

Clinical factors affecting left ventricular end-diastolic pressure in patients with acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction

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Background: An association between left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (LVEDP) and outcomes of ischemic heart diseases has been reported. The present study aimed to investigate the LVEDP patterns and the effecting factors in patients with acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).

Methods: A total of 515 STEMI patients receiving immediate percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) were divided into two groups according to their LVEDP before left ventricular angiography: LVEDP of 15 mmHg or less (group A, n=145) and LVEDP above 15 mmHg (group B, n=370). Blood samples were collected before and within 24 hours after PCI, and an ultrasonic cardiogram was conducted to measure left ventricular ejection fraction (EF%) and to evaluate ventricular structure changes. The narrowness of each artery was measured with coronary angiography.

Results: In comparison with group A, patients in group B had a more infarction-related artery (IRA) descending branch and regional wall motion abnormality, a larger left atrial end-diastolic diameter (LAEDd) and a left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDd), a smaller EF%, a higher level of myocardial necrosis markers, and a higher heart failure rate. Furthermore, LVEDP level was found to be positively correlated with Gensini score, LAEDd, LVEDd, N-terminal pro b-type natriuretic peptide, troponin T, uric acid, creatine kinase (CK), CK myocardial band, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and fasting blood glucose, and negatively correlated with glomerular filtration rate and EF%.

Conclusions: LVEDP elevation has a higher incidence of heart failure and a higher risk of death, which is associated with the criminal blood vessels.

Keywords: Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (LVEDP); ST-segment elevation; acute myocardial infarction; ventricular diastolic function; infarction related artery distribution; percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

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Introduction

The left ventricular dysfunction (LVD) causes secondary elevation of pulmonary pressure, which contributes to the more detrimental prognosis of myocardial infarction (MI) (1,2). Previous studies have reported that ventricular diastolic dysfunction accompanied by elevated left ventricular diastolic pressure (LVDP) is common after acute ischemic infarction (3). Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (LVEDP) has been used as an important marker of LVD in hemodynamic assessment (4,5) and a strong predictor of prognosis in patients with ischemic heart diseases (6). Higher LVEDP has been associated with worse outcomes after balloon aortic valvuloplasty (7). Although noninvasive methods such as Doppler echocardiogram have been adopted to estimate LVEDP, catheterization remains the gold standard for its measurement. Therefore, in order to prevent adverse cardiac events, it should be beneficial to determine the predictive value of LVEDP and identify the factors that affect LVEDP, thus enabling prognostic prediction in patients with ischemic heart diseases.

Acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) is distinguishable from non-STEMI with respect to mechanisms, clinical symptoms, and prognosis. The current study specifically investigated factors that affect LVEDP in STEMI patients. The 1998 European Society of Cardiology work report (8) and its 2007 revised report (9) have stated that LVEDP above 16 mmHg serves as a marker of LV diastolic dysfunction. Therefore, in the current study, an LVEDP of 15 mmHg, measured by left heart catheterization, was used as the cutoff value for investigating factors associated with elevated LVEDP.

Methods

Patients

STEMI patients admitted to the emergency room (ER) of the Fourth Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University (Shenyang, China) between January of 2014 and July of 2017 were included in this study. STEMI was diagnosed based upon a combination of increased MI biomarkers, clinical symptoms, and electrocardiography (ECG). Patients exhibiting acute pulmonary edema, shock, cerebral vascular disease, or severe impaired liver/renal functions, or whose MI onset was longer than 12 hours prior to enrollment were excluded. The study was approved by institutional ethics committee of the 4th Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University (No. EC-2017-KS-043) and informed consent was taken from all the patients. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this study and any accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal. Patients were divided into two groups according to their pre-angiography LVEDP: group A (LVEDP of 15 mmHg or less) and group B (LVEDP above 15 mmHg). All patients received percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) within 12 hours after MI onset.

Outcome assessment

Demographic data were collected at patient admission to the hospital. Baseline cardiac function data and imaging data were obtained within 12 hours after the admission and before PCI. The endpoint of study was clinical death.

Laboratory measurements

A fasting blood sample was collected before PCI in order to conduct renal function assessment and routine blood examination with an AU640 automatic biochemistry analyzer (OLYMPUS, Inc., Tokyo, Japan) and an HL-750 automatic hematology analyzer (Beckman Coulter, Inc., USA), respectively. Additionally, a fasting blood sample was collected within 24 hours after PCI to measure the following parameters: triglyceride (TG), total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, highdensity lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, fasting blood glucose (FBG), albumin, creatinine (Cr) and uric acid (UA). Serum troponin T (TnT), creatine kinase (CK) and creatine kinase myocardial band (CKMB) were measured at 4, 8, 16, 24, 32, and 48 hours after MI onset, and the maximum value obtained during this series of measurements was used for analysis. N-terminal pro b-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) level within the first 24 hours after PCI was measured by using electrochemiluminescent immunoassay. Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was deduced from serum Cr value, after adjusting for age and gender.

Ultrasonic cardiogram and ejection function were assessed within 12 hours after admission to measure left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDd), left atrial end-diastolic diameter (LAEDd), left ventricular ejection fraction (EF%), and also, to detect ventricular regional wall motion abnormalities.

To obtain a Gensini score for coronary artery disease, the narrowness of each segment was evaluated by three experienced technicians. It was calculated according to Gensini *et al.*, and this score was then used to determine the severity of coronary disease.

LVEDP was obtained by averaging three recorded maximum pressures at the end of the deep exhalation, measured with a 5F pigtail tube immediately before and after left ventricular angiography. The angiography applied 30 mL radio-contrast dye, at 15 mL/s and 800 kPa. The difference between two LVEDPs was calculated as Δ LVEDP.

Statistics

SPSS version 19.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) was used for data analysis. Continuous data were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation ($\overline{x} \pm \sigma$). Chi-square test was used

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for categorical data comparison and an independent *t*-test for continuous data comparison. A Pearson test was used to analyze the correlation of LVEDP with coronary Gensini score, LAEDd, LVEDd, NT-proBNP, TnT, GFR, UA, CKMB, CK, LDL and FBG. One-way ANOVA was applied to compare LVEDP of different infarction-related arteries (IRAs). Comparison of the two groups was conducted using the Least Significant Difference (LSD) method. A P value of less than 0.05 was regarded as statistically significant.

Results

Baseline data

A total of 515 STEMI patients were enrolled and 370 (71.8%) had an LVEDP greater than 15 mmHg (group B). Baseline data are summarized in Table 1. In group A, the average hospital stay was 6.5 days, 30 cases had heart failure (Killip grade II+) (30/145, 20.7%), and 2 cases died (2/145, 1.4%). In group B, the average hospital stay was 7.8 days, 114 cases had heart failure (Killip grade II+) (114/370, 30.8%), and 9 cases died (9/370, 2.4%). The two groups exhibited no significant difference in age, gender, smoking status, or concomitant pathologies. Laboratory parameters including TG, HDL, albumin, NT-proBNP and GFR and right ventricular size were similar between the two groups. However, groups A and B showed significant differences in Gensini score, Killip grading, infarct related arteries (IRA) composition, regional wall motion abnormality and the following laboratory parameters: TC, LDL, FBG, hemoglobin (Hbg), UA, CK, CKMB and TnT. In comparison with group A, group B also had higher LAEDd and LVEDd, and smaller EF%. Moreover, patients in group B also exhibited higher levels of myocardial necrosis markers and higher heart failure.

Changes in LVEDP and IRA

LVEDP was significantly increased after angiography (*Table 2*). As for IRAs, LVEDP was significantly higher in the anterior descending branches than in the left circumflex and right coronary arteries, while Δ LVEDP was the highest in the right coronary artery and was significantly higher than that in anterior descending branches and left circumflex arteries (*Table 2*).

Correlation of LVEDP and multiple parameters

Pearson correlation analysis showed that LVEDP was

positively correlated with Gensini score, LAEDd, LVEDd, NT-proBNP, TnT, GFR, UA, CKMB, CK, LDL and FBG, and negatively correlated with GFR and EF%. Particularly, Gensini score, TnT, CKMB, CK and EF were highly correlated with LVEDP (in all instances, P<0.001) (*Table 3*).

Discussion

In present study, the proportion of anterior descending branch in IRA of group B was significantly higher than that of group A. In comparison with group A, group B also showed a greater LVEDP change in the right coronary IRA before and after angiography and a higher incidence of heart failure.

In this study, LVEDP was positively correlated with TnT, CKMA, and CK. This result can be explained as impaired ventricular diastolic functioning resulting from MI elevates LVEDP.

Studies by Kirtane *et al.* (10-12) showed a correlation between elevated LVEDP, longer hospital stay and higher rate of heart failure within 30 days after a STEMI. Patients with an LVEDP greater than 24 mmHg had a worse prognosis and a higher incidence of mortality. These studies suggested LVEDP as an independent predictor of re-hospitalization and prognosis after STEMI (13-15). Satiroglu *et al.* (16) identified STEMI as the cause of decreased left ventricular compliance, increased LVEDP, and impaired left ventricular diastolic function. LVEDP can be measured before and after PCI without any resulting complications, and therefore can be used for quick evaluation of diastolic function improvements.

Acute MI is an acute myocardial ischemic necrosis that often results from complete coronary stenosis due to a thrombosis induced by broken unstable plaques, and it is a common and crisis condition of left heart diseases (17). In the current study, severe coronary pathology was initially verified by pre-angiography catheterization in STEMI patients; 71.8% patients had an LVEDP above 15 mmHg before PCI suggests that most STEMI patients have ventricular systolic and/or diastolic dysfunction at the early stage. If systolic or diastolic dysfunction continues, the left ventricular filling pressure and left atrial pressure will increase, leading to obstructed pulmonary intravenous circulation and increased pulmonary pressure with or without pathological changes in small arteries (18).

A few studies have reported that LDL, FBG and UA are independent risk factors for cardiovascular diseases and are closely associated with the severity and prognosis of

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Table 1 Baseline data

Subjects	Group A (n=145)	Group B (n=370)	P value
Age (year), mean ± SD	60.07±9.24	58.45±11.18	0.093
Gender (male/female)	114/31	269/101	0.167
Smoking, n (%)	112 (77.2)	293 (79.2)	0.628
Killip grading, n (%)			0.022
1	115 (79.3)	256 (69.2)	
II+	30 (20.7)	114 (30.8)	
Concomitant diseases, n (%)			
Old myocardial infarction (%)	10 (6.9)	25 (6.8)	0.955
Hypertension (%)	76 (52.4)	206 (55.7)	0.504
Diabetes (%)	25 (17.2)	90 (24.3)	0.083
Atrial fibrillation (%)	10 (6.9)	30 (8.1)	0.644
Laboratory parameters, mean \pm SD			
TC (mmol/L)	4.32±0.75	4.59±0.89	0.001
TG (mmol/L)	1.73±1.68	1.54±0.91	0.180
LDL (mmol/L)	2.75±0.63	3.12±0.82	<0.001
HDL (mmol/L)	1.00±0.29	0.97±0.22	0.276
FBG (mmol/L)	6.53±1.46	7.55±3.02	<0.001
Hbg (g/L)	136.93±11.03	134.26±16.52	0.034
Albumin (g/L)	38.31±3.22	38.50±3.16	0.550
NT-proBNP (pg/mL)	1,535.62±1,412.46	1,831.58±2,045.28	0.123
TnT (ng/mL)	3.18±2.75	4.31±3.38	<0.001
CKMB (U/L)	226.79±224.49	317.34±274.95	<0.001
CK (U/L)	1,580.99±1,228.70	2,741.74±2,287.72	<0.001
GFR (mL/min/1.73m ²)	81.76±15.68	79.04±20.29	0.113
UA (µmol/L)	302.84±79.76	327.92±85.06	0.002
Ultrasonic cardiogram parameters			
LAEDd (mm), mean ± SD	36.21±3.22	37.19±3.38	0.003
LVEDd (mm), mean ± SD	47.62±4.01	49.99±4.81	<0.001
RV (mm), mean ± SD	18.96±1.59	19.24±1.82	0.084
EF%, mean ± SD	61.28±5.78	57.43±7.53	<0.001
Regional wall motion abnormality, n (%)	64 (44.1)	236 (63.8)	<0.001
Coronary disease evaluation			
Time to IRA cleaning (hour), mean \pm SD	5.83±3.06	5.45±2.51	0.183
Gensini score, mean ± SD	43.43±22.60	59.05±26.62	<0.001
IRA composition: anterior descending branch/ circumflex/right coronary artery, n (%)	49/15/81 (33.8/10.3/55.9)	202/34/134 (54.6/9.2/36.2)	<0.001

SD, standard deviation; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; FBG, fasting blood glucose; Hbg, hemoglobin; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro b-type natriuretic peptide; TnT, troponin T; CKMB, creatine kinase myocardial band; CK, creatine kinase; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; UA, uric acid; LAEDd, left atrial end-diastolic diameter; LVEDd, left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; RV, right ventricle; EF%, ejection fraction; IRA, infarction-related artery.

Table 2 LVEDP changes

Variables	Before angiography	After angiography	Difference (Δ LVEDP)	P value	
LVEDP (mmHg)	19.92±6.90	22.56±7.43	-	<0.001	
LVEDP of IRA					
Anterior descending branches	21.73±6.73*	24.24±7.55*	2.66±2.56	<0.001	
Left circumflex	19.35±5.85	21.16±6.17	2.02±1.70	<0.001	
Right coronary artery	17.94±6.77	20.93±7.15	3.20±2.49*	<0.001	
P value	<0.001	<0.001	0.004	-	

*, statistical differences between the groups. LVEDP, left ventricular end-diastolic pressure; IRA, infarction-related artery.

Table 3 Correlation of LVEDP and clinical parameters

Variables	r	P value
Coronary Gensini score	0.289	<0.001
EF%	-0.287	<0.001
LAEDd	0.136	0.003
LVEDd	0.213	<0.001
NT-proBNP	0.154	0.001
TnT	0.332	<0.001
GFR	-0.100	0.023
UA	0.136	0.002
СКМВ	0.303	<0.001
СК	0.376	<0.001
LDL	0.163	<0.001
FBG	0.206	<0.001

LVEDP, left ventricular end-diastolic pressure; EF%, ejection fraction; LAEDd, left atrial end-diastolic diameter; LVEDd, left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro b-type natriuretic peptide; TnT, troponin T; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; UA, uric acid; CKMB, creatine kinase myocardial band; CK, creatine kinase; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; FBG, fasting blood glucose.

coronary diseases and heart failure (19-22). Results of this study showed that levels of LDL, TC, FBG and UA were significantly higher in the LVEDP elevation group; LDL, FBG, UA and NT-proBNP were positively, and GFR was negatively correlated with LVEDP. LVEDP also increased with impaired renal function. These data suggested that LVEDP can be used to predict the severity and prognosis of coronary diseases.

Gensini score quantifies the severity of coronary disease; a higher score indicates more severe disease and

impaired systolic and diastolic functions (23). In this study, LVEDP was positively correlated with Gensini score, thus suggesting that LVEDP is correlated with the severity of coronary disease.

When the LVEDP is 15 mmHg or less (group A), IRAs are most frequently right coronary arteries, followed by anterior descending branches; in contrast, when the LVEDP is above 15 mmHg (group B), IRAs are most frequently anterior descending branches followed by right coronary arteries. These data suggested that LVEDP elevation is more likely in STEMI patients who exhibit more infarctionrelated pathology involving anterior descending branches. Hence, pathological changes in anterior descending branches appear to have a greater impact on LVEDP. In all cases, LVEDP increased after left ventricular angiography; patients showing infarction-related pathology in the right coronary artery as the largest proportion of IRAs had the greatest increase in LVEDP. This may be explained as follows: the right ventricular function is impaired because of right coronary artery disease, increased right heart filling pressure, and left ventricular septum, leading to restricted left ventricular dilation, which exacerbates the increase in left ventricular workload after ventricular angiography and the consequent increase in left ventricular filling pressure.

Results showed that the rate of regional wall motion abnormality, LAEDd, LVEDd and EF% were significantly different in the two groups. LAEDd and LVEDd were higher in group B while EF% was lower in this group. The LVEDP elevation group included a larger proportion of patients with regional wall motion abnormality, as well as more patients with heart failure. One possible mechanism underlying these observations is that the myocardial necrosis after STEMI leads to a fibrosis scar and myocardial remodeling, resulting in increases of LAEDd and LVEDd, which in turn lead to the LVD and increased LVEDP. As LVEDP continuously increases, the pulmonary artery pressure increases because of the escape beat arrhythmia, ultimately leading to heart failure.

In many studies, left ventricular diastolic function were evaluated by either Doppler echocardiography or pulmonary capillary wedge pressure, which are indirect methods impacted by many unstable factors, and therefore, cannot accurately reflect diastolic functions (1-3,24). Catheterization remains the standard method to measure LVEDP. This study measured LVEDP during PCI, thus providing reliable data to evaluate left ventricular diastolic functions.

This study has the following limitations. First, this is a single-center study with a small sample size of local patients, and therefore, selection bias could not be eliminated. Second, the study only recorded clinical parameters prior and subsequent to PCI; hence, follow-up data for these patients are not available. Multi-center studies with larger sample sizes would better elucidate LVEDP changes in STEMI patients.

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at http://dx.doi. org/10.21037/apm.2020.03.22). The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in 2013). The study was approved by institutional ethics committee of the 4th Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University (No. EC-2017-KS-043) and informed consent was taken from all the patients.

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