve ark.'nın HT'de eliminasyon diyeti kullanımının geçerliliği üzerine yürüttükleri bir araştırmaya; 81 HT, 118 çölyak hastası dahil edilmiştir. Tüm katılımcılar, çalışmaya dahil olmadan önce eliminasyon diyeti uygulamışlardır. HT hastalarının yaşam kalitesi ve sağlık durumları geriye dönük olarak ThyPROpl anketi (tiroide özgü Polonya dilinde hasta tarafından bildirilen sonuç anketi) ile; çölyak hastaları ise CSI (çölyak semptom indeksi) anketi ile değerlendirilmiştir (38). Katılımcıların verdikleri cevaplara göre; eliminasyon diyetlerinin hastalık semptomlarının şiddetini azalttığı bulunmuştur. Glutensiz diyet uygulayanlar, en çok sindirimle ilgili problemlerinin iyileştiğini bildirmişlerdir. Hastalarda yorgunluk, ruh hali değişikliklerinde azalma, konsantrasyonda artış da gözlemlenmiştir. Ancak çalışmada, HT'ne sahip olan hastalarda eşlik eden çölyak hastalığının varlığının değerlendirilmediği bildirilmiştir (38). Valentino ve ark., eşlik eden çölyak hastalığı bulunan, üç otoimmün tiroid hastasında 6 aylık glutensiz beslenmenin sonucunda; hipotiroidizmle ilgili semptomların ve tiroksin dozunun iyileştiği bulunmuştur (39). Tiroglobülin ve TPO antikorlarının sadece 18 aylık ek takibi olan bir hastada değiştiği bildirilmiştir (39).

Ventura ve ark., eş zamanlı çölyak ve HT'si olan hastaların (n=14), yalnızca HT hastalığı bulunanlara göre (n=68) hedef

TSH değerlerine ulasmak için %50 daha fazla levotiroksin dozuna ihtiyac duyduğunu belirtmis ve bu durumu tedavi edilmeyen çölyak hastalarında levotiroksin emiliminin azalmasına bağlı olduğunu öne sürmüşlerdir (40). Artan levotiroksin ihtiyacı, glutensiz diyetle birlikte azalmıştır (40). Zubarik ve ark.'na göre, ötiroid (normal tiroid fonksiyonu) durumunu sağlamak için yüksek dozda levotiroksin ihtiyacı bulunan hastaların çölyağa sahip olma olasılığının daha yüksek olduğu bildirilmiş; ancak bu durum Sharma ve ark. tarafından onaylanmamıştır (41,42).

Ihnatowicz ve ark. ise glutensiz divetin, düsük kaliteli glutensiz ürünlerle ilgili potansiyel beslenme eksiklikleri nedeniyle HT gelişme riskini artırabileceğini belirtmişlerdir. Ayrıca selenyumdan yetersiz topraklarda yetiştirilen mahsullerden gluten alımının HT riskini artırdığı bildirilmişlerdir (30). Derlemedeki çalışmalardan sadece birkaçı, glutensiz diyetin çölyak yokluğunda HT hastaları için faydalı olabileceğini göstermiştir (30). Gluten alımıyla tiroid tahribatı arasındaki ilişkinin, bağırsak ve tiroid dokusu transglutaminaz arasındaki moleküler mimikri mekanizmasına bağlı olabileceği belirtilmiştir (33). Başka bir derlemede, HT hastalarının standart yönetiminde glutensiz divetin etkinliği ile ilgili bir temel bulunamamıştır. HT hastaları için önerilen tıbbi beslenme tedavisinin; polifenoller, antioksidanlar ve omega 3 yağ asitleri açısından zengin bitkisel ürünleri içeren ve D vitamini, iyot, selenyum takviyesi sağlayabilecek inflamatuar özellikte bir tedavi olduğu belirtilmiştir (43).

SONUÇ

Diyet faktörlerinin otoimmün endokrin bozuklukların patogenezine katkısı, üzerinde güncel çalışmalar yürütülen bir alandır. Gluten tüketiminden kaçınmak, popüler bir eğilim haline gelmiştir. Yaşam boyu glutensiz diyete bağlı kalmak, gluten alımıyla tetiklenen bir ince bağırsak enteropatisi olan

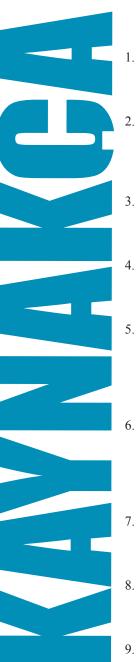
cölyak hastalığı için mevcut bir tedavidir. Ancak glutenin, immün aracılı hastalıkların seyrini bozmaya katkıda bulunabileceği de varsayılmaktadır. Glutensiz diyetin, otoimmün hastalıkları önlediğine dair yeterli kanıt yoktur. Ancak çölyak hastalığına sahip olan veva olmayan otoimmün tiroid hastalarının, düşük gluten içerikli diyetlerden hastalığın ilerlemesi ve potansiyel komplikasyonları açısından fayda sağlayabileceği bildirilmektedir. HT hastalarının tıbbi beslenme tedavileri; A,C,E vitaminleri polifenoller ve omega 3 gibi antioksidan ve antiinflamatuar bileşiklerden zengin olmalıdır. Aynı zamanda, gluten eliminasyonundan sonra HT hastalarının tıbbi beslenme tedavileri, selenyum, iyot, magnezyum, çinko, bakır açısından desteklenmelidir. Glutensiz diyetlerin, OİTH üzerindeki etkileri araştırılırken mutlaka bireyin çölyak hastalığının olup olmadığının da değerlendirilmesi gerekmektedir. Yaşam boyu glutensiz diyet, sürdürülmesi zor ve oldukça pahalı bir tıbbi beslenme tedavisi yaklaşımı olduğu için, bireylerin yaşam kalitesini bozabileceği unutulmamalıdır. Glutensiz diyetin OİTH üzerindeki etkileriyle ilgili daha fazla sayıda çalışma yapılmasına ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır. Şimdiye kadar yapılan çalışmalar, otoimmün tiroid hastalarının diyetlerinden gluteni çıkarmaları gerektiği iddiasını desteklememektedir. Büyük sınırlamaları ve belirsiz sonucları olan sınırlı sayıda calışma göz önüne alındığında, glutensiz diyet, HT hastalarının yönetiminde rutin olarak önerilmemektedir.

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REVIEW Derleme

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MRONJ with Current Diagnostic and Treatment Approaches

Güncel Tanı ve Tedavi Yaklaşımlarıyla MRONJ

ABSTRACT

Medication Related Osteonecrosis of Jaw (MRONJ) is a persistent and rare pathology that develops with progressive bone destruction and bone necrosis as a result of impaired blood supply in the mandible and maxilla. The key point to the prevention and treatment of MRONJ is screening high-risk patients predisposed to the disease to detect it at an early stage to effectively prevent the risk of progression and occurrence. Although no exposed bone is seen in clinical examination, osteonecrosis can be diagnosed early by radiographic examination. Therefore, advanced imaging techniques are important in the early diagnosis of MRONJ. There is no defined gold standard treatment in the literature and the treatment of MRONJ is often very difficult. Treatment strategies are mainly focused on minimizing the progression or formation of bone necrosis, eliminating pain, controlling infection and optimizing the patient's quality of life. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) recommends stage-based treatment planning in MRONJ patients. In addition to the treatment methods recommended by the AAOMS, there are research showing that some adjuvant treatments have a positive effect on recovery in MRONJ patients. For example, the use of platelet-rich plasma/fibrin in addition to surgical treatment increasing the success of surgery is one of them. Alternative treatment options are low-level laser therapy, surgical debridement with laser, surgical debridement under the guidance of fluorescent staining method, use of platelet concentrates, ozone and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, pentoxifylline, alpha-tocopherol, photo-bio modulation, use of parathormone or stem cell transplantation into the lesion. In this review, we aimed to update the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of dentists about MRONJ and to shape the approach to MRONJ with the guidance of current literature.

Key Words:

Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw, Diagnosis, Treatment

ÖZ

İlaca bağlı çene kemiği osteonekrozu (MRONJ), mandibula ve maksillada kanlanmanın bozulması sonucu ilerleyici kemik yıkımı ve kemik nekrozu ile gelişen, inatçı ve nadir bir patolojidir. MRONJ'un önlenmesi ve tedavisinin anahtarı, hastalığa yatkın olan yüksek riskli hastaları tarayarak ilerleme riskini ve oluşumunu etkili bir şekilde engellemek için erken aşamada saptanmasıdır. Klinik muayenede ekspoze kemik görülmediği halde radyografik inceleme ile osteonekroz erken teşhis edilebilir. Bundan dolayı ileri düzey görüntüleme teknikleri MRONJ'un erken teşhisinde önem taşımaktadır. Tedavi stratejileri esas olarak kemik nekrozunun oluşumunu veya ilerlemesini en aza indirmeye, ağrıyı ortadan kaldırmaya, enfeksiyonu kontrol etmeye ve hastanın yaşam kalitesini optimize etmeye odaklanmıştır. Amerikan Oral ve Maksillofasiyal

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Cerrahi Derneği (AAOMS), MRONJ hastalarında evreye bağlı tedavi uygulamasını önermektedir. AAOMS'un önerdiği tedavi yöntemlerine ek olarak bazı yardımcı tedavilerin de iyileşmeyi olumlu etkilediğine dair araştırmalar mevcuttur. Bu derlemenin amacı, diş hekimlerinin MRONJ konusunda bilgi, tutum ve davranışlarının güncellenmesi ve MRONJ'a yaklaşımın güncel literatür rehberliğinde şekillendirilmesidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler:

İlaca bağlı çene kemiği osteonekrozu, Teşhis, Tedavi

INTRODUCTION

Bisphosphonates (BP) are the main class of drugs used for the bone diseases and are stable analogs of inorganic pyrophosphate (PPi) that bind to hydroxyapatite crystals at active bone remodeling sites (1). Bisphosphonates act by interfering with osteoclast-mediated bone resorption and disrupting intracellular signaling, therefore they are considered one of the most valid antiresorptive drugs. Since their discovery in the 1960s, they have been widely used in patients with various pathologies affecting bone tissue (such as osteoporosis and similar diseases) (1). Despite the benefits of bisphosphonates in bone metastasis and osteoporosis treatment, they also have side effects (2). The most important of these side effects is osteonecrosis of the jaw, which develops with progressive bone destruction and bone necrosis as a result of impaired blood supply caused by bisphosphonate group drugs (3). It was firstly reported by Marx et al. in 2003 that jaw bone necrosis may occur in patients using bisphosphonate group drugs (4). In the following years, it has been seen that drugs such as denosumab (RANKL inhibitor), bevacizumab (monoclonal antibody; VEGF-A inhibitor, avascular growth factor), sunitinib (tyrosine kinase inhibitor) and temsirolimus (specific mTOR inhibitor) together with BP may also cause jaw osteonecrosis (5, 6). The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) updated the definition of bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (BRONJ) in 2014 and reported it as medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ) since drugs other than bisphosphonates can induce this condition (7, 8).

As more and more antiresorptive and antiangiogenic drugs are being developed, these newer drugs appear to increase the incidence of MRONJ. In addition, studies have shown that the risk of osteonecrosis is less when these drugs are used alone, and likehood of MRONJ increases when they are used in combination with other drugs such as corticosteroids (9). According to the definition made by AAOMS in 2014, MRONJ is "in patients who have received or are receiving antiresorptive or antiangiogenic therapy before and do not have a history of radiotherapy and metastasis to the jaw area; jawbone necrosis characterized by exposed bone that persists for more than eight weeks in the maxillofacial region and can be observed through open exposure or intraoral or extraoral fistula" (7).

In this review, we aimed to update the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of dentists about MRONJ and to shape the approach to MRONJ with the guidance of current literature.

Risk Factors for MRONJ

The risk factors for MRONJ can be considered as drug-related, local, systemic, demographic and genetic factors (10). Poor oral hygiene, inflammatory diseases such as apical periodontitis, gingival abscess, and periodontal problems are known as local factors that facilitate the development of MRONJ (11).

Many researchers have previously stated that the risk of MRONJ development increases after invasive dental treatments involving bone (tooth extraction, dental implant, apical or periodontal surgery) (12). However, it should not be forgotten that MRONJ may develop spontaneously. In addition, poorly fitting prostheses and excessive occlusal forces are also local risk factors for MRONJ (12). It is known that nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates (Alendronate, Pamidronate, Zoledronate, etc.) cause a higher rate of MRONJ formation, especially when used intravenously, compared to non-nitrogen bisphosphonates (Etidronate, Tiludronate, Clodronate, etc.) (13). In patients with malignant conditions, bisphosphonates have a higher risk of MRONJ than osteoporosis (11). The time of administration, dose, and potency of the drug are also potential factors in the MRONJ development (13). The possibility of MRONJ development increases in systemic factors that increase comorbidity such as hypocalcemia, rheumatoid arthritis, renal dialysis, anemia, hypoparathyroidism, vitamin D deficiency, osteomalacia, diabetes, and Paget's disease accompanying the patient's primary disease (14).

There are studies showing that some congenital factors for example single nucleotide polymorphism in MMP-2 and cytochrome P450-2C genes and variations in the ACE gene may be effective in the MRONJ development (15).

Many researchers have stated that demographic factors like lifestyle, smoking, obesity and alcohol use are also risk factors for MRONJ (12).

Clinical Findings and Stages of MRONJ

Presence of exposed bone (93.9% of cases) is the most significant clinical finding of MRONJ, in addition to local abscesses and soft tissue swelling, infection symptoms such as suppuration and intraoral/extraoal fistula formation can often be observed in clinical findings. If a superinfection develops in the necrotic tissue, the patient may experience severe pain, but pain is not a finding in every case. The possibility of osteoradionecrosis should also be taken into account in patients with an exposed bone who use BP and receive jaw radiation (15, 16).

The clinical findings of MRONJ can be confused with many diseases and conditions, so its differential diagnosis should be made carefully. Differential diagnosis for MRONJ include many diseases such as sinusitis, atypical neuralgia, myofascial pain, odontalgia, dental caries, periapical pathologies, fibroosseous lesions, alveolar osteitis, periodontal diseases, chronic sclerosing osteomyelitis, sarcomas, neoplastic processes of jaws or temporomandibular disorders (7). Since none of the clinical findings in question were specific to MRONJ, AAOMS conducted a study based on clinical signs and symptoms for the staging of MRONJ cases for the first time in 2007 and made the last update in 2014 (16). The MRONJ stages and treatment options updated by the AAOMS are shown in Table I (17,18).

Table I: Stages and Clinical findings and treatments of MRONJ (17, 18).

MRONJ STAGE	TREATMENT OPTIONS
At risk - No apparent necrotic bone in patients who have been treated with either oral or IV bisphosphonates	- No treatment needed - The patient should be informed about the risks
Stage 0 - No clinical evidence of necrotic bone, but non-specific clinical findings, radiographic changes, and symptoms	- Systemic therapy including pain killers and antibiotics
Stage 1 - Exposed and necrotic bone, or fistulae that probe to bone, in patients who are asymptomatic and have no evidence of infection	- Antibacterial mouthwash - Clinical follow-up every 3 months - Patient education and review of ongoing bisphosphonate therapy in terms of indications
Stage 2 - Exposed and necrotic bone, or fistulae that probe to bone, associated with infection as evidenced by pain and erythema in the region of the exposed bone with or without purulent drainage	- Antibacterial mouthwashes - Oral antibiotics - Pain control - Debridement to reduce soft tissue irritation and suppress infection
Stage 3 - Exposed and necrotic bone or a fistula that probes to bone in patients with pain, infection, and one or more of the following: exposed and necrotic bone extending beyond the region of alveolar bone (i.e., inferior border and ramus in the mandible, maxillary sinus), resulting in pathologic fracture, extraoral fistula, oral antral/oral-nasal communication, or osteolysis extending to the inferior border of the mandible of sinus floor.	- Antibacterial mouthwashes - Antibiotic therapy and pain control - Resection or surgical debridement for long-term management of pain and infection

MRONJ Radiology

In patients with bisphosphonate therapy and clinically exposed bone, there is usually no difficulty in diagnosing MRONJ. However, it is known that 30% of MRONJ cases occur without bone exposure. At this point, radiographic evaluation may take a role in the early diagnosis of stage 0 MRONJ (19).

In order to diagnose MRONJ, a careful radiological examination is required along with the clinical examination. Although no exposed bone is clinically seen, osteonecrosis can be detected at an early stage through radiographic examination (20). Although there is no imaging method approved as the gold standard in the detection of radiological findings of MRONJ, anatomical and functional imaging methods are used (21).

Anatomical Imaging

Computed tomography (CT), panoramic radiographs, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) are amongst the anatomical imaging methods (21).

Panoramic Radiography

In daily routine, clinical examination and radiographic evaluation are the minimum procedures to detect lesions and provide data for follow-up appointment. Especially in stage 0 MRONJ cases, early diagnosis can be made by radiographic evaluation and it will also prevent the progression of the cases to more advanced stages (22). A case of MRONJ detected at an early stage is shown in Figure 1.

In panoramic and periapical radiography, which are often used routinely, increased trabecular density, non-healing of extraction sockets, sequestra formation with radiopaque areas around the necrotic bone, thickening of the lamina dura, cortical border of the mandibular canal and maxillary sinus floor, enlargement of the periodontal ligament space, periosteal reaction and the appearance of a pathological fracture raises suspicion as a sign of osteonecrosis (23).

In the early stages of MRONJ, conventional two-dimensional (2D) radiography techniques may be insufficient. When lesions are smaller than one cm, they may appear normal on panoramic radiographs. 2D imaging techniques may be inadequate because of their lower ability to distinguish the sequestrum from healthy bones and changes in the image can only be seen when ~30-50% of bone density is lost. Due to such inadequacies, three-dimensional (3D) imaging methods such as MRI and CT are used in suspicious cases (24, 25).

Computed Tomography

Early diagnosis of osteonecrosis lesions can be achieved by evaluating the cancellous and cortical structure of the jaw bones, the entity of periosteal bone reaction and sequestrum, and the tissue integrity of adjacent structures with computerized tomography (25). Computed tomography can best determine the dimension of the lesion as it can show a larger area than the clinically observed bone exposure (26, 27). CT is superior in detecting signs of MRONJ compared to traditional methods

Figure 1.

A 73-year-old female presented with pain and gingival swelling at the lower right first premolar region without bone exposure; Stage 0 MRONJ was then diagnosed. She had a history of breast cancer surgery for eight years and received zoledronate for three years. A panoramic radiograph shows partial bone osteolysis at the complaint site and osteosclerosis at the right mandible. MRONJ, medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (22).

such as trabecular bone density change and bone sequestrum (25, 26). CT findings frequently seen in MRONJ include areas of osteosclerosis and osteolysis, irregularities and destructions at the borders of cortical bones, cortical bone perforation and sequestrum formation. The sequestrum, which is a typical finding for MRONJ, is mostly observed in the spongy trabecular bone, but can also be viewed in the cortical bone (27). The radiographic findings of the patient diagnosed with MRONJ on CT are shown in the Figure 2.

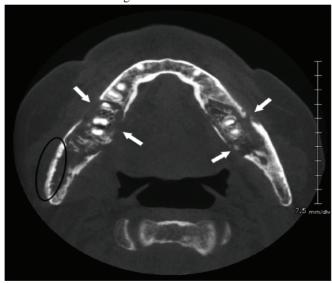


Figure 2. A 68-year-old male diagnosed with MRONJ with a history of lung cancer and developed bone metastasis. An axial CT image shows cancellous sequestra on both sides of the mandible with buccolingual cortical perforation (arrow). Periosteal reaction is also detected on the right posterior part of the buccal cortical bone (circle). MRONJ, medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (22).

Figure 3.

Magnetic resonance imaging (Siemens, Avanto, 1.5T, Sequence: T2 tse tra) Patient: 48 years old, female, metastatic breast cancer, zoledronic acid for 2 years. Green arrow showing the MRONJ necrosis: hypointense bone marrow, red arrows showing the oedema. Pair of screenshots. AAMOS staging: stage 2 (32).

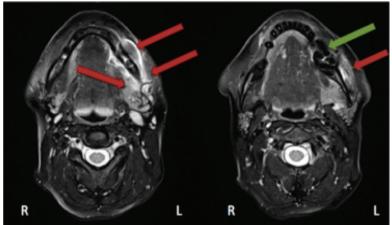


Magnetic Resonance Imaging

It is shown that MRI is more successful in detecting early signs of stage 0 MRONJ than CBCT and CT. It also allows imaging of cervical lymphadenopathies such as submandibular and jugulodigastric lymph nodes accompanying MRONJ as soft tissues are better visualized on MRI (23). In a study, MRI was found to be able to detect early osteomyelitis of Stage 0 MRONJ which is negative on CT (28). Living bone in stage 0 MRONJ shows low intensity on T1-weighted images and high intensity on both T2-weighted images and short tau inversion recovery (STIR) images which indicate the existing inflammation (23, 26, 28). When these bones become exposed or necrotic, the density becomes hypointense at T1, T2 and STIR (19, 23, 26, 29). The necrotic bone periphery gives a high-intensity "+" image on T2 and T1 with contrast, similar to the MRONJ foci and sequestrum with a hyperintense edge. In a clinical study, early-stage MRONJ detection of 54% on panoramic radiographs was shown to offer a higher sensitivity of 92% on MRI (30, 31). The MR images of a patient diagnosed with MRONJ as a result of zoledronic acid use are shown in Figure 3.

Functional Imaging

Functional imaging methods implicate Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT), Bone Scintigraphy and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) which can detect osteoblastic and osteoclastic activity before radiographically detected morphological changes in bone and hybrid systems (SPECT/CT, PET) which these imaging systems are combined with CT and imaging techniques such as Fluorescence Guided Bone Resection/Visibly Enhanced Lesion Coverage (VELscope) (33).

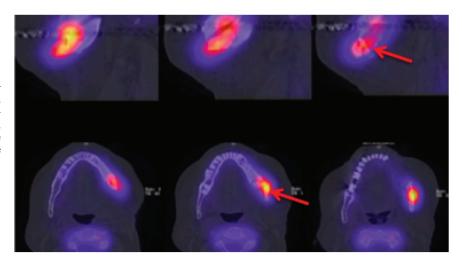


SPECT/CT

In SPECT, the distribution of radionuclide is viewed from multiple angles and in multiple two-dimensional images. A three-dimensional image is calculated from these datasets. SPECT imaging technique can be used as a hybrid SPECT/CT scanner in combination with anatomical imaging techniques. Technetium-99m methylene diphosphonate (99Tcm-MDP) or technetium-99 m-DPD (99Tcm-DPD) are constantly used nuclides to detect bone infections and do not show any major difference in pathological bone changes. The positive scintigraphy findings observed in MRONJ in many studies are consistent

with histological findings, which also supports its performance in the early diagnosis of MRONJ (34). However, images created by bone scintigraphy are two-dimensional and have low anatomical resolution. Because of this negativity, in the presence of osteonecrosis, the dimensions of the lesion can not be measured with high accuracy when compared with CT and MRI. Another deficit of this technique is the insufficiency to clearly distinguish between the inflammatory and malignant stages of existing lesions (35). The SPECT/CT imaging method using Technetium is shown in the Figure 4.

Figure 4.
Technetium-99m-3,3-diphosphono-1,2-propanodicarboxylicacid (99Tcm-DPD) SPECT/CT (Siemens, Symbia) Patient: 66 years old, male, secondary osteoporosis due to castration, alendronate. First row sagittal, second row axial view; 4.5 h after injection (bone phase). The uptake in the left mandible is clearly visible (red arrow) (32).



Positron Emission Tomography/Computerized Tomography (PET/CT)

Compared to the SPECT imaging method, the PET imaging method provides images with higher contrast and resolution. The PET/CT hybrid system consolidates anatomical imaging and functional imaging as in SPECT/CT before and compared with PET imaging, infected bone tissue can be expected to show increased glucose metabolism, an increased uptake compared to necrotic areas. Therefore, it is used to visualize suspected necrotic areas where blood flow and hypermetabolism do not occur. Abnormal mandibular development on PET scan is not unequivocally indicative of MRONJ (36).

Sodium Fluoride (NaF) is more sensitive to localize the site of osteoblastic activity than fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). FDG acts as an analogue involved in glucose metabolism; it has high performance in detecting bone infection and determining MRONJ stages. Studies using this imaging system have shown that MRONJ cases contain both necrotic tissue and signs of inflammation. However, the common disadvantage of PET with other functional imaging methods is that inflammatory events with high metabolism and cancer types with increased metabolism have a similar appearance (37). At this point, hybrid systems (SPECT/CT, PET/CT) created by combining both SPECT and PET techniques with low specificity with CT images allows combining functional and metabolic activity with detailed radiological anatomical dimension (23, 33). The truth that the actual dimension of surgically resected MRONJ lesions were established with respect to the measurements carried out SPECT/CT images in studies conducted on this subject also displays the benefits of hybrid systems (38).

VELscope

Fluorescence-guided bone resection is a definitively defined imaging modality in integration with surgery in MRONJ. According to this method, the patient takes 100 mg of doxycycline twice a day for 10 days before surgery. Thus, living bone will have a doxycycline uptake and present a "greenish" light when illuminated by the VELscope. The fluorescence of living bone is displayed "under blue light of 400 to 460 nm" (39). There is no uptake in necrotic bone, so it does not show fluorescence. Pautke et al. concluded that bleeding of the bone during resection was not correlated with any bone fluorescence signal (40). Bone hemorrhage, suggestive of living bone, may occur in areas of cancellous bone, but no fluorescence (39). This technique may suggest a way to standardize the surgical procedure (40).

Prevention of MRONJ

The key to prevention of MRONJ is screening high-risk patients (eg, AAOMS stage 0) predisposed to the disease to detect it at an early stage to effectively prevent progression and occurrence (41). Therefore, prevention should come before treatment. Published studies have shown that local infection treatment and oral hygiene can reduce the risk of MRONJ (42). Multidisciplinary cooperations between oncologists and dentists and close follow-up play a critical role in the prevention and treatment of MRONJ. More attention should be paid to oral hygiene and periodontal health in all stages of MRONJ (43). Maintaining proper oral hygiene and using antibacterial mouthwashes may help delay the MRONJ progression (41).

Cancer patients who will receive bone marrow treatment in non-emergency circumstances should be examined in terms of oral care before starting treatment and ensure that necessary dental procedures are performed. Oncologists should inform patients about the significance of oral care before treatment and patients should be examined by a dentist to eliminate risks as much as possible. For recently diagnosed MRONJ patients, it can be determined whether bone marrow treatment should be continued or interrupted by determining the development of subsequent treatment plans (23, 33).

Treatments for dentists should be logical with a follow-up system that provides follow-up examinations. Modifiable risk factors should be assessed for patients before cancer treatment and preliminary treatments such as extraction, conservative dental and periodontal treatment, adjustment of prostheses if necessary and finally the necessity of a lifetime daily oral care commitment and encouraging reduction of risk factors (such as smoking and uncontrolled diabetes) training should be provided (44). Controllable risk factors should be minimized. During the treatment, sixth-month follow-ups should be strictly followed and if symptoms recur, a doctor should be consulted at any time. It is recommended that the dentist complete the oral examination, evaluate the condition of the soft and hard tissues in the oral cavity, continue oral education and control risk factors. The patient should be followed for 8 weeks and the outcome evaluated by the dentist (45).

Drug Holiday

Many researchers recommend stop taking medication before tooth extraction or other invasive procedures. There is insufficient information and resources to refute whether drug holiday is beneficial in patients taking antiresorptive drugs for osteoporosis. However, the AAOMS committee reviewed the modified drug vacation approach described by Damm and Jones for patients at risk and found it appropriate for patients using drugs for a long time (> four years) (46). Information on discontinuation of IV bisphosphonate therapy before surgical procedures in cancer patients is insufficient. However, if MRONJ develops, the doctor may decide to discontinue drug therapy until soft tissue healing is complete, depending on the disease condition. There is no information to support or refute the issue of discontinuing antiangiogenic drug treatment to prevent or treat MRONJ, and research on this issue is ongoing (46).

MRONJ Treatment

There is no defined gold standard treatment in the literature and MRONJ is often very difficult to treat (23, 47, 48). Treatment strategies are mainly focused on minimizing the progression or formation of bone necrosis, eliminating pain, controlling infection and optimizing the patient's quality of life (16, 23, 47, 48). The AAOMS recommends stage-based treatment planning in patients with MRONJ (Table I). No treatment is recommended other than educating the patients about what MRONJ is, necessary precautions to prevent it, and oral hygiene for patients in the risk group, (49). In cases where a mobile sequestrant develops, it should be taken regardless of the stage (16).

Medication is the primary way currently existing in the early stages of MRONJ. Considering the AAOMS' report in 2014, Stage 0 and 1 MRONJ patients may take advantage of medical

treatments such as antimicrobials and systematic antibiotics (16). It can also be administered as adjuvant treatment in Stages 2 and 3 when evidence of infection emerges. Even in advanced stages requiring surgical treatment despite these recommendations, conservative medical treatment may prevail, and if the patient does not want to have surgery or the general situation of the patient does not empower surgery, conservative treatment may be a good alternative (50).

The antibiotics most commonly used for systematic drug therapy in MRONJ appear to be metronidazole, amoxicillin, penicillin, amoxicillin/clavulanate or a combination (51). In case of local antimicrobial use for the management of MRONJ, the first choice that should come to mind is chlorhexidine. Although the efficacy and extent of the application has not been fully determined, conservative treatment is a reliable method that can be applied at first and remains the most constantly tried method in the MRONJ treatment (51).

Although the AAOMS primarily recommends conservative treatment, Ristow et al. stated that the success rate was 20% in cases in which conservative treatment was preferred, while the success rate was over 85% in cases that underwent surgical treatment (52). This shows that, except for third-degree cases or well-defined sequestration, when non-operative treatment fails, operative treatment, which is a more cautious approach, should be considered. For successful surgical treatment, reducing the bacterial load with conservative methods before the operation, completely removing the necrotic bone during the surgery, removing the teeth in the necrosis area and correcting the sharp bone edges, tension-free primary closure of the wound area with a mucoperiosteal flap, laser that increases the success of surgery by disinfecting the bone, ozone, long-term antibiotic use are recommended. During surgery, the VELscope technique can also be used to distinguish between vital and necrotic bone (53). Although it has proven to be effective, some disadvantages have been reported in surgical treatment, such as worsening of symptoms after treatment, pathological fractures and loss of jaw segments. Surgical treatment has not yet been proven to treat patients in the early stages but it is a necessary modality for the treatment of more advanced MRONJ (54).

In addition to the treatment methods recommended by the AAOMS, there are research results showing that some auxiliary regenerative treatments also positively affect the recovery in MRONJ patients. Regenerative treatment choices in the treatment of MRONJ include low-dose laser therapy, surgical debridement with laser, surgical debridement under the guidance of fluorescent staining method, use of platelet concentrates, ozone and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, use of pentoxifylline, alpha-tocopherol, parathormone or stem cell transplantation into the lesion (23, 55).

Ozone therapy induces endogenous antioxidant systems and breaks the xanthine/xanthine oxidase enzyme pathway required for oxidation. It has been reported that ozone therapy increases blood circulation, erythrocyte count and hemoglobin amount, activates the mononuclear phagocytic system, contributes positively to the healing of bone defects and has antibacterial effects (56). Ozone treatment has also been reported to stimulate cell proliferation and soft tissue healing in stage 1 and 2 MRONJ (57).

Although the results of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) are controversial, it is used in the MRONJ treatment less frequently. Some researchers have reported that HBO enhances wound healing, reduces edema and swelling, stimulates stem cell mobilization and reduces the suppression of bone regeneration caused by bisphosphonates (57, 58).

LLLT (Low-level laser therapy) has positive effects such as reducing pain, increasing wound healing and facilitating nerve regeneration. It has been stated in different studies that LLLT has been used on the basis of its biostimulant effect in MRONJ lesions (57, 59).

Pentoxifylline and α -tocopherol have been reported to help antimicrobial treatment in the early stages of MRONJ and a 74% reduction was found in the bone exposure area and symptoms in cases where they were used (57). Pentoxifylline, which is a purine-derived peripheral vasodilator substance, improves the decreased flexibility of erythrocytes, helps to increase the oxygen saturation of the tissues by decreasing the blood viscosity and increasing the flow feature, thus the microcirculation of the blood. In addition, it inhibits fibroblasts, increases collagenase activity and decreases the proinflammatory cytokines such as interleukin-12 (IL-12) and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) (60).

Photo-bio modulation (PBM); besides its analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects, also an accelerator of tissue healing and repair (61). Cytochrome C oxidase is stimulated during PBM, resulting in increased cell proliferation, migration, differentiation, and metabolic activity (61). Since PBM enhances wound healing and modulates cell metabolism, it is considered a complementary therapy in MRONJ (62).

Another agent used in MRONJ is teriparatide. Teriparatide promotes the formation of healthy bone to replace necrotic bone by activating bone remodeling and increasing bone formation. There is also a view that teriparatide exerts its effect by suppressing sclerostin production and activating WNT signaling (63). Teriparatide has an osteoanabolic effect and has been found to encourage bone growth and healing in chronic periodontitis (64).

Mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) are well known for their ability to differentiate into tissue-forming cells for instance osteoblasts, chondrocytes and adipocytes. Due to their capacity to differentiate into osteoblasts and their immunomodulatory properties, MSCs can be used as graft material for areas of osteonecrosis (65). The efficacy of the MSC graft is related to its ability to increase TGF-β1, IL-10 and regulatory T cells (CD 4, 25) and reduce IL-6, IL-17 and C-reactive proteins (66). The limitation of MSC in the treatment of MRONJ is that it is not fully known if the primary mechanism of MSC is due to osteoblast differentiation or bone regeneration associated with immunomodulatory properties or both. In addition, MSC treatment has some detriments such as the need for additional equipment and an uncomfortable procedure. Finally, similar to other treatment modalities using grafts, MSC is difficult to implement as a single modality in the MRONJ treatment. Instead, it appears to be an adjunctive method that requires surgical treatment. Despite these limitations, MSC is taken into account as one of the most encouraging treatment modalities in combination with teriparatide due to its regenerative potential (65).

DISCUSSION

A comprehensive medical history and physical examination, along with effective radiological examinations are immensely important in the MRONJ diagnosis and planning while considering not only the presence of necrotic bone, but also other clinical signs and conventional-advanced imaging. It should be remembered that some cases of MRONJ may occur spontaneously, especially in the early stages, without the dental-periodontal diseases or any association with invasive dental procedures and it should be noted that pain may not always be present (67). The most common pathology observed in MRONJ is the emergence of non-epithelial bone, decreased number of osteocytes, more empty lacunae with increasing amounts of necrotic bone, demineralized extracellular bone matrix, denudation of bone and osteonecrosis (68).

Even though no general consensus exists on optimal treatment methods, it is noteworthy that all treatment strategies applied in practice are well-known anti-infective strategies. Conservative therapy usually comprises the use of anti-infective and oral disinfectants and long-term antibiotic therapy with temporary or even permanent cessation of antiresorptive drug therapy. Although this treatment does not usually lead to exact mucosal healing, it can lead to symptomatic relief as it can alleviate the signs of infection. It may also lead to downstaging of the disease (eg, stage 2 to 1) through reduced pain, swelling, and pus exudation (69). Surgical therapy takes place with antibiotic therapy, complete removal of necrotic bone fragments, softening of sharp-edged bones and plastic wound closure. The major intent in all these methods is to directly address the infection, remove necrotic and infected bone fragments and protect the surrounding bone from reinfection (70).

CONCLUSION

As a result, even though there is no concurrence on the preferred treatment methods, researchers agree that the most important trump card in the control of MRONJ is to prohibit the development and to detect it with advanced radiologic examinations at an early stage.

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