

Myocardial Dysfunction in Systemic Sepsis
Diagnostic and Prognostic Role of Brain
Natriuretic Peptide and Cardiac Troponins

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MYOCARDIAL DYSFUNCTION IN SYSTEMIC SEPSIS
DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC ROLE OF BRAIN
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE AND CARDIAC TROPONINS

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abstract

Objective: To analyze the elevations of BNP and cTn-I in patients with sepsis, and septic shock and evaluate their relationships with echo data and outcome.

Methods: 43 patients diagnosed to have sepsis (group I) or severe sepsis and shock (group II) admitted to Critical Care Department (Cairo University) from October 2007 to April 2009, in addition to ten healthy volunteers (group III). All patients were subjected to APACHE II, MODS,SOFA, O/A and day 2,echo O/A, as well as BNP and cTn-I O/A, and day 2.

Results: BNP level O/A was significantly higher in groups I,II than group III; BNP level day 2 was higher in group II than group I. cTn-I in day 2 was higher in group II than group III.BNP level O/A and day 2 correlated inversely in both groups with Abe; as well as with pH.BNP levels O/A and day 2 had negative correlation in both groups with PC.BNP levels day 2 had a positive correlation in both groups with PT. BNP and cTn-I correlated positively with APACHE- II, MODS, SOFA (O/A and day2). cTnI O/A was inversely proportional to LVEF and LVFS, whereas Neither BNP O/A nor at day 2 correlated to LV diameters, volumes, LVEF, FS,CO or CI. BNP at day 2 was directly proportional to cTn-I at day 2.BNP and cTn-I were higher in non-survivors than survivors but this has not statistical significance.

Conclusion: BNP cannot be used as a marker of heart failure in septic shock, although BNP and cTn-I were higher in non-survivors yet without statistical significance.

Key Words: BNP, cTn-I; septic shock and myocardial dysfunction.

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LIST OF TABLES

Item	Page
Table (1): Characterestics of B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) and N-terminal fragment of prohormone (NT-pro BNP)	82
Table (2):Analytical causes of false-positive troponins	110
Table (3): Male and female number and age in group I and II	127
Table(4): Male and number and age in all groups	128
Table(5) : Type of sepsis in both groups	129
Table (6): Possible site of infection in both groups	130
Table (7): Positive cultures in both groups	131
Table (8): Site of positive cultures in both groups	131
Table (9): Microbiological findings in positive cultures in group I (sepsis) and group II (severe sepsis and septic shock)	132
Table (10): Clinical variables of both groups on admission	134
Table (11): Scoring systems of both groups on admission O/A and day 2	135
Table (12): Echocardiographic data of group I and group II on admission	135
Table (13): Echocardiographic data in controls	136
Table (14): Brain natruiretic peptide (BNP) levels in group I O/A and day 2	136
Table (15): BNP level in group II O/A and day 2	137
Table (16): BNP level O/A and day 2 in group I and group II	138
Table (17): BNP and cardiac troponins cTn I in group III (healthy volunteers)	138
Table (18) : BNP levels O/A and day 2 in the study population	139
Table (19): Cardiac troponins I in groups I and II	139
Table (20): Correlation significance between BNP and clinical variables	141
Table (21): Mortality in both groups	142
Table (22): Clinical characterestics of survivors and non-survivors O/A	143
Table(23): Scoring systems in survivors and non-survivors O/A (day 0) and day 2	144
Table(24): Microbiological data from positive cultures in survivors versus non-survivors	146

List of tables and figures

Table(25): Echocardiographic data in survivors and non-survivors on admission	147
Table(26):): Cardiac troponins and BNP on admission and day 2 in survivors and non-survivors	147
Table(27): Correlation significance of BNP and cTn-I with scoring system	148
Table(28): Sensitivity and specificity of cT-I in Predicting Mortality	154

LIST OF FIGURES

Item.	Page.
Figure(1): Early-goal directed therapy	40
Figure (2): Pro-BNP	79
Figure (3): Percentage of male and female in the three groups	128
Figure (4) :Type of sepsis in both groups	129
Figure (5): Possible causes of sepsis in both groups	130
Figure (6): Site of positive cultures in both groups	132
Figure (7): Microbiological findings in positive cultures in group I (sepsis) and group II (severe sepsis and septic shock	133
Figure (8): BNP level in group I O/A and day 2	137
Figure (9): BNP level in group II O/A and day 2	138
Figure (10): Cardiac troponins in groups I and II	140
Figure (11): Correlation between BNP on admission and pH O/A among study cases.	141
Figure (12): Correlation between BNP on admission and PC% O/A among study cases	141
Figure (13): Mean clinical characterestics of survivors and non-survivors O/A and day 2	144
Figure(14): Mean scoring systems in survivors and non-survivors O/A (day 0) and day 2	145
Figure(15): Microbiological data from positive cultures in survivors versus non survivors	146
Figure(16): Correlation between BNP day 2 and APACHE II score on admission among study cases	149
Figure(17): Correlation between BNP day 2 and APACHE II score day 2 among study cases	149
Figure(18): Correlation between BNP day 2 and SOFA score day 2 among study cases	150
Figure(19): Correlation between BNP day 2 and MODS score day 2 among study cases	150
Figure(20): ROC plot for BNP-0 in predicting mortality	151
Figure (21): ROC plot for BNP-2 in predicting mortality	152

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2D	Two-dimensional.
ACCP	American college of chest physician
ANP	Atrial natriuretic peptide.
APACHE II	Acute physiology and chronic health evaluation score II
BNP	Brain natriuretic peptide
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CD4	Cluster determinant 4
CI	Cardiac index
cNOS	Constitutive nitric oxide synthase
CO	Cardiac output.
CTn-I	Cardiac troponin-I
DM	Diabetes mellitus.
ECHO	Echocardiography.
E-Coli	Escherichia coli
EDD	End diastolic diameter
EDV	End diastolic volume
EF	Ejection fraction

ESD	End systolic diameter
ESV	End systolic volume
FS	Fraction shortening
HR	Heart rate
HTN	Hypertension
IFN-8	Interferon gamma
IL-1B	Interleukin-1B
IL-4	Interleukin 4
IL-6	Interleukin-6
IL-8	Interleukin-8
IL-10	Interleukin-10
i NOS	Inducible nitric oxide synthase
LBP	Lipopolysaccharide-binding protein.
LPs	Lipopolysaccharides
LOS	Length of stay
LV	Left ventricle
MAP	Mean arterial pressure
MDS	Myocardial(myocyte) depressant substance
MOF	Multiple organ failure

MODS score	Multiple organ dysfunction score
NOS	Nitric oxide synthase
NT-pro BNP	N-terminal pro brain natriuretic peptide.
PAC	Pulmonary artery catheter
PMNLs	Polymorph nuclear leucocytes
RBCs	Red blood cells
RCT	Randomized controlled trial
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
RV	Right ventricle
SBP	Systolic blood pressure
SCCM	Society of critical care medicine
SIRS	Systemic inflammatory syndrome
SOFA score	Sepsis-related organ failure assessment score
Staph	Staphylococcus
SV	Stroke volume
SVR	Systemic vascular resistance
TLRs	Toll-like receptors
TNF- <i>a</i>	Tumor-necrosis factor alpha
TNF- <i>B</i>	Tumor-necrosis factor beta
WBCs	White blood cells.

CONTENTS

<i>Abstract.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Aim of the work.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Review of literature</i>	
<i>Chapter I: Pathophysiology of sepsis and related syndromes.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Chapter II: Management of septic shock.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Chapter III: Brain natriuretic peptides.....</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Chapter IV: Cardiac troponins</i>	<i>96</i>
<i>Patients and methods.....</i>	<i>118</i>
<i>Results.....</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>Discussion.....</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Conclusion.....</i>	<i>172</i>
<i>Recommendations.....</i>	<i>173</i>
<i>Master table.....</i>	<i>174</i>
<i>References.....</i>	<i>183</i>
<i>Arabic summary.....</i>	

INTRODUCTION

Shock may be defined as an impairment of the normal relationship between oxygen demand and oxygen supply. As a consequence, there are detrimental alterations in tissue perfusion resulting in a reduction in the delivery of oxygen and other nutrients to tissue beds and causing cellular and then organ dysfunction. In hypovolemic, cardiogenic, and obstructive forms of shock, the primary defect is a fall in cardiac output, leading to hypoperfusion, hypotension and anaerobic metabolism (*Beole R et al., 2004*).

In septic shock, however, there is a complex interaction between pathologic vasodilatation, relative and absolute hypovolemia, direct myocardial depression, and altered blood flow distribution, which occur as a consequence, of the inflammatory response to infection. Even after volume restoration, maldistribution of a normal or increased cardiac output typically persists as a consequence of micro-vascular abnormalities. In addition, cellular and organ injury also occur as direct consequences of the inflammatory response in sepsis and as a, consequence of hypoperfusion (*Beole R et al., 2004*).

Sepsis is the hosts' reaction to invading microbes and involves a rapidly amplifying polyphony of signals and responses that may spread beyond the invaded tissue. Fever or hypothennia, tachypnea and tachycardia often herald the onset of sepsis and systemic response to microbial invasion.

Myocardial dysfunction, which is characterized by transient biventricular

impairment of intrinsic myocardial contractility, is a common complication in patients with sepsis.

Early recognition of myocardial dysfunction is crucial for the administration of the most appropriate therapy. Regarding the fact that the insertion of a PAC (pulmonary artery catheter) is an invasive procedure without proven survival benefit (**Richard C et al., 2004**), and a comprehensive echocardiography studies requires a high degree of training and sometimes is not available within 24 hours, a biomarker accurately detecting myocardial dysfunction and providing prognostic information in patients with sepsis would be of paramount interest.

Cardiac troponins and natriuretic peptides are biomarkers that were previously introduced for diagnosis and risk stratification in patients with acute coronary syndrome and congestive heart failure, respectively. However their prognostic and diagnostic impact in critically ill patients warrants definition. The elevation of cardiac toponins in patients with sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock has been shown to indicate poor prognosis. Troponin release in this population occurs in the absence of flow-limiting coronary artery disease, suggesting the presence of mechanisms other than thrombotic coronary artery occlusion, probably a transient loss in membrane integrity with subsequent troponin release or micro-vascular thrombotic injury (**Metha NJ et al., 2004**).

The impact of raised B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) levels in patients with sepsis, still unclear. The relationship between BNP and LVEF is weak (**Maeder M et al., 2005**), and data on prognostic impact of high BNP levels in patients with sepsis are conflicting. Mechanisms other than left ventricular wall

stress may contribute to BNP release, including right ventricular overload, catecholamine therapy, renal failure, diseases of the CNS, and cytokine up-regulation.