

***Prediction of Hospital Outcome in Septic Shock
Prognostic Value of Procalcitonin, Tissue
Doppler Echocardiography and Cardiac Biomarkers***

Thesis

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Master Degree in Critical Care**

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION:

Refractory hypotension and cardiovascular collapse are frequently observed in the terminal phases of septic shock. While impaired systolic function has been identified as the major culprit, the contribution of diastolic dysfunction to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in septic shock is not fully understood.

OBJECTIVES:

to evaluate the prognostic significance of NTproBNP, Troponin I, and Tissue Doppler echocardiographic variables to septic shock mortality, and to assess the rule of serum procalcitonin as a useful marker for mortality in septic shock.

METHODS:

Thirty Patients with septic shock were enrolled in the study After exclusion of patients with cardiomyopathy and significant valvular heart diseases. Each patient was subjected to the following:

Measurement of serum NTproBNP, Troponin I, and procalcitonin, routine echocardiographic study with measuring of LV end-diastolic volume index (LVEDVI), LV end-systolic volume index (LVESVI) and calculation of LV ejection fraction (LVEF) and cardiac output index (COI), LV diastolic function was assessed with measuring of transmitral peak E and A velocities, E/A ratio and E deceleration time. Tissue Doppler echocardiography was performed with measuring of septal mitral annulus peak e', a' and s' velocities, the E/e' was then calculated. All the above measurements were done within 72 hours of development of septic shock.

RESULTS:

The study population were divided into two groups according to 28th day mortality, group I (survivors, 12 patients, 6 males and 6 females) and group II (non survivors, 18 patients, 8 males and 10 females). No significant

difference between groups regarding age and sex distribution, associated co-morbidities and SAPS II score on admission. The most common source of sepsis in both groups was chest infection followed by infected surgical wounds and urinary tract infection in group I, and abdominal sepsis and infected surgical wounds in group II. 27 patients (85%) had positive culture (9 in group I & 18 in group II). The most common organisms were klebsiella in group I (13%), Klebsiella & MRSA in group II (25% each). In spite of higher level of NTproBNP, troponin I, and procalcitonin in group II (617.89 ± 354.75 , 1.624 ± 1.582 , and 4.898 ± 5.578 respectively) compared to group I (464.67 ± 417.39 , 0.283 ± 0.129 , and 0.661 ± 0.879 respectively), the p value was non-significant (0.37, 0.047, and 0.051 respectively). According to the echocardiographic variables; the only predictor factor of mortality was higher E/e' with a cut off limit of 7.6, sensitivity 83%, and specificity of 50% (E/e' was 7.87 ± 1.38 in group I and 11.62 ± 5.08 in group II, p value: 0.019). None of the other variables showed any relation to mortality.

CONCLUSIONS:

the only predictor factor of mortality was higher E/e' with a cut off limit of 7.6, sensitivity 83%, and specificity of 50% (E/e' was 7.87 ± 1.38 in group I and 11.62 ± 5.08 in group II, p value: 0.019).

None of the other variables showed any relation to mortality.

- **Key words:**

- Septic shock
- Tissue Doppler imaging
- Procalcitonin
- Cardiac biomarkers (NTproBNP and Troponin I)

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Table of Content

Item	Page
Introduction	1-2
Aim of Work	3
Review:	4-84
○ <i>Chapter I: Sepsis and Septic Shock</i>	4-29
○ <i>Chapter II: Cardiac and Sepsis Biomarkers</i>	30-59
○ <i>Chapter III: Tissue Doppler Imaging</i>	60-86
Patients & Methods	87-93
Results	94-106
Discussion	107-117
Summary	118-120
Conclusion	121
Limitation of the study	122
References	123-145
Arabic Summary	4-1

List of Abbreviations

2-D	two-dimensional
Ant.	Anterior
Ao	Aorta
cTnC	Troponin C
cTnI	Troponin I
cTnT	Troponin T
DBP	Diastolic blood pressure
DD	Diastolic dysfunction
DHF	Diastolic heart failure
DM	Diabetes mellitus
TDI	Tissue Doppler Imaging
DT	Deceleration time
A	Late mitral inflow velocity
E	Early mitral inflow velocity
e'	Peak early diastolic velocity of mitral annulus
a'	Peak late diastolic velocity of mitral annulus
s'	Peak systolic velocity
ECG	Electrocardiogram

IVRT	Isovolumic relaxation time
LA	Left atrium
LAD	Left atrial diameter
PW	Pulsed wave
PW-TDI	Pulsed wave tissue Doppler image
SV	Stroke volume
TVI	Tissue velocity imaging
PCT	Procalcitonin
MODS	Multi organ dysfunction syndrome

List of Tables

Item	Page
Table (1): Epidemiology of pathogenic organisms	7
Table (2): PCT levels and possible interpretation	52
Table (3): Basal and mid wall pulsed-wave tissue Doppler myocardial velocities	72
Table (4): Mean age of patients in both groups	94
Table (5): Sex distribution in both groups	95
Table (6): Number & percentage of patients with co-morbidities in both groups.	96
Table (7): Most common organisms in both groups	99
Table (8): Level of NT pro BNP in both groups	100
Table (9): Level of Troponin I in both groups	101
Table (10): Level of Procalcitonin in both groups	101
Table (11): LV systolic function in both groups	102
Table (12): Mitral inflow parameters in both groups	103
Table (13): LA area in both groups	106

List of Figures

Item	Page
Figure 1: Activation of TLRs by microbial molecules	11
Figure 2. Inflammatory mediators in sepsis	14
Figure 3. Schematic diagram: relation between the release of HMGB1, complement activation and induction of an inflammatory response in the vascular endothelium early after trauma.	15
Figure 4. Pathophysiology of sepsis	16
Figure 5. Mechanisms of coagulopathy in sepsis. ⁽⁸³⁾	21
Figure 6. Diagram of potential underlying mechanisms in septic myocardial dysfunction. MDS indicates myocardial depressant substances	27
Figure 7. Schematic visualization of possible mechanisms leading to elevated cardiac troponin (cTn) and BNP levels in patients with severe sepsis and septic shock	48
Figure 8. PCT increase reflects the continuous development from a healthy condition to the most severe states of disease (severe sepsis and septic shock)	51
Figure 9. Left: Principle of conventional Doppler. High amplitude myocardial wall signals are eliminated by high pass filter. Right: Doppler signals from myocardial wall are extracted, blood flow signals are eliminated.	63

Item	Page
Figure 10. Intramural orientation of myocardial fibers and three vectors of myocardial deformation	66
Figure 11. High frame rate pulsed Doppler myocardial imaging in a normal healthy individual for obtaining longitudinal tissue velocities from the septal corner of the mitral annulus.	69
Figure 13. Myocardial velocities obtained from the lateral corner of mitral annulus in a normal subject during dobutamine stress echocardiography.	78
Figure 14. Image Interpretation after adjusting the cutoff button.	85
Figure 15. The relationship between the electrocardiogram ECG and pulsed Doppler recording transmitral valve flow velocity.	91
Figure 16. Pulsed tissue Doppler revealing velocity curves	93
Figure 17. Mean age of patients in both groups	94
Figure 18. Sex distribution in both groups	95
Figure 19. Number of patients with co-morbidities in both study groups.	96
Figure 20. SAPS II score in both study groups	97
Figure 21. Number of patients according to the source of sepsis in both groups.	98
Figure 22. Distribution of culture in both groups	98
Figure 23. Distribution of the causative organism in both groups	99

Item	Page
Figure 24. Level of NT pro BNP in both groups	100
Figure 25. Troponin I level in both groups	101
Figure 26. procalcitonin level in both groups	101
Figure 27. LV systolic function in both groups	102
Figure 28. An apical 4 chamber view showing LVEDV, LVESV and EF by the modified Simpson's rule in patient number:9	103
Figure 29. Parameters of LV diastolic function in both groups	104
Figure 30. apical 4-chamber view with pulsed Doppler at the tips of mitral valve in patient number: 9	104
Figure 31. Roc curve for prediction of mortality in septic shock using E/e' (sensitivity 83%, specificity 50%)	105
Figure 32. apical 4-chamber view with pulsed tissue Doppler at the septal mitral annulus in patient with normal contractility (Number:12) and another with fair contractility (Number: 7)	105
Figure 33. LA area in both groups	106

Introduction

Sepic shock in adults refers to a state of acute circulatory failure characterized by persistent arterial hypotension unexplained by other causes ⁽¹⁾. Although this clinical syndrome is heterogeneous with regard to factors such as causal micro-organism, patient predisposition, co-morbidity and response to therapy, a key element and unifying feature is the manifestation of cardiovascular dysfunction.

Although the underlying cause of death in septic shock is often multifactorial, refractory hypotension and cardiovascular collapse are frequently observed in the terminal phases of the condition ⁽²⁾.

Whilst impaired systolic function has been identified as the major culprit, the contribution of diastolic dysfunction (and hence ventricular filling) to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in septic shock is not fully understood. Investigation of left ventricular (LV) diastolic function at the bedside is challenging, but techniques such as echocardiography and biomarkers such as B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) are increasingly supported by current literature ⁽³⁻⁵⁾. In particular, recent application of non-invasive, bedside technologies, such as tissue Doppler imaging (TDI), offer fresh insight ⁽⁶⁾.

Tissue Doppler imaging (TDI) is an echocardiographic technique that measures myocardial velocities ⁽⁷⁾, which are low frequency, high-amplitude signals filtered from conventional Doppler imaging ⁽⁸⁾. TDI has

gained acceptance amongst cardiologists for the evaluation of diastolic function, particularly as a measure of ventricular relaxation and ventricular filling pressure ⁽⁹⁾. However, there are scant data regarding its use in critical care. TDI has demonstrated prognostic utility in a range of cardiovascular diseases ⁽¹⁰⁾, including following myocardial infarction,^[11,12] heart failure ⁽¹³⁻¹⁶⁾, abnormal LV function at dobutamine echocardiography,^[17] nonvalvular atrial fibrillation ⁽¹⁸⁾, hypertension ⁽¹⁹⁾, and end-stage renal disease ⁽²⁰⁾.

There has been evidence of diastolic dysfunction on TDI in critically ill patients ⁽²¹⁾. The significance of this has been recently highlighted by Ikonomidis and colleagues, who demonstrated that TDI may be prognostically useful in the general ICU population ⁽²²⁾. To date, the prognostic significance of this technique has rarely been evaluated in septic shock.

Cardiac biomarkers including BNP ⁽²³⁻²⁴⁾, N-terminal proBNP (NTproBNP) ⁽²⁵⁾ and troponin I in addition to procalcitonin ⁽²⁶⁾ potentially offer prognostic information in the critically ill.

Aim of the Study

This study sought to evaluate:

- (1) The prognostic significance of TDI variables in patients with septic shock.
- (2) The prognostic significance of cardiac biomarkers (NTproBNP and Troponin I) and procalcitonin in patients with septic shock.

Sepsis and Septic Shock

Sepsis is a complex syndrome caused by an uncontrolled systemic inflammatory response, of infectious origin, characterized by multiple manifestations which can result in dysfunction or failure of one or more organs and even death ⁽²⁷⁾.

Definitions:

Infection is a pathologic process caused by the invasion of normally sterile tissue or fluid or body cavity by pathogenic or potentially pathogenic micro-organisms ⁽²⁸⁾.

Sepsis is defined as infection plus systemic manifestations of infection. Severe sepsis is defined as sepsis plus sepsis-induced organ dysfunction or tissue hypoperfusion.

Sepsis-induced hypotension is defined as a systolic blood pressure (SBP) < 90 mmHg or mean arterial pressure (MAP) < 70 mm Hg or a SBP decrease > 40 mm Hg in the absence of other causes of hypotension.

Septic shock is defined as sepsis-induced hypotension persisting despite adequate fluid resuscitation. Sepsis-induced tissue hypoperfusion is defined as either septic shock, an elevated lactate or oliguria ⁽²⁸⁾.