

# **RISK FACTORS FOR THROMBOSIS IN CHILDREN WITH CONGENITAL CYANOTIC HEART DISEASE**

Thesis

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# LIST OF CONTENTS

Title	Page No.
Introduction.....	1
Aim of the work .....	3
Review of Literature	
○ Congenital cyanotic heart diseases .....	4
○ Pathological consequences of congenital cardiac lesions .....	49
○ Consequences of longstanding hypoxaemia.....	74
○ Thrombosis in CCHD .....	81
○ Thrombomodulin .....	83
Subjects and methods .....	101
Results.....	111
Discussion .....	<del>134</del> <u>133</u> <del>133</del>
Summary .....	<del>153</del> <u>152</u> <del>152</del>
Conclusion .....	<del>158</del> <u>157</u> <del>157</del>
Recommendations .....	<del>160</del> <u>159</u> <del>159</del>
References .....	<del>161</del> <u>160</u> <del>160</del>
Arabic Summary .....	—

## LIST OF TABLES

Tab. No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Table (1):</b>	Classification of major cardiac malformations.....	11
<b>Table (2):</b>	Features of heart failure in infants .....	51
<b>Table (3):</b>	Anti-inflammatory mechanisms of TM .....	90
<b>Table (4):</b>	Comparison between patients & control group as regards the age.....	114
<b>Table (5):</b>	Comparison between patients & control group as regards the sex.....	114
<b>Table (6):</b>	Comparison between patients & control group as regards the hematological parameters of the CBC.....	116
<b>Table (7):</b>	Comparison between patients & the control group as regards parameters of the iron Profile and thrombomodulin .....	119
<b>Table (8):</b>	Comparison between patients with & without thrombosis as regards O2 sat.....	121
<b>Table (9):</b>	The parameters of the CBC in the different studied groups.....	122
<b>Table (10):</b>	Comparison between the different studied groups as regards the haematological parameters of the CBC .....	123
<b>Table (11):</b>	The parameters of the iron profile and thrombomodulin in the different studied groups .....	125
<b>Table (12):</b>	Comparison between the different studied groups as regards parameters of the iron profile .....	126
<b>Table (13):</b>	Correlation between the different studied parameters within the patients with thrombosis .....	<a href="#">129</a> <del>128</del>
<b>Table (14):</b>	Correlation between the different studied parameters within the patients without thrombosis .....	<a href="#">130</a> <del>129</del>
<b>Table (15):</b>	Multiple regression analysis of the different parameters in the studied groups .....	<a href="#">132</a> <del>131</del> <del>134</del>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Figure (1):</b>	TGA,quoted from Mayo foundation for medical education and research.....	15
<b>Figure (2):</b>	Anatomical types of total anomalous pulmonary venous return .....	20
<b>Figure (3):</b>	Truncus ateriosus,quoted from Mayo foundation for medical education and research.....	25
<b>Figure (4):</b>	DORV .....	29
<b>Figure (5):</b>	Tetralgy of Fallot,adapted from Mayo foundation for medical education and research.....	39
<b>Figure (6):</b>	Tricuspid atresia,adapted from Mayo foundation for medical education and research.....	42
<b>Figure (7):</b>	Ebstein's anomaly quoted from Mayo foundation for medical education and research.....	45
<b>Figure (8):</b>	PA with intact ventricular septum .....	48
<b>Figure (9):</b>	Pathophysiology of cyanosis-related vascular dysfunction in the setting of CCHD .....	80
<b>Figure (10):</b>	Location of TM on chromosome 20 .....	83
<b>Figure (11):</b>	Schematic representation of TM structure.....	84
<b>Figure (12):</b>	The TM/PC/PS pathway .....	87
<b>Figure (13):</b>	Structure of TM and activation of PC.....	88
<b>Figure (14):</b>	TM and PC activation at the microcirculatory level.....	89
<b>Figure (15):</b>	Sex distribution in patients & controls .....	115
<b>Figure (16):</b>	O2 saturation in patients and control group .....	115
<b>Figure (17):</b>	Hb g/dl, HCT % and RDW %, in patients and control group .....	117
<b>Figure (18):</b>	MCV (fl), MCH (pg) and MCHC (g/dl) in patients and the control group .....	117
<b>Figure (19):</b>	PLT 10 <sup>3</sup> /ul in patients and control group .....	118
<b>Figure (20):</b>	S.iron (ug/dl), S. ferritin(ug/l) and TIBC(ug/dl) in patients and control group.....	120
<b>Figure (21):</b>	TM(pg/ml) in patients and control group.....	120

## LIST OF FIGURES (Cont...)

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Figure (22):</b>	O2 saturation in the different studied groups .....	121
<b>Figure (23):</b>	Hb g/dl, HCT % and RDW %, in the different studied groups.....	124
<b>Figure (24):</b>	MCV (fl), MCH (pg) and MCHC (g/dl), in the different studied groups .....	124
<b>Figure (25):</b>	PLT (10 <sup>3</sup> /ul) in the different studied groups .....	125
<b>Figure (26):</b>	S.iron (ug/dl), S.ferritin(ug/l) and TIBC(ug/dl) in the different studied groups.....	127
<b>Figure (27):</b>	TM (pg/ml) in the different studied groups.....	<del>128</del> 127
<b>Figure (28):</b>	Shows positive correlation between TM and O2 sat in patients with thrombosis .....	<del>131</del> <del>130</del> 130
<b>Figure (29):</b>	Shows positive correlation between TM and O2 sat in patients without thrombosis.....	<del>131</del> <del>130</del> 130
<b>Figure (30):</b>	.. TM sensitivity and specificity at different cut off values.	<del>133</del> <del>132</del> 132

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbrev.	Full term
APC	Activated protein C
aPTT	Activated partial thromboplastin time
ARDS	Adult respiratory distress syndrome
ASD	Atrial septal defect
AUC	Area under the ROC curve
AV	Atrio-ventricular
AVSD	Atrioventricular septal defects
cAMP	Cyclic adenosine monophosphate
CCF	Congestive cardiac failure
CCHD	Congenital cyanotic heart disease
CHD	Congenital heart disease
COA	Coarctation of aorta
CTDs	Cono-truncal diseases
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
DORV	Double-Outlet Right Ventricle
EDTA	Ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid
EGF	Epidermal growth factor
EPCR	Endothelial protein c receptor
Hb	Haemoglobin
HCT	Haematocrit
ICAM-1	Intercellular adhesion molecule-1
ID	Iron deficiency
IDA	Iron deficiency anaemia
IE	Infective endocarditis
IL-1B	Interleukin-1B
IM	Inflammatory monocytes
IQR	Interquartile Range
JET	Junctional ectopic tachycardia
LA	Left atrium
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
LV	Left ventricle
LVF	Left ventricular failure
LVOT	Lt ventricular outflow tract
MAPCAs	Multiple aorto pulmonary collateral arteries
MCH	Mean corpuscular haemoglobin
MCHC	Mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MTHFR	Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase
PA	Pulmonary atresia
PBF	Pulmonary blood flow
PC	Protein C

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont...)**

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Full term</b>
<b>PCR</b>	Polymerase chain reactions
<b>PDA</b>	Patent ductus arteriosus
<b>PLT</b>	Platelet
<b>PS</b>	Protein S
<b>PS</b>	Pulmonary stenosis
<b>PT</b>	Prothrombin time
<b>PVR</b>	Pulmonary vascular resistance
<b>RDW</b>	Red cell distribution width
<b>RFLP</b>	Restriction fragment length polymorphism
<b>RV</b>	Rt ventricle
<b>RVOT</b>	Rt ventricular outflow tract
<b>SD</b>	Standard deviation
<b>SNPs</b>	Single-nucleotide polymorphisms
<b>sTfR</b>	Serum transferritin
<b>SVR</b>	Systemic vascular resistance
<b>TA</b>	Tricuspid Atresia
<b>TA</b>	Truncus arteriosus
<b>TACT</b>	Thrombomodulin addition clotting time
<b>TAFI</b>	Thrombin activatable fibrinolysis inhibitor
<b>TAPVC</b>	Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection
<b>TGA</b>	Transposition of the Great Arteries
<b>TGF</b>	Transforming growth factor
<b>TIBC</b>	Total iron binding capacity
<b>TM</b>	Thrombomodulin
<b>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></b>	Tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$
<b>TOF</b>	Tetralogy of Fallot
<b>UIBC</b>	Unsaturated iron binding capacity
<b>VA</b>	Ventriculo-arterial
<b>VEGF</b>	Vascular endothelial growth factor

## INTRODUCTION

Congenital heart defects are the most common of all congenital malformations, with a review of the literature reporting the incidence at 6 to 8 per 1000 live births (*Sadowski, 2009*).

It has been recognized for decades that patients with cyanotic congenital heart disease (CCHD) have chronic hypoxia that has serious complications including erythrocytosis, hyperviscosity, abnormalities of hemostasis, cerebral abscesses, stroke, and endocarditis. Erythrocytosis is an adaptive response to improve oxygen transport in CCHD. However, at highly increased hematocrit levels patients may experience hyperviscosity symptoms. Iron deficiency in CCHD patients is often overlooked due to elevated hemoglobin concentrations (*Brauna et al., 2006*).

Treatment of hyperviscosity secondary to erythrocytosis in cyanotic heart disease is controversial. Data is limited but suggest that phlebotomy has the potential to increase exercise capacity, reduce the symptoms of hyperviscosity, and reduce the potential risk of vasoocclusive disease in selected patients with polycythemia secondary to cyanotic heart disease. Unfortunately, repeated phlebotomy can quickly lead to iron deficiency, resulting in microcytic erythrocytes that induce higher viscosity than normocytic erythrocytes, which may increase the risk for venoocclusive events (*DeFilippis et al., 2007*).

Patients with CCHD and associated secondary polycythemia are susceptible to develop coagulation abnormalities. Several coagulation defects, including thrombocytopenia, factor deficiencies, fibrinolysis, and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) have been reported in these patients (*Tempe and Virmani, 2002*).

The overall mechanisms of thromboembolism in CCHD have not been well clarified. Thrombomodulin (TM) is a vascular endothelial cell receptor present in many cells and tissues. Its density is higher in small vessels and capillaries. It is a critical cofactor for thrombin-mediated activation of protein C and reflects the anticoagulant activity of the endothelium (*Kajimoto et al., 2007*).

Recent evidence suggests that deranged endothelial function, a sequel of chronic cyanosis, could be an important factor in decreased TM concentration and hence the pathogenesis of cyanosis-associated cardiovascular risk (*Cordina and Celermajer, 2010*).

## **AIM OF THE WORK**

**T**he aim of this study was to evaluate the role of ID as a risk factor for developing thrombosis in children with CCHD and TM as a detector of thrombosis.

# CONGENITAL CYANOTIC HEART DISEASES

## Definition

Congenital cardiovascular disease is defined as an abnormality in cardiocirculatory structure or function that is present at birth, even if it is discovered much later (*Brickner et al., 2000*).

## Incidence

It is approximately 4 to 10 live-born infants per 1000 are affected (*Pierpont et al., 2007*). The true incidence of congenital cardiovascular malformations is difficult to determine accurately, partly because of difficulties in definition. About 0.8 % of live births are complicated by a cardiovascular malformation. This figure does not take into account what may be the two most common cardiac anomalies: the congenital, functionally normal bicuspid aortic valve and prolapse of the mitral valve (*Webb et al., 2008*).

The incidence of moderate and severe forms of congenital heart disease (CHD) is 6 per 1000 livebirths. If bicuspid aortic valves are included, the incidence rises to 19 per 1000 livebirths (*Hoffman et al., 2002*).

Specific defects can show a definite gender preponderance: Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), Ebstein's

anomaly of the tricuspid valve, and atrial septal defect (ASD) are more common in females, whereas aortic valve stenosis, coarctation of the aorta, hypoplastic left heart, pulmonary and tricuspid atresia, and transposition of the great arteries (TGA) are more common in males (*Webb et al., 2008*).

Without early medical or surgical treatment, the majority of patients with complex CHD would not survive to adulthood. Surgical and medical advances over the past 60 years have dramatically altered the once bleak prognosis of patients with CHD. In the current era, more than 85 % of patients with CHD survive to reach adulthood and most live productive and functional lives (*Warnes et al., 2001*).

## **Etiology**

Traditionally, CHD was regarded as a sporadic occurrence and was rarely thought to have a genetic cause. Medications during pregnancy (e.g anticonvulsants) and folate deficiency have been implicated, but it is now recognized that many cases of non-syndromic CHD have a genetic component. The risk of having a child with CHD increases if the parents themselves have CHD or a previously affected child. Prenatal Echocardiography is advisable in these cases (*Wessels and Willems, 2010*).

The etiology of non-syndromic CHD is a multifactorial complex and results from interaction between genetic

susceptibility and environmental stimulus (*Botto et al., 2005*). As the mother is the environment of the child in utero, maternal environmental exposures, such as the intake of vitamins, medicines, and smoking, influence the organ development of the unborn child as well (*Van Driel et al., 2008*). The impact of folic acid intake on pregnancy outcome is modified by variants in both maternal and fetal genes that code for critical enzymes in the folate and homocysteine pathways (*Kotby et al., 2012*).

Studies have found that impaired folate and homocystiene metabolism affects neural crest cells formation and migration leading to defect in trunco-conal septum and malalignment of outflow tract, resulting in (cono-truncal diseases) CTDs (*Yelbuz et al., 2002*). Since Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) polymorphism affects folate and homocystiene metabolism, the presence of such polymorphism can result in impaired folate metabolism, and a resultant defect in neural crest cell formation and migration, and subsequent CTD formation (*Kotby et al., 2012*).

Maternal rubella, ingestion of thalidomide and isotretinoin early during gestation, and chronic maternal alcohol abuse are environmental insults known to interfere with normal cardiogenesis in humans. Rubella syndrome consists of cataracts; deafness; microcephaly; and, either singly or in combination, PDA, pulmonary valve and/or arterial stenosis, and ASD (*Webb et al., 2008*).