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## Evaluation of Lipid Emulsion-Mediated Sequestration and Redistribution of the Highly Lipophilic Carbamazepine in the Plasma of Rats

### *Yüksek Lipofilik Karbamazepinin Sıçan Plazmasında Lipid Emülsiyonu Aracılı Sekestrasyonu ve Yeniden Dağılımının Değerlendirilmesi*

Merve Ekşioğlu<sup>1</sup>, Deniz Algadik Gürsoy<sup>2</sup>, Engin Sümer<sup>3</sup>, Fadime Canpolat<sup>4</sup>, Sezgin Sarıkaya<sup>5</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** The idea that intravenous lipid emulsion (ILE) may serve as a "reservoir" for lipophilic drugs has emerged in research as an intravascular "lipid sink" effect. Carbamazepine (CBZ) is a widely used anticonvulsant. This compound has a neutral and highly lipophilic structure and can easily cross body membranes. In this study, our hypothesis focused on the potential efficacy of ILE in modulating blood carbamazepine concentrations.

**Material and Methods:** 22 adult Sprague-Dawley rats were divided into four groups. All groups received CBZ at a dose of 20 mg/kg orogastrically. The first group was the control group. In the second group (activated charcoal group), activated charcoal (AC) was administered orogastrically at a dose of 1 g/kg five minutes after orogastric administration of carbamazepine. The third group (lipid group) received ILE at a dose of 3 ml/kg/min at the fifth minute. The fourth group was the saline group, in which 16 ml/kg of 0.9% NaCl was infused at the fifth minute. Blood samples of 0.5 ml were collected at 0, 4, 8, and 24 hours. Plasma was separated by centrifugation (4000 rpm, 10 minutes) and stored at -80°C for determination of CBZ concentrations. An Agilent 6410B HP-1200 LC series (USA) liquid chromatography system was used for analysis. Quantitative analysis was performed in the multiple reaction mode with electrospray positive ionization (ES+).

**Results:** At the 8th hour of orogastric CBZ administration, CBZ concentration was significantly lower in the activated charcoal group than in the lipid and saline groups ( $p: 0.021$ ;  $p: 0.023$ ;  $p<0.05$ , respectively). There was no significant difference in CBZ concentrations between the other groups at 8 hours ( $p>0.05$ ). In the lipid group, the increase in CBZ plasma concentrations was statistically significant at 4 and 8 hours compared to 0 hours ( $p: 0.005$ ;  $p: 0.005$ , respectively).

**Conclusion:** In the lipid group, plasma CBZ concentrations increased at 4 and 8 hours in plasma samples from which lipids were separated by differential centrifugation. In the lipid group, no effects favoring drug-lipid sequestration on the plasma distribution of CBZ were observed.

**Keywords:** Intralipid, lipid emulsion, carbamazepine, liquid chromatography, lipid sink

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#### Öz

**Amaç:** İntravenöz lipid emülsiyonunun (ILE) lipofilik ilaçlar için bir "rezervuar" görevi görebileceği fikri, intravasküler "lipid sink" etkisi olarak araştırmalarda ortaya çıkmıştır. Karbamazepin (CBZ) yaygın olarak kullanılan bir antikonvülzandır. Bu bileşik nötral ve oldukça lipofilik bir yapıya sahiptir ve vücut membranlarını kolayca geçebilir. Bu çalışmada hipotezimiz, ILE'nin kan karbamazepin konsantrasyonlarını module etmedeki potansiyel etkinliğine odaklanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntemler:** 22 yetişkin Sprague-Dawley sıçan dört gruba ayrıldı. Tüm gruplara 20 mg/kg dozunda CBZ orogastrik olarak verildi. Birinci grup kontrol grubuydu. İkinci grupta (aktif kömür grubu), karbamazepinin orogastrik uygulamasından beş dakika sonra aktif kömür (AC) 1 g/kg dozunda orogastrik olarak uygulandı. Üçüncü gruba (lipid grubu) beşinci dakikada 3 ml/kg/dk dozunda ILE verildi. Dördüncü grup, beşinci dakikada 16 ml/kg %0,9 NaCl infüze edilen salin grubuydu. 0, 4, 8 ve 24. saatlerde 0,5 ml kan örnekleri toplandı. Plazma santrifüj (4000 rpm, 10 dakika) ile ayrıldı ve CBZ konsantrasyonlarının belirlenmesi için -80°C'de saklandı. Analiz için bir Agilent 6410B HP-1200 LC serisi (ABD) sıvı kromatografi sistemi kullanıldı. Kantitatif analiz elektrosprey pozitif iyonizasyon (ES+) ile çoklu reaksiyon modunda gerçekleştirildi.

**Bulgular:** Orogastrik CBZ uygulamasının 8. saatinde, CBZ konsantrasyonu aktif kömür grubunda lipid ve salin gruplarına göre anlamlı derecede düşüktü (sırasıyla  $p: 0.021$ ;  $p: 0.023$ ;  $p<0.05$ ). Diğer gruplar arasında 8. saatte CBZ konsantrasyonları açısından anlamlı bir fark bulunmadı ( $p>0.05$ ). Lipid grubunda, CBZ plazma konsantrasyonlarındaki artış başlangıçta kıyasla 4 ve 8. saatlerde istatistiksel olarak anlamlıydı (sırasıyla  $p: 0.005$ ;  $p: 0.005$ ).

**Sonuç:** Lipid grubunda, lipidlerin diferansiyel santrifüjleme ile ayrıldığı plazma örneklerinde plazma CBZ konsantrasyonları 4 ve 8. saatlerde artmıştır. Lipid grubunda, CBZ'nin plazma dağılımı üzerinde ilaç-lipid sekestrasyonunu destekleyen herhangi bir etki gözlenmedi.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** İntralipid, lipid emülsiyonu, karbamazepin, sıvı kromatografisi, lipid sink

## Introduction

Carbamazepine (CBZ) is a broad-spectrum anticonvulsant that is widely prescribed for the treatment of epilepsy, neuropathic pain, hyperactivity, and bipolar disorder (1-2). This compound has a neutral and highly lipophilic structure and can easily cross body membranes (3). Absorption of a single oral dose is highly efficient, with a known elimination half-life of approximately 35 hours (4). Following administration of a single oral dose of carbamazepine to volunteers or patients, the apparent volume of distribution has been observed to range from 0.79 to 1.86 liters per body weight (4). CBZ undergoes extensive hepatic metabolism via the cytochrome P450 enzyme system, with its major metabolite, carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide, exhibiting 50% protein binding and equal anticonvulsant and toxic properties (5). There is no specific antidote for CBZ poisoning and the drug is difficult to eliminate (6). Gastrointestinal decontamination (e.g., a single dose of activated charcoal) is indicated in patients who present within 1-2 hours of ingestion and who have no contraindications (7).

The idea that an intravenous lipid emulsion (ILE) could serve as a "depot" for lipophilic drugs has emerged in research as an intravascular "lipid sink" effect (8,9). Intralipid is an aqueous emulsion of neutral triglycerides derived from soybean oil and made isotonic with glycerol (10). The emulsion, which is composed of particles approximately 0.5 microns in diameter, contains egg yolk phospholipid at a concentration of approximately 1% as its emulsifying component (9). These fat droplets form a lipid compartment in the blood, separate from the aqueous plasma phase, in which lipophilic substances can be solubilized and drawn into the "lipid pool" (10). Among the mechanisms proposed for ILE action, the "lipid sink" coupled with the "lipid shuttle" has been one of the earliest and most enduring explanations (11).

## Goals of this investigation

In this study, our hypothesis centered on the potential efficacy of ILE in modulating blood carbamazepine concentrations. The primary objective of our investigation was to evaluate the effect of ILE on blood CBZ concentrations. The second objective is to evaluate the effect of activated charcoal on the absorption of CBZ.

## Material and Methods

### Ethical Considerations

The study (decision number: 634, approval date: 22.12.2017) was initiated following the approval of the Ethics Committee of the Local Ethics Committee for Animal Experiments at Yeditepe University. The research was conducted at the Laboratory for Experimental Animal Research at the Faculty of Medicine, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkiye. The study followed all relevant international, national, and institutional guidelines for the appropriate care and use of animals in research.

### Design and Subject Selection

A total of 22 adult Sprague-Dawley rats weighing between 200 and 300 grams were included in the study. All experimental animals were maintained on a 12-hour

day/night cycle at a temperature of  $24 \pm 4$  °C for 7 days prior to the start of the experiment. Rats were given standard diet and water.

## Experimental Protocol and Groups

Rats were randomly divided into four equal groups as follows:

- Group 1 ( $n = 4$ ) was the control group in which CBZ (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St. Louis, MO) was administered orally at 20 mg/kg.
- Group 2 ( $n = 6$ ) was the activated charcoal (AC) group, in which activated charcoal at a dose of 1 gr/kg was administered orogastrically in the fifth minute after orogastric administration of CBZ at a dose of 20 mg/kg.
- Group 3 ( $n = 6$ ) was the ILE group, in which ILE at a dose of 3 ml/kg/day was administered in the fifth minute after orogastric administration of CBZ at a dose of 20 mg/kg.
- Group 4 ( $n = 6$ ) was the saline group in which 16 ml/kg 0.9% NaCl was infused in the fifth minute after orogastric administration of CBZ at a dose of 20 mg/kg.

CBZ and AC were administered via orogastric tube. The tail vein cannulation was performed with a 26-G cannula (i.v. NEO ALPHA, La-med Healthcare, Hayrana, India). ILE (ClinOleic 20% lipid 500 mL, ECZACIBASI Baxter/Belgium) and 0.9% NaCl were administered with an infusion pump (Swiss Made, Arcomed AG Volumed VP 7000, Kloten, Switzerland). Drug administration methods were determined, and the experimental protocol was designed based on study reports in the literature and previously explained references (12,13). CBZ was dissolved in saline for the oral pharmacokinetic (PK) study. Isoflurane inhalation anesthesia (Isoflurane, Isofludem 100 mL) was used in all rats with an animal anesthesia machine. Blood samples of 0.5 ml were collected at 0, 4, 8, 24 h. Plasma was separated from blood by centrifugation (4000 rpm, 10 min) and stored at -80°C for determination of CBZ concentrations. All rats were decapitated by guillotine under anesthesia.

## Measurement of Carbamazepine

CBZ and desipramine hydrochloride (purity > 99, as internal standard) were purchased from Sigma (Sigma Aldrich, USA). HPLC grade methanol, HPLC grade acetonitrile, formic acid and ammonium formate were purchased from Merck (Merck, USA).

## LC-MS/MS Conditions

An Agilent 6410B HP-1200 LC series (USA) liquid chromatography system was used for the analysis. The study of Canbolat F et al. was modified for the quantitative analysis of CBZ (10). ACE-3 C 8 (3 μm, 3.0 mm 150 mm) column was used for analytical separation. The column temperature was 45 °C. Mobile phase A was 0.001 M ammonium formate in water and mobile phase B is 0.001 M ammonium formate in methanol: acetonitrile (50:50 v/v). The gradient system conditions were as follows 50% mobile phase A for 2 min. From 2.10 min to 5 min, 10% mobile phase A. From 5.10 min to 8 min, 50% mobile phase A. Total analysis time was 8 min at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. An Agilent 6410B triple quadrupole detector was used.

Molecule	Parent ion (m/z)	Daughter ion(m/z)	Fragmantor voltage (Volt)	Collision Energy (eV)
Carbamazepine	237.0	194.0	120	15
Desipramine (as IS)	267.0	72.0	120	15

**Table 1.** MRM condition for Carbamazepine and desipramine (as IS) by LC-MS/MS

Quantitative analysis was performed in multiple reaction mode with electrospray positive ionization (ES+). Table 1 shows the parent ion, daughter ion, fragmentor voltage, collision energy for each molecule (analyte).

#### Preparation of Standard and Quality Control (QC) Samples

Stock standard solutions were prepared by dissolving 50 mg of CBZ in methanol (c: 5.00 mg/mL). A diluted stock standard solution was then prepared by taking the stock standard solution and diluting it with methanol in a 50 ml volumetric flask (c: 25 µg/mL). The prepared solution was labeled and stored at -20°C.

To prepare eight calibration standards and three quality control samples (QCs) for CBZ, diluted stock standard solutions were spiked into plasma at different volumes. The calibration range for CBZ was 5.0 to 12590.0 ng/mL.

#### Sample Preparation

100 µL internal standard desipramine (IS) (c: 550 µg/mL) and 100 µL cold acetonitrile were added to 100 µL plasma sample, vortexed for 30 seconds and centrifuged at 16162 x g for 5 minutes. Five µL was injected into the analytical system.

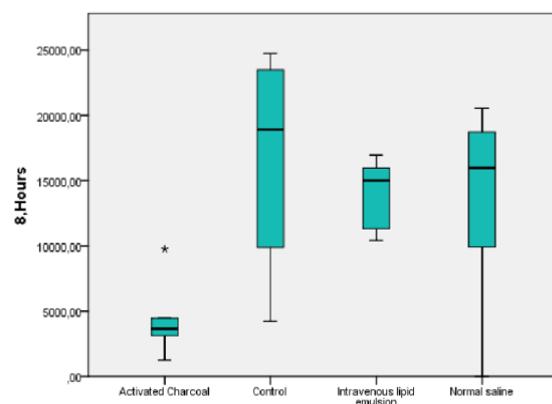
#### Statistical Analyses

The NCSS (Number Cruncher Statistical System) 2007 Statistical Software (NCSS LLC, Kaysville, Utah, USA) program was used for statistical analysis in the evaluation of the results obtained in the study. In addition to descriptive statistical methods (mean, standard deviation, median, frequency, and ratio), the Kruskal-Wallis test was used for intergroup comparisons of variables that did not show a normal distribution, and the Dunn test with Bonferroni correction was used to determine the group responsible for the difference. The Friedman repeated measures test and the Wilcoxon signed rank test with Bonferroni correction were used in post hoc evaluations for within-group comparisons of parameters that did not have a normal distribution. Results were evaluated at the 95% confidence interval and significance was evaluated at the p<0.05 level.

#### Results

The median plasma concentration of CBZ at 8 hours after administration varied among the groups studied. The median concentration was 3659.6 ng/ml (interquartile range (IQR): 2653, 5805 ng/ml) in the activated charcoal (AC) group, 18888 ng/ml (IQR: 7061, 24096 ng/ml) in the control group, 15004.9 ng/ml (IQR: 11087, 16197 ng/ml) and in the saline group it was 15957 ng/ml (IQR: 7445, 19168 ng/ml). Notably, at the 8th hour after orogastric administration of

CBZ, the control group had a significantly higher CBZ concentration compared to the AC group ( $p < 0.01$ ) (see Figure 1). Furthermore, the CBZ concentration at the 8th hour in the AC group was significantly lower than that observed in the lipid and saline groups ( $p < 0.05$ ) (see Table 2). However, there were no statistically significant differences in CBZ concentrations between groups at 0, 4, and 24 hours ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Figure 1.** Comparison of CBZ concentration at 8<sup>th</sup> hour

In the AC group, there was a statistically significant change in CBZ plasma concentrations over time ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Specifically, a significant increase in CBZ concentration was observed at the 4th and 8th hour compared to baseline (hour 0) ( $p = 0.001$  and  $p = 0.044$ , respectively). No significant differences were noted at the 24-hour time point. Similarly, the decrease in CBZ concentration from 4th to 24th hour was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) (see Table 3).

A statistically significant change in CBZ plasma concentrations was also observed in the control group ( $p < 0.01$ ). In particular, there were significant increases in CBZ concentrations at the 4th and 8th hour compared to baseline ( $p = 0.001$  and  $p = 0.028$ , respectively), with no significant change at the 24th hour.

A significant change in CBZ plasma concentrations was observed in the lipid group ( $p < 0.01$ ). Similar to the AC and control groups, there were significant increases in CBZ concentrations at the 4th and 8th hour compared to baseline ( $p = 0.005$  for both). In addition, significant decreases were observed between the time points of the 4th and 8th hour and the time point of the 24th hour ( $p < 0.05$ ). No significant differences were observed at other time points ( $p > 0.05$ ).

The saline group also showed a statistically significant change in CBZ plasma concentrations ( $p < 0.01$ ). Significant increases in CBZ concentrations were observed at 4 and 8 hours compared to baseline ( $p = 0.001$  and  $p = 0.014$ ,

Effect of Lipid Emulsion on Carbamazepine in Rats: Evaluation Study respectively), while no significant change was observed at the 24-hour time point. In addition, a significant decrease was observed between the 4th and 24th hour time points (p

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<0.05), with no significant differences at other time points (p> 0.05) (Figure 2)

CBZ Concentration	Activated Charcoal-Control	Activated Charcoal- ILE	Activated Charcoal-Saline	Control -ILE	Control-Saline	ILE- Saline
8. hours	0.009**	0.021*	0.023*	1.000	1.000	0.965

**Table 2.** Post hoc evaluation of plasma CBZ concentrations by groups

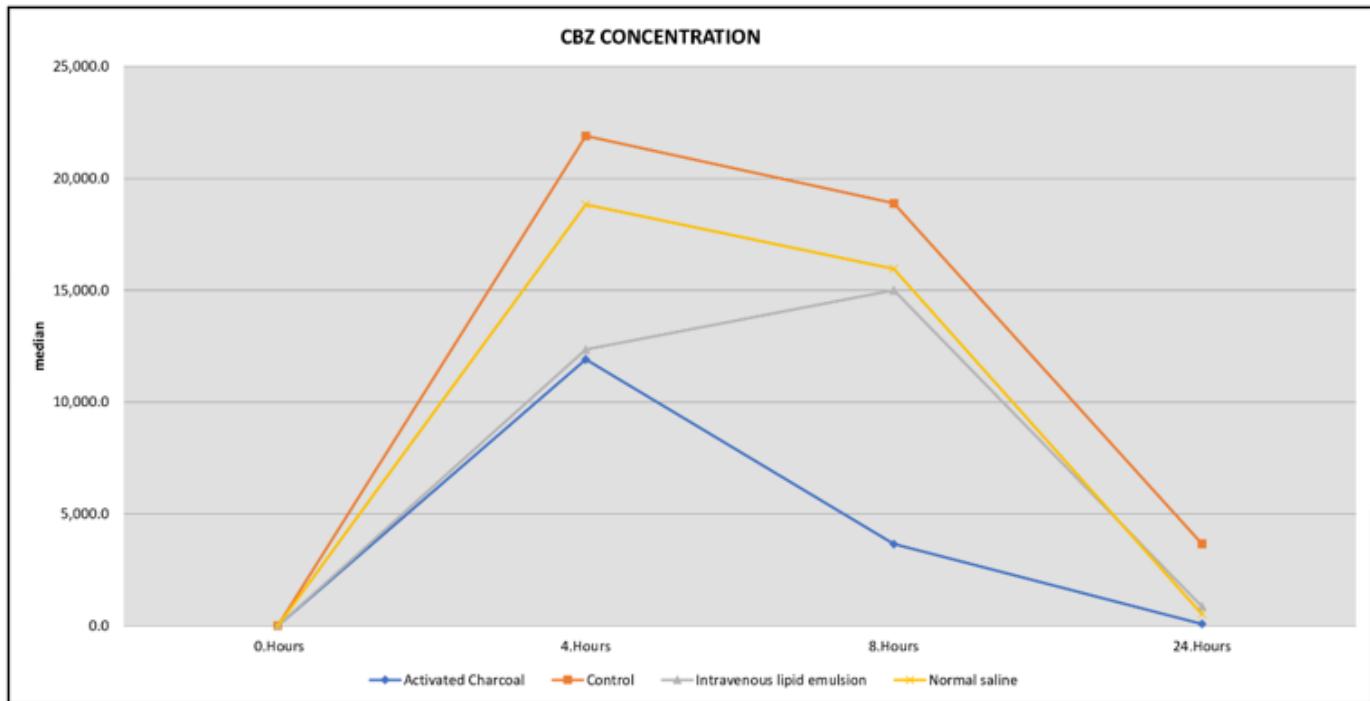
Dunn test with the Bonferroni Correction; \*p<0,05 \*\*p<0,01

CBZ Concentration	Activated Charcoal	Control	ILE	Saline
Q1-Q3				
<b>0.Hours</b>	(median) 0.73-1.07 (0.80)	0.76-1.23(0.91)	0.57-1.00 (0.69)	0.68-210.4 (1.11)
	Mean ± SD 0.9±0.23	0.97±0.25	0.82±0.40	140.15±340.54
	Q1-Q3 10309-15054	13920-		
<b>4.Hours</b>	(median) (11910)	28303(21901)	11535-17947 (12348)	13068-21736 (18835)
	Mean ± SD 12392.3±3653.1	21341.7±7408.0	13880.4±3448.4	16925.0±8837.9
	Q1-Q3 7061-24096			
<b>8.Hours</b>	(median) 2653-5805 (3659)	(18888)	11087-16197 (15004)	7445-19168 (15958)
	Mean ± SD 4323.7±2874.5	16681.8±9158.6	14105.6±2692.4	13516.0±7590.9
	Q1-Q3			
<b>24.Hours</b>	(median) 10.7-180 (84)	150-9514 (3672)	179-1509 (868)	49-11927 (528)
	Mean ± SD 91.6±77.6	4445.6±5095.7	856.1±660.4	5108.9±8302.2
<b><sup>a</sup>p</b>	<b>0.0001**</b>	<b>0.007**</b>	<b>0.001**</b>	<b>0.002**</b>
<b><sup>b</sup>0 – 4. hours</b>	<b>0.001**</b>	<b>0.001**</b>	<b>0.005**</b>	<b>0.001**</b>
<b><sup>b</sup>0 – 8. hours</b>	<b>0.044*</b>	<b>0.028*</b>	<b>0.005**</b>	<b>0.014*</b>
<b><sup>b</sup>0 – 24. hours</b>	0.180	0.273	0.180	0.442
<b><sup>b</sup>4 – 8. hours</b>	0.180	0.273	1.000	0.180
<b><sup>b</sup>4 – 24. hours</b>	<b>0.044*</b>	<b>0.028*</b>	<b>0.044*</b>	<b>0.044*</b>
<b><sup>b</sup>8 – 24. hours</b>	0.180	0.273	<b>0.044*</b>	0.502

**Table 3.** Evaluation of carbamazepine measurements in groups according to follow-up

<sup>a</sup>Related Samples Friedman's Two-Way Analysis of Variance, <sup>b</sup> Bonferroni corrected Wilcoxon signed Rank test. Q1: First quarter. Q3: Third quarter. \*p<0.05

\*\*p<0.01



**Figure 2.** Distribution of carbamezapine concentration according to follow-up

## Discussion

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of ILE on plasma CBZ concentrations after orogastric administration. It is important to emphasize that the model used in our study was not designed as a toxicity model. The dose of carbamazepine administered was carefully chosen to avoid inducing acute toxicity. The decision to use a subtoxic dose of CBZ was intentional, with the goal of elucidating the potential effects of ILE on CBZ pharmacokinetics without the confounding effects associated with acute toxicity. Although the charcoal-treated group showed a significant decrease in CBZ concentrations, this result must be interpreted with caution in the absence of overt toxicity. While there is currently no established antidote to reverse CBZ toxicity, anecdotal case reports have indicated successful treatment of CBZ-induced cardiovascular toxicity with lipid resuscitation therapy (14). However, the existing literature lacks a comprehensive investigation of the effects of intravenous lipid emulsion on the pharmacokinetics and plasma concentrations of CBZ. In our study, a notable observation was a significant reduction in plasma CBZ concentrations at the 8-hour mark in the activated charcoal-treated group compared with the lipid-treated group. This finding suggests that ILE alone may not be sufficient to substantially retain CBZ in the circulation.

Several pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) mechanisms have been postulated to explain the potential antidotal effects of ILE. Among these mechanisms, the "lipid sink" or "PK sequestration" theory has received the most attention (10). This theory posits that the triglyceride lipids present in ILE have a strong affinity for lipophilic drugs, creating a lipid-rich PK compartment within the circulation. This compartment effectively sequesters lipophilic drugs from their intended targets and free blood components. Equilibration between drug molecules and this lipid-rich phase results in reduced tissue concentrations, allowing for

restoration of organ function. In vivo studies have supported the lipid sink effect in successful lipid resuscitation. For example, Niiya et al. demonstrated that pretreatment with lipids protected pigs against amiodarone-induced hypotension, with ILE-treated pigs having lower amiodarone concentrations in the lipid-free aqueous phase compared to saline-treated controls (15). Similarly, Litonius et al. observed an increase in total amitriptyline concentrations and a decrease in the free amitriptyline fraction after ILE administration in amitriptyline-poisoned pigs (16). Another study in a rabbit model of intravenous clomipramine toxicity reported increased total blood clomipramine concentrations along with improved blood pressure after ILE infusion, consistent with sequestration of the toxicant in the intravascular lipid phase (17).

However, our study yielded intriguing results. Contrary to findings from other in vivo studies of lipophilic drugs, we observed that intravenous lipid emulsion did not appear to sequester CBZ in plasma, as indicated by the lack of a statistically significant difference in carbamazepine concentrations between the lipid-treated group and other groups at 4 and 24 hours. This discrepancy with previous studies may be due to differences in the routes of drug administration. In particular, previous studies predominantly used parenteral drug administration, whereas our study favored orogastric administration. It's also important to note that our study did not evaluate an important metabolite, carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide, which has toxicity similar to CBZ (5). The exclusion of this metabolite underscores the need for comprehensive studies to capture its effects. In addition, it's important to recognize that the response to intravenous lipid emulsion may be different for different drugs, influenced by their different chemical properties and pharmacokinetic profiles. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that no single

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dominant mechanism can explain the different results observed with different drugs.

To add to the discussion, activated charcoal was used in our study because of its proven ability to cover the surface of the digestive tract and prevent the absorption of certain drugs (18). AC therapy is still the most commonly used method of GI decontamination for acute drug overdose in developed countries. With a highly developed internal pore structure, the enormous surface area of AC allows adsorption of drugs and toxins in the GI tract within minutes of contact, reducing their systemic absorption and subsequent toxicity, and enhancing their elimination (19). Administered immediately after CBZ ingestion, activated charcoal served as a prophylactic measure in our study. In summary, the primary objectives of our article were to investigate the influence of early lipid administration on carbamazepine blood levels and the influence of activated charcoal on CBZ absorption. This multifaceted approach contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between intravenous lipid emulsion, activated charcoal, and carbamazepine pharmacokinetics and enriches the discourse on clinical applications in toxicologic contexts.

In conclusion, despite the well-established "lipid sink" theory associated with ILE and its demonstrated efficacy with certain lipophilic drugs, our findings suggest that CBZ may not conform to this paradigm. Intravenous lipid emulsion did not appear to significantly sequester CBZ in plasma, as evidenced by the lack of a statistically significant difference in CBZ concentrations between the lipid-treated group and other groups at 4 and 24 hours. Notably, AC administration showed a significant decrease in CBZ concentrations at the 8-hour mark compared to the lipid-treated group, highlighting the efficacy of AC in reducing systemic absorption of CBZ. However, caution must be exercised in interpreting these results because the study intentionally used a subtoxic dose of CBZ and the observed decrease in concentrations occurred in the absence of overt toxicity.

## Limitations

Our study has notable limitations that should be considered. First, we did not evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of CBZ sequestration by ILE. The focus remained primarily on elucidating the effects of the interventions without extending the investigation to broader clinical implications and therapeutic outcomes associated with CBZ use. Future research should include endpoints that allow assessment of the therapeutic benefit of ILE in mitigating CBZ-induced effects. In addition, the study focused exclusively on plasma concentrations of CBZ and did not include an assessment of tissue concentrations. This limitation highlights the need for future research specifically designed to investigate the influence of lipid emulsion on target tissue concentrations of CBZ, thus providing a more comprehensive understanding of drug distribution dynamics.

In addition, the lack of acute toxicity assessment and monitoring of vital signs in the experimental animals limits the ability to discuss the broader clinical implications of the study. Acute toxicity assessment is critical to understanding the therapeutic effects of ILE in scenarios where toxic manifestations are present. Future studies incorporating

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acute toxicity models and monitoring of vital parameters are essential for a more holistic view of ILE efficacy. In addition, the lack of evaluation of carbamazepine-10,11-epoxide, an important metabolite with comparable toxicity to CBZ, is a notable limitation. Future research efforts should include the evaluation of this metabolite to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, considering its potential impact on toxicity and therapeutic response. In conclusion, addressing these limitations will enhance the overall understanding of the clinical applications of ILE and its interactions with CBZ in toxicological contexts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, our study observed no significant sequestration of CBZ in plasma by ILE, challenging the conventional "lipid sink" hypothesis. The limitations, including the absence of acute toxicity models and vital parameter monitoring, underscore the need for further research to comprehensively evaluate the therapeutic efficacy and broader clinical implications of lipid resuscitation therapy in CBZ toxicity scenarios. These findings contribute valuable insights, guiding future investigations and enhancing our understanding of ILE dynamics in the context of lipophilic drug exposure.

**Conflict of Interest:** This research has not received any specific grant from any public, commercial, or nonprofit funding agency. Each author certifies that he or she has no commercial relationships (e.g., consulting, stock ownership, equity interest, patent/licensing arrangements, etc.) that could pose a conflict of interest related to this article. The authors certify that they have fully disclosed all relevant information about funding and potential conflicts of interest and that there are no financial or commercial relationships that could be perceived as influencing the work reported in this manuscript.

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**Ethical Approval:** The study (decision number: 634, approval date: 22.12.2017) was initiated following the approval of the Ethics Committee of the Local Ethics Committee for Animal Experiments at Yeditepe University.

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## Mortality Analysis of Geriatric Patients Who Fell Off The Stretcher in The Emergency Department: A Retrospective Clinical Study

### *Acil Serviste Sedyeden Düşen Geriatrik Hastaların Mortalite Analizi: Retrospektif Klinik Çalışma*

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** In this study, we wanted to examine the injuries, mortality, length of stay in the emergency department, and length of hospital stay of geriatric patients who applied to the emergency department after falling off the stretcher in the emergency department, and to determine which characteristics of the patients caused these problems.

**Material and Methods:** The study was conducted retrospectively and the data of patients who fell off the stretcher in the emergency department between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022 were examined. Patient records and electronic system data were used in the study. The patients' demographic information, chief complaints, fall details, Itachi fall score, length of hospital stay, and mortality were documented.

**Results:** The results of a total of 87 patients who fell off the stretcher in the Emergency Department were analyzed. The median age of the patients was 69 years (range 18-95). 56 of these patients were 65 years of age or older. Death occurred due to falls in 2 of our patients (2.3%). The median Itachi score in patients aged 65 and over was determined as 8 (1-26). Mortality due to falls was significantly related to cranial trauma ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Geriatric patients falling off the stretcher in the emergency department is more mortal. Measures must be taken to prevent it.

**Keywords:** Geriatric patients, emergency department, stretcher, falling

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada, acil serviste seden düşme sonucu başvuran geriatrik hastaların yaşadığı yaralanmalar, mortalite, acil serviste geçirilen süre ve hastanede kalış sürelerini incelemeyi ve bu sorunlara neden olan hastaların özelliklerini belirlemeyi amaçladık.

**Gereç ve Yöntemler:** Çalışma retrospektif olarak yürütülmüş olup, acil serviste seden düşen hastaların verileri 1 Ocak 2020 ile 31 Aralık 2022 tarihleri arasında incelenmiştir. Çalışmada hasta kayıtları ve elektronik sistem verileri kullanılmıştır. Hastaların demografik bilgileri, başvuru nedenleri, düşme detayları, Itachi düşme skoru, hastanede kalış süreleri ve mortalite kaydedilmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Acil serviste seden toplam 87 hasta incelenmiştir. Hastaların yaş ortalaması 69 yıl idi (18-95 yaş aralığı). Bu hastaların 56'sı 65 yaş ve üzerindeydi. Hastalarımızdan 2'sinde (%2,3) düşme nedeniyle ölüm gerçekleşmiştir. 65 yaş ve üzeri hastalarda median Itachi skoru 8 (1-26) olarak belirlenmiştir. Düşmelere bağlı mortalite, kranial travma ile önemli derecede ilişkilidir ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Sonuç:** Acil serviste seden geriatrik hastaların mortalitesi daha yüksektir. Bu durumu önlemek için tedbirler alınmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Geriatrik hastalar, acil servis, sedye, düşme

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## Introduction

Advancements in technology and improved living standards worldwide have led to a rise in the elderly population within societies. In the United Kingdom, 17% of the population is aged 65 or over (1). According to Turkish data, 9.9% of the population will be 65 years old and over in 2022, and this rate is expected to increase to 12.9% in 2030 (2).

Falls are a common and undesirable event in hospital environments, and patients are at risk of falling during their hospital stay (3). One of the accreditation standards for hospitals in many countries is the prevention of harm caused by falls (4). A considerable portion of patient safety incidents in hospitals is attributed to falls, with rates reaching 41% in the United Kingdom and 38% in Australia. (5). The effects and consequences of falls that threaten patient safety can be fatal (6).

In a study examining in-hospital falls, it was reported that 6.06% of patients experienced falls during their hospital stay, and 87.5% of them were in the age group of 65 years and above. Factors contributing to these falls include missing or malfunctioning stretcher rails, inappropriate stretcher height, inadequate placement of personal belongings, and inadequate night lighting (7).

In international health systems, in-hospital falls are recorded in adverse event reporting systems and plans for prevention have been developed (8). These plans aim to reduce the risk of patient harm due to falls (8). Fall risk assessment advocates ongoing, individualized assessments that include measures of risk, education, and environmental changes (9). Geriatric patients are more susceptible to falls due to their unique characteristics (7). Studies examining in-hospital falls have shown that the majority of patients who fall are debilitated geriatric patients (7, 10).

In parallel with the above, healthcare institutions have established a number of guidelines as prophylactic measures against falls (11). However, it is important to highlight that current health policies, guidelines and scientific research focus predominantly on falls near hospitals, with a noticeable gap in specific research on falls from ED (emergency departments) and stretchers.

The hospital where the study was conducted is one of the hospitals with the largest patient admissions in the country. The ED is a service with an average of 2500 patient admissions per day. In our clinic, the Itachi risk score is used to determine the risk of patients falling from the stretcher. This scoring is done by nurses at the bedside. Our clinic's policy for patients at high risk of falling includes: warning healthcare personnel, doctors, and attending relatives; ensuring a companion is present beside the patient; and guaranteeing that healthcare personnel are nearby when the patient needs to get up from the stretcher. We do not impose additional routine restrictions on patients.

In this study, our aim was to investigate the injuries, mortality rates, duration of ED stays, and length of hospital stays among geriatric patients who presented to the ED after falling off the stretcher. Additionally, we sought to identify the patient characteristics contributing to these issues. Thus, we aimed to determine the characteristics of patients who are likely to fall off the stretcher and take more careful precautions, and to reduce mortality and morbidity due to falling off the stretcher in the ED. Ultimately, we believe that

with this study, we can contribute to the literature and increase the quality of patient care by increasing awareness for geriatric patients while making hospital planning.

## Material and Methods

### *Study Design and Ethics*

Approval for this study was obtained from Ankara City Hospital No. 2 Clinical Research Ethics Committee (decision number E2-23-3810).

Patients who fell off the stretcher in the Adult Emergency Medicine Department of Ankara City Hospital between January 1, 2020 and March 30, 2023 were retrospectively examined. As a health system policy in Turkey, "adverse event reporting" is made for patients who fall off the stretcher or bed in hospital inpatient services and ED. This system is also applied in the hospital where the study was conducted. In the study, the Itachi fall scale is used to determine the fall risk of hospitalized patients and is recorded in the hospital information system. Itachi Fall Scale: It is designed for patients aged 17 and over and includes the patient's demographic information, reason for evaluation, major and minor risk factors. The scale consists of a total of 19 items, and a score is obtained by adding up the points given to each item. A total score between 0 and 4 points is considered low risk, and a total score of 5 points and above is considered high risk (12).

The information of the patients who fell off the stretcher in the ED was accessed by examining the patient records and electronic system data containing these notifications. The following characteristics of patients who fell off the stretcher in the ED were examined: Age, gender, comorbidities, GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale), post-fall pathology development (Nasal Fracture, Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, Subdural Hemorrhage, Extremity Fracture, Skull Bone Fracture), post-fall mortality development and Itachi fall scores.

### *Patient selection*

Patients >65 years of age who fell off the stretcher during the observation period in the ED were included in the study. Among these patients, those who reported adverse events and whose data could be accessed from the hospital information system were included in the study.

### *Statistical Analysis*

Statistical analyses were performed using "IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 25.0 (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA)." Descriptive statistics were presented as n and % for categorical variables and Mean $\pm$ SD for continuous variables. Independent T-test was used for comparisons among groups for various numerical parameters. Pearson Chi-Square test or Fisher's exact test was used for comparing categorical variables. p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## Results

### *Descriptive Data*

In our study, the results of a total of 87 patients who fell from the stretcher in the ED between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2022, were analysed. The median age of the patients was 69 (range 18-95). Out of these patients, 56 were aged 65 and above. During observation in the ED, traumatic

	n	%		n	%
<b>Gender</b>			<b>Malignancy</b>		
Male	53	60.9	No	72	82.8
Female	34	39.1	Yes	15	17.2
<b>Comorbid Disease</b>			<b>Itachi Risk Score</b>		
<b>HT<sup>a</sup></b>			Low risk	24	27.6
No	74	85.1	High risk	63	72.4
Yes	13	14.9	<b>Falling Time</b>		
<b>DM<sup>b</sup></b>			08.00-16.00	24	27.6
no	83	95.4	16.00-24.00	36	41.4
Yes	4	4.6	24.00-08.00	27	31.0
<b>CAD<sup>c</sup></b>			<b>Mortality</b>		
No	80	92.0	No	68	78.2
Yes	7	8.0	Yes	19	21.8
<b>CHF<sup>d</sup></b>			<b>Cause of mortality is a fall in the Emergency department</b>		
No	83	95.4	No	85	97.7
Yes	4	4.6	Yes	2	2.3
<b>COPD<sup>e</sup></b>			<b>Trauma From Falling</b>		
No	78	89.7	No	71	81.6
Yes	9	10.3	Nasal Fracture	5	5.7
<b>Epilepsy</b>			Subarachnoid Hemorrhage	1	1.1
No	78	89.7	Subdural Hemorrhage	6	6.9
Yes	9	10.3	Extremity Fracture	3	3.4
<b>CVD<sup>f</sup></b>			Skull Bone Fracture	1	1.1
No	79	90.7	<b>Fall Caused by Seizure</b>		
Yes	8	9.3	No	82	94.3
<b>Neurological Disease<sup>g</sup></b>			Yes	5	5.7
No	79	90.7	<b>Latest Status</b>		
Yes	8	9.3	Discharge	25	28.7
<b>Other</b>			Servive	20	23.0
No	72	82.8	Intensive Care Unit	31	35.6
Yes	15	17.2	Transfer to another Hospital	9	10.3
<b>Follow-up diagnosis in Emergency department</b>			Exitus in the Emergency department	2	2.3
Epilepsy	6	6.9	<b>Mean±SD</b>		
Infection disease	22	25.3	<b>Age</b>	66.28±17.14	
Cardiac and pulmonary disease	10	11.5	<b>Length of stay in the emergency department (hour)</b>	24.14±19.78	
Cranial events	21	24.1	<b>Length of hospital stay (hour)</b>	233.65±433.65	
GI bleeding	8	9.2	<b>GCS</b>	14.52±1.59	
Trauma	1	1.1	<b>Itaki Fall Risk Scale</b>	8.14±5.57	
Acute renal failure and electrolyte imbalance	10	11.5			
Other	9	10.3			

**Table 1:** Data of Patients Who Fell During Observation in the Emergency Department n:87

a) Hypertension, b) Diabetes Mellitus, c) Coronary Artery Disease, d) Congestive Heart Disease, e) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, f) Cerebrovascular Disease, g) Neurological Disease include Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease

issues developed in 16 patients because of falls, and investigations and treatment related to their trauma were initiated in addition to their existing medical condition. Out of a total of 19 mortalities, 17 were independent of falls and non-traumatic, while the other 2 (2.3%) were due to falls. The average length of stay in the ED for patients was 24.14±19.78 hours, while the total length of hospital stay was 233.65±433.65. The data for patients who fell in the ED during observation are summarized in Table 1.

#### Clinical Analysis

The median age of patients aged >65 was 75 (min 66 – max 95). In this age group, 2 patients (3.6%) experienced death

related to falls within the ED.

When patients aged 65 and above were compared with those below 65, no significant differences were observed in terms of age, gender, comorbidities, length of stay in the ED, time of the fall, and mortality. However, statistically significant differences were observed in Itaki scores, with a median score of 7 (range 1-24) for patients below 65 years and a median score of 8 (range 1-26) for those aged 65 and above ( $p=0.046$ ;  $Z=1.999$ ). The comparison of data between patients aged below 65 and those aged 65 and above is summarised in Table 2.

For patients aged 65 and above, the comparison of data with mortality is summarised in Table 3.

There was no significant relationship between mortality and gender ( $p = 0.596$ ); HT (hypertension) ( $p = 0.795$ ); DM (diabetes mellitus) ( $p = 0.491$ ); CAD (coronary artery disease) ( $p = 0.578$ ); CCF (congestive cardiac failure) ( $p = 0.634$ ); COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) ( $p = 0.339$ ); Epilepsy ( $p = 0.572$ ); CVD (cerebrovascular disease) ( $p = 0.630$ ); Neurological disease ( $p = 0.680$ ); fall-related trauma ( $p = 0.643$ ); time of the fall ( $p = 0.568$ ); Itaki score ( $p = 0.773$ ); age ( $p = 0.250$ ); length of stay in the ED ( $p = 0.736$ ); length of hospital stay ( $p = 0.148$ ).

However, mortality was significantly higher in patients with post-fall trauma ( $p = 0.018$ ). When all deaths were examined, patients with malignancy had a significantly higher mortality rate. Among the 9 patients with a diagnosis of malignancy, 6 (66.7%) died ( $p = 0.003$ ; OR 10; CI 95% 2.2-45.1). For patients who died in the ED, the median GCS was 15 (range 6-15), while it was 15 (range 10-15) for those who survived ( $p = 0.013$ ; Z=2.487). Patients who experienced post-fall trauma had significantly higher mortality ( $p = 0.018$ , Fisher's exact test).

75% of epilepsy patients (3 out of 4) stayed in the ED for less than 8 hours. The duration of stay in the ED for epilepsy patients was significantly lower than that for those without epilepsy ( $p = 0.022$ , OR 0.068; CI 95% 0).

In Table 4, we compared trauma-related mortality and demographic data, trauma time, GCS, fall risk score, and ED and hospital stay times of patients aged 65 and over. In patients aged 65 and over, there is a significant relationship between trauma-related mortality and post-fall trauma. When analyzed, cranial injuries were found to be more associated with trauma-related mortality.  $p < 0.001$  (Z = -4.038) (Table 4).

## Discussion

Our study provides a comprehensive review of stretcher falls in the ED, shedding light on relevant demographics, clinical outcomes, and potential risk factors. Falls constitute approximately 40% of accident reports in hospitals and can lead to serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, lacerations, intracranial trauma and even death (4). Most falls result from the interaction of more than one risk factor (13). These risk factors can be classified as individual and environmental factors.

In our study, Among the key findings, the average age of patients who fell off a stretcher was 69, and 56 were  $>65$  age. During their observation in the ED, 16 patients developed traumatic problems that required additional examination and treatment beyond their existing medical condition. Of the 87 patients analyzed, 19 died; 17 were deaths unrelated to falls, and 2 (2.3%) were directly attributed to falls. The average length of stay in the ED was  $24.14 \pm 19.78$  hours, and the total length of hospital stay was  $233.65 \pm 433.65$  hours. There was no significant difference in the length of stay in the ED and hospital between patients aged  $<65$  years and  $>65$  years who fell off the stretcher in the ED.

The study focused on geriatric patients aged  $>65$ , and the average age was 75 years. In this age group, 3.6% experienced a fall-related death in the ED. A comparative analysis between patients aged 65 years and above and

patients under 65 years of age did not reveal any significant differences in various parameters such as age, gender, comorbidities, and length of hospital stay. However, notable differences emerged in Itaki scores; Mean scores were higher in the geriatric group.

It is also known that the presence of a history of falling and the fear of falling are associated with recurrent falls and significantly increase the risk of falling (10). As a limitation of our study, we did not have information about the patients' past fall history.

In our study, there was no significant age difference between patients  $>65$  years of age and patients  $<65$  years of age. This emphasizes the importance of assessing fall risk in every patient presenting to the ED. However, in our study, mortality was significantly higher in patients aged 65 and over who experienced trauma after a fall. Similar to the results in our study, Healthcare and quality guidelines emphasize the importance of identifying and addressing specific fall risk factors for an individual patient rather than simply identifying fall risks (14).

In the meta-analysis, which included 34 articles and analyzed 22 factors, it was reported that advanced age, low education level, polypharmacy, malnutrition, living alone, living in cities, smoking and alcohol consumption increase the risk of falling in the aging population. In addition, it has been determined that comorbid diseases such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, stroke, frailty, previous fall history, depression, Parkinson's disease and pain increase the risk of falling (15). In our study, the presence of comorbidities was not significantly associated with mortality. However, since our study was conducted retrospectively, we did not have data on the environmental factors of the patients. This was one of the limitations of our study.

Cancer is becoming increasingly common among geriatrics individuals; More than half of cancer diagnoses occur in people aged 65 and over. It is estimated that 77% of people diagnosed with cancer aged 65 and over in the United Kingdom will have cancer by 2040 (16). The incidence of falls in this specific elderly group with cancer can be as high as 50% and may require additional evaluations in treatment planning (17). In our study, 17.9% of the patients aged 65 and over who applied to the ED were patients diagnosed with malignancy. These patients had a significantly higher 1-month mortality rate, but this rate was independent of falls in the ED.

It is estimated that the duration of hospital stay after a fall in the hospital environment increases by 8-12 days and the cost of care increases by 61.4% (18). In a study examining fall patients, it was found that 27.7% of fall patients were aged 60 and over, and 14 of 295 patients suffered minor injuries and 2 suffered serious injuries (3). In our study, out of 56 patients aged 65 and over, 4 developed subdural hematoma, 1 developed subarachnoid hemorrhage, 2 experienced extremity fractures, and 1 developed a nose fracture after a fall. The conditions of two patients who developed subdural hematoma after falling resulted in death. Unlike our study, there was no significant difference between the length of stay of the patients in both the ED and the hospital.

	<65 n(%)	≥65 n(%)	p		<65 n(%)	≥65 n(%)	p
<b>Gender</b>	20 (64.5)			<b>Other</b>			
Male	11 (35.5)	33 (58.9)		No	26 (83.9)	46 (82.1)	
Female		23 (41.1)	0.609*	Yes	5 (16.1)	10 (17.9)	0.838*
<b>HT*</b>	28 (90.3)			<b>Trauma From Falling</b>			
No	3 (9.7)	46 (82.1)		No	23 (26.4)	48 (55)	
Yes		10 (17.9)	0.364**	Nasal Fracture	4 (4.5)	1 (1)	
<b>DM**</b>	31 (100)			Subarachnoid Hemorrhage	0 (0)	1 (1)	0.222***
No	0 (0)	52 (92.9)		Subdural Hemorrhage	2 (2.2)	4 (4.5)	
Yes		4 (7.1)	0.057**	Extremity Fracture	1 (1)	1 (1)	
<b>CAD***</b>	30 (96.8)			<b>Falling Time</b>			
No	1 (3.2)	50 (89.3)		08.00-16.00	10 (32.3)	14 (25)	
Yes		6 (10.7)	0.413**	16.00-24.00	11 (35.5)	25 (44.6)	0.667*
<b>CHF****</b>	28 (90.3)			24.00-08.00	10 (32.3)	17 (30.4)	
No	20 (64.5)	55 (98.2)		<b>Itachi Risk Score</b>			
Yes	3 (9.7)	1 (1.8)	0.127**	Low Risk	11 (35.5)	13 (23.2)	
<b>COPD*****</b>				High risk	20 (64.5)	43 (76.8)	0.220*
No	29 (93.5)	49 (87.5)		<b>Cause of mortality is a fall in the emergency department</b>			
Yes	2 (6.5)	7 (12.5)	0.481**	Yes	0 (0)	2 (2.2)	
<b>Epilepsy</b>				No	31 (35.6)	54 (62.2)	0.412
No	29 (93.5)	49 (87.5)		<b>Mortality</b>			
Yes	2 (6.5)	7 (12.5)	0.481**	No	26	42	0.484*
<b>CVD*****</b>				Yes	5	14	
No	29 (96.7)	49 (87.5)		<b>Length of stay in the emergency department(hour), Mean±SD</b>			
Yes	1 (3.3)	7 (12.5)	0.252**	25.61±24,33	23.33±16,94	0.646***	
<b>Malignancy</b>				<b>Length of hospital stay (hour), Mean±SD</b>			
No	26 (83.9)	46 (82.1)		251.93±502,95	223.53±341.33	0.755***	
Yes	5 (16.1)	10 (17.9)		<b>GCS, Mean±SD</b>			
<b>Neurological Disease*****</b>			0.838*	14.25±2,15	14.67±1.16	0.320***	
No	29 (96.7)	49 (87.5)		<b>Itaki Fall Risk Scale, Mean±SD</b>			
Yes	1 (3.3)	7 (12.5)		7.00±5.92	8.78±5.32	0.046***	

**Table 2.** Comparison of data between age groups under 65 years old and over

\*:Pearson Chi Square test, \*\*:Fisher's Exact test, \*\*\*:Independent t test, p&lt;0.05 Statistically significant

Hypertension, b) Diabetes Mellitus, c)Coronary Artery Disease, d) Congestive Heart Disease, e) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, f) Cerebrovascular Disease, g) Neurological Disease include Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease

Today, various scoring systems are being developed to evaluate the risk of falling (19). The most common approach in this regard is to first determine the risk level that makes patients prone to falling. Using a model, scale or scoring system to determine the risk of falling in the diagnosis phase, which begins with the patient's admission, will facilitate timely care interventions and preventive measures, as well as prevent harm to the patient (8). In the center where our study was conducted, the Itaki Fall Risk Scale is used for this

purpose. In a study comparing the Itaki Fall Risk Tool with the Morse and Hendrich-II tools, it was found that the Itaki Fall Risk Tool was the most sensitive tool in assessing fall risk in hospitalized elderly patients (20). In our study, when patients aged 65 and over who applied to the ED were compared with patients under 65, the Itaki Fall Risk Score was found to be significantly higher. However, in the group aged 65 and over, the high Itaki Fall Risk Score was not significant in terms of mortality.

		Mortality				
		Alive		Exitus		
		Mean	n	Mean	n	p
<b>Gender</b>	Man	23		10		0.218
	Woman	19		4		
<b>HT<sup>a</sup></b>	No	18		8		0.268*
	Yes	24		6		
<b>DM<sup>b</sup></b>	No	27		11		0.259*
	Yes	15		3		
<b>CAD<sup>c</sup></b>	No	34		12		0.518
	Yes	8		2		
<b>CHF<sup>d</sup></b>	No	39		13		0.742
	Yes	3		1		
<b>COPD<sup>e</sup></b>	No	36		14		0.162
	Yes	6		0		
<b>Malignancy</b>	No	40		9		<b>0.008</b>
	Yes	2		5		
<b>Epilepsy</b>	No	41		14		0.750
	Yes	1		0		
<b>CVD<sup>f</sup></b>	No	35		14		0.176*
	Yes	7		0		
<b>Neurological Disease<sup>g</sup></b>	No	36		13		0.433
	Yes	6		1		
<b>Other</b>	Yok	34		12		0.518
	Var	8		2		
<b>Falling Time</b>	08.00-16.00	14		3		0.703
	16.00-24.00	10		4		
	24.00-08.00	18		7		
<b>Trauma Falling</b>	No	37		11		0.398
	Yes	5		3		
<b>Trauma From Falling</b>	No	37		11		0.366
	cranial injury	4		2		**
	Extremity injury	1		1		
<b>Age</b>	76	77		0.645		
<b>GCS</b>	15	14		0.083		
<b>Itaki Fall Risk Scale</b>	9	7		0.705		
<b>Length of stay in the emergency department (hour)</b>	27	20		0.431		
<b>Length of hospital stay (hour)</b>	213	255		0.770		

**Table 3.** Comparison of data of patients over 65 years of age with mortality

\*Fisher's exact test , \*\*Independent t test , a) Hypertension, b) Diabetes Mellitus, c)Coronary Artery Disease, d) Congestive Heart Disease, e) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, f) Cerebrovascular Disease, g) Neurological Disease include Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease, A study found that falls due to going to the toilet in the hospital were significantly higher between 00:00 - 06:00 compared to other hours of the day. However, in this study, no significant increase in the hospital stay of patients was detected (21). Unlike this study, in our study, no correlation was found between the time the patients fell off the stretcher and mortality.

In our study, no statistically significant difference was found between length of hospital stay and mortality. The reason for this may be that we could not reach the hospital stay of 9 referred patients and these patients were referred to intensive care units, which may have caused the patient's average hospital stay to be lower. We believe that there are many factors that affect the length of stay in the ED. In our study, two patients who died as a result of falling off the stretcher died in the intensive care unit on the 11th and 18th days.

We think that as the length of stay in the ED increases, the probability of falling off the stretcher increases, and the length of stay in the ED for patients who can be discharged in a shorter time due to trauma also increases.

		Cause of mortality is a fall		p
		No	Yes	
<b>Gender</b>	Man	31	2	0.343
	Woman	23	0	
<b>HT<sup>a</sup></b>	No	25	1	0.718
	Yes	29	1	
<b>DM<sup>b</sup></b>	No	36	2	0.456
	Yes	18	0	
<b>CAD<sup>c</sup></b>	No	44	2	0.672
	Yes	10	0	
<b>CHF<sup>d</sup></b>	No	50	2	0.861
	Yes	4	0	
<b>COPD<sup>e</sup></b>	No	48	2	0.795
	Yes	6	0	
<b>Malignancy</b>	No	47	2	0.764
	Yes	7	0	
<b>Epilepsy</b>	No	53	2	0.964
	Yes	1	0	
<b>CVD<sup>f</sup></b>	No	47	2	0.764
	Yes	7	0	
<b>Neurological Disease<sup>g</sup></b>	No	48	1	0.236
	Yes	6	1	
<b>Other</b>	Yok	44	2	0.672
	Var	10	0	
		08.00-16.00		0.559*
<b>Falling Time</b>		16.00-24.00		
		24.00-08.00		
		No	48	0
<b>Trauma From Falling</b>	Cranial injury	4	2	<0.001*
	Extremity injury	2	0	
		Median	Range	
<b>Age</b>	75	66-95	0.413*	
<b>GCS</b>	15	8-15	0.561*	
<b>Itaki Fall Risk Scale</b>	8	1-26	0.807*	
<b>Length of stay in the emergency department (hour)</b>	22	4-96	0.507*	
<b>Length of hospital stay (hour)</b>	72	4-1608	0.106*	

**Table 4.** Comparison of data of patients aged 65 and over whose cause of mortality was falling.

\*Independent t test , a) Hypertension, b) Diabetes Mellitus, c)Coronary Artery Disease, d) Congestive Heart Disease, e) Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, f) Cerebrovascular Disease, g) Neurological Disease include Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease,

In fact, The average length of stay in the ED for patients aged 65 and over was 23.6 hours (minimum 4 – maximum 80 hours). One of the discharged patients suffered an extremity fracture as a result of a fall.

### Limitations

Our study was conducted retrospectively in a single center and the number of patients was low. Therefore, our data pool was limited. Since we could not reach the hospital stay of the 9 patients who were taken to intensive care, the average hospital stay seems to be lower. We did not have information about the environmental factors of the patients before the ED. Because it was a retrospective study, we did not have information about the emotional factors and fears of falling that the patients experienced before and after the fall.

### Conclusion

Our retrospective observational study highlights the complex challenge of preventing patient falls in healthcare settings, particularly in the dynamic environment of ED. While it is universally accepted that the healthcare facility does not want patients to experience falls and associated

adverse outcomes, our findings underscore the multifactorial nature of these events.

Our study revealed a notable trend in which patients of all ages experienced falls during observation, but worryingly, falls in geriatric patients carried a high risk of death. This highlights the urgency of targeted interventions to improve the safety of this vulnerable demographic.

We recommend a multifaceted approach to prevent falls from stretchers in ED. It is of great importance to create special areas for geriatric patients in ED and to provide special training to nurses and allied health personnel on geriatric patient care. Increased collaboration with geriatricians can provide valuable information and support in managing the unique needs of geriatric patients. Keeping patient stretchers at a lower height to ensure safe mobility can reduce complications due to falls.

Although our study adds valuable information, we acknowledge its limitations and the need for continued research in this area. Implementation of recommended preventive measures requires a concerted effort by healthcare institutions and policymakers to create environments that prioritize patient safety and reduce the incidence of falls, especially among our elderly population.

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## The Relationship Between Pulmonary Artery Diameter Measured by Chest CT and D-Dimer in COVID-19 Patients Admitted to the Emergency Department

### *Acil Servise Başvuran COVID-19 Hastalarında Toraks BT ile Ölçülen Pulmoner Arter Çapı ile D-Dimer Arasındaki İlişki*

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has become a global health emergency due to its rapid spread worldwide. Our study evaluated the relationship between pulmonary artery diameter and d-dimer in COVID-19 patients.

**Material and Methods:** Patients aged 18 years and older with International Classification of Diseases 10 diagnosis code U07.3 who were admitted to our emergency department between March 15, 2020, and November 31, 2020, were included in our study. Demographic data (age, sex), laboratory tests (polymerase chain reaction test, d-dimer level), and imaging results (chest computed tomography, computed tomography pulmonary angiography) of the patients were retrospectively analyzed using medical records and the hospital electronic record system.

**Results:** A total of 1654 patients were included in the study. The 30-day mortality rate was 13.7% (n=227). The most effective independent variable on 30-day mortality was 44 years of age or older. Pulmonary artery diameter and d-dimer levels were found to be higher in both the group with typical COVID-19 chest computed tomography findings and in patients who died within 30 days. However, unlike the literature, there was no significant difference in pulmonary artery diameter and d-dimer levels between patients with and without pulmonary embolism.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, we found a weak positive correlation between d-dimer and pulmonary artery diameter in COVID-19 patients.

**Keywords:** COVID-19; d-dimer; pulmonary artery; pulmonary artery diameter

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Coronavirüs hastalığı 2019 (COVID-19) salgını, dünya çapında hızla yayılması nedeniyle küresel bir sağlık acil durumu haline geldi. Çalışmamız COVID-19 hastalarında pulmoner arter çapı ile d-dimer arasındaki ilişkiyi değerlendirmiştir.

**Gereç ve Yöntemler:** Çalışmamıza 15 Mart 2020 ile 31 Kasım 2020 tarihleri arasında acil servisimize başvuran, Uluslararası Hastalık Sınıflandırması 10'a göre tanı kodu U07.3 olan 18 yaş ve üzeri hastalar dahil edildi. Hastaların demografik verileri (yaş, cinsiyet), laboratuvar testleri (polimeraz zincir reaksiyon testi, d-dimer düzeyi) ve görüntüleme sonuçları (bilgisayarlı göğüs tomografisi, pulmoner anjiyografi bilgisayarlı tomografisi) tıbbi kayıtları ve hastane elektronik kayıt sistemi kullanılarak retrospektif olarak analiz edildi.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya toplam 1654 hasta dahil edildi. 30 günlük mortalite oranı %13,7 (n=227) idi. 30 günlük mortalite üzerinde en etkili bağımsız değişken 44 yaş ve üstünde olmaktı. Pulmoner arter çapı ve d-dimer düzeyleri hem tipik COVID-19 toraks bilgisayarlı tomografi bulguları olan grupta hem de 30 gün içinde ölen hastalarda daha yüksek bulundu. Ancak literatürden farklı olarak pulmoner embolisi olan ve olmayan hastalar arasında pulmoner arter çapı ve d-dimer düzeyleri açısından anlamlı fark bulunmadı.

**Sonuç:** Sonuç olarak, COVID-19 hastalarında d-dimer ile pulmoner arter çapı arasında zayıf pozitif bir korelasyon bulundu.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** COVID-19, d-dimer, pulmoner arter, pulmoner arter çapı

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## Introduction

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has become a global health emergency due to its very rapid spread around the world. The severity of the disease clinic varies from asymptomatic to rapidly progressive and fulminant (1). The presence of comorbidities, such as advanced age ( $\geq 65$  years), hypertension, chronic lung disease, and cardiovascular disease, are considered to be important factors in the more severe course of the disease (2). The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, muscle aches or fatigue. Atypical symptoms include phlegm, headache, hemoptysis, vomiting, and diarrhea. In severe cases, acute lung injury and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) can occur as a complication, sometimes in an unexpectedly short time after the onset of dyspnea (3). The most common cause of death in this disease is uncontrolled inflammation leading to hypoxic respiratory failure.

The relation between inflammation and thrombo-inflammation and its associated complications has been described (4). Recent studies have found a direct correlation between the d-dimer level and the severity of the disease and mortality in COVID-19 patients (5). COVID-19 has been shown to have destructive effects on pulmonary and systemic vascular structures. Most of these thromboembolic events occur in the lungs (25%). During infection, viral charge and systemic inflammation may cause damage to the endothelium in pulmonary vascular structures. Increased prostaglandin levels and hypercoagulability may cause pulmonary small vessel vasoconstriction and extensive microvascular thrombosis. These may increase pulmonary artery diameter and enlargement of the heart's right structures. Studies have shown a direct correlation between pulmonary artery diameter enlargement and mortality (6–8). Therefore, early detection of pulmonary hypertension is crucial to guide appropriate treatment. Extensive lung consolidation and ARDS can cause changes in pulmonary vascularity and pulmonary artery (PA) thrombosis (9,10). Microvascular thrombosis in the pulmonary pathway is thought to cause increased pulmonary pressure, resulting in pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary artery dilatation (11).

Although computed tomography (CT) pulmonary angiography is the gold standard for the diagnosis of PA thrombosis, non-contrast chest CT is performed in COVID-19 patients frequently in the emergency department (ED). Pulmonary artery diameter measurement, which is easy to evaluate and a non-invasive option with proven efficacy, can be used as an alternative method for screening and diagnosing pulmonary hypertension (12,13). Our study aimed to evaluate the relationship between D-dimer and PA diameter measured by non-contrast chest CT in COVID-19 patients.

## Material and Methods

Our study was conducted retrospectively after obtaining the approval of the local ethics committee (2020/13-42) at the emergency department of a tertiary care training and research hospital. Between March 15, 2020, and November 31, 2020, patients 18 years and older with International

Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10 diagnosis code U07.3 for meaning COVID-19 disease who were admitted to the ED with suspicion of COVID-19 were reviewed through the hospital's electronic record system.

Although the diagnosis of ICD U07.3 was coded, patients with missing data, patients younger than 18 years, pregnant women, patients with negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and no typical findings related to COVID-19 in the thorax parenchyma on CT, and recurrent admissions were excluded from the study.

Demographic data (age, gender), laboratory tests (PCR test, d-dimer level), and imaging results (chest CT, CTPA) of the patients were retrospectively analyzed using medical records and the hospital electronic record system. The laboratory findings were defined according to the upper and lower limits as pathologic, recommended by the kit manufacturer. Accordingly, a level of  $<500$  ng/mL was used as the reference for d-dimer testing. The age-adjusted d-dimer level was calculated using the formula (age  $\times$  10 ng/mL) for patients over 50 years of age (14).

All chest CT scans were performed with a non-contrast 64-detector system (Siemens Healthineers SOMATOM) using the following parameters: 110 kV, 75 mAs, 1 mm slice thickness, spiral spacing factor 1.25. All CT scans were evaluated by a single radiologist with 15 years of experience for COVID-19 findings again. According to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Türkiye, CT findings in COVID-19 patients are classified into four categories; typical for COVID-19 (category 1), indeterminate for COVID-19 (category 2), atypical for COVID-19 (category 3), and without pneumonia (category 4) (15). To increase the accuracy of the analysis, chest CT findings classification categories 2 and 3 were excluded because their findings might belong to another disease other than COVID-19.

The diameter of the main pulmonary artery was measured vertically to the axis of the vessel at the level of the right pulmonary artery bifurcation in the axial plane of the thorax CT image (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** The diameter of the main pulmonary artery was measured vertically to the axis of the vessel at the level of the right pulmonary artery bifurcation in the axial plane of the thorax CT image.

Using unenhanced axial CT sections, the upper limit of normal main PA diameter was accepted as  $\leq 26.9$  mm in women and  $\leq 28.9$  mm in men (16). Acute pulmonary embolism (PE) was considered to be present when CTPA showed a total filling defect in the pulmonary vessels or a central filling defect (Polo Mint sign) with contrast enhancement around it in the axial plane (17).

#### Statistical Analysis

SPSS for Windows Ver.20.0 (SPSS Inc., IL, USA) was used to analyze the data obtained. Data were analyzed for normal distribution using histogram, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, and Shapiro-Wilk tests. Qualitative data were expressed as numbers and frequencies, quantitative data were expressed as medians (interquartile range, minimum, and maximum). Fisher's exact and Mann-Whitney U tests were used to analyze qualitative data. Regression analysis was used for independent variables associated with mortality. All analyses were performed with 95% confidence intervals, and  $p < 0.05$  was considered significant.

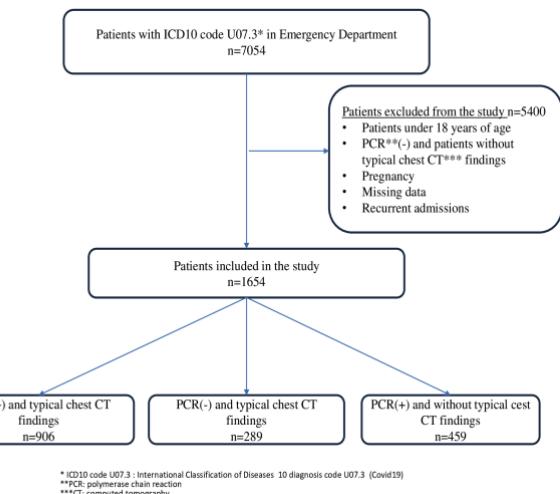
#### Results

It was determined that 7054 patients were admitted to the ED with a diagnosis of U07.3. Of these patients, 1352 were excluded from the study due to negative PCR and lack of typical chest CT findings, and 3950 were excluded due to missing data (no d-dimer test, no chest CT). The 1752 patients included in the study were considered to have COVID-19 based on PCR results and CT findings. In 98 patients with recurrent admissions, admissions other than the initial admission were also excluded. A total of 1654 patients were included in the study. While 906 of the patients included in the study had both a positive PCR test and typical chest CT findings, 459 patients had a positive PCR test but no typical chest CT findings. In 289 patients, the PCR test was negative, but typical chest CT findings were present (Figure 2).

Patients were 847 (51.2%) male, median age of 60 years (IQR=25, min=18, max=97). The PCR test was positive in 1365 (82.5%) of the patients who were included in the study.

The median d-dimer level was 755 ng/mL (IQR=1050; min=190, max=28420). The patients of 999 (60.4%) had a d-dimer level above the reference value calculated according to age. The median PA diameter was 25.9 mm (IQR=4.3; min=16.2, max=46).

A typical COVID-19-related lesion was detected on chest CT in 1195 (72.2%) patients. Pulmonary angiography CT was performed in 55 (3.3%) of the patients included in the study, and PE was detected in 12 (21.8%) of them. PA diameter was found to be higher than gender-specific limits in 500 (30.2%) of the patients. D-dimer and PA diameter were higher in patients with typical COVID-19 CT findings who died within 30 days (Table 1). The 30-day mortality rate was 13.7% ( $n=227$ ). Typical COVID-19 findings were detected on chest CT in 158 (69.6%) of these patients. Of the 1654 patients who were admitted to the ED, 802 were hospitalized. 29 (4.4%) of 674 patients hospitalized in the general ward and 22 (17.2%) of 128 patients hospitalized in the intensive care unit died. It was recorded that 15 of the patients died in the ED.



**Figure 2:** Flow diagram. The 1752 patients included in the study were considered to have COVID-19 based on PCR results and CT findings. In 98 patients with recurrent admissions, admissions other than the initial admission were also excluded. A total of 1654 patients were included in the study. While 906 of the patients included in the study had both a positive PCR test and typical chest CT findings, 459 patients had a positive PCR test but no typical chest CT findings. In 289 patients, the PCR test was negative, but typical chest CT findings were present.

A weakly significant positive correlation was found between d-dimer and PA diameter ( $r=0.226$ ;  $p<0.001$ ). There was a weakly significant positive correlation between d-dimer level above the cut-off according to age and PA diameter above the cut-off according to gender ( $r=0.116$ ;  $p<0.001$ ).

In the logistic regression analysis performed to determine the effect of independent variables on mortality, 30-day mortality was 2.2 times higher in male patients and 20.1 times higher in patients aged 44 years and older. It was found that a higher d-dimer level according to age and a PA diameter above the limits according to gender increased 30-day mortality by 2.8 and 2.2 times, respectively (Table 2).

#### Discussion

In our study, PA diameter and d-dimer levels were found to be higher in both the group with typical COVID-19 chest CT findings and in patients who died within 30 days. However, unlike the literature, there was no significant difference in PA diameter and d-dimer levels between patients with and without PE. We found a weak correlation between patients with increased d-dimer levels according to age and patients with increased PA diameter according to gender.

Numerous studies suggest that thrombotic microangiopathy affecting the pulmonary vasculature is an important pathophysiologic mechanism in severe COVID-19 disease (18). Thromboembolic events in COVID-19 pneumonia are reported to occur most frequently (25%) in the lungs (19). Studies have reported that elevated levels of d-dimer in patients with COVID-19 are suggestive of the presence of microvascular thrombus and PE (20,21).

		D-dimer			Pulmonary artery diameter		
		n	Median (min-max) (ng/ml)	%95 CI (ng/ml)	p	Median (min-max) (ng/ml)	%95 CI (ng/ml)
<b>Chest CT</b>	<b>Typical</b>	1195	810 (190- 27780)	1136- 1560	<0.001	26.1 (17.0-42.0)	26.3-26.7
	<b>Without pneumonia</b>	207	500 (190- 15020)	715- 1149		24.8 (16.2-20.1)	24.7-25.7
<b>CTPA</b>	<b>Negative</b>	43	5020 (530- 28420)	4565- 8605	0.463	27.2 (18.9-40.6)	26.2-29.0
	<b>Positive</b>	12	2725 (580- 18320)	1867- 9477		28.9 (19.9-30.9)	25.4-29.8
<b>30-days Mortality</b>	<b>Alive</b>	1427	680 (190- 27780)	1136- 1326	<0.001	25.6 (16.2-45.0)	25.9-26.3
	<b>Dead</b>	227	1600 (250- 28420)	2310- 3170		27.8 (17.0-46.0)	27.6-28.8

**Table 1.** Analysis of d-dimer and pulmonary artery diameter according to variables.

CT: Computed tomography; CTPA: Computed tomography pulmonary angiography; min: minimum; max: maximum; CI: confidence interval.

	OR	%95 CI	p
<b>44 years and older</b>	20.112	6.367-63.527	<0.001
<b>High age-adjusted D-dimer value</b>	2.813	1.955-4.048	<0.001
<b>Male</b>	2.243	1.646-3.056	<0.001
<b>Wide PA according to gender</b>	2.194	1.619-2.973	<0.001

**Table 2:** Multivariate logistic regression analyses of variables affecting 30-days mortality.

OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; PA: pulmonary artery.

Elevated laboratory parameters indicative of coagulation on hospital admission in COVID-19 patients are associated with an increased incidence of in-hospital thromboembolic events and mortality (5,22).

In a multicenter study of 1461 patients in Italy, Espasito et al. showed that d-dimer levels were higher in patients who died (23). Ippolito et al. reported that d-dimer elevation was associated with a high incidence of PE in patients hospitalized for COVID-19 infection (24). Similarly,

Espallargas et al. suggested that the incidence of PE increases with increasing d-dimer concentrations (25). In our study, we found higher d-dimer levels both in patients with typical COVID-19 CT findings and in patients who died within 30 days. However, in contrast to other studies, there was no significant difference in d-dimer levels between patients with and without PE. This may be explained by the higher incidence of critical illness, infection, acute kidney injury, and extrapulmonary thromboembolic events that can cause d-dimer elevation in COVID-19 patients.

In their study, Spagnolo et al. found a median PA diameter of 31 mm (IQR 28-33 mm) in patients undergoing chest CT after COVID-19 infection, which was higher than the Framingham Heart Study reference values of 27 mm and 29 mm for women and men, respectively (26). They reported that the reason why PA diameter was found to be higher in patients who died of COVID-19 compared to those who survived might be due to factors other than PE, such as viral autoimmune endothelial damage or procoagulant abnormalities (high levels of d-dimer and fibrin degradation products, presence of antiphospholipid antibodies, prolonged prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time) (20,27-29). In our study, we found higher PA diameters in patients with typical COVID-19 CT findings who died within 30 days. However, in contrast to other studies, there was no significant difference in PA diameter values between patients with and without PE.

"Ocal et al. reported that a pulmonary artery diameter greater than 3.315 cm predicted mortality with 98% sensitivity and 89% specificity. They also found that a pulmonary artery diameter greater than 3.315 cm increased mortality by 65 times (8). Timurkaan et al. observed an increase in mortality in patients with more than 50% lung lesions. The study also reported a significant difference in pulmonary artery diameter compared with patients with less than 50% lung lesions (6). Our study also observed a significant difference in pulmonary artery diameter in patients with typical COVID-19 lesions on chest CT compared with patients without pneumonia findings. Additionally, we found that an increase in PA diameter according to gender was associated with a 2.1 times increase in mortality.

Tastemur et al. conducted a study on COVID-19 patients and found a positive correlation ( $r=0.231$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) between PA diameter and d-dimer (7). Another study also found a positive correlation between PA diameter and d-dimer (30). Our study observed a significant positive correlation between d-dimer and pulmonary artery diameter ( $r=0.226$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). D-dimer is a fibrin degradation product that suggests thrombosis in the circulation. The d-dimer level is directly correlated with the diameter of the pulmonary artery. This suggests that the increase in pulmonary artery diameter in COVID-19 patients may be related to thrombosis in the vascular circulation.

In critically ill COVID-19 patients, there were patients with limitations in CTPA application due to concomitant renal failure. Our study effectively predicts microvascular thrombosis with PA diameter and d-dimer measurement, especially in patients with CTPA limitations. Although PA diameter on non-contrast CT is higher in patients with poor prognosis, pulmonary vascular measurements on non-contrast CT scans alone may not be sufficient to decide for CTPA (26).

### Limitations

The major limitation of our study is its retrospective nature. The number of patients who underwent CTPA and were found to have pulmonary embolism was small. Other limitations include the lack of data on PA diameter and pressure by right heart catheterization or echocardiography. The statistical analysis of our study was made between category 1 (typical CT findings for COVID-19) and category 4 (without pneumonia) groups in the analysis according to CT classification. Categories 2 and 3 were excluded. The PA diameter measurements of the patients were obtained during COVID-19 infection. These were not compared with any PA diameter measurements of the patient before COVID-19 infection. Comparison of PA diameter on non-contrast chest CT of the same patient before and after COVID-19 infection may be important to determine whether the increase in PA diameter is due to COVID-19 infection. Another limitation of our study is that PA diameters were measured manually. Different results may be obtained if the measurements are performed by different radiologists.

### Conclusion

Increased pulmonary artery diameter and high d-dimer levels were found to be higher in both the group with typical

COVID-19 chest CT findings and in patients who died within 30 days. Unlike the literature, we found a weak positive correlation between d-dimer and pulmonary artery diameter in COVID-19 patients. Our study supports that the high d-dimer levels in COVID-19 patients are associated with mortality and an increased risk of thrombosis in pulmonary and systemic vascular structures. Thoracic CT, as a non-invasive and easily accessible test, is important in predicting mortality and early treatment planning.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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**Ethical Approval:** The study was approved by Ethics Committee of the University of Health Sciences Tepecik Training and Research Hospital, Izmir, Turkey. (Approval number 2020/13-42). All study procedures were performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

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## Platelet Mass Index as a Predictor of Prognosis in Hemorrhagic Stroke

### Hemorajik İnmede Platelet Kitle İndeksinin Prognoz ile İlişkisi

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Platelet mass index (PMI) is an inexpensive parameter which can be easily calculated from complete blood count. It has been recently claimed as a good inflammation parameter that is closely related to platelet function and is also believed to indicate the aggregation capacity of platelets. The present study aimed to investigate the prognostic value of PMI in patients with acute hemorrhagic stroke.

**Material and Methods:** All patients aged 18 years or over who were diagnosed with subarachnoid or intracerebral hemorrhage between 2014 and 2018 were included in the study. Platelet mass index was calculated with the formula “PMI = platelet count x MPV”. The type and localization of hemorrhagic stroke, presence of secondary brain injury, laboratory parameters, need for surgical intervention, length of hospital stay, and 30-day mortality were compared between survivor and non-survivor patients. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed in order to discriminate surviving patients on the 30th day.

**Results:** A total of 103 patients were included. PMI was significantly higher in the surviving patients (1912 [IQR 25–75%: 1544.2-2468.2]) compared to the non-surviving ones (1722.1 [IQR 25–75%: 1332.2-2114]) ( $p=0.039$ ). There was no significant difference in the parameters showing platelet function and inflammation, including PMI levels in patients with and without secondary injuries or surgical intervention ( $p> 0.05$  for all). AUC value was found to be 0.628 (95% CI: 0.517-0.738) for PMI in discriminating surviving patients on the 30th day.

**Conclusion:** This study revealed that the patients who died by 30th day after hemorrhagic stroke had lower PMI levels. However, the predictive accuracy of PMI for 30-day survival was poor. Therefore, we believe that PMI cannot be used alone in predicting prognosis of hemorrhagic stroke, but in combination with other markers of platelet function and inflammation, it may contribute to clinicians in patient risk assessment.

**Keywords:** Hemorrhagic stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, intracerebral hemorrhage, platelet mass index

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Platelet kitle indeksi (PKİ), tam kan sayımından kolayca hesaplanabilen ucuz bir parametredir. Son zamanlarda trombosit fonksiyonu ile yakından ilişkili olan iyi bir enflamasyon parametresi olduğu ve aynı zamanda trombositlerin agregasyon kapasitesini gösterdiği iddia edilmiştir. Bu çalışmada PKİ parametresinin akut hemorajik inmeli hastalarda prognostik değerinin araştırılması amaçlanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntemler:** Çalışmamıza 2014-2018 yılları arasında subaraknoid ya da intraserebral hemoraji tanısı alan 18 yaş ve üzeri tüm hastalar dâhil edildi. PKİ, platelet sayısı ve ortalama platelet hacminin çarpımı formülü ile elde edildi. Yaşayan ve ölen hastalar arasında hemorajik inmenin tipi ve lokalizasyonu, sekonder beyin hasarı varlığı, laboratuar değerleri, cerrahi girişim gerekliliği, hastane kalis süreleri ve 30 günlük mortalite oranları karşılaştırıldı. 30. Günde yaşayan hastaların ayrimında PKİ' nin etkinliği için Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) analizi yapıldı.

**Bulgular:** Çalışmaya toplam 103 hasta dâhil edildi. Yaşayan hastalarda PMI (1912 [IQR 25–75%: 1544.20-2468.28]) ölen hastalara göre (1722.10 [IQR 25–75%: 1332.26-2114]) istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksekti ( $p=0.039$ ). Sekonder beyin hasarı veya cerrahi girişim olan ve olmayan hastalar karşılaştırıldığında, PKİ dâhil trombosit fonksiyonu ve inflamasyonu gösteren parametreler açısından anlamlı bir fark bulunmadı ( $p < 0.05$ ). ROC analizinde 30. günde yaşayan hastaları ayirt etmede PMI için eğri altı alan (AUC) değeri 0.628 (% 95 CI: 0.517-0.738) saptandı.

**Sonuç:** Çalışmamızda hemorajik inme sonrası ilk 30 günde mortal seyreden hastalarda PKİ düzeylerinin daha düşük olduğunu belirledik. Ancak, PKİ' nin 30 günlük yaşam tahmininde performası zayıftı. Bu nedenle, PKİ' nin hemorajik inmede prognoz öngörüsünde tek başına kullanılmayacağını ancak diğer platelet fonksiyon ve inflamatuvlar birlikte birlikte klinisyenlerin hasta risk değerlendirmesine katkı sunabileceğini düşünmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Hemorajik inme, subaraknoid kanama, intraserebral hemoraji, platelet kitle indeksi

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## Introduction

Hemorrhagic stroke, which can occur in two types as intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) and subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), continues to be one of the important causes of morbidity as well as mortality in adults (1, 2). It has been shown by experimental models that, immediately after the onset of bleeding, blood components entering the intracerebral spaces activate a series of complex inflammatory responses such as microglia activation, increased cytokine secretion, and infiltration of damaged areas by neutrophils and macrophages (3, 4). Therefore, determining inflammatory indices that can predict the prognosis of patients with hemorrhagic stroke has become an interesting subject of research.

Platelets, whose main task is to provide hemostasis, play an important role in inflammatory reactions and systemic immune response (5). Thus, some platelet-related parameters such as mean platelet volume (MPV) have been reported to be the prognostic markers of inflammatory response in various diseases (6). Platelet mass index (PMI) has recently been introduced into the literature as a better inflammation parameter than MPV, in addition to being closely related to platelet function (7, 8). In a recent study, PMI was found to be associated with disease severity in upper gastrointestinal bleeding (9). Nevertheless, no study in the literature has yet investigated PMI in patients with hemorrhagic stroke.

In our study, we aimed to investigate the prognostic value of PMI, an inexpensive and widely used parameter which can be easily calculated from complete blood count parameters, in the patients with acute hemorrhagic stroke.

## Material and Methods

### Study design and setting

This retrospective study was conducted in a tertiary emergency department (ED) after being approved by the local ethics committee (No: 2012-KAEK-15/2142). All patients aged 18 years or over who were diagnosed with SAH or ICH between 01.01.2014 and 01.01.2018 were included in the study. Patients who developed SAH or ICH due to traumatic injury, who were using antiaggregant drugs, who had bleeding disorders or a history of hematological disease, who had active infection or a history of inflammatory disease, and who had a malignancy or pregnancy were excluded from the study. Demographic data, comorbidities, Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) scores at admission, the type and location of hemorrhagic stroke, presence of secondary brain injury (cerebral edema, midline shift, intraventricular hemorrhage), the first laboratory values at admission to ED, need for surgical intervention, length of hospital stay, and 30-day all-cause mortality were reviewed using the hospital data system in hospitalized patients. Discharged patients were followed up by reviewing the patients' online medical records and calling their phone numbers registered in the hospital information system. Patients with missing data were also excluded.

### Laboratory parameters

Complete blood count analysis was performed with Mindray BC-6800 device, and the biochemical parameters were studied using Beckman Coulter AU5800 (USA) device. PMI

was calculated with the formula "PMI = platelet count x MPV".

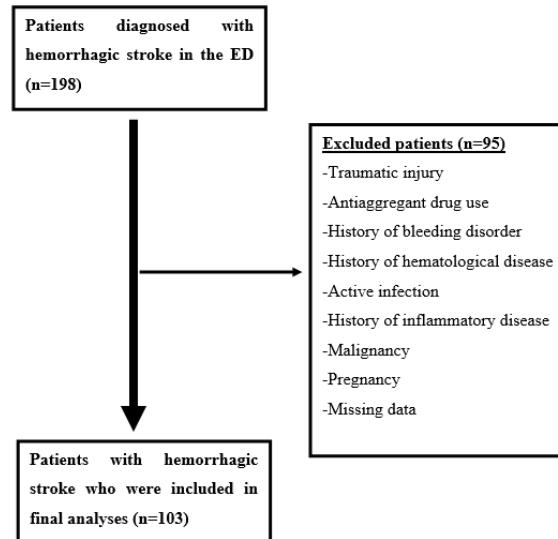
### Statistical Analysis

Study data were analyzed using IBM SPSS 24.0 (Chicago, IL, USA) statistical software. Whether the distribution of discrete and continuous numerical variables was compatible with the normal distribution was analyzed with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. As they did not meet the normality criteria, they were expressed as median values and interquartile range (IQR, 25–75%); categoric variables were expressed as number and percentage (%). Categoric variables were compared using Chi-square test and continuous variables using Mann Whitney-U test. In order to determine the PMI threshold values between the surviving and non-surviving patient groups, a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve was drawn and area under the curve (AUC) was calculated.  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant for all study results.

## Results

During the study period, 103 patients who were diagnosed with hemorrhagic stroke were included (Figure 1, Flowchart of patients). Males constituted 59.22% of the study population; the patients had a median age of 64 (IQR 25–75%: 53–84) years. Fifty-eight (56.31%) patients had ICH, and 45 patients had SAH. The median GCS was 15 (IQR 25–75%: 7–15). Surgical interventions were performed for 12.62% of the patients. Considering the in-hospital prognosis of patients with secondary injury, it was seen that 26 patients (40.6%) died. While 6 of 38 patients discharged from the hospital died within the first 30 days, the total 30-day all-cause mortality rate in the entire study population was 31.06%. Additionally, out of a total of 71 surviving patients, 28 were SAH and 43 were ICH, according to hemorrhagic stroke type. Table 1 shows the patients' demographic and clinical data and the laboratory parameters.

When the characteristics of surviving and non-surviving patients were compared, statistically significant differences were found for GCS, PMI and the presence of cerebral edema, midline shift and intraventricular hemorrhage.



**Figure 1.** Flowchart of patients

Data/ Parameter	n (%) or median (IQR 25-75)
<b>Male gender, n (%)</b>	61 (59.22)
<b>Age, median (IQR 25-75)</b>	64 (53-84)
<b>Comorbidities, n (%)</b>	
Hypertension	55 (53.39)
Diabetes mellitus	21 (20.38)
Chronic renal failure	8 (7.76)
Coronary artery disease	18 (17.47)
Chronic heart failure	9 (8.73)
Cerebrovascular disease	8 (7.76)
<b>Stroke type, n (%)</b>	
Intracranial Hemorrhage (ICH)	58 (56.31)
Subarachnoid Hemorrhage (SAH)	45 (43.68)
<b>Location, n (%)</b>	
Bilateral	11 (10.67)
Basal ganglia	35 (33.90)
Frontal lobe	30 (29.12)
Parietal lobe	44 (42.71)
Temporal lobe	32 (31.06)
Occipital lobe	10 (9.70)
Cerebellum	6 (5.82)
<b>Secondary Injury, n (%)</b>	
Cerebral edema	48 (46.60)
Midline shift	11 (10.67)
Intraventricular hemorrhage	31 (30.09)
<b>GCS, median (IQR 25-75)</b>	15 (7-15)
<b>Laboratory parameters, median (IQR 25-75)</b>	
White blood cell	11.20 (8-13.70)
Hemoglobin	13.80 (12.30-15.22)
Hematocrit	40.90 (36.30-45.30)
Platelet count	214 (189-250)
MPV	8.58 (7.42-9.66)
RDW	15.20 (14.10-16.30)
PMI	1814.40 (1517-2282.40)
Glucose	138 (112-186)
Urea	36.60 (25.69-51.38)
Creatinine	0.86 (0.75-1.04)
<b>Surgical intervention, n (%)</b>	13 (12.62)
<b>Length of hospital stay, days median (IQR 25-75)</b>	6 (2-16)
<b>In-hospital mortality, n (%)</b>	26 (40.62)
<b>Discharge after hospitalization, n (%)</b>	38 (59.37)
<b>Overall 30-day mortality, n (%)</b>	32 (31.06)

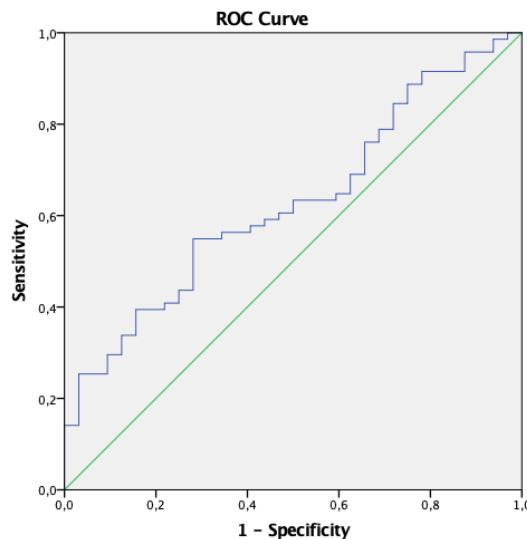
**Table1.** Demographic data and clinical data of patients and laboratory parameters

GCS; Glasgow coma scale, MPV; Mean platelet volume, PMI; Platelet mass index,

While no significant difference was observed in other laboratory parameters showing platelet count and inflammation, PMI was significantly higher in the surviving patients (1912 [IQR 25–75%: 1544.20-2468.28]) compared to the non-surviving ones (1722.10 [IQR 25–75%: 1332.26-2114]) ( $p=0.039$ ) (Table 2). Subgroup analyzes for secondary injury, surgical intervention and laboratory parameters in both hemorrhagic stroke types were also given in Table 3. There was no significant difference in PMI, platelet count, MPV and RDW levels in patients with and without secondary injuries ( $p> 0.05$  for all). Similarly, when patients with or without surgical intervention were compared, no significant difference was found in terms of parameters showing platelet count and inflammation, including PMI ( $p>0.05$  for all) (Table 4). Subgroup analyzes for PMI in both patients'

groups with and without secondary injury were also given in Table 5.

A ROC analysis was performed, and the AUC was calculated to find out the cut-off level for PMI level between surviving and non-surviving patients on the 30th day. AUC value was found to be 0.628 (95% CI: 0.517-0.738) for PMI in discriminating surviving patients (Figure 2). When the PMI threshold value was taken as 1827.50, PMI levels above this value could predict surviving patients with sensitivity of 54.92% (95% CI: 42.64-66.7), specificity of 71.80% (95% CI: 49.92%-83.80%), positive likelihood ratio of 1.76 (95% CI: 1.01-3.07), negative likelihood ratio of 0.66 (95% CI: 0.47-0.93), positive predictive value of 81.20% (95% CI: 69.10%-87.12%), and negative predictive value of 41.80% (95% CI: 32.72%-49.30%).



**Figure 2.** ROC curve for PMI in discriminating surviving patients on the 30th day

## Discussion

In our study, in which we investigated the relationship between PMI and 30-day prognosis in patients with hemorrhagic stroke, we obtained three important findings. First, unlike other platelet function markers and inflammation indicators (platelet count, MPV, RDW), PMI levels showed statistically significant difference between the surviving and non-surviving patients. This result supports the idea that PMI, a novel marker, may be a more effective indicator for both platelet functions in bleeding pathophysiology and inflammatory response. Second, we found that platelet function and inflammation markers, including PMI, did not differ significantly in patients who developed acute central damage secondary to hemorrhage (cerebral edema, midline shift and intraventricular hemorrhage) and required urgent surgical intervention. Finally, we found that the predictive accuracy of PMI for 30-day survival was poor (AUC = 0.628). Although PMI can give an idea to the clinician in conjunction with other variables, we believe that it cannot be used alone to predict prognosis due to the complex pathophysiological process of hemorrhagic stroke and patient-dependent multifactorial variable course.

	<b>Survivor (n=71)</b>	<b>Non-survivor (n=32)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Age, median (IQR 25-75)</b>	64 (53-80)	70 (53-87.70)	0.280
<b>Male gender, n (%)</b>	43 (60.56)	18 (56.25)	0.680
<b>Stroke Type, n (%)</b>			
ICH	43 (60.56)	15 (46.87)	0.195
SAH	28 (39.43)	17 (53.12)	
<b>GCS, median (IQR 25-75)</b>	15 (13-15)	5 (3-10)	<0.001
<b>Secondary Injury, n (%)</b>			
Cerebral edema,	28 (39.43)	20 (62.50)	0.030
Midline shift	2 (2.81)	9 (28.12)	<0.001
Intraventricular hemorrhage	17 (23.94)	14 (43.75)	0.043
<b>Laboratory parameters, median (IQR 25-75)</b>			
Platelet count	220 (189-263)	205(189-247)	0.175
MPV	8.82 (7.44-9.86)	8.24 (7.40-8.86)	0.131
RDW	15 (14-16.20)	15.22 (14.46-17.28)	0.248
PMI	1912 (1544.20-2468.28)	1722.10 (1332.26-2114)	0.039
<b>Surgical intervention, n (%)</b>	7 (9.85)	6 (18.75)	0.217

**Table 2.** Comparison of surviving and non-surviving patients

	<b>Survivor (n=71)</b>	<b>Non-survivor (n=32)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Secondary Injury, n (%)</b>			
<b>ICH patients:</b>			
Cerebral edema	17 (39.5)	8 (53.3)	0.353
Midline shift	2 (4.7)	4 (26.7)	0.034
Intraventricular hemorrhage	11 (25.6)	9 (60)	0.016
<b>SAH patients:</b>			
Cerebral edema	11 (39.3)	12 (70.6)	0.042
Midline shift	0 (0)	5 (29.4)	0.005
Intraventricular hemorrhage	6 (21.4)	5 (29.4)	0.722
<b>Laboratory parameters, median (IQR 25-75)</b>			
<b>ICH patients:</b>			
Platelet count	214 (186-266)	207(185-250)	0.450
MPV	8.90 (7.30-10.10)	8.58 (8.10-8.90)	0.582
RDW	15.2 (14.1-16.2)	15.0 (13.9-17.1)	0.817
PMI	1912 (1536-2377)	1783 (1539-2114)	0.389
<b>SAH patients:</b>			
Platelet count	224 (190-261)	201 (189-241)	0.223
MPV	8.87 (7.49-9.80)	7.80 (7.02-9.05)	0.117
RDW	14.9 (13.3-15.6)	15.3 (14.6-17.3)	0.149
PMI	1932 (1610-2552)	1687 (1289-1997)	0.039
<b>Surgical Intervention, n (%)</b>			
<b>ICH patients</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>SAH patients</b>	7 (9.85)	6 (18.75)	0.217

**Table 3.** Subgroup analyzes for secondary injury, surgical intervention and laboratory parameters in both hemorrhagic stroke types

	<b>Patients with Secondary Injury (n=64)</b>	<b>Patients without Secondary Injury (n=39)</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Need for Surgical intervention (n=13)</b>	<b>No need for surgical intervention (n=90)</b>	<b>p</b>
	1807.20	1827.56	0.962	1820	1791.70	0.990
<b>PMI</b>	(1522.50-2334.72)	(1502.12-2227)		(1510.30-2207.32)	(1516.90-2299.32)	
<b>Platelet count</b>	214 (189-254)	217 (188-250)	0.691	215(192-253)	214 (187-251)	0.781
<b>MPV</b>	8.40 (7.43-9.60)	8.77 (7.40-9.63)	0.563	8.20 (6.60-9)	8.63 (7.57-9.73)	0.125
<b>RDW</b>	15.05(13.95-16.52)	15.20 (14.22- 16.20)	0.943	15 (14.30-15.66)	15.22 (13.90-16.34)	0.509

**Table 4.** Comparison of laboratory parameters in patients with and without secondary injury or surgical intervention

	Survivor (n=26)	Non-survivor (n=38)	p
<b>Patients with Secondary Injury</b>			
PMI, median (IQR 25-75)	1943.97 (1605.60-2637.60) Survivor (n=33)	1706.52 (1302.26-1876.05) Non-survivor (n=6)	0.014 p
<b>Patients without Secondary Injury</b>			
PMI, median (IQR 25-75)	1827.56 (1487.06-2299.56)	1989.81 (1581.98-2255.95)	0.876

**Table 5.** Comparison of PMI in survivor and non-survivors in patients' groups with and without secondary injury

In recent years, the effects of inflammation and coagulopathy on the outcome of many pathophysiological conditions have been discovered, and accordingly, the prognostic value of blood parameters associated with both processes in various inflammatory diseases including ICH has begun to be investigated (10). Srinivasan et al. found that the leukocyte count is associated with clinical outcome in cerebrovascular diseases/SAH; Tao et al. reported similar findings for platelet/lymphocyte ratio (PLR), Chen et al. for MPV, and Siegler et al. for RDW (11-14). It has been suggested that PMI, which has recently started to find a place in the literature, may be a more effective prognostic marker than other platelet-related inflammatory parameters. While Krecak et al. reported that PMI is associated with thrombotic risk in polycythemia vera, Gao et al. associated PMI values with liveoid vasculopathy, Özbalci et al. with reduced progression in chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Wang et al. with liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B and Akpinar et al. with slow coronary phenomenon (15-19). Although PMI continues to be investigated in the literature for many different conditions belonging to many different systems, studies on hemorrhage are quite limited. In a study conducted by Okur et al. in preterm infants, it was reported that low PMI is an important hemostatic parameter associated with a series of morbidities, including intraventricular hemorrhage (7). Öztürk et al. reported that, unlike MPV, pre-delivery PMI values are not associated with postpartum hemorrhage (20). Korkmaz et al. found that low PMI measured in very-low-birth-weight newborns at risk of intraventricular hemorrhage on postpartum of 5 to 7 days can provide clinicians with knowledge regarding IVH. The study also reported that the mortality rate, which was 18.6% in mild stage IVH patients, was 33.9% in severe stage IVH patients with significantly lower PMI values (21). In our study, platelet count, MPV and RDW did not show any significant relationship with 30-day mortality in ICH patients, while PMI was statistically significantly lower in non-surviving patients. Low PMI may indicate an inability to limit bleeding secondary to impaired platelet function. Additionally, low PMI can also be considered one of the indicators of inadequate neuroinflammation. In the literature, it has been reported that post-bleeding neuroinflammation is more than a non-specific stress-related reaction and plays a role in triggering the post-ICH coagulative response (13). Although excessive inflammation carries the risk of vasospasm-related cerebral damage, its deficiency, as indicated by low PMI values, may be another possible cause of the negative prognostic effect through coagulation failure, which was found in our study.

Recent studies have reported that some peripheral blood inflammatory biomarkers such as leukocytes and MPV may be associated with bleeding severity and complications in ICH (22-24). However, it has been underlined in different studies that proinflammatory markers may be independent of certain parameters determining the short-term prognosis, such as the infarct area (25-26). For example, while MPV to platelet ratio was found valuable in the prognosis of ICH in some studies, it was found unrelated to prognosis in a recent study by Chen et al. (13, 24, 27). The heterogeneity of the study populations, the diversity of parameters investigated, and the differences in prespecified clinical outcomes seem to be the most likely causes of inconsistent results reported in the literature. We did not find any statistically significant relationship between the development of acute central damage (cerebral edema, midline shift and intraventricular hemorrhage) secondary to hemorrhage or the need for urgent surgical intervention and PMI, contrary to the 30-day prognosis. In bleeding models, it has been shown that many pathways involved in the inflammatory and coagulative processes in ICH develop in association with vasospasm (28). It is known that most of these bleeding-related triggering effects in both macrovascular and microvascular areas occur especially in the hyperacute phase (22). Accordingly, our results suggest that PMI is not related early acute inflammatory response and early complications. In the literature, different discriminative values ranging from poor to good (0.648 to 0.803) have been reported for AUC values related to inflammatory parameters in patients with ICH (12, 13). In our study, we determined that the AUC value (0.628) for PMI had a poor performance for the prediction of 30-day survival. To the best of our knowledge, our study is the first to investigate the prognostic value of PMI in adult patients with hemorrhagic stroke. PMI is one of the parameters easily obtainable from inexpensive, fast and widely available routine blood tests. However, due to this result in our study, we believe that PMI cannot be used alone in predicting prognosis in hemorrhagic stroke due to its complex pathways and multifactorial variable course that are yet to be clarified.

### Limitations

First of all, our study was a single-center study and enrolled a relatively small number of patients; thus, our results cannot be generalized to all centers. Due to our study's retrospective nature, incorrect and missing data may have affected our study results. In addition, we took the first PMI values taken after ED admission as basis, but we did not investigate the time interval these PMI values correspond to after bleeding. Moreover, we may not have accessed all the

records of drugs or herbal supplements that could potentially affect some inflammatory parameters investigated in our study. Additionally, since we did not have the complete data on the day of death for all mortal patients with secondary injuries, we could not be able to interpret the in-hospital mortality time. Subgroup analyzes were also not suitable for interpretation because they included a relatively small number of patients. Finally, we did not evaluate long-term follow-up of our patients after 30th day, and the course of PMI levels.

## Conclusion

Our study results revealed that the patients who died by 30th day after hemorrhagic stroke had lower PMI levels and when considered according to the stroke types, this difference was due to the patients with SAH. However, the predictive accuracy of PMI for 30-day survival was poor. Therefore, we believe that PMI cannot be used alone in predicting prognosis of hemorrhagic stroke, but in combination with other markers of platelet function and inflammation, it may contribute to clinicians in patient risk assessment.

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**Authors' Contribution:** Conception - SD, EE; Design and Supervision - SD, EE, OK, YÇ; Data Collection and Processing - SD, HU, ŞKÇ; Analysis and Interpretation - SD, OK, HU; Literature Review - SD, HU, ŞKÇ; Writing - SD, EE, HU; Critical Review - EE, ŞKÇ, YÇ.

**Ethical Approval:** Ethical approval for this study was obtained from Kecioren Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee (No: 2012-KAEK-15/2142).

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## Retrospective Examination of Trauma Patients Referred to the Emergency Department During the COVID-19 Pandemic Restriction Period

### *COVID-19 Pandemi Kısıtlama Döneminde Acil Servise Başvuran Travma Hastalarının Geriye Dönük İncelenmesi*

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** The COVID-19 epidemic has affected the entire health system worldwide. Along with many countries, restrictions have been introduced in our country. We aim to examine the characteristics of trauma patients who applied to the emergency department during the pandemic lockdown.

**Material and Methods:** We compared the clinical features of the trauma-related admissions in the three-month periods (1/3/2020 – 1/6/2020) with the pandemic lockdown and the same period of the previous year (1/3/2019 - 1/6/2019). Demographic characteristics, mechanism of injury, need for hospitalization, and patient outcomes were evaluated.

**Results:** During the pandemic lockdown period, the patient admission rate decreased by 17.25% compared to the previous year. This decrease was found to be significant, especially for those under 85 years old ( $<0.05$ ). While there was a significant decrease ( $<0.05$ ) in cases of forensic cases and traffic accidents in emergency service admissions. There was no significant difference in hospitalizations due to traffic accidents ( $p=0.257$ ). Patients were mostly hospitalized in the Orthopedics department. There was no statistically significant difference before and during the pandemic ( $p=0.831$ ).

**Conclusion:** Similar to the number of emergency service applications during the pandemic period, there was a decrease in applications due to trauma. The absence of significant differences in specific patient groups and hospitalizations should be considered in pandemic planning.

**Keywords:** Pandemic, lockdown, COVID-19, trauma, emergency department

#### Öz

**Amaç:** COVID-19 salgını dünya genelinde tüm sağlık sistemini etkilemiştir. Birçok ülke ile birlikte, ülkemizde de kısıtlamalar getirilmiştir. Bu çalışma, sokağa çıkma yasağının olduğu dönemlerde acil servise başvuran travma hastalarının özelliklerini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Kısıtlamaların yoğun olduğu üç aylık period (1/3/2020 – 1/6/2020) ile bir önceki yılın aynı periyodundaki (1/3/2019 - 1/6/2019) travma nedenli başvuruların klinik özellikleri karşılaştırıldı. Demografik özellikleri, yaralanma mekanizması, hastaneye yatis ihtiyacı ve hasta sonlanımları değerlendirildi.

**Bulgular:** Pandeminin kısıtlama döneminde bir öncesi yıla göre hasta başvuru oranında % 17,25 lik düşüş belirlendi. Bu düşüşün özellikle 85 yaş ve altında anlamlı olduğu bulundu ( $<0,05$ ). Acil servis başvurularında adli vaka ve trafik kazası ile başvurularda anlamlı azalma ( $<0,05$ ) saptanırken trafik kazalarına bağlı yatalarda anlamlı fark saptanmadı ( $p=0,257$ ). Hastaneye yatalar en sık Ortopedi bölümüne olurken bu durum pandemi öncesi ve sırasında anlamlı farklılık oluşturmadı ( $p=0,831$ ).

**Sonuç:** Pandemi döneminde acil servis başvuru sayılarına benzer şekilde travma nedenli başvurularda da azalma yaşanmıştır. Özellikle hasta grupları ve hastaneye yatalarda anlamlı fark saptanmaması pandemi planlamalarında göz önünde bulundurulmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Pandemi, kısıtlama dönemi, COVID-19, travma, acil servis

## Giriş

COVID-19 enfeksiyonu Aralık ayında Çin'in Wuhan kentinde ortaya çıkan ve 11 Mart'ta Dünya Sağlık Örgütü (DSÖ) tarafından pandemi olarak kabul edilen viral enfeksiyondur (1,2). Ülkemizde ilk vaka 11 Mart 2020'de saptanmış ve bu dönem sonrası çeşitli kısıtlamalara gidilmiştir (3). Bu kısıtlamalardan en önemlisi sokağa çıkma yasağıdır. Dünya genelinde yaşanan afetler, salgınlar ya da toplumu ilgilendiren sosyal olayların acil servis başvurularını değiştirdiği bilinmektedir (4,5,6). COVID-19 pandemisi ile birlikte acil servis başvurularında belirgin düşüş gözlenmiştir (7,8).

Travmanın genç yaşta ölümlerin en sık nedeni olduğu vurgulanmaktadır (9,10). En sık başvuru sebepleri sırası ile trafik kazaları, düşmeler ve darplar nedeniyle olmaktadır. Travma nedeni ile Acil Servis'lere yapılan başvurular daha çok genç nüfusu ilgilendirmesi ve travmaya bağlı mortalite ve morbiditenin yüksek olması nedeniyle önem arz etmektedir (10).

Pandemi döneminde dünya genelinde tüm hastaneler afet durumuna geçmiş ve yeni planlamalar gündeme gelmiştir. Hastanelerde servisler pandemi servisi ilan edilmiş birçok bölüm kendi hastaları dışında COVID-19 hastası izlemek zorunda kalmıştır (1). Bu dönemde acil servislere başvuran travma hastalarının benzer oranda azaldığı ve travma çeşitliliğinin değiştiği gözlemlenmiştir (11, 12). Kısıtlamalar insanların yaşam tarzının ve buna bağlı olarak maruz kaldıkları travmanın değişmesiyle sonuçlanmıştır (12). Basit yaralanmaların özellikle ev kazalarının ve evde spor yaralanmalarının arttığı dikkat çekmiştir (13).

Kısıtlamaların en çok olduğu dönemde 3. seviye travma merkezi olarak hizmet veren bir üniversite acil servisine başvuran travma hastalarının özelliklerini belirlemeyi hedefledik. Elde edilecek verilerin daha sonraki dönemlerde pandemi gibi sıra dışı durumlara hazırlıklar yapılabilmesi için yol gösterici olacaktır.

## Gereç ve Yöntemler

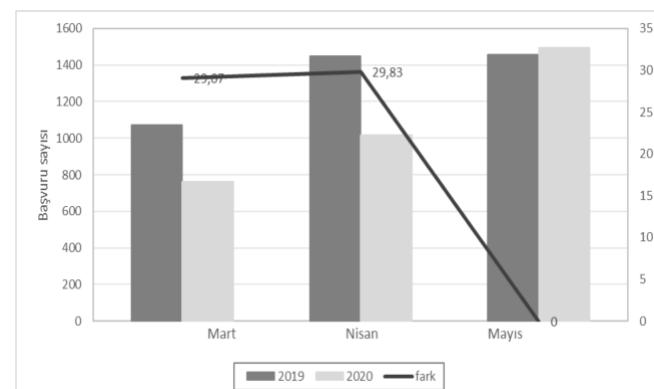
Hastane elektronik dosya kayıtlarından 18 yaş üzeri acil servise travma nedenli başvuran hastaların verileri incelendi. Hastaların başvuru tarihleri, yaş, cinsiyet, triyaj kategorileri, başvuru şekilleri, yarış ihtiyacı ve yarış yapılan klinikler, mortalite, gibi değişkenler incelendi. Pandemi döneminde özellikle sokağa çıkma yasağının olduğu dönem verileri (11 Mart – 1 Haziran 2020) ile pandemi öncesi dönem verileri (11 Mart – 1 Haziran 2019) karşılaştırıldı. Mart ayında ülkemizde COVID-19 vakasının ilk tespit edildiği ay olduğundan çalışma hastalarının alındığı ilk ay olarak belirlendi. Sokağa çıkma yasağının en çok olduğu Nisan ayı ve tedbirlerin azaltılmaya başladığı ay olan Mayıs ayı arasındaki veriler bir önceki yılın aynı ayları ile karşılaştırıldı. Veriler SPSS 25.0 programı kullanılarak değerlendirildi. Kategorik değişkenler frekanslar ve yüzdeler kullanılarak verildi. Hastaların demografik verilerinden sürekli değişenler normal dağılıma uyanlar ortalama ve Standart Sapma (SS) olacak şekilde verildi. Sürekli değişken normal dağılıma uygun olanlar Student T testi ile kategorik değişkenler ile bağımsız gruplar ki-kare testi ile değerlendirildi. P değeri için  $<0,05$  anlamlı kabul edildi.

## Etki Onay

Retrospektif, gözlemsel, tanımlayıcı nitelikte Helsinki ilkelerine uygun bir çalışma planlandı. Araştırma başlamadan T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı'ndan (2021-01-06T20\_12\_35) ve Üniversite Tibbi Araştırmalar Etik Kurulundan (Karar No: 21-3T/44) onay alındı.

## Bulgular

Acil servise travma ile başvuran 7270 hastanın 18'i öyküsünde travma olmaması nedeniyle çalışmadan çıkarıldı. Toplam 7252 hastanın 3979 (%54,9)'unun 2019 yılında, 3273 (%45,1) 'ünün 2020 yılı Mart-Mayıs aylarında acil servise başvurduğu belirlendi. Hastaların demografik özellikleri Tablo 1'de yer almaktadır. Acil servise travma ile başvuran hastalarda %29,83 oranında azalma en çok Nisan 2020 ayında gözlenirken, Mayıs 2020'de önceki yıla göre azalma olmamıştır. Şekil 1'de gösterilmektedir. Travma ile başvuran hastaların yaş grupları arasında istatistiksel anlamlılık bulunmuştur ( $p<0,05$ ). 65 yaş ve üzeri hastaların başvurularında %41,1 oranında azalma mevcutken 18-65 yaş arasındaki azalma %14,1 olarak hesaplanmıştır. Hastaların yaş ortalaması arasında bir fark saptanmamıştır ( $p=0,102$ ). Başvuru triyaj kategorilerinde yeşil alan hastaların arasında 2019 ile 2020 yılları arasında yarı yarıya bir düşüş saptanmıştır (%55,7). Mayıs ayında hasta başvuruların artmış olmasına rağmen yeşil alan hasta sayısında belirgin azalma devam ettiği gözlenmiştir ( $p <0,05$ ).



**Şekil 1.** Acil servise başvuran travma hastalarının pandemi ilk çeyreği ile bir yıl öncesi dönem arasındaki azalma.

Travmalar arasında, trafik kazalarının %51,5 oranında azalığı görülmüştür ( $p<0,050$ ). İş kazalarının %16,5 azalığı ( $p=0,381$ ), diğer nedenlerin (ayak burkulması, yabancı cisim batması, ve diğer basit travmalar) %20,5 azalığı ( $p=0,072$ ), adli vakaların (darp, yüksektenden düşme) sayısının arttığı gözlenmiştir (%10,5) ( $p<0,050$ ).

Hastaların yattığı kliniklere göre yarış sayıları incelendiğinde 2019 ile 2020 yılının aynı aylarında toplamda anlamlı farklılık saptanmazken ( $p=0,070$ ), Ortopedi kliniğine yarışlarında %36,1 oranında azalma tespit edildi. Ortopedi yarış endikasyonu incelendiğinde etiyolojide anlamlı farklılık saptanmamıştır ( $p=0,831$ ). Her iki dönemde de en sık (%34,4/37) yarış nedeni femur fraktürü olarak bulunmuştur.

Hastaneye yarış endikasyonu bulunan hastalar değerlendirildiğinde, 65 yaş üzerinden belirgin azalma

	2019			2020			Fark (%)	p
	Mart n(%)	Nisan n(%)	Mayıs n(%)	Mart n(%)	Nisan n(%)	Mayıs n(%)		
<b>Yaş (SD)</b>	41,65 ±13,23	40,70 ±18,83	40,20 ±17,86	39,90 ±16,74	40,98 ±16,54	40,57 ±16,30	-	0,102
<b>Yaş Aralığı</b>								
18-64	925 86,2%	1240 85,7%	1284 88,0%	684 89,9%	920 90,6%	1357 90,7%	-14,1	<0,05
65-74	72 6,7%	104 7,2%	91 6,2%	38 5,0%	49 4,8%	63 4,2%	-43,8	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
75-84	53 4,9%	69 4,8%	53 3,6%	24 3,2%	25 2,5%	55 3,7%	-40,6	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
85 ve Üzeri	23 2,1%	34 2,3%	31 2,1%	15 2,0%	22 2,2%	21 1,4%	-34,1	0,107
<b>Cinsiyet</b>								
Kadın	352 32,8%	506 35,0%	512 35,1%	198 26,0%	322 31,7%	469 31,4%	-27,8	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
Erkek	721 67,2%	941 65,0%	947 64,9%	563 74,0%	694 68,3%	1027 68,6%	-12,5	
<b>Başvuru Triyajı</b>								
Yeşil	46 4,3%	52 3,6%	76 5,2%	16 2,1%	29 2,9%	32 2,1%	-55,7	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
Sarı	1019 95,0%	1388 95,9%	1372 94,0%	734 96,5%	978 96,3%	1459 97,5%	-16,1	
Kırmızı	8 0,7%	7 0,5%	11 0,8%	11 1,4%	9 0,9%	5 0,3%	-3,8	
<b>Sonlanım</b>								
Yatış	103 9,6%	105 7,3%	130 8,9%	53 7,0%	63 6,2%	110 7,4%	-33,1	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
Ex	4 0,4%	2 0,1%	2 0,1%	4 0,5%	3 0,3%	0 0,0%	-12,5	Na
İzinsiz Terk	88 8,2%	113 7,8%	107 7,3%	60 7,9%	51 5,0%	74 4,9%	-29,9	<b>&lt;0,05</b>
Sevk	5 0,5%	9 0,6%	0 0,0%	5 0,7%	6 0,6%	3 0,2%	-	Na

**Tablo 1.** Acil servis travma birimine başvuran hastaların pandeminin ilk çeyreği ile bir önceki yılın aynı döneminin karşılaştırmasının demografik verileri.

saptanmıştır. 75 yaş ve üzeri hastane yatış endikasyonu olan hasta sayısında anlamlı değişiklik olmadığı bulunmuştur. (75-84 yaş p=0,070, 85 ve üzeri yaş için p=0,434). Yatış endikasyonu olan hastaların başvuru nedenleri incelendiğinde iş kazası (%61,9) ve trafik kazasının (%45) aynı dönemin önceki yılına göre yarı yarıya azaldığı görülmektedir. Trafik kazasına bağlı hastane yatışlarında iki dönem arasında anlamlı fark saptanmamıştır (0,257) (Tablo 2).

### Tartışma

Pandeminin ilk aylarında acil servise başvuran travma hastalarını değerlendirdiğimiz çalışmamızda, 2019 yılının aynı ayları ile karşılaştırdığımızda özellikle Mart-Nisan aylarında hasta sayısında belirgin düşüş dikkatimizi çekti. Acil servise başvuru ve hastaya yatış gereksinimi açısından değerlendirildiğinde, 85 yaş üzeri hasta sayısında dönemler arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı saptandı. Başvuru nedenlerine bakıldığına adlı vaka ve trafik kazalarında

	2019	2020	Fark (%)	p
<b>Yaş Aralığı</b>				
<b>18-64</b>	218 55.9%	172 44.1%	-21,1	<0,05
<b>65-74</b>	52 72.2%	20 27.8%	-61,5	<0,05
<b>75-84</b>	43 69.4%	19 30.6%	-55,8	0,070
<b>85 ve Üzeri</b>	25 62.5%	15 37.5%	-40	0,434
<b>Başvuru Nedeni</b>				
<b>Travma</b>	190 61.7%	118 38.3%	-37,9	0,206
<b>İş Kazası</b>	42 72.4%	16 27.6%	-61,9	<0,05
<b>Adli Vaka</b>	66 48.5%	70 51.5%	+6	<0,05
<b>Trafik Kazası</b>	40 64.5%	22 35.5%	-45	0,257

**Tablo 2.** Yatan hastaların yaş aralığında ve başvuru nedenine göre dağılımları.

anlamı azalma mevcutken yarış endikasyonu açısından bakıldığından trafik kazası nedenli yarışlarda her iki yıl arasında fark saptanmadı. Yarış yapılan en sık klinik olan ortopedi yarışlarındaki patolojilerde anlamı fark saptanmadı.

Literatür verilerine benzer olarak araştırmamızda da pandemi ile birlikte acil servise başvuran travma hastalarının sayısında anlamı düşüş (%17,25) saptandı (2,9). Waseem ve arkadaşlarının çalışmasında kısıtlamaların gevsetildiği Mayıs 2020 ayında. Mayıs 2019 ile benzer travma başvuru oranlarına ulaşılmış olduğunu bildirmiştir (14). Benzer şekilde çalışmamızda hasta sayısının 2020 Mayıs ayında bir önceki yıla göre artmış olduğu gözlemlenmektedir. Bu artış yasakların gevsetilmesi, sosyal izolasyonun psikojik etkileri ile ilişkilendirilebilir.

Adli vakaların başvuru oranının düşmemesi buna rağmen trafik kazası ve iş kazası başvurularının azalması, evden çalışmanın artması, vardiyeli çalışma sistemlerine geçilmesi ve sokaka çıkma yasağına bağlanabilir. Literatürde travma nedenli başvurularda ev kazalarının arttığı bildirilmektedir (13). Trafik kazaları ve buna bağlı yaralanma ve ölümlerin azalduğu saptanmıştır (1,11,15,16).

Çalışmamızda ortopedi kliniğine yarışlarında anlamı fark olmaması Çoşkun ve arkadaşlarının acil servis başvuru sonrası ortopedi konsültasyon istenilen hastalarla yaptığı çalışmada anlamı farkın olamaması ile benzerdir (17). Literatürde pandemi döneminde femur fraktürü nedeniyle yarışlarda artış gözlemlenmektedir (15). Osteoporoz zemininde femur kırıklarında literatürde pandemi döneminde anlamı azalma görülmemiştir (2,15). Çalışmamızda benzer olarak femur osteoporotik kırıklarında

pandemi öncesine göre fark bulunmamıştır. Bu durumda yaşlı popülasyona özel travma olan femur kırıklarının pandemi durumlarından etkilenmediği düşünülebilir. Literatürde yaşlıların, özellikle kırılganlığa bağlı travma başvurularında anlamı düşüş saptanmadığı belirtilmektedir (18). Benzer şekilde çalışmamızda 75 yaş ve üzeri hastalarda acil başvurusu ve yarış ihtiyacı açısından her iki yıl arasında fark olmadığını gördük. Bu bulgular yaşlıların travma maruziyetinin pandemiden etkilenmediğini şeklinde yorumlanabilir. Azalan trafik kazası oranına rağmen yarış ihtiyacında anlamı farklılık olmaması pandemide dahi ortopedi kliniğinin aynı iş yüküne sahip olacağının göstergesi olarak değerlendirilebilir.

### Kısıtlılıklar

Çalışmamız retrospektif olması, tek merkezli olması kısıtlılık oluşturmaktadır. Başvuran hastaların travma ciddiyetlerinin belirlenememesi, çoklu travma hastalarının değerlendirilmesindeki kayıplar yorumları kısıtlamaktadır. Travma hastalarının planlamasının daha geniş kapsamlı çalışmalara ihtiyaç vardır.

### Sonuç

Pandeminin kısıtlama döneminde özellikle sokağa çıkma yasağı kaynaklı travmalarda düşüş gözlemlenmektedir. Özellikle gruplar olan adli vakalar ve yaşlılardaki femur kırıkları bu düşüşten etkilenmemektedir. Travma ile ilgili pandemi planlamalarında bu durum göz önünde bulundurulmalıdır.

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## Investigation of the Profile of Newborns Presenting to the Pediatric Emergency Department

### Çocuk Acil Servisine Başvuran Yenidoğan Profilinin İncelenmesi

Selen Şimşek Pervane<sup>1</sup> , Çiğdem Çiçek<sup>2</sup> , Halit Halil<sup>3</sup> 

#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Newborn babies are a sensitive population whose diseases may be overlooked due to their faint complaints and sometimes they may be thought to be sick due to various complaints although they are not sick. Although it is not preferred that this group, which should be examined under appropriate conditions and by a specialist physician, present to the pediatric emergency department, this situation is frequently encountered. The aim of this study was to investigate the presentation patterns of newborns to the pediatric emergency department. Presenting complaints, investigations and discharge information were evaluated.

**Material and Methods:** Infants aged 0-28 days who were brought to the Pediatric Emergency Department with any complaint between January 2020 and September 2023 were retrospectively analyzed from the hospital database.

**Results:** A total of 228 newborn babies admitted to the pediatric emergency department during the study period were examined. Among these, 4-7 days old infants were the most frequently admitted infants. The most common presenting complaint was jaundice, followed by restlessness and umbilical complaints. Blood tests were requested from the majority of the babies and the most common indication for blood tests was jaundice. While 198 (86.8%) of the babies admitted to the emergency department were discharged, 30 (13.2%) required hospitalization. Repeated admission to the emergency department was found in approximately one tenth of the infants.

**Conclusion:** The most common complaints of neonates admitted to the emergency department were jaundice, restlessness, umbilical complaints, not waking up, fever, vomiting, cough and nasal congestion. 17 patients were admitted to the first level neonatal intensive care unit and 13 patients were referred to a full-fledged hospital for further investigation and treatment.

**Keywords:** Pediatric emergency, newborn infants, emergency, newborn

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Yenidoğan bebekler silik yakınmaları nedeniyle hastalıkları gözden kaçabilen bazense hasta olmadıkları halde çeşitli yakınmaları nedeniyle hasta sanılabilen hassas bir popülasyondur. Uygun koşullarda ve uzman hekim tarafından muayenesi gereken bu grubun çocuk acil servisine başvuruları tercih edilmemekle beraber bu durumla sık karşılaşılmaktadır. Bu çalışmada yenidoğanların çocuk acil servise başvuru şekillerinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır. Başvuru yakınmaları, alınan tetkikler ve taburculuk bilgileri değerlendirilmiştir.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Ocak 2020 ile Eylül 2023 arasında Çocuk Acil Servisi'ne herhangi bir yakınma ile getirilen 0-28 günlük bebekler hastane veritabanından retrospektif olarak incelenmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Çalışma süresince çocuk acil servise başvuran toplam 228 yenidoğan bebek incelenmiştir. Bunların içinde en sık başvuruya 4-7 günlük bebekler oluşturmaktadır. En sık başvuru yakınıması sarılık olarak saptanmış, bunu huzursuzluk ve göbek ilişkili yakınmalar takip etmiştir. Bebeklerin çoğunluğundan kan tetkiki istenmiş ve en sık kan istenme endikasyonu sarılık olarak belirlenmiştir. Acile başvuran bebeklerin 198'i (%86,8) taburcu edilirken 30'una (%13,2) yatış gerekmisti. Bebeklerin yaklaşık onda birinde acil servise tekrarlayan başvuru saptanmıştır.

**Sonuç:** Yenidoğanların acil servise en sık başvuru şikayetlerini sarılık, huzursuzluk, göbek ilişkili yakınmalar, uyanmama, ateş, kusma, öksürük ve burun tıkanıklığı oluşturmaktadır. 17 hastaya 1. basamak yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesine yatış verilmiş, 13 hasta ise ileri tetkik ve tedavi amacıyla tam teşekküllü hastaneye yönlendirilmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Çocuk acil, yenidoğan bebekler, acil, yenidoğan

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## Giriş

Yenidoğan dönemi çocukluk çağının en hassas dönemlerinden biridir. Kendilerini ifade edememeleri, semptomlarının silek olması ve immün sistemlerinin yeterli gelişmemiş olması nedeniyle yenidoğan bebekler hem ciddi hastalık tanıları atlanabilen, hem de hasta olmadığı halde hasta sanlıabilen bir gruptur. Bu nedenle doğum sonrası taburcu edilmeden önce pediatri polikliniği kontrolleri planlanmalı, her türlü yakınımda dikkatle incelenmel, muayeneleri titizlikle yapılmalı, bu esnada gereksiz tetkik ve girişimlerden de kaçınılmalıdır (1-3). Çocuk acil servisin yenidoğan muayenesi için gerek fiziksel koşullar gerek hasta kalabalığı açısından uygun bir yer olmadığı bilinmektedir. Bebekte enfeksiyon riskinin artmasına yol açabilir. Özellikle kalabalık saatlerde hastaya yeterli vakit ayrılamaması da bebeğin kapsamlı değerlendirilmesini engelleyebilir. Yine de ülkemizde ve dünyada yenidoğan bebeklerin sıkça acil servise getirildiği bilinmektedir (4, 5). Bunların bir kısmı da patoloji saptanmadığı halde tekrarlayan kez acil servis başvurularında bulunmaktadır (6).

Özellikle doğum sonrası erken taburculüğün yenidoğan bebeğe yeniden başvurma riskini arttırdığı bilinmektedir. Bu durumun önlenmesi adına doğum sonrası hastane izlemelerinin uzatılması, aile eğitimlerinin arttırılması ve uzman hekim kontrollerinin düzenli şekilde planlanması önerilmektedir (7, 8). Ülkemizde çocuk acil servisine getirilen yenidoğan bebeklerin sıklığı %0,9 ile %2,7 arasında değişmektedir (9-11) ve yapılan farklı çalışmalarda en sık acil servise başvuru nedeni sarılık olarak saptanmıştır (9, 10, 12). Yenidoğan bebeklerin acil başvurularında patoloji saptandığında çoğunlukla ayaktan tedavi yerine yataş verilmektedir (5). Portekiz'de yapılan bir çalışmada acil servise başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerde yataş verilme sıklığı %16,9 bulunmuştur ve bebeğin başvuru yaşına göre yataş sıklığı değişkenlik göstermektedir (8).

Günümüzde acil polikliniklerine yenidoğan başvurularının fazlalığı ve klinik anlamda doğru ele alınmaları ile ilgili tereddütler önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunu olarak devam etmektedir (13). Bu nedenle yenidoğanların acil servise neden başvurduklarını belirlemek önemlidir. Çalışmamızda çocuk acil servisine başvuran 0-28 günlük bebeklerin başvuru biçimleri, sosyodemografik özellikleri, geliş yakınları, alınan tetkikleri ve taburculuk bilgilerini araştırmayı amaçladık. Çalışmanın birincil sonanım noktası acil servise yenidoğanların başvuru nedenlerini ve başvuruların nasıl sonuçlandığını belirlemektir.

## Gereç ve Yöntemler

### Çalışmanın Tasarımı ve Ortamı

Çalışma gözlemsel-kesitsel bir araştırmadır ve retrospektif olarak gerçekleştirılmıştır. Ankara Yenimahalle Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi'nin hasta veri tabanından Çocuk Acil Servis başvurularının anamnez bilgileri, tanı ve tetkik bulguları geriye dönük olarak incelenerek veriler elde edilmiştir.

### Katılımcıların Seçimi

Ocak 2020 ile Eylül 2023 arasında herhangi bir yakınıma nedeniyle ailesi ya da 112 tarafından hastanemiz Çocuk Acil

Servisi'ne getirilen ve pratisyen ya da uzman hekim tarafından muayene edilmiş 0-28 günlük bebekler çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Term ya da preterm doğmuş, hastanemizde ya da dış merkezde doğmuş tüm bebekler çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Anamnez bilgileri eksik olan bebekler çalışma dışı bırakılmıştır. Başka dışlama kriteri belirlenmemiştir. Çalışmaya dahil edilecek uygun ve tam anamnezlerin seçimi ve değerlendirilmesi sorumlu araştırmacı tarafından bizzat gerçekleştirilmiştir.

### Girişimler, Yöntemler ve Ölçümler

Çalışmada herhangi bir girişimsel işlem yapılmamış, hastane veri tabanından analiz yapılmıştır. Veri tabanında belirlenen tarih aralığında çocuk acil servisine başvurmuş ve yaşı 0-28 gün arasında görünen tüm bebekler, kayıtlı doğum tarihleri kontrol edilerek çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Yapılan laboratuar tetkiklerinin ve radyolojik görüntülemelerin tümü hastane bilgi sisteminde net biçimde görülmektedir. Değerlendiren hekimin anamnez notu da aynı şekilde bilgi sisteminde yer almaktadır. Anamnez ve fizik muayene notları eksik olan ya da anlaşılır şekilde yazılmamış olan hastalar çalışma dışı bırakılmıştır.

### Sonanımlar

Çalışmanın birincil sonanım noktası acil servise yenidoğanların başvuru nedenlerini belirlemektir. Bunları belirlemenin yenidoğan izleminde dikkate alınacak noktaları belirlemeye etkili olacağı öngörlülmüştür. Acil servise başvuran yenidoğanlarda alınan tetkikleri, yataş oranlarını ve nedenlerini belirlemek çalışmanın ikincil sonanım noktasıdır. Bu verilerin yenidoğanların acil serviste değerlendirilmesi konusunda klinik fayda sağlayacağı düşünülmüştür.

### Veri analizi

Çalışmada elde edilen verilerin değerlendirilmesinde istatistiksel analiz için Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) paket programı 23,0 versiyonu kullanılmıştır (14). Analizlerde tanımlayıcı istatistikler sayı ve yüzde olarak belirtilmiştir.

### Etik onay

Araştırma öncesinde Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi Etik Kurulu'ndan etik kurul onayı alınmıştır (E-2023-32).

## Bulgular

Çalışma süresince çocuk acil servise başvuran hastaların %0,018'inin 0-28 günlük bebekler olduğu görüldü. Toplam 251 yenidoğan bebek başvurusu saptandı, bunların 228'inin anamnez bilgilerine ulaşabildiği için çalışmaya dahil edildi. Bebeklerin 121'i (%53) erkek, 107'si (%47'si) kız bebek idi. Bebeklerin doğum ağırlığı ortalama  $\pm$  SD 3232,22 $\pm$ 456 gr saptandı. Acil servise getirilen bebeklerin annelerinin yaş ortalaması  $\pm$  SD 30,08 $\pm$ 14,93 idi. Üç hastanın (%1,3) 112 ambulans ile getirildiği, 225 hastanın (%1,3) ise kendi imkanları ile başvurduğu görüldü. En sık başvuru toplam 138 hasta (%60,5) ile postnatal 4-7. gününde ve sarılık nedeniyle gerçekleşmiştir. Tablo-1'de bebeklerin Çocuk Acil Servisi'ne başvuruları postnatal yaşına göre özetlenmiştir. Acil servise getirilen bebeklerin başvuru yakınları Tablo-2'de özetlenmiştir.

Postnatal yaşı	n = 228	%100
0-3 gün	50	21,9
4-7 gün	138	60,5
8-14 gün	30	13,2
15-28 gün	10	4,4

**Tablo 1.** Postnatal yaşa göre yenidoğan bebeklerin çocuk acil servisine başvuru sayıları

Bütün hastaların 147'si (%64,5)'i sarılık nedeniyle başvurmuş ve bunların 17'sine (%11,6) yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesine yatış gerekmisti. Tablo-2'de görüldüğü üzere en sık başvuru nedeni olan sarılığı sırasıyla huzursuzluk, göbek ilişkili yakınmalar, uyanmama, ateş, kusma, öksürük ve burun tıkanıklığı takip etmektedir. Diğer başvuru nedenleri arasında topuk kanında TSH yüksekliği saptanması nedeniyle yönlendirilme, pamukçuk, civik gaita yapma, gözde çapaklanması ve genital şişlik bulunmaktadır.

Başvuru yakınması	Hasta sayısı n=228	%100
Sarılık	147	64,5
Huzursuzluk	21	9,2
Göbek ilişkili yakınmalar	14	6,2
Uyandırılamama	6	2,6
Ateş	6	2,6
Kusma	6	2,6
Öksürük	5	2,2
Burun tıkanıklığı	5	2,2
Emmede azalma	4	1,8
Kabızlık	3	1,3
Morarma	3	1,3
İdrarda kan görülmesi	3	1,3
Diğer	5	2,2

**Tablo 2.** Çocuk Acil Servisi'ne başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerin başvuru yakınmaları

Bebeklerin 20'sinin (%9) tekrarlayan kez başvurduğu saptanmıştır. Tekrarlayan başvuruların en sık nedeni 15 başvuru (%75) ile sarılıktır. Diğer tekrarlayan başvuru nedenleri huzursuzluk (n=2, %10), göbek yakınmaları (n=2, %10) ve kabızlıktır (n=1; %5). Bebeklere yapılan tetkikler ve görüntülemeler Tablo-3'te özetiştir.

Çocuk acil servisine başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerden en sık istenen tetkik kan tetkikidir. Toplam 132 hastadan (%57,9) kan tetkiki istenmiştir. Kan tetkiki istenen bebeklerin başvuru yakınmaları Tablo-4'te görülmektedir.

Çocuk acil servisine başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerin 198'i (%86,8) fizik muayene ve yapılan işlemler sonrasında taburcu edilmiştir. 17(%7,5) hastaya 1. basamak yenidoğan yoğun

	Toplam hasta sayısı n=228	%
Kan tetkiki istenenler	132	57,90
İdrar tetkiki istenenler	10	4,40
Gaita tetkiki istenenler	2	0,87
Covid PCR istenenler	1	0,44
Direk grafi istenenler	8	3,50
Ultrasonografi istenenler	1	0,44
Tetkik istenmeyenler	74	32,45

**Tablo 3.** Bebeklerden istenen tetkik ve görüntüleme bilgileri

bakım ünitesine yatış verilmiş; bunların 14'ü sarılık, 2'si yüksek ateş ve biri alt solunum yolu enfeksiyonu tanıları almıştır. 13 hasta (%5,7) ise genel durum bozukluğu nedeniyle ileri araştırma ve tedavi amacıyla tam teşekküllü 3. basamak hastaneye sevk edilmiştir. Sevk edilen hastaların 4'ü yüksek ateş, 3'ü sarılık, 2'si kusma, 1'i idrarda kan görülmesi, 1'i morarma, 1'i emmede azalma yakınmalarıyla başvurduğu belirlenmiştir.

Bütün başvuruların 99'u (%43,4) hafta sonu ve resmi tatil günlerinde gerçekleşirken, 129'u (%56,6) tatil olmayan hafta içi günlerde gerçekleşmiştir. Başvuran bebeklerin 208'i (%91,2) Türkiye Cumhuriyeti vatandaşı iken, 20'si (%8,8) yabancı uyrukluudur.

#### Kan tetkiki istenen bebeklerin başvuru yakınmaları

Yakınması	n=132	%100
Sarılık	107	81,0,
Göbekte kanama ve/veya akıntı	5	3,8
Uyandırılamama	5	3,8
Ateş	4	3,0
Öksürük	3	2,2
Kabızlık	2	1,5
Emmede azalma	2	1,5
Huzursuzluk	1	0,8
Kusma	1	0,8
Morarma	1	0,8
Topuk kanında TSH yüksekliği bildirilmesi	1	0,8

**Tablo 4.** Kan tetkiki istenen bebeklerin başvuru yakınmaları

#### Tartışma

Hayatın ilk 28 günü olan yenidoğan dönemi çocukluk çağının en kırılgan dönemlerinden biridir. Doğum sonrasında hastanede ideal izlem süresi normal doğan bebekler için 2 gün, sezaryen ile doğan bebekler için 3 gün olarak

önerilmektedir (1,15). Doğum sonrası anne ve bebeklerin hastanede kalış sürelerinin bunlardan daha az olmasına birlikte, evde karşılaşılan çeşitli sorunlarda ailelerin sıkılıkla başvurduğu yer hastanelerin çocuk acil servisleri olmaktadır (4-6,15). Oysaki acil servis, yenidoğan bebeğin muayenesi ve değerlendirilmesi açısından ideal bir yer değildir (5). Çalışmamızda çocuk acil servisine yenidoğan bebeklerin neden başvurduklarını, acil servisteki fizik muayene bulgularını, istenen laboratuar ve radyolojik tıtkıkları, uygulanan tedavileri ve yapılan yataş ve taburculuk sonuçlarını değerlendirdik.

Çalışma süresince çocuk acil servisimize başvuran çocukların çok az bir kısmının (%0,018) yenidoğanlar olduğunu tespit etti. Ülkemizde çocuk acil servisine başvuran yenidoğanlarla ilgili birkaç klinik çalışma mevcuttur (10-11). Batu ve arkadaşları(10) yaptıkları prospektif çalışmada, yenidoğan döneminde acil servise başvuran 531 vakanın toplam çocuk hastaların %1,9'unu oluşturduğunu ve yarısından fazlasının 14 günükten küçük olduğunu bildirmiştir. Bir başka çalışmada(11), bir yıl içerisinde çocuk acil servise getirilen çocukların %0,9'unun yenidoğan döneminde olduğu görülmüştür. Çalışmamızda literatüre kıyasla çocuk acil servise yenidoğan başvuru sikliğinin daha düşük olduğu bulunmuştur. Bu durumun birkaç sebebi olabilir. Hastanemizde mesai saatleri içerisinde çocuk poliklinigine başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerin randevusuz kabul edildiği bilinmektedir. Ayrıca hastanemizde doğan bebekler rutin poliklinik kontrollerine çağrılmaktadır ve bu durumda acil servise başvurular azalmaktadır. Covid pandemisinde hastanemiz acil servislerine covid dışı hasta kabul edilmediği bir dönem olmuştur, bu durum yenidoğan acil başvurularını azaltmıştır. Bir diğer neden ise hastanenin bulunduğu konum itibariyle sosyoekonomik seviyenin yüksek olması, etrafta birçok özel hastane bulunması ve buralarda doğan bebeklerin de yine doğum sonrası poliklinik takiplerine çağrılmaması olabilir. Başka bir bakış açısıyla, yakın tarihli yapılmış bu çalışmadaki bulgularla, polikliniklerde yenidoğan bebek takiplerinin eskiye kıyasla daha iyi planlandığı şeklindeki olumlu bir sonuca varılabilir.

Danielsen ve arkadaşları (15) Kaliforniya'da yaptıkları kapsamlı bir çalışmada yenidoğan döneminde çocuk acil servise başvuru oranının %3,02'e çıktığini bildirmiştir ve bu yüksek başvuru oranını yenidoğanların hastaneden erken taburculuğuyla ilişkilendirmiştir. Çalışmamızda olguların çoğunu hastanemizde doğan ve doğum sonrasında ebeveynleri tarafından çocuk acile getirilen ve genelde doğumdan sonraki ilk on günlük dönemdeki bebekler olduğu görülmüştür. Hastanemizde doğan bebeklerin normal yolla doğanların 24, sezaryen ile doğanların ise 48 saat dolduğunda taburcu edildiği bilinmektedir. Diğer hastanelerde doğup, acil servisimize başvuran bebeklerin ise taburculuk sürelerine dair net veri bulunmamaktadır. Taburculuk süresinin acil başvuru sikliğine etkisi çalışmamızda ancak dolaylı şekilde değerlendirilmiştir, konuya alakalı ülkemde yapılacak geniş kapsamlı prospektif çalışmalar yol gösterici olacaktır.

Çalışmamızda yenidoğanlarda çocuk acil servise en sık başvuru nedeni ve en sık yataş nedeni sarılık olarak belirlenmiştir (%64,5), ülkemde yapılan klinik çalışmalarla

sonuçlarımızla paralel olarak en sık gözlenen başvuru nedeninin sarılık olduğu tespit edilmiştir (9,11-12).

Yenidoğan bebeklerin acile başvurularında yataş verilme risklerinin büyük çocuklara oranla daha yüksek olduğu bildirilmiştir (16). Çalışmamızda birinci basamak yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesine yatırılan ve başka hastanelere sevk edilen bebekler beraber ele alındığında, acil servise başvuran tüm yenidoğanların %13,2'sinin yatarak tedavi gördüğü belirlenmiştir. Bu bulguyla çalışmamız, acil servise başvuran yenidoğan bebeklerde hastaneye yataş riskinin yüksek olduğunu vurgulamıştır.

Mersin Üniversitesi'nden Bozlu ve arkadaşları (11) yaptıkları bir çalışmada yenidoğanların çocuk acile en sık başvuru nedenlerinin sarılık, prematürite ve asfaksi olduğunu ve vakaların %78,4'ünün yatırılarak tedavi gördüğünü saptamışlardır. Ülkemizden bir başka çalışmada(12) yenidoğan bebeklerin klinik sonuçları değerlendirildiğinde acile başvuran bebeklerin %3,8'inin hastaneye yatırıldığı, bebeklerin laboratuar sonuçları iyi olduğu için hastanede kısa süre yattıkları ve iyi haliyle taburcu edildikleri rapor edilmiştir. Çalışmalarda farklı şikayetlerle saptanan farklı hastaneye yatırılma oranlarının, çalışmaların tasarımı ve çalışmaya dahil edilen hastaların farklılıklarından kaynaklanıyor olabileceği düşünülmüştür.

Çalışmamızda acil servisten hastaneye yatırılanların izlemelerinde ciddi invaziv girişimlere ihtiyaç olmadığı, hastanede kısa süre yattıkları ve klinik sonuçlarının olumlu olduğu görülmüştür. Yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesine yataş verilen ve tedavisi zamanında başlayan term yenidoğan bebeklerin kliniklerinin genel anlamda iyi seyrettiği bilinmektedir (17,18), bu da acil servise başvuran yenidoğanlarda yataş kararının doğru ve yerinde verilmesinin önemini vurgulamaktadır.

### Kısıtlılıklar

Çalışmanın yapıldığı hastanenin yenidoğan ünitesinin birinci basamak olması, çalışma süresince covid pandemisi esnasında hastanede belli bir süre doğum alınmaması, bir süre acil servise covid dışı hasta kabul edilmemesi gibi nedenlerden dolayı çalışmaya dahil edilebilen bebek sayısı sınırlıdır, anamnez kayıt yetersizliğinden dolayı çalışmaya dahil edilmeyen hastalar örneklemi daha da küçülmüştür. Yenidoğan yoğun bakım ünitesinin birinci basamak olması nedeniyle ağır hastaların hastanemize getirilmesi aileler ve 112 tarafından tercih edilmemiş olabilir, bu durum hasta yakınları dağılımının sarılık gibi daha hafif durumlar üzerinde yoğunlaşmasına sebep olmuş olabilir. Daha kapsamlı tam teşekkülü hastanelerde yapılacak güncel çalışmaların sonuçlara katkı sağlayacağı düşünülmektedir.

### Sonuç

Çalışmamız yenidoğan döneminde olguların önemli bir kısmının ilk bir hafta içerisinde çocuk acil servislerine getirildiğini ve yataş sikliğinin yüksek olduğunu göstermektedir. Acil servislere başvuran yenidoğanlar yataş gerekliliği açısından dikkatle ele alınmalıdır. Doğum sonrası ailelere uygun eğitimlerin verilmesi, erken taburculğun önlenmesi ve poliklinik kontrollerinin planlanması çocuk acil servise yenidoğan bebeklerin başvurularını azaltacak ve

Çocuk Acilde Yenidoğan Profilinin İncelenmesi  
uygun ortamlarda doğru şekilde değerlendirilmelerine  
olanak verecektir.

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## Primary Central Nervous System Vasculitis Causing Ischemic Stroke in a Pediatric Patient: A Rare Case Report

### Pediatrik Bir Hastada Iskemik Inmeye Neden Olan Primer Santral Sinir Sistemi Vaskülit: Nadir Bir Olgu Sunumu

Furkan Demirkapı<sup>1</sup>, Enis Ademoğlu<sup>1</sup>, Serdar Özdemir<sup>1</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Stroke in childhood is a neuropathological syndrome characterized by neurological signs and symptoms that can lead to acquired brain damage. In etiology, cardioembolic, thrombophilic, genetic diseases and rarely cerebral vasculitides are seen. The term cerebral vasculitis includes cerebral involvement secondary to systemic diseases and primary vasculitis involving only the central nervous system. Although primary central nervous system vasculitis (PSSV) is rare, its diagnosis is based on exclusion of secondary causes and frequently confused diagnoses such as moyamoya arteriopathy, transient cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome, and microscopic polyarthritis.

**Case:** A 14-year-old male patient was brought to the emergency department because of fainting and speech disorder that started at that time. Physical examination revealed a Glasgow coma scale score of 15, motor strength 1/5 in the right lower and upper extremities, 5/5 in the left lower and upper extremities, facial asymmetry and speech articulation disorder. No signs of trauma were detected in the systemic examination. Diffusion-weighted MR imaging was found to be compatible with acute ischemic stroke. The patient, who was treated with enoxaparin (6000 ANTI-XA IU/0.6 ml subcutaneous 2x1) in the emergency department, was hospitalized with a preliminary diagnosis of ischemic stroke. No pathology was detected in the patient's computed tomography (CT), contrast-enhanced cerebral CT angiography (CTA), and magnetic resonance (MR) venography. In addition, no pathology was observed in brain MR angiography (MRA) and digital subtraction angiography (DSA). After excluding other possible diagnoses, primary central nervous system vasculitis was considered and high-dose methylprednisolone treatment was started.

**Conclusion:** Although ischemic stroke in childhood is less common than in adults, it is associated with neurological dysfunction, risk of recurrent stroke and increased mortality. Primary central nervous system vasculitis is a rare cause of pediatric stroke whose diagnosis is based on careful differential diagnosis.

**Keywords:** Pediatric, stroke, vasculitis

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Çocukluk çağında inme edinsel beyin hasarına yol açabilen nörolojik bulgu ve semptomlarla karakterize nöropatolojik bir sendromdur. Etiyolojide sıkılıkla kardiyoembolik, trombofilik, genetik hastalıklar ve nadiren serebral vaskülitler görülür. Serebral vaskülit terimi sistemik hastalıklara sekonder serebral tutulumu ve yalnızca santral sinir sisteminin tutan primer vaskülitleri kapsamaktadır. Primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit nadir görülmekle birlikte, tanısı sekonder nedenler ve sıkılıkla karışan moyo moyo arteriopatisi, geçici serebral vazokonstrüksiyon sendromu, mikroskopik poliarterit gibi tanıların dışlanması dayanır.

**Olgu:** 14 yaşında erkek hasta bayılması ve o sıradan başlayan konuşma bozukluğu olması üzerine acil servise getirildi. Fizik muayenede Glasgow coma skala skoru 15, motor kuvvetinin sağ alt ve üst ekstremitelerde 1/5, sol alt ve üst ekstremitelerde 5/5, fasiyal asimetri ve konuşmada artikülasyon bozukluğu olduğu görüldü. Sistemik muayenesinde travma bulgusu saptanmadı. Difüzyon ağırlıklı manyetik rezonans görüntülemesinde sol basal ganglionlar, posterior frontal ve presantral girüslerde akut iskemik inme ile uyumlu difüzyon kısıtlığı olduğu tespit edildi. Acil serviste enoksaparin (6000 ANTI-XA IU/0.6 ml subkutan 2x1) tedavisi başlanan hasta iskemik inme ön tanısı ile hastaneye yatırıldı. Hastanın bilgisayarlı beyin tomografisi, kontrastlı beyin anjiografi ve manyetik rezonans venografisinde patoloji saptanmadı. Ayrıca beyin manyetik rezonans anjiografi ve dijital subtraksiyon anjiyografide patoloji görülmmedi. Olası diğer tanılar dışlandıktan sonra primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit düşüncülerin yüksek doz metilprednizolon tedavisi başlandı.

**Sonuç:** Çocukluk çağında iskemik inme erişkinlere oranla daha az görüle de nörolojik disfonksiyon, tekrarlayan inme riski ve artmış mortalite ile ilişkilidir. Primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit tanısı dikkatli bir ayrımcı tanı sürecine dayanan nadir bir pediyatrik inme nedeni olduğu hatırlanmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Pediatrik, inme, vaskülit

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## Giriş

Çocukluk çağında inme edinsel beyin hasarına yol açabilen akut başlangıçlı nörolojik bulgu ve semptomlarla karakterize nöropatolojik bir sendromdur. Çocuklarda bilişsel disfonksiyon, nöbet, nörolojik sekel, depresyon ve mortalite oranlarında artışa yol açması nedeniyle önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur. Erişkinlerde olduğu gibi iskemik veya hemorajik inme olarak tiplendirilir. Yenidoğan olmayan çocuklarda iskemik inmenin gelişmiş batı ülkelerinde yıllık insidansı 0,00001-0,00002 olarak bildirilmiştir. Etiyolojide sıkılıkla kardiyoembolik, trombofilitik, genetik, metabolik hastalık gibi çeşitli patolojiler ve nadiren serebral vaskülitler görülür (1).

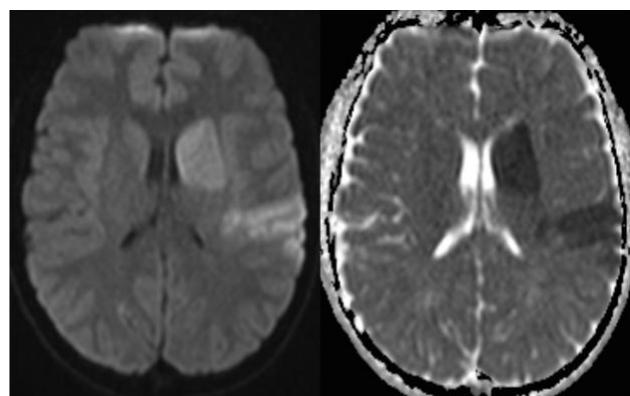
Serebral vaskülitler sistemik bir hastalığın serebral damarları tutması ile veya nadiren primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülitleri olarak görülebilir. Primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit (PSSV) tanısı nadir görülmeye, spesifik bir klinik tablosunun olmaması, yüksek değerliliğe sahip bir tanısal testinin olmaması nedeniyle oldukça zordur. Tanı klinik, laboratuvar, radyolojik olarak destekleyici bulgular ve sıkılıkla karışan moyo moyo arteriopatisi, geçici serebral vazokonstriksiyon sendromu, mikroskopik poliarterit veya granülomatozis polianjiti gibi diğer tanıların dışlanması dayanır (2).

Bu olgu sunumunda 14 yaşında bir çocuk hastada yüksek doz steroid tedavisine tam iyileşme yanıtı veren, PSSV'nin neden olduğu nadir bir akut iskemik inme vakası sunulmaktadır.

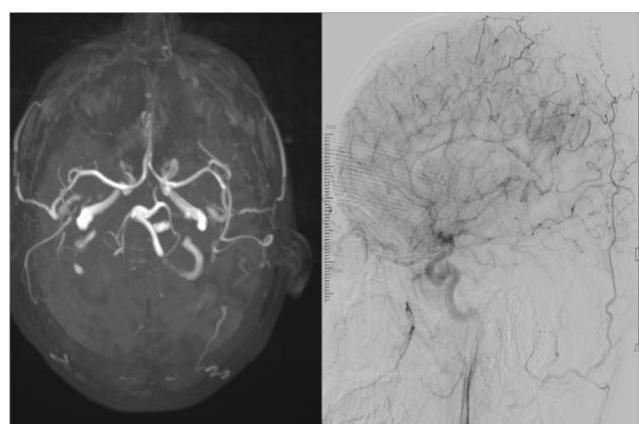
## Olgı Sunumu

On dört yaşında erkek hasta bayılma ve konuşma bozukluğu şikayetleri ile acil servise getirildi. Yakınlarından hastanın evde bayılmış şekilde yerde bulunduğu, kısa süreli bilinc kaybı yaşadığı ve aynı sırada başlayan konuşma bozukluğu olduğu öğrenildi. Özgeçmişinde bilinen bir hastalık, ilaç veya madde kullanımı olmadığı öğrenildi. Hastanın tansiyon arteriyel değeri 109/67 mmHg, SpO<sub>2</sub> %98, nabızı 78 atım/dakika, ateşi 36.5 derece parmak ucu kan şekeri ölümü 108 mg/dL olarak not edildi. Fizik muayenede Glasgow koma skarası skoru 15, sağ alt ve üst ekstremitelerde motor kuvveti 1/5 sol alt ve üst ekstremitelerde motor kuvveti 5/5, fasikal asimetri ve konuşmada artikülasyon bozukluğu olduğu görüldü. Sistemik muayenesinde herhangi bir travma bulgusu saptanmadı. Hastanın kontrastsız bilgisayarlı beyin tomografisi (BT), kontrastlı beyin BT anjiografisi (BTA) ve manyetik rezonans (MR) venografisinde patoloji saptanmadı. Difüzyon ağırlıklı MR görüntülemede sol basal ganglionlar, posterior frontal ve presantral giruslarda akut iskemik inme ile uyumlu difüzyon kısıtlılığı olduğu tespit edildi (Şekil 1).

Acil serviste alınan; tam kan sayımı, biyokimya, koagülasyon, arteriyel kan gazı tettiklerinde değerlerin normal sınırlar içerisinde olduğu görüldü. Acil serviste enoksaparin (6000 ANTI-XA IU/0.6 ml subkutan 2x1) tedavisi başlanan hasta akut iskemik inme ön tanısı ile hastaneye yatırıldı. Hastane takibinde inmenin etiyolojisini açıklamaya yönelik yapılan beyin omurilik sıvısı örnekleme, trombofili paneli, otoimmün hastalık ve faktör düzeyleri gibi laboratuvar sonuçları Tablo 1'de özetiştir. Ayrıca tanı için yapılan beyin MR anjiografisi (MRA) ve dijital subtraksiyon anjiyografide (DSA) patoloji görülmemi (Şekil 2).



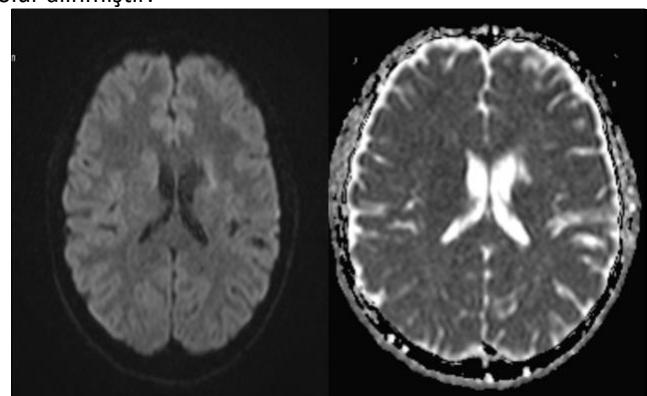
**Şekil 1:** Difüzyon ağırlıklı manyetik rezonans görüntüleme sekansında (solda) ve apparent difüzyon coefficient haritasında (sağda) sol basal ganglionlar, posterior frontal ve presantral giruslarda iskemik diffüzyon kısıtlılığı görülmektedir.



**Şekil 2:** Solda normal kraniyal manyetik rezonans anjiyografi, sağda normal dijital subtraksiyon anjiyografi görüntüleri görülmektedir.

Olası diğer tanılar dışlandıktan sonra hastaya PSSV düşünülerek yüksek doz metilprednizolon tedavisi başlandı. İnvaziv olması nedeniyle serebral biyopsi planlanmadı.

Toplam 19 günlük hastane takibinin ardından sağ üst ve alt ekstremitete motor kuvveti 4/5 görülen hasta taburcu edildi. Hastane ve ayaktan takibi sırasında verilen tedaviler Tablo 2'de özetiştir. Taburculuktan 2 ay sonra yapılan kontrol muayenesinde klinik ve radyolojik olarak tam iyileşme olduğu gözlemlendi (Şekil 3). Bu olgu sunumunun ve eşlik eden görüntülerin yaylanması için hastadan yazılı bilgilendirilmiş olur alınmıştır.



**Şekil 3:** Hastanın takibinin 2. ayında çekilen kraniyal manyetik rezonans görüntüleme difüzyon sekansı (solda) ve apparent difüzyon coefficient haritasında (sağda) iskemik bulguların tamamen gerilediği görülmektedir.

Test	Sonuç	Referans aralık
D-Dimer	3530 ng/ml	0-550 ng/ml
Prokalsitonin	0,074 ng/ml	<0,05 ng/ml
Ferritin	86,57 ng/ml	4,4-207,0 ng/ml
Serum Amiloid A	8,96 mg/dL	<0,5 mg/dL
Kompleman C4	0,26 g/L	0,1-0,4 g/L
Komplemen C3	1,22 g/L	0,9-1,8 g/L
Anti Ds DNA	15,29 IU/ml	<100 IU/ml
Anti Nükleer Antikor (ANA)	Negatif	<1/1000
Antissa/52 (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	-
Anti-Sm/RNP (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	-
Anti-Jo 1 (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	-
Anti-Scl 70 (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	-
Anti-SSB (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	<15
Anti-Sm (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	-
Anti-Histon Antikor	Negatif	-
Nüklesom	Negatif	-
Anti Ribozomal P Protein	Negatif	-
Anti SSA (İmmünblotting)	Negatif	<10
Anti Kardiyolipin IgM	<2 PL-IgG-U/ml	<12 PL-IgM-U/ml
Anti Kardiyolipin IgG	8,65 PL-IgG-U/ml	<12 PL-IgG-U/ml
Anti B-2 Glikoprotein1 IgM	<2	<20
Anti B-2 Glikoprotein1 IgG	5,68	<20
LupusAntikoagulan	Negatif	-
Anti Fosfolipid IgM	0,050 IU/mL	<12 IU/mL
Anti Fosfolipid IgG	0,080 IU/mL	<12 IU/mL
PR3 ANCA	4,72 RU/mL	<20 RU/ml
P-ANCA	4,63 RU/mL	<20 RU/ml
Anca IFA	Negatif	-
Homosistein	13,3 umol/L	0-12 umol/L
Faktör 8	%172	60-150
Faktör 9	%95	60-150
Faktör 12	%93	60-150

**Tablo 1:** Ayırıcı tanıda yapılan laboratuvar testlerinin sonuçları

Test	Sonuç	Referans aralık
Protein S	%74	70-150
Protein C	%75	70-130
Anti Trombin 3 Antijeni	31,5 mg/dL	23,0-37,0 mg/dL
VonWillebrand Faktör	%197	50-60
Parvovirus B19 Ig M	5,067 lu/mL	<10 lu/mL
Parvovirus B 19 Ig G	34,5 lu/mL	<10 lu/mL
EBV VCA Ig M	0,11	<0,11
EBV VCA Ig G	0,92	>0,21
Anti CMV Ig G	>500 U/ml	> 1,0 U/ml
Anti CMV Ig M	0,16 Index	<0,7 Index
Anti HAV Ig M	0,32 S/Co	<1,0 S/Co
Anti HAV Ig G	1,1 S/C	>1,0 S/C
Anti HIV	0,225 S/Co	S/Co
Anti HCV	0,173	<0,90
Anti Hbs	20,3 IU/ml	>10 IU/ml
Anti Rubellalg M	0,26 Index	<0,8 Index
Anti Rubellalg G	116 IU/ml	>10 IU/ml
Anti Toxoplasmal M	0,15 Index	<0,8 Index
Anti Toxoplasmal G	<0,18 IU/ml	<1,0 IU/ml
Faktör V Leiden	Normal	-
Protrombin	Normal	-
MTHFR C677T	Normal	-
MTHFR A1298C	Heterozigot	-
PAI-1 aktivitesi	Normal	-
Faktör		
BOS PCR Taraması (VZV, HHV7, HHV8, HSV-1, HSV-2, CMV)	Saptanmadı	-
BOS Mikrobiyolojik İnceleme	Hücre görülmedi	-
Bos Sivisi Kültürü	Üreme olmadı	-
BOS Protein	0,33 g/L	0,15 g/L
BOS Glukoz	58 mg/dL	40-70 mg/dL

**Tablo 1 (devamı):** Ayırıcı tanıda yapılan laboratuvar testlerinin sonuçları

İlaç	Uygulama şekli	Doz	Süre
Levetirasetam	Intravenöz (IV), Peroral (PO)	500 mg, 2*1	45 gün
Enoksaparin Sodyum	Subkutan (SC)	6000 Anti-Xa, 2*1	25 gün
		6000 Anti-Xa, 1*1	35 gün
Metilprednisolon Sodyum süksinat	IV	250 mg, 4*1	3 gün
	PO	40 mg, 2*1	6 gün
		16 mg, 3*1	27 gün
		4 mg, 1*1	16 gün
Magnezyum Oksit	PO	365 mg, 2*1	15 gün
Folbiol	PO	5 mg, 2*1	15 gün
Azotioprin	PO	50 mg 2*1	75 gün

**Tablo 2:** Hastanın hastane ve ayaktan takibi sırasında verilen tedaviler

### Tartışma

Primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit sistemik bir inflamasyon bulgusu olmadan yalnızca serebral damarları etkileyen progresif bir inflamatuar vasküllittir. Klinikte hemiparezi, hemipleji, nöbet, baş ağrısı, encefalopati gibi nörolojik bulgular görülür. Diğer vaskülit tiplerinden klinik olarak romatolojik, dermatolojik, hematolojik ve enfeksiyöz semptom ve bulguların olmaması ile ayrılır. PSSV'den şüphelenilen hastaların travma, ateş, döküntü, göz semptomları, artralji, öksürük, döküntü, periferik nöropati, orogenital ülser gibi sistemik bulgular açısından sorgulanması, laboratuvara otoimmun antikorlar, faktör düzeyleri, trombofili paneli, enzim eksiklikleri, immunoglobulin düzeyleri, enfeksiyon belirteçlerinin araştırılması gereklidir (3). Bizim hastamızda ayırcı tanıda kullanılan laboratuvar sonuçlarında d-dimer, faktör 8 (F8) ve von willebrand faktör (VWF) yüksekliği dışında patoloji saptanmadı (Tablo 1). Literatürde F 8 düzeyinin iskemik inmede, VWF düzeyinin ise PSSV'de arttığını bildiren çalışmalar mevcuttur (4,5). Fakat bu faktörler tanısal testler olmaktan ziyade hastadaki trombotik ve inflamatuar süreci göstermektedirler. Bizim hastamızda F8 düzeyinin bir akut faz reaktanı olarak arttığı, VWF düzeyinin ise vaskülit lehine inflamasyon belirteci olarak arttığı düşünüldü.

Primer santral sinir sistemi vaskülit tanısında BTA, MRA ve DSA kullanılsa da radyolojinin düşük özgüllüğe sahip olması, biyopsinin invaziv olması ve benzer kliniği neden olan çok sayıda hastalık olması nedeniyle tanı sistemik bir yaklaşım ile diğer olası tanıların dışlanması dayanır. MR görüntülemede sıklıkla enfarkt ve mikrohemorajiler görülmektedir (6). Bizim hastamızın MR görüntülemesinde de iskemik bulgular ve mikrohemorajiler olduğu görüldürken, MRA ve DSA'da patoloji saptanmadı. Bazı PSSV alt tipleri progresif seyretmekte ve nörolojik sekel kalmasına neden olabilmektedir. Tedavisinde yüksek doz steroidler ve çeşitli immunsupresif ajanlar kullanılmaktadır (7). Bizim vakamızda da diğer nedenler dışlandıktan sonra klinik, iskemik inmenin olası nedeni PSSV düşünülerek yüksek doz metilprednizolon tedavisi başlandı. Hastanın kısa sürede tedaviye dramatik yanıt verdiği ve kademeli olarak tüm nörolojik bulgularının

düzeldiği gözlandı. Takibinde 2. ayda yapılan kontrol muayenesinde klinik ve radyolojik tam iyileşme olduğu kaydedildi.

### Sonuç

Çocukluk çağında iskemik inme erişkinlere oranla daha az görülse de nörolojik disfonksiyon, tekrarlayan inme riski ve artmış mortalite ile ilişkilidir. PSSV tanısının dikkatli bir ayırıcı tanı sürecine dayanan nadir bir çocukluk çağı iskemik inme nedeni olduğu unutulmamalıdır.

**Çıkar Çatışması:** Bu çalışma ile ilgili olarak yazarların ve/veya aile bireylerinin çıkar çatışması potansiyeli olabilecek bilimsel ve tıbbi komite üyeliği veya üyeleri ile ilişkisi, danışmanlık, bilirkişilik, herhangi bir firma durumu, hissedarlık ve benzer durumları yoktur.

**Finansal Destek:** Bu çalışma sırasında, yapılan araştırma konusu ile ilgili doğrudan bağlantısı bulunan herhangi bir ilaç firmasından, tıbbi alet, gereç ve malzeme sağlayan ve/veya üreten bir firma veya herhangi bir ticari firmadan, çalışmanın değerlendirme sürecinde, çalışma ile ilgili verilecek kararı olumsuz etkileyebilecek maddi ve/veya manevi herhangi bir destek alınmamıştır.

**Yazar Katkısı:** Yazarlar, yazının hazırlanmasında eşit katkı sunmuşlardır.

**Hasta Onamı:** Bu olgu sunumunun ve eşlik eden görüntülerin yayınlanması için hastadan yazılı bilgilendirilmiş olur alınmıştır. Yazılı iznin bir kopyası bu dergide incelenmek üzere mevcuttur.

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## Transient Ischemic Attack After Scorpion Sting: A Case Report

### Akrep Sokması Sonrası Gelişen Geçici İskemik Atak

Memet Aslanyavrusu<sup>1</sup>, Merve Tuna<sup>1</sup>, Serhat Koyuncu<sup>2</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Stroke is a rare complication that occurs in addition to life-threatening respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms as a result of a scorpion sting. In this case, we presented a patient who had a transient ischemic attack that developed due to a scorpion sting, which had not been presented in the literature before.

**Case:** Our case was a 69-year-old male patient who felt pain in his left leg when he woke up in the morning. Weakness and speech disorder developed in the left arm and leg, developed approximately 1.5 hours after this pain. In the first examination of the patient, dysarthria, facial asymmetry, and loss of strength on the left side were detected. No significant pathology was observed in magnetic resonance imaging, brain computed tomography, and brain computed tomography angiography. In the physical examination, a dead scorpion has been found among the clothes, and mild redness and swelling at the level of the left ankle were observed. All neurological deficits in the patient resolved completely after 3 hours. Since no risk factor was detected in the examinations, it was thought that there was a transient ischemic attack due to scorpion venom.

**Conclusion:** While investigating the etiology of transient ischemic attack, careful physical examination besides neurological examination and anamnesis is very important for differential diagnosis of rare causes.

**Keywords:** Transient ischemic attack; scorpion sting; venom

#### Öz

**Amaç:** Akrep sokmasına bağlı gelişen akrep zehirlenmesi sonucu, yaşamı tehdit eden solunum ve kardiovasküler bulgular yanında inme nadir görülen bir komplikasyondur. Bu olgu sunumunda literatürde nadir sunulan akrep sokmasına sekonder, geçici iskemik atak geçiren bir hastayı sunduk.

**Olgu:** Olgumuz 69 yaşında erkek hasta sabah uyanlığında sol bacağında bir ağrı hissetmiş. Bu ağrından yaklaşık 1.5 saat sonra gelişen sol kol ve bacakta güçsüzlük, konuşma bozukluğu gelişmiş. Hastanın yapılan ilk muayenesinde dizarti, fasial asimetri ve sol tarafında güç kaybı tespit edildi. Diffüzyon manyetik rezonans görüntüleme, beyin tomografisi ve beyin tomografik anjiosunda patoloji izlenmedi. Yapılan fizik muayenede hastanın kıyafetleri arasında ölü akrep ve sol ayak bileği düzeyinde hafif derecede kızarıklık ve şişlik izlendi. Hastadaki tüm nörolojik defisitler 3 saat sonra tamamen düzeldi. Yapılan tetkiklerde risk faktörü saptanmaması nedeni ile akrep zehrine bağlı geçici iskemik atak olduğu düşünüldü.

**Sonuç:** Geçici iskemik atak etyolojisi araştırılırken nörolojik muayene ve anamnezin yanında dikkatli fizik muayene yapılması nadir nedenlerin ayırıcı tanısı açısından çok önemlidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Geçici iskemik atak; akrep sokması; zehir

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## Introduction

Ischemic cerebral infarction due to scorpion sting is very rare. The clinical presentation of scorpion sting poisoning can be elaborated with respiratory distress associated with arterial hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias, myocarditis, or pulmonary edema (1,2). These symptoms occur as a result of the release of catecholamines in the circulation or due to the direct cardiac toxicity of the venom. Intracranial hemorrhages occur in cases of acute increases in arterial blood pressure due to sympathetic overstimulation. Cerebral infarctions are associated with cerebral hypoperfusion, consumptive coagulopathy, vasculitis, or cardiogenic cerebral embolism (3).

In this study, we reported a patient who had a transient ischemic attack approximately 1.5 hours after the scorpion sting.

## Case Presentation

A 69-year-old male patient with no known pre-morbid disease had severe pain in his left leg when he woke up in the morning. He refers to the emergency service with the complaints of speech disorder, loss of strength in his left arm and leg, and inability to walk, which developed approximately 1.5 hours after this pain. The patient's blood pressure and pulse rate were within normal limits. Coagulation parameters, D-Dimer, cardiac enzymes, and electrocardiography (ECG) were within normal limits. In the neurological examination, he was conscious and cooperative, his speech was dysarthric, and there was dimness in the left nasolabial groove. Motor loss of 1/5 and left hypoesthesia were detected in the left upper and lower extremities. During the systemic examination, a dead scorpion was found among his clothes and a slightly erythema and swollen area on the back of his left leg. The patient's brain computed tomography (CT), brain computed tomography angiography (CTA), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was within normal limits. After approximately 3 hours, all neurological deficits improved completely. Etiologically lipid profile, carotid and vertebral arteries Doppler ultrasonography were within normal limits. Echocardiography and rhythm holter was performed and no cardiac pathology was detected. No change was observed in the patient's blood biochemistry follow-up. The patient's findings were thought to be transient ischemic attacks (TIA) due to scorpion venom. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images.

## Discussion

Scorpion venom consists of enzymes that act on free amino acids, serotonin, hyaluronidase, and trypsinogen (4). These enzymes are toxins to the sodium and potassium channels, which lead to prolonged depolarization and thus to the stimulation of the autonomic nerves and the release of neurotransmitters. The venom alters the physiological functioning of voltage-dependent ion channels. Presynaptic opening of the sodium channel by inhibition of calcium-dependent potassium channels triggers the "*autonomic storm*". Patients may present with bradycardia and excessive salivation secondary to parasympathetic stimulation. This may be followed by longer-term sympathetic stimulation,

which may cause tachycardia, hypertension, and pulmonary edema (5,6,7). In addition, anoxia due to cardiovascular complications may cause central nervous system symptoms such as coma, seizures and hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy in patients (8).

Cerebrovascular events in scorpion poisoning have been attributed to multiple mechanisms. Hemorrhagic stroke due to rupture of perforating arteries as a result of hypertension due to autonomic storm (9), cardioembolic stroke secondary to myocarditis (10), watershed infarct secondary to vasospasm due to catecholamines (11,12), and stroke secondary to increased platelet aggregation due to disseminated intravascular coagulation by poisoning (11,12) can be counted as these mechanisms.

The cerebrovascular damage effect of the venom usually occurs after 48 – 72 hours. In strokes occurring before 36 hours, it is primarily due to vasospasm secondary to catecholamines (12). In our case, other mechanisms were ruled out, and we thought that it was a transient ischemic attack secondary to vasospasm.

The cerebrovascular damage effect of the venom usually appears after 48-72 hours. In strokes occurring before 36 hours, it is primarily due to vasospasm secondary to catecholamines (12). In our case, the exact mechanism of the transient ischemic attack was uncertain, but due to the early onset of neurological findings and exclusion of other mechanisms, it was thought to be a transient ischemic attack secondary to vasospasm.

## Conclusion

A case of transient ischemic attack due to scorpion sting has been reported very rarely in the literature before. While investigating the etiology of transient ischemic attack, careful physical examination as well as neurological examination and anamnesis are important in terms of differential diagnosis of rare causes.

**Conflict of interest :** The authors declared no conflict of interest

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**Authors' contributions :** MA contributed to the drafting, clinical follow-up of the patient and literature review; MT evaluated the patient in terms of stroke, and differential diagnosis and contributed to the design of the draft; SK made the initial evaluation of the patient and contributed to the critical revision of the text.

**Informed Consent:** Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review in this journal.

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## Problems in Conducting Multivariate Logistic Regression Analysis

### Çok Değişkenli Lojistik Regresyon Analizinin Yürütlmesinde Karşılaşılan Sorunlar

Yusuf Ertuğrul Aslan<sup>1</sup> , Nurullah Günay<sup>1</sup> 

To the Editor,

We read with great interest the original article "The Relationship Between Procalcitonin Level and Short-Term Mortality in Emergency Department" by Cehreli et al. (1). A high initial level of procalcitonin (PCT) is a sensitive marker of bacterial infection, and the degree of PCT elevation can determine which patients are at greater risk of adverse outcomes. In this study, the authors wanted to analyze whether there was an association between PCT levels and seven-day mortality in patients whose PCT levels were measured in the emergency department. However, we think that there are some serious methodological mistakes.

In the case of regression models, it should be stated whether the variables included in the multivariate model in logistic regression analysis were taken from previous studies or from the results of univariate analysis. To the best of our knowledge, variables with  $p < 0.1$  or  $p < 0.2$  in univariate analyses can be included in the multivariate logistic regression model (2,3). The authors (1) stated in the statistical analysis section that the variables with  $p\text{-value} > 0.2$  as a result of univariate analyses were included in the multivariate logistic regression analysis. When we evaluate the multivariate logistic regression model, it is understood that the  $p$  values of other variables except hemoglobin are less than 0.2 in univariate analyses. We think that the authors have stated  $p > 0.2$  instead of  $p < 0.2$  due to a writing mistake.

In this situation, it is unclear how the authors included hemoglobin in the multivariate logistic regression model. These problems are not only limitations of the article, but also the main problems directly affecting the study results. The article performed statistical analysis without the basic requirements of logistic regression analysis. Therefore, in our opinion, the conclusion of Cehreli et al. (1) should be carefully evaluated.

**Keywords:** Logistic regression

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest regarding this article.

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**Author contribution statement:** YEA and NG. wrote the article. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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## **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation can be Taught to Schoolchildren: Kids Save Lives**

### **Okul Çağındaki Çocuklara Kardiyopulmoner Resusitasyon Öğretebilir: Çocuklar Hayat Kurtarır**

Emel Altıntaş<sup>1</sup> , Cem Oktay<sup>2</sup> , Sena Baykara Sayılı<sup>3</sup> 

#### **ABSTRACT**

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a major public health concern. Despite the advancement of resuscitation science, development of guidelines and the impact of technology regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), survival rates from OHCA remain low. Initiation of early bystander CPR can double or quadruple survival rates. Current evidence shows that CPR training is successful in children across a wide age range. It has been shown that from the age of 4, children begin to perform procedures in the Chain of Survival. Our objective is to review the literature on factors affecting survival in cardiac arrest, how to best teach CPR to schoolchildren and the initiatives carried out worldwide to provide CPR training to children.

**Keywords:** Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, CPR training, school children

#### **Öz**

Hastane dışı kardiyak arrest (HDKA) önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur. Kardiyopulmoner resusitasyon (KPR) ile ilgili bilimin gelişmesi, kılavuzların geliştirilmesi ve teknolojinin etkisi olmasına rağmen HDKA'dan sağ kalım oranları düşük kalmaktadır. Olay yerinde bulunan kişiler tarafından hemen KPR başlatılmasının hayatı kalım oranlarını iki ile dört kat artırabilir. Mevcut kanıtlar, verilen KPR eğitiminin geniş bir yaş aralığında çocukların başarılı olduğunu göstermektedir. 4 yaşından itibaren çocukların Yaşam Zincirindeki uygulamaları yapabilmeye başladıkları gösterilmiştir. Bu makaledeki amacımız, kardiyak arrestte hayatı kalımı etkileyen faktörler, okul çağındaki çocuklara KPR'nin en uygun nasıl öğretilebileceği ve çocuklara KPR eğitimi yapılması için dünya çapında yürütülen girişimlerle ilgili literatürü gözden geçirmektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kardiyopulmoner resusitasyon, hastane dışı kardiyak arrest, KPR eğitimi, okul çağındaki çocuklar

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## Giriş

Kardiyak arrest, sistemik dolaşım bulgularının olmaması ile doğrulanın, kalbin fonksiyonel aktivitesinin kaybı olarak tanımlanır (1). Erişkinlerde kardiyak arrest sonrası hayatı kalım ve iyileşme, kardiyak arrest olan bir kişi için en iyi sonucu elde etmek üzere birlikte çalışan karmaşık bir sisteme bağlıdır. Erişkinlerde kardiyak arrest olayında ana odak noktası, hızlı tanıma, kardiyopulmoner resusitasyonun (KPR) hemen başlaması, malign şoklanabilir ritimlerin defibrilasyonu ve spontan dolaşımın geri dönmesi (SDGD) sonrası destekleyici bakım ve alta yatan nedenlerin tedavisini içerir (2). Ne yazık ki, kardiyak arrest sonrası hayatı kalım oranlarında önemli farklılıklar vardır. Günümüzde yüksek kaliteli veya "yüksek performanslı" KPR'nin hemen başlatılması, kardiyak resusitasyonun temel taşı olarak kabul edilmektedir. Bu makaledeki amacımız, kardiyak arrestte hayatı kalımı etkileyen faktörler, okul çağındaki çocuklara KPR'nin en uygun nasıl öğretilebileceği ve çocuklara KPR eğitimi yapılması için dünya çapında yürütülen girişimlerle ilgili literatürü gözden geçirmektir.

## Yaşam Zinciri

Hastane dışı kardiyak arrest (HDKA) ve hastane içi kardiyak arrest (HİKA) için arrestin nedenleri, resusitasyonun süreçleri ve sonuçları çok farklıdır ve bu farklılara yönelik Yaşam Zincirleri (*Chains of Survival*) tanımlanmıştır (2). Kardiyak arrestin gerçekleştiği konuma bağlı olarak Yaşam Zincirlerinde küçük farklılıklar olsa da her biri aşağıdaki unsurları içerir (2):

- Önleme ve hazırlıklı olma: Yanıt veren kişilerin eğitimi, kardiyak arrestin erken tanınması ve hızlı müdahale dâhil
- Acil müdahale sisteminin etkinleştirilmesi: Hastane dışında veya içinde
- Yüksek kaliteli KPR: VF ve nabızsız VT'nin erken defibrilasyonu dâhil
- İleri resusitasyon müdahaleleri: İlaçlar, ileri havayolu müdahaleleri ve ekstrakorporeal KPR dâhil
- Kardiyak arrest sonrası bakım: Yoğun bakım müdahaleleri ve hedefe yönelik sıcaklık yönetimi dâhil
- İyileşme: Fiziksel, bilişsel, duygusal ve aile ihtiyaçlarına yönelik etkili destek dâhil.

## Hastane Dışı Kardiyak Arrest

HDKA'da mağdurun bakımı toplumun sürece katılımına ve vereceği yanıtına bağlıdır. Kardiyak arreste şahit olan bireylerin arresti tanımı, acil çağrı numarasını (112) araması, eğitimsiz kurtarıcılar için yalnızca göğüs basısı ile KPR dâhil KPR uygulaması ve otomatik eksternal defibrilatör (OED) kullanması kritik öneme sahiptir (3,4). Olay yerine çağrılan acil sağlık personeli tarafından KPR'ye devam edilir.

Daha sonra stabilizasyon ve kesin tedavi için hasta nakledilir (2).

HDKA'in yıllık görülmeye sıklığı 100.000 kişide 55 ile 113 arasında değişmektedir (5). Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nde (ABD) her yıl 180.000 ile 450.000 arasında kişi HDKA olmaktadır (1). HDKA, ABD'de en sık üçüncü ölüm nedenidir (6). Avrupa'da veriler daha kısıtlı olsa da, son zamanlarda yapılan çalışmalar kardiyak arrestin insidansı ve epidemiyolojisi hakkında kapsamlı veriler sağlamaktadır. EuReCa TWO çalışmasında, üç ay boyunca veri toplamıştır ve HDKA insidansının yılda 100.000 kişi başına 89 (53 ile 166 arasında değişen) olduğu belirtilmiştir (7).

KPR ile ilgili bilimin gelişmesi, kılavuzların geliştirilmesi ve teknolojinin etkisi olmasına rağmen HDKA'dan sağ kalım oranları düşük kalmaktadır (1,8). HDKA hastalarına müdahale oranı birçok ülkede %20'den azdır ve hastaların %10'undan azı ancak hayatı kalmaktadır (9-14). Bu nedenle, HDKA'lar önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur.

HDKA'ların %60-80'i şahitlidir ve %60-70'i evde meydana gelmektedir (15). Profesyonel acil sağlık hizmetleri personeli, olay yerine yaklaşık 8-12 dakika veya daha fazla sürede ulaşabilmektedir (16). Beyin ise kardiyak arrest sonrası yaklaşık 4 ila 6 dakika içinde hasar göremeye ve ölmeye başlar. Bu süre dikkate alındığında, profesyonel acil sağlık hizmetleri personeli, HDKA hastalarının çoğu genellikle çok geç ulaşmış olmaktadır (17). HDKA'larda sağ kalım oranını artırmanın en etkili yolu, kardiyak arrest olayına şahit olanların KPR yapmasıdır (18). HDKA'ların çoğu aile üyeleri şahit olmaktadır; kardiyak arrest olan kişi okul çağındaki çocukların bir yakını ise bu çocukların temel yaşam desteği (TYD) yapmaya büyük oranda daha istekli olduğu belirtilmektedir (19-25).

## Çocuklar Tarafından Kardiyopulmoner Resusitasyon Uygulanması ve Kampanyalar

Kardiyak arrest sonrası görgü tanıları tarafından hemen KPR yapılmaya başlanması ile hayatı kalım oranlarını iki ila dörde katlanabilir (16,26,27). Halktan kurtarıcılar (yani sağlık personeli olmayanlar) için KPR eğitiminin temel amacı, anında olay yerindeki KPR yapma oranlarını, OED kullanımını ve HDKA sırasında acil müdahale sisteminin zamanında etkinleştirilmesidir. Halktan kurtarıcıların KPR yapma isteğinin artırılması, HDKA'da hayatı kalma oranları üzerinde doğrudan bir etkiye sahip olabilir (28). Çok sayıda çalışma, ortaokul ve lise çağındaki çocukların yüksek kaliteli KPR becerilerini öğrenip hatırlayabildiğini göstermiştir (29-36).

Danimarka'da 2005 yılında, okullarda KPR eğitimi zorunlu hale getirilmiş ve şahitlerin KPR uygulama oranının arttığı bildirilmiştir (37). 2001-2012 yılları arasında Danimarka'da HDKA hastalarını kapsayan bir çalışmada, kardiyak arreste şahit olanların KPR ve defibrilasyon uygulamasının yıllar içerisinde giderek arttığı ve bu müdahale yapılmayan

hastalarla karşılaşıldığında, nörolojik hasar, bakımevine yatış ve herhangi bir nedenden ölümün daha düşük olduğu bildirilmiştir (38). Bir görgü tanığı tarafından KPR'nin başlatılmasının, nörolojik hasarsız sonlanım bakımından 2 ile 4 kat artısla ilişkili olduğu bildirilmiştir (15). Görgü tanıklarının KPR yapmasının, hastanın hayatı kalım oranını 3 kat artıtı bildirilmiştir (16,38,39). Resusitasyon sonlanımlarında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir artış elde etmek için nüfusun en az %15'inin eğitilmesi gerektiği tahmin edilmektedir ve bu sayıları gönüllü kurslarla elde etmenin zor olduğu belirtilmektedir. Okul eğitimi sırasında KPR eğitimi verilerek toplumun tüm gruplarına ulaşılabileceği belirtilmektedir (40).

Avrupa Resusitasyon Konseyi (ERC [The European Resuscitation Council]), HDKA'dan sağ kalım oranlarını artırmak için şahitli KPR oranlarını artırmanın gerekliliğini kabul etmektedir. Daha fazla insan eğitilirse ve stratejik yerlere daha fazla sayıda OED yerleştirilirse daha fazla yaşam kurtarılacağı bildirilmiştir (41). Bu duruma farkındalık yaratmak için ERC, her yıl 16 Ekim tarihinde düzenlenmek üzere "Kalbi Yeniden Çalıştır Günü (Restart a Heart Day)" isimli, yıllık bir kardiyak arrest farkındalık günü girişiminde bulunmuştur (42). Avrupa Hasta Güvenliği Vakfı (The European Patient Safety Foundation), ERC, Uluslararası Resusitasyon İrtibat Komitesi (ILCOR [The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation]) ve Dünya Anestezi Uzmanları Derneği Federasyonu (The World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologist), okul çocukların dünya çapında KPR eğitimi için ortak "Çocuklar Hayat Kurtarır (Kids Save Lives)" bildirisini yayımlamışlardır (43). Dünya Sağlık Örgütü de 2015 yılında "Kids Save Lives" kampanyasını desteklediğini bildirmiştir (40). 2018 yılında ILCOR, "Restart a Heart Day" girişimini desteklemiştir ve bu girişimi "World Restart a Heart Day (WRAH)" olarak kabul ederek küresel bir boyut kazandırmıştır (44,45).

ERC, 2021 yılında kardiyak arrest hastalarının sonlanımlarını iyileştirmek için "Hayat Kurtaran Sistemler (Systems Saving Lives)" kılavuzunu yayımlamıştır. Bu yaklaşımının ardından kavram, hayatı kalım zincirinde yer alan farklı bireyler arasındaki bağlantıları vurgulamaktır. Bu kılavuza göre, hayatı kurtarıcı sistemlerin 5 ana maddesi şunlardır (42):

- KPR ve defibrilasyon hakkında farkındalığı artırın
- Toplumu etkileşime geçirmek için teknolojiyi kullanın
- Çocuklar hayat kurtarır (Kids Save Lives)
- Kardiyak arrest merkezleri
- KPR sırasında çağrı yönlendiricilerin yardımını

2021 Hayat Kurtaran Sistemler (Systems Saving Lives) kılavuzunun en önemli 5 mesajından birisi Çocuklar Hayat Kurtarır (Kids Save Lives) olup, bu kılavuza göre tüm okul çocuklarına "kontrol et, telefonla ara ve bası uygula (check, call, compress)" algoritmasını kullanarak KPR yapmanın öğretilmesi ve çocukların ebeveynlerine ve akrabalarına

KPR'nin nasıl yapılacağını öğretmelerinin sağlaması önerilmiştir.

Günümüzde Avrupa ülkelerinden Belçika, Danimarka, Fransa, İtalya, Portekiz ve Birleşik Krallık'ta çocuklara KPR eğitimi verilmesi için yasal düzenleme mevcuttur. Türkiye dahil 24 ülke için KPR eğitimi tavsiye niteliğindedir. ERC, okul çocuklarına KPR konusunda eğitim verilmesinin tüm Avrupa'da ve diğer yerlerde kanunen zorunlu olması gerektiğini belirtmektedir (42).

"Kontrol Et - Telefonla Ara - Bası Uygula" algoritması ile kastedilen uygulamalar aşağıdaki gibi tanımlanmaktadır (46):

- Kontrol Et (Check): Hastaya konuşmayı, onu uyandırmaya çalışmayı, ardından normal solunumu gözleme, dinleme, hissetme için bakmayı kapsamaktadır.
- Ara (Call): Acil sağlık hizmetlerinin nasıl arayacagini ve arama sırasında hangi bilgilerin verilmesi gerektiğini bilmektir.
- Bas (Compress): Göğüs basıları uygulamaları ile doğru el pozisyonu, doğru göğüs basisı hızı ve derinliği, göğüs geri açılmasına izin verilmesi ve duraklamaların en aza indirilmesi amaçlamaktadır.

2023 yılında ILCOR adına yayınlanan Çocuklar Hayat Kurtarır: Okul Çocukları için Temel Yaşam Desteği Eğitimi başlıklı makalede, Kontrol Et - Telefonla Ara - Bası Uygula algoritmasının tüm okul çocukları için önerildiği, TYD konusunda verilen düzenli eğitimlerin yaştan bağımsız olarak uzun vadeli becerileri pekiştirdiği belirtmektedir (46). 4 yaşından itibaren küçük çocukların hayatı kalım zincirindeki ilk halkaları değerlendirebildiği, 10 ila 12 yaşına gelindiğinde, eğitim maketleri üzerinde göğüs basıları yaparak etkili derinliğe ulaştıkları ve solutma yapabildiği gösterilmiştir. Okul öğretmenlerinin TYD eğitmeni olarak etkili olduğundan bahsedilmiştir (46). Ayrıca, yaş gruplarına göre çocukların becerilerine örnekler de verilmiştir. 4 yaşında nasıl yardım çağırabileceğinin eğitiminin verilmesi uygunken 6 yaş grubunda verilen eğitim sonunda telefonda doğru bilginin verilmesinin gösterilebileceği vurgulanmıştır. 7-8 yaş grubuna acil durum numaralarının öğretilmesi önerilmiştir. 9-10 yaş grubuna, acil durum numaraları ve aranması durumunda ne yapılması gereği, görüşmenin nasıl ilerlediğinin öğretilebileceği belirtilmiştir (46).

Genel olarak çalışmalar göstermiştir ki, kontrol et basamağını, 4-15 yaş arasındaki çocuklar yapabilmektedir (47-49). 4 yaşından itibaren çocuklara acil durum numarasının öğretilmesi önerilmektedir (46). 6 yaşındaki çocuklar ise eğitim aldıktan sonra acil durum numarasını nasıl çevireceklerini gösterebildikleri ve acil çağrıda doğru bilgileri verebildikleri belirtilmektedir (20,47,50).

Göğüs basisi için yaştan ziyade, beden kitle indeksinin önemli olduğu belirtilmektedir (51-53). Yeterli bir göğüs basisi derinliğindeki yeterli gücü elde etmek için minimum 40 ila 50 kg. vücut ağırlığı gereği belirtilmektedir (54). Doğru el

Çocuklar Hayat Kurtarır pozisyonu ve başı hızının 10 yaşından itibaren okul çocukların tarafından uygulanabileceğini çalışmalarında belirtilmektedir (49,55-58). Eğitimler sırasında yardımcı aletler (örneğin, metronomlar, dakikada 100-120 vuruş sayısında müzik) veya geribildirim sağlayan cihazların kullanılması da önerilmektedir (46).

Okul çocukların KPR konusunda eğitmenin son derece kolay ve etkili olduğu, KPR eğitimine başlamak için optimal yaşın 12 olduğu, yılda 2 saat eğiminin yeterli olduğu, eğitimde maketlerin kullanılmasının faydalı olduğu, eğitim almış öğretmenlerin de sağlık profesyonelleri kadar etkili bir şekilde KPR öğretelebildiği bildirilmiştir (43). Genç yaşta KPR uygulamaya başlamanın aynı zamanda yüzme veya bisiklet sürmek gibi olduğu, kazanılan becerilerin ömür boyu korunacağı ve uzun bir aradan sonra bile kolayca yenilebileceği belirtilmektedir (42).

Ağızdan ağıza solunum için, 10-12 yaş arası bazı çocukların uygun hacimler üretebilse de 14 yaşına geldiklerinde, çoğu okul çocuğunun kılavuz standartlarına uygun hacimlerde solunum üretebildikleri bildirilmiştir (59-61).

OED'yi hata yapmadan kullanan okul çağındaki çocukların oranları büyük ölçüde değişmektektir (6-7 yaşında %11-17, 9-10 yaşında %25 ve 13-16 yaşında %27-51) (62,63). Buna ek olarak, 6-16 yaş aralığında daha önceden TYD ve OED eğitimi almamış 1295 çocuğun dâhil edildiği bir çalışmada, çocukların 258'inin (%19,9) 3 dakikadan kısa sürede etkili ve güvenli bir defibrilasyonu simüle edebildiği ve 52 katılımcının (bu grubun %20,1'i) bunu başarıyla gerçekleştirdiği bildirilmiştir (64).

Belçika'da çocuklara OED eğitimi için kanıta dayalı önerilerin yapıldığı bir derlemede aşağıdaki öneriler ve iyi uygulama noktaları (İUN) formüle edilmiştir (65):

- OED tekniğini adım adım öğretmek ve bir sonraki adıma başlamadan önce önceden edinilen bilgilerin pekiştirilmesi önemlidir. [İUN]
- İlkokulda, çocuklara OED sembolünü tanımları ve OED'nin yönlendirmelerini dinleyerek işlevinin farkına varmaları öğretilebilir. OED'nin uygulanması yalnızca tam bir KPR eğitiminin ardından öğretilmelidir. [İUN]
- Ortaokulda, KPR eğitimlerinin ve bu eğitimin tamamlanmasının ardından, OED ile defibrilasyonun dört önemli adımının nasıl gerçekleştirileceği öğretilebilir [güçlü öneri].
- Sadece becerilere değil, psikolojik konulara da odaklanmak önemlidir. Acil durumlarda, çevredeler yardımın önünde engellerle karşılaşacaktır. Çocukların OED kullanırken yabancı insanlara dokunmak zorunda kalacakları gerçekinin farkına varmalarını sağlamak ve OED cihazlarının güvenliğinin altını çizmek bu engellerin bazlarının aşılmasına yardımcı olacaktır [güçlü öneri].

Altıntaş ve ark. Okul çocukların KPR eğitiminde eğlendiği ve bu eğitime hevesli oldukları bildirilmiştir (19-24,66,67). Ayrıca, KPR eğitimi sonucunda, okul çocukların başkalarına yardım etmeyi öğreneceği ve toplumda eğitimli ve "yardım etmeye istekli" bireylerin oranının, okul çocukların KPR eğitimi ile belirgin bir şekilde artacağı ve genel olarak yapılan resusitasyon oranlarında bir artışa yol açacağı belirtilmektedir (43).

Okul boyunca becerilerin tekrarlanması ve genişletilmesiyle erken TYD eğitimine başlamak, acil durumlara yanıt verebilen toplum üyelerinin sayısının artmasını sağlar, ilk yardım öğrenimini normalleştirir ve gerçek hayatı acil durumlara müdahale etme isteğini artırır. Bu nedenle, yaşlarına bakılmaksızın tüm okul çocuklarına yılda bir kez eğitim verilmesi önerilmektedir (46). KPR dâhil olmak üzere TYD eğitimi ayrıca yükseköğretim kurumlarında da, özellikle eğitim ve sağlıkla ilgili bölmelerde eğitim alan öğrencilere verilmelidir. Her ülkenin Eğitim Bakanlıklarındaki sorumlu kişiler ve diğer onde gelen politikacılar, okul çocuklarına KPR'yi öğretmek için ülke çapında bir program geliştirmeli ve uygulamalıdır (42).

Günümüzde birçok ülkede hekimler, hemşireler ve acil servis personelleri de dâhil olmak üzere sağlık profesyonelleri ve okul öğretmenleri, okul çocuklarına TYD öğretmektedirler (68-72). Bunun yanı sıra, 14 ile 18 yaşları arasındaki ergenlerin, yaşılarına pratik TYD becerilerini etkili bir şekilde öğretelebildiği de bildirilmiştir (69).

2018 yılında Macaristan'da yapılan bir çalışmada çocuklara yönelik resusitasyon eğitimin uygulanması ve bu eğitimin önündeki engeller öğrencilere, ebeveynlere ve öğretmenlere sorulmuştur (73). KPR eğitimlerinin sonunda öğrencilerin gerçek bir acil durumla karşılaşıklarında müdahale konusunda yetkinlikleri ile ilgili sorulan soruda öğrencilerin %7'si, ebeveynlerin %44,9'u, öğretmenlerin %33'ü müdahale edilmemesi gerektiğini düşündüğünü belirtmiştir. Buna ek olarak, öğretmenlerin çocuklara ilkyardım öğretip öğretmeyeceği sorulduğunda çocukların %40'i, öğretmenlerin %20,6'sı ve ebeveynlerin %9,8'i öğretebileceklerini söylemiştir. Bununla birlikte, çocuklar hayat kurtarır girişiminin, küçük çocukların bilgi ve becerilerini geliştirmek için oldukça umut verici bir araç olduğu belirtilmiştir (73). Bazı engeller olmasına rağmen hem ERC hem de AHA, öğretmenlerin TYD eğitmenleri olarak eğitilebileceğini önermektedir (74). Bunun sebepleri arasında etkili bir şekilde öğretmenin pedagojik arka planı, yıllık tekrarları basitleştirme ve tıbbi kaynakların korunmasının yer aldığı belirtilmektedir (59,75).

Hangi yaş grubunda olursa olsun, KPR eğitimi için kitlesel öğrenme yaklaşımı kullanılırken güçlendirici ve hatırlatıcı oturumların uygulanması önerilmektedir (76). Verilen eğitimin değerlendirilmesine yönelik olarak, okul çağı çocukların bilgiyi ortalama 3 ay akılda tutabildiği, yıllık hatırlatma eğitimleriyle bilginin arttırılması önerilmiştir (46).

Son yıllarda teknolojiyle desteklenen sosyal medya araçları ile birlikte sanal gerçeklik uygulamaları, mobil cihaz uygulamaları TYD becerileri için de kullanıldığından, alınan olumlu sonuçlar paylaşılmıştır (77). Buna rağmen eğitmen yeterliği olmayan ve sadece teknoloji tabanlı olan uygulamalarda zayıf performans sonuçları gösterilmiştir (78).

Almanya'da 2014 yılından bu yana öneri bulunsa da federal okul müfredatı nedeniyle bu eğitimler ülke çapında yaygınlaşmamıştır. Ancak 2021 yılında "#ichrettedeinleben (Hayatını kurtarıyorum)" kampanyası, Alman Resusitasyon Konseyi tarafından, ünlü isimlerle birlikte başlatılmıştır. Almanya genelinde 7. sınıfından itibaren okul çocuklarına yönelik zorunlu KPR dersi verilmesine yönelik bir dilekçe için imza toplanması amaçlanan bu kampanyada 84.972 imza toplandığı belirtilmiştir. Birleşik Krallık resusitasyon eğitiminin 2022'de müfredatın yasal bir parçası olacağını belirtmiştir (79).

Dünyada çocukların TYD'ye katılımının giderek yaygınlaştığı görülmektedir. Avrupa ülkelerinde yaygınlaşan bu örneklerle Brezilya gibi diğer ülkelerin de kendi ülkelerine TYD eğitimini uyarladıkları görülmektedir. Brezilya'da önce eğiticilerin eğitimi, ardından yeni modelleme eğitimlerinin ardından başarılı KPR sonuçlarının alınması ile birlikte öğrencileri, öğretmenleri ve temel ve lise çalışanlarını çevredeki topluluk da dahil olmak üzere teşvik etmek, eğitmek ve bilgi, beceri ve tutumları yapmak için bir haftaya sahip olmak üzere 2 Nisan 2019 tarihli, 310 Sayılı bir Devlet Kanunu çıkartılmıştır (80).

## Sonuç

Başarılı KPR yapmak kolay ve öğretmek de basittir. Kardiyak arreste şahit olan çocukların da yüksek kalitelii KPR yapabileceği ve OED kullanabileceği bilimsel olarak gösterilmiştir. Ortaokul ve lise çağındaki çocuklara yüksek kalitede KPR'nin nasıl uygulanacağı öğretilmelidir çünkü bu, eğitimli toplum temelli halktan kurtarıcılarından oluşan geleceğin kadrosunun oluşturulmasına yardımcı olacaktır. Sağlık çalışanı olmayan, sıradan insanlar yanlış bir şey yapamazlar; "yapılacak tek yanlış şey, hiçbir şey yapmamaktır". KPR, herkes tarafından kolayca yapılabilir ve dünya genelinde her yıl yüz binlerce hayat kurtarılabilir.

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## The Relationship Between Procalcitonin Level and Short Term Mortality in Emergency Department

*Acil Serviste Prokalsitonin Düzeyi ile Kısa Dönem Mortalite Arasındaki İlişki*

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We noticed that there were two spelling errors in our article titled "The Relationship Between Procalcitonin Level and Short Term Mortality in Emergency Department" with Manuscript ID: 1245961 (Volume:6, Issue:3 and DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54996/anatolianjem.1245961>)

- On page 2, in the statistical analysis section, "p Values > 0.2 among these parameters were evaluated by multivariate logistic regression analysis whether they were independent risk factors for mortality." should have been written instead of "p Values < 0.2 among these parameters were evaluated by multivariate logistic regression analysis whether they were independent risk factors for mortality."
- In Table 2 on page 3, the p-value for hemoglobin should have been written "0.004" instead of "0.262". The authors sincerely apologize for this error.

Corrected paragraph;

"Statistical analysis: Study data were recorded in the "Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Windows 22.0". Normality analyzes were evaluated with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. When comparing the values of the patients such as age and laboratory, the T-test or Mann-Whitney test was used according to normality analysis. The Chi-square test was used to compare categorical variables. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis was performed and area under the curve (AUC) values were calculated for surviving and non-surviving patients. P Values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. Univariate analysis was performed to evaluate the factors affecting mortality. p Values < 0.2 among these parameters were evaluated by multivariate logistic regression analysis whether they were independent risk factors for mortality."

Corrected Table 2 on page 3 is:

	Survivors		Non-Survivors		Odds Ratio	p
	N	Median (IQR)	N	Median (IQR)		
<b>Age</b>	427	73 (63-81)	72	81.5 (66-86)	1.032 (1.012-1.053)	0.001
<b>Vital signs</b>						
<i>SBP (mmHg)</i>	427	126 (112-136)	72	106 (81-131)	0.975 (0.965-0.985)	0.002
<i>DBP (mmHg)</i>	427	80 (70-85)	72	68 (51-82)	0.961 (0.946-0.977)	<0.001
<i>Pulse rate (beats/min)</i>	427	87 (82-105)	72	102.5 (82-125)	1.020 (1.009-1.031)	<0.001
<i>Respiratory rate (beats/min)</i>	427	19 (16-22)	72	22 (18.3-28)	1.151 (1.097-1.208)	<0.001
<i>Oxygen saturation %</i>	427	96 (91-98)	72	90 (80-96)	0.937 (0.914-0.961)	<0.001
<b>Laboratory</b>						
<i>Procalcitonin (ng/ml)</i>	427	0.29 (0.16-0.73)	72	1.07 (0.32-5.30)	1.033 (1.013-1.054)	0.001
<b>Complete Blood Count</b>						
<i>WBC (10<sup>3</sup>/μl)</i>	427	11 (8.1-14.3)	72	14.2 (9.3-22.4)	1.016 (0.995-1.038)	0.133
<i>Hemoglobin (gr/dl)</i>	427	11.8 (10.4-13.4)	72	11.2 (9.7-12.3)	0.860 (0.767-0.963)	0.004
<i>Platelet (10<sup>3</sup>/μl)</i>	427	225 (170-301)	72	222 (138-308)	0.999 (0.996-1.001)	0.262
<b>Blood Gas</b>						
<i>pH</i>	319	7.42 (7.37-7.46)	64	7.41 (7.29-7.47)	0.063 (0.006-0.614)	0.017
<i>PCO<sub>2</sub></i>	319	36.6 (30.4-42.8)	64	30.4 (26.2-38.8)		0.004
<i>Lactate (mmol/l)</i>	319	1.5 (1.0-2.3)	64	2.7 (1.4-5.8)	1.302 (1.180-1.436)	<0.001
<i>BE (mmol/l)</i>	319	-1.0 ([-]4.1-1.9)	64	-3.1 ([-]3.1 -0.5)	0.900 (0.841-0.935)	<0.001

CI = confidence interval, SBP: Systolic blood pressure, DBP: Diastolic blood pressure, WBC: White blood cell

**Table 2:** Characteristics of survivor and non- survivor patients

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