ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Echocardiographic Correlates of Acute Heart Failure, Cardiogenic Shock, and In-Hospital Mortality in Tako-Tsubo Cardiomyopathy

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OBJECTIVES The purpose of this study was to determine clinical and echocardiographic correlates of acute heart failure, cardiogenic shock and in-hospital mortality in a large cohort of tako-tsubo cardiomy-opathy (TTC) patients.

BACKGROUND Despite good long-term prognosis, life-threatening complications due to hemodynamic instability can occur early in TTC patients.

METHODS The study population consisted of 227 patients (66.2 \pm 12.2 years of age; females, 90.3%) enrolled in the Tako-tsubo Italian Network, undergoing transthoracic two-dimensional echocardiography on admission and at short-term follow-up (4.3 [4 to 6] weeks). Patients were divided into two groups according to the presence or absence of major adverse events, a composite of acute heart failure, cardiogenic shock, and in-hospital mortality.

RESULTS Major adverse events occurred in 59 patients (25.9%). The variables for elderly patients \geq 75 years of age (42.4% vs. 23.8%; p = 0.011): left ventricular (LV) ejection fraction (35.1 ± 5.9% vs. 38.4 ± 4.6%, p < 0.001), wall motion score index (1.9 ± 0.2 vs. 1.7 ± 0.2, p < 0.001), E/e' ratio (13.5 ± 4.3 vs. 9.9 ± 3.3 [where E/e' is ratio of mitral E peak velocity and averaged e' velocity], p < 0.001), LV outflow tract obstruction (23.7 vs. 8.9%, p = 0.006), pulmonary artery systolic pressure (47.4 ± 12.3 mm Hg vs. 38.0 ± 9.2 mm Hg; p < 0.001), right ventricular involvement (28.8 vs. 9.5%; p < 0.001), and reversible moderate-to-severe mitral regurgitation (49.1 vs. 11.9%; p < 0.001), were significantly different between groups and were associated with adverse events. At multivariate analysis, LV ejection fraction (HR: 0.92; 95% CI: 0.89 to 0.95; p < 0.001), E/e' ratio (HR: 1.13; 95% CI: 1.02 to 1.24; p = 0.011), reversible moderate to severe mitral regurgitation (HR: 3.25; 95% CI: 1.16 to 9.10; p = 0.025), and age \geq 75 years (HR: 2.81; 95% CI: 1.05 to 7.52; p = 0.039) were independent correlates of major adverse events.

CONCLUSIONS Echocardiographic parameters provide additional information compared to other variables routinely used in clinical practice to identify patients at higher risk of hemodynamic deterioration and poor in-hospital outcome, allowing prompt institution of appropriate pharmacological treatment and adequate mechanical support. (J Am Coll Cardiol Img 2014;7:119–29) © 2014 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation

ako-tsubo cardiomyopathy (TTC) is typically characterized by transient left ventricular (LV) systolic dysfunction with morphological fea-

tures of apical ballooning, although other variant forms (e.g., midventricular ballooning) have also been described (1–3). It occurs most often in post-menopausal women and is usually triggered by emotional or physical stress, with complete recovery of LV systolic function within a few days or weeks (4,5). Despite its favorable long-term prognosis and very low mortality, TTC is not considered a benign condition, because of the occurrence of

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life-threatening complications during the

acute phase, related to hemodynamic

instability (e.g., acute heart failure, cardio-

genic shock) in a substantial proportion of

patients (6-8). Owing to its widespread use

in critical care settings, echocardiography

has become the noninvasive imaging mo-

dality of choice for assessing TTC (2,9).

However, the combination of clinical,

electrocardiographic (ECG), laboratory,

and echocardiographic measures routinely

used in clinical practice for TTC patients

experiencing major adverse events due to

hemodynamic instability have not yet been

well described. The aim of this study was to

identify the clinical and echocardiographic

determinants of major adverse events, a

composite of acute heart failure, cardio-

genic shock, and in-hospital mortality, in a

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BNP = brain natriuretic peptide

CMR = cardiac magnetic resonance

EF = ejection fraction

LA = left atrial

LV = left ventricular

LVOTO = left ventricular outflow tract obstruction

MR = mitral regurgitation

sPAP = pulmonary artery systolic pressure

RV = right ventricular

TAPSE = tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion

TTC = tako-tsubo cardiomyopathy

WMSI = wall motion score index

METHODS

Study population. The study population consisted of 227 patients enrolled in the Tako-Tsubo Italian Network, undergoing comprehensive transthoracic 2-dimensional echocardiography on admission and at short-term follow-up (4.3 [4 to 6] weeks) (8,10).

large cohort of TTC patients.

The diagnosis of TTC was based on the following Mayo Clinic criteria (5):

- Transient akinesia or dyskinesia of LV apical and/or midventricular segments;
- No angiographic evidence of ≥50% coronary artery stenosis, or plaque rupture, or intracoronary thrombus formation;
- New ECG abnormalities (dynamic ST-T changes or T-wave inversion);
- Absence of intracranial bleeding, pheochromocytoma, and myocarditis.

Patients with a poor acoustic window (suboptimal visualization of endocardial borders) were excluded. All participants provided informed written consent, and the study was approved by the local ethics committee.

Data collection. Clinical variables were recorded on a standardized form that included information on patient demographics (sex, age, heart rate, systolic and diastolic blood pressure), signs and symptoms at presentation, medical history, trigger events, ECG ST-segment changes and presence of prolonged QTc interval on admission, and clinical observations during hospitalization (including major cardiac events). Emotional or physical triggers were identified as previously described (8). Venous blood was collected every 3 hours to measure troponin I concentration in the acute phase, and collection continued until a peak value was observed. All patients underwent coronary angiography and left ventriculography within 24 hours of symptom onset. Definition of major adverse events due to hemodynamic instability. Major adverse events were defined as a composite of acute heart failure, cardiogenic shock, and in-hospital mortality. In particular:

- Acute heart failure was defined as the presence of pulmonary edema, dyspnea, and/or oxygen desaturation requiring drug therapy and/or mechanical support;
- Cardiogenic shock was defined as systolic blood pressure <90 mm Hg with signs of tissue hypoperfusion requiring inotropic agents and/or fluid therapy;

Manuscript received July 6, 2013; revised manuscript received August 27, 2013, accepted September 5, 2013.

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