



UDRUŽENJE KARDIOLOGA SRBIJE
CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY OF SERBIA

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Časopis Udruženja kardiologa Srbije

SRCE i krvni sudovi

Heart and Blood Vessels

Journal of the Cardiology Society of Serbia



Uticaj antibradikardne pejsmejker stimulacije
na razvoj srčane slabosti

*The influence of antibradycardial pacemaker
stimulation to heart failure development*

Patogenetski mehanizmi indukcije ubrzane
ateroskleroze kod pušača

Najnovije preporuke u lečenju aortne
stenoze: (T)AVR u fokusu

*Current recommendations in the treatment of
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Diagnostički značaj neinvazivne procene
koronarne rezerve protoka transtorakalnom
dopler ehokardiografijom kod
nedijagnostičkih i inkonkluzivnih stres
ehokardiografskih testova

*The diagnostic value of coronary flow reserve
by trans- thoracic Doppler echocardiography
in non-diagnostic or inconclusive stress
echocardiography tests*

*Authorship: From Credit to Accountability.
Reflections From the Editors' Network*

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Uticaj antibradikardne pejsmejker stimulacije na razvoj srčane slabosti

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Sažetak

Bolesti sprovodnog sistema srca koje se karakterišu usporenom srčanom frekvencom, neophodno je lečiti arteficialnom pejsmejker stimulacijom iz desne komore i iz desne pretkomore. Međutim, postavlja se pitanje da li arteficialnom stimulacijom iz vrha desne komore ili iz izlaznog trakta desne komore možemo nepovoljno uticati na miokardnu funkciju, posebno na funkciju leve komore. Procenjujući nepovoljni uticaj permanentne antibradikardne stimulacije na funkciju leve komore, analizirani su širina QRS kompleksa i položaj komorske elektrode u pejsmejker stimulaciji. Pejsmejker stimulacija predstavlja terapijsku neminovnost kod bolesti i stanja koja se karakterišu nedovoljnom srčanom frekvencom i hronotropnom inkopetencijom. Pejsmejker stimulacija iz vrha desne komore daje šire QRS komplekse, intra ventrikularnu, interventrikularnu asinhroniju i veći rizik od razvoja srčane slabosti. Implantacija elektrode u izlazni trakt desne komore predstavlja jednostavno i dobro ili barem ne gore terapijsko rešenje u prevenciji razvoja srčane slabosti, posebno kod pacijenata sa sniženom sistolnom funkcijom leve komore.

Ključne reči RVA, RVOT, pejsmejker stimulacija, srčana slabost

Uvod

Bolesti sprovodnog sistema srca koje se karakterišu usporenom srčanom frekvencom, neophodno je lečiti arteficialnom pejsmejker stimulacijom iz desne komore (VVIR pejsmejker mod) i iz desne pretkomore (DDDR mod). Danas se u svetu prosečno implantira 1000 pejsmekera na milion stanovnika, u Srbiji oko 400 na milion stanovnika, ili preko 3000 implantacija godišnje^{1,2,3}. Međutim, postavlja se pitanje da li arteficialnom stimulacijom iz vrha desne komore (Right Ventricular Apex-RVA) ili iz izlaznog trakta desne komore (Right Ventricular Outflow Tract-RVOT) možemo nepovoljno uticati na miokardnu funkciju, posebno na funkciju leve komore.

Pejsmejker stimulacija iz vrha desne komore

Prve elektrode pejsmekera su postavljane epikardnom fiksacijom i podrazumevale su torakotomiju. Novi pristup, endovenskim plasiranjem elektrode i endokardnom stimulacijom miokarda, prvi je uveo Furman 1959. godine⁴. Od tada, endokardna stimulacija miokarda, komorskom elektrodom iz vrha desne komore postala je standardno mesto stimulacije, zbog jednostavnosti pri implantaciji, lake anatomske orijentacije na rendgenskopiji i stabilnog položaja elektrode. Ektopično stvoren talas depolarizacije, širi se sa mesta stimulacije (kontakt elektrode sa miokardom) kroz miokard, van sprovodnog

sistema srca, pa se na EKG-u prezentuje u vidu proširenih QRS kompleksa, morfologije bloka leve grane (BLG), koji su najmanje dvostruko širi od normalno sprovedenog impulsa⁵. Uočeno je da su prošireni QRS kompleksi udruženi sa simptomima i znakovima srčane slabosti.

Pejsmejker stimulacija iz izlaznog trakta desne komore

RVOT predstavlja trapezoidni prostor između trikuspidalne i plućne valvule, ograničen slobodnim zidom desne komore, napred, a gornjim delom interventrikularnog septuma, pozadi⁶. Na rendgenskopiji razlikuju se 4 segmenta izlaznog trakta desne komore: visoki (infundibularni) i niski septum, visoki (infundibularni) i niski deo slobodnog zida. U letaraturi se često pod RVOT-om podrazumeva pravi izlazni trakt sa opisanim delovima, ali i srednje partije septuma, a nekada i regija oko vrha. Upravo ova konfuznost dovela je do novog termina, pejsmejker stimulacija van vrha desne komore⁷.

Uticaj pejsmejker stimulacije iz vrha desne komore na abnormalnu kontraktilnost leve komore

Dovodi do poremećaja kontraktilnosti unutar leve komore, posebno između septuma i lateralnog zida^{8,9}. Mišićna vlakna septuma se još u fazi izovolumetrijske kontrakcije

prevremeno kontrahuju i brzo skrate, do 10% svoje dužine, dok su mišićna vlakana ostalih zidova komore, još uvek relaksirana. Ovo rapidno, prevremeno skraćivanje mišićnih vlakana septuma praćeno je i dodatnim, sistolnim rastezanjem lateralnog zida. Rastezanje mišićnih vlakana lateralnog zida leve komore, do 15% u ranoj fazi sistole, dovodi do zakasnele kontrakcije ovog dela miokarda, za razliku od prevremeno kontrahovanog septuma. Ova diskordiniranost u kontrakciji između rano aktiviranog septuma i kasno aktiviranog lateralnog zida, vodi do nižeg minutnog volumena i smanjenja efikasnosti miokarda kao pumpe. Ehokardiografskim pregledom abnormalna kontrakcija u pejsmejker stimulaciji iz vrha desne komore, registruje se kao paradoksalni pokret septuma. U stvari, taj pokret septuma nije pravi paradoksalni pokret, već je posledica dejstva različitih sila. Pokret septuma izazvan je asinhronijom između desne i leve komore i presistolnim skraćenjem mišićnih vlakana septuma⁶.

Uticaj pejsmejker stimulacije iz vrha desne komore na električni i strukturni remodeling leve komore

Asinhrona električna aktivnost dovodi do akutnih mehaničkih promena, a potom do hroničnih funkcionalnih i strukturnih promena miokarda. Adaptacija miokarda na komorsku stimulaciju je „memorijski efekat miokarda“. Costard-Jackle i Franz¹⁰ demonstrirali su da dolazi do promena u repolarizaciji koje se razlikuju u udaljenim regionima i regionima oko mesta pejsmejker stimulacije. Repolarizacione anomalije koje su u vezi sa kratkotrajnim memorijskim efektom imaju i mehaničke posledice. Neposredno nakon prekida komorske pejsmejker stimulacije, dolazi do poremećaja relaksacije, i pogoršanja sistolne funkcije, koja može trajati od narednih 2h, do nedelju dana. Nakon 3 nedelja pejsmejker stimulacije dugotrajni memorijski efekat miokarda izaziva strukturne promene miokarda. Nakon zaustavljanja komorske pejsmejker stimulacije koja je trajala nedelju dana, potrebno je 1^{1/2} dan da se ejekciona frakcija vrati na vrednosti pre stimulacije⁶. Komorska pejsmejker stimulacija koja je trajanja preko mesec dana, pored memorijskog efekta, daje i strukturne promene, kao što su dilatacija komore i asimetrična hipertrofija. Kao dodatni uzrok redukcije pumpne funkcije za vreme asinhronne aktivacije je i mitralna insuficijencija. Mitralna insuficijencija za vreme pejsmejker stimulacije iz vrha desne komore posledica je asinhronije papilarnog mišića. Mitralna insuficijencija direktno smanjuje pumpnu funkciju leve komore redukcijom volumena i indirektno, redukcijom šupljine leve komore, koja je posledica hipertrofije¹¹.

Diskusija

Uticaj pejsmejker stimulacije na funkciju leve komore

Procenjujući mogući nepovoljni uticaj permanentne antibradikardne stimulacije na funkciju leve komore, analizirani su širina QRS kompleksa i položaj komorske elektrode u pejsmejker stimulaciji.

Širina QRS kompleksa u pejsmejker stimulaciji

U PREDICT-HF studiji 3 godine je praćen uticaj širine QRS kompleksa na pojavu srčane slabosti, kod pacijenata sa pejsmejker stimulacijom iz vrha desne komore, bez predhodne srčane slabosti i sa normalnom širinom QRS pre implantacije pejsmejкера. Našli su da u grupi sa QRS do 160 ms u pejsmejker stimulaciji, 9,4% pacijenata je imalo srčanu slabost, u grupi sa QRS 160-190 ms povećava se broj pacijenata sa srčanom insuficijencijom na 27,8%, dok je u grupi sa QRS >190 ms bilo 56,8% pacijenata sa srčanom insuficijencijom. Autori ove studije nalaze da je širina QRS preko 165 ms u pejsmejker stimulaciji, granica iznad koje se povećava rizik za razvoj srčane slabosti¹². I u drugim preglednim i originalnim radovima, koji su analizirali razliku u pejsmejker stimulaciji iz vrha desne komore i sa alternativnih pozicija, zaključuju da je vodeći razlog nastanka srčane slabosti produženje trajanja QRS kompleksa, i predlažu korišćenje alternativnih mesta iz izlaznog trakta desne komore, ili implantaciju CRT radi prevencije srčane slabosti^{13,14,15-19}. Zajedničko kod svih autora je da izmerena širina QRS kompleksa u RVOT pejsmejker stimulaciji (u bilo kom delu) uvek je manja u odnosu na stimulaciju iz RVA²⁰.

Bolji RVOT vs RVA

Permanentna pejsmejker stimulacija iz vrha desne komore je bila snažan prediktor za smanjenje sistolne funkcije leve komore²¹⁻²², kao i za pojavu srčane insuficijencije^{23,24,25,26}. U preglednim člancima gde su zbirno analizirani objavljeni rezultati pojedinačnih studija, na ukupno 3000 pacijenata, svi autori su našli prednost RVOT u odnosu na RVA pejsmejker stimulaciju. Rezultati ovih studija, potvrđuju važnost mesta pejsmejker stimulacije, u desnoj komori, na dugoročno očuvanje funkcije leve komore i od pomoći su da se razjasni koje je optimalno mesto stimulacije iz desne komore. Weizong i saradnici analizirali su podatke iz 20 randomizovanih studija, na 1114 pacijenata. Zaključili su da RVOT pacijenti imaju bolji efekat na funkciju leve komore, u smislu manje interventrikularne asinhronije, poboljšanja vrednosti EF i smanjenja endsistolnog volumena leve komore²⁴. Do istih saznanja o uticaju RVOT na funkciju leve komore došli su i drugi autori^{27,28,29}.

Ako se pejsmejker implantira pacijentima sa normalnom funkcijom leve komore, bez srčane slabosti, povoljniji je uticaj na funkciju leve komore, kod stimulacije iz izlaznog trakta desne komore, u odnosu na stimulaciju iz vrha desne komore^{30,31-33}. QRS kompleksi biće užeg trajanja, izazvaće manju disinhroniju leve komore, imaće povoljniji efekat na očuvanje ejekcione frakcije^{18,34-39}.

Ventrikularnu disinhronizaciju izazvanu stimulacijom iz vrha desne komore, lošije podnose pacijenti sa već postojećom srčanom insuficijencijom, pre implantacije. Treba smanjivati vreme komorske pejsmejker stimulacije iz vrha desne komore, kod pacijenata sa lošom funkcijom leve komore i verifikovanom mehaničkom asinhronijom leve komore⁴⁰. Modi i saradnici smatraju da pacijentima sa srednje teškom i teškom disfunkcijom i

indikacijom za antibradikardni pejsmejker, a u odsustvu indikacija za CRT, treba implantirati komorsku elektrodu u RVOT⁴¹. Dosadašnje 20-godišnje iskustvo na osnovu rezultata randomizovanih multicentričnih studija pokazuje jasnu korist od pejsmejker stimulacije sa alternativnih mesta, kod pacijenata sa sniženom EF, dok je bez koristi kod pacijenata sa očuvanom EF leve komore⁴²⁻⁴⁴.

Nema razlike RVOT vs RVA

Kod pacijenata koji su na početku studije imali očuvanu EF nije bilo razlike između stimulacije iz septuma ili vrha desne komore^{17,45}. Gong sa saradnicima, nakon 12-mesečnog praćenja 96 pacijenata, sa normalnom funkcijom leve komore, ehokardiografski nije našao razliku u funkciji leve komore, kod pejsmejker stimulacije iz izlaznog trakta i vrha desne komore⁴⁶. Još uvek nemamo jasno dokazanu kliničku korist od alternativnih mesta stimulacije iz desne komore. Svakako RVOT u odnosu na RVA sigurno nije gori, i neki autori zastupaju ideju da se svim pacijentima pozicionira elektroda u RVOT, to su obično nove generacije pejsmejker implantera⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸.

U ROVA studiji, kod 103 pacijenata sa srčanom insuficijencijom NYHA II i III, EF manjom od 40% i permenentnom atrijskom fibrilacijom, nije nađena razlika u kvalitetu života ili kliničkim komplikacijama⁴⁹. Iznenađujuće je da razlike u pejsmejker stimulaciji iz vrha ili septuma desne komore na sistolnu funkciju leve komore, nije bilo ni kod pacijenata sa CRT⁵⁰⁻⁵³. U REVERSE studiji kod pacijenata sa CRT, položaj elektrode u desnoj komori nije bio od značaja, na praćene ehokardiografske parametre, funkcionalni status, ili broj komplikacija⁵⁴. U PACE studiji⁵⁵ i drugi autori, daju prednost pejsmejker stimulaciji iz leve komore, u odnosu na bilo koji deo desne komore, kod odraslih^{6,56-58}, kao i kod dece⁵⁹⁻⁶⁰.

Ukupno je bilo 25 studija sa pacijentima sa antibradikardnim pejsmejkerom i očuvanom sistolnom funkcijom leve komore i 11 studija kod pacijenata sa sniženom EF i antibradikardnim pejsmejkerom ili CRT-om. Zbirno gledano, u 16 (44%) radova nije bilo razlike između RVOT i RVA, a u 20 (56%) radova nađena je prednost RVOT stimulacije²⁰.

Zaključci

Pejsmejker stimulacija predstavlja terapijsku neminovnost kod bolesti i stanja koja se karakterišu nedovoljnom srčanom frekvencom i hronotropnom inkopetencijom. Pejsmejker stimulacija iz vrha desne komore daje šire QRS komplekse, intra ventrikularnu, interventrikularnu asinhroniju i veći rizik od razvoja srčane slabosti. Implantacija elektrode u izlazni trakt desne komore predstavlja jednostavno i dobro ili barem ne gore terapijsko rešenje u prevenciji razvoja srčane slabosti, posebno kod pacijenata sa sniženom sistolnom funkcijom leve komore.

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Abstract

The influence of antibradycardial pacemaker stimulation to heart failure development

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Conduction tissue diseases of the heart, which are characterized by slowing of the heart rate are treated by pacemaker stimulation from right atrium and right ventricle. However, there is a rising question whether this kind of stimulation, either from the apex of the right ventricle outflow tract can have a deleterious effect on left ventricle function. Analyzing this effect of permanent pacemaker stimulation on left ventricle function we measured QRS duration according to ventricle lead position in right ventricle. This stimulation is without alternative in all the conduction tissue diseases which are characterized by chronotropic incompetence and bradycardia. The stimulation from right ventricle apex gives arise to inter and intraventricular dissynchrony and thus creates greater risk of heart failure developmen. Right ventricle outflow tract position of the pace maker electrode represents simple and if not better, than at least not worse solution in heart failure prevention due to pacemaker stimulation, especially in patients with already reduced ejection fraction.

Key words: RVA, RVOT, pacemaker stimulation, heart failure

Patogenetski mehanizmi indukcije ubrzane ateroskleroze kod pušača

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Sažetak

U opštoj i stručnoj javnosti postoji nedovoljna svest o ulozi pušenja u ubrzanju ateroskleroze, nastanku infarkta miokarda, sekundarnih kardiovaskularnih komplikacija, cerebrovaskularnih oboljenja, bolesti perifernih arterija i drugih entiteta u čijoj patogenezi aterotromboza ima važnu ulogu. Brojni su dokazi o uticaju pušenja na vazomotornu disfunkciju, inflamaciju, povišenu trombogenost i modifikaciju lipidnog profila. Pušenje dovodi do smanjenja vazodilatacije, smanjujući raspoloživost azot monoksida (NO). Slobodni radikali iz duvanskog dima utiču na oksidativnu modifikaciju LDL, ključnih molekula za započinjanje inflamatorne reakcije, kao i na nukleusni faktor κB (NF- κB), koji je ključan faktor za transkripciju inflamatornih citokina. Nikotin utiče na ekspresiju gena odgovornih za disfunkciju endotela (e-NOS, ACE, VCAM-1, tPA, PAI-1 i vWF), dovodi do proliferacije glatkih mišićnih ćelija, fibroblasta i povećava mitogeni efekat angiotenzina II. Broj leukocita u perifernoj krvi pušača veći je za 20-25%, povišeni su markeri zapaljenja - CRP, IL-6, TNF- α , VCAM-1, ICAM-1 i E-selektin. Monociti pušača imaju povećanu ekspresiju integrina CD11b/CD18 koji povećavaju adheziju monocita i dovode do dvostruko veće migracije monocita kroz endotel. Pušenje dovodi do povećanja aktivacije, agregacije i adhezije trombocita, do promena protrombotičkih (povećanja fibrinogena i tkivnog faktora TF), antitrombotičkih (smanjenja inhibitora puta tkivnog faktora TFPI-1) i fibrinolitičkih faktora (smanjenja tkivnog aktivatora plazminogena (tPA) i promene odnosa tPA i inhibitora aktivatora plazminogena PAI-1). Pušenje povećava ukupni holesterol, trigliceride, LDL, snižava HDL i ubrzava penetraciju oksidovanog LDL u zid krvnog suda. Za stepen ubrzanog razvoja ateroskleroze kod pušača bitna je i genetska predispozicija. Razumevanje i sagledavanje patofizioloških mehanizama uticaja pušenja na aterosklerozu bitno je radi prepoznavanja pušenja kao važnog faktora rizika za nastanak kardiovaskularnih bolesti i isticanje značaja borbe protiv pušenja na svim nivoima u opštoj i stručnoj populaciji.

Ključne reči pušenje, rana ateroskleroza, kardiovaskularne bolesti, tromboza, faktori rizika

Veliki broj radova razmatra uticaj pušenja na nastanak plućnih bolesti, hronične opstruktivne bolesti pluća, karcinoma pluća i tumora drugih organa. Smatramo da obim problema koji pušenje ima na razvoj procesa ateroskleroze i aterotromboze, kao i posledičnih poremećaja koji ih prate na pojedincu i društvo u celini nije dovoljno prepoznat i shvaćen. Aterotromboza predstavlja glavni uzrok mortaliteta i prerane invalidnosti u razvijenim zemljama¹. Ateroskleroza čini osnovu oko 80% kardiovaskularnih oboljenja i ima veliki zdravstveno-socijalni značaj.²

Ateroskleroza kao najčešće oboljenje arterija počinje disfunkcijom endotela, odnosno predstavlja strukturnu promenu koja primarno zahvata intimu arterija, a kasnije dovodi do fokalnog nagomilavanja lipida, kalcijuma, veziva (kolagena, elastina, mukopolisaharida), drugog

detritusa i određenih krvnih ćelija i izmenjenih glatkih mišićnih ćelija, promena u drugim delovima arterija, mediji i adventiciji, remodelovanja arterije, atrofije medije iza aterosklerotične ploče, suženja i tromboze lumena, periadventicijalnih infiltrata sastavljenih od limfocita i plazmocita. Aterosklerotični plak u većem delu života može ostati asimptomatski, ali je sklon pucanju, izlivanju lipidnog sadržaja u lumen krvnog suda, posle čega dolazi do lokalne aktivacije i agregacije trombocita i stvaranja tromba, odnosno aterotromboze sa stenozom, lokalnom okluzijom ili distalnom embolizacijom. Pored najpoznatijih kliničkih manifestacija aterotromboze kao što su koronarna bolest (angina pectoris, infarkt miokarda, aritmije), cerebralna ishemija (reverzibilni ishemijski atak i cerebrovaskularni insult), periferna arterijska bolest sa posledičnim gangrenama ekstremiteta, atero-

Tabela 1. Najznačajniji sastojci duvanskog dima u gasnoj kapljičnoj fazi⁵

Faze	Sastojci
Gasna	Gasovi (NH ₃ , CO, CO ₂ , HCN), etanol, formaldehid, akrolein, krotonaldehid, benzenska para, aceton, vinilhlorid, nezasićeni ugljovodonici (butadien, izopren), slobodni radikali (NO, NO ₂ , NO ₃ ⁻ , nitrozo karbonradikali)
Kapljična	Nikotin, metali (Cd, Ni, Pb, Fe, Cr, As, Be, Ra-222, Po-210), fenoli, aromatični ugljovodonici (benzpiren, benzantracen), 4-amino-bifenil, stabilniji slobodni radikali (hinon/hidrohinon kompleks – Q/QH2)

tromboza kao završni stadijum ateroskleroze dovodi do mezenterijalne i drugih visceralnih ishemija, seksualne disfunkcije, formiranja aneurizmi aorte i drugih arterija.³ Za razumevanje ovakvog efekta pušenja, najpre se mora razumeti sastav cigareta i procesa njihovog sagorevanja. Cigareta se sastoji od osušenih listova duvana, cigaret papira, raznih aditiva i drugih organskih jedinjenja. Prilikom pušenja, dolazi do njihove pirolize i nastanka duvanskog dima koji predstavlja aerosol i sačinjen je iz kapljične faze ili katrana i gasne faze. Kapljična faza je dispergovana u gasnoj fazi. Kapljičnu fazu čine supstance koje imaju veći promer od 0,1µm i 99,9% ovih supstanci se zadržava u Kembridžovom filteru od staklenih vlakana (*eng. Cambridge glass-fiber filter*) čineći totalni aerosolni ostatak (*eng. tar – total aerosol residue*). Gasnu fazu čine supstance koje su manje od 0,1µm⁴. Najznačajniji sastojci gasne i kapljične faze duvanskog dima mogu se videti u Tabeli 1.

U zavisnosti od temperature sagorevanja razlikuje se još i primarni i sekundarni duvanski dim. Primarni nastaje na višoj temperaturi sagorevanja (oko 900°C) i to je dim koji prolazi kroz cigaretu i koji pušači direktno uvlače u usta. Sekundarni duvanski dim nastaje na nižoj temperaturi sagorevanja (oko 500-600°C) i to je dim koji nastaje prilikom spontanog sagorevanja cigarete. Sekundarni duvanski dim ima više štetnih materija koje nastaju nepotpunom oksidacijom organskih jedinjenja iz cigareta na nižim temperaturama sagorevanja⁵. Duvanski dim u prostorijama čini oko 85% sekundarnog i oko 15% primarnog dima kog pušači izdahnu i ovaj dim udišu pasivni pušači.⁶

U duvanskom dimu je izolovano preko 5000 hemijskih jedinjenja [7]. Po biološkom dejstvu ova jedinjenja mogu biti iritansi, inhibitori enzima, neurotoksični agensi, farmakološki aktivne supstance, mutageni i kancerogeni⁵. Više stotina jedinjenja je dokazano toksično, a preko 70 kancerogeno.

I pored činjenice da obrazlažemo problem dejstva pušenja na aterotrombozu smatramo da je celishodno spomenuti brojne materije iz duvanskog dima kao što su su formaldehid, benzen, 4-aminobifenil, arsen, radioaktivni radon 222 i njegov raspadni produkt radioaktivni polonijum 210, vinil hlorid, etilen oksid, nitrozoamini, slobodni radikali itd. Ove materije dovode do direktnog oštećenja DNK favorizujući kancerogenezu.

Neke materije kao npr. nikotin nisu direktno kancerogene, ali pospešuju rast tumora stimulišući angiogenezu⁵. Pušenje se dovodi u vezu sa najmanje 14 različitih vrsta malignih tumora: usta, nosa, ždrela, dušnika, ezofagusa, pluća, jetre, pankreasa, želudca, bubrega, debelog creva, jajnika, mokraćne bešike, cerviksa i leukemije, od kojih su maligni tumori pluća na prvom mestu. [8,9]

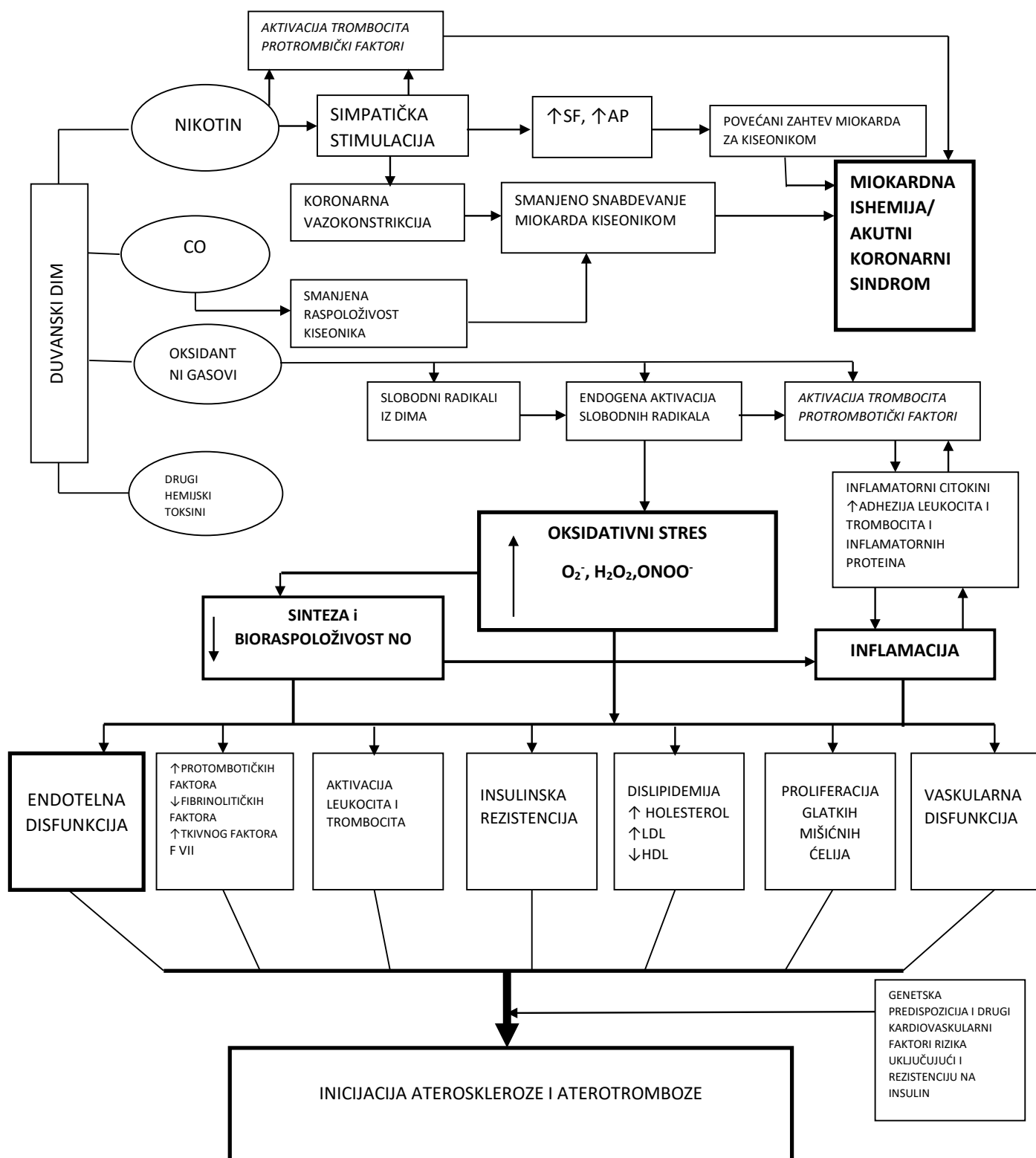
Sastojci duvanskog dima dospevaju u organizam i cirku-

laciju najviše preko respiratornog sistema. Manji deo se resorbuje preko bukalne sluzokože, rastvara se u pljuvački i guta, a deo (naročito kapljična faza) se rastvara i depozituje u tečnosti koja oblaže mukozu respiratornog trakta.⁵ Sastojci duvanskog dima od najvećeg značaja za nastanak i razvoj ateroskleroze su slobodni radikali, aromatična jedinjenja, gasovi ugljen monoksid (CO) i cijanovodonik (HCN) kao i nikotin u nešto manjoj meri.¹¹⁻¹⁵

Slobodni radikali. U kapljičnoj fazi se nalaze stabilniji slobodni radikali sa poluživotom od nekoliko sati do nekoliko meseci. Ima ih preko 10¹⁷ u gramu i najznačajniji su kompleksi hinon-semihinon-hidrohinon (QH/QH[•]/QH2). Oni u toku celog svog života proizvode superoksida. U gasnoj fazi se nalaze azotni i kiseonični slobodni radikali. Oni su reaktivniji, sa poluživotom od nekoliko sekundi, i ima ih preko 10¹⁵ u dahu. Azot monoksid iz duvanskog dima reaguje sa kiseonikom iz vazduha formirajući azot dioksid koji je reaktivniji i stupa u reakciju sa izoprenom i butadienom iz duvanskog dima formirajući toksične nitrozokarbon radikale. Azot monoksid reaguje i sa superoksidima formirajući toksične peroksinitrite. Peroksinitriti i nitrozokarbon radikali imaju najveći oksidacioni potencijal. Slobodni radikali iz duvanskog dima su najodgovorniji za oksidativni stres.¹⁶⁻¹⁸

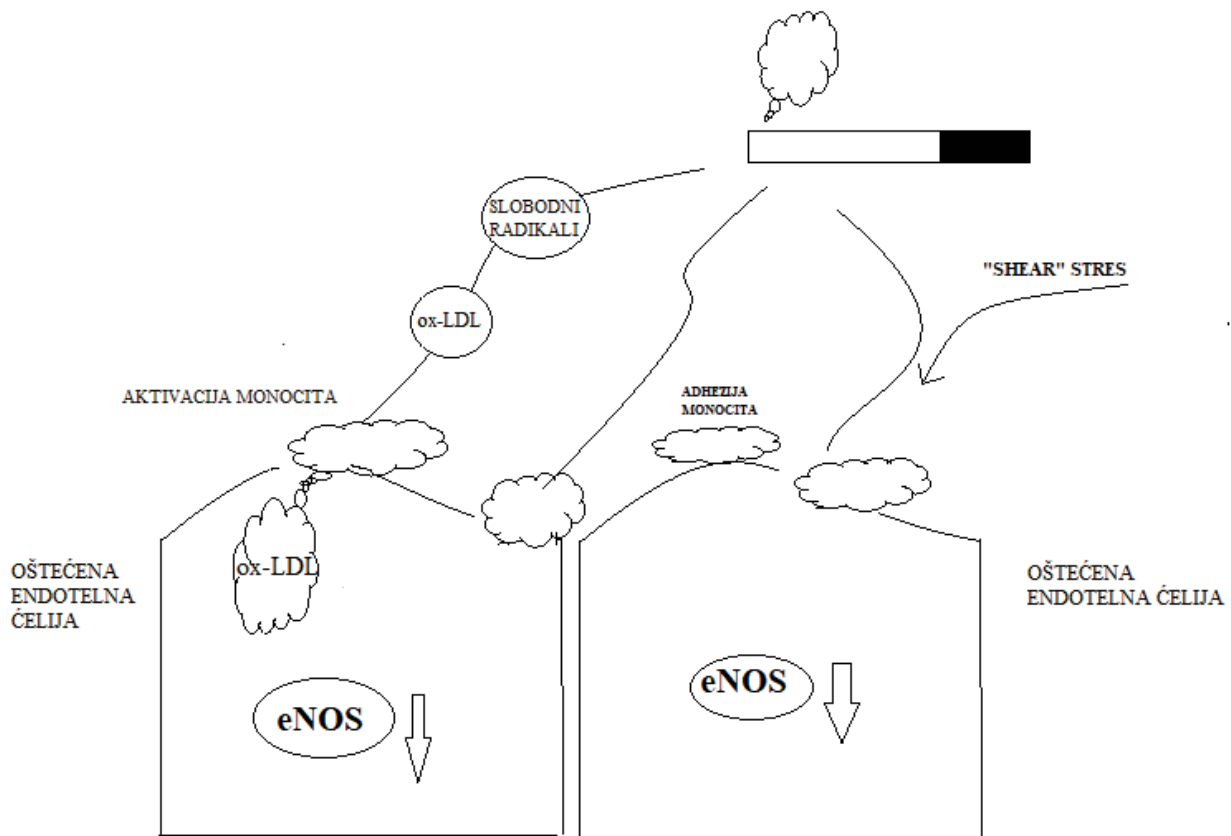
Aromatična jedinjenja. Od aromatičnih jedinjenja najveći značaj za patogenezu ateroskleroze imaju policiklični aromatični ugljovodonici i aromatični amini. Policiklični aromatični ugljovodonici ispoljavaju direktno toksično dejstvo na ćelije endotela, izazivaju zapaljenje i ubrzavaju aterosklerozu. Oni takođe smanjuju i broj endotel-nih progenitorskih ćelija. Iako se poznaje mehanizam njihove kancerogeneze, tačan mehanizam oštećenja endotel-nih ćelija se još uvek ne zna, ali se pretpostavlja da oni učestvuju direktno, kao i produkti njihovog metabolizma u oštećenju DNK, kao i inaktivaciji ključnih enzima za funkcionisanje ćelija. Aromatični amini inhibiraju sintezu tetrahidrobiopterina (THB) i prostaciklina PGI₂. Tetrahidrobiopterin je glavni kofaktor endotelne NO sintetaze (eNOS) i neophodan je za normalnu produkciju azot monoksida. U odsustvu ovog kofaktora, endotelne NO sintetaze, se ne sintetiše azot monoksid, već sintetiše superoksida i peroksida. Inhibicija sinteze prostaciklina PGI₂ (aromatični 2-naftilamin) dovodi do povećane sinteze tromboksana A₂ u metabolizmu arahidonske kiseline što ima protrombogeni efekat.¹⁹⁻²³

Gasovi ugljen monoksid i cijanovodonik ne deluju direktno na aterosklerozu, već indirektno. Ugljen monoksid (CO) može ispoljiti svoje potencijalno štetno dejstvo na srce i krvne sudove na dva načina, bilo izazivanjem akutnih kratkotrajnih efekata, preko formiranja karboksihemoglobina, kompeticijom vezivanja kiseonika za hemoglobin i blokiranjem transporta kiseonika do perifernih tkiva ili doprinoseći razvoju kardiovaskularnih



Shema 1. Shematski prikaz patogeneze ateroskleroze i aterotromboze pušača. Preuzeto i modifikovano od: Ambrose and Barua, 2004 i Salahuddin, 2012¹⁰

Centralno mesto zauzima oksidativni stres, zatim inflamacija i smanjenje sinteze i bioraspoloživosti azot monoksida NO. Nastaje vazomotorna disfunkcija, povećana trombogenost, modifikacija lipidnog profila, oksidacija LDL molekula, širenje i održavanje zapaljenja što dovodi do inicijacije i progresije ateroskleroze i aterotromboze. Skraćenice: SF – srčana frekvencija, AP – arterijski pritisak, NO – azot monoksid, CO – ugljen monoksid, O_2^- , H_2O_2 , $ONOO^-$ - kiseonički radikali kao produkti oksidativnog stresa.



Slika 1. Shematski prikaz zapaljenja uzrokovanog puše njem i razvoja ateroskleroze

Modifikovano prema: Powell JT. *Vasc Med.* 1998;3(1):21-8. Review.²⁶
 oxLDL – oksidirani lipoproteini male gustine, eNOS – endogeni azot monoksid

bolesti kao što je ateroskleroza i aterotromboza. Kod pušača od 2 - 10% hemoglobina može biti zamenjeno karboksihemoglobinom. In vitro studije su pokazale da je nakon kratkotrajnog izlaganja ugljen monoksidu (meren šesnaest sati nakon izlaganja) dokazan aterogeni uticaj na makrofage, stvaranjem arterijske makrofagne ćelijske formacije, penaste ćelije, kao znaka rane ateroskleroze.²⁴

Cijanovodonik (HCN) se vezuje za gvožđe citohrom oksidazu blokirajući ćelijsku respiraciju na nivou mitohondrija. Nastaje hipoksija koja favorizuje stvaranje endogenih slobodnih radikala koji učestvuju u oksidativnom stresu. Hipoksija kod pušača dovodi i do reaktivne eritrocitoze koja povećava viskoznost krvi što deluje protrombogeno, mada viskoznost krvi ima veći značaj u patogenezi tromboze dubokih vena.^{13,23,22}

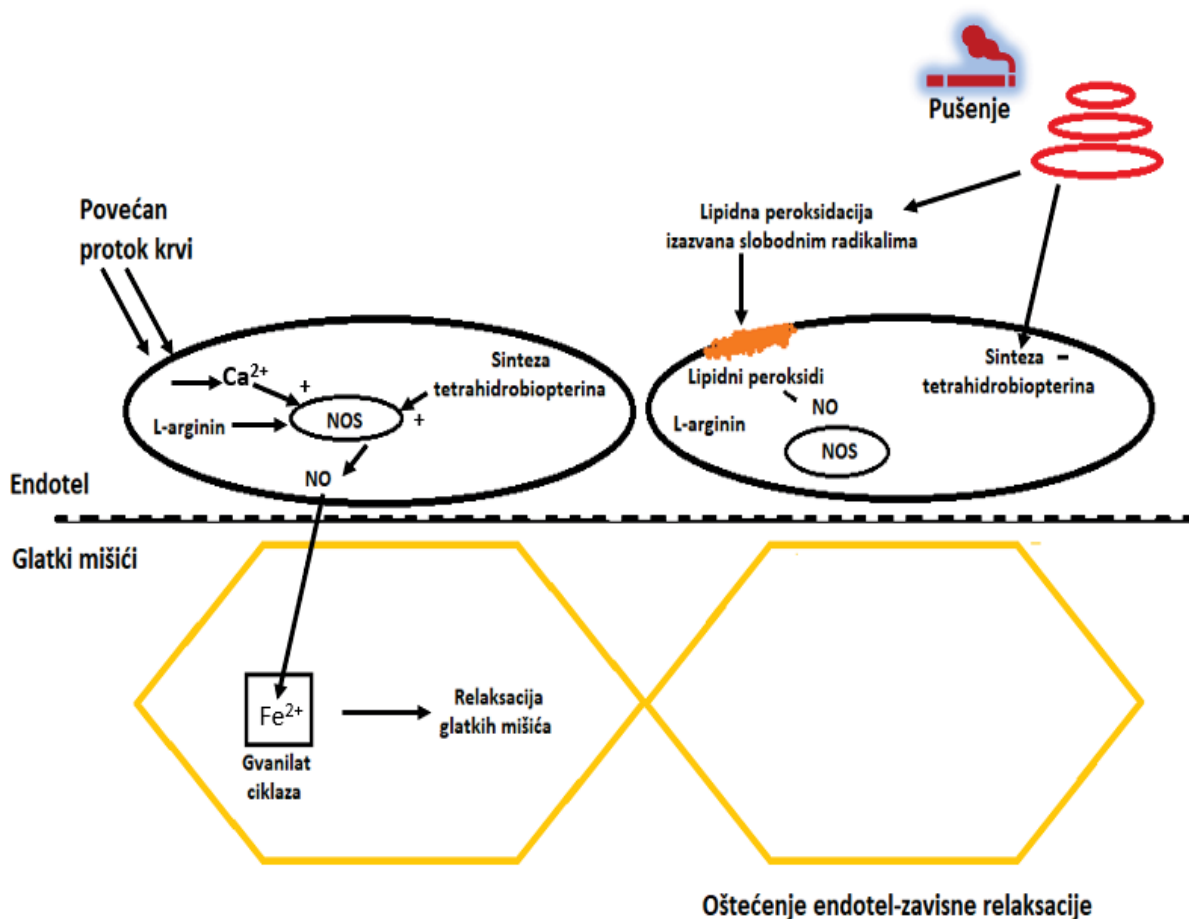
Nikotin ne utiče direktno na inicijaciju ateroskleroze, ali utiče na rast aterosklerotskog plaka stimulišući proliferaciju vaskularnih mišićnih ćelija i fibroblasta. Nikotin povećava mitogeni efekat angiotenzina II i povećava ekspresiju gena koji kodiraju proteine odgovorne za angiogenezu čime takođe utiče na rast aterosklerotskog plaka. Ispitivanja na endotelnim ćelijama humanih koronarnih arterija su pokazala da nikotin povećava transkripciju gena koji kodiraju proteine odgovorne za vaskularni tonus i trombogenost (e-NOS, ACE, tPA, PAI-1, vWF i VCAM-1), ali se još uvek ne zna koliki značaj ovaj mehanizam ima u patogenezi ateroskleroze. Nikotin preko svojih perifernih receptora u autonomnim ganglijama i srži nadbubrega povećava tonus simpatikusa i

povećava nivo cirkulišućih kateholamina, čime deluje indirektno na ateroskleroze, jer kateholamini povećavaju lipolizu i dovode do modifikacije lipidnog profila. Nikotin preko svojih centralnih receptora u mezolimbikom dopaminergičkom sistemu i nukleusu akumbensu utiče na lučenje dopamina i endorfina što je osnov za stvaranje zavisnosti^{14,15}.

U oksidativnom stresu učestvuju i endogeni slobodni radikali koji nastaju zbog hipoksije i zapaljenja. To su visoko reaktivni kiseonični slobodni radikali – superoksidi, vodonik peroksid i hidroksilni radikali. Hipoksija tkiva zbog smanjenog dopremanja kiseonika i inhibicije ćelijske respiracije dovodi do nepotpune redukcije kiseonika u elektronskom transportnom lancu mitohondrija. Aktiviraju se i Ca^{2+} -zavisne oksidaze (ksantin oksidaza i NADPH oksidaza), a zapaljenje koje nastaje kao reakcija na oštećenja izazvana slobodnim radikalima iz duvanskog dima i aromatičnim jedinjenjima dovodi do aktivacije mijeloperoksidaze u leukocitima. Takođe, usled smanjenja sinteze THB (tetrahidrobinola), ne proizvodi azot monoksid, već superoksidi i peroksidi. Sve ovo dovodi do povećanog stvaranja slobodnih radikala. Kod pušača je smanjena aktivnost superoksid dizmutaze i katalaze, dok je aktivnost glutathion peroksidaze pojačana.

Oksidativni stres

U oksidativnom stresu učestvuju slobodni radikali iz duvanskog dima, kao i endogeni slobodni radikali. Slobodni radikali su visoko reaktivni molekuli koji sadrže jedan nes-



Slika 2. Shematski prikaz vazomotorne disfunkcije i izostanka endotel-zavisne relaksacije na povećan protok krvi kod oštećenog endotela (desno) i normalne reakcije endotela na povećan protok krvi (levo)

Modifikovano prema: Powell JT. Vasc Med. 1998;3(1):21-8. Review²⁶, NO – azot monoksid; NOS – azot monoksid sintetaza

paren elektron. Kada dođu u kontakt sa drugim molekulima, preuzimaju elektron od njih, čime pretvaraju molekule u nove slobodne radikale, tako da nastaje lančana reakcija. Najznačajnija lančana reakcija je lipidna peroksidacija koja oštećuje ćelijsku membranu ćelija. Slobodni radikali dovode i do oksidacije lipoproteina male gustine (LDL) stvarajući oksidovani LDL (ox-LDL). Oni smanjuju i aktivnost paraoksonaze 1 lipoproteina velike gustine (HDL) – glavnog enzima koji razlaže hidroperokside lipida LDL i štiti LDL od oksidacije. Slobodni radikali kao i ox-LDL povećavaju aktivnost NF- κ B, koji dovodi do povećane transkripcije gena proinflammatoryh citokina (IL-6, TNF- α), dovodeći do zapaljenja. Slobodni radikali utiču i na smanjenje endogenog azot monoksida.²⁵

Inflamacija

Proinflammatory citokini dovode do povećane ekspresije ćelijskih adhezionih molekula (VCAM-1, ICAM-1, E-selektin) na površini endotela. Aktiviraju i monocite te dolazi do povećane ekspresije integrina CD11b/CD18 na površini monocita. Povećana ekspresija ćelijskih adhezionih molekula i integrina dovode do adhezije monocita za endotelne ćelije. Monociti migriraju unutar zida krvnog suda, transformišu se u makrofage, fagocituju ox-LDL i pretvaraju se u penaste ćelije. ox-LDL značajno povećava ekspresiju tzv. *scavenger* receptora na površini makrofa-

ga. Pušači imaju značajno povišene vrednosti C-reaktivnog proteina (CRP), broj leukocita u perifernoj krvi pušača je veći za 20-25% u odnosu na nepušače i kod pušača je povećana transendotelna migracija monocita.¹¹

Smanjenje bioraspoloživosti i produkcije NO

Endogeni azot monoksid reaguje sa superoksidima formirajući peroksinitrite i reaguje sa lipidnim peroksidima pokušavajući da zaustavi lančanu reakciju lipidne peroksidacije. Ove reakcije dovode do smanjivanja koncentracije raspoloživog azot monoksida. Zbog nedostatka THB, eNOS ne proizvodi azot monoksid čime se dodatno smanjuje njegova raspoloživost. NO ima značajnu ulogu u izazivanju relaksacije endotela krvnog suda, tako što difunduje unutar glatkih mišićnih ćelija, vezuje se za gvožđe gvanilat ciklazu, aktivira je i povećava stvaranje cikličnog guanozin monofosfata cGMP, što dovodi do relaksacije glatkih mišićnih ćelija. Sličnim mehanizmom NO sprečava aktivaciju trombocita. Kao rezultat manjka NO nastaje vazomotorna disfunkcija, prvi znak oštećenja endotela koji se može detektovati, i ima protrombogeni i proinflammatory efekat. Postoje studije koje pokazuju da manjak NO dovodi do hiperinsulinemije i povećane rezistencije na insulin, što takođe ima značaja u patogenezi ateroskleroze.²³ Azot monoksid iz duvanskog dima reaguje sa nikotinom formirajući nitrozononikotin, sa superoksidima formira

peroksinitrite i sa drugim jedinjenjima duvanskog dima formira potencijalno kancerogene materije. Deo koji dospe u cirkulaciju vezuje se za hemoglobin i druge proteine plazme. Nitrozoalbumini koji nastaju na ovaj način bi mogli poslužiti kao NO donori, međutim njihova koncentracija u krvi pušača je previše niska da bi imali bilo kakav koristan efekat.²³

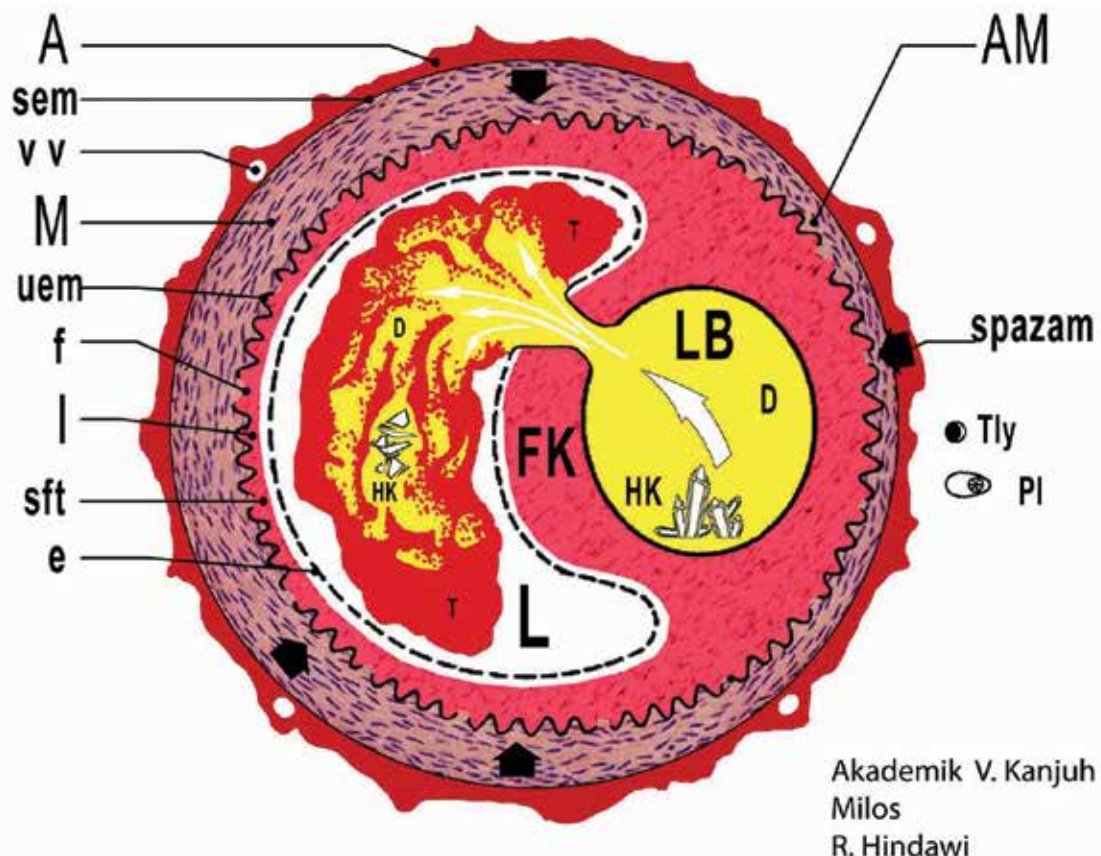
Trombogeneza

Smanjenje raspoloživog azot monoksida, smanjenje sinteze prostaciklina PGI_2 i povećana sinteza tromboksana A_2 dovodi do aktivacije trombocita i njihove pojačane agregacije i adhezije. Oštećenje endotelnih ćelija (deskvamacija, erozija, fisura) dovodi do denudacije endotela i otkrivanja subendotelnog matriksa, naročito kolagena i tkivnog faktora koji deluju protrombogeno. Kod pušača je povišen nivo fibrinogena, faktora VII i cirkulišućeg tkivnog faktora, dok su antitrombotički faktori sniženi (inhibitor puta tkivnog faktora – TFPI–1), kao i fibrinolitički faktori (smanjenje tkivnog aktivatora plazminogena i promena odnosa između tkivnog plazminogen aktivatora tPA i plazminogen aktivator inhibitora 1 PAI–1)^{13,27}. Ruptura aterosklerotskog plaka može nastati usled skoka pritiska zbog pojačane aktivnosti simpatiku-

sa ili zbog povećane viskoznosti krvi, čime lipidni bazen koji je jako trombogen dolazi u kontakt sa cirkulišućom krvi, zbog čega može nastati akutni koronarni događaj. Povećana viskoznost krvi usled reaktivne eritrocitoze zbog hronične hipoksije pušača pogoduje nastanku tromba, ali kao što je napomenuto, veći značaj ima za patogenezu tromboze dubokih vena.²⁷

Modifikacija lipidnog profila

Pušenje utiče na nastanak proaterogenog lipidnog profila. Kod pušača su u odnosu na nepušače povišeni nivoi ukupnog holesterola, LDL i trigliceridi, dok su vrednosti HDL-a snižene. Tačni mehanizmi kojim pušenje dovodi do promena u lipidnom profilu nisu u potpunosti rasvetljeni. Kod pušača je pojačana lipoliza zbog povećane koncentracije cirkulišućih kateholamina, pušači imaju hiperinsulinemiju i povećanu rezistenciju na insulin usled smanjivanja koncentracije azot monoksida i imaju smanjen nivo estrogena, naročito žene, zbog povećane hidroksilacije i inaktivacije estradiola, zbog povećanog cirkulišućeg SHBG (*sex hormone binding globulina*), koji vezuje cirkulišući estradiol kao i zbog direktnog toksičnog efekta na folikule. Na modifikaciju lipidnog profila pušača može uticati i ishrana. Studije su pokazale da



Slika 3. Kanjuh V. et al. Posledipl. udžb. Kardiologija. 2011; str.293, Bgd. [29]

Ruptura fibrozne kape, tj. neointime (FK) aterosklerotične ploče sa sledujućom sekundarnom opstruktivnom trombozom (T), koja dovodi do akutnog infarkta miokarda ili iznenadne ishemijske srčane smrti. Spazam (crne strelice) koronarne arterije (čest kod pušača!) komprimuje lipidni bazen (LB), koji sadrži više ateromatoznog kašastog detritusa (D) nego holesterolskih kristala (HK) i zbog toga je stišljiviji. Dolazi do "vulkanske erupcije" LB kroz rupturu FK i veoma trombogeni sadržaj se izručuje u lumen (L) arterije, tj. u cirkulišuću krv. Odmah nastaje opstruktivna tromboza (u stvorenom trombu vide se izbačeni HK i D, koji eventualno embolizuju distalni deo koronarne arterije. A - adventicija sa vasa vasorum (v v). sem i uem - spoljašnja i unutrašnja elastična membrana. M - mišićna medija, koja je atrofična iza aterosklerotične ploče. f - fenestra (prozor) na uem. I – intima sa subendotelnim fibroznim tkivom (sft) i endotelom (e). Periadventicijski, uz aterosklerotičnu ploču, zapaljenski infiltrati od imunih ćelija: T-limfocita (Tly) i plazmocita (PI).

pušači jedu ređe, da unose više šećera i životinjskih masti, kao i da unose manje polinezasićenih masti i antioksidanasa u odnosu na nepušače. Polimorfizmi gena apolipoproteina i transfer proteina holesterolskih estara mogu uticati na pojavu proaterogenog lipidnog profila kod pušača. Pušači imaju i znatno veće vrednosti homocisteina u odnosu na nepušače.²⁸

Značajan nepovoljni efekat koji pušenje ostvaruje na lipide jeste smanjenje nivoa atero – protektivnog HDL-a. Međutim, pored smanjenja nivoa HDL-a, cigarete deluju i na smanjenje njegove funkcije, čak i bez uticaja na samu koncentraciju. Ovakvi efekti su dokazani u zdravih pušača kod kojih je nakon obustave pušenja uočena poboljšana funkcionalnost HDL-a kroz smanjenje inflamacije kapaciteta fluksa holesterola bez promene koncentracije HDL-a.²⁸

Pušenje i rezistencija na insulin

Pušači u poređenju sa nepušačima imaju veći nivo HbA1C, zahtevaju veće doze insulina i imaju veći rizik ka razvoju mikrovaskularnih i makrovaskularnih komplikacija dijabetesa³⁰. Izloženost eksperimentalnih životinja tercijarnom obliku duvanskog dima, dovelo je do porasta nivoa glukoze u krvi, koja se može klasifikovati kao predijabetes, takav oblik hiperglikemije je bio teže regulisan na primenu insulina u odnosu na kontrolnu grupu^{31,32}. Povišene vrednosti triglicerida, ukupnog holesterola i LDL, smanjene vrednosti HDL i poremećaj u metabolizmu insulina predstavljeni su „metaboličkim sindromom“, stanje koje povećava rizik od nastanka šloga, akutnog koronarnog sindroma i tip 2 dijabetesa^{33,34}. Pojedine studije pokazale su nedostatak insulinskih receptora, fosfoinozimid 3-kinaze i AKT (poznatijeg kao protein kinaza B), kao i svi važni molekuli u insulinskoj signalizaciji koji unose glukozu u ćelije³². Inhibicija ovih signalnih puteva će uzrokovati da GLUT 4 transporter ostane u citosolu ćelije, umesto da bude transportovan na površini membrane i dozvoli ulazak glukoze u ćelije. Ovo će rezultirati povećanjem vrednosti glukoze u krvi (hiperglikemijom). Efekat insulinske rezistencije, uzrokovanog tercijarnim oblikom pušenja, determinisan je oksidativnim stresom, koji prouzrokuje oštećenja na proteinima, lipidima i molekulu DNK.³⁵

Akutna i hronična dejstva nikotina i intoksikacija nikotinom

Nikotin kao najpoznatiji sastojak duvana je alkaloid, koji se nalazi u listovima biljke i u prirodi služi kao njena odbrana od insekata, pa se ranije često koristio kao insekticid. Nikotin pored brojnih efekata na centralni nervni sistem (osećaj relaksacije, ugodnosti, povećanje pažnje, budnosti, koncentracije, smanjenje apetita, ubrzanje metabolizma, povećanje libida, smanjenje osećaja straha, povećanje osetljivosti u moždanom centru za nagrađivanje), dovodi do povećanog lučenja adrenalina (epinefrina) i drugih kateholamina i aktivacije simpatičkog nervnog sistema. Nikotin uzrokuje akutne i hronične efekte. Akutni efekti unosa nikotina u manjim dozama su posledica njegovog simpatomimetičkog dejstva, po-

većane srčane frekvence, vazokonstrikcije, povećanja arterijskog pritiska i kontraktilnosti srca.

Trovanje nikotinom se može javiti posle prve cigarete, prekomernog pušenja, ili posle accidentalnog unošenja nikotina primenjenog zadesno kod dece u vidu žvakaćih guma ili transdermalnih flastera i kod odraslih kada se dođe u kontakt sa nikotinom bogatim insekticidom uz napomenu da se preko kože i mukoze odlično resorbuje. Nikotin u prvoj fazi deluje na ganglijske nervne ćelije depolarizacijom i stimulacijom neurona, a u drugoj fazi deluje depresivno i na kraju uzrokuje blok ganglija. Zbog stimulacije parasimpatičkih ganglija i nikotinskih receptora na neuromišićnoj spojnici može doći do bradikardije, mučnine, povraćanja, povećanog lučenja pljuvačke, pojačanja peristaltike, učestalih stolica, dijareja, nesvestice, kao i fascikulacije skeletnih mišića. Intoksikacija nikotinom najčešće izaziva vrtoglavicu, bledilo, obilno znojenje odnosno dijaforezu, nekada nastaju bol u trbuhu praćen prolivom, pojačano lučenje pljuvačke i suza. Kod teških trovanja nikotinom javljaju se zbunjenost, agitacija, letargija i konvulzije, a umesto početne tahikardije i hipertenzije može nastati bradikardija i hipotenzija, dok na kraju dolazi do paralize skeletnih mišića, slabosti respiratorne muskulature, depresije disanja, respiratorne insuficijencije i kome.³⁶

Dugotrajni efekti nikotina su takođe posredovani vazokonstrikcijom malih krvnih sudova (hladne ruke i noge, dok na velikim krvnim sudovima dolazi do propadanja vasa vasorum koji ishranjuju velike krvne sudove) i ubrzanja ateroskleroze. Od značaja je i indirektni uticaj nikotina na poremećaj metabolizma glukoze, nastanak hiperglikemije i indukcije aterotromboze preko tog poznatog mehanizma. Nakon dugotrajnog korišćenja nikotina, dolazi do strukturnih i funkcionalnih promena vaskularnih glatkih mišića i endotelnih ćelija koje kao krajnji efekat imaju endotelnu proliferaciju i progresiju aterosklerotskog plaka. Posledično, nastaju miointimalna zadebljanja, aterogene i ishemične promene.^{36,37}

Hipersekrecija hlorovodonične kiseline uzrokovana pušenjem je samo jedan od mehanizama kojim pušenje toksično deluje na gastroduodenalnu mukozu, i na taj način doprinosi pojačanom toksičnom dejstvu acetilsalicilne kiseline, drugih antitrombotskih agenasa i nesteroidnih antiinflamatornih lekova na mukozu gornjeg gastrointestinalnog trakta, naročito kod onih sa peptičkim ulkusom u anamnezi. Mnogobrojne epidemiološke studije su utvrdile vezu između pušenja i pojave gastritisa odnosno ulkusne bolesti želuca (takozvane ulkusne gastrogeneze). Mehanizmi nikotinom uzrokovanih ulkusa su različiti i obuhvataju povećanu produkciju leukotrijena (histaminoliberacija), migraciju neutrofila u želudačnu mukozu, poremećaj ravnoteže prostaglandina, disproliferaciju epitela želudačne sluznice kao i pojavu neovaskularizacije. Svi nabrojani fenomeni su uključeni u proces zapaljenja, pa sveobuhvatno gledano, pušenje i indukcija zapaljenja utiču na sistemske i lokalne efekte, koji su značajni faktori nastanka ulkusne gastrogeneze i na taj način agravišu nastanak neželjenih dejstava antitrombotskih lekova, koji imaju važnu ulogu u lečenju bolesti indukovanih aterotrombozom.³⁸⁻⁴⁰

Epidemiološki podaci

Epidemiološke studije konstantno ukazuju na štetnost pušenja i povećan rizik od ateroskleroze i drugih kardiovaskularnih bolesti. Procenjuje se da pušači u odnosu na nepušače žive kraće za oko jednu deceniju. Pušenje povećava rizik od koronarne bolesti i šloga za 2 do 4 puta, dok prestanak pušenja smanjuje rizik od koronarne bolesti za 1/3, smanjuje rizik od kardiovaskularnog mortaliteta za 36% i ukupnog mortaliteta za 46%. Pušači koji su preživeli akutni infarkt miokarda, ako prestanu da puše, smanjuju rizik od ponovnog infarkta i smrtnog ishoda u narednih 2-10 godina za 50%. Ono što još više zabrinjava je da pasivni pušači u okruženju aktivnih pušača imaju povećan rizik od kardiovaskularnih bolesti za 25-30%. Pušenje u prisustvu nepušača je jedan vid nasilja. Prospektivna studija u Danskoj je pokazala da smanjenje pušenja neznatno smanjuje rizik od kardiovaskularnih bolesti, dok najveći uticaj na smanjenje rizika ima potpuni prestanak pušenja.⁴¹ Ako se pušenje prekine pre 40. godine života, rizik se redukuje za oko 90%.⁴²

Nastavak pušenja u bolesnika kojima je rađena operacija koronarno-arterijskog premoščavanja (CABG) kompletno poništava korist od prethodno urađene operacije, povećava broj ishemija na perfuzionoj scintigrafiji i utiče na porast mortaliteta.⁴³

Pušenje cigareta povećava rizik od moždanog udara za dva do tri puta. Najjača povezanost između pušenja i moždanog udara je uočena kod pušača ženskog pola koje uzimaju oralne kontraceptive. Šta više, rizik od moždanog udara raste sa porastom broja popušanih cigareta (*odds ratio* – OR se povećava sa 2,2 u pušača koji konzumiraju 1-10 cigareta na dan na 2,5; u pušača koji konzumiraju 11-20 cigareta na dan; dok se OR sa 4,3 u pušača koji konzumiraju 21-39 cigareta na dan povećava na 9.1 u pušača koji konzumiraju ≥ 40 cigareta na dan). Rizik se može smanjiti sa prestankom pušenja, uz napomenu da najveću korist od prestanka pušenja imaju oni koji pušenje ostave pre tridesete godine života, jer tada mogu potencijalno očekivati da će im životni vek biti sličan nepušačima. Istraživanja su pokazala da sekundarno (pasivno) pušenje povećava rizik od moždanog udara za 25-52% zavisno od stepena izloženosti.⁴⁴

Pušenje je najvažniji pojedinačni faktor rizika za nastanak periferne arterijske bolesti.⁴⁵ Nastavljanje pušenja kod bolesnika sa perifernom arterijskom bolesti dovodi do progresije bolesti, tri puta češće okluzije femoralno-arterijskih graftova, restenoze posle endovaskularnih revaskularizacija, većeg morbiditeta od infarkta miokarda i ukupnog mortaliteta.⁴⁶

I pored činjenice da aterotromboza ne zahvata vene (izuzetak je venski graft vene safene u aortokoronarnoj hirurgiji), treba naglasiti da je pušenje faktor koji doprinosi nastanku venskog tromboembolizma (VTE), uz napomenu da je kod pušača u odnosu na nepušače viši rizik nastanka provociranog VTE (*hazard ratio* 1,75; 95% CI 1,14-2,69) i totalnog VTE (*hazard ratio* 1,46, CI 1,04-2,05).⁴⁷

Pušački paradoks

Neke studije reperfuzije (GUSTO-I studija) su pokazale da su pušači koji su preživeli infarkt miokarda imali bolje kratkoročno preživljavanje u odnosu na nepušače. Detaljnija analiza ovih podataka je pokazala da su pušači u proseku 11 godina ranije dobijali infarkt u odnosu na nepušače. Razlika u godinama bi mogla da utiče na bolje preživljavanje pušača. Neke studije koje su pokazale pušački paradoks, nisu mogle da ga objasne razlikom u godinama, tako da je moguće da pušači imaju bolje razvijene kolaterale u miokardu u odnosu na nepušače. U svakom slučaju termin je najbolje ne pominjati i ne objašnjavati pred pacijentima, jer deluje zbunjujuće i može ih demotivisati da prestanu sa pušenjem. Čak i da se dokaže da pušenje ima nekakav koristan efekat, broj štetnih efekata bi i dalje daleko nadmašio potencijalni broj korisnih efekata da bi postojalo bilo kakvo medicinsko opravdanje za nastavak sa pušenjem.⁴⁸

Bezdimni duvan (*smokeless tobacco*):

Duvanski proizvodi bez dima sastoje se od duvana ili duvanske mešavine koja se žvače ili šmrče (ili sisa)⁴⁹. Duvanski proizvodi bez dima proizvode veću količinu nikotina nego klasični duvan za pušenje⁵⁰. Efekti koji se viđaju kod upotrebe duvanskih proizvoda, slični su onima koje izaziva pušenje cigareta, uključujući koronarnu vazokonstrikciju, povećanje broja otkucaja i *cardiac output*⁵¹. Postoje kontraverzni dokazi iz više studija (*INTERHEART* studija) koji ukazuju na povećanu kardiovaskularnu smrtnost ili učestaliju frekvenciju infarkta miokarda, veći rizik od nefatalnog infarkta miokarda među žvakačima duvana, odnosno duvanskim proizvodima bez dima.⁵²

Sekundarni dim (duvanski dim iz okoline, pasivno pušenje) može biti definisan kao dim koji nastaje izgaranjem duvanskog proizvoda, koji udišu nepušači i pušači.⁵³ Udisanje sekundarnog dima naziva se nevoljnim ili pasivnim pušenjem. Smatra se da prouzrokuje sličan rizik po zdravlje isto kao i direktno pušenje. Smatra se da se u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama registruje približno 40 000 smrtnih slučajeva godišnje koji nastaju zbog bolesti srca koje su indukovane sekundarnim duvanskim dimom.⁵⁴ Ekspozicija sekundarnom duvanskom dimu, kao i direktno pušenje, pored spomentnih kardiovaskularnih komplikacija, akutnih koronarnih događaja, šloga, nagle srčane smrti utiče i na kancerogenezu.^{54,55} Pored toga sekundarni duvanski dim povećava rizik od iznenadne smrti odojčeta, akutne respiratorne infekcije, dovodi do problema sa ušima i nastanka težih oblika opstruktivne bolesti pluća.⁵⁶

Tercijarni duvanski dim je nevidljiva duvanska „prašina“ (ili hemikalije), koja se taloži u okruženju i ostaje tamo i nakon gašenja cigarete. Znamo da su deca u većem riziku izloženija tercijarnom dimu, jer im je izmeren viši nivo kotinina (nusproizvoda nikotina) u mokraći i krvi. Tercijarni dim sadrži više od 250 hemikalija među kojima su cijanovodonik, butan, toluen, arsen, olovo, ugljen-monoksid i polonijum 210 koji ima najveći kancerogeni potencijal.⁵⁷ Ove štetne hemikalije se mogu naći u kosi, na odeći, pro-

stirkima, zavesama, igračkama, kaputu, svakoj površini u domu ili automobilu. Kućni ljubimci su takođe u opasnosti jer toksini ostaju na krznu ili repu. Duvanska kućna prašina sadrži značajno veći nivo toksičnih materija uključujući, nikotin, PAHs i TSNAs. U kući pušača izmerene su veće koncentracije nikotina po gramu prašine.^{58,59} Uzorak vazduha u kazinu koji je testiran nakon zabrane pušenja, pokazao je da je koncentracija nikotina mesecima nakon prestanka pušenja još uvek merljiva, demonstrirajući nam pri tome značaj tercijarnog pušenja.⁶⁰ Analiza prašine u automobilima u kojima se pušilo pokazuje visok nivo kontaminacije sa nikotinom i prisustvo drugih toksičnih produkata tercijarnog pušenja. Mat i saradnici su pokazali da nepušači koji žive u kućama u kojima su prethodno živeli pušači, imaju viši nivo nikotina, otkrivenog na njihovim prstima i viši nivo kotinina (metabolit nikotina) otkrivenog u urinu, u odnosu na nepušače koji su živeli u kućama u kojima su prethodno živeli nepušači. Ovaj fenomen je zapažen čak pored činjenice da su kuće pušača bile očišćene pre analize, i registrovan je i do 2 meseca od kako su se pušači odselili.⁵⁹

Vulnerabilne populacije

Deca, posebno odojčad i mala deca, su posebno vulnerabilna populacija stanovništva najosetljivija na tercijarni vid pušenja,^{58,60-67} jer su izložena produktima tercijarnog pušenja u kućnoj prašini i različitim površinama na više načina: oralno, preko disanja, kao i transdermalno čak i preko odeće i kože roditelja.⁶⁸ Deca udišu više vazduha, nego odrasli, u odnosu na procenat njihove mase. Deca, takođe, imaju veći odnos površine tela i mase, nego odrasli.

Drugu, posebno na toksične efekte primarnog, sekundarnog i tercijarnog pušenja, vulnerabilnu populaciju, predstavljaju trudnice, posebno u smislu nastanka ishemije i infarkta placente (Asmussen (1977;1978). Elektronsko ispitivanje mikroskopom placente žena porođenih u periodu termina ukazalo je na niz histopatoloških promena: proširenu bazalnu membranu placentalnih resica, povećanje kolagena, promene u intimi kapilara i arteriola placentalnih resica sa jako izraženim edemom endotela, vazokonstrikciju, redukciju prokrvljenosti.⁶⁹ Produkti tercijarnog pušenja inhibiraju mehanizme regeneracije i reparacije ćelija i prouzrokuju oštećenje DNK i mitohondrija. Toksikološke studije na eksperimentalnim životinjama pokazale su brojne štetne efekte tercijarnog pušenja na organe i ćelije, uključujući slabije zarastanje rana, oštećenje pluća i jetre, metaboličke efekte, kao što su povećanje nivoa triglicerida, ukupnog holesterola, LDL, smanjivanje nivoa HDL, poremećaj metabolizma insulina, trajnu promenu u sastavu imunog odgovora periferne krvi. Životinje izložene tercijarnom pušenju pokazale su poremećaje ponašanja, po tipu hiperaktivnosti.⁶⁹

Genetski faktori i pušenje

Pojedine studije pokazale su da geni utiču na metabolizam nikotina i specifičnih hemijskih supstanci proizvedenih tokom sagorevanja, i mogu pojačati (ili smanjiti) pa-

tofiziološke mehanizme povezane sa aterogenim efektom pušenja, uključujući oksidativni stres, inflamatorni proces i prokoagulantni potencijal.⁷⁰ Kod teških pušača pokazana je interakcija između duvanskog dima i glutation-S-transferaze teta (GSTT-1), koja dovodi do prekliničke ateroskleroze povezane sa povećanjem debljine intime i medije.⁷¹ Pokazano je da polimorfizam A640G U CYBA genu može uticati na individualnu predispoziciju za kardiovaskularne bolesti kroz interakcije sa pušenjem i hiperholesterolemijom.^{72,73} Takođe, pokazano je da polimorfizmi u genima za eNOS i citihrom P450 (CYP1A1), utiču na pojavu ateroskleroze kod pušača.^{74,75}

Kod pušača sa značajnim stenozama većeg stepena povećana je učestalost homozigotnih nosilaca za 4a alel (eNOS4a/4a), u poređenju sa ispitanicima onim sa manjim stenozama ili bez njih.⁷⁶

Zaključak

Mehanizmi kojim pušenje i komponente duvanskog dima dovode do inicijacije i progresije ateroskleroze su brojni. Pušenje indukuje disfunkciju endotela ometajući biosintezu NO, smanjuje sintezu zaštitnog prostaglandina PGI₂ (prostaciklina) u endotelu, povećava dejstvo štetnog tromboksana A₂, povećava oksidaciju štetnog LDL holesterola i njegovo prodiranje u zid krvnog suda, smanjuje nivo i funkciju korisnog HDL holesterola, povećava nivo fibrinogena, CRP, ICAM-1 (*intracellular adhesion molecule-1*), i homocisteina, povećava adheziju monocita za endotel, povećava agregabilnost trombocita, čineći trombocite pušača osetljivijim na agregacijske stimulanse, stimuliše simpatičko adrenergički sistem, inhibira proces fibrinolize, kao i uticaj antitrombotičkih faktora, može doprineti nastanku spazma koronarnih krvnih sudova.^{77,78} Pored vazomotorne disfunkcije, inflamacije, povećanja trombogenosti, smanjenja bioraspoloživosti NO, modifikacije lipidnog profila, oksidativni stres ima jednu od najvažnijih uloga u akceleraciji aterotromboznih procesa. Ne postoji linearno dozna zavisnost između broja popušenih cigareta i štetnih efekata na kardiovaskularni sistem, što implicuje da se zaštitni mehanizmi brzo zasite. Treba istaći da smanjenje pušenja neznatno smanjuje rizik od kardiovaskularnih bolesti, dok potpuni prestanak pušenja značajno smanjuje rizik. S obzirom na činjenicu da jedno od centralnih mesta u patogenezi ateroskleroze pušača pripada oksidativnom stresu i ulozi slobodnih radikala, treba istaći da nema ubedljivih dokaza da upotreba antioksidanasa (vitamin C, vitamin E, β karoten, koenzim Q10) može da smanji štetni efekat ne samo slobodnih radikala, već i drugih multiplih mehanizama toksičnog dejstva duvanskih produkata. Pušenje i komponente duvanskog dima na globalnom nivou, predstavljaju jedan od glavnih faktora koji dovodi do indukcije aterotromboze i kardiovaskularnih komplikacija kao što su infarkt miokarda i nasprana srčana smrt, ali i do ostalih potencijalno fatalnih posledica u prvom redu cerebrovaskularnih i oboljenja perifernih krvnih sudova.

Opšta i profesionalna javnost nije u punoj meri upoznata sa svim mehanizmima kojima pušenje dovodi do početka i razvoja aterotromboze. Treba naglasiti da je ne-

ophodna sveobuhvatna kampanja protiv pušenja, orijentisana ka navikama pojedinaca, poštovanju određenih socijalnih obaveza, brizi i za tuđe živote imajući u vidu opasnost od sekundarnog i tercijarnog pušenja, uz uključivanje farmakoloških mera u borbi protiv nikotinske zavisnosti, odnosno zavisnosti od pušenja, uz opsežne mere svih službi koje se bave javnim zdravljem na svest celokupne društvene zajednice. Veoma je važno istaći značaj borbe protiv pušenja na svim nivoima zdravstvene zaštite radi sprečavanja najtežih aterosklerotičkih komplikacija.

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Current recommendations in the treatment of aortic stenosis: (T)AVR in focus

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Summary According to US data, one-third of all patients with aortic stenosis have severe aortic stenosis, as well as numerous comorbidities and comedication, and transcatheter intervention is the recommended treatment modality in cases where there is a primary indication for aortic valve replacement, as an equally effective and much safer technique compared to standard surgery.

Key words aortic stenosis, heart failure, transcatheter aortic valve replacement

Aortic stenosis (AS) and modalities of treatment

The prevalence of significant aortic stenosis (moderate or severe) is known to increase with age. Two large epidemiological studies involving nearly 29,000 participants point out that the prevalence of AS ranges from a negligible 0.02% to 0.1% in persons between 18 and 44 years of age to a significant 4.6% in patients older than 75 years^{1,2}.

The only effective treatment modality for severe AS is valve replacement (AVR)³. Although they alleviate symptoms in the short term, optimal drug therapy and balloon valvuloplasty alone do not affect the prognosis and further evolution of AS³. According to data from the USA, one third of all patients with aortic stenosis have severe aortic stenosis, as well as numerous comorbidities and comedication¹. Current AHA / ACC recommendations emphasize the place of TAVR as the primary modality of definitive treatment of AS or as an alternative technique to SAVR in patients in whom classical surgery is contraindicated, or operative risk is elevated (high or intermediate)³⁻⁵. In some developed countries, TAVR is becoming the standard (USA) and dominant (Germany) modality of definitive aortic valve management⁶⁻⁷. In high-risk patients with severe aortic stenosis and left ventricular dysfunction, comparable mortality and recovery of LV function have been reported between the two techniques, with TAVR proving to be a practical alternative for patients with severe AS and LV dysfunction who are at increased operative risk for classical surgery⁵.

The most significant predictors of unfavorable TAVR outcome are poor functional capacity (estimated by a 6-minute walk test) and low mean transaortic systolic

pressure gradient. The remaining significant negative predictors include lung diseases that require oxygen therapy, kidney damage, as well as ischemic brain disease with pre-existing cognitive dysfunction⁸.

Assessment of the severity of aortic stenosis and recommended diagnostic-therapeutic modalities

The assessment of the severity of aortic stenosis includes the following parameters: aortic valve morphology (calcified / non calcified), mean transaortic systolic pressure gradient (low / high gradient AS), aortic valve area (AVA; severe / moderate), flow (flow; low / normal SVI). AVA is a sensitive but insufficiently specific parameter that is under subjective influences, so, according to the current recommendations, in assessing the severity of AS, besides anatomy, valvular hemodynamics (systolic pressure gradient over the aortic orifice (ΔP), maximum velocity of the jet passing through the stenotic orifice) and hemodynamic consequences (left ventricular ejection fraction, indexed systolic volume) are included (Table 1)⁴. Based on all previous said, aortic stenosis staging has been proposed (Table 1)^{3,9-10}.

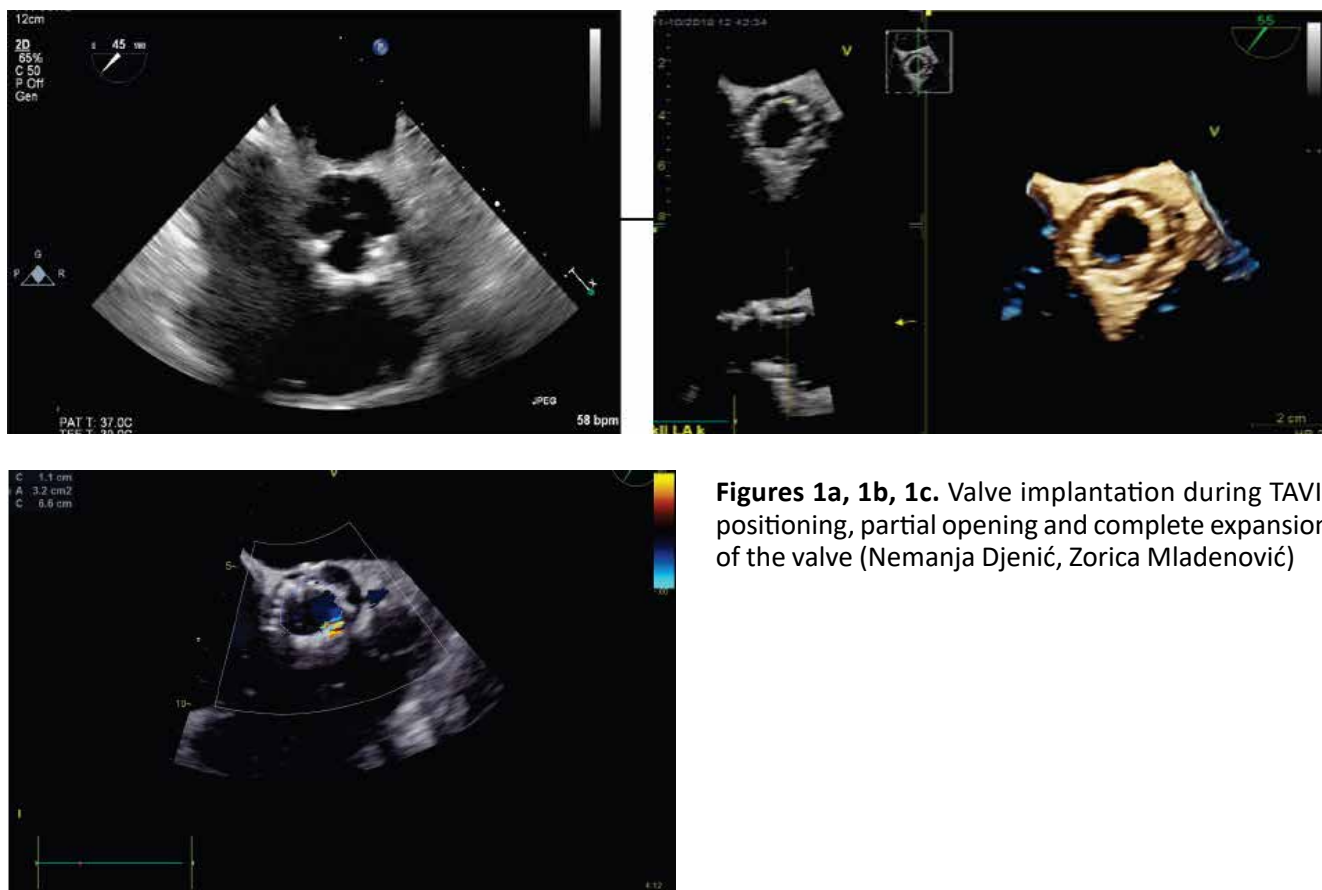
There are four stages of AS: risk of AS, progressive AS (mild and moderate), asymptomatic and symptomatic AS^{3-4,9-10}. Surgical (SAVR) or transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) is indicated primarily for stage D AS with some exceptions for stage C^{4,9-10}.

Aortic valve replacement (AVR) for moderate AS should be considered at the same time with cardiac surgery due to other indications (class IIA). There is no current indication for primary intervention in the treatment of moderate AS^{4-5,10-12}. A study (TAVR UNLOAD) testing the premise that transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and

Table 1 Aortic stenosis staging (adopted from Kanwar A, Thaden JJ, Nkomo VT. *Management of Patients with Aortic Valve Stenosis. Mayo Clin Proc. 2018;93(4):488-508.*)

Stage	Definition and symptoms	Valve anatomy, valve hemodynamic and hemodynamic consequences	AVR
A	At risk of AS None symptoms	Bicuspid AV, another congenital valve anomaly, aortic valve sclerosis, aortic Vmax < 2m/s	Not recommended
B	Progressive AS None symptoms	Mild-to-moderate leaflet calcification of a bicuspid or trileaflet valve with some reduction in systolic motion or rheumatic valve changes with commissural fusion; - mild aortic Vmax 2-2,9 m/s or mean ΔP < 20 mmHg - moderate aortic Vmax 3-3,9 m/s or mean ΔP 20-39 mmHg LV diastolic dysfunction Normal LVEF	B2 stage (TAVR UNLOAD)
C1	Asymptomatic severe AS None symptoms	Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet opening aortic Vmax ≥ 4 m/s or mean $\Delta P \geq 40$ mmHg AVA typically ≤ 1 cm ² (AVAi ≤ 0.6 cm ² /m ²) Very severe aortic Vmax ≥ 5 m/s or mean $\Delta P \geq 60$ mmHg LV diastolic dysfunction Mild LV hypertrophy Normal LVEF -Exertional testing for confirming symptom status	AVR should be considered in symptomatic very severe aortic stenosis
C2	Asymptomatic severe AS with left ventricular dysfunction None symptoms	Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet opening aortic Vmax ≥ 4 m/s or mean $\Delta P \geq 40$ mmHg AVA typically ≤ 1 cm ² (AVAi ≤ 0.6 cm ² /m ²) LVEF <50%	AVR is recommended for LVEF preservation
D1	Symptomatic severe high-gradient AS Exertional dyspnea or decreased exercise tolerance Exertional angina Exertional presyncope or syncope	Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet opening aortic Vmax ≥ 4 m/s or mean $\Delta P \geq 40$ mmHg AVA typically ≤ 1 cm ² (AVAi ≤ 0.6 cm ² /m ²) but may be larger with mixed AS/AR LV diastolic dysfunction Mild LV hypertrophy Pulmonary hypertension may be present	Recommended
D2	Symptomatic severe AS(<i>low- flow/low- gradient</i>) with reduced LVEF Heart failure, angina, presyncope and syncope	Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet opening AVA ≤ 1 cm ² with resting aortic v max <4m/s or mean ΔP <40 mmHg Dobutamine stress echocardiography: AVA ≤ 1 cm ² with v max ≥ 4 m/s with any flow rate LV diastolic dysfunction Mild LV hypertrophy LVEF <50%	AVR should be considered in severe aortic stenosis (LVEF recovery even in patients with no coronary flow reserve)
D3	Symptomatic severe <i>low-gradient</i> AS with normal LVEF or paradoxical <i>low-flow</i> severe AS Heart failure, angina, presyncope and syncope	Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet opening AVA ≤ 1 cm ² with resting aortic v max <4m/s or mean ΔP <40 mmHg AVAi ≤ 0.6 cm ² /m ² SVi <35ml/m ² Measured when patient is normotensive (systolic BP < 140mmHg) Increased LV relative wall thickness Small LV chamber with low stroke volume Restrictive diastolic filling , LVEF $\geq 50\%$	AVR should be considered in symptomatic patients with severe AS and no other reasons for symptoms

AS- aortic stenosis, AR-aortic regurgitation, AVA -aortic valve area, AVAi - aortic valve area indexed to body surface area, BP -blood pressure, HF- heart failure, LV – left ventricular, LVEF – left ventricular ejection fraction, mean ΔP - mean systolic pressure gradient over the aortic orifice
aortic v max -maximum velocity of the jet passing through the stenotic orifice



Figures 1a, 1b, 1c. Valve implantation during TAVI: positioning, partial opening and complete expansion of the valve (Nemanja Djeni , Zorica Mladenovi )

optimization of heart failure therapy improves clinical outcomes compared to optimal heart failure therapy per se in patients with heart failure with reduced EF (HFrEF) and proven moderate AS is underway¹². The previously cited study is based on the fact that the afterload reduction is the basis for the modern treatment of heart failure. Moderate AS increases afterload, and can be effectively treated by TAVR, and if study results support the implementation of TAVR in the treatment of this category of patients with AS, it may significantly facilitate the therapeutic decision considering optimal valve replacement time in patients with moderate AS.

Stage C1 implies asymptomatic severe aortic stenosis with preserved EF, and an exercise stress test is indicated in these patients as a part of the evaluation of physical exertion tolerance (Table 1). AVR is recommended in patients who have developed symptoms or blood pressure decline during a stress test (Table 1)^{4-5,10-12}. Having in mind all previous said facts, the design of the EARLY TAVR study (Evaluation of transcatheter aortic valve replacement compared to surveillance for patients with asymptomatic severe aortic stenosis) seems to be promised, expecting to define the role of TAVR in the treatment of patients with asymptomatic severe aortic stenosis¹³. A mechanism that explains the improvement of coronary flow reserve in patients immediately after TAVR procedures include a prompt decline in microvascular resistance and a concomitant increase in microvascular flow, leading to an increase in coronary vasodilator reserve and from the standpoint of cardiac function physiology justifying the implementation of the technique in standard treatment¹⁴. Stage C2 includes asymptomatic AS with LK dysfunction (Table 1). Due to LV dysfunction, the exertional testing

is contraindicated⁴. AVR is recommended (class I)⁴. The HAVEC group points out asymptomatic patients with “paradoxical” LF-LG AS (stage C3?) in whom AVR should be considered if high risk of progression to symptomatic AS has been assessed based on complementary imaging methods (class IIa)⁶. Here, the importance of strain analysis as an additional diagnostic tool in the assessment of subclinical LV dysfunction should be especially emphasized¹⁶. Namely, deformation indices such as myocardial strains (global, longitudinal, circumferential, radial) of the left ventricle are considered to be more sensitive markers of myocardial dysfunction than the ejection fraction. This stems from the fact that the myocardial strain is a measure of the deformation of primarily subendocardial myocardial fibers, which are the first to react to ischemia and other adverse stimuli, with preserved EF.

Using strain echocardiography, LV systolic dysfunction can be early detected in patients with AS who have normal EF. In this way, reliable data for the clinical early diagnosis and treatment of LV dysfunction, as well as for monitoring the therapeutic effect of therapy are obtained¹⁶. Taking into account that preserved global longitudinal strain (GLS) is indicative of myocardial reserve and preserved myocardial tissue plasticity, it is not surprising that there is a clear link between increased basal strain values and increased risk of progression to symptomatic AS that implies AVR. Besides strains, the risk assessment includes the calcium score on cardiac MSCT and assessment of myocardial fibrosis extensiveness by CMR¹⁵.

Stage D1 is a morpho-functionally symptomatic severe AS with high mean transaortic systolic pressure gradient

(Δ P) and preserved systolic LV function (Table 1). AVR is recommended (class I recommendation)⁴. Stage D2 occurs in patients with AS, often associated with coronary artery disease. Ischemic cardiomyopathy is the cause of decreased LVEF in these patients⁴. AVR should be considered in severe aortic stenosis because LVEF recovery has been observed even in patients without coronary flow reserve (IIa)¹⁸.

In stage D1, a low-dose dobutamine stress echocardiography is recommended to assess AS severity and coronary reserve^{4,17,18}. If the coronary reserve is reduced (during a low-dose dobutamine test an increase in LVEF less than 5% or an increase in SVi less than 20%), TAVR has an advantage over standard intervention, with the proviso that, according to the guidelines of European associations of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, LVEF <20% is relative contraindication for TAVI (Figures 1a, b, c)^{4,7,17,18}.

Stage D3 is a symptomatic *low flow-low gradient* severe AS. The most common cause is hypertrophic LV, where indexed stroke volume is reduced despite preserved EF. At this stage, aortic valve replacement should be considered (IIa)⁴. Stage D4 includes patients with symptomatic severe AS with normal flow and low mean transaortic systolic pressure gradient. As part of the morphological evaluation of the degree of stenosis, it is indicated to complete the examination with a calcium score^{4,15,18}. If severe AS is very likely (calcium score in men ≥ 3000 and in women ≥ 1600), AVR should be considered (IIa)¹⁸.

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Sažetak

Najnovije preporuke u lečenju aortne stenoze: (T)AVR u fokusu

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Prema podacima iz SAD, trećina svih pacijenata sa aortnom stenozom imaju tesnu aortnu stenozu, kao i brojne komorbiditete i komedikaciju, te se kao preporučen modalitet lečenja u slučajevima kada postoji primarna indikacija za zamenu aortnog zalistka nameće transkateterska intervencija, kao jednako efikasna i znatno bezbednija tehnika u poredjenju sa standardnom hirurijom.

Ključne reči: aortna stenoz, srčana slabost, transkateterska zamena aortnog zalistka

The diagnostic value of coronary flow reserve by transthoracic Doppler echocardiography in non-diagnostic or inconclusive stress echocardiography tests

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Abstract

Background: An inconclusive or non-diagnostic stress echocardiography test (SET) implies a need for additional tests, which often results in unnecessary invasive examinations and higher health costs.

Aim: The aim of our study was to investigate the value of non-invasive transthoracic Doppler echocardiography (TTDE) derived coronary flow reserve (CFVR) in patients with non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET.

Methods: The study group consisted of 122 patients (73 male, 49 females: mean age 63 ± 8 years) with non-diagnostic SET (target heart rate (HR) not reached, chest pain without electrocardiographic (ECG) and echocardiographic changes; and inconclusive SET (target HR reached, chest pain without ECG and echocardiographic changes). All patients were referred for TTDE assessment of CFVR in left anterior descending artery (LAD). CFVR was calculated as the ratio of maximal hyperemic and baseline coronary flow velocity. CFVR LAD ≤ 2 was considered abnormal. All patients were scheduled for invasive coronary angiography (CA).

Results: Mean CFVR LAD was 2.4 ± 0.44 . CFVR LAD was abnormal in 22 (18%) and preserved in 100 (82%) patients. Significant LAD stenosis was found in 15 (12.2%) out of 122 patients. Sensitivity of reduced CFVR LAD ≤ 2 was 88% for significant LAD stenosis, while preserved CFVR > 2 had negative predictive value of 95%. Correlation analysis found significant correlation between invasive CA and CFVR LAD ($r -0.356$; $p < 0.0001$).

Conclusions: Reduced CFVR LAD ≤ 2.0 has additive diagnostic value in detection of significant LAD stenosis in patients with non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET.

Key words coronary flow reserve, non-diagnostic stress echocardiography test

Background

Stress echocardiography test (SET) is an established non-invasive method in clinical cardiology guidelines¹⁻⁵ that is routinely used for diagnosis, risk stratification and prognosis of patients with suspected or known coronary artery disease (CAD). Diagnostic end-point for detection of myocardial ischemia during SET is an achievement of the target heart rate and/or electrocardiographic (ECG) changes and/or occurrence of the chest pain and/or echocardiographic regional wall motion abnormalities (RWMA)². However, a number of patients have inconclusive or non-diagnostic results because they either do not reach target heart rate or fulfill ECG or echocardiographic diagnostic criteria for myocardial ischemia. An inconclusive or non-diagnostic exercise test results are in most cases followed by another provocation test in order to reach correct diagnosis⁶.

Advancements in ultrasound technology have made noninvasive visualization of coronary arteries and assessment of coronary flow velocity reserve (CFVR) available technique in routine clinical practice^{7,8}. Today, non-invasive assessment of CFVR during vasodilator SE has been endorsed by the European Society of Echocardiography for the diagnosis of microvascular angina², but there is a growing body of evidence that it could be used for detection of hemodynamically significant stenosis of the epicardial artery⁹.

In our institution, non-invasive transthoracic Doppler echocardiography (TTDE) derived CFVR of left anterior descending (LAD) artery is often used as additional test following non-diagnostic or inconclusive SET, since it has been shown to have excellent diagnostic and prognostic value¹⁰. The aim of this prospective study was to investigate diagnostic value of TTDE CFVR in detecting significant stenosis in LAD in patients with known or suspected CAD and non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET results.

Methods

Study Population

Study population included 122 patients (73 male, 49 females: mean age 63 ± 8 years) with suspected or known coronary artery disease prospectively enrolled from January 2016 to December 2017. All patients were referred for TTDE CFVR assessment of LAD after non-diagnostic or inconclusive SET. SET was considered **non-diagnostic** when target HR (85% the age-predicted maximum HR) was not reached, with chest pain without electrocardiographic (ECG) and/or echocardiographic changes, and **inconclusive** if the target HR was reached, with chest pain, without ECG and/or echocardiographic criteria for ischemia. Exclusion criteria were contraindications to stress testing (acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, significant valvular heart disease, and primary hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy) as well as contraindications to adenosine infusion, poor image quality of LAD, and refusal to participate in the study. All patients were scheduled for invasive coronary angiography. For the analysis, patients were divided into two groups: group 1: patients with reduced CFVR LAD (≤ 2) and group 2: patients with preserved CFVR LAD (>2). The study received institutional review board approval. Informed consent was obtained from all patients included in the study.

Stress echocardiography test

All patients performed symptom-limited treadmill exercise according to the standard Bruce protocol, with continuous ECG and blood pressure monitoring. Transthoracic stress echocardiographic studies were performed using commercially available ultrasound machine (Vivid System 9, GE) equipped with a multifrequency phased-array sector scan probe using second harmonic technology. Echocardiographic images were semiquantitatively assessed using a 17-segment, four-point scale model of the left ventricle at rest and immediately after exercise. Myocardial ischemia was defined as stress-induced new and/or worsening of pre-existing wall motion abnormality^{3,11}.

TTDE evaluation of CFVR

TTDE CFVR measurements were performed using a commercially available ultrasound machine Vivid 9 (GE Healthcare) equipped with multifrequency transducer 4MHz using second harmonic technology. Coronary flow in the mid to distal LAD artery was searched in the low parasternal long axis section under the guidance of color Doppler flow mapping. Color Doppler flow mapping velocity range was set to 16 to 24 cm/sec. A sample volume (3–5 mm wide) was positioned on the color signal of the distal part of the LAD. Flow velocity recordings were performed at rest and maximal hyperemia, which was induced by administration of intravenous adenosine (140 mg/kg over 2 min) (2). All studies were digitally stored for offline analysis. CFVR was calculated as the ratio of hyperemic to basal peak diastolic coronary flow velocity. CFVR LAD ≤ 2 was considered abnormal.

Coronary angiography

Coronary angiography (CA) was performed in all patients using standard techniques. Significant LAD disease was defined by quantitatively coronary angiography as $\geq 50\%$ diameter stenosis narrowing of coronary arteries in the view showing the most severe stenosis.

Statistical Analysis

Quantitative variables are expressed as mean $\pm$ standard deviation or as median (interquartile range) for data not normally distributed. Differences in quantitative variables were assessed with Student's t test. The chi square test was used for categorical variables. The differences of means of CFVR between 3 independent groups were analyzed using One way analysis of variance (ANOVA). We used Spearman's correlation coefficient to measure the relationship between CFVR and percentage of LAD stenosis. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was used to calculate sensitivity in detecting significant stenosis in the LAD and to determine the optimal cut-off value for CFVR, diagnostic for LAD disease. Negative predictive value and diagnostic accuracy were calculated according to standard formulas. Statistical significance was defined as $p < 0.05$. Data were analyzed with the statistical software package SPSS 25.

Results

Main clinical characteristics of the study population are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of the study population

Variable	N / %
Gender (men/women)	73 (59.8%) / 49 (40.2%)
Age	62.5 $\pm$ 8.4
Non-diagnostic SET / Inconclusive SET	53 (43.4%) / 69 (56.6%)
CV risk factors	
HTA	106 (86.9%)
HLP	95 (77.9%)
Smoking	65 (63.3%)
Heredity	50 (41%)
Menopause	16 (13.1%)
DM type 2	30 (24.6%)
Angina pectoris	50 (41%)
LBBB	15 (12.3%)
AF	8 (6.6%)
Known CAD	75 (61.5%)
Prior MI	44 (36.1%)
Suspected CAD	47 (38.5%)
Anti-ischemic therapy	118 (96.7%)
Beta-blockers	101 (82.8%)
CCBs	36 (29.5%)
Nitrates	38 (31.1%)

SET, stress echocardiography test; CV, cardiovascular; HTA, arterial hypertension; HLP, hyperlipidemia; DM, diabetes melitus; LBBB, left bundle branch block; AF, atrial fibrillation; CAD, coronary artery disease; MI, myocardial infarction; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; CAB,= coronary artery bypass grafting; CCBs, calcium channel blockers

Table 2. Heart rate during stress echocardiography test and coronary flow velocity in patients with non-diagnostic and inconclusive stress echocardiography test

	Non-diagnostic SET (N=53)	Inconclusive SET (N=69)	P value
HR basal (beats/min)	64 ± 8.5	72 ± 11.7	0.001
HR maximal (beats/min)	118 ± 11	143 ± 10	0.001
V max basal (cm/sec)	24.2 ± 9	24.3 ± 6	0.980
V max Adenozin (cm/sec)	57.3 ± 15	57.4 ± 16	0.976
CFVR LAD	2.4 ± 0.4	2.3 ± 0.4	0.421

SET, stress echocardiography test; HR, heart rate; CFVR LAD, coronary flow reserve of left anterior descending artery; V max, maximal velocity of coronary flow

Most of the patients were hypertensive and with hyperlipidemia, and 83% were on a chronic therapy with beta-blockers. Out of 122 patients, 75 had known CAD (previous myocardial infarction, and/or previous percutaneous coronary intervention or previous coronary artery bypass grafting), while 47 patients had suspected CAD.

Stress echocardiography test and CFVR LAD assessment

SET was non-diagnostic in 53 patients (43.4%), and inconclusive in 69 (56.6%). Table 2 presents heart rate during SET and coronary flow recordings.

Average basal and maximal HR during SE test were significantly higher in patients with inconclusive results compared with patients with non-diagnostic results. Values of coronary flow did not differ between the two groups (Table 2). No complication occurred during both tests. Measured values of CFVR LAD were in the range 1.5–4.0 (2.4 ± 0.44).

Coronary angiography and CFVR findings

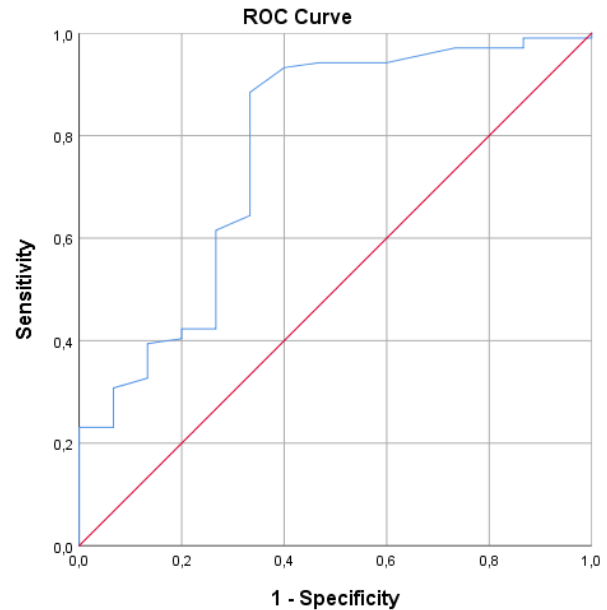
Angiographic findings of LAD are presented in Table 3. Distribution of angiographic severity of coronary stenosis is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Angiographic findings on LAD

LAD stenosis severity	
• LAD stenosis 0-50%	91 (75%)
• LAD stenosis 50-70%	16 (13%)
• LAD stenosis ≥70%	15 (12%)

CAD, coronary artery disease; LAD, left anterior descending artery

CFVR LAD was reduced (≤ 2) in 22 (18%), and preserved in 100 (82%) patients. All patients (n=16) with angiographically intermediate LAD stenosis had preserved CVR.

**Figure 1.** Sensitivity and specificity of CFVR LAD in detection of significant LAD stenosis CFVR LAD, coronary flow reserve of left anterior descending artery

In the subset of patients with LAD disease, CFVR was significantly lower in patients with stenosis $\geq 70\%$ compared with those with intermediate ($p = 0.002$) and non-significant LAD stenosis ($p = 0.002$) (Table 4). The values of CFVR LAD were significantly lower in patients with intermediate compared with patients with non-significant stenosis. (2.38 ± 0.35 vs 2.45 ± 0.44 ; $p = 0.001$) According to receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis, a cut-off of CFVR LAD ≤ 2.02 has the best sensitivity of 88% and limited specificity of 36% in detection of significant epicardial coronary stenosis of LAD (Area 0.771 (95% CI 0.62 to 0.91) $p = 0.001$) (Figure 1). Negative predictive value was very high (95%). Diagnostic accuracy was 85%.

Table 4. Relation of stenosis severity and CFVR

CFVR LAD								
	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	95% CI Mean		Minimum	Maximum	P value
				LowerBound	UpperBound			
0-50%	88	2.45	0.44	2.36	2.54	1.52	4.00	0.001
50-70%	16	2.38	0.35	2.19	2.57	2.05	3.00	0.002
≥70%	15	2.01	0.36	1.81	2.22	1.60	2.68	0.002

CFVR LAD= coronary flow reserve of left anterior descending artery

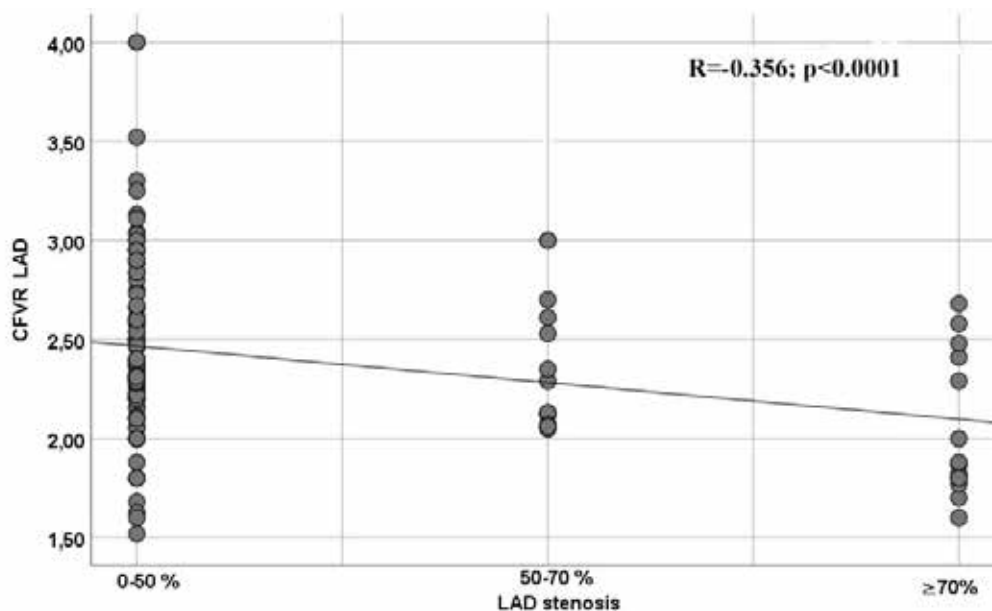


Figure 2. Correlation between invasive coronarography and TTDE CFVR LAD;

TTDE, transthoracic Doppler echocardiography; CFVR LAD, coronary flow reserve of left anterior descending artery

Correlation analysis found statistically significant correlation but with large overlap between invasive coronary angiography defined severity of stenosis and TTDE CFVR LAD ($r = -0.356$; $p < 0.0001$) shown in Figure 2.

Discussion

According to our results, reduced CFVR LAD ≤ 2 identifies patients with significant stenosis in the LAD with high sensitivity (88%) and diagnostic accuracy of 85%, while preserved CFVR > 2 has high negative predictive value (95%). Moreover, we have shown that noninvasive CFVR could be used as additional test to non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET.

CFVR is an important functional parameter in pathophysiology of coronary circulation. It can be used to examine the integrity of microvascular circulation as suggested in a recent guidelines for chronic coronary syndromes¹ and to evaluate coronary stenosis^{7,11}. Reduced CFVR ≤ 2 ^{7,12} is not specific for epicardial coronary stenosis, because coronary flow and reserve depend on microvascular function and integrity¹³. However, in case of normal microvasculature it may indicate physiologically significant epicardial coronary stenosis⁷.

A number of patients undergoing treadmill exercise stress test have non-diagnostic or inconclusive test from various reasons: low exercise capacity, beta-blocker therapy¹⁴, atypical chest pain or failure to achieve target HR^{2,5}. Failure to reach target HR is present in 15–25% of SET, and even higher among those on chronic beta-blocker therapy 30–50%¹⁴. In our study beta-blocker therapy was present in 83% of the patients and almost half of them, 47 (46.5 %) did not reach the target HR. Also, SET are often inconclusive in patients with left bundle branch block (LBBB)¹⁵, and atrial fibrillation (AF)¹⁶.

Moreover, combine evaluation of RWMA and Doppler derived CFVR of LAD during vasodilatory SET known as „dual“ imaging protocol is recommended by European guidelines for cardiovascular imaging². Our results con-

firm usefulness of this approach in non-diagnostic/inconclusive tests.

Comparison with previous studies

Results of our study are in concordance with previous data in patients with suspected or known coronary artery disease. Matsumura et al.¹¹ reported similar results to our group for CFVR LAD ≤ 2 in detection of significant LAD stenosis, with sensitivity of 90%, specificity of 93%, a positive predictive value of 77%, and a negative predictive value of 97%¹¹. Rigo et al.¹⁰ reported sensitivity of stress echocardiography in detection of LAD stenosis to be 74%, while sensitivity of CFVR LAD < 1.9 was 81%. When both criteria are considered, the sensitivity improves to 93%, with modest lost in specificity of 81%. When CFVR of LAD was added to wall motion abnormality analysis, the diagnostic accuracy for the detection of coronary artery disease has increased from 75% to 85%²⁰. Overall, reduced CFVR LAD ≤ 2 have shown sensitivity from 85–94 % and specificity from 57–92%^{20–22} in detection of significant LAD stenosis. Important findings refer also to preserved CFVR LAD > 2 that have very high negative predictive value 94–97%, allowing safe deferral from invasive procedures^{11,22–24}.

In our study CFVR LAD had high sensitivity (88%) in detection of significant coronary stenosis of LAD, and high negative predictive value (94%).

Study limitations

Almost all patients (96%) were studied under anti-ischemic therapy, mostly beta-blocker therapy, which may affect performance of stress test and may be responsible for non-diagnostic tests.

We only assessed CFVR in the LAD - from a practical viewpoint it is less technically demanding, and has higher feasibility than assessment of RCA or Cx. Thus, any significant coronary lesions in RCA and/or Cx myocar-

dial territories were not included in the analysis, but “dual” nature of combined CFVR and stress echocardiography imaging may compensate for absence of RCA and/or Cx coronary flow imaging. In addition and from prognostic viewpoint, LAD is stronger predictor of adverse cardiovascular events than RCA or Cx²¹.

Clinical implications

Our results support assessment of CFVR LAD into clinical non-invasive decision making before further invasive diagnostic in patients with non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET. Patients with reduced CFVR on LAD (or RCA), or both, despite absence of RWMA should be referred to invasive angiography²³. On the other hand, preserved CFVR LAD > 2 have high negative predictive value in detection of significant coronary stenosis of LAD as previously demonstrated in many studies^{11,22-24}. Due to the excellent negative predictive value of preserved CFVR^{23,24}, unnecessary further invasive treatment and investigation may be avoided and save health care costs.

Conclusion

Our results have shown that TTDE assessment of CFVR in LAD could be used as additional test in detection of hemodynamic significant stenosis of LAD in patients with non-diagnostic and inconclusive SET. High negative predictive value of TTDE derived CFVR allows safely deferral from invasive diagnostic procedures.

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Sažetak

Diagnostički značaj neinvazivne procene koronarne rezerve protoka transtorakalnom dopler ehokardiografijom kod nedijagnostičkih i inkonkluzivnih stres ehokardiografskih testova

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Uvod: Nedijagnostički ili inkonkluzivni stres ehokardiografski test (SET) često vodi ka dopunskim ispitivanjima, što rezultuje nepotrebnim invazivnim procedurama i povećanom zdravstvenom trošku.

Cilj rada je bio da se utvrdi dijagnostički značaj koronarne rezerve protoka (CFVR) merene putem transtorakalne Dopler ehokardiografije (TTDE) kao dopunske metode, kod nedijagnostičkih i inkonkluzivnih SET.

Metode: Studija je obuhvatila 122 pacijenata (73 muškarca, 49 žena: srednje godine 63 ± 8 godina) sa nedijagnostičkim SET (ciljana srčana frekvenca (SF) nije dostignuta; anginozni bol bez elektrokardiografskih (EKG) i ehokardiografskih promena) i inkonkluzivnim SET (ciljana SF dostignuta, sa anginoznim bolom, bez EKG i ehokardiografskih promena). Svim pacijentima je procenjena CFVR na prednjoj descendetnoj arteriji (LAD) TTDE sa adenozinom. CFVR je bila izračunata kao odnos između maksimalne brzine koronarnog protoka u hiperemiji i maksimalne brzine koronarnog protoka u bazalnim uslovima. CFVR ≤ 2 je posmatrana kao redukovana vrednost. Kod svih pacijenata je urađena koronarna angiografija..

Rezultati: Prosečna vrednost CFVR LAD je bila 2.4 ± 0.44 . CFVR LAD je bila redukovana kod 22 (18%) i normalna kod 100 (82%) pacijenta. Invazivna koronarografija je detektovala značajne stenoze LAD kod 15 (12.2%) od ukupno 122 pacijenta. Redukovana CFVR LAD ≤ 2.0 je imala senzitivnosti 88%, dok je normalna CFVR LAD imala negativnu prediktivnu vrednost od 95%. Korelaciona analiza je ukazala na značajnu povezanost između nalaza koronarografije i CFVR LAD ($r = -0.356$; $p < 0.0001$).

Zaključak: Redukovana CFVR LAD ≤ 2.0 ima dodatni dijagnostički značaj kod nedijagnostičkih i inkonkluzivnih SET u otkrivanju značajnih stenoza na LAD.

Gljučne reči: koronarna rezerva protoka, nedijagnostički stres ehokardiografski test



Authorship: From Credit to Accountability. Reflections From the Editors' Network

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Affiliations:

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Abstract

The Editors' Network of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) provides a dynamic forum for editorial discussions and endorses the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) to improve the scientific quality of biomedical journals. Authorship confers credit and important academic rewards. Recently, however, the ICMJE emphasized that authorship also requires responsibility and accountability. These issues are now covered by the new (fourth) criterion for authorship. Authors should agree to be accountable and ensure that questions regarding the accuracy and integrity of the entire work will be appropriately addressed. This review discusses the implications of this paradigm shift on authorship requirements with the aim of increasing awareness on good scientific and editorial practices.

Key Words

Editorial ethics. Scientific Process. Authorship. Accountability. Scientific Journals. Journals.

Ovaj tekst je preuzet sa dozvolom ESC i u vidu saradnje urednika nacionalnih kardiovaskularnih časopisa.

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The Editors' Network of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) is committed to foster implementation of high-quality editorial standards among ESC National Societies Cardiovascular Journals (NSCJ)¹⁻⁶. NSCJ play a major role in disseminating original scientific research worldwide, but also in education and harmonization of clinical practice²⁻⁶. Promoting editorial excellence is paramount to increasing the scientific prestige of NSCJ¹⁻⁶. In this regard, the Editors' Network endorses the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)(1). The ICMJE continuously updates its document on uniform requirements (previously known as the Vancouver guidelines) for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. These include recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing and publication of scholarly work. Notably, vexing ethical issues are gaining increasing editorial relevance¹.

Biomedical research relies on trust and transparency of the scientific process where authors remain centre stage^{1,7-9}. This review will discuss the new recommendations on authorship issued by the ICMJE^{1,10,11} with the aim of providing further editorial insight to be progressively implemented by the NSCJ.

New Authorship Requirements

In August 2013 an important revision of the ICMJE recommendations included a fourth criterion for authorship to emphasize each author's responsibility to stand by the integrity of the entire work^{1,10,11}. Classically, the ICMJE requirements for authorship included: 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; *and*, 2) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; *and*, 3) Final approval of the version to be published. In the updated ICMJE requirements a new (fourth) criterion also should be met¹. This novel requirement for authorship includes agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work and ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved¹. The essence of this new requirement is that it helps to balance credit with responsibility¹⁰. With this revision the ICMJE emphasizes that authorship is a serious commitment to accountability. Now all 4 conditions must be met by each individual author¹. The addition of a fourth criterion was motivated by situations in which some authors were unable to, or refused to, respond to inquiries on potential scientific misconduct regarding certain aspects of the study or by denying any responsibility^{1,10-14}. Editors occasionally face reluctant authors who try to distance themselves from a conflictive publication and shift responsibilities elsewhere¹¹. The main novel idea is to emphasize the responsibility of each author to stand for the integrity of the entire work. Each author of a scientific paper needs to understand the full scope of the work, know which co-authors are responsible for specific contributions and have confidence in co-authors' ability and integrity^{1,10-14}. Should questions arise regarding any aspect of a study, the onus is on all authors to investigate

and ensure resolution of the issue, which is then to be presented to the corresponding Editor^{1,10-14}.

To better appraise this 4th criterion the precise meaning of responsibility and accountability should be revisited. *Responsibility* is defined as the moral obligation to ensure that a particular task is adequately performed¹⁵⁻¹⁶. Accordingly, responsibility relates to tasks that have been assigned to an individual^{15,16}. By contrast, *accountability* denotes the duty to justify a given action to others and to respond for the results of that action^{15,16}. Therefore, accountability mainly relates to the awareness and assumption of the role of being the one to blame if things go wrong^{15,16}. Nevertheless, oftentimes responsibility is used interchangeably with accountability^{15,16}.

Claiming that each individual author is held morally responsible in every case that misconduct is detected would appear unreasonable considering the complexity of current research. Rather, the fourth criterion suggests that each author must cooperate to clarify misconduct related issues if the paper is called into question^{1,16}.

Research Credits

Acceptance and publication of a scientific paper is always a cause of major celebration among authors¹¹. Authorship provides prestige, credit and scientific recognition. Authorship has important academic, social and financial implications^{1,11}. Currently, authorship remains a major criterion for promotion and career advancement among scholars. Publication records are revised in depth for university tenures and job appointments. Total number of publications and citations remain currencies widely used to ascertain the academic value of individual investigators. In this regard, the ICMJE recommendations on authorship are intended to ensure that anybody who has made a "substantive" intellectual contribution to a paper is given credit as an author¹.

Potential Problems Derived From Publication of Research

Publication of a scientific paper usually marks the end of a research project and opens a time for discussion and criticism or acceptance by the scientific community¹¹. Occasionally, the healthy scientific debate fuelled by the publication of the paper raises serious concerns. In rare cases, even the integrity of the research or published paper is brought into question¹¹. In these situations authors may try to escape from the embarrassment of publishing a scientifically flawed study. This explains why the new fourth criterion is so pertinent to address issues related to scientific misconduct. Should irregularities be confirmed, editors must report to the authors' academic institution and, eventually, to the readers, with expressions of concern, or, in the worst case scenario, with a retraction of the published paper¹.

Considerations on Classical Authorship Criteria

Any researcher listed as an author should have made a "substantive" intellectual contribution to the study and

be prepared to take public responsibility for the work, ensure its accuracy, and be able to identify his/her contribution to the study¹. However, a problem with the definition of authorship involves the subjectivity in what constitutes a ‘*substantial*’ contribution to the research or the manuscript. In fact, the precise threshold of involvement required to qualify for authorship remains unclear. As the real problem lies in defining what represents a “substantial” contribution, means to quantify the actual work performed by individual authors have been proposed. In this regard it has been suggested¹⁷ that substantial contribution to a publication consists of an important intellectual contribution without which, a part of the work or even the entire work, could not have been completed or the manuscript could not have been written¹⁷.

According to the ICMJE¹ persons who *do not* qualify as an author include those who “*only*” provide: 1) recruitment of patients to a trial, 2) general data collection, 3) obtaining samples for a study, 4) acquisition of funding, 5) general supervision of the research group by the department chairperson. Conversely, persons who significantly contributed to the paper but do not meet the 4 criteria for authorship should be listed in the acknowledgement section after obtaining their consent.

Publishing Individual Contributions

The ICMJE authorship guidance is intentionally broad and open to accommodate the diversity of scientific research and allow space for the specific editorial policies of individual journals¹. However, many have requested a more structured authorship framework to improve consistency and clarity in authorship requirements. The best means to present the relationship between authorship and intellectual involvement in research remains an issue of ongoing debate. Currently, the ICMJE does not mandate that all authors communicate exactly what “contributions” qualify them to be an author¹. However, unless authorship reflects to what extent individual researchers have been intellectually involved in the work it will remain misleading regarding relative research merits. Honesty and openness in attribution ensures fairness in credit. Many editors argue that authorship criteria should be revised to request a contribution declaration, in order to fully capture deserving authorship and credit. Accordingly, to promote transparency and remove ambiguity on specific contributions, editors are now strongly encouraged to develop and implement contributorship policies in their journals¹. As discussed, however, the question regarding the quality and quantity of contribution required to qualify an individual for authorship remain unresolved¹. An interesting proposal in this regard suggests including contributorship badges. These badges are designed to fully capture the different types of collaboration in the submitted work that, otherwise, will be difficult to recognise with traditional credentials. Contributors listing allows a more accurate and granular assessment of credit. In addition, this strategy provides additional insight on contributor-adjusted productivity¹⁸. Ideally, each ICMJE criterion should have at least one

badge. Each badge includes a list of authors making a contribution to that specific role¹⁸⁻²⁰. Others have proposed the value of assigning a numerical value to better evaluate the degree of relative contributions and, eventually, to create a contribution-specific index for each author to better assess research productivity¹⁸⁻²⁰.

Detailing authors’ contributions inform the readers of the nature of the individual work and avoids diluting credits by precisely allocating merits. In multi-authored papers it is particularly important that authors state the specific role they played in the research. Each research represents a significant amount of effort and, on average, the larger the number of authors the smaller percentage of effort for a given author. Other forms of contributions, not fulfilling criteria for authorship, may be recognized in the acknowledgement section or by listing these people as collaborators. This is an important issue considering the ever increasing number of authors seen in recent publications that represents a paradigm shift resulting from team-work research¹⁸⁻²⁴. Contributors credited as authors should take full responsibility and remain accountable for what is published^{1,18}. In this regard, contribution-adjusted credits can be further weighted by other factors to derive more effective parameters for measuring research productivity. Currently, every co-author gets the exact amount of citation credit regardless of their contribution. Therefore, an “author matrix” (including participation in ideas, work, writing and stewardship), has been proposed to “quantify” individual contributions and roles in multi-authored papers¹⁸⁻²⁴.

By-line Location and Hierarchy

There is no adequate guidance for author sequence in the by-line. In fact, practices to clarify the relative merit of the different coauthors in a manuscript vary significantly among scientific disciplines¹⁸⁻²². For biomedical journals, the first author is the most important position, followed by the last author and then the second author. The first author is reserved for the person who made the largest contribution (investing most time in the project) usually the author who wrote the first draft of the paper. Then the sequence of authors tends to represent progressively lesser contributions¹⁸. Following this approach, where the sequence determines credit, the last author receives the least. Accordingly, the last position might be considered as a rather generous option. Actually, the last position is currently considered as very important in biomedical research and, in fact, it is frequently associated with the corresponding author or the guarantor of the entire work¹⁸. However, many argue that senior scientists should grab the pen (key-board) more often as writing remains essential for advancement in knowledge¹⁹. Senior authors have the responsibility to promote the academic career of new generation scientists.

Many journals allow authors to declare that 2 or more individuals have made “equal contribution” to the research²⁵⁻²⁹. In the last decade the percentage of articles with equal contribution statements has increased dra-

matically both in basic and medical scientific journals²⁵. Notably, the designation of “joint first-authors” should be based on the quality and quantity of the work²⁵⁻²⁹. Thus the “contributed equally” designation should be reserved to honestly reflect similar scientific contributions and not to inflate a *curriculum vitae*²⁵⁻²⁹. Interestingly, the practice of listing two individuals as “joint last author” is used less frequent but steadily increasing. These publications should include a foot note clearly indicating that both authors equally contributed to the work²⁵⁻²⁹.

The corresponding author takes primary responsibility for communication with the journal during the submission, peer-review, publication and post-publication periods¹. Currently, most journals require contact e-mail addresses from all listed authors who then will be contacted to inform that the corresponding author submitted the paper. This ensures that they are aware that the paper has been submitted in their name. The systematic implementation of this electronic warning system paves the way to guarantee that the 3rd authorship criterion has been met. Therefore, the policy now may be considered as a mere administrative requirement similar to signing of a copyright transfer.

The “guarantor” of the study may be different from the first or corresponding author and frequently is the principal investigator or more senior person in the group. The guarantor takes full responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole from inception to the published paper. Accordingly, the guarantor must be fully prepared to defend all parts of the research project and final manuscript. Guarantors vouching for the integrity of the entire work are of special value for multi-author articles particularly when many institutions are involved. All authors should also disclose potential conflicts of interest^{1,5}. The ICMJE uniform conflict of interest disclosure has been recently updated and all authors should complete the corresponding standardized individual electronic document^{1,5}. In particular, authors of sponsored studies should indicate that they had full access to the data and take complete responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the analysis. This is important as roles and interests of different stakeholders may remain elusive or misleading in this type of study¹.

The subjectivity and emotionality of authorship may explain why disputes among investigators are not uncommon. Authorship disputes amongst research teams should be avoided by deciding roles and responsibilities beforehand. Ideally, the order of authors should be collectively decided by the research team at the onset of the project³⁰. Then, the definitive author order should be revised when the work is completed, taking into account the actual level of individual contributions¹⁷. Editors are unable to judge whether authors have met the authorship criteria. The COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics; www.publicationethics.org) guidelines are useful to solve publication disputes⁹. Editors should seek explanations and signed agreement of all authors in case of a request for a change in the author list¹.

Multi-Authored Articles

Scientific collaboration has become increasingly important because the complexity of modern research involves different competencies¹⁶. Moreover, a large number of patients and centres may be required to adequately address clinically relevant questions¹⁶. In addition, multidisciplinary research groups offer the opportunity of cross-pollination¹⁶. Therefore, team-work is currently common place in biomedical research. Co-authorship is the most tangible result of multilateral scientific collaboration. Group (corporate) authorship has become increasingly common with variations in how individual authors and research group names are listed in the by-line. Notably, citation impact is greater in papers with multiple authors coming from international cooperation. The problem of inflating publication and citation records of authors participating in multicenter studies has been a cause of concern¹⁸. This is due, at least in part, to collaboration-induced self-citation³¹. Salami publications, or least publishable units strategies, are initiatives that inflate the number of publications on the same research project by dividing the work (that could have been presented in a single main paper) into smaller component parts, then publishing them as several different articles. Such strategies may be detected in some multicenter studies³¹. The use of coauthor-adjusted citation indexes have been suggested to account for this phenomenon³¹.

There is evidence that the number of coauthors per paper in medical literature has increased exponentially over time^{22,32}. The reason for this increase is probably multifactorial and includes, increasing complexity of research, as discussed, but also author inflation. Inappropriate authorship is not ethical and eventually leads to diminish the value of authorship, generating a situation where undeserved coauthors cannot take responsibility for the research^{22,32}. Interestingly, the correlation between research quality and number of authors is poor, suggesting that the component of author inflation plays a greater role than that of research complexity³².

Until now the number of authors in the by-line was not considered in the evaluation of the relative academic merit of individual authors³. However, as a research project involves a defined amount of work, the larger the number of authors in a paper the smaller the merit that deserves any given author. Major efforts are made by some individuals whereas others contribute significantly less. The credit received by people doing the work becomes diluted by the inclusion of many authors with little, if any, contributions. Eventually this “free lunch” strategy undermines the value of being named on a scientific paper³³.

Authorship guidelines should be updated to adapt to the growing trend of collaborative research. The larger the number of authors the more opportunities for contentious arguments and disputes. Every author of a “group authorship” work must meet the 4 criteria for authorship. Otherwise they should be identified just as investigators or collaborators rather than authors¹. Given the complexity and multiple tasks involved in current research it is

clear that most authors cannot participate in every aspect of the work. Accordingly, specific responsibilities should be tied to different research roles. Authors should refrain from collaborating with colleagues whose quality or integrity may inspire concerns¹. Last, but not least, with a growing number of authors it is increasingly difficult to identify those who may be held morally responsible should scientific misconduct be detected^{22,32}. Holding everybody responsible is unfair to the researchers that are not guilty of misconduct.

Breaches in Authorship: From Ghost to Guest Authors

Breaches in authorship are a form of deception. Guest or gift (honorary) and ghost (hidden) authors represent a form of authorship abuse that should not be permitted³⁴⁻³⁹. Ghost authorship is omitting authors that have made relevant contributions to a paper. Ghost authors provide contributions to a manuscript that do merit authorship but, for different reasons, are not included in the author by-line. Some ghost authors may have major conflicts of interest or are paid by a commercial sponsor. This should be differentiated from ghost writing. Ghost writers are writing contributors to a manuscript that do not fulfill authorship criteria, but their contributions are not disclosed in the acknowledgements^{17,38}. Ghost writing is also an unethical practice as it keeps hidden the involvement in the manuscript. The concern is that writers hired by the industry might influence the content of the publication or hide unwelcome results, which introduces potential bias that is obscured when relevant academic guest authors are accredited with authorship¹⁷. Professional medical writers should follow ethical publication practices and should openly disclose their involvement in the acknowledgement section³⁸.

The inclusion of individuals with minimal or no input reflects "loose authorship" practices³⁴⁻³⁹. Guest, gift or honorary authorship is defined as co-authorship awarded to people who do not meet the authorship criteria and have not contributed substantially to take public responsibility for the work¹. This may be offered in the belief that the prestige of a scientifically respected person will increase the likelihood of publication or the impact of the work³⁰. Oftentimes, a well-known academic senior name is used to conceal ghost authors with industry-related conflicts of interest³⁰. Both, the gift-author and the remaining co-authors may benefit from this practice (a win-win situation) that, nevertheless, remains unethical. The increased pressure for publishing among scholars seeking promotion and career advancement (the "publish or perish" culture) may also help to explain these practices. This pressure explains why some researchers accept the 'gift' authorship in papers to which they have not contributed intellectually. This abuse in authorship devalues the merit of being named as an author in a scientific paper. As previously discussed, quantitative contribution helps to prevent granting undeserved credits to guest authors who take away well-deserved credits from the authors who actually did the work³⁹⁻⁴².

Studies suggest that breaches of authorship guidelines are frequent. In a recent survey one-third of authors believed that they had been excluded from deserved authorship and a similar number declared that they had experienced pressures to include undeserved authors in their papers²⁰. Another recent study of journals included in the Journals Citation Reports database suggested that 85% of them included in their policy guidance the requirement that authors should be accountable for the research as a whole, 32% explicitly prohibited guest or ghost authorship but only 5% required authors to describe their individual contributions²⁵.

Final Remarks

Authorship confers credit but also involves responsibility. Authors should be accountable and vouch for the integrity of the entire work. The Editors' Network of the ESC endorses the ICMJE recommendations on authorship and encourages individual NSCJ to adapt their editorial policies accordingly.

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The year in cardiology: cardiovascular prevention

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Preamble

Advances in genomics, understanding of the effects of cumulative exposure and various environmental risk factors have moved us closer to better models of care focused at early risk assessment and treatment to prevent cardiovascular (CV) disease. We review relevant contributions in 2019 to the field of CV disease prevention, with a focus on epidemiology, lipids, diabetes, and hypertension.

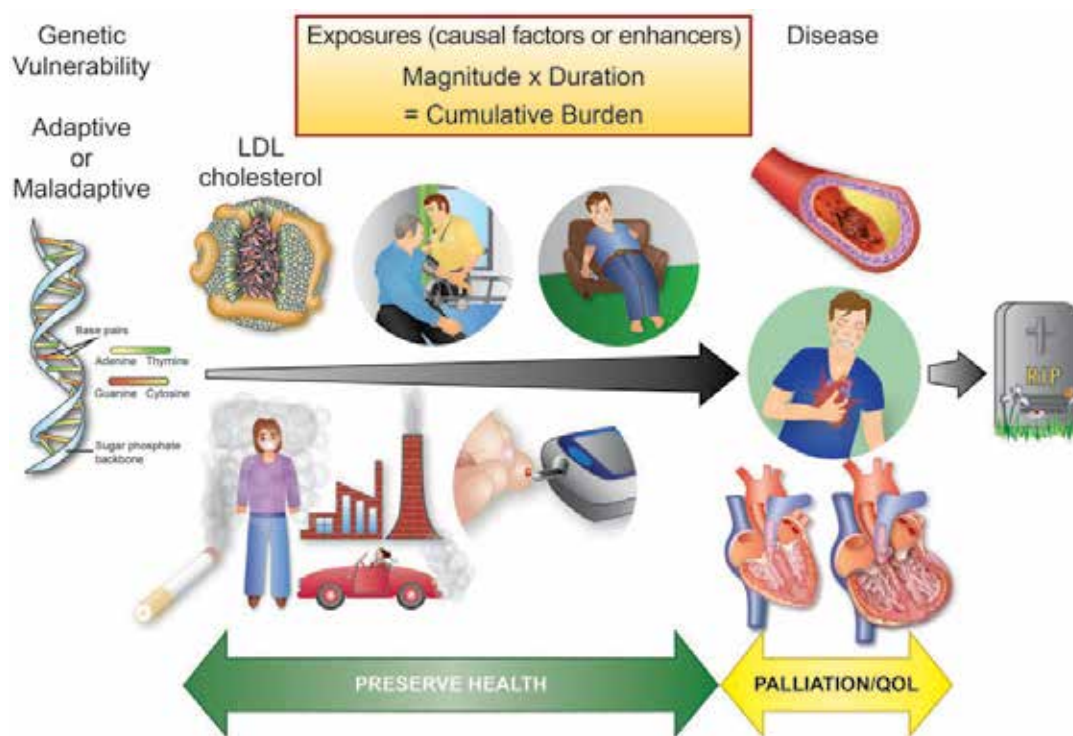
Evolving concepts in prevention

Current concepts for risk assessment for the primary prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) are based on assessments of multiple risk factors and global risk when one high-risk condition such as diabetes, genetic dyslipidaemia, or hypertension is absent. These are usually measured at a specific time point and predict short-term risk (10 years) upon which life-long interventions including lifestyle and pharmacotherapy are then based. Advances in genomics may help identify individuals with genetic vulnerability to ASCVD and the recognition of the importance of duration of exposure to risk factors such as low-density lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol (LDL-C), blood pressure¹ or number of cigarettes (pack-years) are helping to reshape the paradigm of risk assessment with greater precision (*Take home figure*). These are likely to move the approach of health systems from ones treating disease to ones which aim to preserve health (*Figure 1*). Central to this aim is the move from short-term risk assessment to lifetime risk and earlier implementation of preventive strategies.² In this article, we highlight some of the key scientific observations in the field of prevention in 2019 from risk assessment, epidemiology with an additional focus on lipids, diabetes, and hypertension.

A recurring observation is that conventional risk assessment is imprecise and the addition of information from imaging consistently helps to correctly reclassify individuals. As a result, the use of imaging and in particular coronary

artery calcification (CAC) has been shown to be superior to other modalities and is therefore encouraged among those at intermediate risk and the presence of subclinical atherosclerotic disease supports earlier and more targeted CV prevention strategies in the new ESC/EAS and ESC/EASD 2019 guidelines.^{3,4} Moreover, absence of CAC may also reclassify risk down and that should be considered in a shared decision environment. Imaging modalities which lend themselves to machine learning such as evaluation of perivascular fat in cardiac computer tomography may well allow imaging to be scaled up, become reproducible and cost-effective as part of the risk assessment tool.⁵

Whilst imaging is clearly important its use is likely to be useful after decades of exposure to risk factors and still provides assessment for short to intermediate-term risk. Recently, a lifetime-perspective CardioVascular Disease (LIFE-CVD) model for the estimation of treatment-effects of cholesterol-lowering, blood pressure lowering, anti-thrombotic therapy, and smoking cessation in apparently healthy people has been developed. This freely accessible online calculator (www.U-Prevent.com) estimates risk and treatment-effects in terms of improved 10-year risk, lifetime risk, and life-expectancy free of CVD and is designed to facilitate doctor-patient communication.⁶ Large trials of pharmacological intervention assessing outcomes over a time horizon of 50 years will never occur. However, the importance of early and sustained reduction in risk factors notably LDL-C and blood pressure were highlighted in analyses from UK Biobank where a 1 mmol/L lower LDL-C and a 10 mmHg lower blood pressure were associated with an 80% lower risk of CV disease.¹ Put more simply small differences maintained over a long time produce cumulative benefits.¹ Moreover, higher levels of CV risk factors are associated with worse brain health across grey and white matter macrostructure and microstructure in relatively healthy middle and older age individuals suggesting that common risk factor modification could improve a current health burden in late-life namely dementia.⁷



Take home figure. Life time trajectory of gene-environment interactions towards cardiovascular disease and death. The figure illustrates the impact of life time exposure to both genetic and life style/environmental causal risk factors that determine the development and clinical course of cardiovascular disease. A better understanding of opportunities for a more effective preservation of health is described in the article that is gaining an increasing attention. QOL, quality of life.

Digital health technology is rapidly advancing and sensors may allow earlier detection of conditions associated with increased CV risk, such as atrial fibrillation (AF).⁸ Whilst compelling evidence for their effectiveness is largely lacking, large scale studies have been initiated. The HEARTLIVE study enrolling ~150 000 participants (>65 years of age) is assessing whether earlier detection of AF by a smart-watch sensing technology reduces the risk of CV events. However, there are also concerns that widespread use of such approaches, particularly in the low risk, younger populations using such devices, may lead to unnecessary medical consultations,⁹ making an assessment of studies such as HEARTLIVE in appropriate populations important.

Behaviour and environmental factors

Genetics

Considerable amounts of data have emerged from UK Biobank. However data is needed on non-European populations as ~10 000 of the 500 000 cohort are from south Asian or Afrocarribean ancestry.

Behaviour may, in part, have a genetic basis. In a Mendelian randomization analysis from UK Biobank genetic variants known to affect educational attainment were associated with health-conscious lifestyle later in life and which in turn may subsequently affect the risk of coronary artery disease.¹⁰

Nutrition

Red meat

Data are conflicting with different recommendations regarding red meat consumption. Observational studies

suggested potential carcinogenic effects of processed meat.¹¹ Four systematic reviews on the health effects of red meat and one systematic review on individual health-related values and preferences regarding meat consumption have been published,¹² where the magnitudes of any effect were small. Additionally, these studies report only very low to low certainty for any association of unprocessed or processed red meat intake with CV mortality, diabetes, or cancer. The authors conclude that individuals continue their current consumption of both processed and unprocessed meat, albeit with a weak recommendation because of the low certainty around the evidence.¹² Of note, a recent randomized dietary study suggests that chronic dietary red meat consumption increases systemic levels of trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), a microbiome-dependent metabolite, that has been associated with increased CV risk¹³ but larger studies are needed.

Carbohydrates

Conflicting data on the role of carbohydrates for ASCVD risk have led to different recommendations. For example, the large Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study reported that high carbohydrate intake was associated with higher risk of total mortality.¹⁴ In contrast, a recent analysis of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES; 1999–2010) suggests exactly the opposite with low carbohydrate diets associated with excess overall and cause-specific mortality.¹⁵ Nutritional epidemiology carries the risk of confounding by social and economic factors. The underlying causal association (if any) of behaviour, such as 'skipping breakfast', with ASCVD may be unrelated to discussions about

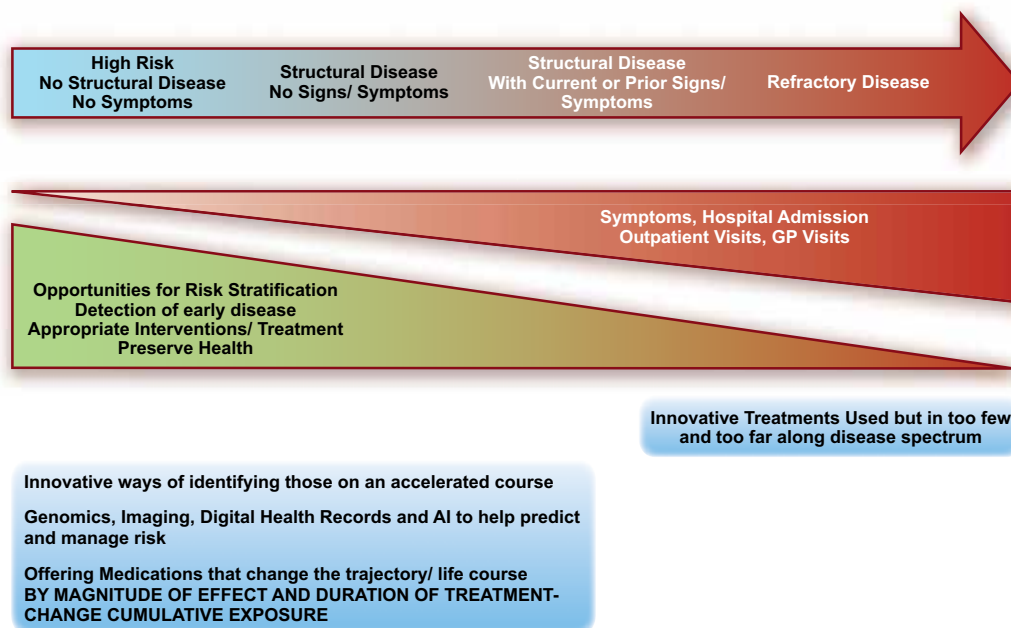


Figure 1. Missed OPPORTUNITIES in reducing the health care burden, improving quality of life, delaying death—exemplar for common conditions. The figure shows potential opportunities for more effective prevention strategies during the course of subclinical and clinical cardiovascular disease development; e.g. atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease develops and progresses over several decades providing numerous opportunities for prevention before clinical manifestations of the disease.

the benefit of fat vs. carbohydrates,¹⁶ therefore, the evidence to support population-level interventions such as increasing the price of high sugar snacks appears incomplete, especially since this would differentially affect low-income individuals.¹⁷ More recently, the totality of the literature of this topic was summarized by a U-shaped relationship between carbohydrate intake and mortality.¹⁸ The authors conclude that ‘taking all the studies into account, the message of moderation is perhaps the most convincing one of all —diets that focus too heavily on a single macronutrient, whether extreme protein, carbohydrate, or fat intake, may adversely impact health —the best advice seems to be to select whole foods from a variety of sources and avoid dietary extremism. For now, for carbohydrates, everything in moderation seems to carry the day’.¹⁸

Body weight

The notion that the effect of any diet on body weight is in turn proportional to risk of ASCVD may be over-simplistic.¹⁹ In the Women’s Health Initiative, during a median of 17.9 years of followup, whole body fat mass was not associated with incident ASCVD among normal weight post-menopausal women. Interestingly, the distribution of fat was; with higher trunk fat associated with higher risk of ASCVD, while higher leg fat predicted lower risk.²⁰ These data suggest an adverse fat distribution and risk can be characterized by increased (unfavourable) abdominal/visceral (trunk) and decreased (beneficial) lower body (leg) fat that is independent of body fat mass. Future research should address potential mechanisms for the development of adverse fat distribution and how it may be linked to atherosclerosis.^{19,20}

Sleep duration

Data from the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study on 116 632 with follow-up of 7.8 years that show that estimated total sleep duration of 6–8 h per day is associated with the lowest risk of deaths and major CV events.²¹ Interestingly, a neuro-immune axis that links sleep to haematopoiesis and atherosclerosis has been identified and provides a mechanistic rationale for disturbed sleep and increased CV risk.²²

Smoking

Recent data from the Framingham Heart Study provide quantitative information on the positive health effects of smoking cessation based on >25 years of follow-up showing that quitting within 5 years was associated with 39% lower risk of incident CVD compared with current smokers. Also, among heavy smokers, smoking cessation was associated with lower risk of CVD relative to current smokers.²³ The health effects of e-cigarettes (so-called ‘vaping’) are still uncertain, recent case reports suggest potential emerging clinical syndromes that are not yet completely understood.²⁴

Exercise

Increased physical activity, at any intensity and less time spent sedentary, is associated with substantially reduced risk for premature mortality.²⁵ However, translation into patient care and individualized training recommendations remain a challenge. A randomized controlled trial showed that endurance and interval training but not resistance training-induced effects on circulating blood cells that are important for cellular senescence and regenerative capacity showing that different training modalities exert differential cellular and vascular effects contributing to vascular health.²⁶

Noise, pollution, and workplace

There is increasing awareness of associations between our environment and health. For instance, ambient air pollution has been linked to an excess annual mortality rate of 659 000 in the European Union (EU-28), with the majority attributable to CV causes.²⁷ Estimates put attributable per capita annual mortality rate in Europe at 133/100 000, but considerable uncertainty around this estimate remain.²⁷ In this regard, a nationwide cohort study from Switzerland modelled long-term exposure to noise levels as well as environmental pollutants for each address of four million adults.²⁸ The data suggest that road traffic, aircraft, and railway noise are each associated with excess mortality from myocardial infarction (MI), independent of air pollution. The authors suggest that air pollution studies not adequately adjusting for noise exposure may overestimate the attributable burden of risk from air pollution.^{28,29}

Finally, large cohort studies from Sweden and Denmark reveal that 9% reported being bullied at work and 13% recorded exposure to workplace violence during the preceding year. After adjustment, being bullied at work was associated 59% increased risk of ASCVD. The population attributable risk was dose-dependent and overall 5.0% for workplace bullying and 3.1% for workplace violence.³⁰

Dyslipidaemia and lipids

Several clinical trial programmes have studied novel treatment options for modification of lipoprotein-related risk of ASCVD that are described below, e.g. new options for lowering LDL-cholesterol and triglyceride-rich lipoproteins. These novel therapeutic approaches will allow a more effective and targeted strategy for management of lipoprotein-related risk in the future (*Figure 2*).

Low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol

ATP citrate lyase is an enzyme in the cholesterol-biosynthesis pathway upstream of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMGCR), the target of statins. Genetic variants that mimic the effect of ATP citrate lyase inhibitors and statins appeared to lower plasma LDL-cholesterol levels by the same mechanism of action and were associated with similar effects on the risk of CV disease per unit decrease in the LDL-cholesterol level.³¹ Bempedoic acid, an inhibitor of ATP citrate lyase, reduced levels of LDL cholesterol by 16.5% when added to maximally tolerated statin therapy,³² and a clinical outcomes study is ongoing.

Recent data from trials of ezetimibe and PCSK9 monoclonal antibodies demonstrating consistent evidence of benefit with the achievement of lower risk among patients with lower LDL-C levels have now been incorporated into the new ESC/EAS treatment guidelines in 2019 with 55 mg/dL the new goal for very high-risk patients.³

Triglyceride-rich lipoproteins

In a genetic study, it was observed that triglyceride-lowering lipoprotein lipase variants and LDL-C-lowering LDL-receptor variants were associated with a similar lower risk of coronary heart disease per unit difference in ApoB, suggesting that the clinical benefit of lipid lowering *per se* is

proportional to the absolute change in ApoB.³³ Icosapent ethyl, a highly purified eicosapentaenoic acid ethyl ester, lowered triglyceride levels, and reduced ischaemic events by 26% in the recent REDUCE-IT trial in patients with elevated triglyceride levels compared to mineral oil.³⁴ The magnitude of benefit was greater than that expected by ApoB changes alone suggesting mechanisms beyond ApoB lowering.^{34,35}

Lipoprotein (a)

A recent analysis of > 65 000 subjects suggested that lipoprotein(a) levels >93 mg/dL (199 nmol/L; 96th–100th percentiles) vs. <10 mg/dL (18 nmol/L; 1st–50th percentiles) was associated with a 50% excess risk for CV mortality and of 20% for all-cause mortality.³⁶ The authors hypothesize that elevated lipoprotein(a), (through corresponding low LPA KIV-2 number of repeats) rather than through Lp(a) cholesterol content were the drivers of this excess risk.³⁶

Hypertension

Epidemiology

Hypertension is a very important risk factor for CV disease and five decades of trials have demonstrated the benefits of pharmacotherapy in reducing CV morbidity and mortality. However, contemporary data reinforce the need for improvement in hypertension healthcare globally. In 12 high-income countries, data from more than half a million participants indicated greatly improved hypertension awareness, treatment, and control since the 1980s but substantial variations in hypertension prevalence and treatment across countries.³⁷ Control rates have plateaued in recent decades with rates of treatment coverage ~80% and control ~70% in best performing countries. Conversely, in 44 low-income and middle-income countries, only 40% of those with hypertension were diagnosed, with 30% receiving antihypertensive medication, and 10% controlled with disparity across countries and sub-Saharan Africa performing the worst.³⁸

Blood pressure measurement

A study from 1.3 million North American patients has shown that both systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) independently predicted MI, ischaemic/haemorrhagic stroke with a greater effect of systolic hypertension.³⁹ Importantly, the relationship between SBP, DBP, and events is independent of treatment threshold (>_ 140/90 vs. >_ 130/80 mmHg) supporting the more proactive management of hypertension in high-risk individuals in recent guidelines.^{40–42} The IDACO investigators observed in a study of 11 135 adults, that higher 24-h and night-time SBP were significantly associated with greater risks of death and CV events even after adjusting for other office-based or ambulatory BP measurements,⁴³ reinforcing recent guidelines, recommending the routine use of ambulatory BP monitoring (ABPM) for BP assessment.

Treatment

Pharmacotherapy

Whilst there have been no developments in novel therapies for hypertension, an increasing focus is use of mul-

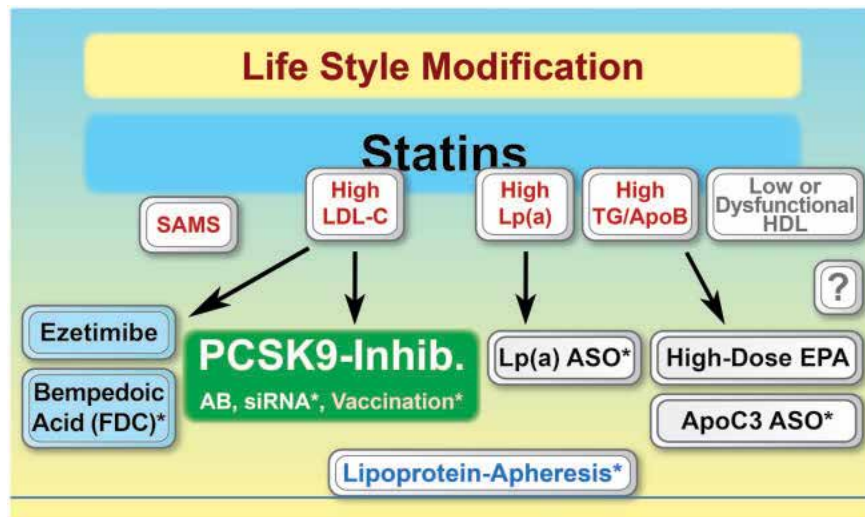


Figure 2. Developments in lipid-targeted therapies. Genetic studies have provided important insights into causal genes and related lipoproteins for development and progression of atherosclerotic vascular disease. Whereas initial management steps will remain life style optimization and statin therapy, a more focused treatment depending on the lipoprotein profile is currently being developed in addition to these treatment options, focusing on low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol-related risk, lipoprotein(a), and triglyceride-rich lipoproteins. *no outcomes data available. AB, antibody; ASO, anti sense oligonucleotide; EPA, eicosapentanoic acid; FDC, fixed dose combination; SAMS, statin associated muscle symptoms; si, small interfering.

drug combinations, even as an initial step in treatment. Most recently, the WHO added fixed dose combination antihypertensive medications to the Essential Medicines List with the aim of addressing inequalities in treatment and control in low to middle income countries (LMIC).⁴⁴ This approach has already demonstrated cost-effectiveness in patients in Sri Lanka with mild-moderate hypertension treated with a triple pill strategy vs. usual care; providing the first economic evaluation of a triple-pill approach.⁴⁵

Evidence is accumulating to support nocturnal dosing of antihypertensive medication, with the Hygia Chronotherapy trial, the first ABPM-based outcome study providing evidence that bed-time dosing of ≥ 1 antihypertensive drug, vs. morning, results in better ambulatory BP control, lower sleep-time BP and improved nocturnal dipper status.⁴⁶ Despite modest differences in BP,⁴⁶ there was a disproportionate reduction in CVD morbidity and mortality with bedtime dosing with no safety signal noted. Whether this is real requires independent confirmation.

Device therapy

Endovascular renal denervation (RDN) aims to achieve durable hypertension control through interruption of renal sympathetic nervous system signalling. The open label, single arm Global Symplicity Registry have reported significant and sustained reductions in ambulatory and office BP (-16.5 ± 28.6 and -8.0 ± 20.0 mmHg, respectively) 3 years post-radiofrequency ablation with no safety signal and preserved renal function in 1742 patients.⁴⁷ Furthermore, the RADIANCE-HTN SOLO investigators have now shown that the effects of endovascular ultrasound RDN in patients with mild/moderate hypertension are preserved at 6 months with less medication burden compared with sham control.^{13,48} It is unclear which, if any, of the technologies to achieve RDN is superior: radiofrequency (RF) vs. ultrasound (US) vs. alcohol chemical abla-

tion. However the RADIOSOUND-HTN investigators have shown in patients with resistant hypertension, endovascular US-based RDN achieved similar BP reduction to RF ablation of the main arteries, accessories, and side branches but was superior to RF ablation of the main renal arteries only.⁴⁹ Furthermore, whilst the search for marker of procedural success and predictors of response to RDN is on-going, the SPYRAL HTN-OFF MED investigators have demonstrated that RF RDN in patients with mild/moderate hypertension resulted in significant heart rate reduction compared to sham and that hypertensive patients with higher heart rates may be more likely to respond.⁴⁸

Diabetes

The prevalence of diabetes is increasing, with >425 million already affected globally potentially growing to 629 million by 2045.⁴ As diabetes doubles the risk of CVD, the increase in prevalence will increase the population attributable risk disproportionately in low/middle income countries where the disposable income and economic growth coupled with sedentary lifestyle are seeing the greatest rise in diabetes prevalence. Novel therapeutic options now offer a chance to move away from prior glucose centric approaches in diabetes care to those aimed at preventing cardio-renal complications as evidenced by the 2019 ESC guidelines on diabetes, prediabetes, and CV diseases developed in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD).⁴ A key premise of these is the classification of absolute CV risk as the first step, into *Very high*, *High*, and *Moderate risk*. Based on the results of recent trials, using both GLP1RAs and SGLT2 inhibitors, in the 2019 guidelines, these drug classes are recommended as first-line therapy in patients with T2DM and established ASCVD or at high/very high CV risk, such as those with target-organ damage or multiple risk factors instead of metformin.⁴ Among those already on metformin GLP1-RAs

and SGLT2 inhibitors should be added for CV risk reduction with the aim of moving away from a HbA1c centric approach to one which prevents CV disease.

Notable contributions from several large trials in 2019 include the REWIND trial⁵⁰ assessing the effect of once weekly subcutaneous dulaglutide vs. placebo on three-point major adverse cardiac events (MACE) in 9901 patients with T2DM, who had either a previous CV event or multiple risk factors. Over 5.4 years of follow-up, the primary composite outcome occurred in 12.0% of participants in the dulaglutide group and in 13.4% in the placebo group reflecting a significant 12% relative risk reduction. The DECLARE-TIMI 58 trial⁵¹ investigated the effect of dapagliflozin vs. placebo in 17 160 patients with DM and established CVD or multiple risk factors. After 4.2 years of follow-up, the pre-specified criterion for non-inferiority for the composite MACE was met by dapagliflozin compared with placebo. In two primary efficacy analyses, dapagliflozin did not significantly reduce 3P-MACE but resulted in a lower rate of the combined endpoint of CV death or HF hospitalization by 17% (4.9 vs. 5.8% absolute difference). The benefit on heart failure was similar in patients with CVD as well as those with multiple risk factors only. A recent meta-analysis of the SGLT2i trials suggested consistent benefits on reducing the composite of HF hospitalization or CV death, as well as on the progression of kidney disease, regardless of presence of established CVD, while the reduction in MACE was only apparent in ASCVD patients.⁵² Previous CVOTs with SGLT2 inhibitors demonstrated renal benefit as a secondary endpoint, but the CREDENCE trial⁵³ was the first dedicated study assessing renal preservation with SGLT2i in chronic kidney disease and diabetes (estimated glomerular filtration rate 30 to <90 mL/min/1.73 m²). Individuals randomized to canagliflozin had a relative reduction in the primary renal outcome of 30% compared to placebo. In addition, canagliflozin significantly reduced the prespecified secondary CV outcomes of 3P-MACE by 20% and hospitalization for heart failure by 29% compared with placebo. More recently, there is now compelling evidence that SGLT2 inhibition reduces heart failure in populations with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction equally among those with or without diabetes in the DAPA CHF trial.⁵⁴

Inflammation and thrombosis

The CANTOS trial provided the first evidence that targeting inflammation reduced CV outcomes in those with established disease. Ultimately cost, questions regarding duration of therapy and efficacy vs. safety 'trade off' with increased infections have not seen the development of IL-1beta antagonism. Targeting inflammation indirectly, with low-cost safe alternatives have been sought with methotrexate showing no benefit. Among patients with a recent MI low-dose colchicine reduced a broad composite CV endpoint including revascularization by 23% (1.6% absolute benefit) in the COLCOT trial.⁵⁵ Colchicine use was associated with an absolute excess of 0.8% in diarrhoea (NS) and 0.5% in pneumonia ($P = 0.03$).

Finally, aspirin clearly has net benefit (more CV events voided than significant bleeds caused) in the setting of established CV disease or secondary prevention. How-

ever, the observation that in over 100 000 patients in primary prevention trials of aspirin demonstrated an excess of about 2.5 excess major bleeds for each non-fatal MI averted and no mortality benefit over 5 years.⁵⁶ As such aspirin is not routinely recommended in the ESC guidelines in the setting of primary prevention.⁵⁷

Summary and conclusions

The present article summarizes important advances in the field of CV prevention in 2019. We have highlighted the increasing role of considering lifetime CV risk for maintaining CV health, as well as the need for risk assessment in patients with established ASCVD or diabetes, for which novel and more targeted preventive therapies have been developed and proven effective.

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