Table 1—Assessment of the Effect of 50 mg vs 100 mg Recombinant Tissue-Type Plasminogen Activator Treatment on Bleeding Complications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incidence of Bleeding Complication, %</th>
<th>100 mg rt-PA, I(_{100\text{mg}})</th>
<th>50 mg rt-PA, I(_{50\text{mg}})</th>
<th>RR, I(<em>{50\text{mg}})/I(</em>{100\text{mg}})</th>
<th>ARR, I(<em>{100\text{mg}}) – I(</em>{50\text{mg}})</th>
<th>AR%</th>
<th>NNT</th>
<th>l/(I(<em>{100\text{mg}}) – I(</em>{50\text{mg}}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1/(0.15/0.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body weight tertiles, kg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;65</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/(0.26/0.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65–74</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1/(0.13/0.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥75</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1/(0.05/0.72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI, kg/m(^2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;25</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/(0.28/0.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥25</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1/(0.04/0.56)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AR% = attributable risk percentage; ARR = absolute risk reduction; I = incidence; NNT = number needed to treat; RR = relative risk; rt-PA = recombinant tissue-type plasminogen activator.

50 mg rt-PA in reducing bleeding complications. Without accurate data of the bleeding complications in PTE thrombolytic therapy in China, we are currently unable to provide AR% for the Chinese population.

In this article, we presented the results of a study that investigated the effectiveness of 50 mg vs 100 mg recombinant tissue-type plasminogen activator treatment on bleeding complications.

Chen Wang, MD, PhD, FCCP
Beijing, China

Affiliations: From the Beijing Key Laboratory of Respiratory and Pulmonary Circulation, Beijing Institute of Respiratory Medicine, Beijing Chao-Yang Hospital, Capital Medical University.

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Correspondence to: Chen Wang, MD, PhD, FCCP, Beijing Key Laboratory of Respiratory and Pulmonary Circulation, Beijing Institute of Respiratory Medicine, Beijing Chao-Yang Hospital, Capital Medical University, No. 8 Congrenly Tiyunyang Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100020, China; e-mail: cyh-birn@263.net

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Hyperchloremic Metabolic Acidosis Following Resuscitation of Shock

To the Editor:

Successful resuscitation of patients with shock often requires infusion of large volumes of crystalloid. Although “dilution acidosis” has been described in animal models and in human anecdotes, systematic examination of this phenomenon was only recently reported in children with shock. After receiving Institutional Review Board approval, we examined the medical records of adults admitted with a primary diagnosis of shock to Bridgeport Hospital during 19 months. Ninety-eight patients required fluids at a rate of normal saline (NS) administered in ≤ 1 L. Of these, 59 had sufficient data to enable computation of acid-base status, and 17 (28.6%) developed hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis (HMA) in the first 24 h. All arterial blood gases were analyzed for acid-base status by a blinded senior nephrology fellow using a nomogram-based, acid-base calculator (http://www.medcalc.com/acidbase.html). Anion gap (AG) acidosis was defined as metabolic acidosis with AG > 12 mM/L after correction for serum albumin. When metabolic acidosis was present with AG ≥ 12 mM/L, patients were categorized as having HMA. When AG was > 12 mM/L, the “delta-delta” (ie, measured AG sufficient to explain the drop in bicarbonate from 24 mM/L) was computed to ascertain whether HMA coexisted with the AG acidosis. There was no significant difference in the presence of chronic kidney disease or diabetes in patients with or without HMA. A total of 94.1% of patients had a primary diagnosis of shock. Overall, the amount of NS administered in the 24 h ranged from 3 to 11.5 L for the HMA group compared with 0.3 to 17.2 L for the non-HMA group (median 6 vs 3 L, P = .002) (Table 1). Patients with HMA received fluids at a higher rate (276.2 vs 183.5 mL/h, P = .002). An infused volume of ≥ 4 L NS predicted HMA with a sensitivity of 82% and a specificity of 64%. In multiple logistic regression models, HMA at 24 h was highly associated with infused NS ≥ 4 L (OR, 13.9; 95% CI, 2.3-85.2).

References


Age, diuretic use, chronic kidney disease, lactic acidosis, and bicarbonate infusion were not associated with HMA.

HMA has been described in dog models and in human anecdotes since 1900. Stewart and Rourke described the effects of large-volume resuscitation, and Winters et al. proposed that HMA may be caused by dilution of bicarbonate. HMA has long been appreciated after resuscitation of patients with diabetic ketoacidosis and was recently reported in children with meningococcal septic shock. Ketoacidosis differs somewhat in that urinary ketone excretion contributes (with dilution) to the development of HMA.

In conclusion, this limited retrospective study suggests that HMA is common during resuscitation of patients with a primary diagnosis of shock, and that HMA is associated with volume of infused saline. The limitations of this retrospective, medical records review preclude precise estimates of frequency and risk of this phenomenon, but the findings suggest hypotheses for a prospective study.

Questions in the Role of Chest CT Scanning in TB Outbreak Investigation

To the Editor:

The study by Won Lee and colleagues from South Korea in the recent issue of CHEST (May 2010) has generated a number of important issues and questions that need to be highlighted. The authors have diagnosed active pulmonary TB (PTB) in about 21% of patients, and it is really hard to believe this unusually high rate of active disease, especially when all the patients are young soldiers who are immunocompetent and healthy.

It is quite surprising that none of the 18 cases of active PTB that were diagnosed using high-resolution CT (HRCT) scans showed positive acid-fast staining of the sputum specimens. Among the nine cases of active PTB diagnosed on the basis of CT scanning alone, two patients had neither any symptoms nor a positive sputum test result for acid-fast bacilli culture. Did these soldiers really have active PTB? How often do we see patients with active PTB who have no symptoms? Was administering a full course of antitubercular treatment for 6 months to these patients justified?

The authors have claimed symptomatic or radiographic improvement in all cases of active PTB. Therefore, in those nine patients with normal chest radiographs and active PTB, follow-up HRCT scans of the thorax must have been done to assess radiologic improvement. How do we view this very high dose of radiation exposure in these young soldiers? It is well known that radiation exposure in these young soldiers? It is well known that radiation exposure in these young soldiers?