

Comparative Study Between Tissue Doppler Imaging and Radionuclide Scintigraphy in Evaluation of Right Ventricular Function in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Thesis submitted for partial fulfillment of Master Degree
in Critical Care Medicine

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2009

Abstract

Background: Cor-pulmonale complicates 2-6/1000 of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The early diagnosis of RV dysfunction 2ndry to pulmonary hypertension can reduce morbidity & mortality.

Aim of Work: The objective of our study is to assess the usefulness of tissue Doppler imaging (TDI) in evaluation of RV function in patients with COPD in comparison to first pass radionuclide angiography (FPRNA) which is the gold standard method. Another aim is to determine the relationship between lateral tricuspid annulus TDI parameters and PASP as estimated by continuous wave Doppler in patients with COPD.

Patients and Methods: Thirty patients with COPD diagnosed by history, clinical examination, CXR, laboratory findings (ABG, CBC), 12-lead ECG, TDI (to measure MPI, Sm, SmVTI, Em/Am), FPRNA (to measure RV EF)

Results: Based on the nuclear study (FPRNA) our 30 pts divided to 17pts (56.7%) with RVEF > 45% (55.2±1.4) and 13 pts (43.3%) with RVEF < 45% (37.7±6.2). From the 1st 17 pts, 15 pts showed by TDI, MPI < 0.7 (0.56±0.09) and Sm ≥ 12 cm/s (15.3±1.7 cm/s) and 2 pts showed MPI ≥ 0.7 Sm < 12 cm/s. From the 13 pts with RVEF < 45% (37.7±6.2) 12 pts exhibited by TTI MPI ≥ 0.7 and Sm < 12cm/s (mean 0.83±0.05 and 9.7±1.07 cm/s respectively) and one pt exhibited normal MPI and Sm. Based on the relationship between PASP measured by continuous Doppler tricuspid valve and lateral tricuspid annular velocities Sm (13.7±2.9cm/s), SmVTI (2.2±0.7), Em/Am (0.6±0.2). The correlation was r = -0.61 for Sm, r = -0.72 for SmVTI and r = -0.60 for Em/Am. The results of TDI and FPRNA in evaluation of RV function compared to clinical signs of cor-pulmonale were P-value 0.001 and 0.01 respectively. Also in our study we compared between diameter of RV measured by conventional echocardiography and result of TDI in evaluation of RV function where p-value = 0.01.

Conclusion: There is significant correlation between TDI and FPRNA in the ability to detect RV dysfunction in COPD pts by a sensitivity 92.3%, specificity 88.2% and P-value = 0.001. There is a good negative correlation between PSAP measured by continuous Doppler and later tricuspid annular velocity with P-value 0.001. There is a significant correlation between result of TDI and FPRNA in evaluation of RV function compared to clinical data signs of cor-pulmonale where P-value = 0.001 and 0.01 respectively. Also there is a significant correlation between results of TDI in evaluation of RV function and diameter of RV measured by conventional echocardiography where P-value = 0.01. TDI is considered a new, easy, bedside and less expensive technique in assessment of RVEF.

Key Words: Tissue Doppler Imaging, Peak Myocardial Systolic Velocities, Myocardial Performing Index, First Pass radionuclide Angiography, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Cor-Pulmonale.

Acknowledgement

For ALLAH the merciful, the compassionate, I kneel to express my gratitude for all the countless gifts I have been offered, including those who gave their hands to enable me to fulfill this work.

*No words are sufficient to express my deep appreciation and profound gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Sherif Mokhtar** and **Prof. Dr. Hossam Mowafi**, Professors of Critical Care Medicine, for offering all their students an inspirational role model, for showing us the excitement and joy of critical care medicine, for their dedication to education and for their encouraging attitude and invaluable advice made it possible for any one to overcome even the most difficult obstacles in preparing the research. I am really honored to belong to the school of these scientists.*

*I would like to send my deepest gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Hassan Khaled**, Professor of Critical Care Medicine and Chief of Critical Care Medicine Department for his abundant and fruitful encouragement, continuous support to his students, for his kindness, for his nonstop effort and endless giving to the running the department in the best way possible so as to maximize its performance.*

*No words are sufficient to express my deep appreciation and profound gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Alia Abd El-Fattah**, Professor of critical care medicine, Cairo University for her abundant encouragement, continuous support and endless giving.*

*My true appreciation is to **Dr. Sherien El-Gengehy**, Assistant Professor of Critical Care Medicine for her meticulous supervision, for her kind guidance, valuable instructions and generous help. The time I worked under her supervision consolidated my knowledge, refined my experience and made me feel confident as a research student, because of the freedom she gives her students to express them selves no matter how inexperienced they might be. Thus, I really acknowledge that I consider my self lucky for ingoing the advantage of being supervised by such a great supervisor.*

*I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. Randa Ali Soliman**, Lecturer of Critical Care Medicine who had spared no effort in guiding me through out the long and tiring task of writing this thesis and performing the echocardiographic part. I am truly indepted to her with all what I learned and still learning in echocardiography.*

*I am deeply thankful to **Dr. Sally Salah El-Deen**, Lecturer of Critical Care Medicine for her great help, outstanding support and active participation, for her sympathy, kindness and constructive advice and for treating me in a brotherly way.*

*I wish to thank **Dr. Amr El-Hadidi**, Assist. Prof. of Critical Care Medicine, **Dr. Akram Abd El-Bary**, Lecturer of Critical Care Medicine, **Dr. Mohamed Khaled**, Lecturer of Critical Care Medicine, and **Dr. Mohamed Bakry**, Assist. Lecturer of Critical Care Medicine for their great efforts and important contributions.*

***Dr. Shaaban Abd El Hamid** and all the Gamma Camera team, for their great efforts and important contributions.*

*I wish to thank deeply **Mrs. Neveen Said**, Critical Care Medicine Department for her patience and concentration in performing the computer work of this thesis.*

Finally I am so thankful and honored to belong to the critical care medicine department, the land of imagination, innovation and fruitful research.

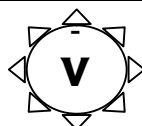
Marwa El-Sayed

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List of Abbreviations

2D-TDI	: 2 dimensional tissue doppler imaging
4V²	: Peak velocity at mitral regurgitant jet
5-HT	: 5 – Hydroxy tryptamine
5-HTT	: 5 – Hydroxy tryptamine transporter
ABG	: Arterial blood gases
ACE	: Angiotensin converting enzyme
AF	: Atrial fibrillation
AVD	: Atrioventricular delay
CAD	: Coronary artery disease
cAMP	: Cyclic adenosine monophosphate
CO	: Cardiac output
COPD	: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPs	: Countrate per second
CRT	: Cardiac resynchronization therapy
CXR	: Chest X-ray
DMI	: Doppler myocardial imaging
ECG	: Electrocardiogram
ED	: End diastole
EDV	: End diastolic volume
EF	: Ejection fraction
Em	: Early diastolic wave
eNOS	: Endothelial nitric oxide synthase
ES	: End systole



ESV	: End systolic volume
FEV1	: Forced expiratory volume / in 1 st second
FPRNA	: First pass radionuclide angiography
FVC	: Forced vital capacity
GERNA	: Gated equilibrium radionuclide angiography
HCO₃	: Bicarbonate
IL-8	: Interleukin – 8
IVCT	: Isovolumetric contraction time
IVRT	: Isovolumetric relaxation time
LA	: Left atrium
LBBB	: Left bundle branch block
LTB₄	: Leukotriene B ₄
LV	: Left ventricle
MAT	: Multifocal atrial tachycardia
MI	: Myocardial infarction
MM-TD	: Corlor M-mode tissue doppler imaging
mPAP	: Mean pulmonary artery pressure
MPI	: Myocardial performance index
MVG	: Myocardial velocity Gradient
PA	: Pulmonary artery
PaCO₂	: Arterial cabon diaoxide tension
PaO₂	: Arterial oxygen tension
PASP	: Pulmonary artery systolic pressure
PCWP	: Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PE	: Pulmonary embolism
PET	: Positron emission tomography

PH	: Pulmonary hypertension
PVCs	: Premature ventricular contractions
PVR	: Pripheral vascular resistance
PWP	: Pulmnary wedge pressure
PW-TDI	: Pulsed wave tissue doppler imaging
RA	: Right atrium
RAO	: Right anterior oblique
RAP	: Right atrial pressure
RNV	: Radionuclide angiography
RV	: Right ventricular
RVEF	: Right ventricular ejection fraction
RVMI	: Right ventricular myocardial infarction
SaO₂	: Arterial oxygen saturation
Sm	: Peak myocardial systolic velocity
SPECT	: Single photon emission computed tomography
SV	: Stroke volume
SVC	: Superior vena cava
SVO₂	: Venous oxygen saturation
TC-99m	: Technetium 99m
TDI	: Tissue Doppler imaging
TNF-α	: Tumor necoriss factor alfa
TR	: Tricuspid regurge
VT	: Ventricular tachycardia

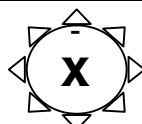
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Introduction

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is one of major causes of chronic morbidity & mortality throughout the world (1).

COPD is characterized by air flow limitation that is not fully reversible (1).

A diagnosis of COPD should be considered in any patients who have symptoms of cough, sputum production, dyspnea and / or a history as exposure to risk factors for the disease. The diagnosis is confirmed by spirometry (1).

One of the most common complications of COPD is cor pulmonale. Cor pulmonale is defined as an alteration in right ventricular structure & function due to parenchymal lung disease (2).

Severe pulmonary hypertension increase right ventricular after load & eventually lead to clinical syndrome of right heart failure with systemic congestion (3).

Two dimensional echocardiography is not feasible in assessment of right ventricular (RV) function. In addition two dimensional echocardiography doesn't provide haemodynamic information about right ventricular filling pressures, which can be derived from Doppler echocardiography studies (4).

Tissue Doppler imaging TDI is an extension of conventional Doppler flow echocardiography & has been proven to be useful & feasible clinical tool for assessing systolic & diastolic function since its introduction in early 1990s (**5, 6**). Also, it recently has emerged as a new method useful for predicting right atrial pressure and evaluation of right ventricular systolic and diastolic function (**7, 8, 9**).

Radionuclide ventriculography (RNV) is considered the gold standard for estimating the right ventricular ejection fraction (RVEF). Abnormal RV function in patients with COPD has been demonstrated by both first-pass & gated blood pool scanning (**10**).

Aim of The Work

- 1.** The objective of our study is to assess the usefulness of tissue Doppler imaging TDI in evaluation of RV function in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in comparison to first pass radionuclide angiography FPRNA which is the gold standard method.

- 2.** To determine the relationship between tricuspid lateral annulus TDI parameters and PASP as estimated by continuous wave Doppler in patients with COPD.

Chapter I

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease & Cor Pulmonale

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a major cause of chronic morbidity and mortality throughout the world. COPD is currently the fourth leading cause of death in the world, and further increases in the prevalence and mortality of the disease can be predicted in the coming decades. A unified international effort is required to reverse these trends (1).

Definition:

COPD is a disease state characterized by airflow limitation that is not fully reversible. The airflow limitation is usually progressive and associated with an abnormal inflammatory response of the lungs to noxious particles or gases (1).

A diagnosis of COPD should be considered in any patient who has symptoms of cough, sputum production, dyspnea, and /or a history of exposure to risk factors for the disease. The diagnosis is confirmed by spirometry. The presence of a post-bronchodilator $FEV_1 < 80\%$ of the predicted value in combination with an $FEV_1 / FVC < 70\%$ confirm the presence of airflow limitation that is not fully reversible (1).

Classification of Severity:

A simple classification of disease severity into four stages is recommended. The management of COPD is largely symptom-driven, and there is only an imperfect relationship between the degree of airflow limitation and the presence of symptoms. The staging, therefore, is a pragmatic approach aimed at practical implementation and a very general indication of the approach to management. All FEV₁ values refer to post-bronchodilator effect (1).

Stage 0: At Risk:

Characterized by chronic cough and sputum production. Lung function, as measured by spirometry, is still normal.

Stage I: Mild COPD

Characterized by mild airflow limitation (FEV₁/FVC) < 70% but FEV₁ > 80% predicted) and usually, but not always, by chronic cough and sputum production. At this stage, the individual may not even be aware that his or her lung function is abnormal.

Stage II: Moderate COPD

Characterized by worsening airflow limitation (30 > FEV₁ < 80% predicted) and usually the progression of symptoms, with shortness of breath typically developing on exertion. This is the stage at which patients typically seek medical attention because of dyspnea or an exacerbation of their disease.