

Detection of severity of Acute Coronary Syndrome using N Terminal PRO-BNP and as a prognostic marker

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Abstract: Background: Patients with unstable CAD encompass a heterogeneous group that varies widely regarding severity of the underlying coronary artery disease, prognosis and response to treatment. Patients with the highest risk of subsequent events usually have the largest benefit of an intensified pharmacological treatment and early mechanical intervention. Levels of natriuretic peptides have been shown to reflect cardiac performance and there is emerging role of these peptides in the early risk stratification of unstable CAD patients. Aim of the study: To study the prognostic value of natriuretic peptides in patients with acute coronary syndrome. Patients and methods: Seventy four patients were included in this study all patients included were subjected to History taking and full clinical assessment, Routine Laboratory investigation, Cardiac specific troponin I and CK-MB, Serum level of NT – pro BNP and Echocardiography for all patients for evaluation of both systolic and diastolic functions, Coronary angiography for detection of severity of affection of coronary vessel. Results: In our study N Terminal BNP was significantly higher in more severe coronary artery affection with p value 0.015, that there is a trend toward higher mortality with increasing levels of N terminal BNP and this trend was statistically significant with p value 0.025. Conclusion: Our study demonstrated that Serum N Terminal BNP can be used to detect severity of the lesion and follow up patients with CAD, significantly higher in more severe coronary artery affection and there is a higher mortality with its increasing levels

[Faheem Abd EL Azim Rageb; Dalia Mohammed Rageb; Ahmed Hossam Moafy; Amr Mohammed Essmat; Ahmed Fathy Mohammed Mahmoud. **Detection of severity of Acute Coronary Syndrome using N Terminal PRO-BNP and as a prognostic marker.** *J Am Sci* 2017;13(2):43-48]. ISSN 1545-1003 (print); ISSN 2375-7264 (online). <http://www.jofamericanscience.org>. 6. doi:10.7537/marsjas130217.06.

Key Words: Acute coronary syndrome, brain (B - type) natriuretic, peptide (BNP), N - terminal fragment of proBNP (NT - proBNP).

1. Introduction

Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) refers to any group of symptoms attributed to obstruction of the coronary arteries. The most common symptom prompting diagnosis of ACS is chest pain, often radiating of the left arm or angle of the jaw, pressure-like in character, and associated with nausea and sweating. Acute coronary syndrome usually occurs as a result of one of three problems: ST elevation myocardial infarction (30%), non ST elevation myocardial infarction (25%), or unstable angina (38%)[1].

NT-Pro BNP in Acute coronary syndrome

The elevated serum level of NT-pro BNP in patients with left ventricular (LV) dysfunction and has shown a close correlation with the BNP level. Many reports have shown that the absolute increment of NT-pro BNP exceeded that of BNP, and that NT-pro BNP can be a more discerning marker for the detection and evaluation of cardiac dysfunction than BNP. [11] B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) and NT-pro BNP can help to identify and accurately discriminate CHF from respiratory disease causes of dyspnea.[12, 13] NT-pro BNP measurements act as a guide to current

treatments strategies, as well as novel strategies, in patients with acute myocardial infarction and as markers for the severity of heart failure. [14; 15] NT-pro BNP provides information that may be superior to clinical judgment for the diagnostic evaluation of the patient with possible HF. It is a surrogate biomarker for prognosis after STEMI that is closely associated with myocardial damage as assessed by contrast-enhanced Cardiac MRI. [16] It is also an independent predictor of survival in patients with hypertension and increased left ventricular mass. [17] CK-MB acts as a marker of cytosolic damage that reflects the area at risk and the resultant size of the infarction. Whereas Tn-I acts as a marker of myofibril damage and elevated in proportion to infarct size per se. The clinical spectrum of ACS consists of ST elevation (STE) myocardial infarction (MI) (STEMI) and non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) or unstable angina (UA), which are classified from the acute phase electrocardiography (ECG) changes and the development of myocardial necrosis. STEMI caused by acute total coronary occlusion, whereas NSTEMI is associated with vulnerable plaque and subocclusive thrombosis. [18] Hence, we evaluate the clinical utility

and early detection of myocardial ischemia is elevated in NSTEMI-ACS and the best time for treatment of disease by synthetic peptide molecule.

2. Patients and methods

We conducted a prospective case-control study including 74 patients with acute coronary syndrome in the general Critical care unit of Fayoum University Hospital from March 2013 to November 2014.

Inclusion criteria:

Patients with acute coronary syndrome diagnosed according to Braun Wald's classification, or acute MI (AMI) according to the redefined ESC/ACC Committee criteria. ie unstable angina was diagnosed when chest pain longer than 20 min duration occurred with or without ST segment depression of ≥ 0.05 mV and/or T - wave inversion in two contiguous leads in the electrocardiogram. Diagnosis of non - ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction was based on the above mentioned criteria plus increased levels of troponin I or CK - MB. ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction was diagnosed when chest pain longer than 20 min duration occurred with ST segment elevation of ≥ 0.05 mV in two contiguous leads in the electrocardiogram [10].

Exclusion criteria:

- 1- Patients in whom cardiopulmonary resuscitation was performed.
- 2- Patients with serum creatinine level > 2.0 mg/dl.
- 3- Overt pump failure (\geq NYHA class II).
- 4- Onset of ischemic symptoms > 10 hours.

All patients included were subjected to the following

- History taking and full clinical assessment.
- Laboratory investigation: blood urea, serum creatinine, serum sodium, serum potassium levels, random blood sugar, complete blood count, liver functions tests and lipid profile on admission and follow up.
- Cardiac specific troponin I and CK-MB.
- Serum level of NT - pro BNP.
- Echocardiography for all patients for evaluation of both systolic and diastolic functions.
- Coronary angiography for detection of severity of affection of coronary vessel.

We measured N terminal pro BNP in plasma specimens obtained within 10 hours after onset of ischemic symptoms. Blood samples were obtained in EDTA containing tubes and were centrifuged and collected plasma was frozen at $- 20^{\circ}\text{C}$. BNP levels were quantified using competitive immunoassay method using radiolabeled tracers (RIA) according to the manufacture.

Seventy four patients were included in this study and divided into three groups:

Group I: Twenty four patients with ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction.

-Group II: Thirty patients with non ST segment elevation acute myocardial infarction and unstable angina.

-Group III: The control group.

3. Results

Our study showed that there was no statistically significant difference between the study groups regarding age, sex and risk factors except for dyslipidemia which was highly significant (Table 1). The most common complication was malignant arrhythmia which occurred in 50% of patients in group I versus 13.3 % of patients in group II which was statistically highly significant followed by heart failure affecting 33% of patients in group I versus 6% of in group II with p value < 0.0001 which also was statistically highly significant. None of group III patients had these complication tables (2). Patients in group I had significantly higher LVEDD and LVESD compared to groups II and III also significantly lower % EF in group I compared to groups II and III with p value < 0.0001 table(3). Patients in group I had significantly higher troponin I (9.59 ± 6.11 in group I vs 0.69 ± 1.72 in group II and 0.03 ± 0.01 in group III, value < 0.0001). N Terminal pro BNP was also significantly higher in group I (2186.13 ± 481.485 in group I vs 1846.17 ± 513.37 in group II and 148.90 ± 33.35 in group III, P value < 0.0001) Table (4). N Terminal pro BNP was the only biomarker that is significantly higher in more severe CAD affection (1859.28 ± 527.51 in one vessel vs. 2233.40 ± 418.26 in two vessel and 2472.33 ± 253.67 in three vessel affection p value 0.015) while Troponin I and CK MB were not significantly higher in more severe disease Table(5). Patients who developed arrhythmia had significantly higher Troponin I levels (10.45 ± 6.42 vs. 1.45 ± 3.44 , P value < 0.0001), significantly higher CK MB levels (141.63 ± 68.19 vs. 42.00 ± 63.24 , P value < 0.0001) and significantly higher N Terminal pro BNP levels (2286.56 ± 384.51 vs. 1280.09 ± 931.68 , P value < 0.0001) Table (6). All patients who developed heart failure had significantly higher troponin I levels (11.16 ± 6.27 vs. 1.89 ± 4.08 , p value < 0.0001), significantly higher CK MB levels (160.17 ± 58.46 vs. 44.84 ± 64.13 , P value < 0.0001) and significantly higher N Terminal pro BNP levels (2337.00 ± 401.64 vs 1335.26 ± 928.02 , P value < 0.0001 Table (7). Patients who died have significantly higher Troponin I, CKMB, N Terminal pro BNP Table (9).

Table 1: Characteristics of study groups

Variable	Group I (24)	Group II (30)	Group III (20)	P-value
Age (years)	54.92 ± 6.84	54.83 ± 7.62	53.85 ± 8.15	0.874
Sex:				
Female	6	12	9	0.341
Male	18	18	11	
Smoking	18	16	8	0.058
HTN	13	21	9	0.191
DM	16	12	3	0.002
Dyslipidemia	19	16	3	<0.0001
FH of IHD	1	18	0	0.671

Table 2: complications among the study groups:

Variable	Group I (24)	Group II (30)	Group III (20)	P -value
Arrhythmia	12 (50.0)	4 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	<0.0001 (HS)
Mortality	3 (12.5)	2 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	0.258 (NS)
HF	10 (33.3)	2 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	<0.0001 (HS)
CV event	1 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0.348 (NS)

Table 3: Echocardiographic features among study groups

Variable	Group I (24)	Group II (30)	Group III (20)	P -value
EDD (cm)	5.19 ± 0.36	4.88 ± 0.38	4.41 ± 0.14	<0.0001 (HS)
ESD (cm)	3.61 ± 0.31	3.4 ± 0.34	2.86 ± 0.18	<0.0001 (HS)
EF (%)	57.29 ± 5.57	59.90 ± 3.88	64.55 ± 2.93	<0.0001 (HS)

Table 4: Cardiac enzymes among study groups:

Variable	Group I (24)	Group II (30)	Group III (20)	P -value
Troponin I (ng/ml)	9.59 ± 6.11	0.69 ± 1.72	0.03 ± 0.01	<0.0001 (HS)
CK MB (U/L)	155.17 ± 64.23	23.60 ± 30.73	13.50 ± 5.14	<0.0001 (HS)
N term pro BNB (pg/ml)	2186.13 ± 481.485	1846.17 ± 513.37	148.90 ± 33.35	<0.0001 (HS)

Table 5: Cardiac enzymes and number of affected vessels:

Variable	One vessel (36)	Two vessels (15)	Three vessels (3)	P -value
Troponin I (ng/ml)	3.9 ± 4.99	7.04 ± 7.69	5.34 ± 9.23	0.186 (NS)
CK MB (U/L)	70.00 ± 74.24	111.40 ± 89.74	80.33 ± 120.96	0.260 (NS)
N term pro BNB (pg/ml)	1859.28 ± 527.51	2233.40 ± 418.26	2472.33 ± 253.67	0.015 (S)

Table 6: Cardiac enzymes in relation to malignant arrhythmia:

Variable	With arrhythmia (16)	Without arrhythmia (58)	P -value
Troponin I (ng/ml)	10.45 ± 6.42	1.45 ± 3.44	<0.0001 (HS)
CK mb (U/L)	141.63 ± 68.19	42.00 ± 63.24	<0.0001 (HS)
N term pro BNB (pg/ml)	2286.56 ± 384.51	1280.09 ± 931.68	<0.0001 (HS)

Table 7: Cardiac enzymes in relation to HF:

Variable	With HF(12)	Without HF(62)	P -value
Troponin I (ng/ml)	11.16 ± 6.27	1.89 ± 4.08	<0.0001 (HS)
CK mb(U/L)	160.17 ± 58.46	44.84 ± 64.13	<0.0001 (HS)
N term pro BNB (pg/ml)	2337.00 ± 401.64	1335.26 ± 928.02	<0.0001 (HS)

Table 9: Cardiac enzymes in relation to mortality:

Variable	Died (5)	Alive (69)	P -value
Troponin I (ng/ml)	10.96 ± 5.98	2.84 ± 5.22	0.001 (HS)
CK MB (U/L)	165.20 ± 42.54	56.17 ± 72.72	0.002 (HS)
N term pro BNB (pg/ml)	2122.60 ± 457.06	1452.42 ± 950.77	0.025 (S)

Table 10: Validity of cardiac enzymes as predictors for > one vessel affection:

tests	Cut off point	AUC	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Overall accuracy (%)
Troponin I (ng/ml)	1.45	0.609	61.1	55.5	57.4
CK mb(U/L)	21.00	0.604	66.7	55.5	59.2
N term pro BNP (pg/ml)	2051.50	0.710	77.8	63.9	68.5

4. Discussion

Natriuretic peptides are vasoactive hormone secreted by the heart as part of a systemic response to cardiac stress and ventricular dysfunction.

Elevated BNP and NT pro BNP concentrations at admission in the setting of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) are associated with poor prognosis, including increased mortality, development of congestive heart failure (CHF), and recurrent ischemic events [11,12]. Because of its incremental prognostic value, NT-pro BNP assessment should be considered in clinical routine for risk stratification of patients with normal troponin [13]. NT-pro BNP can be a good parameter for predicting the severity of coronary vessels involvements alongside other diagnostic tools [14]. In the current study we performed a prospective observational study in a general intensive care unit (Fayoum University Hospital) on 74 patients newly admitted to ICU with acute coronary syndrome to study the prognostic value of natriuretic peptides in these patients and to evaluate the relationship between NT-pro BNP and severity of coronary vessels defects in Acute Coronary Syndrome patients.

In our study, analysis of the data showed that there was no statistically Significant difference among the study groups regarding age, sex, DM, hypertension, smoking but there was statistically significant difference.

Regarding dyslipidemia. vs. controls. The cholesterol level was elevated in 79% of patients of group I (19 out of 24) versus 53% of patients of group II (16 out of 30), (p value <0.001), in contrast, the controls showed elevated cholesterol level in only 13% (3 out of 20). Similar findings observed by **Omland et al.** [15], and **James et al.** [16].

In our study, analysis of the data showed that the most common.

complication was malignant arrhythmia which occurred in 50% of patients in group I versus 13.3 % of patients in group II which was statistically highly significant followed by heart failure affecting 33% of patients in group I versus 6% of in group II with p value <0.0001 which also was statistically highly significant. None of group III patients had these complications. Similar findings observed by **Shahabi et al.** [14] and was also supported by **Emdin et al.** [17] who found that NT-pro BNP had acceptable accuracy

for identifying heart failure due to left ventricular dysfunction [17]. Additionally, in the **Grewal et al.**, study, [18]. BNP was identified as the strongest predictor of diastolic dysfunction as determined by Doppler-echocardiography. In our study, analysis of the data showed that Patients in group I had significantly higher LVEDD and LVESD compared to groups II and III also significantly lower % EF in group I compared to groups II and III with p value <0.0001.

In our study, analysis of the data showed that Patients in group I had Significantly higher troponin I (9.59 ± 6.11 in group I vs. 0.69 ± 1.72 in group II and 0.03 ± 0.01 in group III, value <0.0001). N Terminal pro BNP was also significantly higher in group I (2186.13 ± 481.485 in group I vs. 1846.17 ± 513.37 in group II and 148.90 ± 33.35 in group III P value <0.0001. In our study, analysis of the data showed that N Terminal pro BNP was the only biomarker that is significantly higher in more severe CAD affection (1859.28 ± 527.51 in one vessel vs. 2233.40 ± 418.26 in two vessel and 2472.33 ± 253.67 in three vessel affection) p value 0.015 while Troponin I and CK MB were not significantly higher in more severe disease. These agree with the studies that focused on the association between the severity of CAD and NT-pro-BNP level [19-21] **Weber et al.** [19] Found that serum BNP level could effectively predict coronary involvement based on the number of affected coronary vessels in patients with angina pectoris. Also, **Sadanandan et al.** [20] showed that patients with BNP more than 80pg/ml had tighter culprit vessel stenosis and a higher number of culprit vessels compared to cases with lower plasma BNP level. Furthermore, **Hamishayev et al.** found a significant correlation between NT-proBNP levels and the number of affected vessels in patients with unstable angina and ST segment elevation MI [21].

In our study, analysis of the data showed that Patients who developed Arrhythmia had significantly higher Troponin I levels (10.45 ± 6.42 vs. 1.45 ± 3.44 P value <0.0001), significantly higher CK MB levels (141.63 ± 68.19 vs. 42.00 ± 63.24 P value <0.0001) and significantly higher N Terminal proBNP levels (2286.56 ± 384.51 vs. 1280.09 ± 931.68 P value <0.0001. In our study, analysis of the data showed that all patients who Developed heart failure had

significantly higher troponin I levels (11.16 ± 6.27 vs. 1.89 ± 4.08 p value <0.0001), significantly higher CK MB levels (160.17 ± 58.46 vs. 44.84 ± 64.13 p value <0.0001) and significantly higher Terminal pro BNP levels (2337.00 ± 401.64 vs 1335.26 ± 928.02 p value <0.0001). In our study, analysis of the data showed that Patients who died has significantly higher Troponin I, CKMB, N Terminal pro BNP (2122 ± 457 in patients who died vs. 1452.5 ± 950.7 in patients who alive) p value 0.025 . These agrees with the studies conducted by **Morita, Yasue, et al.**, [22] **Talwar, Squire, et al.** [23]. And **Omland, Aakvaag, et al.** [15][24] Together, these studies provide consistent evidence for the additive prognostic value of BNP. Moreover, whether measured at presentation or later during recovery, BNP is one of the most robust indicators of mortality risk **Mega, Morrow, et al.** [25,26].

Conclusion

Our study demonstrated that Serum N Terminal BNP can be used as a biomarker to detect severity of the lesion and follow up patients with CAD. In our study N Terminal BNP was the only biomarker that is significantly higher in more sever coronary artery affection with p value 0.015 . while CKMB and Troponin I were not. Our study found that there is a trend toward higher mortality with increasing levels of N terminal BNP and this trend was statistically significant.

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1/25/2017