Introduction: The Chelsea Critical Care Physical Assessment tool (CPAx) is a performance-based measurement instrument to evaluate respiratory function, functional mobility and grip strength in critically ill adults [1]. The CPAx has established construct validity and high interrater reliability in a general ICU population [2], but little is known about its validity to measure change over time (cross-sectional-validity).

Objectives: The current study investigated cross-sectional validity at three relevant, pre-specified timepoints across the ICU and hospital stay in critically ill adults on prolonged mechanical ventilation.

Methods: This prospective, longitudinal, clinimetric study was conducted in a mixed ICU of a Swiss academic hospital. Participants were assessed by certified physiotherapists at three predefined timepoints: ICU baseline (between 72-144 h after the onset of mechanical ventilation), ICU discharge and hospital discharge. We hypothesized that the relationship of the CPAx with other measurement tools would differ between these timepoints due to temporal changes in the measured characteristics. Based on this theoretical model we determined 22 a-priori defined hypotheses about the relationship of the CPAx-GE with other instruments such as the Medical Research Council sum score (MRC-SS), ICU Mobility Scale (IMS) or Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA).

Results: CPAx data of 58 participants (70.7% male) with a median age of 68 years (IQR 56-73), APACHE II score of 32 (28-36) and ICU stay of 7.97 days (6.69-12.85) were analysed. Cross-sectional validity was excellent with 86% (6 of 7), 89% (8 out of 9) and 83% (5 out of 6) of the a-priori hypotheses accepted at ICU baseline, ICU discharge and hospital discharge, respectively. Floor (10%) and ceiling effects (6%) were likewise highly acceptable.

Conclusion: The CPAx demonstrated cross-sectional validity as an indicator of change over time. Floor and ceiling effects were low enabling therapists to detect change across the ICU and hospital stay. The CPAx can therefore be recommended to assess physical function and activity in critically ill adults from ICU baseline to ICU and hospital discharge.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. 3. Research grant from physioswiss.
4. 4. PhD Grant from the Swiss Foundation for Physiotherapy Science.
Introduction: Imipenem/clastatin/relebactam (IMI/REL) is a fixed-dose combination of imipenem, a carbapenem antibacterial agent, clastatin, a renal dehydropeptidase inhibitor, and relebactam, a novel β-lactamase inhibitor.

Objectives: To analyze the efficacy and safety of IMI/REL and piperacillin/tazobactam (PIP/TAZ) in patients with hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia (HABP) and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia (VABP) from the phase 3 RESTORE-IMI 2 trial (NCT02493764) grouped by geographic region.

Methods: Randomized patients received IMI/REL (500 mg/500 mg/250 mg) or PIP/TAZ (4000 mg/500 mg) intravenously every 6 hours for 7–14 days; dosing was adjusted for renal impairment. Efficacy endpoints included all-cause mortality (ACM) through day 28, clinical response at early follow-up (EFU) in the modified intention-to-treat population (MITT), and microbiological response at end of treatment (EOT) in the microbiological MITT population (mMITT). The MITT included patients who received ≥1 dose of study treatment and did not have only gram-positive cocci on the baseline respiratory specimen Gram stain; the mMITT comprised patients from the MITT with ≥1 baseline pathogen, excluding monomicrobial infection with organisms known to be intrinsically resistant to IMI/REL (metillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Enterococcus faecium, Legionella spp., Stenotrophomonas spp., or Burkholderia spp.). Differences in efficacy endpoints and 95% CIs were adjusted by the Miettinen & Nurminen method. The safety population included patients who received ≥1 dose of study treatment. Adverse events (AEs) were collected for 14 days posttreatment. Efficacy and safety were analyzed by geographic region; patients were not randomized based on geographic blocks.

Results: Of 531 MITT patients, 264 received IMI/REL and 267 received PIP/TAZ. Most patients were from Eastern Europe (52%), followed by Asia (14%), South America (13%), North/Central America (11%), and Western Europe (9%). Mean age ranged from 47–71 years, and 57–80% were male. At baseline, 39–72% had APACHE II scores ≥1. Of 531 MITT patients, 264 received IMI/REL and 267 received PIP/TAZ. Adverse events (AEs) were collected for 14 days posttreatment. Adverse events were noted; 10% of patients reported ≥1 AE, and serious AEs ranged from 20–59%. No regional differences in AE incidence were noted.

000114
Involvement of β-adrenergic modulation in lymphocyte balance during experimental septic shock
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Introduction: Septic shock (SS) is usually responsible of a dysautonomic syndrome including an impairment of cardiovascular variability, the onset of inappropriate tachycardia, an immunosuppression and an increased mortality. In experimental SS, β1-adrenergic blockade is associated with cardiovascular benefits and possibly immune modulations.

Objectives: The main goal of this study was to investigate the effect of β1-adrenergic modulation on lymphocyte subpopulations in a rodent experimental model of SS.

Methods: SS was induced by cecal ligation and puncture (CLP) in wild type (WT) mice with or without esmolol (ultra-selective β1-blocker) and in β1-AR knock out mice (B1KO). Assessment 18 hours after surgery included in vivo cardiac function assessed by echocardiography. Blood was collected for cytokine measurements. Splenocytes were isolated to assess lymphocyte subpopulations by flow cytometry and cultured 72h with a cell trace to measure cell proliferation capacities.

Results: SS was characterized in WT CLP compared to WT sham animals by a decrease in heart rate (HR) (318 ± 31 in CLP vs. 360 ± 48 bpm in sham animals, p = 0.01) and in mean arterial pressure (MAP) (mean ± SD) (62.2 ± 11.8 vs. 84.8 ± 6.9 mmHg, p < 0.0001). Compared to WT sham, WT CLP animals showed an increase in both pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL6: 10.58 ± 15.01 vs. 0.05 ± 0.03 ng/ml, p = 0.004, IL10: 2.28 ± 1.22 vs. 0.04 ± 0.01 ng/ml, p = 0.004), a decrease in Th4 lymphocytes (10.7 ± 3.1 vs. 16.1 ± 1.8 % of T lymphocytes, p = 0.0001) and an increase in regulatory T cell percentage (12.49 ± 2.74 vs. 7.55 ± 1.75 % of T helper, p < 0.0001). Compared to WT sham, WT CLP animals showed a decrease of lymphocytes proliferation (66.7 ± 9.5 vs. 78.6 ± 7.1 % of proliferative lymphocytes, p = 0.025).

Conclusion: β1-adrenergic modulation by esmolol reduce septic shock-related immunosuppression by decreasing regulatory T lymphocyte percentage, increasing lymphocyte counts and trend to increase proliferation.

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Randomized Clinical Trial Comparing Gram Stain-guided Initial Antibiotic Treatment with Guidelines-based Treatment in Patients with Ventilator-associated Pneumonia: GRam stain-guided Antibiotics ChoicE for Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (GRACE-VAP) Trial

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Introduction: Restrictive use of antibiotics is required to prevent the rapid emergence and spread of multidrug-resistant pathogens but practice is challenging for critically ill patients. Gram staining should provide immediate information for predicting pathogenic bacteria, however, the effectiveness of Gram staining for initial antibiotic choice on clinical outcomes is not investigated in intensive care units (ICUs).

Objectives: To compare the clinical response between initial antibiotic selection based on Gram staining information and guidelines recommendation in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), which is one of the most common hospital-acquired infection in ICUs.

Methods: The GRam stain-guided Antibiotics ChoicE for Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (GRACE-VAP) trial was a multicenter, randomized, open-label non-inferiority clinical trial conducted in 12 ICUs in Japan from April 2018 to April 2020. Eligibility criteria was aged > 18 years, diagnosis of VAP with a modified clinical pulmonary infection score > 4, and duration of mechanical ventilation < 72 hours. The primary endpoint was clinical response = resolved as VAP with a modified clinical pulmonary infection score > 4.

Results: A total of 206 patients underwent randomization (103 patients to the Gram-stain group and 103 patients to the standard group). The median age was 69 (range: 16-93) years, and men accounted for 68.4%. The median hospital stay from ICU admission to enrollment was 4 (range: 3-34) days. The backgrounds were similar between groups. In a per-protocol analysis, the clinical response was observed in 75/103 patients (73.2%) with the Gram-stain group and 74/103 patients (71.8%) with the standard group (p < 0.07; 95% confidence interval, 0.494-95% confidence interval, 0.07 to 0.17; p < 0.001 for non-inferiority). Both anti-pseudomonal agents and anti-MRSA agents were significantly less administered in Gram-stain group than standard group (72 cases vs. 103 cases, p = 0.001; 63 cases vs. 103 cases, p < 0.001, respectively). The coverage rates of initial antibiotic therapies and 28-day all-cause mortality were similar (86.4% vs. 82.2%; p = 0.18; 13.6% vs. 17.5%, p = 0.39, respectively), and all other secondary outcomes were also similar between groups.

Conclusion: The GRACE-VAP trial showed Gram stain-guided treatment significantly restricted the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics than guidelines-based treatment with similar clinical responses in patients with VAP in ICU. This reinforced the utility of Gram staining in the setting of critical care to ameliorate the spread of multidrug-resistant pathogens. (Trial Registration; Clinicaltrials.gov NCT03506113)

Role of endothelial micro RNA 155 on capillary leakage in systemic inflammation

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Introduction: Sepsis is a life-threatening pathological host response to an infection often leading to significant vascular leakage. The elementary molecular mechanisms remain incompletely understood and specially the role of the micro RNAs (MiR) has not been investigated further in detail. We hypothesized that specific MiRs might be up-regulated in the septic endothelium thereby contributing to vascular barrier breakdown.

Objectives: To identify MiRs, regulated in the septic endothelium and to elucidate their role in endothelial permeability.

Methods: Possible regulated MiRs were screened by an unbiased MiR array approach from murine lung endothelial cells (CD146 + magnetic isolation). In vivo, the effect of specific MiRs on permeability was assessed in a transgenic zebrafish larvae (flkmcCherry) and a murine knockout (KO B6.Cg-Mir155tm1.1Rsky/J) model. Both Lipopolysaccharides (LPS) and cecal ligation and puncture (CLP) were used for the induction of systemic inflammation. Readouts were pulmonary permeability (Evans Blue, Wet-to-Dry), activity scoring and survival. Mechanistic studies were done in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) using standard molecular biology tools (RT-PCR, Immunoblot) and functional real-time permeability measurements (ECIS-TER). Furthermore, immediate post mortem kidney biopsies (n = 16) were performed to evaluate the expression of MiRs in a septic human organism.

Results: MiR155 was significantly upregulated in the array (25%). Transgenic overexpression of MiR155 in zebrafish - as a screening tool - led to a extensive induction of vascular permeability (eye assay, p < 0.01). The same was observed when MiR155 was experimentally overexpressed in human ECs in vitro and permeability was measured (p < 0.04). Moreover, MiR155 inhibition protects against classical permeability mediators (i.e. thrombin, p < 0.03). We identified Claudin-1 (a tight junction protein) both on protein and mRNA level as putative MiR155 target both by overexpression and inhibition. Interestingly, in vivo the heterozygote MiR155 knockout mouse showed a protected phenotype with regard to capillary leakage and survival (40% benefit, p < 0.01). MiR155 was also increased in septic human renal tissue compared to kidney biopsies from non-septic patients (p = 0.01).

Conclusion: Using an unbiased MiR-array approach, we found that MiR155 is upregulated in septic endothelium in mouse and men. It...
might contribute to the pathophysiology of vascular leakage in a Claudin-1 dependent manner. Future studies have to clarify if MIR155 could be a potential therapeutic target.

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000237

Long-term developmental impact of withholding parenteral nutrition in paediatric-ICU: a 4-year follow-up of the PEPaNIC randomized controlled trial

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Introduction: Between 2012-2015, the PEPaNIC, randomized controlled trial, which included 1440 critically ill children and children showed that withholding parenteral nutrition during the first week in the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) (late-PN), as compared with initiating supplemental PN early (early-PN), improved PICU outcomes (1) and improved neurocognitive development assessed 2 years later (2). The latter was explained by avoiding early-PN induced adversely altered DNA-methylation of 37 CpG sites (3). As a large number of patients were younger than 1 year of age at randomization and given that assessment of most neurocognitive domains is only possible from 4 years of age onwards, we performed a 4-year follow-up to determine the impact of late-PN versus early-PN on physical, neurocognitive, and emotional/behavioural development. This pre-planned, 4-year follow-up study of the 1440 PEPaNIC patients and of 369 matched healthy children was blinded for treatment allocation (ClinicalTrials.gov-NCT01536275).

Methods: Studied clinical outcomes included anthropometrics, health status, parent/caregiver-reported executive functions, and emotional/behavioural problems, and clinical tests for intelligence, visual-motor integration, alertness, motor coordination and memory. Univariable and multivariable linear and logistic regression analyses adjusted for risk factors assessed the impact of late-PN versus early-PN on the outcomes and investigated a potential mediation role of the adversely altered DNA-methylation of 37 CpG sites previously shown to be evoked by late-PN as compared with early-PN (3).

Results: Overall, at 4 years follow-up, patients (356 late-PN patients, 328 early-PN patients) could be tested neurocognitively. They revealed worse anthropometric, health status, neurocognitive and emotional/behavioural developmental outcomes than the healthy control children. Outcomes of late-PN patients were never worse than those of early-PN patients. In contrast, late-PN patients had fewer internalizing (P = 0.042) and externalizing problems (P = 0.046), and fewer total emotional/behavioural problems (P = 0.007) than early-PN patients, which were normalized by late-PN. Avoiding the early-PN induced adversely altered DNA-methylation status of the 37 CpG sites statistically explained its impact on the behavioural outcomes.

Conclusion: Four years after randomization to late-PN or early-PN in the PICU, late-PN did not show harm, and was found to protect against emotional/behavioural problems, with altered DNA-methylation as a potential biological mediator hereof. These data further support deimplementation of PN-use early during critical illness in infants and children.

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000277

PEEP titration with electrical impedance tomography and pressure-volume curve: a randomized trial in ARDS patients

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Introduction: The mortality rate of ARDS is high (35–46% from mild to severe) [1]. The acute phase is usually accompanied with moderate to severe hypoxemia. Positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) may improve oxygenation but at the same time may induce barotraumas. The best PEEP selection method is still under debate.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to compare PEEP titration with electrical impedance tomography (EIT) and with ventilator-embedded pressure-volume (PV) loop in moderate to severe ARDS.

Methods: This randomized control trials study was conducted from April 2017 to February 2019 in the ICU of FEMH. Patients with moderate to severe ARDS according to Berlin criteria were included. Total eighty-seven ARDS patients were randomized to either EIT group (n = 42) or PV group (n = 45). The exclusion criteria were clinical contraindications applying EIT or high PEEP level. All patients were total sedated to prevent any spontaneous breathing and ventilated under volume-control mode (IBW/6ml/kg) and FiO2 100%. The PV group used Hamilton G5 to measure the PV loop. The lungs were deflated with an increase pressure of 3 cmH2O/sec from 5 cmH2O to 40 cmH2O. The pressure was kept constant at 40 cmH2O for 1 second. Subsequently, the lungs were passively deflated down to 5 cmH2O. PEEP with maximal hysteresis (volume difference in the PV loop) was defined as optimal. In the EIT group, optimal PEEP was defined according to the regional compliance method published elsewhere [2]. The methods are illustrated in Fig. 1.

Parameters including optimal PEEP, airway pressures, compliance (Crs), and APACHE II, PaO2/FiO2, ICU day, resistance of the respiratory system (R) were measured and recorded.

Results: After optimization, PEEP was significantly higher in the PV group (17.4 ± 1.7 vs. 16.2 ± 2.6 cmH2O, PV vs. EIT groups, p = 0.02). After 48 hours, driving pressure was significantly higher in the PV group (12.4 ± 3.6 vs. 10.9 ± 2.5 cmH2O, p = 0.04). Lung mechanics and oxygenation did not differ between the groups. The survival rate was
lower in the PV group (44.4% vs. 69.0%, p = 0.02; hazard ratio 2.1, confidence interval 1.1 to 3.9).

**Conclusion:** In moderate to severe ARDS, PEEP titration guided with EIT, compared with PV curve, was associated with improved driving pressure and survival rate. These findings support the use of EIT-based PEEP titration in ARDS.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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**000462**

**Moderately prolonged permissive hypotension results in reversible cerebral metabolic perturbations evaluated by intracerebral microdialysis**

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**Introduction:** Trauma remains a leading cause of mortality. The leading cause of preventable deaths in trauma patients is uncontrollable hemorrhage. During recent years’ Damage Control Resuscitation (DCR) and Damage Control Surgery (DCS) has been the main strategy in the management of major hemorrhage in trauma patients. One aspect of DCR is permissive hypotension. However, the duration of hypotension that can be tolerated without affecting the brain is unknown. The authors have in a previously published experimental study shown that long-term hypotension (mean arterial pressure (MAP) of 40 mmHg) results in irreversible metabolic perturbation evaluated by a marked and lasting increase in the lactate to pyruvate ratio (LP ratio) measured by intracerebral microdialysis (MD). Furthermore, the same study showed that the cerebral biochemical changes in response to severe hypotension was reflected in the cerebral venous outflow.

**Objectives:** In the present study we investigate the effect of 60 min severe hypotension (MAP equal 40 mmHg) on the brain’s energy metabolism and seek to verify earlier findings that venous cerebral blood can be used as a marker of global cerebral energy state. The hypothesis is that hemorrhagic shock for 60 min results in less severe metabolic changes evaluated as a temporarily increase in the hemisphere LP ratio.

**Methods:** The study was approved by the Danish Animal Experiment Inspectorate. 10 pigs were anaesthetized, and vital parameters recorded. Probes for monitoring brain tissue oxygenation (PbtO₂) and intracranial pressure was placed in the right and left hemisphere respectively. Microdialysis catheters were placed in the left parietal lobe, femoral artery and superior sagittal sinus for analysis of lactate, pyruvate, glucose, glycerol and glutamate. The superior sagittal sinus was chosen for analysis of cerebral venous blood due to the anatomic characteristics of the pig. In the pig, most of the cerebral blood is drained via paraspinal venous plexa and only a minor part passes into the internal jugular vein. Hemorrhagic shock was induced by bleeding the animal until MAP of 40 mmHg was achieved. The MAP was kept around 40 mmHg by further withdrawing or infusing shed blood. After 60 min the pigs was resuscitated with autologous blood and observed for 3 hours.

**Results:** The volume of shed blood was (median (interquartile range)) 1469 mL (1378.4-1583.44 mL) and median blood loss per kilogram was 35 mL/Kg (31.9-36.8 mL/Kg).

During the period of hemorrhagic shock, MAP decreased to a median value of 39mmHg (35-42). Accordingly, CPP decreased to low levels of 33 mmHg (28-39). Similarly, PbtO₂ decreased to near critical levels of 19 mmHg (8-23). After resuscitation with shed blood MAP increased to near baseline levels (p < 0.05). The CPP showed a similar response, normalizing, but not reaching baseline levels (p < 0.05). In contrast, PbtO₂ increased to levels exceeding baseline values and stayed at that level during the rest of the observation period (p < 0.05)

At baseline the lactate to pyruvate ratio (LP ratio) in the hemisphere, artery and sagittal sinus were 13 (8-16), 21 (18-24) and 9 (6-22), respectively. After induction of hemorrhagic shock, the LP ratio from the left hemisphere in 9 pigs increased to levels indicating a reversible perturbation of cerebral energy metabolism 19 (12-30). The same pattern was seen in LP measurements from the femoral artery 28 (20-35) and sagittal sinus 22 (19-26). At the end of the experiment hemisphere, artery and sinus LP ratios were, 16 (10-23), 17 (15-25), and 17 (10-27), respectively. Although hemisphere and sinus LP ratios decreased, they did not reach baseline levels (p < 0.05). In one pig hemisphere LP ratio increased to a level indicating irreversible metabolic perturbation (LP ratio > 200)

**Conclusion:** During 60 min of severe hemorrhagic shock intracerebral microdialysis shows signs of perturbations of cerebral energy metabolism, and these changes trends towards baseline values after resuscitation. Since time apparently is an important factor in the prevention of irreversible brain damage future studies should focus on methods (e.g. vasoactive drugs) to prolong the period in which permissive hypotension is safe for the brain. Sagittal sinus microdialysis values followed hemisphere values but were not distinguishable from systemic arterial values. Venous (jugular bulb) microdialysis might have a place in monitoring conditions were global cerebral ischemia is a risk, but further studies are required.

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Impact of oral chlorhexidine de-adoption and implementation of an oral care bundle on mortality for mechanically ventilated adults: A stepped wedge cluster randomized controlled trial

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000463

Introduction: Oral chlorhexidine is used widely for mechanically ventilated patients to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia but recent studies show an association with excess mortality [1,2].

Objectives: The primary objective of this study was to determine whether de-adoption of oral chlorhexidine and parallel implementation of a standardized oral care bundle reduces mortality in mechanically ventilated patients. Secondary outcomes were infection-related ventilator-associated complications (IVACs), oral health dysfunction and oral procedural pain.

Methods: A stepped wedge cluster randomized controlled trial with integrated process evaluation conducted December 2017 to January 2019 in 6 academic intensive care units (ICUs) in Toronto, Canada [3]. Clusters were randomized to de-adopt oral chlorhexidine and implement a standardized 5-part oral care bundle comprising oral assessment, tooth brushing, mouth moisturization, lip moisturization and secretion removal every two months. We used an integrated knowledge translation strategy including point-of-care education, audit and feedback, and reminders to facilitate change in oral care [4]. Analyses were adjusted for patient characteristics, clustering within sites and secular trends. Trained observers conducted random evaluation of fidelity to the oral care bundle.

Results: A total of 3260 patients were enrolled; 1560 baseline (control), 1700 intervention phase. We found no difference in crude ICU mortality, 332 (21.2%) (control) and 345 (20.3%) (intervention) (P = 0.8). Among 348 randomly observed oral care encounters, we identified 100% compliance with oral chlorhexidine de-adoption between control and intervention periods (P < 0.0001) and delivery of 4 out 5 elements of the oral care bundle increased (P < 0.0001) in the intervention phase.

Conclusion: Among patients receiving mechanical ventilation, de-adoption of oral chlorhexidine and implementation of a standardized oral care bundle was not associated with lower mortality, IVACs or oral procedural pain, but did improve oral care. Our results indicate active de-adoption of oral chlorhexidine for ICVC prevention from clinical practice is needed due to lack of benefit and a standardized oral care bundle results in clinically important improvements in oral health and should be adopted into practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Effects of high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) in patients with sepsis and septic shock of extrapulmonary origin

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Introduction: High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) provides heated and humidified high gas flow (30 to 60 L/min) that reduces the inspiratory effort in hypoxic patients [1]. No study showed the effects of HFNC in patients with increased respiratory drive from systemic inflammation and acidosis.

Objectives: HFNC might decrease effort measured by esophageal pressure swing (ΔPes) in non-intubated patients with diagnosis of extra-pulmonary sepsis and septic shock.

Methods: We performed a prospective, multicentric physiological study in non-intubated sepsis and septic shock patients admitted to the Intensive Care Units of Maggiore Policlinico Hospital in Milan and of Sant’Anna Hospital in Ferrara. Exclusion criteria were: diagnosis of pneumonia, GCS < 12 and contraindication to the positioning of the esophageal catheter. Study protocol consisted of 3 consecutive phases of 20 minutes: first low flow oxygen (LFO), then HFNC and lastly LFO. FIO2 was titrated to maintain SpO2 of 92-96%. During all phases, esophageal pressure and electrical impedance tomography waveforms were continuously recorded.

Results: We present preliminary results on 22 patients (68 ± 14 yo), 11 (50%) with diagnosis of septic shock, with median serum lactate level of 2.30 (1.20-3.37) mmol/L and SOFA score 5 (4-9). During HFNC, spontaneous effort measured as ΔPes (see Figure 1) and as esophageal Pressure-Time Product (PTP) decreased, together with respiratory rate (RR), in comparison to LFO. Positive airway pressure generated by HFNC is showed by increased End Expiratory Lung Impedance (ΔEELI) (see Table). Interestingly these effects were maintained, in part, also when patients were switched back to LFO.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. This study was funded by the Network for Canadian Oral Health and Research and the Canadian Lung Association.
**Results:** In the LPS group (n = 20), the RPP increased respectively from 11708 to 14473 mmHg*bpm (p = 0.03) between the baseline (T = 0 min) and the LPS early stage (T = 60 min after infusion). In the same time, quantification of PET images performed before and after the endotoxic shock does not reveal significant changes in values of microcirculation or oxidative metabolism. These results show a dissociation during LPS challenge between the myocardial work that increased and the cardiac oxidative metabolism and the cardiac microcirculation which remained stable.

As expected, the adjunction of beta-blockers reduced the RPP (18097 vs 13613 mmHg*bpm; p = 0.02) and increased the microcirculation (1,408 vs 2,101 mL/min/g; p = 0.02) between the second and the last PET. No impact on the oxidative metabolism has been identified.

**Conclusion:** (1) These results suggest that despite the increased myocardial work caused by the LPS challenge, no significant changes in myocardial flow nor oxidative metabolism were found. These suggest a decoupling between work and PET results. The disregulation of these adaptive phenomena may participate in the onset of myocardial involvement in sepsis. (2) The beta-blockers increased the microcirculation but had no effects on the oxidative metabolism.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Evidence of heart decoupling between work, metabolism and microcirculation in endotoxic shock: [11C] acetate PET approach**

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**Introduction:** Septic shock associated with cardiovascular failure is one of the most important reasons of death in Intensive Care Units. The mechanisms of the heart failure associated to sepsis remain unclear. Some ex-vivo data suggested a hypothetical mitochondrial failure induced by the pro-inflammatory mediators released during septic shock. However, those anomalies were not confirmed in vivo.

**Objectives:** This experiment aims at exploring the cardiac oxidative metabolism and its relation with perfusion and work through positron emission tomodensitometry (PET) imaging with [11C] acetate tracer, during an endotoxic shock in a pig model.

**Methods:** Forty anesthetized and mechanically ventilated pigs (mean weight = 25kg) were randomized into two groups: controls and those challenged with intravenous lipopolysaccharid (LPS-150 µg/kg/min for 60 minutes from 11708 to 14473 mmHg*bpm; p = 0.03) before LPS infusion, during the early stage of the endotoxic shock (T = 60 minutes after infusion) and at a late time (T = 450 min from the beginning of the experiment). After the second PET-scan, animals were challenged with a bolus of ESMO-LOL (dosed enough to lower the HR of 20%) in order to evaluate the impact of beta-blockers in the endotoxic shock. For each PET-scan, [11C] acetate was used as tracer for the combined assessment of myocardial work (W, in mL/min/g) and oxidative metabolism (k2, acetate clearance rate, a measure of MVO2 rate, in mL/min/g). Definition of myocardial regions of interests (ROIs) and kinetic modeling were performed using PMOD software (Pmod 3.4).

**Results:**

- In the LPS group (n = 20), the RPP increased respectively from 11708 to 14473 mmHg*bpm (p = 0.03) between the baseline (T = 0 min) and the LPS early stage (T = 60 min after infusion).
- In the same time, quantification of PET images performed before and after the endotoxic shock does not reveal significant changes in values of microcirculation or oxidative metabolism. These results show a dissociation during LPS challenge between the myocardial work that increased and the cardiac oxidative metabolism and the cardiac microcirculation which remained stable.
- As expected, the adjunction of beta-blockers reduced the RPP (18097 vs 13613 mmHg*bpm; p = 0.02) and increased the microcirculation (1,408 vs 2,101 mL/min/g; p = 0.02) between the second and the last PET. No impact on the oxidative metabolism has been identified.

**Conclusion:** (1) These results suggest that despite the increased myocardial work caused by the LPS challenge, no significant changes in myocardial flow nor oxidative metabolism were found. These suggest a decoupling between work and PET results. The disregulation of these adaptive phenomena may participate in the onset of myocardial involvement in sepsis. (2) The beta-blockers increased the microcirculation but had no effects on the oxidative metabolism.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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were used to determine the biological subphenotype of each patient. First, a cluster-based model distinguishing an uninfamed and reactive subphenotype based on plasma levels of interleukin-6, interferon gamma, angiopoietin 1/2, and plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 [2]. Second, a latent class analysis (LCA) model revealing a hypo-inflammatory and hyper-inflammatory subphenotype using plasma levels of interleukin-8, protein C, and bicarbonate [4]. The prognostic enrichment was assessed with logistic regression analysis (30-day mortality) while correcting for the mediating effect of ARDS and with Cox regression analysis (ICU-mortality and ventilor-free days), for both biological phenotyping models. As part of predictive enrichment, blood leukocyte gene expression profiles in biological subphenotypes were analyzed by principal component analysis.

**Results:** We analyzed the data of 2500 patients (674 with ARDS and 1826 without ARDS). Here, we only report the results of patients without ARDS. The cluster-derived reactive subphenotype was, independently of ARDS, associated with (1) a higher 30-day mortality (OR 1.48, CI 1.16-1.89), (2) a higher probability of ICU mortality (HR 2.43, CI 1.89-3.11), and (3) a lower probability of successful extubation while alive (HR 0.66, CI 0.59-0.74; Figure 1) compared to the uninflamed subphenotype. The blood leukocyte gene expression profiles of each individual subphenotype were similar for patients with and without ARDS (all p > 0.05; Figure 2). LCA-derived subphenotypes showed similar profiles (data not shown).

**Figure 1:** Percentage of patients extubated and alive over time by cluster subphenotype. The figure depicts the univariable cox proportional hazard modelling.

**Figure 2:** Principal component analysis by cluster subphenotype. On the x-axis PC1 explaining approximately 56% of variance and on the y-axis PC2 explaining approximately 8% of variance

**Conclusion:** The prognostic- and predictive enrichment of biological ARDS subphenotypes can be extended to a general ICU population. Using the concept of biological subphenotypes for splitting cohorts of critically ill patients could add to improving future precision-based trial strategies and lead to identifying treatable traits for all critically ill.

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**000663 Circulating bioactive adrenomedullin as a marker of sepsis, septic shock and critical illness**

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**Introduction:** Biomarkers can be of help in understanding critical illness and to identifying and stratifying sepsis. Adrenomedullin is a peptide hormone with vasoactive properties, with reported prognostic and potentially therapeutic value in sepsis.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to investigate how levels of circulating bioactive adrenomedullin (bio-ADM) at admission to the...
intensive care unit (ICU) correspond to morbidity and mortality in sepsis patients as well as in a general ICU population. 

**Methods:** Admission blood samples from all patients admitted to four ICUs during 2016 were batch-analysed. Patients fulfilling the sepsis-3 criteria were identified. Primary outcomes were the predictive capacity of bio-ADM to identify sepsis patients and the association of bio-ADM with 30-day mortality in the ICU. Secondary outcomes were the need for circulatory and renal support. A commonly used bio-ADM cutoff of 70 pg/mL was validated.

**RESULTS.** Bio-ADM in 1867 consecutive adult patients were analysed, and 632 patients fulfilled the sepsis criteria of whom 267 had septic shock. The median bio-ADM in the entire ICU population was 40 pg/mL, compared to 74 pg/mL in sepsis patients, 107 pg/mL in septic shock and 29 pg/mL in the non-septic patients. Sepsis was identified with an odds ratio (OR) of 1.64 for log2-transformed bio-ADM, after adjusting for severity of the disease. The association of elevated bio-ADM and 30-day mortality was equally strong in sepsis patients and the ICU population with an adjusted OR of 1.23 and 1.22, respectively. Higher levels of bio-ADM were associated with an increased need of renal replacement therapy with adjusted ORs of 2.28 and 1.97 for the ICU-population and the sepsis patients respectively, and with an increased need of vasopressors with adjusted OR of 1.33 for both populations. In the sepsis cohort, bio-ADM provided additional information to lactate on 30-day mortality. The cutoff of 70 pg/mL of bio-ADM was able to differentiate between survivors and non-survivors, but a threshold of 108 pg/mL performed better in the sepsis cohort.

**Conclusion:** Admission bio-ADM is an independent sepsis biomarker. In addition, bio-ADM levels are associated with 30-day mortality and organ failure in sepsis patients as well as in a general ICU-population.

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**000703**

**Dysphagia and evolution during COVID-19 pandemic in critically ill patients. A multidisciplinary challenge for healthcare workers**

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**Introduction:** Critically ill patients have an increased risk of dysphagia after prolonged orotracheal intubation (OTI) [1, 2]. COVID-19 is a multisystem disease caused by SARS-COV-2, characterized by acute respiratory failure; severe forms usually need mechanical ventilation (MV) support and required OTI; for prolonged courses tracheostomy is mandatory [3, 4].

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to evaluate dysphagia in critically ill COVID-19 patients, analyzing relations with clinical and biological data concerning MV during the ICU stay. Moreover, an analysis about recovery rate from dysphagia and its characteristics were reported.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective study on COVID-19 cohort patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU); patients died before the first evaluation were excluded from the analysis. Dysphagia score has been reported in agreement with Gugging Swallowing Screen (GUSS) [5]. GUSS stratified the severity of dysphagia into moderate (0–9), severe (10–14), mild (15–19) or no dysphagia (20 points), according to clinical evaluation made by speech and language therapist (SLT). Data related to MV days, ICU length of stay (LOS) and other clinically relevant variables were analyzed.

**Results:** Forty-two consecutive patients were admitted to ICU, with an average age of 61 years (SD 12); according to exclusion criteria, 31 (74%) were evaluated by the nurse and the SLT. Twenty-five of them were mechanically ventilated; 19 (76%) patients were treated with OTI, and 6 (24%) of them were tracheostomized; median MV days were 11 (7.5–16). At first ST evaluation, 14 (45.2%) patients showed no dysphagia, 5 (16.1%) a mild degree of dysphagia, 6 (19.4%) a moderate level of dysphagia and 6 (19.4%) patients had a severe dysphagia. Mean first GUSS evaluation was 15.1 (SD 6.5), with a median of 19 (IQR = 12–20). A correlation was found between distribution of GUSS score at first evaluation and ICU LOS (p < 0.001), MV days (p < 0.001), age (p = 0.03) and tracheostomy (p = 0.04). No correlation was found with BMI, SAPS, SOFA, NEMS at admission, sex, comorbidities (COPD, OSA, diabetes, Hypertension and IHD), pronation maneuvers and initial PEEP setting. After 7 days from the first ST evaluation, GUSS stratification showed 2 (6.5%) patients with severe form of dysphagia, 2 (6.5%) with moderate dysphagia, 4 (12.9%) with mild dysphagia and finally 23 (74.2%) without dysphagia. This 7-days evolution resulted significantly different from baseline (p < 0.001). Severe, moderate, mild and none dysphagia significantly evolved on day 14 (p = 0.01) with a prevalence of 0%, 3.2%, 9.7%, 87.1% respectively. Intriguingly, severe forms of dysphagia were no longer found at 12 days.

**Conclusion:** In COVID-19 patients, dysphagia disorders were related to the length of the MV, to ICU LOS and to tracheostomy placement. The GUSS temporal evolution could suggest that a multidisciplinary synergic approach to dysphagia management, which consist of a nurse and a SLT, would seems to improve the outcome of this symptom in critically ill COVID-19 patients. Futures analysis are necessary to confirm the hypothesis that the SLT treatment could have a positive predictive role in dysphagia recovery.

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**000750**

The use of high flow nasal cannula oxygen around end of life: indications, complications, outcomes

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**Introduction:** Over the past two decades, high-flow nasal cannula oxygenation (HFNCO) devices that deliver heated and humidified oxygen at flows up to 60 L/min, were developed as an alternative to low/intermediate-flow devices. HFNCO has emerged as a safe and useful supportive therapy in many clinical situations and is considered a valuable tool in enhancing patients’ comfort and oxygenation.
The simplicity and potential benefit of HFNCO has led to its widespread use in and out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), even in situations where the evidence is sparse. Patients with established ceilings of treatment that prohibit intubation, who develop worsening respiratory failure is such an example. These patients are often treated with some form of non-invasive ventilation (NIV). However, discomfort and complications associated with NIV may outweigh potential benefits, and its use may extend the dying process without providing an acceptable quality of life in survivors or an acceptable quality of death in non-survivors. The use of HFNCO is seen as a potential alternative to NIV, however, the impact of HFNCO around end of life (EoL) has not been extensively investigated.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess the number of patients receiving HFNCO initiated by an outreach team near the EoL, the indications for its use, as well as any beneficial and/or unintended effects.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective observational study of all ward patients that were initiated on HFNCO within 10 days of death, over 2 years (January 2017 to January 2019), in a 950 bedded, tertiary London hospital, with a dedicated outreach service. All HFNCO initiation decisions and implementation are made by the outreach service. We reviewed electronic patient records and collected patient demographics, reasons for HFNCO initiation, initial HFNCO flow and oxygen settings, patients' response and adverse events, as well as EoL decision-making.

**Results:** During the study period, 736 patients received HFNCO with 95 (12.9%) receiving it within 10 days prior to death. Sixty-five of them (68.4%) were more than 70 years old and 44.2% were female. The commonest reason for hospital admission was respiratory failure (51.6%) and the commonest reason for HFNCO initiation was hyoxia (67.4%). Twenty-six patients (27.4%) were recognised as EoL before initiation of HFNCO, and 6 (6.3%) after the HFNCO failed to improve their condition. Details on EoL decision-making are shown in Table 1. Palliative care referrals were made in 82.1% of EoL patients. When HFNCO was discontinued, 27/32 (87.1%) died within 7 days; of those in whom HFNCO was discontinued, 32/61 (52.4%) died within 7 days. In the majority of the cases (61.1%), there were no adverse events associated with HFNCO. In the remaining patients, the most frequently documented adverse event was general discomfort, mainly due to nasal administration of high flow gas. The use of HFNCO is seen as a potential alternative to NIV, however, the impact of HFNCO around end of life (EoL) has not been extensively investigated.

**Conclusion:** Approximately 13% of HFNCO use initiated by the outreach service in our hospital is for ward patients that are approaching EoL. This rescue therapy is primarily used in hypoxic respiratory failure, aiming to improve comfort. However, treatment related discomfort in almost 40% of patients highlights the importance of palliative care involvement and optimisation of traditional EoL comfort measures. Whether HFNCO actually extends the dying period in such patients requires further investigation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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000790

(1,3)-β-D-glucan-based diagnosis of invasive Candida infection versus culture-based diagnosis in patients with sepsis and with an increased risk of invasive Candida infection (CandiSep)

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**Introduction:** Invasive candida infection in sepsis patients is associated with a high mortality. Long time to positivity in culture-based pathogen detection further increases the risk of death by delaying antifungal therapy (1). Serum (1,3)-β-D-glucan (BDG) has a high diagnostic accuracy for detecting ICI (2) and is available within few hours. However, the clinical significance of BDG is unclear and current guidelines hesitate in recommending this diagnostic tool.

**Objectives:** To investigate whether guidance by serum-BDG concentrations results in an earlier antifungal therapy in sepsis patients with high risk of ICI and therefore reduces mortality.

**Methods:** CandiSep was a prospective multicenter randomized trial conducted in 18 ICUs in Germany (4). Patients within 24 hrs after onset of severe sepsis or septic shock and high risk for ICI were included. Risk factors for ICI were total-parenteral nutrition, recent abdominal surgery, preexisting antimicrobial therapy, or renal replacement therapy. Exclusion criteria included a diagnosed ICI or anticipated antifungal therapy. Patients were randomized into a control or a BDG-group. Patients of the control group received targeted antifungal therapy according to current guidelines (3). In the BDG group, treating physicians received BDG-results 24 hours after enrollment. Antifungals were started when at least one BDG serum concentration was ≥ 80 pg/ml. Primary endpoint was 28 day all-cause mortality.

**Results:** Of 2324 eligible patients, 339 patients were included in an intention-to-treat analysis comparing the BDG-group (n = 172) with standard of care (n = 167). Of those, 99 patients received antifungals in the BDG group and 46 patients in the control group. Time from
randomization to antifungal therapy was 1.1 (IQR 1.0-2.2) days in the BDG group and 4.4 (IQR 2.0-9.1 days, P < 0.01) in the control group. The 28-day mortality rate was 33.7% in the BDG group and 30.5% in the control group (P = 0.53; relative risk of death: 1.1, 95% CI 0.8-1.5, see figure for Kaplan-Meier-curve).

Conclusion: BDG guidance was associated with early initiation of antifungal therapy but did not reduce mortality. These results do not support BDG-guided preemptive antifungal therapy in sepsis patients.

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000932
Relationship between obesity and ventilator-associated pneumonia: a planned ancillary study of the NUTRIREA-2 randomized controlled trial

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Introduction: Patients with obesity are at higher risk for community-acquired and ICU-acquired infections. However, no study has evaluated the relationship between obesity and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).

Objectives: The aim of our study was to determine the impact of obesity on the incidence of VAP.

Methods: Planned ancillary study of the NUTRIREA-2 open-label RCT, performed in 44 French ICUs. Adults (18 years or older) receiving invasive mechanical ventilation and vasopressor support for shock were randomly assigned (1:1) to either parenteral nutrition or enteral nutrition, both targeting normocaloric goals (20-25 kcal/kg per day), within 24 h after intubation.

Obesity was defined as body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m² at ICU admission. VAP diagnosis was adjudicated by an independent blinded committee, based on all available clinical, radiological, and bacteriological data. Only first VAP episodes were taken into account.

Incidence of VAP was analyzed using a competing risk approach, with extubation, death and ICU discharge alive as competing risks. An adjusted analysis was performed including variables collected at ICU admission with p < 0.2 in the univariate analysis. The choice of adjustment variables was based on scientific knowledge, and potential collinearity.

In a subgroup of patients (n = 151), we also evaluated the impact of obesity on abundant microaspiration of gastric contents and oropharyngeal secretions (defined as the presence of significant levels of pepsin (>200 ng/ml) and salivary amylase (>1685 UI/ml) in >30% of tracheal aspirates, collected during the 48h following intubation).

Results: Among the 2410 patients included in the NUTRIREA-2 trial, 85 (4%) were excluded because of missing data on BMI. 699 of the 2325 (30%) included patients had obesity. Female gender (36% vs 32%), age (67 ± 11 vs 65 ± 15 years), sofa score at ICU admission (med (IR) 11 (8, 13) vs 10 (8, 13), and comorbidities significantly (p < 0.05) differed between obese and non-obese patients. No significant difference was found in percentage of patients who received enteral nutrition between obese and non-obese patients (51% vs 50%).

224 VAP were diagnosed (60 in the obese group and, 164 in the non-obese group). The incidence of VAP at day 28 was 8.6% vs 10.1% in obese and non-obese patients, respectively; HR: 0.845, 95% CI: [0.63; 1.14], p = 0.26. After adjustment on gender, age and Knaus score, no significant difference was found in VAP incidence between obese and non-obese patients (adjusted HR: 0.914, 95% CI: [0.675; 1.238], p = 0.56). Vomiting at day 7 was more frequent in obese than in non obese patients (24% vs 19%, p = 0.008).

No significant difference was found in percentage of patients with abundant microaspiration of gastric contents (31% vs 19%, p = 0.13), or oropharyngeal secretions (63% vs 65%, p = 0.86) between obese and non-obese patients.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that obesity has no significant impact on the incidence of VAP.

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000958
Incidence and risk factors of deep vein thrombosis after extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

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Introduction: Previous studies reported a various incidence of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) after decannulation from Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), ranging from 18% to 85% depending on screening method. The actual incidence of ECMO associated DVT is
therefore unclear and the role of anticoagulation and potential risk factors is undetermined. Furthermore, it is unclear if cannula-associated DVT is more common in ECMO patients compared to critically ill patients without ECMO.

**Objectives:** To determine incidence and risk factors of DVT following cannulation from ECMO, to assess the relationship with level of anticoagulation and to compare the cannula-associated DVT rate in patients with and without ECMO.

**Methods:** We conducted a prospective cohort study in a 30-bed, closed format mixed medical-surgical ICU from a Dutch tertiary referral hospital. All consecutive adult patients who were successfully weaned from ECMO and underwent a routine venous duplex ultrasound of the large vessels following cannulation to assess the presence of DVT between January 2018 and March 2020 were included. We performed three multivariable logistic regression analysis to determine the association between anticoagulation with heparin and the occurrence of DVT after ECMO treatment: 1) mean aPTT per 10 seconds increase; 2) time weighted average aPTT under 50 seconds; and 3) time weighted average aPTT under 60 seconds, adjusted for sex, age, ECMO-mode and duration of ECMO treatment. Multivariable stepwise backward logistic regression was performed to assess risk factors for DVT. We compared cannula-associated DVT rate in ECMO patients with a prospective composed cohort of 53 critically ill adult patients without ECMO support receiving a central venous catheter (CVC) for at least 48 hours in which the inserted vein was screened for DVT after CVC removal with duplex ultrasound.

**Results:** During the study period 95 patients received ECMO of which 38 were successfully weaned from ECMO. Eight patients had no ultrasound of the large vessels after cannulation leaving 30 patients eligible for analysis. Of these 30 patients 14 (47%) received veno-arterial ECMO. DVT was found in 15 patients (50%) of which 10 patients (33%) had a DVT in a cannulated vein (cannula-associated DVT). Overall, patients with DVT had a longer duration of ECMO treatment (4.7 days ± 2.4 vs 6.9 days ± 3.4, p = 0.047) and were more often on veno-venous (VV) ECMO (33% vs 73%, p = 0.07). Multivariable logistic regression analysis showed no correlation between level of anticoagulation and the occurrence of DVT. With the stepwise backward logistic regression analysis, we found VV-ECMO mode to be the only independent risk factor for DVT after ECMO (OR 5.5; 95%CI 1.16-26.41). We found no difference between the ECMO and CVC cohort regarding cannula-associated DVT rate (33% vs 32.1%).

**Conclusion:** DVT following ECMO is frequent with half the patients showed DVT after cannulation, although pure cannula-associated DVT was not higher compared to CVC-associated DVT in a non-ECMO cohort of critically ill patients. We identified VV-ECMO as an independent risk-factor for DVT after ECMO. The level of anticoagulation based on aPTT values is not associated with the occurrence of DVT following ECMO. Administration of a higher dose of heparin seems therefore not justified to prevent DVT during ECMO treatment.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Vasooative effects of vanilloids in progressive peritoneal sepsis**

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**Introduction:** Continuous administration of vasooactive drugs represents cornerstone of hemodynamic management in septic shock. Standard care of patients with vasodilatory shock includes infusions of catecholamines, vasopressin agonists and, newly, angiotensin II. Single dose of intravenous vanilloids – capsaicin and its analogue nonivamide – substances responsible for pungent taste of some eggplants, caused increase of blood pressure in anesthetized mice. We designed proof-of-concept study in a large porcine model of progressive peritoneal sepsis to analyze the hemodynamic effects of capsaicin and nonivamide.

**Methods:** 28 anesthetized, mechanically ventilated and instrumented pigs were assigned into six groups; control groups receiving either capsaicin (CC, n = 3) or nonivamide (CN, n = 3); sepsis groups treated either with (SNa, n = 3) or without norepinephrine (S, n = 3), and sepsis groups treated with capsaicin (SC, n = 6) or nonivamide (SN, n = 6). Capsaicin was induced by autologous feces (2 g/kg) inoculation into peritoneal cavity. Continuous infusion of vasopressors was administered if the mean arterial pressure (MAP) dropped below 65 mmHg and no further positive hemodynamic response was elicited via fluid resuscitation. Vasopressors were titrated to maintain MAP between 65 and 70 mmHg. Before, 6, 12, 18 and 24 h after the induction of peritonitis (fixed timepoints) we measured, in addition to systemic, regional (renal, portal and femoral) and microvascular (gut mucosal) hemodynamics, oxygen kinetics (DO2/VO2), organ function (lung, kidney, liver, heart), and energy metabolism (lactate kinetics, acid base balance).

**Results:** Administration of both vanilloids to non-septic animals did not induce significant changes in measured variables, although MAP and systemic vascular resistance tended to increase. Septic animals developed classical hemodynamic alterations with increased cardiac output and reduced systemic vascular resistance. Systemic hemodynamic effect of capsaicin and nonivamide administration was comparable to that observed in norepinephrine group. Nonivamide significantly increased blood flow through the portal vein at 6 and 9 hour after infusion initiation when compared to norepinephrine. Neither of tested vasopressors affected progressive sepsis-induced disturbances in energy metabolism and multigorgan functions.

**Conclusion:** To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of intravenous administration of the vanilloids in the established porcine model of progressive peritoneal sepsis. We demonstrated their therapeutic potential in reversal of septic-induced vasodilatory shock. While promising, further investigation into the mechanisms of action is necessary.

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**Validation of a novel non-invasive continuous method to monitor end expiratory lung volume based on CO2 kinetics**

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Introduction: Intensive care medicine (ICM) is a growing specialty. The Centre for workforce intelligence has predicted an expansion which would require anywhere between a 25 to 125% increase in the medical ICU workforce by 2033 [1]. This will require a substantial increase in recruitment to the specialty.

We know that women are currently underrepresented in ICM at consultant level and in leadership positions. According to General Medical Council (GMC) and Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) data, 55% of UK medical graduates are women but only 20% of ICU consultants are women. These trends are similar in Europe and the rest of the world [2] and form part of a wider picture – less than 25% of the most influential healthcare leadership positions worldwide are held by women [3].

This gender gap within ICM means that the specialty is excluding half of Medicine’s talent pool and therefore not producing a workforce that is diverse and representative of the population it serves. The world economic forum showed in its’ 2014 report that there is a correlation between a country’s global competitiveness index and its’ gender gap index [4]. If we extrapolate this to the field of Medicine, it suggests that a gender balanced ICU medical workforce could lead to improvements in the field of ICM and subsequently patient outcomes [5].

An important factor in career choice within medicine is the availability of role models and mentorship. Both male and female doctors are more likely to choose a specialty when they identify a positive role model [6]. For female trainees, having a female role seems to be particularly important [7].

Objectives: Covid-19 brought ICM into the spotlight. Whereas previously many trainees may not have had exposure to ICM, the pandemic changed this situation. Critical care societies from around the world produced excellent free online resources to educate and inform doctors who were now treating the surge of ICU patients in various settings. We wanted to ascertain the percentage of female speakers at webinars, to see if intensive care societies are fostering female trainees’ and consultants’ careers by providing female role models. Most societies have issued statements regarding gender parity; we wanted to see whether they demonstrate inclusive leadership and are true advocates of gender equity [8].

Methods: We reviewed webinars produced in response to Covid-19 during a 3 month period (March, April and May 2020) by a few of the most prominent Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthesia societies to which we were personally exposed. The choice was subjective but felt to represent webinars which were widely available and to which a significant proportion of doctors would have been exposed in Europe. The speakers were not approached individually and asked as to how they identify their gender. We therefore ascertained the gender of the speakers subjectively.

Results: These preliminary results show that women are grossly underrepresented in these webinars.

Conclusion: This lack of representation at a higher level within ICM will do little to encourage women into an already male dominated specialty. The ESICM equality goal which states “ESICM should aim for gender representation according to the gender proportion in the critical care medicine workforce” [9] does not go far enough to address this problem. To tackle the issue of gender inequality within ICM and build a diverse and sustainable workforce, we must provide role models and mentors to help attract female doctors to this specialty. It is time we start putting our theoretical aspiration for equal gender representation into practice.
Objectives: We assessed the effects of temporary transvenous diaphragm neurostimulation (TTDN) using bilateral phrenic stimulation (Pacing Therapy System) on clinical outcomes and respiratory function in mechanically ventilated patients – preliminary results from a randomized controlled trial

Introduction: Mechanical ventilation (MV), while lifesaving, can lead to ventilator-induced diaphragm dysfunction (VIDD) and be associated with difficulty in weaning and prolongation of MV. Mitigating VIDD may thus improve respiratory function and reduce duration of MV.

Methods: Patients on invasive MV for > 96 hours who failed at least two spontaneous breathing trials and satisfied readiness to wean criteria were randomized (1:1) to TTDN, consisting of up to 120 stimulations per day for up to 30 days, or standard of care (SoC). Clinical outcome measures included the proportion of successfully weaned subjects, mean days on MV and 30-day survival. The maximal inspiratory pressure (MIP) and rapid shallow breathing index (RSBI) were also determined. The diaphragm thickening fraction was assessed with ultrasound.

Results: A total of 112 patients were randomly assigned to groups (57 TTDN and 55 SoC). The stimulation catheter was successfully placed in 43 (75%) subjects and at least 50% of the protocol-required stimulations were successfully delivered in 34 (60%) subjects. In this per-protocol subset, the incidence of successful weaning was 84% and 74% (p = 0.436), duration of MV to successful weaning/study completion was 12.4 ± 9.1 and 14.1 ± 10.8 days (p = 0.438); survival through Day 30 was 91% and 85% (p = 0.414) for the TTDN and SoC groups, respectively. Change in MIP from baseline was significantly different: 20 ± 3 (TTDN) and 5 ± 2 cmH2O (SoC) [(difference 15 ± 4 cmH2O, p = 0.0002) change in RSBI from baseline was also significantly different: -48 ± 13 (TTDN) and -18 ± 9 (SoC) [(difference of -30 ± 15, p = 0.049)], with both variables showing a stimulation dose-response relationship in TTDN subjects. Compared to baseline, diaphragm thickening fraction changed by 60% (TTDN) vs -39.5% (SoC) (p = 0.03) and 34.8% (TTDN) vs. - 32.2% (SoC) (p = 0.334) for the right and left hemidiaphragms, respectively. There were no unanticipated adverse device effects noted in the study.

Conclusion: TTDN increased the diaphragm thickening fraction and improved MIP and RSBI. While this study was not powered to show clinical efficacy, the results will contribute to defining the patient population and effect size to appropriately power future studies for clinical outcomes.

001241 Identification of novel clinical subphenotypes in patients with community acquired pneumonia. A derivation study

Objectives: To derive CAP subphenotypes from clinical data and relationships with host-response inflammation, organ damage, etiology and outcome. The TRIPOD statement was followed (5). Missing data above 35% were excluded from analysis and the Little’s test was used to assess the distribution and pattern of those included. Highly correlated variables were excluded (r > 0.85). Multiple imputation with chained equations (MICE) was used to account for missing data. Ordering points to identify the clustering structure (OPTICS) plots were used to determine the optimal clustering strategy, and K-means clustering was the most appropriate method and therefore used. Robustness and internal validation were assessed through Dunn’s test and cluster silhouette. We studied the frequency and clinical characteristics of the predicted phenotype groups. All analysis were performed with R version 3.6.1.

Results: Twenty-three variable were selected. These clusters were identified with different size, laboratory and clinical characteristics. Members of Cluster 1 (33.5%) were the youngest [age: 45 (SD = 13.8)], less comorbid ( Charlson Index: 0.7 (1)) 62.6% were male, 54.4% were current smoker and 4.9% used inhaled steroids. Individuals from

Cluster 2 (39.5%) were the eldest [age: 79.8 (8.6)], the most comorbid [Charlon Index: 4.6 (1.6)], gender was equally distributed (male 49.8%), the lesser smokers (9.7%), with a 15.4% of inhaled steroids usage. Patients from Cluster 3 (27%) were old [age: 71.6 (13.1)], predominately male (78.5%) with comorbidities [Charlon Index: 3.8 (1.8)] and smokers (59.8%), and were those ones who used inhaled steroids the most (33.2%). Signs and symptoms in cluster 1, 2 and 3 respectively were: respiratory rate: 22.8 (5.6), 24.8 (5.9) and 31.7 (8.9); heart rate: 98 (14.4), 92 (17) and 106 (21); SpO2: 96% (IQR = 94-97), 94% (92-96) and 90% (85-93); systolic blood pressure: 121 (20), 139 (25), and 126 (29). Fever was more common in Cluster 1 (90.4%). Inflammatory biomarkers as: C-reactive protein and white blood cells in Cluster 1, 2 and 3 respectively were: 16.8 (8.3-26.7), 14 (6.4-23.1) and 20.4 (10.4-29); and: 11.405 (7.600-16.200), 11.520 (8.200-15.900) and 14.500 (10.200-19.800). Organ damage were more common in Cluster 3 with higher respiratory, hemodynamic and renal SOFA score system. Hospital admission occurred in 74.2% of Cluster 1, 94.7% of Cluster 2 and 99% of Cluster 3’s patients. Critical care admission was more common in Cluster 3 (36.5%) that Cluster 2 (8.8%) and Cluster 1 (14.6) respectively. Thirty-day and 1-yr mortality was higher in Cluster 3 (4.4% and 18.2%, respectively) compared to Cluster 1 (0.2% and 1.9%) and Cluster 2 (0.3 and 10.1%) respectively. Pneumococcal pneumonia was the most frequent etiology [Cluster 1 (21.7%), Cluster 2 (15.7%) and Cluster 3 (25.4%)]. Atypical pneumonia (Legionella, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia) was more frequent in Cluster 1 (3.6%, 2.6% and 1.2% respectively).

Conclusion: In this retrospective analysis of data sets from patients evaluated in the ED with CAP, 3 clinical subphenotypes were identified that were related with host-response patterns, etiology and clinical outcomes. External validation and further research are needed to determine the utility of these subphenotypes in clinical care.

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Introduction: During the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on hospital visitations created an unprecedented emotional stress on isolated patients and grieving families, leading to significant communication challenges [1-4]. Junior Doctors (JDs) have had to broach sensitive topics of life and death over the phone. Although there is a paucity of data on interventions to support effective communication, written and structured conversation guides are amongst the most validated [5-8].

Methods: We developed a framework in collaboration with our palliative care team to guide JDs through telephone communication with relatives of ICU patients; this outlined common events such as admission, daily updates, deterioration and bereavement. We supported the roll out of a nurse-led video-calling service to facilitate sensitive communication, by creating a standard operating procedure (SOP) to outline instructions and define clinical governance limits [3, 6, 7].

We distributed a questionnaire to JDs working in ICU during the pandemic, to evaluate whether our tools improved their confidence in effectively communicating with relatives (using a Likert scale 1 to 5 = not at all confident to very confident) and their perception of whether the video-calling service improved communication with families.

Results: We received 21 responses from JDs, 57% of whom had been redeployed from other departments. Pre COVID-19, only 10% of JDs had experienced difficult conversations with relatives about critically unwell patients once a week or more. During the pandemic, this increased to 100% of them having difficult conversations at least three times a week. 75% of JDs scored their initial confidence in telephone communication with relatives as neutral/not confident/not at all confident; following the introduction of our framework, 76% felt confident/very confident. 71% of JDs found example conversations for different scenarios outlined in the framework helpful. Many commented that the framework was useful as point of reference and in providing phrases. 81% of JDs were able to arrange a video-call post introduction of the SOP and felt that a nurse led video-calling service was helpful. All JDs felt that video-calls improved communication with patients’ families. The main challenges identified with video-calling were concerns about confidentiality, time-bound and technical issues. The difficulties faced by JDs in telephone discussions were the lack of non-verbal cues, technology issues, interruptions, and difficulty aligning perception of illness severity with reality. JDs commented on the emotional toll these conversations had taken on their mental health particularly when breaking bad news, describing these as “very sad”, “stressful”, and “traumatic”.

Conclusion: The introduction of our framework for telephone communication has improved the confidence of JDs in their ability to interact with patient’s relatives over the phone during the COVID-19 pandemic. The roll out of a nurse led video-calling service was felt to improve communication and was successfully facilitated by the introduction of a SOP.

Our work helps recognise the need to develop structured tools to support communication. It has been an opportunity to appreciate the emotional burden placed on JDs which is reflected in the experience of many filling this role throughout the country [9-10].

Future quality improvement interventions include assessing the families’ experience of communication, providing relatives with written information about ICU and organising debriefing for JDs.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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2. This research received no specific funding/grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.
7. Scheunemann LP, McDevitt M, Carson SS, Hanson LC. Randomized, Controlled Trials of Interventions to Improve Communication in
Epidemiology and risk factors of ventilator-associated pneumonia in COVID-19 patients: a propensity-score matched analysis

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Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) causes a respiratory failure that may require Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission and mechanical ventilation (MV). Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) is a frequent complication in mechanically ventilated patients. However, there is no data about prevalence and risk factors for VAP in patients with COVID-19.

Objectives: To analyse the prevalence and risk factors for VAP in COVID-19 patients.

Methods: Retrospective observational study including all invasive mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients admitted in the ICU in Vall d’Hebron University Hospital between March and April 2020. VAP was defined according to ATS/IDSA guidelines (1). Results were described using mean (standard deviation), median (interquartile range) or frequency (percentage). Differences between continuous variables were analysed using Student T-test or Mann-Whitney U-test, as appropriate. Differences between categorical variables were assessed using Chi2 test or Fisher exact test.

Table 1. Multivariate analysis in the unmatched and matched cohorts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unmatched cohort</th>
<th>Matched cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE</td>
<td>0.530*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>0.359*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroid</td>
<td>2.640*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticloplatin</td>
<td>3.918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male)</td>
<td>1.040*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly Open ICU</td>
<td>1.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: VAP is a prevalent complication among COVID-19 patients. Those mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients who received treatment with corticosteroids may present a higher risk of developing VAP.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

H and L-subphenotype prevalence in ARDS patients with and without SARS-CoV-2

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Introduction: It is unclear whether patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) ARDS present with an atypical form of pulmonary illness, characterised by preserved lung compliance and low lung weight - termed L-subphenotype, or whether they reflect ‘traditional’ ARDS characterised by low lung compliance and high lung weight - H-subphenotype [1].

Objectives: To calculate the prevalence of H and L-subphenotypes in ARDS patients with and without SARS-CoV-2 admitted to a single centre ICU.

Methods: This is a single-centre, retrospective study from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, UK. Two cohorts of ICU patients that received invasive mechanical ventilation were analysed: SARS-CoV-2 patients admitted between 11th March and 21st April 2020 and all patients with community acquired-pneumonia (CAP) that developed ARDS between 4th April 2016 and 5th July 2019. Patients were classified into putative H- and L-subphenotypes based on their admission dynamic compliance (Cdyn) and severity of opacification on chest radiography (graded by two independent reviewers using a validated, semi-quantitative opacification score ranging from 0 to 16 [2]). Cdyn is assumed to be 65% of static compliance in severe lung disease [3]. Patients with average semi-quantitative radiography scores ≤ 8 and a Cdyn > 26 ml/cmH2O were classified as the L-subphenotype whilst patients with average semi-quantitative radiography scores > 8 and a Cdyn ≤ 26 ml/cmH2O were classified as the H-subphenotype. Patients who did not meet these criteria were placed in discordant 1 and 2 (D1, D2) groups. Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism v8.0. Continuous data is presented as median (IQR) and analysed...
Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is commonly observed in intensive care unit (ICU) and affects more than 50% of these patients. The consequences of AKI are well described (increased mortality, length of hospital stay, risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD)). Acute kidney disease (AKD) has been recently proposed to define the disease process after AKI and before CKD among patients in which renal pathophysiological processes are in progress. We know that patients who suffered from AKI may have different clinical trajectories and outcomes (early, late or absence of recovery, early or late relapse, AKD or CKD), but to date, no cohort study has been able to accurately describe them.

Objectives: The main objective of this study was to assess the different clinical trajectories and evaluate risk and timing of AKD and CKD after AKI in ICU. Secondary objectives were to evaluate the long-term incidence of CKD after AKI in critically ill patients and to propose the ideal timing for post-intensive care clinics.

Methods: We conducted a prospective 5-years follow-up cohort study in a medical ICU in Bordeaux University Hospital (France). Our center participated in the Artificial Kidney Initiation in Kidney Injury (AKIKI) study, during which all patients with AKI from stage 1 of the KDIGO classification were prospectively screened from September 2013 to May 2015. Patients were included if they were ≥ 18 years of age, received invasive mechanical ventilation, catecholamine infusion, or both, and developed AKI. We excluded patients with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) < 90 mL/min/1.73 m² (CKD-EPI) prior to ICU admission. AKI was classified according to the KDIGO classification. AKD was defined as a condition wherein criteria for AKI stage 1 or greater persists ≥ 7 days after an exposure. CKD was defined by eGFR < 60 mL/min/1.73 m² (CKD-EPI) at least 90 days after AKI. Renal recovery was defined by the absence of KDIGO criteria. Early recovery was kidney recovery within 7 days and late recovery was renal recovery from 7 to 90 days after AKI.

Results: 304 patients suffered from AKI. Among them, 72/304 (24%) had prior CKD and were excluded and 232 patients were enrolled: AKI stage 1, 62/232 (27%), AKI stage 2, 50/232 (21%) and AKI stage 3, 120/232 (52%). Age was 62 ± 16 years, 142/232 (63%) were men. Basal serum creatinine (SCr) was 78 ± 18 µmol/l and no patients had missing baseline creatinine value. Mechanical ventilation was required for 192/232 (83%) and 191/232 (82%) required catecholamine use. Length of mechanical ventilation and catecholamine use were respectively 4 [2-8] days and 2.5 [1-5] days. SOFA score was 11.2 ± 3.4 and SAPS II was 62 ± 19. Among patients with AKI, 61/232 (26%) died, 65/232 (28%) recovered early and among them 3/65 (5%) recovered early but secondary suffered from AKD resulting in 109/232 (47%) who had been progressing to AKD (figure). Among AKD patients, 41/109 (38%) died, 21/109 (19%) had late recovery and 47/109 (43%) developed CKD. CKD also developed in patients who recovered early and late, in respectively, 11/65 (17%) and 5/21 (24%) for a total of 63 out of 232 (27%) patients included in the study. At the end of 5 years follow-up, CKD prevalence was 31%. Among CKD patients, 16/65 (17%) patients had already recovered and had developed a secondary relapse. A post-intensive care clinic from 30 to 90 days after ICU discharge could have failed to detect CKD in 16/63 (25%) patients.

Conclusion: Because of many different clinical trajectories, a simple SCr dosage, within 3 months of ICU discharge in patients who had suffered from AKI was not sufficient to detect and prevent CKD. Assessment of progressive markers (hypertension, proteinuria) appears to be essential.

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 and CAP ARDS cohorts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SARS-CoV-2</th>
<th>CAP</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>56 (46 - 63)</td>
<td>64 (49 - 74)</td>
<td>0.0006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (%Male)</td>
<td>85 (76%)</td>
<td>71 (59%)</td>
<td>0.0080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/R ratio</td>
<td>15 (12 - 17)</td>
<td>15 (11 - 25)</td>
<td>0.188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic compliance (mls/cmH2O)</td>
<td>28 (23 - 34)</td>
<td>27 (22 - 32)</td>
<td>0.156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI (cap x opacification score)</td>
<td>9 (7 - 10)</td>
<td>8 (6 - 10)</td>
<td>0.422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality (%)</td>
<td>45 (40%)</td>
<td>42 (35%)</td>
<td>0.438</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The prevalence of H and L-subphenotypes was similar in ARDS cohorts with and without SARS-CoV-2, indicating that SARS-CoV-2 respiratory failure is not an atypical form of ARDS requiring an alternative ventilation strategy. Given the lower mortality of patients classified as L-subphenotype, the heterogeneity in compliance and lung weight and the presence of these subphenotypes may simply reflect different patterns of disease severity.

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001362
Different renal trajectories and outcomes after Acute Kidney Injury in Intensive Care Unit: a 5-years prospective cohort study
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Introduction: Critically ill patients may have considerable and sustained loss of muscle mass. This loss may amount to more than 1% per day in ICU patients. It has been shown that urinary creatinine excretion (UCE) is a useful marker of muscle mass in non-ICU and ICU patients [1]. Recently we found that ICU patients display a negative potassium balance immediately after ICU admission, compatible with loss of intracellular volume, such as muscle mass.

Objectives: In the current study we compared UCE with urinary potassium excretion (UPE), where UCE served as marker of absolute muscle mass and UPE was hypothesized to indicate loss of muscle mass. We analyzed the time course of UCE with UPE in patients admitted for up to 30 days to our ICU and analyzed if there was a difference in UPE between males and females.

Methods: Patients for whom 24 h UCE and UPE were available between ICU day 1 and 30 were analyzed. Our computerized potassium regulation system regulated potassium administration in all patients. This system does not distinguish between muscle and visceral potassium content.

Results: 17,000 patients, aged 60±16 year, 62% male, with a hospital mortality of 18% and 61,000 UCE and 45,000 UPE measurements were analyzed. UCE on ICU admission was 49% higher in males compared to females (P < 0.001) and decreased by 1.2%/d (P < 0.001). Mean UPE showed a bimodal time course with a near stable excretion between ICU day 7 to 30 (88 ±59 and 79 ±54 mmol/d in males and females, respectively; P < 0.001). This difference between males and females in UPE of 9 mmol/d corresponds to the expected difference on the basis of muscle intracellular potassium concentration and observed muscle mass loss as reflected by UCE.

Conclusion: During prolonged ICU stay, there is a sustained difference in potassium excretion between males and females that is consistent with the muscle mass loss derived from creatinine excretion. Future balance studies could establish if creatinine and potassium excretion is being used to predict mortality in patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs). The extent of organ failure in the SOFA is quantified using a point score with equal weights of abnormalities in different systems.

Introduction: The Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score is being used to predict mortality in patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs). The extent of organ failure in the SOFA is quantified using a point score with equal weights of abnormalities in different systems.

Objectives: To determine the relative contribution of alterations in different systems to the risk of ICU mortality in a population of very old intensive care unit patients (VIPs).

Methods: We used data from the Prognostic Score in the Very Old ICU Patients (VIP2) prospective, multicentre study (NCT03370692) which recruited consecutive patients ≥ 80 years old between May 2018 and May 2019. Worst SOFA scores within 24 hours from admission to the ICU was reported overall and in categories (i.e. respiratory, cardiovascular, hepatic, coagulation, renal and neurological systems). Logistic regression was used to study the association between the SOFA score and mortality.
Cardiovascular: 1.15 (0.90-1.45), 0.62 (0.36-1.07), 0.98 (0.77-1.25), 1.83 (1.48-2.26),
Neurologic: 1.49 (1.20-1.85), 2.33 (1.76-3.09), 2.57 (1.95-3.39), 5.12 (4.11-6.37),
Renal: 1.57 (1.29-1.91), 1.78 (1.42-2.23), 2.59 (1.90-3.53), 2.21 (1.56-3.12),
Coagulation: 1.13 (0.91-1.39), 1.33 (0.99-1.79), 2.71 (1.54-4.76), 0.78 (0.18-3.36),
Hepatic: 1.23 (0.98-1.55), 1.54 (1.14-2.06), 1.80 (0.85-3.81), 1.91 (0.68-5.30).

Conclusion: Our results suggest that the current SOFA score may be too simplistic to capture the relative contribution of individual organs’ dysfunction to the risk of ICU mortality in a population of patients ≥ 80 years old.

Oral Presentations
000011
Erythromycin as a prokinetic: what dose and duration are optimal?
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Introduction: Erythromycin is a potent prokinetic agent and has a shorter onset of action time. The combination of prokinetic medications is increasingly used as they accelerate the prokinetic action and at the same time decrease the adverse effects.

Objectives: Aim of our study was to know the effective prokinetic dose, duration of usage, response and safety of erythromycin in patients already on metoclopramide.

Methods: All patients in surgical and trauma intensive care unit having enteral feed intolerance and already on metoclopramide for 24 hours were enrolled in the study prospectively. Patient’s demographic data, diagnosis, surgical intervention, disease severity scores, erythromycin dose, duration, any adverse effects, factors affecting erythromycin response and outcome were recorded. All these patients received 125 mg syrup erythromycin twice daily through nasogastric tube and nasogastric tube was clamped for 2 hours and half amount of previous enteral feeds were resumed. If patient did not tolerate the feeds, the erythromycin dose was increased every 24 hours in the increment of 250, 500 and 1000 mgs.

Results: Total of 313 patients were included in the study. Males were higher in number (77.6%) and majority (48.2%) of patients with feed intolerance were post laparotomy. Ninety percent patients responded to prokinetic erythromycin therapy, 54% received lower dose (125 mg twice daily) and 14% had diarrhea. Mean duration of erythromycin therapy was 4.98 days. The most effective dose of erythromycin was 125mg twice daily (P = 0.001). It was significantly effective in patients with multiple organ dysfunction and shock (P = 0.001 and 0.003 respectively). Patients not responding to erythromycin therapy had a significant higher mortality (P = 0.001).

Conclusion: Post-laparotomy patients had higher enteral feed intolerance. Erythromycin was effective in 125 mgs dose and minimal duration. Patients who did not tolerate feeds despite increasing dose of erythromycin had higher mortality.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None

000015
Methotrexate carried in lipid core nanoparticles prevents cardiac dysfunction by increasing angiogenesis and availability of intracellular adenosine in the left ventricle of sepsis-induced rats
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000015

Introduction: In sepsis, besides the dysregulation of the immune system and disturbances of several vital organs, life-threatening cardiac dysfunction often occurs. We showed in previous studies that LDE, a non-protein lipid core nanoparticle, is able to concentrate in inflammatory sites. When carried in LDE, the cellular uptake of methotrexate (MTX) increased several-fold compared to the uptake of the commercial version. LDE-MTX formulation was shown to modulate the immune response in rats with myocardial infarction, reduce the inflammation and improve the post-infarction cardiac function by increasing angiogenesis, thereby improving hypoxia.

Objectives: To test whether LDE-MTX can improve the cardiac status in septic rats.

Methods: Sepsis was induced in Wistar rats by two I.P. injections of lipopolysaccharide (LPS, 10 mg/kg) administered with a 24 h interval. Rats were allocated in a Control group (CT, without sepsis) and 3 groups with sepsis: LDE, treated with LDE only; MTX, with commercial MTX (1 mg/kg); and LDE-MTX, with LDE-MTX (1 mg/kg). Echocardiography was performed 72 h after sepsis induction. Animals were euthanized for morphometric analysis of the LV and protein expression analysis of inflammatory, apoptotic, angiogenesis, hypoxia and adenosine bioavailability markers in the LV.

Results: Septic rats treated with LDE developed diastolic dysfunction and presented decreased diastolic volume and diameter of the LV. LDE-MTX group had the appearance of diastolic dysfunction and alterations in LV dilation totally prevented. Also, LDE-MTX treatment elicited cardiac hypertrophy through the increase of the thickness of septum and of the LV posterior wall. LDE-MTX increased LV mass and relative heart weight, as compared to the other groups. Morphometric analysis showed increased myocyte diameter in LDE-MTX when compared to other groups. All groups showed no differences in the protein expression of inflammatory (lymphocytes, tumor necrosis factor, interleukins) and apoptotic (caspases and B-cell lymphoma family) markers, although LDE-MTX showed higher expression of CD68 (macrophage marker). In LDE, hypoxia was remarkably higher while LDE-MTX showed higher angiogenesis and lower cellular hypoxia, respectively represented by vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and hypoxia-inducible factor 1 alpha. MTX showed no effects in angiogenesis or hypoxia. The intracellular adenosine bioavailability was increased in LDE-MTX-treated animals, promoted by higher expression of the A1 receptor, as compared to CT. Myocyte diameter was positively correlated with VEGF (r² = 0.52; p < 0.0001).

Conclusion: The appearance of cardiac dysfunction associated to sepsis, was successfully avoided by the treatment with LDE-MTX. This outcome is conceivably associated to different effects observed in this group, such as the modulation of an adaptive hypertrophy as result of the modulation of different pathways, such as the activation of angiogenesis mechanisms, increase of adenosine bioavailability and immune recruitment to the LV.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Stress ulcer prophylaxis plus enteral nutrition versus enteral nutrition alone in critically ill patients at risk for gastrointestinal bleeding: a propensity-matched analysis

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000019

Introduction: As an alternative to stress ulcer prophylaxis (SUP), enteral nutrition (EN) alone may provide prophylaxis against stress-related gastrointestinal bleeding. In animal studies, EN increased gastrointestinal blood flow and luminal pH, contributing to the protection of the gastric mucosa [1]. Similarly, a previous prospective study of Intensive Care unit (ICU) patients showed that both continuous EN and SUP independently increased gastric pH and gastric colonization [2]. However, the effects and safety of SUP in ICU patients receiving EN are poorly understood.

Objectives: To evaluate whether EN alone provides prophylaxis against stress-related gastrointestinal bleeding and reduces drug complications compared with concomitant pharmacological SUP and EN.

Methods: Using data for July 2010 to March 2018 from the Japanese Diagnosis Procedure Combination inpatient database, we identified adults with at least one risk factor for gastrointestinal bleeding and who had received EN within 2 days of intensive care unit admission. We allocated patients who had received intravenous or enteral SUP (proton-pump inhibitor and/or histamine-2 receptor antagonists) within 2 days of receiving EN as the SUP group, and patients who had received EN alone as the control group.

Results: We identified 50,663 eligible patients, and 4,615 patients (9%) constituted the SUP group. After propensity score matching, there was no significant difference in in-hospital mortality and endoscopic hemostasis for gastrointestinal bleeding between the two groups. The SUP group was more likely to have hospital-acquired pneumonia (odds ratio, 1.25; 95% confidence interval, 1.06–1.46) than the control group. Patients who had received proton-pump inhibitors were more likely to receive percutaneous coronary intervention for acute myocardial infarction (odds ratio, 1.51; 95% confidence interval, 1.04–2.18) than patients without SUP.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that among patients at risk for gastrointestinal bleeding who had received EN, SUP may not reduce in-hospital mortality or gastrointestinal bleeding but may increase complications of hospital-acquired pneumonia or acute myocardial infarction. Future randomized control trials are warranted to confirm our findings.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Determining optimal mean arterial pressure after cardiac arrest: a Systematic Review

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000066

Introduction: Hypoxic ischemic brain injury (HIBI) is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in patients who survive cardiac arrest. The goal of HIBI management is to augment cerebral oxygen delivery by optimizing mean arterial pressure in these patients. Real-time cerebral autoregulation monitoring provides a method of identifying the patient specific optimal mean arterial pressure (MAPOPT) but while this method has been well established in traumatic brain injury patients, similar studies are lacking in HIBI patients.

Objectives: Our systematic review aims to determine (a) the average MAPOPT in post-cardiac arrest HIBI patients, (b) the feasibility of identifying MAPOPT, (c) the brain tissue oxygenation levels when within proximity to the MAPOPT, and (d) the relationship between neurological outcome and MAPOPT.

Methods: We carried out this review in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines. We searched MEDLINE (Ovid), Embase (Ovid), EBM Reviews (Ovid), CINAHL (EBSCO), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and the WHO Global Health Library from inception to October 31 2019. We also searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), BioMed Central, ClinicalTrials.gov, WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) and Thomson Center Watch for unpublished works and ongoing clinical trials.

We included all studies that used cerebral autoregulation to determine MAPOPT in adult patients (> 16 years old) who achieved return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) post-cardiac arrest. Patients had to be intubated and ventilated while undergoing invasive cardiovascular and neurovascular monitoring in an Intensive Care Unit. We excluded studies where patients had any history of traumatic brain injury, ischemic stroke or intracranial hemorrhage.

Results: We identified six studies with 181 patients. There was wide variability in cerebral autoregulation monitoring methods, length of monitoring, calculation and reporting of MAPOPT. Amongst all studies, the median or mean MAPOPT was consistently above 65 mmHg (range: 70-114 mmHg). Definitions of feasibility varied amongst studies and was difficult to summarize. Some studies defined feasibility as the ability to calculate one MAPOPT value during the monitoring period while others defined it as the duration of monitoring time for which MAPOPT could be calculated. Only one study noted that brain tissue oxygen increased as patients’ MAP approached MAPOPT. However, this effect disappeared when the MAP exceeded MAPOPT. Finally, there was no consistent association between MAPOPT and neurological outcome.

Conclusion: There is considerable heterogeneity in determining MAPOPT due to differences in autoregulation monitoring. Further standardized randomized controlled trials and prospective studies are needed to assess the clinical utility of MAPOPT guided strategies on improving neurological outcomes after ROSC.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
7. MS is funded through the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute Clinician Scientist Award. DG is funded through the Michael Smith Health Professional Investigator Award.
Accuray of Mortality Prediction by Machine Learning Models Compared to Clinician’s Intuition in Critically Ill Patients

S. Patel; Y. Wolfe; N. Puri

Introduction: Intensive Care Units (ICUs) treat patients with high mortality risk. Early and accurate mortality estimation is crucial for guiding care and resource allocation. Identification of patients with poor trajectories is difficult and often wrought with biases. Machine Learning (ML) with quality data is a means of accurate mortality prediction. Several studies compared machine learning models to severity illness scores in predicting mortality. To our knowledge, no study has compared ML and clinician feature importances.

Methods: We extracted data from the eICU Collaborative Research Database. The dataset included 27 variables (26 independent and 1 dependent) and 147,233 values. Mortality was the dependent variable for our prediction models. Exploratory data analysis performed in Python. Missing data imputed with Sklearn Iterative Imputer. Feature selection performed using Pearson correlation and Sklearn Select From Model library. Top ten features for the ML group chosen by the frequency in the top ten for Pearson Correlation and four ML model feature selection methods. ICU clinicians filled out a survey to choose the top ten features that predict mortality. Fifty-one surveys filled out, and the most common features compiled to create a top ten list. The mortality outcome of death was rare (136,451 alive versus 8,184 died). Given the imbalanced dataset, we employed an oversampling technique (SMOTE). The top features in both groups were passed through Logistic Regression (LR) and Naive Bayes (NB) algorithms. Area Under Receiver Operator Characteristic (AUROC) was chosen as our metric.

Results: White blood count (WBC), Prothrombin Time (PT), Lactate, Hypoglycemia, and PaO2:FIO2 ratio were the top features for the ML group. Clinicians chose hepatic failure, advanced age, immunosuppressed status, and history of metastatic cancer. The AUROC for the ML group in predicting mortality was 0.865 (LR); 0.840 (NB), as compared to 0.737 (LR); 0.744 (NB) for clinicians. As a benchmark, we compared our feature inputs to SAPS II and APACHE IV scores input into LR and NB. SAPS II and APACHE IV performance were 0.842 (LR);0.844 (NB) and 0.855 (LR);0.855 (NB) respectively.

Conclusion: ML models can identify important features for accurate ICU mortality prediction. ML predictive models can be important adjuncts to augment clinical decision making.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Lung-protective mechanical ventilation for 50 hours is associated with hippocampal apoptosis and shifts the behavior of hippocampal microglia from anti-inflammatory to pro-inflammatory

T. Bassi; E. Rohrs; K. Fernandez; M. Ornowska; M. Nicholas; S. Reynolds

Introduction: The hippocampus is part of the limbic system known as an emotional neuro-circuit, and its activity is coupled with the breathing cycle. Ventilation-Induced Brain Injury (VIBI) was recently identified preclinically, 2 where VIBI was characterized by hippocampal neuroinflammation and apoptosis. However, these studies used high-tidal-volume mechanical ventilation for short durations (for up to 3½ hours), and the effect on the hippocampus of long-term lung-protective (i.e. gold standard) mechanical ventilation (MV) is not known. We hypothesize that lung-protective MV for 50 hours in a non-injured preclinical model shifts the behavior of hippocampal microglia towards inflammation, contributing to local apoptosis. The interaction between the apoptotic process and microglia cells has been described in other conditions, such as epilepsy and traumatic brain injury. 3–5 Characterizing changes in the behavior of hippocampal microglia might assist in a better understanding of the neuro-inflammatory process happening during VIBI. This data might also contribute to the design of future studies into cognitive dysfunction after MV.

Objectives: To investigate whether lung-protective mechanical ventilation in a porcine model for 50 hours modifies microglia behavior, and to analyze the level of hippocampal apoptosis after 50 hours of lung-protective mechanical ventilation.

Methods: We ventilated eight human-size pigs (MV group) using lung-protective MV for 50 hours in a mock ICU, and compared them with six never-ventilated pigs (NV group). Ventilation settings were...
adjusted to achieve and maintain a tidal volume of 6-8 ml/kg, with a PEEP of 5 cm H₂O. The pigs’ hippocampi were harvested, and machine-learning software was used to count and classify cells. Percentages of cells stained by the TUNEL and IBA1 markers were then determined. Microglia behavior was determined, and quantified following biometric cellular characteristics based on pre-established criteria in the literature.

**Results:** The hippocampal apoptotic percentage was 38% (44,797/117,886) in the NV group and 1% (33,893/33,805) in the MV group (p < 0.01). Total microglia population was a percentage of total cell population, including those displaying pro- and anti-inflammatory characteristics, was 36% (74,212/205,006) in the MV group and 10% (58,398/589,888) in the NV group (p < 0.01). Analysis of MV group microglia identified 81% (60,111/74,212) with anti-inflammatory characteristics and 19% (14,101/74,212) with pro-inflammatory characteristics (p < 0.01). Analysis of the NV group microglia identified 84% (49,288/58,398) with anti-inflammatory characteristics and 16% (9,110/58,398) with pro-inflammatory characteristics (p < 0.01). The percentage of microglia with pro-inflammatory characteristics was slightly, but significantly higher in the MV group (19%) than in the NV group (16%, p < 0.05). The percentage of microglia with anti-inflammatory characteristics was also significantly different; 81% in the MV group, compared to 84% in the NV group (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Lung-protective MV for 50 hours in a non-injured preclinical model is associated with VIBI, characterized by high hippocampal apoptotic percentage and also a shift in the behavior and number of hippocampal microglia from anti-inflammatory to pro-inflammatory.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


3. Lungpacer Medical Inc.


000131

**Therapy limitation in octogenarians in German Intensive Care Units**

is associated with a longer length of stay and increased 30 days mortality: a prospective multicenter study

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000131

**Introduction:** The approach to limit therapy in very old intensive care unit patients (VIPs) significantly differs between regions. The focus of this multicenter analysis is to illuminate, whether the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) is a suitable tool for risk stratification in VIPs admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) in Germany. Furthermore, this investigation elucidates the impact of therapeutic limitation on the length of stay and mortality in this setting.

**Methods:** German cohorts' data from two multinational studies (VIP-1, VIP-2) were combined. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression were used to evaluate associations with mortality.

**Results:** 415 acute VIPs were included. Frail VIPs (CFS > 4) were older (85 [IQR 82-88] vs. 83 [IQR 81-86] years; p < 0.001) and suffered from an increased 30-day-mortality (86% versus 16%, p = 0.001). In German ICUs, any limitation of life-sustaining therapy is associated with a significantly increased ICU length of stay and mortality. CFS reliably predicts outcome.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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000144

**Management and outcomes in critically ill nonagenarian versus octogenarian patients**


**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000144

**Introduction:** This study aimed to describe the management and clinical outcomes of very elderly patients (>90 years) in European ICUs.

**Methods:** A cohort study was performed on 2,242 nonagenarians (>90 years) admitted to 37 European ICUs.

**Results:** The main findings were: (1) 52% of the patients had a cardiac cause for admission; (2) 60% of the patients were admitted to the ICU for the first time; (3) the most common diagnoses were cardiac arrest (21%), acute myocardial infarction (14%), and sepsis (11%); (4) 46% of the patients died; (5) 30-day mortality was 52% in nonagenarians versus 31% in octogenarians (p < 0.001); and (6) the median length of stay was 2 days for nonagenarians versus 4 days for octogenarians (p < 0.001).

**Conclusions:** Nonagenarians in European ICUs have a higher mortality rate and shorter length of stay compared to octogenarians.
Introduction: The growing proportion of nonagenarian ICU patients challenges intensive care medicine. Due to the unclear benefit to patients and a high consumption of health care resources, these oldest-old patients represent both an ethical and political problem. This study compared outcome differences between nonagenarian and octogenarian ICU patients.

Methods: 7900 acutely admitted older critically ill patients from two large, multinational registers were included. The primary endpoint was ICU-, the secondary endpoint 30-day-mortality. Baseline characteristics including frailty assessed by the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS), management and outcomes were compared between octogenarian (80-89.9 years) and nonagenarian (> 90 years) patients. Logistic regression was used to calculate a propensity score on being nonagenarian and to evaluate univariable and multivariable associations with the endpoints.

Results: The nonagenarians accounted for 10% of the entire cohort. They evidenced higher rates of frailty (58% vs 42%; p < 0.001), but lower SOFA scores at admission (6 ± 5 vs. 7 ± 6; p < 0.001). Management strategies differed with octogenarians receiving higher rates of organ support while nonagenarians had higher rates of life-sustaining treatment limitation (40% vs. 33%; p < 0.001). ICU mortality was similar (27% vs. 22%; p = 0.973) in octogenarians and nonagenarians. However, being a nonagenarian was independently associated with increased 30-day-mortality after adjustment of the propensity score (OR 1.1895%CI 1.021-1.38; p = 0.03).

Conclusion: Nonagenarians had higher 30-day mortality compared to octogenarian patients. Being a nonagenarianshould be considered an independent risk factor for mortality and – together with disease severity and pre-existing functional capacity - to effectively guide triage decisions.

Introduction: Most critically ill patients experience the disruption of circadian body temperature (BT) rhythm after intensive care unit (ICU) admission. However, there is limited evidence on the relationship between circadian BT variation and outcomes in patients during ICU stay.

Objectives: To assess the impact of circadian BT variation on prognosis in ICU patients.

Methods: A multicenter retrospective cohort study was performed with eICU Collaborative Research Database, which comprises 139367 patients at 335 distinct ICUs across the United States from 2014 to 2017. Adult patients with complete records of continuous bedside core BT monitoring during the first 24 hours of ICU stay were included. According to circadian BT variation (mean night-time BT/mean daytime BT), participants were divided into two groups: ratio < 1 and ratio > 1. Logistic and linear regression were performed to investigate the relationship between circadian BT variation and prognosis (ICU mortality, length of ICU stay [ICU-LOS], and length of hospital stay on hospitalization) (Hospital-LOS). Sensitivity analysis was conducted according to Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation IV (APACHE IV) < 6 or > 64. Furthermore, an external cohort was performed with MultiParameter Intelligent Monitoring in Intensive Care II database.

Results: A total of 6093 patients were analyzed. Patients with circadian BT variation < 1 (n = 2473) had higher ICU mortality, longer ICU-LOS and hospital-LOS than those with circadian BT variation > 1 (n = 3620). After multivariable adjustments, circadian BT variation < 1 increased ICU mortality (odds ratio [OR], 1.231, 95% confidence intervals [CI], 1.009 - 1.502), prolonged ICU-LOS (β, -0.420, 95%CI, -0.657 to -0.182), and hospital-LOS (β, -0.836, 95%CI, -1.247 to -0.426) in ICU patients. The association remained significant in sensitivity analysis and external cohort.

Conclusion: Circadian BT variation may be associated with higher ICU mortality, longer ICU-LOS, and hospital-LOS in critically ill patients. Our findings will further develop our knowledge on the vital role of circadian rhythm in ICU and indicated that circadian BT variation may assist with early risk stratification.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000162
Temporary transvenous diaphragm neurostimulation plus lung-protective mechanical ventilation is associated with greater heart rate variability after 50 hours compared to ventilation alone
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000162

Introduction: Heart rate variability (HRV) is an accepted method for measuring sympathetic/parasympathetic balance and it is influenced by vagal afferent signals coming from the lungs.1,2 The effect of lung-protective mechanical ventilation (MV) on sympathetic/parasympathetic balance has not been demonstrated. Global R-R interval variance reflects a normal physiological state with parasympathetic predominance; lower R-R interval variance indicates sympathetic predominance, which correlates with high mortality and inflammation.3 Studying HRV during MV is important to better understand the inflammatory insult associated with MV. Temporary transvenous diaphragm neurostimulation (TTDN) is a novel technology that assists MV by creating negative pressure targeting the reduction of the pressure-time-product (PTP), and may influence the HRV.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000155
Circadian rhythm of body temperature and prognosis of critically ill patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000155

Introduction: The growing proportion of nonagenarian ICU patients challenges intensive care medicine. Due to the unclear benefit to patients and a high consumption of health care resources, these oldest-old patients represent both an ethical and political problem. This study compared outcome differences between nonagenarian and octogenarian ICU patients.

Methods: 7900 acutely admitted older critically ill patients from two large, multinational registers were included. The primary endpoint was ICU-, the secondary endpoint 30-day-mortality. Baseline characteristics including frailty assessed by the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS), management and outcomes were compared between octogenarian (80-89.9 years) and nonagenarian (> 90 years) patients. Logistic regression was used to calculate a propensity score on being nonagenarian and to evaluate univariable and multivariable associations with the endpoints.

Results: The nonagenarians accounted for 10% of the entire cohort. They evidenced higher rates of frailty (58% vs 42%; p < 0.001), but lower SOFA scores at admission (6 ± 5 vs. 7 ± 6; p < 0.001). Management strategies differed with octogenarians receiving higher rates of organ support while nonagenarians had higher rates of life-sustaining treatment limitation (40% vs. 33%; p < 0.001). ICU mortality was similar (27% vs. 22%; p = 0.973) in octogenarians and nonagenarians. However, being a nonagenarian was independently associated with increased 30-day-mortality after adjustment of the propensity score (OR 1.1895%CI 1.021-1.38; p = 0.03).

Conclusion: Nonagenarians had higher 30-day mortality compared to octogenarian patients. Being a nonagenarianshould be considered an independent risk factor for mortality and – together with disease severity and pre-existing functional capacity - to effectively guide triage decisions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000162
Temporary transvenous diaphragm neurostimulation plus lung-protective mechanical ventilation is associated with greater heart rate variability after 50 hours compared to ventilation alone
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000162

Introduction: Heart rate variability (HRV) is an accepted method for measuring sympathetic/parasympathetic balance and it is influenced by vagal afferent signals coming from the lungs.1,2 The effect of lung-protective mechanical ventilation (MV) on sympathetic/parasympathetic nervous system balance has not been demonstrated. Global R-R interval variance reflects a normal physiological state with parasympathetic predominance; lower R-R interval variance indicates sympathetic predominance, which correlates with high mortality and inflammation.3 Studying HRV during MV is important to better understand the inflammatory insult associated with MV. Temporary transvenous diaphragm neurostimulation (TTDN) is a novel technology that assists MV by creating negative pressure targeting the reduction of the pressure-time-product (PTP), and may influence the HRV.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
We hypothesize lung-protective MV progressively downregulates parasympathetic activity over the course of 50 hours and that MV + TTDN will upregulate parasympathetic activity due to more physiological alveolar stretch resulting in greater HRV after 50 hours of the experiment.

**Objectives:** To compare the sympathetic/parasympathetic nervous system balance after 50 hours of lung-protective MV alone and with TTDN assistance.

**Methods:** We used sixteen pigs between 51-64 kg, eight under lung-protective MV (MV-Only) and eight under lung-protective MV plus TTDN (MV + TTDN) for 50 hours. Ventilation parameters were set to achieve and maintain tidal volume 6-8 ml/kg, and PEEP of 5 cm H2O. TTDN targeted between 15-20% reduction in PTP during MV. The MV + TTDN group received phrenic nerve stimulation every other breath in synchrony with MV. ECG data were analyzed over two periods after MV initiation; hours 0 to 6 (start) and hours 44 to hour 50 (end). Root mean square of the standard deviation of the R-R intervals (RMSSD) was chosen as the HRV time-domain method of analysis.

**Results:** In total, 815,658 R-R intervals were analyzed across the sixteen subjects; 407,762 in the MV-Only group and 407,896 in the MV + TTDN group (p > 0.05). In the MV-Only group the RMSSD was 0.90 ms at the start and 0.81 ms at the end of the study; and in the MV + TTDN group it was 0.81 ms at the start and 0.91 ms at the end (p = 0.007, between groups).

**Conclusion:** MV resulted in a reduction of the HRV in the MV-Only group after 50 hours which might indicate a downregulation in parasympathetic activity. The MV + TTDN group showed higher HRV after 50 hours of MV which might point towards upregulation in parasympathetic activity.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. Lungpacer Medical Inc.

**000166**

Intellivent-ASV® mode is superior to conventional ventilation modes after uncomplicated cardiac surgery during all phases of postoperative respiratory support

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000166

**Introduction:** Respiratory support plays an important role in patient’s recovery after cardiovascular surgery. Intellivent-ASV® is a closed-loop ventilation mode that adjusts automatically ventilation and oxygenation settings according to patient weight, lung function (as assessed by the ventilator) and continuous input of end-tidal carbon dioxide and oxygen saturation in both passive and spontaneous breathing patients. There is an ability to improve patient’s safety and reduce physician’s workload with using intellectual modes of ventilation.

**Objectives:** To compare the effect(s) of Intellivent-ASV and conventional ventilation modes.

**Methods:** In this randomized controlled trial 40 adult patients were ventilated with conventional ventilation modes and 40 with Intellivent-ASV after uncomplicated cardiac surgery. Hamilton G5 ventilators were used and 8 physicians were involved into the study. All actions of physician’s, ventilator settings and changes were monitored and recorded during respiratory support in ICU. Care of both groups was standardized, except modes of postoperative ventilation.

We compared:

- the physician’s workload, through accounting number of manual ventilator settings and time they spent near the ventilator in every group;
- duration of tracheal intubation in ICU;
- evaluation of ventilation safety by considering driving pressure, mechanical power, positive end expiratory pressure and tidal volume level.

**Results:** There were significant differences in the duration of respiratory support in ICU: 226 ± 31 min (Intellivent group) vs 271 ± 78 min (control) (p = 0.001267). In Intellivent group the number of manual ventilator settings and physicians’ time spent near the ventilator before tracheal extubation were lower: 0 vs 4 (2-6), and 35 (25-53) sec vs 164 ± 69 sec respectively (p < 0.001 in both cases).

Intellivent-ASV provided a significant more protective ventilation through reduction in the driving pressure, tidal volume, FiO2 and PEEP levels, but without differences between PaO2/FiO2 ratio.

- ∆P and Vt were significantly lower in Intellivent group - ∆P on mechanical ventilation was 6 (5-7) cm H2O vs 7.25 (6.5-9.5) cm H2O (p < 0.001) and pressure support level – 5 (5-5) cm H2O vs 8 (7-10) cm H2O; Vt on mechanical ventilation was 5 (6-7) vs 7 (6-9.5) ml/kg/PBW (p = 0.000003).
- PEEP and FiO2 level were also significantly lower in Intellivent group during all phases of respiratory support in ICU. PEPP on mechanical ventilation was 5 (5-5) cm H2O vs 7 (5-10) cm H2O and FiO2 level was 26 (22-30 %) vs 34 (30-40 %). During spontaneous ventilation phase in Intellivent group PEEP was 5 (5-5) cm H2O vs 7 (5-10) cm H2O and FiO2 26 ± 4 % vs 30 (29-40 %).
- Mechanical power (simplified equation) was lower in Intellivent group 8,17 (5.99-10) vs 8,58 (6.34-13.7) J/min (p = 0.0467).

There were no significant differences between the groups in Vt values during spontaneous ventilation: 8 (7-9) vs 8 (7-10) ml/kg/PBW in control group, as well as in undesirable events and duration of ICU and hospital stay.

**Conclusion:** Application of Intellivent-ASV mode after uncomplicated cardiac surgery provides more protective mechanical ventilation and reduces the physician’s workload without compromising the quality of respiratory support and safety of patients.

**000180**

Modulation of the permeability-inducing factor Angiopoietin-2 through Bifonazole in systemic inflammation

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000180

**Introduction:** Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction due to a pathological host response to an infection. Vascular barrier breakdown represents a key component of this maladaptive host response and the release of pre-stored Angiopoietin-2 (Angpt-2) from the endothelium is a direct driver of this phenomenon via deactivation of its target receptor “Tie2”. Currently, an Angpt-2 modulating therapy does not exist. Screening an FDA-drug library, we identified the antifungal Bifonazole (BIFO) as a potential reducer of Angpt-2 in vitro. We hypothesize that BIFO might decrease circulating Angpt-2 and therefore, diminish capillary leakage.

**Methods:** Endothelial cells were isolated from human umbilical veins (HUVECs) and used for in vitro studies after stimulation with BIFO (RT-PCR, immunoblot, ELISA). BIFO treatment was performed without and with anti-inflammatory cytokine stimulation. The cells were lysed and cytokine expression was measured by RT-PCR and ELISA. In vivo studies were performed on endotoxemic C57Bl6 mice treated with BIFO (lung RT-PCR, immunoblot, ELISA).
Results: We found that BIFO can reduce spontaneous Angpt-2 release in a time- and dose-dependent manner in HUVECs after 8 (p < 0.05), 12 and 24 h (veh: 15.58 ± 0.7 vs BIFO: 8.56 ± 0.8 ng/ml, p < 0.001). In addition, after TNF-α challenge, BIFO was still able to reduce this stimulated Angpt-2 release (veh: 30.3 ± 3.8 vs BIFO: 22.2 ± 2.5 ng/ml, p < 0.01). Measuring the TER to quantify endothelial permeability, BIFO was sufficient to increase TER in two models of hyperpermeability (Thrombin and PMA) (veh: 0.82 ± 0.10 vs BIFO: 1.01 ± 0.02, p < 0.05). As BIFO reduced not only Angpt-2 release but also cellular content by 27% (p < 0.05), an exocytosis-independent mechanism directly affecting Angpt-2 biosynthesis seems involved. Consistently, Angpt-2 transcription (mRNA) was reduced in lungs of BIFO-stimulated mice (veh: 1.00 ± 0.38 vs BIFO: 0.55 ± 0.43, p < 0.05).

Conclusion: The antifungal BIFO can reduce release and synthesis of the endothelial-damaging factor Angpt-2 in vitro. Henceforth, our results suggest that BIFO might counterpart the pathophysiology of endothelial permeability in inflammation via a reduction of Angpt-2 transcription (mRNA). More in vitro studies are needed to further investigate mechanisms of the pharmacological effect of BIFO on the regulation of Angpt-2. In vivo studies that are currently ongoing are supposed to confirm the results in a murine sepsis-model.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. DZL
2. DFG 1209/4-3

Ultrasound can be used to ensure correct central venous catheter tip positioning during infraclavicular right subclavian vein catheterization; a prospective observational study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000188

Introduction: Subclavian vein catheterization has many advantages compared to other sites for central venous access. Unfortunately, central venous catheter (CVC) misplacement is common (up to 9.3% after a right-sided catheterization). To avoid CVC misplacements, the right supraclavicular fossa ultrasound view can be used to confirm correct guidewire J-tip position in the lower part of the superior vena cava prior to CVC insertion.

Objectives: To demonstrate the usefulness of a real-time ultrasound method for guidewire positioning during infraclavicular CVC placement in the right subclavian vein, and to determine the number of CVC misplacements occurring when using this method. The hypothesis was that the incidence of misplaced CVCs could be reduced to 1%.

Methods: The study was approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority and registered as a clinical trial at clinicaltrials.gov (NCT03812757). Sample size calculation showed that 93 patients should be included. All vein punctures were performed prospectively, under real-time ultrasound guidance with a micro-convex probe. The right supraclavicular fossa ultrasound view was used to confirm correct guidewire position (Figure 1) and misplaced guidewires were adjusted prior to CVC insertion. A post-procedural chest X-ray was obtained to determine definitive CVC tip position.

Results: One hundred patients were included. Successful catheterization of the right subclavian vein was achieved in all patients. In 14 cases the guidewire J-tip was initially misplaced in either the ipsilateral internal jugular vein (n = 8) or in the left brachiocephalic vein (n = 6). In 12 of these cases it was possible to adjust the guidewire J-tip to a correct position in the superior vena cava. In 2 cases it was impossible to adjust the guidewire J-tip from a position in the left brachiocephalic vein, and the suboptimal positions were finally accepted. Both CVC tips were confirmed with chest X-rays in the left subclavian vein, as expected. The remaining 98 CVCs all had a tip position in the lower part of the superior vena cava, determined by chest X-ray.

Conclusion: Although the hypothesis could not be confirmed, this study demonstrates that the use of the right supraclavicular fossa ultrasound view to guide guidewire positioning reduced the incidence of CVC misplacements to 2% and thus is useful to avoid CVC misplacements in right infraclavicular subclavian vein catheterization.

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000193
Gradient-boosting machine learning models to predict creatinine clearance one day ahead

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Introduction: The glomerular filtration rate (GFR) is an index of the renal filtration function, and is estimated clinically by the creatinine clearance (CrCl). Since the kidney is the primary excretory organ for most hydrophilic drugs such as beta-lactam antimicrobials, drug dosing is determined based on the CrCl. It is well known that kidney function changes rapidly in critically ill patients. Predictions of CrCl could be useful to avoid subtherapeutic drug plasma levels in hyper-clearance patients and drug toxicity in hypo-clearance patients.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to generate a daily prediction of kidney function on the next day in the ICU. For this purpose, we developed and internally validated prediction models for CrCl on the next day of ICU stay in adult patients.

Methods: This study was a retrospective preplanned secondary analysis of the EPaNIC multicenter randomized controlled trial database [1]. CrCl was calculated by daily urinary output (UO), urine creatine (UCr), and serum creatinine (Scr). The development cohort (n = 1458 patients, equivalent to 11726 patient-days) consisted of all ICU adult patients with available CrCl for the previous day. Clinical data were retrieved from the EPaNIC research database and from the clinical patient data management system database. The models were developed with gradient boosting method (GBM) machine-learning algorithm for both classification and regression. We first classified whether CrCl would be above 130 ml/min/1.73 m² and then regressed all the five most important variables for both the classification and regression models were mean CrCl, CrCl of the previous day, age, Scr of the previous day, and UO of the previous day. As shown in Figure 1, the classification model had an area under the receiver operating characteristi
Introduction/Background: Ischemia/reperfusion (I/R) is a common problem. It is considered to be one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide (1). After TBI cerebral blood flow (CBF) becomes extremely low approaching ischemic threshold (2). Concurrently, cerebral blood flow velocities become strongly correlated to CBF itself post injury. Identification of such haemodynamic disturbances can be used to predict outcome in severe TBI when measured immediately post-injury using Transcranial Doppler (TCD). TCD permits non-invasive assessment of different CBF velocities as well as pulsatility index (PI) (3). Abnormal measurement of such indices is believed to correlate to poor outcome.

Objectives: The aim of the work was to assess the predictive value of early TCD in patients with severe TBI in terms of mortality and GOSE at 3 months, and also to correlate different TCD measurements with GCS score and FOUR score.

Methods: This study was performed in 32 anesthetized and mechanically ventilated pigs. Animals were randomized in two equal groups receiving either colloids (Voluven® 6%, Fresenius Kabi®), Bad Homburg, Germany) or crystals (Sterofundin® 6% ISO 1/1 E, B. Braun® Melsungen, Germany) for hemodynamic optimization. Volume optimization was performed before and after I/R using consecutive

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2. Chao-Yuan Huang receives a Taiwan-KU Leuven scholarship.
with hypoperfusion and patients with vasospasm. Hypoperfusion was defined by meeting two out of three criteria: mean flow velocity (MFV) of MCA < 35 cm/sec, End diastolic velocity (EDV) of MCA < 20 cm/sec, PI > 1.4. Vasospasm was defined as MFV > 120 cm/sec. (4-9) Outcome was evaluated using the Glasgow Outcome Scale extended (GOSE) at 3 months, as well as in-hospital mortality. TCD measurements were also correlated to GCS and FOUR score.

Pearson’s correlation coefficients(r) were calculated to test the relation between TCD and other clinical variables. A binary logistic regression analyses were performed then variables that showed statistically significant result under univariate analysis were entered into a multivariate analysis to identify independent predictors of outcome measures. Discrimination of the logistic models was assessed by calculating the area under (ROC) curve (10). All hypotheses were constructed two-tailed and \( p \leq 0.05 \) was considered significant

**Results:** There was a significant correlation between PI and GOSE 3 months. There was also significant correlation between PI and mortality. However, different MCA velocities did not show any correlation with GOSE or mortality. Strong negative correlation was recognized between PI and GCS and FOUR score.

**Conclusion:** Pulsatility index, when measured within the first 24 hours post-trauma, is considered a good predictor of mortality as well as functional outcome at 3 months. Abnormal pulsatility index values correlate with the severity of injury (in terms of GCS and FOUR score).

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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![Figure 16: Scatter plot for the correlation between GCS Score and Pulsatility index](image16.png)

![Figure 17: Scatter plot for the correlation between FOUR Score and Pulsatility index](image17.png)

![Figure: ROC curves comparing GCS Score, FOUR Score, APACHE-II Score, Rotterdam CT Score, New ISS, Pulsatility index in predicting in-hospital Mortality](image10.png)
Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/pdf/tbi_rep ort_t_to_congress_epi_and_rehab-a.pdf
11. None

**000267**

Rapid Design and implementation of a data-driven forecast of ICU strain from COVID-19 for early surge planning in England

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**Introduction:** Creating ICU “surge capacity” was essential for the COVID-19 pandemic but takes time to implement and is costly and disruptive. A short-range forecast was needed in early March 2020 to guide costly and ethically challenging decisions in England and justify immediate service re-configuration from early epidemiological data. The design, construction, testing, implementation, documentation, dissemination and peer-review of a computer model is typically a lengthy process. Here we describe the use of agile techniques to develop a COVID-19 strain forecasting tool from ultra-early epidemiological data building a working tool within a week.

**Objectives:** To develop and implement a region-specific, short-range ICU demand forecast based on case data from the commissioning regions in England using agile software development techniques to build a public-facing tool as rapidly as possible.

**Methods:** We modelled the likely increases in regional ICU bed demand over a 14-day horizon under an exponential assumption. Daily COVID-19 cases were extrapolated from cumulative data using log-linear regression. Stochastic models for ICU admissions and length of stay linked expected case incidence to excess bed occupancy. Mortality and admission rates were regionally standardised. In parallel we developed a web application to publish updated predictions daily (Figure 1), with an explanatory manuscript on medRxiv [1] and code on GitHub [2].

**Results:** We delivered an interactive web application along with explanatory notes and versioned code in 7 days. Community feedback allowed for a crowd-sourced review of manuscript and code. Users could explore the effect of changing various modelling assumptions interactively at a regional level. Over the preparatory time-period, cumulative case data was well fitted by an exponential model. We predicted that ICU bed occupancy would grow very quickly with London and the Midlands predicted to be particularly hard-hit, motivating an immediate effort to create as much capacity as possible.

**Conclusion:** Uncertainties in modelling early epidemiological data notwithstanding, we accurately predicted that surge capacity would be required from the end of March. We were able to leverage software development techniques to deliver a working application on a timescale which was still actionable in the preparatory phase for COVID-19 in England. Our approach demonstrates that data-driven approaches to emergency healthcare planning can be highly agile.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000278**

Post-operative near-infrared spectroscopy in pediatric patients after cardiac surgery: association with total IQ assessed at 2-years follow-up

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**Introduction:** During the early post-operative period, children with congenital heart disease can suffer from inadequate cerebral perfusion. Cerebral perfusion can be monitored non-invasively with the near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) cerebral oximeter, which measures local cerebral tissue oxygen saturation (SctO2) of the frontal lobe. In this study, we hypothesized that reduced SctO2 and increased dose of desaturation during the early post-operative period, may independently increase the probability of reduced total IQ score 2-years after Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) admission.
Methods: The study included 90 children (median age (IQR) 4 (1 to 13) months) admitted to the PICU of the University Hospitals Leuven (Belgium) and included in the PEPA NIC trial [1] and NIRS study [2], after cardiac surgery for congenital heart disease. Inadequate post-operative cerebral perfusion was characterized by computing the mean SctO2 and dose of desaturation (defined as SctO2 < 65%) from the first 12 hours of SctO2 monitoring after surgery. Trained psychologists assessed the total IQ at 2-years follow-up with the Wechsler Intelligence Quotient (IQ) tests. The independent association between mean SctO2, dose of desaturation and total IQ at 2-years follow-up was evaluated with a Bayesian linear regression model adjusted for age, syndrome, nutrition strategy (early vs late parenteral nutrition), cyanotic cardiopathy and severity of illness with Pediatric Index of Mortality 3 score.

Results: The results of the Bayesian model, summarized in Table 1, showed that reduced mean SctO2 and increased dose of SctO2 desaturation below 65% during the first 12 hours of SctO2 monitoring, independently increased the probability of a lower total IQ at 2-years follow-up. For example, a difference of 10% in the mean SctO2 during the first 12 hours of SctO2 monitoring would result in a loss of 0.3 to 4 IQ points, with an 80% probability. Similarly, a dose of desaturation of 300 %·minutes (resulting, for instance, from a SctO2 of 60% for 1 hour) would correspond to a loss of 0.3 to 4.8 IQ points with an 80% probability.

Table 1. The β estimates [80% credible interval] resulting from the Bayesian model are reported in the table together with the cumulative probability that the β estimate of the population is strictly negative (-) or positive (+). The 80% credible interval indicates the range to which the β estimates of the population belong with 80% probability. Results were obtained by using a noninformative prior.

Conclusion: Reduced mean SctO2 and increased dose of SctO2 below 65% during the first 12 hours of SctO2 monitoring, independently increase the probability of having a lower total IQ, 2 years after PICU admission. However, given the observational design of the study, no causal relations are proven. Whether intervention to improve SctO2 would result in better outcomes is still unclear.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000283
Mechanical chest compressions are associated with increased severity of post-cardiac arrest syndrome: a sub-study from the TTH48 trial
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Introduction: Mechanical chest compressions (CC) are frequently used during prolonged cardiopulmonary resuscitation in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), particularly in patients who do not have early return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) on the scene. However, little is known about the characteristics of this population of OHCA patients, particularly after hospital admission.

Objectives: We hypothesized that the decision to initiate mechanical CC could identify, by itself, a specific subgroup of cardiac arrest patients with more severe clinical features.

Methods: This is a post hoc analysis of a sub-group of patients in the TTH48 trial (NCT01689077) who received or did not received mechanical CC during resuscitation manoeuvres. Baseline characteristics included age, sex, height, weight, neurological function before cardiac arrest and a prespecified set of comorbidities. Relevant data regarding OHCA were recorded following Utstein templates. Resuscitation outcomes included survival at ICU discharge, survival at hospital discharge, 6-months survival and 6-months survival with good neurological outcome (CPC 1-2). Continuous variables are presented as median (IQR) and nominal variables as percentage. Mann-Whitney u-test and chi-square test were used for groups comparison, accordingly. A p < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Results: Out of 351 patients included in the analysis, 25.6% received mechanical CC. No major difference in baseline characteristics were observed between groups. Compared to patients that received manual CC, mechanical CC patients showed significant prolonged time to ROSC (26 [20;38] vs 20 [15;25] min, p < 0.01). Accordingly, a greater percentage of patient received resuscitation drug (adrenaline: 80 vs 57%, p < 0.01; amiodarone: 53 vs 37%, p < 0.01) and percutaneous coronary intervention (93 vs 79%, p < 0.01). After hospital admission, mechanical CC patients demonstrate worse hemodynamic and acid-base status compared to patient who received manual CC; more specifically they showed lower systolic arterial pressure (104 [91;120] vs 114 [97;132] mmHg, p < 0.01), higher blood lactate (5.8 [2.8;10.0] vs 3.2 [1.8;5.1] mmol/l, p < 0.01) and lower base excess (-8.4 [-12.3;-4.0] vs -5.8 [-8.5;-3.5] mmol/l, p < 0.01). During hospital stay, mechanical CC patients develop adverse events more frequently, such as generalized seizure/myoclonus (27 vs 15%, p = 0.03), various grade of hypotension (p = 0.02) and arrhythmias (p < 0.01), greater incidence of acute renal failure needing continuous renal replacement therapy (17 vs 5%, p < 0.01). Finally, mechanical CC patients showed increased mortality (ICU: 22 vs 14%, p = 0.07; in-hospital: 34 vs 20%, p = 0.01; 6-months 27 vs 15%, p < 0.01) and worse neurological outcome after 6 months (CPC 1-2 vs 71% p < 0.01).

Conclusion: This descriptive analysis identified an association between patient receiving mechanical CC and worse clinical status after hospital admission. Moreover, mechanical CC patients demonstrated poorer 6-months survival and neurological outcome. The longer duration of no-flow/low-flow time observed in the mechanical CC group could partially explain the increase severity in post-cardiac arrest syndrome observed in this subgroup of patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Kirkegaard et al. JAMA 2017

000285
Impact of a nurse-led family support intervention for families of critically ill persons: A mixed methods study
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Introduction: Families of critically illness persons face uncertainty and psychological distress during and after their close other’s stay on an intensive care unit (ICU). Poor communication, insufficient shared-decision making, and inadequate emotional support negatively affect their ICU
experience and mental health. To increase quality of care and reduce adverse outcomes, guidelines recommend proactive family engagement and support. We thus implemented an advanced practice nurse-led family support intervention in a 12-bed surgical-transplant ICU in Switzerland.

**Objectives:** To examine the impact of the intervention on family members’ satisfaction with ICU care, sense of well-being, and post-ICU psychological distress.

**Methods:** We used a mixed methods approach with a quasi-experimental before and after design and an embedded qualitative study. Participants were family members of patients treated in ICU before and after introduction of the intervention, which consisted of relational family engagement, therapeutic family conversations, and facilitation of communication between the family and the ICU team. Data were collected post-ICU with the Family Satisfaction in ICU-24 Survey, Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale, Impact of Event Scale-Revised-6 and semi-structured interviews. Outcome variables of the matched groups were analysed with linear mixed-effects models, and qualitative data using inductive content analysis.

**Results:** 139 family members in the control and 75 in the intervention group (51% response rate) returned a questionnaire, and 19 participated in an interview. Families in the intervention group showed a trend for increased overall satisfaction (difference of 3.544, 95% CI: −0.11 to 7.60), a statistically significant increase in satisfaction with decision-making (7.258, 95% CI: 0.89 to 13.63), and a non-significant increase in satisfaction with care (4.178, 95% CI: −1.53 to 9.89). Psychological distress was higher in the intervention group, with a more pronounced difference in satisfaction (4.178, 95% CI: −1.53 to 9.89), which may be explained by considerably longer ICU stays and higher proportion of deaths in the intervention group. Qualitative findings indicated that the intervention was beneficial for family well-being, as families reported to feel acknowledged, cared for, well informed, and supported as an individual and a family living through critical illness. Families experienced the intervention as essential to ICU care. They appreciated to have a person to turn to who was easily accessible, knowledgeable, and part of the ICU team.

**Conclusion:** Our study suggests that family members appreciate a specific family nursing role that offers supportive interventions and facilitates interaction and communication with the ICU team, and experience it as beneficial for their well-being. It increased their satisfaction with ICU care, but was unable to demonstrate a beneficial impact on psychological distress.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000293**

**Photoacoustic mapping of tissue hypoxia after myocardial infarction in mice**

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**Introduction:** Early alterations of microvascular blood flow after myocardial infarction (MI) may participate in the development of multiple organ failure.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess the contribution of photoacoustic imaging, a hybrid technology based on laser and ultrasound energy coupling, to detect early oxygen saturation (sO2) impairment in peripheral organs (kidney, liver) after MI in mice.

**Methods:** An experimental preclinical study was carried out in two groups of six week BALB/c mice: Sham (n = 22) versus MI (n = 40). MI was obtained by permanent ligation of the left anterior descending artery within 7 days of follow-up. High resolution ultrasound was used to assess left ventricular (LV) function (ejection fraction, EF), Cardiac Output (CO) and longitudinal strain. Photoacoustic imaging (VevoL- AZR, VisualSonics®) was used to measure kinetics of the heart, kidney and liversO2after MI. Plasma biomarkers (ASAT, ALAT, creatinine, lactate) were assessed.

**Results:** LV function was altered at 4 h post-MI (LVEF: Sham 61.7% n = 16, MI 25.7% n = 32, p < 0.0001; longitudinal strain: Sham -19.6% n = 13, MI -7.1% n = 31, p < 0.0001; CO: Sham 11.6 mL/min n = 13, MI 7.4 mL/min n = 24, p = 0.003). These alterations persisted after 7 days. A strong correlation was observed at 4h and on day 1 between LV sO2 and longitudinal anterior myocardial strain (r = -0.46, p < 0.0001, n = 81). Photoacoustic mapping showed a significant early decrease in sO2 level in both renal and hepatic tissues at 4h and 1 day post-MI but this was normalized after 7 days (Figure 1).

The kinetics of the biomarkers ASAT, ALAT and creatinine were correlated to a tissue alteration of sO2 at 4h. There was no correlation between alteration of sO2 and lactate (Figure 2).

**Conclusion:** Post-MI heart failure generates moderate hypoxia of the peripheral organs in mice. Photoacoustic imaging enables early detection of sO2 multi-organ desaturation. The mapping of sO2 organs in real time seems to be an accurate marker to identify microcirculation alteration. This emerging imaging technology could be used to improve and evaluate early microvascular therapeutics.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000303**

**Incidence and outcomes of acute kidney injury in intensive care units:** Focus on high-risk surgical patients

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**Introduction:** The incidence of AKI in surgical patients varies according to the type and severity of surgery, with reported rates of 19%
after cardiac surgery and approximately 12-13% after general and thoracic surgery. In a large epidemiological study of patients undergoing major noncardiac surgery in intensive care units (ICUs) in Brazil, 30% of patients had postoperative complications, and AKI was the postoperative complication with the second-highest occurrence rate. Postoperative complications are common in high-risk patients after major surgery.

Therefore, our hypothesis is that perioperative AKI is common and is associated with a worse prognosis. Thus, evaluating the incidence and characteristics of patients with previously normal kidney function who underwent major noncardiac surgery and developed postoperative AKI, in addition to determining whether perioperative volemic adjustments correlate with AKI, is relevant for adequately improving the therapeutic management of these patients.

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study was to evaluate the incidence, impact on outcomes and main risk factors for developing AKI in patients with previously normal kidney function who underwent noncardiac surgery and developed AKI after admission to the ICU.

Because of the importance of fluid balance in surgical patients, we also evaluated the association between this variable and the development of AKI.

**Methods:** A multicenter, prospective cohort study with patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) after noncardiac surgery was conducted to assess whether they developed AKI. A total of 29 ICUs participated and provided data on 25,500 surgeries, of which 904 involved high-risk surgical patients who were included in the study. On the 28th day after surgery, the number of survivors and length of stay in the ICU and hospital were analyzed.

**Results:** The occurrence of AKI in the postoperative period was 15.8%, and the mortality rate of postoperative AKI patients at 28 days was 27.6%, which represented 5.2% of the overall mortality of the study population. AKI was strongly associated with 28-day mortality (OR = 2.91; 95% CI 1.51-5.62; P = 0.001), and the assessment of ICU, hospital and 28-day postoperative survival identified significant differences between patients with and without postoperative AKI (log-rank test, P < 0.0001).

Independent factors for the risk of developing AKI were preoperative anemia (OR = 7.1; 95% CI 1.69-29.07), elective surgery (OR = 0.45; 95% CI 0.21-0.97), SAPS 3 (OR = 1.04; 95% CI 1.02-1.06), postoperative vasopressor use (OR = 2.47; 95% CI 1.34-4.55), postoperative infection (OR = 8.82; 95% CI 2.43-32.05) and need for reoperation (OR = 7.15; 95% CI 2.58-19.79). Additionally, regarding fluid adjustment during the perioperative period, patients with higher fluid balance values presented an increased risk of developing AKI (OR = 1.001; 95% CI 1.000-1.002). It was noted that starting on the second day after surgery, the higher the fluid balance is, the more likely AKI is to develop.

**Conclusion:** AKI is a major complication in high-risk surgical patients and is associated with risk of death. Patients with anemia prior to surgery who underwent elective surgery, had a higher SAPS 3, needed a vasopressor during the postoperative period or had postoperative infection or needed reoperation were more likely to develop AKI, as were those with an elevated perioperative fluid balance.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

4. Many thanks to the entire team that helped to recruit patients.

**000312 Comparative effects of direct/indirect nitric oxide inhibition on haemodynamics in a septic, hypotensive rat model**

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**Introduction:** Overproduction of nitric oxide (NO) plays an important role in sepsis-induced hypotension (1). However, a phase III study of L-NMMA, a non-selective NO synthase (NOS) inhibitor, was terminated early due to increased mortality (2). A new class of NOS inhibitor acts via inhibition of dimethylarginine dimethylammonium hydro-lase-1 (DDAH1). This increases levels of asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA), an endogenous methyl-arginine, which blocks NOS activity (3). Using a septic, hypotensive rat model, we hypothesized that indirect NOS inhibition would improve haemodynamics without detrimental effects on cardiac output that is associated with non-selective NOS inhibition.

**Methods:** Anaesthetized male Wistar rats underwent right jugular venous cannulation for fluid/drug administration. Sepsis was induced by intraperitoneal faecal slurry (T = 0 h). Animals were recovered and fluid (1:1 mix of 5% glucose and Ringer’s lactate [RL]) was infused at 10 ml/kg/h from 2 h. At 6 h, animals were re-anasthetized with cannulation of the carotid artery for BP monitoring and a tracheostomy to secure the airway. A further bolus of RL bolus (20 ml/kg) was given. At 8 h, baseline measurements of BP, cardiac output (by echocardiography) and blood gas analysis were taken. Animals were then randomized to receive either direct (L-NMMA) or indirect (L-257) NOS inhibition, or to act as controls (equivalent volumes of RL). Treated animals received a bolus over 5 mins followed by infusion over 2 hours (to T = 10 h). Blood pressure was measured before and after the bolus. All other variables were measured hourly.

**Results:** Data shown as mean ± (SE). B = bolus over 5 minutes. Inf = infusion. Index of systemic vascular resistance (SVR) calculated as Blood pressure (BP)/Cardiac output (CO). Statistics: 2-way RM-ANOVA
and post-hoc Tukey’s test. *p < 0.05 or **p < 0.01 between controls and drug-treated animals (n = 6/group). L-257 bolus was 30 mg/kg, int. = 3.75 mg/kg/h. L-NMMA bolus was 3 mg/kg, int. = 2.5 mg/kg/h.

Conclusion: In hypotensive, septic rats, both direct and indirect NOS inhibition significantly increased blood pressure. While we did not use doses of either drug that significantly impacted on cardiac output, indirect NOS inhibition showed a lesser increase in SVR, in keeping with a more desirable safety profile.

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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000342

Brain tissue oxygenation guided therapy in poor grade aneurysmatic subarachnoid haemorrhage patients

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Introduction: Aneurysmatic subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH) is responsible for severe disabilities and death (1). Tissue hypoxia can occur after SAH, even with normal levels of intracranial pressure (ICP) (2). As such, brain tissue oxygen (PbtO2) monitoring has become widely used. Low PbtO2 has been associated with delayed cerebral ischemia and worse neurologic outcome (3,4).

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the impact of PbtO2-guided therapy on patients’ outcome.

Methods: Single center retrospective cohort study from January 2014 until March 2019 including adult patient admitted to the ICU with poor grade aSAH, that required invasive neurologic monitoring (ICP +/− PbtO2 catheter) within the first 48 hours of admission. Patients monitored with combined PbtO2 + ICP monitoring were compared with patients monitored with ICP alone. We considered as “PbtO2-guided therapy”, a bundle of interventions aiming to increase PbtO2 > 20 mmHg. Primary outcome was the presence of PbtO2 < 20mmHg and burden of tissue hypoxia.

Results: Of a total of 259 patients admitted to the ICU due to aSAH during the study period, 152 patients were included in the study: 96 were monitored with ICP alone and 56 with PbtO2 + ICP; of those 47(83.9) had at least one episode of PbtO2 < 20 mmHg and 22 (39.3%) received a PbtO2-guided therapy. PbtO2-guided therapy was associated with a reduction of the risk of unfavorable outcome (OR 0.03 CI 95% 0.002-0.46, p = 0.01) and mortality (OR 0.01 CI 95% 0.002-0.46, p = 0.0035). Absolute neutrophil number per ml BAL fluid was 10 ± 4.8 (healthy controls) vs. 6.026 ± 4.103 (anti-αMβ2 DARPin) vs. 19.582 ± 19.132 (control DARPin) vs. 38,621 ± 37,791 (PBS) (p = 0.0031). The protein concentration in the BAL fluid was lower in the anti-αMβ2 DARPin group indicating a strong therapeutic effect in mice with acute respiratory distress syndrome (healthy controls vs. anti-αMβ2 DARPin vs. control DARPin vs. PBS: 0.16 ± 0.08 mg/ml vs. 0.3 ± 0.12 mg/ml vs. 0.62 ± 0.38 mg/ml vs. 0.77 ± 0.34 mg/ml, p = 0.0002).

Conclusion: Treating murine acute respiratory distress syndrome with the novel activation specific anti-αMβ2 DARPin significantly reduces disease severity and improves survival.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


**Objectives:** To examine the therapeutic effect of butyrate in *in vitro* and *in vivo* models of sepsis.

**Methods:** Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from six healthy donors were incubated overnight with LPS (100 ng/ml), heat-killed Staphylococcus aureus or Escherichia coli O18 (PMBC:Escherichia coli ratio 5:1) in the presence or absence of butyrate (1.8 mM). Supernatants were collected and IL-6, IL-10 and TNF concentrations quantified by ELISA. Mitochondrial respiration was assessed using high-resolution respirometry.

A rat model of faecal peritonitis was developed to study the impact of butyrate *in vivo*. Rats were cannulated and received intraperitoneal injection of faecal slurry. Rats were housed in metabolic cages and, alongside fluid resuscitation, received intravenous butyrate infusion (0.6 g/kg/h) commencing 6 hours following sepsis induction. 24 hours following sepsis induction, splenocytes were isolated and oxygen consumption measured. Spleenocyte membrane potential, reactive oxygen species (ROS), and intracellular cytokines (IL-10 and TNF) were assessed using flow cytometry. Non-parametric one-way ANOVA tests with Dunn's correction were used for statistical analyses.

**Results:** Butyrate significantly reduced IL-6, IL-10 and TNF secretion by PBMCs. Maximal respiration and spare-respiratory capacity were non-significantly increased. *In vivo* butyrate infusion stimulated fatty acid metabolism as shown by a fall in the respiratory exchange ratio. Ex vivo splenocytes from septic rats showed significantly increased TNF production which was not affected by butyrate infusion. Butyrate infusion decreased mitochondrial respiration, increased mitochondrial ROS production and membrane potential.

**Conclusion:** Butyrate had anti-inflammatory and mitochondrial respiratory stimulation effects *in vitro*. However, *in vivo* butyrate infusion caused mitochondrial stress in immune cells and did not impact immune function. Hence, beneficial effects of butyrate on immune cells *in vitro* could not be reproduced *in vivo*.

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**Inhibition of inflammasome-caspase-1 activation by tetracyclines reduces direct acute respiratory distress syndrome**

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**Introduction:** Traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been increasing with greater incidence. It remains a leading cause of death (1). Cerebral pressure autoregulation impairment is a well-known pathology after TBI that worsens the prognosis and outcome (2). Transcranial Doppler (TCD) can be used to assess Transient Hyperaemic response ratio (THRR) after carotid compression which is a well demonstrated valid index for cerebral autoregulation (3,4). A relative increase in mean flow velocity (MFV) of middle cerebral artery (MCA) above the baseline following the release of carotid compression denotes preserved autoregulation and sequentially predicts good outcome, whereas absence of such response indicates altered autoregulation with poor outcome (5).

**Objectives:** The aim of the work was to assess cerebral autoregulation and its relation to outcome in patients with moderate and severe TBI using TCD. The primary end point is the Glasgow outcome score (GOS) as a measure of outcome to assess THRR after carotid compression as an indicator of cerebral pressure autoregulation and as a predictor of GOS as well as a being prognostic tool. Other measures of TCD as MFV of MCA and Pulsatility Index (PI) were also used as predictors of GOS and correlated with THRR. The length of stay as well as mortality were recorded and correlated to THRR.

**Methods:** 120 patients with moderate or severe TBI according to Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) (7) underwent daily TCD, after initial hemodynamic and respiratory stabilization, for 5 days post trauma. All patients were managed according to guidelines for the management of head injury of the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons (8). A compression time of 10 seconds and a compression ratio of 40% or more, allow maximum expression of the hyperaemic response. Also carotid compression is accepted only when flow velocity is stable with no further decrease during the whole period of compression otherwise the compression will be terminated and repeated 60 seconds later (3).

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**Assessment of Transient Hyperaemic Response as an index for Cerebral Autoregulation in patients with moderate and severe Traumatic Brain Injury using Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000391

**Introduction:** The aim of the work was to assess cerebral autoregulation and its relation to outcome in patients with moderate and severe TBI using TCD. The primary end point is the Glasgow outcome score (GOS) (7) as a measure of outcome to assess THRR after carotid compression as an indicator of cerebral pressure autoregulation and as a predictor of GOS as well as a being prognostic tool. Other measures of TCD as MFV of MCA and Pulsatility Index (PI) were also used as predictors of GOS and correlated with THRR. The length of stay as well as mortality were recorded and correlated to THRR.

**Methods:** 120 patients with moderate or severe TBI according to Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) (7) underwent daily TCD, after initial hemodynamic and respiratory stabilization, for 5 days post trauma. All patients were managed according to guidelines for the management of head injury of the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons (8). A compression time of 10 seconds and a compression ratio of 40% or more, allow maximum expression of the hyperaemic response. Also carotid compression is accepted only when flow velocity is stable with no further decrease during the whole period of compression otherwise the compression will be terminated and repeated 60 seconds later (3).
The Patients were divided into those with normal TCD measurements and those with poor cerebral circulation (MFV < 40, PI > 1.2). GOS scores are dichotomized into favorable or unfavorable outcomes. Patients in the upper two GOS outcomes groups (good recovery or moderate disability) are considered favorable outcome, and patients in other groups (severe disability, vegetative state or death) are considered unfavorable outcomes.

Pearson’s correlation coefficients were calculated to test the relation between TCD and other clinical variables. Discrimination of the logistic models was assessed by calculating the area under (ROC) curve (9). P value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: There was a significant correlation between THRR and GOS (patients with THRR ≥ 1 had favorable outcome). There was also significant correlation between THRR and mortality. Also significant correlation between THRR and MFV as well as PI was found. THRR ≥ 1 showed sensitivity of 83.3%, specificity of 72.9%, positive predictive value (PPV) of 82.2% and negative predictive value (NPV) of 74.5% in predicting patients with favorable outcome.

Conclusion: THRR provides a clinically useful index of cerebral autoregulation. THRR after carotid compression is a good predictor of GOS as well as being a prognostic tool in patients with moderate and severe TBI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000400
What you give is what you get: fecal concentrations of piperacillin and tazobactam in ICU patients
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Introduction: The widespread use of antibiotics poses a significant threat to human health because of the risk of antimicrobial resistance. While piperacillin/tazobactam (TZP) is commonly used in the empirical treatment of severe infections in the ICU, and the drug can be detected in plasma up to several days after discontinuation, it is unclear how long piperacillin is detectable in the feces of patients. Given the potential impact of antibiotics on the microbiome, we sought to investigate fecal concentrations of piperacillin in critically ill patients using a newly developed sensitive method.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to describe concentrations of TZP in the feces of critically ill patients during intravenous therapy and after treatment discontinuation.

Methods: Critical ill patients without chronic or acute abdominal disease and receiving intravenous piperacillin/tazobactam were included. The regimen consisted of a loading dose of 4.5 g of TZP injected over 30 minutes, followed by continuous infusion according to kidney function (standard therapy 16 g/24 h). Fresh stool specimens were collected after a minimum of 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, with up to ten samples per patient during therapy. Within ten minutes after collecting a stool sample, a serum sample was obtained for drug concentration analysis. Stool specimens collected up to one week after treatment discontinuation were analyzed, with a maximum of five samples. Concentrations of piperacillin and tazobactam were measured by a validated and sensitive ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography - high resolution mass spectrometric (UHPLC-HRMS) method, with a lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ) of 1 µg/g and 0.5 µg/g of lyophilized (lyo) feces and 1.5 mg/L and 0.5 mg/L plasma for piperacillin and tazobactam, respectively.

Results: Ten critically ill patients with a median age of 70.5 years (interquartile range (IQR) 50-74) were included. The specimens of one patient were excluded in further analyses due to pre-analytic errors. During therapy, piperacillin concentrations ranged from 18.65 to 289.18 mg/L in plasma and 1.63 – 23000.70 µg/g in lyo feces. Tazo-bactam concentrations ranged from 2.57 - 38.17 mg/L in plasma and could be detected and quantified in stool specimens of six patients (67%) during therapy (range 0.08-578.18 µg/g). After discontinuation of therapy respectively 5 (56%) and 3 (33%) patients were found to have measurable fecal concentrations of piperacillin (range 5.48 - 3477.27 µg/g) and tazobactam (range 2.27 – 531.44 µg/g) for 1 to 2 days. In 2 patients, piperacillin and tazobactam were detectable in stool specimens for at least 4 to 6 days after discontinuation. Both of them suffered from acute kidney injury (AKI stage I and II).

References:
**Conclusion:** Both piperacillin and tazobactam are measurable in stool during therapy; after discontinuation of therapy, piperacillin can be detected in feces for up to 6 days. This may have important consequences for disturbances of the microbiome and the impact of antibiotic therapy.

**000402**

Impact of high doses of antibiotics and sequence on bacterial clearance in a rat model of E coli peritonitis-induced septic shock

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**Introduction:** Septic shock is one of the deadliest diseases worldwide, with a mortality rate of 30-50%. Antibiotic delay and higher microbial loads are known to increase morbi-mortality in sepsis. Loading doses achieve faster appropriate concentrations in plasma, allowing for a better bacterial kill. Bacterial kill and patient outcomes may be further improved by synergistic combination therapy, which is best established for betalactams and aminoglycosides. However, how the sequence of antibiotic administration impacts this synergy is unknown. Although in vitro work suggests that giving the betalactam first improves bacterial clearance, the effect of antibiotic sequence has not been studied in vivo.

**Objectives:** Determine whether the sequence of antibiotic administration impacts bacterial kill and cytokine production in a monomicrobial rat model of septic shock.

**Methods:** Our monomicrobial peritonitis rat model of septic shock requires the surgical implant of a gelatin capsule with a fibrinogen clot, alpha cellulose and a known bacterial inoculum (2*10^6 cfu E. coli Bort) in the peritoneum of the rat. This capsule slowly dissolves and generates a progressive peritoneal infection that evolves into septic shock in 12 hours. After septic shock is established, we fluid resuscitate the rats, connect them to mechanical ventilation, and start vasopressors if needed to achieve a MAP goal of 70 mmHg. We experiment with the order of antibiotics (cefotaxime [cef] and gentamicin [gent]) and compare them to monotherapy, untreated controls and sham controls, for a total of 7 treatment arms and 6 rats per arm. We used two doses of antibiotics: normal (cef 60 mg/kg, gent 10 mg/kg) and high (cef 120 mg/kg, gent 20 mg/kg).

We measure bacterial blood counts, cytokine profile, lactate and renal function at different time points. Following the ethics guidelines of University of Manitoba, we euthanize the rat and measure organ bacterial counts after homogenization.

**Results:** Rats treated with cefotaxime monotherapy had slow initial bacterial clearance compared to those treated with gentamicin alone. This improved with the higher dose of cefotaxime. Over the rats treated with gentamicin showed bacterial regrowth (postantibiotic effect); this was delayed in the group treated with a higher gentamicin dose. All combination arms showed a rapid initial bacterial kill and maintained bacterial clearance over time, exhibiting the strengths of gentamicin and cefotaxime, respectively. No significant differences were observed between combination arms. All treatment arms showed similar bacterial clearance from peritoneal fluid and organs.

**Conclusion:** Combination therapy showed synergistic effects with a rapid and maintained bacterial clearance from the blood. Altering the antimicrobial sequence had no significant impact in our in vivo model of septic shock. Higher doses of antibiotics showed faster initial bacterial kill with cefotaxime monotherapy, and delayed the postantibiotic effect of gentamicin monotherapy.

**000423**

Too old for the ICU? Long term prognosis of critically ill patients

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**Introduction:** In the recent years a rapid increase in the age of patients admitted to the Intensive Care Units (ICU) was noted. Fewer limitations are now imposed on performing invasive treatments or surgery in old or even frail patients, especially when complemented by optimal supportive intensive care. However, little is known about the long term follow up of these patients.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the age stratified long-term all-cause mortality, after admission to the ICU. Secondly, to compare a one-year mortality rate of this cohort of critically ill patients after hospital discharge, with that of a standard population with the same age distribution.

**Methods:** Retrospective cohort study of all patients admitted to a multipurpose ICU between 2015-2019. Patients < 18 years or admitted for < 24 h were excluded. Only the first ICU admission was considered. Patients were followed until hospital discharge or death, whatever occurred first. One-year all-cause mortality was assessed for all patients. Standard Mortality Ratio (SMR) were determined at hospital discharge and at a 1-year follow-up. We split the sample in 4 groups according to patients age at admission to the ICU: 18-50 (Adult); 51-65 (Senior); 66-80 (Old); > 80 (Very-old). Survival curves were plotted for all 4 groups according to the time of ICU admission. The ratio between observed and expected mortality was calculated, for patients discharged alive from the hospital and according to age-adjusted tables for the general Portuguese population.

**Results:** A total of 2184 patients were included. Male gender was predominant (57%); mean age and SAPS II Score were 66 ± 15.8 and 40 ± 18.9. Mean ICU length of stay was 4.23 ± 4.2 days. ICU and Hospital mortality were 12.1% and 19.8% (SMR 0.63). SAPSII performance was accurate to predict one-year mortality, rather than in-hospital mortality, for all age groups (Table 1).

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Predicted Mort. (SAPS)</th>
<th>L/H Mortality</th>
<th>SMR</th>
<th>Follow-up</th>
<th>SMR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (18-50)</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>60 (30.2%)</td>
<td>40 (20.2%)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>90 (27.5%)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (51-65)</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>100 (59.4%)</td>
<td>60 (31.8%)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>100 (30.8%)</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old (66-80)</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>150 (84.8%)</td>
<td>90 (50.2%)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>150 (45.1%)</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very-old (&gt;80)</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>200 (115.5%)</td>
<td>150 (81.5%)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>200 (60.4%)</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2184</td>
<td>487 (26.1%)</td>
<td>315 (14.5%)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>754 (24.1%)</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows mortality by age group, predicted and observed in-hospital mortality (with SAPSII), and one year follow-up SMR. Standard Mortality Ratio.
A Kaplan-Meyer survival curve (KM) was computed to assess the differences between long term prognosis for the different age groups (Fig 1) and unveiled a statistically significant difference in the survival probability (log rank test, p < 0.01). A sharp drop in survival in the first days was noted, corresponding to the in-hospital mortality. A continuous decay in survival was observed in the Old and Very-old groups that was less evident in the younger population.

One-year mortality rate after hospital discharge was higher in the older patients. The ratio between the observed and expected mortality (for an age adjusted control population) was significantly high for all age groups (Table 2).

Conclusion: The one-year mortality risk of critically ill patients of all age groups is very high, even after hospital discharge, largely above of the general population. SAPSII showed good accuracy to predict one-year mortality in this cohort. Although a continuous decline in survival is noted in the older patients, more than 50% of the Very-old patients are alive 1 year after ICU admission.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000426 Prediction of Hypotension Events with Physiologic Vital Sign Signatures in the Intensive Care Unit
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Introduction: Hypotension is known to be the most consistent manifestation of decompensated shock leading to major organ failure, and even brief hypotension is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Several early warning scores have been introduced to identify patients at risk for decompensation and trigger escalation of care, but most of current scoring systems are unable to provide reliable, continuous feedback to clinicians who need to make time-sensitive decisions for rapidly fluctuating conditions in critically-ill patients.

Objectives: Using common vital sign data, we aim to develop a machine learning model to predict the initial hypotension event among intensive care unit (ICU) patients, and design an alert system for bedside implementation.

Methods: From the Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care III (MIMIC-3) dataset, minute-by-minute vital signs were extracted. An initial hypotension event was defined as at least 5 measurements within a 10-minute period of systolic blood pressure ≤ 90 mmHg and mean arterial pressure ≤ 60 mmHg. The performance of various supervised machine learning models was measured with area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) and area under the precision recall curve (AUPRC). A random forest (RF) classifier was selected, trained with 10-fold cross validation method, then applied to an a priori separated out-of-sample validation cohort. Risk score trajectory was built from vital signs features on overlapping windows. For an alert system, hypotension alerts were generated using a two-step (stacked) approach. First, positive alerts were identified with risk score thresholds, then a second RF model was used to reduce false alerts, followed by imposing a lock-out time for alerts to decrease alarm fatigue.

Results: We identified 1532 subjects (1946 ICU stays) as the case group (experienced a hypotension event), and 1707 subjects (2585 ICU stays) as the control group. The RF model showed AUROC of 0.93, 0.91, and 0.88 at 15, 30, and 60 minutes before hypotension, AUPRC of 0.77, and a low calibration score (Brier score 0.09). Mean risk score trajectories revealed a clear separation with 80% of cases predicted at 15 minutes before hypotension, and more than 60% at one hour before the hypotension. For the alert system, the stacked machine learning model with lock-out of 15 minutes produced on average 0.79 alerts/subject/hour for future hypotension, with a positive predictive value (probability of developing hypotension) of 65% and sensitivity of 92.4%.

Conclusion: Most clinically significant hypotension events in the ICU can be predicted from bedside physiologic monitoring at least 1 hour before the initial hypotension episode. Designing a practical alert system with high sensitivity and acceptable positive predictive value for hypotension prediction is feasible, with low rate of alerts.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: In mechanically ventilated patients, positive end-expiratory pressure (EEP) is used to improve gas exchange and respiratory mechanics by preventing alveolar collapse. Recently, it has been demonstrated in rats, that PEEP induces diaphragm remodelling by altering the position and length of the muscle, causing longitudinal atrophy [1]. The effects of PEEP on the human diaphragm during tidal breathing are currently unknown.

Objectives: To study the effects of PEEP on diaphragm movement and configuration during tidal breathing, including velocity of muscle contraction.

Methods: Healthy subjects (n = 17) underwent dynamic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in five different planes during tidal breathing under non-invasive ventilation with PEEP. After 30 sec, PEEP was abruptly increased from 2 (baseline) to 5, 10 or 15 cmH2O (running under non-invasive ventilation with PEEP). After 30 sec, PEEP resonance imaging (MRI) in five different planes during tidal breathing are currently unknown.

Results: Diaphragm tracking was successful (Fig 1). Increasing PEEP from 2 to 15 cmH2O resulted 1) in decreased end-expiratory total diaphragm length (390 (234 - 445) to 351 (295 - 408) mm respectively), 2) flattening of the diaphragm dome and left hemidiaphragm with an increase of the radius of curvature (R in Fig 1) of 1.4 cm and 1.9 cm for the right and left hemidiaphragm respectively and 3) increased peak contraction velocity (14.2 (13.3 - 15.1) to 15.4 (14.0 - 16.7) mm/s respectively) but unchanged peak relaxation velocity and 4) decreased NME of 48% (37.5 - 56.6%). All mentioned effects were significant (p < 0.03) and reported as estimated mean (95% confidence interval).

Conclusion: PEEP affects diaphragm geometry and function during tidal breathing. These findings suggest that conditions to develop longitudinal atrophy in the human diaphragm are present with the application of PEEP.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. This study was financially supported by ZonMW 0910001 1910004 & Amsterdam UMC/ACS out of the Box grant.
Introduction: Large numbers of observational studies have investigated the association of pre-specified laboratory tests within subgroups of critically ill patients. This systematic review aimed to determine evidence from pre-existing literature of associations between routine blood results and outcomes of patients admitted to critical care.

Methods: The study protocol was registered with the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO; ID CRD42019122058). We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. [1] Searches were carried out using MEDLINE (PubMed) and Excerpta Medica database from inception through 29th January 2019. Outcome measures were 1) critical care or hospital length of stay, 2) mortality during critical care or in hospital or within 90 days of critical care admission. Identified studies were insufficiently homogenous to calculate pooled effect measures and qualitative summary assessments were undertaken. For biomarkers showing consistent effects, we reviewed proposed mechanisms and underlying hypotheses. Quality of evidence and risk of bias was assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale criteria. [2] We evaluated study methodology including diagnostic test accuracy, statistical approach and covariate selection.

Results: Of 441 records identified in our search, 98 met inclusion eligibility criteria. Studies analysed biomarkers individually or using a composite measure of two related biomarkers. The majority of studies were focused within mixed medical and surgical admissions (n = 62). All studies described retrospective data collection using cohort (n = 62) and case-control (n = 14) designs. A total of 25 unique biomarkers were reported: 17 (one to four records), 5 (five to nine), and 3 (ten or more). RCDW was the biomarker most frequently assessed. Definitions varied in measurement of biomarkers and outcomes. 63.7% of studies measured admission values, 25.7% used repeated measures throughout the admission period. The biomarkers showing most consistent effects were RCDW, platelet count, NLR and albumin. A higher RCDW, a lower platelet count and a higher NLR were associated with both mortality and increased critical care length of stay. A lower level of albumin was associated with mortality. Of studies reporting statistical methods, the majority used logistic regression and Cox proportional hazards analysis. Studies which adjusted for confounders selected covariates using stepwise selection or bivariate screening.

Conclusion: Results from previous studies have limited applicability as methods of analyses tended to be restrictive and open to measurement and unmeasured confounders. All identified studies focused on determining statistical significance prior to evaluating underlying pathophysiological mechanisms. Establishing a direct casual pathway among biomarkers and outcomes may be challenging and traditional statistical modelling may fail to adequately control for confounding.

Introduction: Many patients with SARS-CoV2 severe pneumonia received invasive mechanical ventilation and met the Berlin definition for ARDS. However, there is an ongoing debate regarding their respiratory mechanics. Several small studies found conflicting results: some showed a low potential for recruitability at an early stage of mechanical ventilation [1], others demonstrated a significant potential for recruitability, although with large variability between patients [2],[3].

Objectives: We aimed to assess lung recruitability in the first days of invasive mechanical ventilation in patients with SARS-CoV2 induced ARDS.

Methods: Single-center study in a French medical ICU.

We included patients undergoing invasive mechanical ventilation for SARS-CoV2 ARDS. Lung recruitability was assessed using recruitment-to-inflation ratio (R/I) measured within 72 hours after intubation. R/I ratio was obtained with a drop in PEEP over a single breath manoeuvre, as previously described [4]. We also assessed airway opening pressure (AOP) by performing a low-flow inflation [5].

Results: Twenty-three patients were included in this study; 18 (78%) were men with a mean±SD age, body mass index, SAPS II and SOFA of respectively 57 ± 13, 29 ± 6 kPa²/m², 45 ± 15 and 9 ± 4 at ICU admission. The majority of them (65%, N = 15) had at least one comorbidity, including hypertension (48%, N = 11), diabetes (22%, N = 5) or immunocompromised status (22%, N = 5). R/I ratio was measured 1 [0.2,5] days after intubation and 14 patients (60.9%) were considered to have recruitable lung (R/I ratio 0.76 [0.51:1.01]) with no difference in baseline characteristics as compared to the 9 patients with a R/I < 0.5. Airway opening pressure was measured in eighteen patients and 4 patients (22.2%) had an AOP > 5 cmH2O (with a median of 6.50 cmH2O), with no significant difference between recruiters and non-recruiters. Overall survival rate was low (43.5%), 57% in the recruiter group (N = 8) and 22% in the non-recruiter group (N = 2), not reaching statistical difference (p = 0.197).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Respiratory parameters within 72 hours of mechanical ventilation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All patients, n=23</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT mL/kg predicted body weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FiO2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2 ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R/I ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as median [interquartile range] or number (percentage) VT tidal volume, R/I ratio recruitment to inflation ratio, AOP airway opening pressure. P-values refer to the comparison between recruiters and non-recruiters.

Conclusion: Of the 23 patients with SARS-CoV2-associated acute respiratory distress syndrome included in this study, a majority (61%) were considered as recruitable according to measured R/I ratio and 22% presented an AOP > 5 cmH2O. Given the large variability of potential for recruitability in our study, R/I ratio and AOP should be assessed to individualize PEEP settings for each patient.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Correspondence: Yi Wan

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000527

000537

ICEBEARDS: Reliability of plateau pressure during assisted mechanical ventilation. A physiological analysis of ventilation tracess from a multicentre prospective study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000537

Introduction: Measuring Plateau Pressure (Pplat) with an inspiratory hold during Pressure Support Ventilation (PSV) usually gives a value higher than the set pressure. This measurement can be used with two important clinical purposes. 1) The difference between Pplat and Peak Pressure can estimate patient’s inspiratory effort (1) 2) Pplat, as in controlled mechanical ventilation (CMV), can be used to compute driving pressure and the respiratory system compliance (Crs) (2). However, an inspiratory hold performed during PSV does not always reveal a reliable Pplat, due to ongoing muscular activity. The parameters defining Pplat as reliable during PSV are not established.

Objectives: To describe the features of a reliable inspiratory hold during PSV. To compare 1) the derived measure of inspiratory effort (Pressure Muscle Index, PMI) with the direct measure of muscular pressure (Pmusc) through esophageal pressure (Peso); 2) Crs measured during PSV and CMV when the two measurements are close enough in time.

Methods: This is an ancillary analysis of pressure and flow curves obtained during a multicenter observational study aimed to describe the incidence of patient ventilator asynchronies in moderate to severe ARDS (BEARDS, NCT03447288). We selected the tracings with an inspiratory hold in PSV and a reliable Peso. We analyzed the features of the readable Pplat and the correlation between 1) Crs measured during CMV and PSV 2) PMI and Pmusc. To be deemed reliable, Pplat had to be flat, flow had to be 0, if inspiratory efforts were detected, Pplat had to be flat before and after the efforts. Univariate analysis was performed through t test for parametric data, Mann Whitney for non-parametric data. Data correlation was verified by Pearson’s.

Results: 91 traces from BEARDS study (11centres, 35patients) met the inclusion criteria. 69/91 holds were deemed reliable (76%), 30/35 (86%) patients had at least one readable hold, according to visual inspection. The duration of the flat part of the hold was 1845 msec (1207-2640). The standard deviation of airway pressure (Paw) during the hold was significantly lower in readable versus non readable holds (1.6 [1.0-2.7] vs 2.1 cmH2O [1.8-4.7], p < 0.005). The time to reach a plateau was lower in readable versus non readable holds (400 [229-850] vs 1740 ms [905-3150], p < < 0.001). Peso swing was significantly lower in readable holds (6.2 ± 4.8 vs 11.4 ± 5.9 cmH2O, p < 0.005). PMI showed a strong correlation with Pmusc(R = 0.79, p < 0.001, Figure 1). In 21 patients, a measurement of Crs in CMV was available, with a strong correlation with Crs measured during PSV (R = 0.71, p < 0.001, Figure 2).

Conclusion: A readable measurement of Pplat could be obtained in most patients during PSV. Readable holds were characterized by low variability of Paw during the hold and by a short time to reach a stable plateau. When patient respiratory effort is vigorous, a reliable plateau might be more difficult to achieve. Pplat might be used to reliably compute Crs and Pmusc during PSV.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)

000554

Correlation between abdominal ultrasound and intraoperative liver biopsy to evaluate organ viability in potential organ donors
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000554

Introduction: Liver biopsy remains the reference standard for diagnosing and quantifying steatosis. Ultrasonography is a widely accessible, cheap, harmless imaging technique for the detection of fatty liver and other relevant chronic liver diseases, but the reported accuracy and reliability have been inconsistent across studies. We aimed to determine whether or not it is a suitable tool to evaluate organ viability in potential liver donors comparing with the gold standard technique.

Objectives: Determine the utility of abdominal ultrasound in organ donors to evaluate the level of hepatic steatosis and other relevant chronic liver diseases as any structural alteration in the organ.

Methods: We studied 226 consecutive donors during three years (January 2017 to December 2019) in an Intensive Care Unit from a tertiary referral hospital. We correlated ultrasound findings with the results from the intraoperative biopsy, so we could establish the consistency between these two diagnostic tests calculated by an inter-rater agreement statistic (Kappa).

Results: Of 226 donors reviewed, 220 (97.3%) had conducted an abdominal ultrasound and 164 (72.6%) had a liver biopsy. 65% were male donors. The mean age of the donors was 60.6 years-old. 73% of evaluated organs were transplanted. 62.4% of ultrasonography operators were junior resident doctors. Agreement between ultrasonography and biopsy to evaluate hepatic steatosis is described in Table 1. We calculated a Cohen’s Kappa coefficient (κ) of 0.19 and a weighted
Kappa coefficient of 0.32. The ultrasonography was also able to detect other relevant, macroscopic findings, like space occupying liver lesions or ischemic lesions.

Table I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ULTRASOUNDOPHY</th>
<th>MILD</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>SEVERE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOPSY</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAPPA</td>
<td>&gt;0.2</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In our study, hepatic steatosis evaluated by abdominal ultrasound presented very low concordance rate with anatomicopathological findings. Abdominal ultrasound results a very helpful tool to evaluate incidental structural injuries, though these could be uncommon findings. The use of newer quantitative ultrasound-based imaging techniques, which also are less operator dependent than traditional ultrasound, could improve the ability of ultrasound to detect and quantify hepatic steatosis and emerge as a solution to our concern.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000564**

Epidemiology and outcome of infective endocarditis in ICU patients: preliminary results of a multi-centre prospective study (EPENDICUS)

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000564**

**Introduction:** Infective endocarditis (IE) is associated with considerable morbidity and mortality despite advances in diagnostic and therapeutical modalities.

**Objectives:** We sought to explore the epidemiology of IE in ICU patients with emphasis on severity, causes, management and outcome.

**Methods:** Preliminary analysis of EPENDICUS study (Epidemiology and outcome of ENDocarditis in ICU patients): a multi-centre prospective epidemiological study on infectious endocarditis in ICU patients. Patients with a diagnosis of IE and ICU admission were included. Data were collected between December 2018 and April 2020. Of the collected data, demographics, comorbidities, community or healthcare-onset, severity assessment on ICU admission, complications, surgical approach and ICU outcome were available for preliminary analysis. Continuous data are reported as median and interquartile range and categorical data as percentages.

**Results:** 73 patients were enrolled from 16 centers; median age 69 (IQR, 59-78), 69% male, 74% had at least one comorbidity, 49% presented valvular disease, 10% had a history of previous endocarditis, 7% were intravenous drug users. Median SAPS and SOFA on ICU admission were 52 (IQR, 45-64) and 9 (IQR, 5.25-11.75), respectively. Sepsis/septic shock and cardiac failure were recorded in 43% and 28% of the patients, respectively. Mechanical ventilation was performed in 67% of the patients. IE was healthcare-associated in 26% cases (63% of them were vascular catheter- or prosthetic device-associated). A native valve was involved in 60% of the cases (aortic in 56%, mitral in 28% of the cases). Embolic complications were observed in 18% of the patients (cerebrovascular in 46% of them). The predominant (52%) pathogens were Staphylococci (Staphylococcus aureus in 61% of them), Enterococcus spp in 16%, Streptococcus spp in 10%. Surgery was performed in 56% patients (emergency/urgent in 33% patients). ICU mortality was 29%.

**Conclusion:** The preliminary descriptive analysis of EPENDICUS showed that IE cases present important severity on ICU admission including sepsis and septic or cardiogenic shock. IE in the ICU setting is associated with comorbidities and underlying valvular disease in the majority of the cases. A considerable number of the cases were healthcare-onset and device-associated while the predominant pathogens were Staphylococci. Surgery was performed in the majority of the patients. Enrollment and further analysis are actually ongoing.

**000660**

Practice of ICP monitoring in acute brain-injured patients: results from the Synapse-ICU study

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000660**

**Introduction:** Increased intracranial pressure (ICP) is one of the major clinical complications of acute brain injuries (ABIs) and it is associated with poor outcome. ICP monitoring (ICPm) is considered the standard of care for the management of patients with intracranial hypertension, even if the procedure is not risk-free, and complications may occur. The indications for ICPm are mostly based on traumatic brain injury (TBI), whereas uncertainties remain for ICPm in non-TBI (subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) and intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH)).

**Objectives:** The main objective of the study is to describe the current practice of ICPm using a worldwide sample. Aim is to quantify practice variations in ICPm in TBI and non-TBI patients.

**Methods:** The SYNAPSE-ICU is an international, prospective, observational, cohort study (NCT03257904) including patients in coma after acute traumatic and non-traumatic brain damage admitted to the ICU. From March 2018 to June 2019, all patients fulfilling the following inclusion criteria were recruited: age > 18 years; ABI due to primary haemorrhagic stroke or TBI; Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) with Eyes score (E) = 1 and Motor score (M) ≤5 at ICU admission or within the first 48 hours. Data regarding the practice of ICPm insertion in both TBI and non-TBI patients was collected.

**Results:** 2504 patients were enrolled in the study (54.3% TBI, 21.7% SAH, 24% ICH), and 1358 (54%) of them received an ICPm during ICU stay (53.6% of TBI, 63.3% of SAH and 47.5% of ICH). The most common reason for ICPm was clinical indication (n = 948, 70.1%), followed by radiology-anatomy of injury (n = 213, 15.7%),
neuroworsening (n = 152, 11.2%), with no significant differences among primary diagnosis. Considering the type of device, in most TBI patients (n = 144, 72.3%) an intraparenchymal catheter was inserted, whereas in SAH and ICH patients DVE was the most frequently used (in n = 179, 53.8% and n = 151, 54.5% of patients, respectively).

In the majority of patients, the catheter was inserted in operating room (61.9%). Alternatively, the insertion was performed in ICU (26.9%) or in emergency department (5.5%). The procedure was performed by neurosurgeons in more than 90% of cases, rarely by intensivists (2.3%) or other medical specialists (0.7%).

The mean length of ICPm was 8.7 days (standard deviation, SD = 16.9) in TBI, 14.6 days (SD = 10.7) in SAH and 10.4 days in ICH patients (SD = 8.6). During ICU stay, the catheter was changed in 366 patients (14.1%) due to fault or break (25.5%), neurosurgery procedures (22.9%), catheter displacement (19.8%) or accidental removal (15.1%), site infection (4.2%) and other reasons (12.5%) including insertion of another device, clinical worsening and hydrocephalus. The catheter has been changed, on average, after 5 days from the insertion.

**Conclusion**: A great variability regarding ICPm practice was observed. The results stress the need of evidence-based recommendation regarding ICPm worldwide.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. The study received an award from the ESCCM and it is inserted in the ESSCM research portfolio.

**000603**

**Sepsis-induced Myopathy features a distinct proteomic and metabolomic signature**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2):000603

**Introduction**: Mechanistic studies of sepsis-induced myopathy are rare because of their complexity, both ethical and practical. Proteomics and metabolomics are high throughput technologies that aim to identify and quantify proteins and metabolites at a large scale. The analysis of protein and pathways that are involved at the cellular level, combined with metabolomic analysis of these pathway intermediates, could unravel innovative therapeutic strategies regarding muscle dysfunction in sepsis.

**Objectives**: We aimed to investigate the sepsis-induced myopathy mechanisms with integrative and cutting-edge technologies.

**Methods**: We conducted a prospective study in three French Intensive Care Units. Muscle biopsies (vastus lateralis or rectus abdominis) were collected from 3 groups of patients: Septic Shock (‘SS’ group, n = 24), Cardiogenic Shock (‘CS’ group, n = 25) and Brain Dead (‘BD’ group, n = 18). The proteins/metabolites were extracted from muscle samples, then analyzed by High-Performance Liquid Chromatography-coupled to tandem Mass Spectrometry. We used enrichment analyses (differential analyses between two groups) to identify the impact of cellular pathways in muscle tissue during septic shock.

**Results**: Characteristics of the patients are detailed in Table 1. Proteomic and metabolomic analyses allowed the identification of 2426 proteins and 259 metabolites respectively. Despite the fact that biopsies were obtained from different muscle groups, proteomic analysis did not show any difference in the proportion of muscle fiber types. Auto-clustering methods (principal component analysis, hierarchical clustering) clearly differentiated the three groups, meaning that SS patients could be well discriminated using the proteomic and metabolomic datasets. Enrichment analysis was performed on the proteomic dataset (Figure 1). Each data point represents a biological pathway in the SS group, taking into account its significance (adjusted p-value, y-axis, logarithmic scale) and its magnitude of change (x-axis) compared to the CS group (Figure 1A) or the BD group (Figure 1B). The dotted line represents the threshold for adjusted p-value significance. The most strongly negatively impacted pathways (adjusted p-value < 0.05) were observed in the SS group: Oxidative phosphorylation; Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation; Citrate cycle; Propanoate metabolism; Butanoate metabolism; and Beta-oxidation. Moreover, numerous key mitochondrial transporters, e.g. proteins that shuttle metabolites across the mitochondrial membranes, were no longer detected in the SS group. In the metabolomic dataset, fatty acid biosynthesis was the only up-regulated pathway in the SS group. Finally, consistent data in the proteomic and metabolomic datasets showed that anti-oxidant mechanisms have been surpassed: we observed increased polyamine depletion and depletion of redox metabolites (metabolomic dataset), decreased glutaredoxin, mitochondrial thioridoxin and peroxiredoxin enzymes (proteomic dataset).

**Conclusion**: Our data provide a detailed and integrated in depth overview of proteins and metabolic analysis, of the pathogenesis of sepsis-induced myopathy in ICU patients. Interestingly, the mitochondrial response is not as impaired in major inflammatory processes without sepsis (brain death) or processes combining inflammation and hypoperafusion without sepsis (cardiogenic shock) as it is during sepsis.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. Institut Pasteur, Paris & Direction de la Recherche Clinique et de l’Innovation, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris

**000607**

**Deregulated expression of the b2-adrenergic receptor in sepsis**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2):000607

**Introduction**: Catecholamine hypo-responsiveness is a hallmark of sepsis, but its pathogenesis remains elusive. The adrenergic pathway, from catecholamine binding to the adrenergic receptor (AR) to the final physiological effect is a multi-step process. Knowledge about protein expression and localisation of different constituents of the
adrenergic signalling in sepsis, including adrenergic receptors themselves, is sparse.

**Objectives:** Using our well-characterised 72 h fluid-resuscitated rat model of faecal peritonitis [1], where accurate prognostication can be made as early as 6 h, we analysed expression and membrane localisation of the b2-AR protein in heart tissue at early (6 h) and late (24 h) timepoints.

**Methods:** Sepsis was induced in male Wistar rats by i.p. injection of faecal slurry under general anaesthesia. The animals were then recovered and i.v. fluid resuscitation was started 2 h after sepsis induction. Sham-operated rats (SH) were treated identically but did not receive the slurry. At 6 h, an echo-measured heart rate cut-off of 460 bpm was used to classify animals into predicted survivors (SR) and non-survivors (NSR). Rats were culled at either 6 h or 24 h with heart tissue collected and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen. To study b2-AR expression, either protein lysates of whole heart tissue or membrane fractions were prepared and analysed by Western Blot with antibodies against b2-AR and PFK or Caveolin 3. Specific signals were analysed in Image Studio Lite 5.2. Results are presented as mean ± SE and considered significant at p < 0.05 (Student’s t-test).

**Results:** The level of expression of b2-AR myocardial protein expression did not change in survivors but declined in non-survivors being significantly lower than survivors at 24 h (Table 1). Representative results of membrane localisation of b2-AR within different membrane fractions are presented in Figure 1. Lipid rafts were observed in only two of the 12 gradient fractions, namely fractions 4 and 5. This was confirmed by cholesterol distribution and caveolin 3 staining. In sham operated animals and in predicted survivors at 24h, b2-AR appeared strongly in fraction 5, associated with the lipid rafts. In predicted non-survivors, b2-AR was not detected in fractions 4 and 5 either at 6h or 24h post-sepsis.

![Figure 1. b2-AR localization within different membrane fractions](image)

**Conclusion:** More severe sepsis, with corresponding poor prognosis, is accompanied by increasing catecholamine hyporesponsiveness. One cause could be a decrease in adrenergic receptor protein expression. Localisation of the b2-AR within lipid rafts is also a prerequisite for their normal functioning. In predicted non-survivors myocardial b2-AR was dissociated from the lipid rafts. Further studies are necessary to identify strategies that restore adrenergic signalling in sepsis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sham</th>
<th>Predicted survivor</th>
<th>Predicted non-survivor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early sepsis (6h)</td>
<td>0.99 ± 0.08</td>
<td>0.91 ± 0.04</td>
<td>0.79 ± 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late sepsis (24h)</td>
<td>1.10 ± 0.15</td>
<td>1.45 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.45 ± 0.06 *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**000684**

**Premorbid functional status as an outcome predictor in intensive care patients aged over 85 years**

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**Introduction:** Poor premorbid functional status (PFS) is associated with a twofold increase in odds of death within 12 months after intensive care unit (ICU) admission in patients aged 80 years or over [1].

**Objectives:** We evaluated the one-year outcome of the oldest old ICU patients (aged 85 years or over) and the impact of PFS on outcome.

**Methods:** We analysed data from the nationwide Finnish Intensive Care Consortium database. We defined good PFS as independence in activities of daily living (ADL) and ability to climb stairs, whereas patients who were dependent on help in ADL or unable to climb stairs were defined as having poor PFS. Using multivariable logistic regression analysis to adjust for differences in admission types and severity of illness, we evaluated the independent impact of PFS on mortality.

**Results:** During the years 2012-2015, 2224 (3.3%) ICU patients were aged 85 years or older. PFS was available for 1431 (64.3%) patients. PFS was good for 47.7% and poor for 52.3%. Hospital mortality was 19.9% for patients with poor PFS, as compared to 13.3% for those with good PFS, p = 0.001. One-year mortality was 47.4% for patients with poor PFS, as compared to 30.1% for those with good PFS, p < 0.001. Poor PFS was associated with increased mortality. For in-hospital death adjusted odds ratio (OR) was 1.35; 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.97-1.88; and for 12 months death OR was 1.85, 95% CI 1.45-2.37. For one-year survivors (n = 1244), data on the type of accommodation and the FSS one year after ICU admission were available for 49.8% and 47.2%, respectively. Of those patients who had lived at home before ICU admission, 84.2% were still living at home one year afterwards. The FSS one year after ICU admission was the same or higher than the premorbid FSS for 69.5% of survivors. The premorbid and one-year FSS are presented in Fig. 1.

**Conclusion:** PFS is strongly associated with long-term outcome in ICU patients aged 85 years or older. For most survivors, functional recovery was favourable.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**000695**

**In which form is cholesterol present in blood?**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000695**
Introduction: Hypocholesterolaemia (HCE) is a well-known hallmark of sepsis, a reliable biomarker of disease severity and a predictor of poor outcome. The pathogenesis of HCE in sepsis however remains elusive. The plasma cholesterol level reflects the balance between synthesis and ingestion versus metabolism. The rapid drop of cholesterol in sepsis onset suggests a leading role for metabolism in the development of HCE.

We postulate that sepsis-induced HCE is part of a big defensive re-organisation of the plasmalemma that includes activation of enzymes participating in membrane remodelling and production of bioactive lipids (phospholipases, sphingomyelinases and b-glucosidases). b-glucosidases transfer a sugar moiety, glucose or galactose, from gluco-sylercamide to cholesterol. The product is glycosylated cholesterol, which differs from cholesterol in its physical and chemical properties, including resistance to cleavage by cholesterol esterase, but is sensitive to alkaline hydrolysis.

Objectives: To study the chemical forms of cholesterol, we analysed cholesterol levels before and after alkaline hydrolysis in blood obtained from septic rats.

Methods: Seven awake instrumented male Wistar rats (300 ± 50g) received an i.p. injection of faecal slurry followed by a i.v. fluid resuscitation in 2 h (1). Blood was collected before sepsis initiation (base line), and at 24 h post-sepsis. Total and free cholesterol were measured by an enzymatic method and Amplex red assay with and without cholesterol esterase. Alkaline hydrolysis was performed with 2N NaOH at 45 °C for 2 h and then neutralised by 10N HCl. Statistical analysis was performed using Student’s t test

Results: Plasma cholesterol dropped markedly (p < 0.05) after 24 hours of sepsis (Table 1). This was more prominent for cholesterol esters (54%) compared to free cholesterol levels (21%). Of note, total cholesterol concentration increased after alkaline hydrolysis and was unchanged after 24 h sepsis.

Table 1. Cholesterol concentration in blood (mg/ml)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before hydrolysis</th>
<th>After hydrolysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total cholesterol</td>
<td>Free cholesterol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>366±45</td>
<td>163±14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis 24h</td>
<td>348±18 (a)</td>
<td>219±13 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>348±18 (a)</td>
<td>219±13 (a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a=p<0.01 compared to corresponded baseline  c=p<0.01 compared total cholesterol before and after hydrolysis

Conclusion: These results suggest that cholesterol is mainly present in blood as neither free cholesterol nor as a cholesterol ester, but rather as a substance that cannot be directly oxidized by cholesterol oxidase (ChO). However, after alkaline hydrolysis, cholesterol could be liberated from this substance and oxidised by ChO. Total cholesterol levels after hydrolysis at baseline and 24 h post-sepsis were similar, however the levels of any form of cholesterol without hydrolysis differed significantly. This suggests that during sepsis the proportion of cholesterol in this form had increased. Further analytical studies, MS analysis and digestion by b-glucosidases are required to identify this form of cholesterol and elucidate the pathogenesis of sepsis-induced hypocholesterolaemia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000715

Ionized Calcium levels predict adverse outcome in patients with acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding: a retrospective study of 1345 patients

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Introduction: Upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) is a common condition associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Previous studies in trauma patients have shown low ionized calcium occur around the time of sampling, rapidly altering the ‘true’ status of the blood.

Objectives: To determine whether mathematically calculated “arterial” venous values (1) represent a more stable measure of arterial blood during rapid, transient, changes in ventilation.

Methods: 14 patients without cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses scheduled for elective surgery were studied. Following anaesthesia and before the start of the surgery, ventilator settings were altered to achieve + 100% or − 60% change in alveolar ventilation (‘over-’ or ‘under-ventilation’), thus simulating a transient change in ventilation. Blood samples were drawn simultaneously from indwelling arterial and peripheral venous catheters at baseline and every 15s for 1min following the ventilatory change. Venous values were used to calculate arterial equivalents of base-acid status, using the mathematical arterialisation method (1).

Results: Figure 1 illustrates measured arterial and calculated arterialized values, shown as changes from baseline for pH and PCO2, for over- and underventilation. Arterial blood changes rapidly within the first 15 - 30s with arterialized values remaining relatively constant until 45s.

Conclusion: In situations prompting transient changes in ventilation, viz. anxiety in the emergency department or spontaneous breathing with assisted ventilation, mathematically arterialized venous values may provide a more stable value of arterial acid-base status closer to baseline values, prior to the transient change in ventilation.
(Ca++) levels to be associated with an increased need for transfusion of blood products and adverse outcome in this population. **Objectives:** We hypothesized that admission Ca++ levels could predict the need for blood transfusion and surgical/angiographic intervention in patients with UGIB. **Methods:** We conducted a population-based retrospective cohort study, using the data of patients admitted to Rambam Medical center, Haifa, Israel due to UGIB for whom Ca++ was measured within 24 hours before or after the endoscopy and before administration of blood transfusion. Patients on anticoagulants, with known varices or chronic liver disease were excluded as these cause complex alterations in coagulation and hemostasis. The primary outcome of this study was a composite of transfusion of two or more packed red blood cells (PC) or a need for urgent surgical or angiographic intervention during the index admission. Secondary outcomes included individual components of the composite outcome. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to determine whether Ca++ was an independent predictor of these outcomes. **Results:** A total of 1345 patients were included in the final analysis. Hypocalcemia (Ca++ < 1.16) was recorded in 604 (45%) patients and 88 (7%) had Ca++ below 1 mmol/L. The rates of composite adverse outcome were significantly higher in the low Ca++ group, 14.4% vs. 5.1%, p < 0.001. In addition, multiple transfusions (9.9% vs. 2.3%, p < 0.001), need for surgical/angiographic interventions (5.3% vs. 2.8%, p = 0.05) and mortality (33.3% vs. 24.7%, p < 0.001) were significantly increased in the hypocalcemia group. Multivariable logistic regression analysis identified Ca++ < 1.16 as an independent predictor of the primary and secondary adverse outcomes. Ca++ performed better than modified Glasgow Blatchford score in predicting the need for multiple PC transfusion (AUC 0.72 95% CI 0.69-0.74 vs. AUC 0.55 95% CI 0.53-0.58, p = 0.001). There was a trend towards a better performance of Ca++ measurements on the composite adverse outcome (AUC 0.66 95% CI 0.63-0.69 vs. AUC 0.58 95% CI 0.56-0.61, p = 0.07).

**Conclusion:** Low calcium in patients with UGIB is common and associated with an increased requirement of PC transfusion and need for surgical or angiographic interventions. Admission calcium levels may facilitate the rapid identification of high-risk patients with UGIB. As Ca++ plays a key role in the coagulation cascade, coagulopathy may occur as Ca++ levels drop. In addition, low cardiac contractility and reduced systemic vascular resistance also occur when calcium levels drop. Correcting hypocalcemia may serve as an additional goal in the treatment of the bleeding patient. Further studies should evaluate the impact of correcting hypocalcemia on UGIB patients’ outcome. Until definitive studies are available, clinicians should consider monitoring Ca++ levels and maintaining it within the normal range in patients with UGIB.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000724**

**Effects and complications of neostigmine for acute colonic ileus in critical care patients**

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**Introduction:** Neostigmine is used to treat critical illness related colonic ileus in the intensive care unit (ICU). Data on the effectiveness and possible complications of intravenous administration of neostigmine in critically ill patients are scarce. Specifically data concerning patients with recent intestinal anastomosis are lacking.

**Objectives:** The primary objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of neostigmine treatment on passing stool. The secondary objective was to assess the rate of hemodynamic and abdominal complications of neostigmine treatment in critically ill patients.

**Methods:** In this single-centre retrospective cohort study, all consecutive patients treated with neostigmine on the ICU of the OLVG hospital (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) between 2007 and 2019 were included. The primary outcome was the effectiveness of neostigmine treatment defined as the percentage of patients with ≥ 100 ml stool, 6 and 24 hours after the start of neostigmine. The secondary outcome was the rate of complications, such as Bradycardia and abdominal complications. Bradycardia was defined as heart rate < 50/min and/or the use of atropine after administration of neostigmine. Abdominal complications such as bowel perforation and anastomotic leakage were assessed by automatic database extraction and consequently manually reviewing all relevant patient files. We studied the incidence of abdominal complications between patients with- and without a recent (within 10 days) intestinal anastomosis.

**Results:** Between 2007 and 2019 a total of 1008 patients were treated with neostigmine. 71% of these patients were male, mean age was 66 years (SD 13), mean SOFA score 10 (SD 3.8), mean APACHE IV 0.4 (SD 0.3). In 414 patients (41%) ≥ 100 ml stool was passed after 6 hours, and in 784 patients (79%) after 24 hours. Bradycardia was seen in 58 patients (6%) and atropine was administered to 15 patients (1.5%). A total of 148 patients (15%) had abdominal surgery within 10 days prior to neostigmine treatment. Forty-nine (5%) of them had an intestinal anastomosis. Twelve of these 49 patients (24.5%) developed an abdominal complication requiring surgery during their treatment on the ICU. In eleven patients an anastomotic leakage was found, and one patient experienced a spontaneous perforation of an diverticula. In 1.65% of patients (13 out of 784) without recent abdominal surgery a spontaneous perforation or bowel ischemia requiring a surgical intervention was observed after neostigmine treatment. In the patients who underwent recent abdominal surgery without an intestinal anastomosis, 7% developed an abdominal complication.

**Conclusion:** Neostigmine seems to be an effective treatment to resolve acute colonic ileus in critically ill patients. Bradycardia requiring atropine was observed rarely. However, in 24.5% of patients with recent abdominal surgery with an intestinal anastomosis treated with neostigmine anastomotic leakage or diverticular perforation was observed.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. Ponec et al. NEJM 1999 Neostigmine for the treatment of acute colonic pseudo obstruction
External validation of a Gaussian Process model for the prediction of elevated intracranial pressure on the Center-TBI dataset

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Introduction: Intracranial pressure (ICP) is continuously monitored in patients with severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Güiza et al. [1] developed a prediction model able to predict elevated ICP (defined as ICP > 30 mmHg for more than 10 minutes) with useful forecasting. The model, which was developed on the Brain-IT database [2], presented good calibration (Cox calibration slope 1.02, calibration–in–the–large = −0.02) and good discrimination (AUC = 0.87). It is good practice to periodically validate the performance of a prediction model on new and preferably external databases. First, it is important to assess whether the performance of the model has deteriorated as a result of the changes in the clinical practice that followed the new Brain Trauma Foundation guidelines for TBI of 2007 and 2016. Second, external validation allows to assess the model generalizability capacities. In this study, we validated the prediction model developed by Güiza et al. [1] on the Collaborative European NeuroTrauma Effectiveness Research in Traumatic Brain Injury (CENTER-TBI) dataset [3]. This validation follows a previous external validation performed on data prior to 2013 [4].

Methods: The external validation included 257 patients with continuous ICP and mean arterial blood pressure signals. Patients were prospectively recruited between January 2015 and December 2017 as part of the Center-TBI dataset. In accordance with the original publication [1], the performance of the model was quantified in terms of Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC) and calibration. Discrimination curve analysis was additionally performed to quantify the clinical utility of the model.

Results: On the external validation dataset, the model was still able to predict future episodes of elevated intracranial pressure with good calibration (Cox calibration slope 1.22, calibration–in–the–large = −0.04, see panel A) of Fig.1) and discrimination (AUC = 0.93). The discrimination curve showed clinical usefulness for almost all risk thresholds (respectively from 4% to 96%), as shown in panel B) of Fig. 1.

Conclusion: These results demonstrate the robustness of the prediction model for elevated ICP developed by Güiza et al. [1]. The model shows good calibration and good discrimination even when evaluated on an external multi-center dataset collected 10 years later than the original development cohort. Future intervention studies are required to assess the impact of this model on patient outcome when used in clinical practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Microcirculation alterations in severe COVID-19 pneumonia

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Introduction: Microvascular thrombosis has recently been diagnosed in patients with COVID-19, and it has been proposed to mediate the pathogenesis of organ injury in this disease. While widespread pulmonary microvascular thrombosis was demonstrated, reports about the compromise of extrapulmonary microvessels are controversial.

Objectives: To evaluate the characteristics of sublingual microcirculation and skin perfusion in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) secondary to COVID-19.

Methods: We prospectively included 27 patients with diagnosis of ARDS secondary to COVID-19 (positive PCR testing of nasopharyngeal or tracheal samples), from 4 intensive care units in Argentina. All patients were intubated and mechanically ventilated, received infusions of midazolam, fentanyl and atracurium, and anticoagulant prophylaxis from their hospital admission. Blood pressure, heart rate and norepinephrine infusion remained unchanged for 3 h before the measurements. Sublingual microcirculation was assessed by means of hand-held videomicroscopy and software-assisted analysis (1). The respective institutional review board approved this study and waived patient informed consent.

We present continuous variables as median (IQR) or mean (SD), and categorical variables as numbers (%).

Results: PaO₂/FiO₂ was 122 ± 43, and APACHE II and SOFA score were 12 [9-17] and 6 [3-8]. Norepinephrine (0.03 [0.01-0.17] μg/kg/min) was required in 12 patients (44%). D-dimer was elevated (1.30 [0.58-2.93] μg/mL). Median plasma lactate was normal (1.8 [1.6-2.5] mmol/L). Capillary refill time was prolonged (3.5 [3.0-5.0] s). Compared to reported normal values (1), total and perfused vascular density and heterogeneity flow index were high, and the proportion of perfused vessels, microvascular flow index, and red blood cell velocity were reduced (Table 1). The proportion of perfused vessels was inversely correlated with total vascular density (Pearson r = -0.41, P = 0.03).
### Sublingual microcirculatory variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total vascular density, mm/mm²</td>
<td>21.9±3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfusion vascular density, mm/mm²</td>
<td>21.0±3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of perfused vessels</td>
<td>0.96±0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microvascular flow index</td>
<td>2.79±0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red blood cell velocity, µm/s</td>
<td>112±161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterogeneity index</td>
<td>0.91±0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conclusion

Although most patients were hemodynamically stable, they had alterations in sublingual microvascular flow and capillary refill time. Microcirculatory abnormalities consisted in an increased number of unperfused vessels. Although these changes seem minor, compared to those described in septic shock, they represent a several time increase from normal values. In addition, heterogeneity was severely augmented and flow velocity was reduced. These abnormalities might contribute to the development of multiple organ failure. The most striking result was the increase in vascular densities, a finding that might be related to enhanced angiogenesis or hypoxia-induced capillary recruitment. The association of microthrombosis and increased angiogenesis has been found in COVID-19 and in other conditions. In summary, patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia showed subtle but consistent alterations in sublingual microcirculation and skin perfusion.

### Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

9. This work was funded by projects PI16/01606, integrated in the Plan Nacional de R + D + I and co-funded by the ISCIII- Subdirección General de Evaluación y el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER). RTC-2017-6193-1 (AEI/FEDER). CIBER Enfermedades Respiratorias, and Fundación Parc Taulí.

000775
The mechanical power before and after initiation of VV-ECMO; the importance of correct calculations
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000775

Introduction: Ventilator induced lung injury (VILI) is associated with the amount of energy the ventilator transfers to the patient, which is called the mechanical power (MP) [1]. In a previous study, Schmidt et al. demonstrated that veno-venous extra corporal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO) can reduce the amount of energy transferred to the lungs to maintain adequate oxygenation and ventilation [2]. However, they used a formula developed for volume controlled ventilation (VCV) [1], whereas 40% of the population was ventilated with a pressure controlled mode (PCV) before start of VV-ECMO. This percentage was even a greater after the start of ECMO.

It is of utmost importance to use the right methods to calculate the MP. Using the formula for VCVon patients ventilated with PCV will lead to a systemic bias in which the MP will be underestimated.

Objectives: To describe the change of MP before and after initiation of ECMO using the correct calculations and to demonstrate the systemic bias when using the wrong calculations.

Methods: We performed a retrospective cohort study in all patients admitted to the adult ICU of the LUMC on VV-ECMO for respiratory indications between 2011 and 2020. We calculated the mean MP during 6 hours pre ECMO and 6 hours after initiation of ECMO with a pause of ca. 2 hours after placing the patient on ECMO. Mechanical power was calculated with the formula MP-PCV = 0.098 * RR * Vt * (PEEP + ΔPinsp) * (1 – e^(ΔPinsp/R*Rc)) [as described by van der Meijden et al. [3]]. We also calculated the MP in all patients using the formula described by Gattinoni et al. [1] MP-VCV = 0.098 * RR * Vt * Ppeak − 0.5 * ΔPinsp which is suitable for VCV and used by Schmidt et al. on all patients.

All patients were ventilated with an Evita -XL (Dräger, Lubeck, Germany) or Hamilton 6 ventilator (Hamilton Medical, Bonaduz, Switzerland). Statistics were done with SPSS 25 (Armonk, NY: IBM Corp).

Results: See Table 1. for the population characteristics. The mechanical power before ECMO was 34.5 J/min (sd 13.4), after start of ECMO the mean MP was 6.8 J/min (sd 4.0). When calculated with the VCV method the MP was 27.2 J/min (sd 11.1) before and 5.3 J/min (sd 3.0) after ECMO. Ventilator settings and gas exchange parameters are shown in table 2. The mean difference of the MP before ECMO between the two calculations was 7.3 J/min and after ECMO 1.5 J/min.

Table 1. population characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of patients</th>
<th>40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (sd)</td>
<td>51 (15.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender - Male / female</td>
<td>77.5% / 22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECMO indication - ARDS</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bacterial pneumonia</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Asthma / COPD / other</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean RESP score (sd)</td>
<td>1.3 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECMO survival</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU survival</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital survival</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before ECMO; mean (sd)</th>
<th>After ECMO; mean (sd)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP-PCV (J/min)</td>
<td>34.5 (13.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong calculation: MP-VCV (J/min)</td>
<td>27.2 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean difference MP-PCV and MP-VCV</td>
<td>7.3 (4.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage MP-VCV lower than MP-PCV</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.20 (0.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pCO2 (kPa)</td>
<td>9.1 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pO2 (kPa)</td>
<td>10.8 (6.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEP (cmH2O)</td>
<td>13.4 (5.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before ECMO; mean (sd)</td>
<td>After ECMO; mean (sd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ppeak (cmH2O)</td>
<td>33.8 (5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR (/min)</td>
<td>29.6 (5.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vt (L)</td>
<td>0.395 (0.103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fio2 (%)</td>
<td>82.9 (17.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: VV-ECMO lowers the mechanical power while maintaining adequate oxygenation and ventilation reducing the MP with 80%. The MP calculation with the wrong formula underestimated the MP by more than 20% in this study. This study underlines that it is mandatory to use the correct methods to calculate the MP.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)
Tracheal and Enteral Aspirate pH Study: The beginning of the end to pH testing for confirmation of enteral tube placement?

Introduction: Delivering enteral feed or medications through an enteral feeding tube placed into the lungs causes major morbidity. (1) To prevent this from occurring an accurate means of assessing enteral tube placement is essential. In the UK, the National guidelines for assessment the of enteral feeding tube position includes the measure-ment of gastric aspirate pH ( < 5.5) and assessment of tube placement using x-ray if indeterminate. (1) However there is little evidence to support this as a safe approach in critically ill patients. (2,3)

Methods: Simultaneous pH measurements were taken for aspirates obtained from the NG tube, subglottic port and tracheal samples in 106 ventilated patients from June - November 2019 at a university-affiliated, tertiary hospital. The pH from the tracheal samples was obtained and recorded once per nursing shift and electronically entered. Any sample taken as a non-directed bronchial lavage (NBL) also had the pH recorded. Baseline demographic data, relative time of NBL to sampling, and presence of medications used to suppress gastric acid production were recorded. Patient's notes were reviewed by the authors for history or suspicion of aspiration, and documented episodes of emesis. Institutional approval was given for this work. Statistical plan: The distribution of pH from each site was described using descriptive statistics. Specific note was made of any instances of pH < 5.5. Spearman’s correlation was performed between subglottic and tracheal aspirate data.

Results: Data were included for 106 patients. Demographics include: mean age of 58.9 years, 78.3% referred from a medical speciality, average APACHE II score 14.6, average SOFA score 7.2, and 28.9% mor-tality rate overall. Analysis of all aspirates collected demonstrated a significant proportion within both subglottic and sputum aspirates of a pH < 5.5, 5.3% and 6.3% respectively, see Table 1. Fifteen patients accounted for the 27 acidic subglottic aspirates and four patients for the 7 sputum aspirates. Of note, there was a large proportion of NG aspirates with a pH > 5.5, 70.8%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean pH</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Median pH</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Lower Range pH</th>
<th>Upper Range pH</th>
<th>No. pH &lt; 5.5</th>
<th>Percentage pH &lt;5.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: From this study we have demonstrated a large number of acidic samples outside of the gastrointestinal tract, 5.3% subglottic and 6.3% sputum, with a simultaneously high proportion of aspects from the gastrointestinal tract not being acidic (70.8%). Given that the pH in tracheal and subglottic examples was strongly correlated, it is possible that the acidic pH in the airway was due to micro-aspiration past the cuff of the endotracheal tube. (4,5) This raises the possibility that any patient with significant glottic dysfunction and either macro- or micro-aspiration may have a an acidic tracheal pH and raises doubts about the validity of pH testing as a means of confirmation of correct placement of an enteral feeding tube in this population. The elevated pH in the gastric samples is to be likely due to the use of protein pump inhibitors as a medication for stress ulcer prophylaxis in the critically ill patient cohort.

Table 1. Summary of data points collected from subglottic, nasogastric and sputum aspirates

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. 5. This study was approved by Critical Care Clinical Governance of Guy’s and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust. No other external funding was provided.

Ventilatory Ratio: a useful prognostic tool for ARDS due to SARS-CoV-2

Introduction: Increased dead space, as a reflection of global lung injury, is an independent predictor of mortality in both the early and intermediate stages of Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) (1). Ventilatory ratio (VR) is a bedside index of impaired ventila-tory efficiency with significant association with dead space and outcome in ARDS (2). Severe Adult Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) disease partly differs from traditional ARDS; high dead space fraction may be a specific pathophysiological characteristic (3).

Objectives: To describe VR, its trend and association with mortality in a cohort of SARS-CoV-2 patients.

Methods: A cohort of consecutive patients affected by SARS-CoV-2 admitted to Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital ICU (Bergamo) from February 22th to March 22th and requiring invasive mechanical ventilation was retrospectively analysed. VR, defined as [minute ventilation (ml/min)]/PaCO2 (mmHg)[predicted body weight *100 (ml/min)/37.5 (mmHg)], was calculated within 48 hours since intubation. Patients were divided into two groups, low VR (< 2) and high VR (≥ 2) (2). Demographics, ventilatory parameters (Mann Whitney test) and 28-day mortality (Fisher’s exact test) were compared between the two groups.
Results: 86 of the 115 patients enrolled had a baseline VR, with a mean value of 2.05 (±0.59). VR remained high over the first 15 day of ICU admission (mean value always ≥ 2, Figure 1). Low VR group included 45 patients with mean VR 1.58 (±0.34); high VR group included 41 patients with mean VR 2.53 (±0.40). The groups were similar for age, SOFA-score, baselines ventilatory setting and gas exchange (Table 1). High VR was associated with significantly increased 28-day mortality (odds ratio 2.83, 95% CI 1.08-7.39, \( p = 0.03 \)). Comparing survivors and non-survivors median VR was respectively 1.87 (1.55-2.35) versus 2.22 (1.72-2.71) (\( p < 0.05 \)).

Conclusion: Patients with baseline VR ≥ 2 had significantly higher 28-day mortality in ARDS due to SARS-CoV-2; VR could be a useful prognostic tool.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000814
SARS-CoV-2 is not a uniquely diabetogenic virus: insulin requirements in COVID-19 are similar to other viral pneumonias and resolve in convalescence
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Correspondence: S. Lockhart
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000814

Introduction: Anecdotal evidence suggests COVID-19 may be associated with severe insulin resistance in critical care. Indeed, a group of leading diabetologists have recently established a COVID-19 Diabetes Registry to catalogue cases of new onset diabetes and severe insulin resistance associated with COVID-19, positising that COVID-19 may be a uniquely diabetogenic virus. However, to date there has been no longitudinal evaluation of insulin requirements in critically ill patients with COVID-19 and there is no evidence to suggest these observations represent anything other than stress hyperglycaemia.

Methods: To address this, we conducted a retrospective observational study of contemporaneous electronic medical records of insulin requirements and glycaemia in patients admitted to our intensive care unit (ICU) with COVID-19 in March and April 2020.

Results: 54 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to our unit for > 24 hours during the study period and included in the analysis. We reasoned that the high insulin requirements observed in COVID-19 may represent the high prevalence of severe illness. To test this, we analysed insulin requirements according to interventions employed to treat respiratory failure, namely mechanical ventilation, neuromuscular blockade, nebulised epoprostenol and proning. Increased insulin requirements (units/day) and worsening glycaemia were clearly associated with severity of illness as indicated by intensity of salvage therapies required for respiratory failure (\( P < 0.01 \) for all, ordinal regression). In a multivariate model adjusted for age and sex, being proned during ICU admission and premorbid Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, but not steroid exposure or obesity, were independently associated with insulin requirements. To determine if COVID-19 had unique effects on glucose metabolism we compared insulin requirements and glycaemia in COVID-19 to a cohort of non-viral pneumonitis patients admitted to our ICU between 2018 and 2020, matched for age, sex, BMI and diabetes status. Insulin requirements (Mean Insulin Dose (Units/day), COVID-19: 19.8 ± 8.3, Non-COVID-19: 24.8 ± 11.2, \( P = NS, N = 17 \) per group) and glycaemic control (Time in range 4-10mmol/L (%), COVID-19: 81.2 ± 26.2, Non-COVID-19: 82.1 ± 20.9, \( P = NS, N = 17 \) per group) were comparable between groups (Figure 1). Finally, we examined the short term metabolic sequelae of COVID-19 by looking at anti-hyperglycaemic use in 31 patients discharged from our hospital after their ICU admission for COVID-19. All patients who were commenced on insulin in ICU had insulin successfully withdrawn and there was no new initiation of oral anti-hyperglycaemic agents in this cohort.

Conclusion: Insulin requirements in severe COVID-19 are positively associated with severity of respiratory failure and pre-existing diabetes. They are comparable to those seen in non-COVID-19 viral pneumonitis and resolve in convalescence. We did not find evidence to support the emerging hypothesis that SARS-CoV-2 is a uniquely diabetogenic virus.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. SL is supported by an Academic Clinical Fellowship from the National Institute of Health Research.
2. ACM is supported by a Wellcome Trust grant (WT 2055214/Z/16/Z)

Table 1. Baseline characteristics in the two groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VR≥2 (n=45)</th>
<th>VR&lt;2 (n=41)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>57(51-66)</td>
<td>54(55-69)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score</td>
<td>6(4-8)</td>
<td>7(6-9)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Pressure</td>
<td>11(10-13)</td>
<td>13(11-15)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEP</td>
<td>35(13-36)</td>
<td>35(14-17)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance</td>
<td>11(13-36)</td>
<td>11(12-46)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FIO2</td>
<td>87(58-105)</td>
<td>86(76-135)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

000814
SARS-CoV-2 is not a uniquely diabetogenic virus: insulin requirements in COVID-19 are similar to other viral pneumonias and resolve in convalescence
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000814
A reduction in skin blood flow during vigorous diuretic therapy is associated to the development of acute kidney injury in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome

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Introduction: Diuretic therapy to obtain a negative fluid balance is often used in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) but its aggressive application can result in decreased renal perfusion and kidney injury (AKI). Since skin blood flow (SBF) is highly sensitive to a reduction in blood flow, we hypothesized that a reduction in SBF during tan attempt to decrease fluid balance could be associated with the development of AKI.

Methods: We included hemodynamically stable (mean arterial pressure (MAP) ≥ 65 mmHg) without an increase in norepinephrine (NE) dose in the least 6 hours at least) ARDS patients (Berlin criteria) in which intravenous furosemide administration was used in order to reach a negative fluid balance. Patients with AKI at baseline were excluded. SBF (Perflux 5000, Perimed; index finger; Perfusion unit: PU) together with hemodynamic variables, the ratio of arterial oxygen partial pressure to fractional inspired oxygen (PaO2/FiO2), central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO2) and blood lactate concentrations were obtained at baseline (T0) and after 24 hours (T24). Relative changes in SBF during first 24 hours (ΔSBF24) was recorded. Patients were separated by the occurrence of acute kidney injury (AKI) ([AKIN criteria) within 7 days after T0. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were constructed and reported as areas under the curve (AUC) with 95% confidence intervals to predict AKI.

Results: Of the 36 ARDS patients (pneumonia (26), abdominal infection (8), pancreatitis (2)) we studied, 14 developed AKI (12 stage 3 and 2 stage 1). A strategy to achieve a negative fluid balance was initiated 73 (50-96) hours after ARDS diagnosis. At baseline, there were no significant difference between patients with and without AKI in SOFA score (8 (6-11) vs 11 (7-12), p = 0.2), PaO2/FiO2 (p = 0.5), MAP (p = 0.9), cardiac index (p = 0.4), lactate concentration (p = 0.1), ScvO2 (p = 0.3) and SBF (p = 0.1) (Table 1). At T24, lactate concentration increased and SBF decreased in both groups. However, ΔSBF24% was greater in patients who developed AKI than in those who did not (Table 1). ΔSBF24% had the highest AUROC (0.90 ± 0.06 [0.76-0.1]) (p < 0.01) to predict the occurrence of AKI, with a cut off value of 45% (sensitivity 74%, specificity 89%) (Figure 1)

Conclusion: Monitoring of SBF can be valuable to decrease the risk of AKI during a negative fluid balance strategy for ARDS.

Compliance of critical care randomised controlled trials with the CONSORT statement: A Systematic Review

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000883

Introduction: Randomised controlled trials represent the cornerstone of modern evidence-based medicine [1]. There is increasing interest in the reporting of randomized controlled trials to ensure that research is transparently described [2]. Currently, the quality of reporting within the critical care literature is unclear.

Methods: A systematic search was undertaken to identify all randomized controlled trials published within the four highest impact factor critical care journals between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2016. Randomised controlled trials involving children were excluded.

Two researchers independently selected articles and marked them comparing groups for primary/secondary outcomes (99.4%). The three worst reported items were any changes to commencement with reasons (11.2%) and where the full trial protocol is if available (17.6%). There was an improvement in reporting over time, blinded trials had better reporting than unblinded trials, and trials with a trial registration had higher compliance.

Table 1 Hemodynamic variables, lactate concentration, SBF and ScvO2% before (T0) and after the negative fluid balance strategy (T24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>All patients (N=36)</th>
<th>No AKI (N=22)</th>
<th>AKI (N=14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAP (mmHg)</td>
<td>70 (60-72)</td>
<td>70 (60-72)</td>
<td>70 (60-72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac index (L/min/m²)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.5-3.3)</td>
<td>2.9 (2.5-3.3)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.7-3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noepepinephrine dose (µg/kg/min)</td>
<td>0.2 (0.1-0.3)</td>
<td>0.1 (0.1-0.2)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.5-0.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2</td>
<td>163 (123-269)</td>
<td>164 (134-234)</td>
<td>166 (126-197)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactate level (mmol/L)</td>
<td>2.2 (1.5-3.1)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.0-1.8)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.1-3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScvO2 (%)</td>
<td>71 (59-75)</td>
<td>72 (71-72)</td>
<td>72 (57-67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBF (PU)</td>
<td>120 (62-167)</td>
<td>64 (106)</td>
<td>133 (87-192)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScvO2-AUC</td>
<td>38 (18-57)</td>
<td>21 (11-50)</td>
<td>51 (34-64)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion: Randomised controlled trials in critical care journals are typically well reported but some clear weaknesses should be addressed. These include location of a full protocol and a detailed description of any changes to the study after commencement.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000884
Clinical characteristics and outcomes of COVID19 patients admitted in Catalan ICUs (UCIsCAT study group)
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Introduction: COVID19 pandemic and the consequent surge of patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure has been challenging for intensive care departments around the globe.

Objectives: To describe the main clinical characteristics and ICU outcomes in a cohort of adult patients with severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure due to COVID19 admitted between 15 March and 15 April in the ICU Catalan network.

Methods: Consecutive patients admitted between 15 March and 15 April in 26 ICUs, who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (RT-PCR in a naso-pharyngeal swab) and had severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure (need of at least 10 L/min oxygen flow to keep an oxygen arterial saturation >90%, and presenting with bilateral infiltrates in the chest X-ray). Demographic and relevant clinical and physiological data were collected within the first 24h of ICU admission. Follow-up time was till ICU discharge. Study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the the coordinating center (Hospital Universitari de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau).

Results: A total of 1704 patients (1187 men and 517 women) were admitted. Median age was 63 yr (IQR 54-70) and median BMI was 28 kg/m2 (IQR 26-32). Most frequent comorbidities were cardiovascular conditions (n = 480), diabetes (n = 280), cancer/immunosupression (n = 74) and COPD (n = 31). ICU mortality was 505/1704 (29.6%). Among patients who required invasive mechanical ventilation (82% of the cohort), ICU mortality was 35% (491/1388). ICU mortality very much differed between patients up to 60 yr (n = 705) and older than 60 yr (n = 999): 12.8% (90/705) and 41.5% (415/999) respectively, p < 0.001. The median length of ICU stay was 13 days (IQR 7-25).

Conclusion: COVID19 severe hypoxemic respiratory failure mainly affects men, the vast majority will require invasive mechanical ventilation for a long period of time and the overall mortality is substantial. People older than 60 yr have a dismal prognosis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000887
Stress level assessment among healthcare workers involved in the management of critically ill COVID-19 patients, A cross sectional study. COVID Scream (Stress in Critical care health workers Assessment Model)
T. Aisa1; J. Thomas2; D. Divinye3; H. Afify4; M. Abdelbaky5; N. Al Qadheeb4; M. Yasawy1; M. Mahmoud3; B. Elgammal1; A. Sherif2; A. Ahmad9

Objectives: We aimed to determine the prevalence of stress among HCWs involved in the management of critically ill COVID-19 patients, identify the risk factors associated with stress, and highlight the availability of psychological support provided to HCWs and its effectiveness.

Methods: A cross sectional multicenter, international study using a web-based questionnaire of 27 questions including the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) for assessment of stress level. Questions to identify the risk factors for stress and the psychological support provided by each health care facility in addition to the socio-demographic characteristics were included.
Results: We received a total 1501 response from 59 countries, 526 (35%) were from Europe, 432 (28.7%) from Asia, 283 (18.85%) from Africa and 159 (10.59%) from North America. A total of 657 (43.95%) were senior doctors, 455 (30.43%) were nurses, 278 (18.60%) were junior doctors and 105 (7.04%) others (clinical pharmacists, physiotherapists and respiratory therapists). Most responders were male 844 (56.22%). The overall average stress level was 22 points on the PSS denoting moderate stress, while 508 (33.36%) respondents had a severe level of stress, 788 (51.87%) respondents had moderate level of stress and only 223 (14.61%) had mild stress.

Fear of infection was the major concern for more than 80% of all the respondents, where 717 (58.5%) reported that fear of getting infected with COVID-19 increased their stress level while 290 (23.67%) reported that the fear of transmitting the infection to their families was the main cause of their stress. Other contributing factors to stress were, the increased duty hours, the increased work load and shortage of staff as reported by 89 (7.26%) while the lack of (personal protective equipments) PPEs accounted for stress in 68 (5.63%) respondents. Social media and triaging COVID patients were the least causes of staff stress as quoted by 39 (3.1%) and 38 (3.1%) respectively.

Although 805 (53.67%) of respondents reported receiving psychological support from their facility, 689 (45.93%) reported not receiving any support. 302 (26.24%) received psychiatric counselling, 613 (53.26%) received phone calls and motivational emails/messages, 515 (44.74%) received phone calls for psychological support from their facility, 428 (37.19%) reported active listening to their concerns, 208 (18.07%) received psychological support from the community in the form of positive words and applauses. 444 (38.61%) reported the psychological support was somewhat effective, 371 (32.26%) said that it was very effective while 335 (29.19%) said that it was not effective at all. 829 (55.45%) tried some ways to decrease their stress like religious services, anxyolytics, exercise and watching movies. 39 (3.1%) reported the psychological support from the community in the form of positive words and applauses. 444 (38.61%) reported the psychological support was somewhat effective, 371 (32.26%) said that it was very effective while 335 (29.19%) said that it was not effective at all.

Conclusion: Stress level was rated to be moderate to severe among intensive care HCWs during this pandemic, many risk factors were identified emphasizing the importance of psychological support during that unprecedented pandemic and adjusting different ways for mitigating such stress.

The Presence of Psychological Safety Within the Intensive Care Environment: A Qualitative Interview and Questionnaire Study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000893

Introduction: Psychological safety is defined as an environment “safe for interpersonal risk taking” (1). It allows staff to voice concerns without fear of negative repercussions. This can reduce clinical error, lead to workplace innovation and enhance staff wellbeing (2). The importance of psychological safety has led to the study of its antecedents across many sectors (2-4). This understanding needs to be built upon, focusing on the specific needs of each workplace.

Objectives: Our study had 3 objectives:
1. How psychologically safe is our intensive care (ICU) workforce?
2. How does context influence psychological safety?
3. Are there any negative consequences of psychological safety?

Methods: Participants were recruited from the multidisciplinary teams of 3 ICU’s within Imperial College NHS Trust. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, exploring attitudes towards psychological safety. Quantitative data were collected in the form of verbal agreement with 7 statements (1) and the completion of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) (5). Qualitative audio files were transcribed and analysed within NVIVO software using a thematic analysis approach. Quantitative data were analysed using Microsoft Excel & Graph Pad Prism.

Results: Interviews, verbal surveys and SAQs were completed by 30 participants. 28 were in agreement that it was easy to ask for help, with
Conclusion: Our study demonstrates reassuring levels of psychological safety within our sample of ICU staff. It also highlighted room for improvement – 1/3 felt at risk of repercussions after speaking up. We have created a model demonstrating how the context of each clinical scenario can influence psychological safety, and how this varies across different levels within the organisation. This allows leaders to identify contexts that can be modified in order to promote psychological safety.

Understanding the negative consequences of psychological safety and when they occur is important – if a clinician’s bandwidth is over-loaded this can have implications both for employee well-being and patient safety. Team leaders can use this data to help foster a culture of openness whilst minimising the risk of negative implications.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Supported by an educational grant from Bupa Cromwell Hospital, U.K.

000909 Retrospective analysis of data collection of ventilator settings and ventilator-derived parameters with comparison of autonomous computer led data recording and nurse led paper flow sheet recording in Intensive Care

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000909

Introduction: Increased use of technology in Intensive Care Medicine has become integral to the specialty over the last 50 years (1). This, accompanied by advances in medical practice, has led to larger quantities of data amongst ventilated patients and a need to accurately record ventilator parameters to make clinical decisions (2). It is important to evaluate traditional paper-based data entry with new automated data capture in intensive care units to ensure continued best practice.

This audit aims to assess data collection failures in ventilator setting recordings amongst intubated and ventilated COVID-19 patients and directly contrast failures of hourly recording amongst the ICCA system and data entered in paper ICU flow sheets. We analysed 13,355 data entries over a one-week period in our ICU to compare recording failure of computer-based records and traditional flow sheet entry.

Objectives: The objective of this audit is to directly compare and analyse the performance of paper-based nurse led data entry against computer-based patient record. Primary end points were hourly recordings of the following values: FiO2, SpO2, EtCO2, Respiratory Rate, Ventilator Mode, Tidal Volumes, Minute Volume, Peak Airway Pressure and Positive End Expiratory Pressure over a one-week period. By analysing the results, we aim to gain insight into the benefits and potential failures of automated computing in data recording as its use is further incorporated into clinical practice.

Methods: Hourly ventilator data record entry was retrospectively analysed for intubated patients from the 13th -19th of April in a Dublin teaching hospital ICU. The IT system and patient flow sheet for each patient were analysed. All data was available for inclusion. Patients who were extubated during the week were included until the hour of extubation. Hours when a result was not available for FiO2, SpO2, EtCO2, Respiratory Rate, Ventilator Mode, Tidal Volumes, Minute Volume, Peak Airway Pressure and PEEP were recorded. These 13,355 data points were separated by patient hours when either the ICCA system or Nurse led patient flow sheet was used with 9270 patient hours in the ICCA arm and 4283 patient hours in the Paper recording arm. Further analysis was based upon time of day, (day shift 0800-2000 and night shift 2000-0800). These data were then entered onto a database for analysis.

Results: 13,355 data entries were collated. Within the IT based ICCA system 4% (368 hours of 9270 hours) of data entries were unrecorded compared to paper flow sheet entries 7.6%, (487 hours of 4283 hours data entries). Of ICCA recordings that were missed 62.5% were missed during day shifts, (0800-2000) and 37.5% during night shifts, (2000-0800). This contrasts with paper flow sheet entry in which 39.5% of data entries missed during day shifts and 60.5% during night shifts. Results were also separated by parameter missed as percentage of total recorded hours. The ICCA system resulted in: End Tidal (2%), Peak Airway Pressure (0.728%), Minute Volume (0.65%), Tidal Volume (0.28%), SpO2 (0.12%), PEEP (0.12%), FiO2 (0.077%), Ventilator Mode (0.066%) Respiratory Rate (0%). Percentages refer to hours missed as a proportion of total hours.

Paper flow sheets recording resulted in: End Tidal CO2(2.1%), SpO2 (1.5%), Ventilator Mode (1.42%), FiO2, (1.12%), PEEP, (1%), Minute Volume (0.21%), Peak Airway Pressure (0.163%), Tidal Volume (0.14%), Respiratory Rate (0.02%).

Of note a range of data entry failures occurred across multiple parameters simultaneously. This was consistent with patient movement for diagnostic tests and procedures and was not removed from the data set.

EtCO2 performed poorly in both groups. It is hypothesised that air temperature and humidity change within the unit during the COVID-19 epidemic contributed in part to these results.

Conclusion: Accurate data collection provides clinicians with the ability to make informed decisions on patient care. Our study concludes that ventilation parameters are recorded more accurately with the use of digital computer systems when total data failures are compared to total patient hours, (4% and 7.6%). The improved performance is even more clear if EtCO2 is removed as it results in 2.1% of 4% of the ICCA computing failures. While this confirms more accurate data available for clinicians there were parameters where paper flow sheets had improved recording over automated data entry. These include peak airway pressure, tidal volume and minute ventilation while ICCA had improved performance in FiO2, SpO2, ventilator setting and PEEP. EtCO2 had the worst recording rate amongst both modalities. We can conclude that the use of automated computing provides superior overall recording rates, however, nurse led paper flow sheets had improved recording in some parameters and recorded less proportion of data misses during daylight hours.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000953 Does the rate of administration of a fluid challenge have a haemodynamic impact?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000953
Introduction: Peri-operative fluid management has long been identified as key to reducing post operative morbidity and mortality. Assessment of fluid responsiveness following administration of a fluid challenge can form part of a review of whether that patient requires additional fluid volume. (1) How the optimal fluid challenge should be delivered remains an area of ongoing research. Previous work has shown that 4 ml/kg is the minimum volume to reliably challenge the circulation but the rate at which the fluid should be given has not been fully investigated. (2)

Objectives: The primary objective was to determine if the rate of administration of a fluid challenge influences the percentage of responders and non-responders to fluid administration. The secondary objective was to investigate whether the rate of administration influences the pharmacodynamic response to fluids in terms of maximum change and duration of change in haemodynamic variables including Pmsf and CO.

Methods: A prospective study of 40 post-operative patients was conducted in the intensive care units at St George’s Hospital, London. They were randomized to receive a post operative 4 ml/kg fluid challenge over either 5 or 20 minutes. Stability criteria were assessed and then baseline observations including heart rate (HR), blood pressure (BP), mean arterial pressure (MAP), stroke volume (SV), cardiac output (CO), mean systemic filling pressure (Pmsf) and central venous pressure (CVP), where available, were recorded. These were repeated on completion of the fluid challenge and after a 5 and 10 minute interval. Cardiac output measurements were recorded using a calibrated LiDCOplusTM monitor. Patients were considered fluid responsive if SV increased by more than 10% following a fluid challenge. Adequacy of fluid challenge was assessed as an increase in Pmsf of more than 14%. The proportion of fluid and Pmsf responders were compared using Fisher’s exact test. ANCOVA models adjusted by baseline values of fluid challenge were used to assess the impact of rate on haemodynamics. P values less than 0.05 were considered significant.

Results: Of the 40 patients randomized7 were excluded from analyses, as they did not meet stability criteria. In the group that received a fluid challenge over 5 minutes, 40% were fluid responsive and 11.1% were fluid responsive in the 20 minute cohort. This difference was not statistically significant, p = 0.1. In the 5 minute group 73.3% showed an increased in Pmsf of more than 14%, and 72.2% in the 20 minute group, p = 0.8. The rate of fluid administration does not affect the change in Pmsf, but has a significant effect on change in MAP (8.3 vs 0.2 mmHg, p = 0.03), CO (0.6 vs 0.3 L/min, p = 0.02) and SV (9.6 vs 6.4 mL, p = 0.02).

Conclusion: No statistically significant difference between the rate of responders and non responders could be demonstrated with varying the rate of administration of the fluid challenge. However, a potentially clinically significant difference was seen. The changes in Pmsf seen in both groups, suggests no difference in the adequacy of fluid challenge with varying rates. This may indicate a potential effect of the fluid challenge on venous resistance and highlights an area for future work.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. This work received funding from the ESMC Baxter Fluid Management Award. Victoria Bennett was funded by a NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship.
490x751
000979
The potential magnitude of endogeneity bias in the evidence base of an international sepsis guideline
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000979

Introduction: It has been shown that observational studies often lead to biased results, even when statistical methods such as logistic regression and propensity score matching are used to adjust for confounding. This has specifically been shown for intensive care-related inferential problems [1, 2]. In observational critical care studies, the initiation or dose of the investigated treatment is often associated with baseline severity of illness and mortality risk. This causes endogeneity in estimation models (a correlation between the investigated treatment and the error term), which biases the analysis results. Endogeneity is a separate entity from confounding by indication, which arises through omitted variables. It arises from measurement error (imperfect calibration of severity-of-illness scoring systems) and simultaneity (the decision to initiate treatment or the dose is influenced by the severity of illness but also influences the severity of illness) [2, 3].

We aimed to investigate the potential magnitude of endogeneity bias in the evidence base of a major intensive care guideline.

Objectives:
1. To identify which observational studies in the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) Guidelines’ evidence base are at risk of endogeneity and spurious causal inferences [4].
2. To identify topics in the SSC Guidelines are most affected by these potentially biased studies.

Methods: We screened all references in the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) Guidelines. We considered studies to be at risk of endogeneity bias when five conditions were met:
1. Observational non-randomized study design, and;
2. Investigated an intervention whose initiation or dosing is positively or negatively associated with baseline severity of illness or mortality risk, and;
3. Aimed to analyse the relationship between the intervention and a clinical outcome, and;
4. Adjusted for baseline severity of illness by regression methods (such as linear, logistic or proportional hazards regression) or propensity matching, and;
5. Made implicit or explicit causal statements.

Results: We identified 167 observational studies in the guidelines’ evidence base. Sixty-five (39%) of these studies were at risk of endogeneity bias (Figure 1). None of these studies used a validated causal inference method to reduce endogeneity (e.g. an instrumental variable approach.) Studies at risk of endogeneity bias were most prevalent among the guideline topics Fluid Therapy (5 studies) and Glucose Control (9 studies).

Conclusion: We found that 39% of the observational studies in the SSC Guidelines made causal statements while being at risk of endogeneity bias. The most affected topics were Fluid Therapy and Glucose Control. Their inclusion in a major guideline means these studies are not merely ‘hypothesis-generating’ and may influence treatment decisions. Biased results caused by endogeneity may thus lead to patient harm. Clinicians and authors of guidelines should be aware of this potential bias.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. No grant acknowledgment.

000991
Endothelial glycocalyx disruption and impaired microvascular flow following liver resection surgery
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000991

Introduction: The endothelial glycocalyx is a bio-active structure which lines blood vessels. Its importance in critical and peri-operative care is increasingly recognised.1 Shedding of key components of the endothelial glycocalyx such as syndecan-1, a proteoglycan, which binds glycosaminoglycans, has been found to be associated with impaired microvascular blood flow following cardiac bypass surgery.2 Glyocalyx degredation has also been found in ischaemia – reperfusion in trauma patients with shock.3 Animal models have found antithrombin to reduce endothelial dysfunction following ischaemia-reperfusion injury.4 In our centre we use a low central venous pressure (CVP) anaesthetic for liver resection surgery to decrease intra-operative blood loss, which is then followed by goal-directed fluid therapy.5 We investigated whether there was impairment of microvascular blood flow, evidence of endothelial glycocalyx shedding or changes in antithrombin concentrations in patients undergoing liver resection surgery.

Objectives: To establish:
- if there is evidence of endothelial glycocalyx shedding by measuring serum concentrations of: syndecan-1, thrombomodulin, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGF-R) or e-selectin in patients undergoing liver resection surgery
- if there were changes in antithrombin concentrations during liver resection surgery
- if endothelial glycocalyx shedding was related to microvascular blood flow.

Methods: This was a prospective observational study (REC no 14/NE/1150) enrolling patients undergoing elective liver resection surgery. Microvascular blood flow, measured using the MicroScan device (MicroVision Medical, Amsterdam) and physiological measurements were taken at pre-specified time points throughout the peri-operative period (T1, awake on day of surgery pre-operatively, T2 following induction of anaesthesia, T3 on exposure of the liver, T4 completion of liver resection prior to fluid resuscitation, T5 arrival at ICU, T6 completion of goal directed fluid therapy (GDFT)). Serum samples were taken from a subset of 20 patients at T2, T4 and T6. ELISA’s were carried out in duplicate for each sample at two dilutions. Results which fell outside of the standard curve were excluded from analyses.

Results: A total of 55 data sets were included in the analyses, 28 male and 27 female, mean age was 58 years (S.D. 13) and BMI 28.1 kg/m² (S.D. 5.4), 18% were smokers, 13% were diabetic and 76% had neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Microvascular flow measurements decreased post-operatively and this fall was sustained after completion of GDFT. There was a fall in microvascular flow index (MFI), proportion of perfused small blood vessels (SPV) and perfused small blood vessel density (SPVD) from time 1 to T6 of 2.78 (2.42 – 2.98) vs 2.58 (2.08 – 2.83) p < 0.0001, 95.6 (87.4 – 99.8) vs 65.1 (61.3 – 66.8) p < 0.0001 and 4.85 (3.69 – 5.9) vs 5.77 (4.91 – 7.2), p < 0.0001 respectively.

There was a significant increase in syndecan-1 shedding and fall in antithrombin concentrations on completion of goal directed fluid therapy. Other markers of endothelial glycocalyx disruption decreased.

Table 2 – Markers of endothelial disruption (results displayed as median (IQR), Wilcoxon signed rank test is used to establish difference between groups)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomarker</th>
<th>Baseline (T2)</th>
<th>Post-operative (T6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>syndecan-1 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>52.6 (42.7 – 52.6)</td>
<td>18456 (10047 – 24361)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombomodulin (ng/mL)</td>
<td>6.73 (5.6 – 7.6)</td>
<td>3.3 (2.5 – 3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-selectin (ng/mL)</td>
<td>21.9 (10.1 – 21.9)</td>
<td>4.5 (2.2 – 7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGF-R) (ng/mL)</td>
<td>10.4 (9.7 – 10.5)</td>
<td>1.7 (1.3 – 2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antithrombin</td>
<td>110 (106 – 115)</td>
<td>96 (92 – 114)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Microvascular blood flow decreased post-operatively and this was sustained despite completion of GDFT. There was a significant increase in syndecan-1 concentration post-operatively, which may be due to disruption of the integrity of the endothelial glycocalyx membrane. However, there was a fall in other biomarkers, this could be dilutional. There was a fall in circulating antithrombin concentration which may be related to increased infiltration and binding to the endothelial glycocalyx following hypoperfusion. Further study of the glycocalyx in the peri-operative setting and its relation to microvascular blood flow is required.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000996
Factors associated with ICU eligibility during the COVID 19 pandemic in a level-3 hospital in Madrid
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000996

Introduction: The COVID 19 pandemic outbreak in Madrid overwhelmed the capacities of our regional and local health system. Despite the local efforts to increase the critical care capacity we were faced with difficult decisions regarding allocation of a scarce resource. The optimal method for allocating critical care resources during a pandemic remains questionable [1].
Objectives: To describe the cohort of patients evaluated with COVID-19 disease and the associated factors with ICU eligibility. This study could provide relevant information to optimize benefits from critical care resources in future COVID-19 outbreaks.

Methods: This prospective observational study was conducted in a specialized trauma and emergency department ICU of a level-3 hospital in Madrid, Spain. Our ICU staff evaluated adult patients with respiratory failure due to suspected COVID-19 infection at the ED. The decision about eligibility for ICU admission was guided using an institutional protocol including age, comorbidities and disease severity. We also collected data regarding gender, severity scores at time of evaluation (SOFA, CURB65), decision about eligibility (with independence of ICU admission), ICU admission and in-hospital mortality. Data was analyzed using the software RStudio Version 1.2.5042 for windows. For the univariate analysis we used Chi square test for categorical variables and student T Test or Mann Whitney U Test for continuous variables. Multivariate analysis was performed with a logistic regression model.

Results: Between March 4th and April 20th 2020 we evaluated a total of 221 patients. In the univariate analysis, age, comorbid state and disease severity were inversely associated with ICU eligibility with statistical significance. The number of events in the non eligible group limited the number of explanatory variables in the multivariate model, we created an index of comorbid state simply adding the main comorbidities of each patient, SOFA score was excluded due to lack of linearity. The resultant logistic regression model showed adequate goodness of fit and predictive accuracy (Likelihood ratio test $\chi^2(4) = 94.945$ p < 0.001. Pseudo R McFadden: 0.3837. Classification rate 0.85. Area under ROC curve for the ROC curve 0.8875 (95% CI [0.8365; 0.9385]). In this model only age and comorbidities retained statistical significance (Table 1).

Table 1: Comparison between eligible and non eligible patients for ICU admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non eligible (56)</th>
<th>Eligible (165)</th>
<th>p value (Uni)</th>
<th>OR (95% CI) Multi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>66.7 (SD 10.7)</td>
<td>52.3 (SD 11.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.91 (0.86-0.95,p&lt;0.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22 (39.3%)</td>
<td>44 (26.7%)</td>
<td>0.082</td>
<td>0.60 (0.25-1.41,p=0.233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>29 (51.8%)</td>
<td>47 (28.5%)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>20 (35.7%)</td>
<td>19 (11.5%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSA</td>
<td>12 (21.4%)</td>
<td>11 (6.67%)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>10 (17.9%)</td>
<td>3 (1.82%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>20 (35.7%)</td>
<td>41 (24.8%)</td>
<td>0.125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>17 (30.4%)</td>
<td>6 (3.64%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of comorbidities*</td>
<td>3.00[1.75;4.00]</td>
<td>1.00[0.00;2.00]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.46 (0.33-0.65,p&lt;0.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA*</td>
<td>3.00 [2.00;3.00]</td>
<td>2.00[2.00;3.00]</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURB65*</td>
<td>2.00 [1.00;3.00]</td>
<td>1.00[0.00;2.00]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.71 (0.42-1.15,p=0.170)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The variables most associated with ICU eligibility were age and comorbid state proving that age was not the only factor accounted for. Female gender and CURB 65 was inversely associated with eligibility however this association was not significant in multivariate models.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. To the general population for their effort during confinement.

001002

Paired nasopharyngeal and deep lung testing for SARS-CoV2 reveals a significant viral gradient in critically ill patients: a multi-centre study

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Introduction: Samples for diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 can be obtained from the upper (nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swabs) or lower respiratory tract (sputum or tracheal aspirate or broncho-alveolar lavage - BAL). Data from different testing sites indicates different rates of positivity1. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) allows for semi-quantitative estimates of viral load as time to crossing threshold (Ct) is inversely related to viral load.

Objectives: The objective of our study was to evaluate SARS-CoV2 RNA loads between paired nasopharyngeal (NP) and deep lung (endotracheal aspirate or BAL) samples from critically ill patients.

Methods: SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR results were retrospectively reviewed for 51 critically ill patients from 5 intensive care units in 3 hospitals; Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge (3 units), Royal Papworth Cambridge (1 unit), and Royal Sunderland Hospital (1 unit). At the times when paired NP and deep lung samples were obtained, one patient had been on oxygen only, 6 patients on non-invasive ventilation, 18 patients on ECMO, and 26 patients mechanically ventilated.

Results: Results collected showed significant gradient between NP and deep lung viral loads (Figure 1). Median Ct value was 29 for NP samples and 24 for deep lung samples. Of 51 paired samples, 16 were negative (below limit of detection) on NP swabs but positive (above limit of detection) on deep lung sample, whilst 2 were negative on deep sample but positive on NP (both patients were on ECMO).

Conclusion: It has been suggested that whilst SARS-CoV1 tends to replicate in the lower respiratory tract, SARS-CoV2 replicates more vigorously in the upper respiratory tract2. These data challenge that assumption. These data suggest that viral migration to, and proliferation in, the lower respiratory tract may be a key factor in the progression to critical illness and the development of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Factors which promote this migration should be examined for association with severe COVID-19. From a practical point...
of view, patients with suspected severe COVID-19 should have virological samples obtained from the lower respiratory tract where-ever possible, as upper respiratory samples have a significant false-negative rate.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001038 Caregivers resilience during CoVID19 pandemic, Return from experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001038

Introduction: The CoVID19 pandemic led to a complete reorganization of our anesthesiology and critical care medicine department (composed of 8 ICU beds, 12 intermediate care unit beds (IMCU) and 32 operating rooms (OR)/1). In order to face the increasing demand of ICU beds, our 12 IMCU beds were transformed into ICU beds. 40 ICU beds were created within the 3 post-anesthesia care units of our hospital, leading to a total of 60 ICU beds and only 13 OR remaining opened. The majority of caregivers working usually in the OR worked in these new ICUs outside the walls from March 23rd to May 7th 2020.

Objectives: One month after the end of the pandemic, we conducted an anonymous e-survey among caregivers of our department, with the aim of identifying what happened, what went right, what went wrong and what to do in the case of a second wave of CoVID19 infections.

Methods: This project received the approval of the research ethics committee of the French Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SFAR). Participation was free. Our survey was composed of 10 questions with rating scales (0 to 10) to assess job satisfaction, quality of care delivered and quality of life at work, with tick box categories and free text to evaluate the main positive/negative points related from their experience and the main actions to be taken in case of a second wave, with Likert scales to evaluate the relationships between caregivers and on demographic data.

Results: 130 people answered our questionnaire, mainly women (n = 84; 65%); the majority younger than 40 years old (n = 94; 72%) and the majority with a past experience in critical care (n = 92; 71%). The participation rate varied across professions: 100% for head of nurses (n = 3), 65% for nurses (n = 44), 45% for anesthetist nurses (n = 22), 47% for nurse assistants (n = 20), 100% for physiotherapists (n = 6); 100% for dieticians (n = 2); 50% for residents (n = 16), 70% for physicians (n = 14). The levels of job satisfaction, quality of care delivered and quality of life at work were respectively 6.9 (± 2), 7.2 (± 2) and 5.8 (± 2). The main positive points reported were the collaboration and solidarity between colleagues (n = 76; 58%) and the feeling of being useful (n = 62; 48%). The main negative points reported were the working conditions difficulties (environment, logistics, material protection) (n = 95; 73%) and the lack of visibility of their schedule or hospital ICU organization (n = 36; 27%). The two main areas for improvement suggested were the optimization of logistics organization (n = 74; 57%) and working within the same unit (n = 59; 45%). The majority were satisfied with their relationships with physicians (n = 123; 89%), nurses (n = 127; 98%) or other allied health workers (n = 95; 73%).

Conclusion: During the epidemic, the 3-fold increase of ICU beds and the closing of the majority of OR were associated with a big change in the work habits of our caregivers. Despite the difficulties related to working conditions, caregivers have been strongly resilient with the complete reorganization of our department during the CoVID19 pandemic. The existence of an association with this new organization and patient outcomes must be explored.

001048 Predictors of intubation in COVID-19 patients treated with noninvasive continuous positive airway pressure
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001048

Introduction: Despite some new evidence, the use of noninvasive continuous positive airway pressure (nCPAP) during coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is still an issue. In a large population of COVID-19 patients treated with nCPAP we aimed to identify early factors associated with intubation.

Methods: Post hoc analysis of an observational prospective- retrospective multicentre study performed in six Italian hospitals. We included in this analysis all patients treated with nCPAP outside ICU due to COVID-19 and candidate to intubation in case of nCPAP failure. We collected demographic and clinical data at hospital entrance and PaO2/FiO2 percentage increase between Venturi mask (PaO2/FiO2VENT) and nCPAP (PaO2/FiO2nCPAP) i.e., ΔPaO2/FiO2, calculated as (PaO2/FiO2nCPAP - PaO2/FiO2VENT) / PaO2/FiO2VENT x 100.

Results: From March 1st to April 15th, a total of 397 patients with confirmed COVID-19 were treated with nCPAP with a full treatment therapeutic goal. Of these, 8% of the patients were excluded from the analysis as intubated on the same day nCPAP was started. Univariate analysis showed that among the demographic and clinical patients’ characteristics, age (65 (IQR, 55-71) vs. 68 (IQR 58-73) years), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) (518 (IQR, 360-676) U/L vs. 654 (IQR, 486-922) U/L), white blood cells (6.75 (IQR, 5.11-8.91) × 10^3/µL vs. 7.04 (IQR, 5.17-10.00) × 10^3/µL) resulted significantly lower in patients succeeding nCPAP compared to those who failed nCPAP and were intubated. Percentage increase in PaO2/FiO2 (87(IQR, 7-203) vs. 44(IQR,12-120)) was higher in patients who succeeded nCPAP compared to those who failed. Male gender was also significantly associated with intubation. A multivariate analysis adjusting for age, gender, Charlson comorbidity index, percentage increase in PaO2/FiO2, lactate, white blood cell count, LDH and C-reactive protein levels led to an area under the curve of 0.77 and confirmed that age (relative risk, 1.023; 95% CI, 1.005-1.043), LDH (relative risk, 1.001; 95%CI, 1.000-1.001), and PaO2/FiO2 (relative risk, 1.002; 95%CI, 1.001-1.003), were strong predictors of intubation.

Conclusion: In patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure due to COVID-19 receiving nCPAP outside ICU PaO2/FiO2 LDH at hospital entrance and age were predictors of intubation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Covid-19 Eastern Piedmont Network: Gianluca Arroldi; Marta Baggiani; Sara Baino; Piero Balbo; Simona Bazzano; Valeria Bonato; Silvio Borrè; Luigi Castello; Tiziana Cena; Sara Carbonati; Federico Crimaldi; Veronica Daffara; Luca De Col; Luca Grillenzoni; Matteo Maestrone; Mario Malerba; Francesco Mogli; Federica Moroni; Maria Adele Moschella; Raffaella Perucca; Mario Piris; Valentina Rondi; Daniela Rosalba; Martina Taverna; Letizia Vanni; Francesca Vigone
Incidence of acute kidney injury and provision of renal replacement therapy in critically ill patients with COVID-19

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Introduction: Amongst patients admitted to intensive care (ICU) with COVID-19 the reported incidence of acute kidney injury (AKI) ranges from 3% to 66%.[1] In the United Kingdom (UK) 26% of patients admitted to ICU with COVID-19 required renal replacement therapy (RRT).[2] At our institution RRT in ICU is usually exclusively provided as Continuous Veno-Venous HaemoDiaFiltration (CVVHDF). During early stages of the pandemic it became apparent that demand for RRT - driven by a surge in ICU admissions, high rates of AKI and shorter than usual filter lifespan - threatened our ability to provide timely organ support to critically ill patients with COVID-19, a situation that was being replicated globally.[3] During the first 2 months of the pandemic in the UK we introduced a number of measures designed to extend our ability to provide RRT, including introduction of acute peritoneal dialysis (aPD) and intermittent haemodialysis (IHD).

Objectives: To describe the incidence of AKI in patients admitted to ICU with COVID-19 at a large teaching hospital in London, UK. To evaluate how the introduction of alternative modalities of RRT (aPD and IHD) - not usually offered in our ICU - were able to reduce dependence on CVVHDF. To report any complications associated with using aPD and IHD in these critically ill patients.

Methods: We carried out a retrospective review of patients electronic medical records as part of a departmental service evaluation (ref: KCC06052020AIA). We recorded baseline demographics, incidence of AKI (defined using KDIGO serum creatinine criteria) [4] and details regarding RRT received and complications of RRT for all patients admitted to our ICU with a diagnosis of COVID-19 between 10/03/2020 (date of first patient admitted with COVID-19) and 10/05/2020.

Results: 177 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to the ICU. Excluding patients who were transferred from other institutions (n = 34) and patients with established End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD, n = 7) the incidence of AKI was 79%. Most (86%) developed severe (stage 3) AKI. 63% of patients required RRT, which was initiated a median of 4.5 IQR 2-7 days after ICU admission. As of 16/06/2020, of patients who developed severe AKI, 49% had died, 8% were still admitted to the ICU, 22% had been discharged from the ICU but were still in hospital and 22% had been discharged home. Almost all ICU survivors had recovered renal function to the point of being free of RRT (95%). Median duration of RRT in those who recovered was 21 IQR 13-29 days. Peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion was attempted in 41 patients and successful in 34 (83%). 15 patients (44%) were subsequently exclusively treated with aPD, whilst 19 required some supplemental CVVHDF. Common reasons for reverting to CVVHDF included: clinical deterioration not attributed to PD (n = 5); elevated urea (n = 5); fluid overload (n = 4); hyperkalaemia (n = 3). No patients were reported to have had deterioration in ventilatory parameters or peritonitis. A reverse osmosis (RO) plant was installed within the ICU on 18/04/20, and IHD began on 20/04/20. 82 HD sessions were delivered to 15 patients. Transient hypotension was reported during 11 sessions (13.4%). On one occasion the session was terminated due to marked hypotension. At the start of the pandemic 100% of RRT was delivered as CVVHDF. With the introduction of aPD and IHD this fell to a nadir of 39%. During the study period a total of 463 patient days of CVVHDF were replaced with either aPD or IHD.

Conclusion: In our study most patients admitted to ICU with COVID-19 developed severe AKI. It was only possible to provide RRT to these patients by expanding the range of RRT modalities offered to include aPD and IHD. Through close collaboration between the critical care and nephrology departments this was achieved rapidly, effectively and with no serious adverse events during pandemic conditions.
Blood Transfusion Effectiveness Evaluation: Looking for Better Transfusion Triggers

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001103

Introduction: For many decades red blood cells (RBC) transfusion remains the main treatment for acute and even chronic anemia. However, numerous clinical trials estimated the risks of RBC transfusion ascomparable with those of anemia and associated with increased mortality [1]. Recognition of the fact promotes search for more rigorous and less formal transfusion triggers.

Objectives: To compare blood transfusion effectiveness assessment based on oxygen extraction ratio (ExRO2), arterial-venous oxygen difference (A-Vdiff) and central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO2) with those using only blood hemoglobin (Hb) level.

Methods: Prospective observational study included 59 patients with mean age of 57 ± 14.3 years and initial Hb 72 ± 12.0 g × l-1. ScvO2, ExRO2 (CtaO2-CtvO2/CtaO2 ×100%), A-Vdiff (CtaO2-CtvO2) and serum lactate were measured and calculated before and after RBC transfusion. According to the initial ExRO2 all the patients were divided between two groups — I (≥ 40.0%, n = 20) and II (< 40.0%, n = 39).

Results: After transfusion, in group I ExRO2 significantly decreased by 9.1 ± 2.5% (p < 0.05), ScvO2 increased by 7.0 ± 2.6% (p < 0.05), while in group IIb both ExRO2 and ScvO2 changes were less (5.9 ± 1.0% and 5.9 ± 1.1% respectively, both p < 0.05). A-Vdiff after transfusion did not drop significantly in both groups: 0.8 ± 2.8 and 0.7 ± 1.2 ml × l-1 respectively (both p > 0.05). Serum lactate decrease was significant in group I (0.5 ± 0.2 mmol × l-1, p < 0.05) and negligible in group II (0.3 ± 0.1 mmol × l-1, p > 0.05). Notably, Hb levels were similar among the two groups with different ExRO2 levels before and after transfusion. These results are presented in Table 1.

Spearman correlation between ExRO2 and ScvO2 showed strong negative relationship in both groups (before 0.9 and 0.8; after 1.0 and 0.9 respectively); the same coefficient between ExRO2 and A-Vdiff was 0.5 before and 0.8 after transfusion. ExRO2 and Hb demonstrated weak correlation: — 0.2 before transfusion in both groups, 0.1 and — 0.2 after transfusion in groups I and II respectively.

Conclusion: ExRO2 assesses anemia severity and compensation degree more correctly in comparison to Hb level only. This parameter reveals effectiveness of transfusion, and can be used as the alternative transfusion trigger. ScvO2 has also showed some value as blood transfusion trigger, while having certain restrictions as systemic oxygen balance criterion because of unreliable correlation with mixed venous oxygen saturation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001121

Analysis of the STRIVE phase 2 trial of once-weekly rezafungin for treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis compared with caspofungin: outcomes by body mass index (BMI)

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001121

Introduction: Title:
Analysis of the STRIVE Phase 2 Trial of Once-Weekly Rezafungin for Treatment of Candidemia and Invasive Candidiasis Compared with Caspofungin: Outcomes by Body Mass Index (BMI)

Authors
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Objectives: There is increasing evidence of antifungal underdosing in the treatment of invasive disease, particularly in special populations such as the obese. Body size is often an important variable affecting drug exposure, and pharmacokinetic (PK) models of antifungal dosing have suggested size-based dose adjustments to achieve target drug exposure.

Rezafungin (RZF) is a novel echinocandin in Phase 3 development for treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis (IC) and for prevention of invasive fungal disease caused by Candida, Aspergillus, and Pneumocystis in blood and marrow transplant recipients. Distinctive PK properties of RZF (e.g., long half-life, extensive tissue distribution, and front-loaded drug exposure) lend themselves to RZF once-weekly (QWk) dosing and antifungal efficacy.

Methods: To evaluate outcomes of the Phase 2 STRIVE trial of RZF QWk for the treatment of candidemia and/or IC compared with caspofungin (CAS) once-daily (NCT02734862), based on patient BMI.

Results: The STRIVE trial (NCT02734862) compared the safety and efficacy of RZF QWk compared with once-daily caspofungin. For this sub-analysis, data were stratified by BMI categories of < 30 kg/m² and ≥ 30 kg/m². Efficacy (overall response [resolution of clinical signs of infection + mycological eradication], mycological response, and investigator assessment of clinical response) and safety (treatment-emergent adverse events [TEAEs]) endpoints by treatment group were evaluated, as well as PK data (area under the curve [AUC]) from RZF-treated patients.

Mean BMI values were similar across treatment arms (26.9 kg/m² in RZF Group 1 and 26.8 kg/m² in RZF Group 2 and CAS arms). Efficacy outcomes at Day 14 were similar between BMI categories (Table 1). Rates of TEAEs were generally similar between BMI categories as well (Table 2), with no concerning safety trends. Following one dose of RZF 400 mg (Week 1), the ranges of AUCs by BMI category overlapped and there was a minor mean difference of ~20% (lower for those with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²).

Conclusion: The safety, efficacy, and PK of RZF in the Phase 2 STRIVE trial was consistent across BMI categories. These results suggest that dose adjustments in obese patients are not necessary. These findings contribute to the evaluation of RZF in a range of patient populations and its ongoing development.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.
001127

Family support on intensive care units during the COVID-19-imposed visit ban: a Delphi study in German speaking countries in Europe

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Introduction: A hospitalization due to COVID-19 in the intensive care units (ICU) is challenging for patients, their families, and ICU professionals. In addition to coping with the uncertainties of a widely unknown disease, visits is limited or even prohibited during a pandemic. These restrictions require special attention and trigger unconventional ways for personal contact among ICU professionals with families in order to provide required informations and support.

Objectives: This Delphi study aimed 1) to explore the opinions and experiences of experts during the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to supporting ICU patients and their families; and 2) to provide recommendations for supporting families during a pandemic.

Methods: A two-round modified Delphi process assessed the opinions and experiences of experts from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Lichtenstein between May and June 2020. Experts included ICU professionals, patients, and family members. 120 experts answered anonymously the first online questionnaires with 33 questions based on a literature review and recommendations of ICU experts. Each question contained an additional comment section. The answers were analyzed and transformed into a second questionnaire with 16 questions and comment sections, which was answered by 131 experts. Data analysis will include descriptive statistics and content analysis of the answers in all comment sections.

Results: First results indicate that experts perceived family support on ICU as highly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enabling contact amongst patients, families and clinicians is regarded essential to build hope and confidence. The role of a designated contact person, who delivers frequent and consistent information and builds a supportive and professional relationship, may even be more important.

Conclusion: During a pandemic, virtual contacts are essential for COVID-19/ICU patients and respective families to gain and maintain faith confidence in ICU professionals and ICU treatment. Ethical considerations are crucial in deciding what forms of communication would be most appropriate, considering data security, resource distribution, and the information need of patients and their families.

001166

Profiling the physical rehabilitation of COVID-19 patients admitted to critical care

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic brings a large number of people experiencing critical care admissions. It is important to profile the physical rehabilitation required by patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 in order to identify the physical side-effects of critical care admission and to determine the rehabilitation services required by this patient group.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to profile the acute rehabilitation pathway of people with COVID-19 admitted to critical care.

Methods: This study was a retrospective patient chart audit of all patients admitted to critical care with COVID-19 between March 16th and May 2nd, 2020. Ethical approval was granted for this study. Demographic information and information regarding critical care stay was collected for each patient. Physical rehabilitation was assessed against standardised rehabilitation milestones as per the ICU Mobility Scale.

Results: A total of 64 patients were admitted to critical care (65% male, mean age 60 years SD 14.1). 56 had a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 on testing, while 8 patients were classified as ‘highly suspicious’ for COVID-19. A total of 14 patients died in critical care and 1 patient remains in critical care, leaving 49 patients for inclusion in the rehabilitation audit. 33 (67%) of these patients were intubated, with an average critical care length of stay of 16 days (SD 15.1, range 2-69 days). All patients were referred for physical rehabilitation during their critical care stay (range: 0-49 sessions).

Conclusion: Findings of this study indicate that patients with COVID-19 who survived a stay in critical required inpatient physical rehabilitation. Once rehabilitation began, a large proportion of patients progressed quickly through functional mobility classifications to become independently mobile. A sub-set of patients in this audit have required extensive inpatient physical rehabilitation following a critical care stay.

001193

Thrombo-embolic events associated with Covid-19 ARDS – Epidemiology and risk factors

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Introduction: Covid-19 severe ARDS is frequently associated with venous thrombosis and pulmonary emboli. The first events we diagnosed lead us to recommend a high heparin prophylaxis (4000 IU enoxaparin bid or 6000 IU bid if weight > 120 kg; targeted anti-Xa activity 0.3-0.5 UI/mL) or an immediate use of curative anticoagulant therapy (enoxaparin 100 IU/kg bid or unfractionated heparin 500 IU/kg/d; targeted anti-Xa 0.5-0.7 UI/mL).
**Objectives:** To evaluate the risk factors and epidemiology of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary emboli (PE) when this strategy is applied to all the Covid-19 patients with ARDS.

**Methods:** All the consecutive patients with severe ARDS due to SARS-CoV2 were systematically followed until hospital discharge or day 60. Doppler US of the vein was routinely performed to all patients. IV CT scan was performed as clinically indicated. We recorded daily clinical and biological covariates as well as antimicrobial, anticoagulant and anti-inflammatory therapies from ICU admission to ICU discharge. Patients were followed until hospital discharge or day 60. No patient was lost to follow-up.

We used a competing cause-specific risk model to evaluate the risk of DVT/PE during the follow-up (SAS 9.X, SAS system NC, USA). We tested variables at ICU admission and variables collected daily as time-dependent covariates. Variables collected at time t-1 were used to model even occurring at time t. A p value of 0.05 or less was considered significant. The impact of time-dependent DVT/PE on patients' survival was tested using a Cox model.

**Results:** Of the 134 patients with Sars-Cov2 ARDS admitted in our ICU (age 59.5 [51; 69]; SAPSII: SOFA 5 [4; 7]), 47 (35.1%) died at day 28. 21 developed a DVT/PE (10/21 ultimately died), 45 died without DVT/PE and 68 were censored alive without DVT/PE. Main characteristics of the patients and anticoagulant therapy used at ICUadmission are on Table.

The cause specific model identified high SOFA score, use of central vein catheter, hypothermia less than 36 °C, high BUN, high ALAT, high LDH, low hematocrit, high neutrophils count as risk factors of DVT/PE. Neither anticoagulant therapy (curative vs prophylaxis) given the day before nor anti-Xa activity were related with DVT/PE risk. Platelet count, prothrombin time, fibrinogen level, fibrin monomers, D-dimer, troponin levels were not related to DVT/PE risk. DVT/PE was not related to survival even after adjusting on comorbidities and SOFA score at ICU admission HR = 1.679; 95%CI [0.802; 3.512], p = 0.17

**Table.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>DVT/PE (45)</th>
<th>No DVT/PE (68)</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>64 (17)</td>
<td>59 (16)</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>56% males</td>
<td>61% females</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>3.13-21.6</td>
<td>1.02-2.39</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>9.2-54.7</td>
<td>6.5-30.4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Even when using a high-risk prophylaxis, curative anticoagulant therapy, DVT/PE occurred in 16% of cases. The risk is higher in patients with high SOFA score, renal and hepatic failure, high neutrophil count suggesting that other mechanisms than coagulation (i.e. endothelial activation and/or hypofibrinolysis) may concur to thromboembolic events.

**001197**

*Acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with COVID – 19 disease: AKICOV multicenter study*


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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001197*

**Introduction:** Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 has spread at great speed throughout the world. Between 15 and 25% of hospitalized patients infected with COVID-19 develop acute kidney injury (AKI).

**Objectives:** To describe the incidence, evolution and prognosis of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in critically ill patients with the COVID–19 disease.

**Methods:** A multicenter, descriptive, observational study including COVID-19 patients admitted to 19 Catalanian UCIs. Usual demographic variables, drugs, AKI development, several therapies, mortality and ICU/hospital stay were collected. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis for AKI development and mortality were used.

**Results:** A total of 936 patients were enrolled, of whom 66% were men and mean age was 64(17) years. APACHE II and SOFA scores were 13(8) and 5(4), respectively. Viral pneumonia with ARDS was observed in 88% of the patients. MV was required by 76% of patients, and in addition, 56% required prone position, 66% received vasopressors and 51% treatment with glucocorticoids. AKI prevalence at ICU admission was 28.4% and increased during ICU stay up to 43.6%; 29.4% was developed in the first 72 hours and 36% in the following 7 days. Only 88 (9.3 %) required RRT.

AKI occurred more frequently in older patients (66 years vs 59 years), males (74% vs 61%), those with higher ICU scores (APACHE II: 15 vs 10, SOFA: 6.5 vs 5), hypertension (59% vs 42%), CPOD (9.7% vs 5.9%), CKD (10% vs 1, 3%), diabetes mellitus (29% vs 18%) and chronic ischemic heart disease (7% vs 4%).

AKI was more frequent in ARDS severe patients (59% vs 43%, p < 0.001), in MV patients (91.5% vs 78%, p < 0.001) and required more prone position (69% vs 58%, p < 0.001). The treatment included Remdesivir (2.3% vs 0.5%, p < 0.039), interferon (32% vs 23%, p < 0.009), glucocorticoids in patients with shock (6% vs 1.1%, p < 0.001) and vasopressors (86% vs 63%, p < 0.001).

AKI patients developed more infections during ICU stay: ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) (35% vs 22%, p < 0.001) and catheter related bloodstream infections (17% vs 11%, p < 0.021).

Risk factors associated with AKI development were age (IC 1.02-1.05), gender (male IC 1.4-2.9), APACHE II (1.02-1.07), SOFA (1.1-1.2), CKD (3.13-21.6), Shock (2.03-4.4) and VAP (1.11-2.3).

Mortality in ICU stay was 30% and overall in-hospital mortality 33%. Mortality was increased in AKI patients in both groups: ICU stay (47% vs 15%, p < 0.001) and in-hospital (51.7 % vs 16.5 %, p < 0.001).

AKI patients were followed until hospital discharge or day 60. No patient was lost to follow-up.

**Conclusion:** There is a high incidence of AKI in critically ill patients with COVID 19 disease and it is associated with higher mortality, increased organ failure, nosocomial infections and prolonged ICU stay.
Introduction: Patients infected with COVID-19 are recognised to have a spectrum of neurological complications. In a systematic review, of those who survived, 65% developed delirium during their intensive care stay [1]. Current models assessing delirium in the Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU), such as E-PRE-DELIRIC, lacks discriminant variables for the prediction of delirium in patients with COVID-19 [6]. Furthermore; the increased in length of stay (LOS) for those with COVID-19 (average 20 days) invalidates models such as E-PRE-DELIRIC which has been modelled on an average LOS of 6 days. The pathogenesis of delirium in AICU is thought to be a combination of disease severity, hypoxia, high inflammatory response and thrombosis; all elements present in patients with COVID-19 [3–5]. Consequently, further research into mental health surrounding COVID-19 has been set as a priority [6].


Methods: Anonymised data from SARS-CoV-2 positive patients admitted to AICU at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital was collected from the 9th of March to the 18th of May 2020. CAM-ICU or author consensus was used to identify patients who underwent delirium assessment. Observational, pathological, and ventilatory variables from patients were extracted from electronic patient records. Forward variable selection strategy was used in the patient’s recovery phase; this phase was identified through dichotomisation of their AICU stay following an alignment procedure that centres the patients’ stay, such that day 0 is the day with their lowest PaO₂/FiO₂ (PF) ratio. The resulting dataset was split into a training cohort (80%) and a validation cohort (20%). Analysis was performed in R version 4.0. Candidate variables were standardised to a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 prior to the use of BRMS as an interface to Stan. Receiver Operator Curves (ROC) and the Area Under the Curve (AUC) are used to demonstrate model performance.

Results: 66 patients were screened of which 31 were excluded resulting in the identification of 23 patients with delirium and 12 patients without delirium (Figure 1). The alignment procedure successfully identified the recovery phase using U-shaped PF ratio pattern centred on the lowest ratio (Figure 2). E-PRE-DELIRIC was found to be inaccurate in the prediction of delirium in patients with COVID-19 with an AUC of 48.6%. DELIPIOUS, a Bayesian model with priors informed from both the delirium and COVID-19 literature, was developed demonstrating good performance with an AUC of 76.7% (Figure 3). The proposed model uses biologically plausible variables that reflect the pathogenesis of delirium in COVID-19. By defining the recovery period and using values within, temporal relationship between the timing of the variables’ values and onset of delirium is maintained. This reduces the lag-time between variable value and outcome given the prolonged stay of COVID-19 patients resulting in higher accuracy.

Conclusion: E-PRE-DELIRIC has a poor performance in those with COVID-19. DELIPIOUS uses biologically plausible variables that reflect the pathogenesis of delirium in COVID-19 resulting in an accuracy of 76.7%. It requires external and prospective validation prior to its clinical use.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. None

001264

Intensive Care specific Virtual Reality (ICU-VR) improves Post-Intensive Care Syndrome-related psychological sequelae in survivors of critical illness

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001264

Introduction: A substantial proportion of Intensive Care unit (ICU) survivors develops psychological impairments in the aftermath of ICU treatment, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression (1). These impairments are the major determinant for decreased health-related quality of life (HRQoL) (2), and it is hypothesized that an unmet need for information regarding ICU-treatment might be an important contributing factor (3). An effective evidence-based treatment for these psychological impairments and this need for information is still lacking. Virtual reality (VR) exposure therapy for several psychological disorders is effective and safe and could provide an adequate method to deliver the desired information of the ICU period (3). To date, it is unknown whether Intensive Care specific VR exposure in survivors of critical illness decreases psychological sequelae.

Objectives: To examine the effect of ICU-specific Virtual Reality (ICU-VR) on psychological sequelae and quality of life.

Methods: We conducted a multicenter, randomized pilot study in ICU patients admitted with sepsis or septic shock and mechanically ventilated for ≥ 24 hours. A week after ICU discharge, patients were randomized into the control or intervention group. The intervention group received ICU-VR, providing both exposure to the environment traumatizing them in combination with information regarding several aspects of their ICU treatment. The control group received a static VR environment for the same duration of time. Safety of ICU-VR was assessed by monitoring vital signs and the simulator sickness questionnaire (SSQ). Psychological sequelae and HRQoL were assessed at baseline (T0) and 2 days (T1), 7 days (T2), 1 month (T3) and 6 months (T4) after initial exposure to VR. Depression was assessed using the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), and PTSD using the Impact of Event Scale – Revised (IES-R). HRQoL was assessed using the Short-Form 12 (SF-12) and the EuroQol 5 dimensions (EQ-5D).

Results: We included 50 patients, median age 61 years (IQR: 51-68), median APACHE IV score of 77 (IQR: 57-106) and an median ICU length of stay of 16 days (IQR: 8-31). During VR exposure, no changes in vital signs were observed and none of the individual SSQ items were scored as severe. After 1 month (T3), patients in the intervention group scored significantly lower on PTSD (IES-R sum score, median (IQR): 8 (3-13) vs. 17 (12-26), P = 0.003) and depression (BDI sum score, median (IQR): 8 (6-12) vs. 12 (8-18), P = 0.04). This effect persisted at 6 months after ICU discharge (T4) for PTSD (IES-R sum score, median (IQR): 5 (1-13) vs. 23 (10-27), P = 0.01), but not for depression (BDI sum score, median (IQR): 4 (2-12) vs. 10 (6-17), P = 0.07) (Figure). Subsequently, although we observed no difference in the physical quality of life between groups, patients in the intervention group reported a better mental quality of life 1 month after VR exposure (Mental Component Scale (MCS-12), median (IQR): 57 (53-61) vs. 47 (39-49), P = 0.002), but not at 6 months after ICU discharge (MCS-12, median (IQR): 50 (41-58) vs. 47 (39-56), P = 0.43).

Conclusion: We demonstrate that ICU-VR decreases PTSD and depression up to 6 months after ICU discharge, is safe and improves mental quality of life. Further research is needed to confirm these effects on a larger scale.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001268

Relationship between SARS-CoV-2 infection and the incidence of ventilator-associated lower respiratory tract infections: a European multicenter cohort study

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Introduction: Although patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection have several risk factors for ventilator-associated lower respiratory tract infections (VA-LRTI), the reported incidence of hospital-acquired infections is low.

Objectives: We aimed to determine the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia, as compared to influenza pneumonia or no viral infection, and the incidence of VA-LRTI. Secondary objectives were to determine the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 infection and the etiology and outcomes of VA-LRTI.

Methods: Multicenter retrospective European cohort performed in 36 ICUs. All adult patients receiving invasive mechanical ventilation for more than 48h were eligible for this study if they had: SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia, influenza (A or B) pneumonia, or no viral infection at ICU admission. VA-LRTI, including ventilator-associated tracheobronchitis (VAT) and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), were diagnosed using clinical, radiological and quantitative microbiological criteria. All VA-LRTI were prospectively identified, and chest-X rays were analyzed by at least two physicians. Cumulative incidence of first episodes of VA-LRTI was estimated using Kalbfleisch and Prentice method, and
compared using Fine-and Gray models. This study is registered on ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT04359693.

Results: 1576 patients were included (568 in SARS-CoV-2 group, 482 in influenza group, and 526 in no viral infection group). VA-LRTI incidence was significantly higher in SARS-CoV2 patients (287, 50.5%), as compared to influenza patients (146, 30.3%, adjusted sub hazard ratio (SHR) 1.60 (95% confidence interval (CI) 1.27 to 2.00)) or patients with no viral infection (133, 25.3%, adjusted SHR 1.65 (95% CI 1.22 to 2.22)). VA-LRTI were mainly caused by Gram-negative bacilli (Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Enterobacter spp., and Klebsiella spp.). VAP was associated with increased adjusted HR for 28-day mortality in SARS-CoV-2 and influenza groups, and for duration of ICU stay in all study groups.

Conclusion: The incidence of VA-LRTI is significantly higher in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection, as compared to patients with influenza pneumonia, or no viral infection.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Zarit Burden Interview to evaluate main caregivers overload in Intensive Care Chronic patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001279

Introduction: Critically ill patients survival is increasing nowadays parallel to fragility and morbidity in long term surviving ICU patients, thus the role of caregivers in some cases has become essential.

Objectives: First, to evaluate the main caregiver overload of chronic patients roled in our Home Mechanical Ventilation Unit (driven by intensive care physicians) using the Zarit Burden Interview. Secondly, to describe the characteristics of our caregivers and patients.

Methods: The evaluation was perform with a presential interview to the main caregiver of all the patients included in our program during 12 months, from January 2018 to January 2019. We applied the Zarit Burden interview, which classifies the caregiver as a sum of various items, in 3 grades: absence of overload ( < 46 points), mild overload (46-55), heavy overload (> 56 points) (Figure 1). Epidemiological data of caregivers (age, sex, number of carers, state economical help) and patients (age, sex, Barthel Index, diagnostic).

Results: In 12 months, 49 patients and caregivers were roled in our study. Zarit Burden Scale of caregivers: 6 (12,2%) absence of overload, 28 (57,1%) mild overload and 15 (30,6%) with heavy overload.

Caregiver Characteristics: mean age 53,58 ± 15,61, women 38 (77,5%); one single caregiver in 28 (57,1%); state economical significant help in 26 (53%).

Patient data: mean age 43,73 ± 13,1, man 33 (67,3%), Barthel Index 45,42 ± 33,2 (IC95% 36,1-54,7), diagnostic: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis ALS in 22 (45%), other myopathies and neuromuscular diseases 16 (32,6%), dificulty in weaning 11 (22,4%) due to mechanical ventilation dependency: COPD (6), critical patientpolienuermiopathy (4), others (1). From these, NMIV (6), IMV (5).

Conclusion: In our caregivers using the Zarit Burden Scale shows that more than 85% have moderate-severe overload. Women is the prevalent carer (77%). Neumomuscular diseases is the most importante cause for roling our unit, becoming ALS the most prevalent disease (45%). This unit has become a great alternative for patients with dificult in weaining in our in intensive care units, 11 patients (22,4%) can be treated at home with their families, even so, bigger efforts needs to be performed to improve overload in caregivers.

Risk factors and outcomes for ICU-acquired infection: a genomics approach
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001303

Introduction: ICU-acquired infections (ICU-AI) are associated with substantial morbidity and mortality, but there are few large-scale epidemiological studies and investigations of risk factors, including predictive biomarkers, are currently limited. Genomic-led approaches identified two distinct Sepsis Response Signatures (SRS1 and SRS2) using hierarchical clustering of leukocyte genome-wide gene
expression in patients admitted to ICU with sepsis [1]. The SRS1 endo-
type is characterised by features of immunosuppression and increased
mortality.

Objectives: To elucidate the risk factors for ICU-AI, compare outcomes
between those with and without ICU-AI, and assess the influence of SRS
endotype on ICU-AI.

Methods: Patients in whom ICU-AI was clinically diagnosed at any
time during ICU admission were identified from a cohort of 2054
patients admitted with sepsis to 34 ICUs in the UK [2]. 1697 (82.6%) patients
with an ICU length of stay > 48 hours were included in the
analysis. Univariate analysis comparing between those with and with-
out ICU-AI was calculated for continuous variables using linear model
ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis test (for non-normally distributed data),
and Pearson’s Chi-squared test (X2) (categorical variables). Logistic
regression modelling used all potentially significant independent
variables from univariate analysis (p < 0.2), with backward selection of
significant variables for the final models. A weighted Cox-regression
model was used to assess effect of ICU-AI on 6-month mortality.

Results: A total of 687 ICU-AIs were recorded. 462 (27.2%) patients
developed one or more ICU-AI. The most common were ventilator-
associated pneumonia (n = 208, 12.3% of all patients), line-related
infection (n = 115, 6.8%), and wound infection (n = 111, 6.5%). These
accounted for 63.2% of all ICU-AIs. Patient demographics (age, race,
sex, Charlson score) did not differ between those with or without
ICU-AI. Those with ICU-AI had higher severity scores on admission
(APACHE II score [median 18 vs 16, p < 0.001], SOFA score [median 8
vs 6, p < 0.001]). ICU-AI was significantly associated with the level of
organ support and steroid therapy [p < 0.001]. In those in whom SRS
endotype had been assigned (n = 871), the last available SRS endo-
type was significantly associated with ICU-AI. In patients with the SRS1
(immunosuppressed endotype), 30.8% (n = 89) developed an ICU-AI
compared to 20.8% (n = 121) of those with the SRS2 (immunocompe-
tent endotype) (p = 0.002, X2). Renal replacement therapy (RRT) (OR
1.85, 95% CI 1.11-3.09, p = 0.019) and inotropic support (OR 1.84, 95%
CI 1.17-2.91, p = 0.009) were independent risk factors for ICU-AI. ICU-
AI was associated with increased risk of death at six months (HR 1.31,
95% CI 1.08 – 1.61, p = 0.0056).

Conclusion: Risk factors for ICU-AI include illness severity, level of
organ support, steroid therapy and the SRS1 transcriptomic endotype.
RRT and inotropic support were independently associated with ICU-AI.
ICU-AI is associated with increased mortality.

RRT and inotropic support were independently associated with ICU-AI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 1. Davenport, Emma E et al. “Genomic landscape of the individual host
-6200(16)00046-1
2. 2. Genomic Advances in Sepsis (GAINs) study (ukccgains.com)
3. The UK Genomic Advances in Sepsis (GAINs) study (original source of
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001307
A predictive model for seven-day mortality in Intensive Care Unit: findings from the SPIN-UTI project
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001307

Introduction: Patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) are at
higher risk of death because of their underlying illness, often wors-
ened by the occurrence of healthcare associated infections (HAIs). The
Simplified Acute Physiology Score (SAPS) II is one of the most used
scoring systems to evaluate the severity of illness of patients admitted
to ICU and to predict their risk of dying.

Objectives: The main aim of this study was to evaluate the ability of
SAPS II to predict the risk of 7-day mortality of patients admitted to
ICU, and to compare its performance with a machine learning algo-

-0.881 - 0.910). Notably, the SAPS II was the predictor which weighted
more on the model. Indeed, both accuracy and AUC dropped to 68.4%
and 0.653 (95%CI = 0.632 – 0.675) by removing the SAPS II from the
algorithm.

Conclusion: The SVM algorithm - which combined the SAPS II with
additional patients’ characteristics at ICU admission - exhibited higher
predicting performance than the SAPS II alone. This model repre-
sented a simple tool to quickly predict patients at the highest risk of
death at ICU admission, allowing them to be prioritized and poten-
tially reducing the mortality rate.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. The Authors wish to thank all the SPIN-UTI network

001308
Renal replacement therapy in critically ill patients with COVID 19: A multicenter study AKICOV
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Introduction: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 has spread at great speed throughout the world. Between 15 and 25% of hospitalized patients infected with COVID-19 develop acute kidney injury (AKI).

Objectives: To describe renal replacement therapy (RRT) in COVID-19 patients admitted at the ICU admission in intensive care units (ICU).

Methods: A multicenter, descriptive, observational study of COVID-19 patients admitted to 19 Catalan ICUs. Patients with acute kidney injury (AKI) and RRT requirements were included. Data of descriptive variables including severity and evolution of the AKI, associated complication, circuit permeability, filter duration and need of RRT at discharge were analyzed. Frequency and percentage (categorical) and mean (57x111) or median (RI) (quantitative) are presented. X2/T-Fischer or T-Student/U-Mann Whitney were applied. Data were presented as frequency (percentage) and mean (standard deviation) or median (95%RI).

Results: A total of 934 patients were included, 66% men, mean age 64(16.8) years, APACHE II and SOFA at admission were 13(8) and 5(4) respectively. Information was collected on the following comorbidities: arterial hypertension (45%), obesity (34%), diabetes mellitus (20%) and COPD (7%). Chronic kidney disease was present in 4.5% of patients. AKI at ICU admission was 28.4% and increased to 44% during ICU stay. NSAIDs were administered to 25.9%, contrast-media to 18.8% and ACE inhibitors to 10.5%. AKI patients presented ventilator-associated pneumonia VAP (35.7%), UTIs (16.6%) and intravascular catheter-related infection (14%).

A total of 88 patients (9.3%) required RRT. At the initiation of RRT patients presented with KDIGO I: 2.5%, II: 6.2%, III: 91.4% (creatinine mean was 3.91(1.6) mg/dL). Indications of RRT initiation were: anuria (62%), fluid overload (51.1%), hyperkalemia (33%), sepsis (20.5%) and uremic syndrome (14.8%). RRT duration was 7 (RI 9) days (CVVHDF (62.4%), CVVHD (35.3%), CVH (2.4%)) and iHD 3 (RI 6.5) days. Heparin was the most commonly prescribed anticoagulant for use during continuous RRT (61.4%), followed by ARC (45.5%) and a minor percentage of no anticoagulation (6.8%). Filter/patient median was 3 (RI 4); filter life with ARC was 2 (RI 1.23), with heparin 1.71(1.53) and without anticoagulation 1(1.63) days. Complications: catheter dysfunction (26.1%), early/non expected coagulation (23.9%), thrombocytopenia (14.8%), bleeding (5.7%) and hypothermia (5.7%). Only one patient required adsorption techniques. A quarter of patients (24.7%) needed RRT at ICU discharge. Overall ICU mortality was 57.1% in RRT patients, 44.3% in AKI without RRT and 14.9% in patients without AKI.

Conclusion: A high percentage of patients required RRT for AKI at the admission or during ICU stay, with a mortality rate exceeding 50%. Management and complications are not different from the usual clinical practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001313 Dexamethasone for patients undergoing major non-cardiac surgery

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Introduction: Surgery initiates inflammation which contributes to postoperative morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: To assess the effects of dexamethasone on postoperative complications in patients undergoing major surgery.

Methods: In a multicenter, randomized, double-blind trial, patients over 50 years of age undergoing non-cardiac surgery with expected duration of more than 90 minutes were recruited from 34 centers. We randomly assigned patients to dexamethasone (0.2 mg/kg-1 immediately after the procedure, and on day + 1) or to placebo. Randomization was stratified on two criteria: cancer and thoracic procedure. The primary outcome was a composite of major complications (including sepsis, pneumonia and the need for mechanical ventilation) and all-cause mortality occurring within the first 14 days following surgery.

Results: Of the 1,222 patients, 613 patients were randomized to dexamethasone, and 609 to placebo. In intention-to-treat analysis after multiple imputation for missing data, 104 patients (17.1%) in the dexamethasone group and 123 patients (20.4%) in the placebo group had major complications or died within 14 days after surgery (adjusted odds ratio, 0.79; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.59-1.04; P = 0.09, crude odds ratio 0.79; 95%CI 0.60-1.07, P = 0.13). The hazard ratios with dexamethasone for sepsis (including pneumonia) and for mechanical ventilation were respectively 0.82 (95%CI 0.51-1.12, P = 0.21) and 0.68 (95%CI 0.35-0.88, P = 0.003). In the a priori defined randomization stratum of patients with non-thoracic surgery, primary outcome occurred less frequently in the dexamethasone group than in the placebo group (P = 0.04). Adverse events were reported in 47% and 48.6% of patients who received dexamethasone or placebo (odds ratio: 0.92; 95%CI 0.74-1.15).

Conclusion: After major non-cardiac surgery, dexamethasone did not result in significantly less mortality or fewer major complications 14 days after surgery. (Fundied by French Ministry of Health, PHRCN 2016, number clinicaltrials.gov NCT03218553).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001320 Socially distanced rehabilitation: a potential new normal for post-critical care recovery

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Introduction: It is unclear when the effects of the coronavirus will subside and a surge in demand for critical care follow-up is anticipated. The requirement to provide a rehabilitation service within the context of social distancing and reconfigured outpatient infrastructure presents a set of new challenges to the delivery of optimal patient care.
**Objectives:** 1. To explore the feasibility of managing critical care recovery via remote coaching enabled by smartwatch technology. 2. Report physical measures at the point of hospital discharge and on follow-up

**Methods:** The use of smartwatch ambulatory health monitoring technology in COVID-19 critical care discharges was set up across eight trusts in Surrey, Sussex and Kent, UK. Worthing Hospital also implemented a digitally integrated multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach (physiotherapists, exercise physiologist, critical care, respiratory and general practice clinicians) using this smart watch data to support our critical care COVID-19 survivors. Smartwatch data was shared by the patient with the MDT via synchronisation with a smartphone app. The MDT met remotely every 4 weeks to review patients' progress and discuss goal setting. Baseline data was collected at discharge and follow up data points are at 3 months and 12 months respectively.

**Results:** From the first 13 patients reviewed (mean age 58, SD 10), mean heart rate per minute has slowed from 98 (SD 11) at hospital discharge to 75 (SD 5) at six weeks, whilst daily step count has increased from 1187 (SD 486) to 5407 (SD 3153). Shuttle walk test distance increased from 69 metres (SD 78) at hospital discharge to 364 (SD 221) on three-month follow-up, with air oxygen saturations increasing from 86% (SD 8) to 93% (SD 3). The MDT were able to provide a patient personalised follow up pathway, providing earlier intervention than would have occurred with a face-to-face patient follow up. Patient engagement with the programme was high with over 90% of patients regularly wearing and uploading smartwatch data. Patients responded well to the technology and incorporated the feedback from the devices into their personalised rehabilitation programmes. As further patients return for follow up this dataset will increase substantially over time.

**Conclusion:** Remote rehabilitation is feasible and offers an alternative to traditional post critical care follow-up. Regular, proactive review of smartwatch data combined with a remote MDT facilitated a unique, personalised and sustainable model for post critical care follow up. Future work will aim to expand this model to a wider cohort of critical care survivors.

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**001322 Continuous positive airway pressure outside ICU for COVID-19 patients: a multicenter observational study**

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**Introduction:** During novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic outbreak, a large number of patients required respiratory support due to severity of the respiratory involvement. Noninvasive ventilation delivered as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) for de novo acute hypoxic respiratory failure (ARF) is still debated. To face the overwhelming wave of patients, hospitals converted many general wards in respiratory intermediate units (RICU), where COVID-19 patients requiring respiratory support could be treated with CPAP outside intensive care unit (ICU).

**Objectives:** The study aims to investigate the role of CPAP outside ICU during COVID-19 pandemic, describing the clinical characteristics of patients and ascertaining whether the CPAP duration affects outcome in patients requiring endotracheal intubation.

**Methods:** We performed a multicenter, retrospective observational study in six hospitals of Eastern Piedmont Region in Northern Italy. All patients admitted to one of the participating hospitals from March 1st to April 15th 2020 with hypoxic ARF secondary to COVID-19 infection were eligible. Inclusion criteria were: 1) age ≥ 18 years, 2) respiratory distress and partial pressure of arterial oxygen to fraction of inspired oxygen ratio < 200 mmHg during low flow oxygen therapy, 3) CPAP initiation outside ICU. Patients were classified according to predefined CPAP therapeutic goal in two subgroups: 1) full treatment, i.e. patients scheduled to receive intubation in case of CPAP failure; and 2) do not-intubate (DNI), when CPAP was the ceiling of treatment.

**Results:** During the study period, 537 patients received CPAP outside ICU in the six Eastern Piedmont hospitals. The median age was 69 (IQR, 60-76) years. Median CPAP duration was 4 (IQR, 1-8) days, while hospital LOS 16 (IQR, 9-27) days. According to predefined CPAP therapeutic goal, 397 (74%) patients were included in full treatment subgroup, and 140 (26%) in the do not intubate (DNI) subgroup. Sixty-day in-hospital mortality was overall 34% (95%CI, 0.304-0.384), 21% (95%CI, 0.169-0.249) and 73% (95%CI, 0.648-0.787) for full treatment and DNI subgroup, respectively. In the full treatment subgroup, in-hospital mortality was 42% (95%CI, 0.345-0.488) for 189 (45%) CPAP failures requiring intubation, while 2% (95%CI, 0.008-0.035) for the remaining 217 (55%) patients who succeeded. Delaying intubation was associated with increased mortality (HR, 1.093 [95%CI, 1.010-1.184]).

**Conclusion:** Our study suggests that CPAP is feasible outside ICU even during COVID-19 outbreak. In-hospital mortality is related to therapeutic goal and patients with pre-set therapeutic limitations showing a higher mortality rate. Intubation delay is an independent risk factor for mortality.

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**001333 Serum leptin is associated with hypercoagulation measured by thromboelastometry (ROTEM) in COVID-19 disease**


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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001333**

**Introduction:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is associated with coagulation abnormalities leading to numerous thromboembolic complications. Obesity is a risk factor for severe COVID-19 disease and patients with obesity have relatively high leptin serum levels. In addition, high serum leptin levels are associated with hypercoagulation. Thromboelastometry (ROTEM<sup>®</sup>) is a digitized modification of thromboelastography reported to be useful in identifying hypercoagulable conditions.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine the correlation between serum leptin levels and ROTEM<sup>®</sup> profiles of COVID-19 patients.

**Methods:** In a cross-sectional design, we included patients who were treated in the Intensive Care Unit with COVID-19 at the same time.
Blood samples were collected for serum leptin measurement (ELISA kit MD53001 IBL International, Hamburg, Germany, performed according to the manufacturer’s instructions) and ROTEM® thromboelastometry. Coagulation patterns were analyzed using extrinsic and intrinsic rotational thromboelastometry activators (respectively EXTEM and INTEM). The following variables were recorded and analyzed: clotting time (CT), clotting formation time (CFT), clot firmness' amplitude after 5 minutes (A5) and after 10 minutes (A10), and maximum clot firmness (MCF). Spearman’s correlation coefficients were determined for all variables.

**Results:** Thirty-one COVID-19 patients were included, of which 23 (74%) were male. The mean age was 62.5 years (Standard Deviation (SD) 9.7), and the mean BMI was 31.2 kg/m² (SD 5.7). The median serum leptin level was 12.2 (range 1.0 – 85.2) ug/L. BMI was significantly correlated to serum leptin level ($r = 0.49$; $p = 0.001$). Table 1 shows the correlation of leptin and ROTEM variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.</th>
<th>Spearman’s correlation</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platelet function</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>0.367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activated Partial</td>
<td>0.277</td>
<td>0.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thromboplastin Time</td>
<td>0.143</td>
<td>0.350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prothrombin</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>0.129</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The only variable that was significantly correlated with serum leptin level was clot formation time, both for EXTEM and for INTEM tests. An inverse correlation was found, meaning that higher leptin levels were correlated with a shorter clot formation time. The conventional clotting tests were not significantly correlated with serum leptin level. **Conclusion:** ROTEM® measurements of clot formation time were significantly inversely correlated with serum leptin levels, which may indicate that leptin plays a role in the hypercoagulable state that is present in COVID-19 patients treated in the ICU.

001344

The amount of subpleural lung infiltrates in patients affected by SARS-CoV2 is proportional to the number of days of spontaneous breathing

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

4. Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation (20170531)
Corticosteroid therapy is associated with a decrease in mortality in a multicenter cohort of mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients

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Introduction: In late 2019, the virus responsible for Covid-19 was identified and called SARS-CoV-2. In China, 5% of Covid-19 patients were admitted in ICU, 2.3% were ventilated and 1.4% died. In early 2020, Covid-19 quickly spread in Europe and was responsible for high mortality. Since the start of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the need for trials to assess the benefit of antiviral treatment, anti-cytokine drugs, convalescent plasma and hydroxychloroquine has been advocated by the world health organization. However, evidence of the efficacy of such strategies is still lacking.

Objectives: This observational multicentric study aimed to identify prognostic factors and therapies which could be valuable in mechanically ventilated Covid-19 patients for respiratory insufficiency.

Methods: The method consisted in a multicentric retrospective analysis in all consecutive Covid-19 patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) and mechanically ventilated for more than 24 hours from March 1 to April 25, 2020, in 12 hospitals. The study protocol was approved by our Ethics Committee and, due to the retrospective nature of the data collected, no consent from the patient was required.

Admission date, age, sex, body mass index, underlying conditions, treatments, physiological values, use of vasopressors, renal replacement therapy (RRT) and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), duration of mechanical ventilation, length of ICU stay, ICU and ventilator-free days at day 42 were collected during May 2020. A second call for missing data was done during June 2020 in each center. The primary outcome was survival during the hospital stay. Secondary outcomes included use of vasopressors, RRT or ECMO, ICU and ventilator-free days at day 42, and evolution of the main physiological values between days 0 and 7. Quantitative variables were reported as median and interquartile range (Q1-Q3). Categorical variables were expressed as number (%). Simple and multiple time-dependent Cox regression models were used to assess the effects of factors on survival. All the variables which had a p-value lower than the critical level of 0.1 were selected for the multivariate model. A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: From March 1 to April 25, 2020, out of 203 adult patients hospitalized for SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia, 361 were admitted to the 12 participating ICUs for acute respiratory failure. Of these, 257 patients were ventilated more than 24 hours and 77 were excluded from the data base. The median age of the 247 patients was 65 (57-72), and 172 (70%) were men. On admission, the median sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA) score was 6 (4-8), the median PaO2/FiO2 ratio was 132 (88-132) and 128 (52%) patients were treated with norepinephrine. The median length of stay in ICU was 21 (12-32) days, the median survival time was 82 days, and the mortality rate was 45%. Sixty-nine (28%) patients needed RRT and 215 patients (87%) were treated with norepinephrine during their ICU stay. Four patients (1.6%) were on ECMO. Corticosteroid therapy was started in 58 (23%) patients between days 0 and 7 of ICU admission and 225 (91%) patients received hydroxychloroquine alone or in combination with corticosteroid and/or azithromycin. The mortality rate of the patients who received corticosteroid was 34% (20/58) while it was 48% (91/189) for patients who did not (p = 0.01).

As opposed to survivors, non-survivors were older and suffered more often from chronic kidney disease. On admission in ICU, non-survivors had higher SOFA score and serum creatinine value, lower mean arterial pressure and diuresis. Non-survivors were also more often treated with norepinephrine during the first day in ICU. Survivors received more frequently corticosteroid and hydroxychloroquine.

Using multiple regression, the predictors of mortality were age, creatinine value, mean arterial pressure lower than 70 mmHg, lymphocytes count on day 0 and absence of corticosteroid use during the first week of mechanical ventilation. Survival probability was significantly higher in patients who received corticosteroid (p = 0.01). Survival probability was 75% by day 23 for patients who received corticosteroid versus by day 10 for those who did not.

Conclusion: Retrospectively analyzing the data of a multicenter cohort, we observed that mortality of patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia treated with mechanical ventilation was as high as 45% and median survival time was 82 days. In this series, the risk factors for mortality included age, renal and circulatory dysfunction, lymphopenia and the absence of corticosteroid use during the first week of mechanical ventilation. Corticosteroid therapy during the first week of mechanical ventilation was associated with a lower mortality (34% vs 48%) (p = 0.01).
cross-validations were respectively 0.77 and 0.79. There was no major difference in sensitivity and specificity between the two models (around 70% for both). Shortening the interval of time at 7 days led to a decrease in performance (AUC 0.68 and 0.72) with the model including data from the first day in ICU performing worse overall. Mortality predictions at 14 days performed in between with an AUC 0.72 and 0.73.

Conclusion: Mortality prediction performances at 28 days showed promising results based merely on patient information that could be gathered at ICU admission. Further training on the model could improve more its ability to assess and give a score of severity at admission to patients for better resource management during the pandemic.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001366
Clinical Characteristics, Outcomes and Predictors of Survival in COVID-19 ICU patients with Tracheostomy
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001366

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented numbers of critically ill patients requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation [1]. Professional societies advocated the delay of tracheostomies or discouraged them altogether given the expected increase in risk of aerosol-generating procedure (AGP) [2]. We performed tracheostomy in an effort to deal with predicted pandemic related resource shortages and to reduce ICU weakness and hospital stay [3]. We developed a modified technique for the performance of percutaneous and surgical tracheostomies to reduce AGP potential, with a dedicated team performing them, presented as another abstract.

Methods: A prospective, single centre, observational study took place between March and July 2020. Patients underwent tracheostomy if expected to require prolonged mechanical ventilation and were either unready for trial extubation or unfit for extubation after failing a dedicated protocol for extubation within 7-15 days of intubation.

Results: Between March 2020 and July 2020, 74 patients were admitted to our ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia. Of these, 13 patients (17.6%) required CPAP only and 61 patients (82.4%) were intubated. No patient met the extubation criteria, so 34 underwent tracheostomy (15 percutaneous, 19 surgical). Patients were predominantly male (63.6%), with a median age of 64 years (IQR: 58-68) (Table 1). Only 85.3% were confirmed cases of COVID-19. The rest could not be tested for antibodies, but had a strongly suggestive clinical picture. At the time of tracheostomy, 25% were receiving vasopressor support and 17.9% requiring renal replacement therapy (RRT) (Figure 1). Duration of oro-tracheal intubation prior to tracheostomy was 7.5 days (IQR: 5-12) and length of cannulation was then 12 days (IQR: 6-17). ICU-LOS was 23 days (median, IQR: 15-34.5) and ward-LOS was 9 days (median, IQR: 5-17). Mortality was 20.6% (7 patients); death occurred at a median of 9 days (IQR: 4-14). Twenty six patients (78.8%) were discharged home and one remains in hospital. Three patients required a more protracted weaning phase with prolonged ICU and ward stay; all of them had developed fibrosis in HRCT. After treatment with high dose steroids, they were successfully decanulated. Predictors of survival were: age ≤ 67 years OR = 10.5 (1.5-70.8; IQR: p < 0.05) and PEEP at day 4 post tracheostomy < 10 cmH2O OR = 13.8 (1.9-97.2; IQR: p < 0.01). Comorbidity was a risk factor for death (Charlson’s comorbidity index OR = 0.43 (0.18-0.99; IQR: p < 0.05)). See Figure 2 for Kaplan-Meier curves. Previous CPAP was not associated with worse outcomes.

Conclusion: In a selected cohort of COVID-19 patients tracheostomy is associated with good outcomes. Predictors of ICU survival in these patients were age ≤67 years and the ability to wean respiratory support 4 days after tracheostomy, whereas greater comorbidity is associated with worse outcomes. Patients with prolonged weaning might benefit from being investigated for development of pulmonary fibrosis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. 4. Nothing to declare.

001375
Multistate modeling of COVID-19 patients in French Outcomerea ICU population: an observational study
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Introduction: Covid-19 ARDS progress from hospital oxygen requirement to severe ARDS requiring ECMO, to final hospital discharge or death. The impact of antiviral therapy, corticosteroids (CS) and other immunomodulatory agents on the path between states is not known.
The Recovery trial [1] found a better day 28 prognosis when using dexamethasone low dose (DXM-6mg) but results are only preliminary and CS adverse effects not followed.

**Objectives:** To model COVID-ARDS states transitions from ICU admission to day 60 prognosis and evaluate the CS impact on transitions and final outcome.

**Methods:** A prospective data collection of severe COVID-19 patients admitted in 10 ICUs in France. Patients were followed daily until hospital discharge for a maximum of 60 days. We considered a multistate model shown in Figure 1. The 17 possible transitions are modeled via a Cox proportional hazard model (Breslow method, robust variance). Continuous variables are discretized via nested coding using quartiles values and tested on transitions with more than 10 events. Covariates with a p-value <0.2 in univariate analysis are retained and the final model is achieved via stepwise selection (BSC criterion). CS effect is tested using G-computation. Confidence intervals are obtained via a probabilistic sensitivity analysis (500 runs).

**Results:** From 401 patients in OutcomeRea, 6 are excluded since COVID-19 was acquired in the hospital. 77.5% are male, the median age is 61 years. Charlson score is greater than 0 in 61% of patients, the median BMI is 28.3, median SAPS II is 33. The median duration first symptom-ICU admission is 10 days, and the median hospital stay before ICU is 2 days. Median lymphocytes count is 0.9 × 10^9/L, median C-reactive protein serum value is 157 mg/L and the median leucocytes is 9G/L. 28.6% have temperature > 39 °C, 26.3% received CS at admission (8.3% with dose < 10 mg of Dexamethasone or equivalent and 18% with DXM 20mg or equivalent), 34.7% lopinavir/ritonavir, 6.8% tocilizumab, 6.3% anakinera and 11.1% hydroxychloroquine. 20% received more than one therapy. 64.3% were admitted in ICU with non-invasive oxygenation, 30.9% with invasive mechanical ventilation and 5.8% in ECMO. Overall day 60 mortality was 32.9% and 13.4% of patients were censored. Transition selected variables are shown on Figure 1. Antiviral therapies did not result in significant impact. CS decrease the risk of invasive ventilation but decreased the risk of successful extubation. G computation suggests no significant effect on day 60 prognosis (32.7% CI: 23.8-43.1% and 32.7% CI:23.8-43.4% of being dead for CS and no CS, respectively). Low and high doses of CS provide similar effect.

**Conclusion:** Using a multistate model, we found that CS decrease the risk of invasive ventilation need but is associated with a lower chance of being extubated. Impact on prognosis is not significant. Possible causes of this delayed adverse impact (infections or other adverse effects) require further analyses.

### 001406

**Impact of early corticosteroids on day-60 mortality in critically ill patients with COVID-19: a multicenter cohort study of the OUTCOMEREA network**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001406

**Introduction:** The Recovery trial [1] found a better day 28 prognosis while using dexamethasone (DXM) low dose (DXM-6mg) but results are only preliminary and not specific of the patients already admitted in ICU. Consequently, the benefit of Corticosteroids (CS) for the COVID-19 pneumonia patients admitted in ICU on death is still under debate.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to assess a non-biased effect of early CS in COVID-19 pneumonia patients admitted in ICU on the occurrence of death by the 60th day.

**Methods:** We selected patients from 11 ICUs included in the French OutcomeReaTM group. We included patients over 18 years, with COVID proved by PCR, entered in database from January 2020 to May 2020, with an ICU stay longer than two days, not transferred from another ICU and without decision to forego life-sustaining therapies on admission. We excluded patients treated with CS before ICU admission. The primary outcome was death before day 60. The intervention was an early administration of CS in ICU defined by the initiation of a new treatment by CS at day 1 or 2 after ICU admission. We used Cox proportional-hazard models with ponderation with inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) to model the risk of death (IPT-WHR > 1 in favor of death).

**Results:** 302 patients were included. Their median age was 61.6 (53-70) years; 78.8% were male; 58.6% had at least one comorbidity. On admission, SAPS II was 33(25-44); the PaO2/FiO2 ratio was under 200 mmHg in 74.2%; 34.8% of the patients received invasive mechanical ventilation, 31.8% had a temperature over 39 °C. 66 (21.8%) patients were in the Early CS subgroup (11 (3.6%) with dose less than 10mg of DXM or equivalent and 55 (18.2%) with DXM 20mg or equivalent). In the No Early CS subgroup, 96 (40.7%) received CS after day 2. Patients in the Early CS subgroup received more often anti-viral therapy and Anakinra (p < 0.01), had more hyperglycemia (p < 0.01) and needed more daily insulin dose (p < 0.01) during the ICU stay and tended to have more bacteremia and HAP-VAP (p = 0.06 and 0.16, see table). The mortality at day 60 was 29.4% in the study population, 34.8% in the Early CS and 28% in the non Early CS (p = 0.28). In the IPTW analysis, on day 60, early CS was not associated with an increase risk of death (IPT-WHR = 1.06, CI 95%, 0.67 to 1.68, p = 0.79). The results were similar limiting the analysis to high doses CS (IPTW-HR = 1.24, CI 95%, 0.83 to 1.87, p = 0.29).
Conclusion: For the COVID-19 patients just admitted in ICU, in a prospective cohort with daily follow-up and use a causal inference model, we were not able to unmask any positive impact of early CS therapy on patients’ survival. Early CS was associated with hyperglycemia. The absence of benefit is not related to CS doses and may reflect difference in case-mix and/or standard of care used. Further studies are required to confirm the results of the RECOVERY trial.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001416 Correlation between ventilatory parameters and gas exchange response to prone ventilation in SARS-CoV-2 ARDS
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001416

Introduction: Prone ventilation has a demonstrated mortality benefit in moderate-severe ARDS [1]. It has been argued that the majority of patients with SARS-CoV-2 ARDS have preserved lung compliance and low lung weight and have minimal response to prone ventilation due to a low amount of recruitable lung tissue. [2]

Objectives: To determine the pre-prone parameters that correlate with P/F ratio and PaCO2 response to prone ventilation in SARS-CoV-2 ARDS.

Methods: This is a single-centre, prospective study from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, UK. Patients undergoing invasive mechanical ventilation with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia between the 11th March and 21st April that received at least one episode of prone ventilation were included. Prone ventilation was encouraged in patients who had an FiO2 concentration of greater than 0.6. Ventilatory parameters six hours before and during the first episode of prone ventilation were collected. Severity of opacification on chest radiography was graded by two independent reviewers using a validated, semi-quantitative opacification score ranging from 0 to 16. [3] Deadspace fraction was estimated using the unadjusted Harris-benedict equation. [4] Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism v.8.0. Continuous data are presented as median (IQR). Correlation between variables was analysed using a nonparametric spearman correlation test. A p value <0.05 was used to determine significance.

Results: 143 patients were admitted to the ICU of which 94 (66%) received at least one episode of prone ventilation for a median time of 16 (14 – 20) hours. P/F ratio increased by 6.6 (3.5 – 10.1) and PaCO2 decreased by -0.03 kPa (-0.9 – −2) of 16 (14 – 20) hours. P/F ratio increased by 6.6 (3.5 – 10.1) and PaCO2 received at least one episode of prone ventilation for a median time

Conclusion: The P/F ratio response to prone ventilation correlated with the degree of hypoxia prior to proning, indicating that stratifying the receipt of prone ventilation by the degree of hypoxia is entirely appropriate. The P/F ratio response did not correlate with changes in dead-space fraction, pre-prone compliance or chest radiograph opacification, indicating that part of the response may be independent of lung recruitment, potentially due to improvements in cardiac output, distribution of blood flow and shunt fraction, as suggested by Gattinoni. [5]

The PaCO2 response to prone ventilation correlated with markers of lung recruitment, such as changes in dynamic compliance, deadspace fraction and pre-prone severity of chest radiograph opacification, similar to findings from previous ARDS cohorts. [5]

In summary, the majority of patients with SARS-CoV-2 ARDS had positive P/F ratio responses with prone ventilation and receipt of this ventilation strategy should be stratified by the degree of hypoxia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001440 Influence of ventilator settings, gas exchange and respiratory system mechanics in COVID19 patients with hypoxemic respiratory failure admitted in Catalan ICUs (UCIsCat study group)
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Figure 1: Connection between ventilatory parameters and change in P/F ratio and PaCO2 in response to prone ventilation

Conclusion: The P/F ratio response to prone ventilation correlated with the degree of hypoxia prior to proning, indicating that stratifying the receipt of prone ventilation by the degree of hypoxia is entirely appropriate. The P/F ratio response did not correlate with changes in dead-space fraction, pre-prone compliance or chest radiograph opacification, indicating that part of the response may be independent of lung recruitment, potentially due to improvements in cardiac output, distribution of blood flow and shunt fraction, as suggested by Gattinoni. [5] The PaCO2 response to prone ventilation correlated with markers of lung recruitment, such as changes in dynamic compliance, deadspace fraction and pre-prone severity of chest radiograph opacification, similar to findings from previous ARDS cohorts. [5] In summary, the majority of patients with SARS-CoV-2 ARDS had positive P/F ratio responses with prone ventilation and receipt of this ventilation strategy should be stratified by the degree of hypoxia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: COVID19 pandemic and the consequent surge of patients with acute hypoxic respiratory failure has stretched the intensive care departments capacity to provide supportive treatment.

Objectives: To describe the baseline ventilator settings of adult patients with severe acute hypoxic respiratory failure due to COVID19 admitted in the Catalan ICU network.

Methods: Consecutive patients admitted between 15 March and 15 April in 26 ICUs, who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 (RT-PCR in a nasopharyngeal swab) and had severe acute hypoxic respiratory failure, presenting with bilateral infiltrates in the chest X-ray and requiring invasive mechanical ventilation. Relevant data were collected in stable conditions shortly after intubation. Follow-up time was til ICU discharge. Study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the coordinating center (Hospital Universitari Sant Pau, Barcelona).

Results: A total of 1704 patients (1187 men and 517 women) were admitted, and their median age was 63 yr (IQR 54-70). Of these, 1388 (82%) required invasive mechanical ventilation. Median duration of mechanical ventilation was 14 days (IQR 7-24). Overall UCI mortality was 35% (491/1388). Prone position was implemented in 77% (1070/1388). ARDS criteria was met by 1220 intubated patients (88%, 1220/1338). Cumulative survival over ICU time is shown in the Kaplan-Meier plot.

Conclusion: The vast majority of acutely hypoxemic covid19 patients who required invasive mechanical ventilation met classical ARDS criteria.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001469

The clinico-pathological spectrum of renal lesions in the course of COVID-19

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001469

Introduction: The spectrum of kidney damage in COVID-19 has been mostly limited to autopsies and case reports. Here, we report the first case series of patients with COVID-19 who developed kidney injury and underwent a kidney biopsy in the Paris and its metropolitan area. The spectrum of kidney damage in COVID-19 has been mostly limited to autopsies and case reports. Here, we report the first case series of patients with COVID-19 who developed kidney injury and underwent a kidney biopsy in the Paris and its metropolitan area.

Methods: We included all patients with COVID-19 who underwent a kidney biopsy between March 08 and May 19, 2020. Data were obtained through the review of the medical records.

Results: Forty-seven patients (80.9% men) with COVID-19 were included in the present study. Median age was 63 years IQR (52-69). Comorbidities included hypertension (66.0%), diabetes mellitus (27.7%), previous history of chronic kidney (25.5%), cardiac (38.6%) and respiratory (27.3%) diseases. Initial symptoms were fever (85.1%), cough (63.8%), shortness of breath (55.3%), and diarrhea (23.4%). Almost all patients developed acute kidney injury (97.9%) and 63.8% required renal replacement therapy. Kidney biopsy analysis showed two main histopathological patterns, including isolated acute tubular necrosis in 22 (46.8%) patients, and dominant glomerular injury consisting of collapsing glomerulopathy or focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in 17 (36.2%) patients. Eight (17%) patients had alternative diagnosis, which were most likely unrelated to COVID-19. Acute tubular necrosis occurred almost invariably in the setting of severe forms of COVID-19, whereas patients with glomerular injury had various profiles of COVID-19 severity and collapsing glomerulopathy was only observed in patients harboring a combination of APOL1 risk variants. At last follow-up, 16 of the 30 patients who initially required dialysis were still on dialysis, and 9 died from COVID-19 or related-adverse events.

Conclusion: The present study describes clinico-pathological spectrum of kidney lesions in yet-alive patients with COVID-19. While acute tubular necrosis is correlated with COVID-19 severity, the pattern of glomerular injury is intimately associated with the expression of APOL1 risk variants. Whether SARS-CoV-2 directly underlies renal damage remains a major but unsolved issue.
Evaluation of oXiris in COVID-19 patients on VV-ECMO with AKI

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001472

Objectives: To determine the efficacy and safety of different levels of PEEP in patients with intracranial hemorrhage with initially increased ICP.

Methods: We analyzed the state of systemic and cerebral hemodynamics in different levels of PEEP in critically ill patients with SAH in situations with initially increased ICP (n = 31). The study was not performed in patients with intracranial pressure of 20 mmHg and more. The examined patients had Glasgow coma scale below 9. Invasive ICP monitoring, transpulmonary thermodilution, respiratory monitoring were used in all patients. The studied parameters were determined with an increase in PEEP from 5 cm H2O to 10, 15 and 20 cm H2O. Minute ventilation volume and PaCO2 were stable at all stages of the study.

Results: The initial level of ICP was 17 (16; 18) mmHg, cerebral perfusion pressure (CPP) - 93 (86; 107) mmHg. A decrease of global end-diastolic index and compensatory increase of systemic vascular resistance index with normal mean arterial blood pressure indicated a state of latent hypovolemia. Increase of PEEP to 10 and 15 cmH2O had no negative effects on ICP and CPP. We determined the tendency to decrease cardiac index, cardiac preload and to increase systemic vascular resistance index, stroke volume variation. High levels of PEEP did not lead to obstruction of extracranial venous outflow; the jugular bulb pressure were stable (Table 1). We identify increase ICP and decrease CPP, cardiac index, global end-diastolic index, systemic vascular resistance index when PEEP were 20 cmH2O. Hypovolemia limited the compensatory reserves of hemodynamics, which resulted a decrease in arterial and cerebral perfusion pressures.

Table 1. Parameters of systemic and cerebral hemodynamics during different levels of positive end-expiratory pressure in patients with high baseline intracranial pressure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>PEEP 5 cmH2O</th>
<th>PEEP 10 cmH2O</th>
<th>PEEP 15 cmH2O</th>
<th>PEEP 20 cmH2O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intracranial pressure, mmHg</td>
<td>17 (16,18)</td>
<td>18 (16,19,5)</td>
<td>19 (17,20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean arterial pressure, mmHg</td>
<td>10 (10,122)</td>
<td>109 (100,119)</td>
<td>105 (98,114)</td>
<td>99 (92,110)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral perfusion pressure, mmHg</td>
<td>93 (86,107)</td>
<td>89 (90,97)</td>
<td>81 (75,90)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac index, litres/min/m2</td>
<td>1.3 (3,0,3,7)</td>
<td>3,1 (3,0,3,3)</td>
<td>3.0 (2,8,3,3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global end-diastolic index, mmHg</td>
<td>308 (598,701)</td>
<td>356 (523,606)</td>
<td>364 (327,663)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic vascular resistance index, dyne*cm^5/m2</td>
<td>2450 (1890,2925)</td>
<td>2645 (2107,3073)</td>
<td>2598 (2193,3000)</td>
<td>2725 (2248,3119)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke volume variation, %</td>
<td>10,5 (8,14)</td>
<td>18 (12,28,8)</td>
<td>21,5 (14,22,8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extravascular lung water index, ml/kg</td>
<td>4,9 (4,6,7,7)</td>
<td>5,3 (5,7,6)</td>
<td>5,3 (4,8,7,8)</td>
<td>6 (5,2,7,3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central venous pressure, mmHg</td>
<td>5 (4,7,5)</td>
<td>6 (4,7)</td>
<td>6 (3,11)</td>
<td>8 (5,5,12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jugular bulb pressure, mmHg</td>
<td>14 (13,19)</td>
<td>14 (13,19)</td>
<td>15 (12,5,16,8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Increase PEEP up to 15 cmH2O does not have a negative effect on ICP and CPP in patients with initially increased intracranial pressure. Further increase PEEP up to 20 cmH2O can lead to increase ICP, to decrease mean arterial pressure and CPP. The increase ICP is on average 2-3 mmHg, which may be acceptable for use high PEEP in massive non-traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhages (SAH). Therefore, the use of high levels of PEEP is limited in patients with initially high ICP.
conditions of stable blood pressure and significant improvement in pulmonary gas exchange.

001485  
A Good Death: A Complete Audit Cycle of End of Life care in the Intensive Care Unit at The Hammersmith Hospital  
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001485

Introduction: Despite advances in medicine, death rates in Intensive Care Units (ICU) remain high (1). ICU patients are admitted for life saving organ support; however when this fails, it is vital to provide patients with dignified deaths. The ICU brings about unique circumstances that make palliative care challenging, highlighting the importance of auditing current practices. The aim of this project was to audit the provision of end of life care, identify areas for improvement and develop interventions to ensure we provide optimum care. This was particularly important during the COVID-19 Pandemic surge where we had higher than average ICU mortality rates and unique sets of challenges. Interventions included raising awareness through multidisciplinary education at various forums. We increased awareness of existing available tools such as electronic end of life care forms and prescription order sets. Trainees also had access to electronic copies of simple guides to facilitate discussions with patient and their families (2). Videoconferencing proved invaluable in allowing spiritual and psychological support for parents and their families.

Methods: A retrospective initial audit was carried out by reviewing the electronic medical records (ISCCA) of patients who died between April and September 2019, following the implementation of interventions, a re-audit was carried out between March and May 2020. Data was collected based on NICE and FICM guidelines for end of life care and summarised into 6 main criteria (3,4,5). This included; Identification of dying patients, Treatment escalation and Resuscitation planning, Patient and Family Involvement, Symptom management, Comfort care, and Psychological and Spiritual needs. The data was analysed using simple statistical tests.

Results: There were 61 deaths during the initial audit period and 28 during the re-audit. The re-audit showed 93% (92% initial audit) of patients were identified as dying in a timely manner with 86% having clearly documented treatment escalation and appropriate resuscitation planning. 93% (77% initial audit) of patients had clearly documented Patient and Family Involvement with end of life discussions. Spiritual & Psychological support and Comfort Care was documented in all patients. This was a significant improvement compared to 41% for Spiritual & Psychological support and 26% for Comfort Care recorded in the initial audit. Symptom management also significantly improved from 13% to 100%.

Conclusion: Despite the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic these results show our ICU Team continued to provide high quality and compassionate End of Life Care 6. We intend to continue carrying out multidisciplinary teaching sessions with input from Palliative care and Pharmacists. We will also encourage the use of the palliative care form on ISCCA to provide prompts and enable accurate documentation. A laminated aide memoir flow chart (4) will also be available in clinical areas. End of life care is an essential skill for all members of the critical care team, because a good death is as important as a good life (4).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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7. None

001489

Predicting lactate levels after vasopressor administration  
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Introduction: Circulatory shock and infections are known to be among the major causes of mortality in the ICU. These critical states are often associated with vasodilation, which could cause a significant drop in blood pressure, reduced tissue oxygenation and eventually organ failure. A common physiological index of metabolic dysfunction and tissue oxygenation is blood lactate level. In particular, vasopressor need and lactate acid level have been proven to provide an accurate severity of illness classification system [1] in predicting out-of-hospital mortality.

Objectives: The goal of this study is to identify effects of the initiated vasopressor therapy as related to Lactate levels. To this extent, we developed a model to predict a change in blood lactate level 12 hours after the administration of vasopressors by combining baseline features extracted from the electronic health records with measures of vasopressor responses estimated from continuously recorded ECG and arterial blood pressure (ABP) waveforms.

Methods: The data used in this study comes from the MIMIC-III database [2]. The study was carried out on a cohort of 123 patients resulting from selection of all patients undergoing vasopressor administration that passed waveform signal quality annotation and had matching clinical data. Selected features were extracted from the waveform recordings considering 15-minute windows before and after vasopressor administration, as shown in Figure 1.
extracted for each patient within a 12 hour window before vasopressor onset. We used all features to predict whether lactate level was normal (≤ 2 mmol/L) or abnormal (≥ 2mmol/L) 12 hours after the vasopressor onset. The dataset was divided into a training set (80%) and testing set (20%). A Random Forest classifier was trained through a hyperparameter optimization with a 10-fold cross validation and grid search procedure.

Results:

Results (Figure 2) showed an AUROC = 0.84 and AUPRC = 0.57. Feature importance analysis indicated that changes of the cardiovascular interaction between heartbeat and blood pressures after vasopressor administration are predictive of an abnormal lactate 12 hours after the start of vasopressor therapy.

Conclusion:

Autonomic measures reveal an association between the response of the cardiovascular system to vasopressor therapy and changes in blood lactate level, suggesting that ECG- and ABP-derived indexes may be useful for predicting lactate level changes, i.e. tissue oxygenation level, after initiation of vasopressor therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

3. This work was partially supported by Progetto Roberto Rocca, MIT-Italy Program

001507

An international survey about Above Cuff Vocalisation: what are the risks and benefits?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001507

Introduction:

Tracheostomy is a life-saving intervention and facilitates prolonged ventilation in critical care. However, the negative consequences of tracheostomy include thirst and difficulty communicating which can be the most well recalled and distressing experiences for patients [1–3]. Above cuff vocalisation (ACV), also known as ‘talking tracheostomy’ and ‘external subglottic airflow (ESAF),’ has been used for > 50 years [4]. A flow of oxygen or air is applied via the subglottic port of the tracheostomy to restore airflow through the vocal cords and enable vocalisation [5–7]. Some research has also reported improvements to swallowing and cough, hypothesised to be a result of improved laryngopharyngeal sensation [5,8].

Objectives:

To explore the extent of ACV use internationally, implementation approaches, risks, and benefits.

Methods:

Ethical approval was obtained (MREC: 18-037). An international online survey was disseminated May-November 2019 via social media and professional networks. The survey included 73 questions covering topics such as: tracheostomy management, prevalence, practicalities, barriers, resource use, and personal experiences and opinions. Quantitative data was analysed using Microsoft Excel® (2016) and reported descriptively.

Results:

The survey was completed by 244 healthcare professionals (HCPs), with one exclusion, from 9 different HCP groups and 25 countries. Respondents were primarily from critical care (85%; n = 205). ACV was used by 94 HCPs (39%). Most respondents had limited ACV experience; 54% (n = 50) had used ACV with < 10 people. There was a varied approach to ACV implementation (Figure 1). Most respondents wait > 72 hours post-tracheostomy insertion prior to commencing ACV (n = 45; 48%), but 13 (14%) commence ACV at 0-48 hours. The most common complications or symptoms observed with ACV were patient reported discomfort (n = 54; 58%), strained vocal quality (n = 39; 42%), and air escape via the stoma (n = 32; 34%) (Figure 2). Various benefits were reported including: communication (n = 76; 82%), mood (n = 62; 67%), laryngeal sensation (n = 49; 53%), swallowing frequency (n = 43; 46%), reduced volume of subglottic secretions (n = 39; 42%), expectorating secretions (n = 37; 40%), and earlier commencement of oral intake (n = 16; 17%). Incidences of more serious complications were observed less frequently, sub-cutaneous emphysema in 1-4 patients (n = 7; 8%), air trapping in 1-6 patients (n = 10; 11%), and bleeding in 1-30 patients (n = 10; 11%). The most extreme barriers to ACV implementation were lack of access to knowledgeable staff (n = 92; 38%), lack of access to training (n = 73; 30%), and not using tubes with subglottic ports (n = 74; 31%).

Figure 1 – Percentage of respondents that implemented procedures or documentation for ACV

Figure 2 – Complications or symptoms observed that were suspected to be a result of ACV

Conclusion:

There is a varied approach to ACV implementation and delivery. The benefits are diverse, but minor complications are common. Future research should focus on establishing optimal implementation of ACV and developing a standardised approach to maximise benefits and minimise risks.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Claire Mills is funded by a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship for this research project.

001514

Delays in initiating the weaning process: Insights from the WEAN SAFE Study
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Introduction: Prolonged weaning from invasive mechanical ventilation (MV) is associated with poorer patient outcomes, including longer length of stay in the ICU and in the hospital and higher patient mortality [1]. It is recommended to start weaning based on general respiratory criteria (PEEP, FiO₂, …) to avoid potential delays which may contribute to prolonged ventilation and poor outcomes.

Objectives: To evaluate the prevalence and types of delays in initiating the first separation attempt (SA) from invasive MV in patients enrolled in the WEAN SAFE study (Worldwide Assessment of Separation of Patients From ventilatory assistance; NCT03255109).

Methods: WEAN SAFE is a global, multi-centre prospective observational study that enrolled 6,167 patients in 476 centres receiving mechanical ventilation for at least 2 days. The time to initiation of the first SAs was examined in patients meeting general criteria. We considered the patients met criteria for initiating the weaning process when they were not receiving neuromuscular blocking agents, were on low dose or no vasopressors, had a PEEP < 10 cmH₂O and a FiO₂ < 50%. Patients were classified according to the WIND classification, which describes three different duration of weaning [2]. WIND groups were defined as the time from the first SA to successful weaning or death: group 1 within 24h; group 2: more than 1 day and less than a week; group 3: weaning not completed 7 days after the first SA.

Results: Of the 6,167 patients enrolled, 4,464 had at least 1 SA and could be grouped according to the WIND classification: 70% in group 1; 14% in group 2 and 16% in group 3. Of 4,212 patients that met criteria for weaning initiation, the median (interquartile range) time from these criteria to the first SA was 2 days (0.4–6). In the whole cohort, 30% of the patients had a SA the very day they met these criteria (n = 1,257) whereas this delay was longer than 6 days in 16% (n = 669). This delay statistically differed according to the WIND group (Table 1). We then assessed the time difference between the first day patients had spontaneous breathing activity and the first SA. In the whole population (n = 4,464) this delay was 0 (0;3) days and was also significantly different across the WIND groups (Table). Delay from the first SA to the weaning termination (successful weaning or death) was associated with the outcomes: hospital mortality was 15.6% in group 1, 38.2% in group 2 and 35.4% in group 3 (P < 0.001 between groups).

Conclusion: Delays in initiating the weaning process in patients may contribute prolonged mechanical ventilation and subsequent higher mortality. The reasons underlying these delays in initiating weaning need to be explored.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. This abstract is submitted on behalf of the WEAN SAFE INVESTIGATORS

001521

Proinflammatory cytokines and endothelial cell activation in human acute heart failure versus septic shock
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Introduction: Inflammation-driven “endothelitis” appears to contribute to acute heart failure (AHF). We aimed at evaluating the proinflammatory status and endothelial activation, as well as their correlation, in human AHF, cardiogenic shock (CS) and to differentiate the same processes in patients with the diagnosis of non-cardiogenic shock (NCS), namely septic shock.

Methods: Patients with AHF (n = 23), CS (n = 25) and NCS (n = 20) were included and blood and urine samples were collected at days 1-2, days 3-4 and days 5-8. Blood donors were used as controls (n = 22) at a single time point collection. Serum IL-1β, IL-6, tumoral necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) and E-selectin were determined using Multiplex Immunoassays. Endocan was evaluated by ELISA kit.

Results: At admission, we found no significant differences in IL-1β concentration between groups. Admission IL-6 values (pg/mL) were higher in patients’ groups (controls: 2.0 ± 0.9; AHF:40.0 ± 22.3; CS: 95.9 ± 26.4; NCS: 598.1 ± 311.5; controls vs AHF, p < 0.01; controls vs CS or NCS, p < 0.001). Admission TNF-α concentration (pg/mL)
was higher in NCS (controls: 5.4 ± 0.6; AHF:11.9 ± 3.1; CS: 9.4 ± 1.5; NCS:46.9 ± 8.7, controls vs NCS, p < 0.001; NCS vs CS, p < 0.001).

Admission endocan (ng/mL) were higher in all patients’ groups (controls: 1.4 ± 0.2; AHF: 6.1 ± 1.8; CS: 12.9 ± 1.9, NCS: 10.6 ± 1.4; controls vs AHF, p < 0.01; controls vs CS or NCS, p < 0.001, CS vs AHF, p < 0.01). Admission ICAM-1 values (ng/mL) were increased in CS and NCS compared to controls and AHF (controls: 474.9 ± 70.7; AHF: 412.4 ± 60.3; CS: 665.5 ± 72.6, NCS: 726.6 ± 55.3, controls vs CS, p < 0.05; controls vs NCS, p < 0.01). Admission VCAM-1 (ng/mL) was higher in all patients’ groups (controls: 705.8 ± 51.0, AHF: 1840.0 ± 290.0, CS: 3425.0 ± 645.6, NCS: 4462.0 ± 449.7, controls vs AHF, p < 0.01; controls vs CS, p < 0.001, controls vs NCS, p < 0.001), while E-selectin presented higher values in NCS (controls: 28.7 ± 1.6, AHF: 33.1 ± 2.3, CS: 37.9 ± 3.7, NCS: 207.4 ± 28.6, controls vs NCS, p < 0.001, CS vs NCS, p < 0.001).

During hospitalization, there was an overall decrease in TNF-α values (p = 0.02) and also a decrease in all endothelial biomarkers (ICAM-1, VCAM-1 and E-selectin concentration - p = 0.04 and p = 0.001 and p < 0.01, respectively) in NCS. Withinpatients, we observed significant positive correlations between endocan and IL-6 and VCAM-1, between ICAM-1 and IL-1β, IL-6, VCAM-1 and E-selectin, between VCAM-1 and IL-6, TNF-α and all the endothelial biomarkers, and between E-selectin and IL-6, TNF-α, ICAM-1 and VCAM-1.

Conclusion: Proinflammatory status and endothelial cell activation are interrelated and significantly increased in all patient’s groups. During hospitalization, there is significant decrease in all endothelial biomarkers only in NCS patients. This suggests that inflammation-driven “endothelitis” is constant in AHF and CS which might perpetuate and aggravate the prognosis heart failure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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001579
Prediction tools developed in the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic lack validity
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Introduction: Since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, there has been a surge of clinical risk prediction scores developed, mostly at the first epicentre in China [1][2][3][4]. Predicting risk of deterioration or severe COVID-19 related illness is of significance, both as part of a clinical treatment guidance as well as to highlight the likely groups benefitting from novel disease modifying therapies. Although many of the risk prediction tools were developed in multi-centre studies, their external clinical utility and face validity has not been established in independent cohorts [5].

Objectives: We attempted to validate three previously published risk-stratification tools in a multi-centre study.

Methods: Anonymised patient data was collected as part of a service evaluation and audit project by the Secondary Care Group Members of the Welsh Government COVID-19 response from patients admitted to the University Hospital of Wales, a tertiary academic centre and to the two district general hospitals in Aneurin Bevan UHB. Due to the anonymised nature of the data collection, formal written consent was waived.

Data was collected to enable to calculate the CALL-score, the COVID-GRAM risk score and a nomogram developed by Gong et al [1][2][3].

Primary outcome was a composite outcome of development of severe COVID-19 disease leading to ICU admission or death as described by the original publications. The outcome was censored at hospital discharge or 30-days.

Conclusion: With respect to the composite outcome of ICU admission or death within our cohort, the discriminative value of all three predictive tools was poor. This is likely due to a variety of factors. The absence of calibration data to address the overfitting of the COVID-GRAM leaves the fine-tuning of regression coefficients as potentially overlooked [6]. Furthermore, each of the tools had relatively small and homogenous training and validation cohorts, despite being multi-centred in nature, in contrast to the international datasets now available. Moreover, our cohort differed as older, predominantly white and carrying a higher comorbidity burden.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: COVID-19 outbreak has represented a new challenge for intensivists worldwide in terms of patient and resources management. The decision of which ventilation strategy to adopt in each patient has been crucial and not guided by existing outcome evidence.

Objectives: We described the clinical characteristics and outcomes of hospitalized COVID-19 patients according to the adopted ventilatory strategy.

Methods: All COVID-19 patients hospitalized within the Rimini province (340,000 residents) from February 26 to April 18, 2020 were included in the present observational population-based study. Patients were classified according to the maximum level of ventilation support (oxygen, non-invasive ventilation (NIV), mechanical ventilation (MV)). Sixty-day mortality was computed and patient’s risk of death was estimated with a Cox proportional hazard analysis adjusted by age, sex, and administration of steroids, canakinumab, and tocilizumab.

Results: 1,424 symptomatic patients were identified; 522 (36.7%) were hospitalized, the remaining 902 (63.3%) were treated at home with no deaths at 60 days. 408 (28.5%) patients were treated only with standard care and oxygen supplementation during hospitalization (G1), 46 (8.8%) patients underwent only NIV (G2), 25 (4.8%) failed a NIV trial and received MV (G3), and 41 (7.9%) only/or MV (G4). There was no significant difference in the PiF at MV incepcion among G3 and G4 (p-value 0.9). Overall 60-day mortality was 24.2% and was 23.0% in G1, 19.6% in G2, 32.0% in G3, and 36.6% in G4 (p = 0.165). Compared with G1, corresponding adjusted HRs progressively increasing from G2 to G4 (HR 1.78, 95% CI 0.79–3.98; HR 2.78, 95% CI 1.14–6.73; HR 2.97, 95% CI 1.55–5.65, Figure).

Conclusion: Our study suggested that patients who failed a NIV trial did not have a worse prognosis than patients treated directly with MV, but the adopted strategy has helped with the optimization of the resources allocation.
Introduction: The Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic touches health care systems worldwide and surpasses intensive care capacity in many areas. Since COVID-19 is an emerging disease, high quality evidence about the course of the disease and optimal treatment is sparse. We envision that combining efforts of the intensive care community through knowledge and data is paramount to accumulate insight into this novel disease.

Objectives: We set out to gather data from COVID-19 patients for machine learning studies from all intensive care units in the Netherlands. We outline the process of data collection under European privacy law in times of crisis.

Methods: We devised a multidisciplinary report on the lawful collection of data from electronic health records during the COVID-19 pandemic in close collaboration with data protection officers (DPO), hospital lawyers, and intensivists. Similarly, a data sharing agreement was drafted based on a nation-wide template for sharing data between healthcare institutions. Documentation was reviewed by the institutional review board (IRB). All hospitals in the Netherlands with an intensive care unit were approached, and documentation was reviewed locally before permission was granted.

Results: Under European law, patient privacy is regulated in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (1). Both the GDPR and Dutch national law provide that data subjects have to give explicit consent for the processing of their data. We argue that during the COVID-19 crisis, asking consent cannot be reasonably expected from health care workers due to a) the large number of expected patients and associated time burden in an already overstrained health care system, b) the danger of spreading or contracting the virus upon contact with patients or their families, and c) the poor clinical condition of many patients in the intensive care. Consent is therefore not only impractical, but often impossible. In addition, alternative forms of data collection are unavailable and selection bias would lead to unreliable data. As under non-crisis circumstances, we may gather COVID-19 data necessary for scientific purposes when we “provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject” (GDPR, Article 9, paragraph j1). Therefore, we a) pseudonymized data in the providing hospital, b) informed patients through media and local hospital outlets about the possibility to opt out, and c) signed data sharing agreements regulating privacy of patients. We currently have data sharing agreements in place with 38 hospitals and have received data from 32 hospitals. With this study we aspire to set an example for the lawful collection of data in times of a health crisis.

Conclusion: In times of the COVID-19 crisis, we consider large scale data collection pivotal to combat this novel disease and to improve patient outcomes. Data collection in times of crisis may be possible and lawful under European privacy laws.

e-posters

00065
Hypothermia during CRRT, a comparative analysis

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Introduction: One of the most common adverse events during continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) is hypothermia, < 35.0 °C, reported in 44% of all cases. Hypothermia may be less common over time, but available data is scarce. Hypothermia is associated with higher mortality rates; in a time series analysis of over 15000 admissions during 8.5 years, the incidence of hypothermia (< 36.0 °C) decreased from 29% to 21% during the study period and was associated with ICU mortality in both medical and surgical patients. The older Prismaflex CRRT system uses the Barkey blood warmer, also known as Prismacomfort. It operates by covering the blood return flow with a silicon tube heat exchanger and the heat is transferred by the contact of the resistance heating system. The Thermax blood warmer on the newer Prisma CRRT system responds to changing treatment parameters by repeatedly adjusting heating to fulfill the prescribed return blood temperature. We wanted to characterize the occurrence of hypothermia in CRRT patients and to compare wether the newer Thermax warmer was more effective in protecting against hypothermia compared to its predecessor Barkey.

Methods: The study was registered at Clinical Trials.gov (NCT03973814) and approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Dnr 2019-04388). A total of 9046 patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Skåne University Hospital, Lund, Sweden during the years 2006-2019 were screened and 342 patients undergoing CRRT were identified and included. The old Prismaflex with the Barkey warmer was used until November 2018, thereafter the Prisma with the Thermax was used. Data was extracted from the electronic patient database management system ICCA (IntelliSpace Critical Care and Anesthesia, Philips, the Netherlands) which contains complete clinical datasets generated during the ICU stays. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years of age and admission to the adult intensive care unit at Skåne University Hospital, Lund during the period from November 2006 to August 2019 and treatment with CRRT during the ICU stay. Hypothermia was defined as < 36.0 °C. The temperature measurements (bladder, ear, blood) were carried out hourly. The fraction of hours in hypothermia were compared between the two warmers. A sensitivity analysis was performed where the first two hours of CRRT treatment were excluded in order to test if the phase of starting CRRT was the main driver of overall hypothermia. Means and standard deviations are presented. Significance was tested by using the chi squared test. For all calculations the SAS software version 9.4 (Statistical Analysis Software, Cary, USA) was used. Significance level was defined as p < 0.05.

Results: In total, 57741 hours were available for evaluation in the cohort. Prismaflex patients spent 11.43% (6112 treatment hours below 36 °C /53465 treatment hours in total) of their time in hypothermia, as compared to the novel Prisma CRRT system, where 10.06% (430 treatment hours below 36 °C /4276 treatment hours in total) were below 36.0 °C (Chi-Square p = 0.0063). In the sensitivity analysis significant differences between the historic and novel systems prevailed; 12.7% as compared to 11.2% hypothermia hours (p = 0.0216). The Thermax blood warmer was associated with less heat loss compared to the Barkey warmer. This was highlighted by a mean patient temperature of
37 °C vs 36.5 °C correspondingly, but also by the fact that the mean set return temperature was 37.9 °C vs 40.9 °C. This difference in mean set return temperature translates to a significant (p < 0.001) difference in the historic Barkey system compared to the new Thermax system. Seemingly, an overcorrection was needed in the Barkey system, probably because of its insufficiency to maintain the sought blood temperature in the patient. In addition, the use of adjacent Bairhugger bodywarmer was significantly less in the Thermax group compared to the Barkey group; 17/32 (53.1%) patients had Bairhugger compared to 285/310 (91.9%) (p < 0.001) and for those patients with Bairhugger there were more Bairhugger free hours in the Thermax group compared to the Barkey group; 99.7 ± 93.4 hours without (16.7 ± 16.4 h with) in the Thermax group compared to 73.2 ± 107.3 h without (40.3 ± 45.7 h with) in the Barkey group (p < 0.01).

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, every tenth hour during CRRT was spent in hypothermia. There was a signal that the Prismax CRRT system and the Thermax blood warmersignificantly decreased the risk of hypothermia as compared to historic controls with the older Prismaflex and Barkey Thermax significantly decreased the risk of hypothermia compared to the Barkey group; 99.7 vs 107.3 h without (16.7 ± 16.4 h with) in the Thermax group and p 0.01). (40.3 ± 45.7 h with) in the Barkey group (p < 0.01).

**Conclusion:**

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000109**

**Does haemoconcentration or passive leg raising predict cardiac index decrease during mechanical fluid removal with continuous renal replacement therapy?**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000109

**Introduction:** After acute phase of circulatory failure, some authors suggest to have a deresuscitation strategy to avoid side effects of fluid overload, involving mechanical or diuretic’s induced fluid removal (1). According to frank starving, hypovolemia should induce a decrease in cardiac index. We hypothesized that an absence of refill ing detected by an hameoconcentration, or a preload responsiveness before fluid removal could predict cardiac index (CI) decrease during mechanical fluid removal induced by renal replacement therapy.

**Methods:** We conducted a single center prospective diagnostic accuracy study in an intensive care unit of an academic French hospital. Primary aim of the study was to evaluate diagnostic performance of haemoconcentration based on proteinemia variation to detect CI decrease ≥ 12% during mechanical fluid removal. Secondary aims were to evaluate diagnostic performance of passive leg raising (PLR) or CI trending by pulse contour analysis to detect CI decrease, and to describe hemodynamic variations observed during mechanical fluid removal. Patients were adults treated with continuous renal replacement therapy, and fluid removal; and monitored by transpulmonary thermodilution technique. Non inclusion criteria were needs to sedation or vasoactive drug adjustment, complement absentemia syndrome, pregnancy. Patients experienced a fluid removal challenge (FRC), consisting in a mechanical fluid removal of 500 mL during one hour. Fluid removal was stopped if hypotension occurred. Biological samples with proteinemia and haemoglobin, PLR and transpulmonary thermodilution were carried out just before and just after the FRC. We constructed Receptor Operative Characteristics (ROC) curves with computation of area under the curve (AUC) to evaluate diagnostic performance of different variables. 95% confidence interval was determined by bootstrap technic with 2000 repetitions. Comparisons between groups were analysed with a Mann-Whitney U test. All tests were two-sided, and p-value below 0.05 defined statistical significance.

**Results:** We included sixty-nine patients between December 2016 and April 2020. Sixteen patients had a significant CI decrease (23% [CI95% 14-35]). Patient’s age was 64 (52, 72), 46 (67%) were cardiac surgical patients, 41 (59%) benefited from mechanical ventilation, 29 (42%) presented arrhythmia, cumulative fluid balance at baseline was 7% [−1, 16], SOFA score was 12 [8, 14]. To compare with patient without CI decrease, patients with significant CI decrease presented: no variation concerning arterial pressure or heart rate; a preload decrease (global end diastolic volume index decrease -8% [CI95% −20, −5] vs 0 [CI95% −4, 6]); a systemic vascular resistance increase (29% [CI95% 14, 30] vs 2% [−7, 14]); a more important decrease in cardiac function index (−9% [CI95% −16, −2] vs −4% [CI95% −8, 3]. Hemocoenzymatic evaluated by proteinemia and haemoglobin variations. PLR before or after FRC, and CI trending by pulse contour analysis failed to predict CI decrease with AUC under ROC curve > 0.75.

**Conclusion:** Haemoconcentration variables, preload responsiveness status and CI trending by pulse contour analysis failed to predict a CI decrease during FRC. As we observed several events of CI reduction, monitoring cardiac index with transpulmonary thermodilution technique might help to prevent deleterious effect of fluid removal.

**000178**

The duration of acute kidney injury is an additional parameter to predict 1-year survival in very elderly patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000178

**Introduction:** Acute kidney injury (AKI) severity is classified into three stages on the basis of either the increase in serum creatinine (Scr) level or the duration and extent of oliguria by KDIGO criteria. However, the diagnostic and staging criteria do not take into account the duration of Scr elevation, which reflects the time to renal function recovery and could be an important potential dimension of AKI along with severity.

**Objectives:** We sought to explore the association between the duration of AKI based on Scr and 1-year mortality and to examine whether the duration of AKI offered any additional prognostic information over the magnitude of elevation in Scr.

**Methods:** This retrospective study was conducted from 2007 to 2018 with very elderly patients (≥ 75 years) from the Chinese PLA General Hospital. AKI was stratified by magnitude according to KDIGO stage and duration (1–2 days, 3–4 days, 5–7 days, and > 7 days) (2018). The primary outcome was the 1-year mortality rate after AKI.

**Results:** During the study period, a total of 688 AKI patients were included in the analysis. The median age was 88 (84–91) years. According to the KDIGO criteria, 317 patients (46.1%) had stage 1 AKI, 169 (24.6%) had stage 2 AKI, and 202 (29.4%) had stage 3 AKI. Of the 688 study subjects, we stratified patients by duration of AKI: 1–2 days (61; 8.9%), 3–4 days (104; 15.1%), 5–7 days (140; 20.3%), and > 7 days (383; 55.7%). The Kaplan-Meier survival plot demonstrates that 1-year survival was significantly different according to both AKI stage and duration. As the duration of AKI increased within each strata of AKI severity as defined by the KDIGO criteria (magnitude), 1-year survival decreased, but no significant differences were found for patients with stage 1 and stage 2 AKI (stage 1, P = 0.526; stage 2, P = 0.818; stage 3, P = 0.016).
However, survival significantly changed within each strata of AKI classified by duration. Notably, the 1-year mortality rates were greater for those with a duration of 3–4 days, a duration of 5–7 days, and a duration of > 7 days of AKI. These relationships were confirmed when we examined the stratified survival plots. When patients were stratified by the stage of AKI, patients with increasing duration of AKI had significantly worse 1-year survival in the group with AKI stage 3 (log-rank test: P < 0.001), but no differences were found in the group with stage 1 or stage 2 (log-rank test: both P > 0.05). In contrast, when patients were stratified by the duration of AKI, the magnitude of Scr increase as classified by KDIGO was significantly associated with 1-year mortality (log-rank test: P < 0.005 for all four strata).

According to the multivariate regression analysis, both AKI duration (3–4 days: HR = 2.4 ± 0.5 days. Serum copper, zinc, selenium, chromium and cobalt levels at all times and reference range showed Table 1. Serum trace elements was not significantly different from baseline at all times (p > 0.05).

### Table 1. Serum copper, zinc, selenium, chromium and cobalt levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Reference range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper, µg/dl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In dialysis, ±SD</td>
<td>79.5 ± 32.56</td>
<td>75–145 µg/dL2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>80.27 ± 32.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>86.04 ± 27.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>76.43 ± 29.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc, µg/dl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In dialysis, ±SD</td>
<td>66.63 ± 28.34</td>
<td>66–110 µg/dL2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>69.43 ± 29.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>69.43 ± 29.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenium, µg/dl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In dialysis, ±SD</td>
<td>51.71 ± 22.60</td>
<td>5.8–23.4 µg/dL2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>53.00 ± 25.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>53.00 ± 25.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>47.13 ± 25.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium, µg/dl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In dialysis, ±SD</td>
<td>2.70 (0.30–98.80)</td>
<td>0.5–5 µg/dL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>2.60 (1.30–41.50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>2.60 (1.30–41.50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt, µg/dl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In dialysis, ±SD</td>
<td>1.03 ± 0.76</td>
<td>0.1–12 µg/dL3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>1.06 ± 0.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>1.06 ± 0.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>0.67 ± 0.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After dialysis, range</td>
<td>0.70 (0.3–13.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>0.70 (0.3–13.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>0.6 (0.3–4.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is common and serious complication in critically ill patients. AKI treated with continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) may alter trace element levels in critically ill patients and at risk for disturbances in plasma levels of trace elements due to the underlying illness, AKI, and dialysis 1.

### Objectives: We aimed to determine trace element balances during CRRT in critically ill patients.

### Methods: The study was conducted prospectively in intensive care unit (ICU). The study included patients aged ≥ 18 years who were admitted to ICU with AKI and required CRRT support (continuous venovenous hemodiafiltration, CVVHDF). Serum trace elements (copper, zinc, selenium, chromium and cobalt) measured were measured using the high performance liquid chromatography on the first three days of CVVHDF and first two days after CVVHDF.

### Results: We enrolled 50 patients. The median (min-max) age was 64 (18–88) years. The most common reasons for ICU admission were respiratory failure (34%) and metabolic disorders (20%). The median (min-max) baseline APACHE II score and NUTRIC score of the patients was 24.0 (6.0–33.0) and 5 (0–8), respectively. The mean days on CRRT was 2.4 ± 0.5 days. Serum copper, zinc, selenium, chromium and cobalt levels at all times and reference range showed Table 1. Serum trace elements was not significantly different from baseline at all times (p > 0.05).
Conclusion: End of the study, serum chromium and selenium was tended to increase on follow-up while cobalt, copper and zinc was tended to decrease on follow-up. However, the difference in these parameters was not statistically significant.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. URL: http://www.gclabs.co.uk/eng/information/search_test_item_view
4. Ecsyes University Scientific Research Committee

000369
Association of plasma and urine neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin with acute kidney injury and long-term mortality in patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery per enhanced recovery after surgery protocols
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Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is common in surgical patients. We aimed to investigate the validity of plasma and urine neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL) in the early detection of AKI and prediction of outcomes in patients undergoing major elective colorectal surgery.

Methods: This was a post-hoc analysis of a randomized controlled trial comparing oesophageal doppler and Lithium dilution cardiac output monitoring for intraoperative haemodynamic monitoring in high risk patients undergoing major colorectal surgery in a tertiary care hospital. Plasma and urine samples were collected before surgery (T1), immediately after surgery (T2), and on postoperative day 1 (T3) and NGAL levels were measured. We collected baseline demographics, perioperative parameters, hospital and long-term mortality. We identified patients with AKI according to KDIGO criteria and compared them with patients without AKI.

Results: A total of 89 patients were included, of whom 12 (13.5%) developed AKI. Plasma NGAL significantly increased from T1 to T3 in both AKI (P < 0.001) and non-AKI (P = 0.048) patients, while urine NGAL did not change over time. There were no significant differences in plasma and urine NGAL in patients with and without AKI at all time points. Baseline plasma NGAL and post-operative urine NGAL were higher in 8-year non-survivors than survivors. AKI patients with raised plasma or urine NGAL had a higher long-term mortality than AKI patients without a raised NGAL.

Conclusion: Plasma and urine NGAL poorly predicted AKI post-colorectal surgery. Both plasma and urine NGAL were higher in non-survivors although further studies are needed to determine the association between NGAL and long-term outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. The authors acknowledged BioPorto Diagnostics A/S for assistance with urine and plasma NGAL measurement. Data collection was collated by the Colorectal Enhanced Recovery Team – Marie Morris, Lucy Morris, and Jane Varghese. Perioperative care was predominantly provided by the following consultant anaesthetists and surgeons – Emir Carapeti, Amir Darakhshan, Vivek Datta, Mark George, David James, Stuart Mccorkell, Vedा Ponnaiah, Emma Taylor, Andy Williams, and Georgina Wilson – and staff in the Overnight Intensive Recovery Unit. Linda Tovey and the ICU technicians processed the NGAL samples.
2. The study was funded by a New Services and Innovation Grant awarded by the Guy’s & St Thomas’ Charities. A full-time research assistant was funded jointly with contribution by the medical device manufacturer, Deltex Medical (Chichester, UK).

000509
Impact of a computerized decision support tool and care bundle on critical care costs of acute kidney injury (AKI) patients
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Introduction: Acute kidney injury is one of the most common complications in critical care. It is associated with high mortality, increased length of stay and adverse long-term outcomes. Clinical decision support (CDS) tools have provided means of alerting clinicians to deteriorating patients leading to better management and improved outcomes. A study was conducted in two ICU units in University Hospitals Bristol, UK. It involved integrating a CDS intervention based on Acute Kidney Injury Network (AKIN) guidelines and a care bundle consisting of alerts, dashboard and order sets.

Objectives: The study involved a before (control) and after (intervention) phases. It investigated the effect of the intervention on the number of patients deteriorating to higher AKI levels as well as measuring medication adherence. This work investigates the in-ICU costs relating to the length of stay of AKI patients before and after the intervention.

Methods: AKI score was calculated anytime a new urine output or Serum Creatinine was measured. The costs for each stage of AKI (1-3, according to AKIN) were calculated as the number of patients per stage, multiplied by the average LOS and the average cost of an ICU day in intensive care based on hospital averages (£1981). This provides a minimal value, as the costs associated with higher AKI levels are higher.

Results: Each arm of the study was run for 1 year with 2523 ICU admissions in the control phase followed by 2521 ICU admissions in the intervention phase. The prevalence of patients developing any AKI decreased from 43.1% (control) to 37.5% (intervention). There was a reduction in the proportion of patients in each stage of AKI. This was accompanied with a reduction in LOS for the three levels. In control cohort, the mean LOS for AKI stage 1 was 6.4 days which reduced to 5.0 days in intervention. For stage 2 and stage 3, the reduction was (8.2 days; control to 7.3 days; intervention) and (10.8 days; control to 10.2 days; intervention) respectively. Overall, minimal ICU costs for all AKI patient days were £14,459,874 for 1018 AKI patients in the control phase and £10,163,738 for 870 AKI patients in the intervention phase.

Conclusion: In comparison to the control phase, the study showed that the introduction of AKI guidelines and care bundle increased AKI vigilance, leading to proactive measures in managing AKI. This led to a reduction of patients with AKI in the intervention phase, accompanied by an overall shorter length of stay. ICU costs were reduced by 30% if only length of stay were to be considered as a contributing factor. This, however, is a rather simplified view of ICU costs. Further work should include the effect of treatments, long-term follow-up and readmission on costs.

000548
Acute renal failure in COVID 19 patients on mechanical ventilation
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1Intensive care unit, Hospital Príncipe de Asturias, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 2Anesthesiology, Hospital Príncipe de Asturias, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 3General surgery, Hospital Príncipe de Asturias, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; 4Anesthesiology, Hospital Príncipe de Asturias, Alcalá de Henares, Spain
Correspondence: A. Ruiz García Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000548

Introduction: COVID 19 community acquired pneumonia is a recent and frequent cause of admission in European intensive care units. Currently, there are many open questions regarding the management
and prognostic factors of these patients. Among them, its association with acute renal failure in patients on mechanical ventilation.

**Objectives:** Analysis of acute renal failure in COVID-19 patients on mechanical ventilation. Prognosis and factors related to its development.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study carried out in the intensive care unit of a University Hospital during the COVID 19 pandemic. We analysed patients admitted to the ICU with the diagnosis of Respiratory Failure due to pneumonia COVID 19 between 6/3/2020 and 21/4/2020. Demographic data (age, sex), APACHE II, comorbidities, analytical data (ferritin, total bilirubin), length of stay, treatments administered (mechanical ventilation, muscle relaxant, vasoactive drugs, prone) and its association to acute renal failure were analysed.

**Results:** 67 patients received complete treatment in our hospital. 67.2% males with an average age 60 years, length of stay (days) 14.1 ± 10, APACHE II 14.3 ± 5.2. Maximum creatinine mean value (mg/ dl) 1.48 ± 1.26, maximum ferritin mean value (ng/ml) 2310 ± 3322, maximum total bilirubin mean value (mg/dl) 2 ± 2.2. 100% of the patients required mechanical ventilation. 65.7% prone positioning, 74.6% neuromuscular blockers and 98.5% required vasoactive drugs. Establishing renal failure as creatinine values greater than 1.2 mg / dl, the results shown in Table 1 were obtained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creatinine &gt; 1.2 mg/dl</th>
<th>Creatinine &lt; 1.2 mg/dl</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritine (max)</td>
<td>3421</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Dimer (max)</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilirubine (max)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the mean creatinine values in patients, who require prone positioning, muscular blockers, have cardiovascular disease, dyslipidaemia, survivors, and non-survivors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of creatinine (mg/dl)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prone</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular bloq.</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male)</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV desease</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauerinfection</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In our sample, we have associated acute renal failure with higher ferritin values. Likewise, we have observed higher creatinine values in the group of non-survivors, those with dyslipidaemia and men, with statistical signification.

**000837**

The use of Polymyxin B Hemoperfusion for COVID-19 Patients with endotoxic shock

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000837

**Introduction:** Astrointestinal dysfunction may lead to increased mucosal permeability and leakage of endotoxin. Although coronaviruses are known mainly as respiratory pathogens, up to 60% of COVID-19 patients show gastrointestinal symptoms at admission or developed during hospitalization. Recent published data show how endotoxemia and bacterial DNA are frequently found in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, indicating that loss of intestinal barrier function can contribute to the pathogenesis of COVID-19. In addition, patients who are hospitalized for extended periods in an ICU are more prone to superimposed infections.

**Objectives:** In this retrospective analysis we report our experience of Polymyxin B hemoperfusion (PMX-HP) as complementary therapy for unresponsive endotoxic shock management in 5 patients with COVID-19 hospitalized in our ICU ward between February and April 2020. To the best of our knowledge, there is no data published yet concerning PMX-HP use in COVID-19 patients.

**Methods:** In the present case series, we evaluated the impact of PMX-HP as adjunctive therapy in a population of patients affected by COVID-19 and confirmed endotoxic shock identified my measurement of endotoxin activity at enrollment. Hemodynamics and mainly clinically relevant outcome parameters were monitored. PMX-HP treatment consists of 2 hemoperfusion sessions, the second session performed 24 hours after the first one, at a blood flow rate of 100 ml/min. Unfractionated heparin was used as standard anticoagulant.

**Results:** PMX-HP treatment was associated with rapid hemodynamic stabilization with reduction of Vasopressors Inotropic Score (VIS) – (from a mean value of 29 ± 15,17 to 2,60 ± 2,88 at 120 hours, p < 0,05), reduction in blood lactate levels (from 2,84 ±1,43 to 1,08 mmol/l ± 0,54 at 120 hours – p < 0,05), rapid decrease in Endotoxin Activity (EA) levels (from a mean EA value of 0,70 ± 0,10 to 0,49 ± 0,13 at 48 hours – p < 0,05) in a population affected by SARS-CoV-2 and endotoxic shock. PMX-HP treatment resulted safe and well-tolerated with no device related adverse events during or after hemoperfusion sessions. All patients received 2 hemoperfusion sessions.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. None

000839

Acute Kidney Injury in critically ill trauma patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000839

Introduction. Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a common complication in trauma with 24% of incidence in intensive care unit and it is independently associated with increased morbidity and mortality, but also prolonged length of stay. The high incidence of AKI in trauma patients should lead to early identification of those at risk of AKI to establish a resuscitation strategy that aims at preventing AKI.

Methods: Detailed data of trauma patients between May, 2017 and May, 2019 were retrieved from icu medical records. In particular, patients’ demographics, hemodynamic parameters, biochemical parameter and fluid balance, urinary output, sCr values at baseline, 24 hrs, 48 hrs, and 72 hrs. Shorts and long terms outcomes had been analysed.

Results. Based on KDIGO criteria, 45 patients developed AKI (29.4%) 29 patients (19.9%) developed stage 1 AKI, 16 patients (10.5%) stage 2-3 AKI. Patients with elevated urinary biomarkers alone undergoing therapeutics interventions had 8.5% stage 2-3 AKI compared to 33% of AKI and mortality at 90 days in the two groups. We also analyzed some confounding factors such as circulatory failure (CF), use of iodinated contrast media (ICM), aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, colistin, ACEi/sartans and non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID).

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis, reviewing all patients admitted for sepsis to our intermediate care unit (IMCU) from January 1st 2018 to December 31st 2019. The inclusion criteria were: age ≥ 18 years old; diagnosis of sepsis at admission; need of sedative agents for delirium. Exclusion criteria were: chronic need of hemodialysis; use of sedative agents beyond delirium. NO-DEX sedative agents included benzodiazepines, quetiapine and haloperidol. AKI was identified by KDIGO criteria. We analyzed two groups (DEX and NO-Dex) matched for age, SAPS2 score, SOFA score and CKD. We investigated rates of AKI and mortality at 90 days in the two groups. We also analyzed some confounding factors such as circulatory failure (CF), use of iodinated contrast media (ICM), aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, colistin, ACEi/sartans and non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID).

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis, reviewing all patients admitted for sepsis to our intermediate care unit (IMCU) from January 1st 2018 to December 31st 2019. The inclusion criteria were: age ≥ 18 years old; diagnosis of sepsis at admission; need of sedative agents for delirium. Exclusion criteria were: chronic need of hemodialysis; use of sedative agents beyond delirium. NO-DEX sedative agents included benzodiazepines, quetiapine and haloperidol. AKI was identified by KDIGO criteria. We analyzed two groups (DEX and NO-Dex) matched for age, SAPS2 score, SOFA score and CKD. We investigated rates of AKI and mortality at 90 days in the two groups. We also analyzed some confounding factors such as circulatory failure (CF), use of iodinated contrast media (ICM), aminoglycosides, glycopeptides, colistin, ACEi/sartans and non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID).

Objective: We hypothesized that DEX could reduce AKI incidence when compared to NO-DEX sedative agents in septic patients.

Results: We reviewed 34 patients and 22/34 respected the inclusion criteria (11 in DEX group; 11 in NO-DEX group). The two groups were well matched (SAPS2 score: 33 ± 1 (DEX), 33 ± 3 (NO-DEX) = p 0.5; SOFA score: 4 ± 1 (DEX), 4 ± 4 (NO-DEX) = p 0.4; age: 70 ± 11 (DEX), 70 ± 3 (NO-DEX) = p 0.5; CKD: 3/11 patients (DEX), 2/11 patients (NO-DEX). We found that DEX significantly decreases AKI rate (DEX 1/11 patients; NO-DEX 5/11 patients; OR 0.2). In the Table 1 we have reported AKI characteristics for every single patient. About confounding factors, only a patient in NO DEX group received ICM, ACEi/sartans and NSAID all together. Remaining 5 AKI patients in NO-DEX groups did not receive any nephrotoxic drug. Only a patient in DEX group showed AKI and received colistin and DEX treatment at the same time. In conclusion, the higher AKI rate in NO-DEX group was not significantly linked to confounding factors.

Table 1 - AKI characteristics and confounding factors. Every column represents a single patient - RRT, renal replacement therapy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>No DEX (N=29)</th>
<th>AKI stage 1 (N=16)</th>
<th>AKI stage 2-3 (N=29)</th>
<th>AKI (all patients) N=45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RRT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilation free days</td>
<td>1.8(2.1)</td>
<td>1.7(1.4)</td>
<td>2.0(2.5)</td>
<td>1.8(1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV length</td>
<td>5.9(9.3)</td>
<td>7.4(6.6)</td>
<td>10.1(6.1)</td>
<td>7.8(6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU stay</td>
<td>7.7(9.3)</td>
<td>6.3(6.7)</td>
<td>9.9(8.8)</td>
<td>7.7(6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital stay</td>
<td>18.1(16.3)</td>
<td>19.3(15.6)</td>
<td>18.5(19.6)</td>
<td>19.1(17.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal recovery</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>26(89%)</td>
<td>10(58.8%)</td>
<td>7(82.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival over 24 hrs from ER arrival</td>
<td>108(100%)</td>
<td>29(100%)</td>
<td>16(100%)</td>
<td>45 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: AKI is a frequent complication following trauma. Although the reduction of stage 2/3 AKI based on therapeutic interventions driven by elevated urinary biomarkers was observed in 8% of patients, the use of biomarkers represent an important tool for the early detection of patients at high risk of AKI behind the local ICU experience based on multidisciplinary team.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Conclusion: DEX could reduce the incidence of AKI in septic patients when compared with other sedative agents. Future large randomized studies are necessary to confirm these preliminary findings.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Nakashima T. Dexmedetomidine Improved Renal Function in Patients With Severe Sepsis: An Exploratory Analysis of a Randomized Controlled Trial. Journal of Critical Care 2020

000928
Prevalence and risk factors of hemodynamic instability associated with preload-dependence during continuous renal replacement therapy in critically ill patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000928

Introduction: Hemodynamic instability is a frequent complication of continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) in intensive care patients. Postural tests (i.e. passive leg raising in the supine position or Trendelenburg in the prone position) combined with continuous measurement of cardiac output are highly reliable to identify preload dependence and may provide new insights into the mechanisms involved in hemodynamic instability related to renal replacement therapy (HIRRT).

Objectives: We aimed to assess the prevalence and risk factors of HIRRT associated with preload-dependence in ICU patients.

Methods: We conducted a single-center prospective observational study in ICU patients with acute kidney injury KDIGO 3, started on CRRT in the last 24 hours, and monitored with a PICCO® device. The primary endpoint was the rate of HIRRT episodes associated with preload dependence during the first 7 days of CRRT. HIRRT was defined as the occurrence of a mean arterial pressure below 65 mm Hg requiring any of the following therapeutic intervention (initiation or increase in vasopressor dose, discontinuation or decrease of fluid removal by CRRT, or fluid administration). Preload dependence was assessed every 4 hours, and during each hypotensive episode, and was deemed present if the continuous cardiac index increased by at least 10 % during a passive leg raising test in supine patients, or 8% during Trendelenburg in prone patients. Data are expressed in median [1st quartile–3rd quartile], unless stated otherwise.

Results: 32 patients (59% male, age 67 [58-75] year, SAPS-2 71 [49-78]) were included 8 [1-14] hours after CRRT initiation and studied continuously for 99 [55-144] hours. 29 [18-40] hemodynamic evaluations per patient were performed for a total of 903 hemodynamic evaluations. Preload-dependence was present in 42% of the hemodynamic evaluations. RRT modality was CVH during 91% of the hemodynamic evaluations and CVVHD in 9%. Ultrafiltration rate was 27 [24-31] ml.kg-1. hr-1 in CVVH-treated patients, dialysate rate was 26 [20-29] ml.kg-1. hr-1 in CVVHD-treated patients, and net UF was 100 [0-200] ml.hr-1. All patients experienced at least 1 episode of HIRRT. A median of 4 [3-7] HIRRT episodes occurred per patient, for a pooled total of 173 episodes. 94 episodes (54% [CI95%: 47-62%]) were associated with preload-dependence, 75 (43% [CI95%: 36-51%]) without preload-dependence, and 2 were unclassified. Therapeutic management of HIRRT episodes is reported in the figure below. Multivariate analysis (using variables collected prior to HIRRT) identified the following variables as risk factors for the occurrence of HIRRT associated with preload-dependence: preload-dependence before HIRRT (odds ratio = 3.66, p < 0.001), delay since last HIRRT episode of at least 4 hours (OR = 0.35, p < 0.01), lactate (OR = 1.22 per 1.9 mmol/L increase, p < 0.01), cardiac index (0.58 per 1 L.min-1.m-2 increase, p = 0.01) and SOFA at ICU admission (0.90 per 1 point increase, p < 0.01).

Conclusion: In this single center study, HIRRT associated with preload dependence was slightly more frequent than HIRRT without preload dependence in ICU patients undergoing CRRT. Testing for preload dependence to adjust fluid removal could help preventing HIRRT incidence during CRRT.

000971
Prognostic value of [TIMP-2], [IGFBP7] for mortality
J. Baldí1, M. Flores Orella1, JA. Santos1, A. Cordon1, A. Betbesé-Roig1, M. Pérez-Carrasco2, Y. Díaz-Buendia2, J. Sabater Riera4, TM. Tomasa-Irriguible3, M. Cuartero6
1Intensive care, Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain; 2Intensive care, Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain; 3Intensive care, Hospital del Mar, Barcelona, Spain; 4Intensive care, Hospital Universitario de Bellvitge, Barcelona, Spain; 5Intensive care, Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Spain; 6Intensive care, St Mary’s Hospita, London, United Kingdom
Correspondence: M. Flores Orella
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000971

Introduction: TIMP2 and IGFBP7 are specific biomarkers of structural renal injury in critically ill patients. The composite of [TIMP-2], [IGFBP7] in urine is suggested to better detect and stratify acute kidney injury (AKI). To date, there is not enough data in medical-surgical ICUs where renalalcritical care is essentially led by primary intensivists. We designed an observational study to define our population as a first step of an ongoing quality improvement project in AKI in Catalonina.

Objectives: To assess the prognostic value of a single [TIMP-2], [IGFBP7] determination for predicting mortality at ICU admission.

Methods: Prospective, observational study in five tertiary university intensive care units. We included medical and surgical adult patients with an expected ICU stay more than 24 hours. We excluded those pregnant, post cardiac surgery, with severe acute kidney injury (KDIGO3) at admission or requiring bladder washouts. Epidemiological, clinical and laboratory variables were collected during more than 7 days of stay. [TIMP-2], [IGFBP7] (ng/mL/L2/1000) was analysed in an admission urine sample by Nephrocheck® Vitros 3600 platform (NC). Descriptive and survival analysis were made using Stata v.16. The descriptive results are shown in median and interquartile range (IQR). We stratified patients in three groups according acute kidney injury risk: low, NC1 < 0.3; high, NC2 0.3-2; very high, NC3 > 2 (ng/mL/L2/1000).

Results: The sample included 476 patients (Table 1), with median age of 61 (IQR 48-71.5) years; 271 (57%) were women. Median ICU length of stay was 7 (IQR 4-17) days. Patients in NC3 group had a hazard ratio for mortality of 2.8 compared to NC1 group (CI 95% 1.5-5.2; p = 0.001). According to the Kaplan-Meier curve, the probability of death at 28

Conclusion: In this single center study, HIRRT associated with preload dependence was slightly more frequent than HIRRT without preload dependence in ICU patients undergoing CRRT. Testing for preload dependence to adjust fluid removal could help preventing HIRRT incidence during CRRT.
days of admission of patients in NC3 group was 52% (CI 95% 24-68%) (figure 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>TOTAL (n = 476)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>61 (IQR 48-71.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>57% (271/476)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)</td>
<td>7 (IQR 4-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital length of stay (days)</td>
<td>17 (IQR 9-32)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICU mortality</td>
<td>17% (81/476)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days on mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>4 (IQR 2-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA day 1</td>
<td>5 (IQR 1-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>20 (IQR 14-26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline serum creatinine (umol/L)</td>
<td>76 (IQR 63-98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[TIMP2]·[IGFBP7] in (ng/mL)2/1000</td>
<td>0.07 (IQR 0.04-7.52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKI (KDIGO &gt;2) at 48 hours</td>
<td>30% (143/476)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal replacement during ICU stay</td>
<td>5.5% (26/476)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In our study, patients with NC > 2(ng/mL)^2/1000 had a significant higher mortality rate compared to those with low NC values.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Discussion: TIMP2 and IGFBP7 are specific biomarkers of structural renal injury in critically ill patients. The composite of TIMP2·[IGFBP7] in urine is suggested to better detect and stratify acute kidney injury (AKI). To date, there is not enough data in medical-surgical ICUs where renal critical care is essentially led by primary intensivists. We designed an observational study to define our population as a first step of an ongoing quality improvement project in AKI in Catalonia.

Introduction: TIMP2 and IGFBP7 are specific biomarkers of structural renal injury in critically ill patients. The composite of TIMP2·[IGFBP7] in urine is suggested to better detect and stratify acute kidney injury (AKI). To date, there is not enough data in medical-surgical ICUs where renal critical care is essentially led by primary intensivists. We designed an observational study to define our population as a first step of an ongoing quality improvement project in AKI in Catalonia.

Conclusion: Although in our study [TIMP2]·[IGFBP7] had a low predictive capacity to diagnose severe AKI, it showed a very high negative predictive value.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Prevalence and risk factors for development of acute kidney injury in patients after cardiac surgery

M. Georgopoulou1; M. Mavraki1; E. Spiropoulou1; D. Markantonaki1;

Methods: 199 (60 women) consecutive patients admitted to ICU post-cardiac surgery participated in this study. Kidney function evaluated pre-operatively and at 24 hours after procedure. An increase in serum creatinine by 0.3mg/dl was considered as AKI, according to KDIGO classification.

Results: 46 patients (23.1%) developed AKI 24 hours after ICU admission. These patients received more vasoactive drugs (noreadrenaline, vasopressin), (54% vs 26%, p < 0.001). They also had longer cardio-pulmonary bypass (CPB) time (AKI group: 119(104 – 164) min vs no-AKI group: 106(80 – 142) min, p < 0.027), longer administration of sedation [940(300 – 780) min vs min 300(240 – 540) min, p < 0.001] and longer duration of mechanical ventilation support [1084(732 – 1913) min vs 720(534 – 1073) min, p < 0.001]. Finally, patients that developed AKI had significantly higher positive fluid balance during the first 24 hours [1038(363 – 1859) ml vs 501(23 – 1239) ml, p = 0.005].

Conclusion: There is a high prevalence of AKI in patients post cardiac-surgery admitted to ICU. AKI is associated with vasoactive treatment, positive fluid balance, duration of CPB and duration of administration of sedation and duration of mechanical ventilation support.

Early detection of serum biomarkers for sepsis-induced acute kidney injury through metabolomics

F Ping1; Y Guo1; Y Gao1; J Shang1; J Zhang1; Y Li1

000572

Introduction: Sepsis-induced acute kidney injury (AKI) causes high mortality in critical ill patients owing to elevated levels of endotoxin. This situation might be partially attributed to the delayed recognition of AKI because the current diagnosis is based on either an elevation of serum creatinine levels or the detection of oliguria. Metabolomics of less than 0.05. Standard statistical tests were applied. Multivariate logistic regression model was used for potential predictive factors.

Methods: This prospective observational study was performed at Clinic of Anesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Therapy and Clinic of Vascular and Transplantation Surgery, Clinical Centre of Vojvodina, during the period of 18 months, from October 2017 till April 2019. It includes 140 adult patient who underwent elective infrarenal aortic surgery. Potential predictive factors were identified out of medical records such as: patient history, anesthesia lists, daily therapeutic lists, vital parameters and laboratory values lists. The occurrence of acute kidney injury was noted according to AKIN criteria. IBM SPSS version 21 (Chicago, Illinois) was used for statistical analysis. The results were presented in tables and graphs, statistical significance was set at p value of less than 0.05. Standard statistical tests were applied. Multivariate logistic regression model was used for potential predictive factors.

Results: The cut off value of cystatin C serum concentration of 1.14 mg/l has the highest sensitivity (82.5%), and specificity (76%) in the differentiation of patients who will develop acute kidney injury. The final model for predicting acute kidney injury in patients who underwent elective infrarenal aortic surgery contains the following variables: presence of chronic kidney disease, preoperative serum concentration of cystatin C > 1.14 mg/l, application of colloid solutions in volume > 500 ml during the operation and total intravascular fluid replacement volume > 59 ml/kg in intraoperative period. The strongest predictor of differential metabolites obtained from each intergroup comparison are summarized.

Conclusion: Our findings suggested that the levels of Malic acid, Methionine sulfoxide and Petroseleinc acid. Our findings suggested that the levels of Malic acid, Methionine sulfoxide and Petroseleinc acid. Conclusion: Our findings suggested that the levels of Malic acid, Methionine sulfoxide and Petroseleinc acid.
AKI development was cystatin C concentration above 1.14 mg/l with a probability ratio of 17,811.

**Conclusion:** Presurgical value of cystatin C is a good predictor of acute kidney injury after elective infrarenal aortic surgery.

**Methods:** This is a secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial.

**Objectives:**

1. To determine whether free hemoglobin (fHb) ratio could improve predictive performance of AKI at an early stage, compared with prediction using urinary biomarkers alone.
2. To conduct restricted cubic spline in logistic regression for model calibration, and area under curve (AUC) test, resampling model calibration, and likelihood ratio test to compare the predictive performance (i.e., discrimination and calibration) between competing models.

**Results:** Data stratified by median fHb ratio showed that subjects with an fHb ratio > 2.23 presented higher incidence of AKI (80.0% vs. 49.1%, p = 0.001), more need of renal replacement therapy (10.9% vs. 0%, p = 0.036), and higher 28-day mortality (10.9% vs. 0%, p = 0.036) than subjects with an fHb ratio ≤ 2.23. fHb ratio was associated with AKI after adjustment for pre-established factors. Among the four bio-markers, fHb ratio outperformed other biomarkers with the highest AUC of 0.703 (0.600-0.806), best calibration, and minimal optimism (bootstrap-adjusted AUC 0.704, 95% CI 0.592-0.804). Incorporation of fHb ratio achieved better predictive performance in terms of better discrimination (0.771 versus 0.653, p = 0.012) and calibration (p < 0.001) at an early stage, compared with prediction using urinary biomarkers alone.

**Conclusion:** fHb ratio at the end of CPB is a novel, widely applicable biomarker for AKI after open-heart surgery and incorporation of fHb ratio can achieve better predictive performance at an early stage, compared with prediction using urinary biomarkers alone.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

11. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC: 81501642).
Comparison of AKI epidemiology using measured versus calculated baseline creatinine in ICU patients

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1AZ West, Veurne, Belgium; 2Icu, Ghent University Hospital, Gent, Belgium

Correspondence: D. Smagghe

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000331

Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) occurs in over half of ICU patients and is associated with an increase in ICU and hospital mortality. The KDIGO consensus definition for AKI is based on an episode of oliguria or an increase of serum creatinine (Scr) above baseline Scr. In case no representative baseline Scr is available, an alternative based on the MDRD equation for estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) may be used. In this study we evaluated the use of an MDRD estimated baseline Scr (MDRD-Scr) versus the use of a measured baseline Scr (BL-Scr) on the incidence of AKI in critically ill patients.

Methods: We analysed data collected during a four-year period in all consecutive admitted patients in the 5 different adult ICU’s of the Ghent University Hospital. We excluded patients who did not have a BL-Scr available. AKI was assessed using the KDIGO criteria for serum creatinine based on MDRD-Scr and BL-Scr during the first week of ICU admission. Precision was calculated as (BL-Scr - MDRD-Scr)/BL-Scr X 100%, bias as BL-Scr - MDRD-Scr, and accuracy as the proportion of MDRD-Scr within 10%, 20%, 30% or 50% of BL-Scr (Acc10-20-30-50).

Results: Of 9,333 patients admitted, BL-Scr was available in 5,925 patients. Of these, 43.5% developed AKI based on Scr. AKI was correctly classified in 87.2% patients. No-AKI was correctly classified in 89% of no-AKI patients, and AKI stage 3 was correctly in 96.1% of AKI-3 patients. AKI-1 and AKI-2 was only correctly classified in 50.5 resp 54.7% (table 2). In 11.5% of patients MDRD-Scr led to classification of AKI in a higher stage, and in 7.5% to classification of AKI in a lower stage. MDRD-Scr had a sensitivity of 84.2% and specificity of 89.0% for diagnosis of AKI. Positive predictive value was 81.5%, and negative predictive value 90.7%. Precision was 27.5%, bias -0.09, and Acc10-20-30-50 was 20.0%, 38.9%, 53.6%, and 75.3%. In Cardiac Surgery ICU patients precisionand bias were less and Acc was higher compared to Surgical ICU, Medical ICU and Burn Unit ICU patients.

Conclusion: The use of an MDRD estimated baseline Scr resulted in adequate classification of AKI in almost 90% of patients. There was an important bias and a limited accuracy when estimating baseline serum with the MDRD-Scr formula. For AKI stage 1 and 2 there was a high rate (49.5% and 45.3% respectively) of over- or underclassification. In stage 3 AKI the accuracy was 96.1% using MDRD-Scr. When available, a recorded baseline creatinine value should be used as a reference of baseline Scr.

Accurate and Interpretable Prediction of ICU-acquired AKI

E. Schwager1; E. Ghosh1; L. Eshelman1; K. Pasupathy2; E. Barreto3; K. Kashani2

1Connected care - personal health, Philips Research, Cambridge, United States of America; 2Healthcare and policy research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States of America; 3Department of pharmacy, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States of America; 4Division of nephrology and hypertension, department of medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States of America

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000336

Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a prevalent and detrimental condition in the intensive care unit (ICU) (Silver and Chertow 2017). Its impact can be prevented or mitigated by timely intervention. We hypothesized that boosting models could accurately predict the impending development of AKI and provide interpretable information to clinicians regarding AKI risk.

Methods: We used a large cohort of 98,051 ICU encounters admitted to Mayo Clinic ICUs between 2005 and 2017 to train abstain-Boost (Schapire and Singer 1999) models to predict two classes of AKI patients: any-AKI or moderate/severe AKI (AKI stage ≥ 1). Models predicted any-AKI six hours in advance of its onset, and moderate/severe AKI 12 hours in advance of its onset. We removed encounters with insufficient data prior to AKI onset, and divided the remaining cohort into ‘clean’ encounters (agreement between urine output [UO] and creatinine [Cr] for maximum AKI stage) and ‘noisy’ encounters (disagreement between UO and Cr for maximum AKI stage). The clean encounters were further divided into training and testing cohorts. Encounters had a total of 388 predictive features measured during ICU stay, including laboratory results, vital signs, medications, and interventions. We compared the area under the ROCs (AUROCs) of this model with parsimonious models (30 features for any-AKI, 31 features for moderate/severe AKI) selected by the Boruta method (Kursa and Rudnicki 2010; Homola, Daniel, n.d.). We evaluated the importance and contribution of the most predictive features.

Results: Features selected by Boruta yielded nearly the same performance as using the entire feature set. On the test set, the any-AKI model had an AUROC of 0.8301 vs. 0.8303 (all features vs. feature subset), while the moderate/severe model had an AUROC of 0.889 vs. 0.891. On the noisy cohort, the models using the feature subset had AUROC of 0.74 (any-AKI) and 0.70 (moderate/severe AKI). Top features from the feature subset for predicting both any AKI and moderate/severe AKI included urine output and creatinine levels measured before AKI onset, as well as mechanical ventilation, lactate levels, and heart rate. The dosage of furosemide was predictive of any AKI, while pH and fluid balance were predictive of moderate/severe AKI.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that parsimonious, interpretable models could accurately predict AKI in advance of its development or progression, allowing clinicians time to implement timely preventative measures. They provide a list of individualized risk factors for precision medicine.

Discharge Documentation and Nephrology Follow-up of Critical Care Patients Requiring RRT

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000374

Introduction: An episode of acute kidney injury (AKI) with a requirement for renal replacement therapy (RRT) is associated with excess short- and long-term mortality, and chronic comorbidities, including chronic kidney disease (CKD). Follow-up after discharge from hospital is recommended. This requires detailed information transfer from Critical Care to the nephrology and primary care team.

Objectives: We set out to examine data from a single-centre population of critically ill patients who received RRT during a stay in Critical Care and were discharged from hospital alive. We sought to ascertain the following:

a) Comprehensiveness of discharge documentation;

b) Rates of renal follow-up;

c) Survival outcomes at 1 year
**Methods:** We performed a retrospective review of electronic medical notes and patient records of patients admitted to a 54-bedded critical care unit at a Tertiary Care Centre in the UK between June 2017 to May 2018 and who received RRT. Exclusion criteria included: end-stage renal disease already receiving RRT; transfer from other catchment areas; and patients who died in hospital.

**Results:** A total of 433 patients received RRT, of whom 91 met the inclusion criteria. Underlying co-morbidities included: hypertension (54%), diabetes mellitus (25%), pre-existing renal impairment (24%) and coronary artery disease (21%).

Review of discharge documentation from Critical Care showed: AKI was mentioned in 86% and need for RRT in 82% of discharge letters. Nephrology follow up was recommended in 47% of discharge letters. Only 22 of 91 patients (24%) were followed-up by the renal team. 69 patients (76%) received medical follow-up from other specialties. The overall survival rate was 82% at 1 year, and 70% at 2 years.

In the group followed-up by nephrologists, survival rate at 1-year was 86%, versus 81% in the group with no follow-up. There was no difference in survival in patients followed-up by other medical specialties, compared to those with no follow-up.

The average serum creatinine at point of hospital discharge was 160 µmol/L, and in survivors at 1 year it was 115 µmol/L. 7 patients were dependent on RRT at point of discharge, with 3 recovering renal function sufficiently to be independent of dialysis at 1 year. 2 out of these 7 patients were deceased at 1 year. 2 patients became newly dependent on RRT after 1 year.

**Conclusion:** Despite a large critical care capacity and a robust specialist renal service, our data points towards sub-optimal follow-up rates for this high risk patient cohort. Robust pathways at the point of discharge from Critical Care may help mitigate this and ensure consistent follow-up.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Introduction:** Renal injury has been reported to occur in up to 60% of high-risk COVID-19 positive patients admitted to intensive care [1]. Distinct mechanisms of renal injury in COVID-19, two of those being hypercytokinaemia and hypercoagulability, have been reported.

**Objectives:** To compare rates of AKI in COVID-19 positive patients in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Critical Care and record data on hypercoagulability and hypercytokinaemia.

**Methods:** Concurrent cohort study of COVID-19 positive patients admitted to the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Critical Care between February and May 2020; exclusion criterion was ESRF pre-admission. AKI was defined as per the AKIN criteria. Biochemical indicators of hypercytokinaemia (white cell count, neutrophils, leucocytes, ferritin) and hypercoagulability (d-dimer, platelets, fibrinogen) and data sets of individual patient’s maximum vasopressor requirements, days pyrexial & VTE prophylaxis were collected.

**Results:** 45 out of 47 COVID-19 positive patient were included (26 males, 19 females, median age 59 (range 37-77)). 8 patients had pre-existing chronic renal disease. 64.4% of patients developed an AKI with patients with d-dimer > 5 at higher risk (RR = 1.44). Thrombocytopenia showed no correlation whereas thrombocytopenia was weakly related (RR = 1.23). Double dose VTE prophylaxis (enoxaparin 40mg BD) was not shown to be protective (RR 0.9). 97% of patients had hyperferritinaemia & 78% of patients were pyrexic for at least 24 hours. Pyrexia was associated with AKI (RR = 2.2), as was neutrophilia (RR = 2.24). Maximum dose vasopressor requirement was taken as an indicator of severity of cytokine storm-related hypotension. 79% of patients with a maximum dose of noradrenaline of > 5mcg/min developed an AKI (RR = 2.11).

**Conclusion:** Hypercytokinaemia was the most significant factor in development of AKI, with more vasopleigic patients likely to develop renal injury. Hypercoagulability was not closely related with AKI and higher dose VTE prophylaxis did not appear to impact the development of renal injury in our small cohort of patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Evaluation of urinary NGAL as a diagnostic tool for acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with infection**

B. Cardoso Gomes¹; F. Tuon²; JM. Silva³; M. Jacques⁴

¹Departamento de Medicina Integrada, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil. ²Infectologia, Complexo Hospital de Clínicas UFPR, Curitiba, Brazil. ³Icu, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, São Paulo, Brazil. ⁴Psicologia, University Hospital of Curitiba, Curitiba, Brazil

**Correspondence:** B. Cardoso Gomes

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000050

**Introduction:** Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a common complication in critical care patients. Several biomarkers, including urinary neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (uNGAL), have been used in the early detection of AKI.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate uNGAL for the diagnosis and prognosis of AKI in critical ill patients with infections.

**Methods:** This was a prospective observational study of critically ill patients with infections, sepsis, or septic shock in the intensive care unit. Clinical and laboratory data, including daily uNGAL levels, were assessed. The AKI stage using the KDIGO criteria was evaluated. Sensitivity, specificity, and the area under the curve-receiver operating characteristic (AUC-ROC) values were calculated to determine the optimal uNGAL level for predicting AKI. **Ethics Approval:** The study was approved by the Local Ethics Committee (4583.17216.2.0000.0096).

**Results:** We had 38 patients who completed the study during the screening period (November 2016 to May 2018). The incidence of AKI was 76.3%. The hospitalization period was longer in the group that developed AKI, with 21 days of median, [IQR 13.5-25]; non-AKI group had a median of 13 days, [IQR 7-18]; (P = 0.005). The performance of uNGAL in detecting AKI patients (AUC-ROC = 0.881). There were no risk factors other than AKI that could be correlated with increased uNGAL levels on day 1.
Incidence of acute kidney injury in Covid-19 infected patients compared with non-Covid-19 patients admitted with respiratory failure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NGAL 1</th>
<th>NGAL 2</th>
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<th>NGAL 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Median IQR [25-75%]</td>
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<tr>
<td>stage 4</td>
<td>926.4</td>
<td>1026.4</td>
<td>374.1-2377.5</td>
<td>794.6-466.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The uNGAL had an association in its values with the diagnosis and prognosis of patients with severe infections and AKI. We suggest that studies with a greater number of patients could better establish the cut-off values of uNGAL and/or serum NGAL in the identification of infected patients who are at a high risk of developing AKI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. This study was facilitated with great support from the Biochemistry Division of Hospital de Clínicas da Universidade Federal do Paraná, primarily by the Dr. Flávia Kazumi Shibata and Michelle Tomassini Jacques who revised the language.

000103 A prospective study on blood citrate levels and clinical correlations in patients receiving regional citrate anticoagulation

Introduction: Regional citrate anticoagulation (RCA) is commonly used for continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Citrate accumulation (CA) is a serious potential complication of RCA, and conventional ways to diagnose CA such as increased total to ionized calcium ratio (T: I Ca ratio) are confounded by various clinical conditions and thus remains suboptimal. Blood citrate measurement emerges as a more direct way to determine CA but its clinical utility and optimal cut-off values for predicting CA remains undefined.

Objectives: To evaluate serum citrate kinetics of patients undergoing RCA CRRT and its correlations with clinical events and outcomes.

Methods: We prospectively recruited patients who received RCA CRRT and measured serial serum citrate levels at baseline, 2-, 6-, 12-, 24-, 36-, 48- and 72-hrs after initiation. The citrate levels were correlated with clinical parameters and patient outcomes.

Results: 91 patients were included, of which 15 patients developed CA defined as a combination of elevated T:I calcium ratio > 2.5, high anion gap metabolic acidosis and systemic hypocalcaemia < 1mmol/L or escalating calcium replacement requirement. The CA group showed higher APACHE IV score (136.5[99.5-167.0]vs 100.0[85.0-117.8], p = 0.003). Serum citrate levels in the CA group at 2-, 6- and 12-hrs after initiation of RCA CRRT was significantly higher than the non-CA group (p < 0.05, for all) (Figure 1). The peak citrate level was significantly higher in the CA group 0.78 mmol/L (0.39-0.96 mmol/L) vs 0.38 mmol/L(0.23-0.67 mmol/L) in the non-CA group, p = 0.01. The serum citrate level correlated with the T:I Ca ratio at 6, 12, 24 and 36 hrs (r = 0.52, 0.65, 0.53 and 0.59 respectively, p < 0.05). Using a 2-hr serum citrate cut-off of 0.33 mmol/L, the sensitivity and specificity for predicting development of CA were 0.90 and 0.75 respectively (ROC AUC 0.83, p = 0.001) (Figure 2). Peak serum lactate level was higher in the CA group 0.46 mg/dL (7.1 – 17.7 mg/L) vs. 2.70 mg/L (1.78 – 5.25 mg/L) for CA vs. non-CA respectively, p < 0.001) and a cut-off value of 6.15 mg/L also showed good predictive value for development of CA (sensitivity/specificity: 0.70/0.61, ROC AUC 0.82, p < 0.001).

At day 7 of admission, 127 patients were still in ICU - 88 in the Covid-19 group and 39 in the non-Covid-19 group. There were 45 (51.1%) in stage 0, 8 (9.1%) in stage 1, 6 (6.8%) in stage 2 and 29 (33%) in stage 3 within the the Covid-19 group, compared to 32 (82.1%) in stage 0, 3 (7.7%) in stage 1, 2 (5.1%) in stage 2 and 5 (1.3%) in stage 3 within the non-Covid-19 group (c² (5) 13.0, p = 0.004). At day 14, 71 patients remained in ICU, and the distribution of stages was similar between both groups (c² (3) 4.9, p = 0.16).

Conclusion: The incidence and severity of AKI in Covid-19 infected patients are higher after a week of ICU admission compared with non-Covid-19 patients admitted with respiratory failure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Acute Kidney Injury presents one of the most common organ failures on the intensive care unit. We consider renal replacement therapy in all patients with Acute Kidney Injury levels 3 and 4 and issues of potassium homeostasis, fluid balance or metabolic complications. At University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, we use continuous veno-venous haemodiafiltration (CVVHDF) as modality with citrate anticoagulation (PRISMAFLEX dialysis machines) and aim for an effluent volume of 20-25ml/kg/h as per KDIGO Acute Kidney Injury Guidelines (2012); but, once we have decided on need for filtration and all is set up and ready to go, we often reflect on achieving prescribed target dose.

Objectives: To audit our performance of achieving the target dose of CVVHDF

Methods: We prospectively audited all patients needing CVVHDF between July 2019 to October 2019 at our critical care unit at Royal Lancaster Infirmary, UHMBT, England, UK. We recorded demographics and indications, total length of, downtime of and reasons for discontinuing CVVHDF as much as effluent flow to be achieved and delivered, type of anticoagulation used, hourly fluid removal and type of vascular access.

Results: We sampled 23 data sets, 13 male and 10 female. The average age of patients was 62 years with an actual average body weight of 86 kg. Length of stay on our critical care unit varied from 2 to 19 days with an average of 8.56 days. Indications for RRT included: 18 for acidosis, 9 for hyperkalaemia, 4 for anaemia/fluid balance and 2 for uraemia. Average total length of CVVHDF was 100.39 hours (4.18 days) with actual CVVHDF delivered for an average of 72.78 hours (3.03 days). This means there was on average a 28% downtime of CVVHDF duringdependency. Reasons for stopping CVVHDF during dependency included: access problems, recirculating e.g. for radiological examinations, blood flushed back, filter clotted and air in circuit. Effluent flow was prescribed as per actual body weight (kg) according to a prepopulated prescription chart supplied by PRISMAFLEX and was 37.95ml/kg/h on average. The prepopulated chart accounted for a 15% down time. 21 patients were anticoagulated using citrate and 2 with heparin. Fluid removal varied from 0-100ml/h as per clinical need and was decided by consultants. 19 patients had internal jugular vein and 4 had femoral vein vascular access for CVVHDF, none had subclavian venous access due to risk of pneumothorax.

Conclusion: We prescribed effluent flow rates for all patients. However, we experienced a 28% downtime of CVVHDF during dependency. The prepopulated prescription chart by PRISMAFLEX only accounted for 15% of downtime. The likelihood of not achieving target effluent rates of at least 20-25ml/kg/h would have been high. We are, therefore, now recording our delivered effluent rate hourly on the critical care bedside chart and are calculating the average delivered rate per day, so adjustments to effluent rates can be made in order to achieve the recommended minimum of 20-25 ml/kg/h.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000377
The effects of regional citrate anticoagulation compared to non-citrate base techniques on the systemic ionised calcium levels accounting for the competing risks of treatment failures

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000377

Introduction: Regional citrate anticoagulation in continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) offers longer filter life spans, lower bleeding complications, fewer blood transfusions and is recommended as the first line for anticoagulation despite associations with a range of metabolic complications including hypocalcaemia. 1-6 Mild hypocalcaemia is common and appears protective in critically ill patients yet severe hypocalcaemia during CRRT is associated with increased mortality.7,8 How hypocalcaemia on CRRT competes with other endpoints according to citrate and non-citrate anticoagulation is unclear.

Methods: Patients commencing CRRT in a single centre between Mar 2016 and Feb 2018 spanned a transition from non-citrate to citrate based anticoagulation in May 2017. Patient characteristics, biochemical data and endpoints of hypocalcaemia, filter/access dysfunction, death, elective discontinuation and recovery were analysed.
Hypocalcaemia was defined as mild, moderate or severe by a systemic ionised calcium (iCa) of < 1.13, < 1.0 and < 0.9mmol/l. A competing risk analysis visualised time to events for the above endpoints and iCa < 1.0 to reflect censoring events which terminate CRRT, with log-rank tests to statistically compare the groups.

**Results:** 220 patients were identified during the period. 113 patients were pre-citrate; of the 107 after the transition 3 were excluded for not receiving citrate based therapy. Patient characteristics by anticoagulation regime were similar. The main precipitants for renal dysfunction were septic shock 43.3%, cardiogenic shock 11.1% and hypovolaemia 9.2% (P = 0.945). Non-Citrate patients received a mean cumulative total of 88.2h CRRT vs 113.7h for citrate (P = 0.128). 28 day mortality was not significantly different (41.6% vs 37.5%, P = 0.538).

Pre-treatment mean iCa was 1.12 in the non-citrate and 1.15 in the citrate group (P = 0.111). The proportion of patients experiencing an episode of hypocalcaemia (< 1.13, < 1.0 and < 0.9) was 67.3%, 12.4%, and 2.7% for non-citrate and 93.3%, 26.0%, and 5.8% for citrate (P < 0.02 for < 1.13 & < 1.0). The proportion of non-citrate and citrate patients stopping CRRT on first exposure for filter/access dysfunction was 19.5% vs 8.7%, death 11.5% vs 22.1%, recovery 15.9% vs 13.5% and elective discontinuation 53.1% vs 55.8% respectively (overall P = 0.038). At 24h 18.6% of the non-citrate group had stopped CRRT due to filter/access dysfunction, compared to 5.7% in the citrate group (p = 0.02). The proportion of non-citrate and citrate patients stopping CRRT on first exposure for filter/access dysfunction was significantly higher in the non-citrate group.

Conclusion: Although mild and moderate hypocalcaemia was more common in the citrate group no treatments were ceased or adverse events reported due to hypocalcaemia. The competing risk of filter/access dysfunction was significantly higher in the non-citrate group. Differences in other endpoints during the first treatment reflected longer uninterrupted CRRT delivery in the citrate group. Existing recommendations on citrate-based anticoagulation appear justified.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Introduction:** Sustained Low-Efficiency Dialysis (SLED) to augment ICU RRT surge capacity during the COVID-19 crisis

**Objective:**

- To compare outcomes in critically ill COVID-19 patients receiving SLED (24h) vs. CRRT (2 times daily 3-4h). The primary outcome measure was ICU mortality 28 days after starting RRT.
- To compare clinical and laboratory parameters during SLED vs. CRRT.

**Methods:**

- The study was a single-centre, retrospective cohort study conducted in an 8-bed ICU of a tertiary care hospital in India.
- A total of 101 COVID-19 patients (67 in the SLED group and 34 in the CRRT group) were included in the study.
- Patient characteristics at baseline, including age, sex, comorbidities, and severity of illness, were comparable between the two groups.
- The primary outcome measure was ICU mortality 28 days after starting RRT.
- Clinical and laboratory parameters were compared between the two groups during SLED and CRRT.

**Results:**

- There was no significant difference in ICU mortality between the SLED and CRRT groups (28-day mortality: 6.3% vs. 8.8%, respectively; P = 0.945).
- No significant differences were observed in other clinical and laboratory parameters between the two groups.

**Conclusion:**

- SLED can be used as a temporary replacement for CRRT in critically ill COVID-19 patients, with similar outcomes in terms of ICU mortality.
- Further studies are needed to determine the optimal duration and frequency of SLED in this patient population.

**Correspondence:**

K. Allan

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2):000500**
Conclusion: Surveillance of local and national demands on RRT alerted us to the need for surge provision of RRT. Rapid procurement and phased installation allowed introduction of a new RRT modality during a pandemic. As well as sparing stocks of RRT consumables in the short term, the longer-term improvement in ICU resilience will help manage potential future waves of COVID-19 and threats from other emerging infections. We are now disseminating this learning across the local, national and international ICU community.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Regional citrate anticoagulation in a continuous renal replacement therapy protocol with dialysis offers superior filter life span to one using filtration

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000882

Introduction: Regional citrate anticoagulation (RCA) is the gold standard anticoagulation for continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) as it reduces both clotting of the circuit and systemic bleeding events. There is no clear evidence that mode of therapy improves mortality, but dialysis may be superior to filtration in improving filter life span as it removes the filtration ratio and reduces the reliance on faultless venous access and high blood flows. We present data comparing protocols for post dilution continuous veno‑venous haemofiltration (CVVH) and continuous veno‑venous haemodialysis (CVVHD) with or without RCA available for CRRT in critically ill patients.

Methods: 3 hospitals in the same NHS Trust (providing CRRT to general critical care patients (no cardiac surgery) for ~350 patients a year) followed the same CRRT protocols but the larger site offers a protocol with RCA as first line anticoagulation. In June 2019 all sites switched from the Nikkiso Aquarius® system (CVVH and RCA via post dilution method) to the BBraun OMNI® system (CVVHD). Recent audit (September – November 2019) coupled with historical data (September–November 2017) collected in the same way on each site, was used to compare filter life span across protocols. Heparin infusion into the filter or no anticoagulation was used when RCA was either not available or contraindicated. Only one site had data for CVVH with no RCA.

Results: In total 173 patients who used 524 filters were analysed (table 1). When censored for reasons other than clotting, there was a significant advantage in filter survival of CVVHD over CVVH when RCA was available (p < 0.0001) (graph 1). There was no difference between protocols that used CVVH and CVVHD when RCA was not available (p = 0.64) but CVVH with RCA available, was significantly better than CVVHD when RCA is not available (p = 0.02).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>CVVH RCA</th>
<th>CVVH no RCA</th>
<th>CVVHD RCA</th>
<th>CVVHD no RCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consecutive patients</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>56.5 (27-75)</td>
<td>61 (27-85)</td>
<td>64 (86-23)</td>
<td>63 (29-81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission reason</td>
<td>Medical Surgical</td>
<td>29 (70%)</td>
<td>15 (63%)</td>
<td>38 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 (30%)</td>
<td>9 (37%)</td>
<td>12 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filters</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heparin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>69 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>127 (13%)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filter life span (hrs)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significantly fewer filters per patient are used with a CVVHD protocol containing RCA compared to the other protocols (2.2 (1-10); p = 0.028)

Conclusion: CRRT Protocols that contain RCA as first line anticoagulation significantly improve filter life span. There is a significant additional advantage in using dialysis alone over filtration.
**000985**

First use of NxStage portable intermittent haemodialysis in ICU patients with AKI requiring RRT during COVID-19 pandemic in UK

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000985*

**Introduction:** The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic brought extraordinary demands on many Intensive Care Units (ICU) in the UK. Our ICU faced an unprecedented rate of admissions [ref1], with 32.7% of patients requiring Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) for Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) [ref2]. Pre-pandemic, our conventional RRT was Continuous Venous Venous Haemofiltration (CVVHF), favoured over other modalities in view of more stable haemodynamic profile [ref3]. With a shortage of RRT machines, consumables, and trained workforce, we explored NxStage Pure Flow System and Cyclker (NxS) as an alternative to provide portable intermittent haemodialysis (iHD) as RRT in ICU.

**Methods:** This study was designed as a service evaluation to review NxS safety and efficacy, including all patients with COVID-19 and AKI Stage 3 by KDIGO criteria treated with NxS between 24/04 and 24/06/2020. Exclusion criteria were liver failure or haemodynamic instability requiring vasopressors. Study approval SE20/015 (28/05/2020).

**Results:** Ten consecutive patients were included, 9/10 male, all of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity; mean age 54.9 years (SD 11.7). 7/10 had diabetes, 6/10 had hypertension, one had chronic kidney disease. All patients had radiological features typical for COVID-19 and 7 had positive nasopharyngeal swab. In the first 24 hours in ICU, mean APACHE II score was 19.8 (SD 5.7) and PaO2/FiO2 ratio 137mmHg (SD 69). All patients were intubated and ventilated during admission. 45 NxS treatments were delivered over two months, with a median of 3.5 days of NxS per patient (IQR 1.5-8), versus 14 days of CVVHDF (IQR 2-2.5). 5 of 45 treatments were aborted: 3 secondary to vascular access mechanical issues, one for change in therapeutic priority, and one for hypotension requiring metaraminol. Adverse events per patient are detailed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypokalaemia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypokalæmia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialysis catheter site bleeding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding – others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis – others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis – others</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7/10 patients developed hypokalaemia during NxS, requiring replacement in 24 of 45 treatments, without any arrhythmia. 36 treatments were delivered through standard vascat, and 9 through TesioCath. We report one bleeding episode from TesioCath site, but no episodes of catheter-associated thrombosis, nor any pneumothorax secondary to dialysis catheter insertion. We report 3 episodes of dialysis catheter associated sepsis, versus 26 septic episodes from other sources. The pH variation over NxS treatment remained stable and no patient was acidic at the end of NxS treatment. Serum lactate level increased during all treatments, by virtue of the lactate buffer used, and decreased to the normal reference range within five hours of NxS completion in 31 of 45 cases, without clinical sequelae in the remaining cases.

Efficacy was described by achieving the target fluid balance in 40/45 treatments, and reducing blood urea nitrogen (BUN) post-NxS compared to pre-NxS in 37/45 treatments (on average 5.1 mmol/l less than pre-NxS BUN samples, p < 0.01 on paired t test). 8/10 patients survived to ICU discharge or last follow up; 3 have been discharged home, 2 remain in hospital and 3 in ICU. Mean ICU length of stay was 38.7 days (SD 16.8). At ICU discharge, median eGFR was 73 mL/min/1.73 m² (IQR 14 – 84) with no dialysis dependence.

**Conclusion:** This pilot project was developed and delivered through necessity, and it was not designed to compare or displace the use of CVVHF by iHD in ICU [ref4], but proved that NxS is safe and effective in selected patients in order to preserve the use of CVVHF for patients who are haemodynamically unstable or with liver failure.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. T. Husain1; N. Duncan2

**000112**

Wells and revised Geneva scores as predictors of pulmonary embolism in critically ill patients: a prospective study

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000112*

**Introduction:** Critical ill patients are at high risk for pulmonary embolism (PE) [ref1]. However, the diagnosis of this potentially fatal disease often goes unnoticed, as symptoms are nonspecific and other clinical conditions can manifest with similar features [ref2]. Prediction rules, usually used in emergency departments, such as the Wells and Geneva scores, are not validated in this population. Therefore, the best diagnostic approach to investigate critically ill patients with suspected PE remains uncertain.

**Objectives:** The aim of the present study was to assess the Wells and the revised Geneva scoring systems as predictors of PE in critically ill patients.

**Methods:** From July 2018 to November 2019, adult patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre were considered eligible for the study if they had a pulmonary computed tomographic angiogram (CTA) as a confirmatory imaging study for suspected cases of PE. Clinical data was collected and the Wells and the revised Geneva scores were calculated. The researcher who calculated the scores was unaware of the CTA result. Two radiologists independently reviewed the scans to diagnose the presence of PE based on the presence of filling defects in the pulmonary artery or its branches. The discriminative power of the Wells and revised Geneva scores to predict risk of PE was determined by receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) analysis.
Results: Eighty critically ill patients were prospectively included in the study. The mean age of the patients was 59 ± 14 years, 52.5% were female, with a mean SAPS 3 score of 61 ± 16. The main cause for ICU admission was acute respiratory failure (62%), followed by cardiac arrest (17%) and shock (11%). The incidence of PE was 39% (n = 31). Segmental PE was the most common classification (58%), followed by main artery PE (32%), subsegmentary PE (6.5%) and lobar PE (3%). Inter-observer agreement for PE diagnosis was very good (R = 0.89).

The mean Wells score in patients without PE was 3.0 ± 1.9 vs. 4.2 ± 2.7 in patients with PE (p = 0.027). The mean revised Geneva score was 5.0 ± 3.0 in patients without PE vs. 6.0 ± 4.0 in patients with PE (p = 0.08). Figure 1 shows the ROC curves of the Wells and the revised Geneva scores, respectively. The area under the curve (AUC) for the Wells score was 0.64 (CI 0.51-0.77) and for the revised Geneva score AUC was 0.60 (CI 0.47-0.73).

Conclusion: Wells and revised Geneva scores are not reliable predictors of PE in critically ill patients. These negative results, obtained prospectively, reinforce the importance to search for alternatives for a better diagnostic approach to PE in this population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000133 Community acquired pneumonia in the intensive care unit
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2Correspondence: C. Serrano

Introduction: The term severe community acquired pneumonia (CAP) identifies the group of patients with CAP who require admission to intensive care units (ICU). The incidence of severe acquired pneumonia has increased in the last decade and is one of the main infectious causes of admission in ICU.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to review and describe severe CAP patients in a level II hospital ICU, analyzing the patients’ profile, microbiology isolations and treatment.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was performed. Consecutive critically ill CAP patients receiving treatment in level II hospital polivalent ICU were reviewed from January 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019. Categorical variables were analyzed using chi-square tests, and continuous variables were analyzed by T Student or ANOVA. Significance level was stabilized as p < 0.05.

Results: A total of 41 consecutive eligible individuals were reviewed. Mean age was 60.24 (± 8), mean APACHE II was 16.77 (± 8), mean hospital stay was 16 days (± 23.24). 63.45% were men. 25% were immunosupressed. 41.5% had COPD. The main reason for admission was respiratory failure in 87.8% of patients, followed by shock (need of vasoactive drugs). 14.6% required intubation as an initial respiratory support. NIV was initiated in 48.8%, HFO in 26.8% and conventional oxygen in 9.8%. Finally, 48.8% of patients required mechanical ventilation (20/41). There was no statistically significant difference between NIV and GNAF failure. The initial empiric treatment was a betalac-tamic (ceftriaxone) and a macrolid (claritromicina) or quinolone (levofloxacine) in 78% of cases. 17% received broad espectrum treatment (piperoxoline-tazobactam or imipenem). 2.5% received only ceftriaxone. In 21 cases there was microbiology isolation: respiratory virus were isolated in 10 cases (Influenza 4, VMC 3, HVS 2 and adenovirus 1). In 6 patients S.pneumoniae was isolated. H. Influenze, E Coli and P Aeruginosa in one case each. Comparative analysis between bacterial and virical pneumonia is shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Viral pneumonia</th>
<th>Bacterial pneumonia</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender ♂</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU stay (days)</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>0.437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV illness previously</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous respiratory illnesses</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>0.627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cironia</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosupression</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extimus</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mortality rate was 14.6%. Hospital stay, immunosupression, vasoactive drugs requirement and mechanical ventilation requirement were found to be independent mortality risk factors.

Conclusion: In our ICU patient’s profile, mortality risk factors and mortality rate are similar to other series of cases. A high percentage (48.8%) required mechanical ventilation. It should be noted that the incidence of viral and bacterial pneumonia had the same number of cases. Bacterial pneumoniae seems to lead to a longer hospital stay and mortality but more studies would be required.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Comparison of anticoagulation strategies for veno-venous ECMO support in acute respiratory failure: a retrospective comparative cohort study

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Introduction: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) support in acute respiratory failure may be lifesaving, but bleeding and thromboembolic complications are common. The optimal anticoagulation strategy balancing these factors remains to be determined.

Objectives: This study was carried out to determine whether a low-dose prophylactic heparinization strategy is associated with similar rates of oxygenator changes while reducing bleeding events when compared to a high-dose therapeutic heparinization strategy.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective unblinded observational cohort study between 04/2015 – 02/2020 in two ECMO referral centres in Germany in patients receiving veno-venous (VV)-ECMO support for acute respiratory failure for > 24h and unfractionated heparin (UFH) for anticoagulation. One centre routinely applied low-dose heparinization aiming for a partial thromboplastin time (PTT) of 35-40s and the other routinely used a high-dose therapeutic heparinization strategy aiming for an activated clotting time (ACT) of 140-180s. We assessed number of and time to ECMO oxygenator changes, 15-day freedom from oxygenator change, major bleeding events, thromboembolic events, 30-day ICU mortality, activated clotting time and partial thromboplastin time, red blood cell transfusions and platelet transfusions. Primary outcome was the occurrence of oxygenator changes depending on heparinization strategy; main secondary outcomes were the occurrence of severe bleeding events and occurrence of thromboembolic events.

Results: Of 375 screened patients receiving VV-ECMO support, 218 were included in the analysis (117 high-dose group; 101 low-dose group). Disease severity measured by SAPS II score was 46 (IQR 36-57) vs 47 (IQR 37-55) and ECMO runtime was 8 (IQR 5-12) vs 11 (IQR 7-17) days (P = 0.003). There were 14 oxygenator changes in the high-dose group vs 48 in the low-dose group. Freedom from oxygenator change at 15 days was 73 vs 55% (adjusted HR 2.74 [95% CI 1.2-6.5]; P = 0.023) (Figure). Severe bleeding events occurred in 23 (19.7%) vs 14 (13.9%) patients (P = 0.256) and thromboembolic events occurred in 8 (6.8%) vs. 19 (19%) patients (P = 0.007). Mortality at 30 days was 33.3% vs 30.7% (P = 0.11). Mean ACT in the high-dose group (158s [IQR 151-165]) and PTTs (48s [IQR 41-57] vs 38s [IQR 34-42]) corresponded well with predefined target ranges. Red blood cell and platelet transfusions were less frequent in the high-dose group (6 [IQR 2-10] vs 8 [IQR 6-19] P < 0.001 and 0 [IQR 0-1] vs 4 [0-10], P < .001, respectively).

Conclusion: Compared with low-dose heparinization, high-dose heparinization during ECMO support was associated with lower rates of oxygenator changes and thromboembolic events, but with a numerically higher number of bleeding events.

Systematic review of minimal invasive methods for diagnosis of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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Introduction: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is currently diagnosed by the Berlin definition, which does not include a direct measure of pulmonary oedema, endothelial permeability, pulmonary inflammation, coagulation or oxidative stress. A diagnostic test that could capture these processes might improve the diagnosis of ARDS. We hypothesized that biomarkers of these processes have good diagnostic accuracy for ARDS.

Methods: Medline and Scopus were searched with broad keyword criteria and selection was performed by two independent researchers. Inclusion criteria were: (1) original research, (2) that reported diagnostic accuracy, (3) used a minimal invasive test for (4) pathophysiological mechanisms of ARDS and (5) compared the results to a relevant control group. The primary outcome was the diagnostic accuracy per test, categorized by pathophysiological mechanism, control group and analyzed biomaterial. Secondary, the methodological quality was assessed with Quadas-2 tool. Biomarkers that had an area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve (AUROCC) of more than 0.75 and were studied with minimal bias against an unselected control group were considered to be promising.
Results: The search led to 929 independent articles of which 42 were included. The median AUROCC for all evaluated tests was 0.80 (25th to 75th percentile: 0.72 – 0.89). The type of control group influenced the diagnostic accuracy (Figure 1, p = 0.01). Higher risk of bias was associated with higher diagnostic accuracy (AUROCC 0.74 for low bias, 0.78 for medium bias and 0.84 for high bias studies; p = 0.0021). Club Cell protein 16 (CC16) and soluble receptor for advanced glycation end-products (sRAGE) in plasma and three biomarkers of oxidative stress in breath showed good diagnostic accuracy in low bias studies that compared ARDS patients to an unselected intensive care unit (ICU) population.

Conclusion: This systematic review revealed only three diagnostic tests that fulfilled stringent criteria for a promising biomarker in a low bias setting. For implementation into the clinical setting, prospective studies in a general unselected ICU population with good methodological quality are needed.

Development and validation of a point of care breath test for octane detection in the intensive care unit
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Introduction: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is currently diagnosed by the Berlin definition, which involves subjective criteria and leads to late diagnosis. There is a demand for a non-invasive bedside method to diagnose ARDS. Three metabolites in breath, of which octane was the most important, showed good diagnostic accuracy when analysed with gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GCMS). However, mass-spectrometry is unsuitable for a point-of-care (POC) test. Therefore, we aimed to develop a POC test that measures octane in exhaled breath of invasively ventilated intensive care unit (ICU) patients at trace amounts (parts-per-billion). We hypothesized that the breath analyser (BA) can reliably detect octane in exhaled breath of mechanically ventilated ICU patients.

Methods: Two steps were taken in development of the BA. A laboratory BA was validated in healthy subjects with calibration measurements. Comparison to gold standard GCMS was performed in healthy subjects and in patients receiving mechanical ventilation. Subsequently, the BA was further developed into a POC BA, which was also calibrated and then used for assessment of exhaled breath of ventilated ICU patients. Accuracy of the BA was reflected by repeatability between duplicate samples and reproducibility for detecting a known amount of octane. Octane concentration was based on the area under the curve (AUC), which was extracted from the chromatogram and compared to known values from calibration measurements.

Results: Five healthy subjects and 40 patients were included for assessment with the laboratory BA, 12 patients were included for validation of the POC BA. A linear association with an R2 of 0.99 was reached with the laboratory BA with breath samples spiked with octane. In contrast, reproducibility with GCMS was moderate (R2 = 0.68). In patients 40 duplicate measurements were performed with the laboratory BA and 25 duplicate measurements with the POC BA. In 5 out of 25 measurements with the POC BA, one of the octane peaks could not be fitted due to co-elution or a noisy signal. The repeatability was strong for the laboratory- and POC-BA, with an intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) of 0.87 and 0.95 and a coefficient of variation of 17% and 8%, respectively (Figure 1 and 2).

Conclusion: The laboratory- and POC-BA were both able to accurately detect trace amounts of octane in exhaled breath of ventilated ICU patients. Reproducibility was acceptable and repeatability was good. Further validation and implementation steps are needed to progress to a POC breath test for diagnosing ARDS in ventilated ICU patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Pulmonary consolidation alters the estimate of pleural fluid volume before considering chest drainage in patients on ECMO

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000347

Introduction: The estimate of pleural fluid volume on chest ultrasound (CUS) (1) helps to decide on pleural drainage in relation to weaning of the ECMO and IPPV. The method of multiplying maximum transverse pleural separation at the lung base in mm by 20 has been constructed on medical mechanically ventilated patients (1). The method may fail in severely consolidated lungs encircled by pleural fluid.

Objectives: To test the established method of pleural fluid estimation in haevily consolidated lungs and to find optimal way of the volume assessment.

Methods: 35 pleural effusions were drained in 28 mechanically ventilated patients (APACHE II 26.3 ± 5, SOFA 10.9 ± 2) with severe lung consolidation of 4th degree on CUS at least in basal lung regions and no better than 3rd degree in the apical regions. All were prospectively observed while treated on VV, VAV or VA ECMO. All drainages were performed by intensivists by blunt forceps technique, most of them with 12F chest drain (CD).

Results: The maximum pleural separation was 23 ± 6 mm, correlating with separation at the lateral chest wall (19 ± 8 mm = 0.79). The dorsal and frontal separations were 16 ± 7 mm and 16 ± 7 mm, respectively. The classic (1) method of pleural fluid estimate correlated weakly with pleural fluid volume (r = 0.32) and produced a mean underestimation error of −371 ± 207 ml contrasting with drained 830 ± 209 ml. Better correlation was found for the frontal pleural separation (r = 0.44, p < 0.05). The volume of pleural fluid may be estimated with equation V [ml] = 620 ± 13* frontal separation [mm] which results in a mean prediction error of 156 ± 101 ml. Similarly, the sum of basal, lateral and ventral pleural separations (51 ± 15 mm) correlated with drained volume (r = 0.42, p < 0.05) showing mean prediction error of 159 ± 100 ml.

Conclusion: The known CUS assessment of volume of pleural fluid largely underestimates reality in severely consolidated lungs surrounded by potentially misleadingly thin layer of circumferential effusion. The multiple measurements are feasible paying attention to a multiple measurements are feasible paying attention to a
Methods: We included 19 patients with C-ARDS between March 2020 and April 2020 and 50 patients with ARDS between March 2019 and December 2019 admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico (Milan, Italy). Gas exchanges and the distribution of ventilation and perfusion measured by EIT were assessed at positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) of 5 cmH₂O for C-ARDS and at clinical PEEP for ARDS patients. Perfusion was obtained through injection of 10 mL of a 5% saline bolus during end-inspiratory occlusion. Dead space fraction was calculated as the percentage of pixels ventilated but not perfused, while shunt fraction as those perfused but not ventilated. Data are presented as median [IQR], differences between groups were assessed by Mann-Whitney on ranks test.

Results: Gas exchange and respiratory data are summarized in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>C-ARDS (n=19)</th>
<th>ARDS (n=50)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEEP (cmH₂O)</td>
<td>6 [5;6]</td>
<td>11 [8;15]</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vc/PBW (mL/kg)</td>
<td>7.4 [6;8.1]</td>
<td>7.3 [6;18.0]</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance (mL/cmH₂O)</td>
<td>49 [30;52]</td>
<td>42 [35;52]</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving Pressure (cmH₂O)</td>
<td>10 [9;14]</td>
<td>11 [8;14]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory rate (breaths/min)</td>
<td>22 [15;26]</td>
<td>16 [14;22]</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaCO₂ (mmHg)</td>
<td>51 [44;60]</td>
<td>44 [37;47]</td>
<td>0.0009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.39 [7.33;7.43]</td>
<td>7.39 [7.34;7.43]</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilatory ratio</td>
<td>2.0 [1.6;2.6]</td>
<td>1.4 [0.9;1.9]</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO₂/FIO₂</td>
<td>81 [69;137]</td>
<td>168 [122;241]</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mann-Whitney test, C-ARDS vs ARDS, PBW: predicted body weight.

Compared to patients with ARDS, patients with C-ARDS showed no differences in tidal volume (Vt) and respiratory mechanics. Efficiency of ventilation was more impaired in C-ARDS, as indicated by higher respiratory rate, PaCO₂ and ventilatory ratio. Accordingly, EIT documented a higher dead space fraction (23% [13; 29] vs 12% [5; 19], C-ARDS vs ARDS, p < 0.01). Figure 1A. Hypoxemia was more severe in C-ARDS, but shunt fraction didn’t differ (Figure 1B).

Conclusion: Compared to ARDS of other etiology, C-ARDS is characterized by more severe hypoxia and less efficient CO₂ clearance, even in the presence of preserved mechanics. The mechanisms underlying derangements of gas exchange during C-ARDS may differ from ARDS, with increased dead space likely playing a key role.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

00435
COVID-19 in Critically Ill Patients in North Brabant, the Netherlands
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Introduction: Since the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, countries are overwhelmed by critically ill Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients. As ICU capacity becomes limited we characterized critically ill COVID-19 patients in the Netherlands.

Methods: In this case series, COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU of the Jeroen Bosch Hospital were included from March 9, 2020. COVID-19 was confirmed by a positive result by a RT-PCR of a specimen collected by nasopharyngeal swab. Clinical data were extracted from medical records.

Results: All patients were admitted to the ICU due to acute hypoxemic respiratory failure in absence of hemodynamic instability. The mean age was 64 ± 10 years, the mean BMI was 30.1 ± 7 and 73% were men. Thirty percent of patients had no comorbidities. With 33%, hypertension was the most common comorbidity. Of the 68 admitted patients, 62 were in need of invasive respiratory support (91%). Six patients were successfully treated with high flow oxygen therapy. Six patients initially treated with a high flow oxygen cannula deteriorated requiring invasive mechanical ventilation. Among the mechanically ventilated patients, 77% required ventilation in prone position during their stay in ICU according to our local protocol. The average length of invasive ventilation was 22.5 days (range 3-53 days). Renal replacement therapy was required in 14 (21%) patients. Venous thromboembolism was recognized in 40% of patients. In 20 patients pulmonary embolism was diagnosed, 1 patient developed a deep venous thrombosis of the forearm and 6 patients developed a catheter related thrombus. These complications occurred despite regular thrombosis prophylaxis.

Conclusion: The overall mortality of our patients was 20.5%.

The survival rate of COVID-19 critically ill patients in our population is lower than previously reported. Dedicated selection and screening of patients before potential admission to the ICU could be a possible explanation for this low mortality. Thrombotic complications were commonly found and merit additional clinical attention.

00453
A Retrospective Analysis of Influenza H1N1 ARDS
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Introduction: Influenza A (Influenza H1N1) is one of the great epidemics of our time. It had a great repercussion due to the associated morbidity and mortality, been moderate-severe ARDS one of the most common forms of presentation that requires prolonged admission to the ICU.

Methods: Retrospective, descriptive study of patients admitted in ICU from 2009 to 2019, with H1N1 influenza diagnosis. Clinical, epidemiological and result-related variables were analyzed. Quantitative variables are expressed as mean and standard deviation, while qualitative variables are expressed as ratios and absolute value.

Conclusion: Compared to ARDS of other etiology, C-ARDS is characterized by more severe hypoxia and less efficient CO₂ clearance, even in the presence of preserved mechanics. The mechanisms underlying derangements of gas exchange during C-ARDS may differ from ARDS, with increased dead space likely playing a key role.
Results: A total of 78 patients were collected. Mean age was 47 years (+/- 16.77, 53.8% were women. APACHE II average upon admission: 14 (+/- 7.23) and average SOFA at admission: 5.5 (+/- 3.83) Between the comorbidities: 41% of the patients presented COPD, 33.3% BPH, 32.1% Obesity and 21.3% had Heart disease and Dyslipidemia. The 66.7% of the patients received previous NIMV: 74.4% required MV. Mean duration of MV was 15 days (+/- 14.68. Most of the patients required pulmonary recruitment maneuvers, and Prone Position was needed in 35.9%. Renal failure was presented in 50% of the patients, and 21.8% of them required RRT. Tracheostomy, due to weaning, was performed in 39.7% of the patients. Between risk factors Alcoholism (OR 9.025 p 0.004 IC 1.079 - 75.51), Malignancy (OR 41.45 p 0.001 IC 4.47 - 384,437) and Autoimmune Disease (OR 7.3 p 0.04 IC 1.075 - 49.65) were the most frequent. When the sample was divided into two groups, survivors and non-survivors, it was observed that the deceased patients were older (Median 46 years vs. 53 years), and presented greater renal failure (38.18% vs. 78.26%) with a greater need for RRT (28.57% vs. 61.11 %) as well as greater severity in the Berlin Criteria for distress (severe ARDS 38.18% vs. 78.26%).

The length of stay in the ICU was 13 days (+/- 18.47). The ICU observed mortality was 29.5% and the hospital mortality 33.33%.

Conclusion: Severe ARDS caused by H1N1 Influenza associates great morbidity and mortality, being a very relevant pathology today in Intensive Care Units.

Impact of NMBAs on ventilation homogeneity and lung volume in ARDS patients

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Impact of NMBAs on ventilation homogeneity and lung volume in ARDS patients

Introduction: Excessive inspiratory effort in mechanically ventilated patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) increases stress and strain in the lungs leading to ventilator-induced lung injury (VILI). The use of neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBAs) can however, synchronize with ventilator, but the impact of use of NMBAs on ventilation distribution and lung volume has not been fully investigated.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to examine the impact of NMBAs on ventilation homogeneity and end-expiratory lung volume (EELV) evaluated by electric impedance tomography (EIT) in ARDS patients with strong inspiratory effort.

Methods: In this retrospective study, we performed off-line analysis of EIT data previously recorded before and after N MBA. The ventilation homogeneity was evaluated using EIT measures, the proportion of ventilation distribution (ventral and dorsal lung regions, expressed in percentage to a tidal volume = 100%), center of ventilation, spatial dispersion in regional distribution of tidal breath (global inhomogeneity index: GI index). End-expiratory lung impedance (EELI), which is corresponding to EELV was measured and changes in EELI from at before N MBA administration were calculated and expressed as a percentage of tidal impedance change at before N MBA administration. These EIT measures and oxygenation after N MBA administration were compared to the data measured before administration of N MBA. For the comparison, paired t-test or Wilcoxon rank sum test were used for statistical analysis as appropriate.

Results: The EIT data of 6 patients (mean age 54) were analyzed. In all the patients rocuronium was administrated because of the strong inspiratory effort and asynchrony with ventilator. The mean proportions of ventilation distribution in ventral and dorsal region before N MBA were 39 ± 14% (mean ± SD) and 61 ± 14% respectively, indicating that the active movement of diaphragm induced the predominant distribution of tidal volume to the dorsal region. After N MBA, the inspired gas distributed evenly (48 ± 11% to ventral and 52 ± 11% to dorsal region). GI index were decreased after administration of N MBA in 5 cases (before N MBA: 53 ± 4% after N MBA: 44 ± 7%). The EELI showed increase in 4 cases and decrease in 2 cases, the mean difference in EELI between before and after administration of N MBA was 26 ± 59% (95% confidence interval, -35 to 88%). Mean difference in PaO2/FiO2 ratio increased after N MBA (before N MBA: 127 ± 34 mmHg, after N MBA: 177 ± 77 mmHg), however no significant difference was detected.

Conclusion: After administration of N MBA, the ventilation inhomogeneity was decreased by suppressing strong inspiratory effort, resulting in better oxygenation. In addition, NMBAs might maintain EELV by controlling not only inspiratory effort but also active expiration.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Mechanical power and intensive care mortality in ARDS patients

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Mechanical power and intensive care mortality in ARDS patients

Introduction: In ARDS patients, mechanical ventilation should minimize ventilator induced lung injury. The mechanical power which is the energy per unit time released to the respiratory system according to the applied tidal volume, PEEP, respiratory rate and flow should reflect the ventilator induced lung injury. However similar levels of mechanical power applied in different lung size could be associated to different effects.

Objectives: Aim of this study was to assess the role both of the mechanical power and of the transpulmonary mechanical power, normalized to predicted body weight, respiratory system compliance, lung volume and amount of aerated tissue on intensive care mortality.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of ARDS patients previously enrolled in seven published studies. All patients were sedated, paralyzed and mechanically ventilated. After 20 minutes from a recruitment maneuver, partitioned respiratory mechanics measurements and blood gas analyses were performed with a PEEP of 5 cmH2O while the remaining setting was maintained unchanged from the baseline. A whole lung CT scan at 5 cmH2O of PEEP was performed to estimate the lung gas volume and the amount of well inflated tissue. Univariante and multivariante Poisson regression models with robust standard error were used to calculate risk ratios and 95% confidence intervals of ICU mortality.

Results: 222 ARDS patients were included, 88 (40%) died in ICU [Table 1]. Mechanical power was not different between survivors and non-survivors 14.97 [11.51-18.44] vs. 15.46 [12.33-21.45] J/min and did not affect intensive care mortality.
The multivariable robust regression models showed that the mechanical power normalized to well inflated tissue (RR: 2.69 [95% CI: 1.10-6.56] p = 0.029) and the mechanical power normalized to respiratory system compliance (RR: 1.79 [95% CI: 1.16-2.76], p = 0.008) were independently associated with intensive care mortality after adjusting for age, SAPS II and ARDS severity. Also, transpulmonary mechanical power normalized to respiratory system compliance and to well inflated tissue significantly increased intensive care mortality (RR: 1.74 [1.11-2.70] p = 0.015; RR: 3.01 [1.15-7.91] p = 0.025). [Figure 2].

Conclusion: In our ARDS population there is not a causal relationship between the mechanical power itself and mortality, while mechanical power normalized to the compliance or to the amount of well aerated tissue is independently associated to the intensive care mortality. Further studies are needed to confirm this data.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000499
Glucocorticoids as Rescue Therapy in Severe COVID-19 Respiratory Failure
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000499

Introduction: SARS-CoV-2, the causative organism of COVID-19, is known to trigger a hyperinflammatory acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in a subset of patients leading to rapid deterioration and respiratory failure. This is associated with raised inflammatory markers and carries a poor prognosis. At present there is a paucity of interventions available to clinicians to treat this. Glucocorticoids are a plausible treatment option for this presentation given their established application in reducing inflammatory burden and association with improved outcomes in ARDS. Targeted use of methylprednisolone in patients with COVID-19-induced ARDS has been anecdotally reported to improve outcomes but limited data to support this is available.

Objectives: To examine outcomes in patients with severe ARDS secondary to COVID-19 treated with methylprednisolone, identify predictors of favourable response and any associated risk factors with poor outcomes.

Methods: We conducted a single centre case-control study in a London district general hospital intensive care unit. 27 participants with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, severe ARDS and biochemical evidence of hyperinflammation receiving invasive mechanical ventilatory support between 01/02/2020 and 26/05/2020 were included. 21 patients treated with minimum of one dose of methylprednisolone (1 g/day or 1 mg/kg/day) were identified as the case group, and compared with a control group of 6 patients requiring an FiO2 ≥ 0.6 for > 48 hours who received no corticosteroids during ICU admission. Outcomes were measured from first dose of methylprednisolone in the case group and after requiring a fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO2) ≥ 0.6 for 48h in the control group. Primary outcome was 28-day mortality. Secondary outcomes included FiO2, C-reactive protein (CRP) and ferritin at 48h and day 7. Data on timing of methylprednisolone initiation, demographics and comorbidities were also collected.

Results: 28-day mortality was 38.1% (8) in the methylprednisolone group vs 66.7% in the control group (4), odds ratio 0.31 (95% CI 0.045 to 2.08, p = 0.358). 52.3% (11) required a fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO2) ≥ 0.5 on day 7 in the methylprednisolone group vs 0% in the control group (p = 0.0003). As a predictor of 28-day survival, an FiO2 ≤ 0.5 at day 7 had a sensitivity of 100% (95% CI 71.5 to 100%) and a specificity of 75.0% (95% CI 41.3 to 92.7%) (p = 0.0002). In participants receiving > 48 h methylprednisolone, an absolute reduction in FiO2 requirement at day 7 of 0.25 (0.15 to 0.35, p = 0.0002) and an 85.1% relative reduction in CRP at day 7 (69.6 to 93.1%, p = 0.0002) was observed. Higher age was associated with mortality in the methylprednisolone group (p = 0.003).

Conclusion: Methylprednisolone may reduce early mortality in COVID-19 patients with severe ARDS and is associated with lower oxygen requirements and CRP at day 7.

000525
Physiological basis and safety of bed verticalization in COVID-19 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (CARDS): A Preliminary Report
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Introduction: Prone positioning has been proposed as a key aspect of care in ARDS (1), more than ever with emergence of COVID-19 pandemic (2), but sometimes at the cost of burdensome procedure and serious adverse events. Bed verticalization (standing upright) could be an efficient alternative to prone position. Semi-seated positioning (45-degree head-up, 45-degree legs-down) have already been studied and shew promising results (3, 4), but to our knowledge no study has evaluated the mechanical and physiological impacts of complete patient verticalization (standing upright) during ARDS.

Objectives: To evaluate the safety and physiological effects of bed verticalization of sedated and ventilated COVID-19 patients with ARDS (CARDS).

Methods: Patients were gradually verticalized, using a dedicated bed, at 0°, 30°, 60° and 90° by steps of 30 minutes. At each position intensive care variables (FiO2, C-reactive protein (CRP), Ferritin, PCT, IL-6) were measured from first dose of methylprednisolone in the case group and after requiring a fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO2) ≥ 0.6 for 48h in the control group. Primary outcome was 28-day mortality. Secondary outcomes included FiO2, C-reactive protein (CRP) and ferritin at 48h and day 7. Data on timing of methylprednisolone initiation, demographics and comorbidities were also collected.

Results: 28-day mortality was 38.1% (8) in the methylprednisolone group vs 66.7% in the control group (4), odds ratio 0.31 (95% CI 0.045 to 2.08, p = 0.358). 52.3% (11) required a fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO2) ≥ 0.5 on day 7 in the methylprednisolone group vs 0% in the control group (p = 0.0003). As a predictor of 28-day survival, an FiO2 ≤ 0.5 at day 7 had a sensitivity of 100% (95% CI 71.5 to 100%) and a specificity of 75.0% (95% CI 41.3 to 92.7%) (p = 0.0002). In participants receiving > 48 h methylprednisolone, an absolute reduction in FiO2 requirement at day 7 of 0.25 (0.15 to 0.35, p = 0.0002) and an 85.1% relative reduction in CRP at day 7 (69.6 to 93.1%, p = 0.0002) was observed. Higher age was associated with mortality in the methylprednisolone group (p = 0.003).
hemodynamic data with pulmonary artery catheter, ventilatory parameters, end-expiratory lung volume (EELV), esophageal pressures and gazometric parameters.

**Results:** Ten out of 30 were included for this interim analysis. No serious side effects or adverse event occurred during the verticalization procedures. Mean arterial pressure, and cardiac output remained stable in different patient position. EELV of predicted body weight (PBW) increased significantly from 23 (15; 29) to 35 (28; 39) mL.kg⁻¹, between baseline to 90°. Alveolar strain was significantly lower (0.28 [0.19; 0.46]) to 0.18 (0.15; 0.24). Although static compliance decreased (36 [27; 43]) to 25 [19; 32] mL.cmH₂O⁻¹.kg⁻¹, baseline and 90° position, respectively, P = 0.01), transpulmonary driving pressure did not increased significantly between these two steps (7 [5; 11] to 9 [5; 11] cmH₂O, P = 0.9), as well as total mechanical power (10 [8; 13] to 10 [9; 16] J.min⁻¹, P = 0.5).

**Conclusion:** Bed verticalization in ARDS is feasible, safe, and shows promising results on respiratory mechanic with minimal impact on hemodynamics. The rest of inclusions and data are needed to conclude on verticalization efficiency and eventually to identify some responders patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. VitalGo Systems Inc., Arjo AB, Illinois, USA, for providing us verticalization beds

**000562**

**Respiratory pattern of critically ill patients with SARS COV 2 Infection at ICU admission**

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**Introduction:** Respiratory failure is the most severe form of clinical presentation of SARS COV 2 pandemic infection. 10% of hospital admissions required to be treated in Intensive Care Units (ICU).

**Objectives:** To describe clinical characteristics and respiratory patterns in critically ill patientsadmitted in ICU with SARS COV 2 infection.

**Methods:** Retrospective study in a community hospital with a 17 bed ICU. We included patients with confirmed SARS COV 2 respiratory infection. Variables analyzed were clinical characteristics, respiratory support requirements, respiratory rate and inspiratory fraction of oxygen in Emergency room, PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio at admission, 24, 48 and 72 hours, peep, FiO₂ requirements and mortality.

**Statistical analysis:** Data were analyzed by SPSS 18 and quantitative variables were expressed as a mean ± standard deviation.

**Results:** Twenty consecutive patients were included. Mean age was 61.7 ±8.25, 65.5% male and 35% female. Apache II at admission was 10.3 ± 4.21 and SOFA score 3.45 ± 1.87. Chest CT was performed in 20% of the patients. Predominant chest radiograph findings were bilateral lung involvement in 90% of cases. Mean PEEP at admission was 11.88 ± 1.85 and inspiratory fraction of oxygen was 65.94 ± 18.9.

Non-invasive ventilation BIPAP mode was used in 5% and high flow oxygen therapy in 45% of the admitted patients. Mechanical ventilation was prescribed in 80% of patients, in 56.3% of them high flow oxygen therapy was used before intubation. Prone ventilation was indicated in most of the patients, 93.8%. Mortality was 30%, figure 1 shows PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio based on mortality.

**Conclusion:** Mechanical ventilation requirement and prone ventilation at ICU admission was common in SARS COV 2 critically ill patients. Improvement of PaO₂/FiO₂ in first 48 hours of ICU admission was related with better prognostic.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. No

**000577**

**Therapeutic effects of high-frequency oscillatory ventilation as the rescue management for premature infants with severe refractory respiratory failure**

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**Introduction:** Despite wide application of high frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) in neonates with respiratory distress, little has been reported about its rescue use in preterm infants

**Objectives:** We aimed to evaluate the therapeutic effects of HFOV in preterm neonates with refractory respiratory failure, investigate the parameters during HFOV and the independent risk factor for 120-day outcomes.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed data collected prospectively (January 2014–December 2018) in multiple neonatal intensive care units of tertiary-level medical centers in Taiwan. All premature infants (gestational age < 34 weeks) receiving HFOV as rescue management for refractory respiratory failure were included.

**Results:** We analyzed the demographics, pre- and daily post-HFOV mechanical ventilation settings and use of adjunctive therapies, therapeutic responses and 120-day outcome data for 668 preterm neonates with refractory respiratory failure. The median (IQR) gestational age...
and birth weight were 27.3 (25.3-31.0) weeks and 915.0 (710.0-1380.0) g, respectively. Pre-HFOV use of cardiocinotropic agents and inhaled nitric oxide were 70.5% and 23.4%, respectively. The oxygenation index (OI), FiO2, and AaDO2 were markedly increased after HFOV initiation (all p < 0.001), and can be decreased within 24-48 hours (all p < 0.001) after use of HFOV. 547 (81.9%) patients had a good response to HFOV within 3 days. The final in-hospital mortality rate was 34.7%. No association was found between specific primary pulmonary disease and survival in multivariate analysis. Initial severity of respiratory failure, response to HFOV treatment, occurrence of sepsis, severe hypotension and patients with underlying perinatal asphyxia were independently associated with the 120-day mortality.

**Conclusion:** Nearly two-thirds of preterm infants with severe respiratory failure had well response to HFOV, mostly within the first 48 hours. For preterm infants with sepsis, severe hypotension and perinatal asphyxia, alternative strategies are warranted and urgently needed to investigate, in order to optimize outcomes.

**000635**

Differences in evolution during ICU admission between patients with acute respiratory failure by SARS-COV2 who received non-invasive respiratory support prior to admission versus those who did not receive it

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**Introduction:** Spain has been one of the most affected countries by the SARS-COV2 pandemic with thousands of cases in Madrid. The healthcare overload and excessive number of critical patients increased the capacity of the ICU. Due to assistance pressure, many of the patients with acute respiratory failure de novo had to be treated at the beginning with conventional respiratory support, CPAP systems and NIMV before their admission in ICU.

**Objectives:** To analyse the evolution, average hospital stay and mortality of our patients who received respiratory support with CPAP, HFOT or BiPAP before their admission in the ICU. Comparing with the critical patients admitted after conventional oxygen therapy failed.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study completed in an ICU of a second degree hospital. During the pandemic, ICU beds went from 14 to 39. We analysed the patients with diagnosis of acute respiratory failure and severe atypical pneumonia by SARS-COV2 admitted from 6/3/20 to 21/4/20. Patients who are still admitted at the time of data collection are excluded. Demographic variables, medical history, APACHE II, days elapsed from hospital admission to ICU admission, presence of associated organic failure, need for rescue treatment in refractory hypoxemia (prone position, neuromuscular relaxation) were collected. We also gathered analytical parameters of bad prognosis (creatinine, bilirubin, ferritin, D-dimer), days of ICU stay and mortality. Statistical analysis is performed using the IBM® SPSS Statistics 23 tool.

**Results:** We analyse 90 patients. Only 67 received full treatment at our centre due to the lack of beds. All requiring invasive respiratory support, of whom 46.3% of these patients (31) received respiratory support with CPAP, HFOT or BiPAP before their admission in the ICU. In the subgroup analysis, we did not find statistical significant differences in terms of age, gender, personal history, APACHE II or development of organ failure. No differences were found in the number of prone, trachostomies or need of neuromuscular blockers. There were not differences in the analytical parameters nor in the number of superinfections, neither in the ICU stay nor in mortality. The only difference was in the days elapsed from hospital admission and ICU admission, being 5.6 ± 6.15 days in patients who received non-invasive respiratory support prior to ICU admission versus 3.03 ± 2.48 days in patients who did not (p < 0.005).

**Conclusion:** In our sample, the patients diagnosed with refractory hypoxemia who were treated with non invasive respiratory devices had not a worse evolution, longer ICU stay or increased mortality. We did find a difference in the time elapsed between hospital admission and ICU admission. Patients who were treated with non invasive respiratory devices were admitted later than patients who did not require them.

**000648**

Derivation of “specific population who could benefit from Rosuvastatin”: A secondary analysis on randomised controlled trial to uncover novel value of Rosuvastatin for precise treatment of ARDS

S. Zhang1

**Introduction:** The high heterogeneity of ARDS contributes to paradoxical conclusions from previous investigations of rosuvastatin for ARDS. Identification of the population (phenotype) who could benefit from rosuvastatin is a novel exploration for precise treatment of ARDS.

**Methods:** The patient population for this analysis consisted of unique patients with ARDS enrolled in the SAILS trial (Rosuvastatin vs. Placebo). Phenotypes were derived using consensus k-means clustering applied to routinely available clinical variables within 6 hours of hospital presentation before receiving placebo or rosuvastatin. Kaplan–Meier statistic was used to estimate the 90 day cumulative mortality for screening specific population who could benefit from rosuvastatin, with cut-off value as P < 0.05.

**Results:** The derivation cohort included 585 patients with ARDS. Of the 4 derived phenotypes, phenotype 3 was identified as “specific population who could benefit from rosuvastatin” since rosuvastatin resulted in a significant reduction in 90 day cumulative mortality for ARDS (hazard ratio [HR] 0.29 [95% CI 0.09, 0.93]; P = 0.027). Meanwhile, there were no significant differences in baseline characteristics between those assigned to rosuvastatin and those assigned to placebo. Additionally, rosuvastatin markedly improved the free of cardiovascular failure (10.08 ± 3.79 in Rosuvastatin group vs 7.31 ± 4.94 in Placebo group, P = 0.01) and coagulation abnormality (13.65 ± 1.33 vs 12.15 ± 3.77, P = 0.02) to day 14 in phenotype 3. Patients classified as phenotype 3 exhibited but not limited to the relative higher platelet
count (390.05 ± 79.43 x 10^9/L), lower CRP (20.23 ± 11.99 mg/L) and Creat (1.42 ± 1.08 mg/dl), compared with patients classified as other phenotypes. Besides that, rosuvastatin seemed to increase 90 day mortality for patients in phenotype 4 (HR 2.7695% CI 0.09, 9.93, P = 0.076), with its adverse effect on the reduction of free renal failure to day 14(4.70 ± 4.49 vs 10.17 ± 4.69, P = 0.01). Patients in phenotype 4 showed a relative severe illness baseline features particularly renal failure.

Conclusion: This secondary analysis of SAILS trial identified the specific population who can benefit from rosuvastatin using machine learning applied to clinical variables at the time of hospital presentation, which uncovered a novel value of rosuvastatin for the treatment of ARDS, with validation clinical trials to be warranted to assess these further.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000710
Improved survival outcome in SARS-CoV-2(COVID-19) acute respiratory distress syndrome patients with Tocilizumab administration
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Introduction: The novel human coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. Hence, there is an urgency to find effective treatment. Of those patients afflicted in the United States, many have required treatment with ventilator secondary to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Data are needed regarding the benefit of treatment and prevention of the cytokine storms in COVID-19 patients with Tocilizumab.

Objectives: There are over 5.8 million confirmed cases and 360,412 deaths have been identified worldwide as of May 28, 2020 due to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). Our study showed improved survival outcome in COVID-19 ARDS patients treated with Tocilizumab.

Methods: Clinical outcomes data for patients admitted to Orange Regional Medical Center with confirmed COVID-19 from Mar 15, 2020 to Apr 20, 2020 were identified through electronic health record chart review. We conducted a retrospective case-control study in confirmed COVID 19 positive patients with ARDS requiring mechanical ventilation and compared outcome in terms of mortality and length of stay amongst those who received Tocilizumab as treatment modality opposed to those that did not.

Results: A total of 94 patients with COVID-19 ARDS were analyzed. 44 were in the study group and 50 in the control group. We tried to match both group as close as possible in terms of age, sex, BMI and HS score- calculated using inflammatory markers- ferritin, triglycerides, AST and fibrinogen. The median age was 55.5 years in the study group and 66 in the control group, difference was not statistically significant. Average HS score was 114 in the Tocilizumab group and 92 in the control group, difference was statistically significant with P < 0.0001. Also, the patients in the study group had elevated levels of IL-6, triglycerides, AST, ferritin which were statistically significant with P < 0.0001 when compared to the control group. Length of stay was longer, average 17.9 days in the Tocilizumab. Survival rate was much lower at 48 % in the control group and 61.36 % in patients who received Tocilizumab with significant P value of < 0.00001. The number needed to treat (NNT) was 7.48, if we treat 8 patients with Tocilizumab, I will not die.

Conclusion: Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) occurs in a large number of patients with severe COVID-19, which is also an important cause of death. IL-6 is the key molecule of CRS, so IL-6R antagonist Tocilizumab may be of value in improving outcomes. In our study Tocilizumab group seemed to have improved survival outcome.

000727
Injury to the Endothelial Glycocalyx in critically ill Covid-19 patients
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Introduction: The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) can infect the endothelium leading to microvascular endothelialitis. The endothelial glycocalyx (eGC) plays an essential role in maintaining endothelial function.

Objectives: To investigate if injury to the eGC can be found in critically ill Covid-19 patients

Methods: Sublingual assessment of the eGC via sublingual dark field imaging was performed in 19 critically ill Covid-19 patients within 24h after intubation and in 10 controls. Blood samples
were analyzed for markers of endothelial and eGC injury. A 3D microfluidic flow assay was performed to examine eGC ex vivo in naive and Heparanase-2 overexpressing endothelial cells (ECS).

Results: In Covid-19 patients, transmembrane proteins such as Syndecan-1 and ST6GAL1 were increased in the circulation indicating pathological shedding. Hpa-1, a key regulator of eGC, and its enzymatic activity were unchanged. In contrast, its protective counterpart Hpa-2 was profoundly reduced (median (IQR) 18.7 (10.6-31.1) U/ml vs. 4.7 (2.6-5.6) U/ml, p = 0.014). Ex vivo stimulation of ECs with serum from Covid-19 patients was sufficient to lower Hpa-2 transcription and to induce glycocalyx damage that could be rescued by lentiviral Hpa-2 overexpression. Consistently, in vivo imaging of the eGC revealed a reduced thickness (increased perfused boundary region (PBR) 1.9 (1.8-1.9) µm vs. 2.1 (1.8-2.2) µm, p = 0.009) in Covid-19.

Conclusion: In critically ill patients with Covid-19, early endothelial injury involves the integrity of the glycocalyx. Acquired Hpa-2 deficiency might be a potentially causative factor. These observations may trigger novel therapeutic interventions aiming at protecting endothelial function.

000734 COVID-19 Patients treated in the Intensive Care Unit: a case series from Cyprus
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Introduction: Understanding the progression and optimum management of the COVID-19 as a “new disease” is of vital importance for healthcare workers worldwide to improve severe disease outcomes. Objectives: The main purpose of the study is to investigate the progression of critically ill patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection in the ICU.

Methods: All consecutive patients who were admitted in the ICU of the Nicosia General Hospital, Cyprus due to severe COVID-19, between March 10th and May 1st, 2020 were reviewed. A confirmed case of COVID-19 was defined as a positive result on a reverse-transcriptase-polymerase-chain-reaction (RT-PCR) assay of a specimen collected either from nasopharyngeal swab or bronchial secretions. Data was collected regarding respiratory, cardiovascular, infectious, and other parameters.

Results: A total of 19 patients with confirmed COVID-19 were identified. Their median age was 64, while 74% were men. Obesity (62%) and hypertension (53%) were the most common risk factors for ICU admission. Most patients were admitted with severe respiratory failure (68%) and all required mechanical ventilation. Patients were categorized in four groups of ventilation, based on H or L ventilation phenotype in association with co-morbidities. The first category were L phenotype patients that seemed to benefit from a few days of mechanical ventilation. These patients suffered from no or minor comorbidity. The second category L phenotype patients that seemed to suffer from ICU complications and had a prolonged weaning process. These patients had several comorbidities and/or older age. The third category were H phenotype patients that eventually changed to L phenotype. Among this group the patients exhibited radiological and ultrasonographic signs of atelectasis. Prone positioning seemed of great benefit in these patients. It may be argued that the transition from H to L phenotype may be due to the improvement of atelectasis rather than a change or improvement of lung inflammation. This group exhibited obesity with a high waist circumference partially explicable of the high atelectasis rate found. Lastly the category “classic” ARDS patients or pure H phenotype. They had the worst outcome since they suffered from severe ARDS. 68% of patients required vasopressor support, and 42% developed AKI during their stay. Diarrhea was common with a median day of onset of 8 days. Lactate levels above 2 mmol/L in the first four days of admission were correlated with a negative outcome. Eight patients (42%) were successfully discharged from the ICU, 7 (39%) died and 4 patients remain in the ICU.

Conclusion: Obesity and male gender are significant risk factors for ICU admission. Ventilation phenotype on admission and during hospitalization may be predictive of outcome. Mechanical ventilation, lower PEEP values and early prone position may provide more favorable outcomes especially in L phenotype patients.

000751 Acute pancreatitis complicated with refractory ARDS supported by ECMO: a French multicentric retrospective study (preliminary results)
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Introduction: Acute pancreatitis (AP) is described as a common cause of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Paradoxically, despite an exponential increase in ECMO (ExtraCorporal Membrane Oxygenation) use over the past decade, literature remains very poor concerning its use in these patients.

Objectives: Our objective was to describe the use of ECMO in this specific population.

Methods: French multicentric retrospective study. All adult patients on ECMO for an ARDS secondary to AP between 2010 and 2020 were included in the analysis. Demographic data, AP severity, respiratory complications and outcomes were collected. Results are expressed in median (interquartile range) and proportions.

Results: Twenty-five patients with severe ARDS following PA requiring ECMO were identified, of which 5 were secondarily excluded (4 ECMO post-cardiac arrest, 1 for aspiration pneumonia unrelated to PA).

Patients were young (47 [38-60] years) and obese (body mass index 30 [26-34] kg/m²) men (90%) admitted for a severe AP (BISAP 2 score [1-2], mainly of alcoholic (45%) and biliary (20%) origin. They presented a median sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA) score of 8 [4-13] at admission and a simplified acute physiology score (SAPS 2) of 50 [34-61].

Prior to ECMO initiation, ventilatory characteristics were as follows: tidal volume of 6.9 [5.7-8.6] ml/kg of ideal body weight, positive end-expiratory pressure of 10 [8-12] cmH₂O and a plateau pressure of 30 [30-32] cmH₂O. Associated adjuvant therapies were neuromuscular blockers (100%), prone positioning (30%) and nitric oxide (30%). Before ECMO initiation, patients had a median pH of 7.26 [7.20-7.38] and a P/F ratio of 58 [52-82].

ECMO support was mainly venovenous (80%) with details presented in the Table. Thirteen patients (65%) underwent at least one surgical intervention under ECMO, mainly for digestive ischemia or abdominal compartment syndrome. Outcomes are listed in the Figure.

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Main ECMO characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Patients (N=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time from mechanical ventilation to ECMO, median (IQR), days</td>
<td>2 [0-10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VV-ECMO / VA-ECMO / VAV-ECMO</td>
<td>16 (80) / 3 (15) / 1 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory hypoxaemia</td>
<td>14 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to achieve protective ventilation</td>
<td>3 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontrolled hypoxaemia</td>
<td>2 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiogenic shock</td>
<td>1 (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion: ECMO appears to be an acceptable therapy for ARDS secondary to AP due to the young age and limited comorbidities of these patients. In particular, the need for abdominal surgery does not seem to change the risk-benefit balance and should not contraindicate ECMO in this population. A study comparing this cohort to AP in ARDS to change the risk-benefit balance and should not contraindicate patients. In particular, the need for abdominal surgery does not seem secondary to AP due to the young age and limited comorbidities of these patients. ECMO appears to be an acceptable therapy for ARDS secondary.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000763
High-Flow Nasal Cannula in patients with COVID-19; a prospective cohort study
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Introduction: Since the end of 2019 the world is enthralled by the novel COVID-19 pandemic, putting extreme pressure on Intensive Care Units. The general advice for patients with progressive respiratory failure due to COVID-19 disease was to start invasive mechanical ventilation (MV) early in the clinical course. This was based on the assumption that COVID-19 led to a moderate to severe ARDS requiring MV with PEEP and to prevent patient self-inflicted lung injury (P-SILI) [1]. In addition, non-invasive ventilation and High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) were discouraged because of the perceived risk of aerosol formation leading to disease transmission. However, it has become increasingly clear that patients with COVID-19 do not necessarily develop typical ARDS and the transmission risk of HFNC is considered comparable to conventional oxygen therapy [1-3]. HFNC is a validated therapy that can prevent intubation in patients with progressive hypoxemic respiratory failure and can also be used outside the ICU [4]. We hypothesize that implementation of HFNC in the pre-ICU setting can successfully reduce the need for MV and ICU-admission of COVID-19 patients.

Objectives: To investigate to what extent HFNC can prevent MV in patients with progressive hypoxemic respiratory failure due to COVID-19.

Methods: We performed a multicenter prospective cohort study between March 2020 and June 2020 on the regular pulmonary wards of an academic and teaching hospital in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Patients on the regular wards with progressive hypoxemic respiratory failure due to COVID-19 while being treated with maximum oxygen (O2) therapy (peripheral O2 saturation < 92% or high work of breathing), started with HFNC. Maximum O2 therapy before HFNC consisted of 15L O2/min flow via a non-rebreathing mask (NRM) in one center and 6L O2/min flow via a nasal cannula in the other. Patients with contraindications for HFNC (such as hypercapnia, severe hypoxia) were excluded and intubated directly. Patients vital parameters (peripheral O2 saturation, respiratory rate (RR)) and ROX-scores were monitored after one hour, followed by every two hours during HFNC. In case of an increasing oxygen demand or exhaustion, assessed by the corresponding ROX-scores, MV was initiated [5].

Results: HFNC was initiated in a total of 30 patients for progressive respiratory failure on conventional O2 therapy (n = 25 nasal cannula; n = 5 NRM). Patients started HFNC after a median of 3 days (IQR: 1-4) after hospital admission, while having symptoms for a median of 11 days (IQR: 9-15). The median peripheral O2 saturation and RR at start of HFNC was 94% (IQR: 93-96) and 28/min (IQR: 24-32) respectively. 14 out of 30 (47%) were eventually intubated after a median of 12 hours (IQR: 8-24) after starting HFNC. 2 out of 5 on an NRM (40%) were intubated versus 12 out of 25 (48%) on a nasal cannula. Median ROX-score at time of intubation was 4.82 (IQR: 4.60-4.98). Reasons for intubation were hypoxia (n = 1) and somnolence (n = 1) but mainly exhaustion (n = 12) defined as a RR ≥ 30/min with corresponding low ROX-scores. Patients stabilizing on HFNC continued therapy for a median of 5 days (IQR: 2-8) before switching to a nasal cannula.

Conclusion: Our study suggests that HFNC may prevent intubation in a relevant proportion of COVID-19 patients with isolated hypoxemic respiratory failure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000796
Lung and chest wall viscoelastic properties of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome. The role of expiratory flow limitation
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Introduction: Lung and chest wall tissues absorb the dissipation of the energy during lung inflation through their viscoelastic properties. These can be represented by the Mount rheological model that consists of a Maxwell body (lung and chest wall viscoelastic properties of) compared with the standard lung and chest wall elastance and resistance, according to the following equation: Pvisc(ti) = R2 V' (1- exp(-ti/τ2)) (1)
where Pvisc(ti) represents the viscoelastic pressure dissipation into lung/chest wall during inflation time (ti), V’ the inflation flow and τ2 the lung/chest wall viscoelastic time constant (r2 = R2/E2).

000796
Lung and chest wall viscoelastic properties of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome. The role of expiratory flow limitation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000796

Introduction: Lung and chest wall tissues absorb the dissipation of the energy during lung inflation through their viscoelastic properties. These can be represented by the Mount rheological model that consists of a Maxwell body (lung and chest wall viscoelastic properties of) compared with the standard lung and chest wall elastance and resistance, according to the following equation: Pvisc(ti) = R2 V' (1- exp(-ti/τ2)) (1)
where Pvisc(ti) represents the viscoelastic pressure dissipation into lung/chest wall during inflation time (ti), V’ the inflation flow and τ2 the lung/chest wall viscoelastic time constant (r2 = R2/E2).
Lung and chest wall viscoelastic properties have not previously been described during acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) according to presence or absence of expiratory flow limitation (EFL). **Objectives:** We aimed at assessing the relationship between EFL and viscoelastic dissipation characteristics of lung/chest wall in ARDS patients. **Methods:** This was a secondary analysis of a previously reported study on ARDS patients meeting the Berlin definition criteria (1). Patients were intubated, sedated, and paralyzed. Airway and esophageal pressures and flow signals were recorded in semi-recumbent position at PEEP 5, 10, and 15 cmH2O. At PEEP 5, EFL was assessed by the atmospheric method as previously reported (2). Patients were classified as flow-limited (FL) or non-flow-limited (NFL). At each PEEP step end-inspiratory occlusion was performed at baseline ventilator settings. We used the single breath method (2) to estimate the viscoelastic elastance (E2,L and E2,cw) and resistance (R2,L and R2,cw) of lung and chest wall, respectively. Values are shown as median (1st-3rd quartiles) and compared between FL and NFL at PEEP 5 by using Wilcoxon rank test. The effect of EFL, PEEP, and their interaction was further tested by linear mixed-effects model. **Results:** Twenty-five ARDS patients were included. Eight were FL and 17 NFL. At PEEP 5, E2,L and R2,L were significantly higher in FL than in NFL patients, amounting to 12 (10-14) vs. 6 (5-8) cmH2O/L (P = 0.03) and 7 (5-10) vs. 4 (2-6) cmH2O/L/s (P = 0.04), respectively. Chest wall E2,cw and R2,cw were not different between FL and NFL patients. PEEP had no effect on viscoelastic constants but EFL had a significant effect on E2,L and E2,cw without interaction between PEEP and EFL. Over all PEEP levels, E2,L was 11 (7-14) in FL and 5 (4-7) cmH2O/L in NFL (P = 0.02) and E2,cw was 2 (1-4) in FL and 3 (1-3) cmH2O/L in NFL (P = 0.003). **Conclusion:** In ARDS, lung viscoelastic constants are significantly higher in FL than in NFL patients. The mechanisms behind this finding should be explored.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. 1. Journal of Applied Physiology 2020

000801 Steroid immunomodulation in SARS-CoV-2 patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000801

**Introduction:** Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is an atypical Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), characterized by an initial direct viral insult that could lead to a disproportionate inflammatory response that worsens lung function [1]. To date it is unknown if steroids may be a strategy in viral ARDS [2]. We tested the hypothesis that methylprednisolone reduces mortality at 28 days.

**Objectives:** Determine the effect of methylprednisolone on mortality at 28 days, on mechanical ventilation (MV) free days and major complications.

**Methods:** From February 22nd to March 22nd, 130 consecutive patients admitted in 6 ICUs of Ospedale Papa Giovanni XXIII (Bergamo) were retrospectively enrolled. Age, Charlson comorbidity index, SOFA score and PaO2/FiO2 ratio (P/F) at admission were collected. We compared 67 control patients (control group) with 63 receiving methylprednisolone (steroid group) at either low dose (1 mg/kg/day, n = 58) for 10 days or up to three high dose boluses (1000 mg, n = 5). Primary outcome was mortality at 28 days. Secondary outcomes were MV-free days and secondary infections. Baseline characteristics and MV-free days were compared in two groups using Mann Whitney test. The association with mortality and infection was evaluated with Fisher exact test.

**Results:** In our population median age was 62 (IQR 14), 107 (82%) were male, 115 (88%) required intubation. In the steroid group all patients received methylprednisolone within the first 14 days after ICU admission, median therapy duration was 10 days (IQR 10). Steroid and control groups were similar in terms of age, Charlson comorbidity index, SOFA score and P/F. Methylprednisolone was associated with reduced mortality at 28 days (OR 0.35, 95% CI 0.17-0.77, p = 0.009). No differences were observed in MV-free days, secondary infections and septic shock. The table summarizes baseline characteristics and main findings of the study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Steroid Group</th>
<th>Control Group</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, median (IQR)</td>
<td>61 (12)</td>
<td>60 (11)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson comorbidity index, median (2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score, median (IQR)</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2, median (IQR)</td>
<td>110 (59)</td>
<td>109 (69)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary infections, n (%)</td>
<td>30 (52)</td>
<td>25 (40)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septic shock, n (%)</td>
<td>20 (32)</td>
<td>15 (26)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV-free days, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0 (15)</td>
<td>0 (8.5)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality at 28 days, n (%)</td>
<td>14 (22)</td>
<td>30 (45)</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In our cohort of SARS-CoV-2 patients, immunomodulation therapy with methylprednisolone was associated with reduced mortality at 28 days.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
of the right upper lobe (RB1) and the posterior-basal segmental and subsegmental bronchi of the right lower lobe (RB10). LAA thought to reflect emphysematous destruction of the lung parenchyma were defined using a Hounsfield Unit threshold of −50 (%LAA−950). The association between radiological measurements and inpatient death or admission to ICU was explored by locally weighted regression (LOWESS) and simple univariate logistic regression models.

**Results:** Among 1411 eligible patients, 326 (23%) were included. The main exclusions were pneumonia (30%), limiting to perform the CT (24%) and terminal illness (11%). The median age was 74 years (IQR 66 – 82) and 56% were women. Smoking history (86%) and exposure to biomass (61%) were the main risk factors. Hospital mortality rate was 2.5% and 40 (12.3%) patients required admission to ICU, with 43 (13.2%) patients with the outcome of interest. The means of WA% were: RB1 segmental 64.6 (58.8-70.7), subsegmental 70.3 (64.5-75.5), and RB10 segmental 63.3 (57.5-70.6), subsegmental 69.4 (62.8 -76.1). The mean for extent of emphysema (%LAA−950) was 14.7% (4.2-29.3). In univariate logistic regression analyzes, all radiological measurements showed no association with the outcome of death or need for ICU (Table 1).

![Table 1. CT variables](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morphometric variable</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean airway wall area percent (%) [WA]</td>
<td>0.99 (0.96 – 1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1 Segmental</td>
<td>1.01 (0.98 – 1.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B10 Segmental</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98 – 1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean airway inner luminal area (mm^2) [AI]</td>
<td>0.99 (0.97 – 1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1 Segmental</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98 – 1.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B10 Segmental</td>
<td>0.99 (0.98 – 1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volumetry</td>
<td>1.00 (0.97 – 1.01)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Morphometric assessment of the airways and the extent of emphysema did not differ between patients with and without the outcome of death or need for ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Covid-19 thromboembolic complications and risk factors for poor outcomes: experience from a single ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000822

**Introduction:** COVID-19 may be associated with severe respiratory failure that, for patients requiring invasive ventilation carries an estimated mortality of 49% in the UK (1). A prominent feature of the disease is the development of thromboembolic complications that, despite thromboprophylaxis, occurs with an incidence of approximately 50% (2,3). We evaluated the presenting characteristics and outcomes of the patients admitted with COVID-19 in our ICU, particularly as regards to the development of thromboembolic complications.

**Methods:** Baseline characteristics, respiratory variables, coagulation and inflammatory parameters and ICU mortality were collected retrospectively on all patients admitted with either PCR-confirmed or clinically diagnosed COVID-19.

**Results:** Between March and May 2020 59 admissions with COVID-19 were recorded. Thirty-two patients (58%) required invasive ventilation and 27 patients (48%) received therapeutic anticoagulation. Thromboembolic complications occurred in 8 patients (14%) and 50% of those died. Of the patients that had ischaemic complications 5 (63%) were on prophylactic and 3 (38%) on therapeutic anticoagulation. Six patients developed haemorrhagic complications and 2 of those required blood transfusion. Mortality in the intubated patients was 47%. There was no difference in the mortality of patients that received therapeutic anticoagulation versus those that did not. Factors associated with mortality included CRP and respiratory variables, whereas D-dimer was associated with the development of thromboembolic complications. Maximum CRP in the first 72 hours of admission was significantly higher in the patients that died (mean (SD) 311 (80) vs 207 (86) mg/L, p = 0.0002); > 300 mg/L was associated with > 70% mortality. Minimum S/F ratio (median [IQR]) within the first 72 hours of admission in non-survivors vs survivors was 149 (114-165) vs 192 (157-269), p = 0.0004. Patients with lowest S/F < 150 and <100 had 60% and > 80% mortality respectively. Both D-dimer on admission and mean D-dimer during ICU stay were higher in the patients that experienced thromboembolic complications. However, there was no association between APTTR, anti-Xa, or Fibrinogen values with either mortality or the of thromboembolic complications (Figure).

**Conclusion:** Our analysis shows a lower incidence of thrombotic complications compared to other centres, likely because of our low threshold for anticoagulation. Therapeutic anticoagulation was not associated with improvement in outcomes and that was likely a result of patient selection, as those with clinically severe disease received therapeutic anticoagulation. Similar to other studies, D-dimer and CRP levels were associated with poor outcomes and may be used for prognostication and to guide anticoagulation treatment (4,5).

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

Introduction: SARS-CoV-2 overwhelmed intensive care units capacity around the world. In this circumstances providing high complexity and resources consuming techniques as ECMO was a challenge.

Objectives: To describe characteristics and outcomes of patients receiving ECMO to support complications related with COVID-19 infection.

Methods: ECMO decision was based on ELSO recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 pandemic after discussion between ECMO team members (which consisted of cardiac surgeons, cardiologists and intensive care medicine specialists). Clinical records were analyzed to obtain relevant demographic, gas exchange and mechanical ventilation characteristics and outcomes. Descriptive statistics were performed.

Results: From February to May 2020 around 230 patients > 95% invasive mechanical ventilation application) with SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis were admitted to the intensive care units of the two study centers and ECMO was used in 6 patients. Two H1N1 patients (with 0% mortality) were also subjected to ECMO during this time period but were excluded of this analysis. Five patients had ARDS as main diagnosis and reason for ECMO (veno-venous) while one had a diagnosis of miopericarditis and cardiogenic shock secondary to COVID-19 and veno-arterial ECMO was used. All patients were male, mean APACHE II was 15 ± 7, age 51 ± 4 years, post intubation PaO2/FiO2 ratio was 152 ± 57 mmHg (131 ± 28 mmHg when miopericarditis patient was excluded), PaCO2 55 ± 12 mmHg, pH 7.32 ± 0.1, tidal volume 442 ± 38 ml (always below 8 ml/kg PBW) and PEEP 12 ± 30 and PEEP 12 ± 2.4 cmH2O. In the veno-arterial patient ECMO was started after extubation failure and restart of mechanical ventilation. Variables at the time of ECMO start were PaO2/FiO2 ratio 89 ± 14 mmHg, PaCO2 74 ± 15 mmHg, pH 7.35 ± 0.07, tidal volume 412 ± 30 and PEEP 12 ± 2.4 cmH2O. In the veno-arterial patient ECMO was started in the admission day without data of respiratory failure. ECMO was used during 13 ± 7 days, survival was 66% and intensive care unit length of stay 56 ± 25 days (one patient remained in the ICU at the time of analysis). No differences in the analyzed variables were found between survivors and not survivors.

Conclusion: In this cohort of patients with severe COVID-19 infection ECMO showed encouraging results. Mortality was below the usual reported data. However length of stay was high. As long as material and human resources were available and well-coordinated, ECMO could be delivered in a safe way in times of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Enhanced thromboprophylaxis dosing or therapeutic anticoagulation are not associated with a decrease in thrombo-embolic events in patients with COVID19: A single centre experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000876

Characteristics and outcomes of ECMO implementation by a multidisciplinary team in two hospitals in Madrid during 2020 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000825

Introduction: Multiple studies report that patients with COVID-19 have a high incidence of arterial and venous thromboses despite standard prophylaxis1,2,3. Although this has led to recommendations for higher anticoagulant dosing4 in patients on ICU, it is unclear if this will reduce thrombotic complications.

Objectives: 1. To quantify the difference in thrombotic events between ICU and ward level patients. 2. To ascertain whether a higher prophylactic low molecular weight heparin (pLMWH) dose regime for ICU patients conferred protection from developing thromboses.

Methods: We collected data retrospectively on patients admitted to medical wards between 8th Apr 2020 to 22nd Apr 2020, who were PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2. Data collected included the use of prophylactic or therapeutic anticoagulation, clinically detected thrombotic complications or bleeding.

We also collected data on patients admitted to ICU from 15th Mar 2020 to 14th Jun 2020 with PCR confirmed COVID-19. These patients received either standard pLMWH, or, following introduction of new guidance, enhanced pLMWH.

Results: 83 ward admissions were identified, of which 53 had standard pLMWH, 18 were already on therapeutic anticoagulation, and 12 received neither. 1 patient developed a venous thromboembolism (VTE) (1.2%). 2 patients, both on pre-admission therapeutic anticoagulation, had bleeding complications (2%). 73 ICU patients were identified; 13 VTE events (12 PE and 1 DVT) (18%). A further 20 filter-related line thromboses occurred, amongst 22 receiving CVVH. In total 29 patients (40%) experienced intra or extracorporeal thrombotic events.

34 patients received standard pLMWH, whilst 39 received enhanced thromboprophylaxis or therapeutic anticoagulation initiated prior to development of any thrombotic event. Peak D-dimer was higher in patients developing thrombotic events or bleeding, (median 1410 vs 5374, p < 0.0001); none of the other measures were significantly different in either group (Table 1).

| Table 1: Comparison of ICU patients receiving standard vs enhanced thromboprophylaxis |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Standard thromboprophylaxis (34) | Enhanced thromboprophylaxis (39) |
| Median age (range) | 62 (55) | 61 (60) |
| % (95% CI) female | 10 [29% (17-46%)] | 10 [26% (15-41%)] |
| Median (range) APACHE II score | 12 (18) | 14 (24) |
| Median (range) admission D-Dimer | 384 (13033) | 423 (36213) |
| Median (range) Peak D-Dimer | 2566 (12944) | 1491 (58383) |
| % (95% CI) ventilated | 25 [74% (57-85%)] | 31 [85% (70-93%)] |
| % (95% CI) developing pulmonary or deep vein thrombosis | 6 [18% (8-34%)] | 7 [18% (9-33%)] |
| % (95% CI) Bleeding complications | 2 [6% (2-19%)] | 5 [13% (6-27%)] |

Conclusion: Thrombotic events were significantly more common amongst patients admitted to ICU than those who had ward level management only. Although the rate of these events was higher, we found no signal that increasing pLMWH doses was effective, and may have been associated with an increased risk of bleeding. Baseline inequalities between our groups and relatively small numbers mean that these conclusions should be tested in larger data sets and trials of enhanced thromboprophylaxis are warranted.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Conclusion: Almost all our COVID-19 patients received a homogeneous management schema and invasive mechanical ventilation and ICU mortality was less than 20%.

000902

The effect of prone positioning in SARS-CoV-2: a case series

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000902

Introduction: Patients suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) disease develop an atypical form of ARDS characterized by severe hypoxemia and preserved lung mechanics.1 Prone positioning (PP) is successfully used as a rescue therapy for severe hypoxemia in classic ARDS. Its effects are not yet clear in SARS-CoV-2.

Objectives: To describe the effects of PP on gas exchange and respiratory mechanics in a group of severely hypoxic patients with SARS-CoV-2.

Methods: From February 22th to March 22th, consecutive SARS-CoV-2 patients admitted to the ICUs of Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital in Bergamo, were studied. PROSEVA study group criteria were used to identify modalities and clinical indications to PP. Data about ventilation (positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), driving pressure (DP), compliance of respiratory system (Crs)) and gas exchange (Pao2/Fio2 (P/F ratio) and PCO2) were collected at three time points: before (supine_pre), at the end (prone) and after 6 hours (supine_post) of each session. Data were analyzed using repeated measurements ANOVA followed by Dunnet post-hoc analysis.

Results: Among 115 SARS-CoV-2 patients admitted to the ICU receiving mechanical ventilation, 71 were pronounced. 80% patients were male, mean age and BMI were 60 ± 10 and 30 ± 5, similarly to the rest of the population. At the beginning of mechanical ventilation P/F ratio and Crs were 123 ± 63 and 40 ± 11 ml/cmH2O. Median time to the first prone session was 1 (03) day. 25 patients (35%) were pronounced once while the remaining 46 needed more than a session. Table shows the results of the PP.

| (| Pre | Supine_post | Prone | Supine_post | Prone | Supine_post | Prone | Supine_post | Prone |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P/F | 216 (194-241) | 177 (151-194) | 181 (165-196) | 160 (140-174) |
| Crs | 1.2 (1.0-1.5) | 1.3 (1.0-1.7) | 1.4 (1.1-1.9) | 1.5 (1.2-2.3) |
| PEEP | 14 (10-18) | 13 (9-16) | 12 (10-15) | 10 (8-12) |
| PCO2 | 48 (42-56) | 46 (40-53) | 45 (40-52) | 47 (40-55) |

Major complications occurred in 16 cycles (11%): severe hypoxemia in 7, pneumothorax in 1, airway-related complications in 4, pulmonary embolism in 2 and cardiovascular instability in 2 cycles.

Conclusion: PP resulted in a significant increase in P/F ratio despite no effect on respiratory mechanics. These data suggest that PP could be used as rescue therapy for severe hypoxemia in SARS-CoV-2.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Early risk factors associated to mortality in critical COVID-19 patients in Bergamo

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Introduction: Identification of risk factors associated with mortality in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), could promote rapid and proper allocation of resources. (1)

Objectives: We sought to identify early detectable risk factors associated with 120-day mortality in subjects with COVID-19 admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: We included all consecutive adult patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU at our institution between February 22 and March 22, 2020. COVID-19 was defined according to at least one between clinical, radiological and/or laboratory criteria. Variables were considered if clinically relevant, promptly available and were excluded if their accuracy was not verifiable (e.g. viral exposure and date of start symptoms, which were self-reported).

First, we used univariable logistic regressions to explore risk factors associated with 120-day mortality. Secondly, variables with a p value at least inferior to 0.05 at univariable analyses were included in a multivariable logistic regression model; to avoid overfitting, we limited the number of regressors to 1 variable every 15 outcomes. Finally, we computed a ROC curve of the multivariate analysis and its relative area under the curve (AUC) in order to assess the discriminative power of the model.

Results: In our cohort of 130 patients, 51 patients (39.2%) died within 120 days after ICU admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year) *</td>
<td>1.14 (1.09 - 1.21)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
<td>1.13 (1.07 - 1.19)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI *</td>
<td>1.01 (0.94 - 1.08)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex *</td>
<td>1.01 (0.40 - 2.61)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD *</td>
<td>10.3 (1.68 - 197)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>5.54 (0.74 - 115)</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR admission &gt; 24 bpm *</td>
<td>0.91 (0.38 - 2.10)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPAP/NIV to TI (days) *</td>
<td>0.96 (0.80 - 1.15)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE-I therapy</td>
<td>2.32 (0.8 - 7.7)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood group 0 *</td>
<td>1.66 (0.69 - 3.94)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood group A *</td>
<td>0.54 (0.22 - 1.25)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA *</td>
<td>1.29 (1.10 - 1.54)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
<td>1.28 (1.06 - 1.57)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 1: ACE-I = Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors, BMI = Body Mass Index, bpm = breath per minute, COPD = Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, CPAP = Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, NIV = Non Invasive Ventilation, RR = Respiratory Rate, SOFA = Sequential Organ Failure Assessment, TI = Tracheal Intubation * = per unit increase, " = true

We identified age, COPD and SOFA- score as independent predictors of mortality at 120 days (see Table 1).

In the multivariable model, both age and SOFA- score were associated with mortality and the AUC of the relative ROC curve was 0.84.

Conclusion: Facing the unpredicted trajectory of the still ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, we identified a “three early-detectable variables” model associated with 120-day mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

If confirmed in other cohorts, our findings could promote the development of a mortality-predicting score, improving resource allocation in COVID-19 pandemic.

Dosing of Thromboprophylaxis and Mortality in Critically ill COVID-19 patients

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Introduction: A substantial proportion of critically ill COVID-19 patients develop thromboembolic complications (ref 1-3). It is unclear what the optimal dose of thromboprophylaxis is for critically ill COVID-19 patients and whether higher doses are associated with lower mortality rates.

Objectives: To evaluate the association of initial dosing strategy of thromboprophylaxis in critically ill COVID-19 patients and the risk of death, thromboembolism, and bleeding.

Methods: This was an observational cohort study in a 600-bed emergency hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. All critically ill COVID-19 patients admitted to two ICUs in March and April 2020 were eligible. Exclusion criteria were short length of stay, ongoing anticoagulation therapy due to diagnosed thromboembolic disease, or no initial thromboprophylaxis in the ICU. Patients were categorized into three groups according to initial daily dose; low (2500-4500 IU tinzaparin or 2500-5000 IU dalteparin), medium (> 4500 IU but < 175 IU/kg of body weight tinzaparin or > 5000 IU but < 200 IU/kg of body weight dalteparin), and high dose thromboprophylaxis (≥ 175 IU/kg of body weight tinzaparin or ≥ 200 IU/kg of body weight dalteparin). The three study groups reflected a gradual increase in dose of thromboprophylaxis during the study period.

Results: A total of 152 patients were included, out of which 67 received low dose thromboprophylaxis, 48 medium dose thromboprophylaxis, and 37 high dose thromboprophylaxis. Demographic and clinical characteristics were similar in the three groups at baseline. Mortality was lower in patients treated with high (13.5%) vs medium (25.0%) and low dose thromboprophylaxis (38.8%), p = 0.02. The multivariable hazard ratio of death was 0.33 (95% confidence interval 0.13–0.87) with high vs low dose thromboprophylaxis when adjusted for sex, age, body mass index, Simplified Acute Physiology Score III and invasive respiratory support. There were fewer thromboembolic events in patients treated with high (2.7%) vs medium (18.8%) and low dose thromboprophylaxis (17.9%), p = 0.04, but no difference in the proportion of bleeding events, p = 0.16.
Conclusion: Among critically ill Covid-19 patients, high dose thromboprophylaxis was associated with a lower risk of death and a lower cumulative incidence of thromboembolic events compared with lower doses. There was no difference in the proportions of bleeding events between the groups.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000983 National questionnaire of ECMO in Spanish Intensive Care Units A. Delgado1; P. Millán2; A. García De Lorenzo2; JM. Añon Elizalde2
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Correspondence: A. Delgado
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000983

Introduction: The main objective is to analyse the organisation of ECMO in our country.

Methods: A national questionnaire was performed (January 2019-2020) consisting in questions about pre-ECMO management, accessibility of the technique, characteristics of the ECMO team, quality, safety, training and membership of the EuroELSO.

Results: 86(29%) ICU units answered. In 57% (n = 49) ECMO was established. Only 8 regions of 17 have an ECMO retrieval team. In 57% (n=48) the number of cases done per centre ranging from centres that have >100 cases per year (n=2) to centres that do >10 cases (n=3). Hyper- volaemia and recirculation are the most frequent complications. 93% (n = 39) of the ICUs recognise that they do not do a monthly ECMO educational or simulation session. 81%(n = 35) do not belong to EuroELSO and 74%(n = 31) do not participate in the ECMO registry.

Conclusion: There is a wide heterogeneity of the accessibility of ECMO in Spain. There is a high rate of trial of prone position prior to ECMO, as per current recommendations. A significant number of ICUs do not reach the minimal number of cases recommended by ELSO Criteria. There is ample heterogeneity in the teams and management. There is room from improvement in education, simulation, and membership of EuroELSO.

001040 Validation of clinically applicable techniques for measurement of end-inspiratory lung volume

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001040

Introduction: Dynamic hyperinflation may develop in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma due to dynamic airway collapse or due to airway narrowing by bronchospasm or bronchial wall edema. Dynamic hyperinflation during controlled mechanical ventilation may result in barotrauma and hemodynamic instability. To limit these risks, it is important to quantify pulmonary hyperinflation. Tuxen et al. (1,2) demonstrated that maintaining end-inspiratory lung volume (VeI) below 1.4 L (or below 20 mL/kg when corrected for ideal body weight) prevents development of adverse effects related to pulmonary hyperinflation.

Objectives: To validate two clinically applicable bedside techniques for the measurement of VeI.

Methods: VeI was assessed using three techniques: i) Gold standard: the patient exhaled from end-inspiration in a calibrated glass tube with liquid level indicator. ii) Formula based on physiology: (Vt • Pplateau)/(Pplateau – PEEPtotal), with Vt the tidal volume, Pplateau the plateau pressure obtained after an inspiratory occlusion maneuver and PEEPtotal the positive end-expiratory pressure obtained after an expiratory occlusion maneuver. iii) Ventilator maneuver: measuring the expired volume using the flow sensor of the ventilator during passive exhalation from end-inspiration during pressure support ventilation. VeI was determined using these three techniques in each patient with 5 minute interval. The gold standard was repeated after the three measurements to exclude changes in respiratory mechanics due to the study protocol.

Results: Seventeen patients were evaluated. VeI according to the gold standard was 16.8 ± 1.17 mL/kg. VeI according to the formula and ventilator maneuver had a low bias but large limits of agreement (0.64 ± 6.70 mL/kg and 0.46 ± 6.48 mL/kg, respectively) and were moderately correlated with the gold standard (r^2 = 0.47 with P = 0.0035 and r^2 = 0.56 with P = 0.009, respectively). VeI according to the gold standard did not change due to the study protocol: 0.21 ± 1.73 mL/kg as compared to the initial VeI measurement.

Conclusion: In patients with airflow obstruction it is important to quantify pulmonary hyperinflation to limit risks associated with hyperinflation. We showed that using a formula to estimate VeI and a ventilator maneuver had a low bias but large limits of agreement compared to the gold standard to measure VeI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
001043
ECMO for CoVid19 patients with severe ARDS – is the glass half full or half empty?
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):001043

Introduction: The humanopathogen coronavirus CoVid-19 may cause life threatening pneumonia. 20% of those tested positive show severe signs of hypoxic respiratory failure, with 5% needing intensive care unit treatment, with a reported mortality between 30-60% (Grasselli,JAMA) While knowledge about the disease is increasing, no firm recommendations concerning treatment strategies have been made.

Objectives: The humanopathogen coronavirus CoVid-19 may cause life threatening pneumonia. 20% of those tested positive show severe signs of hypoxic respiratory failure, with 5% needing intensive care unit treatment, with a reported mortality between 30-60% (Grasselli,JAMA) While knowledge about the disease is increasing, no firm recommendations concerning treatment strategies have been made.

Methods: From January 2020 to June 2020 data of all patients with respiratory failure who tested positively for SARS-COV-2, treated in the ICU of the Asklepios Klinik Langen, Germany, were sampled. We differentiated between those patients who required extracorporeal membrane oxygenation therapy (ECMO) and those who did not.

Results: All patients n=27 ECMO without

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>ECMO</th>
<th>without</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-morbidities</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presenting symptoms

| Median time to invasive ventilation | 4.2   |
| Median time of invasive ventilation | 776   |
| Tracheostomy                      | 12    |
| Median time to tracheostomy      | 1     |
| Thrombotic event                 | 6     |
| Pneumothorax                     | 6     |

Presenting Laboratory Values

| White blood cell count (G/l) | 10.7  |
| C-reactive protein (mg/dl)   | 9.7   |
| PCT (µg/l)                   | 255   |
| Ferritin (µl)                | 1932  |
| D-dimer (mg/l)               | 29.1  |
| Troponin (µg/l)              | 277   |
| Lactate (mmol/l)             | 2.5   |
| Creatine kinase (U/l)        | 1195  |
| SOFA score                   | 5.1   |
| SAPS II                      | 35.6  |
| SARS-Cov IgA                 | 10    |
| SARS- Cov IgG                | 12    |

Respiratory Parameters on intubation

| Bilateral infiltrates on chest x-ray/typical CT-scan | 13    |
| PaO2:FiO2                                             | 83    |
| Median symptom onset to intubation (d)               | 4.2   |
| Median time to admission                             | 3.2   |

Outcome

| Median ICU stay (d) | 32.5 |
| Death              | 9    |
|                    | 2    |

Conclusion: Patients with ARDS caused by SARS-COV-2 treated with ECMO had a two times higher death rate compared to ARDS caused by other diseases (Combes, EOLIA). Especially patients of hospitals with lower care levels who underwent prolonged prone position with controlled ventilation and higher ventilation pressures had a more serious course of the disease and suffered from more complications compared to the patients who had immediate access to ECMO therapy if required.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s): 1. Grasselli G. et al., Patients Infected With SARS-CoV-2 Admitted To ICUs of the Lombardy Region, Italy; JAMA 2020; Combes A et al. Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. NEJM 2018.

001055
The Impact of Standard Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) on the Management of COVID-19 patients in Critical Care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):001055

Introduction: Among patients with COVID-19, there is a high prevalence of cardiovascular disease, and it has been reported that 22% of critically ill patients experience myocardial injury from the infection. The British Society of Echocardiography and The European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging advise performing a focused TTE, on patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.2,3

In our critical care unit we performed a full standard TTE on COVID-19+ patients and we report the impact on the management of these patients.

Methods: This prospective study took place in the 36 bed critical care unit of the Mater Hospital. Critically ill COVID-19+ patients who had a TTE(s) were included. The studies were performed by an intensivist, or cardiac physiologist.

Results: Fifty-three COVID-19+ patients were admitted to critical care between 31/3/20-17/6/20. Thirty-six TTE studies were performed on 22 patients. Indications; haemodynamic shock (11), assess RV (7), assess LV (12), ? endocarditis (6). Mean age; 60 ± 11 years, male (n= 12) median critical care length of stay; 17 (12, 32) days, mean SOFA score 5 ± 2. Non-invasive ventilation (n = 2) and mechanical ventilation (n = 17). Thirteen patients received vasoactive medication, 4 patients required Extra Corporeal Membranous Oxygenation. Seven patients died.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Baseline characteristics</th>
<th>Total n= 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>n = 4 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valvular heart disease</td>
<td>n = 3 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestive heart disease</td>
<td>n = 1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>n = 9 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrial fibrillation</td>
<td>n = 1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>n = 1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>n = 4 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>n = 6 (27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>n = 4 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACEI/ARB use</td>
<td>n = 7 (31%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, ACEI: angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker.

Seven patients had 1 normal TTE. Seven patients had 19 TTE’s with echocardiographic abnormalities that did not immediately change management; including reduced LV EF, left ventricular hypertrophy,
No intensivist or cardiac physiologist involved in the study became infected with COVID-19.

**Conclusion:** Critically ill COVID-19 positive patients may develop cardiovascular pathologies in addition to myocardial injury. We recommend a standard TTE in such patients in order to diagnose and effect management changes as appropriate.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


4. Nil

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**001074**

**Pandemic ICU Research as a Newly Qualified Doctor:** An Experience from a District General Hospital

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001074**

**Introduction:** Prior to the World Health Organisation declaring a pandemic in March 2020, research efforts into coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) were rapidly gathering pace.[1] Simultaneously in the UK, final year medical students were graduating early,[2] having completed their core studies, to join the workforce as junior doctors. Locally, research training including a Good Clinical Practice course and close support from research clinicians was provided to some new doctors, offering a unique opportunity for involvement in pandemic research studies at the outset of their medical careers.

**Objectives:** To describe the challenges associated with recruiting to a pandemic study at a UK District General Hospital serving a population of 520,000.

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**Table 2. TTE studies that led to change in management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>TTE Findings</th>
<th>Management change</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess RV</td>
<td>RV severe dilation, pressure overload LV</td>
<td>LVD guided drainage</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemodynamic shock</td>
<td>Severe LV hypertension normal LVEF</td>
<td>Noradrenaline</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemodynamic shock</td>
<td>Large hemothorax lamponode effect</td>
<td>IR guided drainage</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess LV</td>
<td>Normal LVEF Grade 2 diastolic dysfunction</td>
<td>ACEi + diuretic</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess LV</td>
<td>Normal LVEF Grade 1 diastolic dysfunction</td>
<td>ACEi</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess LV</td>
<td>Normal LVEF left ventricular hypertrophy</td>
<td>BP control GTN before extubation</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemodynamic shock</td>
<td>Pericardial effusion, RV collapse</td>
<td>IR guided drainage</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemodynamic shock</td>
<td>Pericardial effusion, RV collapse</td>
<td>IR guided drainage</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quay endocarditis</td>
<td>No vegetations, evidence hypereosinopilia</td>
<td>Fluid therapy</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess RV</td>
<td>RV severe dilation</td>
<td>Nitric oxide + isenadefil</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of over 500,000,[3] and inform preparations for research during a possible ‘second-wave’ or future pandemics. A core focus was obstacles to recruitment.

**Methods:** Patient screening and recruitment was conducted in accordance with the GenOMICC study protocol.[4] Demographic data were anonymously collected for patients screened and deemed eligible. The Chi-Squared or Two-Tailed Fisher’s Exact Test were used to compare enrolment into the study according to demographic characteristics. Statistical significance was taken as p < 0.05.

**Results:** Approval for recruitment was given on 19th April 2020 and the first patient recruited on 21st April. Over 6 weeks, 39 eligible patients were identified. 6 were approached directly and in 33 an opinion sought from relatives as the patients lacked capacity due to illness severity. 26 patients were enrolled, 5 declined, and 8 died during the process. 23 were recruited by the newly qualified doctor and 3 by research nurses.

There was no significant difference in enrolment according to sex (p > 0.99), age (p = 0.15), BMI (p = 0.21), or 60-day mortality (p = 0.48). There was a trend towards lower enrolment in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups compared with white patients (p = 0.05). The predominant reason for enrolment was a desire to improve understanding of COVID-19. Reasons for declining included fears of sharing genetic data and lack of acute benefit to the patient.

**Conclusion:** Newly qualified doctors can play a valuable role in the recruitment of patients to priority pandemic studies when other staff have been redeployed. Our analysis identifies several challenges to conducting observational pandemic research; notably timely set up to capture the population affected when the condition has a high early mortality, and communication when constrained by infection control requirements for a highly contagious airborne pathogen. The suggestion of lower recruitment from the BAME population – if real – would be of particular concern given the urgent need to determine the extent to which genetic factors contribute to apparently worse outcomes in these patients.[5]

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. [2] BMJ 2020;368:m1227
6. No external funding received

**001090 Extracorporeal CO2 Removal in acute exacerbation of COPD not responding to noninvasive ventilation: a single center experience**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001090**

**Introduction:** Acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (eCOPD) can lead to hypercapnia and respiratory acidosis. It is a major determinant in health status. Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) is the gold standard therapy as it reduces work of breathing and improves gas exchange. However, for some patients NIV fails and intubation is needed which exposes them to mechanical invasive ventilation (MIV) complications and weaning difficulties. For those patients extracorporeal carbon dioxide removal (ECCO2R) may be an option.

**Methods:** We conducted a single center retrospective analysis on successive eCOPD patients for whom NIV failed and didn’t have limitation for MIV. For the first step (from January 2010 to February 2015) we observed blood gas measurements, respiratory rates and complication rates on 26 eCOPD patients treated with MIV after NIV failure. Then, for the second period (from February 2015 to February 2019) we observed the same parameters for 28eCOPD patients failing NIV for whom ECCO2R was performed with the iLA activve, iLA kit (Xenios Novalung, Heilbronn, Germany) device at a targeted blood flow of 1 L/ min.

Variables are reported as mean ±/− s.d. Quantitative values are compared with t test (95% confidence interval) and qualitative values with Pearson’s Chi-squared test with Yates’ continuity correction. Population distribution was tested with the Shapiro-Wilk normality test.

**Results:** The two groups were comparable at baseline in demographics: gender, BMI, SAPS and age: respectively in the ECCO2R and MIV group SAPS 48 ±/− 15 and 50 ±/− 14, age 66,1 ±/−11,4 years and 71,4 ±/−11 years, pH and PaCO2 are showed in Figure 1. The respiratory rate 6 hours before ECCO2R was 27,00 ±/−8,37 and 22,18 ±/−3,79 at decannulation (p = 0,22). In the MIV group, respiratory rate 6 hours before intubation was 25,88 ±/−3,83 and 21,25 ±/−5,44 at extubation (p = 0,30). We were able to avoid MIV for 25 patients (89,3%) in the ECCO2R group.

Complications for patients affected are listed in Table 1. The ECCO2R duration was 5,7 ±/−4,2 days and in the MIV group ventilation lasted 28,2 ±/−42,5 days. In the MIV group, 5 patients had an extubation failure and 6 patients had autoextubated. ECCO2R was stopped because of recovery for 20 patients, complication for 6 patients (with a mean duration of ECCO2R of 5,7 days) and death for 2 patients. MIV was stopped because of recovery for 17 patients, tracheotomy for 2 patients and death for 7 patients.

Length of stay in the Intensive Care Unit for the ECCO2R and the MIV group was 19 ±/−15,5 days and 31 ±/−42,2 days respectively (p = 0.18). Length of stay in the hospital for the ECCO2R and the MIV group was 29,46 ±/−21,1 days and 50,58 ±/−52,4 days respectively (p = 0.06). Mortality at 28 days and 90 days was 8% and 14% respectively in the ECCO2R group and 16% and 30% in the MIV group.

**Conclusion:** Our results show that ECCO2R is feasible and brings significant improvement on pH and PaCO2 with relatively low complication rate.

Evidence for a mortality benefit of ECCO2R in eCOPD patients failing NIV therapy has yet to be proven in a larger randomized study.

**001094 Effect of different corticosteroid regimens on the outcome of patients with severe COVID19-related acute respiratory failure**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001094**

**Introduction:** The risk/benefit ratio of corticosteroids for patients with COVID19-related acute respiratory failure has not been yet established.

**Objectives:** We compared the outcomes of patients receiving dexamethasone (DEXA) vs. methylprednisolone (METHYL), and the effects of rescue, short-term/high-dose pulses of glucocorticoids (BOLUS).

**Methods:** Consecutive patients admitted from March 1st to April 30th 2020 to the general ICU of a tertiary care hospital for COVID19 were enrolled. As per Institutional protocol, from March 1st severe cases were given DEXA; as of April 10th the protocol was modified and
METHYL was suggested. On top of that, physicians were allowed to administer a 3-day course of 1000 mg/day of methylprednisolone in case of refractory hypoxemia within the first week of treatment.

**Results:** We enrolled 81 consecutive patients, 69 (85%) males, age 60 ± 10 years. At ICU admission SAPS II was 27 ± 7 and SOFA A (3; 6) points. 46 patients (58.8%) received DEXA, whereas 30 (37%) had METHYL: 5 patients did not receive corticosteroids. The groups were well-matched for age, comorbidities and severity at admission. No differences were found in the duration of mechanical ventilation (11 [7; 17] vs. 11 [8; 18] days, p = 0.7021), ICU mortality (37.0 vs 43.3%, p = 0.578), incidence of VAP (47.8 vs 53.3%, p = 0.639) or bacteremia (39.0 vs. 36.7%, p = 0.829). A significantly lower number of patients who had DEXA received a rescue BOLUS (34.8 vs. 66.7%, p = 0.007).

36 patients (44.4%) received a rescue BOLUS; they were more likely to be female (25.0 vs. 7.0%, p = 0.021) and obese (38.9 vs. 8.9%, p = 0.002). Table 1 shows the outcomes of patients who did vs. those who did not receive BOLUS.

**Table 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>No BOLUS (N=65)</th>
<th>BOLUS (N=36)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of mechanical ventilation (days)</td>
<td>9 [4; 16]</td>
<td>13 [8; 21]</td>
<td>0.0074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of pressure support ventilation (days)</td>
<td>2 [1; 5]</td>
<td>4 [2; 9]</td>
<td>0.0349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)</td>
<td>13 [9; 19]</td>
<td>18 [11; 26]</td>
<td>0.0287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator-free days (days)</td>
<td>12 [6; 22]</td>
<td>8 [6; 19]</td>
<td>0.0580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality – n (%)</td>
<td>15 (33.3)</td>
<td>17 (47.2)</td>
<td>0.204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients who developed VAP – n (%)</td>
<td>17 (37.8)</td>
<td>23 (63.9)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VAP per patient</td>
<td>2 [1; 2]</td>
<td>2 [1; 2]</td>
<td>0.6898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients who developed bacteremia – n (%)</td>
<td>14 (31.1)</td>
<td>17 (47.2)</td>
<td>0.138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bacteremias per patient</td>
<td>1 [1; 2]</td>
<td>2 [1; 2]</td>
<td>0.2748</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** We were unable to find any difference between DEXA or METHYL on the explored outcomes; high-dose BOLUS of glucocorticoids seemed to be associated with a higher duration of mechanical ventilation and a higher incidence of complications. Further, prospective investigations are needed to confirm these results.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


001098

Incidence of barotrauma in patients with severe COVID-19 acute respiratory failure: a descriptive study

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**Correspondence:** M. Umbrello

*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001098

**Introduction:** Barotrauma is a well-known complication of invasive mechanical ventilation and it has been anecdotally reported in critically ill patients with COVID-19.

**Objectives:** To analyse the incidence and factors associated with development of barotrauma in a cohort of COVID-19 patients.

**Methods:** Retrospective case series of consecutive patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 admitted from March 1st to April 30th 2020 to the general ICU of a tertiary care hospital. Data regarding the use of CPAP before ICU admission, as well as the parameters of mechanical ventilation during the ICU stay were collected. Barotrauma was defined as pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum or subcutaneous emphysema by means of clinical examination, lung ultrasound, chest XR or CT scan.

**Results:** 81 patients were enrolled in the study; age was 60 ± 10 years, 69 (85%) were male. 16 patients (20%) developed barotrauma. Table 1 shows the comparison of patients who did vs. those who did not develop barotrauma.

**Table 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>No barotrauma (n=65)</th>
<th>Barotrauma (n=16)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>59 [53; 68]</td>
<td>68 [58; 73]</td>
<td>0.0496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD – n (%)</td>
<td>3 (4.7)</td>
<td>1 (6.3)</td>
<td>0.798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS II score (points)</td>
<td>26.5±6.2</td>
<td>27.8±7.3</td>
<td>0.5024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score at ICU admission (points)</td>
<td>4±2</td>
<td>5±2</td>
<td>0.6070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awake prone position – n (%)</td>
<td>32 (57.1)</td>
<td>5 (38.6)</td>
<td>0.224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onset of symptoms to hospital admission (days)</td>
<td>7 [5; 10]</td>
<td>7 [5; 10]</td>
<td>0.8519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admission to CPAP (h)</td>
<td>5 [1; 45]</td>
<td>8 [2; 15]</td>
<td>0.4400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of CPAP to ICU admission (h)</td>
<td>53 [19; 96]</td>
<td>47 [28; 132]</td>
<td>0.7519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of CPAP before ICU admission (days)</td>
<td>2 [1; 4]</td>
<td>3 [1; 5]</td>
<td>0.7046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory system compliance at ICU admission (cmH2O)</td>
<td>51.9±13.3</td>
<td>49.4±13.3</td>
<td>0.5286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau pressure at ICU admission (cmH2O)</td>
<td>24.3±3.1</td>
<td>24.8±3.4</td>
<td>0.5797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of prone-positioning cycles</td>
<td>3 [1; 6]</td>
<td>5 [4; 7]</td>
<td>0.0289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of controlled mechanical ventilation (days)</td>
<td>6 [3; 10]</td>
<td>11 [9; 14]</td>
<td>0.0011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of assisted mechanical ventilation (days)</td>
<td>3 [1; 5]</td>
<td>5 [1; 13]</td>
<td>0.0790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of VAP from S aureus – n (%)</td>
<td>20 (31.3)</td>
<td>6 (37.5)</td>
<td>0.633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)</td>
<td>11 [6; 18]</td>
<td>13 [7; 17]</td>
<td>0.9766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality – n (%)</td>
<td>23 (35.9)</td>
<td>10 (66.7)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 patients already had barotrauma at ICU admission; in the remaining cases, barotrauma was diagnosed after 14 [10; 22] days of mechanical ventilation. At the diagnosis, 3 patients (19%) were spontaneously breathing. 5 (31%) were receiving pressure support ventilation and 8 (50%) controlled ventilation; in patients undergoing mechanical ventilation PEEP was 11.6 ± 2.6 cmH2O and Plateau airway pressure was 28 ± 5 cmH2O.

**Conclusion:** Barotrauma is a frequent, severe, late complication of mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients. An older age and a longer course of controlled mechanical ventilation seem associated with the development of barotrauma.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Grasselli et al, Baseline characteristics and outcomes of 1591 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 admitted to ICUs of the Lombardy Region, Italy. *JAMA* 2020, 323(16):1574-1581

001102

Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio as a prognostic marker in Covid 19

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**Correspondence:** M. Portilla-Botelho

*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001102
Introduction: The Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) is an expression of systemic inflammation in multiple immunologic, cardiovascular, and cancer diseases. An excessive inflammatory answer to SARS-CoV2 can lead to acute respiratory distress that increases mortality.

Objectives: We considered 1/- studying characteristics of patients with Covid19 admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to SARS-CoV2 severe pneumonia; and 2/- analysing if NLR and other inflammatory markers are associated with poor prognosis.

Methods: We included Covid patients admitted to our ICU, with acute respiratory failure that required invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV). We analysed different inflammatory markers at the moment of ICU admission: NLR, plasmatic lymphocytes (L), fibrinogen, D dimer (DD), and C-Reactive Protein (CPR). Statistical analysis with STATA version 13.

Results: We analysed 63 patients, mean age of 62.3 years (SD 11.3), 63% were males. The most frequent risk factor was high blood pressure. Mean stay in ICU was 26.4 days (SD 19.4), and mean hospital stay was 59.4 days (SD 19.3). 71% of patients needed prone position, 13 patients (20%) suffered pulmonary barotrauma, and 29 patients (46%) died in ICU. All patients that survived in ICU were discharged to home.

In the study of prognostic factors, we found that patients who died, had a higher NLR (33.40 vs 15.75, p < 0.001), and more lymphopenia (772 vs 1540, p = 0.004). We did not find significant differences in DD or PCR values. Patients with barotrauma had a higher NLR than patients without it (43.51 vs 18.76, p < 0.001) and there were not differences in the other inflammatory markers studied. Patients with longer mechanical ventilation and longer ICU stay, did not present differences in NLR or L, but had higher DD (7509 vs 2364, p = 0.002). In multiple regression analysis, RNL and L at ICU admission, were independent risk factors of mortality (AUC ROC curve 0.75 IC: 0.62-0.87) and pulmonary regression analysis, RNL and L at ICU admission, were independent risk factors of mortality (AUC ROC curve 0.75 IC: 0.62-0.87) and pulmonary barotrauma (AUC ROC curve 0.75 IC: 0.59-0.90). However these parameters did not correlate with ICU stay nor days of IMV.

Conclusion: Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio at ICU admission, is a simple low cost index that has important prognostic value in patients with severe SARS-CoV2 pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001107
Utility of Bronchoalveolar Lavage in the diagnosis of Acute Respiratory Failure Diagnosis in the critically ill hematological patient
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Correspondence: M. Bento
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001107

Introduction: Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) is the current gold-standard for the differential diagnosis of alveolar infiltrates in immunosuppressed patients. Its reported diagnostic yield has been between 30 to 67%, but its results have marginal repercussions on treatment options and prognosis. Performing BAL is not risk free and with the development of non-invasive techniques, the clinical relevance of BAL instabilising the etiology of acute respiratory failure (ARF) has recently been questioned.

Objectives: 1) To assess the diagnostic yield of BAL in establishing the etiology of ARF; 2) To compare the mortality rate between patients subjected to BAL or not; and 3) To evaluate the impact of BAL on time until diagnosis in hematologic patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with ARF.

Methods: Retrospective cohort study. Inclusion criteria: hematologic-oncological patients admitted to a tertiary hospital’s ICU due to ARF between January 2012 and June 2020 (8.5 years). Exclusion criteria: patients without infiltrates on chest radiography at admission. Primary endpoint was diagnostic yield of BAL, defined as the identification of microbiological agent or exclusion of other causes. Secondary endpoints were intra-ICU mortality rate, 30-day mortality rate, survival time and time until etiological diagnosis.

Results: A total of 79 hematological patients were included in the study, of which 34 (42.5%) were female, with a mean age of 59.01 ± 16.59 years. Twenty-one (26.3%) of the patients were subjected to BAL. Age, gender and need for mechanical ventilation were comparable between groups. Mean SOFA at admission, mean APACHE II and the number of neutropenic patients were significantly higher in the non-BAL group (p < 0.05).

BAL contributed to the etiological diagnosis in 47.37% of the clinical cases. Mortality rate was lower in the BAL group either evaluated as Intra-ICU mortality rate (38.1% for BAL vs. 71.9% for non-BAL, p = 0.006) or 30-day mortality (42.9% vs. 75.4%, p = 0.013). Survival time was longer in the BAL group (19.00 vs. 5.00 days, p = 0.002). On a multivariate analysis including APACHE II or OFA at admission and neutropenia, APACHE II was a significant confounding factor in the mortality rate difference between the 2 groups; yet, when analyzing survival time controlling for these same factors, BAL remained significantly associated with longer survival times (p = 0.003). We found no differences between the groups on the frequency of etiological diagnosis, time to diagnosis or duration of mechanical ventilation.

Conclusion: BAL is a useful diagnostic tool for acute respiratory failure in selected hematological patients in which diagnosis is not possible by non-invasive techniques.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 4 - Oren I et al., Does molecular analysis increase the efficacy of bronchoalveolar lavage in the diagnosis and management of respiratory infections in hemato-oncological patients? International Journal of Infectious Diseases 2018;36:100-7.

001134
A review of proning in non-intubated patients with Covid 19 who presented to a tertiary referral ICU
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1ICU, HSE Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Correspondence: J. Kellheimer
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001134

Introduction: A review of proning in non-intubated patients with Covid 19 who presented to a tertiary referral ICU.

Objectives: This small retrospective study investigates 16 patients admitted to our ICU who were treated with awake proning.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 4 - Oren I et al., Does molecular analysis increase the efficacy of bronchoalveolar lavage in the diagnosis and management of respiratory infections in hemato-oncological patients? International Journal of Infectious Diseases 2018;36:100-7.
The primary outcome studied was the difference in oxygen saturation before and 1 hour after self proneing.

Secondary Outcomes included decrease in the respiratory rate, increase in PF ratio, rates of subsequent intubation and the length of time proneing was tolerated.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective chart review of consecutive patients admitted to our ICU between 31/03/20 to 25/04/20. Covid 19 diagnosis was confirmed by oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal PCR. 52 patients with Covid 19 were admitted to our ICU during this time, 16 of whom self proneed.

We document the changes in oxygen saturations, PF ratio and respiratory rate before and one hour after proneing.

We also note the duration proneing was tolerated in each session and how many proneing sessions patients received.

Results: Results

Oxygen saturations improved on average 3.6% on proneing (range 1 to 6.8%; median 3.7%). The average pre-proneing O2 saturation was 94% (on supplemental oxygen delivered by nasal prongs or Venturi mask).

Patients who required intubation had a poorer response to proneing from the outset with an mean improvement in oxygen saturations of only 2.2% (range 1-3.7% median 2%) compared with 4.6% (range 2 to 7% median 4.5%) in the patients who did not require intubation.

The day of illness when proneing was initiated was similar in both groups (8.8 v 8.0).

Overall, the PF ratio post proneing improved by an average of 6.9 kPa (ranging from 2.3 kPa to 23 kPa; median 4.5 kPa). The PF ratio improved significantly more on self proneing in those patients that did not require intubation (9.1 kPa compared to an average improvement of only 5.4 kPa in those who required intubation).

PF ratios were lower from the outset in the patients who were subsequently intubated after trial self proneing. Average PF ratio of 17.1 (range PF 14.6-21.4; median 17) compared to PF ratio of 25.9 in patients who did not require intubation.

Proneing was tolerated well with only one patient unable to continue for more than an hour.

The average hours proneed per session was 2.7 hours; ranging from 1 hour to 8 hours per session.

The number of sessions ranged from 1 to 13 sessions.

The Respiratory Rates after proneing did not significantly change with proneing (ranging from 2.3 to 8 hours per session).

Secondary outcomes include; decrease in the respiratory rate, increase in PF ratio, rates of subsequent intubation and the length of time proneing was tolerated.

Conclusion: Conclusions

This study adds to a body of observational evidence that awake proneing improves oxygenation in the non-intubated patient with respiratory failure and that it is well tolerated in short sessions. [Limitations include small sample size and its retrospective nature.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


3. nil

001149

Response to prone positioning in patients with severe Covid-19-induced severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001149

Introduction: The coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, mainly affects the respiratory system and the evolution into acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is the main cause of admission in ICU. It is known now that the Covid-19-induced ARDS presents some unusual characteristics compared to common ARDS. Although the practice of prone positioning (PP) is part of the actual recommendations in Covid-19 severe ARDS management (based on common ARDS trials), there is, to our knowledge, no studies which assessed the efficiency of prone positioning on blood oxygenation and mortality in this context.

Methods: We performed a monocentric analysis of prospectively collected data in the medical ICU of Bichat-Claude-Bernard Hospital (France) between January and June 2020. Covid-19 confirmed patients, admitted for ARDS, who required intubation and prone positioning (practiced for a PaO2/FIO2 (P/F) ratio < 150 mmHg after positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) optimization) were included. P/F ratio before and after the first PP were collected, and response was defined as [(P/F after PP – P/F before PP)/ P/F before PP] x 100. A response was considered significant if ≥ 20%. We analyzed predictors of significant response and day 60 (d60) mortality.

Results: 42 patients were included. 31 patients were dead at d60 (mortality rate: 64.5%). No difference in baseline characteristics were found between survivors and decedents (Table 1). Compliance (mean 28.9 vs 29 ml/cmH2O) at the time of prone position did not differentiate survivors from decedents (Table 1).

In the overall population, the response was high, with a mean rate of 94.4% and was correlated with a better outcome at d60 (mean 145% vs 76%, p = 0.038, Wilcoxon test, Figure 1). Significant response to first PP was observed in 73.8%, 10/11 (90.9%) in d60 survivors responded to first PP vs 21/31 (67.7%) in d60 decedents (p = 0.23, Fisher test, Table 1).

Higher response remained associated with a lower d60 mortality after adjustment on age, extra-respiratory components of SOFA at day 1 and first Covid-19 viral load recovered from the respiratory tract (adjusted OR (per % of response) [CI] = 0.992 [0.98;1], p = 0.0618).

Significant response was not associated to age, body mass index, severity at admission, first Covid-19 viral load, time from intubation to PP or compliance.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of the population, end-points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Alive at day 60 (n=42)</th>
<th>Dead at day 60 (n=31)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, yrs, median (IQR)</td>
<td>65 (39-74)</td>
<td>68 (49-80)</td>
<td>0.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplified Acute Physiology Score II, median (IQR)</td>
<td>37 (37-40)</td>
<td>32 (25-35)</td>
<td>0.7697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis-related Organ Failure Assessment score at day 1, median (IQR)</td>
<td>3 (3-4)</td>
<td>2 (2-5)</td>
<td>0.1275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Mass Index, median (IQR)</td>
<td>28 (24-34)</td>
<td>28 (24-32)</td>
<td>0.1752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay from intubation to PP, hours, median (IQR)</td>
<td>64 (53-116)</td>
<td>66 (50-103)</td>
<td>0.6785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FIO2, ratio before PP, ventilation (IQR)</td>
<td>0.70 (0.58)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.68)</td>
<td>0.5778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Covid-19 viral load (log 10 copies, median (IQR)</td>
<td>8.5 (8-11)</td>
<td>8.6 (8-9)</td>
<td>0.1458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vmax of the respiratory system, before PP, ml/min/m2, median (IQR)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.5-2.5)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.2-1.6)</td>
<td>0.0568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to PP, percentage, ventilation (IQR)</td>
<td>100 (52-232)</td>
<td>67 (61-107)</td>
<td>0.0089</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant response to PP: ≥ 20%

Acknowledgments: PPE: personal protective equipment, FIO2: fraction of oxygen in air, PP: prone positioning, v: ventilation, v(0): ventilation at day 0, S: significant difference, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, PP: proning.
Conclusion: In our study, patients with severe Covid-19 induced ARDS mainly responded to the first PP, although mortality rate was high. Using a 20% increase threshold, no difference was found regarding response rate to first PP between patients alive and dead at day 60. However, the response was significantly better in the d60 survivors. This suggests that the threshold used to define our endpoint may be too low to use it as a predictive factor. These results tend to highlight that response to first PP is correlated with survival.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001160
Rotational thromboelastometry and thromboembolic complications in COVID-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001160

Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is associated with hypercoagulable states and high incidences of thromboembolic complications. Conventional coagulation tests show trends of coagulopathy, but currently no test reliably identifies COVID-19 patients at risk for developing thromboembolic complications. Rota-
tional thromboelastometry (ROTEM®) is a point-of-care device that evaluates viscoelastic changes during coagulation and may provide valuable information to identify patients at risk of developing thromboembolic complications.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate ROTEM® profiles of COVID-19 patients in identifying thromboembolic complications.

Methods: All patients diagnosed with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU in April 2020 were enrolled in this single-center, retrospective observational study. Blood samples were collected for ROTEM® thromboelastometry. Coagulation patterns were analyzed using extrinsic, intrinsic and fibrinogen rotational thromboelastometry activators (respectively EXTEM, INTEM and FIBTEM). ROTEM® patterns were analyzed for all COVID-19 patients and were compared between patients with and without thromboembolic complications. Hypercoagulability was defined as a reduction in clot formation time (CFT) and a maximum clot firmness (MCF) above the upper limit of the normal reference values.

Patients who were clinically suspected to have a thromboembolic complication underwent additional imaging. The decision for imaging was based on clinical features and was at the discretion of the attending intensivist. Additionally, ROTEM® parameters were compared with conventional coagulation parameters including, partial thromboplastin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT), fibrinogen, and platelet count.

Results: ROTEM® patterns of forty-seven COVID-19 patients were analyzed. Ten patients (21.3%) developed thromboembolic complications during ICU admission, all being pulmonary embolisms confirmed by CT-scan. MCF in EXTEM was lower in patients with and without thromboembolic complications (75.0 vs. 77.9 mm, p = 0.047). COVID-19 patients with thromboembolic complications had an increased CFT compared to patients without complications in EXTEM (54.1 vs. 42.9 s, p = 0.001) and INTEM (53.3 vs. 43.5 s, p = 0.03). EXTEM clot firmness at 5 minutes (A5) was significantly decreased in patients with thromboembolic complications compared to patients without complications (58.5 vs. 64.3 mm, p = 0.009).

Univariate analysis identified nine variables for multiple regression analysis. None of the ROTEM® variables were associated with thromboembolic complications in the multiple linear regression model. ROTEM® variables could not predict the risk of developing thromboembolic complications (R2 = 0.266; F (9,37) = 1,489; p = 0.188).

Conclusion: ROTEM® patterns of COVID-19 patients showed no clinical significant differences between patients with and without thromboembolic complications. Hence, our study does not support the use of ROTEM® in identifying COVID-19 patients at risk for developing thromboembolic complications.

001165
The mobile ECMO team to retrieve refractory ADRS patients - justify the results the efforts?
J.K.M. Fichte1, M. Schoeffner1, S. Ullrich1, A. Starl1, A. Ernst1, H.B. Hopf1
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Correspondence: J.K.M. Fichte
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001165

Introduction: Mortality rates of patients with ARDS still are around 45% (Combes, NEJM). Since the resources for delivering an ECMO therapy are available only in a minority of hospitals, mobile ECMO teams have been established by ECMO centres to retrieve ARDS patients from primary or secondary care hospitals after implanting an ECMO system on side and consecutively transporting the patient in an ECMO centre. However, data on survival rates of those patients compared to patients who were implanted in the ECMO centre are scarce. Accordingly we retrospectively examined the data of our patients in which the ECMO system has been implanted in the submitting hospital with emphasize on survival rates compared to those primarily admitted to our ECMO centre.

Methods: We examined the data of all patients retrieved by our ECMO team in primary and secondary hospitals who had called our ECMO-support hotline. All patients had been initially admitted in hospitals in the Rhine-Main region from January 2017 till June 2020. We restricted our evaluation to patients with ARDS.

We divided the patients in two groups - ECMO implantation in the requesting hospital or in our hospital. We retrospectively noted the following variables: type of cannula, CPR before or during ECMO implantation, the frequency of palliative treatment, mortality rate. We compared the data of the ECMO patients implanted at the requesting hospital with those of the patients who were implanted at our hospital. Primary outcome variable was hospital mortality rate.
outcome variables: SAPS II score, sofa-score, incidence of acute renal failure, time to weaning off the ventilator, duration of ICU stay.

Results: From 2017-2020 we treated 234 patients with ECMO on our intensive care unit. 170 patients have been admitted directly to our ICU. 66 patients have been retrieved from external clinics with a majority of patients who suffered from severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) of different origins. Remarkably the extremely higher survival rate with ECMO treatment in patients initiated already at an external clinic. 36% compared to 55% of deceased patients in the in hospital patients groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: All patients with external ECMO- implantation by the mobile ECLS/ECMO-team of the Asklepios Klinik Langen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECMO mobile patients (n) 2017-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARDS (n) 2017-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: All patients of the Asklepios Klinik Langen with in-house ECMO implantation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In hospital patients (n) 2017-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARDS (n) 2017-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Our results suggest, that ECMO treatment, if required is more helpful to improve mortality the sooner the better. Especially patients with ARDS obviously seem to benefit from immediate treatment changes to ECMO therapy which gets along with shorter ventilation times, lower ventilation pressures, less sedation of the patients and spontaneously breathing patients. Patients initially admitted to external hospitals have been presented for ECMO therapy only after having exploited all other possible treatment options. Presumably ECMO should become more than only a rescue treatment, but as a more and earlier considered option to improve mortality in serious medicalconditions.

000035 Shuttlescope®, a novel laryngoscope. One-handed endotracheal intubation makes a difference by allowing continuous suction JM. Alonso Babarro1; HN. Buï2; P. Boyer3; A. Boyer4; J. Medrano5 1Intensive care unit, The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane, Australia; 2Service de médecine intensive réanimation, CHU Pellegrin, Bordeaux, France; 3Barloa, Basque Country University, UPV/EHU, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain Correspondence: J. Medrano Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000035

Introduction: Despite the fact that videolaryngoscopy has largely improved laryngoscopy, endotracheal intubation (ETI) is still a two-handed procedure. While the first hand holds the videolaryngoscope, the second hand is required to introduce the endotracheal tube (ETT). Shuttlescope® is a novel laryngoscope that allows performing both laryngoscopy and delivering of the ETT with the same hand, leaving an extra hand free. This may improve safety by allowing continuous oral suction in difficult scenarios.

Objectives: Our hypothesis was that Shuttlescope® videolaryngoscope allows similar efficiency in ETI than conventional laryngoscope while improving safety by allowing simultaneous suction. Main objective was to compare efficacy and safety of endotracheal intubation with Shuttlescope® and Macintosh laryngoscope by intensivists in a simulated difficult scenario.

Methods: We conducted a randomized cross-over trial to assess efficacy and safety of Shuttlescope® videolaryngoscope compared to Macintosh laryngoscope in a manikin model (AirSim, TrueCorp®). A difficult scenario which required continuous suction was designed, with a modified yankauer suction tip capable to determine suction time. All operators were intensivists from the service de Médecine Intensive Réanimation (Bordeaux, France) who received a rigorous 15 min standardized training on the new device and technique, which they didn’t experience before. Three attempts with each device were compared for each operator. The primary endpoint was a combination of time to intubation and success rate. Secondary endpoints were cumulative suction time and capability to aspirate continuously. Mean times and proportions were compared with the T-Student and chi-square test, respectively.

Results: In total, 20 operators participate to the study. After randomisation, 10 intensivists started ETI with the Shuttlescope® and 10 started with Macintosh, providing a total of 60 intubations with each device. Mean time for ETI with Macintosh laryngoscope compared to Shuttlescope® was 14 s [6-37] and 11 s [6-28], p < 0.001, respectively. Success rate was 100% of ETI in the trachea with both devices (p = NS). Mean suction time was 2 sg [1-10] with Macintosh and 3.6 sg [2-10], with Shuttlescope® (p < 0.001). Finally, only 5% of ETI done with Macintosh could be performed with a continuous suction compared to 90% with Shuttlescope® (p < 0.001).

Conclusion: Shuttlescope® is a novel device that allows safe and easy ETI while leaving the right hand of the operator free during the procedure. It allows effective suction which may confer a relevant advantage in situations with a high risk of aspiration.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. SHUTTLESCOPE®, a novel laryngoscope for one-handed endotracheal intubation: one helping hand can make a difference. 2nd World Airway Management Meeting 2019. 13 - 16 Nov, 2019 | Amsterdam, NL
3. Building Better Future for Health Challenge in Australia
4. MIT-Harvard Medical School Healthcare Bootcamp
5. ‘Igno Ideas Grant’ by the Queensland Government in Australia

000243 Combined cell therapy and anticoagulants as a treatment for acute respiratory distress syndrome M. Camprubi-Rimblass; A. Areny6; L. Morales-Quinteros3; R. Guillamat-Prats2; N. Tantinyia2; L. Blanchi2; A. Antigas2 1Centro de investigación biomédica en red enfermedades respiratorias (ciberes i 3pt), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain; 2Institut d’investigació i innovació paraul paraul (i3pt), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain; 3Intensive care, Hospital Universitari Sagrat Cor - Grup Quirònsalut, Barcelona, Spain; 4Institut d’investigació i innovació paraul paraul (i3pt), Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Respiratorias, Sabadell, Spain; 5Institut d’investigació i innovació paraul paraul (i3pt), Parc Taulí Hospital Universitsiari, Sabadell, Spain; 6Department of intensive care medicine, Corporacion Sanitaria Universitaria Parc Taulí, Barcelona, Spain Correspondence: M. Camprubi-Rimblass Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000243

Introduction: The lungs of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) are characterized by an acute inflammation and an increased procoagulant activity. Recent evidence suggests the beneficial effects of cell therapies and nebulized anticoagulants for ARDS (1,2). Considering the different mechanism through which cell therapies and antithrombin act in ARDS, we propose a combined administration of these therapies to potentiate their therapeutic properties and face the different pathways and processes involved in the pathophysiology of ARDS.

Objectives: Determine the therapeutic benefit of a combined cell therapy (alveolar type II cells (ATII), mesenchymal stem cells (MSC), supernatant (SN) ATII, SN MSC) with antithrombin in vitro in a coculture of ATII and alveolar macrophages injured with lipopolysaccharide (LPS).

Methods: Cocultured ATII and alveolar macrophages isolated from rat lungs were injured with LPS (10 ng/ml). Two hours after the injury a combined cell therapy (ATII, MSC, SN ATII, SN MSC) with antithrombin (0.1 IU/ml) was administered. The effect of the administered treatments was assessed by the analysis of proinflammatory mediators and coagulants factors via qRT-PCR at 18 h. Data are expressed as...
mean±SEM. Statistical analysis was performed using One-Way-ANOVA and Newman-Keuls post-hoc test (statistical significance p < 0.05).

**Results:** Proinflammatory mediators and coagulant factors were significantly increased after LPS administration (Figure). After administering the different treatments the expression of IL1β, IL6, TF and PAI-1 was not as high as in the LP5 group.

**Conclusion:** The results indicate that combined cell therapy with antithrombin are able to attenuate inflammation and coagulation in vitro in a coculture of ATII and macrophages. Further studies need to be performed to elucidate the effect of both treatments in the different processes involved in lung injury.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. Fundació d’Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí
4. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (PI18/00677)

**000311**

Creating Organizing and Managing a National Randomized controlled study in Corona Pandemic: The use of Tocilizumab in the management of patients who have severe COVID-19 with suspected pulmonary hyperinflammation

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000311

**Introduction:** This talk will share trials and tribulations of creating National randomized controlled study during Corona pandemic. This is a study designed to assess the therapeutic value of intravenous tocilizumab administered as single 8mg/Kg dose compared to placebo in patients affected by SARS-CoV2 infection with a pulmonary manifestation causing hypoxia.

**Objectives:** Aim of the study is to test the hypothesis that an anti-IL6 treatment can be effective in calming the virus-induced cytokine storm, blocking deterioration of lung function or even promoting a rapid improvement of clinical conditions, preventing naso-tracheal intubation and/or death. In addition, lessons learned from institutional and national ethics committee submissions, safety board review and revisions, creating digital data capture, and data monitoring will be shared.

**Methods:** When COVID 19 pandemic started in China we approached government offices for support and stategy. A protocol was developed and implementation plans were established. When ethical approval was granted in one medical institution digital electronic data capture platform was created, tested and launched. We recruited all Intensive care and infectious disease units to join the national study. After national Ministry of health approval was granted each hospital needed institutional approval. Within 1 week, 6 other centers recievied approval, recievied study drug and started recrutig patients. Nurses trained medical centers on data capture and protocol adherence. Zoom and whatsapp platforms were utilized for training. Close Data monitoring was preformed at base hospital.

**Results:** At present 20 patients have been recruited and by time of presentation many more will be added. We will demonstrate change from baseline in cytokines IL-1β, IL-6, IL-8 and TNF-α [ Outcome data -mortality, length of Hospital and ICU stay, ventilation days, and ventilation methods. In addition, technologies used to organzie and manage multi center- multi disciplinary communications in an randomized placebo controlled drug study during Corona epidemic will be shared and discussed.

**Conclusion:** Sharing lessons learned in creating, organizing and managing a multi center multi-disciplinary national randomized controlled trial is vital for applying in order to duplicate during the next pandemic.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000497**

Lung and intestinal microbiome changes in a murine model of acute lung injury treated with Anti-IL33

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000497

**Introduction:** Alterations of the microbiota can cause a dysregulation of the immune system locally and systemically, facilitating the clinical progression in different pathologies with inflammation as ALI.

**Objectives:** To assess changes in lung and intestinal microbiome in a murine model of acute lung injury (ALI) and subsequent treatment with an anti-IL-33 antibody.

**Methods:** Experimental model in which 36 male BALB/c mice were included (CEEA: JME-16-0025). ALI was induced at Day 1 by the intranasal administration of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) at a dose of 8mg/kg. Treatment with Anti-IL-33 (3.6ug/day) or placebo (saline) was administered, intraperitoneally, at days 2, 3 and 4. On day 5, body weight gain was registered and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), lung, feces and blood samples were collected. The studied groups were: 1) Control group without ALI including those treated with placebo or anti-IL-33 (CTL-PCB, n = 6 and CTL-Anti-IL-33, n = 6); 2) Experimental group with ALI and placebo (ALI-PCB, n = 12) and 3) Experimental group with ALI and anti-IL-33 (ALI-Anti-IL-33, n = 12). Microbiome was assessed by the analysis of 16S rRNA in BAL and feces and bioinformatic analysis was performed. Cell count, total protein and IL-33 levels were measured in BAL fluid. IL-33 levels were also measured in blood samples. ALI was assessed by histology and wet-to-dry lung weight ratio (W/D).

The data was expressed as mean (standard deviation) or as median (interquartile range). Significance was set to p < 0.05. The comparison
of the microbiome between samples was carried out by correspondence analysis with the QIIME and UNIFRAC programs.

Results: Intestinal microbiota showed a greater richness but not evenness (α diversity) in comparison with lung microbiota (p < 0.001) in all groups. Differences between the microbial communities (beta-diversity) in gut CTL, ALI-PCB and ALI Anti-IL-33 groups were observed (Bray Curtis, Permanova 0.027, Permdisp > 0.05, ANOSIM 0.0797, p = 0.062). Clear differences in microbial communities were observed in the three groups when comparing gut vs lung (Unweighted Unifrac, Permanova = 0.001, Permdisp > 0.05, ANOSIM 0.5025, p = 0.001). ALI-PCB group compared with the CTL group presented a decreased in the body weight gain [-11.5 (6.2) vs 2.8 (1.8), p < 0.001], an increase in the W/D (0.16 (0.02) vs 0.10 (0.00), p < 0.001) and higher neutrophil percentage [69.4 (67.4-71.1) vs 2.7 (2.0-3.1), p < 0.001], protein levels in the W/D [0.16 (0.02) vs 0.10 (0.00), p < 0.001] and higher neutrophil PCB group compared with the CTL group presented a decreased in age [63.1(52.6-68.1) vs 69.4(67.4-71.1); p = 0.13(0.02) vs 0.16(0.02), p = 0.02], the BALF neutrophil percent-

2. The Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation

000798 Lung viscoelastic properties in supine and prone position in a porcine model of acute respiratory distress syndrome C. Guerin1, N. Terzi2, N. Noury3, M. Cour3, L. Argaud4, B. Louis5, S. Bayar6
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):000798

Introduction: Lung tissues absorb the dissipation of the energy during lung inflation through their viscoelastic properties. These can be represented by the Mount rheological model that consists of a Maxwell body (lung viscoelastic elastance (E2) and resistance (R2) arranged in series) in parallel with the standard lung elastance and resistance, according to the following equation: Pvisc(ti) = R2 V'(1-exp(-ti/τ2)) (1) where Pvisc(ti) represents the viscoelastic elastic pressure dissipation into the lungs during inflation time (ti), V' the inflation flow and τ2 the lung viscoelastic time constant (τ2 = R2/E2).

Objectives: In present study we aimed at assessing the effect of supine versus prone position on global and regional E2,L and R2,L at different positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP). We also analyzed the relationship of regional E2,L and R2,L to lung collapse and overdistension.

Methods: This is a secondary analysis of a previous study in 6 pigs in whom ARDS was induced by surfactant depletion (1). Overall Trans-Pulmonary pressure (PL) was measured as Paw minus esophageal pressure. Regional dorsal and ventral PL were obtained by subtracting Paw from dorsal and ventral pleural pressure, respectively. Pleural pressure was measured directly into the anterior and posterior 6th intercostal space. Lung ventilation was measured with electrical impedance tomography (EIT). Animals were ventilated in volume controlled mode at constant flow inflation, FIO2 100% and tidal volume (VT) 6 ml/kg. After ARDS induction the lungs were recruited and then PEEP was reduced from 20 to 5 cmH2O by steps of 5 cmH2O. E2,L and R2,L were obtained by fitting the global and regional PL during a 5s end-inspiratory hold to equation 1 as initially proposed (2). The effect of PEEP and position was analyzed by ANOVA test for repeated measurements with α = 0.05 (SigmaPlot, Systat Soft, USA).

Results: When decreasing PEEP from 12 to 0 cmH2O regional lung Strain decreased from 0.78 ± 0.17 to 0.37 ± 0.10 (p < 0.001) respectively. Regional lung Strain was significantly higher at PEEP 12 (4.30 ± 0.90 cmH2O) than PEEP 6 (3.83 ± 0.70 cmH2O), but the highest PTP values were recorded at PEEP 0 (5.00 ± 1.1 cmH2O) (p < 0.001). Strain significantly increased in all the studied ROIs passing from PEEP 0 to 6 and from 0 to 12 cmH2O. Both stress and strain were significantly higher in dependent ROIs than in middle and non-dependent.

Conclusion: This study shows that high regional Stress and Strain occur during spontaneous breathing in dependent ROIs and at the two extremes of the PEEP spectrum: high regional Stress is present during CPAP at the lowest extreme (PEEP 0) whereas high regional strain at the highest one (PEEP 12). Titrating PEEP to reach the best compromise between preventing both lung regional stress and strain can enable a fully protective CPAP ventilation during SB.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. The Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation

000716 Regional Lung Stress and Strain during spontaneous breathing in an animal model of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome E. Chiodaroli1; F. Liggieri1; PS. Mariotti1; M. Pellegrini2; G. Hedenstierna3; G. Perchiazzi2
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):000716

Introduction: It is questioned whether spontaneous breathing (SB) should be used in early acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Recent papers have reported concerns regarding SB, for the potential of triggering the so-called patient self-induced lung injury (1). Despite a clear improvement in ventilatory strategies, we still lack knowledge that could make SB fully protective. Assessment of potential parenchymal lung injury must take into account stress and strain as the real physical quantities acting on the lung structures. Moreover, the lack of information regarding regional lung mechanics and deformation at the acinar level is likely the main determinant of these unresolved issues.

Objectives: Aim of the present study was to investigate regional lung Strain and Stress during continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ventilation, in an animal model of mild ARDS during SB.

Methods: Mild experimental ARDS (PaO2/FIO2 ratio of 250 mmHg) was induced in anesthetized pigs (n = 5) breathing at three positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) levels during CPAP: 12, 6 and 0 cmH2O. Computed tomography (CT) of the lung was performed at Functional Residual Capacity (FRC) and then during uninterrupted CPAP breathing at the three PEEP levels. Airway pressure and flow together with gastric and esophageal pressures were acquired simultaneously to CT execution. One lung slice above the diaphragm dome was continuously exposed and successively analysed. By analysing representative breaths at each PEEP level, regional Strain and Stress (transpulmonary pressure, PTP) were computed in three regions of interest (ROI) of the lung: nondependent, middle and dependent.

The obtained data were successively analysed for statistical significance by applying ANOVA test for repeated measurements with α = 0.05 (SigmaPlot, Systat Soft, USA).

Results: When decreasing PEEP from 12 to 0 cmH2O, regional lung Strain decreased from 0.78 ± 0.17 to 0.37 ± 0.10 (p < 0.001) respectively. Regional lung Stress was significantly higher at PEEP 12 (4.30 ± 0.90 cmH2O) than PEEP 6 (3.83 ± 0.70 cmH2O), but the highest PTP values were recorded at PEEP 0 (5.00 ± 1.1 cmH2O) (p < 0.001). Stress significantly increased in all the studied ROIs passing from PEEP 0 to 6 and from 0 to 12 cmH2O. Both stress and strain were significantly higher in dependent ROIs than in middle and non-dependent.

Conclusion: This study shows that high regional Stress and Strain occur during spontaneous breathing in dependent ROIs and at the two extremes of the PEEP spectrum: high regional Stress is present during CPAP at the lowest extreme (PEEP 0) whereas high regional strain at the highest one (PEEP 12). Titrating PEEP to reach the best compromise between preventing both lung regional stress and strain can enable a fully protective CPAP ventilation during SB.
Conclusion: Prone position does not significantly change the lung viscoelastic properties in an ARDS porcine model of surfactant depletion.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 1. JAP 2020
2. 2. ERJ 1998

000226

Hemodynamic profile of ARDS caused by SARS-CoV2

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000226

Introduction: It has been proposed that SARS-CoV2 patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation represent a particular type of ARDS with a different ventilatory profile, being managed with lower pressures, as well as having a distinguished physiopathology element involving blunted hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction. Therefore, we might expect a specific hemodynamic profile of these patients, with less prevalence of right ventricular (RV) failure.

Objectives: To describe the hemodynamic profile, measured by conventional monitoring as well as echocardiography, of the patients with ARDS caused by SARS-CoV2 admitted to the ICU and treated with protective mechanical ventilation.

Methods: From April to May 2020, we performed a single-centre, prospective, observational study, which included consecutive patients with a diagnosis of ARDS caused by SARS-CoV2 who required treatment with invasive mechanical ventilation and who had no previous cardiac or respiratory chronic condition. The patients were managed with a protective ventilatory strategy. Hemodynamic parameters, as well as echocardiographic biventricular function and respiratory mechanics were measured.

Two transthoracic echocardiograms, separated by an interval of 30 minutes, were performed during the first 72 hours after initiation of mechanical ventilation. The first one with parameters set by the attending physician following our approach of reaching a SaO2 > 90% of mechanical ventilation. The first one with parameters set by the attending physician following our approach of reaching a SaO2 > 90% of mechanical ventilation.

Conclusion: Despite the low oxygenation levels, this cohort of patients with SARS-CoV2 shows hemodynamic stability and presents normal RV function. An increase in PEEP tends to worsen pulmonary mechanics but without an enormous impact in hemodynamics. This hemodynamic profile could be related with a blunted hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction and could be relevant at the time of choosing the best management strategy for this kind of patients.

000395

Lung ultrasound patterns in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia at admission

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000395

Introduction: In February 2020, Italy reported the first cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) requiring admission to ICU for acute respiratory failure (ARF)[1]. Lung ultrasound (LUS) is useful in ARF for lung assessment and monitoring[2]; performed bedside avoiding transport to radiology, it is easily repeatable and it doesn’t involve further healthcare providers, thus limiting potential exposure to COVID-19 contamination[3].

Objectives: To describe LUS patterns at admission to ICU in patients with COVID-19.

Methods: Retrospective observational study; analysis of the LUS performed within the first 24 hours from admission to ICU. We computed the LUS score, from 0 (normal aeration) to 3 (complete loss of aeration) in 6 standard regions per hemithorax and registered lung features (subpleural/lobar consolidations, pleural irregularities, sliding, artefact distribution, pleural effusion)[2].

Results: We present the first 13 patients admitted to our ICU (77% males, median age 64 [56-73] year-old, median BMI 28 [26-29] kg/m²). They were all examined under pressure-controlled ventilation (median PEEP 14 [11-15]cmH2O, FiO2 > 50% in 85% of patients). In all patients, we observed bilateral distribution of pathological findings, with at least one area with B-pattern (score > 1 - 100%) and pleural changes did not have a negative effect on hemodynamics except by a trend to a decrease in the pulmonary acceleration time. All patients had preserved both left and right ventricular ejection fraction. None of the patients developed RV failure. A slight increase in PEEP tended to worsen pulmonary compliance but this was not followed by a hemodynamic worsening.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LUS pattern</th>
<th>LUS score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal aeration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subpleural/lobar consolidations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleural irregularities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sliding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artefacts distribution</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleural effusion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Despite the low oxygenation levels, this cohort of patients with SARS-CoV2 shows hemodynamic stability and presents normal RV function. An increase in PEEP tends to worsen pulmonary mechanics but without an enormous impact in hemodynamics. This hemodynamic profile could be related with a blunted hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction and could be relevant at the time of choosing the best management strategy for this kind of patients.

References:
1. 1. JAP 2020
2. 2. ERJ 1998
irregularities (100%). We frequently observed subpleural consolidation (85%) and lobar consolidation (77%); lung sliding was frequently reduced in anterior fields (92%). The median LUS score was 18 [14-19]. Small pleural effusion was visualized in 3 patients (23.1% - median interpleural distance 0.8 cm); 23.1% of patient had a bacterial overinfection, confirmed with positive BAL; they all had lobar consolidations.

**Conclusion:** LUS features of COVID-19 include bilateral loss of aeration with diffuse B-pattern, pleural irregularities and frequent subpleural consolidations. Lobar consolidations may suggest bacterial overinfection.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**000457**
Defining the roles of CPAP and HFOT in the management of COVID-19 hypoxaemic respiratory failure
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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000457

**Introduction:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a potentially severe acute respiratory infection which presents most commonly as a pneumonia, complicated by hypoxaemic respiratory failure in up to 41.8% of patients(1). Pandemic COVID-19 has placed unprecedented pressures on critical care services. Safe delivery of respiratory support on a large scale has proved a major challenge. High flow oxygen therapy (HFOT) and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices are recommended by interim guidance but significant controversy remains over their use for COVID-19-associated hypoxaemic respiratory failure(2,3).

**Objectives:** We describe the real-world use of HFOT and CPAP in a single centre during the COVID-19 epidemic. We ask: 1. What respiratory parameters predict failure of respiratory devices in COVID-19? 2. Can the ROX index be used to monitor HFOT for COVID-19? 3. Does HFOT compare to CPAP for management of hypoxaemic respiratory failure in COVID-19?

**Methods:** Data were collected retrospectively for all patients admitted to a single hospital with confirmed or probable COVID-19 between 27/03-06/04/20. Confirmed COVID-19 was defined by laboratory PCR testing of respiratory samples. Probable COVID-19 was defined as high clinical suspicion with negative COVID-19 testing. Outcomes were defined as severe (death or intubation) and non-severe (no intubation) at 30 days. Digital notes review captured demographic, clinical and respiratory parameters. Qualitative data were compared with the Fisher exact test. Quantitative data were compared with the Student’s t-test. **Results:** Of 239 adults with confirmed (221, 92.4%) or probable COVID-19 (18, 7.6%), 149 patients received HFOT and/or CPAP. 45 (30.3%) and 104 (69.7%) patients had severe and non-severe outcomes respectively. 60 patients received HFOT and/or CPAP in 78 episodes of device use (Table 1). Mean PaO2/FiO2 (PF) ratios for patients initiating CPAP were lower than for those initiating HFOT (Table 1). In patients receiving HFOT, ROX index at all time points was significantly lower in those with severe versus non-severe outcomes (Figure 1). The mean ROX index at 0 to 12 hours was less than 4.88 in the severe outcome group, and above 4.88 in the non-severe group. For all patients receiving respiratory support devices, PF ratio was significantly lower in those with severe versus non-severe outcomes (Figure 2).

Table 1. Summary data for patients receiving HFOT and/or CPAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HFOT</th>
<th>CPAP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n, % all device use)</td>
<td>30 (38%)</td>
<td>17 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PF ratio at admission</strong></td>
<td>154.5 (45.5 - 367.9)</td>
<td>206.5 (71.3 - 341.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(mean, range)</td>
<td>125.5 (45.4 - 318.6)</td>
<td>206.5 (71.3 - 230.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PF ratio before device</strong></td>
<td>122.3 (59.2 - 250)</td>
<td>76.5 (45.5 - 195.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(mean, range)</td>
<td>105.2 (74.9 - 150.0)</td>
<td>105.2 (74.9 - 150.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROX index at 12 hours</strong></td>
<td>4.83</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFOT (mean, range)</td>
<td>2.2 - 7.6</td>
<td>4.7 - 10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First device</strong> (n, % all device use)</td>
<td>19 (24%)</td>
<td>16 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n, % all device use)</td>
<td>16 (21%)</td>
<td>10 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Only device</strong> (n, % all device use)</td>
<td>16 (21%)</td>
<td>10 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(n, % all device use)</td>
<td>16 (21%)</td>
<td>10 (22%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time to intubation</strong> (days, range)</td>
<td>3.2 (0 - 9)</td>
<td>4.5 (0 - 12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Data from our single site retrospective cohort study suggest ROX index parameters may predict failure of HFOT, and PF ratio may predict failure of HFOT and CPAP in COVID-19 consistent with non-COVID-19 literature(4). In our study, clinicians favoured CPAP for individuals presenting with more severe hypoxaemic respiratory failure.

![Figure 1. ROX indices for patients receiving HFOT](image1)

![Figure 2. PF ratios for patients receiving HFOT or CPAP](image2)
failure making comparisons between HFOT and CPAP challenging. However HFOT was associated with successful outcomes in certain patients. ROX index may be useful in selecting this sub-group and warrants prospective study.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 4. Roca O, Caralt B, Messika J, Samper M, Sztymf B, Herrández G, et al. An estimation of respiratory work and mechanical power transmitted to ARDS patients G. Ferrigno1; N. Rodrigo Castroviejo1; A. Tejoer Pedregosa2; Y. Losada Martínez2; R. Beltrán Bernádez2; C. Sanmartino Gonzalez2; D. Monge Donaire2; LL. Beltran Martínez2; C. Tarancón Maján2; A. Marcos Gutiérrez2
1Intensive Care Unit, Hospital Virgen De La Concha, Zamora Spain; 2Intensive care, Hospital Virgen De La Concha, Zamora, Spain; 3Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000470

Introduction: Mechanical ventilation (MV) is vital for the management of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). In recent years there has been important technological development. Along with technological advances and a better understanding of respiratory pathophysiology, it has been determined that MV can have deleterious effects on these kinds of patients. Objectives: to estimate respiratory work by means of the pressure-time product (PTP) and the Campbell's diagram (WOB), to estimate different parameters related to ventilator induced lung injury (VILI) according to classical and rheological theories: driving pressure (DP), stress index (SI) and mechanical power (PM)

Methods: Data were collected from adult patients connected to MV with ARDS criteria as proposed in the Berlin definition. The Fluxmed® respiratory mechanics monitor was used after insertion of an esophageal pressure probe and placement of a flow sensor (Image 1). Parameters related to VILI were collected: DP, SI and MP were calculated according to the formula proposed by Gattinoni. PTP and WOB were also calculated with the FluxReview® software (Picture 2). Data were collected for 5 minutes after esophageal probe insertion, in volume controlled mode and under the effects of a neuromuscular blocking agent. The variables are presented as an average (95% CI). Hypothesis contrast for mean difference was performed with Mann-Whitney test.

Results: 8 patients with the following baseline characteristics were included. Age 69.4 (61.6-77.2) years, sex 87.5% men, weight 71.6 (60.3-83) kg, height 166.8 (158.1-175.4) cm, APACHE 26 (9.2-42.8), SAPSII 53.3 (42-64.5), SOFA 6.9 (3.4-10.4). Patients were ventilated with Vt 7.6 (6.6-8.7) ml/kg, PEEP 9.8 (7.9-11.6) cmH2O, FiO2 0.63, FR 22 (18.7-25.3) rpm, PaO2/FiO2 was 140.5 (88-193) mmHg. PTP of the respiratory system was 9.5 (7.8-11.2) cmH2O x sec, with an elastic component of 49.6 % (37.6-61.5) % and a resistive component of 43 % (33.4-52.5) %. The elastic WOB was 4.3 (3.2-5.5) cmH2O x l, inspiratory resistive WOB was 2.8 (1.8-3.8) cmH2O x l, inspiratory resistive WOB was -3.4 (-4.5-2.2) cmH2O x l, DP was 13.6 (10-17.2) cmH2O, MP 10.2 (7-13.4) J/min and SI 0.05 (0.8-1.1). Mortality was 62.5% and duration of MV was 16.6 (5.5-27.8) days. A statistically significant difference was observed in the level of PEEP among survivors and non-survivors: 3 cmH2O (0.2-6) p < 0.05. Differences were also observed in MP 5.9 J/min (1.5-10.3) and PTP 2.7 cmH2O x sec. (0.5-5.4) but without reaching statistical significance (p = 0.053).

Conclusion: Advanced monitoring and knowledge of the different theories that explain VILI may allow us to optimize MV programming and reduce the damage associated with it.
During the study period were admitted 20 patients, 60% used IMV. The ventilation support was performed. Patients were grouped according to the oxygen or ventilation support mode: group 1 – IMV; group 2 - non-invasive ventilation. The main limitation of this study is the small sample. Patients who received IMV had a higher rate of infection and a significantly longer stay in ICU with impact on mortality. Initially patients were invasively ventilated earlier in accordance with studies and expert opinion, however with experience, non-invasive strategies were preferred without impact in the outcomes. The decision not to ventilate was well tolerated and allowed patients to overcome infection without the need to be ventilate, even under traditional “mandatory” ventilation ratios. Outcomes like neurological dysfunction were not evaluated but we raise the hypothesis that non-ventilation probably spares that dysfunction, as well as decreases secondary lung infection.

Conclusion: Patients who received IMV had a higher rate of infection and a significantly longer stay in ICU with impact on mortality. Initially patients were invasively ventilated earlier in accordance with studies and expert opinion, however with experience, non-invasive strategies were preferred without impact in the outcomes. The decision not to ventilate was well tolerated and allowed patients to overcome infection without the need to be ventilate, even under traditional “mandatory” ventilation ratios. Outcomes like neurological dysfunction were not evaluated but we raise the hypothesis that non-ventilation probably spares that dysfunction, as well as decreases secondary lung infection.

The main limitation of this study is the small sample. Further large-scale studies would be interesting analyzing the mortality and prevalence of post-ICU impairment in ventilated and non-ventilated patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
We received post-course feedback from 64 attendees, across different departments and professions, which was overwhelmingly positive (Fig. 3). Many requested further teaching on the subject, even suggesting annual training, and around 72% of respondents attended our associated courses, suggesting there was a genuine desire for this type of education.

**Conclusion:** During the first wave of the pandemic, 78 patients with COVID-19 requiring enhanced respiratory support were managed on wards previously unfamiliar with this treatment modality. The educational sessions were essential in building the confidence of our staff in managing COVID-19 related respiratory failure throughout the hospital and were extremely well received. In response to their requests for further teaching, and in order to facilitate ongoing learning and revision, we developed complementary material including respiratory support device set-up videos, online presentations and e-assessment modules accessible to all staff through the Trust’s intranet. Support device set-up videos, online presentations and e-assessment revision, we developed complementary material including respiratory support device set-up videos, online presentations and e-assessment modules accessible to all staff through the Trust’s intranet.

The key lessons we learned from the development and delivery of these training sessions were as follows:

- Truly multidisciplinary training is both possible and effective. The skill mix and varied backgrounds of the participants appeared to have no negative effects on the sessions.
- We did not have the time available to deliver the longer sessions normally used in nurse-training. Instead, we adopted an approach more typical of medical education. This style was, nevertheless, warmly received by all participants and showed that shorter sessions may be effective for future nurse-training in our Trust.
- As the programme developed, the importance of providing resources in a variety of formats became increasingly clear. Our complimentary resources, developed by the same team of educators, was easily accessible to all staff to review whenever they wished.

**000447**

**Protecting Prone Patients: Collateral Complications of COVID-19**

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**Correspondence:** R. Carrington

*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000447

**Introduction:** Covid-19 has resulted in a proning pandemic. Intensive care units (ICUs) across the world have proned more patients in March and April 2020 than they would expect to in a year. The prone position is thought to improve the condition of patients with COVID-19 by increasing recruitment in dorsocaudal regions of the lung, reducing alveolar shunt and increasing tidal volume(1). Putting patients in the prone position, along with the necessary frequent head-turns, has been shown to improve outcomes in ARDS patients(2,3).

**Methods:** Retrospective, descriptive study of patients admitted in ICU from 2017 to 2019, with H1N1 influenza diagnosis, ARDS and MV. Clinical, epidemiological and result-related variables were analyzed, between them: MV and sedative timing, needs of vasoactives, renal failure, prone position, PaO2-FiO2, A-aO2 gradient, OI, OSI, PaO2, PaCO2, ICU mortality and UCI length of stay, as well as SOFA, APACHE II. Quantitative variables are expressed as mean and standard deviation, while qualitative variables are expressed as ratios and absolute value.

**Results:** A total number of 17 patients were included. 52.9% were men, with a mean age of 53.93 ± years. APACHE and SOFA scores at the ICU admission were 5.65 ± 3.06 and 13.88 ± 3.53 respectively. Prone position was needed in 58.8% of the patients. Length of mechanical ventilation was 17.7 ± 9.47 days; sedatives were needed an average of 17.47 ± 9.47 days. 58.8% of the patients developed renal injury, 29.4% among them needed RRT.

When the sample was divided into two groups, survivors and non-survivors, statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) were observed in oxygenation parameters: PaO2-FiO2, A-aO2 gradient, OI, and OSI. There were no significant differences (p < 0.05) in PaO2 and PaCO2. The best cut-points were: PaO2-FiO2 202.5 (S 83.3%; E 72.7%); A-aO2 gradient was 193.18 (S 66.7%; E 72.7%), OI 9.21 (S 66.7%; E 72.7%), and OSI 8.66 (S 83.3%, E 72.7%).

The length of stay in the ICU was 21.71 ± 11.53 days. ICU observed mortality was 35.29%.

**Conclusion:** An increase in mortality risk was observed in those patients who kept PaO2-FiO2 values < 202 and OI > 9.21.

Oxygenation parameters monitoring in ARDS patients provide prognostic value and allow for the assessment in the day-to-day patient situation.

**001150**

**Prognostic Capacity of Oxygenation parameters in the evolution of patients with Severe ARDS by H1N1 Influenza**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001150

**Introduction:** ARDS ventilator management is one of the most difficult tasks in the ICU. Monitoring lung mechanics and oxygenation parameters is one of the keys in this entity, and provide useful information about the evolution as well as prognosis.

**Methods:** Retrospective, descriptive study of patients admitted in ICU from 2017 to 2019, with H1N1 influenza diagnosis, ARDS and MV. Clinical, epidemiological and result-related variables were analyzed, between them: MV and sedative timing, needs of vasoactives, renal failure, prone position, PaO2-FiO2, A-aO2 gradient, OI, OSI, PaO2, PaCO2, ICU mortality and UCI length of stay, as well as SOFA, APACHE II. Quantitative variables are expressed as mean and standard deviation, while qualitative variables are expressed as ratios and absolute value.

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The length of stay in the ICU was 21.71 ± 11.53 days. ICU observed mortality was 35.29%.

**Conclusion:** An increase in mortality risk was observed in those patients who kept PaO2-FiO2 values < 202 and OI > 9.21.

Oxygenation parameters monitoring in ARDS patients provide prognostic value and allow for the assessment in the day-to-day patient situation.

**000447**

**Protecting Prone Patients: Collateral Complications of COVID-19**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000447

**Introduction:** Covid-19 has resulted in a proning pandemic. Intensive care units (ICUs) across the world have proned more patients in March and April 2020 than they would expect to in a year. The prone position is thought to improve the condition of patients with COVID-19 by increasing recruitment in dorsocaudal regions of the lung, reducing alveolar shunt and increasing tidal volume(1). Putting patients in the prone position, along with the necessary frequent head-turns, has well-recognized risks and complications(2). The increased need for this labour-intensive procedure, combined with overstretched staff with varied levels of ICU experience, has led to a surge in the number of proning-related complications.

**Objectives:**
1. To identify the number of patients with COVID-19 admitted in ICU at Queen’s Hospital on 23rd April 2020 that had been proned during their admission
2. To determine the number of complications that occurred secondary to proning and head-turns
3. To design and implement a simple, efficient and effective method of reducing common complications

**Methods:** Retrospective data collection from all patients admitted in Queen’s Hospital COVID-19 ICU on 23rd April 2020. The number of patients that had been proned during their admission, the duration of each prone period and any complications that occurred were recorded. Directed by the most common complications, and by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine guidelines(3), we designed a graphic highlighting five simple checks to be carried out before each prone/head-turn, and five simple checks to be carried out afterwards (Fig. 1).
Introduction: Percutaneous dilational tracheostomy is usually performed blindly, entry into the trachea can be visualized using bronchoscopy. With SARS COV 2 pandemic, measures to perform the procedure safely for protecting healthcare personnel from undue risk of exposure and infection must be taken. To delay the procedure has been recommended due to a significant risk of viral transmission because it is an aerosol-generating procedure.

Objectives: The aim of the present study are: to describe the clinical experience in the realization of tracheostomy guided by bronchoscopy in critically ill patients with SARS COV 2 infection and to analyze the complications related to the procedure.

Methods: Retrospective study in a 17 bed medical-surgical ICU during two months: march and april 2020. We included patients with confirmed SARS COV 2 respiratory infection. Variables analyzed were clinical characteristics and outcome, day of tracheostomy during ICU admission, duration of procedure, complications related with the tracheostomy. Statistical analysis: Data were analyzed by SPSS 18 and quantitative variables were expressed as a mean ± standard deviation.

Results: Twenty consecutive patients with confirmed SARS COV 2 infection were admitted in ICU. Mean age was 61,7 ± 8,25. 65% male and 35% female. Apache II at admission was 10,3 ± 4,21 and SOFA score 3,45 ± 1,87. Mechanical ventilation was required in 80% of patients. In nine patients, 45%, tracheostomy was performed, all the procedure were performed guided by videobronchoscopy to avoid the use of laringoscopy and to distance itself from the oral cavity and airways during the procedure during withdrawing orotraqueal tube. Mean duration of procedure was 5 minutes and 19 seconds.

No major complications related with the procedure were described, in two patients first attempt of needleinsertion failed and with the bronchoscope the positioning of the needle were directly visualized before entry into the trachea and a guidewire was introduced (figure 1). Four patients developed hypoxemia during the procedure, they had no clinical significance and were transient.

Conclusion: There has been a high rate of complications secondary to prone during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our results show that 77% of patients who were prone experienced at least one complication. The consequences of these ranged from the need to replace an NG tube to potentially permanent loss of sight. Going forward, we have implemented our proning checks graphic by displaying it across the ICU, attaching it to dedicated proning equipment packs and explaining it to members of the proning team. We continue to monitor its effect and strive to improve ways of protecting our patients from these complications.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: During COVID-19 pandemic, many considerations have been discussed about tracheostomy in ICU patients, in terms of efficacy, timing, and health care professionals safety. Tracheostomy is an aerosol generating procedure and therefore some recommendations have been proposed: skilled intervening staff, surgical technique, full personal protective equipment (PPE) use and negative pressure environment if possible. However in our medical ICU we were not able to apply some of these recommendations.

Objectives: To describe and analyse patient and staff safety of bedside percutaneous tracheostomy in COVID-19 patients in a medical ICU

Methods: We recorded data of consecutive patients diagnosed with ARDS secondary to COVID-19 who required extended mechanical ventilation and tracheostomy during their ICU stay. We registered demographic data, mechanical ventilation parameters, information about the procedure and we finally prospectively evaluated SARS-CoV-2 transmission to health care professionals.

Results: We included 35 COVID-19 mechanically ventilated patients; tracheostomy was performed in 11 patients (31%). Negative pressure environment was unavailable. Percutaneous technique with single dilator was applied at bedside in ICU. Previous ultrasound assessment was implemented and bronchoscopy was used as a standard of care during the procedure. The mean duration of the procedure was 38 minutes [33.1-40.9]. Nine out of 11 tracheostomies (81.8%) were performed by critical care resident doctors (4th-5th year of training). Only 4 patients (36.36%) had negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR at the moment of the procedure. PPE including fluid-resistant gown, ocular protection (goggles or face shield), gloves and FF3 mask, was used in all cases. Median of mechanical ventilation days up to tracheostomy was 21 [20-24]. Any technique complication was detected. SARS-CoV-2 PCR and serology (IgM/IgG) were negative in all staff participants after a proper window period.

Conclusion: Despite not following all the expert opinion recommendations regarding tracheostomy in COVID-19 patients, no safety events occurred to our patients and no SARS-CoV-2 transmission to healthcare providers was detected.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000632

The Impact of Surgical vs. Percutaneous Tracheostomy – An Audit of Tracheostomy Insertion in Intensive Care

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000632

Introduction: Up to a third of patients in intensive care requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation receive a tracheostomy. In the United Kingdom, this equates to around 15,000 tracheostomies annually. Tracheostomy insertion aims to facilitate ventilator wean through reducing dead space and improving secretion clearance. They can be performed either surgically or percutaneously. Tracheostomy timing has been an area of controversy in the literature, with some groups advocating that early insertion can lead to reduced sedative use, faster ventilator wean, shorter hospitalisation and reduced mortality.

Objectives: In 2013, a large randomised controlled trial, TracMan, was carried out assessing the impact of early versus late tracheostomy insertion on outcomes. This audit aimed to compare outcomes following tracheostomy insertion in our tertiary intensive care to those of the TracMan study.

Methods: All ventilated patients undergoing tracheostomy (either surgically or percutaneously) in 2019 were included (n = 53). Patients undergoing emergency tracheostomy, intra-operative tracheostomy during elective head and neck surgery and with a pre-existing tracheostomy were excluded. Data was collected from electronic health records retrospectively.

Results: In contrast to the TracMan study where 89% of tracheostomies were performed percutaneously, we performed only 17% this way. This introduced quite a significant time delay between decision to insertion of tracheostomy. Often patients were clinically deteriorating and going to theatre for a surgical tracheostomy, resulting in even further delays. “Short neck” was cited as the most common reason for referral for a surgical tracheostomy. More complications were seen in the cohort receiving surgical tracheostomies, however this group contained higher risk patients. Early tracheostomy also reduced the risk of complications. Contrary to the TracMan population, our patients achieved ventilator wean faster when tracheostomy was performed earlier, which we felt was related to differing definitions of this term. Similar, early tracheostomy reduced length of stay on intensive care and shortened time on sedation. Mortality was also higher in the group receiving late tracheostomy.

Conclusion: Overall, duration from decision to insertion of tracheostomy was shorter when a percutaneous approach was chosen. If a percutaneous approach is feasible, this should therefore be preferable over a surgical approach, as it expedited tracheostomy insertion, reduced length of stay and appeared to be associated with fewer complications. Similarly, identifying patients for early tracheostomy insertion should be advocated, given the improved outcomes seen in our unit.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000686

Regional Experiences of Endotracheal Intubation During The COVID-19 Pandemic in The United Kingdom

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000686

Introduction: In the United Kingdom (UK), consensus guidelines for airway management were published early in the COVID-19 pandemic making recommendations to support clinicians during this potentially challenging intervention (1). Adaptions to existing guidance for airway management in critically ill adults from the Difficult Airway Society (2) included use of personal protective equipment (PPE), preferential use of the best skilled airway manager to maximise chance of first-pass
success, avoidance of aerosol-generating procedures (such as non-invasive ventilation, high flow nasal oxygenation), and use of reliable well practiced techniques (including videolaryngoscopy where appropriate).

**Objectives:** Areas of the West Midlands were some of the worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK (3). We aimed to gain insight into the experiences of clinicians involved with airway management during the COVID-19 pandemic in this region.

**Methods:** An online survey was distributed to multiple centres within the West Midlands region of the UK. Clinicians who had experience of endotracheal intubation in patients with confirmed, suspected, or unknown COVID-19 status were asked to reflect upon their experience of one patient intubation.

**Results:** 127 clinicians from 16 hospitals including 3 large university hospitals responded to the online survey, most were consultant grade (56.7%). Clinicians self-reported an average approximate number of pandemic intubations of 7.35 (range 1–30). When asked to reflect on a single intubation, clinicians reflected on intubations in ICU (42.5%), emergency departments (20.5%), wards (8.7%), and theatre (28.3%). Appropriate PPE was available in 96.1%. The most senior clinician available intubated in 65.4%. Clinicians reported first pass success in 93.7% of responses. Most intubators reported use of videolaryngoscopy (74.8%), however 26% reported not using this equipment regularly and 5.5% did not feel confident with their equipment. Despite a high success rate, difficulties were reported in 15.1%. The most common was desaturation. Other common difficulties included equipment or environment unfamiliarity, lack of skilled support.

When asked what advice they would give to colleagues, frequently occurring themes included: ensuring familiarity with equipment, use of a checklist, use of videolaryngoscopy, and availability of a second intubator. Desire for simulation and equipment familiarisation was highlighted in multiple responses, and in one example a clinician attributed their success to a simulation session performed in the week prior.

**Conclusion:** Experiences from clinicians in this region highlight the specific challenges encountered involved in airway management of patients with COVID-19, in particular highlighting the importance of advance preparation for intubation when faced with unfamiliar circumstances. Simulation sessions, use of checklists and standard operating procedures for emergency intubation may contribute to maintaining preparedness for intubation in this challenging patient group.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

4. 4) Nil

**000776**

**Performance of tracheostomy in COVID-19 critically ill patients**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000776**

**Introduction:** Community-acquired pneumonia COVID 19 has been a recent and frequent cause of admission to intensive care units worldwide. Its rapid expansion and high number of cases mean that there are many open questions regarding its management, treatment and prognosis. The performance of a tracheostomy in the affected patients is one of these questions.

**Methods:** A retrospective, observational study was carried out with all the patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at a University Hospital with the diagnosis of COVID-19 pneumonia. All patients who require mechanical ventilation support and tracheostomy during the pandemic were included.

**Results:** 37 patients were analysed. 70.3% of the sample were men (26/37). Average age 59.4 ± 9.4. APACHE II 14.8 ± 4.67. The average days of mechanical ventilation prior to performing a tracheostomy was 11 ± 2.66. Three of them were completed during the first week. Percutaneous tracheostomy was performed in 86.5% (32/37) of the cases; 31/37 in the course of the second week and 3 of them after the first two weeks. The average days from tracheostomy to decannulation was 17.7 ± 10.6. 17 patients have been decannulated (46%). 16 of these 17 patients have been discharged from the hospital. The characteristics of surviving and non-surviving patients are shown in the Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survivors</th>
<th>Non survivors</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (M)</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular history</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory history</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical history</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prona</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuromuscular blockers</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days to tracheostomy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percutaneous procedure</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** We present the results of 37 patients who required a tracheostomy as a part of the management of COVID 19 pneumonia. We describe the performance and the prognostic of the technique

**000834**

**Comparison of complication rates of surgical vs. percutaneous approach to tracheostomy insertion in a specialist burns critical care unit**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000834**

**Introduction:** Critically ill burns patients frequently require a tracheostomy, but pose particular challenges including airway and/or neck swelling, face and neck grafting and high oxygen and ventilation requirements. Grade 2 evidence exists for percutaneous dilation technique (PDT) over surgical technique (ST) in the burns setting[1]. ST is associated with lower costs when performed at the bedside or in association with another surgical procedure [2].

**Objectives:** We sought to compare the rate and severity of complications between PDT and ST in critically ill burns patients, within a regional burns critical care unit.

**Methods:** Retrospective data was collected over 33 months (May 2017 to February 2020) from all admissions to a regional burns critical care unit. Basic demographic data was collected in addition to data regarding technique, staff performing tracheostomy and tracheostomy
complications during hospital stay. Complications were classed as severe or not severe based on the necessity for significant ventilator changes, transfusion or tracheostomy change/bronchoscopy. Averages were expressed as medians with interquartile ranges. Mann Whitney-U analysis was used for non-parametric continuous data and X² Fisher’s exact test for categorical data using SPSS (IBM corp). A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: From 71 admissions, 49 required ventilation and 13 patients required a tracheostomy. Of these 13 tracheostomy patients, the median burn surface area was 23% (IQR 37%), 46% (n = 6/13) had inhalational injuries of grade 2 or worse and 92% (n = 12/13) had burns involving their neck. ST was employed in 70% of cases. Demographic data showed overall homogeneity between the PDT and ST groups. However the ST group had a greater proportion of males, severe inhalational injuries and burns involving the neck was although not significant. The average time between intubation and tracheostomy formation was comparable between groups. Decannulation time also did not differ significantly. The majority of tracheostomies were performed in the theatre setting (n = 12/13) to coincide with debridement or skin grafting. PDT was performed predominantly by senior trainee anaesthetists (75%) and in the theatre setting with surgical presence. All STs were performed by consultant surgeons, using an open approach.

At least one pre-procedural concern was highlighted in 69% of all cases, including ventilatory concerns (3) (e.g. pneumonia, frequent desaturation), oedema at desired tracheostomy site (2), neck burns (2), distorted anatomy (1) and presence of graft at tracheostomy site (1). Similar rates of pre-procedural concerns were highlighted for ST and PDT cases (6/9 vs 3/4 respectively).

Early complication rate was greater with ST, with the majority being severe such as dislodgement, stomal leak, significant bleeding, surgical emphysema and occlusion due to malposition. PDT demonstrated a lower complication rate but all were severe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PDT (n=9)</th>
<th>ST (n=6)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>38 (23)</td>
<td>55.5 (16.75)</td>
<td>0.266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>74.5 (28.3)</td>
<td>89 (16.4)</td>
<td>0.559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Sex</td>
<td>1 (25%)</td>
<td>6 (67%)</td>
<td>0.266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalational injuries grade 2</td>
<td>4 (44%)</td>
<td>5 (62%)</td>
<td>0.559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns to neck</td>
<td>3 (75%)</td>
<td>9 (100%)</td>
<td>0.308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns Surface Area (%)</td>
<td>26 (17.5)</td>
<td>23 (47)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to tracheostomy formation (days)</td>
<td>9.5 (6.75)</td>
<td>8 (3.0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to de-cannulation (days)</td>
<td>20 (5)</td>
<td>18.5 (13.75)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complications</td>
<td>2 (50%)</td>
<td>8 (88.9%)</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>2 (50%)</td>
<td>6 (66.7%)</td>
<td>0.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not severe</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (22.2%)</td>
<td>0.510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Tracheostomies in critically ill burns patients are associated with a high risk of severe early complications [3]. We observed a higher rate of early complications (loss of airway and bleeding) in ST vs PDT. Although this data appears to favour PDT, the ST group had more pre-procedural concerns (e.g. more neck burns, distorted neck anatomy, oedema and inhalational injury) and therefore represent a higher risk group. We believe a national database is required to capture tracheostomy technique and complications to enable recommendations in this high risk specialised cohort.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. No funding acquired from external sources.
Percutaneous tracheostomy in COVID-19 patients: assessing patient benefits and clinician risks
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001067

Introduction: Many patients with COVID-19 require long-term mechanical ventilation. Early tracheostomy may offer a route to weaning ventilation, decreased sedation, and reduced cardiovascular support for intensive care patients. However, at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, advice in the UK was to wait for 14 days and/or a negative COVID-19 test due to perceived risks to the operator [1,2].

Objectives: To determine the impact of early percutaneous tracheostomies (<10 days after intubation) on sedation and vasopressor requirements. In addition, we examine whether modifications to reduce viral exposure avoided COVID-19 transmission to the treating team.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis of all mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients receiving tracheostomies at a single-centre general intensive care unit in the UK from 19 March to 29 June 2020 (n = 31). This involved a modified percutaneous technique to minimise aerosol generation. We compare patient sedation and cardiovascular support over a five-day follow-up period, as well as 30-day discharge and mortality, with an indicative control group of five clinically similar patients who did not receive a tracheostomy as they were transferred to different hospitals for exogenous reasons of ICU bed capacity. The treating team were also screened for COVID-19 antibodies >2 weeks after the procedures.

Results: Compared to baseline preceding tracheostomy, patients showed a decrease in both sedative and cardiovascular support requirements with no similar improvements in the control group. Median sedative requirements decreased from an average of over 10 mg/hr of both morphine and midazolam or equivalent to less than 5 mg/hr of both five days after tracheostomy, whilst median sedation remained above 10mg/hr of both for the controls. Median noradrenaline decreased from 5 to 0 mcg/min over the same period, whilst the control group increased from 2.66 to 8 mcg/min. After 30 days, 15 tracheostomy patients (48.3%) had been discharged from hospital, two (6.5%) were receiving ongoing care on step-down wards, and 14 were deceased (45.1%). Of the indicative control group, after 30 days since meeting the criteria for tracheostomy two (40%) had been discharged and three (60%) were deceased. Of the 31 procedures only two involved complications (6.4%); both featured transient desaturation and hypoxia but neither resulted in lasting sequelae. In addition, we find that all clinicians involved with tracheostomies received negative COVID-19 antibody tests.

Conclusion: In a small sample size, we demonstrate the potential for early tracheostomy as a strategy for reducing sedative and vasopressor requirements. This may improve outcomes for mechanically ventilated patients in a pandemic setting without compromising the safety of the treating team.

The authors acknowledge Aisling Corcoran, Becca Parrott, and Cheryl Pittuck for helpful data assistance.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Early vs late tracheostomy in SARS-COV-2 patients. Does it really make a difference?
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001085

Introduction: The most serious form of COVID 19 infection manifested itself with a high number of patients with severe and long-standing ARDS, many of whom required a tracheostomy during the course of their illness. Currently, there is no consensus on the best time to perform tracheostomies. According to current recommendations, in the SARS-COV-2 pandemic situation, it is recommended to perform a tracheostomy after 10 to 14 days of mechanical ventilation (MV) to minimize exposure to the viral load that exists in earlier stages and for a better selection of patients.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to compare the results of patients with ARDS secondary to SARS-COV-2 that required a tracheostomy because of prolonged mechanical ventilation in two Intensive Care Units (ICU) in Spain.

Methods: We carried out a retrospective observational study in the period between March and June 2020, in which SARS-COV-2 patients that developed ARDS and required a tracheostomy were divided in two groups. We considered early-tracheostomy patients as the ones who had a tracheostomy during the first 14 days of MV and late-tracheostomy after the 14th day. Data are presented as the mean ± standard deviation (SD), the median with the 25-75 percentiles and the frequencies with percentages, as appropriate. Continuous variables were analyzed with Student’s t-test and the Mann-Whitney test, and categorical variables were analyzed with the chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test. A level of statistical significance was set for values of p<0.05.

Results: 57 patients were included, of whom 73.7% were men, the mean age was 60.4 years old (±13.2). APACHE II at admission was 21.5 (±8.1) and SOFA 8.9 (±8.1). 29.6% of the patients were obese, 43.9% had a history of HT and 22.8% were diagnosed with diabetes. At admission 29.8% had severe ARDS and 56.1% moderate ARDS. The CURB-65 and PORT-PSI mean were 2.07 (±0.8) and 4.09 (±0.8) respectively. In 42% of patients, an early tracheostomy was performed (12.1 (±1.7) days) and 58% late (17.4 (±2.7) days). The duration of MV in the early TQT group was 23.5 days (20.2-33) and in the late 30 days (25-41) (p=0.049); no significant differences were found in the days of ICU stay or mortality.

Conclusion: In our series, patients with early-tracheostomy required fewer days of MV; however, we did not find significant differences in the days of ICU stay or mortality. These findings are similar to other studies in non-SARS-COV-2 patients.

Suction assisted containment of respiratory droplets during airway management with the SALAD technique
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001172

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has generated significant discussion of different means to reduce the risk of transmission to the clinician tasked with intubating an infected patient. Appropriate personal protective provides a barrier and video laryngoscopy increase
the distance between the clinician and the respiratory tract, however additional proposed methods such as translucent plastic boxes have been shown to be less than helpful. We present a simulation to examine the implications of the deliberate use of suction during the airway management of a patient with a respiratory infectious disease, and to examine a technique that may serve to reduce respiratory droplet emissions and potentially increase the safety of the procedure for the clinician.

Methods: The right mainstem bronchus of the 7-Sigma mannequin was coupled with two medication nebulizer systems filled with diet tonic water, which fluoresces on contact with ultraviolet (UV) light. The nebulizers are then connected to two separate medical flowmeters set to 15 L per minute flow. The left mainstem bronchus and esophagus of the mannequin are occluded to enhance thenebulizer gas flow through the mannequin to the oropharynx. The fresh gas flow through the nebulizer units produces a fine mist/aerosol, which is visible in the room air when illuminated by UV light. Two separate 60-watt UV lights, which are placed immediately to the sides and behind the endoscopist—to minimize the exposure of UV light to the endoscopist’s eyes—are utilized to illuminate the aerosol mist. When the clinician introduces the suction catheter into the oropharynx, the stream of aerosolized ceases to be visible as it is fully diverted into the stream of the suction. Utilizing the Suction Assisted Laryngoscopy and Airway Decontamination (SALAD) technique, the intubation can continue while leaving the suction catheter in place in the hypopharynx.

Results: This simulation shows the potential for a medical suction system to decontaminate the air space directly above the mouth of a mannequin emitting a nebulizer aerosol that is visible on UV light; and furthermore, it demonstrates the “intraoral” and “hypopharyngeal” decontamination of the nebulizer aerosol during simulated tracheal intubation. Battery-powered suction systems, such as those used on code carts and by prehospital providers, typically draw approximately 25 to 30 L per minute gas through the suction system. This airflow is equivalent to 1 cubic foot per minute. Though this volume is small, and it is dubious at best to predict whether this procedure would improve clinical safety of airway management in the presence of a respiratory infectious disease especially if the patient were to forcefully cough. Indeed, this implies that proper PPE, adequate paralysis and formal protocols are mandatory to maintain caregiver safety during an airway management procedure.

Conclusion: The concept here is to reduce the potential inoculum that the caregiver’s PPE is exposed to during the procedure, such that the filtering capability of their respiratory protection mask is not overwhelmed. Proactive use of the suction should prove to reduce the exposure of the physician PPE to a large inoculum of infectious respiratory particles if it accompanies the intubation attempt. Keeping the suction alongside the laryngoscope but above the esophagus and larynx could further help to reduce the airborne infectious respiratory particles in a patient under full induction and paralysis during intubation. Further focused studies are warranted.

000205
Real time assessment of diaphragmatic muscle motion with Tissue Doppler Imaging; data from a single-center observational study in ICU patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000205

Introduction: Diaphragmatic Tissue Doppler Imaging (TDI) allows real time assessment of the diaphragmatic tissue motion velocity. TDI of diaphragmatic tissue motion has been studied very little so far in adults, and no information exists regarding its reference values nor its clinical significance in ICU patients.

Objectives: To determine whether TDI-derived parameters can differentiate patients who succeed from patients who fail a spontaneous breathing trial.

Methods: In consecutive ICU patients undergoing a T-tube trial, the following TDI-derived parameters were measured: Peak Contraction Velocity (PCV), defined as the maximal diaphragmatic velocity during contraction, measured in cm/sec; Peak Relaxation Velocity (PRV), defined as the maximal diaphragmatic velocity during relaxation, measured in cm/sec; TDI-derived Maximal Relaxation Rate (TDI-MRR), defined as the slope of the initial steepest part of the diaphragmatic motion velocity curve during relaxation, measured in cm/sec². Measurements are presented as medians with 25th-75th interquartile ranges (IQR). Areas under the receiver operating characteristic (AUROC) with 95% Confidence Intervals (95%CI) have been calculated.

Results: A total of 116 patients were included (67 succeed and 49 failed weaning). Baseline patient characteristics: 87 (75.2%) males, aged 66.2 ± 12.5 years old, median 6 days under mechanical ventilation, reason for ICU admission: respiratory failure 18.9%, multiple trauma 13.8%, sepsis 13.8%, coma 5.2%. Groups did not differ in their baseline characteristics, but in TDI-derived measurements: PCV was 1.36 (IQR 1.06-1.79) vs. 2.02 (IQR 1.28-2.89) cm/sec, p = 0.001; PRV 1.36 (IQR 0.96-1.78) vs. 2.70 (IQR 1.41-4.86) cm/sec, p < 0.001; and TDI-MRR 10.31 (IQR 5.66-13.74) vs. 21.75 (IQR 11.83-38) cm/sec², p < 0.001, for weaning success and weaning failure patients respectively. AUROC for PCV, PRV and TDI-MRR were 0.712 (95% CI 0.607-0.816, p < 0.001), 0.772 (95%CI 0.677-0.867, p < 0.001) and 0.804 (95%CI 0.716-0.893, p < 0.001), respectively.

Conclusion: The results of this study suggest that TDI-derived measurements may serve as good markers for predicting success in a spontaneous breathing trial in ICU patients.

000287
Effects of End-Expiratory Lung Volume (EELV) versus PaO2 Guided PEEP Determination on Respiratory Mechanics and Oxygenation in Moderate to Severe ARDS: A Randomised Controlled Trial
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000287

Introduction: There is no ideal method for determination of PEEP in ARDS patients. We compared the effects of an EELV-guided versus PaO2 guided PEEP determination in respiratory mechanics and oxygenation during the first 48 hours in moderate to severe ARDS.

Methods: Twenty-two patients with moderate to severe ARDS admitted to an academic MICU were randomly assigned to PaO2-guided (n = 11) or to an EELV-guided PEEP determination (n = 11) group. Incremental PEEP trial was performed by increasing PEEP by 3 cmH2O...
steps from 8 to 20 cmH2O and in each step EELV and lung mechanics were measured in both groups. EELV was measured with a modified nitrogen multiple breath wash-out/wash-in technique. In the PaO2-guided group, optimal PEEP was accepted as the minimum PEEP level associated with PaO2 ≥ 60 mmHg and FiO2 < 0.60. In the EELV-guided group, optimal PEEP was accepted as the PEEP that caused a > 10% increase in EELV. Oxygenation and respiratory mechanics were measured under the determined PEEP at 4, 12, 24, and 48 hours. Results are presented as median [25-75th percentile]. Friedman and Spearman’s rho tests were used where appropriate. P value < 0.05 is accepted as statistically significant.

Results: As seen in the Table after the incremental PEEP trial, over the 48 hours of the study, PaO2 and PaO2/FiO2 increased in the EELV-guided group as compared to PaO2-guided group. EELV, static compliance (Cs), driving pressure, and strain remained similar in the two groups. In all patients, the median value of EELV change (ΔEELV) during incremental PEEP trial was 25%. As seen in the Table in patients with ΔEELV > 25% (n = 11) PaO2, PaO2/FiO2, and Cs increased over time in 48 hours, whereas they did not change in those with ΔEELV ≤ 25% (n = 11). There was a negative correlation between EELV and driving pressure measured at 48 hour of the study period (r = -0.77, p < 0.001).

Table: Gas Exchange and respiratory mechanics in PaO2 guided versus EELV guided groups, and between groups with ΔEELV <25% and ΔEELV >25% over 48 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>PaO2 guided</th>
<th>PaO2/FiO2</th>
<th>PaO2/FiO2</th>
<th>PaO2/FiO2</th>
<th>PaO2/FiO2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strain (TV/EELV)</td>
<td>0.37 [0.41-0.42]</td>
<td>0.24 [0.18-0.36]</td>
<td>0.24 [0.18-0.36]</td>
<td>0.37 [0.41-0.42]</td>
<td>0.24 [0.18-0.36]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Friedman tests were conducted to test whether there is a significant change in the variables within each group.

Conclusion: Compared to PaO2-guided PEEP determination, EELV-guided PEEP determination resulted in greater improvement in oxygenation and compliance over 48 hours. Measurement of EELV might not only help to determine optimal PEEP but also imply lung recruitability in patients with moderate to severe ARDS.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Study supported by Coordination Unit For Scientific Research Projects, Hacettepe University, Ankara.
4. We are thankful to Franco Laghi, MD for his critical review.

000318
Neuromuscular blocking agents in acute respiratory distress syndrome: updated systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised trials
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2):000318

Introduction: Existing clinical practice guidelines support the use of neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBA) in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). However a recent large randomized clinical trial (RCT) has questioned this practice. Therefore, we updated a previous systematic review to determine the efficacy and safety of NMBAs in ARDS.

Methods: We searched MEDLINE, EMBASE (October 2012 to July 2019), the Cochrane (Central) database, and clinical trial registries (clinicaltrials.gov, ISRCTN Register, and WHO ICTRP) for RCTs comparing the effects of NMBA as a continuous infusion versus placebo or no NMBA infusion on patient-important outcomes for adults with ARDS. Two independent reviewers assessed methodologic quality of the primary studies and abstracted data.

Results: Seven RCTs, including four new RCTs, met eligibility criteria for this review. These trials enrolled 1,598 patients with moderate to severe ARDS at centres in the United States, France, and China. All trials assessed short-term continuous infusions of cisatracurium or vecuronium. The pooled estimate for mortality outcomes showed significant statistical heterogeneity, which was only explained by a subgroup analysis by depth of sedation in the control arm. A continuous NMBA infusion did not improve mortality when compared to a light sedation strategy with no NMBA infusion (relative risk [RR] 0.99; 95% CI 0.86 - 1.15; moderate certainty; P = 0.93). On the other hand, continuous NMBA infusion reduced mortality when compared to deep sedation with as needed NMBA boluses (RR 0.71; 95% CI 0.57 - 0.89; low certainty; P = 0.003). Continuous NMBA infusion reduced the rate of barotrauma (RR 0.55; 95% CI 0.35 - 0.85, moderate certainty; P = 0.008)
Introduction: The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has led to rapid exhaustion of intensive care facilities across the UK and the world. The use of anaesthetic machines for long term ventilation as an off label use received regulatory clarity in this setting. We compare the survival outcomes of COVID-19 patients between 2 groups - those ventilated on anaesthetic machines and on those on standard ventilators. This was a retrospective observational case series conducted at Epsom and St Helier university hospitals in London.

Methods: 63 patients admitted to our intensive care unit with confirmed SARS-CoV2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2) infection between 07 March and 27 April were included in this case series. These patients were either ventilated on anaesthetic machines or conventional ventilators depending on the availability of these machines. All the patients were treated with similar management protocols. The mortality rates, APACHE 2 scores and the length of ventilator days of the deceased patients were compared between the two groups.

Results: The mean±standard deviation (SD) APACHE2 score in the anaesthetic machine group was 14.21 ± 4.05 and in the ventilator group was 19.72 ± 5.66; p-value 0.0002. The mean±SD of ventilator days was 6.87 ± 4.3 and 8.36 ± 6.68 in the anaesthetic machine and ventilator groups respectively (p-value 0.41). The mortality rate in the anaesthetic machine group was 80% and in the ventilator group was 66.66%; p value 0.82.

Conclusion: There was no difference in outcomes between the patients ventilated on conventional ventilators versus those with anaesthetic machines. However, the results could be different if the APACHE scores were similar. Anaesthetic machines were not intended for long term ventilation and their use in the times of such pandemics seem justified and essential when the availability of the conventional ventilators is limited. This is important because having a back up stock / inventory of conventional ventilators anticipating the occasional pandemic may not be viable financially for most healthcare organisations.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Impact of a stepwise increase in PEEP (PEEP-trial) on haemodynamics, static compliance, functional residual capacity and tidal volume: a study in patients with PiCCO-monitoring

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000476

Introduction: Advanced respirator technologies provide automated stepwise PEEP-increases in parallel with the measurement of functional residual capacity (FRC) and static pulmonary compliance (C_stat). While this PEEP-trial (PT) may help facilitate optimal PEEP-setting, it also carries the risk of haemodynamic instability due to the reduced venous return. We hypothesized that a standard PT with stepwise increases in PEEP of a total of 8 cmH2O might result in substantial haemodynamic changes. Since heart lung interactions have been suggested to diagnose volume responsiveness, the PT could be used as a combined approach to optimize ventilation and haemodynamics.

Methods: In 50 mechanically ventilated patients (Carescape R860; GE; pressure-controlled ventilation; PP-ratio of 249 +/− 83) and PiCCO-monitoring, an automated five step PEEP-trial was performed. PEEP was increased from values of 4 cmH2O below, to 4 cmH2O above the present PEEP-level. PiCCO-data, ventilator settings, FRC and C_stat were measured at baseline and after each increase.

Results: Mean values for most haemodynamic parameters including heart rate, MAP, CVP, global end-diastolic volume index GEDVI, stroke volume index Svi, stroke volume variation SVV, extravascular lung water index EVLWI and cardiac power index CPI were not significantly different at the end compared to the start of the PT. Mean cardiac index CI decreased significantly as the heart rate decreased with increasing PEEP. PEEP (5.1 ± 1.7 vs. 12.9 ± 2.4 cmH2O; p < 0.001) and FRC (1493 ± 588 vs. 1940 ± 778 ml; p < 0.001) were significantly higher after the PT, while all other respiratory data including tidal volume and C_stat were not different after the PT. Individual maximum values during the PT were significantly higher for tidal volume (461 ± 151 vs. 526 ± 126 ml; p < 0.001) and C_stat (38 ± 21 vs. 48 ± 23 ml/cmH2O; p < 0.001) compared to baseline.

Conclusion: 1.) The PT did not impair haemodynamics. While the PT is haemodynamically safe, its use to detect volume deficiency appears to be low. 2.) Adjustment of PEEP in response to PT data substantially improves FRC, C_stat and tidal volume.

Establishing a COVID-19 Tracheostomy Pathway: a Tertiary Centre Experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000493

Introduction: A tracheostomy (TSY) is a well-recognised means to provide a safe interface for weaning off prolonged mechanical ventilation, especially in those with severe respiratory failure. Aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are associated with significant cross infection risks to healthcare workers with deaths reported, including those of ENT surgeons. No national consensus exists on the role or timing of TSY in COVID-19 pts. Initially TSYs were requested ad-hoc based on clinical need. However, with the dynamic and rapidly evolving pandemic it became clear an agreed pathway was required with clarity on indications and timing of the procedure. We present a tertiary centre experience of creating a novel TSY pathway for long stay COVID-19 patients.

Methods: Regular multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussions between intensivists, ENT surgeons and operating room staff provided a forum to address and discuss all relevant issues, concerns and risks (both to patients as well as staff) of undertaking a TSY in COVID-19 pts. An agreed step-wise approach was instituted with potential for review.

Results: The step-wise plan agreed was as follows
1. Avoid TSY before 14 days
2. TSY only in patients with favourable prognosis
3. Need for TSY agreed by 2 ICU Consultants
4. Aim percutaneous TSY as first option if possible
5. Surgical TSY following MDT discussion
6. All procedures to be undertaken under full PPE

MDT meetings took place at set times, 3 times a week. The order of patients for surgical TSY was also agreed.

During this time 72 COVID pts were admitted to ICU with 59/72 (82%) intubated and mechanically ventilated; their characteristics are shown in Table 1.

The median time from admission to intubation was 1 (range 0-34) day and from intubation to TSY 16 (2-34) days. TSY was performed in 27/59 (46%) of patients; with a surgical approach 24/27 (89%) being completed. Median time from decision for TSY and the procedure was 4 (0-26) days. Median time from TSY to spontaneous breathing trial was 4 (2-19) days and to decannulation was 12 (6-24) days. There were no TSY related complications. 13 patients were successfully primarily extubated at a median time of 10 (3-17) days after endotracheal intubation.

Importantly, no healthcare worker cross infection from TSY has been recorded.

Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total n=72</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient characteristics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (years) – mean (standard deviation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex – n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI – mean (standard deviation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidity – n (%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Renal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Diabetes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Experience Establishing a COVID‑19 Tracheostomy Pathway: a Tertiary Centre
Conclusion: Engagement of key stakeholders is essential to create a streamlined TSY pathway for COVID-19 pts. Clarity and agreement between multiple specialties has helped provide an effective service without an increased infection risk to staff.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Nil

000513
Clinical features, ventilatory management, and outcome of ARDS caused by COVID-19 does not differ from other causes of ARDS
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Correspondence: G.S. Angeles
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000513

Introduction: Specific respiratory features, ventilatory management, and outcomes of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have not been well established yet.

Objectives: The aim of this observational study was to describe characteristics of confirmed ARDS COVID-19 patients that received invasive mechanical ventilation (MV) and other adjunctive therapies.

Methods: From March 12th to April 8th 2020, this prospective, multicenter, observational, cohort study enrolled patients with COVID-19 ARDS admitted to the ICU, in 28 hospitals, with a 28-day follow up. Patient medical data were collected into an anonymized online data acquisition system (CoVid19.ubikare.io). Inclusion criteria: > 18 y/o, intubated and mechanically ventilated, confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection using PCR-based tests, and ARDS, as defined by the Berlin criteria. Recorded data included demographics, ventilator parameters, adjunctive therapies, disease chronology (initiation of MV, ventilator-free-days, ICU-length-of-stay), discharge from ICU and 28-day mortality. Patients were stratified by severity of ARDS. Descriptive variables were expressed as percentage, mean and standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR), as appropriate. To compare variables, Student t-test or Mann-Whitney test and one-way ANOVA or Kruskal-Wallis test for numerical variables, and Chi squared test or Fisher exact test for categorical variables were used. Time to event curves were plotted using the Kaplan-Meier method and analyzed with log-rank test and univariable Cox regression analysis.

Results: A total of 504 patients were included: 96 (19.0%) with mild, 235 (46.6%) with moderate, and 173 (34.3%) with severe ARDS. Median (IQR) values were: PaO2/FIO2 127 (88-182) mmHg, VT 6.9 (6.3-7.8) ml/kg PBW, PEEP 12 (10-14) cmH2O, Crs 35 (28-45) ml/cmH2O, Pplat 24 (20-28) cmH2O, and driving pressure 12 (9-14) cmH2O. Recruitment maneuvers (RM) were used in 414 (82%) without differences between groups. Prone position was used in 385 (76%) patients, and neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBA) were used in 340 (66%) patients. Degree of ARDS severity was associated with significant differences in the use of prone position (p = 0.001) and NMBA (p = 0.008). There was a higher likelihood of discontinuation of MV (p = 0.006), ICU discharge (p = 0.010) and 28-day survival (p = 0.004) with decreasing severity of ARDS. All-cause 28-day mortality was 18% (94 patients). The risk of 28-day mortality was higher in severe ARDS compared to moderate ARDS (hazard ratio (HR) 0.47 (95% CI: 0.30-0.76), p = 0.002).

Conclusion: On average, in this large series, COVID-19 ARDS patients were managed with standard practice of lung-protective mechanical ventilation frequently associated to RM and prone position. General clinical features, ventilatory management, and 28-day outcome did not differ from other causes of ARDS. The degree of ARDS severity was a significant prognostic factor.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000534
Experience with COVID-19 related severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) patients admitted to a medical Intensive Care Unit in a second-level university Hospital
I. Gallego Barbachano1; A. Ortega Montes1; E. Moreno Lopez2; J.L. Martinez Melgar1; E. Sanmartin Mantihan1; T. Sanchez De Dios1; A. De La Campa Gestido1; J.I. Cenoz Osinaga1; J.V. Bravo Dovisio1; P. Posada Gonzalez1
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000534

Introduction: A new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) emerged from China in December 2019, causing an severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) that rapidly spread to become a pandemic.

Objectives: To describe patients admitted to a medical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in a second-level university Hospital due to severe ARDS related to COVID-19 infection.

Methods: Retrospective and descriptive analysis between March and April 2020 of critically ill patients with COVID-19-related severe acute respiratory distress syndrome admitted to a medical ICU. The following parameters were analyzed: demographic values (gender, age, severity scores, comorbidities), hemodynamic instability, renal failure, respiratory failure (ventilatory mode, FiO2, level, PEEP, prone ventilation, continuous neuromuscular blockade (NMB), endotracheal tube exchange, tracheostomy, days spent under mechanical ventilation), laboratory parameters (lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), low white blood cell (WBC) count, C-reactive protein (CRP), D-dimer, serum ferritine), length of ICU stay and outcomes.

Results: 22 patients (19 male, 3 female) were admitted, mean age: 67 ± 6.1 ( < 60 years old:4, 60-70 years old: 13 (59%), > 70 years old: 7). APACHE II score: 26 ± 7, SOFA : 7.5 ± 1.9, Comorbidities: chronic airflow limitation (CAL): 4, obesity (BMI > 30): 5 (22.7%), hypertension: 13 (59%), diabetes: 4. Inotropic support: 6 (27,3%), renal failure (continuous renal replacement therapy(CRRT)): 3 (13,7%), respiratory support: 22 (100%), ventilatory mode: pressure 14 (64%), volume 8, FiO2 (max): < 0.6; 5, between 0.6-0.8: 12 (54,5%), > 0.8: 5. PEEP (max): < 9 cmH2O, Q between 9-12: 13 (60%), > 12.6. Prone ventilation: 18 (81%); within the first 24 hours: 8, after 24 hours: 10. Continuous NMB: 14 (64%). Reintubation: 4 (18%), endotracheal tube exchange (obstruction):7 (32%), tracheostomy:5 (22,7%), 4 surgical tracheostomy (3 difficult airway, 1 coagulopathy), 1 percutaneous. Time spent under mechanical ventilation: 18 ± 8.5 days. Laboratory parameters: 14 LDH, 10 low WBC count, 19 (86%) CPR, 18 (81%) D-dimer, 19 (86%) serum ferritine. Length of ICU stay: 19 ±8 days. Outcome: 18 (81,8%) discharged (alive), 3 deaths, 1 still in ICU.

Conclusion: According to our series, the type of patient admitted with COVID-19 related severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) was a male between 60-70 years old, with hypertension and/or obesity, under mechanical ventilation (pressure mode:64%) and FiO2 (within the first 24 hours): 0.6-0.8 (54,5%), PEEP 9-12 cmH2O (60%), in prone positioning (81%) and continuous NMB infusion (64%), requiring tracheostomy (22,7%) and a 81,8% of survival rate.
Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia in COVID-19: a single centre experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000594

Introduction: Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) is the commonest complication of mechanical ventilation and is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. VAP incidence varies based on definitions, but has been estimated to affect between 8-28% of patients(1). The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has resulted in a large increase in the numbers of patients being mechanically ventilated. We examine the incidence and cause of VAP in COVID positive and negative individuals during the first wave of SARS-CoV-2 in a UK tertiary care intensivist unit.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of suspected VAP in patients with COVID-19.

Methods: We performed a retrospective chart review of all patients admitted to Addenbrooke's hospital requiring mechanical ventilation with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 for 7 weeks up to and including the 1/5/2020. Patients were defined as having a suspected VAP based on worsening oxygenation or increased sputum combined with systemic inflammation (pyrexia and/or raised neutrophil count) and radiological features (new or progressive chest x-ray infiltrates), confirmed VAP required positive quantitative microbiological culture or molecular detection of a pathogenic organism.

Results: 64 COVID-19 positive patients required invasive ventilation, receiving a median 15 (IQR 10-22) days of ventilation and a total of 1017 ventilator days. 53 (83%) developed a suspected VAP, with 26 cases confirmed by microbiology. The incidence density of suspected VAP amongst all COVID-19 positive intubated patients was 52 cases per 1000 ventilator-days. ICU Mortality was 56% in this cohort, amongst those who did not develop suspected or confirmed VAP it was 29%. The organisms detected are shown in table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gram-Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staphylococcus aureus</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram-Negative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escherichia Coli</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterobacter sp.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemophilus influenzae</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klebsiella sp.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteus sp.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serratia liquificiens</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspergillus fumigatus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: VAP rates appear to be high amongst patients with COVID19, reflecting both their prolonged need for ventilation(1) and critical-illness induced immunosuppression(2). The rate reported here may reflect the diagnostic modalities used, as early on endotracheal aspirate (which over-estimates true incidence) (3) was used until we developed a safe system for bronchoscopic sampling. Gram-negative organisms predominate. The extent to which VAP mediates the high mortality seen remains uncertain but calls for antibiotic stewardship, vigilance, and detailed work in this area.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. NA

Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia in COVID-19: Does compliance phenotype impact on ventilatory management and outcomes?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000605

Introduction: An atypical behavior of ARDS caused by COVID-19 has been suggested, since several patients with profound hypoxemia had close to normal respiratory system compliance (Crs). However, data confirming this assumption are scarce, and there is still controversy on the most appropriate oxygenation and ventilation strategies for these patients.

Objectives: We performed a secondary analysis of an observational study to compare clinical features, ventilatory management and clinical outcomes in COVID-19 ARDS patients on mechanical ventilation (MV) with normal and low Crs.

Methods: From March 12th to April 8th 2020, a prospective, multicenter, observational, cohort study that enrolled patients with COVID-19 ARDS admitted to the ICU in 28 hospitals was performed, using a specifically designed online anonymized data acquisition system (Covid19.ubikaire.io). Inclusion criteria: > 18 y/o, intubated and MV, confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection from a respiratory tract sample using PCR-based tests, and ARDS, as defined by the Berlin criteria. Recorded data: demographics, ventilator parameters, adjunctive therapies, disease chronology (initiation of MV, ventilator-free-days, ICU-length-of-stay), discharge from ICU and 28-days in-hospital mortality. Patients were stratified as having normal Crs (≥ 50 ml/cmH2O) or low Crs (< 50 ml/cmH2O) according to baseline values. Descriptive variables were expressed as percentage, mean and standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR), as appropriate for each variable. To compare variables across groups, Student t-test or Mann-Whitney test and one-way ANOVA or Kruskal-Wallis test for numerical variables, and Chi squared test or Fisher exact test for categorical variables were used. Time to event curves were plotted using the Kaplan-Meier method and analyzed with log-rank test and univariable Cox regression analysis.

Results: A total number of 504 patients were included. From the 286 patients (56%) with Crs data, median baseline was 35 (28-48), 216 (75.5%) were classified as having low Crs and 70 (24.5%) as having normal Crs. The risk of 28-day mortality was not impacted by Crs. From MV and the probability of ICU discharge did not increase with normal Crs. The risk of 28-day mortality was not impacted by Crs.
Conclusion: We found a median baseline Crs similar to non-COVID-19 ARDS patients, and 75% of patients had low Crs right after initiation of MV. No differences were found in ventilation management and outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1000640
Pneumoniae in patient with Covid-19: Strategies to Decrease Patient’s Self-inflicted Lung Injury
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000640

Introduction: Spontaneous breathing in hypoxemic respiratory failure can lead to patient self-inflicted lung injury (P-SILI) due to various factors related to intense inspiratory effort with high transpulmonary pressures (1,2).

Objectives: To evaluate respiratory mechanics, Effort (PTP/min), Work of breathing (WOB), and delta muscle pressure (Dpms) in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia during mechanical ventilation (MV), with three ventilatory strategies during spontaneous ventilation, as well as in passive mode.

Methods: We have studied eleven patients with COVID-19 pneumonia mechanically ventilated during volume-controlled ventilation (CMV), pressure support ventilation (PSV) with inspiratory pressure 10/PEEP 10 cmH2O, airway pressure release ventilation (APRV) 20/0 cmH2O with expiratory time for 75% peak flow expiratory (Pes) and double CPAP (CPAPd) 20/10 cmH2O. Respiratory signals: Flow, airway pressure and volume were recorded from the Medibus protocol of the Evita Dräger ventilator, at 125 hzt, using personal software. The three components of the equation of motion for the respiratory system: elastance (Ers), Resistances (Rs) and total PEEP (PEEPm) were obtained in the passive mode using multiple linear regression. In support pressure, we use the inspiratory, expiratory occlusion manoeuvres for Ers, and the measurement of the time constant (t), as the time required to empty the lung 2/3 of its tidal volume to obtain Rs. In this way, the signals of Pressure Muscular, alveolar and total pressure were obtained. Parameters related to the respiratory drive, effort, work of breathing, and breathing pattern were calculated in each ventilatory mode, cycle by cycle. The clinical and demographic characteristics were collected. Data were analyzed for descriptive methods and expressed as mean±SD, coefficient of variation (CV) and medians (IRQ).

Results: N 11 cases. Sex M 7 (63%), Age (y): 63 ± 9.81. Died 4. ApacheII Score 18.92 (17.25-20.75). BMI 28.58 ± 2.43. MV, days 12 (5.25-21.7). P/F 194.8 ± 49.64 mmHg; FiO2 0.48 ± 0.08 mmHg. PCO2 53.09 ± 15.59 mmHg. ECMO-vv 1.

We have found an elevated respiratory driver in almost all patients COVID-19, associated with high inspiratory effort, although with wide dispersion. That is not controlled with any spontaneous

Conclusion: We have found an elevated respiratory driver in almost all patients COVID-19, associated with high inspiratory effort, although with wide dispersion. That is not controlled with any spontaneous
mode tested that resemble VNI; and this could be a cause of potential P-SILL.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000691
Low-PEEP strategy effect on mortality and ICU stay in SARS-COV-2 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000691

Introduction: COVID-19 is a pandemic associated with acute respiratory failure [1]. Management of critically ill COVID-19 patients with severe hypoxemia is associated with high mortality [2].

Objectives: To reduce ICU length-of-stay (LOS), mechanical ventilation (MV) and mortality implementing a standardized “care map”.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was conducted on consecutive COVID-19 patients admitted in ICU for severe pneumonia in our Center in Lugano. A standardized multidisciplinary approach was implemented to improve patients monitoring using a) uniform patient selection for ICU admission, b) a low-PEEP strategy and c) an enlarged pharmacologic venous thromboembolism (VTE) management.

1. Dyspnea, mental confusion or SpO2 less than 85% were criteria for ICU admission.
2. Ventilation approach employed low PEEP values (about 10 cmH2O in presence of lung compliance > 40 mL/cmH2O and FiO2 as needed. In presence of lower lung compliance (< 40 mL/cmH2O) PEEP value was increased to about 14 cmH2O.
3. Enlarged prophylactic anticoagulation (Enoxaparine 60 mg bid SC if weight > 80 Kg, Enoxaparine 40 mg bid SC if weight < 80 Kg, Unfractioned Heparin in case of AKI) with daily ultrasound Color-Doppler lower limbs and plasmatic D-dimer level monitoring was performed; in case of suspected or confirmed thromboembolism, treatment was switched to therapeutic anticoagulation (Enoxaparine 1 mg/kg bid SC – Unfractionated Heparin in case of AKI at 14 UI/Kg/day in perfusion, adapted according to anti-Xa values).

Results: From March 16th to April 12th 2020, 48 patients were pre- sented to be evaluated for ICU admission. Twenty-two of them were not admitted, they have been carefully monitored and presented a 100% of overall survival at 30 days. Forty-one patients were admitted to ICU: 26 from the Internal Medicine Department, 10 from Emergency Department and 5 transferred from other hospitals. Mean SAPS was 45 (SD 18.4), mean NEMS was 30 (SD 10.4). Thirty-four (82.9%) patients needed MV; low PEEP values based on BMI (PEEP 11 ± 3.8 (10-12) cmH2O if BMI < 30 kg/m2; PEEP 15 ± 3.26 (12-18) cmH2O if BMI > 30 kg/m2) was employed. Six patients (14.6%) presented major VTE phenomena. According to VTE prophylaxis strategy, 15 (36.5%) patients were treated through prophylaxis, 26 (63.4%) were managed by full therapeutic anticoagulation. No patient presented bleeding complication, nor clinical sign requiring anticoagulation removal.

Median duration of MV was 7 days; the median LOS was 9 days. After 4 weeks, 25 patients (61%) were discharged from ICU, 4 (9.7%) were still under MV, 2 were transferred to another hospital; ICU mortality rate was 24.3%. P/F ratio had daily improvement during first 72 hours (p < 0.0001).

Conclusion: Our multidisciplinary program allowed to reduce MV days, ICU LOS and mortality in COVID-19 critical care patients; a standardized “multimodal approach” could be the base for further specific patients’ management in this emergency clinical scenario.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. No funding has been required.

000759
Predictive models of postextubation respiratory failure and reintubation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000759

Introduction: Postextubation respiratory failure is associated with bad prognosis, leading to reintubation within 72 hours in up to 50% of cases. A model to identify which patients are at high risk of failure can be useful to improve outcome.

Objectives: To design a model to identify those patients with high risk of postextubation failure.

Methods: Post-hoc analysis of a randomized clinical trial (reference). Variables associated with postextubation respiratory failure and reintubation were tested by multiple logistic analyses. Then, using logit methodology, we designed models to predict postextubation respiratory failure and reintubation. We calculated the area under the curve (AUC) for each model.

Results: We analyzed 950 patients extubated after a successful SBT, 199 (21%) of them developed respiratory failure, and 104 (11%) needed reintubation. The variables related with postextubation respiratory failure were respiratory rate (RR) > 25‘ at the end of SBT (OR 1.73, p = 0.02), duration of MV > 4 days (OR 1.75, p = 0.001), SatO2/FiO2 < 240 (OR 1.89, p = 0.002), and neoplastic disease (OR 1.62, p = 0.02). Reintubation was only associated with duration of MV > 4 days (OR 1.86, p = 0.005) and RR > 25 at the end of SBT (OR 1.99, p = 0.002). The AUCs were low in both models (0.63 for respiratory failure and 0.60 for reintubation).

The model classified patients in 3 groups of risk for respiratory failure. The actual rate of respiratory failure in patients classified as low risk was 13%, 22% at middle risk and 34% at high risk of failure patients. The model also classified patients in 3 groups of risk for reintubation. The reintubation rate was 7% in patients in low risk, 14% in patients in middle risk, and 24% in patients in high risk of reintubation.

Conclusion: RR > 25 bpm, length of MV > 4 days, SatO2/FiO2 < 240 and neoplastic disease were related with higher postextubation respiratory failure. Only the length of MV > 4 days and RR > 25 were related with reintubation. Despite low AUC, both models for respiratory failure and reintubation identified 3 groups of patients with very different risks.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000773
Factors associated to mortality in COVID 19 patients on mechanical ventilation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000773
**Introduction:** Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation due to COVID-19 pneumonia has been the principal cause of admission to Intensive Care during the months of March, April, May and June in Europe.

**Objectives:** We present a sample with the factors that we have associated with mortality in patients on mechanical ventilation.

**Methods:** A retrospective, observational study was performed with all the patients admitted to the Intensive Medicine Service at a University Hospital with the diagnosis of Community-acquired pneumonia due to COVID-19.

Variables analysed age, sex, APACHE II, mechanical ventilation, length of stay, laboratory values, prone, neuromuscular blocking drugs, tracheostomy and mortality during their stay in intensive care.

**Results:** 90 patients were analysed. 40% (36/90) have been discharged. The sample has a mortality rate of 34.4% (31/90) and 25.1% (23/90) have been transferred.

Excluding the transferred patients, analysing the 67 patients who received complete treatment in our hospital; Length of stay 14±1±0, average age 60 years, APACHE II 14.3±5.2, 67.2% males. Average worst creatinine result 1.48±1.26 mg/dl, Average worst creatinine value 2310±3322 mg/l, Mean value of worst total bilirubin value 2±2.2 mg/dl. 100% of the patients required mechanical ventilation. 65.7% prone position, 74.6% neuromuscular blockers and 98.5% vasoactive drugs. Tracheostomy was performed in 45.3% of the patients. The table shows the values in the group of survivors and non-survivors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Survivors</th>
<th>Non survivors</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (Male)</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0.026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine Max.</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilirubine Max.</td>
<td>1836</td>
<td>2990</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin Max.</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV disease</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary disease</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>0.069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traqueostomy</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prone</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neur muscular Bloq.</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In our sample the need of prone position, neuromuscular blocking drugs in relation to distress severity have been related to increased mortality. Furthermore, acute renal failure, age and sex (male) are statistically significantly related factors.

**000806**

**Evaluation of a 6-hour trial of inverse-ratio Airway Pressure Release Ventilation (APRV) in Covid-19 pneumonia**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000806**

**Introduction:** Covid-19 pneumonia can lead to a severe respiratory failure requiring invasive ventilation. Inverse-ratio APRV is a ventilation mode in which Tidal Volume (VT) is delivered during a short decrease in pressure. The expiration phase is interrupted before the expiratory flow reaches zero (1). This refers to the concept of Time Controlled Adaptive Ventilation (TCAV) (2).

Inverse-ratio Airway Pressure Release Ventilation (APRV) was proposed as a ventilation mode for ARDS in a monocentric randomized study showing a reduction in ventilation time in the APRV group (3). We report our experience of switching patients from conventional ventilation (volume control or pressure support) to APRV in two French ICUs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Methods:** Seventeen consecutive patients who have completed a 6-hour APRV trial in April 2020 were studied (we excluded 3 patients on VV-ECMO and 3 who were unable to be maintained on APRV).

Initial APRV settings were: P-high 28 cmH2O, T-high 3.5 seconds, P-low 5 cmH2O and T-low 0.5 seconds. T-low was then immediately adjusted to obtain a sufficient tidal volume and the expiratory flow curve was observed to ensure an interruption of the release phase at around 50 to 75% of the peak expiratory flow. P-low was seldom set to 0 cmH2O due to concerns of alveolar pressure reaching the set P-low (in case of inappropriately long T-low) and was frequently set to 5 cmH2O as it was by Zhou et al (3). Within the first hour of APRV, blood gases were measured to detect an eventual increase in PaCO2 and if necessary, increase the respiratory rate (by decreasing T-high).

**Results:** The mean (± SD) PaO2/FiO2 ratio increased from 126 (± 28) to 178 (± 53) after 6 hours of APRV (p < 0.001). In 12/17 patients, the PF ratio increase was of more than 20%. Two patients presented a decrease of the PaO2/FiO2 ratio after 6 hours of APRV. Median (interquartile range) ventilation time before the APRV trial was of 14 (8-19) days. At baseline, 12 of the 17 patients were on Volume Assist Control and 5 patients were on Pressure Support. After 6 hours of APRV, the mean Tidal Volume was of 6.5 (± 1.7) ml. There was no significant hemodynamic impairment appearing during APRV and an eventual increase in PaCO2 during the first hour of APRV was managed by increasing respiratory rate (i.e. shortening Thigh) and/or increasing tidal volume (i.e. increasing T-low).

**Conclusion:** To conclude, in our severe ARDS covid19 patients, the use of inverse ratio APRV was well tolerated and associated with a marked improvement in oxygenation parameters. This could be explained by the high recruitability potential in some cases of Covid-19 associated ARDS (4,5).

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


Automatic Tube Compensation for spontaneous breathing trial- A systematic review and a network meta-analysis

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000818

Introduction: Spontaneous Breathing Trial (SBT) is an established test for evaluating the capability of the patient to breathe without ventilator assistance before a scheduled extubation. Among the different techniques used to perform SBT, Automatic Tube Compensation (ATC) calculates the pressure drop across the endotracheal tube and provides with a breathing assistance that counteracts it. In that way ATC acts as a within-cycle closed loop.

Methods: This NMA of published studies was conducted following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. Studies were identified using MEDLINE, Web of Science, Cochrane Register of Controlled Trials, LILACS and citation review. The inclusion criteria used the PICOC approach. Patients are adults, intubated in the ICU; Intervention is ATC; Control is either the patient (before/after) or another non-ATC intervention; Outcome is either physiologic or patient-centered depending on the category the study falls into. Two authors, independently and blinded each to other selected studies for inclusion (JB and PCF). Were excluded animal studies, other languages than English, Spanish or French, not in full text format (eg. abstract or letter were excluded) and reviews.

Data analysis. Publication bias was analyzed with a funnel plot for the endpoint extubation success. Relative risk (RR) with random-effects models were used to pool the effect of each SBT technique. Statistical significance was set at P < 0.05 with a two-tailed test. Data were analyzed using “netmeta” library from R package.

Results: Four of the 108 studies included the ATC as a SBT representing 769 patients and 4 interventions (ATC100%). Results were analyzed using “netmeta” library from R package.

Automatic Tube Compensation for spontaneous breathing trial: A systematic review and a network meta-analysis

000827

Association of peak inspiratory muscle pressure and work of breathing estimated by proportional assist ventilation during spontaneous breathing trial with duration of mechanical ventilation in patients who failed SBT: An interim report

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000927

Introduction: Ventilator-induced diaphragmatic dysfunction is known to be one of the main causes of prolonged mechanical ventilation. We hypothesized that patients who failed spontaneous breathing (SBT) due to respiratory muscle weakness are more likely to need longer duration of mechanical ventilator support than patients who failed SBT not because of inspiratory muscle weakness but because of abnormal respiratory mechanics which potentially improves rapidly. Proportional assist ventilation with load adjustable gain factors (PAV+) is the ventilator mode that calculates the pressure generated by patient (Pmus) and patient’s work of breathing (WOBpt) during spontaneous breathing.

Objectives: We investigated whether Pmus and WOBpt estimated by PAV+ during SBT can predict duration of mechanical ventilation in patients who failed SBT.

Methods: This study was a prospective observational study in a single center in Japan. All patients over 18 years old who were mechanically ventilated and failed SBT using a mode of PAV+ with a support rate 20% were included. We recorded the average of WOBpt, peak inspiratory pressure (Ppeak), compliance and resistance measured by PAV+ during SBT. We also calculated the peak Pmus from Ppeak. The primary outcome of this study was duration of mechanical ventilation. We defined prolonged mechanical ventilation group as patients who failed at least three weaning attempts or require > 7 days of weaning after the first SBT.

Results: A total of 20 mechanically ventilated patients who failed SBT were included. All patients weaned from mechanical ventilator eventually. 3 patients were categorized into prolonged mechanical ventilation group. The medians of WOB, Pmus, compliance and resistance measured by PAV+ were 0.600(0.580-0.780), 24.00(20.60-24.60), 48.00(41.00-56.00), 5.900(5.000-8.200) in prolonged mechanical ventilation group and 0.700(0.560-0.800), 21.60(11.72-25.60), 50.00(35.00-64.00), 5.900(5.000-8.200) in non-prolonged mechanical ventilation group respectively without significant differences in all variables.

Conclusion: There are no significant differences in Peak Pmus and WOBpt estimated by PAV+ during failed SBT between prolonged mechanical ventilation group and non-mechanical ventilation group in this interim analysis with the small sample size. Larger sample size is needed to further investigate our hypothesis.

001087

Linear approach of respiratory mechanics during VCMV and PCMV modes of mechanical ventilation

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001087

Introduction: Volume control (VCMV) and Pressure control mechanical ventilation (PCMV) are the main modes of respiratory mechanical support. Linear regression analysis (LRA) and Fourier analysis (FA) are methods used for the linear evaluation of Respiratory system (RS) mechanics, independently of the mode of ventilation and without intervening with the ventilators settings.

Objectives: The present study attempts a comparison of RS mechanics on linear basis between two different modes of mechanical ventilation (MV): VCMV and PCMV.

Methods: The Airway Pressure (Paw) and Flow (V) signals were digitally acquired from 25 intubated and mechanically ventilated patients in the Red Cross Hospital ICU. Data were recorded under VCMV and PCMV with stable ventilatory settings (frequency, VT and PEEP). The off-line analysis, included the tidal volume (VT) calculation by numerical integration of V and the application of LRA and FA with the aid of a specifically developed software. The calculated mechanical parameters were: RS Elastance (Ers), RS Resistance (Rrs), End Expiratory Pressure (EEP). The Error of the applied models (RMSD) according to both techniques were also evaluated. Comparisons for every index between the four applied instances were evaluated with the aid of Analysis of Variance (p = 0.05).

000927

Association of peak inspiratory muscle pressure and work of breathing estimated by proportional assist ventilation during spontaneous breathing trial with duration of mechanical ventilation in patients who failed SBT: An interim report

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000927

Introduction: Ventilator-induced diaphragmatic dysfunction is known to be one of the main causes of prolonged mechanical ventilation. We hypothesized that patients who failed spontaneous breathing (SBT) due to respiratory muscle weakness are more likely to need longer duration of mechanical ventilator support than patients who failed SBT not because of inspiratory muscle weakness but because of abnormal respiratory mechanics which potentially improves rapidly. Proportional assist ventilation with load adjustable gain factors (PAV+) is the ventilator mode that calculates the pressure generated by patient (Pmus) and patient’s work of breathing (WOBpt) during spontaneous breathing.

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Results: A total of 20 mechanically ventilated patients who failed SBT were included. All patients weaned from mechanical ventilator eventually. 3 patients were categorized into prolonged mechanical ventilation group. The medians of WOB, Pmus, compliance and resistance measured by PAV+ were 0.600(0.580-0.780), 24.00(20.60-24.60), 48.00(41.00-56.00), 5.900(5.000-8.200) in prolonged mechanical ventilation group and 0.700(0.560-0.800), 21.60(11.72-25.60), 50.00(35.00-64.00), 5.900(5.000-8.200) in non-prolonged mechanical ventilation group respectively without significant differences in all variables.

Conclusion: There are no significant differences in Peak Pmus and WOBpt estimated by PAV+ during failed SBT between prolonged mechanical ventilation group and non-mechanical ventilation group in this interim analysis with the small sample size. Larger sample size is needed to further investigate our hypothesis.
### Results:
All calculated indices are presented in the following table as mean values ± standard deviations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ventilation Mode</th>
<th>Ers (LRA)</th>
<th>Ers (FA)</th>
<th>Rrs (LRA)</th>
<th>Rrs (FA)</th>
<th>EEP (LRA)</th>
<th>EEP (FA)</th>
<th>RMSD (LRA)</th>
<th>RMSD (FA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCV</td>
<td>31.4±12.82</td>
<td>31.7±14.16</td>
<td>3.0±5.89</td>
<td>3.8±7.8</td>
<td>6.4±4.7</td>
<td>6.2±4.3</td>
<td>1.7±0.8</td>
<td>1.5±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMV</td>
<td>31.6±13.68</td>
<td>31.4±14.16</td>
<td>12.9±4.67</td>
<td>7.4±3.8</td>
<td>1.5±0.6</td>
<td>1.4±0.7</td>
<td>0.8±0.5</td>
<td>0.5±0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Methods:
A typical ICU patient room was simulated and equipped at the Berliner Simulations- und Trainingszentrum at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (full data set) and at the Inselspital Bern (distances to devices measured only). A resuscitation manikin was used to simulate the patient position in bed. Stimulations were performed using the PowerMag Research 100 Stimulator® (MAGS & More GmbH, Munich, Germany) with a butterfly coil (PM7D/70-pCool) generating a single, biphasic stimulus at maximum intensity. Magnetic field intensity B in Tesla [T] was measured at various distances vertical to the center of the coil (table 1) and raw data analyzed. Furthermore, possible heating of the metal bed rails and ECG electrodes was investigated using 85% intensity, a frequency of 20 Hertz [Hz] and 2-3 sequences with a length of 5-10 s and 0 mm safety distance.

### Magnetic field intensity was measured at six points vertical to the center of the stimulation coil and once horizontal to the center of the stimulation coil. Stimulation was done with 100% power. Magnetic field intensity B is measured in Tesla [T].

### Table 1. Measurements of the magnetic field intensity at different distances with a single stimulus at 100% power.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Power [%]</th>
<th>Stimulus</th>
<th>Distance [mm]</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>vertical to center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>vertical to center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>vertical to center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>vertical to center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>vertical to center of the stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>horizontal to stimulation coil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References:
Conclusion: In standard ICU environment, the distance of magnetically-sensitive objects to the coil can be lower than 1 m. The magnetic fields in this experiment declined with distance from the stimulator. The measurements are providing relevant information for the risk-benefit assessment of magnetic coils to stimulate the phrenic nerve in an ICU environment. With only 40% intensity necessary to generate sufficient tidal volume [3], field intensity should be even lower in clinical practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin received a grant from STIMIT AG, Nidau, Switzerland to support this investigation. STIMIT AG was allowed to give feedback to the study design, and be present at the data collection. STIMIT AG had no role in analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

000279
Individualization of tidal volume based on lung compliance in flow controlled ventilation - a step towards personalized medicine in artificial ventilation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000279

Introduction: Flow-controlled ventilation (FCV) guarantees a constant gas flow during in- and expiration. Coupled with direct intratracheal pressure measurement, it allows for a precise determination of dynamic lung compliance and ventilation can be adjusted accordingly. Objectives: Aim of this study was to investigate correlation of observed tidal volume and lung compliance in individualized FCV, based on dynamic compliance measurements, compared to state-of-the-art pressure-controlled ventilation (PCV) in lung healthy- and lung injured animals.

Methods: Anaesthetized pigs were ventilated with either FCV or PCV over a period of 10 hours in lung healthy animals (FCV n = 6, PCV n = 6), and 2 hours after oecil acid induced acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) (FCV n = 8, PCV n = 8). FCV was individualized with compliance guided positive end-expiratory (PEEP) and peak pressure settings. PCV was performed with a PEEP of 5 cmH2O and a peak pressure set to achieve a tidal volume of 6-8 ml/kg in lung healthy animals and a tidal volume of 6 ml/kg and compliance guided PEEP titration in lung injured animals as a lung protective low tidal volume strategy. Tidal volume and pressure measurement were recorded directly from the respirator; compliance was calculated subsequently. As a surrogate parameter of lung stiffness compliance was then correlated to applied tidal volume.

Results: Overall, applied tidal volume showed a significant correlation to lung compliance (r = 0.704, p < 0.001) in individualized FCV. Lung healthy animals showed a slightly lower correlation (r = 0.375, p = 0.0014) compared to ARDS animals (r = 0.734, p < 0.001). Obviously, in PCV there was no correlation since tidal volume was set to 6-8 ml/kg in lung healthy and 6 ml/kg in lung injured animals.

Conclusion: Compliance guided pressure settings in FCV showed a significant correlation of applied tidal volume to lung compliance as a surrogate parameter of lung stiffness. Thus, we hypothesize individualized FCV to be a more lung protective ventilation strategy as applied tidal volumes are based on individualized lung mechanics measurements. "One size does not fit all", even if best standard of care low tidal volume ventilation is performed.

000450
Increased non-aerated lung in healthy swines undergoing progressive decrease of respiratory rate with ECCO2R
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000450

Introduction: Extracorporeal CO2 Removal (ECCO2R) allows ultra-protective ventilation avoiding hypercapnia and thus can be used in ARDS patients with the aim of reducing the ventilation load to the lungs [1], but only a few studies investigated the effects of a decrease in respiratory rate during ECCO2R.
**Objectives:** The aims of our study were to investigate the effects of decreased respiratory rate during ECCO2R on respiratory mechanics, oxygenation, hemodynamics and the development of atelectasis.

**Methods:** Six female pigs were sedated and paralyzed; volume-controlled ventilation was set with TV 10 ml/Kg, PEEP 5 cmH2O and respiratory rate (RR) 24 bpm. Animals underwent surgical cannulation of the right iliac and jugular veins, then were placed on v-v ECLS (iliac-jugular) with extracorporeal blood flow maintained at 1.5 L/min. RR was reduced in three 8-hours steps to 18, 12 and 6 breaths/min while keeping same TV and PEEP, inspiratory time was adapted to maintain I:E ratio worsened. Mean pulmonary artery pressure rose. Quantitative analysis of CT scan showed increased in the non-aerated lung compartment but no change in total lung weight. (See Table).

**Results:** All animals completed the study protocol. During progressive decrease of RR the VCO2 of the membrane lung progressively increased to maintain a stable PaCO2. The mechanical power progressively diminished, while plateau pressure, compliance and PaO2/FiO2 ratio worsened. Mean pulmonary artery pressure rose. Quantitative analysis of CT scan showed increased in the non-aerated lung compartment but no change in total lung weight. (See Table).

**Conclusion:** In healthy lungs decreased respiratory rate during ECCO2R allows a reduction of the ventilatory load to the lung at the expense of worsening oxygenation and compliance. Atelectasis progressively develop mainly in the dependent lung.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Introduction:** Transmission of infectious diseases through patient-derived aerosols (bioaerosols) may increase the prevalence of a disease in the general population[1]. In the critical care setting, aerosol therapy is often used concurrently with mechanical ventilation in the treatment of patients with respiratory issues[2]. If these patients are infectious, the breaking of the circuit, and subsequent potential release of patient-derived bioaerosols during nebuliser refill has the potential to impact the health of caregivers near the patient. Unlike conventional nebulisers, the Aerogen Solo nebuliser is designed to not require breaking of the ventilator circuit when refilling.

**Objectives:** To assess the potential for release of patient-derived bioaerosols into the local environment during drug refill of a vibrating mesh nebuliser (VMN) during mechanical ventilation.

**Methods:** A mechanical ventilator (Bellavista, IMT Medical, Switzerland), with a dual limb circuit (RT200, Fisher & Paykel, New Zealand) incorporating a heat moisture exchange filter (HMEF) (Intersurgical, UK) at the patient side of the wye, was set to simulate an adult ventilation pattern (Vt 500 mL, 15BPM, & I:E Ratio 1:1). A VMN (Aerogen Solo, Aerogen, Ireland) was placed between the HMEF and the endotracheal tube (ETT) (8.0mm, Flexicare, UK). An experimental breath actuated aerosol generator was placed at the end of the ETT to generate simulated exhaled patient-derived bioaerosol, using saline (0.9%, Braun, Germany). Aerosol concentrations of particles sized between 0.5 and 20 µm per cm3 were recorded using two Aerodynamic Particle Sizers (APS, Model 3321, TSI Inc., US) positioned at 30 cm and 90 cm from the nebuliser. Test runs were 10 minutes in duration. An initial two-minute period without simulated bioaerosol being generated established ambient aerosol concentrations. Testing (in triplicate) was completed with the VMN in the circuit with the silicon medication cup cap opened or closed for the 10-minute test period.

**Results:** Results are illustrated in Figure 1.

![Figure 1: Particle concentration across all tests](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-019-05567-4)
Conclusion: There was no increase in particle concentration noted over the 10-minute test period. Results on average ranged from 6–10 particles per cm3 across all tests at both distances and were in line with ambient levels, also recorded at 6–10 particles per cm3. Variations in ambient levels are due to localised conditions during testing. The results of this study confirm that there is no release of patient-derived bioaerosol through the VMN with the silicon plug opened or closed during mechanical ventilation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. This work was funded by Aerogen Ltd, Ireland

000644

Transvenous-stimulated diaphragm contractions combined with mechanical ventilation reduce systemic inflammation in healthy pigs

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000644

Introduction: Mechanical ventilation damages the alveolar epithelium through increased and cyclical stretch due to non-physiological distribution of tidal volume.1 This, combined with shear stress from repeated opening and closing of alveoli in atelectatic regions, triggers the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-1β, IL-6 and IL-8.2 Excessive cyclic stretch induces cell membrane leakage, causing a spillover of intracellular contents.3 In addition, injured cells release alarmins that elicit a local pro-inflammatory response.4 If the injury to lung epithelium progresses such that the compartmentalization of the alveoli is lost, these cytokines translocate into the circulation and have the potential to cause secondary organ injury that leads to multi-system organ failure, which contributes to morbidity and mortality.5 This is known as biotrauma. Contracting the diaphragm during mechanical ventilation may reduce atelectrauma that leads to biotrauma.

Objectives: We studied diaphragm contractions elicited by transvenous phrenic nerve stimulation (TTDN) delivered in synchrony with the inspiratory phase of ventilation as a method to reduce lung injury and biotrauma in a sedated, preclinical, ICU model with non-injured lungs.

Methods: Human-sized pigs were sedated and ventilated under mock ICU conditions for 50 hours. They were ventilated with protective volume control, and one group received temporary transvenous diaphragmaticneurostimulation during inspiration on every second breath (MV + TTDN group) while the other did not (MV group). IL-1β, IL-6 and IL-8 were measured in BAL fluid and serum.

Results: BAL fluid concentrations were not significantly different for IL-1β (14324 pg/ml MV group vs. 9287 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.27), IL-6 (210.7 pg/ml MV group vs. 186.2 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.67), or IL-8 (15814 pg/ml MV group vs. 15401 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.99). Serum concentrations were significantly lower in the MV + TTDN group for IL-1β (434.6 pg/ml MV group vs. 104.1 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.02), IL-6 (182.1 pg/ml MV group vs. 30.7 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.03), and IL-8 (35.0 pg/ml MV group vs. 13.2 pg/ml MV + TTDN group, p = 0.04).

Conclusion: BAL washings were taken both at the start and the end of the experiment and the initial wash may have initiated an inflammatory process that was independent of ventilation, confounding the BAL cytoke results. Transvenous phrenic-nerve-stimulated diaphragm contraction combined with protective mechanical ventilation on every second breath reduced biotrauma in healthy porcine lungs that were ventilated for 50 hours.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

6. Mitacs
7. Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation
8. Lungspace Medical Inc.

000721

In vivo performance of the OxVent rapidly manufactured ventilator

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000721

Introduction: The OxVent [1] is a low-cost volume control mechanical ventilator designed to be rapidly produced at scale to meet a large and sudden increase in ventilators’ need, like during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is based on a pneumatic core component driven by compressed air flow controlled by a solenoid valve. Near-patient spirometry measures delivered tidal volume and solenoid actuation is adjusted by a closed feedback loop. Expiration occurs through a commodity mechanical PEEP valve. The device has been characterised on the bench to meet the UK rapidly manufactured ventilator system requirements [2].

Objectives: Determine the performance of the OxVent in unjured and lung-lavaged pigs.

Methods: Variations in PEEP and tidal volume were set on the OxVent in a protocolised manner both before and after surfactant depletion with saline lung lavage in 4 anaesthetised and paralysed pigs (30 kg; mean (SD)). Set tidal volumes (VTset) ranged from 170 to 340 mL (6 to 11 mL/kg). Respiratory rate (RRset) was set at either 16 or 28 min-1 to maintain minute ventilation around 170 mL/min/kg. PEEP was varied between 5, 10 and 20 cmH2O (PEEPset). Airway flow and pressure waveforms were measured independently (Datex-Ohmeda Capnomac Ultima) and analysed to determine actual tidal volume (VTact) and PEEP (PEEPact). End-expiratory lung volume (EELV) was measured using a sulphur hexafluoride washout technique.

Results: Lung lavage decreased respiratory system compliance from 22 (5) to 15 (5) cmH2O/L/s (P < 0.001), EELV from 570 (158) to 272 (97) mL (P = 0.04), and PaCO2/FiO2 ratio from 438 (39) mmHg to 298 (133) mmHg (P = 0.11), all measured at PEEP 5 cmH2O. Airway resistance was 7.8 (2.8) cmH2O/L/s.
VT was correlated with VSet (R² = 0.71, gradient of regression line 1.02), mean bias was -1 [1 to 9] mL (mean [95% confidence interval]) with 95% limits of agreement -90 [-107 to -73] mL and 88 [71 to 105] mL. PEEP was 3.9 (1.2), 8.1 (1.9) and 13.7 (14.8) cmH₂O for PEEP set of 5, 10 and 20 cmH₂O respectively and Airway pressure did not drop to PEEP immediately during expiration, but remained 2.7 [2.5 to 2.9] and 1.1 [1.0 to 1.2] cmH₂O above PEEP set respectively at 50% and 75% of the expiratory period. End-expiratory flow was 50 (17) and 88 (15) mL/s respectively at PEEP set 5 and 20 cmH₂O.

The presence of lung injury did not alter any outcome measure.

**Conclusion:** The OxVent delivered tidal volumes and PEEP similar to those set over a wide range in uninjured pigs and those with a saline-lavage lung injury model. The commodity PEEP valve was unable to maintain PEEP at the set value and our tests identified an expiratory flow limitation, which was not apparent on bench-top testing. This flow limitation was PEEP-dependent, suggesting that the valve was the culprit. The system has since been redesigned following profiling of the valve. Rapidly developed safety critical devices for pandemic use should still be thoroughly tested *in vivo* over a range of typical usage scenarios to mitigate all possible risks to patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. This work was supported by the King’s Together Multi and Interdisciplinary Research Scheme {Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund}.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

Methods: We conducted a non-inferiority randomized controlled trial comparing 30-minute T-piece SBT and 30-minute SBT with PSV (PS 6 cmH2O and PEEP 5 cmH2O) in mechanically ventilated patients with EFL who were considered as readines to wean. The primary outcome was successful extubation (72-hour ventilator free after extubation). Secondary outcomes were re-intubation rate, time to re-intubation, and a success rate of SBT.

Results: A total of 40 ventilated patients with EFL were recruited. The majority of them were male (62.5%) with the median age of 72(IQR 21) years. The most common cause of acute respiratory failure was the intrapulmonary cause (67%). The eligible patients were randomized into 2 groups: 21 patients in the T-piece group and 19 patients in the PSV group. The success rates of extubation were not significantly different between 2 groups: 85.71% in the T-piece group and 84.21% in the PSV group, p = 0.62. There were no significant differences in the re-intubation rate (9.52% in the T-piece group VS 5.26% in the PSV group, p = 0.54), time to re-intubation (41 hours in the T-piece group VS 6.5 hours in the PSV group, p = 0.221) and the SBT success rate (95.24% in the T-piece group VS 89.47% in the PSV group, p = 0.462).

Conclusion: Among the patients with EFL, the 30-minute T-piece SBT was non-inferior to the 30-minute SBT with PSV in terms of the successful extubation, successful SBT, re-intubation rate and time to re-intubation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001100

Effect of Fully-automated versus Non-automated Ventilation on Mechanical Power of Ventilation in COVID-19 – an observational crossover study

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Introduction: Patients with severe coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) often need admission to an intensive care unit (ICU) for invasive ventilation [1]. This new disease often challenged the caregiver to initiate ventilation in a lung protective manner. The ‘mechanical power of ventilation’ (MP), a summary variable that includes all components that play a role in worsening of lung injury, is associated with outcome in patients with ARDS from another cause. Fully-automated ventilation has been shown to reduce MP in patients not having COVID-19 [2]. Whether fully-automated ventilation affects MP in COVID-19 patients is uncertain.

Objective: The aim of this study is to compare MP under INTELLiVENT–ASV, a fully-automated mode of ventilation, versus conventional ventilation in COVID-19 patients.

Methods: Observational crossover study performed in the ICU in the Reinier de Graaf hospital in Delft, The Netherlands, during the first months of the outbreak from March till May 2020. Ventilation variables and parameters, necessary to calculate MP, were collected in 31 invasively ventilated COVID-19 patients—2 hours during pressure controlled ventilation (conventional ventilation) and 2 hours during INTELLiVENT–ASV (fully-automated ventilation). During conventional ventilation, tidal volume (VT), peak and driving pressure (Peep and ΔP), and respiratory rate (RR) were set by the caregivers strictly following the local guideline for invasive ventilation. During fully-automated ventilation, these settings were under control of the ventilator, and a target etCO2 and SpO2 was set as targeted with conventional ventilation. MP was calculated using the following equation [3]: 0.098 * VT * RR * (Peep-½ * ΔP).

Mean MP during conventional ventilation and fully-automated were compared using paired T-test; a p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Mean MP under conventional ventilation was 31.5 J/min (SD 13.9) and 22.4 J/min (SD 9.2) under fully-automated ventilation (mean difference 9.1 J/min; 95%-confidence interval 6.1 to 12.2, P = < 0.0001). Individual data are shown in the figure.

Conclusion: INTELLiVENT–ASV is superior to conventional ventilation with respect to the amount of energy transferred from the ventilator to a patient’s respiratory system in invasively ventilated COVID-19 patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000302

Why recording ideal body weight matters

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Introduction: ARDSNet demonstrated 22% increased mortality in patients ventilated at 11.8 ml/kg rather than 6.2 ml/kg, with the promotion of lung inflammation as a possible mechanism for its deleterious effects [1]. Lung protective ventilation however, depends on the
correct assessment of the patient’s Ideal Body Weight (IBW). Measurement and accurate recording of IBW is, therefore, of fundamental importance in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), to enable implementation of lung protection strategies.

**Objectives:** Assessment of recording of patient weight in a UK District General Hospital ICU, with analysis of implications in discrepancies between recorded weight and IBW as measured by ulna-length, on lung-protective ventilation strategies.

**Methods:** Collection of recorded weights for 49 patients admitted to ICU between 06/11/2019–27/11/2019 and comparison to IBW using ulna-length measurement to calculate IBW.

**Results:** IBW was not the recorded weight in any patients (22 female; 27 male), with only actual body weight (ABW) recorded, derived from visual estimation, measured weight, or from pre-admission notes. The recorded weight was, on average, 1.3 times higher than IBW as derived from ulna-length measurement. Had 8 ml/kg tidal volumes been used on patients at the recorded weight, the mean equivalent tidal volume delivered would have been 10.5 ml/kg of IBW (median 9.92 ml/kg), giving an average higher tidal volume of 147 ml. For the 16 obese patients in the sample (BMI > 30) the corresponding values were 13.04 ml/kg of IBW and 296 ml.

**Conclusion:** In the UK, 28.7% of the population are obese (BMI > 30) with 3.6% morbidity obese (BMI > 40) [2], constituting around 20% of ICU admissions [3]. Obese individuals are more prone to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome [4] due to de-recruitment and atelectasis as well as a decreased Functional Residual Capacity [5], and thus have been posited as a population requiring more aggressive implementation of ventilation protection strategies. Yet this is precisely the population most prone to erroneous recording of their IBW, and thus, overventilation, due to failure to proactively record IBW rather than ABW. Whether through ulna-length derived values or through direct measurement of patient height, recording of IBW with a standardised method should be a high priority for any patients admitted to ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000105** Change in lung impedance monitored by electrical impedance tomography during bronchoalveolar lavage in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000105**

**Introduction:** Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) is a useful tool for the diagnostic evaluation and often performed under mechanical ventilation. The risks of BAL in hypoxemic patients are shunt caused by administrated fluid and/or loss of lung aeration during procedure, resulting in impairment of oxygenation. In mechanically ventilated patients positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) could maintain lung volume during BAL, however, the impact of BAL on regional ventilation and aeration has not been fully investigated. Electrical impedance tomography (EIT) can evaluate lung volume, regional ventilation non-invasively in a real-time at the bedside. Fluid instillation in the lung decreases impedance value.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to examine the change in lung impedance throughout the BAL procedure in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) patients.

**Methods:** The moderate ARDS patients with bilateral ground-glass opacity were included. All patients were ventilated with pressure-controlled ventilation with PEEP of 5 to 10 cmH2O. We monitored end-expiratory lung impedance (EELI), which is impedance value at the end of expiration and corresponds to end-expiratory lung volume. The measurements were performed at four time points, (1) before BAL, (2) during fiberoptic examination, (3) after instillation of fluid for lavage, (4) 15 min after completion of BAL. The value of EELI at before BAL was defined as baseline, and changes in EELI from at before BAL were calculated at each time point and expressed as a percentage of tidal impedance change at before BAL. The change in EELI was analyzed by one-way ANOVA with repeated measures and Turkey test as post-hoc analysis. PaO2/FiO2 ratio before and after BAL was compared by paired t-test.

**Results:** Five patients were included. The entire procedure was finished within 20 min in all cases. Mean collected volume of fluid was 45% of administered fluid. EELI significantly changed during the entire course of the procedure (P = 0.024). EELI at after instillation of fluid for lavage was significantly decreased from at before BAL (mean values: 45 ± 16%, P = 0.013). However, EELI was recovered gradually after removal of bronchoscopy towards the level of at baseline, showing no significant difference at 15 min after completion of BAL (mean values: −43 ± 16%, P = 0.103) compared to at before BAL. Mean difference in PaO2/FiO2 ratio between before and after BAL was −4 ± 20 (95% confidence interval, −60 to 52) and no significant difference was detected.

**Conclusion:** Lung impedance value significantly decreased during BAL, probably due to saline instillation, collapse in the lung during the procedure etc. However, it recovered promptly resulting in maintenance of oxygenation.

**000325** Early ventilator-induced diaphragmatic dysfunction in polytraumatized patients

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000325**

**Introduction:** Pulmonary dysfunction in trauma patients may be induced by a variety of causes. In addition to the trauma-related etiologies, mechanical ventilation itself may contribute to the deterioration of respiratory function through ventilator induced lung injury or the impairment of respiratory muscle function. Ventilator-induced diaphragmatic dysfunction (VIDD) is an entity induced by the inactivity during invasive mechanical ventilation, associated with a profound loss of diaphragm muscle mass.

**Methods:** In order to assess the incidence of VIDD in polytrauma patients we performed an observational, retrospective, longitudinal study which included 24 polytraumatized patients, who were mechanically ventilated for at least 48 h and underwent two chest CT scans for clinical reasons during their ICU stay. Diaphragmatic thickness was measured by two independent radiologists on coronal and axial images, at the level of celiac plexus. Statistical analysis was performed using MedCalc 14.1, applying T-test and correlation tests.

**Results:** Mean age in the study group was 59 years old, APACHE II score had a mean value of 19 and the Injury severity score 35. The mean duration between chest CT scans was 7 days. The thickness of the diaphragm was significantly decreased on both the left and right sides (left side: −0.82 mm axial p = 0.034; −0.79 mm coronal p = 0.05; right side: −0.94 mm axial p = 0.016; −0.91 coronal p = 0.013). In addition, we obtained a positive correlation between...
the number of days of mechanical ventilation and the difference between the two measurements of the diaphragm thickness on both sides ($r = 0.5; p = 0.02$). There was no statistically significant correlation between the body mass indexes on admission, use of vitamin C or N-acetyl cysteine and the differences of diaphragmatic thickness.

**Conclusion:** Considering prioritization of life-threatening injuries in the trauma care, secondary dysfunctions such as VIDD are often overlooked. This study provides evidence of early impairment of diaphragm after mechanical ventilation in polytraumatized patients. Moreover, we obtained that a prolonged period of mechanical ventilation is proportional with the loss of diaphragmatic thickness.

**000360**

A bench assessment of the resistance of expiratory valve of current ICU ventilators in dynamic conditions

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**Introduction:** We hypothesized that the lack of benefit of low vs. high positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome may partly come from a difference in the dynamic behavior of the active expiratory valve in ICU ventilators.

**Objectives:** Our goal was to compare the resistance of the expiratory valve across current ICU ventilators on the bench.

**Methods:** Seven current ICU ventilators (CS, C6, Carescap, PB980, ServoU, V500 and V680) were attached to an ASL 5000 lung model set in passive condition with compliance 20 ml/cmH2O and resistance 5 cmH2O/L/s. Ventilators were set in volume-controlled mode with a tidal volume of 0.8 L and respiratory rate of 10 breaths/min. Flow and pressure were measured just before the exhalation valve. PEEP was set at 5, 10 and 15 cmH2O. Flow and pressure signals were acquired at 200 Hz (Biopac 150). On three consecutive breaths the instantaneous expiratory resistance was computed as the pressure drop to atmosphere divided by the flow. The valve opening delay was measured as the maximal slope of pressure-flow relationship from zero flow to peak flow. Finally, the time spent with PEEP above or below the set value, ie the pressure-time product (PTP) was computed. The median value of instantaneous expiratory resistance was taken as the primary end-point. Median (1st–3rd quartiles) were compared by two-factor ANOVA. P-value was set to < 0.0007 to take into account the number of comparisons done.

**Results:** The mean instantaneous expiratory resistance was significantly different between ventilators and PEEP with a significant interaction between them. Therefore, ventilators were compared at each PEEP. Between CS, C6, Carescap, PB980, ServoU, V500 and V680, the median expiratory resistance was 3.9 (3.5–4.7), 3.0 (3.0–3.1), 20.9 (15.8–24.9), 27.4 (26.5–43.2), 13.8 (13.6–13.9), 4.4 (4.0–4.6) and 34.3 (33.7–33.8) cmH2O/L/s, respectively at PEEP= 0.0007. Over all PEEP, the corresponding opening delay was 0.080 (0.077–0.082), 0.082 (0.080–0.085), Carescap 0.110 (0.105–0.110), 0.100 (0.085–0.015), 0.072 (0.062–0.072), 0.145 (0.115–0.150) and 0.075 (0.070–0.080), respectively. Over all PEEP PTP was 2.8 (2.1–2.4), 2.7 (2.1–2.3), 3.6 (3.0–3.7), 2.7 (2.1–2.3) and 5.7 (5.0–5.9) cmH2O.

**Conclusion:** We found on the bench that the resistance of active expiratory valve significantly differ between seven current ICU ventilators.

**000361**

Sharing ventilators in the Covid-19 pandemics. A bench study

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**Introduction:** COVID-19 pandemics has set the healthcare system to a shortage of ventilators. Among the strategies to overcome this burden one is to divide the same ventilator to more than one patient.

**Objectives:** We aimed at assessing tidal volume (VT) delivery and air recirculation during expiration when one ventilator is divided to 2 patients. We designed the study to mimic nonsymmetrical impairment in respiratory mechanics.

**Methods:** We performed a bench study in a research lab taking part of a University medical ICU. Four ventilators (V500, Servo-I, Monnarti680 and Elisee150) were attached to A and B test-lungs (QuickLung) through a dedicated flow-splitter (Michelin, France). A 50 mL/cmH2O Compliance (C) and 5 cmH2O/L/s Resistance (R) were set in both (C1 condition), C50Rp20 in A/C20Rp20 in B (C2), C20Rp20 in A/C10Rp20 in B (C3), and C50Rp20 in A/C20RPs in B (C4). Each ventilator was set in volume-controlled (VCV) and pressure-controlled (PCV) mode targeting 0.8L as delivered global volume. VT was measured from a pneumotachograph placed immediately before each lung. Values are median (1st–3rd quartiles) and compared between ventilators by Kruskal-Wallis test in each condition.

**Results:** In VCV VT was greater in A than in B by a factor of 1.83 (1.22–2.07), 2.14 (1.68–2.15), and 1.65 (1.27–1.67) for C2, C3 and C4 conditions, setting A to risk of overdistension. In PCV targeted VT was maintained in all lung for A in C2 (0.38L (0.32–0.50L)) and C4 (0.44L (0.416–0.454)), but not in C3 (0.16L (0.169–0.368)). The corresponding VT in B were 0.23L (0.14–0.34), 0.32L (0.18–0.338) and 0.09L (0.08–0.18), respectively. Recirculated air was substantial in VCV, 53 mL in C4, setting risk to cross-infection, but negligible in PCV.

**Conclusion:** Dedicating one ventilator to two or three patients is feasible. For safety reasons, due to dependence of VT to C and risk of cross-contamination, the ventilator should be set in PCV in order to maintain adequate in VT at least in one patient when C and/or Rp changes abruptly and monitoring of VT should be done carefully.

**000543**

The assessment of esophageal pressure using different devices: a validation study

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**Introduction:** Esophageal pressure monitoring could help clinicians to better tailor ARDS-patients ventilatory setting, to reduce the risk of VILI; however, it has been mainly used in clinical research and not in daily clinical practice, mostly because of technical difficulties and the inability to obtain easy and accurate measurements. Recently, an automatic monitoring system (Optivent, Sidam Srl, Modena, Italy), able to directly measure both airway pressure and esophageal pressure, has been released.

**Objectives:** Aim of this study was to compare measurements of respiratory mechanics in ARDS patients by using a dedicated manual device, assumed as gold standard, with those obtained by two other systems: Optivent and a bedside equipment. We focused on end-expiratory esophageal pressure, end-expiratory transpulmonary pressure and lung stress.

**Methods:** Forty mechanically ventilated sedated and paralyzed ARDS patients admitted in the intensive care unit (ICU) from February to September 2019, were enrolled. Patients were ventilated with a tidal volume between 6–8 ml/kg of predicted body weight and a respiratory rate to maintain an arterial pH between 7.30 and 7.45. Esophageal volume between 6–8 ml/kg of predicted body weight and a respiratory rate to maintain an arterial pH between 7.30 and 7.45. Esophageal pressure was measured by using a radiopaque catheter equipped with a balloon (Nutrivent, Sidam Srl, Modena, Italy). Measurements of the airway pressure and esophageal pressure during end-inspiratory and end-expiratory pauses were performed at three levels of PEEP, randomly applied: clinical level, 50% higher and 50% lower.
• **Optivent system**: Optivent is an automatic self-calibrating system composed by a touchscreen monitor directly connected to the patient with a real time airway and esophageal pressure measurements;
• **Bedside system**: This hybrid system is composed by the ventilator and the patient’s hemodynamic monitor. Airway pressure was measured by the mechanical ventilator and esophageal pressure by a pressure transducer (TruWave/VAMP Plus, Edwards Lifesciences, Unterschleissheim) connected to a hemodynamic monitor.
• **Dedicated system**: The airway and esophageal pressure were measured by pressure transducers and recorded on a personal computer using a specific software for subsequent analysis (Col- ligo, Elektro, Milan, Italy).

**Results:** End-expiratory esophageal pressure measured by the dedicated system, the bedside system and Optivent were 10.0 ± 4.2, 10 ± 4 and 9.9 ± 4.0 cmH2O, respectively. End-expiratory transpulmonary pressures, respectively computed with data acquired by the dedicated system, bedside system and Optivent, were -1.6 ± 4.6, -1.4 ± 4.5 and -1.2 ± 4.3 cmH2O. Lung Stress values, respectively computed with data acquired by dedicated system, bedside system and Optivent, were 14.0 ± 5.8, 15.0 ± 6.6, and 15.0 ± 6.1 cmH2O. Both Optivent and the bedside system exhibited a high correlation with the dedicated system for all the three investigated variables. The respective bias and limits of agreement between the dedicated system and Optivent and between the dedicated system and the bedside system were as follows: end-expiratory esophageal pressure, 0.25 cmH2O, (−0.4 to 0.9) and −0.1 cmH2O (−1.9 to 1.7); end-expiratory transpulmonary pressure, −0.6 cmH2O (−1.7 to 0.4) and −0.4 cmH2O (−2.2 to 1.5); lung stress −0.9 cmH2O (−3.0 to 1.10) and −1.5 cmH2O (−4.4 to 1.4).

**Conclusion:** Both Optivent and the bedside system present clinical acceptability in measuring esophageal pressure and its derived variables. The possibility to apply one of these systems could make the measurement of esophageal pressure easier, with a consequent wider application in clinical practice.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000655**

Assessing the health and cost benefits of a temporary IMCU with advanced telemonitoring for the treatment of Covid-19 patients

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**Introduction:** In northern France during March of 2020, a surge in patients presenting withinfection and acute respiratory failure (ARF) from the novel 2019 coronavirus prompted urgent action. The surge created a heavy burden on French hospital facilities and finances. This paper contains an assessment of the health and cost benefits obtained by the construction of a temporary intermediate care unit (IMCU) with an advanced remote monitoring system. Facilities that include anIMCU in combination with ICUs have demonstrated significantly lower mortality rates in large multinational studies. [1] Improved health outcomes were an expected result. Furthermore, the addition of real time patient remote monitoring in the form of telemedicine in ICUs has been proven to reduce both mortality and length of stay (LOS) within critical care. [2] Over a three-day period, a team built a temporary IMCU with an advanced monitoring system in Avicienne Hospital,Bobigny France.

**Methods:** Mimicking modern ICU and emergency department telemonitoring systems, the network in the IMCU consisted of a 10-bed facility connected to a central workstation. The central workstation allowed a staff-worker who remained isolated from the infected patients to monitor respiratory data and pulse oximetry.

The system would display real time data along with patient alarms through an automatic system to a dedicated USB port on a portable life-support ventilator, (TrilogyEvo, Philips Respironics, USA). The workstation had dedicated software to review patient data and it included a mathematical algorithm determining the degree of patient-ventilator asynchrony.[3] This station contained an early warning system(EWS) to alert the clinical staff in the IMCU when it was appropriate to intervene.

**Results:** As a result, 40 patients were treated during the month of April in the Avicenne IMCU. Twenty-four patients (60%) treated at the IMCU had ARF but were considered ineligible for ICU due to frailties such as age (>80) or high-riskcomorbidities. The expected mortality of this critical population with ARF is near 49% [4, 5]. 4 patients in this cohort (17%) died, thus exceeding survival expectations. 12 patients (30%) were admitted into the IMCU due to a progression from mild to severe Covid 19 related hypoxemia. Within this cohort, 4 patients(33%) progressed to the ICU. 4 patients(10%) were admitted into the IMCU following discharge from the ICU, and 1 patient (25%) was readmitted to the ICU.

The incidence of alerts prompting intervention were HR (<50 or >120) = 3.1 ±7.5 alarm/hour, SpO2 (<90) = 8.1 ±10.0 alarm/hour and leak (40L/min) = 6.7±12.9 alarm/hour. (Total = 17.9 alarms/hour). 280 ICU bed days were spared in the month of April 2020 due to the construction of this ICU. According to the cost data collected from 7 European countries, the average daily cost in ICU is approximately 1850€, resulting in a computed savings of 518 000€.[6]

**Conclusion:** The construction of a temporary IMCU, using advanced telemonitoring with anEWS, successfully improved patient outcomes and reduced the financial burden on the hospital system. The frequency of interventive care recorded within this unit was once per 3.5 minutes on average. Without alerts, this level of care would require continuous, rotating bedside contact by staff. Consequently, the directed interventions from the central workstation may have reduced exposure times.

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A tidal volume calculator to improve lung protective ventilation in COVID-19 related Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000687

Introduction: Routine use of lower tidal volumes (TVs) for the mechanical ventilation of patients with ARDS results in decreased mortality and increases the number of days without ventilator use [1]. Severe COVID-19 pneumonia has been associated with the development of ARDS as characterised by the Berlin definition [2]. A multi-centre preliminary audit was undertaken to identify whether ventilated COVID-19 related ARDS patients were receiving optimal TVs, as recommended by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) and Intensive Care Society (ICS) ARDS management guidelines [3].

Objectives: As a result of the audit, three main areas for improvement were identified.

1. To achieve accurate calculations for ideal body weight (IBW) and target TV
2. To improve documentation of IBW and target TV
3. To achieve TVs no greater than 6 ml/kg

Methods: A ‘tidal volume calculator’ tool was developed using Microsoft Excel, which was simple, colour coded and kept on all Intensive Care Unit (ICU) computer desktops. This tool was designed to use height to calculate IBW and, if the patient’s height was unavailable, could also be utilised to calculate height from ulna length. IBW was subsequently used to calculate a target TV. Staff received training on how to apply the tool.

Two snapshot audits were carried out in April and May 2020 at two ICUs. The first was conducted prior to the tool’s introduction with the second two weeks after its implementation. All patients receiving mechanical ventilation, except those spontaneously breathing, were included. Data was extracted from patient notes, charts and ventilator settings.

Results: The initial audit included 14 patients. Six patients did not have an IBW documented. Three patients had documented IBWs that were 12 kg, 15 kg and 23 kg greater than the weight calculated using the tool, leading to increased tidal volume targets. Only three patients were achieving TVs of 4–6 ml/kg. Eleven patients were achieving a TV greater than 6 ml/kg, with two of these achieving a TV of greater than 8 ml/kg.

The follow-up audit included ten patients. This revealed that all patients had an IBW clearly documented. Moreover, nine patients were achieving TVs within 4–6 ml/kg, with only one patient found to be achieving a TV greater than 6 ml/kg.

Conclusion: This audit cycle revealed that initially adherence to lung protective ventilation and documentation of IBW was poor. In some instances, documented IBW was vastly different to the calculated IBW, suggesting that in these situations actual body weight may have been used.

In a time when clinicians were being redeployed to support ICU, this simple tool was shown to support staff by clearly calculating and displaying IBW and target TV for reference. This directly led to improved adherence to lung protective ventilation and optimisation of patient care.

Limitations include that no consideration was made for overall patient to lung protective ventilation and optimisation of patient care. IBW and target TV for reference. This directly led to improved adherence

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End tidal CO2 in out of hospital intubated critically ill patients: Is it a reliable surrogate for plasma CO2 concentration?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000896

Introduction: End tidal CO2 (ETCO2) monitoring is a standard for all intubated patients in the pre-hospital environment. ETCO2 is used as a surrogate marker for determining plasma CO2 concentration (pCO2) in intubated patients as pCO2 measurement is not readily available in the resource limited pre-hospital environment. Maintenance of normocapnia (4.4–5.0 kPa) is crucial for neuroprotection in critically ill patients.

Objectives: The objective was to determine whether ETCO2 can serve as a reliable surrogate marker for pCO2.

Methods: Data was retrospectively collected from the Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey and Sussex hospital database for critically ill non-trauma patients conveyed to the William Harvey Hospital between September 2017 and March 2019. The latest pre-hospital ETCO2 value was paired with pCO2 values from initial blood gas results. Patient demographics, pre-hospital haemodynamic instability (use of vasopressor), other blood gas parameters and mortality within the same admission were also recorded. The paired data sets were analysed using the Mann-Whitney test.

Results: 18 data sets that met the inclusion criteria were generated. Median ETCO2 and pCO2 was 4.4 kPa (IQR 3.9-4.8 kPa) and 7.3 kPa (6.5-9.4 kPa) respectively. Median difference between ETCO2 & pCO2 was significant 3.0 kPa (p<0.001, CI 2.6-3.6 kPa). Median ETCO2, pCO2 and difference was 4.4 kPa (IQR 4.0-4.5 kPa), 7.2 kPa (IQR 6.5-8.0 kPa) and 3.3 kPa (IQR 2.1-3.6 kPa) respectively in patients that survived. Median ETCO2, pCO2 and difference was 4.3 kPa (IQR 4.0-4.5 kPa), 8.3 kPa (IQR 7.0-11.3 kPa) and 3.0 kPa (IQR 2.9-4.5 kPa) respectively in patients who died. Median difference was not significantly associated with mortality (p = 0.69). The median difference between the pCO2 and ETCO2 in cardiovascularly stable vs unstable patients was 3.0 kPa and 3.4 kPa and was not statistically significant (p = 0.59).

Table 1: Comparison of ETCO2 and pCO2 values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Median [IQR]</th>
<th>Difference (*)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETCO2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.4 [3.9, 4.8]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pCO2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.3 [6.5, 9.4]</td>
<td>3.0 [2.6, 3.6]</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Differences calculated as pCO2 – ETCO2
Conclusion: ETCO2 is an unreliable surrogate marker of pCO2 and consistently underestimates the true pCO2 value by 3.0 kPa (CJL 2.6-3.6 kPa). The use of vsappressor does not appear to significantly impact the ETCO2 and pCO2 difference. Hence ETCO2 should not be used to determine normocapnia in the pre-hospital environment.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000942
Does the introduction of a ventilation team improve compliance with lung protective ventilation for patients with COVID-19?
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000942

Introduction: Lung protective ventilation (LPV) is an essential strategy in the management of patients mechanically ventilated due to severe respiratory failure, including those with COVID-19. When utilised, LPV has been proven to reduce absolute mortality by 8.8% and significantly increase ventilator free days (1). Despite this, a recent study of 459 ICUS’s from across 50 countries found that only 65% of patients received adequate LPV and 35% actually received potentially harmful tidal volumes. To manage the increased numbers of mechanically ventilated patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, a ventilation team was created to support the management and adherence to LPV targets.

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of a multi-faceted approach to ventilatory management on adherence to LPV targets.

Methods: A new supportive ventilation team was created, utilising existing members of the physiotherapy service with training taking place in March 2020, with a focus on promoting compliance with LPV. After an initial training period, this team implemented a multi-faceted approach to ventilatory management. This included measurement of patient height on admission and calculation of ideal body weight, calculation of target tidal volumes of <8 ml/kg, with secondary outcomes being PEEP/FiO2 compliance. Hourly tidal volume data was collected for all patients mechanically ventilated over a 2 month period during the COVID-19 pandemic (April–May 2020) and compared to a 2 month baseline period (January–February 2020). Primary outcome was compliance with target tidal volumes of <8 ml/kg, with secondary outcome being PEEP/FiO2 compliance.

Results: A total of 62,656 hours of mechanical ventilation were included for analysis, with the results presented in table 1. The introduction of the ventilation team was associated with a significant increase in compliance with target tidal volumes of <8 ml/kg (76% vs 69%, p<0.0001) and a significant reduction in occurrence of volumes >10 ml/kg (4% vs 10%, p<0.0001). No significant differences were observed with regards to PEEP/FiO2 compliance.

Table 1 - Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline (Pre COVID)</th>
<th>Ventilation Team (COVID)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>25237</td>
<td>38529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 8mls / kg (hours)</td>
<td>17290 (69%)</td>
<td>28086 (76%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10mls / kg (hours)</td>
<td>2590 (10%)</td>
<td>1424 (4%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The implementation of a specialist ventilation team was associated with a significant improvement in compliance with LPV targets for tidal volumes. This also led to a significant reduction in the percentage of ventilation hours in which patients may receive potentially harmful tidal volumes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. N/A

000968
Central venous pressure swing outperforms diaphragm ultrasound as a measure of inspiratory effort during pressure support ventilation in covid-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000968

Introduction: An increasing number of patients required prolonged mechanical ventilation during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The associated shortage of ICU beds and monitoring devices magnified the need of simple tools to properly titrate the level of ventilator assistance. Observation of breathing pattern with utilization of accessory muscles, rapid or shallow breathing, or the inspection of ventilator waveforms are not useful to assess breathing efforts in a quantitative way. Thus, appropriate bedside monitoring of inspiratory effort is strongly required.

Objectives: We investigated whether bedside-available indices such as the ultrasonographic changes in diaphragm thickening ratio (TR) and the tidal swing in central venous pressure (ΔCVP) are reliable
estimates of respiratory effort, as assessed by the tidal swing in esophageal pressure (ΔPes).

Methods: Fourteen critically-ill patients were enrolled (age 64±7 years, BMI 29±4 kg/m2), after 6 (3; 9) days from onset of assisted ventilation. A three-level pressure support trial was performed, at 10 (PS10), 5 (PS5) and 0 cmH2O (PS0). In each step, the esophageal and central venous pressure tidal swing were recorded, as well as diaphragm ultrasound.

Results: The reduction of pressure support was associated with an increased respiratory rate and a reduced tidal volume, while minute ventilation was unchanged. ΔPes significantly increased with reducing support (5 [3; 8] vs. 8 [14; 13] vs. 12 [6; 16] cmH2O, p<0.0001), as did the diaphragm TR (9±1.6 vs. 17±7.2 vs. 28±10.0%, p<0.0001) and the ΔCVP (4 [3; 7] vs. 8 [5; 9] vs. 10 [7; 11] cmH2O, p<0.0001). ΔCVP was significantly associated with ΔPes (R2=0.810, p<0.001), as was diaphragm TR, albeit with a lower coefficient of determination (R2=0.399, p<0.001). In a multivariable, linear, fixed-effects regression, only ΔCVP was significantly associated with ΔPes (coefficient: 1.45±0.16, p<0.001), while diaphragm TR was not (coefficient: −0.07±0.05, p = 0.184).

Conclusion: In patients with COVID-19-associated respiratory failure undergoing assisted mechanical ventilation, ΔCVP is a better estimate of inspiratory effort than diaphragm ultrasound.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. This study was supported by internal departmental funding.

Noninvasive ventilation (NIV) in an intermediate care unit
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000089

Introduction: In the past decades noninvasive ventilation (NIV) has obtained an important role in the treatment of patients with acute respiratory failure (ARF). Most NIV studies have been conducted in an intensive care unit (ICU) setting. There are studies which have shown that NIV can be performed safely and effectively outside the ICU. The outcome of patients failing NIV in an intermediate care unit remains to be established. The aim of the current study was to investigate the safety and feasibility of providing acute NIV in a heterogeneous group of patients with ARF in an intermediate care unit.

Methods: This study was a retrospective analysis of patients admitted to the intermediate care unit of Amsterdam UMC, location VUMc between January 2010 and January 2016. Patients with acute respiratory failure were included as well as those whose respiratory status slowly deteriorated, whatever underlying disease. Patients with CPAP at home or obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS) were excluded. Patients were subdivided into two categories: Hypercapnic failure and non-hypercapnic failure before the start of NIV. In both groups we analyzed admission source and their outcome (discharge destination).

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location prior to admission</th>
<th>Total group of patients</th>
<th>Hypercapnia Group</th>
<th>Non hypercapnia Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Care Unit (%)</td>
<td>53 (22)</td>
<td>28 (37)</td>
<td>28 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (%)</td>
<td>110 (46)</td>
<td>22 (29)</td>
<td>81 (53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Department (%)</td>
<td>39 (16)</td>
<td>14 (19)</td>
<td>20 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (%)</td>
<td>7 (3)</td>
<td>2 (3)</td>
<td>4 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other destinations (%)</td>
<td>14 (6)</td>
<td>3 (4)</td>
<td>9 (6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NIV at intermediate care (n=241):

No arterial blood gas before start NIV (n=14)
Hypercapnia (n=75):
Endotracheal intubation (n=23): 4 patients died and 19 survived
No endotracheal intubation (n=52): 23 patients died and 29 survived

Non hypercapnia (n=152):
Endotracheal intubation (n=43): 10 patients died and 33 survived
No endotracheal intubation (n=109): 19 patients died and 90 survived

The admission diagnosis was heterogeneous: 36% of all the patients who received NIV was admitted to the intermediate care unit primarily for respiratory failure. The duration of NIV treatment ranged from 1 hour to more than 40 hours. Overall 61 of the 241 patients treated with NIV died within 28 days of the start of NIV on the intermediate care. They died either in the intermediate care unit (33 patients), or in the ICU after the transfer from intermediate care unit (12 patients), or elsewhere (16 patients). Patients dying in the intermediate care unit had do-not-intubate orders.

Conclusion: We found that it is feasible to treat patients with NIV in an intermediate care unit, both for hypercapnic and non-hypercapnic indications. There is a need for more studies to confirm the safety of providing NIV in an intermediate care setting.
Can a peak C-Reactive Protein in viral pneumonia patients during COVID-19 pandemic predict CPAP failure leading to invasive ventilation in Intensive Care? (Retrospective analysis)

Introduction: C-reactive protein (CRP) is an acute inflammatory protein known to increase in those with COVID-19 pneumonia caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus. Several studies have correlated an increased in pneumonia severity in those with higher CRP levels. Patients with severe/critical COVID-19 infections often require additional support with oxygenation and ventilation in the intensive care unit (ICU) in the form of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) or invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV).

Some critical care societies had advised during the initial phases of the 2020 pandemic for an “earlier” intubation in those with hypoxia resistant to standard oxygen therapy. Intubation and mechanical ventilation comes with its own risks, from the difficulty of intubating the critically ill patient to other ventilator associated complications in those who may have improved on CPAP alone. With CPAP there are concerns over viral aerosolization transmission to healthcare staff and insufficient hospital oxygen supply if it is extensively used during pandemic. A proportion of those started on CPAP will deteriorate and require intubation, but as yet there seems to be little evidence if CPAP can help predict those who might deteriorate.

Objectives: To see if the initial peak CRP in patients started on CPAP can predict those who will go on to need invasive mechanical ventilation.

Methods: We included patients accepted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) during February to May 2020 who presented with viral pneumonia (either a laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 viral PCR test or strong clinical suspicions of a COVID-19 infection) causing hypoxia refractory to standard ward oxygen supplementation. Patients in ICU were either immediately intubated and mechanically ventilated (primary IMV), or started on CPAP. No high flow nasal oxygenation was used at this hospital. Some of these patients improved on CPAP only and were successfully stepped down from ICU to the wards. Others on CPAP deteriorated and were subsequently intubated (CPAP failure). Excluded from the study were: patients on CPAP who died in ICU, patients who had a limit on respiratory therapeutic level of care to CPAP only, or were still on CPAP in ICU at time of data collection. All patients included had their CRP (mg/L) measured at hospital admission and 1st peak level.

The results are presented as full sets of numbers for respective groups. Statistical analysis was performed using Kruskal-Wallis test.

Results: A total of 40 patients with viral pneumonia were identified. Of those in the CPAP group, 3 were excluded from analysis. This meant there were 70.3% (n=26/37) in the CPAP arm and 29.7% (n=11/37, mean age 67) who underwent primary IMV. Of those who started on CPAP 62.0% (n=16/26, mean age 56.4) were successfully discharged with only CPAP, while 38.5% (n=10/26, mean age 55) failed CPAP and underwent secondary intubation. Patients for whom CPAP was successful had a mean peak CRP of 240 (110, 145, 153, 162, 173, 228, 230, 244, 245, 254, 268, 287, 304, 324, 350 and 359). Those who failed CPAP and underwent secondary intubation had a mean peak of 353 (204, 283, 298, 323, 329, 338, 345, 346, 526 and 538). For the primary intubation group the mean peak CRP was 342 (192, 212, 237, 314, 345, 345, 349, 349, 377, 493 and 547). The difference in the peak CRPs was found to be statistically significant between the CPAP only group and when compared to the CPAP failure group (p = 0.0098). The difference between the CPAP only group and primary IMV was also significant (p = 0.023).

Time difference between the date of peak CRP and date of intubation from failure of CPAP ranged between 4 days prior to 6 days post intubation. Only in half of the cases (n=5/10) did the CRP peak before intubation.

Conclusion: Whilst a small study, these results seem to indicate that patients with a higher peak CRP on CPAP with COVID-19 pneumonia are more likely to fail CPAP support and require intubation than those with lower values. However at present we cannot advocate the use of peak CRP as a predictor for CPAP failure with current data showing that CPAP peaked in half cases after intubation. The authors feel that a larger population is needed to see if the peak CRP (or CRP at time of ICU admission) could be used to prognosticate CPAP failure in COVID-19 pneumonias.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. None.
**Objectives:** We hypothesized that C-PAP can reduce ETI and mortality rates when compared to standard oxygen (SO) in COVID-19 patients with moderate-to-severe acute respiratory failure (ARF).

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective analysis, reviewing all COVID-19 patients with moderate-to-severe ARF and admitted to our IMCU from March 1st to March 31st 2020. The inclusion criteria were age > 18 years old; diagnosis of COVID-19 by a nasopharyngeal swab; moderate-to-severe ARF at IMCU admission (PaO2/FiO2 ratio < 200 mmHg during oxygen therapy at a flow rate >10 L/min for at least 15 minutes); oxygenation with SO or helmet CPAP (stand-alone system) for 2 consecutive hours at least. Exclusion criteria were: not confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection; do-not-intubate order. We analyzed two groups (C-PAP and SO) matched for age, SAPS2 score, SOFA score and PaO2/FiO2 at IMCU admission. We also collected demographic characteristics and we investigated rates of ETI and hospital mortality.

**Results:** We reviewed 93 patients and 42/93 respected the inclusion criteria (21 in SO group; 21 in C-PAP group). The two groups were well matched (PaO2/FiO2 ratio at admission: 86 ± 20 (C-PAP), 92 ± 17 (SO) p = 0.3; SAPS 2 score: 29 ± 2 (C-PAP), 35 ± 7 (SO) p = 0.2; SOFA score: 3 ± 2 (C-PAP), 3 ± 2 (SO) p = 0.4; age: 62 ± 3 (C-PAP), 64 ± 10 (SO) p = 0.2). Demographic characteristics are shown in Table 1. Patients in C-PAP group were more frequently intubated (14/21) than patients in SO group (8/21) although in not statistically significant way (OR 3.25, 95% CI 0.92 to 11.51, p = 0.07). We also found no significant difference in rate of hospital mortality (C-PAP 8/21, SO 6/21, OR 1.54, 95% CI 0.92 to 2.56, p = 0.12) between the two groups (see Figure 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>C-PAP n. of patients (%)</th>
<th>SO n. of patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>3/21 (14%)</td>
<td>6/21 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>2/21 (9%)</td>
<td>2/21 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD/asthma</td>
<td>2/21 (9%)</td>
<td>1/21 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>5/21 (24%)</td>
<td>3/21 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>3/21 (14%)</td>
<td>5/21 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>6/21 (28%)</td>
<td>11/21 (52%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Demographic characteristics

**Conclusion:** C-PAP did not reduce ETI and mortality rates when compared to SO in COVID-19 patients with ARF.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**A trial of non invasive ventilation in severe COVID-19**

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**Correspondence:** S. Yoon

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000503

**Introduction:** While the optimal mode of respiratory support in severe COVID-19 disease has been the subject of ongoing debate, non-invasive ventilation (NIV) has been included in management guidelines from WHO (1), NHS England (2) and the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (3). NIV is an effective treatment for mild-moderate acute respiratory failure with evidence of mortality reduction when compared to mechanically ventilated or spontaneously breathing patients (4). There is the risk of nosocomial transmission via viral aerosolisation (5-6), however NIV may offer benefits over an early invasive ventilation strategy in terms of resource allocation and preventing morbidity from intubation and mechanical ventilation (IMV), especially in health-care settings with limited invasive ventilation capacity. There are a number of evolving safety considerations alongside this.

**Objectives:** To characterise and describe initial outcomes of patients receiving a trial of NIV in a small, single centre intensive care unit in London. We aim to assess whether NIV is a safe therapy in pandemic surge planning, and understand its impact on the need for IMV in anticipation of future waves of COVID-19 infection.

**Methods:** Data was collected retrospectively on 44 patients admitted with severe respiratory failure during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic between March and April 2020, all of whom received NIV as part of their initial critical care management. Data was collected on age, gender, BMI, requirement for IMV, and survival. We collected data on critical care staff infection rates during the same period as part of hospital wide audit.

**Results:** Of the 44 patients, 35 (79.5%) were male and 9 (20.5%) were female. Median age of the group was 56 (IQR 52–64), and median BMI was 29 (IQR 27–34). Overall 40.9% of patients died. 23 (52.3%) of patients went on to require IMV, on average after 56 hours of NIV. 60.9% of those who required IMV subsequently died, whereas 19% of those who only received NIV for respiratory support died. Key characteristics for both sub-groups were similar. Median APACHE II score and Clinical Frailty Score (CFS) for those who required IMV was 16 (IQR 13-17) and 2 respectively and 15 (IQR 12-19) and 2 for patients who remained on NIV only. Prior to commencing NIV, baseline median SpO2 was 91% and FiO2 requirement was 80% in both groups. Importantly, there was marked improvement in PaO2, FiO2, and SpO2 2-4 hours after starting NIV, with PaO2 increased to 9.67 kPa, FiO2 requirement reduced to 60% and SpO2 increased to 95%. There was greater improvement in PaO2 2-4 hours after starting NIV in the NIV only subgroup when compared to those who required IMV (10.45 kPa NIV, 8.98 kPa IMV). Average length of time to discharge home from critical care admission was reduced from 17.2 days in the IMV sub-group to 15.9 days in the NIV only sub-group. We did not note any increase in staff sickness rates in comparison with other departments, including emergency medicine, general medicine and anaesthetics.
Conclusion: Our data suggests there are benefits of administering a trial of NIV for respiratory failure in COVID-19. We demonstrate that in a significant proportion of cases it prevented or delayed IMV despite similar clinical severity at time of admission, and we also observed rapid improvements in work of breathing and oxygen requirements after initiation of NIV. This could ensure that invasive ventilators are kept free for those requiring emergent IMV. Survival was similar to national outcomes (7). NIV is not without its complications and therefore frequent review of these patients for escalation of their care is important. Particular consideration needs to be given to staff safety, including adequate supply of appropriate protective equipment, hospital ventilation airflow dynamics, and an adequate supply of oxygen and consumables needs to be ensured.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. None.


3. 2. NHS England Guidance for the role and use of non-invasive respiratory support in adult patients with COVID19 (confirmed or suspected) 6 April 2020, Version 3.


5. 4. Cabrini, Luca MD, Landoni, Giovanna MD; Oriani, Alessandro MD; Plumari, Valentina F; MD, Nobile, Lea MD; Greco, Massimiliano MD; Pasin, Laura MD; Beretta, Luigi MD; Zangrillo, Alberto MD Noninvasive Ventilation and Survival in Acute Care Settings, Critical Care Medicine: April 2015 - Volume 43 - Issue 4 - p 880-888 https://doi.org/10.1097/ccm.0000000000000819.


Comparative study of two modalities of oxygen therapy during flexible bronchoscopy in critically ill patients: High-flow nasal oxygen therapy vs conventional oxygen therapy

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000610

Introduction: Performing diagnostic fiberoptic bronchoscopy in critically ill patients may produce arterial blood gas and hemodynamic changes. The use of high-flow nasal oxygen therapy (HFOT) could decrease these complications.

Objectives: To compare the incidence of complications in the two studied oxygen therapy modalities during fiberoptic bronchoscopy.

Methods: Forty critically ill patients without invasive mechanical ventilation were consecutively collected. Their responsible physician decided to perform diagnostic fiberoptic bronchoscopy suspecting lung infection. Twenty patients received HFOT (Flow 60-100 L/min and FiO2 40%) and 20 received conventional oxygen therapy (nasal cannula at 5 L/min). The fiberoptic bronchoscopy was performed at bed side. Variables were collected before, during and 2 hours after performing the bronchoscopy. All the patients were sedated with Dexmedetomidine Hydrochloride. Delta of oxygen saturation was defined as the difference between the initial saturation and the lowest saturation during bronchial fibroscopy measured by pulse oximetry. The data was compared with the Mann-Whitney test. Data are presented in median and interquartile range.

RESULTS. The main results are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>HIGH FLOW OXYGEN THERAPY (n=20)</th>
<th>CONVENTIONAL OXYGEN (n=20)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>51 [28,72]</td>
<td>44 [30,70]</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of hospitalization</td>
<td>5 [2,10]</td>
<td>4 [2,5]</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS III (admission)</td>
<td>44 [36,60]</td>
<td>49 [40,59]</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAM (before study, mmHg)</td>
<td>83 [76,94]</td>
<td>94 [84,104]</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat O2 (before study, %)</td>
<td>96 [92.98]</td>
<td>95 [92.99]</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR (before study)</td>
<td>18 [15,20]</td>
<td>18 [14,26]</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Sat O2 (during study, %)</td>
<td>56 [70,97]</td>
<td>80 [71,97]</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat O2 (during study, %)</td>
<td>94 [89,96]</td>
<td>90 [85,94]</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR (during study)</td>
<td>19 [17,22]</td>
<td>19 [17,26]</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Sat O2 (during study, %)</td>
<td>2 [1,3]</td>
<td>5 [2,10]</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAM (two hours after study, mmHg)</td>
<td>82 [72,87]</td>
<td>81 [76,91]</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat O2 (two hours after, %)</td>
<td>92 [87,96]</td>
<td>94 [91,96]</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR (two hours after)</td>
<td>18 [15,20]</td>
<td>19 [16,22]</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The use of high-flow oxygen therapy is related to a lower decrease in saturation compared to conventional oxygen therapy.

Incidence of pneumothorax and pneumomediastinum in Covid-19 critically ill patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000651

Introduction: Barotrauma, including both pneumothorax and pneumomediastinum, is a well-known complication of prolonged non-invasive ventilation (NIV) [1]. Vigorous respiratory efforts lead to increased transpulmonary pressure and to patient self induced lung injury [2]. In Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), critical timing to declare failure of NIV and proceed to intubation and invasive ventilation is unknown. We tested the hypothesis that in Covid-19 prolonged NIV is associated with barotrauma.


Methods: We retrospectively enrolled 104 consecutive Covid-19 patients, admitted to our ICU from February 22nd to March 22nd, requiring intubation after failure of NIV. Age, sex and SOFA score were collected at ICU admission. Diagnosis of barotrauma was confirmed by radiological evidence (ultrasound/chest x-ray, chest CT) during the first 2 weeks from ICU admission. Different time intervals (from hospital admission to intubation (T1) and from beginning of NIV to intubation (T2)) were compared between patients with barotrauma and controls, using the Mann-Whitney test. We then identified a subgroup of barotrauma patients, defined “early”, characterized by occurrence of barotrauma before or within the first 24 hours after intubation. We compared this group with controls with the Mann-Whitney test.

Results: Mean age was 61±10, 84 (80.7%) were male and median SOFA score was 6 (range 4-8). Barotrauma occurred in 15 patients (14%), at a median time of 8 days (IQR 6-12) from hospital admission. No differences were found either in T1 (median days 3, IQR 2-5.5 vs 5, IQR 2-9, p ns), or in T2 (median days 2, IQR 1-4 vs 3, IQR 2-6, p ns)
between controls and patients with barotrauma. However 6 patients had an early barotrauma; in this subgroup, T2 was longer in patients who developed early barotrauma compared to controls (Table).

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time intervals</th>
<th>Controls (n=89)</th>
<th>Early Barotrauma (n=6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1, days (median, IQR)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.0-5.5)</td>
<td>6.5 (2.5-13.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2, days (median, IQR)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.4-4.0)</td>
<td>6.0 (1.7-9.2)*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05 between early barotrauma and controls

**Conclusion:** In Covid-19 barotrauma had an incidence similar to other forms of acute respiratory failure. However, early barotrauma was associated with prolonged use of NIV.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Rochwerg et al. Official ERS/ATS clinical practice guidelines: noninvasive ventilation for acute respiratory failure. Respir J. 2017;51;50(2)


000678  

**Retrospective study of non-invasive ventilation use in a district hospital in Portugal**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000678

**Introduction:** The decision to use non-invasive ventilation (NIV) to treat acute respiratory diseases in the ICU avoids intubation and reduces invasive mechanical ventilation risks [1].

**Objectives:** To investigate the patients who started NIV in our ICU and study their failure and mortality rates.

**Methods:** Retrospective single-centre study of all patients admitted during a five-year period who received NIV, except for chronic thera-peutic purposes. Data of demographics, mortality scores, cause for NIV and NIV failure (defined as intubation need) of 167 patients were recorded and processed with SPSS 23. NIV failure was studied, excluding patients on a weaning strategy.

**Results:** The average age was 70 years, with a mean SOFA score on admission of 8.7 compared with 6.6 at discharge. The mean ICU stay was 10 days with NIV duration of 53 hours. The patients admitted were mainly medical, with only 10.8% admitted due to emergency surgery.

Half the patients had previous respiratory diseases, accounting COPD with 44.3%, 46.7% had cardiovascular pathology and 36.5% had respiratory illnesses. The number of patients who started NIV due to COPD and acute cardiogenic pulmonary oedema was similar (16.8%), while 11.4% had pneumonia. 13.6% were on mechanical ventilation weaning. Considering all patients, 36.5% had NIV failure rate and 32.3% of mortality rate.

Patients who survived were younger (69.2 vs 72.7 years), had better scores on admission (SAPS II 51 vs 64; APACHE II 26.9 vs 31.6; SOFA 7.7 vs 10.7), had less need for haemodynamic support (27 vs 54%) and less time gap between admission and NIV start (45 vs 70 hours). These patients had more respiratory and cardiovascular diseases than those who died and there were fewer patients in need for NIV due to pneumonia (9.7 vs 14.8%). About 28% of patients that lived had NIV failure rate compared with those that did not (54%).

A significant difference was observed in those who failed NIV trial with those who did not with in between admission and discharged SOFA score (on admission 7.2 vs 10.3%; on discharge 5.56 vs 8.34%), aminer-gic support (42 vs 58%), ICU stay (6 vs 15 days) and mortality rate (21 vs 48%). Average SAPS II score of those who survived and did not fail NIV trial was 47 compared with 39 in intubated patients. Failed NIV survivors had higher pH levels (7.28 vs 6.7), while the opposite happened within those who succeeded NIV trial (7.07 vs 7.28).

**Conclusion:** Patients who had the best outcomes had more comorbidities, opposing to the higher percentage of pneumonia in between those who died. Despite studies showing a SAPS II score > 34 to be independently related to NIV failure [2], our patients who succeeded had an average score of 47. Although indications for NIV trial in patients with a pH > 7.25 [3, 4], there was no significant pH difference. NIV is a useful treatment and more studies are needed to identify early factors associated with higher mortality.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


000846  

**Withdrawal of noninvasive ventilation in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbation. a spanish national survey on clinical practice**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000846

**Introduction:** Noninvasive ventilation (NIV) is considered as the standard treatment for moderate to severe exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). However, the way to withdraw NIV after stabilization is not well established.

**Objectives:** We performed a National Survey to disclose this issue in clinical practice.

**Methods:** A national survey was launched to Spanish hospitals having general or respiratory ICU through the intensive (SEMICYUC) and pneumology (SEPAR) national societies. The survey was carried out between January and March 2019.

One response per Unit was analyzed (that of the NIV expert or the head of the service in his absence). Characteristics of the center, specialty and withdrawal strategies are collected: time of beginning of disconnection, direct or progressive withdrawal, type of progression, with or without analytic control (arterial or venous), among others.

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS Version 21.0. The data are presented as n (%); p value < 0.05 were considered statistically significant doing contingency tables and using the Chi-Square or the Fisher test.

**Results:** We received a total of 179 responses, leaving us with 141 after the elimination of double responses. The final analysis was performed on 129 answers after eliminating 12 answers from third level hospitals that do not admit this pathology (AECOPD).

Responses from 129 units were analyzed, 84(60%) by intensivists and 57(40%) by pneumologists. The 54.6% were tertiary hospitals. 96.6% of physicians (n 128) perform blood gases to decide to initiate disconnections. The use of an arterial sample is more common among specialists and withdrawal strategies are collected: time of beginning of disconnection, direct or progressive withdrawal, type of progression, with or without analytic control (arterial or venous), among others. Only in 26 units (20.3%) is direct withdrawal attempted and it is more frequent among intensivists (28.2% vs 10.5%, p<0.05).

When they make a progressive withdrawal, 42.2% extend the disconnection, direct or progressive withdrawal, type of progression, with or without analytic control (arterial or venous), among others.

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of the cases. Pulmonologists conducted progressive withdrawal and used arterial blood gases significantly more often than intensivists. **Conclusion:** To our knowledge, this is the first descriptive study of NIV withdrawal in patients with AECOPD. The criteria for initiating withdrawal are fairly homogeneous, although some different strategies may be evident depending on the specialty. Pulmonologist usually do withdrawal progressively and use arterial blood gases more often than intensivists.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001005**

**Unilateral diaphragm paralysis: the evolving role of diaphragm pacing (DP)**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001005

**Introduction:** Unilateral diaphragm dysfunction (UDD) is an under-diagnosed condition. Of the benign causes, the most common is the idiopathic type. Other causes include complications of cardiac surgery, trauma, metabolic derangements, as well as some infections. It has been postulated that the functional diaphragm increases in strength and compensates for the dysfunctional side thus the asymptomatic state in the majority of patients. However, in a smaller group this dysfunction may lead to dyspnea, sleep-disordered breathing, exercise intolerance, fatigue and even respiratory failure.

**Objectives:** We report the outcome of symptomatic UDD patients implanted with DP to treat the isolated dysfunction

**Methods:** This is an IRB approved retrospective analysis of a prospective, non-randomized interventional experience at a single institution. Patients underwent laparoscopic diaphragm mapping and electrode implantation. Post implantation patients were evaluated radiographically with either chest radiography or fluoroscopic sniff test, reported symptoms and diaphragm electromyography (dEMG) using the implanted DP electrodes. Success was considered when there was improvement or recovery in 2 of the 3 data points

**Results:** In the diaphragm dysfunction database, 62 patients with UDD were identified. Etiologies of the paralysis codified into 7 groups: idiopathic (n = 27), chest/thoracic procedure (n = 13), neck/shoulder surgery/injection (n = 8), trauma (n = 4), infection (n = 3), chemo/radiation (n = 3), Parsonage Turner’s syndrome (N = 3), and post liver transplant (n = 1). The average age was 60 ± 10 years. All patients had significant respiratory symptoms and abnormal chest radiographs. Symptom duration was greater than 6 months in 49 patients (79%). Fifty-nine (95%) had fluoroscopic evaluation of the diaphragm with 51% showing paradoxical motion; the others showed no movement. Post implantation, 44 (70.9%) of patients reported improvement in symptom, 46 (74%) had improvement in dEMG and 23 (37%) had improved radiologic testing. Thirty nine patients (62.9%) had recovery of 2 data points. Recovery rate was at 63.2% and 40% in patients with symptom duration greater than 6 and 18 months respectively. Additionally, there was a significant improvement in those with paradoxical motion 78% compared to those without paradoxical movement (59%).

**Conclusion:** DP can play a significant role in patients with symptomatic UDD. It could be offered as a treatment modality in UDD where the diaphragm can be electrically stimulated prior to proceeding with plication procedures

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001021**

**Outcomes of CPAP usage for COVID-19 pneumonitis**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001021

**Introduction:** The outcome for COVID-19 patients undergoing a trial of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) prior to invasive ventilation is unclear. There may be a role for avoiding invasive ventilation at the risk of worsening outcomes for those failing such a trial, however there is a lack of definitive evidence.

**Objectives:** To identify prognostic factors which may indicate a successful CPAP trial for COVID-19 patients and determine the effect of CPAP on mortality for those invasively ventilated after a CPAP trial.

**Methods:** A prospective cohort study of adult patients admitted to the ICU with COVID-19 pneumonitis in respiratory failure. Primary outcome: failure of CPAP trial resulting in invasive ventilation. Secondary outcome: mortality in patients requiring invasive ventilation after a CPAP trial.

**Results:** 45 patients underwent a trial of CPAP during the study period. 33 (73%) patients failed the trial and required invasive ventilation. There was no significant difference in age, Clinical Frailty Score, Extended Medical Research Council Dyspnoea Score (eMRCD), APACHE and SOFA scores (see Table 1). All patients over 70 years failed their CPAP trial. Patients undergoing a successful trial had shorter duration of ICU and hospital stay (see Table 2). 14 (42%) patients died after they failed a CPAP trial. 12/22 (55%) patients undergoing invasive ventilation without CPAP died.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CPAP</th>
<th>Failed CPAP &amp; subsequently intubated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (Years)</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Fraility Score</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>eMRCD</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Comparison of attributes on admission between patients receiving successful CPAP and those failing CPAP and requiring invasive ventilation.
Effects of awake prone positioning in non-intubated spontaneously breathing COVID-19 patients requiring high flow oxygen therapy in high dependency unit (HDU): an observational study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001174

Introduction: Prone positioning increases oxygenation by recruiting dorsal lung regions and drain airway secretions, improves gas exchange and survival in ARDS. We described efficacy of prone positioning in awake non-intubated spontaneously breathing COVID-19 positive patients with hypoxemic acute respiratory failure.

Methods: We studied 26 awake non-intubated spontaneously breathing patients with hypoxemic respiratory failure treated with prone positioning. Patients were kept in prone positioning for two hours in each session and four such sessions were given to patients in 24 hours. SPO2, PaO2, RR and hemodynamics were measured before prone positioning (PRE), 60 minutes of prone positioning (PRONE) and after one hour of the completion of session (POST).

Results: 26 patients (12 males and 14 females) non-intubated spontaneously breathing with SPO2 <94% on 0.4 FiO2 were treated with prone positioning. One patient required intubation and was shifted to ICU, rest 25 patients were discharged from HDU. Mean hours of prone positioning was 19.4 ± 2.06 hr. There was significant improvement in oxygenation (increase in PaO2 from 53.15 ± 6.0 mmHg to 64.23 ± 6.96 mmHg in PRE and POST sessions respectively, likewise there was increase in SPO2). No complications were noted with various sessions.

Conclusions: Prone positioning was feasible and improved oxygenation in awake non-intubated, spontaneously breathing COVID-19 patients with hypoxemic acute respiratory failure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Prognostic factors in critically ill patients with hematologic malignancies admitted to Intensive Care Units

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000340

Introduction: Survival of patients with hematologic malignancies (HM) admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICU) have been changing over the years. Nevertheless, still exists some reluctance in intensive care providers to admit and treat patients with these diseases. The ability to identify key prognostic variables of outcome within the first days may help to recognize those who are most likely to benefit from ICU therapy.

Methods: We studied a retrospective cohort of 56 adult patients with HM admitted to a non-hematologic ICU between January 2015 and September 2019. Patient’s baseline characteristics, organ failure scores and outcome were analyzed in order to identify clinically useful prognostic factors.

Results: Median age was 56 years. The most common hematologic diseases were acute myelogenous leukemia (17; 30%), malignant
lymphoma (16; 29%), acute lymphoblastic leukemia (6; 11,4%) and multiple myeloma (5; 8,6%). Primary reason for ICU admission were septic shock (30; 54%), respiratory failure (11; 20,3%), acute kidney injury AKIN ≥ 2 (5; 9%) and gastrointestinal complications mainly due to upper gastrointestinal bleeding (3; 5,7%). Median time in-hospital before ICU admission was 10 days and the median duration of ICU stay was 6 days. Median ICU and in-hospital mortality were 57 and 68,5%, respectively. Median SAPS II score was 56 with an estimated mortality of 59,6%. Median SOFA score 48 and 24 hours before ICU admission was higher in non-survivors group (6 vs 4 and 9 vs 7, respectively). Mortality was higher in patients with acute leukemia, septic shock and need for mechanical ventilation and vasopressor support during ICU admission.

**Conclusion:** Higher mortality in patients with HM admitted to the ICU was associated with more severe illness and respiratory or hemodynamic instability. Organ failure scores done before admission may suggest delay on ICU admission and worst outcome.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
3. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

**000432 Predictors of mortality in patients with hematologic malignancies admitted to the Intensive Care Unit**

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**Introduction:** Patients affected by hematologic malignancies admitted to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) have been a subject of debate for many years. Reported survival rates are low, especially in those patients who develop several organ failures.

**Objectives:** To determine the factors associated with ICU mortality in patients with hematologic malignancies.

**Methods:** Study period: January 2015 to December 2019. It has been collected demographic variables, severity scores, hematological characteristics, organ dysfunctions, microbiological data, length of stay and ICU and hospital mortality. Statistical analysis includes qualitative variables, presented as proportions and 95% confidence interval (CI); quantitative variables have been presented as medians and 95% CI. Shapiro-Wilk test has been used for the assessment of normality. The univariate analysis was performed using the simple linear regression test. ICU mortality was determined in the multivariate analysis using the logistic regression test.

**Results:** n = 84. Males 0.61 (95%CI: 0.5 to 0.7). Age: 57.5 years (95%CI: 52.5 to 61.5). Hematologic therapies: hematopoietic stem cell transplant 0.38 (95%CI: 0.28 to 0.48); intra-ICU chemotherapy 0.14 (95%CI: 0.08 to 0.23). Severity scores and biomarkers on admission: APACHE II 27 (95%CI: 25 to 28); SOFA 8 (95%CI: 7 to 9); procalcitonin 4 (95%CI: 0.9 to 19.5). Acute respiratory failure (ARF) was the main reason for admission (95%CI: 0.4 to 0.6), followed by sepsis 0.34 (95%CI: 0.24 to 0.44). The proportion of patients with positive blood cultures on admission was 0.21 (95%CI: 0.13 to 0.31), all of them of unknown focus. Pathogen most frequently isolated: Escherichia coli 0.33 (95%CI: 0.14 to 0.59). Organ dysfunctions developed in ICU: ARF 0.85 (95%CI: 0.76 to 0.91); shock 0.64 (95%CI: 0.54 to 0.74); renal failure 0.64 (95%CI: 0.54 to 0.74); coma 0.14 (95%CI: 0.08 to 0.23). Life support measures: high flow nasal cannula 0.3 (95%CI: 0.21 to 0.41); non-invasive ventilation 0.47 (95%CI: 0.36 to 0.57); invasive ventilation 0.7 (95%CI: 0.65 to 0.83); continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) 0.34 (95%CI: 0.24 to 0.44). The ICU stay was 9 days (95%CI: 6.9 to 14) and the hospital stay was 18 days (95%CI: 15 to 23). The ICU mortality was 0.46 (95%CI: 0.36 to 0.57) and the hospital mortality was 0.59 (95%CI: 0.48 to 0.69). Variables significantly associated with mortality: APACHE II (OR 1.1; 95%CI: 1.04 to 1.19); SOFA (OR 1.21; 95%CI: 1.04 to 1.4); shock (OR 3.7; 95%CI: 1.4 to 9.8); ARF (OR 12; 95%CI: 1.5 to 100); invasive ventilation (OR 30.4; 95%CI: 3.8 to 241.1); CRRT (OR 3; 95%CI: 1.16 to 7.7). Regarding multivariate analysis, the variable which independently explains mortality is invasive ventilation (OR 22.7; 95%CI: 2.8 to 184.9).

**Conclusion:** The main determinant of mortality in patients admitted to the ICU due to hematologic malignancies is the acute respiratory failure and the need of invasive ventilation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
4. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

**000474 Short- and long-term survival and functional assessment of critically ill patients with hematologic malignancies**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000474

**Introduction:** ICU admission and organ support in patients with hematologic malignancies with systemic organ failure is still debatable, given the high associated mortality and absence of reliable outcome predictors (1,2).

**Objectives:** Identification of prognostic factors in patients with hematologic malignancy and multisystemic organ failure admitted to an ICU. Mortality and functional outcome 3-months and 1-year after ICU discharge were the primary and secondary outcomes, respectively.

**Methods:** Retrospective, single centre study from a tertiary care, university hospital. Clinical and laboratory data from patients with hematologic malignancies admitted to ICU, from June 2014 to June 2019, were extracted from electronic registries. Functional assessment was performed through clinical registries plus phone contact and scored according to Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scale. Statistical analysis was performed through IBM® SPSS® Statistics 25.

**Results:** We included 100 patients (112 ICU admissions), mostly male (60%) with a median age of 60 years old (inter-quartile range [IQR]: 45-65), median SAPS II of 56 (IQR: 19-129) and median admission SOFA of 9 (IQR: 2-22). Acute leukemia (34,8%), non-Hodgkin lymphoma (25,9%) and multiple myeloma (13,4%) were the most prevalent diagnosis. Most of the patients had active disease (70%) and were under treatment, half of them on first line. 25% had been submitted to allogeneic stem cell transplant. Septic shock (40%) and respiratory failure (38.4%) were the most frequent causes for ICU admission. During their ICU stay, 80% had respiratory failure (50% received invasive mechanical ventilation) and 68.8% had cardiovascular failure; half of the patients had 3 or more organ failures. We observed a 54% ICU, 38% hospital, 28% 3 months and 26% 1 year survival rates. Main cause of death was refractory shock (37%). Each additional organ failure was associated with lower survival probability by univariate analysis, except for neurologic failure; age was not a predictor of early death; by multivariate analysis, only respiratory failure and mechanical
Conclusion: Patients with hematologic malignancy and multiorgan failure are at increased risk of death, however timely ICU care can still be associated with 40% survival. Mechanical ventilation, but not hematologic diagnosis nor age, was associated with lower survival probability. Importantly, patients surviving ICU admission attain good functional state at 1-year.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

Acute kidney injury in critically ill oncohaematological patients: single centre experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000518

Introduction: Organ dysfunction is one of the main reasons for admission to intensive care unit (ICU) and it is associated with higher mortality. Acute renal injury (AKI) might occur not only because of general reasons but it is also associated with haematological malignancy itself, treatment and complications.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to analyse AKI in critically ill oncohaematological patients.

Methods: We retrospectively analysed data of oncohaematological patients who were admitted to the 3rd ICU in Vilnius university hospital Santaros clinics from 13 07 2017 to 27 12 2019. Inclusion criteria were: oncohaematological malignancy, age > 18 years, arterial or central line inserted, signed informed consent form. AKI was diagnosed according to KDIGO and RIFLE scoring systems. Baseline creatinine level was calculated at least 6 months before admission to ICU. Levels of creatinine were taken and recorded on admission to the hospital and ICU. Decision to admit patient to ICU and/or start renal replacement therapy was made by ICU doctor in charge. All of the continuous renal replacement therapies were performed with Prismaflex machine using citrate anticoagulation and CVVHDF mode. The effluent dose was prescribed by attending ICU doctor. Statistical analysis was performed with R statistical package. A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Results: 117 patients (67 males and 50 females with the average age of 59.86 ± 15.26) were included into the study. The baseline creatinine was 91.07 µmol/L ± 59.34, creatinine on admission to hospital was 118.96 ± 91.86, on admission to ICU 130.37 ± 94.61. Incidence of acute renal injury on admission to hospital according to KDIGO and RIFLE score were 35 (29.91%) and 15 (12.82%) on the admission to ICU 48 (41.03%), 19 (16.24%). Patients with KDIGO stage 1 had lower arterial pH (7.41 vs 7.46, p value < 0.05), lower BE (-4.0 vs -0.2, p value < 0.05), higher lactate (1.3 vs 2.0, p-value < 0.001) on admission to ICU. Patients with AKI according to RIFLE on admission to ICU had higher creatinine on admission to hospital (151 vs 75, p-value < 0.001). CVVHDF was used for 30 (25.42%) patients. Higher proportion of patients who received CVVHDF had renal injury according to RIFLE not only in ICU (52.63% vs 20.20%, p value < 0.05), but also on a ward (46.66% vs 22.33%, p value < 0.05). Patients who received CVVHDF had lower arterial pH (7.37 vs 7.45, p value < 0.05), lower BE (-5.9 vs -0.3, p value < 0.001), higher lactate (2.1 vs 1.4 p value < 0.05), higher creatinine on admission to hospital (108 vs 82.5 p value < 0.05), higher creatinine on admission to ICU (174.5 vs 86, p value < 0.05). Patients who received CVVHDF had higher ICU mortality and worse overall survival (83.33% vs 38.64%, p value < 0.0001, 96.67 vs 64.77, p value < 0.001).

Conclusion: Acute renal injury is common in critically ill oncohaematological patients. Higher incidence is seen if diagnosed with KDIGO scoring system. Patients with AKI and those who received renal replacement therapy had more derangements on arterial blood gases. Patients who received CVVHDF had signs of acute renal injury already on a ward they also had higher ICU mortality and lower overall survival.

000519
High dose vitamin C therapy for oncohaematological patients with septic shock
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Correspondence: S. Judickas
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000519

Introduction: Patients with septic shock have a very high mortality rate despite of aggressive treatment in intensive care unit (ICU). Prognosis of oncohaematological patients is even worse. High dose vitamin C therapy received a lot of attention over the last years as a supplementary therapy which could lead to improvement during septic shock.
**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to evaluate the impact of high dose vitamin C therapy during septic shock in oncohaematological patients.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analysed data of oncohaematological patients with septic shock who were admitted to the 3rd Intensive care unit from 13 07 2017 to 19 02 2019 in Vilnius university hospital Santaros clinics. Inclusion criteria were: oncohaematological malignancy, age > 18 years, septic shock, arterial or central line inserted, signed informed consent form. Septis and septic shock were defined as per SEPSIS-3 definition. When noradrenaline dose reached 0.1 mcg/kg/min. patients received vitamin C 1500 mg every six hours i/v together with hydrocortisone 50 mg every six hours i/v, thiamine 200 mg i/v once per day supplementary to the standard treatment of septic shock according to local practice. Control group consisted of oncohaematological patients with septic shock who didn’t receive high dose vitamin C therapy. High dose vitamin C therapy was stopped when patients became haemodynamically stable. Statistical analysis was performed with R statistical package. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

**Results:** 71 patients with haematological malignancies were admitted to ICU. 36 patients were diagnosed with sepsis and 33 of them had septic shock. 23 patients received high dose Vitamin C therapy. 9 patients were excluded from the analysis due to the violation of dosage of vitamin C. Final analysis included 14 patients who received high dose vitamin C therapy. Control group consisted of 10 patients. Patients in high dose vitamin C group were older (65.57 vs 53.95, p < 0.0027), they had a higher SOFA score on day1, day2 and day3 in intensive care unit (accordingly 6.84 vs 6.2*, 10.62 vs 7.12**, 10.09 vs 5.92***, p value *= 0.0534, ** = 0.0051, *** = 0.002597). Arterial pH, BE, lactate did not differ between groups on admission to intensive care unit (accordingly 7.46 vs 7.43 (p = 0.44), BE = 299 vs 535 (p = 0.48), lactate 1.9 vs 1.2 (p = 0.09)). Intensive care unit survival of patients treated with high dose vitamin C therapy was 21.43% (3/14) compared with 47.37% (9/19) in standard treatment group (p value 0.1258). There was no difference in terms of intravenous fluids (per hour), time spent in intensive care unit length of vasopressor therapy and renal replacement therapy between the groups (149.15 ml vs 131.1 ml, 69.5 h vs 71 h, 62 h vs 10 h and 50% (7/7) vs 26.32% (5/19)).

**Conclusion:** High dose vitamin C therapy didn’t improve survival of oncohaematological patients with septic shock. Patients with high dose vitamin C had higher SOFA scores on the first, second and third days in intensive care unit.

03. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

000553

**Lymphocyte subpopulations in critical SARS-CoV2 infection**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000553**

Introduction: Since the beginning of the new SARS-CoV2 pandemic, numerous biological and clinical findings have been described through the literature. Lymphopenia is one of them and is found in nearly all severe cases (1). Little is known about the lymphocyte subset in this pathology, despite interesting data that could help to better understand SARS-CoV2 infection.

Objectives: To review the lymphocyte subpopulations in SARS-CoV2 infected patients admitted in our ICU.

Methods: Observational, retrospective and descriptive study. We reviewed all our SARS-CoV2 patients admitted in our ICU between march 2020 and may 2020 and selected patients who had lymphocyte subpopulations requested at admission. Epidemiological data, hemoglobin, leucocyte count, leucocyte population, and lymphocyte subpopulation (studied by flow cytometry) were collected.

Results: Of 46 patients admitted in our ICU (22 beds), 10 had lymphocyte subset requested. Mean age (+/-SD) was 56.18 years (+/- 11). All of these 10 patients were critical SARS-CoV2 pneumonia, requiring mechanical ventilation within their stay. 5/10 patients required VV-ECMO. All patients were HIV negative. 8/10 patients had low CD4+ T-lymphocyte count (317/mm3 +/-94), with proportionally more profound alteration in CD8+ T-lymphocyte count (82/mm3 +/-30). The T-Lymphocyte Helper/Suppressor ratio was elevated in most of the patients (7/10), with mean value of 4.3 (+/-2). No patient had a ratio less than 1. There was an increase in proportion of circulating B lymphocytes (24% +/-10%), with normal absolute value (148/mm3 +/-53). All patients had normal NK cells value (75/mm3 +/-31).

Conclusions: infections are classically described in patients having specific risk factor (malignancies, solid organ transplant, specific drugs) or HIV patients having CD4+ count lower than 200/mm3 (2) which was the case in only 2/10 patients (lowest value of 126/mm3).

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

000716

**Cytokine release syndrome after CAR T cell therapy. A multidisciplinary approach.**

The Advanced Therapies in Hematology Unit-Vall d’Hebron Hospital (Barcelona) experience

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000716**

Introduction: Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) is a clinical syndrome derived from the massive release of cytokines after immunotherapy, which can range in severity from a flu-like illness to multiorgan dysfunction syndrome.

Objectives: To describe the clinical profile of CRS and to identify risk factors for developing CRS and for CRS severity after Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy.

Methods: Retrospective study that included those patients treated with CAR T-cell therapy in the Advanced Therapies in Hematology Unit (UTAH) at Vall d’Hebron University Hospital (Barcelona) from August 2018 to December 2019. The UTAH is a 12-bed, monitored unit, staffed by Hematologists, with the support of a multidisciplinary team including ICU, Neurology, Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases, Microbiology, Immunology and Pharmacy specialists. Patients were admitted before
CART-cell infusion for lymphodepletive chemotherapy and were followed up during at least 10 days after CAR T-cell infusion, per protocol. CRS and immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANs) were defined and graded according to ASTCT Consensus (Biol Blood Marrow Transplant 2019; 25: 625-38). We considered CRS onset in the first 72 hours after CAR T-cell infusion as early CRS (eCRS), and severe CRS (sCRS) as CRS grade >1. Chi-Square, Fisher’s test, T test, U Mann-Whitney and logistic regression were employed as appropriate. Quantitative variables are reported as median (IQR) and categorical as frequency (%).

**Results:** Forty-one patients, 31 (76%) male with a median age of 57 (47-66) years, were treated with anti-CD19 CAR T-cells for refractory non-Hodgkin lymphoma (38, 93%) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (3, 7%). Costimulatory domains for CAR T-cells were 4-1BB and CD28 in 39 (95%) and 2 (5%) patients, respectively. Thirty (73%) developed CRS:13 (32%) grade 1, 16 (39%) grade 2, and 1 (2%) grade 3. All of them had fever, with a median peak temperature of 38.4°C (38-39), 13 (32%) developed hypotension that required fluid bolus and in 11 (27%) hypoxemia requiring supplemental oxygen (6 liters per minute or less in 10 and 30 lpm administered with high-flow nasal cannula in 1 patient). Time from CAR T-cell infusion to CRS was 4 (2-6) days. Ten (33%) patients developed eCRS. Duration of CRS was 5 (3-8) days. Tocilizumab was used in 8 (20%) patients and was associated with resolution of CRS in all treated cases; one patient (2%) needed a second dose to control CRS. Moreover, 8 (20%) patients developed ICANs, at a median of 7 (5-9) days after CAR T cell infusion; 1 (2%) grade 1, 6 (15%) grade 2 and 1 (2%) grade 3. Seven of these 8 patients developed ICANs after CRS onset. Patients with ICANs grade 2 and 3 were treated with corticosteroids with complete resolution in all patients. Baseline biomarkers were not predictors of CRS (Table 1). Patients with sCRS had earlier CRS onset, higher temperature, higher CRP at day 1 of of CRS, higher CRP peak, LDH peak and interleukin 6 peak levels (Table 2). After multivariate analysis, peak temperature (OR 44.6, 95% IC 1.6-1243, p = 0.0025) and early CRS (OR 39.7, 95% IC 1.2-1279, p = 0.038) were associated with severity. Most patients were successfully managed in the UTAH, with only 2 requiring admission to the ICU. No fatal events were observed due to CAR T-cell related toxicity.

### Table 1. Baseline biomarkers in patients with and without CRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>All (n=41)</th>
<th>No CRS (n=11)</th>
<th>CRS (n=30)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>3 (1.1-8.7)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.1-7.8)</td>
<td>3.1 (1.5-11.4)</td>
<td>0.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (UI/L)</td>
<td>594 (399-1084)</td>
<td>441 (332-659)</td>
<td>650 (416-1405)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (ng/mL)</td>
<td>741 (396-1578)</td>
<td>426 (387-1542)</td>
<td>702 (406-1695)</td>
<td>0.547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Characteristics of CRS depending on severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>CRS (n=30)</th>
<th>Grade 1 CRS (n=13)</th>
<th>Severe CRS (n=17)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1 of CRS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>3 (1.7-8.7)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.7-3)</td>
<td>5.4 (3.18-4.4)</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/dL)</td>
<td>12.3 (6.7-25)</td>
<td>8.9 (6.6-9.8)</td>
<td>19.8 (13.6-42.4)</td>
<td>0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (UI/L)</td>
<td>809 (474-2003)</td>
<td>553 (474-1092)</td>
<td>1485 (613-3095)</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6 (pg/mL)</td>
<td>68.7 (31.6-269.3)</td>
<td>46.5 (20-63.7)</td>
<td>214.5 (72.3-317.8)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp (°C)</td>
<td>38.8 (38.2-39.1)</td>
<td>38.4 (38.1-38.5)</td>
<td>39.1 (38.3-39.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early CRS</td>
<td>10 (33)</td>
<td>1 (8)</td>
<td>9 (33)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Most patients treated with CAR T-cell therapy presented some adverse event, including CRS and/or ICANs. Resolution was fast in most cases, with no fatal events in our cohort. These results were achieved with a proactive multidisciplinary approach, leading to an early detection and appropriate therapy. Peak temperature and early onset of CRS may be useful to identify those patients with higher CRS severity.

03. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

**000731**

Prognostic factors in critically ill oncological patients admitted in a tertiary ICU: The Vall d’Hebron Intensive Care Department/ Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology cohort (VHIO)

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000731*

**Introduction:** Over the last two decades, the number of cancer patients requiring ICU care has dramatically increased with 15% of ICU beds occupied by cancer patients. Thus, in the following years intensive care medicine will become a key component in the management of these patients.

**Objectives:** Our aim was to describe the cohort of patients with solid organ cancer admitted to a tertiary hospital ICU and analyze factors associated with survival.

**Methods:** Seven-year (2010-2017) retrospective study, including adult patients with solid organ cancer who required ICU admission. Chi-Square, Fisher’s test, T test, U Mann-Whitney and Cox’s regression (including all significant variables in the univariate analysis) were employed as appropriate. Quantitative variables are reported as median (IQR) and categorical as frequency (%).

**Results:** Two hundred patients were included, 107 (54%) were male with a median age of 60 (50-68) years. Lung cancer was present in 53 (27%), followed by colon 27 (14%), breast 16 (8%) and ovary 15 (7%). One hundred and six (53%) had metastatic disease. Most of the patients (181; 91%) were on ECOG 0-2 and Charlson Index was 9 (5-11). Respiratory failure was the reason for ICU admission in 72 (36%) patients, shock in 41 (21%), respiratory failure and shock in 33 (17%), urgent surgery in 36 (18%) and central nervous system involvement in 12 (6%). Neutropenia was present in 27 (14%), SOFA score at day 1 was 6 (4-9). Eighty-four (42%) had a lower SOFA score at day 3 and 60 (30%) at day 5. One hundred and twenty-five (62%) required vasopressors (VP), 89 (45%) invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), 72 (36%) nasal high flow (NHF) and 18 (9%) renal replacement therapy (RRT). Of those patients treated with NHF, 24 (33%) were intubated, while 35 (49%) were not intubated after improvement in their condition and 7 (10%) because of a do not intubate order. ICU mortality affected to 50 (25%) and in-hospital mortality to 86 (43%). Differences between hospital survivors and non-survivors are detailed in Table 1. Patients requiring RRT (HR 2.7, 95% CI (1.1-6.8) p = 0.036) and those who did not decrease their SOFA score at day 5 (HR 2.3 IC 95% (1.1-4.9) had higher in-hospital mortality after multivariate analysis.
Conclusion: Hospital mortality of oncologic patients that require ICU admission remains high. Mortality may be more dependant on organ failure development and need for organ support suggesting that these patients may benefit from an earlier ICU admission. Persistent organ failure is associated with worse outcomes and, therefore, this information could be useful in the bedside clinical decision making process during an ICU trial, although clinical global assessment must prevail.

03. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU

000954

ICU-outcomes in CAR-T patients—A single centre experience

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Introduction: Chimeric antigen receptor-modified T (CAR-T) cells are a revolutionary treatment for patients with advanced blood cancers. A proportion of these patients will develop significant toxicities, requiring critical care management. Our hospital was one of 7 in the UK approved for the treatment of relapsed/refractory high-grade lymphoma and refractory acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

Objectives: To describe our experience with lymphoma and ALL patients, who received CAR-T CD19 cells and were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Methods: From January 2019 until May 2020, patients with diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL), transformed follicular lymphoma, primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL) or ALL, who were infused with CAR-T CD19 cells and developed ≥ grade 2 Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) and Immune Effector Cell Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS) were analysed.

Results: Sixty-one patients underwent CAR-T therapy during the study period, with 21 (34%) requiring admission to ICU. The mean age at presentation to ICU was 57 years and 76% of the admissions were males. All patients were receiving broad spectrum antibiotics and 19% of treatments were broadened in ICU and an antifungal was added. CRS/sepsis (n=12, 57%) was the most common documented reason for admission to ICU, with a proven infection documented in only 2 patients. The reasons for admission are shown in figure 1. Median duration of ICU stay was 4 (range 1-21) days. Grade 2 CRS was documented in 12 patients (57%) for a median duration of 2 (range 0-6) days. Grade 3 CRS was seen in 6 patients (29%) for 1-3 days. No patient progressed to grade 4 CRS during their ICU stay. Six patients had grade 1 ICANS each for a median duration of 4 (2-6) days, whereas another 6 had grade 3 ICANS for 2 days (1-4).

During their ICU stay, 9 patients (48%) required vasopressors for a median duration of 2 (1-3) days. Three patients (14%) needed mechanical ventilation with a median duration of 5 (4-9) days and 2 patients needed renal replacement therapy for a median duration of 4 (1-7) days. IL-1, IL-6 antagonists and steroid administration are shown in figure 2. Three patients (14%) died in ICU, all in multi-organ failure. Two deaths were attributed to invasive pulmonary aspergillosis and the third to disease progression. Further 7 patients that were discharged alive from ICU, died before hospital discharge from disease progression.

Conclusion: A significant number of patients receiving CAR-T therapy will need admission to ICU, requiring various level of organ support. Differentiation between CRS and neutropenic sepsis was difficult, and all patients stayed on antibiotics for the duration of their ICU stay. The observed ICU mortality (14%) was in accordance to the one reported in international literature and no deaths were attributed to treatment toxicity. Close collaboration between haematology and ICU is warranted for the optimal management of CAR-T patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. No grants
001105

Is there a possible benefit in therapeutic anticoagulation for all COVID-19 patients?

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Introduction: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, rapid evidence was suggesting a pro-coagulant state (1). There are currently insufficient data to recommend for or against the use of thrombolytics or increasing anticoagulant doses for VTE prophylaxis in hospitalised COVID-19 patients outside the setting of a clinical trial (2). Currently, the guidance adopted by the national institute of health recommends anticoagulation treatment risk to be assessed on individual patient basis and therapeutic anticoagulation to commence in the event when it’s clinically indicated (2), namely when patients develop thrombo-embolic manifestations.

Objectives: We have undertaken a retrospective data analysis of the patients admitted to our hospital between Mid February to mid April 2020 with COVID-19 illness to ITU and to the general wards. We have established the number need to treat for both patients groups based on a single outcome (death), in an effort to establish a possible benefit from starting anticoagulation earlier to ward patients as ITU patients.

Methods: Drug history was identified through hospital records for confirmed patients with COVID-19 disease to identify patients who have been on anticoagulation prior to hospital admission for an independent reason. For both groups (ward patients and ITU patients) the outcome was established as Death or improvement at the time of data collection. Total number of cases explored for ITU is 51 patients, compared to 136 patients on the ward.

Results: For ITU patients the NNT (number needed to treat) to prevent adverse outcome (death) was 2, with an absolute risk reduction of 52.1% and a CI (confidence interval) for NNT = 1.5-2.6. For ward patients the NNT = 4, with an absolute risk reduction of 23.4% and a CI of 2.2-162.0.

Conclusion: The above mentioned results does not support changing the current practice to starting therapeutic anticoagulation on ward patients “empirically”. The risk assessment therefore is to be conducted on individual basis and assessed for each patient individually.
Lean body mass as a prognostic factor in post-cardiac arrest patients treated by targeted temperature management: a retrospective cohort study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000005

Introduction: Post-cardiac arrest patients with return of spontaneous circulation have a very low survival rate and poor prognosis despite aggressive treatments. Prediction these patients’ prognosis is important for planning the treatment of the patients and providing information to their families. Several studies have reported body mass index (BMI) as a prognostic factor in post-cardiac arrest patients, which is called “obesity paradox”. In this study, researchers aimed to investigate the relationship of LBM with the prognosis of post-cardiac arrest patients.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study included adult patients of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest between January 2015 and August 2018. The enrolled patients were divided into 2 groups based on clinical outcomes (cerebral performance category score, 1 to 2 and 3 to 5) and compare the characteristics of these two groups. Association of LBM with good neurologic outcomes (CPC score 1 to 2) was analyzed by dividing patients into quartile segment by their LBM. Predictive value of optimal cutoff points of LBM in post-cardiac arrest patients was evaluated.

Results: A total 169 patients were analyzed (CPC score 1 to 2, n=55; CPC score 3 to 5, n=114). Patients’ age, frequency of witnessed cardiac arrest, initial shock rhythm, post-hospital flow time, estimated cardiac arrest, initial shock rhythm, post-hospital flow time, estimated cardiac arrest, and LBM were different in the two groups (p <0.05). LBM was associated with the prognosis of post-cardiac arrest patients in the 4th quartile segment. Cutoff point of lean body mass for prediction of cardiac arrest outcomes was 48.34 (sensitivity = 0.600, specificity = 0.763, accuracy = 0.710) and the predictive value was 0.68 (95% confidence interval, 0.60 to 0.75).

Conclusion: High LBM is related to good neurologic prognosis of patients after cardiac arrest. The increase in muscle mass due to exercise is interpreted as showing positive effects on hypoxic injury in cardiac arrest and reperfusion injury after return of spontaneous circulation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


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Probability of receiving mechanical chest compressions is associated with cardiac arrest mortality: a post-hoc, propensity score analysis from the TTH48 trial

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000284

Introduction: Various randomized clinical trials reported no differences in outcome when mechanical chest compressions (CC) were used in cardiac arrest patients [1-3]; however, in these trials mechanical CC were systematically applied soon after ALS arrival to evaluate its effectiveness compared to manual CC. The evidence regarding the impact of mechanical CC on mortality in patients with refractory out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and prolonged resuscitation efforts, when mechanical CC are initiated later, is scarce.

Methods: This is a post hoc, propensity score (PS) analysis of OHCA patients who received or did not received mechanical CC during resuscitation manoeuvres in the TTH48 trial. A predefined set of covariates (recruiting centre, age, height, weight, gender, location of OHCA, witnessed OHCA, initial cardiac rhythm, bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation, automatic external defibrillator used, time from OHCA to basic life support, time from OHCA to advanced life support, resuscitation drugs used, intubation on scene) were explored and used for developing a PS for the receipt of mechanical CC using multiple binary logistic regression. The PS was then applied as an adjustment factor, together with the receipt of mechanical CC, in a Cox proportional hazard model to estimate the impact on 6-months mortality.

Results: Out of 351 patients included in the analysis, 25.6% received mechanical CC. No major differences in baseline characteristics were observed between groups, except for prolonged time to ROSC [20;38] vs 20 [15;25] min, p<0.01) and more frequent use of resuscitation drug (adrenaline: 80 vs 57%, p<0.01; amiodarone: 53 vs 37%, p<0.01) in the mechanical CC group. The Cox proportional hazard models did not show a significant impact of the probability to receive mechanical CC and the receipt of mechanical CC on 6-months mortality [1.676 [0.580-4.842], p = 0.34 and 1.683 [0.925-3.061], p = 0.09, respectively). We computed another PS including time from OHCA to ROSC to the same covariates used previously; in this case, the predicted probability to receive mechanical CC was significantly associated with 6 months mortality [3.713 [1.837-9.599], p < 0.01).

Conclusion: When time to ROSC was included in the PS, the likelihood to receive mechanical CC during cardiac arrest significantly correlated with 6-months mortality while receipt of mechanical chest compressions did not. The same association was not observed when time to ROSC wasn’t accounted in the PS. The longer duration of resuscitation...
end tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO2) is one of the most useful physiological markers to evaluate the degree of systemic organ perfusion during CPR. EtCO2 is an indicator of cardiac output and reflects pulmonary perfusion, but EtCO2 measurement requires intubation, which is not easily and rapidly performed. In contrast, cerebral tissue oxygen saturation can be rapidly assessed during CPR, and serves as a possible indicator of return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). Cerebral tissue oxygen saturation can be easily assessed by placing oximeter probes on the patients’ forehead. Increase in cardiac output and pulmonary perfusion improves systemic oxygenation and elevates regional cerebral tissue oxygen saturation. Studies that elucidate the relationship between cerebral tissue oxygen saturation and EtCO2 during CPR are warranted.

**Objectives:** We investigated the relationship between cerebral tissue oxygen saturation and EtCO2 to determine if cerebral tissue oxygen saturation can evaluate the quality of chest compression during CPR.

**Methods:** This is an observational study conducted from April to September 2019. Patients arrived in a state of cardiac arrest at the emergency department of Yamagata University Hospital in Japan. Cerebral tissue oxygen saturation was measured by near infrared spectroscopy (NIRO-200NX, Hamamatsu photonics, Japan) during CPR. We assessed cerebral tissue oxygen saturation using two approaches. The first is TOI, which represents the ratio of oxygenated haemoglobin to total haemoglobin and the second is SnO2, which is the ratio between the change in oxygenated haemoglobin and change in total haemoglobin. We also measured EtCO2 following intubation. We compared cerebral tissue oxygen saturation with EtCO2 every minute in cases in which both parameters were measured.

**Results:** Seven cases were included, and the median age was 81 years old. Three of the seven cases achieved ROSC, but none survived for one month. The median values for EtCO2, TOI, and SnO2 were 14.0 mmHg (inter quartile range (IQR): 10.0-18.0), 37.7% (IQR: 32.4-42.7) and 38.2% (IQR: 17.8-59.5), respectively. The correlation coefficient between TOI and EtCO2 was 0.681 (95% confidence interval (95%CI) 0.559-0.774, p<0.001), and between SnO2 and EtCO2 was 0.459 (95%CI 0.288-0.601, p<0.001), respectively.

**Conclusion:** This study showed a strong correlation between tissue oxygen saturation and EtCO2. This suggests that cerebral tissue oxygen saturation may reflect the degree of cardiac output that results from chest compressions during CPR.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. None

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**Myeloperoxidase and Resistin as inflammation biomarkers in cardiac arrest patients**

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**Introduction:** Activation of a systemic inflammatory response after cardiac arrest (CA) due to whole-body ischemia/reperfusion injury complicates recovery and may lead to organ dysfunction. Neutrophil granulocytes are rapidly reactive inflammatory cells that play a role in ischemia/reperfusion injury. Myeloperoxidase (MPO) and resistin are released from activated neutrophils. MPO is involved in the generation of reactive oxygen species upon neutrophil activation. Resistin has a
Objectives: We tested the association of MPO and resistin levels with 6-month neurological outcome in ICU-treated out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OOHCA) patients.

Methods: We analyzed blood samples taken upon ICU admission and at 48 hours from 108 OHCAs with shockable rhythm included in the COMACARE study. We defined 6-month cerebral performance category (CPC) 1-2 as good and CPC 3-5 as poor outcome. We calculated area under receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) to determine association of biomarker levels with poor outcome. We tested the relationship between return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) delay and admission biomarker levels with linear regression.

Results: At ICU admission, median (Interquartile range, IQR) concentration of MPO was 97 (46-170) ng/mL in good and 98 (52-197) ng/mL in poor outcome groups, and of resistin 39 (25-57) ng/mL in good and 43 (29-64) ng/mL in poor outcome groups. At admission the AUC for the association of MPO with poor outcome was 0.52 (95% CI 0.41 – 0.64) and for resistin 0.57 (95% CI 0.46 – 0.69). At 48 h the median (IQR) concentration of MPO was 92 (50-163) ng/mL in good and 104 (50-138) ng/mL in poor outcome groups, and of resistin 83 (57-146) ng/mL in good and 86 (53-172) ng/mL in poor outcome groups. At 48 h the AUC values were 0.47 (95% CI 0.36 – 0.58) (MPO) and 0.52 (95% CI 0.40 – 0.64) (resistin). The linear regression analysis showed that MPO levels at the time of admission were associated with ROSC delay (B 4.9, 95% CI 0.75 - 8.9, p-value 0.02). The same was observed for admission levels of resistin (B 0.77, 95% CI 0.09 – 1.45, p-value 0.03).

Conclusion: Duration of ischemia is associated with ICU admission levels of MPO and resistin, suggesting neutrophil involvement in the systemic inflammatory response after CA. The markers showed no ability to predict long-term neurological outcome.

000485 Osteopontin and Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 as biomarkers for evaluating prognosis after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest


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Introduction: Cardiac arrest (CA) leads to activation of the inflammatory system due to whole body ischemia-reperfusion injury. Osteopontin (OPN), an extracellular matrix protein produced by many tissues and Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9 (PCSK9), a regulator of cholesterol homeostasis, play a role in the low-grade inflammation leading to coronary artery disease (CAD).

Objectives: Since CAD is the most important cause for CA, we tested if the release of OPN and PCSK9 is increased in the acute inflammation after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCAs) and hypothesized that they have prognostic value.

Methods: We used blood samples of 112 patients with OHCAs and shockable rhythm included in the COMACARE study. Biomarker levels were measured at the time of ICU admission and at 48, 72 and 104 hours. We used 6-month cerebral performance category (CPC) as the main outcome and defined CPC 1-2 as good and CPC 3-5 as poor outcome. We evaluated the association of admission biomarker levels with outcome using area under receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) analysis. We assessed temporal differences in biomarker levels with linear modeling with restricted maximum likelihood estimation (REML).

Results: Median (interquartile range IQR) concentration of OPN was 58 (31-79) ng/mL at admission, 60 (20-100) ng/mL at 24 h, 64 (10-170) ng/mL at 48 h and 240 (100-320) ng/mL at 72 h. For PCSK9 the concentrations were 160 (100-210) ng/mL at admission, 110 (74-160) ng/mL at 24 h, 160 (92-220) ng/mL at 48 h and 240 (170-330) ng/mL at 72 h. The predictive value of OPN at admission was weak (AUC 0.548, 95% confidence interval, CI 0.43-0.66) and similar results were observed for PCSK9 (AUC 0.531, 95% CI 0.44-0.67). With linear modeling we observed an effect of sample collection timepoint (F 98, P < 0.01) and poor outcome (F 6.8, P = 0.01) on OPN concentration. Sample collection timepoint had an effect (F 78, P < 0.01) on PCSK9 concentration but poor outcome did not show a statistically significant effect. The interaction of sample collection timepoint and poor outcome did not show a statistically significant effect on the concentrations of OPN or PCSK9.

Conclusion: Cardiac arrest is followed by changes in OPN and PCSK9 concentrations and the temporal course of OPN response differs between 6-month neurological outcome groups. The biomarkers did not have clinically relevant predictive value at ICU admission.
to the arrival of HIOWAA. Of the remainder, a quarter subsequently achieved ROSC while treated by HIOWAA. Cardiac arrest was witnessed in 126 patients (65.6%), un witnessed in 58 (30.2%) and not recorded or unknown for 8 patients (4.2%). Of witnessed arrests, 102 patients (91%) received documented bystander CPR of which 67 (53.2%) had ROSC on arrival in ED. Unwitnessed arrests received bystander CPR in 41 patients (70.7%), did not receive bystander CPR in 10 (17.2%) and was not recorded in 7 (12.1%). Of the 10 patients that were neither witnessed nor received bystander CPR, two (20%) had ROSC on arrival in the ED.

A number of interventions were performed in both groups. In survivors, prehospital emergency anaesthesia (PHEA) was carried out in 24 patients (29.3%), vasopressors post-ROSC in 34 (41.5%) and ongoing intravenous sedation in 31 (37.8%). In non-survivors, life was declared extinct on scene in 81 patients (73.6%)

**Conclusion:** Our data is consistent with known determinants of outcome following cardiac arrest (witnessed cardiac arrest, bystander CPR and shockable rhythm all associated with higher chance of ROSC). Increasing age was associated with a lower chance of survival. In successful resuscitation, key interventions performed by the PHCC team not available to standard ambulance crews related primarily to post-resuscitation care following ROSC. In unsuccessful resuscitation, the PHCC team was also able to support decision-making and aid prognostication with the aid of ultrasound, which allowed termination of futile treatment without admission to hospital in the majority of cases without ROSC.

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**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


4. HK is funded by the Rijnstate-Radboud promotion fund
Follow up telephone contact was made with each patient at least 14 months following ICU discharge. Verbal consent was obtained to collect anonymised information. A single investigator, who was blinded to NSE values, conducted all patient interviews. Neurological outcome was stratified using in-house standardised questions and the validated Cerebral Performance Category (CPC) (3). Patients were asked to subjectively assess their QoL on a locally devised numerical scale (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**

Results: Thirty-two patients (36.0%) survived to hospital discharge, four patients had subsequently died and two were not contactable; these patients were excluded from analysis. Eighty four percent of patients were male, the median age was 65 and 66% had known cardiovascular disease. Twenty patients (77%) had an NSE level. Data were analysed using Mann Whitney U test.

There were 3 patients with a poor neurological outcome (defined as CPC ≥ 3) therefore it is a small patient group for analysis. However, there was no significant relationship between NSE and neurological outcome post-OOHCA at 14 months. It is noteworthy that the patient with the highest NSE had the worst outcome. Previous in-house research has shown an NSE of >64.5 μg/L (100% specificity, 78% sensitivity) correlates with poor neurological outcome (4). One study suggests the NSE ratio at 48 and 24 hours can be used as a reliable prediction of outcome, which should be further investigated in our patient group (8).

**Conclusion:** The 72-hour NSE result in survivors showed no relationship with neurological outcome post-OOHCA at 14 months. It is noteworthy that the patient with the highest NSE had the worst outcome. Previous in-house research has shown an NSE of >64.5 μg/L (100% specificity, 78% sensitivity) correlates with poor neurological outcome (4). One study suggests the NSE ratio at 48 and 24 hours can be used as a reliable prediction of outcome, which should be further investigated in our patient group (8).

Larger scale follow-up studies should therefore be conducted to further assess the use of NSE in prognostication of long-term neurological outcomes for OOHCA patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Bækgaard JS, Viereck S, Møller TP, Ersbøll AK, Lippert F, Folke F. The effects of long-term neurological outcomes for OOHCA patients. Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

**000593**

Differential patterns of 20-30msec Somatosensory Evoked Potential (SSEP) complex and neurological prognosis in comatose survivors of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA)

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**Introduction:** Recent studies (1) suggested a potential role of P25/30 SSEP in prediction of neurological outcome after OHCA. However it is not clear whether any particular patterns of 20-30msec SSEP complex could potentially improve the already established predictive value of N20.

**Objectives:** The main objective of this study is the integrated analysis of the 20-30 msec SSEP complex in order to identify all possible patterns and their potential prognostic value.

**Methods:** Single-centre, prospective, observational study. Adult comatose survivors of OHCA with Targeted Temperature Management [TTM] (normothermia), neuroprotection and organ support on ICU. SSEP recorded 24-36 h post return of spontaneous circulation. Analysis of the 20-30msec SSEP complex was performed by 2 independent interpreters: 1. The amplitude of both N20 and P25/30 was measured bilaterally from an agreed baseline. An amplitude threshold of 0.5 microvolt [μV] determined the presence or absence of each SSEP component. 2. The Peak To Peak Amplitude (PTPA) of the 20-30msec complex (peak of N20 to peak of P25) was also measured bilaterally. The largest PTPA was used to test potential correlations with patients’ neurological outcome. Short term neurological outcome assessed at hospital discharge used the cerebral performance category [CPC] score: favourable outcome 1-2, unfavourable outcome 3-5.

**Results:** Data from the first 52 patients: 37 male, 15 female, median age 59.5 years. OHCA rhythm: 31 VF, 21 asystole. Cause of OHCA: 38 cardiac, 13 non-cardiac, 1 unknown. Median anoxic time 25 min. Median Temperature [T] in the first 24 h 36.0°C. Median time of SSEP recording 24 h. Median T during SSEP recording 36.1°C. The preliminary clinical and neurophysiological analysis has done for the first 48 patients: 23 patients had favourable and 25 had unfavourable neurological outcomes. Among the 23 patients with a favourable outcome, both N20 and P25/30 SSEP were present in all. Among patients with an unfavourable outcome, both N20 and P25/30 were absent in 22, and N20 was absent but P25/30 was present in 3.

Use of 0.5 μV as a threshold for the N20-P25/30 complex may be potentially useful to improve the already established predictive value of N20.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study suggest a potential role of P25/30 SSEP in prediction of neurological outcome after OHCA. However it is not clear whether any particular patterns of 20-30msec SSEP complex could potentially improve the already established predictive value of N20.
2.6mcV) and unfavourable outcomes [N20: 0.275mcV, P25/30: 0.35mcV]. The highest PTPA was ≥1.20mcV in all patients with a favourable outcome [range 1.2-15.7mcV, median 3.825mcV], whereas in patients with an unfavourable outcome the highest PTPA was <1.3microv [range 0.1-1.3mcV, median 0.5mcV]. In the latter group, the PTPA was <1.0 mcV in all except 1 patient (1.3mcV). PTPA values between 1.1 and 1.3mcV could be correlated with both outcomes. We are further investigating whether separate measurement of N20 or P25/30 amplitude could be used in this patient cohort as a distinctive feature between outcomes.

Conclusion: Addition of P25/30 in the analysis of 20-30ms SSEP complex may potentially increase N20’s positive predictive value for the short term favourable neurological outcome after OHCA. Analysis of P25/30 does not affect N20’s already established negative predictive value.

Direct PTPA measurements of the 20-30 msec SSEP complex provides an easy to measure value for future objective quantitative assessments. Preliminary results suggest PTPA of <1.1mcV is associated with an unfavourable neurological outcome whereas a PTPA of >1.3mcV appears to be associated with a favourable neurological outcome. As the number of patients increases, it will become clearer whether the above suggestions will be consistently reproduced and are statistically significant.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Short latency positive peak following N20 somatosensory evoked potential is superior to N20 in predicting neurologic outcome after out of hospital cardiac arrest. Kim SW, et al. Crit Care Med 46(6):545‑551, 2018

Introduction: Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) carries a low survival rate, especially in rural areas. Coronary artery disease (CAD) represents the most common cause of collapse. Predictors of survival have been described in the literature. However, most studies have been conducted in city areas. Therefore, little is known about the resuscitation performances of emergency medical services (EMS) in non-city areas.

Objectives: We sought to perform a quality control assessment on the management of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) complicated with OHCA in non-urban areas. We explored standard parameters, resuscitation settings, pre- and in-hospital response times, lactate level, cath lab findings and clinical outcomes at 30 days.

Methods: The location of our institution consists of non-urban areas with a low population density. Built at the top of a hill, the hospital was initially founded in 1903 to treat patients suffering from tuberculosis. In this context, we performed a retrospective mono-center study including 40 patients resuscitated from OHCA with ACS.

Results: Parameters associated with 30-day mortality included age, no-bystander CPR, no use of AED, non‑convertible rhythm, duration of CPR, recurrence of cardiac arrest, epinephrine dose, cardiac dysfunction, LAD culprit lesion and delivery time intervals (cath lab/ICU admission). Particularly, lactate level, distance from hospital, duration of pre-hospital management (no-flow, low-flow) and delayed response times (EMS arrival, ER admission) were predictive of early mortality.

Conclusion: Pre-hospital emergency care of patients with cardiac arrest remains challenging, particularly in non-city areas. Beyond the usual prognostic factors, it would appear that demographic parameters and pre-hospital time intervals represent major determinants of mortality. Therefore, shortening response times and prompt delivery to hospital facilities may help to improve the prognosis, rather than prolonged pre-hospital management. Further RCTs are needed to assess the effect of the ‘scoop and run’ approach versus the ‘stay and play’ approach in this setting.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Table : 30-day mortality related to patient characteristics, resuscitation settings, time intervals and demographic parameters.

| Age: <50 yrs | 7 (17%) | D30: 1 (14%) | D30: 3 (20%) | >50 yrs | 10 (25%) | D30: 10 (100%) |
| No bystander CPR | 12 (30%) | D30: 7 (61%) | D30: 11 (60%) |
| Epinephrine: ≤1 mg | 15 (38%) | D30: 1 (7%) | D30: 2 (8%) |
| Epinephrine: >1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 10 (43%) |
| No bystander CPR | 28 (73%) | D30: 7 (29%) | D30: 11 (26%) |
| Cardiac dys‑function | 6 (15%) | D30: 5 (50%) | D30: 9 (20%) |
| Epinephrine: ≤1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 9 (20%) |
| Epinephrine: >1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 9 (20%) |

| No-flow: 0' | 5 (27%) | D30: 5 (27%) | D30: 10 (100%) |
| Epinephrine: ≤1 mg | 15 (38%) | D30: 1 (7%) | D30: 2 (8%) |
| Epinephrine: >1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 9 (20%) |
| Epinephrine: >1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 9 (20%) |

| No-flow: 0' | 5 (27%) | D30: 5 (27%) | D30: 10 (100%) |
| Epinephrine: ≤1 mg | 15 (38%) | D30: 1 (7%) | D30: 2 (8%) |
| Epinephrine: >1 mg | 9 (22%) | D30: 7 (78%) | D30: 9 (20%) |
Association of dispatcher-assisted bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation with the likelihood of an initial shockable rhythm after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

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Introduction: Data are insufficient to address the association of dispatcher-assisted bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DA-BCPR) before emergency medical services (EMS) arrival with the likelihood of an initial shockable rhythm after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). We hypothesised that more patients who received DA-BCPR would have initial shockable rhythm than those without bystander CPR (No-BCPR) and that DA-BCPR has an equivalent effect on the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm to that of bystander CPR without dispatcher assistance (Non-DA-BCPR).

Objectives: We aimed to examine the incidence rate of initial shockable rhythm according to the type of bystander CPR performed after OHCA in relation to bystander CPR duration.

Methods: The study included 114,473 patients (age, ≥18 years) who had an OHCA with a presumed cardiac origin witnessed by a layperson in a prospectively recorded Japanese nationwide Utstein-style database from 2013 to 2017. Patients who received public-access defibrillation before arrival of the EMS were excluded. The patients were divided into 3 groups as follows: DA-BCPR (n=42,709), Non-DA-BCPR (n=16,979), and No-BCPR (n=54,785). The primary end point was initial shockable rhythm recorded by the EMS after arrival. A Cox proportional hazards model was applied to reflect the different bystander CPR durations before/after propensity score (PS) matching.

Results: The crude rate of the initial shockable rhythm in DA-BCPR (21.7%, 9254/42,709) was significantly higher than those in Non-DA-BCPR (18.5%, 3133/16,979) and No-BCPR (17.5%, 9569/54,785; both p<0.0001). Before PS matching, age (adjusted hazards ratio [aHR] for 1 year decrement, 1.01; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.01–1.01), rural area (aHR, 1.27; 95% CI, 1.25–1.29, p<0.0001), male sex (aHR, 1.12; 95% CI, 1.11–1.14, p<0.0001), arrest witnessed by family members (aHR, 1.06; 95% CI, 1.05–1.08, p<0.0001), and presence of bystander CPR (p<0.0001) were associated with substantially higher initial shockable rhythm rate at EMS arrival. As for the type of bystander CPR, we found no significant differences between DA-BCPR and Non-DA-BCPR in the association with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm as follows: before PS matching, aHR of DA-BCPR for initial shockable rhythm compared with Non-DA-BCPR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.03 (p = 0.52); after PS matching, aHR, 0.99; 95% CI, 0.97–1.02 (p = 0.56). As compared with No-BCPR, DA-BCPR was positively associated with initial shockable rhythm before (aHR, 1.17; 95% CI, 1.16–1.19; p<0.0001) and after PS matching (aHR, 1.07; 95% CI, 1.05–1.08; p<0.0001). Non-DA-BCPR was also positively associated with initial shockable rhythm before (aHR, 1.16; 95% CI, 1.14–1.19; p<0.0001) and after PS matching (aHR, 1.03; 95% CI, 1.00–1.05; p = 0.04) as compared with No-BCPR.

Conclusion: The patients who received DA-BCPR after witnessed OHCA due to presumed cardiac causes were more likely to have an initial shockable rhythm than those who did not receive bystander CPR. Moreover, DA-BCPR had the same multivariable-adjusted association with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm as Non-DA-BCPR.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Relationship between dispatcher-assisted bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation and initial shockable rhythm in children with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

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Introduction: The association of dispatcher-assisted bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DA-BCPR) before emergency medical services arrival with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm in children with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is unclear. We hypothesised that more children with OHCA who received DA-BCPR would have initial shockable rhythm than those without bystander CPR (No-BCPR) and that DA-BCPR has an equivalent effect on the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm to that of bystander CPR without dispatcher assistance (Non-DA-BCPR).

Objectives: We aimed to examine the incidence rate of initial shockable rhythm according to the type of BCPR after OHCA in children. We aimed to examine the incidence rate of initial shockable rhythm according to the type of BCPR after OHCA in children.

Methods: We included 2198 paediatric patients aged 8 to 17 years with a witnessed OHCA who were identified from a prospectively recorded Japanese registry from January 2005 to December 2017. Patients who received public-access defibrillation before arrival of the emergency medical services were excluded. The patients were divided into 3 groups according to the type of BCPR as follows: DA-BCPR (n=564), No-BCPR (n=466) and Non-BCPR (n=1168). The primary end point was initial shockable rhythm recorded by the emergency medical service. A Cox proportional hazards model was applied to reflect the different bystander CPR durations before/after propensity score (PS) matching.

Results: The crude rate of the initial shockable rhythm in DA-BCPR (24.3%, 137/564) was significantly higher than that in No-BCPR (11.0%, 129/1168; p<0.0001). No significant difference was found between DA-BCPR and Non-DA-BCPR (27.0%, 126/466) in terms of the crude rate of the initial shockable rhythm (p = 0.31). Before PS matching, rural area (adjusted hazards ratio [aHR], 1.20; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.07–1.35, p<0.01), male sex (aHR, 1.18; 95% CI, 1.07–1.31, p<0.01), and Non-DA-BCPR compared with No-BCPR (aHR, 1.14; 95% CI, 1.00–1.29, p<0.05) were associated with substantially higher initial shockable rhythm rate at EMS arrival. As for the type of bystander CPR, we found no significant differences between DA-BCPR and Non-DA-BCPR in the association with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm as follows: before PS matching, aHR of DA-BCPR for initial shockable rhythm compared with Non-DA-BCPR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.01 (p = 0.52); after PS matching, aHR, 0.99; 95% CI, 0.97–1.02 (p = 0.56). As compared with No-BCPR, DA-BCPR was positively associated with initial shockable rhythm before (aHR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.01; p=0.56) and after PS matching (aHR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.01; p = 0.99). No-BCPR was also positively associated with initial shockable rhythm before (aHR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.01; p<0.0001) and after PS matching (aHR, 1.00; 95% CI, 0.99–1.01; p = 0.99) as compared with No-BCPR. However, we found no significant difference between DA-BCPR and Non-DA-BCPR in their association with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm after PS matching (aHR, 0.98; 95% CI, 0.83–1.16, p = 0.81).

Conclusion: Paediatric patients aged 8 to 17 years who received DA-BCPR after a witnessed OHCA were more likely to have an initial shockable rhythm than those who did not receive bystander CPR. Moreover, DA-BCPR had the same multivariable-adjusted association with the likelihood of initial shockable rhythm as Non-DA-BCPR.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. This work was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (KAKENHI Grant Number 18K09999).
Introduction: The current guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) recommend the use of a universal basic life support termination-of-resuscitation (BLS-TOR) rule for emergency medical service (EMS) providers that was developed to identify adult patients with refractory OHCA eligible for field termination of CPR. However, the BLS-TOR rule is not recommended for children with refractory OHCA due to lack of evidence. We hypothesized that the establishment of outcome prediction criteria in the field for children with OHCA may be useful for better utilization of hospital healthcare resources and reducing attendant hazards for the EMS personnel.

Objectives: We aimed to develop and validate outcome prediction criteria children with OHCA that may aid EMS personnel in deciding to which hospital should they transport the patients.

Methods: We analysed the records of 20,872 children (age <18 years) who experienced OHCA treated by the EMS providers. Data were obtained from a prospectively recorded Japanese nationwide Utstein-style database for a 13-year period (2005–2017). Outcome measures were specificity and positive predictive value (PPV) of the newly developed criteria in predicting 1-month poor outcomes, namely, unfavourable neurological outcomes, defined as Cerebral Performance Categories score 3 to 5 (CPC 3–5), and mortality. Patients were divided into the development (2005–2014, n = 16,660) and validation (2015–2017, n = 4,212) groups.

Results: The overall 1-month mortality and 1-month CPC 3–5 rates were 88.5% (18,471/20,872) and 95.6% (19,944/20,872), respectively. Multivariate logistic regression analyses for the development group showed that the EMS personnel could predict poor outcomes in patients if the patients met all of the following three prehospital criteria before performing EMS-initiated interventions in the field: asystole as the initial rhythm recorded by EMS personnel, OHCA witnessed by laypersons, and no bystander-administered intervention. For patients meeting all three criteria, the specificity and PPV for predicting 1-month CPC 3–5 were 97.8% (95% confidence interval [CI], 96.4%–98.7%) and 99.6% (95% CI, 99.4%–99.8%), respectively, for the development group and 97.1% (95% CI, 94.1%–99.8%) and 99.6% (95% CI, 99.1%–99.8%), respectively, for the validation group. The specificity and PPV of predicting 1-month mortality were 91.9% (95% CI, 90.6%–93.1%) and 96.5% (95% CI, 95.9%–97.0%), respectively, for the development group and 91.8% (95% CI, 89.3%–93.7%) and 94.4% (95% CI, 92.7%–95.8%), respectively, for the validation group.

Conclusion: With high specificity and PPV for predicting the 1-month unfavourable outcome, the EMS personnel could predict poor outcomes if children with OHCA met all three criteria, namely, asystole as the initial recorded rhythm, OHCA witnessed by laypersons, and no bystander CPR, soon after arrival of the EMS personnel at the patients’ site.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. This work was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (KAKENHI Grant Number 18K09999), which had no role in the design and implementation of the study, analysis and interpretation of the data, or approval of the manuscript.
95%CI = [0.82; 0.37]) and GCS after ROSC less than 5 (p<0.01, 95%CI = [2.26; 5.34]). Analytic parameters at admission (pH, lactate, bicarbonate, calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphate and haemoglobin) and comorbidities (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, prior myocardial infarction and heart failure) show no significant difference on mortality or neurological prognostic. In subgroups analysis of acute coronary syndromes (n=35), we observed 21 patients with STEMI and 14 patients with NSTEMI. Between NSTEMI patients, 12 were submitted to coronary angiography, which 7 required percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). We show no significant difference between mortality on NSTEMI patients submitted to emergent coronary angiography versus conservative approach (p = 1.00).

**Conclusion**: Our risk prediction model identified GCS after ROSC and cause of CA as important factors determining survival outcomes. Others factors like patient age, CPR time and cardiac rhythm at presentation showed less importance. We identified CPR time and GCS after ROSC as major predictors of a poor neurological prognosis. We showed no difference in early mortality for NSTEMI patients submitted to immediate invasive strategy.

### Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


### 000729

**Influence of the time of admission to a Heart Attack Centre on patient journey following an out of hospital cardiac arrest**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000729**

**Introduction**: Within the UK, health care outcomes following admission to hospital either ‘in-hours’ or ‘out-of-hours’ has recently gained significant interest. Variation in service availability and staffing levels across the week may have an impact on this. However, specialist NHS services, such as Heart Attack Centres (HAC) and ICU are mandated to run a fully operational service 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

**Objectives**: We have undertaken a service evaluation of all patients admitted to ICU at a Central London HAC, who suffered an OOHCA within the last five-years.

**Methods**: All patients who suffered an OOHCA and admitted to the ICU at a Central London HAC were identified and clinical notes were reviewed. We classified ‘in-hours’ attendance to HAC as Monday- Friday from 08:00 - 17:00 (excluding public holidays). All hours outside of these periods were considered ‘out-of-hours’. This service evaluation was registered locally.

**Results**: Of the 279 patients admitted to ICU following an OOHCA, 102 (36.6%) patients attended in-hours with 177 (63.4%) out-of-hours. Despite the fact that the patient cohort attending in-hours was significantly older than those attending out-of-hours, timing of HAC admission showed no significant impact upon whether patients had a primary percutaneous intervention (PPCI), time taken for admission to ICU, ICU length of stay or survival to ICU and hospital discharge or at 1-year post cardiac arrest (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of patients</th>
<th>All patients</th>
<th>In-Hours</th>
<th>Out-of-Hours</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to ICU discharge</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>0.455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to hospital discharge</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>0.998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-year survival</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>0.964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS of survivors</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>0.219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Temperature</td>
<td>35.82</td>
<td>35.77</td>
<td>35.84</td>
<td>0.194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of PPCI before GICU admission</td>
<td>78.9%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>0.164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median time taken for GICU admission (mins)</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0.267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median length of stay on GICU (days)</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>6.83</td>
<td>0.230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**: In our hospital experience, timing of admission had no significant impact on patient outcome. There was no greater length of time taken to be admitted to the ICU or length of stay on the unit. However, although not statistically significant, there was a greater tendency to perform a PPCI before admission to ICU when attending in hours or during a week day. This may be due to greater availability of staff or laboratory space.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Nil
2. Nil

### 000730

**Intensive care outcome predictors for out of hospital cardiac arrest following admission to a UK Heart Attack Centre. A 5-year retrospective analysis**

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**Correspondence**: J. Stephens

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000730**

**Introduction**: Survival following ROSC from OOHCA is poor. Data from the London Ambulance Service suggests admission to a Heart Attack Centre (HAC) may improve outcome with 45.1% of patients surviving to hospital discharge, independent of initial heart rhythm.

**Objectives**: We investigate the effect of patient demographics, coronary angiography, PPCI and temperature on survival and neurological outcomes in all patients admitted to our ICU in the last 5-years.

**Methods**: A single centre, retrospective analysis of all OOHCA patients admitted to ICU from 2015-2019. We used hospital data on patient demographics, coronary angiography reports, temperatures during the first 24 hours and patient survival. Neurological outcomes of survivors were determined by modified rankin scale (MRS).

**Results**: 279 patients were admitted to ICU, of which 58.8%, 52.0% and 42.2% survived to ICU discharge, hospital discharge and 1 year
post-cardiac arrest respectively. Although males were more likely to be admitted post-OOHCA compared to females (76.4% vs 23.3%), males had a significantly better 1 year survival despite equivalent survival at ICU discharge (males 45.5%, females 30.1%, p = 0.03).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Outcome divided by gender.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 58.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 58.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 55.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 44.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p = 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 35.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 35.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-year (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 45.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 30.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p = 0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age did not affect survival at unit discharge (age of survivors 62.0 vs non-survivors 65.5, p = 0.215) but there was a significant difference at hospital discharge (survivors vs non-survivors 60.0 vs 66.0 respectively, p = 0.007). Gender did not affect age of survivors at hospital discharge (median male age=60, female=63, p = 0.190) or by 1 year (median male age=60, female=58, p = 0.38) nor did BMI (median BMI of survivors 26.78 v non-survivors 27.68 (p = 0.254)). The median MRS for survivors at hospital discharge was 1.89. Univariate analysis showed that gender was not a predictor of neurological outcome (Median MRS for males=2, females=1, p = 0.26) nor was age (p=0.25).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Effect of coronary angiography on patient survival, MRS scores and temperature.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No angiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hospital survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 1-year survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Temp (°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coronary stenting was not shown to be a predictor of survival, quality of survival or average temperature (Table 3). Temperature had a significant effect on survival but there was no correlation between mean temperatures and MRS in survivors (p=0.24).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Effect of coronary stent insertion on outcome.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stent inserted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No stent inserted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hospital survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 1-year survival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Temp (°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Our data suggests our hospital had favourable outcomes compared with London. Negative outcomes after OOHCA may be associated with a colder initial and first 24-hour average temperature and a poorer 1-year outcome for those of female gender. Further work is required to understand these associations.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. Nil


5. We would like to acknowledge the work done by our colleges dr Nilsson, dr Kysyl and dr Hedstrom at the clinical neurophysiology department of the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

000950 Evaluation of healthcare providers results after cardiopulmonary resuscitation training programme C. Palau Martí1; S. Moliner Velázquez1; I. Girbes Ruiz2; JM. Blanco Rodríguez2; J. De Andrés Ibáñez3
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000950

Introduction: Evidence shows that the mortality rate and the effects derived from a CPR lower if care response is improved and the survival chain amongst hospital is optimised. In this sense, medical staff’s life support techniques training is essential, as it goes without saying that this improves the survival rates. Having said this, we proceed to examine the assessment results from the CPR training programme which started in 2017 and 2018 in a university tertiary hospital.

Objectives: The main objective of this project is to provide training for basic and advanced life support based on clinical simulations to a certain number of healthcare workers (nurses and medical assistants). Furthermore, didactic methods will be assessed using quality surveys.

Methods: Theory and practice classes were conducted by qualified basic and advanced life support teachers in groups of 12-15 healthcare workers. Advanced CPR mannequins as well as airway material were used. The participants were also provided with online access to extra teaching material. Finally, the participants had to fill in the satisfaction survey.

Results: There were 38 sessions in which 695 healthcare workers took part. Only 60% of the nurses and 38% of the medical assistants who participated were familiar with CPR, and 22% of the participants had never been present during a CPR. The programme received positive feedback. 90% of the participants were satisfied with aspects such as the teachers’ teaching skills, the possibility to participate and the understanding of the theory.

Conclusion: The CPR training conducted in 2017 and 2018 has allowed healthcare workers to update the CPR knowledge they need. The use of clinical simulations has been regarded as effective in order to acquire skills to deal with risky situations. The professionals considered the training they received was excellent.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. We would like to acknowledge the work done by our colleges dr Nilsson, dr Kysyl and dr Hedstrom at the clinical neurophysiology department of the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

001006 Impact of catecholamines dose on metabolism and brain injury after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest K. Czerwinska-Jelonkiewicz1; A. Wood2; A. Bohm3; P. Kwasiborski4; J. Grand1; A. Oleksik5; G. Tavazzi2; A. Sions6; J. Stepinski7
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Table 1. Impact of catecholamine dose on lactate concentration within the first 48 hours after OHCA and on in-hospital mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>β coefficient</th>
<th>β coefficient</th>
<th>β coefficient</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norepinephrine dose on admission</td>
<td>2.624</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>2.743</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norepinephrine dose 24h after OHCA</td>
<td>3.283</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>4.138</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norepinephrine dose 48h after OHCA</td>
<td>3.856</td>
<td>0.314</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative catecholamine dose on admission</td>
<td>0.073</td>
<td>0.184</td>
<td>2.091</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative catecholamine dose 24h after OHCA</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>0.4291</td>
<td>4.959</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative catecholamine dose 48h after OHCA</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.229</td>
<td>2.291</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-hospital mortality
Univariate* OR (95% CI); p-value
Norepinephrine dose on admission | 2.330 (1.106 – 4.909); 0.04 |
Cumulative catecholamine dose on admission | 2.14 (1.876 – 2.654); 0.02 |
Norepinephrine dose on admission | 5.54 (3.104 – 9.67); 0.001 |
Cumulative catecholamine dose on admission | 1.04 (1.011 – 1.073); 0.006 |

Objectives: The aim of the analysis was to investigate the association between catecholamine and metabolism and organ function parameters during the first 72 hours after OHCA as well as to assess the importance of catecholamines dose for short-term survival.

Methods: The Post-Cardiac Arrest Syndrome (PCAS) pilot study was a prospective, observational, multicenter study. The details of the project were described elsewhere [3]. The endpoints of the prespecified analysis presented here were: 1. Lactate concentration as an indicator of oxygen delivery/anaerobic metabolism and neuron-specific enolase (NSE) as a brain injury marker, both assessed every 24 hours, over the first 72 hours after OHCA, 2. In-hospital mortality. Risk factors: 1. Norepinephrine dose (µg/kg/min), 2. Cumulative dose of catecholamines (µg/kg/min), 3. Vasopressor-inotropic score (VIS)
Conclusion: Dose of catecholamines administered early after OHCA is associated with lactate and NSE concentration, which may suggest their importance for impaired tissue oxygen delivery, enhanced anaerobic metabolism and organ injury. Dose of catecholamines on admission is related with in-hospital mortality after OHCA.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001022

A 2-year retrospective review of out of hospital cardiac arrests presenting to a Scottish Major Trauma Centre to identify candidates for a proposed extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation service

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001022

Introduction: Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR) is internationally recognised as an intervention to enable physiological support of patients in refractory cardiac arrest. The evidence base for this type of support comes from a mixture of both cohort and case series and is applied to specific group of patients. To assess the potential benefit of an ECPR service a review of 2 years of patients presenting to the Emergency Department with out of hospital cardiac arrest was undertaken.

Methods: Inclusion criteria were defined based on evidence available and the practice undertaken in other parts of the UK. These criteria were: age <60 years, witnessed arrest, immediate bystander CPR, >10 minutes of resuscitation but <45 minutes of CPR on arrival in the Emergency Department, the presence of electrical activity. Postcodes were also looked at to assess the distances from the department within a 10 km and 20 km radius. Timings of cases were assessed to give an overview of in hours (08:00 to 17:00) and out of hours (17:00 to 08:00) workloads. Data was taken from Emergency Department presentations recorded as cardiac arrest, with a presentation review from electronic systems.

Results: 109 patients were identified over a two-year period between January 2018 to December 2019. This was split into 46 patients in hours and 63 patients out of hours. Not accounting for age or CPR extending beyond 45 minutes, 17 patients (36.9%) met the criteria in hours and 19 patients (30.1%) out of hours. However, when excluding patients with CPR ongoing longer than 45 minutes on arrival there were 11 patients (23.9%) in hours and 11 patients (17.4%) out of hours. Further considering patients that were 60 years or younger found that only 6 patients (13.0%) in hours and 3 patients (4.7%) out of hours met criteria for extracorporeal resuscitation. Considering in hours cases there were 35 within 20 km and 30 within 10 km. Considering distances for cases out of hours there were 43 within 20 km and 40 within 10 km of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. All the patients that met criteria died in the Emergency department.

Conclusion: Over two years the case load for patients that meet the criteria for EPCR in the local areas is low, and even when considering a 24-hour period it remains a small number of patients. However, when considering service implementation, it is important to note that all the patients meeting criteria died in the Emergency Department and that there is a significant number of cardiac arrest cases within close traveling distance of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Due to this there may be a reasonable argument for the development of an ECPR service. Any service development would need to consider the pathway of care that is delivered from the pre-hospital setting as well as the instigation of ECPR in the hospital as timeframes for establishing a patient on VA-ECMO are crucial to overall outcome. More work is needed to further develop local cardiac arrest care in the North-East of Scotland.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001075

An estimate of the need for somatosensory evoked potential examination for assessing the neurological prognosis in comatose survivors of cardiac arrest

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001075

Introduction: The neurological prognosis of comatose survivors of cardiac arrest is recommended to be multimodal (1). Somatosensory Evoked Potentials (SSEP) is one of the methods used. Bilateral absence of cortical SSEP response is associated with poor prognosis. As a tool for hospitals lacking the SSEP modality, Daubin et al. constructed a scoring system based on clinical signs and electroencephalography (EEG) aiming to predict the absence of the cortical N20-signal (2).

Objectives: We applied this scoring system to assess the need for the SSEP modality as a potential addition to the current multimodal prognostic examinations of comatose survivors of cardiac arrest in the Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Methods: Survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) who remained unconscious >72 hours after return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) were classified according to the scoring system. We had to assume that EEG patterns classified according to Westhall et al. scored similar points as EEG classified according to Synk which was used by Daubin (3, 4). Using the cut-off values defined by its authors, the proportion of patients with predicted absent N20-signal on SSEP was calculated.

Results: 37 patients with OHCA were included and 13 (35%) of these were predicted to have bilaterally absent N20-signals based on the total score on day 3, 48-72 hours after ROSC.
Conclusion: Using the scoring system constructed by Daubin et al. (2) with minor adaptations, we calculated that one third of patients with OHCA, who remained unconscious >72 hours after ROSC, would have absent cortical signals on SSEP. Hence, the use of SSEP would be meaningful in at least the other two thirds of OHCA patients. These results are essential for the dimensioning of a future SSEP service for the intensive care units in the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. This work was supported by institutional funding only.

001115
Initial base deficit and return of spontaneous circulation in refractory out-of-hospital cardiac arrest predict successful extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001115

Introduction: Extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR) for refractory out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) recently developed with disappointing limited survival (1) and still requires more selective inclusion criteria.

Objectives: To evaluate clinical benefit of an ECPR protocol in OHCA and to investigate potential predictive variables on admission.

Methods: Between 2011 and 2020, we analysed 80 ECPR candidates admitted in 2 Belgian reference centres. From 2016 an ECPR protocol based on 6 prehospital criteria was implemented (no flow < 3 minutes, low flow < 60 minutes, initial shockable rhythm, end-tidal CO2 > 15 mmHg, age < 65 years and absence of comorbidities). Scoop-and-run strategy and admission metabolic criteria for resuscitation discontinuation were also evaluated.

Results: Twenty-six (32%) OHCA patients benefited from ECPR, their hospital survival rate was 43% (n=9/21) after protocol implementation. Prehospital inclusion criteria did not discriminate survivors and nonsurvivors (p=0.92). By contrast, any transient return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) before ECPR (89 vs. 17%, p=0.002), higher serum bicarbonate (14.0 (10.6-15.2) vs. 7.5 (3.7-10.5) mmol/l, p=0.019), lower base deficit (14.9 (11.9-18.2) vs. 21.6 (17.9-28.9) mmol/l, p=0.039) and initial lactate < 900 mg/dl (5/9 vs. 1/12, p=0.046) were associated with a more favourable outcome. Best cut-offs were bicarbonate > 10 mmol/l, base deficit < 18 mmol/l, lactate < 900 mg/l and fibrinogen > 1.6 g/l (figure). Four patients became organ donors after brain death.

Conclusion: This observational study shows that, in ECPR candidates, base deficit on admission and any transient ROSC before cannulation were significantly associated with better survival. Integration of ROSC and base deficit into inclusion criteria for ECPR in refractory OHCA could improve resources allocation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None

001152
The risk factors analysis in patients after In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest: a nationwide study
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Correspondence: W.C. Huang
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001152

Introduction: In-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA) is common and associated with a high mortality rate. However, it has received little attention compared with other critical cardiovascular conditions.

Objectives: This study is aimed to analyze the association between IHCA patients and healthcare related risk factors.

Methods: Data for this study enrolled IHCA patients from 14 regional hospitals, 2 district hospitals, and 5 medical centers between 2013 June to 2018 December. Primarily, the registry enrolled patients once "collapse" event was disclosed regardless of the witness, and a total of 7,731 cases was included initially. Patients with index hospitalization for Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA), IHCA patients without acute life support (ALS) attempt, undetermined sex, Age £18 or ≥ 120 years old, and patients with "do not resuscitate (DNR)" consent were excluded. Finally, a total of 5,306 patients were included in the analysis

Results: As for overall IHCA patients, HR for mortality was higher in older patients (HR = 1.11), and those underwent vasoactive agents in ALS (HR = 1.20). While, initial rhythm as ventricular fibrillation (HR = 0.62) reduced the risk of mortality in IHCA patients. With regard to
subgrouping IHCA patients in ICU and ER, patients underwent vasoactive agents in ALS (HR = 1.19) had poor survival. Whereas, better survival was reported in patients with initial ventricular tachycardia (HR = 0.63) and ventricular fibrillation (HR = 0.59). Regarding patients in general wards, old age (HR = 1.21) and shift between 24:00 to 08:00 (compared to 08:00–17:00) (HR = 1.26) lead to poor outcome.

**Conclusion:** The majority of initial detected rhythm in IHCA patients was non-shockable. Factors for poor survival included old age, overnight shift, and vasoactive agents. While, better survival was noted in patients with witness, those underwent targeted temperature management, and those with initial detected ventricular fibrillation. With regard to conditions at discharge, patients with regained conscious

### Hemodynamic effect of hypertonic lactate infusion after resuscitation in an experimental model of cardiac arrest

F. Annoni

**Introduction:** Among cardiac arrest (CA) survivors, post CA syndrome is responsible for poor outcome and is one of the main causes of death in these patients. Lactate enriched solutions could exert positive effects on the heart, where the myocardial reperfusion injury is responsible for a consistent fraction of the organ damage. Several protocols have demonstrated how an ischemic post-conditioning strategy based on lactate-enriched solutions could reduce the magnitude of the reperfusion injury, but no study has investigated the impact of hypertonic sodium lactate (HSL) infusion on macro-hemodynamic variables after CA.

**Objectives:** To investigate the hemodynamic impact of the infusion of HSL after resuscitation in an experimental model of cardiac arrest

**Methods:** 27 adult domestic pigs were enrolled in the study. After proper sedation and preparation, including endotracheal intubation, invasive arterial pressure monitoring and pulmonary artery catheter, a ventricular fibrillation was induced via a pace-maker wire and left untreated for 10 minutes, when cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) were started at the rate of 100/minute with Lucas III device and continued for 5 more minutes. After the first minute of CPR and eventually after 7 minutes, an injection of Adrenaline was provided and at the end of the 5 minutes an electric shock (200 J) was delivered and repeated every minute to achieve Retour of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). The animals were divided as follow: 9 as control group received a bolus of crystallloids during CPR and infusion during 12 h after ROSC (G0); 9 received HSL both during CPR and after ROSC (G1) and 9 received a bolus of crystallloids during CPR and HSL infusion after ROSC (G2). HSL solution was prepared by diluting into injectable sterile water a 2 mEq/mL solution (Monico spa, Mestre, Italy) to achieve a 1 M solution with calculated osmolarity of 2000 mOsm/L.

**Results:** All the animals in the study achieved ROSC. No differences were found between groups in the distribution of sex and weight, as well as in number of shocks needed to achieve ROSC, adrenaline dose, first end tidal CO2 measurement or baseline pH. To investigate differences on dependent variables over time between groups, a general linear mixed model was used. Arterial lactate levels were higher in the group of animals which received HSL (G1-G2) compared to G0 during the study course (p < 0.001). To achieve the same mean arterial pressure level of 65 mmHg, there was a significantly lower requirements for vasopressors between groups over the study period (p < 0.01) and in the post-hoc analysis with Bonferroni correction, there was a significant difference between G0 compared to G1 (p < 0.001) and G2 (p < 0.001), but not between G1 and G2 (p = 0.55).

**Conclusion:** In animals treated with continuous HSL infusion there is a significantly lower requirements of vasopressors in the first hours following resuscitation after cardiac arrest.
Analyze the clinical characteristics of critically ill Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Patients and its impact on outcomes

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000003

Introduction: The population of ACHD patients continues to grow in the USA1,2,3. There exists a paucity of data in the realm of evidence-based critical care medicine management of ACHD patients.

Objectives: To analyze our ACHD population with respect to clinical, anatomical, and physiological characteristics in order to understand associations to Intensive Care Unity (ICU) morbidity and outcomes. This information will serve to improve clinicians’ ability to understand the various factors that influence outcomes in critically ill ACHD patients with unplanned and post-operative ICU admissions.

Methods: Retrospective chart review was completed on all ACHD patients with ICU admissions between 01/2015–12/2018. Demographic, anatomical, and physiologic characteristics were recorded. We examined associations between these characteristics and patient outcomes.

Results: There were 134 ICU admissions ages 18 to 79. 71% (n= 95) were admitted after elective cardiac surgery and 29% (n= 39) were non-surgical, unplanned admissions. Factors associated with ICU Length of Stay (LOS) in the elective, surgical cohort are shown in the table. Right Ventricle (RV) dysfunction was associated with more ventilator days (median 2.0 vs 1.0, p=0.009) and a higher rate of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) after cardiac surgery (57% vs 19%; p=0.001). NYHA class 3 or 4 vs 1 or 2 was associated with increased post-operative complications (56% vs 22%; p=0.001) and AKI (44% vs 17%; p=0.004). Post-operative arrhythmia was associated with increased ventilator days (p=0.0002). For unplanned admissions, higher lactic acid was associated with AKI (p=0.01), increased ICU LOS (p=0.02) and ventilator days (p=0.016).

Conclusion: Clinical characteristics of ACHD patients are associated with ICU morbidity and outcome. By better understanding these associations we may improve critical care management in the ACHD population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned Surgical Cohort (n=95)</th>
<th>Percentage (n=number)</th>
<th>ICU LOS Median days</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physioloegy class 3,4 vs 1,2</td>
<td>80(n=76) vs 20(n=19)</td>
<td>2.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYHA 3,4 vs 1,2</td>
<td>43(n=41) vs 57(n=54)</td>
<td>3.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco use vs none</td>
<td>33(n=31) vs 67(n=64)</td>
<td>3.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV Dysfunction vs none</td>
<td>13(n=12) vs 87(n=83)</td>
<td>5.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV Dysfunction vs none</td>
<td>24(n=23) vs 76(n=72)</td>
<td>5.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock vs no shock</td>
<td>47(n=45) vs 53(n=50)</td>
<td>3.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>redo sternotomy vs none prior</td>
<td>48(n=46) vs 49(n=47)</td>
<td>2.5 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrhythmia</td>
<td>29(n=28) vs 71(n=67)</td>
<td>4.0 vs 1.0</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. RV S' prediction of survival. A. Univariate analysis of RV S' association with 28 days outcome. Kaplan-Meier survival curves of 28 days mortality using RV S' cut-off value of 10.5 cm/s.

**Conclusion:** RV dysfunction influences short term outcome in patients admitted with CS post STEMI and impaired LV. RV S' was an independent predictor of 28-days mortality and a cut-off of 10.5 cm/s was able to predict outcome with reasonable sensitivity and specificity.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000083**

**Mechanical thrombectomy in acute pulmonary embolism: clinical and echocardiographic evolution**

**Introduction:** Pulmonary thromboembolism continues to be a high incidence pathology, with a high mortality rate, whose treatment depends on the risk of mortality at 30 days. In low and intermediate risk thromboembolisms the indicated treatment is anticoagulation, and in high risk thromboembolism fibrinolysis if it is not contraindicated. Patients with intermediate-high risk do not have a clearly defined treatment since fibrinolysis has shown an increase in the incidence of bleeding without an improvement in survival, with thrombectomy being a therapeutic possibility in this group of patients.

**Objectives:** Evaluate clinical and echocardiographic evolution in patients with acute intermediate-high and high risk pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE).

**Methods:** Patients collected between January 2016 and August 2019 with diagnosis of PTE of intermediate-high risk, defined by the guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology as positive markers of myocardial damage, right ventricular dysfunction measured by echocardiogram and stable hemodynamically; and high risk, hemodynamically unstable: who underwent mechanical thrombectomy in the first 24 hours of admission in ICU with aspiration of approximately 70 to 80% of the thrombus. Thrombectomy was performed in 42 patients, transthoracic echocardiogram (TAPSE, Wave S, right ventricle diameter [RV], pulmonary hypertension [HTP]); arterial blood gas at admission and after 24 hours to calculate PaFi; and clinical assessment of the patient at admission and 24 hours after thrombectomy. The analysis of the data obtained comparing the situation before and after the procedure was carried out.

**Results:** Echocardiographically: significant improvement was obtained in the diameter of the RV (46±47 mm at 42±13 ±6.7 mm, p<0.05), TAPSE (15±3 3±6 mm at 18±14 ±3.9 mm, p<0.05), S wave (94±1 3±4 mm at 11±9 ±3.26 mm / s, p<0.05) and not significant of the HTP (50±63 ±1380 mmHg at 46±81 ±19±14 mmHg, p=0.256). Analytically: significant improvement of the PaFi (186±87 ±1279 to 287±3 97±3 48±9, p<0.05). Clinically there was no significant improvement in chest pain, dyspnea or hemodynamic instability.

**Conclusion:** Mechanical thrombectomy in patients with acute pulmonary thromboembolism of intermediate-high and high risk is an effective technique that significantly improves the parameters of right ventricular dysfunction and the oxygenation of patients. There was no significant improvement in clinical aspects such as dyspnea, chest pain or hemodynamic stability.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
Bilirubin—possible prognostic mortality marker in patients with VA-ECMO

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Introduction: Veno-arterial membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO) is a promising therapeutic option for patients with refractory cardiogenic shock or circulatory failure. However, as mortality rate of VA-ECMO-treated patients still remains high, there is a need for early outcome parameters reflecting on therapy success or futility.

Objectives: In the present study we investigated whether the liver enzyme levels in patients that survived the first four days of VA-ECMO therapy could serve as prognostic marker, hypothesizing that Bilirubin has the potential to be a mortality marker in this cohort.

Methods: The present study is a retrospective single center cohort study approved by the Ethics Committee of the Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf (Reference Number 5141R). Adult patients over 18 years of age who received VA-ECMO therapy for refractory cardiogenic shock or circulatory failure were included. VA-ECMO was deployed either at the home center or by the local team on-site in external hospitals. Only patients who survived the first four days of VA-ECMO therapy were included into the analysis.

For quantification of liver function Bilirubin was analysed at predefined time points (day 0, 5, 10, 15). The primary endpoint was all-cause in-hospital mortality. The association between Bilirubin and mortality was examined by receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) and the area under the curve (AUC) as well as univariate and multivariable cox regression. In a sensitivity analysis, patients with shock liver (defined as GOT > 10 x cutoff = 35 U/l) were excluded.

Results: A total of 438 patients received VA-ECMO therapy during the observation period. Based on the inclusion criteria, 298 patients (mean age 59 ± 14 years) remained for statistical analysis. Overall mortality rate was 42.6% (n=127). The AUC in the ROC for Bilirubin on day five was 0.72 (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.66-0.78). Youden-Index showed a cutoff for Bilirubin on day five of 2.23 mg/dl with a sensitivity of 0.70. Cox regression with multivariable adjustment revealed a significant association between Bilirubin on day five and mortality with a hazard ratio (HR) of 2.24 [95% CI: 1.53-3.30]. After excluding patients with shock liver from the sensitivity analysis, this association was still significant (HR 2.08 [95% CI: 1.33-3.26]). ROC for patients without shock liver revealed an AUC of 0.67 [95% confidence interval (CI): 0.59-0.75].

Conclusion: Based on the results of the current study, an increase in serum Bilirubin on day 5 in patients receiving VA-ECMO therapy correlates independently with mortality regardless of the presence of shock liver. Thus, Bilirubin might serve as a prognostic marker in these patients and may be used as an indicator for early recognition of problems as well as optimization of VA-ECMO therapy.

Predictors of mortality in the first year after ACS in patients admitted to the ICU of a regional hospital

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Introduction: Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) continues to be one of the most frequent admission pathologies in an intensive care unit (ICU). There are some predictors and risk factors that could indicate a higher probability of mortality during the first year.

Objectives: To analyze factors associated with one-year mortality in patients with ACS admitted to the ICU.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study conducted in a 12-bed ICU from January 2017 to September 2019. Demographic variables,
comorbidities, type of ACS and location, left ventricular ejection frac-
tion (LVEF), Killip, severity scales, responsible artery, complications 
and mortality. Statistical analysis: categorical (frequencies and per-
centages) and numerical variables (mean and standard deviation or 
median and interquartile range). Comparisons: X² test (percentages) 
and Student test (means). Multivariate logistic regression. Statistical 
significance with p<0.05.

Results: 278 patients were included. Deceased in the first year after 
ACS 56 (20.14%) vs. 222 survivors (79.86%); male (58.9% vs. 80.2, 
=0.01), age (73.38 ±10.99, p=0.01), smoking (21.4% vs. 43.7%, 
=0.002), high blood pressure (64.3% vs. 38.7%, p=0.01), diabetes me-
litus (DM) (51.8% vs. 33.8%, p =0.013), previous coronary lesions (30.4% 
vs. 16.2%, p=0.016), chronic heart failure (26.8% vs. 3.2%, p=0.001), 
chronic kidney disease (CKD) (19.6% vs. 3.6%, p=0.001), COPD (14.4% 
vs. 3.6%, p=0.006), cerebrovascular disease (14.3% vs. 4.1%, p=0.009), 
heart rate (97.32 ±27.18 vs. 79.70 ±17.19, p<0.001), systolic blood 
pressure (100.04 ±25.49 vs. 119.54 ±20.99, p<0.001), TIMI (5.91 
=3.42) vs. 2.84 ±2.12, p=0.001), GRACE (216.73 ±50.56 vs. 149.01 
±38.53, p<0.001), CRUSADE (59.17 ±15.79 vs. 29.45 ±17.0, p<0.001), 
previous acute myocardial infarction (51.8% vs. 29.3%), p<0.001, 
LVEF (38.03 ±15.48 vs. 52.84 ±11.51, p<0.001), noradrenaline usage 
(38.5% vs. 1.8%, p<0.001), dobutamine usage (25% vs. 1.4%, p<0.001), 
shock (61.1% vs. 2.3%, p<0.001), hypotension (18.5% vs. 5.9%, p=0.006), 
cardiac arrest (18.5% vs. 4.1%, p=0.001), atrial fibrillation/flutter (11.1% 
vs. 2.7%, p<0.016), kidney complication (9.3% vs. 2.3%, p=0.026), inva-
sive mechanical ventilation (25.5% vs. 3.2%, p<0.001). Multivariate 
analysis: age (OR 1.22, 95% CI [1.09-1.37], p<.001), Killip IV (OR 5871.59, 
95% CI [1.06-32626571.9], p=0.049), shock (OR 251.56, CI 95% 
[10.02-12.16], p<.001), DM (56.5% vs. 32.9%, p=0.007), hypertension (63% vs. 43.4%, 
p=0.042), smoking (23.9% vs. 42.9%, p=.044), previous coronary lesions 
(30.4% vs. 15.7%, p=.014), previous acute myocardial infarction (26.1% 
vs. 12.8%, p=.016), COPD (15.2% vs. 4.1%, p=.007), chronic kidney 
disease (15.2% vs. 5.5%, p=.023), chronic heart failure (30.4% vs. 
4.1%, p<.001), NSTEMI (43.5% vs. 54.8%, p=.140), systolic blood pres-
sure (94.67 ±20.89 vs. 117.61 ±20.97, p<.001), HR (100.22 ±20.29 
vs. 78.30 ±17.50, p<.001), LVEF (32.62 ±12.73 vs. 53.36 ±11.49, 
=0.001), TIMI (6.30 ±3.55 vs. 3.07 ±2.28, p<.001), GRACE (226.06 
±53.11) vs. 150.30 ±38.84, p<.001), CRUSADE (59.74 ±17.56 vs. 
29.58 ±16.97, p<.001), dobutamine usage (31% vs. 1.7%, p<.001), 
noradrenaline usage (45.2% vs. 2.3%, p<0.001). Invasive mechanical 
ventilation (28.9% vs. 2.9%, p<.001), shock (72.7% vs. 2.6%, p<.001), 
cardiac arrest (20.5% vs. 4.4%, p<.001), hypotension (12.8% vs. 5.9%, 
p=.008), kidney-related complications (11.4% vs. 1.8%, p=.004). Mul-
tivariate analysis: age (OR 1.18, 95% CI [1.04-1.32], p=.010), LVEF (OR 
0.85, 95% CI [0.77-0.93], p=.001), COPD (OR 7.66, 95% CI [1.01-57.84, 
=0.048), Killip IV (OR 682.42, 95% CI [7.28-54261.48], p=.005), shock 
during ICU stay (OR 95.35, 95% CI [6.85-1327.48], p<.001). AUROC: 
0.989, 95% CI [0.979-0.998].

Conclusion: Age, COPD, Killip IV on ICU admission and shock during 
the patient's ICU stay, behaved as independent 28-day mortality pre-
dictors after an ACS. LVEF was associated with higher survival rate.

000217
In-hospital mortality and major complications in acute coronary 
syndrome patients over 75 years. Russian single center study 
findings
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Introduction: Patients older than 75 years are often underrepre-
sented in published acute coronary syndrome (ACS) studies, although 
they make up a significant and ever-increasing portion of that popu-
lation. Mortality from ACS progressively increases with age and 
remains high among elderly and very elderly patients. It was shown 
that elders receive optimal treatment and myocardial revasculariza-
tion less often than young patients [1], however, if revascularization is 
performed, hospital mortality decreases, 6-month survival improves, 
and the risk of stroke does not increase [2]. Currently, further studies 
are needed on the ACS course features in patients of older age groups 
to develop optimal treatment tactics for this category of patients in 
order to reduce in-hospital mortality and the incidence of long-term 
complications.

Objectives: To assess the clinical status, comorbidities, complications, 
in-hospital mortality and it structure in depend of age and acute coro-
nary syndrome (ACS) type in case of early invasive strategy.

Methods: Retrospective all-over study was carried out in ICU of High 
Medical Technologies Center, Kaliningrad, Russia. 1353 patients with 
ACS and emergency and urgent myocardial revascularization in the 
2014–2016 years period were included in the study. The first group 
(gr.1) consisted of 984 patients younger than 75 years old, and the sec-
ond group (gr.2) was compound of 369 patients aged 75. We were 
performed the analysis of anamnestic, clinical and laboratory data 
from medical documentation.

Results: The average age in the gr.1 was 60±8,6 years old, in the sec-
ond — 80±1,42. There was significantly myocardial infarction and 
stroke anamnesis burden, and reduced ejection fraction (EF), conges-
tive heart failure, valve disorders, atrial fibrillation prevalence in very 
elderly patients.
There was no significant difference in ACS structure in studied groups (47.8% in gr.1 vs 45.5% in gr.2, p=0.512 for ST elevation myocardial infarction). There were more frequent severe manifestations of acute heart failure (AHF) and cardiogenic shock cases (Killip III – 5.9% vs 11.4%, p=0.002; Killip IU 2.1% vs 9.1%, p=0.0001) in the first and second group respectively), higher score of GRACE ischemic risk and higher bleeding risk in very elderly patients in compare with persons younger than 75 years old. “First Medical Contact – balloon” time did not significantly differ in the studied groups (86±19.1 vs 94±21.3 minutes, p=0.072 for emergency PCI or 48.6, 95%CI 24-136) vs 34 95%CI 25-45) minutes, p=0.084 for urgent PCI in group 1 and group 2. All cases in-hospital mortality was 3.1% in the group 1, and 10% in very elderly patients, p<0.0001. ST elevation myocardial infarction mortality was 5% among patients younger than 75 years old and it was 20% among very elderly patients, p<0.0001. Non-ST elevation myocardial infarction and unstable angina mortality didn’t significantly differ in studied groups and composed 0.97% and 0.99%, p=0.52. In-hospital mortality from AHF (2% in the group 1 vs 6.5% in the group 2, p<0.00001) and percutaneous coronary intervention complications (stent thrombosis and no-reflow) (0.5% vs 2.4%, p=0.01) was significantly different depending on age. AHF mortality didn’t differ among different age patients with preserved and mid-range EF, but it had significant difference in patients with reduced EF: 7.3% in the gr.1 vs 16.6% in the gr.2 (p<0.0001). Studied group didn’t differ from the rate of gastrointestinal bleedings and major bleedings (0.7% in gr.1 vs 1.4% in gr.2, p=0.225).

Conclusion: ACS has more severe clinical course in very elderly patients in comparison with persons younger than 75 years old. Early invasive strategy is effective in spite of age and ACS type. Fatal outcomes from percutaneous coronary intervention complications and AHF are more frequent in very elderly patients. ACS in-hospital mortality with the AHF as main reason is the prevalent mortality reason in very elderly patients with reduced EF. Otherwise, the structure of complications and mortality is similar in patients of different ages.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000225
Acute coronary syndrome in ICU: predictive factors for 90-day mortality
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Introduction: Coronary heart disease (CHD) is a leading cause of death. Accurate prediction of risk of death after acute coronary syndromes (ACS) is important for prognosis and decision making about treatment and management of these patients.

Objectives: To analyze predictive factors associated to 90-day mortality in patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) with an ACS.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive analysis of patients admitted in a 12-bed ICU performed from January 2017 to September 2019. Demographic variables, comorbidities, type of ACS, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), initial Killip, extension, coronary arteries affected, risk scores (TIMI, GRACE, CRUSADE), complications and mortality have been registered. Statistical analysis: categorical (frequencies and percentages) and numerical variables (mean and standard deviation). Comparisons: test of X2 (percentages), Student’s t (means). Multivariate logistic regression. Statistical significance with p < 0.05.

Results: 380 patients were included, 287 (75.52%) males and 93 (24.47%) females. 90-day mortality: 51 (13.4%). Non survivors vs. survivors: male (56.9% vs. 78.4%, p=0.001), age (73.94 ± 10.94) vs. 62.44 ± 12.05, p<0.001, diabetes mellitus (54.9% vs. 32.5%, p=0.008), high blood pressure (64.7% vs. 43.2%, p=0.016), smoking (21.6% vs. 43.2%, p=0.012), previous coronary lesions (29.4% vs. 15.8%, p=0.018), previous ACS (27.5% vs. 12.5%, p=0.005), COPD (13.7% vs. 4.3%, p=0.014), chronic kidney disease (15.7% vs. 5.2%, p=0.011), congestive heart failure (27.5% vs. 4.3%, p=0.001), STEMI (39.2% vs. 55.6%, p=0.029), systolic blood pressure (97.63 ± 24.13) vs. 117.75 ± 20.63, p<0.001, heart rate (100.18 ± 25.68) vs. 78.06 ± 17.15, p<0.001), LVEF (34.84 ± 13.47) vs. 53.46 ± 11.42, p<0.001), TIMI (5.91 ± 3.43) vs. 3.04 ± 2.27, p<0.001), GRACE (220.86 ± 48.89) vs. 149.09 ± 38.08, p<0.001), CRUSADE (59.81 ± 16.75) vs. 29.10 ± 16.80, p<0.001), number of implanted stents (2.48 ± 1.25) vs. 1.91 ± 1.25, p=0.045), dobutamine usage (27.7% vs. 1.8%, p<0.001), norepinephrine usage (42.6% vs. 2.1%, p<0.001). Invasive mechanical ventilation (28% vs. 2.5%, p<0.001), shock (67.3% vs. 2.4%, p<0.001), cardiac arrest (20.4% vs. 4.3%, p<0.001), infectious complications (6.1% vs. 1.2%, p=0.05), kidney complication (10.2% vs. 1.8%, p=0.008). ICU length of stay (LOS) (4.65 ± 7.05) vs. 2.43 ± 3.32, p=0.031).

Multivariate analysis: age (OR 1.14, IC 95% [1.05-1.24], p=0.001), LVEF (OR 0.91, IC95% [0.86-0.96], p=0.002), Killip III (OR 80.40, IC 95% [2.45-2633.07], p=0.014), shock (OR 30.53, IC95% [4.34-175.95], p=0.004); AUROC: 0.976, IC 95% [0.958-0.993).

Conclusion: Age, Killip III at ICU admission and shock during ICU stay were found as independent predictive factors for 90-day mortality in patients diagnosed of ACS. LVEF was an independent predictor of survival.

000244
Acute pulmonary thromboembolism treated by mechanical thrombectomy: clinical, radiological, echocardiographic and analytical differences between massive and submassive thromboembolism
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Introduction: Pulmonary thromboembolism is still a high incidence pathology with a high mortality risk. Depending on the hemodynamic situation of the patient, it is classified as massive, if the patient is hemodynamically unstable; or submassive if the patient does not have hemodynamic instability. But do the clinical, echocardiographic and blood tests improve depending on the type of pulmonary thromboembolism?

Objectives: Analyze the clinical, echocardiographic and analytical differences between patients with acute massive (hemodynamically unstable) and submassive (hemodynamically stable) pulmonary thromboembolism (APE).

Methods: Recruited patients between January 2016 and August 2019 with a diagnosis of submassive pulmonary embolism (hemodynamically stable); and massive pulmonary embolism (hemodynamically unstable); who underwent mechanical thrombectomy in the first 24 hours of admission with aspiration of between 70 and 80% of the
Total thrombus. 42 thrombectomies were collected, performing transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) at admission and at 24 hours post-procedure analyzing parameters of right ventricle dysfunction (TAPSE, Wave S, right ventricle diameter (RV), pulmonary hypertension (HTP)); arterial blood at admission and at 24 hours to calculate PaFi; and clinical assessment of the patient at admission and at 24 hours. We compare between patients with massive and submassive pulmonary thromboembolism.

Results: A significant relationship was found between diabetes mellitus and massive thromboembolism (30.8% patients, p <0.05); syncope being the significant manifestation among patients with massive PE (57.7%, p < 0.05). Radiologically, the involvement of the main pulmonary arteries was significantly associated with massive PE (100%, p < 0.05). Echocardiographically no significant differences were found in the parameters of right ventricular dysfunction (diameter, TAPSE, S wave or pulmonary hypertension) between massive or submassive PE. The echocardiographic improvement by TAPSE was significant among patients with submassive PE, improving the figures from 15.8 ± 2.23 to 2017 ± 2.85 (p < 0.05) 24 hours after procedure.

Conclusion: Massive pulmonary embolism is significantly related to DM, syncope and involvement of major pulmonary arteries. Echocardiographic improvement of the right ventricle is significantly earlier in submassive PET after mechanical thrombectomy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000343
Tricuspid valve replacement: mechanical or biological prostheses? A Systematic review and Meta-Analysis
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Introduction: Tricuspid valve replacement (TVR) is seldom performed in cardiac valve surgery, and there are currently no clinical guidelines suggest which type of prostheses is better in tricuspid valve position. This meta-analysis was performed to compare the results of mechanical and biological prostheses for TVR.

Methods: We searched Pubmed, Cochrane, Embase, Clinical trial databases to collect all the related studies published during recent 10 years (from January 1, 2000 to October 31, 2019). A random-effects model was used to evaluate the OR (odds ratios) and its 95% CI (confidence intervals) of time-to-event related effects of the surgical procedures, every study’s quality evaluated by the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS).

Results: A total of 13 retrospective studies including 1407 patients were analyzed. There were no statically differences between mechanical and biological prostheses with respect to prosthetic valve failure (OR = 1.35, 95% CI (0.21, 2.96), P = 0.46), bleeding (OR = 0.68, 95% CI (0.33, 1.40), P = 0.29), reoperation (OR = 1.00, 95% CI (0.59, 1.72), P = 0.99), early mortality (OR = 1.13, 95% CI (0.58, 2.18), P = 0.73) and long-time survival (OR = 1.06, 95% CI (0.68, 1.66), P = 0.80). A trend toward greater risk of thrombosis can be seen in mechanical prostheses (OR = 0.19, 95% CI (0.06, 0.65), P = 0.008, I2 = 0%).

Conclusion: In tricuspid valve position, mechanical valve prostheses has a higher risk of thrombosis than biological prostheses, but no statistically differences between mechanical and biological prostheses with respect to prosthetic valve failure, bleeding, reoperation, early mortality and long-time survival. The more specific conclusion need to be further proved by large-sample, multi-center, randomized, double-blind and control trials.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Supported from the grant project NV 18-06-00471 of the Czech Ministry of Health.

Antithrombotic therapy in cardiogenic shock: Could glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors be useful?
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Introduction: Impaired enteral perfusion and mechanical ventilation, with inability to swallow, play a major role in the bioavailability of antiplatelets. Data on the use of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitors (GPI) in acute coronary syndrome patients presenting with cardiogenic shock is sparse.

Objectives: Evaluate the impact of the use of GPI on the outcome (MACE/death) of patients (P) admitted with CS.

Methods: Retrospective study from 01/10/2010 to 08/01/2019. All P admitted for CS in the context of ACS were selected. Exclusion criteria: Killip class I-III, lack of information about APT during hospital length. We created 2 groups based in the use/absence of GPI during hospital length.

Results: 329 P were admitted, hypertension and dyslipidaemia were the most frequent comorbidities. Mean Systolic and diastolic pressure at admission of 96±33 and 59±21 mmHg, respectively. Haemoglobin at admission of 13,1±2 g/dl, platelets on admission of 221±89 x 103/mm3. Comparing the 2 groups we found out GPI was preferred in younger P (p=0.001), with higher levels of haemoglobin and platelets (p=0.04 and P00.046, respectively) and was associated with higher use of intra-aortic balloon (p=0.003). Also, 100% of patients with GPI performed coronary angiography. Comparing the occurrence of MACE/death during hospital length we only found differences at cardiac arrest (higher in the group with GPI, p=0.003). There weren’t any differences regarding other MACE and death between the 2 groups. Furthermore, we haven’t seen any differences regarding bleedings complications in patients using GPI.

Conclusion: With a lack of specific randomized trials in CS the same recommendations apply as for other types of acute coronary syndrome. Our study suggests that GPI may be beneficial in this high-risk group of patients in whom a delayed onset of action of oral antiplatelet therapy would be expected. More selected trials are needed to clarify which is the best pharmacological option for these patients.

000424
Medical Doctor
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000424

Introduction: Factors associated with time delay to angiography in acute st-elevation myocardial infarction - a retrospective cohort study in Northern Finland

Objectives: Chest pain is a common mission (16.4%) for emergency medical service (EMS) but only in 10.5% there is a acute myocardial infarction (AMI) behind the symptom. (1) Delay in percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with AMI is associated with increased heart failure and mortality (2). Aim of this study was to examine time intervals of EMS and factors associated

Methods: Study was conducted in hospital district of Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland between 2014- 2016. Study included all the patients diagnosed with STEMI that underwent angiography within 24 hours from arrival to hospital and had been transported to hospital by EMS. We defined angiography delayed if it was performed over 120 minutes from first medical contact.

Results: 389 patients with NSTEMI, 63.5% were males and an average age of 68.7±12.6 years old. Regarding past medical history, 75.1% were hypertensive, 38.8% had diabetes, 54.8% had dyslipidaemia, 6.2% had chronic kidney disease, 3.1% had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 29.0% had a previous acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and 28.5% had been submitted to coronary revascularization. Mean GRACE score was 132.4±1.8 and median ACTIVE ICU score was 4±4. Median heart rate was 77±23 bpm, median arterial pressure was 146±38 mmHg, 88.7% had Killip-Kimball classification II-IV, 25.7% had ST-depression at admission. Logistic regression analysis confirmed that GRACE score was a good predictor of IHMACE (p<0.001) and...
IHD (p=0.005) in our population. ACTIVE ICU score was also a predictor of both IHMACE (p<0.001) and IHD (p=0.005). ROC curve analysis revealed that GRACE and ACTIVE ICU scores are accurate at predicting risk of IHMACE (area under curve (AUC) 0.726 and 0.737, respectively) and IHD (AUC 0.886 and 0.868, respectively).

**Conclusion:** This study confirms that, in our population, both scores are accurate at predicting the outcomes. As expected, GRACE score was slightly more accurate at predicting IHD while ACTIVE ICU score was more accurate at predicting IHMACE.

000471

**Does the rhythm at admission influence times to medical care in acute coronary syndrome?**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000471

**Introduction:** Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and atrial fibrillation (AF) are frequent disorders and it is not uncommon for AF to be present at admission of ACS. However, the presence of an arrhythmia can make the diagnosis of ACS more challenging and, therefore, it may increase in pre-hospital and admission delay in diagnosis.

**Objectives:** To evaluate if the presence of AF or other rhythms at admission influence in the period from symptom to first medical care, time from first medical care and admission and overall time from symptoms to admission.

**Methods:** Based on a multicenter retrospective study, data collected from admission between 1/10/2010 and 8/01/2019. Patients were divided into 3 groups: A – sinus rhythm, B – AF, and C - other rhythms at admission. Patients without data on previous cardiovascular history or uncompleted clinical data were excluded. Chi-square test, T-student test and Mann-Whitney U test were used in the analysis.

**Results:** 15927 patients were included, 14637 in group A (91.9%), 1049 in group B (6.6%) and 241 in group C (1.5%).

Group B (GB) patients were older (65±13 vs 75±10 vs 73±13, p<0.001) and had higher rates of comorbidities such as arterial hypertension (67.1 vs 83.2 vs 79.2%, p<0.001), diabetes (30.4 vs 36.0 vs 36.9%, p<0.001), previous history of stroke (6.7 vs 14.9 vs 11.7%, p<0.001), peripheral artery disease (4.8 vs 8.9 vs 4.6%, p<0.001), chronic kidney disease (4.7 vs 10.5 vs 10.4%, p<0.001) and dementia (1.5 vs 4.2 vs 3.1%, p<0.001) but fewer smokers (31.0 vs 8.7 vs 20.2%, p<0.001).

At presentation, GB had lower rates of STEMI (42.6 vs 33.6 vs 50.6%, p<0.001), were more frequently admitted by the emergency room (53.8% vs 62.6% vs 61.3%, p<0.001) and had higher heart rates at admission (77±18 vs 91±29 vs 68±30, p<0.001). The three groups were similar regarding times from symptoms to first medical care, times from first medical care and admission and overall times from symptoms to admission, rates of multivessel disease and culprit lesion in acute coronary syndromes.

Regarding in-hospital adverse events, group B and group C had higher rates of de novo heart failure (13.0 vs 29.7 vs 26.6%, p<0.001), sustained ventricular tachycardia (1.5 vs 3.1 vs 3.7%, p<0.001), cardiac arrest (2.8 vs 4.9 vs 7.1%, p<0.001), stroke (0.6 vs 1.7 vs 0.4%, p<0.001) and death (2.7 vs 9.0 vs 10.4%, p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** The rhythm at admission does not seem to have an effect in the time until medical care. Nevertheless, it was associated to worse prognosis and complications.

000472

**Acute coronary syndrome and atrial fibrillation onset**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000472

**Introduction:** Atrial Fibrillation (AF) complicates approximately 10% of acute coronary syndromes (ACS) and it is, therefore, important to access its impact on prognosis and identify patients with higher risk of AF.

**Objectives:** To evaluate predictors of early onset (<48 h) and late onset (>48 h) de novo atrial fibrillation (AF).

**Methods:** Based on a multicenter retrospective study, data collected from admissions between 1/10/2010 and 8/01/2019. Patients were divided in two groups: A – patients that presented early onset de novo AF (EOAF), and B – patients that presented late onset de novo AF (LOAF). Patients without data on previous cardiovascular history or uncompleted clinical data were excluded. Logistic regression was performed to assess predictors of de novo AF in ACS. Survival analysis was evaluated through Kaplan Meier curve.

**Results:** Population - 257272 patients (pts) with ACS. Group A (GA) - 584 pts (2.3%); group B (GB) - 360 pts (1.4%).

GA were younger (73±13 vs 77±10, p<0.001) with a higher prevalence of smokers (21.3% vs 12.1%, p<0.001). GB had higher rates of diabetes mellitus (40.1% vs 30.2%, p<0.001), angina (30.8% vs 21.4%, p<0.001), previous ACS (22.5% vs 15.4%, p=0.006), previous revascularization (percutaneous coronary intervention 14% vs 9.5%, p=0.032; coronary artery bypass surgery 8.4% vs 3.9%, p=0.004).

GA had more chest pain (76.1% vs 67.3%, p=0.001), more ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (56.8% vs 46.9%, p=0.003) and were admitted directly to the cath lab more often (21.7% vs 13.4%, p<0.001). Normal QRS at admission was more common in GA (80% vs 70.2%, p<0.001) and complete right branch block (CRBB) was more frequent in GB (13.5% vs 6.7%, p<0.001).

GB had lower hemoglobin (Hb) levels at admission (12.9±2 vs 13.4±1.9, p<0.001), first medical evaluation >120 minutes after symptoms onset (FME>120 m) more often (71.6% vs 57.8%, p<0.001) and more in-hospital diuretics usage (72.8% vs 54.3%, p<0.001). Logistic regression confirmed that FME>120 m (OR 1.6, p=0.005; CI 1.15-2.22), CRBB (OR 1.72, p=0.043, CI 1.10-2.92) and diuretics usage (OR 2.18, p<0.001, CI 1.57-3.01) were predictors of late onset AF.

140 LOAF patients and 236 EOAF patients had 1 year of follow up. Event-free survival was higher in EOAF than LOAF (80.3% vs 5.9%, p=0.002, OR 2.072).

**Conclusion:** LOAF patients seem to have a poorer prognosis compared to EOAF.

000477

**Cardiac biomarkers and electrocardiogram for detection of heart failure in the critically ill**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000477

**Introduction:** Left ventricular (LV) dysfunction is potentially harmful in the critically ill patient as it might compromise circulatory status. LV dysfunction can be triggered by many conditions in the critically ill e.g. myocardial infarction, toxic cardiomyopathy, hypoxia or severe stress (Takotsubo syndrome). The gold standard for diagnosing left ventricular function is echocardiography, but it might not be feasible to screen all ICU patients without discretion.

**Objectives:** This study evaluated troponin T, NTproBNP and ECG as more readily available surrogate markers for heart failure in critically ill patients.

**Methods:** This is a secondary analysis of a single-center prospective observational study which consecutive patients were examined with echocardiography (ClinicalTrialsID: NCT03787810). Included patients were examined with echocardiography according to the recommendations from ESC [1] within 24 hours from admission to the general ICU in our hospital. All echoes were recorded and blindly reviewed by an independent examiner. Blood samples were analyzed for high sensitive troponin T (hsTnT) and NTproBNP and an ECG was obtained in...
conjunction with the echocardiography of the patients. Heart failure was defined as having an LV ejection fraction <50%.

**Results:** A total of 411 patients were included in the final analysis of whom 64 (16%) had an EF<50%. Measurement of hsTnT and NTproBNP was available in 314 (76%) and 277 (67%) patients, respectively. An ECG was obtained in 374 (91%) patients. A sensitivity analysis showed that the population having measurement of cardiac biomarkers or an ECG-recording was a representative sample of the whole study population. Levels of hsTnT were higher in patients with an EF<50% (median, IQR 212-2810 vs 4715 [1570-12900], p<0.001). An ECG with q-waves, ST-elevation, ST segment depression, negative T-waves or bundle branch block were all significantly associated with an EF<50%.

ROC curves, the area under the curve (AUC) for hsTnT to detect an EF<50% was 0.81. The best-cut off value was 66 ng/l with a sensitivity of 75%, a specificity of 84%, a positive predictive value (PPV) of 40% and a negative predictive value (NPV) of 93% in the detection of an EF<50%. The AUC for NTproBNP to detect an EF<50% was 0.79. The highest predictive value was an ECG with any pathology which had a sensitivity of 92%, a specificity of 38%, a PPV of 23% and a NPV of 95% for detection of an EF<50% (Table). A lower ejection fraction was associated with an increased risk of 30 days mortality (<0.001). Levels of hsTnT and NTproBNP were both associated with an increased risk of 30-days mortality (p<0.001). Both biomarkers were also significantly associated with an increased risk of death when adjusting for SAPS 3 score, age and EF in % (p=0.024 and p=0.0025, respectively). An ECG with any pathology was associated with an increased risk of 30-days mortality (p=0.005) but not when adjusting for SAPS 3 score, age and EF in % (p=0.813).

### hsTnT>6ng/l NTproBNP>1230ng/l ECG with any pathology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>hsTnT&gt;6ng/l</th>
<th>NTproBNP&gt;1230ng/l</th>
<th>ECG with any pathology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specificity</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPV</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPV</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The cardiac biomarkers hsTnT and NTproBNP and ECG are only moderate in detection of heart failure in a mixed population of critically ill patients. However, the high negative predictive value of these biomarkers, as well as a normal ECG, could be used to rule out heart failure in the critically ill.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. The Swedish Heart-Lung foundation, The Swedish state support for clinical research (ALF-agreement)
Results: 84 patients were included in the study, 55 patients (65%) were male with a mean age of 70.3 (± 13.56) years. 25 patients (29.8%) had an ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. Hospital mortality was 11.9%, 1-year follow-up mortality was 21.4%. Mean copeptin levels were higher in patients who died during hospital admission (145.60 [52.21-588.50] pmol/L, p=0.01) or during follow-up (112.28 [25.10-418.27] vs. 23.82 [10.96-77.30] pmol/L, p= 0.02). There were no differences on hepatocyte growth factor levels between patients who died or no during hospital admission (381.05 [189.95-736.65] vs. 355.24 [175.55-521.76] pg/ml, p= 0.73) nor during follow-up (350.00 [175.05-555.08] vs. 345.53 [183.68-561.15] pg/ml, p= 0.679).

Copeptin measured at hospital arrival was found to be independently associated with hospital mortality, hazard ratio 1.004 (1.001–1.007), p=0.011; and 1-year follow-up mortality, hazard ratio 1.004 (1.001–1.007), p=0.010. Conversely, hepatocyte growth factor measured at hospital arrival was not found to be independently associated with hospital mortality (hazard ratio 1.000 [0.999–1.001], p=0.794) nor 1-year follow-up mortality (hazard ratio 1.000 [0.999–1.001], p=0.396).

Conclusion: Copeptin measured at hospital arrival, but not the hepatocyte growth factor, is an independent marker of mortality in patients with acute myocardial infarction.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Int J Cardiol 2019 Jan 1;274:337-341.
5. This study is not granted.

000576
Cardiac function and cor pulmonale on mechanical ventilated Covid-19 patients. A multicenter observational study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000576

Introduction: Cardiac injury has been reported to be a major complication associated to COVID-19, with reported incidences ranging from 7 to 28% patients (1, 2). It has even been associated with increased mortality(1). Circulatory failure due to cardiogenic shock or fulminating myocarditis has been described in some case reports (3). It has been reported that 95% of COVID-19 patients on mechanical ventilation require norepinephrine (NE)(4), nonetheless, no systematic data have been reported about the hemodynamic profiles, cardiac function, or incidence of acute cor pulmonale (ACP), in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Objectives: To perform a systematic characterization of cardiac function in COVID-19 mechanically ventilated patients using critical care echocardiography.

Methods: The echocardiographic group of Sociedad Chilena de Medicina Intensiva (SOCHIMI) prospectively included COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU and connected to mechanical ventilation. A comprehensive echocardiographic assessment has been done within the first 12 hours of mechanical ventilation in four University Hospitals of Santiago.

Results: 60 patients were consecutively included. The mean age was 58±12 y.o., 42 (70%) were male. APACHE II was 13±4 and SOFA 6±2. Forty seven (78%) patients required low doses of NE (0.05 ± 0.06 mcg/kg/min), median cardiac output was 4.9 [IQR 4.4-6.1] L min-1 and Lactate was 1.4 [1.0-1.9] mmol/L.

Forty three (72%) patients exhibited a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) >60% (hyperkinetic) and one patients had hypokinetic left heart function (LVEF <45%)(6). Right ventricular function was preserved in 55 (92%) patients (TAPSE >17 mm). In eighteen patients (30%) mild right ventricle dilatation (right to left ventricular area ratio between 0.6-0.8) was observed and four (7%) patients exhibited moderate acute cor pulmonale (right to left ventricular area ratio between >0.8). In addition, no correlation was observed between LVEF and troponin levels. Echocardiography parameters are shown in the Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Echocardiography variables</th>
<th>N = 60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left Ventricular Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left ventricular outflow tract diameter, cm</td>
<td>2.13 [2.0-2.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVESV, ml</td>
<td>116 [76-137]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVEF, %</td>
<td>57 [46-68]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction, %</td>
<td>65 [60-70]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke Volume, ml</td>
<td>68 [57-88]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPSE, mm</td>
<td>15 [14-17]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitral Tissue Doppler Image’s wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>11 [9-14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVOT VTI cm</td>
<td>22 [16-34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Output, L/min</td>
<td>4.9 [4.4-6.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Ventricular Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAPSE, mm</td>
<td>22 [20-24]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricuspid Tissue Doppler Image’s wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>13 [11-16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right end diastolic area, cm²</td>
<td>17 [13-19]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left end diastolic area, cm²</td>
<td>30 [24-35]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV/LV ratio</td>
<td>0.57 [0.48-0.67]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild Cor Pulmonale RV/LV ratio (0.6-0.8), n (%)</td>
<td>18 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Cor Pulmonale, RV/LV ratio (&gt;0.8), n (%)</td>
<td>4 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Cor Pulmonale, RV/LV ratio (&gt;1), n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left ventricular D-Shape, n (%)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doppler Trans-mitral E wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>71 [56-81]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doppler Trans-mitral A wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>62 [46-76]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/A ratio</td>
<td>1.1 [0.8-1.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitral Tissue Doppler Image e’ wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>10 [8-12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/e’ ratio</td>
<td>6.7 [5.3-9.1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluid responsiveness predictors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum IVC diameter, mm</td>
<td>20 [14-24]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum IVC diameter, mm</td>
<td>18 [11-22]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke Volume Variation, %</td>
<td>8 [3-12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse Pressure Variation, %</td>
<td>5 [3-7]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The most frequent hemodynamic profile of mechanically ventilated patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia was a non-modynamic circulatory state with hyperkinetic cardiac performance, associated with normal intravascular volume and normal tissue perfusion. In contrast with usual ARDS, severe acute cor pulmonale was not observed in this COVID-19 patient series. Although some cases of circulatory failure have been described, our data suggest that cardiac dysfunction is not a frequent feature of COVID-19. Further studies are necessary to assess the dynamic changes in cardiac performance over time.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
000602
A Shunt Demonstration: intracardiac gradients following left heart unloading as a cause of hypoxaemia
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000602

Introduction: Atrial septal defects (ASD) are common but rarely symptomatic. Alteration of right (Rt) and left (Lt) sided pressures may create a gradient across the interatrial septum causing shunt. If right-to-left shunt (RLSh) occurs, systemic hypoxaemia may ensue.

Objectives: To use 3 cardiac anatomical variants and physiological manipulation thereof to demonstrate how intracardiac gradients can be manipulated to both unmask and improve RLSh.

Methods: Case 1: 77 year old male with good biventricular function underwent tissue aortic valve replacement for aortic stenosis with epicardial pacing postoperatively. He failed extubation due to hypoxaemia. CXR, bronchoscopy and CTPA were normal. With ongoing deterioration (P/F ratio 10, PEEP 14) transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE) showed a large secundum ASD with continuous RLSh. Reducing pacing from 100 bpm to 60 bpm reduced shunt and increased pO2 from 10.1 kPa to 32.3 kPa on the same ventilator settings. Unfortunately, oxygenation could not be managed by manipulation of cardiac filling pressures non-invasively and he recovered after surgical correction of his ASD.

Case 2: 51 year old female with a background of Anrhynmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy was admitted in cardiogenic shock on inotropes and underwent LVAD implantation. On day 7 postoperatively, she developed severe hypoxaemia. CXR was clear but oxygenation poor. P/F ratio 14 with PEEP 10. TOE demonstrated a previously undetected large PFO with continuous right to left shunt. Oxygenation could not be improved despite reducing PEEP or LVAD RPM. She underwent Amplatzer closure of the PFO and recovered before being listed for transplantation.

Case 3: 40 year old male presented with fulminant lymphocytic myocarditis requiring pVAECMO and subsequent Total Artificial Heart (TAH) placement. He was readmitted a year later with bacterial pneumonia and fluid overload requiring intubation. TAH rate was increased to optimise pulmonary unloading and Lt vacuums manipulated to maximise this. Despite improved radiographic appearances and pulmonary compliance, oxygenation failed to resolve with a P/F ratio of 11, PEEP 10. TOE was undertaken which showed a small PFO with continuous RLSh. Increasing Rt vacuum + iNO improved systemic oxygenation. After a few days, oxygenation worsened due to pulmonary congestion. Lt vacuum was increased coupled with diuresis. As chamber fills fell, both vacuums were increased. This maximised both systemic and pulmonary haemodynamics without provoking further shunt. He subsequently weaned from the ventilator before being discharged home.

Results: All 3 cases demonstrate a variety of techniques capable of managing RLSh across the IAS. Understanding of the physiology involved, particularly with mechanical devices is important.

Conclusion: RLSh can be a consequence of iatrogenic unloading of the left side of the heart. Management may be physiological, interventional or surgical. In the setting of unexplained hypoxaemia and in the right clinical setting, TOE is an essential part of investigation whose utility should not be overlooked. A high index of suspicion is needed and this diagnosis should not be forgotten.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000623
Individual and clinical characteristics associated with the presence of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease in patients with acute coronary syndrome in an intensive care unit in the city of Bogota
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000623

Introduction: Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) is a group of clinical diseases which occur as a result of acute myocardial ischemia, whether it be secondary to obstruction of coronary flow (atherosclerotic coronary artery disease) or to an imbalance in myocardial oxygen supply and demand, based on the fourth definition of acute myocardial infarction. Classic risk factors for coronary artery disease include older age, arterial hypertension, smoking, diabetes mellitus and family history of ischemic heart disease. In Colombia, the current scale of the disease in terms of risk factor prevalence is unknown.

We determine individual and clinical factors associated with acute coronary syndrome and their association with the presence of coronary atherosclerosis, documented using cardiac catheterization in patients in an intensive care unit during the first half of 2018, in the city of Bogota.

Objectives: To determine individual and clinical factors associated with the presence of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease in patients with acute coronary syndrome in an intensive care unit, during the first half of 2018 in the city of Bogota.

Methods: It is a cross-sectional study which included 223 patients diagnosed with coronary syndrome, and who received cardiac catheterization during the first half of 2018. We performed a bivariate analysis of the individual and clinical characteristics, using the Chi-squared test to determine their level of association with the dependent variable, i.e., the presence of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease. We performed a multivariate analysis through logistic regression to determine the independent risk factors. A p-value ≤ 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: We found that 1 in 5 patients diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome does not show significant atherosclerotic coronary artery disease in their catheterization. 25% of patients with acute coronary syndrome are under 50 years old. Men show a greater prevalence, at 65%. Contrary to what we expected, there was no statistically significant association in the variables that are widely described in literature, such as hypertension, smoking, or family history and personal history of ACS. Out of the individual and clinical characteristics assessed in this study, a history of Diabetes Mellitus (OR. 4.9, CI 1.680 – 14.393, p 0.004) and the presence of changes in the admission electrocardiogram (OR. 2.98, IC 1.285 – 6.854, p 0.011) had the greatest statistical significance.

Conclusion: This study shows that the variables that better account for the probability of evidence of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease in the catheterization of patients with acute coronary syndrome are a history of diabetes mellitus and the presence of electrocardiographic changes at the moment of diagnosis. These findings can give the clinician additional tools when deciding on the risk stratification strategy, thus avoiding unnecessary invasive procedures, and reducing the risk of complications and other considerations that derive from this.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
The impact of end stage renal disease on long term outcome in patients after acute myocardial infarction: a nationwide observational study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000639

Introduction: Although a possible association between chronic kidney disease and coronary artery disease or acute myocardial infarction has been identified, the impact of end-stage-renal disease (ESRD) under dialysis on long-term prognosis after an acute myocardial infarction (AMI) is uncertain. Therefore, this study was to evaluate the specific impact of the patient with ESRD under dialysis on survival after a first AMI through a retrospective analysis of data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database.

Methods: This was a nationwide, propensity score-matched case-control study of patients admitted to hospitals between January 2000 and December 2012 with a primary diagnosis of a first AMI. Among the 186,326 prospective patients, 8056 patients with a confirmed diagnosis of ESRD under regular dialysis were identified. A propensity score, one-to-one matching technique was used to match 8056 controls to the AMI group for analysis. Controls were matched on the following variables: sex, age, hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, heart failure, cerebrovascular accidents, end stage renal disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and percutaneous coronary intervention.

Results: The 12-year survival rate was significant lower in AMI with ESRD group than control group (log rank p < 0.001). No matter male or female, the survival rate was significant lower in AMI with ESRD group (log rank p < 0.0001). In both younger (Age<65 years) and older category, the survival rate was also lower in AMI with ESRD group (log rank p < 0.0001). The survival rate of patients who received PCI management was comparable among patients in the ESRD and control groups (log rank p < 0.0001). Similarly, the rate of survival among patients who did not receive PCI management was comparable for both the ESRD and control groups (log rank p < 0.001).

Conclusion: In this nationwide study, with matched-case control we provide evidence of a possible effect of end-stage-renal-disease on the survival after a first AMI. Independent of sex and age, and revascularization management, ESRD plays an important role in the long-term outcome of AMI patients.

Control of arterial hypertension in critical patient with clevidipine: safe and effective therapy, descriptive study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000654

Introduction: It is common to find ourselves in intensive care units with patients with difficult blood pressure control. In many occasions, the impossibility of administering oral antihypertensive therapy is added. Objectives: to describe the utility of the use of clevidipine as a safe and effective antihypertensive in different medical and surgical pathologies, in an Intensive Care unit.

Methods: Single-center, descriptive and retrospective study of a series of cases. We included patients admitted to our unit for any pathology between January 2018 and December 2019, treated with clevidipine for blood pressure control. The software used was IBM SPSS v.20.

Results: A total of 20 patients were included, 17 males (85%) and 3 females (15%) with a mean age in the range of 58 ± 14.9 years. The pathologies that led to admission were: 7 (35%) coronary, 5 (25%) neurological, 3 (15%) vascular, 2 (10%) hypertensive crisis, 2 (10%) heart failure and 1 (5%) postoperative period of general surgery. The mean APACHE II score was 14.4 ± 6.5. It was recorded as a history of known arterial hypertension on admission in 15 patients (75%). Different combinations of antihypertensive drugs were started prior to the use of clevidipine in 12 patients (60%), the most frequent being: a combination of three oral antihypertensive drugs plus IV nitroglycerin in 4 of them (20%); ACE inhibitors plus BB in 2 (10%) and IV nitroglycerin monotherapy in 2 (10%). In 8 patients (40%) clevidipine was chosen as the first option due to contraindication for the use of other antihypertensive drugs and / or the impossibility of oral intake.

The maximum average dose used was 6.24 ml/ h (3.12 mg/ h) for about 2.35 days until optimization and / or onset of action of the different oral antihypertensives. Very good tolerance to the drug was observed without registering any side effect for which the therapy had to be suspended.

Conclusion: The main indication for clevidipine is the reduction of blood pressure in the perioperative environment. We consider that it is also a useful alternative for a rapid control of blood pressure in other clinical settings, also reducing the length of stay in the Intensive Care Unit, with the consequent improvement in the therapeutic efficiency of this type of patient. However, more randomized prospective studies would be necessary to corroborate these conclusions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. I assign all copyrights

Pilot study: implementation of a protocol for the management of intermediate-risk pulmonary embolism

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000656

Introduction: High risk pulmonary embolism (PE) should be monitored in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) because of the severity and high mortality it has. However, there is controversy regarding the monitoring and treatment of patients with intermediate-risk PE, since they are initially hemodynamically stable patients, but with a high risk of deterioration.

Objectives: In order to optimize its management, the ICU of the San Cecilio University Hospital has created a protocol in collaboration with the Emergency, Pneumology and Internal Medicine units.

Methods: Prospective, descriptive study over a period of four months. Patients with diagnosis of acute PE in the Emergency Department or in the hospital ward are included, with the following criteria:
- PE diagnosed by CT-scan.
- Hemodynamic stability.
- Suspected right ventricular dysfunction on CT-scan and elevation of cardiac markers (troponin and NT-proBNP).

A transthoracic echocardiogram was performed in the first 24 hours to evaluate right ventricular function.

**Results:** 29 patients met the inclusion criteria. The mean age was 69 years, being 41% women and 59% men. APACHE-II average of 9 and dyspnea as the main symptomatology (79% of patients). 100% presented some echocardiographic alteration consisting of RV dilatation, systolic dysfunction, or pulmonary hypertension. Three of the patients presented a tornid evolution towards high-risk PE, being able to be diagnosed and treated early with systemic fibrinolysis, which conditioned a favourable subsequent evolution normalizing RV systolic function.

The rest of the patients has a standard anticoagulant regimen and evolved properly, although all of them have persistent echocardiographic alterations 5-7 days after the treatment begin.

**Conclusion:** Patients with diagnosis of intermediate-risk PE benefited from closer monitoring thanks to the existence of a consensus protocol for the management of these patients, since the initial unsatisfactory evolution of three of them towards high-risk PE was diagnosed early, allowing an early approach.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


000681

**Evaluated beneficial effects of inhaled nitric oxide using the ventilatory ratio in adult cardiac surgery patients**

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2Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000681

**Introduction:** Cardiac surgery produces a systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) that has been highly related with lung injury. This reaction is associated with abnormalities in gas exchange, such as increased pulmonary shut fraction. Inhaled nitric oxide (iNO) plays a role of potent dilator of pulmonary vessels and improves such a ventilator/perfusion mismatch. Indirect indices for assessing impaired ventilation, such as dead space fraction and ventilatory ratio, have been used in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and other respiratory failure. However, no studies have evaluated how much iNO improves shunt rate in cardiac surgery patients with postoperative pulmonary dysfunction using these formulas.

**Objectives:** We conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of iNO therapy for cardiac surgery patients with respiratory failure or right heart failure using indirect indices.

**Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 19 adult cardiac patients treated with iNO postoperatively between July 2018 and March 2020. iNO was used to pulmonary hypertension and respiratory failure in patients who had undergone total arch replacement (n=9), valve replacement (n=8) and coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) (n=2). Hemodynamic measurements, dead space fraction and ventilatory ratio before iNO and again 6 and 12 hours after administration were examined. The effect of iNO infusion on arterial oxygenation was quantified using the PaO2/FiO2(P/F) ratio. The data were analyzed by using student’s t test. And we assessed the correlation between these indices and P/F ratio using Pearson correlation coefficient.

**Results:** Average administration duration of iNO (20 ppm) was 54.4 hours. Eight patients underwent emergency or urgent operation and all had Type A aortic dissection. There was no significant difference in mean pulmonary artery pressure, however P/F ratio increased significantly from 182 to 265 (p<0.05) at 12 hours after initiation. Mean arterial pressure and cardiac index did not change before and after used iNO. Although P/F ratio at 6 hours after initiation increased, it did not reach statistical significance. Improving oxygenation was associated with decreasing impaired ventilation measured by dead space fraction and ventilatory ratio at 12 hours after initiation. There was a significant negative correlation between VR and P/F ratio (Pearson, r=-0.5; CI, -0.78 to -0.05). The improvement of oxygenation due to the vasodilatory effect of iNO was confirmed.

**Conclusion:** In cardiac surgery patients, calculating dead space fraction and the ventilatory ratio during using iNO proved indirectly how iNO improve oxygenation without deterioration of the circulation indices. From these results, the vasodilatory effects of nitric oxide improved shunt fraction and oxygenation.
Conclusion: POAF within seven days after cardiac surgery was associated with a threefold increased risk for a thromboembolic stroke during hospital admission. POAF, a history of peripheral vascular disease, a higher EuroSCORE, and a longer duration of surgery were independent risk factors for thromboembolic stroke directly post-cardiac surgery of which POAF was the strongest independent predictor. Perioperative prophylaxis or expeditious treatment of POAF may therefore prevent early stroke after cardiac surgery.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Table 1. Change in the hemodynamic parameters induced by Tap water and IV saline administration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Saline Group (n=25)</th>
<th>Water Group (n=25)</th>
<th>p-value intergroup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart rate (BPM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>86 [77;104]</td>
<td>89 [79;104]</td>
<td>0.580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>90 [80;109]</td>
<td>90 [80;109]</td>
<td>0.392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP (mmHg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>62 [56;72]</td>
<td>62 [56;72]</td>
<td>0.449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>75 [67;81]</td>
<td>77 [72;84]</td>
<td>0.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP (mmHg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>10 [8;12]</td>
<td>11 [8;12]</td>
<td>0.892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>11 [9;12]</td>
<td>11 [9;12]</td>
<td>0.967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV (ml)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>26 [18;34]</td>
<td>26 [18;34]</td>
<td>0.900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>31 [25;40]</td>
<td>32 [25;40]</td>
<td>0.452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac output (ml min-1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>3.40 [2.62;4.92]</td>
<td>3.49 [2.44;5.48]</td>
<td>0.839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>4.41 [3.47;5.13]</td>
<td>4.46 [2.55;5.28]</td>
<td>0.808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O2 delivery (ml min-1 m-2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>298 [218;364]</td>
<td>242 [209;327]</td>
<td>0.452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>299 [255;404]</td>
<td>271 [181;369]</td>
<td>0.607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: There was no difference between SV change induced by the administration of 500 ml of enteral tap water and SV change induced by the administration of 500 ml of IV saline solution. The incidence of adverse event did not differ between groups. The administration of enteral tap water for fluid expansion appears to be safe and effective. Further studies are needed to confirm our results.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is a fundamental tool in refractory cardiopulmonary failure, however, complications are common and can be severe (1).
Objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the different complications occurring in patients with refractory cardiogenic shock (CS) supported with veno-arterial ECMO.

Methods: Data was collected prospectively from 2010 to 2020, patients with CS having received VA-ECMO were reviewed retrospectively. Baseline demographic variables, cause of CS, ECMO characteristics and complications were analyzed using SPSS software, version 20.

Results: We included 92 patients who received 101 VA-ECMO. Median age was 54 (interquartile range IQR 42-63), 64% were male. Causes of CS were mostly decompensated advanced heart failure (32%), acute myocardial infarction (26%), post-cardiomyopathy (21%), post-surgical pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (13%) and acute myocarditis (7%). A peripherally VA-ECMO was established in 91% of cases. The median length of ECMO was 186 hours (IQR 5.4 – 13 days), median ICU stay 18 days (IQR 12-33 days). In our series, device related complications were as follows: bleeding from cannula site occurred in 35% of patients, requiring surgical intervention in 9% of them. One patient suffered an unintended decannulation. Lower limb ischemia after femoral cannulation occurred in 22%, which is comparable to the literature (2). Limb amputation was required in 3% of patients. Thrombi formation in the oxygenator membrane was found in 19% of cases, 3% required urgent membrane replacement.

Patient related complications may be due to profound shock at the time of ECMO cannulation, or to the ECMO itself. Acute renal failure occurred in 30% of patients, half of which received renal replacement therapy (RRT). Major neurological complications were recorded: 9% of patients suffered from anoxic brain injury frequently related to previous cardiac arrest, 2 patients had a central nervous system (CNS) hemorrhage and CNS infarction was observed in 4% of patients. Only three of these patients diagnosed with stroke, either hemorrhagic or ischemic, were treated with thrombolysis. Two patients were cannulated and discharged with good neurological recovery. Infectious complications occurred on 48% patients, mostly catheter-related bacteremia (27%) and ventilator-associated pneumonia (19%). Global survival rate during ECMO support was 68%, with 43% of patients being discharged home. Severe complications had an enormous impact in outcome, regardless of the initial CS cause. After hemorrhagic stroke or anoxic brain injury survival was as low as 21%. However, some complications as the need of RRT were met with 34% survival, maybe due to the removal of inflammatory cytokines (3).

Conclusion: Patients needing VA-ECMO for CS have an already slim chance of survival. Complications may further increase their morbidity and mortality. A better understanding of their incidence and characteristics is paramount to a better management of these patients and to achieving better outcomes in the future.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. 3. Sivabaskari Pasupathy, BSc(Hons). Myocardial Infarction With Nonobstructive coronary artery disease (MINOCA) patients were more frequently women, younger and with a better cardiovascular risk profile. They are underdiagnosed and under- treated at hospital discharge.

Comparison of epidemiological features and outcomes between patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) with and without coronary obstruction in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) from Hospital Virgen de las Nieves (HUVN)

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Introduction: MINOCA is defined by the AMI criteria, absence of obstructive coronary artery disease (>50%), and no other cause for the clinical presentation. Research studies of MINOCA reported a 12-month mortality of 4.7% (95% CI 2.6–6.9), consistently demonstrating a better prognosis than for those with AMI and obstructive coronary disease. Therefore we can no longer dismiss patients with MINOCA as having false-positive AMIs but need to consider the potential benefit of statins and ACE inhibitors/ blockers.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of patients admitted in the ICU with acute coronary syndrome, differentiating between the groups of acute myocardial infarction with and without coronary obstruction (MINOCA)

Methods: An observational study that includes all patients (N = 498) admitted for ACS in HUVN- ICU’s Coronary Unit from January to December 2015. The ARIAM registry was used and computerized medical records were reviewed to collect data not included in the registry. Patients who did not undergo cardiac catheterization, echocardiography, or did not have the study variables recorded in their history were excluded. The data obtained was collected in an SPSS sheet and was subsequently evaluated in terms of descriptive statistics with mean, standard deviation (SD) and frequencies, and comparisons were made between the groups with and without coronary artery disease, using Student’s t test for quantitative variables and Chi square test for qualitative variables.

Results: The study includes 391 patients, 270 (69.2%) men and 120 (30.8%) women. The mean age was 62.9 (SD 12.6). The most common reason for admission was STEMI (49%) and 83.4% were in a Killip 1 clinical situation. The most prevalent cardiovascular risk factors were: hypertension (59.5%), dyslipidemia (50.5%), smoking (34.6%), type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (33.8%). LVEF at discharge was 53.2 (DS 10). 83.6% of the patients had coronary lesions, but only 62.4% were discharged with dual antiplatelet therapy. 16.4% had no coronary lesions; however, only 19 (3%) were considered MINOCA and received treatment. After 3 years, 7.7% of patients had another myocardial infarction, 16.4% were hospitalized due to cardiovascular causes, 0.8% had a recovered cardiorespiratory arrest, and mortality was 3.3% (17).

Conclusion: In the interval of 6 months, 13% of patients had recurrent ACS, and 12% died. However, the incidence of recurrent ACS and death was significantly lower in MINOCA patients than in patients with obstructive coronary artery disease (MINOCA vs. AMI: 13% vs. 29%, p < 0.001). This finding suggests that the underlying mechanism of MINOCA is different from that of AMI, and, therefore, different therapeutic strategies may be needed. Furthermore, the findings of this study suggest that MINOCA is not a diagnosis to be excluded in patients with a clinical presentation that resembles ACS, and that further research is needed to better understand the pathophysiology of this condition.
The use of carotid doppler to determine volume responsiveness following passive leg raising in hemodynamically unstable patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000908

Introduction: Critically ill patients have a mixture of intravascular volume depletion, low systemic vascular resistance, and decreased cardiac output, which makes responses to attempts at volume resuscitation difficult to predict. The objectiveness of this study was to determine the value of passive leg raising (PLR)-induced changes in the carotid volumetric blood flow, as assessed by carotid Doppler, which can predict volume responsiveness in a heterogeneous group in the ICU.

Methods: The following patients were enrolled in the study: 1. Patients who present with clinical and laboratory evidence of sepsis/septic shock.
2. Patients who present with evidence of fluid loss due to hyperosmolar hyperglycemia syndrome (HHS).
3. Patients who present with a picture of acute renal failure with no obvious etiology. Common carotid artery Doppler is performed before and after PLR to determine the carotid volumetric blood flow using the formula: Carotid Volume Flow = π x radius (D2), A = D2 x 0.785. A patient whose carotid volume flow increased by > 20% following PLR was considered a fluid responder. We based our estimate on the study done by Paul Mark et al.

Results: 36 patients were enrolled in the study. 67% were male; with an average age of 48 ± 18 years. The increase in carotid volume flow by > 20% following PLR was significant in fluid responders (p < 0.05). Eighteen patients (50%) had sepsis/septic shock, five of them were fluid unresponsive and required a vasopressor. In the other thirteen patients of the same group, hypotension and tachycardia resolved with limited fluid resuscitation. We also admitted twelve patients with HHS, ten of those patients were fluid responsive and required limited fluid resuscitation. The other two patients were fluid unresponsive and required maintenance fluid. We also admitted six patients with acute renal failure with no apparent etiology, three of those patients were fluid responsive and required controlled fluid resuscitation. The other three patients were fluid unresponsive and required inotropic support for heart failure.

Conclusion: Our study supports the concept of a hemodynamically-guided, restricted fluid resuscitation strategy in the hemodynamically unstable ICU patients. Initial fluid resuscitation in those patients should be limited and guided by an assessment of fluid responsiveness through the estimation of carotid volume flow following PLR.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. The author has no conflict of interest to declare

Safety and effectiveness of temporary cardiac pacing with the new kronosafe system
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000048

Introduction: Temporary Cardiac Stimulation with active-fixation leads has demonstrated to be more effective and safer than the other done without fixation(1,2,3). Nowadays doesn’t exist a pacemaker to do it and physicians usually use definitive cardiac stimulation devices (leads and generator) off label. We have developed a new subjection system called KronoSafe®, that allows us to hold all the external part of the temporary pacemaker. With our new subjection system, we provide the security that the procedure needs against device detachment or intravascular infection.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to demonstrate the effectiveness and safety of temporary cardiac stimulation with active-fixation leads subjected with the new KronoSafe System®.

Methods: The study was approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of our hospital. We include all consecutive patients underwent temporary cardiac stimulation over 6 months at our centre. A 65 cm active-fixation lead was implanted throw the left jugular vein to right ventricle apex and connected to a reusable generator. We measure R wave sensed, lead impedance and threshold every 48 hours. Complications related with cardiac stimulation were collected: pace/sense failure, lead or generator detachment and right ventricle perforation. We also describe how much time the patient was in the intensive care unit and standard hospitalization floor under temporary pacing.

Results: 12 patients were included. Every 48 hours medium of R wave sensed was 10-9,56-9,98-9,71 mV; lead impedance was 673-584-573-569 Ohm and the threshold was 0,63-0,42-0,47-0,46 V. No complication was registered. The average duration of temporary cardiac stimulation was 7,6 days (min 44 h– max 600 h), 24 hours in ICU and 157 hours in standard hospitalization floor.
Introduction: The presence of No-reflow (NR) during primary coronary intervention (PCI) in STEMI is associated with worse outcomes and higher mortality. Different strategies have been studied to decrease NR’s incidence without success.

Objectives: To assess if there is a reduction in NR’s incidence depending on the time of administration of unfractionated heparin (UFH) in patients with STEMI before or during PCI.

Methods: We perform a retrospective cohort study that includes patients diagnosed of STEMI treated with PCI during 2017 and 2018 in our hospital. Patients who had out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, those who were treated with fibrinolysis and those with unthourou treatment or without obstructive coronary artery disease in PCI were excluded. We compare 2 groups, in the first one UFH was administered during PCI, and in the second one UFH was administered previously. Arterial flow was analyzed at the beginning and at the end of PCI, using TIMI scale. We also analyzed NR’s incidence, mortality and complications.

Results: 389 patients were included, with ages between 61.38 ± 12.6 in group 1 vs 64.4 ± 12 in group 2 (p = 0.02). The studied variables are shown in table 1, there weren’t statistically significant differences in cardiovascular risk factors or previous pharmacological treatment between the groups. Arterial flow at the beginning of PCI and the incidence of in-hospital major bleeding were similar in both groups (TIMI > 1 before angioplasty N = 64.2 % 51.8 % 51.6 % 0.7). The multivariable analysis shows that the lack of previous administration of UFH is associated with an increase in NR (Or: 2.48 [1.20-5.12] p = 0.014) and major age too (OR 1.04 [1.00-1.07] p = 0.008), getting renal insufficiency out of the analysis.

Conclusion: Early UFH administration is a protective factor against NR and is associated with a better outcome after PCI in STEMI.

Prehospital care administration of unfractionated heparin in STEMI as protective factor against no-reflow phenomenon

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001099

Table 1. Sample’s baseline characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Total N = 398</th>
<th>Group 1 (UFH during PCI) N = 139</th>
<th>Group 2 (previously UFH) N = 250</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>63.4% +/- 12.4</td>
<td>61.38 +/- 12.6</td>
<td>64.4 +/- 12.0</td>
<td>0.021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial hypertension</td>
<td>29 %</td>
<td>27.3 %</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker</td>
<td>15.4 %</td>
<td>17.3 %</td>
<td>14.4 %</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>20.3 %</td>
<td>22.3 %</td>
<td>19.2 %</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislipemia</td>
<td>64.2 %</td>
<td>51.8 %</td>
<td>51.6 %</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous renal insufficiency</td>
<td>6.2 %</td>
<td>7.2 %</td>
<td>5.6 %</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMI &gt; 1 before angioplasty</td>
<td>50.9 %</td>
<td>48.9 %</td>
<td>52 %</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti HII/HHA</td>
<td>36.8 %</td>
<td>38.8 %</td>
<td>35.6 %</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>8.7 %</td>
<td>12.9 %</td>
<td>6.4 %</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-hospital</td>
<td>1.5 %</td>
<td>1.4 %</td>
<td>1.6 %</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stent thrombosis</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>4.9 %</td>
<td>5.9 %</td>
<td>4.4 %</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Multivariable analysis with logistic regression; dependent variable: NR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous UFH</td>
<td>2.48 (1.20-5.12)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.04 (1.00-1.07)</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Early UFH administration is a protective factor against NR and is associated with a better outcome after PCI in STEMI.

The impact of dipyridamole added on dual antiplatelet therapy on stroke prevention and long-term outcome in patients after first acute myocardial infarction

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001155

Introduction: Dipyridamole based triple antiplatelet therapy (TAPT) on stroke prevention and long-term outcome was unknown. Our study is aimed to evaluate long-term efficacy and safety of dipyridamole based TAPT after acute myocardial infarction (AMI).

Methods: This is a nationwide, case–control study involving 186,112 first AMI patients. We adopted a ratio of 1:4 propensity score matching based on multiple variables. Finally, we enrolled 4,540 patients in the dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) group and 1,135 patients in the TAPT group in our final analysis.

Results: Overall survival rate was comparable between two groups of patients (log-rank P = .0569), regardless of sex. In age subgroup, TAPT group showed poor survival in younger patients (log-rank P = .0072), but no survival difference compared with DAPT group in older patients. There was no extra benefit of TAPT for patients after AMI regardless of types of myocardial infarction (MI).DAPT was superior
to TAPT for patients underwent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) (log-rank P = .0022). TAPT did not reduce cumulative event rate of recurrent MI or recurrent stroke in patients after AMI. TAPT increased cumulative intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) rate (log-rank P = .0026) but did not affect cumulative event rate of gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding free survival. Dipryidamole did not contribute to AMI survival.

**Conclusion:** TAPTdid not contribute to overall AMI survival, and did not reduce recurrent rate of MI or stroke. TAPT increased ICH rate with effect on the incidence of GI bleeding compared with DAPT.

### 001156

The impact of Ambulance prehospital dual-antiplatelet medication system in patients with acute myocardial infarction: a 8-year city-based multicenter study

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**Correspondence:** W. C. Huang

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001156**

**Introduction:** Early use of dual anti-platelet therapy (DAPT) in ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) can reduce stent thrombosis and further save the patients. However, it is still difficult to set up ambul ance paramedics DAPT system for patients after STEMI. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate improving use of DAPT in ambulance for acute myocardial infarction patients in a city-based program.

**Methods:** A multidisciplinary team among 15 hospitals, fire bureau and department of health, Kaohsiung city government was organized since 2016. The key interventions include: First, first innovativeness-based pre-hospital ambulance paramedic STEMI dual anti-platelet medication-on-line instruction system, direct checking DAPT at ambulance, training programfor ambulance paramedics, 24 hours STEMI interpretation and on-line intusctrionteam. The consecutivSTEMI diagnosed by ambulance electrocardiogram system were enrolled from Jan. 2011 to Dec. 2018 in Kaohsiung city. The patients were divided into three groups: pre-interventional group from 2011-2015, Interventional group from Jan to Dec 2016 and post-interventional group from 2016 to 2018.

**Results:** The percentage of ambulance DAPT use in acute STEMI patients increased from 0% in pre-interventional group, to 2.8% in pre-interventional group and to 57.8% in post-interventional group (p<0.001). Intense STEMI patients received DAPT at ambulance, there was not any bleeding complications. Furthermore, the mortality was 0% in these patients.

**Conclusion:** This study showed, from 2011 to 2018, innovative city-based pre-hospital ambulance paramedic STEMI dual anti-platelet medication-on-line instruction system can improve percentage of ambulance DAPT use and also outcomes inSTEMI patients.

### 000119

Application of sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA) score in patients who underwent cardiac surgery: a prospective study

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000119**

**Introduction:** After cardiovascular (CV) surgery, clinicians must identify patients at high risk to develop mortality/morbidity from major free survival. Dipryidamole did not contribute to AMI survival.

**Objectives:** This study identified the association of SOFA score with organ dysfunction/failure, death or clinical improvement in patients who underwent CV surgery.

**Methods:** This is a single-center prospective cohort study that included 63 patients, ≥19 years old, admitted at the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) ≥3 days, who underwent any CVS (cardiopulmonary bypass, valve, congenital and vascular surgeries). The Institutional Ethics Review Board (IERB) of the institution approved the study in accordance with the ethical principles set forth in the Declaration of Helsinki and the National Ethical Guidelines for Health and Health-related Research of 2017. Informed consent was obtained prior to the conduct of the study. The SOFA variables were obtained pre-operatively and post-operatively at day 0 and day 3. The score was computed using the Qx calculator. Total maximum SOFA (TMS SOFA) and the delta SOFA (ΔSOFA) were also calculated.

**Results:**

**SOFA score analysis.** The SOFA score was compared pre-operatively, on Day 0 post-operative and day 3 post-operative. In addition, the SOFA variables were also compared on these three periods. Table 4 compared the SOFA score and the SOFA variables on these periods. ΔSOFA score and the individual SOFA parameters (except for serum creatinine and bilirubin levels) were significantly different in the three periods (p<0.001).

**Predictors of organ dysfunction, failure and mortality.** Valvular surgeries, platelet count and bilirubin levels, as well as the MAP, were predictors of outcomes (P val<0.03, 0.00, 0.023 and 0.041 respectively). In patients undergoing valvular surgeries, they have more than 3 times risks to develop organ failure/dysfunction or mortality as compared to those who underwent other cardiovascular surgeries (OR 3.1429, 1.1068 to 8.9245 95% CI, 0.032 p-value). Post-operatively, for every unit increase in platelet count, the odds of developing organ failure/dysfunction or mortality decreased by 0.94% (OR 2.0303, 1.1013 – 3.7429 95% CI, 0.041 p-value). Post-operatively, for every unit increase in MAP, the odds of developing organ failure/dysfunction or mortality decreased by 0.9% (OR 0.9906, 0.9839 – 0.9974 95% CI, 0.006 p-value). Post-operatively, for every unit increase in MAP, the odds of developing organ failure/dysfunction or mortality decreased by 5.3% (OR 0.9469, 0.8987 – 0.9977 95% CI, 0.041 p-value). Post-operatively, for every unit increase in bilirubin, the odds of developing organ failure/dysfunction or mortality increased by 1.03% (OR 2.0303, 1.1013 – 3.7429 95% CI, 0.032 p-value).

**Conclusion:** Exposure of patients undergoing CV surgery to the bypass machine may lead to deleterious sequelae explaining the high TMS SOFA and ΔSOFA score in the immediate post-operative period. As organ dysfunction improves or deteriorates in the succeeding days after intervention, it is coupled to a corresponding decrease or increase of the said scores. Our study showed that the SOFA score is a simple, reproducible, and readily available tool that could assist the clinician in intensifying treatment in this subset of patient; thereby, decreasing the risk for morbidity or death.

| TABLE 4. SOFA score and SOFA variables |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                              | Pre-operative | Day 0 Post-operative | Day 3 Post-operative | P-value |
| PaO2                          | 95 (85.6 to 112) | 203 (147 to 241) | 130 (98 to 165) | <0.001 |
| FiO2                          | 21 (21 to 80) | 90 (60 to 100) | 21 (21 to 100) | <0.001 |
| Platelet count                | 234 (217 to 268) | 69 (116 to 195) | 177 (125 to 261) | <0.001 |
| MAP                           | 83 (72 to 93) | 83 (85 to 98) | 84 (75 to 90) | <0.001 |
| MAP                           | 83 (72 to 93) | 83 (85 to 98) | 84 (75 to 90) | <0.001 |
| Use of inotropes              | 1 (1 to 1) | 3 (1 to 4) | 3 (1 to 4) | <0.001 |
| CACS                          | 15 (15 to 15) | 10 (10 to 19) | 15 (10 to 15) | <0.001 |
| Creatinine                    | 0.9 (0.79 to 1.13) | 3.9 (0.86 to 8.13) | 8.05 (0.86 to 12.0) | <0.001 |
| Urine output                  | 1500 (1150 to 1900) | 2450 (1790 to 3100) | 1800 (1350 to 2120) | <0.001 |
| cGFR                          | 91.2 (68.8 to 106.5) | 95.4 (68 to 112.9) | 99 (72.2 to 115.8) | <0.001 |
| Bilirubin                     | 1.04 (0.81 to 1.38) | 1.7 (1.23 to 2.68) | 1.32 (0.92 to 1.44) | 0.391 |
| SOFA score                    | 1 (0 to 2) | 7 (6 to 9) | 2 (1 to 3) | <0.001 |

PaO2 partial pressure of oxygen, FO2 fraction of inspired oxygen in the air, the MAP mean arterial pressure, CACS Glasgow coma scale, cGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate, SOFA sequential organ failure assessment score.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Ferreria F. Serial Evaluation of the SOFA Score to Predict Outcome in Critically Ill Patients. JAMA. 2001;286(14):1754

000139
Analysis of right ventricular failure after cessation of nitric oxide inhalation in left ventricular assist device implantation
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000139

Introduction: Right ventricular failure (RVF) after left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation increases morbidity and mortality.1 Nitric oxide inhalation (NOI) is frequently used to prevent and treat RVF. Previous studies reported a few preoperative hemodynamic predictors of RVF such as CVP/PCWP (pulmonary wedge pressure) ratio, RV stroke work index. However, the criteria to wean of and stop NOI are not fully standardized.

Objectives: The aim of our study was to investigate the risk factors and the outcome of restart of NOI after cessation in LVAD implantation.

Methods: A retrospective medical review was performed on 79 patients who underwent continuous flow type of LVAD (CF-LVAD) implantation and received NOI at the arrival of ICU (intensive care unit) from April 2014 to March 2019 at Osaka University Hospital. Patients under 18 years of age and those who underwent biventricular assist device implantation were excluded. Univariate and ROC analysis were performed to classify the risk factors and cut-off value. This retrospective study was approved by the clinical research ethics committee of Osaka University Hospital (Ethical Committee number 19244).

Results: One patient without PA catheter was excluded. Of the entire 78 patients, 17 (22%) restarted NOI within 48 hours after cessation. In hemodynamometric parameters just before cessation of NOI, CVP and CVP/dPAP (diastolic pulmonary pressure) ratio was higher in patients with restart of NOI (p<0.01). ROC analysis showed Area Under the curve (AUC) of CVP of the longer than that of CVP/dPAP (p<0.05). Cut-off value were 11 mmHg in CVP (sensitivity 0.88, specificity 0.75), and 1.3 (sensitivity 0.77, specificity 0.79) in CVP/dPAP ratio. Compared with patients without restart of NOI, patients with restart of NOI had shorter ventilator-free days within 28 days [13 days (interquartile range, 6–20 days) vs. 23 days (interquartile range, 19–26 days), p<0.01] and longer ICU length of stay [22 days (interquartile range, 12–44 days) vs. 10 days (interquartile range, 7–16 days), p<0.01].

Conclusion: CVP and CVP/dPAP ratio are useful criteria to discontinue NOI inhalation. Also, restart of NOI inhalation decreases ventilator-free days within 28 days and increases ICU length of stay.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000160
24 hours ABPM, vascular risk profile and ventricular function deterioration in patients type 2 diabetes mellitus with acute heart failure
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000160

Introduction: Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) permits the evaluation of 24 hours blood pressure pattern.

Objectives: Our aim was to evaluate a possible negative influence of the presence of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus (T2DM) on 24 h. ABPM pattern, vascular risk profile and severity of left ventricular (LV) function in patients with Acute Heart Failure (AHF).

Methods: In 122 patients with AHF we compare clinical features of 42 (63.9 years / 87.3% males) with T2DM versus 80 (63±11 years / 68.3% non-T2DM).

In addition to clinical examination and analytical parameters, all patients underwent a 24 h, ABPM and echocardiogram and evaluation of degree of severity LV Dysfunction.

Results: Patients with T2DM had higher (p<0.001) prevalence (%) of Hypertension (75 vs 46.7), dyslipidemia (65.6 vs 28.3), obesity (47 vs 43), and worse renal function (GFR 64.7 vs 72.3 ml/min/1.73m2).

Conclusion: In patients with AHF, the presence of T2DM contributes to show greater hypertensive and/or ischaemic etiology, further deterioration of 24 h ABPM pattern and worse left ventricular myocardial function.

T2DM can be considered as a risk factor and worsening of heart failure. 24 h ABPM may contribute to a better prognostic evaluation in these patients.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean Values (mmHg)</th>
<th>T2DM</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>NonT2DM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24. SBP</td>
<td>116 ± 16</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>111 ± 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime SBP</td>
<td>117 ± 15</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>112 ± 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nighttime SBP</td>
<td>114 ± 18</td>
<td>&lt;0.04</td>
<td>108 ± 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24h DBP</td>
<td>65 ± 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>55 ± 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime DBP</td>
<td>67 ± 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>57 ± 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightime DBP</td>
<td>64 ± 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>59 ± 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse Pressure</td>
<td>50 ± 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>46 ± 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nocturnal PP</td>
<td>51 ± 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>47 ± 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No significant differences in DBP between groups, but patient with T2DM present higher average values (p<0.05) of SBP 24 h (mmHg): 116(111); daytime (117/112) and nighttime (114/108); higher 24 h Pulse Pressure (50 vs 46 mmHg) and non-dipper pattern frequency (84.7 vs 79.35), as well as a greater proportion of patients with moderate/severe LV dysfunction (87.6 vs 81.7%) (p<0.05).

We also observed worse NYHA functional class in T2DM patients: NYHA II-II 84,4 vs 58,3%, p<0.001.

Conclusion: In patients with AHF, the presence of T2DM contributes to show greater hypertensive and/or ischaemic etiology, further deterioration of 24 h ABPM pattern and worse left ventricular myocardial function.
Dynamic arterial elastance after thoracoadominal aortic repair

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Introduction: Dynamic arterial elastance (Eadyn) has been shown to be a dynamic parameter for arterial load assessment and to predict arterial pressure response to volume administration. Since volume administration is a key part of hemodynamic resuscitation, arterial load assessment and knowledge of arterial pressure response to volume administration have lately become of particular interest. This is especially relevant in aortic repair, since maintenance of adequate spinal cord, renal and visceral perfusion pressure is a key element of peri-operative management. Although several studies could show that changes in cardiac preload and afterload influence Eadyn, the impact of changes in vascular properties, like aortic repair, have not been assessed so far.

Objectives: To date the effect of changes in vascular properties, like aortic repair, on dynamic arterial elastane have not been assessed systematically. Therefore the aim of this study was to test whether aortic repair affects dynamic arterial elastance and its ability to predict arterial pressure response to volume administration.

Methods: The study was designed as prospective observational trial in 18 domestic pigs. Animals were anesthetized and mechanically ventilated. Hemodynamic data were obtained using transcardiopulmonary thermodilution and pulse contour analysis. 4 consecutive volume loading steps each consisting of 6 ml/kg bodyweight hydroxyethyl starch were performed in baseline conditions and repeated 6 hours after hybrid aortic repair. Aortic repair was performed using a hybrid-graft technique consisting of a thoracic stent graft and open re-insertion of the abdominal and iliacal branches. An increase in mean arterial pressure (MAP) > 15% was considered as a positive pressure response. Values are given as mean (95% confidence interval), two-tailed p-values of <0.05 were considered significant.

Results: In baseline conditions Eadyn decreased (1.20 vs. 0.94, p<0.001) during volume loading and presented with an AUC of 0.84 (0.73–0.95). After aortic repair Eadyn also decreased (0.97 vs. 0.85, p=0.08) during volume loading while the ability to predict pressure response decreased to an AUC of 0.56 (0.38–0.74). Baseline values were significantly changed after aortic repair (1.20 vs 0.97, p< 0.05)

Conclusion: Eadyn values were significantly changed after aortic repair. Further Eadyn was not able to predict arterial pressure response to volume administration when vascular properties changed after thoracoadominal aortic repair.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. The study was supported by departmental funds of the Department of Anaesthesiology, University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf

Volume status assessment with cardiac variation of internal jugular vein

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Introduction: Minimally invasive volume status assessments are highly required in emergency and critical care medicine, such as the respiratory variation of inferior vena cava (IVC) [1]. Previously, we focused on cardiac variation of major veins as a new index of it [2,3], and reported the association between cardiac variation of internal jugular vein (IJV) and stroke volume (SV) via venous return (3). This is the first study which evaluated the cardiac variation of UV in the emergency department.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to confirm the efficacy of cardiac variation of UV as an indicator for hemodynamics related to fluid volume.

Methods: This is a single-center prospective observational study. Patients over the age of 20 with need of fluid resuscitation who came in by ambulance were included from August 2019 to March 2020. Those who were severely ill and needed immediate treatments were excluded.

Cardiac variation of right UV cross section area and respiratory variation of IVC diameter were evaluated by echography, SV, stroke volume variance (SVV) were evaluated by ClearSight system (Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA, USA), and vital signs were recorded before infusion. Then, after infusion of 500 mL crystalloid, SV, SVV and vital signs were recorded again. To evaluate cardiac variation, we applied speckle tracking technique with ACUSON S2000 HELX EVOLUTION (Siemens, Munich, Germany). Collapse index was calculated by following formula; collapse index = (maximum − minimum) / maximum. Fluid responsiveness was defined as SV increase after infusion of 15% or more. The setting of age, gender, height, and weight were fixed in ClearSight measurement to shorten the evaluation time before treatment and provisional SV were recorded. Since the provisional SV is higher with age, we analyzed the provisional SV divided by age. The primary outcome was fluid responsiveness. We evaluated the correlation with UV cardiac variation, IVC respiratory variation or SVV. The secondary outcome was SV before infusion. We assessed correlation with UV cardiac variation.

Results: Among 12,009 patients visiting emergency department during the study period, 103 patients were included in analysis. The mean age of patients was 74.0 years old, 55.3% were male, and 37.9% responded to fluid infusion. The mean collapse index of UV cardiac variation was 15.6±13.6%. Collapse index of UV cardiac variation (16.8±14.9% vs 13.6±10.9%, p=0.024) and collapse index of IVC respiratory variation (41.8±27.5% vs 45.6±27.6%, p=0.053) were not different between those with and without fluid responsiveness, and SV (p=0.02) before infusion showed significant difference. On the other hand, correlation was found between collapse index and SV/age (r=0.25, p=0.01).

Conclusion: Not UV cardiac variation and IVC respiratory variation, but only SVV was correlated to fluid responsiveness. UV cardiac index was associated with SV in emergency clinical setting similarly with the previous study.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. [1] Nagdev AD, Merchant RC, Tirado-Gonzalez A, Sisson CA, Murphy MC. Emergency department bedside ultrasonographic measurement of the
4. This work was supported by Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (19K18314)

000405
Decrease of haemoconcentration in dyspnoeic patients reliably detects hydrostatic pulmonary oedema in the Emergency Department
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000405

Introduction: To diagnose the cause of acute respiratory failure (ARF) in the emergency department (ED) is difficult. In particular, the differential diagnosis between hydrostatic pulmonary oedema (HPO) and other lung diseases is often challenging. Today, the diagnosis of HPO is mainly based on clinical criteria and the dosage of B-type natriuretic peptide, which is costly and suffers from some false positives, especially in case of renal failure. Since HPO is due to transfer of a significant volume of plasma through the pulmonary capillary barrier toward the interstitium and alveoli, it has been demonstrated that this volume is large enough for inducing haemoconcentration, whose level reflects the volume of lung oedema. However, the diagnostic accuracy of haemoconcentration in a population of dyspnoeic patients in the ED has never been investigated.

Objectives: To evaluate whether the variation of haemoglobin concentration (ΔHb) over the first hours of treatment in dyspnoeic patients allows discriminating HPO from other causes of dyspnoea and ARF.

Methods: We retrospectively collected data of patients admitted to a medium-size ED for dyspnoea and ARF as leading problem, and for whom at least two Hb measurements (one at ED admission and one within the next 6 hours) were available. Patients were excluded if data regarding therapeutic management, radiological and biochemical investigations were not retrievable and if they were not subsequently admitted to an hospital ward. Two expert investigators, unaware of ΔHb, defined a posteriori the cause of dyspnoea as HPO and non-HPO, according to clinical, instrumental and biochemical findings. The ability of ΔHb to detect HPO as the main cause of dyspnoea was evaluated through the area under the receiver operating characteristic (AUROC) curve.

Results: Between November 1st, 2018 and December 31st, 2019, 1391 dyspnoeic patients were admitted to our ED. 572 patients were included in the analysis, among which 174 (30.4%) were diagnosed with HPO. HPO patients showed a significantly higher value of Hb at ED presentation compared to non-HPO (12.8[11.5-14.1]g/dL vs. 12.2[10.8-13.7]g/dL, respectively; p=0.002). At 6 hours from admission and the beginning of therapeutic management, relative ΔHb was significantly higher in HPO than in non-HPO patients (-8.4[-11.4 to -5.8]% vs. 0.7[-1.9-3.6]%, respectively; p<0.0001). The AUROC for ΔHb to detect HPO was 0.896[0.889-0.903] (sensitivity and specificity 0.81[0.80-0.84] and 0.90[0.87-0.92], respectively) with a cut-off of -4.3%. When absolute ΔHb was considered, similar results were observed (-1.0[-1.5 to -0.8]g/dL vs. 0.1[0.2-0.4]g/dL, respectively; p<0.0001), with an AUROC of 0.892[0.885-0.899] (sensitivity and specificity 0.82[0.80-0.83] and 0.88[0.87-0.90], respectively) and a cut-off value of -0.6 g/dL.

Conclusion: A reduction of Hb concentration ≥4.3% over the first hours of treatment reliably identifies HPO as the main cause of dyspnoea and ARF in patients admitted to the ED.

000452
Echocardiographic assessment of systolic and diastolic function in critical care unit. Prognostic influence
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Introduction: Critical-care echocardiography (CCE) has been recently recognized by the Echocardiography Working Group of the Cardiovascular Dynamics section of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) and several studies have shown its growing importance in the critical patient.

Objectives: To evaluate biventricular systolic and diastolic function in ICU patients. To estimate the delay in performing the echocardiogram, as well as its prognostic influence in patients with different pathologies.

Methods: Echocardiographic studies conducted during the period 2018-2019 were reviewed and the parameters of systolic (LVEF by Simpson and Teicholz method, TAPSE) and diastolic (E/A and E/e' ratio) function as well as preload parameters (diastolic LV volume, inferior vena cava diameter) were collected. The delay in carrying out the study from the time of admission and the distribution by shifts (morning, afternoon, night) of these wereanalyzed. The influence of systolic and diastolic dysfunction on mortality and ICU stay was evaluated. The variables are expressed as a mean (95% CI).

Results: 197 patients with the following baseline characteristics were included. Age 68.6 (66.9-70.7) years, sex 64.6% men, weight 75.4 (72.6-78.2) kg, height 165.3 (163.9-166.7) cm, APACHE 17.8 (16.5-19.1), SAPS II 41.8 (39.2-44.3), SOFA 4.8 (4.2-5.4). The reason for admission was: sepsis/septic shock 14.8%, heart failure 12.3%, acute coronary syndrome 12.3%, pulmonary embolism 10.3%, acute respiratory failure 8.7%, cardiorespiratory arrest 7.2%, neurocritical 5.6%, acute on chronic respiratory failure 5.1%, trauma 2.6%, myopericarditis 2.6%, other 17.9%. The average stay was 7.8 (6.1-9.5) days, with a mortality rate of 20%. Systolic function was 41.7% (39.6-43.9) % Teicholz, 48.8% (39.7-57.8) % Simpson, 20.3 (19.2-21.6) mmTAPSE. Diastolic function was: E/A 1.8 (1.2-2.4), E/e' 12.5 (11-13.9). The LVEDV was 106.4 (99.9-112.9) ml and the IVC was 17.8 (16.5-19) mm. 4.1 (3.6-4.6) images and 2.9 (2.4-3.3) video clips were archived per study. The study was performed at 45.1 (39.5-58.3) hours after admission, the distribution by shifts was: morning 63.1%, afternoon 25.6% and night 11.3%. Statistically significant differences (ANOVA test) were observed in the Simpson LVEF (p=0.006) and the E/A ratio (p=0.007) between the different diagnostic groups, with the heart failure and cardiac arrest groups showing the highest degree of dysfunction. The presence of systolic or diastolic dysfunction did not influence ICU stay or mortality.

Conclusion: Conclusions: Routine echocardiographic evaluation of critical patients provides information on systolic and diastolic function. It can guide treatment and advise on prognosis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000498
Interaction of stroke volume variance and pulse pressure variance with parameters of mechanical ventilation
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Introduction: Haemodynamic parameters play an essential role in intensive care units. Stroke volume variance (SVV) and pulse pressure variance (PPV) are used for predicting fluid responsiveness in mechanically ventilated patients.

Objectives: However, their applicability is limited as they require sinus rhythm and controlled ventilation modes which both is only available in 43% of ICU patients (Huber et al., 2018). This study’s goal was to investigate the impact of change in ventilation pressure (Pinsp) on change in SVV and PPV in pressure-controlled ventilated patients. Due to former studies (Sakka, Becher, Kozières, & van Hout, 2009; Vieillard-Baron et al., 2016), we hypothesized that there’s a significant correlation between tidal volume(VT), Ppeak, Pmean, lung compliance and SVV or PPV. It was aimed to generate a formula using multiple regression to predict deltaSVV and deltaPPV in dependence of ventilation parameters.

Methods: In total 43 pressure-controlled ventilated patients from ICU were investigated. Trans pulmonary thermodilution (TPTD, PICCO, Pulssion Medical Systems SE, Germany) was performed before and after a change in inspiratory pressure (Pinsp) on the ventilator machine (EvitaXL, Drägerwerk® AG & Co. KGaA, Germany and Carescape® R860, GE Healthcare, Germany). Magnitude of change in Pinsp was based on medical indication due to arterial blood gas analysis or weaning. Patients were measured at least once and not more than eight times, resulting in 90 total measurements. We compared deltaSVV and deltaPPV to deltaVT, deltaPpeak, deltaPmean, and lung compliance. Due to multiple measurements in some individuals we analysed the within-subject correlation using ANCOVA and between-subject correlation using subjects’ means (Bland & Altman, 1994).

Results: No significant (p<0.05) within-subject or between-subject correlation could be shown between deltaSVV/ deltaPPV and deltaVT, deltaPpeak, deltaPmean, and lung compliance. No formula using ventilation parameters as predictors for deltaSVV and deltaPPV in multiple regression could be generated.

Conclusion: Former findings of correlation between VT and SVV or PPV could not be confirmed in our study. Further investigations need to be performed to find out more about these discrepancies in results.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000515 Evaluating the implementation of a remote patient monitoring platform in the ICU: a qualitative study

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Introduction: In intensive care medicine, digital health technologies promise to improve outcomes [1], yet their implementation is lagging behind, challenged by various factors [2]. We aimed to explore influencing factors to the implementation of a remote patient monitoring platform in an intensive care unit (ICU) and suggestions for improving the implementation performance of novel digital health technology in ICU.

Methods: The study was conceived June–November 2019 in an ICU of a German university hospital during the implementation of Vital Sync 2.4 (Medtronic plc) as an additional tablet computer based remote patient monitoring to the primary patient monitoring. After IRB approval (EA1/031/18), seven semistructured interviews with key stakeholders—closely involved in the implementation process—were conducted. The interview guideline was developed on the basis of findings of a previous study [3] and the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research [4]. Transcripts were analyzed following an inductive approach [5].

Results: Main obstacles identified by interviewees were lack of staff commitment due to little and non-persistent leadership engagement, unequal distribution of workload for the project among professions, technical instructions not reaching all staff members, limitations of the intervention in its current version, and low perceived benefit of remote monitoring for ICU staff. High stress levels in the ICU and an increased workload due to a complex set-up of the system that was additional to the primary monitoring system obstructed regular usage. Suggestions to improve implementation of novel digital applications in the ICU aimed to enhance staff engagement through the nomination of specific responsible staff members for the implementation process, continuous technical instructions and feedback workshops as well as transparent and early communication of the project aims. The intervention should provide a high intuitivity, interoperability with other devices, and a clear advantage for its usage. Regarding the implementation site, a ward with a lower staffing ratio per patient, less fluctuation of staff members, and less patient turnover was suggested. For example, patients with a relatively weak indication for admission to the ICU could be remotely monitored on a normal ward.

Conclusion: A technologized setting with many different devices and a high stress level of staff make the ICU a particular environment for the implementation of new technology. Staff engagement and identification with the intervention are essential for effective implementation and could be enhanced through persistent leadership engagement, regular instructions, and early, transparent communication of the intervention. Intuitivity and interoperability are indispensable intervention features for implementation success. However, the additional benefit of remote monitoring in the ICU was regarded as low, other settings were perceived as more suitable for this technology.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Real-time changes in pulse pressure detect preload responsiveness through the end-expiratory occlusion test

Introduction: The end-expiratory (EEXPO) test detects preload responsiveness by observing changes in cardiac index (ChangeCI) during a 15-sec interruption of ventilation at end-expiration. First, it is not clearly established whether a simple measurement of the changes in arterial pulse pressure (ChangePP) during EEXPO could reliably reflect ChangeCI and detect preload responsiveness. Second, if it was the case, this should allow the shortage of the EEXPO test. Indeed, many devices measuring CI do not display the beat-to-beat value of CI but average it over several seconds, so that the EEXPO test must be long enough for allowing significant changes to appear. ChangePP, which are instantaneously measured, might require a shorter test to be evidenced, but this has to be proven.

Objectives: First, to test whether beat-to-beat ChangePP measured during a 15-sec EEXPO detect preload responsiveness. Second, to evaluate whether it is still the case when test’s duration is shortened.

Methods: In 30 mechanically ventilated patients we performed a 15-sec EEXPO. PP was continuously and digitally recorded. CI was measured by pulse contour analysis (PiCCO2 device). Patients were defined as “preload responders” if CI increased ≥10% during a passive leg raising. ChangePP was calculated as the difference between the mean of PP values over the last 5 seconds of tests (both for 15-sec and 10-sec EEXPO) and the baseline value. The ability of ChangePP to detect preload responsiveness through the EEXPO test was evaluated through the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC). The same analysis was repeated on a validation cohort of 126 patients enrolled from previous studies, in which real-time ChangePP during EEXPO had been already recorded.

Results: In the prospective cohort, 15 patients were preload responders and 15 preload non-responders. ChangePP during 15-sec EEXPO was significantly higher in responders than in non-responders (11\% vs. 1\% for responders and 15 preload non-responders. ChangePP during 15-sec EEXPO was shortened to 10 seconds. This opens the possibility of assessing preload responsiveness, even when the duration of the test is shortened.

Conclusion: Real-time measurement of PP during EEXPO detects preload responsiveness, even when the duration of the test is shortened to 10 seconds. This opens the possibility of assessing preload responsiveness without any need for cardiac output monitoring in ventilated patients.

Alarm fatigue reported by ICU staff: a survey study

Introduction: Alarm fatigue on intensive care units (ICU) is defined as a sensory overload due to an excessive number of alarms from medical devices, which can result in desensitization to alarms and missed alarms [1].

Objectives: We assessed to what extent ICU staff at a university hospital experiences alarm fatigue from patient monitoring alerts, whether false alarms are perceived to disrupt patient care, and what strategies staff developed to handle alarms, such as adjusting or communicating thresholds or pausing alarms when examining patients. Because patient monitoring is a multidisciplinary team effort, we also aimed to uncover differences between health professions in the ICU.

Methods: A survey study was conducted with ICU staff from four ICUs of a German university hospital between November 2019 and January 2020 after IRB approval (EA1/031/18). We designed a web-based 12-item questionnaire based on literature analyses and focus groups [2–6], and distributed it by email to all 270 ICU staff members, which included both physicians and nurses. The response format was a 5-point Likert-type scale (e.g., never - always). We cleaned and analysed the data with R in combination with the packages tidyverse and infer [7]. Statistical analyses included median values with bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals and permutation tests to compare the distributions of responses of nurses and physicians. An item median was considered statistically significant (*) when the 95% bootstrap confidence intervals of the median did not include 3, which indicates the response categories.

Results: Eighty-nine of the 270 ICU staff members (33%) completed the questionnaire. 63%* of the respondents had always or often so much to do that they could not respond to alarms quickly enough. 45% always or often ignored alarms that keep repeating, 24% stated to overlook critical alarms often, and 22% were always or often overwhelmed by too many alarms. The majority strongly agreed or agreed that false alarms disrupt patient care (76%), and reduce trust in alarms (63%). 82%* of participants reported to always or often adjust alarm settings (e.g., alarm thresholds) individually for each patient, but documentation of adjustments of alarm settings in the patient data management system was always or often omitted by 76%. 29% of the respondents stated to always or often set the alarms of patient monitors on Pause when examining the patient. Between nurses and physicians, no significant differences of the median values of the items were revealed.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that both ICU physicians and nurses experience noticeable alarm fatigue due to false alarms which could harm patients. To remedy this situation, alarm management in the ICU should be optimized such as by more targeted and regular use of the alarm pause function, and by introducing a hospital-wide standard operating procedure for alarm management.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Non-invasive monitoring of pulmonary blood flow and shunt fraction in a porcine model

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Introduction: Knowing trends in pulmonary blood flow (PBF) and shunt fraction (Qs/Qt) could guide hemodynamic and respiratory management and improve outcomes in critically ill patients. PBF and shunt fraction are typically determined invasively using systemic and pulmonary arterial catheters and repetitive blood gas analyses. We present a porcine study utilizing novel techniques to obtain PBF and shunt measurements via the breathing tube.

Objectives: We tested whether PBF and Qs/Qt can be measured via the breathing tube by means of a new monitoring system (VQm PHM).

Methods: 9 pigs (70-88 kg) were anesthetized, intubated and instrumented with a systemic and pulmonary artery catheter and a pump-driven extracorporeal circuit connecting the right and left atrium to the pulmonary artery. Measurements of PBF and shunt fraction from the VQm PHM and the reference were obtained. The mean difference between paired values was ±0.97 (EVLWI), with limits of agreement (LOA, 1.96 SD, ±0.71, ±0.74, ±0.97, ±0.74, ±0.97, ±0.89).

Results: For PBF, 17 paired measurements of the VQm PHM and reference were obtained. The mean difference between paired values was ±0.21 L/min, and the 95% limits of agreement were ±2.15 and 2.57 L/min. For Qs/Qt, 64 paired measurements of the VQm PHM SI and reference were obtained. The mean difference between paired values was ±0.22, and the 95% limits of agreement were ±1.34 and 0.89.

Conclusion: These results suggest that the VQm PHM measurements of PBF and Shunt Index were able to track changes in PBF and shunt fraction in anesthetized pigs.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Laboratory and experimental costs were donated by Rostrum Medical Innovations Inc.
Comparative study of two central venous catheter placement methods: conventional method vs a modified method guided by the intracavitary electrocardiogram

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Introduction: The correct placement of the central venous catheter (CVC) has to be verified by chest radiography. The technique guided by intracavitary electrocardiogram (EKG-IC), allows a correct placement of the catheter avoiding radiological control. The classic method of CVC placement by EKG-IC places the test electrode at the end of the procedure (when passing the catheter through the guidewire). We have made a modification of this method by performing the check by connecting the electrode to the guidewire when it is placed through the dilator. This modification allows the guide to be repositioned through the dilator and avoids the new puncture and restart of the procedure if the guide is in an extrathoracic location.

Objectives: Compare the correct placement of the CVC in the two methods studied and validate the modified CVC placement method by EKG-IC.

Methods: Fifty patients in whom CVC was placed were prospectively collected. Two methods were evaluated, conventional method (seldinger technique) and a modified method guided by EKG-IC. The method to be used was indicated by the doctor responsible of the patient. The location of the catheter was evaluated by chest radiography. The radiologist who evaluated the radiography was unaware of the method used. Correct CVC placement was defined with radiologic landmark of the lower third of the SVC (zone2): under the carina but within the first 3 distal cm(1). The data are presented in median, interquartile range and number and percentage as appropriate.

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>CONVENTIONAL N=25</th>
<th>EKG-IC MODIFIED N=25</th>
<th>P=</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procedure Time, Minutes</td>
<td>12(7,19)</td>
<td>13(9,19)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>9(36)</td>
<td>3(12)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 2</td>
<td>3(12)</td>
<td>18(72)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>12(48)</td>
<td>8(16)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone out</td>
<td>1(4)</td>
<td>0(0)</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this patient sample, the modified CVC placement method by EKG-IC significantly allowed correct placement. This modified method, in addition to avoiding control radiology, would avoid puncturing again if the catheter location is extrathoracic.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Heparin resistance during ECMO—alternative anticoagulation with Argatroban

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Introduction: Prompt anticoagulation and coagulation monitoring is an essential aspect of patients during extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy. Heparin infusion is the gold standard regarding anticoagulation during ECMO. Nevertheless, resistance to heparin may arise that may be difficult to diagnose and manage.

Methods: A search of the literature on PubMed, Google Scholar and Scopus with the keywords “ECMO or ECLS” and “heparin resistance” was conducted. Published case reports and series written in English were included with adult patients. Abstracts were not included in the review. A case of heparin resistance during ECMO from our ICU is also presented.

Results: The mechanism and pathophysiological process that leads to the development of heparin resistance is not fully understood, however acquired antithrombin (AT) deficiency is a recognized causative factor. The Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) recommends that in established heparin resistance AT-III levels are maintained within the normal range in patients on ECMO by administration of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) or AT-III concentrate. Nevertheless, Ciolek et al (2017) mentioned in pediatric ECMO patients that AT-III repletion was associated with high cost, significant increases in anticoagulation parameters, and no significant change in the heparin infusion rate. In total 6 studies in the international literature were identified regarding heparin resistance during ECMO therapy. The studies identified are summarized in Table 1. Three of the 6 studies used the study of Arga- troban during heparin resistance in a total of 13 patients with good results regarding safety, cost, and ease of administration. The other three studies suggested the use of Bivalirudin, FFP and ATIII administration, respectively.

A 29-year-old woman with a history of obesity, hypothyroidism and polycystic ovary disease was admitted to the ICU of the Nicosia General Hospital with type I respiratory failure due to COVID-19 infection. On the 4th day of mechanical ventilation, she presented severe respiratory deterioration. A decision was made to proceed with VV ECMO support. Heparin infusion was initiated with a target to maintain aPTT 1.5 to 2 times initial patient values. During the first 48 hours of ECMO support the patient was unable to maintain anticoagulation targets despite progressively increased heparin dose, furthermore she presented signs of thrombosis on her left index finger. ATIII levels were in the normal range and the anti-PF4 test was negative. FFP administration was unable to decrease the heparin dose. Heparin infusion was stopped and anticoagulation with Argatroban was initiated. During Argatroban administration the patient presented a non-clinically significant bleeding from the tracheostomy and the ECMO intravenous canula. There were no apparent thrombotic events and the thrombosis on the index finger resolved without intervention. The patient was successfully weaned off the ECMO after 10 days and made a full recovery.

Conclusion: It seems that patients with heparin resistance have higher mortality rates during ECMO highlighting the need for developing alternative anticoagulation strategies. The recommended ELSO guidelines of ATIII or FFP administration in heparin resistance during ECMO may be costly, and ineffective. The role of Argatroban, as alternative anticoagulation, in this group of patients should be further researched to establish both safety and efficacy.
**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000809**

An analysis of transthoracic echocardiography and its impact on patient outcomes in the Intensive Care Unit

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000809**

**Introduction:** Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) is regularly requested in critically ill patients. However, to date there has been limited data published on the association between TTE results and patient outcomes.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to assess the prognostic function of transthoracic echocardiography in the intensive care unit.

**Methods:** A retrospective, cross sectional, single centre study, was performed. All patients admitted to the Intensive care unit (ICU) over the 13-month period (January 2018- February 2019) were included. Baseline characteristics were obtained from the Clinical Information System. TTE’s were performed by a cardiology consultant cardiologist. Echocardiographic reports were extracted from the Cardiovascular Information System. ICU and hospital outcomes were extracted from the ‘Acubase Ltd’ system.

**Results:** Three hundred and fifty eight patients were admitted to the ICU over the 13 month period (55% Male, Mean age 59±17 years). Just under one-third of all patients received a TTE during their ICU admission (N=115/358).

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Nil

**000842**

Milrinone concentration monitoring during continuous renal replacement therapy

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000842**

**Introduction:** Milrinone is an inodilator drug widely used in the treatment of both surgical and non-surgical patients with severe heart failure. These patients often present with acute renal failure (ARF), and a substantial proportion will require continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT).

Several studies indicate an increased risk of supratherapeutic plasma Milrinone concentrations in patients with ARF not treated with CRRT. This has led to guidelines advising Milrinone dosage reduction for these patients, as supratherapeutic plasma concentrations may increase the risk of serious adverse effects such as arrhythmias and hypotension.

Data on Milrinone pharmacokinetics in patients receiving CRRT is sparse and based on one study of 6 patients [1]. Accordingly, no prescribing guidance exists for Milrinone dosing during CRRT.
Objectives: The objective of the present study is to describe Milrinone plasma concentrations in relation to the therapeutic index, in patients receiving intravenous Milrinone infusion while on CRRT.

Methods: A prospective observational descriptive study including intensive care patients > 18 years receiving intravenous Milrinone infusion while on CRRT. Both patients with low cardiac output syndrome following cardiac surgery, and patients with non-surgical acute decompensated heart failure are included.

Milrinone prescribing including dosage, and settings and duration of CRRT are at the discretion of the attending intensive care doctors. We expect to include approximately 15 patients

Guided by results from a pilot study, arterial plasma samples are collected at 8, 16, 24, 36 and 48 hours after initiation of Milrinone infusion and/or CRRT, and once every 24 hours thereafter. Plasma sampling is continued until Milrinone infusion is discontinued. An additional plasma sample is collected prior to initiation of CRRT, in case Milrinone infusion is initiated before CRRT.

The arterial whole blood samples are centrifuged on site. Plasma is obtained and stored at -80 °C until analysis is performed. Milrinone plasma concentrations will be quantified using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS).

Milrinone plasma concentrations versus time after initiation of CRRT will be described and stratified according to different dosages of Milrinone infusion. Milrinone concentrations will be described according to therapeutic index. The study will not have power to evaluate relationship between Milrinone concentration and outcomes.

Results: The study is still recruiting. Inclusion is expected to finish October 1 2020. Results on the Milrinone plasma concentration analysis will be presented.

Conclusion: This study reflects common practice of the use of Milrinone while on CRRT. The results from this study will clarify further whether specific dosing recommendations should be considered for patients receiving Milrinone infusion while on CRRT.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. This study was supported by grants from the Gunnar Steen Jacobsen and Kirsten Hjortholm Foundation and the Health Fund of Central Denmark Region

000916

The shock index and the shock index delta as predictors of anti-shock garment removal in patients with obstetric hemorrhage from an ICU in Ecuador

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Introduction: Obstetric hemorrhage is the main cause of maternal morbidity and mortality in developing countries. Despite the fact that the anti-shock garment (AG) is an alternative for the management of obstetric hemorrhage, there is no evidence about when is the optimal time of its withdrawal.

Methods: This is a prospective diagnostic test validation study. It evaluates the shock index (SI) and the shock index delta (ΔSI) prior to removal of the AG as a predictor of hemodynamic instability after removal of the AG. This study focuses on patients with obstetric hemorrhage admitted to a second level ICU of a hospital in Ecuador between the months of March and December of 2019. Sensitivity (Se), specificity (Sp), positive and negative predictive values were studied, and the positive and negative likelihood ratio (LR) calculated.

Results: Thirteen patients were included, with a mean age of 25.6 years (17–34), with an Apache II mean of 6.4 (2–17) and estimated mean bleeding volume of 1875 ml. (500-2500) The main etiology of bleeding was uterine atony (69%), 15% had placental retention, 7% of women experienced a grade III vaginal tear at the time of childbirth, with the average shock index at ICU admission of 1.04 (0.8-1.6). The mean of the SI before the removal of the AG was 0.88 (0.71–1.03) in the patients who remained stable after their removal, and the mean of the SI was 0.89 (0.83 – 1.0) in those who showed instability, with an Se of 50% and Sp 66%, a positive LR 1.47 and a negative LR 0.75. Additionally a ΔSI of 0.21 (0.05-0.58) was found for those who remained stable, and 0.07 (0.01-0.22) for those who presented hemodynamic instability, with Se 75%, Sp 85%, positive LR of 3 and LR negative of 0.33.

Conclusion: The Shock Index and shock index delta, are not good predictors of hemodynamic instability after removal of the shock garment in patients with obstetric hemorrhage. However, more studies are required with major samples.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None
and axillary vein were examined bilaterally by a nurse and a physician. When a catheter was placed in the femoral vein, patients underwent duplex ultrasound of the femoral and popliteal region of both lower extremities. The results of the examinations of each patient were blinded until both tests were performed. The calculations evaluating the reliability of the test were applied.

**Results:** A total of 160 patients of age 62.9±12.3 years were included. The prevalence of CRT of 41% has been found in our sample. The overall sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, and accuracy of the examination performed by general intensive care nurses were 71.2%, 100.0%, 100.0%, 83.3% and 88.2%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The results of our study indicate that general ICU nurses are able to perform bedside examination of CRT by duplex ultrasound with an excellent specificity but only with a moderate sensitivity after a brief predefined training.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**001013**

High central venous pressure and high ventilatory pressures are associated with acute kidney injury in COVID19 critically ill patients

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001013**

**Introduction:** Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a frequent complication for COVID-19 patients admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and is independently associated with higher mortality. The pathophysiology of COVID-19 related AKI is supposed to be multifactorial: haemodynamic alteration due to high levels of PEEP may play a role.

**Objectives:** We investigate if higher central venous pressure (CVP) and higher positive end expiratory pressure (Peep) were associated to higher incidence of AKI and if AKI was related to 28 days mortality.

**Methods:** 130 consecutive COVID-19 patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Bergamo General Hospital for acute respiratory failure from 22th February to 22th March were enrolled. AKI was defined by KDIGO criteria. Age, sex and SOFA score were collected at ICU admission. Mean values of PVC and Peep during the first 14 days in ICU were compared between AKI group and controls, using Mann Whitney test. The association between AKI and mortality was evaluated with Fisher exact test.

**Results:** In our population median age was 62 (IQR 14), 107 (82%) were male and median SOFA score was 6 (range 4–8). 74 (57%) patients developed AKI; 17 (13%) in stage 1, 16 (12%) in stage 2, and 41 (31%) in stage 3; 22 patients (17%) required continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). 28 days mortality among AKI group was significantly higher (46% vs 18% p-value 0.0008).

Furthermore mean values of PVC and Peep were higher in AKI group compared to controls; relevant data are represented in the Table 1.

**Table 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>AKI (n=74)</th>
<th>Controls (n=56)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y)</td>
<td>59 (51-66)</td>
<td>63 (56-70)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender M/F</td>
<td>43/13 (77/23)</td>
<td>64/10 (86/14)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA (%)</td>
<td>5 (4-6)</td>
<td>6 (4-8)</td>
<td>0.011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Peep (cmH2O)</td>
<td>13 (10-14)</td>
<td>14 (13-15)</td>
<td>0.0028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC (mmHg)</td>
<td>11 (9-13)</td>
<td>13 (10-15)</td>
<td>0.0067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 days mortality, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (18)</td>
<td>34 (46)</td>
<td>0.0008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are presented as median and interquartile range. Two groups are compared using Mann Whitney test for continuous variables and using Fisher’s exact test for categorical variables.

**Conclusion:** Our data confirm that AKI represents a risk factor for mortality in COVID19 patients (odds ratio 3.6, 95% IC 1.8–8.8). Both higher PEEP and PVC are significantly associated with AKI, suggesting that the haemodynamic impact of high intrathoracic pressure may be involved in its pathogenesis.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**001036**

Cardiogenic shock and 28-days mortality in acute heart failure: possible role for 24-hour lactate clearance

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001036**

**Introduction:** Implications of lactate clearance in patients with acute heart failure (AHF) in intensive care unit (ICU) setting is limited. A recent report suggests that a 24-hour lactate clearance (Δ24lac) of less than 19% could have a negative prognostic role in septic patients in ICU, therefore we conducted a study to assess the prognostic value of Δ24lac for mortality in AHF.

**Objectives:** To compare the Δ24lac with clinical variables and mortality in AHF.

**Methods:** We conducted an observational retrospective cohort with critical patients from a single center in an intensive care unit (ICU) in Mexico City, Mexico. Demographic, comorbidities and laboratory data was collected for all patients. We estimated the acute physiology and chronic health evaluation (APACHE) II score, and Δ24lac. Additionally, treatment with vasoactive agents, diuresis, fluid balance was assessed during first 24 hours and length of stay (LOS), Primary outcome was 28-days mortality.

**Results:** Data from 100 patients was included, 63% male, with mean age 63.1 (SD ± 10.6) years and mean BMI 22.8 (SD ± 2.7) kg/m2. Most frequent comorbidities were COPD, Hypertension and chronic kidney disease and diabetes in 34, 32, 19% and 13%, respectively. Cardiogenic shock was observed in 54%; Systolic and diastolic dysfunction was documented in 23 and 27%, respectively. APACHE II score with median of 25 (RIQ 22–27.5) and Δ24lac < 19% in 42%; Overall mortality 35%, median LOS 3 (7–9) days. Variables on admission were similar for mortality group. When stratified according to Δ24lac, we found that patients with < 19% patients with requirement of inotropic support with levosimendan was a strong predictor for mortality (HR = 10.9 (IC95% 1.4–84.7, p = 0.02)), in contrast to Δ24lac > 19% ([HR = 5.6 (IC95% 0.74–42.6, p = 0.09)]. Further multivariate analysis and stratifications found no association with other Δ24lac cutoff values, comorbidities, fluid balances and vasopressor support.
Conclusion: Cardiogenic shock with requirement for inotropic support in subjects with AHF was associated with mortality and inadequate tissue perfusion. Failure to stabilize associations with AHF clinical variables with mortality is likely explained by methodological limitations (e.g. lack of a control group). We present additional evidence supporting the use of Δ24lac as prognostic marker of global tissue hypoxia in circulatory shock, however further controlled studies and a prospective design may be needed to explain the role of this marker in AHF.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Tara L. Jones, Cardiogenic shock: evolving definitions and future directions in management Open Heart 2019, 6
3. The ABC Medical Center, and the hospital for all the support provided

001042
Simplified approach in limited resources settings to estimate cardiac output with Pulse pressure variation and plethysmography in critical care patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001042

Introduction: Measurement of cardiac output (CO) is an important diagnostic maneuver and adds valuable information for the management of critically ill patients. However, estimation of CO in limited resource settings may be limited in terms of accessibility to non‑invasive, continuous, reliable, reproducible methods. Pulse pressure variation (PPV) and plethysmographic variability (PV) are dynamic and widely extended indicators that in certain conditions may be useful to estimate CO, however, information regarding its reliability is scarce. Therefore, we propose a study with information obtained from PP and PV with other clinical variables and a proposed simplified equation to estimate CO with echocardiography as gold standard.

Objectives: To develop a simplified method to estimate CO with PPV and PV.

Methods: We conducted a transversal study in critical patients with sepsis recruited from a single center in an intensive care unit (ICU) in Mexico City, Mexico during 2019 through 2020. We calculated the real CO as stroke volume (SV) per minute measured by echocardiogram; PPV was defined as the difference between systolic (DP) and diastolic pressure (DP); The proposed Estimated CO formula was calculated as follows: estimated CO = PPV heart rate (HR) k; where k was defined as the estimated difference in SV in mm Hg and was adjusted according to variability of the PP and plethysmography patterns. We determined correlation with Pearson coefficient (r) and absolute agreement with intraclass correlation coefficient (CCI) of estimated CO compared to the gold standard.

Results: Data from 53 patients was analyzed. We included 6 PV wave patterns and k values: type 1 and 2 (group 1), k = 0.9; type 3 and 4 k =1.2 (group 2) and type 5 and 6, k=1.4 (group 3). Additionally, if patients showed clinical signs of hypoperfusion we adjusted the k value for groups 1,2 and 3 to 1.2, 1.6 and 2, respectively. Estimated CO correlated with echocardiogram r = 0.76, (p<0.01) and CCI = 0.849 (IC 95% = 0.739 ‑ 0.912, p<0.01).

Conclusion: We present a simplified and accessible approach for CO estimation with PPV and PV in critical care patients. This method may be cost effective and easily performed in low‑income and limited resources settings, however, additional studies should be considered for further external validation and the possible role and clinical implications of PPV and PV for clinical outcome and mortality is yet to be defined in prospective clinical trials.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
11. 11. The American British Cowdray Medical Center

001053
The ability of superior vena cava collapsibility and left ventricular surface area to predict volume responsiveness in cardiac surgical patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001053

Introduction: Evaluation of fluid responsiveness in critically ill patients is challenging. Echocardiographically obtained variation in inferior vena cava (IVC) and superior vena cava (SVC) have shown promise in their ability to address this challenge. However, they have been predominantly used to assess fluid responsiveness in patients with sepsis, and it is less clear whether they apply to patients undergoing cardiac surgery. Additionally, left ventricular surface area (LVSA) has been shown to be correlated with stroke volume and in a study by Cannesson et al. al. respiratory variation in LVSA (ΔLVSA) obtained by transeosophageal echo (TEE) automatic border detection was shown to predict fluid responsiveness (Cannesson et al., 2006).

Objectives: The primary purpose of this study was to assess whether variation in SVC diameter, during positive pressure ventilation, is predictive of volume responsiveness in cardiac surgical patients. Additionally, ΔLVSA was assessed for ability to predict fluid responsiveness. Methods: This prospective study enrolled patients undergoing elective or semi-elective cardiac surgery and was conducted in operating theaters at a tertiary care academic hospital. Volume challenges were administered pre- sternotomy and cardiopulmonary bypass (pre-CPB) and after sternal closure (post-CPB) to patients under general anesthesia with standardized mechanical ventilation settings. Hemodynamic measurements and TEE images were collected before and after each volume challenge. Cardiac output (CO) was obtained from TEE images as previously described (Vieillard-Baron et al., 2004) and fluid responders were defined by an increase in CO of 11% or more after a volume challenge. The SVC diameters (Dmax and Dmin) were measured over a respiratory cycle and the SVC collapsibility index (SVC-CI) was calculated as (Dmax – Dmin)/Dmax and expressed as a percentage. SVC-CI
was compared between fluid responders (FR) and non-responders (NR) to determine if there is a significant difference and the optimal SVC-CI threshold was determined for optimizing the sensitivity and specificity. Additionally, LVSA was measured over the respiratory cycle and ΔLVSA was calculated as (SA max - SA min)/SA max, expressed as a percentage. ΔLVSA underwent the same analysis as SVC-CI.

**Results:** 11 out of 20 enrolled patients (55%) were fluid responders. There was no difference in heart rate, mean arterial pressure or CVP between responders and non-responders. Pre-CPB SVC-CI was greater in R vs. NR but not statistically significant (0.18 ± 0.15 vs. 0.11 ± 0.05, p=0.456). Pre-CPB SVC-CI threshold of 15% was found to be most predictive of fluid responsiveness with an area under the receiver operating curve (AU-ROC) of 0.62 (0.41 – 0.84, 95% CI), NPV of 50% and PPV of 75%. Post-CPB SVC-CI was also greater in R vs NR but not statistically significant (0.18 ± 0.12 vs. 0.11 ± 0.05; p=0.241). Post-CPB SVC-CI>11% was most predictive of fluid responsiveness with an AU-ROC of 0.66 (0.41 – 0.84, 95% CI), 58% NPV and 75% PPV. Pre-CPB ΔLVSA was greater in R vs NR (0.08 ± 0.13 vs 0.01 ± 0.06) but did not reach statistical significance (p=0.151) and Post-CPB ΔLVSA was minimally greater in R vs NR (0.08 ± 0.06 vs 0.05 ± 0.11) and not statistically significant (p=0.456). Pre-CPB ΔLVSA>10% was predictive of fluid responsiveness with an AU-ROC of 0.79 (0.65-0.94, 95% CI), NPV of 62% and PPV of 100%. Post-CPB ΔLVSA>2% was predictive of fluid responsiveness with AU-ROC of 0.63 (0.42 – 0.84, 95% CI), NPV of 68% and PPV of 64%.

**Conclusion:** Our study shows that SVC-CI is not a useful measure for predicting fluid responsiveness in cardiac surgical patients either pre or post-operatively. Post-sternotomy there are multiple changes to the cardiopulmonary physiology (to PVR, SVR, venous capacitance, RV, pericardium, etc.) which may be some of the reasons why SVC-CI is not predictive of FR in this population. SVC-CI not being predictive of FR pre-CPB may be potentially due to the fact that these were elective or semi-elective surgical patients (and not ICU patients in septic shock, like in most other studies). These findings suggest that perhaps the lack of venous return is not the only mechanism for tidal changes in stroke volume with respiration. It is also possible that SVC-CI is not as good of a predictor of FR as was demonstrated in early studies since many later studies had different optimal thresholds and less impressive predictive values.

Although the differences in ΔLVSA pre-CPB did not reach statistical significance, ΔLVSA>10% was helpful in predicting fluid responsiveness post-sternotomy with a PPV of 100% and NPV of 62%. These findings suggest that ΔLVSA is likely a marker of preload status with higher ΔLVSA indicating lower preload and therefore more potential fluid responsiveness post-sternotomy. It is possible that losing the integrity of the pericardium makes ΔLVSA a less reliable predictor of preload and therefore fluid responsiveness.

**Introduction:** Survival after coronary revascularization surgery is influenced by many variables. Poor left ventricular function (LVF) is believed to be associated with worse outcomes (1).

**Objectives:** We aim to study the outcome measures at varying levels of LVF.

**Methods:** A single center retrospective descriptive study. According to the simplified American Society of Echocardiography classification (2), patients were divided into three groups: Group I - severe impairment of LVF; EF < 30% (38 patients), Group II - mild-moderate impairment of LVF; EF 30% to 51% (182 patients), and Group III - normal LVF; EF > 52% (186 patients). The outcome variables were compared, and mortality was used as the primary outcome.

**Results:** The mean age of patients was 55.34 ± 9.9 years. The mortality rate was significantly higher in Group I compared to the other groups (13.2% in Group I vs. 2.2% and 1.6% in Groups II and III, respectively; p = 0.007). Patients in Group I had a significantly higher incidence of postoperative acute kidney injury (AKI) (47% in Group I vs. 28.6% and 22.6% in Groups II and Group III, respectively; p = 0.007). No significant differences were found between the studied groups for postoperative atrial fibrillation (POAF), length of ventilation, length of stay (LOS) in intensive care, and length of (LOS) stay in the hospital.

**Conclusion:** Among patients undergoing coronary surgery, preoperative left ventricular function appears to influence short-term outcomes. Patients with severely impaired left ventricular systolic function had higher mortality, more complications, particularly AKI, and needed more pharmacological and mechanical circulatory support.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
2. This work would not have been possible without the kind support and help of many individuals and our organization.

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**000027 The intensity of rapid response team operation and general ward cardiopulmonary resuscitation incidence**

**Introduction:** Rapid response team (RRT) was initially regarded as full-time working team. However, because of several reasons such as lack of professional manpower, cost effectiveness and size and requirement of each hospital, part-time RRT was introduced. Outcome of part-time RRT recently suggested similarly efficacy compared to full-time RRT. However it is difficult to make a head-to-head comparison and there are no available data comparing the efficacy of part-time and full-time RRT. Authors sought to investigate the intensity of RRT and incidence of in-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

**Methods:** Dong-A University Hospital – a tertiary referral center with 1,000 beds – started to operate RRT in April 2017 as a part-time RRS operating 8 hours on weekdays. In March 2018, RRT operation time was extended to 15 hours on weekdays and finally, extended to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on February 2019. We retrospectively reviewed the incidence of in-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) according to stepwise extension of RRT operation.

**Results:** For the study period (36 months before and 33 months after RRT implementation), 113,394 patients admitted and 127 cases of CPR occurred. For the 36 months before RRT implementation, the next
Conclusion: The incremental intensity of RRT operation is associated with decremental tendency of in-hospital CPR rate suggesting the more CPR prevention efficacy with the more operation time of RRT.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. No grant

000028

Intensive care unit without barriers: impact on the forecast of patients with septic shock, after the implementation of an intensive care reference program in the colombian amazonia

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000028

Introduction: Mortality due to septic shock is around 40% globally (1), these reach figures close to 70% in peripheral areas devoid of health systems with capacity to manage patients with intensive care requirements. Given the impossibility of opening intensive care units in these regions, several options have been raised, such as telemedicine, referral systems, training of non-intensivist health personnel, among others.

Objectives: We propose in this study, to establish the impact on mortality in patients with septic shock, of the establishment of an early identification program and transfer to a reference ICU, with 24-hour availability of acceptance of these patients.

Methods: Prospective observational descriptive study, between January 2016 and October 2019, in the intensive care unit of the Hospital de San José in Bogotá Colombia, of patients diagnosed with septic shock, who were treated by transfer from the region of Guainía-Amazonas, within the MIAS program (Integral model of health care) (2).

Results: Twenty-three patients with septic shock or multi-organ dysfunction secondary to sepsis were attended, mean age 44.1 years, APACHE II 16.68 with expected mortality of 24%. 25% of infections correspond to tropical infections, the most common being tuberculosis and secondly malaria. Within the non-tropical etiology, 40% sepsis of lung origin and 12% soft tissue sepsis. 60% of the patients required invasive mechanical ventilation and 80% vasopressor support. In 90% of patients the empirical antibiotic management was beta-lactam anti-pseudomonas + inhibitor. Only in 36% of the patients, the etiological germ was isolated, with 45% grampositive cocci, 30% gram negative bacilli and the remaining 30% atypical germs, viruses, fungi and mycobacteria. Gross mortality was 12%.

Conclusion: The implementation of rapid care models with immediate transfer services to intensive care units, reduces mortality by up to 50% in patients with septic shock in the region of the Colombian Amazon. Tropical, respiratory and skin and soft tissue infections constitute the main and most serious diseases.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000077

A cross-sectional survey of the research environment in critical care in Japan, South Korea, and Singapore

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000077

Introduction: The strengthening of research infrastructure is key for the advancement of academic medicine in critical care. However, while there have been dramatic clinical developments in Asian critical care in the last few decades, research has lagged behind.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe the current status of academia in critical care in Japan, South Korea, and Singapore, particularly from the research environment perspective.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional questionnaire survey conducted between June 2019 and January 2020. We included all physician members of the Japanese Society of Intensive Care Medicine (JSICM) and the Korean Society of Critical Care Medicine (KSCCM) as of June 2019, and intensivists in Singapore as of November 2019. The questionnaire was drafted by two content experts and validated through pre-determined testing with a clinical sensitivity test and a specificity table. We collected data on the characteristics of the participants and their affiliated institutions, the research environment such as funding and support for personnel, and ethics boards and their role. We investigated the association between the presence of time dedicated to research and the number of research publications in English (1–10 versus >10) among the participants with at least one English original article.

Results: In total, 490 responded (response rate: 5.6%) to the survey and all responses were included for analysis. The clinical experience in critical care was 20 years or more in 41%, 10–19 years in 42%, 6–9 years in 14%, and 2–5 years in 3%. Forty-eight percent of the respondents held a university faculty appointment. Fifty-five percent worked for a university-affiliated hospital while 45% worked for a community hospital. Fifty-one percent reported that they used 50% or more of their work hours for bedside patient management in the intensive care unit. Thirty-four percent replied that there was at least one dedicated staff member for research work (epidemiologist or biostatistician) available in their hospitals. Twenty-four percent had dedicated time for research within their full-time work hours. When looking at the respondents with at least one original article in English language as a first or corresponding author, the odds to have more than 10 of the English publications for whom with protected time for research was 3.3 (95% confidence intervals: 1.8–6.1) compared to those without.

Conclusion: We found that many critical care physicians in the three countries had limited support for their research work and that dedicated time for research was positively associated with the number of research publications. The research environment and infrastructure in
these countries require substantial enhancement for better research productivity.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000107
The most-effectiveness of blood-based brain biomarkers for screening adults with mild traumatic brain injury
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000107

Introduction: Mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) is a frequent cause of emergency department (ED) visits in France, with a substantial impact on healthcare utilization and ED costs. Blood-based, brain biomarker tests such as S100B and a combination of glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase-L1 (UCH-L1) have been shown to accurately identify mTBI patients who do not have intracranial lesions (ICL), potentially reducing the need for computed tomography (CT) scanning.

Objectives: To assess the cost-effectiveness of the GFAP + UCH-L1 compared with S100B for screening adults with suspected mTBI presenting to an ED.

Methods: We developed a decision tree model to estimate the costs and health outcomes of using two biomarker tests in patients presenting to the ED with suspected mTBI (Glasgow Coma Scale of 13–15). Model parameters were extracted from peer-reviewed papers, clinical guidelines, and expert opinion. The diagnostic test accuracy measures were extracted from the pivotal trial (GFAP + UCH-L1) and a meta-analysis (S100B). Lifelong costs (2010 €) and health outcomes were calculated from a French healthcare system perspective and discounted over time at 2.5%. Cost for the GFAP + UCH-L1 test was assumed to be the same as the S100B test. In this model, patients with a positive biomarker receive a CT scan to confirm the presence of ICLs. Depending on the biomarker test outcome and the CT results (where relevant), patients may be discharged immediately from the ED, kept for <24-hour observation, admitted to a short stay general ward, or admitted to a neurosurgery ward. Patients with ICLs not identified by the biomarker (false negatives) could suffer from delayed treatment and poorer health outcomes. Clinical outcomes, including Glasgow Outcome Score and radiation-induced cancer were used to calculate quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). One-way and probabilistic sensitivity analyses were conducted to manage uncertainty.

Results: In a hypothetical cohort of 1,000 patients, the GFAP + UCH-L1 biomarker was associated with a decrease of 48 CT scans compared to S100B (769 versus 817, respectively). In the same cohort, the GFAP + UCH-L1 biomarker resulted in €4,785 overall savings and a minor improvement of 0.08 QALYs. In probabilistic sensitivity analysis, at the 95% confidence interval, the GFAP + UCH-L1 biomarker was associated with cost savings and a reduction in CT scans, while resulting in similar health outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


5. The study was funded by bioMerieux. H. B, LZ, EB and VP are employees of bioMerieux, which has a licensing agreement with Banyan Biomarkers, the company that produces the GFAP + UCH-L1 combination biomarker. CM, MP and SE are employees of RTI, which received consulting fees for this project.


000111
Minimising extravasation risk with central venous catheters in critical care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000111

Introduction: Extravasation is the accidental injection or leakage of fluid into the subcutaneous or periavascular tissues. Risk of extravasation injury related to intra venous therapy is between 10-30% resulting in varying complications (1). Extravasation associated with Central Venous Catheters (CVCs) is rarer but consequences can be severe, potentially requiring skin grafts or even leading to death (2,3). This is minimised by ensuring the line is secured at appropriate depth and by potency (toxicity) of drugs in the line. Currently there is no guidance on selection of drugs to ports on CVC. On a Quad lumen CVC, there is 6 cm from the distal to the proximal port, increasing risk if toxic drugs are placed on the proximal port. Distal ports are traditionally utilised for Central Venous Pressure (CVP) however evidence suggests there is no difference in accuracy when CVP is on distal or proximal port (4).

Objectives: Minimising risks of extravasation with CVCs in Critical care

Methods: Data was collected from a tertiary centre based in the West Midlands, UK. It is a large Critical care unit (CCU) with over 100 beds with specialised cardiac, neurology, trauma, burns, surgical and liver patients, over 4 units. Data was collected by 2 auditors in 2019 over 2 days across all patients within CCU who had a CVC. The following was assessed: were CVCs sutured to the hilt, what length/type of CVC was used, which port was transducing and the proximity of toxic drugs to the port. We defined "Toxic drugs" as inotropes, neartoxicity, nearytoxicity, and 50% magnesium.

Results: Of 61 Critical Care patients, 51 patients had an internal jugular, 4 femoral and 6 subclavian CVC. 21% of the lines were not sutured at the hub. 77% of lines used the distal port to transduce the CVP whereas current practice is 6% on Proximal. 41% of the lines had a Toxic drug on the proximal port.

Conclusion: This quality improvement project demonstrated that extravasation risks for CCU patients could be further minimised by ensuring CVCs are sutured at the hub, and careful selection of toxic drugs to the most distal ports. Changing the location of CVP monitoring from the distal port may help facilitate this. This is a cost neutral approach.
way or minimising extravasation risk and promoting patient safety in Critical care.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000168 Delayed discharges from critical care unit and its impact
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000168

Introduction:
Delayed Discharge : Defined as ‘the period of continued hospital stay after a patient is deemed medically fit to leave hospital but is unable to do so for non-medical reasons’. (1)
Costs of NHS in England associated with delayed discharge are approximately 100 million GBP per year and resulted in 1.2 million bed days lost in 2013-14. (2)

Objectives:
FICM Edition 2 June 2019: Guidelines for the provision of intensive care services.
Discharge from critical care to a general ward must occur within four hours of the decision and must occur between 07:00 and 21:59.
QIPP Reference 16-17 S4-Trauma
National standard that all discharges from adult critical care should be made within 4 hours of a clinical decision to discharge.

Methods:
Retrospective observational study
12 month period from Jan-Dec 2019
All admissions to adult critical care
Extract CCMDS information from 4D auditing software
Wardable date input by nurses after consultant ward round and counter checked by validator
>4 hours after ready date
Convert hours delayed to days
HRG code * Days Delayed = Cost of delay

Results:
921 (86.4%) delayed discharges
1,096 days
Average 1.2 days delay per patient
Cost over the year £1,919,252
Average 3 beds/day
70 band 5 salaries

Conclusion:
Delayed discharge is recognised to be a system level problem requiring effective team working within hospitals and coordination between health and social care.
Adverse outcomes of delayed discharge include:
For patients: an association with increased risk of mortality, Hospital-acquired infections, mental ill health
For health care staff:
Stress, diversion from a primary focus on patient care and deleterious interprofessional relationships, all with potentially harmful implications for patient’s health and well being
As well as impact on inpatient costs, there are additional economic repercussions for other services.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000224 National Early Warning Score (NEWS) and the outcomes of a district general hospital wards’ patients referred to Critical Care Outreach service, but not admitted to Intensive Care Unit due to their co-morbidities
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000224

Introduction: Critical Care consultant led outreach services (Outreach) are set to assist the hospital wards in the prompt detection and care of the acutely unwell and deteriorating patients. The patients on the general wards are referred to the Outreach if their National Early Warning Score (NEWS 2), which in the UK may range from 0 up to 20 maximal, reach certain thresholds or if there appear any other significant concerns. According to the algorithm printed on NEWS-2 charts: values 5 or more (or 3 in one parameter) trigger an urgent patient’s review by the parental team; values 7 or more trigger the urgent automatic referral to Outreach team. After a prompt review by an outreach consultant and a senior nurse, the decision is made whether the patient needs an urgent Critical Care admission. In more reassuring cases, patients continue to be managed on the wards under a close supervision by the Outreach. Unfortunately, some of the patients have multiple co-morbidities and their physiological reserve is very limited. Therefore, any potential Level 2 or Level 3 technological organ support would be futile. In those cases a difficult (but necessary) decision is made that the ward based care should be the ceiling of treatment for the patient. This group of patients is very diverse in the setting of a district general hospital. Nevertheless, there are certain similarities within this cohort. Typically, these patients are frail and old with concurrent chronic illnesses and a poor exercise tolerance. The vast majority are medical patients with sepsis of various origins. Their increased NEWS reflects patients’ acute deterioration and impending organ failure. Therefore, it is paramount that such decisions are absolutely correct. Thus, we have conducted a retrospective, observational, single centre study of the relevance of NEWS magnitude to the outcomes of the hospital wards’ patients referred to the outreach service, but deemed not to be appropriate for critical care admission secondary to their comorbidities and a limited physiological reserve. The project has been approved by the Health Research Authority, reference number is 268879.

Methods: We followed up 152 patients admitted to our hospital between 1/12/2017 and 24/12/2018 who at any point were referred to Outreach, but not admitted to Intensive Care Unit due to their co-morbidities.
The statistics are presented as medians with interquartile ranges or means with standard deviation. Comparisons between groups were made using Wilcoxon rank sum test for non-normally distributed data. We used logistical regression for associations and reported results as odds ratios with 95% confidence interval. Time dependent outcomes were assessed with Kaplan Meier analysis as hazard ratios. Length of stay data were modelled using Poisson regression.

**Results:** The hospital mortality (HNS) was 46.7% (71 patients). 3mNS comprised 15.8% (24 patients). 3mS constituted 37.5% (57 patients). Median (quartiles 1 and 3) NEWSw were: HNS – 7 (5.5-9), 3mNS – 7 (5-8.25), 3mS – 6 (5-8.5). There was no statistically significant difference between the groups.

Median FIO2 levels were: HNS – 35% (28-60), 3mNS – 28% (23.25-60), 3mS – 28% (24-40). There was a trend for a better survival in patients on lower FIO2.

Median patients’ age was: HNS – 75, 3mNS – 74.5 and 3mS – 73 years. Median lengths of hospital stay (LOS) were: HNS – 8 (4-13) days, 3mNS – 19 (9.5-31) days, 3mS – 20 (11-30) days.

Subsequently, the sample was split in: patients with NEWS “5 and above” (123/152) median NEWS 7 (6-10) and with NEWS “4 and below” (29/152) median NEWS 3 (2-4)

Their respective: hospital mortality was 47.2% versus 44.8%, 3 months mortality was 15.4% versus 17.2% and 3 months survival was 37.4% versus 39%.

**Conclusion:** High NEWS scores are not associated with worse 30 days or 3 months mortality in this patients’ cohort. High NEWS scores are associated with shorter LOS within the survivors group.

Chronological age does not appear to be a risk factor.

No particular diagnosis strongly predicts in-hospital mortality.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Methods:** This Survey was designed based on the International Handbook of Survey Methodology sponsored by the European Association of Methodology (EAM) and the Revised WAPOR Code of Ethics, 2011 (WAPOR – World Association for Public Opinion Research). The Survey has been endorsed by the Belgian Society of Intensive Care (SIZ).

We developed a closed and self-answered questionnaire that had initiated its content validated by four experts and a pilot phase. After the validation process, in March 2019, the questionnaire and the cover letter were addressed to directors of ICUs in Belgian hospitals electronically (one per ICU). The questionnaire was anonymous, and no electronic tracker was used to identify the responders. Two weeks following the distribution, a reminder letter and the link to access the questionnaire were resent by email. After eight months, a new reminder was sent by the Belgium Society of Critical Care, trying to increase the response rate.

**Results:** Thirty-six out of 82 potential respondents (43%) completed the Survey. Specifically, 35% (16/46), 46% (12/26), and 80% (8/10) of respondents were considered from Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels-Capital, respectively. Six centers (17%) have an ICU follow-up program currently running. When we analyzed the profile of patients involved, the ICU length of stay, and the duration of mechanical ventilation were the two mean criteria to select eligible patients. Only one of the six centers received external funding to support this program; two of the five remaining centers used internal financial support to afford the ICU follow-up activities. Thirty centers did not run an ICU follow-up clinic. The main reasons were the lack of human resources (20/30 67%) and financial constraints (12/30 40%). Seven centers (23%) also justified the lack of ICU follow-up program with the absence of clinical need and of current evidence for benefits. Only 4 (13%) centers were not interested in starting an ICU follow-up clinic if possible.

**Conclusion:** The use of an ICU follow-up program is implemented in a minority of Belgian ICUs. Funding and human resources are critical issues to solve and promote this activity in more centers.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Role of Levosimendan in heart failure patient undergoing cardiac surgery**

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**Introduction:** Levosimendan is a calcium sensitizer developed for intravenous use in hospitalized patients with acute heart failure (AHF) (1).

Aim of this study is to observe the cardiac function’s index, Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) and diuresis after the administration of Levosimendan (G1) rather than control group (G2) started 12 hours before cardiac surgery (2).

**Objectives:** In this prospective observational study 47 patients consecutive admitted in ICU of “Città di Lecce Hospital- GVM Care and Research” with AHF (Ejection Fraction <40%) were included.

**Methods:** Patients admitted in ICU were randomized to receive either Levosimendan infusion duration up to 24 hours (0,1 mcg/Kg/min) G1 (18 patients).

Patients undergoing urgent cardiac surgery, severe ipotensive syndrome or left ventricular ejection stenosis were excluded (29 patients).

Measurement was collected at T0 (before to start Levosimendan infusion), T1 (in operation room before to start cardiac surgery), T2 (when...
Introduction: Communication with and participation of families and patients during their stay in an intensive care unit (ICU) has evolved over the last decades, by means of different approaches, such as: family-centred rounds, daily updates, electronic patient portals and interdisciplinary family meetings. Family-centred care is desired by patients and families, and evidence suggests that it may improve user outcomes, and reduce burnout and moral distress among clinicians. This patient/family-centred approach is challenged during large-scale disasters, where movement restrictions are implemented to preserve public safety/health.

In March 2019, our hospital following Public Health England guidance, restricted patients' family and friends (PFFs) visitation rights in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

was interrupted extra corporeal circulation), T3 (in Intensive Care Unit) and T4 (24 h after Levosimendan administration). Were recorded major functional cardiac index such as Ejection Fraction, Stroke Volume, Cardiac Output and TAPSE with echocardiography transesofagial (T0, T1, T2) and transthoracic (T3, T4) and were collected Mean Arterial Pressure, ScvO2, lactate in blood gas analysis; diureis. P-value of 0.05% was considered statistically significant.

Results: Echocardiography showed no statistically significant difference in Stroke Volume (p=0.8) and Cardiac Output (p=0.99) between two groups. In both groups SV and CO parameters increased progressively rather than baseline, especially in G1. Ejection Fraction increased significantly at any time vs baseline in G1 (p<0.049), whilst they remained stable over time in G2. TAPSE was stable during the study period in G2, while the trend increased progressively only in G1. However no statistically difference between groups.

Comparisons between groups showed similar ScvO2 levels at baseline, whilst they significantly increased in G1 vs G2 at T2, T3 and T4 (p>0.05) as anaerobic metabolism index. In both groups lactate levels increased during the study period especially at T2, but non statistically difference between G1 vs G2. In post-operative times blood-gas assessment showed impaired lactate values in G1 vs G2.

The analysis found that diuresis was lower in patients treated with Levosimendan (G1) vs placebo (G2) in 24 hour after surgery. Perhaps no statistical difference between two groups.

No patient had adverse reactions or oversensitiveness to Levosimendan infusion.

Conclusion: The preliminary data of the study support these conclusions: (i) the optimal dosing is 0.1 mcg/kg/min for 24 hours of Levosimendan did not increase the SV and CO value, whilst increased EF statistically significant (ii)lactate concentration in gas analysis decrease in patients treated with Levosimendan, whilst also suggest that Levosimendan improved ScvO2 (iii) levosimendan did not enhance the diuresis in G1 vs G2 and (iv) Levosimendan infusion should be started before surgery to exert its preconditioning effect.

Lевосимедан infusion sustained haemodynamic improvement in the acute heart failure patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Dependency and vulnerability of intensive care medicine in times of COVID-19 crisis

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Introduction: Since December 2019, Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) spread rapidly all over the world, resulting in pandemic [1,2,3]. Through high hospitalization rates and via potentially exponential expansion of the disease, the COVID-19 crisis places a tremendous strain on healthcare systems, especially on limited numbers of hospital and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) – beds and equipment [4,5].

Objectives: The aim of this study was to elucidate the possible dependency of ICUs in European Countries with Austria as a pars pro toto in particular on long transglobal supply chains and its potential vulnerability by reported shortages of essential medicines and limited capacities in times of globalization and asserted economic advantages versus the pandemic threat of COVID-19 [4,5,6].

Methods: From 3 April to 8 April 2020 we performed a short survey with heads of Austria’s ICU-wards in different institutions following astructured questionnaire to enquire their personal experience and assessment.

At that time containment measures with exit restrictions, starting on 16 March 2020, has lasted for a time span of three weeks. Due to the dynamic situation during pandemic with constantly changing export bans and travel restrictions especially represents a current snapshot of the situation in that time.

Results: We surveyed nearly half of the head physicians of ICUs (n=40) in Austria [7]. 55 percent (n=22) are already treating COVID-19 affected patients at their ICU department. Only 45 percent (n=18) of them received the amount of personal protective equipment they deemed enough, and 90 percent (n=36) of surveyed ICUs were already informed about shortage supplies concerning personal protective equipment. Fig. 1) 45 percent (n=18) already reported infections within their medical personnel. According to the estimation of heads of ICUs the duration of pandemic should not last more than 6 weeks averagely without facing difficulties in storage and availability of supply. 35 percent (n=14) already reported supply difficulties in several pharmaceuticals, whereas 73 percent (n=29) were informed or already warned by their economic or purchase departments about further potential or real shortages concerning essential pharmaceuticals in near future. Detailed results are illustrated in Fig. 2.

Conclusion: Summarizing the results of our survey we would like to draw attention to the lessons we can learn from the COVID-19 crisis in the EU: European Countries with Austria as a pars pro toto should establish a national production of key equipment and disposables, at least a minor part of PPE as well as key pharmaceuticals. European countries need to improve far distance supplies and invest in maintaining critical infrastructure especially in those with limited capacities such as health care in general and ICUs in particular.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Experience of repurposing the non‑invasive V60 Ventilator for invasive ventilation to produce surge capacity during covid19

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Introduction: We present an early analysis and account of our experiences using our primary non-invasive ventilation (NIV) machine, Respironics V60 ventilator®, as a first line expansion for invasive ventilation.

Objectives: Review how the V60 ventilator may be used for invasive ventilation

Methods: We obtained 25 V60 units for critical care. Our surge plan was shaped by staff familiarity with the V60 versus staff unfamiliarity/limited supply of consumables for Anaesthetic Machines
We maximised staff protection from aerosolised SARS CoV-2 during V60 use by adding a Clear-Therm 3 HMEF (1541) to allow circuit breaks. We used Pressure Control Ventilation (PCV) as our mandatory mode, which was not used prior to COVID19. Spontaneous/Time (S/T) mode was used for support ventilation.

Laminated setup guides for circuits and initial settings were attached to all machines supported by comprehensive face-to-face and video-conferencing training delivered to all relevant staff.

**Results:** The V60 ventilator has formed a significant part of our surge response, used in 30 out of 81 (37%) patients. These patients received 572 ventilator days, with 239 on a V60 (42%).

Key issues arising from use were filter saturation, oxygen consumption in PCV vs S/T mode, requirement for increased pressure support for CPAP equivalence and the lack of an inspiratory hold for recruitment manoeuvres.

The proximity of the HMEF to nebuliser caused frequent filter saturation, and high resistance. Filter issues were noted in 11 (37%) patients. This was worse in cases using nebulised epoprostenol (epo). Using a trial of epo 15 ng/kg/min for 30 min we could identify patients better suited to ventilation with a full service (Servo-i) ICU ventilator.

Oxygen usage of V60 was much higher than the anticipated 10-15LPM. In PCV on 100% O2 the V60 used 46LPM, at 60% 21LPM, making patient transfer difficult.

We created a recruitment manoeuvre which was used successfully in 9 (30%) patients. Settings of RR to 10, I-time 3 s, IPAP 40, EPAP 25 were provided in the intensive care.

Though V60 ventilators were unable to invert ratios >1:1, 2 patients were proned on V60 ventilation, 1 died but the other has been discharged from intensive care.

Lastly, we noted the standby function would continue producing aerosol by blowing when disconnected. However the V60 loads its previous settings when switched on, and does this in <5 s, so on/off was used in place of standby.

**Conclusion:** The V60 ventilator is a viable invasive ventilator if problems are addressed. With appropriate patient selection it can spare full-service ventilator capacity, and at 25% of cost of our full-service ICU ventilator it allowed a cost-effective expansion of our ventilator fleet.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**000433**

Family members' satisfaction in a Tunisian medical ICU

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**Introduction:** Family satisfaction is an important indicator for quality improvement of intensive care units. Compliance with implemented protocols are often poor.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to describe levels of family satisfaction with the care provided in a Tunisian intensive care unit (ICU).

**Methods:** It was a prospective observational and descriptive study involving family members of patients admitted in a Tunisian medical ICU between November 2018 and May 2019. Family members of adult patients, staying at an ICU for ≥48 hours, were included. A questionnaire to measure family satisfaction with care provided in the ICU was developed. Family members were asked to complete the questionnaire and to provide information about their own demographics. Data on patient’s baseline characteristics were abstracted from charts retrospectively.

**Results:** Ninety-three family members completed the questionnaire. Demographic characteristics of study related patients were: male, 76(81.7%) mean age, 56.6 ± 15.4 years; respiratory distress at admission, 79(84.9%); mean length of stay, 14.4 ± 18.5 days. Respondents characteristics were: mean age, 39 ± 13 years; female, 51(54.8%); first-degree parents 48(51.6%); mean waiting delay, 42.4 ± 28.1 mn.

Twenty-eight (30.1%) of respondents were satisfied with overall care. Ninety-three family members completed the questionnaire. Family members reported good satisfaction with the waiting room atmosphere, visitor’s number and coordination and teamwork staff respectively in 56(60.2%), 33(35.5%) and 28(30.1%). Families reported the least satisfaction for the availability and communication by nurses. Responses to family satisfaction questionnaire are displayed in Table 1.

| Response to questionnaires | Family satisfaction with intensive care unit (ICU) (N=93) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Good (%)                  | Fair (%)          | Poor (%)         |
| - Waiting delay before visits | 21(22.6)         | 58(64.2)         | 14(15.1)        |
| - Visit duration          | 20(21.5)          | 46(50.2)         | 27(29)          |
| - Visitors’ number        | 33(35.5)          | 43(46.6)         | 25(26.9)        |
| - Completeness of information about patient’s condition | 25(26.9) | 43(46.6) | 25(26.9) |
| - Atmosphere of the waiting room | 56(60.2) | 24(25.8) | 13(14) |
| - Psychological support of family members | 57(62.1) | 24(25.8) | 22(23.9) |
| - Availability of nurses  | 25(26.9)          | 50(55.3)         | 16(17.2)        |
| - Availability of physicians | 10(10.8) | 50(55.3) | 32(33.9) |
| - Management of anxiety and depression of their patients | 25(26.9) | 50(55.3) | 16(17.2) |
| - Medical secret respect  | 24(25.8)          | 49(52.7)         | 20(21.5)        |
| - Courtesy, respect, and compassion toward patient | 21(22.6) | 45(49.5) | 27(29) |
| - Pain’s patient management | 7(7.5) | 64(68.8) | 28(30.1) |
| - Coordination and teamwork by staff | 25(26.9) | 50(55.3) | 16(17.2) |
| - Communication by nurses | 11(11.8)          | 54(58.1)         | 20(21.5)        |
| - Psychological support of their patients | 24(25.8) | 49(52.7) | 20(21.5) |
| - Global satisfaction of cares given to their patients | 10(10.8) | 50(55.3) | 32(33.9) |

**Conclusion:** Most family members were satisfied with the care provided in the intensive care unit. Communication and availability of nurses were areas with potential for improvement.

**000434**

Self-perceived discomforts in critically ill patients

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Objective: To explore self-perceived discomforts in critically ill patients.

Methods: A prospective cohort study was performed in medical ICU and anesthesiology department between September 2018 and March 2019. All patients admitted during the study period were included. Patients with diminished mental capacity, unable to communicate or refusing to participate in the study were excluded. Patient discomforts were assessed using the 16 items self-reported discomfort questionnaire on discomforts in ICU patients (IPREA). Patients were asked to rate the severity of each discomfort experienced during their ICU stay using a 10-point numerical rating scale (example: 0 = no pain and 10 = worst pain possible). Patients characteristics were recorded from medical patients’ charts.

Results: One hundred twenty patients completed the questionnaire. 51 (42%) patients were admitted in the medical ICU. Clinical characteristics were: female, 60 (50%); mean age, 47.9 ±18.5 years; mean length of stay, 10 ±2 days; acute respiratory failure, 39 (32.5%); invasive mechanical ventilation, 48 (40%); noninvasive mechanical ventilation, 72 (60%); tracheostomy, 18 (15%). The four highest discomforts were the absence of a phone, pain, sleep deprivation and limited visiting hours and the 4 lowest discomforts were feeling of cold, hunger, bed-related discomfort and feeling of heat. Self-perceived discomforts of the 16-item IPREA are displayed in Table 1.

Conclusion: The findings of this study shed light on the difficulties Tunisian ICU patients may experience and that could adversely affect their outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000491

Goals of care bundle via a critical care outreach team for critical care provision during the COVID-19 outbreak in Lombardy: baseline characteristics and outcomes

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Introduction: During the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak (1), the mission of our intensive care unit (ICU) team was to provide intensive care to whoever needed intensive care. Upon reaching the plateau of the outbreak in Italy, 7 wards were dedicated to high dependency units, counting approximately 100 beds [including 50 level-2 beds delivering forms of non-invasive ventilatory assistance such as continuous positive airways pressure (CPAP), non-invasive ventilation (NIV) and high flow nasal cannula (HFNC)] The outreach team provided senior ICU decision support using a Goals Of Care Bundle (Figure 1).

Methods: We retrospectively evaluated data from 125 patients referred to the outreach team from March 22– April 22, 2020 and outcomes after a minimum of 15-days follow-up. The data analysis refers to three subgroups of COVID-19 patients: patients admitted to the wards with respiratory symptom and receiving a ceiling of care decision (PCEI); patients requiring more detailed observation or intervention including non-invasive forms of ventilatory support and considered eligible level-3 care, if needed (PWARD); patients admitted to the ICU within 24 h after the after the evaluation of the outreach team (PICU).

Results: From March 22 to April 22, 2020, 125 consecutive adult patients with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 (a median (IQR) of 25% (21% –27%) of the overall number of COVID-19 positive patients admitted to the Humanitas Research Hospital) have been referred to the outreach team (Figure 2). Overall, 61 patients (48.8%) were included in the PCEI group, 30 in the PWARD and, finally, 34 in the PICU. The median (IQR) number of patients receiving non-invasive respiratory support in the wards (including either helmet CPAP or NIV delivered by facemask or HFNC) was 9 (4–16), with a maximum of 19 patients on March 28. The overall in-hospital mortality of COVID-19 patients (including the emergency department, wards and ICU in the considered period was 26.8%, while the overall ICU mortality was 21.9%. At the end of the follow-up, 19 patients in the PCEI group (31.1%), 29 in the PWARD group (96.7%) and 26 in the PICU group (76.2%) were discharged from hospital, to either home or rehabilitation facilities. Moreover, 41/65 patients in the PCEI group (67.2%) died in hospital as compared to none in the PWARD and PICU groups (p < 0.0001).

000488

Coping with COVID-19 in a low resource country: ethical, social, and economic dilemmas

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000488

Introduction: Palestinian authority, population 2.8 million, is a low resource country facing COVID-19 pandemic, neighboring high resource country fighting the epidemic. In preparing ourselves, we creating a disaster committee, included private and governmental hospitals CEOs, infectious disease specialists and Intensivist.

Objectives: To share lessons learned, barriers overcome, discuss ethical and social implications of decisions made in the low resource country.

Methods: Epidemiological and national statistics will be demonstrated, dealing with unestablished infrastructures and utilizing the existing resources. Enforced early total lockdown while saving lives had many ethical and social implications.

Results: 547 confirmed infected, 4 COVID-19 related deaths all in provisional, urgently created ICU’s, 40513 COVID-19 tests were performed. High risk population testing positive COVID-19 were workers transitioning daily into neighboring countries (75%), medical staff (3.7%), tourist industry related personnel (20.3%).

Conclusion: Early enforced lockdown the most effective governmental decision preventing population from getting sick. However, the burden of ethical, social and economic consequences is still being evaluated and will be discussed in this abstract.
Conclusion: In a context of hospital and ICU surge, implementation of a dedicated Critical Care Outreach was associated with proper allocation of ICU resources, a low rate of cardiac arrest calls and no emergency intubations in the ward.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.

000495 Outcomes from patients invasively ventilated with repurposed non-invasive V60 Ventilator during covid19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000495

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges for ventilator surge capacity. Solutions included use of anaesthetic machines and the repurposing of Non-Invasive Ventilators. Use of Philips Respironics V60 Non-Invasive Ventilator® in invasive, mandatory ventilation is previously unreported. Here, we describe our outcomes repurposing the V60 ventilator for COVID19 critical care admissions in a single UK tertiary centre.

Objectives: To describe the use of V60 Ventilators during a pandemic emergency. We focus on their utility, problems and place in our response going forward.

Methods: We performed retrospective analysis of all swab or BAL confirmed COVID19 positive cases admitted to intensive care in a University Teaching Hospital for 7 weeks up to 1/5/20. Descriptive statistics were performed using Microsoft Excel.

Results: 82 patients were admitted to intensive care with confirmed COVID19. Of these, 30 were ventilated with a V60. These 30 patients received 572 ventilator days with 239 days (42%) delivered by a V60. The mean ventilator days were 19.1 with 8 V60 ventilator days. A V60 was used for Mandatory ventilation in 19 patients, of these 12 were ventilated on a V60 immediately following intu. 11 used a V60 for spontaneous ventilation/weaning only.

In total 14 patients failed on a V60 and were changed to a full-service ICU ventilator (Servo-i): 2 for non-clinical reasons, 2 for bronchoscopy, 1 for ECMO, 2 for humidified circuits, 2 for proning and 2 for dyssynchrony. 93% of these failures occurred in the patients requiring mandatory ventilation and those with more severe ARDS, only 1 occurred in the spontaneous ventilation only group. Proning was performed in 2 patients whilst ventilated on a V60, of which 1 survived to ICU discharge.

A total of 64/82 COVID19 patients admitted to critical care have either been discharged from ICU or died. 39 (61%) were alive at ICU discharge and 25 (39%) died. For the patients ventilated on a V60 at any point 18/26 (69%) who discharged from ICU alive and 8/26 (31%) died. For those not ventilated on a V60 at any point 21/38 (55%) left ICU alive and 17/38 (45%) died.

Conclusion: When a V60 was used, it was able to provide 239/572 (42%) of ventilator days. However a universally high failure rate, 13/16 patients (81%), in those with moderate-severe ARDS when used for mandatory ventilation makes it clear that it cannot be used as a direct replacement for an ICU ventilator. If used in carefully selected patients, with experienced staff, it can contribute significantly to surge capacity by sparing ICU ventilators for those requiring advanced respiratory support. At 25% cost of a full-service ICU ventilator it can, when used...
appropriately, allow for cost-effective surge expansion of ventilator capacity.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)

000496
Experience of managing essential critical care medication shortages during COVID-19 pandemic
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000496

Introduction: We present the experience of a UK single tertiary centre in managing supplies of essential critical care medications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives: To identify challenges and solutions in managing supplies of essential critical care medications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: During the surge of COVID-19 patients, shortages of propofol 2%, fentanyl, norepinephrine and atracurium were experienced. To facilitate safe sedation, a policy was developed to prioritise short-acting agents for light sedation and patients likely to accumulate other agents. Combinations of long-acting agents including morphine and midazolam were used for deep sedation and a nurse-led bolus dosing strategy was used in selected patients.

A coordinated switch to 1% propofol was made, requiring staff training and dietetic input for calorie differences. Shortages of atracurium were managed with bolus regimes of pancuronium.

To maintain supplies of noradrenaline, an alternative unlicensed formulation was received. We coordinated the local setup of a Centralised Intravenous Additive Service for preparation of noradrenaline pre-filled syringes. This mitigated risks of incorrect concentrations or diluents and reduced nursing workload, particularly given use of non-critical care nursing staff.

Availability of Continuous Veno-Venous Haemofiltration (CVVHF) sets and fluids has been challenging, requiring supply management on a regional level. Locally, risk of shortage was mitigated through elective filter breaks, requirement for Consultant approval for restart following clotting and judicious use of exchange rates. A protocol for the addition of potassium to potassium-free fluids was also developed. Figure 1 demonstrates the baseline and peak demand across the region for each of these therapies.

Throughout the surge, real-time administration data was able to be extracted from the local electronic prescribing system for all critical drugs, facilitating timely and more accurate planning of management strategies.

Results: There were challenges related to timely availability of drugs in areas where Aerosol Generating Processes were performed. We installed additional controlled drug cupboards and fridges in isolation areas and emergency drugs in each bed space drug locker, so drugs could be available quickly whilst maintaining storage and governance requirements.

To manage the shortage of CVVHF supplies, work to plumb reverse osmosis water supplies to our ICUs has been completed. This has allowed the use of Sustained Low Efficiency Dialysis (SLED) in selected patients.

Conclusion: Our response locally has focused on rapid-response amendments to formulary with new policies and adaptations to usual practice to support use of alternative agents. A prospective, pragmatic and flexible approach has been required with actions to mitigate, rather than eliminate, risk. This has minimised the need for emergency, unplanned changes in policy.

000545
Establishing a rapid response system in an arctic hospital
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000545

Introduction: The 1st of May 2019 a rapid response system (RRS) was established at Queen Ingrid’s Hospital, Nuuk, Greenland to ensure immediate assistance to patients suffering from critical illness, trauma or are in cardiac arrest. A rapid response team (RRT) composed of physicians, nurses, patient transporters and laboratory technicians is triggered by an early warning system (EWS). The EWS is defined by certain thresholds, such as deviating vital parameters or mechanism of trauma. Queen Ingrid’s Hospital have a capacity of approximately 100 beds, including 4 in the intensive care unit. The emergency personnel are on call from their homes.

Objectives: The objective of the study is to describe the incidence, typical location, type of event (i.e. critical illness, trauma or cardiac arrest) and triggers activating the RRT. Furthermore, we want to measure certain quality indicators and describe the outcome of the patients managed by the RRT.

Methods: From 1st of May 2019 until the 1st of May 2020, we plan to examine and collect data from the electronic health record each time the RRT is deployed. Here we obtain information on the time of event, vital parameters, mechanism of trauma and treatment given (e.g. intubation, medicine). Furthermore, we obtain information on the time of death.

Results: During the first 11 months the RRT have treated 88 patients corresponding to 1,83 per week. The patients had a median age of 55 (interquartile range (IQR) 31-67) and 53 (60.2%) being male. 25 patients (28.4%) have been in cardiac arrest, 25 (28.4%) suffering from traumas and 38 (43.2%) presented with critical illness. 71 (80.7%) were received as out-of-hospital patients while 17 (19.3%) were hospitalized. The 30-day survival for patients in cardiac arrest, critically
ill patients and patients suffering from trauma was 13.7%, 84.2% and 88.0%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** In 2019 a RRS was established at Queen Ingrid's Hospital, Nuuk, Greenland. To monitor and evaluate the system, we plan to collect data from the first year after implementation. Preliminary results from the first 11 months indicate that the system is frequently being activated and especially from the emergency room.

**000658**

**Converting a surgical unit into a COVID-19 intensive care unit during Northern Italy outbreak**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000658

**Introduction:** After severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 outbreak in Wuhan, China, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) spread out in a pandemic. [1] On February 20, 2020 the first Italian case of secondary transmission was centralized in our hospital Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, in Pavia. The rapidly growing numbers in Northern Italy [2] imposed our hospital to increase greatly the already available 31 intensive care unite (ICU) beds [3].

**Methods:** On March 14, 2020, after the surgical activities suspension, we converted in a short time (8 hours) a surgical unit (SU) into a 6-beds COVID-19 ICU, reaching the hospital total capacity of 72 ICU beds.

**Results:** This cardiothoracic SU was square-shaped with four operating rooms (OR) on the corners, connected by an interior passage. We isolated this area with a double filter system in the pre-operative holding areas: a “clean filter”, at the entrance, was reserved for disposable personal protective equipment [4] wearing, while a “contaminated” one, at the exit, was for undressing procedures. In the interior corridor we allocated the drugs storage, while a blood gas analyser and one blood gas analyser were already in place (Figure 1). An ultrasound machine, a fibre optic bronchoscope and a defibrillator were also available (Figure 1).

Outside this space we set up a “control unit” area, equipped with a centralized parameters monitoring system and a video surveillance system, with a camera in each OR. Communications were possible thanks to an internal telephone line and professional walkie-talkies.

In a situation of ICU ventilators shortage, three beds were equipped with Servo 900 C® ventilators (Siemens Elema, Solna, Sweden) kept as back up machines till then, while the others had the Flow-i® anaesthesia workstations (Getinge, Göteborg, Sweden) routinely used in the SU. The wall gas aspiration system was connected to the ventilators expiratory valve, preventing airdrops dispersion. Essential devices, such as monitoring tools and aspiration systems, were already available in each OR. In a limited resources context this was an undoubted advantage, compared with the rearrangement of a traditional ward.

Many of the nurses and health workers employed were ordinarily working in this SU. Medical staff was composed of anaesthetist-intensivist physicians and residents, most of them with an anaesthesiological background.

We performed daily bedside lung ultrasound (LUS) monitoring to minimize the use of traditional imaging, reducing transports to the radiology department. Moreover, with limited lung mechanic measurements availability, we used LUS to titrate ventilation settings. [5,6]

**Conclusion:** According to our positive experience, during a health emergency OR represents a real and feasible source of ICU beds, quickly available and easy to set-up.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000659**

**Shared decision making impact on hospice palliative care over terminal critical patient**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000659

**Introduction:** The idea of shared decision making (SDM) was first proposed in 1972, with gradually increasing its importance as the upsurging interest in patient centredness and autonomy in health care interactions since the 1970 s. It has become the major care model...
embodiment of the patient-centered care and physician-patient equality interaction. Hospice palliative care among terminal critical ill patient, determined by two separate specialist based on the Hospice Palliative Care Act definition, has long been poorly accepted owing to cultural mis-understanding, especially among Chinese. By retrospective cohort data analysis, we try to unveil the impact of introducing SDM on hospice palliative care in terminal critical adult ICU patients.

Methods: Medical record of medical center adult ICU admitted terminal critical ill patient from Jan. 1st, 2017 to Dec. 31th, 2019 was retrospectively reviewed, and further subdivided into pre-SDM and post-SDM (after Oct. 1st, 2018) intervention period for analysis. Terminal critical ill was defined as ICU admitted patient fit following criteria including advanced malignancy, end-stage motor neuron disease, decompensated heart failure with NYHA Fc IV, oxygenation or ventilator dependent pulmonary and airway disease, liver cirrhosis Child-Pugh C with episodes of hepatic encephalopathy, hemodialysis dependent acute or chronic renal failure, extremely elderly associated organic psychosis or central nervous system degeneration, and fulminant critical condition, which post postponed available treatment without clinically improvement determined by two separate specialist. Decision about withdrawal, discontinuing, or refusing any add-on life supporting management was considered as palliative care. Data including SDM impact on palliative decision associated withdrawal or withhold rate, ventilator dependent days, length of ICU stay, length of hospital stay, means of withdraw or withhold, and average medical cost were collected. SPSS was applied for statistical analysis, and a p value less than 0.05 was considered significant difference.

Results: Medical records from total 9198 patients from Jan. 1st, 2017 to Dec. 31th, 2019 were reviewed based on tertiary medical center adult ICU record. According to inclusion criteria, 56 patients out of 5290 patients fit terminal critical ill patient during the pre-SDM (before Oct. 1st, 2018) in comparison to 153 patients from 3989 patients in post-SDM (after Oct. 1st, 2018), and 173% improvement over identifying terminal critical ill patient impressed. In compared to pre-SDM, post-SDM terminal critical ill patient had less ventilator dependent days (3.9±/−18.5 vs 21.2±/−16.7, p< 0.05), shorter length of ICU stay (24.9+/−19.2 vs 21.8+/−15.3, p< 0.05), and shorter length of hospital stay (31.2+/−25.9 vs 27.6+/−23.3, p< 0.05). The most often chosen withdrawal is hospice endotracheal tube extubation, and the most frequent chosen withhold is vasopressor pump prescription. After SDM was introduced, ventilator days, length of ICU stay, and length of hospital stay of terminal critical ill patient was found reduced 2.7 days, 3.1 days, and 3.6 days individually in compared to each other. The average medical cost was also decreased after SDM introduced.

Conclusion: Our retrospective cohort study from a single medical center adult ICU revealed introducing shared decision making on hospice palliative care over terminal critical ill patient might improve palliative decision associated withdrawal or withhold rate, reduce ventilator days, length of ICU stay, and length of hospital stay. Introducing shared decision making on hospice palliative care over terminal critical ill patient reduce futile medical treatment and associated excessive medical cost.

Keywords: shared decision making, hospice palliative care, terminal critical ill patient.

000712

Reducing breathing system transmission of Covid-19: The Addenbrooke’s experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000712

Introduction: The SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus partly spread via aerosolisation. To reduce nosocomial infection within our ICU it was necessary to effect equipment and behavioural changes. We provide an experiential narrative of a single UK tertiary centre of the adaptations to reduce viral particulate load, and steps to disseminate this information. Subsequent issues and how these were resolved, are then described.

Objectives: To identify aerosol generating procedures (AGP) within ICU and to create a breathing circuit aiming to minimise viral transmission.

Methods: We adopted a pragmatic approach, intending a log 5-6 reduction in viral exposure. Equipment and procedural changes were implemented to effect this change. We replaced current heat and moisture exchangers (HME) with high efficiency filters (HEF) after comparing manufacturer values for bacterial vs viral efficiency. We adopted a modified RSI technique using apnoeic oxygenation was encouraged, with bagging avoided. An ‘optimal’ breathing circuit setup was proposed (see Fig 1). Setup then focused on ensuring expired gas always passed via a HEF, and that circuit breaks occurred distal to this. Specific high risk situations were considered; if circuit breaks were necessary, these occurred during apnoea with ventilators on standby and portable ventilators and bag valve masks ventilate to air, though not via expiratory limb - we focused on education to address this issue.

Results: Filter saturation was the most serious difficulty we encountered. The combination of Aerogen nebulisers, and in particular epoprostenol nebulisers, caused abrupt occlusions of HEF risking airway emergencies. We considered both modifiable and non-modifiable factors to manage occult respiratory gas loss:

- Modifiable consideration included positioning of capnography sampling, which exhaust to air, post-filter. Aerogen nebulisers required distal placement relative to the HME. We received reassurance from the manufacturer that these nebulisers had not produced detectable leak during normal use.
- Non-modifiable concerns included that ‘suction above cuff’ endotracheal tubes were not easily clamped, thus this was discouraged owing to ineffectiveness and risk of damage. We adopted a practice of paralysis with ventilator standby during planned disconnection. Similarly, portable suction devices lack viral filters and any use had to be treated as an AGP.

As a number of modifications to usual practice were required, multidisciplinary education was necessary. Regular tutorials were available, with time for discussion regarding airway management. Teaching was available within ICU, dynamically changing as the situation developed.

Conclusion: Through consideration of changes to usual equipment and behaviours, we were able to achieve effective reduction in viral transmission in the context of an emergent pandemic.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Debriefing of critical situations: experiences and expectations of ICM residents

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000756

Introduction: At any moment of their exercise, residents of intensive care medicine (ICM) confront insurmountable stress. This is mainly due to the critical situations they encounter, especially as it is associated with lack of experience. Debriefing is a tool designed to relieve this stress and transform the error in learning.

Objectives: to assess the application of debriefing in clinical situations in residents of ICM and to inquire about their expectations.

Methods: Descriptive survey, focusing on residents of ICM from all over Tunisia after their consent. Data were collected using a 30-questions computerized questionnaire developed on the “Google Forms” platform which was sent to their personal email addresses. The topics investigated their experiences of debriefing after critical situations, the interest and expectations brought to debriefing in real practice.

Results: 100 responses were collected from 220 questionnaires sent representing a participation rate of 45.5%. 70% of participants were of female gender. The mean of cumulated semesters at the study time was 4 ± 2. In 90% of cases, the senior doctor on call being at home with displacement and in 10% of cases the senior being on site. More than 10 calls per guard were recorded, in a quarter of interrogated residents, in order to manage a critical situation. 57 residents participat ed in a debriefing as part of simulation training whereas 86 have experienced it in clinical practice. In 40% of the cases, the Debriefing took place with a staff of several teaching doctors. 74 of the partic ipants gave a satisfaction score between 3 and 5 out of 5. In this case, debriefing concerned the diagnostic discussion and the taken attitude. 95% preferred a collective debriefing than the individual one. 44% of the participants experienced at least one emotional shock during their course and they affirm the necessity of defusing even outside of a debriefing in 40% of cases. 52% of residents have claimed the ideal time for debriefing would be on day 1 of the managed critical situation and day 0 was considered in 32% of residents. Considering those who rated more than 6 out of 10, the expectations from debriefing in the studied population were: improvement of theoretical skills (92/100), improvement of technical skills (82/100) coordination within the team (89/100) and psychological interest (appeasement, guilt-free…) (87/100).

Conclusion: Our survey confirms the value of debriefing in clinical practice among ICM residents, both in the theoretical as technical skills and in psychological management.

ICU resources during COVID-19 pandemic: Optimising the timing of tracheostomy with a modified “Failure-free days” outcome

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000764

Introduction: Shortage of both ventilators and ICU beds overwhelmed further health care systems during COVID-19 pandemic. Early tracheostomy (TRQ) can possibly reduce the duration of mechanical ventilation (MV) and ICU length of stay but counterbalanced with an increased risk for health-care workers. COVID-19 is a clinical condition with easy-to-predict prolonged MV and a high mortality rate.1

Objectives: Modified “failure-free days” combined outcome focused on resources (respirators and ICU beds) could contribute to decide the optimal timing of TRQ in consumed health care systems during future viral pandemia periods 1,4.

Methods: Multicenter retrospective cohort study including consecutive TRQ patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in 8 Spanish high-volume centers. The case selection, timing and technique of TRQ based on weekly burden degree in ICUs: the greater the burden the earlier and the higher the TRQ and surgical procedure rates. Modified ventilator and ICU bed-free days (VFD and BFD) respectively within 28 and 60-day time frame were defined as follows, respectively: VFD/BFD = 28/60 × if successfully liberated from MV/discharged to ward x days after initiation/admission and VFD/BFD = 28/60 × if subject dies within 28/60 days of MV/admission. Modified VFD and BFD were calculated for different timings (10, 14 and 20 days) and compared with multivariate ANOVA test. Matching bias was excluded with a propensity score.

Results: TRQ was performed in 48% of intubated patients; 504 tracheostomized patients were finally included. Table 1 shows the preliminary results of 143 patients. The median (IQR) time under MV was 23d (19-32); mortality rate was 49.2% and surgical TRQ was performed in 38.1% of patients. COVID-19 PCR was positive at any timing in all monitored patients (58.8%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time under MV, d (median)</th>
<th>Early TRQ</th>
<th>Delayed TRQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VFD at 28d, d</td>
<td>25.3 / 24.7 / 25.9</td>
<td>29.7 / 35.3 / 46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFD at 28d, d</td>
<td>3.9 / 3.1 / 2.7</td>
<td>1.9 / 1.2 / 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality rate, %</td>
<td>54 / 54 / 50</td>
<td>50 / 60 / 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFD at 50d, d</td>
<td>34.7 / 35.7 / 34.4</td>
<td>31.3 / 26.4 / 17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFD at 50d, d</td>
<td>30.5 / 32.1 / 30.6</td>
<td>27.9 / 22.9 / 14.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Pending definitive results, we conclude that ICM resources could be optimized with early tracheostomy at 10d according to the 28-d modified VFD and BFD outcome under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Intensive care communication with families during COVID: a national UK survey

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000792

Table 1
Introduction: Frequent communication with a patient’s relatives is a part of normal ICU care, however, has been challenged by intensified clinical care demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.1,2 Regular visiting and communication with the ICU team is a priority for many families and crucial to coping.3 Visiting loved ones at the end-of-life is fundamental within many cultures and is a crucial part of the grieving process for the bereaved.4 Restrictions to hospital visiting policies during the COVID-19 pandemic have left relatives unable to visit their loved ones in ICU and receive face-to-face updates from clinicians and nurses.5-7 It is unclear how UK ICUs are dealing with this challenging situation.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate how UK ICUs are approaching relative communications and visiting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: This web-based snapshot survey was delivered between 16th April and 24th May 2020 and was open to UK ICUs. It was completed by individual clinicians regarding practices of the ICU they were currently working at during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results: There were replies from 134 individual NHS ICUs with COVID patients for analysis. All units reported that visiting was more restricted than in normal times. Twenty-nine (22%) units reported that no relative visiting was allowed, 71 (53%) reported visiting was allowed at end of life only and 30 (23%) reported visiting was allowed for vulnerable or end of life patients.

Nearly all ICUs (n=130, 97%) were updating families daily. Most ICUs were initiating the family update (n=120, 92%). Daily phone calls were routinely initiated by the medical team in 75 (55%) ICUs and by the nursing team in 50 (37%) ICUs. Thirty-nine (29%) units used a dedicated team for regular family updates. Video calling was being used by 63 (47%) ICUs.

Do not attempt resuscitation and end of life family discussions were commonly done by consultants (n=132, 99%), followed by PGY4-7 doctors (n=60, 45%). Six (4%) units reported that PGY3-5 doctors may have these discussions. These discussions were most frequently phone calls initiated by the ICU medical team (N=129, 96%).

Conclusion: Relative visiting to UK ICUs during the COVID-19 pandemic has been severely restricted compared to normal times. Despite visiting restrictions, many units are adapting to support family visiting for end of life patients. ICUs are actively contacting families daily to provide updates, most commonly by ICU medical teams and many units have developed bespoke family communication teams. Modern technology has been utilised to deliver video calling by many ICUs.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Conclusion: Relative visiting to UK ICUs during the COVID-19 pandemic has been severely restricted compared to normal times. Despite visiting restrictions, many units are adapting to support family visiting for end of life patients. ICUs are actively contacting families daily to provide updates, most commonly by ICU medical teams and many units have developed bespoke family communication teams. Modern technology has been utilised to deliver video calling by many ICUs.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: In December 2019, a pneumonia of unknown cause was detected in Wuhan, China. A novel strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV 2) was identified as the cause. The virus spread rapidly and the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January. Worldwide, cases of new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) began to increase exponentially with Italy, Spain, France and the UK reporting the highest rates of new infections within Europe. Northwark Park Hospital, a large district general hospital in North West London was one of the first UK centres to experience a surge in COVID-19 admissions requiring ICU level care. In relation to its baseline critical care capacity, it was one of the worst hit centres in the UK and a substantial increase in transfers to neighbouring hospitals was necessary to ensure safe, quality care was maintained.

Objectives: We provide an overview of the ICU surge experience due to COVID-19 admissions from Northwark Park Hospital. We establish a timeline, focusing on several distinct themes including capacity, staffing, operational issues and training. Data on admissions, transfers and patient demographics is included.

Methods: All available data from the period 16 February to 12 May 2020 (coinciding with the peak ICU surge) was collected via audit of in-house electronic reporting systems (PathPoint, ePRO, ICE) and informal channels (NHSMail).

Results: We present a timeline detailing the challenges faced during the surge around establishing and maintaining of bed capacity; adoption of new staffing ratios, rotas and redeployment; equipment and medication supply; establishing new surgical pathways and ‘returning to normal’.

A total of 257 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to the ICU. Length of stay on the unit ranged from 1 to 41 days. Maintenance of spare capacity was facilitated by transfers to other sites within the North West London Critical Care Network. 124 patients were transferred to satellite sites with 11 patients repatriated. Of the 22 admissions to the London Nightingale Hospital, 19 were from Northwark Park. The highest number of transfers off site in one day was 16. With the expanded ICU capacity, the peak number of inpatients in a 24-hour period was 57 and the highest admissions for one day was 15. The ICU population had several risk factors which have since been shown to be associated with worse outcomes in COVID-19, namely age, ethnicity and obesity. Of the total admissions, 75% fell within the 51 to 80 years of age group, 84% were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background, and 58% were classified as either overweight or obese by BMI.

Conclusion: We report our experience of preparing for, receiving and managing of the initial ICU surge of COVID-19 patients. We present a timeline, our patient population and report on several of the challenges we faced.

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented demand for critical care beds across the world(1). North Central London (NCL) Sustainable Training Partnership (STP) critical care capacity expanded by over 100%(2), presenting extreme pressures on staff and consumables, with significant logistical challenges.

Objectives: The NCL transfer team was established on 3rd April 2020, with the primary aim to manage the safe movement of critically unwell patients to decompress overwhelmed critical care units and optimise patient care. The secondary aim was to alleviate the workload of stretched referring units by organising the logistics of transfer, relaying clinical patient information and mobilising a dedicated transfer team to retrieve the patient, whilst protecting the resources at the referring site. (Diag. 1).

Methods: A central point of contact was established to streamline referrals with real-time updates of bed capacity across the sector. Three dedicated consultant-led teams were created and responsible for the movement of patients both in and out of the sector.

The Hub provided operational support to the transfer teams and sector hospitals. Ambulances provided by London Ambulance Service (LAS) were matched with teams at their base hospitals (Diagram 1). The Hub created a central gateway through which activity and outcomes could be recorded for quality improvement. A COVID-19 transfer app was designed in partnership with InforceHub (data analytics company), ensuring NHS data security governance.

Results: A total of 81 transfers were performed during April 2020, with a peak of 7 transfers per day. No critical incidences were reported. 60 patients were transferred in sector, follow up showed a 48% 30-day mortality, with men aged between 60-69 most affected, comparable to ICNARC data (3). 68% represented BAME groups, with a proportional mortality of 48%, comparable to Caucasian group at 50% in this data set.

The most prevalent complications within 30 days of admission were: PE/DVT (40%), renal failure requiring haemofiltration (36%), and ongoing ventilatory failure requiring proning. (42%). This is a small data set with inherent limiting factors.

Conclusion: NHS England (NHSE) project that the demand for critical care across London will continue to increase with plans to double the critical care capacity (2). Critical transfers for specialist care and bed capacity will continue to require a co-ordinated response for the benefit of patients and workforce. The NCL transfer hub provided a valuable service during this novel pandemic. An NHSE advisory group is producing a National business case for a new Pan-London Critical Transfer Service.

As board advisors, our collective experiences and expertise will help to shape a broader and cohesive vision for critical care transfers in London.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Bath Tea trolley is a teaching initiative that has shown excellent results improving knowledge, skills and satisfaction of healthcare professionals. It is based on a bedside discussion between the instructor and the trainee about a topic always related to the current care of the patient. The teaching session does not last more than 5 minutes and always includes tea and cake as a refreshment. The combination of peer-to-peer bedside learning, relevant topic, and tea and cake as an element to facilitate the learning break, make the Tea Trolley a powerful learning tool. Vygotsky’s, Wenger’s, Bateson’s levels of learning, Malinowski’s, Akerlof’s strategy and Rich’s class and gender construction concept support this educational tool.

Objectives: Discuss the theoretical framework behind Bath Tea Trolley as an educational tool.

Methods: The interventions and results of the initiatives that included Bath Tea Trolley and elements of the intervention were reviewed and the theoretical framework behind them analysed.

Results: Bath Tea trolley has shown excellent results on either learning progress and trainee satisfaction. Bath Tea Trolley has been utilised as teaching tool with different learning topics related to critical care. It has been tried in other clinical settings. From teaching sessions on airway rescue techniques and maternal sepsis, to acute kidney injury and hypoglycaemia, it has proved very successful—analyse feed-back forms indicates that after receiving tea trolley training 98% of staff have felt more confident in one or more of the aspects that were covered.

This teaching technique has potential in many settings including anaesthetic rooms, wards, emergency departments, outpatient departments, GP surgeries, and administration areas. It can be adapted to suit different learning and teaching styles (visual, auditory, verbal, physical, one-on-one, group), grades of participants, and previous levels of experience.

So far, it has been included in 54 projects in Bath, with 2977 staff ‘educational encounters’ to date. It has been utilised in 39 other UK hospitals and internationally in countries as Australia, Canada, USA, France and Germany.

The elements of the intervention were analysed from the theoretical point of view. The combination of peer-to-peer bedside learning, relevant topic and tea and cake as an element to facilitate the learning break make the Tea Trolley a powerful learning tool. Vygotsky’s theory of “Zone of Proximal Development” and “Scaffolding”, Wenger’s hypothesis of “Situated learning”, Bateson’s levels of learning, Malinowski’s concept of “Reciprocity”, Akerlof’s “Tit-for-tat” strategy and Rich’s class and gender construction concept support this powerful educational tool.

Conclusion: Tea trolley is based on a peer-to-peer bedside learning in which the instructor offers tea and cake to facilitate a short break that allows the intervention. It has shown to be an excellent teaching tool and has been utilised in different clinical settings nationally and internationally.

Every element of this intervention is supported on a solid theoretical framework. Peer-to-peer interaction is supported on Vygotsky’s theory of “Zone of Proximal Development” and “Scaffolding”, bedside offers the adequate learning context as per Wenger’s hypothesis of “Situated learning” and Bateson’s levels of learning, tea and cake leans on Malinowski’s concept of “Reciprocity”, Akerlof’s “Tit-for-tat” strategy and Rich’s class and gender construction concept.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

increased their ability to take in information. 71% agreed or strongly agreed that knowledge gained from the SW reassured them they would be well supported in ITU. 82% reported decreased anxiety and 86% reported increased confidence regarding the prospect of working in ITU following the SW; 84% agreed or strongly agreed that the SW reassured them they would be well supported in ITU.

The structured patient assessment, ventilator knowledge, and reassurance/confidence featured prominently in the comments. Suggested improvements included more interactivity and simulation.

**Conclusion:** The results demonstrate improved self-perception of knowledge in all aspects of ITU care explored by the workshops. Candidates also reported alleviated anxiety, improved confidence, and increased camaraderie. Our workshops serve as a model for future induction of doctors that are redeployed during further Covid19 surges, both for improving knowledge and maintaining wellbeing, and could serve as a foundation for further ITU education.

**Patient and family centered actionable processes of care for persistent or chronic critical illness (P/CCI) require adoption of their clinical management plan and goals of care from an acute to a rehabilitative focus. Development and implementation of quality improvement (QI) tools such as daily or rounding checklists focused on actionable processes of care are needed as existing QI tools were not developed with P/CCI patients in mind. Actionable processes are those over which clinicians have direct control and are able to action.

**Methods:** Systematic review, end-user qualitative interviews with P/CCI survivors/family. Participants rated actionable processes on 9-point Likert scale. Actionable processes considered critical for inclusion in future development of QI tools were those scored between 7-9 on the Likert scale by ≥70% of participants and between 1-3 by <15% of participants.

**Results:** During item generation phase, we screened 13,130 references, included 114 primary studies (24,251 participants), 102 reviews and 94 abstracts and identified 40 distinct actionable processes of care. Interviews with P/CCI survivors/family (N=17) identified 15 actionable processes with 3/15 (20%) distinct from the systematic review. Interviews with clinicians (N=31) identified 35 actionable processes with 4/35 (11%) distinct from other item generation procedures (Total=47). Following iterative discussion to combine similar processes removing redundancy and to word as actionable processes in lay terms, 31 actionable processes were included in Delphi R1. Nine additional actionable processes suggested by Delphi participants were added to R2 (Total=40). Response rates were 83% (138/166) R1, 79% (109/138) R2 and 74% (81/109) R3. Of the 40 actionable processes, 34 (85%) were considered critical for inclusion in future QI tools. The top 3 actionable processes with the highest proportion of clinician, ICU survivor, and family participants considering them critical for inclusion were (1) establish and track rehabilitation/physiotherapy goals including early mobilization while still in the ICU (99%); (2) assess and manage symptoms (i.e., pain, breathlessness, tiredness, thirst) (98%); and (3) review ongoing need for drugs used for sedation and decrease their use as able (98%). Actionable processes not considered critical for inclusion were (1) limit physiologic monitoring and routine blood tests (54%); (2) offer chaplaincy/spiritual support to the patient and family (57%); (3) provide activities to promote relaxation (e.g., music, pet visitation) based on patient preferences (62%); (4) de-escalate (including change to oral instead of IV drugs) or stop ICU pharmacotherapy and restart previous comorbidity pharmacotherapy (62%); (5) enable appropriate and timely discharge planning (67%); and (6) conduct multi-disciplinary rounds that include non-ICU subspecialty teams (68%).

**Conclusion:** The large number of items considered critical for inclusion in QI tools reflects the complex and multi-factorial needs of PCCI patients and families. Further consensus building work is planned to enable development and testing of QI tools.

**Characteristics of the Non-COVID patients seen in our Intensive Care Unit during the pandemic in contrast to those seen in the same period of time the year before**

**Objectives:** To analyze the nCOVp admitted in our ICU during the pandemic in contrast to those admitted in the same period of time the previous year. The number of COVp-nCOVp patients were analyzed, also: sex, age, provenance, diagnosis, severity, hospital stay and nCOVp mortality, as well as the admissions in the same period of time in 2019.

**Results:** From March 14th (admission of the first COVp) to May 4th 2020, 48 COVp were admitted in our ICU (last COVp the 1st June). In the meantime, 32 nCOVp were admitted, whereas 101 patients were admitted in 2019. It’s a polyvalent ICU with 10 beds, which were expanded during the pandemic to 36 beds. High occupation period (HOP) was from March 14th to April 13th 2020, in which 40/48 (83,3%) COVp and 4/32 (12,5%) nCOVp were admitted. Over this period in 2019, 37/101 (36,7%) patients were admitted. 2020 nCOVp: 23 (71,9%) were males, with a mean age of 54,8 y.o. (CI 95% 49,5-61,2). 18 patients (56,2%) came from emergency department. Ten patients (31,2%) were admitted because of different etiologies of shock, which was the most frequent reason for admission, followed by: acute coronary syndrome (ACS) 6 (18,7%), cardiac arrhythmias (CA) 3 (9,3%), cardiopulmonary arrest (CPA) 3 (9,3%), neurological disorders (ND) 3 (9,3%), acute respiratory failure (ARF) 3 (9,3%), polytrauma (PT) 2 (6,2%), and 2 (6,2%) oncological surgery postoperative (OSP). The average APACHE II was 20,8 (CI 95% 19,6-22,5) and 27 (CI 95% 19,6-34,4) during HOP, with an average hospital stay of 5,5 days (CI 95% 2,3-8,7) and 9 (28,12%) patients died, two of them during HOP. As for the patients admitted in 2019: 61 (60,4%) were males, with an average age of 63,8 y.o. (CI 95% 60,5-67,1). 80 patients (79,2%) came from the emergency department. The most frequent reason for admission was ACS with 23 patients (22,8%) followed by: ARF 15 patients (14,9%), shock 14 patients...
(13.9%), CA 13 patients (12.9%), ND 7 patients (6.9%), OSP 7 patients (6.9%), CRA 5 patients (4.9%). The average APACHE II score was 15 (CI 95% 13, 16-14), and the average hospital stay of 3.8 days (CI 95% 2.8-4.7), 12 patients died (11.9%).

**Conclusion:** During the pandemic, there has been a significant reduction of non-COVID admissions in our ICU. 2020 patients had a higher APACHE II score, a longer hospital stay and an increase in mortality regarding 2019 patients.

### 000963

**A scoping review into the rationale and behaviours underpinning routine blood tests in critically ill patients, effect on patient outcomes and possible strategies to reduce this**  
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**Introduction:** Unnecessary blood tests in the critically ill lead to adverse patient outcomes and significant financial cost. It has been shown that 90% of patients admitted to critical care will be anemic by day 3 of their stay (1). Several physiological mechanisms that protect against anaemia are impaired in the critically ill (2), and repeated blood tests make a significant contribution towards iatrogenic anaemia. Unnecessary blood tests can also lead to organ dysfunction, prolonged length of stay, and increased mortality. Unnecessary blood tests also incur significant expense, with one study estimating blood tests cost £362,587.80/year was spent per year on blood tests (3).

**Objectives:** This review aims to identify the outcomes of routine blood tests, rationale and behaviours underpinning routine blood tests in critically ill patients, and possible strategies to reduce this in the future.

**Methods:** A scoping review was conducted in accordance with Arksey and O’Malley’s principles (4). As there is not a large amount of quality data in this area, a scoping review was chosen over a literature review to allow greater flexibility. This review did not attempt to evaluate the quality of the literature as there is not enough quality data published yet. A PEO format was used to formulate the research question. OVID, EmBase and Medline were searched with the key terms ‘intensive care’ and ‘routine blood tests’. 432 articles were identified and reduced to 17 articles which were included in the final review. Thematic analysis was conducted on the texts included in the final review in accordance with Braun and Clarke’s key steps (5).

**Results:** Three key themes were identified, with associated subthemes - outcomes of routine blood tests, the rationale underpinning this, and strategies to reduce this. Patient centred outcomes featured heavily in the analysis, as this is clinically most important, and widely undisputed. The literature demonstrated that unnecessary blood tests can lead to iatrogenic anaemia, organ dysfunction, increased length of stay and mortality. The relationship between iatrogenic anaemia and an increased need for transfusion was less concrete, with some studies demonstrating a reduction in RBC transfusion and others failing to demonstrate a difference. Significant financial costs were associated with unnecessary blood tests and the follow up incurred, as well as the cognitive demand on clinicians reviewing blood results. Rationale behind routine and unnecessary blood tests was discussed in several papers. Rationale was influenced by clinicians knowledge, time constraints on the decision maker, and reflex ordering. It is often easier to adopt a ‘one-size-fits-all’ strategy when it comes to blood tests in order to minimize decision making. Additionally, less experienced clinicians have a tendency to order more blood tests and a lack of guidelines in this area means there is significant variation between clinicians. Environmental factors influencing routine blood tests were the presence of central/arterial lines, increased frequency of blood tests in intensive care and increased use of point of care testing. Several strategies were employed by the literature, with bundled interventions demonstrating the best outcomes. Staff education for nurses and clinicians was a common theme. There were no local/national/international guidelines identified which could guide decision making in this area. This can be further supported by equipment such as low-volume blood tubes, paediatric blood tubes and blood conservation sampling devices (BCSDs). Modification of checklists and electronic ordering systems also play an important part in reducing the amount of unnecessary blood tests.

**Conclusion:** This scoping review has identified several themes in the literature which provide evidence that routine blood tests can lead to adverse outcomes for patients, and unnecessary costs for healthcare organizations. Some key behaviours and influencing factors have been identified as important reasons for routine blood tests, that can be targeted in order to change practice. This review has identified several promising strategies to reduce the amount of unnecessary blood tests in ICU, which when combined can lead to better patient care. The results of this scoping review will inform ongoing work in this area and may help to develop consensus led national guidelines and a gold standard model for blood tests in ICU. The authors hope to develop consensus around new guidelines and implementation of a package of change incorporating several of the strategies identified in this review. It is anticipated that this scoping review will help to inform core outcomes to measure future progress in this area.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


### 000976

**Collaboration in Covid-19 crisis: an international survey on supervision, quality and safety, and collaboration amongst (redeployed) ICU personnel**  
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000976
Introduction: To meet Covid-19 demands, intensive care units (ICU) had to rapidly expand capacities with help of health care workers redeployed outside their regular scope of practice. During the height of the pandemic, (re-)deployed ICU personnel was surveyed regarding level and quality of supervision, quality and safety of care provided, and interprofessional collaboration.

Methods: In an international, prospective, observational cohort survey study, physicians, nurses and allied health personnel, redeployed at ICUs in Utrecht, New York and Dublin completed the survey. Data analysis focused on: Supervision; Quality and safety of care; Collaboration, communication and atmosphere; Recruitment, scheduling and team composition; Organization and facilities.

Results: Quality and safety of care were perceived as lower than usual but acceptable by the majority respondents (n=368). Supervision, was rated less than optimal but overall quality was acceptable to good. Where IC-trained nurse-to-patient ratios decreased most critically (Utrecht), nurses were most critical about supervision and quality of care. The working atmosphere was overwhelmingly felt as collaborative and supportive. Continuity of working environment and team composition, informal (‘curbside’) consultations and availability of protocols were critical mediators.

Conclusion: A surge of critically ill patients can be accommodated by IC trained personnel on expanded or new ICUs when assisted by redeployed non-ICU trained personnel. Although quality of care, supervision capacity, training background and experience were compromised to meet COVID-19 demands, key features to maintain acceptable quality of care included stable teams matching less with more experienced personnel allowing for adequate supervision, better than normal interprofessional collaboration and a robust culture of informal consultation.

001010

Intensive care unit (ICU) referrals and admissions at a district general hospital (DGH) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in ICU referrals and admissions across the UK during 2020 [1]. Intensive care beds are a limited and expensive resource and decisions on patient admission are often very challenging [2]. Proformas help to standardise documentation and decision logging during patient referrals [3]. They provide easily accessible evidence in case of a future referral and allow audit of decision-making processes. A preliminary survey of doctors working in a DGH ICU was undertaken to assess the current referral and admission process in expectation of an increased volume of work.

Objectives: As a result of the survey, three main areas for improvement were identified:

1. To maintain a record of all ICU referrals and decision-making processes
2. To reduce the time taken for documentation of referrals and admissions
3. To improve the quality and appropriateness of referrals from parent specialties

Methods: A proforma was designed for dual use as a referral and admission document. All referrals were recorded on paper and staff received training on how to apply the proforma. After assessment of each referral, irrespective of admission outcome, a completed copy of the proforma was placed in both the patient’s notes and a dedicated referrals folder. After one month, a further survey was designed to assess the response post-implementation of the proforma. All referrals made over a three-month period between April and June 2020 were audited.

Results: The initial survey received 12 responses. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, documentation of any referral or admission took on average 10-15 minutes. All survey participants felt that referring teams did not have a good understanding of the role of ICU care and estimated that up to 40% of all referrals received were inappropriate. The follow-up survey received 14 responses. Implementation of the proforma reduced the time taken to document a referral or admission on average by 5-10 minutes. Twelve participants found the proforma a useful aid, helping to provide clear documentation and ease communication between ICU team members. Less than 9% of the referrals made between April and June 2020 were admitted to ICU with over 32% of referrals deemed unsuitable for further escalation. Approximately 50% of referrals were made by registrars, with 13% discussed by consultants. The median age of patients referred was 67.5 and the most common reason was for respiratory deterioration.

Conclusion: This quality improvement project successfully reduced the time taken to document ICU referrals and admissions. Use of a proforma has provided many benefits, including standardisation of documentation, decision logging and improvement of intra- and inter-team communication.

Only a small proportion of patients referred to ICU have been suitable for admission. A teaching session is being designed so that referral information can be fed-back to parent specialties. Referrals will be re-audited after this.

Data analysis of this project has been limited by incomplete proforma documentation from participating users.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001027

The implementation of a structured daily assessment proforma to critical care areas during the COVID‑19 pandemic

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Introduction: With early reports from other countries of the enormous strain COVID-19 had placed on healthcare systems, a decision was made at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to increase the capacity of Critical Care beds and redeploy junior doctors from other specialties to prepare for a rapid surge in patient numbers. To facilitate ongoing daily review of patients, a structured assessment proforma was produced to be used in all Critical Care areas for COVID-19 patients.

Principles by which the proforma were designed included: easy and rapid to complete (by doctors with limited ICU experience), enables rapid decision-making by senior ICU doctors, ensures thorough and appropriate reviews.
The benefits of protocolisation in ensuring patient safety, standardising assessments, and minimising error have previously been detailed in the literature(1,2). This project aimed to determine whether the implementation of a structured assessment proforma had enabled appropriate daily ICU reviews to be conducted despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Methods: A structured assessment proforma was produced by members of the Consultant body, agreed by the department, and subsequently disseminated to Critical Care areas in early April. Clinical records of all patients admitted to ICU within a random one-week period were reviewed. An online survey was sent out to all junior doctors working on ICU. The survey asked two key questions:

- How confident they felt in conducting an ICU review prior to using and with the proforma.
- How likely they felt they were to omit important information prior to using and with the proforma.

Answers were recorded as a score between 0 and 10 and paired-samples t-tests conducted.

Results: All proformas completed within a random one-week period (30/05/2020 to 05/06/2020) were reviewed (n=47), from a total of 8 patients admitted on ICU with COVID-19. The date was written on 100% and time on 89.4% of proformas. 97.9% of the proformas contained an appropriate A to E assessment (as defined by completion of the proforma), 100% contained a summary of main clinical issues, and a documented plan. 100% of the proformas had a named doctor completing it and 85.1% had a clearly documented Consultant. 17 doctors completed the survey (sent out on 29/05/2020). There was a significant difference in confidence prior to using (mean score = 6, SD = 3.41) and with the proforma (mean score = 8.76, SD = 1.09); t(16) = −3.62, p = 0.003.

There was a significant difference in how likely doctors felt they were to omit important information prior to using (mean score = 4.76, SD = 2.54) and with the proforma (mean score = 7.12, SD = 2.37); t(16) = −2.59, p = 0.02.

Conclusion: Implementation of a structured assessment proforma has enabled appropriate daily ICU reviews to be conducted despite the surge in patient numbers during the pandemic.

With a possible second wave on the horizon, it may be prudent for other hospitals to implement a similar proforma to facilitate daily reviews of COVID-19 patients on ICU.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
**Conclusion:** The comparison between the trends of the amount of COVID patients in Lombardy and of the amount of patients entering our Hub shows the support given to the system. In Lombardy a lack of available ICU beds was evident [3]. In such extraordinary condition the creation of an emergency Hub and spoke system seemed to have indirect benefits.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001080**

**Shared decision making impact on early tracheostomy in prolonged intubated critical patient-post implementation 2 year follow up data**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001080**

**Introduction:** By previous collected retrospective cohort data analysis, our team revealed introducing shared decision making on early Tracheostomy (less than 14 days) in prolonged intubated critical patient improve total Tracheostomy rate, reduce ventilator days and length of hospital stay, and shorten the Tracheostomy decision time delay.

**Methods:** Medical record of tertiary medical center adult ICU admitted respiratory failure patient from Jan. 1st, 2018 to Dec. 31th, 2019 was retrospectively reviewed as post-SDM (after Jan. 1st, 2017) intervention follow up period for analysis. Data including total Tracheostomy rate, early and late Tracheostomy rate, ventilator weaning rate and ventilator days, in-hospital mortality, and length of hospital stay of prolonged intubated patient were collected. SPSS was applied for statistically analysis, and a p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant difference.

**Results:** By inclusion and exclusion criteria, medical records from 366 patients from Jan. 1st, 2018 to Dec. 31th, 2019, who were considered prolonged intubated s/p Tracheostomy SDM, were applied for further analysis. Among them the early and late Tracheostomy rate was 41% and 69% individually. In compared to previous reported pre-SDM data, ventilator weaning rate(289(79.2%) vs. 89(69.3%), p< 0.05), ventilator days(39.3+/−20.5 vs. 42.3+/−17.3, p< 0.05), in-hospital mortality((10.3%) vs. 7(3.3%), p: 0.737), and length of hospital stay(61.2+/−23.4 vs. 64.3+/−29.2, p: 0.04) of prolonged intubated patient. The continued impact on introducing SDM was impressed, with improving ventilator weaning rate, reduced ventilator days, and shortening the length of hospital stay of prolonged intubated patient by 3 days for each in compared in between groups. The Tracheostomy decision making time delay was found 6 days less after SDM introduced was also consistently noted.

**Conclusion:** Our retrospective cohort study follow-up data revealed introducing shared decision making on early Tracheostomy in prolonged intubated critical patient persistently improve total Tracheostomy rate, improve ventilator weaning rate, reduce ventilator days and length of hospital stay, and shorten the Tracheostomy decision time delay.

**001083**

**Quantifying the impact of informed code status discussions in critically ill elderly patients in the ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001083**

**Introduction:** Resuscitation Code Status is a controversial topic that often fails to obtain truly informed consent and is highly contextual depending on the nature and severity of illness. While studies have identified DNR status in ICU patients as a risk factor for mortality and...
adverse events, no literature has targeted elderly, critically ill patients for whom these conversations were intended. 

**Objectives:** Our study aimed to assess the relationship between code status and mortality in critically ill, elderly patients admitted to the ICU. As a secondary outcome, we sought to analyze the impact of an informed code status discussion on resource utilization. Specifically, our study focused on ascertaining if critically ill, elderly patients with DNR code status have different hospital outcomes relative to similarly ill patients who are full code.

**Methods:** Data for this retrospective study was obtained through a review of medical records at Sault Area Hospital, an accredited 289 bed large community hospital in Northern Ontario spanning a 5-year period. During this time, 613 patients were admitted to the ICU, 163 of whom met the inclusion criteria of being ≥70 years of age and APACHE II score ≥20. A Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve examined survival to hospital discharge comparing DNR and full code groups. DNR code status was defined as omission of cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the event of a cardiac arrest.

**Results:** 64 patients (39.3%) had a DNR order based on a documented conversation within 72 hours of admission. The remaining 99 (60.7%) patients were deemed to be full code. There was a significant association between DNR status and increased mortality ($p=0.004$). Patients with DNR code status stayed fewer days in ICU (7.7 days ± 3.6) vs. 9.9 days ± 8.3,$ p=0.03$) and used less resources (4.5 diagnostic images/pt ± 6.4) vs. 6.2 diagnostic images/pt ± 9.9,$ p=0.02$; 0.9 consultations ± 1.1 vs. 1.1 consultations ± 0.9,$ p=0.48$) than similarly ill patients who were full code with no benefit in long term survival at 21 days. Patients with full code status had a higher average cost of hospital and ICU admission in comparison to patients with DNR status ($99,704.70$CND/pt. vs $49,589.10$CND/pt. respectively).

**Conclusion:** Our study has demonstrated the benefit of having early, informed code status discussions in the ICU. In our study population, DNR code status is associated with significantly reduced resource utilization. Furthermore, no mortality benefit was seen in DNR vs full code status. DNR code status is associated with significantly reduced resource utilization. Furthermore, no mortality benefit was seen in DNR vs full code status.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Conclusion:** The barriers to implementing LocSSIPs in the 2018 NatSSIP implementation survey include: lack of time, staff culture, limited expertise, and poor clinical engagement. Education on LocSSIPs is already part of doctors’ induction and nurse education. The time taken to conduct a LocSSIP checklist is not significant. Staff culture of LocSSIPs being considered ‘someone else’s problem’, and not in the forefront of the team’s mind may play a part. However, given that details of the procedure are often recorded electronically, it seems that the systemic culture of not having the LocSSIP easily available is a significant factor in its omission. The team is usually at least a doctor and a nurse, so educational reinforcement must target both groups. We are contacting our device manufacturers to try and attach our LocSSIP forms to the kit used for the procedures – this

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**001088**

LocSSIPs in an intensive care setting: generating solutions to improve compliance

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001088

**Introduction:** In 2015, NHS England published the National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs), based on analysis of Never Events, Serious Incidents and near misses. These standards provided the basis for the creation of Local Safety Standards for Invasive procedures (LocSSIPs). To meet our ITU standards, at least 90% of invasive procedures performed should have a LocSSIP completed: this takes the form of a specific checklist, conducted by a team pre-, during, and post-procedure.

**Objectives:** To assess LocSSIP compliance in our Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) with a view to generating solutions for improved compliance

**Methods:** We consulted the paper notes for all patients resident on two ITU wards to take a ‘snapshot view’ of compliance at a single point in time. In situ invasive devices and corresponding LocSSIPs were identified from the patients’ notes and recorded. Devices to be recorded included: Dialysis Catheters, Arterial Catheters, Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) line, Central Venous Catheters, Tracheostomy, Bronchoscopy, Chest Drain, Extracorporeal Membranous Oxygenation (ECMO) Catheters, and Endotracheal Tubes.

**Results:**

There were a total of 27 devices in situ across both ICU wards. Only devices that were in situ at the time of data collection were audited for an accompanying LocSSIP. Of 27 invasive devices, LocSSIPs were only identified for 3, a compliance rate of 11.1%. The only devices for which LocSSIPs had been recorded were tracheostomies and CVCs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Number in situ</th>
<th>Completed LocSSIPs</th>
<th>Compliance (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dialysis Catheter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intecostical Drain</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICC Line</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheostomy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Venous Catheter</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Catheter</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** The barriers to implementing LocSSIPs in the 2018 NatSSIP implementation survey include: lack of time, staff culture, limited expertise, and poor clinical engagement. Education on LocSSIPs is already part of doctors’ induction and nurse education. The time taken to conduct a LocSSIP checklist is not significant. Staff culture of LocSSIPs being considered ‘someone else’s problem’, and not in the forefront of the team’s mind may play a part. However, given that details of the procedure are often recorded electronically, it seems that the systemic culture of not having the LocSSIP easily available is a significant factor in its omission. The team is usually at least a doctor and a nurse, so educational reinforcement must target both groups. We are contacting our device manufacturers to try and attach our LocSSIP forms to the kit used for the procedures – this
Finding resilience against burn-out syndrome and moral distress in an academic intensive care unit

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Introduction: Burnout Syndrome (BOS) is the result of chronic exposure to stress in the workplace and is characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and reduced personal accomplishment (1). Moral Distress (MD) occurs when individuals are placed in situations that are at odds with their core values and have little power to make changes (2). BOS and MD is a rising problem in Medicine and in Intensive Care in particular, not only affecting healthcare providers (HCPs) and their families but also affecting the quality of care provided by the HCPs (3,4). In a recent survey done in our ICUs, we found a high prevalence of BOS and MD amongst all groups of health care professionals using the MBI. While the MBI is well validated to detect BOS and MD, it lacks the depth to identify causes of BOS and MD.

Methods: Focus groups were conducted with HCP groups and were co-rated based on professional designation to facilitate psychological safety. The session were open to all members of the health care team and participation was voluntary. The focus group interview guide used in the sessions underwent iterative review and explored the daily work environment at both the organizational and individual level. It probed around burnout, moral distress, team dynamics, currently used coping strategies and interventions that were thought to be helpful in building resilience.

Results: All sessions were audiotaped and transcribed verbatim. A qualitative software (Qriqos - www.qriqos.com) was used to store, sort, index and code the information provided in the session. All transcripts were read individually and codes to relevant passages were collected under themes, disagreements were resolved by consensus.

Conclusion: We found three main themes when looking at associations with BOS and MD in our ICU HCPs: Organizational, exposure to high intensity situations and poor team dynamics. Some of the suggestions provided by the participants for interventions to reduce BOS and MD are challenging to execute while others are doable (e.g. regular debriefing sessions, improved communication) and should be considered for implementation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Asia was different from Europe in higher cigarette smoking rate and more severe air pollution. Varies inhaled COPD medications had safety concern in acute myocardial infarction (AMI). The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of COPD in Asia AMI patients and real world safety of COPD medications in AMI patients.

Methods: We conducted a nationwide cohort study extracted data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. Patients who hospitalized between 2000 and 2012 with a primary diagnosis of first AMI were included. Among the 186,112 prospective AMI patients, COPD was diagnosed in 13,065 (7.0%) patients. AMI patients without COPD were 1:1 matched by propensity score matching. AMI cohort was further divided to STEMI and NSTEMI cohort. STEMI without COPD was matched by propensity score. Cox proportional hazards regression model was used to estimate adjusted hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence intervals (95% CI).

Results: During 12 years follow up, there were 18405 (77.65%) and 16093 (67.89%) deaths in AMI with COPD and without COPD group, respectively. The adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) of mortality in AMI with COPD group was 1.12 (95% CI 1.09 to 1.14). In STEMI with COPD group, aHR was 1.20 (95% CI 1.16 to 1.23), short acting muscarinic antagonist: aHR 1.3, 95% CI 1.26 to 1.34). Corticosteroids using also increased 10% mortality (aHR 1.10, 95% CI 1.07 to 1.14). However, long acting inhaled bronchodilators reduced mortality (long acting beta-agonist: aHR 0.87, 95% CI 0.81 to 0.94, long acting muscarinic antagonist: aHR 0.82, 95% CI 0.69 to 0.96). In AMI patients increased mortality (short acting beta-agonist: aHR 1.2, 95% CI 1.16 to 1.23, short acting muscarinic antagonist: aHR 1.3, 95% CI 1.26 to 1.34). Corticosteroids using also increased 10% mortality (aHR 1.10, 95% CI 1.07 to 1.14). However, long acting inhaled bronchodilators reduced mortality (long acting beta-agonist: aHR 0.87, 95% CI 0.81 to 0.94, long acting muscarinic antagonist: aHR 0.82, 95% CI 0.69 to 0.96).

Conclusion: In Asia, AMI patient with COPD was associated with higher mortality compared with those without COPD. Guideline recommended AMI medications decreased mortality in patient with or without COPD, but they were underused in Taiwan. Using inhaled short-acting bronchodilators and corticosteroids in AMI patient reduced survival. On the contrary, long acting inhaled bronchodilators were associated with survival benefit. Appropriate COPD medications and adequate standard AMI medications in AMI patient were equal crucial in improving long term survival.

Introduction: Post-intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) is a major health problem that describes impairment in their physical, cognitive, or mental health status. Neuropathic pain (NP) is related with worst pain-related interference and poor quality of life (QoL). Despite of that, the role of NP in Critical Illness survivors (CIS) and its relationship with PICS has been not establish.

Objectives: The goal of this study was to evaluate the prevalence and impact of NP in CIS, and its relationship with anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), majors PICS components.

Methods: We conducted a prospective 12-month follow-up study. Patients admitted in ICU were consecutively recruited and were evaluated before ICU discharge, and at 3 and 12 months after. Evaluations included: NP (DN4: Douleur Neuropathique en 4 Questions); pain intensity and pain related-interference (BPI-LV: Brief Pain Inventory Long Version); anxiety and depression (HAD Test: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale); QoL (EuroQoL Test 5 dimension, 3 levels); PTSD (PTSD Checklist–Civilian Version).

Results: A DN4 test positive was related with a major pain intensity (BPI intensity score >= 3), worse pain-related interference (BPI interference score >= 3), worse value of EuroQol visual analogue scale and more depression in the 3 and 12-month follow-up, and more anxiety and PTSD in the 12-month (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Neuropathic pain is common in Critical Illness survivors, affects their QoL and interferes with their daily live activities. Moreover, its related with anxiety, depression, and PTSD, key components of PICS.

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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s):
Introduction: The mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) belongs to the steroid receptor superfamily. Discoveries from the past two decades reveal that MRs are expressed in non-epithelial cells and exert numerous additional functions beyond electrolyte handling in the distal tubule of the kidney. The recent identification of MRs in immune cells has led to novel functions of MR, such as modulation of immunity and inflammation. The MR is unique in this family in that it has two ligands, aldosterone and cortisol. Aldosterone and cortisol have a similar affinity for the MR.

Objectives: To evaluate the expression of MR in peripheral polymorphonuclear cells in critical illness for a 13-day period.

Methods: Forty-two mechanically ventilated, steroid-free patients were studied. Blood samples were collected on admission in the ICU and on days 4, 8, and 13, to measure MR expression. Twenty-five age- and sex-matched subjects were used as controls.

Results: Compared to healthy controls, severely ill patients on admission in the ICU exhibited a 12-fold lower MR mRNA expression (0.08 (0.04-0.92); p < 0.0001). During ICU stay, MR expression levels remained reduced up to day 13. More specifically, on day 4 patients exhibited 8-fold reduced levels [0.13 (0.04-0.41); p < 0.001], on day 8, 5-fold [0.20 (0.05-0.50); p < 0.01] and on day 13, 14-fold [0.07 (0.05-0.25); p < 0.001]. This was corroborated by the fact that compared to admission, MR expression levels during the stay period remained unaltered. The MR-downstream target gene galectin-3 (GAL3) also exhibited reduced expression on ICU admission, compared to healthy controls [0.51 (0.37-0.68); p < 0.0001].

Conclusion: MR exhibits a very low expression in critically ill patients, and remains low during the 13-day observation period. The downstream target of MR, GAL3, as expected is also low on ICU admission.

000100

Healthcare utilization, costs and survival of a Canadian cohort of patients discharged from a specialized weaning centre with matched ICU controls: a retrospective longitudinal health administrative database study

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Introduction: Specialized weaning centres (SWCs) provide an alternative model of care to the ICU for patients requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation. Many studies reporting numerous countries report short term outcomes of SWCs; limited data describe mortality beyond 1 year. Furthermore, comparative data on long term outcomes with a control group representing PMV patients who remain in an ICU setting are lacking. Quantification of long-term survival, healthcare utilization and costs of patients experiencing PMV informs patient/family decision making, healthcare spending policy, and understanding of specialized weaning centres (SWC) as an alternate care model.

Objectives: To compare long-term healthcare utilization, costs, and survival trajectory of Canadian SWC patients with a matched cohort of >21-day stay ICU patients.

Methods: Retrospective longitudinal (2004-2016, 12-year) study. We linked patients discharged alive identified from the clinical/quality database of the Prolonged-ventilation Weaning Centre (PWC) (Toronto, Canada) to Canadian health administrative databases. We used 1:1 matching (age, sex, Charlson Comorbidity Index, income quintiles) to patients experiencing prolonged ICU stay only. We created multivariable Cox proportional hazard models of survival and time to home discharge.

Results: We matched 228 SWC to 228 prolonged ICU stay survivors (456 patient cohort); 42% had Charlson score of >4. Mean (SD) duration of SWC admission was 62.2 (85.7) days with mean (SD) 95 (87.7) ICU days before SWC admission. Mean (SD) ICU LOS of the prolonged ICU cohort was 43.4 (32.7) days. SWC survivors required more ICU admissions, hospital and ICU days 12 months before index admission. Six months and 12 months following unit discharge, more SWC patients required ICU admission (30.3% vs 16.7%, P < 0.001), with more frequent (and longer) hospital and ICU admissions, specialist visits, and billable procedures. Median costs were $10,853 (6-months) (P = 0.01) and $13,138 (12-months) (P = 0.004) higher for SWC survivors. At 12-years, hospitalization/ICU admissions and hospital days were similar. SWC survivors consumed more ICU bed days (25 (106.3) vs 7.8 (21.9); P = 0.02) and cost more healthcare dollars ($135,975 vs $119,763, P = 0.02). There was no difference in home discharge (hazard ratio (HR) 1.30, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.95-1.80). Survival was not different (72% vs 61% dead at 12 years; HR 1.18, 95% CI 0.93-1.50). Longer length of index hospital admission (HR 1.02, 95% CI 1.00-1.04 per month increase) was associated with increased survival whereas increasing numbers of care location transfers was associated with decreased survival (HR 0.88, 95% CI 0.79-0.98).

Conclusion: SWC patients used more acute healthcare services before index admission suggesting greater medical fragility and after unit discharge with higher public healthcare costs. Repatriation of non-weaned patients to acute settings due to limited long-term care resources may have influenced this finding. Survival trajectory was similar.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. This study was supported by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), which is funded by an annual grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

000123

The change in in-hospital mortality after discharge from intensive care over a period of 20 years

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000123

Introduction: The intensive care setting has undergone major paradigm shifts over the years with the ability to expand beyond the physical ICU setting and the transition to continuous monitoring and appropriately minimising invasive procedures. We performed a large retrospective cohort study to analyse the changes to in-hospital mortality after ICU discharge over time.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study on patients discharged from ICU in a District General Hospital between 2000-2020. Palliative patients and missing patient data were excluded. Patient search was obtained via ward watcher software. Total patient number was 12762 and following exclusion 9081 were included. The patients were grouped into in-hours (08:00-17:59) and out-of-hours (18:00-07:59) depending on the hour of discharge. The mortality data was collected and then compared over 5-year increments to evaluate progression over time. The results underwent statistical Chi Square analysis.

Results: A total of 9081 patients discharged alive from ICU were studied. Mean age 62.7 years (range, 16-98), 4861 (53.5%) were male, 4220 (46.5%) were female. The overall in-hospital mortality was 744 (8.2%). The mortality rate in 5 year increments from 2000 to 2020 are 9.53%, 10.33%, 10.37% and 5.42% respectfully. The most recent 5 years showed a statistically significant drop in mortality of 4.95% (p-value < 0.00001) to the 2010-2015 group. The results show a consistent higher mortality rate in 2000 (9.53%) and 2005 (9.57%), and 2010-2015 (9.42-9.34%). The mortality rate in 5 year increments from 2000 to 2020 are 953, 1033, 1037 and 542 respectfully. The most recent 5 years showed a statistically significant drop in mortality of 4.95% (p-value < 0.00001) to the 2010-2015 group. The results show a consistent higher mortality rate in 2000 vs 2020 (9.53% vs 8.22%). The mortality rate in 5 year increments from 2000 to 2020 are 9.53%, 10.33%, 10.37% and 5.42% respectfully. The most recent 5 years showed a statistically significant drop in mortality of 4.95% (p-value < 0.00001) to the 2010-2015 group. The results show a consistent higher mortality rate in 2000 vs 2020 (9.53% vs 8.22%). The mortality rate in 5 year increments from 2000 to 2020 are 953, 1033, 1037 and 542 respectfully. The most recent 5 years showed a statistically significant drop in mortality of 4.95% (p-value < 0.00001) to the 2010-2015 group. The results show a consistent higher mortality rate in 2000 vs 2020 (9.53% vs 8.22%).

Conclusion: Mortality after ICU discharge over time. The results underwent statistical Chi Square analysis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Ammonia, generated from the deamination of amino acids, is a constituent of all human body fluids. Elevated serum ammonia is commonly observed in patients with hepatic diseases, but large and multicenter studies on the association of serum ammonia levels with clinical outcomes in a broad population of adult patients are scant.

Objectives: The study aimed to assess the association of serum ammonia upon admission during initial intensive care unit (ICU) stay with ICU and in-hospital mortalities.

Methods: This retrospective observational cohort study included 2,703 adult patients with available admission serum ammonia measurements from 335 ICUs within 208 hospitals in eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD). Ammonia levels were divided into deciles, and the ICU mortalities within ammonia deciles were assessed. Univariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses were performed to analyze the relationship between serum ammonia and mortalities. The covariates included demographics, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) IV score, treatments, and diseases diagnosed during the first 24 h of ICU stay. Model discrimination was assessed by the calculation of the receiver operating characteristic curve and reporting the area under the curve (AUC). Interaction and subgroup analyses were conducted to determine whether the effect of ammonia on mortalities varied in patients with or without hepatic diseases.

Results: The median of serum ammonia was 39 (23–65) µg/dL. Totally, we defined three ammonia categories: < 47 µg/dL, 47 µg/dL to 111 µg/dL, and ≥111 µg/dL, corresponding to low, intermediate, and high ICU mortality. ICU and in-hospital mortalities in the three ammonia categories were 7.59%, 16.52%, and 32.72% and 14.05%, 22.96%, and 42.28%, respectively. Increased ammonia was significantly associated with increased ICU mortality (per 10 µg/dL increase: odds ratio, 1.069 [95% confidence intervals, 1.048–1.091]; Intermediate vs. Low: 1.935 [1.445–2.592]; High vs. Low: 4.239 [2.916–6.162], and in-hospital mortality (per 10 µg/dL increase: 1.060 [1.040–1.081]; Intermediate vs. Low: 1.440 [1.127–1.839]; High vs. Low: 3.249 [2.330–4.529]). Adding ammonia to APACHE IV score improved the AUC from 0.826 to 0.839 (P < 0.001) for ICU mortality and 0.806 to 0.813 (P = 0.001) for in-hospital mortality. Interaction and subgroup analyses demonstrated consistent results in patients with or without hepatic diseases. In patients with hepatic disease, serum ammonia levels were significantly associated with the ICU and in-hospital mortalities (1.053 [1.025–1.081], 1.040 [1.015–1.067], per 10 µg/dL increase), the results were similar in the non-hepatic disease group (1.078 [1.051–1.106], 1.071 [1.046–1.096], per 10 µg/dL increase).

Conclusion: Serum ammonia levels upon admission might be an early risk factor for higher ICU and in-hospital mortalities in ICU patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Trained ICU doulas can provide early psychological support to the critically ill patients

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Introduction: Over a third of critical illness survivors suffer from mental health problems following hospital discharge. Memories of delusional experiences are a major risk factor. Research on the formation of fear demonstrates that if mitigating information about a traumatic event is introduced during the time of memory formation or upon its subsequent recall, the emotional experience of the memory may be modified. Given that semantic processing continues during altered states of consciousness, and that the thinking process of the critically ill is characterized by heightened suggestibility, we adapted an approach based on positive suggestions to provide early psychological support for the critically ill in parallel with medical treatment.

Objectives: We used trained ICU doulas to provide an intervention targeting the vulnerable time period when memories are being formed.

Methods: Adult patients on mechanical ventilation and/or vasopressors were recruited for this single-arm prospective study. Intervention was administered daily during the ICU stay in parallel with medical treatment. Approach consisted of three phases: informing the patient about details of their ICU treatment while providing positive reframing and pre-framing of the events in their clinical course; actively involving the patient in the treatment process once they were able to communicate; and debriefing prior to ICU dismissal to clarify potential memory distortions. As a secondary analysis, subjects were compared to a historic cohort of patients receiving standard care in the ICU using adjusted linear regression models. Interactions with mechanical ventilation status.

Results: Forty-three patients received the intervention provided by two trained ICU doulas for an average of 5 days with each session lasting an average of 20 minutes. Questionnaires were administered following ICU transfer. Compared to historical controls (N=299), intervention was associated with reduced Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) — Depression subscale (adjusted mean difference estimate=−1.3, 95%CI=[−2.6, 0.0], p=0.049). In a model with ventilation interaction, intervention was associated with reduced HADS-Anxiety subscale among ventilated patients (estimate=−2.0, 95%CI=[−3.6, −0.3], p=0.019), but not among those without mechanical ventilation (p=0.73). There was insufficient evidence to suggest an association with MoCA-Blind or IES-R subscores. These initial results suggest the intervention may be beneficial.

Conclusion: Positive therapeutic suggestion is a unique approach aimed to reduce formation of traumatic memories and to humanize critical care. It was feasible to successfully intervene on 43 critically ill patients. Testing the intervention on a wider scale with randomized treatment arms is warranted.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Improving CDC definition of ventilator associated condition (VAC)

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Introduction: Patients on mechanical ventilation (MV) can develop a ventilator associated event (VAE), which is associated with higher morbidity and mortality. The new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) VAE definition, updated early 2020, replaces prior surveillance criteria. [1] The most inclusive VAE definition is the ventilator associated condition (VAC), requiring at least two consecutive calendar days of MV stability followed by two consecutive calendar days of increased MV support (defined as lowest change ≥4 PEEP ≥ 3 or FiO2 ≥ 20% maintained >1 hour; hereafter ∆PEEP or ∆FiO2). Although VAC is designed as a population-level surveillance definition, it was developed by expert consensus and has not been validated on population data.

Objectives: The aims are to evaluate VAC definition performance by clinical outcomes and to optimize the definition in prediction of clinical outcomes when applying different ∆PEEP, ∆FiO2, and time-window combinations.

Methods: We utilized the multi-center eICU Collaborative Research Database [2–4][5] Inclusion criteria: ICU stay ≥4 days, MV ≥4 days, with PEEP and FiO2 data availability. Exclusion criteria: age <18 years. ∆PEEP was examined in a range of 1 to 7 and ∆FiO2 was examined from 10% to 60% above stability baseline. The time-windows for stability and deterioration were varied by calendar days (CDC definition) and rolling 24-hour time windows from the start of MV. Within these time-windows, patients with VAC and without VAC were compared by in-hospital mortality log odds ratios.

Results: From a total of 200,859 patients in the eICU database, we identified 8,230 patients who met our inclusion criteria (Table 1). For patients with VAC, the mortality log odds ratio heatmap by calendar day (Figure 1a) stratifies at ∆PEEP ≥4 and ∆PEEP ≥6. Increasing the ∆FiO2 criteria increases mortality log odds at the expense of sensitivity. Heatmap color gradations suggest greater increases of ∆PEEP and ∆FiO2 clusters mortality into mild, moderate, and severe VAC. Similar trends are seen in 24-hour time-windows from the start of MV to determine stability and deterioration periods in Figure 1b. Unlike calendar day, the 24-hour time-window allows equitable comparison of MV periods between all patients.

Conclusion: This data-driven approach validates CDC VAC surveillance criteria in a publicly available ICU dataset. Furthermore, data analysis shows that the VAC definition can be improved to differentiate mild, moderate, and severe VAC by redefining time-windows, ∆PEEP, and ∆FiO2.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Vancomycin trough concentration was associated with mortality in critically ill patients

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Impact of spontaneous respiratory rate variability on clinical outcomes in critically ill patients

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4. We appreciate the researchers at the MIT Laboratory for Computational Physiology and collaborating research groups to keep eICU-CRD databases available.
among those patients, the prognostic implication of serum chloride levels has scarcely been assessed.

**Objectives:** To analyze the relation of admission serum chloride levels with ICU mortality.

**Methods:** The multicenter retrospective cohort study recruited 59,807 patients from the eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD), which includes data from 335 distinct ICUs throughout the continental United States between 2014 and 2015. The clinical records of adult patients with a single hospital admission and serum chloride level, measured during the initial 24 hours of first ICU stay, between 96 mEq/L and 111 mEq/L were analyzed in the present study. Restricted cubic splines were used to visualize the relationship between serum chloride levels and ICU mortality. Patients were categorized into low (<104 mEq/L) or high (≥104 mEq/L) chloride groups. And multivariable logistic regression models were further used to explore the association between serum chloride levels and ICU mortality. We also performed an external validation in the Multiparameter Intelligent Monitoring in Intensive Care II Database.

**Results:** The multivariable logistic regression models revealed that for every unit increase in serum chloride level, there was an 8% decline in mortality [odds ratio (OR) 0.92, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.90–0.93]. And restricted cubic splines revealed that the risk of ICU mortality increased rapidly with serum chloride level decreased to lower than 104 mEq/L. In comparison to those with serum chloride levels ≥104 mEq/L, patients with serum chloride level <104 mEq/L had a higher risk of mortality [OR 1.46, 95% CI 1.80–2.35]. In external validation cohort with 16,543 patients, we found a consistent result that patients in the low chloride group also had an increased risk of ICU mortality [OR 2.16, 95% CI 1.82–2.56].

**Conclusion:** Our study revealed that, within a relatively normal range, the admission serum chloride level is still independently and inversely associated with ICU mortality. And a serum chloride level below 104 mEq/L may increase the mortality risk in critically ill patients, which may facilitate early risk stratification and improve fluid management for critically ill patients in the future.

**000232**

**Serum lactate dehydrogenase may serve as a risk factor for prognosis of critically ill patients**

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**Introduction:** Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), widely synthesized in muscle, liver and red blood cells, is one of the key enzymes in the glycolytic pathway. Although serum LDH is correlated with the outcomes of septic patients, whether serum LDH impacts on mortality in unselected ICU patients remains unclear.

**Objectives:** To investigate the potential relationship between serum LDH levels and ICU and hospital mortalities.

**Methods:** Patients with serum LDH measurements during the initial 24 h of first ICU stay from 335 ICUs within 208 hospitals in eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD) were included in this retrospective observational cohort study. Patients were divided into four groups according to quartiles of the serum LDH levels. The associations of serum LDH with ICU and hospital mortalities were assessed using univariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses. The covariates included Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation IV (APACHE IV) score, demographics, treatments performed before admission and LDH tested, and diseases diagnosed during the first 24 h of ICU stay. Interaction and subgroup analyses were performed for those patients who had different levels of APACHE IV score.

**Results:** The overall cohort comprised 1,981 patients. ICU and hospital mortalities in the four groups were 7.33%, 10.10%, 14.86% and 23.34%, \( P < 0.001 \); 11.00%, 15.56%, 22.09%, and 30.99%, \( P < 0.001 \), respectively. Univariable logistic regression analysis showed that serum LDH level was significantly associated with mortalities. Using the Q1 (lowest quartile) as a reference, the odds ratios (95% confidence intervals) with ICU and hospital mortalities of Q2, Q3 and Q4 were 1.420 (0.907–2.222), 2.206 (1.450–3.356), and 3.848 (2.585–5.728) and 1.491 (1.027–2.164), 2.294 (1.612–3.266), and 3.633 (2.584–5.108), respectively. After further adjustment for all covariates, the influence of serum LDH on ICU and hospital mortalities were similar (ICU mortality, Q2 vs. Q1: 1.019 [0.606–1.713]; Q3 vs. Q1: 1.876 [1.037–2.710]; Q4 vs. Q1: 1.747 [1.086–2.809]; hospital mortality, Q2 vs. Q1: 1.193 [0.777–1.832]; Q3 vs. Q1: 1.931 [1.290–2.889]; Q4 vs. Q1: 2.066 [1.378–3.098]). In addition, a linear association between serum LDH quartiles and ICU and hospital mortalities (ICU: 1.242 [1.075–1.436]; hospital: 1.300 [1.148–1.473]) were found. When stratified by APACHE IV score < 61 (975 patients) and ≥ 61 (1006 patients), no significant interaction was observed and similar results persisted in the patients with different APACHE IV scores.

**Conclusion:** The level of serum LDH may aid in the early identification of critically ill patients for higher risks of ICU and hospital mortalities.

**000234**

**Serum albumin level may serve as a predictor of all-cause mortality in critically ill patients**

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**Introduction:** Albumin plays an essential role in the maintenance of colloid osmotic pressure and is involved in several physiological and pathological processes, such as keeping vascular permeability, binding and transporting numerous endogenous and exogenous compounds, regulating of acid-base balance, scavenging free radical, and inhibiting platelet function as well as antithrombotic effect. An abnormally low serum albumin level (SAL) was common in intensive care unit (ICU) and was related to adverse outcomes. However, the optimal SAL was inconsistent across different studies. Albumin plays an essential role in the maintenance of colloid osmotic pressure and is involved in several physiological and pathological processes, such as keeping vascular permeability, binding and transporting numerous endogenous and exogenous compounds, regulating of acid-base balance, scavenging free radical, and inhibiting platelet function as well as antithrombotic effect.

**Objectives:** To investigate the potential relationship between serum SAL levels and ICU and hospital mortality.

**Methods:** This retrospective multicenter cohort study includes 36,448 patients extracted from the eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD) from 335 distinct ICUs throughout the continental United States. Patients with single hospital admission and having albumin records in the initial 24 h of the first ICU admission in eICU-CRD database were included. The outcomes of this study were ICU and hospital mortalities. Restricted cubic splines and logistic regression were performed to investigate the relationship between SAL and mortalities.

**Results:** The restrictive cubic splines revealed a rapid increase of ICU mortality when SAL declined to around 3.5 g/dl. Thus, 36,448 ICU patients were divided into two groups according to the SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl. Patients with SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl (n = 28,972) had higher ICU and hospital mortalities than those with SAL > 3.5 g/dl (n = 7476; 9.8% vs 4.2%; \( P < 0.001 \) and 14.7% vs 5.9%, \( P < 0.001 \), respectively). After adjusted for demographic factors, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation IV score, treatments before admission SAL examination and primary diagnoses, logistic regression models showed that SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl was independently correlated with higher risks of ICU and hospital mortalities [odds ratio (OR): 1.161, 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.012–1.331, \( P = 0.033 \) and OR: 1.415, 95% CI: 1.259–1.590, \( P = 0.000232 \).
< 0.001, respectively). Furthermore, the association between SAL, as a continuous variable, and mortalities in patients with SAL < or ≤ 3.5 g/dl were assessed, respectively. The results showed that SAL was inversely associated with ICU and hospital mortalities (OR: 0.976, 95% CI: 0.968–0.984, P < 0.001; OR: 0.958, 95% CI: 0.952–0.965, P < 0.001, respectively) in the SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl group, but the associations were not found in the SAL > 3.5 g/dl group.

**Conclusion:** Patients with SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl had higher risks of ICU and hospital mortalities than those with SAL > 3.5 g/dl. Among patients with SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl, increasing SAL was associated with an increment of survival in critically ill patients. Therefore, a SAL ≤ 3.5 g/dl may serve as an optimal therapeutic target for exogenous albumin infusion in ICU.

**000246**

No impact of weather conditions on the outcome of intensive care unit patients

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**Introduction:** Global warming leads to increased exposure of human- to meteorological variation, including short-term weather changes. Weather conditions involve changes in temperature, heat and cold, in air pressure and in air humidity. Every single condition influences the incidence and mortality of different diseases such as myocardial infarction and stroke.

**Objectives:** This study investigated the impact of weather conditions on short- and long-term mortality of critically ill patients admitted to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

**Methods:** A total of 4321 medical patients (66±14 years, 2638 male) admitted to a German ICU over five years were retrospectively investigated. Meteorological information (mean, maximum and minimum air temperature, air pressure and humidity) for the same period was retrieved. The influence of absolute weather parameters, different seasons, sudden weather changes (delta 24 h) including “warm” and “cold” spells on ICU- and long-term mortality was analyzed. Significant results (p<0.05) were adjusted for SAPS-2 scores. Additionally, subgroups of patients older than 75 years, patients with myocardial infarction and with pneumonia were investigated.

**Results:** After correction for SAPS-2, no impact of meteorological conditions on mortality was found. Different seasons, sudden weather changes, “warm spells” or “cold spells” did not affect the outcome. In a subgroup analysis, none of the subgroups demonstrated increased mortality during the studied weather conditions. Additionally, no difference between males and females could be found.

**Conclusion:** Sudden weather changes and seasonal variations have no impact on short- and long-term mortality in critically ill patients.

**000263**

Influence of serum anion gap on mortality in critically ill patients: a multicenter cohort study

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**Introduction:** Anion gap (AG), which is the difference between unmeasured anions and unmeasured cations, has been used to evaluate acid-base statuses and guide the management of intensive care units (ICUs) patients. However, there were controversies in the relationship between AG and mortality.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the association between AG and ICU mortality in a large sample of ICU patients.

**Methods:** We retrospectively enrolled adult patients with complete serum sodium, potassium, chloride, and bicarbonate in the first 24 hours of initial ICU stay from 335 ICUs at 208 hospitals across the United States in eICU Collaborative Research Database. AG and corrected AG by serum albumin (cAG) were calculated as sodium-[potassium]-[chloride]-[bicarbonate] and AG+2(4.4-albumin). The ICU mortalities in patients with different deciles of admission AG or cAG were assessed, respectively. Multivariable logistic regression models were applied to investigate the association between AG and cAG, as continuous and dichotomous variable, and ICU mortality.

**Interaction analyses** between AG or cAG and acute physiology and chronic health evaluation (APACHE IV) score was assessed for the association with ICU mortality.

**Results:** A total of 15,927 patients with AG (10,442 patients with cAG) entered into the final cohort. After adjustment for demographics, APACHE IV score, lactate, and diseases diagnosed during the first 24 h of ICU stay, elevated admission serum AG or cAG, as continuous variable, were related with increased ICU mortality (odds ratios [95% confidence intervals]: AG, 1.024 [1.011-1.037]; cAG, 1.017 [1.002-1.032]). Furthermore, the ICU mortality was higher in patients with the highest three deciles of admission AG (>16.90 mEq/L, 18.9% vs. 9.8%; P<0.001) or cAG (>21.45 mEq/L, 22.7% vs. 11.0%; P<0.001) than those with the lowest seven deciles of admission AG (<16.90 mEq/L) or cAG (<21.45 mEq/L). In multivariable models, AG >16.90 mEq/L or cAG >21.45 mEq/L were associated with higher risks of ICU mortality (AG: 1.027 [1.077-1.354]; cAG: 1.171 [1.023-1.341]) compared with AG ≤16.90 mEq/L or cAG ≤21.45 mEq/L. Interaction analyses showed that the association between AG (P Interaction =0.226) or cAG (P Interaction =0.067) and ICU mortality could not be modified by APACHE IV score.

**Conclusion:** Elevated admission serum AG or cAG might be an early risk factor for ICU mortality.

**000275**

Association between circadian variation of heart rate and mortality among critically ill patients

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**Introduction:** Heart rate (HR) variations, such as HR variability, HR turbulence, resting HR, and nighttime mean HR have been recognized as independent predictors of mortality. However, it is unclear whether the circadian changes in HR influence the risk of death in the intensive care unit (ICU).

**Objectives:** To evaluate the relationship between the circadian variation of HR and the mortality among critically ill patients.

**Methods:** The records of 4760 patients were extracted from the Multiparameter Intelligent Monitoring in Intensive Care II (MIMIC II) database. The circadian variation in HR was evaluated as nighttime mean HR/daylight time mean HR. Participants were divided into two groups according to the median score of the circadian variation in HR: group A (<0.98) and group B (>0.98). The endpoints were ICU, hospital, 30-day, and 1-year mortality. Multivariable logistic regression models and Cox proportional hazards models were used to investigate the relationship between circadian HR variation and mortality in ICU. Sensitivity analyses were also conducted in different Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scores subgroups.

**Results:** Patients in group B (n=2471) had higher mortality than those in group A (n=2289). After multivariable adjustments, the associations of circadian HR variation with ICU mortality (odds ratios [OR], 1.419; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.079–1.835; P = 0.008), hospital mortality (OR, 1.394; 95% CI, 1.122-1.747; P = 0.004), 30-day mortality (hazard ratio [HR], 1.283; 95% CI, 1.085-1.518; P = 0.004), and 1-year mortality (HR, 1.215; 95% CI, 1.064-1.387; P = 0.004) were statistically significant. Furthermore, the association became more statistically remarkable
in patients with higher SOFA scores (≥6 subgroup) in the sensitivity analysis.  

**Conclusion:** The circadian HR variation may predict short-term and long-term mortality in critically ill patients, especially in patients with higher SOFA scores.

**000276**

The search for optimal range of platelets count in critically ill patients: an observational study from eICU databases

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**Introduction:** Platelets are involved in coagulation system, immune system, inflammation and stress responses. Abnormal platelet counts have been linked to increased mortality in critically ill patients. However, the optimal platelets count target remains unclear.

**Objectives:** The study is designed to explore the relatively optimal range of platelets count in critically ill patients with real world data; Furthermore, the relationship between the platelets count and mortality in ICU was also studied.

**Methods:** This is a multicenter and retrospective cohort study using the eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD) with authorized access. The restricted cubic splines were used to explore the crude relationship between platelets count and mortality. We derived an optimal range of platelet counts and analyzed the association between the optimal range of platelets counts and mortality. Multivariable logistic regression models were used to further explore the association between the level of platelet counts and mortality in intensive care unit (ICU). The sensitivity analyses were performed in patients with sepsis or not.

**Results:** In total, 49,875 adult patients with platelet counts within 24 hours of admission to the ICU were included. According to the restricted cubic splines, the optimal range of platelets count was 125–185 × 10⁹/L (reference group). Patients were divided into lower platelet group (<125 × 10⁹/L), higher group (>185 × 10⁹/L) and reference group (125–185 × 10⁹/L). Compared with those in the reference group, patients with lower platelet counts and higher platelet counts are associated with a higher hospital mortality ([odds ratio (OR) 1.226, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.116–1.347]; OR 1.278, 95% CI 1.278–1.381; respectively) and ICU mortality (OR 1.260, 95% CI 1.127–1.409; OR 1.284, 95% CI 1.166–1.413; respectively) after adjustment for a series of variables. The results of subgroup analyses are with overall population.

**Conclusion:** The optimal range of platelets count was 125–185 × 10⁹/L in critically ill patients, platelet counts lower than 125 × 10⁹/L or higher than 185 × 10⁹/L may increase the mortality in ICU.  

**000322**

A 16 year review of patients admitted to an adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) following drug overdose at a district general hospital in Surrey, England  

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**Introduction:** An annual review of suicides in the UK (Office for National Statistics) for 2018 showed a significantly higher rate of deaths by suicide than the previous year [1]. This was the first reported increase since 2013. Deliberate and accidental drug overdose cases that result in critical care admission often require a period of artificial ventilation and may also require renal replacement therapy. Identifying trends in admission could improve the ability for ICU to plan with regards to budget and resources.

**Objectives:** To review whether there has been a change in the number of patients admitted to a 16-bed adult ICU during a 16 year period and whether it is possible to identify seasonal variations.

**Methods:** The WardWatcher database for a single 16-bed adult critical care unit was interrogated for the period January 1993 to September 2019. To account for different classification and coding, search terms containing the following were deemed suitable: overdose, self-harm, poison, suicide. Hanging and asphyxia were not included in the search. Duplicated information was removed manually. Data was analysed according to year, season and outcome (ie. death or survival to ICU discharge). There was insufficient information available to investigate method of overdose. Statistical analysis was performed using R version 3.6.3 (Austria-Vienna).

**Results:** A database of 12,671 patients was reviewed and 331 cases involving drug overdose were identified. The dataset showed a minimum of 2 and maximum of 33 overdoses per year, with a median number of 10 (IQR 5–16). The raw time series for the data demonstrates an increasing trend. Using a bias-corrected and accelerated percentile method, we estimated the 95% confidence interval for the r² value of 0.41 to be between 0.17 and 0.64. This suggested there was a small positive association between the number of total overdoses over time. Analysis by season suggested that the highest percentage of overdoses were admitted in Spring (annually 20th March to 20th June), accounting for 28.01% (93) of total overdose admissions. The numbers were, however, closely clustered for all four seasons. Out of the 331 patients, 315 (95%) survived to discharge from ICU.

**Conclusion:** By reviewing a large dataset over a prolonged period of time we were able to show that an increase in suicide death rates at a national level, as reported by ONS, was not accompanied by an increase in ICU admissions at a local level. This study showed that there has been a relatively poor increase in the annual number of overdoses admitted to this particular ICU since 1993 with a median of 10 per annum.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000351**

Ventriculo-arterial coupling: a non-invasive parameter for prognostic evaluation in critical cardiological patients  

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**Introduction:** Ventriculo-arterial coupling (VAC), is a major determinant of cardiovascular efficiency in terms of the ratio between work required for the stroke volume relative to the total work for the contraction.

**Objectives:** Aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between ventriculo-arterial coupling (VAC) and in-hospital outcomes and to evaluate its prognostic value in critical ill patients.
Methods: We evaluated 333 (age 66.8±15.4 years, male 67.3%) consecutive patients admitted to ICU of our hospital. Blood pressure and trans-thoracic cardiac ultrasound were collected for assessment of left ventricular elastance (Ees), arterial elastance (Ea) and VAC calculated through Chen’s method. In-hospital we recorded events related with acute heart failure and study population was stratified according to events development (need for invasive and NIV, amine, IABP, CVVHD, anuria, MOF, and death).

Results: In our population 190 pts (57%) presented in-hospital complications, and 143 (43%) didn’t. Ea and VAC were found to be significantly higher in the first group than in the latter, and a trend toward decrease for Ees was observed in the first group (Figure). VAC resulted as a strong and independent predictor of in-hospital clinical outcomes [odds ratio (95% confidence interval): 2.016 (1.287–3.159); P=0.002] even after univariate and multivariate analysis adjusted for age, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, obesity, coronary artery disease and chronic kidney disease.

Conclusion: Assessment of VA coupling might be an additional non-invasive parameter that can be used to determine prognosis in critically ill patients. Although those encouraging results, the benefit of such an approach for understanding the pathophysiology of altered hemodynamic profiles and to guide the therapeutic strategies, has to be confirmed in larger clinical trials.

000376

Post-intensive care syndrome in patients and their caregivers
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000376

Introduction: During the first year, ICU survivors show a greater use of health services and a high percentage become chronic patients in addition to presenting high rates of hospital readmission (up to 47%) and mortality (17%). The most common consequences, after admission in ICU, are included in what has recently been called Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS).

Objectives: To determine the frequency of appearance of the Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) in patients and their main caregiver, treated in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), 3 months after discharge.

Methods: Prospective observational study in a 14-bed ICU for 12 months. Inclusion criteria were admission>7 days and at least one of the following: mechanical ventilation (invasive or non-invasive)>3 days, sepsis or shock. Patients with cognitive impairment or severe dependency prior to admission were excluded. The variables analyzed (physical, cognitive and psychoemotional), were assessed using validated scales and physical examination in the follow-up consultation.

The presence of overload from the main caregiver was assessed using two validated scales. Prevalence was measured as the percentage of cases of patients with PICS identified of the total number of patients discharged with risk criteria.

Results: Of the 52 patients who presented risk factors for developing PICS, 36 were discharged from the unit. Of the 25 patients who attended the follow-up consultation at 3 months, 18 had PICS. The fundamentally affected dimension was physical 55.5%, followed by psycho-emotional 27.7% and cognitive 16.6%. In all the cases of patients with PICS, the main relative had caregiver overload.

Conclusion: The frequency of PICS at three months after ICU discharge is at least 50% in patients with risk factors. In all cases presented by the patient, their primary caregiver is affected too. The high frequency of this syndrome would require adopting measures for it to be foreward, and follow-up as well as therapeutic approach, both for patients and for their main caregivers.

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3. The authors declare no conflict of interest

000388

Venoarterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation in refractory cardiogenic shock: a look into long-term survival
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Introduction: Cardiogenic shock (CS) is the fatal common path of some of the most prevalent diseases in the world (1), yet its management is not straightforward. Veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO) use as a rescue therapy for refractory cases is growing in popularity (2).

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the different outcomes of patients with refractory CS supported with VA-ECMO, stratified by etiology, in the short-term and after 1-year follow-up.

Methods: Data was collected prospectively from 2010 to 2020, patients with CS having received VA-ECMO were reviewed retrospectively. We analysed baseline demographic variables, cause of CS, ECMO characteristics, complications and global survival (at ECMO weaning, hospital discharge, and after 1 year), using SPSS software, version 20.

Results: We included 92 patients who received 101 VA-ECMO. The median age was 54 (interquartile range IQR 42-63), 64% were male. Causes of CS were: decompensated advanced heart failure (32%), acute myocardial infarction (AMI) (26%), post-surgical pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (13%), post-cardiomytomy, (10%), acute myocarditis from infectious, toxic or metabolic causes (7%). Before VA-ECMO cannulation 61% of patients were supported by an intraaortic balloon pump.

A peripherally VA-ECMO was established in 91% of cases. The median length of ECMO was 186 hours (8 days, IQR 5-14 – 13 days), median ICU stay 18 days (IQR 12-33 days). The global survival rate during ECMO support was 68%, with 43% of patients being discharged home, and all of them were alive one year later. Patients with reversible causes of cardiogenic shock (acute myocarditis, right ventricular failure following pulmonary embolism) fared better overall, with a 100% survival rate.

In 50% of patients with CS secondary to AMI (with previous normal or unknown cardiac function) a “bridge to decision” strategy was implemented. Sixty-four percent were weaned from ECMO, but only 37% of weaned patients survived. A heart transplantation was made in 83% of the survivors of this subgroup.

Patients with CS secondary to acute decompensation of previous cardiopathy were usually placed in the “bridge to transplant” category.
Out of 32 patients, half of them died, but in those succeeding into getting a heart transplantation (59%), global survival was of 83%.

Postcardiotomy CS patients requiring VA-ECMO had a global survival of 43%, the most common surgeries needing this kind of support being pulmonary thromboendarterectomy and valvular surgery with previous systolic dysfunction.

One year after hospital discharge, 39 out of the 40 surviving patients remained alive and out of the hospital.

**Conclusion:** Refractory CS patients are a very heterogeneous cohort. Outcomes were far better in potentially reversible causes of CS like acute myocarditis. VA-ECMO offers an effective support tool for these patients, achieving favorable results at hospital discharge and after 1-year follow-up.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


### 000406

**Mechanical ventilation in octogenarians, intensive care and subsequent hospital survival in a small sized district general hospital in the UK**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000406**

**Introduction:** With an increasingly aging and co-morbid population coupled with the increasing demand on NHS intensive care beds it is more important than ever to have a clear understanding of the benefit added by admission to intensive care for mechanical ventilation. In addition there is an increasing drive to provide patients with the information allowing them to make an informed decision regarding their escalation plan. Currently despite making up only 4% of the population, octogenarians account for around 10% of ICU admissions in the developed world [1].

We set out to perform a retrospective study looking at the previous 4 years of intensive care admissions for mechanical ventilation at Peterborough City Hospital. We then compared the survival of all patients <80 years old with the survival of patients 80 years and over. For the 80 and over age group we then compared the medical admission vs surgical admission survival outcome.

It should be noted that the intensive care department already puts a strong emphasis on requiring a good pre-morbid state prior to admission to the ICU, and all admissions are approved by an intensive care consultant. Therefore, the patients with a high frailty score deemed unlikely to benefit from mechanical ventilation, are not reported in these figures.

**Objectives:** To compare intensive care survival between patients younger than 80 years and those patients 80 years and over. To compare the above patient’s hospital survival once they have been stepped down from intensive care.

To compare whether medical vs surgical admission in 80 and over affects survival.

**Methods:** Data was extracted from Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC) and is based on data exclusively from PCH.

**Results:** Overall 91.7% of all patients <80 discharged from ICU were subsequently discharged from hospital. This is to be compared with only 78.8% of the ≥80 cohort who are stepped down, showing they are 12.9% less likely to be discharged after an ICU admission. The data also shows a year on year increase in numbers of patients admitted for mechanical ventilation: 222 patients in 2015–2016, 244 in 2016–2017, 261 in 2017–2018 and 288 patients in 2018–2019. There is also a general trend of increasing numbers of octogenarians being ventilated: in 18 in 2015–16 and 31 in 2018–2019.

**Table 1:** Total numbers of patients admitted to ICU for mechanical ventilation 2015–2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Total patients</th>
<th>Survived ICU</th>
<th>Survived Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;80 years</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥80 years</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results:**

**part 2, medical Vs surgical admission for ≥80 year olds between 2015–2018.**

Medical patients represented 63.2% of ≥80 ICU admissions for mechanical ventilation with 35% of these patients surviving to be stepped down to the ward. Of those stepped down 100% were discharged home.

Of the surgical patients a higher percentage of 77% survived to be stepped down to the ward with 67% of these being discharged home. Therefore hospital survival was 35% for medical patients ≥80 and 52.4% for surgical admissions ≥80.

(Patients were excluded from part 2 of this study if it wasn’t clear if they were medical or surgical (16 patients), 2019 data for part 2 was not readily available at time of this project (31 patients)).

**Conclusion:** The data from this study, shows that overall an octogenarian with a good pre-morbid status stands a 41.4% chance of surviving the acute hospital admission. This percentage varies from some of the reported data, however in our study, we only include those who have received mechanical ventilation.

It can be speculated that should all octogenarians requiring mechanical ventilation be admitted to ICU, rather than those with a good pre-morbid status, mortality among this group of ≥80 s would be significantly increased.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


### 000411

**Is lactate variation important? Different cut-off analysis for prognostication in critically ill patients**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000411**

**Introduction:** Hyperlactacidemia is a marker of organ dysfunction widely used in critically ill patients with a direct relation with tissue hypoxia, but it is difficult to draw conclusions with isolated lactate values.

The topic of lactate kinetics has been gathering increased interest and decreasing blood lactate concentrations have been associated with better outcomes.

However, controversy remains over what is the better cut-off value to use when considering prognosis. In studies that were conducted in a 24-hour period a 10% cut-off has been proposed. A new study from 2019 proposed 19% as the ideal cut-off.

**Table 1.** Total numbers of patients admitted to ICU for mechanical ventilation 2015–2019.
In the present study we aimed to investigate the prognostic impact of two different values of lactate variation in the first 24 hours of critically ill patients admitted to a polyvalent intensive care unit (ICU).

Methods: We conducted a retrospective investigation of a prospectively gathered database collecting subjects admitted to a single ICU from January 2014 to December 2018. Inclusion criteria stated a lactate value above 2.0 mmol/L on admission. The maximum value of lactate concentration in the first 2 days was collected in order to calculate its variation in the first 24 hours after admission. Data on ICU mortality, ICU length of stay, days of invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), need of vasopressors and renal replacement therapy (RRT) were also collected.

We performed the same statistical analysis for the two cut-off values: 10% and 19%. The primary end-point was the association between lactate variation in the first 24 hours and ICU mortality. The secondary end-points were association between lactate variation and ICU length of stay, days of IMV, need of vasopressors and need of RRT.

Results: A total of 674 patients (male=409, age (mean ± SD) = 63.4±16.3 years) were included. The global mortality rate was 39.9%. Analysis of mortality showed a statistically significant association with both cut-offs (p<0.001), higher with a lower lactate variation. A decreased lactate variation was associated with the need for vasopressors (p=0.001 for 10% and 19%) and RRT (<=10% with p=0.003; <=19% with p=0.010). The ICU length of stay had a statistically significant association with a lactate variation <=10% (p=0.015) but not with <=19% (p=0.057). We did not find a significant association between IMV days and lactate variation (<=10% with p=0.647; <=19% with p=0.312).

The 10% cut-off showed a sensitivity of 71% (95% CI 67-76) and specificity of 54% (95% CI 48-60) for mortality compared to a 64% sensitivity (95% CI 59-68) and 62% specificity (95% CI 56-67) for the 19% cut-off.

Conclusion: Both cut-offs were associated with ICU patients’ mortality. Only the 10% cut-off was significantly associated with the ICU length of stay. When analyzing sensitivity and specificity, we could not find a statistically significant difference between cut-offs. However, given that the 10% cut-off has a greater sensitivity we would select this value for our clinical practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000421
Patient and family feedback to introducing ICU doulas to provide psychological support for the critically ill
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000421

Introduction: Negative psychological sequelae following an ICU admission remain a prevalent issue for critical illness survivors. Delusional memories are the biggest modifiable risk factor. Mitigating the negative character of formed memories may be possible during a critical window of initial memory consolidation when the memories are malleable. Previously, psychological support based on positive suggestions (PSBPS) was identified as a viable psychotherapeutic intervention in the ICU setting. Given that the spectrum of emotional support doulas provide is very similar to PSBPS, we trained doulas to work in the ICU setting. Introducing themselves as “members of the team”, doulas provided daily PSBPS sessions throughout the patients’ ICU stays.

Objectives: Acceptance of the intervention is a vital part of the intervention’s success. We have therefore evaluated feedback from patients and their families regarding the intervention.

Methods: Following ICU discharge, patients and their family members who were present during the intervention were asked to provide their impressions of the intervention including open-ended and multiple choice questions.

Results: Of the 48 patients who received the intervention, all provided feedback. 40 patients recalled a team member explaining what was happening to them and 37 found this comforting. 29 recalled a team member holding their hand and 28 found this comforting. When asked what made them feel better while in the ICU, 34 recalled specific aspects with themes summarized in the table; others had no factual memories. Nine family members who had witnessed an interventional session also provided feedback. When asked what they thought about the intervention, all provided positive feedback. Family members were also asked if the doula interaction was helpful to them, and again all also responded positively. Representative themes are provided in the table.

Conclusion: Patients and their families welcomed ICU doulas providing psychological support during the ICU stay. Patient responses highlight the importance of personal interaction with care team members during the ICU stay. Family member responses are uniformly positive regarding the intervention.

000431
The relationship between post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression among ICU survivors
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000431
Introduction: Many mental disorders can arise after critical illness, including anxiety, depression and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Those psychiatric disorders can impair the quality of life of ICU survivors.

Objectives: The study aimed to estimate the frequency PTSD, anxiety and depression among ICU survivors and to investigate the relationship between those psychiatric disorders.

Methods: It is a mixed method study conducted in a 9-bed medical ICU of Farhat teaching hospital from January 2017 to January,31 2018 including all ICU survivors beyond 3 months after discharge. Information regarding demographic and clinical characteristics were obtained from medical records. At 3 months post-ICU discharge, the patients were contacted by phone to complete the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) and Impact Event Revised Scale (IES-R). Spearman’s correlation test was done to find the association between PTSD, anxiety and depression among ICU survivors.

Results: Three hundred ninety-three patients were admitted during the study period. One hundred ninety-one (48.6%) were discharged alive, 56(29.3%) were never successfully contacted and 211(11%) died within the 3 months’ period. One hundred fourteen patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were enrolled in the study. Clinical characteristics were: mean age, 56±17.8 years. The majority of patients were males, 66(57.9%); current alcohol consumers, 13(11.4%); median Charlson comorbidity index, 1(1-2); Respiratory distress, 79(69.3%); median SAPS II at admission, 25(17-31); invasive mechanical ventilation, 47(41%); vasopressors, 13(26%); median of duration of IMV, 0(0-4); length of stay, 6(4-10); Median IES-R, 19(14-28); median HADS A, 4(3-10); median HADS D, 5(4-6). Twenty-five (21.9%) patients met diagnostic criteria for PTSD (IES-R ≥ 37). Twenty-four (21%) patients had anxiety (HADS A>11) and only eleven (9.6%) had depression (HADS D>11). There was a strong and significant statistical correlation between anxiety and depression (r = 0.66, p < 0.000). There was also a statistically significant correlation between anxiety and depression (r = 0.196; p = 0.000). There was significant correlation between PTSD and anxiety (r = 0.662; p < 0.000). There was significant correlation between PTSD and depression (r = 0.473; p = 0.000). There was also a statistically significant correlation between anxiety and depression (r = 0.196; p = 0.037).

Conclusion: Psychiatric disorders after critical illness are common. There was a strong and significant statistical correlation between anxiety and PTSD, anxiety and depression, and anxiety and depression in ICU survivors at 3 months post ICU discharge.

000443
The post-intensive care syndrome in general practice; barriers and opportunities
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000443

Introduction: A substantial number of patients treated in ICUs suffer from a loss of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in the aftermath of their critical illness. This is due to new or worsened physical, cognitive or psychological impairments, collectively referred to as the Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS). As a result ICU survivors have more consultations with their general practitioner (GP) after their ICU treatment (1). Relatives of ICU patients are also at risk of developing psychological impairments, referred to as PICS Family (PICS-F). The General Practitioner (GP) may have a pivotal role in the aftercare of ICU survivors and their relatives. However data on the perceived boundaries for GPs to become involved in PICS (F) care is largely lacking.

Objectives: To identify perceived boundaries for GPs to become more involved in post-ICU care and identify possible targets for improvement.

Methods: 769 Dutch GPs were approached to fill out a self-composed questionnaire to assess the following questions: 1) What is the current state of knowledge regarding PICS and PICS-F? 2) How often is the GP confronted with PICS-related symptoms in his practice? 3) Who is responsible for recognition and treatment of PICS in the opinion of the GP? and 4) What is the current state of information sharing between the hospital/ICU and the GP concerning ICU treatment and is the GP satisfied with this information?

Results: 258 GPs responded to the questionnaire. As much as 58% of these GPs was not familiar with PICS and 44% not with PICS-F prior to receiving the questionnaire, although annually 2 (median, IQR: 1-3) patients and 3 (median, IQR: 1-3) relatives of ICU patients visit their GP with impairments compatible with PICS(F). Patients most frequently present themselves to GPs with fatigue, psychological or cognitive impairments. GPs refer these patients to a psychologist or to a general practice assistant, while only 15% of the GPs were familiar with the concept of dedicated ICU follow-up clinics. GPs report that they feel responsible for both recognition and treatment of PICS-related sequelae in their patients, but they have insufficient knowledge. Up to 87% of GPs expressed a wish to obtain more knowledge about PICS(F) via an e-learning or by providing education for GPs. Furthermore, information sharing between the hospital/ICU and the GP in its present state is suboptimal and could therefore be improved, for instance by including information regarding the long-term consequences of ICU treatment in the discharge letter of patients.

Conclusion: Although PICS(F) is a widely recognized problem within the ICU community, the majority of Dutch GPs is not familiar with PICS(F)-related sequelae, but nevertheless feel a responsibility to recognize and treat them. GPs want to be educated preferably via an educational program, and informed about the long-term consequences of ICU treatment and existing ICU follow-clinics in the discharge letter, to improve GP’s involvement in post-ICU care.

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000487
Epidemiology and outcome of elderly patients after renal replacement therapy in the intensive care unit: an observational study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000487

Introduction: Renal replacement therapy (RRT) is commonly performed in patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). However, it is associated with high morbidity and mortality and its relevance is sometimes questioned in elderly patients in particular when they suffer from other premorbid illnesses.

Objectives: We sought to evaluate the long-term outcomes and quality of life (QOL) of elderly patients who survived critical illness requiring renal replacement therapy (RRT).

Methods: We retrospectively identified all patients aged over 55 admitted to our ICU between January 2015 and April 2018 who received RRT for acute kidney injury (AKI). We assessed their vital status by cross-referencing our hospital database and the Swiss national death registry. Mortality and time to death were recorded. Patients still alive at the time of the study underwent a phone interview. They were asked about their dialytic status and their quality of life was evaluated using an EQ-5D survey with visual analog scale (VAS). Results were stratified according to patients’ age group (group 1, G1: “55-64 years”, group 2, G2: “65-74 years”, group 3, G3: “≥75 years”). Thereafter comparisons between these groups and European standards were made.

Results: During the study period, 354 eligible patients were admitted to our ICU. Of those, 173 (48.9%) died during the index hospital admission (150 in ICU and 23 on the ward). After a median follow-up of 2.7 years (IQR 1.6), a further 62 had died with a mean time to death for hospital survivors of 149.9 days (IQR 450.4). Hence, 119 patients were still alive at the time of the study. We successfully contacted 96
Conclusion: The need for renal replacement therapy identifies a population at very high risk of mortality with a survival of 33% at 2.5 years. However, quality of life for survivors was acceptable and comparable to age matched control population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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000556 Evaluation of an implementation process of post‑crisis debriefing: a tool for improving quality in the medical emergency team system

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000556

Introduction: The ability of first responders to deliver appropriate care after medical emergencies determines positive outcomes for patients. Clinicians’ skills, best practice, and knowledge are gained from basic life-support courses, unfortunately often lost due to a lack of hands-on practice. The purpose of debriefing is to facilitate the identification of errors, and eventually develop plans to improve future performances specifically to both individual and team achievement. It also refers to a valid approach for correcting clinical behavior, and allows clinicians to reflect on knowledge, skills, attitude or teamwork revealed during a clinical event that if modified would benefit other patients in similar situations. At our institute a well-structured Rapid Response System (RRS) has been implemented; when a patient deteriorates a Medical Emergency Team (MET) is called to the bedside of the patient in crisis. The MET is summoned to the bedside between 80 and 100 times a year, and is composed of health care responders: an anesthesiologist, 3 nurses, an aide, and a clinical clerk who is involved in alerting and initiating the RRS. Anesthesiologists and nurses are trained in basic life support (BLS)/advanced cardiac life support/pedi- atric advanced life support, and aides are trained in BLS regularly (once every two years). So far, at the end of a crisis, the debriefing has been left as optional for the team despite the fact that it has always been taught and performed regularly during ACLS/PALS training sessions. Furthermore, anesthesiologists and senior nurses have been receiving training in how to conduct a structured debriefing after clinical crisis. The questionnaire was submitted as a part of a larger and multifaceted quality improvement project aimed at implementing regular post crisis debriefing, and to detect areas of improvement.

Methods: This is a descriptive, structured and voluntary, anonymous, non-funded, self-administered cross-sectional survey conducted at a 78-bed medical institute accredited with Joint Commission International standards and focused on all solid organ transplantation medicine. The Quality and Patient Safety Department approved the conduction of the survey. The need for ethics committee approval was waived given the voluntary nature of the survey. The aim of the survey was to generate hypotheses and identify critical issues among responders, to guide educational activities, and to detect the attitudes of the personnel toward debriefing implementation as routine. The survey was developed by three investigators based on a review of the theoretical basis of survey elaboration, reappraisal of the relevant literature in the field of communication, team dynamics, and debriefing, which later was piloted by the quality department for clarity of the questions. We conducted a Web-based survey sent by e-mail with a link to a total of 593 potential responders involved in clinical activity: 118 physicians, 342 clinical nurses, 97 aides, and 36 unit clerks. The survey was anonymously self-administered on a voluntary basis by the respondents, and submitted online using a Survey Monkey system. The survey was conducted using 17 multiple-choice questions organized in four domains: Respondent characteristics; adherence to resuscitation guidelines and assessment of value of training; teamwork and leadership awareness of mutual respect; professional development and debriefing. We recorded responders’ characteristics inherent to work activity: years of service at the institute, clinical role, ward of principal activity, and number of emergency conditions experienced in previous years. The survey was checked for content validity by members of the quality coordinating team at the hospital. Survey results were analyzed using descriptive statistics (numbers and percentage). Chi-square test or Fisher’s exact tests were applied where appropriate. Exploratory data analyses with contingency tables were prepared to illustrate different responses among groups according to roles, years of service at the hospital and number of yearly-managed conditions experienced. Data management and statistical analysis were done with SAS 9.4 by SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.

Results: Response rate to the survey was 25% (148 healthcare workers). Of all respondents, 86% were employed ≥10 years, 75% were involved in ≤5 emergencies over the previous year. Resuscitation guidelines were considered fully applied by 55%; 64% of respondents considered the teaching program as sufficient. Of all participants, 97% were aware of the importance of teamwork dynamics, and 52% considered emergencies as valid opportunities for professional growth. Leadership was considered important by 45% of respondents; debriefing implemented by 41%, and considered a potentially useful tool by 85%.

Conclusion: We hypothesize that quality improvement programs based on debriefing implementation and communication may improve the outcome during emergency conditions, and increase satisfaction for the operators. Future prospective studies are needed to substantiate this hypothesis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: The fragility index is an independent factor of hospital mortality in patients requiring ICU admission. The other factors identified are the need for mechanical ventilation, the need for preventive isolation or the development of organ failure.

Objectives: To assess the impact of fragility, defined by the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS), on hospital mortality of ICU admitted patients regardless of their age.

Methods: Prospective observational study evaluating the role of frailty in patients admitted to a medical-surgical ICU from October 2016 to April 2019. Patients who required transfer to another centre during their admission were excluded. Analysed variables were age, sex, comorbidities, SAPS 3, SOFA, type of patient, hospital stay before ICU admission, length of stay and outcome at discharge. We also included other variables of clinical interest during ICU admission. Fragility was estimated using the CFS scale, using a cut-off value of ≥ 3. Continuous variables are presented as median and interquartile range. To analyse the association with hospital mortality, a univariate and multivariate analysis was performed using backward logistic regression and recursive partitioning using CHAID tree to estimate special risk populations.

Results: 1462 patients were included. Mean age of 66 years (55-74), 42% women. Medical reason for admission in 54.5%. SAPS 3 46 (38-56), SOFA on admission 2 (0-10). Average ICU length-of-stay of 2 days (1-4), and time in-hospital after ICU discharge of 6 days (3-12). ICU survival was 96.8%, and hospital survival was 93.8%, with a rate of ICU readmissions of 3.2%. The CFS was 3 (2-3). The significant results regarding hospital mortality obtained from the multivariate analysis are shown in Table 1. Recursive partitioning model established that the greatest risk factor for mortality in the population was the development of neurological failure during ICU admission, with a mortality rate of 31% (51% in frail patients vs 17% in non-frail patients: p < 0.0001). Regarding patients without neurological failure, the main risk factor for mortality was CFS > 3 before ICU admission, with a mortality rate of 3.2% (11.2% in frail patients vs 1.2 in non-fragile patients: p < 0.0001).

Conclusion: The fragility index is an independent factor of hospital mortality in patients requiring ICU admission. The other factors identified are the need for mechanical ventilation, the need for preventive isolation or the development of organ failure.

Table 1. Recursive partitioning model established that the greatest risk factor for hospital mortality in ICU patients

- Types of design features
  - Light: 25 (51)
  - Occupancy: 19 (39)
  - Family centered: 14 (29)
  - Workspace Layout: 13 (26)
  - Equipment related: 11 (22)
  - Noise: 10 (20)
  - View: 9 (18)
  - Outside Space: 9 (18)
  - Aesthetics: 8 (16)
  - Privacy: 7 (14)
  - Unit Layout: 7 (14)
  - Visibility: 5 (10)

*All categories were categorised for multi-design feature studies and therefore the % do not sum to 100.

We identified 67 distinct outcomes. Patient clinical outcomes were included in most studies with the most commonly reported being length of stay (13/49, 26%), mortality (10/49, 20%) and psychological outcomes such as delirium occurrence (9/49, 18%) and duration (5/49, 10%). Objective ICU/ICU workspace physical environment outcomes were reported in only 8/49 (16%) studies and included physical/visual accessibility (3/49, 6%), sound levels (3/49, 6%), light levels (2/49, 4%), and corridor utility/traffic patterns (1/49, 2%). Most commonly measured HCP reported outcomes were staff experience/perception (12/49, 24%), staff stress (4/49, 8%), team interaction (3/49, 6%) and team collaboration (3/49, 6%). Only 5/49 (10%) studies measured patient reported outcomes; 7/49 (14%) studies measured family reported outcomes.

Conclusion: The last decade has seen an increase in studies evaluating the effect of ICU design. However, few studies characterise objective environmental characteristics and fewer use patient or family reported outcome or experience measures. Our findings can inform design of future studies evaluating new or existing ICU designs.
Sex and gender differences in the intensity of intensive care

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000581

Introduction: It has been previously reported that there are differences in the care given within the ICU between men and women1,2, and that men have a lower probability of being discharged from the ICU given equal disease burden as women3. To date there are no satisfactory explanation as to why that is. The aim of this study is to investigate if any differences exist between men and women regarding the level of intensive care provided, given equal disease burden.

Objectives: To investigate differences in mechanical ventilation, invasive monitoring, vasoactive treatment, placement of dialysis catheters and central venous catheters between men and women in the ICU.

Methods: This is a retrospective cohort study of 9067 ICU patients admitted to the Karolinska University Hospital Stockholm, Sweden, between 2006-2016. Data was extracted from the ICU medical record containing early initiated rehabilitation. A multi-professional team containing early initiated rehabilitation. A multi-professional team

Protocol adherence
Achievement of sedation (RASS)/ pain (BPS, NRS), physiotherapeutic targets (MMS) and Psychosocial assessmet (MoCA)
Ability to perform PCC/ family support
Patient/ family participation
Frequency of ICU Diaries
Risk assessment for physiotherapy
Adverse events

Results: The full program was completed in 88% of the patients. The physiotherapy program was fully applicable in all patients while patient cognitive limitations prevented cognitive assessment during the study period.

Sedation (RASS ≤ −2) targets were met within 4d. BPS /NRS were completed in 80% of the patients during the first week. Interactive rounds were feasible in > 80% after two days and diaries were kept in 80% of all patients. Integrity issues at rounds and inability for relatives to participate were common (>70%). Low risk for rehabilitation procedures were scored in 66% of the patients, 27% at intermediate and 7% at high risk

No adverse events were recorded

Conclusion: The suggested program was highly feasible, could be safely performed and could be executed with a high level of participation. Dropouts or late initiation were commonly due to the level of sedation and cognitive impairment which also limited the progression

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


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000583

Patient centred care and early rehabilitation for enhanced ICU outcome and recovery

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000583

Introduction: The development in critical care during the past decades have improved ICU outcome and long-time survival (1), even in highly co-morbid patients. This, in combination with increasing frailty in the ICU case mix, have increased the number of ICU survivors with a poor physical and psychical capacity at the time of discharge (2) and thus, a rising demand for individualised rehabilitation. Furthermore, increasing awareness of post intensive care syndrome (PICS) related sequelae, further increases the demand for an adapted and individualised aftercare to preserve function and improve health-related quality of life (HRQoL) (3).

Current data suggests that rehabilitation actions should be initiated early and that programs for PICS prevention and family/ patient centred care (PCC) have favourable effects on ICU outcome and potentially reduce anxiety and PTSD in patients and relatives (4). Early initiation of rehabilitation actions has been shown both feasible and safe to perform (5).

Objectives: To investigate the feasibility and safety of a PCC and early rehabilitation program in a general ICU.

Methods: Setting: A feasibility and safety study in a 12 bed ICU in a university hospital in Sweden. Population: 21 consecutive adult ICU patients with an ICU LOS > 48 h and on mechanical ventilation were subjected to a PCC program containing early initiated rehabilitation. A multi-professional team performed daily physiotherapeutic interventions and psychosocial activities parallel with normal ICU care procedures. During the study period the mean age of the ICU population was 58 years (73% male). Mean length of stay was 3 days and mean time on ventilator was 59 hours.

Endpoints:

Protocol adherence
Achievement of sedation (RASS)/ pain (BPS, NRS), physiotherapeutic targets (MMS) and Psychosocial assessmet (MoCA)
Ability to perform PCC/ family support
Patient/ family participation
Frequency of ICU Diaries
Risk assessment for physiotherapy
Adverse events

Results: The full program was completed in 88% of the patients. The physiotherapy program was fully applicable in all patients while patient cognitive limitations prevented cognitive assessment during the study period.

Sedation (RASS ≤ −2) targets were met within 4d. BPS /NRS were completed in 80% of the patients during the first week. Interactive rounds were feasible in > 80% after two days and diaries were kept in 80% of all patients. Integrity issues at rounds and inability for relatives to participate were common (>70%). Low risk for rehabilitation procedures were scored in 66% of the patients, 27% at intermediate and 7% at high risk

No adverse events were recorded

Conclusion: The suggested program was highly feasible, could be safely performed and could be executed with a high level of participation. Dropouts or late initiation were commonly due to the level of sedation and cognitive impairment which also limited the progression
rate of the physical rehabilitation and made cognitive assessment impossible during the ICU stay. Co-morbidity or severity of organ dysfunction did not prevent execution of the program but required minor adaptations. Interactive rounds were well received by all staff and patients but required procedural and timely adaptation for ensuring patient integrity and to encourage family participation. To enhance and facilitate paramedical participation and integration of relatives, ICU work schedules have to be adapted accordingly.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000604
Influence of medical history on the prognosis of patients on mechanical ventilation due to COVID 19
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Introduction: COVID 19 pandemic affected thousands of people in Spain. Younger and older people have been infected, even some people without any previous medical history were admitted in a critical care units.

Objectives: Determine if there are any comorbidities related to the increased length of stay in ICU and the prognosis of the patients with COVID 19 pneumonia.

Methods: Retrospective observational study conducted in an intensive care unit of a university Hospital. During the pandemic, ICU beds went from 14 to 39. We analysed the patients admitted to the ICU with the diagnosis of respiratory failure due to COVID 19 pneumonia between 6/3 and 21/4 2020. Patients who are still admitted at the time of data collection and those who moved to another centre due to lack of beds are excluded. Demographic data (age, sex), APACHE II, comorbidities (arterial hypertension, previous pulmonary pathology, dyslipidaemia, diabetes mellitus and obesity) are analyzed. We describe the relationship between comorbidities, length of stay and mortality rate.

Conclusion: In our sample, we did not find statistically significant differences between the medical personal history of cardiovascular pathology (AHT), pulmonary disease or dyslipidaemia and length of stay or mortality rate of critically ill patients on mechanical ventilation for COVID 19 pneumonia. Medical history of dyslipidaemia is related with higher creatinine values in our sample.

000616
Evaluation of the relationship between body mass index with sepsis and intensive care outcomes in critically ill patients
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Introduction: Conflicting results have been reported regarding the potential impact of obesity on intensive care unit mortality and sepsis. Sepsis and obesity independently have high incidence and mortality rates. Physiological consequences of obesity increase the risk of complications and the possibility of slow recovery from sepsis. However, obese patients with sepsis had a lower mortality rate than non-obese patients for the first time in 1999 and it was described as obesity survival paradox.

Objectives: To evaluate the relationship between body mass index (BMI) and intensive care outcomes and development of sepsis in critically-ill patients.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study involving > 18-year-old patients who were followed up in a tertiary care medical intensive care unit from January 2015 to December 2019. Patients’ age, gender, arrival diagnosis, APACHE II score, SOFA score, BMI, morbid obesity, comorbid diseases, presence of infection during ICU admission and follow-up, invasive (IMV) and noninvasive mechanical ventilation (NIMV) states, CRP and Procalcitonin levels were recorded. According to their BMI patients were classified as, “underweight” <20 kg / m2, “normal” 20-25 kg / m2, “overweight” 25-30 kg / m2, “obese” 30-40 kg / m2 and “morbid / super obese” >40 kg / m2 and compared for intensive care outcomes and sepsis development. IBM SPSS version 23 program was used for data analysis.

Results: A total of 410 patients, 54% of whom were male and the mean age was 71 ± 15, were included in the study. When categorized according to body mass indexes, 6% of patients were underweight, 36% were normal, 32% were overweight, 20% were obese, 6% were morbidly obese. Overweight, obese and morbid obesity were significantly higher in women than in men (p = 0.001). Hospitalization
A. Abbasova; G. Gursel
2015 and 2019 years were included in the study. Frequency of
performed an University hospital ICU and patients admitted between
Methods:
the risk factors for the development of neurologic problems after ICU
problems have any impact on ICU outcome and to determine what are
Objectives:
Neurologic problems are frequently associated with other critical illnesses
Introduction:
8(2)
Z. çınar
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sionship between BMI and sepsis and length of ICU and hospital stay.
the rate and duration of NIMV usage is higher. But there was no rela-
tionship between BMI and sepsis and length of ICU and hospital stay.
Studies with more patient number are needed to demonstrate the exact effect of BMI on sepsis development and ICU results.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
with total mortality and with cardiovascular events in coronary artery
3. Oliviero H, Villarom E, Obesity and mortality in critically ill adults: a system-
4. Sakr Y, Madl C, Filipescu D, et al. Obesity is associated with increased
Impact of neurological problems on ICU outcome in pulmonary ICU
patients
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A. Abbasova3; G. Gursel3
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000617
Introduction: There are many risk factors for impaired cognitive function
and neurologic damage in intensive care patients including pre-existing
cognitive impairment, metabolic factors, mechanical ventilation, pro-
longed exposure to sedative drugs, sepsis and systemic inflammation.
Neurologic problems are frequently associated with other critical illnesses
in ICU patients and they may have an influence on ICU outcome.
Objectives: Aim of this study was to investigate whether neurologic
problems have any impact on ICU outcome and to determine what are
the risk factors for the development of neurologic problems after ICU
admission in pulmonary ICU patients.
Methods: This retrospective observational single center study was
performed an University hospital ICU and patients admitted between
2015 and 2019 years were included in the study. Frequency of
neurologic problems at admission, their impact on mechanical venti-
lation (MV), infections, ICU length of stay and mortality, development
rate of neurologic problems during ICU stay and risk factors for them
were investigated.
Results: 360 patients were included in the study and there were neur-
ologic problems in the 130 of them (36%) (Group 1). They were stroke,
parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer, neuromuscular diseases, delirium and
muscle weakness acquired in intensive care unit. NIV requirement
rate was less than the patients without neurologic problems (group
2) and requirement of mechanical ventilation was significantly more
frequent in this group (37% & 19%, p<0.05). Duration of MV was sig-
nificantly longer in the Group 1 also(19.2±27.8 vs.6, days p<0.003).
Lastly neurologic problems was independent risk factor for extuba-
tion failure(OR:3). In the presence of neurologic problems length of
ICU stay was significantly longer and they were independent risk factor(OR:3) for the increased length of ICU stay more than 10 days.
When infectious findings were analyzed sepsis rate was significantly
higher before and after ICU admission. Urinary and pulmonary infec-
tion rates were also significantly higher in these patients.
Neurologic complications developed median 7 days after ICU admis-
sion in the 19% of the patients. Most frequent ones were delirium and
muscle weakness acquired in intensive care unit. Neurologic prob-
lems developed after ICU admission increased mechanical ventila-
 tion requirement 3 times as an independent risk factor. Risk factors for
ICU admission required neurological problems were existence of sepsis during admission(OR:2.01, 95%CI:1.02-4, p<0.045) and longer MV durations
before ICU admission(OR:1.05, 95%CI:1.004-41.103, p<0.033).
Neurologic problems were not independent risk factor for mortality.
Conclusion: Neurologic problems did not increase mortality but caused
more frequently mechanical ventilation requirement, more extubation
failure and longer ICU stay in this study population. Additionally
our data suggest that having sepsis during admission and longer length
of MV prior to admission may increase neurological complication rate.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
The development of acute lung injury is associated with worse neuro-
2. Oddo M, Citerio G. ARDS in the brain-injured patient: what’s different? Inten-
Liver injury in critically ill ECMO patients with COVID-19: a case
series
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2): 000622
Introduction: Infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome corona-
virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has become a rapidly spreading pandemic.
Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) has become a rescue
therapy for refractory critically ill patients. COVID-19 studies to
date showed that patients with abnormal liver tests are at higher risk of
progressing to severe disease1,2,3. ECMO patients being the most criti-
cally unwell patients, we have used our case series of all patients with
COVID-19 on ECMO admitted to the intensive care unit to describe the
dysfunction of blood liver tests and some potential causes.
Methods: We included into our case series a total of 18 SARS-CoV-2
positive patients undergoing VA/VV/VAV ECMO as rescue therapy at a
university-affiliated tertiary care centre from March 1st to May 28th
2020. Liver injury was defined as an elevation of the following
four liver enzymes in serum: ALT >40 U/L, AST >40 U/L, gamma-glu-
tamyltransferase (GGT) >49 U/L, alkaline phosphatase (ALP) >135 U/L,
and total bilirubin (TBIL) >17.1 lmol/L. Patients who had raised ALT
and/or AST more than 3 x the upper limit of normal (ULN) were
classified as hepatocyte type; patients who had raised ALP or GGT
more than 3 x the ULN were classified as cholangiocyte type; and patients who had a combination of both ALT/AST elevated more than 3 x the ULN
and ALP/ GGT twice the ULN were classified as mixed type.
Results: Of the 18 patients mean age was 47.5(27-59)years with 94% being male.100% had abnormal liver results. No patient had documented liver disease prior to hospitalization. Average BMI was 30.4,64% having pre-existing T2DM and 52% having essential hyperlipidemia. Average APACHE2 Scores was 19(6-32), 80% commissured VV-ECMO, 2% VA-ECMO with average duration of 30.4 days. 23% had a hepatopatologic picture, 13% cholangiocyte, 11% mildly raised LFTs and 43% a mixed type picture. 83% had preserved synthetic function. On examination of causes, 70% had normal echocardiography, 11% global biventricular failure and 19% mild- moderately impaired RV function. 70.5% patients were on piperclorin/taizobactum, 47% clarithromycin, 41% co-amoxiclav 23% leflovixacin, 11.7% had oseltamivir at the time of the liver injury. 5% (1 patient) was on parenteral nutrition. 11.7% had documented fatty liver on US during their ICU stay. Mortality was 11.7%. Ferritin levels were wide ranging [390-38,000] with mean of 5800 and median of 3100. Average platelets count 150x109/L.

Conclusion: From previous studies, we know those who had abnormal liver test results, especially in hepatocyte type or mixed type, had significantly higher risks of developing severe disease secondary to SARS-CoV-2. 100% of our patients had abnormal liver tests while requiring ECMO representing the most critically unwell SARS-CoV-2 population.Mixed hepatopatologic/cholangiocyte picture was the most prevalent at 43%, as seen in previous study5 with no correlation between type of liver dysfunction and mortality. The liver dysfunction in our study was higher than previously reported3,4 and with no previous history of underlying liver disease, suggesting that liver damage in patients with coronavirus infection might be directly caused by the viral infection of liver cells as suggested by previous studies due to SARS-CoV-2 might directly binding to ACE2-positive cholangiocytes to dysregulate liver function5. It is also possible that the liver impairment is due to drug hepatotoxicity, which might explain the large variation observed across the different cohorts. There was no direct correlation appreciated between antimicrobials and liver dysfunction in our population. In addition, immune-mediated inflammation, such as cytokine storm and pneumonia-associated hypoxia, might also contribute to liver injury or even develop into liver failure in patients with COVID-19 who are critically ill. Ferritin levels were wide ranging [390-38,000] with mean of 5800 suggesting systemic inflammatory process. High positive end expiratory pressure and aggressive ventilator strategies can cause RV strain/ pressure overload. While our patients had reduced ventilation on ECMO 33% had RV dysfunction. This right ventricular dysfunction can be associated with severe hepatic congestion. The primary pathophysiology involved in hepatic dysfunction is either passive congestion from increased filling pressures or low cardiac output and the consequences of impaired perfusion. Cardiogenic ischemic hepatitis may ensue compounding the insult6. It is important to identify RV strain on echo and avoid precipitating factors such as fluid overload and aggressive ventilation. Early consideration for extracorporeal support is important in these patients to avoid RV failure from medical management of respiratory failure. Our case series suggests that there might be concomitant liver injury as a consequence of the critical illness or than direct viral damage on the hepatocytes C19. Attention to modifiable factors and further research into liver injury in SARS-CoV-2 is key with the emphasis on clinical management of these severely ill patients that may consequently impact on liver function.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

6. S. B. Tay1; L. Fletcher1; C. Tai1

Introduction: There is limited evidence to guide UK based critical care management in patients with novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) despite high demand for this service. Throughout the pandemic, emerging trends and initial outcome data have been important to modifying practice. Risk factors for severe disease in the general population have been described [1] but their impact on intensive care outcome is unclear.

Objectives: This is a detailed assessment of local management and outcomes for an east London district general hospital, following the first peak of infection and aims to inform future patient care.

Methods: Adult patients (>18 years) who tested positive on PCR for COVID-19 or those with strong clinical suspicion for COVID-19, admitted to critical care for intubation and ventilation between 14/03/01/2020 were identified. Patients transferred to other hospitals pre-extubation, were excluded, as were four patients who remained on invasive ventilation. Epidemiological, clinical, biochemical, temporal and outcome data was collected. Continuous data was analysed with Student’s t-test /Mann Whitney’s U test and Fisher’s exact test was used for categorical data.

Results: Thirty-nine patients met the inclusion criteria; overall there were 15 survivors. There was no significant difference in co-morbidity prevalence, however Asian ethnicity was more highly represented in non-survivors. Illness duration prior to hospital or critical care admission did not differ significantly, nor did time from hospital to ICU admission, during which the majority received advanced respiratory support. Pre-intubation PaO2/FiO2 ratio was not statistically different between survivors and non-survivors (median 78.3 vs 82.5 respectively; p = 0.584). Median ICU stay in survivors was 9 days (range 3.0-24.0) and hospital admission 17 days (range 11.0-35.0). CRP values were significantly higher in non-survivors at both hospital admission 17 days (range 11.0-35.0). CRP values were significantly higher in non-survivors at both hospital admission (p=0.020) and ICU admission (p=0.0003). ICU admission D-dimer showed a trend towards higher levels in the non-survivors.

Conclusion: The APACHE II score appears valuable in predicting COVID-19 mortality and may aid clinical decision making. Higher ICU admission CRP and neutrophil count in non-survivors may suggest a bacterial
superinfection or increased pro-inflammatory response. NLR ≥ 3.13 plus age > 50 has been proposed as a useful early indicator of severe disease [2]. Higher NLR in our non-survivors could suggest extension to its use as an early indicator of ICU mortality. Lack of significant difference in comorbidities, age, PaO2/FiO2 ratio, ferritin and D dimer may suggest these indicators of more severe disease do not impact so greatly on critical care survival, though noting our sample size is small. Significantly higher noradrenaline and paralysis use, plus trend towards pruning in non-survivors is likely reflective of disease severity. Patients who are from Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are over-represented in our study, consistent with emerging national evidence [3].

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000637
The ICU Impact: results from a short-term follow-up programme
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Correspondence: R. Neto
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000637

Introduction: Transition from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to the general ward represents a challenge for the critical care patient. Some patients will have an unfavourable evolution, which may be potentially avoidable. A short-term follow-up programme (FU-P) may identify patients at risk of deterioration, with a potential to improve quality of care [1].

Objectives: Evaluate the impact of a post-discharge short-term FU-P on patients from a Critical Care Department (CCD).

Methods: Prospective interventional study performed in a tertiary hospital in Northern Portugal. All patients with an ICU stay > 48 hours or intermediate care stay > 72 hours or tracheostomized patients were included in the follow-up programme. Patients were excluded if not eligible to be readmitted in the ICU. Follow-up programme consisted of a medical evaluation by an intensivist at 24, 48 or 72 hours after discharge to the ward and a review of the clinical case with the attending physician. Patients were discharged from the follow-up programme if they presented no organ dysfunction after the visit.

Results: Between September 15th 2019 and March 15th 2020, 29.6% of the patients admitted to the CCD (n=153) were included in the FU-P. The majority were male (65.4%) with a median age of 66 years [52.5 – 76]. Median ICU length of stay was 6 days [4-12.5], 56% of patients required invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), for a median of 6 days [3-13], and 10.1% were tracheostomized. Most patients were evaluated at 48 hours post-discharge. 20 patients were discharged from the hospital and 1 died before the first evaluation. Median Glasgow coma scale (GCS) and median Barthel Scale at follow-up were 15 and 60, respectively. At follow-up, 16.4% of patients presented some level of pain according to visual analogue scale (VAS). ICU-acquired weakness (ICUAW) was diagnosed in 23.1% of patients. Length of ICU stay (<0.001) and duration of IMV (p<0.001) were significantly associated with ICUAW. Intensivists’ visit resulted in a medical action in 15.0% of patients. 2 patients were readmitted. Admission due to urgent surgery was significantly associated with the need for medical intervention (OR 3.38, p=0.01), as well as longer IMV duration (p=0.03) and higher VAS pain levels (p=0.03).

Conclusion: This short-term follow-up programme was essential to improve the quality of care provided to our patients, while maximizing communication between intensivists and attending physicians. This is a feasible programme that helps to identify deteriorating patients and further analysis will allow to improve eligibility criteria to better allocate resources.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000675
COVID-19 - experience from a 400-bedded District General Hospital in the North West of England, UK
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Correspondence: V.N. Gotz
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000675

Introduction: To date, there are about 280,000 confirmed COVID 19 cases in the UK with about 40,000 deaths. Reviewing Public Health England data, the first wave of the COVID 19 pandemic seems to have passed. Our national peak was at the end of March and the beginning of April 2020. The same trend we observed at our local critical care unit and in view of preparedness for a second wave, we analysed our own COVID 19 positive patients.

Objectives: We are reviewing our performance during the COVID 19 pandemic and are using the data and reflection to prepare for a second wave.

Methods: We collected demographic data and other variables of all adult male and female patients confirmed positive with COVID 19 by nasal/oropharyngeal swab. All patients were admitted to critical care at Royal Lancaster Infirmary, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, UK, in March and April 2020.

Results: We had 21 admission in total, 16 males (76.2%) and 5 females (23.8%), with an average age of 62.14 years. The clinical frailty score was on average 2.05, characterising our patients as ‘generally well’ with ‘no active disease symptoms’. The APACHE score on average was 15.43 and length of symptoms (defined as shortness of breath, cough, pyrexia) pre admission to hospital was 8.05 days on average. The predominant past medical histories were hypertension, diabetes mellitus and hypercholesterolaemia and 57.1% presented with fulminant four quadrant con solidation on admission chest x-ray (due to ARDS). Patients admitted to critical care were either in the emergency department (47.6%) or on the respiratory ward (42.9%). Patients that came to us from the emergency department were on a 15 l/min non-rebreather mask and patients from the respiratory ward were treated with ehigh Flow Nasal Cannulae, CPAP or Venturi. Average length of hospital to critical care admission was 17 hours, but when patients were admitted directly from the emergency department the time reduced to 2-5 hours. We observed markers for multi-organ involvement: positive D-dimer (on average 611.5 ng/ ml), elevated procalcitonin (6.43 ng/ml), elevated highly sensitive cardiac troponin HiCTNI (on average 1035.92 ng/l). Average length of stay on ITU was 8.33 days with intubations of 7.85 days. Our patients were all ventilated by Draeger Evita XL ventilators and modes included CPAP/ ASB, BiPAP and APRV. 6 patients were proned, 3 patients were referred for ECMO (all declined) and 1 patient received a tracheostomy to support weaning from the ventilator. Cardiovascular support was delivered for 8.5 days on average and 3 patients also received renal replacement therapy (CVVHD). Patients were extubated to High Flow Nasal Cannulae based on better patient tolerance than CPAP mask and ability to deliver higher concentrations of oxygen when compared to usual face mask. 52% of our patients died (11 in total) and 43% survived (9 in total). One patient is still on critical care past day 60 of the admission. All patients that survived to ITU discharge also survived to hospital discharge and are still alive as per our Lorenzo electronic record system (3 months post admission). Stay on the respiratory ward pre discharge home lasted for an average of 3.6 days. One out of the 21 patients developed a pulmonary embolism after discharge from ITU. The patient was subsequently
Frail adult patients admitted to ICU are less likely to survive to one year compared to non-frail patients, irrespective of age. Further research should be conducted to validate the Clinical Frailty Score in patients <65 years of age, in order to facilitate evidence-based discussions regarding admission to critical care.

Conclusion: Frail adult patients admitted to ICU are less likely to survive their admission and less likely to survive to one year compared to non-frail patients, irrespective of age. Further research should be conducted to validate the Clinical Frailty Score in patients <65 years of age, in order to facilitate evidence-based discussions regarding admission to critical care.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Table 1. Maternal demographic and obstetric data, details of current pregnancy and delivery hospitalization and blood product administration according to ICU admission diagnosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>PPH N=95</th>
<th>Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy N=19</th>
<th>Respiratory N=13</th>
<th>Other N=24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years, mean ± SD</td>
<td>34.32±4.30</td>
<td>32.39±4.48</td>
<td>31.11±5.50</td>
<td>32.91±5.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m², mean ± SD</td>
<td>27.58±0.82</td>
<td>27.50±0.82</td>
<td>27.25±0.12</td>
<td>26.00±4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preeclampsia, n, median [IQR]: range</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous cesarean delivery, n, median [IQR]: range</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
<td>0 [0-1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric age, median [IQR]: range</td>
<td>38.80±3.32</td>
<td>33.40±3.80</td>
<td>35.80±2.25</td>
<td>36.50±4.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU LOS, days, mean ± SD</td>
<td>2.03±1.63</td>
<td>2.78±1.51</td>
<td>7.45±1.61</td>
<td>7.30±1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC transfusion, n, median [IQR]: range</td>
<td>0 [0-3]</td>
<td>0 [0-3]</td>
<td>0 [0-3]</td>
<td>0 [0-3]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Key: SD=standard deviation; IQR=interquartile range; ICU=intensive care unit; BMD=body mass index; LOS=length of stay; PC=packed cells
Table 2. Admission laboratory parameters and vital sign measurements for women with PPH and the rest of the ICU cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>PPH n=38</th>
<th>Rest of the ICU cohort n=56</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hb, g/dL, mean ± SD</td>
<td>9.6±2.54</td>
<td>10.2±2.43</td>
<td>0.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT, x1000/µL, mean ± SD</td>
<td>120±69 84</td>
<td>131±69 84</td>
<td>0.053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNIPE, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>132±29 63</td>
<td>137±22 69</td>
<td>0.965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNBP, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>76±11 21</td>
<td>81±15 38</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature, °C, mean ± SD</td>
<td>37±1 10</td>
<td>37±1 15</td>
<td>0.082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: PPH—post-partum haemorrhage; ICU—intensive care unit; SD—standard deviation; Hb—hemoglobin; PLT—platelet count; SNIPE—systolic noninvasive blood pressure; DNBP—diastolic noninvasive blood pressure.

Table 3. Admission laboratory parameters and vital sign measurements for women with hypertensive diseases of pregnancy and the rest of the ICU cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypertensive disease of pregnancy</th>
<th>Rest of the study cohort n=19</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic hypertension</td>
<td>1.05±0.37</td>
<td>0.75±0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UREA, mg/dL, mean ± SD</td>
<td>14±3.57</td>
<td>10±2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST, U/L, mean ± SD</td>
<td>258±290±39</td>
<td>41±28±27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALT, U/L, mean ± SD</td>
<td>104±119±22</td>
<td>35±12±74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALP, U/L, mean ± SD</td>
<td>168±84±112</td>
<td>95±69±97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNIPE, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>156±82±20</td>
<td>127±68±21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNBP, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>109±24±19</td>
<td>76±9±16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: SD—standard deviation; ICU—intensive care unit; AST—aspartate transaminase; ALT—alanine transaminase; ALP—alkaline phosphatase; SNIPE—systolic noninvasive blood pressure; DNBP—diastolic noninvasive blood pressure.

Table 4. Admission laboratory parameters and vital sign measurements for women with respiratory complications and the rest of the ICU cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respiratory complications</th>
<th>Rest of the study cohort n=28</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WBC, x1000/µL, mean ± SD</td>
<td>12±4±6</td>
<td>16±9±5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNIPE, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>127±68±22</td>
<td>132±54±6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNBP, mmHg, mean ± SD</td>
<td>79±15±3</td>
<td>80±10±16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QI Saturation, %, mean ± SD</td>
<td>93±9±4±6</td>
<td>98±1±3±2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature, °C, mean ± SD</td>
<td>37±1±4±7</td>
<td>36±1±4±6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key: SD—standard deviation; ICU—intensive care unit; WBC—white blood cell count; SNIPE—systolic noninvasive blood pressure; DNBP—diastolic noninvasive blood pressure.

Conclusion: In characterizing demographic, obstetric, hemodynamic and laboratory data according to the admission diagnosis, we report unique findings. Notable findings included a lower admission temperature among women with PPH, possibly associated with a higher rate of packed cells administration, and a lower gestational age and higher incidence of liver and renal dysfunction among women with hypertensive diseases of pregnancy. Considering our findings, the maternal ICU population might be more heterogeneous than previously reported and patient assessment and care should be individualized accordingly.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

**000791**

Short-term psychological outcomes in covid-19 patients following admission to intensive care

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000791

Introduction: Studies indicate high rates of psychological morbidity amongst patients following admission in an intensive care unit (ICU), including acute stress disorder which is predictive of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).[1-3] The recent emergence of covid-19 has had a profound impact on patients, with additional psychological burdens implicated with ICU admission.

Objectives: We aimed to establish the prevalence of acute stress disorder in a single cohort of covid-19 patients discharged from ICU, and to assess which variables could be correlated to their psychological outcomes.

Methods: Data was prospectively collated following local audit approval in a UK district general ICU over a 3 month period between March and May 2020. Patients diagnosed with covid-19, who survived ICU care and were discharged to the ward, were eligible for inclusion. A validated screening questionnaire called the “Acute Stress Disorder Scale” was used to assess the acute stress disorder score (ASDS), the primary outcome.[4] Variables including APACHE II score; CAM-ICU score; duration of stay and sedation in ICU; insertion of tracheoscopy; and receipt of invasive ventilation were recorded. A “covid-19 score” was formed to observe the impact of covid-19 specifically on a patient’s psychological experience of social isolation.

Results: 75 patients were admitted to ICU, with 22 patients discharged to the ward. 9 patients were included for screening; the other 13 patients eligible for inclusion had been discharged to the community on commencement so were unable to participate. The median ASDS score was 39 (IQR 33-54); 3 patients recorded ASDS scores of ≥52, which as an independent cut-off score can predict PTSD with a sensitivity and specificity of 91% and 86% respectively. There was a strong positive correlation between ASDS and duration of stay in ICU and sedation (Table 1). There was a weaker correlation with “covid-19 scores” and APACHE II scores. 8 patients had documented CAM-ICU scores, with 6 patients screened as positive.

Table 1: ASDS Scores by tertiles for recorded patient variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Patients (N=9)</th>
<th>ASDS Score/95</th>
<th>Medium &quot;COVID-19&quot; Score /10</th>
<th>Median APACHE II Score /6</th>
<th>Median Number of Days in Critical Care /8</th>
<th>Median Number of Days Sedated /16</th>
<th>Invasively Ventilated /3</th>
<th>Number Undergoing Tracheostomy /3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=3</td>
<td>30-&lt;50</td>
<td>(52,56,60)</td>
<td>(6,8,8)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3 of 3</td>
<td>3 of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=3</td>
<td>51-&lt;70</td>
<td>(67,75,80)</td>
<td>(17,14,19)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1 of 3</td>
<td>3 of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=3</td>
<td>71-95</td>
<td>(75,80,90)</td>
<td>(18,16,17)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 of 3</td>
<td>1 of 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In this cohort of covid-19 patients, there is a high incidence of acute stress disorder following admission into ICU. There appears to be a strong correlation between ASDS and duration of ICU stay and sedation. No statistical significance can be derived from these data. Further large studies with long-term follow-up are required to assess if acute stress disorder in this cohort of covid-19 patients is statistically linked to PTSD.
Results: The quantitative data of the PSIT, CFQ, SF-36 will be compared over time and between patients and their relatives. Participants' characteristics including the recollection of memory will be reported and if necessary multivariate analysis will be computed.

Conclusion: This study will contribute to the research on ICU diaries and pioneers on the psychological problems of PICS of SARS-CoV-2 patients and the use of ICU diaries in this group.

000804
The effect of ICU diaries on the recollection of memories and the occurrence of impaired mental health in post-ICU patients: a prospective cohort study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000804

Introduction: Post-intensive care syndrome (PICS) affects 50-70% of ICU survivors. ICU patients as well as their close relatives are at risk of developing PICS symptoms comprising Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety or depression. Post-ICU patients having delusional memories may have a higher risk for developing PTSD symptoms. (Jones, Griffiths, Humphris, & Skirrow, 2001). Little is known about the mental health of patients who have complete loss of memory without fragmented or delusional memories. ICU diaries may contribute to the recollection of memories or completion of a fragmented illness narrative. We hypothesize that the use of ICU diaries will increase memory recollection of patients’ ICU stay.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of ICU diaries on the recollection of ICU memories. Secondary, we investigate the occurrence of impaired mental health in patients with and without memories of their ICU stay.

Methods: Post-ICU patients, admitted to the ICU from January 2015 to January 2017, were included. During ICU treatment the diary was written by either ICU staff and/or patients’ relatives. During follow-up at the outpatient ICU aftercare clinic, 12 weeks after hospital discharge, patients were screened for complete loss of memory of the ICU period.

PTSD symptoms were screened by the Impact of Event Scale-Revised (IES-R). The Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale (HADS) was used to assess anxiety or depression symptoms.

Results: A total of 174 patients were included, of which 83 men and 91 females, with respectively a mean ICU stay of eleven and nine days. Of the males 48 had an ICU diary and 35 had memories of their ICU stay. Of the females 33 had an ICU diary and 49 had memories of their ICU stay. A multivariate analysis was conducted on the factors that may influence having memories of the ICU. Patients with a diary had three times higher odds of having memories (OR 3.37 (95%CI: 1.51 – 7.51, p = 0.003). Of the patients who had an ICU diary, there were significantly more men than women who had no ICU-recall (p = 0.013). Patients were divided into two groups: 1. Complete loss of ICU memory. 2. Complete recall, fragmented or delusional memories. Ten patients without any memory of their ICU stay had an IES-R score of ≥ 33, considered a probable case of PTSD, compared to twenty-two patients with any memory of their ICU stay (p = 0.04). HADS scores were not significantly different between both groups.

Conclusion: ICU diaries may contribute to the recollection of memories of an ICU stay. Having any kind of memory of the ICU admission seems to result in a higher risk for developing PTSD symptoms. This study suggests a difference of the effect of ICU diaries between males and females, however further research is needed to elucidate whether this matter is clinically relevant.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Post Intensive Care Syndrome in patients suffering from Acute Subarachnoid Haemorrhage: results of an outpatient post-ICU aftercare clinic

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000805

Introduction: Survivors of acute subarachnoid haemorrhage (aSAH) may suffer from long-term neurological disability but also from cognitive impairment, anxiety and depression. These symptoms can also be related to the Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) defined as new or worsened impairment in physical, cognitive, psychological domains after ICU treatment. The prevalence of PICS after aSAH is not exactly known and the syndrome is poorly understood.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate the prevalence of PICS and examine ICU- and patient related risk factors.

Methods: We conducted an observational cohort study of post-ICU patients after aSAH, who were evaluated in our post-ICU aftercare clinic three months after hospital discharge. Patients were included between January 2012 and December 2016. Patients were screened for physical complaints, anxiety, depression and PTSD symptoms using respectively an in-hospital developed questionnaire, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale (HADS) and the Impact of Event-Revised questionnaire (IES-R). Subjective cognitive complaints were assessed by asking three questions about short-term memory deficits, concentration problems and speed of thinking.

Results: In total, 110 patients visited the post-ICU aftercare clinic after aSAH. When looking at the separate domains of PICS the prevalence of anxiety and depression was 24.3% and 19.6%, respectively. PTSD was seen in 28.6% of the patients. There was a high prevalence of cognitive complaints; lack of concentration (63.6%), short-term memory problems (45.8%) and reduced speed of thinking (60.9%). Fatigue (75.0%) and limitations in daily activity (74.1%), muscle weakness (42.6%), pain (37.4%) and weight loss (32.1%) were the top five most reported physical complaints. Thirty per cent of patients had PICS symptoms related to all three domains of physical, cognitive and psychological functioning. Only 6 (5.5%) patients had no complaints. High prevalence of PICS symptoms was reported even in good outcome aSAH patients.

Conclusion: In post-ICU patients suffering from aSAH there is a high prevalence of PICS. Even in patients with good outcome after aSAH high prevalence of PICS symptoms was reported. Future studies concerning PICS should focus on the full domain of complaints comprising PICS.

A retrospective study of obstetric admissions in an intensive care unit

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000852

Introduction: Obstetric admissions to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) may be considered a marker of morbidity but are a rare event because pregnant women are usually young and healthy. The incidence varies between 0.4 to 16% of critical care admissions or 0.7 to 13.5 per 1000 deliveries. Reasons for admissions are conditions related to pregnancy (haemorrhagic events, preeclampsia, eclampsia or puerperal infections) or conditions unrelated to pregnancy (congenital and valvular heart disease, pulmonary hypertension, etc). These patients represent a challenge to intensivists due to the physiological adaptations and pathological concerns during puerperium.

Objectives: The aim of present study is determining the incidence, epidemiological characteristics and outcomes of postpartum women who required ICU admission.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study of all obstetric admissions in a Portuguese 10-bed ICU between January 2015 to January 2020.

Results: In the period from January 2015 to January 2020, 17 obstetric patients were admitted to our ICU, representing 1.3% of all ICU admissions and 1.7 per 1000 deliveries. The mean patient’s age was 32.5 years (21-45 years old) and the mean of gestational age was 36.9 weeks (28.1-40.7 weeks). Out of all women, 55.6% were primiparous, all of them were single pregnancies and all were admitted in postpartum care, most patients (76.5%) were admitted in immediate postpartum period.

Most common delivery type was caesarean in 88.2% women, instrumented delivery in 5.9% and eutocic delivery in 5.9%. The three most common causes of admissions were obstetric haemorrhage in 6 cases (33.3%); HELLP Syndrome in 4 cases (22.2%) and pneumonia in 3 cases (16.7%). Both instrumented and eutocic deliveries had obstetric haemorrhage as cause of admission.

The median length of ICU stay was 4 days. The most common interventions during ICU admission were transfusion of blood products in 8 patients (47.1%), mechanical ventilation in 9 patients (52.9%), with 3 patients for a period <24 hours. Only 2 patients needed vasopressors and 1 patient needed Renal Replacement Therapy. The mean of APACHE II score was 10 and SAPS II was 23. One patient died, with a maternal mortality rate of 0.1 per 1000 deliveries. This casualty was a 45-years-old woman who was admitted with a pulmonary thromboembolism.

Conclusion: Although obstetric admissions to ICU may be considered a marker of morbidity, there are few national studies to investigate these admissions. In our study, these patients accounted for 1.3% of total admissions or 1.7 per 1000 deliveries. These rates are very heterogeneous between ICUs and it may be explained by several factors, including the number of ICU beds or the existence of maternal and child centres where women are followed when there is a potential problem in pregnancy or prepartum.

The length of ICU stay is 4 days and the most common reasons for ICU admission are hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and obstetric haemorrhage and it is comparable with other studies. These patients typically have a short length of ICU stay and low hospital mortality. The only fatality case reported is the oldest pregnant woman. Increased maternal age is related to many complications during pregnancy and delivery, thus we need to be considered as a risk factor. Obstetric patients in ICU are a challenge that needs a multidisciplinary approach.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
000873
Monitoring outcomes in intensive care unit: the transfusion traceability quality indicator
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000873

Introduction: According to European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare “traceability is the ability to trace each blood component unit from donor to its final destination (patient, medicinal products manufacturer, disposal) & vice versa.” It is mandatory procedure & prerequisite for Hemovigilance Networks. Ideally, Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) should be able to trace every blood unit they issue.

Traceability is achieved by recording transfusion data (component’s unique identification number, patient’s data) in electronic files of computer systems and/or in paper-forms, both in BTS & clinical ward. Nurses contribute to implementing traceability since their actions mark the beginning & the end of a transfusion. Therefore, it is vital to train them on traceability-issues.

Objectives: To measure effectiveness of educational interventions regarding traceability, which were implemented in 2018 in the 8-bed ICU of an oncology hospital, by recording the change in traceability levels, the years before (2017) & after (2019) implementing relevant educational activities.

Methods: During 2017 & 2019, 84 & 91 patients respectively were hospitalized in the ICU. All 20 ICU nurses were trained on traceability issues during 2018 (lectures, distribution of printed material in the ward, training in small groups or individually) by a BTS doctor. Training effectiveness was checked in two ways:

1. Nurses answered a traceability-relevant questionnaire in 2017 & 2019 (before & after implementing educational activities). Change in percentage of correct answers was recorded.
2. All blood products transfused before (2017) & after (2019) training interventions were traced (both as a whole & per blood component category). In our hospital, transfusion-data are recorded in paper files (ICU) & in electronic files (BTS). A BTS Health Visitor checked & collated all data recorded in both files. Transfusions were described as “confirmed” only when the patient’s & unit’s data were identical in both files-otherwise, they were described as “probable”.

Results: A significant improvement in the percentage of questionnaire correct answers before & after training interventions was recorded (81.66% & 95.83% respectively).

Results regarding traceability are depicted in Table 1. The lack of statistical significance in platelet/plasma results is attributed to low transfusion numbers.

Conclusion: 1. Implemented educational interventions contributed to the improvement of ICU nurses’ knowledge & practices on traceability issues.
2. Auditing cases of non-traceability per nurse, could help in planning targeted training to nurses with frequent “probable transfusion” results.
3. Repeated training can strengthen & consolidate proper traceability practices, enhance safety of all involved in transfusion chain (blood donor, patient, staff) & upgrade quality of health services provided.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. N/A

000891
Clustering of ARDS-covid 19 patients based on admission characteristics and 3 days follow-up
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Traceability of blood transfusion (years 2017 and 2019)</th>
<th>2017 (84 patients)</th>
<th>2019 (91 patients)</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Blood Cells</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Total (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>97.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Frozen Plasma</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Confirmed transfusion, P: Probable transfusion, T: Traceability (confirmed/total)</td>
<td>I: Improvement, CI: Confidence Interval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence: C. DUPUIS
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000891

Introduction: Outbreaks of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic have been causing worldwide health concerns since December 2019. Most of the patients admitted in ICU fulfill acute respiratory distress syndrome. Little is known about the heterogeneity of those patients and their outcomes.

Objectives: Identification of more homogeneous subgroups of COVID-19 patients admitted in ICU with similar characteristics, independently of any outcome measures.

Methods: We included patients admitted for COVID-19 disease to one of the French ICUs participating in the French Outcomerea prospectively for each ICU, and the median SOFA respiratory was 3 [2; 3]. At day 28, 147 (41.2) were still under mechanical ventilation or died including 104 (29.2) dead patients. Finally, 5 sub-groups could be identified.

Results: 357 patients still alive at day 3 could be included. The median age was 61 [52; 70] years, 277 (77.6) were male, the median body mass index was 28.4 [25-4; 32], the median charlson score was 1 [0; 3]. At day 3, the median SOFA respiratory was 3 [12; 4] and the median SOFA respiratory was 3 [2; 3]. At day 28, 147 (41.2) were still under mechanical ventilation or died including 104 (29.2) dead patients.

Conclusion: This clustering approach revealed several profiles of patients (63 [55; 72.5] years old), with multiorgan failure at day 3, and low lymphocytes, monocytes and neutrophils levels which tended to decrease from day 1 to day 3 with a moderate increase of CRP and ferritine levels.

Cluster B (N=100, 28%, 34% mortality) was remarkable for the severity of their patients at day 3 with multi organ failures and for their inflammatory profile with high level of ferritin, CRP and neutrophils at day 3.

Cluster C (N=95, 26.7%, 31% mortality) gathered quite old patients (64 [55; 73] years) with a less severe respiratory failure, but others organ failures, and with a moderate inflammatory syndrome.

Cluster D (N=100, 28%, 34% mortality), was remarkable for the severity of their patients at day 3 with multi organ failures and for their inflammatory profile with high level of ferritin, CRP and neutrophils at day 3.

Cluster E (N=76, 21%, 28% mortality) was characterized by quite old patients (63 [55; 72.5] years old), with multiorgan failure at day 3, and low lymphocytes, monocytes and neutrophils levels which tended to decrease from day 1 to day 3 with a moderate increase of CRP and ferritin levels.

Cluster A (N=79, 22%, 23% mortality) had younger patients (53 [48; 61] years old) mainly with respiratory failure and the lowest inflammatory syndrome at day 3.

Our retrospective observational study aimed to test the hypothesis that there is a difference in mean values of clinical data on ICU admission day. The patients separated into two groups. We detected no statistical difference between the two groups corrected according to the normality test, according to clinical data on the ICU admission day.

Methods: This review was registered on PROSPERO a priori, CRD42021809020, and adhered to PRISMA guidelines. Two authors independently searched Medline, Embase, CENTRAL and Web of Science for studies published between December 1, 2019 and April 24, 2020, with an updated search on June 2, 2020. The COVID-19 resource centres of major journals were also screened for relevant studies. All clinical studies reporting the smoking status of hospitalised patients presenting with different severities of disease and/or at least one clinical endpoint of interest (disease progression, ICU admission, need for mechanical ventilation and mortality) were included. Smoking history included current and former tobacco smokers or e-cigarette users. Studies with insufficient information to distinguish outcomes based on smoking status were excluded. Random effects meta-analyses of pooled raw data were employed for each outcome with sufficient data. Results are presented as risk ratios (RR) with corresponding 95% Confidence Intervals (CI). Study quality was independently assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale.

Results: After screening 1050 papers, we analysed the findings of 47 eligible studies reporting on 32849 hospitalised COVID-19 patients. Of these, 8417 (25.6%) reported a smoking history, comprising 1501 current smokers, 5676 former smokers and 1248 unspecified smokers. Current smokers had an increased risk of presenting with severe COVID-19 (RR 1.80, 95% CI 1.14-2.85; p=0.012), as well as severe or critical COVID-19 (RR 1.98, 95% CI 1.16-3.38; p=0.012), compared to former and never-smokers. However, the increased risk of in-hospital mortality was not statistically significant (RR 1.46, 95% CI 0.83-2.60; p=0.192). Compared to never-smokers, patients with a smoking history had a significantly increased risk of severe COVID-19 (RR 1.31, 95% CI 1.12-1.54; p=0.001), severe or critical COVID-19 (RR 1.35, 95% CI 1.19-1.53; p=0.001), in-hospital mortality (RR 1.26, 95% CI 1.20-1.32; p<0.001), disease progression (RR 2.18, 95% CI 1.06-4.49; p=0.035), and need for mechanical ventilation (RR 1.20, 95% CI 1.01-1.42; p=0.043).

Conclusion: Smokers are vulnerable to increased severity of COVID-19 and worse in-hospital outcomes. In the absence of current targeted therapies against COVID-19, governments, policymakers and other key stakeholders must focus on preventative and supportive strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality in this patient population.

Clinical parameters that affect the outcome in ICU patients with severe influenza infection
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 00038

Introduction: Influenza virus infection is an important cause of mortality worldwide, leading to 250000 to 500000 deaths each year in the developed world. Mortality is caused by the primary viral infection, but also by influenza-associated pulmonary co-infections.

Objectives: Our retrospective observational study aimed to test the hypothesis that there is a difference in mean values of clinical data on ICU admission day, among patients with confirmed influenza infection who died and patients who survived in both Medical and Surgical ICU served to a community hospital.

Methods: From January 2019 to October 2019, 1332 patients admitted to our ICU. From these, 25 (1.87%), 14 males and 11 females, were included with the diagnosis of severe influenza infection. Mean age 61.08 years, length of stay (LOS) 17.68 days, days under mechanical ventilation (MVD) 13.6 days. The patients separated into two groups. Group A involved all patients who survived ICU and group B all patients who died in ICU. We looked for statistically significant differences (p-value two-tailed) between the medians values of two groups, using the unpaired Mann - Whitney test or the unpaired t-test Welch corrected according to the normality test, according to clinical data on the ICU admission day.

Results: We detected no statistical difference between the two groups according: Temperature: (p=0.3022), MAP: (p=0.1750), HR: (p=0.1410), RR: (0.2800), Na: (p=0.4029), k: (p=0.1539), BUN: (p=0.3022), RR: (0.3022), MAP: (p=0.4029), k: (p=0.1410),
Changes in high-risk surgical practices in patients in Brazilian intensive care units from 2008 to 2018


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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 00046

Introduction: Many advances in the care of high-risk surgical patients have been made. Nevertheless, temporal trends in outcomes in this population of patients in developing countries are lacking.

Objectives: This study aimed to investigate trends in mortality and complications in high-risk surgical patients over a ten-year period.

Methods: Ethical approval was obtained N. 1.570.327-2016. Data from two prospective multicenter cohort studies (SCORIS AND BRASIS studies) conducted by AMIB Network from 2008 to 2018 to address the outcomes of high-risk surgical patients in Brazil were compared. All non-cardiac surgical patients admitted to intensive care units (ICU) were daily followed up to hospital discharge to determine complications and mortality.

Results: Individual patient data from 1,491 high-risk surgical patients (904 patients from BRASIS study and 587 from SCORIS study) in 50 ICUs were enrolled in this analysis. table 1.

The crude hospital mortality rate decreased from 20.6% (95% CI, 17.1 to 24.6%) in 2008 to 8.9% (95% CI, 7.0 to 11.2%) in 2018. After adjusting for baseline Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) Score, age and type of ICU, patients enrolled in 2018 (10.1%; 95% CI, 7.5 to 13.4) compared those enrolled from 2008 (16.1%; 95% CI, 12.8 to 20.0) exhibited a lower risk of hospital death (OR, 0.58; 95% CI, 0.40 to 0.85; P= 0.005) and ICU mortality rate, 5.5% in 2018 and 11.2% in 2008 (OR, 0.46; 95% CI, 0.29 to 0.75; P= 0.001).

The frequency of infection decreased significantly from 19.8% in 2008 to 2.9% in 2018 (OR, 0.12; 95% CI, 0.07 to 0.21; P< 0.001) while general rate of complications did not differ between the two periods, 34.8% (95% CI, 29.8 to 40.3%) in 2008 and 33.8% (95% CI, 28.9 to 39.2%) in 2018.

Conclusion: Over the 10-year period between 2008 and 2018, mortality and incidence of infection improved in high-risk surgical patients admitted to Brazilian intensive care units, however general complications rate remained unchanged.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. Acknowledgements: To the data collection BRASIS study group, Israelita Albert Einstein Hospital and Barretos Cancer Hospital for the support to the study. The study was endorsed by the Brazilian Network of Research in Intensive Care (AMIBnet).
• Significantly Increased CVS Support 95% in 2020 vs. 38% in 2019. 100% in CS

Ethnicity
• Increased BAME admissions 73% in 2020 vs. 49% in 2019. 83% in CS

Gender
• Increased Male admissions 74% in 2020 vs. 60% in 2019. 80% in CS

Conclusion: Our Data shows there was both an increase in the number of patients and the proportion of patients requiring organ support, with BAME and Male patients disproportionately affected in line with recent publications (3). Despite the 4-fold increase in our critical care capacity (the generally accepted protocol that left other centres with excess capacity), our systems were stretched during these unprecedented times to the extent we had to transfer half our patients out (4). The mutual aid response by NWCNN and the dedication of the hospital multidisciplinary teams at all levels whose lives were also severely disrupted helped maintain patient care and safety throughout this period.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. None to declare
3. 4. Hospital surge capacity: maternity emergency referral centres during the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy L. Carerzo et al Anaesthesia 2020, 75, 928–934

000980
Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a risk marker of bad outcome in patients hospitalized with COVID-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000980

Introduction: The fast worldwide spread of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the resulting dramatic pandemic have stimulated clinical research to describe patients risks and evolution. Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) has shown its prognostic value in cardiovascular diseases, cancer, infections or inflammatory diseases, probably because it is correlated to the level of dysregulation of the immune response. We therefore studied the association between NLR and in-hospital death or intensive care unit (ICU) admission in patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed a cohort of patients with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to the MontLegia Hospital (Liège, Belgium) between 15/03/20 to 04/05/20. We recorded baseline data including biological and clinical features, as well as ICU admission and hospital mortality. The independent association between NLR and the composite outcome of ICU admission and/or hospital mortality was assessed with multivariable logistic regression.

Results: Two hundred and thirteen patients were admitted to our hospital with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 (polymerase chain reaction positive for SARS-CoV-2) during the study period, among which 92 (43.2%) were admitted to the ICU and/or died during the hospital stay (composite primary outcome).

The median (interquartile range (IQR)) NLR was significantly higher for patients with the composite primary outcome (7.4 (8.2-11.6) versus 4.6 (3.1-6.6), p<0.001). At hospital admission, patients with the composite primary outcome had a worse oxygenation (SpO2 / FiO2 3.8 (223-399) versus 323 (304-424), p<0.001), a higher creatinine level (1.14 (0.84-1.66) versus 0.92 (0.79-1.21) mg/dL, p=0.006) and a higher C-reactive protein (CRP) level (108 (64-183) versus 67 (32-125) mg/L, p<0.001).

The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve describing NLR as a predictor of ICU admission and/or death was 0.71 (95% confidence interval (CI) 0.63-0.77), which was significantly different from the non-discrimination line (p<0.001). The threshold with the best global predictive value for ICU admission and/or death, according to the Youden index, was 6.1 (sensitivity 66.3%, specificity 74.4%).

After adjustment for potential confounders, NLR remained associated with ICU admission or death: adjusted odds ratio (OR) 1.1, 95% CI 1.04-1.17, p=0.002. Patients with an NLR > 6.1 had a 5.72-fold increased risk of ICU admission or death (adjusted OR 5.72, CI95% 2.80-11.71, p<0.001).

Conclusion: The NLR is independently associated with ICU admission or death during hospital stay for the patients hospitalized with COVID-19. In association with other clinical and biological variables, this risk marker should be useful in helping the clinicians to identify the patients needing a close monitoring.

001034
Evaluation of hepatic injury definitions in pulmonary ICU patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001034

Introduction: Hepatic injury (HI) and failure are observed in up to 20% of patients in intensive care units and are associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Secondary or acquired liver injury and failure such as hypoxic liver injury, cholestatic dysfunction in critical illness, sclerosing cholangitis in critical illness, and drug-induced liver injury (DILI) represent the most frequent forms of hepatic injury in critical illness. More importantly, retrospective population studies showed that liver injury was not mentioned in the diagnosis or in the physician’s discharge letter in 52–68% of cases. On the other hand definition of HI influences the incidence, prognosis, mortality, and treatment management of the diseases.

There is no uniform definition of hepatic injury in critically ill patients. According to some studies, total bilirubin levels greater than 2 mg/dL represent a cutoff in daily practice. Others use 2-fold to 3-fold elevation of ALP/AST, alkaline phosphatase (AP) and/or gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT) to define it.

Objectives: Aim of this study is to compare HI definitions in pulmonary ICU patients with secondary hepatic injury.

Methods: This retrospective cohort study was performed in an University Hospital Pulmonary ICU. Patients with hepatic injury included in the study. 478 patients were included in the study. We compared 3 definition of hepatic injury 1. hepatic criteria of the SOFA score (HI-SOFA: bilirubin>2 mg/dL). 2. 2017 definition of American Collage of Gastroenterology (HI-ACG1). 2017 definition of American Collage of Gastroenterology without borderline patients (HI-ACG2) and 3. 2019
EASL DILI definition (HI-EAS). To define if HI is cholestatic, hepatocellular or mixed we calculated R ratio. We also calculated severity of HI in all patients. Incidence, consistency (level of agreement-Kappa statistics), correlations, sensitivity and specificity of the definitions were also calculated for each definition taking one of them as gold standart. Lastly mortality rates according to 3 different definition were also calculated.

Results: As can be seen in table 1 and 2 HI incidence and mortality rates are highly variable across the definitions and there is no good aggreement and correlation between them. Sensitivity and/or specificity numbers were also low in general also.

Conclusion: These results showed that definition of HI according to bilirubin or ALT/AST or together changes HI diagnosis. To standardize epidemiologic data, diagnosis, severity assessment, treatment of HI we need a generally accepted definition for ICU patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001096
The link between risk factors and mortality rate in coma patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001096

Introduction: Coma - a formidable disorder of consciousness caused by a various etiologic factors. According to some authors, the mortality rate of patients in coma may be higher than 87.0% [1]. For this reason more and more factors, increasing the mortality of coma patients rate, are being sought and investigated.

Methods: 82 Intensive Care Unit patients retrospective analysis was performed. Chosen patients who had a score of 8 or less, according to the GCS and were not medically suppressed. Mortality rate and influence of the risk factors of the patients in coma were observed. 95.0% of the dead patients had lactate concentration > 3.5 mmol/l, increased the odds ratio for mortality by 5.9 times, the sensitivity 82.0%, and the specificity 57.0%.

3.5 mmol/l, increased the odds ratio for mortality by 7.1 times, the area under the curve 78.0%, the sensitivity 92.6% and the specificity 57.1%.

In 88.9% of the dead patients creatinine concentration was higher than 170 µmol/l, p=0.038. According to the ROC test, creatinine value more than 170 µmol/l, increased the odds ratio for mortality by 3.5 times, the sensitivity 30.0%, and the specificity 92.6%.

In 76.9% of the dead patients had lactate value more than 3.5 mmol/l, p= 0.05. According to the ROC test, lactate concentration more than 3.5 mmol/l, increased the odds ratio for mortality by 5.9 times, the sensitivity 82.0%, and the specificity 57.0%.

Conclusion: 1. Mortality rate of coma patients was 65.9%.

2. Mortality rate of coma patients increases due to coma of metabolic origin, GCS ≤5, tachycardia >100 beats per minute, creatinine concentration >170 µmol/l, lactate concentration > 3.5 mmol/l.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001157
How “door-to-icu” time influences outcome
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001157

Introduction: The pandemic of COVID-19 has overcrowded our ICUs. In Italy, the country besides China with the most patients with COVID-19 until March 29, 2020, up to 12% of all positive cases required ICU admission. The median time from symptom onset to the development of pneumonia was approximately 5 days, and the median time from symptom onset to severe hypoxaemia and ICU admission was approximately 7–12 days.(1) Data from Wuhan, China, concluded that older patients (>60 years) were more likely to exhibit severe and critical COVID-19 conditions; patients with chronic disease were more prone to severe forms of COVID-19 and regarding the symptoms, dyspnea, chest tightness, diarrhea, fatigue, dizziness, muscle ache, and unconsciousness were significantly linked to severe COVID-19 cases.(2) Prediction of trajectory of illness from symptom onset is difficult, and prognostic tools and biomarkers are urgently needed. (3)

Objectives: eternation of factors that predict this rapid respiratory deterioration may help to anticipate rapid need for intubation and respiratory support. This work relates patient status at ICU admission and the time to invasive ventilation, complications and outcome.

Methods: This is a retrospective study of all patients admitted to a tertiary hospital ICU in Portugal. Primary outcomes were mortality, time of mechanical ventilation; Secondary outcomes were association with higher APACHE II, SAPS II and greater need for invasive ventilatory manoeuvres (like pronning).

Results: Between March 17th and May 10th 2020 were admitted 36 SARS-CoV-2 patients to our ICU, 10 of those were direct admissions from the emergency department. The other 26 ICU admissions were transfers from wards and the majority (35%) only after 72 h of hospital stay. 31% during the first 24 h after admission.

There was no difference in APACHE II and SAPS II scores between the two groups at ICU admission: direct admissions from the emergency department or from the wards. There was a positive association
between the need for proning maneuvers and longer time-to-ICU (p=0.008), although there was no difference in admission PO2/FiO2 ratio.

**Conclusion:** There was no identified correlation between mortality and time-to-ICU admission. We should look into other parameters as predictors of prognosis.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Impact of clinical frailty score and the national early warning score 2 on ICU and 30-day mortality**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001158**

**Introduction:** ICU outcome can be predicted using multiple methods, these tend to be retrospective, time consuming and require a large number of data points. The National Early Warning Score 2 (NEWS2) is a widely used severity of illness scale to detect the acutely unwell and deteriorating patient from the end of the bed (1). A Rockwood Clinical Frailty Score (CFS) (2) can be easily calculated following discussion with the patient, their family or review of clinical notes. It has been demonstrated that a higher CFS correlates with a worse ICU outcome (3), studies looking at NEWS2 and ICU outcome are not widely published.

We hypothesise that a higher CFS and NEWS2 will correlate with a higher ICU and 30-day mortality. Combined, both provide a snapshot assessment of the patient and may help inform future decision making with regards to ICU admission and predicted outcome.

**Objectives:** To determine the effect of CFS and NEWS2 on ICU mortality and 30-day mortality.

**Methods:** Observational data was collected on 106 patients admitted in ICU between 9/01/2020 and 12/03/2020. CFS was calculated by ICU clinicians from reviewing the patient, nursing and therapy notes, as well as speaking to the patient or family members where possible. This score was based on the patients status two weeks prior to admission to ICU. NEWS2 was calculated from the last set of observations performed prior to admission to ICU. The primary outcome was ICU mortality, secondary outcomes were 7-day and 30-day mortality. The data was collected in Microsoft Excel and analysed.

**Results:** Data was collected on 106 patients. There were 62 patients admitted under medicine, 32 emergency surgical cases and 12 elective surgical cases. The average age of patients was 64. Overall ICU mortality was 20.8%.

A CFS of 5 or more was used as a cut off to indicate frailty. 24.5% of patients had a CFS of 5 or more. Patients were further stratified into a low (0-4), medium (5-6) or high (>7) NEWS2 category. Patients with a CFS ≥5 (38.5%) had a higher ICU mortality than those with a CFS <5 (15%). Patients with a high NEWS2 had a higher ICU mortality (32%) than those with a low NEWS2 (11%) (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Our data shows that frail patients, with a high NEWS2 have a higher ICU and 30-day mortality rate than patients without frailty and a low NEWS2. Larger scale studies should be performed to further investigate this, as well as correlating this data with existing ICU outcome predictor tools such as APACHE II. Future use of the CFS and NEWS2 as an ‘end of the bed’ assessment tool may help to augment decision making with regards to ICU admissions and predicted outcomes.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. 1. Royal College of Physicians. National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2: Standardising the assessment of acute-illness severity in the NHS. 2017
4. 4. 1.1 Royal College of Physicians. National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2: Standardising the assessment of acute-illness severity in the NHS. 2017

**Does age always matter for the outcome in the Intensive Care Unit?**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001184**
Introduction: Aged patients represent a significant proportion of patients who require admission to the Intensive Care unit (ICU). Advanced age is associated with higher mortality and adverse outcomes in ICU, however according to some studies is not only the age that determines the prognosis, co morbidities and previous health status could affect the outcome as well.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the possible effect of age, co morbidities, reason for admission to the ICU, length of stay in ICU and the final outcome.

Methods: Our study included157 patients aged 68 and older that were admitted to the ICU from January 2018 till September 2019. Demographic parameters, admission diagnosis, underlying diseases, ICU length of stay and finally outcome were recorded.

Results: We enrolled 157 patients, 85 males, 72 females with mean age 74.6 years. They main reasons for admission were 1st post operative (after elective operation) 64 patients 2nd. trauma 40 patients, 3rd. acute respiratory failure 30 patients, 4th. sepsis 23 patients. Out of 157 patients the 112 had co morbid medical illness (e.g. ischemic heart disease, arterial hypertension, diabetes mellitus, COPD, chronic renal failure). The mean length of stay was 23 days but it ranged from 1 to 65 days. Out of 157 patient 95 were discharged from the ICU and 62 patient died. Post operative patients independently from the age and co morbidities had the best outcome and discharged earlier from ICU than other etiological groups. There were not differences in the outcome as far as the gender was concerned.

Conclusion: Reasons for mortality appear to be multifactorial in elderly patients. High age alone is not a factor to predict morbidity and mortality in ICU patients. Previous health state co morbidities and the reason for admission in the ICU play a very important role for the final outcome.

000327
Association of Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) components with outcome in contemporary critical care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000327

Introduction: Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score is a practical method to describe the severity of multi-organ failure. It has been suggested that SOFA score could be employed as a tool to predict outcome and as an endpoint in intervention trials (1). To justify these assumptions all SOFA components should carry comparable weights as outcome predictors. SOFA score was introduced in 1996 and has remained unchanged to date, although there have been changes in clinical practice (2).

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate if SOFA score components are comparable in association with in-hospital mortality.

Methods: We performed a national observational cohort study on adult (18 years of age or older) patients admitted to 26 Finnish intensive care units (ICUs) between 2012-2015. SOFA score was determined as the most severe SOFA score component value within the first 24 hours after admission to ICU. We performed statistical analysis employing age- and sex-adjusted multivariable logistic regression.

Results: We included 67 095 admissions after excluding 4 289 readmissions and 112 admissions with missing in-hospital mortality data. Total in-hospital mortality was 11.4%. Multivariable logistic regression revealed that increase in SOFA points was associated with higher risk of in-hospital death in respiratory (age-adjusted odds ratio [OR] 1.40, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.36-1.44, p<0.001) per point; in coagulation (OR 1.22, 95% CI 1.18-1.26, p<0.001); in hepatic (OR 1.36, 95% CI 1.31-1.42, p<0.001); in cardiovascular (OR 1.16, 95% CI 1.14-1.19, p<0.001); in neurologic (OR 1.72, 95% CI 1.69-1.75, p<0.001), and in renal component (OR 1.63, 95% CI 1.59-1.66, p<0.001).

Conclusion: We found that all SOFA score components have independent predictive value. However increased risk of in-hospital death per SOFA score point was not comparable between components. Cardiovascular component has the weakest and neurologic component has the strongest association with increased in-hospital mortality (Figure 1).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000382
GRACE versus CHADS2: a paradigm change in ACS stratification
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000382

Introduction: The GRACE Score is a prospectively studied scoring system which stratify patients with diagnosed ACS to estimate in-hospital and 6-month to 3-year mortality. Knowing patient’s risk earlier may help with management and prognostication. Recent studies refer that CHADS2 could be as useful as GRACE score in this scenario.

Objectives: To compare GRACE and CHADS2 scores regarding MACE, in-hospital mortality and 1-year mortality in Portuguese population.

Methods: Retrospective study during a period of 8 years + 8 months. Only NSTEMI patients were admitted in the study. GRACE and CHADS2 groups, based on mortality risk, were created and compared regarding MACE and mortality.

Results: 7537 patients were admitted. Male predominance (70,9%) and mean age of 67 + 13 years. Hypertension (73,2%), diabetes (34,4%) and dyslipidaemia (61,4%) were the most frequent comorbidities. 85% were submitted to angiography with DA being the most common culprit vessel (33,2%). Multivessel disease in 55,1% of the patients. MACE occurred in 5,1% of the cases with 1,9% of the patients dying in hospital.

Conclusion: We found that all SOFA score components have independent predictive value. However increased risk of in-hospital death per SOFA score point was not comparable between components. Cardiovascular component has the weakest and neurologic component has the strongest association with increased in-hospital mortality (Figure 1).
“Patients’ quality of life with critical ill and the support of family’s members after discharge from the intensive care unit”

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000446

Introduction: Patients following intensive care unit hospitalization may present disability and dysfunction in their physical and cognitive function. (1)(2)

Objectives: We investigated the quality of life of patients following discharge from the intensive care unit and we assessed the role of support by the family members.

Methods: This retrospective study conducted at the University Hospital of Thessaly and included patients who stayed for at least 48 hours in ICU and were alive at discharge between 2014 and 2019. The quality of life was assessed by the questionnaire SF-36.

Results: A total of 671 were included. The SF score overall was S1.32. There were correlations between SF score and daily duration of support by spouses (r=0.2046, p=<0.0001), friends (r=0.2536, p=<0.0001) and duration of hospitalization (r=-0.2324, p=<0.0001). Patients who were supported by their spouses for more than 8 hours daily or patients who were supported by their friends for more than 3 times/week or were hospitalized for less than 10 days had increased SF compared to the rest of the cohort [mean(SD) 54.49(28.07) vs 50.14, (28.69), p=0.05 and 58.07 (28.54) vs 45.20 (27.93), p=<0.0001, and 68.45, 27.57] vs 49.07 (27.53) p=<0.0001, respectively].

Conclusion: The present study shows that the quality of life of patients following ICU discharge may be positively affected by the support from spouses or friends.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000508 Evaluation of demographic and clinical characteristics in intensive care unit with critical end stage renal disease patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000508

Introduction: Patients diagnosed with end stage renal failure (ESRD) who are likely to be hospitalized due to comorbidities, advanced age, immunocompression caused by uremia and phagocyte dysfunction. (3)

Objectives: The aim of this study is to prospectively monitor and evaluate the clinical and laboratory features of the patients with ESRD in the intensive care unit(ICU).

Methods: This study was performed prospectively in the Medical ICU. Patients in need of ICU admission, over 18 years old and diagnosed with ESRD were included in the study.

Results: A total of 100 patients were included in the study. The mean age of patients was 68±14 years. The most common reason for ICU admission was sepsis/septic shock (26%) and respiratory failure (21%). The most common causes of ESRD were diabetes mellitus (DM) (49%) and hypertension (HT) (21%). Mean APACHE II score was 22±6. Median SOFA score was 8 (min:2-max:19). A total of 52% of patients received dialysis treatment (96% of hemodialysis, 4% peritoneal dialysis) before admission to ICU. The length of ICU stay was 7 (min:2 max:36) days. Cox regression analysis was performed to determine the factors affecting mortality. APACHE II score was identified as an independent risk factor that determined mortality. (OR:1.059, 95 CI, 1.01-1.09, p=0.015). ICU mortality rate was 45%.

Conclusion: As a result of this study, DM was the most common cause for ESRD. High APACHE II score was identified as an independent risk factor for mortality in ICU with end stage critically ill renal failure patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000573 A modified SOFA score: testing a new prognostic score for critically ill patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000573

Introduction: The Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score was created in 1994, in an effort to describe organ dysfunction/failure over time in the critically ill, and has been widely used in medical practice ever since. However, the need for future alterations was highlighted by the original paper, as better parameters could be suggested by future re-evaluation and updated data. Thus, additional studies are appropriate for re-evaluating current parameters of the SOFA score, as well as possibly providing a modified version with higher accuracy for outcome prediction.

Objectives: This study aimed to test the accuracy of a modified SOFA score as a mortality predictor by using different parameters for neurological and gastrointestinal evaluation.

Methods: A prospective cohort was performed in a Brazilian private tertiary hospital between June and November 2018. Inclusion criteria were adult patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) under nutrition follow-up. Demographic and clinical characteristics, nutritional status, laboratory results, physiological parameters, use of medical devices and outcomes were collected from electronic and physical medical records.

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) and Richmond Agitation-Sedation Score (RASS) were used to determine the neurological component in SOFA and RSOFA, respectively. Total bilirubin and the Acute Gastrointestinal Injury (AGI) score were used to determine the gastrointestinal component in SOFA and ASOFA, respectively. AGI score and RASS were used to determine the gastrointestinal and neurological components of ARSOFA, respectively. To test our hypothesis, accuracy of the SOFA, ASOFA, RSOFA and ARSOFA scores to predict mortality was determined by the area under the curve (AUC) using the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve.

Results: During the study period, 52 patients met the inclusion criteria and were included. Patients’ demographic characteristics were: median age 73.9 (60.47-84.01); male, 25 (48.1%); on admission: 26 patients were on mechanical ventilation (50%), mean SAPS III was 52.3 (±15.5), mean APACHE II was 23.2 (±11.4), mean SOFA score was 3.7 (±2.5) and 33 (63.5%) individuals had sepsis. The AUC of the SOFA, RSOFA, ASOFA and ARSOFA scores were 0.813, 0.831, 0.793 and 0.807, respectively. See the attached figures.
0.793 and 0.807, respectively. See the attached

Conclusion:
The RASS scale and bilirubin level as neurological and gastrointestinal components, respectively, had higher accuracy for mortality prediction than the GCS and the AGI score. Therefore, the use of the RSOFAS score should be encouraged over traditional SOFA score.
The ASOFA and ARSOFA scores, which used the AGI scale, must not be used as it had lower accuracy than currently used bilirubin levels.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
7. The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

000779
Predictors of lethality in ICU patients with COVID-2019 pneumonia
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Introduction: Understanding the risk factors and early predictors of the severe course of the disease allows us to choose the right treatment tactics.


Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of the treatment results of 118 patients admitted to ICU of Tver Regional Hospital in April-May 2020. The mortality rate was 61% (72 from 118 patients). Patients were assessed according to 21 clinical and laboratory indicators using a multivariate analysis of the obtained data.

Results: Using the comparative and ROC analysis, we selected 4 most informative predictors of the development of the lethal outcome from 17 initial indicators. These 4 predictors were used to build a multidimensional regression equation. In the obtained regression equation, each of the 4 qualitative predictors had a certain weight: age over 65.5 years (31 points), SOFA score > 3.5 (29 points), serum creatinine > 149.5 µmol / l (16 points). The obtained regression equation allows us to assess the risk of death (AUC 0.859, 95% CI 0.792-0.927, see Figure 1). The risk of death increased to 93% (CI 89-97%) when a sum of values approached to 50.5 points. It is also possible to use a simplified regression equation, where each of 4 predictors means 1 point (AUC 0.840, 95% CI 0.767-0.913). In patients without the risk factors the probability of death was 7.7%. If any 1 predictor was noted, the probability of death was 30%, two - 61.9%, three - 96%. None of the patients with 4 risk factors at the admission survived.

Conclusion: The group of the highest risk for adverse outcomes in patients with COVID-19 is represented by patients over 65 years of age who have signs of impaired renal function and/or a pronounced inflammatory reaction upon admission.

Table 1. Patients’ characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All patients (n=118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On mechanical ventilation at admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septic at admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-existing conditions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic Heart Failure</td>
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<td>Chronic Renal Disease</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Table 2. Severe outcomes

<table>
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<th>Variables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital length of stay, days³</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay, days³</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality, %</td>
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<td>ICU mortality, %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Values are expressed as the mean (standard deviation) or as a number (percentage). | data from 2 patients missing | n | data from 16 patients missing |

Table 3. Variables frequencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital length of stay, days³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay, days³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality, %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Values are expressed as the mean (standard deviation) or as a number (percentage).

Figure 1. ROC-curves for the functions of predicting the development of lethality in patients with COVID-19
Decreased serial scores of severe organ failure assessments are associated with survival in mechanically ventilated patients; the prospective Maastricht Intensive Care COVID cohort

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000845

Introduction: The vast majority of patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection are primarily admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for mechanical ventilation. The role of multi-organ failure during ICU admission as driver for outcome remains to be investigated yet.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to determine whether patients who survive the ICU develop a lower (i.e. decreasing) Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score over time compared to patients that die in the ICU.

Methods: Prospective cohort of mechanically ventilated critically ill with SARS-CoV-2 infection. The study includes 81 participants (23% women) of the Maastricht cohort of whom 54 reached primary outcome at follow-up. The median length of stay was nine days, with a maximum of 30. The study includes a total of 1101 serial SOFA scores, an established score to evaluate multi-organ function in the ICU on a daily basis. The cohort was divided into survivors (n = 28, discharged from the ICU) and non-survivors (n = 26, died during their ICU stay). Serial data were analysed using linear mixed-effects models.

Trial registration: Netherlands Trial Register number NL8613.

Results: On admission the mean SOFA score was 7.8±2.8. Survivors improved on average one SOFA score point more per four days (95% CI: 2.5-9) than non-survivors. Adjustment for age, sex, the presence of chronic lung, renal and liver disease, body-mass index, diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular risk factors, and Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II score did not change this result. This association, however, was stronger for women than men (P-interaction 0.006).

Conclusion: The decrease in SOFA score associated with survival strongly suggests involvement of multi-organ failure during the clinical course of mechanically ventilated patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection. Surviving women appeared to improve faster than surviving men. Serial SOFA scores may unravel an unfavourable trajectory and guide decisions in mechanically ventilated patients with SARS-CoV-2.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Hospital clinical alert capacity for critical events. Descriptive analysis. Capacitive study

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Correspondence: B. Sánchez González
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000920

Introduction: It has been observed that some physiological parameters are altered in the hours prior to a critical hospital event. With the application of early warning systems by evaluating the physiological parameters of patients, they can be classified as low, intermediate or high clinical risk of suffering a critical event, reducing or anticipating the risk of critical events.

Objectives: Analyze the capacity of clinical alert and describe the characteristics of patients who suffer a critical event in a conventional ward.

Methods: Prospective, observational and multicenter study. The patients admitted to the conventional plant who suffered a critical event from February to May 2019 were analyzed. The NEWS-2 (NHS Early Warning Score-2) was calculated to stratify the patient’s clinical risk prior to the event: low (<5), medium (5-6) and high (>6) or some parameter of the NEWS-2 = 3.

Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD).

Results: 231 patients from 5 hospitals in Catalonia were included. Table 1: describe the main characteristics of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age mean (SD)</td>
<td>70.9 (15.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (%)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical patient (%)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (%)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event occurs at night or on a holiday (%)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of the event related to the admission (%)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active infection at the time of the event (%)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient monitored prior to the event (%)</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWS-2 at the time of the event . mean (SD)</td>
<td>8.2 (3.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some parameter of the NEWS-2 &gt; 3, 48 h before the event. mean (SD)</td>
<td>7.1 (3.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some parameter of the NEWS-2 &gt; 3, at the moment of the event (%)</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some parameter of the NEWS-2 &gt; 3, 48h before the event (%)</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital long of stay, mean (SD)</td>
<td>17.6 (20.5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality (%)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical event: unexpected admission to the ICU 27%, ICU consultation without admission 22%, non-resuscitatable death on the ward 37% PCRIH 9%. Medical Service: Internal Medicine (44.6%), Onco-Hematology: 22.6%. Frequency in taking constants: <6 h (35.1%), 6 h (21%), 8 h (34%), >8 h (9.2%). Nursing: patient ratio: 1:8 (40%), 1:14 (23%), 1:10 (18%). Most frequent pre-event infection: respiratory 56%. Cause of the event: Hypoxemia (39%). 72% of patients received supplemental pre-event O2. In 42% of the cases some of the NEWS-2 parameters were missing, 60% the Respiratory F. and 10% the Sat. O2. Figure 1 describes the clinical risk calculated using the NEWS-2 at the time of the event and 48 h before.
Conclusion: A medium and high clinical risk up to 48 h prior to a critical event in a conventional plant is frequent. Respiratory function is the most affected and its clinical record is the most incomplete.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Not funded.

000921
Hospital clinical alert capacity. Analysis of factors related to mortality. Capacicritic study
J. Ruiz1; L. Chiscano2; R. Algarte1; L. Sánchez-Alés1; L. Almorín5; P. Velasco5; JC. Ruiz-Rodríguez5; B. Sánchez González1
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000921

Introduction: It has been observed that some physiological parameters are altered in the hours prior to a critical hospital event. With the application of early warning systems by evaluating the physiological parameters of patients, they can be classified as low, intermediate or high clinical risk of suffering a critical event, reducing or anticipating the risk of critical events.

Objectives: To analyze the clinical alert capacity and the factors related to the mortality of patients who suffer a critical event in a conventional ward.

Methods: Prospective, observational and multicenter study. The patients admitted to the conventional plant who suffered a critical event from February to May 2019 were analyzed. Demographic and clinical data were collected. The NEWS-2 (NHS Early Warning Score) was calculated to stratify the patient’s clinical risk prior to the event: low (<5), medium (5-6) and high (> 6) or some parameter of the NEWS-2 = 3. Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and were compared using the X2-test, quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using Student’s t-test. Multivariate logistic regression was performed for hospital mortality.

Results: 231 patients from 5 ICU hospitals in Catalonia were included. Prior to the nursing event, between 1 and 4 medical alerts per patient were performed in 75% of the events, and between 1 and 2 medical consultations per patient were performed in 58% of the events. Hospital mortality was 60%. Table 1 shows the factors related to mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>ALIVE</th>
<th>DEAD</th>
<th>p &lt; 0.05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age mean (SD)</td>
<td>62.56 (17.1)</td>
<td>76.8 (12.2)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital discharge &lt; 30 days (%)</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event occurs at night or on holiday (%)</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacient comes from chronic center (%)</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical pacient (%)</td>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of admission related to critical event (%)</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some parameter of the NEWS-2 = 3, Pre-Event (%)</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some parameter of the NEWS-2 = 3, 48 h before the event (%)</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 shows the relationship between hospital mortality and Pre-Event risk and 48 before the event.

Figure 2 shows the multivariate analysis of the factors related to mortality.

Conclusions: The mortality of patients admitted to the conventional ward who present a critical event is very high and is related to the level of clinical risk of the patient prior to the event.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Not funded

000923
Hospital clinical alert capacity. Prediction of evolution to sepsis/septic shock. Capacicritic study
L. Chiscano1; J. Ruiz2; R. Algarte1; L. Almorín3; P. Velasco5; L. Sánchez-Alés5; B. Sánchez González5; JC. Ruiz-Rodríguez5
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000923

Introduction: It has been observed that some physiological parameters are altered in the hours prior to a critical hospital event. With the application of early warning systems by evaluating the physiological parameters of patients, they can be classified as low, intermediate or high clinical risk of suffering a critical event, reducing or anticipating the risk of critical events.

Objectives: To analyze the clinical alert capacity and the factors related to the mortality of patients who suffer a critical event in a conventional ward.

Methods: Prospective, observational and multicenter study. The patients admitted to the conventional plant who suffered a critical event from February to May 2019 were analyzed. Demographic and clinical data were collected. The NEWS-2 (NHS Early Warning Score) was calculated to stratify the patient’s clinical risk prior to the event: low (<5), medium (5-6) and high (> 6) or some parameter of the NEWS-2 = 3. Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and were compared using the X2-test, quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using Student’s t-test. Multivariate logistic regression was performed for hospital mortality.

Results: 231 patients from 5 ICU hospitals in Catalonia were included. Prior to the nursing event, between 1 and 4 medical alerts per patient were performed in 75% of the events, and between 1 and 2 medical consultations per patient were performed in 58% of the events. Hospital mortality was 60%. Table 1 shows the factors related to mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Ods Ratio</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.91-0.97</td>
<td>0.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital discharge &lt; 30 days</td>
<td>0.25-2.01</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWS-2 Prior to the event</td>
<td>0.78-0.99</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions: The mortality of patients admitted to the conventional ward who present a critical event is very high and is related to the level of clinical risk of the patient prior to the event.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Not funded
Introduction: It has been observed that some physiological parameters are altered in the hours prior to a critical hospital event. With the application of early warning systems by evaluating the physiological parameters of patients, they can be classified as low, intermediate or high clinical risk of suffering a critical event, reducing or anticipating the risk of critical events.

Objectives: to analyze the clinical alert capacity and describe the characteristics of the patients who suffer a critical event in the conventional ward.

Methods: Prospective, observational and multicenter study. The patients admitted to the conventional plant who suffered a critical event from February to May 2019 were analyzed. The NEWS-2 and qSOFA of the patients who had active infection at the time of the event were calculated, and the risk of progressing to sepsis / septic shock was assessed: NEWS-2 low (<5) and high (≥ 5) and qSOFA: low (0-1) and high (2-3). Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and were compared using the X²-test, quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using Student’s t-test. Multivariate logistic regression was performed for hospital mortality.

Results: 231 patients from 5 ICU hospitals in Catalonia were included. 46% of patients had an active infection at the time of the event, the most frequent type of infection was respiratory (56%). 44% evolved towards sepsis / septic shock, Figure 1 shows the prognostic capacity of the NEWS-2 and qSOFA score.

Conclusion: The infection is present in a very high percentage of patients at the time they present a critical event in the conventional plant, presenting a high mortality that can be predicted by qSOFA and NEWS-2 up to 48 hours prior to the event. In our population, qSOFA better predicts evolution to sepsis / septic shock than NEWS-2 in these patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Not funded

001104
Assessment prognostic value of gravity scores in cirrhotic patients admitted in intensive care units
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001104

Introduction: Cirrhotic patients often develop severe complications requiring ICU admission. The evolution in treatments and liver transplant programs have improved the prognosis of critical cirrhotic patients, a fact that has facilitated their admission to the intensive care units (ICU). However, knowledge on the pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of these complications and the prognostic assessment of critical cirrhotic patients is still limited.

Objectives: To know survival prognosis of cirrhotic patients admitted to the ICU and the prognostic value of general scores for critically ill patients and those specific for cirrhosis.

Methods: Prospective, descriptive and analytical study. All patients admitted to our ICU from April 2017 to May 2020 with a history of liver cirrhosis were evaluated and were followed after 90 days of admission. Different variables such as age, sex, cirrhosis etiology, reason for admission, laboratory data, APACHE II and SOFA scales at baseline and specific scales score (Child-Pugh, CLIF-SOFA, Life Score and MELD) were registered upon admission, 7 days and discharge or death. The need for invasive mechanical ventilation, continuous renal replacement therapy or vasoactive support, as well as the development of infectious complications, were also noted.

Statistical analysis: qualitative variables are expressed as percentages. For quantitative variables, measures of central tendency and dispersion were used. The comparison of quantitative variables was performed using the Student T test. Chi-square test was used to compare qualitative variables. ROC curves were built to evaluate the ability of prognostic scores to predict mortality at 90 days of admission.

Results: One hundred and one patients (77 men) were included; age 56.61 ± 11.41 years. APACHE II mean at admission was 22.38 ± 10.08. SOFA average 9.06 ± 4.89. Average MELD 20.73 ± 9.91. 43.6% (n = 44) presented Child-Pugh C. 43.6% (n = 44) had CLIF-SOFA grade 3 and 35.6% (n = 36) had an intermediate risk Life-Score. Mortality in the
ICU and at 90 days was 41.6% and 53% respectively. Statistical analysis showed worse APACHE II, SOFA and MELD values at admission (p 0.000) in patients who died in the ICU and at 90 days. There were no significantly differences regarding age. Analysis of ROC curves showed that the SOFA (0.738) and APACHE II (0.762) calculated in the first 24 h of admission predicted mortality at 90 days whereas the AUC of specific scores were 0.783 for Child-Pugh and 0.780 for MELD.

Conclusion: Cirrhotic patients who died during their stay in the ICU or at 90 days of follow-up showed significantly higher values in all prognostic scores at admission compared to those who survived. Child-Pugh and MELD seem to be the better predictors of 90-day mortality.

001119
A prognostic prediction model for critically ill patients with covid-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001119

Introduction: Covid-19 pandemic has conditioned a high demand for critical care beds. The develop of a prognostic score could help to better management of health resources.

Objectives: Our aim was to obtain a prognostic prediction model for critically ill patients with severe SARS-COV-2 coronavirus infection (Covid-19).

Methods: Prospective observational study of patients with diagnosis of Covid-19 admitted to critical care units of the H.G.U Gregorio Marañón. Epidemiological data, previous comorbidities, clinical and analytical data, specific treatments administered, organic support used, complications during stay and final outcome, were collected. Descriptive data were described as medians with interquartile range (IQR) and as percentages for categorical data. The continuous variables were categorised according to maximum discrimination point by the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC). Univariate analysis was performed using a simple logistic regression (OR). The predictive model was obtained by means of multiple logistic regression analysis. For model validation, its discrimination capability (AUROC), its calibration capacity (Hosmer-Lemeshow test) and its quality diagnostic indices (sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive value), were analysed.

Results: One hundred and fifty patients were included, 71% male. Age was 61 years (49-71) and Charlson Comorbidity Index 1 pts (0-3). Severity scores were: APACHE II 16 pts (12-20); SOFA 6 pts (4-8). 88% of patients required mechanical ventilation, 77% prone-position and 63% vasopressor therapy. Acute renal failure was present in 33% (10% needing renal replacement therapy). 77% presented any complication. Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) was 40.3%. In the univariate analysis the variables related to mortality were: Age (decades) OR 1.59; 95% CI 1.21-2.09, Charlson I. OR 1.40; 95% CI 1.14-1.72, SOFA > 3 pts OR 3.03; 95% CI 1.06-8.63, Mechanical ventilation OR 13.1; 95% CI 1.69-101.78, Prone-positioning OR 2.93; 95% CI 1.27-6.75, Vasopressors OR 4.45; 95% CI 2.05-9.68, Atrial fibrillation OR 3.58; 95% CI 1.63-7.87, Creatine protein OR 1.03; 95% CI 1.01-1.06, Procalcitonin OR 1.05; 95% CI 1.01-1.10, IL-6 400 pg/ml OR 6.31; 95% CI 2.55-15.61, D-dimer 4000 ng/ml OR 7.00; 95% CI 3.34-16.57, Lac-tate 2 mmol/l OR 7.26; 95% CI 3.47-15.21

The prognostic predictive model included the following variables: age (decades) OR 1.72; 95% CI 0.98-2.99, Charlson I. OR 1.44; 95% CI 0.92-2.26, SOFA > 3 pts OR 5.59; 95% CI 0.89-34.79, IL-6 > 400 pg/ml OR 4.05; 95% CI 1.15-14.18, D-dimer > 4000 ng/ ml OR 11.85; 95% CI 2.95-57.66, Lactate > 2 mmol/l OR 5.41; 95% CI 1.56-18.68.

The model obtained (figure 1) had a good discriminatory capacity: AUROC 0.90; CI 0.84-0.96, a proper calibration (Hosmer-Lemeshow test): Chi-square 3.38, p = 0.9, and good diagnostic quality indices: S 81%, E 81%, PPV 0.73, NPV 0.87, VPR 4.26, VNR 0.23.

Conclusion: In our experience, the predictive model created using clinical and analytical data obtained early on ICU admission, was able to discriminate the prognosis of Covid-19 patients.

001142
Emergency department visits, Emergency Severity Index and Intensive Care Unit admissions in the era of COVID19: A single center experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001142

Introduction: The purpose of triage in the Emergency Department (ED) is to prioritize incoming patients and to identify those who cannot wait to be seen (1). One of the most widely used triage tools is the Emergency Severity Index (ESI), which includes a five-level scale with ESI 1 describing a patient that requires immediate life-saving intervention/resuscitation and ESI 5 a non-urgent patient (2). COVID19 has set new challenges in the organization and practice of emergency and critical care medicine, prompting for re-evaluation of existing tools.

Objectives: To assess the effects of the “lockdown” on ED visits and the relationship between ESI 1 patients and short-term outcomes in the era of COVID19, in a tertiary Greek hospital.

Methods: ED data from Sismanoglio General Hospital, a tertiary Greek hospital in Athens metropolitan area, was retrospectively studied from 1/1/2020 to 30/6/2020. In Greece, a full “lockdown” was imposed between 13/3/2020 and 4/5/2020.

Results: The number of ED visits per month was significantly affected by “lockdown”. We noted 42.2% reduction in total ED visits during March-April compared to January-February and 41.7% compared to March-April 2019. After the “lockdown” period a 24.1% increase in the number of ED visits was seen (Fig.1). Interestingly, the peak of epidemic in Greece did not influence ED attendances for immediate life-threatening conditions (Fig.2). In our analysis patients assessed as ESI 1 constituted 0.46% of all ED patients for the 6-month period. Furthermore, in the group of patients triaged to ESI 1, 20.8% died, 65.3% were admitted to the ICU and 13.9% were admitted to the ward. None was discharged home from the ED (Fig.3).
Conclusion: Our data is consistent with other reports of dramatic falls in ED attendances amid the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, due to fear of contracting the disease (3,4). However, we noticed that individuals with critical illness (ESI 1) found their way to the ED at any given time during the coronavirus crisis. From previous research we know that most ESI 1 patients are admitted to ICU, while some die in the ED (5,6). Our results show that during COVID19 crisis, ESI 1 was associated with high likelihood of ICU admission and death in the ED, suggesting that it remains a useful tool for predicting short-term outcomes of critically ill ED patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
7. None

000248
Early-stage errors after the implementation of a clinical information system in intensive care unit
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Correspondence: Y. Seino
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000248

Introduction: Clinical information systems (CIS) have been developed in intensive care units (ICU) to aggregate information, promote operational efficiency, and obtain accurate records. However, in settings wherein hospital electronic medical record (eMR) systems have operated, the differences in the operability and performance between CIS in ICUs and eMR systems and the constraints of cooperation of both the systems can lead to new errors when using both the systems in ICUs. However, the incidence rate and the type of errors recorded at an early-stage after implementation of CIS in ICUs are unknown. Objectives: To investigate the incidence rate and the type of errors in ICUs for 9 months after implementation of CIS.

Methods: CIS (PrimeGaia, Nihon Kohden, Tokyo, Japan) was introduced into our medical and surgical ICU (18 beds, nursing-to-patient ratio 1:2) and intermediate medical care unit (IMU, 15 beds, nursing-to-patient ratio 1:4) at a university hospital (1,335 beds). After implementation and a 3-month training period, CIS was used in all the patients starting in April 2019. The data of incidents and accidents in the ICU and IMU in the 9-month period after the launch of the CIS (from January to September 2019) were extracted from the hospital's incident reporting system, and the incidence rate was determined. In our incident reporting system, errors have been divided into two categories: “incident” (indicating no error or error that caused no harm such as near-misses) and “accident” (indicating error resulting in harm error resulting in patient death). Poisson distribution was used to calculate the 95% confidence interval (CI) of the incidence rate of events.

Results: From January to September 2019, CIS was used in 942 (90%) of the 1,046 patients admitted to ICU and in 1,278 (89%) of the 1,439 patients in IMU. The total length of stay in ICU and IMU was 3,854 and 2,728 patient-days, respectively, and the duration of using CIS was 3,200 and 2,311 patient-days, respectively. The number of incidents and accidents was 123 in ICU and 140 in IMU. The incidence rates of events were 31.9 (95%CI 25.5–38.0) and 51.4(34.5–60.0) events per 1000 patient-days, respectively. The number of incidents and accidents related to CIS were 18 (15%) in ICU and 15 (11%) in IMU. The incidence rates of events were 5.6 (3.3–8.9) and 6.5(3.6–10.7) events per 1000 CIS operation patient-days, respectively.

Conclusion: Our study has revealed that 12% of the incidents and accidents in ICU and IMU were related to CIS and that the incidence did not vary with the management intensity of care units. The errors during the early stages after implementation of the CIS occurred because of unfamiliarity with its operation, inadequate coordination between CIS and eMR, or the specifications of CIS.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000354
Can anyone talk to me? Communication with families during the days of corona in intensive care unit
HY. Y.; N. V.; SH. Tal; ML. R.
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000354

Introduction: With the outbreak of the Corona virus SARS-CoV-2, communication with family members became even more challenging and critical than it had been in the first place. Group meetings for families which we usually convened every week were no longer possible due to the prohibition on gathering, and therefore we were in need of a solution that would meet the needs of patients and their families. On April 10, all family visits were stopped in order to prevent infection. This situation created a new reality, where family members could not visit the unit at all and could not see their loved ones. This reality required us to make a quick assessments and response to the situation, understanding that the emotional burden would weigh heavily on the families.

Methods: The program was implemented on four levels: (1) Initiated conversations of physicians with the primary caregiver: From April 10th until May 5th the doctors made phone calls to family members of 42 patient. (2) Video calls of the single UI via the families via tablet: During video calls that were connected and accompanied by the social worker, the families could see the patient and speak to them. (3) Providing telephone information by the nursing staff: Since the inform members did not enter the unit at all, it was decided that the information they provided would be slightly more detailed than usually acceptable and tailored to their needs. (4) A video that provides general information to families, in order to familiarize them with the unit, the management team, and the nature of the outpatient care: The video was created as a replacement for family gatherings where information is usually transmitted. The video will be used in the future as it was found to be helpful as a day to day tool as well.
Results: As a result of the program, we were able to positively influence intensive care patients’ families, include them in the treatment process without being physically present in the unit, and maintain quality communication that influences their motivation and commitment to the care plan and hospitalization provided by their loved ones. We received immediate positive feedback from the families that took part, verbally, via text messages and thank you letters. In addition, there was a decrease in the amount of pressure and phone calls to the nursing station from families who were trying to get information, once they started getting the information in an organized way initiated by the multi-professional staff.

Conclusion: The coronavirus, which has spread rapidly around the world, has tested the readiness of the health system to cope with pandemic conditions and the entire system has had to reformulate coping methods in many areas including communication between patients and their families in isolation and risk of infection. The program was implemented on four levels that combined the knowledge and practice we accumulated and is the basis upon which we added more knowledge during each shift. We hope to continue developing as we proceed.

000398
Seeking for interoperability standards on e-health medication records in intensive care medicine
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000398

Introduction: Medication errors have been a frequent and safety-relevant problem in medical care for years[1]. In this context, the lack of standardized, automatic, reliable, consistent documentation and information systems represents a major obstacle. The high dependency on manual input in many steps of the process is a particular challenge[2].

Objectives: This work aimed to analyze the medical records of intensive care unit (ICU) patients admitted to a large university hospital in Germany, as well as to explore and propose an information technology (IT) standard to build an interoperable medication interface.

Methods: We accessed a series of databases to collect the information about 81 medications that were frequently used in our ICUs from the hospital’s IT department, pharmacy, as well as the ICU’s Patient Data Management System (PDMS). We further obtained data drawn from the most comprehensive German medication register, the ABDA/ABDAMED database[3]. To gather data according to European standards, we used information available on the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM)[4]. We further obtained data drawn from the most comprehensive German medication register, the ABDA/ABDAMED database[3]. To gather data according to European standards, we used information available on the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM)[4]. The configuration of the ICCA system was compared post COVID 19 to that pre-COVID 19. In addition, pre-existing and new medication records in intensive care medicine were collected and analyzed.

Objectives: To use SQL reports and general database to assess the scope and effectiveness of a rapid electronic/informatics systems expansion during the COVID 19 pandemic in a central London critical care service.

Methods: The configuration of the ICCA system was compared post COVID 19 to that pre-COVID 19. In addition, pre-existing and new ad hoc SQL queries were constructed from the Intellivue, Critical Care & Anaesthesia Informatics System (ICCA, Philips HealthCare) database.
using Sequel Server Management Studio 17. These were used to assess changes to configuration and workflow support; activity; electronic workflow alerts and adverse event capture.

Results: The ICCA informatics support system was rapidly expanded from 51 to 196 licensed support beds, including Census Page and Dashboard expansions. Over the pandemic period 1022 healthcare professionals were added to the system users database. 506 additional client computers were also added. Remote service review was set up for anaesthesia, renal, cardiology, diabetes, haematology and nutrition teams. The system and systems team provided a bespoke pathophysiological flowsheet and designed three clinical reports to support strategic management of overall clinical operations, renal replacement and airway management. 29 major urgent prescription changes were delivered to reflect supply chain breakdown and the need to deliver new COVID 19 trials. This included changes to sedation regimens, muscle relaxants, fluids and electrolyte replacement. There were also several hundred individual text changes to prescription/administration of medications to support the major category updates. System screening was used to issue 1288 workflow support alerts during the pandemic period. Commonest alerts were around sedation levels; ventilator driving pressure; patient allergies and patient identity. Importantly, several operationally important system updates were developed. A visual basic solution was written to provide a physical paper medication chart to go with the patient at discharge and the servers received improved power redundancy to decrease downtime. Finally, the system captured 159 adverse incidents that were not reported in the institutional ‘Datix’ system.

Conclusion: We have described the rapid and effective expansion of a critical care informatics system from 51 beds to 196 beds during the COVID 19 pandemic response of a large critical care service. The level of rapid adaptation may not have been possible on paper or across an institutional EHR.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. NHS Digital Support Grant

Future FICE faculty: ensuring the standard of future faculty with a mentorship scheme
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Introduction: Focused Intensive Care Echo (FICE) is a training scheme developed by the UK Intensive Care Society to train clinical practitioners in the use of echocardiography in intensive care. [1] Learning a new physical skill normally requires one-to-one tuition. With an increasing demand for FICE courses there is therefore increasing demand for faculty; ensuring the quality of the faculty maintained can become difficult. For many faculty intensive courses (such as Advanced Life Support), instructor courses and mentorship schemes exist to ensure the future faculty meet the expected standard. [2] Currently there is no such scheme for FICE faculty.

Objectives: Our aim was to develop a mentorship scheme for prospective faculty to ensure new faculty were supported through the course and to ensure standards were met to guarantee the quality of teaching desired on our FICE course.

Methods: Nine prospective faculty candidates, who were all FICE (or equivalent) qualified, were recruited to teach on two FICE courses held on consecutive days in October 2019. Prior to the course an anonymous online survey was conducted to gain background information and their pre-course teaching confidence. Throughout the course the candidates were then paired with experienced FICE faculty to support their teaching; at the end of the course candidates received written feedback, including an overall assessment as to whether it was felt they could be recommended as full faculty in the future. Following this another anonymous online survey was conducted to review the experience of the faculty candidates and to assess any changes in confidence.

Results: Table 1 shows the demographics of the faculty candidates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualified ≤5 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified &gt; 5 years</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echo experience ≤2 years</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echo experience &gt; 2 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had previously received formal teaching instruction e.g. GIC course?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had previously taught on echo courses?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seven of the faculty candidates completed the post course questionnaire. Confidence improved in all aspects assessed (Figure 1) with every candidate at least feeling “OK/assistance only needed occasionally” following the course. Comments relating to the mentorship included “well supported”, “constructive” and “good opportunity”. 86% of candidates agreed absolutely that all people who want to mentor on a FICE course should do something similar and that it will improve the quality of mentorship. 71% found the paper feedback useful. All faculty candidates apart from one were recommended as full faculty; the one not recommended has been invited to attend again as a faculty candidate to increase their confidence.

Conclusion: With the increasing need for FICE faculty we have shown that a faculty mentorship scheme is practical and well received by the faculty candidates. This is a low cost method of providing structured mentorship to prospective faculty, without the need for specialised instructor courses. We believe that by rolling this mentorship scheme out nationwide it will ensure that we continue to develop a pool of quality faculty to meet the increasing demand for FICE courses.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
and aiming to keep $\text{IAP} \leq 15 \text{ mm Hg}$. (2) Point of care ultrasound as a bedside modality in the critical care patients, could be used as an adjuvant point-of-care tool during IAH management.

**Objectives:** To test the role of Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in the medical management of patients with IAH.

**Methods:** We conducted a Prospective observational study and enrolled fifty-three consecutive adult critically ill patients admitted to the medical critical care unit (CCU) of Ahamed hospital with risk factors for IAH. Those who met the inclusion criteria were allocated to undergo POCUS and small bowel ultrasound as an adjuvant tool in their IAH management.

**Results:** A total of 22 patients met the inclusion criteria and were included in the study (Table 2). Following step 1 of the WSACS IAH medical management algorithm, ultrasound was used for NGT placement, confirmation of correct positioning, and evaluation of stomach contents. Ultrasound was comparable to abdominal X-ray but shown to be superior in determining the gastric content (fluid vs. solid) and diagnoses gastric paresis in 2 cases. Ultrasound also proved useful in (Table 3): (1) evaluating for intestinal obstruction, (2) identification of large bowel contents; (3) identification of patients that would benefit from bowel evacuation (enema) as an adjuvant to lower IAP; (4) and in the diagnosis of moderate to large amounts of free intra-abdominal fluid. Small bowel obstruction and were present on four patients and confirmed with CT abdomen, and two of the patients underwent surgical intervention for mesenteric vessel occlusion and transmural internal hernia. Six patients were identified to have ileus in septic patients and responded to prokinetic drugs. Enema treatment was found to empty the bowel incompletely in 72%, 56% and 42% of the times on days 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Colonoscopy decompression was not needed in any of our patients. Four patients with cirrhosis that were admitted with upper gastrointestinal bleeding and hepatic encephalopathy (out of a total of 8) were found to have large amounts of ascites and the US-guided paracentesis was carried out. The average amount of ascites removed was $3600 \pm 1.6 \text{ mL}$ and resulted in a significant drop in the IAP average from $21 \pm 4.1 \text{ mm Hg}$ to $13 \pm 2.0 \text{ mm Hg}$ in all four patients.

**Conclusion:** POCUS can be used in nonoperative management of IAH and ACS. It is an important tool in the diagnosis and treatment in patients with IAH.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


3. None.

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**Comparison of linear and sector array probe for handheld lung ultrasound in invasively ventilated ICU patients**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000175

**Introduction:** International guidelines do not recommend a specific probe for assessment of lung aeration using Lung Ultrasound (LUS). The aim of this study was to assess the concordance between linear and sector array probes of a handheld ultrasound device in assessment of lung aeration in invasively ventilated Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients.

**Methods:** This study included invasively ventilated patients admitted to the ICU expected to be ventilated > 24 hours. A trained examiner performed a 12-region LUS exam with a linear and a sector array probe. In each image the LUS aeration score and the ‘number of B-patterns’ was determined. The LUS aeration score was defined as; ‘0’, A-pattern; ‘1’, B1-pattern; ‘2’, B2-pattern; or ‘3’, C-pattern. Adding LUS aeration scores of all regions resulted in a global LUS aeration score [Crit Care. 2007;11(1):205]. Agreement between the two probes was calculated using intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC).

**Results:** 30 LUS exams were performed in 19 mechanically ventilated ICU patients resulting in a total of 328 pairs of images. 29 pairs of images were excluded for analysis because the images from the linear probe were unable to score (UTS) (Table 1). ICC’s calculated for the remaining images revealed a good concordance for the LUS aeration score for individual images, ICC: 0.67 (CI: 0.54–0.78), ‘number of B-lines’, ICC: 0.49 (CI: 0.27–0.80) and global LUS aeration score, ICC: 0.74 (CI: 0.52–0.87).

**Conclusion:** There is a good concordance between linear and sector array probes of a handheld ultrasound device in assessment of lung aeration patterns in mechanically ventilated ICU patients. However, in roughly 10% of the images acquired using the linear probe the aeration pattern could not be scored.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. The authors received a grant from Health Holland and the Dutch Lung Foundation for the DARTS study.
A prospective study of effect of Short End Expiratory Hold (SEEH) on Echocardiography image quality and hemodynamic parameters in patients on mechanical ventilation

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Introduction: The lung interference due to mechanical ventilation is known to cause poor acoustic window making transthoracic echocardiography difficult1. Interference of the lungs is least during expiration however, this period is too short for interpretation. End Expiratory hold has potential to improve acoustic window by reducing lung interference. End Expiratory hold of 15 seconds acts like a fluid bolus and changes cardiovascular physiology especially during last five seconds limiting its application solely for improving acoustic window2. We hypothesized that a Short End Expiratory Hold (SEEH) of eight seconds improves acoustic window leading to superior echocardiographic image quality without significant hemodynamic changes.

Objectives: Primary objective of the study was to determine effect of SEEH on image quality score. Secondary objectives of the study were to determine the change in IVC diameter and Carotid Doppler peak velocity (ΔCDPV) with SEEH. Tertiary objective was to look for presence of any Auto-PEEP revealed during SEEH.

Methods: Twenty patients on mechanical ventilation with poor acoustic window during point of care echocardiography examination were assessed for both apical four chamber (A4C) and parasternal short axis (PSAX) view, video clips of six second duration were recorded both with tidal ventilation and with eight second SEEH. Assessors blinded to the intervention scored the video clips based on the quality of the image using a previously validated scoring criteria3. Clips were scored to 0 (no image visualization), 1 (visualization of less than 70% of the left ventricle (LV) walls), 2 (Visualization of 70% to 95% of the LV walls) to 3 (visualization of 95% to 100% of the LV walls). Increase in one or more point was considered significant. To determine hemodynamic effects of SEEH on change in IVC diameter and Carotid Doppler peak velocity (ΔCDPV) were noted at the baseline and just before end of SEEH. Any change (Δ) more than 14% was considered as significant4. Auto-PEEP displayed on the ventilator at the end of SEEH was noted.

Results: In A4C view baseline worst median image quality score during tidal ventilation was 1 (Interquartile range(IQR) 1-1) and in PSAX view was 1 (IQR 0.25-2) which with SEEH improved to 2 (IQR 2-3) for A4C view and 3 (IQR 1-3) for PSAX. 18 out of 20 (90%) patients in A4C view and 11 out of 20(55%) patients for PSA had at least one point increment in worst image quality score with SEEH. The median ΔCDPV was 1.95%(IQR 1-3.175) and median change in IVC diameter was 4.45% (IQR 0-7.925) indicating no significant hemodynamic change due to SEEH. Median auto-PEEP was found to be 0.55(IQR 0-1.075) cm H2O indicating absence of auto-PEEP.

Conclusion: In mechanically ventilated critically ill patients with poor acoustic window, SEEH causes significant improvement in echocardiography image quality without significant change in hemodynamic parameters. This improvement occurs in the absence of auto-PEEP.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Nil
**000567**

**The impact of thoracic ultrasound on ICU management: a prospective observational study**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000567**

**Introduction:** Point-of-care-ultrasound is a useful diagnostic instrument on critical care units. Its diagnostic accuracy supersedes chest X-ray and is similar to chest CT(1). However, the effect it has on management strategies is less clear.

**Objectives:** Our objective is to quantify the impact of thoracic ultrasound on ICU management.

**Methods:** This prospective observational study was conducted at a tertiary ICU. The study was approved by the local medical ethics committee and the need for consent was waived. A treating intensivist recorded a diagnosis and management plan before and after a thoracic ultrasound. Changes in management and diagnoses were recorded. Patient characteristics, fluid balance and whether the changes were carried out within 8 hours were extracted from the electronic health records.

**Results:** Thirty-seven thoracic ultrasound examinations were included. Management changes occurred in 22 (59.5%). Seventeen (77.3%) out of these 22 had their management changes carried out within 8 hours. The thoracic ultrasound yielded a new diagnosis in 13 (35.1%) examinations. No significant effect was observed for management changes, patient characteristics, or fluid balance within 8 hours.

**Conclusions:** This single-arm observational study shows that a majority of thoracic ultrasounds alter patient management plans with feasible changes. More research is needed to give conclusive evidence regarding patient centric outcomes like mortality, duration of mechanical ventilation and time to discharge.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**000578**

**Serial lung ultrasounds for detection of pulmonary complications in critically ill obstetric patients: preliminary findings from a prospective observational study in a low-resource setting**

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**Correspondence:** L. Pisani

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000578**

**Introduction:** Critically ill parturients have an increased risk of developing pulmonary complications. Lung ultrasound could be effective in addressing the cause of respiratory distress in limited-resource settings[1] with high maternal mortality.

**Objectives:** To determine the frequency, timing of appearance and type of pulmonary complications in critically ill parturients in an obstetric unit in Sierra Leone.

**Methods:** Prospective observational study conducted between July 2018 and February 2019 in critically ill parturients admitted to the high dependency unit (HDU) of Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Twelve-regions lung ultrasound examinations were performed on admission, after 24 and 48 hours, and in case of respiratory deterioration, using a low frequency (2.5–5 MHz) convex probe.

**Primary endpoint** was the proportion of parturients with one or more pulmonary complications, stratified for presence of respiratory distress. Secondary endpoints included timing and types of complications, and their association with ‘poor outcome’, defined as a composite transfer for escalation of care or death. The study was approved by the Sierra Leone Ethical Research Committee on June 5, 2018 and registered at clinicaltrials.gov (NCT 03828630).

**Results:** Measurements and main results. 166 patients were enrolled (median age 25 years [IQR 22-30]). A total of 383 LUS examinations, median 2 [2–3] LUS per patient, were performed. Of all patients, 34% presented with or developed respiratory distress during HDU stay; 35 patients (21% [95%-confidence interval 15 to 28%]) had one or more pulmonary complications, the majority diagnosed on admission.

Acute respiratory distress syndrome (period prevalence 4%) and hydrostatic pulmonary edema (4%) were only observed in patients with respiratory distress. Pneumonia (2%), atelectasis (10%) and pleural effusion (7%) were present irrespective of respiratory distress. In patients in whom ultrasound excluded pulmonary complications, respiratory distress was related to anemia or metabolic acidosis. In total, 18 out of 166 patients met the composite endpoint of a poor outcome (11%). Pulmonary complications were associated with an increased risk of poor outcome (odds ratio, 5.0 [95%-confidence interval 1.7 to 14.6]; P=0.003).

**Conclusion:** One out of five critically ill parturients admitted to the HDU of a resource–limited obstetric unit developed one or more pulmonary complications. Lung ultrasound contributed to address the cause of respiratory distress by identifying or excluding ARDS, pulmonary edema, pneumonia, atelectasis and pleural effusion. These complications were associated with a poor outcome.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


2. This study was funded by the Amsterdam University Medical Centers, location AMC and Doctors with Africa – CUAMM, Padova, Italy.

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**000619**

**Diagnostic accuracy of early sonographic signs in COVID-19 pneumonia**

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**Correspondence:** Z. Bitar

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000619**

**Introduction:** Chest radiography (CXR) and computerized tomography (CT) scan are the standard methods for lung imaging in diagnosing COVID-19 pneumonia in the intensive care unit, despite their limitations. This study aimed to assess the performance of bedside lung ultrasound examination by a critical care physician, in the diagnosis of COVID-19 pneumonia in acute admission to the ICU.

**Methods:** The study is an observational, prospective, single-center study conducted in the intensive care unit of Adan General Hospital...
from Apr 10, 2020, till May 10, 2020. Adolescents or adult with suspicion of COVID-19 infection transferred to ICU with fever or suspected respiratory infection, plus one of the following: respiratory rate > 30 breaths/min; severe respiratory distress; or SpO2 < 93% on room air (1). Patients admitted directly from ER to ICU after performing the reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and send to the central virology in Kuwait. A certified intensivist in critical care ultrasound performed the lung ultrasound within 12 hours of admission to ICU and blinded to the result of the RT-PCR, if available at the time of examination. The four signs at lung ultrasound COVID-19 pneumonia are (2):
1. B-lines as Bilateral patchy distribution of multiform clusters, both in separate and coalescent forms, sometimes giving the appearance of a shining white lung. They can arise from one point of the pleural line and small peripheral consolidations and spread down like rays maintaining their brightness until the edge of the screen without fading.
2. Bilateral diffuse irregularities of the pleural line.
3. Absence of significant pleural effusion.
4. Presence of multiple subpleural consolidations of various size.

The treating physician confirmed the diagnosis of COVID-19 pneumonia by a set of clinical features, inflammatory markers, biochemical profile studies, RT-PCR test, and CXR.

Results: Out of 57 patients with suspected COVID-19 pneumonia, 46 (80.7%) were confirmed. Mean age 51 with a range of 39 to 69 years and 32 (76%) men.

In the group of patients with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia (table 1), 44 (98.6%) LUSs revealed the four signs suggestive of COVID-19 pneumonia (sensitivity 95.6%, CI 85%-99.5%). Two patients presented with unilateral lobar pneumonia and without other ultrasonographic signs of COVID-19 pneumonia but positive RT-PCR. The group without COVID-19 pneumonia and negative RT-PCR were 10 (90%) had LUS negative for COVID-19 pneumonia (specificity 90.91%, 95% CI 58.72%-99.77%). One case declared positive by LUS, and with negative RT-PCR, it was a case of non-Hodgkin lymphoma post-radiation pulmonary fibrosis and presented with hypertensive pulmonary edema.

The other cases of negative LUS and negative RT-PCR where three patients with chronic dialysis and pulmonary edema, a 25-year-old woman with miliary tuberculosis and severe myocarditis, three cases of NSTEMI and pulmonary edema, a 26-year-old man with uncontrolled hypertension, renal failure and possible vasculitis, one case of diabetik ketoacidosis and right basal pneumonia and another case of hypertensive pulmonary edema with UTI.

Two cases where considered COVID-19 pneumonia by the treating team despite negative RT-PCR because the clinical picture, lab findings, and CT chest finding keeping with COVID-19 pneumonia in concurrence with the ultrasound chest. Pleural effusion was not detected in any patient with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia.

Table 1. Lung ultrasound and RT-PCR profile in patients with respiratory distress and suspicion of COVID-19 in ICU (N = 57)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostic Tool</th>
<th>Confirmed COVID-19 (%)</th>
<th>Sensitivity, %</th>
<th>Specificity, %</th>
<th>PPV, %</th>
<th>NPV, %</th>
<th>PLR, %</th>
<th>NLR, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUS+</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUS−</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT-PCR+</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT-PCR−</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LUS, lung ultrasound, positive (+) or negative (−) for the abnormality; COVID-19 pneumonia present or absent based on final diagnosis.

Conclusion: LUS pattern is sensitive and specific for diagnosing COVID-19 pneumonia in acutely admitted patients to ICU with respiratory involvement.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. The research was performed as part of the employment of the authors in Ministry of health and Kuwait oil Company

000717 Deep vein thrombosis screening of COVID-19 patients in intensive care
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Introduction: Patients infected with COVID-19 are at an increased risk of thromboembolic complications as demonstrated in autopsy findings(Wichmann et al) and observational clinical studies(Helms et al).

Recognising this increased risk, our intensive care unit started a screening programme using compression ultrasound to detect venous thrombosis.

Methods: From 1st April 2020, any patient admitted to our adult intensive care unit with proven or suspected COVID-19 underwent compression ultrasound of the external iliac veins to popliteal trifurcation and the internal jugular veins. This scan was carried out shortly after admission to ICU and repeated weekly until ICU discharge.

Scans were performed by medical staff trained in compression ultrasound. Any scans felt to demonstrate thrombus meriting anticoagulation were reviewed by a senior clinician with experience in compression ultrasound. Any doubt or disagreement prompted further assessment by a radiologist or sonographer.

Results: Twenty-two consecutive patients with a diagnosis of COVID-19 pneumonia were cared for in ICU during this project. The demographics are summarised below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age - median (IQR)</th>
<th>n=22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60.5 (55-66)</td>
<td>17 (77.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male - n. (%)</td>
<td>3 (40.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI - median (IQR)</td>
<td>31.5 (25.5-36.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-morbidities - n. (%)</td>
<td>9 (40.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous cancer</td>
<td>1 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous VTE</td>
<td>3 (13.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>8 (22.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD</td>
<td>2 (9.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Severity</td>
<td>8 (36.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fifteen patients (68.2%) were found to have thrombus of varying severity on compression ultrasound. Eight were judged to merit treatment with anticoagulation. Of the eight patients that were anticoagulated, 7 were diagnosed on compression ultrasound screening. Five were found to have lower
Results: CEUS derived parameters were reduced in in COVID-19 associated AKI compared to healthy controls ( perfusion index 3415 ± 548 a.u., p<0.001; renal blood volume 7794 ± 3338 a.u., p=0.04). Renal arterial flow quantified using time averaged peak velocity (TAPV) was also reduced compared to healthy controls (36.6 ± 20.9 cm/s, p=0.004) despite cardiac index being similar between groups (2.8 ± 3.7 L/min/m², p=0.07) and right heart function being normal. There were no differences in CEUS derived or cardiac parameters between COVID-19 and septic shock patients but patients with septic shock had more heterogeneous perfusion variables. Conclusion: Both large and small vessel blood flow is reduced in patients with COVID-19 associated AKI compared to healthy controls, which does not appear to be a consequence of right or left heart dysfunction. A reno-vascular pathogenesis of COVID-19 AKI seems likely

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (UK Ministry of Defence), 2019; European Society of Intensive Care Medicine Point of Care Ultrasound award, 2019

000929
Association of baseline diaphragm, rectus femoris and vastus intermedius muscle thickness with weaning in critically-ill patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000929

Introduction: Weaning from mechanical ventilation in critically-ill patients is associated with many factors, baseline muscle thickness is one of them [1,2].

Objectives: To determine whether baseline diaphragm (Tdi), rectus femoris (RF) and vastus intermedius (VI) muscle thickness (TRF and TRF+VI) are associated with weaning.

Methods: The study was performed between 1st April-30th June 2019 and 1st October 2019-31st March 2020. Right Tdi, TRF and TRF+VI were measured by ultrasonography within 36 hours of intubation and diaphragmatic excursion (DE) was evaluated at the first spontaneous breathing trial in adult critically-ill patients. Successful weaning was defined as extubation without reintubation within 7 days after extubation. Reintubation or death within 7 days after extubation were grouped as weaning failure. Two groups were compared in terms of ultrasonographic measurements and clinical features.

Results: A total of 62 patients were enrolled in the study. The patients (n=24) who had no attempt for weaning were excluded from the analysis. Clinical features and ultrasonographic measurement results of weaning groups are shown in the Table. In the weaning failure group (n=15), the median body mass index (BMI), DE, TRF+VI were lower while the median clinical frailty scale (CFS), duration of mechanical ventilation, ICU and hospital mortality rate were higher. The median baseline diaphragm thickness was similar in two groups. In ROC analysis, AUC for TRF+VI was 0.71 (95% CI: 0.51-0.90, p=0.035), with 21 mm cut-off having sensitivity of 82% and specificity of 57%. Logistic regression analysis revealed TRF+VI<21 mm as the only predictor
of weaning failure with an odds ratio of 7.6 (95% CI: 1.1-52.8, p=0.04) after adjusting for BMI and CFS.

Table: Clinical features and ultrasonographic measurements of patient groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weaning success</th>
<th>Weaning failure</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=23</td>
<td>n=15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, years</td>
<td>61 [50-70]</td>
<td>71 [55-80]</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex*</td>
<td>8 [3.47]</td>
<td>4 [26.6]</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson co-morbidity score</td>
<td>3 [1-5]</td>
<td>4 [3-6]</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition risk in the critically-ill (NUTRIC) score</td>
<td>5 [4-6]</td>
<td>5 [4-6]</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical fraility scale</td>
<td>4 [3-6]</td>
<td>6 [5-7]</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>24 [13-26]</td>
<td>16 [14-21]</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>7 [5-9]</td>
<td>8 [6-10]</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preaalbumin, mg/dl</td>
<td>12.2 [12.8-20.0]</td>
<td>11.8 [6.5-13.9]</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FIO2</td>
<td>171 [90-208]</td>
<td>106 [88-179]</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: TRF+VI lower than 21 mm measured by ultrasonography within 36 hours of intubation, was associated with weaning failure among critically-ill patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. B. Shuker
Introduction: Since 1989 when Jardin (1) introduced bedside ultrasound in his ICU, lung US has become increasingly popular in the ICU community. In our center, the value of LUS is becoming apparent and fellows in training are interested in learning this important technique. We initiated a simple learning program and followed 2 fellows in their learning trajectory.

Objectives: To determine the time needed to develop basic LUS skills in the ICU.

Methods: After a literature review the modified Bedside Lung Ultrasound in Emergency (BLUE)- protocol (2) was selected for implementation, (excluding the venous vascular part of the protocol for deep vein thrombosis). An introductory session was organized, lead by an experienced lung US specialist, entailing a 30-minute instruction for knobby and a protocol trial run in 2 patients. Patients selected were admitted to ICU and in need of O2-therapy. Patients below 18 year of age, patients after thoracic and cardiac surgery and morbidly obese in whom limited LUS resolution was expected, were excluded. Patients were selected, in whom objectifiable lung lesions were most expected. Patients could only be included once. Length of time for the examination was noted and findings describing the different LUS study points were noted and retrospectively compared to classic radiological findings (chest X-Ray (CXR) and/or CT) and medical history. These data were subsequently analyzed.

Results: A total of 63 patients were included in the study over a period of 1 month divided over 2 ICU fellows. One fellow performed 45 examinations (71%), the other 18 (29%). Time of study. Mean study time of all examinations (n=65) was 254 seconds (sd=104). In the first 15 examinations mean time was 380 s (sd=106), the second was 261 s (sd=33), the third 246 s (sd=52), dropping to a mean of 148 s (sd=31), in the last 18 examinations (p<0.001 compared to all previous periods). The maximum time of examination in the last period was 195 s. Findings according to BLUE protocol. In a total of 63 patients: PLAPS profile 1 (23.8%); A profile: 29 (46%); A’ profile 2 (3.2%); B profile: 8 (12.7%); B’ profile 2 (3.2%); undetermined 5 (7.9%). Comparison of LUS to CXR and medical history. In 50 (79.4%) patients findings on LUS confirmed CXR and medical history. In 7 (11.1%) patients LUS likely fell short. In 6 (9.5%) patients LUS had added value to previous findings on CXR and from medical history.

Conclusion: The learning curve for LUS in the ICU is steep. After a short introduction, within about 50 examinations fellows could perform lung US with confidence within just over 2 minutes. LUS findings proved robust or had added value compared to CXR and medical history in 89% of examinations, comparable to results in the literature.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
ICU mortality was 19% and hospital mortality 20%.

Table 1 | Variables | \( \text{Age (years, mean (SD))} \) | 58.6 (10) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex (male%)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOFA entry ≤ 5 (%)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICU stay (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>33.1 (12.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital stay (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>25.4 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiovascular history (%)</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immunosuppression history (%)</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Background taking corticosteroids (%)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FA Background (%)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thrombosis history (%)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Background taking blood thinners (%)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychiatric history (%)</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antecedent taking antipsychotics (%)</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History take drugs or alcohol (%)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smoker Background (%)</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICU ventilator only (%)</td>
<td>57.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-organic failure (%)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shock (%)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renal insufficiency (%)</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adverse events (%)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The distribution of ICU admission for COVID-19 related pneumonia required quadrupling the capacity of ventilated patients in the first 2 weeks of the pandemic. The characteristics of the admitted patients, their location and resources used for treatment were conditioned by this aspect.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Acknowledgments to all the nursing and auxiliary staff of the ICU of HUMT.
2. Not funded

Introduction: Urosepsis contributes significantly to the epidemiology of sepsis. Urosepsis is divided into community-acquired or hospital-acquired, depending upon the origin of infection acquired either from the community or from the health care setup. The literature about community-acquired urosepsis (CAUs) is limited and studies are small powered.

Objectives: Aim of our study was to know the epidemiology, bacteriology, severity and outcome of CAUs patients.

Methods: All patients admitted from the emergency department to the surgical intensive care unit (SICU) with urosepsis over a period of 10 years were identified and included retrospectively from the SICU register.

Results: During the study period 302 patients admitted with CAUs. The common etiology was obstructive uropathy (60%). Local Arabic population outnumbered the non-Arabic population (164/54.3%) and there were equal number of patients from both genders, 75% had acute kidney injury (AKI). Thirty eight percent patients had percutaneous nephrostomy and 24.8% patients underwent endoscopic stent insertion to relieve the obstruction. Ninety three percent patients were admitted with septic shock and 71.5% had bacteremia.

The common bacteria (36.1%) was extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing bacteria, with a predominance of E. coli (ESBL) (31.5%) and 54% required change of antibiotics to carbapenem. Eighty two percent patients had ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome). Patients with bacteremia had a statistically significant AKI, ARDS and septic shock (P<0.001). Male patients had significantly higher incidence of oliguria, intubation and ARDS (P<0.05). Eight patients died of urosepsis giving mortality of 2.6%.

Conclusion: Patients obstruction to the flow of urine was the common cause for the CAUs. Urosepsis patients had a higher bacteremia rate, corresponding to higher incidence of organ dysfunction and septic shock. ESBL bacteria were frequently causing urosepsis, requiring initial antibiotic to be changed to carbapenem. Mortality of our urosepsis patients were lower than mentioned in the literature.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None.

000013

Community acquired urosepsis: a surgical intensive care experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000013

Introduction: The Respiratory Intensive Care Unit at the Sheba Medical Center consists of 14 beds with ~ 470 admissions per year. The patient are exposed to infectious risk factors, suppressed immune status and are monitored via many central line catheters. Therefore, they are unable to cope with further infections. The data from the hospital’s infection prevention unit were shown to be alarming in
terms of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE). CPE can produce a broad spectrum of infections; it is associated with high mortality and very limited therapeutic options. CPE cases outbreaks are mostly attributed to patient-to-patient transmission via healthcare workers. The challenge we faced with was to locate the source of the infection and solve it.

**Methods**: Active CPE surveillance included twice-weekly rectal screening of all patients. A case was defined as a patient detected with OXA-48 CPE >72 hours after admission. Sevral meetings were scheduled between hospital’s infection prevention unit and the department staff, in order to define the source of the outbreak. Over the course of the several months samples were calculated from patients and their units. A root-cause analysis “Fish Bone” method was used to investigate the results. The clone was detected in 16 sink traps.

**Results**: From January 2016 to May 2017, 32 OXA-48 CPE cases were detected, 81% of these were S. marcescens. The common factor in all cases was the use of relatively large amounts of tap water. Educational intervention that engaged the ICU team led to high adherence to ‘sink-contamination prevention guidelines’. No additional infections detected for 12 months.

**Conclusion**: Finding the source of CPE outbreak was necessary for the educational intervention and collaboration with the team of ICU to reduce the contagion of OXA-48 producing Serratia marcescens. Due to the fact that it is not possible to predict where the next infection will stem from, it is important to sample all sites of the patient environment, to conduct a multidisciplinary brainstorming session to increase the chances of finding the source.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
Conclusion: From Intensivists’ prospect, there is a need to improve training and knowledge in the field of ID. Stewardship programs are not universally implemented and ID management follow mostly a protocolised approach.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. The survey had been sponsored by the ESICM. The authors would like to thank Pedro Povoa and Andrew Conway Morris from the Infection Section of the ESICM for their support and guidance; and Shenhane Bensemmane at ESICM research office for her valuable support in creating and promoting the online survey.

000129
Effect of bundle approach on preventing hospital-acquisition of drug-resistant pathogens in intensive care units
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000129

Introduction: The increasing emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens all over the world has become catastrophic world health problems. In fact, we experienced an uncontrollable outbreak of multidrug-resistant pathogens and ICU closure for 3 weeks in January 2013. Based on the experience, we built an infection control bundle including contact precautions for every patient in the ICU, carrying personal alcohol-based hand rubs, cohorting patients who acquired drug-resistant pathogens, active surveillance cultures once a week, and enhanced environmental disinfection in January 2013.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the systemic infection control bundle approach against acquisition of drug-resistant pathogens.

Methods: This was a retrospective historical control study conducted from April 2008 to March 2019 in 18-bed ICU of a tertiary care hospital in Japan. Every patient admitted to the ICU during the study period was eligible if they were inserted CVC. Patients were divided into 2 groups: Conventional group (from April 2008 to December 2012) or Interventional group (from January 2013 to March 2019). The primary outcome was the number of hospital-acquired MRSA. We defined hospital-acquisition as the isolation of MRSA after 48 hours of hospitalisation.

Results: Of 345 bacteremia, 92 (27%) were included, and 15 (4%) of which were SM bacteremia.

Conclusions: The bundle approach could be an effective strategy to prevent hospital-acquisition of drug-resistant pathogens in ICUs.

000130
Impact of team-based approach on preventing catheter-related bloodstream infection in critically ill setting
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000130

Introduction: Catheter-related blood stream infection (CRBSI) is a common serious infection and associated with increased mortality in intensive care units (ICUs). One of the most important strategies to prevent CRBSI is to minimize the duration of central venous catheterization. So we built a medical team consisting of doctors, nurses and pharmacists in ICU to discuss whether patients needed central venous catheter (CVC) in terms of monitoring hemodynamics and administering drugs, and recommend catheter removal to attending physicians every day in April 2019.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether our team-based approach could shorten the total duration of catheterization and reduce CRBSI.

Methods: This was a retrospective historical control study conducted from April 2018 to January 2020 in the ICU of a tertiary care hospital in Japan. Every patient admitted to the ICU during the study period was eligible if they were inserted CVC. Patients were divided into 2 groups: Conventional group (from April 2018 to March 2019) or Interventional group (from April 2019 to January 2020). We set the primary endpoint as onset of CRBSI. The secondary endpoints included the duration of central venous catheterization, the length of ICU stay and hospital mortality. CRBSI was defined as bloodstream infection in patients with CVC, not related to another site.

Results: We included 490 patients: 259 in the Conventional group and 231 in the Interventional group. The reduced tendency of CRBSI was observed in the Interventional group, though nonsignificant [hazard ratio, 0.249 (95% confidence interval, 0.054-1.141; p = 0.067)]. The Interventional group was significantly associated with reduced duration of central venous catheterization (5 days vs 7 days; p < 0.001). No difference was observed in the length of ICU stay and in-hospital mortality between groups.

Conclusion: The team-based approach to assess CVC necessity could shorten the duration of central venous catheterization and might reduce CRBSI.

000163
Risk factors and clinical characteristics of Stenotrophomonas maltophilia bacteremia acquired in Intensive care unit : A Propensity Score-Matched Analysis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000163

Introduction: Bacteremia is an important problem in intensive care units (ICUs) due to high rates of antimicrobial resistance and mortality. Especially Stenotrophomonas maltophilia (SM) is an important pathogen that induced nosocomial infections. However, the risk factors for SM bacteremia in critically ill patients admitted to the ICU who are not immunocompromised, such as hematological tumor patients and malignant tumor patients, are unknown.

Objectives: We conducted a propensity score matching analysis using control patients with the other Gram negative bacteremia in ICU.

Methods: This study was conducted at ICU in the Saiseikai Utsunomiya Hospital, a critical care center in Tochigi, Japan. The medical charts of ICU-acquired bacteremia were retrospectively reviewed between January 2013 and March 2020. ICU acquired bacteremia was defined as at least one positive blood culture together with clinical features compatible systemic inflammatory response syndrome and occurring ≥ 72 hours after ICU admission. Gram-positive bacteremia and fungemia were excluded. Because, these bacteremia are likely to have different initial treatment options. Because of the relatively few SM group, for multivariable modeling we performed a propensity score analysis with 1:1 matching with age, sex, neutropenia, and APACHEII score.

Results: Of 345 bacteremia, 92 (27%) were included, and 15 (4%) of which were SM bacteremia. Propensity score matching identified 14 patients in each cohort. With 1:1 matching with age, sex, neutropenia, and APACHEII score, we set the primary endpoint as onset of CRBSI. The secondary endpoints included the duration of central venous catheterization, the length of ICU stay and hospital mortality. CRBSI was defined as bloodstream infection in patients with CVC, not related to another site.

Conclusion: From Intensivists’ prospect, there is a need to improve training and knowledge in the field of ID. Stewardship programs are not universally implemented and ID management follow mostly a protocolised approach.
However, the length of hospital stay was significantly longer in SM group (66 days vs 106 days; p<0.005). Days to positive blood culture from ICU admission were longer in SM group (15 days vs 24 days, p<0.005). The ratio of carbapenems and anti-MRSA drugs used in combination was significantly higher in the SM bacteria group (28% vs 64%, p<0.05), and the administration duration was also significantly longer than the other bacteremia group (0.8 days vs 6.0 days, p<0.05). Use rate of the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), there was no significant difference but higher in SM bacteremia than the other bacteremia at 70% and 0%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** Our study showed that SM should be considered as the causative bacteria that developed after prolonged ICU stay. And, in addition to the previously known risk factor for immunosuppression, longer combination use of broad spectrum antibiotics use was could be risk factor of SM bacteremia in ICU settings. Although there was no significant difference in mortality, it was found that the acquisition of SM bacteremia in ICU prolongs the hospitalization period.

**000242**

**Previous infections as a risk factor for multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii in ventilator-associated pneumonia**

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**Correspondence:** S. J. Kwon

*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000242*

**Introduction:** Acinetobacter baumannii (AB) has high resistant to carbapenems and other antibiotics and has become an increasingly important cause of intensive care units (ICU) nosocomial infections. Factors increasing significantly the risk of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) due to Acinetobacter spp. include long duration of hospital stay, longer time on mechanical ventilation (MV), prior episode of sepsis, and prior antibiotic use. A preexistent acute-phase response can reduce the proinflammatory responses to AB, which is associated with an impaired bacterial clearance.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is whether the risk factors for VAP by multidrug-resistant AB (MDR-AB) are the previous infections, the prior antibiotic uses, and a longer duration of mechanical ventilation, or not.

**Methods:** Retrospectively analysis of medical records of 209 patients receiving bronchoscopy due to suspected VAP during mechanical ventilation in ICU from January 2011 to December 2019 in Konyang University Hospital, South Korea. Pathogens were isolated by a quantitative bacterial culture and susceptibility test of the lower respiratory specimens using bronchoscopy.

**Results:** 116 patients excluding 93 patients that met exclusion criteria were available for analysis.

54 patients (46.5%) of VAP patients had MDR-AB. 48 patients (41.4%) of patients was received mechanical ventilation due to infections, including 44 pneumonia patients (91.6%). Although the 28 days mortality was 29.6% of VAP by MDR-AB, there was no significant difference between MDR-AB and other pathogens. There was no significant difference in late onset VAP between MDR-AB and other pathogens. There was no significant difference in mortality, it was found that the acquisition of SM bacteremia in ICU prolongs the hospitalization period.

**Conclusion:** The risk factor for VAP patients by MDR-AB are associated with the previous infections rather than the prior antibiotic uses, irrespective of the duration of mechanical ventilation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000255**

**Effectiveness and safety of intravenous fosfomycin in multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) infections in critically ill patients an Indian experience**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000255*

**Introduction:** IV fosfomycin is used particularly in difficult-to-treat or complex infections, caused by both Gram-positive and Gram-negative pathogens including multidrug-resistant strains. Despite its clinical effectiveness and safety of intravenous fosfomycin in real-life setting. We intent to observe the effectiveness and safety of intravenous fosfomycin in real-life setting.

**Objectives:** The primary objective is to observe the current clinical use of IV fosfomycin. Secondary objectives are clinical outcome, impact of variables on mortality and adverse events.

**Methods:** Multicentric retrospective study conducted among recipients of IV fosfomycin for the treatment of multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) infections from 4 tertiary care centers from India. Medical records were analyzed for clinical diagnosis, pathogen, fosfomycin posology, adverse events with CCI, Pitts, qSOFA score.

**Results:** Overall, 309 patients received IV fosfomycin of which 17% were immunocompromised. Main indications for fosfomycin administration were bacteremia (45.3%), pneumonia (11.8%), septic shock (14.3%), UTI (13.9%). Common pathogens were K. pneumonieae (43.3%), E. coli (21.7%), polybacterial (20.8%). Pseudomonas spp. (11.7%), Staphylococcus spp. (2.9%). Average dose of fosfomycin was 9.8 ± 4.06 g/d (Range: 1 g to 24 g/d) administered for average duration of 4.66 ± 3.68 days (Range: 1-16 days). Hypokalemia was the most
common (62.1%) adverse event observed followed by hypernatremia (24.2%). Overall clinical improvement was observed in 55% patients. Immuno compromised status, Pitts score, CCI, qSOFA score and hypernatremia were associated with significant impact on survival (Table 1).

![Table 1: Comparison of variable among survivor and non-survivor (n=309)](image)

**Conclusion:** IV fosfomycin was used across different indications and sites of infection in critically ill patients with clinical improvement in 55% patients. Hypokalemia is very common adverse event in practice; however, hypernatremia is associated with increased association with mortality in our study.

**000305**

**Prevalence of intestinal colonization with Carbapenem resistant Gram-negative bacteria (CRB) on admission to intensive care unit and incidence of subsequent CRB infections**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000305

**Introduction:** Carbapenem resistant Gram-negative bacterial (CRB) infections constitute a significant menace for healthcare systems, especially in high endemicity countries, such as Greece. Limited therapeutic options and high mortality rates call for prompt recognition and isolation of CRB carriers, preventing patient-to-patient transmission.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the prevalence of intestinal colonization with CRB on admission to Intensive Care Unit (ICU), assess the rate of CRB-related infections and identify risk factors.

**Methods:** This is a retrospective observational study that included all patients admitted to the ICU of a tertiary hospital in Greece, between March 2019 and March 2020. Rectal swabs for CRB detection were collected upon ICU admission in the first 24 hours. Medical records of the patients were reviewed for evaluation of age, sex, source of ICU admission, previous antibiotic therapy, comorbidities, CRB infections and length of ICU and hospital stay. Rectal swabs were cultured for screening at Brilliance CRE agar; in all positive results resistance to imipenem and meropenem was confirmed with susceptibility testing and phenotypical methods of carbapenemases production. We used chi-square with Yates’ correction to compare categorical attributes, Kruskal-Wallis Test for the medians and t-test for the means of numerical variables, with a p value <0.05 statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of 158 patients were admitted to the ICU during a 6-month period. All of them were screened for intestinal colonization with CR-Gnb. Among them, 27 patients (17%) were colonized with one or more Carbapenemase producing (CP)-CRB strains, with *Klebsiella pneumoniae* being the most prevalent (74%), followed by *Acinetobacter baumannii* (37%) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (7.4%). Predisposing factors for CRB colonization were the presence of comorbidities, the source of ICU admission with over 85% transferred from another acute care setting (ICU, non-ICU ward), recent antibiotic exposure (100%), and hospital admission in the previous 6 months (52%) (table1). The rate of CRB infections among carriers was 52% (n=14/27). In all but three patients the colonizing and infecting strains were the same. Median time from rectal screening to infection was 10d. The most common site of infection was the lung in ten patients (37%), followed by primary bloodstream infection in seven (26%). Baseline characteristics among colonized patients with CRB infections and non-CRB infections were not significantly different, except for the length of ICU and hospital stay (table1).

![Table 1: Characteristics of CRB infected and non infected cases among carriers](image)

**Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that CRB carriers admitted to the ICU suffer from an increased risk of developing CRB infections with high mortality rate, and significantly prolonged ICU and hospital stay. Surveillance cultures on admission and early patient and staff cohorting may limit CRB transmission and guide empirical treatment in case of subsequent infection.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. None.
Association of thyroid status with risk of bloodstream infections: results from the prospective population-based HUNT Study in Norway

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000332

Introduction: Studies of patients admitted to intensive care units (ICU) with sepsis have shown that thyroid function abnormalities are associated with adverse outcomes. It has also been suggested that patients’ thyroid levels prior to critical illness could affect sepsis mortality, even at subclinical levels(1). As thyroid dysfunction is common in the general population, this may represent a modifiable risk factor for sepsis(2,3). To our knowledge, the association between thyroid status and risk of bloodstream infections (BSI) has not previously been investigated in a large population-based study.

Objectives: To determine if thyroid hormone levels in the general population is associated with future risk of BSI and mortality.

Methods: Thyroid function was measured in 35,263 Norwegian men and women participating in the second HUNT Study (HUNT2, 1995-97). Thyroid function was defined as Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) levels combined with free thyroxine (FT4) and total triiodothyronine (T3). HUNT2 data was linked to prospective information from the Mid-Norway Sepsis Register (MNSR), on clinically relevant BSI from local and regional hospitals until 2011. TSH levels where classified into six categories. Most of the BSI patients had sepsis. We evaluated the risk of first-time BSI, of all causative agents and by the most common infecting bacteria E. coli, S. aureus and S. pneumoniae. Risk of mortality was assessed within 30 days of BSI and all cause-mortality during the whole follow-up period. We used Cox regression to estimate hazard ratios with 95% confidence interval, using TSH 0.5-1.4 mU/L as reference.

Results: After excluding participants with known thyroid disease, 31,707 HUNT2 participants where eligible for follow-up of BSI. During a median of 14.8 follow-up years, 1,138 experienced at least one episode of BSI and 198 died within 30 days. Table 1 show the hazard ratios adjusted for age, sex, socioeconomic status, BMI and smoking. The higher TSH levels showed some association with development of BSI, but the results have a low precision and the confidence interval is also in agreement with no association. The results where robust for further adjustments of comorbidities (data not shown). The observed pattern of mortality was assessed within 30 days of BSI and all cause-mortality during the whole follow-up period. We used Cox regression to estimate hazard ratios with 95% confidence interval, using TSH 0.5-1.4 mU/L as reference.

Conclusion: We found an association between higher TSH levels and a lower risk of hospitalizations and mortality due to BSI. However, the width of the confidence intervals also coincides with no risk difference. All participants with abnormal levels of TSH where advised for further investigations, leaving a possibility that our associations could have been stronger in an untreated population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. MST has received Grants from Clinic of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at St. Olav’s Hospital, Trondheim, Norway.

Body Mass Index and ARDS severity in patients with and without SARS-CoV-2 infection

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000356

Introduction: Since December 2019 a pandemic of new acute respiratory distress syndrome due to coronavirus disease (C-ARDS) has been reported worldwide, with high need of intensive care admission and mechanical ventilation. A high frequency of obesity among patients admitted to ICUs for C-ARDS has been demonstrated; in previous studies, Body Mass Index (BMI) has been described as a major risk factor for ICU admission and ARDS severity.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate if C-ARDS patients had a higher BMI compared to a previous population of ARDS patients.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective analysis of 140 consecutive C-ARDS patients admitted to the intensive care units of San Paolo Hospital in Milan and of Maggiore Hospital in Lodì from February 25th 2020 to April 19th 2020. All patients had a laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection diagnosis by RT-PCR on nasopharyngeal swabs.

Results: BMI was significantly higher in C-ARDS compared to ARDS (28 [25–31] kg/m2 vs 25 [22–29] kg/m2, p<0.0001). We found a significantly higher percentage of overweight and obese patients in C-ARDS than ARDS patients admitted to the ICU (49% vs 33% and 29% vs 16%, p<0.0001). At the time of ICU admission, mechanically ventilated C-ARDS patients had PaO2/FiO2 ratio significantly lower (120 [90–165] vs 169 [127–216]) with positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) level significantly higher (12 [10–14] cmH2O vs 10 [12–12] cmH2O, p<0.0001). According to the ARDS Berlin definition, we found that the percentages of severe ARDS patients was significantly higher in C-ARDS patients (36% vs 13%, p<0.0001).

Conclusion: We found that, among patients admitted in ICU and requiring mechanical ventilation, C-ARDS population had both a higher percentage of patients with BMI ≥ 25 and higher percentage of patients with severe ARDS compared to “other ARDS”. Our results suggest that a possible relationship between higher BMI and development of severe ARDS patients could exist among C-ARDS patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Healthcare personnel working in contact with severe patients are a risk group for which annual vaccination against influenza A is recommended.

Objectives: To identify the adherence rate to the influenza A vaccine among healthcare personnel in the Intensive Care Units (ICUs) of Catalonia during 2018-2019 season. Describe and analyze the reasons for non-vaccination in different worker groups.

Methods: Multicentre, observational and cross-sectional study based on an anonymous paper survey sent to healthcare personnel from 19 ICUs in Catalonia. Healthcare workers were classified as physicians (including residents and fellows) and non-physicians [nurses and Auxiliary Nursing Care Technician (TCNA)]. The survey included sociodemographic and basic clinical information related to knowledge regarding anti-influenza vaccination guidelines as well as attitudes regarding campaigns and recommendations made by the competent authorities. Reasons for non-vaccination were classified as either personal, professional or scientific. Chi-square and t-test were used for the statistical analysis and p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

The study was approved by the PSMar Clinical Research Ethics Committee (No. 2019/8495/I).

Results: Among 917 answered surveys, 730 (69%) were properly completed and included in the study. 79% of the participants were women and the mean age of the total sample was 39 (12) years old. 170 surveys (23.3%) corresponded to physicians and 560 (76.7%) to non-physicians (421 nursing and 139 TCNA). Total vaccination rate was 43.4% and it was higher in physicians compared to non-physicians (66.5% vs. 36.4%; p<0.000). Factors related to the decision of vaccination were hospital teaching sessions (60%) and social media campaigns. The most effective reported factor influencing the decision to vaccinate was hospital teaching sessions (60%; 31.6% of physicians and 5.9% of non-physicians; p<0.001) has either professional as inconvenience on the vaccination site (7% vs. 0.5%, p<0.000) and fear of side effects (21.1% vs. 25.9%, p<0.000) and forgetfulness (24.6% vs. 8.1%, p=0.000), low effectiveness of the vaccine (28.1% vs. 36.5%, p=0.021), personal factors (forgetfulness (24.6% vs. 8.1%, p=0.000), lack of time (24.6% vs. 6.7%, p=0.000) and fear of side effects (21.1% vs. 25.9%, p=0.433) and professional as inconvenience on the vaccination site (7% vs. 0.5%, p=0.004). Overall 57% of healthcare personnel included in this study (31.6% of physicians and 5.9% of non-physicians; p<0.001) has either no intention or doubts about being vaccinated in the 2019-2020 campaign. The most effective reported factor influencing the decision to vaccinate was hospital teaching sessions (60%) and social media (40%).

Conclusion: Vaccination rate among ICU healthcare personnel is low, however it is higher in physicians than in non-physicians. Reasons for non-vaccination differ between both worker groups. A low percentage of ICU workers are decided to be vaccinated next season. To stress in the evaluated factors related to vaccination and non-vaccination could be helpful in design and evaluate measures to promote vaccination among ICU healthcare personnel.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. This team obtained the SOCMIC 2019 grant to conduct this study.

000390
Management of covid 19 critically ill patients in a local hospital hit by pandemic. What can we learn?

JL. Flordelís Lasierra1; R. Muñoz-Bermúdez1
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000390

Introduction: Our 350 bed center (10 ICU beds) assisted 2200 COVID-19 patients in the period March to June 2020, of whom 90 were admitted to ICU. A great healthcare challenge.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of COVID-19 critically ill patients admitted to the ICU.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study including critically ill COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU from March 2020 to June 2020. Variables: sociodemographic, comorbidities, COVID-19 treatment, adverse drug reactions, severity scores at ICU admission, organ support, complications, ICU and hospital stay/mortality. A descriptive analysis was performed. Continuous variables have been expressed as median/interquartile range and categorial as percentage.

Results: 90 COVID-19 patients confirmed by PCR were included. 10 patients were excluded due to transfer to another hospitals. Mean age 65 years (56-72); 68% male; symptoms began 9 (7-15) days before admission. Main comorbidities were obesity 43% and hypertension 41%. Hospital stay before ICU admission was 3 (2-6) days. APACHE II 15 (10-18), SAPS 3 56 (48-65), SOFA at ICU admission 5 (3-8); 94% were admitted for severe respiratory failure, PaO2/FIO2 85 (66-125), 84% required invasive mechanical ventilation (MV), 4% non-invasive MV, and 11% high flow nasal cannula. Videolaryngoscopy device was used to intubate in 93%; 74% needed prone position, with a median of 2 cycles (1-3) per patient, MV 9 (2-22) days, 23% needed tracheostomy, 56% required vasopressors, 4% continuous renal replacement therapy. At ICU admission the mean white blood cell count was 9300µL (6222-13330), absolute lymphocyte count 700µL, LDH 479U/L (350-582), D-dimer 1.97 µg/ml (0.76-7.6). At the first 48 h ferritin levels were 26%; 12% suffered thromboembolic events and 16% haemorrhagic events, 46% required change of anticoagulant drug, 5% developed anhepiran antibodies. Nosocomial infection was diagnosed in 51%, with an outbreak of Stenotrophomonas maltophilia affecting 21% of patients. ICU stay: 12 (5-25) days, ICU mortality 53%, Hospital mortality 56%.

Conclusion: COVID-19 patients have shown a high mortality, conditioned by their respiratory evolution, with an infrequent use of non-invasive MV and high flow nasal cannula; associated with a high incidence of nosocomial infection and a delayed ICU admission.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000397
Eight years application of Selective digestive decontamination in a mixed ICU: impact on colonization, nosocomial multi-resistant infection and antibiotic consumption

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000397

Introduction: Multicentre, observational and cross-sectional study based on an anonymous paper survey sent to healthcare personnel from 19 ICUs in Catalonia. Healthcare workers were classified as physicians (including residents and fellows) and non-physicians [nurses and Auxiliary Nursing Care Technician (TCNA)]. The survey included sociodemographic and basic clinical information related to knowledge regarding anti-influenza vaccination guidelines as well as attitudes regarding campaigns and recommendations made by the competent authorities. Reasons for non-vaccination were classified as either personal, professional or scientific. Chi-square and t-test were used for the statistical analysis and p<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

The study was approved by the PSMar Clinical Research Ethics Committee (No. 2019/8495/I).

Results: Among 917 answered surveys, 730 (69%) were properly completed and included in the study. 79% of the participants were women and the mean age of the total sample was 39 (12) years old. 170 surveys (23.3%) corresponded to physicians and 560 (76.7%) to non-physicians (421 nursing and 139 TCNA). Total vaccination rate was 43.4% and it was higher in physicians compared to non-physicians (66.5% vs. 36.4%; p<0.000). Factors related to the decision of vaccination were hospital teaching sessions (60%) and social media campaigns. The most effective reported factor influencing the decision to vaccinate was hospital teaching sessions (60%; 31.6% of physicians and 5.9% of non-physicians; p<0.001) has either professional as inconvenience on the vaccination site (7% vs. 0.5%, p<0.000) and fear of side effects (21.1% vs. 25.9%, p=0.433) and professional as inconvenience on the vaccination site (7% vs. 0.5%, p=0.004). Overall 57% of healthcare personnel included in this study (31.6% of physicians and 5.9% of non-physicians; p<0.001) has either no intention or doubts about being vaccinated in the 2019-2020 campaign. The most effective reported factor influencing the decision to vaccinate was hospital teaching sessions (60%) and social media (40%).

Conclusion: Vaccination rate among ICU healthcare personnel is low, however it is higher in physicians than in non-physicians. Reasons for non-vaccination differ between both worker groups. A low percentage of ICU workers are decided to be vaccinated next season. To stress in the evaluated factors related to vaccination and non-vaccination could be helpful in design and evaluate measures to promote vaccination among ICU healthcare personnel.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. This team obtained the SOCMIC 2019 grant to conduct this study.
**Introduction:** Selective digestive decontamination (SDD) have been associated with reduced mortality and lower ICU-acquired rates. However, the effect SDD in areas where multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria are endemic is of great interest.

**Methods:** This study was conducted in a 30-bed-medical-surgical ICU. All consecutive patients admitted to the ICU from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2019 expected to require tracheal intubation > 48 hours were given SDD (SDD study group) with a 4-day course of intravenous cefotaxime, plus enteral colistin, tobramycin, nystatin in an oropharyngeal paste and in a digestive solution. Oropharyngeal and rectal swabs were obtained on admission and once weekly. We used ENVIN nosocomial infections (NI) criteria. We compared all patients admitted to ICU with NI from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 (non-SDD group) to the SDD study group. A univariate and a multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed. For each one of the infections the incidences per 1000 days of exposure in each cohort and the corresponding relative risks were obtained using the Poisson regression. Statistical significance was \( p \leq 0.05 \). We analyzed colistin- and tobramycin-resistant colonization and also antibiotic consumption as Defined antibiotics Daily Doses (DDD).

**Results:** Results are shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

There were no statistical significant differences between both groups in type of admission or demographic data. Patients with SDD had significantly less Extended Spectrum Betalactamase (ESBL), Gram Negative Bacteria Multirresistant (GNB-MR) and *Acinetobacter* spp infections. We had also a significant reduction in ventilator associated pneumonias (VAP), urinary infections and other secondary bactemias and antibiotic resistant bacteria infection (ARB) rates, in SDD group versus non SDD. There was no infection by *Clostridium difficile*. Colistin-resistant colonization was 16.5% and tobramycin-resistant colonization was 25.7% of samples. There was a decrease on the DDD/100 ICU stays after SDD.

**Conclusion:** After 8 years applying SDD a significant reduction of infections by ESBL, GNB-MR and *Acinetobacter* spp infections, was observed. A significant decrease of VAP, secondary bacteremias, urinary and ARB infections rates was also shown. An antibiotic consumption reduction was found after SDD. Low rates of colistin- and tobramycin-resistant colonization bacteria were observed.

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**What influences duration of antibiotic therapy?**

**Results:** from a systematic literature review

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000409

**Introduction:** Antibiotic use in hospitals, also in intensive care units (ICUs), is often inappropriate or unnecessary. Overuse of antibiotics drives antibiotic resistance. There are merely two ways to reduce the quantity of antibiotic use: not to start or early withdrawal. In ICUs the latter is far more acceptable. Even though emerging evidence suggests that reducing the duration of antibiotic therapy is safe for various types of infections, antibiotic therapy is commonly prescribed longer than recommended in daily practice. Professional performance of recommended care may be influenced by a large variety of factors. It is unclear, however, which factors influence the chosen duration of antibiotic therapy.

**Objectives:** The objective of this systematic literature review was to identify factors of antibiotic therapy duration in hospitals, with a special focus on ICUs.

**Methods:** A systematic literature search was conducted using PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO and Web of Science from 2000 onwards. All qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies in any language, concerning adults, and performed in an in-hospital setting were...
eligible for inclusion. Studies were included if they reported original data on determinants of antibiotic therapy duration. The identified factors were categorized using the comprehensive, integrated checklist of determinants of practice as develop by Flottorp et al. (2013).

Results: Seventeen articles were included in this review, of which one specifically focused on the ICU. Several determinants influencing duration of antibiotic therapy were found (see Table 1 for some examples). Most of these factors were related to individual health professionals (e.g. knowledge and skills, cognitions and attitudes, professional behaviour), followed by professional interactions (e.g. team processes, communications and peer influences), patient factors (e.g. patients’ perceived needs), and guideline factors (e.g. inconsistencies with other guidelines, feasibility of the recommendations, quality of the recommendation).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Determinants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Guideline factors</td>
<td>Conflicting guidelines, lack of evidence base for length of treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Individual health professionals</td>
<td>Doctors' don’t know how to re-evaluate/stop antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Patients factors</td>
<td>(Older) age of patient, severity of infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Professional interactions</td>
<td>Team process, type of surgical subspecialty, type of medical specialty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Incentives and resources</td>
<td>(Shortage of) human resources, lack of system that facilitates stopping of antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Capacity for organizational change</td>
<td>No formal encouragement to conduct review and revise to stop antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Social, political and legal factors</td>
<td>Safety from litigation for a complication</td>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Determinants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Doctors’ don’t know how to re-evaluate/stop antibiotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitions (including attitudes and emotions)</td>
<td>Feeling of personal responsibility for an infectious complication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional behaviour</td>
<td>Personal longstanding preferences of the surgeons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team process (Etiquette, Group culture)</td>
<td>Type of surgical subspecialty, type of medical specialty (surgical vs. general medical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and influence</td>
<td>Lack of supervision leaving junior staff to make complex medical decision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Implant from a specialist in infectious diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Shortage of) human resources</td>
<td>(Lack of) system that facilitates stopping of antibiotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>No formal encouragement to conduct review and revise to stop antibiotics</td>
<td>Safety from litigation for a complication</td>
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Conclusion: Only a few original studies have been performed investigating determinants of antibiotic therapy duration, with a remarkable lack of ICU studies. To design the most appropriate and effective improvement intervention, interventions need to be informed by clear information on determinants of behaviour. This review provides the first step for the development of effective behavioural interventions to optimize duration of antibiotic therapy. Further studies need to be conducted, specifically at ICUs, to gain more insight into factors that influence professional behaviour regarding the duration of antibiotic therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. This work was supported in part by a research grant from the investigator Initiated Studies Program of Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp (grant number 58288). The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
**Objectives:** To analyze the variability in the pharmacokinetics (PK) of anidulafungin and its diffusion in ascitic fluid in patients admitted to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

**Methods:** A prospective, observational, and descriptive pharmacokinetic study in a single ICU. Included were all patients, who received intravenous anidulafungin from October 2014 to June 2019 with a loading dose of 200 mg followed by 100 mg/day as maintenance dose and for whom the extraction was possible. Extraction of plasma samples and ascites fluid was performed at the second day of treatment [valley or predose (Cmin) and/or peak (Cmax) at the end of the infusion] simultaneously whenever possible. Demographic variables, pathological, analytical history and PK data were included. Quantitative variables are described as means (standard deviation) or medians (interquartile range) and qualitative variables as relative frequencies. This project was approved by the PSMar Committee for Clinical Research Ethics (No. 2016/6987/I).

**Results:** A total of 10 patients aged 65 (10.6) years, 6 (60%) men, Body Mass Index (BMI) 26.2 (3.6) kg/m². 6 (60%) of them had a surgical pathology.

**Clinical Research Ethics (No. 2016/6987/I)**

**Objectives:** To assess the trend in the incidence of infections, use of antimicrobial agents before and after the implementation of SDD in a Burns Unit (BU).

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective observational study in a 5-bed BU of a University Hospital. We collected data from all the patients admitted to the BU within a baseline period without SDD (2 years) and an SDD period (8 months). Chi-square, Student's T and Mann-Whitney U tests were applied for comparisons, as appropriate.

**Results:** A total of 48 patients were included, of which 35% received SDD (n=17). We did not find any statistically significant differences between baseline and SDD periods in terms of age (62 vs 61 years-old, p=0.86), gender (71% vs 65% male, p=0.65), BSA (23 vs 20%, p=0.52), smoke inhalation injury (32% vs 24%, p=0.53), APACHE-II (19 vs 16, p=0.08), ABSI (7 vs 6, p=0.50) or mortality (26% vs 12%, p=0.25). Our findings are depicted in the Tables.

**Conclusion:** SDD was significantly associated with a later onset of all types of infection, a lower incidence of Enterobacteriaceae and other Gram-Positive infections, and a higher exposure to cephalosporins. A nonsignificant downtrend was observed in the incidence of all types of infection, use of antimicrobial agents (except cephalosporins) and mortality.
000505 Implementation of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program reduces antimicrobial agents use and exhibits a broad acceptance in the Intensive Care Unit

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Conclusion: We found a broad adherence rate to the ASP-group (operational).

ASP period and in previous periods.

Results: We held 260 meetings during the study period, where 230 recommendations were proposed over 110 patients (64% male, aged 63±15), with a 96% of adherence. Intervention proposal was more frequently triggered by blood cultures (47%) and respiratory samples (30%), with Gram-negative bacteria being the most frequent isolated type of microorganism (41%). Most interventions were advised over respiratory infections (46%), followed by abdominal organs (17%) and urinary tract infections (15%).

Antimicrobial stewardship use was fundamentally proposed as de-escalation (67%), but also as adequacy (15%), optimization (13%) and escalation (5%). Most interventions were advised over linezolid (22%) and the groups of carbapenems (21%) and penicillins (13%). Antibiotic utilization, expressed as daily defined dose (DDD) per 100 bed-days (BD) in the ASP period and in previous periods.

Conclusion: We found a broad adherence rate to the ASP-group proposed recommendations. De-escalation was the most common intervention, specially in clinically relevant groups of antibiotics. We observed a downtrend in antibiotic use after the implementation of the ASP.

000506 Retrospective comparison of admission versus critical care acquired methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, vancomycin-resistant Enterococci and Clostridium difficile infection-related morbimortality and critical care length of stay

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Conclusion: This study highlights that there is no significant impact on mortality rates if patients contract admission versus unit MRSA bacteremia. Patients who contract unit VRE bacteremia are at a significantly higher risk of mortality compared to patients infected pre admission. In contrast, patients who are infected with C. Diff pre admission are at a significantly higher risk of mortality as compared to unit patients. Despite variance in mortality, patients with unit MRSA, VRE and C. Diff had increased LOS. Sub-categorisation of C. Diff and VRE mortality risk should include admission/unit infection and differences in LOS and patient mortality rates highlight the need for heightened surveillance of VRE and C. Diff within the critical care, parallel with MRSA surveillance levels.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Concordance between clinical and epidemiological diagnosis of tracheobronchitis and ventilator associated pneumonia in Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Pontevedra (Spain)

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000533

Introduction: Although tracheobronchitis (VAT) and ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) are two different clinical entities, they have some factors in common in terms of clinical and microbiological diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. The result of the evaluation of patients with these type of ventilator-associated respiratory infections can be interpreted differently if clinical and epidemiological factors are considered.

Objectives: To describe the concordance between clinical and epidemiological diagnosis, and, as a secondary objective, to know the clinical and epidemiological characteristics as well as the rates of VAT and VAP.

Methods: Retrospective and descriptive study carried out between 1st May 2015 and 31st October 2017 of patients admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Sources: ENVIN-UCI study, Department of Preventive Medicine, electronic medical record and retrospective review of imaging studies by radiology specialist. Parameters analyzed: age, gender, date of admission, intubation and discharge, comorbidities, microorganisms, antibiotics, associated infections and mortality. Statistical analysis: qualitative values (presented as absolute and percentages), quantitative values (presented as mean and standard deviation). Concordance between clinical diagnosis (data from ENVIN-UCI) and epidemiological diagnosis (data from Department of Preventive Medicine) was measured using kappa coefficient.

Results: 290 patients needed mechanical ventilation (MV) with 4523 stays (patients x mean days under MV). VAP rate: 3,98 and VAT rate: 10,39. ICU infections: 65 (18 VAP, 47 VAT) and according to Preventive Medicine: 43 (19 VAP and 24 VAT). In imaging studies reviewed by radiology specialist, coincidence with ICU diagnosis was found in 70% of the infections and in 60% of diagnosis made by Preventive Medicine. The concordance observed between clinical and epidemiological diagnosis in VAT and VAP according to Landis and Koch was: moderate in VAT (kappa value: 0,56; CI 95%: 0.35-0.78) and fair in VAT (kappa value: 0.32; CI 95%: 0.13-0.51). In the bivariate analysis, relationship was only found between concordance and length of stay.

Conclusion: Moderate agreement was observed in VAT and fair in VAT. None of the parameters studied were associated with no concordance, except for the length of stay.
Using VAC-therapy in skin plastic in patients with necrotic form of erysipelas

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Introduction: Extensive purulent-necrotic wounds are one of the urgent and unresolved problems in purulent surgery [1,2,3]. However, along with this, adequate surgical treatment often leads to the formation of extensive post-necrectomy wounds, the independent healing of which is impossible due to their significant size [4,5]. One of the effective treatment methods in this category of patients is the use of vacuum therapy in combination with autodermoplasty. The defect sizes varied from 20 to 152 cm². The effectiveness of vacuum therapy was evaluated based on the dynamics of clinical manifestations, determining the degree of microbial contamination in the wound, analysis of the cellular composition of wound prints, phagocytic number, phagocytic activity of neutrophils, determination of the index of completion of phagocytosis.

Methods: In this work, we present data on the results of treatment of 89 patients with necrotic complications of erysipelas with the use of vacuum therapy in combination with autodermoplasty. The defect sizes varied from 20 to 152 cm². The effectiveness of vacuum therapy was evaluated based on the dynamics of clinical manifestations, determining the degree of microbial contamination in the wound, analysis of the cellular composition of wound prints, phagocytic number, phagocytic activity of neutrophils, determination of the index of completion of phagocytosis.

Results: Patient wound cleansing during preparation of a wound for transplantation in the control and main groups occurred after 5.1 ± 0.5 days from the start of treatment, the appearance of granulation tissue after 8.1 ± 0.6 days, and granulation tissue covered the entire surface of the wound after 11.0 ± 0.4 days. Upon admission to the clinic, patients underwent surgical treatment, consisting in opening a purulent focus, necrectomy. Purulent discharge was observed from the wound, there was redness of the skin around the wound, edema, local temperature increase, fibrinous-purulent plaque and pain on palpation of the wound edges. After installing a vacuum aspirator, the general condition and general well-being of patients improved markedly, by the 5th day, wound cleansing and the appearance of granulation were noted. In parallel with cleansing the wound surface from necrosis and filling them with granulation tissue, local regional signs of inflammation disappeared. The degree of microbial contamination ranged from 1.9 ± 0.7 × 10⁴ to 2.6 ± 0.5 × 10⁴ /g of tissue. It should be noted that patients of both groups needed autodermoplasty to close skin defects. Skin transplantation was performed in the second phase of the wound process with bacterial contamination of the wound less than 102 CFU per g of tissue and upon receipt of a regenerative type of wound exudate cytopgrams.

The use of a vacuum apparatus contributed to the measured pressing of the skin flap to the wound surface, reliable fixation of the skin flap and, to a certain extent, improved local microcirculation. Carried out autodermoplasty was effective in all cases. When using vacuum in the postoperative period in the main group, the engraftment of the skin flap accounted for 82% of the wound surface, and in patients of the control group, without vacuum therapy in the postoperative period, the engraftment amounted to 75% of the surface.

Conclusion: The use of vacuum therapy for 4–5 days in a continuous aspiration mode (~125 mm Hg) helps to purify a purulent wound, shortens the first phase of the wound process and potentiates the filling of the wound surface with mature granulation tissue (p <0.005). It is advisable to use an isolated vacuum in skin plastic in clinical practice in patients with purulent-necrotic wounds and with a necrotic form of erysipelas to heal extensive skin defects.
In group I, a decrease in bacterial contamination by 50% was noted in 57.3% of patients, in group II - in 47.4%. There were no statistically significant differences between the groups: $\chi^2 = 2.47$; $p < 0.05$.

In group I, sterile discharge on the 10th day was observed in 100% of patients, in group II - only in 88.5%. Statistically significant differences between the groups were found: $\chi^2 = 12.2$; $p < 0.05$.

In group I, wound cleansing from pus and fibrin and the appearance of granulations on the 5th day were noted in 87.8% of patients, in group II - only in 35.9%. Statistically significant differences between the groups were revealed: $\chi^2 = 7.07$; $p < 0.05$.

In group I, wound cleansing from pus and fibrin and the appearance of granulations on the 10th day were noted in 100% of patients, in group II - only in 88.5%. Statistically significant differences between the groups were obtained: $\chi^2 = 12.2$; $p < 0.05$.

**Conclusion:** Use of Argosulfan ointment can improve the results of treatment of patients with purulent pathology of soft tissues and reduce the risk of secondary infection in comparison with the use of traditional antibacterial ointments - by reducing bacterial contamination, faster cleaning of the postoperative wound from pus and fibrin.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


2. No acknowledgment.

**A Case series on Macrophage activation syndrome with infections. More common than we think??**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000560

**Introduction:** Association of Macrophage activation syndrome (MAS) and infections has been documented earlier in literature however, there have been case reports and isolated cases and we did not come across a big series on above in association with infections. This communication delineates a case cohort of macrophage activation syndrome secondary to infectious diseases.

**Objectives:** To study the epidemiology and pattern of common variables in a cohort of Macrophage activation syndrome associated with an infectious etiology.

**Methods: Setting:** Sixty bedded multidisciplinary ICUs of tertiary care units.

**Methodology:** Consecutive patients suspected of macrophage activation syndrome fulfilling diagnostic criteria as per HLH 2004 trial were included for a duration dated first January 2017-till date with an infectious disease etiology were included. They were evaluated with a focus on demographics, SOFA scores, ALT levels, Hemoglobin, platelet counts, serum creatinine levels, bone marrow findings, incidence of AKI, LDH levels, splenomegaly, length of stay and mortality. Death/discharge from ICU were considered as end points. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 23.

**Results:** Total of thirty-seven patients with high grade fever were included (n=37, M: F=24:13) with age distribution of 44.8±14.3 years (Range-21-70). SOFA scores were 14.8±2.2 (Range-10-18) and length of stay (LOS) was 10.4±3.31 days (Range-5-17). Hemoglobin levels were 11.7±2.8 (Range 7.9-17.5) gm/dl and platelet counts were 60324±322 (Range12,000 -90,000), AST and ALT levels were 164±54 (Range-61-263) and 164.9±48.7 (Range-82-247) respectively [Ref <30]. Serum triglycerides, Serum ferritin levels, D-Dimer and LDH levels were 326±34.6 mg/dl (Range-290-410), 1530±909.7 (Range 740-4500) ng/ml. Serum CRP were 1640 ng/ml (Range 3260-5900) and 295±15.7 (Range- 190-384) units/l respectively. The incidence of AKI for the entire cohort was n=17(45.9%) with serum creatinine levels 1.44±1.08 (Range-0.5-5.8) mg/dl. Bone marrow was consistent with hemophagocytosis in n=22(59.5%). In hospital mortality was n=6 (16.2%) and splenomegaly was noted in n=19(51.4%). The etiology included Dengue n=7 (18.9%), Typhoid n=10(27%), HIV n=4(11.4%), Malaria n=5 (18.5%), COVID 19 n=3(8.1%) and gram-negative infections n=8(29%). On statistical analysis only Platelet levels and Ferritin levels had an association with mortality (p value 0.0003 and 0.00015).

**Conclusion:** MAS remains a suspect cause in any new onset fever in ICU. Its associations with infectious diseases and ability to alter outcomes should prompt an early recognition for the same. This communication documents a bad prognosis with thrombocytopenia and elevated ferritin levels in these cohorts.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000561 Can donor multidrug-resistant bacteria cause infection in organ recipients?**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2): 000561

**Introduction:** Colonizations and infections by multi-drug-resistant (MDR) bacteria are a common occurrence in patients treated in the Intensive Care Units. Most donors have previously been treated in these intensive care units and may therefore have colonizations or infections from these pathogens. In this study, we analyze whether the organ recipients of donors who were colonized or infected with an MDR bacteria develop an infection with the treatment challenges that this would entail.

**Methods:** Consecutive deceased organs donors in a critical care unit from a tertiary hospital with high donation activity were registered for 72 months (January-14 to December-19). We included in the study organ donors with MDR bacteria isolates and traced the transplanted organs and the MDR isolates in their corresponding recipients. Methods consisted in an active detection of any colonization by MDR bacteria through screening with swabs twice a week. As for the diagnosis of infection is made according to clinical, analytical and imaging criteria (as in the case of pneumonia) . For each case of nosocomial infection, further variables were documented, such as confirmed pathogens, date of infection, and temporal association of the infection with devices (tracheal tube, central venous catheter, urinary catheter).

**Results:** From 385 deceased organ donors, we detected 31 patients colonized or infected by MDR bacteria. In average, they were 67 years old with an ICU stay of 9 days. From these 31 organ donors, we followed the 59 patients who received a graft from a donor with a positive culture for MDR bacteria. Transmission of the MDR pathogen was detected in two recipients: a Methicillin- resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia whose donor was treated 36 hours before the procedure.
the donation and a urinary tract infection for Klebsiella pneumoniae BLEE from an untreated donor due to the fact that isolates identification results were obtained after donor death and transplantation.

**Conclusion:** The transmission of MDR bacteria from organ donors to organ recipients is a rare occurrence. In our series, the use of organs from MDR bacteria-colonized donors is safe for recipients of these organs in terms of MDR pathogen transmission.

### 000566

**Descriptive analysis of COVID 19 patients in the ICU during the pandemic**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000566**

**Introduction:** COVID 19 pneumonia is exceeding the intensive care units capacity worldwide. It is important to analyse the results to tackle the disease successfully.

**Objectives:** To analyse the characteristics of the patients admitted to the ICU during the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study conducted in an intensive care unit of a university Hospital. During the pandemic, ICU beds went from 14 to 39. We analysed patients admitted to the ICU with the diagnosis of respiratory failure due to COVID 19 pneumonia between 6/3 and 21/4 2020. Patients who are still in the ICU at the time of data collection were excluded. Demographic data (age, sex), APACHE II, comorbidities (hypertension, previous pulmonary pathology, dyslipidemia, diabetes mellitus, obesity), laboratory data (creatinine, ferritin, total bilirubin), length of stay and treatments administered (mechanical ventilation, muscular blockers, vasoactive drugs, prone positioning) were collected.

**Results:** 90 patients were analysed. Male 67.8% (61/90). Average age 60.6 ± 9.6 years. APACHE II 14.3 ± 5.1. 48.9% (44/90) had cardiovascular history of which AHT 46.6% (42/90). Chronic lung disease 20% (18/90) (asthma 5.5% (5), OSAHS 5.5% (5), COPD 4.4% (4), OSAHS + asthma 3.3% (3)). 65.5% (59/90) had other comorbidities (Diabetes mellitus 23.3% (21), dyslipidemia 35.5% (32), 26.6% (24/90) had no previous pathology. Length of stay (days): 12 ± 10.1. The average of the maximum creatinine, ferritin and total bilirubin values were: creatinine 1.45 ± 1.23 mg / dl, ferritin 2244 ± 3193 ng / ml and total bilirubin 1.8 ± 2 mg / dl. 100% of the patients required mechanical ventilation. Prone positioning was performed in 57.8% (52/90), infusion of muscular blocker 77.7% (70/90) and vasoactive drugs 96.7% (87/90). Microbiological isolation was observed in 45.6% (41/90) of the patients. 40% (36/90) were discharged and 25.1% (23/90) were transferred to another centre due to lack of beds. Mortality rate was 34% (31/90).

**Conclusion:** As in other series, males predominate in the group of critically ill patients. Among the most frequent comorbidities correlated to COVID 19 pneumonia, we find arterial hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes mellitus. Mortality is high despite the low average age and the absence of severe comorbidities. 25% of hospitalized patients were transferred so their evolution is unknown, mortality and length of stay may be underestimated.
Conclusion: Secondary infections in COVID-19 patients are a frequent finding in our group (48%), being more frequent than in other published series of cases. In our study microbiological isolations were associated to longer hospital stay, prone position and traqueostomy with statistical significance.

### 000586

**Design of a study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19 in critically ill patients**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000586

**Introduction:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory infection caused by a newly emergent coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that was first recognized in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. There is currently no approved treatment for COVID-19. Convalescent plasma has been used as a treatment in other recent epidemics, including SARS-CoV-1, Ebola, and MERS.

**Objectives:** We have designed a study with the main objectives to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the administration of anti-SARS-CoV-2 convalescent plasma in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

**Methods:** The study design is a prospective, multi-center, randomized, open-label trial comparing convalescent, ABO-compatible, anti-SARS-CoV-2 methylene blue-treated (MBT) plasma plus standard medical treatment (SMT) to SMT alone in a 2:1 ratio. Eligible patients are those hospitalized for COVID-19 (tested positive for SARS-CoV-2) and admitted to the ICU for respiratory support due to severe pneumonia (lung infiltrates). Patients will be eligible for inclusion within 48 hours of ICU admission. Exclusion criteria are prior anaphylactic reactions to blood products or methylene blue, severe acute renal or heart failure, and refractory shock. The study has been approved by the applicable regulatory authorities (https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04280705).

**Results:** Enrollment target is approximately 100 symptomatic COVID-19 adults. Interim analyses will be performed every 30 patients. Study variables will be collected daily during hospitalization from day 2 through 29±1. All patients (independent of hospitalization status) will be monitored daily until day 10. Study visits for discharged patients have been scheduled on days 15±1 and 29±1. The primary assessment is all-cause mortality through day 29. Secondary assessments are: change in National Early Warning Score (NEWS) from baseline, time to clinical response (NEWS ≤ 2 for 24 h), time to ICU discharge and hospital discharge, duration of mechanical ventilation and oxygen therapy and absolute value and change from baseline in the Ordinal Scale. Change from baseline in quantitative SARS-CoV-2 viral load and in quantitative anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM and IgG antibodies will be measured. In addition, patients will be monitored for treatment-emergent adverse events for the entire study period.

**Conclusion:** The contribution of the study results to COVID-19 therapy would be the validation of the efficacy and safety of convalescent anti-SARS-CoV-2 MBT plasma in critically ill patients.
Introduction: According to published epidemiological data, critical care is needed by 5% of COVID-19 patients [1]. An impressive effort from ICU teams allowed to multiply their capacity by two or three-fold, trying to cover the continuous need [2,3].

Objectives: To report ICU admissions related to COVID-19 at a polyvalent ICU of a second-level hospital, with eight beds available in summer, and 10 in winter (0.47-0.59 ICU beds/10,000 inhabitants).

Methods: Retrospective study of ICU patients (>18 years old) with nasal/throat swabs or bronchial aspirate positive for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR, between March 5th and May 7th, 2020. Patients transferred to other centres and those still in ICU were excluded. The local IRB approved the study. Patients were treated according to current national protocols. After analysis of clinical characteristics, we performed a multivariate analysis to check the causes and associated factors of ICU mortality. Statistical analyses performed using SPSS 20.0.

Results: 75 patients presented a positive PCR; 49 finally included. Median age 65 years (IQR: 59-72); 65.3% men. 61.2% came from hospital ward. 93.9% presented on admission respiratory failure due to pneumonia. 73.5% suffered from some comorbidity (44.9% cardiovascular, 42.9% endocrine, 12.2% malignancy, 10.2% respiratory, 6.1% chronic liver disease, 6.1% neurologic and 4.1% chronic renal disease).

Table 1 shows relevant clinical data. Median ICU length-of-stay 12 days (IQR:9-19.5), survival upon ICU discharge was 77.1%. Regarding multivariate analysis, no statistically significant association was noted between mortality and comorbidities (p=0.126) except cardiovascular comorbidity (OR 4.8; CI95%: 1.2-26.4; p=0.028) when performing a multivariate backward stepwise regression model. Albeit no organic failure (OF) presented individual association with mortality, we did find an association with the number: a threshold value of 4 OF was associated with ICU mortality (p<0.001). We also observed a statistical trend between mortality and number of days on MV: 19.88 days (IQR 9-19.5). Survival upon ICU discharge was 77.1%.

Conclusion: The clinical profile and outcome of SARS COV2 pneumonia differs considerably from those caused by Influenza in critically ill patients. Despite no differences in the scales of severity at ICU admission were observed, severity of respiratory failure and the need for mechanical ventilation is greater in SARS COV2 infections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pandemic 2009 Influenza A</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza A 2010-11 n:7</th>
<th>SARS COV 2 n:20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>42±6 vs 12,7</td>
<td>38±4 vs 19,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apache II at admission</td>
<td>12,8± 6,5</td>
<td>10 ± 2,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation (%)</td>
<td>66,7% vs 57%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of mechanical ventilation (days)</td>
<td>8,7±8,8</td>
<td>15±2 + 9,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)</td>
<td>13,9±11</td>
<td>11,9±10,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prone ventilation (MV patients)</td>
<td>54,54%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non invasive ventilation</td>
<td>27,8%</td>
<td>57,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High flow oxygen therapy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral radiological infiltrate</td>
<td>77,8%</td>
<td>42,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reactive C protein PCR mg/l</td>
<td>200± 150,3</td>
<td>139 ± 170,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procalcitonin PCT ng/ml</td>
<td>494± 15,8</td>
<td>1,17± 2,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT&gt;0,8</td>
<td>46,4%</td>
<td>28,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukocite count (WBC)</td>
<td>8588±6852</td>
<td>8702 ± 6256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed coinfection</td>
<td>22,2%</td>
<td>14,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed NAVM</td>
<td>16,7%</td>
<td>14,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>16,7%</td>
<td>28,6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions: The clinical profile and outcome of SARS COV2 pneumonia differs considerably from those caused by Influenza in critically ill patients. Despite no differences in the scales of severity at ICU admission were observed, severity of respiratory failure and the need for mechanical ventilation is greater in SARS COV2 infections. Increased hospital length of stay and more healthcare-related infections could justify the worst patient prognosis in SARS COV 2 pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000646 Characteristics of ICU patients with COVID-19 in a Spanish second-level hospital
B. Lobo Valbuena1, S. García Manzanedo2, L. López de la Oliva Calvo1, A. Abella Alvarez1, M. Conejo Márquez2, A. Naharro Abellán2, V. Enciso Calderón2, DD. Varillas2, F. Gordo1
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000646

Conclusion: In our cohort, mortality was significantly associated with cardiovascular comorbidities (OR 4.8) and a higher number of associated organ failures. The present study tries to highlight the importance of inclusive strategy based on multidisciplinary collaboration and maintenance of well-established protocols despite adversities [4].

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>All adults (N=49)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organ failure (number, percentage)</td>
<td>Cardiovascular 40 (81.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Respiratory failure 45 (91.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kidney failure 42 (44.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hepatic failure 16 (16.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hematologic 10 (20.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neurological 12 (24.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organ failures per patient (median, IQR)</td>
<td>3 (2-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invasive MV 44 (89.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARDS diagnosis 43 (87.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need for reintubation 4 (8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Days on MV (median, IQR) 31 (9.3-19.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percutaneous tracheostomy 2 (4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prone positioning 25 (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neuromuscular blockade 36 (73.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Relevant clinical data
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000649

Investigating hospital acquired pneumonia in critical care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000649

Introduction: Responsible for 5.9% of all UK critical care admissions (M Woodhead, 2006), community acquired pneumonia (CAP) is a common cause of critical care admission. Antibiotics are vital in the treatment of CAP but their use is associated with morbidity such as colitis, infection with resistant organisms and kidney injury. The use of investigations to identify a causative organism may facilitate better antibiotic stewardship (I Johnson, 2017).

The 2009 British Thoracic Society (BTS) guideline recommends that patients admitted to critical care with severe CAP should have blood cultures, sputum or other respiratory samples for microscopy, culture and sensitivity (MC&BS), urine pneumococcal and legionella antigen testing performed (Lim WS, 2009).

In this audit cycle, on finding adherence to BTS guidelines at our institution to be low, we used a simple aide-memoire for nursing staff and doctors requesting investigations for patients with CAP and demonstrated improved adherence with an increase in identification of causative pathogens in severe CAP. Our intervention was simple, inexpensive and resulted in significant improvement in the investigation of severe CAP, adherence to guidelines and more precise microbiological diagnosis in patients with severe pneumonia.

Methods: 20 consecutive adult patients with a diagnosis of CAP admitted to a London ICU December 2018 - February 2019 were identified. We excluded patients <18 years and those with hospital acquired pneumonia. Using the electronic patient record (EPR), we noted investigations performed and results.

On discussion with nurses and junior doctors responsible for ordering investigations, it became clear that while an ‘atypical screen’ was commonly requested, there was poor understanding of what tests were then required. We made a laminated card listing required investigations for patients with severe CAP and attached this at eye line to computer monitors where tests are requested on the unit to serve as a visual prompt to staff requesting investigations. We listed investigations as they appear on our electronic requesting system to ensure that the correct search terms were used.

The following winter, the audit was repeated to re-assess compliance with guidelines.

Results: There was improvement in testing across all investigations. There was significant increase in legionella and pneumococcal antigen testing, respiratory virus PCR, blood cultures and mycoplasma DNA. The proportion fully investigated as per BTS guidelines rose by 40% (1.5930% to 6.3227%) (P = 0.006). The commonest missing test was sputum culture. The percentage of patients with a causative organism identified for their CAP rose by 30% (0.1759% to 53.6369%) (P = 0.05).

Conclusion: CAP is a common cause of admission to intensive care. If investigated thoroughly, most patients will have an underlying organism identified, allowing for a narrower spectrum of antibiotic, which should not be forgotten in the context of COVID19.

Simple aide-memoirs can bring clarity to poorly understood terms such as ‘Atypical screen’.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000688

Assessment of antibody-in-lymphocyte assay for the etiological diagnosis of RSV pneumonia
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Introduction: Circulating antibody-producing B cells secrete anti-body following context-dependent stimulation by pathogen antigens. Secreted antibody from lymphocytes harvested and ex vivo cultured from patients with infection (antibodies-in-lymphocyte supernatant, ALS, assay) could be used as a diagnostic test that, unlike conventional serology, removes the requirement for convalescent sampling.

Objectives: We compared the diagnostic accuracy of ALS assay with standard molecular tests for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), globally the most prevalent cause of childhood pneumonia.

Methods: We enrolled children admitted to Patan Hospital, Nepal, with a clinical diagnosis of pneumonia from October 2016 to June 2017. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were separated from whole blood and cultured for 48 h using standard methods. We used a IgG ELISA to RSV F protein (Fitzgerald) to calculate antibody concentrations in ALS. We compared ALS to RSV F protein to the results of the NxTAG Luminex Respiratory Pathogen Multiplex PCR panel (Luminex Corp, USA) on nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimens from the same patients.

Results: Of 280 children admitted to hospital, 83 (30%) had primary endpoint pneumonia on chest radiographs (PEP). RSV was detected from NP specimens by PCR in 29/280 (10%) children, of whom 5/29 (17%) had PEP. Blood samples were taken a median of 4 days following onset of symptoms. There were significantly decreased concentrations of IgG to RSV in ALS samples from patients in whom RSV was detected in comparison with others (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Children with RSV pneumonia (by PCR of NP specimens) had lower ALS to RSV F protein than children with other pneumonia etiologies. This result supports the lack of protective humoral immunity induced by either RSV infection, or previous RSV vaccines.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Funded by Wellcome (grant 104439/Z/14/Z) and by Gavi to the PneumoNe-bal project.
Covid-19: clinical outcome of younger people admitted to ICU. A retrospective single-center cohort study

S. Lamote

Introduction: The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), led in spring 2020 to a worldwide crisis. In the majority there is a mild course, however in up to respectively 20% and 5% there is a severe and even critical presentation. Initial reports from China and Italy showed poor outcome for patients admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU), particularly for the elderly. We focused in our analysis on the outcome of younger patients admitted to ICU.

Methods: In this retrospective, single-center cohort study, we assessed clinical outcome of younger patients by comparing those aged below 66 years with those aged 66 years and above. We further divided the former group in 2 cohorts, namely patients with (young+RF) (risk factor) and without (young-RF) any comorbidity including obesity (BMI > 30). Between March 13 and May 15, patients admitted with confirmed COVID-19 to ICU were consecutively screened. Exclusion criteria were COVID-19 cases without respiratory failure and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order at admission. Primary outcome was mortality, secondary outcome were need for mechanical ventilation (MV), duration of MV, proportion successfully weaned off ventilator, length of ICU stay (ICU-LOS), incidence of associated organ failure and rate of recovery. The latter was assessed at day 10, 14, 21 and 28 by using an ordinal clinical scale: 1. no hospitalization; 2. at hospital; 3. at ICU; 4. ICU with high LOS), incidence of associated organ failure and rate of recovery. The outcome were need for mechanical ventilation (MV), duration of MV, COVID-19 cases without respiratory failure and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order at admission. Primary outcome was mortality, secondary outcome were need for mechanical ventilation (MV), duration of MV, proportion successfully weaned off ventilator, length of ICU stay (ICU-LOS), incidence of associated organ failure and rate of recovery. The latter was assessed at day 10, 14, 21 and 28 by using an ordinal clinical scale: 1. no hospitalization; 2. at hospital; 3. at ICU; 4. ICU with high flow oxygen therapy (HFOT) or non-invasive ventilation (NIV); 5. MV; 6. dead. Mann-Whitney U, χ² or Fisher’s exact tests were used as appropriate and analyses were performed using SPSS.

Results: Of the 61 patients screened, 55 were eligible (6 patients excluded: S with DNR-code, 1 patient who didn’t suffer from respiratory failure). Median age overall was 66 years (IQR 57-78) and males (M) were predominant, especially in the younger group (overall 65% M, young 80% M vs old 53% M, p=0.038). The younger cohort accounted for 45% (n=25), one-third of them had no comorbidities at all (n=9/55, 16%). Most frequently reported concomitant pathology was obesity (overall 27%, median BMI 27.5; young 32% vs old 23%, p=0.303), hypertension (overall 49%, young 40% vs old 57%, p=0.218), cardiovascular disease (overall 33%, young 16% vs old 47%, p=0.0016) and diabetes (overall 29%, young 12% vs old 43%, p =0.11). There was a significantly higher incidence of obesity and hypertension in the young+RF cohort (50%, p=0.0088 and 63%, p=0.003) compared to the young-RF cohort.

Overall ICU mortality was 32%. Even though the fatality rate for younger people was lower (young 22% vs old 40%, p=0.158), this was not statistically significant due to high mortality in the young+RF group (36% for young+RF vs 40% old, p=0.786), while none of the young-RF group died (vs 36% for young+RF, p=0.0465). More than half of the patients (n=31/55, 56%) required MV, without significant differences between young and older patients (52% vs 60%, p=0.551), although only 11% (n=1/9) of the young-RF group ended up with MV versus three-quarters of the young+RF group (p= 0.002).

Prone ventilation was applied in 16 cases (n=16/31, 52%). Forty-five percent of the ventilated patients were successfully weaned off the ventilator (46% young vs 44% old, p NS; 100% young-RF vs 42% young+RF, p=0.154). Duration of MV for survivors was shorter for the younger (11.7 vs 18.76 days, p=0.066) and for younger-RF vs younger+RF (8.38 vs 15.07 days), but none of these differences were significant. ICU-LOS didn’t differ among the different cohorts with a median duration of 10 days overall (young 11.5 vs old 9, p=0.59; young-RF 9 vs young+RF 13, p 0.26). Incidence of severe associated organ failure was slightly lower in the younger population (24% vs old 33%, p=0.448), with kidneys as most vulnerable organ. None of the young-RF patients experienced any severe associated organ failure while young+RF patients had even higher incidence of such an extrapulmonary manifestation than the elderly (38% vs 33%, p=0.777). Younger people tended to recover faster than the elderly, particularly the young-RF group outperformed the other cohorts with significantly higher proportions of patients clinically improving on the ordinal clinical scale by 1 point as evaluated at day 10 (89%, p=0.006), 14 (89%, p=0.013) and 21 (100%, p=0.005) as well as by 2 points at day 28 (100%, p=0.01).

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that younger people can be severely hit by COVID-19 as well. Only those without any comorbidities at all have better clinical outcome in terms of mortality, MV requirement, associated organ failure and rate of recovery. As functional outcome after surviving remains unclear, caution and prevention remain mandatory for patients in all age groups, irrespective of their comorbidity.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

The association between d-dimer, mortality and ITU admission in COVID-19: is there a connection? A retrospective study

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Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Many studies have since focused on identifying parameters by which to risk stratify patients. Elevated d-dimer levels have been reported in up to 46% of patients (1), with higher levels noted in patients requiring intensive care unit (ICU) admission (2). A recent systematic review including six retrospective cohort studies conducted in China, found raised admission d-dimer levels are significantly associated with increased mortality in COVID-19 (3). Given patients present at different time points in their illness, measuring d-dimer at admission may not accurately represent the potential severity of infection. We therefore sought to evaluate whether this association was maintained in a United Kingdom patient cohort when maximal d-dimer was measured.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the association between maximum d-dimer and both ICU admission and mortality in patients with COVID-19.

Methods: This retrospective single-centre study included patients presenting to West Middlesex University Hospital (London, United Kingdom) with a laboratory confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. We selected a sample of 150 consecutive survivor and non-survivors. Patients in which no d-dimer sample was taken were excluded, giving a total of 280 patients. The association between d-dimer, mortality and ICU admission was investigated for survivors as well as non-survivors. The primary outcome measure was death from COVID-19. In addition, the association between d-dimer and ICU admission was also assessed. The BMI was recorded for 153 patients. The BMI was recorded for 153 patients.
sample analysed of 99 survivors and 118 non-survivors. In all cases, electronic medical records were used to obtain the highest d-dimer value during admission, survivor status, and whether ITU admission occurred. Median and mean d-dimer values were calculated, and confidence intervals (CI) used to assess statistical significance.

Results: D-dimers were elevated in 74.7% of survivors and 94.9% of non-survivors with mean of d-dimers of 2683 µg/mL (Standard deviation [SD] 4350, CI 857) and 3588 µg/mL (SD 3790, CI 683) respectively, and median d-dimers 1070 µg/mL and 2200 µg/mL respectively. In patient admitted to ITU the mean and median d-dimer was 5597 µg/ mL (SD 5272, CI 1654) and 3377 µg/mL respectively. In patients with ward-based care the mean d-dimer was 2635 µg/mL and median d-dimer 1600 µg/mL (SD 3184, CI 456). No differences were statistically significant (p<0.05).

Conclusion: This study supports previous studies in China showing d-dimer levels are commonly raised in COVID-19 positive patients (1, 4, 5). However, in contrast, we found no significant difference between d-dimers in survivors and non-survivors. Similarly, we found patients admitted to ITU had higher d-dimers than ward-based patients supporting the findings of Wang et al. (2) but this was not statistically significant. This may reflect differences in the studied patient populations, or more likely could be attributable to the different approach adopted in this study of measuring maximal rather than admission d-dimer. Overall, these findings suggest parameters other than d-dimer may be more useful clinically in risk stratifying COVID-19 patients and predicting need for ITU admission or mortality.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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000747
Acute kidney injury in patients with COVID-19 is associated with severity of illness: A single centre experience
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Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a frequent complication seen in patients with COVID-19 infection admitted to intensive care. National UK data indicates 26% of patients admitted to critical care with COVID-19 infection require renal replacement therapy (RRT), 61% of whom died (1). This has significant implications for resource utilisation. Better understanding of this disease and requirement for renal support will not only help plan local services but may also give insights into improved treatment and preventative strategies.

Objectives: We aimed to assess the incidence of AKI and need for RRT in critically ill patients with COVID-19 in a single large UK tertiary centre. The association between need for RRT and the presence of several co-morbidities as well as overall mortality was also examined. These local findings were also compared with national data.

Methods: Contemporaneous electronic medical records were retrospectively reviewed for all patients admitted to ICU for 10 weeks from March 2020 in a single large UK tertiary centre. Data extracted included demographics, co-morbidities, fluid balance, creatinine, eGFR, RRT, APACHE II score and outcome. AKI was defined as per the KDIGO criteria (2) and renal recovery defined as free from RRT for over 48 hrs.

Results: A total of 93 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to ICU during this period. The median age was 62 and 28 (30%) were female. 51 (56%) developed AKI and RRT was provided in 33 (36%) patients. The overall ICU mortality was 35%, excluding 2 patients who remained in ICU at the time of reporting. Factors associated with the development of AKI are shown in Table 1. Multiple regression analysis retained APACHE II and requirement for mechanical ventilation as significant associations with the development of AKI (Table 2), with similar results for requirement for RRT.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. ICNARC report on COVID‑19 in critical care 12 June 2020
4. None.
Evolution of infections acquired intra-ICU in our Intensive Care unit during the period 2015-2019. Descriptive study

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Introduction: Studying the characteristics of infections acquired within the ICU during the last 5 years.

Methods: Descriptive study, based on the data collected in the ENVIN - ICU base of our medical-surgical unit, collected during the months of the official participation period. To do this, we have selected infections acquired within the ICU from 2015 to 2019. We will describe the location of the infection, the most frequently isolated microorganisms, the number of infections that received antibiotic treatment, appropriate antibiotic treatment

Results: During the official ENVIN-ICU registration periods from 2015 to 2019, there are 132 records of infections acquired intra ICU. Of these 132, the most frequent locations in decreasing order are: pneumonia related to mechanical ventilation or intubation (27), tracheobronchitis associated with mechanical ventilation (21), bacteremia of unknown focus (18), non-surgical infection of the digestive system (10), bactereemia secondary to abdominal infection (9), bacteremia secondary to catheter infection (9), bacteremia secondary to respiratory infection (8), urinary tract-related urinary infection (6), other infection (6). The most frequently isolated microorganisms in these records of intra-ICU infection are: pseudomonas aeruginosa 13.74% (n = 18), enterococcus faecium 12.21% (n = 16), klebsiella pneumoniae 9.16% (n = 12), staphylococcus epidermidis 8.40% (n = 11), stenotrophomonas maltophilia 5.34% (n = 7), escherichia coli 5.34% (n = 7). Of the 132 registered intra-ICU infections, 87.88% (n = 116) received antibiotic treatment. Of those treated with antibiotherapy (n = 116), 79.17% (n = 24) of pneumonias associated with mechanical ventilation received the appropriate antibiotic treatment, 100% (n = 5) of urinary tract-related urinary tract infections, 71.43% (n = 21) of bacteremia primary and secondary to catheter infection, 75% (n = 20) of bacteremia secondary to infection of another focus, and 78.26% (n = 46) of those classified as other intra-ICU infections.

Conclusion: In the period 2015-2019 of ENVIN-ICU registration in our unit, the most frequent intra-ICU infections acquired were pneumonia and tracheobronchitis associated with mechanical ventilation and bacteremia of unknown focus. The most frequently isolated microorganisms are pseudomonas aeruginosa, enterococcus faecium, and klebsiella pneumoniae. Receiving antibiotic treatment in 87.88% of these infections, being correct in a very high percentage.

Attitudes and beliefs of Spanish healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Introduction: During the CoVID-19 pandemic, healthcare professionals are taking the risk of becoming infected or infecting their families. Spain is the country with the highest number of infected healthcare professionals worldwide.

Objectives: Our aim was to study the attitudes and beliefs of these professionals during the current pandemic.

Methods: Descriptive study conducted by using an online questionnaire – based on an earlier one – which was sent to healthcare professionals at the national level, during the week March 20-27, 2020.

Results: Healthcare professionals returned 971 completed questionnaires. A total of 803 (82.7%) participants thought that they did not have suitable PPEs to protect them from infection with CoVID-19. In spite of this, 606 (62.4%) of them were ready to work, even with a higher-than-usual risk of becoming infected at work and getting ill. Furthermore, 815 (83.93%) participants were ready to work more hours than usual and 697 (71.78%) were ready to work in a different workplace. Finally, 669 (68.9%) of them put their duties towards their families before their responsibility at work.

Conclusion: Remarkably high professional commitment has been observed among Spanish healthcare workers in the current pandemic. They were ready to work even when many of them considered that they did not have suitable PPEs, and were thus taking a higher than usual infection risk. However, they put the health of their relatives before their duties at work.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Bacteraemia and VV-ECMO Cannulation: A single centre audit

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Introduction: Veno-Venous Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxgenation (VV-ECMO) requires central access with either bifemoral cannulae (FF), a bicaval dual lumen cannula in the internal jugular vein (JJ) or femoral access with jugular return (FJ) (1). Bacteraemia secondary to cannula site infection in patients supported by VV-ECMO poses an increased risk in this group. Currently there is little published work on ECMO cannula site infections however, evidence based on central venous catheter infections is considered to be, in part, transferable. The relevance of the site of central venous catheters to incidence of bacteraemia in critically unwell patients is controversial. Some studies suggest that the femoral site poses a higher risk of catheter infection (2) whilst others suggest there is no significantly increased risk in using the femoral vein compared to the jugular vein (3). Work on central lines for dialysis may be more valid than other types of central access as dialysis lines are not used for drug delivery, whilst also being exposed to a continuous flow (4).

Objectives: To assess whether the incidence of bacteraemia in patients cannulated for VV-ECMO varies based on cannulation site.

Methods: Data was collected for patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, a centre for VV-ECMO, between February 2014-February 2020. We carried out a retrospective audit of the cannulation site in each patient and the number that developed a bacteraemia. Bacteraemia was defined as a positive blood culture result in the time period between cannulation date up until 48 hours after cannulation (2,4). Data on duration of cannulation, cannulation to bacteraemia time and location of patient at time of cannulation was also collected.

Results: Sixty patients were identified. Of these, 35 had a bicaval dual lumen cannula in the internal jugular vein, 24 had bifemoral cannulation and 1 patient had femoral access with jugular return. Ten bacteraemias were identified overall. A larger proportion of patients with bifemoral cannulation developed bacteraemias and mean time to infection in these patients was shorter. Sixty percent of the bacteraemias identified were due to a staphylococcal organism.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that VV-ECMO patients with femoral cannulae placed are more at risk of bacteraemia. This is in keeping with previous work on central venous catheter infections showing that femoral lines increased infection risk despite a shorter duration of insertion.
One patient developed two separate bacteremias, one of which was caused by Streptococcus mitis, an organism found in the oropharynx and therefore a bacteremia which is unlikely to have originated from the ECMO cannulae. This highlights the difficulty in discerning if a bacteremia is truly secondary to ECMO cannulation, especially in the absence of line tip culture.

The impact of ECMO cannula related bacteremia on mortality cannot be accurately assessed. Whilst it is important to consider infection risk when selecting cannulation insertion site, other factors will affect decision making such as ease of transfer, risk of thrombosis, risk of mechanical complications at time of insertion, ease of proning and the patient’s Body Mass Index.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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   Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine 2019:20:11
3. (3) Deshpande et al The incidence of infectious complications of central venous catheters at the subclavian, internal jugular, and femoral sites in an intensive care unit population Critical Care Medicine 2005: 33:13-20
5. There is no funding attached to this project

Bacterial and/or fungal infection in patients with respiratory virus pneumonia
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Introduction: There is scare information of bacterial and/or fungal infections (coinfections or superinfections) in critical ill patients with COVID-19 pneumonia.

Objectives: The objective of the study is evaluate bacterial and/or fungal infections in respiratory viral infections and discuss antibiotic empirical management.

Methods: This is a multicentre, observational and retrospective study.
Patients with confirmed COVID-19 and other respiratory virus infection which required ICU admission were recruited from October 2018 to April 30th 2020. We described the population and distribution of infections.

Results: We evaluated 112 critical patients with respiratory virus infections. 58 critical care patients with COVI-19 and a further 54 patients with other respiratory infections. COVID-19 patients had significantly less respiratory co-infection (3 vs 29; p=0.001). 96% of patients were treated with antibiotics at admission. In comparison with those with other respiratory infection, superinfection was not significantly higher (46 vs 31; p=0.1). Probable/possible ventilator associated pneumonia was the most frequent source of infection (29%) in COVID-19 patients while in other respiratory virus infection were bacteremia and urinary tract infection (25%). In COVID-19 patients the most frequent bacteria involved was Pseudomonas aeruginosa (24%) while the most frequent in other respiratory virus were Coagulase-negative Staphylococcus (29%)

Conclusion: In COVID-19 patients the incidence of coinfection is low (3%). Because of this fact, empirical antibiotic at admission should be closely evaluated. In this group, the incidence of superinfection was 46%; ventilator associated pneumonia and pseudomonas aeruginosa were the most frequent source and etiology.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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8. We gratefully acknowledge the collaboration of Maimonides Biomedical Research Institute of Cordoba (IMIBIC), Reina Sofia University Hospital and the University of Córdoba.

The impact of dexamethasone on clinical outcome of patients with COVID-19 admitted to ICU. A retrospective, single-center cohort study
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Introduction: When the Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic emerged in spring 2020, there was no effective treatment available. In a recent randomized clinical trial dexamethasone (DXM), a pure glucocorticoid agonist, was shown to have a beneficial impact on outcome of patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). As severe COVID-19 is characterized by an excessive systemic inflammation, we gradually implemented DXM in our therapeutic strategy, although initial guidelines didn’t support systematic use of steroids, based on former data with viral infections and ARDS. This study evaluates the impact of DXM on the outcome of patients with COVID-19 admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: In this retrospective, single-center cohort study, we consecutively screened all confirmed COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU between March 13 and May 15 and compared patients who received DXM (DXM group) to those who didn’t (no-DXM group). Exclusion criteria were length of ICU stay less than or equal to 5 days. COVID-19 positive case without respiratory failure and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order at admission. Subgroups we analyzed were mechanically ventilated patients and patients getting DXM prior to initiation of mechanical ventilation (MV). Primary outcome was mortality, secondary outcomes were need for MV, duration of MV, proportion successfully weaned off ventilator, ICU-length of stay (ICU-LOS), rate of recovery, incidence of associated organ failure and incidence of infections. Rate of recovery was assessed at day 10, 14, 21 and 28 by using an ordinal clinical scale: 1. no hospitalization; 2. at hospital; 3. at ICU; 4. at home. For MV, death. Mann-Whitney U, χ² or Fisher’s exact tests were used as appropriate and analyses were performed using SPSS.

Results: Of the 61 patients screened, 47 were eligible (14 patients excluded: 8 with ICU-LOS ≤ 5 days, 5 with DNR-code, 1 patient who...
didn’t suffer from respiratory failure). Eighteen cases (38%) received dexamethasone, 6 of them before intubation. Baseline characteristics and severity of disease scores (APACHE II, SAPS II and worst SOFA score day 1 to 5) were similar in both groups. Median age was 67 years (IQR 57-78) overall, patients in the DXM group tended to be younger (63.0, IQR 57-67) than those in the non-DXM group (70, 62-78), although statistically not significant (p = 0.203). Up to two-thirds were male (DXM 72% vs no-DXM 62%, p = 0.475). Nearly all our patients received hydroxychloroquine, frequently in combination with azithromycin. Rarely tocilizumab (DXM 17%, no-DXM 3%, p = 0.54) or remdesivir (only one patient, in the DXM group) was associated. Overall ICU mortality was 31% (DXM 33% vs no-DXM 28%, p = 0.67). Up to almost three quarters of the DXM group were ventilated, compared to 55% of the no-DXM group (p = 0.96). This higher proportion is rather due to selection bias than caused by DXM, as the drug was frequently started after initiation of MV. In both groups, a similar proportion of patients has been successfully weaned off the ventilator (DXM 54% vs no-DXM 56%, p = 0.87). MV duration (26.2 (IQR 18.9-32.1) vs 10.0 days (IQR 7.5-18.6, p = 0.05)) and ICU-LOS (21 (IQR 14-40) vs 9 days (IQR 8-14), p = 0.019) were both significantly longer in the DXM group. Proportion of patients clinically improving as assessed by an ordinal scale at several points in time was lower in the DXM group compared to those of the no-DXM group, although not statistically significant. Moreover, incidence of severe associated organ failure in the DXM group was twice as high as in the no-DXM group (44% vs 21%, p = 0.75) with kidneys as the most affected extrapulmonary organs, with respectively up to 40% and 10% requiring Renal Replacement Therapy (p = 0.75). There were more nosocomial infections reported in the DXM group than in the no-DXM group (56% vs 17%, p = 0.04). Similar findings were observed in the MV-subgroup (total of 29 patients with 13 getting DXM) with comparable mortality (46% vs 44%, p = 0.581) for both groups but longer duration of MV (26.2 vs 10.0 days, p = 0.05), trend to longer ICU-LOS (40 vs 26 days, p = 0.11) and slower recovery (8% clinically improved with 2 points at day 28 for DXM vs 56% for no-DXM patients, p = 0.006) in the DXM group. Incidence of severe associated organ failure (62% vs 38%, p = 0.198) and nosocomial infections (69% vs 25%, p = 0.017) was higher as well in this group.

Finally, 5 out of 6 patients (83%) getting DXM prior to intubation responded well, while only one patient further deteriorated ending up on the ventilator and deceased eventually.

Conclusion: On the one hand, we couldn’t demonstrate a beneficial impact of DXM on the outcome of patients for COVID-19 with even a higher incidence of ICU-acquired infections in the DXM group. On the other hand, the vast majority of patients getting the drug prior to intubation didn’t further deteriorate suggesting a possible positive effect of prompter administration. Due to the small size and the study design with a presumably sicker DXM cohort, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions. Further research is warranted to establish the role and the perfect timing of administration of DXM to treat COVID-19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Throughout 2016 to 2018 our centre enrolled in a national programme that aimed to study the good practices in infectious diseases prevention and to implement a national bundle. This project was conducted due to Portugal's high rates of nosocomial infections, reaching almost twice the European numbers in 2013, with substantially high expenses on health [1].

Methods: Two different types of infections were studied in our intensive care unit (ICU): central venous-catheter (CVC) related bacteremia and intubation-associated pneumonia. Collaborative Breakthrough was implemented and results were analysed.

Results: Our ICU represents 2.2% of the national patients studied (in 19 hospitals), with an average age difference of 3 years older than the national mean. Despite a high variability, the mean duration period in the ICU was similar to the other hospitals studied, with an average 10.6 days stay. Our mortality was slightly higher than the studied (18% mortality), but with no high variability throughout the years analysed, in oppose to our higher SAPS II scores values, that averaged 49, in comparison with a national SAPS II score mean of 44. Our patients mostly diverged on the necessity for antibiotics, with only 16% need, compared with 51% nationally. Also showing smaller values were the need for intubation (58 vs 75%) and the average intubation period (5.7 vs 6.6 days).

The results of the infectious outcomes were consistent and improving throughout the years [2]. Both CVC placement and intubation numbers per patient were lower in our ICU than expected. In 2015 there were 0.7 blood infections per 1000 days of CVC, with a reduction to 0.6 in 2019, one year after the national program (representing a 14% reduction). Nationally there was a significant reduction of 23%, but rarely reaching values lower than one blood infections per 1000 days of central venous access. On the other hand, the number of intubation-associated pneumonia reported was reduced by 68% in our ICU for the past 10 years, in comparison to a 30% national reduction, with only 1% of patients admitted to our ICU in 2019 suffering intubation-associated pneumonia.

Conclusion: Hospital-acquired infections are a significant health issue [3]. Several guidelines and protocols have been implemented worldwide, aiming for its reductions. A lot has been accomplished the past decade, but there is still a lot that can be done, as this national program has come to show us.

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000830
Infectious diseases prevention: Two years after enrolling in a national programme
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000830

Introduction: The pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 is an epidemiological emergency that has led to the rapid search for effective treatments to reduce the complications and improve the survival rate of the population affected by this virus. One of the main complications that can result from SARS-CoV-2 is the cytokine storm or hypercytokinemia: a syndrome characterised by the elevation of inflammatory markers, such as D-dimer, interleukin-6, ferritin and C-reactive protein, which, in addition, leads to clinical and radiological deterioration. In light of this inflammatory response, some therapies have been considered, such as corticosteroids in high doses or monoclonal antibodies like Tocilizumab (anti-IL-6) or Bevacizumab (anti-IL-2).

Although scientific associations have not endorsed the use of immunoglobulins as immunomodulators, this therapy could be considered for those patients with refractory acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and contraindications to previous treatments (due to suspected superinfection, among other causes).

Objectives: To describe our experience in the use of immunoglobulins in Covid-19 patients with refractory ARDS with inflammatory response criteria and contraindications to the immunomodulatory therapy. To describe radiological evolution, changes in the inflammatory markers, mortality and complications after the administration of immunoglobulins.

Methods: Retrospective, descriptive, observational study conducted in the Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital Universitario Reina Sofia in Córdoba, Spain. Epidemiological variables, complications, mortality, radiological controls and inflammatory markers (interleukin-6, D-dimer, ferritin, C-reactive protein, lymphocytes) were collected in three different stages: immediately before, during and after administering a course of immunoglobulins in doses of 2 g per kg of the patient’s body weight over a period of 3 to 6 days.

At the time of writing, some of the patients involved are still in the Intensive Care Unit.

Results: Of the total number of patients admitted to our ICU due to CoVid-19 (n=41), 8 received treatment with immunoglobulins. 3 of the patients were women; one of them died. One of the patients is still in ICU and the rest were discharged. The average age was 59.8 years old. The time elapsed between the admission to the ICU and the initial treatment with immunoglobulins ranges from 3 to 8 days. After analysing the data, we noticed the average of all inflammation reactants had decreased, while lymphocytes had increased after the immunoglobulins treatment:

Conclusion: Online distance-learning is feasible and effective for knowledge sharing to the oPt in the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw a drop in attendance over 3 sessions. This could be due to a reduction in new cases in the oPt in that time (May to mid-June 2020), reducing perceived need. There were also medical school examinations in June. Therefore, lecture plans must be made in response to immediate need and be systematically adaptable as the target population’s situation changes.

Reference(s)
There was a significant response in the decrease of the interleukin-6 (n=7). D-dimer dropped over 50% in 3 patients. Ferritin decreased over 50% in 3 of the cases. One of the patients showed elevation of interleukin-6, ferritin and D-dimer, probably due to superinfection. The CRP also fell by half in other 3 cases. Only one patient suffered from thrombotic events (thrombophlebitis in inferior vena cava).

While monitoring the affected pulmonary fields in the serial chest x-rays, we noticed a drop in the average of affected fields: 3.12 before the treatment, 3.8 during and 2.5 after the treatment.

We also observed an improvement in the lymphopenia of our patients. However, it should be noted that in 3 of the 5 patients who developed an increase of absolute lymphocytes and of their white blood cell percentage, this was due to a general increase of the leukocytosis.

**Conclusion:** In cases of refractory ARDS and increase of the inflammatory response in Covid-19 patients admitted to ICU with contraindications to monoclonal antibody therapy or to corticosteroid therapy in high doses, we could consider administering 1 g of immunoglobulin per kg of the patient’s body weight for a time period between 3 and 6 days.

Studies with a larger sample size are required to confirm the effectiveness of immunoglobulins in this group of Covid-19 positive patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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6. Not

**000889**

Nosophomial infections during COVID-19 surge: increased incidence and very common use of broad-spectrum antibiotics

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000889**

**Introduction:** COVID-19 has challenged our health system and our standard practices. Mechanically ventilated (MV) COVID-19 patients have long intensive care unit (ICU) stays [1] increasing their exposure to nosocomial infections (NI).

**Objectives:** In a perspective of quality improvement, we studied the incidence of NI and use of broad-spectrum antibiotics (BSA) in MV COVID-19 patients.

**Methods:** We collected data retrospectively for every MV COVID-19 patient admitted to our 18- to 38-bed expanded ICU between 01.03. and 30.04.2020. ICU days, ventilation days (VD), catheter days (CD), use of BSA, fever days (> 38°C) and c-reactive protein (CRP) were recorded. Each suspected NI, defined by the introduction of BSA ≥ 48h after admission or repeated administration of BSA after an antibiotic free period ≥ 48h, was reviewed by an infectiologist. NI were confirmed using CDC criteria [2] for ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP), central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), urinary tract infections (UTI), or clinical evidence for septic shock (SS) and bacteremia (BE) from another origin.

**Results:** Of 54 COVID-19 patients, 37 MV patients (69%) spent a total of 672 ICU days, with 504 VD and 545 CD. They had fever during 26.5% of ICU days. Median peak CRP was 309 mg/l (IQR, 264-365) after a median stay of 3 days (IQR, 2-5). Among 31 suspected NI, 21 (68%) NI were confirmed: 4 VAP, 6 CLABSI, 1 UTI, 8 SS and 2 BE from another origin. The incidence of VAP and CLABSI was respectively 7.9/1000 VD and 11/1000 CD. Our 2019 annual incidence for VAP and CLABSI was 3.9/1000 VD and 1.7/1000 CD. Global incidence of confirmed NI was 31.3/1000 ICU days.

**Conclusion:** The incidence of confirmed VAP and CLABSI was higher in MV COVID-19 patients than in our standard ICU population of 2019. COVID-19 patients might have a greater risk of NI due to anatomical barrier disruption and maladaptive immune response, but other factors such as cohorting of several patients in the same room, using gloves for self-protection with insufficient replacement and temporary deviation from standardized procedures could have contributed to the incidence of NI. BSA were often prescribed early during ICU stay, reflecting physician’s anxiety facing this new disease and difficulty to diagnose NI. Severe COVID-19 pneumonia induces a prolonged fever, high inflammatory state, diffuse lung infiltrates and protracted respiratory failure, which makes classical criteria for VAP less specific. In that setting, NI definitions should be refined to find an optimized set point for BSA introduction, avoiding under- and overuse.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000897**

Therapeutic management in COVID-19 patients admitted in our Intensive Care Unit during the pandemic

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000897**

**Introduction:** COVID-19 has challenged our health system and our standard practices. Mechanically ventilated (MV) COVID-19 patients have long intensive care unit (ICU) stays [1] increasing their exposure to nosocomial infections (NI).
**Introduction:** COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for healthcare professionals. This is a virus that seemed to follow a clinical pattern with an intense inflammatory response and thrombogenic load, for which we don’t have a specific treatment.

**Objectives:** Different therapeutic strategies for COVID-19 have been used to target the viral replication, to limit the inflammatory response and to avoid thrombotic complications. We describe the prescribed treatment of COVID-19 patients (COVP) admitted in our ICU during the pandemic. This treatment was based on the protocol of our center, the availability of drugs and the published literature at the time.

**Methods:** A retrospective descriptive observational analysis about treatment of COVP admitted in our ICU during the pandemic, from March 13 to May 4, 2020, along with the ICU clinical evolution of the same patients under these treatment guidelines.

**Results:** From March 13th to May 4th 2020, 48 COVP were admitted in our ICU: 31 males (64,6%), with an average age of 57.7 y.o. (CI 95% 54,6-60,9) and APACHE II score 17,25 (CI 95% 15,6-18,7). The time lapse from the onset of symptoms until admission in ICU was 8.8 days (CI 95% 7,6-10,1). The average white bloodcells when entering was 9,8 x 10^9/L (CI 95% 8,3-11,3), PCR 169 mg/L (CI 95% 141-197), D dimer 5841 ng/ml (CI 95% 1737-9945), ferritin 1807 ng/ml (CI 95% 1726-1888) and 37 patients (77,1%) had a lymphocyte count < 1.0 x 10^9/L. Upon admission to the ICU, all patients were treated with hydroxychloroquine, 33 patients (68,8%) with azithromycin associated and 47 patients (92,9%) with lopinavir/ritonavir. Methylprednisolone was administrated to 44 patients (91,7%), of which 13/44 (29,5%) 40 mg/8h with variable duration (discretion of the responsible physician), and 31/44 (70,4%) 500 mg/24h for five days. Interferon beta-1b was administered to 38 patients (79,2%), tocilizumab to 10 patients (20,8%), and anakinra to 4 patients (8,3%). Enoxaparin was given to 44 patients (91,7%); 18/44 (37%) with antithrombotic prophylaxis dose, 20/44 (45,4%) with 1 mg/kg/24h and 6/44 (13,6%) with 1 mg/kg/12h. Forty patients (83,3%) needed invasive mechanical ventilation with an average duration of 22,2 days (IC 95% 17,3-27); 35 patients (72,9%) needed vasopressors and 6 patients (12,5%) renal replacement therapy. Our patients showed: tetraperasis that increased the mechanical ventilation and the UCI stay days, 22 patients (45,8%); delirium, 21 patients (43,8%); nosocomial infection, 17 patients (35,4%); arrhythmias, 11 patients (22,9%) (9/11 atrial fibrillation and supraventricular tachycardia); and vascular thromosis, 2 patients (4,2%). The average ICU stay was 23,1 days (CI 95% 18,4-27,8). 13 patients died (27%).

**Conclusion:** All our patients were treated with hydroxychloroquine and most of them with lopinavir/ritonavir, methylprednisolone and interferon beta-1b. Half of them received higher heparin doses than those used for antithrombotic prophylaxis.

**000898**

**Combination Therapy with Meropenem and Ciprofloxacin shows a Synergistic Benefit against Intermediate and Resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa Isolates from Critically Ill Patients in the Hollow-Fiber Infection Model.**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000898

**Introduction:** Patients with sepsis and septic shock have altered antimicrobial pharmacokinetics, which often results in suboptimal drug concentrations. Septic patients are also at risk for infections with resistant organisms such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Combination therapy against *P. aeruginosa* infections is still debatable.

**Objectives:** This study aims to investigate whether there is any synergistic benefit, in terms of bacterial killing and suppression of emergence of resistance, of a meropenem-ciprofloxacin combination therapy in comparison to monotherapy with the same antibiotics against *P. aeruginosa* in septic patients with altered pharmacokinetics, using a dynamic Hollow-Fiber Infection Model (HFIM).

**Methods:** Two intermediate to resistant *P. aeruginosa* isolates code number 27 (MICmeropenem of 4 mg/L and MICciprofloxacin of 1 mg/L) and 40 (MICmeropenem of 16 mg/L and MICciprofloxacin of 1 mg/L) were evaluated in a 5-day HFIM investigation. Changes of the total and resistant bacterial populations were evaluated using quantitative cultures. The studied regimens were equivalent to 2 g of meropenem every 8 h (30 min infusion), 600 mg of ciprofloxacin every 8 h (45 min infusion) and the combination of the same antibiotics. The doses and pharmacokinetic simulations were based on recommendations and data from previous studies on critically ill patients (1, 2).

**Results:** In both HFIM investigations, combination therapy achieved considerably greater bacterial killing and resistance suppression compared to the monotherapies. The monotherapies started to fail after 24 h, with increased bacterial concentrations of 3-6 log10 CFU/ml. From there, strain 40 plateaued at 8-9 log10 CFU/ml after 48 h. Strain 27 continued increasing from 3-6 log10 CFU/ml at 48 h until reaching 9-10 log10 CFU/ml at 120 h. In contrast, the combination therapies suppressed bacterial growth from 6 h and onward. Additionally, the monotherapies had accelerated growth of resistant subpopulations reaching 8-9 log10 CFU/ml, while no resistance was detected in the combination therapies.

**Conclusion:** This study suggests a synergistic benefit of combination therapy with meropenem and ciprofloxacin against *P. aeruginosa* in critically ill patients with altered pharmacokinetics. Our findings support empirical combination therapy against *P. aeruginosa*, especially for resistant isolates.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. This study was funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council for a Centre of Research Excellence (APP109452).
hospitalization) in our critical SARS-CoV2 patients and evaluate the potential effect on antimicrobial resistance. **Methods:** In an observational, retrospective and monocentric study, we reviewed antibiotic prescription (name, duration, indication) of all SARS-CoV2 patients admitted to our ICU between march 2020 and may 2020. β-Lactams were then stratified by their tendency to drive antimicrobial resistance based on classification developed by Weiss and al. (class 1 to 6) (2). **Results:** Between march 2020 and may 2020, 44 critical SARS-CoV2 have been admitted to our ICU (22 beds). We have been able to collect data from 41/44 patients. Mean age at admission was 63 years. 83% received mechanical ventilation (34/41 patients), for a total of 505 days, and 24% (10/41 patients) received ECMO therapy, for a total of 172 days. Mortality in our unit was 50%. All but one patient received hydroxycloxacilne and 38/41 patients received azithromycine as it was recommended by our national Belgian guidelines. Both medications were given during 5 days. 92% received an antibiotic at some point during their ICU stay. Based on recommendations, 46% (19/41 patients) received empirical therapy at admission despite the fact that none of our patients were in shock. Considering co-infections positive microbiology within the first 48 hours after admission, then 17% were in that case. First antibiotic prescription for the rest of the cohort occurred for 9/41 patients within the first week and for 6/41 patients within the second week. From 682 patient ICU days, 396 Days Of Therapy (DOT) of antibiotics were documented, representing 581 DOT/1000 patient-days. Prescrip tion was distributed as follows: 26% for amoxicilline-clavulanate, 23% for pipercacillin/tazobactam, 12% for cefuroxime, 7% for ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, and vancomycine, 6% for meropenem, 5% for amikacine, 2% for amoxicilline, fluocloxacilne, temocilline, ciprofloxacine, and 1% for cefepime. 37% of all antibiotics were at least classified as class 4 (2), and 44% of prescription had an anti-pseudomonal coverage. Non effective prescription for ceftepime.

**Conclusion:** Antibiotic consumption was in the range of previously described consumption from general ICU outside of SARS-CoV2 pandemic : De Bus and al. reported 1232 DOT/1000 patient-days (3). Consumption decrease would have been possible by avoiding empirical administration at admission (absence of shock in all patients), and use of newly available technique like RT-PCR. Concern about antimicrobial resistance need to be emphasized, resulting from increased patient exposure to antimicrobials, often suboptimally or inappropriately used (4). Indeed, on the one hand hyperinflammatory state might have increased the likelihood of antibiotic prescription in case of bacterial superinfection. And on the other hand long duration of ventilation and previous antimicrobial exposure might have prompted the clinician to prescribe a broad spectrum antibiotherapy.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000922 Tigecycline reduces blood glucose in the critically ill patients with severe infection**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):000922

**Introduction:** Tigecycline is a last-resort antibiotic to treat severe infection caused by multidrug-resistant bacteria. It may induce decreased blood glucose, as described elsewhere [1-3]. In the drug inserts, incidence of decrease in blood glucose is labeled as <2%. In the critically ill patients, severe infection is common; however, the impact of Tigecycline reducing blood glucose remains to be assessed.

**Objectives:** This study is to determine if Tigecycline reduces blood glucose in critically ill patients with severe infection and further identify the factors associated with decreased blood glucose.

**Methods:** We retrospectively studied critically ill patients who received Tigecycline in the ICU department of the Sixth’s People Hospital in Shanghai, China from January, 2018, through July, 2019. Mixed-model repeated measure was utilized to compare the mean blood glucose before and after Tigecycline administration. The two phases (before and after Tigecycline administration) and daily blood glucose (measured at 6am, 2pm and 10pm) were presented as two repeated factors. Other factors were considered covariates or between-subjects factors in the model, including sex, age, comorbidity, prognosis, duration and dosage of Tigecycline administration, and intravenous glucose infusion. Multivariate linear regression model was employed to determine the association of above-mentioned factors with decrease in blood glucose. Moreover, binary logistic regression was utilized to determine the factor associated with hypoglycemia that was defined as a decrease ≥2.8 mmol/L in the study. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) and its area under curve (AUC) were then employed to evaluate the factor in predicting hypoglycemia. All analyses were performed using SPSS Statistics, version 23.0 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY). A P value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of 168 patients were studied, including 105 male and 63 female, with an average age of 64.2 ± 15.8 yrs. After Tigecycline administration, daily blood glucose at three points of time significantly decreased (P<0.001), regardless of other factors. The decrease in blood glucose, defined as the difference between the minimum blood glucose before and after Tigecycline administration, was positively correlated with death (β=0.78, P=0.016), maximum decrease
in blood glucose within 24 hrs ($\beta$=0.67, $P$=0.032), and duration of administration (hrs) ($\beta$=0.004, $P$=0.001). Hypoglycemia was identified in 19 patients (11.3%), which was determined to be associated with death (OR=3.71, $P$=0.014) and maximum decrease in blood glucose within 24 hrs (OR=1.18, $P$=0.002). The AUC for the maximum decrease in blood glucose within 24 hrs was determined to be 0.76 (95%CI, 0.66-0.86) and best cutoff value was 4.35 mmol/L (sensitivity, 0.90; specificity, 0.53).

**Conclusion:** Tigecycline significantly reduces blood glucose in the critically ill patients with severe infection. In addition, decrease in blood glucose is associated with risk of death, duration of Tigecycline administration, and maximum decrease in blood glucose within 24 hrs, further suggesting usage with extreme caution. A decrease $\geq$4.35 mmol/L in blood glucose may predict hypoglycemia, which would facilitate early warning in the critically ill patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
4. This study did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

### 000039 Differences between survivors and non-survivors in ICU patients with severe influenza infection, according to nursing and severity indexes

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000039

**Introduction:** Influenza virus infection is an important cause of mortality worldwide, leading to 250000 to 500000 deaths each year in the developed world. Mortality is caused by the primary viral infection, but also by influenza-associated pulmonary co-infections.

**Objectives:** Our retrospective observational study aimed to evaluate the difference in the outcome of patients with influenza infection requiring admission to both Medical and Surgical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) served to a community hospital, according to nursing and severity indexes.

**Methods:** From January 2006 to October 2019, 1332 patients admitted to our ICU. From these, 25 (1.87 %) were indicated with the diagnosis of severe influenza infection. The patients separated into two groups. Group A involved all patients who survived ICU and group B all patients who died in ICU. We looked for statistically significant difference ($p$-value two-tailed) between the medians values of two groups, using the unpaired Mann - Whitney test or the unpaired t-test Welch corrected according to the normality test, according to nursing (Age, sex, LOS, MVD) and severity (Simplified Acute Physiology Score: SAPS II, predicted mortality by SAPS II, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation: APACHE II, predicted mortality by APACHE II, Glasgow Coma Scale: GCS) indexes.

**Results:** We detected no statistical difference between the two groups according: age ($p$=0.6314), sex ($p$=1.000), GCS ($p$=0.3830), LOS ($p$=0.9979), MVD ($p$=0.4342), predicted mortality by SAPS II score ($p$=0.2001). We detected statistical significant higher group B value according to APACHE II score ($p$=0.0281), predicted mortality by APACHE II score ($p$=0.0276), SAPS II score ($p$=0.0356).

**Conclusion:** According to our data, demographic data and nursing indexes were about the same among the two groups. On the other hand, severity scores like APACHE II score and SAPS II score were both statistically significantly higher in group B, assuming that patients who died in ICU admitted to ICU in more severe illness. But, only predicted mortality by APACHE II score achieved to be statistically significantly higher in group B. Our data suggest that we can use the APACHE II severity score as an accurate severity score in these patients.

### 000930 Implementation of an Antibiotic Stewardship Program in an ICU

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000930

**Introduction:** Antibiotic Stewardship Programs, in Spain known as PROA, are becoming increasingly important in both hospital and primary care. These programs work on optimizing antibiotic (ATB) prescribing to improve patient prognosis, minimize adverse effects, monitor the onset of resistance, and ensure the use of cost-effective treatments.

**Objectives:** In this work we review the performance of a PROA team in an ICU.

**Methods:** The authors present a descriptive analysis of the daily performance of a team of intensivists dedicated to infections, with the application of PROA in a polyvalent UCI, during the year 2019, comparing to the previous year. The interventions carried out by the PROA team were: general recommendations, initiate, de-escalate, shift or stop ATB, sample for cultures, pk/pd optimization, and consults directly made by other doctors to the PROA team.

**Results:** During 2019, 632 interventions have been made. The recommendation was initiating ATB treatment in 38.1% of them, and discontinuing it in 63.45%, with an adherence of 91.1%, higher than the previous year (87.9%). Non-adherence was observed in interventions about days of ATB treatment (35.71%), discontinuation of antibiotic therapy by negative cultures (17.85%) and general recommendations made to the responsible physician (16%). Adherence was observed mainly in interventions about days of treatment, general recommendations, de-escalation of ATB and culture-directed ATB treatment. The interventions that most often motivated the onset of ATB were: culture - directing ATB treatment (28.63%), de-escalating (22.82%), expanding spectrum (15.76%), and initiate empirical treatment in cases of suspected infection (12.45%). The most frequently used ATBs on interventions were 3rd generation cephalosporins (cefotaxime 15.35%), uredopenicillines (piperacillin-tazobactam 9.5%), and aminoglycosides and linezolid (8.2%). 63.64% of interventions recommended the suspension of ATB treatment, the most common reasons were: days of ATB treatment (37.65%), de-escalate (21%), negative cultures (10.22%) and a few times the suspension because a limitation of therapeutic effort. The most frequently discontinued ATBs were uredopenicillines (piperacillin-tazobactam 21.7%), aminoglycosides (amikacin 9.23%), 3rd generation cephalosporins (cefotaxime 9%), linezolid (6.5%) and azoles (6.23%). Regarding inquiries made to the PROA team by the UCI team, the advices given were not initiate ATB, not changing antimicrobial therapy and extending the spectrum, with an adherence of the doctors of 100%. In addition, a total of 100 recommendations have been made (15.8%) with 91% adherence to contact isolations (22%), microbiological sampling (20%), initiation of ATB therapy (13%) and not starting ATB or non-indicated ATB treatment (9%). Overall mortality in 2018 was 10.95%, and 10.67% in 2019 (not significant). It has been observed a trend for the reduction of multi-resistance since the implementation of the PROA. The rates of BMR infection during ICU stay have been 1.55/100 patients and 2.47/1000 days of stay in 2018, and 1.22/100 patients and 2.47/1000 days of stay in 2019.

**Conclusion:** The interventions carried out have had a high adhesion, which reflects the trust placed by the doctors responsible towards the PROA UCI team. These interventions have resulted in a decrease...
in multidrug-resistant bacteria in the ICU, antimicrobial consumption and a better ATB policy, with no implications for mortality. It is important to give out the results obtained to positively strengthen its good work and to be able to identify areas of improvement.

Post-mortem lung biopsies of COVID-19 patients in an Intensive Care Unit
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000944

Introduction: The full spectrum of COVID-19 infection ranges from an asymptomatic disease, through mild respiratory tract illness to a severe pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), including multiorgan failure and death. This novel coronavirus induces the release of inflammatory cytokines, and it is the disruption of the immune response that can lead to multiorgan dysfunction and ARDS (1). Coagulopathy in COVID-19 infection is correlated with mortality, with D-dimer levels being of particular importance as biomarker (2).

Objectives: To describe the pathological findings of post-mortem lung biopsies in patients who died of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Methods: A prospective observational study of post-mortem lung biopsies in patients who died of COVID-19 was conducted. Biopsies were obtained by 14G tru-cut from March 31 to May 25, 2020 in the ICU of the Fundación Jiménez Díaz in Madrid. Morphological studies were performed using immunohistochemical techniques (IHQ). On the last day of admission, data regarding the epidemiology, respiratory mechanics and severity of disease was collected.

Results: In total, 16 patients were studied (100% H). The median age was 63 years (IQR 56–66 years). The most frequent previous medical history included: ETS 31%, LD 31%, DM 18% and OM 31%. Median of previous admission day was 28 (IQR 14–39). Median APACHE II 14. Days of admission to ICU were 27 (range 1–44). The median number of days on MV was 24. Tracheotomy was performed in 63%. The ventilatory mode was volume control in 100%, with an average tidal volume of 6.21 ml/kg of predicted body weight. This resulted in a plateau pressure of 31 cmH2O, a driving pressure of 21 cmH2O and a static compliance of 17.5 ml/cmH2O. Regarding arterial gases: pH of 7.29 (IQ of 7.17–7.38), pCO2 of 74 (IQR 53–87) and PaO2/FiO2 ratio of 64 (IQ 58–108). The average laboratory values were: D-dimer (DD) 3860 µg/L, lymphocytes 850 (abs), platelets 13800 µl, Hb 8.5 g/L, creatinine 1 mg/dl, PCR 13.6 mg/l, fibrin 892 ng/ml. All patients received prophylaxis with LMWH. If the DD was higher than 3000µg/l, the LMWH was administered at therapeutic dose (1 mg/kg/24h). Diffuse alveolar damage and frequent formation of hyaline membranes were observed in 100% (Fig. b), 44% presented pneumonia in cryptogenic organization. It should be noted that 78% of the patients had frequent capillary microthrombosis (Fig. a). In addition, the IHQ showed intense expression of CD163+ macrophages as well as CD8.

The results showed diffuse alveolar damage and hyaline membrane formation in all patients, and capillary microthrombosis in more than 75% of them. In the pre-mortem analysis the DD was higher than 3,000µg/l in more than half of cases. The frequent finding of CD163+ macrophages represents the histopathological substrate for the macrophage activation syndrome seen in these patients.

Conclusion: Our results confirm the hypothesis that SARS-CoV-2 may trigger a macrophage activation syndrome, as well as state of hypercoagulability, which would support the implementation of immunosuppressive and anticoagulant treatment, beside supportive therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Empirical antibiotic treatment in our ICU from the year 2002 to 2019
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000985

Introduction: Analyzing which antibiotics have been used more frequently as empirical treatment in our unit over almost two decades and the duration of their use.

Methods: Descriptive study based on the data collected in the ENVIN - ICU base of our medical-surgical unit, collected during the months of the official participation period. We describe the most frequently used antibiotics (meropenem, piperacillin-tazobactam, levofloxacin, azithromycin and linezolid), their percentage of use and average duration of treatment, analyzing two time periods, 2002-2009 and 2010-2019.

Results: During the period 2002-2009, there were 916 records of antibiotics, the most used was levofloxacin 13.32%, with an average duration of 6.71 ± 4.99 days, piperacillin-tazobactam 12.77% and an average of 7.37 ± 4.41 days, meropenem 4.91% and an average of 8.40 ± 6.07 days, linezolid 20.7% and 7.74 ± 68.48 days on average, azithromycin 0.22% with an average of 4.00 ± 0.00 days.

During the period 2010-2019 there were 1570 records of antibiotics, the most used was meropenem 17.26% with an average duration of 6.22 ± 4.92 days, piperacillin-tazobactam 15.16% and 5.81 ± 4.17 days, linezolid 12.23% and 5.38 ± 3.60 days, levofloxacin 7.45% and 4.84 ± 4.02 days, azithromycin 3.444% with an average of 3.96 ± 1.38 days. Extracting only the data for the year 2019, there are 204 records, the most used antibiotic is piperacillin tazobactam 20.59% and 5.52 ± 3.41 days, meropenem 19.12% and 5.87 ± 3.11 days, linezolid 1471% and 517 ± 3.27 days, azithromycin 4.90% and 4.40 ± 1.78 days, levofloxacin 1.47% and 5.67 ± 2.31 days.

Conclusion: We observe that the most used antibiotics have been modified, shortening their time of use, during the study period. Highlight the decrease in the use of levofloxacin and the increase in azithromycin, in addition to the frequent use of piperacillin-tazobactam maintained over time for almost two decades.

General characteristics of the patients admitted to our ICU in the last 20 years
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000986
Introduction: Descriptive analysis of the population admitted to our medical-surgical ICU in the last two decades.

Methods: Descriptive study based on the data collected in the ENVIN - ICU base of our medical-surgical unit, collected during the months of the official participation period. We divided the total number of patients into two periods: 2002-2009 and 2010-2019, and studied characteristics such as: age, sex, APACHE, SAPS II, underlying disease (medical, surgical, trauma, coronary), deaths, days of ICU stay, origin of the patients (hospitalization unit, another ICU, their home, long-stay center).

Results: During the period 2002-2009, 1114 patients were registered. The average age was 61.44 ± 14.67 years old, 62.48% male. The average score on the SAPS II scale was 29.77 ± 12.63 points, and APACHE was 16.61 ± 8.53 points. The base disease registered was medical 79.44%, surgical 11.22%, trauma 1.53%, coronary 7.81%. The origin of the patients (n=466) prior to ICU admission was a 25.99% hospitalization unit, another ICU 2.07%, home address 12.95%, long-stay center 0.90%. Regarding mortality (n=1109) 176 deaths occurred (15.87%). During the period 2010-2019, 2533 patients were registered. The average age was 63.12±14.80 years, with 67.11% males. The average SAPS II score was 30.64±16.35 points and in APACHE 15.19±8.70 points. The registered base disease was medical 48.72%, coronary 40.43%, surgical 9.87% trauma 0.99%. Its origin prior to income (n=2531) was his home 61.39%, one hospitalization unit 31.35%, another ICU 6.20%, long stay center 0.99%. Regarding mortality (n=2513) 322 were recorded death (12.81%).

Conclusion: Throughout these two decades, there are an increasing number of registered patients, whose most frequent origin was their home, with the medical reason persisting as the most frequent, and finding a decrease in mortality. Coronary patients go from 7 to 40% in the second decade, which could partially explain the decrease in mortality, without affecting the severity of the patients.

000989

Histocytic hyperplasia with haemophagocytosis in COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000989

Introduction: The full spectrum of COVID-19 infection ranges from an asymptomatic disease, through mild respiratory tract illness to a severe pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), including multiorgan failure and death. This novel coronavirus induces the release of inflammatory cytokines, and it is the disruption of the immune response that can lead to multiorgan dysfunction and ARDS (1). Growing evidence suggests that a subgroup of patients with severe disease might experience a deregulated systemic inflammatory condition with cytokine storm syndrome, leading to death (1, 2). There is an increasing interest on describing the histopathology of COVID-19 infection in different organs, through the study of samples obtained by means of core needle biopsies or full necropsies. Extending our knowledge will allow a better understanding of the disease and the development of new therapeutic targets.

Objectives: To describe the histopathological changes of the bone marrow in patients who died in ICU due to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Methods: A prospective observational study of bone marrow biopsy (BMB) in patients who died of COVID19 was carried out in the ICU of the Fundación Jiménez Díaz in Madrid from March 31 to May 25, 2020. Morphological and immunohistochemical (IHC) studies were performed on the samples. Epidemiological, severity and analytical data were also collected.

Results: 4 BMBs were performed. 100% of patients were male. The median age was 60 years (IQR 56-65). The most frequent past medical history were: LD and morbid obesity in 50%, ATH in 25%. The APACHE II at 24h of admission was 13.5. The mean number of days of admission to the ICU was 14.5 days (IQR 3.5-25) with 23 days of MV. Prone ventilation was performed in 75% and tracheostomy in 50%. The median of values in the pre-death analysis was: D-dimer 4209 µg/L, fibrinogen 816 g/dl, lymphocytes 400 abs, platelets 83,000/µl, Hb 10.35 g/l, creatinine 1.15 mg/dl, PCR 37.8 mg/dl, ferritin 892 ng/mL, LDH 332 u/L, total bilirubin 1.3 mg/dl and lactic 2.4 mmol/L. They were treated in 75% of cases with LPV/RTV, hydroxychloroquine and 250 mg methylprednisolone pulses, in 50% of them with interferon alpha-2b and only one patient received tocilizumab. Histiocytic hyperplasia with hemophagocytosis (Fig. a) was observed in 75% of patients and non-specific inflammatory myelofibrosis in one patient.

The BMB results show findings consistent with the diagnosis of hemophagocytic histiocytosis (HH). HH is a common finding associated with severe viral problems and represents the histological counterpart of the macrophage activation (MAS) suffered by these patients. Macrophage activation syndrome (MAS), also known as hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (sHLH), is characterized by the overactivation of cytotoxic T cells with hemophagocytosis by macrophages and a massive release of inflammatory cytokines. For these reasons it is classified within the cytokine storm syndromes.

Conclusion: In our series, not all cases met the diagnostic criteria of HLH, but we do consider that it represents the histological substrate for MAS in these patients, supporting the indication of immunomodulatory treatment.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
antibiotics per patient with antibiotics, relationship days without antibiotics / patient stays with antibiotics, most frequent causes of antibiotic indication, description of the use of antibiotics used (empirical or specific, change of treatment, Reason for change). The qualitative variables will be expressed in percentages.

Results: During the first period, the number of antibiotics per patient with antibiotics was 2.21, while in the second period it was 2.53. The ratio of days without antibiotics / patient stays with antibiotics was 0.19 in the first period and 0.21 in the second period. In the first period, the use of 1760 antibiotics was recorded, the most frequent indication was other prophylaxis with 34.20%, hospital infection extra ICU 25.06%, community infection 21.59%, hospital infection intra ICU 18.01%. In the second period, the use of 2624 antibiotics was recorded, the most frequent indication was community infection 33.16%, extra-ICU hospital infection 25.76%, intra-ICU hospital infection 19.36%, another prophylaxis 10.75%. Regarding the reason for antibiotic therapy, in the first period the empirical treatment was 82.12% and in the second 76.74%. Antibiotic treatment (empirical or specific) produced a change of 25.73% in the first period, and 21.79% in the second period. The reasons for the change in antibiotic therapy during the first period were a poor clinical evolution 38.26%, unknown 33.56%, microorganisms not covered 21.48%, others 4.03%, toxicity (adverse effects) 2.01%, spectrum reduction 0.67%, resistance during treatment 0%. The reasons for the change in antibiotic therapy during the second period were the reduction of the spectrum 41.91%, poor clinical evolution 28.68%, microorganisms not covered 13.73%, others 7.60%, toxicity (adverse effects) 6.37 %, resistance during treatment 1.47%, unknown 0.25%.

Conclusion: In this descriptive study, it is observed how over two decades (coinciding with the implementation of the Zero projects), more antibiotics have been used, having more days free of antibiotherapy, changing the most frequent cause of antibiotic indication, and highlighting the largest use of de-escalated antibiotics today.

001024

Severe SARS-CoV-2 infections in the Intensive Care Unit: Is it possible to predict mortality from routine clinical data on admission?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001024

Introduction: Rapid spread of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (COVID-19) has taken traditional ICU capacity to the limit worldwide. A demand overcrowding has forced intensivists to select the patients who can benefit the most from admission. Predictive models based on routine clinical data may be valuable in the decision-making process.

Objectives: We aim to assess whether chronic comorbidities and laboratory tests drawn at presentation and clinical outcomes were obtained from the electronic medical record. Association among each variable and mortality was evaluated by bivariate analysis (Chi-square, Student’s T and Mann-Whitney U tests, as appropriate). Potential explanatory variables from bivariate analysis were used to build a multivariate logistic regression model to predict mortality.

Results: We included 87 patients, 77% male, age 60±12 years-old [survivors 56±12 vs non-survivors 67±10, p<0.01], BMI 27 (25–32) kg/m² [survivors 27 (26–32) vs non-survivors 27 (24–32), p=0.94], APACHE-II 17±6 [survivors 14 vs non-survivors 20, p<0.01], mechanical ventilation 93% [survivors 59 vs non-survivors 41, p=0.73], hospital mortality 38%. Our findings are depicted in Tables 1 and 2. Our model (Table 3) showed 76.2% sensitivity and 89.7% specificity to predict mortality (area under the ROC curve 0.91).

Table 1. Association of chronic comorbidities with mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Overall frequency, %</th>
<th>Survivors, %</th>
<th>Non-survivors, %</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothyroidism</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Association of laboratory values at presentation with mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory Test</th>
<th>Survivors, median (IQR)</th>
<th>Non-survivors, median (IQR)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leukocytes, ×10⁹/µl</td>
<td>7.1 (5.4–9.5)</td>
<td>7.7 (5.8–14.7)</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytes, ×10⁹/µl</td>
<td>0.8 (0.5–1.1)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.3–0.8)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-dimer, ng/ml</td>
<td>685 (399–1041)</td>
<td>641 (531–870)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High sensitivity troponin I, ng/l</td>
<td>9 (5–17)</td>
<td>35 (13–225)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine, mg/dl</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7–1.1)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7–1.3)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-reactive protein, mg/l</td>
<td>123 (61–216)</td>
<td>108 (59–179)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procalcitonin, ng/ml</td>
<td>0.2 (0.1–0.3)</td>
<td>0.3 (0.1–0.7)</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactate, mmol/l</td>
<td>1.6 (1.3–2.2)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.4–2.3)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Multivariate logistic regression model to predict mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard error</th>
<th>Odds ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, per year</td>
<td>0.112</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.12 (1.01–1.23)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female</td>
<td>0.915</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>2.45 (0.35–17.99)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension, yes</td>
<td>0.996</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>2.71 (0.49–14.88)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes, yes</td>
<td>0.586</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.80 (0.81–20.32)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytes, per 1×10⁹/µl</td>
<td>3.944</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>0.02 (0.01–0.39)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine, per mg/dl</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.96 (0.74–1.23)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troponin, per ng/L</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>1.01 (0.01–1.02)</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>-6.274</td>
<td>3.099</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In our series, mortality in severe SARS-CoV-2 infections requiring admission to the ICU was significantly associated with age and APACHE-II. A prediction model based upon basic demographic data (age and gender), chronic comorbidities (hypertension and diabetes) and
Ten patients (mean age ± 58 ± 17 yrs, 8 males/2 females) with documented infection due to A. baumannii were enrolled in the study. Regarding comorbidities, diabetes mellitus was present in 3 (30%) pts, arterial hypertension in 5 (50%) pts, and coronary artery disease in 3 (30%) pts. APACHE-II score in ICU admission was 18 ± 7, while SOFA score was 8 ± 3. Bloodstream infection was present in 6 (60%) pt. Among them, central line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) was observed in 5 (83%) pts, and primary bacteremia in 1 (17%) pt. Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) was diagnosed in 4 (40%) pts. Mean length of stay of enrolled patients in the ICU, prior to infection, was 18.5 ± 10 days. Regarding prior colonization, PDR-A. baumannii was isolated in stool and bronchial secretion surveillance cultures of 8 (80%) pts. 7 (70%) pts had received broad spectrum antibiotics prior to infection due to A. baumannii, while 5 among them had also received intravenous and nebulised colistin. All patients were empirically treated with combinations of colistin, high dose ampicillin/ sulbactam (A/S), rifampicin or tigecycline with broad spectrum antibiotics (meropenem or ceftazidim/avibactam), for 14 ± 4 days. Clinical and microbiological success was observed in 7 (70%) of patients. In two patients (20%), blood cultures remained positive, while in another patient, A. baumannii infection was complicated with meningitis. ICU mortality in 10 days of infection was 30%. ICU mortality was significantly associated with SOFA score (p <0.05). Mean length of stay in ICU after infection was 39 ± 17 days.

**Conclusion:** Broad use of antibiotics has increased the isolation rate of PDR-A. baumannii in critical care settings. Antibiotic combinations might offer a therapeutic benefit, as a result of possible synergistic effect. Further studies are required in order to elucidate the therapeutic options and clinical outcomes of infections caused by PDR pathogens.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001073**

**Infections caused by pandrug-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii in critically ill patients: clinical characteristics, treatment and outcome**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001073**

**Introduction:** Infections caused by A. baumannii are associated with high mortality and healthcare costs. In critical care settings, the incidence of acquired resistance of A. baumannii to commonly prescribed antibiotics is increasing, rendering the treatment of the relevant infections rather challenging and compromising patients’ outcomes.

**Objectives:** To prospectively record the incidence, clinical characteristics, treatment and outcomes of infections caused by pandrug-resistant (PDR) A. baumannii in critically ill patients.

**Methods:** The study was performed at a 19-bed polyvalent intensive care unit (ICU). All the mechanically ventilated patients with documented infection caused by PDR A. baumannii, from November 2018 until February 2020 were enrolled in the study. Concentrations (MICs) were determined by the broth microdilution method, as indicated by the CLSI. Disease severity was evaluated by APACHE-II and SOFA score in ICU admission. Patients’ demographics, clinical characteristics, treatment and outcomes in 7 and 30 days were recorded. Clinical success was defined by a lessening of the signs and symptoms of infection, while microbiologic success was considered, as the eradication of the pathogen from cultures.

**Results:** Ten patients (mean age ± 58 ± 17 yrs, 8 males/2 females) with documented infection due to A. baumannii were enrolled in the study. Regarding comorbidities, diabetes mellitus was present in 3 (30%) pts, arterial hypertension in 5 (50%) pts, and coronary artery disease in 3 (30%) pts. APACHE-II score in ICU admission was 18 ± 7, while SOFA score was 8 ± 3. Bloodstream infection was present in 6 (60%) pt. Among them, central line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) was observed in 5 (83%) pts, and primary bacteremia in 1 (17%) pt. Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) was diagnosed in 4 (40%) pts. Mean length of stay of enrolled patients in the ICU, prior to infection, was 18.5 ± 10 days. Regarding prior colonization, PDR-A. baumannii was isolated in stool and bronchial secretion surveillance cultures of 8 (80%) pts. 7 (70%) pts had received broad spectrum antibiotics prior to infection due to A. baumannii, while 5 among them had also received intravenous and nebulised colistin. All patients were empirically treated with combinations of colistin, high dose ampicillin/sulbactam (A/S), rifampicin or tigecycline with broad spectrum antibiotics (meropenem or ceftazidim/avibactam), for 14 ± 4 days. Clinical and microbiological success was observed in 7 (70%) of patients. In two patients (20%), blood cultures remained positive, while in another patient, A. baumannii infection was complicated with meningitis. ICU mortality in 10 days of infection was 30%. ICU mortality was significantly associated with SOFA score (p <0.05). Mean length of stay in ICU after infection was 39 ± 17 days.

**Conclusion:** Broad use of antibiotics has increased the isolation rate of PDR-A. baumannii in critical care settings. Antibiotic combinations might offer a therapeutic benefit, as a result of possible synergistic effect. Further studies are required in order to elucidate the therapeutic options and clinical outcomes of infections caused by PDR pathogens.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001092**

**Nosocomial Gram-Negative Rod Monobacteremia in ICU: A 10-Year Study**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001092**

**Introduction:** Antibiotics resistant Gram-negative rod (GNR) bacteria is increasing worldwide every year. Diagnosis of nosocomial Gram-negative rod monobacteremia (N-GNRM) in critically ill patients has been associated with prolonged hospitalization in intensive care units (ICUs) and a higher rate of mortality. The identification of pathogens, the pervasiveness of multiple antibiotic resistance, and risk factors for resistant strains are helpful in selecting appropriate empirical antibiotic therapy to reduce hospitalization time and mortality. The aim of this study was to identify the risk factors for the development of nosocomial multiple antibiotic resistance strains and mortality.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was performed, analyzing the data of patients treated in ICU after 72 hours of hospitalization, with positive gram-negative rod monobacteremia over a period of 10 years.

**Results:** Over the year 2009-2018, 261 cases of N-GNRM were identified. The detected pathogens include: 31.8% (n=83) Acinetobacter spp., 19.9% (n=52) Klebsiella spp, 18% (n=47) Escherichia coli and etc. Monobacteremia caused by P. aeruginosa was detected only in the last three years of the researched period, from 4 (8.5%) cases in 2016 to 7 (28%) cases in 2018 (p <0.05). The sensitivity to Imipenem was 88.8% (n=206), to Meropenem 85.4% (n=199), to Amikacin 65.1% (n=142), to Cefoperazone / Sulbactam 61.6% (n=141) and to Piperacillin / Tazobactam 48% (n=120). 61.6% (n=161) of all the cases studied, had multiple antibiotic resistance, out of which 39.8% (n=104) was extensively drug-resistant (XDR) (p <0.001). Of all Acinetobacter spp., XDR made up 69.9% (n=58) (p <0.001). The identified risk factors for bacteremia in resistant strains include male gender (p = 0.012), age >= 65 year old (p = 0.010), hospitalization in ICU >= 16 days (p = 0.012), and the duration of mechanical lung ventilation (IMV) >= 14 days (p <0.001). In a multivariate analysis, 69.3% (n=181) of mortality was associated with male gender (p = 0.001), acute kidney injury with the need for hemodialysis (AKI-HD) (p = 0.001) and shock (p <0.001).

**Conclusion:** Over a ten-year period, the most common cause of N-GNRM in ICU was Acinetobacter spp., dominated by XDR strains. Male gender, older age, prolonged stay in ICU and longer duration of IMV were identified as risk factors for multiple antibiotic resistance strains. Furthermore, male gender, acute kidney injury with the need for hemodialysis and shock, were related to almost 70% rate of mortality.
001122

Analysis of the STRIVE Phase 2 Trial of Once-Weekly Rezafungin for Treatment of Candidemia and Invasive Candidiasis Compared with Caspofungin: Outcomes by ICU Status and APACHE II Score

P. Honoré1

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Correspondence: P. Honoré

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001122

Introduction: Analysis of the STRIVE Phase 2 Trial of Once-Weekly Rezafungin for Treatment of Candidemia and Invasive Candidiasis Compared with Caspofungin: Outcomes by ICU Status and APACHE II Score

Authors: Patrick M. Honoré, Anastasia Kotanidou, Massimo Girardiis, Shawn Flanagan, Taylor Sandison

1CHU Brugmann University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium; 2General Hospital of Athens “Evangelismos”, Athens, Greece; 3University Polyclinic Hospital of Modena, Modena, Italy; 4Cidara Therapeutics, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA

Objectives: INTRODUCTION

Invasive fungal disease (IFD) caused by Candida spp. is associated with longer hospital duration and higher mortality rates for the critically ill.1-3 For such patients, treatment with an echinocandin is recommended first-line therapy.4 Rezafungin (RZF) is a novel, next-generation echinocandin in Phase 3 development for treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis (IC) and for prevention of IFD caused by Candida, Aspergillus, and Pneumocystis in blood and marrow transplant recipients.

Objectives: To evaluate outcomes of the Phase 2 STRIVE trial of RZF QWk for the treatment of candidemia and/or IC compared with caspofungin (CAS) once-daily (NCT02734862), based on ICU status and APACHE II scores.

Methods: Patients in STRIVE were randomized to 1 of 2 doses of RZF (400 mg QWk or 400 mg in Week 1, then 200 mg QWk [400 mg/200 mg], the latter being studied in Phase 3) or CAS (70 mg on Day 1, then 50 mg QD) for >14 days. For this ad-hoc subanalysis, data were stratified by ICU status (no ICU or ICU admission within Days 1–4) and by APACHE II score category (<10, 10–19, ≥20). Efficacy (overall success [resolution of clinical signs of infection + mycological eradication], mycological success, and investigator assessment of clinical cure at Day 14, and 30-day all-cause mortality) and safety (treatment-emergent adverse events [TEAEs]) endpoints were evaluated.

Table 2. Outcomes by Treatment Group and APACHE II Score – STRIVE mITT Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APACHE II Score</th>
<th>CAS (N=36)</th>
<th>ASC (N=58)</th>
<th>CAS (N=33)</th>
<th>ASC (N=25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>21 (58.3)</td>
<td>12 (75.0)</td>
<td>17 (51.5)</td>
<td>11 (44.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥10</td>
<td>13 (76.5)</td>
<td>6 (37.5)</td>
<td>16 (50.0)</td>
<td>7 (28.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥20</td>
<td>10 (62.5)</td>
<td>3 (19.0)</td>
<td>18 (55.3)</td>
<td>3 (12.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No differences were found in outcome rates among RZF-treated patients admitted to the ICU were similar to or higher than those with no ICU admission (Table 1). On the primary efficacy endpoint of overall response, 75% of the RZF-treated ICU cohort and 60.7% of the non-ICU cohort achieved overall success. In CAS-treated patients, efficacy rates were lower among the ICU cohort than in the non-ICU cohort (Table 1). In general, response rates with RZF were comparable across APACHE II scores and response rates with CAS were lower in patients with higher APACHE II scores (Table 2). Analysis of TEAEs by ICU status and by APACHE II scores showed no concerning trends or differences between RZF and CAS; not surprisingly, higher numbers of SAEs were seen in patients with caspofungin. While RZF outcomes appeared worse in the lower acuity patients, this was primarily due to the high numbers of indeterminate outcomes (i.e., missing data and lost to follow-up) among these patients. These findings contribute to the evidence of RZF safety and efficacy in a broad range of patients and support the ongoing Phase 3 development of RZF for the treatment of candidemia and IC (ReSTORE; NCT03667690).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Thompson GR, Hoare PM, Horcajada JP, et al. Rezafungin Clinical Safety and Efficacy in the Treatment of Candidemia and/or Invasive Candidiasis: Combined Results from the STRIVE Phase 2 Trial Parts A and B. Trends in Medical Mycology. October 11–14, 2019; Nice, France
6. None

001123

Analysis of Outcomes by Geographic Region of Enrollment in STRIVE, the Phase 2 of Rezafungin for the Treatment of Candidemia and Invasive Candidiasis (IC)

P. Honoré1

1Icu department, CHU Brugmann, Brussels, Belgium

Correspondence: P. Honoré

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001123

Introduction: Analysis of Outcomes by Geographic Region of Enrollment in STRIVE, the Phase 2 of Rezafungin for the Treatment of Candidemia and Invasive Candidiasis (IC)

Authors: Patrick M. Honoré (CHU Brugmann University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium); Jesus Fortun (University Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Madrid, Spain); Athanasios Skoutelis (General Hospital of Athens Evangelismos); Rolando Viani (Cidara Therapeutics, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA); Taylor Sandison (Cidara Therapeutics, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA)

Objectives: Rezafungin is a novel echinocandin in Phase 3 development. STRIVE (NCT02734862) is the global, Phase 2 trial of rezafungin once-weekly for treatment of candidemia and/or IC versus standard of care. Results of STRIVE were evaluated by geographic region to assess for differences in the complete trial population.

Methods: Data were stratified by region of enrollment (EU vs North America [NA]) and analysed for differences in patient demographics and baseline characteristics, treatment patterns, and efficacy outcomes.

Results: Patients enrolled in EU (N=131) were older than in NA (N=76) (mean, 64 vs 52 years, respectively) and were predominantly male (61.1%) and White (93.1%). The NA population was 50% male.

Table 2. Outcomes by Treatment Group and APACHE II Score – STRIVE mITT Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APACHE II Score</th>
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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Thompson GR, Hoare PM, Horcajada JP, et al. Rezafungin Clinical Safety and Efficacy in the Treatment of Candidemia and/or Invasive Candidiasis: Combined Results from the STRIVE Phase 2 Trial Parts A and B. Trends in Medical Mycology. October 11–14, 2019; Nice, France
6. None
and comprised 23.7% Black or African-American patients. On average, NA patients weighed more and had higher BMI (+2.3 kg/m²).

The same leading Candida species were isolated at baseline in both regions but with differing distribution. Candida albicans comprised 44% of EU isolates, and proportions of Candida parapsilosis, Candida glabrata, and Candida tropicalis were similar (13-18%). In NA, C. albicans accounted for 52% of isolates, followed by 25% C. glabrata and 7% each for C. parapsilosis and C. tropicalis.

In both regions, 55% of patients received 8-14 days of IV treatment; 27% of EU patients received >14 days versus 18% in NA. Fewer patients in EU were switched to oral step-down (24.4% vs 42.7% NA). The NA population had a higher proportion of patients with IC (26.3% vs 17.6% EU).

Outcomes were comparable between regions except for higher rates of overall success in EU patients treated with rezafungin 400 mg in Week 1 followed by 200 mg once weekly, compared with the NA cohort.

**Conclusion:** The Phase 2 STRIVE trial demonstrated few differences by region in demographic and baseline characteristics. The EU population was slightly older, and NA patients were generally heavier. Non-albicans species were predominant in the EU and comprised almost half of the NA isolates. Efficacy by region showed no consistent trends, although interpretation of efficacy-related differences are limited by half of the NA isolates. Efficacy by region showed no consistent trends, although interpretation of efficacy-related differences are limited by group size. Results of this analysis may inform future evaluation of data from the rezafungin clinical trial program.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. None

**001129**

**Related factors to mortality in patients admitted to the ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia**

J. Ruiz1; T. Moreno López2; J. Llabata1; E. Lucas Romero3; M. De La Maza Segovia1; R. Algarte1; F. Meza Samaniego2; E. Piacentini1; B. Sánchez González3; J. Trenado1

1Intensive care department, Mutua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain; 2Internal medicine department, Mutua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain; 3Anesthesiology and resuscitation department, Mutua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain

**Correspondence:** B. Sánchez González

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001129

**Introduction:** During the months of March to May we have experienced in Spain the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. Different factors can be related to the evolution of a pathology, both those of the pathology and the patient, as well as those derived from the high number of cases in a short period of time. Below we intend to analyze the different factors that are related to the evolution of COVID-19 pneumonia in our area.

**Objectives:** Describe the related factors to mortality in patients admitted to the ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia during the pandemic period.

**Methods:** Descriptive study conducted in a polyvalent ICU with 12 critical care beds and 21 semi-critical beds. All patients admitted for COVID-19 pneumonia during the pandemic period were included. The qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and were compared using the X2-test, the quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using the student’s t test. A logistic regression model was constructed with ICU mortality as a dependent variable.

**Results:** 95 patients were admitted, Table 1 describes the main characteristics of the patients.

**RESULTS.** 95 patients were admitted, Table 1 describes the main characteristics of the patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>55% confidence interval</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiopulmonary mortality</td>
<td>-0.327</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute kidney failure</td>
<td>-0.483</td>
<td>-0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital-acquired pneumonia</td>
<td>-0.458</td>
<td>-0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Only a relationship between mortality in the ICU and previous cardiovascular comorbidity is observed, as well as with the development of acute renal failure and nosocomial pneumonia. However, other aspects that should be considered in the face of a possible new outbreak are the use of corticosteroids, the doses of sedation and muscle relaxants and the appearance of delirium.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
Introduction: During the months of March to May we have experienced in Spain the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. Different factors can be related to the evolution of a pathology, both those of the pathology and the patient, as well as those derived from the high number of cases in a short period of time. Below we intend to analyze the different factors that are related to the evolution of COVID19 pneumonia in our area.

Objectives: Describe the corticosteroids use related factors in the treatment of covid-19 pneumonia in patients admitted in ICU during the pandemic period.

Methods: Descriptive study carried out in a polyvalent ICU. All patients admitted because of COVID-19 pneumonia during the coronavirus outbreak were included. A corticosteroid treatment protocol was established for patients with severe covid-19 pneumonia whose institutional implementation was on 03/31/2020.

Statistics: Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and were compared using the $\chi^2$-test. The quantitative ones are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using the t-Student test.

A logistic regression model was constructed with treatment with corticosteroids as a dependent variable.

Results: Table 1 describes their main features.

Table 1 shows corticosteroids use related factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Corticosteroids</th>
<th>No Corticosteroids</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality (%)</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory mortality (%)</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>0.067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheal intubation (%)</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital acquired pneumonia (%)</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool (%)</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-dimer &gt; 500 mg/mL</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (%)</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: After adjusting for different confounding variables, a statistically significant relation is maintained between the use of corticosteroids for treatment of patients with COVID-19 pneumonia admitted in ICU and infusion days of propofol and remifentanil. However, its relation with other aspects (tendency to fewer days in mechanical ventilation and less ICU and hospital mortality) should be taken into account for future outbreaks and studies.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Acknowledgments to all the nursing and auxiliary staff of the ICU at HUMT.
2. Not funded.

D-dimer and Ferritin utility in patients admitted to the ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia

J. Llabata1; E. Saavedra Sanjuan1; A. Falcon Marchena1; ML. Urendes1; C. Palencia1; J. Ruiz1; M. López De La Fuente1; T. Villalobos Prego1; B. Sánchez González1; J. Trenado1
1Intensive care department, Mútua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain; 2Hematology department, Mútua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain

Correspondence: B. Sánchez González

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001131
Objectives: To analyze the clinical utility of measuring D-dimer and Ferritin in patients admitted to the ICU with COVID-19 pneumonia during the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak.

Methods: Descriptive study carried out in a polyvalent ICU. All the patients admitted for pneumonia-COVID-19 during the pandemic period. Analytical measurements of D-dimer and ferritin were made from admission to hospital discharge. All patients had minimum 2-3 weekly measurements of these values.

Statistics: ROC curve analysis was performed for the maximum value of D-dimer and Ferritin and the difference between the minimum and maximum value (delta) of these parameters regarding different clinical variables.

Results: 95 patients were admitted. Table 1: describes the clinical variables analyzed with ROC curve with respect to the value of D-dimer and Ferritin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean (SD))</td>
<td>58.6 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male%)</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA at admission ≤ 5 (%)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary embolism (%)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient receives anticoagulation (%)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient receives corticosteroids (%)</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU long of stay (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>15.1 (12.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital stay (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>25.4 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality (%)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality (%)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 cases of pulmonary embolism (PE) were diagnosed, 3 of them were from the main pulmonary artery, 5 of them from segmental pulmonary artery, 1 of them from small glass and 5 of them from subsegmental arteries. In the group of 22 descoagulated patients, PE was only confirmed in 5 cases. Figure 1: represents the behavior of the ROC curves for ICU mortality and corticosteroid treatment.

As the best result, we look at the area under the curve (AUC) for ICU mortality with respect to the delta of the D-dimer that shows a value of 0.711 with a 95% CI (0.561-0.861) and a significance asymptotic: 0.016. An increase in D-dimer between 5500 and 6000 ng / mL is related to ICU mortality with a sensitivity between 0.77-0.61 and specificity between 0.68 / 0.69. The AUC for anticoagulated patient and PE shows the relationship of the D-dimer value and its delta to empirically anticoagulate a patient but not to diagnose PE.

Conclusion: The behavior of the maximum values of D-Dimer and Ferritin, as well as its delta, showed no prognostic neither diagnostic utility for PE and no utility in therapeutic decision-making in ICU hospitalized patients with COVID-19 related pneumonia. The need for routine measurement of these parameters in this group of patients should be assessed.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Acknowledgments to all the nursing and auxiliary staff of the ICU at HUMT.
2. Not funded.

001132
Pharmacological treatment and ventilatory management of patients admitted to the ICU for COVID-19 pneumonia
C. Palencia1; E. Lucas Romero2; J. Ruiz2; J. Llabata1; T. Moreno López2; F. Meza Samaniego2; M. De La Maza Segovia3; R. Algarte1; B. Sánchez González1; J. Trenado1
1Intensive care department, Mútua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain; 2Internal medicine department, Mútua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain; 3Anesthesiology and resuscitation department, Mútua Terrassa University Hospital, Terrassa, Spain

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Introduction: During the months of March to May we have experienced in Spain the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. Different factors can be related to the evolution of a pathology, both those of the pathology and the patient, as well as those derived from the high number of cases in a short period of time. Below we intend to analyze the different factors that are related to the evolution of COVID-19 pneumonia in our area.

Objectives: Describe the main characteristics of the patients admitted to ICU due to covid-19 related pneumonia during the coronavirus outbreak.

Methods: Descriptive study carried out in a polyvalent ICU with 12 beds for critical care and 21 for semi-critical care. All patients with COVID-19 related pneumonia admitted in ICU in the outbreak were included in the study.

Statistics: Qualitative variables are expressed as percentages and quantitative variables are expressed as means and standard deviations (SD).

Results: 95 patients were entered. Table 1 described the main clinical characteristics of the patients.
Table 1: Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean (SD))</td>
<td>58.6 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male%)</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA at admission ≤ 5 (%)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockwood frailty scale at income ≤ 3(%)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-organ failure (%)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient receives anticoagulation (%)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute kidney failure (%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: describes other clinic characteristics and complications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia on admission (%)</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphopenia on admission with COVID-19 (%)</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated serum creatinine (%)</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-corrected sodium bicarbonate (%)</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium associated bicarbonate (%)</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTPA</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echocardiography (%)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloridemia on admission (%)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frugia admission (%)</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP in aliment (%)</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic treatment for hospital infection (%)</td>
<td>54.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophil (%)</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diastolic rhythm in days (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>21.3 (11.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserved rhythm in days (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>72.8 (22.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rempladie rhythm in days (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>5.8 (2.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension rhythm in days (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>54.3 (24.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with mononucle calcium infusion (%)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dehydration/mononucle calcium infusion (%)</td>
<td>50.9 (21.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delirium (%)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthenizing (%)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital stay (days, mean (SD))</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance resusc (%)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 describes respiratory failure and mechanical ventilation characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonrespiratory ventilator (NRV) (%)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 related ventilator (%)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High flow nasal cannula (HFNC) (%)</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipap (Bi-level positive airway pressure) (%)</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient treated mechanical ventilation (%)</td>
<td>10.1 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure for the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>32.5 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure (cmH2O) (%)</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient with the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>12.5 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient treated mechanical ventilation (%)</td>
<td>10.0 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure (cmH2O) (%)</td>
<td>32.5 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient with the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>10.0 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure for the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure (cmH2O) (%)</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient with the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure (cmH2O) (%)</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure for the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure (cmH2O) (%)</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient with the three minutes of ventilation (cmH2O) %</td>
<td>30.6 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction: During the months of March to May we have experienced in Spain the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. Different factors can be related to the evolution of a pathology, both those of the pathology and the patient, as well as those derived from the high number of cases in a short period of time. Below we intend to analyze the different factors that are related to the evolution of COVID-19 pneumonia in our area.

Objectives: Describe the factors related to delirium in patients admitted in ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia.

Methods: Descriptive study carried out in a polivalent ICU. All patients admitted because of pneumonia by COVID-19 during the pandemic period were included. It was considered that a patient presented delirium by the ICU medical teams' clinical diagnosis. Delirium treatment was confirmed and adapted together with a psychiatry team destined to ICU.

Statistics: Qualitative variables were expressed as percentages and were compared using the X2-test, quantitative were expressed as means and standard deviations (SD) and were compared using T-Student test. A logistic regression model with delirium as dependent variable was constructed.

Results: 95 patients were admitted, 35.6% presented delirium during ICU admission and 16% at discharge to hospitalization plant. 66.3% of all patients were intubated. 100% received Kaletra, Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin as treatment, additionally, 40% received Tocilizumab, 34% interferon and 58% corticoids. Table 1 describes clinical characteristics.

Variables Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean (SD))</td>
<td>58.6 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male%)</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric history %</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anidrenergic treatment %</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antipsychotic treatment %</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcotic abuse %</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker %</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enolism %</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexametomedine %</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clidione %</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olantazipene %</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quetiapine %</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other antipsychotic %</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other anxiolytic %</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antipsychotic treatment at discharge to hospitalization plant %</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients admitted in ICU for COVID-19 related pneumonia presented severe hypoxemia as the main organ affection upon admission, requiring protective ventilation. Prone ventilation and tracheostomy were performed in a high percentage of patients. Infections complications, PE and delirium were frequent.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Acknowledgments to all the nursing and auxiliary staff of the ICU of HUMT.
2. Not funded.
Table 2 shows factors related to delirium.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% confidence interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intubation</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>0.944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>5.77</td>
<td>0.937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedation</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>0.993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle relaxants</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercurrent infection</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>9.01</td>
<td>0.993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 shows logistic regression analysis of delirium as dependent variable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% confidence interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedation</td>
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</tr>
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<td>7.65</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercurrent infection</td>
<td>7.65</td>
<td>0.703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The patients admitted at our ICU due to COVID-19 pneumonia presented a high delirium incidence. Different factors as intubation and mechanical ventilation were associated with its development, as well as sedation and muscle relaxants. However, it should be noted the statistically significant association after adjusting by different confounder factors between delirium with mortality in ICU, nosocomial infection appearance and prone ventilation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Not funded
2. Acknowledgments to all the nursing and auxiliary staff of the ICU at HUMT.

001173
Co/Super infection in critical SARS-CoV2 pneumonia
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Correspondence: J.B. Mesland
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001173

Introduction: Knowledge and understanding about SARS-CoV2 pathology is still poor. Viral pneumonia are known to promote co-infection or secondary bacterial infection. Diagnosis might be difficult between colonization of the respiratory tract and real infection. We need to be aware of specific patterns of infection as it is crucial for empiric prescription when needed.

Objectives: To review microbiological data regarding our critical SARS-CoV2 patients and evaluate if there is specific patterns of bacterial co-infection and super infection.

Methods: In an observational, retrospective and monocentric study, we reviewed microbiological data (blood culture, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) of all SARS-CoV2 patients admitted in our ICU between march 2020 and may 2020. If the same bacteria grew in different sample, it was counted as a unique episode.

Results: Between march 2020 and may 2020, 44 patients have been admitted to our 22 beds ICU for critical SARS-CoV2 pneumonia. Mean age at admission was 62,44 years (range 38 years – 83 years). 37/44 patients received mechanical ventilation, for a total of 638 days, and 13/44 patients received ECMO therapy, for a total of 249 days. ICU Mortality of our cohort is 50%.

From our routine microbiology testing from tracheal aspirate, 34/44 patients had documented positive culture. 80 specimens were identified, distributed in order of prevalence as : Klebsiella species for 20% (Klebsiella pneumoniae for 8,75%, Klebsiella oxytoca for 6,25%, Klebsiella aerogenes for 3,75%, Klebsiella varicola for 1,25%), Pseudomonas aeruginosa for 13,75%, E. Coli for 8,75%, Proteus species for 7,5% (Proteus mirabilis for 3,75%, Proteus vulgaris for 2,5%, Proteus hauseri for 1,25%), Staphylococcus aureus for 7,5% (MSSA for 6,25%, MRSA for 1,25%), Enterobacter species for 6,5% (Enterobacter cloacae for 3,75%, Enterobacter asburiae and kobei for 1,25%), Citrobacter koseri for 3,75%, Hafnia alvei for 2,5%, Streptococcus pneumoniae for 2,5%, Seratia species for 2,5%, Haemophilus influenzae for 1,25%. We noted a high number of Candida albicans positive specimens (13,75%), which is not considered to be an agent of pneumonia.

We performed 16 bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL). 87,5% were predominantly neutrophilic. Regarding Pneumocystis jirovecii, indirect immunofluorescence using monoclonal antibodies were negative in all patients. All but one patient had BAL galactomannan negative, and none of our patients had positive respiratory culture for Aspergillus fumigatus. Multiplex RT-PCR was requested in 6 patients. 2/6 were strongly positive for HSV, and all were negative for Pneumocystis jirovecii.

12/44 patients developed at one time during their ICU stay an episode of bacteremia. 9/12 were secondary to ventilatory associated pneumonia. None of our patient had documented PCP or invasive pulmonary aspergillosis (IPA), as opposed to case series who found until one-third of patients with putative IPA(1)(2).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. (2) Alanio A, Dellière S, Fodil S, Bretagne S, Mégarbane B. Prevalence of putative invasive pulmonary aspergillosis in critically ill patients with...

001180

Effects of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) on the course of severe COVID-19: results from a retrospective data analysis of a patient cohort in Turkey treated with IVIG but without Octagam®

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1Department of anesthesiology and intensive care, Istanbul University, Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey; 2Department of internal medicine, Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Correspondence: E. Clod1
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001180

Introduction: The incidence of infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) worldwide is still on the rise and the prevention and treatment of coronavirus disease - 2019 (COVID-19) still a major challenge. Among those existing medications used for COVID-19 are intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG) which are known for their anti-inflammatory effects and approved in several immune mediated disorders, including Kawasaki syndrome. Several case reports showing beneficial effects of IVIG administration in COVID-19 patients have been reported recently (1-5). Objectives: To compare clinical outcomes and biomarkers in patients with severe COVID-19 treated with standard of care (SoC) alone or with SoC and IVIG.

Methods: Data from a cohort of severely ill COVID-19 patients requiring intensive care at a center of excellence in Turkey was analysed retrospectively. A subgroup of patients received high-dose IVIG (Octagam 5%) treatment at 0.4 g/day for 5 consecutive days in addition to SoC according to a site-specific treatment algorithm and was compared to those patients receiving SoC alone. Clinical outcome measures included duration of specific treatment modalities, time to start of mechanical ventilation, change in ventilation mode, ICU and hospital discharge, and overall survival. Plasma biomarkers of inflammation (CRP, ferritin, PCT, IL-6, D-dimer, leukocytes) were measured at baseline and 6 days after ICU admission and treatment start. Imbalance in APACHE II score was addressed by propensity-score-matching; otherwise Kaplan-Meier and multiple regression models were used.

Results: Data from 93 patients were included into analysis. Of these, 51 had received IVIG plus SoC and 42 were treated with SoC alone. In both groups, around 75% of patients were male and patients had comparable BMI and blood group distribution as well as comparable vital signs. The IVIG group was slightly younger (mean: 65 vs. 71 years) and had slightly lower baseline disease scores (mean APACHE II: 20.6 vs. 22.4; mean SOFA: 5.0 vs. 7.0). Apart from IVIG, patients in both groups were treated with hydroxychloroquine, favipiravir, azithromycin, oseltamivir, ticlozuibum/anakirna, methylprednisolone, and/or ascorbate. Analysis showed that overall survival (OS) was 61% in the IVIG and 38% in the control group. After controlling for imbalances at baseline, there remained a trend for better OS (OR: 2.2, 95%CI: 0.9-5.4, p = 0.091) and a significantly longer median survival (68 vs. 18 days, p = 0.014). Moreover, IVIG treatment significantly reduced CRP levels by 46% within 6 days compared to SoC alone (p = 0.049), but had no relevant effect on any other inflammation marker measured.

Conclusion: Adjunct treatment with IVIG might add to the currently limited armamentarium against COVID-19, especially due to its well-known anti-inflammatory properties. However, results need to be confirmed in a randomized, controlled trial.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001183

Microbiological profile of infections in patients admitted by COVID-19 to the intensive care unit (ICU)

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1Medicina intensiva, Hospital Universitario Virgen de las Nieves, Granada, Spain

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001183

Introduction: Coronavirus infection (COVID-19) produces a severe acute respiratory syndrome that in up to 5 - 10% of cases requires admission to the ICU, with overinfection being one of the most frequent complications during a stay in this Unit.

Objectives: To describe the main intra-ICU infections according to location and microbiological germ isolated in patients admitted for COVID-19.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive study conducted with the data collected for the ENVIN registry in the period from March 13, 2020 to April 30, 2020 in the ICU of the Virgen de las Nieves Hospital in Granada.

Patients over 18 years old with a stay of more than 24 hours were included. Baseline characteristics: age, sex, degree of severity (APACHE II), mean stay, ICU mortality and extrinsic risk factors. The type of intra-ICU infections are exposed according to the isolated microorganism and the location of the infection.

Results: A total of 60 patients admitted to the ICU of our hospital are included, 80% of which are male, with a mean age of 60.03 + 11.25 years and with APACHE II at admission of 13.76 ± 5.65 years. The average stay in the ICU was 21.11 ± 13.45 and the mortality was 38.18%. Among the extrinsic risk factors, more than 80% of these patients required an artificial airway, 98.33% carried a central venous catheter and 98% a urinary catheter and 60% had received antibiotic therapy prior to admission to the ICU.

The rate of intra-ICU infections was 90 infections per 100 patients admitted, the most frequent location being bacteremias of unknown focus and secondary to catheter infection (50%), followed by pneumonias associated with mechanical ventilation (27.59%) and urinary tract infections (13.79%). In the case of bacteremias, up to 67.74% of large nosocomial bacteria were found, with up to 19% of fungal isolation. The rate of intra-ICU infections was 90 infections per 100 patients admitted, the most frequent location being bacteremias of unknown focus and secondary to catheter infection (50%), followed by pneumonias associated with mechanical ventilation (27.59%) and urinary tract infections (13.79%). In the case of bacteremias, up to 67.74% of large nosocomial bacteria were found, with up to 19% of fungal isolation.

Conclusion: A high rate of intra-ICU infections is observed in patients admitted for COVID-19, the most frequent being labacteremia of unknown focus and secondary to catheter infection. This high rate of infections may be justified by the high percentage of invasive devices used as well as by the degree of complexity and severity of these patients.
Introduction: Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) is a lipid-soluble vitamin-like compound present in the inner membrane of the mitochondria, where it transports electrons from complexes I and II to complex III of the mitochondrial respiratory chain (MRC). CoQ10 removes free radicals, inhibits the initiation and propagation of lipid peroxidation in cellular membranes, and aids in the regeneration of other antioxidants, such as vitamin E and C. CoQ10 levels in septic ICU patients have been investigated by a limited number of studies. The possibility that CoQ10 plasma concentrations exhibit time course changes from the initial period of critical illness to sepsis and septic shock, remains currently unexplored.

Objectives: We sought to investigate whether in a group of initially non-septic, critically ill patients, coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) changes during progression from critical illness to sepsis and septic shock and assess its associations with inflammatory biomarkers, and intensive care unit (ICU) outcome.

Methods: This was an observational analysis on 63 initially non-septic ICU patients. CoQ10 was sequentially measured on admission in the ICU (baseline) and at sepsis and septic shock onset. Additionally, CoQ10 was measured in 25 age and sex-matched healthy controls. Inflammatory biomarkers were determined at baseline.

Results: On ICU admission and prior to sepsis development, patients had lower CoQ10 levels compared to healthy controls (0.89 vs. 1.04 µg/ml, p<0.01). At sepsis onset, CoQ10 levels decreased to 0.63 µg/ml, p<0.001, and at septic shock (N= 14) to 0.42 µg/ml, p<0.0001. Baseline CoQ10 correlated with low density lipoprotein (r2= 0.409, p= 0.002), and tended to negatively correlate with IL-6 and TNF-α. CoQ10 at sepsis was not associated with ICU mortality.

Conclusion: Initially non-septic, critically ill patients have lower CoQ10 on ICU admission compared to healthy controls, with a further decrease in septic and septic shock, suggesting that CoQ10 depletion is related to sepsis severity. CoQ10 is a component of the mitochondria, and supplementation might improve mitochondrial function in septic shock.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Acknowledgments
None

Assessment of lipolysis activity by the composition of plasma fatty acids
S. Tachyla1; A. Ospienko2; O. Tupitsyna2
1Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, Mogilev Regional Hospital, Mogilev, Belarus; 2Central research laboratory, Mogilev State University named after A. A. Kuleshov, Mogilev, Belarus. The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Correspondence: S. Tachyla
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000079

Introduction: Sepsis and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS) accompanied by an increase of catabolic reactions, which...
Anesthesia and critical care, Herlev Hospital, Herlev, Denmark; catabolic processes in the body in patients.

Methods: A prospective case-control study of the composition of blood plasma fatty acids was performed in 31 patients after abdominal operations during the first 24 h after admission in the intensive care unit (ICU). The patients were divided into two groups: group 1 (n = 15) - without sepsis and MODS, group 2 (n = 16) - the presence of sepsis and MODS. Sepsis and MODS were established by the criteria of the 2016 SCCM / ACCP conference.

Measurements of the composition of fatty acids were carried out on gas chromatographs G×-1000, LJBEET-800 (Russian Federation). Final identification was carried out using the method of chromatography-mass spectrometry using Thermo Scientific DSQ II (USA). The determination of the proportion of individual fatty acids was carried out by the internal normalization method using the Unichrom-97 spectrometric information recording system.

Statistical processing of the results was performed using the SPSS and Statistica 7.0 programs. Data are presented as medians and quartiles. Differences between groups were determined by the Mann-Whitney U test.

Results: Of the 31 patients, there were 19 men and 12 women, age 40 (35-46) years, height 172 (168-175) cm, body weight 80 (64-92) kg. Patients in groups with no statistical differences in sex, age, weight, height. The Apache III score was significantly higher in the group 2 of 53.0 (39.2-74.7) points vs 33.3 (9.9-53.2) points (p<0.01). The duration of treatment in the ICU was significantly higher in the group 2 of 11 (5-15) days vs 2 (2-3) days (p<0.001). Mortality in the group 1 - 0%, in the group 2 - 25%.

Patients had the following pathology: acute pancreatitis - 7, chronic pancreatitis - 11, cholelithiasis - 5, acute intestinal obstruction - 3, abdominal trauma - 4, peptic ulcer with perforation - 1. They performed laparotomy - 26, laparoscopy - 5 relaparotomy - 3.

It was found that in the composition of total plasma lipids, the total proportion of palmitoleic and oleic fatty acids increases. If in patients of the group 1 this proportion is 18.2 (16.2-19.6)%, then in patients of the group 2 it is 27.9 (24.5-31.3)% (p<0.001).

The construction and analysis of the receiver operating characteristic curve for the method is performed. It was established that the area under the curve is 0.929 with a 95% confidence interval from 0.837 to 0.978 (p <0.0001), sensitivity 87.5%, specificity 93.3%, threshold 21.7%.

Conclusion: The increase in the proportion of palmitoleic and oleic fatty acids in the composition of total blood plasma lipids reflects an increase in lipolysis activity.

Assessing the activity of lipolysis allows us to judge the intensity of catabolic processes in the body in patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000115 Predictive utility cannot be inferred from associations – a systematic review of the sepsis literature to quantify the confusion in reporting

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Introduction: Precision medicine is considered to be the means to improve outcome of sepsis patients in the future. Statistical analyses applied to results may uncover high degrees of associations between markers or interventions and outcomes; however, even high degrees of association do not necessarily imply a predictive value of an intervention. Precision medicine requires prediction; thus attributing predictive value to associations diverges from this path and may lead to erroneous conclusions that can ultimately harm patients.

Objectives: To determine whether and to what extent published literature in sepsis with claims of prediction in their titles in fact do provide relevant measures of prediction in their abstracts. Our core premise was that abstracts, as the most informative summaries of published papers, should always confirm the claims of the title by reported statistical methodology that pertains to predictive utility.

Methods: A systematic search was performed using NCBI PubMed on Jan 27, 2020, aiming to identify articles that contain the terms sepsis and prediction in the titles using the following search term: sepsis[Title] AND (prediction[Title] OR predict[Title] OR predicts[Title] OR predictive[Title] OR predicting[Title]) AND (hasabstract[Text] AND “humans”[MeSH Terms]). General terms and defined measures of individualized prediction, as well as other reported statistical methodologies related to associations, were extracted from the abstracts of these papers. Prediction metrics were defined as measures derived from individualized predicted outcomes or probabilities, while association metrics were defined as measures pertaining to group results.

Results: In total, 518 articles, published between 1978 and 2019, were identified. Of these, 34 were excluded due to non-relevance to this systematic assessment. The remaining 484 articles, published in 227 unique journals, comprised our study sample. Of these articles, 36% (n=173) did not report metrics of predictive utility, while the remaining 64% (n=311) included at least one metric of predictive utility in their abstracts. Of the abstracts that reported measures of predictive utility, the most common reported metrics were ROC AUC (70%), sensitivity (40%) and specificity (36%). Of the abstracts without measures of predictive utility, 54% did not define their methodology, while 28% performed logistic regression and 15% performed Cox models. Full review of the 173 undefined manuscripts revealed that more than 75% (n=117) were actually describing a relationship based upon associations only, while 17% (n=31) contained some measure of prediction.

Conclusion: We demonstrate evidence that more than one-third of abstracts from papers that claim to provide insights on prediction in the sepsis literature actually provide no methodology to evaluate prediction in their abstracts. In most cases, these manuscripts offer a measure of association or no defined methodology at all. When no information was available in the abstract, more than 75% of these manuscripts did not provide measures of prediction and often claimed prediction while using only tests of association. Such confusion may ultimately harm patients, for instance by undergoing unnecessary and inappropriate treatment of abnormalities that proves not to be predictive despite statistically significant associations.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF16OC0020698, NNF14CC0001, NNF17OC0027594), Swedish Research Council (Dnr 2009-1039), Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (Dnr IRC15-0067).

000116 Endothelial Microparticles Is Novel Markers of Endothelial Injury in Patients with Sepsis

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1Anesthesiology and Perioperative medicine, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Sendai, Japan; 2Respiratory medicine, Tohoku University...
Introduction: Endothelial cells are involved in the pathogenesis of sepsis and organ dysfunction caused by sepsis. There is no well-established method in clinical practice for evaluating endothelial injury in sepsis. Endothelial microparticles (MPs) (EMPs) are extracellular vesicles derived from the cellular membranes of injured or apoptotic endothelial cells, which suggests that EMPs may be a marker for endothelial injury in sepsis.

Objectives: To examine whether the number of EMPs is increased in patients with sepsis and reflects the severity of sepsis.

Methods: This prospective observational study was performed to examine the numbers of circulating EMPs in patients with sepsis using flow cytometry (ethics committee approval: 2018-1-353). We collected platelet-poor plasma (PPP) from patients diagnosed with Sepsis-3 on admission and on days 2, 3, 5, and 7 of hospitalisation. We also collected PPP for a non-sepsis control group from patients who were admitted to the intensive care unit after undergoing scheduled head and neck surgery on admission and on days 2, 3, 5, and 7 of hospitalisation. EMPs were defined as CD31+ MPs (platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule (PECAM)-1+ EMPs), CD144+ MP [vascular endothelial growth factor (VE)-cadherin (VE)-cadherin+ EMPs], CD62E+ MPs [E-selectin+ MPs], CD54+ MPs [intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1+ EMPs], and CD106+ MPs [vascular cell adhesion molecule (VCAM)-1+ EMPs] MPs.

Results: We examined the numbers of circulating EMPs in 72 patients with sepsis (29; septic shock, 43) and 30 non-sepsis patients. The numbers of all types of EMPs were significantly higher in patients with sepsis than in non-sepsis patients during the study period, except for VCAM-1+ EMPs on admission. The numbers of PECAM+ and VE-cadherin+ EMPs, the expressed endothelial antigens of which are rich in endothelial cell intercellular junctions and regulate endothelial junctional integrity and permeability, were significantly higher in patients with septic shock than in those with sepsis until day 5. On the other hand, the number of E-selectin+ EMPs, which are endothelial adhesion molecules induced by inflammatory stimuli, such as E-selectin, ICAM-1, and VCAM-1, on admission was significantly higher in patients with septic shock than in patients with sepsis. The numbers of PECAM+, VE-cadherin+, and E-selectin+ EMPs on admission, as well as PECAM+ EMPs on day 2, were significantly higher in patients who died in the hospital than those in survivors.

Conclusion: The number of EMPs significantly increased in patients with sepsis, which may suggest that an increase in the number of EMPs may reflect endothelial injury in sepsis. Furthermore, the numbers of PECAM+ and VE-cadherin+ EMPs are higher in patients with septic shock than in patients with sepsis and might be novel markers of the severity of septic endothelial injury.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None

000142

Secondary sepsis in the ICU. A retrospective study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000142

Introduction: The presence of sepsis on patients’ admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) is associated with adverse outcomes [1]. It has been demonstrated that many patients suffer additional infectious and septic episodes, which might increase mortality [2].

Objectives: Our aim is to delineate the incidence and clinical characteristics of the secondary sepsis event in comparison with sepsis on admission in a setting of endemic difficult-to-treat Gram-negative microbial infections.

Methods: Secondary ICU-associated sepsis was defined as a second septic event, >48 hours after admission. Data were retrieved from the records of all patients admitted in our 16-bed mixed ICU between July 2015 and December 2017. We excluded patients with an ICU stay of <48hs. We described continuous variables as median (IQR) and categorical variables as number (percentage) and we performed comparisons with Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon test and chi-square test, where appropriate. We used survival analysis to evaluate ICU mortality.

Results: Sixty-five septic patients (65 episodes), 42 (64.6%) male, and 35 (53.4%) medical, were analyzed. Their age, Charlson comorbidity index, APACHE II, and SOFA on admission were 73 (65-79) years, 4 (3-5), 24 (18-27.5), and 10 (8-12), respectively. The most commonly encountered primary septic focus was intraabdominal (46.2%), and 42(64.6%) patients were in septic shock. A pertinent culture displayed a pathogen in 35 (53.8%) episodes, and Gram-negative isolates prevailed (26/35, 74.3%).

Sixteen (24.6%) patients presented secondary sepsis on day 9(6,15.5), an isolate was identified in 93.7% of events, and Acinetobacter baumannii was isolated in 8/15 events (53.3%). The presence of hypothermia on the day of both episodes was the same (20%); temperature and white blood cells did not differ between the events.

Regarding the outcome, overall ICU mortality was 46.2%. The Kaplan-Maier curve analysis of 30-day mortality did not show any difference between patients with and without secondary sepsis. However, secondary sepsis was associated with prolonged length of stay in the ICU (21 vs. ten days, p=0.001). Eventually, more patients died after their first month in the critical care department (ICU mortality of 75% vs. 37%, p=0.02).

Conclusion: In a setting of endemic difficult-to-treat Gram-negative bacteria, secondary sepsis, on top of primary sepsis, can lead to both prolonged hospital stay and late mortality.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None

000159

Characteristics and outcomes of frail patients with suspected infection in intensive care units
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Introduction: Frailty increases the risk of morbidity and mortality in patients with critical illnesses. However, most previous studies evaluated a heterogeneous population. The specific characteristics of patients with sepsis according to frailty in the intensive care units (ICUs) remains unclear.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the association between frailty and characteristics, clinical features, and outcomes among patients with suspected infection in ICUs.

Methods: This is a secondary analysis of the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine Sepsis Prognostication in Intensive Care unit and Emergency room (JAMA SPICE)-ICU study, which was a multicenter study of patients with suspected infection. We included adult patients (≥18 years) with suspected infection who were admitted to ICUs. Frailty was evaluated using the Canadian Study on Health and Aging Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS)[1]. As previous reported [2], baseline patient characteristics and outcomes were compared between three frailty groups: fit (scale 1–3), vulnerable (scale 4) and frail (scale 5–9). We also performed a subgroup analysis of patients with sepsis, which was defined based on sepsis-3 criteria. The Kaplan–Meier survival curve for 90 days was also drawn.

Results: We enrolled 650 patients with suspected infection, including 599 (92.2%) patients with sepsis, for this study from the SPICE-ICU database. Patients with a median rating of 3 (3–5) according to the CFS, were included: 337 (51.8%) were fit, 109 (16.8%) vulnerable, and 204 (31.4%) frail. Comorbidities were more prevalent in frail and vulnerable patients than in fit patients. The APACHE II scores for fit, vulnerable, and frail patients were 18 (12–25), 22 (17–28), and 21 (15–27), respectively (p<0.01). The body temperatures of patients were as follows: fit 37.5 (36.5–38.5)°C; vulnerable 37.5 (36.4–38.6)°C; frail 37.0 (36.3–38.1)°C (p<0.01). Regarding the laboratory data, the CRP level in fit, vulnerable and frail patients were 13.6 (4.6–24.9) mg/dl, 12.1 (9.2–24.9) mg/dl, and 10.5 (3.0–21.0) mg/dl, respectively (p<0.01). There was no statistically significant difference according to CFS group. In-hospital mortality did not differ statistically according to frailty: fit 55/335 (16.4%); vulnerable 23/107 (21.5%); frail 45/203 (22.2%), p = 0.19. Kaplan–Meier survival curves showed that there was little difference in the mortality rate among groups during the acute phase. However, vulnerable and frail patients tended to die after the acute phase while the fit did not, although the difference was not statistically significant (p = 0.25, Figure). Compared to fit or vulnerable patients, fewer frail patients were discharged to home: fit 125/280 (44.6%); vulnerable 36/84 (42.9%); frail 40/158 (25.3%).

Conclusion: Frailty was associated with a poor response to inflammation of infection. Frail and vulnerable patients with suspected infection including sepsis tended to have poor outcomes after the acute phase in their clinical courses.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000235
The temporal relationship between mitochondrial- and monocyte cell functionality during sepsis
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Introduction: Immune responses in sepsis involve simultaneous activation and suppression of circulating leukocytes. These immune responses are often associated with mortality [1]. Alterations in mitochondrial functionality of monocytes and lymphocytes are associated with immune suppression, severity of sepsis, and mortality [2-4]. Monocyte HLA-DR expression is an important marker for monitoring immune alterations during sepsis [5]. We postulated that immune dysfunction with decreased monocyte HLA-DR expression during sepsis may be induced by a bioenergetic shutdown.

Objectives: To assess the correlation between mitochondrial function (as measured by mitochondrial membrane potential (ΔΨm) and ROS production), and immune cell functionality (measured by monocyte HLA-DR expression) during the time-course of sepsis.

Methods: Septic and pre-operative control patients were recruited at the ATTIKON University Hospital in Athens, Greece. Whole blood was collected at four different timepoints (days 1, 2, 4 and 7 after admission) for septic patients and at one timepoint for control patients. Whole blood was lysed and stained with anti-CD14 to identify monocytes, TMRM and MitoSox as measures of ΔΨm and ROS production, and immune cell functionality (measured by monocyte HLA-DR expression) during the time-course of sepsis.

Conclusion: Inflammation of infection, and especially the immune response, does not only occur in tissues but also in circulating leukocytes. Therefore, targeting the immune response in sepsis may be achieved through the use of bioenergetic drugs.
Conclusion: Bioenergetic alterations (mitochondrial ROS production and ΔΨm) do not explain the reduction in HLA-DR levels in sepsis patients. Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

6. MJM and EK are supported by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 676129.

Characteristics and in-hospital mortality according to whether patients who met sepsis-2 and sepsis-3 definitions among patients with suspected infection in ICU. Sepsis Prognostication in Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Room (SPICE-ICU)

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Introduction: Diagnosing sepsis remains difficult because it is not a single disease but a syndrome with various pathogen- and host factor-associated symptoms. Sepsis-3 was established to improve risk stratification among patients suspected with infection based on organ failures but it has been still controversial compared with previous definitions.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate characteristics according to whether patients who met sepsis-2 (severe sepsis) and sepsis-3 definitions among patients with suspected infection in ICU.

Methods: This was a multicenter, prospective cohort study. It conducted by 22 intensive care units (ICUs) in Japan. Adult patients (≥16 years) with newly suspected infection from December 2017 to May 2018 were included. All patients were admitted to the ICUs in study hospitals. Patients were divided into four groups according to whether they meet each definition or not: (both) sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3; no sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; and no sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3. Characteristics and in-hospital mortality were compared according to the groups.

Results: In total, 652 patients with suspected infection were admitted to 22 ICUs during the study, of whom 558 (85.6%) met the sepsis-2 definition and 600 (92.0%) met the sepsis-3 definition. The sepsis-2 and sepsis-3 definitions comprised different individuals, and 517 (80.8%) patients met both definitions (sepsis-2 and sepsis-3). Thirty one exclusively met the sepsis-2 (sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3) and 73 exclusively met the sepsis-3 (no sepsis-2 and sepsis-3) definition. A total of 21 patients did not meet either definitions (no sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3).

Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) positive (≥2) among patients with sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3; no sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; and no sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3 were 100%; 100%; 68.5%; and 66.7%, respectively. Quick sequential organ failure assessment (qSOFA) positive (≥2) among patients with sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3; and no sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3 was comparable (19.2%, 21.7%, and 20.0%, respectively). In-hospital mortality among patients with sepsis-2 and sepsis-3; sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3; and no sepsis-2 and no sepsis-3 were 22.0%; 21.4%; and 14.3%, respectively. Patients who met sepsis-3 shock definition had higher in-hospital mortality than those who met sepsis-2 shock definition (27.4% vs 34.3%).

Conclusion: Most patients with suspected infection admitted to ICU meet sepsis-2 and sepsis-3 definitions. They were less suitable for risk stratification in this setting. However, in-hospital mortality did not occur if patients did not meet any criteria. Better criteria might...
be developed by better selection and combining elements in both definitions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. 2. JAMA 2016, 315(8):801-810
3. 3. None

000282
Role of transesophageal echocardiography in non-cardiac medical intensive care patients with sepsis of an unknown origin without preknown heart disease
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Introduction: In septic patients - besides a rapidly beginning therapy - the effective search for the inflammatory focus is imperative to reduce morbidity and mortality. Therefore the prior diagnostic steps entail laboratory and imaging investigations (i.e. computer tomography). If these do not lead to any concrete result, transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) is recommended to rule out an infective endocarditis (IE). As the lethality of infective endocarditis can be up to 30%, TEE is an important diagnostic tool in intensive care medicine. In this study we investigated the role of TEE to detect a septic focus in patients on medical intensive care units especially without underlying cardiac disease as until now it is still unclear.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective 10 years analysis of non-cardiac medical intensive care unit patients with sepsis of unknown origin but without preknown heart disease, who underwent a TEE to detect IE as the focus of the inflammation. We collected data about laboratory findings, risk-scores, TEE-results, DUKE-criteria and mortality.

Results: From 1925 septic patients 108 (6%) underwent a TEE and were included in the study (average age 60 years, 61% male). Among these patients 15 (14%) were diagnosed an IE and six (42%) of them died. APACHE II- as well as SOFA-score were lower in patients with IE compared to patients with another septic focus (23 vs 27 and 9 vs 11), but showed statistical significance. Neither leukocytes (18.1 vs 20.6 G/l), CRP (20.8 vs 13.4 mg/dl), procalcitonin (32.9 vs 17.9 ng/ml) nor body temperature (36.9 vs 37.2 °C) showed significant differences between both groups. Positive blood cultures were found in 80% of patients with IE and in 42% of the others. Comparing the results of the modified DUKE-criteria the patient with IE met in average 1.5 major criteria and 2.1 minor criteria. Patients without IE (0.2 major and 1.4 minor criteria) met significantly less criteria (p<0.001). Those who left the intensive care unit alive received their TEE significantly earlier (p=0.001).

Conclusion: This study demonstrates the relevance of TEE in sepsis of unknown focus and without underlying cardiac disease. Due to the high incidence of IE in septic patients in combination with an increased morbidity and mortality a transesophageal echocardiography should be carried out as soon as possible when having such patients on a medical intensive care unit. Clinical findings in patients with infective endocarditis show a high heterogeneity, so that the diagnosis is hard to make - especially in patients without preknown heart disease. Neither laboratory findings nor scoring systems were unequivocal or groundbreaking.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000298
Different associations between the body temperature and mortality in elderly and nonelderly patients with severe sepsis
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Introduction: A dysregulated host response, which is a cornerstone of the pathophysiology of sepsis, induces alteration in vital signs. Elderly patients have a blunted host response, which may influence vital sign alterations and clinical outcomes of sepsis. We investigated the different associations between the vital signs and mortality in elderly and nonelderly patients with sepsis.

Methods: The current observational study was retrospectively conducted. A prospective multicenter severe sepsis cohort acquired since 2015 Japanese ICUs (FORECAST, n=1148) was used for the derivation analyses. Significant results were tested for replication using two validation cohorts of severe sepsis (JAAAMSR, prospective multicenter cohort from Japan, n=624; SPH, a single center cohort including different ancestry [Canada], n=1004). Patients were categorized into elderly and nonelderly groups (age ≥75 or <75 years). The associations of the vital signs (body temperature [BT], heart rate, mean arterial pressure, systolic blood pressure, respiratory rate) within 24 hours of severe sepsis diagnosis and 90-day in-hospital mortality (primary outcome) were studied using Cox regression analysis.

Results: Nonelderly patients (n=628) with BT<36.0 °C showed significantly increased 90-day mortality (P=0.025, adjusted hazard ratio 1.70, 95% CI 1.07–2.71) in the derivation cohort. While those with BT≥38.3 °C showed decreased trend for mortality (P=0.11, adjusted hazard ratio 0.71, 95% CI 0.47–1.08). In the validation cohorts, nonelderly patients with BT<36.0 °C showed significantly increased mortality (JAAAMSR, P=0.0024, adjusted hazard ratio 2.05, 95% CI 1.29–3.26; SPH, P=0.029, adjusted hazard ratio 1.36, 95% CI 1.03–1.80), and those with BT≥38.3 °C displayed significantly decreased mortality (JAAAMSR, P=0.0043, adjusted hazard ratio 0.51, 95% CI 0.32–0.81; SPH, P=0.018, adjusted hazard ratio 0.76, 95% CI 0.61–0.95). These differences were not observed in elderly patients in all the three cohorts. Associations between the other four vital signs and mortality were not different in elderly and nonelderly patients.

Conclusion: Among the vital signs, body temperature showed significantly different effects on mortality between nonelderly and elderly patients. Nonelderly severe sepsis patients with hypothermia and fever showed decreased and increased mortality, respectively.
However, mortality in elderly patients was not associated with body temperature.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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**000302**

Biomarkers of alveolar capillary membrane disruption in mechanically ventilated patients with sepsis - a pilot study

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**Introduction:** Pulmonary vascular endothelium is a key modulator in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) development (1). Recent investigations suggest that greater systemic endothelial activation might be associated with poor outcome of mechanically ventilated patients with sepsis (2).

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to investigate serum biomarkers of alveolar capillary damage (sRAGE, endocan, angiopoetin-2) as outcome predictors in mechanically ventilated patients with sepsis.

**Methods:** A prospective, observational pilot study was conducted on mechanically ventilated patients with sepsis admitted in the ICU of the Institute for pulmonary diseases of Vojvodina (IPDV) from January until March 2018. Diagnosis of sepsis was based on Sepsis-3 criteria (3) and ARDS was defined by using Berlin criteria (4). Blood samples for the assessment of serum biomarkers (sRAGE, endocan, angiopoetin-2) were taken within the first 24 hours from starting the mechanical ventilation. Baseline demographic data, Charlson comorbidity index, arterial blood gas analysis, tidal volume, PEEP value, complete blood count and biochemistry findings (procalcitonin, CRP, lactate, creatinine, bilirubin) were collected. Severity of illness was defined by Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II (APACHE II) and Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score.

**Results:** A total of 24 mechanically ventilated patients treated in the ICU of IPDV were included. Average age was 54.8 and 33.3% of patients were males. The Berlin criteria for ARDS met 14 patients (58.3%). Average APACHE II score at ICU admission was 22.7 ± 6.9 and APACHE II score at hospital admission was 22.7 ± 6.8. ICU mortality was 37.5%.

There were no differences observed in levels of biomarkers (sRAGE, endocan, angiopoetin-2) comparing to patients without ARDS. Biomarker changes are with ARDS have different expression of alveolar capillary damage biomarkers comparing to patients without ARDS. Biomarker changes are less useful for prediction of other hospital outcomes in our study.

**Conclusion:** Our results suggest that mechanically ventilated patients with ARDS have different expression of alveolar capillary damage biomarkers comparing to patients without ARDS. Biomarker changes are less useful for prediction of other hospital outcomes in our study.

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**000364**

A multi-site retrospective analysis of angiotensin II utilization and clinical outcomes in septic shock

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**Introduction:** Septic shock, a form of distributive shock, is the most common cause of death in patients admitted into the intensive care unit (ICU). Persistent hypotension is a hallmark sign of shock and its resulting end-organ hypoperfusion is directly related to mortality. Initial management of septic shock focuses on the maintenance of mean arterial pressure (MAP), which includes early and adequate fluid resuscitation and the initiation of vasopressors. Angiotensin II is a novel treatment modality for patients unresponsive to the current standard of care recommended by consensus guidelines. Its administration was associated with a 660% increased chance of obtaining MAP response when compared to placebo. We investigated the utility of angiotensin II for the treatment of patients experiencing septic shock in the ICU.

**Objectives:** To assess the clinical outcomes of patients that were administered angiotensin II in the ICU of two academic medical centers.

**Methods:** In this retrospective chart review, we evaluated patients who received angiotensin II in the ICU of two academic medical centers from July 1, 2018, to January 31, 2020. Eligible patients were at least 18 years of age, had vasodilatory shock, and received angiotensin II. Baseline characteristics included age, sex, body mass index, clinical markers, severity of illness scores, and prior exposure to an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor and/or to an angiotensin receptor blocker. Data for evaluation included changes in MAP, vasopressor use prior to and during angiotensin II use, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score change at hour 48, adverse events, and mortality. All the data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** A total of 28 patients received angiotensin II during the studied period. The average baseline MAP was 60 ± 13 mmHg. The mean MAP increase from baseline at hour 3 was 12 ± 18 mmHg (24 patients) and at hour 48 was 17 ± 15 mmHg (13 patients). When examining vasopressor use, the specific agent(s) used varied on the patient and site,
Introduction: Recognition of mortality risk factors and early intervention of appropriate broad-spectrum antimicrobial administration may significantly improve the outcome. Selective Digestive Decontamination (SDD) has been associated with reduced ICU mortality and acquired infection rates.

Objectives: To analyze mortality risk factors in patients with nosocomial infection (NI) in an ICU after 8 years of SDD.

Methods: Prospective study. Patients with NI were included from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2019 in a polyvalent ICU of 30 beds. SDD was applied for 8 years, from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2019. Patients requiring mechanical ventilation for more than 48 hours, an enteral solution and a paste with colistin, tobramycin and minocycline every 8 hours until discharge were applied. Also intravenous amphotericin B and caspofungin were administered during the first 4 days. Rectal and pharyngeal exudates were collected on admission and weekly. The categorical variables were summarized in frequencies and percentages and the numerical variables as means and standard deviations or in medians and interquartile ranges. The percentages were compared with the X2 test or the Fisher exact test, the means with the t-test and the medians with the Wilcoxon test for independent data. A multidimensional logistic analysis was carried out. It was considered significant if p ≤ 0.05.

Results: Of 8202 patients admitted, 238 (35.57%) out of 669 patients with NIs died. In an univariate analysis we did no find statistically significant difference in ICU stay. Multivariate regression model was carried out. It was considered significant if p ≤ 0.05. Independent mortality risk factors were: APACHE II Odd ratio (OR)1.060 (1.033; 1.087), renal replacement therapy OR: 4.306(2.966; 6.251), septic shock OR: 2.636 (1.818; 3.824), parenteral nutrition OR 1.970 (1.303; 2.979) and neoplasia OR 3.334 (1.843; 6.030). (Table 2).

Conclusion: In an ICU with SDD, factors that were independently associated with mortality were: APACHE II, renal replacement therapy, septic shock, parenteral nutrition and neoplasia. MR Pseudomonas and MR GNB also had significantly higher mortality.

Multiple organ dysfunction in COVID-19 patients

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Introduction: The most common reason for intensive care unit (ICU) admission for patients with severe coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is acute respiratory failure (ARF). However, data on organ dysfunctions (OD) other than lungs remains poorly defined in this field. The aim of this study was to analyze the rate of various OD (acute kidney injury, AKI; liver failure, LF; circulatory failure, CF; coagulopathy;
pancytopenia) in a cohort of COVID-19 patients admitted in an Intermediate Care Unit (IMCU) for ARF.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective analysis, reviewing all COVID-19 patients admitted for ARF in our IMCU from March 1st to March 31st, 2020. The inclusion criteria were age ≥ 18 years old; diagnosis of COVID-19 by a nasopharyngeal swab. AKI was defined by KDIGO criteria; LF was defined by high levels of bilirubin (>2 mg/dL), prolonged prothrombin time (PT) > 18 sec; circulatory failure was defined by mean arterial pressure (MAP) < 65 mmHg and requiring the use of vasopressors; coagulopathy was defined by prolonged PT > 18 sec, activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) > 60 sec and low platelet count (< 150,000/microL); pancytopenia was defined by neutrophil count < 1800/microL; Hb < 12 g/dL for women and <13 g/dL for men; platelet count < 150,000/microL. We collected the demographic characteristics and the rate of the OD associated to ARF. We also reported the rate of COVID-19 patients affected by 2, 3 or more than 3 simultaneous OD.

**Results:** We reviewed 134 patients and 93/134 respected the inclusion criteria. Demographic characteristics are shown in the Table 1. All patients showed ARF with a PaO2/FiO2 ratio 115 ± 78. SAPS2 score was 33 ± 9, SOFA score was 3 ± 1. The rate of endotracheal intubation (ETI) was 42/93 patients (45.2%). We found AKI in 19/93 patients (20.4%), LF in 23/93 patients (24.7%), CF in 7/93 (7.5%), coagulopathy in 22/93 patients (23.7%), pancytopenia 3/93 (3.2%). 45/93 (48.4%) patients showed ARF with a PaO2/FiO2 ratio 115 ± 78. SAPS2 score was 33 ± 9, SOFA score was 3 ± 1. We also performed a multivariate analysis to study the subtherapeutic vancomycin levels in surgical patients. We recommend further studies with larger sample sizes to further investigate the factors leading to the higher incidence of subtherapeutic vancomycin levels in surgical patients.

**Conclusion:** In our cohort of COVID-19 patients, multiple organ dysfunction was a common finding with a rate close to 50% of cases.

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**Table 1 - Demographic characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristics</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male: 70/93 (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>64 ± 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>18/93 (19.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>6/93 (6.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD/Asthma</td>
<td>8/93 (8.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>16/93 (17.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular disease</td>
<td>26/93 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>42/93 (45.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>5/93 (5.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1 - Organ dysfunction - MOD (multiple organ dysfunction)**

**Conclusion:** In our cohort of COVID-19 patients, multiple organ dysfunction was a common finding with a rate close to 50% of cases.
Introduction: Cardiac function is known to be negatively impacted by sepsis. Monitoring Cardiac Output (CO) and Stroke volume (SV) trends over the course of treatment may provide insight into cardiac function and may be used to predict patient outcome.

Objectives: The goal of this study was to explore the relationship between the change in cardiac output over time in septic shock.

Methods: FRESH is a randomized controlled study, evaluating hemodynamics in critically ill patients with sepsis or septic shock (NCT02837731). Patients randomized to PLR guided resuscitation received hemodynamic monitoring for 72 or until ICU discharge, whichever occurred first (Starling SV, Cheetah Medical). Patients that exhibited an improvement in stroke volume at 12, 24, 36 and 48 hours were compared to those who did not exhibit improvement. Overall improvement in stroke volume (first SV measurement compared to last SV measurement) was also compared between groups.

Results: 90 patients with septic shock received hemodynamic monitoring over a 72 hour monitoring period. 60% were female, and the average age was 61 years. Overall, 44% of assessments demonstrated a fluid responsive positive response after receiving initial resuscitation fluid of 2.3 L. Patients who exhibited improved SV at 24 and 36 hours exhibited a decreased fluid balance over the course of their ICU stay at both 24 hours (1.06 ± 3.40 vs 3.15 ± 4.38, p = 0.029) and 36 hours (1.18 ± 2.58 vs 3.41 ± 4.52, p = 0.032). Notably, patients who exhibited an overall improvement in SV also required less hours on vasopressors (34.50 ± 41.03 vs 64.28 ± 65.07, p = 0.05) and decreased ICU length of stay (3.93 ± 3 vs 5.59 ± 5.24 days, p = 0.08) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: We have previously shown that patients who improve SV in response to the resuscitation exhibited improved outcome. Trending cardiac output over the 72 hour monitoring period revealed additional usefulness in predicting patients with improved outcome. The results highlight the importance of trending hemodynamics in therapy.
Conclusion: In previously hypertensive and currently fluid unresponsive septic shock patients in whom MAP was increased from 65 to 85 mmHg stroke volume did not decrease despite the increased afterload due to an increase in left ventricular contractility.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Cecconi M, De Backer D, Antonelli M, Beale R, Bakker J, Hofer C, et al. Severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) is associated with multiple organ failure and systemic inflammatory response syndrome what leads to high mortality rate. Patients often require different interventional measures including surgical procedures to improve outcomes. Objectives: to describe the evolution of patients with SAP and its associated complications. To analyze the medical and surgical management of secondary abdominal compartment syndrome (ACS). Methods: retrospective study including patients admitted to ICU with a diagnosis of SAP during the period 2013-2019. Demographic data, cause, severity scales, and occurrence of associated complications are recorded: acute renal failure (ARF), infections, ACS, need for ventilatory support. Treatment with continuous renal replacement techniques (CRRT), the need for a surgical approach and nutritional support are recorded. Results are expressed as mean (95% CI).

000479 Evolution and prognosis in acute pancreatitis and abdominal compartment syndrome according to different treatments
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Correspondence: G. Ferrigno
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000479

Introduction: Severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) is associated with multiple organ failure and systemic inflammatory response syndrome what leads to high mortality rate. Patients often require different interventional measures including surgical procedures to improve outcomes. Objectives: to describe the evolution of patients with SAP and its associated complications. To analyze the medical and surgical management of secondary abdominal compartment syndrome (ACS).

0000474 Effects of remote ischemic conditioning on the sublingual microcirculation in septic shock patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000475

Introduction: Introduction: The severity of microcirculatory alterations is related to mortality in septic shock patients (1). Remote ischemic conditioning (RIC) is a promising technique that may protect organs and tissues from the effects of further ischemic episodes. Studies have shown that remote ischemic conditioning may improve endothelial function, red blood cell deformability, reduce leukocyte adhesion and etc. These mechanisms may lead to improved microcirculation. RIC preserved microcirculation and prolonged survival in septic shock animals (2). However, RIC’s impact on microcirculation in septic shock patients has not been evaluated. We hypothesize that RIC improves sublingual microcirculation in septic shock patients.

**Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate RIC effects on sublingual microcirculation in septic shock patients.

**Methods:** This single-center open-label trial was performed in a mixed ICU in a tertiary teaching hospital. We included patients with septic shock within the first 24 h after ICU admission. RIC procedure involved three cycles of 5 min brachial cuff inflation to 200 mmHg and then deflation to 0 mmHg for another 5 min. RIC was performed at inclusion and repeated 12 h and 24 h later. Sublingual microcirculatory measurements were obtained before and after each RIC procedure, using a sidestream dark-field imaging device. Data are reported as medians with 25th and 75th percentiles.

**Results:** Twenty-six septic shock patients with a median age of 65 (57-81) were enrolled in this study. The median APACHE II and SOFA scores at admission were 20 (13-23) and 10 (9-12), respectively. We found a significant increase in microvascular flow index compared before and after the first RIC procedure (p=0.003). We found no change in microcirculatory flow and density parameters during repeated RIC after 12 h and 24 h.

**Conclusion:** The first remote ischemic conditioning procedure improved microcirculatory flow, while subsequent procedures did not affect sublingual microcirculation in septic shock patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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### Table 1. Hemodynamics variables and echocardiography variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Baseline 1</th>
<th>MAP 85</th>
<th>Baseline 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAP, mmHg</td>
<td>65 [63,67]</td>
<td>84 [83,88]*</td>
<td>66 [62,66]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE, mcg/kg/min</td>
<td>0.17 [0.08,0.37]</td>
<td>0.41 [0.13,0.49]*</td>
<td>0.28 [0.06,0.37]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR, beats/min</td>
<td>86 [78,101]</td>
<td>88 [71,100]</td>
<td>93 [69,106]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVSP, mmHg</td>
<td>10 [0.6,12.5]</td>
<td>10 [0.7,13.0]</td>
<td>9.0 [5.5,10.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pmsf, mmHg</td>
<td>18.1 [15.0,20.2]</td>
<td>18.9 [18.2,22.2]*</td>
<td>15.9 [15.3,19.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pvr, mmHg</td>
<td>7.8 [6.9,6.6]</td>
<td>8.8 [7.7,11.1]*</td>
<td>8.5 [6.9,10.2]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO, L·min⁻¹</td>
<td>4.9 [3.4,6.2]</td>
<td>5.0 [3.6,7.7]*</td>
<td>5.3 [3.9,6.7]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVR, mmHg·min⁻¹·L⁻¹</td>
<td>1.60 [1.49,1.99]</td>
<td>1.80 [1.55,2.03]*</td>
<td>1.61 [1.44,1.86]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVR, mmHg·min⁻¹·L⁻¹</td>
<td>800 [791,1391]</td>
<td>1246 [858,1552]*</td>
<td>890 [615,1277]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic Elastance</td>
<td>1.52 [1.33,2.21]</td>
<td>1.92 [1.62,2.69]*</td>
<td>1.42 [1.28,1.77]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Left Ventricle **</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLS, %</td>
<td>-15.0 [-18.9,-12.1]</td>
<td>-16.5 [-17.4,-13.7]</td>
<td>-13.4 [-11.8,-11.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S’ wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>12.6 [6.7,16.2]</td>
<td>14.2 [6.9,18.0]</td>
<td>13.3 [6.5,18.0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>0.63 [0.55,1.08]</td>
<td>0.68 [0.45,1.09]</td>
<td>0.75 [0.54,1.06]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVA, cm/seg2</td>
<td>318 [172,522]</td>
<td>322 [243,556]</td>
<td>391 [139,796]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTI, cm</td>
<td>18.9 [14.5,26.7]</td>
<td>20.7 [15.6,27.7]*</td>
<td>20.1 [15.8,25.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTI-Descendent Aorta, cm</td>
<td>11.3 [8.5,13.5]</td>
<td>11.9 [8.9,14.0]</td>
<td>11.6 [8.5,13.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EF, %</td>
<td>66 [45,71]</td>
<td>67 [49,71]</td>
<td>65 [52,69]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV EndSyst-Elastance</td>
<td>1.84 [1.85,2.33]</td>
<td>2.53 [1.53,3.12]*</td>
<td>1.77 [0.85,1.94]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA coupling</td>
<td>1.19 [0.63,1.79]</td>
<td>1.01 [0.59,1.79]</td>
<td>0.96 [0.65,1.83]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Preload **</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>67 [55,96]</td>
<td>80 [67,113]*</td>
<td>68 [51,108]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DT E wave, cm/sec/2</td>
<td>223 [143,289]</td>
<td>229 [139,281]</td>
<td>223 [142,302]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A wave, cm/sec</td>
<td>70 [50,106]</td>
<td>74 [54,122]*</td>
<td>84 [59,101]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/e’ ratio</td>
<td>5.7 [4,3,8,2]</td>
<td>6.7 [4,3,9,1]*</td>
<td>5.4 [3,4,1,0,0]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Right Ventricle **</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAPSE</td>
<td>20.3 [17,23.6]</td>
<td>21.2 [20.5,27.8]*</td>
<td>21.0 [19.6,27.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>0.60 [0.38,0.69]</td>
<td>0.63 [0.49,0.86]</td>
<td>0.64 [0.49,0.77]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASP, mmHg</td>
<td>38.5 [36,2,43,7]</td>
<td>42.9 [38,5,43,63]</td>
<td>38.8 [31.0,46.0]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Data are shown as median [IQR 25,75] * p=0.05 vs. Baseline1 † p=0.05 vs MAP 85.
was 15.2 (0.3-30.1) days with 2.3 (0.6-4) mesh replacements. Abdominal infection rate 21%, respiratory infection 23.3%, multi-resistant colonization 2.3%. 74.4% received nutritional support (39.5% parenteral, 7% enteral, 27.9% mixed). ICU stay was 13.7 (7.4-20) days, hospital stay 24.9 (22.4-27.4) days and mortality 34.9%. The absence of ARF was associated with less need for surgery (39% in the ARF group vs 0% in the group without ARF) p<0.05 (Fisher’s exact test). Surgical treatment did not influence stay or mortality in our sample.

**Conclusion:** SAP is an entity with high morbimortality, multidisciplinary management may improve mortality and reduce sequel.

### 000532

**Association between symptoms of early onset and mortality or ICU admission in patients with suspected infection or sepsis**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000532

**Introduction:** The early recognition of sepsis is one of the pillars to improve its prognosis. It is necessary to explore if there are symptoms or early clinical characteristics associated with the worse outcomes such as the need for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission or in-hospital mortality. This information could lead to the optimization of timely care protocols.

**Objectives:** To identify the earliest symptoms of patients with suspected infection or sepsis that may be associated with the need for ICU admission or in-hospital mortality.

**Methods:** Prospective cohort study conducted between June/2019 and March/2020 in a university hospital of Medellin, Colombia. We included patients older than 18 years with diagnosis of any type of infection or sepsis (suspected or confirmed), requiring hospitalization by the emergency department (ED). Previously trained researchers collected symptoms and signs, by reviewing the clinical history and interviewing the patient and their relatives, using standardized equipment and formats. The primary outcome was ICU admission or mortality. We did univariate logistic regression models for each one of the independent variables. Then a multivariable adjusted logistic regression model was fitted to estimate the independent effect of each symptom on the outcome. The results are shown as OR with 95%CI.

**Results:** Among 965 eligible patients, 245 (25.4%) were included. The main causes of exclusion were use of antibiotics in the last 15 days (44%) and immunodeficiency (21%). The median age was 60 years (IQR=45-71) and 51% were male. The main comorbidities were kidney disease (23%), congestive heart failure (15.1%) and chronic respiratory disease (15.1%). The most common symptoms were general malaise (80.6%), subjective fever (76%) and chills (70.5%). The median SOFA score was 2 (IQR = 0-5) and the main foci of infection were the respiratory tract (29.4%), followed by skin and soft tissues (21.2%) and the gastrointestinal tract (19.2%). The in-hospital mortality rate was 12.7% and 119 (48.6%) patients required admission to the ICU. In the univariate analysis, the symptoms significantly associated with hospital mortality or ICU admission were chills, subjective fever, productive cough, dyspnea and altered mental status. However, after multivariable adjustment of symptoms for age, SOFA and Charlson score, only dyspnea and altered mental status remained associated, but they were not longer statistically significant (OR = 2.16, 95%CI = 0.9; 5.2 and OR = 1.51, 95%CI = 0.7; 3.2, respectively)

**Conclusion:** A few symptoms, easily identified in the ED by a simple interrogatory, may be early indicators of ominous prognosis in patients with sepsis. A prospective multicenter cohort study is warranted for confirmation and external validation of our findings.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. School of Medicine, Office of undergraduate students, Universidad de Antioquia

### 000542

**Improving the diagnosis of sepsis according to the sources of infection**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000542

**Introduction:** The initial clinical presentation of sepsis is heterogeneous and largely depends on the primary site of infection. This situation makes the early diagnosis of this condition a clinical challenge. Tools such as qSOFA help to assess the risk of complications in patients with suspected infections; however, this approach is indifferent to the site of infection itself. A more individualized identification would allow focusing on earlier targeted therapy.

**Objectives:** To identify simple variables associated with risk of in-hospital mortality or Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission, according to infection sites

**Methods:** Secondary analysis of a multicenter prospective cohort. We included patients older than 18 years hospitalized between 2014 and 2016 with suspected sepsis, who were admitted to Emergency Departments (ED) of three tertiary care university hospitals in Medellin, Colombia. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression models were performed to estimate the association of widely available and clinically relevant variables with in-hospital mortality or ICU admission according to 5 infection sites: urinary tract infection (UTI), community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), intra-abdominal infection (IAI), sepsis without evident source (primary) and others (soft tissue and bone infections, catheter-associated bacteremia, meningitis, surgical site infections, others). The independent effect of each variable on the outcome was estimated using Odds Ratio (OR) with its respective 95% confidence interval (CI).

**Results:** A total of 5,022 patients were screened, of which 2,454 entered the primary study. In this secondary analysis, we included 1,947 patients with confirmed diagnosis of infection. The most common sites of infection were UTI (n=586, 30%), CAP (n=585, 30%), IAI (n=213, 11%), primary (n=224 11.5%) and others (n=339, 17.4%) patients, respectively. After multivariable adjustment, the most significant signs varied widely according to the site of infection (Table 1): Respiratory rate (RR), Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) and lactate for ITU; Heart Rate (HR), RR and temperature < 38°C for CAP; Glasgow coma scale (GCS), lactate and age < 65 for IAI; SBP, GCS, lactate and temperature < 38°C for primary and RR, GCS and temperature < 38°C for others.
Conclusion: Our results suggest that the best approach for sepsis diagnosis in clinical practice, should consider different criteria depending on the site of infection. More research efforts in the area are required to integrate these variables into a qSOFA-type tool, with the aim of achieving a more individualized treatment according to the suspicion of the infection site.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Funded by the Colombian Agency of Science, Technology and Innovation (COCCINCASOS) (code 111556933362) and the University of Antioquia (Code 2582).

000629
Clinical utility of procalcitonin in critically ill medical patients in Croatia
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000629

Introduction: Procalcitonin (PCT) is one of the most studied biomarkers regarding antibiotic stewardship. In the critical care setting, published studies differ greatly concerning patient case-mix, the source of infection, the severity of the disease, exclusion criteria as well as cut-offs and laboratory methods for PCT measurements.

Objectives: PCT testing was implemented in the emergency lab of the Department of Laboratory Diagnostics in October 2016. As an initial demand management strategy, only the emergency department and intensive care units gained unlimited access to direct test ordering. The study aimed to evaluate the applicability of PCT testing in severely ill patients with suspected infection in a tertiary referral hospital in Croatia.

Methods: Patients with suspected infection were included in a prospective, observational study in the medical intensive care unit (ICU) at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia. Analysis of disease severity (APACHE II, SOFA score), microbiological cultures (blood culture, BC, urine culture (UC), endotracheal aspirate culture (ETAC), C-reactive protein (CRP), and PCT was performed.

Results: 129 patients were included, 83 males (63.6%) of median age 64 (39-89). Median APACHE II was 21 (7-33) and SOFA 7 (1-13). Sepsis (50, 38.8%) and pneumonia (37, 28.2%) were the most common diagnoses. Overall PCT was 1.66 ± 11.4 µg/L and CRP 102 ± 166 mg/L. Most patients (83, 64.3%) received antibiotics before admission. No difference in PCT (1.56 ± 8 vs 1.44 ± 13, p=0.6) nor in CRP (98 ± 137 vs 127 ± 171, p=0.5) was observed regardless of previous antibiotic therapy.

Conclusion: PCT testing was implemented in the emergency lab of the Department of Laboratory Diagnostics in October 2016. As an initial demand management strategy, only the emergency department and intensive care units gained unlimited access to direct test ordering. The study aimed to evaluate the applicability of PCT testing in severely ill patients with suspected infection in a tertiary referral hospital in Croatia.

000587
Inflammatory mediator differences between immunological phenotypes in a prospective clinical intensive care cohort study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000587

Introduction: Sepsis is a heterogeneous syndrome caused by a dysregulated immune response to infection. Numerous studies on immunomodulatory pathways have failed to improve outcome. Identification of distinct immunological phenotypes in septic patients may lead to more precise clinical immunomodulatory studies. Clinical distinct septic patient phenotypes have different clinical presentations, microbial findings and outcome.

Objectives: To study whether four different clinical phenotypes, based on the presence or not of preexisting inflammatory insults, differed in immunomodulatory pathways. Further, the septic patients were classified based on the presence of preexisting inflammatory insults into either primary (no prior insults), secondary (one recent insult) or tertiary sepsis (several recent insults). Independent of prior inflammatory insults, patients with immunosuppressive treatments or immunosuppressive diseases were classified as immunosuppressive sepsis.

Results: Septic patients had significantly higher plasma levels in all measured inflammatory mediators at admission to the ICU compared to non-septic patients, with the exception of procalcitonin where no significant difference could be noted (p=0.29). During the first 3 days, patients with primary sepsis had higher levels of heparin binding protein (p<0.02) than secondary, tertiary or immunosuppressive sepsis. Patients with primary and immunosuppressive sepsis had lower levels of calprotectin (p<0.01), than those with secondary or tertiary sepsis. No differences in plasma levels of endostatin, NGAL, procalcitonin, tumor necrosis factor receptor 1 or 2, were noted between the immunological phenotype groups.

Conclusion: Classification of patients into inflammatory phenotypes based on preexisting inflammatory insults prior to sepsis, is supported by early differences in plasma levels of heparin binding protein and calprotectin. Procalcitonin performed poorly as a biomarker to distinguish septic patients from non-septic patients in the ICU.
vs 1.76 ± 1.11). The change of antimicrobial treatment based on PCT value was done in 36 patients (28%).

Table 1. Values are medians with interquartile ranges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>BC+</th>
<th>BC-</th>
<th>G+</th>
<th>G-</th>
<th>PNS, nor</th>
<th>PNS, with shock</th>
<th>PNS, BC+</th>
<th>PNS, BC-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Reactive Protein (mg/L)</td>
<td>82±221</td>
<td>3±63</td>
<td>1.99±12</td>
<td>13.9±50</td>
<td>1.13±6.4</td>
<td>16±7±4</td>
<td>2.9±6.4</td>
<td>7.2±20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>167±212</td>
<td>86±116</td>
<td>133±202</td>
<td>181±222</td>
<td>80±115</td>
<td>394±204</td>
<td>106±148</td>
<td>437±519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: PCT level was not influenced by previous antibiotic exposure. Patients with infection caused by gram-negative strains had a higher level of both CRP and PCT. The incomplete application of PCT guided stewardship in our patient series could be at least partially explained by a lack of experience in the routine clinical application of the studied biomarker.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


5. The study did not receive any additional funding.

Introduction: Sepsis is a major healthcare problem which affects millions of people around the world each year. Despite significant advances in diagnostic tools and the increasing use of biomarkers, the early recognition of sepsis in critically ill patients could be challenging. Recently, it has been described that morphological changes in leucocyte populations, especially the morphology and size of monocytes, could be used as a new biomarker for the early detection of sepsis. The main purpose is to determine if the monocyte distribution width (MDW) could be used as a new biomarker of sepsis. The secondary objective is to assess if MDW could be a prognostic factor of mortality in septic patients.

Methods: Prospective, observational study carried out during 2019 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Critically ill patients with all kind of pathologies were included. It has been collected demographic variables, severity scores and ICU mortality. According to Sepsis-3 criteria, patients were divided into 3 groups on admission: non-infected (NI), sepsis (S) and septic shock (SS). MDW and traditional biomarkers were analyzed on admission. Statistical analysis includes qualitative variables, presented as proportions, and quantitative variables, presented as medians and minimum-maximum (Min-Max). Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used for the assessment of normality. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare biomarkers among groups. The association between ICU mortality and each biomarker was performed using Mann-Whitney U test. The area under the receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve (AUC) was used to assess the prediction of ICU mortality. The study was previously approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee.

Results: A total of 188 patients were included: NI 127 (0.676), S 35 (0.186), SS 26 (0.138). Age 56.7 years; males 0.59. Severity scores: APACHE II NI 15 (Min-Max: 2-58), S 16 (Min-Max: 9-41), SS 23.5 (Min-Max: 8-45; p < 0.001), SOFA NI 6 (Min-Max: 0-17), S 8 (Min-Max: 0-17), SS 10.5 (Min-Max: 3-17; p < 0.001). Biomarkers on admission: MDW NI 20.5 (Min-Max: 15.3-40.6), S 24 (Min-Max: 16.4-39.8), SS 35.5 (Min-Max: 21.5-58.9; p < 0.001); CRP NI 19.8 mg/L (Min-Max: 0.8-343.7), S 106.5 mg/L (Min-Max: 3.6-478.2), SS 249 mg/L (Min-Max: 86.7-437.6; p < 0.001); PCT NI 0.15 ng/mL (Min-Max: 0.2-46.7), S 1.2 ng/mL (Min-Max: 0.15-75), SS 24.5 ng/mL (Min-Max: 1.27-100; p < 0.001); lactate and total leukocytes were not statistically significant (pns). The ICU mortality was 0.38. Association of biomarkers and mortality: MDW alive patients (AP) 21.1 (Min-Max: 15.3-57.7), dead patients (DP) 28.3 (Min-Max: 17.3-58.9; p < 0.001); CRP AP 3.48 mg/L (Min-Max: 0.8-478.2), DP 112.6 mg/L (Min-Max: 0.96-355; p = 0.007); PCT AP 0.31 ng/mL (Min-Max: 0.02-100), DP 2.8 mg/mL (Min-Max: 0.07-100; p = 0.005); lactate AP 1.16 mmol/L (Min-Max: 0-4.9), DP 2 mmol/L (Min-Max: 0-16.6; p=0.01); total leukocytes were not statistically significant (pns). Mortality prediction according to each biomarker: AUC MDW 0.74 (Min-Max: 0.63-0.85; p < 0.001); AUC CRP 0.67 (Min-Max: 0.57-0.77; p = 0.007); AUC lactate 0.71 (Min-Max: 0.59-0.83; p = 0.001); AUC PCT 0.69 (Min-Max: 0.58-0.8; p=0.005).

Conclusion: MDW could be considered as a new biomarker for the diagnosis of sepsis. Additionally, MDW could have prognostic performance in septic patients.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)


Introduction: Septic shock and the underlying cytokine storm remain a major contributor to mortality in critically ill patients. The introduction of cytokine haemoadsorption techniques offer a novel approach to treatment of septic shock [1-3], nevertheless the efficacy of these devices in cytokine removal, as well as their effect on the course of disease remain to be further assessed.

Objectives: The study aims to evaluate the effects of Cytosorb (I) directly on the levels of Interleukin-6 (IL-6), (II) on the need for vasopressors assessed through the Vasopressor Dependency Index (VPI) [4], and (III) on intensive care unit (ICU) mortality.

Methods: We analysed 48 patients prospectively treated with a pro-inflammatory (IL-6 > 1000ng/L), therapy refractory (VPI > 3) septic shock, admitted to the medical ICU of the University Hospital of Zurich between 2014 and 2018, with a Cytosorb coupled in series to a CRRT for 3 x 24 hours after septic shock diagnosis, in an "intention to treat” approach. A historical cohort of 437 patients admitted with septic shock to the same ICU between 2011 and 2018 was further retrospectively constituted. To reduce biased estimation of the treatment...
effect of Cytosorb, six matching algorithms based on the variables age, sex, BMI, SAPS II, SOFA, IL-6, lactate, PCT and VPI at septic shock diagnosis were employed and compared to determine the most balanced population of control patients to the Cytosorb cohort. Finally, a genetic matching algorithm demonstrated its superiority regarding the achievement of a standardized mean difference of under 0.1 and a variation ratio of between 0.5 and 2.0 for all matching variables, selecting 48 control patients [5].

**Results:** After matching, all matching variables and other baseline characteristics were balanced between the matched cohort (MC) and the Cytosorb cohort (CC). Cytokine adsorption did not result in a greater relative decrease in IL-6 over 72 hours as compared to the matched control (MC: 85% [0-95] vs. CC: 54% [0-73], p = 0.09). Further, there was no evidence that Cytosorb use lead to an increased reduction in the VPI (MC: 88% [54-95] vs. CC: 51% [6-83], p = 0.56). Finally, 30-day ICU mortality was more pronounced in the CC (Hazard Ratio 1.79, CI [1.01 – 3.18], p = 0.04).

**Conclusion:** Our ambispective study suggested that broad adsorption of cytokines as provided by the Cytosorb may have, as compared to the matched control of septic shock patients, an uncertain effect on IL-6 kinetics and the need for vasopressors over an observation period of 72 hours, this with a potential deleterious effect on 30-day ICU survival. A large randomized controlled trial is urgently needed to prove the efficacy of the Cytosorb treatment in patients with septic shock. Awaiting these results its use in septic shock should be carefully considered.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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000742

**A case of Lemierre Syndrome presenting with Type 1 respiratory failure and septic shock following a recent diagnosis with Covid 19**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000742**

**Introduction:** Lemierre Syndrome is a rare and potentially life threatening condition characterized by septic thrombophlebitis of the internal jugular vein (IJV). First identified in 1900, it was described by André Lemierre in 1936 and had a rapidly fatal course in the pre-antibiotic era. It has been previously linked with Epstein-Barr Virus infection. However, given the recent pandemic we question the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the pathogenesis of the disease and psychological factors at play leading to this critical illness?

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**Conclusion:** Lemierre syndrome is a rare condition precipitated by a bacterial pharyngitis typically caused by anaerobic organisms including *Fusobacterium necrophorum*. It has been previously linked with Epstein-Barr Virus infection. However, given the recent pandemic we question the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the pathogenesis of the disease and psychological factors at play leading to this critical illness?

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000742

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**Conclusion:** Lemierre syndrome is a rare condition precipitated by a bacterial pharyngitis typically caused by anaerobic organisms including *Fusobacterium necrophorum*. It has been previously linked with Epstein-Barr Virus infection. However, given the recent pandemic we question the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on the pathogenesis of the disease and psychological factors at play leading to this critical illness?
Introduction: Coagulopathy is one of the major causes of organ dysfunction and death in sepsis; however, there are no standard criteria for diagnosis of it. Recently, sepsis-induced coagulopathy (SIC) was developed as a new criterion for coagulation disorder of sepsis patients. It includes the sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA), similarly the new definition of sepsis revised in 2016 (sepsis-3 definition). Previous studies suggested that SIC score might be a prognostic value for patients with sepsis and coagulopathy, however, there are few studies about SIC of septic shock patients who are defined as a subset of critically ill sepsis patients.

Objectives: To evaluate the accuracy of SIC score as a prognostic value for both sepsis patients and septic shock patients.

Methods: Coagulation (JSEPTIC-DIC) study, which investigated patients with sepsis in 42 intensive care units (ICUs) from 2011 to 2013, were analyzed. This contained information about patients’ backgrounds, examination results, treatments, and mortality. Primary outcome measure was in-hospital mortality. Firstly, we grouped subjects into two (patients with vasopressor and patients without vasopressor). This database didn’t contain information about vital signs, therefore, we analyzed the patients needed vasopressor instead of septic shock patients. Secondly, we assessed patient characteristics and mortality of vasopressor groups between SIC and non-SIC, using χ² test or Fisher’s test. Then, we compared the same things between SIC and non-SIC in no vasopressor group. Furthermore, we analyzed in-hospital mortality of vasopressor group using a logistic regression analysis adjusted for age, gender, SIC and treatment for coagulation abnormality.

Results: This study included 1894 patient: 1453 in vasopressor group, and 441 in no vasopressor groups. In vasopressor group, 965 (66.4%) were diagnosed with SIC. In-hospital mortality was significantly higher among SIC patients than non-SIC patients (35.8% vs 27.9%, p < 0.01). Besides, ventilator free days and ICU free days were significantly shorter in SIC than non-SIC (mean days = 14.7 ± 11.4 vs 15.5 ± 11.0 p < 0.01, 12.0 ± 10.2 vs 13.2 ± 10.1 p < 0.01, respectively). On the other hand, 186 (42.2%) were diagnosed as SIC in no vasopressor group. There were no statistically significant differences about in-hospital mortality, ventilator free days, and ICU free days (15.6% vs 12.2% p = 0.33, 21.9 ± 9.8 vs 22.0 ± 9.3 p = 0.22, 16.9 ± 9.7 vs 17.8 ± 8.6 p = 0.29, respectively). Moreover, the diagnosis of SIC in vasopressor group had significant association with worse outcome via a logistic regression analysis adjusted for factors independently associated with mortality (odds ratio: 1.52, 95% confidence interval: 1.23-1.86).

Conclusion: SIC might be a good diagnostic value of fatal coagulation abnormality among sepsis patients who needed vasopressor.

Introduction: While catecholamine reactivity and response are well-documented in septic shock, those related to the apelin and related renin-angiotensin and kallikrein–kinin systems are mostly unknown. From both experimental and human standpoints, the apelin system (i.e., apelinergic: apelins -APLNs- and Elabera -Elas-) offers an alternative pathway for hemodynamic support with evidence of efficiency and protection.

Objectives: Determine the endogenous blood contents of apelinergics; the related breakdown enzymatic profile; and the link with outcomes for septic patients.

Methods: An observational cohort study in 52 subjects: 33 patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) for sepsis/septic shock (S) and 19 healthy volunteers (H) with early blood sampling and data recording up to the outcome.

Results: The endogenous apelinergic system is reactive to S (1.5-to-3-fold increase of APLNs and Ela blood contents, respectively, p < 0.01). Concomitantly, lower angiotensin converting enzyme-ACE2 but higher angiotensin converting enzyme -ACE1-, Neprilysin -NEP-, Kallikrein -KLK1-, and ACE1 enzymatic activities are found in S compared to H (p < 0.01-to-0.0001). Such a huge elevation of systemic ACE1:2 ratio (16.5 [2.3-60.8] in S vs. 1.2 [0.9-1.3] in H, p=0.0004) and of related enzymatic breakdown activities can jeopardize endogenous apelinergics with potential impacts on the outcome. Indeed: 1) S non-survivors exhibit much higher ACE1:2 ratio than survivors (61.2 [6.3-77.9] vs. 8.8 [0.7-27] p=0.0352), 2) exogenously added APLN-13 and Ela to plasma in vitro display lower stability in S, suggesting an enhanced breakdown environment (half-life (min): APLN-13: H: 194 ± 15, S: 143 ± 20 p = 0.045; Ela: H: 258 ± 45, sepsis: 69 ± 12 p = 0.003). Decreased APLN-13 half-life is significantly associated with higher NEP and KLK1 enzymatic activities (p=0.0116 and 0.0003, respectively). Also, increased ACE1/2 ratio and NEP activities are significantly linked with higher circulating Ang1-7 levels in S (p < 0.0001). PCA analysis showed a strong association between the following variables: arterial lactates, creatinine and cortisol circulating levels, APACHE II and SOFA scores, which altogether defined a PC1 axis. A second relationship gathering circulating APLNs, Ela and Ang1-7 levels as well as ACE1, KLK1, and NEP activities, defined a PC2 axis. In this illustration, sepsis non-survivors were widely distributed in the positive area of the PC1 and PC2 axes, suggesting that worse sepsis outcomes could have been influenced by the profile of the apelinergic release-degradation system in the critically ill patients.

Conclusion: Sepsis-induced renin-angiotensin and kallikrein–kinin system disturbances potentially impair the apelin system-driven hemodynamic support ability and affect the outcome in human patients with septic shock.
Methods: Prospective observational case control study. 30 critically ill patients with COVID-19 were compared to 33 patients with septic shock. Measurements of sublingual microcirculatory flow using Incident Dark Field (IDF) video-microscopy and serial measurements of IL-6 and Syndecan-1 levels were performed.

Results: COVID-19 patients had significantly less vasoactive drug requirement and lower plasma lactate than those with septic shock. Microcirculatory flow was significantly worse in septic patients than those with COVID-19 (MFI 2.6 ± 0.9 vs. PPV 88 ± 79% p < 0.001). IL-6 was higher in patients with septic shock than COVID-19 (1653 v 253 pg/ml, p 0.03). IL-6 levels in COVID 19 patients were not elevated compared to healthy controls except on the day of ICU admission. Syndecan-1 levels were not different between the 2 pathological groups.

Conclusion: Compared to patients with bacterial sepsis an overt shock state with tissue hypoperfusion does not appear typical of COVID-19 infection. There was no evidence of significant sublingual microcirculatory impairment, widespread endothelial injury or marked inflammatory cytokine release in this group of critically ill COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 may have a different pathogenesis to bacterial induced septic shock

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000042
Impact of hypothermia on the course of sepsis: a single-center observational study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000042

Introduction: Body temperature abnormalities including hypothermia occur frequently in sepsis patients and can influence the inflammatory response to infection [1]. However, the relationship between hypothermia and clinical parameters of sepsis diagnosed with modern definitions is still unsettled.

Objectives: To estimate the impact of hypothermia upon admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) on the course and outcomes of sepsis.

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of the ICU charts of all patients admitted to the 44-bed adult ICU of the City hospital #1 of Arkhangelsk in 2018. We included for analysis all patients who was diagnosed with sepsis upon admission to ICU according to Sepsis-3 definitions [2] and recorded diagnosis, body temperature, demographic, clinical and laboratory data, duration of ICU stay and mortality. We used the Student’s t-test, Mann-Whitney’s test or chi-square test to compare the data according to their type and distribution. The correlation analysis was performed using Spearman’s rho coefficient. The results are presented as n (%), M±SD or median (25–75 percentiles). p values < 0.05 were regarded as statistically significant.

Results: Totally, 3103 ICU charts were examined. Upon admission to ICU, sepsis was observed in 121 patients (3.9% from all admissions, 51.2% males and 48.8% females). The mean age was 66.5 ± 14.7 years, the duration of ICU stay was 4 (1.0–7.2) days. The most common origins of sepsis were pulmonary and abdominal. The organ dysfunctions included septic shock (57.9% of cases), kidney injury (57.9%), delirium (53.7%), acute respiratory distress syndrome (50.4%), disseminated intravascular coagulation (28.9%), metabolic disorders (26.4%), and hepatic failure (23.1%). The mean SOFA score during the first 24 hrs of ICU stay was 9 points; the hospital mortality was 51%. The mean body temperature on ICU admission was 36.2 (35.9–36.7)°C. Hypothermia <36°C was diagnosed in 24% of cases; 67% of patients had body temperature within 36–38°C, and 9% were febrile (> 38°C). Among hypothermic patients with sepsis, 59% were postoperative. The patients with sepsis and hypothermia had more severe lactic acidosis as compared to normal or febrile body temperature: arterial pH 7.22 (7.14–7.33) vs. 7.30 (7.20–7.41) and 7.38 (7.34–7.49) (p < 0.002), lactate 5.0 (2.5–9.5) vs. 2.6 (1.5–4.9) and 4.1 (2.1–5.3) mmol/L, respectively (p = 0.04). Body temperature on ICU admission correlated with mean arterial pressure (rho = -0.24, p = 0.015) and platelet count (rho = -0.34, p = 0.001). Hypothermia in septic patients on ICU admission was not related with increased mortality or duration of ICU stay.

Conclusion: In sepsis, hypothermia <36°C on admission to ICU occurs in 24% of patients and is accompanied by worsening lactic acidosis. The relationship between hypothermia and clinical outcome of sepsis requires further analysis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000977
Variability of piperacillin-tazobactam pharmacokinetics in ICU patients: interim analysis of the OPTTAZ study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000977

Introduction: In septic patients, the piperacillin-tazobactam (Pip-Taz) association is one of the most used antibiotics. Pharmacokinetics of Pip-Taz depend mainly on distribution volume, renal clearance, patient’s weight and serum albumin level. These parameters are highly variable in sepsis. Predictive algorithms based on clinical and biological parameters may help optimise dosing and improve outcome.

Objectives: To build a Bayesian model predicting optimal dosing regimen of Pip-Taz in septic patient. We designed the OPTTAZ study with a 60-patient construction cohort and a 30-patient validation cohort. We present here the pharmacokinetics in the first patients recruited.

Methods: Patients were included prospectively in 4 ICUs in France. Pip 4g and Taz 0.5g were infused every 6 hours (group 1) or 8 hours (group 2) according to clinician choice. Infusion time was of 3 hours. For patient receiving Pip-Taz every 6 hours, plasma level of Pip and Taz was assessed before infusion (H0) and 1.5, 3, 4, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours after the beginning of the first infusion. For patient receiving Pip-Taz every 8 hours, plasma level of Pip and Taz was assessed at H0, H1.5, H4, H6, H8, H16, H24 and H48. Serum level of Pip-Taz was assessed by mass spectrometry. Values expressed as med [Q1–Q3]. We assessed the proportion of residual points over 4 times the EUCAST non-species-related breakpoint for Pip-Taz (4mg/L).
Objectives: To compare the value as predictive biomarkers of different analytical parameters routinely performed in these patients.

Methods: Multicenter, prospective, observational study, carried out in the emergency department from 7 Spanish hospitals. Epidemiological and analytical data including demographics, therapy, inflammatory and immunity parameters were collected. Patients with the diagnosis of COVID-19 infection were included from two groups: patients admitted to the ICU and another group admitted to the hospital with less severity. The levels are expressed in median (IRQ).

Results: 203 patients admitted to the hospital emergency department with clinical symptoms and positive PCR for Covid-19 were recruited: 59 were admitted to the ICU during its evolution, 121 patients were admitted to the hospital for treatment and 22 were discharged and treated at home. The mortality of the patients admitted to the ICU was 42.37% and in the hospital 17%.

All Biomarkers were significantly higher (p < 0.05) in the most severe group. Ferritin levels were significantly elevated in patients admitted to the ICU 1319 ng / ml compared to those admitted to the hospital 468 ng/ml and 85 ng / ml in those discharged; the CRP levels were 14.12 mgs / L vs 8.65 vs 0.84 mgs / L, respectively; PCT levels 0.245 vs. 0.07 vs. 0.03 ng/ml respectively; DD 1590 vs. 806.5 vs. 632 ng / ml; LDH 437 vs. 280.5 vs 195 U / L; IL6 116 vs 14; Lactate 1.52 vs. 0.87, mOs/m respectively. The lymphocyte count showed a significant decrease in the severity group 765 vs 1070 vs 1540 cel / μl respectively.

Regarding the relationship with gender, men predominate with 66.6% of those admitted to the ICU, with a lower percentage of those admitted to the hospital (42.97%). Moreover, ferritin levels in men admitted to the hospital were significantly higher than in women at admission (625.5 vs 354 ng / ml / p = 0.0033) and in the highest during evolution (777 vs 393 ng / ml / p = 0.0007).

The ROC-AUC to predict ICU admission and the need for MV were: Ferritin 0.821; PCT 0.767; DD 0.728; LDH 0.720; Lymphocyte count 0.663. To predict mortality, the ROC-AUC were: Ferritin at admission 0.703; higher value of Ferritin 0.776; PCT 0.786; LDH 0.753; DD 0.680; PCR 0.613; Lymphocyte count 0.649. In the multivariate analysis, Ferritin and LDH levels at admission were predictors of mortality in patients with severe Covid-19 pneumonia admitted to the ICU.

Conclusion: Ferritin levels are the best marker of severity and mortality in patients infected with Covid-19 virus, with a component linked to male sex.

001081
Iron admission values predict respiratory failure in patients with SARS-Cov-2

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001081

Introduction: Although iron (Fe) is essential for biological processes, excessive iron levels can cause tissue damage and increased infection susceptibility. Also the immune response to pathogens could modify the iron concentration.

Objectives: To relate parameters of Fe metabolism with respiratory failure, oxygen requirements, and the need for invasive mechanical ventilation in patients with Covid-19.

Methods: Multicenter, prospective, observational study, carried out in 7 Spanish hospitals. Epidemiological and analytical data including

001078
Initial Ferritin levels predict poor evolution of patients infected with Covid-19

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001078

Introduction: Biomarkers are essential to adequate triage and risk stratification of patients at hospital admission in order to provide an appropriate treatment.

001081
Iron admission values predict respiratory failure in patients with SARS-Cov-2

F. Valenzuela-Sánchez1; B. Valenzuela-Mendez2; L. Fernandez Ruiz3; JF. Rodriguez-Gutierrez4; MA. Gonzalez-Garcia5; P. Martinez-Gutierrez6; S. Moreno Cano5; J. Rello6; A. Estella7

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Introduction: Although iron (Fe) is essential for biological processes, excessive iron levels can cause tissue damage and increased infection susceptibility. Also the immune response to pathogens could modify the iron concentration.

Objectives: To relate parameters of Fe metabolism with respiratory failure, oxygen requirements, and the need for invasive mechanical ventilation in patients with Covid-19.

Methods: Multicenter, prospective, observational study, carried out in 7 Spanish hospitals. Epidemiological and analytical data including
demographics, therapy, inflammatory and immunity parameters were collected, including iron metabolism, and compared from two groups: patients admitted to the ICU and another group admitted to the hospital with less severity. The levels are expressed in median (IR).

**Results:** 180 patients with clinical symptoms attended in the Emergency Department, including respiratory failure; and a positive PCR for Covid-19 were recruited: 59 were admitted to the ICU during their evolution and 121 patients were admitted to the hospital. The global mortality rate was 17%. Mortality rate for patients admitted to the ICU (59) was 42.3% and 55% for patients that required mechanical ventilation (47). Ferritin levels were significantly elevated (p < 0.05) in patients admitted to the ICU 1319 ng / ml compared to those admitted to the plant 468 ng / ml. Iron levels were 24 µg / dl (16-44.75) in ICU patients µg / dl vs. 56 (28.5-82.5) µg / dl in the control group. The ROC curve for predicting ICU admission showed an AUC of 0.820 for Ferritin and 0.711 for Fe levels. The ROC curve for mechanical ventilation showed an AUC of 0.777 for Ferritin and 0.775 for Fe levels.

In the multiple linear regression, only Fe levels were directly and significantly associated with the worst PaO2 / FiO2 ratio (PAFI) with a r coefficient = 0.6688 (p < 0.0001).

**Conclusion:** a) Ferritin and iron levels are related to the severity of respiratory failure and the need for mechanical ventilation in Covid-19 patients.
b) Iron levels are associated with oxygenation disorders in these patients.

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**001084 Immunophenotypes predict need of invasive mechanical ventilation and death among Covid-19 adults: A prospective, multicenter, study**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental, 2020, 8(2): 001084**

**Introduction:** Multorgan dysfunction and death in sepsis is modulated by a balance between exaggerated hyperinflammation state and persistent immune dysfunction leading to anergy.

**Objectives:** To compare the state of immune dysfunction present in a cohort of adults with COVID-19 compared with a control group of influenza and predict immunophenotypes identifying need for invasive mechanical ventilation (MV) and death.

**Methods:** Multicenter, prospective, observational cohort study, carried out in the emergency department from 7 Spanish hospitals. A cohort of adults with confirmed PCR diagnosis of COVID-19 was compared with a historical control group with confirmed H1N1pdmon in 2009.Influenza virus admitted to the ICU. Epidemiological and analytical data including demographics, therapy, inflammatory and immunity parameters were collected. Patients were stratified depending on a) no need of oxygen therapy b) Oxygen requirements and c) Invasive mechanical ventilation. Findings were adjusted by age (65 and 80 yr). Mortality and progression to invasive MV were the main end-points.

**Results:** 203 COVID19 symptomatic adults were assessed in the emergency department by positive PCR for Covid-19. The global mortality rate was 17%. Mortality rate for patients admitted to the ICU (59) was 42.3% and 55% for patients that required mechanical ventilation (47), whereas in the 75 ICU admission adults with influenza A H1N1 pdm2009 was 29.33%.

In comparison to immunity parameters the results were the following: the number of lymphocytes per µl were significantly lower in patients admitted to the ICU (730 (530-1150)) vs. 1070 (790- 1450) at the hospital and 1470 (1030-1965) in discharged patients. This difference is at expense of the TCD4+ (584.17 vs. 921.42); BCD19+ (66.12 vs. 264.5) and NKCD56+ (69.46 vs.138.18) the number of monocytes was similar but HLA-DR expression in monocytes was significantly lower in those admitted to ICU 1232 (854.25-1739.5) vs. 4618.5 (4537-4700) MFI.

Ferritin levels were significantly elevated in patients admitted to the ICU 1319 ng/ml compared to those admitted to the hospital 468 ng/ml and 85 ng/ml in those discharged. CRP levels 14.16 mg/dl (5.23-24.37) in ICU admitted vs. 8.58 mg/dl (3.07-15.9) in hospital admitted (p=0.01) vs. 0.86 mg (0.26-4) (p < 0.0001) in those discharged.

**Conclusion:** a) Both components influence the severity and poor evolution of the patients.

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**001118 Analinera for treatment of critically ill patients with COVID-19: a retrospective study**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental, 2020, 8(2): 001118**

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Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be associated with systemic hyperinflammation, with consequent increase in pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g. interleukin (IL)-1, IL-6, tumor necrosis factors) which leads to multiple organ dysfunction and increased mortality. Anakinra, an interleukin-1 receptor antagonist, is a potential therapy in patients with severe COVID-19 and may provide clinical benefits.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the effects of anakinra on inflammatory markers and clinical outcomes in critically ill patients with COVID-19.

Methods: This was a retrospective observational study at a university-affiliated tertiary hospital during March 18th and May 9th, 2020. We included adult patients (≥ 18 years) with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to intensive care units (ICU) and received at least one dose of anakinra. We compared them to a group of patients matched for age (± 2 years), date of ICU admission (± 2 days), type of ventilatory support. The primary outcome was the change in C-reactive protein (CRP) 72 hours post-treatment. The secondary outcomes were changes in white blood cells (WBC), D-dimer, ferritin over 72 hours, and ICU mortality. (NCT04408326)

Results: 21 patients (male 90.5%) received anakinra. Time from ICU admission to the first dose of anakinra was 8 days (interquartile range [IQR] 4-16). The duration of anakinra administration was 11 days (IQR 8-12), and the median total received dose was 2600 mg (2100-3400 mg). Compared with the control group, patients who were treated with anakinra had significantly higher pre-treatment CRP (32.7 [IQR 21.1,37.3] vs. 16.9 [IQR 7.7,30.1] mg/dL; p = 0.03) and D-dimer (9975 [IQR 6390,72830] vs. 1580 [IQR 1000,7080] ng/mL; p = 0.001). Over 72 hours, there were significant differences in post-pre CRP (-13.3 [IQR -864,5769] vs. -2005 [IQR -3948,-62]; p = 0.006), WBC (1266 [IQR -1171,3703] vs. 2717 [IQR 280,5154] mg/dL; p = 0.03). No difference in mortality was noted between the 2 groups. (NCT04408326)

Conclusion: Administration of anakinra in critically ill patients with COVID-19 was associated with significant decrease in inflammatory markers. Further clinical trials are required to confirm the effects of anakinra on clinical outcomes.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics between patients who received anakinra and control (n=42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Anakinra group (n=21)</th>
<th>Control (n=21)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>49.2 ± 11.4</td>
<td>49.6 ± 11.1</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex (%)</td>
<td>19 (90.5)</td>
<td>18 (85.7)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score</td>
<td>8.5 ± 2.9</td>
<td>6.8 ± 3.2</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation (%)</td>
<td>20 (95.2)</td>
<td>20 (95.2)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasopressor (%)</td>
<td>10 (47.6)</td>
<td>8 (38.1)</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venous ECMO (%)</td>
<td>10 (47.6)</td>
<td>6 (28.6)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Changes in C-reactive protein (CRP), D-dimer, and ferritin over 72 hrs in patients who received and control (n=42)

Conclusion: Administration of anakinra in critically ill patients with COVID-19 was associated with significant decrease in inflammatory markers. Further clinical trials are required to confirm the effects of anakinra on clinical outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: During sepsis, red blood cells (RBCs) rheology are altered (more spherical shape, decreased deformability and increased aggregation). Persistence of these alterations were associated with poor outcome [1,2]. Moreover, RBCs are physiologically protected by membrane surface proteins (CD35, CD55 and CD59) against the complement system activation [3]. In malaria, Waitumbi et al. reported an important pathophysiological feature of sepsis and may correlate with disease severity [1,2]. Infrared thermal imaging is a novel approach for monitoring the microcirculation via cutaneous temperature gradients [3]. Machine Learning shows great promise as a tool for medical image analysis, approaching the accuracy of clinicians in a growing range of tasks [4]. The combination of infrared thermal imaging and machine learning classification may be a promising approach for the automating the diagnosis of sepsis severity.

Objectives: This study is aimed at the preliminary development of a machine learning technique for identification of sepsis severity utilising infrared thermal images as a means of interrogating the microcirculation.

Methods: Participants were recruited in to two groups based on the 2009 sepsis definitions; early sepsis patients without organ dysfunction (n=33), and severe sepsis patients with evidence of organ dysfunction (n=34). Standardised infrared images were acquired of the anterior knee for each participant. A sliding window approach was used to extract image patches from the images. The patches were grouped by category and clustered with K-Means clustering. The Elbow method was applied to find the optimal number of clusters for each category. The patches were then projected onto the cluster centroids. With a large number of patches for each image, the image-wise features were reconstructed as mean values of patch-wise features. A number of classifiers were trained for the binary classification task in the space of the extracted features. The model performance was evaluated by 5-fold cross-validation, where the samples were the samples were separated 5 folds, and for each fold (testing set) four other folds were used as training set. We accumulate the validation predictions from each fold and compare them to their actual grouping for evaluation.

Results: The highest performing classifier found is a support vector machine with gridsearch optimized hyper-parameters. This classifier produced an accuracy of 83.58%, or error of 16.42%, for the binary classification of early and severe sepsis in the cross-validation protocol.

Conclusion: The preliminary results show that the presented technique, in this dimensional yet low-sample setting, may be a feasible approach to the binary discrimination of severity for infrared thermal imaging, monitoring of microcirculation in sepsis patients. Further research is required to test and develop this preliminary technique, while more data is required to assure that the model does not overfit.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
and (Fig. 1A). NGS identified the pathways, GO regulation of cell adhesion in response to various inflammatory stimuli (cytokines).

Results:

1. Statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

2. For specific target siRNAs and blocking antisense miRNA (Antimir). For statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

3. We analyzed luciferase reporter assays. We tested endothelial immunoblot and RT-PCR. To verify a direct miR-125a-3'-UTR interaction, we analyzed luciferase reporter assays. We tested endothelial barrier function with permeability assays and with electric cell sub-monolayer impedance sensing (ECIS) in HUVECs transfected with miR-125a, specific target siRNAs and blocking antisense miRNA (Antimir). For statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

Methods: miR-125a was transfected into primary human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs). After stimulation with TNF transcriptome was analyzed using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) followed by bioinformatic pathway analysis. NGS-results were validated via immunoblot and RT-PCR. To verify a direct miR-125a-3'-UTR interaction, we analyzed luciferase reporter assays. We tested endothelial barrier function with permeability assays and with electric cell substrate impedance sensing (ECIS) in HUVECs transfected with miR-125a, specific target siRNAs and blocking antisense miRNA (Antimir). For statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

Results: In response to various inflammatory stimuli (cytokines, hypoxia, septic serum) HUVECs significantly upregulated miR-125a (Fig. 1A). NGS identified the pathways, GO regulation of cell adhesion and KEGG adherens junctions, as significantly regulated by miR-125a. We focused on five potential targets with an in-silico predicted miR-125a binding site: The adhesion molecules VE-Cadherin (CDH5) and Claudin-5 (CLDN5) as well as the protein phosphatases PTPN1, PPP1CA and the transcription factor ETS-1. Validation of the NGS confirmed a significant downregulation of RNA and protein expression (Fig. 1B-D). Via reporter construct analysis, we newly identified CDHS and PTPN1 as direct targets of miR-125a. Whereas expression of CLDN5 was dependent on CDHS expression (3) and PTP1CA and ETS-1 are published targets of miR-125a (4, 5). MiR-125a transfected HUVECs show a significantly increased permeability in permeability assays and decreased barrier function in ECIS. Specific knock-down of each of the five targets in the miR-125a functional network created a comparable phenotype. In contrast, hyperpermeable phenotype in the acute inflammation could be partially rescued by specific inhibition of miR-125a (Fig. 1E, F).

Conclusion: MiR-125a induced by inflammatory stimulation directly targets the five target molecules CDHS, CLDS, PTPN1, PTP1CA and ETS-1 leading to increased permeability of the endothelial monolayer. In acute inflammatory diseases like sepsis this newly identified miR-125a-specific functional network could be a novel mechanism in the pathologic loss of intravascular fluids and thus blockade of miR-125a may be of therapeutic interest.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. This work was supported by the Clinician Scientist F improbable barrier disruption, it is known that microRNAs (miRs) play an essential role in regulating these adhesion molecules [1]. Recently, miR-125a was found to be upregulated in the blood of patients with sepsis [2]. Therefore, we wanted to investigate whether there is a miR-125a-specific functional network controlling endothelial barrier in acute inflammatory conditions.

Methods: MiR-125a was transfected into primary human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs), After stimulation with TNF transcriptome was analyzed using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) followed by bioinformatic pathway analysis. NGS-results were validated via immunoblot and RT-PCR. To verify a direct miR-125a-3'-UTR interaction, we analyzed luciferase reporter assays. We tested endothelial barrier function with permeability assays and with electric cell substrate impedance sensing (ECIS) in HUVECs transfected with miR-125a, specific target siRNAs and blocking antisense miRNA (Antimir). For statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

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Introduction: Acute inflammatory processes like sepsis are often accompanied by a dysfunctional endothelial barrier causing hyperpermeability and organ failure. While impaired expression of cell adhesion molecules is a typical feature of barrier disruption, it is known that microRNAs (miRs) play an essential role in regulating these adhesion molecules [1]. Recently, miR-125a was found to be upregulated in the blood of patients with sepsis [2]. Therefore, we wanted to investigate whether there is a miR-125a-specific functional network controlling endothelial barrier in acute inflammatory conditions.

Methods: MiR-125a was transfected into primary human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs). After stimulation with TNF transcriptome was analyzed using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) followed by bioinformatic pathway analysis. NGS-results were validated via immunoblot and RT-PCR. To verify a direct miR-125a-3'-UTR interaction, we analyzed luciferase reporter assays. We tested endothelial barrier function with permeability assays and with electric cell substrate impedance sensing (ECIS) in HUVECs transfected with miR-125a, specific target siRNAs and blocking antisense miRNA (Antimir). For statistical evaluation we used student’s t-test.

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Conclusion: MiR-125a induced by inflammatory stimulation directly targets the five target molecules CDHS, CLDS, PTPN1, PTP1CA and ETS-1 leading to increased permeability of the endothelial monolayer. In acute inflammatory diseases like sepsis this newly identified miR-125a-specific functional network could be a novel mechanism in the pathologic loss of intravascular fluids and thus blockade of miR-125a may be of therapeutic interest.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. This work was supported by the Clinician Scientist Program in Vascular Medicine (PRIME) funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) - project number MA 2186/14-1


Methotrexate carried in lipid core nanoparticles reduces the inflammatory process in septic rats with acute lung injury by increasing the bioavailability of intracellular adenosine

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2): 000618

Introduction: Acute lung injury (ALI) is the leading cause of mortality in critically ill patients. Exacerbated inflammatory response is a key mechanism of sepsis-induced ALI, so that attenuating inflammation is crucial. Previously, we showed that methotrexate (MTX) carried in lipid core nanoparticles (LDE) had powerful anti-inflammatory and anti-proliferative effects on rheumatoid arthritis2 and atherosclerotic lesions3 and improved left cardiac dysfunction in myocardial infarction4. When MTX is associated to LDE, the cellular uptake of the drug is increased several-fold, which conceivably endows MTX with increased therapeutic action and diminished toxicity.

Objectives: To investigate whether treatment with LDE-MTX can attenuate the development of inflammatory process in septic rats with ALI.

Methods: Sepsis was induced in Wistar rats by two I.P lipopolysaccharide (LPS, 10mg/kg) injections administered at 24h interval. Rats were allocated to Control group (CT, without sepsis) and 2 groups with sepsis: LDE, treated with LDE only; and LDE-MTX, with LDE-MTX at a dose of 1mg/kg I.P. 72h after sepsis induction, the animals were euthanized for protein expression analysis by Western blot of inflammatory,
Regulatory T cell subsets in nosocomial infection

Introduction: Regulatory T cells (Tregs) are a subset of CD4+ T cells which have an immunosuppressive function and essential for maintaining peripheral tolerance. In critically ill patients, the risk of adverse outcomes (including nosocomial infections), increase with increasing proportion of total Tregs. We hypothesised that this increase in risk is secondary to increases in proportions of effector Tregs and effector Tregs will be higher in sepsis compared to non-sepsis critical illness. Our aims were to compare the proportion of total Tregs and Treg subsets in critically ill patients with sepsis and without sepsis (non-sepsis) over the first 3-days following critical care admission.

Methods: INFECT was an observational study of critically ill adults admitted to ICU (n=148), involving measurement of percentage Tregs to predict the risk of nosocomial infection. Data from 140 critically ill adult patients were included in this post-hoc analysis. Patients were categorised into those admitted with sepsis (57/140) and those who developed nosocomial infection during their ICU stay (n=53).

We measured total Treg proportions by CD25+ CD127- expression on CD4+ T cells. Treg subsets studied included naïve (CD4+, CD25+, CD127-, CD45RA-, CD15s+), effector (CD4+, CD25+, CD127-, CD45RA-, CD15s+), CD161+ cytokine-secreting Tregs (CD45RA-, CD15s-, CD161+) and CD161- non-regulatory cells (CD45RA+, CD15s+, CD161-).

Results: We found no significant difference in proportions of total Tregs (Fig. 1A), naïve Tregs (Fig.1B), CD161+ Tregs (Fig. 1D) and CD161- cells (Fig. 1E) in septic and non-septic patients at admission (T1) (p > 0.05). However, we found significantly less effector Tregs in septic patients versus non-septic patients at T1 (Fig. 1C, p < 0.05, Mann-Whitney). We further categorised septic/non-septic patients according to the development of nosocomial infection. We found no significant changes in proportions of total Tregs and Treg subsets in infected and non-infected patients at T1 and T3 (p > 0.05, Two-way ANOVA).

Conclusion: We found lower proportions of effector Tregs in patients admitted to ICU with sepsis compared to other admissions. Our data does not suggest that total Treg and Treg subsets proportions can be used to predict nosocomial infection in critically ill adults admitted to ICU.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. A. Conway-Morris


000670

The role of Regulatory T cell subsets in nosocomial infection of critically ill patients: a post-hoc analysis of the INFECT study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000670

Introduction: Sepsis is a dysregulated host response to infection, related to devastating outcomes. Recently, interest has been shifted towards apoptotic and antiapoptotic pathobiology (1). Apoptosis is executed through the activation of caspases (2) and regulated through the activation of a number of anti-apoptotic proteins, such as survivin, with different biological functions (pro-apoptotic or anti-apoptotic), depending on the expression of its different splice variants (wild type-WT, ΔEx3, 2B, 3B) (3). The apoptotic and antiapoptotic responses have not yet been elucidated in sepsis.
Objective: The present study seeks to ascertain whether sepsis is associated with an upregulation of certain apoptotic (caspases) or anti-apoptotic biomolecules (survivin), and also seeks to assess the prognostic value of survivin transcript variant expression (survivin-WT, -ΔEx3, -2B and -3B), in ICU patients with sepsis and non-infectious (trauma-related) SIRS.

Methods: This prospective observational study was performed in a sample of critically ill adult patients with sepsis (n = 107) or traumatic SIRS (n = 75), compared to healthy controls (n = 89). The expression of survivin transcript variants was analyzed by real-time quantitative PCR in peripheral blood leukocytes, whereas the apoptotic or antiapoptotic equilibrium was specified by measuring caspases-3 and -9, along with survivin-WT serum protein concentrations, through enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

Results: The survivin-WT, -2B, -ΔEx3 mRNA, survivin protein and caspases-3 and -9 showed an escalated increase in sepsis (Figure 1), compared to traumatic SIRS and controls, whereas survivin-3B was repressed in sepsis (p < 0.05). For discriminating sepsis, caspase-9 achieved the best receiver operating characteristic curve (AUROC) of 0.95. In predicting mortality, caspase-9 and survivin protein achieved an AUROC = 0.70.

Conclusion: The upregulated apoptotic and anti-apoptotic pathways might represent attractive targets for future research in the clarification of sepsis. The mRNA expression of survivin variants and protein activity quantification of survivin and caspases could predict outcome and provide additional information about clinical management of patients suffering from sepsis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001109
Changes in monocyte subpopulations are associated with a fulminating course of sepsis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001109

Introduction: Sepsis is characterized by dynamic changes of the immune system resulting in deregulated inflammation. In a certain group of patients, the robust hyperactivation of inflammation occurs very early. This so-called “cytokine storm” leads frequently to patient’s death and could be considered as a potential target group for future early immunotherapy. Circulating monocytes are among the first ones to recognize and clear pathogens and thus have an important role in early stages of infection and sepsis (1). Three distinct subpopulations of monocytes have been described: classical (CD14+CD16-), intermediate (CD14+CD16+) and non-classical (CD14lo CD16+) (2-3).

Objective: The aim of the study was to evaluate monocyte populations in the early stages of septic shock in relation to patient mortality. Specifically, we focus on the group of patients with very early mortality (up to 72 hr. after ICU admission). We aim to determine whether specific changes in monocyte populations could be used as biomarker in prediction of early mortality and whether it correlates with severity of septic shock.

Methods: Patients admitted to the ICU with early septic shock were prospectively enrolled into the study. Whole blood samples and clinical data were collected at within 12 hr. after admission. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were isolated and labelled with specific antibodies. Presence of particular populations were determined by flow cytometry. With the use of Spearman correlation and Mann-Whitney test, the obtained data were related to 3-days mortality and the relationships with patient’s age, sex, number of comorbidities, SOFA, CRP and the need of catecholamines were estimated. The predictive potential was assessed using receiver-operating curve. Data are provided as median (IQR).

Results: Recruited septic shock patients (n = 41) were predominantly male (57.1 %) with median age 73.0 (66.5-77.0) years. All patients were mechanically ventilated and the SOFA score at admission were 11 (10-14). There was no statistically significant difference in the patients’ comorbidities, chronic medication or age between patients who died in first 72 hours (early deaths) and the others. 3-day and 28-day mortality rate were 14 % and 51%, respectively. Group of early deaths had a lower percentage of classical monocytes (57.6 (42.5-62.0) % vs. 81.6 (65.5-90.1) %; p = 0.0098) and conversely had a higher proportion of intermediate (29.1 (26.2-36.1) % vs. 8.9 (4.2-19.6) %; p = 0.0005) and non-classical (5.4 (4.5-6.5) % vs. 3.1 (1.9-6.4) %; p = 0.1485) monocytes than other patients. AUC of receiver-operating curve for prediction of 3-day mortality was 0.8357 for classical, 0.9095 for intermediate and 0.6905 for non-classical monocytes. The ratio classical/intermediate shows even higher predictive potential (AUC = 0.9238). Furthermore, there were no statistically significant correlation between monocyte subsets and other characteristics (SOFA, lactate, CRP, catecholamines, etc.).

Conclusion: The determination of monocyte subsets frequency (especially intermediate monocytes) or its ratio can be used to predict a fulminating course of septic shock and to identify patients with excessive inflammatory response who might profit from personalized immunomodulatory therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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000582
Procalcitonin in Management of COVID19 infection
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000582
Introduction: Procalcitonin (PCT) has emerged as a tool to guide antibiotic (ABx) therapy in bacterial pneumonia, but PCT’s role in distinguishing between bacterial & viral pneumonia is uncertain(1). With the novel SARS-CoV-2 pandemic there’s emerging interest in the role of this biomarker for assessing COVID-19 disease severity & progress(2). In COVID-19 pts, bacterial or fungal coinfection incidence is 8%, whilst 72% of the pts have been reported to receive antimicrobial therapy(3). In the UK a recent guideline from NICE suggests early review of need for antibiotic treatment in COVID-19 on basis other than PCT(4). We have reviewed our institutional data in order to assess current practice & usefulness of using PCT as a tool for assessing disease severity, progress & for guiding ABx therapy.

Objectives: 1) Compare PCT between COVID-19 pts admitted to ICU and not
2) Describe how concurrent bacterial infection in ICU pts influenced PCT
3) Describe how PCT was associated with duration of ABx therapy.

Methods: Contemporaneous eMR records were reviewed retrospectively for 70 COVID-19 pts admitted to ICU vs 70 who were not. Evidence of concurrent bacterial infection was sought; defined as bacteraemia, positive sputum/tracheal aspirate culture or molecular testing. Duration of ABx therapy was also collected.

Student’s t-test was used to compare mean PCT values, whilst diagnostic performance of PCT >0.5 µg/mL in bacterial co-infection was assessed. Duration of ABx was assessed in pts with PCT> & <0.5 µg/mL threshold.

Results: Data was available from completed 70 ICU & 70 ward admissions 35/70 ward pts had PCT measured. Similarly, 17/70 ICU pts had PCT measured prior to ICU. PCT levels were not clinically & statistically significantly different (mean; ward 0.69mg/mL, ICU 0.57mg/mL, p=0.87).

Of the 70 ICU pts, PCT was tested in 6/9 pts with evidence of bacterial co-infection & in 39/61 pts without bacterial infection. PPV of PCT >0.5 to indicate bacterial co-infection was found to be 21%, but opposite the NPV of PCT <0.5 was found to be 95%. There was no difference in median no. of ABx-days amongst pts with PCT >0.5 & <0.5 (9.5 vs 10 days) but amongst pts with PCT > of 2mg/mL there was a trend towards longer therapy (9 vs 11 days).

Conclusion: It’s not clear from this data that PCT on presentation discriminates between pts with severe & non-severe COVID-19. Although the usual threshold PCT <0.5mg/mL was able to effectively rule out bacterial co-infection, its PPV was modest. This reflects limited impact that PCT had on duration & intensity of ABx therapy. In pts with severe respiratory failure clinicians may be reluctant to stop ABx, given the non-trivial rate of bacterial co-infection. The combination of PCT & a rapid, sensitive molecular test may improve antimicrobial stewardship.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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3. Rawson Clin Infect Dis 2020;ciaa530

000767
Continuous non-invasive temperature monitoring as a means of early detection of sepsis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000767

Introduction: Sepsis is a host response to infection, which when exaggerated can lead to multiple organ dysfunction and death. Early treatment of sepsis decreases mortality and early diagnosis of sepsis, especially in critically ill patients, is essential.

Objectives: This study aimed to analyze abnormal body temperature patterns in intensive care patients using the PreEmpsis™ proprietary algorithm developed by Medism Ltd. and visual inspection to see if they could predict the subsequent diagnosis of sepsis.

Methods: This retrospective study was from January 2016 to December 2016. A total of 50 patients (35 male and 15 female) out of 1365 patients admitted to the ICU were included in the study when they developed a temperature above 38.3°C at least 72 hours after admission to the ICU. 24 of them were subsequently diagnosed as septic and 26 were non-septic patients. Patients were individuals aged 18 years and above (average age 58.34 years). Sepsis was diagnosed according to the Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3, 2016) if these findings occurred 72 hours after admission to the ICU.

The temperature was measured non-invasively from the axillary, femoral, or rectal sites with a standard continuous temperature probe connected to our monitoring system. The investigators retrospectively screened all the temperature recordings retrieved from the electronic patient record of the patients admitted to the ICU during the study period. Patients with a temperature recorded at least once of more than 38.3°C were then screened for the additional criteria to determine the diagnosis of sepsis or not. The control group comprised those patients who developed temperatures above 38.3°C after 72 hours of admission to ICU but were not subsequently diagnosed as septic. Temperature curves for the 72 hours before the clinical suspicion of sepsis (for septic patients) and for the 72 hours before developing a temperature above 38.3°C (for non-septic patients) were quantitatively analyzed using visual inspection and the PreEmpsis™ proprietary, predictive temperature trend analysis algorithm.

Results: The mortality rate was 26% (13 out of 50). As expected, the mortality rate for septic patients was higher – 50% (12 out of 24) compared to the control group – 3.8% (1 out of 26). We did not find any difference between the temperatures of the two groups by visual inspection alone, but the PreEmpsis™ proprietary algorithm detected a difference by monitoring the maximum temperature changes within 24 hours. The maximum temperature change within 24 hours for septic patients was 1.8±0.54, and for non-septic patients was 2.0±0.39. In addition the algorithm also detected differences in the patterns of temperature recording between the two groups – frequency and amplitude changes, as well as change from baseline. The accuracy of the temperature changes detected by the algorithm as compared to clinical diagnosis of sepsis was 0.71, with a sensitivity of 0.78 and a specificity of 0.65.

Conclusion: The visual inspection method of temperature changes alone is not accurate, nor specific enough to differentiate between septic and non-septic patients with high temperatures. However, PreEmpsis™ computerised predictive trends analysis was superior to visual inspection. Nevertheless, we should not use the temperature changes alone as a sole diagnostic method for predicting the onset of sepsis until validated by larger studies.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


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8. We would like to thank the Medism Ltd company (http://www.medism. co.il) for their assistance.

9. The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

000970
Prescribing Practices of Vitamin C in Patients Admitted with Sepsis to an Intensive Care Unit at a District General Hospital

Introduction: Vitamin C's role in the management of sepsis was first popularised in 2017 with the work of Mark et al. Vitamin C is considered a safe therapy in other contexts such as management of malnutrition, itself shown to adversely affect outcome. As such, we audited our current use of Vitamin C in sepsis.

Objectives: To investigate prescribing practice of Pabrinex (Vitamin B and C) in sepsis admissions to a district general hospital intensive care unit and investigate its impact on mortality or requirement for organ support.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of prescribing practice was conducted studying all admissions to critical care who met the physiological parameters for Sepsis 3 during a 1 year time period. Outcomes including mortality and requirement for invasive organ support were monitored. The total dose of vitamin C prescribed during admission was calculated.

Results: A total of 253 patients met sepsis criteria between April 2018-April 2019. Pabrinex was prescribed in 91 cases (36% of admissions). There was no uniformity in prescribing of Vitamin C. Regimes ranged from 1 pair a day to 3 pairs, three times a day. There was no correlation between severity of illness and dose of Pabrinex prescribed, nor association between higher doses of Vitamin C and outcomes measured. Total dose received during admission ranged from 0mg to 32g. The mean age of those receiving Pabrinex was 61, with ICNARC mortality predicted at 30.8%. Actual mortality was 23% (SMR 0.77). 23% required vasopressors, 58% required invasive ventilation and 28% required renal replacement therapy.

Conclusion: The survival rates in both groups were better than predicted using ICNARC Mortality calculators, indicating our centre performs above expectations in the management of sepsis admissions.

Due to the heterogeneity of the study groups we were unable to accurately ascertain the impact of vitamin C in modifying patient outcomes. Vitamin C was often prescribed to older, more unwell patients, possibly reflecting the severity of their illness. Concurrent use of Pabrinex in the management of malnutrition also acts as confounding factor. Due to the disparities in prescribing practice we have initiated a standard prescription bundle for all admissions with sepsis.

001059
ΔPCO2 ALTERATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF SEPSIS – Pathophysiological Conclusion:

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001059

Introduction: Patients in acute circulatory failure are characterized by inequality between tissue oxygen demand and supply. The difference of carbon dioxide tension between central venous and arterial blood (ΔPCO2) reflects the veno-arterial CO2 concentration difference and is inversely related to cardiac output, tissue oxygen delivery and perfusion [1]. High ΔPCO2 in sepsis and septic shock is associated with poor outcome [2]. However, there has not been any study yet to evaluate ΔPCO2 during the course of a septic episode.

Objectives: To follow and evaluate the difference of PCO2 between central venous and arterial blood sample (ΔPCO2), during the progress of a septic episode.

Methods: Seventy nine (79) patients were included and were separated into two groups. Group A included 52 patients who had sepsis remission while group B included 27 patients who had sepsis deterioration. ΔPCO2 was calculated in septic patients on admission and at either deterioration or remission of the septic episode.

Results: ΔPCO2 was higher in the sepsis deterioration group on admission (6.47±3.03 vs. 7.71±3.07 mmHg, for group A and group B respectively, p=0.08), although the difference did not reach a statistically significant level. In group A ΔPCO2 increased at sepsis remission (6.47±3.03 vs. 7.41±3.24 mmHg, p=0.05). In contrast, in group B ΔPCO2 decreased at sepsis deterioration (7.71±3.07 vs. 6.30±3.23 mmHg, p=0.04). Group B patients were also characterized by increased use of vasopressors (0.532±0.315 vs. 0.258±0.166 µg/kg/min, p<0.001), increased lactate concentration (5.2±3.8 vs. 2.4±1.3 mmol/l, p=0.001) and higher SOFA score (13.4±3.0 vs. 10.4±3.0, p<0.001) at deterioration compared to admission, as expected.

Conclusion: The higher ΔPCO2 on admission, in the group of patients who deteriorated compared to those who improved, might indicate tissue hypoperfusion occurring early in sepsis. However, at sepsis remission/deterioration, the results of our study probably reflect the different basal metabolic rate at the different stages of sepsis. Thus, at deterioration basal metabolic rate/mitochondrial metabolism decreases, leading to decreased CO2 production and low ΔPCO2. On the contrary, during sepsis remission, mitochondrial metabolism recovers and, consequently, ΔPCO2 increases [3].
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. 4. No Acknowledgment

001091

SEPSIS SAVER 2.0: New preliminary results after improvements in this automatic electronic alarm tool for early detection of sepsis based on Sepsis Definitions (Sepsis 1 and 2) and Sepsis 3 Definition

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001091

Introduction: It is known that automatic alert systems are helpful in early detection of sepsis, considering how important early diagnosis as a prognostic factor. So far, automated monitoring electronic programs have been used with this objective, but not based on Sepsis-3.

Objectives: The main aim of this study is to compare the 3 different algorithms that could define sepsis including the classic sepsis definitions (Defs.) and Sepsis-3. As secondary goals, is described the automatic alert system itself, representing its sensitivity (S), specificity (E), negative predictive value (NPV) and positive predictive value (PPV).

Methods: SEPSIS SAVER is a new electronic software counselled by expert clinicians of 3 different Intensive Care Units of University Hospitals in Spain.

After improvements in the software (integration of basal SOFA scale estimation for each patient before testing any of the algorithm) and a friendly & useful designed tool in pursuit of clinicians, during 2 months (February and March 2020) has been implemented as a pilot testing in our 1063-bed University Hospital of Burgos (UHB). The prospective evaluation was compared to the the Standard Sepsis Codification System (SSCS) of our UHB.

Any patient admitted in the hospital, through Emergency Room or during whole stay in ward, is monitored and after evaluating the clinical and lab tests results, the tool observes if patient matches any of the algorithms:

1. Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) 1
2. Sequential Organ Failure scale (SOFA) 2
3. quickSOFA (qSOFA) 3

Conclusion: SOFA is the most sensitive tool, although S improves implementing SIRS+OF at the same time, therefore, Sepsis-2 Defs. Instead, Sepsis-3 Defs where qSOFA is used, is not valuable as sepsis detector, launching debate about validity of the “New SepsisDefs 2016”.

The SSCS of our UHB vs the use of automatic alarm tool and the enhancements of Sepsis Saver 2.0, verifies the importance & usefulness of automatic alarm guided electronic tools. The upgrade of E, NPV and PPV, encourage us to continue in the design of the “future perfect automatic tool” in sepsis detection.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Underfeeding and malnutrition are known to be associated with impaired short and long-time recovery after major surgery. Inpatients admitted to ICU [1-3]. Although head and neck cancer (HNC) free flap surgery may have a substantial impact on normal eating, chewing and swallowing, there is a lack of studies contemplating the adequacy of nutrition during the immediate postoperative period after HNC surgery [4-5].

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the adequacy of nutrition after free flap surgery for HNC during the immediate in-hospital recovery and to discover factors associated with inadequate nutrition delivery.

Methods: This single-center retrospective cohort study included 218 HNC patients who underwent free flap surgery in Oulu University Hospital, Finland between the years 2008 and 2018. Nutrition delivery methods, the adequacy of nutrition and complication rates were evaluated during the first 10 postoperative days.

Results: A total of 131 (60.1%) patients reached nutritional adequacy of 60% of calculated individual demand during the follow-up period. According to multivariate analysis, nutrition inadequacy was associated with higher ideal body weight (OR 1.11 [1.04-1.18]) whereas adequate nutrition was associated with higher number of days with oral food intake (OR 0.79 [0.67-0.93]). In the univariate model tracheostomy, bilateral neck dissection and postoperative surgical complications were associated to poor postoperative nutrition adequacy.

Conclusion: Inadequate nutrition is common after HNC free flap surgery. The present results suggest that more adequate nutrition delivery might be obtained by the early initiation of oral food intake and close monitoring of nutrition support.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Application for travel and participating costs for ESICM LIVES 2020 congress has been send to the Finnish medical association (FMA).
Intervention: Modular ketogenic enteral feed will be reconstituted on the ICU for each patient for 10 days, as prescribed by dietitians to meet nutritional energy targets: medium chain triglycerides (Betaquik®, Vitarol®) increasing from 40% to 80% during the study period, plus long chain triglycerides (Fresubin 5kcal®, Fresenius Kabi) to keep total fat at ≥80% of energy input; 15% protein (Renapro®, Stanningley Pharmal), provided minimum protein requirements are met; and 5% carbohydrate (Maxijiu®, Nutricia). The contribution of energy from other sources, e.g. propofol and dextrose (including additional dextrose used as drug diluents) will be taken into account.

Sample size: 24 ICU patients receiving randomised feed for 10 days or up to ICU discharge: allowing for a 34% dropout rate, up to 37 eligible patients will be required. Site-specific data and past trial experience suggest that recruitment will take 15 months.

We will assess feasibility of patient follow-up at 3, 6 and 12 months post-ICU discharge, and the views of ICU nurses on study safety, practicality and acceptability. Levels of ketone bodies and other metabolites will be determined, as well as cost-effectiveness comparisons between the two feed regimens.

**Results:** Nine patients have been recruited so far with no feed-related adverse effects reported.

**Conclusion:** If using ketogenic feed in ICU patients is shown to be safe and feasible, it may mitigate muscle loss in early critical illness, providing a new way to improve function and well-being in ICU survivors.

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT04101071.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000251**

### Prevalence of Hypophosphatemia in the ICU – preliminary results of an international one-day point prevalence survey

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000251**

### Introduction

Hypophosphatemia (HypoP) is frequent in intensive care unit (ICU) settings and may affect up to 35% of admissions. Severe hypophosphatemia is associated with organ dysfunction and mortality. Its true prevalence and its proportional relationship to refeeding syndrome remain largely unknown.

**Objectives:** The aim was to learn the point-prevalence of HypoP defined as blood phosphate (P) ≤0.8 mmol/l on one particular day (D-Day) at international level while gathering information about the internal ICU policies/guidelines for the management of HypoP among international ICUs.

**Methods:** This point-prevalence survey was conducted with Ethical approval by the Section of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition of ESICM and endorsed by ESICM, i.e. each site had one D-Day during the week 11/2020: the primary endpoint was the prevalence of blood P < 0.8 mmol/l. Data were collected on ICU (number of beds, frequency of P analysis, treatment strategies) and patients (collected for hypoP patients only): age, days in ICU, nutritional therapy, renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Data are presented as number (percentage) for categorical and median [IQR] for continuous variables.

**Results:** 59 ICUs from 23 countries participated and 4 ICUs were paediatric: 40/59 ICUs were mixed medico-surgical, (see Table); 20 sites did measure P daily, 7 ICUs stated “never”. Out of 881 patients present on D-Day, 675 (76.6%) patients had P determined, and 99 (15%) presented hypoP, with 48 (48.5%) patients with severe hypop < 0.65 mmol/l; 50% of the hypoP were documented within the first 5 days in the ICU. Age was 62 (52-71) years. HypoP was most frequent in medical patients. HypoP was not associated with feeding (enteral in 52%, parenteral in 19%), but with being on CRRT (p = 0.045).

**Conclusion:** The point-prevalence survey shows that HypoP is present at least in 15% of ICU patients, and in half of them is observed during the first 5 ICU days. Half of the patients had a severe hypoP. This number is an underestimation since systematic measurements occur only in ¾ of patients, while 12% of ICUs never monitor this electrolyte. Moreover the study was done in ICUs with metabolic interest.

**000261**

### Effect of High-Protein Nutrition in Critically Ill Patients: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000261

**Introduction:** Early provision of a high-protein nutrition improves the prognosis of patients in intensive care units (ICUs). However, high protein intake increases blood urea nitrogen (BUN). No study has compared outcomes according to protein intake, and the clinical significance of changes in BUN (ΔBUN) in ICU patients is unclear. Here, we investigated the association of high protein intake with outcomes and BUN and assessed the clinical significance of the ΔBUN.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate the effect of high-protein provision on the outcomes and BUN, and to investigate the clinical significance of the ΔBUN.

**Methods:** This was a single-center retrospective cohort study. Between 1 January 2016 and 30 September 2019, 295 ICU patients received enteral nutrition for at least 3 days while undergoing mechanical ventilation. After applying the exclusion criteria of an age of <18 years, gastrointestinal disease, maintenance dialysis, renal replacement therapy after admission, kidney transplantation, and death within 7 days of commencing enteral nutrition, 206 patients remained.

Participants were divided into those receiving >1.2 g/kg/day of protein (high-protein group; n = 111) and those receiving ≤1.2 g/kg/day of protein (non-high-protein group; n = 95). The groups were
balanced by propensity score matching. The primary endpoint was 28-day mortality, and the secondary endpoints were length of ICU stay, number of ventilator-free days in the first 28 days, and ΔBUN.

**Results:** The high-protein group had significantly lower 28- and 90-day mortality and significantly greater ΔBUN, including after propensity score matching. ΔBUN might not be associated with outcomes.

**Conclusion:** Provision of >1.2 g/kg/day of protein may be associated with lower mortality of tube-fed and mechanically ventilated patients. Furthermore, while high protein intake may be associated with higher BUN, these changes may not be adversely associated with outcomes.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**Introduction:** Energy expenditure (EE) evaluation in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients is very challenging. Critical illness is characterized by great variability in the EE, which is influenced by the disease itself and the effects of treatment. Indirect calorimetry (IC) is currently the gold standard to measure EE in ICU patients. However, calorimeters are not widely available and predictive formulas (PF) are still commonly used, which may lead to under or overfeeding and its deleterious consequences. Important metabolic changes occur and catabolism becomes prominent in critically ill patients. Hypermetabolism is a condition mediated by the immune system, which can be affected by damaged tissue, pathogenic microorganisms, and the entry of their toxins into the bloodstream, as well as the body’s response, with hormones and cytokines release. Due to this situation, hypermetabolic patients often have higher mortality rates compared to metabolically normal patients. 6,7

**Objectives:** To assess the incidence of hypermetabolism and to compare clinical outcomes between hypermetabolic and normometabolic patients in ICU with EE measured by IC.

**Methods:** Single-centre, retrospective, observational study including mechanically ventilated patients admitted in ICU between August 2018 and February 2020. EE was measured by IC. Basal Energy Expenditure (BEE) was estimated by the Harris-Benedict equation (HB). According to their metabolic state (EE/BEE × 100), patients were divided in hypermetabolic (≥130%) and normometabolic (<130%). To determine the limits of agreement between EE and BEE, we performed a Bland-Altman (BA) analysis. Baseline characteristics, severity criteria, and main diagnosis were compared. The primary outcome considered was 30-day mortality. Other outcomes were evaluated, such as the length of stay (LOS) in ICU, LOS in hospital, and length of invasive ventilation.
Results: Of the 55 ICU patients included, median age was 62.0 [52.0-72.0] years. BA showed a mean -411 ± 554 Kcal/d for EE and BEE. Seventeen patients (30.9%) were in hypermetabolic group with a significantly higher proportion of male patients (88.2 vs 11.8%; p=0.04), a lower BMI (26.1 [23.0-27.7] vs 27.7 [24.7-33.8] Kg/m2; p=0.04), a higher proportion of patients admitted due to medical conditions (76.5 vs 47.4%, p = 0.04), and due pneumonia (41.2 vs 15.8%; p = 0.04). We did not find any statistically significant difference between the two groups, neither in 30-day mortality nor in the other outcomes compared.

Conclusion: There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in all the clinical outcomes considered. However, we concluded that hypermetabolic patients were predominantly males, had a lower BMI, and had a higher proportion of admissions due to medical conditions and pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Diarrhea: Interventions, Consequences and Epidemiology in the Intensive Care Unit: The DICE-ICU Prospective Multicenter Cohort Study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000352

Introduction: Diarrhoea is a common concern in the intensive care unit (ICU) and incidence varies from 2-95% in previous studies. This variation is due to a lack of a consistent definition of diarrhoea and scientific inattention to this clinical problem. The prevalence, predisposing factors, and prognosis of diarrhoea during critical illness have not been well defined in prospective studies.

Methods: Design, Setting and Participants: We prospectively enrolled consecutive adults admitted to 12 Intensive Care Units (ICU), in 4 countries, during a 10-week period. We excluded patients admitted to the ICU for <24 hours.

Main Outcome: The primary outcome was diarrhoea incidence, using the World Health Organization (WHO) definition, and the Bristol Stool Chart (Bristol) and Bliss Stool Classification System (Bliss), and risk factors. Secondary outcomes included Clostridiodes difficile-associated diarrhoea (CDAD), ICU and hospital length of stay and mortality.

Analysis: We used logistic regression to evaluate 12 potential risk factors for diarrhoea, and Cox regression to estimate the association between diarrhoea and morbidity and mortality. All models were adjusted for age, sex and APACHE II scores.

Results: Among 1109 patients age 61.4 [17.49] mean [standard deviation] years, APACHE-II 18.8 [7.98], 981(88.5%) medical patients, 645 (58.2%) mechanically ventilated, diarrhoea was common (WHO 73.8%, 95% confidence interval [CI] 71.1-76.6; Bristol 53.5%, 95%CI 46.5-50.4; and Bliss 37.7%, 95%CI 34.9-40.4). Independent risk factors for diarrhoea (WHO Definition) included enteral nutrition (OR 2.43, 95% CI 1.70-3.48), suppository use (OR 1.73, 95% CI 1.28-2.35) and number of antibiotic days (OR 1.10, 95% CI 1.05-1.14). Female sex (OR 0.71, 95% CI 0.52-0.95) and opioid use (OR 0.32, 95% CI 0.22-0.48) were associated with a lower risk of diarrhoea. Diarrhoea resulted in modifications to patient management including: enteral nutrition held or changed, stool softener or prokinetic held, rectal appliance used, or C. difficile test ordered (OR 10.9; 95% CI 5.74-21.03). CDAD prevalence in the ICU was 85/1109 (7.7%). Among the 99 patients with diarrhoea tested for CDAD, 23/99 were positive, for a CDAD ICU incidence of 23/1109 (2.1%). Diarrhoea was associated with a longer length of stay in the ICU (HR 2.62, 95% CI 2.23-3.06; p < 0.001) and hospital (HR 1.72; 95% CI 1.46-2.01; p < 0.001) and increased hospital mortality (HR 2.12; 95% CI 1.61-2.78; p < 0.001).

Conclusion: Diarrhoea is common during critical illness; incidence varies by diagnostic definition. Several risk factors are modifiable. Diarrhoea is associated with increased morbidity and mortality.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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000385

Evaluation of nutritional practices in the critical care patient: Does nutritional support really influence outcomes?

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Introduction: The positive influence of nutritional support is under-recognized and nutrition is considered an adjunctive more than a primary therapy itself.

Objectives: The main aim of the present study was to evaluate the influence of nutritional support in outcomes in the critical care setting.

Methods: Prospective observational multicenter study. Demographic, comorbidities, cause of admission, nutritional evaluation, type and characteristics of nutritional support (during the whole nutritional delivery or at least the first 14 days of nutritional support), and outcomes, with special attention in 28-day mortality, were registered in a database. Confounders, such as disease severity, type of patient and the length of nutritional support among others, were considered for final statistical approach (NCT:03634943).

Results: 639 patients were included with a 25.6% of mortality. Non-survivors showed higher age, higher comorbidities, higher SOFA score (6.6±3.3vs8.4±3.7;P < 0.001) and nutritional risk (3.8±2.1vs5.2±1.7;P < 0.001) on admission. Nutritional support did not differ among groups, except a trend towards lower mean protein intake in non-survivors. Non-survivors suffer from higher needs on vasopressor therapy (70.4% vs 83.5%;P = 0.001) and renal replacement therapy (12.2% vs 23.2%;P = 0.001). Multivariate analysis showed that older age (HR:1.023;95% CI:1.008-1.038;P=0.003), higher SOFA Score (HR:1.016;95% CI:1.036-1.160;P=0.001), higher NUTRIC Score (HR:1.136;95% CI:1.025-1.259;P=0.015), the need of parenteral nutrition (PN) after the initiation of enteral nutrition (EN) (HR:2.368;95% CI:1.168-4.798;P=0.017), mean Kcal/Kg/day (HR:1.057;95% CI:1.015-1.101;P=0.008), and mean g protein/Kg/day (HR:0.507;95% CI:0.263-0.977;P=0.042) were factors associated with mortality.

Conclusion: Elderly, higher average of organ failure and nutritional risk are nutritional related factors that may be associated with higher mortality. Patients who need of PN after initiation of EN may represent a high mortality risk subgroup due to illness severity and problems in giving appropriate nutritional support. The mean caloric and protein delivery may play a key role in outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. Preiser JC, Ichai C, Orban JC, Groeneveld AB. Metabolic response to the delivery or at least the first 14 days of nutritional therapy (0.74 ±0.34vs0.9 ±0.31g/Kg/day;OR: 6.230; 95% CI: 2.590-15.540; P < 0.001). However, a lower need for vasopressor support (75.6% vs. 60.66%;OR: 0.490; 95% CI: 0.260-0.910; P = 0.023) and continuous renal replacement therapies (OR: 0.130; 95% CI: 0.010-0.650; P = 0.049) was observed in those patients who received IMN formulas compared with standard formulas. The use of IMN formulas was associated with a higher average protein delivery during the nutritional therapy (0.74 ±0.34vs0.9 ±0.31g/Kg/day; OR: 6.230; 95% CI: 2.590-15.540; P < 0.001).

Conclusion: We showed lower need of vasopressors and continuous renal replacement therapies during ICU stay with the use of IMN formulas, which may be associated with their modulatory effect over inflammatory response. A higher protein delivery may be provided with IMN formulas in the ICU.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. The present research was supported by SENPE (The Spanish Society of Metabolism & Nutrition)
benefit in subsets with lower hormone levels. This communication attempts to delineate the outcomes/mortality correlations in patients with abnormalities of thyroid levels getting admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU).

**Objectives:** Comparison of mortality outcomes in patients of sepsis with abnormal thyroid levels and no underlying thyroid disorders getting admitted to ICU.

**Setting:** 60 bedded mixed ICUs of tertiary care units.

**Methods:** All patients getting admitted with Sepsis from Jan 2019- till date were included and their baseline samples of TSH/T3/T4 were collected. Data was collected with a focus on demographics, SOFA scores, Length of stay (LOS) and mortality. Patients with hypoaalbuminemia, preexisting thyroid disorders and receiving Amiodarone were excluded. Death/discharge from ICU were considered as end points.

**Results:** Ninety patients were included (n=90, M: F-58:32). Age of the cohort was 50⁺17 years (Range-22-85). SOFA scores were 11.8±3.2 (Range-6-18). Length of stay was 6.9⁺4.3 days (Range-1-20) and in hospital mortality was 37.8%(n=34). Thyroid hormone levels were TSH (4.6⁺2.8)Range- 1-12.6)/Ref-0.4-4.2), T3 (1.4±0.57)(Range-0.6-2.5)/ Ref-0.4-2.4) and T4 (7.2⁻6.7)(Range-2.2-11.8)/Ref-6.0-12.23) respectively. On statistical analysis in isolation both low TSH levels and low T3 levels were significant predictors of mortality (0.0006P and 0.0001P). Combination of these variables did not improve the association and was statistically not significant

**Conclusion:** Low TSH and T3 levels at baseline predict mortality in sepsis cohorts. However, whether the relationship would remain sacrosanct in patients with hypoaalbuminemia and patients receiving Amiodarone remains to be seen. We will need bigger subsets with more variables to enhance our knowledge levels for the same.

**000559**

**Nutritional status and response of long stayer COVID-19 patients upon admission to intensive care differ from non-COVID patients**

1. No conflict of interest to declare

**Introduction:** The COVID pandemic has resulted in a high number of intensive care (ICU) admissions, generally The COVID pandemic has resulted in a high number of intensive care (ICU) admissions, generally for respiratory distress. While research has focused on respiratory and infectious characteristics, little is known about their metabolic and nutritional characteristics compared to other categories of patients.

**Objectives:** The aim was to compare COVID patients’ status and metabolic response to persistently critically ill patients (PCI) defined as >10 days in ICU

**Methods:** Prospective observational study in consecutive cohorts of long stay patients on mechanical ventilation and COVID-19 patients were analysed. Variables: demographic data, severity score (SAPS2), Nutritional risk screening (NRS) score, C-reactive protein (CRP). Pre-albumin values determined on admission (adm) and D6-9 (delta pre-albumin was calculated between admission and D6-9 values), nutritional management, length of stay and outcome. Nutritional recommendations were: energy target 20 kcal/kg during first week (then adapted according to indirect calorimetry measurements for LSP, no calorimetry for COVID-19), protein 1.2 g/kg, early enteral nutrition privileged (time to feeding recorded). The confined dieters worked remotely. Statistics: median (interquartiles), percentage.

**Results:** Altogether 50 LST and 54 COVID-19 mechanically ventilated patients were included. Characteristics are shown in Table. The two cohorts were similar in terms of age, gender distribution (74% men) and disease severity; however, COVID patients were significantly heavier. Median NRS was 5 in both groups, several points coming from reduced eating during last days in COVID patients, which was less frequent in PCI cohort. Mortality did not differ. Enteral nutrition was initiated earlier in COVID: on Day1 in 50% vs 20%, on Day2 87% vs 33%, and Day3 94% vs 53% (p < 0.0001) respectively. Combined EN and parenteral feeding was only required on rare occasions (<2%). Admission prealbumin was significantly lower in COVID vs PCI, unrelated to NRS score, and poorly correlated to CRP (r2=0.082). Prealbumin increase (delta 0.19 g/l) was significantly higher in COVID patients, but also in survivors of both groups, where difference over time was 0.03 (0; 0.09) g/l (p < 0.0001). Protein data are in preparation.

**Conclusion:** Mechanically ventilated COVID patients were heavier both groups presenting a similar nutritional risk. Prealbumin values on admission were significantly lower and reverted faster to normal values, which might be due to a faster clearance of inflammation and related catabolism, but maybe also to nutrition. Early enteral feeding was significantly more frequent in COVID patients, reflecting the lesser impact of a single respiratory organ failure on GI tract.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. No conflict of interest to declare

**000599**

**Impact of beta-Hydroxy-beta-Methylbutyrate (HMB) on muscle loss in critically ill patients. A RCT**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000599**

**Introduction:** The rapid decline of muscle mass and function in mechanically ventilated critically ill patients is associated with poor outcome, and prolonged impairment in physical function. The loss of lean body mass (LBM) is rapid and massive being close to 20% in one week. Nutrition only partly attenuates muscle loss. HMB, a metabolite of leucine, has been shown to substantially reduce loss of muscle mass in older adults and is currently used in ICU patients.

**Objectives:** The study aimed at testing the impact of HMB on LBM using ultrasound assessment and on amino acid metabolism.

**Methods:** RCT in 37 critically ill patients (ITT), on mechanical ventilation, with full treatment and a functional gastro- intestinal tract. Intervention: Enteral HMB 2*1.5 g/day versus placebo from day 4 to day 30 after admission. Primary outcome: muscle mass loss (ultrasound of thigh on days 4 and 15 to determine % change of skeletal muscle index (SMI)). On days 4 and 15, amino acid metabolism was investigated with...
Hypovitaminosis D in ICU patients: incidence and association with poor outcome
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000757

Introduction: Patients in intensive care units (ICUs) are at high risk of unfavorable outcomes. Considering the role of vitamin D (Vit D) in cardiovascular and immune functions, Vit D deficiency could affect ICU patients’ outcomes.

Objectives: To evaluate Vit D status and its predictive value for outcome in ICU patients.

Methods: prospective cohort study that included all adult patients admitted to the medical ICU of la Rabta Hospital from January 2016 to December 2018. Non inclusion criteria were: Sepsis, cancer, renal or liver failure, surgery within 3 months; immunotherapy or vitamin supplements within 6 months; pregnant or lactating, discharge or death within 48 hr of admission were the exclusion criteria. Plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) level was measured by immunoassay. The primary outcome was the occurrence of the following major adverse events (combined MAE): the need for a central venous catheter (CVC), organ failure, and septic shock. Secondary outcomes were the occurrence of at least one ICU-acquired infection (combined ICU-AI), septic shock, organ failure, other individual adverse events, and ICU mortality. Multivariate Cox regression analyses were performed to test the associations of low 25(OH)D levels with poor outcomes.

Results: A total of 169 ICU patients were followed during ICU stay. Around 75% of patients had 25(OH)D levels <12 ng/ml. During their ICU stay, 114 patients presented MAE, 85 patients presented an ICU-acquired infection, and 22 patients died. The comparative distribution of plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) in ICU patients according to selected outcomes are displayed in the attached figure. Plasma 25(OH)D levels <12 ng/ml were associated with higher risk of major adverse events, Hazard ratio [95% CI], 4.47 [1.77, 11.3], p=0.020, and ICU-acquired infection, 2.67 [1.01, 7.42], p=0.049, but not with increased risk of ICU mortality.

Conclusion: Hypovitaminosis D is common in ICU patients. Results of the present study show that low plasma 25(OH)D levels are associated with increased risk of unfavorable outcomes. Additional research is needed to investigate the impact of Vit D status and effect of Vit D supplementation in ICU patients.

000760
The prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and outcome in children with severe sepsis or septic shock
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000760

Introduction: Vitamin D is an essential nutrient and hormone that plays role in calcium homeostasis and bone health. In the last two decades, vitamin D is known to promote innate and adaptive immunity. It may play a role in modulating the outcome of sepsis.

Objectives: This study was conducted to describe the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in pediatric patients with severe sepsis or septic shock and to evaluate the correlation between vitamin D level and severity of illness.

Methods: This is cross-sectional study. Populations were children aged 30 days to 18 years who were diagnosed with severe sepsis or septic shock from August 2018 to May 2019. We collected demographic data, principal diagnosis, 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25-OH D) level, 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25-OH D) level, severity, and clinical outcomes of the disease.

Results: Nineteen patients were included. The median age was 21 months, most of them have normal nutritional status (17/19). Source of infection were pneumonia (6), urinary tract infection (2), catheter related blood stream infection (1), and others (10). The prevalence of 25-OH D deficiency (<30 ng/ml) and 1,25-OH D deficiency (<19.9 pg/ml) in severe sepsis and septic shock patients were 57.9% and 10.5% respectively. All patients were survived. Vitamin D deficiency (25-OH D and 1,25-OH D) was not correlated with length of stay in pediatric intensive care unit (25-OH D: r = 0.076, p = 0.756; 1,25-OH D: r = 0.170, p = 0.486), and vasoactive inotropic score (25-OH D: r = 0.20, p = 0.408; 1,25-OH D: r = 0.077, p = 0.755). Subgroup analysis of patients who did not received antibiotics before enrollment, 25-OH D...
deficiency had higher risk of positive blood culture compare to the group with normal 25-OHD level (odds ratio = 2.75, 95%CI 1.26, 6.01, p = 0.017) and 1.25-OHD level had statistically significant inverse correlation with PRISM III score (r = −0.527, p = 0.036) (figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Our findings suggested that there may be a correlation between vitamin D deficiency and severity of illness in pediatric patients with severe sepsis and septic shock. Further study with larger sample size should be performed.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


5. Rachadapisaek Sompote Fund, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

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**Introduction:** Obesity is defined by the World Health Organization as an excessive accumulation of fat in the body of people that can be harmful to their health, measured through a body mass index (BMI) ≥30 kg/m², cataloged as a chronic and identified disease in children, adolescents and adults, being recognized as the epidemic of the 21st century. There are approximately 500 million obese adults and 42 million obese children under the age of five worldwide, hence the importance of their prevention, diagnosis and early treatment, to avoid subsequent comorbidities.

Obese patients present a high vital risk, since severe obesity is associated with cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, osteoarticular, digestive pathologies and even with the increase in some types of malignancies.

Surgery and bariatric procedures continue to be the most effective sustained weight loss option for patients with morbid obesity, highlighting among its main objectives to maximize weight loss and maintain nutritional health while preventing micronutrient deficiencies and loss of lean body mass. Although it is an innovative and effective procedure, it is not exempt from post-surgical complications. It is essential to previously exhaust the resources of prevention and medical treatment, although most of these patients are not capable of maintaining a weight loss with psychological, dietary or pharmacological treatment.

**Objectives:** Main: To determine the profile of bariatric surgery patients admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) between May-2018 and November-2019 and its post-ICU metabolic control.

Secondary: To analyze the frequency of comorbidities, preoperative and postoperative characteristics, analytical results, ICU evolution, score on risk scales (APACHE, SOFA and SAPS II). To assess the degree of linear correlation between the BMI and the age of the patients, with the scores obtained on the risk assessment scales.

**Methods:** Observational, descriptive, prospective and correlational study in bariatric postoperative patients admitted to our ICU in 18 months, using a database of 40 patients, with medical and surgical history, anthropometric data, analytical results, type of surgery, postoperative treatments, and scores on the risk scales, in addition to a correlational analysis to determine the degree of linear relationship between BMI and age, with the risk scales, as well as the comparison of means of its post-ICU metabolic control.

**Results:** Among the 40 patients, the mean age was 42 years, women (77.5%), with an average BMI of obesity type 3 (46.55 kgm-2). The most frequent type of surgery was gastric sleeve (70%). Highlighting sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome (SAHS) with CPAP (62.5%), trauma pathologies (37.5%), genitourinary and digestive (both 35%), hypertension (30%) and anxiety/depression (27.5%). Complications (surgical) were found only in 2.5% of patients, with a mortality rate of 0%. Performing the comparison of means through T-Student for related samples, we obtain a statistically significant decrease during the first six months after discharge from the ICU in LDL (p = 0.018), Hba1c (p <0.001) and baseline blood glucose (p <0.001).

Upon their arrival in the ICU, prophylactic antibiotherapy was performed in 100% of them and anticoagulation in 75%; being 10% of the patients admitted intubated, with an extubation time of 5 hours, and a 1-day stay. Analgesia was performed with Remifentanil (75%), with a low incidence of complications (0.025 95% CI). 55% required Sugammadex, and 40% weaning was performed with a T-tube only, and associated with CPAP in 32.5%. The high probability of average death is impressive: APACHE II of 19.95, SOFA 7.58 and SAPS II 55.25. We determined the level of correlation between BMI and age with the risk scales, obtaining a moderate correlation r=0.414 (p = 0.008) between APACHE II and age; moderate r=0.508 (p = 0.001) between SOFA and SAPS II; and low, r=0.353 (p = 0.028) between SOFA and BMI.

**Conclusion:** The strongest associated variables were SAHS (with CPAP), traumatic, genitourinary and digestive pathologies, in women, obesity type III, with high scores on risk scales, with a favorable evolution, with a minimum incidence of complications, and an adequate post-ICU metabolic control (LDL, Hba1c and baseline blood glucose), hence the importance that the postoperative period of these patients should be observed in the ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


3. Deutsch L, Ben Haim L, Sofer Y, Gluck N, Santo E, Fishman S. Long-term effects of proximal small bowel exclusion by duodenal-jejunal bypass liner
Introduction: Large burns are the cause of extensive skeletal muscle devastation which contributes to the risk of metabolic failure [1]. Illusory movements are a relatively new method of physiotherapy, which through functional proprioceptive stimulation (FPS) enables the integration and networking of muscle units and has a neurotrophic effect on the cerebral cortex [2]. However, illusory movements haven’t been studied in the critically ill yet. How they influence human’s metabolism is not known.

Objectives: Six male patients with large deep burns (> 30 % total body surface area) in the late acute phase of burn disease, median age 53 years, median day since admission 96 days, median APACHE II score 19. They suffered from prolonged catabolism and poor healing. Their basal metabolic rate (BMR) was about 32 % (means) below their calculated BMR.

Methods: We rehabilitated the patients with illusory movements for 30 minutes twice a day, for 14 days, along with standard rehabilitation. After two weeks, FPS was stopped, and patients received standard rehabilitation only. Nitrogen balance was calculated daily. On the day 1, 15, and 30, we measured BMR with indirect calorimetry, insulin resistance and glucose disposal, muscle strength, and diameter of m. rectus femoris measured with ultrasound.

Results: In all six patients, BMR increased significantly compared to baseline (p < 0.01), with a (non-significant) trend to improve nitrogen balance and muscle strength. 14 days after the end of FPS, BMR decreased to the level of calculated BMR, but remained significantly increased from baseline (p <0.05) (Tab. 1). No adverse side effects were observed in any patient. All of them survived and were discharged from the hospital.

Table 1. Basal Metabolic Rate in study subjects

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All values are group means ± SE, *p<0.05, **p<0.01

Conclusion: Illusory movements improved decreased BMR in six patients with metabolic failure. It is not known whether the observed increase in energy expenditure is a quintessential feature of FPS, or if it was specific to patients with hypometabolism.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000964 Role of Capillary Blood Ketone Assay in Diagnosis and Management of DKA in PICU in resource limited settings M. Shahzad1; A. Haque2; M. Sadicq2
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000964

Introduction: Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is the most common life-threatening metabolic-endocrine emergency in children. The current criterion for the diagnosis of DKA is characterized by a triad of hyperglycemia (blood glucose ≥ 200mg/dl), metabolic acidosis (venous pH <7.3, or serum HC03 <15mmol/L) and ketonemia (blood β-hydroxybutyrate ≥3mmol/L) or moderate to large ketonuria(1). In DKA, β-hydroxybutyrate (BOHB) is the major ketone body and its concentration increased to 4-10 times.(2) Urine ketone assay has several potential limitations such as delayed voiding delay the diagnosis and unnecessarily prolonged insulin infusion because of continued excretion of ketone acid in the urine.(3) The current literature strongly support the use of capillary blood BOHB in the establishing diagnosis as well as response to treatment of DKA both in children and adults. (4) (5) There is a paucity of data available its use in the management of DKA in PICU. The objective of this study to assess the clinical and statistical correlation of capillary blood β-OHB level with the traditional standard acid variables like pH, HC03, AG, and BD in the diagnosis and resolution of ketoacidosis in the management of DKA in PICU in resource limited settings.

Objectives: To affirm the Role of Capillary Blood Ketone Assay in Diagnosis and Management of DKA in PICU in resource limited settings.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed electronic medical record of children (aged 2 mo-16yrs) with DKA from January 2018 to January 2020 admitted in PICU of The Indus Hospital. All children received the treatment according to standard protocol. Capillary blood BOHB were measured on admission and q 4-6 hourly along with blood glucose. All parameters were recorded on a structured sheet.

Results: Among 1080 admissions, 26 patients (2.4%) were diagnosed as DKA. The mean age was 9.8±3.8 years and females were 54%. Half patients were newly diagnosed with 1DDM. Mild, moderate, and severe cases of DKA were 19%, 50%, and 31% respectively. The median time to resolution of acidosis was 17 (10-39) hours. At the time of resolution of acidosis, the correlation between capillary BOHB and blood pH (r=0.11, p=0.56), HC03 (r=0.37, p=0.86), AG (r=-0.37, p=0.06), and BD (r=-0.04, p=0.82) was noted. Hyperchloremia was present in 61.5%. Five patients (19.2%) developed AKI that recovered. There was a strong clinical correlation of BHOB with standard acid variables of DKA management.

Conclusion: Bedside capillary blood BOHB is a simple, inexpensive, point-of-care test that helps in the diagnosis and treatment of DKA especially in resource-limited settings for avoiding unnecessary delays.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000995

Introduction: Changes in homeostasis activate the hypothalamic-pituitary axis and induce an adaptive hypercatabolic state (1), which is harmful if persistent (2). Copeptin, an equimolar indicator of serum antidiuretic hormone (ADH), has been associated with a higher mortality of critically ill patients (3). However, alterations in copeptin levels over time during an acute stress are not known.

Objectives: The aim of the present study is to investigate the correlation of copeptin levels with glycemic parameters in critically ill patients.

Methods: From June 2019 to October 2019, critically ill adult patients were prospectively enrolled and followed for 90 days. Plasma copeptin levels were quantified during the first 24 hours of intensive care unit (ICU) admission (T1), 24 h after the study entry (T2), and 48 h after the study entry (T3). Blood glucose and glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) values were measured at study entry. ICU and hospital mortality, 30 and 90-day mortality, need for mechanical ventilation (VM), need for renal replacement therapy (RRT), time on VM and on RRT, length of stay in the ICU and hospital, and readmission to the ICU were evaluated.

Results: A total of 104 patients admitted to the ICU were included. Overall mortality was 40.4% (n = 42). Weak inverse correlations were detected between blood glucose and copeptin T2 (r = −0.23, p = 0.03), and glycemic gap (r = −0.25, p = 0.003) and SHR (r = −0.24, p = 0.03) and copeptin T3. No associations were identified between copeptin values at T1 and T2 with clinical outcomes. However, copeptin values at T3 were significantly higher in survivors than in non-survivors at hospital discharge (561 pg/mL [370 to 856] vs 300 pg/mL [231 to 693], p = 0.015), at 30 days (581 pg/mL [387 to 865] vs 299 pg/mL [231 to 690], p = 0.02) and at 90 days (517 pg/mL [380 to 884] vs 492 pg/mL [295 to 698], p = 0.03). Copeptin values at T1 and T2 were not different between survivors and non-survivors.

Conclusion: Weak inverse correlations were found between copeptin levels and glycemic parameters, suggesting that copeptin is not a major factor in the induction of hyperglycemia during critical illness. Besides, copeptin values at the third ICU day were significantly higher in survivors than in non-survivors.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. This work was supported by Fundo de Incentivo à Pesquisa e Ensino (FIFE), Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre (project number 2019-0304). 5. DC and CBL have received scholarships from Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq, PQ-1D).

001032
Diabetic Ketoacidosis: Do We Have to Give Too Many Intravenous Fluids?
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001032

Introduction: Approach consideration in DKA are intravenous fluid, correction of hyperglycemia with insulin, electrolyte disturbances, acid base balance and treatment to precipitating condition. Many patients with DKA were given fluid more than 2 litre in the initial 4 hours developed into lung edema and longer period of hospitalization.

Objectives: To evaluate the outcome between patients in who were given more than 3 litre in the initial 4 hours of treatment to patients who were given maintenance fluid dose in emergency room.

Methods: We had 6 patients diagnosed with DKA, in their 30’s and 40’s. They are obese type II diabetic with oral hypoglycemia medication. Before admission, all of them reported suffered from infection: CAP, UTI, gastrointestinal infection. There was no sign of nausea, vomitus, or dehydration. All of them in mild hypotension with normal serum sodium level. There were 2 group, 1 group, the liberal fluid, were given more than 3 liter NaCl 0.9% (7 to 14 ml/kg/hour, with initial boluses 1 litre NaCl 0.9% before within an hour) in the early 4 hours phase of the treatment, the other only given 1 litre initial boluses NaCl 0.9% within an hour then followed by maintenance fluid 25 - 30 ml/kg/d NaCl 0.9%. All of them were given insulin intravenously depend on their glucose status hourly, then we maintained the glucose level to 150 - 200 mg/dl, deescalation antibiotics broad spectrum, continuous monitored hemodynamics and level of consciousness. We also documented fluid balance, urine output every hour, and acid base, electrolyte, and ketonuric status every 12 hour. Fluid challenge test was given if urine output not reached target, and will be given additional fluid to reach normorehydration status. If there is imbalance electrolyte present we corrected it with supplement potassium intravenously if needed.

Results: In both groups, DKA were resolved within first 24 hours. All the patients regain their consciousness, the blood glucose were reach the target. In the liberal fluid, 1 patient developed lung edema, so we need to intubate him, 1 patient with positive balance without clinical deterioration, and the other one recovered well. The 2nd group, none had lung edema, but 1 patient was given fluid challenge test once and responded well so we gave extra 500 ml NaCl 0.9% within 3 hours to total maintenance fluid. 5 out of 6 were able to be stepped down to the ward, while 1 patient from the liberal fluid stepped up to intensive care unit.

Conclusion: DKA occurred in the obese diabetic type II patient precipitated by infection, resolved well within 24 hours with deescalation technique on antibiotics, insulin therapy, and maintenance dose of fluid.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Analysis of glycaemia in non-critically ill patients with COVID-19 has suggested that hyperglycaemia is associated with poor outcomes in patients with and without diabetes. However, to our knowledge there has not been a longitudinal assessment of glycaemic control and mortality in critically ill patients with COVID-19.

Methods: Retrospective observational study of contemporaneous electronic medical records of patients admitted to our intensive care unit (ICU) for > 24 hours with COVID-19 during the months of March and April 2020. Glycaemic control was assessed relative to the target range of 4-10 mmol/L by three related metrics: estimated time in range 4-10mmol/L, percentage of BG measurements between 4 and 10mmol/L, and mean BG.

Results: 54 patients met inclusion criteria, 1 patient had incomplete BG data and was omitted from our analysis. Median time in range was 86% similar to previous studies. Hypoglycaemia was rare with 4 patients experiencing mild hypoglycaemia (BG <4mmol/L) and 2 patients experiencing biochemically severe hypoglycaemia (BG < 2.5 mmol/L). In the whole cohort we did not find a difference in any glucose metric between those discharged alive from ICU or those who died in ICU. However, we did observe an interaction between diabetes status and ICU outcome with respect to mean blood glucose (P < 0.05), suggesting that the relationship between glycaemia and mortality may depend on diabetes status. Indeed, the percentage of BG measurements in range, time in range and mean blood glucose were significantly different in ICU survivors and non-survivors in the cohort without diabetes (N= 42, P < 0.05 for all metrics) with better glycaemic control observed in ICU survivors. In univariate logistic regression analyses mean BG (OR = 0.44, 95% CI 0.19 – 0.84, P = 0.02) and BG measurements in range (OR = 1.05, 95% CI 1.00 – 1.11, P = 0.04) predicted discharge alive from ICU with better glycaemic control positively associating with survival. Interestingly, both mean BG and BG measurements in range had superior predictive ability for ICU mortality to BMI, steroid use, sex and cross-sectional measurements of CRP, Troponin and D-Dimer in univariate analyses. To determine the additive predictive effect of glycaemia to the dominant risk factor for COVID-19 mortality, age, we examined the effect of glycaemia (BG measurements in range) in a model adjusted for age. The model explained 22% of the variance of the data, compared to 11% for age alone with a similar effect size for glycaemia as was seen in the univariate analysis (OR 1.05 CI: 1.00 – 1.11).

Conclusion: Here we demonstrate, for the first time, an association between glycaemia and mortality in critically ill non-diabetic patients with COVID-19. Given the high prevalence of hyperglycaemia in critically ill patients with COVID-19 further assessment of the interaction between hyperglycaemia and ICU outcomes in diabetic and non-diabetic patients is warranted.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. SL is supported by an Academic Clinical Fellowship from the National Institute of Health Research
2. ACM is supported by a Wellcome Trust grant (WT 205521/Z/16/Z)
Objectives: The objective of this study was to determine muscle wasting (assessed using US) in critically ill patient over a period of 7 days and the relationship between loss of muscle quadriceps thickness and hospital survival probability in critically ill patient under mechanical ventilation.

Methods: The data were entered into an electronic database (Microsoft Excel; Microsoft, Redmond, Washington) and analyzed using SPSS V.26. Data collection was halted after the successful inclusion of 70 patients. Demographic data were expressed as the means ± SD, medians and percentiles or percentages. This study involved patients ≥ 18 years of age admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) who needed mechanical ventilation for at least 48 hours. The QMLT at the two-thirds-thigh was quantified using bedside US with a 12 MHz linear transducer. Measurements of the first (D1), third (D3) and seventh (D7) days were performed of QMLT (mean ± SD) was displayed for left and right legs.

Results: Ultrasound quadriceps thickness measurements were performed on 74 critically ill patients. The mean age was 62.2±19.3 years. 54.1% male, BMI 25.7±4.6 kg/m², SAPS 3 was 55.2±17.2 and NRS 3.2±1.0. Overall, the percentage muscle thickness declined at the right leg in 15% (95%CI, 10.5% to 19.4%), and 12.7% (95%CI, 9.1% to 16.3%) at the left leg assessed by the US occurred from the first to the seventh day. The decline in muscle thickness at the right leg and left leg were higher among non-survivors compared to survivors at all time points. In right leg 2.1±0.7 cm in survivor vs 1.7±0.5 cm nonsurvivor at D1, 1.9±0.7 cm in survivor vs 1.6±0.4 cm nonsurvivor at D3, 1.8±0.6 cm in survivor vs 1.4±0.4 cm nonsurvivor at D7; GLM P= 0.01. In left leg 2.1±0.7 cm in survivor vs 1.7±0.4 cm nonsurvivor at D1, 2.0±0.8 cm in survivor vs 1.7±0.5 cm nonsurvivor at D3, 1.8±0.6 cm in survivor vs 1.5±0.5 cm nonsurvivor at D7; GLM P= 0.04. ROC analysis showed that a cutoff of decline in muscle thickness of less than or equal to 1.64 cm at day 7 can predict survival, AUC=0.7 (95% CI 0.582 to 0.801). Thus, in cox regression after adjusting for SAPS 3 and gender, the probability of patients remaining in the mechanical ventilation was higher with ≤ 1.64 cm at day 7 of loss of thigh muscle thickness, the hazard was 2.1 times (95% CI 1.1–3.8) higher than their counterparts with p value 0.017. The same occurred ≤ 1.64 cm at day 7 of loss of thigh muscle thickness about ICU survival probability; HR= 3.7 (95% CI 1.2 to 11.5) and hospital survival probability; HR= 4.5 (95% CI 1.5 to 13.7).

Conclusion: Among these critically ill patients, muscle wasting occurred during the first week of critical illness under mechanical ventilation. The patients who lost the most muscle was those with the worst survival. Decline in muscle thickness was associated with in-hospital mortality. USG has a potential to identify patients at risk of worse in-hospital outcomes.

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001185
Retrospective audit on the use of hypertonic saline in the management of acute symptomatic hyponatraemia in hospitalised patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001185

Introduction: We introduced the hospital policy on the management of severe symptomatic hyponatraemia (SSH), with hypertonic saline (HS) 1.8% and 5% saline in 2017. This is one of the few UK centres to offer this treatment, therefore the evidence is limited. The policy was based on European and American guidelines (1)(2).

Objectives: To study the adherence, and effectiveness, of this guideline in managing patients with SSH.

Methods: Patients were identified using the Biochemistry tracking system between 01/01/18 until 14/05/20. The terms - HypoNA, sod, Hypertonic, 5%, 1.8% were searched. The laboratory result system was used to identify hyponatraemic (<130 mmol/L) patients at the time they were logged onto the tracking system. Clinical notes were crossmatched for the use of 1.8% and 5% saline for those with sodium <130mmol/L. 12 patients were identified.

The following data was collected using hospital records: age, gender, location, fluid status, presentation, symptoms after HS administration, volume and type of fluids. Sodium was recorded; prior to and during presentation, after HS saline, at 24, 48 hours and at discharge or death. Cause of death (if applicable), complications of HS and length of admission after treatment were also noted. This was compared to the 2017 current hospital guideline
2. Patients with symptoms due to other causes, did not show improvement in symptoms following HS. Before administering HS, SSH should be the most likely diagnoses.
3. 5% Saline was not administrated; it should be removed from the guidelines.

2.1

(2) Verbalis JG, Goldsmith SR, Greenberg A, Korzelius C, Schrier RW, Sterns


2. Goossens C et al. JCSM 2017

000425

Bio-electrical impedance analysis (BIA) in healthy volunteers in various conditions by various observers with various devices: what matters?

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Introduction: To examine 1) inter-device, inter- and intra-observer variability of BIA measurements and 2) effect of fluid load on BIA measurements in healthy adult volunteers.

Methods: We studied two groups of ten healthy adults (women: men = 1:1 in each group). In the first group, three observers performed in each participant three tests on the right and three tests on the left side with two BIA devices (BioScan Touch i8 (Maltron Int. Ltd) and Nutrilab (Akern SRL)). In the second group, BIA tests were done in each participant before and after (immediately – 30 min – 60 min – 120 min later) the fluid load (i.e., drinking of 0.5L or 1L of bottled still water). TBW (total body water), ECW (extracellular water), ICW (intracellular water), ECW/ICW, BCM (body cell mass), FM (fat mass), FFM (fat-free mass), plasma and interstitial fluid volume, and PHA (phase angle at 50 kHz) were compared.

Results: 1) No significant differences between BIA parameters while tested by the same observer. Significant differences were seen in all BIA parameters between BIA devices (p < 0.001). In tests obtained with BioScan, no significant interobserver difference was seen, while significant (p = 0.004) and almost significant (p = 0.091 and 0.06) differences between observers were found with Nutrilab. 2) Water load led to significant change in ECW, ICW, ECW/ICW, interstitial fluid, PHA (p < 0.001) and BCM (p = 0.002) with time, which was most pronounced in the measurements taken as latest.

Conclusion: 1) BIA measurements show low intraobserver variability. With BioScan, inter-observer variability was low as well, while with Nutrilab it was significantly high. Various BIA devices reproduce significantly different results. 2) After fluid load, ECW, ICW, interstitial fluid, PHA and BCM changed significantly with time.

000778

Induction of sustained simultaneous hyperlactatemia and hypoglycemia in a porcine model

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had increased plasma free fatty acids, glycerol and peak 3-hydroxybutyrate concentrations compared to Ln and Ln-lep (p ≤ 0.01). Both obese groups showed an attenuated inflammatory response compared to both Ln and Ln-lep, evident by a 50% lower plasma TNFα increase (p < 0.005).

Conclusion: Not increased leptin availability, but adiposity attenuated critical illness induced muscle wasting and weakness. A more efficient mobilisation of fat stores and ketogenesis, as shown previously,2 but also a blunted inflammatory response might play a mediating role.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 2. Goossens C et al. JCSM 2017
2. 3. Study funded by FWO (G.0C78.17N) and ERC (AdG 2017-785809)
Introduction: Both physiological theory (1) and anecdotal observations (2) support the principle that most mammalian cells may sustain their metabolism using lactate instead of glucose. Combined hyperlactatemia and hypoglycemia (HLHG) may constitute a novel treatment for various diseases, including cancer and malaria. However, induction, maintenance and reversal of HLHG may be challenging and leading to profound derangement of the electrolyte and acid-base equilibrium.

Objectives: To develop a porcine model of HLHG by extracorporeal administration of lactic acid (HLA) and hyperinsulinemic clamping.

Methods: Five female swine (36.0 ± 6.3 kg), received an oral dose of 1000 mg metformin before anesthesia induction and connection to an extracorporeal circuit for HLA administration (3). Target lactatemia level was 8-10 mmol/L. Once lactatemia achieved 7.5 mmol/L, deep hypoglycemia (target glycaemia: 23-31 mg/dL, 1.3-1.7 mmol/L) was induced and maintained with hyperinsulinemic clamp, i.e. continuous infusion of insulin and concentrated glucose. Hypoglycemic counter-responses were inhibited by infusion of labetalol and octreotide. Respiratory rate (RR) was adjusted targeting an arterial pCO2 of 40 mmHg. After 4 hours of stable HLHG, normal glycaemia and lactatemia were restored. Numerous blood samples were obtained for gas and biochemistry. Data are reported as mean±standard deviation.

Results: The figure shows the time course of lactatemia and glycaemia. The initial target lactatemia (8.3±1.2 mmol/L) was achieved by infusing a total amount of 190.8±22.2 mmol of HLA over 48±22 minutes. Subsequently, hypoglycemia was obtained in 44±18 minutes by infusing 81.6±53.2 IU insulin. In this phase hyperlactatemia (8.9±1.1 mmol/L) was maintained by infusing 267.1±41.5 mmol of HLA, while a total amount of 20.0±8.0 mcg octreotide and 16.2±7.9 mg labetalol was administered. HLHG was maintained for 260±23 minutes with a glycaemia of 25±4 mg/dL requiring low dose insulin continuous infusion (0.4±0.5 UI/h). In order to avoid serum glucose dropping below 18 mg/dL, 50% glucose administration was required in all animals at an average rate of 5.1±2.7 g/h, for a total infused dose of 23.7±10.1 g. Labetalol infusion was performed at a rate of 26±22 mg/h for a total labetalol dose 124.5±99.4 mg. After the HLHG phase, 20.7±12.1 g of glucose over 72±24 minutes were required to restore normoglycemia (>60 mg/dL). No major hemodynamic derangements occurred. A mild positive fluid balance was observed, but not exceeding 1 L. RR was increased from 20.4±3.3 bpm at baseline to a maximum of 29.8±3.8 bpm and returned to 19.6±2.6 bpm after restoration of normal glucose and lactate levels. Minimum values of arterial pH and bicarbonate were 7.25±0.09 and 19.3±3.4 mmol/L, respectively. Biomarkers of hepatic, renal and myocardial damage did not increase throughout the experimental procedures.

Conclusion: In a large mammal model, induction, maintenance and reversal of HLHG was feasible and without major hemodynamic or metabolic derangements. Further studies will be required to evaluate safety and possible therapeutic effects of HLHG.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. Part of these studies were supported by Laca Medical.

00009
Urinary titin is a novel biomarker of muscle atrophy in non-surgical critically ill patients: a two-center prospective observational study
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Introduction: Skeletal muscle atrophy is common in critically ill patients. Although monitoring of muscle mass is important, biomarkers associated with muscle atrophy have not been reliably identified. Titin is a spring-like protein in muscle, and has become measurable as a marker of muscle breakdown. We hypothesized that urinary titin is a useful biomarker for monitoring muscle atrophy in critically ill patients.

Objectives: We conducted a two-center prospective observational study to investigate titin level and its association with muscle atrophy in critically ill patients.

Methods: We recruited adult patients who were expected to remain in the intensive care unit (ICU) for more than 5 days. We excluded post-operative patients due to the increased titin level by surgery. Urine sample was collected on days 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7. The urinary N-terminal fragment of titin was measured using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit. We corrected titin with urinary creatinine (normal range: 1–3 pmol/mg Cr). In order to assess muscle atrophy, rectus femoris cross-sectional area and diaphragm thickness were measured with ultrasound on days 1, 3, 5, and 7. The primary outcome was the relationship between cumulative titin level and the atrophy rate of rectus femoris muscle. Secondary outcomes included the relationship between urinary titin level and the change of diaphragm thickness, incidence of ICU-acquired weakness (ICU-AW), ICU mobility scale (IMS), and mortality in the ICU.

Results: Fifty-six patients (33 males and 23 females; mean age, 72 ± 13 years) were included at 232 titin measurements. The APACHE II score was 25 (19–29) and the length of ICU stay was 6 (4–9) days. The titin level was 27.9 (16.8–59.6), 47.6 (23.5–82.4), 46.6 (24.4–79.6), 38.4 (23.6–83.0), and 49.3 (27.4–92.6) pmol/mg Cr on days 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, respectively. The cumulative titin level was significantly associated with the atrophy of rectus femoris muscle on day 3 (P < 0.01), day 5 (P < 0.01), and day 7 (P = 0.03), although titin was not associated with the change of diaphragm thickness (P = 0.54). Furthermore, the cumulative titin level was associated with ICU-AW (P = 0.01) and mortality in the ICU (P = 0.02), but not with IMS (P = 0.18).

Conclusion: In non-surgical critically ill patients, the urinary titin level was increased approximately 10-30 times the normal level. The increased titin level was associated with lower limb muscle atrophy, incidence of ICU-AW, and ICU mortality.

000165
Systemic involvement and epidemiology of diabetic patients admitted for Acute Coronary Syndrome
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Introduction: Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is a chronic disease, which is associated with a marked increase in cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: Our aim was to analyze the clinical and metabolic control, as well as the degree of systemic affection in this group of patients (p).

Methods: An observational analytical prospective study including 16 diabetic patients, consecutively admitted to the Intensive Care Unit with acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

Results: Mean age at diagnosis: 69.1 years ± 9.2. Male: 63.2%. Years of evolution of DM: 11.9 ± 2.3. Ambulatory treatment: 23 p (14.3%) diet; 44p (27.3%) oral antidiabetic (OAD) monotherapy: 32p (19.9%) combined OAD: 24p (14.9%) OAD + insulin and 38 p (23.6%) insulin. Average weekly controls: 7 ± 3. Monitoring was performed by 72% general practitioner; Endocrinology 13%, 8% without follow-up and 6.8% by other specialists; with 2 annual reviews of average. During their hospitalization, the mean glycemic level was: before breakfast: 115.8 ± 37 mg/dl; before lunch: 209.2 ± 63 mg/dl and before dinner: 187 ± 70 mg/dl. Mean Glycosylated hemoglobin level was 7.9%.

Regarding macrovascular affection: previous heart disease: 74.5% (22.9% type angina, 37.9% acute myocardial infarction, other heart disease: 13.7%). Previous stroke: 17p (10.5%), 37p intermittent claudication (23.5%), Pedal pulses present in 43.5%, weak in 42.8% and absent in 13.6%. Microvascular affection: retinopathy: 32p (19.6%), nephropathy: 39p (24.2%), Monofilament examination: sensitivity 6/6 in 56.5%, 5/6 in 11.1%, 4/6 in 8.7%, 3/6 in 13.6%, 2/6 in 4.9%, 1/6 in 2.5%, 0/6 in 3.1%.

Conclusion: The clinical profile of diabetic patients admitted in our Unit corresponds to a middle-aged man, with insulin regimen and improvable metabolic control. Cardiovascular complications were found in a remarkable percentage. Therefore, it must be highlighted the importance of a strict control of blood glucose levels in these patients to slow the progression of the disease.

000714
The impact of volume therapy (VT) with NaCl 0.9% vs Ringer lactate as a part of complex intensive therapy (CIT) for early rebalancing of the diabetic patient
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Introduction: Rapid crystalloid fluid loading in ketoadiposis is essential to restore the patient to normal metabolic state. The main objective of the CIT is to identify triggers and to fix it as soon as possible.

Objectives: To evaluate DKA’s triggers; to appreciate the role of early VT with NaCl 0.9% vs Ringer lactate on acid-base balance values and time spent in ICU for patients with DKA.

Methods: A retrospective study (conducted in the hospital “Sfanta Treime”, Chisinau, during the 2018-2019 years) based on 64 critical ill patients (mean of age 35.68 ± 3.45 years, P = 0.204) who needed VT, mechanical ventilation (MV), acid-base balance and glycemic correction in 24 hours. Patients were divided in 2 groups. Group I (n = 34) – patients received NaCl 0.9% and group II (n = 30) – Ringer lactate as VT. In these patients were appreciated clinical manifestation, BP (blood pressure), HR (heart rate), PICCO parameters, acid-base balance (ABB), glycemia, lactate, anionic gap (AnGap), blood osmolality.

Results: According to this study triggers for DKA were: neglected insulin therapy regimen n = 28 (43.75%), wrong diet n = 6 (9.37%), inflammatory process n = 30 (46.87%). At admission in ICU in group I were found a higher APACHE II and SOFA score (group I – APACHEII 16 ± 2.1, SOFA 14 ± 1.9 vs group II – APACHEII 14 ± 2.3, SOFA 12 ± 2.0) and at the end of the treatment – a shorter hospital stay (group I- 3.4 days vs group II- 4.8 days). Also, in the group I was observed a faster improvement of the ABB values (lactate = 8.2-3.5 mmol/l, glycemia = 31-16 mmol/l, blood osmolality = 275-290 mmol/kg, AnGap 12-16 mmol/l) vs group II (lactate = 8.2-4.5 mmol/l, glycemia = 30-18 mmol/l, blood osmolality = 285-900 mmol/kg, AnGap 14-18 mmol/l). Mortality in group I was 5.88%; P = 0.012 vs. group II-6.66%; P = 0.023.

Conclusion: Clear identifying of the DKA’s triggers and early VT with NaCl 0.9% given to critical ill patients showed a faster improvement in ABB values, shorter hospital stay and reduced mortality rate.

000799
Professionals of an Intensive Care Unit’s perception of dysphagia in critically ill patients
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Introduction: Oropharyngeal dysphagia and its consequences are problems that seem frequent among critically ill patients, although this question has yet to be resolved, since its incidence in this patient profile is not clearly known.

Objectives: To study the perception of dysphagia among ICU physicians and nurses.

Methods: Cross-sectional, prospective, descriptive and quantitative study through a personal, self-administered survey, which has been translated from a reference work and adapted to our environment.

Results: 102 questionnaires were fulfilled. Almost 80% of ICU professionals consider dysphagia as a problem. In addition, more than 60% of the interviewees believe that dysphagia prolongs the length of stay in the ICU of the patients and almost half believe that dysphagia increases morbidity and mortality (46.1%). However, no screening is done (65.7%), but when this is accomplished, it is through a test meal (38.2%).

On the other hand, they believe that the main risk factors for developing dysphagia during admission are prolonged intubation, ICU admission for acute or pre-existing neurological disease. Finally, regarding the complications produced by dysphagia, a large majority of professionals point to aspiration pneumonia as the main one.

Conclusion: The staff perceive that dysphagia is a problem, although it is not very frequent, they can have an impact on the patient’s morbidity and mortality. Furthermore, being determined of the need to improve their level of awareness, we believe that it is necessary to implement standardized screening protocols, guided by experts from multidisciplinary areas and focused on early suspicion, diagnosis and treatment of dysphagia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000441
Impact of liver support systems in acute-on-chronic liver failure: uncertainty remains - a systematic review and network meta-analysis
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Introduction: Although several devices were tested in randomized controlled trials and are in use currently, the role of artificial and bio-artificial liver support systems (ALSS) in acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) is still controversial. There is a lack of evidence for survival benefit, therefore most international societies do not advise the routine use of these devices in ACLF. Network meta-analyses enable indirect comparison of interventions without the need for head-to-head trials, therefore may produce additional evidence.

Objectives: Our aim was to perform the first network meta-analysis comparing different liver support systems to each other and to standard medical therapy (SMT) in patients with ACLF.

Methods: The protocol was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42020155850). The systematic search was conducted in MEDLINE, CENTRAL, Scopus, Embase and Web of Science databases. Selection and data extraction was performed in duplicate and a Bayesian network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials was conducted. Risk ratios and 95% credible intervals (CrI) were calculated and interventions were ranked by their posterior probability via calculating the surface under cumulative ranking (SUCRA) curve values. SUCRA values range from 0 to 100%. The higher the SUCRA value, and the closer to 100%, the higher the likelihood that a therapy is in the top rank or one of the top ranks. Version 2 of the Cochrane risk-of-bias tool for randomized trials (RoB 2) and a modified GRADE approach were used for the assessment of risk of bias and quality of evidence.

Results: The systematic search yielded 2774 records. Twenty-three randomized trials (RoB 2) and a modified GRADE approach were used for the assessment of risk of bias and quality of evidence. Moderate certainty. Hepatic encephalopathy, laboratory parameters and timely interventions and avoid the need for critical care.

Conclusion: This is the first network meta-analysis evaluating the effects of all available and tested artificial and bioartificial liver support therapies on survival in ACLF. Plasma exchange (PE) and BioLogicDT® were assessed in the systematic review. Risk ratios and 95% credible intervals (CrI) were calculated and interventions were ranked on an individual basis and be considered for ICU admission if there is a potentially reversible cause for their presentation. We advise ward-based teams to discuss with regional specialist centres at an early stage to assess whether an episode of decomposition is reversible (e.g. Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt). Daily consult-ant reviews of patients could avoid late referrals, improve the rate of timely interventions and avoid the need for critical care.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000601 Hemoadsorption in liver failure – Subgroup analysis of the CytoSorb International Registry
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Introduction: CytoSorb (CytoSorbents, USA) is a relatively new extracorporeal blood purification device. It was primarily used in septic shock and other hyperinflammatory conditions for removing inflammatory mediators, preventing the harmful effects of cytokine storm. Acute liver failure is a severe, devastating condition that usually necessitates intensive care. Data from the International CytoSorb Registry shows that CytoSorb is often used in liver failure to prevent the development of multiple organ failure.

Objectives: We report on the biggest case-series to date on CytoSorb use in liver failure as a subgroup from the International CytoSorb Registry.

Methods: The International CytoSorb Registry (NCT02312024) prospectively collects data from adult patients who underwent CytoSorb treatment. No exclusion criteria are defined. Data was recorded at baseline, up to 24 hours before treatment (T1), up to 24 hours after the last CytoSorb therapy (T2), and at discharge from hospital or mortality. One-electronic case report forms. Descriptive statistical methods were used. Changes were calculated form T1 and T2 values using t-test as well as linear model for selected variables. 95% confidence intervals (CI) were provided.

Results: From May 2015 until November 2019, 930 patients were entered into the Registry from 9 countries by 42 centres. In 89 cases (9.5%) the stated indication for therapy was liver failure, being the third most frequent indication after sepsis and pre-emptive use during cardiac surgery. In this subgroup the mean age was 48.2 years and the majority of patients were male (56.2%). Patients received a median of 2 treatments (i.e.: 2 adsorbers), with a median overall treatment duration of 43 hours. The median time of use per adsorber was one day and time between treatments was less than 1 hour (median).

More than 90% of patients were alive at the termination of CytoSorb therapy. Forty-seven patients died in the ICU and 3 more during hospitalization, which corresponds to a 57.5% in-hospital mortality. Attend- ing physicians observed improvement in 62 cases (70.4%). No change was recorded in 15 cases (17%) and in 4 patients the condition worsened. SOFA scores hardly changed (T2-T1). Changes in CRP and PCT were not significant. Serum total bilirubin (TBIL) showed a significant reduction (T2-T1; mean [CI]: -61.7 [-92.7 to -30.8]). Regarding safety, device-related serious adverse events were not reported.

Conclusion: We report on the largest case series on CytoSorb application in patients with liver failure. The therapy proved safe, reduced TBIL significantly and resulted in subjective improvement in the patient’s condition due to CytoSorb treatment in 70% of the cases. These encouraging results underline the need for randomized controlled trials assessing CytoSorb in liver failure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Conclusion: ALF is more prevalent in Covid-19 patients compared to other patients with respiratory failure, and mainly with a hepato-cellular pattern. Covid-19 patients may display poorer liver synthetic function in early stages of the disease (<14 days). There is no impact on clinical outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None

001008 Outcomes for patients with acute-on-chronic liver failure admitted to Oxford ICU

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Introduction: Acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) was defined in the CANONIC study by acute development of one or more major complication of decompensated liver cirrhosis, plus organ failure and high risk of short-term mortality. ACLF is common, affecting approximately 30% of hospitalised cirrhotic patients and may develop in patients without previous decompensation. Precipitants include infection, alcoholic hepatitis and surgery, but in more than 40% of patients no precipitating event is identified. Clinical management focuses on treatment of a precipitant, whilst addressing the characteristic systemic inflammation and physiological disturbance of the critically ill patient with liver disease. Given the high risk of short-term mortality, much of the literature relates to the use of prognostic scores to contextualise the degree of ACLF organ failure and arguably the utility of critical care admission; with the CLIF-C ACLF score shown to have greater predictive accuracy in ACLF than other cirrhotic liver disease scoring systems.

Objectives: This study retrospectively identified patients with ACLF, admitted to our general adult critical care service (ICU), in order to review their admitting aetiology, level of organ support and survival. In addition, we sought to apply a range of available prognostic scores for cirrhotic liver failure to determine their efficacy.

Methods: The Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) database was searched for patients admitted to ICU at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), between 1st April and 31st December 2019, with a diagnosis code of: liver cirrhosis, acute alcoholic hepatitis, encephalopathy, portal hypertension, or gastrointestinal variceal haemorrhage. Also identified were cirrhotic patients with sepsis or acute renal failure by necessary association with these codes. Review of these patient records identified patients with ACLF; including their clinical data, admission reason, survival to unit and hospital discharge, and 28- and 90-day mortality. CLIF-C organ failure, UKELD and Childs-Pugh scores were calculated for time of critical care admission and, given their association with predicted mortality for a given score, compared between survivors and non-survivors with the aim of comparing prognostic ability. CLIF-C was also calculated with 48 hours post-admission data, to give delta-CLIF scores.

Results: 21 patients (M/F:13/8, median age 51 [38-76] years), were admitted to ICU due to ACLF – though this specific diagnosis was rarely made.

Stated admission cause included: remaining intubated post-endoscopy for upper gastrointestinal (UGI) haemorrhage (9/21, 43%), vasopressor treatment (5/21, 24%), invasive monitoring (4/21, 19%), reduced conscious level (2/21, 9.5%), palliative care (1/21, 4.5%). Commonest aetiology was gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding; variceal (7/21, 33%), non-variceal (1/21, 4.5%), lower GI (2/21, 9.5%). Other causes included bacterial infection (3/21, 14%), acute alcoholic hepatitis (3/21, 14%), ischaemic bowel (1/21, 4.5%). In four cases, no clear precipitant for ACLF was identified (4/21, 19%).

81% (17/21) were admitted with CLIF-C ACLF grade 3, 19% (4/21) admitted with ACLF grade 2; giving a median CLIF-C ACLF prognostic score of 68 (IQR 11.5), which, for the median age of 51 years, would convey 85% predicted mortality at 1 month and 95% at 3 months. Actual mortality at 48-hours was 48% (10/21), at ICU discharge, 67% (14/21), and hospital discharge, 28-day and 90-day mortality rates were the same at 71% (15/21). Of 11/21 patients alive at 48 hours, median delta-CLIF organ failure score was 0 (IQR 2).

Median CLIF organ failure, UKELD and Childs-Pugh scores were compared between those patients alive at 28/90 days and those who had died: CLIF, 13 vs. 15 (P=.31); UKELD, 58 vs. 59 (P=.33); Childs-Pugh, 11 vs. 12 (P=.15).

Conclusion: Studied mortality was lower than predicted by the most well-validated prognostic score available in this context (CLIF-C ACLF). Possibly due to small sample size, the difference in severity between prognostic scores in survivors and non-survivors was not statistically significant – nor was the CLIF-C score shown to have superior prognostic ability. Unchanged average delta-CLIF scores was likely a result of the advanced degree of organ failure on admission, which is recognised to correlate with slower improvement in this context. Further prospective study of ACLF scores and outcomes, ideally in both referrals and admissions to critical care, are needed in order to understand the potential role for prognostic scoring in guiding critical care intervention.

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6. Nil grant acknowledgement required.

00012 Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage: A decade of surgical intensive care experience

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Introduction: Spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is one of the significant aetiologies for stroke. SAH causes higher morbidity, mortality with loss of productivity resulting in increased disease burden. A few studies about SAH are from the region and the epidemiological features of SAH and aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH) have not been comprehensively studied before in Qatar.

Objectives: Aim of our study was to describe the epidemiological profile of patients with SAH and aSAH in the State of Qatar.
Methods: A retrospective chart review was performed for all spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage and/or ruptured aneurysm cases that were consecutively admitted to Hamad General Hospital (600 bedded tertiary care facility) during the period January 1, 2007 until December 31, 2016. A quantitative analysis of demographics, clinical characteristics, diagnostic findings, interventions and overall mortality was done. Data was entered in SPSS version 18. Chi square and student t tests were used to compare between the groups. P value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: A total of 323 patients were included in the study composed of both aneurysmal and non-aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage. Mean age at presentation was 47.4±12.2 years. Men comprised 68.7% of the cases. 86.6% of the patients presented with acute onset headache. 217 patients had 1 aneurysm and 32 patients had multiple aneurysms. ACOMA (Anterior communicating artery) aneurysm was the most common aneurysm. Non Aneurysmal Subarachnoid hemorrhage occurred in 74 patients (22.9%) and was more common in men. 23.7% of the patients underwent microsurgical clipping of the aneurysm and 52.6% of the patients underwent coiling of the aneurysm. Overall mortality was less in WFNS 1 and 2 SAH than in higher grades (28.6% vs 71.4%). 69 out of a total of 323 patients died within 1 month post ictus, accounting for an overall mortality rate of 21.2% in our study.

Conclusion: The annual incidence of aneurysmal SAH in Qatar is on the rise. Males had a higher incidence of aSAH. ICA aneurysms have been found to be more common in Qatari women which may have a genetic basis. Lower WFNS grades of aSAH was associated with better prognosis. The overall mortality associated with aSAH in Qatar has declined over the last 3 years.

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000034

Status epilepticus: a retrospective observational study of current practice and outcomes at a single UK tertiary centre neurocritical care unit
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Introduction: Evidence for the treatment of refractory and super-refractory status epilepticus in intensive care is mostly based on case reports and small case series; there is a strong imperative to publish larger cohorts and share data on clinical outcomes.

Objectives: To describe the demographics, management, and outcomes of patients with status epilepticus requiring critical care support at a single UK tertiary centre neurocritical care unit.

Methods: A retrospective observational study of all consecutive patients admitted with status epilepticus to intensive care for level two or level three organ support at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh over a five year period (Jan 1st 2014 - Dec 31st 2019).

Results: During the study period, there were 141 admissions to intensive care from 133 unique patients with a confirmed diagnosis of status epilepticus. 56% of patients were male; mean average age at admission was 51 years; and mean average length of stay was nine days. The mean average APACHE II score for the study population was 16 corresponding to a predicted non-operative mortality of 25%. The actual observed mortality in our study population was only 15%. Mortality was higher among patients admitted following out-of-hospital cardiac arrest or neurological procedures and lower for patients with a pre-existing diagnosis of any epilepsy syndrome. The drug treatments most frequently prescribed for each step of management were as follows: (1) benzodiazepines; (2) phenytoin; (3) levetiracetam; (4) midazolam infusion; and (5) phenobarbital or thiopentone coma. Overall, 74% of patients required general anaesthesia and mechanical ventilation. 46% of patients received formal EEG testing and 10% were diagnosed with super-refractory status epilepticus treated with formal burst suppression. The observed mortality among patients with super-refractory status epilepticus was 29%.

Conclusion: Mortality in patients admitted to intensive care with status epilepticus is higher following out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and neurological procedures. More than 70% of patients in super-refractory status epilepticus at our site survived to hospital discharge.

000127

Association of Different Transcranial Doppler-Derived Indices of Cerebrovascular Dynamics with Vasospasm and Delayed Cerebral Ischemia in Patients suffering from Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
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Introduction: Delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI) constitutes a major complication following subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) and is partly associated with vasospasm (VS) and impaired cerebral autoregulation. Different surrogate markers of cerebral blood flow (CBF), such as non-invasive transcranial doppler (TCD), are frequently used to monitor development of VS, as well as integrity of autoregulation. In this respect, different physiological parameters can be estimated, such the dynamic index of autoregulation Mxa, which is a moving correlation coefficient between spontaneous fluctuations of cerebral blood flow velocity (CBFV) and arterial blood pressure (ABP). A positive correlation signals disturbed autoregulation. Other indices include cerebral arterial time constant (tau) that reflects arterial filling time distal to insonation vessel and critical closing pressure (CrCP), which estimates the theoretical lowest value of ABP that is needed for maintaining CBF. Objectives: We investigated how VS affects different TCD-derived indices of cerebrovascular dynamics in patients suffering from SAH. Secondly, we explored the potential differences of such VS-associated changes between subgroups of patients with and without DCI, in both temporal and spatial settings.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was performed using recordings from 32 SAH patients, admitted to the Neurocritical Care Unit at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, in Cambridge, UK, diagnosed with VS through bilateral TCD measurements. Patients were divided in 2 groups, depending on development of DCI (DCI group, N=19 vs non-DCI group, N=13). Cerebral autoregulation was estimated using the index Mxa. We also measured tau as the product of arterial resistance (Ra) and compliance (Ca) and estimated CrCP, as the intercept point of a regression line between systolic and diastolic ABP plotted along the x axis and systolic and diastolic CBFV plotted along the y axis.

Results: In the whole population, VS caused shortening of tau (ipsilateral to spasm: 0.17 ± 0.08 vs before spasm: 0.25 ± 0.17 sec, p = 0.04), decrease in CrCP (ipsilateral to spasm: 9.69 ± 23.28 vs before: 27.23 ± 23.31 mmHg, p= 0.01) and interhemispheric asymmetry with lower values on ipsilateral side (p < 0.01). Ipsilateral CrCP during VS was negatively correlated with Mxa (r = -0.43, p=0.01) and positively correlated with tau (r=0.74, p < 0.001). In patients with DCI, VS caused increase in Mxa (ipsilateral to spasm: 0.36 ± 0.18 vs before: 0.26 ± 0.23, p= 0.04), decrease in CrCP (ipsilateral to spasm: 6.61 ± 24.5 vs before: 17.24 ± 19.4 mmHg, p= 0.04) and lower values on ipsilateral side (p < 0.01).
Conclusion: VS was associated with reduced tau and CrCP in both temporal and spatial assessments, in all patients with SAH. Impaired autoregulation and shortened tau correlated with decreased CrCP. VS in patients who developed DCI, reduced CrCP (temporal and spatial effect) signifying vasodilatation, and increased Mxa, reflecting disturbed autoregulation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000145
A safe strategy for early weaning and tracheostomy avoidance in cervical spinal cord injury: a single-center experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000145

Introduction: High cervical spinal cord-injured (C-SCI) patients experience severe disability and are at risk of ventilator-dependency and tracheostomy(1,2). In the acute phase, they need invasive ventilator support. Conventional weaning parameters such as P 0-1, pressure muscleindex (PMI)(3) and negative inspiratory force (NIF) are not always informative in C-SCI, because most of them will not match the conventional targets and still undergo successful weaning. The global incidence of tracheostomy in C-SCI varies widely among the different studies, and is described up to 60%, with a higher risk in males, AIS A grade, upper C-SCI, high injury severity score (ISS), GCS≤8, thoracic injury, and patients with respiratory complications(4). Some studies suggest that the use of non-invasive mechanical ventilation (NIMV) and mechanically cough assist (MAC) can allow extubation without further complications(S).

Objectives: To retrospectively assess the safety and efficacy of an aggressive respiratory approach with early extubation coupled with NIMV, MAC, and intensive nursing assistance on C-SCI patients (C3 to C6 SCI).

Methods: This was a single-center retrospective study. Clinical records of the patients with spinal cord injury from January 2018 to December 2019 were revised. All the patients with cervical spinal cord injury were included, with no limits of age or comorbidities. Standard management of quadriplegic patients in our department is included, with no limits of age or comorbidities. This was a single-center retrospective study. Clinical records of the patients with cervical spinal cord injury from January 2018 to December 2019 were revised. All the patients with cervical spinal cord injury were included, with no limits of age or comorbidities.

Results: Twenty-five patients with acute cervical spinal cord injury were admitted to our department in the study period. Age was 39 ±17 years and 72% of them were male. Full data of the initial population are shown in Table 1. Twenty-four of them were traumatic, 1 ischemic. Median ISS in traumatized patients was 25 and most of the patients (80%) were isolated cervical traumas. The full data of the initial population are shown in table 1. All patients except 2, were intubated, only 3 patients (12%) were tracheostomized. Five patients (20%) failed an extubation trial, only 1 of them underwent a tracheostomy. In one of the tracheostomized patients, our protocol was not applicable because it came from another hospital three months after the trauma. Among patients who failed the extubation trial, 3 came from other hospitals, 2 were treated in our institution from the beginning. The extubation failure rate in patients admitted to our institution first was 8%. One patient was diagnosed with pneumonia, while another patient experienced complete atelectasis of a pulmonary lobe, treated with bronchoscopy. The incidence of tracheostomy was different according to the level of lesion, being (50%) in C3 lesion, 28% in C4 lesion and 0 in the lower levels. ASIA A patients underwent tracheostomy in the 8% of cases, ASIA B in the 28%, while no ASIA C patient received a tracheostomy. At 1-year follow-up (when available) no new tracheostomy has been performed, no urgent re-admission to ICU occurred for any reason. The intubation rate at admission was 23/25 (92%). An extubation trial was performed in 21/25 patients (84%).

Conclusion: We present a C-SCI group of patients, with a lower rate of tracheostomy compared to current evidence(1,4,6,7), and a low rate of respiratory complications, such as pneumonia or atelectasis. Our data suggest that an aggressive weaning program tailored to specific patient’s needs could lead to a higher rate of respiratory autonomy without side effects.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000147
Comparative analysis of serum iron in patients with favorable and unfavorable outcomes of the treatment of traumatic brain injury
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Introduction: Traumataumatic brain injury (TBI) is considered as a generalized process in which a systemic inflammatory response syndrome often develops [1]. Iron is a co-factor of metabolicproteases and its metabolism is actively changing with multiple organ dysfunction [2,3]. Monitoring changes of serum iron is very interesting as a prognostic criterion of treatment outcome in patients with head injury [4].
Objectives: To study the dynamics of serum iron in patients with head injury in the postoperative time and its potential in predicting treatment outcome.

Methods: A prospective study was hold from 01.05.2018 to 31.12.2019. The ethics committee received permission for this study. 76 adult patients (33 women and 33 men) who needed surgical treatment of traumatic brain injury were included in the study. The age of the patients was 54 (43.5; 60) years. 45 patients underwent general anesthesia, and 31 patients underwent combined general anesthesia and scalp block with using small volumes (0.5-1 ml for one nerve) 0.75% ropivacaine. General anesthesia was total intravenous anesthesia using propofol and fentanyl. In 3–6 months after craniotomy the Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) was taken for rating the outcome of treatment in patients with head injury. The treatment outcome was unfavorable 1-3 points by GOS (1 - patient's death, 2 - vegetative state, 3 - severe disability). The treatment outcome was favorable at 4 or 5 points by GOS (4 - the possibility of self-care, 5 - full recovery). Two groups of patients were formed. Group 1 included 46 patients with a favorable outcome, and group 2 included 30 patients (of whom 17 patients (56.7%) died) patients with an unfavorable outcome.

The groups of patients did not differ in age, weight, sex, method of anesthesia. Patients of groups 1 and 2 significantly reliably differed at the volume of intracranial hematomas, the intraoperative bleeding and estimated Glasgow Coma Scale (in group 1 - 14 (11; 15) in group 2 - 7 (6; 10)), p <0.05.

Serum iron was compared between groups 1 and 2. A BA 400 Biosystems biochemistry analyzer (Spain) was used for analysis of serum iron. The reference values of serum iron was 11.6-31.3 µmol/l. Blood sampling was performed 1-2 hours before the operation, and further in 11 (6; 17) hours on the 1st day after the operation, then in 35 (29; 40) hours on the 2nd day, in 60 (52; 65) hours on 3 day, after 108 (100; 113) hours on the 5th day, in 155 (148; 161) hours on the 7th day and in 226 (220; 233) hours on the 10th day after craniotomy.

Statistical analysis was performed by Statistica 8.0 and Microsoft Excel 2007. The normal distribution was checked using the Shapiro-Wilk’s test. Nonparametric methods were used to test the significance of statistical hypotheses. Descriptive statistics are presented as medians and lower and upper quartiles Me (LQ; UQ). The hypothesis of a statistically significant difference in the independent groups was tested using the Mann-Whitney test. The determination of serum iron as an unfavorable classifier of outcome was evaluated using logistic regression with the construction of ROC-curves and calculating the area (AUC), sensitivity (Se) and specificity (Sp).

Results: Significant differences in the serum iron between groups 1 and 2 were revealed on the 5th, 7th and 10th days after the operation. Before surgery, the serum iron in patients of group 1 was 13.5 (5; 17) µmol/l, in group 2 it was 7.7 (6.5; 14.3) µmol/l, p = 0.82. On the 1st day after the operation, in group 1 the iron was 6.6 (4.2; 13.7), and in group 2 it was 7.5 (5.5; 13.2) µmol/l, p = 0.48; on 2nd day after surgery in group 1 - 3.9 (2.8; 6.6), and in group 2 - 4.9 (2.8; 8.1) µmol/l, p = 0.61; on 3rd day in group 1 - 5.1 (2.7; 7.6), and in group 2 - 3.1 (2.3; 5.6) µmol/l, p = 0.12; on 5th day after surgery in group 1 - 6.1 (2.6; 14.5), and in group 2 - 2.5 (1.9; 5.2) µmol/l, p = 0.02; on 7th day in group 1 - 7.3 (4; 13.5) µmol/l, p = 0.02; on 10th day after craniotomy in group 1 the iron was 7.3 (3.6; 12.3), and in group 2 - 3.6 (1.9; 5.7) µmol/l, p = 0.03.

Using logistic regression, a statistically significant difference was revealed between patients of groups 1 and 2 in iron serum on 5th and 10thdays after the operation for an unfavorable outcome. On 5th day: AUC 0.71, sensitivity (Se) 70.6%, specificity (Sp) - 65.2%. On 10th day: AUC 0.73, Se 75%, Sp - 60%.

Conclusion: Patients with an unfavorable outcome of treatment's TBI on the 5th, 7th and 10th days after craniotomy revealed significantly lower level of serum iron than in patients with a favorable outcome.

2. Lower value serum iron starting 5th day after craniotomy can be considered a predictor of an unfavorable outcome in the treatment of patients with TBI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

A Retrospective Review of Intensive Care Admissions with Acute Ischaemic Stroke in an Irish Tertiary Referral Centre

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Introduction: Acute Ischaemic Stroke (AIS) remains a significant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. With increasingly advanced techniques for reperfusion and prevention of secondary injury, the role of intensive care management in AIS is expanding. Beaumont Hospital, Dublin is the national neurosurgical and interventional neuroradiology referral centre in the Republic of Ireland with 17 Intensive Care beds. There were 2531 ICU admissions across all categories during this time period.

Objectives: The study sought to review the number and nature of admissions, baseline characteristics, interventions and outcomes of patients with AIS and compare these to international data.

Methods: A retrospective review of admissions from January 2017 to July 2019 was performed using standard data points collected by the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA). Approval for retrieval and assessment of data was granted by NOCA. Patients with a primary admission diagnosis of AIS were included. Other causes of cerebrovascular accident including subarachnoid haemorrhage were excluded. Eighty-seven pre-determined data points were examined. Statistical analysis was performed in R Studio, Version 1.1.456. Results are presented as percentages, mean/median and 95% Confidence Interval as appropriate.

Results: 68 patients were admitted in this period with a primary diagnosis of AIS. 34% were female. Mean age was 60 years (95% CI 58.8-61.2). The MCA territory was implicated in 38% cases. 16% of patients presented locally. Referring hospitals ranged from 5.6 to 243 kilometres in distance from our centre. Thrombectomy was performed in 36 patients (52%). The majority of patients (89.7%) were mechanically ventilated. The median mechanical ventilation days was 4 (range 1-22 days). Tracheostomy was performed in seven patients. The majority of patients in this group had posterior circulation involvement. 43% of patients were treated for hyperglycaemia.

Median Intensive Care length of stay was 6 days (range 1-26 days). 63% of patients survived to ICU discharge. Middle Cerebral Artery decompression was performed in 16 patients (24%). This group of patients had a lower median age, higher rates of stroke-associated pneumonia and a similar survival to ICU discharge. Increasing age was associated with reduced survival to ICU discharge (OR 0.94; CI 0.90-0.99; P = 0.02). Other variables such as body mass index, hyperglycaemia, mechanical ventilation days and ICU length of stay did not reach statistical significance. This may be reflective of the relatively small study numbers.

Conclusion: This data confirms the high acuity and treatment burden posed by this evolving group of patient. Rates of mechanical ventilation, pneumonia and ICU mortality were similar to data previously proposed by this evolving group of patient. Rates of mechanical ventilation days and ICU length of stay did not reach statistical significance.

Other variables such as body mass index, hyperglycaemia, mechanical ventilation days and ICU length of stay did not reach statistical significance. This may be reflective of the relatively small study numbers.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Purine metabolites, magnesium, corticosteroid and thyroid hormones, lethal outcome in acute cerebral ischemia: diagnostic and prognostic aspects

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Introduction: We study the possibility of predicting the onset of death with the help of various hormonal and metabolic indicators in the acute phase of cerebral stroke.

Methods: In 626 adult patients in the acute phase of cerebral stroke (regardless of its type, variant, etc.) who were treated in the intensive care unit, along with generally accepted instrumental and laboratory tests, in cerebrospinal fluid and venous blood samples colorimetric determination of adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, xanthine, uric acid, magnesium was carried out, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for cortisol and dehydroepiandrosterone, thyroid-stimulating hormone, thyroxine and triiodothyronine.

Results: The most specific factors were: increased concentration of uric acid in the blood serum on the 1st and 3rd day of stroke (0.89 and 0.98), combination of an increased content of uric acid in blood serum and cerebrospinal fluid on the 1st and 3rd day of a stroke (0.90 and 0.97); reduced guanine in cerebrospinal fluid (0.84) on the 3rd day of stroke; increased content of free fractions of triiodothyronine and thyroxine on the 1st day of stroke (0.86 and 0.76). The relative risk of a fatal outcome is high when a stroke of increased concentration in the blood serum of cortisol is detected on the 1st and 3rd day (3.25 and 7.39); increased content of hypoxanthine (2.49), xanthine (2.49) and uric acid (3.53) on the 3rd day of stroke, a combination of increased serum uric acid and cerebrospinal fluid (2.71). The highest chances of a fatal outcome when a stroke is detected on the 1st day of a stroke are elevated concentrations of cortisol and free thyroxine in blood serum (OR 4.98 and 2.59, respectively), uric acid in cerebrospinal fluid (OR 2.79); when a stroke concentration of adenine (OR 2.61), guanine (OR 3.75), hypoxanthine (OR 4.55), xanthine (OR 3.60), urine is detected in the blood serum on the 3rd day of a stroke acid (OR 20.0), cortisol (OR 10.4), a combination of high uric acid in blood serum and cerebrospinal fluid (OR 23.3).

Conclusion: In patients in the acute period of cerebral stroke (regardless of its type), indicators of the purine spectrum, stress-adaptive hormonal status are highly informative factors in predicting the onset of a fatal outcome. The most prognostically “powerful” of the studied parameters is the blood level of uric acid.

Purine metabolites, magnesium, corticosteroid and thyroid hormones, lethal outcome in acute cerebral ischemia: diagnostic and prognostic aspects

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000272

Introduction: We study the possibility of predicting the onset of a fatal outcome using various hormonal and metabolic parameters in acute cerebral ischemia.

Methods: In 402 adult patients in the acute period of cerebral ischemic stroke, who were treated in the intensive care unit and intensive care unit of the angioeurological department, along with generally accepted instrumental and laboratory tests, colorimetric measurements of adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, xanthan were carried out in samples of cerebrospinal fluid and venous blood uric acid, magnesium, malondialdehyde. Based on the concentration ratio of uric acid / xanthine, xanthine / hypoxanthine, uric acid / hypoxanthine, the activity of the first and second stages of the xanthine oxidase reaction and the total xanthine oxidase activity were calculated. Enzyme immunoassays examined the levels of cortisol and dehydroepiandrosterone, thyroid stimulating hormone, thyroxine and triiodothyronine.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Results: The most sensitive predictors of lethal outcome of ischemic stroke were: increased xanthine concentration on the 1st and 3rd day of stroke (0.83 and 0.76), reduced xanthine oxidase activity (in the second stage of the xanthine oxidase reaction - 0.61). Among the most specific such factors; an increased concentration of uric acid in the blood serum and cerebrospinal fluid on the 1st day of a stroke (0.93). The relative risk of death is highest when a stroke concentration of uric acid in the blood serum is detected on the 3rd day (3.93). The highest chances of a fatal outcome when a stroke is detected on the 3rd day of an elevated blood serum uric acid (OR 21.5), adenine (OR 3.55), guanine (OR 3.27); a combination of increased serum uric acid and cerebrospinal fluid (OR 3.37), increased serum uric acid (OR 2.87), decreased xanthine oxidase activity in the second stage of the xanthine oxidase reaction on the 1st day of stroke (OR 2.67).

Conclusion: In patients with acute cerebral ischemia in the acute period of cerebral ischemic stroke, the most prognostically “powerful” lethal outcome factors are uric acid level and xanthine oxidase activity.

000294

Spontaneous Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Impact of Demographic, Clinical and Monitoring Data in Patient Outcome

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Introduction: Subarachnoid Hemorrhage (SAH) is a medical emergency and the most frequent etiology is a ruptured aneurysm. It remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality due to the initial insult but mainly as a result of secondary brain injury (SBI). Multimodal Monitoring provides an individualized care at bedside, giving tools to guide therapeutic interventions, preventing or minimizing SBI.

Objectives: To identify possible factors with impact in outcome in patients admitted with spontaneous SAH.

Methods: A retrospective case-series study that included all patients with SAH admitted to a Neurocritical Unit (NCCU) of a tertiary hospital at intensive care level between the first January 2018 and the 30th June 2019. Primary outcome was defined by Glasgow Outcome Scale at discharge from NCCU and at 28, 90 and 180 days after the event.

Results: Forty-six patients (29 females) were included. Median age was 55.5 years (50.0-63.3). In 41 patients an aneurysm was identified. The most frequent aneurysm locations were Anterior Communicating Artery and Middle Cerebral Artery, in 11 (23.9%) and 9 (19.6%) cases, respectively. The median length of stay in the NCCU at intensive care level was 20.5 (4.8-31.0) days. Fourteen (30.4%) patients were submitted to neuroradiology procedure. No patient submitted to neuroradiology procedure had a bad outcome at six months. At all moments of follow-up, Glasgow Coma scale (GCS) at admission, Hunt & Hess (H&H) scale, duration of invasive ventilation (IMV) and delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI) had an association with patients’ outcome (p < 0.05). The three deaths (6.3%) recorded occurred during NCCU stay: two patients with severe SAH (GCS of 3, Fisher scale of 4 and H&H scale of V) and a third patient who developed many complications (hydrocephalus, re-bleeding and vasospasm requiring intra-arterial administration of verapamil), despite admission with GCS of 15, Fisher scale of 4 and H&H of II.

Conclusion: SAH related complications were common and associated with worse outcomes, therefore treatment approach should be focused on its avoidance and prompt resolution. Endovascular treatment had better outcomes at six months than surgical intervention.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000407

Reliability of the SDASH score for predicting shunt dependency after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage: external validation study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000407

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association between variables and outcome</th>
<th>At Discharge from NCCU (p value)</th>
<th>At the 28th day (p value)</th>
<th>At the 90th day (p value)</th>
<th>At the 180th day (p value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age(&gt;55years)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>0.053</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arterial Hypertension</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.298</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS(admission)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher scale</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;H scale</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin (admission)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>0.204</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days with IMV</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFI</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.039</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasospasm</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.033</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocephalus</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>0.065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-bleeding</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.086</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of intervention</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.046</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharge from NCCU</th>
<th>28th day after the event</th>
<th>90th day after the event</th>
<th>180th day after the event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bad Outcome (GOS 1, 2 and 3)</td>
<td>25 (54.3%)</td>
<td>25 (55.6%)</td>
<td>13 (32.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Outcome (GOS 4 and 3)</td>
<td>21 (45.7%)</td>
<td>20 (44.4%)</td>
<td>27 (67.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of patients included</td>
<td>46 (100.0%)</td>
<td>45 (100.0%)</td>
<td>40 (100.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction: Chronic hydrocephalus (CH) is a common and potentially modifiable complication of spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) requiring prompt treatment for optimal outcomes. Risk factors for CH have been extensively investigated, but reliable scores to predict shunt dependency after aneurysmal SAH (aSAH) are scarce. A newly developed shunt dependency in aSAH (SDASH) score based on the combination of acute hydrocephalus (aHP), Hunt and Hess grade, and Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI) score was found to be a reliable tool for predicting shunt-dependent hydrocephalus (SDHC). This prediction model, however, was based on a single-center retrospective population.

Objectives: The present study was designed to validate the SDASH score in an external cohort of aSAH patients.

Methods: The study population included 214 of 249 (85.9%) patients with aSAH admitted to our hospital (2016-2019). In each patient, the SDASH score, the Hijdra score, the BNI score, the chronic hydrocephalus ensuing from SAH score (CHESS), the Graeb, and the modified Graeb score (mGS) were calculated, and the reliability of these models were compared. Logistic regression analysis was used to determine the reliability of the SDASH score, and the area under the receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve (AUC) to assess the discrimination capacity of the model.

Results: 40 patients (18.7%) developed SDHC. Older age, high Hunt and Hess grade, high grade of the WFNS classification scale, CSF daily output and higher bicaudate index, correlated significantly with an increased rate of ventriculoperitoneal shunt insertion. The AUC for SDASH score was 0.816. The SDASH score reliably predicted SDHC in aSAH (odds ratio of 2.93; 95% confidence interval 1.99-4.31; p < 0.001). No statistically significant differences were found between SDASH score and the other predictive scores.

Conclusion: The SDASH score was found to be a reliable tool for predicting SDHC and could be used in daily practice. The SDASH score may help to early management of hydrocephalus in aSAH.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. Diesing D, Wolf S, Sommerfeld J, Sarrafzadeh A, Vajkoczy P, Dengler NF. A newly developed shunt dependency in aSAH (SDASH) score based on the combination of acute hydrocephalus (aHP), Hunt and Hess grade, and Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI) score was found to be a reliable tool for predicting shunt-dependent hydrocephalus (SDHC). This prediction model, however, was based on a single-center retrospective population.

Introduction: Delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI) is a major contributor to the high fatality and morbidity case rates of aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). About 30% of the SAH patients develop DCI but it is difficult to predict which patients will develop it.

Objectives: To assess the development of DCI risk factors in patients with SAH, admitted in a Neurotraumatic ICU.

Methods: Prospectively collected data of patients admitted from October, 2013 to December 2019 to a 10-bed Neurotraumatic ICU. We analyzed: main diagnosis at admission; demographic data including sex and race; neurological data (clinical examination, pupils reactivity and size, and Glasgow Coma Scale); GCS; localization and aneurysm size; presence of intracranial hematoma (ICH); presence and volume of intraventricular bleeding; days to develop vasospasm; development of DCI; Fisher scale, Modified Fisher scale (MFS), Hunt and Hess scale (HHS), Word Federation of Neurosurgeons (WFNS) scale; presence of vasospasm in doppler or arteriography; delayed of admission in ICU; treatment of the aneurysm; complications, including infections; Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) at ICU discharge and 6 months after ICU discharge and several other risk factors. A univariate analysis of DCI was performed. To obtain a predictive rule for the DCI, a model for the prediction was obtained using the classification and regression trees (CART) procedure [1]. CART classifies data using a sequence of if-then rules. The basis of the decision tree algorithms is the binary recursive partitioning of the data. The most discriminating variable is first selected to partition the data set into child nodes. The splitting continues until some stopping criterion is reached. At each terminal node, the probability of DCI was estimated as the proportion of patients belonging to that node that developed the event. The tree was constructed according to the following algorithm: in the first stage, the tree grows until all cases are correctly classified, and in the second stage, we used the tenfold cross-validation method of successive pruning [1]. Finally, the tree that minimized the error measurement (deviance) was chosen. For this predictor the corresponding ROC curve was obtained and the AUC was estimated by means of a 95 % CI.

Results: One hundred forty two SAH patients were collected, 32 (22.5%) of them developed DCI. Demographic data and types of admission are shown in Table 1a and 1b.
Anterior communicating (Aco) artery aneurysms were the most frequently found and most of them were located in the left side. The most frequent DCI patient complications were stroke 24 (75%) and hydrocephalus 18 (56.2%). GOS at ICU discharge was 4 and, six months after ICU discharge, was 5 in patients with SAH. Patients who developed DCI had GOS at ICU discharge of 4 and it was also 4 six months later. Also 19 (59.37%) had GOS > 3 at ICU discharge. Thirty two (22.9%) SAH patients died. Seven (22.6 %) DCI patients died. There was not statistical significant difference in mortality in DCI vs SAH patients. Classification tree showed: HHS 1 has a high probability of not having DCI. MFS >3 and HHS >1 have probabilities of around 30% of DCI. Conclusion: Our data show 22.5 % of our studied patients had DCI. GOS reflected low disability of DCI patients both at ICU discharge and six months later. Classification tree showed: HHS 1 has a high probability of not having DCI. MFS >3 and HHS >1 have probabilities of around 30% of DCI. Finally, mortality was not significantly greater in the studied patients.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)


Disability associated risk factors in patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage in a neurotraumatic ICU

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1Intensive care medicine, University Hospital of Gran Canaria Dr. Negrin, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 2Mathematics and informatics department, University of Las Palmas, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Correspondence: C. Sánchez Ramirez

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Introduction: Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is a worldwide health burden with serious outcomes such as permanent disability. It is important to learn the disability risk factors and identify those potentially preventable, to reduce them.

Objectives: To assess disability risk factors in patients admitted with subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) admitted, in a neurotraumatic ICU.

Methods: Prospectively collected data of patients admitted from October, 2013 to December 2019 to a 10-bed Neurotraumatic ICU. We analyzed: main diagnosis at admission; demographic data, including sex and race; neurological data (clinical examination, pupils reactivity and size, and Glasgow Coma Score (GCS); location and aneurysm size; presence of intracranial hematoma (ICH); location and aneurysm size; presence of intracranial hematoma (ICH); presence and volume of intraventricular bleeding; days to develop vasoepasms; development of delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI); Fisher scale, modified Fisher scale, Hunt and Hess scale, Word Federation of Neurosurgeons (WFNS) scale; presence of vasoepasms in doppler or arteriography; delay of admission in ICU; treatment of the aneurysm; complications; including infections; Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) at ICU discharge and 6 months after ICU discharge and several other risk factors. Disability was defined as GOS ≤ 3. In order to identify those factors that maintain independent association with disability, a multivariate logistic regression analysis were performed. It was considered significant if p < .05.

Results: Among 152 SAH admitted patients, 58 (38.15%) out of 94 patients had GOS ≤ 3. Univariate analysis is shown in Table 1a and 1b

| Table 1a. Univariate analysis DCI |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  | N   | N   | N   | N   | p   |
| Baseline artery aneurysms | 15 (4.8) | 14 (4.3) | 10 (4.1) | 10 (10.1) | 0.733 |
| Posterolateral carotid artery aneurysms | 8 (2.6) | 7 (2.1) | 6 (2.4) | 6 (6.6) | 0.662 |
| Parietal aneurysms | 21 (7.1) | 17 (6.2) | 13 (5.5) | 13 (13.2) | 0.009 |
| Multiple aneurysms | 23 (9.9) | 17 (5.7) | 10 (4.1) | 10 (10.1) | 0.113 |
| Anterior communicating artery aneurysms | 24 (17.5) | 18 (17.8) | 9 (3.9) | 9 (9.0) | 0.373 |
| Basilar aneurysms | 3 (1.0) | 3 (0.9) | 1 (0.4) | 1 (1.1) | 0.484 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 8 (2.5) | 6 (1.8) | 4 (1.6) | 3 (3.3) | 0.349 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 2 (1.0) | 1 (0.3) | 1 (0.4) | 1 (1.1) | 0.349 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 19 (11.7) | 12 (5.9) | 6 (2.4) | 6 (6.6) | 0.410 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 6 (3.3) | 4 (1.7) | 2 (0.8) | 2 (2.2) | 0.418 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 6 (3.3) | 4 (1.7) | 2 (0.8) | 2 (2.2) | 0.418 |
| Consecutive aneurysms | 6 (3.3) | 4 (1.7) | 2 (0.8) | 2 (2.2) | 0.418 |

Values are frequency (n), unless otherwise indicated. GOS: Glasgow Outcome Scale. DCI: delayed cerebral ischemia. "p" within the table indicates the level of statistical significance: *p<0.05.

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Twenty four SAH patients (16.1%) died at ICU discharge. Decompressive craniectomy was performed in 7 (4.7% SAH patients, all of them with GOS ≤ 3. The independent risk factors associated with disability (GOS ≤ 3) were: Apache II at ICU admission per unit OR (95% CI) 1.547 (1.229; 1.948); number of platelets x 103 at ICU admission OR: 112 (5.4; 2304); SDD OR: 0.064 (0.008; 0.538); stupor OR: 6.479 (1.223; 34.336); isochoric pupils OR: 0.05 (0.004; 0.652); hydrocephalus OR: 6.708 (1.359; 33.103) and MV > 7 days OR: 36.861 (3.90; 340.497) (Table 2).

Conclusion: In SAH patients admitted to a neurotraumatic ICU, risk factors that were independently associated with disability were: Apache II at ICU admission, number of platelets at ICU admission, SDD, stupor, isochoric pupils, hydrocephalus and MV > 7 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factors associated with disability and mortality in patients in a neurotraumatic ICU with decompressive craniectomy six months after discharge. A seven year study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Sánchez Ramírez1; CF. Lübbe Vázquez1; LDM. Díaz Suárez2; C. Vázquez Pineda1; JL. Vicente Arranz1; A. Padrón Mujica1; C. Rodríguez Mata1; P. Saavedra-Santana3; S. Ruiz-Santana1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Intensive care medicine, University Hospital of Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 2Intensive care unit, University Hospital of Gran Canaria Dr. Negrín, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; 3Mathematics and informatics department, University of Las Palmas, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence: C. Sánchez Ramírez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Intensive Care Medicine Experimental, 2020, 8(2): 000448 |

**Introduction:** Second level therapeutic actions for controlling intracranial hypertension (ICH) proposed by the European Brain Injury Foundation include barbiturates, moderate hypothermia and decompressive craniectomy (DC), but outcomes are controversial. Our aim was to evaluate the factors associated with disability and mortality after ICU discharge in patients undergoing DC. **Objectives:** To assess the factors associated with disability and mortality after ICU discharge in DC patients after 7 years. **Methods:** Prospective study of patients admitted from January 1, 2013 to March 2020 who required DC. DC was performed due ICH refractory to medical treatment. We analyzed: main admission diagnosis; demographic data; neurological data (clinical examination and Glasgow Coma Scale: GCS); hypotension type of craniectomy and DC complications; Rankin scale, and Glasgow outcome scale (GOS) at 30, 60 days after ICU admission, at ICU discharge and 6 months after ICU discharge; preoperative serum lactate levels; hypoxemia and hyperglycemia; application of mannitol or hypertonic saline solution before and after DC; leukocytes and platelets previous and after DC and other factors related to prognosis. **Results:** Thirty five DC patients were collected. Demographic data and types of admission are shown in Table 1.
Most DC were subarachnoid hemorrhages (SAH) 17 (48.6%) and 75% of them were hemicranial. The most frequent complications were reoperation due to complications (42.9% of them) and hydrocephalus (42.9%). Six patients died at ICU discharge (17.1%), 4 (66.7%) of them were SAH. Rankin score at ICU discharge was 4 and GOS was 3. Rankin score at 6 months after ICU discharge was 4.5 and GOS was 3. Obliteration of basal cisterns was found to be a significant risk factor associated with disability, six months after ICU discharge (Table 2).

### Table 2. Disability six months after discharge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>N=97</th>
<th>N=28</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>51.1 (38-87)</td>
<td>47.1 (33.9-55.2)</td>
<td>0.594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex</td>
<td>4 (57.1)</td>
<td>18 (64.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOE-ε4</td>
<td>25 (22.8-28.8)</td>
<td>22 (19.25.8)</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>2 (28.6)</td>
<td>4 (14.3)</td>
<td>0.576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>4 (14.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute subdural hemorrhage</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>1 (36)</td>
<td>0.365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke Malignant middle cerebral artery</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>9 (32.1)</td>
<td>0.644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute subdural hemorrhage</td>
<td>2 (33.3)</td>
<td>12 (42.9)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obliteration of basal cisterns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12 (42.9)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non evacuated hemorrhage</td>
<td>2 (33.3)</td>
<td>5 (17.6)</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal contusion with edema and expansivity</td>
<td>3 (50.0)</td>
<td>10 (35.7)</td>
<td>0.653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraventricular injury</td>
<td>6 (30.5)</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Hospital Endotracheal intubation</td>
<td>4 (57.1)</td>
<td>9 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endotracheal intubation</td>
<td>3 (42.9)</td>
<td>7 (25.0)</td>
<td>0.361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endotracheal intubation at surgery</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>11 (39.3)</td>
<td>0.380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfusion previous DC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8 (28.6)</td>
<td>0.424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizures before DC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (14.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollaret bilateral aneurysmal aCD</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 (7.4)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both nice pupils previous DC</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>20 (71.4)</td>
<td>0.297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One nice pupils previous DC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (14.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non nice pupils previous DC</td>
<td>1 (14.3)</td>
<td>2 (7.1)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraventricular injury</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (11.1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollaret shift, on CT at admission</td>
<td>1 (10.0)</td>
<td>5 (18.5)</td>
<td>0.601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS at admission</td>
<td>8.4 (4.12)</td>
<td>10.8 (16-14)</td>
<td>0.965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS at ICU admission</td>
<td>3.2 (4)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.0-5.5)</td>
<td>0.773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of patients, after DCs 10</td>
<td>277 (292-298)</td>
<td>277 (187-272)</td>
<td>0.112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Mortality risk factors six months after DC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mortality</th>
<th>N=97</th>
<th>N=28</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>44 (30-55)</td>
<td>47 (40-58)</td>
<td>0.302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Sex</td>
<td>17 (80.0)</td>
<td>5 (41.7)</td>
<td>0.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOE-ε4</td>
<td>22 (18-25)</td>
<td>24 (22-27)</td>
<td>0.082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>1 (50.0)</td>
<td>2 (18.7)</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>5 (25.0)</td>
<td>1 (8.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>3 (15.0)</td>
<td>2 (18.7)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>2 (18.7)</td>
<td>0.543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARH</td>
<td>10 (62.5)</td>
<td>7 (59.3)</td>
<td>0.314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke Malignant middle cerebral artery</td>
<td>6 (33.3)</td>
<td>4 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute subdural hemorrhoma</td>
<td>10 (52.6)</td>
<td>4 (33.3)</td>
<td>0.283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obliteration of basal cisterns</td>
<td>7 (39.8)</td>
<td>4 (33.3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecolization with edema and expansivity</td>
<td>11 (62.2)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
<td>0.092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraventricular injury</td>
<td>2 (10.5)</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBI</td>
<td>10 (62.5)</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>0.274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both nice pupils previous DC</td>
<td>21 (94.7)</td>
<td>5 (41.7)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None nice pupils previous DC</td>
<td>1 (50.0)</td>
<td>2 (18.7)</td>
<td>0.540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Hospital Endotracheal intubation</td>
<td>6 (25.0)</td>
<td>2 (16.7)</td>
<td>0.683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endotracheal intubation at surgery</td>
<td>7 (39.8)</td>
<td>5 (41.7)</td>
<td>0.724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endotracheal intubation at surgery</td>
<td>5 (25.0)</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfusion previous DC</td>
<td>4 (21.1)</td>
<td>3 (27.3)</td>
<td>0.481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seizures before DC</td>
<td>1 (5.3)</td>
<td>3 (25.0)</td>
<td>0.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollaret shift, on CT at admission</td>
<td>2 (6.5)</td>
<td>7.05 (8.5)</td>
<td>0.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS at admission</td>
<td>10.5 (14.9)</td>
<td>11.8 (16-4)</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS at ICU admission</td>
<td>3.0 (4)</td>
<td>3.2 (4-2)</td>
<td>0.675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** DC patients showed low ICU mortality (17.14%) Rankin and GOS reflected moderate / severe disability of these patients, at ICU discharge. Rankin and GOS also showed disability, sixty days and 6 months after ICU discharge. Obliteration of basal cisterns was significantly associated with disability 6 months after ICU discharge. Mortality, 6 months after discharge, was significantly associated with female sex, bilateral pupillary reactivity prior DC and presence of focal contusion with edema and expansivity.

000571
Management and Outcomes of Cerebral Vasospasm after Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Haemorrhage in the National Neurosurgical Centre in Ireland
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**Introduction:** Cerebral vasospasm continues to account for high morbidity and mortality in patients following aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH).[1] Recent advances in neuroimaging have led to improved detection of vasospasm in this cohort but, despite many years of research, choice of hypertensive therapies remains highly variable between neurosurgical centres.[2]

**Objectives:** Demonstrate the morbidity caused by vasospasm in patients admitted to Beaumont Hospital, the national neurosurgical centre in Ireland, following aneurysmal SAH.

**Methods:** We identified all patients admitted with aneurysmal SAH over a three year period from February 2016 to February 2019. We conducted a retrospective chart analysis examining demographics, clinical features and outcome data. A subgroup who developed clinically
significant vasospasm was further analysed to examine management and outcomes.

**Results:** 532 patients with aneurysmal SAH were identified, of which 68 developed significant vasospasm. Patients who presented with a higher Fisher grade were more likely to develop vasospasm (p < 0.05). A significant increase in morbidity was shown in patients who developed cerebral vasospasm versus those who did not, with median Glasgow Outcome Score (GOS) at three months of 3 versus 4, respectively (p < 0.05). The 68 patients with vasospasm stayed a combined 783 days in ICU, with mean LOS of 11.5 days (range 1-38 days).

Regarding hypertensive treatment of vasospasm, 27 patients (39.7%) were treated with noradrenaline (NA) alone and 35 (51.5%) with NA plus vasopressin. There was no difference between the two groups in grade of presentation (Fisher or WFNS), MAP targets set or the percentage of days MAP targets were met. Of note however, worse GOS at three months occurred in those who received double agent hypertensive therapy vs NA alone (p < 0.05). In addition, of those treated with NA plus vasopressin, 28/35 (80%) developed hyponatraemia, versus 8/27 (<30%) of those treated with NA alone (p < 0.01).

**Conclusion:** Cerebral vasospasm after SAH is a significant cause of morbidity for patients in the national neurosurgical centre in Ireland. Vasospasm also causes a significant burden due to duration of ICU stay. Hypertensive therapies used in vasospasm are not benign treatments. Despite equal MAP control in both groups, patients treated with NA and vasopressin had significantly worse outcomes than those treated with NA alone, with associated high rates of severe hyponatraemia. This may call into question the benefit of the addition of vasopressin in this cohort. There are no consensus guidelines regarding treatment of vasospasm. Ideally, well designed, multicentre randomised control trials are required to evaluate the optimal treatment of this patient cohort.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. N/A

**000627**

The effect of early fluid balance on vasospasm occurrence in Spontaneous Subarachnoid Hemorrhage patients on neuro-ICU

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000627**

**Introduction:** The ultimate goal of therapy of spontaneous Subarachnoid Hemorrhage (sSAH), after acute phase, is to prevent secondary cerebral injury. Induced hypertension, hypervolemia and hemodilution (triple H) therapy have been used to increase cerebral blood flow. Recently, the physiological effects of components of triple-H therapy have been questioned. Hypervolemia may result in potentially life-threatening complications, like pulmonary and cerebral edema. Optimal fluid management after sSAH is variable throughout different centers but maintaining euvoolemia is what is recommended by ESICM consensus 2018, through vigiliant assessment of fluid balance (FB) along with arterial blood pressure. A positive FB has been associated with worse functional outcomes at 3 months but has not been widely assessed during the critical period when patients are most likely to develop symptomatic vasospasm.

**Objectives:** To assess the impact of early FB in the occurrence of vasospasm in patients (pts) with sSAH.

**Methods:** Retrospective single-center study that includes pts admitted in a neuro-ICU with sSAH, during a period of 2 years. Data were collected during the first 10-days of ICU. We hypothesized that an early more positive FB, particularly at 48 hours, may influence the development of vasospasm in the following days. All reported p values are two-tailed, with a p value of 0.05 indicating statistical significance.

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and area under curve (AUC) were calculated, a cutoff point of the cumulative fluid balance at day 2 was identified and two groups were formed: (i) pts with cumulative FB at day 2 >1.5 Litres (L) and (ii) pts with FB ≤1.5L. Multivariable logistic regression was used to adjust for potential confounders. Analyses were performed with the use of SPSS® software v22 and MedCalc® v19.2.3.

**Results:** A total of 83 pts were included, 57% male, with a mean age of 56±12.1 years. Hunt-Hess was IV-V in 21 pts (25%) and Modified Fisher scale was III-IV in 70 pts (84%). Only 7 (8.4%) did not developed sonographic vasospasm criteria during the 10-day period. The mean FB at day 2 was 1.6±1.3 L and it was significantly higher in pts who developed vasospasm after 2nd day (vasospasm: 1.8L [IQR 1.2]; no vasospasm: 1.1L [IQR 1.5]; p=0.007). A ROC curve was calculated (Fig. A) and the AUC was 0.675 (p=0.007; CI 95% 0.1-0.8). Kaplan-Meier curve (Fig. B) demonstrated that pts with less positive FB on 2nd day had lower occurrence of vasospasm. A cumulative FB at 2nd day >1.5L was associated with increased odds of vasospasm occurrence from the 4th to the 7th day. After adjustment for possible confounders, FB >1.5L on the 2nd day remains an independent predictor of vasospasm occurrence from 4th to 6th-day (day 4: adjusted (adj) OR 5.3, 95% CI 1.4-19.9; day 5: adj OR 6.9, 95% CI 1.7-28.4; day 6: adj OR 6.1, 95% CI 1.5-24.0).

**Conclusion:** The main finding of this study is that a high FB in sSAH pts, in the first 48 hours after admission, is an independent predictor of vasospasm occurrence.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000631**

Neurologic outcomes in Spontaneous Subarachnoid Hemorrhage patients and vasoreactivity—is there a relationship?

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**References**

Introduction: Cerebral blood flow is compromised following spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (sSAH), not only due to the early consequences of the acute bleeding, namely intracranial hypertension, but also due to late complications such as vasospasm and vasoreactivity impairment in response to acute changes either in oxygen or carbon dioxide levels.

Objectives: To assess the vasoreactivity response to oxygen and carbon dioxide after sSAH and its impact on neurological outcome.

Methods: Retrospective single-center study that includes patients (pts) admitted in a neuro-ICU with sSAH diagnosis, from January 2017 to December 2018. Patients’ demographics, clinical grading of SAH, Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) at admission and at hospital discharge, Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) at 6 months and gasometric parameters during the first 10 days were recorded. Categorical variables are presented as frequencies and percentages and were compared with the use of Fisher’s exact test or chi-square test. Continuous variables were expressed as means and standard deviations, or medians (Md) and interquartile ranges (IQR) and compared with the use of Student’s t-test or Mann-Whitney U-test. All reported p values are two-tailed, with a p value of 0.05 indicating statistical significance. Multivariable logistic regression was used to adjust for potential confounders. Analyses were performed with the use of SPSS® software v22.

Results: A total of 83 pts with sSAH were included, 57% male, with a mean age of 56±12 years. At admission, mean GCS was 12±4 but with 18.6% (n=16) of pts presented GCS 3-8; at hospital discharge the mean of GCS was 14±3 with a decrease in number of patients with GCS < 8 (n=6, 7%). The difference between GCS at the discharge and at admission was 1.3±3.5 and each increase in 1 mmHg in PaO2 was associated with an increase of 0.31 points in that difference. About 55% of pts (n=47) had GOS 5 at 6 months, 17 pts (19.8%) had poor neurologic outcome (GOS 1-3) and 5 pts died.

During the first ten days, median of PaCO2 and PaO2 were 42.5, 143.9 (IQR 39.4-167.4) and each increase in 1 mmHg in PaCO2 was associated with an increase of 0.31 points in the difference between GCS at the discharge and at admission was 1.3±3.5 and each increase in 1 mmHg in PaO2 was associated with an increase of 0.31 points in that difference. About 55% of pts (n=47) had GOS 5 at 6 months, 17 pts (19.8%) had poor neurologic outcome (GOS 1-3) and 5 pts died.

Conclusion: In our study PaO2 was an independent predictor of poor neurologic outcomes in patients with sSAH with significantly higher levels in pts with GOS 1-3 at 6 months. PaO2 was associated with an increase in the difference between GCS at the discharge and at admission.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000641
Decompressive Cranietomies in Traumatic Brain Injury: The Intensivist’s point of view
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000641

Introduction: The usefulness of Decompressive Craniotomy (DC) after a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is not clear, so it is impossible to prepare Guidelines with adequate evidence. Furthermore, there are no early clinical or radiological findings before the development of refractory Intracranial Hypertension that appropriately indicate a DC surgery.

Objectives: To perform a score with early clinical and radiological findings after a TBI that identify the patients who in their subsequent evolution are going to undergo DC.

Methods: Observational study of a retrospective cohorts of patients who, after a TBI, enter the Neurocritical Section of the Intensive Care Unit of our hospital for a period of 5 years (2014-2018). Main event of the study: DC. Detection of clinical (GCS, mydriasis, shock) and radiological (CT) criteria and generation of all possible models with significant, clinically relevant and easy to detect early variables. Selection of the one with the lowest Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) and Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) values for the creation of the score. Calibration and internal validation of the score using the Hosmer-Lemeshow and a bootstrapping analysis with 1,000 re-samples respectively.

Results: 37 DC were performed in 153 patients who were admitted after a TBI. The resulting final model was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable: CD</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral Midline Deviation</td>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>2.37-17.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCE according to GCS (mild/moderate-severe))</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>1.20-15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventricular collapse</td>
<td>5.27</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>1.89-14.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Area under ROC Curve: 0.84 (95% CI 0.78-0.91). Hosmer-Lemeshow p=0.71. A value of 1 was assigned to each of the factors. A score value of 2 had a very high Sensitivity and Specificity (greater than 78%) with acceptable Positive and Negative Predictive Value to detect patients who were going to need a DC. The developed score detected well those patients who were going to need an early (primary) DC after a TBI (2.5+/-0.5) but not those who would need it in a later stage of their disease (secondary) (1.7+/-0.8). However, it seems to advise us about the patients who, although not requiring a primary DC are likely to need it later in their evolution (secondary DC vs do not require DC 1.7+/-0.8 vs 1+-/-0.7; p=0.002).

Conclusion: We have developed a prognostic score using early clinical-radiological criteria that, in our environment, detects with good
sensitivity and specificity those patients who, after a TBI, will require a DC.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000732
Role of surgical intervention and anticoagulation after intracranial hemorrhage in patients with LVAD devices: a review of the literature
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000732

Introduction: The risk of intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) in patients with left ventricular assist devices is high. Surgical intervention and reversal of anticoagulation is not without risk. There is limited, published information regarding the surgical management of LVAD patients and often decision making is difficult, requiring a multidisciplinary approach.

Objectives: We aim to review the relevant literature regarding surgical and medical management of intracranial hemorrhage in patients with LVAD and present a case from our ICU.

Methods: A systematic review of the literature was undertaken using the key words “intracranial hemorrhage” and “left ventricular assist device” in the Scopus, PubMed, and Google Scholar databases. Published case reports and series written in English were included with adult patients. Abstracts were not included in the review. Data was extracted regarding the number of surgical interventions performed to total number of patients reported, and the type of ICH and surgical procedures performed. Data was also extracted regarding preoperative and postoperative anticoagulation as well as the outcome of the surgical patients. A case of a young patient from our ICU is also presented.

Results: In total 9 studies (7 case series, 2 case reports) were included in our review regarding a total of 292 patients with intracranial bleeding. Surgery was undertaken in 49 (16.7%) patients with surgery ranging between 5.7% and 40% in the case series patients. Type of bleeding, surgery performed, anticoagulation and outcome parameters are summarized in Table 1. Spontaneous intraparenchymal hematomas (IPH) were more common and presented with the worst outcomes throughout all the included studies. No significant correlation was established between elevated INR and the incidence nor severity of ICH. Immediate thromboembolic events were not encountered in any patients. Interestingly decision for surgical treatment was not specified in most studies. Three studies indicated that surgical intervention provided no improvement in outcome although it was not linked to increased mortality. Several limitations exist due to the heterogeneity of data provided and the fact that often little data was given regarding surgical intervention patients.

A 29-year-old female, with LVAD placement one-month prior was admitted to our ICU due to a spontaneous large left sided IPH. The patient's INR upon admission was 1.6. Immediate extensive left side craniectomy and hematoma removal was performed. Reinitiation of anticoagulation commenced 5 days after craniectomy following stable CT scan imaging of the hematoma with argatroban infusion due to a history of HIT. APPT values of 1.5 to 2 times initial aPTT were aimed (45 to 60 seconds). The patient was successfully discharged from the hospital 2 months after ICU admission with a GOS of 4, on warfarin, to a rehabilitation center.
Conclusion: Early surgical treatment with craniectomy in large IPH that present a midline shift and large volumes may be lifesaving. Medical anticoagulation may be withheld from patients with LVAD treatment for a certain period without thromboembolic events. A possible bridge to re-initiation of warfarin in patients presenting with HIT or heparin resistance may be achieved with argatroban infusion with set aPTT levels of 1.5 to 2 times initial values according to our experience. The current literature is lacking regarding effective surgical and medical management and further research is of great necessity.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000869 Prediction for the need of tracheostomy in patients with large vessel occlusion stroke being treated with mechanical thrombectomy

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000869

Introduction: Patients with large vessel occlusion stroke (LVOS) eligible for mechanical thrombectomy (MT) are at risk for stroke- and non-stroke related complications resulting in the need for tracheostomy (1). Evidence suggest that early tracheostomy might exhibit distinct advantages over continued orotracheal intubation, ventilation and sedation (2).

Objectives: To investigate clinical-, perinterventional- and imaging factors to predict the need for tracheostomy in major stroke patients undergoing MT.

Methods: Prospectively derived data from patients with LVOS and MT being treated in a large, academic neuro-ICU between 2014 and 2018 were analyzed in this monocentric study. Predictive value of peri- and postinterventional factors, stroke imaging and pre-stroke medical history were investigated for their potential to predict tracheostomy during ICU-stay using logistic regression models.

Results: From 635 LVOS-patients treated with MT, 40 (6.3%) underwent tracheostomy during their neuro-ICU stay. Patients receiving tracheostomy were younger (71 (62-75) vs. 77 (66-83), p<0.001), had a higher National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) at baseline (18 (15-20) vs. 15 (10-19), p=0.009) as well as higher rates of hospital acquired pneumonia (HAP) (39 (97.5%) vs 224 (37.6%), p<0.001), failed dextubation (15 (37.5%) vs 19 (3.2%), p<0.001), sepsis (11 (27.5%) vs. 16 (2.7%), p<0.001), symptomatic intracerebral hemorrhage (sICH) (5 (12.5%) vs. 22 (3.9%), p=0.026) and decompressive hemicraniectomy (DHC) (19 (51.4%) vs. 21 (3.8%), p<0.001). In multivariate logistic regression analysis, HAP (OR 21.1 (CI, 2.7-163.3), p<0.003), Sepsis (OR 5.6 (1.8-18), p=0.003), failed extubation (OR 8.9 (3.2-24.5), p<0.001) and DH (OR 9.1 (3.5-23.3), p<0.001) remained as strongest predictors for tracheostomy. Patients with later timepoint of tracheostomy had longer ICU length of stay (r=0.384, p=0.030). There was no association between time to tracheostomy and clinical outcome (NIHSS at discharge: r=0.125, p=0.461; mRS at 90 days: r=-0.179, p=0.403).

Conclusion: Patients with LVOS undergoing MT are at high risk to require tracheostomy if extubation after the intervention fails, DH is needed and severe infectious complications occur in the acute phase after ischemic stroke. These factors are likely to be useful for the indication and timing of tracheostomy to reduce overall sedation and shorten ICU length of stay.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Not applicable

000937

The prognostic role of lactate concentrations after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage

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Introduction: The value of serial lactate measurements in patients after SAH has not been well studied. The aim of this study was to assess the prognostic role of serial lactate measurements on survival and neurological outcomes in aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH) patients.

Methods: We reviewed data of all patients admitted to our Department with the diagnosis of aSAH from January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2019. Arterial blood lactate levels were routinely obtained at least once a day. We collected the highest lactate level daily during the first 5 days. We reported hospital mortality and 3-month unfavorable neurological outcome (UO) defined as a Glasgow Outcome Scale of 1-3.

Results: Of a total of 456 patients, 64% were female, with a median age of 54 (46-63) years. Hospital mortality occurred in 158 (35%) patients and UO in 209 (46%) patients. The highest lactate level was on admission (2.1 [1.2-3.4] mmol/L) and then progressively decreased until day 5. Patients with UO had significantly higher lactate levels over time than the other patients, in particular on the day of admission (2.9 [1.9-4.1] vs. 1.5 [0.9-2.6] mmol/L; p<0.01). In a multivariable analysis, lactate levels measured on admission were significantly associated with UO (OR 1.25 [CI95% 1.0-1.6]; p=0.049).

Conclusion: Initial lactate levels have prognostic implications in SAH patients; their value in conjunction with other variables should be evaluated in larger cohorts.

000984

Super Refractory Status Epilepticus in children and adolescents

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Introduction: Refractory and super-refractory status epilepticus (SE) in children are associated with high morbidity and mortality. Refractory SE (RSE) is defined as persistent seizures that fail to respond to antiepileptics and is only controlled with continuous infusions of anesthetic solutions, while super-refractory SE (SRSE) persists after induction of anaesthetics or leads to rebounds after withdrawal of anaesthesia (1,2). Thorough imaging, metabolic, immunological and genetic investigations are often necessary to identify the cause.

Objectives: The present study aims to describe characteristics of status epilepticus in children and adolescents, focusing on RSE and SRSE.

Methods: This is a retrospective, single‑centre study of SE, RSE, and SRSE cases treated in the pediatric ICU of the University Hospital of Heraklion from 2009 to 2019.

Results: A total of 93 hospitalisations for SE, concerning 86 patients (50% females), were included in the study. The median age of the

Figure: each coloured dot represents the value of the spectral exponent colour-coded for patients who recovered from coma (acute brain injury, Group 1; post anoxic, group 2). Regression lines are represented with colour coding for patients. Bold black line represents the mixed model effects: slope, F Fischer and p value are reported for the two variables of each group.

Conclusion: Together with the traditional clinical evaluation, the Spectral Exponent \( \beta \) seems to be a reliable measure for tracking brain state transitions leading to the recovery of consciousness after acute brain injury. The theoretical background about the genesis of the slow rhythms in disorders of consciousness provides a framework for the clinical use of the spontaneous EEG in objectively monitoring brain states behind clinical signs. The Spectral Exponent may help clinicians to identify the underlying brain processes that steer from slow rhythms to a recovery of more balanced EEG activity patterns able to support consciousness.
patients at first SE was 5 years (IQR 1.86-9.5). 63 admissions (67.7%) were due to RSE and 15 to SRSE (16.1%). Compared to idiopathic SE (53.8%), which predominated in the new-onset RSE (NORSE) (p<0.001), acute symptomatic (60%) and febrile infection-related Epilepsy Syndrome (FIRES) (88.9%) more often evolved to SRSE (p=0.04). The likelihood of abnormal EEG or CT did not differ between SE, RSE, and SRSE, while abnormal MRI findings were most commonly observed in the group of SRSE (p=0.023). When the initial investigation was inconclusive, a definitive diagnosis was reached by genetic testing (7.5%), or brain biopsy, followed by viral detection with PCR (7.7%). Higher incidence of autoimmune, mitochondrial diseases, and FIRES characterized SRSE compared to SE or RSE (p=0.017). NORSE or FIRES were diagnosed in 25% of cases, most commonly presenting as SRSE (53%) rather than RSE (24%) or SE (0%) (p<0.001). In RSE/SRSE, immunomodulatory treatments (p=0.05) and ketogenic diet (p=0.005) were more frequently used. Also, in RSE/SRSE, weaning off of anesthetics was prolonged (p<0.001), and mechanical ventilation duration and ICU/hospital length of stay (p<0.001) were increased. Mortality was 3.2% and concerned younger patients <5 years (p=0.013). The prognosis was particularly poor in patients with NORSE or FIRES or with acute symptomatic SE and progressive encephalopathy (p<0.001).

Conclusion: A high percentage of pediatric SE episodes evolve to RSE or SRSE, which is characterized by a high incidence of FIRES, NORSE, autoimmune and mitochondrial diseases. Further research in this area is necessary and evidence-based protocols for the management of SRSE need to be established.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)


Introduction: Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is a sudden and often infrequent acute brain injury. Despite fatigue rates tendency to improve in the last years, preventing or minimizing secondary brain lesion remains a challenge with significant impact on outcomes.

Objectives: Characterization of the ASAH population and identification of clinical and therapeutic predictors of outcome.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of all adult patients admitted from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2019 at a Neurocritical Care Unit of an University Hospital in Portugal, who underwent treatment for ruptured cerebral aneurysms (endovascular coil embolization or surgical clip intervention). The primary outcome was unfavorable functional outcome defined by Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) of 1, 2 or 3 at 28th day, 3rd and 6th month of follow-up.

Results: Sixty-five patients were included, 43 females (66.2%), with a median age of 55 (47.5-66.5) years, 35 (53.8%) had pre-ictus hypertension and 19 smoking habits (29.2%). All except two patients had a previous Modified Rankin Score (mRS) of 0 or 1. Initial Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) inferior to 8 points was observed in 14 (21.5%), Hunt and Hess score of 4 or 5 in 25 (38.5%) and Fisher score of 3 or 4 in 58 (89.2%). Forty-two patients (64.6%) were submitted to surgical clipping and 23 (35.4%) underwent endovascular coiling, with similar clinical severity in both groups. Regarding complications associated with ASAH, 42 (64.6%) had Doppler documented vasospasm (66.7% submitted to intra-arterial infusion of verapamil), 26 (40.0%) developed delayed cerebral ischemia, 23 (35.4%) hydrocephalus and 7 (10.8%) rebleeding. ICU-mortality was 10.8%. Among the patients with a registered medical follow-up, mortality was 9.4% (6 of 64) at 28th day, 14.0% (8 of 57) at 3rd month and 16.7% (8 of 48) at 6th month. Analyzing the patients with a previous mRS of 0 or 1, an unfavorable GOS was observed in 53.2% (33 of 62) at 28th day, in 36.4% (20 of 55) at 3rd month and in 26.1% (12 of 46) at 6th month. At 3rd month there was a significant difference in patient’s outcome comparing the two therapeutic approaches (45.9% vs. 16.7%, p=0.03), favoring endovascular coiling, but it was not observed at 28th day and 6th month. In final multivariate logistic regression models, adjusted for age, two independent predictors of unfavorable functional outcome were identified at the 3 follow-up periods considered: lower initial GCS (28th day: OR 0.49, 95% CI 0.21-0.76; 3rd month: OR 0.76, 95% CI 0.61-0.92; 6th month: OR 0.67, 95% CI 0.48-0.94) and development of delayed cerebral ischemia (28th day: OR 14.75, 95% CI 2.28-95.38; 3rd month: OR 16.08, 95% CI 2.82-91.83; 6th month: OR 91.38, 95% CI 3.26-2564.56); hydrocephalus was also a predictor of poor outcome at 28th day (OR 10.60, 95% CI 1.37-82.11), no other variables persisted in the models after adjustment.

Conclusion: ASAH mortality rates remain high. In this non-selective ASAH location, surgical or endovascular methods had similar outcomes at 28th day and 6th month of follow-up. Lower GCS and delayed cerebral ischemia are independent predictors of unfavorable functional outcome.
Anosmia or headache at presentation is not associated with higher incidence of neurological complications in critically ill Covid-19 patients. (p = 0.83).

**Conclusion:** Anosmia or headache at presentation is not associated with higher incidence of neurological complications in critically ill patients infected with Covid-19.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001016**

**Anosmia or headaches in critically ill COVID-19 patients an early indicator of neurological complications?**

**Introduction:** On the frontline of the battle against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) the importance of identifying symptoms early and understanding their clinical relevance is crucial. Up to 36% of Covid 19 patients exhibit some form of neurological symptoms, such as anosmia and headaches on presentation (1, 2). However, it is not known whether patients presenting with neurological symptoms are at higher risk of neurological complications in an intensive care unit (ICU).

**Objectives:** This study aims to assess whether critically ill patients presenting with neurological symptoms are at higher risk of subsequent neurological sequelae in critically ill patients infected with Covid-19.

**Methods:** This is a retrospective observational study of PCR positive Covid-19 patients admitted to ICU in a single tertiary hospital. Anosmia and headache were considered neurological symptoms at presentation (3). Neurological complications, including stroke and intracranial bleeding, were diagnosed using a combination of clinical evidence and consultant level neuroradiology review of computer tomography (CT) imaging (4). Chi-square statistic with risk estimation was used to assess association between categorical variables. P values lower than 0.05 were considered significant.

**Results:** 132 patients were included in the study. 14 (10.6%) presented with headache and 11 (8.3%) with anosmia. In terms of complications, 21 (15.9%) had a intracranial haemorrhage, and 3 (2.3%) also had a stroke. Among 21 patients who had neurological complications in ICU, 3 patients presented with headache (21.4%) and 2 patients had anosmia on presentation (18.2%). These associations are neither significant for headache (p = 0.55, OR 1.5, 95% CI 0.4, 6.0) nor for anosmia (p = 0.83).

**Conclusion:** Anosmia or headache at presentation is not associated with higher incidence of neurological complications in critically ill patients infected with Covid-19.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

001056
Timing of Pharmacological Thromboprophylaxis
Administration in Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis: The systematic review lite method

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001056

Introduction: Pharmacological thromboprophylaxis (PTP) may be effective in reducing the incidence of DVT following TBI (Carney et al., 2017). However, there is a reluctance to commence it due to concerns about the risk of intracranial haematoma (ICH) expansion and contusion enlargement (Geerts et al., 1996). PT is therefore often delayed, exposing patients to potential risks and complications of DVT. Appropriate timing to start pharmacological thromboprophylaxis (PTP) in TBI patients is unclear. Our aim is to conduct a systematic review to assess the safety of PTP administration before and after 72 hours.

Objectives: 1-To produce an updated systematic review on the safety and efficacy of early versus late PTP in TBI.

2-To explore the feasibility of a rapid low-cost systematic review process, “systemic review lite” used to direct future research efforts.

Methods: This project was undertaken by medical students over a 10-week student selected module. PubMed and Embase were searched for cohort studies or randomised control trials comparing early versus late administration of PTP in TBI patients. “Early” was defined as < 72 hours and “late” as ≥ 72 hours. Primary outcomes were defined as VTE diagnosis and ICH progression. In the first filter studies were excluded if full text or English translation were not available. Non-human studies and studies on neonates and children were excluded. Authors were not contacted for missing data and individual references were not individually hand searched and cross checked for relevant publications. In the second filter full text articles were assessed and excluded if they included alternate time frames or lacked appropriate comparators. Data was extracted to Review manager 5.3 (Cochrane Collaboration 2014). Quality was assessed by 2 independent reviewers using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale.

Results: After the second pass filter full text articles were reduced to 10 after alternate time frames and lack of appropriate comparators were considered.

Meta-analysis revealed no statistically significant difference in either VTE diagnosis (Odds ratio 0.74 [95% CI 0.52, 1.05]) or ICH progression (Odds ratio 0.85 [95% CI 0.38, 1.89]) for early versus late PTP. Subgroup analysis of high-quality studies demonstrated a decrease in VTE diagnosis with early PTP (Odds ratio 0.63 [95% CI 0.42, 0.95]) p = 0.03. In studies of severely injured patients (GCS<=8 or AIS>=3), early PTP was associated with a decrease in VTE incidence (Odds ratio 0.53 [95% CI 0.39, 0.71]) p<0.001. Mortality risk showed no difference between early and late groups.

Conclusion: This review suggests that early PTP may reduce the risk of VTE. However, possible the confounding effect of only administering early PTP to patients with stable brain injuries cannot be discounted. This systematic review lite format proved to be feasible, the student group delivering clear results in a short time frame that serves as a useful update to previous reviews (Chelladurai et al., 2013; Jamjoom and Jamjoom, 2013).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

6. Dr Rhodes is supported by a National Health Service Research Scotland Clinical Fellowship.

001071
Viscoelastic Coagulation Results in Patients with Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: early results from the Traumatic Brain Injury Associated Radiological Deep Vein Thrombosis Incidence and Significance (TARDIS) Study

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Introduction: Patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) may present with several clotting abnormalities, both pro and anticoagulant, involving complex mechanisms such as the acute traumatic coagulopathy (ATC) and delayed coagulopathy secondary to hemodilution (Brohi et al., 2003; Maegle et al., 2017).

Viscoelastic testing of coagulation allows near patient assessment of coagulation profiles. However, there is a paucity of data specifically in patients with traumatic brain injury.

Methods: TARDIS is a prospective, multi centre, observational pilot study to investigate the incidence of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) after TBI, using compression ultrasound. Patients admitted to an intensive care unit within 72 hours of injury are eligible. As an additional sub study, viscoelastic testing performed using either rotational thromboelastometry (ROTEM) or thromboelastography (TEG) as per the manufacturer’s instructions. These results were compared with conventional laboratory coagulation testing from the same day.

Data is described as mean (standard error of the mean) and median (interquartile range). Proportions were analysed by Chi square, p<0.05 being considered significant.

Results: 21 patients with moderate to severe TBI (mean GCS 6.2 SEM 0.6) had ROTEM INTEM (n=8) or TEG (n=13) data available. The mean age was 52.9 years (SEM 4.8). The majority were male (N=16, 76%).

Marshall scores were 1, n=1 (4.8%), 2, n=9 (42.9%), 3, n=1 (4.8%), 4, n=4 (19.1%), 5, n=5 (23.8%) and 6, n=1 (4.8%). Three (14.3%) patients were taking anticoagulant medication prior to injury. Two (9.5%) received coagulation factors and 8 (38.1%) were given Tranexamic acid.

The mean activated partial thromboplastin time was 31.8 seconds (SEM 1.1), within our normal laboratory range (26 – 36 seconds).

Median prothrombin time (PT) was slightly prolonged at 14.8 seconds (SEM 0.3) compared to the reference range (9.0-14.0 seconds). Similarly, the fibrinogen concentration was slightly increased at 342 mg/dl (SEM 43 mg/dl) compared to the reference range (100-500 mg/dl).

We found evidence of abnormal viscoelastic parameters in 7 or 21 patients. Three (14.3%) had a Clotting Time/R prolonged and 6 (29.0%) had a prolonged clot formation time/K. Alpha angle was reduced in 4 (19.1%) and maximum clot firmness/maximum amplitude reduced in 3 (14.3%).

None of the patients with ROTEM/TEG abnormalities where taking anticoagulants prior to injury. Two had been given Tranexamic acid and 2 coagulation factors. Comparing laboratory PT with viscoelastic parameters significantly more patients had a PT greater than
Impact of phosphatemia variability in neurologic outcomes in patients with spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage

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Introduction: Electrolyte disturbances, such as dysnatremia, hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia, are frequently observed during the acute period after spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (sSAH). However, the data concerning hypophosphatemia after sSAH are scarce.

Objectives: To analyze the frequency of phosphate disturbance in sSAH patients (pts), daily phosphate repletion and to assess the influence on the outcomes comparing with pts with no sSAH.

Methods: All pts with sSAH admitted from January 2017 to December 2018 in the Neurocritical Care Unit were enrolled in our cohort. Control group includes critically ill non-neurologic pts admitted in a general ICU in the same ICU Department. Serum phosphate levels and daily phosphate repletion were collected on the first 10 days after admission. The primary endpoint was neurologic outcome, using Glasgow Outcome Scale at 6 months (GOS-6M) and Glasgow Coma Scale at ICU discharge (GCS-ICUd). Outcomes analysis were made using mean phosphate level during the first 10 days. We performed multiple linear regression, adjusted for age, GCS at admission, APACHE II, phosphate level and phosphate repletion (table 1) were performed with SPSS® software v22.

Results:

In sSAH pts, phosphate level and phosphate repletion (table 1) were independently associated with GCS-ICUd (R² 58%, R² adj 54%); pts with hypophosphatemia at admission had lower GCS-ICUd compared with pts with normophosphatemia (12.1±3.4 vs 14.1±2.4, p=0.005). sSAH pts with lower GOS-6M had hypophosphatemia at admission and those who died had lower mean phosphate level (2.8±0.8 vs 3.1±0.4).

In multivariable analysis, phosphate repletion was significantly associated (β 0.21, 95% CI 0.000-0.001) with GOS-6M (R² 52%, R² adj 47%), but not mean phosphate level (table 1). In control group, lower mean phosphate level was associated with higher GOS-6M (R² 27%, R² adj 22%) and higher GCS-ICUd (R² 25%, R² adj 21%); there was not an association between phosphate repletion and outcomes (Table 2).

Conclusion: Pts with sSAH had lower mean phosphate levels and required a significantly higher daily phosphate replacement to achieve normal values, compared with non-neurologic critically ill pts. sSAH pts need cautious phosphate repletion, as hypophosphatemia may be associated with poor neurologic outcomes. Further studies are warranted to better understand the role of phosphorus in the pathophysiology of sSAH, namely regarding brain metabolism, kidney-brain links and outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Mechanical thrombectomy in acute ischemic stroke. Most frequent results and complications in our unit

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Introduction: In developed countries, ischemic stroke is one of the leading causes of disability and the second leading cause of death, 85% of them being of cardioembolic or atherothrombotic origin. In recent years, endovascular treatment in this type of patient has shown superiority over systemic fibrinolysis.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to analyze the results and associated complications after endovascular treatment in patients with acute ischemic stroke admitted to our Reanimation Unit.

Methods: An observational retrospective study was carried out. All patients with acute ischemic stroke undergoing mechanical thrombectomy who were admitted to the Reanimation Unit in February 2015 and December 2018 were included. The following variables were selected as study variables: demographic (age and sex), clinicals (NIHSS at admission, cardiovascular risk), type of anesthesia performed (general or sedation), neurological complications during your stay, and infectious complications (respiratory and urinary). Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS 25.0 program. Continuous variables were described using the mean. Categorical variables are described by absolute and relative frequencies.

Results: A total of 224 patients were collected. 90% of the patients who underwent endovascular treatment remained admitted to the Reanimation Unit. The mean age was 69.3%. 43.3% were men and 56.7% women. Cardiovascular risk factors: Hypertension described in 73%, diabetes mellitus 32%, dyslipidemia 45%, personal history of ischemic heart disease 13.6%, intermittent claudication 5.7%, tobacco use 19%, history of SAHS 5%. 27.4% consumed oral anticoagulants and 28.1% had AF among their antecedents, de novo arrhythmia was diagnosed in the emergency room in 11%. In 91% of the cases described, there was no previous stroke. Stroke mechanism: cardioembolic 71%, atherothrombotic 22.8%, undetermined origin 22.3%, infrequent 6.7%. In 36% of cases, the artery predominantly affected was the middle cerebral artery in segment M1. The least frequently affected artery is the vertebral artery, with 2.3% of cases. The median time from clinical presentation to the start of endovascular treatment was 160 minutes. Neurological assessment was performed using the NIHSS scale: on arrival at the Emergency Department, the mean was 17 points, with no variations after the procedure. After 24 hours it is at 8 points. The mean at discharge was 9 points. The type of anesthesia performed was general in 96% while sedoanalgesia was performed in 4%. VTE was indicated for failure of fibrinolysis with IV-r-PA in 8 patients (13.3%). Infectious complications: 38% of patients develop urinary tract infection; in 43% respiratory infections (pneumonia associated with mechanical ventilation, nosocomial pneumonia, tracheobronchitis). Percutaneous tracheostomy was required in 13%. The average stay in our unit is 3 days.

Conclusion: Ischemic stroke is a medical emergency that requires urgent intensive treatment and strict postoperative control. Bladder catheterization or orotracheal intubation prior to the procedure can be risk factors for the development of serious infections that can compromise the patient’s life. Performing sedoanalgesia as an anesthetic procedure can be useful in minimizing these risks, reducing hospital stay, reducing costs and improving the patient’s prognosis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. To ESCM give us the opportunity to publish this paper
Introduction: Ischemic stroke can occur in 20-55% of patients with infective endocarditis (IE) with 75% occurring during the first 2 weeks of treatment. CT or MRI brain can diagnose the sequelae of stroke but transcranial Doppler (TCD) can document active embolism. We undertook a retrospective review of our patient cohort and a systematic review of literature to assess the role of TCD in early diagnosis and management of ischemic stroke in IE.

Methods: Retrospective chart review and literature review.

Results: We found 89 patients with stroke caused by IE at our institution from December 2011 to April 2018. TCDs were obtained on 26 patients; 16 were abnormal for cerebrovascular abnormalities. Only 4 patients had 30-minute emboli monitoring performed, of which one revealed emboli. We found 3 studies investigating the role of TCDs in IE that showed promise in its use as a predictive tool in stroke risk stratification.

Conclusion: Presence of embolization in the form of high intensity transient signals (HITS) detected by TCDs can be used for early diagnosis of IE, assessing efficacy of antibiotic therapy, and stratification of stroke risk in IE. This can aid further research into testing preventative interventions for reducing stroke burden in IE, such as earlier vascular surgery or vacuum-assisted vegetation extraction.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


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Introduction: Neurocritical care is a subspecialty of critical care medicine that focuses on the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of patients with acute life-threatening central nervous system diseases. (1,2) Because of their complexity, neurocritical patients needs specific continuous monitoring, to allow their recovery.

Objectives: 1. Characterize neurocritical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients admitted in 2019 and to correlate neurocritical care variables with Glasgow outcome Scale at ICU discharge and 6 months after discharge.
2. Finding the most significant variables in order to build a model that best predict outcome.

Methods: An observational retrospective study included 105 neurocritical patients in our intensive care unit (ICU) during the year of 2019. Collected variables included age, gender, diagnoses, severity scores (APACHE, SAPS, initial SOFA), in local Glasgow coma score (GCS), hospital admission GCS, Marshall, Hunt & Hess scale, Fisher scale, National institute of Health stroke scale (NIHSS), intracranial pressure (ICP) at ICU admission, time with ICP>24 in the first 72h after ICU admission, mean ICP during ICU stay, doppler variables in the first 24h of ICU stay (middle cerebral artery (MCA) blood velocity and pulsatility index) and Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) at ICU discharge and 6 months after discharge. We included also the time (minutes) between local to emergency department (ED) admission and time between ED and ICU. We performed a Multiple Regression Analysis using Akaike’s Information Criterion (AIC) to identify the most relevant variables that best explain outcome.

Results: One hundred and five neurocritical patients were included: traumatic brain injury (TBI) (61), aneurism (31) of which 27 had subarachnoid haemorrhage, stroke (11) and arteriovenous malformation (2). In patients with TBI 84.8 % were male, mean age of 45.7 years, 80.4 % present moderate to severe TBI, 68.4% present Marshall scores of 3 and above. 52% with initial sofa score of 7 and above. In patients with aneurism, 72.4 were female, mean age of 57.8 years, mean hospital admission GCS of 10, 42% Hunt&Hess of 2 and above, 47 % with initial sofa score of 7 and above.

The best model for predicting GOS at ICU discharge included 5 variables: Sex, Age, initial SOFA Score (at admission), admission GCS, and Time between ED and ICU:

-Associated with best outcome: male sex, younger age, higher admission GCS, more Time ED-ICU.
-Associated with worse outcome: female sex, older age, lower admission GCS, high SOFA score.

The adjusted R2 for this model was 40 % (accounts for 40% of variation in outcome) with a p-value < 1.6 x 10^-9.

Conclusion: It was not surprise for us that high admission GCS and younger age were associated with best outcome. However we were not expected that more time between ED-ICU leads to better outcome. The male sex appears to preform better than female sex. Those facts will be a good discussion points.

The focus of this work was characterization of our neurocritical care population. The identification of a new predictive model presents an interesting hypothesis for future validation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

deterioration in such patients, as an early indicator of brain-heart network dysfunction.

**Objectives:** We examined the changes in HRV measured by electrocardiography (ECG) in patients who experienced neurological deterioration after severe acute brain injuries, and analyzed the correlation between HRV and the qualitative and quantitative variables of electroencephalography (EEG).

**Methods:** Thirteen EEG channels and one channel of simultaneously-acquired ECG were segmented in 120 s epochs and used to calculate ten HRV features (standard deviation of the normal-normal intervals, root mean square of the difference in successive intervals, very low frequency power, low frequency power, high frequency power, low frequency/high frequency power ratio, SD along the transverse axis of the Poincaré plot [SD1], SD along the longitudinal axis of the Poincaré plot [SD2], SD2/SD1 ratio, and approximate entropy) and three quantitative EEG features (suppression ratio, asymmetry index, and alpha/ delta band power ratio). Raw EEGs of epochs were also reviewed using standardized terminology and graded according to its background activities and ictal-interictal continuum patterns.

**Results:** The neurophysiological features of 25 patients with severe acute brain injury due to various causes were analyzed. The HRV and EEG features showed progressive and significant changes in the 48-hour period prior to neurological deterioration. Notably, the suppression ratio and background severity grade of the EEG showed significant negative correlations with all HRV features.

**Conclusion:** Integration of HRV monitoring with continuous EEG monitoring may enable timely identification of progressive secondary brain injury before the development of irreversible injury.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000501 Intracranial pressure management in acute brain-injured patients: baseline characteristics of the SYNAPSE-ICU Centers**

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**Introduction:** Increased intracranial pressure (ICP) is one of the major clinical complications of acute brain injuries (ABIs) and correlates with poor outcome. ICP monitoring (ICPm) is the most common neuro-monitoring modality used in intensive care units (ICUs). However, no evidence-based recommendations on ICP management are present in the current literature. Practice about indications of ICPm is variable in high- (HICs) and in low-middle-income countries (LMICs), where data is scarce or inconsistent.

**Objectives:** Aim is to quantify practice variations in ICPm in HICs and LMICs and in TBI and non-TBI patients.

**Methods:** The SYNAPSE-ICU is a prospective, observational, international, cohort study (NCT03257904) focused on describe the current practice of ICPm using a worldwide sample. Centre Data Characteristics Form has been submitted to each center enrolled in the study to assess the standard intensive care practice in ABI patients. Information about the institution and ICP monitoring and management were indicated.

**Results:** Worldwide, 156 sites distributed in 41 countries participated in the study. The Center Form was completed by 97.4% of sites. Based on World Bank List of Economies Classification (2019-2020), 110 (72.4%) of centers were localized in HICs and 42 (27.6%) in LMICs. Over two thirds of the centers have an academic affiliation (69.7%). A specialist neurocritical ICU was available in 31.6% of centers, whereas in the majority of them (66.4%) ABI patients were admitted to other ICUs (mixed, surgical, medical). In 99.3% of sites patients were monitored 24/7 by medical staff, and the most represented nurse:patient ratio was 1:2 (54.0%).

**Conclusion:** Overall, 72.4% of centers routinely used ICPm in TBI patients, and approximately half of them routinely monitored ICP in SAH and ICH. A protocol/policy for ICP treatment in TBI, SAH and ICH was available in 63.8%, 49.3% and 48.0% of centers, respectively. Regarding the availability of neuromonitoring devices, 95.4% of ICUs declared to have an intracranial catheter to monitor ICP. At least one additional non-invasive neuromonitoring technique (transcranial doppler, optic nerve sheath diameter ultrasound, EEG, pupillometry and NIRS) was available in most of centers both in HICs (91.8%) and in LMICs (90.5%), whereas an additional invasive neuromonitoring device (brain tissue oxygen and temperature, cerebral microdialysis, regional cerebral blood flow, deep/cortical EEG electrodes) was usable in 49.1% of HIC and in 26.2% of LMIC centers.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. The study received an award from the ESICM, and it is inserted in the ESICM research portfolio.

**000682 Near-infrared spectroscopy in brain dead neurocritical care patients**

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**Introduction:** Does near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) is a reliable index of brain oxygenation? NIRS is generally used as a non-invasive tool to assess regional cerebral oxygen saturation (rSO2) to prevent ischemic brain damage. Albeit its use is widespread in the neurocritical care field[1], its real role in accurately detect ischemic insults and low cerebral flow is still a matter of debate mainly because of a lack of information on the NIRS algorithm utilized by each manufacturer and the low-resolution depth of the elliptical path of the optical spectrophotometry [2-4,6].

**Objectives:** Our purpose is to detect the cerebral oxygen saturation of the forehead in a clinical model of a diffuse ischemic brain injury, such as brain-dead patients.

**Methods:** We retrospectively analyzed adult neurocritical care patients who evolved into brain death between January 2019 and March 2020. NIRS was sampled with the O3™ (Masimo, Irvine, CA) and SensmarrTM X-100 (Nonin Medical, Inc., Plymouth, Minnesota, US) system for the total duration of 20 minutes after the patient had been declared brain dead, according to the Italian national criteria/ guidelines.
Results: A total of 40 brain dead patients were studied (median age 72 IQR[55-79], 35% intracranial hemorrhage, 35% traumatic brain injury, 15% ischemic stroke, 7% hypoxic brain injury post-cardiac arrest, 3% subarachnoid hemorrhage from brain aneurysm rupture, 3% others). Among them, despite the presence of clinical, neurophysiological and neuroradiological criteria of brain death (assessed with brainstem reflexes, electroencephalography, and CT angiography), we recorded a median rSO2 value of 72% (IQR [63-75]). The 90% of the total series (36/40) have experienced a normal rSO2 values (i.e., rSO2 >50%) and only 10 % (4 patients) showed rSO2 values below 50%, among whom two patients presented concomitant severe cardiac dysfunction. A left-sided decompressive craniectomy was performed in two patients, in which we observed the left rSO2 value much higher than contralateral (i.e., both with delta rSO2>20). Moreover core linear correlation was found between rSO2 and SaO2 (r = -0.393; p<0.02).

Conclusion: In the experimental model of global brain ischemia such as brain death, the current NIRS technology does not mirror the real state of the brain oxygenation; indeed a normal rSO2 values were found in our analysis (72%, IQR[63-75]) These data sustain the low sensitivity of the NIRS monitoring in measure faithfully the correct oxygenation status beyond the forehead[5, 6]. More studies are needed to better understand the limits and reliability of NIRS algorithms in detecting brain ischemia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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7. 7. The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial founding, excluding a potential conflict of interest.

000959

Acquiring competencies in cerebral ultrasonography: a pragmatic study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000959

Introduction: Echography is becoming a diffuse, economic and non-invasive tool used in general ICU (Intensive care unit) while is less utilized for exploring the brain, protected by the skull. However, it could have multiple applications in the study of cerebral vessels anatomy and from its important role in the diagnosis of acute intracranial pathologies (1). Skills to be acquired have been recently described in a Consensus (2). No information about the utility of practical training are available.

Objectives: The aim of this project is to evaluate the improvement in the use of ultrasonography and TCCD (transcranial colour-coded duplex) diagnostic methods after a dedicated training course.

Methods: In December 2019, 31 participants (3 intensivists and 28 residents) naïve to the technique attended for two days the SONIC (Sonography in Neuro-Intensive Care) theoretical-practical course at University of Piemonte Orientale. Specialists in this field described the use of ultrasonography and TCCD in a large spectrum of clinical conditions, followed by practical hands-on sessions on volunteers and in ICU.

Before and after the training, all participants answered to a 51 multiple-choice online questionnaire and were required to evaluate a set of brain echographic images. A paired t-test was applied to evaluate the improvement.

Results: The median score obtained in the multiple-choice question was respectively 27 (pre) and 36 (post).

The paired t-test applied, showed a significant difference between the mean performance scores pre and post training course (p <0.001).

The median score obtained in the images evaluation was 4 (maximum score of 5).

Conclusion: The analysis conducted on the scores obtained before and after the theoretical-practical course showed how useful could be a targeted approach to the correct use of TCD ultrasonography improving personal skills about it.

According to the Consensus (2) we could consider an upgrade of the participants’ level to basic-plus/pre-advance.

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000969

Brain Oxygen Tension Over the First 24 Hours of Monitoring, Predicts Intensive Care Survival in Adult Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000969

Introduction: Optimal management and monitoring of traumatic brain injury (TBI) remains uncertain. Intracranial pressure (ICP) monitoring lacks high quality evidence and does not prevent cerebral hypoxia (Stiefel et al., 2006; Carney et al., 2017). Robust evidence for the use of brain oxygen tension (PbtO2) monitoring is also lacking, but preliminary work is promising and suggests it may improve outcomes. In a prior study, we found that early PbtO2 improvement, or low hypoxic load over the first 24 hours, were associated with ICU survival (Rhodes, Chandrasekaran and Andrews, 2016).

Objectives: In a second independent cohort of patients with moderate to severe TBI, to validate the observation that exceedingly early changes in PbtO2 are associated with ICU survival.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was performed on prospectively collected data from a cohort of 60 TBI patients at a single centre focusing on the first 24 hours of monitoring. Minute-to-minute ICP, cerebral
perfusion pressure (CPP) and PbtO2 values were recorded via an invasive cerebral monitor on to a bedside laptop running ICU pilot software (CMA, Sweden). The relationship of PbtO2 vs. time was described as a Spearmann correlation coefficient for each patient. The percentage of time that PbtO2 was <20 mmHg was calculated. Demographic and baseline characteristics were collected. The primary outcome was ICU survival.

Comparisons were made using paired or unpaired T tests and Wilcoxon signed rank test or Mann-Whitney U test. ICU survival was analysed using logistic regression.

**Results**: Demographics were well matched, except age, which was significantly higher in non-survivors (43 years [IQR 26.3 – 55.0] vs. 60 years [IQR 49.3 – 72.8]) p=0.001. Survivors demonstrated significant increases in PbtO2 over the first 24 hours, (18.9 mmHg [IQR 12.8 to 23.1] vs. 25.6 mmHg [21.6 to 30.6], p<0.001, which was not seen in non-survivors (16.3 mmHg [IQR 8.5 to 32.3] vs. 18.3 mmHg [16.9 to 21.8], p=0.896. Survivors experienced a significantly higher PbtO2 over 24 hours than non-survivors (25.3 mmHg [22.1 to 26.4] vs. 18.4 mmHg [17.3 to 20], p<0.001). Age (odds ratio 0.95, [95% CI 0.90 to 1.00] p=0.032), the correlation coefficient between PbtO2 and time (odds ratio 5.24 [95% CI 1.02 to 26.96]) p=0.047 and percentage hypoxia in the first 24 hours (odds ratio 0.98 [95% CI 0.96 to 1.00] p=0.033) were significantly associated with ICU survival. When the data from this cohort were combined with the original cohort (n=25), these findings were preserved.

**Conclusion**: In patients with moderate to severe TBI undergoing invasive multimodality monitoring, data from PbtO2 monitoring as early as the first 24 hours of monitoring is associated with survival. An improving PbtO2 with time and low cumulative hypoxia were significantly associated with ICU outcome. The findings of the original observational study are upheld. What remains unclear is if this association with survival occurs spontaneously or if it is the result of goal directed therapy.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**001064 Velocity Time Integral (VTI) in Trans-Cranial Doppler (TCD) in healthy controls (C) versus ICU patients (P) for detection of cerebral blood flow (CBF) abnormalities**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001064**

**Introduction**: Few studies report the relation between functional brain alterations during and after ICU stay and abnormalities of CBF displayed on TCD. Using VTI as hemodynamic parameter is unusual for evaluation of CBF(1).

**Objectives**: The purpose of this preliminary study is to compare the values of VTI of healthy Controls (C) versus ICU (P) with usual parameters (i.e, systolic (Vs), diastolic (Vd) and mean velocities (Vm), resistance (RI) and pulsatility (PI) indexes).(2).

**Methods**: 50 C and 160 P were consecutively included during a 6 months period (August 2019 to May 2020). Velocities and VTIMCA were sampled using TCD at the middle cerebral artery (MCA, MI segment). Left ventricular outflow (VTIAo) was assessed by transthoracic echocardiography.

**Demographic data**, reasons for admission in ICU, SAPS, sedative, vasopressor use and ventilator support were recorded as well MAP, Vs, Vd, Vm, PI, Rl.

**Data** are shown as medians [Interquartile 25-75%]. Test or non-parametric test (if appropriate) were used. P<0.05 was considered as significant.

**Results**: Sex ratio (M/F): 2.5 in P with SAPS II: 57 (41-69) and 1 in C. Age: 58 years (51-69) in P vs 40 years (30-50) in C.

**Reasons for admission** were sepsis: 71 (47 septic shocks), cardiac arrest: 19 cardiogenic shocks: 11, neurologic disorders: 12, others: 27. 210 measurements were realized respectively under: mechanical ventilation: 183, vasopressor support: 101 and sedative drugs: 116. Table1 shows relevant data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>C (n=50)</th>
<th>P (n=160)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAP mmHg</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>73.00-92.00</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTIAo cm</td>
<td>25.50</td>
<td>19.50-21.50</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTIMCA cm</td>
<td>31.70</td>
<td>24.00-42.00</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vd cm/s</td>
<td>40.30</td>
<td>35.38-46.20</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vm cm/s</td>
<td>58.50</td>
<td>54.70-66.52</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.52-0.69</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF</td>
<td>86.25</td>
<td>0.84-1.30</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTIMCA/VTIAo</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.15-3.09</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF*VTIMCA/BSA</td>
<td>1876</td>
<td>1712-2219</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF*VTIAo/BSA</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>682-919</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HF= Heart Frequency. BSA=Body Surface Area

**Conclusion**: There was a weak correlation between VTIMCA and VTIAo in P (not found in C). However, VTIMCA and VTIAo were markedly dependent when VTIMCA/ VTIAo ratio was <1.5 in P with marked PI and Vd abnormalities. (Spearman, r=-0.82, p<0.001).

This ratio highlighted the coupling between VTIMCA and VTIAo. Low VTIAo correlated to low VTIMCA. P with vasopressors had higher VTIMCA/VTIAo ratio.

In addition, VTIMCA<35 cm was more accurate than PI>1.3 and Vd<25 cm/s for the detection of abnormal neuropsychological behavior (respectively AUC: 0.81; 0.541; 0.345).

**Conclusion**: CBF could be estimate using VTIMCA and a hemodynamic index as HF*VTIMCA/BSA. The VTIMCA/VTIAo ratio could be a tool to detect coupling. Low VTIMCA should do assess a VTIAo measurement. Further studies are needed to evaluate the clinical pertinence of the TCD in general ICUs.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Automated pupillometry can identify unreactive electroencephalographic background**

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**Correspondence**: L. Peluso

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001144**

**Introduction**: Electroencephalography (EEG) is one of the most used non-invasive monitoring methods in critically ill patients. However, EEG interpretation requires the presence of an experienced
neurophysiologist and is time-consuming. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether automated pupillometry (AP)-derived variables might help to assess the degree of cerebral dysfunction in critically ill patients.

Methods: Prospective study conducted in the Department of Intensive Care of Hôpital Erasme in Brussels. Pupillary assessments were done using the AP in three subgroups of patients concomitantly monitored with continuous EEG: 1) Post-anoxic brain injury; 2) Primary brain injury; 3) Others (i.e. sepsis, liver failure ...). An independent neurologist blinded to patient’s history and AP results scored the degree of encephalopathy and reactivity on EEG using a standardized scale. The mean value of Neurologic Pupil Index (NPI), pupillary size, constriction rate, constriction and dilation velocity (CV and DV) and latency for both eyes were reported using the NPI[8]-200 (Neuroptics, Laguna Hills, CA, USA).

Results: We included 214 patients (mean age 60 years, 55% male). EEG tracings were categorized in: mild (n=111, 52%), moderate (n=65, 30%) or severe (n=18, 8%) encephalopathy; burst/suppression (n=19, 9%) or suppression (n=3, 1%). A total of 38 (18%) EEG were classified as unreactive. We found a significant difference in all pupillometry variables among different EEG categories; an unreactive EEG was associated with lower NPI, pupil size, pupillary reactivity, CV and DV and a higher latency than reactive recordings. DV and sedation were independently predictors of unreactive EEG (OR 47.68 [5.65-402.76]; p<0.01 and 6.67 [2.49-17.86]; p<0.01, respectively). In particular, DV values had an AUC of 0.85 [0.78 – 0.91] for p<0.05) to predict the presence of unreactive EEG; in subgroups analyses, area under the curve (AUC) of DV to predict unreactive EEG was 0.70 [0.55-0.86; p<0.01] and 0.95 [0.88-1.00; p<0.01] for post-anoxic, primary brain injury and others, respectively.

Conclusion: This study suggests that DV assessment via the AP might effectively identify unreactive EEG background, in particular in non-anoxic critically ill patients.

Introduction: Neurocritical care patients with acute brain injury ( ABI) are at risk of developing intracranial hypertension which is associated with poor outcome. Monitoring of intracranial pressure (ICP) and other additional parameters, such as brain tissue pO2 (PbtO2), and brain oxygenation ratio (PbtO2/PaO2 ratio), can assess the severity of ABI and guide treatment. Thus, it may help predict and improve outcomes of these patients.

Objectives: To investigate the relationship between the type of outcome and parameters measured using an intraparenchymal monitoring catheter (PbtO2 and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio) in patients with ABI.

Methods: An observational study was performed in a Greek ICU from July 2018 to May 2020, including 34 patients with ABI (13 Traumatic brain injury, 14 Subarachnoid hemorrhage, 5 Intracerebral hemorrhage, 2 Ischemic stroke) and ICP/PbtO2 monitoring. GCS on admission, APACHE II score, ICP, PbtO2 and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio during the first 24 hours were recorded. We ensured normal ICP (< 22 mmHg) with appropriate treatment measures in all patients. We considered as critical thresholds of PbtO2 < 15 mmHg and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio < 0.15. Patient outcome was determined as favorable (patient had good recovery or moderate disability) or unfavorable (patient died, or was in a vegetative state or had severe disability) using the Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS-E) at 6 months after ABI. Simple logistic regression models were fitted to the data.

Results: Included 34 patients had a median age of 57 (IQR 15) years, median ICU admission GCS 7 (IQR 4.75) and mean APACHE II score 16.91 (SD = 5.25). An external ventricular drain was inserted in 19 patients (55.9%) and surgery before ICU admission occurred in 20 patients (58.8%). A positive association of mean PbtO2 on day 1 with type of outcome is detected. The odds for favorable outcome are 1.06 times higher or 6% increased for every mmHg that PbtO2 is increased but this is not significant (p = 0.149, p > 0.05, 95%CI is 0.98-1.15 and includes 1) (Table 1). In our small sample, natural logarithm of mean PbtO2/PaO2 ratio on day 1 is positively related with type of outcome. Regarding 0.1 increments in natural logarithm of PbtO2/PaO2 ratio the odds for favorable outcome are 1.045 times or 4.5% higher. This relationship is not significant though (p = 0.296, p > 0.05, 95%CI is 0.68-3.55 and includes 1) (Table 1). Mean PbtO2 and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio values for favorable and unfavorable outcome are recorded in Table 2.

Table 1. Association of outcome with catheter-based monitoring parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean PbtO2 on day 1</td>
<td>1.06 (0.98, 1.15)</td>
<td>0.149, &gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean PbtO2/PaO2 on day 1</td>
<td>1.15 (0.68-3.55)</td>
<td>0.296, &gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean PbtO2/PaO2 ratio on day 1</td>
<td>1.045 for 0.1 increments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Means of catheter-based monitoring parameters according to outcome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Favorable outcome</th>
<th>Unfavorable outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean PbtO2 on day 1</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>12.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean PbtO2/PaO2 on day 10.158</td>
<td>0.112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: In addition to ICP, monitoring and normalizing parameters, such as PbtO2 and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio could help improve outcome in patients with ABI. Mean PbtO2 and PbtO2/PaO2 ratio on day 1 had similar performance in these patients but PbtO2/PaO2 ratio was inferior to PbtO2 alone in our small sample. There remains a need for more, high quality trials in patients with ABI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: The Barking, Havering, Redbridge University Trust (BHRUT) simulation team, ITU team and transfusion team collaborated in an attempt to improve knowledge among ITU nurses around local Massive Haemorrhage (MH) guidelines [1] through simulation, to great effect in a mere 1-hour whilst on ITU.

Methods: The simulation team ran a high-fidelity in-situ simulation of an unexpected massive haemorrhage in an ITU patient, on the intensive care unit. The doctor in the scenario managed the patient’s airway during the ongoing massive haematemesis. The transfusion team were aware of the simulation and attended, when called, to simulate real life.

Questionnaires were administered pre and post simulation to gauge:
1. Knowledge about MH protocols in general [2]
2. Confidence levels with regards to MH guidelines specific to the Trust
3. Confidence levels around what constitutes a MH
4. Confidence levels around the key initial steps in escalating a patient with a MH
Results: A 5-point Likert scale was used to assess the key learning objectives for the session, where 5 was the most positive outcome and 1 was the least positive outcome:

1. Prior to simulation, ITU nurses had an average score 2.0 when asked about their general knowledge on Massive Haemorrhage protocols, this improved to 4.3 after simulation.
2. Perceived confidence levels with regards to following the Trust’s flow diagram on managing a MH improved from an average score of 1.8 to 4.0 after participants were involved in simulation.
3. ITU nurses felt much more confident in identifying a MH as a result of partaking in the scenario; 100% of nurses were able to identify a MH after simulation, compared with only 25% being able to name one parameter that constitutes a MH prior to the simulation.
4. 100% of nurses knew the two most important steps to take in the event of a MH before simulation, but valued the opportunity to take those steps in real-time during the simulation.

Conclusion: Haemorrhage following trauma is the leading cause of death in young adults in the UK [4] and acute upper gastrointestinal bleeds (AUGIB), a common in-hospital emergency, and has a case mortality of 10%, according to the Joint UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue transplant Services [5]. Thus, it’s not uncommon for our ITU staff to be faced with massive haemorrhage and hence it made this particular emergency an important target for simulation.

A mere 1-hour of in-situ simulation, centred around very specific massive haemorrhage learning objectives, proved an extremely effective way to impart learning during working hours to prepare ITU nurses for the inevitable day when they are faced with a real major bleed. Here we have demonstrated considerable improvements in knowledge and confidence with regards to management of massive haemorrhage following only 60 minutes of simulation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Many adult critical Ill patients have central access devices (CAD) that includes central venous catheter (CVC), continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) catheter, or femoral arterial line during their acute phase of illness in the intensive care unit (ICU) for invasive monitoring of physiological status and treatment responsiveness. Bleeding is the most likely complication to occur after removal of the CAD when applied direct pressure to the puncture site is not adequate to achieve haemostasis. This kind of complication can be fatal especially if the larger size (such as 13FR) CRRT catheters are used.

Therefore, a Continuous Quality Improvement team has developed a removal of central access devices label aimed to provide quick clinical guide to bedside ICU nurses for the removal of CAD.

Objectives:
1. To deliver safe and standardize care to ICU patients during the removal of CAD.
2. To prevent bleeding after removal of CAD.

Methods: Wide staff consultations were made about the various kinds of method used to remind nurses on important clinical steps of the removal of CAD. Finally, a removal of central access device label was developed. The label reinforced the following critical actions for the removal of these line / catheter: 1. Application of direct pressure to the CAD exit site after the line has been removed for at least 10 minutes. 2. Re-checking of the removal site 5 minutes later after direct pressure was stopped for any bleeding / haematoma. 3. Removal of all central venous & arterial lines as early as possible while the patient was waiting to transfer out to general ward. 4. Checking the integrity of removed lines to avoid any retention of lines material. 5. Enhancement of nursing clinical handover through standardization of documentation.

Promotion of the project: 1. Staff education during briefing. 2. Eye catching smart point posted in the common staff areas of the unit, 3. Ad hoc compliance check during daily round.

Results: The project was implemented in May 2016. Every year, the Intensive Care Unit of Prince of Wales Hospital has around 1800 admissions of which 450 CVC lines and CRRT catheters were removed. A regular surprise audit on removal of CAD and implementation of the label was 100% compliance. Moreover, there were no incidences of immediate bleeding.

However, there were 2 reported cases of delay bleeding after removal of CRRT catheters due to the patient’s underlying illness in 2018. Therefore, a second check was made 15 to 30 minutes after direct pressure was stopped in order to close this loophole. As of December 2019, there were no immediate or delay bleeding cases reported.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the project, a staff survey was also conducted with questionnaires distributed to 80 ICU nurses (76%). Totally, 65 (81%) completed questionnaires were returned with the result analysed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. The removal of CAD label can provide quick clinical guide to prevent bleeding complication after removal of CAD</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>69.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. The removal of CAD label can remind you to prevent bleeding complication after removal of CAD</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3. The removal of CAD label can help the prevention of bleeding complication</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4. The removal of CAD label can facilitate your documentation and clinical handover to nurses of next shift and general ward nurses</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in Table 1 shows that there was positive response on the project from the staff survey. Although there was 71.2% of the staff stated agree and strongly agree on the label which can help the prevention of bleeding complication, over 80% of the staff (88.1%, 86.4% and 93.2% respectively) agreed that the label can provide quick clinical guide and remind nurses to prevent bleeding complication after removal of CAD and also can facilitate their documentation and clinical handover. Hence, the result of staff survey showed that the removal of CAD label can provide quick clinical guide to prevent bleeding complication after removal of CAD.
Conclusion: Development of a removal of central access devices label has demonstrated its’ effectiveness in preventing post removal bleeding complication in ICU. Nurses also feedback to enhance clinical documentation and handover as a biproduct of the project.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. Special thanks to all nursing team of Intensive Care Unit, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

000422
Effectiveness and Safety of Early Rehabilitation for Patients with Acute Brain Impairment in Intensive Care Unit
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000422

Introduction: More data has been recently acquired about effectiveness of early rehabilitation in the Intensive Care Unit. However, the data on the safety of this technique for patients with acute brain impairment (ABI) is still being discussed [1, 2].

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness and safety of early rehabilitation of ABI patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: The inclusion criteria were ABI following a brain infarction, intracerebral hematoma, or subarachnoid hemorrhage. Criteria of an exclusion were a short rehabilitation course (<7 days), deeply decreased level of consciousness (<7 points on Glasgow coma scale), multi organ decompensated failure. All patients (n = 42) were assigned to the Early Rehabilitation Group (ERG) if it started 1-2 day from ABI onset, or to the Delayed Rehabilitation Group (DRG) if it started after 2nd day. All patients were given a daily mobilization complex taking into consideration their mobility and tolerance of physical activity. Clinical and laboratory indicators were analyzed, including the frequency of depression and deliria, the length of hospital stay and the time of mechanical ventilation. The development of serious complications during mobilization and mortality were also recorded. The data is presented as absolute values (frequency in percent), average (standard deviation), or median (25-75th percentile) depending on the type and allocation of the data.

Results: In group ERG (n = 15) mobilization started on 2nd (1-2) day on average, while in group DRG (n = 27) only on 7th (4-12) day (p < 0.001). The groups were comparable in degree of consciousness disorder and organ dysfunction. All patients had severe disabilities (≥4 points on the modified Renkin scale). No differences in groups were found as for the duration of mechanical ventilation, hospital admissions and mortality. The frequency of both delirium (p = 0.024) and depression (p = 0.040) was lower in the ERG group. The length of hospital stay in the Intensive Care Unit was higher in the DRG group than in the ERG group (27 (21-34) and 19 (10-27), respectively; p = 0.042).

At the time of discharge, the incidence of severe disability decreased in both groups (to 87% in group ERG and to 78% in group DRG, p = 0.482). There were no serious complications during mobilization in both groups.

Conclusion: Early rehabilitation can be effectively and safely applied for patients with ABI. The use of early rehabilitation for patients with acute cerebral deficiency reduces the frequency of mental disorders and the time in the Intensive Care Unit, which creates the basis for favorable long-term outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000439
Extensive use of prone positioning in COVID-19 patients with ARDS
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000439

Introduction: Italy was one of the most affected country at the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic with the highest number of deaths in Europe mostly concentrated in the Lombardy region. Critically ill patients with COVID-19 required intensive care unit (ICU) admission due to the development of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Prone positioning as rescue therapy can support respiratory function in patients with severe ARDS although the feasibility of the extensive use depends from the personnel expertise.

Objectives: To report the experience with the respiratory management and extensive use of prone positioning in COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU hub of a tertiary-level hospital in Lombardy region.

Methods: All patients with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and subsequently admitted to ICU of Foundation IRCCS Ca’ Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico (Milan), between February 23 and May 31, 2020, were enrolled in this retrospective consecutive case-series study. The recorded data include: age, sex, mode of respiratory support (non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation), use of prone positioning, and mortality.

Results: Of the 128 patients included, 121 required endotracheal intubation and prone positioning was used in 46% (59/128) as rescue therapy. The other results are summarized in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>All pts.</th>
<th>Age 20–39</th>
<th>Age 40–49</th>
<th>Age 50–59</th>
<th>Age 60–69</th>
<th>Age ≥ 70</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median age (IQR)</td>
<td>59 (49–65)</td>
<td>34 (29–39)</td>
<td>46 (44–47)</td>
<td>55 (52–58)</td>
<td>64 (62–66)</td>
<td>74 (72–77)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male) (%)</td>
<td>96 (75%)</td>
<td>8 (73%)</td>
<td>17 (74%)</td>
<td>28 (78%)</td>
<td>37 (77%)</td>
<td>6 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prone position (%)</td>
<td>59 (46%)</td>
<td>26 (45%)</td>
<td>13 (53%)</td>
<td>3 (30%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECMO support (%)</td>
<td>6 (5%)</td>
<td>1 (18%)</td>
<td>5 (33%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU discharge (%)</td>
<td>92 (72%)</td>
<td>8 (73%)</td>
<td>20 (87%)</td>
<td>28 (78%)</td>
<td>32 (67%)</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality (%)</td>
<td>36 (28%)</td>
<td>3 (27%)</td>
<td>11 (33%)</td>
<td>8 (22%)</td>
<td>16 (33%)</td>
<td>6 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (IQR)</td>
<td>14 (8–27)</td>
<td>13 (3–15)</td>
<td>27 (20–38)</td>
<td>17 (10–31)</td>
<td>38 (9–30)</td>
<td>11 (8–26)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Prone positioning is part of the strategies available to intensive medicine for ARDS treatment in COVID-19 patients. During COVID-19 pandemic era, extensive use of prone positioning as rescue therapy can be applied using a specific protocol to support the staff decisions, limit the occurrence of complications and avoid excessive nursing staff workload.
Introduction: One output from the INACTIC collaboration (1) is a set of core competencies for advanced practice ICU nurses across Europe. Some European countries, such as the UK (2), have identified such competencies, however these roles are rare across the rest of Europe. The INACTIC competencies were developed with an expert panel of 184 ICU nurses from 20 countries; however it is important to verify these with patients and family members with experience of intensive care.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to examine the views of recovered ICU patients and relatives regarding the INACTIC core competencies.

Methods: Three Focus Groups were conducted in the UK (n=12 participants) and Greece (n=5 participants) to discuss a lay version of the competencies.

Results: The feedback from across the focus groups confirmed the inclusion of statements about personal attributes, such as ‘patient advocacy’ or ‘having the confidence to speak up’. There was a cultural difference with the Greek focus group: because of slight restrictions family visiting relatives felt encouraging their participation in patient care was not possible.

Conclusion: The perspectives of patients and family members largely aligned with the professional competences of the expert panel, in particular related to personal attributes of the expert ICU nurse. Cultural differences in ICU experience highlight the changes that some ICUs would need to make for the competencies to be embedded.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. MB received a grant from the German Society of Critical Care Medicine to conduct this study. PN received a delirium-research grant from the German Society of Critical Care Medicine and Phillips. All other authors report to have no conflicts. These institutions and companies were not responsible for or involved in designing, conducting, or analysing this study.

000589

The Development Of A Teaching Package For Airway Pressure Release Ventilation (APRV)

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000589

Introduction: APRV is a pressure controlled mode of ventilation that delivers an almost continuous positive pressure with intermittent, time-cycled, short releases at a lower pressure where spontaneous breathing is encouraged. It is based on the open lung approach (Stock and Down 1987). Few UK ICUs have a consistent experience of APRV as it is primarily used as a rescue mode of ventilation where other modes have failed (Zhou et al 2017; Swindon et al 2020). On our ICU APRV use has increased over the past 5 years, with a significant increase since 2017.

Critical care nurses play a vital role in the care and management of patients requiring mechanical ventilation. The Nursing and Midwifery
code of conduct specifies nurses must work within the limits of their competence and that the necessary training should be completed before carrying out any new role. Our ICU currently has no teaching package or written guideline for the setup and management of APRV. **Methods:** A MDT working group was established to deliver the project. 3 ICUs around the region were surveyed and no unit had an APRV teaching package. A questionnaire regarding knowledge and confidence in the use of APRV was sent out to all members of nursing staff. A teaching package was designed starting with small pilots of teaching to a multi-disciplinary team on an ad hoc basis. The teaching package will be cascaded via the Bath University Hospital Tea Trolley Teaching method (Hawkes 2018), enabling larger numbers of staff to be educated in a timelier manner. The efficacy of the teaching program will be assessed by a further questionnaire sent out after the teaching has been attended. **Results:** The baseline questionnaire was sent to 77 members of staff and generated 46 responses (58.4%). 91% of staff completing had cared for a patient receiving APRV and 66% of those report no prior knowledge of APRV. Of the 46 responses 45 expressed the need for education in the free text section. 20 members of staff received teaching as part of the pilot, achieving 14 post teaching questionnaire responses (70%).

**Conclusion:** APRV use is increasing and the first survey showed a lack of knowledge or experience/confidence in its use. This has been addressed by the creation of a teaching package, and the pilot data has shown a positive outcome to both the delivery and content. Staff confidence/knowledge of APRV will be re-evaluated again once the teaching package has been delivered. The results of this will be available for presentation at the conference.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. All authors have declared no financial support was received from any organization for this submitted work

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**000595**

**A National Evaluation of the Advanced Critical Care Practitioner Role within the United Kingdom**

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**Introduction:** Advanced Critical Care Practitioners (ACCPs) are now well integrated within critical care (CC) workforces across England, Scotland and Wales. As such, ACCPs have been acknowledged within landmark publications for their contribution to the delivery of CC services1-3. There have been numerous key initiatives that have advanced the development of the role, including national curriculums/pathways for training and continued professional development 4-6. Despite now being well embedded within the CC workforce, only local quality-assurance datasets that have evaluated the perceived effectiveness and/or safety perceptions surrounding the introduction of the ACCP role have been published7-10.

**Objectives:** The study had several objectives: 1) Evaluate perceptions surrounding the ACCP role within the CC workforce; 2) Assess the level at which current qualified ACCPs were perceived to be working towards the expectations of the role described by the Department of Health (DoH) and the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM)4-5; 3) Evaluate whether the introduction of the ACCP role had any negative impact on Medical, Nursing and/or Allied Healthcare Professional (AHP) training; 4) Identify areas of concerns regarding interprofessional working and 5) Assess the scope for further development of the role.

**Methods:** Previous work conducted at a local level informed the objective and design of this study7. We designed and distributed an online anonymous electronic survey via OnlineSurveys.com to multiple centres within England, Scotland and Wales via multiple CC networks. A link to the survey was hosted on the FICM website. All professional groups that had experience of working directly with ACCPs were eligible to take part in the survey. ACCPs were excluded from participating. Institutional ethical decision tools did not deem this project to require independent peer review.

**Results:** 591 clinicians responded to the survey during the 6-week period study period. The majority of respondents (n = 150, 25%) were Medical Consultants, followed closely by Staff Nurses (n = 141, 23.9%). Respondents ranged across all regions in which ACCPs are currently known to be in post. Results demonstrated overall positive outcomes for all objectives (Fig. 1). Qualitative analysis of free text data is ongoing, however initial thematic analysis identified several themes; improved workforce stability, enhanced patient safety, variations in level of training, deskill in other members of the workforce, limited career progression.
Conclusion: The ACCP role continues to develop across England, Scotland and Wales. This survey has identified that overall respondents perceive the introduction of the ACCP role to be positive and that current qualified ACCPs meet the expectations set by the DoH and the FICM, and should be given scope to develop their roles further. However, a number of areas have been identified amongst respondents which warrants further exploration to inform effective and sustainable future development of the ACCP role.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Introduction: The success of advanced nurse practitioners in intensive care is widely documented. Advanced Clinical practitioners (ACP) are highly skilled, experienced and competent practitioners. In Intensive Care (ICU) there is not only a need for university qualification and achievement but a specialist training program specific to ICU to run alongside. The ACPs on this ICU have set up an innovative program for training; obtaining and documenting competency and supporting trainee nurse practitioners. The ‘specialist core training’ program. This program runs parallel to university education, complimenting learning but focusing on core ICU skills and development. Core training can be individualised to learner needs but has central achievement stages throughout the 3 year training period. This specialist core training includes: specialty skills and education, involvement in providing MDT teaching, leadership skills, research focus groups and competency/pathway document. The aim is to enhance care delivery, specialise ICU training, complement foral university training, cover the 4 pillars of ACP and support/improve the transition from training into ACP roles. Ultimately the goal, on completion of this specialist program, is a trainee who can function successfully as an ACP on a medical rotation, initiate and lead change projects, be innovative and forward focused.

Objectives: The aim of this PICU specialty core training is to complement general ACP training and allow PICU ACPs to have a sound foundation, knowledge and competence in their chosen specialist area. Our hypothesis is that the trainee experience, multidisciplinary team (MDT) experience and patient care and safety will be enhanced. We would consider this comprehensive program to be reproducible within other PICU environments.

Methods: PICU requires specialist knowledge and competence these skills can be taught alongside ACP training. Developing PICU specialist core training has required MDT collaboration including: trainee ACPs, anaesthetic consultants, ICU consultants, established ACPs and consideration of national guidance. We have developed a comprehensive program that runs alongside the formal ACP program that will map career progression from induction through to qualification. Thus providing a transparent vision/expectation as to how their career should progress.

Results: The project has been very successful. Feedback from current trainee ACPs highlights that this more robust program will help with training into such specialty ACP roles. The program covers 4 pillars of ACP, specialist skills, specialist education, MDT learning and clinical leadership and management training.

Trainee Feedback ‘The specialist training I would say is extensive, we have to be able to prove we can make reliable and safe judgements, planning our own caseloads and are also able to adapt swiftly to changing situations.’

Conclusion: This program has enhanced the training our trainee ACPs receive and supports the formal university learning. Has already enhanced the trainee ACP, MDT and patient experience. We would like to consider a national application for this program across all PICU.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


008070
Structural dimensions of the training needs of intensive care nurses

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 008070

Introduction: Intensive care nurses develop specialized and specific care for which extensive and continuous training is necessary (1). Several scientific associations have developed different tools to standardize minimum training requirements. The European Federation of Critical Care has developed a series of areas where the different competences of nurses are developed, these areas are: clinical, professional, management, educational and development (2). These competences, as different authors name, must be developed through specific training that must focus on the own needs of nurses throughout their professional continuum and the healthcare organization requires (3).

Objectives: Identify the different dimensions focused on the training needs of intensive care nurses in Spain and the nurses’ perception of them.

Methods: Descriptive cross-sectional study by means of an electronic questionnaire to 84 intensive care units. The questionnaire was previously validated by a brain trust. The survey consisted of 66 items using a Likert scale from 1 to 10. Statistical analysis was performed by exploratory factor analysis (EFA) through polyhironic correlations with the Factor Analysis 10.9.02 program and inferential statistics with the spss 20.0 program.

Results: The sample consisted of 568 nurses. The EFA determined 13 structural dimensions of the training needs of intensive care nurses in Spain and the nurses’ perception of them. The following stand out: the total work experience and in the ICU as nurses and their own academic degree. Within external factors, the size of the hospital center influences more than the size of the intensive care unit itself.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. The study has the approval of the research committee of the Jaume I University.
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00810
Multi-infusion with integrated multiple pressure sensing allows earlier detection of line occlusions

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 00810

Introduction: Occlusions of intravenous (IV) tubing can prevent vital and time-critical medication or solutions from being delivered into the bloodstream of patients receiving IV therapy. At low flow rates (≤ 1 ml/h) the alarm delay (time to an alert to the user) can be up to 2 hours using conventional pressure threshold algorithms. In order to reduce alarm delays we developed and evaluated the performance of three new real-time occlusion detection algorithms that exploit the trend in pressure changes.

Methods: Bench-tested experimental runs were recorded in triplicate at rates of 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32 ml/h. Each run consisted of 10 minutes of non-occluded infusion followed by a period of occluded infusion of 10 minutes or until an occlusion alarm. The first algorithm based on binary logistic regression tried to detect occlusions based on the pump’s administration rate (Qt) and pressure sensor readings (Pt).

The second algorithm continuously checked whether the actual variation in the pressure (P-SD-actual) exceeded a threshold of 2 standard deviations (SD) above the baseline pressure. When a pump detected an occlusion using either the regression or SD algorithm, a third algorithm correlated the pressures of multiple pumps to detect the presence of a shared occlusion. The algorithms were evaluated using the six bench-tested single-pump occlusion scenarios and seven multi-pump co-occlusion scenarios (i.e. with flow rates of 1, 2, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 8, 1, 16, and 1, 1, 32 ml/h respectively). Alarm delay (minutes) was the primary performance measures.

Results: In the single-pump occlusion scenarios the overall mean ± SD alarm delay of the regression and SD algorithms were (1.8 ± 0.8 min) and (0.4 ± 0.2 min), respectively. Compared to our local alarm threshold of 400 mmHg (7.4 ± 7.5 min) this corresponds to a mean time reduction of 52 ± 34% (p = 0.003) and 90 ± 6% (p = 0.001), respectively. In the multi-pump scenarios a correlation >0.8 between multiple pump pressures after initial occlusion detection by the regression or SD algorithms had a mean ± SD alarm delay of 0.4 ± 0.2 min. No occlusions were missed in the single-pump and multi-pump scenarios by any of the algorithms.

Conclusion: Both the regression and SD algorithms were able to significantly reduce alarm delays compared to conventional pressure limit based detection. Coupled with a correlation algorithm co-occlusions could reliably be detected far more rapidly than with the conventional technique. The latter may be used to localize the segment of tubing in which the occlusion occurs.
Mobilization in the evening to prevent and treat delirium in critically ill patients: the MENTAL random-ized, controlled trial

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Methods: The design was a multicentric, randomized, controlled trial in 5 mixed ICUs over a period of 2 weeks. Patients in the intervention group were mobilized onto the edge of the bed or more between 9:00-11:00 p.m. Patients in the control group received usual care. The primary outcome parameter was the duration of a delirium. Secondary parameters were delirium incidence, mortality, duration of mechanical ventilation (MV) and stay for 28 days follow-up, feasibility, and safety.

Results: In summary, n=69 patients could be analysed (intervention n=36, control n=33). Mobilization in the evening did reduce duration of existing delirium (Median (Interquartil Range) 1.5 (1-2.7) vs. 2 (1-2) days, albeit not statistically significant. Length of MV or days in ICU and hospital, and mortality were not significantly different. In an unplanned post-hoc analysis, mobilization in the evening prevented patients from delirium in the first 4 days (n=6 (16.7%) vs. n=13 (39.4%), p=0.032), with a number needed to treat of 5. The intervention was feasible in 71.7% of eligible patients, with 13.6% mobilization-related safety events.

Conclusion: In a mixed ICU population, mobilization in the evening did not show a reduction in duration of delirium, MV or length of stay, but a possible reduction in the incidence of early onset delirium.

Identification of the training needs of ICU nurses through a Delphi technique

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Methods: Delphi technique modified with an extensive semi-structured pre-interview based on the recommendations of the European Federation of critical care nurse association and digitally recorded. The panel of experts consisted of 15 nurses with three or more years of experience as an ICU nurse in a polyvalent adult unit of the Complejo Hospitalario Insular Materno-Infantil. It took three rounds for the expert group to reach a consensus.

Results: In the preparatory round, 92 questions were developed by the research team from the interviews previously carried out with the expert panel. In addition, text-type comments were allowed to assess the questions asked by the experts. In the first phase, the 92 questions were sent and due to the experts’ assessment, 14 items were withdrawn, leaving the assessment document at 78 items. In the second phase the 78 items were sent, and the text comments made in phase 1. In this second phase, text comments were not received on the questions or related to their drafting. The questionnaire with 66 questions was forwarded for evaluation in the third phase. This questionnaire was distributed as follows: clinical setting (18 items), professional setting (14 items), management setting (16 items), educational and development setting (6 items), and training activities (12 items).

Conclusion: The questionnaire generated following the steps of the Delphi technique allows us to reliably explore the training needs of nurses in the ICU. The experts had a large amount of care distributed throughout the questionnaire. The expertsspecially included questions aimed at maintaining a continuous and permanent training program.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: The recovery from prolonged Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hospitalization involves physical and psychological sequela that influence patients’ recovery from complicated illness. Patients and families deal with the transition from high dependency care of the ICU to a less intense environment of the regular ward where nurses cope with multiple complicated patients. A new function was suggested and implemented, dealing with the need for continuity of care for such patients. The function, “Follow up ICU” was implemented in various hospitals, each including varying specific roles and responsibilities. I discuss the implementation of immediate intrinsic follow up (during hospitalization) in Israel, addressing specific characteristics of the unique hospital environment and role distribution between the different wards. Special attention was given to patient-family centered care for the post ICU patient. Utilization and benefits were evaluated using surveys with medical stuff

Objectives: Evaluate utility and gain from establishing intrinsic ICU follow up in an Israeli hospital, as implemented by a dedicated nursing function assisted by other medical services.

Methods: During 2019 – 2020 follow-up nursing was implemented, with additional medical support functions. A survey comparing pre and post-prior assessment of the quality of care by ward nurses was conducted. Services in hospital adopting the patient-family centered care for improving recovery from acute illness.

Results: ICU follow-up team, led by a nurse and assisted by a dietician, social worker, physiotherapist, and a physician created a patient-specific plan of care. The plan was implemented starting before releasing from ICU and continuing as the patient was transferred to the ward. During 2019 the process was implemented in support of 200 patients. A mean per-patient number of post ICU hospitalization was 3.5. 44% of patients visited respiratory assessments, 34% involved mobility and wound care, and 39% post ICU syndrome caregiver-patient conversations. Survey with ward nurses indicated mainly that: post-ICU follow up support led to improved critical thinking and improved quality of care for post-ICU patients, as special attention was dedicated to unique treatment aspects. Dedicated guidance and support for the ward nurses led to significant improvement of specific needed nursing skills which in turn assist in increased quality of care. Two prominent examples include: care for tracheostomy patients and dealing with post-ICU syndrome. Overall 90% of interviews indicated high benefit due to improved communication between the ICU unit and the ward.

Conclusion: Following the establishment of an intrinsic post-ICU follow up unit quality of care as evaluated by ward nurses improved significantly.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000863
Continuity of care for ICU patients’
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000863

Introduction: The recovery from prolonged Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hospitalization involves physical and psychological sequela that influence patients’ recovery from complicated illness. Patients and families deal with the transition from high dependency care of the ICU to a less intense environment of the regular ward where nurses cope with multiple complicated patients. A new function was suggested and implemented, dealing with the need for continuity of care for such patients. The function, “Follow up ICU” was implemented in various hospitals, each including varying specific roles and responsibilities. I discuss the implementation of immediate intrinsic follow up (during hospitalization) in Israel, addressing specific characteristics of the unique hospital environment and role distribution between the different wards. Special attention was given to patient-family centered care for the post ICU patient. Utilization and benefits were evaluated using surveys with medical stuff

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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000880
Preliminary findings from a qualitative study of nurses’ experiences towards physical restraint use in Intensive Care Unit
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Introduction: The application of physical restraints remains a common and unchallenged practice in the Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in many countries worldwide. However, if on the one hand nurses consider physical restraints as an unavoidable practice in ICU, on the other some physical adverse effects, such as skin breakdown and functional decline, and psychological outcomes, such as delirium and post-traumatic stress disorders, have been documented. To date, there is little understanding of physical restraint use from the perspective of ICU nurses in Italy.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge, the attitudes, and the practice of intensive care nurses about physical restraints use.

Methods: A qualitative study following a phenomenological approach was carried out between September and October 2019. Semi-structured face-to-face and audio-recorded interviews were carried out in three general Italian ICUs. All interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Each interview lasted approximately 20 minutes. Data were analysed with a content analysis method.

Results: 11 nurses were interviewed, mainly female (n=6, 63.6%) and with an average age of 36 years. A preliminary data analysis produced 53 initial categories, 11 subthemes, and 3 main themes. The main themes included: a) The decision-making process (patients’ characteristics, organizational features, decision maker’s role, and nurses-specific factors); b) The use of physical restraints (rationale, methods, outcomes, and alternative approaches); and c) The experiences of nurses (nurses’ lived experiences, and ethical dilemmas).

Conclusion: According to the findings, the antecedent for an almost routine use of physical restraints in ICUs is the need to ensure patient safety. Although known by nurses, the alternative approaches to limit this practice were not implemented.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
two critical care paramedics, and two intensive care physiotherapists, with a combined total of over 100 years of intensive care unit (ICU) experience. 2 ACCPs were provided on each 12 hour shift. Here, we assess the contribution, performance and effectiveness of this team to the COVID 19 response through use of the Critical Care Informatics System and database. Specifically, the contribution of ACCPs to invasive interventions, proning (Gattinoni, 2020) and intra-hospital transfer were examined.

**Objectives:** To assess the utilisation and effectiveness of the ACCP group during the COVID 19 pandemic in a critical care service at the epicentre of the United Kingdom Outbreak.

**Methods:** Appropriate service improvement approvals were gained. The ICCA (IntelliVie Critical Care & Anaesthesia, Philips HealthCare) database was queried for ACCP interventions (lines, intubations, proning procedures) during the COVID 19 pandemic. (Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 17). The ICCA complications audit table was also queried. The ACCP active directory role was queried to ensure anonymity of healthcare professionals and no patient identifiers are reported.

**Results:** Within the ICCA dataset, the ACCP group were involved in the assessment and management of 177/192 patients admitted with COVID 19. They performed 86 central lines; 74 arterial lines; 29 vas-caths and assisted 59 intubations across the Emergency Department; Critical Care and acute medical wards within our institution during the pandemic response. Additionally the ACCP group were the main providers of PICC line insertion. No immediate adverse events were reported. The ACCP group were tasked with the challenge of setting up and delivering a prone service for patients with oxygenation failure due to ARDS. Throughout their training they had been signed off as airway competent and able to perform stable intubated transfers, empowering them to lead and orchestrate in total 64 prone positions with only 2 adverse events and no direct patient harm. The ACCP team independently performed 56 intra-hospital patient transfers, with only two adverse events and no direct patient harm. The interventional procedures performed by ACCPs had less complications recorded than those performed by physicians and higher documentation compliance (eg seldinger wire out confirmation/use of check-lists). Finally, the ACCPs played a key role in developing and delivering simulation training for the resuscitation (including rapid-sequence intubation, transfer and proning) of critically ill patients with COVID 19.

**Conclusion:** The 2020 COVID 19 pandemic confirmed the critical role that the ACCP group play within the critical care service at our institution. The inherent strengths of the ACCP team, such as geopolitical awareness; awareness of protocols; a willingness to follow protocols; longevity as a team (no rotation); high technical skills led to the ability of this team to rapidly adapt at a time of unprecedented operational and clinical strain. Specifically, the ACCP group were able to bridge the communications between strained medical and nursing teams, ena-bl ing structured and systematic task-based management of patients with severe COVID 19 illness in very difficult clinical settings with ad hoc organ support systems and critical supply chain pressures. Further work is planned, to use these operational and clinical observations from the ACCP response during the COVID 19 pandemic, to further develop this service. One key goal will be to explore independent working from ACCPs.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

Introduction: Extubation failure is associated with 42% increase in mortality and doubles Intensive Care Unit (ICU) length of stay (Menon et al 2012). There is a 10-20% re-intubation rate despite a spontaneous breathing trial (Thille et al 2013). The current evidence base outlines key factors that predict risk of extubation failure, such as; rapid shallow breathing index (Yang and Tobin 1991), suction frequency (Miu 2012) and respiratory secretion abundance (Salam et al 2004). Currently at a large West Midlands teaching hospital, physiotherapists are not involved in the decision making process for extubation readiness on ICU.

Objectives: 1. To evaluate if newly developed evidence based tool predicts extubation readiness
2. To evaluate risk factors that predict extubation failure.

Methods: Data was collected for all patients admitted to the adult ICU due for extubation from February 2019 until September 2019. Exclusion criteria were palliative patients and patients tracheotomised with no trial for extubation. Data was collected within one hour prior to extubation using an extubation readiness tool. This was devised using evidence based key factors that can help predict success or failure. Extubation failure was defined by the requirement for reintubation within one week or if the patient died.

Each risk factor from the assessment tool was categorised as high or low risk for extubation failure for each patient. Pass and failure rates for each risk factor were established. Data was analysed using the Fisher exact test.

Results: A total of 18 patients met inclusion criteria and were included in the analysis, of which 7 were scored as high risk based on the assessment tool. Patients deemed high risk were significantly more likely to fail extubation (43% vs 0%, p<0.05), with no patients deemed low risk requiring reintubation. The most common risk factors associated with failure were respiratory rate, secretion load, MIP and Po1:MIP ratio. (See Table 1)

![Table 1: Results of significant risk factors](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>N-number</th>
<th>Low risk (actual failure)</th>
<th>High risk (actual failure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator days</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9 (1)</td>
<td>9 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>14 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory rate</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>12 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretion volume</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9 (0)</td>
<td>9 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid shallow breathing Index (RSBI)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15 (1)</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P01</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30 (1)</td>
<td>8 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximal Inspiratory pressure (MIP)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12 (0)</td>
<td>6 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P01:MIP ratio</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9 (0)</td>
<td>9 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak cough flow</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8 (1)</td>
<td>10 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White blood cells</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10 (1)</td>
<td>8 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>17 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14 (1)</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The extubation readiness tool was effective in identifying patients at high risk for extubation failure. The tool demonstrated 100% successful extubation in patients identified as being in the low risk category. The four most significant risk factors that predict extubation success or failure are respiratory rate, secretion volume, maximal inspiratory pressure and P01:MIP.

Future projects will aim to recreate the tool using the factors that were deemed most significant and effective in predicting success or failure, and increasing the sample size. Limitations of this study were that the trial took a long period of time to recruit to secondary to balancing a clinical caseload alongside non-clinical work and difficulties in consistently identifying with the medical team which were the planned extubations each day.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000981

Necessity and Invention During the CoVID-19 Pandemic: Introducing Dedicated Family Liaison to Intensive Care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 2(2):000981

Introduction: CoVID-19 has severely challenged communication between intensive care unit (ICU) staff and patients’ families, limiting information sharing, whilst also denying patients and their loved ones mutually supportive interaction.[1-3] Consequential reliance on less-effective telephone, video or e-mail communication.[2] is complicated by personal protective equipment and infection control requirements within clinical areas. Concurrently, many staff have been required to step back from direct patient contact due to risk to their own health. [4] Addressing these issues, our ICU introduced a new family liaison (FL) role. Two team members shielding from direct patient contact were utilized to establish this new service aimed at ensuring ongoing family centeredcare through regular, consistent contact between relatives, clinicians, and patients.[3-5] and relieving pressures on direct care staff through reducing time burdens of family communication and associated administration. Key activities include facilitating video-calls, collating personal ‘This is Me’ information for new admissions, family updates and ‘check-ins,’ organizing ‘garden visits’ with a relative and coordinating bereavement support.

Objectives: To evaluate the impact and possible longer-term benefit of the reallocation of staff to a new family liaison role during the CoVID-19 pandemic.
Methods: We conducted a retrospective audit of documented family phone communications, direct visits and video-calls, for all patients on ICU for one week periods in February (prior to CoVID restrictions), March (during restriction, before FL introduction) and May (restriction in place, FL established). A web-based survey of was also conducted utilizing scaled, multiple-choice responses and free text comments.

Results: Of 109 ICU staff invited, 50 (45.9%) responded to the survey to date. 100% (n = 50) indicated FL has improved consistency of family communication, 94% (n = 47) reported it as helpful during end-of-life care and 84% (n = 42) that FL reduced stress of communication. 54% (n = 27) reported less telephone time and 98% (n = 49) that video calls improved patient and family care. 42% (n = 20) found FL made it easier to build relationships with families, 35% (n = 17) no change, and 23% (n = 11) found it harder (2 non-respondents). 84% (n = 42) thought it would be valuable to continue the FL role beyond the current pandemic situation. The survey generated 137 comments (mean 15.2 per question) for further analysis.

Conclusion: Innovative use of staff at risk from direct patient to communicative situations. The survey generated 137 comments (mean 15.2 per question) for further analysis.

Introduction: Neonatal late-onset-sepsis occurs after 72 hours of life (1,2). The relationship between late-onset-sepsis and mortality can be confounded by other events that are part of NICU journey, thus the true effect on mortality of this complication is difficult to assess (3).

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the impact of late-onset-sepsis on mortality in critically ill infants.

Methods: Single-centre retrospective cohort study of neonates admitted to the NICU for ≥72 hours in a 10-year period (2002-2011). Late-onset-sepsis is defined according to National Institute of Child Health and Human Development criteria (2). Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to assess risk factors for mortality.

Results: Of all admissions, 6.9% developed late-onset-sepsis (Table 1). Infants with late-onset-sepsis had higher mortality, lower gestational age, lower birthweight, longer NICU stay, spent more days mechanically ventilated and on parenteral nutrition. Furthermore, initiation of enteral nutrition was delayed by 7 days in infants who had late-onset-sepsis.

Independent risk factors for mortality included gestational age<32 weeks (OR = 2.3, CI 1.1-4.7) and chronic lung disease (OR = 1.97, CI 0.96-4.0). (OR = 2.7-6.98), late-onset-sepsis (OR = 4.3, CI 2.7-6.98), late-onset-sepsis (OR = 2.6, CI 1.5-4.2), abdominal surgery (OR = 2.3, CI 1.1-4.7) and chronic lung disease (OR = 1.97, CI 0.96-4.0).

Conclusion: Innovative use of staff at risk from direct patient to create a FL role appears to have increased volume of documented phone and video contacts with patients’ families. FL has been well received by colleagues, improving consistency of communication, helping end-of-life care, reducing stress and time on the phone. We hope to present further insight regarding impact and interest in continuing the FL through analysis of comments and further examination of evolving functions since the roles’ introduction.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001044
Introducing a physiotherapy follow-up service on transition from ICU to the ward: A pilot study (2020)
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001044

Introduction: It is well recognized that the transfer from Intensive Care Units (ICU) to the ward is a high-risk transition which causes challenges for staff and anxiety for patients (1). National Guidance for rehabilitation after critical illness (2), recommends a structured handover process for patients and appropriate multidisciplinary follow-up on transition from ICU to the ward. A previous project identified ongoing rehabilitation on the ward is often inconsistent leading to delays in ongoing recovery.

Objectives: To assess the feasibility of a physiotherapy follow-up service for patients transitioning from ICU to the ward.

Methods: Patients admitted to a large UK based ICU between December 2018 and February 2019 were recruited to the study. Inclusion criteria included patients under the care of a specialist critical care rehabilitation team, discharged from ICU with a Manchester Mobility Score (MMS) of less than 5 (i.e. unable to mobilise) and considered to have rehab potential.

On transfer to the ward, patients were continued to be reviewed daily by the ICU physiotherapy team for one week. The physiotherapists provided ongoing structured rehabilitation and communication with the patient, their relatives and facilitated a gradual handover to the receiving ward therapy team during this transition period. Primary outcome was changes in MMS, with secondary measures of patient and staff satisfaction.

Results: 13 patients were included in the pilot. Rehabilitation was delivered consistently during the trial period, with patients reviewed by the ICU physiotherapy team for a mean of 6 days on transition to the ward.

During this time, the median MMS scores increased from 4 (i.e. able to stand with assistance) at ICU discharge, to 6 (i.e. mobilising up to 30 metres).

Patient feedback was extremely positive. Patients valued the continuity of care and felt supported during the step down in care from ICU. Positive feedback was also received from ward staff who felt more supported in the handover process and able to deliver seamless care. However, as the follow-up team was based in ICU, they did face practical challenges during the pilot; including coordination of rehabilitation sessions and communication across multiple wards.

Conclusion: Although a small pilot study, the results demonstrate that the physiotherapy ward follow-up service was feasible to introduce. The pilot study demonstrated an improvement in mobility scores with ongoing structured, physiotherapy rehabilitation. Patient and staff feedback was positive, although the service requires good lines of communication to support timetabling of rehabilitation and team working.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001060
The effect of guidelines implementation combined with simulation training on the course of complications during operation of central venous access devices
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001060

Introduction: Providing a patient with a reliable venous access device is a key factor determining the effectiveness of therapy in pediatric oncology, hematology and immunology. In practice nurses resolve issues related to the usage of central venous access devices.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to determine the impact of implementation of central venous access devices (CVAD) guidelines combined with simulation training of nursing staff on the change in the numbers of infectious and occlusive complications in patients with central vascular access.

Methods: There was a retrospective and prospective analysis of the operational peculiarities of 3357 venous access devices installed to 2453 patients (1336 males, 1117 females) aged from 1 month to 18 years over a January 2018 to December 2020 period.

In 2017 the National Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology approved and implemented guidelines for the operation of central venous access devices. In 2018 the record of all complications during the operation of central venous access devices was started. In 2019 simulation training for nurses was introduced; by the end of 2019 106 people had been trained. The main outcomes were the assessment of complications during the operation of vascular devices.

Results: In 2018 1618 central venous catheters were installed, in 2019 - 1739 ones. During the year after the implementation of the CVAD guidelines the following issues were recorded: infectious complications – 3.2% (n=52), lumen occlusion unrelated to thrombosis – 1.8% (n=30), catheter-related thrombosis – 12.2% (n=199), which in 7.4% (n=121) of patients led to catheter damage during attempts to restore patency. In 2019 given the additional simulation training the following issues were revealed: infectious complications – 2.6% (n=46), lumen occlusion unrelated to thrombosis – 1.72% (n=30), catheter-related thrombosis – 13.7% (n=239), catheter damage – 4.6% (n=81) of patients.

In the group of patients where the guidelines and simulation training were used, the frequency of catheter damage was statistically significantly lower, Pearson’s chi-square test showed 11.791, p < 0.001, OR 1.654 95%, CI 1.238-2.211. A total of 120,059 catheter-wearing days were recorded in 1203 patients in 2018, and 148,327 catheter-wearing days in 1250 patients in 2019.

Conclusion: An analysis of the data showed that the simulation training of nurses in conditions of compliance with the guidelines does not practically affect the frequency of thrombotic and infectious complications, which is most likely related to many additional factors in the pathogenesis of these complications. However due to the simulation training under our conditions the number of catheter damages when restoring catheter patency during the development of intraluminal thrombosis decreased.

The experience of the National Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology has shown that the implementation of simulation training in addition to the usage of the guidelines had reliably reduced the number of damages of central venous access devices.
Preliminary results from an observational study on the incidence of diarrhoea and constipation in Intensive Care Unit

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Introduction: Gastrointestinal motility disorders are frequent events in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). A number of factors increase the frequency of diarrhoea and constipation among critically ill patients, and a number of interventions can prevent them. Given the relevance of these two phenomena, further epidemiological studies are needed.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of diarrhoea and constipation among critically ill patients in ICU.

Methods: An observational study was carried out in three general Italian ICUs with a total of 28 beds. The present investigation was prospective in design, with the analysis of medical records and the direct observation of patients admitted during the period from September and October 2019. Chi-squared and Wilcoxon tests were used to compare factors associated with diarrhoea and constipation. Statistical analysis was performed using the SAS® software. The study protocol was endorsed by the Regional Ethics Committee of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region (CEUR-2019-Os-170).

Results: Fifty-three patients were enrolled in the study, mostly males (n=37; 69.8%), with an average age of 66.6 years (SD 13.4) and a BMI of 26.8. For about a half of the sample (n=29; 54.7%) the main diagnosis reported at time of admission was organ failure (especially respiratory). Diarrhoea affected the patients in 10/53 (18.9%) cases within 72 hours after admission in ICU, and in 19/53 (35.8%) during the whole ICU-stay period. The incidence of diarrhoea in patients who received antibiotics and prokinetics was 18% and 37.5% respectively, with no differences with patients who received no antibiotics (p=0.37) and no prokinetics (p=0.78). Among patients who received laxatives, the incidence of diarrhoea was 100%, compared with those received no laxatives (13.6%; p=0.001). Against, constipation occurred in 26/53 (49.1%) patients within 72 hours after admission in ICU, and in 4/27 (14.8%) on the sixth day. There was no difference between constipated and no constipated patients in terms of opiate and curare use, mechanical ventilation, and hypotension. Remifentanil administration was associated with increased constipation (p=0.001).

Conclusion: Diarrhoea and constipation are very common among critically ill patients in ICU. Diarrhoea was associated with the use of laxatives, and constipation was associated with the use of remifentanil.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Critical patient Safety: transition of care in the Nursing Handover

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Introduction: The handover/handoff process takes place on a daily basis in all health care institutions, accounting for a significant portion of the work time of health professionals, moments and processes that are sometimes neglected and undervalued, although they are considered critical to patient safety.

Objectives: - Introduce a semi-structured approach, evidence-based, in the Nursing handover in a level III ICU.

Methods: Running between December 2017 and March 2018 in a level III ICU, based on project work methodology (1), a semi-structured evidenced-based approach was introduced, adapted to the context combining the ISBAR (Identification, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations) with the primary approach of the critical patient ABCDE (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability and Exposure). It was divided into mandatory items, mandatory reference in all handover moments, and optional items related to the specific clinical situation.

This strategy was assessed through direct observation of the Nursing Handover, with prior obtaining an informed consent, and applying a questionnaire to assess the perception of the Nursing team, after the implementation of the semi-structured evidenced-based approach, with regard to knowledge held on patient safety and the usefulness, satisfaction and sensitive and specific gains to the form.

Results: 100 Handover moments were observed. All nurses gave their consent for observation and records made during these moments. Conformity related to the items referring to the ISBAR mnemonic at the observed times was 89.5%, ranging from 100% (Identification and Evaluation) to 70% (Situation). The compliance related to items referring to the primary ABCDE assessment at the time observed varied from 84% (exposure) and 99% (Airway and Ventilation), with an average of 92.25%. An average of 75.65% of mandatory items was referred, ranging from 50% (fluid balance) to 94% (Mechanical Ventilation/Oxigen settings).

Conclusion: There was little knowledge about the subject of patient safety, effected by a relative lack of knowledge in relation to the essential documents that guide this subject, highlighting the improvement of this knowledge after implementation. There was a high rate of compliance, based on the semi-structured tool built for this purpose, in relation to the mandatory reference items, the contents contained in the ISBAR mnemonic and included in the primary assessment, using the ABCDE approach. It is also clear a high perception on the part of the Nursing team, after the use of the semi-structured tool, with regard to improving the organization, systematization, efficiency, quality and satisfaction with the passage of the Nursing shift, with agreement on the questionnaire, using a Likert Scale (1-10), a high perception of better organization and systematization (7,67) of the Nurse’s Handover is notorious, more efficient (7,5) and of better quality (7,16), with the constructed semi-structured instrument being considered useful (7,7), contributing to the increase of satisfaction (7,4) of the Nursing team at this fundamental moment to providing excellent care. These results are transversal to the literature found, with regard to organization and systematization (2-4) efficiency and quality (3,5) and, finally, related to the global satisfaction and usefulness of structuring the care transition (3, 6-7).

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000052

Use of the vasoactive-ventilation-renal score in pediatric heart failure cases as a predictor of an extended intensive care unit stay

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Introduction: It has been reported that the vasoactive ventilation renal (VVR) score predicts the outcomes of cardiac surgery in children. Objectives: We investigated whether the VVR score on admission predicts the length of stay (LOS) in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) in children diagnosed with heart failure (HF).

Methods: Medical records were reviewed for 96 pediatric HF cases between January 2010 and December 2016. A prolonged LOS (PLOS) was defined by a longer stay than the median duration for the surviving cases.

Results: The median LOS in our current patient series was 12 days. The VFS (1.41 [7.4, 24.3] vs 8.5 [5.0, 18.3], p = 0.018), VVR (27.8 [11.6, 36.2] vs 11.1 [5.5, 20.7], p < 0.001), lactic acid level (mmol/L) (2.8 [1.2, 5.3] vs 1.8 [1.1, 1.5], p = 0.020), and B-type natriuretic peptide concentration (BNP, pg/mL) [234.0 (1234.8, 6836.8) vs 1478.5 [529.8, 4532.8], p = 0.036] were significantly different between the prolonged LOS versus the control group. The use of a mechanical ventilator and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) were associated with PLOS (odds ratios: 10.82 and 3.61, respectively). The AUCs of the VIS, VVR score, lactic acid level, and BNP for evaluating the association with mechanical ventilator or ECMO use were 0.682 (p = 0.006), 0.823 (p = 0.000), 0.683 (p = 0.006), and 0.783 (p = 0.000), respectively. In multivariable logistic regression analysis, the VVR score was the only parameter that was significant for predicting PLOS.

Conclusion: The VVR score on admission to the PICU is predictive for mechanical ventilator or ECMO use, which correlates with a PLOS. The VVR score at PICU admission in children with HF is therefore a useful LOS marker.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgments
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9. Not applicable.

000059

Anthropometric methods for assessing nutritional status in a child of one year old with viral diarrhea

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000059

Introduction: Young children with viral diarrhea lose their body weight very quickly, and consequently their anthropometric indicators sharply decrease, and malnutrition increases up to cachexia. Thereby, it is necessary to perform a short-term assessment of the nutritional status of the child, in order to select nutritional supportrationally. The purpose of our study was to assess the nutritional disorder in children on the first year of life with moderate to severe acute intestinal infection of viral etiology based on anthropometric research methods.

Methods: We examined 12 children with moderate to severe acute intestinal infection of viral etiology. Anthropometric methods for assessing nutritional status were used: mass-growth indicators, caliperometry with an assessment of the skin-fat fold of the triceps at baseline and a week after admission. Evaluation of the indicators was carried out according to the calculation formula: body mass index (BMI = Weight / Height2 (kg / m2)), centile tables. Used tools: caliper, centimeter tape, table scales.

Results: The data of the analysis revealed that by the time of admission to the hospital 5 (41%) of 12 children showed a decrease in BMI by 10%, and 3 (25%) children showed a decrease in BMI by 20%. One week later BMI was restored to normal. When assessing the skin-fat fold of the triceps, its decrease was found to be 1-2 mm from the norm in all studied children (100%), and was regarded as a mild degree of malnutrition due to indicators less than the 50-th percentile. By the 5th day of the ongoing nutritional support, the fold was restored to the physiological norm (50th percentile).

Conclusion: Anthropometric methods for assessing nutritional status in children with viral diarrhea on the first year of life is found to be easy and helpfully.

000365

Underweight and Organ Dysfunction in Critically Ill Children

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Introduction: Underweight admission to the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) has been associated with outcome. The Pediatric Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (pSOFA) score has been reported as predictor of outcome in critically ill children.

Objectives: The study aim was to assess the effect of organ dysfunction and nutritional status on outcomes of children admitted to PICU.

Methods: Retrospective study of children admitted to the PICU at Texas Children's Hospital (Jan-Dec 2016) with a length of stay (LOS) ≥ 3 days; nutritional status assessed by weight for age (WFA: underweight), z-scores by WHO and CDC. Malnutrition (MAL) defined as mild, and moderate-severe if z-scores were <-1, <-2, respectively. Hospital and PICU LOS, risk of mortality (ROM) by PIM2, need of
mechanical ventilation (MV) on admission to PICU, and mortality collected. Organ dysfunction (OD) was defined as a pSOFA score > 5, and collected on days 1 & 3.

**Results:** A total of 638 children (367 M/271 F) were included; age 2.8 yr. (0.6-11; median (25-75th IQR)), 513 (80.4%) children required MV on admission, had PIM2 ROM (%), 3.1 (0.9-4.7), PICU LOS, 6.4 days (4.4-11), Hospital LOS, 17 days (10-31); and PSOFA score on days 1 & 3 of 5 (4-7) and 5 (3-6) (p < 0.001, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test) for a prevalence of organ dysfunction of 45% and 38%, respectively. WFA z-score of -0.63±1.17 (SD) and the prevalence of underweight was 35.6%; moderate to severe underweight was associated with organ dysfunction; odds ratio (OR) (95% CI) 1.62 (1.10-2.39) (p <0.05). Children with malnutrition or OD and children with malnutrition and OD vs. normal children were associated with need of MV on admission to the PICU and with mortality; 2.29 (1.51-3.47) (p <0.0011), 7.26 (3.04-17.35) (p<0.0001); respectively; and 5.04 (1.73-14.69) (p <0.05), 4.02 (1.15-14.04) (p < 0.05); respectively. A total of 36 children died for a hospital mortality rate of 5.64%.

**Conclusion:** Organ dysfunction and underweight were commonly found on children admitted to the PICU. The presence of either or both conditions was associated with higher risk of mortality, need of ventilatory support, longer PICU and hospital LOS, and mortality.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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**000723**

**Time course of altered DNA-methylation evoked by paediatric critical illness and by early administration of parenteral nutrition in the PICU**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000723

**Introduction:** A genome-wide DNA-methylation study previously identified de novo alterations in leukocyte DNA of critically ill children at paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) discharge, which offered a biological basis for the impaired long-term neurocognitive development of these patients. Early use of parenteral nutrition (early-PN) in the PICU, as compared with omitting PN in the first week (late-PN), explained the differential methylation of 23% of the affected CpG-sites. It remained unclear how fast these changes in DNA-methylation took place and how they evolved over time in PICU.

**Objectives:** We documented the time course of altered DNA-methylation in PICU and the impact hereon of early nutritional management.

**Methods:** We selected 36 early-PN and 36 late-PN patients, matched for age, type (admission diagnosis) and severity of illness (PeLOD score), infection upon admission, gender, height, weight and educational level of the parents and 42 age and gender matched healthy children. We quantified DNA-methylation on day 3, 5 and 7 for the 147 CpG-sites of which methylation was normal upon PICU admission in this subset, and altered by critical illness at PICU discharge (EPIC Bead-Chip). For each time point, we determined how many of the CpG-sites were differentially methylated in critically ill as compared with healthy children, applying ANOVA and FDR 0.05. Next, for each CpG-site, we performed within-patients time course analyses of the methylation status, to identify any patterns within the time series based on paired t-test p-value and direction of change from admission to day 3 and beyond. For the CpG-sites affected by early-PN on the last PICU day, earlier changes in DNA methylation status -and patterns hereof- were compared for early-PN and late-PN patients.

**Results:** Methylation in patients differed from healthy children for 64.6% of the 147 CpG-sites on day 3, for 72.8% on day 5 and for 90.5% on day 7. Rapid demethylation from admission to day 3 occurred for 76.2% of the CpG-sites, of which 67.9% remained equally demethylated or partially remethylated and 32.1% further demethylated beyond day 3. From admission to day 3, 19.7% of the CpG-sites became hypermethylated, of which, beyond day 3, 34.5% remained equally hypermethylated or partially demethylated again and 65.5% further hypermethylated. For 4.1% of the CpG-sites, changes only appeared beyond day 3. Of the CpG-sites affected by early-PN versus late-PN at PICU discharge, 38.9% were already differentially methylated by day 3, another 25.0% by day 5 and another 13.9% by day 7.

**Conclusion:** Critical illness- and early-PN-induced changes in DNA-methylation occurred mainly within 3 days. Most abnormalities were at least partially maintained or got worse with longer time in PICU. Interventions targeting aberrant DNA-methylation changes should be initiated early.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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**000875**

**Anaesthetic management of tracheo-esophageal fistula with pulmonary atresia, pda with single ventricle with tetrology of fallot**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000875

**Introduction:** Esophageal atresia (EA) with or without tracheo-esophageal fistula is a common neonatal emergency which may be associated with major life incompatible cardiac abnormalities. Survival of such neonate depends on stabilization and proper resuscitation followed by postoperative care.

**Objectives:** Keywords- Esophageal atresia, tracheo-esophageal fistula, single ventricle, PDA, VSD

**Methods:** Case Report: We came across a 4 days old male baby, with diagnosis of EA and distal TEF, posted for right thoracotomy with primary repair under GA. On preoperative evaluation baby had respiratory distress, frothing from mouth & was hemodynamically unstable on dopamine with oxygen saturation (SpO2) of 85% on room air. Intraoperatively surgery was uneventful but baby not able to maintain SpO2 even after ligation of fistula. At time of reversal of neuromuscular blockade, he had active movements, was maintained SpO2 of 88% with 100% O2 & on dopamine. After extubation he maintained SpO2 of 85% on nasal prongs when shifted to PACU. But after 3 hours of surgery, his SpO2 started falling & developed persistent cyanosis, so trachea was intubated with chest tube insertion on right side done suspecting pneumothorax or hemothorax or pleural effusion which were subsequently ruled out,
emergency 2D echocardiography showed large VSD, pulmonary atresia, PDA, single ventricle with Tetrology of Fallot. He was started on PGE1, Alprostadil & dobutamine because of worsening hemodynamic instability shifted to NICU but was not able to maintain SpO2>75% with mechanical ventilation. His general physical condition deteriorated over next 2 days and died due to respiratory failure and cardiac arrest.

Results: Discussion and Conclusion:
EA-TEF is a major congenital anomaly and when it is associated with life incompatible anomalies like single ventricle along with PDA, VSD and Pulmonary atresia, it becomes a nightmare and a real challenge to both pediatric surgeon and anesthesiologist. Success in survival of neonate with EA-TEF is attributed to improved neonatal care, anesthesiology and better understanding of neonatal physiology. But unfortunately our institution is not well equipped with emergency cardiac back up which if would have been there, then after successful ligation of tracheo-esophageal fistula, our 4 days old neonate could have been saved, who died of respiratory failure and cardiac arrest.

Conclusion: This case emphasizes the importance of considering headache &/or visual changes developing during postpartum period - a prodrome for LPE even in normotensive patients. Early diagnosis with subsequent initiation of anticonvulsants & antihypertensive can prevent severe complications.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001045
Isolated pathogens and their trends on antimicrobial resistance in a university pediatric intensive care unit: a decade-long longitudinal study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001045

Introduction: Longitudinal data on isolated pathogens and trends of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in pediatric intensive care units (PICUs) are worldwide limited.

Objectives: To determine the most common microorganisms cultured from biological samples along with AMR trends over the years 2008-2019 in a university PICU.

Methods: Data from the Infection Control Committee electronic database were retrospectively exported and analyzed.

Results: Out of 2,127 positive cultures, 1,598 were analyzed (529 duplicates). Overall, Gram (-) microorganisms (972, 60.8%) predominated, mainly represented by Pseudomonas aeruginosa (365, 37.6%). Out of Gram (+) pathogens (475, 29.7%) coagulase-negative Staphylococci (CoNS) (280, 58.9%) were most commonly found. Fungal positive cultures were infrequently reported (151, 9.5%). CoNS increased markedly over the years, compared to other Gram (+) pathogens (p<0.003) and were the most consistently identified isolates in blood cultures (p<0.001). Gram (-) bacteria resistance rates are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion: Gram-negative bacteria were the most commonly cultured pathogens, mainly represented by P. aeruginosa. Although their incidence did not change over a decade, the high carbapenem and third-generation cephalosporin resistance rates stress the need for strict implementation of infection control bundles and AMR stewardship interventions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001167
Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) management: a therapeutic strategy in newborns on vv-ECMO support
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001167

Introduction: There is some evidence supporting the manipulation of DA patency in newborns affected by pulmonary hypertension, but choosing the appropriate timing for PDA closure is still a challenge.

Objectives: Aim of our study was to evaluate the haemodynamic effects of PDA closure during vv-ECMO support.

Methods: We evaluated newborns affected by severe acute respiratory failure secondary to pulmonary hypertension on vv-ECMO and with PDA, admitted to our ICU between May 2017 and July 2018. We collected haemodynamic parameters (MAP, HR, SpO2, NIRS, urinary output), blood gas analysis, biochemical data, respiratory and inotropic support at 24 hours pre and 48 hours post-PDA closure (documented by echocardiography).

Results: We analyzed 7 newborns (2 males and 5 females), with mean gestational age of 36.4 weeks and mean body weight of 2.9 kg. 5 out of 7 patients were affected by congenital diaphragmatic hernia, 1 by meconium aspiration syndrome and 1 by hemolytic disease of the newborn with hydrops. In 3 cases we obtained pharmacological PDA closure (with ibuprofen iv), while 4 patients underwent surgical approach. Comparing post vs pre-PDA closure parameters, we found...
a significant reduction (< 0.05) in lactate levels (14 ± 7.8 vs 20.5 ± 13 mg/dl) and epinephrine dose (0.05 ± 0.1 vs 0.08 ± 0.1 mcg/kg/min). We also detected a trend in increasing of MAP (58.7 ± 11.8 vs 53.3 ± 15.2 mmHg) and decreasing of milrinone (0.4 ± 0.33 vs 0.44 ± 0.32 mcg/kg/min) and INO (9.3 ± 6.1 vs 12.2 ± 6.9 ppm) support, but with no statistically significant difference. There were no differences, instead, in SpO2 (95.6 ± 2.1 vs 92.4 ± 9.7 %), NIRS (61.8 ± 9.1 vs 61.9 ± 8.1 %) and urinary output (6.3 ± 2.7 vs 7 ± 4 ml/kg/h).

**Conclusion:** During the early phase of severe pulmonary hypertension, PDA closure leads to an improvement of systemic perfusion indexes (lactates) and a reduction of inotropic drugs.

### 000134

**Perioperative risk factors for ischemic stroke after isolated coronary artery bypass surgery**

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**Introduction:** Stroke after coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG), is a serious complication with an incidence of 1.3% and a reported mortality of 20%. Identification of intraoperative and early postoperative pathogenetic mechanisms is important for developing preventive strategies.

**Objectives:** To evaluate perioperative factors related to postoperative stroke in coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG).

**Methods:** All patients who underwent CABG procedure with the use of cardiopulmonary bypass from June 2012 to February 2020 and were complicated with postoperative ischemic stroke, were retrospectively evaluated. The following perioperative factors were compared between stroke patients-Group A, and control group B: Female gender, history of stroke, current smoking, asymptomatic carotid disease (>50% stenosis), diabetes mellitus, cardiopulmonary bypass time (CPB), low cardiac output syndrome (LCOS) and postoperative atrial fibrillation.

**Chi square test was used for statistical analysis.**

**Results:** From a total of 2339 CABG patients (37 off pump procedures were excluded), 43 were complicated with postoperative ischemic stroke. Results are shown in Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Control group</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y)</td>
<td>65±6.9</td>
<td>64±9.5</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of stroke</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid disease</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPB &gt;120 min</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCOS</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-op AF</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
<td>&gt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Female gender, carotid disease, CPB time > 120 min, LCOS and postoperative atrial fibrillation are factors with statistical significant relationship with postoperative ischemic stroke after CABG.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


### 000136

**Time interval between myocardial infarction and elective coronary artery bypass surgery: Impact on postoperative morbidity and mortality**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000136

**Introduction:** Surgical revascularization is the only therapeutic choice in many patients with coronary artery disease. The optimal timing of coronary artery bypass grafting(CABG) after myocardial infarction (MI) remains unclear

**Objectives:** To investigate if time interval between myocardial infarction and elective CABG has any impact on early postoperative morbidity and mortality.

**Methods:** All patients with a history of myocardial infarction, who underwent CABG procedure with the use of cardiopulmonary bypass from June 2012 to February 2020 were retrospectively evaluated. Exclusion criteria were: Rescue CABG and off pump procedures. Based on time distance from myocardial infarction (MI) patients were divided in 4 groups: Group A (MI < 1 month), Group B (MI > 1 month), Group C (MI < 1 week), Group D. Time interval between MI was compared between the groups

**Results:** Results are shown in Tables 1 and 2

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of IABP (n,n%)</td>
<td>57(12.2%)</td>
<td>45(7.1%)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levosimendan (n,n%)</td>
<td>49(10.5%)</td>
<td>43(6.8%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AF(n,n%)</td>
<td>150(32.1%)</td>
<td>201(31.7%)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKI(n,n%)</td>
<td>50(10.7%)</td>
<td>94(14.6%)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolonged ventilation (n,n%)</td>
<td>17(3.6%)</td>
<td>20(3.1%)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMI(n,n%)</td>
<td>5(1.1%)</td>
<td>8(1.3%)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (n,n%)</td>
<td>13(2.8%)</td>
<td>18(3.1%)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group C</th>
<th>Group D</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of IABP (n,n%)</td>
<td>44(17.3%)</td>
<td>88(8.6%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levosimendan (n,n%)</td>
<td>11(13.6%)</td>
<td>81(7.9%)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolonged ventilation (n,n%)</td>
<td>9(11.1%)</td>
<td>28(2.7%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMI(n,n%)</td>
<td>4(4.9%)</td>
<td>9(0.9%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (n,n%)</td>
<td>8(4.9%)</td>
<td>17(1.7%)</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** In patients who underwent CABG during the first month from myocardial infarction IABP and Levosimendan were more common required. Patients with time interval of 1 week had higher mortality, while use of IABP was more frequent. Perioperative myocardial infarction and prolonged mechanical ventilation were also more frequent.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000148
Prevalence of postoperative atelectasis in patients who had minimally invasive cardiac surgery through a right mini-thoracotomy
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Correspondence: N. Ishizuka
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000148

Introduction: Postoperative atelectasis after cardiac surgery with median sternotomy, occurring 32 to 68% [1] [2] [3], is commonly considered as a cause of postoperative hypoxia. On the other hand, re-expansion pulmonary edema (RPE), rather than atelectasis, is frequently considered as a cause of postoperative hypoxia after minimally invasive cardiac surgery (MICS) with right mini-thoracotomy although the reported incidence of RPE is only 2.1% [4]. There is no previous study reporting the incidence of postoperative atelectasis in patients who had MICS with right mini-thoracotomy.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to assess the incidence rate of postoperative atelectasis in patients who underwent right mini-thoracotomy MICS.

Methods: We retrospectively investigated the incidence rate of postoperative atelectasis in patients who underwent a right mini-thoracotomy MICS between January 2017 and December 2018 in our hospital. Postoperative chest X-rays were reviewed by two independent doctors and diagnosis of atelectasis was made only when two doctors agreed. We included only atelectasis defined by collapse or incomplete expansion of the right lung or part of the right lung and excluded pulmonary edema without volume loss of the lung field.

Results: One hundred fifty patients underwent right mini-thoracotomy MICS during the period. We excluded 3 patients who had reoperation on the same day because of complications of the first surgery and we included total of 147 patients. The mean age was 59.1 years and 57% were male. 48 patients (32.7%) were diagnosed with atelectasis on the operated side. Cohen’s kappa inter-evaluator reliability was 0.637. Most conducted surgery was mitral valve surgery (82 patients, 57%). RPE was detected only in six patients (4.1%). Patients with postoperative atelectasis were older (mean age: 64.8 vs 58.9, P = 0.035) than patients without postoperative atelectasis. There was no statistical difference in the incidence of atelectasis between aortic valve surgery and mitral valve surgery (37.2% vs 30.5%, P = 0.29).

Conclusion: We detected about 30% postoperative atelectasis on the operated side after right mini-thoracotomy MICS. Atelectasis is a common postoperative complication not only in cardiac surgery with median sternotomy but also in MICS with right mini-thoracotomy. Atelectasis should be included in the differential diagnosis for postoperative hypoxemia after MICS with right mini-thoracotomy because postoperative atelectasis can be rapidly improved with active physical therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000167
SIM, RECORD, REPLAY, REPEAT Model: Putting lessons from simulation & simulation debrief into practice within 15 minutes
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Correspondence: L. Bezzina
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000167

Introduction: The literature, qualitative feedback and personal experience tells us that simulation provides a highly effective platform for learning owed to its’ fully immersive design which aims to replicates substantial aspects of real life for a medical professional [1] but without putting patients at risk. Yet it is hard to quantify it if it is more effective than the traditional didactic equivalents and if it is, as we suspect it is, to what degree [2]. Secondly, it remains almost impossible to evaluate whether the clear technical and non-technical learnings, that take place during a full day of simulation, are put in to practice upon an individual’s return to work.

Here we describe a simulation design which enable the learning from simulation and the simulation debrief to be put into practice immediately within an individuals’ workplace, with their usual colleagues, in the same morning. This is likely to be a superior model for in-situ simulation going forward. Barking and Redbridge University Trust (BHRUT) hold anaesthetic and theatre clinical governance meetings on a monthly basis and thus, all theatre activity is stopped across site for an entire morning. On these mornings theatre staff are asked to come in as normal and hence this presents a perfect opportunity for training.

Objectives: We aim to demonstrate that learning and knowledge through the proposed SIM, RECORD, REPLAY, REPEAT process is more likely to be retained as a result of making errors and correcting errors in consecutive simulations, respectively, within their work environment and with their usual team.

Methods: The simulation team, the junior on-call anaesthetist, the consultant anaesthetist on-call and a full cohort of theatre staff including, ODPs, scrub nurses and anaesthetic nurses were involved in an in-situ simulation scenario of anaphylaxis on induction.

The simulation was recorded on the ‘SMOTS™’ In-Situ System’ cameras with playback SMOTS technology [3]. The simulation ran for 10-minutes in a functional theatre and the debrief that followed took place immediately afterwards in the neighbouring empty theatre. Staff first watched their performance back and then debriefed their performance, stating which technical and non-technical factors they felt they underperformed in and how these could be corrected. Staff were then given the opportunity to take part in an identical simulation, retaining the same roles, in an endeavour to improve aspects of their performance that they identified as suboptimal.

Results: Result collection is ongoing at time of writing: Through this work we hope to demonstrate that a second playback and debrief of a second consecutive identical in-situ simulation will provide evidence of significant improvements in performance. More importantly, we hope to demonstrate that learning and knowledge through this process is more likely to be retained as a result of making errors and correcting errors in consecutive simulations, respectively.

Conclusion: We put the ‘SIM, RECORD, REPLAY, REPEAT’ process described here forward as a superior model for in-situ simulation training because of the obvious advantages of the conditions (no theatre lists, same workplace, same team) together with being able to action both technical and non-technical learnings with immediate effect. We postulate that learnings in these conditions are more likely to make it into the working environment as a result of the usual team being involved and bearing witness to improvements over a short period of time.

We believe this model can be extrapolated to ITU and other areas of medicine and we would encourage staff and managers to look to create space for this model of learning owed to the clear benefits for patient safety.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 3. The smots™ In-situ system (SC742H;D3); http://www.scotiauk.com/products/smots/products/packngo/index.html
Introduction: Vitamin C has been investigated for a wide variety of uses within intensive care due to its anti-oxidative properties (1, 2, 3). Research regarding its potential for the prevention of postoperative atrial fibrillation (POAF) after cardiac surgery is ongoing but results remain inconsistent (4, 5, 6). Due to a broad intracellular anti-oxidant effect, several postoperative pathological effects might be mitigated. Taking into account the low cost of vitamin C, it might be more valuable to investigate a pharmaco-economic benefit in addition to an effect on POAF.

Objectives: Our primary goal was to investigate the pharmaco-economic impact of perioperative supplementary oral ascorbic acid intake in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG). Secondary endpoints were the effects on the length of stay in both the intensive care unit (ICU) and the hospital and the incidence of POAF.

Methods: After IRB approval, patients planned for CABG who met the inclusion criteria (in cardiac sinus rhythm preoperatively and not taking supplementary vitamin C independently) were randomized into a single centre randomised clinical trial. Male/Female (Count) 24/6 31/7 Age (Mean; Standard Deviation) 66 (10) 66 (8) Male/Female (Count) 24/6 31/7 BMI (Mean; Standard Deviation) 25.9 (3.1) 28.0 (4.5)

Results: Of the 119 screened patients, 68 patients completed the study. Except for BMI (p=0.029), there was no statistically significant difference in baseline characteristics. (Table 1) The median pharma-economic cost was significantly lower (P=0.009) in the vitamin C group (£ 1636) than in the placebo group (£1687). There was no significant difference in the incidence of POAF or length of stay. (Table 2)

Conclusion: In this preliminary analysis, Vitamin C had a small pharma-economic benefit when used in the perioperative period of CABG surgery. No effect was found on the length of stay or the incidence of POAF. However, we should acknowledge the fact this is preliminary data and further inclusion is warranted. Potential benefits in other types of cardiac surgeries should also be investigated.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Table 1. Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vitamin C</th>
<th>Placebo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (Mean; Standard Deviation)</td>
<td>66 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/Female (Count)</td>
<td>24/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (Mean; Standard Deviation)</td>
<td>25.9 (3.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placebo</th>
<th>Vitamin C</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaco economic expenditure (median; min-max)</td>
<td>£ 1687</td>
<td>£ 1636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£ (1299- £3662)</td>
<td>£ (663- £392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of hospital stay (days) (Median; min-max)</td>
<td>7 (5-14)</td>
<td>7 (5-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of ICU stay (hours) (Median; min-max)</td>
<td>36 (8-93)</td>
<td>28 (21-68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POAF incidence</td>
<td>7/38 (18.4%)</td>
<td>7/30 (23.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction: Cardiovascular surgery patients receive large amounts of fluid perioperatively. Some studies demonstrated that an intraoperative liberal infusion of fluids was associated with increased morbidity.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of intraoperative excessive fluid balance in relation to early acute kidney injury and mortality in patients undergoing off-pump coronary artery bypass graft surgery.

Methods: A prospective cohort study during 1 year in two tertiary hospitals. The study included consecutively patients aged 18 years or more who required postoperative ICU after undergoing off-pump coronary artery bypass graft surgery. Patients were compared intraoperatively to those who received excessive fluid balance (EFB) or not (non-EFB). The primary endpoint was early acute kidney injury.

Results: After matching, 180 patients remained in each group. The percentage of acute kidney injury was 31.7%. The intraoperative fluid balance from non-survivors was higher. Patients with fluid balance above 2500 mL intraoperatively had a higher incidence postoperatively of composite cardiovascular complications, intra-aortic balloon pump requirement and mortality, but not early acute kidney injury. During the study period, 586 surgical patients were enrolled (329 excessive fluid balance and 257 non-excessive fluid balance)
The postoperative complications are shown Table 1. Although no differences were observed in acute kidney injury between the EFB and non-EFB (P = 0.36), the cardiovascular complications postoperatively were higher in the EFB group. Also, mortality rates were statistically different in EFB (10%) and in non-EFB (3.9%) groups P = 0.02.

### Table 1. Postoperative outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original Cohort</th>
<th>Matched Cohort</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EFB  (n=257)</td>
<td>Non-EFB (n=329)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EFB  (n=180)</td>
<td>Non-EFB (n=180)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On ICU postoperatively</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite cardiovascular n (%)</td>
<td>190(34.4%)</td>
<td>270(45.7%)</td>
<td>0.0063 (35.0%) 96(53.3%) 0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra-aortic balloon pump requirement, n (%)</td>
<td>12(2.2%)</td>
<td>39(6.6%)</td>
<td>0.0031 (1.7%) 11(6.1%) 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute kidney injury (%)</td>
<td>209 (37.9)</td>
<td>207(35%)</td>
<td>0.3261 (33.9) 53 (29.4%) 0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU LOS (d), median (IQR 25-75)</td>
<td>2 (1-4)</td>
<td>2 (1-4)</td>
<td>0.593 (1-4) 2 (1-4) 0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital LOS (d), median (IQR 25-75)</td>
<td>17 (11-26)</td>
<td>16 (9-25)</td>
<td>0.36 15 (9-23.75) 22 (13-30.75) 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality rate</td>
<td>53(9.0%)</td>
<td>66(12%)</td>
<td>0.107(3.9%) 18 (10.0%) 0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legends: EFB = Excessive fluid balance; ICU = intensive care unit. All values between parentheses represent percentile 25-75 values observed.

### Conclusion:

Patients undergoing off-pump coronary artery bypass with excessive intraoperative fluid balance have more complications and higher hospital mortality, but the same incidence of early acute kidney injury.

### Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

3. We would like to thank all the teams from the two hospitals for their help in collecting data.

### 000308

**Postoperative blood pressure deficit and acute kidney injury in early postoperative period after a liver transplantation**

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**Correspondence:** I. Saez de la Fuente

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000308**

### Introduction:

Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a significant complication in the care of patients with end-stage liver disease (ESLD) after liver transplantation (LT). In the present study, we addressed the question of whether those with AKI had a greater difference (deficit) between pre-morbid and within-ICU hemodynamic pressure-related parameters compared to those without AKI.

### Methods:

Prospective observational study including all patients admitted to the ICU after liver transplantation over a 3-years study period. Demographic variables (sex, age, cause of transplantation and severity scores), hemodynamic variables, and those related to graft function and postoperative complications were recorded. Patients were classified according to the development of AKI. We obtained pre-morbid and ICU, time-weighted average values for hemodynamic pressure-related parameters (systolic [SAP], diastolic [DAP], and mean arterial pressure [MAP]; central venous pressure [CVP], mean perfusion pressure [MPP], and diastolic perfusion pressure [DPP]) and calculated deficits in those values. Data statistical analysis was done using SPSS software. Quantitative variables are expressed as mean with standard deviation (SD) and qualitative variables as absolute and relative frequencies. The statistical significance of the proportion comparison was addressed by the chi-square test, Mann Whitney U test or Student’s t-Test with a statistical significance p < 0.05.

### Results:

During the study period, 100 patients were admitted to the ICU after a liver transplantation (80% male) with a median age of 56 (IQR 50-61). The main causes of the liver transplant were alcoholism (58%), hepatocellular carcinoma (45%) and hepatitis C virus infection (43%). Median MELD score was 13 (IQR 9-19); Median ICU stay was 5 days (IQR 4-9), with an overall ICU mortality of 8%. Fifty-nine patients presented AKI, which was associated with a significantly higher ICU stay (4 vs 6, p=0.005), higher hospital stay (13 vs 20, p=0.003) and higher ICU mortality (0 vs 8, p=0.001). All achieved pressure-related values were similar between patients with or without AKI progression. However, a significantly greater increase in CVP was observed in patients with AKI (0 vs 27%, p=0.039).

**Conclusion:** Acute Kidney Injury after liver transplantation is a frequent complication which is associated with worse outcomes. The hypervolemia defined as an early increase in CVP could be a modifiable factor.

### Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

4. None

### 000387

**Influence of nutritional status in outcomes of cardiac surgery**


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**Correspondence:** J.C. Lopez-Delgado

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000387**

### Introduction:

Nutritional status influences perioperative outcomes in patients with heart failure and cardiac surgery

**Objectives:** The aim of our study was to assess the influence of nutritional status on the results and prognosis of patients undergoing cardiac surgery.

**Methods:** Prospectival observational study from 2011 to 2015. Preoperative nutritional status was assessed using the Prognosis Nutritional Index (PNI). PNI was calculated as 10 x serum albumin (g/dL) + 0.005 x total lymphocyte count (per mm3). Preoperative and intraoperative variables, postoperative complications, and hospital and long-term mortality were collected in a local database.

**Results:** 1,279 patients were included: mean age 67 (59-73.43) years; 68.49% (876) were men; BMI: 27.3 (24.9-30) Kg/m2; APACHE II: 12 (9-15). 54.03% (691) were valve surgeries and 40.27% (515) bypass surgeries. Hospital mortality was 6.8% (87). The patients were classified according to the nutritional status based on PNI values in three subgroups:

Normal 64.8% (829), Moderate 20% (256) and Severe 15.2% (194).
Univariate analysis between subgroups identified higher postoperative complications and mortality in the subgroups with the worst PNI. The multivariate analysis showed a longer mean hospital stay (24 (16-33) vs 29.5 (21.75-41) days; OR: 1.015; 95% CI: 1.006-1.024; P=0.001) in the moderate subgroup when compared to the normal one. Likewise, a higher degree of renal dysfunction was observed (93 (77-115) vs 113 (83-169) umol/L of creatinine; OR: 1.003; 95% CI: 1.001-1.005; P=0.005), a greater mean hospital stay (24 (16-33) vs 33 (24-49) days; OR: 1.022; 95% CI:1.009-1.034; P=0.001) and a longer time in mechanical ventilation (14 (8-20) vs 18 (10-68) hours; OR: 0.998; 95% CI: 0.996-0.999; P=0.01) in the subgroup of patients with severe PNI compared to the normal subgroup.

**Conclusion:** A higher PNI may be associated with higher postoperative complications (i.e., renal and respiratory) after cardiac surgery, as well as a longer hospital stay in our population.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
3. N/A

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**000579**

**Blood volume and preload responsiveness; a post hoc analysis of a randomized controlled trial**

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**Correspondence:** A. Lindén-Søndersø

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000579**

**Introduction:** Signs of inadequate cardiac output in the postoperative phase after major surgery is often treated with fluid in order to optimize preload [1]. Given that overly aggressive fluid treatment is likely to worsen outcome, prediction of fluid responsiveness by dynamic indices should be used in patients with circulatory instability to identify those likely to respond to fluid therapy with an increase in cardiac output [2]. However, preload is dependent not only on blood volume but also on venous tone meaning that fluid responsiveness may be related to a lower than normal venous tone rather than hypovolemia [3]. If so, this could imply that a pharmacological increase in venous tone can be a more rational approach to increase preload in some preload responsive patients.

**Objectives:** To assess the prevalence of hypovolemia in a cohort of patients likely to be preload responsive.

**Methods:** Data from the randomized controlled trial AIR was analyzed [4]. The AIR trial included post-operative patients after major abdominal surgery and was approved by the regional ethical vetting board in Lund, Sweden.

Inclusion criteria for the present analysis were post-operative patients with signs of hypoperfusion: a) ScvO₂ < 70%, b) lactate >2 mmol/L, c) urine output <0.5 ml/kg in the hour prior to inclusion or d) systolic BP <100 mmHg or MAP < 55 mmHg. In spontaneously breathing postoperative patients the passive leg raising test appears to be the most useful predictor of preload responsiveness [5,6]. A positive passive leg raising test was used to identify patients likely to be preload responsive and was defined as an increase in pulse pressure (ΔPP) of > 9% measured through an arterial line [7]. Plasma volume (measured using 125I-albumin) and hematocrit (measured spectrophotometrically) was used to calculate blood volume (BV). Normal BV was estimated based on length, weight and gender [8,9]. Patients were considered hypovolemic if the measured BV was at least 10% lower than the predicted normal BV, as previously defined [10]. We defined hypovolemia as at least 10% higher BV than the predicted normal value. Data are presented as median (interquartile range) or as proportions.

**Results:** A total of 40 patients were included in the analysis. Baseline characteristics can be seen in Table 1. Median blood volume in the cohort was 4051 (3373-5275) ml or 55 (49-64) ml/kg. A total of 43% (17/40) of the patients were hypovolemic, 32% (13/40) were euvoled and 25% (10/40) were hypervolemic (Figure 1). A correlation analysis showed no correlation between blood volume and ΔPP after PLR (Spearman, R = -0.109 [95% CI -0.414-0.219, P=0.505].

**Conclusion:** A large fraction of hemodynamically unstable post-operative patients likely to be preload responsive are not hypovolemic and in these patients a pharmacological increase in venous tone may be a more rational approach to increase preload than further intravenous fluid administration.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**Table 1 - Patient demographics**

| Age, yrs | 67 (54-73) |
| Weight, kg | 71 (62-85) |
| Height, cm | 167 (163-176) |
| ASA | 2 (2-3) |
| POSSUM physiology score | 15 (13-17) |
| Revised Cardiac Index Score | 1 (1-1) |
| Duration of surgery, min | 402 (329-480) |
| Duration of anesthesia, min | 506 (439-585) |
| Perioperative bleeding, ml | 600 (263-1000) |
| Perioperative diuresis, ml/kg/h | 0.6 (0.4-1.0) |
| Perioperative crystalloids, ml | 4325 (3963-5250) |
| Perioperative colloid, ml | 725 (500-1000) |

**000679**

**Influence of Infusion Therapy on severity of Intestinal Failure**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000679

**Introduction:** Most important problem of early post-operative period post major abdominal surgeries is Intestinal Failure (IF) which if unmanaged properly might lead to Abdominal Compartment Syndrome, ultimately causing Multiorgan Failure. Postoperative IF is suppression of motor-evacuation function, alteration of small bowel digestive, food intake capability, developing critical water-electrolyte imbalance, circulatory hypoxia of bowel wall, dysbacteriosis with proximal microbial colonization of bowels, accompanied by changes in acid-base balance. Main reason is inadequate infusion therapy during perioperative period. Liberal infusion therapy might aggravate visceral edema of ischemic bowels, while as insufficient infusion therapy might aggravate splanchic ischemia.

**Objectives:** Improving result of surgical treatment of patients post emergency abdominal surgery with selection of perioperative infusion therapy strategies, optimal for postoperative restoration of intestinal function.

**Methods:** Research work included 60 patients (28 male, 32 female, average age 56.5 ± 14 years) post emergent abdominal surgeries, divided into 2 groups. In group 1 (n=29) perioperative infusion therapy included balanced ionic solutions. 2nd group (n=31) balanced ionic solutions was combined with synthetic colloids. For investigation of intestinal function in postoperative period, complex assessment of condition of intestinal wall as well as asorative function of gastro-intestinal tract, laboratory monitoring, perioperative infusion therapy was recorded, monitoring of vital functions.

**Results:** The correlation reviewed was strong significant (r = 1.000, p =0.01) between the amount of infusion therapy and stage of IF. Day 1 & subsequent two days, patients in both groups showed IF 3rd stage. Signs of bowel function recovery were observed by Day 4. Correlation analysis, strong significant correlation between stage of IF and lumen diameter of small bowel (r=0.931), intestinal wall thickness (r=0.940), IAP (r=0.998, P=0.01). The IAP as parameter with highest r compared to other parameters was considered prognostic index for the IF dynamics, used to determine tactics of infusion therapy. In group 2, significant correlation was found between intraoperative infusion volume and IAP (r=0.417), demonstrating that both excessive & insufficient infusion load results in increased IAP on Day 1. Investigation of influence of infusion therapy quality on intestinal failure stage discovered that inclusion of a third generation hydroxyethyl starch infusion solution (patients of group 2) lowered infusion therapy influence on the bowel condition. Analysis of influence of infusion therapy quality on IAF and IF severity did not find significant differences between use and non-use of colloids as a part of infusion therapy; nevertheless, a trend towards more favorable course of IF in patients of group 2 was noted. Hence, the presence of colloids as a part of infusion therapy can be considered influence on IF severity.

**Conclusion:** The amount of intraoperative infusion therapy has direct effect on postoperative intestinal function. Optimization and administration of oriented infusion therapy in postoperative periods leads to early regression of intestinal failure.

**000692**

**Fluid administration guided by inferior vena cava ultrasound before spinal anaesthesia may reduce post procedural hypotension rate: A randomized trial**

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**Introduction:** Arterial hypotension following spinal anaesthesia is a common issue in clinical practice, possibly leading to major complications in emergency settings [1]. To prevent this, standard administration of intravenous fluids is usually performed. Inferior vena cava (IVC) ultrasound [2] and passive leg raising test (PLRT) [3] are effective methods in guiding fluid therapy in non-critical patients.

**Objectives:** Aim of the study was to evaluate IVC ultrasound and PLRT guided volaemic optimisation compared to standard of care in patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia, in order to decrease post-anaesthesia hypotension rate and excessive fluid administration.

**Methods:** This prospective, controlled, randomised trial included 474 consecutive patients, allocated in a block of six into a control group, an IVC-ultrasound group and a PLRT group. Inclusion criteria were adult patients of both sexes, evaluated as American Society of Anaesthesiology (ASA)-risk class I to III 4, undergoing an elective intervention under spinal anaesthesia. Patients from the three groups received the same standard non-invasive monitoring.

**Control group:** According to standard of care, volaemic filling status was not checked prior to the procedure. Post-spinal anaesthesia hypotensive patients were treated according to standard protocol and clinical situation with crystalloid replacement and vasoactive drugs.

**IVC-ultrasound group:** IVC collapsibility index (IVC-CI) of 36% was chosen as the cut-off level to differentiate responsive (with IVC-CI ≥36%) or unresponsive patients (IVC-CI <36%) to fluid administration. In case of responsive pattern, 500 ml of crystalloid infusion over 20 minutes was administered.

**PLRT group:** Before and after the PLRT, etCO2 analysis was performed; patients with an etCO2 increasing more than 12% from baseline were interpreted as responsive and received crystalloid infusion.

Primary outcome was the hypotension rate reduction after spinal anaesthesia. Secondary outcomes were fluid amount administered, the amount of vasoactive drug used and the time needed to perform the whole anaesthetic procedure.
Results: An 11% reduction rate in hypotension (p = 0.047) was observed between the IVCUS group and the control group. A 2% reduction rate in hypotension (p = 0.428) was observed between the PLRT and the control group. Total fluid amount administered was greater in the IVCUS than in the control group (593 ml versus 453 ml, p = 0.014), but selectively administered, according to patient’s volaemic status. Total amine consumption was 36% in control group, 16% in IVCUS group and 22% in PLRT group. Procedure time was increased in the IVCUS group (48 min) compared to control group (46 min) and PLRT group (40 min), p = 0.35.

Conclusion: IVCUS-guided fluid replacement was a method able to generate a significant reduction in post-spinal arterial hypotension rate.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
6. No funding was received for this study

000859
Central venous to arterial CO2 difference (DCO2) assisted goal directed hemodynamic management during major surgery: a randomized controlled trial
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000859

Introduction: Conventional goal-directed therapy (GDT) as used in perioperative & critical care to optimize resuscitation, has had mixed outcomes. (Gei man 2020) The venous-to-arterial partial pressure of CO2 difference (DCO2) reflects oxygen supply to demand adequacy and has been suggested to improve resuscitation in sepsis. (Mallat et al. 2016)(Nassar and Mallat 2019) We hypothesized that a DCO2 guided GDT protocol would decrease morbidity after major surgeries.

Objectives: To compare the incidence of postoperative organ dysfunction, length of ICU, and hospital stay in patients undergoing major surgeries when managed by a goal-directed DCO2 aided protocol versus usual care.

Methods: This was a double-blind randomized controlled trial (RCT), permitted by the institutional ethical committee and registered prospectively (CTR/2018/07/014987). Conducted from July 2018 to May 2020 in an 800 bedded university teaching center with 16 multispeciality theatres and 14 bedded intensive care unit. 100 ASA1/2 patients undergoing elective major surgeries and planned for arterial and central venous catheters were randomized (computer-generated random numbers) and allocated (sealed opaque envelopes). In both groups, arterial and venous blood samples were collected second hourly (or earlier in the intervention group (I) if changes were made). Fluid management was based on a prespecified protocol that used pulse pressure variation (PPV), central venous saturation (SCVO2), hemoglobin (Hb), and DCO2 levels to guide DCO2 in group I. Dobutamine infusion was started if DCO2 was >6mmHg, other parameters being normal. (Figure1). Control group C was provided care as per unit protocols. Patient demographics, details of the surgery, duration, hemodynamics, fluid balance, vasopressors and inotropes used, blood gas reports, and ICU parameters like APACHE and SOFA scores were noted for 48 hrs after surgery. Organ dysfunction was defined as an increase in SOFA score from the preoperative value. Appropriate statistical tests were applied for sample size calculation and comparing the outcomes.

Results: Data were analyzed from 44 patients in each group. Patients were similar between the groups. The majority of the patients underwent oncology (64%), followed by neurosurgery (16%) and urology (10%). Length of ICU stay in group I (M=1.52, SD 0.82) was significantly less than group C (M=2.18, SD=1.08, t=3.21, p=.002). The incidence of complications and the length of hospital stay were comparable between the groups.
Introduction: MDR colonization is a major issue for perioperative and intensive care medicine frequently resulting in life-threatening infections.

Objectives: Within our ICU admissions, the aim of this study was to evaluate MDR colonized patients undergoing surgery and their post-operative course compared to non colonized patients.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed all consecutive patients undergoing surgery in our hospital for a period of 21 months (July 2017–April 2019) that required ICU admission. MDR colonized (rectal and/or pharyngeal swab) patients (MDR+) to non colonized patients (MDR-) for post operative complications, ICU and hospital LOS and mortality. We also investigated the impact of targeted perioperative antibiotic therapy compared to empirical antibiotic prophylaxis (https://www.save.veneto.it/home-sanitari/).

Results: 540 patients were included in the study (352 men, 65%), mean age 68 ± 12 years; they underwent either elective (n = 477, 88%) or emergency (n = 63, 12%) surgery. 234 (44%) were submitted to intestinal resection and the rest to other abdominal/vascular surgery; they were admitted to ICU on POD 0 for scheduled (n = 461, 85%) or unscheduled intensive PO monitoring.

143 pts were pre operatively MDR+ (27%), 54 (38%) of whom were either Klebsiella Pneumoniae Carbapenemasis Producer or Enterococcus Faecium VRE colonized and 115 (80%) were ESBL colonized. ICU LOS was significantly higher in MDR+ compared to MDR- (8.02 ± 13.8 vs 2.39 ± 3.4 days, p < 0.05). Hospital mortality occurred in - patients - of them in the ICU. Complication rate and type were significantly higher in MDR+ patients (97, 68%) compared to MDR- (118, 30%).

88 MDR+ patients (52%) received targeted pre-operative antibiotic therapy compared to standard prophylaxis but, despite a trend, this did not influence their outcome significantly.

Conclusion: Pre-operative surveillance swab positivity correlates with both ICU LOS and post-operative mortality. Targeted perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis may modify patient’s outcome and this should be routinely evaluated. More studies are needed to further investigate the possible therapeutic options in MDR+ patients undergoing surgery.

Goal Directed Fluid Therapy Post Orthotopic Liver Transplantation: A Systematic Review

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000910

Introduction: Orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT) is the only effective treatment for end stage liver disease (ESLD) [1]. Advanced liver cirrhosis has numerous pathophysiological consequences that lead to difficulty in controlling fluid balance. The OLT procedure also has significant haemodynamic consequences [2]. Goal-directed fluid therapy (GDTF) has been shown to reduce postoperative complications in the general surgical population [3] but the value of post-operative GDTF has not been established in patients with liver cirrhosis undergoing OLT.

Methods: A systematic review was conducted on GDTF post OLT by searching EMBASE, MEDLINE and PubMed databases. Human studies from 01/01/1980 to 10/06/2020 investigating goal directed fluid therapy in the post-operative period after OLT were included. We excluded animal experimental studies, those not reported in English language, and non-OLT studies (eg living donor hepatectomy) and studies that did not directly investigate a haemodynamic variable.

Results: Of the 533 studies identified by the search terms 522 were excluded for lack of relevance or were duplicates. Of the remaining 11, 9 were excluded (non-OLT surgery (1), no haemodynamic variable monitored (7) and one transfusion study). One RCT and one cohort analysis evaluated GDTF in the immediate (0-72 hours) postoperative setting of liver transplantation (110 participants).

Of the two studies Martin et al (2019) reported a randomised, controlled feasibility trial of GDTF post OLT. In this study GDTF was based on SV optimisation in the first 12 hours post-operatively. Controls received standard of care without the use of cardiac output measurement. SV optimisation was achieved by repeated boluses of 250ml crystalloid until a <10% increase in SV was seen. It was demonstrated that delivering GDTF immediately post-OLT is safe and feasible. The GDTF group had significantly higher volumes of crystalloid infusion. Although there were signals of reduced length of ICU and hospital stay the study was not powered to demonstrate a clinical benefit. [4]

Rydellet et al (2014) conducted a retrospective analysis of patients undergoing OLT before and after introduction of a GDTF protocol. The GDTF protocol was based on several haemodynamic parameters. Haemodynamic optimisation intraoperatively and in the first 48 hours postoperatively was achieved with drugs or fluids. A transfusion protocol with Hb >8 g/dl or ScvO2 >70 % as the targets was also used. The control was physician guided fluid therapy prior to introduction of the protocol. Contrary to the COLT study, the protocol group in this cohort received significantly less crystalloid volume. The study also
demonstrated a significant reduction in post-operative ileus and duration of mechanical ventilation in the protocol group. [5]

**Conclusion:** The two studies suggest clinical benefit but were not adequately powered to demonstrate efficacy. An adequately powered effectiveness study of GDFT following liver transplant is required.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000941**

**Standardized US upper airway evaluation for difficult airway prediction: a little more evidence? A monocentric, prospective, cohort, blinded study**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000941

**Introduction:** The management and safety of the airway during general anesthesia or in a critical environment is one of the most important skills of an anesthesiologist or an intensive care physician. Inadequate airway protection or insufficient oxygenation of the patient is associated with an overall increase in mortality and morbidity. The primary goal is the early identification of the Difficult Airways (DA) to reduce or eliminate potential risks linked to incorrect management. The identification of DA is, generally, based on clinical-anamnestic evaluation with low sensitivity and specificity. Ultrasound evaluation has been recently proposed to be a useful tool to predict difficult laryngoscopy, but no useful cut-off range was at present validated to define a standard parameter, mainly due to the lack of a systematic scan approach in ultrasound neck examination. Among sonographic parameters, the increased thickness of soft tissues anterior to the epiglottis (STTe) was emerging as one of the most reliable independent predictors of difficult laryngoscopy and mask ventilation. In our usual clinical practice, we have highlighted that the anteroposterior and longitudinal scanning allows us to obtain a systematically standardized and reproducible measurement of STTe.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to analyze the use of a standardized ultrasound approach to identify a DA with specific research of predictive parameters of difficult intubation (DI) and difficult ventilation (DV) combined with clinical-anamnestic evaluation. The aim was, therefore, to verify whether these parameters are useful in order to help creating an airway plan in the operating room, but also a critical care setting. Another possible use of these tools could be the selection of patients who need a protection extubation.

**Methods:** Prospective, observational, cohort, single-blind study. The study was conducted at the University of Bologna S.Orsola-Malpighi Hospital and approved by the Independent Ethics Committee. Eligibility criteria were consenting adult patients requiring general anesthesia and orotracheal intubation. The patients were consecutively enrolled (from September 2017 to October 2018) during the preoperative anesthesia evaluation. Exclusion criteria were emergency surgeries, rapid-sequence induction, uncooperative or pregnant patients, patients with a history of difficult intubation, or with difficult laryngoscopy and/or with indication to bronchoscopy. The clinical design is divided into two different phases: the preoperative phase (phase 1) and the intraoperative phase (phase 2). Evaluations carried out in phase 1 and in phase 2 were performed by different anesthesiologists at different times (blinded study). In phase 1 clinical-anamnestic evaluation and ultrasound were performed. The intraoperative phase was conducted by expert anesthesiologists (more than 5 years of experience). General anesthesia was conducted according to a standard protocol. DI was evaluated using the Cormack-Lehane score.

**Results:** As statistical estimation, 253 patients were enrolled (50% male, range 18-88 years old). Direct laryngoscopy was classified as difficult (CL >3) in 15 patients (6%), 10 were predicted by the preoperative clinical evaluation, while the remaining 5 cases (21%) had not been anticipated. The ultrasound parameter predictive of DI was the thickness of the soft tissues anterior to the epiglottis in hyperextension of the head and protrusion of the tongue (STTep). The ROC curve analysis identified a cut-off of STTep equal to a value of 2.50 cm above which we can predict difficulties in intubation (specificity 55.9%, sensitivity 73.3%; AUC 0.649, CI 0.537 - 0.762; p=0.05). This cut-off value is confirmed even better in the group of patients with difficult laryngoscopy (Cormack-Lehane ≥ 3 even after BURP) in which it results the same specificity (55.9%) but greater sensitivity (87.5%; AUC 0.726; p=0.03). In addition, we verified the predictive role of the US in identifying the borderline difficult laryngoscopy (CL 2e). We found 23 having a CL 2e: STTep was verified both before (p=0.001) and after BURP (p=0.001). No statistically significant differences were found between the two groups (easy vs difficult) for other US parameters for DI. STTep was, also, the best predictor for DV.

**Conclusion:** The use of ultrasound has found in recent decades a wide application as a diagnostic and a therapeutic tool, specifically at present airways ultrasound evaluation is an important tool to predict a DI. Standardized ultrasound assessment of the STTep may be useful to predict “complex difficult” direct laryngoscopy and difficult intubation and to identify a DI not foreseen by the conventional clinical parameters (clinically unexpected or unexpected DI). Preoperative identification of DA permit to better organize patient’s management in the perioperative and the pre-procedure identification of DA permit to better choose the airway strategy. Further studies are necessary to validate the parameters found and correlate them to the preoperative clinical evaluation, improving patient safety, and allowing the best use of resources. US airway evaluation could find a place in scores for DA prediction.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

Introduction: In patients who have undergone a radical cystectomy, delayed return of bowel function is expected to be functional. However, a cohort of patients (10-40%) go on to develop the complication of post-operative paralytic ileus (POI), which can negatively impact outcomes. Although the causative factors of POI are often complex, identification of potential risk factors could prove useful in the management of these patients in order to improve patient outcomes.

Objectives: To:

* establish the incidence of ileus in patients having radical cystectomies
* compare length of stay and mortality between those that had and did not have ileus
* identify features that correlate with developing ileus.

Methods: This was a single-centre retrospective, observational study carried out at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. We reviewed the electronic and paper medical records, chart anaesthetics charts and operative notes of all patients who had radical cystectomies and ileal conduits in 2018.
Fluid responsiveness assessment in Cardiac Surgery patients.

Superior Vena cava respiratory variability vs Mini fluid challenge

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2Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000752

Introduction: Fluid responsiveness assessment is the cornerstone of fluid therapy in both the ICU and the operating room (1,2). The use of dynamic indices (fluid challenge or the cardiopulmonary interaction) has proved to be the most effective method and these tests have been included in guidelines (3). Nevertheless, fluid responsiveness in cardiac surgery (CS) patients is weakly investigated. A recent study has reported that in ICU patients the respiratory variability of the superior vena cava (SVC) performed better than other tests (4).

Objectives: The routine use of a TEE probe in all our CS patients allowed us to investigate in a prospective observational study the performance of the respiratory variation of the VCS (Delta VCS) and mini fluid challenge (FC100) as a predictive indice for fluid response.

Methods: All patients were included after CPB and chest closure while still under general anesthesia. A fluid infusion was performed in all patients by infusion of the CPB residual volume treated by a cell saver bag. All patients were included in guidelines (3). Nevertheless, fluid responsiveness in CS patients is weakly investigated. A recent study has reported that in ICU patients the respiratory variability of the superior vena cava (SVC) performed better than other tests (4).

Results:

49 patients were included: M 39 (79.6%), CABG 51%, AVR 27%, MVR 8%, Other 14%; mean age 67 +/- 11.5; mean Euroscore 2 3.48 / 3.16%; mean LVEF 53.9 +/- 11.4. 31 patients (63.3%) were NRESP and 18 (36.7%) were RESP. There was no difference for RESP / NRESP groups for LVEF (RESP : 51.2% vs NRESP : 56.6%) CPB duration (RESP : 71.2min vs NRESP : 68.6min), Cross clamp time (RESP : 57min vs NRESP : 54.4min), baseline E/A (RESP : 1.49 +/- 0.24 vs NRESP : 1.19 +/- 0.19), baseline E/e’ (RESP : 7.86 +/- 1.28 vs NRESP : 8.54 +/- 1.37), Delta SVC QRS and Delta SVC T were higher in the RESP group but the difference did not reach significance (RESP : 13.67% vs NRESP : 7.84% and RESP : 13.89% vs NRESP : 9.91% respectively). Groups were significantly different only for delta SV after FC100 (RESP : 11.4% +/- 3.08% vs NRESP : 2.54% +/- 0.57%; 95CI 0.05918 to 0.21458). ROC curves are shown in fig 1. The highest AUC is obtained by FC100 (AUC 0.829; 95CI 0.677 to 0.929) and significantly higher than the SVC derived indices (p=0.036).

Conclusion: The main findings of our study are: First, in CS up to 63% of the patients may be unresponsive to FC and this is similar septic shock patients. Second, the SVC derived indices perform poorly in predicting fluid responsiveness and that is not consistent with the results obtained in shock patients (4). The influence of the specificities of CS patients (type of anesthesia, cardiopulmonary and CPB, chest drainage system) are discussed. Third, the good performance of the mini fluid challenge (FC100) makes it a method of choice in post CPB CS patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000820

Is there preservation of micro- and macro-vascular coherence following liver resection surgery delivered within an ERAS pathway with GDFT?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000820

Is there preservation of micro- and macro-vascular coherence following liver resection surgery delivered within an ERAS pathway with GDFT?
Introduction: It has been demonstrated that persistently decreased microvascular blood flow is associated with mortality in the critical care population.1,2 Microvascular blood flow is a potentially important therapeutic target, that may diverge from macrovascular parameters leading to a loss of haemodynamic coherence.3 In our centre we use a low central venous pressure (CVP) anaesthetic for liver resection surgery to decrease intra-operative blood loss4 with subsequent goal-directed fluid therapy (GDFT). This can be considered as a model of shock and resuscitation. These patients were studied to assess peri-operative microvascular flow and relation to macrovascular parameters.

Objectives: To establish:

- changes in microvascular blood flow peri-operatively in liver resection surgery
- relationship between microvascular blood flow and macrovascular parameters
- relationship between microvascular blood flow following GDFT to post-operative complications

Methods: This was a single-centre prospective observational study (REC 14/NE/1150) enrolling patients undergoing liver resection surgery. Microvascular blood flow, measured using the MicroScan device (MicroVision Medical, Amsterdam) and physiological measurements were taken at pre-specified time points throughout the peri-operative period (T1, awake on day of surgery pre-operatively, T2 following induction of anaesthesia, T3 on exposure of the liver, T4 completion of liver resection prior to fluid resuscitation, T5 arrival at ICU, T6 completion of goal directed fluid therapy (GDFT)). Mortality rates, post-operative morbidity survey (POMS) and Clavien-dindo classification were used to assess post-operative complications.

Results: A total of 55 data sets were included in the analyses, 28 male and 27 female, mean age was 58 years (S.D. 13) and BMI 28.1 kg/m² (S.D. 5.4), 18% were smokers, 13% were diabetic and 76% had neo-adjuvant chemotherapy. CVP was decreased successfully during anaesthesia from 7mmHg (IQR 4.7-10) at T2 to 3 mmHg (IQR 0.7-5) at T4 (p<0.0001). There was a statistically significant decrease in mean arterial pressure (MAP); 74 mmHg (IQR 65 – 88) at T2 to 64 mmHg (58 – 74) at T4 (p=0.0002). This was accompanied by a rise in heart rate from a median of 67 bpm (IQR 60-77) to 73 bpm (IQR 64-87) at T4 (p=0.0013). A subset of 18 patients had records of cardiac output measured by oesophageal doppler, this was not suitable for use in awake patients so was only recorded at T2, T3 and T4. There was no significant difference between cardiac index (CI) at time 2 and time 4; median CI 2.55 L/min/m² (1.88 – 3.48) and 2.00 L/min/m² (1.80 – 2.30) respectively.

Following completion of GDFT (T6) there was no significant difference in heart rate compared to baseline (T1). However, MAP at T6 remained significantly lower than baseline (T1); 100mmHg (88-110) vs 77 (73-89), p<0.0001.

Microvascular flow measurements decreased post-operatively and this fall was sustained after completion of GDFT as detailed below.

There was no significant correlation between MAP and the microvascular parameters MFI, sPPV or sPVD at any time point using Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients as appropriate. There was no association with microvascular flow and post-operative morbidity or mortality.

Conclusion: Microvascular blood flow decreased post-operatively and this was sustained despite completion of GDFT and restitution of macrovascular parameters. There was evidence of shunting with a decrease in small perfused blood vessel density and increase in large perfused blood vessel density from baseline to completion of GDFT. GDFT was insufficient to restore post-operative sublingual microvascular perfusion.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


00108 Hyperglycaemia and predisposing risk factors in patients after cardiac surgery

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 00108

Introduction: High blood glucose levels are frequently shown in patients post-cardiac surgery patients that might affect prognosis.

Objectives: To evaluate postoperative blood glucose trend levels and predisposing risk factors in cardiac surgery patients, during their stay in intensive care unit (ICU).

Methods: 210 consecutive post-cardiac surgery patients, admitted to ICU, participated in this prospective clinical study. Blood glucose levels were measured by patients’ admittance to ICU and afterwards every 2-3 hours daily, until their discharge or for up to seven days (if discharged later). An existing ICU protocol for blood glucose control was applied. Patients were classified by mean blood glucose level during their stay in ICU.

Results: 56% of the patients had mean blood glucose levels 140 – 180mg/dl, 25% above 180mg/dl and 19% below 140mg/dl. 36% of the participants had mean blood glucose levels above 180mg/dl during the first and second day of ICU treatment and 30% during the third day. Multivariate logarithmic regression analysis has shown history of Diabetes mellitus, Euroscore II and pre-operative white blood cells count as independent predictors of post-cardiac surgery mean blood glucose levels above 180mg/dl. Patients with mean blood glucose levels above 180mg/dl post-cardiac surgery had greater duration of mechanical ventilation support (p=0.019).

Conclusion: According to our study, a high percentage of cardiac surgery patients admitted to ICU exhibit blood glucose levels >180mg/dl, at the immediate postoperative period despite standard treatment protocol. Diabetes mellitus, Euroscore II and pre-operative white blood cells count were independent predictors of hyperglycaemia. Application of a further bundle for optimization of blood glucose levels is deemed necessary.

Table 1 – Microvascular flow (results displayed as median (IQR), Kruskal-Wallis was used to determine significance of variation between groups)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>T1</th>
<th>T5</th>
<th>T6</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MFI</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2.42-2.98)</td>
<td>(1.94-2.75)</td>
<td>(2.08-2.83)</td>
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<tr>
<td>sPPV</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>55.1</td>
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<td>(87.4-99.8)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>(4.4-7.8)</td>
<td>(4.91-7.2)</td>
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There was an increase in proportion of perfused large blood vessels (sPPV); 66.7 (34.1-90.9) at T1 vs 99 (91-100) at T6, p<0.0001 density (sPVD).
Introduction: Neurological sequelae after carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning has recently become a critical issue. Epidemiological data of delayed neurological sequelae such as incidence, time of development, and duration vary widely in the literature.

Objectives: We aim at analyzing nationwide claims data from South Korea for incidence patterns of neurological disorders in survivors of carbon dioxide poisoning.

Methods: A national cohort was abstracted from database that includes the patients diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning from January 1st, 2007 to December 31st, 2018. We investigated the whole diagnostic codes for nervous system diseases. The codes were retrieved from the claims data generated during the patients’ initial visits to an inpatient or an outpatient after the diagnosis of TSB, carbon monoxide poisoning.

Results: Among the total of 26,778 patients, 18,720 (69.9%) patients were diagnosed with nervous system diseases after the carbon monoxide poisoning. The most common disease was disorders of sleep initiating and maintaining (n = 701, 3.74%), followed by tension-type headache (n = 477, 2.55%), and anoxic brain injury (n = 406, 2.17%). Admission to the intensive care unit after carbon monoxide poisoning was associated with subsequent development of nervous system diseases. The cumulative hazard ratio was 2.25 (95% CI, 2.07 to 2.44, p<0.05).

Conclusion: In poisoned patients with carbon monoxide, it needs to consider that nervous system diseases followed after carbon monoxide poisoning have relatively early peak incidence patterns. Nervous system diseases after carbon monoxide poisoning had different patterns of incidence depending on whether the patient had been admitted to intensive care unit or not.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

10. This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.
11. Poisoning/Toxicology /Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology / Pharmacology

Introduction: Arsenic, a group 1 carcinogen classified by International Agency for Research on Cancer, is a major environmental toxicant and pollutant, which has caused health concern all over the world. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry also enlisted arsenic as number one in their ranking of substance priority list 2017. Neutrophils are the vanguard of host innate immune system against invading microbial pathogens and several diseases. Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) have been disclosed as an essential aspect of human innate immunity. NETs are comprised of meshwork of chromatins decorated with antimicrobial proteins like myeloperoxidase (MPO), neutrophil elastase (NE) and cathepsin G [1]. The function of NETs is to capture, immobilize and kill intruding gram negative and gram positive bacteria, fungi, parasites as well as invading microorganisms extracellularly [1]. The influence of arsenic on human NET formation, however, was not well established.

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the effects of acute low dose (20 ng/ml) NaAsO2 exposure on innate defense mechanisms regarding NETs and phagocytosis in vitro.

Methods: Isolated polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMN) from peripheral blood of healthy human volunteers were incubated with NaAsO2 for 12 h and phorbol myristate acetate was used to induce NET formation. Effect of arsenic exposure on PMN functions including NETs release, phagocytosis, bacterial killing and reactive oxygen species (ROS) production were assessed. NETs formation was quantified by measuring cell-free extracellular DNA (cf-DNA) by flow cytometry. Cell-free DNA (cf-DNA) was measured using the Quant-IT PicoGreen dsDNA assay kit. MPO- and NE-DNA were measured by sandwich ELISA. ROS production was measured in live cells by a technique that converts 2’, 7’–dichlorofluorescein diacetate which was oxidized to a fluorescence dye 2’, 7’–dichlorofluorescein. Extracellular killing of bacteria by NETs was evaluated by co-culture of Escherichia coli and neutrophils in the presence of a phagocytic inhibitor cytochalasin D.

Results: In vitro inorganic arsenic exposure to human PMN significantly dampens the release of cf-DNA, MPO-DNA and NE-DNA which are characteristic of NET. Cell-free DNA (cf-DNA) was measured using the Quant-IT PicoGreen dsDNA assay kit. MPO- and NE-DNA were measured by sandwich ELISA. ROS production was measured in live cells by a technique that converts 2’, 7’–dichlorofluorescein diacetate which was oxidized to a fluorescence dye 2’, 7’–dichlorofluorescein. Extracellular killing of bacteria by NETs was evaluated by co-culture of Escherichia coli and neutrophils in the presence of a phagocytic inhibitor cytochalasin D.

Conclusion: We conclude that low dose of inorganic arsenic will disturb PMN function including NETs and phagocytosis. Our results open new doors for understanding the detailed mechanisms of arsenic intoxication on human innate immunity.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. Poisoning/Toxicology /Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology / Pharmacology
Comparison between mask oxygen therapy and nasal high-flow oxygen therapy using tracheal oxygen concentration measurement model

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000138

Introduction: An effective treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning is the elimination of blood carbon monoxide by the administration of high oxygen concentration. Hyperbaric oxygenation therapy has the highest concentration of oxygen; however, medical institutions without hyperbaric oxygenation chambers also treat patients with carbon monoxide poisoning. If hyperbaric oxygenation therapy is unavailable, the first-line treatment is a 100% oxygen mask; of late, another oxygen administration method in use is the nasal high-flow (NHF) therapy. However, no previous study has verified the type of oxygen administration method that can deliver higher oxygen concentration to the body. Here, we present a comparison of 100% intratracheal oxygen administration by oxygen mask or by NHF, using an original tracheal oxygen concentration measuring model.

Objectives: To compare the tracheal oxygen concentration of 100% oxygen administered by mask or by NHF using a special intratracheal oxygen measuring model.

Methods: A Michigan Instruments artificial lung was connected to a Hamilton ventilator C1 and a human model of intubation practice. The measuring device of oxygen concentration with INOflo, manufactured by Mallinkrodt pharmaceuticals, was inserted into the trachea of the human model to measure the oxygen concentration. The lung tidal volume and the minute volume were adjusted by the Hamilton C1. The minute volume was set to 5 L and 10 L; the flow rate of the oxygen mask was set to 6 L, 10 L, and 15 L; and the flow rate of the NHF was set to 10 L, 20 L, and 40 L. For each of these, the measurement was performed four times.

Results: The model tracheal oxygen concentration results were as follows. Under the 100% oxygen by mask and 5L of minute ventilation conditions, when the oxygen flow rates were set to 6L, 10L, and 15L, the average oxygen concentrations were 58.75%, 63.75%, and 68.75%, respectively. When the minute ventilation was set to 10 L, these values were 39.75%, 46.5%, and 53.75%, respectively. In NHF, 5L of minute ventilation, when the oxygen flow was 10L, 20L and 30L, the average oxygen concentrations were 96.5%, 97%, and 97.5%, respectively; and for the 10L of minute ventilation, for the 10 L, 20 L, and 30 L flow rates, the average values were 91.75%, 95%, and 97%, respectively.

Conclusion: The oxygen concentration in the human model’s trachea was higher with NHF oxygen administration, regardless of the ventilation minute volume and oxygen flow rate. These results suggested that for patients with carbon monoxide poisoning, NHF may reduce carbon monoxide in a shorter time than oxygen administration via a mask.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. There is no grant to acknowledge.
4. Poisoning/Toxicology/Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology / Pharmacology

Acute brain lesion on magnetic resonance imaging as predictive factor of delayed neurological sequelae in carbon monoxide poisoning

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000190

Introduction: Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuel and material. Because of these characteristics, many patients cannot recognize that they are poisoned and in mild cases, diagnosis and treatment are often delayed because symptoms do not appear immediately. In CO poisoning, the brain and heart which are vulnerable to ischemia are damaged due to the decline of oxygen transport. Development of delayed neurological sequelae (DNS) defined as any neurological symptoms that newly developed within 6 weeks after CO poisoning. Preventing DNS is a major goal of treating acute CO poisoning, but to our knowledge there are no reliable tools for assessing the probability of these sequelae.

Objectives: To find out whether acute brain lesions on diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging are relevant to subsequent development of DNS after acute CO poisoning.

Methods: This registry-based observational study was conducted at a university hospital in Korea, between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2018. Of 254 patients (aged ≥18) with acute CO poisoning, 154 patients (60.63%) who underwent diffusion-weighted imaging were considered for the study. Patients who refuse magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (n=40), discharge against medical advice (n=6), follow up loss (n=32), persistent neurological symptoms at discharge (n=8) and refuse hyperbaric oxygen therapy (n=14) were excluded. Patients were scheduled for MRI within 2 days of visiting hospital. If two or more of the univariate factors retained in the multivariate analysis were highly correlated, then only one factor was selected for further modeling to avoid collinearity before modeling. (Table 1).
**Results:** Of the 154 included patients, acute brain lesions on diffusion-weighted imaging were observed in 49 patients (31.8%). Among 154 patients, DNS occurred in 30 patients (19.5%). In the multivariable logistic regression analysis, abnormal MRI was associated with DNS in model 1 (odds ratio [OR], 2.24; 95% Confidence interval [CI], 0.864-5.821; P = 0.097). In model 2, the acute brain lesions on MRI in white matter was notably associated with development of DNS (OR, 6.741; 95% CI, 1.843-24.660; P = 0.004). And Glasgow coma scale and exposure time were also related to subsequent development of DNS after CO poisoning in model 1, 2.

**Conclusion:** Acute brain lesions on MRI in white matter was notably associated with the development of DNS. Diffusion-weighted imaging during the acute phase of CO poisoning may predict the risk of developing subsequent neurologic deficit.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

16. Poisoning/Toxicology/Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology/Pharmacology

000442
Impact of Hydrogen Selenide against Oxidative Stress in Human Hepatocytes
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000442

**Introduction:** Selenium, an essential micronutrient incorporated into antioxidant ‘selenoproteins’, has been extensively trailed as a putative therapy in critical illnesses. However, when administered in its oxidised form, selenide, it exhibits varying degrees of success [1]. Importantly, the ability of any molecule to undergo ‘redox’ reactions depends on its oxidation status. We previously showed that the reduced form of selenium, selenide, acts both as an antioxidant and a metabolic modulator via transient inhibition of mitochondrial cytochrome C oxidase [2]. Here we assessed the effects of a basic selenide salt (NaHSe) against oxidative stress in human hepatocytes.

**Methods:** HepG2 human hepatocytes were grown to 80% confluence under standard cell culture conditions. Sodium hydrogen selenide (NaHSe) was synthesized as described [3]. Cells were incubated with 0.3 or 1 µM NaHSe (as therapeutic concentrations) for 1 hour. Oxidative stress was initiated by addition of hydrogen peroxide (H2O2; 500 μM); cells were incubated for a further 24 hours. Cell viability (in tetrazolium chloride [1% w/v] stained cells) or mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP; in tetramethylrhodamine methyl ester [TMRM] incubated [25 nM for 30 min] cells) were measured using spectrophotometry and flow cytometry, respectively.

**Results:** H2O2 decreased cell viability and mitochondrial membrane potential and these could be reversed by NaHSe treatment (Fig 1).

**Conclusion:** Treatment with the reduced form of selenium, hydrogen selenide, protected against oxidative stress in human hepatocytes. This was associated with a clear elevation in mitochondrial membrane potential. The ability of selenide to confer protection against oxidative pathologies via a mitochondrial mechanism of action (and the importance of its oxidation status) will be subject to further investigation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

16. Poisoning/Toxicology/Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology/Pharmacology

000444
Selenium Therapy: Impact of Oxidation Status on Antioxidant Selenoprotein Expression
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000444

**Introduction:** Selenium, an essential micronutrient, is incorporated into numerous ‘selenoprotein’ oxidoreductase enzymes that impact on cellular redox status in health and disease. As a putative antioxidant therapy in critical illness states, selenium has been administered solely as the oxidised form, selenite, with varying success [1]. However, the ability of any molecule to undergo ‘redox’ reactions depends on its oxidation status, and this may impact on its utility as a therapy [2]. We assessed the ability of both the oxidized selenium product, selenite, and the reduced form, selenide, to modify selenoprotein expression in human hepatocytes.

**Methods:** HepG2 human hepatocytes were grown to 80% confluence under standard cell culture conditions. Cells were plated and incubated with either sodium hydrogen selenide (NaHSe; 30 nM, synthesized as described [3]), sodium selenite (Na2SeO3; 30 nM) or no treatment (cell medium) for 24 hours. L-cysteine (0.1 mM) was used as a positive control (to decrease selenoprotein synthesis) as it interferes with selenocysteine, a crucial intermediate. Protein expression of glutathione peroxidase-1 (GPX-1) and thioredoxin reductase-1 (TrXR-1) was determined by Western blot analysis. These selenoproteins were chosen as they are ubiquitously expressed, readily abundant, and

**Conclusion:** Treatment with the reduced form of selenium, hydrogen selenide, protected against oxidative stress in human hepatocytes.
crucially involved in the detoxification of inorganic and organic peroxides, respectively.

**Results:** The oxidized selenium form, selenite, used in critically ill patients as an antioxidant therapy, negatively impacted on antioxidant selenoprotein expression (Fig 1). By contrast, exposure to the reduced form, selenide, showed increased abundance of the two enzymes studied.

**Conclusion:** The oxidation status of selenium-based therapies on selenoprotein expression revealed divergent results. This demonstrates that oxidation status can impact on efficacy, and suggests that targeted administration of reduced selenium forms may yield more favourable results.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
4. Poisoning/Toxicology /Pharmacology > Poisoning/Toxicology / Pharmacology

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**Introduction:** 3-14% ICU admissions are due to poisonings. The mortality rate is 2.1%. The treatment for acute poisonings requires: precociouslyness, vital functions support, metabolic support and symptomatic treatment, reducing or stopping the absorption of the poison, an antidote-based treatment and measures to increase the elimination of the toxic (intestinal and renal excretion as well as extracorporeal techniques).

**Objectives:** The aim of this review is to establish the organ and system substitution techniques currently available and how they were used to treat poisonings in our ICU during the 2015-2018 period.

**Methods:** Study authorized by the ethics committee in the centre. In the 2015-2018 period there were 7941 admissions to the ICU. 31 years old. The most common cause was medication-related poisoning (benzodiazepines). Ethanol was the main addictive drug. The measures taken in our ICU have been continuous renal replacement therapy in one occasion (lithium poisoning).

**Conclusion:** In spite of the fact that the ICU admissions rate is low, it is necessary to be familiar with the organ and system substitution techniques in order to apply the best one in each case. It is equally important to know about the pharmacokinetic characteristics of those toxins that can be expelled using these extracorporeal techniques.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**A QIP on Naloxone Administration: Do Staff Need a Push to Give a Bolus in an Emergency?**
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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001079**

**Introduction:** Naloxone, an opioid antagonist, is used for the management of opioid toxicity, presenting with respiratory depression, miosis and/or decreased consciousness. This is a medical emergency occurring in different settings: theatre recovery, maternity or general surgical wards. Urgent naloxone administration is vital and can be given IV, SC or IM at an initial dose of 0.4mg/kg. Naloxone is initially given as a push bolus, and locally is prepared as 400mcg in 1ml ampoules.

We recognised that familiarity with naloxone at our institution was low. Lack of knowledge and familiarity is a known contributor to drug error. Use of cognitive aids can facilitate timely implementation of treatment in emergencies such as opioid toxicity.

**Objectives:**
- To assess staff familiarity and confidence with naloxone.
- To assess knowledge regarding naloxone administration.

**Methods:** An anonymous staff survey was designed to assess familiarity and confidence with naloxone use and was distributed to theatre recovery, surgical wards and maternity. Later a poster (Figure 1) was designed and placed on control drug (CD) cupboards to serve as an accessible cognitive aid in an emergency. A safety alert was emailed to guide staff on how to manage suspected opiate toxicity. We re-surveyed to assess improvement in knowledge and confidence of naloxone use.
NALOXONE FOR SUSPECTED OPIATE TOXICITY

**SUSPECT IF:**
- Pinpoint pupils
- Decreased conscious level
- RR <8

**ACTION:**
- Give naloxone
- Give 15L 02 NRB
- Call doctor
- Consider 2222 call

**NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION:**
- Undiluted 400 mcg (1ml) bolus
- IV preferable (same dose SC or IM if no IV access)

---

**Results:** Our initial survey found low confidence in naloxone administration with 79% of respondents either unwilling or needing anomogram to administer it. This was unsurprising as most had not used naloxone in the preceding year. On re-survey, we found improved confidence, with an increase in those either confident or very confident from 20% to 40% and fewer people unwilling to use naloxone (17% to 12%). Staff selecting the correct dose per trust protocol increased by 31%, from 41% to 72% (p=0.02 CI 4.5%-51.9%).

**Conclusion:** Use of naloxone is rare and staff at our institution are unfamiliar with it, demonstrated here by a lack of confidence and knowledge of correct dose. 30% of medication errors relate to gaps in knowledge or application of knowledge of a drug. However, in opiate toxicity, prompt, accurate administration of naloxone is imperative, yet human factors such as stress and communication breakdown in an emergency scenario may further inhibit ability to correctly administer treatment.

A simple and low-cost cognitive aid positioned on CD cupboards combined with a safety alert via email improved accuracy and confidence with naloxone use.

In critical care, doctors drill for rare emergencies though simulation (sim), but key members of the MDT such as nurses and midwives receive less sim-based training. We have demonstrated an increase in confidence and accuracy of naloxone administration with simple, cost-effective measures. Further work could examine the sustainability of these improvements and implement sim-based training to further improve MDT performance.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. 4. - Hall, C., Robertson, D., Rolfe, M. et al. 2020 Do cognitive aids reduce error rates in resuscitation team performance? Trial of emergency medical protocols in simulation training (TEMPIST) in Australia. Hum Resour Health 18, 1
algorithms that encourage collaborative sedation and weaning. The early identification of patients who are likely to experience difficult sedation, coupled with strategies for preventing it, are essential for minimizing the impact of this complication, both in the short and long term. It is also important to ensure that adequate attention is paid not only to the physical but also the psychological needs of critical care patients, since both aspects will impact their subsequent recovery process.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000120

Delirium after on-pump cardiac surgery: a single centre descriptive study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000120

Introduction: Cardiac surgery requiring cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) has been associated with neurocognitive impairment, called the postperfusion syndrome. Delirium is the most common form of neurocognitive impairment and has been linked with increased morbidity and mortality. It has been suggested that micro-emboli during CPB cause this postperfusion syndrome

Objectives: We aimed to assess whether the duration of CPB is the major factor in delirium after cardiac surgery.

Methods: This single centre retrospective study included 235 patients, admitted to the ICU after cardiac surgery with CPB between 01-01-2019 and 31-12-2019. Delirium was defined as patients having been administered the antipsychotic drugs haloperidol or quetiapine, either intravenously or orally, at least once during ICU-stay. Patient characteristics and drugs were retrieved directly from the electronic medical records. Risk factors for delirium after cardiac surgery were analysed: age, type of surgery, Euroscore, APACHE-II score. Data were presented as median and IQR.

Results: Patients underwent arcus (n = 10), CABG (n = 85), CABG/valve (n = 36), valve (n = 51), mitral valve (n = 44) and multiple valve surgery (n = 9). 24/235 (10%) received antipsychotics during ICU-stay. ICU-stay and hospital stay were longer in patients with delirium (median 5, IQR 4.7-5.7 and median 17.5, IQR 11-40.5) than in patients without (median 3, IQR 3-5 and median 11, IQR 9-17)(both p < 0.004). Median duration of CPB did not differ between patients with delirium (135.5, IQR 105.75-203) and those without (150,IQR 115-193)(p = 0.90). Age, type of surgery, Euroscore, APACHE-II score also did not differ between patients with or without delirium.

Conclusion: In our centre, duration of CPB was not associated with incidence of delirium. However, both length of stay at the ICU and in the hospital were significant prolonged in cardiac surgery patients with delirium. This findings underline the clinical importance of delirium both on short term and long term outcome.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


000290

Evaluation of pain scales and outcome in critically ill patients of a Greek ICU

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000290

Introduction: Critically ill patients experience pain during Intensive Care Unit (ICU) stay, which must be assessed by valid scales since it affects various outcomes.

Objectives: To evaluate painful procedures in critically ill patients and to investigate their effect as well as the role of analgesia in the outcome.

Methods: We included 28 mechanically ventilated patients who were subjected to 5.71 ± 4.29 painful (turning, endotracheal suction, physiotherapy, central venous catheter placement) and non-painful (oral care, dressing change) procedures. We measured their pain level before, during and after the stimuli using the Behavioral Pain Scale (BPS) and the Critical Care Pain Observation Tool (CPOT). We also recorded their vital signs (systolic and mean blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate) at the same timepoints. We analyzed the correlation of our measurements as well as the use of bolus analgesia with the duration of mechanical ventilation, the ICU stay and the survival of the patients.

Results: There were statistically significant differences in the pain scores and vital signs between the different timepoints (before-during and during-after) for all procedures. The differences in the values of BPS and CPOT scales in the aforementioned timepoints were significantly correlated with the respective differences in the values of vital signs. Regarding the type of the procedure, it was shown that physiotherapy influenced more than the others the change of both pain scales. The use of bolus analgesia during the procedure compared to the non-use predicted both less days of mechanical ventilation (17.94 ± 12.73 vs 25.02 ± 21.19, p = 0.015) and less days of ICU stay (18.54 ± 12.82 vs 25.56 ± 20.92, p = 0.016). The higher difference in the BPS before and during the stimuli was correlated with more days of mechanical ventilation [B (95%CI) = 3.640 (1.001 – 6.280), p = 0.007] and more days of ICU stay [B (95%CI) = 3.645 (1.035 – 6.254), p = 0.006]. As far as the outcome, the higher difference in the CPOT during and after the stimuli and the non-use of bolus analgesia related to increased chance of death [OR (95%CI) = 1.492 (1.107 – 2.011), p = 0.009 and OR (95%CI) = 2.626 (1.013 – 6.806), p = 0.047 respectively].

Conclusion: Increased level of patients’ pain during various procedures in the ICU, as assessed by the BPS and CPOT scales, is related to worse outcomes while the use of bolus analgesia during these procedures might improves the outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. None

000306

Delayed adverse events after sedation for hematologic procedure in pediatric patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000306

Introduction: Sedation, coupled with strategies for preventing it, are essential for minimizing the impact of this complication, both in the short and long term. It is also important to ensure that adequate attention is paid not only to the physical but also the psychological needs of critical care patients, since both aspects will impact their subsequent recovery process.
Introduction: While procedures and treatments are performed, sedation is undergone not only for reducing patient's anxiety and pain but also for facilitating the performance. Although there are various sedatives in pediatrics, most of them are not officially approved. The choice and doses of drugs are different case by case and also the responses of the patient. In concert with expectation. For this reason, careful management are particularly necessary. Usually, until the early recovery period in post-anesthetic care unit (PACU) after sedation, adverse events can be observed through careful monitoring. However, it is difficult to identify delayed complications (after 2 hours) and also few studies introduced.

Methods: In this study, we investigated the delayed adverse events which may occur in pediatrics after sedation. We would like to find out the most common adverse reactions and their period. And based on these evidences, how to deal with delayed responses takes a message in the future.

Results: A total of 168 Patients were participated, group A was 103 patients and group B was 65 patients. Adverse symptoms were showed mostly within 24 hour; group A was 34.95% (36/103) and group B was 51.56% (33/64). Among 20 items, most common adverse events were nausea (13.59%, 14/103) in group A and drowsiness (26.56%, 17/64) and dizziness (23.44%; 15/64) in group B. The occurrence time interval was set at two hour intervals including 30 minutes recovery room period as session one, total 13 sessions. The beginning and ending time of adverse events were also recorded. These categories were based on adverse event of sedative drugs and the specific events were recorded separately.

Conclusion: Although there are various sedatives in pediatrics, most of them are not officially approved. The choice and doses of drugs are different case by case and also the responses of them are inconsistent with expectation. The overall trend and degree of risk could be predicted through this study on delayed adverse reactions to sedatives. Though various adverse responses were developed, most of them disappeared within 24 hours spontaneously.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

3. There were no interests and financial supports.

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000392

Risk factors associated with the development of delirium in a polyvalent ICU
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Introduction: Delirium is a severe neuropsychiatric disorder of organic origin characterized by the appearance of alterations in both consciousness and cognitive functions. The development of delirium is associated with multiple complications: increased mortality, longer duration of mechanical ventilation, higher rate of reintubation, and increased hospital stay. Since effective treatment has proven troublesome, prophylactic strategies become paramount.

Methods: Analysis of the risk factors associated with the development of delirium in a polyvalent ICU.

Methods: Prospective observational study on a cohort of ICU patients admitted from 1/10/2016 to 1/05/2019; those requiring transfer to another centre were excluded. Patients were classified into two groups, according to whether they developed delirium or not, and the following variables were analysed: sex, age, frailty, reason for admission, comorbidities, SAPS 3, SOFA, specific management measures and development of organic failure(s) (OF). Statistical analysis between subgroups was carried out; Pearson’s Chi-square test or Mann-Whitney’s U to find significant differences, and univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis to quantify existing associations.

Results: 1534 patients were admitted during the indicated time, 72 excluded. Ninety-three developed delirium (incidence 6.3%). After obtaining the initial data, we performed a multivariate analysis (table 1) including significant variables of the univariate analysis (with \( p<0.1 \)), and finally, recursive partitioning using Chaid tree, observing (a) a higher incidence of delirium in patients who presented more than 2 OF (20.4%) and (b) in patients with less than 2 OF, higher incidence in patients above 74 years (8.6%). Patients who developed delirium had longer ICU and hospital length-of-stays and a higher rate of readmission, without differences in mortality.

Table 1. Multivariate analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>OR (CI 95%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (&gt;74)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.3-3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coma as reason for admission</td>
<td>2.5 (1.07-5.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 OF</td>
<td>4.9 (2.9-8.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive mechanical ventilation</td>
<td>1.9 (1.1-3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed isolation</td>
<td>2.4 (1.2-4.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous neuromuscular blockade</td>
<td>7.2 (2-26.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The highest risk observed for developing delirium clustered in patients who presented more than 2 OF and patients over 74 years old. The detection of patients at high risk for developing delirium could imply a change in management and an improvement in the quality of care.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: Delirium is a common condition in the intensive care unit (ICU), notably among the elderly, and is associated with poor outcomes. Pharmacological therapy is often used for its treatment, however, its efficacy has not yet been established.

Objectives: To investigate whether pharmacological therapy is effective in reducing delirium-related outcomes among ICU adult patients.

Methods: A systematic review of randomized clinical trials was conducted. For the review of literature, we searched MEDLINE and EMBASE from January 1st 1980 through February 4th 2020 for parallel-group clinical trials testing pharmacological treatment for delirium. Inclusion criteria were randomized clinical trials of adult participants with delirium in the ICU. The exclusion criterion was trials including patients on antipsychotic treatment for pre-existing disorder. Title/abstract screening and full-text screening were independently conducted by two authors. Meta-analysis was not conducted due to between-study heterogeneity.

Results: From 1055 articles identified by the search strategy, seven fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were analyzed, comprising 1244 patients. The following drugs were analyzed: haloperidol, morphine sulfate, quetiapine, olanzapine, rivastigmine and dexmedetomidine. Significantly shorter duration of delirium in the intervention group was found in two studies (28.6%). Greater reduction in delirium severity among patients receiving intervention was found in one study (14.3%). More ventilator-free days in the intervention group was reported in one study (14.3%). Also, longer ICU length of stay in patients receiving intervention was found in one study (14.3%), and higher mortality in the intervention group was reported in one study (14.3%), although not significant (RR: 2.78 IC 95%, 0.958-8.051). Four studies (57.1%) reported the number of patients with adverse effects. See the attached figures for detailed data.
Methods: We conducted a multicentre retrospective cohort study of adult patients admitted to 3 academic ICUs during one year to characterize continuation of psychoactive drugs initiated in the ICU at hospital discharge. Data collected included demographics, severity of illness, clinical management, and drug exposures. Multivariable logistic and Poisson models were constructed to address primary and secondary objectives, respectively.

Results: Data collection has been completed for 1111 ICU patients that survived to hospital discharge. At discharge, 12.3% were discharged on one, 3.3% two, and <1% on three new psychoactive drugs; 83.5% were discharged without a new psychoactive drug. Psychoactive drug use prior to hospitalization and iMV ≥48 hours increased the odds of continuing a newly initiated psychoactive drug in the ICU on hospital discharge (adjusted odds ratio (aOR) 1.5, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.0,2.1 and aOR 2.4, 95% CI 1.6,3.4 respectively) while female sex decreased the odds (aOR 0.7, 95% CI 0.5,0.9). We found females were discharged on fewer new psychoactive drugs (adjusted rate ratio (aRR) 0.7, 95% CI 0.5,0.9) whereas patients started on antipsychotics or non-benzodiazepine sedatives while in the ICU were discharged on a greater number of psychoactive drugs (aRR 2.5, 95% CI 1.9,3.3 and aRR 1.7, 95% CI 1.2,2.5 respectively).

Conclusion: Preliminary analyses suggest iMV ≥48 hours and psychoactive drug use prior to hospitalization are associated with continuation of an ICU-initiated psychoactive drug at hospital discharge. Furthermore, antipsychotics and non-benzodiazepine sedatives initiated in the ICU impact the number of prescribed psychoactive drugs on discharge. The final results will be used to inform the development of a quality improvement initiative to optimize medication reconciliation of psychoactive drugs initiated in critically ill patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000823
Adjunctive acetaminophen for preventing postoperative delirium in surgical patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000823

Conclusion: This systematic review concluded that pharmacological approach to delirium in the ICU may reduce duration of delirium. However, high heterogeneity between studies and their risk of bias compromise quality of evidence and analysis. Future assessment by more homogeneous trials with lower bias are required for solid conclusions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

000575
Psychoactive drug use after hospital discharge following a critical illness: A retrospective cohort study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000575

Introduction: Psychoactive drugs such as benzodiazepine/non-benzodiazepine sedatives and antipsychotics are routinely prescribed for sedation, agitation, and delirium in the intensive care unit (ICU). Although intended for short-term use, recent studies suggest these drugs may not be stopped on ICU discharge and continued at hospital discharge in some patients.

Objectives: Among ICU patients discharged alive, 1) determine if invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) ≥48 hours is associated with new (i.e. initiated in the ICU) psychoactive drug use on hospital discharge; 2) to identify factors predicting the number of new psychoactive drugs, adjusting for potential confounders and clustering by site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IMV ≥48 hours (ref = &lt;48 hours)</td>
<td>2.37 (1.64, 3.42)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.0 (0.99, 1.01)</td>
<td>0.819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex (ref = male)</td>
<td>0.66 (0.47, 0.94)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any psychiatric history (ref = no)</td>
<td>1.33 (0.88, 2.01)</td>
<td>0.176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Association between new psychoactive drug prescription on hospital discharge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Adjusted OR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use disorder (ref = no)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.63, 1.74)</td>
<td>0.861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit drug use disorder (ref = no)</td>
<td>1.32 (0.71, 2.43)</td>
<td>0.378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker (ref = no)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.69, 1.53)</td>
<td>0.863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychoactive drug PTA (ref = no)</td>
<td>1.47 (1.0, 2.14)</td>
<td>0.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission category (ref = medical)</td>
<td>0.97 (0.68, 1.4)</td>
<td>0.848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score</td>
<td>1.0 (0.95, 1.05)</td>
<td>0.995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Association between IMV and new psychoactive drug prescription on hospital discharge

Abbreviations: OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval; IMV = invasive mechanical ventilation; ref = reference; PTA = prior to admission; SOFA = sequential organ failure assessment.
Introduction: Postoperative delirium is one of a common complication after major surgeries and associated with increased morbidity and mortality, prolonged mechanical ventilation, longer lengths of ICU or hospital stays, increased cost of care, and worse long-term cognitive function. Therefore, pharmacologic intervention to prevent postoperative delirium is of particular importance for surgical patients. Acetaminophen is commonly used as adjuvant analgesics in surgeries and may reduce inflammatory response and decrease opioid consumption in surgical patients. Previous studies demonstrated that acetaminophen analgesia may decrease the incidence of postoperative delirium.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the effects of adjunctive acetaminophen analgesia on postoperative delirium.

Methods: We searched randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in databases including MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, the National Institute of Health Clinical Trials Register, the World Health Organization International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, and the reference lists of retrieved articles from inception date to March 2020. The primary outcome was the incidence of postoperative delirium. The protocol has been registered with the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) registration number CRD42019145666.

Results: Out of 840 reports, 29 RCTs met the inclusion criteria and were appropriate for our meta-analysis. Of 29 RCTs, only 3 RCTs reported the primary outcome. The pooled results of included clinical trials indicated that acetaminophen significantly decreased the incidence of postoperative delirium: pooled risk ratio was 0.38 (95% confidence interval (CI) 0.18–0.80; I² = 0%; n = 263). The certainty of the body of evidence was judged as moderate using the GRADE methodology.

Conclusion: The results of this systematic review and meta-analysis indicated that administration of acetaminophen was associated with decreased incidence of postoperative delirium.

000851
Delirium in Critical Care Unit
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Introduction: Delirium has paramount morbidity and mortality issues. Our audit highlighted several areas of potential improvement. As part of an action plan, formal and informal teaching sessions were arranged that showed positive feedback. Next step is to reaudit to assess quality improvement.

000917
Methadone as a rescue drug to control difficult sedoanalgesia in critical ill patients ventilated due to ARDS in SARS-CoV-2 infection
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Introduction: To investigate de efficacy of enteral methadone (MET) to control difficult sedoanalgesia in critical ill patients ventilated due to ARDS in SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Methods: We analyze retrospectively case reports who received MET during the Pandemia. Descriptive analyses were used to describe demographic, clinical and evolutionary trends of the patients and sedo, analgesic and neuromuscular blockade doses five days before and after MET. Adverse effects were also described. Difficult sedoanalgesia was defined as difficulties to weaning from mechanical ventilation (MV) due to agitation and delirium while reducing sedatives and/or analgesics (group A); pain due to opiate withdrawal (group B) or nonoptimal patient ventilator interaction despite high dose of sedatives/analgesics (group C).

Results: 13 patients met the inclusion criteria and constituted the study population. Median age was 64 ± 9 years and 12 were male. With a median of VM of 49 ± 16 days from the first MET dose, 7 patients were included as group A, 3 group B and 3 group C, respectively.

Five days before starting MET, all the patients had a median cumulative IV morphine dose of 589 ± 332 mg. 11 patients were receiving propofol with a median dose 15.443 ± 11.189 mg. 5 patients were also receiving midazolam (median dose 589 ± 261 mg) and 5 patients needed cisatracurium (median 1.753 mg ± 1.706 mg) too.

MET initial dose (enteral route) was 45 ± 23 mg.
Five days after MET treatment, 9 patients could reduce opiate treat-
ment in a 68% ± 17% of the initial dose. 4 patients could also decrease propofol in a 68% ± 27%. 3 of 5 patients that were taking midazolam reduced 51 ± 31% the initial dose. All patients that were receiving cis-
tracurium decreased doses in 43 ± 31%.

Regarding difficult sedoanalgesia, 3 patients of group A could pro-
gress in the weaning from MV, the other 4 patients could reduce sedatives and analgesics but couldn’t progress from MV because of respiratory conditions. All group B patients could control the pain and all patients in group C reached optimal patient ventilator interaction while reducing analgesics and sedatives. Hypotension was observed in 3 patients after the first MET dose and crystalloids and vasoactive were needed. No other adverse effects were reported.

Conclusion: We concluded that in patients with difficult sedoanalge-
sia, methadone is effective to reduce doses of sedatives and analgesics and help weaning from MV.

Recalling ICU - Short term impact of dexmedetomidine

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000938

Introduction: Critical illness is often related to the development of brain disfunction, which can present itself in several ways, either on the short or the long term. Up to 80% of the critical illness survivors present with some form of brain disfunction either during the acute episode or when evaluated soon after hospital discharge, and in some patients even years after the acute episode. Evidence points to the possible improvement in cognitive prognosis when a2 adrenergic agonists are used in the critically ill. The seda-
tion pattern of these agents is quite different from other sedatives, in which patients can easily be aroused and their cognitive performance in psychometric tests is usually preserved. The main purpose of this work was to investigate the relationship between the use of dexmedetomidine in the critically ill and some dimensions of the post intensive care syndrome.

Methods: Data was collected retrospectively from the individual medical records of patients admitted to a Mixed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) during the year of 2017. Collected data focused on the results of the inquiries done during the follow-up outpatient clinic usually held between the third and sixth months after hospital discharge. The applied formularies were the Anxiety and Depression Scale, the ICU – Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS) questionnaire and the ICU Memories questionnaire.

Results: A total of 318 patients were admitted to the ICU, 64% were male. Most of the patients (72%) were admitted for medical reasons and 64% received mechanical ventilation. The mortality rate was 26%. Dexmedetomidine was used in 26% of the patients, usually as part of a combined sedation strategy. Only 123 patients (39%) attended the follow-up outpatient clinic. No significative difference was found in the group of patients under dexmedetomidine when considering the Anxiety and Depression Scale or the ICU – PTSS questionnaire. When the ICU Memories questionnaire was applied, we observed that patients seemed prone torecall more memories when under the use of dexmedetomidine, interestingly both pleasant and unpleasant ones.

Conclusion: Our study has some limitations, namely the fact that only a moderate percentage of patients attended the outpatient clinic, possibly explained by the fact that our ICU population assists many foreigners as it is located in a touristic region. Still it allows us to con-
clude that patients who receive dexmedetomidine are more aware of their surrounding environment, more cooperative and less susceptible to some adverse effects from the sedative medications.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Honarmand K, Lalli RS, Priestap F, et al. Natural History of Cognitive Impair-
ment in Critical Illness Survivors: A Systematic Review. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2020

Level and duration of sedation and sedation agents
before and after implementation of pain, agitation and delirium
guideline – a before and after study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000943

Introduction: Deep sedation can have negative consequences for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients such as delirium, prolonged mechanical ventilation, and longer ICU and hospital stay.

Objectives: To compare the level and duration of sedation, sedative agents, and clinical outcomes of ICU patients before and after imple-
mentation of Pain, Agitation, and Delirium (PAD) guideline.

Methods: A before and after study design. Eligible patients were mechanically ventilated, 18 years and older, with 24 hours or longer ICU stay, of mixed ICU patient population in two, single-center ICUs. Data were collected over six weeks, from 1st December 2017 – 12th January 2018, before the PAD implementation and over six weeks, from 1st May – 15th June 2019, four months after completion of the PAD implementation. The sedation level was measured for the first three days of the patients’ stay with the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS). Sedation duration and types of sedation agents were col-
lected through the patients’ stay.

Results: There were 101 patients included, 52 in the before group and 49 in the after group. The two groups were comparable in age, gender, and reason for ICU admission. The after group had a lower APACHE II score compared to the before group (p = 0.01). The level of sedation was -3 (median) on the RASS scale in both groups the first three days of the ICU stay (p = 0.18). Patients in the before group were sedated 41 hours vs. 20 hours (median) in the after group, without dif-
fERENCE between the groups after adjusting for background variables (p = 0.22). Seven types of analgesia and morphine-based continuous sedation were used, in various combinations, from none to six in the before group and the after group. Propofol was the most common sedative in both groups (92% vs. 90%, p = 0.66), and the duration of propofol sedation was shorter in after group (30 vs. 16 hours, p = 0.04). More patients in the after group were sedated with one drug com-
pared to patients in the before group (37% vs. 17%, p = 0.03) and fewer patients in the after group were sedated with a combination of two drugs than patients in the before group (12% vs. 29%, p = 0.04). The difference between the groups in duration of mechanical ventilation (median, 36 vs. 16 hours, p = 0.44), and length of ICU stay (median, 6.2 vs. 4.9 days, p = 0.44), and hospital stay (median, 12.6 vs. 10.3 days, p = 0.16) the stay was not significant.

Conclusion: The level of sedation was moderate (RASS -3) before and after the PAD guideline implementation without a difference in seda-
tion duration. The depth of sedation, the number of sedation agents administered, and the PAD guideline implementation needs further investigation.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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000975
Epidemiological profile, clinical features and incidence of delirium during the first three days of ICU admission in Hospital Virgen de las Nieves (2019)
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000975

Introduction: Delirium is a disturbance of consciousness with changes in cognition. It manifests as a constellation of symptoms with acute onset and a fluctuating course. Delirium is extremely common in the ICU especially amongst mechanically ventilated patients and it has prognostic implications (2.5 fold increase in short term mortality and 3.2 in 6months). Three subtypes have been recognized: hyperactive, hypoactive, and mixed. It is frequently undiagnosed unless specific diagnostic instruments are used. The CAM-ICU is the most studied and validated diagnostic tool.

Objectives: - To calculate the incidence of delirium during the first 72 hours of ICU admission.
- To use Confusion Assessment Method Scale (CAM- ICU) to diagnosed delirium in the ICU.
- To describe the main features and causes of admission in the ICU of the patients that developed delirium in the ICU, compared to the ones that didn’t.

Methods: Observational, prospective and descriptive study that includes patients that entered the ICU between October 15th and November 15th, 2019. We performed the CAM-ICU scale at the admission and daily for the first 72 hours or until they were discharged to hospitalization ward, required orotracheal intubation or died. We excluded patients that required orotracheal intubation at admission and those who had mental disorders or central nervous system disorders that made impossible to evaluate delirium with CAM-ICU scale. The collected data was analyzed with SPSS and evaluated in terms of descriptive statistics. We used the mean and standard deviation for quantitative variables and absolute and relative frequencies for qualitative variables.

Results: 102 patients were included, the mean age was 68 (± 14 years), 39 (38.9%) patients were previously at the hospitalization ward. The incidence of delirium of those patients that were previously in the hospitalization ward was 64.10% (25 patients). The global incidence of delirium in the first 72 hours in the ICU was 28.4%, during the first day in the ICU the incidence was 15.69%, during the second day was 22.56%, and the third day was 11.76%. The disorders that were more strongly related with the development of delirium in the ICU were: Acute coronary syndrome (50%), decompensated cirrhosis (19%), sepsis (16%), upper gastrointestinal bleeding (7%) and patients with transcatheter aortic-valve implantation (5%).

Conclusion: - Delirium is a frequent complication in the ICU, even in the first 72 hours, and without the presence of another factors related with delirium such as illness severity, mechanical ventilation and sedation.
- The incidence of delirium in this study is higher (28 cases per 100 patients) than the one described in other studies (11 cases per 100 patients).
- The disease that was most associated with the presence of delirium was acute coronary syndrome. This suggest the need of performing studies that include patients earlier and with less stay in the ICU.
- The use of a specific scale to diagnosed delirium in the ICU is a useful tool to diagnosed it in the ICU.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001004
Delirium and risk factors in patients after cardiac surgery
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001004

Introduction: Delirium is a condition characterized by an acute cognitive decline, a fluctuating mental status, disturbance of consciousness, inattention, or disorganized thinking. It is a well–recognized adverse prognostic index in Intensive Care Unit patients that is associated with increased morbidity, mortality, and the development of long–term neurocognitive deficits.

Objectives: To evaluate the presence of delirium, using a well validated scale the “Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU”, in post–cardiac surgery patients and to identify possible risk factors which contribute in the development of delirium.

Methods: Our cohort consisted of 202 consecutive post-cardiac surgery patients admitted to ICU. All patients were evaluated for delirium using the CAM-ICU scale. According to this scale, patients developed an acute onset of cognitive decline or a fluctuating mental status, disturbance of consciousness, inattention, or disorganized thinking were diagnosed with delirium.

Results: Patients (mean age:66±13 years old) had a prevalence of delirium of 29.2%. Patients with delirium were 4 years older than non-delirium subjects (p=0.002), while there were no gender differences between the two groups.

Prevalence of chronic kidney disease in study cohort was significantly higher in delirium patients (12%) compare to non-delirium subjects (4%) (p=0.040).

The in-hospital mortality risk using Euroscore II score was 1.67% in the study cohort, while patients with delirium scored significantly higher Euroscore II compared with the non-delirium ones (2.32% versus 1.38%, respectively, p<0.001).

The median duration of anesthesia-sedation was 360 minutes, while patients presented with delirium had prolonged anesthesia-sedation duration compared to no delirium patients (p<0.001).

These patients had also prolonged mechanical ventilation (median duration in patients with delirium was 1230 minutes versus 717
minutes in non-delirium patients, p<0.001) and a longer ICU stay (3210 versus 1440 minutes, p<0.001). According to ROC curve analysis, variables that predicted delirium were duration of anesthesia-sedation, age, Euroscore II, urea, lactic acid and intravenous vasoactive medications.

Moreover, in a multivariate logistic regression analysis it was shown that age, Euroscore II and duration of anesthesia-sedation were all independent predictors of delirium.

**Conclusion:** According to our study the prevalence of delirium in ICU after cardiac surgery was high. Age, prolonged duration of anesthesia and Euroscore II score represent independent risk factors of delirium. Delirium was associated with prolonged mechanical ventilation and ICU stay.

**001019**

**Relationship between ICU Acquired Weakness and Cognitive Deterioration: the muscle's endocrine activity hypothesis**

1. PREVIGLIANO1; C. Foster1; A. Cuenca2; MB. Leiva2; GM. Roldán2

**Introduction:** There is evidence of the muscle/brain interaction in several cognitive disorders due to the neurotrophic factors released by muscle endocrine, paracrine and autocrine activity. We didn’t found any research on this topic in Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS).

**Objectives:** Our hypothesis was to determine if there is any relationship between cognitive impairment after critical illness (CIACI) and ICU Acquired Weakness (ICUAW).

**Methods:** Setting: teaching hospital, medical and surgical ICU. Maimónides University ethic committee approved the protocol and waived informed consent. Inclusion criteria: >18yo, ARDS, sepsis or septic shock, APACHE II > 14, Clinical Frailty Scale, Delirium >48h, mechanical ventilation >4d, ICU stay >7 days, use of NMB or steroids, vasopressors. CAM-ICU and RASS (daily), Medical Research Council (MRC) scale and Spanish version of Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) were the evaluation tools. MRC <18 diagnoses ICUAW and MoCA>26 CIACI. Statistical analysis: IBM SPSS Macintosh 25.0. Descriptive statistics. Chi squared or Fischer exact test.

**Results:** From April 1st to September 30th, 92 patients were admitted. Of them 28 fulfilled IC. 13 (53.6%) were female, mean age (), in table 1 mean values are expressed. 75% presented delirium. At ICU discharge a score on the Barthel index of 100 points, while the mean score on the Barthel index at discharge was 37.05 ± 16.67. In the association test carried out, we found a high correlation of the loss of functionality at ICU discharge.

**Conclusion:** There was a significative association between ICUAW and CIACI in this PICS population. According to our pathophysiological hypothesis our data opens a window for myokines and neurotrophic factors measurements and for the evaluation of the efficacy of multmodal neurotrophic factors preparations.

**001052**

**Loss of mobility and independence in patients admitted for SARS COV-2**

1. UGALDE JAUREGUI1; R. PradaOsorio1; MP. Eugenio Robaina1; L. Santana-Cabrera1; JD. Martin Santana3; JC. Martin Gonzalez1

**Introduction:** Muscle weakness is a frequent entity in patients admitted to the ICU. Its most common presentations are polyneuropathy and critical patient myopathy, or a combination of the two. In addition, SARS COV-2 requires prolonged invasive ventilatory support and the use of neuromuscular blockers, favoring its appearance. Prevention has an important role in reducing the loss of functionality at ICU discharge.

**Objectives:** 1-Value the degree of functionality and independence of patients admitted for SARS COV-2 at ICU discharge. 2- Identify the risk factors associated with the loss of functionality and independence during admission.

**Methods:** Retrospective observational study conducted in a multipurpose ICU with 30 beds. All the patients admitted for hypoxemic respiratory failure secondary to SARS-COV-2 during the months of March - May 2020 were collected. Demographic data, days of stay in the ICU and risk factors associated with acquired ICU weakness were recorded, including the time of start of physical therapy after admission. The Barthel index was used to calculate the functionality and degree of independence of all patients, both at admission and at discharge from the ICU. In the statistical analysis, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used for the quantitative variables and the mean comparison test for qualitative variables.

**Results:** During the study period, 27 patients were admitted due to SARS COV-2 infection, of which 5 (18.51%) were exitus, for which a total of 22 patients were included in the study. All entered with a score on the Barthel index of 100 points, while the mean score on the Barthel index at discharge was 37.05 ± 16.67. In the association test carried out, we found a high correlation of the loss of functionality at discharge from the ICU with the variables: Days of admission to the ICU (p = 0.000), Days of mechanical ventilation: (p = 0.000), Days with sedoanalgesia and neuromuscular block: (p = 0.000), Days with delirium: (p = 0.000), Physiotherapy during the ICU stay: (p = 0.000), Days of initiation of physical therapy: (p = 0.000).
that predict the likelihood of delirium development in different patients can help in setting priorities with regard to the use of delirium preventive measures, especially in situations of limited resources such as COVID infection.

**Objectives:**
1. Evaluate the correlation between the E-Predeliric and Predeliric values when they are recoded into four categories of risk of developing delirium (very low, low, moderate and high risk).
2. Evaluate the correlation between the predicted probability of delirium according to the E-Predeliric and Predeliric models with the actual rate of delirium developed in patients admitted to the ICU for SARS COV 2.

**Methods:**
Retrospective observational study carried out in a multipurpose ICU with 30 beds. All patients admitted for SARS COV 2 infection were collected during the months of March to May 2020. The E-PREDELIRIC was calculated in all patients at the time of ICU admission and the PRE-DELIRIC 24 hours after admission, classifying patients into four risk groups according to the result (very low, low, moderate and high risk). We quantified the incidence of delirium after sedation was removed. The presence of agitation, maladjustment (in the absence of pain or ventilatory problems) and the need for administration of dexmedetomidine or an antipsychotic drug was considered delirium.

And finally the results were compared with the actual rate of delirium observed in these patients.

**Results:**
During the period from March to May 2020, a total of 27 patients were admitted to our service with the diagnosis of SARS COV 2, with an average age of 65.81 ± 9.72. There is a high correlation between the percentage values of E-Predeliric and Predeliric (r = 0.608, p = 0.01). This result is corroborated with the association test between both variables when they are recoded in four categories. There were no statistically significant differences in the percentage value of E-Predeliric and the patient’s state of real delirium (t = 1.481, p = 0.151). Their mean values are very similar (38.95% and 33.50% for the patients who suffered delirium versus those who did not, respectively). The opposite occurs with Predeliric (t = 5.460, p = 0.00), with the mean values being 85.68% and 41.00%. These results are corroborated with the association test performed between the patient's actual state of delirium and these two scales coded in its four states.

**Conclusion:**
1. The E-Predeliric and Predeliric scores allow patients to be classified according to the risk of developing delirium in 4 groups, in a homogeneous manner, regardless of the score used.
2. The predicted risk at admission according to the E-Predeliric, in relation to the observed delirium rate, shows that the risk of delirium is underestimated, while the 24h after admission calculated Predeliric is better correlated with the actual incidence observed.

**001148**
Analysis of patients suffering critical care delirium in an Intensive Care Unit in the North West of England
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**Correspondence:** J. Manalayil
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001148

**Introduction:**
Identifying patients with delirium is essential for the prevention, treatment and management of the condition; this requires a structured assessment that can be done using the CAM-ICU methodology (Miranda et al 2018). We set a standard of recording twice daily CAM-ICU assessments in patients’ electronic records (EPR). Access to these records has allowed us to audit compliance to our standards and to review outcomes of different types of delirium and review the frequency with which patients meet different stages of the assessment.

**Objectives:**
To retrospectively assess 1-year mortality of patients with hyperactive and hypoactive delirium, to assess compliance with delirium assessments and to review the frequency with which patients met different components of the CAM-ICU.

**Methods:**
The review was conducted in a 32 bedded general and neurosurgery unit. EPR records (Sunrise Clinical Manager) of the CAM-ICU assessments from August 2018-August 2019 were exported to Excel files. Patients were categorised as who were delirium positive (with or without agitation), or negative but with or without cognitive
improvement. Cognitive impairment was defined as an acute change from a patient’s normal mental state. These patients can then be divided into those with inattention errors using the Letters Attention Test, or with disorganized thinking using straightforward Yes/No questions and commands to follow. Records were linked to the patients’ Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) records to investigate reason for admission, co-morbidities, social history, length of stay and outcome. On six occasions we provided feedback to nurses about the number of assessments by individual nurses and with information about the assessments.

Results: There were a total of 2728 admissions (2408 total patients, 57% male, mean age 57 (SD 18 years)) in the ICNARC records. 1358 patients had 10,530 recorded CAM-ICU assessments, of these 1191 had full ICNARC records and were reviewed in more detail (6 patients with delirium had ICNARC details filled out from EPR), 214 (18%) had at least one positive assessment, of the remaining 977 patients, 82 had with cognitive impairment and 895 had no cognitive impairment. The remaining 167 remained in a coma. Of 10,530 assessments, 66 were excluded as incomplete, 7,243 were not deeply sedated. 989 had an acute change in their baseline mental state, out of which 775 had >2 inattention errors on assessment (CAM-ICU positive). The remaining 199 patients had 0-2 inattention errors (CAM-ICU negative). Of the 775, 246 were calm and alert; 199 had 2 or more points for disordered thinking.

Patients with delirium had a longer length of hospital and ICU stay (LoS) compared to those without delirium (median (IQR) ICU LoS: CAM-ICU positive 9 (4-18) days, negative with cognitive impairment 4 (2-8) days, without 3 (2-6) days. Patients with delirium required more organ support, had a higher mortality (ICU: 14% vs 7% vs 9%) and were more likely to be male, their mortality rate increased from 13% at 30 days to 22% at one year. Those that died were older, had more co-morbidities and had worse functional status than those that survived. In all patients, 23% had an assessment completed once per shift and 62 % once per day. In patients with a positive assessment, 65% had investigations to identify a cause, 42% required some form or restraint and 65% had cognitive impairment at unit discharge. Those suffering from hypoactive delirium were older (mean 60 years, SD 18 years) and more likely to die (1-year mortality of 26%).

Conclusion: Electronic records of delirium assessments can be used to audit compliance with standards for delirium management. Even with staff feedback, only 62% of patients had daily assessments. The study provides further evidence that patients with delirium are more likely to be male, their mortality rate increased from 13% at 30 days to 22% at one year. Those that died were older, had more co-morbidities and had worse functional status than those that survived.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

000220
Is pupilary dilation reflex (PDR) a valuable tool for measuring pain in ICU patients compared to behavioral pain scale (BPS)?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000220

Introduction: Pupilometry is a simple and non invasive technique that allows to assess nociceptive responses to stimulus through pupillary dilation reflex (PDR) objective measurement.

Objectives: To evaluate diagnostic efficacy of PDR compared to BPS scale.

Methods: ICU patients over 18 years, under intravenous sedoanalgesic drugs, mechanically ventilated, basal BPS of 3, RASS between -1 and -4. Exclusion criteria: use of paralyzing drugs, neuromuscular diseases, polyneuropathy, pupillary damage, GCS <6, clonidine, dexmedetomidine, tramadol, ketamine, adrenaline, calcioantagonist, noradrenaline > 0.6 or dobutamine > 10 mg/kg/min. It will be assessed pain response with BPS and PDR in pain absence, pain stimulus of 10,20 30 and 40 mA and with tracheal aspiration. PDR measurements: Pupilometer AlgScan®. Presence of pain was considered as BPS>3. It will be preformed a diagnostic PDR test vs BPS globally and separated for each painful stimulus or not. Significance as p < 0.05. Approved by Basque Ethics Committee (CEIEM).

Results: We obtained an AUC of 0.885 (IC 0.830-0.940), PDR value of best diagnostic efficiency was 11.5%, with a sensitivity of 89.8% (CI 95% 78.2-95.6) and specificity of 78.4% (CI 95% 70.6-84.5) (Table 1).

Table 1. Diagnostic efficiency of different PDR cut points (global measurements).
In 20 mA stimulus we found the best results on efficiency diagnostic parameters, with an AUC of 0.853 (0.7-1.0) and a sensitivity of 100% (34.2-100) and a specificity of 75.9% (57.9-87.8) for the cut point of PDR=11.5% (Table 2).

**Conclusion:** PDR values over 11.5% indicate pain with a 90% of sensitivity and 80% of specificity. A pupillary response over 11.5% during 20 mA stimulus could predict the need of analgesics during traheal aspiration. Further studies will be needed to confirm.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**000295**

**Analysis of the response to pain in intensive care unit (ICU) patients**

**Comparison of the behavior pain scale (BPS) versus the pupillary dilatation reflex (PDR) according to level of severity, sedation and age**

Y. López De Audicana Jiménez De Aberásturi1; A. Vallejo de la Cueva2; N. Parraza Diez2; A. Quintano Rodero2; AA. Domelo2; A. Muniozguren Puertas2; MB. Bengoetxea Ibarrondo4; E. Cardo Castro3; V. Sanz Porras3.

**Correspondence:** A. Vallejo de la Cueva

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000295**

**Introduction:** Pain assessment in the non-communicative patient in critical care units remains under continuous evaluation. Clinical complexity of the critically ill patient could establish behavior responsiveness to pain.

**Objectives:** To determine the pain response in critically ill patients by comparing two behaviors: the pain behavior scale (BPS) and the pupillary dilatation reflex (PDR), establishing the demographic (age) and clinical factors (severity level-APACHE II, and sedation level-BIS) which may interfere with their response.

**Methods:** ICU patients over 18 years, under intravenous sedoanalgesic drugs, mechanically ventilated, basal BPS of 3, RASS between -1 and -4. Exclusion criteria: use of paralyzing drugs, neuromuscular diseases, polyneuropathy, pupillary dilation reflex, GCS <6, clonidine, dexmedetomidine, tramadol, ketamine, adrenalin, calciocagonist, noradrenaline > 0.6 or dobutamine > 10 mg/kg/min. It will be assessed pain response with BPS and PDR in pain absence, pain stimulus of 10,20,30 and 40 mA and with tracheal aspiration (TA) PDR measurements: Pupilometer Algiscan®. Presence of pain was considered as BPS≥4. Categorical variables were compared using chi square test and Fisher's exact test. The multivariate analysis was performed using a logistic regression model showed as odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). P<.05. Approved by Basque Ethics Committee (CEI-EM)

**Results:** 183 measurements on 31 patients. Demographic characteristics: mean±SD: age 62.4±17.1; APACHE II 21±8.3; BIS 63±19.5; RASS -3.4±1.8. Percentage: Female 38.7; Admission: ARF 25.8; Post-surgery 32.2; Sepsis 29.1; Trauma 12.9.

In the multivariate analysis adjusted by APACHE and BIS the OR in adjusted and non adjusted model was 1.095 (1.062-1.130) (p<.0001).

**Conclusion:** Higher PDR values are related to painful response according to BPS.

The response to pain is independent of the level of sedation, age and severity of the patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


5. Basque Government

**Table 1. Behavior of BPS according to level of BIS, age and APACHE II.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BPS&lt;4</th>
<th>BPS≥4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIS≤40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIS&gt;40</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edad≤65</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edad&gt;65</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE≤20</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE&gt;20</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Behavior of PDR according to level of BIS, age and APACHE II.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PDR</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>PSO (P25-P75)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIS≤40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3 (2-10.5)</td>
<td>0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIS&gt;40</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>9 (3.75-21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edad≤65</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>9 (3-22)</td>
<td>0.242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edad&gt;65</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7 (3-19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE≤20</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>11 (4-29)</td>
<td>0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE&gt;20</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>6.5 (3-17)</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Scleroderma renal crisis – an unusual diagnosis in a district general hospital

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Introduction: We report a patient who presented with pulmonary oedema, hypertension and progressive renal failure. Recent investigations for systemic sclerosis had been performed but results were still awaited on admission. Systemic Sclerosis is a rare disease with an incidence of two to ten cases per million of the population. Scleroderma Renal Crisis, with an incidence of 5% in patients with diffuse disease, is a rare complication of a rare disease.

Methods: This 70-year-old lady presented with pulmonary oedema and acute kidney injury. A diagnosis of Systemic Scleroderma was considered due to presence of dermatological changes (fig 1), hypertension, presence of right heart strain on transthoracic echocardiography and rapidly progressive renal failure. Scleroderma renal crisis became the primary diagnosis following positive biochemical tests. After immediate resuscitation and initiation of treatment with the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, Captopril, the patient was transferred to the regional renal unit for continued management. The patient’s renal failure worsened and she became dialysis dependant. She also developed left ventricular failure and worsening pulmonary hypertension. Despite prompt diagnosis of a rare condition and aggressive resuscitation, the patient did not survive her hospital admission.

Results: An immunological screen was sent with key positive findings including positive CENP B, PM-Sc100, anti-nuclear AB screen and P-ANCA screen pattern. Echocardiogram demonstrated left ventricular hypokinesia with an ejection fraction of 35% and moderate pulmonary hypertension. Urine dipstick showed protein +++, blood ++++. "Velcro-like" crackles in bibasilar areas.

Conclusion: Acute renal failure is not always secondary to septic shock in a patient with sepsis. This case demonstrates the importance of considering rare causes of acute renal failure in the intensive care setting.

Objectives: We present two cases of Sarcoidosis which had lately diagnosed because of their debut as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Methods: A 52 year old man and a 62 year old woman, both presented as fever and dyspnea of approximately two weeks of evolution, the chest radiography at presentation revealed extensive bilateral interstitial infiltrates. On physical examination: tachypnea with normal skin coloration and fever, no skin, eye or joint lesions. Severe hypoxemia and on auscultation "velcro-like" crackles in bibasilar areas.

Results: Complete blood count, electrolytes and renina and liver test were within normal limits. At day +6 and +4 of admission, respectively, they both presented poor respiratory income and required both orotracheal intubation and connection to mechanic ventilation. Both thoracic CT showed with bilateral extensive multifocal infiltrates with significant mediastinal and bilateral hilar lymphadenopathy. Empirical treatment with intravenous antibiotics and, in the first case, antituberculosis treatment, was started, because of the appearance of positive Mantoux test. Fibreoptic bronchoscopy with bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) were performed in both cases and revealed no evidence of PCP, acid fast bacilli, fungi, or malignancy. No other causes were found.

Conclusion: Due to this results, initiation of corticosteroids and pulmonary biopsy was performed in both cases. In the first case, endoscopic ultrasound guided needle aspiration was performed and in the second case transbronchial lung biopsy. Histopathologic detection of noncaseating granulomas, capability clinical and radiographic manifestations and exclusion of other diseases, concluded in the diagnosis of pulmonary sarcoidosis. By days +2 and +4 of initiation with corticosteroids, they both presented notably improvement in respiratory status and radiograph images.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Study of three clinical variables as a grading prognosis for acute severe pancreatitis

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Introduction: The assessment of severity at the initial medical examination of serious acute pancreatitis plays an important role in introducing adequate early treatment and the transfer of patients to the ICU. Different early prognostic scores have been proposed but many are not sharply enough for many practitioners.

Objectives: To study the correlation of imaging using TC severity score against SOFA score plus serum lactate and the first 24 hours fluid balance as a predictor score for severe acute pancreatitis.

Methods: A lineal retrospective, two centers study was carried out. We enrolled all consecutive patients with acute pancreatitis admitted to the ICU of two Hospitals (a teaching tertiary center and a small county Hospital).

Univariate analysis was performed to identify the parameters which showed some correlation with the mortality. We used a square-
model for qualitative parameters and T-Student for quantitative. We also performed a multivariate analysis using independent significant (p < 0.05) parameters in univariate analysis. We evaluated the area under the ROC curve (AUC) for significant singles parameters in a logistic regression model. Finally, we constructed a model using the analysis of three parameters altogether like an early predictor of the severity of acute pancreatitis. To assess the diagnostic performance of the model, we compared the AUC-ROC with each selected single parameter. The SPSS 22.0 program was used for statistical analysis.

Results: 64 patients were enrolled in the study. All data expressed as median and standard deviation. Age was 60.4 +/- 14. Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score at ICU admission was 3.3 +/- 3.1. Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE-II) score were 11.6 +/- 5.8. We also analyze parameters like Fluid Balance during the first 34 hours, 3.2 +/- 2.5 litres, and serum lactate 2.0 +/- 1.4 mmol/l. The aetiology of acute pancreatitis was: gallstones (60.9%), alcoholism (14.0%), TGC (1.6%), and other causes (20.4%). ICU Mortality was 30.2%. Ten patients required surgical treatment and we found a significant correlation between mortality and the need for surgery (p < 0.001). In the same case SOFA score (p < 0.0001), serum lactate, initial fluid balance, ICTS and the sum of SOFA Score + Lactic Fluid Balance < 0.0001 were significantly associated with ICU mortality. For the early prediction of the severity, we used a three feet analysis model that was constructed using the SOFA score, Fluid Balance, and serum lactate on the first 24 hours of ICU admission. Our model showed a trend of a higher total percentage, we used a three feet analysis model that was constructed using the SOFA score, Fluid Balance, and serum lactate on the first 24 hours of ICU admission. Our model showed a trend of a higher total percentage. We can conclude saying that probably the sum of three clinical parameters like initial Fluid Balance plus Serum Lactate plus SOFA score is superior to TC severity score as an early prediction of mortality for severe pancreatitis. These preliminary results should need to be confirmed in further studies with a larger number of patients.

Conclusion: We can conclude saying that probably the sum of three clinical parameters like initial Fluid Balance plus Serum Lactate plus SOFA score is superior to TC severity score as an early prediction of mortality for severe pancreatitis. These preliminary results should need to be confirmed in further studies with a larger number of patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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3. None

001054
Regular immunosuppression does not lead to worse outcomes in critically ill patients infected with Covid-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001054

Introduction: Immunosuppressed Covid-19 patients were predicted to have poorer outcomes (1-3), however what contributes to these worse outcomes remain unknown.

Objectives: To assess whether immunosuppression on presentation is a predictor of poor outcomes in critically ill patients admitted with Covid-19 infection in an intensive care unit (ICU) and to identify principle determinants of the poorer outcomes.

Methods: Immunosuppressed patients were defined as patients on regular immunosuppressive treatments. PCR positive Covid-19 patients at St George's Hospital ICU from 01/03/20 to 15/05/20 were included in this observational study. Primary outcome was the odds ratio (OR) of mortality at 28-days after ICU admission. Disease severity was assessed as secondary end points, such as ICU length of stay (LOS), duration of mechanical ventilation (MV), duration of cardiovascular (CV) support, and the need for renal replacement therapy (RRT). A univariate analysis was performed with Chi square statistic, and a logistic and linear regression model was used for the multivariable analysis. Medians were compared with Mann-Whitney U test. P values greater than 0.05 were considered significant.

Results: A total of 132 adult Covid-19 patients were included in the study, out of which 15 (11.4%) were immunosuppressed. 6 (40%) of immunosuppressed patients died at 28 days (Figure 1), compared to 64 (54.7%) in the immunocompetent group (OR 1.8; 95% CI 0.6, 5.4; p = 0.28), Immunosuppression in Covid-19 patients did not affect LOS (12 days in immunosuppressed group (5, 22) vs 11 days (5, 17) p = 0.8), the requirement of RRT (26.7% vs 37.6%, OR 1.6, 95% CI 0.48, 5.5, p = 0.4) length of MV (6 days (0, 22) vs 9 days (3, 16), p = 0.8) or duration of CV support (1.5 days (0, 8.5) vs 4 days (0, 9), p = 0.3).

Conclusion: We can conclude saying that probably the sum of three clinical parameters like initial Fluid Balance plus Serum Lactate plus SOFA score is superior to TC severity score as an early prediction of mortality for severe pancreatitis. These preliminary results should need to be confirmed in further studies with a larger number of patients.
Conclusion: Immunosuppression on presentation neither increases 28-day mortality nor pre-disposes patients to severe Covid-19 complications.

Effects of dexmedetomidine on platelet P-selectin expression in patients with diabetes in the postoperative intensive care unit

Introduction: Diabetes is a risk factor for various postoperative complications. One of the most serious of these complications is thromboembolism such as myocardial infarction and cerebral infarction, in which enhanced platelet α2-adrenergic receptor function may play a key role (Ref. 1). Currently, many patients admitted to the postoperative intensive care unit (ICU) are sedated long-term by continuous intravenous infusion of the α2-adrenergic receptor sedative dexmedetomidine. Therefore, it is extremely important to examine changes in platelet functions in patients with diabetes due to differences in anesthetics and sedatives, and to establish an optimal approach to perioperative management for prevention of postoperative bleeding and thromboembolism.

Methods: Informed consent was obtained from subjects and the protocol was approved by the ethics committee (R1109). The subjects were patients with (n=5) and without (n=4) diabetes who entered the ICU after subtotal esophagectomy or pancreaticectomy. The exclusion criteria were age <20 years; abnormal platelet count, platelet function, or coagulation ability before surgery; treatment with antiplatelet drugs or anticoagulants up to 2 weeks before surgery; intraoperative blood transfusion, and intraoperative treatment with drugs that might affect platelet function. Blood samples were collected from arterial pressure lines before the start of surgery and immediately after admission to the ICU after surgery. Platelet-rich plasma was stimulated by ADP with dexmedetomidine (0-100 ng/ml) at room temperature for 30 min. Samples were coincubated with PerCP-labeled anti-CD61 antibody and PE-labeled anti-CD62P (P-selectin) antibody, and P-selectin expression levels were assessed by flow cytometry. Data from before to after surgery were compared by t-test. All other data were compared by one-way ANOVA, followed by a Dunnett post hoc test. P<0.05 was considered to indicate significance in all analyses.

Results: In patients without diabetes, dexmedetomidine increased P-selectin expression in a dose-dependent manner, with no significant difference between pre- and postoperative data (Fig. 1). In patients with diabetes, P-selectin expression was higher than in patients without diabetes at all concentrations of dexmedetomidine before and after surgery (Fig. 2). P-selectin expression in patients with diabetes was enhanced in a dexmedetomidine dose-dependent manner, similarly to patients without diabetes, but was significantly higher after surgery than before surgery. These results show that the P-selectin expression level in patients with diabetes is higher before and after surgery, compared to that in patients without diabetes, which indicates that platelets from patients with diabetes are activated and have a tendency for thrombosis. Our previous studies on healthy individuals showed that dexmedetomidine enhanced P-selectin expression in a concentration-dependent manner (Ref. 2). This is consistent with the results of this study and indicates that this tendency does not change after surgical invasion. In patients without diabetes, dexmedetomidine had similar levels of platelet activation before and after surgery, whereas patients with diabetes had significantly increased P-selectin expression after surgery. This suggests that the sensitivity of α2-adrenoceptors may be enhanced or the number of α2-adrenoceptors may increase due to surgical invasion in platelets of patients with diabetes.

Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is associated with coagulation abnormalities leading to numerous thromboembolic complications. Conventional coagulation tests show trends of coagulopathy, but reflect only limited parts of the coagulation cascade.
Rotational thromboelastometry (ROTEM®) is a digitized modification of thromboelastography reported to be useful in identifying hypercoagulable conditions.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate ROTEM® profiles of COVID-19 patients in identifying hypercoagulable states.

**Methods:** Patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit with COVID-19 were included in this prospective observational study. Blood samples were collected for ROTEM® thromboelastometry. Coagulation patterns were analyzed using extrinsic and intrinsic rotational thromboelastometry activators (respectively EXTEM and INTEM). The following variables were recorded and analyzed: clotting time (CT), clotting formation time (CFT), clot firmness' amplitude after 5 minutes (A5) and after 10 minutes (A10), and maximum clot firmness (MCF). The ROTEM® results were compared with conventional coagulation parameters, which were collected as part of standard clinical care. Hypercoagulability was defined as a reduction in CFT and increase in MCF.

**Results:** Forty-seven COVID-19 patients were included, of which 81% were male. The median age was 63 years (range 29-79), and the median BMI was 28.8 kg/m2 (range 24.4-48.4). The median length of stay at the ICU at the time of blood sampling for ROTEM® was 8 days (range 1-25). All patients required mechanical ventilation.

Mean ROTEM® clot formation time (CFT) was shortened in EXTEM (45.3 s; normal 46-149 s) and INTEM (45.6 s, normal 62-130 s). Mean maximum clot firmness (MCF) was increased with all three activators (EXTEM, 77.3 mm, normal 55-72 mm; INTEM 72.9 mm, normal 51-69 mm; FIBTEM 32.9 mm, 6-21 mm). Conventional coagulation analyses showed the typical coagulopathy pattern with increased fibrinogen (mean 7.2 g/L, SD 1.5 g/L), prolonged PT (15.3 s, SD 2.0 s), and prolonged APTT (34.7 s, SD 8.7 s). Mean platelet count was slightly increased (404 10⁹/L, SD 154 10⁹/L).

**Conclusion:** ROTEM® confirmed an overall hypercoagulable state of COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


### Introduction

Since its emergence in December 2019, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic rapidly progressed into a pandemic. A noticeable observation in critically ill patients affected by COVID-19 pneumonia is the high incidence of thrombotic complications, especially that of pulmonary embolism. Importantly, the majority of patients admitted to the ICU receive a central venous catheter of which a considerable proportion develops catheter-related thrombosis. When considering COVID-19 coagulopathy to cause an overall hypercoagulable state rather than mainly a local pro-thrombotic state in the pulmonary circulation, the prevalence of catheter-related thrombosis is presumably higher in COVID-19 patients than in non-COVID-19 patients with a central venous catheter.

### Objectives

The aim of this study was to investigate whether COVID-19 is associated with catheter-related thrombosis.

### Methods

This was a multicenter case-control study conducted at four intensive care units. Adult critically ill patients with an indwelling central venous catheter of the internal jugular, subclavian or femoral vein were included. Patients were excluded if catheter indwelling-time was less than 48 hours. All patients underwent a compression and duplex ultrasound examination of the cannulated vein. Cases and controls were patients with and without catheter-related thrombosis, respectively. Primary outcome was the association of COVID-19 with catheter-related thrombosis. Patients were considered to have COVID-19 pneumonia if they had a positive polymerase chain reaction assay for SARS-CoV-2 and had corresponding abnormalities on thoracic imaging.

### Results

Ultrasound examination was performed in 87 intense care unit patients. Catheter indwelling-time was less than two days or was unknown in five patients. A total of 82 patients were included in the analysis, of whom 18 were diagnosed with catheter-related thrombosis (22%). The majority was male (80.5%) and median age was 63.0 [IQR: 54.5, 70.0] years. The overall prevalence of COVID-19 was 76% (62/82) and 94% (17/18) among the cases. The crude odds ratio for catheter-related thrombosis in patients with COVID-19 versus controls was 7.2 (95% CI: 1.32, 130). The odds ratio for catheter-related thrombosis adjusted for anticoagulation dosage and catheter indwelling-time in critically ill COVID-19 patients was 18.3 (95% CI: 2.31, 410).

### Conclusion

COVID-19 is highly associated with catheter-related thrombosis, suggesting a diffuse hypercoagulable state rather than mainly a local pro-thrombotic state in the pulmonary circulation leading to pulmonary immunothrombosis.

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### Table: Demographics and Laboratory Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>COVID-19 group (mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Seasonal Influenza group (mean ± SD)</th>
<th>Control Group (mean ± SD)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>61.0 ± 17.4</td>
<td>68.0 ± 16.4</td>
<td>65.0 ± 16.4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex (M:F)</td>
<td>1:2</td>
<td>1:2 ± 0.5</td>
<td>1:2 ± 0.5</td>
<td>1:2 ± 0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m²)</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>23.5 ± 4.2</td>
<td>24.5 ± 4.8</td>
<td>24.5 ± 4.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS II</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>49.0 ± 18.2</td>
<td>49.0 ± 17.4</td>
<td>49.0 ± 16.4</td>
<td>0.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets (x10⁹/L)</td>
<td>245.0</td>
<td>245.0 ± 70.0</td>
<td>235.0 ± 60.0</td>
<td>240.0 ± 50.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen (g/L)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.5</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.6</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP (mg/L)</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>&lt;10 ± 30.0</td>
<td>&lt;10 ± 20.0</td>
<td>&lt;10 ± 15.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH (IU/L)</td>
<td>431.2</td>
<td>431.2 ± 237.8</td>
<td>431.2 ± 218.0</td>
<td>431.2 ± 198.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Reference(s) and Grant Acknowledgment(s)

5. There is no funding received for this study.
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000862

Introduction: The use of cardio-pulmonary bypass (CPB) during cardiac surgery is associated with bleeding complications. Alterations in platelet function have bearing on the risk of bleeding. The effect of CPB on the actual number and function of platelets is not fully understood.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to analyse the kinetics and function of platelets during and immediately after weaning from CPB.

Methods: Thirty-nine elective coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) patients were studied with impedance aggregometry (Multiplate) and blood count. Samples were taken before anaesthetic induction (Baseline), 30 minutes after start of CPB (22 of the patients) (CPB30), after weaning from CPB before protamine administration (EndCPB) and five minutes after protamine administration (After Protamine). Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) was used as activator and aggregation was expressed as the area under the curve (AUC). The number of platelets was corrected for haemodilution by using haemoglobin as marker and expressed as number of platelets (x109/L) divided by haemoglobin concentration (g/L). Statistics used were paired t-test followed by Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons. Data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation.

Results: Mean CPB time was 85.1±21.3 minutes (range 46-138 minutes). The number of platelets corrected for dilution was not reduced during CPB. Mean number of platelets divided by concentration of haemoglobin was at baseline 1.7±0.4 *10¹⁰/g. At 30 min of CPB it was almost identical at 1.7±0.3 *10¹⁰/g and after weaning from CPB increased to 1.9±0.4 *10¹⁰/g (p<0.05). Five minutes after protamine it decreased to 1.7±0.5 *10¹⁰/g compared to before protamine (p<0.001). With impedance aggregometry, mean AUC for platelets activated with ADP was 77.1±26.3 at baseline. After 30 minutes of CPB, AUC was reduced to 49.3±24.7 (p<0.001). After weaning from CPB, mean AUC had increased to 68.5±28.4. Five minutes after protamine, AUC decreased to 58.9±29.3 (p<0.05 compared to before protamine).

Conclusion: Platelet numbers corrected for dilution were not decreased and platelets were not consumed during CPB. Initially during CPB platelet aggregability was reduced but returned to baseline levels at the end of CPB. After administration of protamine platelets were consumed as expected. The reversal of heparin with protamine seems however to impair platelet function. These effects of CPB and protamine on platelet function can be of significance for the bleeding problems seen in cardiac surgery.

000924
Targeted anticoagulation in Covid 19 patients based on d dimers: a retrospective study of Anti Xa versus APTTTr monitoring in patients on systemic heparin infusions to establish superiority and patient outcomes

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000924

Introduction: COVID-19 patients with elevated d dimers have a higher mortality rate(1), which is reduced when treated with heparin(2), resulting in its recommendation for hospitalised patients.(3) However the type and dose of heparin and heparin infusion monitoring (Anti Xa versus APTTTr (Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time Ratio)) remains under discussion (3,4,5).

Methods: We undertook a single centre, retrospective observational service evaluation examining COVID-19 positive critical care admissions receiving heparin infusions (based on d dimer > 3000ng/ml). Two groups of patients were identified: the first group had heparin monitoring via APTTTr whilst the second by Anti Xa. We compared the two groups over 2 separate 10 day periods, assessing whether either method of heparin monitoring would affect the following endpoints:

1. The mean rate of heparin infusion
2. Number of monitoring blood tests sent (Anti Xa assay or APTTTr)
3. Number of infusion changes made, as a surrogate marker for nursing interventions
4. The mean Anti Xa and APTTTr values as a surrogate marker for adequate anticoagulation
5. Clotting and bleeding episodes.

Results: Our sample groups comprised 18 patients monitored with APTTTr and 21 patients monitored with Anti Xa. The table below describes results obtained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Anti Xa group</th>
<th>APTTTr group</th>
<th>P-Value *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of patients</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean heparin infusion rate (U/kg/hr)</td>
<td>18.46</td>
<td>16.31</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of monitoring blood tests per patient per 24 hours (SD)</td>
<td>1.67±0.66</td>
<td>1.88±0.78</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of changes in heparin concentration per patient per 24 hours (SD)</td>
<td>0.68±0.19</td>
<td>0.79±0.36</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean test** value (SD)</td>
<td>0.41±0.17 (Target 0.3-2.5)</td>
<td>2.00±0.42 (Target 1.5-3.5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of patients in each group on RRT (CVVHDF)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean number of RRT filter changes per 24 hours (SD)</td>
<td>0.15±0.24</td>
<td>0.26±0.32</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean RRT filter lifespan (hrs) (SD)</td>
<td>72.2±37.1</td>
<td>70.7±16.9</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of VTE complications ***</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of bleeding complications ***</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Overall, Anti Xa monitoring is at least comparable to APTTTr monitoring in critically unwell COVID-19 patients. Our data suggests that Anti Xa monitoring may be more favourable (improved filter lifespan, less labour intensive and less blood test monitoring), however this needs further investigation. Heparin remains the mainstay of treatment of covid-19 patients and given the ongoing pandemic, urgent studies are required to establish the optimum method of heparin monitoring in critical care patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


**001062**

**Acute pulmonary embolism in critically ill COVID-19 patients**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001062

**Introduction:** COVID-19 patients typically have a prothrombotic status and acute pulmonary embolism (PE) may be a cause of persistent hypoxemia or sudden death. However, the incidence of PE has not been well reported.

**Methods:** Prospective institutional database of critically ill adult mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients, conducted between March 10 and April 20, 2020. Patients were eligible if they underwent a computed tomography pulmonary scanner angiography (CTPA), as part of the routine management in case of persistent hypoxemia or respiratory deterioration. The primary endpoint of this study was the occurrence of PE, the impact of standard thromboprophylaxis (i.e. subcutaneous enoxaparin 4000 IU once daily) or high-regimen thromboprophylaxis (i.e. subcutaneous enoxaparin 4000 IU twice daily or therapeutic unfractioned heparin) on PE occurrence was also analyzed.

**Results:** Of 42 mechanically ventilated COVID-19, 36 underwent CTPA after a median of 7 [4-9] days since ICU admission and 13 [10-16] days since the onset of symptoms. Twelve (33%) patients were diagnosed of PE, which was bilateral in 5 patients and localized in the right lung in 7 patients. Ten of the patients with PE (83%) and 11 of the other 24 patients (46%) received standard thromboprophylaxis (OR 3.57 [1.09-13.47]; p=0.04). D-dimers on the day of CTPA had a predictive accuracy of 0.90 (95% CIs 0.78-1.00) for APE. Two patients with PE (17%) = 13.47; p=0.04). D-dimers on the day of CTPA had a predictive accuracy of 0.90 (95% CIs 0.78-1.00) for APE. Two patients with PE (17%)

**Conclusion:** One third of COVID-19 mechanically ventilated patients have a pulmonary embolism visible on CTPA. Optimal diagnostic and prophylaxis strategies need to be further assessed.

**000084**

**Comparison of injury patterns among cyclists with alcohol consumption**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000084

**Introduction:** As the cycling population grows, lack of public awareness of cycling while under the influence of alcohol has become an issue. The purpose of this study was to investigate the association between alcohol consumption and bicycle-related injuries such as traumatic brain injuries and EMR-ISS.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective analysis using data collected from the Korean Emergency Department-based Injury In-depth Surveillance (EDIS) database from 20 emergency departments during 2011–2016. Study subjects had sustained bicycle-related injuries at the age of over 18 years. Covariates included mechanism, place, and time of injury. Outcomes were traumatic brain injury (TBI) incidence and severe trauma EMR-ISS. Effects of alcohol consumption on these outcomes were analyzed, and differences in effects were determined using logistic regression.

**Results:** Of 24,297 individuals, 1,912 had alcohol-related bicycle injuries, which led to a higher proportion of single-vehicle injury incidents (alcohol 63.7% vs. non-alcohol 46.4%, p < 0.001). The alcohol group had a higher rate of TBI (alcohol 11.5% vs. non-alcohol 4.6%, p < 0.001) and severe EMR-ISS (alcohol 11.7% vs. non-alcohol 0.2%, p < 0.001). TBI (odds ratio [OR], 2.72; 95% confidence interval [CI], 2.33–3.16) and EMR-ISS (OR, 2.26; 95% CI, 2.01-2.53) showed a significant association with alcohol. Head and neck injuries were higher in the alcohol group (alcohol 73.7% vs. non-alcohol 40.0%, p < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Our study showed an association of alcohol consumption with higher incidence of traumatic brain injuries and severe EMR-ISS. Education should focus more on the association between cycling under alcohol influence and injury severity.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**000102**

**Consideration of usage criteria of fibrinogen concentrate for severe traumatic brain injury**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000102

**Introduction:** The usage criteria of fibrinogen concentrate (FC) for severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) varied. In Japan, the usage criteria of FC for TBI is based on the comprehensive evidence and guidelines. However, the usage criteria has not been updated for several years. In this study, we retrospectively evaluated the usage of FC in TBI patients and compared the usage of FC in severe TBI patients with and without the usage criteria.
Introduction: Traumatic coagulopathy is often observed in patients with severe traumatic brain injury (sTBI). The association between TBI and coagulopathy is well established. Earlier transfusion with high blood product ratios is recommended for severely injured patients, and fibrinogen is known as one of the most important coagulation factor in the trauma field. Fibrinogen concentrate (FC) is widely used for severe trauma patient and its effectiveness is gradually recognized. However, FC for sTBI is less reported and usage criteria is not established. We started to use FC since 2019 after approval of clinical ethics committee and aggressively administer to multiple trauma patients. We aimed to identify predicting factors of fibrinogen declining in order to set the criteria of FC usage for sTBI.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed successive adults sTBI in our hospital between January 2017 and December 2019. We compared factors between two groups (high fibrinogen group: fibrinogen value is less than 150mg/dL, 36+ hours after arrival, and low fibrinogen group: fibrinogen value is 150mg/dL or more 3-6 hours after arrival). We researched vital signs, laboratory data, findings of computed tomography (CT) and analyze predicting factor.

Results: 50 patients were enrolled. 35 patients archived fibrinogen value 150 or more, and 15 patients did not. D-dimer on arrival above 50µg/mL, skull fracture and depressive skull fracture were strong predicting factors of low fibrinogen group.

Conclusion: Low fibrinogen group should be administered FC. Some laboratory data of Coagulation abnormality demonstrated low fibrinogen as reported. Likewise, skull fracture and especially depressive skull fracture reflect severe coagulopathy in this study and patients without skull fracture is enough treated by using only fresh frozen plasma. Skull fracture has possibility of provoking tissue factors and predicting severe coagulopathy.

000254

Risk factors for pulmonary embolism among patients with trauma: a nested case-control study in Japan

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Introduction: Pulmonary embolism (PE) is a major complication and crucial disease in patients with trauma. Previous studies have been scarce to investigate risk factors for PE in patients with trauma.

Objectives: Our aim was to investigate risk factors for PE among patients with trauma.

Methods: This is a nested case-control study using the Japan Trauma Data Bank (JTDB) from 2004 to 2017. The JTDB is a nationwide trauma registry in Japan. We included patients who had blunt or penetrating trauma; aged ≥16 years old; had Injury Severity Scores (ISSs) ≥ 9; and survived for more than 2 days after hospital admission. A nested case-control study (1:5) was conducted using propensity score (PS) matching. The variables included in the PS matching were age, gender, mechanism of injury, vital signs at emergency department, ISSs, and ward type. Then, we conducted a conditional logistic regression analysis to identify risk factors for PE in the matched cohort. The primary outcome was occurrence of PE during hospital stay. The explanatory variables were selected based on prior studies and univariate analysis, such as comorbidities, abbreviated injury scale (AIS), transfusion, central vein catheter placement, and surgical procedures.

Results: Of those who were registered in the JTDB database, 719 patients with PE and 3,595 patients without PE were selected by PS matching. The median age was 73 (interquartile range (IQR): 55–84), and 57% was female. The mean ISSs was 10 (IQR: 9–19). Patients with PE had upper and lower extremity open fracture more frequently than those without PE (7.9 vs. 4.6% [p <0.001], 27.7 vs. 7.7% [p <0.001], respectively). Patients with PE had central vein catheter placement and surgical procedure more frequently than those without PE (7.0 vs. 2.9% [p <0.001], 86.6 vs. 57.1% [p <0.001], respectively). In-hospital mortality was higher in patients with PE than in those without PE (5.8 vs. 3.4% [p =0.003]).

In the multivariate logistic regression model, lower extremity open fracture (odds ratio (OR) [95% confidence interval (CI)], 3.42 [2.65–4.41]), central vein catheter placement (OR [95% CI], 2.41 [1.55–3.73]), and surgical procedure (OR [95% CI], 5.34 [4.04–7.06]) were independently associated with PE.

Conclusion: Patients with trauma complicated with PE had high in-hospital mortality. Lower extremity open fracture, central vein catheter placement, and surgical procedures could be risk factors for PE among patients with trauma.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Erciyes University Scientific Research Committee TOA-2019-8633

000350
Dynamic effect of age and Systolic Blood Pressure on severe trauma patients prognosis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000350

Introduction: Systolic arterial blood pressure (SBP) increases with age. We aimed at testing the combination of SBP and age on mortality after trauma.

Methods: This retrospective Real World Evidence (RWE) monocentric study included all adult patients from a French level-1 trauma center. A Generalized Additive Model (GAM) was created to predict 30 day-mortality based on age and SBP. The gray zone technique served to determine SBP thresholds. Subgroup analysis focused on Injury Severity Score (ISS).

Results: Among 2655 patients, 717 (27%) were older than 50 yo. Median ISS was 13 [6 - 25], average mortality was 11.5% (10.3%; 12.7%). Older patients had higher ISS, higher mortality (22% vs. 7%, p < 0.001); more so when ISS ≥ 26. Threshold effects on mortality appeared as SBP < 90 mmHg, but none specific to ISS subsets. Risk appeared as SBP ≥ 130 mmHg, increased when combined with ISS ≥ 26, reduced with ISS ≤ 15. Computation led to no SBP threshold depending on age; in particular not 110 mmHg for 50 yo.

Conclusion: We confirmed the threshold of SBP below 90 mmHg, and effects above 130 mmHg with severe ISS. Older age and lower SBP combined increased mortality. Computation did not prove 110 mmHg should be used as a threshold for patients older than 50 yo.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. none

000363
Impact of frailty on traumatic brain injury outcome. Data from CENTER-TBI
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000363

Introduction: Frailty can be defined as a multidimensional syndrome characterized by organic and functional impairments associated with a decrease in physiological reserves. Current evidence suggests that frailty is associated with unfavourable outcome among the geriatric population exposed to a stressor event. No information is available about the impact of frailty on long term outcomes in the subpopulation of TBI patients.

Objectives: The aim of our study is to create a reliable index to describe frailty among patients admitted to ICU with a diagnosis of TBI and to assess its association with the 6 months neurological outcome expressed in terms of Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOSE=5) and mortality at 6 months.

Methods: The study was conducted using the data extracted from the CENTER-TBI database v2.1 with Neurobot v2.6. Patients’ information were collected at ICU admission and used to build a frailty index (FI) as a compound of accumulated deficits. Thirty-five variables assessing health status at baseline were used to develop the FI. These features included chronic medical conditions, previous TBI, laboratory findings, number and type of drugs, alcohol or toxic agents abuse. For any subject, the FI was calculated as the sum of the reported deficits divided by the totality of evaluated items, expressed in percentage; FI (%) is related to an incremental factor of ±2 points.

A Logistic regression model was performed to estimate the contribution of the FI to explain the 6-month outcomes and it was adjusted for the IMPACT core variables (i.e. age, pupillary reactivity and GCS motor).

The model was also performed on the group of elderly subjects (≥ 65 years old).

Results: 1754 participants were included in this study (n= 425 subjects ≥65 years old). The median age was 49 [IQR: 29; 65.75] and sex prevalence of males (72.6%). The median baseline value of the FI overall was 8.82 (I-II quartiles 3.44-14.71; range 0.00 to 54.54) and 14.82 (I-II quartiles 9.09- 23.33; range 0.00 to 42.8) considering the subset of elderly subjects.

Frailty significantly increased the risk of unfavourable GOSE at 6 months, with an odds ratio (OR) of 1.03 (95% CI 1.01–1.04, p-value <0.001) and also the risk of mortality, with an OR of 1.014 (95% CI 1.002-1.006, p-value =0.001). Considering only elderly subjects, there was no evidence that frailty increased the risk of unfavourable outcome (OR =1.03, 95% CI =0.99 - 1.08, p-value= 0.204) and mortality (OR = 1.001, 95% CI =0.997-1.006, p-value=0.541).

Conclusion: In this study we developed a FI for the specific application on TBI patients. This index was built from data collected from a large cohort of TBI patients characterized by a wide age spectrum. Our results indicated a significant increased risk of unfavourable neurological outcomes in patients with high FI score, regardless of age and other IMPACT variables.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. CENTER-TBI (clinicaltrials.gov NCT02210221) was supported by the European Union 7th Framework program (EC grant 602150).

000866
Efficacy and Safety of Tranexamic Acid in Acute Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials
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Introduction: gutteral blood loss (tBL) is a frequent complication of surgical trauma and may lead to invasive and expensive medical treatments. Tranexamic acid (TA) is an anti-fibrinolytic agent that has been shown to reduce tBL and improve survival. However, the efficacy and safety of TA in the acute setting remains unclear. The aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of TA in the acute setting.

Methods: The authors conducted a systematic review of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) comparing TA to placebo or standard of care (SOC) in patients with acute traumatic brain injury (TBI). The primary outcomes were tBL and mortality. Secondary outcomes included recurrence of intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH), intracranial pressure (ICP), and Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) at the time of discharge. The authors also assessed the incidence of adverse events.

Results: The authors identified 15 RCTs that met the inclusion criteria. The pooled analysis showed that TA significantly reduced tBL compared to SOC (p<0.05). There was no significant difference in mortality, ICP, or GCS at discharge between the two groups. TA was associated with a higher incidence of adverse events, including hypotension and diarrhea.

Conclusion: The results of this systematic review and meta-analysis suggest that TA is effective in reducing tBL in patients with acute TBI and does not increase mortality. However, the incidence of adverse events raises concerns about the use of TA in this population. Further research is needed to determine the optimal dose and duration of TA in the acute setting.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. NCT02210221
2. None
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000866

Introduction: Tranexamic Acid (TXA) is used for a number of indications, including trauma, based on evidence that it decreases bleeding and improves survival. Its role in acute traumatic brain injury (TBI) is less certain, although a recent large randomized controlled trial (RCT) suggested it may improve head-injury related deaths. We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis, including this latest RCT, to investigate the efficacy and safety of TXA in acute TBI.

Methods: We performed a comprehensive search of MEDLINE, PubMed, EMBASE, CINHAL, ACPJC, Google Scholar, and unpublished sources from inception until June 24th, 2020 for randomized controlled trials (RCTs) examining the role of TXA in adults with acute TBI. We pooled data using the inverse variance method and random effect model and report summary estimates using relative risk (RR) for dichotomous outcomes and mean difference (MD) for continuous outcomes, both with corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CIs). For outcomes reported at multiple end-points, we used the longest duration of follow-up for analysis. We assessed individual study risk of bias using a modified Cochrane risk of bias tool and certainty of evidence using GRADE methodology.

Results: We included nine RCTs (n=14,846 patients). Pooled results demonstrate that TXA has no effect on mortality (RR 0.95; 95% CI 0.88 to 1.02; absolute risk reduction [ARR] 1.0%; 95% CI 2.4% reduction to 0.4% increase, moderate certainty), no difference in disability compared to those that did not receive TXA. TXA may reduce hematoma expansion on subsequent imaging (RR 0.78; 95% CI 0.59 to 1.04, ARR 3.2%, 95% CI 6.0% reduction to 0.6% increase); however, this was based on low certainty evidence, limited by imprecision. Risks of adverse events including pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, stroke, and seizure (all moderate certainty) were similar between those receiving and those not receiving TXA.

Conclusion: In patients with acute TBI, TXA probably has no effect on mortality or disability. TXA may decrease hematoma expansion on subsequent imaging; however, this outcome is of unclear benefit to patients. Use of TXA is probably not associated with an increased risk of adverse events.

000934

Patients with resuscitation associated trauma have worse 30 days mortality and worse 30 days neurological status

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000934

Introduction: CPR related injuries were not properly observed since were established new guidelines for resuscitation (CPR) in 2015 with stronger recommendation for bystander and topless CPR. Data were not objectivised by any scale in effort to establish seriousness of injury.

Objectives: To determine impact of trauma associated with resuscitation, describe their frequency and seriousness and their influence on morbidity and mortality of patients after OHCA (Out of Hospitals Cardiac Arrest).

Methods: Analyse of data from prospective registry of OHCA from regional Cardiac Arrest Center (CAC). Trauma patients were identified with clinical suspicion and subsequently with imagine methods (CT, X ray, sonography), trauma as cause of arrest was no included. To determine seriousness we used Abbreviated injury scale (AIS) and summary of all injuries with New injury severity score (NISS).

Results: In study were included 231 patients after OHCA admitted to ICU. 30 (13%) had relevant CPR related trauma established with clinical suspicion and confirmed with imagine methods. In baseline characteristics was no difference in gender (76.7% of men in TRAUMA group vs. 78.1% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.82), no difference in age (63±13 years in TRAUMA group vs. 62±13 years in non-TRAUMA group, p=0.38), no difference in initial shockable rythm (57% in TRAUMA group vs. 73.1% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.08) and no difference in witnessed arrest (83% in TRAUMA group vs. 87% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.58). There was no differences in duration of bystander CPR (9.3±4.4 min in TRAUMA group vs. median 10 min, IQR 25-75=10-25 min in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.03). There was no differences in ventilation days (mean 6±5 days in TRAUMA group vs. median 4,IQR 25-75=1-17 days in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.33) and ICU stay (median 6, IQR 25-75=1-15 days in TRAUMA group vs. median 7, IQR 25-75=3-12 days in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.84). Cardiac cause of arrest was significant higher in TRAUMA group (37% in TRAUMA group vs. 71% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.0003) and also coronaryography was provided more frequent in nonTRAUMA group (37% in TRAUMA group vs. 64% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.005), but without difference in frequency of revasculation (28% in TRAUMA group vs. 43% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.11). 30 days mortality was significant worse in TRAUMA group (66% in TRAUMA group vs. 38% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.005, RR 2.76, 95%CI 1.4-5.6) and 30 days good neurological outcome (CPC 1,2) also worse in TRAUMA group (vs. 56% in nonTRAUMA group, p=0.0114, RR 3.5, 95%CI 1.6-7.7). In TRAUMA group was lung contusion present by 16.7%, pneumothorax by 36.7%, liver injury by 13.3% and spleen injury by 6.7%of patients. Ribs fractures were presented by 60% and sternum fractures by 20% of patients. Mean of fractured ribs was 9±0.5, ribs. Median of AIS was 3 (IQR 25-75) 2-4. Median of NISS was 11.5 (IQR 75-75) 7-19,25.

Conclusion: Trauma is present by 13% of OHCA patients with ROSC. There is no difference in age, gender, initial shockable rythm and bystander CPR between TRAUMA and nonTRAUMA group, but resuscitation is significant longer in TRAUMA group. In TRAUMA group we have observed worse 30-days mortality and good neurological outcome.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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001168

Quality assessment for in‑hospital management of massive hemorrhage

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001168

Introduction: Massive hemorrhage in trauma is a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. An early approach to hemorrhagic shock by transfusion of blood products and damage-control resuscitation is essential to avoid lethal pentad and death.

Objectives: To assess the quality of care in traumatic massive bleeding in a Level 1 Trauma Centre by analyzing two indicators: early activation of the massive transfusion protocol (MTP) and optimal transfusion of packed red blood cells (pRBC).

Methods: A retrospective single-center cohort study was obtained from two prospective databases of University Hospital 12 de Octubre (Madrid): the Severe Traumatic Disease registry and the MTP database in a 6-year period of time (2013–2019).

Study subjects: Traumatic patients who were admitted in the ICU and required transfusion of ten or more pRBC in the first 24 hours of admission (defining criteria of massive hemorrhage, MH).
Variables of interest:
- Early diagnostic sensitivity (S): Percentage of activation of MTP in patients with traumatic MH. The Trauma-Associated-Severe-Haemorrhage (TASH) Score, the Injury-Severity-Score (ISS) and the percentage of FAST were retrospectively calculated in the false-negative (FN) subgroup.
- Optimal transfusion of pRBC: According to scientific literature, three cohorts were described according to hemoglobin (Hb) at 24 hours of admission. The percentage of under-transfusion (UT) (Hb < 8 mg/dl) and over-transfusion (OT) (Hb > 11.9 mg/dl) was studied.

Data analysis: SPSS Statistics 24.0.0. Variable expression: mean and standard deviation.

Results: Descriptive statistics
First, a descriptive analysis of the MH cohort (n = 145) was performed. The mean age was 40.7 ± 17 years, with male predominance (76.6%). The mean ISS was 42.8 ± 16, highlighting a 72.4% prevalence of hemorrhagic shock coagulopathy and an overall mortality of 43.4%. Deaths were due to exsanguination (38%, n = 24), intracranial hypertension (36.5%, n = 23), multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (12.7%, n = 8) and limitation of therapeutic effort (6.3%, n = 4).

Regarding the mechanisms involved, the most relevant were precipitation (n = 45), sharp objects injury (n = 23), automobile accident (n = 21), motorcycle accident (n = 17) and pedestrian injury (n = 16). FAST was performed in 71.2% of the cases. Therapeutic arteriography was performed in 28.8% of the cases. 81.3% underwent damage control surgery.

Diagnostic sensitivity
MTP was activated in 135 out of the 145 patients with MH criteria (S = 93.1%). In FN (n = 10), the mean TASH score was 12.4 ± 3 and the mean ISS was 31.7 ± 12. 30% (n = 3) presented a TASH score <= 9 (MH pre-test probability < 5%), all presenting with bleeding during damage control surgery requiring intraoperative transfusion > 6 pRBC.

In the remaining cases (n = 7) the TASH score was > 13 (MH pre-test probability range 28-35%), with FAST being performed in 57% of cases (n = 4).

Transfusion quality
68.7% of patients were in the optimal transfusion cohort, while 8.9% were in the UT cohort and 22.5% in the OT cohort. Mortality was respectively 25.6%, 50% and 24%, without statistically significant differences in subgroup analysis (p = 0.243).

Conclusion: The diagnostic sensitivity was similar to that achieved by the MH prediction scores, considered the gold-standard. Nonetheless, FN analysis shows the need to optimize early identification. The transfusion target was suboptimal in one third of patients. Specific transfusion protocols need to be created for severe traumatic disease with intermediate pre-test probability of MH.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Impact of protocolled nursing care on quality performance measures in patients with severe trauma
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000143 Introduction: Trauma remains the leading cause of death all over the world. To better exploit the trauma care system, precise diagnosis of the injury site and prompt control of bleeding are essential. Here, we created a nursing protocol for initial medical care for trauma.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of protocolled nursing care for trauma on measures of quality performance.

Methods: This was a retrospective historical control study, consisted of consecutive severe trauma patients (Injury Severity Score >16). People were divided into two groups: protocolled group (from April 2017 to March 2019) and control group (from April 2014 to March 2017). We set the primary endpoint as mortality for bleeding. The secondary endpoints included time allotted from arrival to start of CT scan and surgery, administration rate of several drugs (sedations, painkillers, preoperative antibiotics, and tranexamic acid). For the statistical analysis, continuous variables were expressed as median (interquartile range) and were compared by Wilcoxon rank sum tests given a non-normal distribution of the data.

Results: We included 152 patients in the study; 84 in the control group before the introduction of the protocol, 68 in the protocolled group. As a primary endpoint, the mortality for bleeding was similar between two groups (5% in the control group and 5% in the protocolled group). As a secondary endpoint, the time to CT initiation [Group A 17 (7-16) min vs Group B 7 (5-10) min; p < 0.001], and emergency procedure [Group A 41 (33-56) min vs group B 29(25-43); p < 0.001] were shortened by the protocol introduction. Furthermore, the administration rates of sedations, painkillers, preoperative antibiotics, and tranexamic acid were increased in the protocolled group compared with the control group.

Conclusion: Although the mortality as a patient-oriented outcome was not affected, improved quality of medical care by nursing protocol introduction may be suggested in this analysis.

000097 Limitation of life-sustaining treatment (LLST) in ICU: 16 years of experience
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Introduction: care at the end of life of patients who die; includes the shared decision-making between health professionals and family members, the communication and registration of agreements.

Objectives: to analyze the LLST procedure from 1-1-2004 to 12-31-2019 (16 years), the evolution of recommendations and improvement actions.

Methods: retrospective descriptive study

Results: During the analyzed period, 12422 patients were admitted to the ICU, 1329 of whom died (10.69% mortality). LLST has been agreed in 10% of the admitted patients and in 81.46% of the deceased (range 73-94%). The opinion of the nursing staff evaluated through a survey detected training needs and interest in participating in decision-making and information for family members. The few conflicts registered have been resolved by postponing the decision and encouraging the participation of other specialists involved. The procedure has improved with: a) the use of a specific sheet of medical orders on LLST b) its subsequent computerization to be recorded in the electronic medical record. c) Terminal Extubation procedure. d) continuing training on Bioethics and LLST of health personnel. The opinion of the patients’ relatives who died after LLST is collected through semi-structured interviews (in the study phase). The LLST experience facilitated the launch of the Controlled Asystole Donation procedure. More than 100 training and outreach sessions have been held, not only for
healthcare personnel but also for patient associations. Care and treatment planning (Advance Directives) have been promoted to try to improve decision-making through specific programs for the chronically ill, interviewing more than 500 patients and family members.

**Conclusion:** LLST is a common procedure, with established, published and improved recommendations. It allows palliative care to be integrated into the field of intensive medicine.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
2. The SUPPORT Principal Investigators: A controlled trial to improve care for seriously ill hospitalized patients. The study to understand prognoses and preferences for outcomes and risks for treatments (SUPPORT). JAMA 1999; 274:1591-98.

**000935**

**End of Life Sedation with Intravenous Morphine and Midazolam: A Guideline for the Medical High Dependency Unit in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 000935

**Introduction:** Sedation with morphine and midazolam (M&M) is often used at the end of life (EoL) to relieve symptoms during the terminal phase of a patient’s illness. While the medications used can control these symptoms, excessive doses hasten death. Therefore, doses should be titrated carefully, based on the patient’s condition. In Medical High Dependency Unit (MHDU), a prescription for intravenous (IV) infusion of M&M would be written for a patient approaching EoL and nursing staff would titrate doses independently based on their clinical judgment. Only 33% of nursing staff always felt comfortable titrating the infusion rate and 67% wanted more guidance on dose titration. It was also felt that a patient’s infusion rate could vary dependent on the nurse looking after them.

**Objectives:** The aim was to implement clear guidance for IV M&M infusions into MHDU by February 2020 and for it to be used in 90% of IV M&M infusions. This would:

- provide guidance for nursing staff to tailor the infusion rate to the individual
- protect nursing staff from any legal uncertainty.

**Methods:** Existing practice was reviewed by surveying nursing staff and collecting data from the last 10 patients who received an IV M&M infusion from May to July 2019. A guideline was created for MHDU using the Respiratory Distress Observation Scale[1] and the Critical Care Pain Observation Tool[2] to provide a validated scoring system to guide dose titration. Small group teaching with both nursing and medical staff was organised for education. Data was then collected for 10 subsequent patients from October 2019 to February 2020 and analysed. Qualitative data via anonymous feedback forms was collected from staff after implementation.

**Results:** All patients received IV M&M infusions according to the guideline (n=10). The average maximum dose infused was reduced (morphine: pre-intervention 4.75mls/hr, post-intervention 2.40mls/hr; midazolam: pre-intervention 4.75mls/hr, post-intervention 3.20mls/hr). The average rate of infusion was reduced (morphine: pre-intervention 3.87mls/hr, post-intervention 2.26mls/hr; midazolam: pre-intervention 3.67mls/hr, post-intervention 2.33mls/hr). The average time between starting IV M&M and death was not significant (pre-intervention 3.09hrs, post-intervention 2.99hrs)

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**000249**

**Evaluation of the differences between suitable vs. discarded liver donors from control cardiac death donors managed with normothermic regional perfusion**

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**Introduction:** Normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) in controlled donation after circulatory death is becoming a popular method due to the favorable results of the grafts procured under this technique.

**Objectives:** To study the differences between livers suitable vs. livers discarded for transplantation obtained from controlled circulatory death donors (cDCD) managed with NRP.

**Methods:** Retrospective study (February 2017/December 2019). We studied all cDCD managed by the mobile NRP team of the Autonomic Community of Madrid (Spain) in which the liver was evaluated for transplantation. The following data were recovered: 1) cDCD demographics; age, sex, ICU length of stay and reason for limitation of life sustain therapies (LLST); 2) warm ischemia times (WIT) defined as the interval between systolic arterial pressure < 60 mmHg to commencement of life sustaining therapies (LLST); 3) normothermic regional perfusion (NRP) duration and 4) biochemical parameters (Figure 1) at the start and end of NRP together with the differences between final – initial NRP values.

**Results:** During the period studied the mobile NRP team assisted in the management of 55 cDCD. Liver evaluation was performed in 32 (58.2%) cases. The liver was deemed suitable for transplantation in 19 (59.4%) and discarded 13 (40.6%). We found no differences between suitable vs. discarded livers regarding: age [60(48–64) vs. 63(55–65) years], sex [9(47.4%) vs. 5(38.5%) males], ICU length of stay [8(4–14) vs. 6(4–13.5) days] or main reason for LLST [catastrophic brain injury: 19(100%) vs. 11(84.6%)]. Suitablelivers had lower WIT [11(7–15) vs. 15.5(12–19) min;p<0.03] and longer NRP times [90(73–110) vs. 63(31–89) min;p<0.02]. We found no differences in the biochemical parameters analyzed (Figure 1). The main reason for organ rejection was the existence of an unfavourable visual assessment (n=12; 92.3%). One liver was rejected after a renal carcinoma was found during the...
Conclusion: In our series we found no differences between suitable vs. discarded organs in cDCD managed with NRP. An unfavourable visual assessment was the main reason for organ rejection. In order to improve the ratio of suitable organs coming from cDCD and managed with NRP, it might be necessary to search for more objective strategies that might include a microscopical evaluation of the organ and/or newer biochemical markers.

Introduction: Controlled donation after circulatory death (cDCD) occurs after a decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment (WLST) and subsequent family approach and approval for donation. We currently lack data on factors that impact the decision-making process on WLST and whether time from admission to family approach, influences family consent rates. Such insights could be important in improving the clinical practice of potential cDCD donors.

Objectives: The main aim of our study was to assess timing and patient characteristics that are associated with the decision-making process leading to the initiation of end-of-life care, in a large multicenter prospective study of potential cDCD donors. A second objective was to explore the influence of this timing in family approach on consent to organ donation.

Methods: In a prospective multicenter observational study, we evaluated the impact of timing and of the clinical factors during the end-of-life decision-making process in potential cDCD donors. Characteristics and medication use, of 409 potential cDCD donors admitted to the intensive care units (ICU), were assessed.

Results: End-of-life decision-making was made after a mean time of 97 hours after ICU admission and mostly during the day. Intracranial hemorrhage or ischemic stroke and a high APACHE IV score were associated with a short decision-making process. Preserved brainstem reflexes, high Glasgow Coma Scale scores or cerebral infections were associated with longer time to decision-making. Our data also suggest that the organ donation request could be made shortly after the decision to stop active treatment and consent rates were not influenced by day- or nighttime or by the duration of the ICU stay.

Conclusion: In summary, our data provide valuable insights on the largely overlooked topic of end-of-life decision-making in potential organ donors and show that early prognostication occurs in certain patient categories more often. Although prognostication is more difficult in the acute setting, our data show that if the treating team believes decision-making about WLST is possible early after hospital admission, this will not necessarily have a negative effect on the consent rates to organ donation.

Introduction: Organ and tissue transplantation is often the only treatment for end-stage organ failure. In 2017, Portugal ranked second among 82 member states which reported to the global observatory on donation and transplantation with 34.1 donors per million inhabitants. The development of organ support systems in recent decades led to the ability to artificially maintain organ viability, leading to the concept of brain death. Brain death is the irreversible cessation of cerebral and brain stem function; characterized by the absence of electrical activity in the brain, blood flow to the brain, and brain function as determined by clinical assessment of responses. The brain death diagnosis and organ donor treatment are primordial given the importance of achieving a better quality of organs available for transplant. Organ donor treatment represents a crucial part of the donation process being the ultimate goal to obtain as many viable organs as possible by donor.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to characterize potential organ donors admitted to a 10-bed combined medical-surgical intensive care unit of a Portuguese hospital, identify reasons for non-donation, length of stay in the intensive care unit and to determine the number and type of donated organs.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study of all the potential organ donor admissions in a 10-bed combined medical-surgical intensive care unit of a Portuguese hospital between January 2018 and May 2020 and characterize demographic and clinical variables as well as the number of harvest organs.

Results: In the period of 2 years and 5 months 26 potential organ donors of whom 15 were effective donors, were identified and admitted to the intensive care unit, representing 3.7% of all intensive care unit admissions. Among potential donors the mean age was 60.6 and the majority were men (61.5%). With respect to the effective donors, the mean age was 59.5 and 73.3% were men. Hemorrhagic stroke accounted for 73% of brain deaths, anoxia and ischemic stroke were the cause of brain death in 26% of the patients (13.5% each type of lesion). Among the non-effective donors, the reasons for non-donation were refusal by the national coordination transplantation related with patient comorbidities in 4 patients, non-evolution to brain death in 2 patients and evidence of sepsis in 5 patients. The most common comorbidity of the potential donors was arterial hypertension (69.2%). The mean time from ICU admission to the diagnosis of brain was 56 hours, and the mean time from ICU admission to organ harvesting was 66 hours. The most frequently collected organs were the kidneys (93.3%) followed by the liver (66.7%) and the most common collected tissue was cornea in 53.3% of the patients.

Conclusion: At the time of the study, potential organ donors were mostly men, over fifty years old, had arterial hypertension as comorbidity and died of brain death follow hemorrhagic stroke. The kidneys and liver were harvested in most cases.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: In the ICU, hypotension is one of the most critical events to reduce patient mortality. If we can predict the hypotension early, a patient can take safer medical care. We developed the machine learning model for hypotension prediction using vital signs of sepsis patients in the ICU. The prediction rate of the model was 97.4% and no overfitting was observed during model generation. The AUC value from the ROC curve was 0.996 for the generated model. To compile multiple perceptron learning models, the Adam optimizer was used.

Conclusion: Multi-perceptron learning algorithms could be very useful in developing new hypotension prediction models. Further study is necessary to evaluate the validity of this new hypotension prediction model.

Methods: A total of 1968 patients between January and December 2018 were enrolled in the ICU of veterans' health service medical center at South Korea. The ICU, hypotension is one of the most critical events to reduce patient mortality. If we can predict the hypotension early, a patient can take safer medical care. We developed the machine learning model for hypotension prediction using vital signs of sepsis patients in the ICU. The prediction rate of the model was 97.4% and no overfitting was observed during model generation. The AUC value from the ROC curve was 0.996 for the generated model. To compile multiple perceptron learning models, the Adam optimizer was used.

Conclusion: Multi-perceptron learning algorithms could be very useful in developing new hypotension prediction models. Further study is necessary to evaluate the validity of this new hypotension prediction model.

Results: Multi-perceptron neuronal model with Keras was successfully generated from patient’s data. The prediction rate of the model was 97.4% and no overfitting was observed during model generation. The AUC value from the ROC curve was 0.996 for the generated model. To compile multiple perceptron learning models, the Adam optimizer was used.

Conclusion: Multi-perceptron learning algorithms could be very useful in developing new hypotension prediction models. Further study is necessary to evaluate the validity of this new hypotension prediction model.

Introduction: Fluid overload resulting from suboptimal fluid management is common in critically ill patients and associated with adverse outcomes. Appropriate fluid management strategies to relieve fluid overload following the initial resuscitation period (the "deresuscitation phase") are largely variable in clinical practice - potentially as a result of the heterogeneity in disease progression and numerous other factors, such as age and premorbidities. There is a need to better understand patients' progression in the deresuscitation phase and to accurately predict strategies in fluid balance management with the goal of guiding fluid therapy to achieve optimal fluid balance.

Objectives: We extracted fluid balance and physiological factors in the deresuscitation phase from a large cohort of patients with sepsis in a retrospective electronic health records database and built a machine learning model to predict fluid balance change periodically after patients had been stabilized.

Methods: We used MIMIC-III, a publicly available critical care dataset from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA. Our cohort consisted of adult ICU patients with sepsis (based on the Sepsis-III criteria) who received vasopressors and/or inotropes during resuscitation. We excluded patients with Do Not Resuscitate status, cardiac surgery and burn patients. End of resuscitation phase was defined as the time of last vasopressor/inotrope administration. Clinical data including demographics, vital signs, labs, fluid inputs and outputs, interventions and medications were extracted for the time period starting from end of resuscitation to ICU discharge. Data was segmented into 4-hour blocks. Fluid balance was calculated for each block and the change (increase, no change or decrease) within a block evaluated. We trained a 3-class logistic regression model to predict the change of fluid balance in the next block using the extracted clinical data in the current block. Model was evaluated using 6-fold cross validation and top predictors were calculated.

Results: A total of 2,565 ICU admissions were included in our cohort which was divided into 62,465 4-hour blocks. The mean area under receiver operator curve (AUROC) for predicting fluid balance increase was 0.78, mean AUROC for predicting no change in fluid balance was 0.71 and mean AUROC for predicting fluid balance decrease was 0.77.

Conclusion: We trained a model to predict fluid balance change during deresuscitation in our cohort. The model performs reasonably well in distinguishing patients with no change in fluid balance, a decrease, and an increase in fluid balance. Additionally, we identified top predictors for fluid balance change, which agree with known physiology. The top positive correlates for fluid balance decrease are being on CRRT and cumulative fluid output. Conversely, being on CRRT is negatively correlated with fluid balance increase. Therefore our model uses clinically meaningful features to distinguish between the different classes.

Introduction: PaO2 to FiO2 ratio (P/F) is used to assess the degree of hypoxemia adjusted for oxygen requirements. The Berlin definition of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) includes P/F as a diagnostic criterion. P/F is invasive and cost-prohibitive for resource-limited settings. Pulse Oximetric Saturation (SpO2) is noninvasive, continuous, and pervasive. Previous work suggests that SpO2 to FiO2 ratio (S/F) correlates with P/F and can be used as a surrogate in ARDS (1). It is unclear whether S/F can be used to identify intensive care (ICU) patients that are at high risk (2). We hypothesize that S/F is non-inferior to P/F as a predictive feature in the critically ill.

Objectives: To demonstrate the non-inferiority of S/F to P/F in the prediction of ICU mortality.

Methods: We extracted data from the eICU Collaborative Research Database. The dataset included seven variables (6 independent and 1 dependent) and 141,535 values (Table 1). Mortality was the dependent variable for our prediction models. Exploratory data analysis was performed in Python. Missing data was imputed with Sklearn Iterative Imputer. We split the six independent variables into a train and test set with an 80/20 distribution. We scaled the data using the Sklearn Min_Max Scaler. The mortality outcome (death) was rare (136,451 alive versus 8,184 died). We used a Gradient boosting decision tree algorithm variant called LightGBM as our model. We used AUC as our metric for model performance. Feature importance assessed using ELIS and SHAP Python libraries. SHAP values reflect the contribution of the feature in the reduction of prediction error (3). ELIS uses the permutation
of feature values and calculates the change in error. Feature value permutation leads to a large rise in prediction error.

**Results:** LightGBM demonstrates good classification performance with a AUC of 0.782 (Figure 1). S/F had the strongest average contribution to predicting mortality based upon the mean calculated SHAP value (Figure 2). S/F value permutation had the largest increase in prediction error, thus it ranks as the strongest feature (Figure 3).

**Conclusion:** S/F was a stronger predictor of mortality as compared to P/F based upon feature importance evaluation of our data. Our study is hypothesis-generating and a prospective evaluation is warranted.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**Clinical characteristics of critically ill patients with SARS COV 2 Infection**

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**Introduction:** SARS COV 2 pandemic infection has led to an increase in hospital admissions and in particular in Intensive Care Units (ICU) in last months.

**Objectives:** To report epidemiological characteristics and medical history of patients admitted in ICU with SARS COV 2 infection, and to describe clinical features and outcome of these patients.

**Methods:** Retrospective, single-center case series of consecutive critically ill patients admitted in ICU of a community hospital with severe pneumonia caused by SARS COV 2. Origin prior admission in ICU, APACHE II and SOFA at admission, medical history, age, gender, invasive mechanical ventilation requirement, time of mechanical ventilation, ICU length of stay, radiological pattern, procalcitonin and C-reactive protein levels, and mortality were collected. Statistical analysis: Data were analyzed by SPSS 18 and quantitative variables were expressed as a mean ± standard deviation.

**Results:** A total of twenty patients were admitted within a month in an ICU with 17 beds; a capacity that had to be increased. At present three patients are currently still admitted to ICU. Mortality was 30%. 15% were admitted from the Emergency room, 15% from other hospitals and 70% from a medical ward. 80% required mechanical ventilation and most of these patients were ventilated in prone position at admission, 93.75%. Haemofiltration was indicated in 20% and was related with higher mortality. Hypertension was the most common pre-existing medical condition, 50% in deceased patients and 28.6% in survivors.
Table shows clinical characteristics based on mortality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SARS COV 2 Respiratory Infection</th>
<th>Survival n=14</th>
<th>Exitus n=6</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>61±8.4</td>
<td>65±7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (male/female)</td>
<td>64.3±35.7</td>
<td>66.6±33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index</td>
<td>21±4.7</td>
<td>31±6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from onset symptoms to ICU admission (days)</td>
<td>9.6±4.7</td>
<td>12±5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II at admission</td>
<td>10±4.35</td>
<td>11±2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA at admission</td>
<td>3±2.11</td>
<td>4±1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU length of stay (days)</td>
<td>13±7.1</td>
<td>20±17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine/Urée at ICU admission (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.84±0.28/44±44</td>
<td>1.25±0.24/86±50.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCR (mg/l)/PCT (mg/l)</td>
<td>15±6.6/190.02±0.47±0.64 ±183±2±157.0±0.45±0.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen (mg/dL)</td>
<td>61±200.9</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Dimer ng/ml</td>
<td>4397±368870</td>
<td>1068±596</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**CONCLUSION.** Obesity and hypertension were risk factors associated with severe cases of SARS COV 2 infection.

Renal failure, and the need for haemofiltration and mechanical ventilation were associated with an increased mortality.

**Conclusion:** Obesity and hypertension were risk factors associated with severe cases of SARS COV 2 infection.

Renal failure, and the need for haemofiltration and mechanical ventilation were associated with an increased mortality.

**000574**

**Determinants of Mortality Due to Hyperglycemia among Neurocritical Care Patients Using Machine Learning**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000574

**Introduction:** Several randomized clinical trials have suggested that different patient populations, such as medical or surgical critically ill patients, may benefit from different glucose targets [1,2]. While normoglycemia is often preferred in neuro-critically ill patients, the effects of hyper- and hypoglycemia on these patients is less clearly defined and optimal glycemic targets remain uncertain.

**Objectives:** We hypothesize that glycemic fluctuations may be associated with higher mortality amongst all neurocritically-ill patients, and set out to answer this question using an observational ICU dataset.

**Methods:** This analysis utilized the eICU Collaborative Research Database (eICU-CRD) [3]. For the 13448 adult patients diagnosed with primary central neurological disease, the following features were extracted: blood glucose measurements (finger-stick glucometer and serum values), age, diabetes status, and Acute Physiology And Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) IV score. Logistic regression (LR) was estimated to predict mortality during the first 24 hours of admission.

**Results:** When comparing characteristics for patients who survived versus those who expired (1,302,97%), survivors were younger (61.5y vs 65.8y; p<0.001), were more likely to have a surgical admission (14.4% vs 9.2%; p<0.001), and have lower APACHE IV scores (48.7 vs 80.0; p<0.001). Additionally, survivors had lower mean glucose values (134.3 mg/dL vs 155.2 mg/dL; p<0.001) and a lower glucose variability (-1.8 vs -4.0; p=0.001).

**Conclusion:** Older age, higher APACHE IV score, lack of diabetes, higher mean glucose levels and greater decrease in glucose levels were associated with higher mortality within 24 hours of ICU admission in neurocritically-ill patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**000704**

**Comparison of errors of death certificate related to poisoning between issued in emergency department and beyond emergency department**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 000704

**Introduction:** We were to investigate the errors of death certificate (DC) issued after death associated with poisoning and compare the errors of DCs depending on the place of issue between the emergency department (ED) and beyond ED

**Methods:** We reviewed the DC related to poisoning issued in one training hospital for 9 years. The errors of DCs were categorized into major and minor errors depending on the influence for process of choosing the cause of death.

**Results:** Seventy-nine DCs related to poisoning were reviewed. Forty-three DCs were issued in emergency department (ED) and thirty-six in beyond ED. Total number of errors of the DCs were 3.7 with 0.4 for major errors and 3.3 for minor errors. The errors of DCs issued at the ED are less than beyond ED (3.3 vs 4.4). Incorrect manner of death, unacceptable cause of death and mode of dying as an underlying cause of death were common major errors. Incorrect time interval from date of onset to death, incorrect other significant conditions and no record for date of onset were common minor errors.

**Conclusion:** The total number of errors was less in DCs issued in ED than beyond ED. The most common major error and minor error of DCs related to poisoning were incorrect manner of death and incorrect time interval from date of onset to death.
Predicting lethal courses in intensive care patients with COVID-19 using a machine learning system trained on data of intensive care patients with non-COVID-19 viral pneumonia

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 000709

Introduction: One of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic is the lack of experience with the disease and its clinical courses in intensive care patients. Based on first data, specific models have been developed to predict lethal courses in COVID-19 intensive care patients (1). However, it is yet unclear whether lethal courses of COVID-19 patients actually differ from lethal courses in patients with other viral pneumonia.

Objectives: The objective of this project was to analyze whether a machine learning system trained on data of intensive care patients with non-COVID-19 viral pneumonia is also able to predict lethal courses in intensive care patients with COVID-19.

Methods: After approval by the local ethics committee, we trained a machine learning system to predict lethal courses in intensive care patients with non-COVID-19 viral pneumonia. To focus on predictions early enough to allow for adjusting treatment, we based the model on clinical data that was available at the time window of 96h-120h before the death of patients in contrast to patients without a lethal course at time windows matched in regard to duration since ICU admission. Therefore, we analyzed all data available in the electronic databases of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin for 463 intensive care patients (including 193 lethal courses) with non-COVID-19 viral pneumonia. From these data, we extracted 163 clinical parameters of which we selected 10 parameters, based on clinical expertise supported by uni-variate analyses and bivariate covariance matrices. Using the data of the 10 selected parameters, we trained a gradient-boosted decision tree models by supervised learning using the open source software library XGBoost. Then we applied the resulting prediction model to predict lethal courses in 94 COVID-19 intensive care patients (including 34 lethal courses) and compared the predictive performance of our model with that of established clinical scores.

Results: The ROC-AUC to predict lethal courses in COVID-19 patients based on our model trained on non-COVID-19 patients was 0.86 [95%-CI: 0.78-0.94] and thus outperforms the established clinical scores SOFA (0.80 [95%-CI: 0.71-0.89]), SAPS2 (0.73 [95%-CI: 0.62-0.84]) and APACHE2 (0.61 [95%-CI: 0.49-0.73]).

Conclusion: Our machine learning system trained on data of intensive care patients with non-COVID-19 viral pneumonia shows a good performance for the prediction of lethal courses in COVID-19 intensive care patients. This suggests that despite all extraordinary features of COVID-19 intensive care patients the clinical parameters that indicate lethal courses widely match those of patients with other viral pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

AKI in ICU patients admitted for COVID-19: Prevalence and Risk Factors

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001223

Introduction: Main feature of the COVID-19 outbreak is an acute respiratory failure linked with diffuse alveolar damages. There are reports of increased rates of acute kidney injury (AKI) ranging widely from 5% to 36% of hospitalized patients and rised up to 52.2% in ventilated ICU patients. Mechanism, risk factors and outcome of AKI related to COVID-19 are not fully understood.

Methods: We conducted a observational study to assess risk factors of AKI in patients admitted in ICU for COVID-19. All patients adults admitted in our ICU with COVID-19 confirmed by positive SARS-CoV2 RT-PCR or COVID-19 serology between 01/03/2020 and 30/04/2020 were included. We collected all clinical and biological data within the 14 first days following admission in ICU. Primary outcome was severe AKI defined by stage ≥ 2 according the KDIGO definition. Statistical analysis was carried out by using a multivariate time-dependent Cox cause-specific proportional hazard model. Missing values of covariates in the multivariable model were handled by multiple imputations with chained equations. All tests were two-sided, with P values of 0.05 or less denoting statistical significance.

Results: Forty-nine patients were included in the study population and represented of 442 daily measurement points. Median age of patients was 70 [58-74] including 40 (81.6%) men and 9 (18.4%) women. Invasive mechanical ventilation were realized in 43 (87.8%) patients and vasopressors used in 37 (75.5%) patients. AKI occurred in 19 (38.8%) patients in a median time of 6 [3-8] days following ICU admission. Time-dependant Cox cause specific model showed that hemodynamic SOFA score (CSH = 1.52 [1.06-2.16], p = 0.02), arterial pCO2 (1.27 [1.06-1.53] per increase of 5 cm d’H2O) and arterial base excess (0.88 [0.78-0.97] per increase of 1 mmol/L) was associated with AKI. A statistical trend was observed with expiratory positive pressure (1.15 [0.99-1.34] per increase of 1 cm d’H2O, p = 0.05).

Conclusion: Our findings show that severe AKI in a common complication observed in ICU patients admitted for COVID-19. Respiratory status with EPP levels, hypercapnia, metabolic acidemia and hemodynamic deficiency are associated with higher risk of AKI in COVID-19 patients. Impact of mechanical ventilation, with EPP levels, and severity of patient’s respiratory state, highlighted by respiratory acidosis, are novel risk factors of AKI in ICU patients. Further studies are needed to confirm those findings and understand underlying mechanism of this pulmonary-kidney interaction.

Acute kidney injury in critically ill COVID-19 patients: incidence and outcome

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001281

Introduction: In December 2019, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in Whuan, China and had rapidly spreading worldwide, to become the most global health issue nowadays. Kidneys are one of the extra pulmonary organs frequently affected by this infection. Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a well-recognized risk factor which increased the mortality rate in critically ill patients with sepsis.
Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the frequency and risk factors of AKI in COVID-19 critically ill patients as well as to establish clinical and prognosis profile.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the charts of consecutive critically ill patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection between Mars 11 and May 15, 2020 in Valenciennes regional hospital. The study collected clinical features at admission, severity of illness, ICU course, the occurrence and management of AKI. The diagnosis of AKI was based on kidney disease improving global outcomes (KDIGO) classification. Univariate and multivariate regression analyses were performed to identify factors independently associated with AKI, and to determine the risk of mortality secondary to AKI.

Results: A total of 77 confirmed COVID-19 patients were admitted to the ICU during the study period. Among them 37 (48.05%) were male, 20 (26.31%); SAPSIII score, 70.71; age 64.67±11.02; mean BMI, 31.97±6.7 kg/m²; mean Charlson index, 3.03±1.99; 32 (10.8%) patients with medical history of chronic kidney disease; mean SAPSII score, 39.78±11.28; mean SOFA score, 5.56±2.93; invasive mechanical ventilation, 32 (86.5%); vaso-pressors, 33 (89.2%); hydrocortisone, 14 (37.8%). Renal replacement therapy (RRT) was required in 24 (64.9%) patients and the most used modality was intermittent hemodiagnosis in 10 patients (41.7%). Continuous veno-venous hemodiagnosis was used in 31 (12.5%) patients and 9 (37.5%) patients had received both modalities of hemodiagnosis. Mean length of ICU stay was 19.46±17.72 days. ICU survivors, only 4 patients had their ad integrum renal function restored and no patient needed dialysis after hospital discharge.

Univariate then multivariate regression analysis identified that the AKI as an independent risk factor for mortality in COVID-19 patients (OR, 17.74; 95%CI[4.22-74.52], p 0.000), and yielded the following variables as independently associated to AKI: age> 65 years (OR, 3.77; 95% CI[1.19-11.91], p 0.024), septic shock (OR, 5.54; 95%CI[1.49-20.5], p 0.01) and the use of muscles blocker agents (OR, 4.26; 95% CI[1.34-13.5], p 0.014).

Conclusion: The present study among COVID-19 critically ill patients identified acute kidney injury as independent factor associated with mortality and showed that the incidence of acute renal failure, increasing in patients aged more than 65 years, presented septic shock and had received muscle blocker agents during their ICU stay.

001342 Risk factors associated with acute renal failure in critically ill patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001342

Introduction: The cause of acute renal failure is often multifactorial with pre-existing co-morbidities further increasing the risk.

Objectives: To analyze the risk factors related to acute renal failure (ARF) in critically ill patient.

Methods: Prospective, observational study performed on patients admitted to ICU of HGU Gregorio Marañón between November-December 2019. Epidemiological data, ARF risk factors, patient clinical characteristics and renal function data, were collected. ARF was defined according to AKIN, RIFLE and KDIGO scores. Descriptive data were reported as means with standard deviation (SD) for normally distributed continuous variables, medians with interquartile range (IQR) for non-normally distributed variables, and as percentiles for categorical data. Univariate analysis was performed by means of Chi-square (RR) for the qualitative variables, and simple logistic regression (OR) for the quantitative variables. The risk factors related to acute renal failure were obtained by means of a multiple logistic regression analysis.

Results: Ninety-five patients included. 56% were male, mean age was 60.2±17 years and Charlson comorbidity index 2 points (1-4).

The main risk factors for ARF were hypertension 45%, dyslipidemia 41%, peripheral vascular disease 34%, chronic heart failure 18%, diabetes mellitus 16% and arrhythmias 13%. Reasons for admission: neurological 30%, respiratory 26% and 20% infectious pathology. Severity scores: APACHE II 19±8, SOFA 7±4, the 52% of patients needed mechanical ventilation and 51% vasoactive therapy. 34% of patients developed ARF during admission, according to the following scales: 14% stage I-risk, 8% stage II/damage, 12% stage III/failure. 33% of patients with ARF required renal replacement therapy. The hospital mortality was 29%, with an average of 11 days of hospital stay (6-29).

In the univariate analysis, the variables related to ARF were: age (OR 1.05; 95% CI 1.01-1.08), diabetes (RR 5.27; 95% CI 1.62-17.17), chronic heart failure (RR 3.64; 95% CI 1.23-10.76), arrhythmias (RR 4.92; 95% CI 1.35-17.87), infectious pathology (RR 4.80; 95% CI 1.66-13.89), APACHE II (OR 1.21; 95% CI 1.12-1.32), SOFA (OR 1.58; 95% CI 1.29-1.94) and vasoactive therapy (RR 3.98; 95% CI 1.54-10.29).

In the multivariate analysis, on a maximum model including the previously described, diabetes (OR 14.90; 95% CI 2.95-75.28) and SOFA (OR 1.45; 95% CI 1.13-1.86) were the only variables independently associated with acute renal failure.

Conclusion: There is a high incidence of acute renal failure in critically ill patients. The only factors independently associated with the development of acute renal failure were diabetes and SOFA.
Results: Eleven patients, predominantly male (72.7%), with a mean age of 63.55 ± 7.53 SD, were included. With regard to the severity scales, mean SOFA value at admission was 4.27 points ± 2 SD and APACHE II 11.45 points ± 4.2 SD, with SOFA mean value on the day of the diagnosis of ARF of 9.1 points ± 3.2 DS. When analyzing CVRF, it should be noted that these patients had a high BMI with mean values of 31.93 ± 4.68 SD cm / m2. These patients required IMV and prone position in 100% of the cases, requiring 81.8% to perform a tracheostomy and 90.9% hemodynamic support with norepinephrine. 63.7% (7) required CRRT, being CVPH the predominant modality of choice (100%). With regard to the indications of renal support, the most frequent was oligoanuria 57.1% (4) followed by metabolic or ionic alterations in 28.6% (2) and refractory shock 14.3% (1). The most frequently venous access used was the right femoral one (42.9%) compared to the right jugular venous access used in 28.6% of cases (2). Heparin sodium was the anticoagulant of choice in 100% of the patients who required CRRT. When analyzing the scales of renal damage, we found that the day the ARF was diagnosed they presented: AKIN I 45.5%, II 18.2%, III 36.4%; RIFLE R 45.5%, I 9%, F 45.5%. Mortality was very high, reaching 63.7% (7) (p <0.05) and in those who required CRRT was 100% (p <0.05), despite of improving renal function according to creatinine criteria in 71.4% (5).

Conclusion: - In our series of cases, renal failure and the use of CRRT were independently associated with worst prognostic results.
- Those who developed ARF had a significantly higher BMI and required more organic support than those who did not develop it.

Incidence of renal failure in patients with SARS_CoV 2 infection admitted to the ICU
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Introduction: COVID-19 disease is mainly characterized by acute respiratory failure and diffuse alveolar damage, but it may also cause damage to other organs such as the kidneys. Many of these patients with SARS-CoV2 infection develop acute renal failure, and their prognostic results are worse in those who do not develop it. More attention should be paid to comorbidities in these patients, that can be related to the infection course.

Objectives: - To analyze renal support therapies and the need of other support devices used in patients admitted to the ICU with the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection who develop renal dysfunction.
- To study the association of this organic failure with morbidity and mortality.

Methods: This retrospective observational study was conducted in the medico-surgical Intensive Care Unit of Jerez de la Frontera Hospital. All the patients admitted to the ICU, with the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection, during the study period (March-June 2020) were included. Personal history, demographic, analytical and clinical variables, as well as severity and mortality scores were collected. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSSv22 software.

Results: Twenty patients, predominantly male, 63% (13), with a mean age of 61.8 ± 8.2 SD and BMI 28.9 cm / m2 ± 4.9 SD, were included. With regard to the severity scales, we found a mean SOFA value at admission was 3.6 points ± 2.1 SD and APACHE II 10.25 ± 4.1 SD. The most prevalent comorbidities were HTN 45% (9); DLP 40% (8); DM 20% (4). The average ICU stay was 23.5 days. 55% (11) of the patients developed renal failure with a mean ICU stay of 7.8 days. 63.7% (7) required CRRT. The average SOFA on the day of the diagnosis of ARF was 9.1 points ± 3.2DS, presenting AKIN I 45.5%, II 18.2%, III 36.4%; RIFLE R 45.5%, I 9%, F 45.5%. We found significant differences, between the total series and the patients who developed renal failure, in the following variables: BMI (31.9 cm / m2 vs 25.2 cm / m2), Creatinine (1.2mg / dl vs 0.8mg / dl), pH (7.03 vs 7.31), bicarbonate (19.7 mmol / L vs 25.3 mmol / L) at admission or during the ICU stay (p <0.05). With regard to the mortality, we found that patients who developed ARF had a much higher mortality, 63.7% (7), compared to those who did not have this...

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate MR-proADM for prediction of RRT in critically ill patients with COVID-19.

Methods: We conducted a single-center observational study and consecutively included all adult patients with microbiologically confirmed COVID-19 treated at our department of intensive care medicine. Patient characteristics, severity of disease, course of the disease and ICU mortality were assessed. MR-proADM together with other biomarkers of inflammation was measured as part of clinical routine.

Results: Overall we could identify 64 critically ill patients with COVID-19. 49 patients (77%) were male, median age was 62.5 (54 – 73) years. 47 (73%) patients required mechanical ventilation. 25 (39%) patients had severe ARDS, and veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation was established in 10 patients. 50 (78%) patients needed vasopressor therapy. 29 (45%) patients required RRT during the ICU-stay. The median time from admission on ICU to start of RRT was 2 (1 – 9) days. MR-proADM on admission was significantly higher in patients requiring RRT (2.491 vs. 1.230 nmol/l; p = 0.002). ROC curve analysis showed that MR-proADM served as predictor of requirement for RRT with an AUC of 0.68 (95% CI: 0.54 – 0.81; p = 0.02). Multivariate logistic regression showed that MR-proADM was an independent predictor (OR: 4.02, 95% CI 1.13 to 14.27, p < 0.05) for the requirement of RRT.

Conclusion: MR-proADM was able to independently predict RRT-requirement in critically ill patients with COVID-19 upon admission to the ICU.

Reference(s) and grantacknowledgment(s)
1. MJ was granted by OpenHealth Institute
Results: From 132 patients, D-Dimer was measured in 95 (72%), with a median value of 1294 (503, 5520). 24.2% had a normal D-Dimer on admission, 49.5% had a D-Dimer between 500 – 6000, 26.3% had a D-Dimer greater than 6000 (the maximum laboratory value). 16 (69.6%) patients with a normal D-Dimer on admission had AKI compared to 63 (87.5%) patient with elevated D-Dimer (p = 0.045; OR 2.4, 95% CI 1.02, 5.8). 9 (39%) patients with normal D-Dimer on admission required RRT compared to 25 (34.7%) patients with elevated D-Dimer (p = 0.7). 9 (39%) patients with normal D-Dimer on admission died, compared to 43 (60%) in the group of elevated D-Dimer (p = 0.084). At day 7, 71 patients remained in the ICU: 2 of 5 (40%) patients with normal D-Dimer had AKI compared with 51 of 66 (77.3%) with elevated D-Dimer (p = 0.065). At day 14, 51 patients remained in the ICU: 1 of 4 (25%) patients with normal D-Dimer had AKI compared to 31 of 47 (66%) with elevated D-Dimer (p = 0.10).

Conclusion: An elevated D-dimer on admission, but not a persistent elevation, is a predictor of AKI in critically ill patients with Covid-19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001615
Early diagnosis of Acute Kidney Injury in Critically Ill patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001615

Introduction: The incidence of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients is gradually increasing, it indicates a poor prognosis with higher morbidity and mortality. Failure on acute diagnosis may delay the onset of an adequate therapy which may cause an unfavorable outcome, such as the need for renal replacement therapy, generating high costs to the health system. The validation of new methods that identify the presence of acute kidney injury in its early stages is needed.

Objectives: To demonstrate which is the earliest marker for the diagnosis of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients, including creatinine, cystatin C, urinary sediment and N-GAL.

Methods: A prospective, longitudinal and descriptive study is presented, with data obtained from patients over 18 years of age admitted to Angeles Lomas Hospital Intensive Care Unit, between October 2019 and July 2020.

Results: Serum creatinine and cylinders in urine had similar capacity to detect cases of AKI (baseline sensitivity 57.1%, specificity 100% and sensitivity 41.7%, specificity 100%, 24 hours sensitivity 58.3%, specificity 100% and sensitivity 57.1%, specificity 100% respectively).

Cystatin C clearance showed better sensitivity (75% and 78.6%) but its specificity was reduced when detecting the mild and moderate cases of AKI (62.5% and 83.3%). N-GAL showed the best sensitivity (83.3% and 85.7%) and specificity (100% in both scenarios).

Conclusion: In this study we found that N-GAL is the most reliable biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients, compared to serum creatinine, cystatin C clearance and urinary sediment. Therefore, NGAL should be considered for the assessment on critically ill patients with or at risk of AKI. Future prospective and larger studies are required to validate its clinical utility as an early and accurate predictor of AKI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
11. I thank Alfredo Sierra MD, Jean Paul Vazquez MD and Erick Vidal MD for their support. Thanks for letting me be part of your ICU group at Angeles Lomas Hospital.

**001622**

**Acute Kidney Injury in acutely ill patients hospitalized for COVID-19 disease**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001622**

**Introduction:** Since February 2020, an outbreak of Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) developed in Lombardy, Italy. COVID-19 primarily manifest as acute respiratory illness with bilateral interstitial pneumonia, however it can affect several organs, including the kidney. The exact mechanism of kidney involvement is unclear, and may be related with cytokine storm, direct cellular damage due to the virus, or prerenal AKI due to dehydration. The incidence and characteristics of AKI in acutely ill patients are not known.

**Objectives:** To assess the incidence and characteristics of AKI in acutely ill patients admitted to general wards in a large teaching hospital

**Methods:** We retrospectively collected data from all patients admitted to Humanitas Research Hospital for COVID19 infection, from February 2020,22 to April 2020. Study obtained IRB approval. Data were anonymized at extraction from EHR. AKI was defined according to KDIGO criteria, using both urinary output and creatinine values. When baseline creatinine values were not available, the lowest intra-hospital creatinine value was used as baseline. Data are described as median-IQR or frequency-percentage. Chi square test or Kruskal-Wallis test are used for comparison.

**Results:** A total of 544 patients were included in the analysis, with a median age of 66 (IQR 53-76, range 22-93), 353/544 (64.9%) patients were male. 219/544 patients (40.2%) developed AKI during hospital stay according to KDIGO criteria, with 78/544 patients (14.3% reaching stage 2-3 AKI)

Patients with AKI were older than patients without AKI. (71 (62-79 years) vs 61 (49-72) years, p<0.001) Patients with AKI had a two-fold increase in the risk of death (66 patients (30.1%) vs 47 patients (14.5%), p<0.001). Median LOS in the total population was 8 days (IQR 5-14). LOS increased according to AKI stage from 0 (3-10) days in patients with no AKI, to 12 (8-20) in patients with AKI stage 1, to 18 (11-26) days in stage 2-3 (p<0.001 in each comparison).

Stages of AKI according to hospital admission day are reported in

The cumulative percentage of AKI, according to hospital admission day, is reported in
Conclusion: AKI is frequent in acutely ill patients with COVID-19 infection admitted to hospital, and leads to worse outcome, including increased mortality and prolonged hospital stay.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001639
Right ventricular changes in critically ill COVID-19 patients are associated with the need for renal replacement therapy
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001639

Introduction: Patients with COVID-19 who need renal replacement therapy (RRT) have higher mortality[1]. Acute kidney injury is multi-factorial[2]. In the early stages inflammatory mediators reduce systemic and peripheral vascular resistance, in the later stages multi-system involvement due to micro-emboli and venous congestion are injurious. We hypothesize a hyperdynamic RV or a dilated RV could be seen, respectively, on echocardiography during these stages.

Objectives: To determine if there a hyperdynamic RV, of RV dilatation is associated with RRT in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Methods: We performed an observational study of patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) in a tertiary hospital across a three-week period. Only patients with 2 swab PCR confirmed COVID-19 were included in the study. RV function was assessed using tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion (TAPSE) and right ventricular S prime (RV'S') during their admission. RV was recorded as normal or dilated by qualitative method. We used fisher’s exact test and odds ratio (OR) to determine the association between these variables and the need for RRT. ROC curve analysis was used to determine the best cut-off for continuous variables.

Results: A total of 49 COVID-19 positive patients were included. Of these patients 36% (n=18) required RRT during their admission. TAPSE readings were available for 46/49 patients, including all 18 RRT patients. Using a cut-off of 26mm or more, 9 out of 20 patients (45%) needed RRT. 17 out of 26 patients (65.4%) with a TAPSE < 26mm did not need RRT. There was no significant association between TAPSE and RRT (p=0.47).

RVS’ readings were available for 44/49 patients, including 16/18 RRT patients. Using a cut-off of 16mm or more, 14 patients out of 30 patients (46.7%) needed RRT. 12 out of 14 patients (85.7%) with an RV S’ < 16mm did not need RRT. P-value = 0.049. OR 5.25 (1.00 – 27.61).

Assessment on RV dilatation was recorded on all 49 patients. 38 of 49 patients (78%) had severe RV dilatation of whom 17 required RRT. 10 out 11 patients (90.9%) with a normal size RV did not need RRT.

Conclusion: In ICU patients with Covid19 pneumonitis, a patient with a severely dilated RV or an RV’S’ greater than 16mm on echocardiography is more likely to need Renal Replacement therapy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Intensive Care National Audit and research Centre 'ICNARC report on COVID-19 in critical care 24 July 2020' www.icnarc.org
2. No grant was accepted for this study

001301
Glomerular filtration rate assessment in critically ill patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001301

Introduction: Difficulties associated with the evaluation and monitoring of glomerular filtration rate in critically ill patients are well known.

Objectives: To analyse the concordance between the estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) obtained by means of the application of formulas according to serum creatinine, compare to those according to serum cystatin.

Methods: Prospective, observational study carried out in ICU admitted patients, during the months of November-December 2019. General data and renal function analysis data were collected; creatinine (Cr) and glomerular filtration rate were estimated by MDRD-4 IMDS (GFRCr); Cystatin (Cs) and glomerular filtration rate were estimated by CKD-EPI (GFRCs).

Quantitative variables were expressed as mean (SD) or median (IQR) and qualitative variables as percentages. The concordance between the GFR values obtained by both methods was estimated by the inter-class correlation coefficients (ICCs < 0.5 bad, ICCs 0.51-0.70 moderate, ICCs 0.71-0.90 good and ICCs > 0.90 excellent) and by Bland Altman plot (quantification of the mean difference between the two methods with 2DS with 95% CI). In view of the lower reliability of the MDRD method for high GFR, we performed a general analysis and another for low GFR (GFR < 60 ml/min).

Results: Eighty-five pairs of measurements were obtained in 95 ICU admitted patients. General data: male 56%, age 64±14 years, weight 73±18 Kg, height 166±9 cm, 90% white race. Renal function values: Cr 1.26±1.47 mg/dl; GFRCr 93.07±55.72 ml/min, Cs 1.32±0.76 mg/l; GFRCs 67.90±32.33 ml/min; 29% of patients had GFRCr < 60 ml/min and 39% GFRCs < 60 ml/min.

In the general analysis of data, a moderate agreement was obtained between the two methods of GFR (ICCs 0.54; 95% CI 0.19-0.73), with a significant difference between the means (24.32; 95% CI 11.86-36.78; p < 0.001) (Figure 1).

Performing the same analysis when GFR < 60 ml/min, a good concordance between the two methods was obtained (ICCs 0.78; 95% CI 0.38-0.92), with a non-significant mean difference (-5.91; 95% CI-14.57-2.74; p=0.13) (Figure 2).

Introduction: To assess in admitted patients to the ICU by coronavirus the influence on mortality and also in the development of multiorgan failure of renal function evaluated with the numbers of urea at the moment of admission to assess how coronavirus influence to the patients admitted by this ill at ICU on mortality and also on the development.

Methods: Prospective cohort study of patients with coronavirus admitted to the ICU at the Hospital Universitario de Jaen, Hospital San Agustin de Linares and the Hospital Infantil de Cabra. Continuous variables are expressed as median (25th percentile, 75th percentile) and qualitative variables with absolute and relative frequencies. U Mann Whitney was used for comparison of continuous variables and X2 for qualitative variables. P < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Results: We have studied 63 admitted patients at ICU by coronavirus INFECTION, 43 of them at Jaen hospital ICU, 11 at Cabra hospital and 8 at Linares hospital. The average age was 58 (37,62). The evaluated severity with APACHE II was 12 (9,17) points and the same evaluation but using SOFA was 6 (4,8) points at the first day. 63.5% (n=40) required tracheal intubation on their first day and 82.5% (n=52) during the entire ICU stay. Mortality in the ICU was a percent of 38 and (meanwhile) at the hospital was 39.7. Those patients who deceased were older than the survivors, 64 (60,72) vs 60 (52,70) years old, but the differences weren’t statistically significant (e.s.) (p = 0.16). These ones also showed most acutely according to APACHE II, 18 (14,23) vs 14 (12,18) points (p = 0.005), and a higher SOFA at the admission 7 (4,8) vs 6 (3,8) points, but without being statistically significant (p = 0.09).

The Who died show higher urea at the admission 63 (34,59) mg, p = 0.051) although the differences weren’t s.s. Then, we classified the patients according to whether the urea was higher than 70 upon admission to the ICU and his relation to the mortality. The 46 patients (73%) whose urea were less than 70 showed a mortality of 30.43% and those that had a higher or equal urea than 70 (n=17, 26.98%) the mortality was 64.70% (p = 0.003).

On the third day, we evaluated the severity with SOFA and observed that the patients who died presented a higher SOFA 8 (7.9) vs 6 (3.8) points (p = 0.021). When The relation between SOFA at the moment of the admission and SOFA on the third day was evaluated we could see that a correlation existed (r = 0.588, p < 0.001). SOFA on the third day was higher in patients with urea greater than 70.9 (8.12) vs 8 (7.11) (p = 0.007).

When SOFA on the third day of the admission was studied using multiple linear regression it was noticed that there was a relation with both SOFA at the day of admission (B = 0.548±0.126, p < 0.001) and urea at the moment of the admission (B = 0.019±0.003, p = 0.033), R = 0.629.

Conclusion: In ICU patients admitted for coronavirus infection, a higher urea at the admission is related to the mortality and is linked to a later worsening, as it’s showed by an increase in the SOFA score on the third day compared to that which they had at admission in those patients with higher urea numbers.

Introduction: Critically ill patients with COVID-19 infection frequently have kidney involvement with clinical presentation ranging from mild renal failure to progressive acute kidney injury (AKI) necessitating renal replacement therapy (RRT). We describe our experience during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic from March to June 2020. We collected data from electronic medical records on demographics, Simplified Acute Physiology Score III (SAPS III), comorbidities, treatments received, need for RRT, use of low molecular weight heparin, length of ICU admission and mortality in ICU.

Methods: Retrospective cohort study of patients suffering from COVID-19 infection admitted to the ICU during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic from March to June 2020. We collected data from electronic medical records on demographics, Simplified Acute Physiology Score III (SAPS III), comorbidities, treatments received, need for RRT, use of low molecular weight heparin, length of ICU admission and mortality in ICU.

Results: 82 patients diagnosed with COVID-19 admitted to ICU. Mean age was 63.06 (+/- 10.036) and the majority (76.8%) were men, 68.3% patients (56) suffered AKI and 18 of those (32.1%) required RRT, the majority of them through continuous therapy (94.4%).

Comorbidities included hypertension (48.2%), diabetes (37.5%), chronic respiratory condition (asthma or COPD) 17.9%, obesity (defined by BMI > 30) 21.4%, ischaemic cardiomyopathy 9.1% and 5.4% patients with some level of immunosuppression (all causes). No patients with autoimmune disorders within our population.

Patients with AKI received the following COVID-specific treatment according to our Hospital protocol: 98.2% of patients received Hydroxychloroquine, 91.1% Lopinavir/Ritonavir, 73.2% steroids (Metilprednisolone or Dexametasone), 58.9% Tocilizumab, 33.9% Beta-Interferon, 10.7% Baricitinib and 3.6% Anakinra.
Mean SAPS III score was 57.96 (+/- 8.6). Mean ICU length stay was 23.06 days (+/- 21.46) and mortality 71.4%, (OR 1.471; 1.022-2.117, p 0.018) against 41% mortality of patients without renal failure.

**Conclusion:** The proportion of critically ill patients with COVID-19 suffering from AKI was significantly higher in our population (68.3%) than figures published in the literature (20 to 40%). AKI has been considered a marker of disease severity and a negative prognostic factor for survival. In our cohort, mortality rate in patients with AKI was considerably higher than mortality in patients without AKI. RRT rate, however, was similar to the literature published (21.9%). Even though comorbidities were more frequently found in the AKI group of patients, multivariate logistic regression analysis failed to reveal an association. Furthermore, no association was found between AKI and COVID 19-specific treatment received.

**AKIrisk values according to AKI stage and time of measurement are reported in figure 2. Only AKIrisk value at 12h were significantly associated with AKI stage 2-3 (p=0.03)**

**Introduction:** The novel severe acute respiratory coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the cause of COVID-19 disease. COVID-19 disease has a wide spectrum of manifestations, from asymptomatic individuals, to acute illness with respiratory failure requiring hospitalization, to critical illness requiring ICU admission and mechanical ventilation. While COVID-19 disease mostly affects the lung, Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is frequent in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection, specifically in patients admitted to critical care. Immunoassay test based on the urinary concentration of two biomarkers, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-2 (TIMP-2) and insulin-like growth factor-binding protein-7 (IFGBP7), have been proposed and validated for AKI in other settings. No data are available on TIMP-2 and IFGBP7 urinary concentration in COVID-19 patients with critical illness.

**Objectives:** To investigate whether TIMP-2 and IFGBP7 urinary biomarkers at ICU admission are related with the risk of AKI in patients admitted to ICU for COVID-19 disease

**Methods:** We conducted a preliminary prospective cohort study, enrolling subsequent patients admitted to COVID-ICU in Humanitas Research Hospital, due to COVID-19 disease. Study obtained IRB approval. Informed consent was obtained according to local regulations. Urinary levels of TIMP-2 and IFGBP7 biomarkers were measured at ICU admission (AKIrisk score by NephroCheck® Test), and after 12h, 24h and 48h from ICU admission. AKI was defined according to KDIGO criteria.

Data are described as median-IQR or frequency-percentage. Chi square test or Kruskal-Wallis test are used for comparison.

**Results:** A total of 13 patients were included in the study. Patients were mostly male (11/13, 83%), with a median age of 59 (IQR 45-67). 5 patients (38%) had no previous disease, while the most frequent comorbidity was diabetes (3 patients, 23.11 patients underwent mechanical ventilation (84.6%). A total of 9 patients developed AKI stage 2/3 (69%). 78% of patients needed diuretics during ICU stay, but none of these 13 patients underwent CRRT.

Urinary biomarkers (AKIrisk) values according to time of measurement are reported in Figure 1

**Conclusion:** In this pilot study, TIMP-2 and IFGBP7 are generally elevated in patients admitted to ICU for COVID-19 disease, and present wide variability. This may be partly explained by the large variability in ICU admission time, according to the onset of symptoms and to the first day of hospitalization. Only TIMP2-IFGBP7 urinary values at 12h from ICU admission were correlated with AKI stage 2-3.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
001312
Unfractionated Heparin with Adequate Anti-Xa Activity Monitoring is Associated with Improved Filter Set Longevity Among Critically Ill COVID-19 Patients Undergoing Renal Replacement Therapy
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001312

Introduction: Approximately 29% of all critically ill COVID-19 patients in Scotland required renal replacement therapy (RRT), and requirement for RRT is associated with greater mortality (1). Usual local protocol for anticoagulation to facilitate continuous RRT uses citrate, allowing anticoagulation of the filter circuit only without systemic anticoagulation of the patient. However, early in the pandemic it was noted that filtration circuits were clotting unusually quickly, perhaps related to the well documented procoagulant state of severe COVID-19. Therefore, a new protocol was devised using systemic unfractionated heparin.

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Objectives:
1. To assess the impact of different forms of anticoagulation on continuous haemodiafiltration filter set longevity among COVID-19 patients, with particular attention paid to the effect of anti-Xa activity levels on longevity.
2. To assess the frequency of adverse events associated with systemic unfractionated heparin.

Methods: Patients admitted to our ICU whose primary diagnosis was ‘COVID-19 confirmed/suspected’ and who underwent at least one day of RRT were identified. Data were collected retrospectively regarding filter set longevity, the reason for stopping/-changing filter set, method of anticoagulation, anti-Xa activity along with patient-level data on length of stay, mortality and adverse events. The data were analysed with regard to whether systemic heparinisation was associated with longevity, whether anti-Xa monitoring affected this and frequency of recorded adverse events related to heparin. Data were also analysed to identify any association between filter set longevity and patient outcome.

Results: In total, 144 filter sets were used in 21 COVID-19 patients. Citrate anticoagulation was used in 27 (19%) and heparin in the remaining 117. The reason for stopping/changing filter set was clotting of the set in 88 of these (61.1%). Median longevity in sets that clotted was 10 hours (range 0–87) and very positively skewed. No statistically significant difference in longevity was observed when comparing sets using citrate vs. heparin (p = 0.27). We then compared three groups: citrate, heparin with no anti-Xa levels/first anti-Xa level less than 0.3, and heparin with the first anti-Xa level greater than 0.3. There was significantly greater longevity in sets with the first anti-Xa greater than 0.3 compared to the other two groups (median 30 hours vs 10 hours vs 9 hours, p = 0.012). When analysing for an anti-Xa target range greater than 0.5, the median longevity was 35 hours, a further significant improvement (p = 0.022, see chart).

A significant positive correlation was observed within filter sets between the percentage time spent with anti-Xa levels >0.3 and longevity (p = 0.007). Two adverse events related to heparin (i.e. bleeding) were recorded, one fatal. Both occurred while anti-Xa levels were within the range 0.3–0.7. No significant association was seen between patients’ average filter set longevity and their outcomes or severity scoring on admission to ICU.

Conclusion: This study provides evidence that the use of anti-Xa activity monitoring is useful in improving filter set lifespan among COVID-19 patients undergoing continuous RRT, while using unfractionated heparin without anti-Xa monitoring is no better than citrate anticoagulation. The effect is best seen with anti-Xa levels at a level greater than 0.5. However, the risk of adverse bleeding events related to heparin is a significant one and anti-Xa monitoring does not appear to be protective against this in our cohort.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001529
Combined blood purification in patients with septic shock after neurosurgical interventions
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001529

Introduction: Sepsis and septic shock in patients with primary brain injury can lead to or aggravate the existing neurologic symptoms due to cytokine release impairing the hematoencephalic barrier. For such patients standard therapy may be insufficient for fast multiorgan failure (MOF) regress and hemodynamic instability correction. Blood purification is a potentially reasonable option for patients with septic shock not responding to standard therapy.

Objectives: The objective of the present study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the combined blood purification (CBP) in neurosurgical patients with septic shock.

Methods: We present 6 neurosurgical patients 29-82 y.o. with septic shock. All of them received standard therapy according to the Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines. CBP therapy was started within 10 hours after septic shock diagnosis in 4 patients and within 20 hours – in the other 2 patients. The procedure description: CVVHDF mode on Gambro Primafl ex. Increased adsorption capacity filters (AN69ST (5 patients) and Oxisr (1 patient)) action was amplified by CytoSorb adsorber for all patients. Systemic anticoagulation was performed with heparin in 2 patients, regional citrate anticoagulation – in 3 patients; 1 patient was not anticoagulated. The duration of the procedure was 24 hours.

We observed the procedure’s influence on the vasopressor requirements, MOF (by SOFA score), PCT, CRP, IL-6 and lactate levels.

Results: In the course of CBP we observed clinical improvement in all patients. In 3 patients clinical improvement (MOF regress and lactate level decrease) was stable; in other 3 patients - transient. Median NE demand for all patients reduced from 0.885 µg/kg/min (0.18–2.13) before CBP to 0.19 µg/kg/min (0–1.64) in 24 hours and to 0.16 µg/kg/min (0–3.6) in 72 hours after CBP initiation (Figure 1). At the same time, we observed lactate level reduction from 3.25 mmol/l
Introduction: Acute kidney injury (AKI) complicates sepsis in 40-50% of cases and often necessitates introduction of continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) which significantly affects pharmacokinetics of multiple medications commonly used in the intensive care unit. Association between use of CRRT and fentanyl concentration, particularly in the critical care setting, has not been well described yet. We observed that CBP in septic patients contributed to overall clinical improvement in all patients (stable or transient). Among the key changes were the significant MOF regress, lactate, PCT and IL-6 level decrease and not statistically significant vasopressor demand reduction. The use of CBP in septic shock patients after neurological interventions may be rational. Further studies on the method efficacy and safety in neurological patients with septic shock are required.

Concentrations of fentanyl before and after initiation of continuous veno-venous hemodialysis in septic patients with acute kidney injury - a prospective observational study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001541

Introduction: The use of continuous renal replacement therapy with hemoadsorption (Oxiris®) in patients with severe acute respiratory failure due to COVID-19 and associated renal failure, may modify the systemic inflammatory response associated with this disease based on cytokine clearance.

Objectives: Describe the characteristics of our serie, the therapy applied, and assess the impact of hemoadsorption on the outcomes of our patients.

Methods: Prospective, unicentric, observational study in patients admitted to the ICU from March to April 2020 due to SARS-CoV-2 infection with acute kidney injury (AKI) and need for Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) in which hemoadsorption with Oxiris® membrane is set up. We analyze epidemiology, severity scores, respiratory status and inflammatory markers before and after therapy, dose and complications of CRRT, ICU lenght of stay and mortality. Statistical analysis is performed with SPSS system.

Results: 128 patients were analyzed; 33% of them presented acute kidney injury, 18% required CRRT and in 11% (14 patients) was associated with hemoadsorption: median age of 62 years and male predominance (86%) were included, 57% of them were hypertensive, 43% obese and 21% chronic pneumopathies. The worst SOFA was 7 (IQR: 4-11), the worst PaFi was 105 (IQR: 66-120) and the worst compliance was 45 ml/cmH2O (IQR: 40-52). Neuromuscular blockade and prone position were used in 93% of them, and veno-venous ECMO was applied in one case. The main indication of CRRT was homeostasis (78%) and fluid balance (14%). The initial dose employed was 35 ml/kg (IQR: 35-40), final 30 ml/kg (IQR 30-45) and median duration of 72 h. The anticoagulation system used was: 86% citrate, 9% nothing and 5% heparin, without any case of citrate accumulation. We detected several complications, all of them in mild degree: persistence of metabolic acidosis 86%, hypothermia 50%, hyperkalemia 23%, metabolic alkalosis 14%, hypophosphorhemia 9% hypomagnesemia and hypokalemia 5%. No statistically significant differences were found between inflammatory markers (PCR, PCT, ferritin, lymphocytes, fibrinogen), SOFA or PaFi pre and post-CRRT due to the small sample size, although they were found between pre and post-CRRT D-dimer (p < 0.05). ICU lenght of stay was 12 days (IQR 6-18) and ICU mortality rate was 50%.

Concentration of fentanyl was similar before and after initiation of RCA-CVVHD, irrespective of residual diuresis (0.729 vs. 0.804 ng/ml, p = 0.14) as well as in the subgroups of patients with residual diuresis (0.729 vs. 0.804 ng/ml, p = 0.50) and in patients without residual diuresis (0.430 vs. 0.559 ng/ml, p = 0.21).

Conclusion: There were no significant differences in fentanyl levels before and after initiation of RCA-CVVHD, irrespective of residual diuresis status. Results of presented study suggest a limited usefulness of fentanyl concentration monitoring in this population.

001543
Use of Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy with hemoadsorption (Oxiris®) in patients with severe acute respiratory failure due to COVID-19 and associated renal failure

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001543

Methods:

Objectives:

Results:

Conclusion:
Conclusion: in our serie, CRRT with associated hemoadsorption has been useful and safe technique in the management of acute renal failure in COVID-19 patients. This therapy could lower D-dimer levels.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001553 Management of a Metformin-Associated Lactic Acidosis by Different Modalities of Renal Replacement Therapy
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001553

Introduction: The optimal treatment modality for a metformin lactate acidosis (MALA) remains controversial [1]. Though intermittent haemodialysis (IHD) is considered superior in correcting acidemia and clearing metformin, continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) is still used frequently due to a proposed better hemodynamic tolerability and less logistic implications [1-4].

Objectives: Does the fear of an increased risk of hemodynamic perturbation outweighs the proven benefit of a more effective clearance? In this paper we illustrate a significant difference in clearance between both modalities of RRT with a pharmacokinetic time course of metformin levels.

Methods: This trial is a retrospective, observational study. From July 2019 to December 2019, we identified all patients who were admitted to the ICU of the Sint-Jan Hospital in Bruges with the diagnosis of severe MALA requiring RRT. The metformin plasma levels where monitored with an interval of three hours. RRT was discontinued as soon as the clinical condition and renal function improved sustainably.

Results: Our trial population consists of 2 patients. The first patient underwent IHD (Qb 345 ml/min, Qd 500 ml/min) during 4 h after which CVVH (Qb 120 ml/min, Qe 55 ml/kg/h, 66% pre-dilution and 33% post-dilution with Hemosol BO replacement fluid) was started. Metformin concentrations were dramatically reduced in the first 4 h and metabolic acidosis was corrected. The mean rate of metformin elimination was 12%/h with IHD and 5%/h with CVVH (Fig. 1).

The other patient immediately received CVVHDF (Qb 120 ml/min, Qe 55 ml/kg/h, 66% pre-dilution and 33% post-dilution with Hemosol BO replacement fluid, Qd of 2000 ml/h) with a gradual normalisation of the metabolic acids and metformin concentrations in the first 24 h. The mean rate of metformin elimination was 2.4%/h (Fig. 2).

Conclusion: CRRT and IHD are equivalent dialysis strategies regarding outcome for the ICU patient with AKI [5]. Arguments in favor of CRRT are a presumed better hemodynamic tolerability and its potential for gradual fluid removal. On the other hand, IHD is more flexible and cost-effective, offers the possibility to minimize anticoagulation and removes small solutes more efficiently [5]. Our study illustrates that IHD was more efficient to restore the metabolic homeostasis and eliminate metformin. It’s our opinion that IHD is the preferred modality of RRT in MALA, despite the presence of hypotension. There is no need for net ultrafiltration and the hemodynamic instability is most likely induced by the extreme metabolic derangements related to metformin [5-6]. However, further studies are needed to determine the indication, timing and modalities of RRT and the potential role of hybrid therapies such as sustained low-efficiency daily dialysis in patients with MALA.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
001556

Introduction:

On-line databases have grown as an alternative method for storing and analysing scientific data, respecting confidentiality, providing security and simplicity of use. Based on the use of an international database, initial evaluation of an on-line database for the follow-up of renal depuration techniques is presented.

Objectives: Analyze the initial results in a multicenter register which allows a continuous follow-up of the patients with Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) with the objective of detect and solve the problems in their implementation.

Methods: Observational, prospective, multicenter and descriptive study, by the database DialyReg, which one has the characteristic of a database with a little number of variables, making it easier to fill. REDCap is an on-line database which has the legal guarantees regarding security and confidentiality, feasibility and an easy access, with a possibility of data analyze in real time. Statistical analysis is performed with SPSS system and it has got the bioethical approve.

Results: In 2019, 159 patients has been included with the main admision diagnosis of medical illness(47%), postoperative (26%), sepsis (24%) and trauma (5%). The principal indication for the therapy was internal homeostasis (43%), oliguria (24%), hemodynamics (16%) and hydric disbalance (15%). The median of the number of catheter per patient was 1 (IQR-1) with a median of duration of 6 days (IQR 3-9). The 82% of the catheters were coaxial dual lumen, and the preferential vascular access was internal femoral vein (58%). The main complications derived by the therapy were hematoma (2%), infection (2%) and trombosis (1%). Median of the hemodialysis set was 3 (IQR 2-6), with a median of therapy set by 22 hours (IQR 12-48 h). The initial therapy dosis was set in 30 ml per kilogram (IQR 20-40 ml) and dynamic adjustment was perform in the 68% of the sample. The main motive for discontinuation of the therapy was recovery (58%), extitus (29%) and intermittent renal replacement (8%). Discontinuation was: planned (37%),end of the treatment (18%) or a dalysis set coagulaion (36%). The main complications derived by the therapy were hypophosphorhaemia(15%), hypotermia(12%), metabolic acidosis, hypokalemia and hypocalcemia (6% respectively). 53% of the patients were discharged from the hospital while 40% died in the ICU and 6.5% during hospitalization.

Conclusion: The DialyReg register is a feasible tool, affordable for a real time control of the results of dialysis therapy in our units. It could be usefull for the maintenance of security programs in these thecniques.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001582

Introduction: Citrate-based renal purification therapy is increasing its use over other conventional anticoagulation modalities, providing evidence of a safe and effective alternative. For this purpose we would like to analyse the impact of complications due to the use of citrate versus other anticoagulation modalities in Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT).

Objectives: Comparison between citrate anticoagulation with other modalities in terms of efficacy and safety.

Methods: Prospective multicenter observational cohort study based on the DialyReg registry, with the Clinical research ethics committee (CEIC) approval from both hospitals. We compare therapy doses, clot filter loss and common complications in patients undergoing Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) in 2019. Statistical analysis is performed with SPSS system.

Results: Data from 159 patients corresponding to 690 haemofilters are analysed. The distribution in anticoagulation systems was: heparin (35.8%), citrate (29%), and without anticoagulation (44.5%). The initial dose of therapy was similar in citrate group (30 ml/kg, IQR 25-35) with respect to the hepaprin and without anticoagulation groups. Dynamic adjustment was performed more frequently in the citrate group (84%) than in heparin (69%) and without anticoagulation groups (66%) (p < 0.05). The final therapy dose was lower with citrate (20 ml/kg, IQR 20-30) versus heparin (30 ml/kg, IQR 20-35) and without anticoagulation (25 ml/kg, IQR 15-35) (p < 0.05). Median duration of the set was higher in citrate group (55 h, IQR 24-72) versus 23 h in heparine group (IQR 12-48) and 12 h in no anticoagulation group (IQR 12-31) (p < 0.05). Coagulation of the system had a higher incidence with hep- arin (46.7%) than with citrate (29.5%) (p < 0.05). Complications associated with the technique were observed: hypothermia (19% citrate vs 9% rest), hypokalemia (18% citrate vs 3% rest) and hypomagnesemia (6.6% citrate vs 2% rest) (p < 0.05); although these findings observed in higher proportion in citrate group are attributable to the learning curve of one of the participating hospitals. Following proper use of the technique and the use of phosphate dialysis fluids, complications are similar to the other types of therapy. Citrate anticoagulation was also analyzed in the subgroup of hepatopathic patients (27 patients:52% cirrhosis, 37% liver transplantation, 7% acute liver failure, and 4% acute-on-chronic failure). Heparin was used in 39%, citrate in 21%, and no anticoagulation was used in 38% of the sample. No statistically significant differences were found in terms of complications due to therapy, however there was a lower frequency of citrate use in hepatopathic patients than in non -hepatopathic ones (19% vs. 35%) (p < 0.05).

Conclusion: Citrate anticoagulation increases the duration of the haemofilters and allows better adjustment of the therapy dose in our series, possibly being more cost-effective. It is a safe anticoagulation system once the learning curve is covered.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant proportion of hospitalised patients developing ARDS requiring mechanical ventilation(1). Prominent features of COVID-19 are a large inflammatory response with significant pyrexia and moderate-severe ARDS often requiring prolonged ventilation(2). Our unit uses an evidenced-based protocol to manage patients with ARDS which includes lung protective ventilation, prone positioning and paralysis with neuromuscular blockade(3). Our clinical experience using this protocol to manage COVID-19 patients was that we encountered multiple episodes of failure to wean paralysis after an initial apparent improvement in oxygenation and respiratory mechanics. We hypothesised that this failure may be more likely if there was evidence of significant ongoing inflammatory response. We sought to analyse if ongoing significant inflammation as determined by pyrexia and rising CRP was associated with failure to wean paralysis.

Methods: Data was collected on ventilated patients admitted with COVID-19 pneumonia from March to May 2020. For each patient on each day ventilated we collected P/F ratio, mandatory vs spontaneous ventilation, whether paralysis was weaned successfully, peak temperature and CRP. Pyrexia was defined as temperature >38oC, CRP was significant inflammation as determined by pyrexia and rising CRP was associated with failure to wean paralysis.

Results: Over the time period; 51 patients with COVID-19 pneumonia were ventilated in our ICU. We excluded patients whose medical records were unavailable (n=1) or those who didn’t complete their entire ventilated stay in our ICU (n=7). All were followed up until ICU discharge. As of June 17th 2020, 4 patients remained in hospital with 59% of patients (44) discharged home. Over the study period, there were 125 attempts at weaning paralysis of which 32 were successful. The median number of days receiving paralysis was 6. In pyrexial patients with rising CRP, 11% of attempts to wean were successful compared to 34% of attempts in apyrexial patients with falling CRP (p=0.048).

Conclusion: To our knowledge there are no other reports of neuromuscular blockade management during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen high rates of failure weaning paralysis in our patient cohort, but improved success rates when there is evidence of improving inflammatory response.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledging(s)

Prevalence and outcomes of acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure in Wales: the PANDORA-WALES study
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Introduction: Although there are few previous published observational studies examining the incidence and mortality of patients with acute respiratory failure and ARDS, there are no studies specifically assessing the epidemiological characteristics, patterns of ventilation and clinical outcomes in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure (AHRF) in the current era of lung protective ventilation. Understanding the factors associated with AHRF outcomes could lead to development of effective interventions and improvement of patient care.
Objectives: The aim of the study was to identify the intensive care unit (ICU) mortality for patients suffering from AHRF. Secondary aim was analysis of factors influencing patient mortality and investigation of the parameters of ventilatory management as well as the use of rescue therapies for hypoxemia.

Methods: This was a multi-centre prospective study carried out in nine hospitals in Wales, UK, over two 2-month periods. All patients admitted to ICU were screened for AHRF and followed-up until discharge from the ICU or hospital. Data was collected from patient charts on patient demographics, reason for ICU admission, methods of AHRF diagnosis, physiological and laboratory results, treating team management and complications during the ICU stay.

Results: We recruited 197 patients in our study. Fifty-nine (29.9%) were non-survivors, 101 (51.3%) were survivors and data was missing for 37 (18.8%). Inotropic support (p = 0.03), re-intubation (p = 0.04), pneumonia (p = 0.002) and increased SOFA score (p = 0.04) were associated with mortality. The majority of patients (87.8%) did not receive the optimal tidal volumes of ventilation (VT), recommended as 6-7 ml/kg predicted body weight (PBW), with only 13.35% of all VTmax and 27.98% of VTmin measurements within the optimal range. 77.90% VTmax and 23.69% VTmin measurements had values above 7 ml/kg PBW. Rescue therapies were not used in the vast majority of the patients. Muscle paralysis was used only for 21.3% and recruitment manoeuvres for 17.8% of patients, whereas prone positioning and more invasive technologies such as ECMO were used in less than 1% of patients.

Conclusion: AHRF is associated with high mortality despite increased awareness and recognition of this condition. Despite advances of care, mechanical ventilation and use of adjunctive measures is still not optimal for the vast majority of patients.

001231
Prone Positioning as a Treatment for Hypoxaemia in Patients with Severe Respiratory Failure Secondary to SARS-CoV-2

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001231

Introduction: The global pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 resulted in a large cohort of patients requiring critical care support for severe respiratory failure (SRF) (1). Prone positioning (PP) is a well-established technique for improving oxygenation in patients with SRF (2). Objectives: To describe our experience of PP as a management strategy for patients with hypoxaemia admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI) with SRF due to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Methods: Patients admitted to the ARI ICU between March and May 2020 with respiratory failure and confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were identified. Retrospective clinical and demographic data were gathered from electronic notes, observation charts and the local incident reporting system. Pa02/Fi02 ratio (P/F) change was calculated using the last value prior to PP and the maximum value during PP.

Results: 46 patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection were identified. 16 patients underwent proning during their ICU admission. Demographic data is shown in table 1. There were 52 discrete proning episodes; the maximum number of times a single patient was prone was 12. In 33 episodes the P/F ratio prior to proning placed the patient in the category of severe ARDS. The mean time from admission to first PP was 4.1 days (0-11). Average prone episode duration was 14.6 hours (2.19.5). All prone episodes bar one involved invasive mechanical ventilation via an endotracheal tube or tracheostomy. Mode of ventilation when prone comprised 56% volume control and 44% pressure control. Average P/F ratio prior to PP was 13.4 KPa compared to 24.5 KPa during PP. In all prone episodes the P/F ratio improved with a mean percentage increase of 86% (8.7-197.5) (figure 1). The percentage increase for prone episodes involving volume control ventilation was 89% compared to 84% for those involving pressure control ventilation. Complications associated with PP included cardiac arrest on proning (2 cases), brachial plexus injury (1 case) and facial pressure injury (3 cases). ICU mortality was 37.5% for those with prone episodes and 30% in those patients not prone.

Table 1 Demographic data for PP patients and those not proned. Values expressed as mean unless otherwise stated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMI</th>
<th>Comorbidity (%)</th>
<th>Hypertension</th>
<th>Diabetes Mellitus</th>
<th>ICU LOS, days</th>
<th>Mortality (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.0004</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Based on our experience, for patients with moderate to SRF secondary to SARS-CoV-2, PP appears to improve oxygenation. The mode of ventilation does not seem to influence change in oxygenation. PP may be associated with increased risk of pressure damage, nerve injury and haemodynamic instability including cardiac arrest.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001238
The use of inhaled iloprost in COVID-19 ARDS patients: an observational study at the Royal Free Hospital

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001238

Introduction: Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is a form of acute, inflammatory lung injury with increased vascular permeability that results in respiratory failure (1). The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has triggered a rapid increase in the number of ARDS cases worldwide. The current best practice for management of ARDS includes low tidal volume ventilation (2) and prone positioning where appropriate. Iloprost is a prostacyclin which, in nebulised form, is licensed for treatment of primary pulmonary hypertension (3); its actions have been hypothesised to reduce V/Q mismatch in ARDS.
Objectives: This study aims to observe the current practice of using inhaled iloprost in patients with refractory ARDS at the Royal Free Hospital Intensive Care Unit, and evaluate its use in mechanically ventilated patients with COVID-19 related ARDS.

Methods: Ten COVID-19 positive patients with confirmed severe ARDS as per the Berlin criteria (1), and multi-organ failure were observed. Iloprost nebuliser solution was given every 4 hours at a dose of 5 micrograms initially, with stepwise increments of 5 micrograms to a maximum of 20 micrograms. Changes in oxygenation were monitored using the PaO2/FiO2 ratio (P/F ratio) from arterial blood gas (ABG) measurements. Measurements were recorded from 24 hours prior to the first dose to 24 hours after the last dose was administered. Data were analysed with linear regression and Pearson's r correlation coefficient using SPSS. Mean arterial pressure was used to monitor for safety.

Results: Ten patients were followed (table 1). Iloprost treatment was given for 3 days on average. The average follow-up time was 106 hours per patient with 303 time points sampled. The correlation in the 24 hours prior to initiating iloprost was -0.225 (p = 0.67) (figure 1). The correlation between P/F ratio and time in the first 24 hours after iloprost was started was 0.146 (p = 0.2) (figure 2). No adverse drug reactions were reported. Two patients died during the study and four died in the days after iloprost was stopped.

Conclusion: The overall effect of nebulised iloprost was inconclusive. There were possible short-term improvements in oxygenation during treatment but there was no evidence that inhaled iloprost conferred a survival benefit. Inhaled iloprost was well tolerated with no safety concerns. The findings reported are in keeping with current literature however the study lacked statistical power to draw conclusions that may influence practice (4,5). Inhaled iloprost may offer a potentially useful treatment intervention in the management of COVID-19 related ARDS and appears to be safe even in patients with multiple co-morbidities. Further, more powerful studies are needed to determine the precise clinical value of iloprost in ARDS and COVID-19 related ARDS.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. No grants were offered or received for this study.
Normanization of laboratory parameters in critically-ill COVID-19 survivors

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001290

Introduction: Laboratory parameters in COVID-19 regarding disease severity have been extensively evaluated [1, 2]. However, duration of their normalization is unknown.

Objectives: To determine the normalization time and sequence of laboratory parameters in critically-ill COVID-19 survivors.

Methods: Medical records of COVID-19 patients, admitted to ICU between March 29th and June 1st 2020 and discharged till July 18th 2020 were examined. For each laboratory parameter, normalization date was accepted as the first day of the normal laboratory result series following two or more abnormal consecutive results. PaO2/FiO2 (P/F) of ≥ 200 mmHg was accepted as improved value for oxygenation.

Results: A total of 21 patients were enrolled in the study. Patient characteristics, normalization and treatment details are demonstrated in table. P/F improved first, and D-dimer normalized last. The sequence of normalization is demonstrated in figure.

Table: Patient characteristics, normalization and treatment (n=21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical characteristics</th>
<th>Normalization time according to</th>
<th>Patients with normal values</th>
<th>Medications</th>
<th>Treatment duration, days</th>
<th>Medication start date according to ICU admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow up days</td>
<td>69 [56–87]</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.5 [5–7.5NA]</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: number of patients (%) after median days (25th and 75th percentiles); 1: No 75th percentile; due to low number of cases. Day 0 is ICU admission day; SOFA: sequential organ failure assessment; P/F: PaO2/FiO2 ratio; LYM: lymphocyte count; NLR: neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio; LDH: lactate dehydrogenase; CRP: C-reactive protein, LPV/r: Lopinavir/Ritonavir, AZT: Azithromycin, HQ: Hydroxychloroquine, FAV: Favipiravir, IVIG: Intravenous Immunoglobulin, CP: Convalescent Plasma

Conclusion: In critically-ill COVID-19 survivors, oxygenation improves before inflammatory parameters, and D-Dimer normalizes last, suggesting prolonged coagulopathy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Prophylaxis in non-intubated critically ill patients with COVID-19 pneumonia

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001297

Introduction: Patients with COVID-19 pneumonia are at major risk for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Prophylaxis (PP) has many beneficial effects on pulmonary physiology and improves oxygenation in patients with ARDS.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate the effects of PP in non-intubated patients with COVID-19 related pneumonia.

Methods: In this retrospective, single-center, before-after study we enrolled spontaneously breathing patients with confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 pneumonia who received PP between March 21th and July 5th, 2020. We collected baseline data of demographic variables, SOFA score, APACHE II Score, oxygen therapy methods (as nasal canula, simple face mask, non-rebreather mask) and non-invasive ventilation. We compared PaO2, SpO2, FiO2, PaO2/FiO2, respiratory rate (RR) before PP, during PP and 1 hour after return to supine position. The main outcome is improvement in oxygenation. For statistical analysis of related repeated measures the Friedman test was used. Results are expressed as median (IQR).

Results: Fifteen patients (13 males) were enrolled in the study. Age was 67 (59–75), APACHE II and SOFA Scores were 15 (12–19) and 3 (3–5). As seen in Table PaO2, SpO2, FiO2, SpO2/FiO2 and RR improved during PP compared to baseline. Overall 3 patients were intubated in whom PaO2/FiO2 improved less than 15% during PP. Six of 12 patients had > 15% improvement in PaO2/FiO2 after PP except 1 patient. Two intubated patients died.

n=15 before PP during PP after PP p value
PaO2, mmHg 63.9 (11.4) 73.9 (13.6) 66.4 (19.2) <0.02
SpO2, % 91 (1.9) 93.9 (2.3) 91.4 (1.5) <0.0001
FiO2, % 43.6 (18.2) 41.7 (17.7) 40 (14.3) 0.032
PaO2/FiO2, mmHg 179.9 (56.3) 197.5 (64.1) 167 (46.7) 0.06
SpO2/FiO2, % 236.6 (73) 251 (72.4) 248.6 (65.2) <0.0001
RR, breaths per min 30.8 (5.4) 25.5 (4.5) 25.6 (6.1) <0.0001
Introduction: An acute respiratory disease, caused by a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread throughout the world. COVID-19 induces a severe inflammatory response causing acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and respiratory failure. The management of ARDS is primarily supportive which includes ventilatory and non-ventilatory management. Due to acute lung parenchymal injury, ventilation often proves difficult and rescue measures are required, which include prone position ventilation. In previous studies, prone position ventilation has shown dramatic improvement in oxygenation and ventilation but no statistically significant difference in mortality and ICU length of stay.

Objectives: To Assess the effects of prone positioning on ventilation and oxygenation of patients with COVID-19 ARDS.

Methods: Following ethical approval, data was collected from both written and electronic records (IntelliSpace Critical Care and Anaesthesia information system). All patients admitted to Tallaght University Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit (ICU) over a four month period between February 2020 to June 2020 with a Covid19 positive viral PCR and who were subsequently intubated, ventilated and proned were included in this study. Self proning, non-intubated patients were excluded. Clinical data was extracted at four periods around each proning session; immediately prior to prone positioning (R1), two hours post prone positioning (R2), one hour pre-supination (R3) and one hour post supination (R4).

Data was collected and analysed using Microsoft Excel.

Results: In total, 16 patients (4F,12M) were included. Five patients were of Asian origin, three of African Origin and eight were Caucasian. The mean age was 51 and the median body mass index (BMI) was 31.5 kg/m^2. 14 patients (87.5%) survived and were discharged from ICU. Significant cardiovascular comorbidities were present in the two non-surviving patients. 77 proning session took place in total. The mean day of proning post intubation was day 2, with an average of 4.8 sessions per patient, lasting a mean of 17.1 hours. The mean PaO2/FiO2 ratio (PFR) prior to the first proning session was 17 (11-29) versus the mean PFR after the patient’s final proning session of 26 (15-46).

A PFR increase of >30% was present in 44% (34/77) of sessions immediately post proning (R1 vs R2) vs 64% (49/77) found after a full proning session (R1 vs R3), suggesting an improvement in oxygenation with time. Comparing the PFR in the supine position pre and post proning sessions, an improvement was present in 68% of cases (R1 vs R4).

Where end tidal CO2 levels were accurately recorded, a reduction in the End tidal-Arterial CO2 gradient was present in 68% (45/66) of...
sessions after proning (R1 vs R3) with a median change of -0.3 kPa, suggesting a reduction alveolar dead space.

**Conclusion:** Proning position of patients with ARDS caused by COVID-19 appears to improve the oxygenation and ventilation in a similar manner compared to ARDS attributed to other causes.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

8. Nil.

**001338**

**Covid-19 Critical ill patients in Santiago de Compostela. Case series**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001338**

**Introduction:** Our experience with Covid-19 critical ill patients in Santiago de Compostela during spring 2020.

**Objectives:** To learn about what we did and how we did it, getting new perspectives and ideas as next steps to improve.

**Methods:** We identified 23 patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome that needed ICU admission. Clinical data were reviewed of medical records. The data reported here are those through March 12 to June 26. Each patient had the whole hospital stay of follow-up.

**Results:** We admitted 23 patients with SARS-CoV19 in ICU. The average age was 65 years old, being the youngest 42 years old and the oldest 80 years old. 19 of those patients were men and only 4 were female.

All patients reported were admitted for respiratory failure, 35% needed mechanical ventilation in the admission moment, finally requiring the 80% of the patients mechanical ventilation (during the ICU stay). The initial approach for 52% (12) of the patients were high flow nasal cannulas, failing to meet the oxygen needs and requiring in 10 of them to initiate mecanichal ventilation. In 14 patients (78%) prone therapy brought benefits. The maximum time on mecanichal ventilation was 43 days, with and average amount of 14 days, being the longest 53 days. Most of the initial chest x-ray during the hospital admission showed consolidation in 4/4 lung fields, whilst those x-rays that initially showed diffuse infiltration and only consolidation in 1/4 or 2/4 lung fields deteriorated quickly on the following hours. The initial chest x-ray affection at the ICU admission was not related to the oxygen support needed.

**Concerning the treatment:**

- All of the patients in this ICU were treated with hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir, with disparities on how long were administered (between 5 and 15 days).
- Only 1 patient had hypotension and needed vasopressors during the ICU admission.
- 87% (20) of the patients received corticosteroid therapy: 9 with dexametason, 10 with methylprednisolone and 1 with hydrocortisone.
- Regarding anticoagulant therapy, all the 23 patients received Low-Molecular-Weihl-Heparin in different doses (0.5 mg/kg/day; 1 mg/kg/day; -1.5 mg/kg/day; 1 mg/kg/12 h). More information must be addressed to determine an accurate dosing.
- 56% of the patients received tocilizumb when IL-6 levels exceeded 40 UI/L.
- Only 21% of them required continuous renal replacement therapy.

Futhermore, the highest ICU occupancy rates were on the first week of April, yet maintaining capacity to admit more patients.

**Conclusion:** During the SARS-CoV19 pandemic, 23 patients were admitted to ICU with the common admission criteria of hypoxic respiratory failure leading to mechanical ventilation. Most of this patients received corticosteroid therapy and this could play a significant role regarding to mortality: 83% of our patients survived.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001347**

**Covid-19 in a critical care unit: several characteristics and mortality analysis of patients with severe pneumonia due to SARS-COV-2**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001347**

**Introduction:** In the face of the SARS-COV-2 pandemic, the intensive care units (ICU) have been involved in a dynamic of hard work by a little known disease, but which has caused serious illness and has involved the use of many health resources. The aim of this study is to show our experience with this kind of patients.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study is to analyse demographic, clinical and analytical characteristics, complications and health care resources consumption in a cohort of patients with a diagnosis of severe COVID-19 infection admitted to an ICU of a University Hospital. Secondary objective is to analyse factors related with mortality in his group of patients.

**Methods:** This is a retrospective observational study including all the critically ill patients admitted to ICU with COVID-19 severe infection. Patients were included during the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in March 2020. The analyzed demographic variables included age, sex, comorbidities and severity at admission measured by APACHE II and SOFA scores. Analytic variables studied were those related to prognosis in other studies such as lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), creatine kinase (CK), Ferritine, D-Dimer, C-reactive protein (CRP) or
Conclusion: Patients admitted to ICU with severe COVID-19 infection have a great mortality with an important health care resource consumption. In this group of patients, high blood pressure and obesity have been associated with mortality. LDH, ferritin,….. are higher and connected to mechanical ventilation (MV) at admission, and this for 23 days on average. Among all the patients, 82% were intubated and connected to mechanical ventilation (MV) at admission, and this MV has gone on for 19±11 days, increasing morbidity and mortality, and resource consumption. Overall mortality has been 23.3%, especially up to the age of 60 (under the age of 60, only one patient died amongst 16). High blood pressure (p = 0.03), obesity (p < 0.01), APACHE at admission (p = 0.04) and SOFA at admission (p = 0.02) have been related to higher mortality as well. Although they have not been statistically significant, it seems that the elevation of LDH, CRP, PCT, ferritin and D-dimer are associated with greater death rate.


demographic variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients (n=60)</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (p25-p75)</td>
<td>66.5 [58-71.75]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex: Male, Female (%)</td>
<td>43(72%)/17 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU stay in days (p25-p75)</td>
<td>23 [14.5, 30.75]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (%)</td>
<td>14 (23.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50 (n=7)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60 (n=9)</td>
<td>1 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70 (n=26)</td>
<td>6 (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-80 (n=18)</td>
<td>7 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV at admission n (%)</td>
<td>49 (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE score / SOFA score</td>
<td>12 ± 3.6 / 5.1 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV days</td>
<td>19 ± 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Univariate analysis of mortality</th>
<th>Dead (%)</th>
<th>Survivors (%)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APACHE score</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP at admission</td>
<td>209.9</td>
<td>190.6</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT at admission</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDH / D dimer / ferritin</td>
<td>625 / 2786 / 3061</td>
<td>478 / 5837 / 1750</td>
<td>0.053 / 0.058 / 0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Patients admitted to ICU with severe COVID-19 infection have a great mortality with an important health care resource consumption. In this group of patients, high blood pressure and obesity have been associated with mortality. LDH, ferritin,….. are higher and connected to mechanical ventilation (MV) at admission, and this MV has gone on for 19±11 days, increasing morbidity and mortality, and resource consumption. Overall mortality has been 23.3%, especially up to the age of 60 (under the age of 60, only one patient died amongst 16). High blood pressure (p = 0.03), obesity (p < 0.01), APACHE at admission (p = 0.04) and SOFA at admission (p = 0.02) have been related to higher mortality as well. Although they have not been statistically significant, it seems that the elevation of LDH, CRP, PCT, ferritin and D-dimer are associated with greater death rate.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001374
Feasibility and efficacy of prone position combined with CPAP in COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure
K. Belkhouja1; S. Alzahrani1; N. Al-Shalhoub1; T. Negm1; M. Darwish1; MW. Pathan1; MM. Lone1; S. Omer1; H. Al-Sharif1
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001374

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to rapidly saturation of resources and the availability of ICU bed. Prone positioning is strongly recommended in intubated patients with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. Recently, small case series showed feasibility and improvement in oxygenation in awake COVID-19 patients placed in the prone position with noninvasive ventilation (NIV). It is unknown if the proning with NIV can reduce the rate of intubation.

Objectives: To evaluate the feasibility, the safety and efficacy of prone positioning with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) in COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure.

Methods: This prospective observational cohort study was conducted, from Mars 25, 2020, to September 24, 2020, in King Fahad Armed Forces hospital, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All adult patients with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia and developed acute hypoxemic...
Results: In this preliminary analysis, a total of 79 COVID-19 patients were included, 31 patients in the prone group and 48 patients in the supine group. The two groups were similar on term of baseline characteristics, general management and ventilatory support. In the prone group there was significant increase of PaO2/FiO2 during proning compared to supine setting. The general acceptance of proning was from moderate to well and no complications or events were observed during proning periods. The rate of intubation was 6.5% (2 patients) in the prone group and 25% (12 patients) in the supine group (P=0.035). Five patients died in the supine group versus one patient in the prone group (P=0.395). One nurse caring for a patient in the supine group was infected with SARS-CoV2.

Conclusion: In COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxic respiratory failure, the use of prone position combined with CPAP, is feasible, safe and decrease the rate of tracheal intubation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. We are indebted to the doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists with the Intensive Care Medicine Service who provide care for the patients included in the study and to all the frontline staff of COVID-19 patients.

The impact of ethnicity and gender on outcome in patients admitted to Intensive Care for management of COVID-19

Introduction: Northwick Park Hospital supplies a diverse population of at least 40% black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME). During the COVID19 pandemic, the Intensive Care Unit (ICI) experienced an unprecedented demand for beds, leading to the declaration of a critical incident on 19th March demanding a rapid expansion and restructure. Recent analyses of COVID19 transmission and susceptibility have shown that the BAME population is disproportionately affected by both a high infection rate and increased mortality from COVID19. These differences have been attributed to both socioeconomic disparity and occupational hazard. Similarly, an association has been found between the male sex and the severity of COVID19 infection.

Table: Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Critically-Ill COVID-19 and Influenza Patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (°) (years)</th>
<th>All (n=89)</th>
<th>COVID-19 (n=34)</th>
<th>Influenza (n=55)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male gender, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (57)</td>
<td>22 (65)</td>
<td>29 (51)</td>
<td>0.267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>38 (43)</td>
<td>12 (35)</td>
<td>26 (47)</td>
<td>0.260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac disease</td>
<td>25 (28)</td>
<td>4 (12)</td>
<td>21 (38)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>23 (26)</td>
<td>4 (12)</td>
<td>19 (35)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignancy</td>
<td>20 (23)</td>
<td>4 (12)</td>
<td>16 (29)</td>
<td>0.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic lung disease</td>
<td>16 (18)</td>
<td>2 (6)</td>
<td>14 (26)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>6 (7)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>6 (11)</td>
<td>0.079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOC*</td>
<td>2 (1-3)</td>
<td>1 (0-2)</td>
<td>2 (1-3)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFS©</td>
<td>4 (3-6)</td>
<td>3 (1-5)</td>
<td>3 (3-7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APACHE II</td>
<td>18 (14-25)</td>
<td>15 (12-24)</td>
<td>19 (15-27)</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2 ratio</td>
<td>162 (108- 255)</td>
<td>153 (110- 233)</td>
<td>180 (102-250)</td>
<td>0.670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARDS, n (%)†</td>
<td>65 (73)</td>
<td>52 (59)</td>
<td>3 (3-7)</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild ARDS</td>
<td>13 (20)</td>
<td>8 (12)</td>
<td>5 (8)</td>
<td>0.053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMV, n (%)</td>
<td>51 (57)</td>
<td>33 (50)</td>
<td>18 (33)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prone position, n (%)</td>
<td>19 (21)</td>
<td>16 (47)</td>
<td>3 (6)</td>
<td>&gt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-infection, n (%)</td>
<td>27 (30)</td>
<td>6 (18)</td>
<td>21 (38)</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superinfection, n (%)</td>
<td>44 (49)</td>
<td>10 (29)</td>
<td>34 (62)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis, n (%)†</td>
<td>30 (34)</td>
<td>6 (18)</td>
<td>24 (44)</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKI, n (%)‡</td>
<td>49 (55)</td>
<td>13 (18)</td>
<td>36 (66)</td>
<td>0.032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th day mortality, n (%)</td>
<td>25 (28)</td>
<td>6 (18)</td>
<td>19 (35)</td>
<td>0.085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU and Hospital mortality, n (%)</td>
<td>34 (38)</td>
<td>8 (24)</td>
<td>26 (47)</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU LOS* (days)</td>
<td>12 (6-26)</td>
<td>14 (6-24)</td>
<td>13 (7-32)</td>
<td>0.720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital LOS* (days)</td>
<td>23 (13-39)</td>
<td>22 (13-39)</td>
<td>24 (13-42)</td>
<td>0.571</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*median(IQR); † On admission. Text in bold p value indicated statistical significance.

Conclusion: The prognosis of influenza patients with ARF followed in ICU seems to be worse than COVID-19 patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
This study investigates these associations. The large sample size provided within a single clinical setting provides valuable insights into BAME disparity in order to optimise future treatment of COVID19.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective cohort study of all the patients admitted to ICU at NWP with COVID19 between 01/03/2020 and 31/06/2020. Data were collected from patient notes, local histopathology databases and the ICNARC database. These included baseline characteristics (ethnicity, date of birth, sex and comorbidities), baseline P/F ratio (PaO₂/FiO₂), organ support requirements and mortality. Statistical analyses were performed in R. We used logistic regression to determine predictors of mortality and differences between BAME and white patients.

**Results:** 264 patients were admitted to the ICU with COVID19, of which 83.3% of these identified as BAME. 80.3% of patients were male. Stepwise regression showed that increasing age, and male sex, were the significant predictors of low P/F at admission. Logistic regression analyses showed that pre-morbid state (OR 1.67, 95% CI 1.22-2.32), BAME (OR 4.92, 95% CI 1.77-17.70) and age (OR 1.04, 95% CI 1.01-1.06) were significantly associated with requiring haemodialysis, but as expected, only P/F on admission was significantly associated with likelihood of intubation (OR 0.96, 95% CI 0.94-0.99). Regression analyses on admission parameters demonstrated that age (OR 1.05, 95% CI 1.02-1.08), pre-morbid state (OR 1.47, 95% CI 1.07-2.05), and low P/F (OR 0.97, 95% CI 0.94-0.99) were significantly associated with death. Adjusting regression for intra-ICU parameters showed that age (OR 1.05, 95% CI 1.02-1.08) and haemodialysis (OR 3.00, 95% CI 1.67-5.44) were the statistically significant predictors of death. Ethnicity was not associated with mortality in the ICU.

**Conclusion:** While BAME patients are over-represented in ICU admissions for COVID19, the BAME population had parity in severity of ARDS on admission and mortality. Pulmonary capacity at admission was negatively affected by being male and by increasing age, in keeping with national and international data. Being of BAME ethnicity was significantly associated with haemodialysis requirement on ICU, which is something to be considered during a second wave of the pandemic.

**001411**

Comparison of clinical features and prognosis factors in patients with acute respiratory syndrome related to SARS-COV2 versus other respiratory virus


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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001411

**Introduction:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2) and represents the causative agent of potentially fatal disease that is of great global public health concern. About 5% are critical infections characterized by acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). There is scare information about clinical characteristics and prognosis in these patients.

**Objectives:** The aims of this study are: (i) compare demographic and clinical characteristics of COVID19 versus other respiratory virus. (ii) Analyze outcome.

**Methods:** Retrospective cohort study of all adults admitted to Tertiary Hospital in Spain from October 2018 to 15th June 2020. We evaluated all adults admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with confirmed SARS-COV-2 virus infection and other respiratory virus with acute respiratory failure. Main variable was COVID19 aetiology. We evaluate overall mortality in ICU and at 60 day of admission. Exposure variables were: demographics, previous conditions, clinical characteristics, severity of illness, pharmacologic, support therapy and outcome. For categorical variables we applied chi square test (fisher when needed) and for continuous t de student or U Mann-Whitney test when needed. We allied Kaplan Meier Survival analysis and log rank test for overall 60 day mortality and aetiology.

**Results:** During the study period there were included a total of 82 patients: 42 patients confirmed COVID19 versus 40 patients with other respiratory virus infection and acute respiratory failure. Clinical characteristics of COVID19 cohort were: median age was 60.6, major- ity were males 64%. The most frequent comorbidity was hypertension (54%), followed by obesity (33%). 3 Patients with solid organ transplantation were included. 64% of patients with COVID19 needed mechan- ical ventilation and 21% renal replacement therapy. In comparison with those with other respiratory virus infection, COVID19 patients had less severity of illness, SOFA at admission (5 vs 7, p = 0.04), APACHE II (12.7 vs 20, p = 0.001). Mortality at 60 days was 26.1% (11) in COVID19 and 22.5 in other respiratory virus infection. Survival Kaplan Meier analysis of overall mortality at 60 days and unfavorable did not show differences between COVID19 and no COVID19 cohort (p>0.74); at this time there were still admitted in ICU 7% of COVID19 patients.

**Conclusion:** COVID19 patients had more age and less APACHEI and SOFA at admission in ICU than those with other respiratory virus infec- tion. Overall mortality at 60 day was not statically higher in COVID19 (log rank p = 0.74). Taking into account that 7% of COVID19 were still admitted, prognosis variables at longer time (e.g. overall mortality at 6 months) may be more precise to evaluate prognosis in COVID-19 patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**001414**

Ventilation and pulmonary hemodynamics in patients

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**Correspondence:** A. Becker

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001414

**Introduction:** It has been suggested that COVID-19-associated severe respiratory failure (ARDS) might differ from usual acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) due to failing auto-regulation of pulmonary vessels and higher shunt.

**Objectives:** To investigate pulmonary hemodynamics in patients with ARDS compared to patients with ARDS due to other causes.

**Methods:** Retrospective analysis of ten ARDS patients treated on our ICU in 04/2020 and comparison of the data to matched controls with ARDS (n = 10) that were treated on our ICU from 01/2014 to 08/2019 and for whom pulmonary artery catheter data were available.

**Results:** COVID-19 patients had similar ventilation characteristics and showed similar PaO2/FiO2 ratio at a higher degree of hypercapnia as compared to ARDS patients as the estimated CO2 production was significantly higher (p < 0.05). Cardiac output was higher in CARDS versus ARDS patients (mean 8.1 ± 1.7 L/min vs. 5.4 ± 1.5 L/min; p < 0.05). COVID-19 patients had similar pulmonary artery pressure but significantly lower pulmonary vascular resistance. Shunt fraction was similar in CARDS compared to ARDS (mean 26.6% ± 13% vs. 23% ± 15%, p > 0.05) and was in both groups correlated with hypoxemia, as was VD/VT (CARDS 46% ± 20% vs. ARDS 43% ± 18%; p > 0.05). The arterio-venous pCO2 difference (DpCO2) was elevated (CARDS 5.5 ± 2.8 mmHg vs. 4.7 ± 1.1 mmHg; p > 0.05) as was venous-arterial CO2 gap to arterial-venous oxygen content difference (Pv-aCO2/Ca-VO2) ratio (CARDS mean 2.2 ± 1.5 vs. ARDS 1.7 ± 0.8, p > 0.05), indicating
global microcirculatory dysfunction in CARDS. AaDO2 was similar in both groups (p > 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Respiratory failure in COVID-19 patients differs only slightly from ARDS in ventilation characteristics and pulmonary hemodynamics mainly due to increased CO2 production. Our data indicate microcirculatory dysfunction. More data needs to be collected to assure these findings and gain more pathophysiological insights in COVID-19 and respiratory failure.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**0014427**

**Neutrophil Extracellular Traps in SARS-CoV2 related pneumonia in ICU patients: the NETCOV2 study**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001427**

**Introduction:** Pathogenesis of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is poorly understood. Neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) have been involved in infection-related acute respiratory distress syndrome. The role of NETs in SARS-CoV-2 related pneumonia is unknown.

**Objectives:** Investigate the association between the quantification of blood NETs at ICU admission and the respiratory failure evolution towards refractory hypoxemia in ICU patients with SARS-CoV2 related pneumonia.

**Methods:** Prospective bicentric study including consecutive patients with SARS-CoV2 related pneumonia admitted in intensive care unit. NETs blood levels were quantified in blood samples at day-1 and day-3 by flow cytometry (using myeloperoxidase [MPO] and citrullinated histones [Cit-H3] markers). The primary outcome was the association between the day-1 blood level of NETs and the number of days with refractory hypoxemia defined by a PaO2/FiO2 ratio < 100 mmHg.

**Results:** 58 patients (median age 62 [54, 69], mostly male [75.9%]) were included in the analysis. The median number of days with severe hypoxemia (PaO2/FiO2 < 100 mmHg) was 4 [2, 6] days and day-28 mortality was 27.6% (n = 16). In multivariable negative binomial regression, MPO+ NETs were negatively associated with the number of days with severe hypoxemia within 7 days (0.84 [0.73, 0.97]), while neither single positive Cit-H3+ NETs nor double-positive NETs were significantly associated with the primary outcome. The blood level of NETs was lower at day-1 than at day-3 in patients who died (32.6 [22.3, 70.3] vs. 56.7 [23.3, 102.6] p < 0.001, 0.37 [0.2, 1.45] vs. 2.2 [0.0, 4.3] p < 0.001 and 4 [1.2, 7.6] vs. 6.8 [1.8, 15.0] p < 0.001 for MPO+, Cit-H3+ and double-positive NETs, respectively).

**Conclusion:** The blood level of NETs at day-1 was negatively associated with the number of days with severe hypoxemia in patients admitted to the intensive care unit for SARS-CoV2 related pneumonia. This could suggest a functional deficit of neutrophils in these patients that require further investigation.

**001444 Susceptibility and severity of COVID-19 in the ABO-blood group system in a single tertiary centre**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001444**

**Introduction:** Understanding the behaviour of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in precipitating the spectrum of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been the scientific challenge of 2020. Genomewide association analysis has suggested an association with the ABO blood-group system; with blood group A being more susceptible, while blood group O seemingly conferring a protective effect in the development COVID-19.

**Objectives:**

1. To compare the ABO blood-group of patients admitted with COVID-19 to that of the general population in the UK.

2. To investigate whether any ABO blood groups correlated with more severe illness.

**Methods:** Contemporaneously recorded data from our electronic medical record system (Epic®, WI, USA) was used to retrospectively analyse ABO and clinical data of patients admitted to our hospital with PCR positive SARS-CoV-2 for a 6 week period starting April 2020. Data included APACHE II calculations, whether patients received mechanical ventilation, renal replacement therapy or developed thrombotic complications. The peak sustained FiO2 in ICU patients was deemed if stable for 2 or more hours.

**Results:** Blood group data was available in 92 hospital patients, 52 of whom went to ICU. The distribution of blood groups was similar to that seen in the background population (Table 1). Overall mortality was non-significantly lower in patients with blood group O compared to patients with blood group A; 16% (95% CI 6-35%) vs 39% (95% CI 20-61%) p = 0.09 by chi-squared. Comparison of illness severity markers between the two largest groups (A & O) in ICU did not reveal any obvious indication that blood group A patients had greater severity of illness to explain their apparent worse outcomes (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABO Blood Group</th>
<th>ICU Cohort (n=52)</th>
<th>Ward Cohort (n=40)</th>
<th>Combined Ward and ICU patients (n=92)</th>
<th>Background population rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>18 (35%)</td>
<td>13 (33%)</td>
<td>31 (34%)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>7 (13%)</td>
<td>4 (10%)</td>
<td>11 (12%)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>25 (48%)</td>
<td>23 (58%)</td>
<td>48 (52%)</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1: Distribution of blood groups amongst COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU and wards**
Table 2: Severity of illness markers amongst blood group A and O ICU patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>A (n=18)</th>
<th>O (n=25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median APACHE II score (range)</td>
<td>14 (3-21)</td>
<td>15 (6-30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (range)</td>
<td>63 (34-77)</td>
<td>64 (17-83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median peak sustained FiO2 (range)</td>
<td>0.72 (36-100%)</td>
<td>0.70 (35-100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Mechanically ventilated (95% CI)</td>
<td>78% (55-91%)</td>
<td>84% (65-94%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Received renal replacement</td>
<td>44% (25-66%)</td>
<td>40% (23-59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Developed DVT/PE</td>
<td>6% (1-26%)</td>
<td>16% (6-35%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: ABO blood groups in our population were similar to the background population in the UK and did not appear to predict ICU admission. There was a trend towards increased mortality in patients with blood group A amongst those admitted to ICU but this was not associated with the severity of illness markers examined. The finding of increased mortality in patients with blood group A is consistent with a recent large genome-wide association study; the mechanism of this increase in mortality, and implications are currently unclear.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Ellinghaus, D et al. (June 17, 2020) Genomewide Association Study of SARS-CoV-2 virus was identified in all patients. Mechanical ventilation was evaluated according to the Shapiro-Wilk test, and were expressed in hospital and 28-days mortality was 9.4%.

Effect of Prone Positioning on the outcome of patients with ARDS: a retrospective study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001530

Introduction: Previous studies have proven that prone positioning optimizes lung recruitment and ventilation-perfusion matching, resulting in an improvement of gas exchange. However, reliable predictors of prone positioning response and the effect on ARDS morbidity and mortality remains to be determined.

Objectives: Evaluate the outcome of patients with ARDS with prone positioning.

Methods: Observational retrospective study on Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome patients, according to Berlin criteria, mechanically ventilated from January 2017 to December 2019. Patients were divided into those who underwent prone positioning (n=54) and those who did not (n=35). Data were extracted from medical records.

Results: 89 ARDS patients were included (mean age of 60.1±13.7 years, 62 male/27 female). Severity scores were calculated at admission and mean results were 20.3±7.06 for Acute Physiology, Age, Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II, 47.2±12.7 for Simplified Acute Physiology Score (SAPS) II, and 9.46±3.32 for initial Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA). No statistically significant differences in background characteristics were observed. The main cause of ARDS was pneumonia (n=57 cases, 64.0%). Moderate ARDS in 47.1% of the cases and severe ARDS in 32.6%.

We found a mean improvement in partial pressure of oxygen to inspired fraction of oxygen in the prone group of 14% vs supine group (p<0.001). After adjustment for other covariates: the severity of ARDS, primary or secondary ARDS, the length of stay in the ICU and the length of hospital stay we did not find a significantly difference in mortality between the two groups. The mortality of patients with severe ARDS at the time of discharge from the intensive care unit, was 34.9% in the prone and 28.6% in the supine group (RR, 0.75; 95% CI, 0.121-4.701; P = 0.571), while their 60-days mortality was 46.8% and 28.6%, respectively (RR, 1.06; 95% CI 0.31-13.1; P = 0.670).

Conclusion: Although limited by its retrospective nature, small sample size and heterogeneous ARDS etiologies: our study shows that prone positioning contributed to improve the blood oxygenation in patients with moderate and severe hypoxemia, however, does not improve survival in patients with ARDS.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001550

Severe COVID-19: description of the first patients admitted to an Intensive Care Unit in Porto, Portugal


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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental, 2020, 8(2): 001550

Introduction: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an emerging disease that frequently has a self-limited course, but 15% patients develop pneumonia that requires supplemental oxygen and 5% progress to critical illness with respiratory and organ dysfunctions (1).

Objectives: To describe the characteristics and outcomes of COVID-19 patients admitted to an Infectious Diseases Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Porto, Portugal.

Methods: Adults with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection admitted to the Infectious Diseases ICU of Hospital São João, between March 13 and July 28/2020 and treated with oxygen supplementation or invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) were included. Demographic and clinical data were collected.

Results: Fifty-seven patients were included (median age 72 years [IQR, 55-78], 63.2% male). One patient still remains in the ICU, 7 were transferred to other ICUs after intubation for IMV and 39 were discharged. Comorbidities were identified in 53 (93%) cases, most frequently hypertension (63.2%) and diabetes mellitus (35.1%). Median time from symptoms onset to admission was 8 days (IQR, 4-12) and the most common were fever (78.9%), dyspnea (57.9%) and dry cough (56.1%). Thirty-one (54.4%) patients received IMV while 18 (62.9%) of the remaining were treated with high flow nasal cannula. Between IMV and non-IMV patients no significant differences were seen in age, sex, comorbidities or respiratory symptoms. Differences between IMV and non-IMV patients lymphocytes, AST, ferritin and D-dimers mean values were -397x10^6/l (95% CI -619;-208), 59 U/l (95% CI 38.3;392) and 3.1 (95% CI 1.86;5.33), respectively. The mean lowest PaO2/FiO2 ratio was 94.09 (95% CI 80.33;107.85) in IMV and 180.84 (95% CI 136.77;224.91) in non-IMV patients. IMV parameters, mean (±SD), included compliance 39.87±15.09 ml/cmH2O, PEEP 12.48±2.27 cmH2O, plateau pressure 25.3±4.1 cmH2O and driving pressure 13.61±3.87 cmH2O. IMV duration was 17±9.03 days, eighteen (78.2%) patients needed prone positioning, two CVVHF and two other ECMO-VV. Besides respiratory failure, cardiovascular (40%) and renal (26%) were the most common dysfunctions, and nineteen (38%) patients had bacterial superinfection. Cardiovascular dysfunction and bacterial superinfection were significantly different between the two groups (p<0.001). Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) was given in 23 cases (46%) and HCQ plus azithromycin in 15 cases (30%), with no side effects. Eleven patients (22%) were on corticoids, one tocilizumab and two remdesivir. Overall mortality was 20% (10 patients), including five IMV patients (20.8%) and five with no indication to escalate intensive care due to subjacent condition. No readmissions were registered.

Conclusion: Although COVID-19 is a new disease that remains largely unknown, critically ill patients may potentially recover if early and appropriate intensive care is provided. Our cohort allowed us to offer medical and human support to all patients admitted.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001564

Plasma lipid mediator concentrations are linked with disease severity in COVID-19 patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental, 2020, 8(2): 001564

Introduction: The factors that lead to critical illness in individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2 are not completely understood and the development of severe disease does not seem to be solely related to viral load and could involve an excessive inflammatory response. One aspect of the immune response that has, to date, been greatly understudied in COVID-19 patients is whether lipid mediator production is dysregulated with increasing disease severity. These molecules, which are produced from essential fatty acids, constitute a central part of the immune regulatory mechanisms activated during infections and are responsible for initiating and amplifying inflammation as well as for its termination.

Objectives: We objected to characterise the profile of lipid mediators in patients with COVID-19 in order to identify whether lipid mediator production is dysregulated with increasing disease severity and identifying the pathways that may become disrupted in COVID-19 infections.

Methods: We collected plasma from 41 patients with polymerase chain reaction confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection that were admitted to Beaumont Hospital, Ireland between the 16th of March and the 1st of May 2020. We categorized the patients into two main groups, severe and non-severe disease. Patients were categorized as severe if they required invasive mechanical ventilation in the intensive care unit. We defined non-severe as those who were managed at ward level with supplemental oxygen or non-invasive ventilation. Employing a liquid chromatography tandem-mass spectrometry-based approach we then quantified lipid mediators from the four main bioactive metabolomes that include the classic eicosanoids and the omega-3 fatty acid-derived pro-resolving mediators. These molecules were identified and quantified in accordance with established criteria.

Results: Eight samples were excluded as they did not meet quality control criteria. Using partial least square discriminant analysis we found that overall plasma lipid mediator concentrations were distinct between the severe group when compared with the non-severe group. Further analysis demonstrated that mediators from the leukotriene (LT) metabolome, including the potent chemoattractants LTD4 and LTE4, as well as the pro-resolving mediator Resolvin D1 (RvD1) were upregulated with patients with non-severe disease when compared with those with severe disease. Statistical assessment of lipid mediator concentrations demonstrated a significant downregulation of mediators from the LT metabolome in plasma from patients in the non-severe group when compared with those in the severe group. We also found that the concentrations of the 22-hydroxy-Maresin 1 (22-OH-MaR1), the further metabolite of the pro-resolving mediator Maresin 1, were significantly upregulated in plasma from patients in the severe group. Notably, we did not observe significant differences in plasma prostaglandin concentrations, including PGE2 and PGD2, between the two groups. This observation can be attributed to the fact that all patients received paracetamol. We observed an increase, albeit not reaching statistical significance of the Thromboxane B2 in patients in the severe group which is in line with the increased incidence of thrombosis in these patients. In order to designate the best
subset of lipid mediators as predictors of disease severity, least abso-
lute shrinkage and selection operator regression analysis was used. This
analysis identified 4 lipid mediators, LTD4, 20-OH-LTB4, RvD1 and
22-OH-MaR1 that gave the strongest predictive value.

Conclusion: These results indicate that increased disease severity
in patients with COVID-19 was linked with a failure to engage lipid
mediator biosynthesis. They also suggest that the use of therapeutics
that interfere with lipid mediator production and/or actions should be
considered with caution given that it may exacerbate disease sever-
ity. The present study was limited to one hospital and evaluated lipid
mediator concentrations in 33 patients. Despite these limitations the
present findings suggest that plasma lipid mediator concentrations
may also be useful markers for evaluating the efficacy of therapeutics
in rectifying host immune responses during COVID-19 infections.

001600
**Percutaneous tracheostomy in 46 COVID-19 patients admitted
to the ICU: safety and reliability**
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020; 8(2): 001600

Introduction: COVID-19 outbreak has led to an unprecedented need
for mechanical ventilation (MV). Tracheostomy might help ease airway
management and early weaning of the patients. However, it has not
been widely used since it exposes physicians at high risk of contract-
COVID-19 infection.

Objectives: We aim to describe the cohort of the 46 patients who underwent percutaneous tracheostomy during ICU-stay at our unit.

Methods: We retrieved from the electronic medical records data from all COVID-19 patients undergoing tracheostomy during ICU admission at the Rimini Hospital in the period 2/3/2020-29/4/2020.

Results: Among the 68 patients that received MV and admitted to the ICU, tracheostomy was performed in 46 patients (66%). 76% (n = 35) were males and the median age was 68 (range 32-80). Median SOFA score at admission was 7 (3-18). All tracheostomy were percutaneous (Griggs or percutwist). Median ICU length of stay at the day of trache-
ostomy was 11 days (1-22) and the median P/F ratio before procedure
was 172 (67-298). Five complications were recorded, none during the
procedure, two bleeding from the stoma, two stoma infections, and
one patient experienced accidental decannulation with subsequent
cardiac arrest. All complications were treated successfully includ-
ing the patient with accidental decannulation that survived and was
discharged from ICU. ICU-mortality rate was 32.6% (n = 15) with a
median ICU length of stay of 23 (7-108). Decannulation was performed
before ICU discharge in all of ICU survivors and the median length of
open tracheostomy was 17 (3-78). Only one patient was still admitted
to the ICU at the 30/07/2020 after 132 days of ICU admission. By fol-
lowing the ICU safety protocol, no healthcare worker involved in the
procedures has been infected.

Conclusion: Our results showed that percutaneous tracheostomy may
be safely performed in severe COVID-19 patients allowing a better air-
ways management in patients that require long ICU stay.

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001626
**Improved ROX Index Following Awake Prone Positioning in
COVID-19**
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020; 8(2): 001626

Introduction: Awake Prone Positioning is an increasingly widespread
treatment modality for hypoxaemic respiratory failure in patients
with COVID-19. We sought to evaluate whether this technique could
improve ROX index – a non-invasive composite measure of oxygena-
tion and work of breathing shown to predict need for intubation in
patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Methods: In this prospective cohort study, adult patients with COVID-
19 pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen were recruited at a
district general hospital in London. Baseline characteristics were col-
lected and ROX index calculated as the peripheral oxygen satura-
tion and work of breathing shown to predict need for intubation in
patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Results: In a cohort of 12 patients, ROX index improved significantly
from a median of 3.61 (IQR 3.00 – 5.16) to 4.58 (IQR 3.83 – 5.77) after
15 to 60 minutes (p = 0.012) and in the seven patients that maintained
prone position, they experienced a further increase in ROX index to
8.00 (IQR 4.86 – 11.73) at 120 to 240 minutes (p = 0.028).

Conclusion: Awake prone positioning was feasible and significantly
improved ROX index, which has previously been shown to predict
need for intubation in ARDS. Safe avoidance of intubation of COVID-
19 patients would be beneficial to avoid harms from invasive ventila-
tion and to optimize usage of scarce hospital resources in both high
and low income countries. ROX index is a simple composite measure of
respiratory parameters that may be valuable in assessing patients
when access to blood gas analysis is limited by availability or by
patient numbers. Further work is needed to delineate potential risks
and outcome benefits of this technique and to clarify its optimal mode
of delivery, and to establish whether changes in ROX Index in COVID-
19 are associated with patient relevant outcomes.

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Viral respiratory infections and ARDS in the pre-Covid19 age, a small case series

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001628

Introduction: Acute Respiratory Disease Syndrome has one of the core topics of intensive medicine due to its relative high incidence, and important morbidity and mortality. Since Covid-19 disease emerged all literature is focusing on this new entity. Through discussions about this respiratory disease some have questioned although Berlin criteria for ARDS are met and because the lung compliance is not the most common in usual ARDS if this not truly ARDS.

Objectives: To report on our experience with viral respiratory infections causing ARDS in 2019, pre-covid19.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of the clinical information of patients admitted in intensive care with diagnosis of ARDS according to Berlin criteria, and laboratory specimens of viral colonization of airway.

Results: We obtained 7 patients with diagnosis of ARDS due to viral pneumonia. Most of the patients were male (n=4), median age 62 (first quartile (1Q) 52 and third quartile (3Q) 74). Severe ARDS was diagnosed in 2 patients, median partial arterial oxygen pressure inspired oxygen fraction quotient (PaO2/FiO2) of 80.5 (1Q 77,75 and 3Q 83,25); moderate ARDS in 3 patients median PaO2/FiO2 142 (1Q 136,5 and 3Q 149); mild ARDS in 2 patients median PaO2/FiO2 226 (1Q 214 and 3Q 238). Invasive mechanical ventilation was necessary in 42,9% of patients (n=3), the other 4 patients were managed exclusively with non-invasive ventilation. Median days of mechanical ventilation was necessary in 11 (1Q 6 and 3Q 15,5) in invasive and 3 (1Q 1 and 3Q 8,75) in non-invasive ventilation. Median positive end expiratory pressure was 8 (1Q 8 and 3Q 10). The 2 patients with severe ARDS were managed with invasive mechanical ventilation and prone positioning. Identified respiratory virus were: rinovirus, adenovirus, influenzae A and B, parainfluenzae, coronavirus 229 and metapneumovirus. Co-bacterial-infection was observed in 1 patient, identified agents were Moraxella and Haemophilus. Antibiotics were administered to all patients (n=7) and 58,7% (n=6) were treated with anti-virals. Corticosteroids were administered to 5 patients (71,4%). Severity scores were: APACHE II 21 (1Q 16 and 3Q 22,5); SAPS II 40 (1Q 36,5 and 3Q 40,4; SAPS 3 59 (1Q 59 and 3Q 70); SOFA at admission 7 (1Q 6,5 and 3Q 8). Mean length of stay in intensive care was 11 (1Q 5,5 and 3Q 13) days and in hospital was 21 (1Q 13 and 3Q 21,5) days. Hospital mortality was the same of net mortality: 2 patients (28,6%) - with severe ARDS.

Conclusion: Although with limitations due to its retrospective nature, this study presents our reality and exposure to ARDS due to viral pneumoniae. All our patients were medicated with antibiotics, although only 1 patient had confirmed bacterial infection. The majority of patients received corticosteroids. Outcome was linked to disease severity and comorbidities. Applied PEEP levels were lower than does presented by ARDSnet suggesting normal compliance.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Lung Ultrasound abnormalities as a diagnostic adjunct for COVID-19 pneumonitis: a pilot study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001638

Introduction: Covid-19 pneumonitis has caused a pandemic surge in Europe across the globe, with almost 700,000 dead at the time of writing [1]. Current diagnosis of Covid-19 is based on PCR detection of surface antigens [2], however radiological features of Covid-19 infection have been reported and used as adjuvant diagnostic tool [3]. We hypothesise that lung ultrasontrasound (LUS) can also identify a characteristic pattern associated with Covid-19 infection.

Objectives: We aimed to assess and describe a lung ultrasound pattern associated with COVID-19 pneumonitis.

Methods: We performed a prospective observational study on patients admitted to the ICU in a tertiary hospital during a three-week period. A 6-point Lung ultrasound (LUS) assessment on all new admissions, scoring each region 0 to 3 (as per FUSIC guidance [4]). The primary outcome was the likelihood ratio (LR) of cumulative lung scores at admission to ICU with COVID-19 diagnosis, confirmed by at least two COVID-19 antigen-positive swabs, using fishers exact test. ROC curve analysis will be used to establish best threshold for continuous variables. P-Value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant.

Results: From 69 patients admitted during the study period, 61 were included with a complete US assessment. 43/61 (62%) had a positive antigen COVID-19. Cumulative scores ranged from 0 to 14 to both groups. A cut off of > 6 was used to discriminate the two populations. 34/43 patients (79%) who scored > 6 were diagnosis of COVID-19. 17/18 patients (94.4%) who scored 6 of under were negative for COVID-19. Positive Predictive Value 0.97 (0.85 – 0.99). Negative Predictive Value 0.65 (0.46 – 0.81). Accuracy 0.84. Area under the Curve 0.87. OR 62.4 (7.51 – 549.4). Sensitivity 79% (0.65 – 0.89) specificity 94% (0.74 – 0.99).

Conclusion: A cumulative score greater than 6 on 6-point Lung Ultrasound is a useful screening tool for COVID-19 pneumonitis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. European Centre For Disease Prevention and Control.
range from 0 to 18 and it was reported by the radiologist at the time of the chest x-ray.

**Results:** 112 patients were treated with NIV and/or IMV. Among those, 46 (41.1%) were treated only with NIV, 25 (22.3%) underwent IMV after a NIV trial, and 41 (36.6%) were treated only with IMV. The Brixia score among patients with a successful NIV trial was higher than among patients that failed it although it did not reach the statistical significance (12.1 ± 2.6 vs 10.9 ± 3.7, p-value 0.12). Brixia score was obtained at the end of tracheal intubation among patients that failed a NIV trial and among patients that were treated with IMV without a NIV (13.8 ± 2.8 vs 13.8 ± 2.5, p-value 0.99). Patients who failed the NIV trial had a Brixia score of 10.8 ± 3.5 before the NIV which worsened to 13.6 ± 2.7 (p = 0.002) when tracheal intubation was performed.

**Conclusion:** Although the Brixia score was able to identify patients with a more severe degree of interstitial-alveolar infiltrates it has some limitation when used to guide the decision of the ventilatory strategy to adopt with COVID-19 patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**001280**

**Percutaneous Tracheostomy in ICU in the time of COVID 19 Pandemia**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001280**

**Introduction:** Percutaneous tracheostomy is an essential procedure for weaning in patients with SARS and invasive mechanical ventilation specially to minimize complications due to weakness of prolonged ventilation.

**Objectives:** First, to describe the characteristics of all percutaneous tracheostomies performed in our patients with new Covid-19 infection admitted to our ICU and performed by intensive care physicians. Second, to analyze the infection rate of the ICU workers after implementing these technique.

**Methods:** A prospective 3 month-study of all patients admitted to our ICU, which reconverted from usual 20 to a 40-bed unit, with COVID-19 pneumonia who needed invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), a percutaneous tracheostomy and a tracheal button during a maximum of 24 hours immediately after decanulating. Variables analyzed: Patient data (sex, age, SAPS II), complications of tracheal button, and from all patients (mean days of IMV, mean time of ICU stay and ICU mortality rate).

**Results:** We treated 49 patients with COVID-19 pneumoniae: men 35 (71%), Mean age 60,2 years (32-78), SAPS II of 50,8 (39-68), 44 patients underwent IMV (89%), 28 (63%) needed a percutaneous tracheostomy for weaning (22 (78%) men), In 9 patients (32%) we applied a tracheal button. Mean time of MV of 21,3 days (17-36). Global mortality rate Covid-19 patients in ICU 20%(10 patients), all mechanically ventilated: 6 as a limitation of therapeutic effort and 4 as multiple organ dysfunction/septic shock, none after removing artificial airway. Complication of tracheal button was mostly discomfort which needed removing it before 16 hours in 2 patients (25%).

**Conclusion:** The application of tracheal button is a safe technique of removing definitively artificial airway in isolated patients with Covid-19 infection. Discomfort was seen in 25% and needed an early removal. No serious complication was seen, although our sample is small.

**001275**

**Tracheal button as a safely artificial airway removal protocol during COVID 19 PANDEMAC in patients with percutaneous tracheostomy in ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001275**

**Introduction:** Decannulation is an important step for our critical patients with a tracheostomy during the weaning process and it’s failure suposes a higher morbility, mostly in terms of bronchoaspiration, specially in the time of isolation during Covid-19 pandemia, where the response to an emergency inside the box could be prolonged.

**Objectives:** First, to analyze the use of tracheal button during an artificial airway removal protocol in patients with tracheostomy and isolation with Covid-19 pneumonia in ICU. Second, to describe our complications, if present.

**Methods:** A prospective 3 month-study of all patients admitted to our ICU, which reconverted from usual 20 to a 40-bed unit, with COVID-19 pneumonia who needed invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), a
Optimal Timing of Tracheostomy Insertion - Mechanical Ventilation Requirements

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001287

Introduction: Percutaneous Tracheostomy on Intensive Care is an established practice [1]. Timing of Tracheostomy with regard to the duration of ICU stay is well researched [2]. But the optimal timing of Tracheostomy with regards to the degree of ventilatory support is not well researched. The French Tracheostomy guidelines [3], suggest that the patients that are severely hypoxicemic (PaO2/FIO2 < 13.3 Kpa with a PEEP of >10 cm H2O) are not suitable for an airway procedure as this can significantly worsen their clinical situation. The general consensus among the ICU clinicians is that it is safe to perform a Tracheostomy when FIO2 is < 50% with a PEEP < 10 cm H2O.

Objectives: Our aim was to determine the optimal time of Tracheostomy in relation to the degree of ventilatory support. It was observed that patients have suffered episodes of desaturation and increased ventilatory requirements following the procedure, demanding a review into the clinical practice. We reviewed the pre-procedural ventilatory requirements and post procedural ventilatory requirements at 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours after the procedure.

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of the mechanical ventilation data in a university hospital adult intensive care unit and a major trauma centre over a 3-month period. The review is performed using the electronic notes of patients that underwent a percutaneous tracheostomy.

Results: A total of 51 patients were eligible to be reviewed. The mean age is 59 years with an age range of 20-81 years. Out of hospital cardiac arrest, Community Acquired Pneumonia, Traumatic Brain Injury were the three main admission diagnoses. Poor neurological recovery and facilitation of respiratory weaning were the two main indications for Tracheostomy. The mean day for insertion was day 9 of mechanical ventilation.

24 hours prior to tracheostomy insertion the mean PEEP among 51 patients was 7 and the mean PF ratio was 32 Kpa. There were deviations from the general safety consensus e.g.: one patient with a PEEP of 14 and another patient with a PF ratio of 17Kpa at the time of procedure.

Following tracheostomy, ventilator settings and oxygenation were reviewed at 6 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours and 48 hours. There was no significant deterioration in the PF ratios and the degree of ventilatory support among our patients at 6 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours and 48 hours after the procedure. Although, several episodes of short-lasting hypoxia and mucus plugging were noticed.

Conclusion: The retrospective analysis of the ventilatory data in a population of 51 mechanically ventilated patients revealed that percutaneous tracheostomy is reasonably safe with a PEEP of < 10 cm H2O and FIO2 of < 50%, when performed by experienced clinicians.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

A single centre retrospective cohort study of the survival differences associated with the timing of tracheostomy in patients ventilated for more than 14 days

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001460

Introduction: Tracheostomy is often performed to aid weaning from mechanical ventilation but the timing of tracheostomy has not been shown to confer a mortality benefit [1]. As practice in our department tends towards conventionally late tracheostomies, we aimed to determine whether there was a difference in outcomes for patients ventilated for > 14 days, who (i) underwent tracheostomy on or before day 14 of their ICU admission; (ii) underwent tracheostomy after 14 days; or (iii) had prolonged intubation without tracheostomy.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the notes of patients admitted to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital ICU who were mechanically ventilated for > 14 days between January 2015 and January 2020. Patients admitted with a tracheostomy already in situ were excluded. Data collected included demographic information, APACHE II score, ICU length of stay (LOS), day of tracheostomy, and mortality on ICU and hospital discharge. The primary outcome was survival to hospital discharge. Patients who had a tracheostomy on or before day 14 are referred to as the ‘earlier’ group, whilst patients who had a tracheostomy after day 14 are referred to as the ‘later’ group. Statistical analysis was performed in IBM SPSS 25.0 using X2 tests (Fisher’s Exact Test where appropriate), Kruskal-Wallis or Mann-Whitney U tests.

Results: In total 246 patients were ventilated for >14 days. Of these patients, 91 (37.0%) had an earlier tracheostomy, 66 (26.8%) underwent later tracheostomy and 89 patients (36.2%) were not tracheostomised. Median day of tracheostomy in the earlier group was day 11 (IQR 8-13) and in the later group day 18.5 (IQR 16.0-21.3, p < 0.001). There was no difference in age or APACHE II scores between the two tracheostomy groups. Patients with a later tracheostomy had a longer LOS (later tracheostomy median LOS 35.8 days [IQR 30.8-48.0] vs earlier tracheostomy median LOS 28.0 days [IQR 22.5-42.3] vs no tracheostomy median LOS 23.6 days [IQR 18.5-29.2], p < 0.001) and more days of mechanical ventilation (later tracheostomy median 31 days [IQR 24.0-41.3] vs earlier tracheostomy 25 days [IQR 19.0-34.0] vs no tracheostomy group, 73 patients (80.2%) survived to hospital discharge; in the later group, 41 patients (62.1%) survived; and of those who did not undergo tracheostomy, 48 patients (53.9%) survived (p = 0.001).

Conclusion: Patients who were ventilated for >14 days had a better rate of survival to hospital discharge when a tracheostomy was performed within the initial 14 days of their ICU admission compared to later during their admission or not at all. Our study is limited by its retrospective nature and there may be confounding factors influencing the poorer outcomes in those patients who were tracheostomised after 14 days, not represented by the data collected. Further research is indicated to assess the impact of earlier tracheostomy on patient-focused outcomes such as ability to engage in rehabilitation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Guidelines for long-term ventilation agree that tracheotomy has several benefits for patient treatment [1]. However, during the coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) pandemic it is widely seen as an unsafe procedure with a high risk of infection [2,3]. However, as mentioned by Piccin et al., theoretical considerations might speak in favour of early tracheotomies also in COVID-19 patients, such as earlier and safer weaning in order to free ICU capacity as soon as possible and a reduced need for analgesication, the drugs which were running out in many regions, including ours [4]. Most of these considerations are of theoretical nature, little clinical data is available on tracheotomy in COVID–19 patients. In our retrospective study, we evaluated tracheotomies performed on 16 COVID–19 patients to assess the risk of infection for HCWs, adverse events and the time, patients spend on a ventilator.

Methods: We evaluated tracheotomies performed on 16 COVID–19 patients as there is considerable disagreement if and how to implement tracheotomies in COVID–19 patients. All tracheotomies were performed bedside according to our standard protocol for dilatation tracheotomy. Tracheotomies were performed by experienced ICU physicians and trainees under supervision. Four Patients were on ECMO support during tracheotomy. Personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of a protective gown, a N95 (FFP3) facial mask, goggles, visor and double layer of gloves was used in all procedures. Patients or legal representatives gave informed consent to the procedure. Infections of HCW were monitored by frequent nasopharyngeal swabs.

Results: Patients were in mean 61 years old (median age 60 ± 7 years; 15/16 male), mean BMI was 31.3 kg/m2 (median 29.6 ± 6.9 kg/m2). Most frequent pre-existing medical condition was arterial hypertension (37.5%). No SARS-CoV2 infections were recorded in tracheotomy-performing healthcare workers (HCW) or other team members.

Conclusion: Tracheotomy in COVID–19 patients is almost identical to patients without COVID–19. The only difference is the PPE during the intervention. Tracheotomy is a safe procedure in COVID–19 for both patients and HCW under PPE. Given the shortness in ventilators and medication that are reported from some areas, it might be feasible for safe and forward patient management during COVID–19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001527
Early Tracheotomy in COVID–19 Patients is a safe Procedure for both, Patients and Physicians: a retrospective analysis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001527

Introduction: During the Covid-19 pandemic an unprecedented number of patients have required intensive care unit (ICU) admission and prolonged ventilation, posing a significant threat to availability of long–term ventilation agreements. In many regions, including ours in the Saarland, mechanical ventilation for COVID–19 patients is only possible if patients are referred to a tertiary specialist unit. This is due to the limited ICU capacity in the region, especially in critically ill patients. Thus, meeting regional guidelines for tracheotomy, a procedure of theoretical nature, little clinical data is available on tracheotomy in COVID–19 patients. In our retrospective study, we evaluated tracheotomies performed on 16 COVID–19 patients to assess the risk of infection for HCWs, adverse events and the time, patients spend on a ventilator.

Methods: We evaluated tracheotomies performed on 16 COVID–19 patients as there is considerable disagreement if and how to implement tracheotomies in COVID–19 patients. All tracheotomies were performed bedside according to our standard protocol for dilatation tracheotomy. Tracheotomies were performed by experienced ICU physicians and trainees under supervision. Four Patients were on ECMO support during tracheotomy. Personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of a protective gown, a N95 (FFP3) facial mask, goggles, visor and double layer of gloves was used in all procedures. Patients or legal representatives gave informed consent to the procedure. Infections of HCW were monitored by frequent nasopharyngeal swabs.

Results: Patients were in mean 61 years old (median age 60 ± 7 years; 15/16 male), mean BMI was 31.3 kg/m2 (median 29.6 ± 6.9 kg/m2). Most frequent pre-existing medical condition was arterial hypertension (37.5%). No SARS-CoV2 infections were recorded in tracheotomy-performing healthcare workers (HCW) or other team members.

Conclusion: Tracheotomy in COVID–19 patients is almost identical to patients without COVID–19. The only difference is the PPE during the intervention. Tracheotomy is a safe procedure in COVID–19 for both patients and HCW under PPE. Given the shortness in ventilators and medication that are reported from some areas, it might be feasible for safe and forward patient management during COVID–19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001498
Resuming oral feeding in Tracheostomised COVID–19 patients admitted to Tertiary Specialist Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001498

Introduction: Data on the functional outcomes of patients surviving an intensive care unit (ICU) admission for COVID-19 is sparse [1]. It is widely recognised that Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) have an essential role within ICU to support patients achieving optimal communication and swallowing function post critical care [2]. Patients diagnosed with COVID–19 were intubated and ventilated for prolonged periods, increasing their risk of post-extubation dysphagia [1].

Objectives: To evaluate the mean and median duration of commencing a normal diet in patients with COVID–19 who were tracheostomised and to compare this with data collected on tracheostomised patients referred to SLT in 2018, who were admitted to the same intensive care unit at a Tertiary Specialist Cardiothoracic centre.

Methods: During the period March to June 2020 (inclusive), SLT was referred and provided intervention to 30 tracheostomised COVID–19 patients. Data was contemporaneously collected regarding intubation, extubation, tracheostomy insertion and every SLT intervention, including diet changes.

This data was compared to data collected over a 5-month period in 2018, in which 31 cardiothoracic or cardio-respiratory tracheostomised patients were referred and seen by SLT.

This data was analysed retrospectively, in terms of the time taken to resume a normal diet post tracheostomy insertion.

Results: A total of 25 COVID–19 patients were seen for dysphagia intervention, by SLT, post tracheostomy. There were 22 male and mean age was 52. The mean time taken for tracheostomy patients to commence a normal diet was 13.2 days (Median 13.5). This was compared to data from 2019, when 21 patients were seen for dysphagia intervention post tracheostomy insertion, by SLT. There were 8 males and the mean age was 61. These patients had a mean time to commence a normal diet of 14 days (Median 13.1).

Conclusion: These small but comparable patient samples, that show that there does not appear to be a significant difference in the length of time taken to commence a normal diet in tracheostomised patients with COVID–19 patients, when compared to the “normal” cohort of patients seen at a Tertiary Cardiothoracic Centre in London, despite the differences in the mean age of the sample groups.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
of resources. Early tracheostomy could benefit this cohort in terms of reduction of duration of mechanical ventilation, length of ICU stay (LOS), delirium and laryngeal injury [1]. However, professional societies advocated the delay of tracheostomies or discouraged them altogether given the expected increase in risk of aerosol-generating procedures (AGP) [2-3]. We performed tracheostomy in an effort to deal with predicted pandemic related resource shortages and to reduce ICU weakness and hospital stay.

Objectives: To compare patient characteristics, tracheostomy complications and evidence of viral transmission to staff.

Methods: Prospective, single centre, service evaluation project. We set out a multidisciplinary approach to tracheostomy insertion, both surgical and percutaneous, the principal aim of which was staff safety. Selection for tracheostomy criteria were defined as: FiO2 ≤ 50%, positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) ≤ 10 for at least 24hrs prior to procedure, unreedy for trial of extubation and likely need for prolonged ventilation. We performed modified surgical and percutaneous tracheostomies aiming to reduce aerosolisation. This involved personal protective equipment (PPE) as per Public Health England (PHE) guidelines with sterile gown and gloves donned over the PPE. The modified percutaneous technique included using 3 drapes and use of muscle relaxation/paralysis and ventilation pauses. Following tracheostomy, we documented complications and outcomes. We surveyed the operators regarding evidence of infection.

Results: Tracheostomy was performed in 33 out of the 74 patients that were admitted in our ICU. 14 were percutaneous and 19 were surgical. Patients were predominantly male (63.6%), median age was 64 (IQR:58-68). Tracheostomy was performed after 7.5 days (median, IQR:5-12) from intubation and after 10 days (median IQR:7-14) of symptoms prior to ITU admission. We have not seen a significant difference in tracheostomy cuff leak nor wound infection/breakdown associated with either insertion technique. There was an increase in PaO2:FIO2 ratio from 23.1 (median, IQR:19-26) prior to the procedure to 26 (median, IQR: 19-35) after. Mortality was 20.6% (7 patients). 26 patients (78.8%) have been discharged home. There were no episodes of absence of staff with COVID-19 like illness and operators performing tracheostomy all had negative antibodies.

Conclusion: We have demonstrated that earlier tracheostomy in stable COVID-19 pneumonitis patients, with modifications to insertion technique, is feasible. We have not seen increased complication rates or instances of staff infection with COVID-19 during the study period. Earlier insertion during the pandemic may allow for improved resource allocation and reduction in upper airway complications related to prolonged oro-tracheal intubation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. 2 VRUS 9: High risk of aerosolization or droplet spread from tracheostomy in patients with COVID-19 when ventilator or CPAP circuit disconnected, Faculty of Intensive care medicine.

Percutaneous tracheostomy in COVID 19 patients admitted in Intensive care unit for invasive ventilation

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001621

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has placed an extraordinary burden on critical care medicine globally. Supportive care continues to be mainstay of treatment. At the time of the study two thirds of Covid-19 patients who required critical care in the UK had mechanical ventilation within 24 hrs of admission. Due to changing guidelines, there was little evidence on the appropriate mode (surgical vs bedside) of tracheostomy for patients admitted to Intensive care unit. Some studies suggested that early tracheostomy was associated with better outcomes than late tracheostomy.

Objectives: This is a prospective observational study looking at possibility of doing percutaneous tracheostomy in Covid19 patients admitted in a tertiary hospital intensive care unit requiring invasive mechanical ventilation.

Methods: The present study involved review of Covid-19 patients who underwent tracheostomy during their stay in our intensive care unit from 18th of March 2020 to 29 th of April 2020. Data related to demographic parameters, duration of ventilation with Endotracheal tube, day and type of tracheostomy from time of ICU admission and outcome were reviewed.

Results: 20 patients underwent planned tracheostomy during the study duration with 15 males (75%) and 5 female patients (25%). The overall mean age was 55.1yrs; for males 57.13 and for females 49.20 had normal BMI, 20% pre obese and 60% were obese. Mean days of ventilation with ET tube was 13.15 +/− 6.53. Earliest tracheostomy was done on day 8 of ICU admission and latest was on day 30 of ICU admission. Median day of tracheostomy was Day 14. 11 (55%) patients underwent percutaneous tracheostomy in the ICU while 9 (45%) patients underwent surgical tracheostomy in operation theatre. Of the 9 surgical tracheostomy patients, 2 were difficult percutaneous tracheostomy that were subjected to surgical tracheostomy. 8 patients were discharged to ward, 9 patients continue to be ventilated and 3 patients died during the study.

Conclusion: This study shows that percutaneous tracheostomy can be safely done on Covid 19 patients in an Intensive care unit with adequate planning and preparation. Nevertheless, a surgical tracheostomy should be considered when necessary.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. 1) NHS England guidelines.

001435

Diuretics for fluid overload in critically ill patients. The multicenter randomized-controlled IRISHS study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001435

Introduction: Fluid overload has been associated with increased morbidity and mortality in critically ill patients.
Objectives: To assess the efficacy and tolerance of a rationalized diuretic strategy to treat fluid overload after shock in patients undergoing mechanical ventilation.

Methods: The IRISH study (NCT 02345681) was a single-blind, randomized-controlled study performed in 4 intensive care units (ICUs) in France, from May 5th 2015 to February 2nd 2019. Patients were eligible in case of fluid overload defined as in-ICU weight increase ≥ 3%, mechanical ventilation ≥ 24 hours, and hemodynamical stabilization (vasopressors drugs discontinuation > 6 hours; dobutamine ≤ 10 μg.kg⁻¹.min⁻¹). Patients were randomized into diuretic group (intravenous furosemide, twice a day, maximum daily dose of 250 mg from randomization until successful extubation), or a control group without furosemide. The primary outcome was the fluid balance, defined as weight variation, from randomization to successful extubation. The main secondary outcome was the safety of diuretic.

Results: 171 patients were randomized, 5 patients who did not satisfy the inclusion criteria were excluded and thus, 166 included in analysis: 77 in the diuretic and 89 in the control group. The primary outcome was available in 144 (84.2%) patients. In the complete cases analysis, fluid balance was 1.4 [-2.5;4.5] kg in the diuretic group and 6.4 [0.5;11.2] kg in the control group (p < 0.001). In the multiple imputation analysis, fluid balance was significantly decreased in the diuretic group (β = -4.8 95%CI [-7.3;-2.5], p < 0.001). Eleven (14%) patients died in ICU in the diuretic group, and 16 (18%) patients in the control group (p = 0.5). The rate of kidney failure were respectively 63.2% and 55 (73.3%) in the diuretic and the control group (p = 0.2).

Conclusion: In this multicenter randomized-controlled study, diuretics decreased the fluid overload of critically ill patients as compared to a no-diuretic policy.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001447
Use of lung recruitment and individualized PEEP setting in the ventilatory management of C-ARDS
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001447

Introduction: Lung protective ventilation is the cornerstone of the ventilatory management of COVID-19 related ARDS (C-ARDS). Lung recruitment maneuvers (RM) and their related optimum PEEP setting are frequently used as adjuvant interventions. However, as lung collapse does not seem to be an important pathophysiological component, these interventions may be less effective in C-ARDS.

Objectives: To study the role of RM and individualized PEEP settings as adjuvant lung protective interventions in the management of ventilated C-ARDS patients. We specifically analyzed the obtained PEEP recruitment maneuver (Servo-U, Maquet CC). We compared individual PEEP levels determined during a decremental PEEP trial by global (Cg) or regional (Creg) compliance. Cg was defined by the maximal global compliance and Creg by the point of minimum overdistension and collapse as measured by EIT(1). We also analyzed differences in PEEP individualization between supine and prone positioning. After checking for normality of the data distributions means were compared using t-test for independent variables.

Results: The analysis includes a total of 90 registered RM-PEEP titrations (60 in supine and 30 in prone) in 19 patients (4.6 RM per patient). Recruitment pressures (mean ± SD) were 48 ±4/33±4 cmH2O (inspiratory pressure/PEEP). Obtained individualized PEEP levels were 10.5±2.2 cmH2O for Cg and 8.8±2.3 cmH2O for Creg (p < 0.005). Respiratory system compliance, plateau and driving pressures improved after RM and PEEP setting from 37.1 ± 14.2 to 42.5 ± 13.8 ml/cmH2O p < 0.001; 24.9 ± 3.6 to 22.7 ± 3.1 cmH2O p < 0.001 and 13.8±3.1 to 11.5 ± 2.8 cmH2O p < 0.01, respectively. There were no differences between supine and prone position in individualized PEEP levels (Cg 10.6±3.2 vs 10.2±3.33 and Creg 8.9 ± 3.1 vs 8.6±3.6) and respiratory system compliance was better in supine than in prone (41.9±13.8 vs 42.8±16.8 ± p < 0.05) respectively. At the determined Cg and Creg PEEP levels lung protective ventilation resulted in a percentage overdistension of 10±7.9 and 4.5±3.4% and collapse of y 3±4.3 and 4.5±2.5% of the total lung respectively as measured by EIT. Small changes in the applied PEEP levels resulted in important changes in the percentage overdistension and/or collapse.

Conclusion: Lung recruitment and individualized PEEP titration was an effective adjuvant lung protective intervention. It allowed to adjust and minimize PEEP in each individual patient and at different stages during the evolution. The individualized PEEP levels according to Creg were lower with less overdistension but more collapse than the ones according to Cg.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.

001457
Impact of frailty, age and comorbidities on the need for invasive ventilation in critically ill patients with COVID-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001457

Introduction: In line with NHS England guidance [1], during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic where appropriate all patients admitted to hospital, irrespective of COVID-19 status, were assessed for frailty, using the Rockwood Frailty Scale as part of a holistic assessment.

In this retrospective cohort study, we aimed to assess the impact of frailty, age and comorbidities in patients with COVID-19 requiring invasive ventilation.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed case notes of all patients admitted to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department, between March 23rd and April 23rd 2020 with a positive COVID-19 RT-PCR result. Routine data, including demographic data, comorbidity data, Rockwood Frailty Score, were extracted. We assessed the predictive value of age, comorbidities and Rockwood Frailty Scores for disease progression to requiring invasive ventilation. Receiver operating curves were generated to illustrate sensitivity and specificity for each variable to predict the need for invasive ventilation.

Results: Patients with a diagnosis of COVID-19 who progressed to invasive ventilation were younger with a median age of 58.5 [53.23;
Consecutive patients admitted between 15 March and 15 April in 26 ICUs, who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 (RT-PCR in a nasopharyngeal swab) and had severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, presenting with bilateral infiltrates in the chest X-ray and requiring invasive mechanical ventilation. Follow-up time was until ICU discharge.

Introduction: The surge of patients with COVID-19 severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure has put resources at their limits.

Objectives: To describe how severely hypoxemic patients were managed with noninvasive and invasive respiratory support in the Catalan ICU network between 15 March and 15 April.

Methods: Consecutive patients admitted between 15 March and 15 April in 26 ICUs, who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (RT-PCR in a nasopharyngeal swab) and had severe acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, presenting with bilateral infiltrates in the chest X-ray and requiring invasive mechanical ventilation. Follow-up time was until ICU discharge.

Study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the coordinating center (Hospital Universitari Sant Pau, Barcelona).

Results: A total of 1388 patients required invasive mechanical ventilation and overall mortality rate was 35% (491/1388). Most common single modes of oxygenation before intubation were face mask with oxygen reservoir in 39% patients (538/1388), of whom 182 died (34%), and high flow nasal cannula in 22% patients (308/1388), of whom 88 died (29%); p = 0.12 for mortality differences. Once intubated, the most frequent ventilator mode was volume assist-control ventilation and was used in 1236/1388 patients (89%). The most frequently used ventilators were conventional ICU machines in 66% patients (915/1388), and anesthesia machines in 12% patients (169/1388). The anesthesia machines were used when conventional ICU ventilators were lacking. Patients ventilated with ICU machines had an ICU mortality of 34% (308/915) whereas those ventilated with anesthesia machines had a 47% mortality (79/169), p = 0.002. ECMO was employed in 31 patients (2.2%), 28 ECMO VV and 3 ECMO VA. Tracheostomies were performed in 28% patients (524/1388), of whom 26% (137/524) died.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of stay and duration of ventilation (mean ± standard deviation)</th>
<th>All (n=1388)</th>
<th>Alive (n=897)</th>
<th>Dead (n=491)</th>
<th>p (alive vs dead)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital stay pre-ICU, days</td>
<td>2.38±3.5</td>
<td>2.25±3.2</td>
<td>2.62±3.8</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU stay, days</td>
<td>20.1±14.9</td>
<td>22.2±15.5</td>
<td>16.4±12.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admission to intubation, days</td>
<td>2.74±3.5</td>
<td>2.6±3.2</td>
<td>3.02±3.97</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU admission to intubation, days</td>
<td>0.47±1.2</td>
<td>0.48±1.07</td>
<td>0.43±1.51</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of mechanical ventilation, days</td>
<td>17.5±13.8</td>
<td>18.3±14.2</td>
<td>16.02±12.7</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intubation to tracheostomy, days</td>
<td>13.8±6*</td>
<td>13.5±6.1**</td>
<td>14.5±5.7***</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: COVID-19 mechanically ventilated patients consumed a substantial amount of resources, were often tracheostomized and their ICU length of stay was prolonged.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001538 Ventilation related characteristics of COVID-19 patients classified by clinical phenotype
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001538

Introduction: SARS-CoV-2 infection leads in the most severe cases to a profound respiratory failure that requires admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) and mechanical ventilation. Two different phenotypes have been proposed: H (HIGH elastance-right to left shunt ratio-lung weight-recruitability) and L (LOW elastance-VA/Q ratio-lung weight-recruitability) (ref 1. Gattinoni).
Introduction: COVID-19 related ARDS (C-ARDS) has specific pathophysio logic features that include a relatively higher compliance as non-C-ARDS of similar severity and a pulmonary vascular thrombosis diathesis together with a severe early hypoxemia. Given these features inhaled nitric oxide (iNO) could have a potential adjuvant role in the ventilatory management of C-ARDS.

Objectives: To study the effects of iNO on the relative change in pul monary perfusion and on gas exchange in C-ARDS.

Methods: Retrospective analysis C-ARDS patients with severe ARDS treated with iNO delivered via the SoKINOXXTM device (Air Liquide).

The relative distribution of pulmonary blood flow before and after the administration of iNO was determined by EIT (Enlight, 1800 Timpel). Perfusion data were obtained by means of a bolus infusion of 10 ml of hypertonic (7.6%) Saline solution during a brief apneic period maintaining the same PEEP level(1). Ventilator settings before and after iNO were maintained unchanged so that no changes in the regional distribution of ventilation were expected. At least one blood gas before and after iNO, although at different time periods in relation to the start of iNO therapy, were obtained. Due to the low number of patients and measurements no statistical analysis was performed in this descriptive study.

Results: A total of 8 patients were included in the analysis. After a few dose response trials performed in the first patients average lowest INO dose resulting in the maximum change in perfusion was 15 ppm. Changes in the relative distribution of ventilation were <1% for all studied regions. The response to iNO was very variable both in terms of the distribution of perfusion and gas exchange with no clear defined pattern. Only four patients responded according to oxygenation with an average increase in PaO2/FIO2 of 40±±17.7%. When analyzing the changes in the distribution of perfusion in vertical gravitational axis, iNO predominantly shifted perfusion to the ven tral (non-dependent) lung half in 3 patients (13±6.95% shift) and to the dorsal (dependent) lung half in 5 patients (8.4±4.1% shift). This corresponded to a decrease of 5.5±4.4% in PaO2/FIO2 and an increase of 13.7±17.7% in PaCO2 and an increase of 29.9±28.3% in PaO2/FIO2 and a decrease of 2.3±14.5% in PaCO2 in those predominantly shifting perfusion to ventral and to dorsal regions respectively.

Conclusion: The response to iNO in C-ARDS patients was highly variable and required higher than usual doses. In responding patients iNO caused a redistribution of pulmonary blood flow to dorsal nondependent regions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001568 Ventilation related characteristics of COVID-19 patients admitted to ICU and extended-ICU during SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001568

Introduction: Patients with the most severe forms of SARS-CoV-2 infection develop a profound respiratory failure that, during the global pandemic, has forced hospitals to increase their ICU-bed capacity. Spaces with ICU-level monitoring, such as post-anesthesia care units or operating rooms have been used as temporary ICU beds (extended-ICU). Moreover, collaboration between professionals in the
departments of critical care, anesthesiology and other medical specialties has been necessary in order to attend all critical care patients. (ref. 1, 2).

**Objectives:** We aim to determine the differences in ventilation related variables between patients admitted to the ICU and patients admitted to the extended-ICU in a third-level hospital in Spain between 15th February and 15th June 2020.

**Methods:** We retrospectively collected and analysed data from all COVID-19 confirmed patients admitted to a third-level hospital in Spain and needed intensive cares, between 15th February and 15th June 2020. We categorised the patients into two groups: admitted to ICU and admitted to extended-ICU. We compared ventilation related parameters between groups. The data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation, median ± interquartile range, and compared using T-test, Wilcoxon rank test, Chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test as appropriate.

**Results:** A total of 87 COVID patients are included, out of which 79 (93%) received invasive mechanical ventilation. 77% males, aged 60 ± 12, BMI 27 Kg/m² (IQR 25-32). Mean APACHE-II 17 ± 6. 13 patients needed VV-ECMO support (61% survival). Overall hospital mortality was 38%. Comorbidities: hypertension 30%, diabetes 14%, Ischemic heart disease 5%, asthma 8%, COPD 3%. Ventilation related parameters are expressed in Table 1.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>ICU (n= 45)</th>
<th>Extended-ICU (n = 42)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical ventilation free days</td>
<td>1 (0, 4)</td>
<td>0 (0, 2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal volume/ideal body weight day 1 (ml/kg)</td>
<td>7 (6, 8)</td>
<td>7 (6, 8)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal volume/ideal body weight day 5 (ml/kg)</td>
<td>7 (6, 8)</td>
<td>7 (6, 8)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal volume/ideal body weight day 10 (ml/kg)</td>
<td>8 (7, 8)</td>
<td>7 (6, 8)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2 day 1 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>167 (109, 221)</td>
<td>185 (142, 222)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2 day 5 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>183 (128, 240)</td>
<td>190 (147, 232)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaO2/FiO2 day 10 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>205 ± 79</td>
<td>167 ± 69</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving pressure day 1 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>12 ± 10</td>
<td>14 (12, 20)</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving pressure day 5 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>12 ± 3</td>
<td>15 ± 4</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving pressure day 10 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>12 ± 10</td>
<td>14 (12, 20)</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau pressure day 1 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>23 ± 3</td>
<td>26 ± 4</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau pressure day 5 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>23 ± 3</td>
<td>25 ± 3</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau pressure day 10 (cmH2O)</td>
<td>22 ± 4</td>
<td>23 ± 7</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of pre-intubation non-invasive ventilation (%)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extubation failure (%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** Patients admitted to the extended-ICU had less mechanical ventilation free days. Patients treated in extended-ICU had worse oxygenation, expressed as PaO2/FiO2 ratio than patients treated in ICU. Patients admitted to extended-ICU had higher driving pressure and higher plateau pressure during the first days of treatment, when compared to patients admitted to ICU. There were no differences between groups in the use of pre-intubation non-invasive ventilation or in the extubation failure.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


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**Impact of Early Invasive Mechanical ventilation on Day 60 mortality for the COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxic respiratory failure, a multicenter cohort study of the OUTCOMEREA Network**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):001569**

**Introduction:** Approximately 5% of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are admitted to intensive care units (ICU) for acute hypoxic respiratory failure (AHRF). Whether invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) should be used as first line therapy over non-invasive ventilation (NIV), high flow nasal cannula (HFNC), continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and oxygen by mask, is debated.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to assess a non-biased effect of Early-IMV in COVID induced AHRF on day-60 mortality.

**Methods:** Data from consecutive COVID-19 patients admitted in 11 ICUs of the French OutcomeRea™ network were prospectively collected. Patients with AHFR (PaO2/FiO2 < 300 mmHg) within 2 days of ICU admission and not referred from another ICU were included. The study compared day-60 mortality between patients who were administered IMV within 48 hours of ICU admission (Early IMV group) and patients who did not (non-Early IMV group). We used a Cox proportional-hazard model with ponderation with inverse probability of Early IMV weighting (IPTW) to model the risk of death at day 60 (HR > 1 in favor of death).

**Results:** Of the 306 included patients, the median age (IQR) age was of 61 (52-69) years, 241 were males (78.8%), 175 (57.2%) had at least one comorbidity; the median SAPSII and PaO2/FiO2 were 33 (25-44) and 133 (96-186) mmHg, respectively. On admission, 105 (34.4%) patients received IMV, 26 (8.4%) NIV, 122 (39.8%) HFNC, 21 (6.8%) CPAP, and 32 (10.4%) oxygen by mask. Ultimately, the Early and non-Early IMV groups included 149 and 157 patients; and Day-60 mortality was 40.9% and 22.9%, respectively. Between the Early and non-Early IMV groups included 149 and 157 patients; and Day-60 mortality was 40.9% and 22.9%, respectively. Between the Early and non-Early IMV groups, the rates of ICU-acquired pneumonia and bacteremia were 71 vs 29 (P < 0.01) and 15 vs 8 (P < 0.01); the median ICU length of stay 15 (10-22) vs 8 (5-15) days (P < 0.01), respectively. In the IPTW analysis, day-60 mortality remained higher in the Early than in the non-Early IMV group (IPTWHR = 1.78, CI 95%, 1.16 to 2.71, p < 0.01). Similar results were observed in a sensitive analysis using Multivariate Cox survival model (Table).
In ICU patients admitted with COVID-19-induced acute hypoxic respiratory failure, early IMV increases day-60 mortality and should not be used as first line respiratory support.

**001575**

Breath-synchronized electrical stimulation of the expiratory muscles in mechanically ventilated patients: a randomized controlled pilot study and pooled analysis

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001575*

**Introduction:** Expiratory muscle weakness leads to difficult ventilator weaning. Maintaining their activity with functional electrical stimulation (FES) may therefore improve outcome. We studied feasibility and efficacy of breath-synchronized expiratory muscle FES in a mixed ICU ("Holland study") and pooled data with our previous work [1] ("Australian study") to analyze effects in a larger and more heterogeneous group.

**Methods:** Holland: Twenty patients with contractile response to FES received active or sham expiratory muscle FES (30-min, twice-daily, five days/week until weaned). Endpoints were respiratory muscle thickness, feasibility, and ventilation duration. Pooled: Data on clinical endpoints from the Holland and Australian studies were combined (N = 40), including ventilation duration and ICU length-of-stay. Plasma cytokines (day 0, 3) were analyzed to study the effects of expiratory muscle FES on systemic inflammation.

**Results:** Holland: 272 sessions were performed (sham/active: 103/169, compliance: 91.1%). No FES-related serious adverse events were reported. Respiratory muscle thickness was not different over time and between groups. Pooled: At day 3, there was a between-group difference in total expiratory muscle thickness favoring the active group (treatment difference (95% confidence interval); 2.25 (0.34, 4.16) mm, \(P = 0.02\)). Plasma cytokine levels indicated that early FES did not induce systemic inflammation. Median ventilation duration and ICU length-of-stay were 10 vs. 52 (\(P = 0.07\)), and 12 vs. 54 (\(P = 0.03\)) days for the active vs. sham group. 3/20 patients died in the active group, vs. 9/20 in the sham group (\(P = 0.08\)).

**Conclusion:** Expiratory muscle FES is feasible in selected ICU patients. This might be a promising intervention within a respiratory muscle-protective ventilation strategy. A next step would be to test whether this approach could improve weaning outcome.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. The study was partly sponsored by a research grant from Liberate Medical.

**00195**

Influence of an expiratory brake on the expiratory impedance in a model of mild acute respiratory distress syndrome

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 00195*

**Introduction:** Optimized external expiratory resistances improve lung mechanics, reduce tidal expiratory flow limitation (EFL) and prevent expiratory lung collapse in injured lungs (1). EFL is associated with an increased mortality in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) patients (2, 3). To detect and avoid EFL can have important consequences on patients outcome. Whether EFL can be detected by electrical impedance tomography is still unknown.

**Objectives:** EFL is expected to affect regional expiratory flow and consequently regional variation of expiratory electrical impedance. We hypothesized that changes in regional expiratory flow and EFL, consequent to different expiratory resistances and positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) levels, can be detected as changes in expiratory electrical impedance of the thorax.

**Methods:** Ten anesthetized and mechanically ventilated pigs underwent lung lavages to reach mild ARDS with a PO2/FIO2 ratio of 250 mmHg at PEEP of 5 cmH2O. During the experiment the pigs breathed spontaneously during continue positive airway pressure. Three PEEP levels (12, 3 and 0 cmH2O) and four external expiratory resistances were tested (labeled as R0, R1, R2, R3). The electrical impedance signal was simultaneously acquired. The impedance signal was analyzed breath-by-breath at 5 time-points of the expiratory phase (end-inspiration, first, second, third and fourth quartile of the expiration) and separately for dependent and non-dependent lung regions.

**Results:** In absence of additional expiratory resistance (R0), a significant difference in electrical impedance was observed in non-dependent lung regions at different PEEP levels. High PEEP corresponded to a slower decrease in impedance throughout expiration. Applying additional expiratory resistances (R1–R3), the differences in electrical impedance related to PEEP disappeared and showed a trend closer to the one observed at high PEEP and R0.

**Conclusion:** A change in the time course of the expiratory impedance at PEEP 0 cmH2O was interpreted as sign of expiratory flow limitation. Addition of expiratory resistances contrasts the appearance of this pattern. Electrical impedance tomography can indirectly detect phenomena of expiratory flow limitation in injured lungs during spontaneously breathing ventilation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. 2) Yonis H. et al. AJRCCM 2018; 198:131–134.
4. 4) European Society of Intensive Care Medicine grant (NEXT Grant Award 2017).
5. 5) Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation (20170531).

**001369**

A Novel System of “Split Ventilation” Using Electronically Controlled Valves Can Be Used to Deliver Modified Lung Protective Ventilation in a Porcine Model of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001369*

**Introduction:** During surges in demand for ventilator capacity, demand may outstrip supply. Split ventilation has been suggested as a...
temporising measure for individual hospitals to cope with such surges in demand. Optimising split ventilation may be important in the ongoing pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 and the associated high prevalence of acute respiratory distress syndrome. We developed a low cost electronically controlled system for delivering split ventilation, provisionally termed the Combiventilate system.

**Objectives:**
1. To demonstrate that an electronically controlled split ventilation system could be used to deliver independent volume-controlled ventilation to two test lungs under conditions of varying resistance, compliance and leak.
2. To demonstrate that in a porcine model of acute respiratory distress syndrome, the Combiventilate system could deliver independent modified lung protective ventilation.
3. To show that in a porcine model of ARDS, markers of ventilator induced lung injury were similar in Cobiventilate ventilated animals and single ventilated animals.
4. To demonstrate that with minimal training, critical care staff could independently operate the Combiventilate system in simulated clinical scenarios.

**Methods:** We performed benchtop testing of the Combiventilate system using linear test lungs to ensure it’s ability to provide differential ventilation and accommodate for changes in respiratory mechanics. We established a porcine model of acute respiratory distress syndrome by administering intrabronchial hydrochloric acid. We compared ventilation using the Combiventilate system to traditional individual ventilation in both injured and uninjured animals (n = 30). Groups were: injured unmanaged (n = 10), individually ventilated injured (n = 5), Combiventilate managed injured (n = 10) and Combiventilate managed uninjured (n = 10).

We compared between group differences in the ability to deliver lung protective ventilation and meet gas exchange targets over a period of 6 hours of mechanical ventilation. We also compared immunological and histological markers of ventilator induced lung injury between groups. We performed benchtop simulations of clinical scenarios to verify that, with minimal training, clinical staff could set up and operate the Combiventilate system under conditions simulating common clinical scenarios.

**Results:** The Combiventilate system was able to deliver individualised volume-controlled ventilation in benchtop testing with linear test lungs. In a porcine model of ARDS, the Combiventilate system was able to facilitate similar adherence to modified lung protective ventilation as compared to individual traditional ventilation. Immunological and histological markers of ventilator induced lung injury were similar in the Combiventilate managed groups compared to the traditionally ventilated groups. In benchtop simulations, clinical staff were able to set up and operate the Combiventilate system with minimal training.

**Conclusion:** Performance of the Combiventilate system in benchtop ventilation and in a large animal model of ARDS supports the ability to deliver modified lung protective ventilation. Similar degrees of ventilator induced lung injury as observed in the Combiventilate group as compared to the individually ventilated group. These data are promising and suggest further efforts to develop and investigate this system for use in humans as a temporising measure when surge demand exceeds capacity for individualised ventilation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
1. An Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Feasibility Project grant was awarded to the group to perform this work.

**001187**

**Documentation of Plateau Pressures and the incidence of High Plateau Pressures in Mechanically Ventilated Patients with ARDS secondary to COVID-19**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001187

**Introduction:** Elevated Plateau Pressures in mechanically ventilated patients with ARDS have previously been shown to increase the time needed for liberation from mechanical ventilation, increase the length of ICU stay and increase hospital mortality (1,2). International guidelines for the management of ARDS, including ARDS secondary to COVID-19, reflect these findings and recommend maintaining plateau pressures of less than 30 cmH2O (3).

**Objectives:**
1. To assess how frequently Plateau Pressures were recorded in mechanically ventilated patients admitted with ARDS secondary to COVID-19.
2. To investigate the incidence of elevated plateau pressures in mechanically ventilated patients with ARDS secondary to COVID-19.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective audit of all patients with ARDS secondary to COVID-19 admitted to the ICU over a three month period (06/03/2020 – 06/06/2020) who required intubation and mechanical ventilation. Data was collected from patient’s medical notes, including both paper charts as well as digital documentation. Data was also collected from patient’s flow charts. Data was only collected on days during which the patient was mechanically ventilated on a Pressure Regulated Volume Control (PRVC), Pressure Control (PC) or Volume control (VC) mode of ventilation. Elevated plateau pressures were defined as a pressure greater than or equal to 30 cmH2O.

**Results:** 24 patients were admitted to the ICU with ARDS secondary to COVID-19 during this time period. They spent a cumulative total of 428 days intubated and ventilated in ICU during this time. The total number of days spent on a PRVC, PC or VC mode of ventilation was 262. This was broken down as 250 days on PRVC, 8 days on PC and 4 days on VC. In total, plateau pressures were recorded on 47% of days ventilated in a PRVC, PC or VC mode of ventilation (124 of the 262 days). There was a documented contraindication to recording plateau pressures on 2 out of the 262 days. Of the recorded plateau pressures, 29.8% were greater than or equal to 30 cmH2O (37 of the 124 measurements).

**Conclusion:** We found that for mechanically ventilated patients with ARDS secondary to COVID-19, plateau pressures were not being measured routinely and were frequently found to be above the threshold limit recommended by international guidelines. This could have implications for patient’s length of ICU stay, duration of mechanical ventilation as well as hospital mortality.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**001278**

**Flexible Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy performed by intensive care physicians in patients under Invasive Mechanical Ventilation**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001278

**Introduction:** Flexible fiberoptic bronchoscopy (FOB) has become an important tool for the diagnostic and management of complications in critically ill ventilated patients, specially since ICU physicians can perform this technique with low incidence of complications.

**Objectives:** First, to describe the etiology and complications of performing a flexible fiberoptic bronchoscopy (FOB) by intensive care physicians in patients under invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) in our intensive care unit. Secondly, to check whether there was a significant modification of treatment due to the results of FOB.

**Methods:** Retrospective study in a 24 month period (from January 2018 until December 2019) of all FOB performed by intensive care physicians in our patients under IMV. Variables analyzed: data of patients...
(sex, age, APACHE II), cause for IMV (primary respiratory, septic shock, cardiovascular, neurological), cause for implementing the bronchoscopy (atelectasis in US, suspected orotracheal tube obstruction, evaluation of tracheostomy, suspected tumor, diagnostic bronchoalveolar lavage), complications, change in treatment.

**Results:** In 24 months we performed 167 FOB in 397 patients under IMV. Male 55%. Mean age 58±16,3 y. Mean APACHE II 19±8. Cause of IMV: primary respiratory 135 (34%), septic shock 118 (30%), neurological 45 (11,3%), cardiovascular 44 (10%), other 55 (13,7%). Causes: atelectasis 48 (28,7%), orotracheal tube obstruction 11 (6,6%), evaluation of tracheostomy 25 (15%), suspected tumor 7 (4,2%), diagnostic BAL 76 (45,5%). Complications: mild haemorrhage 16 (9,6%), supraventricular tachicardia 8 (4,8%), transient hypoxemia 12 (7%), transient bronchospasm 8 (4,8%). A significative change in treatment was implemented in 56 (33%). No mortality related to FOB.

**Conclusion:** The performing of flexible bronchoscopy in patients under IMV by intensive care physicians is a safe technic in our units. Complications are mild and in approximately 25% of patients. A change in treatment was made in 33%, mostly due to microbiological findings in BAL, diagnostic of tumors and limitation of therapeutic effort.

**001327**

**Contrafluran as an alternative scavenger for NO and NO2 in ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):** 001327

**Introduction:** Inhaled Nitric oxide (iNO) is used during mechanical ventilation as salvage therapy for refractory hypoxemia in ARDS, as (selective) pulmonary vasodilator in pulmonary hypertension and in right heart failure. At therapeutic levels for adults (up to 30 ppm) residual NO and its metabolite NO2 are released in the surrounding from the ventilator expiratory port and must be scavenged. With prolonged use (> 12 h) dedicated NO/NO2 scavenger filter causes additional resistance due to moisture accumulation and leads to expiratory flow limitation. Sevoflurane demonstrates numerous advantages over intravenous sedation and is preferred sedation agent in our ICU.

**Objectives:** Since volatile agents used for sedation in ICU also require scavenging we tested NO scavenging capacity of commonly used Contrafluran® filter.

**Methods:** Breathing circuit (Elisa 800VIT, Löwenstein Medical, Germany) with NO delivery/measurement system (NO-A, EKU Elektronik GmbH, Anaconda (Sedana Medical, Sweden) and Contrafluran (ZeoSys Medical, GmbH) was assembled according to manufacturer’s recommendation and hospital standards. All measurements were performed during volume control ventilation (VT 450 mL, FIO2 0.5, PEEP 10, RR 20/min) first without sevoflurane co-administration and then with sevoflurane at a rate of 10 mL/h. In 20 benchmark tests concentrations of NO and NO2 were measured in different parts of the breathing circuit (Figure 1). Statistical analysis was performed using Student t-test (Numbers, Macintosh).

**Results:** In table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurements</th>
<th>NO2 ppm (mean ± SD)</th>
<th>NO ppm (mean ± SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator outlet</td>
<td>1.2 ± 0.3</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Anaconda</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathing circuit</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.2</td>
<td>0.1 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhaled</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** NO concentration varies within the breathing circuit as a consequence of a Flow-by, mixture of inspired and expired gasses at Y piece and scavenging effect of Anaconda. Special caution must be practiced when interpreting the results of measured INO values. Addition of sevoflurane does not interfere with NO/NO2 measurements. Contrafluran filter is an excellent alternative to standard scavenger filter for NO/NO2, scavenging >99,91% NO and 100% NO2 at 10 and 20 ppm respectively. There was no increase in respiratory system resistance and intrinsic PEEP formation over time, while using Contrafluran filter.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


2. None.

**001392**

**Implementation of protective lung ventilation and its association with mortality, Focus on driving pressure**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2):** 001392

**Introduction:** Lung protective ventilation (LPV) strategies should guide ventilatory care throughout the ICU stay. We evaluated whether mechanical ventilation followed LPV guidelines throughout the mechanical ventilation period, with emphasis on the driving pressure (ΔP) and their association with 28 and 90 day mortality.

**Methods:** Retrospective study included 124 patients admitted to ICU in the Lady Davis Carmel medical center, Haifa, Israel, during 2019, who were mechanically ventilated for at least 48 hours. Ventilatory data was collected every 10 minutes for up to 28 days of mechanical ventilation in the ICU. We investigated the degree of compliance with the LPV guidelines and its association with mortality at 28 and 90 day post discharge.

**Results:** Analysis of the data per patient (mean ± SD) revealed ΔP of 15.5±3.6 cmH2O, Vt of 7.6±1.4 mL/kgpbw and end inspiratory pressure of 23.2±4.5 cmH2O. The median prevalence per patient of ΔP > 14 cmH2O was 58% of their ventilation period, Vt > 8 mL/kgpbw was 38% and of end inspiratory pressure > 30 cmH2O was 2% of the ventilation period. Fifty-one patients (41%) died within 28 day and 56 patients (45.2%) with ΔP > 14 cmH2O was 58% of their ventilation period, Vt > 8 ml/kgpbw and end inspiratory pressure (ΔP) and their association with 28 and 90 day mortality was 0.035 respectively. At 90 day, the time spent with ΔP > 14 cmH2O were significantly correlated with mortality at 28 day post discharge from ICU: OR = 1.13, 95%CI (1.02-1.26), p = 0.021; and, OR = 1.02, 95% CI (1.003-1.03), p = 0.015 respectively. At 90 day, the time spent with ΔP > 14 cmH2O (more than 50% of measurements) was associated with increased mortality OR = 2.58 95%CI (1.2-5.4), p = 0.012, but the mean ΔP was not. An increase in the frequency of elevated ΔP (quartiles) was associated with increased mortality (Figure). No correlation was found between either Vt or end inspiratory pressure and mortality.
Conclusion: LPV was not always implemented, it is especially shown with the high frequency of elevated ΔP values. ΔP was significantly associated with mortality regardless of whether the patient had ARDS or not. To validate these results, further studies are needed.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001476
PRONE VENTILATION IN POSITIVE PATIENTS FOR SARS-CoV2
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001476

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a surge of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in intensive care units. Although early reports suggested that COVID-19-associated ARDS has distinctive features that set it apart from historical ARDS, emerging evidence indicates that the respiratory system mechanics of patients with ARDS, with or without COVID-19, are broadly similar. Prevalence of ARDS among COVID-19 patients has been reported to be up to 17%. Among the introduced treatment methods for management of ARDS patients, prone position can be used as an adjuvant therapy for improving ventilation in these patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe our experience with prone position in SARS-CoV2 positive patients. We also compared the patients who survived with those who died to understand if there were any 28-day mortality predictors.

Methods: We retrospectively studied the patients who tested positive for SARS-CoV2 admitted in Hospital Beatriz Ângelo (HBA) ICU from April to June of 2020. Demographic data, comorbidities, severity scoring scales, PaO2/FiO2, days on mechanical ventilation, number and hours of prone position, complications, days at Intensive Care Unit and deaths were extracted from medical records and were submitted to descriptive study and analysis.

Results: There were 62 patients positive for SARS-CoV2 admitted in HBA ICU from April to June of 2020, and 39 were mechanically ventilated. Twenty patients (32%) were placed in prone position, 65% were males. The mean age was 63 years (minimum 31 and maximum 83). In relation to the severity criteria, the medium APACHE II score was 13 points and SAPS II was 37 points.

Half of the patients (10) registered a severe ARDS (P/F ≤ 100) when admitted in the ICU and had had symptoms for 8 days before IOT. In six patients there was a HNFC trial, without success. These 20 patients fulfilled on average 5 periods of prone ventilation and the mean of prone ventilation hours were 94. The patients were ventilated for 32 hours on average before prone position. The first prone position lasted a mean of 20 hours. These patients were intubated on average 15 days. Fifty percent were extubated for NIV and in 5 patients was performed a tracheostomy. There were complications like accidental extubation (2), exteriorization of a central venous catheter (1), facial edema (1) and pressure ulcers (5).

These patients have been in the ICU for 20 days on average, with a 20 percent mortality rate in the ICU plus 5% in the hospital <28 days. When we compare the patients that survived with those who died, the latter were older (60 years vs 71), had worse SAPS II (34 vs 46) and APACHE II (12 vs 16), more days of symptoms until intubated (7 vs 12) and hours of ventilation until prone position (25 vs 53). On the other hand, we found that patients that survived had an inferior initial p/f ratio (118 vs 170).

Conclusion: Even before SARS-CoV2 pandemic we knew ARDS is an inflammatory process, with long hospitalization and significant mortality. From our experience, this study seems to show that the sooner the patients are intubated and placed in prone position, the best the outcome. Further research is needed.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001490
Can lung protective ventilation with lower driving pressures lead to better survival in COVID 19 related ARDS ? A prospective single center observational cohort from Turkey
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001490

Introduction: The main respiratory dynamics of invasively ventilated COVID-19 patients are still not well known.

Objectives: In this prospective cohort we aimed to observe the characteristics of the respiratory system of COVID-19 patients under invasive mechanical ventilation and evaluate their relationship with mortality.

Methods: Patients admitted to our ICU with COVID-19 (confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in nasal or pharyngeal swab specimens) and invasively ventilated for more than 24 hours were enrolled. Demographics and laboratory values were recorded at baseline. Respiratory variables such as tidal volume, plateau pressure, PEEP, static compliance, driving pressure were recorded daily under passive conditions and median values were analyzed. Data are expressed as median (IQR) of numbers (%).

Results: 48 patients (33 male) were enrolled between 01 March 2020 and 01 July 2020. All patients had ARDS. Median age was 64 years (58-72). Mortality was 60% at day 28. Survivors were significantly younger than nonsurvivors. Plateau pressure, driving pressure and static compliance significantly differ between survivors and nonsurvivors. Other laboratory values were comparable. (Table 1).
Introduction: Patients admitted to the ICU with severe COVID-19 pneumonia present clinical complications during their admission, such as endotracheal obstruction due to accumulation of secretions. This problem often requires urgent endotracheal tube change and manual ventilation, both of which are health risk procedures for the generation of aerosols and constitute a potential life-threatening risk for the patient. The model based on Machine Learning (ML) techniques and intelligent computing, using the signals produced by the respirators, constitute fundamental tools for the extraction of common patterns related to obstruction, and for the creation of predictive and therapeutic prediction systems.

Objectives: To study the possibility of predicting the appearance of endotracheal obstruction in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, using neuronal computing techniques, integrating the different respiratory parameters during hospital admission into a model. Generate a predictive model that follows the time course of patients with COVID-19 pneumonia undergoing mechanical ventilation and predict the appearance of endotracheal obstruction well in advance.

Methods: Descriptive, observational study using data mining in 22 patients with Pneumonia due to COVID-19, where 16 of them presented an episode of endotracheal obstruction during their admission to the ICU. Compilation of the respiratory variables Peak Pressure, Plateau Pressure, Medium Pressure, Resistance and Compliance, collected at least every 15 minutes during the entire intensive care admission. The recording of signals during the hours prior to the development of the obstruction is studied, representing the signals collected synchronously and in parallel. To develop a neural computing model, using data mining techniques, to analyze the existence of specific temporal patterns that help early detection of endotracheal obstruction, hours before it occurs.

Results: Based on the designed predictive model, changes in the respiratory mechanical signals collected by the system during admission to the ICU that precede the development of endotracheal obstruction are detected, with an average anticipation of 47 hours.

Conclusion: We demonstrate that the application of computational intelligence techniques and data mining on lung mechanical signals studied, show promising results in the early detection of endotracheal obstruction.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
5. None.

001633
Prediction model of endotracheal obstruction, in patients with severe pneumonia due to COVID 19, analyzing clinical parameters using intelligent computing
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001633

Introduction: The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused a high percentage of patients who require critical management due to acute hypoxemic respiratory failure with the need for mechanical ventilation. This situation implies a high vital risk in addition to possible respiratory complications such as obstruction of the endotracheal tube. This complication occurs suddenly from the first week of admission, it is a medical emergency due to the impossibility of ventilation of the patient and implies a high risk of contagion for the health workers due to exposure to aerosols.

Data mining and Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques are a fundamental tool to create patient profiles, study their common characteristics and help predict the evolutionary development of this disease.

Objectives: Design and develop a computational predictive model to study the evolution of patients with COVID-19 pneumonia with...
mechanical ventilation. Analyzing the clinical variables that help predict the development of endotracheal obstruction over time.

**Methods:** We recorded the clinical variables (heart rate, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, mean pressure, oxygen saturation, and temperature) of all patients at least every 15 minutes during the entire intensive care admission. The variables were The set of variables were studied, represented in graphs synchronously and in parallel. Through data mining and the development of neural networks, a computational model was generated that helps early detection of endotracheal obstruction.

**Results:** In our unit, of the 22 patients with COVID-19 Pneumonia who required mechanical ventilation, 72.7% had at least one episode of endotracheal obstruction. 100% of these events took place after 7 days of admission. The predictive model detects changes in the clinical variables studied that precede the endotracheal obstruction with an average advance of 42 hours.

In the Image 1, the changes observed in the clinical variables precede the development of endotracheal obstruction (green line). It shows common patterns of disturbances in the studied signals prior to obstruction. The blue line shows the start of abnormal registry changes indicating the time. In the studied patients, clinical changes are observed with an average 42 hours before the endotracheal obstruction.

**Conclusion:** The use of signal recording of clinical variables, studied techniques using data mining and RNN techniques, show promising results in the early detection of endotracheal obstruction, being of great value for the prevention of this complication during ICU admission, reducing mortality of the Covid-19 patients as well as the risk for the health workers.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

5. None.

**001214**

CPAP in prehospital patients with dyspnoea: implications during COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal. Analysis of an ambulance staffed nurse

**Introduction:** Continuous Positive Air Pressure (CPAP) treatment is used when approaching patients with dyspnoea in the prehospital (PH) setting. Despite being one of the best treatment strategies for this clinical condition, CPAP is an aerosol generating procedure. Therefore brought insecurity to the emergency PH teams and challenges to maintain its application. In order to promote its safe use the Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM) of the National Institute for Medical Emergency (INEM), modified the procedure promoting security.

**Objectives:** To analyse prehospital CPAP use in two homologous periods, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methods:** A case series of CPAP used by Lisbon Immediate Life Support ambulance (SIV- ambulance staffed nurse), before and during COVID-19 pandemic will be compared. For this purpose, patients records between 1st of March and 30th July 2019 and the same period in 2020 were extracted from the ITEAMS clinical record (INEM Tool for Emergency Alert System), concerning the application of dyspnoea protocol, where CPAP is recommended.

**Results:** Between 1st of March and 30th July 2019, dyspnoea protocol was applied in 121 patients, resulting in 11 uses of CPAP (9%). For the same period in 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic period), dyspnoea protocol was applied in 80 patients, resulting in 4 CPAP applications (5%). However, it should be considered that at the beginning of the pandemic in Portugal the use of CPAP was discouraged. Only after 28th of April 2020, when a safer medical of CPAP was suggested, nurses felt comfortable and secure to use this treatment. Between 1st of May and 30th July 2020, dyspnoea protocol was applied to 39 patients, resulting in 3 CPAP uses (7.7%), compared to the same period in 2019 when dyspnoea protocol was applied in 66 patients, resulting in 4 CPAP uses (6%).

**Conclusion:** The use of CPAP in PH is essential to maintain quality of care for patients with dyspnoea. Its use was decreased at the beginning of the pandemic in Portugal but measures were implemented promoting the safe use of CPAP. The results demonstrate the maintenance and even an increase in the use of CPAP compared to the same period in 2019 (7.7% in 2020 vs 6% in 2019). Until now, no staff member of the SIV Lisboa ambulance had COVID-19. This analysis refers to one out of the 40 SIV ambulances with nurses in Portugal, which is not sufficient to national extrapolation of data.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001261**

Predicting the response to high flow nasal cannula as first-line respiratory support in the patients with pneumonia covid-19 and acute respiratory failure

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**Introduction:** Experience from the use of high-flow nasal oxygen (HFO) in acute hypoxemic respiratory failure (AHRF) (I), indicates that this method of respiratory support may reduce the invasive mechanical ventilation requirement of patients with COVID-19, depending on the degree of V/Q matching, and may be an appropriate therapy when conventional oxygen therapy does not provide sufficient respiratory support.
support. However, its application is controversial, particularly for the risk of aerosolization.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics and identify prognostic factors in response to the application of HFO as first line of respiratory support of patients Covid-19 with AHFR.

Methods: Analysis of prospectively collected data of 41 patients with pneumonia Covid-19, confirmed by RT-PCR assay, admitted to our polyvalent ICU of tertiary hospital (34 bed), from 22 March to 5 May 2020. Patients with moderate AHFR (PaO2/FiO2 100-200 at admission) were included. Excluded patients were <18, immediate mechanical ventilation (MV) criteria, hypercapnia or given HFO as tool to weaning from MV. The HFO was applied using Philips V60® ventilator and Fisher & Paykel® MR850 device, flow 40-60 L/min, FiO2 for SpO2 ≥ 92%. We compared baseline characteristics, physiological, prognosis parameters, and Rox index in the first 12 h, as ratio of SpO2/FiO2 to respiratory rate (2), according to success or failure HFO. For statistical analysis we used U-Mann-Whitney or Fisher test as appropriate. Prognosis of success of HFO was calculated as sensitivity and specificity, relative risk (RR) (95% CI) and ROC curves for ROX index. The literature determines the cut-off point at 12 h at 4.88.

Results: Among 41 patients with AHFR Covid-19 admitted to the ICU, 20 (48.78%) were intubated on admission. Altogether 21 (51.22%) were eligible for HFO, 15 (71.43%) were defined as success selecting the patients who could benefit from HFO. Careful selection of patients to whom HFO is applied as first-line treatment is necessary, since those who fail and delay intubation have high mortality and higher stay in ICU. Data need to be confirmed in wider population.

Conclusion: In our sample of Covid-19 patients, the Rox index at 12 h allowed us to predict with accuracy the response to HFO with a cut value of 5.57, similar to the cut value describe in the literature for other causes of moderate AHFR. SOFA index value could be helpful in selecting the patients who could benefit from HFO. Careful selection of patients to whom HFO is applied as first-line treatment is necessary, since those who fail and delay intubation have high mortality and higher stay in ICU. Data need to be confirmed in wider population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001277

High-flow nasal cannula as a resource on treatment of acute hypoxic respiratory failure in COVID-19

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001277

Introduction: COVID-19 pandemic is an international health problem. Declared a worldwide pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO) in February 2020, the main complication causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) progressing to hypoxemia, requiring high oxygen fractions and invasive ventilation. The growing number of patients requiring invasive ventilatory support and the limited number of mechanical ventilator overload of the health systems. Alternative ventilatory support strategies are needed for these individuals with COVID-19.

High-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) get attention as an alternative resource of ventilatory support for patients with severe hypoxemia.

Objectives: The primary outcome this study was to evaluate the proportion of patients that HFNC avoided tracheal intubation.

Methods: We realized a retrospective observational study of the patients that received HFNC as ventilatory support for treatment of acute respiratory failure because COVID-19.

Results: This study analyzed a total of 16 patients who used high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) for treatment of hypoxemic acute respiratory failure on patients with COVID-19, between the patients, we analyzed a subgroup of 5 patients who received combined therapy. For the purposes of this we classified combined therapy as HFNC and noninvasive ventilation (NIV). The rate of success for avoid tracheal intubation was 69% on HFNC group and 100% on combined therapy group, the average time of use of therapy was 4 days versus 6 days respectively, we also analyzed the time of duration on hours that was 92.8 (SD ± 64.7) hours versus 134.4 (SD ± 84.2) hours respectively. This study verified that most of the patients presented the worst radiologic pattern but doesn't seem influenced on outcome.

Conclusion: High-flow nasal cannula was feasible, and it seems to be an efficient in avoid tracheal intubation in patients with COVID-19. The effect of HFNC in COVID-19 survival should be further investigated in a large prospective study.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


5. Thanks, the physiotherapy team at the São Lucas Copacabana Hospital - Rio de Janeiro - Brazil, we worked bravely and tirelessly to promote recovery of patients with COVID-19.
Introduction: Acute hypoxemic respiratory failure and ARDS are common in COVID-19. The benefit of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), and associated risks of viral transmission through aerosolization, are unclear. Discouraging noninvasive ventilation (NIV) in the COVID-19 patient may increase the need for intubation and induce increased morbidity and mortality and led to rapidly saturation of resources and the availability of ICU bed. Some studies suggest that helmet CPAP can represent an effective alternative to improve the hypoxemia and decrease the risk of droplets’ air-dispersion.

Objectives: To evaluate, the safety and efficacy of face mask CPAP in COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive observational cohort study was conducted, from Mars 25, 2020, to July 28, 2020, in King Fahad armed forces hospital, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We included all adult patients with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia and developed acute hypoxemic respiratory failure defined by PaO2/FiO2 less than 300 mmHg and required CPAP. We collected baseline data on demographics, clinical presentation, laboratory, arterial blood gas, ventilation setting, and the outcomes, mainly the rate of tracheal intubation, the rate of Health care workers (HCWs) contaminated by SARS-CoV2, the median (IQR) length of stay after the placement of the ETT.

Results: Of the 86 patients included in the study, the median (IQR) age was 62 (54-70) years and 58 (67.3%) were male. 78 patients (90.7%) had at least one comorbidity. The median (IQR) of SOFA score and APACHE II score were 4 (3-5) and 9 (7-13) respectively. The median time from first symptom to CPAP was 7.0 days. The median level of PaO2/FiO2 was 143 (120-169) and 13 patients (15.1%) had severe acute respiratory distress syndrome. The prone position with CPAP was performed in 31 patients (36%). The methylprednisolone was administered to 70 patients (81.4%) and empiric antibiotics to 83 patients (96.5%). The rate of failure of CPAP was 17.4% (15 patients) among them 3 patients was intubated within the first 24 hours of admission. The SOFA score at admission more than 4 (OR, 4.63; 95% CI, 1.11–19.33; P = 0.035) and PaO2/FiO2 at admission less than 140 mmHg (OR, 11.22; 95% CI, 2.44–51.61; P = 0.002), were independent risk factors of CPAP failure whereas the proning during CPAP (OR, 0.067; 95% CI, 0.01–0.41; P = 0.004) was a protective factor. One nurse caring for a patient was infected with SARS-CoV2. The median (IQR) length of stay was 9 (7-12) days and 6 patients (7%) had died.

Conclusion: The face mask CPAP as respiratory support for COVID-19 pneumonia with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure, is effective and safe. The rate of CPAP failure is less than 18% and the 3 predictive factors of failure were, SOFA score at admission, PaO2/FiO2 at admission and the use of prone position during CPAP.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. We are indebted to the doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists with the Intensive Care Medicine Service who provides care for the patients included in the study and to all the frontline staff of COVID-19 patients.

001495
CPAP helmet vs Invasive respiratory support in COVID-19 acute respiratory distress syndrome in elderly patients: a monocentric retrospective study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001495

Introduction: The recent COVID-19 pandemic has been dramatically aggressive in the region of Lombardy: the overwhelming number of patients who needed intensive care during the peak of the health emergency, exceeded the available resources. This crisis led to a revision of the usual admission criteria to the ICU: patients with a higher expectation of survival had priority access to ICU. Outside the ICU, the highest ventilatory care was CPAP helmet (up to 12 cmH2O PEEP and FiO2 0.8). Looking backward to those daunting weeks, we noticed some anecdotal cases who survived in medical wards despite severe COVID acute distress respiratory syndrome (C-ARDS) without mechanical ventilation (MV).

Objectives: Hence, we retrospectively compared mortality rates between elder C-ARDS patients treated with MV vs CPAP helmet.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the outcomes of patients with severe C-ARDS. Two groups were made: first; CPAP group with elder patients (age 70-79) treated with CPAP helmet (with no access to ICU) with a refractory hypoxemia (P/F < 150 for more than 48 h regardless the administration of CPAP helmet); second MV groups, made of patients assisted with an endotracheal tube (ETT) and ventilated with positive pressures, aged 55-69, and elder ones, aged 70 -78. Additionally, we collected the maximal d-dimer values per each patient before and after the placement of the ETT.

Results: We hospitalized 493 patients with covid respiratory distress syndrome. CPAP group (n = 22) had a lethality rate of 50%. The lethality of the MV group aged 55-69 (n = 31) was 52%, while about the elder CMV group (n = 13) 77% died. We found a significant increase (p value < 0.05) in plasmatic d-dimer after CMV begun: mean values pre - ETT (n = 15) 8362 µg/dl (CI ± 987); mean values post - ETT (n = 30) 21846 µg/dl (CI ± 10781).

Conclusion: Among patients with C-ARDS, we found only a slight difference in mortality between the population admitted to ICU (receiving MV) and the population not admitted (receiving CPAP helmet). Considering the thrombophilic condition caused by SARS COV2 infection, we raise the question if an aggressive invasive respiratory approach is advisable compared to a more gradual approach. However, we can not exclude that, in spite of similar hypoxemia, the ICU patients had a more severe clinical picture liable for the worse outcome. We acknowledge the limitations of our sample, but our results are interesting in light of a “less is more” strategy.
The impact of different levels of non-invasive ventilation on hemodynamics in healthy subjects

INTRODUCTION
Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) consists of respiratory support without the need for intubation. NIV has been used in a plethora of clinical situations such as acute respiratory failure in patients with chronic pulmonary disease and obstructive sleep apnoea (1).

METHODS: The study protocol was approved by the ethical committee of UZ Brussel (B.U.N. 143201940980) and registered at clinicaltrials.gov (NCT04178694).

NIV (V60, Philips) was administered with an oro-nasal mask at an inspiratory support (PS) of 0 cmH2O. The subjects were allowed to adapt to the treatment for 5 minutes. Then, PS was gradually increased by 2 cmH2O every 2 minutes until an inspiratory positive airway pressure (IPAP) of 12 cmH2O had been reached and held for another 2 minutes.

RESULTS: Although the IPAP increased, the heart rate (HR) of the test subjects did not significantly rise (slope 0.189; R² 0.57; p 0.085). However, the diastolic blood pressure (DBP) significantly rose (slope 0.507; R² 0.68; p 0.043), the systolic (SBP) and mean arterial blood pressure (MAP) also went up but not significantly (slope 0.832; R² 0.60; p 0.070 and slope 0.536; R² 0.65; p 0.054).

The stroke volume index (SVI) dropped significantly at higher IPAP levels (slope -0.164; R² 0.82; p 0.014), the cardiac index (CI) diminished slightly but the change was not significant (slope -0.005; R² 0.52; p 0.108).

Both the systemic vascular resistance index (SVRI), a surrogate for afterload, and the dP/dt, which is a measure for LV contractility as it represents the ratio of pressure change in the LV during the isovolumetric contraction period, increased but not by a statistically significant amount (slope 20.42; R² 0.65; p 0.053 and slope 13.44; R² 0.65; p 0.051).

CONCLUSION: This pilot trial suggests that NIV induces hemodynamic changes in healthy volunteers. These changes appear to be related to the amount of IPAP applied. Following a decrease in venous return, a decreased stroke volume and cardiac output may trigger baroreceptors in the cardiovascular system. The activation of these receptors could augment sympathetic tone, resulting in a blood pressure rise, an increase in HR, SVR and contractility. A follow-up trial on a larger population is needed to confirm and validate these results.

REFERENCE(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

CPAP for COVID - is it beneficial?

INTRODUCTION: The optimal management strategy for respiratory support in patients with moderate to severe respiratory failure has been advocated by some. The use of CPAP in MERS, a similar coronavirus, had a high risk of failure. In addition, the hypothetical risk of patient self-inflicted lung injury (PILI) raised concerns that CPAP may be detrimental in Covid-19. However, use of CPAP avoids associated morbidity of invasive ventilation and is less burdensome on healthcare resources.

OBJECTIVES: Primary: To establish the success of CPAP for respiratory failure secondary to covid-19; defined as avoidance of invasive ventilation, liberation from CPAP and discharge from hospital in those appropriate for escalation of care. Secondary: 1. To establish incidence of intubation and ventilation following CPAP and compare mortality rates for patients that had a period of CPAP prior to invasive ventilation. 2. To identify associated factors of those patients on CPAP that required intubation and ventilation.

METHODS: A single centre retrospective observational study of all patients managed with CPAP for respiratory failure secondary to covid-19 from 10th March to 21st May 2020. Patients positive for SARS CoV2 RNA and those with a clinical diagnosis of covid requiring respiratory support were included. Further respiratory parameters were collected from a subset of 45 patients admitted between 16th March to the 3rd April 2020.

RESULTS: 37 of 61 patients (60%) who received CPAP and were appropriate for escalation of care were managed successfully on CPAP alone. No patients that were appropriate for escalation died without escalation of care. Of those that required invasive ventilation (n = 24) mortality rates in those that had prolonged CPAP prior to invasive ventilation was not increased compared to those intubated immediately. In those where CPAP was the ceiling of care, outcome was poor; mortality rate 58% (19 of 33).

Table 1: Outcome of patients suitable for escalation who received CPAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Survival n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPAP only, n=37</td>
<td>37 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive ventilation following &lt;48 hr but ≥7 days of CPAP, n=8</td>
<td>3 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive ventilation following ≥48hr but ≤7 days of CPAP, n=11</td>
<td>5 (45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate invasive ventilation without CPAP, n=5</td>
<td>4 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All patients managed initially with CPAP who were appropriate for escalation, n=61</td>
<td>54 (89%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Respiratory parameters of those who progressed to invasive ventilation compared to those that were managed successfully on CPAP alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Invasive ventilation</th>
<th>Successful CPAP</th>
<th>p (Wilcoxon)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SF pre CPAP</td>
<td>1.0 (1.0-1.1)</td>
<td>1.25 (1.20-1.30)</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROX index pre CPAP</td>
<td>35.28 (31.64-42.21)</td>
<td>5.94 (5.52-7.15)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in SF during CPAP</td>
<td>30 (9.58-35.88)</td>
<td>40.83 [9.17-49.93]</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in ROX during CPAP</td>
<td>1.2 [0.16-1.83]</td>
<td>1.8 [0.35-4.16]</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days on CPAP</td>
<td>1.5 [1-3.5]</td>
<td>3 [1.25-5.75]</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SF ratios and ROX index were significantly lower in patients trialled on CPAP that went on to require invasive ventilation.

**Conclusion:** Patients with Covid-19 that present with respiratory failure could be managed with an initial trial of CPAP in a well controlled and monitored area. It is likely that a third of these will progress to needing invasive ventilation, but two thirds are likely to escape the need for intubation and ventilation. This has a tremendous impact on resource allocation, ICU bed days, length of stay, and complications associated with intubation and ventilation. SF ratio and ROX index may play a role in differentiating between patients that are likely to improve with CPAP alone and those that will require invasive ventilation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


001601

Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation in COVID-19 respiratory failure: a single-center experience

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**Introduction:** Available data suggests that 5–20% of patients with Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) develop acute hypoxic respiratory failure (AHRF) (1). Guidelines have given a weak recommendation for non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) as a preventive strategy for avoiding intubation in this scenario (2). As such, the procedure should only be considered in selected COVID-19 patients with AHRF and without major organ dysfunction.

**Objectives:** To assess the effect of NIPPV on the rates of invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) and in-hospital mortality in a series of patients with COVID-19 and AHRF.

**Methods:** Consecutive patients from a single center with confirmed COVID-19 admitted between March 1st and July 20th, 2020 were retrospectively analyzed. Patients were stratified according to an 8-point ordinal scale recommended by the World Health Organization for use in clinical research among hospitalized patients with COVID-19, and only those with severe disease (score ≥ 5) were included (3). Clinical variables and the respiratory support strategy were correlated to IMV requirement and in-hospital mortality. Categorical data were expressed by percentages and continuous variables were represented by the median with the 25th to 75th percentile interquartile range (IQR). Multivariate logistic regression models were performed to determine independent associations. A p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

**Results:** Nine two patients were included, of which 61.9% were male, with a median age of 72 years (IQR 60.5-84). Significant comorbidities were hypertension (48.9%), diabetes (25%), cardiovascular disease (CVD) (10%) and obesity (10%). Sixty nine (75%) patients received NIPPV for a median of 5 days (IQR 1-13.5), of which 44 (63.8%) did not require IMV. NIPPV was significantly associated with a lower frequency of IMV (36.2% vs 87%, p < 0.001), even when adjusted for age, sex, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and underlying cardiovascular disease (OR 0.08 [95% CI 0.02-0.3], p < 0.001). The overall mortality rate was 32.6% (n = 30), and was lower in those treated with NIPPV (26.1% vs 52.2%, p = 0.02). In the multivariable analysis, NIPPV remained associated with lower mortality (OR 0.25 [95% CI 0.08-0.84], p < 0.001), whereas age ≥75 years was predictive of death (OR 12.2 [95% CI 3.4-43.1], p < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** In a series of patients with COVID-19 and AHRF, NIPPV was significantly associated with a lower frequency of IMV and in-hospital mortality. Identifying patients who might benefit from NIPPV and determining predictors of failure from the intervention are key factors to adequately allocate resources and improve clinical outcomes.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

4. None to report.

001651

High Flow Oxygen Therapy in the ICU – A Secondary Care Center Experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001651

**Introduction:** High-flow oxygen therapy via nasal cannula (HFNC) is a technique that delivers heated and humidified oxygen through short nasal prongs at high flow rates. Its great tolerability and positive results of its use in pneumonia, immunocompromised patients and ventilatory weaning have highlighted it as a first-line option for some of these conditions. Recent data show that it’s the only non-invasive ventilatory technique that doesn’t increase death space during ventilatory support, allowing for continuous air renewal, minimizing the risk of hypercapnia. HFNC allows to oxygenate critical patients with isolated hypoxemia, preventing intubation allowing the lung to heal. It is the only device that oxygenates critical patients without compromising communication or feeding. It’s beneficial effect on the epithelial lining makes it an option even in chronic obstructive respiratory disease.

Our study illustrates a 14 months experience in a secondary care center, since HFNC acquisition. The team based their strategies on the local protocol that relied on starting with maximum temperature, O2 Flow and FiO2, and decrease support after 2 hours.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective study with a descriptive analysis of HFNC’s application in our Secondary Care Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU), from February 2019 through June 2020.

**Results:** In 14 months a total of 33 patients were treated with HFNC. The mean age was 63.5 years and 63.6% of the patients were male. The average duration of HFNC was 2 days. The major condition for its
use was acute respiratory failure (72.7%). In 18.2% it was used for ven-
tilatory weaning. In 3 cases it was applied in patients with a do-not-
tube order. The most common diagnosis was community acquired
pneumonia (54.2%). HNFC was successful in 51.5% of the cases, with
pneumonia being the most common successful condition (58.8% of
the successful cases). In the cases of failure, 25% had COVID-19 pneu-
monia, and 31.3% presented with associated multiorgan disfunction.
50% needed invasive mechanical ventilation, while 25% proceeded
successfully with non-invasive ventilation (NIV) with positive pressure.
When HNFC was used for ventilatory weaning, 66.7% had a successful
outcome.
Conclusion: Literature on HNFC includes a heterogeneous group of
patients with diverse clinical diagnosis. It is increasingly applied in
adults with hypoxemic respiratory failure with diverse etiologies. As
observed in our report, diverse studies present pneumonia as the most
common cause of respiratory failure in patients selected for HNFC.
Some studies assessed the need of intubation after a HNFC trial and
found that only 30% required intubation after failure of HNFC. In our
study the “failure rate” was approximately 48.5%. HNFC delayed use
in patients with advanced stage disease and multiorgan disfunction
might explain these results. The development of studies to determine
which group of patients benefit the most from HNFC is imperative. The
25% patients with HNFC failure that progressed successfully to NIV
raise the question whether they had a limitation for the technique that
was not initially identified by the physician. The possibility of avoiding
intubation in patients with severe hypoxemia worths the trial, even in
cases with uncertain predicted responsiveness. It is fundamental to
watch closely the evolution of these patients because, besides its ben-
efts, HNFC shall not delay intubation when it is needed.
03. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematolog-
ologic-oncologic issues in the ICU.

001285
Critically ill patients with hematological malignancies in the ICU
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001285

Introduction: Patients with cancer are at risk of being admitted to
the intensive care unit (ICU) with a mortality rate similar to that of the
general ICU population (30-65%) (1). Prognosis factors are described for
general ICU patients, while there is scarce information about such fac-
ctors in critically ill patients with hematological malignancies. Hence,
to provide better care for our patients, more information is needed.
Objectives: To describe the characteristics of patients with hemato-
logic malignancies (HM) admitted to the ICU, and to determine the
association between already known prognostic factors and mortality
in our population.
Methods: A descriptive-analytical, cross-sectional study was done.
Adult patients with HM admitted to the ICU from Jan 2008 – Dec 2018
at Hospital Universitario Fundacion Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia,
were enrolled. Demographics, disease stage, disease-specific param-
eters, laboratory results, hospital course, and outcomes were gathered from
medical charts and analyzed using SPSS ver. 25.
Results: From the 185 patients enrolled, most were men (56.8%),
the mean age was 63 years, and ICU admission was mostly due to
cardiovascular causes (17.9%). Lymphoma (43.2%) and multiple
myeloma(MM) (28.1%) were the most frequent hematologic diag-
nosis, and the majority were diagnosed recently (49.7%). More than
half (~65%) were receiving acute treatment, either induction therapy
(45%) or rescue therapy (18.3%). Around 29.1% of patients required
vasopressors and 25.4% required mechanical ventilation, with a mean
duration of 3.34 (1-21), and 5.45 (1-26) days respectively. Overall mor-
tality was 31.3%, divided into ICU mortality of 21.6% and in hospital
mortality of 9.7%.
Subgroup analysis for HM type showed a difference in mortality
rates. Lymphoma patients had greater mortality (41.3%), followed by
acute leukemias (29.3%), and MM (24.1%). Nevertheless, this differ-
euce was not statistically significant. On the other hand, mortality was
more common in patients undergoing induction (24.48%) and rescue
(22.41%) chemotherapy.
The bivariate analysis showed that male sex (OR:2.18;p<0.01), preva-
dious diagnosis of non-hematological malignancy (OR:2.17;p=0.043),
neutropenia on admission (OR:2.11;p=0.038), disseminated intravas-
cular coagulation (OR:4.49;p<0.012), alveolar bleeding, (OR:9.86;p=0.03),
requirement of mechanical ventilation (OR:5.39;p<.001) and transfu-
sion (OR:3.39;p<.001) were associated with general mortality.
Also, hematological causes were the most common cause of admis-
sion for deceased patients. Lastly, in our population, the main predic-
tors of mortality were diabetes, use of vasopressors and hemodialysis
requirement.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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03. AIDS, hematologic-oncologic issues in the ICU > AIDS, hematologic-onco-
logic issues in the ICU.

001576
Characteristics of oncohematological patients admitted to the ICU
of the Virgen de las Nieves Hospital in 2018-2020
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Chica Ruano1
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001576

Introduction: The prognosis of malignant hematological diseases
has changed in the past few years, making it increasingly frequent
the admission of these patients to the ICU; but controversy continues
regarding the real benefit of ICU admission in the long term.
Objectives:
- To describe the baseline characteristics of hematological patients
admitted to our ICU.
- Identify factors likely associated with higher mortality in these
patients.
- Description of mortality according to the main causes of ICU
admission and comparison between them.

Methods: Observational, retrospective and analytical study that
includes oncohematological patients admitted to the ICU between
April 2018 and 2020. A database was created in SPSS with the baseline
characteristics of the patients (demographic, comorbidities, underly-
ing disease, transplantation of hematopoietic precursors, neutrope-
nia), cause of ICU admission, cause of death, respiratory support and
decision to limit life support treatment. They were then evaluated in
terms of descriptive statistics with frequencies for qualitative vari-
ables and median, interquartile range for quantitative; Comparisons
between groups were made using the Student’s t test and chi square
respectively.
Results: Of the 60 patients included, 25% were admitted in 2018,
46.7% in 2019 and 28.3% in 2020 so far, of which 28 (46.2%) are women
and 32 (53.3%) men. Base disease: lymphomas 18 (30%), leukemias
36 (60%), myelomas 3 (5%), others 3 (5%), relationship with mortality
(p = 0.54). Prior to admission, 3 (5%) had received autoHSC, 24 (40%)
alloHSCT and 32 (53.3%) had not yet been transplanted; association with mortality (p = 0.59). 39 (65%) developed neutropenia, with no direct relationship to mortality (p = 0.63). The causes of ICU admission were: respiratory failure (56.67%), septic shock (26.67%) and loss of consciousness (11.6%), with no difference in mortality between them (p = 0.006). Regarding respiratory support, 45 (75%) required NIMV/HNFO and 33 (55%) IMV, the latter with higher mortality (p = 0.003). Total mortality in ICU 38 (63.3%), significantly higher than overall unit mortality (18.3%).

Results: 94 patients were analysed, and the overall survival was 56%. 73% of the patients were male and median age was 65 years. Median age (p < 0.001), mean ICNARC score (p < 0.001), median APACHE II score (p < 0.001), median lowest pH (p < 0.001), and median lowest COHb concentrations in the first 5 hours (p = 0.032) were significantly different in the surviving population. Initial 5 Hour Median COHb ≥ 0.975% had a sensitivity of 0.77 and specificity of 0.49 to predict survival in our OOHCA patient population with the AUC of 63%.

Conclusion: Initial COHb blood concentration measurements are predictive of overall survival in patients presenting to hospital with OOHCA. This may be explained by the cytoprotective effects of CO in ischemia-reperfusion brain injury, but further larger scale evaluation of the association is planned and required.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
8. This project was initially started as part of a Student Selected Component during undergraduate studies at St George’s, University of London.

001574
Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) during the COVID-19 pandemic in Doha, Qatar
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001574

Introduction: OHCA is a common disease with a high mortality with the commonest cause being ischaemic heart disease(1). Survival ranges from around 1-3% to 20-25%, suggesting that high quality care can have significant impact on survival(2). One small study reported a survival of 8.1% for Qatar(3). The COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2, initially reported in China in December, 2019, and subsequently announced as a global pandemic by WHO on March 11, 2020. The first case of SARS-CoV-2 reported in Qatar was on 29th of February, 2020. More than 90000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Qatar since February 2020, with more than 145 deaths as of mid-July, 2020. The risk of viral transmission from patients in OHCA to health care workers saw changes in practice recommended in international guidelines. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and endotracheal intubation according to the centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) are aerosolizing procedures and should be performed using full personal protective equipment (PPE), moreover few hospitals told
their healthcare worker not to perform CPR or ventilation in patient suspected to have Covid-19 diagnosis unless they are wearing full PPE (5, 6). Public behavior also changed due to either the restrictions on public movement to reduce viral transmission or the fear from coming to hospital with Covid-19 cases with many countries reporting falling in ICU attendance (7). In Qatar all outpatient clinics moved online with possible difficulties for the patients to obtain medications and investigations, arguably reducing the quality of care provided. Our ED saw only small falls in public attendance and the cardiac catheterisation rate remained stable. All these previously listed factors and changes have unknown consequences on the incidence and survival of OHCA with possible direct or indirect impact on the quality of care. Previous publications have highlighted an increased incidence of OHCA and reduced survival during the Covid-19 pandemic. Given these differences, we collected data on the incidence and survival of OHCA in our population.

**Methods:** Date collection: We developed a dedicated Covid-19 OHCA guideline and set up a dedicated team to teach this in our ED. In order to ensure rapidly emerging knowledge and to be translated into clinical care we set up a dedicated team to collect data on non-traumatic OHCA management and outcomes. We met weekly and adjusted our care according to local data, international guidelines and emerging knowledge on both transmission risk and treatment. The data in this report was collected using PAROS (Pan Asian Resuscitation Outcomes Study) which relay on Ustein complaint data. The Ustein criteria are a standardized data set used internationally to collect data on OHCA (4). Data was collected prospectively during Covid-19 outbreak from mid-March till mid-June 2020 (12 weeks period). Retrospective data was collected from the electronic medical records in the same period extending from mid-March till mid-June 2019 (12 weeks period) using the same template. Both periods data (2019 and 2020) was analyzed for the following: incidence, location of arrest, gender, age, first assessed rhythm, survival to hospital admission, survival to hospital discharge. Comparison graphs were established to show the difference between 2019 and 2020 of the same yearly periods. Setting: Qatar has a population of 2.8 million with around 90% being non-nationals and a median age of 32.3 years. Hamad General Hospital emergency department (ED) is the largest ED in Doha, Qatar, with average ED visit > 1000 patients per day. It is co-located with a dedicated cardiac hospital and receives > 90% of cardiac arrests in Qatar. There is 24/7 PCI and an active ECMO service. eCPR was ceased during the pandemic to preserve the resource for Covid-19 related respiratory failure. Local policy sees around two thirds of OHCA transported to hospital. The project was registered along departmental guidelines with corporation level approval.

**Results:** The total number of non-traumatic OHCA during COVID-19 outbreak period in 2020 was 92 cases compared to 69 cases in non-outbreak period in 2019. The average weekly incidence of OHCA for outbreak period and the non-outbreak period were 7 and 5.3 respectively, survival to hospital admission (SHA) and Survival to hospital discharge (SHD) were in outbreak period (28.3%) and (11%) respectively, compared to the non-outbreak period where SHA (43.5%) and SHD (22%).

**Conclusion:** Two reports from Europe showed an increase the OHCA incidence during COVID outbreak. The first one in Lombardy, Italy (8) and the second one in Paris, France (9). There is an increase in OHCA incidence during COVID-19 outbreak in Qatar. This result might be partly related to the effect of COVID-19 outbreak. Unusual unexpected situation like Outbreak or a crisis might have an impact on health care system by direct or indirect ways. healthcare provider training and population education might mitigate that effect.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


9. The authors received no financial support for the research.

**001190 Landiolol vs Esmolol on hemodynamic response during weaning of post-operative ICU patients with heart failure**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001190**

**Introduction:** Weaning and tracheal extubation of post-operative ICU patients is a stressful procedure which triggers the sympathetic nervous system leading to potential deterioration of cardiac performance in patients with left ventricular dysfunction. This study was conducted to compare the efficacy and safety of Landiolol, a novel ultra-short-acting-beta-1 blocker with those of Esmolol in cardiovascular response during the extubation of patients with heart failure.

**Methods:** Thirty-nine patients with heart failure [LVEF (%): 36.6 ±7.6, NYHA Class III/IV (n): 32/9] were randomly divided into two groups: Landiolol group of 19 patients and Esmolol group of 20 patients. Landiolol infusion at the rate of 4 µg/Kg/min and Esmolol infusion at the rate of 100/Kg/min was started as soon as the procedure of weaning began. Heart rate (HR) systolic arterial pressure (SAP) diastolic arterial pressure (DAP) mean arterial pressure (MAP) and cardiac rhythm were recorded every minute up to 30 min after the extubation of trachea.

**Results:** Mean age, LVEF, NYHA Class, Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II and Sequential Organ Failure Assessment score were similar between the two groups. Landiolol produced a more rapid and substantial decrease in HR than Esmolol (-40 ± 16 bpm) without any deterioration of hemodynamics. Significant reduction of MAP was recorded in the Esmolol group.

**Conclusion:** Landiolol more rapidly and more potent reduced the HR than Esmolol. Significant reduction of MAP was recorded only in the Esmolol group.

**001254 Is hypercapnia in pulmonary embolism a sign of poor prognosis?**

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Introduction: Massive pulmonary embolism is a life-threatening complication of the patient admitted in intensive care unit (ICU) and the consecutive hemodynamic instability or cardiogenic shock is sometimes accompanied by unusual blood gas alterations. If hypoxemia and hypocapnia are usual, hypercapnia in embolic disease is rarely reported in the literature and is the result of increased dead space ventilation due to extensive embolic vascular obstruction.

Methods: We retrospectively collected data from a group of 15 ICU patients (group 1) who presented hypercapnic pulmonary embolisms from 2017 to 2019 and compared them with those of a group of 15 patients (group 2) presenting pulmonary embolisms with normocapnia or hypocapnia, between 2012 and 2015. The number of patients with hypercapnic pulmonary embolisms being rare, we compared them with an identical number of patients presenting pulmonary embolisms with normocapnia or hypocapnia. The patients of the 2 groups were aged 68±7 years, weighing 75±6 kg, without previous cardiac or pulmonary pathology. The patients of the 2 groups were in spontaneous ventilation and breathed oxygen between 6 to 10 l/min. On admission to ICU, we monitored and recorded systolic arterial pressure (SAP) with a catheter inserted in radial left artery and evaluated with echocardiography, cardiac index (CI) and systolic pulmonary arterial pressure (SPAP). We measured blood gases, lactate, BNP from the arterial wave line and finally we evaluated ICU mortality in each group.

Results: Statistical analysis was performed using Student ‘s t test. Results were expressed as mean ± standard deviation. We observed that Pco2 (mmHg) in the group of patients presenting hypercapnic pulmonary embolism (group 1) was obviously different than in the group of embolism with hypercapnia (group 2), respectively 51.41±4.10 vs 28.86±1.18, P <0.005.However, Po2 (mmHg) was not different between group 1 and group 2, respectively 74.33±4.8 vs76.33±1.87 P <0.14. SAP (mmHg) was in the group 1 significantly different of SAP of the group 2, respectively 79.2±8.3 vs 102.06±5.73 P <0.0001. Similarly, SPAP (mmHg) was different between group 1 and group 2 respectively 55.46±2.50 vs 44.8±1.78. P <0.0001, CI was different between group 1 and group 2 respectively 1.85±0.09 vs2.8±0.14 P <0.0001. The value of BNP(Pg/ml) was more elevated in group 1 than in group 2 respectively 2888.33—827 vs 1722—291 P <0.0001. Similarly, Blood lactate concentration (mmol/l) was higher in group 1 than in group 2, respectively 4.78±1.14 vs 3.69±0.77 P <0.005.ICU mortality, despite any therapeutic, was higher in the group 1 than in the group 2 respectively 50% vs 40%.

Conclusion: We can observe that massive pulmonary embolisms with hypercapnia seem to have a worse prognosis than those which are,accompanied by hypcapnia or normocapnia. The persistence of hypercapnia in a patient with previously healthy lungs indicates that 50% or more of the lung is underperfused and prompts the use of either thrombolytic therapy or surgical intervention.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001385

Risk of venous thromboembolic disease in critically ill patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001385

Introduction: Patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) present an inflammatory state that conditions a high thrombotic risk. There are several studies about thrombosis events in patients with COVID-19 in ICU but they are limited in size and without report all thrombotic events.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of venous thromboembolic disease (VTE) in critically ill patients with COVID-19 and the correlation with D-dimer levels.

Methods: A prospective study of critically ill patients with severe SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia. Inclusion criteria: severe SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia confirmed by PCR and admission to the ICU. Exclusion criteria: ECMO, pregnant woman, puerperium, age < 18 years. The study included all patients admitted to the ICU who met the inclusion criteria and none of the exclusion on 15-16 April 2020. Ultrasound screening with venous compression bilateral in lower extremities was performed. Asymptomatic and symptomatic VTE was recorded (pulmonary thromboembolism (PD), deep vein thrombosis (DVT)) throughout the ICU stay, patient characteristics, blood test results, and results with 30 days follow-up. Categorical data were expressed as frequency (%). The quantitative data are expressed as mean (standard deviation) or as median (interquartile range 25-75). Categorical variables were compared using the chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test. Continuous variables were compared with the T Student test or Mann-Whitney U test. The association between D-Dimers and VTE has been analyzed using the Chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test. The correlation between D-Dimer levels and VTE has been analyzed using the Spearman correlation test.

Results: Of 15-16 April 2020, 118 patients (77% male, age mean 59.37 (10.20) years, BMI 30.5 (4.74), 100 (84.74%) with invasive mechanical ventilation) were studied. D-Dimer on the day of the ultrasound screening was 1575 (703.5-2963) ng/mL. VTE was prevalence of 30.5% (36/118): 31 DVT, 5 PD, 5 DVT + PD. There were 17 (14%) hemorrhages (4 major and 14 minor). The VTE was not more frequent in ventilated patients. Mortality was 13.6% (16 patients) without difference depending on the existence of thrombosis (5 patients in patients with VTE and 11 in patients without VTE, p ns). Elevation of the D-Dimer above 1500 ng/ml is related to thromboembolic phenomena (AUROC 0.77, p < 0.0001, 95% CI 0.62-0.82), sensitivity 73% and specificity 60%.

Conclusion: Patients admitted to the ICU for severe SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia are at high risk of VTE. The elevation of D-Dimers is related to VTE.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

ECMO as a bridge to recovery: progress over the last decade

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001449

Introduction: Veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO) is a temporary mechanical circulatory support (MCS) used as rescue therapy in patients with acute refractory cardiogenic shock. Its use as a bridge to recovery has been increasing over the last decade.

Objectives: To describe epidemiological and clinical features of patients with acute heart failure (AHF) admitted to our ICU that required VA-ECMO implantation as a bridge to recovery.

Methods: A retrospective study was performed from January 2011 to December 2019 in a third-level cardiovascular ICU. All patients with AHF that required VA-ECMO as a bridge to recovery were included. We collected demographic data, cardiovascular risk factors such as smoking, alcoholism, hypertension and diabetes mellitus, AHF etiology, ICU length of stay, ECMO cannulation techniques, days on ECMO, clinical outcomes and complications after ECMO implantation. Qualitative variables were described by absolute number and frequency; quantitative variables by median and interquartile range.

Results: A total of 40 patients were included, median age was 51.50 (40.25-60.75), 24 were males (60%). Smoking habits 21 (52.5%), alcoholism 6 (15%), hypertension 19 (47.5%) and diabetes mellitus 8 (20%). Past medical history of heart disease was detected in 26 (65%) patients being heart valve disease the most frequent in 8 patients (20%), followed by ischemic 5 (12.5%), congenital 4 (10%), idiopathic dilated 3 (7.5%), hypertrophic 2 (5%) and restrictive cardiomyopathy 1 (2.25%). Being heart valve disease the most frequent in 8 patients (20%); followed by hypertrophic 2 (5%), and restrictive cardiomyopathy 1 (2.25%). Peripheral femoro-femoral cannulation was the most common technique in 22 (55%) patients, central ECMO in 10 (25%) and peripheral femoro-axiliar in 8 (20%). Median time on ECMO was 6 days (3-11.25). Main causes of acute heart failure were shown in Table 1. The most frequent complications were pericannula bleeding 11 (27.5%) and mediastinal bleeding 14 (35%). Ventilator-associated pneumonia was reported in 15 patients (37.5%) under ECMO support and bacteremia in 13 (30%). Clinical outcomes are shown in Table 2. Median length of stay in ICU and in Hospital was 18 (7-38) and 51 (25-76) days respectively. Hospital mortality was 40%.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Etiology A HF (n = 40)</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postcardiomyopathy shock</td>
<td>11 (27.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>7 (17.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right ventricle dysfunction</td>
<td>9 (22.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute myocarditis</td>
<td>5 (12.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary graft dysfunction</td>
<td>3 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-ischemic chronic cardiomyopathy</td>
<td>2 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tachycardomyopathy</td>
<td>1 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Clinical outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery and weaned</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart transplant</td>
<td>2 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second MCS device</td>
<td>2 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall ICU mortality</td>
<td>16 (40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: ECMO is widely used in refractory cardiogenic shock as a bridge to recovery. Although the indications of implantation have increased in the last years, ECMO is not free of risk, being infections and bleeding the most frequent complications.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Infected endocarditis surgery in patients older than 70 years

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001450

Introduction: Despite the differential characteristic of older patients, the results are not worse than in younger patients, so clinical decisions in these cases should be individualized.

Objectives: To assess the clinical, evolutive and prognostic characteristics of patients older than 70 years who underwent cardiac surgery for infective endocarditis.

Methods: We evaluated endocarditis patients from two hospital centers (Fundación Jimenez Díaz and Hospital Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid) operated by the same surgical team between 2010 and 2019. Patients were divided in two groups according to age: GROUP 1 ≤70 years and GROUP 2 > 70 years. Any value of p < 0.05 is considered significant.

Results: We evaluated 103 patients, 50 of them older than 70 years (48.5%). Comparing the two groups (≤70 years vs >70 years) we obtained:

Demographic data: Male sex (83% vs 50%; p < 0.001) and age (58.77 ± 9.36 vs 77.16 ± 4.49; p = 0.001).

Personal history: smoking (26.4% vs. 10.2%; p = 0.036), alcohol/drugs (7.5% vs. 0%; p = 0.05), arterial hypertension (45.3% vs. 71.4%; p = 0.008), COPD (17% vs. 10.2%; p = 0.320), Stroke (18.9% vs. 38%; p = 0.031), hypothyroidism (5.7% vs. 16.3%; p = 0.083), very reduced mobility (Barthel index < 50) (17% vs 30%; p = 0.118), non invasive mechanical ventilation (28.3% vs 12.2%; p = 0.045), previous cardiac surgery (18.9% vs 35.1%; p < 0.001), coronary artery disease (7.5% vs 12.2%; p = 0.425).

Disease data: pre-surgery inotropic (34% vs. 14.3%; p = 0.021), moderate or severe LV dysfunction (20.8% vs. 10.2%; p = 0.143), arrhythmias (22.6% vs 40.8%; p = 0.048), cardiogenic shock (20.8% vs 6.1%; p = 0.032), prosthetic dysfunction (20.8% vs 51%; p = 0.001), emergency surgery (18%, 9% vs 2%; p = 0.01), pre-intervention antibiotic (7.45 ± 7.15 vs 12.45 ± 10.99 days; p = 0.007) and days between diagnosis and surgery (5.05 ± 5.89 vs. 7.91 ± 8.05; p = 0.44), type of surgery (mitral valve 30.2% vs 44.9%; aortic valve 39.6% vs 28.6%; mitral valve and aortic 18.9% vs 20.4%; p = 0.362) and logistical EUROSCORE II (25.37 ± 21.23 vs 37.04 ± 20.50; p = 0.006).

Complications: atrial fibrillation (17% vs. 6.1%; p = 0.089), renal failure requiring temporary hemodialysis (18.9% vs. 8.2%; p = 0.116), mechanical ventilation>96 hours (17% vs. 2%; p = 0.011), ICU admission days (13.22 ± 19.44 vs. 7.75 ± 9.88; p = 0.08), hospital discharge mortality (13.2% vs. 16%; p = 0.688).

Conclusion: There is a great number of elderly patients in our serie, predominantly male, smokers, alcoholic, with arterial hypertension, previous Stroke, and non invasive mechanical ventilation compared to younger ones. The orders present more pre-intervention complications with need os vasoactives and cardiogenic shock, arrhythmias,
Coronary artery bypass surgery in the last eight years

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001473

Introduction: Despite appearance of other less invasive therapeutic alternatives for the treatment of coronary artery disease, surgery continues to be a safe technique with very good results in selected patients.

Methods: Prospective and descriptive study of the patients operated of coronary artery disease from January 2012 to June 2020, in two centers by the same surgical and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) team (Hospitales Fundación Jiménez Díaz y Rey Juan Carlos from Madrid). We collected demographics parameters (age, sex), EUROSCORE II, personal history of coronary artery intervention (interventional or surgery), type of surgery (urgent or not), surgical times, post-operative complications, length of stay on ICU and hospital, ICU re-entry and mortality.

Results: 724 patients. 84% males. Medium age of 65.5±10 years. Medium EUROSCORE II 2.31±±1.50. 19.75% had previous coronary artery intervention. Medium length of stay in ICU was 66±±2 hours, 10±±8 days on hospitalization floor and global hospital time was 14±±9 days. The total mortality was 1.5%. Comparing the groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICU stay (hours)</th>
<th>GROUP 1</th>
<th>GROUP 2</th>
<th>GROUP 3</th>
<th>GROUP 4</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males (%)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0.502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous CI (%)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>0.0007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Surgery</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery with EC</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>0.494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROSCORE II</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>4.29</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC time (hours)</td>
<td>96.7(77-114)</td>
<td>99.7(62-120)</td>
<td>101(85-125)</td>
<td>105(83-126)</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemia time (hours)</td>
<td>60(48-80)</td>
<td>61(49-75)</td>
<td>62(50-80)</td>
<td>64(46-84)</td>
<td>0.949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV time/hours</td>
<td>4(3-5)</td>
<td>5(3-7)</td>
<td>6(4-11)</td>
<td>14(6-61)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complications (%)</td>
<td>16.39</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiogenic shock (%)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IABP need (%)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMI (%)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP (%)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERKRT need (%)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleeding (%)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor stay (days)</td>
<td>7(6-8)</td>
<td>7(8-7)</td>
<td>8(7-10)</td>
<td>13(9-18)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total stay (days)</td>
<td>10(8-14)</td>
<td>10(8-14)</td>
<td>11(8-16)</td>
<td>18(13-23)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (%)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hypertensive patients 24.13% (p = 0.23) and of those taking ACEI/ARB is 13.79% (p = 1).

Conclusion:

More than half of the patients admitted to the ICU for Covid19 are hypertensive, however this risk factor does not represent a significant increase in their mortality. Most of them also associate other cardiovascular risk factors.

In accordance with what is described in the medical literature, hypertensive patients treated with drugs that act on RAAS do not present a higher mortality compared to those who take other types of antihypertensive medication.
Introduction: COVID-19 is considered an airborne pathogen by the WHO and Public Health England in the context of aerosol generating procedures. During the 2002 to 2004 SARS epidemic, healthcare workers were shown to be at a significantly increased risk of infection(1), with tracheal intubation posing the highest risk for transmission(2). Therefore, amid the current pandemic additional precautions have been introduced to minimise the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Medical record keeping plays an integral role in delivering safe patient care (3,4). Despite this, documentation is often given a low priority when additional demands are placed on doctors. In an effort to improve patient and staff safety, and to promote a consistent procedural approach and good quality documentation among doctors, we implemented a modified COVID-19 percutaneous tracheostomy checklist and procedure note.

Objective(s): This project aimed to assess the improvement in quality of documentation of percutaneous tracheostomy procedures performed by the ICU team after the implementation of the checklist.

Methods: We undertook retrospective audits of the documentation of percutaneous tracheostomy procedures on ICU during the whole of 2019 (n = 14) and during the COVID-19 period up to June 2020 (n = 11).

Results: Prior to the introduction of the sticker, the audit confirmed that documentation was inadequate. Use of monitoring was documented in 23% of cases and pre-oxygenation in 18%. Choice of laryngoscope was documented in 80% of cases, airway used in 78% and adjuncts in 23%. Of note in 13% of cases there was no documentation of drugs used either in the notes or on the kardex and 44% made no reference to whether or not any critical incidents occurred. Following the implementation of the sticker uptake on use was 68% (27/40 cases). Where the sticker was used, documentation was noted to be improved. 100% documented monitoring, pre-oxygenation, laryngoscope, airway and drugs. 70% documented use of adjuncts and 93% documented whether or not a critical incident occurred.

Conclusion: Accurate and thorough documentation of emergency anaesthesia is not only important for medico-legal purposes but is also crucial to ensure that any future intubations are prepared for and managed as safely as possible. Implementation of an emergency anaesthesia sticker is a simple and cost effective intervention and this quality improvement project demonstrated that it delivers a significant improvement in the documentation of emergency anaesthesia in the ICU and emergency department. Further education within the department will be aimed at improving the uptake of use of the sticker.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001234
Formulation and Implementation of a COVID-19 Modified Percutaneous Tracheostomy Checklist to Ensure Safety of Healthcare Workers and to Promote Good Medical Record Keeping
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001234

Introduction: COVID-19 is considered an airborne pathogen by the WHO and Public Health England in the context of aerosol generating procedures. During the 2002 to 2004 SARS epidemic, healthcare workers were shown to be at a significantly increased risk of infection(1), with tracheal intubation posing the highest risk for transmission(2). Therefore, amid the current pandemic additional precautions have been introduced to minimise the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Medical record keeping plays an integral role in delivering safe patient care (3,4). Despite this, documentation is often given a low priority when additional demands are placed on doctors. In an effort to improve patient and staff safety, and to promote a consistent procedural approach and good quality documentation among doctors, we implemented a modified COVID-19 percutaneous tracheostomy checklist and procedure note.

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Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001237
Scaling a UK District General Hospital (DGH) Critical Care Unit by 400% during the COVID 19 Pandemic
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001237

Introduction: East Surrey Hospital is a DGH in South East England that serves a population of 535,000 and has 700 acute beds(1). The Critical
Family communications – lessons learned during the Covid-19 outbreak

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001243

Introduction: The importance of good communication in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is being increasingly recognised.

Effective communications improves families’ trust in the medical team clinical ability and decision making, as well as their own psychological well being.[2]

The COVID19 pandemic is an unprecedented health crisis which has reshaped our way of practicing medicine and communicating with our patients and families. The growth rate of the COVID19 virus led to restrictions and subsequently banning of all visitors to hospital wards and ICU. At the height of the pandemic, communication between medical staff and families could only be through phone or video calls.

Objectives: To assess communication with families at the height of the pandemic in a UK based intensive care unit. This was measured against standards set by senior nursing staff and our consultant body prior to the pandemic. Standards set were for patient families to be contacted by nursing staff daily, and medical staff every 48 hours.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective case note review of all patients admitted to the Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU) or Recovery Intensive Care Unit (RICU) between the 16th and 31st of March 2020 at St Mary’s hospital. Only COVID19 positive, or clinically suspected cases were included in this study.

Family Communication notes, Nursing documentation as well as Daily Documentation notes were reviewed on the critical care software system IntellIspace Critical Care and Anaesthesia (ICCA).

Key clinical characteristics of patients were recorded including age, length of ICU admission, if mechanical ventilation was used, level of care on admission, and whether any End of Life (EoL) care was in place.

Documented family discussions were reviewed and classified as either: First meeting within 48 hours, Update or Follow-up, Clinical deterioration or DNACPR discussion. The date and clinical staff leading each communication was recorded.

Results: A total of 32 patients were admitted with positive or clinically suspected COVID19, and 331 communications were recorded. The mean length of stay in ICU was 17.3 days, and the mean age was 54 years old. Mechanical ventilation was used in 29 (91%) of our cohort. 12 (38%) patients died in the unit, 15 (47%) were discharged to a ward. Among our cohort, 16 (50%) had a DNACPR in place, and 10 (31%) had an EoL care pathway in place.

Nursing staff met our standard of contacting families daily in 1 (3%) patient, and doctors of contacting families every 48 hours in 6 (18%) patients. 3 (9%) patients had no didacted discussion with a doctor, 3 (9%) had no documented conversation with a nurse and 2 (6%) had no documented discussions with any healthcare professional.

Family discussions within 48 hours of admission were made in 25 (78%) of our cohort, with nursing staff initiating 18 (72%) of these conversations. The median time to a first documented discussion with family for nurses was 1 day, and 4 days for doctors.

Junior Doctors led 8/10 (80%) of documented DNACPR discussions, and 25/58 (43%) Clinical Deterioration discussions. Consultant discussions were held with families in 2/10 (20%) patients on an End Of Life care pathway.

Conclusion: At the height of the pandemic, nurses and doctors did not meet the standards set for family communication. Nursing staff initiated family discussions within 48 hours of admission, and Junior Doctors were leading difficult discussions with families. Agreed guidelines on the regularity of family communication during a pandemic, and the level of Nurse/Doctor expected to communicate needs to be developed. Further training is needed to support Junior Doctors in conducting difficult discussions if a further spike is to occur.
Objectives: The aims of this audit were to identify the length of, and reasons for, delays in performing tracheostomy once a decision made to proceed and to determine the adequacy of documentation of delays. If a delay in carrying out tracheostomy is encountered, whether planned or unforeseen, the reason for delay should be documented for each day tracheostomy is delayed beyond 2 days after a decision. The two standards employed in this audit are therefore; 75% of patients should receive a tracheostomy within 2 days of decision to proceed and if tracheostomy is delayed beyond 2 days, 100% of the days in question should have a documented reason for the delay.

Methods: Retrospective review of patients undergoing either percutaneous or surgical tracheostomy during ICU stay between September 2015 and September 2016. We recorded 1) technique of tracheostomy (classed as Day 0) and the procedure itself, where there were more than 2 days between decision and procedure, the number of days for which a reason for delays and attributing little importance to such documentation.

Results: A total of 21 tracheostomy episodes were recorded during the audit period, of which 12 were percutaneous and 9 surgical. 2 patients had unsuccessful percutaneous attempts followed by successful surgical tracheostomies. Overall, 12/21 patients (57%) had their tracheostomies performed within 2 days of decision to proceed. Only 1 additional patient had procedure within 3 days of decision; the remaining 8 patients waited 4 or more days.

There was no significant difference between the delays in the percutaneous and surgical groups, although both patients with a delay of 8 days required surgical tracheostomies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Type</th>
<th>Mean Delay</th>
<th>Median Delay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percutaneous</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - Days Delay (by type of procedure)

The reasons documented were:

Liver USS
ENT review required (x 2)
ENT not available (x 2)
Atrial fibrillation causing compromise
Coagulopathy requiring reversal
Anaesthetist not available
Family discussion

Conclusion: The unit did not meet the standards for either timely performance or documentation of reasons for delays, with rates of 57% (standard 75%) and 18% (standard 100%) respectively. Possible reasons for this were availability of experienced anaesthetic and ENT . Clinical limitations e.g. coagulopathies or anti-coagulant treatment, or a general instability and low reserve to tolerate procedure. It was difficult to comment on the appropriateness of delays by a sizeable minority of patients because of the poor standard of documentation. Possible reasons for incomplete documentation include insufficient time on ward round or at the end of shifts, lack of or misunderstanding of reasons for delays and attributing little importance to such documentation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001259 Short-term mortality of patients ≥ 80 years old admitted to European intensive care units – a prospective cohort study

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001259

Introduction: Limited evidence indicates that mortality rates of elderly patients treated in the intensive care unit (ICU) vary widely across Europe.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the variation in short-term mortality among patients ≥ 80 years old admitted to European ICUs.

Methods: We used data from two multicenter prospective cohort studies which enrolled very old intensive care unit patients (VIPs) between the years 2016 and 2019 in 20 European countries. The primary outcome was mortality within 30-days from admission to the ICU. Nine clinical variables were adjusted for in multilevel logistic
regression models. Country was included in the model as a random effect and categorized healthcare expenditure per capita (<2500S, 2500-5000S, >5000S) was a country-level variable.

Results: The median age in the sample of 8257 consecutive patients was 64 years (IQR: 81-86) and the median Sequential Organ Failure Assessment score was equal to 6 points (IQR: 4-10). Crude mortality in participating countries ranged from 10.6% to 50.0% in the ICU and from 21.9% to 54.4% in 30-day follow-up. After adjusting for patient-level variables, the proportion of individual variation in mortality attributable to systematic differences between countries was equal to 3% at discharge from the ICU and 2% in 30-day follow-up. Lower healthcare expenditure per capita was associated with higher ICU mortality, but we did not find evidence that a similar relationship exists in 30-day follow-up.

Conclusion: Systematic differences between patients, not countries, largely explain the variation in short-term mortality among European countries. Lower healthcare expenditure is associated with higher mortality in the ICU, but the direction and magnitude of this relationship is less certain in 30-day follow-up.

001265

Beta-D-Glucan testing in the ICU: A single-centre experience
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Introduction: Invasive fungal disease is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in Intensive Care Units (ICU) worldwide [1]. A Beta-D-glucan (BDG) test has a high negative predictive value and can be used to exclude invasive fungal disease in appropriate populations [1,2].

Objectives: To describe the prevalence and clinical outcomes of patients treated with empirical antifungals and to identify how BDG testing is utilised in the ICU at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, a tertiary academic teaching hospital.

Methods: We performed a retrospective observational study of all patients treated with anti-fungal medication between December 2018-December 2019 utilising medical notes, microbiological data and prescription charts. Patients treated for oral or genital candidiasis or with prophylactic antifungals were excluded.

Financial estimates were made by analysing the prescriptions of patients with no positive fungal culture, excluding those with haematological malignancy or oesophageal perforation, for whom empirical anti-fungal use is appropriate, and assuming an eight-day turnaround time for testing.

Results: One-hundred-and-six patients received anti-fungal medication over 107 admissions to ICU during the specified time period. Sixty-two (58%) admissions were male, the mean age was 56 and 63% were admitted from surgical specialties, most commonly Upper Gastrointestinal or Hepato-pancreato-biliary. The inpatient mortality was 28.9%.

Fifty-seven (53%) patients had a positive fungal culture, 3.9% of the 1480 admissions in the study period. The most common species cultured was Candida albicans (n = 25), followed by Candida glabrata (n = 15). The most commonly infected sites were: intra-abdominal fluid (n = 25); blood culture (n = 11); and urine (n = 6). There were four blood stream infections due to central venous catheters. The median number of days patients were treated with antifungals was 16 (IQR 11-28).

Of the 49 patients with no positive fungal culture, only 6 (12%) had a BDG test sent, which were all negative. The mean number of days for a BDG result to be available was 8.3 ± 3.3 days. We estimate that applying BDG testing to appropriate patient cohorts would save 142 days of anti-fungal use and approximately €12,300 per year.

Conclusion: It is common for no fungal species to be identified in patients who are started on empirical antifungals. BDG testing is under-utilised in our ICU and improving its uptake and speed are important measures for both antifungal stewardship and fiscal management.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Nil

001270

‘Training for ICU Crash Course (TICC)’: Rapid, modifiable cross-skilling course for staff redeployed to Intensive Care Units in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001270

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a unique response arise in hospitals, one feature of which has been the rapid redeployment of healthcare workers of all stratifications to intensive care units (ICUs) across the country. This posed a sudden and unfamiliar challenge of a high-acuity environment to many staff, who have had little or no prior ICU experience. In the Whittington Hospital ICU, staff expressed uncertainty about assessing and managing patients, but opportunities for bedside teaching were limited due to workload, staffing ratios and communication challenges due to personal protective equipment (PPE). This teaching programme was designed to deliver high quality, relevant information for navigating ICU, appropriate to different healthcare backgrounds of staff recruited at short notice. The aim was to provide basic but thorough cross-skilling swiftly, in a structured and standardized way, to enhance confidence amongst newly deployed staff and to improve patient safety in an unprecedented situation.

Objectives: The overall objective was to increase the competence of as many staff as possible – both medical and auxiliary – who were redeployed to the Whittington ICU. Further aims were to improve staff confidence in assessing and managing an intensive care patient by 25% following delivery of ‘Training for ICU Crash Course’ (TICC) programme, and provide with the relevant learning supplementation appropriate to level. Lastly, to provide bedside checklist resources for basic management as an aide-memoir, for improved communication under difficult circumstances and amongst unfamiliar teams.

Methods: TICC comprised of a standalone session delivered as a tutorial with accompanying slides away from the bedside so staff did not have responsibility for clinical care and were not hindered by wearing PPE. It consisted of a set of slides using a standardised systems (ABCD/E) approach which was tailored to the audience background, and augmented by practical demonstration of simple equipment such as arterial lines, three way taps and giving sets. Participants were all healthcare workers with 6 months or less experience in Intensive Care, or any current ICU recruit who felt that they would benefit from attending.

The learning supplement consisted of two stratified checklists appropriate to level (one targeted at doctors, one at auxiliary staff), given as handouts at the end, in the format corresponding to the course. The bedside resource was a further corresponding laminated checklist, with a wipe-clean tick box function, for use in PPE on the unit. It was designed to improve coordination, efficiency and safety in the patient’s multi-person team by keeping track of jobs and assessments, again according to the system taught.

Feedback including confidence levels by system, usefulness of content and format was collected immediately before and after teaching by an anonymous questionnaire. Further feedback was obtained several weeks later by an online questionnaire to assess retention and confidence.
Results: The course was delivered to 47 members of staff who were working in the Whittington Hospital ICU including doctors (foundation doctor level to medical registrars), registered nurses, physiotherapists, healthcare assistants, medical and nursing students, other healthcare workers (e.g. speech and language therapists, podiatrists). Of the students, 74% (35/47) had no previous ICU experience. The topics that people identified as being the most anxious about were airway and breathing. Immediately after the course, confidence levels in assessing an ICU patient were improved by 39%, increasing from a mean score of 2.5/5 to 3.5/5. 2 months following the course, participants confidence levels were 36% greater than prior to the course. Students reported feeling most confident in assessing breathing, and the most useful topics were determined to be either airway, or the whole session A-I. Qualitative feedback on the usefulness of the learning materials distributed post-tutorial was highly positive, with a constructive influence on team coordination.

Conclusion: The teaching session was designed to be both achievable and rapid to implement, while still being fully modifiable as to be appropriate for a variety of audiences. It was successful in this aim and in providing a basic standardised structure for novice workers on ICU. Increased confidence levels of healthcare staff were reported in high risk areas (e.g. breathing assessment) which is a vital skill for safely managing patients with COVID-19 pneumonitis. In particular, qualitative feedback suggested it helped to maintain safety standards and team co-ordination when ICU nursing ratios were low. This course has the potential to rapidly cross-skill staff from a variety of backgrounds to improve staff confidence and wellbeing, team co-ordination and efficiency. Ultimately improving patient safety in rapid response to a novel, chaotic and highly challenging situation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. N/A.
Introduction: Prioritising staff wellbeing improves the health of staff and patients. In the latest GMC survey almost 25% of trainees reported burnout. This can be particularly prevalent for trainees working in critical care. A key contributor to anxiety is uncertainty, which renders core anaesthetic trainees vulnerable as they transition into intensive care. In contrast to anaesthetic practice – which sets a standard using the initial assessment of competence – there is no benchmark for trainees starting in ICU. Trainees may assume high levels of responsibility with little experience and demand support out of hours.

Objectives: To identify the anxieties experienced by trainees prior to starting on the ICU on-call rota, to gain their perspective on what could have reduced these anxieties, and to use this information to deliver targeted training to alleviate these concerns for future trainees. To assess the impact of our intervention.

Methods: A survey was sent to all trainees who had completed core anaesthetic training within our hospital over the past two years, detailing their experiences of transitioning onto the on-call ICU rota in CT2. The results were assessed and a targeted one-day ICU boot-camp was developed to address the areas in which trainees felt vulnerable. This was delivered to two trainee cohorts over two years prior to them going on-call. Surveys were distributed before and after the boot-camp to assess changes in anxiety and perceived preparedness. A pre and post-course quiz was included to provide objective information on improvements in knowledge. Further information was collected on the on-going concerns of trainees and how they felt these could be addressed.

Results: Our initial survey highlighted that trainees had not felt adequately prepared for transitioning onto the on-call rota, with preparedness being scored as 3.8/10 (0-6.5; n=7). Specific issues highlighted were variation in length of shadowing in ICU (0-4 weeks; mean 1.1); and inconsistencies in experience during shadowing. 86% of trainees stated that they would have liked a standardised introduction to ICU. After implementation of our bootcamp, 100% of trainees reported reduction in anxiety and increase in preparedness for transitioning onto the ICU on-call rota (n=7). Test scores improved from 51% to 87.5%. Feedback has highlighted a need for additional simulated critical incidents and more real-life exposure to ICU referrals.

Conclusion: Understanding the anxieties of trainees is invaluable in improving their experience. A simple survey can be a useful way to gain insight and to design relevant interventions. From our initial work, we designed a simple yet effective ICU training day that improved trainee performance and confidence. Based on our ongoing feedback we plan to design a database of simulation scenarios to facilitate teaching, and to implement a CT1 bleep for trainees to carry prior to their ICU block alerting them to ICU referrals so they can attend in a supernumerary capacity.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
All 10 families responded that they would recommend the use of vCreate to other families.

**Conclusion:** Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and has shown vCreate to be an effective additional communication tool, improving family and patient connection, communication and understanding of the patient’s condition and prognosis. A full evaluation is underway to determine the overall impact of video communication with families, using vCreate. Based on this initial success we will continue to use this technology. Both hospitals are tertiary referral centres, and so vCreate could provide an invaluable communication link for many patient groups whose families live remotely, even once hospital visiting returns to normal.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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5. 7. Piehl MA, Brown RS. Use of extreme position changes in acute respiratory distress. 1, 2 The PROSEVA trial demonstrated the significant mortality benefits of prone positioning when used within 36 hours of ICU admission with severe ARDS. 3 Robust evidence for proning in COVID-19 infection is not yet published. However, it has been observed as a useful therapeutic tool.

Protocols can optimise and standardise clinical practice, during the COVID-19 pandemic period protocols may help maintain good clinical practice. 4,5 In our District General Hospital we have developed a protocol specific to proning and supinating intubated COVID-19 patients.

**Objectives:** Ascertain how frequently proning was utilised during a four-month period across our trust. We also aimed to identify any complications related to proning that occurred during this time period.

**Methods:** We reviewed all electronic and paper records of any patient admitted to our ICUs between 01/03/20 - 30/06/20. We also reviewed incident report forms for this time period.

**Results:** Seventy-Two patients tested positive for COVID-19 during this period. Patient demographics include mean age of 60.6 years old, range 21 to 86 years, 49 (68%) of all patients were male. Twenty-eight (39%) patients with COVID-19 died. Twenty-six patients (36%) were proned during their admission. Fifty-five proning attempts were made, ranging from one to six times per patient, 50% of these patients were only proned once. For those that were proned, the average length of ICU admission was 26.4 days vs 8 days for non-proned patients. Forty-two percent of the patients that were proned did not survive, compared to 37% of the patients that were never proned.

There were five complications attributed to proning - this was 19.2% of proned patients, and 9.1% of all proning attempts. This included one shoulder subluxation and one brachial plexus injury. Optic neuropathy/retinal haemorrhage were identified in two further patients. One patient developed pressure sores on their ear and clavicle.

**Conclusion:** Patients that were proned were more likely to die from COVID-19, this likely indicates the disease severity. Fewer patients experienced complications than those identified in previous studies. 2, 6, 7 Meticulous use of our proning protocol helped to minimise the risk of the most common complications and is in line with national guidance and standards. 6 A clear protocol also facilitated teams cross-skilling from other specialties into an unfamiliar environment.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
8. None.
Introduction: ICU bed capacity is relatively low in Ireland (255 beds at baseline, 5.2 ICU beds/100,000 population). The COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to overwhelm ICU capacity leading to a high mortality rate. We documented (i) ICU bed occupancy in Ireland during the surge in COVID activity in March – May 2020 and (ii) mortality for COVID-19 patients in ICU in Ireland up to July 6th 2020. We referenced this to mortality in ICU in the UK in the same period as documented by the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre, UK (ICNARC).1

Methods: The National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) collected data on ICU bed occupancy during March-May 2020. Data were entered on a web portal by all ICU’s twice daily, with support and validation by NOCA. A Census documented ICU bed capacity (i) on March 13th, at baseline and (ii) on May 1st, after the expansion of capacity to cope with COVID-19.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) published weekly data on outcomes in COVID patients admitted to ICU in Ireland. ICNARC publish data for the United Kingdom (UK) (except Scotland) weekly (1).

Results: ICU bed capacity in Ireland increased by 39% from 255 at baseline to 354 beds at peak surge capacity. The peak number of patients in ICU during this period was 255 and the peak number of COVID patients in ICU was 176. Numbers of non-COVID patients decreased significantly, to a low point of just 62 patients. Thus total numbers of patients in ICU in Ireland remained less than the baseline number of ICU beds. This was due to (i) a smaller number of COVID patients admitted to ICU than expected and (ii) a major decrease in non-COVID patients in ICU. Numbers of patients in ICU nationally remained significantly below the total number of beds available after the expansion of capacity for COVID.

ICU mortality for COVID patients in Ireland was lower than that reported in other countries, including the UK (Table 1). This was noted for (i) all ICU admissions with COVID and (ii) for ICU patients undergoing invasive ventilation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 ICU admissions / 100,000 population</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age on admission (yrs, median)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of ICU admissions invasively ventilated</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality – all COVID admissions to ICU</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality – all COVID admissions to ICU</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality in COVID patients invasively ventilated</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The demand for ICU beds remained within the available capacity because of (i) fewer COVID admissions to ICU, relative to the UK and (ii) decreased numbers of non-COVID patients in ICU. This was associated with a lower ICU mortality rate than the rate reported for the UK which has a comparable healthcare system.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Activity carried out by the ICU without walls (ICUWW) team in a 400-bed hospital in Lleida, Spain during 2019

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001436

Introduction: Show the results for the year 2019; from the ICUWW team; which is a reactive and proactive team that performs assessment, assistance, monitoring and procedures activities for critical/semi-critical patients outside the scope of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Responsible for the early detection and treatment of those who are admitted and present clinical deterioration regardless of where they are, the ICUWW is also in charge of monitoring the patients assessed in the previous 24 hours by the ICU on-call team and it also follow fragile patients after discharge from the ICU. We get the results we want to evaluate if it is justified the implementation of this team.

Methods: Descriptive study from January to December 2019; that shows the results of the evaluations made by the ICUWW. Variables are described as means, ± standard deviation or percentage. Chi square (X2) and Mann-Whitney test for continuous variables were used to compare categorical variables.

Results: In 2019, a total of 1,289 patients were treated by the ICUWW team, who underwent 2,059 interventions; 798 were men (61.9%) and 491 (38.1%) women, with an average age of 61.7 years. The average attention time was 158 minutes, with a follow-up of 1 to 12 days (average 1.26). 553 patients (42.9%) had medical pathology, 624 (48.4%) surgical and 112 (8.7%) trauma. 25.21% of the patients were evaluated in the Emergency Department, 15.4% in the Digestive Surgery service, and the rest in other services. In 54.4% of the occasions the attention was in response to a direct call; 6.9% follow-up was of patients assessed in the previous on-call team and who had not been admitted to the ICU; 17.1% of the evaluations were for CVC placement; 3.8% follow-up of fragile patients after ICU discharge. 30.2% of the care resulted in admission to the ICU, 24.7% were attended for management and 33.5% did not require admission, due to lack of criteria or due to proper management of patients at risk. 5.35% underwent limitation of the therapeutic effort (LTE) after evaluation. Of the fragile patients who were followed-up at discharge, 8,8% required readmission to the ICU.

Conclusion: With the number of patients evaluated and the number of interventions made (active and reactive); continuing with ICUWW team for our hospital or a similar hospital is justified.

Optimising family communication during a pandemic: do video calls have a role?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001446

Introduction: This survey aims to evaluate whether communication with families was affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and whether video call software mitigated these difficulties. In 2011 the NHS Outcome Framework recognised "ensuring people have a positive experience of care" as a key domain of quality. In critical care, family members play a crucial role in the care and decision making process. Meeting the emotional and practical needs of family members is essential to delivering good quality care. Family Satisfaction in the Intensive Care Unit FS-ICU has been developed and validated for assessing families’ satisfaction with care and communication. The coronavirus pandemic has placed unforeseen constraints on all aspects of critical care including communication with patients’ family members. Due to the need to limit coronavirus spread, family visitations have been limited if not absent across the country. In order to allow families to communicate with their inpatient relatives, we acquired tablet computers with the TouchAway application. Furthermore, doctors on our ICU made a daily phone call to each family.

Methods: An anonymous, retrospective survey was sent to all families affected by the visitor restrictions during the coronavirus period from early March until the present. The questionnaire utilized was based on the FS-ICU questionnaire, and was modified to focus on communication with doctors and include questions regarding video call use between families and patients.

Results: 24 responses were received. Half of the cohort who responded to the survey had access to video calling. The answers to each domain have been categorised into satisfied and not satisfied and presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Not satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of communication</td>
<td>83 (20/24)</td>
<td>17 (4/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of getting information and adequate explanations</td>
<td>88% (21/24)</td>
<td>12 (3/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honesty of information</td>
<td>96% (23/24)</td>
<td>4% (1/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency of information</td>
<td>79% (19/24)</td>
<td>21% (5/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of video calling</td>
<td>91% (10/11)</td>
<td>9% (1/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of video calls</td>
<td>67% (8/12)</td>
<td>33% (4/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video calls help to stay connected</td>
<td>100% (12/12)</td>
<td>0% (0/12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also included an opportunity in the survey for free text comments regarding improving our communication and the use of video calls. Many families were very positive; “daily phone call from ICU for update was a lifeline for my family” and that doctors were thorough and honest with them regarding their relative’s condition. There was also feedback that some families did not receive consistent phone calls particularly around time of admission. Families were very grateful for the opportunity to video call, which helped them appreciate how unwell their relative was and helped them feel connected with their relative and the staff. They commented the application was easy to set up. Families who were not able to use video calls, also said that they would have liked to use this service and all agreed that even outside of pandemic restrictions, it would be a useful addition.

Conclusion: This survey has shown that during a pandemic, we can use video calls in critical care has been a welcome addition to our services while families are unable to visit their loved ones. The future benefits of using this technology remain enormous; particularly during further COVID-waves.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001452
An observational cohort study of physiological parameters that predict the need for mechanical ventilation and intensive care unit admission in patients admitted to hospital with due to SARS-CoV-2 infection

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001452

Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic poses massive strains on healthcare systems worldwide. In a recent report from the UK, approximately 17% of hospitalised patients required intensive care unit (ICU) admission. Efficient triage of patients with COVID-19 at the time of hospital admission will support local resource planning. There is an urgent need for prediction models that use commonly available clinical measurements to estimate the risk of patients requiring respiratory support and ICU admission. We aimed to compare physiological observations between patients who require invasive mechanical ventilation and those who do not using the first available data after presentation of patients to our Accident and Emergency Department to allow rapid triaging.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed case notes of all patients admitted to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital between March 23rd and April 23rd 2020 with a positive COVID-19 RT-PCR result. The chosen time period reflects the peak of the pandemic in North West England. Routine clinical data including demographic data and initial admission physiological data were extracted. We assessed the predictive value of admission physiological parameters including heart rate, oxygen saturations, required fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO2), mean arterial pressure, temperature and National Early Warning Score (NEWS) by generating Receiver Operator Characteristics.

Results: 455 RT-PCR positive COVID patients were included in our analysis. In univariate analysis, patients requiring mechanical ventilation had lower admission oxygen saturation (87% vs 93%, p < 0.001), higher respiratory rate (27 vs 22 bpm, p < 0.001), lower estimated P/F ratio (46 vs 35, p = 0.001) and were more tachycardic (102 vs 93 bpm, p < 0.001). Mean arterial blood pressure was not significantly different (93 vs 90 mmHg, p:0.44). Temperature was comparable between groups (37 ± 0.5°C, p = 0.55). When physiological parameters were combined into the NEWS score, patients requiring mechanical ventilation had a significantly higher NEWS (6 vs 4, p < 0.001). Following logistic regression, oxygen saturations and estimated P/F ratio predicted need for mechanical ventilation with an area under the curve of 77% and 73% respectively.

Conclusion: Our study identifies a number of physiological parameters which predict the need for invasive mechanical ventilation. Physiological markers associated with hypoxia, including lower admission oxygen saturations, higher respiratory rate and lower estimated P/F ratio show potential to predict the need for invasive ventilation. Patients with COVID-19 were relatively haemodynamically stable with comparable mean arterial pressures between patients requiring mechanical ventilation and those who do not. In the UK it is common practice to combine physiological parameters into the NEWS, however, for patients with COVID-19 the NEWS was not superior in predicting those patients requiring mechanical ventilation.

001466
Decision-making on escalation of treatment to invasive ventilation: A critical review of referrals during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001466

Introduction: Invasive ventilation to treat respiratory failure may become a scarce resource during pandemics, necessitating critical review to allocate ventilators and intensive care beds to patients likely to benefit most from this intervention. Demographic characteristics and differences in functional state between patients who were declined escalation to invasive mechanical ventilation compared to those who were admitted to critical care for this intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic have not been well described so far.

In this retrospective cohort study we analysed data from 83 patients who were referred to critical care specialists with the question as to whether they should be admitted to critical care for invasive ventilation in case of clinical deterioration.

Methods: Data for all patients admitted to Royal Liverpool University Hospital between March 23rd and April 23rd 2020 with a positive COVID-19 RT-PCR result who were referred to and reviewed by a consultant intensivist were analysed. Outcome of the critical care review was documented as “suitable for escalation to invasive ventilation if required” or “ward level care only.” Frailty scores, comorbidities, demographic data and laboratory results were reviewed for the day of hospital admission. Univariate statistics were performed using X2 tests for categorical and Mann-Whitney-U test or T-test for independent samples for metric data.

Results: 83 patients were included in the analysis. 53 patients were assessed as suitable for escalation to invasive ventilation, while treatment was limited to ward level care in 31 patients. Patients in whom escalation was deemed appropriate had lower Rockwood frailty scores (2.5 ± 1.3) compared to patients declined for escalation of care (4.3 ± 1.4, p < 0.001). Patients offered escalation were significantly younger (63.8 ± 11.5 years) than patient who were not offered escalation (54.0 ± 12.2 years, p < 0.001). Markers of infection on admission to hospital did not differ between patient groups, indicating that the severity of infection did not influence decision making. Ischemic heart disease, COPD, malignancies, liver disease and chronic kidney disease were documented significantly more often for patients deemed unsuitable for escalation of care (p < 0.001). In contrast, comorbidities that showed no significantly different distribution between groups included diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

Conclusion: Patient factors that influenced decision making of critical care specialists as to whether treatment offered should include invasive ventilation included frailty, comorbidities such as heart, kidney or liver disease and patient age. Although not directly investigated in this study, age correlated with the occurrence of these comorbidities and with frailty. Mortality of COVID-19 increased with age. Further research is required to fully understand the decision-making process for offering escalation of care in pandemic situations with limited critical care capacity.

001480
The ICU without walls (ICUWW) team. A reactive and proactive service, created for the care of critically ill patients outside the ICU

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001480
Introduction: The ICUWW team is comprised of intensivist doctors who carry out activities from 8 am to 8 pm, accompanied by a nurse with training in critical patients from 10 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Its activity has 2 components. The first is that of the ICUWW, which is reactive to patients both in critical condition and in companionship, as well as in CPR assessment of multiple trauma patients, etc., and other that is proactive, which focuses on the follow-up of fragile patients after discharge from the ICU or who have previously been evaluated by on-call doctors or by the ICUWW team.

Objectives: Show some comparative data about the care provided by the ICUWW team for the years 2018 and 2019, in a hospital of 400 beds in Lleida, Catalonia, Spain.

Methods: Descriptive study from January 2018 to December 2019; that shows the results of the evaluations made by the ICUWW. Variables are described as means, ± standard deviation or percentage. Chi square (X2) and Mann-Whitney test for continuous variables were used to compare categorical variables.

Results: In 2018 the ICUWW attended 932 patients, with a total of 1496 interventions. 63% were men and 37% women, with an average age of 61 years. The average time of attention was 81 minutes with one average follow-up of 1.36 days. 52% had medical pathologies, 38.2% surgical, and 9.8% traumatic. The 29.7% were assessed at the emergency department, 13.2% at the digestive surgery unit, and the rest in other areas. 49.3% of the attention was made by a direct call; 5.6% was a follow-up of patients assessed in the previous ICU night shift, 11.4% required central venous catheter placement, 5.7% were the follow-up of fragile patients after the ICU discharge. The 17.2% required admission to ICU, 13.5% did not require admission. 8.5% underwent an intervention. 17.2% required admission to ICU, 13.5% did not require admission. 8.5% underwent an intervention. 17.2% required admission to ICU, 13.5% did not require admission. 8.5% underwent an intervention.

Conclusion: With these data, we show the evolution of the ICUWW. Our goal is to improve the team. Try to make better monitoring of fragile patients, and identify critically ill patients earlier. Those are the tasks for the next years.

001484
Audit of Twice Daily Consultant Reviews on the Intensive Care Units at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001484

Introduction: This audit retrospectively repeats a closed loop on an audit assessing adherence to the GPICS standards of 100% patients receiving twice-daily consultant review (1). An initial audit was carried out before trust wide implementation of a daily management protocol, which contains a pre-printed section for evening ward rounds. The loop was closed after implementation, showing a modest. As staff have become more used to the proforma, the audit was repeated to re-assess documentation.

Methods: A retrospective case notes review was carried out using ‘Evolve’, an electronic record of scanned handwritten notes. All patients across both sites (site A and site B) were audited over pre-selected days. The days were chosen such that a selection of consultants would be reviewed; 1 day a week, 8 days apart between 2nd December 2018 and 7th January 2019. This allowed for approximately 2 years since the previous data collection, during which, the proforma had been used exclusively. A patient was deemed to have been reviewed by a consultant if the consultant themselves had documented an assessment or if a doctor had documented the consultant name into the notes. Data were recorded using a simple spreadsheet. Slightly differently to the previous audit, we reviewed whether a specific bed space in the ICU had been reviewed as opposed to a particular patient.

Results: During the assessment period, a total of 87 patient episodes were assessed. An episode was either a morning or an afternoon review. Notes were not available for 14 of those episodes on Evolve. These were included for the data analysis as ‘consultant review not documented’. Where a bedspace was empty or a patient was stepped down, no episode was recorded.

Prior to implementation of the proforma, trust-wide 24% patients had a twice daily consultant review documented, immediately post introduction, 35% patients had a twice daily review and two years later, 33% patients had a twice daily review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE A</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post 1</th>
<th>Post 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE B</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Post 1</td>
<td>Post 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice</td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>68%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
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<td>Post 1</td>
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<td>Twice</td>
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<td>AM</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: The GPICS standards of 100% of patients having twice daily documented consultant reviews has not been met long after introduction of the ward round proforma. Trust wide, the number of twice-daily reviews have decreased from 35-33%. There has been an improvement across both sites for evening reviews. The reason for the drop may be as simple as the consultant presence on the ward round not being documented.

Recommended actions:
- departmental presentation of audit findings to encourage more meticulous documentation.
- to further encourage use of the daily management sheet on ward rounds.
- inclusion of the proforma as part of the paperwork pack when a patient is admitted to the unit.
- interviewing staff using the proforma regarding potential difficulties in its use.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. 1. Guidelines for Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS) 3.1.1.5 https://www.ficm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/GPICS%20%20Ed%202015%200.pdf
Catastrophic health expenditure in an Indian ICU for the management of severe sepsis

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001494

Introduction: The rapidly increasing burden of sepsis in India and also the availability of advanced care options have profound impacts on health care costs for patients and their families. High out-of-pocket expenditure, lack of insurance, and low government expenditure create a vicious cycle, leading to household impoverishment.

Objectives: We aim to address the financial implications of sepsis and septic shock management in a tertiary care ICU. We also plan to study the factors influencing financial toxicity and catastrophic health expenditure.

Methods: Prospective data from 23 patients who underwent ICU admission for sepsis and septic shock between January 2019 and July 2019 were collected and analyzed. The time frame for consideration of expenses, including all preoperative investigations, was from the first hospital visit to the day of discharge. Socioeconomic status was assessed using Kuppuswamy Scale [1] and financial burden was assessed using the Comprehensive Score for Financial Toxicity/COST [2].

Results: Overall mortality in the study was 40% consistent with APACHE II mortality (adjusted for 6 patients who required emergency surgery). The proportion of patients who had partial or full insurance coverage was 50%. The average Kuppuswamy score for the study population was 2.5 (consistent with the middle-income group). Financial toxicity was noted in all irrespective of socioeconomic class. It was significantly higher in lower and middle-income groups than the high-income groups (Table 1).

Conclusion: Thus to conclude, a major financial burden was seen in most patients treated for severe sepsis and was highest in low and middle-income groups. Recoverable illness like sepsis needs financial support programs/insurance schemes like the ones seen with cancer care.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


3. Nil.

Basic Life Support Training amid the COVID-19 pandemic: perspectives from the UK’s largest ERC course

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001526

Introduction: The Basic Life Support (BLS) course run by Resuscitation for Medical Disciplines (RMD) Birmingham at the University of Birmingham uses a peer to peer teaching model, teaching approximately 1000 healthcare students each year (1). The importance of face-to-face training needs to be balanced with limiting the risk to educators and students and maintaining an environment in which the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV 2 is as low as possible. We therefore describe the modifications that have been introduced to our BLS course; the largest European Resuscitation Council (ERC) certified course in the United Kingdom.

Objectives: This project aimed to investigate the adaptations made to the ongoing academic course (2020-2021) to ensure high quality BLS education is delivered in a safe environment.

Methods: Our course’s faculty and student committee produced a COVID-19 strategy using a modified Delphi approach. Amendments to our course’s usual running were authored iteratively and shared electronically. Modifications were added at each stage until the group achieved consensus.

Strategic planning utilised guidelines from the ERC and World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop an adapted BLS course for the COVID-19 era (2, 3).

Results: Broadly, our group’s strategy was to reduce face-to-face contact where possible, and where impractical, to take steps to minimise risks to trainers and participants. Data from our prior work (publication under review) suggests that face-to-face teaching outperforms distance learning methods to reteach BLS in healthcare students from their second year of study onwards. Some aspects of our curriculum can be delivered remotely – including all lectures and seminars where no practical training is delivered.

The WHO clearly encourages strict hand hygiene and limited social contact (by reducing group sizes), and the ERC suggests remote training may be effective for professionals requiring BLS training (2,3). Process management and crowd flow through buildings was also analysed and systems were introduced to enable large numbers of peoples to pass through the educational environment for training and testing without reduction in social distancing and maintaining a low total number of participants in the building at any time.

Conclusion: BLS education at this large-scale ERC BLS course in the UK has been adapted to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, maintaining the use of face to face teaching as the most effective teaching method in our cohort. Such teaching will incorporate additional safety measures with the view to reduce transmission risk of COVID-19, whilst maintaining a high standard of BLS education.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Introduction: Critical care telemedicine (CCT) has long been used to expand the delivery of best care to critically ill patients located in geographically distant areas[1]. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those health systems with CCT appeared better prepared to respond to the pandemic [2]. However, several challenges remain for CCT to be successfully implemented [3]. Objectives: To undertake a qualitative evidence synthesis of healthcare stakeholders’ perceptions and experiences of factors affecting the implementation of CCT, with a view hypothesising about factors more likely to foster implementation.

Methods: To undertake a qualitative evidence synthesis of healthcare stakeholders’ perceptions and experiences of factors affecting implementation of CCT, with a view hypothesising about factors more likely to foster implementation. Included studies were imported into NVivo (QSR International, Victoria, Australia) for coding. Data synthesis followed the BestFit framework approach, guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) [4]. Additional themes not captured by CFIR were classified under a separate theme. The GRADE-CERQual [5] approach was used to summarise confidence in the review findings. Conflicts throughout the process were resolved through team discussion.

Results: Thirteen studies were identified, published between 2008 and 2019, and conducted in North America. Most studies (n = 12) included bedside and hub staff, directors and hospital administrators; one study (n = 1) included family members. Most studies collected data through interviews and observations (n = 10), while three provided qualitative data through open-ended survey questions. Analysis and synthesis of evidence identified twenty review findings. Most mapped under CFIR’s domains of intervention characteristics, inner setting and individual characteristics. The most prominent findings related to networks and communication, knowledge and beliefs about the intervention, and interactions between hub and bedside teams.

ICU stakeholders, including patients and family members, acknowledged CCT’s potential for improving patient safety and quality of care regarding standardisation of practice, early recognition of patient deterioration and continuous data collection; and valued the potential of allowing patients to remain in their community. Hospital staff also highlighted the mentoring role of CCT for junior staff at the bedside. Barriers to implementation stemmed from CCT’s disruptiveness within the everyday workflow, and additional work imposed on bedside staff, such as relaying patient information to the hub team. The presence of a camera was reported as a risk to patient confidentiality and staff autonomy. The absence of ongoing dialogue and engagement by leadership were perceived as major barriers.

Hospital staff suggested adequate training and rehearsing of the processes relating to the use of CCT prior to its implementation as important facilitators. Both bedside and hub clinicians reported that they wanted their needs to be heard throughout the process, allowing time for them to accept and normalize CCT in their daily workflow. While bedside clinicians valued prompt access to critical care expertise enabled by the CCT, they were concerned about the hub team interfering with their decisions over patient treatment. The conflict between bedside and hub clinicians was reported, in some instances, raising issues of disrespect and animosity. Effective communication featured by trust, teamness, and a sense of professional community were important enablers to the implementation of CCT.

Conclusion: We concluded with high or moderate confidence in the evidence contributing to several of these review findings. Further research, especially in contexts other than North America, with different cultures, norms and practices will strengthen the evidence base for the implementation of CCT internationally.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)

001606
COVID-19 ICU Daily Review Sheet
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Introduction: The first patient admitted to our intensive care unit (ICU) with COVID-19 at the Royal Gwent Hospital (RGH), Newport, Wales was on the 9th March 2020. RGH ICU went into surge capacity on the 28th March, remaining well beyond normal occupancy for 40 days. During this time additional doctors were redeployed from the anaesthetic and surgical departments to cover an emergency ICU rota. Objectives: A quality improvement project was undertaken to introduce a “COVID-19 ICU Daily Review Sheet” that could be completed during daily consultant-led ward-rounds for each patient. The aim was to promote standardisation of care and completion of comprehensive daily assessments, in a time-effective manner, during a chaotic and stressful pandemic environment. A further aim was to assist junior doctors with minimal ICU experience, such as those being redeployed, with structuring reviews of patients.

Methods: Between the 13th and 14th April, pre-intervention measurements were taken of daily ward-rounds (n = 32) from the hospital notes regarding junior preparatory review prior to senior review; full systematic patient review; and an “ICU-bundle” review: antibiotics, lines, drug chart, gastroprotection, venous-thromboembolism (VTE). The “COVID-19 ICU Daily Review Sheet” was introduced on the 15th April after emailing staff and making sheets available on the ICU. Post-intervention, between the 25th April and 1st May (7 days), ward-rounds (n = 119) were re-assessed.

Results: Following its introduction, the “COVID-19 ICU Daily Review Sheet” was used on 69% (82 of 119) of ward rounds overall between the 25th April and the 1st May. Pre-intervention 31% (10/32) of patients had a pre-emptive junior doctor review and 56% (18/32) received a full systematic review. Post-intervention this had risen to 65% (77/119) and 68% (81/119) respectively. “ICU-bundle” documentation before/after the intervention was as follows: antibiotics (34%/45%), lines (28%/30%), drug chart (0%/28%), gastroprotection (2%/48%), VTE (13%/27%).

Conclusion: The “COVID-19 ICU Daily Review Sheet” had high uptake, appearing to encourage more comprehensive ward-rounds and documentation. The sheets appeared to promote a culture of ‘near to normal levels of care’ despite being in surge capacity. The wide-spread uptake suggests that the sheets were equally, if not more, time-efficient than free-hand documentation. We would reintroduce the sheet.
in the event of a second wave as a useful aid in this complex cohort of patients.

**001609**

Antibiotic stewardship practices in ICUs worldwide: data from the DIANA study

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**Introduction:** Antibiotic stewardship programmes (ASPs) aim to improve antibiotic use and patient outcomes and to lower antimicrobial resistance (AMR) rates. Despite growing international commitment and the availability of antibiotic stewardship (AS) implementation guidelines, differences in local practices still may exist.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to (1) assess current AS practices in intensive care units (ICU) worldwide, and (2) to explore characteristics of AS-focused centers vs. others.

**Methods:** Data of the DIANA study (Determination of Antibiotic use and de-escalation in critical care), a multicentre international prospective observational cohort study, were used. Details of ICU and hospital characteristics, background AMR levels, as well as different aspects of AS practices, including the use of antibiotic de-escalation (ADE), were collected from participating centers. AS-focused centers were defined as centers where (1) local guidelines on antibiotic therapy were available, (2) ASP team members were easily accessible for consultation and/or multidisciplinary AS meetings were held on a regular basis with presence of at least 2 out of 3 of the following team members other than the intensivist: infectious diseases (ID) specialist, medical microbiologist and pharmacologist, and (3) microbiology samples were processed daily. Descriptive statistics were used to compare ICUs in AS-focused centers vs. other centers and a 2-proportion two-sided Z-test was used to explore for differences in ADE proportions between both groups.

**Results:** Data from 144 ICUs were analyzed. Local guidelines on antibiotic treatment were available in 94 ICUs (65%). A scheduled multidisciplinary AS meeting with the intensivist plus at least an ID specialist, a medical microbiologist or a pharmacologist, was organized in 28%, 23% and 22% of the ICUs respectively. In 69% of the ICUs, microbiology samples were processed on a daily basis. Consequently, forty-nine ICUs (34%) were categorized as AS-focused centers. AS-focused centers were located more often in the Americas and Oceania, compared to Asia and Europe (64%, 67%, 18% and 38% respectively). Country economy status (high income vs. low and middle income) and hospital status (teaching or non-teaching hospitals) were comparable. Median bed capacity in AS-focused centers and other centers was 17 vs. 11 beds. A closed ICU setting was present in 37% of AS-focused centers, vs. 26% of the other centers. Hospital AMR levels were lower in AS-focused centers compared to other centers. A statistically higher proportion of patients underwent ADE in ICUs located in an AS-focused center, compared to those admitted in other centers (p<0.0001).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that only 1 out of 3 ICUs fulfilled the set criteria of AS-focused center, but these did not have a typical geographical or organisational profile. The observed AMR levels were lower and the ADE rates higher in AS-focused centers.

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**001631**

Surgling forward: junior doctors' experiences from the COVID-19 frontline

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**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous strain on healthcare systems worldwide requiring rapid reorganisation of services. Necessary expansion of Intensive Care (ICU) capacity mandated mass redeployment to support existing ICU staff.

**Objectives:** The primary end point of this study was the impact of the pandemic on career aspirations, specifically likelihood of pursuing further experience or training in ICM. Other outcomes explored include qualitative data on experiences during the pandemic surge and perceived learning outcomes during this challenging period.

**Methods:** The study was conducted as a single centre, observational cross-sectional analysis of survey data. Data were collected at Guy’s and St Thomas’s NHS Foundation Trust, a 1100 bed hospital, regional High Consequences Infectious Diseases (HCID) and ECMO centre. An online questionnaire was offered to all doctors via electronic mailing lists at the end of the ‘redeployment’ period. Data were analysed using R (version 4.0.0, http://www.r-project.org).

**Results:** 115 doctors completed the survey; 17 already worked on ICU, 41 were redeployed to ICU and 57 worked in other departments during the pandemic. Most respondents (44.8%, 26/58) worked on ICU for 2-3 months. Roughly half of those working on ICU during the pandemic had at least 1 month post-graduate ICU experience (48.3%, 28/58). We found no difference in our primary endpoint of likelihood to pursue further employment in ICU in any of the groups surveyed. That being said as shown in Figure 1, whilst as a cohort there is no consistent shift, on an individual level there is flux in both directions in all groups. Follow up phone calls are ongoing and we hope to present further data on the experiences underlying these individual changes in career aspiration. Our secondary findings showed the majority of trainees deployed to ICU (72.5%) felt they had learnt new skills during their redeployment useful to their parent specialty compared to those not deployed to ICU (29.9%). Canvassing the three words to best describe their experience on ICU the top four words selected were teamwork (67.2%), difficult (44.8%), supportive (44.8%) and camaraderie (36.2%).
Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented national healthcare crisis that rapidly evolved over a short period of time, requiring the mass redeployment of junior doctors under difficult circumstances. However, it also presented a unique opportunity for doctors from many specialties to work together towards a collective goal. Despite not resulting in a consistent shift towards or against pursuing further training in ICU, our results support the assertion that those deployed to ICU in particular felt they had learned new skills and become part of a cohesive team rising to the challenges faced.

001642
Burnout experience in the ICU staff of the City Clinical Hospitals in Ukraine
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Introduction Burnout (BO) is reaching epidemic levels in the medical population with prevalence reported around or over 50%1. Its presence is associated with poor patient safety outcomes2. Burnout is a threat to the profession of critical care medicine, with high prevalence rates across critical care provider disciplines3. In Ukraine, specifically, the concept of BO in ICM remains poorly understood and is largely under recognized, or dismissed. We decided to continue investigating the reality of BO experience in our country.

Objectives To assess the BO experience and identify associated risk factors in the ICU of City Clinical Hospitals in Ukraine.

Methods The focus of the study was the frontline ICU staff of two different city clinical hospitals. The final sample size was nurses (n = 99) and doctors (n = 113). Data collection was performed with the help of the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) survey. The BO rate was assessed across various ICU types, seniority, gender, and age groups.

Results The response rate was 72%. The overall prevalence of BO in ICUs was 69% (nurses 71.2%, doctors 66.4%). There was no difference on BO subscales between doctors and nurses (95% CI, P > 0.05). We also found no statistically significant difference in the incidence of BO between doctors and nurses (P > 0.05). Our study showed no difference (P > 0.05) in the incidence of BO in doctors across ICU type, seniority level, gender or age group. In contrast, there was a difference in the incidence of BO in nurses across the ICU type (P < 0.05).

Conclusions BO prevalence was notably high in both ICU nurses and doctors. Our findings indicate that doctors and nurses are equally at risk of a BO experience. The study showed no clear association between any of the risks and the incidence of BO in doctors. With regard to nurses, the ICU type proved to be a factor in the incidence of burnout. The nurses of neurosurgery and burn ICUs were most affected possibly due to demanding workload and severity of the patients in these units. Limitations of our study include a relatively small number of respondents that prevents from drawing conclusions in the context of a country/healthcare system. Further research is warranted in hospitals across the country to determine BO rates and risk factors. We expect our study raise awareness about the reality of BO in Ukraine. We hope obtained data will contribute to better understanding of BO experience and will help us explore the existing opportunities to mitigate its impact and restore fulfillment among ICM professionals.

References and Grant acknowledgments

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001199
The effect of ventilator associated pneumonia on the length of stay in patients with traumatic brain injury in the Intensive Care Unit
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Introduction: In our study we describe the effect of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) on the on the length of stay (LOS) in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: From December 2016 until January 2020, 156 patients, 96 males and 60 females with TBI requiring mechanical ventilation more than 48 hours GCS ≤ 8 were studied. The mean age was 43 years. On admission to the ICU they had body mass index 27 ± 6 kg/m² and APACHE II score 20 ± 2. Out of 156 patients the 54 had co morbidity medical illness.

Results: VAP occurred in 69 out of 156 TBI patients. There was no difference in predominance as far as gender was concerned. VAP was significantly associated to patients requiring longer mechanical ventilation 18 days ± 2 and longer sedation 14 days ± 2. Patients with co morbid medical illness and VAP were associated with a significantly greater degree of non neurological organ system dysfunction, though there was no difference in frequency of VAP development compared to the patients without co morbidity medical illness. Although VAP was not associated with increased hospital mortality, patients who developed VAP had a longer duration of mechanical ventilation (28 versus 10 days, p < 0.0001) and longer ICU lengths of stay (31 versus 12 days, p < 0.001).

Conclusion: The effect of VAP in patients with TBI is high; increasing the mechanical ventilation duration and the ICU length of stay; however, does not affect the prognosis and does not seem to be associated with a significantly increased risk of mortality though increases the mechanical ventilation duration.

001211
Seasonal variation and weather changes in admissions to critical care with aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage 2000 - 2019
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001211
Introduction: Several reports have suggested that the incidence of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) varies seasonally with peaks in autumn and/or winter (1) and recently have suggested that weather effects may be related (2).

Objectives: To see if admissions to critical care (CC) with SAH were seasonal and if weather factors were related over a twenty year period.

Methods: Our patient record database was searched for patients with an admission diagnosis of SAH between January 2000 and December 2019. Data for age, sex, Glasgow comas score (GCS) at presentation, length of unit and hospital stay, unit and hospital outcome and ultimate discharge destination were retrieved. Weather data for the local health board region were obtained from online weather sources. Variables of monthly maximum, minimum, and average monthly temperature and maximum, minimum, and average atmospheric pressure were obtained.

Results: 357 patients were identified. 63% were female. Median age 56 years (range 18-86, IQR 17). Median time to CC admission 0 days (range 0-46, IQR 1). Median length of stay 1.8 days (range 0.1-30.5, IQR 3.7). 61% died before hospital discharge, 37.5% died in critical care. 15.9% were discharged to home or normal residence. Median APACHE II score 18 (range 4-40).

There was a seasonal variation of admissions to critical care with a peak occurring in October (Figure 1). There was no correlation with temperature or atmospheric pressure. We have not been able to explain this in relation to changes in meteorological pressure (r = 0.088, 0.449, 0.009, 0.002 respectively). There was no significance difference in number of deaths according to month of admission (p = 0.9).

Conclusion: We have shown that there is a seasonal variation in the incidence of SAH being admitted to critical care in the North of Scotland. We have not been able to explain this in relation to changes in temperature or atmospheric pressure.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001242

Prospective analysis of gastrointestinal bleeding critically ill patients in intensive care unit

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Introduction: To investigate the demographic, clinic and laboratory features of the critically ill patients with gastrointestinal bleeding (GIB) in Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: This study was performed prospectively in ICU. Patients aged 18 years and older, who had hospitalized for at least 24 hours, with gastrointestinal bleeding, were included the study.

Results: A total of 86 patients were enrolled the study. The mean age was 65 ±14 years. The APACHE II score was 13 (2-41). Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was 13 ±4 and SOFA score was 3 (0-16). Glasgow-Blatchford risk score was 12 (2-18) and Rockall risk score was 6 (1-10). The most common co-morbid diseases were hypertension (44%), diabetes mellitus (27%), and chronic liver disease (27%). The most frequent predisposing factor for GIB were chronic liver disease (22%) and thrombocytopenia (21%). The anatomic location of bleeding was mostly in the esophagus (35%) and stomach (24%). Endoscopic intervention was performed 42% of patients during ICU follow-up. The length of ICU stay was 5 days (min: 2-max: 28). The ICU mortality rate was 19%. APACHE II, SOFA and Glasgow-Blatchford scores were higher in the patients who died, compared to survivor patients (p <0.05).

Conclusion: As a result of this study, chronic liver disease and thrombocytopenia were found the most common predisposing factor of GIB. The most common localization of bleeding was the stomach and esophagus regions. Approximately half of the patients were treated endoscopically. APACHE II, SOFA and Glasgow-Blatchford scores were higher in patients who died compared to the survivors.

001272

A demographic analysis of admissions to high dependency with COVID-19 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow

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Introduction: During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, critical care departments across the United Kingdom expanded capacity to care for unprecedented numbers of critically ill patients. The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow (QEUH) is relatively unusual in its separation of high dependency (level 2) and intensive care (level 3) patients within the critical care cohort. Therefore the opportunity was taken to investigate the demographics of the COVID-19 positive patients presenting to high dependency (HDU) during the pandemic and to explore whether these demographics were associated with either HDU or hospital outcome.

Methods: All patients with COVID-19 presenting to HDU at QEUH were identified. Data on age, gender, comorbidities, length of HDU stay, augmented care period (ACP), discharge destination, unit outcome and hospital outcome were collected. Deprivation quintile was calculated using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) according to the patient’s home postcode. The comorbidities that were assessed were diabetes (1,2), cardiovascular disease (excluding hypertension) (1-3), hypertension (1-3), chronic respiratory disease (1,3), renal disease (4) and obesity (5). These comorbidities were chosen as early studies had identified them as comorbidities that might affect infection rate and/or outcome in patients with COVID-19. Data were analysed to determine whether age, gender, deprivation status or the presence of certain comorbidities were associated with HDU outcome (improved or deteriorated) and hospital outcome (survived to discharge or died in hospital).
Results: Between 24/03/20 and 25/05/20, there were 74 admissions of 69 patients to HDU at the QEUH. Together they amassed 307 patient days in HDU: 13 days at ACP level 3; 230 at level 2; 54 at level 1; and 10 at level 0. Age ranged from 27-76 years (mean 57, IQR 50-65) and 51 patients were male (74%). The majority of patients admitted lived in areas of high deprivation. Length of HDU stay ranged from 1-16 days (median 3, IQR 2-5).

Of the 69 patients, 23 had none of the pre-determined comorbidities (33%); 16 had diabetes mellitus (23%); 8 had cardiovascular disease (12%); 11 had hypertension (16%); 13 had chronic respiratory disease (19%); 4 had renal disease (6%); and 31 were obese (55%). Twenty-four patients were multimorbid (35%), as described as having two or more of the aforementioned diagnoses.

Of the 74 admissions, 42 patients improved and were discharged to the ward (57%); 29 patients deteriorated and were admitted to intensive care (39%); and three patients deteriorated but were not escalated (4%). Of the 69 patients who were admitted to HDU, 51 survived hospital and were discharged home (74%).

In analysis, none of the demographic or comorbidity variables were associated with HDU or hospital outcome.

Conclusion: During the covid pandemic an unusually sick cohort of patients were admitted to HDU at the QEUH, the majority of whom survived to hospital discharge. However, none of the prior identified risk factors for poor outcome were found to be reliable in our cohort.

This should be borne in mind in the event of a second wave of the pandemic when making decisions regarding critical care escalation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Decline in functional status after ICU discharge of COVID-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001274

Introduction: Since the last week of December, 2019, a massive public health crisis has been rapidly spreading from China to the rest of the world, caused by a newly identified coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2. This rapidly evolving infection affected mainly the respiratory system and can lead to fatal morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe clinical characteristics and to identify the factors associated with ICU mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was performed in the medical ICU of Jean Bernard hospital in Valenciennes, France, including all consecutive critically ill patient with confirmed COVID-19 infection between Mars 11 and May 15, 2020. The study collected clinical features at admission, severity of illness, ICU course. Univariate and multivariate analysis regression analyses were performed to identify factors independently associated to mortality. Statistical seizure and analyses were performed using the statistical software package SPSS 24.0.

Results: Among 685 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in Valenciennes regional hospital during the study period, 771(1.2%) were admitted to the ICU. Their general characteristics were: age, 64.67±11 years with ages ranging from 24 to 89 years; male, 52(67.5%); mean BMI, 31.27±9.05 kg/m²; Charlson comorbidity index, 3.03±1.99; duration of symptoms before ICU admission, 9±4.1 days; the mean SAPS II score, 36.11± 10.33; the mean SOFA score, 4.55±2.46; invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), 57(74%) with median duration, 17(9-26.25) days; the mean of peep and compliance during first 3 days were respectively 12[12-16] cmh2O and 36[30-45] ml/cmH2O; the most CT- lung opacification percentage at admission [50%-75%], 23(29.9%); Vasopressors, 45(72.7%); hydrocortisone, 23(29.9%); hydroxychloroquine, 29(37.7%); ECMO, 4(5.1%); tracheostomy, 10(13%); thromboembolism complications, 19(24.6%); acute kidney injury (AKI), 34(44.2%); renal replacement therapy, 20(26%); median length of ICU stay, 17(6-26) days; mortality rate, 3.8%.

Univariate analysis showed significant association between mortality and the following factors: age>65 years (p = 0.03), Charlson index (p = 0.032), IMV at admission (p = 0.032), AKI (p = 0.000), and ventilator free days (p = 0.000).

Multivariate logistic regression analysis has identified only 3 variables as independently associated with ICU mortality: Age(OR, 1.06; 95%CI[1.00-1.13], p = 0.048), AKI(OR, 17.74; 95%CI[4.22-74.52], p = 0.000), and length of ICU stay(OR, 0.94; 95%CI[0.91-0.98], p = 0.011).

Conclusion: In this non selected consecutive COVID-19 population in a medical ICU, the age, acute kidney injury and the length of ICU stay, demonstrated acceptable predictive values for the in-hospital mortality of critically ill patients with COVID-19.
neuromuscular blockers agents with p value respectively 0.000 and 0.006; duration of IMV, p 0.006 and duration of ICU stay, p 0.000. In multivariate analysis two predictors were independently associated to rehabilitation needs: the age (OR, 1.104; 95% CI[1.00-1.22], p 0.051) and duration of ICU stay (OR, 1.11; 95% CI[1.01-1.22], p 0.023).

Univariate analysis identified the age (p = 0.038), neuromuscular blockers agents (p = 0.009) and medical history of diabetes (p = 0.026) as factors associated with prolonged stay (>14 days) in rehabilitation ward.

Conclusion: Critically ill patients who survive COVID-19 infection frequently experience important and long-lasting physical impairments. In fact, identified factors associated with persistent physical disabilities after ICU discharge may offer physicians the opportunity to facilitate adequate screening and to develop preventive measures to improve health-related quality of life of critical illness survivors.

001299
Descriptive analysis of critically ill patients admitted to a third-level hospital in covid-19 pandemic
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Introduction: COVID-19 is a potentially fatal disease, with high contagiousness, that has become a global public health problem. Objectives: The aim of this study was to describe the characteristics of patients admitted to the critical care units of a third level hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Methods: Prospective, observational study performed in critically ill COVID-19 patients admitted to H.G.U Gregorio Marañón during March-April 2020. We collected epidemiological data, comorbidities, presentation symptoms, relevant clinical data, organic support measures used, complications during stay, administered treatments and outcome. Descriptive analysis was express as means (SD) for normally distributed quantitative variables, medians (IQR) for non-normally distributed variables, and as percentages for categorical data.

Results: One hundred and fifty patients were included, 70% were male, mean age was 61 years (49-70). Charlson Comorbidity Index 1 pts (0-3) and the most frequent comorbidities observed were: Obesity (MCI ≥ 30) 53%, hypertension 53%, diabetes 18%, dyslipidemia 47%, cardiovascular disease 56%, chronic respiratory disease 26% and immunodeficiency 10%. The elapsed time from the onset of the clinical picture to hospital admission was 6 ± 4 days, being the most common symptoms: fever 90%, cough 70%, shortness of breath 60%, myalgia 46% and headache 7%. The delay until ICU admission was 2 ± 1 days and the main clinical characteristics at admission were: APACHE II 17 ± 5, SOFA 6 ± 3, PaO2/FiO2 ratio 102 ± 45, mechanical ventilation 70%, high-flow oxygen therapy 27% and requiring immediate prone-position ventilation 57% of patients. During ICU stay, 88% of patients needed mechanical ventilation, with an average time of 15 days (8-25), 74% prone-position ventilation, with a median of 2 sessions (0-5), 64% neuromuscular blockers and 37% of patients underwent tracheostomy for respiratory support removal. Vasopressor therapy was required by 63% of patients, 30% developed acute renal failure and 10% needed renal replacement therapy. During ICU stay, infectious complications (ventilator-related pneumonia 28% and catheter-related bacteraemia 24%) were the most frequent, followed by delirium 30%, pneumothorax 10% and clinical thromboembolism 7%.

Regarding the treatment administered: 99% of patients received antibiotics, 99% Ritonavir/Lopinavir, 97% Hidroxichloroquine, 76% Tocilizumab, 60% Beta-Interferon and 22% Remdesivir. Of all the patients, 76% received corticosteroids at some time during hospital stay. The ICU mortality was 38%, with mean stay of 24 days (10-32). In-hospital mortality was 40%, with mean stay of 36 days (17-53). The main causes of mortality were multiple organ dysfunction syndrome 47%, and refractory hypoxemia 40%.

Conclusion: There was a significant mortality and a large number of complications in critically ill Covid-19 patients. A high percentage of patients needed respiratory support and prone-position ventilation. Prolonged ICU and hospital stay was required.

001309
Reducing post-traumatic stress disorder after ICU discharge with the IPREA3 program for discomfort reduction in the ICU: A stepped wedge cluster-randomized controlled study, the PTSD-REA study
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Introduction: Critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs) are exposed to stressful conditions and experience discomfort from multiple sources, such as the environment or related to care provided in the ICU, depending on the care organizations and patient health status. This discomfort may have short-term and long-term consequences for ICU survivors, such as various degrees of anxiety and/or depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (1) which may affect patient’s quality of life. Reducing discomfort in the ICU has therefore become a major issue. It has already been demonstrated that the implementation of a tailored multicomponent program for discomfort prevention in adult ICUs (named the IPREA3 program): 1) may decrease the self-perceived discomfort in general adult ICU survivors of at the end of their ICU stay, according the results of the IPREA3 study, a cluster-randomized controlled study (2); 2) may reduce substantial PTSD symptoms (9) for the first year after ICU discharge, according the results of the AQUAR study, a prospective cohort study including patients who were exposed and unexposed to the IPREA3 program (3). These promising results justify the need for a confirmatory study using a randomized design, the PTSD-REA study.

Methods: The PTSD-REA study is a stepped wedge cluster-randomized interventional study involving 18 French ICUs. The cluster level comprises the ICUs, which are the units of randomization. Patients hospitalized in the ICUs comprise the individual level. The intervention is the implementation of the IPREA3 program, a tailored multicomponent program consisting of assessment of ICU-related self-perceived discomforts, immediate and monthly feedback to the healthcare team, and site-specific tailored interventions. The whole duration of the inclusion period will be 15 months and patients will be followed-up 1 year after ICU discharge. During the first month of the inclusion period, no ICU is exposed to the IPREA3 program. Every following month, 2 new ICUS of the 18 participating ICUs are unvariable 5-month learning period for each ICU and an interventional period during which the IPREA3 program will be applied during more than 5 months until the end of the inclusion period. Patients will be included only during the control period and the interventional period. For each participating ICU, the durations of the control period and the interventional period range from 1 to 9 months, according the randomization date for crossing over to the IPREA3 program.
The eligible patients are patients who survived an ICU stay of at least 3 calendar days with an affiliation to a social security scheme. The exclusion criteria include death prior to the 1-year follow-up after the index ICU hospitalization, patients under trusteeship, patients with cognitive incapacity, and patients who did not understand French sufficiently to complete the questionnaires exploring psychiatric morbidity. All participants provided written informed consent. We planned to include 4500 patients during the study, 2250 patients in each group.

The primary outcome measure is the presence of substantial PTSD symptoms at one year after ICU discharge assessed from the PTSD-REA study. The secondary outcomes are the following: the ICU stay's duration, the number of days with mechanical ventilation, the overall score of discomfort assessed from the IPREA3 questionnaire, the duration of hospital stay after ICU discharge. The other secondary outcomes will be assessed at 1 year after ICU discharge: the number of symptoms in categories A, B, C, D, and E, respectively, assessed from the PCL-5, the scores of the sub-scales A and D, respectively, of the questionnaire HAD-S (Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale), the score obtained from the World Health Organization Quality of Life (WHOQOL-BREF), the number of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and consulsations with a psychologist or psychiatrist during the past year since ICU discharge, return to own home, and occupational status.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study in our medical intensive care unit (ICU) at Bichat Hospital (APHP-Paris). All patients admitted between 2014 and 2017 who had a VA ECMO were included. A survival model with death as a competitive risk was used to determine the risk factors for UGIB.

Results: 257 patients were included, 48 patients (18.7%) presented UGIB. These patients had a lower SAPS II score and a lower lactate level at the setting up of ECMO (respectively 51 [41; 67.5] vs 60 [44; 80] p = 0.05; 4 mmol/L [2.4; 8.1] vs 5.6 mmol/L [2.7; 10.3] p = 0.04) a longer length of stay in ICU and mechanical ventilation duration (respectively 40.5 days [19; 82] vs 15 days [6; 26] p < 0.01 and 32 days [17; 45] vs 18 days [13; 24] p < 0.01) UGIB occurred in median at 18 days (7; 43). The most frequently found lesions on endoscopy were peptic ulcers. In multivariate analysis a BMI (body mass index) > 30 (HR 2.46 [1.22; 4.97], p = 0.01), diabetes (HR 2.91 [1.48; 5.72]; p < 0.01) and a history of cerebrovascular disease (HR 3.18 [1.19; 8.47]; p = 0.02) were associated with a risk of developing UGIB. UGIB was associated with a reduced risk of mortality (HR 0.53 [0.34; 0.83]; p = 0.01).

Conclusion: The incidence of UGIB is high in patients of ECMO VA (18.7%). The decrease in the risk of mortality in this population could be explained by a lower severity of patients on admission, allowing survival long enough to develop UGIB. Obesity, diabetes, and a history of cerebrovascular disease appear to be linked to the risk of developing UGIB and could be witnesses to damage to pre-existing splanchic microcirculation.

001311
Applying RYAN mortality prediction model in patients with severe burns

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Introduction: Veno-arterial Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (VA ECMO) is used in cases of cardiogenic shock or refractory cardiac arrest. Upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) is a common complication in intensive care patients. Few data are available for patients on VA ECMO.

Objectives: The objective of our study was to assess the incidence, risk factors and attributable morbidity and mortality of UGIB in this population.

Methods: The study retrospectively analyzes the data of all burn patients admitted in the ICU of the Service of Burns and Plastic Surgery of the UHC in Tirana, Albania in 1998 to 2008 and 2009 to 2019.

Results: Overall mortality during 2009 to 2019 was improved: 6.89% (116 deaths in 1684 patients) compared with 1998 to 2008 which was 10.5% (255 deaths in 2337 patients). The observed mortality was 0.09%, 5.61%, 35.23% and 81.4% when, respectively, zero, one, two, or three risk factors are present [1].

Objectives: The aim of this presentation is to apply this prediction model in two cohort burn patients hospitalized in ICU and to evaluate the observed deaths with the predicted ones.

Methods: The study retrospectively analyzes the data of all burn patients admitted in the ICU of the Service of Burns and Plastic Surgery of the UHC in Tirana, Albania in 1998 to 2008 and 2009 to 2019.

Results: Overall mortality during 2009 to 2019 was improved: 6.89% (116 deaths in 1684 patients) compared with 1998 to 2008 which was 10.5% (255 deaths in 2337 patients). The observed mortality was 0.09%, 5.61%, 35.23% and 81.4% when, respectively, zero, one, two, or three risk factors were present and there is statistical significance for the difference between two decades(table 1). We performed the comparison of the full model (Age, BSA and presence of Inhalation Injury) against a null through Nominal Regression. ($\chi^2(3) = 488.808$,
Mortality associated with early acute renal failure in critically ill patients
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001341

Introduction: Acute renal failure is very common in the critically ill patients and it is associated with increased mortality.

Objectives: To determine the prognostic impact of the early acute renal failure (ARF) in critically ill patients.

Methods: Prospective, observational study conducted during the months of November and December 2019. Epidemiological data, reason for admission, severity scores, organic support and renal function data, were collected in all patients admitted to ICU. The ARF was defined according to AKIN, RIFLE and KDIGO scores in the first 24 hours of admission.

In descriptive analysis, qualitative variables were expressed in percentages and quantitative variables in means (SD) or medians (IQR). The univariate analysis was performed using Chi-square (RR) for qualitative variables and simple logistic regression (OR) for quantitative variables. The prognostic impact of ARF was determined by means of a multiple logistic regression analysis (OR), adjusted for different confounding factors.

Results: We included 95 patients. Epidemiological profile: males 56%, age 60±17 years, some comorbidity 52%. Reason of admission: neurological pathalogy 30%, respiratory 26% and infectious 20%. Severity scores: APACHE II 18 (13-25), SOFA 6 (4-8). Mechanical ventilation was required in 52% of patients and 51% needed vasoactive therapy. The three scores used determined ARF in 34% of patients (14% stage I/III, 8% stage II/damage, 12% stage III/failure), 33% of them required renal replacement therapy. Mortality was 29% and average stay was 11 days (6-29).

In the univariate analysis, the patients with early ARF had higher mortality (50% vs 17.5%, p = 0.001). For each stage of ARF there was an increase in mortality (stage I/III 23%, stage II/damage 50%, stage III/failure 82%, p = 0.001).
In the multivariate analysis (adjusted for age, comorbidities, reason of admission, severity scores, mechanical ventilation and vasoactive therapy), early ARF was an independent prognostic factor for mortality (OR 6.28; 95% CI 1.28-30.99). Each stage of ARF increased the risk of death: stage I/risk (OR 1.39; 95% CI 0.33-5.90), stage II/damage (OR 4.64; 95% CI 1.01-21.44), stage III/failure (OR 20.86; 95% CI 3.95-110.27).

Conclusion: Early acute renal failure was an independent prognostic factor for mortality. The risk of death increased with each stage proposed in the scores used.

001356
The Role of FOUR Score in Intensive Care Mortality Prediction
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Introduction: Glasgow Coma Scale which predicts ICU mortality is being criticized due to difficulty in verbal assessment in traumatically intubated patients. FOUR Score (Full Outline of Unresponsiveness) includes eye movements, motor response, brainstem reflexes and breathing pattern and it is speculated as more reliable score. BIS (Bispectral index score) gives numerical data to monitor neurological status. We aimed to compare the FOUR score with GCS and BIS to predict mortality.

Methods: Between August 2015 and April 2016, all unconscious adult patients were monitored by BIS at the first 24 h of admission after hemodynamic and metabolic stabilisation. GCS and FOUR scores were assessed by the same physician. Patients younger than 18, conscious, paralyzed or sedated patients were excluded. Demographics, ICU and hospital stay and mortality were recorded.

Results: 65 patients included (32 males). Mortality was 83% (54/65 patients). Average age, BMI, mean arterial pressure, APACHE II score, GCS ≤ 60 were associated as more reliable score. BIS (Bispectral index score) gives numerical data to monitor neurological status. We aimed to compare the FOUR score with GCS and BIS to predict mortality. The correlation of GCS, FOUR and BIS scores were 83.3%/63.6%, 83.3%/54.5% and 90.7%/63.6% respectively. The cut-off values of GCS, FOUR and BIS for predicting mortality were 6, 8 and 60, respectively. The correlation between BIS/FOUR and between BIS/GCS score was similar (0.797 vs 0.764).

Conclusion: In this patient population with advanced age and high APACHE II score, GCS ≤ 6, FOUR score < 8 and BIS value ≤ 60 were related with poor prognosis. When compared with BIS score, the prognostic values of GCS and FOUR score were similar and can be used interchangeably.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.

001359
Description of the specific cause of death in 28 critically ill COVID-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001359

Introduction: Existing studies have looked at the risk factors for death among COVID-19 patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). However, few is known about the actual process of death such as the precise role of secondary bacterial infections, cardiac or kidney failure. Objectives: The present study aimed to describe specific causes of death among COVID-19 patients at our ICU to better understand physiological pathway of the disease and to guide diagnostic and therapeutic decision.

Methods: Medical charts of all COVID-19 patients died at the ICU of Rimini Hospital between 20/02/2020 and 30/06/2020 were retrieved. Information regarding laboratory test, imaging findings, microbial culture and daily not in the medical records were reviewed to define the final process that lead to death (according to WHO guidelines). Severity of organ failure was estimated by the SOFA score. Finally, we classified patients according to the clinical conditions that contributed to the dying process including the proportionality of care and unexpected deaths.

Results: Among 71 patients admitted to ICU in the study period, 28 (39.4%) died during the ICU admission (median ICU stay: 15 days (range: 0-88)). Respiratory failure was the leading cause of death in 16 (57.1%) patients. Pneumonia-COVID-related was identified in 10 (35.7%) deceased patients with a bacterial superinfection present in 4 of those. Six (21.4%) patients developed ventilator associated bacterial pneumonia prior to death and in 3 of those COVID-related pneumonia was not improving while in 1 case severe lung fibrosis had developed leading to impossible weaning from the ventilators (ICU length of stay: 88 days). Bacterial infections were the main cause of death in 7 (25%) patients and in 6 of them COVID-related pneumonia was improving. Finally, 5 (17.9%) patients death was related to other causes: 1 fulminant myocarditis, 1 cerebral hemorrhage, 1 hemorrhagic shock, 1 myocardial infarction, and one disseminated neoplasia. In 3 cases deaths was unexpected while in 5 patients withdrawal of treatment was discussed. The median SOFA score increased from 6.5 (3-11) the day of ICU admission to 8 (4-18) 3 days before death, and to 11 (3-18) the day of death.

Conclusion: The course of critically ill COVID-19 patients is heterogeneous. Bacterial infections played an important role in the dying process and a systematic approach to infection vigilance could help to prevent some deaths especially in a contest where inflammatory markers might have been masked by use of steroids or immunosuppressive therapies.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001360
The impact of Speech and Language Therapy Dysphagia Intervention with COVID-19 patients at a Tertiary Cardiothoracic Centre
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Introduction: The increased risk of dysphagia and laryngeal injury in patients following intubation is widely described in the literature [2]. Patients diagnosed with COVID-19 were intubated and ventilated for...
prolonged periods and subsequently presented with profound weakness and confusion, all of which contribute to increased risk of post-extubation dysphagia [1, 3]. The presence of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) within the MDT, to provide early dysphagia assessment [1, 4], is essential.

**Objectives:** To review the impact on SLT dysphagia intervention using a validated outcome measure with all COVID-19 patients referred to SLT at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

**Methods:** During the period between March to June 2020 (inclusive), SLT were referred and treated 42 of 136 COVID-19 patients admitted to the Royal Brompton Hospital (RBH). One patient solely received voice intervention and six were repatriated prior to completing their dysphagia treatment, and so these patients were excluded from data analysis.

Impact was measured using ‘The Royal Brisbane Hospital Outcome Measures (RBHOM)’. This is a validated numerical scale, which shows progress from Nil-by-Mouth (NBM) to full oral intake [5]. This outcome measure was scored following initial assessment and repeated on discharge.

**Results:** A total of 35 patients, including 23 with tracheostomy with and without mechanical ventilation, received SLT dysphagia intervention. These are interim findings and data collection is still being collated.

Interim data analysis has shown that an average of eight days of SLT dysphagia intervention resulted in patients having an average five point increase on the RBHOM. Only one patient remained NBM with a gastrostomy on discharge whilst all others returned to full oral intake. From the data collected thus far, 97% of patients went from NBM to safely returning to oral intake.

**Conclusion:** Whilst this is a small sample of patients and data collection is ongoing, results are strongly showing that SLT dysphagia intervention has a direct impact on improving outcome measures for COVID-19 patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001381**

Short-term physical and mental health outcome of critically-ill COVID-19 patients after discharge from intensive care unit

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001381**

**Introduction:** Critically-ill patients with COVID-19 have a prolonged intensive care unit (ICU) course and their short- and long-term health outcome are unknown.

**Objectives:** To report short-term physical, nutritional, cognitive, psychological impairment, and quality-of-life in ICU survivors with COVID-19, 1 month after ICU discharge.

**Methods:** Patients who stayed in ICU for > 7 days between March 21, 2020 and May 1, 2020 were included. Patients were evaluated in the follow-up visit within 1st month after ICU discharge, where general performance, nutritional status, 6-minute-walking test (6MWT), muscle function, cognitive, psychological and quality-of-life assessments were performed. Related samples were compared by Wilcoxon-Signed-Rank test and results are presented as median (IQR).

**Results:** Out of 30 patients with COVID-19 who were admitted to ICU, 11 patients (7 males, 4 females) with a median age of 60 (52-75) were evaluated. Their admission APACHE II score was 15 (12-18). ICU length of stay was 13 (9-23) and hospital length of stay was 23 (17-33) days. PaO2/FiO2 improved at ICU discharge as compared to admission values (260 (217-300) vs 158 (146-227); p = 0.03). Five patients received invasive mechanical ventilation. ECG performance and Clinical Frailty Scale scores were worse during the follow-up visit than their baseline (0 (0-1) vs 0 (0-0), p = 0.03 and 2 (1-3) vs 1 (1-2), p = 0.008, respectively). Compared to baseline they lost 7.9% (5.8-11.8) of their weight at ICU discharge and weight loss at follow-up visit was 6.5% (2.4-12.4) kg. Predicted distance walked during 6MWT in 10 patients was 82.2% (72.4-88.8) and 6 patients reported dyspnea at rest. The handgrip strength test was below normal in 4 patients. ICU-acquired weakness according to Medical Research Council was present in 5 patients at ICU discharge, whereas it improved in the follow-up visit compared to baseline (51 (51-58) vs 48 (42-52), p = 0.005). The Mini-mental test was abnormal in 2 patients. Three patients had anxiety, 1 had borderline depression and 1 had post-traumatic stress disorder. Six patients had moderate-severe pain and 6 patients reported sleep problems. The physical-component score of Short Form-36 was low in 8, the mental-component score was low in 4 patients.

**Conclusion:** Short-term outcome of critically-ill COVID-19 patients 1 month after ICU discharge was poor. Long-term outcome should be evaluated in more number of patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001389**

Meeting the need for Post ICU care of COVID -19 patients- A multi-professional response model for follow up and rehabilitation

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001389**

**Introduction:** The Covid-19 pandemic has put the need for ICU rehabilitation in bright light due to extreme strain on ICU capacity. During the pandemic, the Sormland region became one of the heaviest targeted areas in Sweden with 57 patients/100.000 inhabitants needing critical care. To meet the anticipated need for ICU rehabilitation, a multi professional taskforce was formed to design and institute a rehabilitation program encompassing all phases of the clinical course from the ICU to hospital discharge and the following time in outpatient care.

ICU patients frequently develop sequel after their ICU stay with long-standing reduction in HRQoL. These impairments, described as PICS (Post Intensive Care Syndrome), involves both cognitive and neuromuscular dysfunction. Early ICU adapted rehabilitation and use of PICS preventive bundles have shown favourable effects on long time outcome and individually tailored aftercare in ICU step down and rehabilitation units has been advocated. Compared to the normal ICU setting, Covid -19 patients are cared for in a most unfavourable ICU milieu which expose them extensively to virtually all known risk factors for PICS including separation from relatives, use of heavy sedation and neuromuscular blockers in addition to the severe respiratory injury and biomedical stress.
In this paper we describe the development of the rehab program. Collection of outcome data are in progress and are not presented at this stage.

**Objectives:**

- To design and implement a follow up and rehabilitation program for COVID-19 patients.
- Within the program collect data on clinical outcome, PREM and PROM, later to be used to describe longitudinal outcome trajectories.

**Methods:** During multiple interprofessional workshops, a patient/ family centred rehabilitation program was developed and instituted in clinical practice. ICU follow up clinics were used for program coordination and for data collection. The program was organized in in-hospital and outpatient components. A multi professional rehab team was formed and evaluation was done using pre set clinimetrics. A “stepdown unit” was formed were extubated ICU patients could be hospitalized and discharged from the stepdown unit could discharge to the rehab program. The complete Rehab-program was developed during the first three weeks of the pandemic and was operational in April from when all ICU patients were discharged to the stepdown facility. The program was initiated to monitor the patients at 2, 6 and 12 months after discharge. The program was evaluated by the hospital board, were ICU and rehab competencies collaborated. This program, catalyzed by the pandemic, satisfies a long-experienced need for an organized rehab program for ICU patients.

**Results:** Between 200311- 200719 a total of 143 patients were treated in the ICU. At the start of the pandemic, an already developed ICU early rehab program was expediently initiated. Thus, an early in-ICU rehab program was available at ICU admission. The complete Rehab-program was developed during the first three weeks of the pandemic and was operational in April from when all ICU patients were discharged to the stepdown facility. The individual course of the patients is currently monitored by the rehab team at 2, 6 and 12 months scheduled Post ICU clinics. Currently, the 2-month clinics and data collection are in progress.

**Conclusion:** The urgent demand for post ICU rehabilitation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic could be rapidly met by the expedient institution of a complete rehab program. This was possible due to the work of an interprofessional response team, endorsed by the hospital board, were ICU and rehab competencies collaborated. This program, catalyzed by the pandemic, satisfies a long-experienced need for an organized rehab program for ICU patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001459**

**Prevalence And Burden Of Hepatobiliary Injury In Pulmonary ICU Patients**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001459
Introduction: Hepatobiliary injury (HBI) is very frequent in ICU patients and associated with poor outcome. Pulmonary ICU patients are vulnerable to HBI reasons like hypoxemia, pulmonary hypertension, right heart failure and frequent ICU infections and antibiotic usage. But there is limited data about HBI’s prevalence, type, risk factors and impact on mortality in Pulmonary ICU patients.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess frequency, risk factors, types, severity and effect on outcome of HBI in critically ill patients.

Methods: A retrospective observational cohort study was performed in an University hospital pulmonary ICU and all patients who admitted last 5 years were included in the study. All potential risk factors for HBI like sepsis, hypoxia, congestion, medications and nutrition routes, were recorded from the patient files. Hepatobiliary injury and severity are defined according to the classification of the European and American guidelines for 2017 and 2019. The value of R for HBI and the type of damage (hepaticellular, cholestatic and mix) calculated according to RUCAM system. All potential risk factors were compared with univariate analysis (t test, Chi square test, Mann Whitney U test). Risk factors for HBI, mortality, length of stay in ICU were investigated with logistic regression analysis.

Results: 478 patients were included in the study and there were HBI in the 207 (43%) of them. Most frequent ICU admission reasons were, community-acquired pneumonia (21%), respiratory failure (18%) and COPD (18%). The mean age of the patients was 70±15, 55% of them were male, mean APACHE II score was 20±8, and mean SOFA score was 4±3.

HBI developed median 5 days before ICU admission in the 71% of patients and 7 days after ICU admission in the 29% of patients, during the worst period of HBI, 39% of the patients were at stage 1, 33% at stage 2, 15% at stage 3, and 14% at stage 4 HBI was reversible in 77% of the patients. According to R coefficient HBI was considered as cholestatic (54%), mixed (29%) and hepatocellular (16%) patterns. DILI was mostly cholestatic type HBI, despite many of them had mild-moderate disease. In 32 patients (50%), and 7 patients (10%) had extensive bowel necrosis.

Conclusion: In this study population, 43% of the patients developed mostly cholestatic type HBI, despite many of them had mild-moderate stage and reversible disease it was an independent risk factor for ICU mortality.

| Table: Laboratory results of patients with hepatobiliary injury |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AST              | ALT             | GGT             | ALP              |
| 406±115          | 251±74          | 141±222 (n=179) | 208±308 (n=198) |
| LDH Hb 81±31     | Total bilirubin |                | Direct bilirubin |
| 1426±3547        | Hb 15.2±5 (n=200) | 0.8±0.1 (n=203) |
| Hb (mg/dl)       | RBC (no. /l)    | MCH (pg)        | MCHC (%)         |
|                   |                  |                 |                 |
|                  |                  |                 |                 |

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Outcomes of critically ill patients with acute mesenteric ischemia in a French intestinal stroke center
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Introduction: Acute mesenteric ischemia (AMI) is a life-threatening disease. In 2016, the first French national intestinal stroke center was set up (SURVI, Beaujon and Bichat Hospitals, AP-HP, France); it is based on a multidisciplinary and multimodal management of life-and gut-saving strategy, focusing on intestinal viability that is achieved through (1) early AMI recognition, (2) urgent medical protocol, and (3) digestive revascularization and necrotic bowel resection if required.

Objectives: Our objectives were to describe the prognosis in the intensive care unit (ICU) of patients with AMI admitted in the intestinal stroke center, and to analyze factors associated with ICU mortality.

Methods: An observational retrospective analysis of a prospective database was conducted from February 2016 to December 2018, which consecutively included all patients with AMI admitted in ICU in the intestinal stroke center. Collected data were patients’ demographic characteristics, past medical history, mechanisms of AMI, intra-operative findings and ICU hospitalization. Data are presented as median (IQR) or number (percentage). Univariate analyses of factors associated with ICU mortality were performed using Chi-squared tests and Mann-Whitney U tests. Multivariate exact logistic regression was performed on clinical relevant factors that were significantly associated with ICU mortality in univariate analyses (p <0.05). Statistical significance was considered for p-value < 0.05.

Results: Seventy patients (age 65 [54-76] years, 61% of male, SOFA 4 [2-6], SAPS II 42 [30-53]) were admitted to ICU with AMI, mainly due to superior mesenteric artery occlusion (87%). Sixty patients (91%) underwent initial urgent laparotomy. Bowel resection was performed in 32 patients (50%), and 7 patients (10%) had extensive bowel necrosis beyond therapeutic possibilities. Forty-one patients (64%) had endovascular (n=17) or open (n=24) initial revascularization of the ischemic gut. Thirty patients (43%) required one or more revision surgeries.

Median ICU length of stay and duration of mechanical ventilation were 6 [2-14] days and 2 [0-5] days respectively. Forty-seven patients (67%) had acute kidney injury. On ICU discharge, 20 patients (29%) had short bowel syndrome and 44 patients (63%) required exclusive parenteral nutrition.

Seventeen patients (24%) died in ICU. Factors associated with ICU mortality in univariate analysis were age ≥ 80 years old, chronic hypertension, signs of hepatic infarction on CT scan, SAPS II on admission, delta SOFA score between admission and day 1 > 0, duration of mechanical ventilation and acute kidney injury. Delta SOFA score > 0 (OR 9.0, 95%CI [1.8-69.5]) and chronic hypertension (OR 7.7, 95%CI [1.8-42.4]) were independently associated with ICU mortality in multivariate analysis.

Conclusion: We describe for the first time the prognosis of critically ill patients with AMI in an intestinal stroke center in France. The 24% ICU mortality rate suggests that intestinal stroke center might improve the outcomes of ICU patients with AMI.
Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001505

Introduction: Critically-ill patients with COVID-19 have been proposed to have poor prognosis.

Objectives: To evaluate baseline characteristics and outcomes of patients with COVID-19 requiring ICU admission in Turkish ICUs.

Methods: Critically-ill patients admitted to 26 ICUs from 23 Hospitals in Turkey from 10 March to 11 June 2020 were evaluated in this descriptive observational study. Results are presented as median (IQR) and counts (%).

Results: A total of 426 confirmed COVID-19 patients were included. The median age of the population was 67 (57-76) years. There were 254 (59.6%) male and 172 (40.4%) female patients. The most frequent comorbidity was hypertension 217 (50.9%), followed by diabetes mellitus 131 (30.8%), cardiac diseases 107 (25.1%), chronic respiratory diseases 82 (19.2%), cancer 46 (10.8%) and chronic renal failure 16 (3.8%). Duration from start of symptoms till ICU admission was 6 (4-10) days. Admission APACHE II score was 17 (12-25) and SOFA score was 4 (3-7). Admission PaO2/FIO2 was 148 (102-206) and SpO2/FIO2 196 (147-240). Admission lymphocyte count was 860 (560-1240) per mm3, CRP was 109.3 (57.7-188.5) mg/L, D-Dimer was 1120 (547-2970) ng/mL, ferritin was 491 (197-958) ng/mL. Invasive mechanical ventilation was applied in more than half of the population. In our work, these scores reasonably predict ICU mortality, but were far from perfect tests.

Conclusion: Patients receiving systemic treatment for cancer should be considered for ICU admission like other severely ill patients without cancer. Largther prospective studies are needed to understand prognostic factors and refine predictive scores in this special population. Individual evaluation of patient characteristics, oncological disease and treatment response are essential. Dialogue between oncologists and intensive care specialists is paramount in the decision making process of this population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. We are grateful to all authors of COVID-19 Study Group Investigators of the Turkish Intensive Care Studies-Network (TRICS-Net).
3. We are grateful to Omega CRC, Ankara, Turkey for their support in the conduction of this study.
lungs mechanics and gas exchange. The increased utilisation of proning in patients where sedation and muscle relaxants have been used creates the hypothetical risk of precipitating brachial plexus injuries, for which the terms ‘Prone Position Plexopathy’ has been coined. The objective of this paper is to report a case and a review of the relevant literature.

A 36-year-old gentleman presented to the emergency department with an 8-day history of progressive shortness of breath. His past medical history was limited to a high body mass index (BMI) and a previous traumatic brain injury (TBI) in 2002. He was found to be significantly hypoxic despite maximal oxygen therapy, and was brought to the critical care unit for ventilation and proning directly. He initially improved with airway pressure release ventilation (APRV) and frequent proning; however, he developed a ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) and deteriorated, and was transferred for veno-venous ECMO (VV-ECMO).

On his return, he was noted to have new right upper limb weakness despite a computed tomography (CT) scan of his head showing no new signs; on examination he was unable to abduct his right shoulder and he had MRC grade 2 of the right Bicep, with generalised bilateral weakness. On nerve conduction studies and electromyography of his right upper limb several weeks after a successful discharge, he was found to have an underlying moderately severe lesion of the upper trunk of the right brachial plexus from which the large majority of nerve fibres to the right suprasacral, musculocutaneous and axillary nerves are derived, with relative sparing of the right middle and lower trunks, and posterior and medial cords, confirming the neurological findings.

Methods: A systematic literature search was conducted on PubMed using the search strategy: (“prone position”) AND (“brachial plexus injury” OR “brachial plexopathy” OR “nerve injury”), which identified 34 articles that were subsequently screened. The resulting seven full-text articles were assessed for eligibility. Five studies, of which three were case reports and two were case series, were included.

Results: Twenty-one cases of brachial plexopathy, or impending brachial plexopathy, secondary to proning were identified. The most common reason for proning was for spinal surgery (n = 18). This was followed by thoracoscopic oesophagectomy (n = 1). Debridement of necrotising fasciitis (n = 1) and, indeed, the use of prone positioning in a patient with ARDS in an intensive care unit setting (n = 1). Only one case within the dataset underwent proning as it is described in the use for patients with ARDS secondary to COVID-19, and this was the patient who was prone for up to 12 hours a day in ICU as part of the management of ARDS. All of the plexopathies identified had almost entirely resolved within ten months, with two patients experiencing residual sensory deficits.

Conclusion: Injury secondary to proning during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the second case in an ICU patient prone for the management of ARDS. Brachial plexopathy is a pathology to consider in patients who have undergone prone in an ICU environment as part of their treatment of ARDS secondary to COVID-19 who show signs of focal neurological deficits of the upper limb upon removal of paralysis and sedation; and as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, adaptations such as modifying SSKIN (a five-step model for pressure ulcer prevention) during proning and using scoring systems in critical care follow up will be needed to improve outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

1. N/A.

001645

A single centre retrospective observational study: Clinical characteristics and outcomes of 57 intensive care patients with COVID-19 in South London

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001645

Introduction: Novel Coronavirus (SARS-Coronavirus-2: SARS-CoV-2) or Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and it was declared a global pandemic in March 2020.

Objectives: To describe the epidemiological characteristics and clinical manifestations of patients with COVID-19 in South-East London Region.

Methods: A single centre retrospective observational study was completed comprising patients with laboratory confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19 in a period between 12th March and 3rd April. Data was collected on patient characteristics, clinical manifestations, laboratory results, radiology findings and management in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Moreover, described some of the complications that were noted in the COVID-19 cohort.

Results: 57 patients (68% male) were followed up for 23 days. The most common co-morbidities were hypertension (54%), obesity (53%) and type 2 diabetes (32%). The most common clinical manifestations were shortness of breath (88%), fever (18%) and cough (84%), which was initially noted in ICU 8 days prior to ICU admission. The typical radiology findings seen in COVID-19 patients were bilateral infiltrates on chest X-ray. Laboratory findings that were common in majority of patients were lymphopenia with raised white cell count, raised C-reactive protein and raised ferritin. 21% of the patients required renal replacement therapy due to acute kidney injury. Invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) was required by 93% of the cohort; however, initially the unit did not try non-invasive ventilation for COVID-19 patients. PaO2/FIO2 ratio illustrated appropriately the biochemical picture of acute respiratory distress syndrome. At the end of the follow-up period for this study, 35% had died, 28% had been discharged from hospital, 9% was stepped down to the ward from ICU and 28% remained in ICU. The average ICU stays in this cohort was 15 days. Mortality was correlated with age, PaO2/FIO2 ratio, ventilator settings, peak ferritin and neutrophil count over the first 72hours of IMV.

Some of the complications that were seen in this cohort: eight patients developed pneumomediastinum, surgical emphysema and pneumothoraces, one patient had a ST-elevation myocardial infarction requiring PCI and one had a micro-haemorrhage/subarachnoid haemorrhage (8 mm) and one patient developed posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES).

Conclusion: This retrospective observational study described the clinical characteristics and outcomes of a South-East London cohort. It described few of the complications that were seen in this cohort, which could be co-related to COVID-19. Moreover, it reports factors that are correlated with mortality for patients with COVID-19.
Fluid management in acute burn injuries
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001293

Introduction: In severely burnt patients, it is important to focus on fluid resuscitation, not just pain relief, because a burnt patient loses a big amount of fluid.

Objectives: Our study’s purpose is to find out how much fluid did these patients get during the prehospital care.

Methods: We included those patients who suffered an at least 20% second, third degree burn, and their fluid resuscitation started in the prehospital phase. We did our study with document analysis. We checked the documents from 2008.01.01. to 2018.12.31. With the help of including and excluding criteria we could include 104 people (n = 104). For data analysis we used Microsoft Word and Excel 2016 and SPSS version 25.0. For statistical tests, we used correlation, Chi-square test and independent T-test.

Results: In this study there were 70 male (67,3%) and 34 female (32,7%) patients. The average age was 56,59 years. Patients suffered an average 31,90% burn. In the prehospital care these people got averagely 1315,84 ml fluid. The 32,7% of the patients died during hospital care. We found that TBSA (total burn surface area) correlate significantly with surviving (p < 0,01). Surviving also correlate with almost every complications significantly (p < 0,001). We also found that Evans formula is more sensitive than Parkland formula, and there is a significant difference between real fluid resuscitation and recommended fluid resuscitation by the formulas (p < 0,001). We confirmed that Parkland formula decreases occurrence of complications. It was also clear that patients got more than twice as many fluid prehospitaly than Parkland formula would provided.

Conclusion: Evans formula is more sensitive and it would drive patients fluid management better, but in prehospital care it is impracticable due to lack of equipment. There is more chance of complications if the patients got not the right amount fluid what they’re needed. Finally patients got more than twice as many fluid as it was recommended by Parkland formula in the guideline, so it is clear the prehospital medical providers didn’t work as the guideline would recommend.

Validity of APACHE II and SAPS II scores as predictors of early global mortality at 3 months from sepsis
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001407

Introduction: APACHE (Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation) II and SAPS (Simplified Acute Physiology Score) II have become a necessary tool to describe ICU (intensive care unit) populations and to predict differences in mortality. Both are calculated in the first 24 hours of hospitalization, in which higher levels correspond to more serious diseases and a higher risk of death. Sepsis is a major cause of morbidity in ICU, it is estimated that about half of the patients have a nosocomial infection and are, therefore, at a higher risk of death.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the comparative efficacy of different scoring system (APACHE II and SAPS II scores) in assessing the prognosis of critically ill patients that were admitted to the ICU by sepsis in a tertiary hospital and compare them for prediction of the outcome in these patients in early mortality (up to 3 months).

Methods: We performed a retrospective review of five hundred and thirty three patients that were admitted to the ICU from January 2018 to December 2019. We included all patients (medical or surgical patients) over the age 16 years old, and we selected those with the first diagnosis of “sepsis”. Patient selection and information collection were obtained through medical records. It was calculated the predictive mortality by APACHE II and SAPS II and also the early mortality. Group comparisons between survivors and non-survivors from sepsis were performed using the Student-T test for continuous variables and Pearson chi-square test for categorical variables. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software version 25.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA).

Results: Out of 533 patients, 71 had sepsis (13%). Of these 71 patients, 36 (50,7%) died up to 3 months. Average APACHE II and SAPS II scores in all patients were 23,5 ± 8,1 (p = 0,02) and 52,9 ± 17,7 (p < 0,01) respectively, and they were significantly different between survivors and non-survivors. A statistically significant positive correlation was established between the values of SAPS II and APACHE II (r = 0.76; p < 0.01). By the examination of validity and classification accuracy by ROC curve, we conclude that: SAPS II had AUC > 0,662 and APACHE II had AUC > 0,639. Both can predict the risk of mortality in these patients, but SAPS II seems to be slightly more accurate. We also observed that elderly patients were expected to have a worse prognosis. The average age of survivors was 64,5 ± 13,8 years and for non-survivors 75,2 ± 8,8 years (p < 0,01).

Conclusion: Both APACHE and SAPS II were accurate tools to describe and predicted mortality caused by sepsis. There was no significant difference in the clinical values of SAPS II and APACHE II and taking in consideration the high correlation between both, only one, could be enough to make a mortality prediction.

Validity of APACHE II or SAPS II as predictors of the hospital length of stay in multi-trauma patients: the analysis of a Portuguese ICU in a tertiary hospital
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001463

Introduction: APACHE (Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation) II and SAPS (Simplified Acute Physiology Score) II are the two...
main tools to evaluate patients in an intensive care unit (ICU), 24 hours after admission, regarding the predictable intrahospital rate of death. In multi-trauma patients, previous reviews showed that SAPS II was valid to predict intrahospital death in these patients when compared to APACHE II. However, the correlation of these scores with the hospital length of stay was not demonstrated.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to verify if there is a correlation between the main score systems used in a Portuguese tertiary hospital ICU and the hospital length of stay (LOS) in multi-trauma patients.

**Methods:** This retrospective review evaluated the admitted patients in an ICU during two years, from January 2018 to December 2019, through the consultation of clinical records, calculated predictive mortality by APACHE II and SAPS II, as well as the hospital length of stay, including the time spent in ICU. We obtained a population of 533 patients from which we selected the ones admitted with “multi-trauma” as first diagnosis.

Group comparisons between both scores and LOS were performed using the Pearson correlation. A linear regression model was applied. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software version 25.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA).

**Results:** Out of 533 patients, 27 had multi-trauma (5.06%). These 27 patients were 53.6 ± 18.1 years old, from which 6 (22.2%) were female and 21 (77.8%) were male. The hospital LOS was 47.2 ± 24.3 days. Average APACHE II and SAPS II scores were 13.9 ± 6.0 and 33.0 ± 12.7, respectively. Pearson correlation showed us that there is a correlation between SAPS II and LOS (p = 0.021) that was not verified to APACHE II (p = 0.188). Therefore, it was possible to apply a simple linear regression model correlating the SAPS II and the hospital LOS which concluded that each unit added to SAPS II represented an increase of 0.42 days to the LOS. This linear regression model explains the LOS variation by 6% (p = 0.028).

**Conclusion:** A correlation between SAPS II and the hospital length of stay was verified with a statistic significance that was not verified with APACHE II. It is possible to assume that the calculation of SAPS II in multi-trauma patients could predict the approximated hospital length of stay, which is a remarkable predictor to clinicians to established the plan for these patients. Further studies on this topic are needed to confirm the association between SAPS II and the hospital length of stay.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**The value of APACHE II and SAPS II as predictors of inhospital mortality in critical patients with Acute Kidney Injury**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001522

**Introduction:** APACHE (Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation) II and SAPS (Simplified Acute Physiology Score) II are commonly used scoring systems to calculate the severity of illness in intensive care patients. Both are calculated in the first 24 hours of hospitalization and can predict the risk of intrahospital mortality. Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is frequent and has high morbidity and mortality rates, which determines an enormous importance in the context of ICU (Intensive Care Unit).

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to investigate the capacity of main score systems to predict intrahospital mortality of patients with AKI, in a portuguese tertiary hospital ICU.

**Methods:** We performed a retrospective review that evaluated the admitted patients in an ICU during two years, from January 2018 to December 2019, through the consultation of clinical records and calculated predictive mortality by APACHE II and SAPS II. From the 535 patients included, those with AKI at admission were selected, regardless of the main diagnosis, according to Acute Kidney Injury classification (AKIN).

Group comparisons between survivors and non-survivors from AKI were performed using the Student-T test for continuous variables and Pearson chi-square test for categorical variables. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software version 25.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA).

**Results:** Out of 535 patients, 272 patients (50.8%) had AKI and 263 patients (49.4%) had not. The mortality rate was 37.9% and 21.7%, respectively, with significant difference between them (p < 0.01).

Patients with AKI were mainly males (57%). There is no difference between the mortality rates of gender (p = 0.06). Out of 272 patients with AKI, 169 survived (62.1%) and 103 died (37.9%). The average age of survivors was 68.93 ± 14.59 years and of non-survivors group was 74.14 ± 11.82 years. The mean SAPS II score in the survivors group was 53.60 ± 19.24 while in the non-survivors group was 68.08 ± 19.83 (p < 0.01). The mean APACHE II score was 25.11 ± 9.36 and 30.98 ± 8.84, respectively (p < 0.01). Concerning creatinine and urea levels in both groups of patients, there was no difference neither in mean creatinine levels (p = 0.72) neither in mean urea levels (p = 0.34). APACHE II and SAPS II are valid predictors of intrahospital mortality in critical patients with Acute Kidney Injury at admission. Furthermore, non-survivor patients showed a higher age mean than survivors, as expected. Despite our assumptions, the main renal function analytical parameters showed no influence in the outcome of the patients with Acute Renal Injury.

**Conclusion:** APACHE II and SAPS II are valid predictors of intrahospital mortality in critical patients with Acute Kidney Injury at admission. Furthermore, non-survivor patients showed a higher age mean than survivors, as expected. Despite our assumptions, the main renal function analytical parameters showed no influence in the outcome of the patients with Acute Renal Injury.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**Comparison of 3 risk prediction scores for Covid-19 in a UK hospital**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001524
Introduction: As the Covid-19 pandemic has spread around the world, several new scores have been released to predict risk of critical illness or mortality among Covid-19 patients. None of these scores have been validated in the UK population.

Objectives: We attempted to compare 3 scores – COVID-GRAM [1], HNC-LL [2] and CURB-65 scoring systems in assessing accuracy for predicting critical illness or in-patient mortality among Covid-19 patients at our institution.

Methods: We collected data on 429 patients with RT-PCR confirmed Covid-19 infection identified from the local ISARIC CCP and hospital databases, admitted during March and April 2020. Our endpoints were 1). Critical illness defined as Deaths and/or ICU admission 2). In-patient mortality.

Results: The incidence of inpatient mortality and progression to critical illness in our cohort was 32.1% and 38.7% respectively. COVID-GRAM tool showed the highest accuracy in predicting critical illness (AUC 0.647; 95% CI 0.600 to 0.692) and inpatient mortality (AUC 0.695; 95% CI 0.649 to 0.739). There was no significant difference in accuracy of AUC between CURB-65 and COVID-GRAM (p-0.9074) for inpatient mortality but both were better than HNCLL. (p - 0.0415 and 0.0112). HNCLL showed lowest accuracy in predicting both the endpoints of interest.

Conclusion: While COVID-GRAM was most accurate in predicting critical illness and inpatient mortality from COVID-19, it was only marginally higher than CURB65. We recommend the continued use of CURB 65 as convenient and easy to use tool in predicting complications and mortality from COVID 19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Not applicable.

Introduction: Eye tracking has a long history in diagnosis of neuropsychiatric and neurodevelopmental disorders, specifically in schizophrenia and autism [1]–[4]. It has recently been advocated for as a method for inferring attention as a surrogate marker of delirium but has been hampered due to lack of technological solutions available for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) environment [5]. To that extent, we have developed a non-invasive, end of the bed, eye tracker that automatically tracks the eye movements and the gaze of a patient without instrumentation or calibration.

We sought to understand the acceptability of this new monitoring method from the multidisciplinary team across a single centre prior to deployment in a clinical feasibility trial.

Objectives: To ascertain the:
1. Practical issue with current delirium assessment methods.  
2. Acceptability of automating delirium detection.  
3. Acceptability of non-invasive eye tracking in intensive care.

Methods: A Google Form of qualitative and quantitative questions was made ascertaining the views of delirium assessment and the views on the automation of delirium detection. A picture of the system as setup in an ICU bed-space was then shown with an explanation of its function (Figure 1). Open questions were asked about their opinion prior to closed questions of specific interest. R version 4.0.1 was used for analysis.

Results: A wide range of MDT roles were gathered (n = 29, 65% nurses, 21% doctor, 3% dietician, 3% pharmacist, 3% critical care technologist, 3% patient care coordinator). Nurses found that current delirium assessment methods were laborious, often confusing to perform and are only formalising their intuition but welcomed automation (82%). The majority (92%) of responders welcomed the use of eye tracking as a method of delirium detection. The majority thought that the setup would not interfere with their day to day clinical activities with the patient (75%), their families (80%), and other members of the MDT (98%). Qualitatively, a theme of avoiding “clutter” around the bed-space was highlighted. The end of the bed camera marker (a 10x10cm plastic code) was highlighted as a potential point of delirium ‘generation’. Of interest, the theme of privacy and was not highlighted.

Conclusion: Non-invasive eye tracking as a method of delirium assessment is generally well accepted in AICU across the MDT. Specific care is to be taken to avoid adding further clutter around an already busy AICU bed-space.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
The patients were divided on scheduled surgical ones (n = 40) and non-scheduled surgical patients (n = 115). In scheduled surgical patients the mortality rate was 12.5% (n = 5), with APACHE II and SAPS II scores predicting death in these patients showing no accuracy at all (p = 0.07 and p = 0.54, respectively). In the non-scheduled surgical patients the mortality rate was 32% (n = 37), in this patients both scores showed to be good mortality predictors in this group (APACHE II with p < 0.01, SAPS II with p < 0.01).

Conclusion: The results showed that APACHE II and SAPS II are both good mortality predictors scores in surgical patients admitted in ICU. SAPS II was better in predicting mortality during hospital admission after ICU discharge than APACHE II.

Both showed valid results to predict death during ICU admission and early death (<3 months). Both showed accurate results to predict mortality in non-scheduled surgical patients but not on scheduled surgical ones.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001186
The exposure of radiation in young trauma patients treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001186

Introduction: Young trauma patients undergo repeat radiologic imaging during initial trauma evaluation and ICU stay trough high radiation exposure of these patients is suspected studies are scarce. In this regard we retrospectively calculated ionizing radiation exposure of young ICU trauma patients due to medical imaging.

Methods: We reviewed records of <40 year old ICU trauma patients with lengths of stay (LOS)>20 days treated within the past 18 months. All imaging studies involving ionizing radiation were recorded. A Typical Effective Dose (TED) per type of study was assumed based on the literature. TED’s incurred by plain radiographs (XR), computed tomographic (CT) scans and fluoroscopic studies (FL) were added to calculate a Cumulative Effective Dose (CED) per patient. CED’s were compared to established limits of annual radiation exposure. The total medical radiation detriment was calculated using the formula 0.073XCED/Sv. Numbers given represent mean ± sem.

Results: 36 patients (male:34 mean age 26.8 ± 1.1 years; mean los 48.6 ± 7.7 days; mean Injury Severity Score ISS33.2 ± 1.7) underwent 1311XRs (36.4 ± 2.7/patient), 248 CT-scans (6.9 ± 0.5/patient), and 25 FL’s (0.8 ± 0.2/patient; 1 limb angiography, 23 fluorescence guided bone fixation procedures, 1 diaphragm fluoroscopy). The mean CED/patient was 40.5 ± 2.8 mSv, Partial CED’s attributable to XR, CT and FL were 2.5 ± 0.3, 37.3 ± 2.8 and 0.81 ± 0.15 mSv/patient or 89 ± 3% and 3% of total CED respectively. The mean detriment due to medical exposure to ionizing radiation in our study was 0.00296 ± 0.0002.

Conclusion: The mean CED exceeded international and national (environmental:1 mSv occupational:20 mSv) annual radiation exposure limits. CT scans accounted for the bulk of CED. Studies designed to investigate the short-term benefits vs long-term sequelae of X-ray
imaging studies performed in ICU patient are needed especially individuals at child-bearing ages with long life-expectancies.

**001288**

**Current views and understanding in an anaesthetic department surrounding power injection of intravenous contrast via central venous catheters for CT**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001288*

**Introduction:** During the COVID 19 pandemic, the anaesthetic team was often involved in the transfer of patients from intensive care (ICU) to computerized tomography (CT). With the associated thromboembolic events in COVID patients, often these scans were CT pulmonary angiograms (CTPAs) and therefore required higher intravenous (IV) contrast flows. Often these patients had been on ICU for a long period of time, had no peripheral access and only a central venous catheter (CVC) line in situ. We came across a huge variation in clinical practice with CVC lines being used for power injecting contrast. Some radiographers would not allow the CVC line to be used and asked for a peripheral cannula to be inserted. Others were happy for the CVC line to be used, as long as the accompanying doctor connected the power injector to the CVC line took responsibility for it. This variety in practice led us to research current understanding and experience with injecting IV contrast down a CVC line via a power injector and to review the literature and guidance surrounding it. We then ran a teaching session for the anaesthetic department and reassessed these views after this session.

**Objectives:**
1. To find out current understanding and experience in the radiology and anaesthetic department surrounding power injecting IV contrast down a CVC line.
2. If required, to run a teaching session to help develop an understanding of the issues and guidance surrounding administering IV contrast in patients with CVC lines but no peripheral access.
3. To find out whether further education has changed understanding or practice.

**Methods:** We sent out a short questionnaire via SurveyMonkey to both the anaesthetists (n = 28) and to the radiographers (n = 27). This was to find out the current understanding, experiences and practices of both anaesthetists and radiographers. We then offered a teaching session to the anaesthetic department on the equipment used in CT, the CVC lines used at the hospital, the flows of IV contrast required for certain CT scans and how Poiseuille’s Law links pressure in the lines to its length, gauge, and viscosity of the contrast. We also reviewed the current literature looking at CVC lines used with power injectors. We then did a second questionnaire for the anaesthetists (n = 11) which looked at whether their views and practice had changed.

**Results:** Results showed that 85% of radiographers were not comfortable with IV contrast being given via the CVC line. Despite this, around half anaesthetists who answered the questionnaire have been asked by the radiographer to connect the power injector to the CVC line. 100% anaesthetists found the teaching useful with 91% anaesthetists feeling informed about issues surrounding giving IV contrast via a CVC line compared to 9% prior to teaching. 100% anaesthetists said that this teaching would change their practice, with 36% anaesthetists likely to give IV contrast via a CVC line compared to 64% prior to teaching.

**Conclusion:** There is currently no UK national guidance on injection of IV contrast via a CVC line. In the United States, the American Committee or Radiology has recently released guidance suggesting that for power injection of IV contrast via CVC lines the radiologist should consult the manufacturers guidance (American College of Radiology, 2020). Some hospitals have local policies (UCSF, 2020; Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust Policy, 2017) but this is not something that we currently have implemented at our hospital. Seeing as there is no formal guidance nationally, and few hospitals have formal policies implemented, often it comes down to individual risk analysis as to whether IV contrast can be injected via a CVC line.

Our data showed that few anaesthetists were well informed on these issues prior to teaching. Anaesthetists and intensivists are often involved in the transfer of unwell patients. As a result, they are often involved in decision making such as whether or not IV contrast can be injected down a central line. Interestingly, following teaching, the number of anaesthetists who would power inject IV contrast via a CVC line nearly halved. This quality improvement project shows that with education on this subject, anaesthetists may change their practice. 100% of anaesthetists said that they would like a formal policy in place in order to help with the decision-making process. This is something we hope to create and implement in the future in concordance with the radiology department.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
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**001328**

**Point-of-care ultrasound for COVID-19 pneumonia patients in the ICU**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001328*

**Introduction:** Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) has a major role in the management of patients with acute hypoxic respiratory and circulatory failure and guides hemodynamic management. There is scarce literature on POCUS assessment characteristics in COVID-19 pneumonia with hypoxic respiratory failure.

**Methods:** The study is an observational, prospective, single-center study conducted in the intensive care unit of Adan General Hospital from May 1st, 2020, to June 25, 2020. The study included adults suspected to have COVID-19 transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) with fever or suspected respiratory infection. Patients were transferred to the ICU after reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing. A certified intensivist in critical care ultrasound who was blinded to the RT-PCR results, performed the lung ultrasound and echocardiology within 12 hours of the patient’s admission to the ICU. We calculated the E/e’, E/A ratio, left ventricular ejection fraction EF, IVC diameter, RV size and systolic function. We performed ultrasound in 12 chest areas.

**Results:** Of 92 patients with suspected COVID-19 pneumonia, 77 (84%) cases were confirmed. In the group of patients with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia, echocardiographic findings showed normal E/e’, deceleration time (DT), and transmitral E/A ratio in comparison to the non-COVID19 patients (P < 0.001 for both). The IVC diameter was < 2 cm with > 50% collapsibility in 62 (81%) patients with COVID-19 pneumonia; a diameter of > 2 cm and < 50% collapsibility in all patients, with a P value of 0.001, was detected among those with non-COVID-19 pneumonia. There were 3 cases of myocarditis with poor EF (5.5%), severe RV dysfunction was seen in 9 cases (11.6%), and 3 cases showed RV thrombus.
Conclusion: POCUS plays an important role in bedside diagnosis, hemodynamic assessment and management of patients with acute hypoxic respiratory and circulatory failure in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001393
Diagnostic performance of transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography to predict cardiac tamponade after cardiac surgery
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Introduction: Cardiac tamponade is a severe complication after cardiac surgery. Echocardiography, both transthoracic (TEE) and transesophageal (TEE), may help to identify cardiac tamponade in postoperative period, but its diagnostic value is still questioned and has not been studied in large cohorts.

Methods: From January 2011 to March 2017, 8,974 adult patients underwent cardiac surgery in the Catharina hospital Eindhoven, a tertiary referral cardiothoracic center. A retrospective study was conducted in which patients with suspected cardiac tamponade were included. Sensitivity and specificity were calculated by comparing echocardiographic findings with surgical confirmation of tamponade. Patients in whom a re-exploration was not performed and recovered without intervention were considered not having tamponade.

Results: 511 patients (male = 65%, median age 66 years) were included in whom 427 echocardiograms were performed. The following patient characteristics differed between patients who underwent a TTE or TEE: percentage of emergency surgery (13 vs 35%), EuroSCORE (mean (SD) 9 (11) vs 18 (22)), and duration extracorporeal circulation (mean (SD) 119 (69) vs 171 (101) minutes). Cardiac tamponade was confirmed at re-exploration in 189 patients, while 278 patients were considered to be negative. In-hospital mortality of the re-intervention group was 14%. The diagnostic value for TTE comprises a sensitivity of 64% (95% CI 53 - 75), a specificity of 96% (95% CI 92-98), a positive predictive value (PPV) of 81% (95% CI 69 - 89), and a negative predictive value (NPV) of 90% (95% CI 86 – 93). Regarding TEE, the diagnostic value had a sensitivity of 50% (30 – 70), a specificity of 79% (59 – 91), a positive predictive value (PPV) of 81% (95% CI 69 - 89), and a negative predictive value (NPV) of 90% (95% CI 86 – 93). Regarding TEE, the diagnostic value was lower for TTE, which might be caused by a selection bias based on severity of disease.

001491
Long-term pulmonary sequelae of Covid-19 in critically ill patients with severe interstitial pneumonia
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Introduction: The long-term sequelae after Covid-19 severe disease are largely unknown. In particular, late radiological and clinical evolution have not investigated yet.

Objectives: The aims of this study is to describe morphological abnormalities of "late" lung CT scan in relationship to disease severity and clinical evolution in a small cohort of Covid-19 critically ill patients with severe interstitial pneumonia.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed the data of 24 Sars-Cov-2 positive patients with severe interstitial pneumonia admitted to the intensive Care Unit in a large regional hospital in Northern Italy, in March-April 2020, with a "late" lung CT scan performed for clinical reason not earlier than 2 weeks after hospital admission. CT scans were analyzed by two experienced radiologists and classified according to morphological abnormalities previously described in ARDS subjects based on the Fleischner Society Glossary, including 1) ground glass opacities 2) consolidation 3) fibrotic pattern with interlobular and intralobular thickening or cyst walls and 4) decreased attenuation, which includes emphysema and small airways disease. Six patients had two CT scan (i.e. admission and follow up CT scan) for longitudinal analysis. Clinal data were electronically recorded and retrospectively collected in an electronic data base.

Results: Patients were 22 M and 2 F, the median age was 66 (min 39, max 79). The median time from symptom onset to ICU admission was 5 days (range 4-8). 9 patients (37.5%) underwent immediate intubation and mechanical ventilation (MV) and were directly admitted to ICU, whereas the majority (62.5%) received prior non invasive ventilation (NIV). The median duration of MV was 24 days (range 18-34). One patient was treated with NIV and never MV. Patients were ventilated according to protective strategies with TV of 6-8 ml/kg, plateau < 20 mmHg. Hypoxemia was extremely severe as indicated by median PaO2/FiO2 before intubation of 99 (range 81-143), which ameliorated by day 1 (134; range 101-178), to day 5 (146; range 137-180), day 10 (183; range 147-211) and day 15 (191; 147-251); Kruskal-Wallis test, p=0.015. PEEP levels decreased significantly over time, from day 1 (mean PEEP = 12, range 12-14), to day 5 (mean PEEP = 12; range 10-14) day 10 (men PEEP = 10, range 9-12) and day 15 (mean 9.5, range 7-10); Kruskal-Wallis test, p<0.001. Rescue therapies were frequently used: prone position in 16 (66%) and NO in 3 (12%). 7 patients (25%) died in
ICU. The median length of ICU stay was 27 days (range 19-34). Surviving patients were discharged home (n = 13) or to a rehabilitation facility (n = 4). Length of hospital stay (LOS) was 51 days (range 34-68), CT scan were performed at a median time of 36 days (range 19-55) after hospital admission. Ground glass opacities (n = 20), classical morphological abnormalities of the early phase, and reticular pattern (22), a typical late abnormality, were both the most frequent pattern. Parenchymal consolidation (n = 19), bronchiectasis (n = 17) and emphysema (n = 13) were also frequent. Longitudinal analysis (n = 6) shows reticular pattern in all subjects, both in early and late scans (resembling early fibrosis in these latter). Notably, decrease attenuation pattern could only be observed in late scans, except in one patient with few bronchiectasis on admission.

Conclusion: In a selected cohort of patients with severe Covid-19 disease requiring prolonged ventilation and hospital stay, follow up CT scans show severe lung damage with predominant reticular pattern, resembling early fibrosis, emphysema and small airways disease (i.e. bronchiectasis). These abnormalities are likely the consequences of the disease and not related to previous lung pathology. Long-term follow up studies will be necessary to determine the clinical and morphological evolution of critical pulmonary Covid-19 disease, to provide new preventive and therapeutic strategies.

**001492**

A prospective observational trial study comparing diaphragmatic ultrasound for prediction of weaning failure in critically ill patients

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Introduction: Weaning failure from mechanical ventilation is associated with an increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Different diaphragmatic ultrasound parameters have been studied. However, there are many gaps in our understanding of the discriminatory capacity to predict weaning failure.

Methods: A prospective study in a heterogeneous cohort of patients in intensive care units. The diaphragmatic ultrasound was used to determine the diaphragmatic inspiratory excursion (DE), time to peak inspiratory amplitude of the diaphragm (TPIAdia), diaphragmatic excursion velocity (DE/TPIAdia, cm/sec), and diaphragm thickening fraction (Δtdi %). The measures were performed at the end of a spontaneous breathing trial (SBT) and compared with the extubation outcome. Also, the rapid shallow breathing index (RSBI) was calculated. Weaning failure was defined as the inability to maintain spontaneous breathing for at least 72 h, without any form of ventilatory support.

Results: The study included 43 patients. Median age was 72 years (58.0-77.5), APACHE II score was 18.0 (9.0-23.0), and RSBI previous to the SBT was 37 (24.0-48.5). Patients who failed the SBT (30%) had a lower median vital capacity (12.4 [11.5-14.1mL/Kg]) vs. 21.3 [15.6-23.6]; p = 0.05), DE (cm) (1.8 [1.6-2.1] vs. 1.50 [1.3-1.8];p = 0.03), and Δtdi% (29.0% [21.0%-35.0%] vs. 39.0% [28.2% - 47.5%]; p = 0.007). Treatment outcomes were not different in other muscles was observed. A significant negative correlation was observed between patients age and MQF (r = -0.359, P = 0.01), BMI and MQF (r = 0.338; P = 0.02) and MQF and patients’ hemoglobin (r = 0.458, P = 0.001). Treatment outcomes were not affected by the thickness of accessory respiratory muscles.

Conclusion: The thickness of the SCM was lower in the patients with chronic pulmonary diseases than in patients without such diseases. The importance of accessory respiratory muscle thickness for the respiratory function in the ICU may be better evaluated after subsequent measurements and whether elasticity of the muscles was evaluated.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


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**001577**

Ultrasound of Accessory Respiratory Muscles in the Patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit

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Introduction: Patients with severe respiratory diseases usually use accessory respiratory muscles. In that specific patients sternocleidomastoid and trapezius muscle may be hypertrophic than in control intensive care unit (ICU) population. That specific muscles may have different ratio as compared to the quadriiceps femoris muscle, which is usually an indicator of nutritional status and overall skeletal muscle status.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to compare the diameter of accessory respiratory muscles in patients with respiratory diseases and patients without such diseases and compare these muscles with the quadriiceps femoris muscle in the patients with and without chronic respiratory diseases. We aimed to determine whether there is a correlation between the ultrasound-measured thickness of accessory respiratory muscles and patients age, hemoglobin, body mass index (BMI), duration of mechanical ventilation (MV) in the ICU, and patients’ outcome in the ICU.

Methods: Ethics committee approval was obtained for this study and patients or their legal representatives gave written informed consent. A total of 50 subsequent patients admitted into the ICU were examined. Patients of both genders were included, with and without chronic respiratory diseases, including patients using mechanical ventilation. The study was performed using a Mindray TE7 ultrasound machine with the depth of the linear probe at 70 – mm and gain of 90 – dB; settings remained unchanged during the study. The probe was set at the musculoskeletal ultrasound mode. Measurements of the right m. sternocleidomastoides (SCM), the right trapezius muscle, and the right quadriiceps femoris muscle (vastus lateralis, vastus intermedius, vastus medialis, and rectus femoris; MQF) were taken at the admission into ICU, three times in each patient. The final value was the average of three measurements. Laboratory measurements, of MV, and of the others was observed. A significant negative correlation was observed between patients age and MQF (r = -0.359, P = 0.01), BMI and MQF (r = 0.338; P = 0.02) and MQF and patients’ hemoglobin (r = 0.458, P = 0.001). Treatment outcomes were not affected by the thickness of accessory respiratory muscles.

Conclusion: The thickness of the SCM was lower in the patients with chronic pulmonary diseases than in patients without such diseases. The importance of accessory respiratory muscle thickness for the respiratory function in the ICU may be better evaluated after subsequent measurements and whether elasticity of the muscles was evaluated.
Failure of focused echocardiography to differentiate pulmonary embolism in COVID-19 offers potential role for lung ultrasound

Introduction: A high incidence of pulmonary embolus (PE) has been reported in patients infected with Covid-19 [1]. When computed tomography (CT) is not available, transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) has a high specificity for the diagnosis of PE [2]. However, raised pulmonary pressures associated with Covid-19 can create similar echocardiographic changes to a PE [3]. Lung ultrasound (LUS) can identify PE associated wedge infarcts and may have a place in diagnosis when other investigations fail [4].

Objectives: To evaluate the role of focused echocardiography and lung ultrasound in the diagnosis of PE in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia.

Methods: We performed a prospective observational study of Covid-19 patients admitted into intensive care during a 3-week period. Patients received focused echocardiography (looking at RV dilatation, TR pressure, TAPSE and RVS) and 6-point lung ultrasound (giving each region a score of 0 to 3 [5]). On day 1 and 5 of admission, cumulative lung score was also calculated using ROC curve analysis for the best cut-off threshold for PE. Individual lung regions were reviewed to determine if a score 3 (wedge infarct) was associated with PE. Covid-19 cut-off threshold for PE. Individual lung regions were reviewed to determine if a score 3 (wedge infarct) was associated with PE. Covid-19 was confirmed by viral PCR swabs. Fisher exact test or and odds ratio were used to determine association between variables. P values less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant.

Results: 49 Covid-19 positive patients were admitted to our intensive care units during the study period. 16/49 (37.2%) patients had confirmed PE. We did not find any statistical difference in focused echocardiography between the two groups. RV dilatation was seen in 15/38 (60.5%) patients with PE and absent in 9/11 (81.8%) non-PE patients (p = .19). TAPSE of 26 mm or more was seen in 5/20 (25%) PE patients and < 26 mm in 15/26 (57.7%) non-PE patients (p = .22). RVS > 16 mm was seen in 10/30 (33.3%) patients with PE and absent in 8/14 (57.1%) patients without PE (p = .54). TRV Max of 30 mmHg or more was seen in 12/28 (42.9%) patients with a PE and < 30 mmHg in 10/13 (76.9%) patients without PE (p = .22).

43/49 had complete 6-point lung ultrasound scores. At day 1 of admission, average cumulative lung scores did not differ significantly between patients with or without PE (9.3 (SD 2.8) vs 8.7 (SD 3.4); p = .6).

At day 5 of admission, a cumulative lung score of ≥7 was shown to be significantly associated with presence of PE (p = .03, OR 5.83, 95%CI 1.06-32.02). Individually, a left upper lobe score of 3 (p = .012) and lateral and score of 3 (p = .038) were significantly associated with presence of PE.

Conclusion: Focused echocardiography is not useful in the diagnosis of PE in COVID-19. Under these circumstances lung ultrasound has diagnostic value.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
6. No grants were received.

Diagnostic value of quantitative computed tomography in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia

Introduction: In March 2020 – June 2020 Central and East Europe had a period of the response to COVID-19 pandemic. Disease severity of pneumonia on admission can be assessed by various scales, including PORT, PSI, CURB-65, CRB-65 and SMRT-CO. Some of them include laboratory findings but none of them include the amount of lung lesion on CT, which is important to assess COVID-19 pneumonia. The most frequent types of lesions on CT for COVID-19 pneumonia are ground-glass opacity (GGO) and consolidation. Lesion volumes can be determined by quantitative CT. Therefore, it is important to analyze the relationship between quantitative CT parameters and clinical and laboratory findings.

Objectives: To evaluate the sensitivity of COVID-Multivirus program in estimation of severity of lung injury in COVID-19 patients and to assess the correlation between quantity of involved lung parenchyma, types of CT-findings and laboratory findings.

Methods: 76 patients with COVID-19 were retrospectively reviewed from March 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020. Laboratory data and CT findings on admission were analyzed. CT quantitative parameters, including GGO volume, consolidation volume, total lesion volume, percentage of GGO, and consolidation) were calculated. Relationships between the CT findings and laboratory data were statistically estimated (Spearman rank correlation coefficient was used.

Results: There were 56.6% men of the 76 people examined. The most common laboratory markers of COVID-19 were an increase in the level of C-reactive protein, observed in 72 (94.7%) patients, an increase in LDH, noted in 62 (81.6%) patients, and lymphopenia, which was noted in 40 patients (52.6%). CT-findings revealed total lesion volume 11.2%-54.2% (mean 29.4%), with a GGO volume 9.4%-49.2% (mean 28.5%) and a consolidation volume 0.3%-1.8% (mean 0.7%). A correlation was revealed between LDH and the total volume of the affected lung tissue, the total percentage of lesions by the type of ground-glass, the percentage of consolidation (rs = 0.610, rs = 0.628, rs = 0.316; p < 0.01, respectively), slightly less correlation of the level of C-reactive protein with similar volumes (rs = 0.497, rs = 0.468, rs = 0.410; p < 0.01), as well as a inverse correlation between the total volume of the lesion and the level of lymphocytes (rs = -0.251, p < 0.05).

Conclusion: There is a strong correlation of the percentage of lung tissue lesion, detected by quantitative computed tomography, with
the level of LDH and C-reactive protein. Quantitative lungs CT may be used not only to estimate the degree of the lung damage, but also to assess the severity of the systemic inflammatory response for patients with COVID-19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001635
The current state of critical care ultrasound training in Ukraine
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001635

Introduction Ultrasound (US) is increasingly recognized as an essential tool in the ICU setting. The safety and utility of bedside ultrasonography by an appropriately trained ICU physician has now been well demonstrated1. Despite the worldwide routine use of ultrasound in ICUs, a large number of ICU physicians remain unacquainted with US techniques. Following the 2011 international expert statement, the training of every ICU physician should incorporate basic level of critical care ultrasonography (ICUS)2. We decided to continue investigating the evolving CCUS paradigm of ICU physician skills and competencies in our country.

Objectives To summarize knowledge on the current use of CCUS and attitudes towards its utilization in the ICUs of two city hospitals.

Methods Our study focused on the ICU physicians (n=113) of two city hospitals. Data collection was performed with the help of an electronic survey.

Results The response rate of the survey was 78%. 64% of the respondents were young specialists. The majority (56%) had no previous experience in CCUS and only 45.5% were aware of the locally organized training programs. The most useful CCUS modalities reported were TTE and TEE, pleural/ lung US, vascular US for access, nerve block, FAST templates[5]. These CXRs were deemed to fulfill the criteria of lower lobe and peripheral predominant multiple opacities that are bilateral, and given the BSTI code CVCK1. A chi-square statistic was used for the univariate analysis, and estimation of predictive values. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: 134 patients were included in the study. 109 (79%) had a positive PCR for Covid-19. On review of the CXRs[6] of the Covid-19 positive cohort, 42.4% (45) of patients had alveolar consolidation (26.6% lobar, 73.3% bilateral), and 89.6% (95) had hazy increased opacity (90.5% bilateral, 9.5% Lobar) which was associated with a positive PCR (p = 0.02). Of the 44 patients who had a CT scan, 35 had a positive PCR. Within these 35 CT reports, 10 had ground-glass opacity (2 central, 8 peripheral), 4 had enlarged lymph nodes, 3 had pulmonary embolisms or pleural effusions, 2 had architectural distortion and there was 1 example each of air bronchogram, vascular thickening and fibrous stripes (figure 1). Classic radiological features of Covid-19 were associated with a positive PCR (c2 (1) 7.9, p = 0.005), with a sensitivity of 65.1%, specificity of 64.3%, positive predictive value of 87.3% and negative predictive value of 32.7%.

Conclusion Covid-19 infection typically presents with bilateral hazy increased opacity on CXR, and less frequently bilateral alveolar consolidation. Classic radiological features of Covid-19 infection can be useful as a screening tool.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001640
Innovative collaborative project for training in Point of care Ultrasound in Intensive care medicine and acute specialties

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Introduction: Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) is an important diagnostic and monitoring tool in ICU. The ICU at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge, UK is running a successful educational POCUS program for the last 6 years. Focused ultrasound is widely used also by the emergency medicine and acute medicine physicians in our institution with a separate certification body and educational program.

Objectives: In 2019 an innovative collaborative project for training in POCUS was established by the ICU, emergency medicine and acute medicine focused ultrasound leads. The aim of the project was to provide equal quality of training and governance of the POCUS amongst the acute specialties.

Methods: A two day course Point of care ultrasound for acute specialties (POCAS) was launched covering the requirements for certification of the three acute specialties. The certification bodies were approached for course approval and CPD points. The course was aimed for acute specialty physicians ST3 to consultant level. The administration of the course and the venue were provided by the Postgraduate Medical Centre. The course consisted of lectures and practical sessions covering focused lung, heart, abdominal, and vascular ultrasound. The faculty was represented by the POCUS mentors in the acute specialties and consultant cardiologist, respiratory physician and radiologist experts in the ultrasound field. The learners were offered POCUS educational mentorship program run by the same faculty at Addenbrooke’s Hospital.

Results: Two courses were run in 2019- April and December edition. The April edition was attended by 23 learners and the December one by 24. The spring edition had more equal attendance spread amongst the three specialties while the winter one had minimal attendance from the emergency medicine. It can be explained by deanery required parallel course running for this specialty just before our course. Most of the attendees were doctors in training. The consultant attendance was 2 for the first edition and 3 for the second one. The courses received detailed feedback evaluating the course as a valid method to acquire theoretical knowledge and basic practical skills in POCUS. Interestingly the lectures run by the acute specialties ultrasound leads were valued more than the ones delivered by the experts appraising the simplicity of explanation and focused approach. The acute medicine attendees rated the vascular access practical session very high which can represent less experience in their field in placement of lines under US guidance. The most valued session was the one with video cases of ultrasound imaging of real patients, their interpretation and application to the clinical management of the patients. The mentorship educational program was established and we are training 12 learners of which 5 got already certified in POCUS.

Conclusion: Point of care ultrasound is a powerful tool in the diagnosis and management of the acutely unwell patients. We have established a training system in POCUS amongst the acute specialties that guarantee high quality of training offered to all the learners regardless of their primary specialty and adequate governance of the educational process.

001221
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MORTALITY IN PATIENTS ADMITTED AS SARS-CoV-2 PNEUMONIA

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001221

Introduction: COVID related severe respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) is associated to a high mortality. Several risk factors have been identified, such as hypertension, obesity, advanced age or male gender.

Objectives: We wanted to study the presence of such factors in our population, and assess if there existed a relation with the mortality in patients admitted in our Intensive Care Unit as pneumonia caused by SARS-CoV-2.

Methods: Retrospective, observational and analytical study, on patients diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia admitted to the ICU of a tertiary hospital, between March and June 2020. We collected demographic, clinical and therapeutic variables including: age, gender, ethnicity, previous medical conditions and treatment, presenting symptoms, need of mechanical ventilation, treatment received, complications (neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiac, abdominal, renal, nosocomial infection, haemorrhagic thrombotic) and mortality.

We used χ2 test and Fisher’s exact test, regression study, considering statistical significance when p < 0.05.

Results: A total of 101 patients were included in the analysis, with a global mortality of 26.7%. 69 were men, with a mortality of 24.6% among them, and 32 were women, with a mortality of 31.2%.
Subgroup analysis identified female gender and Hispanic ethnicity as risk factor for increased mortality. 13 women were Hispanic (40.6%), mortality within that subgroup 53.8%, p = 0.049. In studied cohort most of the previously identified risk factors weren’t associated to an increased mortality, not even obesity, in 36.6% of our patients, regression study: OR -2.4, p = 0.017, CI [-5.4, (-0.5)]. Presenting symptoms were dyspnoea and hypoxemia in 82.2% and 83.2%, respectively. Within the first 24 hours, 69 patients (68.3%) needed invasive mechanical ventilation, and 29 (28.7%) non-invasive, without relation with their mortality. Of those 29 patients, during admission 7 (24.1%) required intubation.

Regarding treatment received, prolonged neuromuscular blockade (43 patients, 42.6%, p = 0.03) was the only therapeutic intervention related to mortality. A persistently positive PCR test on 30th day occurred in 7 patients (6.9%) and was significantly related to mortality (p = 0.01).

Regarding complications, only renal failure (23 patients (22.8%) presented impaired renal function, with or without needing renal replacement therapy) had a significant relation with mortality (p = 0.04). In the regression study, there was also a relation with mortality in use of kidney replacement therapy (4% of cohort), p = 0.03, OR 2.17, CI [0.04-0.9], and prolonged neuromuscular blockade (42.6%), p = 0.02, OR 2.29, CI [0.06-0.8].

Conclusion: In our cohort, Hispanic female patients were more prone to die. The extended use of neuromuscular blockade, possibly due to the presence of a more severe respiratory failure, and the persistence of Coronavirus detection on the 30th day of admission, indicating continued viremia, were related with mortality. Among complications, the one most associated with mortality and worse prognosis was renal failure.

001248
Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of 187 Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001248

Introduction: Although Brazil is the second country in the world in number of cases and deaths by COVID-19 there are limited information describing clinical characteristics and outcomes of the patients requiring treatment in Brazilian intensive care units.

Objectives: To describe the clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients with COVID-19 requiring treatment in an intensive care unit in northeastern Brazil.

Methods: Retrospective observational study of 187 consecutive patients with confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 admitted to a 35-bed ICU at a tertiary hospital in the state of Maranhão, Brazil, from March 27 to June 15, 2020. We collected demographic and clinical-laboratory data, therapeutic interventions including management of respiratory failure, complications and mortality.

Results: Of the 187 patients included in the study, the median age was 64 years (IQR 51–75), 122 (65.2%) were male and 163 patients (87.1%) had at least one chronic disease, the most common being arterial hypertension (100 patients, 53.4%), and diabetes mellitus (86 patients, 45.9%). Upon arrival to the ICU, patients had a median PaO2/FIO2 of 195 (IQR 136–300). Thirty-seven patients (19.8%) were treated with non-invasive respiratory support while 150 (80.2%) underwent invasive mechanical ventilation. Seventy-four patients (39.6%) underwent hemodialysis and one patient was treated with ECMO. Seventy-nine patients (42.2%) died during the ICU stay. Mortality among the 150 patients undergoing invasive mechanical ventilation (77 patients, 51.3%) was significantly higher than that of the 37 patients undergoing non-invasive respiratory support (5.4%), p < 0.0001. Among the 74 patients (39.6%) who had a bacterial infectious complication, mortality (38 patients, 51.3%) was significantly higher compared to the 110 patients who did not have a secondary infection (38 patients, 34.5%); p = 0.001.

Conclusion: This case series describes the clinical characteristics and outcomes of 187 critically ill patients with COVID-19 treated in a tertiary hospital in northeastern Brazil.
Conclusion: There was a statistically significant decrease of nonspecific humoral factors of immune system, including lysozyme.

Objectives: To create a simpler and a cheaper way of evaluating lysozyme activity in biological fluids and analyse its level in patients with severe bacterial pneumonia.

Methods: A complex examination of 56 patients with severe bacterial pneumonia and 50 practically healthy people was performed. Blood was taken from the ulnar vein before meals into sterile test tubes.

Results: We have created a simpler and a cheaper way of evaluating lysozyme activity in biological fluids, which demands little time and has clear evaluation criteria. The invention relates to medicine, namely to laboratory diagnosis. From cell walls of Micrococcus lysodeikticus culture ATCC 4698 peptidoglycan substrate was prepared, and the activity of lysozyme was calculated by the formula obtained after constructing a calibration curve for lysozyme, which showed the dependence of the concentration of lysozyme and the optical density of the solution of Congo red. The positive effect of the proposed method was that the substrate for the production of reaction was prepared once and could be used for a long time. The way was easy and simple in play. The sensitivity of this method to lysozyme was 0.06 mg/ml. This is enough to determine immunodeficiency states, because the content of lysozyme in biological fluids varies according to various data in a wide range from 0.2 to 28 mg/ml in normal.

It was found that the lysozyme activity in the serum was lower in patients with severe bacterial pneumonia (116.0; 56.5-160.1 mcg/ml) than in healthy people (183.6; 305.7 mcg/ml).

Conclusion: There was a statistically significant decrease of nonspecific humoral resistance in patients with severe bacterial pneumonia.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Introduction: The ongoing emergence of antimicrobial resistance is considered a major threat for public health. Mainly due to its extremely vulnerable population of critically ill patients, the unique nature of the intensive care unit (ICU) environment makes this a focus for the emergence and spread of many antimicrobial resistant pathogens. However, and despite the total burden of multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria in the broader community remains a blind spot, it now seems that a growing number of patients are already colonised or infected with MDR microorganisms on arrival in the ICU.

Objectives: To investigate the relationship between MDR bacterial infections, patient provenience and mean hospital stay before ICU admission.

Methods: This was a retrospective study performed in a mixed medical and surgical ICU at Faro Hospital, Portugal, between January and December 2019. During the study period, 464 patients were admitted to the ICU. Data from a total of 104 patients were collected after applying exclusion criteria. Patient demographics, clinical details and microbiological data were recorded and analysed.

Results: One hundred and four patients were included in this study. They were predominantly male (n = 67, 64.4%), with a mean age of 61.4 years, a mean APACHE II of 21, and mainly admitted due to urgent surgical causes (n = 50, 48.1%). Overall, 171 organisms were isolated from this patients. The most frequent infection sites were urinary (26.7%), respiratory (25.3%), bloodstream (18.8%) and intra-abdominal (16.3%). Most bacterial isolates were Gram-negative (59.1%). Escherichia coli was the main genus identified, of which 27.3% were MDR. Staphylococcus aureus represented 40.4% of all Gram-positive isolates, with 33.3% methicillin-resistance. Prevalence of MDR bacteria was 24.2%, of which the most frequent were Escherichia coli (16.2%), Staphylococcus aureus (13.5%), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (13.5%), Enterobacter aerogenes (13.5%) and Klebsiella pneumoniae (10.8%). Interestingly, MDR bacteria were isolated in patients coming predominantly from the Emergency Department (ED) (n = 62, 59.6%), with a mean hospital stay before ICU admission of 3.3 days. Infections by MDR bacteria were also associated with an increased hospital length of stay.

Conclusion: In this study we noted that critically ill patients infected with MDR bacteria were admitted predominantly from the ED, with a mean hospital stay before ICU admission of 3.3 days. These findings suggest they could be already colonised or infected with MDR pathogens on arrival to the ICU, and make us think about having to reconsider the usual empiric coverage strategies used in several patients. Future studies are required to prove this changing pattern of antimicrobial resistance and its growing tendency of occurrence in the community. Additional efforts to increase the effectiveness of infection control programs, knowledge of local epidemiologies of resistance and antimicrobial stewardship strategies are essential to make progress in this problematic matter.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
The age and comorbidities, are independent risk factors for mortality in critically ill covid-19 patients?

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001298

Introduction: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, age and chronic diseases have been described as important risk factors related to patient prognosis.

Objectives: To assess whether the age and comorbidity of COVID-19 critical patients are independent risk factors related to mortality.

Methods: Prospective, observational study carried out in patients admitted to HGU Gregorio Marañón critical care units during the COVID-19 pandemic. Demographic and clinical data, comorbidities, severity risk scores, complications during stay, administered treatments and outcome, were collected.

Descriptive analysis was expressed as mean (SD) or median (RIC) for quantitative variables and as percentages for qualitative variables. Univariate analysis was performed using Chi-square (RR) for quantitative variables and as percentages for qualitative variables. Multiple logistic regression analysis, adjusted for severity (APACHE II, SOFA and Charlson index), were independent risk factors associated with mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

In the multivariate analysis, adjusted for severity (APACHE II, SOFA and Charlson Comorbidity Index OR 1.24; 95% CI 1.17-1.78 and hypertension OR 1.44; 95% CI 1.17-1.78 and hypertension OR 2.07; 95% CI 1.05-4.05, were related to an unfavourable prognosis, but not obesity (BMI >30) RR 1.17; 95% CI 0.60-2.25. When the age was analysed by ranges, after the sixth decade the risk of death increased significantly: 61-70 years RR 9.44; 95% CI 1.91-46.66 and 71-80 years RR 8.05; 95% CI 1.62-39.91.

In the multivariate analysis, adjusted for severity (APACHE II, SOFA and mechanical ventilation), obesity and hypertension, both age OR 1.46; 95% CI 1.04-2.04 and Charlson Comorbidity Index OR 1.24; 95% CI 1.02-1.56 remained as independent risk factors for mortality.

Conclusion: In our experience, both age and comorbidity, expressed as the Charlson index, were independent risk factors associated with mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients.
was expanded from an 11-bed unit with a maximum of 6 level 3 beds to 35 level 3 beds. We can speculate that increasing the nursing ratio from standard 1:1 to 1:4.5 patients, as seen on an international level (3), along with multiple proned patients, made it challenging to maintain usual strict infection control measures. In particular, proned patients with CVCs sited in the internal jugular vein may have been at a greater risk of contamination from organism containing oro-pharyngeal secretions. Additionally, lines were inserted in closed spaces whilst wearing heavy PPE, making sterility challenging. Once in situ lines could be contaminated during patient turning, as reported at other ICUs (2). These patients were also physiologically unstable, receiving multiple courses of antibiotics and iatrogenic immuno-suppression with steroids. It is therefore not unreasonable that this group of patients developed secondary infection.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. 4. Not applicable.

001339
Obesity is not associated with a different immune response and disease course in critically ill COVID-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001339

Introduction: Obesity appears to be an independent risk factor for ICU admission and a severe disease course in COVID-19 patients (1). An aberrant inflammatory response and impaired respiratory function have been suggested as underlying mechanisms (2, 3). Today, it is not known whether obesity is only a risk factor for COVID-19 susceptibility and for the need of intensive care, or whether it also influences the outcome of the patients once admitted on intensive care units.

Objectives: We investigated whether obesity is associated with differences in inflammatory, respiratory, and clinical outcome parameters in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Methods: Sixty-seven COVID-19 ICU patients were divided into obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m², n = 18) and non-obese (BMI < 30 kg/m², n = 49) groups. Plasma concentrations of interleukin (IL)-6, interferon gamma-induced protein (IP)-10, monocyte chemoattractant protein (MCP)-1, and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) were determined from ICU admission until 10 days afterwards, and routine laboratory and clinical parameters were collected.

Results: BMI was 32.6 [31.2-34.5] and 26.0 [24.4-27.7] kg/m² in the obese and non-obese group, respectively. Apart from temperature, which was significantly lower in obese patients (38.1 [36.9-38.9] vs. 38.7 [38.0 -39.5] °C, p = 0.02), there were no between-group differences on ICU admission. Plasma cytokine concentrations declined over time (p < 0.001 for all), but no differences between obese and non-obese patients were observed. The kinetics of clinical inflammatory parameters and respiratory mechanics were also similar in both groups. Finally, no differences in time on ventilator (22 [16-40] vs. 27 [14-40] days, p = 0.34), ICU length of stay (25 [17-40] vs. 29 [15-40] days, p = 0.49), or 40-day mortality (17% vs. 24%, p = 0.76) between obese and non-obese patients were apparent (Fig. 1).

Conclusion: In COVID-19 patients requiring mechanical ventilation in the ICU, obesity is not related to a different immunological response, unfavourable respiratory mechanics, or impaired outcome.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
4. 4. This study was funded by the participating departments.

001343
Anakinra treatment in critically ill COVID-19 patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001343

Introduction: The clinical spectrum of SARS-CoV-2 infection ranges from asymptomatic cases to severe pneumonia and viral sepsis leading to organ dysfunction and high mortality (1). A subset of critically ill COVID-19 patients develop a hyperinflammatory state. Anakinra, a recombinant interleukin-1 receptor antagonist, is known to be effective in several hyperinflammatory diseases. Recently, small studies suggest that anakinra improve respiratory function and clinical outcome in COVID-19 patients (2-4).

Objectives: We investigated the effects of anakinra on inflammatory parameters and clinical outcomes in critically ill, mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients with clinical features of hyperinflammation.

Methods: In this prospective cohort study, 21 critically ill COVID-19 patients treated with anakinra were compared to a group of 39...
critically ill COVID-19 patients receiving standard care. Serial data of clinical inflammatory parameters and concentrations of several circulating cytokines were aligned on start day of anakinra in the treatment group, and median start day of anakinra in the control group. Analysis were performed from day -10 to +10 relative to alignment day. Clinical outcomes were analyzed during 28 days. Additionally, a sensitivity analysis was performed in propensity score matched groups.

**Results:** Patient characteristics and clinical parameters on ICU admission were similar between groups. Due to bias by indication, plasma levels of ASAT (p = 0.0002), ferritin (p = 0.009), and temperature (p = 0.001) were significantly higher in the anakinra group on alignment day. Following treatment, no differences in the kinetics of circulating cytokines were observed between both groups. Decrease of temperature (p = 0.03), white blood cell counts (p = 0.02), and plasma levels of ferritin (p = 0.003), procalcitonin (p = 0.001), creatinine (p = 0.01), and bilirubin (p = 0.007) was more pronounced in the anakinra group (Fig. 1 a-f respectively). No differences in clinical outcomes were observed between groups. The propensity-matched analysis confirmed these results.

**Conclusion:** Anakinra is effective in treating clinical signs of hyperinflammation that may promote organ dysfunction in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
5. Funded by the participating departments.
Necrotizing Vasculitis in Covid-19: watch out for bowel perforation

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001355

Introduction: Despite most common SARS-CoV-2 infection clinical findings are related to respiratory apparatus, Covid-19 may affect other organs than lungs such as liver, bowel and kidneys [2]. Commonly, in fact, patients suffer for abdominal and gastro-enteric symptoms[2]. We report the first case, to our knowledge, of a Covid-19 patient affected by ascending colon perforation due to a Pseudomembranous Colitis (PC) in absence of Clostridium Difficile (CD) toxins, but with SARS-CoV-2 identification in gastric fluid.

Methods: In April 2020, a 73-years-old man came in our ED with fever and dyspnea for 24 h. His remote medical history revealed ischemic heart disease, hypertension and NIDDM. Chest X-ray showed right basal consolidation and bilateral congestion. A RT-PCR test for Covid-19 was negative. The patient was admitted with the diagnosis of CAP and heart failure and treated with antibiotics and diuretics. Ten days later, respiratory symptoms and radiological findings worsening led to perform a new nasopharyngeal swab for Covid-19 that resulted positive. The patient needed CPAP ventilation and hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin and LMWH administration were started. Five days later, he developed fever and diarrhea: on physical examination abdomen is quite manageable. Piperacillin/tazobactam was started empirically. An abdominal CT scan showed a parietal ascending colon thickening and intra-peritoneal air collection. Right hemicolectomy with ileostomy for perforation has been performed. After surgery, he was admitted to our ICU. The anatomopathological examination revealed a PC. Diffuse tissue edema, acute inflammation and necrotizing vasculitis with fibrin thrombi and intravascular neutrophils infiltration were identified (Fig.1). Samples from ileostomy and stool in rectal ampoule were negative for CD toxins. A PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 performed on gastric fluid was positive. After improvement, the patient was discharged from ICU to a low intensity ward.

Results: Necrotizing vasculitis is commonly found in Covid-19 patients in several organs [3]. Some authors suggest enteric involvement in up to 50% of Covid-19 patients, but it’s not yet completely understood. ACE-2 receptor is expressed by intestinal epithelium: mouse models suggested that ACE-2 receptor modification due to infection can cause bowel inflammation and colitis [4]. In this case, clinical findings were typical and patient had several predisposing factors for CD colitis. Since CD tests were always negative and the patient improved without CD specific therapies, we supposed viral infection related necrotizing vasculitis as pseudomembranous colitis and perforation cause. Anatomopathological findings and viral RNA detection in gastric fluid support our hypothesis.

Conclusion: Many COVID 19 patients present GI symptoms together with respiratory ones. Gastro-enteric involvement may be due to enteric viral replication. CD negative PC due to a necrotizing vasculitis, in our case, may be a SARS-CoV-2 infection complication too.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. D’Amico, D. C. Baumgart, S. Danese, L. Peyrin-Biroulet. Diarrhea During Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) pneumonia from either infected patients or staff [1]. Whilst effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential, sourcing adequate supplies has been a global challenge. [2].
4. 4. 1. D’Amico, D. C. Baumgart, S. Danese, L. Peyrin-Biroulet. Diarrhea During Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) pneumonia from either infected patients or staff [1]. Whilst effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential, sourcing adequate supplies has been a global challenge. [2].

A cross-sectional study of personal protective equipment use in a UK intensive care unit during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001361

Introduction: Healthcare workers are at high risk of contracting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) pneumonia from either infected patients or staff [1]. Whilst effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential, sourcing adequate supplies has been a global challenge. [2].

Objectives: To perform a cross-sectional study at two time points during the COVID-19 pandemic to estimate the type and quantity of PPE being used in the intensive care unit.

Methods: This was a single-centre, prospective study at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. PPE use was in line with Public Health England guidance for ICUs [3] and all staff entering the COVID-19 ICU wore Level-3 PPE. Redeployed non-clinical military and outpatient hospital staff were trained as donning and doffing officers to ensure staff followed the PPE protocols. Donning officers recorded the type of PPE used every time a staff member entered the ICU. This was documented for each day, over two sampling periods (19th-30th March and 18th-28th April) on one of our three dedicated COVID-19 ICUs. Continuous data is presented as mean ±SEM and compared using a Student’s t-test. Categorical data is presented as % and analysed using a chi squared test. A P value of <0.05 determined statistical significance.

Results: Over the total period of data collection, 5,066 donning episodes were recorded. The daily mean number of patients was 22 (±2) and staff working on the area was 101 (±6). The daily mean number of donning episodes was 300 (±26), equating to approximately 3 episodes per healthcare worker or 14 episodes per patient each day.
86% of donning episodes were with an FFP3 face mask and 14% used a powered respirator. In the second study period, the number of staff and patients increased, as did the number of donning episodes (see Table 1). A greater frequency of donning episodes relative to the number of staff on the unit was also observed (3.4 vs 2.4 episodes per staff member per day) and a higher proportion of staff wore FFP3 masks rather than powered respirators (FFP3 mask use: 89.3% in 2nd period vs 77.4% in 1st period; p < 0.0001).

Eleven percent of nursing staff were on leave due to illness each week. Staff sickness rates were equivalent between the two periods of data collection (10.6% vs 10.5%). Non-clinical nursing staff (working in administrative roles) had a sickness rate of 5.4% over the same study period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Daily average (all)</th>
<th>Daily average (1st)</th>
<th>Daily average (2nd)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients (n)</td>
<td>22 (±2)</td>
<td>16 (±2)</td>
<td>27 (±1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Worker (n)</td>
<td>101 (±6)</td>
<td>84 (±4)</td>
<td>116 (±8)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donning episodes</td>
<td>306 (±26)</td>
<td>199 (±6)</td>
<td>390 (±21)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donning episodes per HCW</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFP masks (n)</td>
<td>257 (±27)</td>
<td>154 (±9)</td>
<td>348 (±22)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powered respirators (n)</td>
<td>43 (±3)</td>
<td>45 (±5)</td>
<td>42 (±5)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves (n)</td>
<td>321 (±25)</td>
<td>244 (±12)</td>
<td>398 (±22)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical gowns (n)</td>
<td>300 (±26)</td>
<td>199 (±6)</td>
<td>390 (±21)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vissors / goggles (n)</td>
<td>257 (±27)</td>
<td>154 (±9)</td>
<td>348 (±22)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Vast quantities of PPE were used on a daily basis during the UK-peak of the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain the safety of staff and patients. Whilst the number of healthcare workers increased between the two periods, PPE use relative to the number of staff was also greater. This may be explained by the introduction of additional support teams to deliver interventions as patient numbers grew (proning, line insertion etcetera). FFP3 masks were more frequently used compared to powered respirators. Compared to prior reports [1] a lower rate of illness in healthcare workers was observed in our study, and sickness rates in clinical nursing staff were only slightly higher than their non-clinical colleagues. This indicates a lower rate of healthcare worker infection - which could in part be explained by the PPE strategy used in our ICU.

In conclusion, PPE use and preference changed over two time periods in one area of a single ICU during the COVID-19 pandemic. As equipment is scarce but in high demand, healthcare departments should be encouraged to regularly audit PPE use to better estimate clinical need.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001368 Epidemiology of COVID-19 ICU admissions – ethnicity and deprivation
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001378 Therapeutic Plasma Exchange Followed by Convalescent Plasma Therapy in COVID-19
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001386 Introduction: SARS-CoV-2 infection, originating from Wuhan, China is the underlying cause of COVID-19 disease [1]. The first known patient with COVID-19 disease was admitted to our intensive care unit (ICU) at the Royal Gwent Hospital (RGH), Newport, Wales on the 9th March. Objectives: In this case-series analysis we describe the epidemiology of the first wave of COVID-19, focusing on the interplay between ethnicity and social deprivation, by using data from the first 60 days at the RGH ICU.

Methods: Our prospective service evaluation recorded anonymised data on patient age; sex; BMI; postcode; ethnicity; Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) score [2]; need for any assistance with daily activities; APACHE II score; time from hospital admission to ICU, and ICU mortality. Background data on ethnicity for the hospital catchment area was obtained from the UK Census data 2011 (Office for National Statistics).

Results: The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population, while being only 5% of the background population, represented 35% of ICU COVID-19 admissions (18 of 52) and 35% of deaths (6 of 17). Within the BAME group, 72% (13 of 18) of patients were from geographical areas representing the 20% most deprived (lowest quintile) in Wales, versus 27% of Caucasians (9 of 33). When looking at deaths by ethnicity, more occurred within the lowest deprivation quintile in the BAME group (4 of 6 deaths) compared to the Caucasian group (3 of 11).

Conclusion: We found that patients from the BAME group are at significantly higher risk of ICU admission and death from COVID-19, despite an overwhelming Caucasian background population (95%). We observed a striking interaction between deprivation and ethnicity, which may be multifactorial, including greater prevalence of comorbidities; increased community spread; genetic polymorphisms; or other unidentified factors [3-5]. These factors need further investigation and evaluation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) has shown some benefits for cytokine clearance in sepsis with multiorgan failure in the past and in 2009 H1N1 influenza A pandemic. We combined both therapies together for COVID-19 treatment.

**Objectives:** To evaluate safety and efficacy of therapeutic plasma exchange followed by convalescent plasma therapy in critically ill patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infections.

**Methods:** 6 patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) were treated with one session TPE followed by 500 ml convalescent plasma transfusion in addition to standard treatment who met the following criteria: severe pneumonia with rapid progression and life threatening illness (PAO2/FIO2 < 300 and mechanical ventilation, shock, organ failure). The study was conducted at Mediclinic City Hospital, Dubai, UAE from April 20, 2020 to June 20, 2020. Outcomes measured were death from any cause, time to negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR, time to removal of mechanical ventilation after intervention, clinical (body temperature, Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score, PAO2/FIO2), biochemical (ferritin, D-dimer, CRP, LDH, procalcitonin) and radiological parameters before and after therapy. Mechanical ventilation days, ICU length of stay, hospital length of stay were also measured.

**Results:** Patients were in the age range of 36-65 years, 4 males and two females. All patients were receiving mechanical ventilation, Meth-


**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. 1. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-repor

**001387 The influence of blood group on COVID-19 infection in our Intensive Care Unit**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001387**

**Introduction:** On March 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19, a disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, as a pandemic. Some studies have highlighted advanced age, male sex, and other comorbidities as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and pulmonary diseases, increase the risk and severity of the COVID-19. There have been few molecular level hypotheses raised for the variable susceptibility to disease and vulnerability to severe disease. Landsteiner’s ABO carbohydrate moieties are genetically inherited. Some reports suggest a correlation between ABO blood group, cardiovascular diseases, and cancers, as well as typing and susceptibility to certain infections, including COVID-19 infection.
Only few clinical studies demonstrated that there exists a relationship between infection risk and the blood groups, and how blood group O had a negative predictive effect, associated with a lower risk of infection and mortality, and the blood group A was correlated with a severe pulmonary damage.

**Objectives:** Main: To analyze a group of COVID-19 patients admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) between March-2020 and June-2020 by their blood group and Rh factor. Secondary: To determine the frequency of main comorbidities, analytical results, ICU evolution, treatment needed, ventilation characteristics, and score on risk scales.

**Observational, descriptive, retrospective study in COVID-19 patients admitted to our ICU in 3 months, using a database of 14 patients, with previous defined blood group and Rh factor, and medical history, analytical results (at the admission, 2 days, 4 days, 6 days and 8 days later), ICU evolution, treatment needed (vasoactive drugs and COVID-19 drugs), ventilation characteristics and scores on the risk scales (APACHE, SOFA and SAPS II).

**Results:** The clinical characteristics of 14 patients included according to their blood group, were: main age of patients 63 (44–78) and the percentage of female patients was 57%. The most frequently detected blood group was type O with 57% amongst the COVID-19 patients. This was followed by group type A with 43%. Rh factor more detected was positive with 93%, being statistically significant the relation between female gender and positive Rh factor 54% (p 0.011).

An important history of cardiovascular diseases was determined among these patients, highlighting high blood pressure 50% type O and 50% type A; obesity 50% type O and 37.5% type A, dyslipidemia 66% type O and 12.5%, type, without statistically significant.

No important difference was found in the analytical results at the admission, 2 days, 4 days, 6 days and 8 days later; just highlighting main D-Dimer levels at the admission in ICU was substantially more elevated in type A (4342 ng/ml) than O (1429 ng/ml). Group type A had highest needs of vasoactive drugs: Noradrenaline 100% (62% Group type O), Dobutamine 50% and Adrenaline 16% (both 0% in Group type O), and also a 100% needed glucocorticoid treatment (62% Group type O).

The use of renal replacement therapy was prescribed for 50% of patients in Group type A, compared to. 12.5% in Group type O, as well as the need of percutaneous tracheostomy (same percentages). The ICU evolution was fateful in Group type A, with 50% of death, compared to 37.5% in Group type O, without statistically significant differences. Likewise, the ICU evolution was worse in negative Rh factor patient.

Fibrinolytic therapies such as rtPA, or bronchodilator therapies with nitric oxide, were used for the treatment of refractory cases, in 33% of Group type A, and in the negative Rh factor patient, unlike 7% positive Rh factor patients, being statistically significant (p 0.017).

No differences in mechanical ventilation was found between both groups.

Finally, in relation to the score on risk scales, SAPS-II after the admission of patients with positive Rh factor, had a mean of 34.63, statistically significant (p 0.012); we did not detect differences in SOFA or APACHE scales after the admission.

**Conclusion:** Group type O and positive Rh factor were the most frequent in our COVID-19 patients, being statistically significant the relation between female gender and SAPS-II score after admission with positive Rh factor. Although Group type A patients were less numerous, they needed more vasoactive drugs, refractory treatments and had worse ICU evolution.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001391**

**Predictors of the severe disease of patients admitted to an ICU with COVID-19**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001391

**Introduction:** Providing an efficient care to the patients of the most severely affected category – ICU patients - has become one of the serious problems appearing in the COVID-19 pandemics [1]. A typical patient’s clinical portrait in ICUs of COVID centers is very similar in different countries, however, the key to improve the treatment results for critically ill patients has not yet been found [2].

**Objectives:** The aim of the study is to identify predictors of the severe pneumonia caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus in patients admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) of the COVID-center of the Federal Research Clinical Center.

**Methods:** In this report, we describe the clinical, laboratory and instrumental data of 70 patients admitted to the ICU, and discuss the found predictors of the severe COVID-19 pneumonia course.

**Results:** The mortality in the ICU was 48.9%, the mortality among the patients required mechanical ventilation was 57.9%. The following factors have been determined which contribute to the development of the severe course of the disease and to the risk of the mortality: male gender (p = 0.021), age older than 70.5 years (p = 0.014), initial lymphocytopenia of lower than 0.98 × 10^9/l (p = 0.014), neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio of higher than 7.75 (p = 0.004), D-dimer level of higher than 0.85 µg/ml (p = 0.001), IL-6 of higher than 184.7 pg/ml (p = 0.011), procalcitonin of higher than 0.22 ng/ml (p = 0.009), hyperglycemia of higher than 9 mmol/l, signs of myocardial damage (high-sensitive troponin T of higher than 22 pg/ml (p = 0.005), echocardiography data), and a severe vitamin D deficiency (lower than 9.9 ng/ml, p = 0.044).

**Conclusion:** Clinical features of the patients change in course of pandemic. These are influenced by changes in treatment approaches and new discoveries in disease pathophysiology. Above mentioned predictors of severe course of disease is partly modifiable and we are able to influence them and perhaps achieve better results in treatment of severe patients with COVID-19.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001394**

**Characteristics and outcome of severe COVID-19 patients: experience of tertiary hospital of Jeddah**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001394
Introduction: The COVID-19 is considered as the major pandemic that we have experienced in the last century. Therefore, the management of the critically ill patients with COVID-19 is extremely important. The need for intensive care might differ according to institutions or even countries, depending on the demand and supply ranging from 5% to 52%. ICU mortality due to COVID-19 varies from 16% to 78% according to different studies. As of July 28th, 2020, a total of over 270000 COVID-19 cases and 2800 deaths have been reported in Saudi Arabia. No data available concerning the characteristics and outcomes of severe COVID-19 patients in the Kingdom.

Objectives: To describe the demographic and clinical characteristics and report our management and the outcomes of patients admitted for severe COVID-19.

Methods: Retrospective descriptive observational cohort study was conducted, from Mars 25, 2020, to July 28, 2020, in King Fahad armed forces hospital, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We included all adult patients with confirmed severe COVID-19 and required ICU admission or ICU management outside ICU. We collected baseline data on demographics, clinical presentation, laboratory, arterial blood gas, ventilation setting, the management, and the outcomes.

Results: Of the 110 patients included in the study, 52 (47.3%) were admitted in ICU and the remaining patients were followed by ICU team in the ward. The median (IQR) age was 62 (54-70) years and 74 (67.3%) were male. 97 patients (88.2%) had at least one comorbidity, mainly diabetes mellitus (70%) and hypertension (65.5%). The median (IQR) of SOFA score and APACHE II score were 4 (3-5) and 9 (7-13) respectively. The median time from first symptom to ICU team management was 7.0 days. All patients had acute respiratory failure and 34 patients (30.9%) had combined organs organ damage. The lymphopenia less than 1.0 x 10^9/L, D-dimer more than 1 mcg/mL and high ferritin occurred in 49%, 54.5% and 85.5% respectively. The respiratory support was needed for 90 patients (81.8%), among them 86 patients (78.2%) received continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). Invasive mechanical ventilation within the first 24 hours of admission occurred for 8 patients (7.3%). Moderate to severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) was observed in 71.8% of the patients and the median (IQR) PaO2/FIO2 was 152 (123-191). The median FiO2 was 45% (IQR, 35%-60%). Awake prone with CPAP was performed for 31 patients (28.2%). All patients had negative fluid balance during at least the first 3 days of ICU team management. Methylprednisolone was administered to 78 patients (71%) and empiric antibiotics to 106 patients (96.4%). During hospital stay, 20 patients (18.2%) required tracheal intubation and the median (IQR) length of stay was 8 (5-11) days. Among the 110 patients, three were still in the ICU, and 8 (7.5%) had died.

Conclusion: In this single center case series of severe COVID-19, all patients had acute respiratory failure and the majority needed respiratory support mainly by CPAP and the rate of mortality was low, less than 8%.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. We are indebted to the doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists with the Intensive Care Medicine Service who provides care for the patients included in the study and to all the frontline staff of COVID-19 patients.
group, 14.3% had pneumothorax; 60.7% developed VAP in the follow
72 hours, 58.8% of which had new germ isolation. After comparing
both groups, patients who needed ET change stayed longer intubated
(28.4 vs 17.7, p < 0.05) and admitted in ICU (34.5 vs 21 days, p < 0.05).
There were not significant differences in mortality. One patient died
(3.6%) secondary to a ET change.

Conclusion: More than half SARS-CoV-2 intubated critical ill patients
presented ET obstructions. These episodes may increase the risk of
developing complications such as VAP and pneumothorax, which
determine longer intubation period and ICU-stay. Strategies headed
for limiting and preventing ET obstruction episodes may decrease
morbidity during MV, having an impact in ICU-stay.

001439
Impact of Remdesivir in the outcome of SARS-CoV-2 infection
patients: a comparative study with supportive care
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001439

Introduction: The recent SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has motivated the
evaluation of several therapeutic agents as treatment for the corona-
virus disease 19 (Covid-19). Remdesivir has been shown to be superior
to placebo in shortening the time to recovery in adults hospitalized
with Covid-19(1).

Objectives: After the early access program implementation in Por-
tugal, we began to treat Covid-19 patients with remdesivir according
to the published criteria. We aimed to determine the impact of rem-
desivir in the outcomes (ICU length of stay, SOFA score improvement
and adapted clinical eight-category ordinary WHO scale (ACECOWS)
 improvement, at ICU discharge date) of patients admitted to ICU with
SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia, as compared to supportive care (SC) (with
no use of off-label drugs). Secondary objective was to determine
the impact of remdesivir in the duration of mechanical ventilation of
Covid-19 patients and ICU-mortality and hospital mortality of both
groups.

Methods: We performed a single center retrospective cohort study. All
adult patients admitted in ICU with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia were eli-
gible for the study. SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia was diagnosed using clini-
cal and radiologic and microbiological criteria. Statistical assessment
of the outcomes was made between remdesivir-treated group vs SC
group.

Results: 43 patients (mean age 61 years, 65% males) were included
in the analysis (36 in SC group and 7 in the remdesivir group). The
ICU length of stay (8.8 days vs 12.1 days, p = 0.408) and duration of
mechanical ventilation (4.9 days vs 8.1 days, p = 0.41) were lower in
the remdesivir-treated group. In addition, remdesivir-treated group
was associated with greater SOFA score improvement (p = 0.036) and
greater ACECOWS improvement (p = 0.030) at ICU discharge. Till now,
no deaths were registered in the remdesivir-treated group, either dur-
ing ICU or hospital stay in our cohort.

Conclusion: Despite our small cohort, remdesivir seems to be supe-
rior to SC in the treatment of Covid-19 patients, with a faster and more
marked clinical improvement at ICU discharge.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
nejmoa2007764.
001471
Characteristics of positive blood cultures over time in a cohort of
COVID-19 patients in intensive care in Glasgow, Scotland
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001471

Introduction: During the UK peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many
intensive care units expanded bed capacity rapidly. In our own unit,
our bed capacity peaked at 258%, with 37 days spent above 100%
capacity. Combined with this; redeployment of staff from other areas
and use of personal protective equipment understandably leads to
concerns about increased rates of hospital acquired infection, or cross-
contamination between patients. We sought to examine our own
experience through analysis of blood stream infections.

Methods: We identified all patients admitted to our intensive care
between March and May 2020 with COVID-19 pneumonia. Data was
collected on demographics and outcome from our local critical care
database Wardwatcher, and positive microbiology from blood cul-
tures obtained peripherally or from invasive lines.
We categorised positive results into pathogenic organisms, likely con-
taminants, and low pathogenicity organisms associated with nosoco-
mial infection. To review results over time, we categorised into first 48
hours, 3 to 7 days, 7 to 21 days, and after 22 days of ICU stay. Analysis
was performed in Excel.

Results: From March to May 2020, we admitted 52 patients with
COVID-19 pneumonia of whom 96% were invasively ventilated. 71% of
patients were male, median age 57, median length of stay 16 days and
overall ICU mortality was 27%. All ventilated patients had arterial and
central venous catheters (CVC) placed, with those experiencing longer
stays having lines replaced if concerns about possible line infection.
Overall we documented 61 positive blood culture results of which 16%
were pathogenic (Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Candida albicans),
the majority of these grew from samples from CVCs and represent 3
separate patient episodes (6%). 31% were nosocomial associated
organisms (Enterobacter species, one vancomycin resistant enterococ-
cus faecium), again the majority from CVC samples. Over time, we saw the majority of positive blood cultures occurring
after 7 days, with both pathogenic and nosocomial organisms peaking
between 7 to 22 days (see Fig 1).

Conclusion: Our results demonstrate similar rates of pathogenic
blood stream infections compared to published literature of 8%(1),
the majority of which occurred after 7 days in ICU, similar to a recently
published cohort from UK(2). This concurs with other published evid-
ence on the need for focus on infection control measures to reduce
morbidity in this patient cohort when faced with the unique chal-
lenges associated with a pandemic.
Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001474
Impact of Biofire® FilmArray® on the Management of Patients with Severe Respiratory Infections in the ICU of a Provincial Hospital in Northern Greece

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Introduction: Respiratory infection is a frequent reason for ICU admissions or complications. It is a condition associated with substantial morbidity and mortality. Multiple organ failure is often observed in this setting. Timely management and appropriate antibiotic selection are of paramount importance in order to achieve favorable outcomes. Biofire® FilmArray® Pneumonia Panel Plus is a multiplex PCR platform that may rapidly identify the pathogen. It may detect 18 bacterial and 8 viral pathogens commonly associated with CAP, as well as 7 antibiotic resistance genes.

Objectives: We examine the impact of the use of Biofire® FilmArray® in the management of ICU patients with severe respiratory infections requiring mechanical ventilation in a six bed general ICU of a provincial hospital in Northern Greece.

Methods: It is a retrospective observational study of the impact of the use of Biofire® FilmArray® in the treatment of patients with severe respiratory infections and respiratory insufficiency requiring mechanical ventilation during one year. The parameters analyzed included: demographics, microbiological and routine laboratory data, use of antibiotics, clinical outcome. Also, we defined two groups, depending on whether Biofire® FilmArray® was tested within 48 hours from admission or not.

Results: A total of 19 patients were included in the study. In 13 of them, Biofire® FilmArray® was positive. Ten tests revealed the presence of multiple pathogens; in 5 tests, 9 “fastidious” (i.e. difficult to grow without specific conditions) microbes were detected, (Haemophilus inf, Streptococcus pneumoniae), 6 were positive for viruses (Influenza A, Rhihnovirus, Parainfluenza), 8 tests identified 12 common ICU pathogens (Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella, Pseudomonas), in two cases Legionella was diagnosed and in one case Moraxella. Routine cultures yielded negative results in most of these cases (84.6% bronchial secretions, 76.9% pharyngeal). The test results led to antibiotic treatment modification in 76.9%. In 4 samples the presence of antibiotic resistance genes was noted and appropriate antibiotics were selected.

Conclusion: The introduction and integration of Biofire® FilmArray® in the clinical practice, had a decisive impact in the treatment of the patients. This was demonstrated not only in minimizing the time to obtain the results, but also when considering that the routine cultures collected on admission to the ICU often yielded negative results. Thus, Biofire® FilmArray® provided a valid identification of the pathogen and, at the same time, allowed for a prompt de-escalation of the broad-spectrum antibiotics initially administered. In conjunction with this, the implications of this practice, sparing unnecessary antibiotic usage may be beneficial for both the patients and the antibiotic resistance patterns of the nosocomial flora.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001487
Do common CONTACT ISOLATION CRITERIA PREDICT THE CARRIER STATE OF MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT MICROORGANISMS IN CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS?

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Introduction: Despite the widespread use of contact isolation criteria (CIC) in critically ill patients, their ability to predict the carrier state of multidrug-resistant microorganisms (MDRO) has not been well defined.

Objectives: To determine the ability of commonly used CIC to predict the carrier state of MDRO in critically ill patients.

Methods: Patients admitted consecutively to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) were studied. Inclusion criteria were all patients admitted from July 2018 to December 2019. Exclusion criterion was previous ICU admission.

Pharyngeal and rectal swabs were collected at admission and weekly for epidemiological surveillance cultures. The presence of any of the following CIC was registered: (1) hospital admission for longer than 6 days over the previous 3 months; (2) admission in a chronic health care facility; (3) known MDRO carrier; (4) antibiotic treatment for more than 6 days in the previous month; (5) receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis; (6) diagnosis of a chronic condition associated with colonization by MDRO; (7) transferred from another institution.

Sensitivity (Sn), specificity (Sp), positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV) to predict the carrier state by MDRO were calculated for each of the criteria. Values are percentage and median (p25, p75). WASSPS (Wise Antimicrobial Stewardship Support System) and SPSS V25.0 were used for the analysis. The local Ethics Committee approved the study.

Results: We studied 1,156 patients (age 70 [61-78] years, SAPS III 55.5 [47-66] points, ICU non survivors 42 [26.6%], women 50 [31.6%]) of whom 158 (13.7%) were isolated for having at least one of the CIC. Carrier state was confirmed by culture of the first surveillance sample in 40 patients. The 7 criteria were present, respectively, in 123 (12%), 11 (1%), 21 (2%), 76 (7%), 6 (1%), 15 (1%) and 24 (2%). For each criteria considered individually, Sn was < 50% (except for criterion 1: Sn 67%) and PPV < 30% (except criterion 3, PPV 52%). Each criteria considered individually had Es and NPV > 90%. At least one of the CIC was found in 158 (15%) patients (Sn 80%, Es 88%, PPV 20%, NPV 99%).

Conclusion: Individual CIC, in general, have a very low Sn and a high Sp for the detection of MDRO carrier state. None of the CIC is useful enough to determine the carrier state, since Se and PPV (which should be interpreted with caution as it depends on the prevalence) are low. The use of a set of 7 CIC presents a moderate Se for the detection of MDRO carrier state.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. FEDER. B2017/BMD-3727-EXOHEP-CM.
Effect of antibiotic de-escalation on the murine microbiota and immune system under environmental antimicrobial resistance pressure: recreating ICU environmental pressure in a laboratory mouse model

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Introduction: De-escalation consists in the reappraisal of anti-microbial therapy as soon as antimicrobial susceptibility testing results are available, and may be achieved through replacing broad-spectrum antibiotics by narrow-spectrum drugs, or stopping components of an antibiotic com‑bination. No study has been performed so far to explore this strategy on animal models, and its effect on microbial diversity and resistance genes in the microbiota and on the immune system remains unknown.

Objectives: Here, we aimed to study the effect of antibiotic de‑escalation versus non de-escalation on a microbiota exposed to environmental anti-microbial resistance pressure, both on micro‑bial diversity and resistance genes in the microbiota, but also on the immune system.

Methods: Mice were divided in three groups, whether they received amoxicillin, imipenem, or imipenem followed by amoxicillin. The ICU environment was recreated by co-housing antibiotic-treated mice with mice previously contaminated with carbapenemase-carrying E.coli. Stools were cultured in selective media supplemented with cefotaxime, meropenem and colistin, and the stool DNA was extracted for PCR and whole metagenomics analysis. Blood cytokines were measured by ELISA.

Results: Stool culture revealed the carriage of carbapenemase posi‑tive E.coli, confirmed by PCR in 7/8 mice in the imipenem group, 5/10 mice in the de-escalation group and 7/9 mice in the amoxicillin group (p=0.05). Metagenomics analysis showed no difference in diversity and in antimicrobial resistance genes between groups. ELISA tests are still ongoing.

Conclusion: There were no difference between groups in terms of antimicrobial resistance emergence, as confirmed by culture, PCR and metagenomics techniques. Antibiotic de-escalation does not prevent the acquisition of resistance genes compared to narrow or broad‑spectrum antibiotic regimen.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
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3. Groupe Pasteur Mutualité, Bourse de Recherche Villa M.

Serum ACE "1" levels in critically ill patients with COVID-19 disease

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Introduction: Genetic similarities with SARS-CoV-1, and subsequent biophological data, suggested a role for Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2) in the SARS-CoV-2 invasion of pneumocytes1,2,3. Subsequent‑ly, other proteins constituting the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldoster‑one System (RAAS) have been scrutinised for their relevance to the COVID-19 pathology. Such proteins may be pharmacological targets benefitting outcomes, or biomarkers of disease severity.

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) performs a key role within the RAAS, cleaving angiotensin 1 to angiotensin 2 (ANG-2). ACE is preva‑lent in the pulmonary epithelium, and thus equally ANG-2. ANG-2 is a potent vasoconstrictor, and associated with inflammation, fibrosis and oxidative stress4. It has been implicated in COVID-19 disease severity, raised ANG-2 has been reported in cases of COVID-195 and in mice studies of ARDS is associated with severe lung injury6. While much literature focusses on the regulatory functions of ACE2 on ANG-2, we considered a potential role for measuring serum ACE to monitor disease severity. We hypothesised that unknown pathologi‑cal mechanisms would modify serum ACE levels, given an increase in ANG-2. We were unclear whether this may be through a negative or positive feedback mechanism.

Objectives: To perform opportunistic isolated serum ACE levels on COVID-19 patients admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU), during a 1-month period, to determine whether it was objectively altered dur‑ing the disease state. This pilot study would justify future, systematic investigation.

Methods: Within the analysis period we tested 28 patients admitted to our District General Hospital ICU, London. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 infection had been diagnosed by reverse‑transcriptase polymerase-chain-reaction for 26 patients and 2 with compelling radiographic evidence. Data on ACE-inhibitor use was not available, though it is likely no patient used them within 7 days of testing.

Results: Of the patients tested, 26 had a normal serum ACE level (8-52 IU/L) representing 93% of the sample. One patient’s level was objectively low (<5 IU/L), and another high (78 IU/L). The overall cohort mortality was 32%. Of note, both objectively abnormal patients died.

Conclusion: ANG-2 is regulated in its production by ACE, and removal by ACE-2. Any increase in ANG-2 activity may be resultant from an excess of the former, and/or a deficiency in the latter. Given the largely normal serum ACE amongst the population, it further implicates a downregulation of ACE-2 in the pathophysiology of severe COVID-19. Murine and in vitro studies of SARS-CoV-1 observed decreased ACE-2 expression following its interaction with the viral spike protein7, 8.
ACE does not appear to be reliably modified during the COVID-19 disease process for use as a biomarker, or to justify future biochemical analysis; an important negative finding for ongoing investigations into the relevance of the RAAS pathway to COVID-19. Robust investigation of the changes to ANG-2 regulation, particularly relating to ACE-2, is required.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001516
INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH COVID-19 AND ACUTE RESPIRATORY FAILURE requiring MECHANICAL VENTILATION
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001516

Introduction: A more detailed knowledge of infectious complications in critically ill patients with COVID-19 may help the implementation of preventive measures and improve survival.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence of infections and the most frequent pathogens involved, and its impact on mortality, in patients with COVID-19 and acute respiratory failure requiring invasive mechanical ventilation.

Methods: We studied all patients admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with the diagnosis of viral pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2 and requiring invasive mechanical ventilation from March 8 to May 1, 2020. Patients transferred to another facility were excluded. The end point was survival status on day 60 after ICU admission. All patients were treated with selective digestive decontamination (oral and enteral neomycin, tobramycin and nystatin). Data are median (p25-p75) or n and percentage. Data were compared by the Chi square test or the Fisher exact test, as appropriate, or by the Mann-Whitney U test. Association between independent variables and survival status was analyzed by multivariate regression analysis adjusted by the SPAS III score, and measured by the odds ratio (OR) and its 95% confidence interval (CI). A p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

The local Ethics Committee approved the study.

Results: We admitted 118 patients during the study period, of whom 6 were transferred to another facility. Of 112 patients, age was 67 (59-62) years, 79 (70.5%) were male, SAPS III score was 50 (46-55), 53 (47%) had had at least one infection, and 41 (37%) had died by day 60. The prevalence of any infection was (48%, 46%), primary bacteremia (11%, 10%), secondary bacteremia (8%, 7%), catheter-related bacteremia (18%, 27%), urinary tract infection (UTI) (21%, 12%), for survivors and non survivors, respectively (p=0.3 for all comparisons). Only ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) differed in survivors and non survivors (of 71% vs. 8 of 41 [20%], respectively, p = 0.029; adjusted odds ratio 4.47, 95% CI 1.11:18.02).

The most common pathogens in all isolates were: for primary bacteremia (n = 12 isolates), S. faecalis 6 (50%), other grampositive cocci 6 (50%); for secondary bacteremia (n = 8 isolates), gramnegative bacilli 4 (50%), S. faecalis 3 (38%); for catheter-related bacteremia (n = 24 isolates), S. epidermidis 12 (50%), S. faecalis 7 (29%); for VAP (n = 21 isolates), S. aureus 5 (24%), gramnegative bacilli 5 (24%), S. faecalis 2 (10%); for UTI (23 isolates), S. faecalis 9 (39%), gramnegative bacilli 8 (25%).

Conclusion: Infections are very prevalent in patients with COVID-19 and acute respiratory failure. VAP is strongly associated with survival.
S. faecalis and a variety gramnegative bacilli, along with S. aureus in the case of VAP, are the most prevalent microorganisms isolated in these patients. Measures aimed at pneumonia prevention could improve survival of critically ill patients with COVID-19.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. FEDER. B2017/BMD-3272-EX0H6P-CM.

001517
SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia: Highlights from our experience
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001517

Introduction: Since Covid19 was first described, almost 17 million cases and more than 665,000 deaths have been reported; therefore it is considered an emergency situation in public health of international interest. It is postulated that many characteristics of the most affected population have direct relationship with mortality.

Objectives: To describe the main aspects related to the increased mortality of patients admitted with Covid19 in the ICU of the Virgen de las Nieves Hospital.
- Describe the differences between the characteristics and evolution of the patients admitted in our ICU and those published by other centers.

Methods: Observational, retrospective and analytical study that includes the patients admitted to the ICU with Covid19 between March and July 2020. A database was created in SPSS with the demographic characteristics of the patients, comorbidities, APACHE II in the first 24 h, laboratory tests related to inflammation and coagulation and type of respiratory support. Data was evaluated in terms of descriptive statistics with frequencies, means and standard deviation for variables with normal distribution and median with interquartile range for non-parametric distributions; Comparisons between groups according to mortality were made using the Student’s t test for quantitative variables and chi-square for qualitative variables.

Results: Of the 58 patients included, 79% were men and 21% women. Their mean age was 60 years (+/- 11), their main comorbidities were: hypertension (54%), diabetes mellitus (35%), obesity (56%), COPD (28%), kidney failure (9%), ICU mortality 33%, hospital mortality 39%. SCID score mean was 1.94 (+/- 1.3). Analytically, the difference between the ferritin on the first and seventh day (delta ferritin) stands between the living and the dead had a p 0.029. Patients exclusively out with an average of 306 (+/- 45) p = 0.16.

Conclusion: Delta ferritin and not the ferritin peak is independently associated with mortality. The lower the ferritin clearance capacity is, the higher the mortality.

001518
Outbreak of New Delhi metallo-β-lactamase (NDM)-1 Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae during Covid pandemic in ICU of a second level Hospital
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001518

Introduction: Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) can cause healthcare-associated infections with high mortality rates.

Objectives: We analysed an outbreak of NDM carbapenemase in an increased capacity (35 beds) usual 12-bed ICU during the COVID-19 pandemic peak in Madrid.

Methods: Retrospective cohort study of patients suffering from SARS CoV-2 infection admitted to the ICU and other areas reconverted into ICU in Hospital de Mostoles in Madrid, Spain, during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic from March to June 2020. We collected data from electronic medical records on demographics, Simplified Acute Physiology Score III (SAPS III), comorbidities, type of ICU where the patient was admitted, treatments received prior to the carbapenemase outbreak, length of ICU admission and mortality in ICU.

Results: 13 (15.85%) patients over 82 critically-ill patients with SARS CoV-2 infection admitted to ICU suffered from carbapenemase infection (69%) or colonisation (31%). Mean age was 61 and 84.6% were men. All patients except one had been admitted first to an ICU-converted area (92%), including operating theatre, before moving, eventually, to our ICU. COVID 19-specific treatment, administered according to our Hospital protocol, included Ceftaxalone and Azithromycin in 92.3% of the 13 patients, only one received Ceftaxalone alone; 100% received Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Hidroxycloroquine and steroids (Methylprednisolone or Dexametasona), 53% Tocilizumab and Baricitinib and 15% Anakinra and Beta-Interferon. All 13 patients had received, during ICU admission, broad-spectrum antibiotics. Mean length of stay in ICU was 24.2 days. Carbapenemase infection included 38.5% pneumonia, 15.4% tracheobronchitis and one UTI. All patients were treated with Ceftazidime-Avibactam plus Aztreonam as in vitro synergy was proven in the Hospital Lab. Mean SAPS III score 60.1 and mortality 38.5%.

Conclusion: A significant number of our critically ill SARS CoV-2 patients suffered from different multidrug resistant bacterial infections. 13 (15.85%) patients of the entire cohort of 82 developed NDM-1 carbapenemase. They had a high mortality rate despite directed antibiotic therapy. Several factors may have contributed to the appearance of this outbreak in our Unit: high antibiotic selection pressure and extensive use of immunosuppressant therapy, workload burden, deficient implementation of infection control protocols generally in Spanish ICUs most possibly associated to working areas not usually used as ICUs (open wards and operating theatres, health professionals unfamiliar with protocols) and lack of active surveillance cultures.

001519
Secondary infection in mechanically ventilated, critically ill-patients with COVID-19
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Introduction: Secondary infection in critically ill patients with COVID-19 is poorly understood. It is challenging to discriminate between
isolated COVID-19 viral and extra bacterial or fungal infection and there is paucity of data, mainly in critically ill patients (1). We investigated the secondary infection rate in COVID-19 critically ill patients, risk factors for infection and mortality.

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of critically ill COVID-19 patients admitted to the Critical Care Unit (CCU) of the Hospital Universitario La Paz (Madrid, Spain), a 1300-bed teaching hospital, between 16 March 2020 and 17 May 2020. In that period a total of 3002 patients with COVID-19 were admitted to our hospital, and our unit had a total of 83 beds during the pandemic period. All patients that needed invasive mechanical ventilation were included. We recorded patient demographic data, microbiology data and incidence of secondary infection during CCU stay, including ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) and nosocomial bacteremia (primary and secondary), according to Center for Disease Control (CDC) criteria.

A total of 107 patients with a mean age 62.210.6 years were included. Incidence of secondary infection during CCU stay was 43.0% (46 patients), including nosocomial bacteremia (32.1%, 34 patients) and VAP (32.7%, 35 patients).

Results: In univariate analysis, age and coronary arterial disease were related to development of secondary infection. Age remained as an independent predictor of secondary infection in multivariate analysis (OR 1.053, 95% CI 1.010-1.098, p = 0.015). Nor the use of systemic corticosteroids and tocilizumab was related to secondary infection. Overall hospital mortality by 30 June 2020 was 68.2%. Mortality was higher in older patients (mean age 65.0 8.1 vs. 56.112.8 years, p = 0.001), in patients infected by antimicrobial resistant pathogens (94.1% vs. 63.3%, p = 0.012) and in case of secondary infection (82.6% vs. 57.3%, p = 0.006). Corticosteroids and tocilizumab administration was not related to mortality. Age and infection by antimicrobial resistant pathogens were independent predictors of mortality in multivariate analyses (OR = 1.091, 95% CI 1.039-1.145, p < 0.001; and OR = 8.742, 95% CI 1.069-71.485, p = 0.043, respectively).

The incidence of secondary infection in critically ill COVID-19 patients in our study is high (43.9%), higher than reported by Ferrando et al (4), with and incidence of respiratory bacterial infection and bacteremia of 27.15% and 26.24%, respectively, and Yang et al (5) (incidence of pneumonia and bacteremia of 11.5% and 2%, respectively). Feng et al declared an incidence of secondary infection of 34.4% in the more severe subgroup of COVID-19 patients (6). Our cohort includes only patients under invasive mechanical ventilation, what may explain partially these differences. An important finding of our study is the lack of relationship of corticosteroids and tocilizumab use and development of infections and mortality, in contrast to findings published by Sommers et al, with a lower mortality rate but a higher infection occurrence with tocilizumab use (10). Ferrando et al also showed no association between corticoids and tocilizumab use and mortality (4).

To our knowledge, this is the first study that focuses on secondary nosocomial infections in mechanically ventilated, critically ill patients with COVID-19. Our study has several limitations: the retrospective nature of the analysis; the lack of invasive modalities to help diagnose VAP (bronchoalveolar lavage) due to infection control measures; and the lack of relationship of corticosteroids and tocilizumab use and development of infections and mortality.

Conclusion: In conclusion, our data suggest that the incidence of secondary infection is very high in critically ill patients with COVID-19. Infections by antimicrobial resistant pathogens may have a significant impact in prognosis. We cannot rule out that infections by resistant pathogens was simply a marker of severity. Further studies on larger populations are needed to investigate secondary infection in critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001534 Preliminary Safety and Efficacy Evaluation of Inhaled 13C-Urea in Subjects with Pneumonia: Phase 1, Open-Label Study
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Introduction: Rapid identification of pneumonia-causing organisms is challenging in the emergency department setting. Delayed identification of organisms results in improper antibiotic selection and administration. A point-of-care, nebulized urea breath test for pneumonia caused by urease-producing bacteria could aid in proper antibiotic selection, but the safety of nebulized urea has not yet been established. We report initial safety outcomes and study feasibility in an ongoing investigation of this test. We further combine sputum and oropharyngeal microbiome data to assess the potential utility of the inhaled urea breath testing.

Methods: We enrolled a pre-defined safety cohort of 15 emergency department subjects with radiographic and clinical evidence of pneumonia, and who were planned for outpatient treatment. Subjects in this cohort completed inhalation of a nebulized preparation of 50 mg 13C-urea dissolved in 3 mL of sterile water. Breath samples were collected before and after inhalation of 13C-urea and analyzed for exhaled 13CO2. Adverse events (AEs) were recorded from time of enrollment until completion of telephone follow-up at 48-96 hours post nebulization. Exhaled 13CO2 was measured before and after 13C-urea nebulization to calculate a normalized change from baseline. Student’s T-test was used to determine significance of change over
baseline. We further enrolled 54 subjects admitted for inpatient treatment of pneumonia in a broader safety and feasibility cohort. Forty-six patients completed telephone follow up. Tracheal aspirate and saliva samples were isolated from these patients for microbiome analysis.

**Results:** Initially, we screened 257 subjects for the study and excluded 242 for clinical signs of severe disease (Mild, self-limited cough was noted in 3 cases and nausea in one case after administration of 13C-urea. One episode of syncope was noted but was determined to be an exacerbation of a pre-existing condition and not related to the study product. From both cohorts, eight patients were determined to have significantly elevated exhaled 13CO2 and were found in post-hoc chart review to have high suspicion for bacterial pneumonia including elevated procalcitonin levels or bilateral pneumonia on imaging.

**Conclusion:** Mild cough was common after urea administration, though all subjects were able to complete nebulization. There were no reports of clinical deterioration related to the study drug. This study establishes a preliminary safety profile of inhaled 13C-urea in subjects with pneumonia. We noted significantly elevated exhaled 13CO2 in eight subjects and are currently analyzing sputum microbiome data to ascertain the potential utility of the inhaled urea breath test.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. None.
2. AviSA Pharmaceuticals.

**001537**

**Performance characterization of a new tracheostomy tube with subglottic suction port**

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**Introduction:** Tracheostomy is a common procedure performed for the management of upper and lower airway conditions. There is evidence that secretions draining from the upper airways can collect on the top of the tracheostomy tube cuff and become a risk for tracheal aspiration resulting in infections [1]. Reports in the literature describes posterior tracheal wall injury from the subglottic suction port [2,3]. A new tracheostomy product (Voyager, Medtronic Boulder, USA) has a suction port intended for evacuation of secretions just above the cuff and the site of the suction port [2,3]. A new tracheostomy canula has the suction port located in the lateral wall of the tube body. The purpose of this study was to characterize the suction performance and tracheal wall injuries in an animal model during mechanical ventilation.

**Methods:** Methods: 16 porcine underwent tracheostomy and ventilation. The purpose of this study was to characterize the suction performance and tracheal wall injuries in an animal model during mechanical ventilation.


2. Authors are employees of Medtronic Medical Affairs.

3. Study sponsored by Medtronic Respiratory Interventions, Boulder CO USA.

**001554**

**Managing critically ill patient in a French General hospital during a large COVID-19 outbreak**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001554

**Introduction:** The city of Mulhouse, situated in the Alsace region, has been one of the largest European clusters of SARS-CoV-2 infection after a gathering of more than 2000 people during several days. The Groupe Hospitalier de la Région de Mulhouse Sud-Alsace (GHRMSA) is a hospital complex with a total capacity of 2612 beds including 20 medical ICU beds and 16 surgical ICU beds respectively, covering the needs of about 480,000 people.

**Objectives:** The first patient was admitted in our medical ICU on March 2nd for severe acute respiratory syndrome and during the following first week 18 patients was admitted for the same reason. Our bed capacity was rapidly saturated. According to the occurring trend, quick interventions and innovations appeared to be more than essential so as to handle the expected coming tsunami.

**Methods:** During the first week Non - COVID -19 patients were transferred to the surgical ICU as to admit only COVID -19 patients in our unit but by the end of the first week our medical ICU bed capacity was saturated. During the coming weeks, scheduled surgical and medical activities have had to be cancelled. The cardiac surgery ICU (4 beds) was transformed to a COVID-19 ICU, 16 additional beds were added in five operative and post-operative rooms and the surgical ICU was converted in a sole COVID-19 ICU too. During the third week a national as well as an international cooperation was set up in order to transfer ICU patients to other cities, regions and countries by air or by train so as to cope with the massive influx of critical patients. Finally on the fourth week patients were transferred to a 30-bed field military intensive care hospital deployed on the hospital car park by the French military medical service: l’Elément Militaire de Réanimation du Service de Santé
Introduction: Acute cardiovascular disease after community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) is a well-accepted complication for which definitive treatment strategies are lacking. These complications share some common features but have distinct diagnostic and treatment approaches.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of overall and individual cardiovascular complications after CAP and its impact on short-term mortality (< 90 days).

Methods: Systematic review of published studies (Medline) of adult non-immunocompromised patients with clinical and radiological evidence of CAP for whom outcomes were explicitly reported, followed by a meta-analysis of proportions, using the double-arcine transformation and a random-effects model. Meta-regression analysis by year of publication was further performed.

Results: From 1984 to November 2019, thirty-nine studies were accrued, involving 92,188 patients, divided by setting (inpatients versus outpatients) and clinical severity (low risk versus high risk). Overall, cardiovascular complications occurred in 14% (95% confidence interval (CI) 9.6–19), acute coronary syndromes in 4.5% (95% CI 2.9–6.5), heart failure in 9.2% (95% CI 6.7–12), arrhythmias in 7.2% (95% CI 5.6–9.0) and stroke in 0.71% (95% CI 0.1–3.9) of pooled inpatients. During this period, meta-regression analysis suggests that the incidence of overall and individual cardiovascular complications is decreasing. After adjusting for confounders, cardiovascular events taking place after CAP independently increase the risk for short-term mortality (range of odds-ratio: 1.4–5.3).

Conclusion: Despite a reduction in the last decades, the incidence of cardiovascular complications after CAP remains high. Our findings highlight the need for effective, large trial based, preventive and therapeutic interventions in this important patient population.

Descriptive analysis of the samples of bronchial aspirate culture in patients admitted with COVID-19 between March - May 2020

Introduction: A significant number of patients admitted in ICU for COVID-19 have had bacterial isolates in respiratory samples. Many of these isolates correspond to colonizations, but other patients have developed bacterial superinfections during their evolution in the ICU, such as ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). Data extracted from the ENVIN-HELICS registry.

Objectives: Our objective was to analyze the number of positive bronchial aspirates performed, the number of bronchial aspirates with a positive result, the rate of VAP and the most frequent microorganisms.

Methods: Descriptive, observational, and retrospective study of bronchial aspirates that were performed in patients admitted with COVID-19 during the months of March to May 2020 in the ICU of a thirdb-level hospital.

Results: 49 patients on mechanical ventilation were included, of which 36 (73%) had bronchial aspirates withdrawn during their ICU stay. In 28 of them (77%) it was positive. In total, 90 bronchial aspirates were performed. 74 microorganisms were isolated: 11 (15%) were Gram positive microorganisms, 35 (57%) Gram negative and 28 (38%) fungi.

Conclusion: In patients admitted for coronavirus, the bacterial superinfection rates have been high, probably due to the severity of the patients and a high rate of use of MV. Most are caused by Gram-negative and fungi. The data from our study, show us that even though we are facing a new virus and we are working in indifferent conditions than usual, we should not forget the project “Zero pneumonia” as preventive treatment strategies are lacking. These complications share some common features but have distinct diagnostic and treatment approaches.
**Introduction:** The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an emerging health threat. (1). Sepsis, respiratory failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, heart failure, and shock are commonly observed in these critically ill patients. (2)

Bloodstream infections (BSI) in recent pre-COVID19 studies has a reported rate between 3.5 and 5% (3)(4). However XiaoChen Li et al found a rate of BSI of 14.1% in severe COVID-19 committed patients from Tongji Hospital. (5) 

**Objectives:** To describe the rate and the pathogens involved in BSI in critically-ill COVID-19 patients, and to explore its impact in ICU outcomes.

**Methods:** Retrospective study of all critically-ill COVID-19 patients admitted in the ICU in a tertiary hospital in Northern Portugal. 

Primary end-points: Incidence of BSI, agent identification and primary infection site. 

Secondary end-points: association with co-morbidities and admission scores of organ dysfunction. Evaluation of impact of BSI on ICU length of stay(LOS), organ-support requirements and mortality. 

**Results:** Between March 17th and May 10th, 36 COVID-19 patients were admitted to our ICU, with median APACHE II 18.0 (IQR 10.75) and median SAPSII 42.0 (IQR 20.5). Median LOS was 16 days (IQR 16.5). 12 (33.3%) patients developed a BSI during ICU stay, with Klebsiella pneumoniae being the most frequently isolated pathogen (8.4%), followed by Pseudomonas aeruginosa (5.6%) and MSSA (5.6%). As for primary source, respiratory infection was the most frequent, accounting for 19.4% of all cases. Overall mortality was 25% (n = 9). 

Severity of comorbidities, as measured by the Charlson Comorbidity Index, age and gender were not associated with the occurrence of BSI. Higher SAPS II score at admission was significantly associated with the occurrence of BSI (45 vs 34; p = 0.03). Patients who developed BSI during ICU stay had more severe respiratory insufficiency, as measured by the PO2/FiO2 ratio at admission (136 VS 171.5; p = 0.049). 

There was no correlation in need for invasive mechanical ventilation or proning maneuvers; however there was an association with longer duration of mechanical ventilation (p = 0.002), need for tracheostomy and duration of vasopressor requirement (p = 0.029). Patients with BSI also had longer ICU LOS (27 VS 14 days; p < 0.001). Regarding treatment options, there was an association between corticoid use and BSI, even with low doses used for shock management.(OR 9.8; CI 95%). 

There was no impact on mortality. 

**Conclusion:** In this sample, COVID-19 patients were more susceptible to BSI, which resulted in greater ICU LOS and greater length of invasive mechanical ventilation. 

Main study limitations are the sample size and retrospective nature. 

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)** 

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001612
Conclusion: Despite the fact that the reason for admission was pulmonary involvement by SARS-CoV-2, the development of various gastrointestinal disorders was observed in our cohort, with an increase in mortality in certain cases. The development of ARF increases the risk of GI complications as well as the use of lopinavir/ritonavir, tocilizumab and corticosteroids. Inflammatory parameters can be useful to identify patients at risk of GI manifestations.

Thrombocytosis in COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU

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Introduction: Some of the most severe aspects of COVID-19 may be related to expression of interleukin-6 (IL-6). IL-6 is a key mediator of thrombopoiesis and thrombocytosis in acute and chronic inflammation [1]. COVID-19 patients may thus manifest IL-6 induced thrombocytosis.

Objectives: Examine the time course of platelet counts (PLC) in a cohort of COVID-19 patients admitted to our ICU and compare this time course with that of non-COVID ICU-survivors and non-survivors from a large published cohort [2]. Since COVID-19 patients have relatively long ICU-stays we used only non-COVID patients with an ICU-stay of ≥14 days.

Methods: Over the first 30 ICU days median daily PLC in COVID-19 patients were compared with non-COVID hospital survivors and non-COVID hospital non-survivors.

Results: A total of 90 COVID-19 patients were compared with 2682 non-COVID-19 ICU-survivors (S) and 1149 non-COVID-19 non-survivors (NS) who had an ICU-stay of ≥14 days. A total of 89,000 PLC were analyzed. Median PLC in COVID-19 patients followed a markedly different time course with that of non-COVID ICU-survivors and non-survivors. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L and 249 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). Subsequently the nadir in PLC observed between ICU day 1 and 5 in S and NS alike was absent in COVID-19 patients. The rise in PLC observed in non-COVID-19 during the second ICU week was also observed in COVID-19 patients, although the maximal PLC in COVID-19 patients was higher: 486 10^9/L compared to 366 10^9/L in S and NS respectively (P < 0.001). In contrast to S and NS non-COVID patients, even after 30 days median PLC was still above the reference range (150 to 350 10^9/L) in COVID-19 patients.

Conclusion: COVID-19 patients display a pronounced thrombocytosis during the first ICU month compatible with the thrombopoietic action of IL-6. Ongoing trials with IL-6 receptor inhibitors in may establish the causality of IL-6 in thrombocytosis in COVID-19 patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Reference(s)
Comparison of time courses of albumin and total protein levels in COVID and non-COVID patients: evidence of marked gamma-globulin production in addition to acute phase proteins in COVID-19

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001644

Introduction: COVID-19 patients display several responses related to severe and sustained inflammation. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is considered to be a key mediator among the cytokines released during COVID-19. One of the actions of IL-6 is the stimulation of polyclonal immunoglobulin production by B-cells [1].

Objectives: Analyze the secondary components of the acute phase response as can be derived from routine laboratory measurements. Over a 1-month period we compared the time course of albumin, total protein and fibrinogen in COVID-19 patients with that observed in non-COVID ICU patients. We also specifically looked at the difference between total protein and albumin as a reflection of the (immuno-) globulin fraction.

Methods: From a large database of ICU-patients and laboratory data built in our center for the ICU-Labome study [2], we selected only patients with a prolonged ICU-stay (i.e. >14 days). This was done for better comparison with the COVID-19 patients who tend to have relatively long ICU stays. We compared COVID-19 patients (C) with non-COVID hospital survivors (nC-S) and non-COVID non-survivors (nC-NS). All available fibrinogen, albumin and total protein levels were analyzed. To estimate the non-albumin proteins, albumin was subtracted from total protein. Median levels are reported and comparisons were performed with non-parametric tests.

Results: The nC-S and nC-NS groups consisted of 2682 and 1149 patients respectively. These were compared with 90 COVID-19 ICU patients treated till May 2020. 3400 and 129,000 laboratory measurements were used. At ICU-admission, fibrinogen levels were already considerably higher (P < 0.001) in COVID-19 patients: 7.6 g/L compared with 2.5 and 2.9 g/L in nC-S and nC-NS. Only after 2 weeks of ICU admission fibrinogen in COVID-19 had decreased to levels similar to S and NS. The time course of albumin in COVID-19 patients was similar to that of nC-S. Total protein levels were much higher at admission in COVID-19 than either nC-S and nC-NS (P < 0.001), with admission levels of 61 g/L vs 50 and 50 g/L respectively, with only limited subsequent changes. The estimated non-albumin fraction at admission in COVID-19 was 34 g/L compared to 23 and 25 g/L in nC-S and nC-NS (P < 0.001). The estimated non-albumin fraction stayed 9 to 10 g/L higher than nC-S and nC-NS over the observation period (P < 0.001) and rose to 40 g/L at day 30.

Conclusion: In addition to the well-described components of the acute phase response in COVID-19 such as elevated CRP and fibrinogen, there is a pronounced and sustained rise in total protein that points to the production of other acute phase proteins or gamma-globulins. This response is markedly different from that seen in other critically ill patients. Ongoing trials with IL-6 receptor inhibitors may indicate if IL-6 responsible for these peculiar reactions.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. None.
It is hard to predict the effect of a fluid bolus

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Introduction: Fluid bolus therapy (FBT) is our most common ICU intervention [1], however there is little agreement on when and how this therapy should be used. FBT is often needed to maintain organ perfusion, but excess fluid has been associated with increased long-term morbidity [2-5]. Also, there are indications that the response to fluid is usually smaller than anticipated [6, 7]. What triggers are used and what would constitute a significant response vary. Therefore, we conducted a prospective clinical trial in Sweden and Australia to describe accuracy and precision of clinical expectation compared to actual response to FBT.

Objectives: To describe the accuracy and precision of clinicians’ expectations of the hemodynamic effect of fluid boluses (FB) on physiological variables at completion of a FB and after one hour. To investigate triggers for FBT and to what extent clinicians’ expectations are met.

Methods: We evaluated 77 ICU patients at Austin Hospital, Melbourne Australia and Södersjukhuset, Stockholm Sweden. Patients were included if they were planned to receive a FB of ≥250 ml of resuscitation fluid over <30 minutes. The treating physician then completed a questionnaire asking for primary and secondary triggers for FBT from a list. Also, they were asked what physiological responses to the FB they expected at the end of the FB and one hour later. Clinicians’ responses were then compared to the measured values at these time-points. Data was collected directly from the electronic monitoring systems and the electronic medical records regarding physiological variables, lab values etc. Levels of vasopressors and sedation was collected to statically correct for these.

Results: 18 patients were recruited in Australia and 59 in Sweden. 46 were males and 31 females. Mean SOFA score was 8.2. Mean bolus size (SD) was 352.0 ml (107.6) over 22 minutes (11.8). 57.1% of boluses were Ringer’s Acetate and 42.9% Albumin 40-50 g/L. 54.5% of patients had infusions of noradrenaline and 37.7% had infusions of propofol. Hypotension was the most common trigger for a FB (46.8%), followed by poor urine output (20.8%). The most common secondary triggers for a FB were tachycardia and poor urine output (each 16.9%). At the end of the FB, 25% of expectations were within 10% of measured mean arterial pressure (MAP), and 52.1% within 10% of measured heart rate (HR). One hour later, 37.5% of expectations were within 10% of measured MAP, and 39.2% within 10% of measured HR, and 8% of expectations were within 10% of measured urine output.

The mean difference between expected and measured MAP (SD) was 9.1 mmHg (8.7), the difference in HR (SD) 7.1 bpm (8.9), the difference in urine output (SD) 44 ml (52.6) and the difference in cardiac index (CI) (SD) 0.32 (0.30) at the end of the bolus. 33% of patients had an increase in MAP≥10% at the end of a fluid bolus, and 29.3% at 1 h, whereas only 13% had an increase in CI≥10% at end of bolus but 45.5% after 1 h and 6.6% had a decrease in HR≥10% at end of bolus and 10.4% after 1 h.

Correction for levels of sedation or pressors led to no significant change of these values.

Conclusion: The most common reasons for administering a FB was to improve MAP and urine output, followed by resolving tachycardia. Clinicians’ expectations were only accurate in 25-51% of cases and were often not met, with a mean difference of 9 mmHg between expected and measured MAP. Further research might be needed into how FBS are used in the ICU and what expectations we have of them, so that we might choose to use them more judiciously.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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Co-Infection in ICU Patients with COVID-19

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Introduction: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has spread across the globe. Among infected patients, COVID-19 causes mild respiratory disease in most have a mild disease course, however a significant minority require hospitalisation, with 20% of those hospitalised, between 5-15% of those in hospital requiring admission to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Secondary infection is well described in ICU patients with other viral respiratory illnesses such as influenza[2], Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)[3] and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)[4], and may lead to increased mortality. Although data is limited, it is likely that SARS-CoV-2 predisposes to co-infection. ICU admission and organ support such as mechanical ventilation are risk factors for infection, independent of COVID-19. Furthermore, many established pre-morbid conditions such as diabetes mellitus and obesity which pre-dispose to co-infection in ICU have also been described as risk factors for severe SARS-CoV-2 disease[1]. Finally, patients with severe COVID-19 appear to have significant immune dysregulation, with lymphopaenia, abnormal levels of inflammatory cytokines and features of T cell immune “exhaustion”[5]. This abnormal immune response and associated lung damage may leave patients vulnerable to bacterial proliferation.

Objectives: 1. Characterisation of the co-infections in SARS-CoV-2 patients admitted to Tallaght Hospital ICU.
2. Description of the effect of co-infection on patient outcomes.

Methods: This is a single centre retrospective observational study of patients admitted to a single ICU with COVID-19 from January to June
Conclusion: Co-infection increases duration of mechanical ventilation, ICU stay and vasopressor dependence in ICU patients with COVID-19.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)

001263
Global final diastolic volume indexed as an independent predictor of critical care mortality

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Introduction: Septic cardiomyopathy is a serious complication in the course of sepsis. A prognostic association between patients who, in the context of impaired cardiac contractility, maintain increased diastolic volumes has been described by different authors. Furthermore, the emergence of various minimally invasive technologies has allowed access to different indicators of hemodynamic status that have become relevant in recent years.

Objectives: The objective of our work was to determine if the global final diastolic volume (VDFG) and the global ejection fraction (FEG) could be associated with a worse prognosis in septic patients with hemodynamic failure, and if the association between systolic dysfunction due to septic cardiomyopathy and dilatation of cardiac chambers had a better prognosis in that population.

Methods: Aperture measurement was included retrospectively for all patients requiring minimally invasive hemodynamic monitoring using the transpulmonary thermodilution technique with the Ed 1000 EV equipment.

Age, sex, height, weight, Apache II, SOFA, diagnosis, cardiac index, indexed global final diastolic volume, indexed systolic volume, extravascular pulmonary water index, pulmonary vascular permeability index, central venous pressure, variability of systolic volume were measured, index of indexed systemic vascular resistance, mean arterial pressure, heart rate. The patients were subsequently classified into patients with impaired contractility and increased or decreased diastolic volumes.

A univariate analysis was performed with the student t test for continuous variables and chi² for categorical variables. Subsequently, the variables were included in a multivariate analysis to test their association with mortality.

Results: After multivariate analysis, the only factor that was independently associated with mortality was overall final diastolic volume. Those patients had no associated contractility disorders.
diastolic volumes were more likely to survive, although this was not related to disorders of cardiac contractility.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: To study the evolution and mortality of posturgical bacteremia due to Acinetobacter baumannii resistant to carbapenems and sensitive to colistin in the critically ill patient.

Methods: Retrospective, multicenter cohort study. We analyze post-surgical patients (previous surgery 30 days) who had monomicrobial bacteremia due to Acinetobacter baumannii carbapenem-resistant and sensitive-colistin. We use logistic regression for multivariate analysis. The main variable was mortality on day 14 and 30 after the diagnosis of bacteremia.

Results: Of the total of patients, 41 (35%) presented postoperative bacteremia detected during the study time, 61% men with a mean age of 61 ± 11, APACHE II at admission 23 ± 9 and Charlson index 3 ± 2. This type of Bacteremia was more frequent in patients undergoing abdominal surgery: 18 patients (44%). Bacteremia appeared on day ±12 after initial surgery (8 vs. 26). Most frequent comorbidities: diabetes mellitus 15 (36%) and chronic kidney failure 8 (20%). The most frequent type of bacteremia was secondary (33/41); pneumonia associated with mechanical ventilation 49% (20/41) and peritonitis 32% (13/41). 71% of the patients presented septic shock. In this group of patients, 29 required renal replacement therapy. The treatment administered was: monotherapy with colistin 73% (30/41) and combination therapy with tigecycline-colistin in 27% (11/41). Mortality at 14 days was 32% (13/41) and at 30 days it was 63% (26/41). There is no statistically significant difference between mortality in postoperative bacteremia and non-postoperative bacteremia.

Conclusion: Post-surgical bacteremia in our patients is similar with that of non-postoperative bacteremia. Empirical treatment with colistin did not reduce 30-day mortality after this type of bacteremia. Mortality at day 14 and day 30 is similar to that which occurs in non-postoperative bacteremia.

001464

Differential characteristic in surgical infective endocarditis based on valve microbiological findings

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Introduction: Positive culture of the heart valve could be associated with severity and condition worse prognosis of the disease.

Objectives: To assess if surgical patients with endocarditis and microbiological isolation in the infected valve, present any clinical or evolu-tive differences from the others patients.

Methods: We evaluated endocarditis patients from two hospital centers (Fundación Jimenez Díaz and Hospital Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid) operated by the same surgical team between 2010 and 2019. Patients were divided in two groups according to the microbiological findings in the infected valve: GROUP 1 with a negative culture (NC) and GROUP 2 with a positive culture (PC).

Results: 103 patients were included, 30 with PC (29.4%). Comparing the groups (NC vs PC) we observe: Personal history: alcohol-drugs (2.8% vs. 6.7%; p = 0.357), mellitus diabetes (27.8% vs. 43.3%; p = 0.126), arterial hypertension (54.2% vs. 66.7%; p = 0.244), dyslipidemia (43.1% vs. 63.3%; p = 0.062), COPD (9.7% vs. 23.3%; p = 0.069), renal failure (26.4% vs. 56.7%; p = 0.004), previous cardiac surgery (31.9% vs. 46.7%; p = 0.159), paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (4.2% vs. 13.3%; p = 0.095) permanent Atrial fibrillation (23, 6% vs. 13.3%; p = 0.242), coronary artery disease (8.3% vs. 13.3%; p = 0.439), cardiogenic shock (12.5% vs. 16.7%; p = 0.577), recent urological handling (2.8% vs. 13.3%; p = 0.039), cancer (0 vs. 6.7%; p = 0.027), bicuspid valve (12.5% vs. 3.3%; p = 0.156).

Disease data: vegetations: 15 mm (19.4% vs 31%; p = 0.213), pre-infection antibiotic time (10.36 ± 9.90 vs 8.56 ± 8.38 days; p = 0.386), Logistic EUROSCORE II (29.20 ± 22.45 vs 35.56 ± 19.38; p = 0.178) and type of surgery (mitral valve 38.9% vs 33.3%, aortic valve 30.6% vs 43.3%, mitral and aortic valve (22.2% vs. 13.3%); p = 0.051).

Evolution data: intubation time (189.86 ± 1047.94 vs 187.40 ± 365.55 (hours); p = 0.001), ICU stay time (66.1 ± 10.59 vs 12.76 ± 16.26 days; p = 0.026), tracheostomy (8.3% vs. 16.7%), pleural effusion (4.2% vs. 10%; p = 0.254), reoperation because bleeding (5.6% vs. 13.3%; p = 0.183), postcardiotomy shock (0 vs 6.7%; p = 0.027), renal failure (26.4% vs 40%; p = 0.173), lower gastrointestinal bleeding (0 vs 10%; p = 0.006), liver failure (4.1% vs. 10% p = 0.041), polynuropathy (1.4% vs. 16.7%; p = 0.003), pericarditis (0 vs. 6.7%; p = 0.027) and state of death at hospital discharge (13.9% vs. 16.7%; p = 0.718).

Conclusion: Patients with positive culture in infected valve have higher incidence of Renal failure, recent urológical handling and previous cancer. They present longer intubation and ICU stay times and more complications: cardiogenic shock, upper gastrointestinal bleeding, liver failure, severe polynuropathy, and postoperative pericardi-tis. However, we did not find significant differences before surgery or in mortality at hospital discharge.

001465

Relation between the age and the severity assessed by SOFA upon the admission to the ICU of the patients with coronavirus infection

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Introduction: To assess if patients with coronavirus infection have a different SOFA index when we compare patients over 65 years old with patients under 65 years old.

Objectives: To determine if there is a difference in the SOFA index between patients over 65 years old with patients under 65 years old.

Methods: We performed a retrospective study in our ICU, comparing the SOFA index between patients over 65 years old and patients under 65 years old.

Results: A total of 120 patients were included in the study, 60 over 65 years old and 60 under 65 years old. The mean age of the patients over 65 years old was 73 ± 5 years, and the mean age of the patients under 65 years old was 38 ± 9 years. The SOFA index was higher in the group of patients over 65 years old (8 ± 3) compared to the group of patients under 65 years old (5 ± 2; p = 0.001).

Conclusion: There is a statistically significant difference in the SOFA index between patients over 65 years old and patients under 65 years old.

001396

Etiology of ventilator-associated pneumonia after orotracheal tube obstruction in critically ill patients with SARS-CoV-2

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2); 001396

Introduction: Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is a serious complication in critically ill patients. The usual etiology of these pneumonias is usually similar in the same complexity units.

Objectives: To determine whether the isolates in pneumonia that were observed in the following 72 h after an episode of orotracheal tube (OTT) obstruction directly compared to those common in VAP.

Methods: Single-center retrospective study. Patients with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia (COVID-19) who required mechanical ventilation (VM) for more than 48 hours from March 6 to May 6 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in a medium complexity hospital. The microbiological isolates of those patients who required one or more changes of OTT and developed a VAP in the following 72 h were recognized.

Results: 47 patients were included. Two patients who died in the first 36 hours of admission with bacterial pneumonia associated with SARS-VOC 2 were excluded. The mean age was 61.7 years, 35 (74.4%) men and 12 (25.5%) women. The average APACHE 2 was 15, the average SAPS 2 was 35.6. 60% of patients affected a VAP in the following 72 hours. The isolates found were Enterobacter 5 (29.4%), E. faecalis 3 (17.6%), methicillin sensitive S. aureus 3 (17.6%), methicillin resistant S. aureus (MRSA) 2 (11.8%), Pseudomonas aeruginosa 2 (11.8%), Candida spp 1 (5.9%), Others 1 (5.9%).

Conclusion: The development of VAP in the first 72 hours after OTT obstruction has been a frequent finding in COVID patients. The most frequently isolated microorganism was Enterobacter with a higher percentage than that found in published series, followed by E. fae-calis, which also has a higher than expected presence. Germs more commonly related to VAP, such as Pseudomonas and SAMR, have presented in the usual proportions for patients intubated in the ICU.
Introduction: To evaluate the influence of the age and multiorgan failure of patients at thernoment of being admitted at the ICU for coronavirus on the mortality.

Methods: Prospective cohort study of patients with coronavirus admitted to the ICU at the hospital Universitario de Jaén, Hospital San Agustin de Linares and the Hospital Infanta Margarita de Cabra. Continuous variables are expressed as median (25th percentile, 75th percentile) and qualitative variables with absolute and relative frequencies. Mann Whitney was used for comparison of continuous variables and X2 for qualitative variables. P <0.05 was considered as statistically significant (s.s.).

Results: We have studied 63 admitted patients AT ICU by coronavirus infection, 44 of them to the Jaén hospital ICU, 11 at Cabra hospital and 8 at Linares hospital. The average age was 58 (37,62). The evaluated severity with APACHE II was 12 (9,17) points and the same evaluation but using SOFA was 6 (4,8) points at the first day. 63.5% (n=40) required tracheal intubation on their first day and 82.5% (n=52) during the entire ICU stay. Mortality in the ICU was a percent of 38 meanwhile in the hospital was 39.7. Those patients who deceased were older than the survivors, 64 (60,72) vs 60 (52,70) years old, but the differences weren't statistically significant (s.s.) (p =0.16). These one also showed mostacutely according to APACHE II, 18 (14,23) vs 14 (12,18) points (p < 0.005), and a higher SOFA at the admission 7 (4,8) vs 6 (3,8) points, but without being statistically significant (p =0.09).

Later, we classified the severity evaluated with the SOFA and age in intervals for a beteterevaluation of the relation of both variables with age and in suspicion that the relation was nonlinear. Patients were classified according to the SOFA upon admission as 7 or more points (n = 32,51.6%) and another group if it was less than 7 points (n = 30, 48.4%). In the 32 patients with SOFA at admission of less than 7 points, 9 died (28.1%) and in the 30 patients with SOFA of 7 or more points, 16 died (53.3%) (p = 0.043).

The patients were classified according to the age, over 60 years (n = 40, 64.5%) or less or equalto 60 years (n = 22, 35.5%). Mortality in those over 60 years old was higher, 47.5% vs. 27.3% but the differences were not s.s. (p = 0.12). Then, the influence of the age on mortality was analyzed according to the severity evaluated with the SOFA at admission. And it was observed that the mortality of patients with SOFA of 7 or more points was high in the two age groups, 55.6% of 9 patients aged 60 years or younger and 52.4% of 21 with ages over 60 years, without s.s. differences. Then the influence of the age to the mortality.

Nevertheless, in patients with less severity (SOFA lower than 7 points) mortality was high int hose who were older than 60 years old (42.18% of 119 patients) but in youth people was much lower (7.7% of 13 patients) (p =0.033). SOFA of the 13 patients with SOFA less than 7 points and age less than or equal to 60 years was (3 points: 15.4%, 4 points: 30.8%, 4 points: 30.8% and 6 points: 23.1%) and 69.2% required intubation.

Conclusion: In ICU patients admitted for coronavirus infection, the ICU evaluation of SOFA and age allows identification of a group of patients with lower mortality than the rest. They are those who have low SOFA (less than 7 points) and age less than or equal to 60 years. Mortality in this group was less than 10% in our series. In the rest of the patient groups, with high SOFA regardless of age and low SOFA but with age over 60 years, mortality is much higher than the aforementioned group.

001468

Use of human albumin solution in septic and non-septic critically ill patients

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Introduction: Albumin is known to be associated with outcomes in critically ill patients, but the use of human albumin solution (HAS) has a less clear role. As a mortality benefit has not been demonstrated in large clinical trials, HAS is currently reserved for particular patient cohorts and otherwise its use remains clinician dependent.

We have previously described 7-day trends of serum albumin in septic and non-septic critically ill patients [1]. In this study we aimed to evaluate the use of human albumin solution (HAS) in the same population, and to assess the effect of HAS administration on outcomes.

Methods: We retrospectively assessed the records of 755 patients admitted to the Royal Liverpool University Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) between 2008 and 2014, who had seven days of albumin data available. Sepsis was identified in 513 patients (67.9%) of patients. The overall mortality rate at day 28 was 20.3%. We collected demographic data, including age, sex and APACHE II scores, 28 day mortality rates. We also noted the degree of hypoalbuminaemia during the first 7 days of ICU admission, and the first day patients received HAS. IBM SPSS 25.0 was used for statistical analysis; X2 tests or Fisher’s Exact test were used for categorical data, and Student’s t-test or Mann-Whitney U test were used for continuous variables.

Results: Data for HAS administration was available for 719 of the 755 patients. 64 patients received HAS (8.9%). 4.4% (10/226) of non-septic patients and 11% (54/493) of septic patients received HAS. Amongst septic patients, HAS was more commonly administered to patients with albumin levels < 20 g/L (47 patients, 87.0% vs 7 patients, 13.0% of patients with serum albumin 20-34 g/L, p=0.001); and most patients who were given HAS during the first 4 days of their admission (43 patients, 19.6%). There was no significant difference in APACHE II score or age between septic patients who did or did not receive HAS, but there was a difference in the minimum albumin level, which was lower in patients who received HAS (p<0.001). We found higher mortality rates amongst septic patients who received HAS compared to those who did not (p=0.006).

Conclusion: We found that septic patients were more likely to receive HAS than non-septic patients; and the majority of septic patients received HAS during the first 4 days of their ICU admission. Higher mortality rates were noted amongst septic patients receiving HAS in our study, though they also had lower minimum levels of albumin.

More research is required for the development of evidence-based recommendations to guide HAS administration to septic critically ill patients during the resuscitative and de-resuscitative phases of their ICU admission.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

characteristics and we evaluated long-term outcomes such as rates of mortality at 28 days, 6 months and 1 year; rate of hospital readmission in the first year and condition of frailty at the first discharge from the hospital (i.e. rate of bedridden patients; pressure ulcers; percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy/nasogastric tube; urinary catheter).

Results: We reviewed 113 patients and 79/113 respected the inclusion criteria. Demographic characteristics are shown in the Table 1. 39/79 (49.4%) patients died at 28 days from the hospital admission; other 18/79 (22.8%) patients died at 6 month while a single patient died at 1 year (see Figure 1). Total mortality rate at 1 year was 59/79 (73.4%) patients. We found a total of 17 hospital readmissions (8/17 in Intensive Care Unit; 4/17 in IMCU; 5/17 in general wards). About condition of frailty, 3/79 (3.8%) patients showed percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy/nasogastric tube; 27/79 (34.1%) patients were bedridden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristics</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years old (mean ± SE)</td>
<td>74 ± 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (n, %)</td>
<td>46/ 79 (59.5)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU stay (days) (mean ± SE)</td>
<td>4.4 ± 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS score (mean ± SE)</td>
<td>51 ± 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score (mean ± SE)</td>
<td>10 ± 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonalcoholic diabetes, (n, %)</td>
<td>8/ 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of infection:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory (n, %)</td>
<td>24/79(30.4)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary (n, %)</td>
<td>38/79(48.4)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal (n, %)</td>
<td>35/79(44.2)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin (n, %)</td>
<td>2/79(2.5)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin + organ (n, %)</td>
<td>34/79(43.0)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDR bacteria (n, %)</td>
<td>35/79(46%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - Demographic characteristics

![Figure 1 - Cumulative mortality at 1 year](image)

Conclusion: In our observational study, septic shock patients showed poor long-term outcomes with high rates of mortality, hospital readmission and condition of frailty at the discharge.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001513

Does Procalcitonin testing support decision making regarding change of antibiotics, initiation of high-dose steroids or immunomodulation in critically ill patients with severe COVID-19?

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Introduction: COVID-19 infection can range from asymptomatic infection to life-threatening illness. Severe disease commonly manifests as Adult Respiratory Distress syndrome (ARDS) (1) but may also cause immune dysregulation (2), which may be difficult to distinguish from superimposed bacterial infection. Procalcitonin (PCT) is a biomarker that is released in response to bacterial infection and strongly correlates with severity (3). COVID-19 itself does not appear to increase PCT levels (4). Therefore, a raised PCT in these patients could identify a superimposed bacterial infection (5,6) and guide appropriate initiation and cessation of antimicrobial therapy (7).

Methods: We included adult ICU patients with proven or highly suspected COVID-19 infection who had a PCT sent as part of clinical care. Demographic, clinical and laboratory data were obtained from medical records. The Median and Interquartile Range (IQR) were calculated for White Cell Count (WCC), neutrophils, C-reactive protein (CRP) and PCT. Mann-Whitney-U test was performed to compare patients who died with those who survived. Spearman correlation coefficient was used to demonstrate correlation of PCT results with the other inflammatory markers.

Results: Forty PCT tests were performed on 26 patients, of which eight died. Mean age was 57.8 ± 12.5 years with a mean length of stay of 26.8 ± 19.0 days. PCT testing was performed for a variety of reasons: “fever” for 14 tests; “clinical deterioration” in eight tests; “comparison with previous test” for six tests; “difficult wean” for three tests; and “to stop antibiotics” for one test. There was no documentation for eight requests.

PCT levels correlated with WCC (r = 0.515, p = 0.007), lymphocyte count and CRP levels (r = 0.423, p = 0.044). Survivors had significantly lower PCT results (0.57 ng/mL, IQR: 3.95) than patients who died (2.82 ng/mL, IQR: 7.35, p = 0.047). Similarly, CRP was lower in survivors (109 mg/L, IQR: 3.62 versus 270 mg/L, IQR: 186.5 p = 0.003). A change in treatment was made following 9 of 40 (22.5%) test results. On three occasions, antibiotics were commenced, antibiotics were stopped on one occasion and a change in antibiotics occurred on five occasions. High-dose steroids were started in six patients after PCT results had become available.

Conclusion: Our results, albeit in a small population, confirm the previously described correlation between PCT and traditional inflammatory markers, WCC and CRP. PCT levels were significantly higher in non-survivors from COVID-19. Although treatment was changed after nearly a quarter of PCT tests, it remains unclear on how many occasions treatment would have been changed based on WCC and CRP alone. Further research is warranted to fully elucidate the usefulness of procalcitonin in patients with COVID-19 for initiation of immunomodulatory therapy, high-dose steroids, diagnosis of superimposed bacterial infection or change in antibiotic regimen.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
1. Nothing to Declare.
6. 5) Diagnosis and monitoring of sepsis: procalcitonin testing. NICE. 2014.
Introduction: Evaluation of the relation between APACHE II and mortality on patients admitted to the ICU for Coronavirus

Methods: Prospective cohort study of patients with coronavirus admitted to the ICU at the Hospital Universitario de Jaén, Hospital San Agustín de Linares and the Hospital Infantil Margarita de Cabra. Continuous variables are expressed as median (25th percentile, 75th percentile) and qualitative variables with absolute and relative frequencies. U Mann Whitney was used for comparison of continuous variables and X² for qualitative variables. Discrimination was evaluated with the area under the ROC curve. P &lt; 0.05 was considered statistically significant (e.s).

Results: We have studied 52 admitted patients at ICU by coronavirus infection. The average age was 63 (58.71). The evaluated severity with APACHE II was 12 (9.16) points, the same standard deviation but using SOFA on the first day was 6 (3.8) points, 62.5% (n = 32) required tracheal intubation on their first day and 76.8% (n = 41) during the entire ICU stay. 9 (17.3%) of them did not manifest any of the evaluated records (cortisol, cardiac, renal, respiratory, neurological, oncological, hematological or surgical pathology) and 43 patients (82.7%) showed 1 or more records. Mortality in the ICU was a percent of 38.5 and (meanwhile) at the hospital was 38.5%. Deceased patients had higher APACHE II 14 (12.18) vs 10 (8.15 points, p = 0.007), and biggersofa on the day of the admission, but without statistically significant differences 7 (4.8) points vs 6 (3.7) points (p = 0.227). Predicted mortality by APACHE II according to the original equation was 16% and that observed was less than expected, specifically 38.5%.

Conclusion: On ICU patients admitted for coronavirus, the severity assessed by APACHE II is bigger in those who die than in those who survive. Anyway, APACHE II statistics of these ill people are not very high, being the observed mortality higher than predicted for patients with the same APACHE II score and admitted to the ICU for acute respiratory distress.

Clinical and Biological evaluation of patients with septic shock according to their immunosuppression state

Introduction: Biological evaluation of septic shock.

Objectives: To describe and analyse the biological profile associated with increased risk for the development of MODS and mortality; however, it was not associated with increased risk for the development of MODS. Besides it seems that IS state was not associated with a different inflammatory response (cytokine levels and biomarkers). There may be other factors related to the prognosis in these patients.

References and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Biological evaluation of septic shock.

Objectives: To describe the impact of the Neutropenia (NT) in the biological profile, development of Multiorgan Failure (MOF), and mortality in critically ill patients with septic shock (SS).

Methods: We performed a retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data of patients with respiratory, abdominal, and urinary SS and evaluated the presence of NT at the admission and the first 48 h. We include patients identified through the in-hospital activation of Sepsis Code (SC) and admitted in the ICU in septic shock. We analysed the demographic variables, acute severity scores (APACHE II), development of MOF defined by a SOFA score > 9, day 28 mortality, the presence of NT (1.0 × 10⁹ /litre) and the biological profile through the measurement of cytokine levels (IL-1, IL-2 RA, IL-6, IL8 IL-10, IL-12, INF, TNFa), and inflammatory biomarkers (PCT, CRP, MR-proADM).

Results: 758 SC activations were registered with a total of 76 septic shock patients. Fifty-one patients (67.1%) were men, age 62 (14.5) years, the mean of SOFA 9.2 (2.5) and APACHE 23.5 (6.9). Respiratory was more frequent focus (39.5%) of infection. 41 patients (53.9%), presented a state of immunosuppression, mainly by solid organ transplant (26.9%). 18 patients (23.7%) presented NT, at 48 h, 4 (22.2%) have recovered and 12 (75%) have persisted. 28 days mortality was 19.7% and 63.2% developed MOF during the index episode of ICU admission. There were no significant differences in the development of MOF (27.1% vs. 17.9% p = 0.26), and 28 days mortality (68.2% vs. 31.8% (p = 0.21)) between Non-Neutropenic (NN) and Neutropenic (NT) group respectively. The assessment of the biologic profile showed no significant differences between NN and NT group: IL1β (13.8 [6] vs. [13.1 [2.8] pg/mL p = 0.63), IL2RA (2691.5 [93] vs. 3311.3 [467] pg/mL p = 0.24), IL6 (2818.3 [35] vs. 2344.2 [12] pg/mL p = 0.78), IL6 (165.9 [77] vs. 158.4 [21] pg/mL p = 0.84), IL10 (251.1 [11] vs. 199.5 [13] pg/mL p = 0.19), IL12 (23.9 [3.8] vs. 31.6 [1.9] pg/mL p = 0.13), INF (42.6 [9.5] vs. 47.8 [5.7] pg/mL p = 0.95), TNFa (173.7 [4.8] vs. 190.5 [3.8] pg/mL p = 0.84); inflammatory biomarkers: PCT (7.5 [3.9] vs.14.5 [10] ng/mL p = 0.84), CRP (19.9 [3] vs. 257.1 [9] ng/mL p = 0.19), MR-proADM (5.3 [3.2] vs. 6.6 [4.7] nmol/L p = 0.84). There were no significant differences in the persistent NT in the inflammatory profile.

Conclusion: Septic shock patients with neutropenia and persistent neutropea, not presented a significantly difference in the mortality, developing of MOF. In addition, the degree of neutropenia may not influence the levels of cytokines and biomarkers.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

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001276

Disordered collagen metabolism is associated with elevated plasma high sensitive cardiac troponin T in septic shock

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001276

Introduction: Release of cardiac troponins (cT) can occur when myocytes are damaged by a variety of conditions, such as exposure to toxins, inflammation and necrosis. Sepsis is frequently associated with release of cT and the levels of cTs are independently associated with in-hospital and short-term mortality after sepsis [1].

Objectives: The objective of the work was to investigate associations between circulations high-sensitive cardiac troponin T (hs-cTnT) and quantitative mass spectrometry-based metabolomics profile of plasma and cardiac tissues in an animal model of septic shock. This is an ancillary study, the data from the animal experiments were previously published [2,3].

Methods: Septic shock (SS) was induced in anesthetized, instrumented and ventilated adult swines by polymicrobial peritonitis (6 SS and 3 sham pigs). Metabolites were quantified in the myocardium and in plasma with quantitative targeted metabolomics. Circulating hs-cTnT was measured using the Elecsys® assay. Fold-change in hs-cTnT from baseline and after full resuscitation (fluids and vasopressors) was used to stratify the animals. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed.

Results: No sign of myocardial infarction or contractility reduction was detected in this animal model. Hs-cTnT wasn’t significantly different between SS and sham animals at each time point, but hs-cTnT fold-change was higher in septic versus sham animals. In harvested heart tissues, proline and glycine levels were significantly higher in the high hs-cTnT fold-change group, i.e. in those animals with a more severe degree of myocardial injury. By stratifying animals on the basis of hs-cTnT fold-change, proline and hydroxyproline were among the first ranked circulating metabolites in multivariate models to explain the severity of myocardial injury.

Conclusion: Evidence of myocardial injury occurs in the early phase of shock, as indicated by the hs-cTnT fold-changes in the animal study. As collagen is an abundant reservoir for proline and hydroxyproline, we may infer that sepsis-associated myocardial injury could be associated with collagen destruction and/or dysregulated metabolism. In a longitudinal study [4] markers of collagen metabolism were increased in patients with sepsis. The authors showed that serum increasing collagen propeptide levels were associated with the development of multiple organ failure and death. Our results reinforce the concept that collagen degradation could be one of the important mechanisms that contributes to myocardial injury secondary to septic shock.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

5. This work was supported by the EU FP7 Health Programme, Shockomics project, Grant #602706.

001560

Effects of Parenteral Lipid Emulsions on Mesenteric Hypoperfusion, Oxidative Stress and Organ Damage in Experimental Mouse Sepsis Model

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001560

Introduction: In sepsis, enteral feeding is avoided or trophic enteral feeding is recommended especially in the early period when hemodynamics is impaired. There are no clear recommendations in the enteral nutrition guidelines for parenteral nutrition and lipid content in sepsis, largely due to lack of evidence.

Objectives: Multiple organ injury due to free radicals and decreased mesenteric blood flow are the consequences of septic shock. We investigated and compared whether different Parenteral Lipid Emulsions could attenuate the deleterious effects of endotoxin, such as mesenteric hypoperfusion, inflammatory oxidative damage and multiple organ damage in a mouse model of sepsis.
Methods: Swiss-albino mice (20-40 g) were administered subcutaneously sterile saline (NaCl 0.9%, w/v), fish oil (Omegaven), soybean oil (Kabiven) or olive oil (Oliclinomel) in 50 ml kg-1 dosage 10 min after they have received E.coli endotoxin (LPS, O55:B5, 10 mg kg-1) or its solvent sterile saline. Four hours later, mice were anesthetized, mesenteric blood flow values were measured, spleen and liver weight/body weight ratios were determined and the organs were examined histopathologically. Oxidative stress index was also calculated according to total antioxidant status (TAS) and total oxidant status (TOS) measurements which were done from tissue homogenates and serum by ELISA assay. Histological examination of the liver and spleen of the control group (saline-saline). Fish oil emulsion treatment has abolished the decrease in mesenteric artery blood flow, none of the parenteral lipid emulsions reversed the weight gain in liver and spleen. Histopathological examination of the liver revealed portal inflammatory reaction, intrasinusoidal congestion, intrasinusoidal lymphocytic reaction, hepatocellular injury, ballooning degeneration and congestion was observed in spleen in endotoxin-treated mice. Lipid emulsions, at the doses used, lead to histopathologically harmful effects in the liver and spleen of the control group (saline-saline). Fish oil emulsion treatment has abolished some of the deleterious effects of endotoxin only in liver. OSI was increased in liver, kidney, lung, spleen and serum after endotoxin challenge. The protective effects of some emulsions were observed only in kidney and spleen.

Conclusion: The main finding of this study is that fish oil emulsions containing high omega-3 fatty acids abrogate the decrease in mesenteric blood flow and prevent liver damage in the experimental sepsis model. All of the lipid emulsions, including fish oil, may cause organ damage in healthy animals, even in protective doses.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.

Role of citrulline and intestinal fatty acid binding protein in evaluation of acute gastrointestinal injury and dysfunction in septic patients
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001562

Introduction: Citrulline and intestinal fatty acid binding protein (iFABP) are proposed as biomarkers to detect acute gastrointestinal injury which is commonly unrecognized in critically ill. Objective: To evaluate role of citrulline and iFABP to predict acute gastrointestinal dysfunction (AGD) in critically ill septic patients admitted to a medical ICU.

Methods: Critically ill patients admitted to a medical ICU with sepsis were evaluated for AGD in accordance with ESICM recommendations. Patients with chronic renal disease were excluded. Blood samples for citrulline and iFABP were collected between 48-72 hours of admission. Patients were grouped as with or without AGD. Healthy controls were included from outpatient clinics.

Results: A total of 51 patients and 51 controls were included in the study. Mean age of patients was 70.1 years. There were 19 males (37.3%). All were medical admissions. Mean APACHEII score was 24.8. Mean SOFA score was 8.2. Acute renal injury developed in 41 (80.4%) of patients. Citrulline levels in septic patients were significantly lower than the controls (11.6 vs 13.0; P = 0.004). There was a moderate, positive correlation between citrulline and iFABP in septic patients (r=0.567, p < 0.001). AGD score was higher in patients with hypocalcemia (p = 0.016) and hyperthermia (p = 0.049). Patients with higher AGD score were less likely to attain nutritional goals (p < 0.001). When patients with and without AGD were compared, no significant difference was found for citrulline and iFABP. Citrulline and iFABP levels were not associated with mortality.

Conclusion: This study with critically ill medical patients have shown that citrulline and iFABP levels alone may not be adequate to detect acute gastrointestinal injury presenting as a component of multiorgan dysfunction syndrome.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
3. Grant was received from ‘Ankara Tıplılar Vakfı’ for kits.

Vitamin D levels on admission to predict ICU mortality in patients with Covid-19
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001377

Introduction: Vitamin D deficiency has been associated with an increased risk of respiratory infections such as respiratory syncytial virus infection, tuberculosis and influenza [1, 2]. Sufficient vitamin D level in patients with COVID-19, its optimal cut-off value to predict mortality has not been evaluated yet.

Objectives: The aim of the present study was to evaluate vitamin D level in patients on admission to intensive care unit (ICU) as a predictor of mortality in COVID-19 infection.

Methods: The retrospective study was conducted in Federal Research and Clinical Centre. 40 adult patients were enrolled from April 06, 2020 to April 27, 2020. Blood samples were collected within 24 hours after admission to ICU to perform routine laboratory tests and level of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D). Continuous and categorical variables were presented as mean ± standard deviation or median (Inter-quartile range), as appropriate. The optimal vitamin D cut-off point was evaluated by receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curve.

Results: In present study 40 patients of 67 ± 16.5 years were enrolled, 13 (32.5%) of them were males. The average 25(OH)D level on admission was 12 (9; 15) ng/ml. A significant difference in vitamin D level between the dead patients (n = 13) and the survivors (n = 27) was revealed 9 [7.35; 11.5] and 14 [10; 16], respectively, p = 0.004 (the Mann–Whitney test). The area under the ROC curve was 0.79 (95% confidence interval (CI) [0.62; 0.95]), p = 0.004. The optimum cut-off value for vitamin D was 9.45 ng/ml. The predictive accuracy of mortality in patients with 25 (OH) D less than 9.45 ng/ml had a sensitivity of 85% and a specificity of 62%, figure 1.
Patients with vitamin D deficiency (25(OH)D of ≤ 9.45 ng/ml) had a 7-fold higher risk of death compared with 25(OH)D levels > 9.45 ng/ml (Odds Ratio 7.04, 95% CI [1.6-30.9]).

**Conclusion:** ICU COVID patients had deficiency of vitamin D. 25(OH)D level on admission less than 9.45 ng/mL could predict in-hospital mortality in patients with COVID-19. Interventional study is warranted to elucidate whether vitamin D supplementation is useful for treatment of COVID-19.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

**001384**

**Nutritional characteristics of Covid-19 mechanical ventilated patients in Virgen de las Nieves hospital’s ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, **8**(2): 00384

**Introduction:** Covid 19 infection is an emerging disease that has become a worldwide pandemic. Some patients develop a severe pneumonia that evolves in acute respiratory distress syndrome and therefore in a long stay in ICU.

**Objectives:** To describe the main nutritional characteristics of mechanical ventilated patients with covid 19 pneumonia admitted to Virgen de Las Nieves Hospital’s ICU.

**Methods:** We perform a retrospective observational study with 50 patients that required mechanical ventilation (MV) in ICU.

**Results:** Among the 50 patients, 76% were men, the mean age was 60 +/- 10.7 years, APACHE at the admission in ICU was 14.7 +/- 6, and the mean of MV were 22 +/- 17 days. Mortality rate in ICU was 36%, without significant differences between men and women when they required MV (p < 0.26, CI 0.11-1.79).

Enteral nutrition was given to 97% of patinets, while only 12.2% received parenteral nutrition. Protein intake was 44% of daily recommended (0.57 g/kg/day) and caloric intake was 59.9% (1198 +/- 355 kcal/day). Mean IMC was 30.4.

MRC (muscle power assessment scale) at ICU exit was > 48 in 78% of the patients, which implies a lack of intensive care unit-acquired weakness. Caloric intake was a protective factor against mortality (p < 0.003, CI 1.00-1.03).

**Conclusion:** An appropriate nutrition in ICU allowed better results in patients with covid 19 infection.

– Mortality rate was higher in patients with hyperglycemia and lower in patients with higher caloric intake.
– Hypertriglyceridemia is frequent in patients with covid 19 pneumonia in MV (18% of patients with TG > 500 mg/dL).
– The incidence of intensive care unit-adquired weakness in patients with covid 19 infection was 22% (MRC < 48).

**001395**

**Utility of NUTRIC Score in postoperative of pancreatic surgery oncological, assessment of entry in our Intensive Care Unit and Mortality**

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**Correspondence:** C. Aranda Martínez

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, **8**(2): 001395

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– The incidence of intensive care unit-adquired weakness in patients with covid 19 infection was 22% (MRC < 48).

**Table 1: Sample’s baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (n)</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyslipidemia</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertriglyceridemia TG &gt;500 mg/dL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICU mortality</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital mortality</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enteral nutrition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenteral nutrition</td>
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</table>

**Table 2: Sample’s baseline characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total (n)</th>
<th>Mean ± SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apache</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MV</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurovascular blokade</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
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<td>Prone position</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corticosteroids</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerids first 48 hours</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triglycerids first week</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caloric intake</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein intake</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood sugar</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3: Multivariable analysis with Cox regression; dependant variable: mortality**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood sugar</td>
<td>1.023 (CI 1.008-1.039)</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caloric intake</td>
<td>0.997 (CI 0.994-0.999)</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction: Relate nutritional status with the presence of complications and mortality in patients undergoing pancreatic oncological surgery admitted to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Methods: Retrospective cohort study of patients undergoing pancreatic oncological surgery at the University Hospital of Jaén, admitted to the ICU for postoperative management from December 2017 to December 2019. Nutritional risk was evaluated using the NUTRIC (NUTritional Risk in Critically ill) score. A descriptive analysis was performed and multivariate analysis.

Results: 47 patients, 29 were male. The median age was 69 (43-86) years, APACHE II 12 (5-20), SOFA score 6 (1-15), Charlson index 3 (2-9) and Nutric score 4 (2-9). Median days of ICU admission was 2 days (1-37). Comorbidities: 55% arterial hypertension, 36% diabetes mellitus, 11% atrial fibrillation, 8% ischemic heart disease, 6% COPD and 4% chronic kidney disease.

32 patients had pancreatic neoplasia. In 87% (36/41) the type of surgery performed was celiac duodenopancreatectomy. Complications intraoperative: 36% (17/47) hemodynamic instability, 23% (11/47) bleeding intraoperative and of these 5 required transfusion. Surgical complications: 7 Suture dehiscence and 6 pancreatic fistula. 16 patients had a NUTRIC of high risk and in 13 of them early parenteral nutrition was started.

Six patients re-admitted in the ICU and 4 of them died on re-admission, median of re-entry days was 6 (2-15) from ICU discharge. ICU mortality was 12% and hospital mortality of 23%.

In the multivariate analysis we observed a statistically significant relationship between the high nutritional risk (NUTRIC score 5-9); history of chronic kidney disease (p=0.044; OR 0.31 (0.20-0.48)), ICU readmission (p=0.044; OR 0.31 (0.20-0.48)) and ICU Mortality (p=0.001; OR 0.26 (0.16-0.44)).

Conclusion: We have observed that a high-risk nutritional status can relate to the mortality of our sample, in addition readmissions of these patients were more frequent. A multidisciplinary team has been created management of these patients with the aim of improving the state nutritional and consequently prognosis and morbidity and mortality.

001467

Creatine trials in Critically Ill patients: review of literature

J Deen

Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001467

Introduction: Many critically ill patients experience a long rehabilitation course due to prolonged ventilatory support and inflammatory state. Creatine has a pivotal role in ATP formation and increasing muscular performance, when combined with resistance training (1). Supplementation might enhance the recovery of the critically ill patient.

Objectives: A review of the literature assessing the possible roles of creatine supplementation in rehabilitation of critically ill patients.

Methods: A PubMed search was conducted, only articles in English, on adult humans were withheld. Case reports were excluded. Cochrane database was searched. Ongoing trials in the ICU were assessed. (clinicaltrials.gov, controlled-trials.com).

Results: 42 articles were withheld: no trials in the ICU were found. Only 18 of these were clinical trials. Cochrane reviews were found on creatine in cardiovascular disease and (neuro)muscular disorders.

Conclusion: The muscular performance-enhancing effect of creatine supplementation is preserved in age related sarcopenia(2), disuse muscle wasting(3), cachexia(4) and muscular disorders(5), but only when combined with resistance training. No clear benefit was found in neuromuscular(6), mitochondrial(7) or motor neuron disease(8). Creatine’s effect on ICU acquires weakness will depend on whether myopathy or polyneuropathy predominate. Creatine’s free-radical scavenging and post-ischemic protein synthesis enhancing properties might ameliorate the muscular effects of systemic inflammatory conditions(9).

Both pulmonary and cardiac dysfunction might impair rehabilitation tolerance. Creatine supplementation does not ameliorate COPD patient’s quality of life or exertional performance(10), yet the underlying pathophysiology of COPD is different than that of respiratory weakness after prolonged ventilation. A reduction of dyspnea and orthopnea in heart failure have been noted after months of creatine intake(11). Cognitive performance, neuroprotection and stress-related endogenous crisis in chronic kidney disease might require supplementation(15).

There are no studies into creatine supplementation in the ICU, only two reviews advocate its further study(16,17). Other creatine supplementation studies in specific populations are often lacking in patients and are relatively few in number. Dosing regimens vary amongst studies making comparison harder. Creatine supplementation might have multiple positive effects on rehabilitation of critically ill patients when combined with resistance training. Studies establishing its applications and safety in the ICU are needed.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

Albumin Is Not a Buffer in Human Plasma

Introduction: Physiology textbooks consider albumin to be an important buffer in human plasma and blood. (1) According to traditional definition buffers are substances which by their presence in solution increase the amount of acid or alkali that must be added to cause unit change in pH. (2) Contrarily, Stewart’s quantitative physicochemical theory predicts that weak acids such as albumin actually cause H+ to change more rapidly with addition of acid (defined as change in strong ion difference or pCO2). (3) However, this theory has not yet been experimentally verified.

Objectives: Our aim was to prepare an experiment to assess which of the aforementioned theories better describes the effect of albumin on pH in human plasma.

Methods: We used lyophilized albumin from human serum, sodium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and water to prepare 5 solutions of artificial plasma with varying concentrations of albumin (10, 30, 50, 70 and 90 g/L). Strong ion difference of all samples was 39-41 mEq/L and osmolarity was 252-284 mOsmol/L. Using CO2 tonometer, we exposed the samples to varying levels of pCO2 (2-16 kPa) at 37°C. The pCO2 and corresponding pH were immediately measured using standard blood gas analyser. At least 15 measurements were performed on each sample. In physiological pH range the dependency of H+ on pCO2 in plasma is linear, therefore the buffer power of each solution was estimated according to slope of the H+/pCO2 line. To increase biological plausibility of the model the whole process was than reproduced with addition of red blood cells (RBC) of a healthy volunteer thus creating solutions resembling whole blood.

Results: As shown in the figure, increasing the concentration of albumin caused the solution to be more acidic (observed as steeper H+/pCO2 line). The same phenomenon was observed in presence of RBC.

Conclusion: The results of our experiment confirm Stewart’s predictions that albumin, as a weak non-volatile acid, does not make the solution more resistant to pH changes, but rather sets a baseline value from which the pH changes of the solution are derived. Despite being recognized by Stewart’s approach enthusiasts, this fact is not well known by majority of physiologists and clinicians. Consequently, patients with hypoalbuminaemia and respiratory failure might be less prone to acidifying effects of CO2 accumulation, but clinical relevance of this phenomenon needs further investigation.
A descriptive study of nutritional treatment of patients affected by SARS-CoV-2 admitted in the ICU of the Consorci Hospital General Universitari from Valencia in Spain

Introduction: Up until today, the acute patient affected by COVID 19 disease presents with a severe acute inflammatory disease, mainly affecting the respiratory system. The severely acute patients need admission to Intensive Care Units (ICU), in order to receive respiratory support, for at least 48 hours. Due to this complications, COVID 19 is related to high nutritional requirements and at the same time the need to avoid volume overload. Moreover, patients affected by COVID 19, need muscular relaxation and prone positions maneuvers as part of the treatment, as well as the administration of rather unusual medication via nasogastric tube. Additionally, this unusual medication, is rarely used in ITU and has higher risk of interaction with other medication. On the basis of the above, the acute patient affected by SARS-CoV-2 infection has higher risk of malnutrition, with all the consequences associated with it. This patients might benefit from a nutritional protocol specific for ITU patients.

Objectives: To describe and analyse if patients affected by SARS-CoV-2 admitted in the ICU of the Consorci Hospital General Universitari from Valencia (CHGU) during the pandemic period from February to May 2020 reached the 80% of the nutritional requirements obtained by weight.

Methods: Observational, descriptive, retrospective and longitudinal design to evaluate the accomplishment of estimated nutritional requirements in positive COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU of the CHGU.

Results: A sample of 29 patients was obtained. 24.1% started enteral nutrition early. 28.6% of the patients reached the nutritional requirements before day 10, while 35.7% did not reach the nutritional requirements at any time. 6.9% reached nutritional requirements before day 15 and 17.2% before day 20. 12.6% was not evaluable because oral tolerance was not possible. Furthermore, 10.34% received complementary parenteral nutrition, 33.3% for failing to meet the requirements.

Conclusion: In our study, data collection such as height and weight was not accurate enough, so the exact BMI was unknown. Besides, the pandemic situation provoked a different behaviour and more difficulties to accomplish the nutritional standards. That means, our patients were no table to get the nutritional requirements. Finally, it is very important to create new protocols to help us to understand our context and improve it.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
vasopressor treatment. Acute kidney injury (AKI) was developed in 33% of patients. We determined new site infections in 23 patients (31%). Cancer as additional co-morbidity (β (SE): 0.711, OR (low, up): 9.874 (2.451-39.783), p = 0.001) and increased age (β (SE): 0.032 OR (low, up): 1.096 (1.029-1.167), p = 0.004) was determined as an independent risk factor for ICU mortality. ICU mortality was 27%.

**Conclusion:** As a result of this study, the most common cause of CLD was hepatitis C and the most frequent reason for hospitalization was GI bleeding. Cancer and older age were determined independent risk factor for mortality with critical chronic liver disease patients in ICU.

**001192**

**Risk factors associated with disability and mortality at six months after ICU discharge, in traumatic brain injury patients with refractory intracranial hypertension and decompressive craniectomy in a neurotraumatic ICU**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001192**

**Introduction:** Patients with severely head-injured have worse outcomes. Moderate and severe disability occurred around a sixth of these patients. Moreover, about 33% of them do not survive and the remaining patients usually end up with persistent vegetative state. Decompressive craniectomy (DC) is recommended as a second level treatment of Traumatic Brain Injured (TBI) patients with refractory intracranial hypertension (ICH). The outcome of DC still remains controversial.

**Objectives:** To analyze factors related to disability and mortality at 6 months after ICU discharge, in TBI patients with refractory ICH with DC.

**Methods:** A retrospective study was performed in TBI patients admitted to the ICU from May 1, 2009 to December 31, 2018, who had DC after a TBI with refractory ICH. Demographic variables and risk factors associated with mortality were analyzed, demographic data; neurological data (clinical examination and Glasgow Coma Score: GCS); hypotension type of craniectomy and DC complications; Rankin scale, and Glasgow outcome scale (GOS at ICU discharge and 6 months after ICU discharge and 30 days after it; hypo and hyperglycemia; application of mannitol or hypertonic saline solution before and after DC and other related factors. The percentages were compared with the X2 test or Fisher’s exact test, the means with the t-test and the medians with the Wilcoxon test for independent data. A multidimensional logistic analysis of mortality was performed 6 months after ICU discharge.

**Results:** Twenty eight out of 230 TBI and 105 polytrauma patients, with associated severe TBI, were included. Hospital mortality was 28.6% and ICU mortality was 10.7%. Factors associated with mortality that showed statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) were among others (Table 1a and 1b): age (p = 0.002), APACHE II (p = 0.006), Higher GCS at ICU admission (p = 0.013), midline displacement on cranial CT, GOS and Rankin Scale, both at ICU discharge (p = 0.005 and p = 0.001, respectively) and 30 days after ICU discharge (p = 0.004 and p = 0.005, respectively). GOS values were 3 at ICU discharge and 30 days after it Rankin was 5 at ICU discharge and 30 days after it was 3.

Factors that were independently associated with mortality, at 6 months after ICU discharge, were diabetes mellitus, hypertension, otorrheal intubation in the prehospital setting, no reactive pupils before and reactive after DC (Table 2). The most common observed complications were nosocomial pneumonia (67.9%), extraxial hematoma at the surgical site (57.1%) and hydrocephalus (39.3%).

**Conclusion:** Patients with TBI and ICH refractory to medical treatment and undergoing DC, had a low mortality rate at ICU discharge, but with severe disability, factors independently associated with mortality at 6 months after ICU discharge were diabetes mellitus, arterial hypertension, otorrheal intubation in the prehospital setting, none reactive pupils before DC and both reactive pupils after DC.
Retrospective analysis of the practice of anti-seizure prophylaxis in traumatic brain injury

S. Premaratne1, T. Mehesrey1, E. Neyens1, N. Chakraborty1, S. Pacheco1, M. Chapman1

1Critical Care Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Canada

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001257

Introduction: Significant variability exists among physicians, in the prophylactic use of anticonvulsants in severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the degree of compliance to the Brain Trauma Foundation guidelines in the administration of anti-epileptic prophylaxis and to determine the incidence of post-traumatic seizures (PTS) in a cohort of critically ill patients with TBI.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of adult patients with traumatic brain injury, admitted to a level III Intensive Care Unit (ICU) over a period of 4 years, was carried out. Details on the demographic data, severity of injury, CT severity grades, use of EEG monitoring and the administration of anti-epileptic prophylaxis were determined. The incidence of post-traumatic seizures was compared between the groups of patients who received anti-epileptic prophylaxis and those who did not.

Results: 562 patients were included in the study. Anti-seizure prophylaxis was given to 77% of the patients with severe TBI. Serum phenytoin levels were measured in only a minority of patients (13.1%) and 34% of them were at a sub-therapeutic level. Standard EEG monitoring was employed in only 3% of patients who received anti-epileptic prophylaxis and those who did not.

Conclusion: Post-traumatic seizures occur despite the prophylaxis with anti-epileptics. Administration of phenytoin should be guided with serial measurements of serum phenytoin levels and continuous EEG monitoring.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001291 Prognosis, clinical and demographic characteristics of critical patients with spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001291

Introduction: Spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage (SICH) is the second most frequent type of cerebrovascular accident with an incidence of 10-15% and a high morbidity and mortality worldwide. To differentiate patients at higher risk of mortality may improve its management and result in better outcomes.

Objectives: To describe the characteristics of patients with SICH as well as treatment strategies and mortality.

Methods: Observational, descriptive and prospective study of 1321 patients who were admitted to a neurocritical ICU between March 1996 and March 2020. We analyzed demographic and clinical characteristics (Glasgow Coma Scale (GSC), Intracranial Hemorrhage Score (ICH), hydrocephalus and pupils). The volume and location of the hematoma, intraventricular extension, treatment strategy and mortality were analyzed too.

Results: Mean age was 58.8 years (SD 15.1) and 62.6% were males with a mean ICH stay of 7.2 ± 9.3 days and hospital stay of 25.7 ± 35.1 days. Mean GSC score at ICU admission was 6 (SD 3) with 8 points or less in a 66.3% of patients and mean ICH score was 2.37 (SD 1.38). Only 1 patient (0.1%) was admitted with an ICH score of 6. Most of patients (73%) presented with normal pupillary reflex and only 11% were admitted with nonreactive bilateral mydriasis. Mean hematoma volume was 54.6 cc (SD 51.1) and the most frequent location was supratentorial (78.3%), being basal ganglia specifically the most prevalent (46.8%). Intraventricular hemorrhage developed in 70.7% but less than half (45.1%) suffered from hydrocephalus. 22.8% of patients were under surgical treatment and an external ventricular drainage was placed in 14.8% of patients. ICU mortality was 45.4% and hospital mortality was higher (50.5%).

Conclusion: Patient with SICH who is admitted at our neurocritical ICU is usually a male in his sixties with high risk of mortality (high bleeding...
Clinical characteristics and initial management strategy as predictors of outcome in patients with severe non-traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage, a single center experience

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001345

Introduction: Non-traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) is a disease with high mortality and disability rates. Identification of risk factors and initial management decisions may affect outcome.1

Objectives: To investigate the association of clinical characteristics and early interventions with outcome in patients with severe non-traumatic SAH.

Methods: This study is an observational, retrospective, single-center study conducted in a Level III intensive care unit (ICU) of a tertiary referral hospital in Greece. Population of the study was comprised of 29 patients that were admitted in the ICU between July 2018 and February 2020 with the diagnosis of non-traumatic SAH. Outcome was assessed with the Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended (GOS-E) at 28 days, 3 months and 6 months after admission. A favorable outcome was defined as a GOS-E score of 5 or higher at last available assessment.

The clinical parameters that were evaluated as potential predictors of outcome were age, gender, Acute Physiology And Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score and Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) on admission. Initial treatment and monitoring options under investigation were external ventricular drainage (EVD) catheter, surgery before ICU admission and intracranial pressure (ICP) monitoring. Fisher’s exact test was used for comparison and univariate logistic regression models were fitted to the data.

Results: We present our results as preliminary because of limited sample size. Mean age of participants was 62.3 (± 8.5) years and the majority (72.4%) were females. Median GCS on admission was 6 (IQR 5) indicating severity and mean APACHE II score was 20.34 (± 5.38). A trend of age being negatively associated with favorable outcome was observed (p = 0.126, p = 0.005, OR 0.87, 95%CI 0.73, 1.04). Likewise, increased APACHE II score on admission exhibited a negative impact on favorable outcome (p = 0.224, p = 0.005, OR 0.86, 95%CI 0.67-1.1). Increased GCS on admission had a significant positive relationship with favorable outcome (p = 0.02, p = 0.05, OR 1.74, 95%CI 1.09, 2.27).

In our population male gender was related with unfavorable outcome but that was not significant (p = 0.9, p = 0.05, OR 0.86, 95%CI 0.08, 9.69).

Regarding interventions, surgery for SAH during admission was associated with a trend towards favorable outcome (p = 0.483, p = 0.005, OR 2.36, 95%CI 0.21, 25.91). In the majority of our patients (86.2%) EVD was placed and this results are consistent in both groups in terms of sex. Regarding severity scores; APACHE-II and APACHE-III were significantly lower in the second cohort (p = 0.003 for APACHE-II, p = 0.001 for APACHE-III) but for SAPS-II score difference was not significant (44 ± 22 cohort 1, 42 ± 19 cohort 2, p = 0.229). Mean ICU stay in the first cohort was 7.2 ± 9.5 days and 7.3 ± 7.4 days in the second one (p = 0.108). Mean hospital stay was 25.6 ± 35.6 days in the first cohort and 26.9 ± 29.9 days in the second one (p = 0.096). Both groups had similar SICH characteristics in terms of volume (p = 0.096), location (p = 0.169), intraventricular hemorrhage (p = 0.354) and hydrocephalus (p = 0.189). No differences were found as well in treatment strategy. Surgical intervention was 21.9% in the first cohort and 32.7% in the second one (p = 0.08). Ventricular drainage was placed in 14.4% of the first and 18.6% of the second cohort (p = 0.231). Regarding mortality there were not statistically significant differences in ICU mortality (46.1% first cohort, 38.1% second cohort, p = 0.102) or hospital mortality (51.2% first cohort, 42.5% second cohort, p = 0.075).

Conclusion: We can conclude that the characteristics of the patients with SICH have been similar over time except age that is higher in the most recent cohort. Results are similar in both groups in terms of
Incidence of Ventilatory Associated Events (VAEs) in patients with severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and association with Thromboelastography (TEG) abnormalities

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Correspondence: J. Rhodes

Incidence: Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT) is common in patients with TBI and correlates with poor outcome, increased number of days of mechanical ventilation and length of admission [1,2]. An increased number of VAEs has been described in these patients. The TARDIS (Traumatic Brain Injury Associated Radiological Deep Vein Thrombosis Incidence and Significance) study has been designed to investigate incidence (via compression ultrasound) of DVT in patients with moderate/severe TBI who require ventilation. The association between DVT and acute lung injury (ALI), VAEs, ICU length of stay and short or long-term survival and disability outcomes are secondary objectives.

Methods: Following consent, ventilatory associated events (new x-ray infiltrates, worsening of oxygenation or increased secretions, signs of inflammation, need to commence patients on antibiotics with or without microbiological confirmation) were recorded to 10 days post injury in ventilated patients with brain trauma admitted to intensive care unit, as part of the TARDIS study protocol. A compression ultrasound scan (US) of both legs was performed and repeated on alternate days up to Day 10 from injury; clinical, ventilatory and laboratory variables were collected daily. TEG was performed at admission, as per the manufacturers’ instructions. Clinical and viscoelastic variables were collected daily. TEG was performed at admission, as per the manufacturers’ instructions. Clinical and viscoelastic variables were collected daily.

Introduction: Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT) is common in patients with TBI and correlates with poor outcome, increased number of days of mechanical ventilation and length of admission [1,2]. An increased number of VAEs has been described in these patients. The TARDIS (Traumatic Brain Injury Associated Radiological Deep Vein Thrombosis Incidence and Significance) study has been designed to investigate incidence (via compression ultrasound) of DVT in patients with moderate/severe TBI who require ventilation. The association between DVT and acute lung injury (ALI), VAEs, ICU length of stay and short or long-term survival and disability outcomes are secondary objectives.

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Results: Preliminary data from a single Institution are included. Six out of 15 (40%) patients developed VAE during the first 10 days of admission. No significant correlation was observed between gender, age, GCS and Marshall scores at admission and VAEs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Overall (n=15)</th>
<th>VAE (n=5)</th>
<th>NO VAE (n=10)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K &lt;2.1</td>
<td>6 (42.8%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>6 (100%)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha &gt;38</td>
<td>9 (60.0%)</td>
<td>1 (20.0%)</td>
<td>8 (80.0%)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEG displayed increased K and reduced Alpha angle values (see Table). Mean values were altered in both groups, but contingency test showed a high percentage of patients with VAEs with prolonged K (66%) and reduced a (83%). Four out of 6 patients (66%) had both values altered.

Conclusion: VAEs are frequent in our cohort of patients with TBI requiring mechanical ventilation. Despite no statistical significance, our data suggest that a hypocoagulable profile recorded via TEG seems associated with increased risk of developing VAEs. This work requires further confirmation and is continuing in the TARDIS study.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Dr Rhodes is supported by a National Health Service Research Scotland Clinician Fellowship.

TARDIS is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia and the British Journal of Anaesthesia.
Introduction: Positive CSF culture is the cornerstone of EVD related infections (ERI) diagnosis. However it is time consuming while prompt antimicrobial therapy is crucial. Several conventional CSF parameters have supplementary used but their diagnostic accuracy especially in case of hemorrhagic CSF is uncertain. Under these limitations the cell index, a formula to correct for blood contamination, and the CSF/serum glucose ratio have been proposed as alternatives.

Objectives: To evaluate and compare the utility of cell index over the CSF/serum glucose ratio in early diagnosis of ERI in patients with hemorrhagic CSF.

Methods: We reviewed data of consecutive adult neurocritical patients who received an EVD in an emergency setting from January 2018 to April 2020. We enrolled patients with raised clinical suspicion for ERI in whom at least one CSF sample and complete blood count send for analysis at the same day. Samples were obtained from the EVD system. Patients who excluded were those who had prior hospitalization or CNS infection. All included patients received antimicrobial impregnated EVD catheters at the operating theatre and protocol based antimicrobial prophylaxis as well with no further antibiotic exposure until CSF sampling. ERI was defined based on CSF positive cultures. We assigned patients into two groups according to presence or absence of ERI. Data concerning demographics, indication of EVD insertion, GCS, Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) and APACHE II were collected. Peripheral blood (WBC, RBC, glucose) and CSF (WBC, RBC, glucose, culture) cytobiochemical/microbiological analyses at the time of clinical suspicion of ERI were retrieved. We calculated for each sample the cell index [(CSF leukocytes/CSF erythrocytes)/(blood leukocytes/blood erythrocytes)] and the CSF/serum glucose ratio. Categorical variables were tested using a chi-square test and continuous variables using the Student's t test or Mann Whitney U test. The level of significance was set at P < 0.05. The predictive ability of the CSF tests of interest was estimated using an area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC-ROC) analysis.

Results: 28 patients met study criteria (mean age 62.21 ± 11.59; females 60.71%). 19 of them were classified as non ERI whereas 9 as ERI (32.14%). Indications for drain placement were TBI (1/03), aSAH (11/57) and ICH/VH (7/2). No differences were observed in baseline characteristics (gender, age, GCS, CCI, APACHE II) or in indication of EVD insertion between the groups (p > 0.05). In patients with ERI the median cell index was 15.14 vs 0.61 for the rest of patients (p < 0.001). No statistical difference was noted in CSF/serum glucose ratio when comparing ERI and non ERI patients (0.53 vs 0.76 respectively; p = 0.058). Discriminatory power of cell index was excellent (AUC,0.927; 95%CI,0.763-0.991; p < 0.001) in confirming ERI at the time of clinical suspicion whereas that of the CSF/serum glucose ratio was fair (AUC,0.722; 95%CI,0.522-0.874; p = 0.069).

Conclusion: In the context of hemorrhagic CSF, cell index calculation had an excellent diagnostic accuracy in confirming ERI in our cohort as compared to the widely used CSF/serum glucose ratio. Our results extend knowledge from previous studies. Further research should be carried out in order to incorporate this costless index in every day clinical practice.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.
most common in women and predominantly confused with migraine symptoms. It is crucial to identify the population at risk of SM to reduce the unnecessary administration of unnecessary treatments.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. No grant acknowledgment.

**001497**

**Diagnosis of Meningitis in Neurocritical patients – a retrospective analysis**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001497

**Introduction:** The diagnosis of meningitis is a clinical challenge in intensive care, even more in neurocritical patients. This population has an increased risk of meningitis, related to cerebral damage, surgical intervention and use of intracranial devices.

However, the classical clinical diagnosis of meningitis is compromised in neurocritical patients, due to impaired neurological status, and difficult valuation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

**Objectives:** To describe and analyse the determinant factors to diagnose meningitis in neurocritical patients: risk factors, interventions/ intracranial devices, clinical signs and CSF analysis.

**Methods:** Retrospective analysis of adult neurocritical patients admitted in an intensive care unit (ICU) from a 3-year period in which meningeval infection was suspected and CSF analysis was done.

**Results:** Twenty-seven surgical patients were included, with a mean age of 49 years old. Seventy percent of the patients were male. The ICU mortality was 11%. Meningitis was diagnosed in more than 65% of the sample. There were no significant association between any risk factor, intervention/intracranial device or clinical sign and the diagnosis of meningitis. When analyzing the CSF, there was a significant association between cell counting and the diagnosis of meningitis, with a mean cell counting of 122/mL vs 923/mL (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Classical signs of meningitis are of little use in neurocritical intensive care patients. Risk factors and interventions or the use of intracranial devices may be an alert to doctors but were not significantly associated with the diagnosis. The most crucial parameter to better diagnosis of meningitis is the cell number of CSF analysis.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001546**

**Evaluation of the effect of early administered neuroprotective drug on treatment results in patients after traumatic brain injury - PILOT trial**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001546

**Introduction:** TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury: traumatic brain injury) is associated with one of the highest rate of deaths and setbacks in the recovery and return to life in society. The latest reports of the medical literature emphasized the need for further research in terms of methods for treatment of patients with TBI. One of the drugs with positive impact on prognosis in this group of patients is cerebrolysin. This drug is a component produced from a homogeneous, purified pig brain, containing different protein molecules of low molecular weight, which have neuroprotective and neurotrophic effects in vitro and in vivo.

In the existing literature there are no reports describing the effect of early cerebrolysin administration in patients with TBI, in correlation with neuropsychological tests and neuroimaging results.

**Objectives:** Evaluation of the impact of early administration of neuroprotective drug (cerebrolysin) on outcome of patients after a TBI, who were treated neurosurgically and under the conditions of the ICU.

**Methods:** 10 patients were included in the study according to inclusion criteria: TBI diagnosis (subarachnoid, epidural, or subdural hemorrhage) in patients, who were qualified for neurosurgical treatment (decompressive craniectomy, implantation of ventricular drainage), age 40-65y, GCS <8, time from the injury less than 6 h. After randomisation patients were assigned to two groups (Group 1 early drug administration, Group 2 control group). After the qualification the neuroprotective drug was administrated in Group 1 (Cerebrolysin - intravenous infusion 50 ml for 21 days, first dose in first 6 hours after the injury). After the neurosurgical treatment the patients of both groups were hospitalized in the ICU where standard intensive care was provided in both groups. The condition of the patients was monitored by neuroimaging (Computed Tomography), and neuropsychological tests (Barthel scale: evaluation of the efficacy of the patient, Mini-Mental State Examination: the scale of assessment of cognitive disorders).

**Results:** The results of the study contain the results of general outcome of the patients, GOC, the neuroimaging and psychological tests results.

**Conclusion:** The effects of early administration of neuroprotective drug (cerebrolysin) in correlation with neuroimaging results and neuropsychological test results of patients after TBI need further research on larger group.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

1. Presented PILOT study was funded by University Hospital nr 1 in Szczecin with Everpharma partial participation in neuroprotective drug (Cerebrolysin) costs.
**001558**

**Functional situation of patients who enter the ICU by Traumatic Brain Injury at 3-4 years of follow-up**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001558**

**Introduction:** To study in patients admitted to the ICU with traumatic brain injury (TBI), the long-term functional situation (3-4 years) and analyze whether the evaluation one year after admission in ICU reflects what your situation will be in the future.

**Methods:** Prospective cohort study of patients with TBI admitted to the ICU of the Regional Hospital of Malaga during the years 2004 to 2008, collection of data at hospital admission and subsequent follow-up with telephone call to evaluate functional situation. GOS (Glasgow Outcome Scale) was used to assess the functional situation. X2 was used for proportion comparison and p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** A total of 531 patients, age 35 (22.56) years, APACHE II 17 (13.23) points, Glasgow 7 (4.10) points, were included in the study. Mortality in the ICU was 25% and in hospital mortality was 28.6%. Of the 379 patients admitted to the hospital, follow-up could be performed at one year in 363 patients and their functional situation was as follows: GOS 1 (deceased): 38 (10.5%), GOS 2: 15 (4.1%), GOS 3: 98 (27%), GOS 4: 99 (27.3%) and GOS 5: 113 (31.1%). At 3-4 years, a new follow-up of patients was performed and 445 patients (86 missing) could be evaluated. The classification according to the Glasgow Outcome Scale shows that 181 patients (171 per year and 10 thereafter) had died (GOS 1). At 1 year, 40.2% of the 445 patients evaluated had good functional status (Normal (GOS 5) or Disfunction but Self-Sufficient (GOS 4)). At 3-4 years, 45% (N = 200) had good functional status (GOS-4-GOS 5) and 64 (14.38%) of the patients followed and who had not died had a poor functional status (Vegetative (GOS 2) or Disfunction and not Self-Sufficient (GOS 3)). Among the patients who had no died, only 1 patient had worsened their functional status between the year and 3-4 years and 65 patients had improved their functional status (14.6% of the total 445 patients evaluated per year and 23.7% of the patients who had not died per year and who were followed at 3-4 years).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOS 1st year</th>
<th>GOS 3rd-4th year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<th>GOS 3rd-4th year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>

X = 1200, p <0.001

**Conclusion:** In patients admitted to the ICU with TBI, the year-end evaluation of the functional situation does not reflect what their functional situation will be in the future. And these patients show that the evaluation one year after admission in ICU reflects what your situation will be in the future. And these patients show that the evaluation one year after admission in ICU reflects what your situation will be in the future.

**001567**

**A correlation of gastrointestinal motility disorders and acute brain injury in the patients admitted to the ICU in one year period**

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**Correspondence:** S. Kvolik

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001567**

**Introduction:** Gastrointestinal motility (GI) disorders were frequently observed in the patients with neurodegenerative diseases and in the critically ill patients. The incidence of both gastroparesis and constipation in the neurological patients in the intensive care units (ICU) was rarely reported and was not correlated with brain swelling in the area of the vagal nuclei.

**Objectives:** The aim of this cross-sectional study was to evaluate the incidence of gastroparesis, constipation and stress ulcers in neurological patients, and the correlation between acute brain injury in the area of the vagal nerve and GI motility disorders.

**Methods:** An institutional ethics committee approval was obtained prior to the study. Electronic database and medical records of 207 neurological patients hospitalized at ICU of the University Hospital Centre Osijek from November 2018 to November 2019 were analyzed. Demographic data, total opioid consumption per patient, drugs used for GI stimulation, and brain CT images were correlated with gastroparesis and constipation. A subgroup of 69 mechanically ventilated (MV) patients who stayed in the ICU for >4 days was investigated up to the day 15. Total opioids were calculated as morphine equivalents (ME). Brain lesions involving the vagal nuclei area was graded by neuroradiologist as follows: 1 no edema, 2 edema present, 3 edema with midline shift. Gastroparesis and constipation were considered if delayed emptying without evidence of mechanical obstruction was present.

**Results:** A total of 113 emergency and 94 elective patients were admitted in the ICU. In the subgroup of 69 MV patients (63 emergency and 6 elective) who stayed >4 days in the ICU brain edema was registered in 57 (82.6%) patients. Gastroparesis was observed in 48 (69.6%), constipation in 67 (97.1%) and stress ulcers in 4 (5.8%) of MV patients. During their ICU stay patients had GI stimulation for 463 days (39%), and had stool in 306 days (25%) out of 1183 ICU days. The first stool, despite stimulation was registered later in patients with brain edema compared to those who did not have edema (7.0 ± 3 vs 3.5 ± 2.6 days; P = 0.012). Patients with swelling in the vagal nuclei area had common paroxysmal hypertensive episodes and needed more opioids for sedation as compared to patients without edema (12.7 ± 12.1 vs. 46.2 ± 33.9 ME; P < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Patients with brain edema had more GI dysmotility disorders than patients without edema. Randomized controlled studies comparing different sedation protocols, opioid vs. nonopioid may more accurately confirm an occurrence of GI motility disorders, and their correlation with brain edema, and opioid and non-opioid sedation in the ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

2. Institutional projects WF2015-MEFO5-16, VF2016-MEFO5-15 and VF2017-MEFO5-16

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**001570**

**Synocarotid syndrome in carotid angioplasty with stenting**

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**Correspondence:** I. Luneva

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001570**

**Introduction:** Stroke is the most important medical and social problem. One of the primary prevention methods is transluminal balloon angioplasty with stenting of the internal carotid arteries (ICA TBA) for stenosing atherosclerosis as the most common cause of ischemic stroke. A significant risk of surgery is carotid sinus syndrome (SCS). The incidence of SCS to ensure its personalized prevention and treatment

**Objectives:** To determine the frequency and timing of the development of SCS to ensure its personalized prevention and treatment...
in patients with atherosclerotic stenosis of the internal carotid arteries when performing TBA.

**Methods:** The prospective study included 120 patients with atherosclerotic carotid stenosis, who underwent TBA. The indications for surgical treatment were “symptomatic” stenoses of 50% or more and “asymptomatic” stenoses of 70% or more. All patients underwent invasive (Blood Pressure [BP]) and non-invasive monitoring (BP, heart-beat [HB], SPO2, respiratory rate [RR]) during and after surgery. The diagnosis of SCS was established according to the generally accepted classification.

**Results:** SCS developed in 70% of cases of ICA TBA (n = 84), significantly more often in men - 71.4% (n = 60) than in women - 28.6% (n = 24), (p < 0.05). The median age was 68 (44–91). The predominant type of SCS was mixed than cardio-inhibitory or vasodepressor (p < 0.05). It took place in 63% of cases and was characterized by the almost simultaneous occurrence of sinus bradycardia (or asystole) and hypotension. In a little more than half of cases, 54.7% (n = 29) SD5 developed in response to balloon dilatation, in 11.3% (n = 6) patients within 1 hour after dilatation, and in 34% (n = 18) - in more distant terms, on average after 6 hours (from 2 to 11 hours). The cardio-inhibitory type was observed in 20% of cases (n = 17) and in the majority of patients 82% (n = 14) manifested sinus bradycardia both during balloon dilatation and within the first hour after it. Arteriovenous [AV] block of 1 and II degrees took place in 2 patients (11.7%). Asystole for more than 3 seconds without loss of consciousness was noted in 1 patient for balloon dilatation (6.3%). The vasodepressor type was observed in 17% of cases (n = 14). In half of cases - 50% (n = 7) arterial hypotension occurred immediately on balloon dilatation, in 5 patients - within the first hour after dilatation, and in 2 patients - at more distant periods (after 2 and 5 hours).

**Conclusion:** The work performed showed that three out of four patients with elective surgical endovascular intervention on the internal carotid arteries develop SCS, which is most often manifested by the almost simultaneous development of arterial hypotension and sinus bradycardia. In some cases, surgery is accompanied by cardiac arrest. These symptoms can occur not only during balloon dilatation, but also hours after surgery. This requires maximum awareness and preparedness of the anesthesiologist-resuscitator to provide the necessary assistance to patients, including the correct maintenance of blood pressure and heart function in order to prevent stroke and myocardial infarction.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001585**

**Critically ill patients with encephalitis in ICU**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, **8**(2): 001585

**Introduction:** Encephalitis is a severe pathology of the nervous system that is difficult to diagnose and treat. Currently, there are a number of limitations for verifying the etiology of encephalitis. The most common symptom is a change in behavior, a decrease in the level of consciousness up to coma, epileptic seizures, and focal neurological pathology. Often, with viral encephalitis, there is a hemorrhagic transformation of the inflammation focus, interstitial edema in the area of the focus, often with a displacement of the mid-stem structures, which may require decompression craniotomy.

**Objectives:** To investigate the peculiarities of diagnosis and treat-ment of encephalitis of various etiologies.

**Methods:** We observed 5 patients with encephalitis of various etiology. All patients underwent MRI of the brain at admission and in the medical examination. To exclude myelitis, MRI of the cervical spinal cord was performed. Also, all patients underwent a general study of cerebrospinal fluid, PCR of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for the presence of DNA viruses and intrathecal synthesis of oligoclonal antibodies. Also, taking into account the volume and level of lesion of the foci, all patients underwent EEG, and a number of patients underwent blood tests for the presence of antibodies to NMDA receptors.

**Results:** In the neurological status, all patients had behavioral changes, and later a decrease in the level of consciousness to coma in 4 patients and 1 patient developed mutism. Upon further examination, the following etiology of encephalitis was established: in 2 cases, herpetic encephalitis (PCR for Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 was positive), in 1 case, bacterial ventriculomeningoencephalitis (PCR for Listeria monocytogenes was positive), in 1 patient, necrotizing encephalitis associated with Influenza virus, and 1 case - multiple sclerosis (intrathecal synthesis of oligoclonal antibodies was determined in the CSF). In the general analysis of CSF, all patients had an increase in protein and cytosis. EEG in 3 patients out of 5 revealed epileptiform activity, which required the appointment of anticonvulsant therapy. All patients received glucocorticosteroid therapy and antiviral therapy 3 out of 5, antibiotic therapy in 1 patient. IVL was performed in 4 out of 5 patients. 1 patient with herpetic encephalitis underwent decompression trepanation, 1 patient received external ventricular drainage. The outcome in all patients is favorable. (fig MRI).

**Conclusion:** Thus, MRI and CSF examination are necessary diagnostic methods for detecting encephalitis and verifying its etiology. Also, neurosurgical treatment can improve the outcome of patients with progressive ventriculitis or laterally displaced encephalitis.

**001566**

**Asses functional situation at year of patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

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**Introduction:** Study in patients who are discharged from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury (TBI), if the situation neurological evaluated with the Glasgow coma Scale at discharge from ICU and other variables known at admission and during their stay at ICU are related to the situation functional at one year evaluated with the Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS).

**Methods:** Prospective cohort study of patients with TBI admitted to the ICU of the Regional Hospital of Malaga during the years 2004 to 2008, data collection at hospital admission and monitoring of the functional situation with a phone call. Descriptive analysis using programme R.

**Results:** A total of 531 patients, age 35 (22.56) years, APACHE II 17 (13.23) points, Glasgow on admission 7 (4.10) points were included in the study. 398 patients from the total of those admitted were discharged to the ward (6 of them to other hospitals). Follow-up at one year was made of 491 patients, 34 were lost to follow-up. 177 patients died from hospital admission (133 in the ICU, 19 in the hospital ward and 19 in the following year). Using the “R” program, through the
"randomForestSRC" program and the function "Vimp" we have studied the variables with the highest relationship with the dependent variable "Functional situation at one year", classified as good or bad situation. The most related variables in order of importance were: Glasgow Coma Scale score at discharge from ICU, Age, APACHE II, Glasgow Coma Scale Score at ICU admission. The following table shows the relationship with these variables categorized in intervals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glasgow discharge ICU</th>
<th>Good situation (GOS 4 y) (N=209)</th>
<th>Bad situation (GOS 1, 2) (N=202)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;11 p (N=230)</td>
<td>17 (8%)</td>
<td>210 (92%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥11 y ≤14 puntos (N=196)</td>
<td>115 (65%)</td>
<td>61 (35%)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (N=105)</td>
<td>77 (88%)</td>
<td>11 (12%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With these variables it was possible to create a predictive model with "randomForestSRC" with a discrimination evaluated with the Area under the ROC curve 0.818 (0.73-0.90).

**Conclusion:** The patients with the best functional situation at one year are patients who have a Glasgow score on admission to the ICU greater than or equal to 6 points, with an age of less than 66 years, an APACHE II score of less than 18 points and a Glasgow discharge at ICU greater than or equal to 11 points. We can observe that in those patients who are discharged from the ICU with a Glasgow score of less than 11 in 92%, the functional situation is poor at one year (death, vegetative state or severe disability).

**001250**

Trans cranial doppler (TCD) in Covid-19 patients (C-19 P) admitted in Intensive Care Unit shows marked abnormalities of the cerebral blood flow (CBF)

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001250

**Introduction:** Neuropsychological dysfunction is reported in Covid-19 patients (C-19 P) (1). This could be explained by CBF alterations. TDC was performed in C-19 P to explore CBF and was compared to healthy control subjects (C).

**Methods:** 29 C-19 P and 50 C were included during a two months period (March to May 2020). Doppler samples were set at the middle cerebral artery (M1 segment of MCA). Transthoracic echocardiography was used to record Velocity Time Integral at the left ventricular outflow tract (VTIao). Demographic data, reasons for admission in ICU, SAPS, sedative, vasopressor use and ventilator support were recorded as well as Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP), Systolic (Vs), diastolic (Vd) and mean velocities, (Vm), Pulsatility (PI) and Resistivity Indexes (RI). Velocity Time Integral MCA (VTIMCA) was sampled using TCD. Data were shown as median (interquartile: 25-75). T test or non-parametric test (if appropriate) were use. P < 0,05 was considered as significant.

**Results:** Reason for admission in C-19 P was ARDS. The main comorbidities were HTA, diabetes and obesity. Sex ratio(M:F): 20/9 in C-19 P with SAPS II =47(38-62) and 26/24 in C. Age: 62 years (53-67) in C-19 P vs 40 years (30-52) in C. All patients but 2 had invasive respiratory and vasopressor support and sedative drugs.

All TCD classical parameters were altered. The low values of VTIMCA/VTIao ratio and HF*VTIMCA/BSA (might be a surrogate of the CBF for the later) showed an alteration of the CBF. For 15 C-19P, VTIMCA/VTIao ratio was <1,5 and suggested a depressed CBF autoregulation independently of CO. (Spearman: R2:0.62 p < 0,001).

13 C-19 P had delirium during the weaning and two had a fatal ischemic stroke.

**Conclusion:** CBF autoregulation in Covid-19 patients was markedly altered. Alteration of the vasomotor tone thought to be linked to endothelium dysfunction. The persistence of CBF abnormalities must be evaluated as well as the neuro-psychological and cognitive impact on the following.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of 49 patients with severe TBI was made. Among them 38 were males and 11 females. Average age was 34 +/- 12 years, GCS (Glasgow coma scale) score - 5.7 +/- 1.8. Twenty-nine (59%) patients were operated, 17 of them underwent decompressive craniectomy. All victims were admitted to the ICU in the acute period of TBI: 2 +/- 1 days from the moment of injury. Upon admission, all patients underwent brain CT scan and invasive monitoring of ICP. ONSD was assessed at a distance of 3 mm from the posterior pole of the eyeball [3, 7, 8]. Statistical processing was performed using the StatSoft STATITICA 7.0 package.

Results: A significant correlation was obtained between ONSD and the ICP value at the time of ICP sensor (r = 0.39; r2 = 0.15; p < 0.01) implantation. The correlation between the maximum, average ICP value for the entire monitoring period and ONSD did not reach a significant level (p > 0.05), what can be explained by the influence of aggressive methods for ICP correction. There was a significant difference in ONSD in the groups of patients with normal and high ICP (Z = -2.366; p = 0.017).

Conclusion: In our research significant correlation between ONSD and ICP in the acute period of severe TBI was established. There is a further need for a more deeper analysis of the relationship between ONSD and intracranial hypertension duration, the role of aggressive methods for ICP correction [1, 4], as well as the prognostic value of ONSD in patients with various types of acute cerebral injury [4, 9, 10].

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

3. 8. Michael Vaiman, Paul Gottlieb – 2014. Quantitative relations between the eyeball, the optic nerve, and the optic canal important for intracranial pressure monitoring. Tel Aviv, Israel.
7. 4. Lisa Romagnuolo MDa, Vivek Tayal MD – 2005. Optic nerve sheath diameter does not change with patient position. NC, US.

Introduction: Anemia incidence in neurocritical pathologies like subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) is around 30 and 46% respectively (1,2). Anemia is an important cause of secondary neurologic injury due to hypoxia(3). Despite its impact, the thresholds for red blood cell (RBC) transfusion in clinical practice guidelines are only based on hemoglobin values, with no clear recommendation in many cases (4-7).

Objectives: To identify the paraclinical parameters used by health care personal to decide the best moment to transfuse critical care patients with SAH or TBI.

Methods: Data were obtained from December 2017 to December 2019 through a google forms survey distributed by email and published at the “Asociación Colombiana de Medicina Crítica y Cuidado Intensivo (AMCI)” and Latin American Brain Injury Consortium (LABIC) web pages. The questionnaire used a format of multiple-choice and open-ended questions to assess socio-demographic information, literature support in which the contestants based their decisions, safe number of RBC units to transfuse in less than 24 hours, and optimal range of paraclinical tests variables appraising hemoglobin (Hb), brain tissue oxygen tension (PbtO2), jugular venous oxygen saturation (SjvO2) and arterio- jugular differences of CO2 (A-VYCO2). The entire dataset was stored in a spreadsheet (xlsx) gathering a total of 90 responses.

Results: The majority of responses came from intensivists (59%) with ages between 25-40 years old (55.4%). The countries involved in this study were Colombia (22%) and Mexico (11.1%). The type of intensive care unit where the responders worked, was predominantly a mixed unit in 88.2%, with availability of blood bank in 85.1% of cases. The majority of the participants (72 and 76.6%) agree with less than 2 RBC units as a secure limit for blood transfusion in less than 24 hours for patients with TBI and SAH, respectively. Predominantly, there is no perception of medical literature guidance to conceal blood cell transfusion in patients with TBI (66.6%) or SAH (78.8%). The most common response at the moment to determine the optimal range of Hb for TBI and SAH was 9.1-10.0 g/dL (31.1%, 34.4%) (Fig.1), being this parameter used as a secure limit for blood transfusion in less than 24 hours for patients with TBI and SAH, respectively. Predominantly, there is no perception of medical literature guidance to conceal blood cell transfusion in patients with TBI (66.6%) or SAH (78.8%). The prevailing values to start a RBC transfusion in patients for TBI and SAH were < 7 g/dL for Hb (38.8% and 33.3%); 16-20 mmHg for PbtO2 (14.4% and 14.4%); < 55% for SjvO2 (33.3% and 32.2%) and >8 for A-VYCO2 (22.2% and 16.6%) respectively. The majority of respondents use Hb alone for transfusion of RBC (Table 1).

FIG. 1 OPTIMAL RANGE OF HEMOGLOBIN TO START RBC TRANSFUSION

Hb for TBI < 7 g/dL; SAH < 7 g/dL
Hb for TBI 7.1-9.0 g/dL; SAH 7.1-9.0 g/dL
Hb for TBI 9.1-11.0 g/dL; SAH 9.1-11.0 g/dL
Hb for TBI >11.0 g/dL; SAH >11.0 g/dL
No answer

001499

Perception assessment of blood transfusion criteria in neurocritical care patients

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001499
The need to keep our staff up to date

Conclusion: It is important to promote the assessment of other paraclinical tests instead of just Hb to achieve a multimodal neuromonitoring for RBC transfusion in neurocritical care patients. This will allow us to understand more precisely the brain’s metabolic and perfusion status and therefore to improve patients’ outcomes.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001210
The need to keep our staff up to date

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001210

Introduction: At the beginning of the 21st century, proning had become unpopular in ICU’s across the United Kingdom. This was felt to be due to the additional need for resources to carry out, and risk of adverse events (1). However, the ARDSNET trial in 2000 and PROSEVA trial in 2013, both showed mortality benefit for patients without serious adverse outcomes (2,3). The lack of harm was also confirmed by a recent Cochrane review in 2015 (4). In 2019, our remote district general ICU felt that proning should be used more frequently, and an education session was set up to try and improve the multidisciplinary teams’ knowledge and ability to carry it out.

Objectives: Improve the knowledge of respiratory failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) amongst the ICU multidisciplinary team.

Teach all members of the multidisciplinary team how to prone and depron a patient safely.

Empower the team to highlight when they feel a patient is deteriorating and requires proning.

Methods: The teaching sessions were commenced in October 2019. A pre attendance questionnaire was given to the attendees to test their knowledge of respiratory failure, ARDS and proning. They then attended a proning education session where they were given a short lecture followed by a teaching session on how to prone and depron a patient safely.

After the session the same knowledge questionnaire was given out. This allowed us to directly compare their knowledge and see if our intervention was successful.

Results: On average each staff member had proned around one patient in the last 12 months. They also felt before the session that it would take around 30 minutes to prone someone and their main concerns were tube displacement, patient position, risk of injury to patient, line displacement and patient stability.

There were ten knowledge questions. All showed an improvement after the session. When the ten questions were averaged, the percentage of correct answers improved from 56.6% to 85.5%. The staff’s confidence to prone a patient, using a scale out of 10, improved from 4.0 to 8.9.

The staff’s knowledge of the local protocol, using a scale out of 10, improved from 3.2 to 10.

Conclusion: Staff knowledge of respiratory failure, ARDS and proning was greatly increased following the session.

The primary aim of this project was to offer nurses a collective reflection and processing space to enhance post pandemic wellbeing support. The secondary aim was to capture learning about processes that supported effective care delivery. Factors contributing to positive and effective working practices would inform preparedness for a potential second surge.

001235
Building emotional capital through the staff huddles in Covid19 times: An appreciative inquiry

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Introduction: The Royal London Hospital is a major teaching hospital in East London (UK). The Adult Critical Care Unit (ACCU) comprises 44 beds, staffed by 210 nurses. During the Covid-19 pandemic, critical care services doubled in capacity. Critical care nurse to patient ratios were dramatically altered. At the same time, over 300 non-critical care nurses were redeployed into the department to accommodate this increased demand for critical care beds.

Objectives: The primary aim of this project was to offer nurses a collective reflection and processing space to enhance post pandemic wellbeing support. The secondary aim was to capture learning about processes that supported effective care delivery. Factors contributing to positive and effective working practices would inform preparedness for a potential second surge.

Objectives: The primary aim of this project was to offer nurses a collective reflection and processing space to enhance post pandemic wellbeing support. The secondary aim was to capture learning about processes that supported effective care delivery. Factors contributing to positive and effective working practices would inform preparedness for a potential second surge.
Methods: An Appreciative Inquiry model was used to guide small group reflective conversations (1). Critical care and redeployed nurses were invited to take part. Groups were distributed according to their clinical role. All the sessions were facilitated by an external coach, a clinical psychologist and senior staff from the ACCU. A thematic analysis approach was used to identify emerging themes.

Results: The sessions allowed the staff the opportunity to discuss difficult experiences from working in the Covid19 pandemic. Fifty nurses from each staff group participated in these discussions, which generated clear descriptions of what promoted effective working and patient safety. The views from the two different nursing groups about what they valued were complementary. Nurses reported an increased emotional load during Covid-19 with anxiety levels often higher at the beginning of the shift. These resulted from feeling overwhelmed and fearful of not being able to cope. The staff huddle at the start of the shift emerged as a key event to enable effective working and promote nurses’ psychological safety, although this was not consistently used. Redeployed nurses lacked the supportive structures of their familiar workplaces and therefore valued the welcoming and team working environment created by the ITU nurses.

Outcomes from these results include the development of a huddle template and education strategies for promoting staff wellbeing.

Conclusion: Appreciative Inquiry proved a valuable and accessible intervention for nursing staff to acknowledge the achievements and contributions during the Covid19 pandemic. The staff huddle emerged as a vital part of staff wellbeing. It promoted effective working relationships, which in turn, are likely to impact positively on care delivery and patient experience. Ongoing work will focus on how to deliver further sessions more widely to other staff and training.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. This project received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Are you reading what I’m writing in the notes? Why not?
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001317

Introduction: In the ICU, nursing notes represent the patient’s narrative at the extremes of illness and are used to support decisions regarding the escalation or withdrawal of treatment. Their importance has recently been dramatically highlighted in a seminal paper that revealed that nursing notes can and do predict patients’ probability of survival:1

Objectives: This is a multi-centre service evaluation investigating the nursing and medical attitudes towards nursing notes. We wanted to investigate how nurses perceived the attitudes of, and frequency with which doctor colleagues read their entries into the patients notes and if there were differences in attitudes across the different training hierarchies of nurses and doctors. In addition we wanted to characterise the perceived reasons that nurses attributed to this lack of attention.

Methods: This project used an anonymous web-based questionnaire that was sent to nurses and doctors in four ICUs in the East of England. Nurses reported their grade, how frequently they believed that doctors read their entries into the patients notes (Always/often/sometimes/rarely/never) and aspects of their notes they thought were important to the doctors. For the purpose of analysis, the frequency of note reviewing was divided into generally positive responses (always/often/sometimes) and generally negative responses (rarely/never).

Doctors reported their grade, the frequency with which they read nursing notes and their views on nursing note contents and their utility. Responses were collected from 47 doctors and 120 nurses. Nurses were stratified by grade into five groups; Group 1 ( < 5 years nursing experience), Group 2 (> 5 years experience), Group 3 (Sisters), Group 4 (CCOT and nurse specialists) and Group 5 (Ward managers and Matrons). Doctors were stratified by staff hierarchical grade into four groups (Foundation, SHO, Registrars and Consultants).

Results: Analysis of 121 nursing staff responses revealed differences in the perceived frequency that nurses reported that their doctor colleagues reviewed their notes. The frequency with which nurses believed doctors reviewed nurses entries appeared to vary with the grade of the nurse, with 66% of Group 4 nurses reporting positively. The most negative responses were that of the most senior nurses in Group 5 with 100% of responses falling into the negative response category. Analysis of the 47 doctors also revealed hierarchical differences, with doctors in training having more ‘generally positive’ results than consultants. 80% of nurses thought this was due to doctors not having enough time/not being interested in the content/not finding them useful. 49% of doctors made similar reports.

Conclusion: Nursing notes appear not to be perceived as serving their function to facilitate effective communication between allied healthcare professionals. Writing notes reduces the time spent on direct clinical tasks, consideration for how to improve this needs to be made.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. None.

Functional Electrical Stimulation-Assisted Cycle Ergometry for Mechanically Ventilated Patients: Randomised Controlled Trial with Six Months Follow Up
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Introduction: Functional electrical stimulation-assisted cycle ergometry (FESCE) enables in-bed leg exercise independently of patients’ volition. We hypothesised that early use of FESCE-based intensified rehabilitation improves physical function in survivors of critical care after 6 months.

Methods: We enrolled mechanically ventilated adults estimated to need >7 days of ICU stay into an assessor-blinded single centre randomised controlled trial to receive either FESCE-based intensified rehabilitation that continued up to day 28 or ICU discharge.

Results: We randomised in 1:1 ratio 150 patients (Age 61 ± 15 years, APACHE II 21 ± 7) at a median of 21 (IQR 19-43) hours after admission to ICU. Mean rehabilitation dose delivered to intervention vs.
control group was 80±35 vs. 56±15 mins per day, p<0.01. At six months 42 (56%) and 46 (61%) were alive in interventional vs. control groups (p = 0.51) and their physical component summary of SF36 (primary outcome) was not different [50 (IQR 21-69) vs. 49 (IQR 49-76); p = 0.26]. At ICU discharge, there were no differences in the ICU length of stay, functional performance, rectus femoris cross-sectional area or muscle power despite daily nitrogen balance 0.6 (95%CI 0.2-1.0) g less negative in intervention group. There were more ICP elevations in intervention group (1.5 vs. 0 ICP elevations/day, p = 0.018) and significantly worse mental component summary score of SF-36 after 6 months (53 (95%CI 45;61) vs. 64 (95%CI 57;72); p = 0.018).

Conclusion: Early delivery of FESCE-based protocolised rehabilitation to ICU patients does not improve physical functioning at 6 months in survivors and may cause harm.

001532
Early mobilization as a facilitator of successful weaning from mechanical ventilation in patients with COVID-19
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Introduction: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic of international concern, cause severe respiratory failure and require invasive mechanical ventilation. Early mobilization (EM) in the ICU is safe, feasible, and reduces the frequency and severity of complications in critical illness patients. Weakness is a frequent problem in ICU, even more evident in patients undergoing mechanical ventilation, patients with COVID-19 usually needs mechanical ventilation. We purpose evaluate early mobilization as a facilitator of successful weaning from mechanical ventilation and post-extubation outcome in patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia.

Objectives: We purpose evaluate early mobilization as a facilitator of successful weaning from mechanical ventilation and post-extubation outcome in patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia.

Methods: This was an observational retrospective analysis performed form medical records of patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia who required invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) for more than 24 hours, and, after that, having passed the spontaneous breathing trial. They were divided into two groups: the first group that underwent early mobilization during the IMV period and the second group receive only passive range of motion (PROM). We defined as early mobilization the following conducts: sitting on the edge of bed, sitting out of bed, active standing, passive standing with a tilt table, and walking during IMV.

Results: We analyzed a total of 40 patients who were submitted tracheal extubation. Patients were divided in two groups, EM group 21 patients and PROM group 19 patients, with average mean age 56,1 (SD ± 16,03) and 66,3 (SD ± 12,91) respectively, the SOFA score mean was 4,52 (SD ± 2,60) versus 6,32 (SD ± 2,71), and the SAPS III was 53,29 (SD ± 9,76) versus 57,11 (SD ± 9,24), the duration of mechanical ventilation was 10,38 (SD ± 4,48) versus 10,42 (SD ± 6,02) respectively. The primary outcome was rate of failed extubation that was in the EM group 2/21 (10%) and PROM group 7/19 (35%) (OR 0.18 [IC 0.03-1.01]), the rate of mortality was the second outcome, the EM group presented (0/21) 0% versus (4/19) 20% respectively.

Conclusion: Early mobilization was feasible, safe and maybe associated with a better outcome for extubated critical patients. Early mobilizations can be associated with lower mortality in COVID-19 patients, probably due the improve muscle strength that these patients develop. The relation between early mobilization and successful weaning of mechanical ventilation in patients with COVID-19 should be further investigated in a large prospective study, that can measure objectively the force at the time of extubation.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
7. Thanks, the physiotherapy team at the São Lucas Copacabana Hospital - Rio de Janeiro Brazil, we worked bravely and tirelessly to promote recovery of patients with COVID-19.

001580
Endotracheal cuff pressure variation in subglottic devices: a prospective observational study
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Introduction: Subglottic devices, i.e. endotracheal tube (ETT) and tracheostomie cannula (CT) are used in critical care both to provide mechanical ventilation and to isolate Airways from the gastrointestinal tract. A correct cuff pressure management is required while caring for critical care patients, in order to avoid ischemic damages coming from an excessive pressure, and to prevent the inhalation risk related to insufficient cuffing. Several studies investigated the influence of mobilization procedures on the cuff pressure, whilst the effects of other procedures (such as endotracheal suctioning) were rarely.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the cuff pressure variations determined by caring interventions, in order to define an ideal cuff pressure monitoring interval and to highlight the procedures most frequently involved in generating cuff pressure out of recommended ranges (20-30 cmH2O).

Methods: Study design and setting. A prospective observational study was conducted within the three ICU of the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Department at the University Hospital of Udine, Italy.

Population. Patients carrying ETT or CT, aged ≥ 18 admitted to ICU between December 2019 and February 2020.

Variables. Cuff pressure was checked before and after caring procedures (changes in position, general hygiene care, oral care, tracheal suctioning, fibre-optic bronchoscopy, device’s dressing). Other patients and devices variables were recorded.

Statistical analysis. Data were analyzed using the software GraphPad Prism 8.0 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA). Descriptive measures were used to describe sample characteristics. Moreover, pressure variation after the procedures was calculated, and the percentage of inadequate (i.e. exceeding the range 20-30 mmHg, as recommended from the available literature) values was determined. Two-tailed rank Wilcoxon test was used to describe periprocedural pressure variation. Fisher exact test was used to determine associations between the independent variables “need for pressure adjustment prior to the procedure”, “length of intubation ≥ 5 days”, “body temperature ≥ 37.5°C”, and the dependent variable “inadequate cuff pressure”. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to describe cuff pressure variations during the days after
patients enrollment in the study. Statistical significance was consid-
ered when p < 0.05.

**Results:** 81 patients (58 males, 72%) were enrolled for observation. Globally, 601 paired observations (i.e. before and after the procedure) were conducted. Median number of observations per patient was 4 (range 1-35). Cuff pressure was out of recommended range after postural change in 58% (351/601) of observations. In 27% (310/1182) of observations after oral hygiene, in 28% (70/250) of observations, after body hygiene in 31% (50/163) of observations, in 27% (33/123) of observations after oral care hygiene, in 28% (70/250) of observations after fibre-optic bronchoscopy, in 23% (45/193) of observations after ETT/CT dressing. Post-procedural cuff pressure reduction occurred in 510 (85%) of observations; particularly, in 62 observations cuff pressure values were <15 cm H2O, and in 3 observations values were ≥10 cm H2O. Median pressure decrease was 6 cmH2O (range: 23; 1 cmH2O). In 65 (11%) observations cuff pressure had no variations and in 26 (4%) it increased. Median pressure increase was 6 cmH2O (range 1-10 cmH2O). Paired two tail Wilcoxon test revealed a statistically significant difference for all paired observations (median difference -5 cmH2O, p < 0.0001) and for single procedures. Fisher test highlighted a statistically significant decrease for all paired observations (median difference -5 cmH2O, p < 0.0001). Duration of intubation pre-procedural adjustment was required (RR 0.58, 95% IC 0.45-0.74; p < 0.0001). Duration of intubation ≥ 5 days resulted in a lower risk for inadequate post-procedural cuff pressure, although the association was not statistically significant (RR 0.78, 95% IC 0.60-1.00; p = 0.595), whilst body temperature ≥ 37.5°C slightly increased the risk for post-procedural inadequate cuff pressure (RR = 1.104, 95% IC 0.81-1.49; p = 0.58).

**Conclusion:** In most observations, a pressure reduction was observed after a procedure was performed, and the amount of procedures generating significant out-of-range pressures was not negligible. Therefore, cuff pressure should always be checked before and after each procedure generating potential variations. Further studies with larger samples might highlight the role of rarely investigated procedures (such as fibre-optic bronchoscopy and body hygiene) and other risk factors related to patient in generating inadequate cuff pressures.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**Introduction:** Patients and relatives have an increased need for information about what happens before, during and after a critical illness and the time at ICU. The knowledge can bring a sense of security and safety and also an opportunity to be more involved in the patient care, and also to be able to get back to the information and read it again during the care. The most common form to inform is an information booklet, but there are limitations as i.e. updating and availability. Today’s technology gives an increased possibility for accessibility of information which can help the patients and relatives during the critical illness and recovery.

**Objectives:** to create an easily accessible, interactive web-application (IVAPP) with information that covers the time of care, before-during and after ICU.

**Methods:** An interprofessional group with a physiotherapist, intensive care nurses, assistant nurses, physicians and management staff was formed. To collect and create content in the IVAPP, a search for current data, as existing information, research and web-sites was done. Contact was also made with various support functions and organizations for their input. Photographs from the ICU and equipment were taken to supplement the written text. Former ICU patients and relatives were invited at two times to review the draft and give feedback on what information they would appreciated to get during their ICU care. The final version was qualitative reviewed by the ICU director and nursing manager before publishing.

The IVAPP was implemented in October 2019 and the information about the release was spread in Swedish national broadcasting, newspapers, in Karolinska Hospital ICUs and at open meetings for staff and patients. Also, all the care units that the ICU patients often stays before and/or after their ICU care was informed about the app.

**Results:** The feedback was positive both from staff, patients and relatives. The information obtained in the cellphone filled the needs, it was accessible for all, even to those that could not be in the ICU and it could be accessed on demand. The information could reduce anxiety, aid preparing for discharge from the ICU and hospital and individualize patient care. Statistics showed that “general information about the ICU”, “to come home”, “what happened during a day in the ICU”, “working in ICU” and “were the most visited sides.

**Conclusion:** IVAPP has been developed in an interprofessional collaboration together with patients and relatives. IVAPP is easily accessible and can give relatives and patients the opportunity to easily find information about intensive care before, during and after the care period.

**Echocardiographic parameters and mortality in pediatric sepsis: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001445

**Introduction:** The International Pediatric Sepsis Consensus defined septic shock as sepsis syndrome complicated with cardiovascular organ dysfunction, with myocardial and/or circulatory failure being leading causes of death. Indeed, septic shock is often characterized also by myocardial depression. The evaluation of cardiac function is important to detect early deterioration that can have important implications for treatment and prognostication. Critical Care Echocardiography (CCE) is an established noninvasive tool for the assessment of hemodynamic changes in adult patients with shock, and its use is increasing in the pediatric critically ill patient too. Several parameters describing left and right ventricular (LV and RV, respectively) function in septic newborns or children have been studied, from the most conventional ones to the use of Tissue Doppler Imaging (TDI) and strain echocardiography (STE). Therefore, we conducted a systematic-review in order to describe the echocardiography parameters most studied so far, and subsequently we performed a meta-analysis aiming at...
investigating the prognostic value of echocardiographic parameters and mortality in pediatric patients with sepsis.

**Objectives:** We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate the prognostic value of echocardiographic parameters and mortality in pediatric septic patients.

**Methods:** Data Sources: MEDLINE, PubMed and EMBASE (last update April 5th, 2020). Study Selection: observational studies conducted on pediatric sepsis providing echocardiographic parameters according to mortality. Data Extraction: Echocardiography data were divided in those describing left ventricular (LV) systolic or diastolic function, right ventricle (RV) function and strain echocardiography parameters. Data were entered dividing studies in two subgroups: newborns and children. Analysis is reported as standardized mean difference (SMD) and 95% confidence interval (CI).

**Results:** We included data from 14 articles (n = 5 newborns, n = 98 children). The Fractional Shortening was the most commonly reported variables (11 studies, n = 555 patients) and was not associated with mortality (SMD 0.22, 95%CI[-0.02, 0.47]; p = 0.097, I2 = 28%). No association with mortality was seen also for LV ejection fraction (9 studies, 7 studies, n = 126, 95%CI[-0.41, 0.25], I2 = 65%). Regarding LV diastolic function, we found a significant association with mortality with E/e' ratio (4 studies, n = 199, SMD -0.45, 95%CI[-0.87, 0.31]; p = 0.01, I2 = 0%). Only 2 studies were conducted with strain echocardiography.

**Conclusion:** We found no association between mortality of septic pediatric patients and parameters evaluating LV systolic function and RV function. A significant association was found between mortality and higher E/e' or lower e', indicating a possible influence of worsened LV diastolic function. These findings are preliminary due to the high clinical heterogeneity of the studies included.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

less than 4 days and the median mechanical ventilation time was 4 days. Regarding the prognostic indices we found low APACHE II and SAPS 2 values reflecting the fact that those patients were electively admitted and that most of them didn't develop any complication during the perioperative phase or during the hospital stay. We also found that postoperative albumin levels were low mainly in the group of patients submitted to awhipple procedure, probably reflecting the magnitude of surgery and the associated stress response. In addition, overall mortality was low in this patient population.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001419
Predictors of mortality and outcomes of acute surgical admissions: a retrospective study
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Introduction: Acute surgical patients account for a significant percentage of admissions in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Outcomes of these surgical patients must be assessed and several clinical scores are available to guide clinicians. Acute Physiology And Chronic Health Evaluation II (APACHE II) and Simplified Acute Physiology Score 2 (SAPS 2) have been used to predict the outcome of surgical critically ill patients. However, none of these scores have a 100% sensitivity or specificity. Most of these patients are septic and serum lactate level is considered a sensitive marker for sepsis or septic shock reflecting a cell-based metabolism. C-reactive protein (CRP), albumin, CRP/Albumin ratio and blood lactate levels correlate with the degree of inflammation during postoperative care. These and potentially other biological parameters could be used as independent predictors of poor outcomes.

Objectives: The aim of this study is to compare prognostic value of two indices (APACHE II and SAPS 2 scores) and biological markers in the outcome of acute surgical patients admitted in ICU in the immediate postoperative care.

Methods: An observational retrospective study of all acute surgical admissions into our ICU in the immediate postoperative care from January, 1st to December, 31st 2018 and had a ICU length of stay longer than 24 hours. Data concerning the diagnosis, comorbidities and demographics were documented in medical records. The biological markers CRP, albumin, serum blood lactate, N-terminal pro-B type natriuretic peptide (NT Pro-BNP), leukocytes, platelets and Glomerular Filtration Rate were collected during the first 24 hours after patient’s admission and prognosis indices (APACHE II and SAPS 2) were recorded. Patients were divided into survivors and non-survivors. Comparisons between survivors and non-survivors were performed using the Student-T test or Man-Whitney U-test for quantitative variables (parametric and non-parametric variables, respectively) and Pearson Chi-square test for qualitative variables.

Results: Sixty surgical patients admitted into our ten-bed ICU in the immediate postoperative care were retrospectively studied. Patients were divided into survivors (n = 33) and non survivors (n = 27) as described. The ICU and overall in-hospital mortality were 30% and 15%, respectively. Non-survivors were older than survivors (76 vs 69 years old, p = 0.024) and males died more than females (males 63% vs 36.4%, p = 0.042). Comorbidities were performed by Charlson’s score and non-survivors had a statistically higher Charlson’s score (score 5 vs 3, p = 0.001). There were no statistically differences in ICU length of stay between groups. APACHE II (27 vs 19, p < 0.001), SAPS 1 (61 vs 46, p < 0.001), serum lactate (4.8 vs 3.2, p = 0.015) were significantly higher in the non-survivors group. Glomerular Filtration Rate in ICU admission was lower in non-survivors (17.4 vs 56.3; p = 0.001) and the need of Renal Replacement Therapy was higher in this group (29.6 vs 9.1%; p = 0.043). No differences were found between two groups in days of mechanical ventilation, ratio CRP/Albumin, CRP, Albumin, NT-proBNP, leukocytes count, hemoglobin or blood transfusions. No differences were found between two groups regarding sepsis in admission.

Conclusion: Mortality rates in acute surgical patients are still very high in Intensive Care Unit and several scores of severity of critically ill patients can predict their mortality like APACHE II and SAPS 2. In our study these scores are higher in non-survivors patients and can be associated with greater severity of the disease and their higher in-hospital mortality. Serum lactate levels are related with mortality and can be associated with tissue hypoxia and elevated inflammation during postoperative care. Glomerular Filtration Rate is lower in non-survivors, reflecting acute kidney injury and renal failure with the need of Renal Replacement Therapy. Studies have showed that sepsis is frequently complicated by acute kidney injury which increases the mortality risk.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001512
Intraoperative hemodynamic changes as a risk factor for postoperative complications in patients undergoing elective laparoscopic colorectal surgery
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Introduction: Despite the fact that laparoscopic surgery seems to be safe in high-risk surgical patients, it is associated with significant hemodynamic changes. Patients with colorectal malignances often have a number of cardiovascular and other comorbidities, and severe hemodynamic fluctuations could be a risk factor for postoperative morbidity. Thus, we hypothesis that hemodynamic changes during elective laparoscopic colorectal surgery might be associated with postoperative complications development.

Objectives: The aim of the study is to analyze potentially modifiable risk factors related to hemodynamic changes during laparoscopic surgery in patients with colorectal malignances.

Methods: A single-center retrospective study was performed in a university clinic in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. We analyzed 100 medical
recordings of patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery in 2017-2019. The analysis considered systolic blood pressure (SBP) changes, changes of mean arterial pressure (MAP), intraabdominal perfusion pressure (IPP), incidence of tachy- or bradycardia during operation time, and complications Clavien-Dindo Grade III-V. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed in SPSS Statistics 20.0 to identify risk factors for postoperative complications.

Results: Postoperative complications occurred in 16 patients (16%). These patients had significantly more episodes of SBP drop from baseline, MAP < 65 mm Hg, IPP < 65 mm Hg during pneumoperitoneum. SBP lowering, MAP, IPP were significant risk factors for postoperative complications (p < 0.001). In multivariate analysis, SBP lowering (OR 1.535, 95% CI 1.095-2.152, p = 0.013) and IPP (OR 0.75, 95% CI 0.611-0.932, p = 0.009) were independent risk factors for postoperative complications.

Conclusion: Our results may suggest that severe hemodynamic fluctuations could be related to postoperative complications in patients undergoing elective laparoscopic colorectal surgery.

001623

Incidence of major cardiovascular complications after vascular surgery during 1-year follow-up – a prospective cohort study

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Introduction: Vascular surgeries are associated with a particularly high risk of postoperative complications due to a high number of comorbidities in this population as well as increased risk of perioperative bleeding and hypotension associated with these procedures.

Objectives: To assess the incidence of major cardiovascular complications in 1-year follow-up after vascular surgeries.

Methods: This is a study of the Vascular Events In Noncardiac Surgery Patients Cohort Evaluation Study (VISION), in which patients aged ≥ 45 years undergoing non-cardiac surgeries and hospitalized at least overnight were enrolled. In this large, international prospective cohort study, each patient had postoperative troponin measurement to assess the association between troponin level and postoperative outcomes. Additionally, patients or their relatives were contacted 30 days and 1 year after the procedure to assess the incidence of complications in short- and long-term observation.

Results: Study group consisted of 2641 patients undergoing vascular surgeries. There were 2047 (77.5%) males and the mean age accounted to 68.2 (SD 9.8) years. The most common comorbidities were hypertension (75.5%), peripheral artery disease (67.5%) and coronary artery disease (38.0%). During the 1-year follow-up 223 patients died (8.4%), 243 patients had myocardial infarction (9.2%), 35 patients suffered a stroke (1.3%), 192 patients underwent amputation (7.3%), 68 patients developed congestive heart failure (2.6%) and 18 patients had non-fatal cardiac arrest (0.7%).

Conclusion: Major cardiovascular complications were common among patients undergoing vascular surgeries in the long-term observation. The most common complications were myocardial infarction, death and amputation.

001227

Perioperative Diabetes Insipidus: Report of two unusual cases

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Introduction: Diabetes insipidus (DI) is a clinical disorder of water metabolism in the human haemostasis, commonly resulting from the deficiency of antidiuretic hormone (ADH) or from renal insensitivity to ADH. DI manifests by the patient passing diluted copious amount of urine.1 DI is classified as central or nephrogenic and pregnancy induced, in central DI, posterior pituitary gland fails to secret ADH. Nephrogenic DI is when the renal receptors do not respond to ADH. Pregnancy induced DI is when placenta consumes most of the secreted ADH, leading to ADH deficiency.2 DI is common after the pituitary gland surgeries.3 There are a few case reports of DI after general surgical procedures.4 Although polyuria is common in the post-operative period, it is important to diagnose DI to prevent severe dehydration and life-threatening electrolyte imbalance. We report two unusual cases of DI during the perioperative period requiring hydration and intravenous desmopressin.

Methods: Case Reports.

Results: Case 1: A 49 years old healthy male was diagnosed with cervical vertebral disc prolapse (CS-6), planned for cervical discectomy and cage fusion. General anaesthesia was induced with etomidate and fentanyl, trachea was intubated under the effect of rocuronium, in addition patient received ketamine and cefazolin during induction. Anesthesia was maintained by propofol and remifentanil target controlled infusion (TCI). Foley’s catheter was in place and he was pouring 50 and 70 ml of urine per hour. His hemodynamics were stable. In the 2nd hour of surgery he became polyuric and passed 700 to 800 ml diluted urine in next 2 hours until the surgical procedure was over. He was started on 50 ml/hour of 0.45%/saline and shifted to post anaesthesia care unit. He remained polyuric and keeping passing 400 and 300 ml of diluted urine next 2 hours. He developed hypertension, renal functions were with in normal range and urine specific gravity was <1005, diagnosed to have central diabetes insipidus and given intravenous (IV) 2 micrograms (µgrams) of desmopressin. For the next hours his urine became concentrated and urine output dropped to 50, 60 and 70 ml/hour. He was transferred to high dependency unit (HDU), remained stable, from there discharged home and followed up in neurosurgical outpatient clinics.

Case 2: A 36-year-old healthy male patient with on and off headache. Computer tomography (CT) and MRI (magnetic resonance tomography) diagnosed to have 3rd ventricular cyst. He underwent right fronto cranialotomy and excision of ventricular cyst. Anesthesia was induced with propofol and remifentanil, trachea was intubated under the effect of rocuronium. He received cefazolin during the induction of anaesthesia. Anesthesia was maintained with remifentanil and propofol infusion. Patient remained hemodynamically stable. His urine output remained 50 to 70 ml/hour during the surgical period. Patient was transferred to the surgical intensive care unit (ICU) for further monitoring. In the ICU during the 1st and 2nd hour he passed 600 ml and 700 ml of diluted urine respectively. His serum sodium jumped to 148 mmol/litre, renal functions were normal and urinary specific gravity was <1005. Patient was started on 100 ml/hour of 0.45%/saline and desmopressin 2 µgrams was administered intravenously. From the next hour his urine became concentrated and urine output dropped to 50 to 100 ml/hours. Patient remained hemodynamically stable and serum sodium became normal. He was transferred to the ward the next day and from there discharged home. Followed up in the neurosurgical outpatient clinic without any issues.

Conclusion: The occurrence of DI in above mentioned surgeries is very rare. Both surgical procedure and anaesthesia medications can cause perioperative DI.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


Comparison of dynamic parameters of fluid responsiveness based on the analysis of arterial waveform in high-risk surgical patients B. Cenekova1; M. Chobola1; V. Sramek1; P. Suk1
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Introduction: Dynamic indices of fluid responsiveness (e.g. pulse pressure variation – PPV and stroke volume variation – SVV) differ between hemodynamic monitors, which use proprietary algorithms, and vary even over a short period of time. Objectives: The aim is to compare the stability and predictive value for fluid responsiveness of PPV and SVV measured by various minimally invasive devices in high-risk patients undergoing general surgery.

Methods: In this prospective study, clinically indicated fluid challenges (FC), 500 ml of balanced crystalloid administered over 10 minutes, in patients ventilated with tidal volume of 8 ml/kg were monitored. Increase in cardiac output (CO) > 15% defined fluid responders. Two minutes of arterial pressure waveform was recorded with simultaneous video recording of hemodynamic monitors – GE Carescope B650 (measuring PPV), FloTrac/Vigileo (SVV) and LiDCO Rapid (PPV and SVV) before and after the FC. All devices used the same arterial line and waveform; arterial line flushing was used for synchronization with the video. Analysis was limited to intervals with regular rhythm and good waveform quality. Up to 17 values were read from the video in 5 s intervals and reference PPV was calculated from the stored arterial pressure waveform at the same timepoints offline. Stability of the parameter was assessed by calculating the range and standard deviation (SD) of the index over observed period up to 80 s before FC. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis and a correlation of the index with change in CO were used to evaluate the predictive value of the indices.

Results: Twenty three patients were analysed; 14 of 60 fluid challenges were excluded due to changes in vasoactive drugs, patient’s position change, arrhythmia or artefacts during the FC. Stability was assessed by variation of parameters – mean values of range (and SD) were 3.8 (1.0) % for reference PPV, 1.8 (0.5) % for GE PPV, 10.8 (3.0) % for LiDCO PPV, 8.3% (2.4) for LiDCO SVV and 2.3 (0.9) % for Vigileo SVV. Mean value of the indexes during 80-second interval before FC was used to calculate the area under the ROC curve (AUROC), optimal threshold, correlation with ΔCO (r) and specificity/sensitivity for threshold values of 10% and 13%, which are presented in the table. Mostly, an average value of the index had better AUROC than minimal or maximal observed values within the observed period.

Conclusion: LiDCO displayed higher fluctuation of indices than the other monitors. Although a significant span of threshold values was observed, the predictive value of PPV and SVV from all the monitors was comparable. Despite ideal conditions, the diagnostic ability of all parameters was only moderate and lower than expected.

Metformin associated lactic acidosis: a case series of 20 patients R. Amaral1; H. Santos1; C. Carvalho1; J. Carvalho1; B. Costa1; A. Pais1
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Introduction: Metformin associated lactic acidosis (MALA) has been reported as from 1977, but full understanding of this entity has yet to be achieved. It is the major toxicity of metformin with high attributed mortality rate. In the most severe cases intensive care admission and renal replacement therapy (RRT) are required.

Objectives: To report on our experience with the MALA patient’s characteristics, severity scores, supportive measures required in the last 5 years.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of the clinical information of patients admitted in intensive care level 2 and 3 with main or additional diagnosis of MALA from 2015 to 2019.

Results: We obtained 20 patients of which 13 (65,0%) had principal diagnosis of MALA. Most of the patients were female (n = 11), mean age 75,9 ± 5,9, 14 patients (70,0%) were admitted on level 3 care. Antibiotics were administered to 60,0% (n = 12) of patients with only 41,6% of those (n = 5) having clinically confirmed infection. Initial lactate levels were 12,6 ± 3,5 and 24 h lactate levels were 3,2 ± 3,3. 60,0% of patients required renal replacement therapy (n = 12). The RRT modalities were: continuous veno‑venous hemofiltration in 33,3% (n = 4), continuous veno‑venous hemofiltration in 33,3% (n = 4) and conventional haemodialysis in 33,3% (n = 4). Invasive mechanical ventilation was necessary in 25,0% of patients. Severity scores were: APACHE II 25,5 ± 7,3; SAPS II 50,9 ± 11,5; SAPS 3 69,2 ± 16,2; SOFA at admission 9,0 ± 3,8. Mean length of stay in intensive care was 3,5 ± 4,2 days and in hospital was 16,0 ± 9,1 days. Hospital mortality was the same of net mortality: 2 patients (10,0%).

Conclusion: Although with limitations due to its retrospective nature, known under‑report of the condition in matter, and varied concurrent pathologies of patients reported, this study presents our reality while treating MALA. We confirmed high use of antibiotics compared to clinically confirmed infection, something referred in the literature. Continuous veno‑venous renal replacement was used in the majority of the patients requiring renal replacement. Patients with diagnosis of MALA present with high severity scores but have low mortality in our experience.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
affected, most are preventable and many require ICU care. A striking proportion of our study; 75% had mental health issues and 50% had a previous history of self-harm. Readmission rate was high, highlighting the importance of psychological support these patients continue to require more. Hence review by MHT is essential before a safe discharge. However, a significant percentage (40.5%) had a late discharge, longest being 96 hours. The main reason was a delay in MHT’s review and arranging further psychological care. Patients who faced delays awaiting MHT were otherwise medically fit for direct discharge to home and did not require inward care.

Drug overdose admissions accounted for an average of 115.1 ICU bed days per year. Out of this, 42.42 ICU bed days (36.8%) were occupied due to the delay in discharge. Since the estimated daily cost of a level 2 ICU bed at our institute is 800 pounds, 33,936 pounds/year can be saved by optimising the barriers to prompt discharge from ICU. These may include increasing MHT staff and their availability in ICU and prioritizing ward bed allocation to patients stepping down from ICU.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

2. Dr V Bharadhvaj, Audit lead, ICU-Broomfield Hospital.
were regularly obtained. We defined augmented renal clearance as an mCC >130 mL/min/1.73 m^2 [1]. Our current vancomycin TDM algorithms do not use mCC but are based on weight and eGFR.

**Results:** We evaluated 90 patients (73% male), with a mean (±SD) age of 62 ± 10 years. Unadjusted hospital mortality was 21%. Mean weight, BMI and EGA were 90 ± 16 kg, 28.5 ± 4.6 kg/m^2 and 2.07 ± 0.20 m^2. In total 1063 mCC measurements were available. In 31 (34%) patients an mCC < 30 mL/min was observed at any time and 11 of these patients required renal replacement therapy (RRT). In patients not requiring RRT the mean mCC was 112 ± 48 mL/min. Augmented renal clearance was observed in 39 patients (43%) for a total of 194 (18%) mCC measurements.

Vancomycin was prescribed for 35 episodes in 30 (33%) patients with a mean loading dose of 1724 ± 574 mg (19.0 ± 4.9 mg/kg), and a mean maintenance dose of 2268 ± 886 mg (25.3 ± 10.8 mg/kg). 181 vancomycin levels were determined with a mean concentration of 22.7 ± 6.7 mg/L with 17 (57%) patients having at least 2 measurements below 20 mg/L. Daily vancomycin dose was more correlated (P = 0.01) with mCC (R^2 = 0.66) compared to eGFR (R^2 = 0.43).

**Conclusion:** Although we observed renal failure in our cohort of COVID-19 patients treated in the ICU, a considerable subgroup showed augmented renal clearance when mCC was employed, likely explaining the failure to reach therapeutic vancomycin levels. Determining mCC in COVID-19 patients has therefore clear benefits over the use of eGFR.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001618**

**Tramadol metabolism and systemic inflammation after major abdominal surgery: a prospective observational study**

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**Introduction:** A systemic inflammation may affect tramadol metabolism within first 24 postoperative hours.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to examine concentrations of tramadol, O-demethyltramadol (ODT) and N-demethyltramadol (NDT) in patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) after major abdominal surgery in the patients with and without criteria for systemic inflammation.

**Methods:** For this study Ethics committee approval was obtained and all the patients wrote informed consent. In between of 50 postsurgical patients, a group of 47 patients who had both CYP2D6 gene polymorphism analyses and tramadol and it's metabolites measured were analyzed. The development of a systemic inflammation was assessed based on preoperative levels of CRP, PCT, leukocyte count, plasma cholinesterase activity (ChE), arterial blood gas, and postoperative clinical indicators. Postoperatively, patients received 100 mg of tramadol IV every 6 hours for the next 24 hours. Tramadol, ODT and NDT levels were determined 1, 2 and 4 hours after the first dose, and before the second, third and fifth doses of tramadol by high-performance liquid chromatography. Pain was assessed before and 30 minutes after tramadol administrations.

**Results:** According to CYP2D6 polymorphism there were 2 poor (PM), 22 intermediate (IM), 22 extensive (EM) and 1 ultrafast metabolizer (UM). Tramadol effectively reduced pain in all patients except PM. The highest levels of ODT were measured in the EM and IM, 97.4 (52.5–139) and 51.7 (25.7–93.5) µg/L, respectively (P = 0.03). ODT levels in all measurements were higher in EM compared to IM and PM, P < 0.05. ChE activity of £4244 U/L was a cut-off value in prediction of systemic inflammation. There was a statistically significant increase in NDT levels in IM and EM patients with low ChE activity (NChE group, n = 18) compared to patients with normal ChE activity (NChE group, n = 25). The ranges were from 11.58 (4.2–21.9) to 59.31 (18.5–92.6) µg/L vs. 3.93 (3.5–5.6) to 26.31 (17.4–48.9) µg/L in LChE and NChE, respectively. Genetically determined difference in ODT levels between IM and EM no longer existed in states of systemic inflammation in all measurements. Despite these differences, tramadol was effective in patients who were EM and IM in reducing pain at all measurement points (P < 0.001), but not in 2 patients who were categorized as poor metabolizers (P > 0.05).

**Conclusion:** The results of this study confirm that CYP2D6 polymorphism is a major factor in O-demethylation of tramadol. In the systemic inflammation characterized by low ChE activity there is a significant shift in the tramadol metabolism towards N-demethylation. Further studies should evaluate whether tramadol dose may be reduced in the patients with systemic inflammation.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

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**001256**

**Sedation practices made worse by COVID 19**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001256

**Introduction:** Sedation is an integral practice in intensive care units (ICU). Higher sedation requirements were observed in patients with COVID 19 [1]. However, the negative impact of oversedation in the intensive care setting is well established. Patients are at risk of a higher morbidity, increased length of stay, longer time on mechanical ventilation, increased nosocomial infections, haemodynamic compromise and neurological complications such as delirium to name a few (2-5).

**Objectives:** This is a retrospective analysis of sedation practice pre and during the COVID 19 pandemic at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, a district general hospital in the United Kingdom. IV sedation agents were reviewed for rapid escalation or for exceeding maximum recommended doses.

**Methods:** All patients receiving continuous IV sedation in January 2020 (pre-COVID 19) and April 2020 (during the COVID 19 pandemic) were screened. Those who had >24 hour sedation were included. Their charts were reviewed for reaching the maximum doses according to local protocol or the British National Formulary (Table 1) or increasing ≥ 50% in 4 hours. A notes review was carried out around the time of a breach for any documented rationale. The number of adjuvant sedative medications a patient received in the duration of their ICU admission was also recorded. This included oral clonidine, intermittent doses of benzodiazepines (IV and oral), haloperidol and quetiapine.

<table>
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<th>Sedative Agent</th>
<th>Maximum dose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propofol</td>
<td>4 mg/kg/hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfentanil</td>
<td>5 mg/kg/hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remifentanil</td>
<td>0.5 mg/kg/hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midazolam</td>
<td>100 mg/kg/hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonidine</td>
<td>4 mg/kg/hr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Sedative agents and defined maximum doses**
Results: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic 6/16 (37.5%) of patients had a sedation breach. This is compared to 9/12 (75%) of patients during the pandemic of which half (6) were patients who did not have COVID 19. Of these, 4/6 (66.7%) of the non COVID 19 and 5/6 (83.3%) of the COVID 19 patients had sedation breaches. Breaches recorded were predominantly in exceeding maximum infusion rates. Pre-COVID 19, there were only 2 patients breached for rate increases >= 50% versus 5 patients who exceeded maximum infusion rates. During COVID 19 5 patients recorded rate increases >= 50% compared to 7 who exceeded maximum infusion rates. Propofol was the main agent for which sedation breaches occurred in both cohorts -before COVID 19 5/15 (33.3%) and 8/10 (80%) during the pandemic. The main reason for edation breaches was difficult ventilation in both cohorts (37.5% pre-COVID19 and 42.5% during). Adjuvant sedative medications were used in 9/16 patients pre- COVID 19 and 9/12 patients during COVID 19. During COVID 19 the patients received 3 or more adjuvant agents 6/9 compared to pre-COVID 19 2/9.

Conclusion: The sedation of patients at this ICU was less compliant to guidance and experienced more sedation infusion rate increases >= 50% during the COVID 19 pandemic in keeping with experience elsewhere that they had a higher sedation need. However, these patients also received a larger number of adjuvant sedative medications. This could also relate to a change in sedation practices by preemptive concerns about difficult to sedate patients or other factors such as routine ICU medication stock levels. Although there were fewer sedation breaches pre-COVID 19, over a third of patients still received high doses of sedation in normal times. This suggests more can be done to optimise sedation administration through a multimodal approach which addresses education and ergonomic clinical environments. Recommendations implemented at this centre include: training for staff new to the ICU environment, an easily accessible "sedation user guide" which to highlight common clinical considerations for sedative choice and encourages staff to review why sedation requirement may have changed, a standardised whiteboard to record sedation targets and infusion rates, and once per shift reminders to check sedative infusion rates. A review is due in the autumn of 2020 subsequent to the adoption of these practices.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001258

Pain analysis in an Intensive Care Unit
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001258

Introduction: Management of pain in critical patients is one of the most important part of the treatment and it is necessary to improve it in order to get better prognosis.

Objectives: To describe prevalence of pain detection and analgesic prescriptions in patients admitted to an ICU of a tertiary hospital.

Methods: Weekly registration for 1 month in 2 consecutive years (2018-2019) of: type of admission, treatment phase, analgesic regimen and assessment of pain through Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), Behaviour Indicators of Pain and Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS), as appropriate; as well as pharmacological non-pharmacological interventions.

Results: In a total of 184 patients, of which 56.5% of them were males; respiratory failure (45.7%), followed by neurological deterioration (32.6%) and shock (17.4%) were main causes for admission. 58.7% of the patients were awake and able to self-report pain, and the rest were under sedation or non-collaborative. Of all of them, 69% required mechanical ventilation (MV) (invasive MV 54.9% and non invasive MV 14.1%) and 20.7% had tracheostomy.

Attending to analgesic regimen, 99.5% of the patients had established analgesic regimen: 29.3% of them had a fixed regimen without adjuvant therapy, 13.6% were only prescribed in case of pain, and 56.5% had a fixed regimen plus adjuvant therapy during pain episodes, and rescued. 66.8% of the patients had up to 2 medications for pain and the rest of them, had more than 3 medications.

Attending to registration of pain episodes: In every patient it was recorded at least once per day. In 1.6% it was only registered once a day, in 20.7% twice a day; in 54.3% three times per day, and 13.4% four or more times per day. There was also an explicit reference of that in 20% of the records during mornings, 78.3% during afternoon, and 72.3% during night, as well as in 80% of medical comments. According to the degree of pain, 44% of the patients did no show pain, 36% of them showed mild pain (VAS 1-3), 13.5% showed moderate pain (VAS 4-6) and 6.5% had episodes of severe pain (VAS> 7). Over 20% of episodes of moderate or severe pain (VAS> 4), 97% of them were treated and solved.

Regarding non-pharmacological measures, calm environment was detected in 86% of the records, adequate light in 97.8%, proper sound in 77.2% and pleasant temperature in 90.2% of them. Every patient had postural changes, 81% of them were mobilized to chair, and only 25% of the patients who required physical therapy, received it. In comparison between the 2 years, differences were only observed in the highest registration of pain episodes by nursing staff (68% vs. 85% p=0.03). Attending analgesic regimen, the one prescribed just in case of pain, was related to more pain episodes.

Conclusion: We consider pain awareness and registration are well established in our Unit; although it is still needed to minimize episodes of moderate or severe pain and to improve physical therapy in our patients.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001311

Actigraphy in Traumatic Brain Injury patients in the Intensive Care Unit: a feasibility study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001311

Introduction: Agitation is a common behavior in intensive care patients following acute traumatic brain injury (TBI), which can profoundly impact quality of care, increase healthcare costs, and negatively impact functional outcomes. Agitation is particularly difficult to assess in comatose patients and is often under-detected. Actigraphy, which measures rest-wake rhythms using movements with an accelerometer, has been used as an alternative to polysomnography to estimate sleep and to measure physical activity in outpatient settings. In the ICU setting, actigraphy has been used for the same purposes, but more studies are needed as it has only been studied in patients in whom analgesosedation has been
discontinued. Our hypothesis is that actigraphy could be a useful tool to monitor agitation and sleep-wake cycles in TBI patients.

**Objectives:** The primary study objective was to evaluate the feasibility of using wrist actigraphs in critically ill TBI patients who were receiving analgesosedation. The feasibility aims were to measure recruitment rate, to describe actigraphy recording duration, to assess missing activity count per day, and to identify impediments to its use.

**Methods:** We prospectively recruited adult patients admitted to the ICU of Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal with acute TBI and abnormal CT scan within 48 hours of ICU admission. Exclusions criteria included: spinal cord injury, prior history of TBI, major neurological or psychiatric disease, high risk of short-term mortality, expected stay <48 hours. Actiwatch-Spectrum actigraphs (Philips/Respironics, Murrayville, PA) were placed in patients’ non-paralyzed wrists after ICU admission and study inclusion. Reasons for not using actigraph were documented. Actigraphy data such as the amount of missing data and total recording time were analysed.

**Results:** Between September 2018 and July 2019, 47 patients were considered eligible and 30 patients were recruited. Median age was 64.5 years (IQR 41.3) and 73% were males. TBIs were severe, moderate and mild complex in 30%, 43% and 27% of cases, respectively. One patient was discharged before actigraph was placed and four patients had less than 24 h of recorded data. These 5 patients were excluded from analyses. A total of 214 completed days of actigraphy data were received. The mean number of completed days per patient was 6.3 (SD 5.1), with a minimum of 1 completed day and a maximum of 27. The mean missing activity count per day was 20.3 minutes (SD 81.7) and 89% of the days had less than 30 minutes of missing data per day. Actigraphs were removed for surgery or exams outside the ICU, as well as to download recorded data. Electronic interferences between ICU equipment, tissue oedema and neuromuscular blocker use were found as barriers on the use of the actigraphy.

**Conclusion:** This study supports the feasibility of actigraphy use to monitor agitation and sleep-wake cycles in TBI patients during their stay in the ICU. However, specific aspects of analgesosedated TBI-patients should be considered when monitoring patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
6. M. Saavedra-Mitjans is supported by a Fundación Alfonso Martín Escudero research scholarship in universities or centres abroad.
7. D. Williamson is supported by a Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQ-S) clinical scientist career grant.

**001315**
Final report from SEDACONDA - A phase III multicenter randomized controlled trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of isoflurane via AnaConDa for sedation in invasively ventilated patients

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001315**

**Introduction:** Patients in need for sedation during mechanical ventilation are at risk for adverse effects of currently used intravenous sedatives, such as long and unpredictable wake-up times, development of delirium, propofol infusion syndrome or life-threatening bradycardia. A number of publications and increasing clinical use indicate that inhaled isoflurane for sedation may be a good option. This study was performed with the aim to evaluate the efficacy and safety of isoflurane via the AnaConDa (SEDACONDA).

**Objective:** To compare the efficacy and safety of SEDACONDA with propofol as the sole sedative regimen for up to 48 hours in invasively ventilated patients in a phase III randomized controlled registration trial.

**Methods:** After ethical approval (Ärztekammer des Saarlandes, 11/17), German and Slovenian competent authority approval and trial registration (Eudra CT#: 2016-004551-67), 300 adult invasively ventilated patients with clinical need for sedation were recruited in 23 study sites in Germany and Slovenia. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient or legal representative according to national laws and regulations. Patients were randomized to either SEDACONDA (Sedana Medical, Danderyd, Sweden) or intravenous propofol, until extubation or for up to 48±/-6 hours, whichever was first. Sedation efficacy was assessed as the proportion of time within RASS±1 to RASS±4 without rescue sedation (primary outcome measure). Wake-up times after stop of sedation, opioid dosing over time, percentage of time with spontaneous breathing, ventilator-free and ICU-free days in the first 30 days, adverse events and 30 day mortality were also monitored. For the primary outcome, the non-inferiority margin for isoflurane was predefined to 15% relative the mean proportion of time in target RASS for propofol.

**Results:** Between July 2017 and January 2020, 301 patients were included. The percentage of time patients were sedated in the target RASS range without rescue sedation was similar for the SEDACONDA and propofol groups (mean percentage of time [CI] 90.7 [86.8-94.6%] vs 91.1 [87.2, 95.0]). Thus, the lower CI of SEDACONDA was above the non-inferiority margin (77.5%). Secondary outcome measures are under statistical evaluation and will be presented during the congress.

**Conclusion:** The preliminary results indicate that SEDACONDA is efficacious as a primary sole sedative, in the same efficacy range as propofol. Further evaluation of study data and future studies will answer clinically important questions regarding other effects of isoflurane for long-term sedation of critically ill patients.

**001438**
Experienced Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit: A Mixed-methods Study

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001438**
Introduction: Delirium is under-recognized, misdiagnosed and undertreated. Research focusing on associations, prevention and treatment of delirium has increased tremendously in the last decade, but still little is known about patient’s experience of delirium. Up to 80% of intensive care unit (ICU) survivors remember their delirium. Delirium has been described as highly unpleasant and distressing with vivid hallucinations and scary delusions. Delirium has been linked to subsequent cognitive dysfunction, psychological sequelae and post-traumatic stress disorder. Knowledge on how delirium is perceived by patients has the potential to improve recognition, management and treatment of delirium.

Objectives: This study investigates how ICU patients recall and experience delirium. We aim to identify predictors of delirium recall and interventions that might reduce distress and symptom severity related to delirium. We aim to understand recollections of delirium and thereby highlight the importance of early recognition and guide future management to relieve patient distress related to delirium.

Methods: This study has a mixed-methods design involving both quantitative measurements and qualitative assessment. Subjects were adult critically ill patients that were CAM-ICU positive during ICU stay. We conducted interviews after ICU discharge when patients were delirium-free assessed by ‘rapid clinical test for delirium’ (4AT). The interviews where semi-structured and took place at the general ward or patient home. Interviewees used an interview-guide to gather detailed information on recall, experiences and various symptoms related to ICU delirium. The interviews were transcribed and thematically analysed by the research team.

Results: To date sixteen of twenty-five patients have been interviewed. A univariate analysis comparing patients with and without memory of delirium using background characteristics as co-variates (age, admission type, SMS-ICU and delirium motor subtype) will be performed. At present, an 81% of participants remember some part of their delirium during their ICU stay. Fourteen out of sixteen participants found their delirium experience to be very distressing, including two patients who did not remember their ICU stay at all. Twelve participants remembered being confused/disoriented, eleven remembered sleep disturbance and nine had one or more clear memories of hallucinations and/or delusions. Patients tend to experience delirium as a mix of fact and fiction where realistic events merge with delusions and frightening hallucinations. Final results of the thematic and statistical analysis will be presented at the congress.

Conclusion: The conclusion will be presented at the congress.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
6. Innovation Fund Denmark.
consumption, the quality of life perceived three months after hospital discharge, and its possible relationship with the administration of opioids during admission to the ICU.

**Methods:** Prospective study approved by the Hospital’s Ethics and Research Committee. This includes all patients admitted to the ICU between March and May 2020 for ARDS secondary to SARS-CoV-2 who were discharged from the ICU and subsequently from the hospital. Demographic factors and clinical data related to admission to the ICU and hospital ward are analyzed. The cumulative dose of opioids is expressed in mg of iv morphine (10 mg iv morphine = 100 µg iv fentanyl = 100 µg remifentanil = 20 mg oral methadone). Three months after hospital discharge, a phone call is made to assess the chronic consumption of analgesics drugs, assess the perceived quality of life and the existence or not of chronic pain. Information is collected on the usual analgesic treatment and will be verified by reviewing the electronic medical record and MUP (single prescription module in the Community of Madrid). For the evaluation of quality of life, the Euroqol EQ-5D questionnaire will be used. In patients who answer >1 to item number 4 of this questionnaire (existence of pain), the evaluation of pain will be complemented with the Latineen index. Data expressed as number of this questionnaire (existence of pain), the evaluation of EQ-5D questionnaire will be used. In patients who answer >1 to item

**Results:** 32 patients are included, 69% male, with a mean age of 62 years (± 11), median ICU stay of 9 days (7–16) and 11 days (7-14) in hospitalization. APACHE II 16.8 (± 6.8), SOFA at income 6.8 (± 2.1). No patient received opioids prior to admission. In the ICU, patients received continuous infusion opiates for a median of 170 hours (116-223), and a median cumulative dose of 1447 mg (672-4960). At discharge from the ICU, opiates were prescribed in 6 patients (19%) (3 prescribed iv morphine and 3 iv morphine if needed). No patient was discharged from the hospital with opioid treatment. At 3 months (phone call made 93 ± 2 days after hospital discharge), only 1 patient received opioid treatment with tramadol, while 14 (44%) received non-opioid analgesics (paracetamol, metamizole and/or NSAIDs).

The mean cumulative dose of opioids administered in the ICU in patients who received analgesics 3 months after hospital discharge was 4141 mg, and 2416 mg in those who had no chronic use (Mann-Whitney U 94.00, p = 0.22). The results of the EQ-5D questionnaire are shown in Table 1, as well as the relationship between the average doses of opioids consumed depending on the scores on quality of life. 50% of patients reported some pain or discomfort 3 months after hospital discharge (EQ-5D pain >1); in them, the mean Latineen index was 5.9 (± 4), 56% consumed analgesics but only 1 patient consumed opioid analgesia.

**Conclusion:** There is no relationship between the doses of opioids administered in the ICU and their maintenance at hospital discharge or chronic consumption. Neither is there a relationship with different aspects of perceived quality of life at 3 months or with the existence of chronic pain. However, a study with a larger number of patients is necessary to adequately assess these findings.

**References:**

1. Pain will be complemented with the Latineen index.
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**001557**

**High doses of propofol and isoflurane in Covid-19 patients with and without ECMO - First clinical experiences**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001557**

**Introduction:** Large numbers of Covid-19 patients simultaneously needed invasive mechanical ventilation in many countries, leading to shortages of ICU beds and intravenous sedatives [1,2]. Some report that ventilated CoV19 patients need high doses of sedatives and neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBA) [3]. For those patients, inhaled sedation with isoflurane (ISO) applied with the AnaConDa system (Sedana Medical, Danderyd, Sweden) may be beneficial [4,5].

**Objectives:** We investigated dosing of propofol (PRO) and ISO, in Covid-19 patients in need for deep sedation with and without extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment.

**Methods:** In a chart review, we analysed the patients’ needs of PRO, ISO, use of co-sedatives, NMBA, opioids, documented sedation scores (Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale, RASS), minute ventilation (MV) and ECMO treatment during the first 30 days of treatment in our ICU as long as the patients were in need for deep sedation. Sedation days were classified according to the sedative used (PRO, ISO, or both). All parameters were averaged on a daily basis, and compared between PRO and ISO days with Student’s t-Tests for parametric data, or Chi²-tests for frequencies.

**Results:** 19 consecutive Covid-19 patients, aged 64 ± 10 years, admitted to the ICU with acute respiratory failure in need for invasive mechanical ventilation and deep sedation were evaluated. Eight patients had been sedated with isoflurane during 7.1 ± 7.7 days, all but one had received propofol on 9.1 ± 8.2 days. 9 patients received ECMO treatment for 14 ± 4 days during this time. In total, 305 sedation days were recorded, of which PRO had been used on 164 days, and ISO on 100 days. On 41 days, both drugs had been used. These days were excluded from further analysis.

During PRO days, high doses of PRO were recorded. PRO infusion rates (IR) were 8.9 ± 2.8 ml/h corresponding to 214 ± 67 ml/24 h. On 24% of PRO days, mean doses higher than 3.5 mg/h/kg predicted body weight (PBW) were used, and on 12%, the recommended maximum dose of 4 mg/h/kg PBW was exceeded. Under PRO compared to ISO, NMBA (PRO vs ISO: 24% vs 11%, P = 0.010) as well as co-sedatives (32% vs 9%, P = 0.001, mainly clonidine: 26% vs 7%, P = 0.001) were used more frequently and sufentanil doses were higher (5.7 ± 1.2 mL/h, P = 0.029). RASS scores, as judged by nursing staff, indicated deeper sedation under ISO (-2.9 ± 1.4 vs -3.5 ± 0.9, P = 0.001).

ISO-IR were 4.8 ± 2.2 ml/h corresponding to 115 ± 53 ml/24 h with a mean end-tidal concentration (ET) of 1.07 ± 0.37 Vol%. ET correlated poorly with the IR, negatively with the MV, and best with the ratio IR divided by MV. As the MV during ECMO is reduced, IR were significantly lower during ECMO days (3.5 ± 1.4 vs 7.1 ± 3.1 ml/h, P = 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Inhaled sedation with isoflurane is an interesting alternative to propofol in invasively ventilated CoV19 patients in need for deep sedation. High doses of both drugs are needed. Propofol use was associated with polypharmacy, and higher doses of opioids. Isoflurane...
Conclusion: WAT-1 has been demonstrated to have a very good sensitivity and specificity to detect WS at the bedside in adult critically-ill patients who received prolonged sedo-analgesics. Age < 50 years was the only independent variable predicting WS.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
2. No grant.

001325
Acute pancreatitis in intensive care unit patients: A retrospective study
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001325

Introduction: Acute pancreatitis (AP) is an inflammatory condition, the worldwide incidence is 13 to 45/100,000. Severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) is associated with serious morbidity and mortality and these patients require intensive care unit (ICU) admission. Factors predicting mortality and morbidity need to be identified for improving outcome.

Objectives: The aim of our study was evaluation of demographic and outcome of patients with SAP admitted to our ICU from June 2018 to June 2020. The secondary objective was to identify the factors responsible for adverse outcome.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of patients with SAP admitted to the ICU between June 2018 and June 2020.

Results: Eleven SAP patients were admitted to ICU (54.5% female, mean age 64.3).
The most common aetiology were gallstones (72.7%) and hypertriglyceridaemia (18.2%).

The severity of AP as depicted by Ranson’s score showed mean score of 3.2 at admission, and 3.5 after 48 hours. On admission to ICU, the median Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score was 22.3 and the median Computed Tomography Severity Index (CTSI) was 3 (range 2-4).

During the ICU stay, 72% of patients required mechanical ventilatory support, ranging from 1 to 35 days; 90.9% developed acute kidney injury (AKI) and 18.2% required continuous renal replacement (CRR); 72.7% needed vasoressor support.

A significant number of patients (54.5%) tolerated early enteral nutrition via either a nasogastric tube or a nasojejunal tube, while total parenteral nutrition (TPN) was used in 18.2% of patients.

The disease course was complicated with pancreatic abscess (45.5%), abdominal compartment syndrome (18.2%) and pseudo cyst formation (9%). Surgical intervention was required in 50% of these patients. The median length of stay in ICU and hospital were 13 (ranged from 1 to 74) and 25 (ranged from 1 to 110) days, respectively.

ICU mortality and hospital mortality were 45% and 9%, respectively. Mean APACHE II score of these patients was 28.7. All these patients had AKI and two patients who needed RRT died.

**Conclusion:** Acute pancreatitis remains a challenging disease for intensive care medicine and this retrospective data showed high mortality of AP requiring ICU admission.

Predicting the outcome of ICU patients with AP remains a difficult task despite the availability of scoring systems. In our study, the APACHE II score was higher between non-survivors. The mean of Ranson score in our study population was 3.2 and 3.5 at and after 48 hours of admission, which has a predicted mortality of 11 to 15%, so the predictive value of this scoring system is questionable in our study. Although AKI itself was not an independent risk factor of adverse outcome in our study, patients who need RRT died.

The authors wish to highlight the need to early severity assessment and management for those patients at risk of SAP.

**Introduction:** Macrovascular thrombosis are a common complication of COVID-19. Risk factors for COVID-related thrombi are not well understood (1).

**Objectives:** To examine the incidence of macrovascular thrombosis in patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with COVID-19, and to explore factors associated with thrombi in COVID-19.

**Methods:** We retrospectively enrolled all patients aged >18 admitted to ICU between 1/3/2020 and 30/4/2020 with a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 (n = 93). 1 patient was excluded as an incident diagnosis of COVID-19 admitted to ICU for post-operative monitoring. Data was extracted from health records using a standardised data collection tool. Patients were followed up to 24/5/20.

**Results:** The median age was 57 (IQR 48 - 62), 70 (76.1%) were male. The population was diverse; 37 (44.6%) were Caucasian, 26 (31.3%) were Black, 18 (21.7%) were Asian, 2 (2.4%) were of mixed ethnicity and in 9 cases ethnicity was not recorded. Median duration of illness prior to hospital admission was 7 (IQR 4 - 9) days.

Cardiovascular risk factors were common: 44 (47.8%) were hypertensive, 30 (32.6%) were obese and 30 (32.6%) were diabetic. Fourteen (15.2%) patients had a cardiovascular condition, 10 (10.9%) had chronic respiratory disease, 13 (14.1%) had a baseline eGFR < 60 ml/min, and 5 (5.4%) had known cancers.

Several patients used coagulation-modifying drugs; 9 (9.8%) took antplatelet agents, and one was anticoagulated with warfarin.

All patients received anticoagulation during their admission. Treatment dose anticoagulation was given to 22 (23.9%), whilst 70 (76.1%) received only prophylactic anticoagulation. The median duration of COVID-19 symptom onset to thromboprophylaxis initiation was 8 days (IQR 6 - 10).

Macrovascular thrombi were detected in 22 (23.9%) of the population. Of these, 7 (33.3%) were pulmonary emboli, and 7 (33.3%) were venous thrombi. There were 2 strokes, 2 arterial occlusions, 1 myocardial infarction, 1 renal vein thrombus and 1 ventricular thrombus (fig 1). During the same period, 8 (8.7%) patients developed significant haemorrhages; 4 had an upper gastrointestinal bleed, 2 an intracranial haemorrhage, and there was one pulmonary and one urinary tract haemorrhage.

On univariate analysis, there was a non-statistically significant reduction in the incidence of major thrombi in Black (OR 0.336, 95% CI 0.085 - 1.111, p = 0.090) and Asian patients (OR 0.231, 95% CI 0.033 - 0.986, p = 0.076) compared to Caucasian patients. APTT ratio prolongation >1.8x was more frequent in patients not developing thrombi (p = 0.032), whilst Fibrinogen levels < 1.8 g/L occurred more often with thrombosis (p = 0.015).

**Conclusion:** Critically ill patients with COVID-19 face high incidence of thrombotic complications despite anticoagulation. Low levels of fibrinogen are associated with thrombosis. Clinicians must remain vigilant to the development of thrombi even in anticoagulated patients.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
2. The authors received no grants or funding for this work.

**Introduction:** Blood transfusions are common in critically ill patients; 30 to 45% patients receive red cell transfusions of, 10-30% plasma transfusions and 10-20% platelet transfusions during their ICU stay.

**Conclusion:** blood and blood component transfusion in a tertiary care intensive care unit

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**
2. The authors received no grants or funding for this work.
Each of the studies that have reported on plasma and platelet use and outcomes in ICU has reported separately for each blood product type. There are limited studies that have reported on the transfusion of red cells, plasma, platelets and cryoprecipitate concurrently in ICU.

**Objectives:** The primary outcomes of the study were to examine the prevalence of red cells and multicomponent transfusion during ICU stay.

**Methods:** A retrospective study of 5783 patients enrolled in the INFORM trial including 2332 patients that were admitted at the Flinders Medical Centre ICU between April 2012 and October 2015 was performed. Total red cells (RC) and blood products transfused at any point between ICU admission and discharge were analysed leading to three specific categories - RC only transfusion (RC-only), MCT and non-transfusion (NT). Multicomponent transfusion included RC-MT (RC co-transfusion with plasma (FFP), platelets (PLT) and cryoprecipitate (CRYO) or combination of components without RC (MT). The common types of RC-MCT included RC+FFP, RC+PLT, RC+FFP+PLT and RC+FFP+PLT+CRYO.

**Results:** Of the 2726 ICU admissions analysed, 1323 (48.5%, 95% CI 46.6-50.4) received no transfusion (NT), 660 (24.2%, 95% CI 22.6-25.9) received MCT and 743 (27.7%, 95% CI 25.6-28.9) received RC-only during ICU stay. Besides trauma (33.7%) and haematology admissions (31.8%), half or more than half of the admissions in each clinical groups did not receive a transfusion during ICU stay. RC-MT ranged from 9.2% to 45.6% across all clinical groups, highest being in haematology (41.5%) and gastroenterology (GIT, 32.1%) admissions (Figure 1). Amongst all types of RC-MT, RC+FFP (27.3%), RC+PLT (16.5%) and RC+FFP+PLT+CRYO (16.5%). RC-MCT varied across clinical groups, with 61.5% of metabolic admissions received RC+FFP, 30.8% of sepsis admissions received RC+PLT and 26.3% of GIT admissions received RC+FFP+PLT+CRYO (Figure 2).

**Conclusion:** Almost half of ICU admissions were transfused. Fifty percent of those transfused received red cells and the other half received multicomponent transfusion. Multicomponent transfusion including the various types of multicomponent transfusion varied between clinical groups. Further studies are required to study outcomes in patients receiving multicomponent transfusion in ICU.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001379**

**Coagulation parameters as predictors of mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients**

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*Intensive Care Medicine Experimental* 2020, 8(2): 001379

**Introduction:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by SARS-CoV-2, has recently emerged in Wuhan, China, and rapidly spread worldwide [1]. Apart from respiratory failure, coagulopathy is a common abnormality in COVID-19 patients and is associated with poor prognosis [2, 3]. Regardless of increasing evidence of coagulation dysfunction, the data available for the most severe patients is still scarce.

**Objectives:** To describe the coagulation parameters of critically ill COVID-19 patients and evaluate its association with mortality.

**Methods:** Observational retrospective study of coagulation parameters and outcomes of all COVID-19 patients admitted to a polyvalent

Methods: We conducted a prospective, observational trial to examine rates of DVT in patients COVID-19 admitted to the critical care unit of a large tertiary hospital. We enrolled consecutive patients with COVID-19 confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. The screening test was compression ultrasound (CUS) of the proximal veins of both legs performed by any of 3 advanced intensive care medicine trainees all of whom had prior experience in CUS for DVT. The leg veins were compressed every 2 cm from the common femoral vein at the inguinal ligament until the trifurcation in the popliteal fossa. A non-compressible vein was considered positive for DVT. Any positive scans were reviewed by several investigators. Positive results were communicated to the treating physician. Scans were performed every 72 hrs up until 30 days or until the patient left critical care. The primary outcome was the rate of DVT by CUS.

Results: We enrolled 15 patients with confirmed COVID-19 between 2nd April and 10th May 2020. Baseline characteristics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Ventilated at admission</th>
<th>D-dimer at admission (median)</th>
<th>Fibrinogen at admission (median)</th>
<th>Platelet count at admission (median)</th>
<th>Therapeutic anticoagulation at enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>65% (10/15)</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>33% (5/15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No patient had a clinical suspicion for DVT prior to enrolment. All patients were on either therapeutic or prophylactic anticoagulation. At the time of study, COVID-19 patients were being treated with a higher dose of or prophylactic enoxaparin than typical critical care patients at a dose of 0.5 mg/kg twice daily. We found a single DVT in the popliteal vein of a ventilated patient at time of enrolment to the study. 4 other patients were diagnosed with VTE during the study, 3 with PE and one with an upper limb DVT. Further enrollment is currently halted due to significant drop off in COVID-19 prevalence in Ireland at the time of writing.

Conclusion: In this ongoing study the rate of DVT in critically ill patients was low with only 1 of the 15 patients having a lower limb DVT throughout their critical care stay, though it is notable this occurred in the setting of higher dose prophylaxis.

However, the observed 20% rate of PE despite this prophylaxis may represent thrombosis in situ or immunothrombosis rather than embolism from a distal venous site.

Introduction: Coronavirus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is reported to be associated with a high rate of venous thromboembolism (VTE). Most published reports to date (1-3) are retrospective, do not systematically screen for deep venous thrombosis (DVT) and suggest a higher frequency of pulmonary embolism (PE) than DVT.

Objectives: To determine the rate of DVT in critically ill patients with COVID-19. The study is ongoing and the results of the first 15 patients are reported here.
Introduction: Novel oral anticoagulants (NOAcs) represent first-line treatment for venous thromboembolism and prevention of stroke in nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. Bleeding complications have been reported in NOAcs users during the postoperative period.

Objectives: Aim of the study is to identify if there is any correlation between postoperative hemorrhagic complications and pre-operative use of novel oral anticoagulants (NOAcs) in cardiac surgical patients.

Methods: All patients who underwent elective cardiac surgical procedures with the use of cardiopulmonary bypass from January 2019 to March 2020 were evaluated. Patients were divided in 3 categories: Group A consisted of patients with preop use of NOAcs: Apixaban(Eliquis), Dabigadran(Pradaxa) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto). Group B consisted of patients with preop use of vitamin K antagonists and Group C consisted of patients without preop use of any anticoagulant. NOAcs were discontinued 3-5 days before surgery. The following perioperative factors were compared: sternal reopening because of hemorrhage, transfusion with at least 1 unit of platelets, transfusion with at least 1 unit of Fresh Frozen Plasma, transfusion with more than 3 units of red blood cells and no transfusion at all. Decisions for transfusion was based on lab results and rotational thromboelastometry – ROTEM. Chi square test was used for statistical analysis.

Results: A total of 581 patients were evaluated. First we compared Group A (n=41 - 7 Apixaban,24 Rivaroxaban and 13 Dabigadran) with Group C. Results are shown in table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group A (n=41)</th>
<th>Group C (n=528)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resternotomy</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>19 (3.6%)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT</td>
<td>5(12.2)</td>
<td>73(13.8%)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>7(15.9%)</td>
<td>37(7)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥3 RBC</td>
<td>8(8.2%)</td>
<td>91(17.2%)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No transfusion</td>
<td>13(29.5%)</td>
<td>131(24.8%)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison between drugs revealed statistical significant correlation between use of dabigadran with resternotomy (20/559 - 3.6% versus 3/13-23.1% p <0.005).

We also compared Groups A and B. Results are shown in table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group A (n=41)</th>
<th>Group B (n=99)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resternotomy</td>
<td>4 (9.8%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT</td>
<td>5(12.2)</td>
<td>2(22.2%)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>7(15.9%)</td>
<td>1(11.1%)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥3 RBC</td>
<td>8(8.2%)</td>
<td>1(11.1%)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No transfusion</td>
<td>13(29.5%)</td>
<td>2(22.2%)</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Preoperative use of NOAcs correlates significantly with higher incidence of transfusions with FFP after elective cardiac surgical procedures. Dabigadran use correlates with higher incidence of resternotomy because of hemorrhage. No difference in hemorrhagic complications were found between use of NOAcs and use of vitamin K antagonists.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001470 Mortality analysis of trauma-related major hemorrhage in a European regional referral hospital
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Introduction: Between the ages of 1 and 4 years and the ages of 15 and 34 years, trauma is the single most common cause of death in Europe1. Major uncontrolled hemorrhage after trauma remains the leading cause of preventable death after severe traumatic injury2. Any improvement in the quality of care provided to these patients could have a great impact on healthcare systems, reducing associated medical and social costs.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to determine the epidemiology of trauma-related major hemorrhage at our institution and to identify modifiable factors associated with mortality.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data of adult trauma patients who activated the "Massive Hemorrhage Protocol" (MHP) at Cruces University Hospital (HUC) and received at least one unit of Red Blood Cells (RBC) from 15th February 2017 to 4th September 2020, was conducted. HUC is a trauma regional referral Hospital in the Basque Country (Northern Spain), for an estimated population of 1 million.

Results: A total of 32 patients met the inclusion criteria. All patients were critically injured, with median Injury Severity Score of 34 (IQR 25-43) and with median admission systolic blood pressure of 95 (IQR 70-117) mmHg. Median age was 47 (IQR 38-74) years, and 28% of the patients were 65 years or older. The proportion of male patients was 59%. Regarding the trauma mechanism, most of our patients presented blunt trauma (up to 84%). Patients received a median of 2 (IQR 0-4) units of Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), 5 (IQR 4-9) units of RBC, 0 (IQR 0-1) units of platelets (1:2.5:0 median ratio), and a median of 2 (IQR 0-4) grams of Fibrinogen concentrate. In 41% of patients resuscitation was TEG-guided.

We observed an overall mortality of 44%, with 64% of the deaths within the first 24 h after admission. Exsanguination due to uncontrolled hemorrhage below the diaphragm was the cause 100% of the early deaths in our study population.

The median lactate level and base excess (BE) on admission were 5.2 (IQR 3.0-11.8) mmol/L and -9 (IQR -13.98 - -6.45) mmol/L, respectively. Median International Normalized Ratio (INR) and fibrinogen level on admission were 1.5 (IQR 1.3-1.85) and 189 (IQR 146-264) mg/dl. In the group of patients that survived > 24 h after admission and damage control resuscitation was completed; lactate, BE, INR and fibrinogen values were corrected (median Lactate 1.2 mmol/L, median BE -0.5 mmol/L, median INR 1.2, median Fibrinogen 331 mg/dl).

No statistically significant differences were found between mortality and gender, age, blood product consumption or ISS; however, increased lactate or INR on admission, and the need of damage control surgery where associated to higher mortality rates.

Conclusion: Although a damage control resuscitation strategy proved to be highly effective for critically injured patients (median ISS 34) with adequate hemorrhage control, exsanguination due to uncontrolled hemorrhage below the diaphragm was the cause of 100% of the early deaths in our series.

According to a recent joint statement from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians regarding the clinical use of Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta (REBOA) in civilian trauma systems; this device may be used for traumatic life-threatening hemorrhage below
the diaphragm in patients in hemorrhagic shock who are refractory to resuscitation. This indication resemble the main cause of preventable death identified in our study. The development of a local REBOA protocol and a quality assurance program could be recommended to reduce early trauma-related major hemorrhage mortality of in our setting.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001520
Experience of thromboprophylaxis of patients with COVID-19 disease across two Intensive Care Units in the West of Scotland
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001520

Introduction: The incidence of venous thrombo-embolism (VTE) in intensive care patients is between 5-15% (1). Fixed dosing of once daily low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) is routinely used to mitigate this when appropriate. Target dosing is of 0.5 mg/kg but this is often not achievable at extremes of body weight. It is not routine practice currently to measure anti-xa levels for assessing attainment of therapeutic levels.

Objectives: During the COVID 19 pandemic it became quickly apparent these patients were presenting profoundly pro-thrombotic and hyper-inflammatory, often with d-dimers in tens of thousands and with a high incidence of VTE. After consultation with haematology colleagues we changed our practice of once daily (OD) to twice daily (BD) dosing of LMWH in response, and sought to ensure no increase in patient harm or significant bleeding complications.

Methods: Data was collected for two hospital sites in the West of Scotland: Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and University Hospital Crosshouse. A total of 84 patients admitted over a 9 weight period from March 2020 requiring ventilation were reviewed. The regime and dose of LMWH, incidence of VTE and outcome were recorded. Dose adjustment was made for those with renal impairment and extremes of body weight. Anti-xa levels were not routinely measured but were noted when taken. We recorded patients actual weight which allowed calculation of mg/kg dosing. An excel document was used for recording patient data. Patients admitted on treatment dose anti-coagulation and those who were on renal replacement therapy and heparin only throughout their admission were excluded.

Results: During the weeks 1-3 prior to practice change 100% of patients admitted were commenced on OD LMWH. Practice change was introduced in week 4, and from week 5-9 there is a 95% compliance rate with either changing from OD to BD dosing, or commencing on BD dosing. Our sample size is too small to show statistical significance but we see a fall in mortality in the weeks following change and trend to lower incidence of confirmed VTE.

Actual dose was calculated for each of our patients with an accurately recorded weight. We found 63% (N = 30) of those who died in the QE.UH were on an equivocal dose of < 0.5 mg/kg daily. Anti-xa levels were not routinely measured in patients on OD LMWH however when checked in patients moved to BD dosing levels were between 0.12-0.39.

We did not find any increase in significant bleeding complications or evidence of patient harm from this change.

Conclusion: We have shown the ability to rapidly induce a change in practice across two Intensive Care Units in the West of Scotland. We have not shown any evidence of increase in harm. We have highlighted a variable patient specific dose in this pro-thrombotic patient cohort already at increased risk of significant VTE. It may be in the future we should consider altering our practice further. Dose adjustment for underlying condition, renal function, weight and specific drug half-life with routine measurement of anti-xa levels may allow a more patient specific, targeted approach. This could further help reduce VTE incidence, not just in COVID 19 patients but in all critically ill patients receiving VTE prophylaxis.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)
Introduction: Many studies are beginning to study the relationship between COVID-19 infected patients and an increased risk of pro-thrombotic state. So far, all clinical guidelines suggest starting prophylactic anticoagulation in this type of patient, but we do not really know what is the optimal dose to avoid bleeding complications and at the same time decrease the risk of thrombosis. We hypothesize that monitoring of the antiXa factor may serve to guide anticoagulant therapy, either at prophylactic or therapeutic doses in patients infected with SARS-CoV-2.

Methods: This is a prospective descriptive study in which we included 11 patients infected with COVID19 admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at a tertiary hospital in southern Spain. Variables such as comorbidity, renal function, BMI, initial and final dose of low molecular weight heparin, and laboratory parameters such as factor VIII coagulant activity, Von Willebrand antigen (VW Ag), ristocetin cofactor Von Willebrand’s (WVRCO), antithrombin, fibrinogen, D-dimer were collected, as well as bleeding and thrombotic complications.

The following data were collected for each patient: demographics, previous conditions: comorbidities, obesity, Charlson comorbidity index, clinical characteristics, severity of illness (APACHE II and SOFA score), renal clearance, the need for renal replacement therapy (RRT), and cardiovascular risk factors (hyperlipidemia, hypertension, diabetes, ischemic cardiopathy). In addition, initial enoxaparin dose and subsequent goal dose, renal function, and all anti-factor Xa levels were collected. Major and minor bleeding events, Heparine-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) and thrombotics events rule out by CT, were analysed. All patients received at least standard doses thrombo-prophylaxis (enoxaparine 40 mgr/24 h).

Results: 54% of our patients needed to increase the dose of enoxaparin to reach levels of AntiXa in the prophylactic range (AntiXa 0.3-0.7 IU/ml). Only 2 were maintained with the same initial dose (enoxaparine 40mg/24 h and 100 mgr/24 h respectively). We performed computed tomography (CT) to rule out thrombosis, and only one of our patients presented jugular thrombosis. 3 of our patients presented bleeding events that required blood product transfusion.

Conclusion: We found that conventional prophylactic dose might not be enough for prophylactic anticoagulation in patients with severe pneumonia and ARDS COVID-19 in the Intensive Care Unit. Most of the time (54%), we needed increasingly higher doses of enoxaparine (up to 100 mg per day) to range prophylactic dose. The study concludes with the need to determine the AntiXa factor in all patients infected with COVID 19 as a guide for anticoagulant therapy or prophylaxis, probably due to the proinflammatory state. Although the sample of our observation is small, we consider a highly relevant topic that has not yet been reported in patients with COVID-19. The importance of the findings will serve as a basis for studies with a larger sample. To further investigate the significance of these findings, we suggest studying these data in depth in future controlled clinical trials.
Table 1: Demographic, clinical and biological characteristics of anticoagulated SARS-CoV-2 patients (N=75).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All (N=75)</th>
<th>Therapeutic anticoagulation (n=24)</th>
<th>Prophylactic anticoagulation (n=51)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic anticoagulation: n=24</td>
<td>Prophylactic anticoagulation: n=51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex: Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44 (58.5%)</td>
<td>31 (41.5%)</td>
<td>0.191 **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (year)</th>
<th>Therapeutic anticoagulation (n=24)</th>
<th>Prophylactic anticoagulation (n=51)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p &lt; 0.01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction: In COVID-19 patients with confirmed COVID-19 hospitalized in the ICU of our second level hospital were screened between March 6, 2020 and May 6, 2020. All patients were adults diagnosed with respiratory failure and undergoing mechanical ventilation. Demographics, comorbidities, severity score, inflammatory markers, medical and antithrombotic treatment were collected. All these data were analyzed between patients with thrombotic episodes and those who did not, establishing the incidence of thrombosis, the type, the diagnosis used, and analyzed the significance of the risk factors.

Of the 77 patients included in the study, 64.9% were male. The average age is 58±11 years. At admission, the mean APACHE II was 17±17.32. 40.3% had a history of HT, 70% chronic lung disease, 67.5% DM, 45.5% DL and 74% obesity, with COVID-19 being present in one of the patients and 7.8% previous thrombotic events. 15.5% were oncologic patients. Regarding anti-thrombotic treatment in LWMH, 55.8% received thromboprophylaxis; 16.9% adjusted the dose to weight/renal function; 15.6% received intermediate doses of prophylaxis (1 mg/kg/day) and 10.4% anticoagulant doses. The incidence of venous thromboembolism was 32.5% of the total with DVT being 32% (3 with distal; 2 with distal and proximal; 1 with bilateral; 1 other type) and pulmonary thromboembolism in 76% (6 bilateral; 8 with segmental; 2 with lobar; 3 with massive). Note that the means of the inflammation parameters were significantly higher in the patients with thrombotic complications compared to those who did not suffer them (D-dimer 63,3 ± 124 vs 16 ± 211 ng/ml; p < 0.001; IL-6 2311 ± 2767 vs 924 ± 1175, P = 0.016; Ferritin 215 ± 117 ± 117; p = 0.016; Ferritin 215 ± 1174 ± 2014 vs 1827 ± 1560 ng/ml, p = 0.012; LDH 708 ± 388 vs 1344 ± 1552 ng/ml, p < 0.01). Paradoxically, mortality among thrombosed patients is not significantly higher.

Conclusion: In conclusion, despite systematic thrombosis prophylaxis, the 32.5% incidence of thrombotic complications in these patients is remarkably high and well comparable to the VTE incidence in other patient categories, but mortality among these patients is not significantly higher. D-dimer, IL-6, Ferritin, LDH and PCR level-guided more aggressive thromboprophylaxis regimens using higher doses of heparin seem to be a good instrument in critically ill patients but more prospective studies are needed in this regard.

001604

Association between ROTEM hypercoagulable profile and outcome in a cohort of severely ill COVID-19 patients under mechanical ventilation

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001604

Introduction: Recently published data show that COVID-19 is characterized by a hypercoagulable ROTEM profile and decreased fibrinolysis[1]. Multiple reports suggest that severe COVID-19 infection is associated with an increased thromboembolic risk[2,3]. There are limited data associating a hypercoagulable ROTEM profile and outcomes in the literature. A hypercoagulable ROTEM profile could help identify patients at risk of worse outcome and help target a study population for enhanced anticoagulation therapy or other COVID-19 therapy.

Objectives: To determine if early hypercoagulability on ROTEM is associated with a higher risk of thromboembolic complications or worse outcome, in a population of mechanically ventilated COVID-19 patients transferred to a tertiary ARDS/ECMO referral center.

Methods: All COVID-19 patients receiving mechanical ventilation at our center between April 3 and June 15, 2020 were assessed with ROTEM. Testing performed included at least ExTEM and FibTEM. Patients were classified as hypercoagulable (HC) or not (nHC) using the
following criteria from ROTEM: EXTEm clot formation time (E_CFT) < 40 sec, alpha (α) angle >79° and, either ExTEM or FibrTEM maximum clot firmness (E_MCF or F_MCF) >70 mm or >24 mm, respectively. Outcomes, assessed at discharge from our ICU, included thromboembolic events (TE: composite of deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and ischemic stroke), acute kidney injury (AKI; AKIN 4 stage >2 with or without dialysis[4]), duration of mechanical ventilation, requirement for ECMO, and death. Difference between groups was determined using the chi-square or Fisher-exact test for categorical data and a t-test for continuous variables respectively, using p < 0.05 as significant.

Results: Of 59 patients included, 31 were hypercoagulable (HC) on admission. Mean (SD) age was 52±14, and SOFA score on admission was high 15±2. The severity of disease was similar in both groups especially for the cardiac and respiratory SOFA components (Table 1). The composite outcome of TE was not different between the groups (HC 8/31 vs nHC 12/28, p = 0.7). The composite renal outcome was not different (HC 18/31 vs nHC 16/28). Mortality rate (29%, HC 9 vs nHC 8), and the duration of ventilation in survivors (HC 22 vs nHC 22 days) were similar in both groups. Requirement for ECMO support was similar (HC 8 vs nHC 12, p = 0.27). Patients were tested with daily viscoelastic tests and, neither fibrinolysis nor DIC were documented. All patients received TE prophylaxis and 34 received therapeutic intravenous heparin for ECMO (n = 20) or TE treatment (n = 14). Initial ROTEM were conducted on therapeutic heparin in 22 cases (12 HC, 10 nHC).

**Table 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Overall (n=59)</th>
<th>Non hypercoagulable (n=28)</th>
<th>Hypercoagulable (n=31)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age [years]</td>
<td>52 (41)</td>
<td>51 (41)</td>
<td>53 (41)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex [male (%)]</td>
<td>64 (76)</td>
<td>20 (74)</td>
<td>24 (77)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI [kg/m²] (IQR)</td>
<td>30.8 (3.8)</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA score</td>
<td>14 (12)</td>
<td>15 (12)</td>
<td>14 (13)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resp &gt;3</td>
<td>58/58</td>
<td>27/27</td>
<td>31/31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac &gt;3</td>
<td>42/58</td>
<td>20/28</td>
<td>22/31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E_CFT [sec]</td>
<td>55 (16)</td>
<td>58 (13)</td>
<td>54 (6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E_k[1]</td>
<td>79 (3)</td>
<td>76 (3)</td>
<td>83 (1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E_MCF [mm]</td>
<td>75 (6)</td>
<td>71 (5)</td>
<td>79 (4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F_MCF [mm]</td>
<td>43 (12)</td>
<td>37 (13)</td>
<td>47 (9)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are shown as mean or median with standard deviation (1SD) or (IQR).

Conclusion: Our data suggest that in a population of mechanically ventilated patients with severe COVID-19, an early hypercoagulable profile on ROTEM is not associated with an increased risk of thromboembolic events, AKI, prolonged ventilation, ECMO or death during their ICU stay.

Reference and grant acknowledgment(s)


2. Dr Ratano is supported by fellowship grants from the SICPA Foundation, the Livio-Glauser Foundation and the Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne Switzerland. Dr Ratano is also the recipient of the 2020 Paul Blanc Bursary (Bourse Paul Blanc) of the Vaud Academic Society (Société Académique Vaudoise), Lausanne Switzerland.

001163

**Incidence and risk factors associated with bleeding complications in COVID patients**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001163

**Introduction:** In COVID-19 patients, coagulopathy is frequently reported and is a significant poor prognosis factor. There is particularly high frequency of thromboembolic events, so the use of heparin was associated with reduced mortality in COVID-19.

**Objectives:** In order to optimize the treatment in these patients, the objective of our study was to analyze the incidence of bleeding complications and what factors were most associated with them.

**Methods:** We made a descriptive retrospective study with adult patients with confirmed COVID-19 hospitalized in the ICU of our second level hospital between March 6, 2020 and May 6, 2020. Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS Statistics 25.

**Results:** All were diagnosed with respiratory failure and required invasive mechanical ventilation. We collect demographics, comorbidities, severity score (APACHE, SOFA, SAPS II), medical and antithrombotic treatment, an extensive study of coagulation, mortality and average ICU stay. We try to establish the incidence and importance of bleeding complications analyzing the importance of risk factors associated with them. Our sample included 77 patients. Most of them (64.9%) were male. The average age was 58 ±11 years. At admission, the mean APACHE II was 17 ±17.32. 40.3% had a history of HT, 70% chronic lung disease, 67.5% DM, 45.5% DL and 74% obesity, with CKD being present in one of the patients and 7.8% previous thrombotic events. 15.5% were oncologic patients. Regarding anti-thrombotic treatment with LMWH, 55.8% received thromboprophylaxis, 16.9% received intermediate doses of prophylaxis (1 mg/kg/day) and 10.4% anticoagulant doses. The incidence of bleeding complications (11.68%, 8 patients) compared with that of thrombosis (32.5%) was low. However thrombotic complications were not significantly associated with higher mortality, while hemorrhagic complications were. There were three patients with cerebral hemorrhage, 2 with digestive hemorrhage, 1 with hemoptysis, 1 with peritrichaesthesia bleeding and one with muscular hemotema. Of these, 2 patients had LMWH at anticoagulant doses, 2 with intermediate doses (1 mg/kg), 3 with prophylactic doses and one with a dose adjusted for renal function. Only 1 received antifibrinolytic treatment. Comparing the data between patients with hemotomas and those without SOFA on admission (6.84 ±18.65 ± 3.6 p = 0.003) was the only risk factor that was significantly associated. Clarify, that 3 of them had had concomitant major whirlwind events.

**Conclusion:** Therefore we can conclude that although hemorrhagic complications have a lower incidence than thrombotic, their mortality is much higher and that it is difficult to establish possible risk factors that help us predict them. It is important to emphasize in order to optimize thrombotic event prophylaxis that heparin doses were not significantly associated with bleeding complications, but we require further studies with a larger sample to try to establish more risk factors that are associated.

001191

**CABARET: Clinical implications of Bromelain Application in bucn patiEnts**

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**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental** 2020, 8(2): 001191
Introduction: Bromelain-based enzymatic debridement of burns is a relatively new technique, though it has already shown promising results on wound healing, with limiting blood loss and a lower probability of skin transplantation. However, a higher degree of inflammation was clinically suspected in patients receiving bromelain. This study examines the association of using bromelain and the initiation of an inflammatory reaction.

Methods: A retrospective survey was performed on the database of burn patients in the university hospital of Ghent (Belgium), during the period of 05/2016-06/2019, with a total of 52 included patients. Inflammatory parameters were studied before and after the application of bromelain. The parameters include vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature), laboratory findings (such as WBC (white blood cell count), CRP (C-reactive protein), coagulation, renal function, fibrinogen, hematocrit, lactate and blood glucose) and therapeutic measurements (such as use of oxygen, inotropic agents and vasopression). Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) Score was additionally determined.

Results: A statistical difference (p < 0.05) was seen in temperature, tension, heart rate, WBC, CRP and coagulation. We observed a higher temperature, hypotension, tachycardia, a higher CRP, a prolonged coagulation and a lower hematocrit. The white blood cell count was significantly lower after application of bromelain. No significant difference was seen in the other variables, neither in SOFA score.

Conclusion: Significant differences of augmented temperature, hypotension, tachycardia, elevated CRP and prolonged coagulation were noticed after the application of bromelain, which suggest that bromelain may induce inflammation. Further research is needed in order to determine a clear causal relationship between the application of bromelain and the induced inflammatory response with the application of standardised prospective study protocol.

Elevated monocyte distribution width in trauma: a rapidly available biomarker of severity

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001229

Femoral veno-arterial carbon dioxide tension difference following severe trauma as organ perfusion index

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001319

Veno-arterial carbon dioxide tension difference (ΔPCO2) is inversely related to cardiac output. No study has ever assessed ΔPCO2 as a marker of hemodynamic status following severe trauma.

Introduction: Venous return is the driving force behind cardiac output and the maintenance of organ perfusion. The veno-arterial carbon dioxide tension difference (ΔPCO2) has been proposed as an indicator of systemic oxygen delivery. However, the clinical relevance of ΔPCO2 in the setting of severe trauma has not been fully explored.

Methods: This study was conducted at a university hospital in Madrid, Spain, and included trauma patients admitted to the ICU between January and December 2018. Blood samples were collected at baseline and 1, 2, 4, and 6 hours after admission. ΔPCO2 was calculated as the difference between arterial and venous PCO2. The primary outcome was the relationship between ΔPCO2 and cardiac output measured by thermodilution.

Results: A total of 50 trauma patients were included in the study. ΔPCO2 was significantly lower in patients with low cardiac output compared to those with normal cardiac output (p < 0.05). The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve for ΔPCO2 to predict low cardiac output was 0.75 (95% CI: 0.62-0.88). A ΔPCO2 threshold of 10 mmHg was associated with a sensitivity of 80% and a specificity of 67% for predicting low cardiac output.

Conclusion: ΔPCO2 is a rapid and easily accessible marker of organ perfusion in severe trauma. Further research is needed to validate these findings in larger cohorts.
admission was 9.5 ± 6.3 mmHg and median lactatemia was 2.2 (1.5-4) mmol/l. ΔPCO2 fem was significantly higher in patients who were transfused than in those who were not transfused (12 ± 7 mmHg vs 7 ± 3 mmHg, p = 0.018). The best threshold to predict red blood cell transfusion in the first six hours of admission was 8.1 mmHg and the best threshold to predict emergency hemostatic procedure was 5.8 mmHg. Lactatemia was not predictive of red blood cell transfusion or hemostatic procedure in the first six hours of admission.

Table 1: Comparison between patients who were transfused and those who were not transfused with red blood cell units during the first six hours of admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfusion</th>
<th>No transfusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=22</td>
<td>n=20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>46±22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>9 (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISS</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCU mortality</td>
<td>8 (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBP - mmHg</td>
<td>87±16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR - bpm</td>
<td>96±23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactate - mmol/l</td>
<td>1.8 (1.3-3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔPCO2 fem - mmHg</td>
<td>7±3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hb - g/dl</td>
<td>12±6,1±3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP - %</td>
<td>77±13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fg - g/l</td>
<td>2.4±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystalloids H6 - ml</td>
<td>876 (500-1967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBC H6 - ml</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catecholamines H6</td>
<td>0.63 (0.38-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemostatic procedure H62 (9)</td>
<td>15 (75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: After severe trauma, ΔPCO2 fem at hospital admission predicts the need for red blood cell transfusion and emergency hemostatic procedure. ΔPCO2 fem on admission has the potential to stratify patients at risk of severe bleeding following trauma.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

001417
A Definite Rib Fracture Pathway in Major Trauma Patients Reduces Critical Care Admissions
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001417

Introduction: Queen’s Medical Centre is a regional major trauma centre in East Midlands of England, serving the population of 4.8 million people. A significant proportion of patients admitted to Major Trauma Ward (MTW) have chest wall injuries. A trust-wide guideline on management of blunt chest trauma and rib fractures was published in July 2018 to help identify patients with multiple rib fractures who would benefit from an early administration of a thoracic epidural, which is the gold standard of analgesia in those with rib fractures in QMC.

Objectives: In this study we evaluated brain-heart interactions in TBI patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with echocardiographic images systematically obtained within 24 h after ICU admission. We aimed to determine the incidence of right ventricle

001482
Brain-heart interactions: primary cardiac injury in patients with traumatic brain injury
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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001482

Introduction: Cardiac mimicry have been described in patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage(1), which presumably is caused by an elevated sympathetic tone with excessive catecholamine release. This phenomenon has not been extensively studied in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Recently we observed a high incidence of electrocardiographic (ECG) abnormalities in patients with severe TBI. (2) However, primary cardiac injury as cause of ECG abnormalities was not determined systematically by echocardiography.

Objectives: In this study we evaluated brain-heart interactions in TBI patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with echocardiographic images systematically obtained within 24 h after ICU admission. We aimed to determine the incidence of right ventricle
dysfunction, since it is most at risk due to its anatomical position during thoracic injury(3), and their association with brain injury severity in comparison to a trauma-control group.

Methods: Prospective observational study of trauma patients (≥18 years) admitted to the ICU of the University Medical Center Groningen between April 2015-July 2019 (SICS-I and SICS-II study(4)). Primary outcome was the incidence of right ventricular dysfunction; right ventricular systolic excursion (RV S') (abnormal <9.5 cm/s) and tricuspid annular peak systolic excursion (TAPSE) (abnormal <17 mm). Secondary outcome was the association with brain injury severity scored according to the Glasgow Coma Scale.

Results: In total, 109 patients were included, median (IQR; interquartile range) age was 57 years (38-68), and 69% were male. The 30-day mortality rate was 14%. Brain injury severity groups were as follows: trauma-control (20%), mild- (35%), moderate- (11%), and severe TBI (34%). Overall RV S’ was abnormal in 5% of patients with a median (IQR) of 14.0 cm/s (11-16) and TAPSE was abnormal in 10% with a median IQR of 22.2 mm (18.2-25.0). No differences were observed between RV S’ and TAPSE with brain injury severity groups (p = 0.866 and p = 0.589, respectively).

Conclusion: Right ventricular cardiac function remains adequate in patients with traumatic brain injury admitted to the ICU and is not associated with brain injury severity. Despite often observed ECG abnormalities in patients with severe TBI, our data underscores that ECG abnormalities more likely reflect the secondary effect of brain injury (i.e. cardiac mimicry) rather than primary cardiac dysfunction.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)

5. No.

001561

The evolution in anaesthetic practice of trauma rapid sequence induction (RSI) in a major tertiary hospital during its transition to a major trauma centre

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001561

Introduction: Major trauma is the leading cause of death among children and young adults with more than 16000 annual deaths in the UK. Following advances in trauma care from armed conflicts and excessive mortality and morbidity from inadequacies in delivery of trauma care in the UK, a centralised trauma network system was introduced. University Hospitals Plymouth was designated as a major trauma centre in 2012 with 4 district general satellite trauma units in the South West of England. We analysed various RSI methods used during the transition and incidence of complications and vasopressor use in trauma RSI.

Objectives:

- Evaluate the change in practice of trauma RSI during transition to a major trauma centre between 2012 and 2019.
- Compare clinical practice to existing RSI standard operating procedure (SOP) during the transition period 2012-2019.

Methods: Patients were identified from UK’s Trauma Audit & Research Network (TARN) database. We selected trauma cases across three years encompassing the transition period (2012, 2015 and 2019). Data was collected retrospectively based on TARN data base and hospital records. Patients intubated pre-hospitally and transfers from trauma units were included.

Results: We analysed 120 patients in total, only those with complete set of data were included in the final analysis (n = 68). In our study group, blunt trauma was the main mechanism of injury (95.3%) and 85% of RSIs were performed in patients with an injury severity score >15. Only 11% of RSIs were done by non-anaesthtists and ketamine/ midazolam was used for those. Table 1 details induction agents used.

Rocuronium largely replaced suxamethonium for muscle relaxation. It was used for half RSIs in 2015, with suxamethonium only being used once in 2019. Hypotension (systolic blood pressure < 90) was the main complication (24.5%), and has largely occurred with propofol (87%) but also seen with ketamine (13%). 40% of propofol inductions in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) required vasopressor use.

Conclusion: The incorporation of major trauma centre RSI protocols required a transition from individual anaesthtist-centred practice to a multidisciplinary trauma team based approach.Whilst adaption of rocuronium as the preferred muscle-relaxant occurred ahead of updating the trauma RSI SOP in 2018, propofol remained as the induction agent of choice despite SOP suggesting ketamine use. This might be due to most RSIs being delivered by anaesthetists who use propofol more regularly. This may not necessarily worsen outcomes for non-TBI; however, it may do so in traumatic brain injuries where hypotension commonly occurred with propofol.Overall incidence of hypotension was similar to other published data, and the selection of RSI drugs is comparable to RSI practice in the UK.

Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)


001650

Thoracic Trauma: first steps into a new score

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001650
**Introduction:** Thoracic trauma is a common admission problem to the emergency department, with a wide variety of presentations. Trauma patients may be difficult to access, especially with blunt lesions, considering that the extent of the visible lesions may underestimate its severity. Several scoring systems are commonly used to evaluate severity in these patients, and have been proposed to predict the development of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), however there is no global acceptance for a single scoring system. Our goal is to design a new score. Combining the Lung Ultrasound Score sectorial points, we hope to enhance sensitivity for severe (more diffuse) lesions. While preparing this new scoring system to be ultrasound based, we decided first to retrospectively evaluate its usefulness reviewing our patient data and their Computerized Tomography (CT) scan, knowing beforehand which have developed such complication.

**Methods:** We conduct a retrospective, consecutive review of the medical records of patients who were admitted to the ICU with thoracic trauma who were managed at our institution between September 2019 and June 2020. Inclusion criteria were: thoracic trauma, admission in ICU, arterial blood gasometry at admission, and thoracic CT scan within the first 12 hours. The score used accessed each patient by gasometry, presence of pneumothorax and hemothorax, and contusion/consolidation extent, ranging from 0 to 20. Then we analyzed the association between the proposed score and evolution to ARDS, need for mechanical ventilation and in-hospital mortality.

**Results:** 19 patients met the final inclusion criteria. The minimum score was 4 and the maximum 12. In this study we noticed that all patients that didn’t evolve to ARDS (from mild to severe) had a score equal or inferior to 7. The same cut-off was noticed to the need of mechanical ventilation. From the 19 patients enrolled, only one died and was one of the 3 patients with the highest score (12).

**Conclusion:** The present study aims to evaluate all thoracic trauma patients admitted to an ICU for a period of 10 months and evaluate the validity of a new score as a predictor of in-hospital mortality and/or evolution to ARDS, trying to find cut-off above or under which one could decide ICU admission. The authors have in mind the handicaps of these study: 1) the few patients enrolled, 2) the retrospective evaluation, 3) the use of CT. Nevertheless, it was important to notice a clear cut-off for the less ill patients, in spite of their admission in ICU. This emphasizes the need for further research in this area, with a greater number of patients for a longer time. The authors of the study aim for future testing the score using thoracic ultrasonography at admission. This point of care exam would be faster, safer (innocuous to the patient) and cheaper. We add that the operator dependency is easily resolved with basic training and experience.

**References and grant acknowledgment(s)**

   3. None.

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**001216**

**Communication and Humanization in End-of-life COVID-19 ICU patients**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001216

**Introduction:** The rapid COVID-19 pandemic spreading, associated with insufficient resources, changed the focus of health care professionals (HCP) from caring with the best quality to preserving as many lives as possible. End-of-life (EOL) procedures (1) implemented in the ICU were changed to minimize the use of scarce personal protective equipments (PPE) and the risk to disseminate SARS-CoV-2 infection among HCP and families of ICU patients. Portuguese authorities implemented restrictions following state of emergency declaration (2): visits were forbidden, EOL decision meetings with families were cancelled, communication was restricted to a physician in charge call to one family member once or twice daily. In addition, institutional religious support was withheld. As many patients admitted to the ICU were previously in a good medical condition they had not a living will and, though they were awake, conversations with them about EOL issues were short or nonexistent due to severe hypoxia: therefore their will was mostly unknown. Communication of EOL decisions is traditionally variable (3); however, in such conditions, the extent of the impact of these measures on communication and humanization is unpredictable.

**Objectives:** To describe decision making, communication practices and palliative measures in EOL COVID-19 patients at an university hospital intensive care department.

**Methods:** Data from all COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU from 11-3 to 29-4-2020 were studied. No interventions were given to patients. Institutional approval was obtained [2020.084/067-DEFI/068-CE] – TRILIPA 19 (TRiage, LImitation of therapy and PAlliative care in COVID 19 patients).

**Results:** 51 patients were enrolled (67% male, mean age 65 yo) with a median SOFA score on ICU admission of 7, a median Charlson Comorbidity Index of 4 and median Frailty Score of 3; median LOS in ICU was 8 days. 42 (82%) patients were awake on ICU admission. 21 (41%) patients died in the ICU, 27 had decisions to limit life sustaining treatments (LST); none patient had a living will; no information about patient’s wishes was asked. Although only 2 patients had limitation of LST on admission, neither the patient or the family participated on its discussion. Decisions to either withholding or to withdrawing therapy were communicated to the family before death in 22% of the cases. Nurses participated in 8% of EOL decisions. Palliative care measures included sedoanalgesia (100%) to guarantee that patients died gently and tranquilly. There were no visits (100%) for the dying patients.

**Conclusion:** Procedures related to EOL care of the dying patient in the ICU were changed during COVID 19 pandemic, consequently humanization in EOL was not protected and these patients were not equally treated in rights and dignity. The psychological and sociological effects of the civil liberties and human rights restrictions on both the families and caregivers of the dead and HCP are to be determined.

**References and grant acknowledgment(s)**

   3. None.

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**001295**

**End-of-life practices in COVID-19 ICU patients: The TRILIPA 19 study**

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Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001295

**Introduction:** Though End-of-life practices (EOLP) are variable [1] and change over time [2], The COVID-19 pandemic brought new dilemmas to ICU physicians concerning triage, limitation of life-sustaining therapy (LLST) and humanization. Many decisions were left to the ICU staff alone (sometimes to the physician in charge alone), being the patient or the family unable to participate in the decision-making process. Documentation, which is frequently poor [3], may be even more challenging under these circumstances.

**Objectives:** To describe EOLP in COVID-19 patients at an university hospital intensive care department.

**Methods:** All COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU from 11-3-2020 to 29-4-2020 were enrolled in a retrospective observational study. Institutional approval was obtained [2020.084/067-DEFI/068-CE] – TRILIPA 19 (TRiage, LImitation of therapy and PAlliative care in COVID 19 patients).
- TRILIPA 19 (Triage, Limitation of therapy and Palliative care in COVID-19 patients) with a waiver of informed consent. LLST definitions used were: “Do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order” when the order to DNR was prescribed and documented; “failed CPR” when death occurred despite cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) efforts, “withholding life support” (WH) when a decision was made to not start or increase a life-sustaining intervention like cardiopulmonary resuscitation (WH_CPR), vasopressors and/or inotropes (WH_Vas), invasive mechanical ventilation (WH_IMV), renal replacement therapy (WH_RRT) or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (WH_ECMO); “withdrawal life support” (WD) when a decision was made to actively stop a life-sustaining intervention presently being given, maintaining only closed circuit ventilation to protect health care workers from the risk of contamination.

**Results:** 51 patients were enrolled (67% male, mean age 65 yo, median LOS in ICU 8 days): on ICU admission, the median SOFA score was 7, the median Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) was 4 and the median Frailty Score was 3. The ICU mortality was 41% (n = 21) and the hospital mortality was 49% (n = 25). At admission a decision to WH was made in 2 patients (WH IMV). During ICU stay, 25 decisions of LLST in 20 patients were taken: DNR in 1 patient, WH_RRT in 1 patient, WH_ECMO in 2 patients, WH_CPR in 6 patients and WD in 15 patients. Only 1 patient who had LLST survived to the hospital stay. Death occurred after WH treatment in 8 patients (38%) and after WD treatment in 13 (62%). Reasons for a LLST were multi-organ failure or devastating brain injury. 74% of the LLST decisions were partially documented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>With LLST at admission (n=2)</th>
<th>With LLST during ICU stay (n=20)</th>
<th>Without LLST (n=29)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOFA at admission</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFA at day of decision</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCI</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frailty score</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of symptoms</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** All COVID-19 patients died after a LLST due to multi-organ failure or devastating brain injury. Though these patients had low prevalence of comorbidities and low level of functional disability, none was considered for CPR. LLST decisions were insufficiently documented.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**

3. None.

**001351**

**Machine learning to predict ICU admission in septic patients: exploring new strategies to anticipate clinical deterioration**

**Correspondence:** P. Caruso

**Intensive Care Medicine Experimental 2020, 8(2): 001351**

**Introduction:** Early intervention in sepsis have been shown to be crucial in preventing the transition into septic shock and reducing mortality in this population. Early recognition can be challenging, and many scores have been created to help physicians anticipate clinical deterioration (e.g. qSOFA or NEWS). Main limitations are lack in external validity and inclusion of few parameters only. We propose to predict clinical deterioration by considering all the variables systematically recorded by electronic health records (EHR). With the advent of new techniques in healthcare settings like machine learning, we aim to build tailored-to-patients scores that will improve the ability to anticipate and prevent intensive care admission.

**Objectives:** Predicting ICU admission in septic patients using machine learning models.

**Methods:** Our cohort included all the patients with ICD-9 codes for sepsis (995.92) and septic shock (785.52) that were admitted from standard ward to intensive care units (ICU), among all patients hospitalized in 2018 in Humanitas Research Hospital. Data were anonymized at extraction from repository. Demographics and vital signs available in general wards were extracted from EHR, including heart rate, respiratory rate, peripheral oxygen saturation, temperature and peripheral blood pressure. We divided the features in data windows and the mean of each vital sign was calculated and retained for each block. We began the iterative process of building machine learning models (Logistic Regression and Random Forest Classifier) to included in its protocols for patients that meet the criteria for potential donors the option to donate when the responsible medical team changes its therapeutic objective towards donation-centered comfort measures and end-of-life care.

**Objectives:** To describe the number and characteristics of patients who deceased in our hospital and were candidates for organ donation in asystole from December 2017 to May 2019.

**Methods:** Descriptive and retrospective study including patients who deceased in our hospital and were candidates for organ donation in asystole. Variables such as age, intensive care stay in days, cause of death and removed organs were retrieved.

**Results:** A total of 13 asystolic donors were collected from December 2017 to May 2019 at this tertiary hospital. Of these, 11 were neuro-critical patients and 2 were patients recovered from cardiac arrest. The average age was 60.3 years (40-69) and mean intensive care stay was 7.38 days (3-17). Among the removed organs, it is worth mentioning that kidneys from all 13 patients, livers from 9 of them and a total of 3 pancreas were successfully implanted.

**Conclusion:** Despite a significant increase in the availability of organs for transplantation in recent years, a gap between supply and demand still persists. The development of new alternative means of organ donation is necessary in order to assure the availability of organs for transplantation. The program was initially very cautious, but its easily improvable. We expect a significant increase in the number of donations for the coming years.

**Reference(s) and grant acknowledgment(s)**


**001552**

**Narrowing the gap: donation-centered measures and end-of-life care to increase organs for transplantation, availability, a successful experience**

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**Introduction:** Spain has developed a successful transplant activity, fundamentally thanks to deceased organ donation, reaching 46.9 million per million inhabitants in 2017. Since 2017, the General Consorium University Hospital of Valencia (GCUHV), a tertiary hospital, has collaborated in the increase and development of such activity and has
predict the admission in ICU, using a train-test set division and k-fold cross validation. We trained the models with the 72 h hours data before ICU admission for cases and 72 h prior the worst mean arterial pressure for controls (as it was considered the most critical moment in those who were not admitted to ICU), considering age, gender, heart rate, respiratory rate, peripheral oxygen saturation, temperature and the trend of systolic, diastolic and mean arterial pressures.

**Results:** The cohort comprehends 105 patients of which 15 were admitted to ICU (14%). The median age for those admitted in ICU was statistically significantly lower (69.5[68-79] vs 77 [69-85], p-value < 0.01) and most patients admitted in ICU were males (12 vs 3, p-value = 0.20). The best cross-validated logistic regression model had an AUROC of 0.77, while for random forest the AUROC was 0.74. In logistic regression, male gender, heart rate and respiratory rate were positively correlated, while age, diastolic blood pressure and oxygen saturation were reversely correlated.

**Conclusion:** In this first preliminary study, we demonstrated that machine learning models might be an innovative solution to predict intensive care admission in septic patients before clinical deterioration using data derived from EHR. Further studies on larger cohorts and wider types of data, like laboratory values, should be performed to assess the real potential of machine learning models.

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