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Introduction Case Report Discussion References

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İÇİNDEKİLER / CONTENTS

ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ / RESEARCH ARTICLES (187-328)

- 187 **Relationship of Carotid Artery Stenosis Ratio and Perioperative Stent Complications**
Karotid Arter Darlık Oranı ile Perioperatif Stent Komplikasyonları İlişkisi
Çiğdem Deniz, Vildan Güzel, Gülistan Halaç, Muharrem Nasıfov, Ömer Göktekin, Talip Asil
- 197 **The Effects of Smokeless Tobacco "Maras Powder" on Homocysteine and Cardiovascular Risk**
Dumansız Tütün Maras Otu'nun Homosistein ve Kardiyovasküler Risk Parametreleri Üzerine Etkileri
Filiz Alkan Baylan, Esra Yazar, Funda Cansun, Adem Doğaner, Gülizar Sökmen
- 204 **Traumatik Hifemada Klinik ve Görsel Prognosta Etki Eden Faktörler**
Traumatic Hyphema: Factors Affecting Clinical and Visual Prognosis
Özlem Bursalı, Emine Doğan, Nilgün Özkan Aksoy, Şule Bahadır Coşkun, Erkan Çelik, Gürsoy Alagöz
- 210 **Boric Acid Ameliorates Liver Injury in Rat Induced by Cyclophosphamide**
Borik Asit Sıçanlarda Siklofosfamidin Neden Olduğu Karaciğer Hasarını İyileştirir
Gözde Özge Önder, Özge Göktepe, Eda Okur, Özge Cengiz Mat, Demet Bolat, Esra Balcıoğlu, Arzu Yay
- 217 **Mining Database for The Clinical Significance, Prognostic Value and Expression of Mir-4746 In Hepatocellular Carcinoma**
Hepatosellüler Karsinomda Mir-4746'nın Klinik Önemi, Kestirim Değeri ve İfadesi İçin Veri Tabanı Madenciligi
Zekiye Altan, Yunus Şahin, Aydın Karabulut, Ahmet Arslan
- 225 **Ten Year Cardiovascular Risk, Serum Lipid Indices and High Sensitivity CRP in a Healthy Population**
Sağlıklı Bir Popülasyonda 10 Yıllık Kardiyovasküler Risk, Serum Lipid İndeksleri ve Yüksek Duyarlı CRP
Sinan Akıncı, Ertan Akbay
- 232 **Distal Tibia Eklemine Uzanan Tibia Diyafiz Kırıklarında Kapalı Perkütan Pinleme ve İntramedüller Çivileme ile Tatminkâr Sonuçlar Elde Edilebilir**
Satisfactory Results Can Be Obtained by Closed Percutaneous Pinning and Intramedullary Nailing in Distal Tibial Joint-Related Tibia Diaphysis Fractures
Batuhan Gencer, Özgür Doğan
- 240 **Erişkin Böbrek Nakli Hastalarında Uzun Etkili Takrolimus Kullanımı, Uzun Dönem Böbrek ve Hasta Sağkalımı Üzerine Etkisi, Tek Merkez Deneyimi**
Long-Acting Tacrolimus Use in Adult Kidney Transplant Patients, Effect on Long-Term Kidney and Patient Survival, Single Center Experience
Nadir Alpay, Alaattin Yıldız
- 247 **Analysis of Hematological Parameters According to TSH Levels in Thyroid Patients**
Tiroid Hastalarında TSH Düzeylerine Göre Hematolojik Parametrelerin Analizi
Mehmet Özdin, Selçuk Yaylacı, Taner Demirci
- 255 **The Relationship Between Cardio-Ankle Vascular Index and Clinical Factors with Aortic Valve Sclerosis in Asymptomatic Patients**
Asemptomatik Hastalarda Aort Kapak Sklerozu ile Kalp-Ayak Bileği Damar İndeksi ve Klinik Faktörler Arasındaki İlişki
Ahmet Özderya, Ali Hakan Konuş, Ali Rıza Akyüz
- 265 **İskemi/Reperfüzyon Hasarında Hesperidin Nöroprotektif Etkisi**
Neuroprotective Effects of Hesperidin In Cerebral Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury
Saadet Çeliközülü, Filiz Özyiğit, Said Altukat, Sibel Köktürk, Halit Çeliközülü
- 277 **The Relationship between Attachment Styles and Emotion Regulation Difficulties on Adolescents with Psychiatric Disorders**
Ergenlerdeki Bağlanma Stilleri ve Duygu Düzenleme Güçlükleri ile Psikiyatrik Bozuklukları Arasındaki İlişki
Dilşad Yıldız Miniksar, Mahmut Kılıç
- 287 **Obez Hastalarda Beden Kitle İndeksi ve Aterojenik İndeksin Retinal Mikrovasküler Yapı Üzerine Etkileri**
The Effects of Body Mass Index and Atherogenic Index on Retinal Microvascular Structure in Obese Patients
Erel İcel, Nergis Akbas, Emin Murat Akbas, Aykut İcel, Yusuf Kemal Arslan
- 295 **Clinical Features and Survival Outcomes of Unclassified High-Grade Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Lung**
Akciğerin Sınıflandırılmayan Yüksek Dereceli Nöroendokrin Karsinomların Klinik Özellikleri ve Sağ Kalım Sonuçları
Yasemin Söyler, Pınar Akın Kabalak, Suna Kavurgacı, Funda Demirağ, Ülkü Yılmaz
- 305 **Is There an Ideal Surgical Treatment for Adult Complex Distal Humerus Fractures?**
Erişkin Distal Humerus Kompleks Kırıklarında İdeal Cerrahi Tedavi Seçeneği Var mı?
Ahmet Çağrı Uyar, Alauddin Kochai, Mustafa Uysal, Abdülhalim Akar, Uğur Özdemir
- 314 **Pertuzumab-Mediated Cardiotoxicity: A Single Center Study**
Pertuzumab Aracılı Kardiyotoksikite: Tek Merkezli Bir Çalışma
Aynur Doğrusöz, Ayşenur Uçar, Ahmet Taner Sumbül, Ahmet Sezer, Şenol Demircan, İbrahim Haldun Müderrisoğlu, Özgür Özyılkan
- 321 **Pandemi Dönemindeki Yara Enfeksiyon Etkenlerinin ve Antibiyotik Duyarlılıklarının Pandemi Öncesi ile Karşılaştırılması**
Comparison of Wound Infectious Agents and Antibiotic Sensitivity During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period with Pre-Pandemic
Oya Akkaya



OLGU SUNUMU / CASE REPORT (329-337)

- 329 Travma ile Karışabilen Bir Henoch-Schönlein Purpura Olgusu**
A Case of Henoch-Schonlein Purpura Miscible with Trauma-Related Purpura
Mehmet Çoban, Dilşat Gündoğdu Çoban, Serdar Pop, Muhammed Mesut Nezir Engin, Öner Özdemir

- 334 Sertralin Kullanımı ile İlişkili Ekimoz: Olgu Sunumu**
Ecchymosis Related to Sertraline Use: A Case Report
Müsemma Bolat, Bilal Bolat, Rana Sari, Erkut Etçioğlu
-

Relationship of Carotid Artery Stenosis Ratio and Perioperative Stent Complications

Karotis Arter Darlık Oranı ile Perioperatif Stent Komplikasyonları İlişkisi

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Abstract

Introduction In this study, we aimed to evaluate the complications of carotid artery stenting in patients with extracranial carotid artery stenosis, retrospectively.

Materials and Methods Complications such as stroke, death, restenosis in the first 30 days and 1 year after the CAS procedure, cerebral hyperperfusion and stent thrombosis/occlusion in the perioperative first 24 hours and first 30 days were evaluated.

Results Of the 205 CAS procedures, complications developed in 12 patients. The complication rate for the first 30 days after the procedure was 4,87%, and at the end of the first year, it was 5,85%. Of the 12 patients with complications, 8 had carotid stenosis of $\geq 90\%$. Death occurred in 4 of 195 patients with carotid artery stenosis. The mortality rate within the first 30 days and during the 1-year follow-up period was 1,53% and 2,05%, respectively. Ischemic stroke occurred in 6 of 195 patients with carotid artery stenosis. After the first 30 days and one year follow-up, ischemic stroke had occurred in 3,07% of patients. Stent thrombosis/occlusion rate was 4,87% in 205 CAS procedures, and 7 of them occurred in the perioperative first 24 hours and another 3 occurred within the first 30 days. Restenosis rates were 0,48% and 0,97% at 6 months and the first year, respectively.

Conclusion It has been observed that the incidence of complications in the CAS procedure is higher in symptomatic cases requiring emergency endovascular treatment or in cases with a carotid artery stenosis rate of 90% or more. In addition, the most common CAS complication in our study was found to be carotid artery stent thrombosis/occlusion.

Keywords carotid artery stenting, carotid artery diseases, carotid artery stenosis, stents, stroke.

Öz

Amaç Biz bu çalışmada ekstrakraniyal karotis arter darlığı olan hastalarda, karotis arter stentleme (KAS) komplikasyonlarını retrospektif olarak değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

Yöntem ve Gereçler KAS işlemi sonrası ilk 30 gün ve 1 yıl içinde inme, ölüm, restenoz; perioperatif ilk 24 saat ve ilk 30 günde serebral hiperperfüzyon ve stent trombozu/oklüzyonu gibi komplikasyonlar değerlendirildi.

Bulgular 205 KAS işlemde 12 hastada komplikasyon gelişti. 205 KAS işlem sonrası ilk 30 gün için komplikasyon oranı % 4,87 iken, 1. yıl sonunda % 5,85 oranında izlendi. Komplikasyon görülen 12 hastanın 8'inin karotis arterlerinde % 90 ve üzeri darlık mevcuttu. 195 karotis arter hastasının 4'ünde ölüm gelişti. İlk 30 gün içindeki mortalite oranı % 1,53 iken bir yıllık izlem sürecinde toplam mortalite oranı % 2,05 olarak bulundu. 195 karotis arter hastasının 6'sında iskemik inme saptandı. İlk 30 gün ve bir yıllık takip sonrası iskemik inme oranı % 3,07 olarak saptandı. Stent trombozu/oklüzyonu oranı 205 KAS işlemde % 4,87 olup, 7' si perioperatif ilk 24 saatte, 3' ü ise ilk 30 gün içinde meydana gelmişti. Restenoz ilk 6 ay sonunda % 0,48 oranında görülürken, bu oran ilk yılsonunda % 0,97 olarak izlendi.

Sonuç KAS işleminde komplikasyon görülme sıklığının, acil endovasküler tedavi gerektiren semptomatik veya karotis arter darlık oranı %90 ve üzeri olan vakalarda daha yüksek olduğu gözlemlenmiştir. Ayrıca çalışmamızda en sık KAS komplikasyonunun karotis arter stent trombozu/oklüzyonu olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler karotis arter stentleme, karotis arter hastalıkları, karotis arter stenozu, stentler, inme



INTRODUCTION

Stroke is an important cause of mortality and morbidity. One of the causes of ischemic stroke is carotid artery stenosis. The recurrence rate is high in strokes due to symptomatic carotid artery stenosis followed by medical treatment. In carotid artery stenosis, the possibility of stroke increases as the stenosis rate increases. Therefore, revascularization is an effective and safe method of preventing stroke in patients with severe carotid stenosis presenting due to stroke and transient ischemic attack or those who are asymptomatic.^{1,2} Medical, interventional, and surgical treatments (endarterectomy) are performed to treat carotid artery stenosis effectively. In studies utilizing embolic protective devices, it was demonstrated that carotid artery stenting (CAS) treatment was similar to carotid artery endarterectomy (CAE) in terms of preventing recurrent ischemic strokes, and these two methods were found to have similar complication rates.^{3,4}

In this study, we aimed to examine the complications of CAS, the causes of these complications, their frequency, and their relationship with pre-procedural carotid artery stenosis.

MATERIAL and METHODS

In this study, patients with symptomatic and asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis who underwent CAS in Bezmialem Vakıf University Neurology Clinic between 2011 and 2016 were analyzed retrospectively after obtaining the approval of the Bezmialem University Ethics Committee (10.09.2019/16-318). The procedures used in this study adhere to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave their written informed consent to participate in the study. Internal carotid artery (ICA) stenosis was detected by computed tomography angiography, magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) and/or digital subtraction angiography (DSA). For CAS, symptomatic patients older than 18 years with stenosis of $\geq 50\%$ and asymptomatic patients with stenosis $\geq 70\%$ were selected based on the North American Symptomatic Carotid Endarterectomy Trial

(NASCET) criteria.⁵ Symptomatic stroke criteria were ipsilateral transient ischemic attack or stroke in the previous 6 months. Patients with a recent history of hemorrhage, total occlusion in the target vessel, bleeding coagulation disorder, who could not receive antiaggregant treatment or allergic to antiaggregant and contrast agents, who had a life expectancy of <1 year, and who could not undergo CAS due to these reasons were excluded. The study included 195 patients who underwent 205 procedures. The patients were divided into symptomatic and asymptomatic groups. Four groups were formed based on carotid artery stenosis rates: 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, and 98%–99%. In addition, the contralateral carotid artery of the CAS site was classified according to the same stenosis rates. Complications, such as cerebral hyperperfusion, bleeding due to hyperperfusion, stroke, death, stent thrombosis/occlusion, and restenosis were evaluated on the 30th day after CAS and at the end of 1 year.

The demographic data of the patients, risk factors, the symptomatic and asymptomatic presentation of stroke events, rates of carotid stenosis, the side (left/right) receiving CAS treatment, and complications in the perioperative first 24 hours, first 30 days, first year were recorded.

Statistical Analysis

PASW Statistics 22 for Windows statistical package program was used for transferring the data to the computer and statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage) were used in the presentation of data. Variables are expressed as mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentage. All other features/properties were assessed by an expert observer.

Revascularization Procedure

Aspirin (100 mg/day) and clopidogrel (75 mg/day) were administered at least 2 days before CAS after routine imaging of the patients with brain computed tomography (CT). On the day of the procedure, the patients were regularly administered with antihypertensive drugs, except β block-

ers. CAS was performed under local anesthesia through the femoral approach. An 8F introducer sheath was placed, and unfractionated heparin (100 IU/kg) was administered to extend the anticoagulation time to 250–300 seconds. Arterial pressure and echocardiography (ECG) of the patients were monitored continuously during the procedure. An 8F guiding catheter (Cordis, USA) was placed proximal to the target lesion. Distal embolic protection was applied with a vascular filter (Filter wire EZ, Boston, USA) in all patients during CAS. After the protection devices were placed, the procedures were performed as follows: predilatation (2–3 mm), stent placement, and post-dilatation (4–6 mm).

Predilatation was performed to facilitate the passage of the stent to the lesion in cases with critical stenosis (>85%) or when severe calcifications were seen during fluoroscopy. Self-expanding stents (Wallstent, Boston Scientific, Natick, MA, USA) were placed in the stenotic carotid arteries. When necessary, residual stenosis of <30% was obtained after the stent was placed by post-dilating the lesion.

To prevent bradycardia and hypotension, 0.5–1 mg intravenous atropine was routinely administered before balloon inflation. Intravenous (IV) atropine was re-administered in patients who had a >20 beats/min decrease in heart rate during balloon dilation and stent placement. In case of severe hypotension (systolic blood pressure <80 mmHg), infusion of inotropic agents (dopamine 5–15 µg/kg/min) and additional IV fluids were used. On the other hand, nitroprusside infusion was administered in cases where hypertension developed. Before removal of the protection device, two angle angiograms and intracranial images of the stent implantation area were obtained. The procedure was considered successful when the stenotic segment of the carotid artery was effectively dilated (residual stenosis <30% with adequate blood flow). After the procedure, antiplatelet therapy was continued (dual antiaggregant therapy for at least 3 months and aspirin continued indefinitely). All patients were followed up in the intensive care

unit during the first 3 hours after the procedure. In addition, neurological examinations were continued regularly until discharge, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or CT was performed in patients demonstrating neurological changes after the procedure. Strict blood pressure control was achieved to maintain the systolic blood pressure between 100 and 130 mmHg or maintain a decrease of 10%–20% from baseline.

RESULTS

This study retrospectively analyzed 205 CAS procedures performed on 195 patients with symptomatic (n = 133) and asymptomatic (n = 62) carotid artery stenosis. Of the patients with a mean age of $68,45 \pm 9,05$ years, 143 were males and 52 were females. CAS procedures were right-sided in 93 patients, left-sided in 92 patients and bilateral in 10 patients. The patients were divided into four groups according to the degree of carotid artery stenosis (stenosis rate): 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, and 98%–99%.

In patients with right ICA stenting, 8, 35, 51, and 9 patients had carotid artery stenosis rates of 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, and 98%–99%, respectively. In patients with left ICA stenting, 9, 29, 50, and 14 patients had carotid artery stenosis rates of 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, and 98%–99%, respectively. Additionally, the carotid artery stenosis rates of the contralateral side (relative to the CAS application site) were examined. Regarding the contralateral carotid artery stenosis rates in patients with stenting to the right ICA, 18, 12, 8, and 4 patients had carotid artery stenosis rates of 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, 98%–99%, respectively, and 10 patients had contralateral carotid total occlusion; whereas the remaining 51 patients had <50% stenosis. Regarding the contralateral carotid artery stenosis rates in patients with stenting to the left ICA, 16, 8, 7, and 1 patient(s) had carotid artery stenosis rates of 50%–70%, 70%–90%, 90%–98%, 98%–99%, respectively. Also, 17 patients had contralateral carotid total occlusion and the remaining 54 patients had <50% stenosis.

Considering the risk factors of patients who underwent carotid stent; 86,66% hypertension, 63,58% hyperlipidemia, 44,10% coronary artery disease, 38,97% diabetes mellitus, 19,48% smoking and 5,12% atrial fibrillation were observed.

Complications developed in 10 patients within the first 30 days and in 2 patients at the end of 1 year. The complication rate was 4,87% for the first 30 days after CAS and 5,85% at the end of the first year. Of the 12 patients with complications, 8 had $\geq 90\%$ stenosis in their carotid arteries. Stent thrombosis/ occlusion developed in 10 of the 12 patients, and 8 of these patients were symptomatic cases with emergency. The rate of stent thrombosis/occlusion was 4,87%, with 8 of them occurring in the perioperative first 24 h and 2 within the first 30 days. Neurological defi-

cit development was prevented by performing CAS again in one of the two patients who developed stent thrombosis/occlusion, while CAE was utilized in the other patient. Due to stent thrombosis/occlusion, two patients died during the procedure; one patient died in the first month due to a large infarction after the procedure, and one patient died at the end of 1 year. The mortality rate during the 30 day and 1-year follow-up periods were 1,53% and 2,05%, respectively. Furthermore, 6 patients had ischemic strokes in the first 30 days. No new strokes were observed during the 1-year follow-up; thus, ischemic stroke rate was 3,07% for both follow-up periods. Restenosis occurred in 2 patients, 1 at the end of the 6th month and 1 at the end of 1 year; thus, restenosis rate was 0,48% at 6 months and 0,97% at the end of the first year (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of patients with complications related to carotid artery stenting

Patient Number	Age	Gender	Risk Factors	Carotid Artery Stenosis Rate	Symptomatic / Asymptomatic	Stent Thrombosis/ Occlusion In The Perioperative	Stent Thrombosis/ Occlusion In The First 30	Stroke	Death	Restenosis	1 st Month mRS
1	48	M		50%	symptomatic	+	-	+	-	-	3
2	70	M	CAD, DM, HT	99%	asymptomatic	+	-	-	+	-	6
3	70	F	CAD, DM, HT	90%	symptomatic	+	-	+	-	-	1
4	81	F	CAD, HT, HL	70%	symptomatic	+	-	-	-	-	0
5	60	M	CAD, HT, DM, HL	95%	symptomatic	-	+	+	+	-	6
6	82	F	HT, HL	95 %	symptomatic	+		-	-	-	0
7	86	F	HT	70%	asymptomatic	-	+	+	-	-	1
8	81	M	HL	90%	asymptomatic	+	-	+	*	-	5
9	58	M	HT, DM, HL	90%	symptomatic	+	-	-	+	-	6
10	56	F	HT, DM, HL	90%	symptomatic	+	-	+	-	-	5
11	64	M	CAD, HL	95%	symptomatic	-	-	-	-	**	0
12	57	F	HT,HL, Smoking	70%	symptomatic	-	-	-	-	***	0

*The patient died after 1 year, **Restenosis developed in the 6th month, ***Restenosis developed in the 1st year
HT hypertension, HL hyperlipidemia, CAD coronary artery disease, DM diabetes mellitus, mRS; Modified Rankin Score

DISCUSSION

Approximately 75% of ischemic strokes are caused by the anterior system, and the cause for one-third of them is carotid artery stenosis. In carotid artery stenosis, the risk of stroke recurrence is high in the first 7 days. In patients with stroke due to symptomatic carotid artery stenosis, recurrence rate in the first 2 years reaches up to 26% in those treated medically after the first event.⁶ In asymptomatic patients with carotid artery stenosis (comprising >60% of patients) the annual incidence of stroke has been reported to be 2,5%, even under medical treatment.⁷ Therefore, surgical and interventional treatments have gained considerable importance as effective alternatives to medical treatment.

After carotid artery stenosis is diagnosed, the indication(s) and method of treatment should be evaluated. The degree of stenosis is important in this evaluation. Medical treatment is usually sufficient in cases with a stenosis of <50% in the vascular lumen.⁸ The superiority of surgical treatment over medical treatment in patients with significant stenosis in the carotid arteries ($\geq 70\%$) has been demonstrated by large-scale studies, such as the NASCET study, the European Carotid Surgery Trial (ECST), and the Asymptomatic Carotid Atherosclerosis Study (ACAS).^{5,7,9}

The reliability and efficacy of CAS has been demonstrated in studies conducted with comparisons to surgical treatments. The Carotid and Vertebral Artery Transluminal Angioplasty (CAVATAS) study, published in 2002, was the first randomized study including symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, and the rates of stroke with periprocedural sequela, death, and long-term stroke were found to be similar.^{10,11} In the Stenting and Angioplasty with Protection in Patients at High Risk for Endarterectomy study (SAPPHIRE) study, conducted in 2004, wherein only high-risk patients were included from symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, the rates of stroke, death and myocardial infarction (MI) within 30 days; and ipsilateral stroke and death rates between 31 days and 1 year (12,2% vs 20,1%)

were in favor of CAS. By contrast, no difference was found in periprocedural stroke, death and MI rates between 31 days and 3 years, and ipsilateral stroke and death rates between 31 days and 3 years.^{4,12} In 2006, the Endarterectomy versus Angioplasty in Patients with Symptomatic Severe Carotid Stenosis study (EVA 3S), wherein only symptomatic patients were included, was terminated early due to periprocedural stroke on the CAS side and high mortality rate. The 5-year periprocedural stroke, death and non-procedural ipsilateral stroke rates were similarly high on the CAS side, and no difference was found in the 10-year follow-up.^{13,14} In the Stent-Protected Angioplasty versus Carotid Endarterectomy (SPACE) study in 2006, which included symptomatic patients, no significant difference was observed between the groups in terms of periprocedural death and ipsilateral stroke (6,84% vs 6,34%). In the 2-year period, ipsilateral stroke, periprocedural stroke and death rates were similar.^{15,16} In the largest study concerning this topic, the Carotid Revascularization Endarterectomy versus Stenting Trial (CREST) which included 2502 symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, the rates of periprocedural stroke, death and MI were again found to be similar (5,2% vs 4,5%). Although periprocedural stroke was more common in the CAS arm of the study, MI was more common on the endarterectomy side. No significant difference was found in stroke, MI and mortality rates at the 10-year follow-up. Stroke, death and ipsilateral stroke were more common in the CAS group in the 10-year period. The long-term results of postprocedural ipsilateral stroke were similar.^{3,17}

In our study, although the mortality rate in the first 30 days in CAS recipients was 1,53%, the total mortality rate was 2,05% during the 1-year follow-up period. The ipsilateral ischemic stroke rate was 3,07% after the first 30 days and 1-year follow-up, which was compatible with the mortality (0%–2%) and stroke (2,9%–8,3%) rates of CAS in various series conducted since June 1997.^{18,19} Although more than half of the patients were symptomatic, stroke rates in our study were low and consistent with the literature. Similar

to previous studies, this may be related to appropriate pre- and post-dilatation and the use of an embolism protective device and a closed-cell stent. Emboli-preventive filters reduce the frequency of embolism associated with CAS therapy. In addition, these vascular filters allow stenting while blood flow continues, making it possible to treat patients with occluded contralateral ICA.²⁰ Although the benefit of emboli protective devices is still not clearly demonstrated, in a large-scale study involving 11243 patients, periprocedural stroke and mortality rates were lower among patients in which emboli-protective devices were used.²¹

In our study, 101 of the patients who underwent CAS had >90% carotid stenosis. The mortality rate was 3,96% in these patients who represented a group with a high risk of stroke. Because this rate is within the acceptable range, CAS has been suggested to be a reliable treatment method in patients with severe stenosis ($\geq 90\%$).

Apart from ischemic stroke that may occur during carotid revascularization, another major neurological complication is cerebral hyperperfusion. The mortality and morbidity rates of hemorrhage due to hyperperfusion after CAS was 1%.²² In one study, to prevent postoperative hyperperfusion, percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) was recommended (followed by CAS) with the use of a PTA balloon with a diameter of ≤ 3.0 mm in the first session, leaving an appropriate interval (such as 1–3 weeks) between PTA and CAS, and measurement of cerebral blood flow.²³ None of our patients developed hemorrhage associated with cerebral hyperperfusion, which may be due to the use of a PTA balloon with a diameter of $\leq 3,0$ mm in the first session and strict blood pressure regulation.

Although stent thrombosis, another complication, is uncommon, it is a complication with serious mortality and morbidity.²⁴ In stent thrombosis, the first 30 days have been classified as the early stage, and after 30 days (usually to 12 months) as late stage.²⁵ For the early period, the first 24 hours is defined as the acute period, while the period

between 1 and 30 days is classified as subacute.²⁶ Stroke following stent thrombosis is thought to occur either as a direct result of thrombosis or as a complication of indirect distal embolism.²⁷ In the data, acute stent thrombosis rate was observed between 0,04% and 2%.²⁸ The literature on this topic mostly includes case-by-case evaluations, instead of large, randomized studies on stent thrombosis. In another study, the incidence of acute stent thrombosis was 0,5%–0,8%.²⁹ However, in the follow-up of acute carotid stent thrombosis (ACST) using serial CT angiography, the stent thrombosis rate in the early period was 43,5% in 23 cases.³⁰ Some studies include only emergency and symptomatic patients for stent thrombosis in CAS, while other studies also include asymptomatic patients. In elective cases, the frequency of thrombosis ranged from 0,36% to 2,1%.³¹ In emergency situations, this rate demonstrates and increase, with frequencies ranging from 5,6% to 33%.³²⁻³⁴ In some series, especially in tandem occlusions associated with intracranial thrombectomy, higher than expected ACST rates up to 45% were observed.³² In our study, the stent thrombosis/ occlusion rate was 4,87%, and the relatively high rate may be due to CAS being performed on mostly emergency and symptomatic patients in this retrospective study. Actually, among the eight patients who developed stent thrombosis/occlusion six were emergency cases, and most of them were symptomatic and had multiple risk factors. In addition, seven of the patients who developed stent thrombosis/occlusion had a carotid artery stenosis of $\geq 90\%$, and these patients were included in the high-risk patient group.

The carotid artery stenosis rates of patients who died were $\geq 90\%$. In 7 of the 10 patients who developed stent thrombosis/occlusion, and in 4 of the 6 patients who had a stroke, the carotid stenosis rate was also $\geq 90\%$. No complications were observed in patients with bilateral carotid stenosis, who had undergone treatment for each carotid at different times. Thus, current evidence shows that the incidence of complications for CAS does not increase in those with bilateral carotid stenosis, but in those with high

stenosis rate ($\geq 90\%$) those with emergency and patients who are symptomatic.

Another complication associated with CAS is restenosis. In studies, the restenosis rate after CAS was 5%–11% with different follow-up periods.^{35,36} Barros et al. reported a restenosis rate of 6% within 2 years.³⁵ In the CAVATAS, carotid revascularization using endarterectomy or stenting systems (CaRESS), and SPACE studies, a higher rate of post-CAS restenosis was reported compared to post-CAE restenosis rate.^{10,15,37} However, EVA3S and Mannheim and Karmeli advocated the opposite in their studies including a 1-year follow-up.^{38,39}

Many factors, such as smoking, hyperlipidemia, hypertension and diabetes mellitus, can, increase the incidence of restenosis after CAS.^{40,41} In addition, the role of sex and age was also mentioned.^{36,38} The CAVATAS study reported that smoking contributed to the progression of restenosis.⁴² In other studies, recurrent carotid artery stenosis increased in patients with residual stenosis after CAS, history of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, high-grade carotid artery stenosis, and contralateral carotid stenosis.⁴³⁻⁴⁵ One particular study also reported that the presence of calcified plaque was associated with restenosis.⁴⁶ From these data, it is evident that improving risk factors can reduce the incidence of restenosis. In our study, restenosis rate in our patients who underwent CAS was 0,48% at the end of the first 6 months and 0,97% at the end of 1 year. While looking at antiaggregant resistance and genetic polymorphisms for effective antiaggregant treatment in our patients, we tried to control various risk factors with frequent polyclinic controls throughout the first 6 months. This situation may be associated with the low rate of restenosis in our patients.

In our study, no complications were observed in high-risk patients with bilateral stenosis after bilateral CAS procedures had been performed at separate times. In a multi-center, prospective study on bilateral carotid stenosis,

which included 747 patients at high risk for CAE47, two separate CAS procedures were performed with a >30-day interval in 78 of these patients (10,4%), while procedures were bilateral in other patients. No significant differences were found between the two groups with respect to any of the endpoints, at neither 30 days nor 1 year. Thus, both approaches are effective in the CAE treatment of high-risk patients without any increase in morbidity and mortality.⁴⁷ Our study also supports this finding, and it may be feasible to note that CAS may be an alternative in this group of patients wherein CAE could be considered risky due to bilateral stenosis.

CONCLUSION

Unilateral and bilateral CAS is a procedure with low mortality rate and is an effective treatment method that can prevent recurrent ischemic stroke. The incidence of possible complications is associated with presence of emergency, the symptomatic nature of the patient and degree of stenosis rate ($\geq 90\%$), rather than the presence of bilateral carotid stenosis. In addition, although the incidence of stent thrombosis/occlusion was not observed as a clear rate in the literature, it was the most common carotid stent complication in our study.

Limitations

It can be said that the most important limitation of this study was the small number of patients, its single centered nature and retrospective design. Anatomical features such as aortic arch type, target lesion length, calcification of the target area, ICA/CCA angle/tortuosity were not evaluated for perioperative risk. In addition, the type of stent used in our study was only closed cell stent and only distal vascular filter type as embolic protective device. All these can be considered as limitations of our study.

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Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

Conceptualization; CD,VG,GH,OG Data curation; CD,VG,MN,GH Formal analysis; CD,OG,VG,MN Investigation; CD,MN,OG,GH. Methodology; TA,GH,VG Project administration; CD,OG,TA,VG Resources; CD,VG,OG. Supervision; TA,GH,OG Validation; CD,TA. Roles/Writing-original draft; CD, TA. Writing-review & editing; CD

Conflict of interest statement

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Ethics Approval

Approval was obtained from the ethics committee of Bezmialem Vakıf University (10.09.2019/16-318). The procedures used in this study adhere to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave their written informed consent to participate in the study

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The Effects of Smokeless Tobacco “Maras Powder” on Homocysteine and Cardiovascular Risk

Dumansız Tütün Maraş Otu'nun Homosistein ve Kardiyovasküler Risk Parametreleri Üzerine Etkileri

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Abstract

Introduction This study aims to investigate the relationship between smokeless tobacco (Maras powder) and cigarette consumption with homocysteine, Paraoxonase-1 (PON-1), Arylesterase (ARE), and Lipoprotein-a (Lp (a)), which are known as risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Materials and Methods The individuals included in the study were divided into three groups as Maras powder users (n = 38), cigarette smokers (n = 38), and healthy volunteers who did not use either tobacco group (n = 38). Serum homocysteine, PON-1, ARE, and Lp (a) levels of all participants were examined.

Results When the groups are compared, the highest homocysteine level was in the Maras powder group. While the difference between the control group and the Maras powder group was statistically significant, the difference between the control and smokers groups was statistically insignificant. Although PON values were lower in both the Maras powder and smokers groups than the control group, the difference was significant only in the smoking group. ARE was significantly lower, and Lp (a) was significantly higher in both tobacco smokers groups compared to the control group.

Conclusion Serum homocysteine levels increase in both Maraş powder users and smokers. Moreover; Decreased PON-1 and ARE levels in smokers, decreased ARE levels in Maraş powder users show that Maraş powder use has side effects at least as much as cigarettes.

Keywords Maras powder; homocysteine; Paraoxonase-1; Arylesterase; Lipoprotein-a

Öz

Amaç Bu çalışma, dumansız tütün (Maraş otu) ile sigara tüketiminin kardiyovasküler hastalıklar için risk faktörleri olarak bilinen homosistein, Paraoksonaz-1 (PON-1), Arylesteraz (ARE) ve Lipoprotein-a (Lp (a)) ile ilişkisini araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Çalışmaya alınan bireyler Maraş otu kullananlar (n=38), sigara içenler (n=38) ve her iki tütün grubunu da kullanmayan sağlıklı gönüllüler (n=38) olarak üç gruba ayrıldı. Tüm katılımcıların serum homosistein, PON-1, ARE ve Lp (a) düzeylerine bakıldı.

Bulgular Gruplar karşılaştırıldığında en yüksek homosistein düzeyi Maraş otu grubundaydı. Kontrol grubu ile Maraş otu grubu arasındaki fark istatistiksel olarak anlamlıyken, kontrol grubu ile sigara içen grup arasındaki fark istatistiksel olarak anlamsızdı. Hem Maraş otu hem de sigara içen grupta PON değerleri kontrol grubuna göre daha düşük olmasına rağmen, fark sadece sigara içen grupta anlamlıydı. Kontrol grubuna göre her iki tütün için grupta ARE anlamlı olarak daha düşüktü ve Lp (a) anlamlı olarak daha yüksekti.

Sonuç Serum homosistein düzeylerinin hem Maraş otu kullananlarda hem de sigara içenlerde artmaktadır. Ayrıca; sigara içenlerde azalan PON-1 ve ARE seviyeleri, Maraş otu kullananlarda azalan ARE seviyeleri Maraş otu kullanımının en az sigara kadar yan etkileri olduğunu göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler Maraş otu; homosistein; Paraoksonaz-1; Arylesteraz; Lipoprotein-a



INTRODUCTION

Tobacco use is still one of the most important causes of mortality and morbidity worldwide. Although tobacco smoking is mainly through cigarette smoking, other smokeless tobacco use patterns are also common. Smokeless tobacco is used by many cultures worldwide, including the United States, Sweden, India, and the Middle East.¹⁻⁴ Some common smokeless tobacco (ST) products include chewing tobacco, rappee, snus, and topical tobacco paste³. Maras powder (MW), an important example of the ST, is widely used in Turkey's eastern Mediterranean region. Also, other countries, such as Sudan and Saudi Arabia, often use MW as a smokeless tobacco type.^{5,6} The studies conducted in Turkey reported an MW use ratio of 4 - 16.8%.⁷ Unlike chewing tobacco, Maras powder is used orally. The leaves of the plant named "Nicotiana rustica Linn," which is called "Wild Tobacco, are dried and mixed with the ashes of walnut, oak or vine wood with a ratio of 1/2 or 1/3. Then, this mixture is moistened by adding a sum of water. A piece (approximately 1 g) of this mixture is placed between the lower lip mucosa and the gingiva. The mixture is spit after 4-5 minutes. Since this area's capillary blood vessels are rich where tobacco is applied, nicotine quickly enters the bloodstream. People using MW repeat this process several times a day, and some individuals even sleep all night with tobacco in their mouths. The nicotine content of *N. Rustica L* is approximately 6-10 times higher than *N. tabacum L* in cigarette.⁸ In this case, *N.rustica L* is preferred to prepare wild tobacco due to its high nicotine content. It is assumed that the ash in this mixture converts the alkaloids into their base form and allows them to be easily absorbed from the buccal mucosa.⁹

Several studies and meta-analyses have shown that smokeless tobacco has an increased risk for cardiovascular diseases.¹⁰⁻¹⁴

It is known that homocysteine has atherogenic properties and is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD).¹⁵ The effects of Maras powder use on the cardiovascular system

have been investigated by examining many parameters, and the harmful effects of Maras powder on the cardiovascular system have been revealed.^{8,16,17} However, Homocysteine, one of the known risk factors for CVD, has not been studied in Maras powder users.

Clinical studies are showing that PON-1 plays an atheroprotective role and that low PON-1 activity increases the risk of CHD (coronary heart disease).¹⁹

In this study, we compared the serum Homocysteine, PON1, ARE, Lp (a), HDL Cholesterol, LDL Cholesterol, Total Cholesterol, and Triglyceride levels and compared Maras powder users and cigarette smokers with the control group. In this way, we aimed to contribute to the elucidation of Maras powder use's etiopathogenesis as a risk factor for atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Thirty-eight male subjects using Maras powder, 38 male cigarette smokers, and 38 healthy males for the control group were included in the study. The study protocol was conducted as the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the local Ethical Committee of our hospital (21.03.2018/25). The signed informed consent form was obtained from the participants who volunteered to participate in the study.

Inclusion criteria for the study:

1. The Maras powder group: Participants using 1-2 grams of Maras powder each time, at least 3-6 times a day, were included.
2. The cigarette smoking group: Participants smoking at least one pack a day for at least one year were included.
3. The Control Group: Participants who are not on regular cigarettes or Maras powder in addition to not being a passive smoker were included.

Exclusion criteria: Patients with any type of acute or

chronic diseases, patients with medication use daily, and patients who were using both cigarettes and Maras powder at the same time were excluded. The participants' blood samples were taken after the 12-hour smoking and Maras powder-free period between 08:00 and 10:00 a.m. following the 12-hour fasting. The venous blood sampling was placed in gel blood tubes and centrifuged at 4000 g for 5 minutes. Serum samples obtained were portioned into appropriate containers and stored at -80°C until analysis. Homocysteine, Vitamin B12, and Folate levels were measured with the Roche Cobas E602 device using the electrochemiluminescence method, and the lipids were measured on the Roche Cobas C702 device by the photometric method. Paraoxonase and Arylesterase were measured by using a commercial kit on an automatic analyzer with the colorimetric principle, and Lipoprotein-a was measured with ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) (Rel Assay Diagnostic kit, Mega Tip, Gaziantep, Turkey) commercial kits.

In the study, the number of samples for three different groups was determined with a: 0.05 significance level, B: 0.20, and 0.80 test power analysis. Accordingly, a total of 114 individuals, 38 individuals in each group with a 0.80 test power, were included in the study.

The compatibility of the variables to the normal distribution was examined with the Shapiro-Wilk test in the evaluation of the data. Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare two groups for the variables that did not show normal distribution. Comparisons between the three groups were made with the Kruskal Wallis H test. The statistical significance level was accepted as $p < 0.05$. Statistical parameters were expressed as Median (min-max). Data were evaluated using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (IBM SPSS for Windows version 22, IBM Corporation, Armonk, New York, United States).

RESULTS

Demographic data are shown in Table 1. When the groups

were compared, the highest homocysteine level was in the Maras powder group.

	Maras powder Median (min-max)	Smoking Median (min-max)	Control Median (min-max)	p
Age	38.5 (20.0-70.0)	31.0 (22.0-65.0)	30.5 (21.0-50.0)	0.098
Height	172 (162-185)	175 (159-190)	177 (163-190)	0.129
Weight	82 (55-117)	79 (62-128)	85 (55-110)	0.099
BMI	26.4 (18.9-40.0)	26.2 (19.9-39.5)	26.4 (16.8-40.0)	0.397
Kruskal Wallis H test; $\alpha:0.05$ BMI: Body Mass Index				

While the difference between the control group and the Maras powder group was statistically significant, the difference between the control and the smoker groups was statistically insignificant. Although PON values were lower in both the Maras powder and smokers groups than the control, the difference was significant only in the smoking group. ARE was significantly lower, and Lp (a) was significantly higher in both tobacco and Maras powder groups than the control group. (Table 2, Figure 1)

In the correlation analysis, there was a significant positive correlation between the duration of Maras powder use and cigarette smoking and homocysteine levels ($p = 0.02$, $r = 0.491$ and $p = 0.00$, $r = 0.614$, respectively) (Figure 2). There was no significant correlation between other parameters.

Table 2: Comparison of the laboratory parameters of the groups

	Maras powder	Smoking	Control	P
	Median (min-max)	Median (min-max)	Median (min-max)	
Duration (years)	11.5(2-35)	14.0(3-40)	.	0.620
Amount (pack/day)	1.0(0.5-2.0)	1.0(0.5-5.0)		0.492
Homocysteine (umol/L)	15.65(9.80-27.40) c	14.40(9.30-49.20)	13.30(10.00-19.20)a	0,026*
PON (U/L)	110.92(51.85-162.92)	91.03(5.86-354.15)c	121.61(67.35-264.58)b	0.043*
ARE (U/L)	126.67(83.30-148.97)c	123.42(44.61-211.48)c	134.89(107.78-176.74)a,b	0.011*
Lp a (mg/dL)	12.47(1.57-24.39)c	13.15(2.90-24.11)c	6.67(1.97-26.52)a,b	p<0.001*
Cholesterol (mg/dL)	167.80(114.10-239.40)	172.65(115.50-218.90)	160.75(108.00-235.20)	0.766
HDL (mg/dL)	37.50(27.20-55.30)	36.45(26.20-60.10)c	41.60(29.50-66.20)b	0.031*
LDL (mg/dL)	101.60(878.70-153.00)	95.05(57.70-145.90)	94.55(59.00-158.00)	0.549
Triglyceride (mg/dL)	167.50(15.10-439.20)	165.70(59.60-313.00)	133.65(61.80-376.00)	0.357

Mann Whitney U test; Kruskal Wallis H test; α :0.05;* Statistically significant; a significant difference with Maras powder group b significant difference with cigarette group; c significant difference with the control group

PON-1: Paraoxonase-1, ARE;Arylesterase, Lp (a);Lipoprotein-a

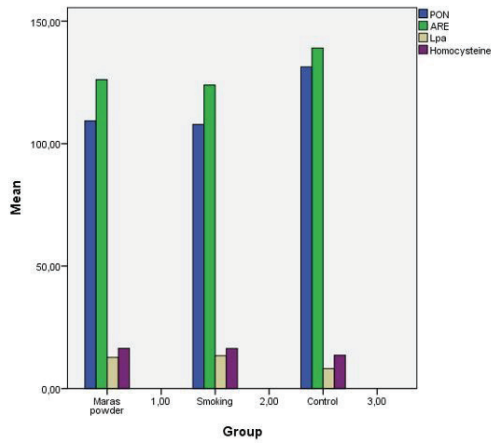


Figure 1. Comparison of the groups regarding the examined parameters

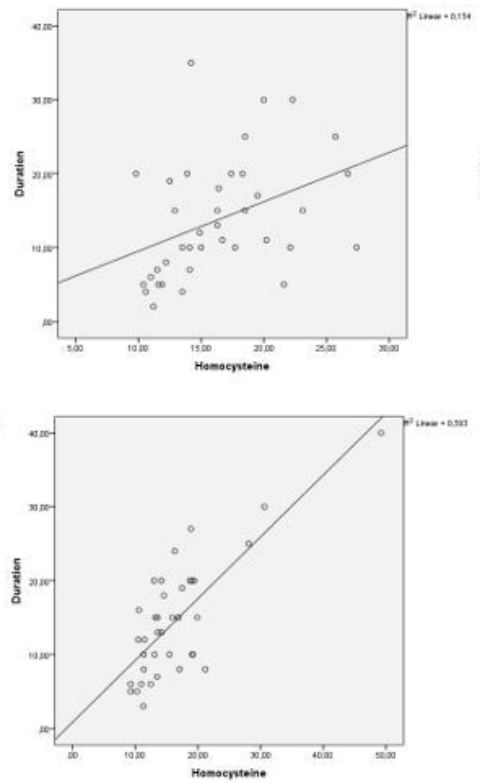


Figure 2. Relationship between the duration of Maras powder use and cigarette smoking and homocysteine

DISCUSSION

Our study observed that homocysteine concentrations increased more in Maras powder users than cigarette smokers compared to the control group. We found that PON levels decreased with the use of Maras powder and cigarette smoking; this decrease was statistically significant only in cigarette smokers, ARE levels decreased, and Lp (a) levels increased in both Maras powder and cigarette smoking groups compared to the control. Our study is the first study to evaluate homocysteine parameters in Maras powder users.

Various studies have shown that smoking and ST use can cause cardiovascular²⁰, respiratory, endocrine and immune systems^{9,21,22} disorders. Atherosclerosis-related diseases constitute a significant portion of cardiovascular diseases. Atherosclerosis is the most important cause of heart attacks and strokes, characterized by thickening and hardening of the arterial walls. The atherosclerotic lesion is a chronic inflammatory process. Vascular endothelium, monocytes/macrophages, smooth muscle cells, some growth factors, and cytokines are involved in this process. Although many factors play a role in atherosclerosis formation, the most important one is endothelial dysfunction. Although the exact mechanism of endothelial dysfunction is unknown, there is evidence that homocysteine, an intermediate product of methionine metabolism, exerts its effects by causing oxidative damage.²³ The increase in extracellular homocysteine is toxic to cells and tissues and can initiate a wide array of vascular complications. Vascular endothelial cells are susceptible to even a slight increase in homocysteine concentration. This sensitivity is explained by human endothelial cells' inability to express the active form of the cystathionine beta-synthase enzyme, that is, to initiate homocysteine catabolism.²⁴ Oxidative radicals that cause atherosclerosis are produced by homocysteine, and they can oxidize plasma LDL. Plasma oxidized-LDL (ox-LDL) increase is a well-known risk factor for endothelial dysfunction and atherosclerosis. A study conducted in a Pakistani population shows a positive relationship between

ST consumption and hyperhomocysteinemia.²⁵ We also found that homocysteine was high in participants who use Maras powder, a type of smokeless tobacco, and this elevation suggests that it may be a risk factor for atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases.

Homocysteine also triggers NADPH oxidase activity, which contributes to increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) production. Homocysteine-induced reactive oxygen species accelerate atherosclerosis development by decreasing HDL-associated PON-1 expression.²⁶ Paraoxonases (PON) is a family of enzymes that catalyze the same reaction using different substrates. These enzymes protect lipids from peroxidation and consequently exhibit antioxidant properties. There are three known members of the PON family; PON1, PON2, PON3. PON1 is a multifunctional enzyme with PON, diazoxonase, ARE activities. It is synthesized in the liver and reduces ROS in human endothelial cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, and fibroblasts.²⁷ Another PON feature is its ability to detoxify homocysteine-thiolactone, a toxic, reactive intermediate product for cells and proteins. Studies have revealed the proatherogenic and neurodegenerative effects of homocysteine with low serum PON1 activity.^{28,29} Human serum PON1 level and activity are affected by diet, smoking and acute-phase proteins. Various studies have reported that PON1 levels decreased in smokers compared to non-smokers.^{30,31} Again, in another study, PON1 and ARE enzyme levels were found to be low in both cigarette smokers and Maras powder users.³² Supporting this study, we found low PON-1 levels in smokers and ARE levels in both Maras powder users and smokers in our study.

Lp (a) is a lipoprotein that contains an Apo (a) molecule disulfide-linked to Apo B100 as apolipoprotein; apart from Apo (a), its structure is similar to low-density lipoprotein (LDL). Lp (a) is synthesized in the liver. It is associated with the serum transport of cholesterol and its storage in tissues. 90% of the serum Lp (a) level is independent of the serum LDL level, and the constant plasma concentration

is under genetic control regulated by the ApoLp a locus.³³ The effects of gender and age on Lp (a) levels are minimal. Lp (a) shows homology with plasminogen; this homology causes interaction with the fibrinolytic cascade, which explains the lipoprotein's atherogenic mechanism. However, as Lp (a) is more susceptible to oxidation than LDL, the direct accumulation of Lp (a) on the artery wall is another possible mechanism.³⁴ Numerous studies have associated Lp (a) level with coronary artery disease.^{35,36} In a study investigating the relationship between CVD risk and Lp (a) level in smokers, they found increased homocysteine and Lp (a) in smokers depending on the dose and duration of smoking. They argued that high Lp (a) and hyperhomocysteinemia, and smoking were the mechanisms that promote atherosclerosis.³⁷ In a study comparing Maras powder users and smokers with the control group, the highest Lp (a) value was found in the Maras powder group, and Lp (a) was interpreted as a valuable biomarker for atherosclerosis and CVD.³² In accordance with this finding, in our study, we found Lp (a) levels higher in both the Maras powder users and the smokers' groups than the control group, but there was no difference in Lp (a) levels between the Maras powder users and smokers. Although there was an increase in plasma lipid profile in Maras powder users, the difference was statistically insignificant.

As a result, we found that serum homocysteine levels, which are considered a predisposing factor for CVD, increased in both Maras powder users and smokers in this study. This finding may be due to the breakdown of intracellular antioxidant systems or excessive free radical production. Decreased levels of PON-1 and ARE in smokers, decreased ARE levels in Maras powder users can be explained by the fact that reduce HDL-associated PON-1 expression of homocysteine-induced reactive oxygen species. Both the increase in homocysteine and Lp (a) levels and the decrease in PON1 and ARE enzyme activities may play a role in developing tobacco-related disorders such as atherosclerosis, CVD, and cancer. Our study also shows that, contrary to the belief that smokeless tobacco is less

harmful than smoking, the use of Maras powder has at least as many adverse effects as smoking. Larger-scale experimental and clinical studies are needed since the use of Maras powder, and other smokeless tobacco is a potential public health hazard.

Disclosure Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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Travmatik Hifemada Klinik ve Görsel Prognosa Etki Eden Faktörler

Traumatic Hyphema: Factors Affecting Clinical and Visual Prognosis

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Öz

Amaç	Travmatik hifema nedeniyle takip edilen olgularda demografik ve klinik özelliklerin incelenmesi ve görsel prognosa etki eden faktörlerin değerlendirilmesi
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Travmatik hifema tanısıyla takip edilen 48 hastanın dosyaları geriye dönük olarak taranarak; yaş, cinsiyet, yaralanma nedeni, hifema düzeyi, başlangıç en iyi düzeltilmiş görme keskinliği (EİDGK), eşlik eden klinik bulgular, son muayenedeki EİDGK incelendi. EİDGK'ne etki eden prognostik faktörler incelendi.
Bulgular	Hastaların (38 erkek,10 kadın) yaş ortalaması 39,5 ± 21,6 yıl olup; en sık travma nedeni odun çarpmasına bağlı künt travma (%25) idi. Hifema düzeyi değerlendirildiğinde en sık Evre I (%41,66) hifema mevcuttu. Travmaya eşlik eden bulgular; 23 gözde (%47,91) kornea epitel defekti,11 gözde (%22,91) iridodiyaliz, 7 gözde (%14,58) fakodonezis,10 gözde (%20,83) vitreus hemorajisi idi. Başvuru anında 35 gözde göz içi basıncı (GİB) yüksek olup medikal tedavi ile kontrol altına alındı, 3 gözde ön kamara lavajı yapılması gerekti. Hastaların başlangıç,1.hafta ve 3.ay EİDGK sırasıyla 1,7±0,8; 0,5±0,5; 0,2±0,3 (LogMAR) jidi. Hastaların 4'üne ek cerrahi işlem (lens ekstraksiyonu + göz içi mercek implantasyonu ve/veya vitreoretinal cerrahi) gerekti. Iridodiyaliz (p=0,023 r= -0,345), fakodonezis (p=0,020,r= -0,347) ve vitreus hemorajisi (p=0,000, r= -0,553) varlığı ile son görme düzeyi arasında negatif korelasyon mevcuttu.
Sonuç	Travmatik hifemaya sıklıkla çeşitli ön- arka segment bulguları eşlik etmekte olup; iridodiyaliz, fakodonezis ve vitreus hemorajisi varlığı görme prognosunu olumsuz etkilemektedir.
Anahtar Kelimeler	Göz travması; hifema; komplikasyon;görme prognosu

Abstract

Introduction	To examine the clinical features and to evaluate the factors affecting the visual prognosis in traumatic hyphema.
Materials and Methods	The files of 48 patients followed up with the diagnosis of traumatic hyphema were analyzed retrospectively. Age, gender, cause of injury, grade of hyphema, initial visual acuity, accompanying clinical findings, best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) at the last examination were examined. Prognostic factors affecting BCVA were examined.
Results	The mean age of the patients (thirty-eight males, ten females) was 39.5±21.6 years. The most common cause of trauma was blunt trauma (25%) by a piece of wood. The most common seen grade was Grade I (41.7%). The corneal epithelial defect was noted in 23 eyes (47.91%), iridodialysis in 11 eyes (22.91%), phacodonesis in 7 eyes (14.58%), and vitreous hemorrhage in 10 eyes (20.83%). At initial examination, elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) was detected in 35 eyes and it was controlled with medical treatment. Anterior chamber irrigation was performed in 3 eyes. The BCVA of the patients at baseline, week 1 and month 3 was 1.7 ± 0.8, respectively; 0.5±0.5; was 0.2±0.3 (LogMAR). Additional surgical procedures (lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation with or without vitreoretinal surgery) were performed in 4 patients. There was a negative correlation between the presence of iridodialysis (p=0.023 r= -0.345), phacodonesis (p=0.020,r= -0.347), and vitreous hemorrhage (p=0.000, r= -0.553) and final BCVA.
Conclusion	Traumatic hyphema is often accompanied by various anterior-posterior segment findings. The presence of iridodialysis, phacodonesis, and vitreous hemorrhage affects the visual prognosis negatively.
Keywords	Eye injuries; hyphema; complications; visual prognosis



GİRİŞ

Ön kamarada birikmiş kırmızı kan hücrelerinin bulunması olarak tanımlanan hifema, özellikle künt göz travmalarından sonra karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Künt travma sonrası gelişen ani göz içi basınç artışıyla globun ekvatoryal olarak genişmesi ve lens iris diyaframının arkaya doğru itilmesi sonucunda ön kamara açısındaki dokularda yırtılma ve kanama meydana gelmektedir.

Hifema çoğunlukla cerrahi müdahaleye gerek kalmaksızın medikal tedaviyle geriler. Ancak bazı olgularda korneal boyanma, sekonder hemoraji veya göz içi basınç artışı gibi komplikasyonlara neden olarak kalıcı görme hasarına yol açabilir.¹

Hifemanın en sık komplikasyonu olan artmış göz içi basıncı (GİB), trabeküler ağın kırmızı kan hücreleri veya inflamatuvar hücreler tarafından tıkanmasıyla veya ön kamarada büyük bir pıhtının pupiller blok yaratmasıyla gelişebilir. Hifema seviyesi arttıkça GİB artışı riski de artmaktadır. Geç dönemde açı resesyonu, periferik anteriyör sineşi, bombe iris, posteriyör sineşi nedeniyle veya hemoglobini kaybetmiş eritrositlerin trabeküler ağda dışı akımı tıkanmasıyla da glokom gelişebilir.

Hifemaya ikincil diğer komplikasyonlar arasında periferik anterior sineşi, açı kapanması, sekonder hemoraji, korneal boyanma yer almaktadır ve bu komplikasyonlar özellikle rehemoraji geçiren hastalarda daha sık karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Hifemalı olguların %0-38'inde görülen rehemoraji travmadan 5-7 gün sonra gözlenmektedir.^{1,2}

Çalışmamızda travmatik hifema nedeniyle takip edilen hastaların demografik özelliklerini, klinik bulgularını ve bu hastalarda görme prognozuna etki eden faktörleri değerlendirmeyi amaçladık.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEM

Travmatik hifema nedeniyle 2015-2020 yılları arasında Sakarya Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi Göz Kliniğinde

takip edilen 48 hastanın dosyası geriye dönük olarak incelendi. Çalışma için ilgili üniversitenin Tıp Fakültesi Etik Kurulu'ndan etik kurul izni alınmıştır (Sayı:113290-56). Helsinki İlkeler Deklarasyonuna uyularak çalışma gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışmaya katılan tüm hastalarımızdan bilgilendirilmiş onam formu alınmıştır. Hastaların tümüne anamnez sonrası görme keskinliği, ön segment, fundus muayenesi, göz içi basınç (GİB) ölçümü yapılmıştır. Olguların yaşı, cinsiyeti, hifemaya neden olan travmanın nedeni, hifemanın seviyesi, başlangıç en iyi düzeltilmiş görme keskinliği (EİDGK), eşlik eden oküler bulgular, uygulanan tedavi (medikal/cerrahi), 1.hafta ve 3. ay (EİDGK), GİB ve gelişen ek komplikasyonlar incelendi. Hastaların son görmesine etki eden faktörler değerlendirildi. Öncesinde bir oküler hastalığı olan ya da oküler cerrahi geçirmiş hastalar çalışma dışı bırakıldı.

Hifema boyutu evrelendirilmesi ilk başvuru sırasındaki hifemanın seviyesine göre yapılmıştır.³ Bu evreleme sistemine göre; Evre 0: Ancak mikroskopla görülecek kadar az olup, seviye vermeyen hifema, Evre 1: Ön kamarada 1/3 düzeyine kadar seviye veren hifema, Evre-2: Ön kamarada 1/3-1/2 arasında seviye veren hifema, Evre-3: Ön kamarada 1/2- totale yakın seviye veren hifema, Evre-4: Total hifema olarak değerlendirilmiştir.

Evre 3-4 hifeması olan veya hifemaya bağlı komplikasyon gelişen hastalar yatırılarak tedavi edilmiştir. Tüm hastalara bol sıvı alımı, hareket kısıtlaması ve 45 derece açıyla yatış önerildi. Medikal olarak topikal %1 prednizolon asetat 6x1, topikal %1 siklopentolat 3x1 şeklinde verildi. GİB'i 25 mmHg üstü olan hastalara topikal %0,5 timolol maleat, gerektiğinde oral asetazolamid tablet (çocuklarda 15 mg/kg/gün, erişkinlerde 250 mg 4x1) ve intravenöz %20 manitol verildi. Medikal tedavi ile GİB'i 30 mmHg'nın altına düşmeyen, disk hematik gelişen ve 5 günde total hifemada gerileme olmayan hastalara cerrahi olarak ön kamara lavajı yapıldı.

İstatistiksel değerlendirme için SPSS (Statistical Package

for Social Sciences Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) 23,0 Windows paket programı kullanıldı. Tanımlayıcı analiz; ortalamalar ve standart sapmalar kullanılarak raporlandı. Hifema sonrası son görme keskinliğine etki eden faktörler Pearson Korelasyon Analizi ile değerlendirildi. Ayrıca çok değişkenli analizde, önceki analizlerde belirlenen olası faktörler kullanılarak tedavi sonucunu öngörmedeki bağımsız belirleyiciler lojistik regresyon analizi ile incelendi. P değeri <0,05 olduğunda istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Hastaların 38'i, erkek (%.79,17), 10'u (%.20,83) kadın olup; yaş ortalaması 39,5±21,6 (3-72) yıl idi. Yirmi sekiz hastada (%.58,33) sol gözde, 20 hastada sağ gözde (%41,67) hifema gözlemlendi.(Tablo 1).

Demografik ve klinik özellikler		n	%
Cinsiyet	Erkek	38	79,17
	Kadın	10	20,83
YTaş	0-18	9	18,75
	19-65	34	70,83
	65>	5	10,42
Hifema etyolojisi	Odun	12	25,00
	Taş	8	16,68
	AİTK	5	10,42
	Düşme	5	10,42
	Torpil	5	10,42
	Dal	3	6,25
	Lastik	2	4,16
	Gazoz kapağı	3	6,25
	Top	2	4,16
	Yumruk	1	2,08
	Halat	1	2,08
	Mısır koçanı	1	2,08
	Hifema evresi	Mikrohifema	6
Evre 1		20	41,67
Evre 2		15	31,25
Evre 3		3	6,25
Evre 4		4	8,33

AİTK: Araç içi trafik kazası

Hifemaya yol açan künt travmanın en sık sebebi odun çarpması (%25) idi. Diğer nedenler sırasıyla taş çarpması, düşme ve araç içi trafik kazası idi (Tablo 1).

Hifema evresi değerlendirildiğinde; 6 gözde (%12,50) Evre 0; 20 gözde (%.41,67) Evre 1; 15 gözde (%31,25) Evre 2; 3 gözde (%.6,25) Evre 3 ve 4 gözde (%8,33) Evre 4 düzeyinde (total) hifema mevcuttu (Tablo 1).

Başvuru anında 35 hastanın (%.72,92) GİB yüksek olarak saptandı ve medikal tedavi ile kontrol altına alındı. Beş hastada (%.10,42) inatçı GİB yüksekliği nedeniyle antiglokomatözlerle devam edilerek glokom bölümünde takibe alındı.

Hifemaya eşlik eden bulgular sırasıyla kornea epitel defekti (%47,91), iridodiyaliz (%22,91), fakodonezis (%14,58), vitreus hemorajisi (%20,83), katarakt (% 4,17) ve koroid rüptürü (%2,08) idi (Tablo 2).

Hifemaya Eşlik Eden Klinik Bulgular	n	%
GİB artışı	35	72.92
Kornea epitel defekti	23	47.91
İridodiyaliz	11	22.91
Vitre içi kanama	10	20.83
Fakodonezis	7	14.58
Travmatik katarakt	2	4.17
İris sfinkter rüptürü	2	4.17
Lensin vitreusa düşmesi	1	2.08
Koroid rüptürü	1	2.08

GİB: Göz içi basıncı

Hastaların başvuru anındaki görme keskinlikleri ortalama 1,7 ±0,8 (LogMAR) (ışık hissi ile 0,1 seviyesi arasında) idi. Birinci hafta ve son muayene EİDK sırasıyla 0,5±0,5 ve 0,2±0,3 (LogMAR) idi.

Göz içi basıncı, medikal antiglokomatöz tedaviye rağmen yüksek devam eden 1 olguya (%2) ve disk hematik riski olan Evre 4 hifemalı 2 olguya (%4,17) olmak üzere toplam

3 olguya (%6,25) ön kamara lavajı yapıldı. Katarakt gelişen 2 hastaya (%4,17) fakoemülsifikasyon ve intraoküler lens implantasyonu uygulandı. Bir hastaya (%2,08) ise travmaya bağlı fakik lensin vitreusa düşmesi nedeniyle vitreoretinal cerrahi uygulandı.

Son görme düzeyine etki eden faktörler incelendiğinde; iridodiyaliz, ($p=0,023$ $r=-0,345$), fakodonezis ($p=0,020$, $r=-0,347$) ve vitreus hemorajisi ($p=0,000$, $r=-0,553$) varlığı ile son görme düzeyi arasında negatif korelasyon saptanmıştır. Glokom gelişimi ($p=0,160$), epitel defekti ($p=0,214$) ve ek cerrahi geçirme ($p=0,364$) varlığı ile belirgin bir korelasyon saptanmamıştır.

TARTIŞMA

Tüm göz travmalarının yaklaşık %11'ini oluşturan hifemanın yıllık insidansı, 100000'de 0.52 olarak bildirilmiştir.^{4,5} Diğer oküler travmalarda olduğu gibi travmatik hifema da orta yaş grubundaki erkeklerde daha sık görülmektedir.^{5,6} Oküler travmanın pik yaptığı yaş aralığı, çeşitli çalışmalarda 30 ile 50 yaş arasında değişmektedir.^{7,8} Çeşitli çalışmalarda, travmatik hifema olgularının çoğunluğunu oluşturan erkeklerin kadınlara oranı 2.5/1 ile 11/1 arasında değişmektedir.^{1,9-11} Literatüre benzer olarak çalışmamızda erkek/ kadın oranı 3,8/1 idi. Oküler travmaların bu yaş grubunda ve erkeklerde daha sık görülme nedeni erkeklerin çalışma hayatında ve riskli aktivitelerde daha fazla yer almasıyla ilişkilidir.

Travmatik hifemanın, gelişmiş ülkelerde, yetişkinlerde iş yerinde, evde, eğlence ya da spor aktiviteleri sırasında daha sık görüldüğü bildirilmiştir.^{11,12} Gelişmiş ülkelerden bildirilen çalışmalarda travmatik hifema sebebi değişkenlik göstermekle birlikte taş ile yaralanmalar önemli bir yer kaplamaktadır.^{11,13}

Ülkemizde yapılan çalışmalar incelendiğinde; Toptan ve ark sonuçlarımıza benzer olarak en sık etkenin sırasıyla odun (%37,5), top (%33,5) ve taş (%22,8) olduğunu bildirmiştir.¹⁴ Çağlar ve ark ise en sık etkenleri sırasıyla taş

(%23,6), odun (%19,2) ve top (%13,9) olarak bildirmiştir.¹⁵ Çeşitli hifema olgu serilerinde, Evre 1 hifemanın %44,3 ile %79 arasında değişen oranlar ile en fazla görülen evre olduğu bildirilmiştir.^{1,12,15} Çalışmamızda literatüre benzer olarak %41,67'lik oranla Evre 1 hifema en sık görülen evre idi. Bunu sırasıyla evre 2, Evre 0, Evre 4 ve Evre 3 izlemekteydi.

Literatüre göre hifemalı her üç hastadan birinde GİB yüksekliği görülmektedir. Mikrohifema dahil, tüm hifema evrelerinde glokom görülebilse de, evre ilerledikçe glokom riski artmaktadır.⁶ Çeşitli çalışmalarda travmatik hifemaya sekonder glokom oranları %22-23 olarak bildirilmiştir.^{10,12,13} Çalışmamızda başvuru anındaki GİB yüksekliği oranı %72,92 olarak bulunmuş olup; olguların çoğunda GİB, medikal tedaviyle kontrol altına alınmıştır. Uzun vadeli antiglokomatöz kullanımına ise olguların %10'unda devam edilmiştir. Akut dönemde GİB yüksekliği trabeküler ağın kırmızı kan hücreleri veya inflamatuvar hücreler tarafından tıkanmasıyla veya ön kamarada büyük bir pıhtının pupiller blok yaratmasıyla gelişmektedir. Bu olgularda medikal tedavide öncelikle beta-adrenerjik antagonistler ve alfa-adrenerjik agonistler tercih edilmektedir ve hastaların çoğu medikal tedavi ile düzelmeye eğilimindedir. Hifemalı hastalarda enflamasyonu arttırabileceği için prostoglandin analogları önerilmemektedir. Medikal tedaviye dirençli vakalarda, gerilemeyen ileri evre hifemalarda, korneal boyanma ve kontrol altına alınamayan glokom eşlik ettiğinde cerrahi tedavi endikasyonu doğmaktadır.⁶ Orak hücreli anemi gibi durumlarda, eritrosit şeklinden dolayı hifema seviyesinin çok az olduğu durumlarda bile, trabeküler dışı akımda tıkanıklık sonucu ciddi göz içi basıncı yüksekliğine yol açabilir. Böyle durumlarda cerrahi kararı daha erkene çekilmelidir.⁶ Çalışmamızda GİB medikal tedaviye rağmen yüksek devam eden 1 olguya, ve disk hematik riski olan 2 olguya olmak üzere toplam 3 olguya (%6,25) ön kamara lavajı yapıldı. Ülkemizde yapılan çalışmalarda GİB düşüşü sağlanamayan olgularda ön kamara lavajı yapma oranı %9,60, %15 ve %21,80 oranında bildirilmiştir.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Literatürde travmatik hifemalı olgularda rehemoraji %0 ile %38'e kadar değişen oranlarda görülmektedir.^{12,17,18} Rehemoraji, genelde travmanın 3. ve 5. günlerinde gözlenmekte olup, hastalığın sürecini uzatmakta ve görsel prognozu olumsuz etkilemektedir.¹⁷ Çalışmamızda rehemoraji gelişen olguya rastlamadık.

Künt travma sonrası görme düzeyinde azalmaya sıklıkla eşlik eden ön ve arka segment travmaları neden olur. Travmatik katarakt, koroid rüptürü, vitreus hemorajisi, Berlin ödemi ve makula deliği eşlik edebilecek en sık bulgulardır. Odarosa ve ark. yaptığı çalışmada, travmatik hifemalılarda lens subluksasyonu görülme oranı %11,1, vitreus hemorajisi ve katarakt görülme oranları ise %8,9 olarak saptanmıştır.¹⁹ Olgularımızda ise fakodonezis, vitreus hemorajisi ve katarakt görülme oranları sırasıyla, %14,58, %20,83 ve % 4,17 olarak bulunmuştur. Lens subluksasyonu ise olgularımızın sadece birinde (% 0,02) görülmüştür.

Çalışmamızda son görme düzeyine etki eden faktörler incelendiğinde; iridodiyaliz, fakodonezis ve vitreus hemorajisi varlığı ile son görme düzeyi arasında negatif korelasyon saptanmıştır. Sonuçlarımıza benzer olarak Si-manjuntak ve ark 97 hastadan oluşan çalışmalarında kötü görsel prognozu iridodiyaliz, koroid rüptürü, vitre içi hemoraji ve katarakt varlığı ile ilişkili bulmuşlardır¹². Ek olarak hifema evresinin, rehemoraji varlığının, rezorbsiyon zamanının kornea boyanma varlığının prognozu belirleyebilecek diğer faktörler olduğunu bildirmişlerdir.¹² Başka bir çalışmada ise maküler delik, koryoretinal skar gelişimi, retina dekolmanı ve optik atrofi gibi durumların da görsel prognozu kötü etkilediği bildirilmiştir.²⁰

Sonuç olarak künt travmaya ikincil hifema gelişen olgularda GİB yüksekliği en sık karşılaştığımız olgu olup; medikal tedaviyle kontrol altına alınabilmektedir. Bu olgularda eşlik eden diğer klinik bulgular ve komplikasyonlar, özellikle retinal patolojiler görsel prognozu olumsuz etkilemektedir. Bu nedenle hifema olguları dikkatle değerlendirilmeli

ve tedavi edilmelidir.

Etik Kurul

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Boric Acid Ameliorates Liver Injury in Rat Induced by Cyclophosphamide

Borik Asit Sıçanlarda Siklofosfamidin Neden Olduğu Karaciğer Hasarını İyileştirir

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Abstract

Introduction The present study aimed to look into any potential ameliorative benefits of boric acid on liver damage in rats caused by cyclophosphamide (CTX).

Materials and Methods Four groups, control, boric acid, CTX, and boric acid+CTX, were created. Female Wistar albino rats were given daily injections of CTX (75 mg/kg) to create the liver damage model. Cyclophosphamide (75 mg/kg) was administered intraperitoneally, and boron (1.3 g/rat/day) was administered by gavage every day for two weeks in the boric acid+CTX group. The histopathological changes were evaluated in liver tissue staining with hematoxylin and eosin, Masson trichrome, and periodic acid Schiff. In addition, we assessed liver tissue enzyme activity as malondialdehyde (MDA), superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), and glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px).

Results Images in the boric acid+CTX group had lower histological evaluations than those in the CTX group under the light microscope. According to the findings, boric acid reduced MDA levels in the liver tissues. Additionally, boric acid improved the actions of oxidative stress indicators to reduce oxidative stress brought on by CTX and upregulated antioxidant parameters.

Conclusion In conclusion, our study has demonstrated that CTX- induced liver injury can be alleviated by reducing the tissue MDA levels, and increasing the liver's SOD, GSH-Px, and CAT activities. In order to reduce the liver damage caused by CTX, boric acid may be administered as a dietary supplement or functional food.

Keywords Boric acid; Cyclophosphamide; Liver injury

Öz

Amaç Mevcut çalışmanın amacı, borik asidin sıçanlarda siklofosfamidin (CTX) neden olduğu karaciğer hasarı üzerindeki olası iyileştirici etkilerini araştırmaktır.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Çalışmada dört grup oluşturuldu; kontrol, borik asit, CTX ve borik asit+CTX. Karaciğer hasarı modelini oluşturmak için Wistar albino cinsi dişi ratlara günlük 75 mg/kg CTX intraperitoneal (i.p.) olarak verildi. Borik asit+CTX grubuna 75 mg/kg CTX (i.p.) ve 1,3 g/rat/gün boron gavaj ile iki hafta boyunca her gün verildi. Karaciğer dokusundaki histopatolojik değişiklikler hematoksilen ve eozin, masson trikrom ve periyodik asit-Schiff boyamaları ile değerlendirildi. Karaciğer dokusunda malondialdehit (MDA), süperoksit dismutaz (SOD), katalaz (CAT) ve glutatyon peroksidaz (GSH-Px) enzim aktiviteleri belirlendi.

Bulgular Işık mikroskopunda borik asit+CTX grubundaki histolojik değişikliklerin CTX grubuna göre daha düşük olduğu belirlendi. Bulgulara göre borik asit, karaciğer dokularındaki MDA seviyesini azalttığı gözlemlendi. Buna ek olarak, borik asit, CTX'in neden olduğu oksidatif stresi azaltmak için oksidatif stres belirteçlerinin etkilerini iyileştirdiği ve antioksidan parametrelerini artırdığı belirlendi.

Sonuç Sonuç olarak, çalışmamız, CTX'in neden olduğu karaciğer hasarının, doku MDA seviyelerinin düşürülmesi, karaciğerin SOD, GSH-Px ve CAT aktivitelerinin artırılması ile hafifletilebileceğini göstermiştir. CTX'in neden olduğu karaciğer hasarını azaltmak için borik asit, diyet takviyesi veya fonksiyonel gıda olarak verilebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler Borik asit, Karaciğer hasarı, Siklofosfamid.



INTRODUCTION

One of the most prevalent diseases in society, liver disease is a frequent health issue. Chemical toxins can readily harm the liver, which results in metabolic and coagulatory diseases.¹ Cyclophosphamide (CTX), an anticancer medication, is the standard of care for a variety of human malignant tumors.² However high the therapeutic index of CTX and variety of CTX's medical applications, its clinical use is limited because of the drug's side effects, which include immunotoxicity, bone marrow suppression, cardiotoxicity, nephrotoxicity, and neurotoxicity.^{3,4} Since CTX and its metabolites are mostly metabolized and excreted through the liver and kidney, hepatotoxicity and nephrotoxicity are two of the most common adverse effects.⁵ High doses of CTX exposure can cause immediate hepatotoxic consequences, characterized by liver inflammation and oxidative stress caused by the production of inflammatory cytokines and free radicals.⁶ According to reports, phosphoramidate mustard has antineoplastic properties, and acrolein adds to the hepatotoxicity brought on by CTX.⁷ The production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) by acrolein and the inhibition of antioxidant defense systems are closely connected processes known as lipid peroxidation.⁸ The disruption of the glutathione defense system, oxidative stress, and apoptosis can also result from ROS production.⁹ Therefore, finding natural substances to reduce CTX-induced hepatotoxicity would be very important.

A non-metallic element, borax (sodium tetraborate; Bx) and boric acid (BA) are two natural forms. Foods are rich in boron, which has been found to be present in human plasma at levels between 10 and 20 M.¹⁰ The physiological effects of boron were the subject of several investigations.¹¹ Additionally, boron has been found to have anticancer, antigenotoxic, anti-oxidant, and hepatoprotective properties by various studies.^{12,13} Therefore, we wanted to study the role of oxidant/antioxidant pathways and the potential curative benefit of BA in the treatment of CTX toxicity.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Chemicals and reagents

In this work, we used Wistar albino female rats (16–24 weeks old, average body weight 250 g) from the Erciyes University's animal house. The Erciyes University's Animal Research Ethics Committee approved this work (No:23/013). Rat feed and filtered tap water were readily available, and the rats were kept under temperature control (24 °C), relative humidity control (50% relative humidity), and lighting control (12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness). Application of BA: MIAFERT provided the boric acid solution for human food directly. In the study, the treatment groups received daily oral gavage administration of 1.3 g/rat/day of 200 µL of liquid BA solution under the MIAFERT brand. In the CTX group, sterile physiological saline was used to dissolve CTX and administered at a dose of 75 mg/kg/day for two weeks by intraperitoneal injection (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA).

Animal experimental design

The rats were assigned to four groups randomly (n = 10) (temperature: 23 25 °C, 12-hour light/dark cycle):

- Group 1 (the control group, n = 10); normal saline was administered orally.
- Group 2 (the CTX group, n = 10); 75 mg/kg, intraperitoneally, CTX was given once a week on the 1st and 8th days of the experiment.^{14,15}
- Group 3 (the Boric acid group, n = 10), received 1.3 g/rat/day and 200 µL boric acid orally every day by gavage for 15 days.^{16,17}
- Group 4 (the CTX+ Boric acid group, n = 10), received 75 mg/kg intraperitoneally once a week for two weeks on the 1st and 8th days, and 1.3 g/rat/day of 200 µL boric acid was administered orally by gavage every day for 15 days.

The study rats were sacrificed by cervical dislocation, and liver tissue samples were obtained for tissue assays and histopathological analysis.

Histological analysis of liver

Saline was used to gently wash the liver tissue samples. They were immediately fixed in a 10% formaldehyde solution, then histologically produced utilizing conventional methods. Tissue sections that were five micrometers thick were obtained and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), Masson's trichrome (MT) and periodic acid-Schiff (PAS). As previously reported, a histologist assessed the extent of liver damage for inflammatory cell infiltration, hepatocyte vacuolization, sinusoidal dilatation and blood vessel congestion. The histopathological findings were evaluated as no (0), mild (1), moderate (2), and severe (3). Malondialdehyde and antioxidant enzyme activity measurements

After the sacrifice, liver tissue was removed and twice-washed in phosphate buffer solution (PBS) to remove any blood or blood clots. After the liver tissue was homogenized in ice-cold PBS, then centrifuged (2000 g, 4°C, 15 min). Next, the supernatant was collected to measure malonyldialdehyde to evaluate hepatic lipid peroxidation (MDA). Additionally, commercial kits were used to measure the levels of antioxidant enzymes such as glutathione peroxi-

dase (GSH-Px), superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (CAT) (Bio-diagnostics Co., Cairo, Egypt and BioVision, Inc., California, USA). As stated by the manufacturer's recommendations, each assay was carried out three times.

Statistical analysis

The expression of all data was the mean and standard deviation. Differences between the groups were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance with the Tukey multiple comparison tests using GraphPad Prism 8.0. P values less than 0.05 could be considered statistically significant changes.

RESULT

Effect of boric acid on liver histopathology induced by CTX

When histopathology was evaluated using H&E staining, it was apparent that the liver tissue from the CTX-induced and control group had distinct structural differences. According to HE staining, the liver tissue from the control group had a normal structure, complete hepatic lobules, and obvious borders. Figure 1 demonstrates how significant pathological changes were seen after CTX stimulation compared to the control group.

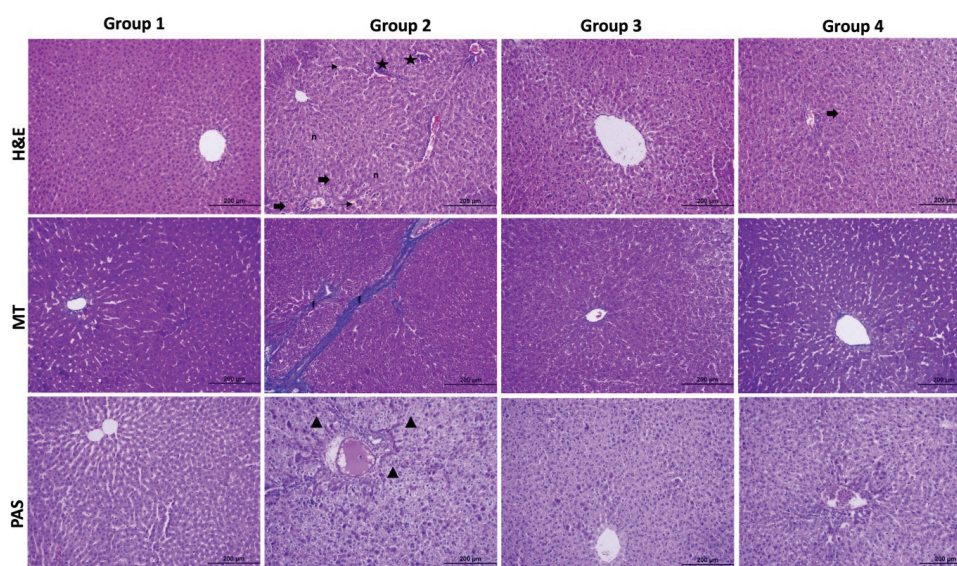


Figure 1. Liver tissue of all experimental groups stained with H&E, MT and PAS. X200. n, necrosis; arrow, sinusoid dilation; thick arrow, congestion; star, mononuclear cell infiltration; f, fibrosis, triangle, reduced glycogen content in hepatocytes.

Hepatocyte degeneration and lymphocyte infiltration in liver slices caused by CTX alone were used as evidence. BA considerably reduced the degree of hepatocyte degeneration and inhibited lymphocyte infiltration, demonstrating that the treatment could slow the histological progression of CTX-induced hepatotoxicity. Histopathological scorings in all groups are reported in Table 1.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	P
0.0 (0.0-1.0) ^a	2.0 (1.0-3.0) ^{bc}	0.5 (0.0-1.0) ^a	1.0 (0.8-2.0) ^{ac}	.0093
Data are expressed as median (quarter1-quarter3). The same letters on the same line indicate similarity between groups and different letters indicate difference between groups.				

According to the MT data, blue pigments stained collagen fibers in liver tissue in all groups, although the CTX group's staining was more intense (Figure 1). The wall of the vena centralis and surrounding veins in the control and BA groups' liver sections showed normal connective tissue supporting the vein and portal area. Little or no fibrosis was seen in the BA-treated group.

PAS stained sections showed that the control group's hepatocytes had intense glycogen staining. Compared to the control group, the cells along the central vein had less glycogen in the CTX group. Treatment with BA increased the glycogen content compared to the CTX group (Figure 1).

Oxidative stress findings

The levels of MDA, GSH-Px, SOD and CAT were assessed

in liver tissue samples. The model group had significantly higher MDA levels than the control group, as shown in Table 2 ($p < 0.001$). Additionally, compared to the control group, treatment with CTX injection dramatically reduced the GSH-Px, SOD, and CAT activities ($p < 0.001$). However, treatment with boric acid markedly decreased the MDA levels and markedly improved SOD, GSH-Px, and CAT activity ($p < 0.001$). These findings showed that boric acid decreased MDA levels, increased antioxidant enzyme activity, and reduced oxidative stress caused by CTX.

DISCUSSION

The liver tissue damage that was experimentally produced in the current study was carried on by CTX metabolites. The increased tissue oxidative stress parameters are consistent with these pathogenic changes in the findings. The liver tissue has likely significantly improved as seen by a decrease in abnormal pathological signs, such as tissue damage at the BA treatment.

The liver is susceptible to toxicity and damage due to its vital function in metabolizing drugs and toxins.¹⁸ The number of chemotherapeutic drugs that can treat cancer is constrained because of severe side effects.¹⁹ A drug known as CTX that nitrogen mustard alkylates has a well-known anti-cancer effect and a variety of anti-tumor activities.²⁰ Studies show that prolonged or severe CTX use can harm the liver and kidneys.²¹ Because CTX will unavoidably be used in therapeutic treatments, it is essential to research different compounds that can reduce its side effects. Antioxidants include enzymes such as CAT and GSH-Px,

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	p
MDA	(1.65±0.09) ^a	(1.67±0.22) ^a	(2.54±0.23) ^b	(1.86±0.28) ^a	.001
SOD	(17.28±6.20) ^a	(17.23±1.06) ^a	(4.80±3.00) ^b	(12.40±2.96) ^a	.001
CAT	(32.66±10.55) ^a	(30.44±1.26) ^a	(15.63±0.91) ^b	(25.42±4.77) ^{ab}	.001
GSH-Px	(41.87±4.09) ^a	(38.67±3.61) ^{ac}	(21.68±3.73) ^{bc}	(30.62±8.34) ^c	.001
Data are expressed as mean (X) ± standard deviation (SD). The same letters on the same line indicate similarity between groups and different letters indicate difference between groups.					

as well as minerals such as zinc, selenium, vitamins, and boron. It has been shown to protect cells from DNA damage and lipid peroxidation, which are the early phases of many disease processes.²² Numerous writers have noted that the increased free radical generation causes the antioxidant levels in the experimental study to decrease.²³⁻²⁵ The naturally occurring mineral boron, together with BA, is extensively employed in agricultural, industrial, and cosmetic applications, besides its traditional medical application. In many studies, BA has been shown to have antioxidant,²⁶ hepatoprotective,²⁷ and anti-genotoxic effects.²² Additionally, it has been hypothesized that BA increases the body's glutathione stores and prevents oxidative damage by blocking other reactive oxygen species. Additionally, it has been proposed that BA reduces oxidative damage by increasing glutathione levels in the body and preventing the production of additional reactive oxygen species.²⁶ In light of all of this, the current investigation sought to ascertain the preventive effects of BA on liver damage brought on by CTX in rats.

However, BA can act as a metabolic manager in some enzymatic systems. In addition to decreasing oxidative damage's effects and inhibiting ROS generation and apoptosis, BA also increases the body's level of reduced glutathione.²² One study found that just 1.5 g/kg of ethanol increased the levels of AST, ALT, MDA, and caspase-3 while decreasing the SOD and CAT levels. However, in the 100 mg/kg BA + ethanol group, AST, ALT, MDA, and caspase-3 levels decreased while levels of SOD and CAT increased.²⁷ In mice, Ince et al. found that 200 mg/kg boric acid significantly reduced the liver damage caused by carbon tetra chloride. This may be because it activates the body's antioxidant defense mechanism and reduces lipid peroxidation.²⁸ These researchers' conclusions and those of the current investigation are similar. BA may also limit inflammatory processes, reduce ROS levels, and increase antioxidant levels (likely by limiting GSH depletion). Drug exposure can lead to impaired liver function, which is typically carried on by oxidative stress. ROS damages the cells by targeting

the polyunsaturated fatty acids in the phospholipids of the biofilms and triggering lipid peroxidation. MDA is an indirect marker of lipid peroxidation and serves as an indirect indicator of oxidative stress-related damage.²⁹ Generally, hepatic GSH-Px, SOD, and CAT are significant antioxidant system enzymes that scavenge ROS and keep the antioxidant system functioning properly, preventing oxidative stress from damaging the liver.³⁰ As a result, the liver's level of antioxidant enzymes can indirectly determine its ability to fight free radicals. In our investigation, treatment with BA markedly reduced the MDA level and enhanced GSH-Px, SOD, and CAT activities in the groups treated with BA. These findings suggest that BA's anti-oxidant abilities may be used to reduce the liver damage caused by CTX.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the current study further showed that CTX could cause liver damage while inducing oxidative stress in rats. The BA treatment considerably decreased the MDA level, and the GSH-Px, SOD, and CAT activities were significantly increased in the BA-treated groups. These findings suggest that BA's anti-oxidant properties may be used to decrease the liver damage caused by CTX. Therefore, BA could prevent all of these negative consequences of CTX, and its protective mechanism against oxidative stress brought on by CTX might include BA's effects on reducing oxidative stress. The findings of this study could lead to the development of a BA treatment that is used in combination with CTX to reduce the side effects of cancer treatment. The observed benefits herein may therefore be attributed to the anti-inflammatory and tissue-regenerating characteristics of BA, which are carried on by the compound's numerous active components, in addition to its antioxidant activities.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Authorship contribution statement

Arzu Yay, Gozde Ozge Onder, Ozge Goktepe, Esra Balcioglu: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – review & editing. Arzu Yay, Gozde Ozge Onder, Ozge Goktepe, Esra Balcioglu: Methodology. Ozge Cengiz Mat, Demet Bolat, Eda Okur, Esra Balcioglu: Methodology, Data analyses. Arzu Yay, Esra Balcioglu: Data analyses. Arzu Yay: Supervision.

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Mining Database for The Clinical Significance, Prognostic Value and Expression of Mir-4746 In Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Hepatosellüler Karsinomda Mir-4746'nın Klinik Önemi, Kestirim Değeri ve İfadesi İçin Veri Tabanı Madenciliği

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Abstract

Introduction MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are key regulators in the progression and development of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In recent study the miR-4746 was found to be overexpressed in HCC, however, differential expression pattern and clinicopathological significance of miR-4746 in HCC remains unclear. In current study we aimed to evaluate expression profile, clinicopathological role and prognostic value of miR-4746 by using computational approaches.

Materials and Methods The expression profile of miR-4746 in various human cancers was determined using the dbDEMOC database. Also, we used ENCORI/Starbase v2 and UALCAN databases to analyze miR-4746 expression level in HCC. Moreover, we investigated clinicopathological function of miR-4746 by using UALCAN database. Finally, survival analysis was performed to determine prognostic significance of miR-4746 in HCC by Kaplan-Meier plotter and ENCORI/Starbase v2 databases.

Results The miR-4746 had differential expression patterns in various human cancers and was significantly upregulated in HCC tissues compared with normal samples. Clinicopathological analysis revealed that, miR-4746 was differentially expressed in different clinical parameters including cancer stage, tumor grade, nodal metastasis status, TP53 mutation status, and patient's age. In addition, high expression of miR-4746 was significantly correlated with poor prognosis in HCC.

Conclusion Our findings indicated that miR-4746 might be as an oncogenic miRNA which were correlated with poor prognosis and worse clinicopathological outcomes. Furthermore, miR-4746 might have an important role in tumorigenesis of HCC and it might serve as potential prognostic biomarker.

Keywords miR-4746; hepatocellular carcinoma; miRNA; bioinformatics; prognosis

Öz

Amaç MikroRNA'lar, hepatosellüler karsinomun (HCC) gelişiminde ve ilerlemesinde anahtar düzenleyicilerdir. Yakın tarihl bir çalışmada, miR-4746'nın HCC'de aşırı ifade edildiği bulunmuş olsa da miR-4746'nın HCC'deki farklı seviyelerde ifade edilmesi ve klinikopatolojik önemi belirsizliğini korumaktadır. Bu çalışmada miR-4746'nun gen ifade özelliğini, klinikopatolojik rolünü ve kestirim değerini hesaplamalı yaklaşımlar kullanılarak değerlendirilmeyi amaçladık.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Çeşitli insan kanserlerinde miR-4746'nın gen ifade özelliği dbDEMOC veri tabanı kullanılarak belirlendi. Ayrıca, HCC'de miR-4746 gen ifade seviyesini analiz etmek için ENCORI/Starbase v2 ve UALCAN veri tabanlarını kullandık. Ayrıca UALCAN veri tabanını kullanarak miR-4746'nın klinikopatolojik işlevini araştırdık. Son olarak, miR-4746'nın HCC'deki prognoz özelliğini belirleyebilmek için Kaplan-Meier plotter ve ENCORI/Starbase v2 veri tabanları aracılığıyla sağ kalım analizi ile gerçekleştirdik.

Bulgular miR-4746, çeşitli insan kanserlerinde farklı gen ifade değerlerine sahipti ve normal örneklerle kıyasla HCC dokularında önemli ölçüde arttığı gözlemlenmiştir. Klinikopatolojik analiz, miR-4746'nın kanser evresi, tümör derecesi, lenf bezi metastaz durumu, TP53 mutasyon durumu ve hastanın yaşı dahil olmak üzere farklı klinik parametrelerde farklı gen ifade seviyelerine sahip olduğunu koydu. Ek olarak, miR-4746'nın yüksek ifadesi, HCC'de kötü prognoz ile önemli ölçüde ilişkili olduğu bulunmuştur.

Sonuç Bulgularımız, miR-4746'nın kötü kestirim ve çok kötü klinikopatolojik çıktılarla ilişkilendirilen onkojenik bir miRNA olabileceğini gösterdi. Ayrıca miR-4746, HCC'nin tümör-genezinde önemli bir role sahip olabilir ve potansiyel prognostik biyobelirteç olarak hizmet edebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler miR-4746; hepatosellüler karsinom; miRNA; biyoinformatik; kestirim



INTRODUCTION

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) has high mortality rates and its incidence is increasing steadily in the developed countries such as Europe, Australia and North America¹. HCC is mainly induced by chronic liver inflammation mainly due to infection of hepatitis viruses (Hepatitis B and C). In addition, excessive alcohol intake, aflatoxin, obesity and diabetes are the risk factors for HCC².

The microRNAs (miRNAs) are short non-coding RNA molecules which are valuable gene regulators involved many cancer related processes such as cell cycle, cell differentiation, apoptosis and tumorigenesis³. miRNAs can regulate the wide range of gene expression by binding 3'UTR regions of their target genes⁴. Therefore, overexpression or downregulation of miRNAs generally have been associated with many human pathologies such as cancer, cardiovascular, neurological, metabolic, and developmental diseases⁵⁻⁷. In previous studies, increasing evidence have suggested that many miRNAs differentially expressed in HCC. In their study Liu et. al⁸, determined five significantly differentially expressed miRNAs in HCC samples. The hsa-miR-4746-5p is one of these miRNAs which is upregulated in HCC samples⁸. On the other hand, Ren et al., have showed that miR-4746 was downregulated in colorectal cancer (CRC) and inhibits CRC growth⁹. However, the prognostic and clinicopathological roles of miR-4746 in many cancers including HCC have not been reported yet in literature.

In this study, we determined differential expression of miR-4746 in various human cancers the data obtained from miRNA-microarray or miRNA-seq platforms. Next, we identified expression level of miR-4746 in HCC and liver tissues by using computational approaches. Additionally, we analyzed the prognostic and clinicopathological role of miR-4746 via using bioinformatics tools.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Ethics Committee Approval

Ethics statement is not applicable to our study as this study only uses publicly available data.

Differential expression analysis of miR-4746

Differentially Expressed miRNAs in Human Cancers (dbDEMC) (<https://www.biosino.org/dbDEMC/index>) database is an online tool for detection of differentially expressed miRNAs based on microarray or miRNA-seq platforms¹⁰. We performed differential expression analysis of miR-4746 in various human cancers by using dbDEMC. Next, we used the Encyclopedia of RNA Interactomes (ENCORI/Starbase v2, <https://starbase.sysu.edu.cn>) database to analyze miR-4746 expression level in HCC datasets obtained from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) data.

UALCAN database analysis

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Cancer data analysis portal (UALCAN) is an online web tool which provides to access OMICS data and evaluate multiple gene expression¹¹. By using miRNA expression analysis module of UALCAN database, we determined expression level of miR-4746 in 369 HCC samples and 49 normal samples. Besides, we analyzed association between the expression level of miR-4746 and various clinicopathological characteristics of HCC patients including individual cancer stage, tumor grade, nodal metastasis status (N0 and N1), TP53 mutation status, patient's race and patient's age.

Survival analysis of miR-4746

To further evaluate prognostic significance of miR-4746 in HCC patients, we used Kaplan-Meier plotter (KMplot, <https://kmplot.com/analysis/>) web tool. KMplot is an integrated web tool to analyze correlation between gene expression and survival rates in various tumor types based on TCGA, European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA) and Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) databases¹². In addition, we confirmed KMplot survival analysis by using the ENCORI/Starbase v2 database.

RESULTS

The types of cancer acronyms analyzed in this study are as follows: adrenocortical cancer (ADCA), biliary tract cancer/cholangiocarcinoma (BTCA), bladder cancer (BLCA), BNCA BRCA cervical cancer/cervical squamous cell carcinoma (CECA), chordoma (CHOR), colon cancer (COAD), colorectal cancer (CLCA), endometrial cancer/uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma (ENCA), esophageal cancer/ esophageal carcinoma (ESCA), gallbladder carcinoma (GBCA), gastric cancer/stomach adenocarcinoma (GSCA), gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GAST), head and neck cancer/head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSC), hemangioma (HEGI), hepatocellular carcinoma (LIHC), kidney cancer/kidney chromophobe cancer (KDCA), larynx cancer (LNCA), leukemia (LEUK), liver cancer (LICA), lung cancer/lung squamous cell carcinoma (LUCA), lymphoma (LYMP), melanoma (MELA), mesothelioma (MESO), NSCA (nasopharyngeal cancer), neuroendocrine neoplasia (NDCA), oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCA), oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSC), ovarian cancer (OVCA), prostate cancer (PCNA), prostate cancer/prostate adenocarcinoma (PRCA), retinoblastoma (RETI), sarcoma (SCRA), skin cancer (SKCA), small intestinal neuroendocrine tumor (SINT), testicular cancer (TECA), thyroid cancer/thyroid carcinoma (THCA), tonsil cancer (TOCA), uterus cancer (UTCA).

According to differential expression analysis of miR-4746 we found that miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in ADCA, BTCA, BLCA, BRCA, CECA, ENCA, ESCA, GBCA, GSCA, HNSC, LIHC, KDCA, LUCA, PRCA and THCA meanwhile it was significantly downregulated in PCNA (Fig 1a).

To identify expression level of miR-4746 in normal liver tissues and HCC tissues, we performed ENCORI/Starbase v2 database analysis. Our results showed that miR-4746 significantly upregulated in HCC datasets (n=370) compared with normal datasets (n=50) (Fig 1b). We also

confirmed miR-4746 expression level in HCC and normal tissues by using UALCAN database results. UALCAN database analysis also confirmed that, miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in HCC samples (n=369) compared with normal samples (n=49) ($p < 0.01$) (Fig 1c).

The analysis of miR-4746 expression profile based on individual cancer stages showed that miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in stage 1 (n=171) ($p < 0.001$), stage 2 (n=85) ($p < 0.001$), stage 3 (n=85) ($p < 0.001$) HCC samples compared with normal (n=49) liver samples. Also, miR-4746 had high expression level in stage 4 (n=5) of HCC samples compared with normal samples but it was not statistically significant. In addition, miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in stage 2 ($p < 0.05$) and stage 3 ($p < 0.01$) compared with stage 1 (Fig 2a).

Next, we analyzed miR-4746 expression profile based on HCC tumor grade. Our results demonstrated that miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in all grades of HCC samples compared with normal samples (grade 1 (n=55) ($p < 0.001$), grade 2 (n=173) ($p < 0.001$), grade 3 (n=124) ($p < 0.001$), grade 4 (n=13) ($p < 0.001$)). Furthermore, miR-4746 was differentially upregulated in grade 3 compared with grade 1 ($p < 0.05$) and grade 2 ($p < 0.01$) (Fig 2b).

In addition, we evaluated association between nodal metastasis status and expression level of miR-4746. According to our results, miR-4746 was remarkably upregulated in N0 (n=253) compared with normal samples (n=49) ($p < 0.001$), however, there was no significant difference in expression level of miR-4746 in each nodal metastasis status (N1 (n=4) and N0 (n=253)) of HCC (Fig 2c).

TP53 mutation status analysis showed that miR-4746 is remarkably upregulated in TP53 mutant (n=107) and TP53 non-mutant (n=260) samples compared with normal samples (n=49) ($p < 0.001$). TP53 mutant and non-mutant were expressed differentially and TP53 mutant samples had higher expression level compared with TP53 non-mutant

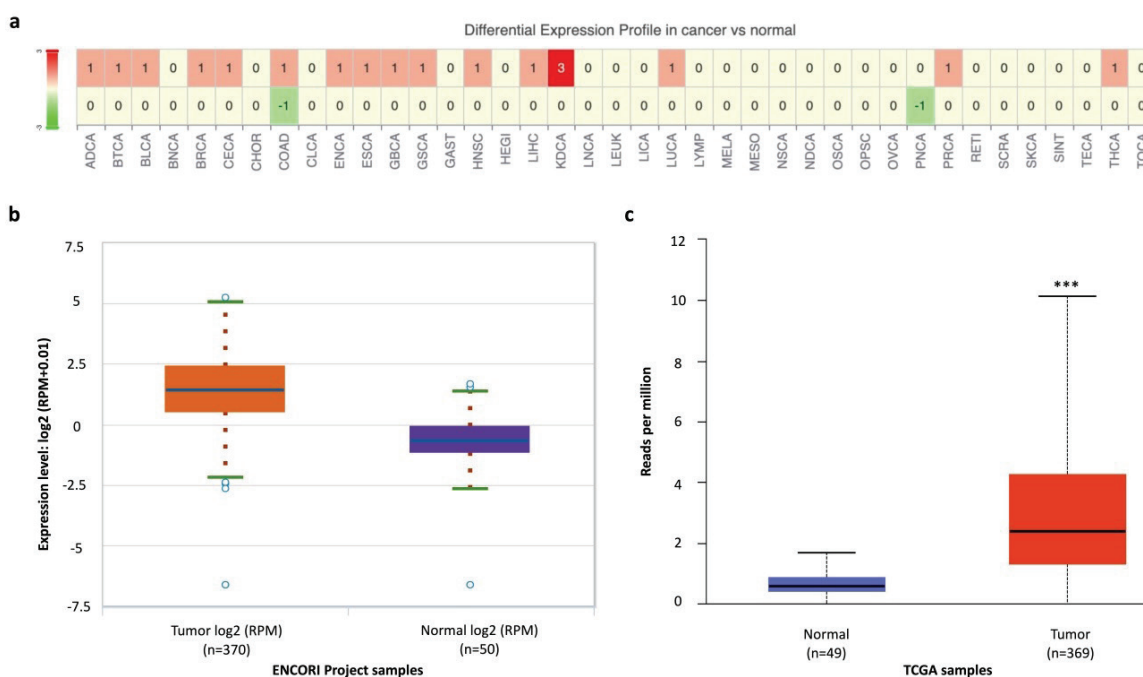


Figure 1. miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in HCC. a. Differential expression profile of miR-4746 in various human cancers and normal tissues. Red boxes indicate high expression, green boxes indicate low expression. b. The analysis of ENCORI/Starbase v2 database showed the upregulation of miR-4746 in HCC tissues. c. The UALCAN database expression analysis showed the upregulation of miR-4746 in HCC samples.

samples and the difference was significant ($p < 0.001$) (Fig 2d).

Patient's race-based expression level analysis was demonstrated that miR-4746 significantly upregulated in Caucasian ($n=179$) ($p < 0.001$), African-American ($n=17$) ($p < 0.01$), Asian ($n=161$) ($p < 0.001$) compared with normal samples ($n=49$). However, there was no significant difference in expression level of miR-4746 between each race (Fig 2e).

Finally, we evaluated miR-4746 expression profile based on patient's age. According to our results, miR-4746 was significantly upregulated in 21-40 ($n=27$) ($p < 0.001$), 41-60 ($n=145$) ($p < 0.001$), 61-80 ($n=180$) ($p < 0.001$), 81-100 ($n=10$) ($p < 0.05$) years of age groups of the patients compared with normal healthy samples ($n=49$). In addition,

we found that miR-4746 expression level was significantly lower in 81-100 years of age group of HCC patients compared with 21-40 ($p < 0.01$), 41-60 ($p < 0.001$) and 61-80 ($p < 0.01$) age groups (Fig 2f).

Kaplan-Meier plotter analysis indicated that the high expression level of miR-4746 was significantly correlated with poor overall survival rates in HCC patients (Fig 3a). We also evaluated prognostic significance of miR-4746 in HCC patients by using ENCORI/Starbase v2 database analysis. The results of ENCORI/Starbase v2 analysis were consistent with our Kaplan-Meier plotter analysis results (Fig 3b). These results have suggested that miR-4746 may function as an oncogenic miRNA and serve as a prognostic biomarker.

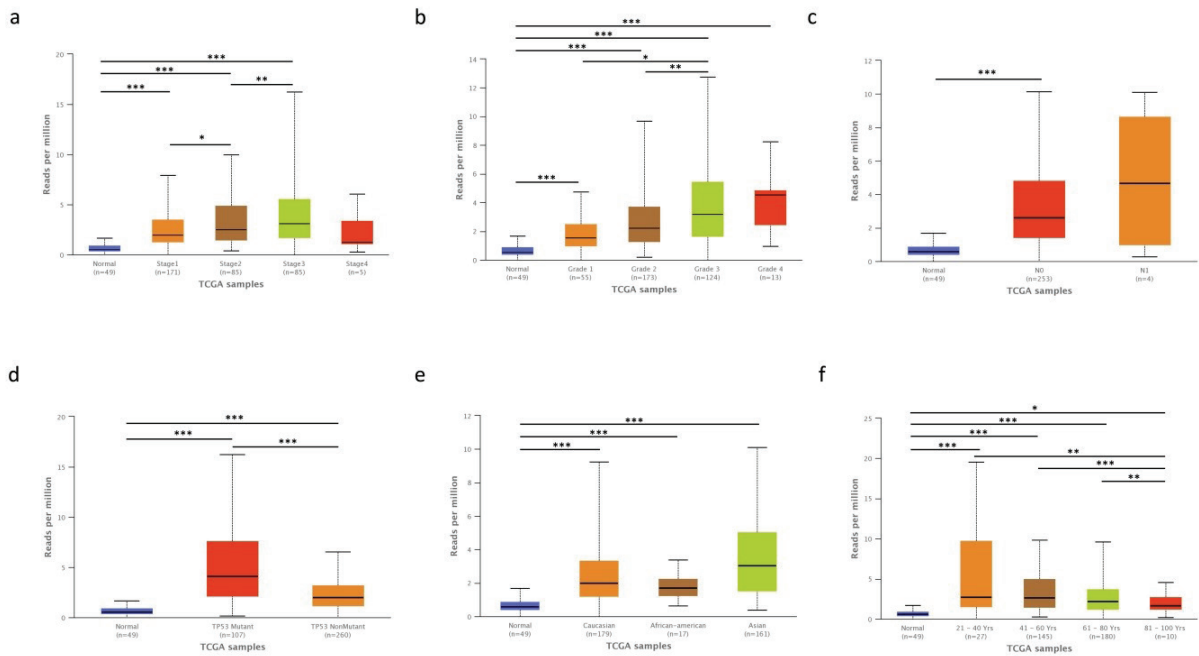


Figure 2. Expression level of miR-4746 in various clinicopathological parameters of HCC patients. Expression of miR-4746 in HCC based on a) individual cancer stages, b) tumor grade, c) nodal metastasis status, d) TP53 mutation status, e) patient's race, and f) patient's age.

DISCUSSION

Dysregulation of ncRNAs has been reported in numerous cancers including HCC^{5-7,13,14}. One of the most studied class of ncRNAs, miRNAs, has been linked to orchestration of cell cycle progression, metastasis, apoptosis, cellular differentiation, and tumorigenesis³. Also, in many studies it has been suggested that differential expression of miRNAs serve as a prognostic and diagnostic biomarker in human cancers¹⁵. In recent study, Liu et al., determined 10 (5 downregulated and 5 upregulated) differentially expressed miRNAs including miR-4746 in HCC by using multi-omics data and various bioinformatic approaches⁸. miR-9¹⁴, miR-21¹⁶ and miR-221¹⁷ has been identified as prognostically significant miRNAs in HCC. However, the role of miR-4746 has not been reported before in HCC-related studies.

In this study, first we used dbDEMC database to evaluate differential expression of miR-4746 in 40 types of human cancers. Our results indicated that miR-4746 overexpressed in 15 types of human cancers including HCC, however, it was downregulated in PNCA (Fig 1a). Thus, we speculate that miR-4746 acts as an oncogenic miRNA and it may have an important regulatory role in expression level of tumor suppressor genes. On the other hand, in their study Ren et al., reported that miR-4746 significantly downregulated in CRC, and miR-4746 regulates expression level of CCND1 by degrading of CCND1 mRNA⁸. The group of studies have revealed that some miRNAs may have bidirectional functions in cancer cells¹⁸. Taken together, these two studies⁶⁻⁸ it can be predicted miR-4746 may also be a potential miRNA with bidirectional function in human cancers.

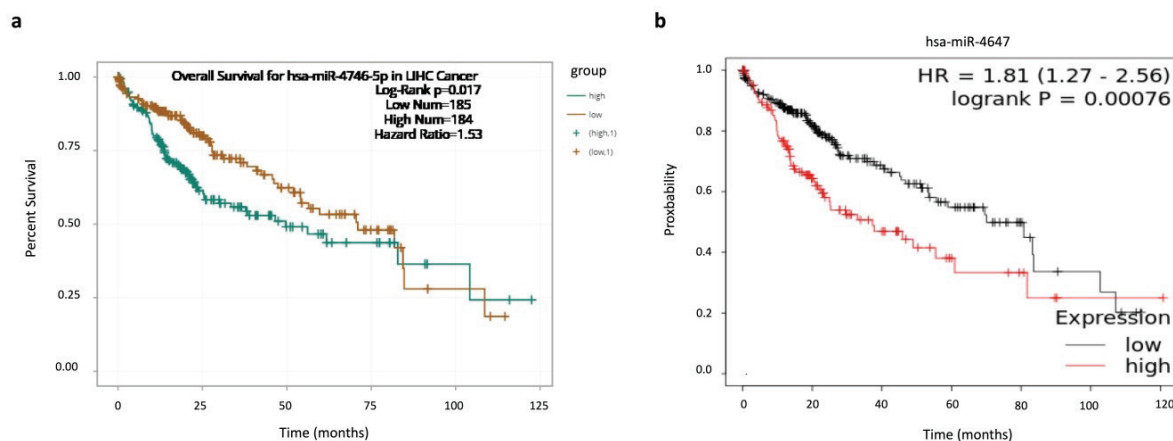


Figure 3. High expression level of miR-4746 was significantly associated with poor overall survival rates of HCC patients. The Kaplan-Meier (a) and ENCORI/Starbase v2 database, (b) survival curves for overall survival analysis between high expression and low expression of miR-4746 in HCC patients. HR, hazard ratio, Num, number.

To determine expression level of miR-4746 we used UALCAN and ENCORI databases. Our UALCAN and ENCORI database analysis demonstrated that miR-4746 up-regulated in HCC tissues compared with normal tissues (Fig 1b-c).

Increasing evidence supports that there is a strong association between miRNA expression and various clinicopathological parameters in many of cancer patients. Therefore, great number of miRNAs have been demonstrated as potential candidates for prognostic and diagnostic biomarkers in cancer related studies¹⁹. According to our UALCAN database analysis was revealed that for the first time miR-4746 differentially expressed in clinicopathological parameters of HCC, including individual cancer stage, tumor grade, nodal metastasis status, TP53 mutation status, and patient's age (Fig 2). Furthermore, miR-4746 was upregulated among patients with HCC, however it has not been differentially expressed in different patient's race (Fig 2e).

To evaluate prognostic significance of miR-4746 expression level in HCC we used ENCORI and KM plotter databases. According to our results upregulation of miR-4746 positively correlated with poor overall survival rates (Fig

3). These findings support oncogenic function of miR-4746 in HCC within poor prognosis. However, more solid experiments are required to identify the exact role of miR-4746 in molecular mechanisms in HCC progression.

In conclusion, our current findings revealed that for the first time miR-4746 might act as an oncogenic miRNA that plays a crucial role in clinicopathological features of HCC. Moreover, the results exhibited that upregulated miR-4746 might serve as a valuable prognostic biomarker for HCC.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability statement

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Patient consent for publication

Not applicable.

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Ten Year Cardiovascular Risk, Serum Lipid Indices and High Sensitivity CRP in a Healthy Population

Sağlıklı Bir Popülasyonda 10 Yıllık Kardiyovasküler Risk, Serum Lipid İndeksleri ve Yüksek Duyarlı CRP

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Abstract

Introduction	It is very important to identify individuals at high risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases (ASCVD) and for this purpose, many risk calculation tools and parameters are used. In this study, we aimed to investigate the correlation between the ACC/AHA cardiovascular risk and serum lipid indices and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) in a healthy population.
Materials and Methods	Our study was conducted retrospectively on individuals aged between 40 and 79 years and with sufficient data, using the hospital database. Patients with a history of any chronic disease and active infection were excluded. Individuals were analyzed by grouping them into low (<5%) and borderline to high (>5%) estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD.
Results	184 individuals with a median age of 46 and 37.5% women were included in the study. The median 10-year estimated risk of ASCVD in the study population was 3% (1.3/5.98). The low-risk group had a significantly lower atherogenic index of plasma (AIP), Castelli I risk index (CR-I), and Castelli II risk index (CR-II) compared to the borderline to high-risk group (p <0.001 for all). However, CRP was not different between groups (p: 0.683). The 10-year risk of ASCVD was statistically significantly correlated with AIP (R:0.380; p<0.001), CR-I (R:0.467; p<0.001), and CR-II (R:0.482; p<0.001), but no correlation was detected with hs-CRP (R:0.065; p:0.381).
Conclusion	The lack of correlation between ACC/AHA's risk calculation tool and hs-CRP suggests that hs-CRP cannot be used as a high-risk indicator in these individuals or that this tool is insufficient to detect some high-risk patients.
Keywords	C-reactive protein, Cardiovascular Risk Score, Dyslipidemias

Öz

Amaç	Aterosklerotik kardiyovasküler hastalık (ASKH) açısından yüksek risk altındaki bireylerin belirlenmesi oldukça önemlidir ve bu amaçla birçok risk hesaplama aracı ve parametresi kullanılmaktadır. Bu çalışmada, sağlıklı bir popülasyonda ACC/AHA tarafından geliştirilen kardiyovasküler risk hesaplama aracı ile serum lipid indeksleri ve yüksek duyarlılık C-reaktif protein (hs-CRP) arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırmayı amaçladık.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Çalışmamız, hastane veri tabanı kullanılarak, 40-79 yaş arası ve yeterli veriye sahip bireyler üzerinde geriye dönük olarak yapıldı. Herhangi bir kronik hastalığı ve aktif enfeksiyonu olan hastalar çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Bireyler, düşük (<5%) ve sınırdaki-yüksek (>5%) tahmini 10 yıllık ASKH riski olarak gruplandırılarak analiz edildi.
Bulgular	Çalışmaya ortanca yaşı 46 ve %37,5'i kadın olan 184 kişi dahil edildi. Çalışma popülasyonunda ortanca 10 yıllık tahmini ASKH riski %3'tü (1.3/5.98). Düşük risk grubu, sınırdaki-yüksek risk grubuna kıyasla önemli ölçüde daha düşük aterosklerotik plazma indeksi (AIP), Castelli I risk indeksi (CR-I) ve Castelli II risk indeksine (CR-II) sahipti (tümü için p <0,001). Ancak CRP gruplar arasında farklı değildi (p: 0.683). 10 yıllık ASKH riski, AIP (R:0.380; p<0.001), CR-I (R:0.467; p<0.001) ve CR-II (R:0.482; p<0.001) ile istatistiksel olarak anlamlı şekilde korele idi, ancak hs-CRP ile korelasyon saptanmadı (R:0.065; p:0.381).
Sonuç	ACC/AHA'nın risk hesaplama aracı ile hs-CRP arasında korelasyon olmaması, hs-CRP'nin bu bireylerde yüksek risk göstergesi olarak kullanılamayacağını veya bu aracın bazı yüksek riskli hastaları tespit etmede yetersiz olduğunu düşündürmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

C-Reaktif Protein, Kardiyovasküler Risk Skoru, Dislipidemiler



INTRODUCTION

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases (ASCVD) are among the leading causes of death worldwide.¹ For this reason, it is very important to identify individuals at high risk for ASCVD and to take preventive measures for these individuals. Many parameters and tools have been developed to determine the risk of ASCVD.² In addition to classical risk factors such as smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and hyperlipidemia, many new risk factors such as PCSK9, CRP, IL-6, copeptin, cystatin-C, and various micro-RNA particles have been identified.³ The majority of newly identified risk factors are currently unsuitable for clinical use. Castelli I risk index (CR-I), Castelli II risk index (CR-II), and atherogenic index of plasma (AIP) are factors calculated from the lipid parameters that are more widely used because of the easy accessibility and their clear relationship with ASCVD.⁴ The American Society of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) has developed a cardiovascular risk calculation tool using classical risk factors such as age, gender, blood pressure, diabetes, as well as lipid parameters.⁵ With this tool, the 10-year cardiovascular risk can be calculated.

C-reactive protein (CRP) is an acute-phase reactant that is increased in serum and produced in the liver in inflammatory diseases.⁶ Since atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory disease, high CRP is associated with the prevalence and severity of atherosclerotic diseases.⁷ In previous studies, in addition to classical risk factors, patients with high CRP have been found to have a much higher risk of cardiovascular events.⁸ In addition, it was observed that high CRP was associated with classical risk factors.⁹ However, the patient groups in these studies were not homogeneous and included individuals at high risk of cardiovascular disease.

In this study, we aimed to investigate the relationship between the 10-year cardiovascular disease risk calculated by the ACC/AHA tool and the AIP, CR-I, CR-II, and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) in the healthy pop-

ulation.

MATERIAL and METHODS

This study was approved by institutional review board. Our study was carried out retrospectively, using the records of our hospital database between the years 2015-2020. Since the 10-year risk can be calculated only in 40-79 years of age with the ACC/AHA ASCVD risk calculation tool, patients in this age group were included in the study. Individuals with a history of any cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, oncologic disease, rheumatic disease, nephrological disease, endocrinological disease, recent surgery, and active infection were excluded. Individuals who did not have sufficient data were not included in the study.

All laboratory tests were performed on fasting peripheral venous blood samples. Biochemical and hematological measurements were made using standard methods. Serum hs-CRP was measured with a C8000 Architect Abbott biochemical auto analyzer (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, USA) and the lowest detectable level was 0.01 mg/l. The 10-year estimated risk of ASCVD was calculated with the ACC/AHA's online tool.¹⁰ Individuals were classified according to their estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD: <5% low risk, 5-7.5% borderline risk, 7.5-20% moderate risk, and $\geq 20\%$ high risk. AIP was calculated by calculating the logarithm of the TG/HDL ratio from molar units, CR-I by calculating the total cholesterol/HDL cholesterol ratio, and CR-II by calculating the LDL cholesterol/HDL cholesterol ratio. The estimated glomerular filtration rate was calculated using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration formula. Body mass index was calculated as the ratio of body weight in kilograms to the square of the height in meters.

Statistical analyzes were performed using SPSS 22.0 statistical analysis software. The normality of the distribution of continuous variables was evaluated with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Normally distributed continuous variables were expressed as mean and standard deviation,

and non-normally distributed variables were expressed as median and 25/75 quartiles. Categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages. Categorical variables were compared with the chi-square test. Normally distributed continuous variables were compared with Student's t-test, and those that were not normally distributed were compared with Mann Whitney U test. The relationship between the variables was evaluated with Pearson correlation analysis. All tests were two-sided and statistical significance was accepted as $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

184 individuals who met the study criteria were included in the study. The median age of the individuals included in the study was 46, and 115 (62.5%) were male. The median estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD was 3%. Of the individuals, 128 (69.6%) were at low risk, 18 (9.8%) were at borderline risk, 36 (19.6%) were at intermediate risk, and 2 (1.1%) were at high risk. Since there were few individuals in the borderline, medium, and high-risk groups, these groups were combined and evaluated as the borderline to high-risk group. Analyses were performed between low-risk and borderline-to-high-risk groups.

The clinical, laboratory characteristics and risk indexes of individuals according to risk groups are given in detail in the table. In the low-risk group, the age was lower, the female gender was more, active smoking was less, and diastolic blood pressure was lower ($p < 0.001$, < 0.001 , < 0.001 , 0.009 , respectively). However, systolic blood pressure and body mass index were not different between the groups ($p = 0.515$, 0.960 , respectively). Hemoglobin and creatinine values were lower and GFR was higher in the low-risk group ($p < 0.001$, < 0.001 , and 0.002 , respectively). Glucose, leukocyte count, and hs-CRP values were not different ($p = 0.294$, 0.054 , and 0.683 , respectively). Total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and triglyceride were lower and HDL cholesterol was higher in the low-risk group ($p < 0.002$, < 0.001 , < 0.001 , and < 0.001 , respectively). Similarly, AIP, CR-I, and CR-II were significantly lower in the low-risk

group ($p < 0.001$ for all).

The estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD was statistically significantly correlated with AIP ($R = 0.380$; $p < 0.001$), CR-I ($R = 0.467$; $p < 0.001$), and CR-II ($R = 0.482$; $p < 0.001$), but no correlation was detected with hs-CRP ($R = 0.065$; $p = 0.381$) (Figure).

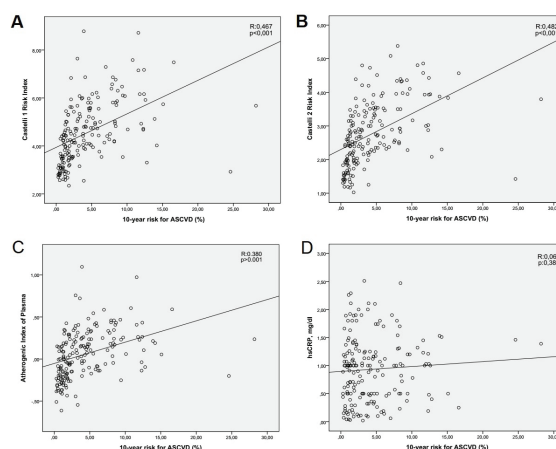


Figure: Correlation graphs of 10-year estimated risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) with other risk parameters A. Correlation of 10-year ASCVD risk with Castelli I risk index, B. Correlation of 10-year ASCVD risk with Castelli II risk index, C. Correlation of 10-year ASCVD risk and atherogenic index of plasma, D. Correlation of 10-year risk of ASCVD with hs-CRP

Table: Clinical and laboratory findings of groups separated according to 10-year ASCVD risk.

Variable	Total	Low Risk	Borderline to High Risk	p
Number, %	184(100)	128(69.6)	56(30.4)	
Age, years	46(43/51)	46(42/49)	50(45/57)	<0.001
Male/Female, N (%)	115(62.5) /69(37.5)	65(50.8)/63(49.2)	50(89.3)/6(10.7)	<0.001
Active smoker, N (%)	71(38.6)	29(22.7)	42(75)	<0.001
Systolic BP, mmHg	120(115/125)	120(111/125)	120(120/125)	0.515
Diastolic BP, mmHg	70(70/80)	70(70/80)	75(70/80)	0.009
Body Mass Index, kg/m ²	27.5(25.6/30)	27.5(15.5/30.3)	27.2(26/29.4)	0.960
Hemoglobin, g/dl	14.7(13.4/15.6)	14.3(13/15.3)	15.2(14.4/15.9)	<0.001
Leucocyte count, x1000/ μ L	6.9(5.9/8.3)	6.9(5.9/7.96)	7.5(5.9/8.9)	0.054
hs-CRP, mg/l	1(0.5/1.26)	1(0.49/1.25)	1(0.5/1.32)	0.683
Glucose, mg/dl	91(85/97.8)	90(85/96)	91(86/99)	0.294
Total Cholesterol, mg/dl	207.9 \pm 42.1	201.5 \pm 41.6	222.4 \pm 39.7	0.002
HDL Cholesterol, mg/dl	47(40/54.8)	49(41/57)	42(37.2/48)	<0.001
LDL Cholesterol, mg/dl	125 \pm 31.5	117.9 \pm 30.4	141.3 \pm 28.1	<0.001
Triglyceride, mg/dl	115.5(84.3/179)	107(75/153)	168(110/212)	<0.001
Creatinine, mg/dl	0.79(0.7/0.87)	0.77(0.68/0.83)	0.83(0.75/0.93)	<0.001
Glomerular Filtration Rate, ml/min	104(95/109)	106(97/109)	100(90/107)	0.002
Atherogenic Index of Plasma	0.059 \pm 0.285	-0.009 \pm 0.275	0.213 \pm 0.247	<0.001
Castelli I Risk Index	4.55 \pm 1.28	4.18 \pm 1.13	5.39 \pm 1.21	<0.001
Castelli II Risk Index	2.77 \pm 0.95	2.47 \pm 0.81	3.44 \pm 0.89	<0.001
10-year risk for ASCVD, %	3(1.3/5.98)	1.8(1/3.18)	8.4(6.3/11.8)	<0.001

Categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages. Continuous variables that were normally distributed were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation, and non-normally distributed ones were as median and 25/75 quartiles.
 ASCVD: Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, BP: Blood pressure, hs-CRP: High sensitivity C-reactive protein, HDL: High-density lipoprotein, LDL: Low-density lipoprotein, N: Number

DISCUSSION

In our study, we found that the estimated 10-year cardiovascular risk in a normotensive, nondiabetic population had a moderate correlation with serum lipid indices such as CR-I, CR-II, and AIP, but not with hs-CRP. Unlike most previous studies, our study mostly included patients at low risk of ASCVD.

The relationship between plasma lipid parameters and ASCVD has been known for a long time. However, studies have shown that AIP, CR-I, and CR-II, which are risk indices calculated from lipid parameters, make better risk predictions than lipid parameters alone.¹¹ Edward et al. have revealed that AIP is more successful than individual

cholesterol risk parameters in estimating mortality risk in elderly patients.¹¹ In our study, a moderate but significant correlation was found between AIP, CR-I, and CR-II and the estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD. This relationship is expected since total, HDL, and LDL cholesterol values are also used when calculating the risk of ASCVD. However, this relationship is not strong since there are other parameters such as age, gender, smoking, blood pressure, diabetes, and drug use in risk calculation. Therefore, although these parameters reflect lipid risk factors, they are insufficient to calculate the global risk of ASCVD.

Atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory disease triggered by sequestration and modification of lipoproteins

in the subendothelial space.¹² The relationship between chronic elevation of CRP, an inflammation marker, with atherosclerosis has been known for a long time.¹³ Recently, Yang et al. found a linear relationship between CRP level and cardiovascular diseases in a meta-analysis of 36 articles.⁸ According to this meta-analysis, with each 1 mg/l increase in CRP, the relative risk of cardiovascular disease increases by 18%. In the light of these findings, some risk factors, including hs-CRP, have been developed to calculate the risk of ASCVD. Reynold risk index that incorporates hs-CRP and parental history to classical risk factors significantly improves global cardiovascular risk prediction.¹⁴ However, hs-CRP has not been used routinely to determine the risk of ASCVD. In the 2019 cardiovascular diseases primary prevention guideline of the ACC/AHA, it was classified as a risk-increasing factor, especially in the moderate-risk patient group.¹⁵ However, hs-CRP is not defined as a risk factor in the ESC guidelines.¹

Confusing results have been obtained in studies in terms of the contribution of CRP to classical risk factors in detecting cardiovascular events. Juonolo et al. evaluated 1617 people in 2001, who had CRP measurements in 1980 when they are aged between 3-18 years.¹⁶ In their study, they found that the childhood CRP value showed a weak but significant correlation with the adult CRP value, but not with the adulthood carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT). They found that the classical risk factors of childhood, BMI, HDL-C, smoking, LDL-C, blood pressure, and adulthood CIMT were significantly related. In the JUPITER study, rosuvastatin significantly reduced cardiovascular events in patients with CRP above 2 g/l and LDL-C below 130 mg/dl.¹⁷ Although the protective effects of rosuvastatin were demonstrated in individuals with high hs-CRP in this study, a proportional relationship with CRP was not observed. In an analysis of the Heart Protection Study, 20376 people aged 40-80 years at high cardiovascular risk were evaluated for the protective effects of simvastatin based on baseline CRP levels.¹⁸ As a result of this analysis, it was determined that simvastatin provided a

significant reduction in major vascular events, but its protective effects were not proportionally related to baseline CRP levels. In the study conducted by Koenig et al. on 3435 German men aged 45-74 years, they found that CRP provides prognostic information in addition to the Framingham risk score.¹⁹ However, in the meta-analysis of Shah et al., it was seen that CRP alone did not perform discrimination better than the Framingham risk score, and when added to this risk score, it made a small and inconsistent contribution to the risk calculation.²⁰

In the study of Sharif et al., they investigated the relationship of low level of hs-CRP increase with death and cardiovascular events in a mean follow-up of 7.8 years in 1679 type 2 diabetic patients. In this study, they found a low level of inflammation to be associated with all-cause and vascular mortality, but not with vascular events.²¹ Buila et al. studied CRP and classic cardiovascular risk factors in 335 pilots and air traffic control workers.²² In this study, they found that CRP was associated with factors such as age, smoking, metabolic syndrome and physical inactivity, and adding CRP to the classical risk factors improved cardiovascular risk calculation.

Our study reveals that the estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD calculated by ACC/AHA's tool in normotensive and non-diabetic individuals is not associated with hs-CRP levels. Since vascular inflammation in the presence of atherosclerosis causes hs-CRP elevation, unlike classical risk factors, high CRP is an indicator of active inflammation in the presence of atherosclerosis, rather than being a risk factor for the development of atherosclerosis. However, the population of our study consists mostly of low-risk individuals. In this patient group, the probability of atherosclerosis and associated hs-CRP elevation is low. Therefore, individuals may not have an atherosclerotic disease that may cause CRP elevation in this period, regardless of the estimated 10-year risk of ASCVD. This finding is consistent with the study of Juonolo et al., which did not find a relationship between childhood CRP level and CIMT.¹⁶

Another possible explanation for this finding may be that the 10-year estimated ASCVD risk calculation tool of ACC/AHA in this group of patients is insufficient to detect some individuals who may be at high risk.

The most important limitation of the study is that it was conducted retrospectively. Although we excluded conditions that may have an effect on CRP with strict criteria, we may not have been able to detect some factors due to the retrospective design. Another limitation is the small number of cases for an epidemiological study. A reevaluation of the association of hs-CRP and estimated cardiovascular risk in a larger case group will provide a clearer result. In addition, a study with long-term follow-up will provide a better understanding of the relationship between hs-CRP, estimated risk of ASCVD, and future cardiovascular events.

Conflict of Interest

None of the authors has a conflict of interest to declare.

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Ethical consent

This study was approved by the Baskent University Institutional Review Board's decision dated January 25, 2022 and numbered E-94603339-604.01.02-97632.

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Declaration of Contribution

Concept- S.A., E.A.; Design- S.A., E.A.; Data Collection- S.A., E.A.; Analysis and interpretation- S.A., E.A.; Literature review- S.A., E.A.; Writing- S.A.

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Distal Tibia Eklemine Uzanan Tibia Diyafiz Kırıklarında Kapalı Perkütan Pinleme ve İntramedüller Çivileme ile Tatminkâr Sonuçlar Elde Edilebilir

Satisfactory Results Can Be Obtained by Closed Percutaneous Pinning and Intramedullary Nailing in Distal Tibial Joint-Related Tibia Diaphysis Fractures

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Öz

Amaç	Amacımız, distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında intramedüller çivilemenin sonuçlarının araştırılması ve minimal invaziv plak osteosentez yöntemi ile karşılaştırılmasıdır.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Kliniğimizde tibia distal eklem hattına uzanan ancak eklemde impaksiyon izlenmeyen tibia diyafiz kırığı nedeni ile 2019 – 2021 yılları arasında tedavi ve takibi yapılan tüm hastalar retrospektif olarak araştırıldı. Tüm hastaların yaş, cinsiyet ve taraf gibi demografik verileri, yaralanma mekanizmaları, tibia diyafiz ve pilon kırık tipleri, klinik ağrı skorları, radyolojik kaynamaları ve komplikasyonları değerlendirildi.
Bulgular	Çalışmaya dahil edilen 27 hastadan 15 hasta (%55,56) intramedüller çivileme ile tedavi edilirken, 12 hastada (%44,44) minimal invaziv plak osteosentez kullanılmıştır. İMÇ uygulanan grubun ortalama yaşı 62 (Aralık: 34-67 yaş) iken, MİPO uygulanan grupta ortalama yaşı 51 (Aralık: 33-52) olduğu ve aralarında anlamlı fark olduğu görüldü (p=0,038). Yaralanma mekanizmaları açısından gruplar arasında anlamlı fark tespit edildi (p=0,023). Taraf, cinsiyet, kırık tipi ve ağrı skorları açısından iki grup arasında fark görülmedi (p>0,050). Hastaların tamamında radyolojik tam iyileşme elde edildi. Dört hastada (%14,81) yara yerinde yumuşak doku ilişkili komplikasyonlar tespit edildi. Komplikasyon gelişen hastaların tamamının MİPO grubunda olduğu görüldü ve gruplar arasında komplikasyon gelişimi açısından anlamlı fark tespit edildi (p=0,028).
Sonuç	Distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında, eklemde impaksiyon eşlik etmiyor ise, perkütan kanüllü vidalar ile eklemde mutlak stabilitenin elde edilmesini takiben uygulanan intramedüller çivileme ile tatminkâr klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar ve düşük komplikasyon oranları elde edilebilir.
Anahtar Kelimeler	Tibia diyafiz kırığı; Eklem uzanan diyafiz kırıkları; Perkütan pinleme; İntramedüller Çivileme; MİPO

Abstract

Introduction	Our aim was to investigate the results of intramedullary nailing in tibial diaphyseal fractures extending to the distal tibial joint line and to compare them with the minimally invasive plate osteosynthesis method.
Materials and Methods	All patients who were treated and followed-up in our clinic between 2019 and 2021 for tibial diaphyseal fracture extending to the tibial distal joint line but without impact on the joint were retrospectively investigated. Demographic data such as age, gender and side, injury mechanisms, tibia diaphysis and pilon fracture types, clinical pain scores, radiological union rates and complications of all patients were evaluated.
Results	Of the 27 patients included in the study, 15 patients (55.56%) were treated with intramedullary nailing, while minimally invasive plate osteosynthesis was used in 12 patients (44.44%). While the median age of the IMN group was 62 years (Range: 34-67 years), the median age of the MİPO group was 51 years (Range: 33-52), and there was a significant difference between them (p=0.038). There was a significant difference between the groups in terms of injury mechanisms (p=0.023). There was no difference between the two groups in terms of side, gender, fracture type and pain scores (p>0.050). Radiological complete recovery was achieved in all patients. Soft tissue-related complications were detected at the wound site in four patients (14.81%). It was observed that all the patients who developed complications were in the MİPO group, and a significant difference was found between the groups in terms of complication rates (p=0.028).
Conclusion	In tibial diaphyseal fractures extending to the distal tibial joint line, if the joint is not accompanied by impaction, satisfactory clinical and radiological results and low complication rates can be obtained with intramedullary nailing, which is applied after obtaining absolute stability in the joint with percutaneous cannulated screws.
Keywords	Tibia diaphysis fracture; Joint-related diaphyseal fractures; Percutaneous pinning; Intramedullary Nailing; MİPO



GİRİŞ

Tibia diyafiz kırıkları en sık görülen uzun kemik kırıklarındandır.^{1,2} Tedavilerinde amaç uzunluk ve dizilimi sağlamak ve erken hareket başlamaktır.¹ Hızlı iyileşme ve düşük komplikasyon oranları nedeniyle tibia diyafiz kırıklarında literatürde öncelikli tercih edilen tedavi yöntemi intramedüller çivileme (İMÇ) olup, alternatif tedavi yöntemleri olarak minimal invaziv plak osteosentez (MİPO) ve eksternal fiksatörler sayılabilir.^{1,3}

Distal tibia eklem hattının (pilon) parçalı kırıkları, tüm alt ekstremitte kırıklarının %1-5'ini oluşturmaktadır olup, uzun dönemde yüksek komplikasyon ve düşük ağrısız normal yaşam oranları bildirilmektedir.⁴⁻⁶ Tedavilerinde öncelikli amaç, diğer eklem kırıklarına benzer şekilde, eklem yüzeyinin anatomik rekonstrüksiyonu ve erken harekete izin verecek kadar stabil fiksasyondur.^{5,7,8} Literatürde pek çok farklı cerrahi yaklaşım ve tedavi modalitesi tanımlanmış olup, kırık paternine göre cerrahi tedavi yaklaşımının şekillendirilmesi önerilmektedir.^{4,5}

Tibia diyafiz kırıkları, distal tibia eklem hattına uzandığında ise tedavi daha karmaşıktır. Literatürde bu kırıklar için en yaygın kullanılan tedavi yöntemi MİPO yöntemi olup, İMÇ ve eksternal fiksatörler daha az tercih edilmektedir.^{3,9}

Çalışmadaki amacımız, distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında intramedüller çivilemenin sonuçlarının araştırılması ve minimal invaziv plak osteosentez yöntemi ile karşılaştırılmasıdır. Hipotezimiz, distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında, kapalı perkütan pinleme ile kombine edilen intramedüller çivileme ile, tatminkar klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar elde edilebileceğidir.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

Hasta Seçimi

Etik kurul onayını takiben (Ankara Şehir Hastanesi 1 Nolu Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu'nun 21/09/2022 tarih ve E1-22-2907 sayılı kararı) kliniğimizde tibia di-

yafiz kırığı nedeni ile 2019 – 2021 yılları arasında tedavi ve takibi yapılan tüm hastalar retrospektif olarak klinik arşivimiz ve hastane kayıt sistemi üzerinden araştırıldı. Çalışmaya dahil edilme kriterleri olarak; 18 yaş ve üzerinde tibia distal eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırığı olan, İMÇ veya MİPO ile tedavi edilmiş ve kırık öncesi ağrısız aktif mobilize olabilen tüm hastalar çalışmaya dahil edildi. Çalışmanın dışlanma kriterleri pilon kırığının eşlik etmediği izole tibia diyafiz kırıkları, eksternal fiksatör veya aşamalı cerrahi ile tedavi edilen hastalar, açık kırıklar, patolojik kırıklar, kırık öncesi aktif mobilizasyonu kısıtlı olan hastalar ve kompleks pilon kırığı ve/veya tibia distal eklem hattında impaksiyon olan ve bu nedenle mutlaka açık redüksiyon ve internal fiksasyon ihtiyacı duyulan hastalar çalışma dışında bırakıldı. Dahil edilme ve hariç tutulma kriterlerine uyan toplam 27 hasta incelendi. Hastalar, uygulanan tedavi şekline göre iki gruba ayrıldı, eklem hattındaki kırığın perkütan pinlenmesini takiben İMÇ uygulanan hastalar (Grup 1, 15 hasta) ve eklem hattına uzanan diyafiz kırığına MİPO uygulanan hastalar (Grup 2, 12 hasta). Bu çalışma, "Helsinki Deklarasyonu" kararlarına uygun olarak gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Cerrahi teknik

Tüm hastalar standart ameliyat masasına alındı ve Grup 1'deki hastalar (İMÇ grubu), ameliyat edilecek taraf alt ekstremitesi masanın kenarında sarkacak ve fleksiyona izin verecek şekilde turnikesiz olarak hazırlanırken, Grup 2'deki hastalar (MİPO grubu) turnike altında klasik supin pozisyonda hazırlandı. Cerrahi profilaksi ve steril örtünmeyi takiben, öncelikle eşlik eden lateral malleol kırığı var ise, literatürde tarif edildiği şekilde, klasik lateral insizyon ile yaklaşıldı ve fikse edildi.^{5,10} Ardından, İMÇ uygulanacak hastalarda, floroskopi altında, öncelikle eklem hattına uzanan kırık, kapalı olarak redükte edildi ve 4,5 milimetrelik kanüllü vidalar kırık hattına dik olacak şekilde antero-posterior ya da medio-lateral olarak gönderildi ve perkütan pinleme yapıldı. Daha sonra literatürde tarif edildiği şekilde, patellar tendon split olarak ayrılarak İMÇ uygulamasına geçildi.¹¹ MİPO uygulanacak hastalarda, flo-

roskopi altında ve traksiyonda kırık kapalı redüksiyonunu takiben medial malleol üzerinde mini bir insizyon açıldı ve distal tibia medial anatomik plak, submusküler olarak gönderildi. Floroskopi altında redüksiyon teyit edildi ve cilt üzerinden step insizyonlar ile fiksasyon gerçekleştirildi.¹²

Uygulanan tedavi şeklinde bağımsız olarak, hiçbir hastanın postoperatif erken dönemde yük vermesine izin verilmedi. Ameliyat sonrası birince günde tüm hastalarda erken hareket başlandı ve ayak bileği ve kuadriceps egzersizleri kademeli olarak arttırıldı. Hastalarda parsiyel yüke 3.-4. haftada, tam yüke ise 6.-8. haftalarda izin verildi. Hastalar sonrasında ağrısız normal hayatlarına döndükleri görülene kadar üç ayda bir kontrollere çağırıldı ve her poliklinik kontrolünde şikayetleri ve var ise ağrı düzeyleri kayıt altına alındı.

Verilerin Toplanması

Tüm hastaların yaş, cinsiyet ve taraf gibi demografik verileri kayıt altına alındı. Yaralanma mekanizmaları, “basit düşme/ayak bileği burkulması”, “yüksekten düşme” ve “araç içi veya dışı trafik kazaları” olarak üç alt başlıkta kategorize edildi. Hastaların tibia diyafiz kırıkları AO/OTA Kırık Sınıflandırma Sistemi kullanılarak sınıflandırıldı.¹³ Distal tibia eklem hattı (pilon) kırıklarının sınıflandırmasında, kırığın deplasman ve parçalanma miktarını değerlendiren Rüedi-Allgöwer Sınıflandırma Sistemi kullanıldı.⁴ Metafiziyel impaksiyon gösteren Rüedi-Allgöwer Tip 3 kırıklar, dışlanma kriterleri gereği çalışmaya dahil edilmedi.

Hastaların klinik memnuniyetleri, son poliklinik kontrollerindeki doktor notları ve hastaların ağrı skorları üzerinden retrospektif olarak değerlendirildi. Ağrının değerlendirilmesinde Vizüel Ağrı Skalası kullanıldı. Radyolojik iyileşmenin değerlendirilmesi amacı ile hastaların son poliklinik kontrollerinde çekilen grafileri incelendi ve hiçbir hastada kaynama gecikmesi/kaynamama olmadığı ve radyolojik iyileşmenin tüm hastalarda tamamlandığı

görüldü. Gelişen komplikasyonlar, hastane bilgi sistemi üzerinden geriye dönük olarak araştırıldı ve kayıt altına alındı.

İstatistiksel Analiz

İstatistiksel değerlendirme SPSS Programı versiyon 26.0 kullanılarak gerçekleştirildi. Kategorik verilerin tanımlanmasında yüzde frekans değerleri kullanılırken, sayısal verilerin tanımlayıcı istatistiklerinde ise ortanca ve minimum-maksimum aralık değerleri kullanıldı. Sayısal verilerin normal dağılıma uygunluğu görsel (histogram ve olasılık grafikleri) ve analitik (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Testi) yöntemler ile değerlendirildi. Sayısal verilerin karşılaştırılmasında Mann-Whitney U testi kullanılırken, kategorik veriler Ki-Kare Testi ve Ki-Kare varsayımının karşılanmadığı durumlarda Fischer’in Exact Testi kullanılarak karşılaştırıldı. İstatistiksel anlamlılık P değeri 0,05’in altında olduğu durumlar anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Çalışmaya dahil edilen 27 hastadan 15 hasta (%55,6) intramedüller çivileme ile tedavi edilirken, 12 hastada (%44,4) minimal invaziv plak osteosentez kullanılmıştır. Tibia diyafiz kırığının AO/OTA sınıflandırmasına göre; 7 hastada (%25,9) 42A1, 7 hastada (%25,9) 42A2, 3 hastada (%11,1) 42A3, 7 hastada (%25,9) 42B1 ve 3 hastada (%11,1) 42C1 kırık tespit edilirken, çalışmaya dahil edilen hiçbir hastada 42B2, 42B3, 42C2 ve 42C3 tiplerinde kırık tespit edilmedi. Distal tibia eklem hattında 13 hastada (%48,1) non-deplase Rüedi-Allgöwer Tip 1 pilon kırığı ve 14 hastada (%51,9) deplase ancak impaksiyonu olmayan ve minimal parçalanması olan Tip 2 pilon kırığı tespit edildi. Hastaların tamamında radyolojik tam iyileşme elde edildi. Dört hastada (%14,8) yara yerinde yumuşak doku ilişkili komplikasyonlar tespit edildi, pansuman ve yara yeri takibi ile tamamının iyileştiği görüldü. İmplant çıkarımı ve sekonder debridman hiçbir hastada yapılmadı. Hastaların gruplara göre demografik özellikleri Tablo 1’de gösterilmiştir.

Tablo 1: Hastaların demografik özellikleri

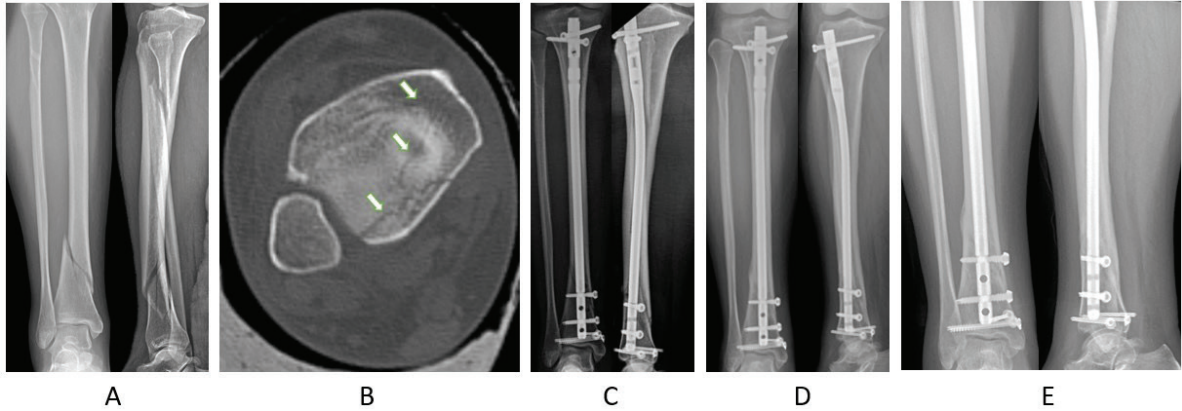
		İMÇ (N=15 hasta)		MİPO (N= 12 hasta)		Toplam (N= 27 hasta)	
		Hasta Sayısı	Oran (%)	Hasta Sayısı	Oran (%)	Hasta Sayısı	Oran (%)
Yaş		62 yaş (34 – 67)		51 yaş (33 – 52)		51 yaş (33 – 67)	
Cinsiyet	Kadın	11	%73,3	9	%75	20	%74,1
	Erkek	4	%26,7	3	%25	8	%25,9
Taraf	Sağ	8	%53,3	6	%50	14	%51,9
	Sol	7	%46,7	6	%50	11	%48,1
Yaralanma Mekanizması	Düşme/ Burkulma	12	%80	8	%66,7	20	%74,1
	Yüksekten D.	3	%20	0	0	3	%11,1
	Trafik Kazası	0	0	4	%33,3	4	%14,8
Tibia Cisim Kırığı AO/OTA Tipi	42A1	3	%20	4	%33,3	7	%25,9
	42A2	3	%20	4	%33,3	7	%25,9
	42A3	3	%20	0	0	3	%11,1
	42B1	3	%20	4	%33,3	7	%25,9
	42B2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	42B3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	42C1	3	%20	0	0	3	%11,1
	42C2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	42C3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pilon Kırığı Rüedi-Allgöwer Tipi	Tip 1	9	%60	4	%33,3	13	%48,1
	Tip 2	6	%40	8	%66,7	14	%51,9
Komplikasyon	Yok	15	%100	8	%66,7	23	%85,2
	Var	0	0	4	%33,3	4	%14,8
Takip Süresi		15 ay (10 – 23)		18 ay (14 – 20)		18 (6) (10 – 23)	
İMÇ: intramedüller (kanal içi) çivileme, MİPO: minimal invazif plak osteosentez, N: hasta sayısı, Yüksekten D.: Yüksekten Düşme. Sürekli veriler için, ortanca ve minimum maksimum aralık değerleri kullanıldı.							

İMÇ uygulanan grubun ortanca yaşı 62 (Aralık: 34-67 yaş) iken, MİPO uygulanan grupta ortanca yaşı 51 (Aralık: 33-52) olduğu ve aralarında anlamlı fark olduğu görüldü ($p=0,038$). Yaralanma mekanizmaları açısından gruplar arasında anlamlı fark tespit edildi ($p=0,023$). Komplikasyon gelişen hastaların tamamının MİPO grubunda olduğu görüldü ve gruplar arasında komplikasyon gelişimi açısından anlamlı fark tespit edildi ($p=0,028$). Taraf, cinsiyet, kırık tipi ve ağrı skorları açısından iki grup arasında fark görülmedi ($p>0,05$) (Tablo 2).

Tablo 2: İntramedüller çivileme ve minimal invazif plak osteosentez gruplarının demografik özellikleri ve ağrı skorlarının karşılaştırılması

		İMÇ (N=15 hasta)		MİPO (N= 12 hasta)		P
		Hasta Sayısı	Oran (%)	Hasta Sayısı	Oran (%)	
Yaş		62 yaş (34 – 67)		51 yaş (33 – 52)		0,038*
Cinsiyet	Kadın	11	%73,3	9	%75	0,922
	Erkek	4	%26,7	3	%25	
Taraf	Sağ	8	%53,3	6	%50	0,863
	Sol	7	%46,7	6	%50	
Yaralanma Mekanizması	Düşme/Burkulma	12	%80	8	%66,7	0,023*
	Yüksekten D.	3	%20	0	0	
	Trafik Kazası	0	0	4	%33,3	
Tibia Cisim Kırığı AO/OTA Tipi	42A1	3	%20	4	%33,3	0,187
	42A2	3	%20	4	%33,3	
	42A3	3	%20	0	0	
	42B1	3	%20	4	%33,3	
	42C1	3	%20	0	0	
Pilon Kırığı Rüedi-Allgöwer Tipi	Tip 1	9	%60	4	%33,3	0,168
	Tip 2	6	%40	8	%66,7	
Komplikasyon	Yok	15	%100	8	%66,7	0,028*
	Var	0	0	4	%33,3	
VAS		0 (0 – 1)		0 (0 – 2)		0,270

İMÇ: intramedüller (kanal içi) çivileme, MİPO: minimal invazif plak osteosentez, N: hasta sayısı, P: istatistiksel anlamlılık değeri, Yüksekten D.: Yüksekten Düşme, VAS: Vizüel Ağrı Skalası. Sürekli veriler için, ortanca ve minimum maksimum aralık değerleri kullanıldı. *: P<0,05 olan değerler istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.



Resim 1: 62 yaşında kadın hasta, basit düşme sonrası bacakta ağrı ve hareket kısıtlılığı nedeniyle tarafımıza başvuruyor. A. Hastanın çekilen ön-arka ve yan grafiplerinde tibia diyafiz distal 1/3'te, AO/OTA Tip 43 B1 diyafiz kırığı görülmekte. B. Hastanın çekilen ayak bileği bilgisayarlı tomografi incelemesinde Rüedi-Allgöwer Tip 1 non-deplase pilon kırığı saptandı. Beyaz oklar kırık hattını gösteriyor. C. Distal tibia eklem yüzü (pilon) kırığı, üç adet perkütan kanüllü vida ile rijid fikse ediliyor ve eklemde mutlak stabilitenin sağlanması ardından klasik yöntem ile intramedüller çivi uygulanıyor. Resimde ameliyat sonrası ön-arka ve yan grafipler görülmüyor. D. Hastanın 15. ay son kontrol grafisi. Tibia ön-arka ve yan grafiplerinde tam radyolojik iyileşme görünüyor. Hastanın aktif şikayeti ve ağrısı yok. Ayak bileği fonksiyonları tam. E. Hastanın 15. ay son kontrol grafisinde ayak bileğinin ön-arka ve yan grafişte yakından görünüşü. Eklemde ve tibia diyafizde tam kaynama mevcut.

TARTIŞMA

Tibia diyafiz kırıkları, ortopedi ve travmatolojinin klinik pratiğinde çok sık karşılaşılan kırıklar olup, tedavilerinde intramedüller çivileme altın standart olarak kabul edilmektedir.¹⁻³ Öte yandan, distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarının tedavisinde halen tartışmalar devam etmektedir.⁹ Literatürde en çok önerilen tedavi yöntemi olan MİPO, ekstramedüller bir sistem olmasının yanı sıra, ince doku tabakasına sahip tibia medialinin açılması nedeniyle yumuşak doku komplikasyonları ile ilişkilendirilmektedir.^{3,9} İMÇ ise, pilon kırığının deplasmanını arttırma ya da yeterli stabilite elde edememe handikaplarını taşımaktadır. Distal pilon kırığının perkütan pinlenmesini takiben İMÇ uygulaması, her iki yöntemin de dezavantajlarında kaçınan bir tedavi modalitesidir. Çalışmamızın en önemli özelliği, impaksiyonuna eşlik etmediği basit eklem içi kırığı olan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında İMÇ'nin klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlarının ve komplikasyon oranlarının MİPO ile karşılaştırılmasına imkan tanınmasıdır. En önemli bulgumuz, İMÇ yapılan hastalarda, MİPO yapılan hastalara göre benzer klinik ve radyolojik bulgular elde edilmesidir ($p=0,270$). Dahası, İMÇ grubunda komplikasyon oranları anlamlı olarak daha düşük bulunmuştur ($p=0,028$).

Tibia diyafiz kırıklarında, distal tibia eklem hattına uzanım sıklıkla karşılaşılan bir durumdur. Literatürde bu sebeple distale yakın diyafiz kırıklarında bilgisayarlı tomografiyi rutin olarak öneren çalışmalar mevcuttur.¹⁴⁻¹⁸ En sık eşlik eden eklem kırığı izole posterior malleol kırığı olmakla birlikte, tibia diyafiz kırıkları ile birlikte impakte deplase pilon kırıklarına kadar geniş bir spektrumda farklı kırık tipleri görülebilir.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Eşlik eden kırığın doğru belirlenmesi, tedavinin doğru planlanması için önemlidir. İmpaksiyonun ve metafiziyel parçalanmanın eşlik ettiği pilon kırıklarının varlığında, öncelik eklem anatomik rekonstrüksiyonu olmalı, ardından diyafiz kırığında uzunluk ve dizilim sağlanmalıdır.⁵ Bu kırıklarda açık redüksiyon ve internal fiksasyon çoğunlukla gereklidir. Öte yandan impaksiyonuna eşlik etmediği basit eklem içi kırıklarda İMÇ ve MİPO gibi tedavi modaliteleri tercih edilebilir.³

MİPO'da en büyük endişe medial insizyon gerekliliği ve artmış komplikasyon oranları iken, İMÇ'de eklem stabil fiksasyonunun elde edilip edilemeyeceği önemli bir konudur.^{3,18,19} Çalışmamızda, distal eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında İMÇ uygulanırken öncelikle perkütan kanüllü vidalar ile eklem mutlak stabilitesi elde edilmiş, ardından diyafiz kırığına çivi uygulanmıştır. Böylelikle stabilite ile ilgili oluşabilecek sorunların önüne geçilmiştir. Nitekim, ortalama 18 aylık (Aralık: 10-23 ay) takip süresinde radyolojik olarak tüm hastalarda tam kaynama elde edilmiştir. Klinik olarak ise hiçbir hastada memnuniyetsizlik ve ağrı saptanmamıştır. Bulgularımız literatür ile benzerlik göstermektedir. Vallier ve ark. 104 eklem dışı distal tibia diyafiz kırığında İMÇ ve MİPO sonuçlarını karşılaştırdıkları prospektif randomize çalışmalarında benzer klinik ve radyolojik iyileşme ve komplikasyon oranları bildirmişlerdir.²⁰ Beytemür ve ark. AO/OTA tip 43C1-C2 kırıklarda İMÇ ve MİPO sonuçlarını karşılaştırmış ve benzer klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar raporlamışlardır.³ Barcak ve ark. basit eklem içi uzanımlı distal tibia metafiz kırıklarında İMÇ ile MİPO'ya kıyasla daha iyi klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar elde etmişlerdir.⁹

Çalışmamızda gruplar arasında yaş ortalaması ve yaralanma mekanizması açısından anlamlı fark tespit edilmiştir (sırası ile; $p=0,038$ ve $p=0,023$). Bu farklılıklar grup homojenitesine zarar verebilir ve sonuçlarımızı etkileyebilir. Öte yandan çalışmamızın retrospektif dizaynı göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, gerçek bir homojenite oluşturulması ne yazık ki mümkün değildir.

Yumuşak doku komplikasyonları, distal tibia metafiz kırıkları ve pilon kırıklarında en korkulan komplikasyonlardır.^{3,5,21} Açık redüksiyonun mutlak gerekli olduğu kompleks eklem içi kırıklarda, komplikasyonlardan kaçınmak için aşamalı cerrahiler önerilmekte olup, distal tibia metafiz kırıklarında ya da basit eklem içi kırıklarda ise minimal invaziv teknikler öncelikli tedavi seçenekleridir.³ Çalışmamızda, İMÇ ve MİPO gruplarının komplikasyon oranları arasında anlamlı ilişki fark edilmiştir ($p=0,028$).

Eklem kapalı olarak rijid fikse edildiği ve ardından İMÇ uygulanan hastalarda yumuşak doku problemleri ile karşılaşılmazken, minimal invaziv teknik ve step insizyonlar kullanılan MİPO grubunda 4 hastada (%33,3) yumuşak doku komplikasyonları görülmüştür. Hastaların tamamı seri pansuman takibi ile tam iyileşmiş, hiçbir hastada sekonder debridman ihtiyacı görülmemiştir. Literatürde farklı serilerde farklı komplikasyon oranları bildirilmektedir. Çalışmamızda komplikasyon oranlarımızın nispeten düşük olmasında (%14,8) en önemli sebeplerden birisi, açık kırıkların çalışma dışında bırakılması olabilir. Bunun dışında çalışmaya dahil edilen hastaların büyük çoğunluğunda düşük enerjili yaralanmalara bağlı kırık oluşumu izlenmiş olması (%74,1), komplikasyon oranlarımızın düşük olması ile ilişkilendirilebilir. Çalışmamızda İMÇ grubunda hiç komplikasyon ile karşılaşılmamıştır. Öte yandan, literatürde İMÇ sonrası birtakım komplikasyonlar bildirilmiştir. Laurent ve ark., 8110 hastada tibia diyafiz kırıklarında İMÇ sonrası komplikasyonları incelemiş ve kaynama problemleri ve diz önu ağrısının sık karşılaşılabilecek komplikasyonlar olduğunu bildirmişlerdir.²² Bulgularımızın literatür ile çelişmesinin en önemli sebebinin çalışmanın retrospektif dizaynı olduğunu düşünüyoruz, şöyle ki hastalar prospektif olarak takip edilmediği için gelişmiş olan bazı komplikasyonlar, diz önu ağrısı gibi, göz ardı edilmiş olabilir.

Çalışmamızda birtakım kısıtlılıklar mevcuttur. İlk ve en önemlisi çalışmamızın retrospektif dizaynıdır. Bir diğer önemli kısıtlılığımız klinik ve radyolojik değerlendirmenin yalnızca subjektif analizler ile yapılmış olmasıdır. Skorlama sistemleri, hareket açıklığı ve kas kuvveti ölçümleri ile daha objektif değerlendirmeler yapılabilir. Üçüncü önemli kısıtlılığımız nispeten düşük hasta sayısıdır. Çok merkezli ve klinik ve radyolojik sonuçların objektif olarak değerlendirildiği prospektif randomize çalışmalar ile optimal bulgular elde edilebilir.

Sonuç olarak, tibia diyafiz kırıklarında distal tibia eklem hattına uzanım, basit non-deplase posterior malleol

kırığından deplase impakte pilon kırığına kadar geniş bir spektrumda olabilir. Distal tibia eklem hattına uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında, eklemde impaksiyon eşlik etmiyor ise, perkütan kanüllü vidalar ile eklemde mutlak stabilitenin elde edilmesini takiben uygulanan intramedüller çivileme ile tatminkar klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar ve düşük komplikasyon oranları elde edilebilir.

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Yazar Katkıları (Authors Contributions)

BG: Çalışmanın planlanması; Verilerin İşlenmesi; Formal Analizler; Araştırma; Metodoloji; Validasyon; Görüşeleştirme; Makalenin Yazımı.

ÖD: Çalışmanın planlanması; Formal Analizler; Araştırma; Metodoloji; Proje Yönetimi; Kaynakların Sağlanması; Denetim; Validasyon; Makalenin düzenlenmesi.

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Erişkin Böbrek Nakli Hastalarında Uzun Etkili Takrolimus Kullanımı, Uzun Dönem Böbrek ve Hasta Sağkalımı Üzerine Etkisi, Tek Merkez Deneyimi

Long-Acting Tacrolimus Use in Adult Kidney Transplant Patients, Effect on Long-Term Kidney and Patient Survival, Single Center Experience

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Öz

Amaç	Takrolimus organ nakli hastalarında kullanılan en önemli immün supresif ajanlardan biridir. Uzun etkili takrolimus (TAC QD) preparatının polifarmasiyi azaltması ve takrolimus kan düzeyini daha stabil tuttuğuna dair bilgiler bulunmaktadır. Biz de organ nakli ünitemizde uzun etkili takrolimusa geçilen ve en az 1 yıl takip edilen böbrek nakli hastalarında renal fonksiyon değişimine ve hasta süresine olan etkisini araştırmayı amaçladık.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Tek merkezli retrospektif gözlemsel çalışmamızda ünitemizde böbrek nakli yapılan 934 hasta dosyası tarandı. Tarama sonrasında takrolimusdan (TAC BID) uzun salımlı takrolimusa (TAC QD) konversiyon yapılan veya uzun salımlı takrolimusa denovo başlanan ve en az 1 yıl süre ile takip edilen 45 hasta çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastaların demografik verileriyle beraber, değişim anı kreatinleri, değişim sonrası takip süreleri, son kreatinin değerleri ve hasta süreleri değerlendirildi. Delta kreatinin düzeyi hastanın son kreatinininden hastanın değişim anı kreatinin seviyesinin çıkarılması ile hesaplandı.
Bulgular	Çalışmaya alınan 45 hastanın ortalama yaşı 47,7 ± 13,6 yıl (minimum 19 – max 70) idi. Hastaların 29'u (%64,4) erkek, 16'sı (%35) kadın idi. Hastaların 5'i (%11,1) 65 yaş üzeriydi. Hastaların primer böbrek hastalıkları değerlendirildiğinde 5'i (%11,1) diyabetik böbrek hastalığı, 5'i primer glomerulonefrit (%11,1); 4 ü (%8,9) hipertansif nefroskleroz; 4'ü otozomak dominant polikistik böbrek hastalığı, 5'i obstrüktif nefropatiye bağlı böbrek yetmezliği idi. 10'u (%22,2) diğer sebeplere bağlı ve 12 hastanın da (%26,7) primer böbrek hastalığı bilinmiyordu. Hastaların 3 ü (%6,7) ikinci transplantasyonda. Konversiyon öncesi 39 hasta (%86) takrolimus + mikofenolat mofetil / mikofenolat sodyum (MFM/MFS) + prednizolon kullanılmakta iken 3 hasta (%6,7) takrolimus + azatiopirin + prednizolon kullanılmaktaydı. 2 hasta (%4,4) takrolimus + everolimus + prednizolon, 1 hasta ise (%2,2) takrolimus + MFM kullanılmaktaydı. Hastaların 8 tanesinde (%17,8) uzun etkili takrolimusa denovo olarak pretransplant -3. günde başlanmış, 2 hastada da (%4,4) posttransplant 1. haftada uzun etkili takrolimusa dönüşüm yapılmıştır. Geriye kalan 35 hastanın 29 u takrolimus kan düzeyi değişkenliği sebebiyle, 3 hasta polifarmasi sebebiyle, 3 hasta da viral enfeksiyon süresindeki takrolimus değişkenliği nedeniyle uzun etkili takrolimusa değişim yapılmıştır. Hastaların değişim anı kreatinin ortalaması 1,23 ± 0,34 mg/dl (min 0,60, max 1,90) idi. Değişime kadar geçen süre ortancası 39 (IQR 22-77, min 3 ay, max 190 ay) idi. Değişim sonrası hastaları takip süreleri ortalama 44,8 ± 14,6 ay (min 14, max 74 ay) idi. Hastaların son takip kreatinin ortalamaları 1,48 ± 0,49 mg/dl (min 0,7, max 3,7) idi. Hastaların delta kreatinin ortancaları 0,10 (IQR -0,05 – 0,40 mg/dl) idi. Hastalardan 2 tanesinde (% 4,4) takipte DSA (Donör spesifik antikor) gelişim, antikor aracı rejeksiyon gelişti. Takip edilen 45 hastanın 5 i (% 11,1) ex olmuş, 40 hastanın takibi ünitemizde halen devam etmektedir. Ex olan hastaların 3 ü (%60) 65 yaş üzeri, 2 si 65 yaş altındaydı. Yaşlı hastalarda mortalite oranı daha yüksekti (p <0,001).
Sonuç	Distal tibia eklemlerine uzanan tibia diyafiz kırıklarında, eklemlerde impaksiyon eşlik etmiyor ise, perikran kanüllü vidalar ile eklemlerde mutlak stabilite elde edilmesini takiben uygulanan intramedüller çivileme ile tatminlik klinik ve radyolojik sonuçlar ve düşük komplikasyon oranları elde edilebilir.
Anahtar Kelimeler	Uzun etkili takrolimus, renal transplantasyon, hasta ve graft sağkalımı

Abstract

Introduction	Tacrolimus is one of the most important immunosuppressive agents used in organ transplant patients. There is information that the long-acting tacrolimus preparation reduces polypharmacy and keeps the tacrolimus blood level more stable. We aimed to investigate the effect on renal function change and patient survival in kidney transplant patients who were switched to long-acting tacrolimus and followed up for at least 1 year in our organ transplant unit.
Materials and Methods	In our single-center retrospective observational study, the files of 934 patients who underwent kidney transplantation in our unit were scanned. Forty-five patients who were converted from tacrolimus to extended-release tacrolimus after screening or were followed-up for at least 1 year were included in the study. Along with the demographic data of the patients, creatinine at the time of change, follow-up times after the change, last creatinine values and patient survival were evaluated. Delta creatinine level was calculated by subtracting the patient's creatinine level at the moment of change from the patient's last creatinine.
Results	The mean age of 45 patients included in the study was 47.7 ± 13.6 years (minimum 19 – max 70). Of the patients, 29 (64.4%) were male and 16 (35%) were female. 5 (11.1%) of the patients were over 65 years of age. When primary kidney diseases of the patients were evaluated, 5 (11.1%) diabetic kidney disease, 5 (11.1%) primary glomerulonephritis, 4 (8.9%) were hypertensive nephrosclerosis; 4 of them were autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease and 5 of them were renal failure due to obstructive nephropathy. 10 (22.2%) were due to other causes and 12 patients (26.7%) had unknown primary kidney disease. 3 (6.7%) of the patients were second transplantation. Before conversion, 39 patients (86%) were using tacrolimus + mycophenolate mofetil/mycophenolate sodium (MFM / MFS) + prednisolone, while 3 patients (6.7%) were using tacrolimus + azathiopurine + prednisolone. 2 patients (4.4%) were using tacrolimus + everolimus + prednisolone, and 1 patient (2.2%) was using tacrolimus + MPM. Eight of the patients (17.8%) were pretransplanted with long-acting tacrolimus denovo -3. started on the day. In 2 patients (4.4%), conversion to long-acting tacrolimus was performed at posttransplant week 1. Of the remaining 35 patients, 29 were changed to long-acting tacrolimus due to variability in tacrolimus blood levels, 3 patients due to polypharmacy, and 3 patients due to tacrolimus variability in the duration of viral infection. The mean creatinine at the time of change was 1.23 ± 0.34 mg/dl (min 0.60, max 1.90). The median time to change was 39 (IQR 22-77, min 3 months, max 190 months). The mean follow-up period of the patients after the change was 44.8 ± 14.6 months (min 14, max 74 months). The mean creatinine mean of the patients at the last follow-up was 1.48 ± 0.49 mg/dl (min was 0.7, max was 3.7). The median delta creatinine of the patients was 0.10 (IQR was -0.05 – 0.40 mg/dl). In 2 of the patients (4.4%), DSA (Donor-specific antibody) developed during the follow-up and antibody-mediated rejection developed. While 5 (11.1%) of the 45 patients who were followed-up died, the follow-up of 40 patients is still continuing in our unit. Of the patients with Ex, 3 (60%) were over 65 years old and 2 were under 65 years old. Elderly patients had a higher mortality rate (p <0.001).
Conclusion	The most important reason for conversion to extended release tacrolimus in our unit was tacrolimus blood level variability. There was no significant change in the creatinine levels of the patients who were followed up for an average of 4 years after the change. Post-conversion mortality was higher especially in patients over 65 years of age. The use of long-acting tacrolimus did not cause a significant change in creatinine levels.
Keywords	Long acting tacrolimus, renal transplantation, patient and graft survival



GİRİŞ

Takrolimus özellikle böbrek ve karaciğer nakli olmak üzere solid organ transplantasyonunda immun supresif tedavinin temel taşı olan ilaçtır. 1990'lı yılların başında tedaviye girmiş siklosporinden sonraki kalsinörin inhibitörü ilaçtır. Siklosporin gibi 11 aminoasit kalıntısından oluşan lipofilik peptit, makrolid antibiyotik yapılı olan takrolimus majör olarak organ nakillerinde idame immun suprasyonunda kullanılan ajandır. Kalsiyuma bağlı serin fosfatazı (kalsinörin) inhibe ederek T hücre aktivasyonunu sınırlandırarak etkisi gösterir. Lipofilik olup hızla absorbe olur, yarılanma ömrü (t1/2) 19 saat, biyoyararlanım %5-67 (%29)'dur. Kanda >%90 eritrositlerde bulunur, %99 plazma proteinlerine (albümin) bağlanır, karaciğerde sitokrom p450 izoenzimlerinden CYP3A4 ve CYP3A5 ile metabolize olur.¹ Etkisini kendisine özgü sitoplazmik reseptörlere (FKBP-12) bağlanarak gösterir. Reseptör bağlanması sonucu belirli düzenleyici çekirdek proteinleri üzerine (Nuclear factor of activated T cell-NF-AT) etki ederek onları defosforize eden ve çekirdek zarından geçmelerini kolaylaştıran "kalsinörin"e bağlanırlar. Kalsinörinin inhibisyonu, T hücre aktivasyonunda kritik öneme sahip sitokin genlerinin(IL-2,IL-4,INF-gama,TNF-alfa) ekspresyonunu engeller. Kalsinörin inhibisyonu ile CD-40 bağlanma molekülü, protoonkogenler, H-ras ve c-myc gibi genlerin kopyalanması da bozulur. Sonuç olarak sitokin üretiminde (özellikle IL-2) ve lenfosit proliferasyonunda niceliksel azalma ortaya çıkmaktadır.²

Takrolimusun renal transplantasyondaki güvenliği ve etkinliği iyi bilinmektedir. Uzun süreli hasta ve greft sağkalımını sağlamak, transplantasyonun en önemli hedefidir. Greft reddi, böbrek fonksiyon bozukluğu ve kardiyovasküler risk faktörleri (hipertansiyon, hiperlipidemi ve nakil sonrası diabetes mellitus (PTDM)) dahil olmak üzere birçok faktör uzun vadeli nakil sonuçlarını olumsuz etkiler. Buna göre, immünoşupresif stratejinin ve bu faktörler üzerindeki etkisinin dikkatli bir şekilde değerlendirilmesi kritik öneme sahiptir. Takrolimusun bilinen yan etkileri kendisinin nefrotoksitesisi, hiperlipidemi, arteriyel hiper-

tansiyon, nörotoksitesite, post transplant diyabet, hepatotoksitesite ve osteoporozdur.¹ Ayrıca takrolimus dar terapötik pencereye sahip olup hem hastalar arası hem de hastanın kendisi içinde yüksek farmakokinetik değişkenliğe sahiptir. Bu nedenle ilaç düzeyi takibi her zaman yapılır fakat buna rağmen her zaman güvenilir değildir. Tedavi aralığında olduğunda bile duyarlılığındaki farklılıklara bağlı olarak ilaç ilişkili toksitesite, akut veya kronik rejeksiyon gelişebilir. Takrolimus dozu tüm hastaları için standart olmayıp hedef düzeyde tutulması için her hasta için farklıdır. Burada sebep takrolimusu karaciğerde metabolize eden sitokrom P450 sistemindeki gen polimorfizmine bağlı olabilir.³ Takrolimus düzeyi aynı hastada zaman içinde dalgalanma gösterebilir. Bu hasta içi değişkenlik (intra-patient variability =IPV) olarak tanımlanmaktadır. Bu IPV diyare, karaciğer disfonksiyonu, eşlik eden ilaçlar (özellikle steroid) ve değişen hematokrit gibi biyolojik sebeplerle değişebilir. IPV ile çok güçlü ilişkisi gösterilmiş olan diğer bir sebep de ilaç uyumsuzluğudur (nonadherens).^{4,5} Yüksek IPV durumu böbrek nakli hastalarında serum kreatinin artışı, biopsi ile kanıtlanmış allograft nefropatisi ile ilişkili bulunmuştur.⁶ Ayrıca DSA (donör spesifik antikor) gelişimi ile de takrolimus konsantrasyonundan bağımsız renal allograft kaybına da yol açabilir.⁷

Takrolimusun bu risklerine karşı geliştirilen uzun etkili formu takrolimus QD (TAC QD) olarak adlandırılır. Standart takrolimusa (TAC BID) göre serum ilaç düzeyindeki değişkenliği azaltarak immun suprasyonu uzun süreli stabil tuttuğu gösterilmiştir. Uzun etkili takrolimus preparatının polifarmasiyi azaltması ve hasta ilaç uyumunu daha çok arttırdığına dair bilgiler de bulunmaktadır. Biz de organ nakli ünitemizde uzun etkili takrolimusa geçilen ve en az 1 yıl takip edilen böbrek nakli hastalarında renal fonksiyon değişimi ve hasta sürvisini retrospektif olarak araştırmayı amaçladık.

MATERYEL ve METOT

Çalışmamız 2008 – 2022 yılları arasında böbrek nakli operasyonu olmuş 934 hastaların kayıtları incelenerek yapı-

mıştır. Tek merkezli ve retrospektif olarak planlanmıştır. Tarama sonrasında takrolimustan uzun salınımlı takrolimusa konversiyonu yapılan veya uzun salınımlı takrolimusa denovo başlanan en az 1 yıl süre ile takip edilen 45 hasta çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir. Hastaların demografik verileriyle beraber, primer böbrek hastalıkları, transplantasyon tarihleri ve türleri, kullanılan immunsupresif ilaç-

lar, değişim anı kreatinleri, değişim sonrası takip süreleri, son kreatinin değerleri ve hasta sürveleri değerlendirildi. Delta kreatinin düzeyi hastanın son kreatinininden hastanın değişim anı kreatinin seviyesinin çıkarılması ile hesaplandı. Hastaların baseline karakterleri tablo olarak verilmiştir (Tablo -1)

Tablo-1: Uzun etkili takrolimusa geçmeden önceki hastaların başlangıçtaki karakterler

Özellikler	Sonuçlar
Ortalama yaş ± SD	47,7 ± 13,6 yıl (min 19 – max 70)
Total Hasta Sayısı	45
Cinsiyet (Erkek / Kadın)	29 / 16
>65 yaş	5
Retransplantasyon	3
Primer Böbrek Hastalıkları –Diyabetik Nefropati	5
--Primer Glomerulonefrit	5
--Hipertansif Nefroskleroz	4
--Polikistik Böbrek Hastalığı	4
--Obstrüktif Nefropati	5
--Diğer	10
--Etyoloji Bilinmeyen	12
Uzun etkili takrolimusa dönüşüm öncesi ilaç kullanımı :	
İmmun Supresif İlaçlar : Grup 1: TAC+MFM/MFS+PRD	39 (%86)
Grup 2: TAC+AZA+PRD	3 (%6,7)
Grup 3: TAC+EVE+PRD	2 (%4,4)
Grup 4: TAC+MFM	1 (%2,2)
Değişime kadar geçen süre ortancası	39 (IQR 22-77 ,min 3 ay , max 190 ay)
Değişim sonrası hastaları takip süreleri ortalama	44,8 ±14,6 ay (min 14 , max 74 ay)
Hastaların uzun etkili takrolimusa dönüşüm zamanları :	
Denovo Başlangıç (-3. Günde)	8
Posttx 1 .hafta	2
Takrolimus kan düzeyi değişkenliği	29
Polifarmasi	3
Viral Enfeksiyonlar (BKV,CMV)	3
Uzun etkili takrolimusa değişim anı kreatinin değeri	1,23 ± 0,34 mg/dl (min 0,60 – max 1.90)
Uzun etkili takrolimus sonrası son kreatinin değeri	1,48 ± 0,49 mg/dl (min 0,7, max 3,7)
Hastaların delta kreatinin ortancaları	0,10 mg/dl (IQR -0,05 – 0,40) .
DSA gelişimi ve Antikor aracılı rejeksiyon	2 (%4,4)
Son Durum : Hasta sürvisi : Hayatta / Ex	40/5
Ex Hastalar >60 / <60 yaş	3 / 2
EVE: Everolimus, BKV: BK Virüs, CMV: Sitomegalovirüs, TAC: Takrolimus, MFM: Mikofenolat Mofetil, MFS: Mikofenolat sodyum, PRD: Prednizolon, SD: Standart deviasyon (sapma), IQR: İnter Quartil Range, Delta Kreatinin: Son kreatinininden değişim anı kreatinin çıkarılması ile elde edilen değer. DSA: Donör spesifik antikor	

Çalışmaya katılan hastalara çalışmanın amacı ve içeriği hakkında ayrıntılı bilgi verildi ve onamları alındı. Çalışmamız İnvaziv Olmayan Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu tarafından onaylandı (karar no: B.30.2.A.YD.0.00.00-050.06.04/18) ve Helsinki Bildirgesi'ne uygun olarak yönetildi.

İstatiksel Analiz

İstatistiksel analiz için IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows 25.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) programı kullanıldı. Tanımlayıcı istatistikler; kategorik değişkenler için sayı ve yüzde, sayısal değişkenler için dağılımı normal olan verilerde ortalama, standart sapma, dağılımı anormal olanlar için ortanca interquartile range (%25-75) olarak verildi. Verilerin normal dağılımı Kolmogorov-Smirnov testiyle analiz edildi. Sürvi testi ile verildi. İstatistiksel alfa anlamlılık seviyesi $p < 0,05$ olarak kabul edildi.

SONUÇLAR

Çalışmaya alınan 45 hastanın ortalama yaşı $47,7 \pm 13,6$ yıl (minimum 19 – maximum 70) idi. Hastaların 29'u (%64,4) erkek, 16'sı (%35) kadın idi. Hastaların 5'i (%11,1) 65 yaş üzeriydi. Hastaların primer böbrek hastalıkları değerlendirildiğinde 5'i (%11,1) diyabetik böbrek hastalığı, 5'i primer glomerulonefrit (%11,1) ; 4 ü (%8,9) hipertansif nefroskleroz; 4'ü otozomak dominant polistik böbrek hastalığı, 5'i obstrüktif nefropatiye bağlı böbrek yetmezliği idi. 10'u (%22,2) diğer sebeplere bağlı ve 12 hastanın da (%26,7) primer böbrek hastalığı bilinmiyordu. Hastaların 3 ü (%6,7) ikinci transplantasyonu.

Konversiyon öncesi 39 hasta Grup 1: (%86) tacrolimus + mikofenolat mofetil / mikofenolat sodyum (MFM/MFS) + prednizolon kullanmakta iken 3 hasta Grup 2: (%6,7) takrolimus + azatiopurin + prednizolon kullanmaktaydı. 2 hasta Grup 3 : (%4,4) takrolimus + everolimus + prednizolon, 1 hasta ise (%2,2) takrolimus + MFM kullanmaktaydı. Hastaların 8 tanesine (%17,8) uzun etkili takrolimusu de novo olarak pretransplant -3. günde başlanmış. 2 hastada da (%4,4) posttransplant 1. haftada uzun etkili takrolimu-

sa dönüşüm yapılmıştır. Geriye kalan 35 hastanın 29 u takrolimus kan düzeyi değişkenliği sebebiyle, 3 hasta polifarmasi sebebiyle, 3 hasta da viral enfeksiyon süresindeki takrolimus değişkenliği nedeniyle uzun etkili takrolimusa değişim yapılmıştır.

Hastaların değişim anı kreatinin ortalaması $1,23 \pm 0,34$ mg/dl (min 0,60, max 1,90) idi. Değişime kadar geçen süre ortancası 39 (IQR 22-77, min 3 ay, max 190 ay) idi. Değişim sonrası hastaları takip süreleri ortalama $44,8 \pm 14,6$ ay (min 14, max 74 ay) idi. Hastaların son takip kreatinin ortalamaları $1,48 \pm 0,49$ mg/dl (min 0,7, max 3,7 idi) . Hastaların delta kreatinin ortancaları 0,10 (IQR -0,05 – 0,40 mg/dl idi) . Hastalardan 2 tanesinde (% 4,4) takipte DSA (Donör spesifik antikor) gelişip, antikor aracılı rejeksiyon gelişti. Tedaviyle (steroid, plazmaferez, İntravenöz gamma globülin) kreatininleri düşüp onlar da takip edilmektedir. 45 hastanın 5'i (%11,1) ex olmuş iken 40 hastanın takibi ünitemizde halen devam etmektedir. Ex olan hastaların 3 ü (%60) 65 yaş üzeri, 2 si 65 yaş altındaydı. Yaşlı hastalarda mortalite oranı daha yüksekti ($p < 0,001$).

TARTIŞMA

Uzun etkili veya günde tek doz takrolimus (TAC QD), günde iki doz takrolimusa (TAC BID) göre daha stabil ilaç düzeyi sağlamaktadır. Buna bağlı olarak da komplikasyonları (akut - kronik rejeksiyon, de novo antikor gelişimi) azaltarak ilaç uyumunu da arttırdığı iddia edilmektedir. Biz de 45 hastayı içeren retrospektif çalışmamızda ortalama 4 yıllık takibimizde stabil bir kreatinin seyri olduğunu gördük. Başlangıç veya bazal kreatinin ortalaması $1,23 \pm 0,34$ mg/dl iken 4 yılın sonunda kreatinin ortalaması $1,48 \pm 0,49$ mg/dl olup stabil bir seyir izlediğini gördük. Çalışmamızda graftını kaybeden hasta olmadı fakat 5 hasta (%11,1) ex oldu, hasta sağkalımı %89,9 idi. Rummo ve ark'nın yaptığı de novo uzun etkili takrolimusun başlandığı toplamda 838 böbrek nakilli hasta 5 yıllık takip edilmiş. TAC QD + MFM ile TAC QD + sirolimusu içeren her iki kolda da 6. ayda (GFR $52,3 \pm 21,6$ ml/dk/1,73 m²) ve 5. yılda (GFR $52,5 \pm 23$ ml/dk/1,73 m²) renal fonksiyonla-

rı korunduğu saptanmıştır. 5 yılın sonunda graft ve hasta sağkalımları sırasıyla %84 ve %90,8 olarak bulunmuş.⁸

Böbrek nakli hastalarına eşlik eden komorbid hastalıklar nedeniyle uzun dönem kullanılan günlük ilaç sayısı yüksektir. Sayının azaltılması hasta uyumunu arttırmaktadır. Morales ve ark'nın yaptığı İspanya'da 9000 kişiyle anket yoluyla yapılan çalışmada solid organ transplantasyonlarında hastalar günde ortalama 11,4 tb (%25 i de >14 tb) ilaç alıyormuş. Çalışmada organ nakilli hastalar ilaç uyumsuzluğunun sebebinin >%30 oranda günlük toplam ilaç sayısı fazlalığı ve de her öğündeki fazla ilaç sayısı olduğu belirtilmiştir. ⁹ İlaç uyumsuzluğu, takrolimus kan seviyesi değişkenliğine bu durum da donöre özgü DSA gelişimine, antikor aracılı rejeksiyon ve graft kaybına yol açabilir.

Vlaminck ve ark'nın yaptığı 146 renal transplant hastanın 5 yıllık takibinde %22,6 oranında ilaç uyumsuzluğu belirlenmiş. Bu hastaların da %21,2 si geç akut rejeksiyon yaşamış. İlaç uyumlu hastalara göre bu geç akut rejeksiyon 3,2 kat daha yüksek bulunmuş. Ayrıca serum kreatinin seviyeleri ve graft kaybı da anlamlı olarak daha yüksek saptanmıştır.¹⁰ Bizim çalışmamızda 45 hastanın 2 tanesinde takipte DSA gelişimi olup antikor aracılı rejeksiyon gelişti. Bu 2 hastanın da da tedaviyle kreatininleri gerileyip takipleri devam etmektedir. Rodrigo ve ark'nın⁷ yaptığı 310 böbrek nakilli hastanın 5 yıllık takibinde takrolimus kan değişkenliği yüksek olan 39 hastada denovo DSA geliştiği saptanmış. Çalışma sonunda yapılan analizlerde takrolimus ilaç değişkenliğinin yüksek olması ve denovo DSA gelişiminin graft kaybına yol açan güçlü bağımsız risk faktörleri olduğu saptanmıştır.⁷ Vanhove ve arkadaşları takrolimusun hasta içi değişkenliğinin (IPV) böbreğe etkisini histolojik olarak değerlendirmişler. Bu çalışmada IPV değeri düşük, orta ve yüksek olarak üç kategoriye ayrılmış. 220 renal transplant hastası 3 ay ve 2. yılda renal biopsi ile değerlendirilmiş. IPV'ye göre yüksek kategoride olan hastaların biopside fibrozis ve tubuler atrofi oranları en yüksek olup orta ve düşük kategoride ise bu oranlar daha düşük oranda bulunmuş.¹¹

Böbrek nakli hastalarında uzun etkili takrolimus nakilden sonraki bir zamanda kullanılabilirdiği gibi denovo olarak da transplantasyonun hemen başında da başlanabilir. Bizim çalışmamızda da 45 hastanın 8'i pretransplant dönemde, 2'si de posttransplant 1. haftada başlanmıştır. Uzun etkili formun erken dönemde özellikle yüksek doz steroid etkisi ile ilaç düzeyi dalgalanmaları daha fazla olsa da kısa sürede yakın takip ile hedef düzeye gelmektedir. Manna ve arkadaşları her bir grupta 30 hastanın olduğu denovo uzun etkili takrolimusla kısa etkili takrolimusun karşılaştırarak bir çalışma yapmışlar. Erken dönemde uzun etkili grupta takrolimus ve kreatinin değerleri biraz daha yüksek olsa bile ikinci hafta sonrasında gruplar arasında bir fark olmamış. 6 aylık takip sonucunda da rejeksiyon epizotları, graft kaybı ve yan etkiler açısından anlamlı bir fark bulunmamıştır. Farklı olarak uzun etkili grupta lipid parametrelerinin daha iyi olduğu görülmüştür.¹²

Bizim çalışmamızın kısıtlılıkları olarak tek merkez deneyimi olması, kısa takip süresi ve hasta sayısının azlığı gibi durumları sayabiliriz. Ayrıca bazı çalışmalarda bakılan fakat bizim bakmadığımız takrolimus ilaç değişkenlik indeksi (IPV), viral enfeksiyon (CMV, BK Virüs) sıklığı gibi bilgiler yoktu. Ayrıca çalışmamız retrospektif tarama bilgileri içermektedir. Burada dizaynın prospektif olup kısa ve uzun etkili takrolimus kullanan ve iki eşleştirilmiş grup ile yapıp karşılaştırma verileri içerseydi sonuçların çok daha anlamlı, değerli olacağı düşüncesindeyiz .

Sonuç olarak uzun etkili takrolimusun, renal transplant hastalarında ilaç sayısını ve sıklığını azaltması, hasta ilaç uyumunu arttırmaktadır. Böylece ilaç değişkenliğini azaltarak sabit düzeyde tutması ve bu şekilde denovo DSA gelişimini azaltarak renal sağkalımda olumlu etkileri olduğu görülmektedir.

Teşekkür

Veri girişinde bize yardımcı olan organ nakli çalışanlarına teşekkür ederiz.

Etik Kurul Onayı

Girişimsel Olmayan Klinik Araştırmalar Etik Kurulu çalışmayı onayladı ve Helsinki bildirgesine uygun olarak yönlendirildi (karar no: B.30.2.AYD.0.00.00-050.06.04/18).

Hasta Onamı

Retrospektif çalışma.

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Analysis of Hematological Parameters According to TSH Levels in Thyroid Patients

Tiroid Hastalarında TSH Düzeylerine Göre Hematolojik Parametrelerin Analizi

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Abstract

Introduction In this study, it was aimed to investigate hematological parameters according to thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels in thyroid patients.

Materials and Methods Thyroid function tests and hemogram data of 5130 thyroid patients admitted to our hospital between January 2019 and August 2021 were analyzed retrospectively.

Results There was no significant difference between hemoglobin, MCH, leukocyte, basophil and thrombocyte levels according to TSH levels. When compared in terms of MCV, a significant difference was found between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) ($p<0.001$) and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) and group 4 (TSH \geq 10). When the neutrophil levels were compared, there were significant differences between group 1 and group 2, group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.99) and group 4. When the lymphocyte levels were compared, there were significant differences between group 1 and group 2 and group 3, and between group 2 and group 3. When monocyte and eosinophil levels were compared, there were significant differences between group 1 and group 4, group 2 and group 3. there were differences. When MPV levels were compared, there were significant differences between group 1 and group 4, and between group 2 and group 3. There were significant differences between the 3rd and 4th groups in terms of MPV levels.

Conclusion It was determined that there was a significant difference between MCV, neutrophil, lymphocyte, monocytes, eosinophil and MCV values.

Keywords Hemoglobin; Hematological parameters; Thyroid Stimulating Hormone.

Öz

Amaç Bu çalışmada tiroid hastalarında tiroid uyarıcı hormon (TSH) düzeylerine göre hematolojik parametrelerin araştırılması amaçlandı.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Ocak 2019-Ağustos 2021 tarihleri arasında hastanemize başvuran 5130 tiroid hastasının tiroid fonksiyon testleri ve hemogram verileri retrospektif olarak incelendi.

Bulgular TSH düzeylerine göre hemoglobin, MCH, lökosit, bazofil ve trombosit düzeyleri arasında anlamlı fark yoktu. MCV açısından karşılaştırıldığında, grup 1 (TSH<0.05) ve grup 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) ($p<0.001$) ve grup 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) ve grup 4 (TSH \geq 10) arasında anlamlı fark bulundu. Nötrofil düzeyleri açısından karşılaştırıldığında grup 1 ve grup 2, grup 3 (TSH=5.0-9.99) ile grup 4 arasında anlamlı farklar vardı. Lenfosit düzeyleri açısından karşılaştırıldığında, grup 1 ile grup 2 ve grup 3 arasında, grup 2 ile grup 3 arasında anlamlı farklar vardı. Monosit ve eozinofil düzeyleri karşılaştırıldığında grup 1 ile grup 4, grup 2 ile grup 3 arasında anlamlı farklar vardı. MPV düzeyleri karşılaştırıldığında grup 1 ile grup 4 arasında, grup 2 ile grup 3 arasında anlamlı farklar vardı. MPV seviyeleri açısından 3. ve 4. grup arasında anlamlı farklar vardı.

Sonuç MCV, nötrofil, lenfosit, monosit, eozinofil ve MCV değerleri arasında anlamlı fark olduğu belirlendi.

Anahtar Kelimeler Hemoglobin; Hematolojik parametreler; Tiroid stimulan hormon.



INTRODUCTION

The thyroid gland is an important endocrine organ located on both sides of the beginning of the trachea as the right and left lobes in the human body. Its main function is to influence many metabolic processes in the body. It makes up the majority of L-thyroxine (T4) and secretes thyroid hormones with a small amount of 3,5,3'-triiodo-L-thyronine (T3). The causes of primary hypothyroidism include Hashimoto's thyroiditis, atrophic thyroiditis, thyroidectomy, drugs, radiotherapy to the neck region, radioactive iodine treatment, retardation in thyroid gland development, and congenital disorders in thyroid hormone synthesis. Hypothyroidism, which is seen due to the insufficiency of the secretion of TSH from the pituitary, is called secondary hypothyroidism. Pituitary tumors, pituitary surgery, radiotherapy, infiltrative diseases, Sheehan syndrome are the most common causes of secondary hypothyroidism. Tertiary hypothyroidism develops as a result of insufficiency of thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH), which is synthesized and released in the hypothalamus, and is rare.¹⁻³

The erythrocyte value is one of the parameters of hematological tests that shows the number of red blood cells in the blood. Erythrocytes, which have a lifespan of 120 days in a normal person, are the most numerous cells in the blood. Platelets have an important role in coagulation. Neutrophils are white blood cells that first appear when a bacterial infection occurs, protecting the body from infections. Neutrophils find harmful bacteria and viruses in the body and begin to fight to destroy them. Lymphocytes are named B and T cells according to their location in the body. The cells that are produced in the bone marrow and remain there are called B cells. These cells are about ¼ of the total lymphocytes. Lymphocytes that come out of the bone marrow and join the blood stream or are included in the lymphatic system are called T cells. Lymphocyte is the main component that makes up the body's defense mechanism. These cells; It protects the body against bacteria, viruses or foreign antigens.⁴

Thyroid diseases are a very common endocrinological problem in clinics. Thyroid diseases, as in other endocrine diseases, mainly progress with symptoms related to excessive production of hormonal activity or underproduction.⁵

Hematological disorders may occur in hypothyroidism. Decreased oxygen demand due to the slowdown of metabolism has the most adverse effects on erythrocytes, among hematological parameters, and causes a decrease in the total erythrocyte level.⁶

Since the effects of thyroid hormones on metabolism are very high, they also affect the levels of other blood parameters. Although there are studies on thyroid diseases, adequate studies have not been conducted on the hematological effects in severe hypothyroidism and other hypothyroid patients with TSH level of 10 µIU/L. Considering the pathogenesis of the disease, the clinical picture and test results in the patients; It is seen that TSH has effects on hematological values. In this study, it was aimed to investigate the effect of changing TSH levels on hematological parameters.

MATERIAL and METHODS

The data of the patients who applied to Sakarya University Training and Research Hospital between January 2019 and August 2021 and whose thyroid function tests and hemogram were studied were retrospectively analyzed. The study is a cross-sectional descriptive study. Age, gender and TSH values of 5130 patients were determined. The study included 991 patients with TSH value <0.5, 2,935 patients with TSH value 0.5 – 4.99, 756 patients with TSH value 5.0 – 9.99, and 448 patients with TSH value ≥10. This study was designed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki Principles and received approval from the Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine Ethics Committee on 04/09/2020. (Ethics no:71522473/050.01.04).

Complete blood count parameters

Hormone tests were performed on ARCHITECT I2000

SR (Abbott, USA), Hemogram tests were performed on CELLDYN 3700 (Abbott, USA).

Statistical analysis

Data analysis was performed by using SPSS-22 for Windows (Statistical Package for Social Science, SPSS Inc. Chicago IL, USA®Z). The variables were investigated using visual (histograms, probability plot) and analytical methods (Kolmogorov-Smirnov) to determine whether or not they are normally distributed. We performed analyses to describe and summarize the distributions of variables. Categorical variables were interpreted by frequency tables. The chi-square test was used to determine whether there was any difference between the groups in terms of quality variables. The continuous variables were expressed as mean and standard deviation or as median and interquartile range, depending on the normality of their distribution. Variables that were not normally distributed were compared using the Kruskal-Wallis test. When binary comparisons were required, Mann-Whitney U test was used. Normally distributed variables were compared using one-way ANOVA test. When an overall significance was observed, pairwise post-hoc tests were performed using Tukey's test. Levene test was used to assess the homogeneity of the variances. The statistically significant two tailed p-value was considered as $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

The age of 991 patients with TSH value < 0.5 mIU/L was

49.4 ± 16.4 , the ratio of female to male was 839/162, the ratio of TSH value was 0.5 to 4.99 mIU/L was 2,909 patients 43.9 ± 17.2 , the ratio of female to male was 2,573 / 362, the ratio of 745 patients with TSH value 5.0 to 9.99 mIU/L was 44.7 ± 16.4 year. The ratio of 16.4 female to male was 662/94, the age of 443 patients with TSH value ≥ 10 mIU/L was 45.7 ± 18.0 female to male ratio was 341/107.

When compared in terms of age, group 1 (TSH <0.5) and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) ($p < 0.001$), group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.99) ($p < 0.001$) and group 4 (TSH ≥ 10) ($p = 0.001$), a significant difference was observed. There was no difference between group 2 and group 3 ($p = 0.626$) and group 4 ($p = 0.142$). In addition, no significant difference was observed between group 3 and group 4 ($p = 0.752$).

When compared in terms of gender distribution, the number of male patients was 725 (14.2%), while the number of female patients was 4405 (85.8%), and there was a significant difference between both genders ($p < 0.001$). While the 4th group was different from all groups in terms of gender, a significant difference was observed between the 1st group and the 2nd group. However, the difference between the 3rd group and the 1st and 2nd groups is not significant. When evaluated in terms of TSH levels, the difference between the groups was significant ($p < 0.001$), and this difference was at the same level among all groups ($p < 0.001$) (Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of TSH levels

Traits	TSH levels* (n=5090)				p value
	<0.5 (n=991)	0.5-4.99 (n=2935)	5.0-9.99 (n=756)	≥ 10 (n=448)	
Age, years	49.4 \pm 16.4	43.9 \pm 17.2	44.7 \pm 16.4	45.7 \pm 18.0	<0.001
Gender, F/M (%)	839/162 (84.7/16.2)	2573/362 (87.7/12.3)	662/94 (87.6/12.4)	341/107 (76.1/23.9)	<0.001
TSH (mIU/L)	0.14 (0.03-0.31)	2.06 (1.23-3.21)	6.50 (5.62-7.73)	18.58 (12.69-37.95)	<0.001

TSH; thyroid-stimulating hormone.
*The results were expressed as median (interquartile range) due to the distribution feature of the variables.

There was no significant difference between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) when compared in terms of MCV, and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) and group 4 (TSH≥10) were found to be significantly different ($p<0.001$). (Figure 1).

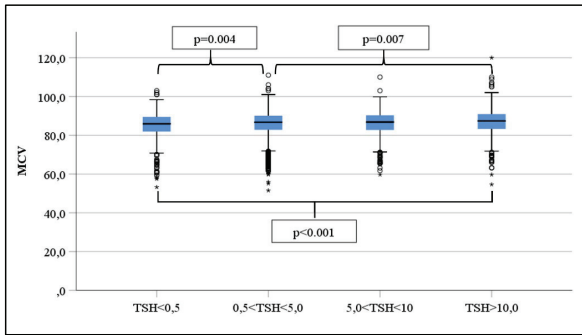


Figure 1. Comparison of groups according to MCV (fl)

When compared in terms of neutrophil levels, between Group 1 (TSH<0.05) and Group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99), Group 1 (TSH<0.05) with Group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.9), and Group 1 (TSH=5.0-9.9) A significant difference was observed between (TSH<0.05) and group 4 (TSH≥10) (Figure 2).

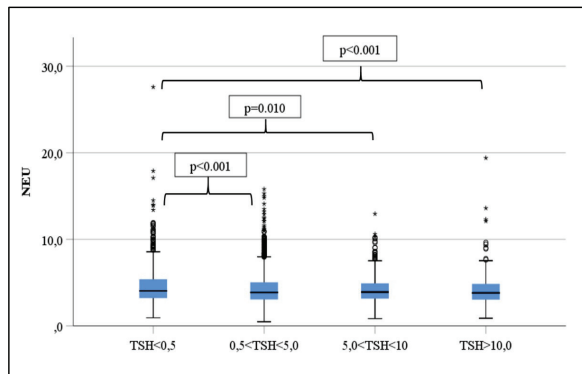


Figure 2. Comparison of groups according to neutrophil count (K/uL)

When compared in terms of lymphocyte levels, between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) ($p<0.001$), group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) and group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.9) (Figure 3).

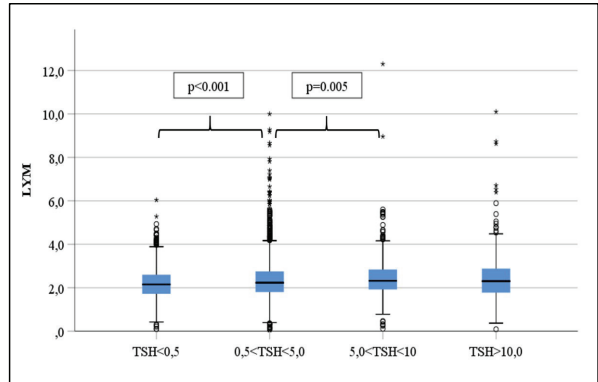


Figure 3. Comparison of groups according to lymphocyte count (K/uL)

When compared in terms of monocyte levels, a significant difference was found between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 4 (TSH≥10), and between group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.9) and group 4 (TSH≥10) (Figure 4).

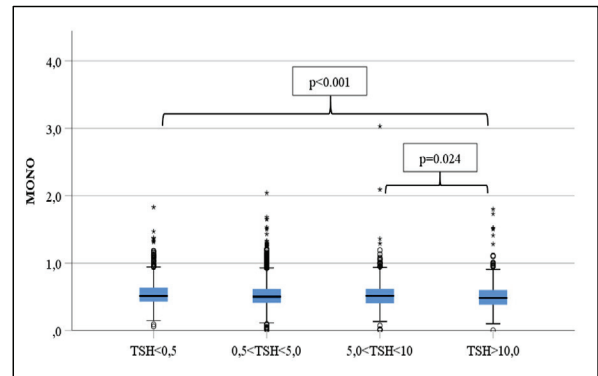


Figure 4. Comparison of groups according to monocyte count (K/uL)

When compared in terms of eosinophil levels, between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 4 (TSH≥10) ($p<0.001$), group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) and group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.9) significant difference was observed (Figure 5).

Compared in terms of MPV levels, between group 1 (TSH<0.05) and group 4 (TSH≥10) ($p<0.001$), group 2 (TSH=0.5-4.99) and group 3 (TSH=5.0-9.9) There was a significant difference between the 3rd group (TSH=5.0-9.9) and the 4th group (TSH≥10) (Figure 6).

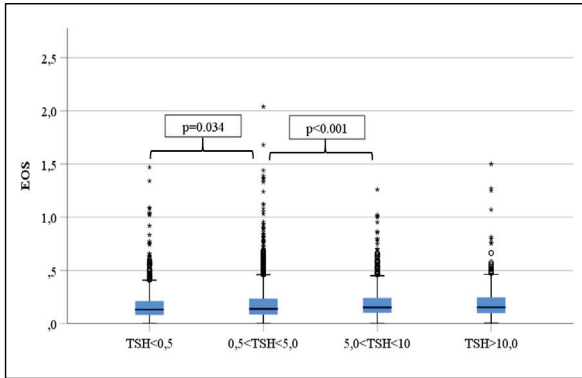


Figure 5. Comparison of groups according to eosinophil count (K/uL)

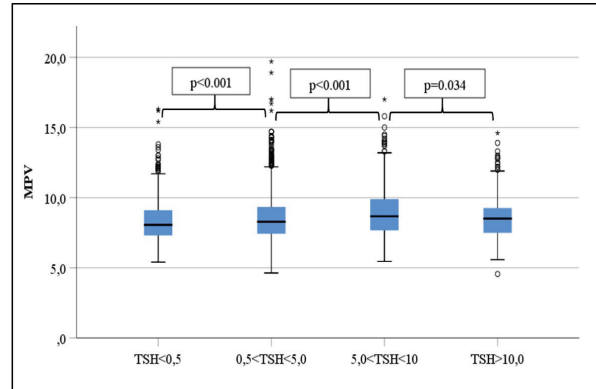


Figure 6. Comparison of groups according to MPV (fl)

Table 2. Comparison of groups according to hemogram parameters

TSH levels* (n=5090)					
	<0.5 (n=991)	0.5-4.99 (n=2909)	5.0-9.99 (n=745)	≥10 (n=443)	p value
Hemoglobin	12.9 (12.0-13.7)	12.7 (11.9-13.6)	12.7 (11.9-13.6)	12.7 (11.7-13.6)	0.219
MCV, femtolitre	85.9 (81.9-89.6)	86.7 (82.8-90.1)	86.8 (82.7-90.4)	87.4 (83.2-91.0)	<0.001
MCH, pg	28.5 (27.1-29.9)	28.8 (27.2-30.0)	28.7 (27.0-30.2)	28.9 (27.2-30.5)	0.065
WBC, 103/mm3	7.16 (5.90-8.73)	7.02 (5.87-8.51)	7.02 (6.03-8.49)	6.94 (5.82-8.26)	0.245
Neu, 103/mm3	4.04 (3.21-5.40)	3.86 (3.06-5.04)	3.91 (3.15-4.93)	3.81 (3.03-4.85)	<0.001
Lym, 103/mm3	2.15 (1.72-2.60)	2.23 (1.80-2.75)	2.32(1.92-2.84)	2.30 (1.77-2.88)	<0.001
Mono, 103/mm3	0.51 (0.43-0.63)	0.50 (0.41-0.62)	0.51 (0.41-0.62)	0.48 (0.39-0.60)	<0.001
Eos, 103/mm3	0.13 (0.08-0.21)	0.14 (0.08-0.23)	0.15(0.10-0.24)	0.15 (0.10-0.25)	<0.001
Bas, 103/mm3	0.06 (0.05-0.08)	0.06 (0.05-0.09)	0.07 (0.05-0.09)	0.07 (0.05-0.09)	0.063
PLT, 103/mm3	250 (215-289)	254 (217-298)	255 (216-295)	247 (212-296)	0.062
MPV, femtolitre	8.06 (7.31-9.11)	8.28 (7.43-9.35)	8.67 (7.67-9.90)	8.51 (7.49-9.27)	<0.001

MCV; mean corpuscular volume, MCH; mean corpuscular hemoglobin, WBC; white blood cells, Neu; neutrophil, Lym; lymphocyte, Mono; monocyte, Eos; eosinophil, Bas; basophil, PLT; platelets, MPV; mean platelet volume.
*The results were expressed as median (interquartile range) due to the distribution feature of the variables.

DISCUSSION

Thyroid hormones are effective on organs and systems and many enzymes in the body. In addition, it has a role in many biochemical events that are effective in development and growth.⁷ Thyroid hormones; It affects the metabolism of tissues and the rate of oxygen use, and both anabolism and catabolism of proteins are dose-dependent. Hypothyroidism significantly affects clinical and laboratory findings. As a result, abnormalities in some blood parameters related to the organs affected are observed. In this study, the hematological parameters of the patients were exam-

ined according to different TSH levels.

The prevalence of hypothyroidism is high and it is more common in women, 95% of the patients are women and it is often seen between the ages of 30-50.⁸ The female to male ratio is approximately 7.2 females to 1 male.⁹ In our study, the number of female patients was 4415, the number of male patients was 725, and the female-to-male ratio was determined as 6.08.

Multiple etiological factors, especially nutritional deficien-

cies and chronic diseases, cause anemia.¹⁰ The most common cause of anemia is bone marrow suppression due to thyroid hormone deficiency and insufficient production of erythropoietin. It has been reported that the mean hemoglobin level of the hypothyroid group was statistically significantly lower than the hyperthyroid group.¹¹ In a study of 1950 hypothyroid patients included in the meta-analysis, the overall prevalence of anemia was found to be 33.77% with a 95% CI (21.53 to 52.95%), with the lowest prevalence rate 5.96% and the highest 62% in all studies,¹⁴ has been reported.¹² In a study conducted in patients with hypothyroidism, it was shown that anemia ranged from 23% to 60%.¹³ In most studies, laboratories used the same anemia values (Hb below 12 g/dL for women and 13 g/dL for men).¹⁴ On the other hand, some authors used a hemoglobin level of less than 14% in men and 12% in women¹⁵ and less than 11 in women, regardless of gender, as criteria for defining anemia.¹⁶ Hemoglobin and hematocrit values of hematological parameters performed in 68 patients with hypothyroid disease were not found to be statistically significant when compared with the control group.¹⁷ In a study of 1500 hypothyroid patients, it was shown that anemia and hypothyroidism were associated, and in these patients, normocytic normochromic anemia and mild anemia were the most common types of anemia.¹⁸ We also found that the hemoglobin values of the patients were below 13 g/dL according to the varying TSH levels and there was no significant difference between the groups.

Lymphocyte, thrombocyte and neutrophil levels are important blood parameters involved in inflammation. Today, it is used in many infectious diseases and tumoral formations.¹⁹ In hypothyroidism, lymphocyte, granulocyte and platelet counts are normal. It was reported that thrombocyte values of the hypothyroid group compared to the hyperthyroid group were not statistically significant.¹¹ In a study conducted in Hashimoto patients with hypothyroidism, it was shown that there was no difference between age, neutrophil, lymphocyte, and platelet counts when compared with the control group.²⁰ In hematological stud-

ies performed in hypothyroid patients, platelet levels were found to be normal.²¹ In our study, no significant difference was found between the platelet values of the patients according to different TSH levels.

In a study of leukocyte, neutrophil, and lymphocyte, which are hematological parameters, performed in 68 patients with hypothyroid disease, it was found that it was not statistically significant when compared with the control group.¹⁷ In our study, it was determined that there was no significant difference between hemoglobin, MCH, leukocyte and basophil levels according to different TSH levels. However, there was a difference between MCV, neutrophil, lymphocyte, monocyte, eosinophil and MPV levels according to TSH levels.

CONCLUSION

According to the results of this study; It was determined that there was no significant difference between the Hb, MCH, WBC, basophil and platelet values of the patients according to different TSH levels, but there was a significant difference between the MCV, neutrophil, lymphocyte, monocyte, eosinophil and MPV values.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Disclosure statement

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Authors' Contributions

MO: Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Writing – Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing. Conceptualization. SY: Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Writing – Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing. TD: Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Writing –Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing.

Our study was initiated after permission from the Sakarya University Faculty of Medicine Ethics Committee (No: 04/09/2020-E.7734).

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The Relationship Between Cardio-Ankle Vascular Index and Clinical Factors with Aortic Valve Sclerosis in Asymptomatic Patients

Asemptomatik Hastalarda Aort Kapak Sklerozu ile Kalp-Ayak Bileği Damar İndeksi ve Klinik Faktörler Arasındaki İlişki

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Abstract

Introduction	This study aimed to examine the relationship between aortic valve sclerosis (AVS) and arterial stiffness in asymptomatic individuals without known cardiovascular (CV) disease. Both AVS and arterial stiffness are associated with atherosclerosis and have been closely related to CV diseases in previous studies. In this study, we aimed to examine the relationship between arterial stiffness assessed by CAVI and AVS.
Materials and Methods	Patients who applied to the cardiology outpatient clinic were included in the study sequentially. Subjects were analyzed according to exclusion criteria. One hundred sixty-five patients were included in the study, and AVS was detected in 35 (21%) of them. The remaining 130 (79%) patients were included in the control group. AVS was measured with echocardiography, and arterial stiffness was measured with the VaSera VS-1000 CAVI device. A CAVI value of 9 and above was accepted as abnormal. Statistics were made according to the group with and without AVS.
Results	CAVI was statistically different between the AVS and control groups (9.47±1.64 vs. 7.60±1.27 p< 0.001). The Pearson correlation test determined the correlation between AVS and increased CAVI values (p< 0.001). In the multivariable logistic regression analysis model, increased CAVI (OR: 2.048, 95%CI 1.183-3.547, p: 0.010) was an independent predictor for AVS. Others were found as age (p:0.026) and diabetes mellitus (p:0.037).
Conclusion	The relationship between AVS and arterial stiffness is associated with the atherosclerotic process. Careful investigation and regular follow-up of asymptomatic individuals with AVS detected during echocardiography or increased CAVI values are important in other CV diseases.
Keywords	Aortic valve sclerosis; Arterial stiffness; Asymptomatic patients; Cardio-Ankle Vascular Index (CAVI).

Öz

Amaç	Bu çalışma, bilinen kardiyovasküler (KV) hastalığı olmayan asemptomatik bireylerde aort kapak sklerozu (AVS) ile arteriyel sertlik arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemeyi amaçlamıştır. Hem AVS hem de arteriyel sertlik ateroskleroz ile ilişkilidir ve daha önceki çalışmalarda KV hastalıklarla yakından ilişkili bulunmuştur. Bu çalışmada, CAVI ile değerlendirilen arteriyel sertlik ile AVS arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemeyi amaçladık.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Kardiyoloji polikliniğine başvuran hastalar sırayla çalışmaya dahil edildi. Olgular dışlama kriterlerine göre analiz edildi. Çalışmaya yüz altmış beş hasta dahil edildi ve bunların 35'inde (%21) AVS tespit edildi. Geriye kalan 130 (%79) hasta kontrol grubuna alındı. Ekokardiyografi ile AVS, VaSera VS-1000 CAVI cihazı ile arter sertliği ölçüldü. 9 ve üzeri CAVI değeri anormal olarak kabul edildi. İstatistikler AVS olan ve olmayan gruba göre
Bulgular	CAVI, AVS ve kontrol grupları arasında istatistiksel olarak farklıydı (9,47±1,64 vs. 7,60±1,27 p< 0,001). Pearson korelasyon testi, AVS ile artan CAVI değerleri arasındaki korelasyonu belirledi (p< 0,001). Çok değişkenli lojistik regresyon analizi modelinde, artan CAVI (OR: 2,048, %95 CI 1,183-3,547, p: 0,010) için bağımsız bir öngörüciydü. AVS. Diğerleri yaş (p:0,026) ve diabetes mellitus (p:0,037) olarak bulundu.
Sonuç	AVS ile arteriyel sertlik arasındaki ilişki aterosklerotik süreç ile ilişkilidir. Ekokardiyografi sırasında AVS saptanan veya CAVI değerleri yüksek olan asemptomatik bireylerin diğer KV hastalıklarda dikkatli araştırılması ve düzenli takibi önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

C-Reaktif Protein, Kardiyovasküler Risk Skoru, Dislipidemiler



INTRODUCTION

In echocardiographic evaluation, aortic valve sclerosis (AVS) means focal thickening and calcification of the aortic valve without obstructing blood flow at the exit of the left ventricle¹. AVS association with age, male gender, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, and smoking suggested an atherosclerotic process in its pathogenesis². AVS prevalence is estimated to be 30% and 40% in 65 and 75 years, respectively^{3,4}. Moderate and severe aortic stenosis was detected at a rate of 6% in the average 7-year follow-up of individuals with AVS who did not cause significant stenosis in the left ventricular outflow tract⁵. In addition to being a precursor to aortic stenosis, AVS is also associated with cardiovascular (CV) diseases^{6,7}. It was significantly related to CV mortality and all-cause mortality, and diseases such as coronary artery disease and stroke¹.

Arterial stiffness results from structural changes in the arterial system due to atherosclerotic changes⁸. Arterial stiffness was accepted as a CV risk factor, and increased stiffness was a mortality marker^{9,10}. Pulse wave velocity (PWV) and cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI) are frequently used as arterial stiffness measurement methods. PWV is affected by blood pressure, body weight, fasting blood sugar level¹¹. CAVI calculates the overall stiffness of the artery from the origin of the aorta to the ankle using the stiffness parameter β and the Bramwell-Hill formula. The most important feature of the CAVI technique is that it is not affected by blood pressure¹². Operator independence and repeatability of CAVI measurement can be shown among other features that are superior to other methods¹³.

This study examined the relationship between arterial stiffness and AVS, which are frequently associated with the atherosclerotic process and CV diseases.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Study Design and Population

This study is a single-center, cross-sectional, prospective study conducted between April 2021 and June 2021. In our

study, 540 patients who applied to the cardiology outpatient clinic and underwent routine echocardiography were evaluated sequentially. Exclusion criteria are determined as coronary heart disease, congenital heart disease, aortic stenosis (transaortic flow velocity >2.5 m/s), symptoms of congestive heart failure or ejection fraction less than 50%, chronic kidney disease (glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <30 ml/min), atrial fibrillation, bicuspid aortic valves, bacterial endocarditis, symptomatic peripheral artery disease, history of stroke or transient ischemic attack, and malignancy. All patients were analyzed according to exclusion criteria, and 165 patients were eligible for the study. Demographic characteristics, blood tests, echocardiographic values, and CAVI results of the patients included in the study were recorded. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight (kg)/height (m²). Smoking was defined as “current smokers” or “non-smokers”. Biochemical measurements including kidney function tests, fasting blood glucose, total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL), high-density lipoprotein (HDL), and triglycerides (TG) were performed. Hematological parameters were measured as part of an automated complete blood count (CBC) using a Mindray BC-5800 automated hematology analyzer (Mindray Medical Electronics Co. Shenzhen, China). Patients with systolic blood pressure > 140 mm Hg and/or diastolic pressure > 90 mm Hg or using antihypertensive medication were considered hypertensive. Patients with fasting glucose of 126 mg/dL and/or using pharmacological treatment were considered diabetic. Total cholesterol > 200 mg/dL or use of medication was defined as hypercholesterolemia.

The study protocol was approved by the local Ethics Committee (Board date, number: 04.04.2021, 2021/57). Following the Declaration of Helsinki and the International Conference on Compliance with Good Clinical Practices, the study was conducted, and written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Echocardiographic Evaluation

An echocardiographic examination was performed with the Philips IE33 system (Philips Medical Systems, Andover, MA, USA). Echocardiograms were evaluated for routine parameters and AVS by the same experienced cardiologist following the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) recommendations. Left ventricular (LV) end-systolic volume (ESV), end-diastolic volume (EDV), and ejection fraction (EF) are derived from the apical biplane Simpson's rule. Left ventricular mass index (LVMI) was calculated according to the body surface area of the patients (DuBois formula). Tricuspid lateral annular systolic velocity (S') was measured, as assessed by tissue Doppler imaging, in the lateral segment of the right ventricle from the apical 4-chamber view. AVS was considered increased calcification or thickening in any or all three leaflets of the aortic valve without creating left ventricular stenosis (transaortic flow velocity < 2.5 m/s) (Figure 1).

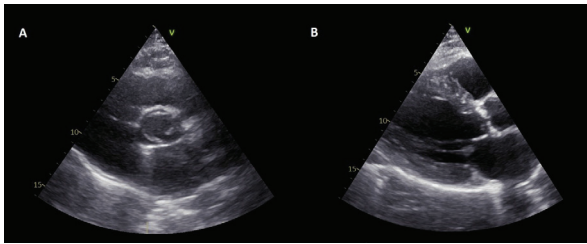


Figure 1: A: Parasternal short axis aortic valve view, B: Parasternal long axis aortic valve view

Measurement of Arterial Stiffness

Arterial stiffness was measured by the CAVI method. CAVI was calculated using the VaSera VS-1000 (Fukuda Denshi Co. Ltd, Tokyo) instrument. Measurements were made after 10 minutes of rest. The subject was placed on his/her back with the head in the middle position. Sleeves were attached to both arms and feet. A microphone was placed on the chest. Electrography, phonocardiography, pressure, and waveforms of brachial and ankle arteries were measured. CAVI was calculated automatically by the instrument. CAVI values were accepted as normal (CAVI < 8), borderline ($8 \leq$ CAVI < 9), and abnormal (CAVI \geq

9), following the manufacturer and previous studies. Our study was based on an abnormal CAVI value of 9 and above.

Statistical Analysis

SPSS 21.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used for statistical analysis. Kolmogorov-Smirnov and homogeneity of variance tests were performed to select the appropriate analysis technique. Independent samples t-test was used for two-group comparison of normally distributed variables, and Mann-Whitney U-test was used for two-group comparison of non-normally distributed variables. Categorical variables were compared using the Chi-square test. Data were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables and median and interquartile ranges for skewed-distributed continuous variables. Categorical variables were presented as numbers and percentages. All variables were evaluated individually in univariable logistic regression analysis to determine predictive parameters of AVS. Significant variables ($p < 0.05$) were considered a potential risk marker and included in the multivariable logistic regression analysis. A multivariable logistic regression test determined independent predictors. ROC analysis was used to determine the cut-off levels of CAVI that could predict AVS detection. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Five hundred forty patients were evaluated for our study. According to exclusion criteria, 165 patients were included in the study after analysis. Among the patients included in the study, AVS was detected in 35 patients (15 females and 20 males; mean age 66.14 ± 12.03 years). AVS was not detected in 130 patients (61 females and 69 males; mean age 50.69 ± 11.22 years) included in the study and was determined as the control group. When all patients included in the study were evaluated, the mean age was determined as 53.96 ± 13 years and the frequency of AVS was 21%. The basic characteristics of the individuals included in the study are presented in Table-1. There was a statisti-

cal difference between two groups in age (66.14 ± 12.03 vs 50.69 ± 11.22 $p < 0.001$), hypertension (HT) (24 (68%) vs 48 (37%) $p < 0.001$) and diabetes mellitus (DM) (5 (14%) vs 4 (0.03%) $p < 0.01$). There was no difference between the two groups in other demographic characteristics and blood tests. Echocardiographic values and CAVI results of the patients are presented in Table-2. When the two groups were evaluated, left ventricular mass index (LVMI), interventricular septum (IVS), posterior wall (PW), left ventricular outflow tract velocity were found to be higher in the AVS group (101.8 (64.62-177.72) vs 82.13 (51.04-177.56), 12 (9-15) vs 9 (8-16), 12 (9-13) vs 9 (8-13), 104.0 ± 22.85 vs 96.62 ± 17.88 ; $p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, $p < 0.045$, respectively). There was no statistical difference between other echocardiographic parameters. CAVI (9.47 ± 1.64 vs 7.60 ± 1.27 $p < 0.001$) was higher in the AVS group than in the control group. (Figure 2,3)

The correlation between AVS and increased CAVI values was determined by Pearson correlation test ($p < 0.001$, Correlation Coefficient: 0.494). In the univariable regression analysis performed for all variables one by one to determine the predictors of AVS, age ($p < 0.001$), HT ($p < 0.001$), DM ($p < 0.018$), IVS ($p < 0.001$), PW ($p < 0.001$), LVMI ($p < 0.001$) and CAVI ($p < 0.001$) were associated with AVS. In multivariate analysis, age (OR: 1.070, 95%CI 1.008-11.365, $p < 0.026$), DM (OR: 6.633, 95%CI 1.117-39.379, $p < 0.037$) and CAVI (OR: 2.048, 95%CI 1.183-3.547, $p < 0.010$) were shown to be independent predictors for AVS (Table 3). In the ROC curve analysis for the estimation of AVS detection, the CAVI cut-off value was 8,475 with a sensitivity of 71.4% and a specificity of 71.5% (area under curve: 0.824 , 95 % CI, 0.740-0.908, $p < 0.001$; Figure 4). In the univariable regression analysis performed for all variables one by one to determine the predictors of the increased CAVI

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of the study population

	Aortic Valve Sclerosis n=35	Control Group n=130	P
Age (years)	66.14±12.03	50.69±11.22	<0.001a
Sex (F/M) (n) (%)	15 / 20	61 / 69	0.668b
BMI (kg/m ²)	28.8±4.51	28.67±4.58	0.877a
Hypertension (n)	24 (%68)	48 (%37)	0.001b
Diabetes Mellitus (n)	5 (%14)	4 (%0.03)	0.010b
Hyperlipidemia	1 (%0.03)	11 (%0.08)	0.257b
Smoking (n)	5 (%0.14)	18 (%0.14)	0.947b
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	13.51±1.55	13.92±1.41	0.156a
WBC (×10 ⁹ /L)	6.34±1.57	6.66±1.59	0.316a
PLT (×10 ⁹ /L)	211.74±52.06	224.95±49.73	0.193a
MPV (fl)	8.56±0.95	8.67±0.80	0.489a
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.8 (0.4-1.1)	0.75 (0.5-1.6)	0.384c
Urea (mg/dL)	13 (7-35)	15 (8-31)	0.070c
Glucose (mg/dL)	94 (80-125)	91 (76-424)	0.064c
LDL-C (mg/dL)	128.3±32.36	130.3±33.15	0.767a
HDL-C (mg/dL)	47.53±12.25	47.13±11.39	0.871a
Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)	199.31±50.52	206.84±39.59	0.395a
Triglyceride (mg/dL)	138.48±81.1	157.05±88.13	0.293a

aIndependent t test, bChi-square test, cMann-Whitney U test

value, age ($p < 0.001$), HT ($p < 0.001$), PLT ($p:0.002$), IVS ($p < 0.001$), PW ($p < 0.001$), LVMI ($p < 0.001$), S ($p:0.001$) and AVS ($p < 0.001$) were associated with increased CAVI. Multivariate analysis showed that age (OR: 1.101, 95%CI

1.040-1.165, $p: 0.001$) and AVS (OR: 4.045, 95%CI 1.149-14.242, $p: 0.030$) were independent predictors of increased CAVI (Table 4).

Table 2: Comparison of the Echocardiographic and CAVI parameters

	Aortic Valve Sclerosis	Control Group	p
CAVI	9.47±1.64	7.60±1.27	<0.001 ^a
LV-EF (%)	60 (55-65)	60 (60-70)	0.240 ^b
LV-EDD (mm)	45 (34-50)	45 (40-55)	0.643 ^b
LV-ESD (mm)	30 (22-35)	30 (24-38)	0.352 ^b
LV-EDV index (mm/m ²)	24.57 (18.78-39.71)	24.94 (17.32-40.09)	0.721 ^b
LV-ESV index (mm/m ²)	16.91 (12.52-27.12)	16.95 (11.32-27)	0.652 ^b
LVMI gr/m ²	101.8 (64.62-177.72)	82.13 (51.04-177.56)	<0.001 ^b
IVS (mm)	12 (9-15)	9 (8-16)	<0.001 ^b
PW (mm)	12 (9-13)	9 (8-13)	<0.001 ^b
LVOT velocity (cm/s)	104.0±22.85	96.62±17.88	0.045 ^a
S (cm/s)	9 (6.1-15)	10 (6-12.5)	0.150 ^b

^aIndependent t test, ^bChi-square test, ^cMann-Whitney U test

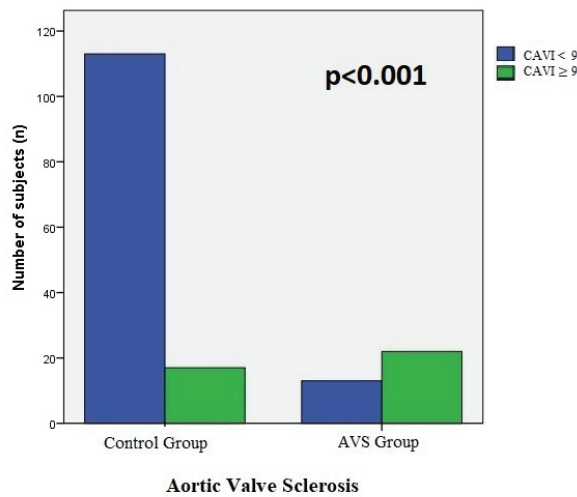


Figure 2: Frequency of aortic valve sclerosis in different cut off value of cardio-ankle vascular index

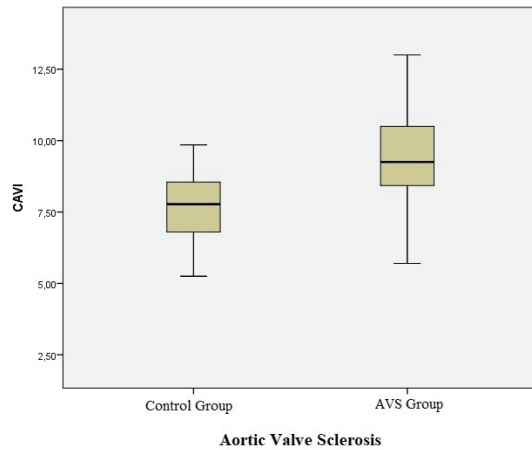


Figure 3: Cardio-ankle vascular index was increased in aortic valve sclerosis (AVS) patients, compared to the control subjects.

Table 3: Univariable and Multivariable analysis showing the association between parameters and Aortic Valve Sclerosis

	Univariable Analysis				Multivariable analysis			
	OR	95 %CI		p	OR	95 %CI		p
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper	
Age	1.113	1.070	1.157	<0.001	1.070	1.008	11.365	0.026
Gender	1.179	0.555	2.503	0.669				
BMI	1.007	0.928	1.092	0.876				
HT	3.727	1.679	8.275	0.001	0.806	0.252	2.583	0.717
DM	5.250	1.329	20.738	0.018	6.633	1.117	39.379	0.037
Smoker	1.037	0.356	3.022	0.947				
Creatinine	1.229	0.134	11.230	0.855				
LDL	0.998	0.986	1.011	0.765				
HG	0.820	0.623	1.079	0.157				
WBC	0.874	0.672	1.136	0.315				
PLT	0.995	0.987	1.003	0.193				
LV-EF	0.854	0.674	1.082	0.190				
LV-EDD	1.003	0.904	1.114	0.950				
LV-ESD	1.036	0.902	1.190	0.620				
IVS	1.794	1.393	2.310	<0.001	0.670	0.335	1.338	0.256
PW	2.386	1.716	3.319	<0.001	2.777	1.232	6.257	0.014
LVMI	1.031	1.016	1.046	<0.001	0.998	0.975	1.021	0.861
S	0.901	0.766	1.059	0.206				
CAVI	3.150	2.012	4.929	<0.001	2.048	1.183	3.547	0.010

BMI; Body mass index, CAVI; Cardio-ankle vascular index, DM; Diabetes Mellitus, HG; Hemoglobin, HT; Hypertension, IVS; Interventricular septum, LDL; Low density lipoprotein cholesterol, LV-EDD; Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter, LV-EDV; Left ventricular end-diastolic volume, LV-EF; Left ventricular ejection fraction, LVMI; Left ventricular mass index, PLT; Platelets, PW; Posterior wall, S; Tricuspid lateral annular systolic velocity, WBC; White blood cell.

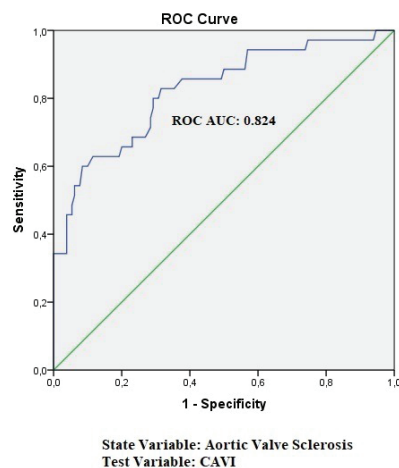


Figure 4: Receiver operating characteristic curve of CAVI to predict aortic valve sclerosis. The area under curve was : 0.824 , 95 % CI, 0.740-0.908, $p < 0.001$). The optimal cutoff level of CAVI was 8.475 with 71.5% specificity and 71.4% sensitivity.

Table 3: Univariable and Multivariable analysis showing the association between parameters and Aortic Valve Sclerosis

	Univariable Analysis				Multivariable analysis			
	OR	95 %CI		p	OR	95 %CI		p
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper	
Age	1.140	1.091	1.191	<0.001	1.101	1.040	1.165	0.001
Gender	0.760	0.370	1.561	0.455				
BMI	1.005	0.929	1.087	0.909				
HT	5.598	2.496	12.553	<0.001	1.313	0.430	4.011	0.633
DM	1.667	0.397	7.000	0.485				
Smoker	0.882	0.305	2.555	0.818				
Creatinine	1.348	0.159	11.438	0.785				
LDL	0.993	0.981	1.006	0.288				
HG	0.845	0.650	1.098	0.207				
WBC	0.976	0.767	1.240	0.840				
PLT	0.986	0.978	0.995	0.002	0.988	0.976	1.000	0.058
LV-EF	1.061	0.890	1.265	0.506				
LV-EDD	1.044	0.943	1.154	0.407				
LV-ESD	1.034	0.905	1.182	0.620				
IVS	1.872	1.451	2.416	<0.001	1.307	0.667	2.560	0.435
PW	2.074	1.530	2.812	<0.001	0.764	0.325	1.799	0.538
LVMI	1.037	1.021	1.053	<0.001	1.003	0.978	1.029	0.809
S	0.733	0.608	0.883	0.001	0.769	0.581	1.020	0.068
AVS	11.249	4.787	26.436	<0.001	4.045	1.149	14.242	0.030

BMI; Body mass index, CAVI; Cardio-ankle vascular index, DM; Diabetes Mellitus, HG; Hemoglobin, HT; Hypertension, IVS; İnterventricular septum, LDL; Low density lipoprotein cholesterol, LV-EDD; Left ventricular end-diastolic diameter, LV-EDV; Left ventricular end-diastolic volume, LV-EF; Left ventricular ejection fraction, LVMI; Left ventricular mass index, PLT; Platelets, PW; Posterior wall, S; Tricuspid lateral annular systolic velocity, WBC; White blood cell.

DISCUSSION

AVS has been associated with CV diseases and mortality in many previous studies. However, after adjusting for factors that increase CV risks, such as age and gender, in some studies, the presence of AVS is associated with reduced CV risks¹⁴. However, recent evidence has clearly shown that AVS is associated with CAD, stroke, and CV mortality, according to the meta-analysis result published by Mateo et al. in 2018². At the same time, AVS can be considered a potential prognostic factor in patients without clear evidence of coronary artery disease¹⁵. Since AVS is closely associated with CV risk factors such as age, male gender, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, and smoking, it is thought that atherosclerosis plays a role in the pathophysiology of AVS¹⁶. Studies have revealed the

role of other cells and factors, especially fibroblasts, in this atherosclerotic process¹⁷.

Arterial stiffness was thought to occur due to atherosclerotic changes. It has been determined that the pathophysiology of arterial stiffness is an active process driven by vascular smooth muscle cell (VSMC) transdifferentiation¹⁸. Isolated systolic hypertension may develop as a result of the development of stiffness in the large arteries¹⁹. As the artery hardens, it increases left ventricular afterload and lowers coronary perfusion pressure, resulting in LV remodeling, LV dysfunction, valve dysfunction, and aortic root enlargement even in the absence of coronary artery disease²⁰. Arterial stiffness was associated with CV mortality and morbidity regardless of organ damage that it

causes²¹.

The frequency of AVS in our study population was found to be 21%. Our mean age is 53.96 ± 13 , and in a meta-analysis with a similar mean age (mean age: 54%), the prevalence of AVS was found to be 9%¹⁴. In the same meta-analysis, a study with a mean age of 57 years reported a 27% prevalence of AVS. In our population, a prevalence was found above the average in the literature, but in a range consistent with known studies. The link between AVS and arterial stiffness may be associated with the atherosclerotic process and inflammation^{22,23}. In our study, we examined the relationship between arterial stiffness and AVS. We found a significant relationship between increased CAVI values and the presence of AVS. We also found that arterial stiffness was an independent predictor of AVS. According to the multivariable regression analysis, apart from arterial stiffness, age and diabetes mellitus were also predictors of AVS. As the patients admitted to the cardiology outpatient clinic were recruited sequentially due to the design of our study, our study about the prevalence of AVS in the population will provide a small idea. Also, the control group was taken as sequential patients, and a natural comparison environment was formed.

The relationship between AVS and age has been confirmed in all prevalence studies^{3,4,14}.

For the relationship between AVS and diabetes mellitus, there are studies in the literature showing that diabetes mellitus is an independent predictor of AVS, which strongly supports our data^{24,25}.

Since arterial stiffness is not a procedure that cardiologists can easily look at in a busy hospital working environment, regression analysis was performed in our study to determine independent predictors of increased CAVI values. In the created model, we found that AVS, which we can easily detect visually during routine echocardiography, is an independent predictor of increased CAVI values. According

to multivariable regression analysis, age was found to be an independent predictor for increased CAVI values, apart from AVS.

Celik et al. examined the relationship between arterial stiffness and AVS previously study²⁶. In their study, arterial stiffness was calculated by measuring the carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV) which showed no relationship between arterial stiffness and AVS. In systematic reviews, PWV measurement is found to be affected by age and blood pressure factors²⁷. The fact that the blood pressure effect was not evaluated in their study is the main limitation of the study.

In the study of Korkmaz et al., the relationship between the CAVI method and arterial stiffness and AVS was investigated²⁸. In their study, a relationship was found between arterial stiffness and AVS. The patient population was randomly selected during the study design, and similarity was expressed between the two groups. In our study, the patients were included in the study sequentially, and the differences in demographic characteristics between the two groups were revealed.

During routine echocardiography, cardiologists should perform a visual inspection for AVS. The relationship between AVS and arterial stiffness should be considered depending on the common pathophysiological processes and common causes. Patients with AVS or arterial stiffness should be approached carefully regarding atherosclerotic diseases and should be called for control intermittently. Also, it should be noted that arterial stiffness can directly cause coronary artery disease with the rupture of atherosclerotic plaques, and AVS can cause aortic stenosis over the years^{29,5}.

Study Limitations

The most important limitation of our study is the relatively small study population after exclusion criteria. In addition, as in previous studies, some borderline CAVI values

are statistically in the normal category since values of 9, and above are taken as abnormal CAVI values. Finally, our study is a cross-sectional study and will be limited in demonstrating the pathophysiological mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

In this study, we showed the relationship between arterial stiffness measured using the CAVI technique and AVS. Both parameters may be markers of the atherosclerotic process in individuals without known CV disease.

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Conflicts of interest

None declared

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İskemi/Reperfüzyon Hasarında Hesperidinin Nöroprotektif Etkisi

Neuroprotective Effects of Hesperidin In Cerebral Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury

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Öz

Amaç	Hesperidin güçlü antioksidan özelliklere sahip bir bitki flavonoididir. Bu özelliği ile hesperidinin, iskemik hasarın önlenmesinde etkili bir ajan olabileceği düşünülmüştür. Bu çalışmanın amacı, sıçanlarda serebral iskemii/reperfüzyon hasarına karşı hesperidinin farklı dozlarının koruyucu etkisini araştırmaktır.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Çalışmada kontrol, sham, iskemii/reperfüzyon (I/R), hesperidin 50 (Hes 50) ve hesperidin 100 (Hes 100) olmak üzere 5 grup hazırlandı. Her grupta 8 adet olmak üzere toplam 40 adet erkek Sprague-Dawley cinsi sıçan kullanıldı. İskemi oluşturmak için Pulsinelli ve Brierly'nin dört damar oklüzyon modeli kullanıldı. 30 dakika iskemii ve 30 dakika reperfüzyon uygulandı. Hesperidin, iskemiden 30 dakika önce intraperitoneal olarak enjekte edildi. Histopatolojik çalışma için beyin dokusuna hematoxilen eozin boyaması uygulandı. Ayrıca beyin dokusunda SOD, CAT, MDA ve total protein seviyeleri belirlendi. Moleküler belirteç olarak ise TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon seviyeleri RT-qPCR tekniği ile ölçüldü.
Bulgular	I/R grubunda kontrol grubuna göre CAT ve SOD değerlerinde azalma, MDA değerinde artış, toplam protein değerinde hafif artış saptandı. Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarında, I/R grubu ile kıyaslandığında CAT, SOD değerleri arttı, MDA ve toplam protein değerleri önemli ölçüde azaldı. I/R grubunda kontrol grubuna kıyasla hipokampusun CA1 bölgesinde önemli bir nöron kaybı gözlemlendi. Hes 50 grubunda I/R grubuna göre hipokampustaki nöron hasarının azaldığı ve nöron sayısının istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde arttığı bulundu. Beyin dokusundaki TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon değerleri, I/R grubunda kontrol ve sham gruplarına göre anlamlı derecede yüksekti. Hes 50 grubunda I/R grubuna kıyasla mRNA ekspresyon miktarında önemli bir azalma gözlemlendi (p<0,05).
Sonuç	Bu çalışmanın sonuçlarına göre, antioksidan potansiyeli olan hesperidin, serebral iskemii/reperfüzyonun neden olduğu oksidatif stres hasarına karşı nöroprotektif ve anti-inflamatuar etkiler göstermiştir. Düşük doz hesperidin (Hes 50) grubunda anti-inflamatuar ve nöroprotektif etkiler öne çıkarken, hem Hes 50 hem de Hes 100 gruplarında antioksidan etkinin daha baskın olduğu tespit edilmiştir.
Anahtar Kelimeler	Serebral iskemii; reperfüzyon; hesperidin; koruyucu etki.

Abstract

Introduction	Hesperidin is a plant flavonoid with powerful antioxidant properties. With this feature, hesperidin was thought to be an effective agent in the prevention of ischemic damage. The aim of this study was to investigate the protective effect of different doses of hesperidin against cerebral ischemia/reperfusion injury.
Materials and Methods	In this study, 5 groups were prepared as control, sham, ischemia/reperfusion (I/R), hesperidin50 (Hes 50), and hesperidin100 (Hes 100). 40 male Sprague-Dawley rats, 8 in each group, were used. Four vessel occlusion model was used to induce ischemia. 30minutes of ischemia and 30minutes of reperfusion were applied. Hesperidin was injected intraperitoneally 30minutes before ischemia. Hematoxylin eosin staining were performed, SOD, CAT, MDA, and total protein levels were determined in brain tissue. As a molecular marker, TNF- α mRNA expression levels were measured by RT-qPCR technique.
Results	In the I/R group, CAT and SOD values decreased, the MDA value increased, a slight increase in the total protein value was found compared to the control group. CAT, SOD values increased, MDA and total protein values decreased significantly in Hes 50 and Hes 100 groups. A significant loss of neurons was observed in the CA1 region of the hippocampus in the I/R group compared to the control group. It was found that neuron damage in the hippocampus decreased and the number of neurons increased statistically significantly in the Hes 50 group compared to the I/R group. TNF- α mRNA expression values in brain tissue were significantly higher in the I/R group than control and sham groups. A significant decrease in the amount of mRNA expression was observed in the Hes50 group compared to the I/R group (p<0.05).
Conclusion	According to the results of this study, hesperidin, which has antioxidant potential, showed neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory effects against oxidative stress damage caused by cerebral ischemia/reperfusion. While anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective effects were prominent in the low-dose hesperidin (Hes 50) group, the antioxidant effect was more dominant in both Hes 50 and Hes 100 groups.
Keywords	: Cerebral ischemia; reperfusion; hesperidin; protective effect.



GİRİŞ

İskemi/reperfüzyon (İ/R) hasarı, dokunun oksijen yoksunluğu ile başlayan, serbest oksijen radikallerinin üretimi ile devam eden ve inflamatuvar yanıtla genişleyen karmaşık bir patolojik süreçtir.¹ İskemik inme dünyada önemli bir ölüm nedenidir ve önemli sakatlıklara neden olur. İnmenin önemli bir kısmı serebral damarların trombozu veya embolik oklüzyonu sonucu oluşur.² İnme ve serebral İ/R hasarının patogenezinde süper oksit radikallerinin önemli rolü vardır. Bu nedenle serebral İ/R tedavisinde süper oksit radikallerini süpürücü antioksidan uygulamalar ile ilgili çalışmalara ilgi artmıştır.

Hesperidin (3,5,7-trihidroksi-4-metoksiflavanon) limon, greylift, portakal, domates ve kirazda bol miktarda bulunan bir bitki biyoflavonoididir. Mükemmel radikal süpürücü aktiviteye, analjezik, anti-kanserojen, anti-hipertansif, anti-viral, anti-alerjik, radyoprotektif, anti-inflamatuvar, antioksidan etkiler gibi farmakolojik aktivitelere sahiptir.³⁻⁷

Bu çalışmada, histopatolojik çalışma için beyin dokularına hematoksilen eozin boyama uygulandı. Biyokimyasal inceleme için ise oksidatif hasarın önemli belirteçlerinden olan MDA (malondialdehit), SOD (süper oksit dismutaz), CAT (katalaz) seviyeleri ve toplam protein değerleri tespit edildi. MDA, lipid peroksidasyonunun en hassas göstergelerinden biridir.⁸ Yağ asitleri, O₂ ve metal katalizörler (Fe²⁺, Cu⁺) bulunduğu sürece lipid peroksidasyonu yeni serbest radikallerin oluşumuna yol açar. Bu nedenle reperfüzyon periyodu lipid peroksidasyonu için oldukça uygundur.⁸ Lipid peroksidasyonu nedeniyle membran geçirgenliğinde bozulma, membrana bağlı Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase enzim aktivitelерinde azalmaya neden olur. Sonuç olarak protein sentezi, değişimi ve protein sentezi için hayati önem taşıyan K⁺ ve Mg⁺ konsantrasyonları engellenir. Artan lipid peroksidasyonu ayrıca proteolitik lizozomal enzimlerin ve mitokondriyal matris enzimlerinin sitoplazmaya salınmasına neden olabilir. Bu, hücre içi proteolize ve hücresel yıkıma yol açar. Bu koşullar altında, SOD ve katalaz gibi antioksidan enzimleri içeren antioksidan savunma sistemi,

nöronal hücrelerin reaktif oksijen türlerinin neden olduğu ölüme karşı direncinde çok önemli bir role sahiptir.⁹

Çalışmada ayrıca, iskemi ile miktarı artan inflamasyon faktörlerinden biri olan TNF- α (tümör nekroz faktör) geninin mRNA ekspresyon miktarı belirlendi. Yapılan çalışmalar, postiskemik yanıtta TNF- α , IL-1 β ve IL-6 gibi proinflamatuvar sitokinlerin salınımının arttığını göstermektedir. İskemi-reperfüzyon sonucu TNF- α , IL-1 β ve IL-6 düzeylerindeki artış ile mortalite, akut solunum sıkıntısı sendromu ve çoklu organ yetmezliği riskinde artış arasında ilişki vardır.¹⁰ İskemi-reperfüzyon sırasında artan hücre içi Ca²⁺ tarafından yönlendirilen patolojik süreç, kalsiyum pirofosfat ve ürik asit oluşumudur. Bu süreç, iskemi-reperfüzyon hasarını şiddetlendiren TNF- α ve IL-1 β (interlökin-1 β) gibi inflamatuvar faktörleri aktive eden sinyaller gönderir. Bu sitokinler, diğer sitokinlerin ve kemokinlerin ekspresyonunu arttırarak derin iltihaplanma ile daha fazla hücre hasarını tetikleyecek bir sitokin fırtınasını ateşler.¹¹ Bu çalışmada, güçlü bir antioksidan etkiye sahip olan hesperidin deneysel olarak oluşturulan serebral iskemi/reperfüzyon hasarına karşı beyin dokusunda farmakolojik, histopatolojik ve biyokimyasal koruyucu etkileri araştırılmıştır.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

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Kimyasal Malzemelerin Hazırlanması

Hesperidini çözmek için çözücü olarak dimetil sülfoksit (DMSO, Sigma-Aldrich, ABD) kullanıldı (Hesperidin, C₂₈H₃₄O₁₅, Moleküler ağırlık: 610,56, saflık \geq %95, CAS Numarası: 520-26-3, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc. Dallas, Texas, ABD).

Deney Grupları

Çalışmada 40 adet erkek Sprague-Dawley sıçan kullanıldı. Gruplar şu şekilde oluşturuldu;

- Kontrol grubu (n=8): Bu gruptaki sıçanlara herhangi bir uygulama yapılmadı.
- Sham grubu (n=8): Bu gruptaki sıçanlara cerrahi işlem uygulandı ancak iskemi/reperfüzyon hasarı oluşturulmadı. 1.5 ml/kg DMSO cerrahi işlemden 1 saat önce intraperitoneal olarak verildi.¹²
- İskemi/Reperfüzyon (İ/R) grubu (n=8): Bu gruptaki sıçanlara yarım saat iskemi ve yarım saat reperfüzyon uygulandı.
- Hesperidin 50 mg/kg + İ/R grubu (Hes 50) (n = 8): Bu gruptaki sıçanlara iskemiden bir saat önce 50 mg/kg hesperidin intraperitoneal olarak verildi. Ardından yarım saat iskemi ve yarım saat reperfüzyon uygulandı.
- Hesperidin 100 mg/kg + İ/R grubu (Hes 100) (n = 8): Bu gruptaki sıçanlara iskemiden bir saat önce 100 mg/kg hesperidin intraperitoneal olarak verildi. Ardından yarım saat iskemi ve yarım saat reperfüzyon uygulandı.

Serebral İskemi/Reperfüzyon Oluşturma Metodu

Çalışmamızda iskemi oluşturmak için Pulsinelli ve Brierly'nin dört damar oklüzyon modeli kullanıldı.¹³ Anestezi ve analjeziden sonra boyun dorsalinin orta hattında bir kesi yapıldı ve bipolar elektrokoter ile her iki Arteria vertebralis C1 foramen alaris boyunca koterize edildi. Koter uygulamasından 24 saat sonra sıçanların boynuna, anestezi altında orta hat kesisi yapıldı. Mikrodiseksiyon ile karotid arterlere ulaşıldı ve her iki Arteria carotis communis vasco bulldog klemp ile 30 dakika kapalı tutuldu. Daha sonra klemp çıkarılarak 30 dakika reperfüzyon uygulandı.

Deney sonunda sıçanlar sakrifiye edildi ve geniş bir kraniotomi ile beyinleri çıkarıldı. Beyin dokuları üç bölüme ayrıldı. İlk parça histopatolojik inceleme için %10 formaldehit solüsyonuna konuldu. İkinci ve üçüncü parçalar biyokimyasal ve moleküler çalışmalar için -80°C'de saklandı.

Histolojik İnceleme

% 10'luk formaldehit solüsyonuna konulan beyin dokuları, rutin doku fiksasyon işlemlerinden sonra parafine gömüldü ve mikrotom ile 5-10 µm'lik kesitler alındı. Dokulara hematoksilin eozin boyaması yapıldı. Kesitler mikroskop (Nikon, ECLIPSE Ci-E) altında incelendi, hipokampusun CA1 bölgesi fotoğraflandı ve ImageJ görüntü analiz programı ile analiz edildi.

Biyokimyasal Analizler

Biyokimyasal analiz için sıçanlardan uygun şekilde alınan beyin parçaları analize kadar -80°C'de saklandı. Analizlerden önce beyin dokuları, pH 7.4, 50 uM ve 0.25 M sakkaroz içeren soğutulmuş bir sodyum fosfat tamponu içinde 8000 rpm'de 5 dakika homojenize edildi. Homojenatlar, 10.000 rpm'de +4°C'de 30 dakika santrifüj edildi. Elde edilen süpernatantta, SOD ve CAT enzim aktiviteleri, MDA seviyeleri ve toplam protein miktarı belirlendi.

Katalaz (CAT) aktivite seviyesinin belirlenmesi

CAT aktivitesi, Aebi¹⁴ metoduna göre ölçüldü. Analizin prensibi, CAT enzimi tarafından hidrojen peroksitin ayrıştırılma (H₂O₂) hız sabitinin belirlenmesi esasına dayanır. Bir birim (1U.) CAT, 37°C'de, 60 saniyede 1 µmol hidrojen peroksiti dönüştüren enzim aktivitesine eşittir. CAT aktivitesi, spektrofotometrik olarak, 240 nm'de bir dakika boyunca, numune ve kör absorbans değişimleri gözlemlenerek ölçüldü. Sonuçlar U/mg protein olarak hesaplandı.¹⁵

Süperoksit dismutaz (SOD) aktivite seviyelerinin belirlenmesi

SOD aktivitesinin belirleme yöntemi, SOD'un 6-hidroksidopaminin (6-OHDA) otoksidasyonu üzerindeki inhibisyon etkisinin spektrofotometrik ölçümüne bağlıdır.^{16,17} Bir ünite SOD aktivitesi, 37°C'de 1 dakikada 6-OHDA'nın otoksidasyonunu % 50 oranında azaltan enzim miktarı olarak kabul edilir. Spektrofotometrik ölçümler oksidasyonun 60. saniyesine kadar 490 nm'de yapıldı. Çünkü otoksidasyon hız eğrisi ilk dakikada sabittir. Sonuçlar protein miktarları tespit edilerek U/mg protein olarak hesaplandı.

Malondialdehit (MDA) seviyesi tayini

Lipid peroksidasyon indeksi için; yaygın olarak benimsenen bir yöntem olan ve lipid peroksidasyonunun bir ürünü olan MDA seviye tayini, Draper ve Hadley'in¹⁸ çifte ısıtma metodu yöntemiyle belirlendi. Yöntemin prensibi, tiyobarbitürik asidin (TBA), MDA ile reaksiyon sırasında oluşan pembe rengin 532 nm'de spektrofotometrik ölçümü esasına dayanır. MDA konsantrasyonları, MDA için 1,1,3,3-tetraetoksipropan kullanılarak MDA-TBA kompleksinin standart çözeltisi yardımıyla hesaplandı. Sonuçlar nmol/mg protein olarak verildi.

Protein miktarı tayini

Doku homojenatlarının protein konsantrasyonu Lowry ve ark.'nın yöntemine göre sıgır serum albümini kullanılarak mg/ml olarak hesaplandı.¹⁹

İstatistiksel Analizler

Elde edilen biyokimyasal analiz sonuçları IBM SPSS Statistics 20 (IBM, New York, USA) paket programı kullanılarak analiz edildi. Gruplar arası karşılaştırmalarda ANOVA testi, grup içi karşılaştırmalarda Post-Hoc Tukey testi kullanıldı. $p < 0,05$ değeri istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

Moleküler Analiz

Moleküler çalışma için -80°C 'de saklanan beyin parçalarından RNA izolasyonu öncesinde beyin dokuları homojenizatör ile homojenize edildi. Ardından santrifüj ile elde edilen süpernatanttan High Pure RNA Tissue Kit-Version 09 (Roche) kullanılarak mRNA izolasyonu yapıldı. Ardından Transcriptor First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit-Version 6.0 (Roche) ile cDNA elde edildi. Örnek cDNA'ları PCR grade su ile 1:10 oranında dilüe edildi. TNF- α geninin mRNA ekspresyon miktarı, FastStart Essential DNA Green Master (Roche) kullanılarak kit prosedürlerine uygun olarak RT-qPCR ile tespit edildi. Bunun için aşağıda dizilimi verilmiş özel üretim primerler kullanıldı. RT-qPCR sonucunda örnekler için CP değerleri ve melting eğrileri belirlendi. Elde edilen veriler LightCycler 480 Instrument

Software Version 1.5.1 kullanılarak analiz edildi.

Sıçan TNF- α (Forward):

5' TGAACCTTCGGGGTGATCG 3'

Sıçan TNF- α (Reverse):

5' GGGCTTGTCACCTCGAGTTTT 3'

Housekeeping Gen

Normalizasyon için housekeeping gen olarak β -Aktin geni kullanıldı. Kullanılan β -Aktin geninin özel üretim primer dizilimleri aşağıda verilmiştir.

β -Aktin (Forward): 5' CCCGCGAGTACAACCTTCT 3'

β -Aktin (Reverse): 5' CGTCATCCATGGCGAACT 3'

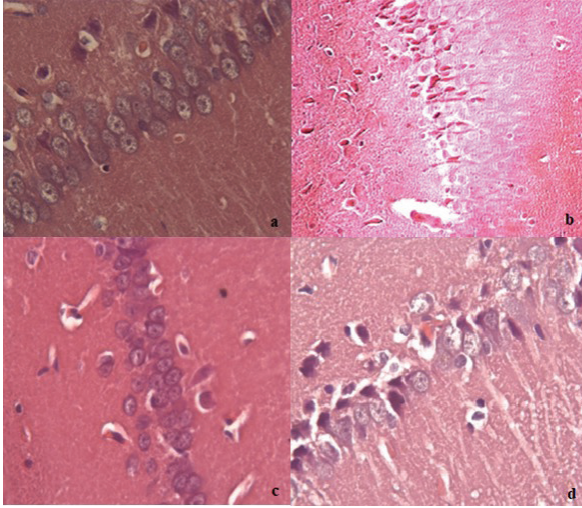
BULGULAR

Histolojik Bulgular

Kontrol ve sham gruplarında, hipokampusun CA1 bölgesinde nöronların çoğunda, perikaryonun merkezinde homojen boyanmış bir sitoplazma ile çevrili yuvarlak veya oval şekilli belirgin nükleollusa sahip bir nükleus vardı (Şekil 1.a). Sham ve kontrol grubunda hipokampal nöronlar belirli bir düzende sıralanmıştı.

İ/R grubundaki sıçan hipokampusunun CA1 nöronları, dejenerasyonla tutarlı morfolojik değişiklikler gösterdi. İ/R grubunda nöronların çoğu dejenerasyonun bir göstergesi olan sitoplazmalarının ve nükleusunun yoğunlaşması nedeniyle koyu bir boyanma gösterdiler. İ/R grubunda belirgin bir CA1 nöron kaybı gözlemlendi. İ/R grubunda nöronlar, artan hücreler arası mesafe dolayısıyla aralıklı ve gelişigüzel dağılmış bir şekilde düzensiz bir sıralanma gösterdiler (Şekil 1.b).

Hes 50 grubunda İ/R grubuna kıyasla, hipokampustaki nöron hasarı azalmış ve istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir şekilde nöron sayısı artmıştı ($p=0,0018$) (Şekil 1.c). Hes 100 grubunda ise nöronal hasar ve nöron sayısı bakımından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark gözlemlenmedi ($p=0,961$) (Şekil 1.d).



Şekil 1. a. Kontrol grubunda hipokampusun CA1 bölgesinde nöronların boyanmaları homojen, çekirdekleri büyük ve yuvarlak ve nükleolusları belirgindir. b. İ/R grubunda hipokampusdaki CA1 bölgesinde çok sayıda piknotik nükleuslu koyu ve küçülmüş nöron gözlemlenmiştir. İ/R grubunda nöron kaybı dolayısıyla nöronlar arası mesafe geniş ve düzensiz bir dağılım gözlemlenmiştir. c. Hes 50 mg/kg grubunda hipokampusun CA1 bölgesinde az sayıda hasarlı nöron gözlemlenmiştir. d. Hes 100 mg/kg grubunda hipokampusun CA1 bölgesinde çok sayıda hiperkromatik nöron ve nöron kaybı gözlemlenmiştir, H&E, 40X.

Biyokimyasal Bulgular

Biyokimyasal analiz sonuçları Tablo 1'de verilmiştir.

Tablo 1. Grupların biyokimyasal analiz sonuçlarının karşılaştırılması.					
	Kontrol (n=8)	Sham (n=8)	İ/R (n=8)	Hes 50 (n=8)	Hes 100 (n=8)
CAT (U/mg. protein)	0.98±0.12 ^a	0.81±0.17 ^a	0.93±0.24 ^a	0.97±0.31 ^b	1.13±0.24 ^b
SOD (U/mg. protein)	5.53± 0.72 ^a	5.43±0.85 ^a	4.44 ± 1.08 ^b	6.33±0.95 ^c	6.87±0.55 ^c
MDA (nmol/mg. protein)	9.34±0.65 ^a	10.31±0.61 ^a	17.32±1.13 ^b	12.55±0.82 ^c	11.43±0.70 ^d
T. Protein (mg/ml)	88.50±0.24 ^a	91.30±0.81 ^a	90.80±0.72 ^a	90.30±0.60 ^a	83.70±0.19 ^a

Sonuçlar ortalama ± SD olarak verilmiştir.
* : Bir parametreye ait değerler birbirleri ile istatistiksel anlamlılık bakımından karşılaştırılmış ve anlamlılık düzeyi harf ile gösterilmiştir. Yatay düzlemde aynı harflerle gösterilen değerler arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark yoktur, (p> 0.05), farklı harflerle gösterilen değerler ise birbirinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı şekilde farklıdır (p <0.05).

CAT enzim aktivite seviyesi

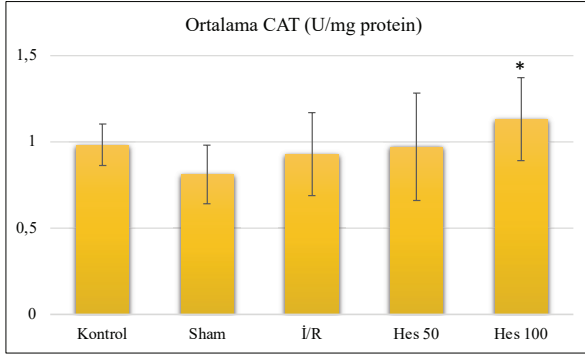
CAT enzim aktivite düzeyi kontrol grubunda 0,98±0,32, sham grubunda 0,81±0,27, reperfüzyon sonrası İ/R grubunda 0,93±0,64, Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarında ise sırasıyla 0,97±0,88 ve 1,13±0,24 U/mg protein olarak bulunmuştur.

CAT değerleri açısından kontrol ve sham grupları arasında anlamlı bir fark gözlenmemiştir. (p=0,165). İ/R grubunda CAT enzim aktivite düzeyindeki azalma kontrol grubuna göre hafif bir düşüş göstermesine rağmen istatistiksel olarak anlamlı değildir (p = 0.989). Hes 50 grubundaki CAT enzim aktivite düzeyindeki artış İ/R grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulunmazken (p=0.965), Hes 100 grubunda istatistiksel olarak anlamlıdır (p=0.029). Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarının CAT değerleri, kontrol ve İ/R grupları ile karşılaştırıldığında anlamlı olarak artmıştır (sırasıyla p=0.086, p=0.000). Hes 50 ve Hes 100 grupları arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark yoktur (p=0.125) (Şekil 2).

SOD enzim aktivite seviyesi

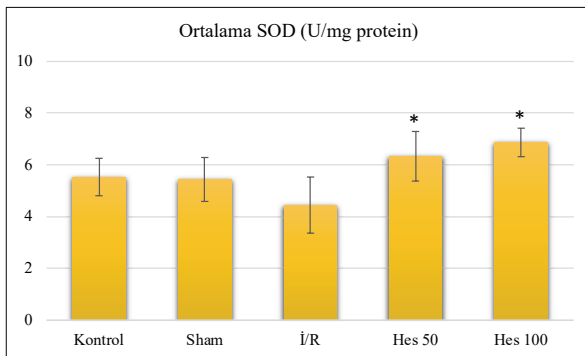
SOD enzim aktivite düzeyi kontrol grubunda 5,53±0,72, sham grubunda 5,43±0,25, reperfüzyon sonrası İ/R grubunda 4,44±1,08, Hes 50 grubunda 6,33±0,95 ve Hes 100

grubunda $6,87 \pm 0,55$ U/mg protein olarak bulunmuştur.



Şekil 2. Grupların ortalama CAT (katalaz) seviyeleri (* İ/R grubuna kıyasla $p < 0.05$).

Kontrol ve sham grupları arasında SOD değerleri açısından istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark tespit edilmemiştir. İ/R grubundaki SOD enzim aktivite düzeyindeki düşüş, kontrol ve sham grupları ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlıdır ($p=0.006$), ($p=0.0014$). İ/R grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarının SOD enzim aktivite düzeyi anlamlı olarak yükselmiş ve kontrole yakın bir değere ulaşmıştır ($p=0.000$), ($p=0.000$). Hes50 ve Hes100 grupları arasında SOD değerleri açısından anlamlı bir fark bulunmamıştır ($p=0,380$), Sham grubu ile Hes 50, Hes 100 grupları arasında anlamlı istatistiksel fark bulundu ($p=0.0031$), ($p=0.0000$). (Şekil 3)

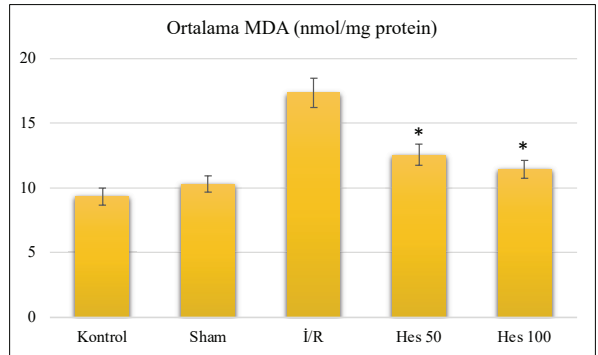


Şekil 3. Grupların ortalama SOD (süperoksit dismutaz) seviyeleri (* İ/R grubuna kıyasla $p < 0.05$).

MDA seviyeleri

MDA seviyesi kontrol grubunda 9.34 ± 0.2 nmol/mg ve sham grubunda 10.31 ± 0.6 nmol/mg iken, reperfüzyon sonrası İ/R grubunda 17.32 ± 0.1 nmol/mg'a yükselmiştir. Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarında ise sırasıyla 12.55 ± 0.8 ve 11.43 ± 0.7 nmol/mg'a düşmüştür.

Grupların MDA değerleri incelendiğinde, İ/R grubundaki MDA düzeyi artışı kontrol grubuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlıdır ($p = 0,000$). MDA seviyeleri, Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarında İ/R grubu ile kıyaslandığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede azalmıştır (sırasıyla $p = 0,000$, $p = 0,000$). Hem Hes 50 hem de Hes 100 gruplarının MDA değerlerindeki düşüş kontrole yakın gerçekleşmiştir. Hes 50 ve Hes 100 grupları arasında ise istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark tespit edilmiştir. ($p = 0,007$) (Şekil 4).



Şekil 4. Grupların ortalama MDA (malondialdehit) seviyeleri (* İ/R grubuna kıyasla $p < 0.05$).

Toplam protein seviyesi

Toplam protein seviyesi kontrol grubunda $88,50 \pm 0,2$, sham grubunda 91.30 ± 0.8 , reperfüzyon sonrası İ/R grubunda 90.80 ± 0.7 , Hes 50 grubunda 90.30 ± 0.6 ve Hes 100 grubunda ise $83,70 \pm 0,1$ mg/ml olarak bulunmuştur.

Kontrol grubuna göre İ/R grubunun toplam protein düzeyindeki artış, istatistiksel olarak anlamlı değildir. ($p = 0.954$). Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarının toplam protein seviyesi İ/R grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında bir miktar düşmüştür fakat bu düşüş istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulunmamıştır

($p = 1.000$), ($p = 0.225$). Toplam protein değerleri açısından Hes 50 ve Hes 100 grupları arasında da anlamlı bir fark yoktur. ($p = 0.290$).

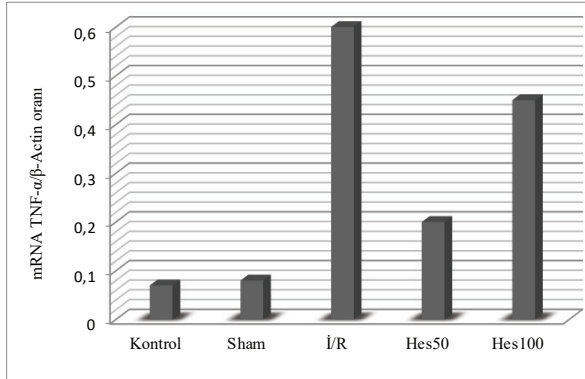
Moleküler analiz sonuçları

Beyin dokularından RNA izole edildikten sonra TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon değerleri, RT-qPCR tekniği ile belirlendi. Sonuçlara göre, beyin dokusunda mRNA ekspresyon değerleri açısından kontrol grubu ile sham grubu arasında fark gözlenmemiştir.

TNF- α mRNA ekspresyonunun, kontrol ve sham gruplarına kıyasla İ/R grubunda önemli ölçüde daha yüksek olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

İskemi/reperfüzyon öncesi koruyucu olarak 50 mg/kg hesperidin uygulanan Hes 50 grubunda mRNA ekspresyon miktarında İ/R grubuna göre anlamlı bir azalma gözlenmiştir. Hes 100 grubunda ise İ/R grubuna göre TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon miktarında hafif bir azalma saptanmıştır. Fakat bu azalma istatistiksel olarak anlamlı değildir.

Grupların TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon seviyeleri Şekil 5'te verilmiştir.



Şekil 5. Grupların TNF- α mRNA ekspresyon seviyeleri

TARTIŞMA

Beyin oksidatif stres hasarına karşı çok hassastır. Çünkü beynin oksidatif metabolik aktivite hızı yüksek, antioksidan kapasitesi nispeten düşüktür ve nöronal onarım yetersizdir. Bu sebeple iskemi durumlarında oksidatif stresin sebep olduğu hasarı en aza indireyecek koruyucu antioksidan uygulamalar önem arz etmektedir.²⁰ Hesperidin, lipofilik yapıya sahip metoksillenmiş bir narenciye flavonoididir. Diğer flavonoidlerden daha yüksek bir antioksidan etkiye sahiptir. Hücrel antioksidan inhibitör enzimleri aktive etme yeteneğini koruyan 3 hidroksil grubuna sahiptir.⁴ Bu nedenle hesperidin, iskeminin erken evresinde inflamatuvar yanıtı önlemesi ve antioksidan savunma sistemini aktive etmesi, iskemik hasarı azaltması açısından önemlidir. Hesperidinin sıçan serebral iskemi modelinde beyin yaralanmalarını hafiflettiği görülmüştür.²¹ Biz çalışmamızda birçok polifenol bileşikte olduğu gibi potansiyel bir antioksidan etkiye sahip olan hesperidinin serebral iskemi reperfüzyon hasarına karşı koruyucu etkilerini araştırdık.²²

Önceki çalışmalarda, deneysel iskemi/reperfüzyon yaralanma modelinin oluşturulma süreleri organlara göre değişiklik göstermiş, hatta bazı çalışmalarda aynı organ üzerinde farklı süreler bile uygulanmıştır. İskemi süresinin 10 dakika, 30 dakika, reperfüzyon süresinin ise 15 dakika, 20 dakika ve 24 saat olduğu yayınlar bulunmaktadır.^{9,23} Bu çalışmada 30 dakika iskemi/30 dakika reperfüzyon süresi ile iskemi/reperfüzyon hasarı oluşturulmuştur.

Antioksidanların kan-beyin bariyerini geçme yeteneği, potansiyel bir nöroprotektif ajan olarak kabul edilmeleri için temel bir ön koşuldur. Önceki çalışmalara göre, hesperidinin de kan beyin bariyerini geçebildiği tespit edilmiştir. Hesperidinin nöroprotektif etkisi, hücrel antioksidan savunma mekanizmalarını kolaylaştırması ve kan-beyin bariyerini geçebilen güçlü radikal süpürücü özelliklere sahip olması ile açıklanabilir.^{22,24,25}

Farklı organlarda İ/R yaralanma modellerinde hesperidi-

nin antioksidan ve antiinflamatuvar etkileri gösterilmiştir. Miyokardiyal, intestinal, testis İ/R yaralanmalarına karşı hesperidinin koruyucu etkilerine dair çalışmalar bulunmaktadır.^{5,26,27}

Bu çalışmanın sonuçlarına göre, hesperidinin, serebral İ/R hasarına bağlı oksidatif stres ve inflamasyonu azaltmada etkili olduğu bulunmuştur. Fakat doza bağlı olarak farklı etkiler görülmüştür. Chen ve arkadaşları²⁸ hesperidinin etkilerinin doza bağımlı olduğuna ve hücre tipine göre değişebileceğine dikkat çekmiştir. Çalışmamızda 50 mg/kg dozunda hesperidin ile hipokampus hücrelerinde nöroprotektif etki gözlenirken, 100 mg/kg dozunda gözlenmedi. Bu durumu hesperidinin doza bağımlı etkisi ile açıklayabiliriz.

Daha önceki çalışmalarda İ/R hasarına karşı 50 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg hesperidin dozları kullanılmıştır.²⁹⁻³² Gaur ve arkadaşları³³ serebral İ/R yaralanma modelinde 50 ve 100 mg/kg dozlarda hesperidin kullanmış ve oksidatif strese karşı antioksidan özellikler tespit etmişlerdir. Benzer şekilde Kumar ve Kumar³⁴'in yaptığı çalışmada da hesperidinin 50 mg/kg dozunun nöroprotektif etkisi olduğu bildirilmiştir. Çalışma sonuçlarımız bu çalışmaların sonuçları ile tutarlılık göstermektedir.

Kumar ve arkadaşları,³⁵ hiperhomosisteinemi nörotoksisite üzerine yaptıkları çalışmalarında, üç farklı dozda hesperidin kullanılmışlardır. Hesperidin'in 25 mg/kg dozunda koruyucu etkisi bulunmazken, 50 ve 100 mg/kg dozlarında koruyucu etkisi olduğu gözlenmiştir. 50 ve 100 mg/kg dozlarında hesperidinin serebral korteks ve hipokampus bölgesinde nörodejenerasyonu azaltıcı etkileri olduğu belirtilmiştir.³⁵

Tsai ve arkadaşları³⁶ insan kondrosit hücrelerinde hesperidinin doza bağlı antioksidan ve anti-inflamatuvar etkilerini araştırmıştır. Çalışmada hesperidinin antioksidan aktivitesinin doza bağımlı olduğunu belirtmişler ve özellikle yüksek doz hesperidin verilen grupta oksidatif stresin

arttığını ve sitotoksitenin geliştiğini bulmuşlardır. Düşük doz hesperidin kullandıklarında ise bu etkilerin tam tersini görmüşlerdir.³⁶

CAT ve SOD beyindeki endojen antioksidan savunma enzimleridir, bu da beyin İ/R hasarına karşı antioksidan potansiyeli olduğunu gösterir. SOD enziminin ana işlevi, hücreleri oksidatif hasara karşı korumaktır. Benzer şekilde, CAT enzimi ise hücreleri peroksitlerin zararlı etkilerinden ve çeşitli reaktif oksijen türleri reaksiyonlarından korur. İskemik organ dokusunda antioksidan enzim aktiviteleri önemli ölçüde azalır, bu da dokuyu oksidatif strese daha duyarlı hale getirir.²² MDA ise, oksidatif stresin önemli göstergelerinden olan lipid peroksidasyonun belirtecidir.

Önceki çalışmalar, hesperidinin antioksidan ve radikal süpürücü etkileri olduğunu göstermektedir. Kumar ve Kumar,³⁴ hesperidinin MDA düzeylerinde azalmaya, SOD ve CAT düzeylerinde artışa neden olduğunu ve oksidatif stresi azaltan antioksidan bir yapıya sahip olduğunu bildirmişlerdir. Yine başka bir çalışmada, hesperidinin sisplatin hasarına bağlı negatif SOD, CAT enzim aktiviteleri ve lipid peroksidasyon seviyeleri üzerinde iyileştirici etkisi olduğu belirlenmiştir.³⁷

Çalışma modelimizde, serebral İ/R, lipid peroksidasyonundaki artış ve antioksidan savunma sisteminin bileşenlerinde bir azalma yoluyla oksidatif stresi önemli ölçüde indüklemiştir. Bu çalışmanın verilerine göre İ/R uygulaması ile beyin dokusunda özellikle SOD seviyesi önemli ölçüde azalırken, MDA seviyesi anlamlı olarak artmıştır. Koruyucu olarak hesperidin uygulanan grupta bu değerlerde anlamlı bir düzelmeye tespit edilmiştir. Bu veriler, hesperidinin hem serbest radikallerin salınımını hem de hücre zarlarının oksidatif hasarını engelleyebileceği sonucuna varan önceki çalışmalarla oldukça tutarlıdır.^{5,22,38}

TNF- α , sistemik inflamasyonda rol oynar ve apoptotik hücre ölümüne neden olan bir faktördür.³⁹ Yapılan çalışmalarda, serebral İ/R hasarından sonra TNF- α mRNA eks-

presyonunda bir artış bildirilmiştir.^{22,40} Meng ve arkadaşları⁴¹ miyokardiyal İ/R yaralanma modelinde, hesperidinin antiinflamatuvar aktivitesini ve artmış TNF- α seviyesini azaltıcı etkisini göstermişlerdir. Benzer şekilde Rizza ve arkadaşları⁴² da hesperidinin TNF- α seviyelerindeki azaltıcı rolüne ve antiinflamatuvar özelliklerine dikkat çekmişlerdir. Heo ve arkadaşları⁴³ hesperidinin omurilik dokusundan proinflamatuvar sitokin üretimini baskılayarak TNF- α düzeylerini azalttığını göstermişlerdir. Nasab ve arkadaşları⁴⁴ farelerde travmatik beyin hasarında sekonder olarak gelişen depresyon modelinde hesperidinin nöroprotektif etkisini araştırmış ve hesperidinin inflamatuvar stokinleri (TNF- α , IL-1 β) azalttığını belirtmişlerdir. Bu çalışmalar, hesperidinin serebral iskemi/reperfüzyon hasarının iyileştirilmesi üzerindeki etkilerinin, antioksidan özelliklerine ek olarak TNF- α proinflamatuvar sitokinlerini de inhibe ederek ortaya çıktığını göstermektedir.

Bu çalışmada, beyin dokusunda TNF- α geninin mRNA ekspresyonu, kontrole göre İ/R grubunda önemli ölçüde artmıştır. mRNA ekspresyonunun, özellikle Hes 50 grubunda kontrole yakın bir değere düştüğü tespit edilmiştir. Serebral İ/R, beyin dokusunda histopatolojik hasar ve apoptoz insidansını artırır. Global beyin İ/R yaralanma modellerinde, hipokampusun piramidal hücreleri iskemiye en duyarlı hücreler olduğundan, bu bölgelerdeki hücre kaybı hasar miktarını değerlendirmede bir kriter olarak kabul edilir.⁴⁵

Yapılan çalışmalara göre İ/R hasarı Caspas 3 işaretli apoptotik hücre sayısında artışa neden olmaktadır.^{21,46} Meng ve arkadaşları,⁴¹ miyokardiyal İ/R çalışmasında hesperidinin Caspas 3 aktivitesinde önemli bir azalmaya neden olduğunu göstermiştir. Öztanır ve arkadaşları,²¹ Gaur ve Kumar,²⁹ Wang ve Chui,⁴⁷ çalışmalarında hesperidinin nöronal apoptozu önlemede etkili olduğunu bildirmişlerdir.

Bu çalışma bulgularına göre, İ/R grubundaki sıçan hipokampusunun CA1 nöronları dejenerasyonla uyumlu morfolojik değişiklikler göstermiştir. İ/R grubundaki

nöronların çoğu, sitoplazmalarının ve çekirdeklerinin yoğunlaşması nedeniyle dejenerasyonun bir göstergesi olan koyu boyanma görülmüştür. İ/R grubunda önemli miktarda CA1 nöron kaybı gözlenmiştir. Hücreler arasındaki mesafe arttığı için nöronlar aralıklı ve rastgele dağılmış ve düzensiz bir şekilde sıralanmışlardır.

Serebral İ/R modelimizde (dört damar oklüzyon modeli), İ/R hasarı, nöronların apoptotik durumunun göstergesi olan Caspas 3 boyanmış hücre sayısında bir artışa neden olmuştur. Koruyucu olarak hesperidin uygulaması, İ/R hasarı nedeniyle artan Caspas 3 etiketli hücrelerde önemli bir azalma sağlamıştır. Hes 50 ve Hes 100 gruplarının hipokampus bölümlerinde hücrelerin yapılarının daha iyi korunduğunu söyleyebiliriz. Bu veriler dikkate alındığında sonuçlarımız literatürle benzerlik göstermektedir.

Bu çalışmada sadece bir ilaç grubunun olması ve kullanılan ilacın etki mekanizmasının net olmaması gibi kısıtlılıklar bulunmaktadır. Çalışmada tek bir ilacın (hesperidin) iki farklı dozunun etkileri karşılaştırılmıştır. Sonuçlar, etkinliği kanıtlanmış başka bir ilaçla karşılaştırılarak desteklenebilir. Ayrıca çalışmada hesperidinin iskemi-reperfüzyon hasarına karşı koruyucu etkisi belirlenmiş ancak etki mekanizması çalışılmamıştır. Elde edilen sonuçlar immün-histokimyasal verilerle güçlendirilebilir. Bu konu ile ilgili yapılacak daha fazla çalışmaya ihtiyaç bulunmaktadır.

SONUÇ

Sonuç olarak, bu çalışmanın verilerine göre, güçlü bir antioksidan olan hesperidin, iskemi/reperfüzyon nedeniyle oluşan serbest radikalleri nötralize eder, beyindeki nöron kaybını önler ve beyin daha fazla hasar görmesini engeller.

İnsanlarda iskemi-reperfüzyon hasarı oluşmadan önce hesperidin profilaktik olarak kullanılarak mevcut risklerden kaçınılabilir. Bunun için hesperidin içeren besinlerle beslenme alışkanlıkları düzenlenebilir. Bir egzersiz programıyla da desteklendiğinde trombolitik riskleri azaltmak

mümkün olabilir.

Teşekkür

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Yazar Katkısı

Fikir – SÇ, FÖ; Veri toplanması ve/veya işlenmesi – SÇ, SA, FÖ, HÇ; Analiz ve/veya yorum - SÇ, SA, SK; Yazıyı yazan – SÇ, FÖ.

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Yazarlar arasında herhangi bir çıkar çatışması bulunmamaktadır.

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The Relationship between Attachment Styles and Emotion Regulation Difficulties on Adolescents with Psychiatric Disorders

Ergenlerdeki Bağlanma Stilleri ve Duygu Düzenleme Güçlükleri ile
Psikiyatrik Bozuklukları Arasındaki İlişki

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Abstract

Introduction In this study, we aimed to compare the attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties of adolescents with psychiatric disorders and healthy adolescents, and to examine the factors affecting attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties.

Materials and Methods In this case-control study, DSM-5 diagnostic system was used for psychiatric diagnoses of adolescents, Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF) was used to measure adolescents' levels of emotional dysregulation, and Relationships Scales Questionnaire(RSQ) was used to assess attachment styles.

Results Major depressive disorder (MDD) (42.9%) was the most common psychiatric diagnosis. The lowest DERS-SF total score and the highest secure attachment were found in the control group ($p<0.001$; $p=0.005$, respectively). DERS-SF total score and dismissive attachment had the highest MDD; fearful attachment was in the anxiety disorders and preoccupied attachment was in the obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) group. In the patient group, a positive correlation was found between the DERS-SF total score and attachment style fearful ($r=0.303$), dismissive ($r=0.301$), and preoccupied ($r=0.349$) scores, and a negative correlation was found with the secure score ($r=-0.239$) ($p<0.05$). There was no significant relationship between DERS-SF total and attachment styles in the control group ($p>0.05$).

Conclusion In our study, secure attachment was highest and emotion regulation difficulties were lowest in the healthy group. This study is important in terms of showing the positive effects of developing secure attachment and effective emotion regulation strategies in the field of preventive mental health.

Keywords Psychiatric disorder, Emotional dysregulation, Attachment, Adolescent

Öz

Amaç Bu çalışmada psikiyatrik bozukluğa sahip ergenler ile sağlıklı ergenlerin bağlanma stilleri ve duygu düzenleme güçlüklerini karşılaştırmayı, bağlanma stilleri ve duygu düzenleme güçlüklerini etkileyen faktörleri incelemeyi amaçladık.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Bu vaka-kontrol çalışmasında ergenlerin psikiyatrik tanıları için DSM-5 tanı sistemi, ergenlerin duygu düzenleme güçlüğü düzeylerinin ölçülmesi amacıyla Duygu Düzenleme Güçlüğü Ölçeği-Kısa Form (DDG-K) ve bağlanma stillerini değerlendirmek için İlişki Ölçekleri Anketi (İÖA) uygulandı.

Bulgular Psikiyatrik tanılardan en fazla majör depresif bozukluk (MDB) (%42,9) tanısı vardı. DDG-K total skoru en düşük, güvenli bağlanma ise en yüksek kontrol grubunda saptandı (sırasıyla $p<0,001$; $p=0,005$). DDG-K total skoru ve kayıtsız bağlanma en yüksek MDB; korkulu bağlanma anksiyete bozukluklarında ve saplantılı bağlanma OKB grubunda idi. Hasta grubunda DDG-K toplam skoru ile bağlanma stillerinden korkulu ($r=0,303$), kayıtsız ($r=0,301$) ve saplantılı ($r=0,349$) skorları arasında pozitif yönde, güvenli skoru ($r=-0,239$) ile negatif yönde zayıf bir ilişki bulunurken ($p<0,05$), kontrol grubunda bu değişkenler arasında önemli bir ilişki bulunmamıştır ($p>0,05$).

Sonuç Çalışmamızda sağlıklı grupta güvenli bağlanma yüksek, duygu düzenleme güçlükleri en düşüktü. Bu çalışma güvenli bağlanma ve etkili duygu düzenleme stratejileri geliştirilmesini koruyucu ruh sağlığı alanındaki olumlu etkisini göstermesi açısından önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler Psikiyatrik bozukluk, Duygu düzenleme güçlüğü, Bağlanma, Ergen



GİRİŞ

Attachment is an emotional bond that begins with a child's seeking of closeness with a caregiver, particularly in stressful situations, and has consistency and continuity¹. Attachment is not limited to childhood but continues throughout later developmental stages such as adolescence and adulthood, and lasts throughout life². In adolescence, attachment is strongly influenced by early attachment relationships, and it is observed that securely attached adolescents are closer and more supportive in their peer groups compared to other adolescents³.

It is believed that insecure attachment may play a determining role in the psychopathologies that a person may experience later, and secure attachment may be associated with more healthy psychiatric processes⁴. It is thought that children who are not securely attached are more difficult to cope with negative life events in the future and may be prone to mood disorders¹.

Emotion regulation refers to the process of increasing or decreasing both negative emotions such as anger, fear, and sadness, and positive emotions such as happiness and excitement in accordance with a person's goals or desires, or maintaining the emotion⁵. Difficulties in emotion regulation are associated with psychiatric disorders such as anxiety and depression, as well as coping and problem-solving skills⁶. Attachment and emotion regulation skills also affect each other. Relationships with inconsistent and insensitive attachment figures in childhood hinder the development of effective emotion regulation strategies⁷. Those with a secure attachment style have a high expectation that they can regulate their negative emotions, solve their problems, and be supported without being rejected, criticized, or belittled by others⁶.

The primary aim of this study is to compare the attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties of adolescents with psychiatric disorders and healthy adolescents, and to determine which psychiatric disorders are affected

by these processes. Our secondary aim is to determine the relationship between attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties, as well as factors such as age and gender.

MATERIALS and METHODS

This study was conducted at Yozgat Bozok University Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic using a cross-sectional case-control design. Data was collected from October 2021 to May 2022. DSM-5 diagnostic criteria were used to diagnose psychiatric disorders in adolescents. Individuals with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, visual or hearing impairments were not included in the study. Adolescents who had not previously received any psychiatric diagnosis, had not sought follow-up or treatment in the child psychiatry department, and had routine check-ups in the pediatrics department were selected as the control group. These adolescents were those who had no systemic or chronic illnesses and who had undergone laboratory tests such as complete blood count and blood biochemistry in addition to general developmental assessment such as height and weight. The Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF) was administered to measure the level of emotional regulation difficulties in adolescents, and the Relationship Scales Questionnaire (RSQ) was used to assess attachment styles. Psychiatric evaluation of the control group was also performed according to the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria, and individuals without any psychiatric disorder diagnosis were selected as the control group. The same procedure was applied to the control group. Approval for the study was obtained from the Yozgat Bozok Medical Faculty Clinical Research Ethics Committee (2017-KAEK-1892021.08.25-08). Informed consent forms were obtained from each patient and their relatives.

Sample size: The sample size calculation was performed using G-Power 3.1 program. For this calculation, the arithmetic means and standard deviation of the DERS-SF were used (38.71 ± 12.76). An arithmetic mean of 35.0 was assumed for the control group and an increase of approxi-

mately 15 points was assumed for the patient group. With a type-I error of $\alpha=0.05$ and a power level of 0.90, the minimum sample size for both the control and patient groups was calculated to be $n=20$. After the research, the post-hoc power analysis was performed, and a power level of 0.99 was obtained.

Data Collection Tools

Relationship Scales Questionnaire (RSQ): The RSQ was developed by Griffin and Bartholomew⁸. The Turkish adaptation of the scale was conducted by Sümer and Güngör⁹. The RSQ aims to evaluate four attachment styles: secure, dismissive, fearful, and preoccupied. It consists of 17 items and participants are asked to rate themselves on a 7-point scale (1= not at all like me, 7= very much like me). The secure and dismissive attachment styles are evaluated with five items each, while the fearful and preoccupied attachment styles are evaluated with four items each. Based on the scores obtained from the subscales, individuals are categorized in the group of the attachment style with the highest.

Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF): This scale was developed by Bjureberg et al.¹⁰ to measure individuals' level of emotion regulation difficulties. The scale consists of 16 items rated on a five-point Likert scale (1 = almost never, 5 = almost always). The scale measures both the total score of emotion regulation difficulties and sub-dimensions including clarity, goals, impulse, strategies, and non-acceptance. A high score on the scale indicates a high level of emotion regulation difficulties. The reliability and validity study of the Turkish version of the scale was conducted by Yiğit and Yiğit¹¹.

Statistical analysis

The data was analyzed using the SPSS statistical software package. Descriptive tables were created for the data. The arithmetic means of the sub-scales of the DERS-SF and the RSQ were compared between the patient and control groups using t-tests and ANOVA. The Chi-square test was

used for the distribution of frequencies.

RESULTS

Of the adolescents included in the study, 54.8% were female, aged between 11-17 with a mean age of 14.1 ± 1.72 years. The proportion of female adolescents in the case group (62.9%) was higher than that in the control group (44.6%) (Table 1). When the psychiatric diagnoses of the adolescents in the case group (70 adolescents) were examined, major depressive disorder (MDD) (42.9%) was the most common, followed by anxiety disorders (30%) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (21.4%) (Table 2).

When the control group and those with psychiatric disorders were analyzed separately, there was no statistically significant DERS-SF total and subscales of goals, strategies, and non-acceptance, as well as the RSQ preoccupied subscale scores, were higher in females than in males and were statistically significant ($p<0.05$). There was no statistically significant difference in DERS-SF openness and impulse and RSQ fearful, indifferent, and secure subscale scores ($p>0.05$).

In the correlation analysis, a weak positive correlation was found between the DERS-SF total score and the fearful ($r= 0.303$), dismissing ($r= 0.301$), and preoccupied ($r= 0.349$) attachment style scores, while a weak negative correlation was found with the secure attachment score ($r= -0.239$) in the patient group. Positive correlations were found between the fearful attachment style and the DERS-SF openness ($r= 0.478$) and impulsivity ($r= 0.287$) scores ($p<0.05$), but no significant correlation was found between the fearful attachment style and the DERS-SF goals, strategies, and non-acceptance subscales ($p>0.05$). Positive correlations were found between the dismissing attachment style and the DERS-SF openness ($r= 0.349$) and impulsivity ($r= 0.290$) scores ($p<0.05$), but no significant correlation was found between the dismissing attachment style and the DERS-SF goals, strategies, and non-acceptance sub-

Table 1. Gender, age, attachment styles and DERS-SF scores of the patient and control groups

	Control		Patient		Total		P
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Gender							0,041
Male	31	55,4	26	37,1	57	45,2	
Female	25	44,6	44	62,9	69	54,8	<0,001
Attachment styles	n	%	n	%	n	%	0,012
Fearful	1	1,9	5	7,1	6	4,8	
Dismissive	22	39,3	41	58,6	63	50,0	
Secure	27	48,2	15	21,4	42	33,3	
Preoccupied	6	10,7	9	12,9	15	11,9	
Attachment styles	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Fearful	14,2	4,68	17,9	5,31	16,3	5,35	<0,001
Dismissive	19,7	7,30	22,8	6,56	21,4	7,04	0,013
Secure	20,8	4,73	18,0	6,03	19,3	5,65	0,005
Preoccupied	14,4	5,18	16,2	4,74	15,4	5,00	0,046
DERS-SF	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Clarity	4,4	2,25	6,4	2,49	5,5	2,57	<0,001
Goals	8,6	3,83	12,4	2,94	10,7	3,87	<0,001
Impulse	6,6	3,85	8,2	3,70	7,5	3,83	0,022
Strategies	10,4	5,56	15,8	5,86	13,4	6,31	<0,001
Non-acceptance	6,1	3,25	7,8	3,61	7,0	3,55	0,007
Total	36,1	15,75	50,6	14,06	44,2	16,46	<0,001
Age (Years)	13,4	1,43	14,7	1,69	14,1	1,72	<0,001

DERS-SF: Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF)

scales ($p>0.05$). A negative correlation was found between the secure attachment style and the DERS-SF strategies score ($r= -0.283$) ($p<0.05$), but no significant correlation was found between the secure attachment style and the DERS-SF openness, goals, impulsivity, and non-acceptance subscales ($p>0.05$). Positive correlations were found between the preoccupied attachment style and the DERS-SF impulsivity ($r= 0.240$) and strategies ($r= 0.428$) scores ($p<0.05$), but no significant correlation was found between the preoccupied attachment style and the DERS-SF openness, goals, and non-acceptance subscales ($p>0.05$). In the patient group, there was no significant correlation between age and DERS-SF total and subscale scores and attachment style scores ($p>0.05$) (Table 3).

Table 2. Diagnostic distribution of psychiatric disorders (Patient group)

	Frequency	Percentage
Major depressive disorder	30	42,9
Anxiety disorders	21	30,0
Generalized anxiety disorder	11	15,7
Panic disorder	7	10,0
Social anxiety disorder	3	4,3
Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder	15	21,4
OCD spectrum disorders a	4	5,7
Total	70	100,0

^a1 person including trichotillomania, OCD: obsessive-compulsive disorder

Table 3. Correlation between DERS-SF total and sub-dimension scores and Attachment styles scores in the Patient Group

	Age	DERS-SF clarity	DERS-SF goals	DERS-SF impulse	DERS-SF strategies	DERS-SF non-acceptance	DERS-SF total	Fearful	Dismissive	Secure
DERS-SF clarity	0,182	1								
DERS-SF goals	0,146	0,291*	1							
DERS-SF impulse	0,118	0,345**	0,348**	1						
DERS-SF strategies	0,168	0,537**	0,586**	0,471**	1					
DERS-SF non-acceptance	0,019	0,536**	0,295*	0,308**	0,509**	1				
DERS-SF total	0,171	0,694**	0,675**	0,671**	0,894**	0,711**	1			
Fearful	0,110	0,478**	0,194	0,287*	0,212	0,072	0,303*	1		
Dismissive	0,074	0,349**	0,159	0,290*	0,231	0,130	0,301*	0,295*	1	
Secure	-0,120	-0,185	-0,079	-0,169	-0,283*	-0,111	-0,239*	0,019	-0,086	1
Preoccupied	0,234	0,183	0,135	0,240*	0,428**	0,170	0,349**	0,110	-0,143	-0,277*

** , Correlation is significant at the 0,01 level (2-tailed), * , Correlation is significant at the 0,05 level (2-tailed), DERS-SF: Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF)

In the correlation analysis, there was no statistically significant relationship found between the DERS-SF total score and attachment style scores in the control group ($p>0.05$). While there was a significant relationship between attachment style of fearful and DERS-SF strategies ($p<0.05$), no significant relationship was found between DERS-SF and other subscales ($p>0.05$). There was also no significant relationship found between DERS-SF subscales and attachment style of dismissive in the control group ($p>0.05$). A negative relationship was found between DERS-SF strategies and attachment style of secure ($r= -0.318$) ($p<0.05$), but there was no significant relationship found between DERS-SF and other subscales ($p>0.05$). A positive relationship was found between attachment style of preoccupied and DERS-SF goals ($r= 0.274$) and strategies ($r= 0.266$) ($p<0.05$), but there was no significant relationship found between DERS-SF and other subscales, such as openness, impulsivity, and non-acceptance ($p>0.05$). There was also no statistically significant relationship found between age and DERS-SF total and subscale scores, as well as attachment style scores in the control group (Table 4).

The DERS-SF total score was found to be lowest in the control group. Among the scale subscales of DERS-SF, the

scores for DERS-SF openness, DERS-SF impulsivity, and DERS-SF rejection were highest in the MDB group, while DERS-SF goals and DERS-SF strategies scores were highest in the obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) group. Within the subscales of RSQ, the fearful attachment style score was highest in anxiety disorders, the dismissive score was highest in the MDD group, and the secure score was highest in the healthy control group, while the preoccupied attachment style score was highest in the OCD group. With the exception of DERS-SF rejection ($p= 0.071$) and preoccupied attachment style ($p= 0.137$), subscale averages were statistically different between the control and patient groups ($p<0.05$). The patient group had higher DERS-SF total and RSQ subscale averages (excluding secure) than the control group, and the secure attachment style score average was higher in the control group compared to the patient group (Table 5).

According to the post-ANOVA Bonferroni test, the DERS-SF openness score was higher in the MDD and anxiety disorder groups compared to the control group ($p<0.05$), while it did not differ significantly from the ADHD and OCD group averages ($p>0.05$). There was no statistically significant difference in the DERS-SF openness score be-

Table 4. Correlation between DERS-SF total and sub-dimension scores and Attachment styles scores in the Control Group

	Age	DERS-SF clarity	DERS-SF goals	DERS-SF impulse	DERS-SF strategies	DERS-SF non-acceptance	DERS-SF total	Fearful	Dismissive	Secure
DERS-SF clarity	-0,101	1								
DERS-SF goals	-0,027	0,574**	1							
DERS-SF impulse	-0,010	0,521**	0,764**	1						
DERS-SF strategies	-0,152	0,569**	0,728**	0,730**	1					
DERS-SF non-acceptance	-0,015	0,368**	0,534**	0,474**	0,653**	1				
DERS-SF total	-0,080	0,686**	0,879**	0,860**	0,924**	0,735**	1			
Fearful	-0,083	0,184	0,105	0,226	0,269*	0,178	0,239	1		
Dismissive	0,021	0,063	-0,117	0,095	0,093	0,111	0,059	0,509**	1	
Secure	0,112	0,097	-0,181	-0,191	-0,318*	-0,154	-0,221	-0,091	-0,116	1
Preoccupied	-0,100	0,127	0,274*	0,091	0,266*	0,166	0,235	-0,124	-0,268*	-0,004

**Correlation is significant at the 0,01 level (2-tailed), *Correlation is significant at the 0,05 level (2-tailed),
 DERS-SF: Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF)

Table 5. DERS-SF and Attachment styles sub-dimension averages and standard deviations according to psychiatric disorder diagnosis groups and control group

	Diagnostic Group					P
	Major depressive disorder Mean	Anxiety disorders Mean	Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder Mean	Obsessive-compulsive disorder Mean	Control Mean	
DERS-SF clarity	7,0	6,1	5,6	5,5	4,4	<0,001
DERS-SF goals	12,5	12,8	11,7	13,3	8,6	<0,001
DERS-SF impulse	9,2	7,3	7,1	9,0	6,6	0,042
DERS-SF strategies	16,1	16,3	14,2	17,0	10,4	<0,001
DERS-SF non-acceptance	8,3	7,7	7,1	7,3	6,1	0,073
DERS-SF total	53,2	50,1	45,7	52,0	36,1	<0,001
Fearful	18,1	18,4	17,1	17,5	14,2	0,003
Dismissive	24,5	20,4	23,1	21,5	19,7	0,029
Secure	18,3	18,8	18,0	12,3	20,8	0,013
Preoccupied	16,6	16,4	14,5	18,5	14,4	0,137

DERS-SF: Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale-Short Form (DERS-SF)

tween the MDD group and the anxiety disorder, ADHD, and OCD group averages. The DERS-SF openness score of the ADHD and OCD patients did not differ significantly from the control group average ($p > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

In this study, attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties of adolescents with psychiatric disorders were compared with those of healthy adolescents, and how these processes were affected by psychiatric disorders was examined. According to the results of the study, emotion regulation difficulties and preoccupied attachment style were found to be significantly higher in girls with psychiatric disorders, while no significant relationship was found between emotion regulation difficulties and attachment styles in the control group. It was found that securely attached adolescents experienced fewer emotion regulation difficulties. In the control group without psychiatric disorders, secure attachment scores were higher than those in the patient group and were statistically significant. It was concluded that the control group experienced less emotion regulation difficulties than the patient group, and the group with the highest emotion regulation difficulties in the patient group was the one with major depressive disorders. DERS-SF openness average score was found to be significantly higher in MDD and anxiety disorder groups compared to the control group.

Overall, the findings suggest that psychiatric disorders are associated with attachment styles and emotion regulation difficulties in adolescents. The study highlights the importance of considering attachment styles and emotion regulation in the assessment and treatment of psychiatric disorders in adolescents.

Emotion regulation is influenced by external factors such as temperament and gender¹². In our study, female adolescents with psychiatric disorders exhibited high levels of emotion regulation difficulties and preoccupied attachment styles. Similarly, studies have shown that women

are more emotional than men, tend to ruminate more on events they experience, and experience more difficulties in regulating emotions, which leads to a greater tendency to display depressive symptoms¹³. The distribution of psychiatric disorders, with the highest rate being major depressive disorders (42.9%) and a significant proportion of female patients in the patient group compared to the control group, may have influenced our results. In our study, preoccupied attachment styles were significantly higher in female adolescents with psychiatric disorders. In the control group, there was no difference between genders, but the high level of preoccupied attachment in female adolescents with psychiatric disorders suggests that the presence of a psychiatric diagnosis may have a greater impact on attachment. In a study on university students with and without depression, individuals with preoccupied and fearful attachment styles were found to have negative self-perceptions and more severe depressive symptoms¹⁴. Similarly, in our study, there was a female dominance in the patient group and a dominance of major depressive disorders in the psychiatric disorder groups. We believe that both factors may have influenced our results. Indeed, studies have shown that while major depressive disorders are equally prevalent in boys and girls during childhood, their incidence increases during adolescence and becomes more dominant in females during this period. The high proportion of females in our patient group and the dominance of major depressive disorders associated with this may have influenced our results^{15,16}. It is widely accepted that emotion regulation strategies develop in early life as part of the developmental process between children and caregivers¹⁷. Therefore, attachment is considered the most powerful environmental factor influencing the use of emotion regulation strategies. Secure attachment is associated with emotion regulation strategies that facilitate coping with stress, establishing close relationships, and promoting interpersonal harmony. On the other hand, insecure attachment is associated with emotion regulation strategies that disrupt coping, such as denial or inability to express emotions, or inability to act purposefully in negative situa-

tions^{12,18}. Similarly, in our study, we found that individuals with secure attachment experienced fewer emotion regulation difficulties.

In a study conducted in our country, insecure attachment has been shown to be associated with not accepting emotional responses, inability to perform goal-directed behaviors in the face of negative emotions, not being able to recognize negative emotions, and not having sufficient access to emotion regulation strategies in the face of negative emotions¹⁹. While insecure attachment style has been considered a determinant of psychopathology in later years, secure attachment has been associated with healthy processes⁴. In this study, consistent with the literature, the secure attachment style was significantly higher in the group without psychiatric illness. However, there are also those who argue that when evaluating attachment styles, childhood and adulthood should be separately considered, as secure attachment in childhood can be disrupted by negative life events and mood disorders later on¹. Perhaps the fact that a large majority of those with psychiatric disorders in our study were diagnosed with MDD has influenced the results.

Emotion dysregulation has been associated with conditions such as anxiety, depression, borderline personality disorder, and substance abuse⁶. Similarly, we found that individuals with psychiatric disorders experienced more difficulties with emotion regulation, with the highest rates observed in the MDD group. Studies have shown that individuals with depression display reduced responses to positive stimuli as well as increased responses to negative stimuli. Maladaptive emotion regulation strategies can prolong the duration and intensify the severity of depressive mood^{20,21}. In our study, the MDD group also had the highest scores in both the total score and sub-dimensions of the DERS-SF- Korean version, specifically in the subscales of DERS-SF clarity, DERS-SF impulsivity, and DERS-SF non-acceptance. Campbell-Sills et al. have also shown that individuals who suppress or avoid emotions

experience more negative affect, particularly in those with mood and anxiety disorders²². In this study, the DERS-SF goals subscale, which represents the ability to behave in a goal-directed manner, and the DERS-SF strategies subscale, which represents the ability to use appropriate emotion regulation strategies in various situations, were found to be the highest in OCD. Individuals with OCD feel compelled to perform compulsions to reduce anxiety-provoking stimuli, which are in fact maladaptive emotion regulation strategies that interfere with goal-directed behavior²³. Therefore, it is not surprising that these sub-dimensions were found to be high in OCD.

The highest scoring group in terms of fearful attachment style in our study was anxiety disorders. Individuals with this attachment style do not consider themselves worthy of love and have a belief that others are rejecting of them. Therefore, they try to reduce their anxieties by trying to stay close to their attachment figures in stressful and pressure situations. Studies conducted in line with our findings have found that fearful attachment style is dominant in anxiety disorders, especially in those experiencing test anxiety²⁴. In a study conducted in our country, the fearful attachment style scores of women were found to be statistically higher than those of men²⁵. The dominance of female gender in the case group may have affected our results. Those with dismissive attachment style describe themselves as deserving and valuable, while having negative evaluations about others²⁴. In our study, the group with the highest score of dismissive attachment style was MDD. Those who attach dismissively try to cope with their emotions by avoiding closeness, as they are unable to regulate their emotions properly in negative situations²⁶. Therefore, we think that difficulties in emotion regulation may be associated with MDD. This situation is consistent with our results. The group with the most emotion regulation difficulties was MDD. It has been shown in the literature that difficulties in emotion regulation are very common in major depression. This is because the characteristic feature of major depression is the continuation of negative affect and

a significant decrease in positive affect. Suppression and rumination, which are maladaptive emotion regulation strategies, are frequently used in depression²⁷. In a study that examined 246 adolescents in early adolescence in terms of depressive symptoms and difficulties in emotion regulation, it was found that both difficulties in emotion regulation and limitations in the use of emotion regulation strategies were associated with an increase in depressive symptoms²⁸. The most dominant group with an attachment style of preoccupied was OCD. One of the important metacognitive behaviors of OCD is seeking approval. This behavior is a coping mechanism aimed at reducing an individual's perception of danger and anxiety and plays an active role in maintaining OCD symptoms²⁹. Individuals who are constantly seeking approval are thought to be close to having a preoccupied attachment style³⁰. This situation may arise from individuals with a preoccupied attachment style considering themselves worthless, evaluating others positively, and trying to gain the approval and acceptance of others as a result⁸.

We found that the average level of openness in DERS-SF was significantly higher in both MDD and anxiety disorders compared to the control group. It has been shown that as the level of openness, which expresses the failure to understand emotional reactions or experienced emotions, increases, anxiety also increases and anxiety disorders make it difficult to recognize emotions³¹. Similarly, it has been shown that individuals with depression often have difficulty accepting and tolerating their negative emotions, recognizing and describing their emotions, and supporting themselves in a compassionate way³².

The small sample size of the study, the fact that it was a cross-sectional study rather than a longitudinal study, and the limited diversity of psychiatric diagnoses limit the generalizability of the study. Another limitation is the inability to ensure homogeneity between the case and control groups in terms of gender.

This study is important in terms of demonstrating the impact of developing secure attachment and effective emotion regulation strategies on protective mental health. Since secure attachment in infancy and early childhood is considered a critical factor that predicts psychiatric pathologies in later periods, identifying the dynamics that create a secure attachment environment can help children develop positive mental health and effective emotion regulation strategies in the future. In this regard, awareness can be raised about healthy parent-child relationships to enable parents or prospective parents to establish secure attachment with their children.

Declarations

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Ethical Approval

Approval for the study was obtained from the Yozgat Bozok Medical Faculty Clinical Research Ethics Committee (2017-KAEK-1892021.08.25-08).

Authorship Contributions

Concept: DYM, MK; Design: DYM; Data Collection: DYM; Analysis and/or Interpretation: MK; Literature Review: DYM, MK; Writing Manuscript: DYM, MK; Critical Review: DYM, MK.

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Obez Hastalarda Beden Kitle İndeksi ve Aterojenik İndeksin Retinal Mikrovasküler Yapı Üzerine Etkileri

The Effects of Body Mass Index and Atherogenic Index on Retinal Microvascular Structure in Obese Patients

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Öz

Amaç	Bu çalışmada, obez hastalarda retinal mikrovasküler yapısında meydana gelen değişiklikleri değerlendirmeyi ve bu değişikliklerin klinik özelliklerle ilişkisini belirlemeyi amaçladık.
Yöntem ve Gereçler	Tüm katılımcılarda kolesterol, açlık kan şekeri, açlık insülini, CRP ve HbA1C düzeylerini içeren biyokimyasal incelemeler yapıldı. Plazma aterojenik indeksi (AI) plazma trigliserid (TG) düzeyinin yüksek yoğunluklu lipoprotein (HDL) düzeyine oranının logaritması [$\log(TG/HDL-K)$] olarak hesaplandı. Vücut Kitle İndeksi (VKİ) ≤ 25 kg/m ² olan hastalar kontrol grubuna dahil edildi. Obez hastalar VKİ'lerine göre üç gruba ayrıldı: grup 1 (VKİ: 30-34,99 kg/m ²), grup 2 (VKİ: 35-39,99 kg/m ²) ve grup 3 (VKİ ≥ 40 kg/m ²). Optik koherens tomografi anjiyografi (OKT-A) ile foveal avasküler zon (FAZ), makulada yüzeysel ve derin kapiller pleksusun damar dansitesi (VD) ile radial peripapiller kapiller pleksus VD ölçüldü.
Bulgular	Çalışmaya 27 kontrol ve 83 obez hasta olmak üzere toplam 110 hasta dahil edildi. Kontrol vakalarına kıyasla obez hastalarda HbA1C, açlık insülini, HOMA-IR, C-reaktif protein ve AI seviyeleri anlamlı derecede yüksekti. Obez hastalarda retinanın yüzeysel (p=0,003) ve derin (p=0,001) VD'leri anlamlı olarak azaldı ve FAZ anlamlı olarak arttı (p=0,032). Klinik özellikler ile OKT-A bulguları arasında yapılan korelasyon analizinde yüzeysel ve derin VD'ler yaş, VKİ, HbA1C ve AI ile ters orantılıydı.
Sonuç	Obez hastalarda retina yüzeysel ve derin VD'leri azalmıştı ve retinal VD'ler ile yaş, VKİ, HbA1C ve AI arasında ters bir ilişki vardı.
Anahtar Kelimeler	obezite; vücut kitle indeksi; optik koherens tomografi anjiyografi; retina; aterojenik indeks

Abstract

Introduction	This study aimed to evaluate ocular alterations, especially in the retinal microvasculature of obese patients and to determine the association of these alterations with clinical features.
Materials and Methods	In all participants, biochemical examinations were performed including cholesterol, fasting blood glucose, fasting insulin, CRP and HbA1C levels. The atherogenic index of plasma (AI) was calculated as a logarithm of the ratio of the molar concentration (mmol/l) of TG to HDL-C ($\log(TG/HDL-C)$). Patients with a BMI of ≤ 25 kg/m ² were included in the control group. Obese patients were further divided into three groups according to their BMI: group 1 (BMI: 30-34.99 kg/m ²), group 2 (BMI: 35-39.99 kg/m ²), and group 3 (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m ²). The foveal avascular zone (FAZ), the vessel density (VD) of the superficial capillary plexus and deep capillary plexus of the macula, and the VD of the retinal peripapillary capillary plexus for the optic disc were quantified by OCT-A.
Results	A total of 110 patients, 27 controls and 83 obese patients, were included in the study. The HbA1C, fasting insulin, HOMA-IR, C-reactive protein and AI levels were significantly higher in obese patients compared with the control cases. The superficial (p=0.003) and deep (p=0.001) VDs of the retina were significantly decreased and FAZ was significantly increased (p=0.032) in obese patients. In the correlation analysis performed between the clinical features and OCT-A findings, the superficial and deep VDs were inversely correlated with age, BMI, HbA1C and AI.
Conclusion	The retinal superficial and deep VDs were decreased in obese patients and there was an inverse relationship between the retinal VDs and age, BMI, HbA1C, and AI.
Keywords	obesity; body mass index; optical coherence tomography angiography; retina; atherogenic index



GİRİŞ

Obezite, dünya çapında önemli bir halk sağlığı sorunudur ve artmış kardiyovasküler morbidite ve mortalite riski ile ilişkilidir.¹ Obezite, diyabet, dislipidemi, insülin direnci, sigara kullanımı ve hipertansiyon; vasküler endoteli ve oksidatif stresin endotel yanıtını etkileyerek mikrovasküler yeniden şekillenmeye neden olan risk faktörleridir.²⁻⁴ Son zamanlarda, plazma aterojenik indeksi, kardiyovasküler hastalıklar için yeni bir risk belirteci olarak kabul edilmektedir.⁵

Mikrovasküler disfonksiyon, kardiyometabolik hastalıkların gelişimi ve ilerlemesinde çok önemli bir yol olarak kabul edilir. Enflamatuar süreçler, oksidatif stres ve endotel disfonksiyonu, mikrovasküler disfonksiyonun ana mekanizmalarıdır.⁶ Metabolik hastalıkların, retina dolaşımının yapısı üzerinde, çoğunlukla endotel disfonksiyonu ve inflamasyon ile ilişkili ciddi etkileri olduğu bilinmektedir.⁷ Bununla birlikte, obezitenin oküler fonksiyonlar ve retinal mikrovaskülatür üzerindeki etkilerine ilişkin yalnızca sınırlı veri vardır. Günümüzde retinal mikrovasküler yapı; invaziv olmayan yöntemler kullanılarak tüm vücudun mikrovasküler ağı hakkında kolay ve hızlı bir şekilde bilgi elde etmek için ulaşılabildiği kolay bir yapı olarak sunulmaktadır.⁸ Retinal damar çaplarının, uzun vadede erişkin kardiyovasküler yapıda ve aterosklerotik kardiyovasküler hastalıklarda prediktif bir role sahip olduğu gösterilmiştir.⁹ Günlük oftalmoloji pratiğinde, optik koherens tomografi (OKT), oküler dokuların yüksek çözünürlüklü kesitsel taramasını sağlayan, yaygın olarak kullanılan, invaziv olmayan bir görüntüleme yöntemidir. Ayrıca, spektral alan OKT'nin (SD-OKT) geliştirilmesiyle, OKT sistemlerinin hassasiyeti ve hızı artarak tekrarlanan taramalar yoluyla kan damarlarının görselleştirilmesine olanak sağlamıştır. OKT anjiyografi (OKT-A), retinanın ve koroidin mikrovasküler yapısı hakkında ayrıntılı veriler sağlar.

Bu çalışma, obez hastaların özellikle retinal mikrovaskülatüründeki oküler değişiklikleri değerlendirmeyi ve bu değişikliklerin aterojenik indeks ve vücut kitle indeksi (VKİ)

ile ilişkisini belirlemeyi amaçladığıdır.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEMLER

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Çalışma popülasyonu

Obezite merkezimizde takip edilen ve çalışmaya katılmayı kabul eden 18-60 yaş arası hastalar çalışmaya kabul edildi. Diğer dahil edilme kriterleri ise; kırma kusurunun $\leq \pm 1$ Dioptri veya eksen uzunluğunun 22 ile 24 mm arasında olması, görme keskinliğinin $\geq 20/20$ olması ve göz içi basıncının ≤ 21 mmHg olmasıydı. 18 yaşından küçük ve 60 yaşından büyük hastalar, diyabetes mellitus, hiperlipidemi veya hipertansiyon tedavisi görenler veya bu hastalıklarla ilgili herhangi bir şüpheli bulgusu olanlar ve diyabetes mellitus, uyku apnesi gibi diğer sistemik hastalıkları teşhis edilen olgular; ölçümleri etkileyebilecek sendrom, psikiyatrik bozukluklar, kardiyovasküler hastalıklar, böbrek veya böbrek yetmezliği, akut veya kronik enfeksiyon, anemi ve tiroid patolojileri mevcut olanlar çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Alkol, ilaç kullanımı ve/veya sigara içme öyküsü olan hastalar dışlandı. Tüm katılımcılardan açlık venöz kan örnekleri alınarak kapsamlı bir biyokimyasal değerlendirme yapıldı ve bu değerlerinde patoloji olanlar da çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Son olarak, herhangi bir oküler hastalığı (örneğin, kornea hastalıkları, korioretinal hastalıklar, katarakt ve glokom) veya oküler cerrahi öyküsü olan hastalar çalışma dışı bırakıldı.

Tüm hastalar endokrinoloji polikliniklerinde değerlendirildi. Tüm hastalarda boy, vücut ağırlığı, kan lipid ve glukoz düzeyleri kaydedildi. VKİ şu formül kullanılarak hesaplandı: vücut ağırlığı (kg) / boy² (m²). Tüm katılımcı

caların biyokimyasal muayenesi için sabah sekiz saatlik açlıktan sonra kubital venden 5 mL venöz kan alındı. Total kolesterol (TK), düşük yoğunluklu lipoprotein-kolesterol (LDL-K), yüksek yoğunluklu lipoprotein-kolesterol (HDL-K), trigliserit (TG), açlık kan şekeri (AKŞ), açlık insülini ve hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) değerleri belirlendi. İnsülin direncinin homeostatik model değerlendirmesi (HOMA-IR) hesaplandı¹¹. Subklinik inflamasyonun değerlendirilmesi için, C-reaktif protein seviyesi çalışıldı. Plazmanın aterosjenik indeksi (AI), TG'nin molar konsantrasyonunun (mmol/l) HDL-K'ye (log [TG / HDL - K]) oranının logaritması olarak hesaplandı¹².

VKİ 20-25 kg/m² olan hastalar kontrol grubuna dahil edildi. Tüm obez katılımcıların en az beş yıllık obezite öyküsü vardı. Obez hastalar ayrıca VKİ'lerine göre Grup 1 (VKİ: 30-34,99 kg/m²), Grup 2 (VKİ: 35-39,99 kg/m²) ve Grup 3 (VKİ ≥ 40 kg/m²) olmak üzere üç gruba ayrıldı. VKİ 25.01 ila 29.99 olan fazla kilolu hastalar çalışmaya dahil edilmedi.

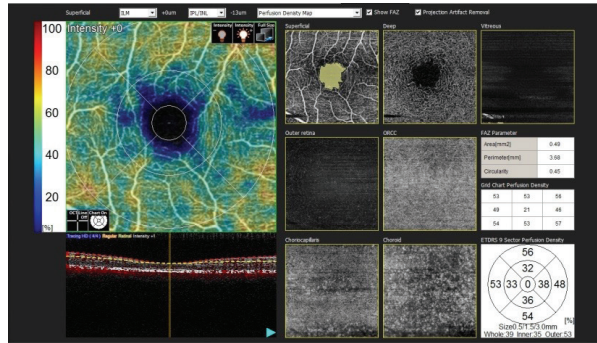
Tüm katılımcılara, refraksiyon ölçümü (Tonoref III, Nidec Co. Ltd, Aichi, Japonya), en iyi düzeltilmiş görme keskinliği, göz içi basıncı (GİB) (Tonoref III, Nidec Co. Ltd, Aichi, Japonya) ölçümü, biyomikroskopi ve indirekt oftalmoskopi, temassız biyometri (AL-SCAN, Nidec Co. Ltd, Aichi, Japonya) dahil olmak üzere ayrıntılı oftalmolojik muayeneler uygulandı. SD-OKT ile retina sinir lifi tabakası kalınlığı (RSLTK), santral makula kalınlığı (SMK) ve ganglion hücre tabakası kalınlığı (GHTK), OKT-A ile foveal avasküler bölge (FAZ) ve vasküler dansite (VD) ölçümleri elde edildi (RS-3000 Advance AngioScan (Nidec Co. Ltd, Gamagori, Japonya)) Çalışmaya katılımcıların sadece sağ gözleri dahil edildi.

Tarama Protokolü

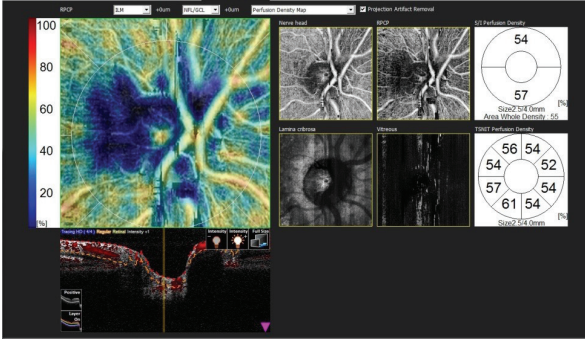
Makular ve peripapiller kalınlıklar SD-OKT cihazı (Nidec Co. Ltd., Aichi, Japonya) kullanılarak ölçüldü. Makulanın yüzeyel kılcal pleksus (YKP) ve derin kapiller pleksusun (DKP) VD'si, FAZ ve optik disk için retinal peripapiller

kapiller pleksusun (RPKP) VD'si OKT-A cihazı (RS-3000 Advance, Nidec Co. Ltd., Gamagori, Japonya) kullanılarak ölçüldü. SD-OKT ve OKT-A görüntülerinin değerlendirilmesinde Nidec RS-3000 Advance OKT sistemi ve güncellenmiş AngioScan yazılımı kullanıldı. Cihazda foveaya odaklanılarak her biri 256 B taramasından oluşan 3x3 mm makula küpleri üretilmektedir. RPKP için taramalar, optik sinir başı merkezli 2,4 × 4 mm'lik bir disk haritasını içermektedir. Makular ve peripapiller VD'ler ve FAZ bu cihaz tarafından otomatik olarak hesaplanabilir.

SD-OKT ve OKT-A ölçümleri deneyimli bir oftalmolog tarafından %1'lik tropikamid göz damlası (Tropamid, Bilim İlaç Ltd, İstanbul, Türkiye) ile pupilla genişletildikten sonra yapıldı. Sinyal gücü indeks kalitesinin <7/10 olduğu durumlarda tarama tekrarlandı. SKP (Şekil 1) ve DKP'nin FAZ ve VD ölçümleri yapıldı.



Yüzeysel retina tabakası ve derin retina tabakası için sırasıyla iç limitan membrandan iç nükleer tabakanın 13 µm altına ve iç nükleer tabakanın 8 µm altından dış nükleer tabakanın 13 µm altına kadar uzanacak şekilde otomatik segmentasyon kullanıldı. VD'ler, seçilen bölgede kan akışının olduğu damarların işgal ettiği yüzde alan olarak hesaplandı. Peripapiller alanda OKT-A taramalarında S/I ve TSNIT sektörleri için RPKP'nin VD'leri gözlemlendi (Şekil 2). SD-OKT analizi sırasında ortalama RNFLT ve SMK değerleri de ölçüldü.



İstatistiksel Analizler

İstatistiksel analizler PSS versiyon 21.0 (SPSS Inc, Chicago Illinois) paket programı ile yapıldı. Parametrik değişkenler ortalama±standart sapma değerleri ile, kategorik değişkenler yüzde (%) ile ifade edildi. İki bağımsız grup arasındaki parametrik verilerin karşılaştırılmasında bağımsız örneklem t-testi yapılmıştır. Normal dağılmayan veriler için analiz Mann-Whitney U testi ile yapıldı. İki'den fazla grup karşılaştırmasında, parametrik veriler için tek yönlü varyans analizi ve Bonferroni post-hoc analizi kullanıldı. Klinik parametrelerin OCT-A bulguları ile ilişkisini belirlemek için Pearson korelasyon analizi yapıldı. $P < 0.05$ istatistiksel olarak anlamlı kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

Çalışmaya 27 kontrol (24 kadın, üç erkek) ve 83 obez hasta (62 kadın, 21 erkek) olmak üzere toplam 110 olgu dahil edildi. Kontrol olguları ile obez hastalar arasında cinsiyet açısından anlamlı fark yoktu ($p=0.180$). Obez hastalar BKİ'ye göre dört gruba ayrıldığında cinsiyete göre dağılımı şu şekildeydi:

- Grup 1 (VKİ: 30-35 kg/ m²): 27 hasta (21 kadın, 6 erkek)
- Grup 2 (VKİ: 35,01-40 kg/m²): 27 hasta (22 kadın, 5 erkek)
- Grup 3 (VKİ > 40 kg/m²): 29 hasta (19 kadın, 10 erkek)

Dört çalışma grubu arasında cinsiyet açısından anlamlı fark yoktu ($p=0.192$).

Çalışmaya katılanların demografik ve laboratuvar verileri Tablo 1'de özetlenmiştir. HbA1c, açlık insülini, HOMA-IR, CRP, TG, HDL-K ve AI düzeyleri gruplar arasında anlamlı farklılık gösterdi (sırasıyla $p=0,008$, $p=0,001$, $p = 0.001$, $p = 0.001$, $p = 0.015$, $p = 0.001$ ve $p = 0.008$).

Tablo 1. Çalışmaya katılan olguların demografik verileri ve laboratuvar değerleri

	Kontrol grubu (VKİ:20-25 kg/m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 1 (VKİ: 30-35 kg/m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 2 (VKİ:35.01-40kg/ m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 3 (VKİ ≥40 kg/m ²) (n = 29)	p değeri
Yaş (yıl)	42.03 ± 10.44	43.12 ± 10.87	39.55 ± 9.97	39.41 ± 10.32	0.122
AKŞ (mg/dL)	89.18 ± 15.28	89.22 ± 11.87	93.77 ± 10.22	95.86 ± 7.10	0.112
HbA1c (%)	5.28 ± 0.25	5.40 ± 0.30	5.51 ± 0.24b	5.54 ± 0.27c	0.008
Açlık insülini (µIU/mL)	6.48 ± 5.26	12.26 ± 6.17a	12.55 ± 6.82b	14.76 ± 10.61c	0.001
HOMA-IR	1.41 ± 1.12	2.75 ± 1.53a	2.76 ± 1.59b	3.63 ± 2.93c	0.001
CRP (mg/L)	2.71 ± 1.63	6.99 ± 4.31a	7.74 ± 4.15b	7.96 ± 4.36c	0.001
Total kolesterol (mg/dL)	178.15 ± 36.79	193.80 ± 46.97	186.34 ± 39.69	179.23 ± 41.60	0.115
TG (mg/dL)	104.18 ± 55.69	125.31 ± 40.28a	129.65 ± 48.52b	134.09 ± 53.5c	0.015
HDL-K (mg/dL)	51.20 ± 5.61	43.35 ± 11.17a	43.15 ± 9.59b	42.78 ± 8.72c	0.001
LDL-K (mg/dL)	106.11 ± 29.40	118.74 ± 44.26	119.25 ± 33.15	119.46 ± 37.00	0.082
AI	-0.08 ± 0.015	0.022 ± 0.025a	0.066 ± 0.019b	0.071 ± 0.025c	0.008

AKŞ: açlık kan şekeri, HbA1c: hemogloblin A1C, CRP: C-reaktif protein, HDL-K: yüksek dansiteli lipoprotein-kolesterol, LDL-K: düşük dansiteli lipoprotein-kolesterol, AI: aterosjenik indeks, a: 1. grup kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede farklı; b: 2. grup kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede farklı; c: Grup 3 kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklı. Anlamlı p değerleri kalın yazı tipiyle ifade edilmiştir.

Katılımcıların oküler bulguları Tablo 2'de özetlenmiştir. RNFLT, GHTK, SMK veya RPKP değerleri açısından gruplar arasında anlamlı fark yoktu. Bununla birlikte, obez hastalarda yüzeysel ve derin global VD'ler anlamlı olarak azaldı (sırasıyla $p = 0.003$ ve $p = 0.001$). FAZ ölçümleri obez hastalarda anlamlı olarak daha yüksekti ($p=0.032$).

Klinik özellikler ile OKT-A bulguları arasında yapılan korelasyon analizinde, SKP ve DKP'nin VD'leri yaş, VKİ, HbA1c ve AI ile ters korelasyon gösterirken; FAZ sadece VKİ ile korele idi (Tablo 3).

Tablo 2. Çalışmaya katılan olguların oküler bulguları

	Kontrol grubu (VKI:20-25 kg/m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 1 (VKI: 30-35 kg/m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 2 (VKI:35.01-40kg/ m ²) (n = 27)	Grup 3 (VKI ≥40 kg/m ²) (n = 29)	p değeri
RSLTK, ortalama (µm)	115.29 ± 5.09	111.25 ± 9.76	108.22 ± 14.24	110.03 ± 9.23	0.73
GHTK, sup (µm)	101.03 ± 3.76	100.11 ± 7.60	97.85 ± 8.78	99.27 ± 7.70	0.532
GHTK, inf (µm)	103.96 ± 5.77	101.55 ± 7.31	100.66 ± 9.06	103.55 ± 8.52	0.307
SMK (µm)	260.40 ± 14.00	260.63 ± 20.50	259.18 ± 24.56	265.10 ± 21.26	0.698
RPKP VD (%)	54.01 ± 3.23	54.37 ± 4.02	53.44 ± 3.82	53.51 ± 2.97	0.834
FAZ (mm²)	0.32 ± 0.083	0.40 ± 0.13a	0.41 ± 0.15b	0.41 ± 0.21c	0.032
YKP VD (%)	43.77 ± 1.80	40.48 ± 4.40	39.37 ± 5.50b	37.62 ± 5.88c	0.003
DKP VD (%)	38.03 ± 3.56	32.33 ± 7.98a	32.69 ± 7.48b	29.74 ± 7.96c	0.001

RSLTK: retina sinir lifi tabakası kalınlığı, GHTK: ganglion hücre tabakası kalınlığı, sup: superior, inf: inferior, SMK: santral macular kalınlık, RPKP: radyal peripapiller kapiller pleksus, FAZ: foveal avasküler zon, VD: vasküler dansite, YKP: yüzeysel kapiller pleksus, DKP: derin kapiller pleksus. a: 1. grup kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede farklı; b: 2. grup kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede farklı; c: Grup 3 kontrol grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklı. Anlamlı p değerleri kalın yazı tipiyle ifade edilmiştir.

Tablo 3. Klinik özellikler ile OKT-A bulguları arasında yapılan korelasyon analizi

	FAZ		VD yüzeysel		VD derin	
	r	p	r	p	r	p
Yaş (yıl)	0.086	0.373	-0.190	0.045	-0.218	0.022
VKI	0.275	0.004	-0.354	0.001	-0.349	0.001
HbA1c	0.022	0.818	-0.190	0.046	-0.189	0.048
HOMA-IR	0.022	0.817	-0.044	0.649	-0.027	0.783
CRP	0.111	0.249	-0.129	0.180	-0.145	0.131
AI	0.113	0.157	-0.254	0.007	-0.213	0.026

VKI: Vücut kitle indeksi, HbA1c: hemoglobin A1C, CRP: C-reaktif protein, AI: aterojenik indeks, FAZ: foveal avasküler zon, VD: vasküler dansite. Anlamlı p değerleri kalın yazı tipiyle ifade edilmiştir

TARTIŞMA

Bu çalışmada obezitenin oküler bulgulara etkisi araştırıldı ve artmış VKİ varlığında RNFLT, GHTK, SMK veya RPKP VD'de anlamlı bir değişiklik tespit edilmedi. Bu bulgulara rağmen, obez hastalarda retinanın hem yüzeysel hem de derin tabaka VD'leri azalmıştı. Bildiğimiz kadarıyla bu çalışma, obez hastalarda retinal vasküler değişikliklerin aterojenik indeks ile ilişkisini değerlendiren ilk çalışmadır ve yaş, VKİ, HbA1C ve/veya aterojenik indeks artışı ile retinanın yüzeysel ve derin VD'lerinde anlamlı bir azalma saptanmıştır.

OKTA cihazı son yıllarda görüntüleme süresinin kısa olması ve yan etkisinin olmaması nedeniyle yaygın olarak kullanılmaktadır. Nidek AngioScan yazılımını ile ilgili normatif veriler literatürde sınırlıdır.¹⁰ Farklı OKTA cihazlarında farklı teknikler kullanıldığından ölçülen değerleri standardize etmek mümkün olmasa da retina mikrovasküler yapısını oftalmoloji kliniklerinde elde edilen verilere dayanarak değerlendirmenin belirgin yararları vardır.¹¹

Obezite, mikrovasküler değişiklikler ve yeniden şekillenme için iyi bilinen bir risk faktörüdür.¹² Bu çalışmada obez hastalarda retinal mikrovaskülatürdeki oküler değişiklikleri ve bu değişikliklerin metabolik parametrelerle ilişkisini araştırdık. VKİ ile yüzeysel ve derin retinal VD'ler arasında ters bir korelasyon belirledik. Sonuçlarımıza benzer şekilde, bir meta-analizde Köchli ve ark. çocuklarda daha yüksek bir VKİ'nin daha dar retinal arteriyolar ve daha geniş venüler çaplarla ilişkili olduğunu bildirmiştir.¹³ Başka bir meta-analizde, Boilot ve ark. ayrıca, daha yüksek VKİ'nin daha dar retinal arteriyolar ve daha geniş venüler çaplarla ilişkili olduğunu bildirmiştir.¹⁴

Sonuçlarımız, artan VKİ'nin AI'da önemli bir artışa ve retinanın yüzeysel ve derin VD'lerinde önemli bir azalmaya yol açtığını ortaya koydu. Ayrıca, AI ve VD arasında ters ve anlamlı bir korelasyon vardı. Bildiğimiz kadarıyla bu, AI ile OCT-A bulguları arasındaki ilişkiyi değerlendiren literatürdeki ilk çalışmadır. Bulgularımıza benzer şekil-

de, Krasnicki ve ark. tip 2 diyabetli hastaların oküler kan damarlarındaki akış bozukluklarının, koroner arterlerin aterojenik değişiklikleri ile ilişkili olduğunu bildirmiştir.¹⁵ Popülasyona dayalı bir kohort çalışmasında, Shankar ve ark. daha geniş retinal venül yapısının obezite gelişme riski ile pozitif ilişkili olduğunu saptamışlar ve bu da erken dönemde mikrovasküler disfonksiyonda obezitenin rolünü düşündürmüştür.¹⁶ Bununla birlikte, popülasyon bazlı bir kohort çalışmasında, yaş ve açlık plazma glukozunun retinal mikrovasküler fonksiyonlar ile ters orantılı olduğu, ancak bu fonksiyonların 24 saatlik sistolik kan basıncı, bel çevresi ve total-HDL kolesterol oranı ile ilişkili olmadığı bildirildi.¹⁷ Xiao ve ark. ayrıca dislipidemili adolesanların normolipidemic yaşlılarına kıyasla önemli ölçüde daha dar retinal arteriyol çapına sahip olduklarını belirtmiş ancak lipid alt sınıf seviyeleri ile santral retinal venül ekivalanları ile anlamlı bir ilişki saptamamışlardır.¹⁸

Bu çalışmada ayrıca yaş ile retinal vaskülatür arasında ters bir ilişki bulduk. Son zamanlarda, plazma aterojenik indeksi, kardiyovasküler hastalıklar için yeni bir prediktif biyobelirteç olarak kabul edilmektedir ve dolayısıyla bu çalışmaya göre bu değer retinanın vasküler değişikliklerini göstermede de önemli bir rol oynayabileceğini düşündük.^{5,19}

HbA1C'nin diyabetik olmayan hastalarda kardiyovasküler hastalıklar için prognostik bir değere sahip olduğu tanımlanmıştır.^{20,21} Diyabetik olmayan hastalarda yapılan bu çalışmada da obez hastalarda VKİ artışı ile birlikte HbA1C düzeylerinde anlamlı artış saptadık. Bunun yanında HbA1c ile retinanın yüzeysel ve derin VD'leri arasında ters korelasyon saptandı.

Bu çalışmada serum CRP düzeyleri ile OCT-A bulguları arasında herhangi bir ilişki bulunmadı. Önceki literatürde, CRP düzeylerinin kardiyovasküler risk değerlendirmesi ile ilişkisine dair çelişkili veriler bulunmaktadır.^{22,23} CRP bir inflamasyon belirtisi olmasına rağmen başka birçok faktörden etkilenebilir ve bu çalışmada obez hastaların or-

talama CRP seviyeleri kontrollere göre anlamlı derecede yüksek olmasına rağmen CRP seviyeleri genel anlamda hala düşüktü. Obez ve obez olmayan gruplar arasındaki ortalama CRP düzeyleri arasındaki farkın genel anlamda düşük olması, herhangi bir kronik hastalığı olan hastaların çalışma dışı bırakılmasıyla ilişkili olabilir. Sonuç olarak CRP düzeyleri ile OKT-A bulguları arasında herhangi bir ilişki saptanmamış olmasının bu durum ile açıklanabileceği düşünülmüştür.

Bu çalışmayı kısıtlayan ve belirtilmesi gereken durumlar incelendiğinde; ilk olarak, primer hipertansiyon dahil herhangi bir sistemik hastalığı olan tüm hastaları dışlamamıza rağmen, hastaların OKT-A ölçümlerini etkileyebilecek parametreler olan sistolik ve diyastolik kan basıncı değerlerini kaydetmedik. İkincisi, gruplar arasında cinsiyet açısından anlamlı fark bulunmazken, metabolik faktörlerin farklı cinsiyetlerde farklı etkileri olabileceğinden, kadın ve erkeklerin ayrı gruplarda değerlendirilmesi daha uygun olabilirdi. Diğer bir kısıtlılık ise hastanemiz obezite merkezinde bu VKİ değerlerine sahip bireyler izlenmediği için BKİ 25.01 ile 29.99 arasında olan fazla kilolu hastaların çalışmaya alınmamasıdır.

SONUÇ

Son zamanlarda, non-invaziv yöntemlerle araştırılabilen retinal damar değişikliklerinin, kardiyovasküler risk sınıflandırması için hassas mikrovasküler biyobelirteçler olduğu gösterilmiştir. Bu ilişkiye dayanarak, bu vasküler değişiklikleri olabildiğince erken tedavi etmek ve kardiyovasküler morbidite ve mortaliteyi erken evrelerde tahmin etmek için; artmış AI, artmış BMI ve ileri yaş gibi metabolik risk faktörleri olan hastalarda retinal vaskülatürün değerlendirilmesi gerektiğini düşündük. Ancak aterosjenik indeks ve VKİ etkilerinin OKT-A ölçümleri kullanılarak araştırıldığı bu çalışmada elde edilen kesitsel verilerin bu konu ile ilgili sınırlı bilgi verdiği açıktır. Bu nedenle, gelecek çalışmalarda bu bulguları daha iyi açıklamak adına bir takip çalışması planlanması gerektiğini düşünmekteyiz.

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Clinical Features and Survival Outcomes of Unclassified High-Grade Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of the Lung

Akciğerin Sınıflandırılmayan Yüksek Dereceli Nöroendokrin Karsinomaların Klinik Özellikleri ve Sağ Kalım Sonuçları

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Abstract

Introduction Differentiating high-grade neuroendocrine carcinomas (HGNEC) is difficult. We aimed to assess the clinical features and survival outcomes of unclassified HGNEC (uHGNEC) and to compare it with small-cell lung cancer (SCLC).

Materials and Methods This was a retrospective and observational study of HGNEC patients. Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS). Cox-regression analyses were used to determine the risk factors independently associated with PFS and OS.

Results One hundred twenty-one patients [uHGNEC (n = 35), SCLC (n = 86)] were analysed. The primary tumour was mostly right-sided, located in the centre of the lungs. The IASLC stage at diagnosis was locally advanced in 43 (35.5%) patients and advanced in 78 (64.5%) patients. uHGNEC and SCLC groups shared similar clinical features. The study population's median PFS and OS were 8.8 (95%CI 7.29 – 10.30) and 10.9 (95%CI 9.9 – 11.8) months, respectively. uHGNEC- and SCLC groups had a similar PFS (9.4 vs 8.6 months, p = 0.99) and OS (12 vs 10.7 months, p = 0.51). The six-month, one- and two-year PFS and OS of the two groups were also similar. Among all patients, a right-sided tumour (HR: 1.558, 95%CI 1.044 – 2.325, p = 0.03) and advanced-stage disease (HR: 1.928, 95%CI 1.292 – 2.877, p = 0.001) were prognostic factors for poor OS. Cox-regression analysis indicated that histopathology did not have an impact on PFS and OS.

Conclusion HGNEC patients who cannot be classified pathologically behave like SCLC.

Keywords high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma, pulmonary neuroendocrine carcinomas, small-cell lung cancer

Öz

Amaç Bu çalışmanın amacı patolojik olarak tiplendirilemeyen yüksek dereceli nöroendokrin karsinomların (uYDNEK) klinik özelliklerini ve sağ kalım sonuçlarını değerlendirmek ve küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri (KHAK) ile karşılaştırmaktır.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Bu retrospektif ve gözlemsel çalışmada YDNEK hastalarının klinik özellikleri değerlendirildi. Progresyonsuz sağkalım (PFS) ve genel sağkalım (OS) Kaplan-Meier yöntemi kullanılarak hesaplandı. PFS ve OS ile ilişkili bağımsız risk faktörlerini belirlemek için Cox-regresyon analizleri yapıldı.

Bulgular Çalışmaya 121 hasta [uYDNEK (n=35), KHAK (n=86)] dahil edildi. Primer tümör çoğunlukla sağ tarafta ve santral yerleşmişti. Tam amndaki evre 43 (%35,5) hastada lokal ileri, 78 (%64,5) hastada ileri idi. uYDNEK ve KHAK grupların klinik özellikleri benzerdi. Çalışma popülasyonunun medyan PFS ve OS'i sırasıyla 8,8 (%95 CI 7,29 – 10,30) ve 10,9 (%95 CI 9,9 – 11,8) ay olarak hesaplandı. uYDNEK ve KHAK grupları arasında PFS (9,4 ve 8,6 ay, p = 0,99) ve OS (12 ve 10,7 ay, p = 0,51) istatistiksel olarak benzer bulundu. 6-aylık, 1-yıllık, 2-yıllık PFS ve OS hesaplandı, iki grup arasında istatistiksel fark bulunmadı. Cox regresyon analizinde primer tümörün sağ tarafta yerleşimi (HR: 1.558, 95%CI 1.044 – 2.325, p = 0.03) ve ileri evre hastalık (HR: 1.928, 95%CI 1.292 – 2.877, p = 0.001) OS için kötü prognostik faktör olarak bulundu. Cox regresyon analizinin sonuçları, histopatolojik alt tiplerin PFS ve OS üzerinde bir etkisinin olmadığını gösterdi.

Sonuç Patolojik olarak sınıflandırılmayan YDNEK hastaları KHAK hastaları ile benzer klinik ve sağ kalım özellikleri göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler yüksek dereceli nöroendokrin karsinoma, küçük hücreli akciğer kanseri, nöroendokrin tümörler



INTRODUCTION

Pulmonary neuroendocrine carcinoma (pNEC) is a special subtype of lung cancer with an incidence of approximately 15-20%.¹ The diagnostic criteria are clearly defined based on morphology, occurrence and extent of necrosis, and mitotic count. With the growing advances in immunohistochemistry, its use in the diagnosis of pNEC is recommended according to the 2015 WHO Classification. pNEC was grouped into one category including four major types in this edition.² Subsequently, the recent edition of the WHO Classification of lung tumours was released in 2021. The principles, which emphasise using morphology, immunohistochemistry, and molecular techniques, seem similar.³ Accordingly, pNEC has a wide spectrum of tumours from low-grade typical carcinoid tumours and intermediate-grade atypical carcinoid tumours, to high-grade neuroendocrine carcinomas (HGNEC), including small-cell carcinoma (SCLC) and large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma (LCNEC).⁴ SCLC and LCNEC are present in 13–15% and 3% of lung cancers, respectively.⁵ The subtypes of HGNEC have strong similarities with each other in terms of poor histologic differentiation, aggressive behavior, and poor prognosis.^{6–8} Furthermore, differentiating HGNEC from its subgroups as SCLC and LCNEC is complex in numerous cases and may not always be achievable due to several pitfalls including sampling issues, fixation artefacts, and the morphologic variability of tumour cells.^{4,9} Patients diagnosed with HGNEC but cannot be classified (unclassified HGNEC-uHGNEC) are followed up and treated with the recommendations for SCLC in line with the guidelines. However, it is still controversial to use the same strategy of management since there have been few studies about the disease course, treatment response or survival status of patients with uHGNEC. Therefore, we aimed to assess the clinical characteristics and survival outcomes of patients with uHGNEC and compared them to those of patients with SCLC in the current study.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Study population and design

Three hundred forty-four patients whose pathological specimens were evaluated by a professional pulmonary pathologist (F.D.) in our centre between 2009 and 2021 were analysed in this retrospective and observational study. All pathologic specimens were evaluated for a series of immunohistochemically staining, including CD56, thyroid transcription factor 1 (TTF-1), epithelial membrane antigen (EMA), pankeratin, synaptophysin and Ki-67. Patients with a Ki-67 proliferation index of >70% and immunohistochemistry positive results for neuroendocrine markers were enrolled in the analysis. All patients were restaged according to the 8th edition TNM staging system proposed by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC).¹⁰ Tumours involving the main carina or a main segmental bronchus were evaluated as central, while the other locations were evaluated as peripheral.¹¹

As shown in the study flow chart (Figure 1), patients were excluded if they were under the age of 18, underwent an operation for tumour resection, had another known cancer apart from HGNEC / SCLC (before, at the same time or after diagnosis of HGNEC / SCLC), did not complete their first-line anti-cancer treatment due to medical reasons, self-refusal or death, received all or part of their treatment at an outside centre, and loss of medical record/follow-up data. Of note, patients who had an early-stage disease were excluded from this study because of the small number. Finally, 121 patients were included in the study and grouped as patients with uHGNEC (uHGNEC group) and patients with SCLC (SCLC group).

Data for each patient extracted from patients' files and the hospital's medical record system included demographic and clinical characteristics (age, gender, comorbidity, smoking habit), tumour data (histopathology, clinical TNM stage, tumour size, lymph node involvement, metastasis area), and primary tumour's laterality (right / left), location (central/peripheral). The primary survival

outcomes were determined as median progression-free survival (PFS) and median overall survival (OS). PFS was calculated as time (months) from the first treatment to disease progression or death. OS was calculated as time (months) from the date of diagnosis of SCLC / uHGNEC until the date of death from any cause or analysis time. The cut-off date for follow-up was September 1, 2022.

Ankara Atatürk Sanatorium Training and Research Hospital Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Number: 2012-KAEK-15/2559 Date: 23.08.2022) was approved this study. Good Clinical Practice guidelines and assent specific to our country were performed and the Declaration of Helsinki and its subsequent revisions were followed. An informed consent form was waived because this was a retrospective study.

Statistical analysis

Categorical data were expressed as number of cases (%) and compared using the chi-square test or Fisher's Exact test. The normality of the distribution of continuous variables was evaluated by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Continuous data were given as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) for normal distributions, and median (minimum-maximum value) for skewed distributions. Student's t-test or Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare groups depending on normality. The reverse Kaplan–Meier method was used to calculate the median follow-up duration. The Kaplan–Meier method was used to estimate PFS and OS, and the log-rank test was used to compare groups. Cox regression analysis was performed to identify risk factors independently associated with OS and PFS, and presented with the hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Variables associated with OS and PFS which had a P- value lower than 0.1 in univariate analysis were included in multivariate analysis. Statistical analyses were carried out with IBM Corp. Released in 2017. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 25.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

The demographic and clinical features of uHGNEC and SCLC groups

A total of 121 patients (106 males and 15 females, with a mean age of 61.07 ± 10.65) were enrolled in the study. The primary tumour was mostly right-sided and located in the central of the lungs. The most common tumour size was > 7 cm ($n = 63$, 52.1%) and almost all of the patients were N (+) ($n = 116$, 95.8%). The IASLC stage at diagnosis was locally advanced in 43 (35.5%) patients and advanced in 78 (64.5%) patients. There were 35 (28.9%) patients in the uHGNEC group and 86 (71.1%) patients in SCLC (SCLC group). uHGNEC- and SCLC groups shared almost similar demographic and clinical features, and the covariates related to tumour data showed no significant difference between the two groups (Table 1).

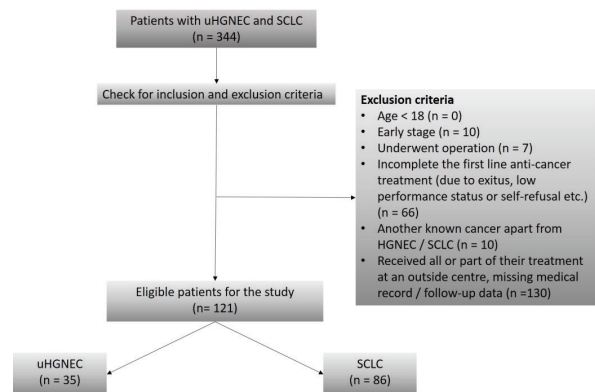


Figure 1. The flowchart of the study population
Abbreviations: SCLC, Small cell lung cancer; uHGNEC, Unclassified high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma

Table 1. The clinical features of the entire study population and comparison of uHGNEC- and SCLC groups				
	ALL POPULATION (N = 121)	UHGNEC (N = 35, 28.9%)	SCLC (N = 86, 71.1%)	P VALUE
AGE (YEAR ± SD)	61.07 ± 10.65	63.49 ± 9.4	60.09 ± 11.02	0.11
AGE, N (%)				
<65	76 (62.8)	19 (54.3)	57 (66.3)	0.21
≥65	45 (37.2)	16 (45.7)	29 (33.7)	
SEX, N (%)				
FEMALE	15 (12.4)	3 (8.6)	12 (14)	0.55
MALE	106 (87.6)	32 (91.4)	74 (86)	
SMOKING HISTORY † (+)	94 (77.6)	27 (77.1)	68 (79)	0.24
COMORBIDITY (+), N (%)	66 (54.5)	22 (62.8)	46 (53.4)	0.14
LATERALITY ‡, N (%)				
LEFT	56 (46.3)	19 (54.3)	37 (43)	0.26
RIGHT	65 (53.7)	16 (45.7)	49 (57)	
LOCATION ‡, N (%)				
PERIPHERAL	28 (23.1)	8 (22.9)	20 (23.3)	0.96
CENTRAL	93 (76.9)	27 (77.1)	66 (76.7)	
TUMOUR SIZE, N (%)				
≤ 3 CM	7 (5.8)	4 (11.4)	3 (3.5)	0.14
3 CM - ≤ 5 CM	13 (10.7)	3 (8.6)	10 (11.6)	
5 CM - ≤ 7 CM	38 (31.4)	14 (40)	24 (27.9)	
> 7 CM	63 (52.1)	14 (40)	49 (57)	
NODAL STATUS, N (%)				
N0	5 (4.1)	3 (8.6)	2 (2.3)	0.94
N1	14 (11.6)	5 (14.3)	9 (10.5)	
N2	68 (56.2)	14 (40)	54 (62.8)	
N3	34 (28.1)	13 (37.1)	21 (24.4)	
M STATUS, N (%)				
M0	43 (35.5)	14 (40)	29 (33.7)	0.58
M1A	7 (5.8)	1 (2.9)	6 (7)	
M1B	12 (9.9)	2 (5.7)	10 (11.6)	
M1C	59 (48.8)	18 (51.4)	41 (47.7)	
IASLC STAGE, N (%)				
LOCALLY-ADVANCED	43 (35.5)	14 (40)	29 (33.7)	0.51
ADVANCED	78 (64.5)	21 (60)	57 (66.3)	
† current or former smokers, ‡ Primary tumour, Abbreviations: uHGNEC, unclassified high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma; SCLC, small cell lung carcinoma; SD, Standard deviation; T, tumour size; N, lymph node; M, metastasis; IASLC, 8th edition TNM staging system proposed by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer				

The comparison of OS and PFS between two groups

During a median follow-up of 41.6 (95% CI: 36.41 – 46.79) months, 97.5% of the entire study population (n = 118) progressed and 94.2% of them (n = 114) died. The median PFS was 7.40 (95% CI 6.82 – 7.97) months. uHGNEC- and SCLC groups had a similar PFS (7.30 vs 7.50 months, p = 0.94). The six-month, one- and two-year PFS for the two groups were also similar (Figure 2A). The median OS was 10.90 (95% CI 9.97 – 11.82) months. uHGNEC- and SCLC groups had a similar median OS (12 vs 10.7 months, p = 0.51). The estimated OS rates for the uHGNEC group were 85.7% at 6 months, 45.7% at 12 months, and 20% at 24 months, while the estimated OS rates for the SCLC group were 88.4%, 36% and 14 %, respectively. The six-month, one- and two-year OS for the two groups were also similar (Figure 2B).

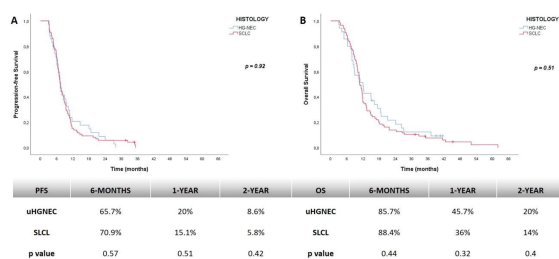


Figure 2: The progression-free survival (A) and overall survival (B) of uHGNEC and SCLC groups

The OS and PFS based on the IASCL stage between the two groups were further evaluated using stratified analysis (Table 2). No significant differences between the two groups in both the locally-advanced (Figure 3A-3B) and advanced subgroups (Figure 3C-3D) were found.

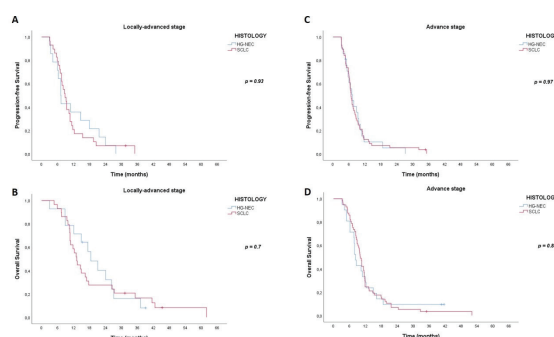


Figure 3: The progression-free survival and overall survival of uHGNEC and SCLC groups according to the IASCL stage subgroups (A-B Locally-advanced stage) (C-D Advanced stage)

Abbreviations: SCLC, Small cell lung cancer; uHGNEC, Unclassified high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma

The prognostic factors of PFS and OS in the entire study population

Nodal status (N2 and N3 involvement) and stage (advanced) were significantly associated with PFS in the univariate Cox regression analysis (Table 3). However, no covariates reached statistical significance in the multivariate analysis. Laterality, nodal status and stage were significantly associated with OS in the univariate analysis (Table 3). These covariates in the univariate analysis were further evaluated in the multivariate analysis. A right-sided tumour (HR: 1.558, 95%CI 1.044 – 2.325, p = 0.03) and an advanced stage disease (HR: 1.928, 95%CI 1.292 – 2.877, p = 0.001) were poor prognostic factors for OS.

Table 2. The progression-free survival and overall survival of patients			
Variables	Estimate survival (95% CI)		P value
	MEANa	MEDIAN	
Progression-free survival			
All population	9.62 (8.35 – 10.89)	7.40 (6.82 – 7.97)	0.92
All-uHGNEC (n = 35)	9.87 (7.55 – 12.18)	7.30 (6.87 – 7.72)	
All-SCLC (n = 86)	9.52 (8.00 – 11.05)	7.50 (6.68 – 8.31)	
Locally-advanced (n = 43)	11.10 (8.74 – 13.45)	8.60 (6.41 – 10.78)	0.93
LA-uHGNEC (n = 14)	11.55 (7.23 – 15.86)	7.20 (5.97 – 8.42)	
LA-SCLC (n = 29)	10.88 (8.03 – 13.73)	8.80 (6.41 – 10.78)	
Advanced (n = 78)	8.80 (7.33 – 10.27)	6.90 (6.30 – 7.49)	0.97
A-uHGNEC (n = 21)	8.67 (6.18 – 11.16)	7.40 (5.67 – 9.12)	
A-SCLC (n = 57)	8.85 (7.05 – 10.64)	6.80 (6.15 – 7.44)	
Overall survival			
All population (n = 121)	15.41 (13.06 – 17.76)	10.90 (9.97 – 11.82)	0.51
All-uHGNEC (n = 35)	15.57 (11.78 – 19.36)	12 (8.05 – 15.94)	
All-SCLC (n = 86)	14.94 (12.30 – 17.58)	10.70 (9.86 – 11.53)	
Locally-advanced (n = 43)	20.72 (15.98 – 25.46)	14.90 (10.84 – 18.96)	0.7
LA-uHGNEC (n = 14)	20.34 (14.81 – 25.88)	18.50 (12.29 – 24.70)	
LA-SCLC (n = 29)	20.28 (14.25 – 26.31)	13.20 (11.26 – 15.13)	
Advanced (n = 78)	12.62 (10.27 – 14.97)	9.90 (8.49 – 11.30)	0.88
A-uHGNEC (n = 21)	12.21 (7.80 – 16.61)	8.30 (7.40– 9.19)	
A-SCLC (n = 57)	12.41 (9.97 – 14.85)	10.10 (9.26 – 10.93)	
a Estimation is limited to the largest survival time if it is censored. Abbreviations: uHGNEC, unclassified high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma; SCLC, small cell lung carcinoma; 8th edition TNM staging system proposed by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer			

Table 3. The univariate Cox regression analysis of progression-free survival and overall survival						
Variables	Progression-free survival			Overall survival		
	HR	95% CI	p value	HR	95% CI	p value
Age						
< 65 (Ref.)	1	0.568 – 1.207	0.32	1	0.674 – 1.455	0.96
≥ 65	0.828			0.990		
Sex						
Female (Ref.)	1	0.673 – 2.073	0.56	1	0.521 – 1.605	0.75
Male	1.181			0.914		
Comorbidity						
No (Ref.)	1	0.545 – 1.236	0.34	1	0.738 – 1.691	0.6
Yes	0.820			1.117		
Smoking						
No (Ref.)	1	0.577 – 2.285	0.69	1	0.652 – 3.050	0.38
Yes	1.148			1.410		
Histopathology						
SCLC (Ref.)	1	0.679 – 1.518	0.94	1	0.756 – 1.739	0.52
uHGNEC	1.015			1.146		
Laterality						
Left (Ref.)	1	0.839 – 1.751	0.3	1	1.135 – 2.479	0.009
Right	1.212			1.677		
Location						
Peripheral (Ref.)	1	0.556 – 1.336	0.5	1	0.610 – 1.494	0.95
Central	0.862			0.955		
Tumour size						
≤ 5 cm (Ref.)	1	0.658 – 1.768	0.76	1	0.490 – 1.301	0.36
> 5 cm	1.078			0.798		
N status						
N 0-1 (Ref.)	1	1.107 – 3.142	0.01	1	0.985 – 3.043	0.05
N 2-3	1.865			1.731		
Stage						
Locally-advanced (Ref.)	1	0.950 – 2.034	0.09	1	1.340 – 2.966	0.001
Advanced	1.390			1.994		

DISCUSSION

uHGNEC and SCLC groups have similar clinical features, and apparent differences do not exist between the two groups regarding survival outcomes in this study.

SCLC and LCNEC arise predominantly in older males with a smoking history.⁸ The presence of comorbidities is also common in both subtypes of HGNEC, possibly due to a strong association with smoking. However, SCLC is a mostly centrally located tumour whereas LCNEC tends to locate at the periphery lungs.¹ In our study, the SCLC groups' clinical features are consistent with data from the literature, and the uHGNEC group shares similar clinical features with the SCLC group. The majority of SCLC patients with limited-stage cancer and nearly all patients with the metastatic disease eventually develop tumour progression, even if they respond to initial therapy.¹² Median PFS was 6.3 months, with an estimated PFS rate of 53.8% at 6 months, 15.6% at 12 months, and 5.8% at 24 months in a previous study.¹³ In our study, the estimated PFS rate for the SCLC group at 6 months was slightly higher than those reported in the previous study, while one- and two-year PFS were similar. The uHGNEC group tended to have longer PFS as compared to the SCLC group, though there was no significant difference. On the other hand, previous studies evaluating metastatic LCNEC treatment have reported that median PFS varies from 4.4 months to 6.2 months. The uHGNEC group had a longer PFS than reported in these studies.⁸ Poorer PFS of SCLC is associated with several factors including male sex, increasing age, smoking history and having worse performance status.¹³ In our study, these covariates as well as histological subtype were not found to be significantly associated with PFS.

SCLC is a poorly differentiated tumour and has a high mortality rate in comparison to other solid tumours.¹⁴ Since the five-year survival rate was increasing, the OS was only 7 months according to the US SEER registry data analysis for the 1983-2012 period. The prognosis of LC-

NEC is also poor, with a median OS of 8–12 months.⁸ In our study, the OS of the SCLC group was 10.7 months. uHCNEC group had a similar median OS (12 months) than those reported in the SCLC group and patients with LCNEC reported in the literature. Furthermore, the previous study with SCLC patients has reported a median OS of 9.5 months, with an estimated OS rate of 70.3% at 6 months, 38.9% at 12 months, and 14.8% at 24 months after diagnosis. The estimated OS rates for SCLC- and uHGNEC groups at 6 months were higher than the previous study, while one- and two-year OS were similar.¹³ The fact that all patients finished at least the first-line therapy may have allowed for the detection of slightly longer survival rates at 6 months in our study. To date, several negative prognostic factors for SCLC and LCNEC have also been identified.^{7,15} Male sex, increasing age, having worse performance status, presence of comorbidities, having extensive stage disease and receipt of no chemotherapy are independently associated with poorer survival in SCLC.^{16,17} Older age and mixed histology are significantly associated with prognosis in LCNEC.⁷ Right-sided tumour and advanced stage were poor prognostic factors for OS, while histology was not associated with OS in our study.

So far, few studies are comparing the characteristics and prognosis of HGNEC subtypes. Some studies have suggested that genetic, genomic, phenotypic, and survival outcome similarities exist between LCNEC and SCLC, making it reasonable to be categorized them into a single group as HGNEC.^{18,19} On the other hand, some studies have found that patients with LCNEC have different characteristics and better prognoses, emphasizing the need for a detailed classification for HGNECs.^{1,20} In our study, there were no apparent differences between the uHGNEC and SCLC groups in terms of clinical characteristics and survival outcomes. It may be related to the fact that the majority of them are actually SCLC. Another possible explanation for this is that LCNEC and SCLC are two faces of the same entity, which is HGNEC.

There are several potential limitations. First, our study had a retrospective design from a single hospital with a slightly low number of patients, which may limit an interpretation of the results due to the unrecognized bias. Second, there was no information about the baseline performance status of the patients as the study was retrospective. Third, this study was performed on patients who had locally advanced and advanced due to a small number of patients with early stage.

CONCLUSION

Patients with uHGNEC show similarities regarding clinical features and survival outcomes to SCLC in the current study. Our findings suggest that HGNEC patients who cannot be classified pathologically behave like SCLC. Nonetheless, prospective studies may provide considerable insight to clarify the current topic.

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Is There an Ideal Surgical Treatment for Adult Complex Distal Humerus Fractures?

Erişkin Distal Humerus Kompleks Kırıklarında İdeal Cerrahi Tedavi Seçeneği Var Mı?

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Abstract

Introduction The purpose of this study is to compare the advantages and disadvantages of various surgical techniques in the treatment of distal humerus complex fractures.

Materials and Methods Seventy-one patients with distal humerus diaphysis fractures who were treated between 2015 and 2020 were retrospectively investigated. The patients were treated with the posterior approach of open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis (Group A), plated with the minimal invasive technique (Group B), operated using the lateral approach (Group C) and treated with an external fixator (Group D). Age, gender, mechanism of fracture, fracture type and AO class, applied surgical method, additional injuries, duration of operation, amount of bleeding, amount of fluoroscopy used, length of hospital stay, radiological angular values, union time, complications, and clinical examination findings of the patients were examined retrospectively and the differences between the mentioned surgical methods were investigated.

Results Blood loss was significantly less in Groups C and D ($p < 0.001$). The use of fluoroscopy was less in Group A. The length of stay in Group B was significantly shorter than for Group D ($p < 0.001$). Union time was significantly longer for Groups B and D compared to Groups A and C ($p < 0.05$). Shoulder abduction strength loss was higher in Group D ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion The fixation with the hybrid external fixator in cases in the distal area that makes plaque placement difficult and especially in multi-part humeral diaphysis fractures is a method that gives good functional results as well as other methods that can be used.

Keywords Humerus fracture; Diaphysis; minimally invasive; external fixation;

Öz

Amaç Çalışmanın amacı distal humerus kompleks kırıklarında uygulanmış farklı cerrahi tekniklerin avantaj ve dezavantajlarının karşılaştırılmasıdır.

Yöntem ve Gereçler 2015-2020 yılları arasında distal humerus diafiz kırığı tanısı alarak cerrahi tedavi planlanan hastalardan posterior yaklaşım kullanılarak açık redüksiyon ile plak-vida osteosentezi(Grup A), minimal invaziv teknikle plaklama(Grup B), Lateral yaklaşım kullanılarak plak,vida osteosentezi(Grup C) ve eksternal fiksator ile tespit(Grup D) yapılan 71 humerus kırığı çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastalar yaş, cinsiyet, kırığın oluş mekanizması, kırığın şekli ve AO sınıfı, uygulanan cerrahi yöntem, ek yaralanmalar, ameliyat süresi, kanama miktarı, kullanılan floroskopi miktarı, hastanede kalış süreleri, radyolojik açısal değerler, kaynama zamanı, komplikasyonlar, muayene bulguları retrospektif olarak incelenerek belirtilen cerrahi yöntemler arası farklılıklar araştırıldı.

Bulgular Kan kaybı miktarı Grup B ve D' de istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede az bulundu ($p < 0.001$). Floroskopi kullanımı; Grup A'da daha az bulundu. Hastanede kalış süresi Grup B'de Grup D'ye göre kısa bulundu ($p < 0.001$). B ve D grubunda kaynama süresi A ve C grubuna göre anlamlı şekilde uzun bulundu ($p < 0.05$). Omuz abduksiyon kuvveti ölçümünde grup D' de grup A ve B'ye göre anlamlı kayıp vardı($p < 0.001$).

Sonuç Hibrid eksternal fiksator ile tespit yönteminin plak yerleşimini zorlaştıracak kadar distal bölgede bulunan, yumuşak doku problemi olan, özellikle çok parçalı humerus diafiz kırıklarında kullanımı diğer yöntemlerle benzer şekilde iyi fonksiyonel sonuçlar vermesi açısından uygun bir cerrahi seçenektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

humerus kırığı; diafiz; minimal invaziv; eksternal fiksasyon



INTRODUCTION

Humeral shaft fractures are a common orthopedic injury and constitute 1–3% of all fractures. Approximately 10% of humeral body fractures occur as distal third fractures.^{1,2} This fracture is commonly associated with sports injuries and high-energy trauma in younger individuals, however, it may occur in older individuals after falls.^{1,2,3} These fractures can result in significant complications with regard to functionality, particularly in patients with fractures close to the elbow joint. Fracture-induced permanent deformities in this area may cause functional loss in the elbow joint and in the hand.⁴

Although humeral shaft fractures can be treated using conservative methods, surgical treatment is required in some patients, including in those with open fractures, in patients with an improper post-reduction fracture alignment, in patients with vascular and/or nerve injuries, and in patients with segmental fractures.⁵

Surgical treatment includes plate-screw osteosynthesis, intramedullary nailing, and external fixation.⁶

Surgical treatment enables early return to work for patients and minimizes the loss of the work force. It is also a cost-effective option for treatment. Surgical treatment has therefore been preferred in recent years.

Although many studies in the current literature have described humerus distal diaphyseal fractures, the exact indications for surgical treatment of these fractures remain unclear.⁶ The purpose of this study is to compare the advantages and disadvantages of various surgical techniques in the treatment of distal humerus fractures.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Between 2015 and 2020, 71 patients with complex distal humerus fractures treated surgically over the five years with a minimum six-month follow-up were included in the study. Patients were categorized into the following groups:

those operated on using a posterior approach comprising open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis (Group A), those who underwent minimally invasive plating (Group B), those who underwent an operation using a lateral approach (Group C), and those who underwent external fixator placement (Group D).

Exclusion criteria were as follows: (a) fractures that extended to the shoulder and elbow joint, (b) fractures of the proximal humeral diaphysis, (c) fractures treated using conservative management, and (d) unavailability of complete medical records.

The following patient data were documented from hospital records to compare the surgical methods used: age, sex, fracture mechanism, type and AO classification of the fracture, surgical method, surgical time, intraoperative blood loss, amount of fluoroscopy used, length of hospitalization, postoperative radiologically documented angulation, fracture healing time, complications, and postoperative clinical evaluation findings.

Clinical and radiological evaluation

Angulation on anteroposterior and lateral radiographs and healing time were evaluated postoperatively. Varus angulation was considered negative (-) and valgus angulation was considered positive (+) on the anteroposterior radiographs. Flexion angulation was considered positive (+) and extension angulation was considered negative (-) on the lateral radiographs.

Fracture healing was defined as the absence of pain along the fracture line on clinical examination with a strong and continuous callus bridge in at least three cortices on the anteroposterior and lateral radiographs.⁷

Clinical evaluation included measurements of the range of motion at the elbow joint using a goniometer and of the strength of elbow flexion and extension, as well as of the strength of shoulder abduction (expressed in N) using a

digital hand dynamometer (Figure 1). These values were compared with those of the unaffected side, and the rate of loss relative to the unaffected side was calculated. The strength:loss ratio of the other side based on the measured maximum strength was calculated for the patients who underwent surgery for bilateral fractures.



Figure 1: Incision and retraction made to protect the ulnar nerve

The Quick Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand Questionnaire (QuickDASH) scale and the Mayo elbow performance index (MEPI) score were used for functional evaluation.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive analyses were performed to obtain information on the general characteristics of the study population. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to test the normality of the variables. One-way analysis of variance (One-way ANOVA) and the Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance were used to compare the total scores of the continuous variables among the four groups. The Mann-Whitney U test with the Bonferroni adjustment was used for multiple comparisons. Normally distributed continuous data were expressed as mean±standard deviation and non-normally distributed continuous variables were represented by the median and interquartile range (Q1–Q3). Categorical variables were compared using the chi-square test and were presented as counts and percentages. A p value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. All analyses were performed using the SPSS Statistics version 23.0 software program (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.)

Ethics committee approval

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Sakarya University Medical Faculty (14/11/2017 - 71522473/050.01.04/218)

RESULTS

Of the 71 patients included in the study, 29 (41%) were females and 42 (59%) were males. The patients' mean age was 35.3 (16–89) years. The right humerus was involved in 38 (54%) patients and the left humerus was involved in 33 (46%) patients, while the dominant side was involved in 42 (59%) patients.

The fracture mechanisms were as follows: traffic accidents in 32 (45%) patients, simple falls in 32 (45%) patients, falling from a height in five (7%) patients, and gunshot injuries in two (3%) patients.

The distribution of the fractures based on the AO classification was as follows: 1-2-A1 in two patients, 1-2-A2 in three patients, 1-2-B1 in 29 patients, 1-2-B2 in 19 patients, 1-2-B3 in 10 patients, 1-2-C1 in three patients, and 1-2-C3 in five patients.

The posterior approach was used in 20 patients (Group A), the anterior minimally invasive approach (MIPO) was used in 15 patients (Group B), the lateral approach was used in 17 patients (Group C), and hybrid external fixator placement was used in 19 patients.

The mean time between the commencement and completion of surgery was 77.4 minutes. The mean surgical time was 65 (60–70) minutes in the minimally invasive approach (MIPO), 75 (70–85) minutes in the lateral approach, 77.5 (70–87.5) minutes in the posterior approach, and 70 (70–90) minutes in the hybrid external fixator group. The shortest and longest surgical times were 30 minutes and 180 minutes in the MIPO and the posterior approach groups, respectively. No statistically significant intergroup difference was observed in surgical time (p

Table 1. Results of the comparisons among the four groups for patient characteristics

	Group A (n=20)	Group B (n=15)	Group C (n=17)	Group D (n=19)	P *
Age	32.15±8.2	42.87±22.1	33.47±13.48	34.68±10.18	0.131
Gender, male	12 (60)	9 (60)	11 (64.7)	10 (52.6)	0.905
Side, right	12 (60)	7 (46.7)	9 (52.9)	10 (52.6)	0.890
Surgery length (min)	77.5 [70-87.5]	65 [60-70]	75 [70-85]	70 [70-90]	0.079
Loss of blood (ml)	200 [150-200]	50 [50-80]	180 [150-200]	50 [35-50]	<0.001 ^a
Fluoroscopy usage (Sec)	9.5 [7-17]	36 [25-60]	24 [24-36]	70 [60-78]	<0.001 ^b
Fracture healing time (day)	52 [42-60]	72 [65-80]	56 [48-60]	100 [90-120]	<0.001 ^a
Elbow range of motion	135 [130-135]	135 [130-135]	135 [130-135]	130 [130-135]	0.296
Loss of flexion strength %	0 [0-0]	12.5 [0-16.6]	0 [0-10]	10 [0-15]	0.002 ^c
Loss of extension strength %	0 [0-14]	0 [0-12.5]	10 [0-12.5]	12.5 [0-25]	0.054
Loss of shoulder abduction strength %	0 [0-0]	0 [0-0]	0 [0-20]	15 [0-20]	<0.001 ^d
Angulation, anteroposterior	0 [0-0]	-4 [-6-0]	-2 [-5-0]	-4 [-6-0]	<0.001 ^e
Angulation, lateral	0 [-4.5-0]	-2 [-5-0]	0 [-3-2]	8 [4-12]	<0.001 ^f
MEPI	100 [90-100]	85 [85-100]	90 [85-100]	90 [90-100]	0.164
QuickDASH	2.3 [0-5.65]	2.3 [0-9.1]	4.5 [0-11.4]	4.5 [2.3-6.8]	0.284
Hospitalization	7 [4.5-8]	5 [3-6]	7 [6-8]	9 [7-10]	0.001 ^g
Postoperative Complications	0 (0)	1 (6.7)	2 (14.3)	0 (0)	0.598

Data were shown as mean±standard deviation, median [IQR] and n (%).
*: Pairwise comparison results were shown in Table 2.

=0.079) (Table 1).

The mean intraoperative blood loss was 121.6 (30–300) mL. The mean intraoperative blood loss was 50 (50–80) mL in the MIPO, 180 (150–200) mL in the lateral approach, 200 (150–200) mL in the posterior approach, and 50 (35–50) mL in the hybrid external fixator group. A statistically significant intergroup difference was observed in the volume of intraoperative blood loss and a significant difference was observed between the MIPO and the lateral

and posterior approaches ($p < 0.001$). A significant difference was also observed between the hybrid external fixator and the lateral and posterior approaches ($p < 0.001$) (Tables 1 and 2).

The mean duration of fluoroscopy was 39 seconds. Fluoroscopy was not performed in all patients, however, the longest duration of fluoroscopy was 84 seconds. The fluoroscopy time across the study groups was as follows: 36 (25–60) seconds in the MIPO group, 24 (24–36) seconds

Table 2. Pairwise comparison results

Pairs	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Group B – Group C	p<0.05	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Group B – Group A	p<0.05	p<0.05	p<0.05	NS	p<0.05	NS	NS
Group B – Group D	NS	NS	NS	p<0.05	NS	p<0.05	p<0.05
Group C – Group A	NS	NS	NS	NS	p<0.05	NS	NS
Group C – Group D	p<0.05	p<0.05	NS	NS	NS	p<0.05	NS
Group A – Group D	p<0.05	p<0.05	p<0.05	p<0.05	p<0.05	p<0.05	NS

in the lateral approach group, 9.5 (7–17) seconds in the posterior approach group, and 70 (60–78) seconds in the hybrid external fixator group. A significant difference was observed between the posterior approach and the MIPO and external fixator groups ($p < 0.001$) and between the lateral approach and external fixator groups ($p < 0.001$). (Tables 1 2).

The mean length of hospitalization was 6.7 (3–10) days. The length of hospitalization was significantly shorter in the MIPO group than in the hybrid external fixator group ($p < 0.001$) (Tables 1 and 2).

The mean time until fracture healing was 72.7 (36–120) days during postoperative follow-ups. The healing time was 72 (65–80) days in the MIPO group, 56 (48–60) days in the lateral approach group, 52 (42–60) days in the posterior approach group, and 100 (90–120) days in the hybrid external fixator group. The healing time was significantly longer in the hybrid external fixator and MIPO groups than in the posterior and lateral approach groups ($p < 0.05$) (Tables 1 and 2).

The mean elbow joint range of motion measured during the follow-ups after fracture healing was 132.5° (125–135°). No statistically significant intergroup difference was observed ($p = 0.296$) (Table 1). Angulations observed on the anteroposterior radiographs were higher in the MIPO, lateral approach, and hybrid external fixator groups than in the posterior approach group ($p < 0.001$). Lateral angulation was significantly higher in the external fixator group than in the other groups ($p < 0.001$) (Tables 1 and 2).

Elbow flexion strength loss was 12.5% (0–16.6) in the MIPO group, 0% (0–10) in the lateral approach group, 0% (0–0) in the posterior approach group, and 10% (0–15) in the hybrid external fixator group. Loss of flexion strength was greater in the MIPO and external fixation groups ($p = 0.002$). No significant intergroup difference was observed in extension strength loss ($p = 0.054$). Significant loss of

shoulder abduction strength was observed in the external fixator group compared with the posterior approach and MIPO groups ($p < 0.001$) (Tables 1 and 2). The mean MEPI was 92.9 (80–100), and the mean QuickDASH score was 4.5 (0–13.6). No intergroup difference was observed in the functional scores.

Five patients with preoperative radial symptoms showed symptom resolution within six months postoperatively. None of the patients developed iatrogenic injury. Nonunion and implant failure occurred in one and two patients, respectively. No significant intergroup differences were observed in complications.

DISCUSSION

Although many studies have described humerus distal diaphyseal fractures, the exact indications for surgical treatment of these fractures remain unclear.⁶ The purpose of this study is to compare the advantages and disadvantages of various surgical techniques in the treatment of distal humerus fractures.

This study showed that the surgical time was longer in both groups that underwent open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis. In a study performed by Esmailiejah et al., the authors compared 33 patients with humeral fractures treated with plate-screw osteosynthesis together with open reduction and 32 patients who underwent MIPO and observed that the surgical time was shorter in the MIPO group, although this difference was statistically insignificant.^{8,9} Catagni et al. reported a mean surgical time of 30 minutes in a study that investigated 84 patients who underwent external fixation for humeral diaphyseal fractures.¹⁰ Surgical time is an important variable that is known to affect the outcomes of all operations.⁸ Longer surgical time is associated with a higher complication rate.⁸ In the present study, the surgical time was longer in both groups that underwent open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis, which is consistent with findings of previously reported studies. Although the surgical time

was shorter in patients who underwent the minimally invasive and hybrid external fixator procedures, intergroup comparison showed no statistically significant differences. In the present study, blood loss was lesser in the groups in which minimally invasive and hybrid external fixator techniques were used than in the other groups. This difference was statistically significant. Blood loss accompanying long bone fractures may weaken an individual's immunity and predispose patients to infection and sepsis. Reportedly, the average total blood loss in patients with humeral shaft fractures was approximately 500 mL.¹¹ Current studies in the literature have reported that minimally invasive methods are associated with a low volume of blood loss.^{12,13,14,15} Fluoroscopic guidance, particularly for minimally invasive procedures, is widely being used in orthopedic surgery. Reportedly, radiation exposure is significantly higher during minimally invasive surgical procedures than during open surgery.^{16,17,18} In the present study, the duration of fluoroscopy was significantly longer in the external fixator group than in the open surgery group. A statistically significant increase was observed in the MIPO group compared with the lateral approach group.

In the present study, the healing time was longer in the hybrid external fixator and MIPO groups than in the other groups, in contrast to the findings reported in the current literature, and this difference was statistically significant. In this study, no statistically significant difference was observed in the healing time between the posterior and lateral approach groups, which concurs with the results of previous reports in the literature.^{9,19,20} A retrospective study that compared conventional open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis with the MIPO technique for middle and distal humeral shaft fractures reported that the MIPO technique was associated with more rapid healing.¹⁸ In another study by Esmailiejah et al., the healing time was shorter in patients who were treated using the MIPO technique compared with those who underwent open reduction and plating, however, the difference was statistically nonsignificant.⁹ Yin et al. reported no significant difference

in healing time in a study that compared the lateral and posterior approaches for the management of distal humeral diaphyseal fractures.¹⁹ Scaglione et al. reported a mean healing time of 12 weeks (83.2 days) among 85 patients who underwent external fixator placement as the definitive treatment for humeral diaphyseal fractures.²⁰ Healing time is an important factor associated with functional restoration in patients, with treatment costs, and with the loss of work power. The longer healing time observed in the hybrid external fixator group is attributable to the fact that patients who underwent external fixation were exposed to significant high-energy trauma, and external fixation was performed for comminuted fractures with a short distal fracture fragment. The delay in the MIPO group is attributable to the application of the relative fixation.

Shoulder and elbow range of motion may be adversely affected by the surgical technique used for treatment of humeral fractures. Studies in the literature have not reported a significant difference between the minimally invasive and open reduction plating techniques.^{18,21} In the present study, upon treatment completion, no statistically significant difference was observed, which is consistent with the findings of previous studies.

The acceptable parameters to avoid functional and cosmetic issues in cases of humeral diaphyseal fractures include the following: 3 cm shortness, 20° anterior-posterior angulation, and 30° varus angulation.²² Esmailiejah et al. compared patients who underwent MIPO and those who underwent open surgery and observed that the MIPO group included a greater number of patients with >5° of varus deformity, however, the difference was statistically nonsignificant.⁹ Studies have reported that among the various techniques used for the management of complex humeral diaphyseal fractures, the plate-screw osteosynthesis method is associated with superior results radiologically.²³ A limited number of reports have discussed the use of external fixators for humeral diaphyseal fractures. In a study by Aynacı et al., in which an external fixator was

used to treat humeral diaphyseal fractures, the authors did not observe malunion in any patient.³⁰ However, a statistically significant intergroup difference was observed in the angulation measured on the anteroposterior radiographs. Statistical analysis showed lesser angulation in the posterior approach than in the other groups. Varus and valgus angulation measured in all groups were within acceptable limits and were not associated with cosmetic issues in any patient.²² Lateral angulation was significantly higher in the hybrid external fixator group than in all other groups in the present study. The greater sagittal plan angulation in the hybrid external fixator group is attributable to the closed surgical method used and to the inability to perform open anatomical reduction.

Postoperative evaluation of extremity function is based on measurements of functional scores and range of motion to perform intergroup comparisons.^{9,18} Muscle strength is measured using special devices and dynamometers to assess isokinetic muscle strength.^{23,24} Broadbent et al. measured elbow flexion and extension strength in 110 patients with humeral fractures and observed that flexion strength loss was lesser in the non-surgical group than in the surgical group and it was greater in those with delayed union. Notably, patients with delayed union also showed greater extension strength loss.²³ In the present study, using a simple hand dynamometer, elbow flexion, extension strength, and shoulder abduction strength were measured in both extremities after complete fracture healing. Loss of strength, if any, was calculated as a percentage relative to the unaffected side. Flexion strength loss was greater in the MIPO and hybrid external fixator groups than in the posterior approach group.

No statistically significant intergroup difference was observed in the percentage of extension strength loss. Following paired comparison, significant shoulder abduction strength loss was observed in the external fixator group compared with the posterior approach and MIPO groups. In the view of the authors, the greater loss of abduction

strength in the hybrid external fixator group than in the other groups is attributable to the fact that the Schanz screws driven proximal to the fracture line were located close to the deltoid muscle, these patients presented with complex types of fractures, and this method was selected owing to difficult reduction in these patients. Additionally, the hybrid external fixator system placement results in pain and restricted shoulder movements during fixation; therefore, patients may avoid shoulder movements, which may contribute to the significant loss of shoulder abduction strength.

The MEPI used to evaluate elbow joint function is frequently described in current literature. No intergroup difference was observed in the MEPI scores across several previously reported studies.^{9,18,27} In a study performed by Yin et al., no intergroup difference was observed in the MEPI scores between the posterior and lateral approaches.²⁸ In the present study, no significant intergroup difference was observed in the MEPI scores.

The DASH score is commonly used for the intergroup comparison of shoulder, elbow, and hand functions. Some studies reported no significant difference in the DASH scores of different methods used for humeral diaphyseal fractures with regard to functionality.¹⁹ In the present study, no significant intergroup difference was observed in the DASH scores.

A retrospective study that compared the MIPO technique with conventional open reduction and plate-screw osteosynthesis for middle and distal humeral shaft fractures reported a lower rate of iatrogenic radial nerve injury (0–31.3%) in the MIPO group.¹⁸ A study that compared the lateral and posterior approaches showed a statistically significant lower rate of complications associated with the lateral approach.¹⁹

Scaglione et al. reported delayed healing and refracture in one patient each in a study that investigated 85 patients

with humeral diaphyseal fractures treated with an external fixator.²⁰ In the present study, no significant intergroup difference was observed in the complication rates.

CONCLUSION

The functional results of different surgical techniques applied in similar fracture types were similar. The selection and application of a suitable treatment for an existing fracture can lead to better functional results regardless of the surgical method used. Fixation with the hybrid external fixator in cases where the distal area makes plate placement difficult, particularly in multipart humeral diaphyseal fractures, provides good functional results as along with the other methods that can be used. All known methods yielded similar functional results. Thus, the surgical method selected will primarily be based on the surgeon's preference.

Conflict of Interest

None of the authors received any outside funding or grants in support of their research or for the preparation of this work. Neither they nor any member of their immediate families received payments, other benefits, a commitment or an agreement to provide such benefits from a commercial entity.

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Declaration of Contribution

AÇ Uyar, Writer of the manuscript. Corresponding author.

A Kochai, Co-writer of the manuscript.

M Uysal, Reviewer of the manuscript.

A Akar, Data collection.

U Özdemir, Manuscript editing.

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Pertuzumab-Mediated Cardiotoxicity: A Single Center Study

Pertuzumab Aracılı Kardiyotoksosite: Tek Merkezli Bir Çalışma

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Abstract

Introduction Recent clinical trials have shown that adding pertuzumab to trastuzumab improved the cellular response to therapy and provides a survival benefit compared with trastuzumab alone. However, it has raised concerns about additive risk of cardiotoxicity. Real life data on pertuzumab-induced cardiotoxicity are limited.

Materials and Methods Patients a diagnosis of breast cancer who had been treated trastuzumab plus pertuzumab between January 2017 and June 2022 and had undergone regularly transthoracic echocardiography, as a part of control visits, in our medical center were included. We performed descriptive statistical analysis to evaluate the patients' characteristics and therapies, which could increase the risk of cardiac adverse events. Cardiotoxicity was evaluated by serial left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) measuring by 2D echocardiography at baseline and every three months during pertuzumab therapy and was defined as a decrease in LVEF > 10% to below 55%.

Results There were 118 patients fulfilling the inclusion criteria. The median age of the population was 51 (41-60) years. The median duration of pertuzumab therapy was 15 (9-57) weeks. Pertuzumab therapy was discontinued in two patients because of an allergic reaction and in other two patients due to cardiotoxicity. The reduced LVEF did not recover to baseline values in either patient.

Conclusion The incidence of cardiotoxicity (1.69%) in the current study was no higher than expected for trastuzumab alone. Data from previous studies and the results of this study support that pertuzumab causes no increase in cardiotoxicity. Still, large clinical trials are needed to verify the cardiac safety of pertuzumab in a real-world setting.

Keywords breast cancer; cardiotoxicity; pertuzumab.

Öz

Amaç Son klinik çalışmalar, trastuzumaba pertuzumab eklenmesinin tedaviye hücresel yanıtı iyileştirdiğini ve tek başına trastuzumab ile karşılaştırıldığında sağkalım avantajı sağladığını göstermiştir. Bununla birlikte, kardiyotoksosite riskini arttırabileceği konusunda endişe uyandırmıştır. Pertuzumabın neden olduğu kardiyotoksositeye ilişkin gerçek yaşam verileri kısıtlıdır.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Ocak 2017-Haziran 2022 tarihleri arasında trastuzumab beraberinde pertuzumab tedavisi gören ve kontrol vizitleri kapsamında düzenli olarak transtorasik ekokardiyografi çekilen hastalar çalışmaya dahil edildi. Kardiyak advers olay riskini arttırabilecek hasta özelliklerini ve tedavilerini değerlendirmek için tanımlayıcı istatistiksel analizler kullanıldı. Başlangıçta ve pertuzumab tedavisi sırasında her 3 ayda bir 2 boyutlu ekokardiyografi ile yapılan ardışık sol ventrikül ejeksiyon fraksiyonu (SVEF) ölçümleri değerlendirildi ve SVEF'nin %10'dan fazla düşüşle %55'in altına inmesi kardiyotoksosite olarak tanımlandı.

Bulgular Dahil edilme kriterlerini karşılayan 118 hasta vardı. Populasyonun yaş ortancası 51 (41-60) yılı. Pertuzumab tedavisinin ortalama süresi 15 (9-57) haftaydı. Pertuzumab tedavisi iki hastada alerjik reaksiyon, diğer iki hastada kardiyotoksosite nedeniyle kesildi. Azalan SVEF her 2 hastada da başlangıç değerlerine geri döndü.

Sonuç Mevcut çalışmada kardiyotoksosite insidansı (%1,69) tek başına trastuzumab için beklenenden daha yüksek değildi. Önceki çalışmalardan elde edilen veriler ve bu çalışmanın sonuçları pertuzumabın kardiyotoksitede artışa neden olmadığını desteklemektedir. Yine de, gerçek yaşam koşullarında pertuzumabın kardiyak güvenliğini desteklemek için büyük çaplı klinik çalışmalara ihtiyaç vardır.

Anahtar Kelimeler meme kanseri; kardiyotoksosite; pertuzumab.



INTRODUCTION

Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) positive breast cancer comprises nearly 20% of the breast cancer cases.¹ Before, it was a poor prognostic feature to have HER2-positive breast cancer, but with the introduction of anti-HER2 agents prognosis changed dramatically and survival increased in this patient group.²⁻⁴ Recent studies have provided new proof about the positive effects on treatment response and survival benefit of the pertuzumab in addition to trastuzumab.⁵⁻⁶ Pertuzumab binds to an epitope on the HER2 receptor different from trastuzumab and displayed synergistic effects on the antitumor activity with trastuzumab.⁷

Pertuzumab is administered with trastuzumab and usually along with taxanes according to the chemotherapy regimens.^{8,9} Before patients with HER2 positive breast cancer had approximately 20.3 months of survival under trastuzumab therapy, median survival time increased to 48 months with administration of trastuzumab, pertuzumab, docetaxel combination.^{10,11}

While the prognosis of breast cancer improves and survival prolonged, it brings together increased concerns about drug-related adverse events.¹² While trastuzumab-related cardiac dysfunction is well documented, pertuzumab-related cardiac adverse events are less established.

Current data about the cardiac effects of pertuzumab are conflicting. The Neosphere trial reported a mild increase in left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) decline with pertuzumab combination compared with the control group, some trials showed no increase in the incidence of drug-related cardiotoxicity in case of addition pertuzumab to trastuzumab.^{6,13,14}

Current evidence about the cardiotoxicity potential of pertuzumab usually comes from phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials and real life data may differ from these results. However, there is a possibility that the possible selection bias

prefers healthier or younger persons to enroll in clinical trials. There is limited data about the cardiac outcomes of breast cancer patients under pertuzumab therapy in real-life settings. Therefore, we evaluated the pertuzumab-related cardiotoxicity in patients with breast cancer following at a tertiary care center oncology clinic.

MATERIALS and METHODS

The data of the patients with a diagnosis of HER2-positive breast cancer and who had been treated with pertuzumab in a tertiary care center were recorded. Patients who came for follow-up visits also underwent echocardiographic examinations regularly enrolled in the study. Subjects with baseline LVEF $\geq 55\%$ were included and patients with irregular control visits or absent echocardiographic examinations were excluded.

In this retrospective observational study, baseline clinical characteristics, comorbidities, previous chemotherapeutic agents, mastectomy or left-sided radiotherapy history, current drugs, smoking status, echocardiography results, duration of pertuzumab therapy, the stage of the disease were analyzed.

Asymptomatic EF drop, congestive heart failure clinic, cardiac ischemic symptoms or signs of cardiac arrhythmia was accepted as cardiac adverse events. Follow-up echocardiographic examinations during pertuzumab therapy were comparatively evaluated. A reduction in LVEF $> 10\%$ to below 55% between pre- and post-pertuzumab echocardiography was defined as cardiotoxicity.

There was no definitive echocardiography schedule to follow-up pertuzumab cardiotoxicity. It was suggested to perform echocardiographic examinations for 3,6,9,12 months in the adjuvant therapy. In metastatic disease, patient should undergo echocardiography at baseline and then first 3–12 months of therapy and then if the patient complains of cardiac symptoms.¹⁵

The measurements of wall thickness, left atrial and left ventricular diameters were performed at baseline and follow-up examinations. Left ventricular EF was calculated using a modified Simpson method using 2D echocardiographic images (Philips Epiq 7 ultrasound systems; Bothel, WA, USA). Valvular disorders were also recorded. The cardiac symptoms of heart failure, coronary ischemia, or arrhythmia had been questioned during follow-up visits in the oncology clinic and each patient had undergone echocardiography before every pertuzumab cycle and if a new cardiac symptom was presented. Medical records containing these issues were screened.

The ethic approval was obtained from the local ethics committee and the current study was conducted according to with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Statistical analyses

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 22 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Descriptive statistics were used to define the clinical characteristics of the population, which may have a potential effect about cardiotoxicity.

Categorical variables were expressed as counts and percentage, whereas continuous variables with a normal distribution were presented as mean \pm standard deviation and continuous variables with abnormal distribution were expressed as median (interquartile range) or median (25th-75th percentile) after examining with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Continuous echocardiographic variables with abnormal distribution were compared with Wilcoxon test before and after chemotherapy.

A p value under 0.05 was set as statistically significant for all analysis.

RESULTS

A total of 118 patients who met the inclusion criteria were included in the study, only one (0.84%) of them were male. The median age of the population was 51 (41-60) years

and the age of the patients varied between 27 and 82 years old. The mean duration of the pertuzumab therapy was 15 (9-57) weeks.

One had coronary artery disease and none of them had heart failure on admission. One hundred sixteen (98.30%) patients had received concomitantly or previously taxanes whereas 70 (59.32%) patients had been given anthracycline earlier. The other clinical characteristics are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of the study population.	
Variables	n (%)
Stage of the Breast Cancer	
-Stage 2	2 (1.7%)
-Stage 3	60 (50.8%)
-Stage 4	56 (47.5%)
Previous therapies	
-Anthracycline	70(59.3%)
-Cyclophosphamide	63 (53.4%)
-5 fluorouracil	15 (12.7%)
-Tamoxifen	10 (8.5%)
-Vinca alkaloids	9 (7.6%)
Left-sided radiotherapy	15 (12.7%)
Mastectomy	31 (26.3%)
Hypertension	17 (14.4%)
Diabetes mellitus	11 (9.3%)
Chronic kidney disease	3 (2.5%)
Current drugs	
-Beta blockers	3 (2.5%)
-ACE inhibitors/ARBs	11 (9.3%)
Smoking status	
-Never	85 (72%)
-Active or ex-smoker	22 (18.6%)
-Unknown	11 (9.3%)
The prevalence is given as count (n) and percentages (%). ACE: Angiotensine converting enzyme, ARBs: Angiotensin receptor blockers	

Echocardiographic examinations showed no significant difference before and after chemotherapy. (Table 2) Median LVEF was 60% (58%-64%) at baseline, 60% (58%-63%)

at third month and 61% (60%-63%) at twelfth month. The LVEF difference was not significant between baseline and third month ($p=0.419$) or between baseline and twelfth month ($p=0.447$). Fiftyfive patients (46.6%) had mild mitral regurgitation and two patients (1.6%) had moderate mitral regurgitation. Seven patients (5.9%) had mild aortic regurgitation and two patients (1.6%) had moderate aortic regurgitation whereas four patients (3.3%) had mild aortic stenosis. No progression of valvular diseases was observed during study period.

Table 2: Comparison of echocardiographic measurement between baseline and twelfth month.

Variables	Baseline	12th Month	P value
Interventricular septum thickness	1 (0.9-1.1)	1 (0.9-1.1)	0.271
Posterior wall thickness	1 (0.9-1.1)	1 (0.9-1.1)	0.412
Left atrial diameter	3.3 (3.2-3.6)	3.4 (3.2-3.6)	0.156
Left ventricular diameter	4.2 (4-4.5)	4.3 (4-4.5)	0.056

The values were given as median (25th-75th percentile).
 P value<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

None of the patients experienced symptoms or signs of cardiac arrhythmia or coronary ischemia. Left ventricular EF decline occurred in only two patients. In the case of pertuzumab-related cardiomyopathy first the drug should be interrupted and then treatment for the LVEF drop should be initiated.

Pertuzumab therapy was cessassed in four patients. The reason in two patients was an allergic reaction to pertuzumab. The other two patients experienced drug-related cardiotoxicity.

One of them was 53 years old with stage 3 breast cancer. She had never smoked before. She had no history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus or left-sided radiotherapy. She had received anthracycline and cyclophosphamide earlier. Alone trastuzumab had been administered before pertuzumab trastuzumab docetaxel combination. Her LVEF decreased to 45% from 62% after the second cycle of

pertuzumab and trastuzumab therapy and she presented with New York Heart Association (NYHA) class 2 heart failure symptoms. After discontinuation of trastuzumab and pertuzumab, candesartan and carvedilol were initiated. Nevertheless, her LVEF did not increase during 78 weeks follow-up period.

The other patient was 40 years old with stage 3 breast cancer. A reduction in LVEF from 65% to 30% was detected after the third cycle of pertuzumab and trastuzumab combination. She experienced NYHA class 1 heart failure symptoms. Two drugs stopped immediately and ramipril and metoprolol were prescribed. She had no history of smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus or left-sided radiotherapy. She had been previously treated with antracycline and cyclophosphamide. Unfortunately, an increase in LVEF was not detected during 8 weeks of control echocardiographic examinations yet.

Due to low incidence of cardiotoxicity, further statistical analyses cannot be performed to search for the association between drug-related cardiotoxicity and possible risk factors.

DISCUSSION

Pertuzumab related LVEF decline occurred in only two (1.69%) patients. This result is consistent with previous studies, which reported low-discontinuation rate related to pertuzumab associated cardiotoxicity. Unfortunately, LVEF of both patients did not return to normal levels in spite of standard-heart failure therapy. Left atrial and left ventricular diameters did not displayed significant difference before and after pertuzumab therapy. This was not surprising because atrial or ventricular enlargements were expected usually in case of heart failure and the incidence of drug related heart failure was very low in the study population. In parallel with our findings, we also did not find any literature data reporting change in ventricular wall thickness or valvular heart disease progression after pertuzumab administration.

Despite the beneficial effects, there are concerns about the cardiotoxicity of dual anti-HER2 therapy. Blockage of the HER2 cascade at two different points may lead to an increased risk of cardiotoxicity. Because HER2 pathway plays an important role in growth and repair signaling of the cardiomyocytes.¹⁶ However, previous clinical trials support the cardiac safety of trastuzumab plus pertuzumab therapy not only along with taxanes but also given after anthracycline drugs.^{5,17,18} Current clinical trials researching pertuzumab reported the rate of cardiac adverse events can vary between 4.5%-14.5%.¹⁹

Lenihan et al. evaluated 598 patients receiving pertuzumab and reported 35 (5.9%) patients experienced asymptomatic LVEF drop and 4 (0.7%) patients presented with symptomatic heart failure.²⁰ Cardiotoxicity incidence was as low as aforementioned in our study population (1.6%). The CLEOPATRA trial reported a cardiac event rate of 16.4% in the placebo group and 14.5% in the pertuzumab group, which consisted of patients with metastatic breast cancer.¹⁸ Decline of any grade in LVEF was detected in 8.3% of placebo patients and in 4.4% of pertuzumab patients. Congestive heart failure clinic was detected in only 1.8% of the placebo arm and 1.0% of the pertuzumab arm. This is the point of care, previous anthracycline therapy and radiotherapy exposure increase the risk of cardiotoxicity. In our study population because of low count of patients with cardiotoxicity, this hypothesis cannot be examined. The two patients with cardiotoxicity had given anthracycline but had not received left-sided radiotherapy. The NeoSphere and TRYPHAENA trials, which researching pertuzumab therapy in neoadjuvant settings also reported low rate of cardiac adverse events.^{5,6}

However, in a meta-analysis eight randomized controlled trials investigating pertuzumab (consist of 8420 patients) were included and it was concluded while patients under pertuzumab therapy were at increased risk of clinical heart failure compared with placebo, there was no rise in the incidence of asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic LVEF

reduction with pertuzumab.²¹ Patients had received anthracycline concomitantly or previously in six of these eight studies. The median pertuzumab therapy duration was 18 (1-65) cycles. The pooled incidence of asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic LV systolic dysfunction was 3.5% in the pertuzumab arm and 3.1% in the placebo arm. (Risk ratio [RR]: 1.19, 95% CI:0.89-1.61). It was also reported that patients under pertuzumab therapy had two fold-increased risk of clinical symptomatic heart failure compared with placebo. (RR:1.97; 95% CI: 1.05-3.70) These results are partially conflicting with previous studies that had reported cardiac safety of pertuzumab use either in alone or along with other anti-HER2 agents.^{18-20,22}

This is the point of care the above-discussed data belong to phase 2 or 3 clinical trials and it was speculated that the incidence of cardiac side effects of chemotherapeutic agents may be higher than in clinical studies, because of the older age group or patients with cardiovascular risk factors in daily practice.

The current study had several limitations. First, due to low count of patients who experienced drug related cardiomyopathy with pertuzumab, it was impossible to characterize the cardiac adverse effects profile of this agent. Second, this study was retrospective and so dependent on medical records. Moreover, it would be better to use also tissue Doppler or strain echocardiography to evaluate the cardiac toxicity of pertuzumab, which are expected to detect early or subclinical cardiac damages. The last limitation was absence of coronary artery angiography to eliminate definitely ischemic etiologies in patients with decreased EF.

CONCLUSION

The current data support that pertuzumab combination with trastuzumab has a low risk of cardiotoxicity. Cumulating evidence on the cardiac safety of dual anti-HER2 treatment will encourage the clinicians to use this combination in daily practice whenever indicated. Real life data with longer follow-up period is needed to better under-

stand the cardiac effects of pertuzumab.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

Author contributions

Conception: [A.D, A.U, O,O]; Design: [A.D, A.U, S.D, O.O]; Supervision: [A.S, A.T.S, S.D, I.H.M]; Materials: [A.U, A.S, A.T.S]; Data collection and processing: [A.D, A.U, A.S]; Analysis and interpretation: [A.D, A.U, S.D]; Literature review: [A.S, A.T.S, I.H.M]; Writer [A.D, A.U, O.O]; Critical review: [S.D, I.H.M, O.O] .

This study was approved by Baskent University Institutional Review Board and Ethics Committee (Date: 23/06/2020 Project no: KA20/255)

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Pandemi Dönemindeki Yara Enfeksiyon Etkenlerinin ve Antibiyotik Duyarlılıklarının Pandemi Öncesi ile Karşılaştırılması

Comparison of Wound Infectious Agents and Antibiotic Sensitivity During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period with Pre-Pandemic

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Öz

Amaç Pandemi öncesi (PÖ) ve pandemi dönemi (PD) yara enfeksiyon etkenleri ve antibiyotik direnç profillerini karşılaştırmak.

Yöntem ve Gereçler Ocak 2019-Aralık 2021 tarihleri arasında yara sürüntü örneklerinde üreyen bakteriler ve antibiyotik direnç oranları retrospektif olarak kaydedilmiştir. Bu sonuçlar PÖ (Ocak 2019-Haziran 2020; n = 684) ve PD (Haziran 2020-Aralık 2021; n = 255) arasında karşılaştırılmıştır.

Bulgular Yara yeri enfeksiyonlarının kliniklere göre dağılımı şu şekildedir: PÖ grubunda %27 ile yoğun bakımlar, %15 genel cerrahi servisi ve %13 enfeksiyon kliniği; PD grubunda %29 yoğun bakımlar, %24 COVID servisi ve %12 genel cerrahi servisi. Patogen sıklıkları, PÖ grubunda %19 E.coli, %16 S.aureus, %12 Paeruginosa, %11 K.pneumoniae ve %10 A.baumannii iken, PD grubunda ise sırasıyla %22, %19, %9, %14, %10 olmuştur. PÖ grubunda S.aureus suşlarının %28'i metisilin dirençli iken, PD grubunda bu oran %35 olmuştur (p=0,328). Meropenem dirençli K.pneumoniae sıklığı PÖ'de %47'den PD'de %53'e yükselmiştir (p=0,693).

Sonuç COVID-19 PD'de yara enfeksiyonlarında etken olan bakteri tiplerinin değişmediği, ama bazı antibiyotiklere direnç oranlarında artış olduğu gözlemlenmiştir. Pandemi antibiyotiklerin gereğinden çok ve uygunsuz kullanımı, çoklu ilaç direncine sahip gram negatif bakterilerin artışının sebebi olabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler Antimikrobiyal duyarlılık; COVID-19; yara enfeksiyonları

Abstract

Introduction To compare the infectious agents and antibiotic resistance profiles of wound samples obtained during the pre-pandemic period (PP) and pandemic period (PD).

Materials and Methods We retrospectively recorded the rates of bacteria grown in wound swab samples and antibiotic resistance between January 2019 and December 2021. These results were compared between the PP (January 2019-June 2020; n=684) and PD (June 2020-December 2021; n=255) periods.

Results The distribution of wound infections according to clinics was as follows: in the PP, 27% were in intensive care units (ICU), 15% were in general surgery, and 13% were in infection clinics; in the PD, 29% were in ICU, 24% were in COVID service, and 12% were in general surgery. The pathogen frequencies were 19% for E. coli, 16% for S. aureus, 12% for P. aeruginosa, 11% for K. pneumoniae, and 10% for A. baumannii in the PP, while they were 22%, 19%, 9%, 14%, and 10%, respectively, in the PD. While 28% of S aureus strains were methicillin-resistant in the PP, it was 35% in the PD (p=0.328). The incidence of meropenem-resistant K. pneumoniae increased from 47% in the PP to 53% in the PD (p=0.693).

Conclusion Our study showed that the types of bacteria causing wound infections did not change significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic period, but there was increase in resistance rates to some antibiotics. The increase in multi-drug resistant gram-negative bacteria may be attributed to the excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics during the pandemic.

Keywords Antimicrobial susceptibility; COVID-19; wound infections



GİRİŞ

Cilt bütünlüğünün travma veya cerrahi nedenlerle bozulması, konağın immün sisteminin zayıflaması, yaşlanma ve sistemik hastalıkların etkisiyle yara yeri enfeksiyonları oluşur.^{1,2} Bu enfeksiyonlar bazen normal flora bakterileri tarafından bazen de *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* gibi antibiyotik direnci kazanma yetenekleri olan bakteriler tarafından oluşturulur. Yara enfeksiyonları hastane enfeksiyonları arasında da üst sıralarda yer alır ve antibiyotik direnci nedeniyle yara iyileşmesinin gecikmesine ve hatta ölümlere sebep olur. Bu nedenle, yara enfeksiyonlarını tedavi etmek için patojenleri tanımlamak ve etkili ilaçları seçmek kritik öneme sahiptir.^{2,3}

Koronavirüs Hastalığı (COVID-19) pandemisi sürecinde, COVID-19 enfeksiyonu geçirip klinik servis ve yoğun bakım üniteleri (YBÜ)'nde uzun süre yatan hastalar, sekonder bakteriyel enfeksiyonlara açık hale gelmiştir. COVID-19 hastalığı sırasında sekonder bakteriyel enfeksiyon sıklığı yaklaşık %3-15, yara enfeksiyonu sıklığı ise %4 olarak rapor edilmiştir ve bu hastaların genellikle komorbiditesinin olduğu bildirilmiştir.^{4,5} COVID-19 enfeksiyonu geçirilirken dekübitis ülserleri, trakeotomi, diyabetik ayak ve cerrahi gibi sebeplerle deri bütünlüğünün bozulmasıyla veya COVID-19'a ait kutanöz lezyonlara gram pozitif veya negatif bakterilerin yerleşmesiyle yara enfeksiyonu oluşmaktadır.^{6,7} COVID-19 olgularında gelişen yara enfeksiyonlarında, daha önceki viral enfeksiyonlarda gelişen yara enfeksiyonlarından elde edilen verilere göre ampirik tedavi uygulanmıştır. Bu dönemde ampirik antibiyotik kullanma sıklığı yaklaşık %75 olmuştur.⁸ COVID-19 hastalarında hem ampirik olarak hem de var olan bakteriyel koenfeksiyonları tedavi etmek için çoklu antibiyotik kullanılınca ne yazık ki bakteriyel etkenler ve antibiyotik direnç profilleri değişmiştir.⁹ Yara enfeksiyonu etkenleri ve antibiyotik direnç durumları bilinir ve ampirik tedavi güncellenirse, hastanede yatış süresinin kısaldığı ve dirençli hastane enfeksiyonlarının daha az sıklıkta görüleceği düşünülmektedir.¹⁰

Bu çalışmada, pandemiden önceki yara enfeksiyon etkenleri ve antibiyotik direnç profillerini, pandemi başladıktan sonraki yara enfeksiyonu etkenleri ve antibiyotik dirençleriyle karşılaştırmak ve bu sonuçlarla ampirik tedaviye rehberlik etmek amaçlanmıştır.

GEREÇ ve YÖNTEM

Kesitsel tipte olan bu çalışma Sağlık Bilimleri Üniversitesi Konya Şehir Hastanesi Mikrobiyoloji Laboratuvarı'nda 1 Ocak 2019 – 31 Aralık 2021 tarihleri arasında retrospektif olarak hastane kayıtlarının değerlendirilmesi ile gerçekleştirilmiştir.

Hasta Seçimi ve Çalışma Prosedürü

Çalışma tarihlerinde değerlendirilen hastalar, pandemiden önceki (PÖ; Ocak 2019 -Haziran 2020) ve pandemi dönemi (PD; Haziran 2020- Aralık 2021) olarak 2 gruba ayrıldı. Pandemi öncesi 410 erkek, 274 kadın olmak üzere toplam 684 hasta dahil edilirken pandemi döneminde 140 erkek, 115 kadın olmak üzere toplam 255 yetişkin hasta çalışmaya dahil edildi. Tüm çalışma periyodunda 550(%58) erkek ve 389 (%42) kadın olmak üzere toplam 939 hasta dahil edildi. Bu süre içinde, yetişkin klinik servis ve yoğun bakımlarından, hastanemiz Mikrobiyoloji Laboratuvarına gelen yara yeri örneklerinde üreyen bakteriler ve antibiyotik direnç oranları retrospektif olarak kaydedildi. Hastalardan birden fazla yara kültür numunesi gönderilmesi halinde tek örneği çalışmaya dahil edilerek diğer numuneleri çalışma dışı bırakıldı. PD süresinde çalışmaya dahil edilen hastaların 85'i COVID-19 tanısı almıştı.

Laboratuvar Değerlendirmesi

Gelen örnekler %5 koyun kanlı agar, Eosin Methylene Blue (EMB) agar ve çikolata agara ekildi (BioMérieux, Fransa) ve 37°C'de 24-48 saat inkübe edildi. Eş zamanlı olarak yara örneklerinden Gram boyalı preparatlar hazırlandı. Işık mikroskopunda x100 objektif ile lökosit, epitel sayısı ve bakterilerin morfolojileri değerlendirildi. Gram boyama değerlendirmesinde Q skorlama ölçütleri kullanıldı.¹¹ Gram boyamasında lökositli olan ve ≤ 3 daha az farklı bak-

teri üremesi olan örnekler çalışmaya alındı. Besiyerinde üçten fazla farklı bakteri üremesi olan örnekler çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Koagülaz negatif stafilokok (KNS), corynebacterium ve viridans grubu streptokoklar gibi normal flora elemanı üreyen örnekler deri flora kontaminasyonu olarak değerlendirildi. Bu bakteriler dışında üreyen bakteriler potansiyel patojen olarak adlandırıldı. Besiyerinde üreme olan kolonilerin tanımlamasında Gram boyama, koloni morfolojisi gibi konvansiyonel metotlar kullanıldı. Tür düzeyinde tanımlaması ve Antimikrobiyal duyarlılıkları otomatize sistemle (VITEK 2 otomatize sistemi, bioMérieux, France) yapıldı. Antimikrobiyal duyarlılık sonuçları EUCAST 2021 kriterleri doğrultusunda değerlendirildi.¹² Dirençli bulunan suşlar agar gradient test (bioMérieux, France) yöntemiyle doğrulandı.

İstatistiksel Analiz

3 yıl içinde yara örneklerinde üreyen bakteriler ve bu bakterileri antibiyotik direnç oranlarını içeren veriler Excel programına kaydedildi, daha sonra bu veriler üzerinden, PÖ ve PD grupları arasında karşılaştırma yapıldı. Tüm analizler IBM SPSS v25.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) programında yapıldı. Veriler sıklık (%) olarak özetlendi. Değişkenler ki-kare testi veya Fisher'in kesin testi ile analiz edildi. $p < 0,05$ değerleri istatistiksel olarak önemli kabul edildi.

BULGULAR

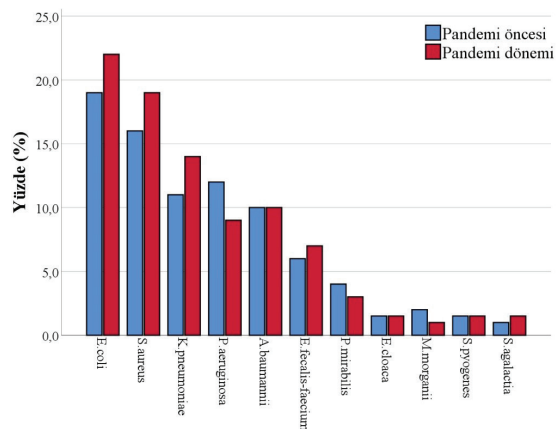
PÖ değerlendirilen 684 hastanın kliniklere dağılımı 365 (%53)'i klinik servislerden, 182 (%27)'si yoğun bakımlardan ve 137 (%20)'si polikliniklerdendi. PÖ grubunda değerlendirilen 684 örneğin 582 (%86)'sinde potansiyel patojen ürerken 102 (%15)'sinde KNS, streptokok, corynebacterium spp üredi. Bu üremeler deri flora kontaminasyonu olarak değerlendirildi. Potansiyel patojen üremesi olan numunelerin %27'si yoğun bakımlar, %15 genel cerrahi servisi ve %13'ü enfeksiyon hastalıkları kliniğinden gönderilen numunelerdi.

PD' de değerlendirilen 255 hastanın ise 139 (%55)'u klinik

servislerden, 74 (%29)'ü yoğun bakımlardan ve 42 (%16) si polikliniklerdendi. PD grubunda değerlendirilen 255 yara kültürü numunesinin 230 (%90)'unda potansiyel patojen ürerken 25 (%10)'inde cilt flora üyesi üredi. Potansiyel patojen üremesi olan numunelerin %29'u yoğun bakımlar, %24'ü COVID servisi ve %12'si genel cerrahi servisten gönderilen numunelerdi.

PÖ grubu ile karşılaştırıldığında PD grubunda potansiyel patojen sıklığı istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde daha fazlaydı ($p = 0,042$).

PÖ grubundaki hastaların yara kültürlerinden %29'unda gram pozitif, %55'inde gram negatif ve %16'sı normal cilt flora üyesi bakteriler izole edildi. İzole edilen bakteriler değerlendirildiğinde; 132 (%19) *E. coli*, 108 (%16) *S. aureus*, 83 (%12) *P. aeruginosa*, 76 (%11) *K. pneumoniae*, 70 (%10) *A. baumannii*, 38 (%6)'ü *E. faecalis-faecium* ve geri kalan 75 (%10)'i sıklık sırasıyla *Proteus mirabilis*, *Morganella morganii*, *Enterobacter cloaca*, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ve *Streptococcus agalactia* üremesi saptandı (Şekil 1). Numunelerin %90'ında tek bakteri izole edilirken %10'unda iki bakteri üremesi saptandı.



Şekil 1. Pandemi öncesi ve sonrası etkenlerin görülme sıklığı

PD grubunda hastaların yara kültürlerinden %29'unda gram pozitif, %61'inde gram negatif ve %10 unda normal cilt flora üyesi bakteriler izole edildi. İzole edilen bakteri-

ler değerlendirildiğinde; 57 (%22)'si *E. coli*, 48 (%19)'i *S. aureus*, 36 (%14)'ü *K. pneumoniae*, 26 (%10)'sı *A. baumannii*, 24 (%9)'ü *P. aeruginosa*, 17 (%7) si *E. faecalis-faecium* ve geri kalan 22'si sıklık sırasıyla *P. mirabilis*, *E.cloaca*, *S. agalactia*, *S. pyogenes* ve *M. morgani* idi (Şekil 1). Numunelerin %92'sinde tek bakteri izole edilirken %8 inde iki bakteri üremesi saptandı.

PÖ grubunda *E. coli* suşlarında genişlemiş spektrumlu beta laktamaz (GSBL) sıklığı %33 idi ve PD'de değişmedi ($p = 1,0$). *E. coli* suşlarında meropenem direnci PÖ'de %0,8 iken pandemide %2 olarak saptandı. Ancak istatistiksel açıdan anlamlı farklılık bulunmadı ($p = 0,467$). *K. pneumoniae* için ise PÖ ve PD direnç sıklıkları karşılaştırıldığında 3.kuşak sefalosporin (%79,2 vs %73,3, $p = 0,795$), imipenem (%48,1 vs %52,8, $p = 0,790$) meropenem (%47 vs %53, $p = 0,693$), amikasin (%48,1 vs %66,7, $p = 0,100$) dirençlerinin anlamlı düzeyde değişmediği görüldü. *K.*

pneumoniae suşlarında GSBL oranı PÖ'de %26 iken PD'de %28 oldu ($p = 1,0$). (Tablo 1).

P. aeruginosa için amikasin, piperasilin/tazobaktam, ve seftazidim direnç oranları PÖ grubunda sırasıyla %14, %30 ve % 28 olarak bulunurken, PD grubunda ise %17, %42 ve % 38 olarak bulundu. Direnç değişimi bakımından dönemler arası anlamlı fark yoktu ($p > 0,05$). *A. baumannii* direnç özellikleri incelendiğinde ise sadece tobramycine direnç sıklığının PÖ'de %56'dan PD'de %85'e çıktığı ve bu farkın istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu görüldü ($p = 0,009$). Diğer antibiyotik direnç sıklıkları iki dönem arasında benzerdi (Tablo 2).

PÖ grubunda *S. aureus* suşlarının %28'i MRSA (metisilin dirençli *S. aureus*) iken PD'de %35 oldu ($p = 0,328$). Teikoplanin ve vankomisine karşı direnç her iki dönemde de görülmedi (Tablo 3).

Tablo 1. Pandemi öncesi ve pandemi döneminde yara örneklerinde fermentatif gram-negatif bakteri insidansı ve antibiyotik direnç oranları

Antibiyotikler	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>		<i>E. coli</i>		<i>E. cloaca</i>		<i>P. mirabilis</i>		<i>M. morgani</i>	
	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)
Ampisilin	-	-	104 (79)	46 (81)	-	-	27 (93)	6 (86)	-	-
Amok-klavunat	62 (82)	28 (78)	91 (69)	40 (70)	-	-	20 (69)	5 (71)	-	-
Amikasin	37 (48)	24 (67)	5 (4)	1 (2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seftazidim	61 (80)	30 (83)	58 (44)	26 (46)	3 (27)	1 (25)	4 (14)	3 (43)	9 (64)	3 (100)
Sefazolin	61 (80)	30 (83)	62 (47)	26 (46)	-	-	9 (31)	3 (43)	-	-
Seftriakson	61 (80)	30 (83)	58 (44)	26 (46)	3 (27)	1 (25)	4 (14)	3 (43)	9 (64)	3 (100)
Siprofloksasin	55 (72)	22 (61)	57 (43)	17 (30)	0	0	7 (24)	2 (29)	9 (64)	2 (67)
Sefepim	53 (70)	25 (69)	38 (29)	17 (30)	1 (9)	1 (25)	3 (10)	1 (14)	0	0
Gentamisin	47 (62)	20 (56)	26 (20)	7 (12)	0	0	8 (28)	2 (29)	3 (21)	1 (33)
Ertapenem	37 (48)	19 (53)	2 (1,5)	1 (2)	2 (18)	1 (25)	0	0	3 (21)	1 (33)
İmipenem	37 (48)	19 (53)	2 (1,5)	1 (2)	1 (9)	1 (25)	-	-	-	-
Meropenem	36 (47)	19 (53)	1 (0,8)	1 (2)	0	1 (25)	2 (7)	1(14)	6 (46)	2 (67)
Piperasilin/ tazobaktam	57 (75)	33 (92)	18 (14)	11 (19)	3 (27)	1 (25)	2 (7)	1 (14)	2 (14)	1 (33)
ESBL	20 (26)	10 (28)	44 (33)	19 (33)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toplam Hasta	76 (%11)	36 (%14)	132 (%19)	57 (%22)	11 (%1,5)	4 (%1,5)	29 (%4)	7 (%3)	14 (%2)	3 (%1)

Pandemiden önce (PÖ) toplam 684 örnek değerlendirildi, 582 (%84) potansiyel patojen ve 102 (%16) normal flora üyesi.

Pandemi döneminde (PD) toplam 255 örnek değerlendirildi, 230 (%90) potansiyel patojen ve 25 (%10) normal flora üyesi

Tablo 2. Pandemi öncesi ve pandemi döneminde yara örneklerinde gram negatif non-fermentatif bakteri insidansı ve antibiyotik direnç oranları

Antibiyotikler	<i>A. baumannii</i>		<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	
	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)
Seftazidim	-	-	23 (28)	9 (38)
Sefepim	-	-	26 (31)	10 (42)
Piperasilin/tazobaktam	-	-	25 (30)	10 (42)
Amikasin	55 (78)	24 (92)	12 (14)	4 (17)
Gentamisin	53 (76)	20 (77)	-	-
Tobramisin	39 (56)	22 (85)	4 (5)	2 (8)
Siprofloksasin	62 (68)	23 (88)	22 (27)	6 (25)
Levofloksasin	62 (68)	23 (88)	22 (27)	6 (25)
Imipenem	62 (68)	23 (88)	19 (23)	6 (25)
Meropenem	62 (68)	23 (88)	15 (18)	6 (25)
Toplam Hasta	70 (%10)	26 (%10)	83 (%12)	24 (%9)

Pandemiden önce (PÖ) toplam 684 örnek değerlendirildi, 582 (%84) potansiyel patojen ve 102 (%16) normal flora üyesi.
Pandemi döneminde (PD) toplam 255 örnek değerlendirildi, 230 (%90) potansiyel patojen ve 25(%10) normal flora üyesi

Tablo 3. Pandemi öncesi ve pandemi döneminde yara örneklerinde gram pozitif bakteri insidansı ve antibiyotik direnç oranları

Antibiyotikler	<i>S. aureus</i>		<i>S. pyogenes</i>		<i>S. agalactia</i>		<i>E.fecalis-faecium</i>	
	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)	PÖ, n (%)	PD, n (%)
Penisilin	96 (86)	42 (88)	0	0	0	0	-	-
Sefoksitin	31 (28)	17 (35)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritromisin	23 (21)	13 (27)	0	0	2 (29)	1 (25)	-	-
Klindamisin	8 (7)	5 (10)	0	0	2 (29)	1 (25)	-	-
İndüklenebilir klindamisin direnci	8 (7)	4 (8)	2 (20)	1 (25)	3 (43)	1 (25)	-	-
Siprofloksasin	12 (11)	6 (13)	0	0	1(14)	1(25)	-	-
Levofloksasin	10 (9)	5 (10)	0	0	1(14)	1(25)	-	-
Ampisilin	-	-	-	-	-	-	11(29)	7 (41)
Yüksek düzey gentamisin	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 (29)	5 (29)
Vankomisin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teikoplanin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linezolid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toplam Hasta	112 (%16)	48 (%19)	10 (%1,5)	4 (%1,5)	7(%1)	4(%1,5)	38 (%6)	17 (%7)

Pandemiden önce (PÖ) toplam 684 örnek değerlendirildi, 582 (%84) potansiyel patojen ve 102 (%16) normal flora üyesi.
Pandemi döneminde (PD) toplam 255 örnek değerlendirildi, 230 (%90) potansiyel patojen ve 25(%10) normal flora üyesi

TARTIŞMA

Yara enfeksiyonu etkenlerinin dağılımı ve antibiyotik duyarlılığı yıllar içerisinde değişiklik gösterdiği için düzenli aralıklarla sürveyans çalışmalarının yapılması gereklidir. Böylelikle hem YBÜ’nde yatan ve ampirik tedavi başlanması gereken hastalar için doğru antibiyotikler belirlenmiş hem de dirençli bakterilerin yayılımı engellenmiş olur.^{13,14} COVID-19 vakalarında bakteriyel sekonder enfeksiyonlar mortalitede artışlara neden olmuştur. Bu nedenle bu hastalara pandemi boyunca ampirik antibiyotik tedavileri sıklıkla başlanmış olup bu durum antimikrobiyal direnç artışına neden olmuştur. Bu nedenle pandemi döneminin antimikrobiyal dirence etkisinin araştırılması önem arz etmektedir.¹⁵ Bizde bu amaçla yara enfeksiyonlarından izole edilen bakterilerde pandemi öncesi ve pandemi döneminde direnç değişimini araştırmayı amaçladık. Bu konuda yeterli literatür verisinin olmaması nedeni ile verilerimizin literatüre katkı sağlayacağını düşünüyoruz.

Yapılan çalışmalarda COVID hastalarının yaklaşık %2-4 ünde yara enfeksiyonu geliştiği görülmüştür.^{5,16} Bizim çalışmamızdaki 85 COVID pozitif hastada gelişen yara enfeksiyonlarında en sık üreyen bakteriler sırasıyla %22 *S. aureus*, %18 *P. aeruginosa* ve %17 *E. coli*, %13 *K. pneumoniae*, %13 *A. baumannii*, %11 *E. fecalis-faecium* ve %6 *P. mirabilis* olmuştur. *P. aeruginosa* nın bu kadar sık etken olma sebebinin, gelen örneklerin hep yatan hasta örneği olmasından kaynaklanabileceğini düşündük.

Çalışmamızda, pandemi öncesi yara enfeksiyonlarının %55’inde Gram negatif bakteriler etken olarak saptanırken pandemiden itibaren etken olma sıklığı %66’a yükselmiştir. Hassan ve Erdal yaptıkları çalışmada, gram negatif bakterilerin yüksek oranda etkili olduğunu saptamışlardır.^{3,5}

Yara enfeksiyonlarında *S. aureus* ve *E. coli* en sık etkenler olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Pandemi öncesi yapılan çalışmalarda en sık etkenin *S. aureus* ve *E. coli* olduğu bildirilmiştir.^{1,10} Bizim çalışmamızın sonucunda, pandemiden önce en sık yara enfeksiyonu etkenleri %19

ile *E. coli*, %16 ile *S. aureus*, %12 ile *P. aeruginosa* olmuştur. Pandemi den itibaren *E. coli* %22 ile yine ilk sırada yerini almış, bunu *S. aureus* (%19) ve *K. pneumoniae* (%14) takip etmiştir. Pandemi döneminde yapılan son çalışmalarda da *E. coli* hala yara enfeksiyonlarında en sık etkidir.³ Bizim çalışmamızda genel cerrahi servisten çok hasta olduğu için bizde de en sık görülen bakteri olmuştur.

Çalışmamızda yara kültürlerinde *Klebsiella* suşlarının sayısında ve antibiyotik dirençlerinde pandemiden sonra artış görüldü. Ama bunun pandemiyle ilişkili olmayıp genel bir artış eğilimi olduğunu düşündük. Çünkü *Klebsiella* suşlarının beta laktam grubu antibiyotiklere direnci tüm dünyada giderek artmıştır ve bu nedenle daha sık ve inatçı enfeksiyonlara neden olmaya başlamışlardır.^{13,14}

Pandemi döneminde antibiyotik dirençlerinin artmasının çeşitli sebepleri olabilir. Öncelikle COVID-19 ağır pnömonilere ve ölümlere sebep olabildiği için, testler sonuçlanıncaya kadar ampirik antibiyotik tedavisi başlanmış ve bu da direnç gelişimini artırmıştır.^{8,17} Ayrıca diğer bir sebep; sağlık çalışanlarının COVID-19’lu hastaların bakımına daha az zaman ayırmalarıdır. Çünkü kendi klinikleri dışında farklı kliniklerde çalışmak zorunda kalmışlar ve hastalarını görememişlerdir. Ayrıca sosyal mesafe tedbirleri nedeniyle hastayla yüz yüze görüşme süresi kısaldığından yara enfeksiyonları bir süre ihmal edilmiştir. Yara enfeksiyonu olup komorbiditesi olan hastaların, COVID-19 bulaşması için hastaneye gelmemeleri de yine enfeksiyonların ilerlemesine ve dirençli bakterilerin enfeksiyona eklenmesine sebep olmuş olabilir.^{18,19}

Çalışmamızda *E. coli*’nin antibiyotik duyarlılığında çok değişiklik olmamış ama *K. pneumoniae*’nın 3. kuşak sefalosporin ve karbapenem dirençlerinde artış görülmüştür. PÖ ve PD’de yara enfeksiyonları etken ve antibiyotik direnci açısından değerlendirildiğinde; etkenler aynı kalmış, antibiyotik dirençleri biraz artmış ama istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bulunmamıştır. PÖ dönemde *S. aureus* suşlarında MRSA oranı %28 iken, pandemi de direnç artmış ve %35

olmuş ama anlamlı bulunmamıştır. *K. pneumoniae* suşlarında GSBL sıklığı 2019 da %26 iken pandemide %28 olmuştur. Karbapenem dirençli *K. pneumoniae* 2019 da %47 iken, pandemide %53'e yükselmiştir. *K. pneumoniae* suşlarının amikasin direnci %48 den %67 ye çıkmış ama gentamisin direncinde düşme gözlenmiştir. Bunu da pandemide gentamisin kullanılmayıp amikasin kullanılmasına bağladık. *P. aeruginosa* enfeksiyonlarında ilk kullanılacak antimikrobialler olan amikasin, piperasilin/tazobaktam ve seftazidim için direnç oranları pandemiden önce sırasıyla %14, %30 ve %28 olarak bulunurken pandemide ise %17, %42 ve %38'e yükselmiştir. *P. aeruginosa* nın antibiyotiklere direnci tüm dünyada giderek artmaktadır. Guo ve ark da yaptıkları çalışmada seftazidim ve karbapenemlere yüksek direnç bulmuşlardır.²⁰

E.coli suşlarında en etkili antibiyotik gentamisin, amikasin ve karbapenemler olurken; *K. pneumoniae* suşlarında en etkili antibiyotikler ise meropenem ve gentamisin olmuştur.

Yara enfeksiyon etkenlerinin klinik servislere göre dağılımına baktığımızda, pandemiden önce ve sonra, en sık yoğun bakımlardan ve genel cerrahi servislerinden enfeksiyon olduğunu gördük. Dünyada yapılan birçok çalışmada da en sık yara enfeksiyonu yoğun bakımlarda yatan hastalarda gözlenmektedir. Yoğun bakımlardaki bakteriler ve antibiyotik direnç oranları ülkelere ve hastanelere göre değişmektedir.⁹ Çalışmamızda her iki grupta da yoğun bakımlarda en büyük etken *E.coli* (%22) ve *A. baumannii* (%20) olmuştur. Genel cerrahi servisinde en sık etken *E. coli* olurken yanık servisinde *P. aeruginosa*, plastik cerrahi ve ortopedi servisinde ise *S. aureus* olmuştur. Sonuçlarımız literatürdeki diğer çalışmalarla benzerdir.^{13,21} *A. baumannii* ise hastanede uzun süre yatan hastalarda enfeksiyon yapan ve birden çok antibiyotik grubuna dirençli olan bir hastane enfeksiyonu etkenidir. Bizim çalışmamızda *K. pneumoniae* ile birlikte COVID-19 tanılı hastalarda ve yoğun bakımlarda en sık görülen bakteriler olmuşlardır. Yıldırım ve ark.'nın 2019 da yaptığı bir çalışmada da yatan hastalarda

yara enfeksiyonunda en sık etken olmuş ve tüm antibiyotik gruplarına dirençli bulunmuştur.²²

Çalışmamızda pandemi başladıktan sonra yara örneklerinin sayısı azalmıştır. Pantvaidya ve ark yaptıkları çalışmada pandemi döneminde cerrahi alan enfeksiyonlarında azalma tespit etmişler, bunu da el yıkama hijyenine dikkat ederek sağladıklarını ileri sürmüşlerdir.²³ Yara enfeksiyonu sayısının azalmasını biz de hem hijyen kurallarına dikkat edilmesine hem de hastaların daha az sıklıkla hastaneye başvurmalarına bağladık.

Çalışmamızdaki kısıtlılık; retrospektif bir çalışma olduğu için, yara örneklerinden verdiğimiz sonuçların kolonizasyon mu yoksa enfeksiyon mu olduğunu netleştiremedik. Bununla ilgili hasta verilerine tam olarak ulaşamadık ama pandemiden sonraki grupta, bazı antibiyotiklerde hafif direnç artışlarını invitro olarak gözlemledik.

SONUÇ

Sonuç olarak, pandemi başladıktan sonra da yara enfeksiyonlarında etken olan bakterilerin isimlerinin değişmediği ama bazı antibiyotiklere karşı anlamlı olmasa da direncin arttığı gözlenmiştir. Pandemi antibiyotiklerin gereğinden çok ve uygunsuz kullanımı, çoklu ilaç direncine sahip gram negatif bakterilerin artışının sebebi olabilir. Bu bakterilerin dağılımlarının ve antibiyotik duyarlılık oranlarının belli zaman aralıklarıyla her hastane için ortaya konması hem artan antibiyotik direncini engelleyecek hem de tedavi maliyetlerini düşürecektir.

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Travma ile Karışabilen Bir Henoch-Schönlein Purpura Olgusu

A Case of Henoch-Schonlein Purpura Miscible with Trauma-Related Purpura

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Öz

Henoch-schönlein purpurası (HSP), çocukluk çağıının non-trombositopenik palpabl purpura ile seyreden ve en sık görülen sistemik vaskülitidir. Cilt tutulumu, artrit, renal ve gastrointestinal sistem tutulumu ile karakterizedir. Böbrekler, kolon, eklemler gibi bazı organlarda gelişen vaskülit sonucu edilebilen purpura, karın ağrısı, artrit ve böbrek hastalığı görülür. Hastaların döküntü, karın ağrısı ve eklem şişliği ve/veya ağrısı şikayetleri olur. HSP genellikle viral enfeksiyonlar, ilaçlar ve böcek ısırığı gibi antijenik bir stimulus ile tetiklenir. Purpurik cilt lezyonları vaskülit, purpura fulminans benzeri değişik hastalıklarla karışabileceği gibi, travma sonrası gelişebilen lezyonlarla karışmaktadır.

Anahtar
Kelimeler

Henoch-Schönlein purpurası (HSP), lökositoklastik vaskülit, travma

Abstract

Henoch-schönlein purpura (HSP) is the most common systemic vasculitis of childhood with non-thrombocytopenic palpable purpura. It is characterized by skin involvement, arthritis, renal and gastrointestinal system involvement. Patients complain skin rash, abdominal pain, joint swelling and joint pain. HSP is usually triggered by an antigenic stimulus; including viral infections, medications, insect bite or food ingestion. Purpuric skin lesions can be confused with different diseases such as vasculitis, purpura fulminans as well as lesions that can develop after trauma.

Keywords

Henoch-Schönlein purpura (HSP), leukocytoclastic vasculitis, trauma



GİRİŞ

Henoch-Schönlein purpurası (HSP), çocukluk çağıının non-trombositopenik palpabl purpura ile seyreden ve en sık görülen sistemik nekrotizan vaskülitidir¹. Cilt, eklemler, gastrointestinal sistem ve böbreklerin küçük damarları etkilenebilmektedir. Etiyolojisi ve mekanizması tam olarak bilinmemekle beraber, küçük damarların duvarında immünoglobulin A (Ig A) birikimi ile karakterizedir¹⁻⁴.

Travma olgularında yumuşak dokuda cilt altı kanamasına bağlı ekimoz, purpura görülebilir. Travmaya uğrayan bölgede ekimoz/purpura, ağrı, ödem görülür. HSP'de ise farklı bölgelerde ve boyutlarda çok sayıda lezyon olur. Ağrı, ödem, fonksiyon kaybı, ısı artışı gibi bulgular eşlik edebilir. Bu klinik ayrıtı tanıda önemlidir. Detaylı bir anamnez ve fizik muayene HSP'nin ayrıtı tanısında çok önemlidir.

Burada purpurik döküntünün eşlik ettiği hastalıklarla karıřabilecek HSP'li beř buçuk yařında bir kız olgu sunulmaktadır.

OLGU

Bilinen bir hastalıđı olmayan sađlıklı 5,5 yařında kız hasta, ayak bileklerinde řiřlik, ağrı, bacaklarda morarma yürüyememe ve řikâyetleri ile çocuk acil polikliniđine bařvurdu. Öyküsünde bir hafta önce banyoda duř alırken düşüp ayađını burktuđu, sonrasında hastaneye bařvurduđu öğrenildi. Bařvurduđu sađlık merkezinde yapılan fizik muayene ve tetkikler sonucu hastada yumuşak dokuda travmaya bađlı ezik olduđu, fraktür saptanmadıđı ifade edildi. Hastaya bandaj, ağrı palyasyonu ve istirahat önerildi. Öz geçmiřinde ve soy geçmiřinde herhangi bir patolojik özellik yoktu. Son bir ay içinde bir kez burun akıntısı ve tıkanıklıđı řikâyeti mevcuttu. Hastanın kan basıncı 100/60 mm-Hg, nabzı 86/dk, vücut sıcaklıđı timpanik ölçüm ile 37,1 °C ve solunum sayısı 20/dk idi. Fizik muayenesinde tonsilleri hipertrofik, her iki alt ekstremitede yaygın ve deđişik boyutlarda basmakla solmayan, kařıntısız purpurik lezyonlar görüldü (Resim 1, 2). Her iki ayakta ve ayak bileklerinde ödem mevcuttu. Palpasyon ile hassasiyet, ısı artışı ve ha-

reket kısıtlılıđı saptandı. Hasta eklem ağrısı nedeniyle ayaklarının üzerine basamıyordu. Vücudunun diđer yerlerinde döküntüsü yoktu. řikâyetlerin ortaya çıkmasından önce ilaç kullanımı olmadıđı, yakın zamanda herhangi bir ařılama olmadıđı öğrenildi. Hastanın döküntüsünün tipik HSP řeklinde olması sebebiyle HSP ön tanısına yönelik gerekli kan, idrar ve gaita tetkikleri yapıldı ve patolojik deđer saptanmadı. Laboratuvar incelemelerinde; idrar rengi sarı, görünümü berrak, pH'sı 6.0, dansitesi 1026, proteini negatif idi. İdrar mikroskopisinde her bir büyütme alanında 0 eritrosit, 2 lökosit, protein negatif saptandı. Tam kan sayımında beyaz küresi 8.440/mm³, hemoglobin 12.7 g/dL, nötrofil 4.020/mm³, lenfosit: 3.390/mm³, platelet sayısı 271.000/mm³ olarak bulundu. Periferik yaymada, plateletler bol ve kümeli idi. Serum elektrolitleri normaldi, böbrek ve karaciđer fonksiyonunu gösteren tetkikleri normaldi. Protrombin zamanı ve aktive parsiyel tromboplastin zamanı normal idi. C-reaktif proteini 3,11 mg/dL idi. Ön tanıda HSP düşünülmesi nedeniyle bakılan gaitada gizli kan negatif saptandı. HSP'nin renal ve gastrointestinal tutulumu olmayan hastada cilt ve eklem tutulumu olması nedeniyle çocuk romatoloji bölümüne konsülte edildi. Hastanın purpurik lezyonlarından alınan cilt biyopsisinde lökositoklastik vaskülit saptandı. Çocuk romatolođu tarafından hastaya artriti için steroid (1 mg/kg/gün), ibuprofen (10 mg/kg/doz) ve proton pompa inhibitörü (PPI) tedavileri bařlanılması önerildi. Takiplerinde böbrek ve gastrointestinal sistem tutulumu olmadı. Takip eden günlerde ağrısı gerileyen hastaya eklem bulgularına yönelik istirahat ve analjezik tedavileri önerilerek çocuk romatoloji bölümüne kontrole gelmek üzere taburcu edildi. İzleminin dördüncü ayında olan hastanın renal, gastrointestinal tutulumu olmadı, döküntüsü tekrarlamadı.



Resim-1. Alt ekstremitelerde travmayla uyumlu olması beklenmeyen arka bölgede palpable purpuralar



Resim-2. Alt ekstremitelerde ön yüzde palpabl purpuralar görülmektedir

TARTIŞMA

Olgumuzun ilk değerlendirilmesinde döküntülerden bir hafta önce düşme öyküsü mevcut idi. Bu nedenle bulguların düşmeye sekonder gelişmiş olduğu düşünüldü. Ancak döküntünün tipi, yerleşimi ve eşlik eden diğer bulgular HSP'yi desteklemekteydi.

HSP daha çok sonbahar ve ilkbahar aylarında ortaya çıkmaktadır. Bu hastalığı tetikleyen nedenler arasında bu mevsimlerde artan viral enfeksiyonları düşünülmektedir¹⁻⁵. İnsidansı, yılda 14- 18/100 000 olarak bildirilmiştir^{5,6}. En sık 5- 6 yaş arasında görülür ve erkeklerde daha sık

görülmektedir⁶. Hastamızın bulguları literatüre uyumlu şekilde ilkbaharda gelişmiş olup, literatürün aksine olgumuzun cinsiyeti kızdı.

Patogenezinde geçirilmiş bakteriyel ve viral enfeksiyonlar, ilaçlar (parasetamol, NSAİ, penisilinler, sefalosporin grubu antibiyotikler vb.), aşı uygulaması ve allerjen maddelere karşı bozulmuş immün yanıt sonucu damarlarda nötrofil, eozinofil ve fibrin birikimine sonucu gelişen lökositoklastik vaskülitir¹⁻⁶. Hastamızın herhangi bir ilaç kullanımı ve aşılama öyküsü olmaması, 1 ay önce üst solunum yolu enfeksiyonu şikayetleri olması nedeniyle, literatürde belirtilen tetikleyici etkenlerden viral enfeksiyonların olgumuzda da patogenezde başlatıcı olarak rol almış olabileceğini düşündürdü.

HSP'de tutulan damarların lokalizasyonuna göre hastaların şikâyet ve bulguları değişiklik gösterir⁷. En sık cilt, eklem, gastrointestinal sistem ve böbrek tutulumu görülür^{1,2}. Nadiren akut batın, akut apandisit, akut pankreatit, invajinasyon, akut skrotum, özefajit, duodenojejunit, hemorajik üretrit gibi klinik tablolara da neden olabilir⁷. Pulmoner ve beyin içi tutulumlar daha nadir olmakla beraber ölümcül seyredebilir⁸. Santral sinir sistemi tutulumu akut hemoraji, inme ya da serebral vaskülit olup, hastalar akut bilinç değişikliği ve nöbet geçirme gibi şikayetler ile gelebilir⁸⁻¹⁰. HSP cilt döküntülerinden multipl intestinal perforasyon gibi ağır gastrointestinal sistem tutulumuna neden olabilecek, semptom yelpazesi geniş bir hastalıktır¹⁰. Hastamızın ise, cilt ve eklem tutulumu dışında bir bulgusu yoktu.

Rutin laboratuvar tetkiklerinin tanısal bir değeri yoktur, çoğunlukla sonuçlar normaldir. Renal tutulum varlığında tam idrar tetkikinde proteinüri, gastrointestinal tutulum varlığında gaita gizli kan pozitif olabilir. Hastalarda akut faz reaktanları (C reaktif protein ve sedimentasyon) ile serum Ig A düzeyi yüksek saptanabilir, kompleman (C3, C4) düzeyi genellikle normaldir¹¹. HSP anti-nötrofil sitoplazmik (ANCA) antikor negatif bir vaskülitir, diğer

vaskülitlerin ayrıcı tanısında kullanılabilir¹⁻³. HSP tanısı hikâye, fizik muayene (palpabl purpura, artrit-artralji, renal ve gastrointestinal tutulum) ve laboratuvar ile konulabilmektedir^{11,12}. Kesin tanı alt ekstremitelerde palpabl purpura, trombositopeni olmaksızın peteşi varlığına ek olarak aşağıdaki dört özelliğten en az birinin varlığı ile konur. (1) karın ağrısı; (2) artrit veya artralji; (3) histolojide baskın olarak IgA birikimi olan lökositoklastik vaskülit veya proliferatif glomerulonefrit; (4) böbrek tutulumu (hematüri, kırmızı kan hücresi döküntüleri veya proteinüri)¹¹.

Laboratuvar testleri böbrek tutulumunu (idrar tahlili, idrar mikroskopisi, serum kreatinin) değerlendirmede tamamlayıcıdır ve görüntüleme çalışmaları karın tutulumu ve invajinasyon gibi olası komplikasyonlarının değerlendirilmesinde yardımcıdır. Eksik veya olağandışı bulguları olan çocuklarda, etkilenen organın (deri, böbrek) biyopsisi tanıyı doğrular.¹²

HSP genellikle gürültülü başlar, fakat hafif ve kendini sınırlayan bir hastalıktır. Prognozu iyidir ancak tekrarlayabilir. Tedavisi semptomatik olup hidrasyon, analjezik ve dengeli beslenmedir. Steroidler böbrek ve/veya gastrointestinal tutulum ve/ya artrit gelişmesi durumlarında kullanılır⁸. Steroid kullanımı semptomların şiddetini azaltır ancak prognozu değiştirmez, böbrek hastalığı gelişimini önlemez⁸. Olgumuzda da HSP klinik tablosu selim seyretmiş idi ve kendi kendini sınırladı. Analjezik tedavi ve istirahat ile hastanın ağrısında dramatik gerileme oldu.

Purpuranın ayrıcı tanısında HSP, akut infantil hemorajik ödem (AİHÖ), meningokoksemi, septisemi, purpura fulminans, Kawasaki hastalığı, eritema multiforme, ürtiker ve travma gibi değişik klinik nedenler var. Hastamızın lezyonları ve diğer bulgularının (ağrı, ödem, hareket kısıtlılığı) travma sonrasında ve travma bölgesinde oluşması ailesi tarafından çarpmaya bağlı olduğu düşünülmüş. Şikâyetlerin giderek artması ve yayılması nedeniyle çocuk acil polikliniğine başvuran hastanın öyküsü travmaya bağlı nedenleri düşündürse de, HSP'nin tipik bulguları mev-

cuttu. Döküntüsünün travmadan 4 gün sonra başlaması, bilateral ve palpabl olması bizi travmadan uzaklaştırıp ön planda HSP düşündürdü.

SONUÇ

Travma sonrası purpura gelişmesi beklenen bir bulgudur ancak sıklıkla travmayı takip eden ilk 24 saat içinde sadece travma bölgesinde gelişir. Bilateral gelişen, yaygın palpabl purpurik döküntüde ise akla ilk gelmesi gereken hastalıkların başında çocukluk döneminin en sık vaskülit olan HSP gelmelidir. Olgumuzda olduğu gibi yakın zamanda geçirilen travma öyküsü ya da ağrı, ödem gibi diğer bulguların döküntüden önce ortaya çıkması tanıda güçlük yaratsa da ayrıcı tanıda HSP her zaman akılda tutulmalıdır. Açıklamalar Bilgilendirilmiş onam: Olgu sunumunun ve beraberindeki görüntülerin yayınlanması için hastanın ebeveynlerinden yazılı bilgilendirilmiş onam alındı.

Hasta Onayı

Hastanın annesinden (yasal sorumlusu) yazılı onam alınmıştır.

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Yazarlar bu makale ile ilgili olarak herhangi bir çıkar çatışması bildirmemiştir.

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Sertralin Kullanımı ile İlişkili Ekimoz: Olgu Sunumu

Ecchymosis Related to Sertraline Use: A Case Report

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Öz

Sertralin, antidepresan ve anksiyolitik özellikleri olan pek çok psikiyatrik bozukluğun tedavisinde kullanılabilen seçici serotonin geri alım inhibitörü (SSGI) grubundan bir antidepresandır. Sertraline bağlı nadir görülen yan etki kanama eğiliminin artmasıdır. Bu yazıda sertralin kullanımıyla başlayan ve ilacın kesilmesinin ardından kaybolan sertralin kullanımı ile ilişkili ekimoz olgusu sunulmuştur.

Anahtar
Kelimeler

Sertralin, Seçici Serotonin Geri Alım İnhibitörü, Ekimoz, Yan Etki, Kanama Bozukluğu

Abstract

Sertraline is an antidepressant from the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSGI) group used in the treatment of many mental disorders with antidepressant and anxiolytic properties. A rare side effect of sertraline is an increased bleeding tendency. In this article, a case of ecchymosis associated with sertraline use, which started with sertraline and disappeared after discontinuation of the drug, is presented.

Keywords

Sertraline, Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor, Ecchymosis, Side Effect, Bleeding Disorder



GİRİŞ

Seçici serotonin geri alım inhibitörleri (SSGI) depresyon başta olmak üzere çeşitli psikiyatrik bozuklukların tedavisinde sıklıkla kullanılan antidepresanlardır.¹ Sertralin, antidepresan ve anksiyolitik özellikleri olan düşük yan etki profiline sahip bir ilaçtır. Sertralinin en yaygın yan etkileri ishal, kabızlık, libido kaybı, orgazm güçlüğü, erektil disfonksiyon, yorgunluk, baş dönmesi ve mide bulantısı olmakla birlikte hematolojik yan etkiler nadirdir.^{2,3} Bu hematolojik yan etkiler bildirilmiş vakalarda azalan sıklık sırasına göre; vajinal kanama, burun kanaması, purpura, hematüri ve rektal kanama olarak görülmüştür.^{1,4,5} Bu yazıda sertralin kullanımı sırasında alt ekstremitelerde yaygın ekimotik lezyonlar gelişmesi üzerine aile hekimliğine başvuran olgu sunulmuştur.

OLGU

Kırk üç yaşında kadın hasta alt ekstremitelerinde yaygın ekimotik lezyonlar görmesi üzerine aile hekimliği polikliniğine başvurdu. Bu lezyonların yaklaşık 1 aydır olduğunu belirtti. İsteksizlik, mutsuzluk, yorgunluk ve uyku düzeninde bozukluk şikayetleri sebebiyle bir ay önce psikiyatri polikliniği tarafından sertralin 50 miligram (mg) tablet 1*1 tedavisi başlanmış. Özgeçmişinde psikiyatrik ya da fiziksel hastalık, alerji, ilaç kullanımı, vitamin ve bitkisel destek kullanımı öyküsü yoktu. Ekimozu sebep olabilecek travma, enfeksiyon, malignite veya vaskülit gibi alternatif bir tanıyı işaret edecek sekonder neden yoktu. Soygeçmişinde fiziksel ve psikiyatrik hastalık öyküsü yoktu. Her iki bacak ön yüzünde yaklaşık 2*3 cm'lik dört adet ekimotik lezyon saptandı. Fizik muayenesinde kan basıncı 130/75 mmHg (normal), nabız 72 atım/dakika (normal), ateş 36 °C (normal), solunum sayısı 15/dakika (normal). Kas ağrısı veya hassasiyeti yoktu.

Laboratuvar değerlendirmesinde; beyaz kan hücresi: 5690 (4000-10000 K/uL), trombositler: 219000 (100000-400000 K/uL), protrombin zamanı (PT): 11.2 (7-12.9 sn), aktive parsiyel tromboplastin zamanı (aPTT): 31.4 (22.9-37.9 sn), INR: 1.15 (0.8-1.3), fibrinojen: 2 (2-4 g/L), Faktör 8:

112 (%70-150), Faktör 9: 110 (%70-150) Von Willebrand Faktör antijeni: 104 (%50-160). Hastanın özgeçmişinde ve soygeçmişinde ekimozu sebep olabilecek bir durum yoktu. Laboratuvar değerlendirmesinde hematolojik hastalık düşündürülecek özellik olmaması, anamnezinde şikayetin ilaç kullanımı sonrası başlamış olması üzerine sertralin tedavisi kesildi ve topikal kondroitin polisülfat tedavisi başlandı. İki hafta sonra yapılan kontrol muayenesinde tedavinin kesilmesini takip eden iki hafta içerisinde ekimotik lezyonların kaybolduğu görüldü.



Figür 1. Hastanın alt ekstremitesinde ekimotik lezyon

Hastadan tıbbi verilerinin yayınlanabileceğine ilişkin yazılı onam belgesi alındı.

TARTIŞMA

Hastada travma öyküsü ve sertralin dışı ilaç kullanım öyküsünün olmaması, yapılan laboratuvar değerlendirmelerinin normal sınırlarda olması, anamnezinde sertralin kullanımı sonrası şikayetlerinin başlamış olması ve ilaç kesildikten sonra görülen hızlı düzelme göz önüne alındığında ekimotik lezyonların sertralin kullanımına bağlı olduğu düşünüldü.

SSGI'lara bağlı görülen hematolojik yan etkiler sıklığı çoktan aza doğru sıralandığında vajinal kanama, burun kanaması, purpura, hematüri ve rektal kanama olarak bildirilmiştir.⁴

Hemostazın; trombosit tıkaçı oluşumu veya birincil hemostaz, pıhtı oluşumu, antitrombotik aktivasyon ve fib-

rinoliz olmak üzere dört ana olaydan oluşan bir kaskad olarak gerçekleştiği belirtilmiştir.⁶ Antidepresan tedavisi alan hastalarda 5-hidroksitriptamin (serotonin) metabolizmasındaki değişikliğe bağlı olarak bu kaskadın birinci ve ikinci adımlarında anormallikler bildirilmiştir.⁶ Bu fenomenin çeşitli nedenleri öne sürülmüştür, ancak Halperin ve Reber'in bulgularına göre, değişiklikler en sık hemostazın ilk fazı olan tıkaç oluşumunda meydana gelir ve trombositlerin agregasyonunda ve aktivitesinde azalma gözlenebilir.⁶ Bu son özellik, serotoninin trombositlerden salgılanmasından ve trombosit agregasyonunda rol oynamasından kaynaklanmaktadır.⁶ Özellikle, trombositlerin serotonerjik uyaranlara değiştirilmiş yanıtı gibi trombosit fonksiyonlarında önceden var olan bozukluklar, depresyon tedavisi gören bazı hastalarda kanama diyatezine katkıda bulunabildiği belirtilmiştir.⁷

SSGI grubundan olan essitalopram kullanımına bağlı gelişen burun kanaması AlJhani ve ark. tarafından gözlemlenmiştir.⁸ Yine bir SSGI olan paroksetin kullanımı sonrası ekimoz gelişen hasta Ay R. tarafından sunulmuştur.⁹ Bizim vaka sunumumuzda ise sertralin kullanımı sonrası ekimoz gelişen bir hasta incelenmiştir.

İlgili literatür incelendiğinde sertralin kullanımı ile ekimoz ya da kanama riski artabildiği görülmüştür. Sertralin tedavisi alan bir hastada ekimoz gözlemlendiğinde ilaç kesilmeli ve serotonin geri alınmasına etkisi olmayan bir antidepresana geçilmelidir. Olgumuzda ilacı keserek topikal kondroitin polisülfat tedavisine başladık ve 2 hafta sonraki kontrol muayenesinde ekimozun tamamen iyileştiğini gözlemledik. Klinikte SSGI seçilirken hastaların daha önceki kanama öyküsü, non-streoid antiinflatuar ilaç kullanımı, antikoagülan ilaç kullanımı öyküsü dikkatle sorgulanmalıdır. Yakın zamanda cerrahi girişim planlanan hastalarda trombositlerde serotoninini inhibe eden ilaçlar tercih edilmemelidir. Trombosit sayısı düşük ve/veya trombosit fonksiyon bozukluğu şüphesi olan hastalarda antidepresan seçiminde daha dikkatli olunmalıdır. Klinisyenler ilaç seçiminde bu yan etkiyi mutlaka akılda tutmalıdırlar.

Maddi Destek ve Çıkar İlişkisi

Çalışmayı maddi olarak destekleyen kişi/kuruluş yoktur ve yazarların herhangi bir çıkar dayalı ilişkisi yoktur.

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