

Serum Level of Brain Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) in Pediatric Patients with Muscular Dystrophy

Thesis

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(قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ كُنَّا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ
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Yasmin Mohamed Ahmed Ismail

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Abstract

Background: Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) patients used to die mainly from pulmonary problems. Echocardiography remains the standard diagnostic modality for cardiomyopathy in DMD patients, but is hampered by scoliosis in adult DMD patients. We investigated the usefulness of the plasma concentration of brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) for evaluating cardiac affection in patients with DMD.

Methods: The plasma BNP concentration was measured by immunoassay in 15 patients with DMD and in 15 healthy children. Cardiac function was evaluated by echocardiography which classified left ventricular function as preserved or depressed, and BNP. The function of skeletal muscle was evaluated by the disability of lower limb function, CPK.

Results: The plasma concentration of BNP was increased in patients with DMD (95.700 ± 58.901 pg/ml, mean $\pm$ SD) compared with that in normal children (16.007 ± 7.135 pg/ml). Four of the DMD patients had symptoms of heart failure, with markedly increased plasma BNP concentrations. The other DMD patients with increased plasma BNP concentrations showed abnormal cardiac function but no symptoms of heart failure. In addition, in patients with DMD, the plasma BNP concentration showed significant positive correlations with duration of cardiac affection, and negative correlations with CPK and LVEF. There was no significant correlation with duration of muscular dystrophy disease.

Conclusion: The combination of echocardiography and BNP achieves good results in the evaluation of left ventricular function. We advise to add BNP to echocardiography in the routine cardiac assessment of DMD patients.

List of Contents

Title	Page
· Introduction	1
· Aim of the Work	3
· Review of Literature:	
o Definition of Muscular dystrophy	4
o Classification	8
o Duchenne muscular dystrophy	9
o Becker muscular dystrophy.....	13
o Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy	17
o Fascioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy.....	21
o Limb-Girdle muscular dystrophy	24
o Congenital muscular dystrophy Myotonic muscular dystrophy.....	25
o Distal muscular dystrophy	30
o Occulopharyngeal muscular dystrophy	31
o Investigations	34
o Treatment	42
· BNP	52
· Patients and Methods	60
· Results	65
· Discussion	91
· Summary	107
· Conclusion	109
· Recommendations	110
· References	111
· Appendix	141
· Arabic Summary	--

List of Figures

Fig. No	Title	Page
Figure (1):	Comparison between the patients and controls as regards their age	66
Figure (2):	Gender distribution in patients and controls.	67
Figure (3):	Consanguinity and history of similar conditions of the patients	69
Figure (4):	Motor delay in patients	70
Figure (5):	Mental delay in patients	70
Figure (6):	Gower sign in patients	71
Figure (7):	Distribution of weakness in patients	71
Figure (8):	Grades of weakness of the patients	72
Figure (9):	Comparison between the patients and controls as regards their heart rate	73
Figure (10):	ECG and Echocardiography results of the patients	75
Figure (11):	Comparison between patients and controls as regards their BNP level	76
Figure (12):	Relation between BNP results and grading of muscle weakness in patients	78
Figure (13):	Relation between CPK level and the grading of muscle weakness	80

List of Figures (Cont.)

Fig. No	Title	Page
Figure (14):	Serum level of BNP in relation to ECG and echocardiography results in patients	81
Figure (15):	Correlation between BNP level and CPK in patients	83
Figure (16):	Correlation between BNP level and duration of cardiac affection in patients	83
Figure (17):	Correlation between BNP level and EF% in patients	84
Figure (18):	Relation between echocardiography results, presence of cardiomyopathy, heart failure and grading of muscle weakness in patients	87
Figure (19):	Cut off value for BNP	90

List of Tables

Table No	Title	Page
Table (1):	Genetics of Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy	18
Table (2):	Genetic loci for congenital muscular dystrophy	26
Table (3):	Age of patients and controls	65
Table (4):	Gender distribution in patients and controls	67
Table (5):	Consanguinity, history of similar conditions, motor delay, mental delay, Gower sign, distribution, grades of weakness and pseudo-hypertrophy of the patients	68
Table (6):	Heart rate of the patients and controls	73
Table (7):	Cardiac affection of the patients	74
Table (8):	Serum level of BNP in patients and controls	76
Table (9):	Serum level of BNP in relation to grading of muscle weakness in patients	77
Table (10):	Serum level of CPK in relation to grading of muscle weakness in patients	79

List of Tables (Cont.)

Table No	Title	Page
Table (11):	Serum BNP level in relation to ECG and echocardiography results in patients	81
Table (12):	Correlation between serum level of BNP and different parameters in patients	82
Table (13):	Echocardiography, cardiomyopathy and heart failure in relation to grading of muscle weakness in patients	85
Table (14):	Linear regression for BNP	88
Table (15):	ROC curve between patients with and without cardiac affection as regards BNP	89

List of Abbreviations

Abbrev.

AD	Autosomal Dominant
ADP	Adenosine Diphosphate
AR	Autosomal Recessive
BMD	Becker muscular dystrophy
BNP	Brain Natriuretic Peptide
CMD	Congenital Muscular Dystrophy
CT	Computed Tomography
CTG	Cardio Toco Graph
CPK	Creatine Phosphokinase
DAG	Dystrophin Associated Glycoprotein
DCM	Dilated cardiomyopathy
DMD	Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EDMD	Emery-Dreifuss Muscular Dystrophy
EMG	Electromyograph
FCMD	Fukuyama Congenital Muscular Dystrophy
FSHD	Fascioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy
LGMD	Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy
MD	Muscular Dystrophy
MMD	Myotonic Muscular dystrophy tonic Muscular Dystrophy

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

Abbrev.

MUAPs	Motor Unit Action potentials
MUGA	Multigated cardiac radionuclide ventriculography
OPMD	Occulopharyngeal uscular Dystrophy
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
RESNA	Rehabilitation and assistive Technology Engineering Society of North America
ROC	Receiver operating characteristic curve
WAIS	Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
XR	X-linked Recessive

Introduction

The muscular dystrophies are a group of muscle disorders characterized by progressive muscle wasting and weakness. Age of onset is variable, as are the distribution and severity of the diseases. Muscular dystrophies are caused by gene abnormalities, which code for a variety of proteins involved in different functions (*Seidman and Seidman, 2001*).

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a common genetic disease which is an X - linked recessive disorder caused by a mutation on the dystrophin gene, located on chromosome Xp 21. The gene normally codes for a protein, dystrophin, which links cytoplasmic actin to the dystrophin - glycoprotein complex at the cell membrane. Dystrophin loss leads to muscle cell structural instability (*Allikian et al., 2003*).

The dystrophin gene has been shown to be the cause of X-linked dilated cardiomyopathy and some cases of sporadic dilated cardiomyopathy. The time course for the development of cardiomyopathy has not been well characterized; however, clinical studies demonstrate that the disease process in the heart is underway long before symptoms appear (*Giglio et al., 2003*).

Signs of cardiac dysfunction may be vague and nonspecific, such as fatigue, weight loss, vomiting, or sleep disturbance. Currently at many medical centers, affected individuals do not come to the attention of the cardiac specialist until late in the disease process, when the clinical manifestations of cardiac dysfunction become evident. This reactive, rather than proactive, approach must change if progress is to be made in the treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy in this patient population (**Bourke et al., 2003**).

Cardiac involvement is common and increases with age in pediatric patients with muscular dystrophy. A range of 10 – 15 % of patients will die from the consequences of left ventricular failure. Cardiac rhythm abnormalities are frequent and play a significant role in morbidity and mortality in muscular dystrophy. The most common electrocardiographic abnormality is sinus tachycardia, with prevalence of approximately 90% (**Finsterer and Stollberger, 2005**).

Aim of the Work

The aim of the present study is to evaluate Plasma concentration of brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) as a prognostic marker for cardiac affection in pediatric patients with muscular dystrophy.

Muscular Dystrophy

Definition

Muscular dystrophy (MD) is a group of muscles diseases that weaken the musculoskeletal system and hamper locomotion. Muscular dystrophies are characterized by progressive skeletal muscles weakness, defect in muscle proteins, and the death of muscle cells and tissue (*Emery,2002*).

Historical View

Muscular dystrophy (MD) is a collective group of inherited noninflammatory but progressive muscle disorders without a central or peripheral nerve abnormality. The disease affects the muscles with definite fibre degeneration but without evidence of morphologic aberrations. The first historical account of muscular dystrophy was reported by Conte and Gioja in 1836. They described 2 brothers with progressive weakness starting at age 10 years. These boys later developed generalized weakness and hypertrophy of multiple muscle groups, which are now known to be characteristic of the milder Becker MD. At the time, however, many thought that Conte and Gioja described tuberculosis; thus, they did not achieve recognition for their discovery (*Conte and Gioja,1836*).