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## Predictive value of oxygenation index for outcomes in left-sided congenital diaphragmatic hernia

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### ABSTRACT

**Background & objectives:** Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. This study compares the efficacy of the highest oxygenation index in the first 48 h (HiOI) versus current prenatal indices to predict survival and morbidity.

**Methods:** Medical records of 50 prenatally diagnosed, isolated, left-sided CDH patients treated from January 2011 to April 2016 were reviewed. Data abstracted included HiOI, lung to head ratio (LHR), observed to expected total fetal lung volume (O/E TFLV), percent liver herniation (%LH), 6 month survival, respiratory support at discharge, ventilator days and length of stay. Data were analyzed using parametric and nonparametric tests and regression analyses as appropriate.

**Results:** HiOI was associated with significantly increased LOS ( $p < 0.001$ ), respiratory support at discharge ( $p < 0.001$ ), greater ventilator days ( $p = 0.001$ ) and higher odds of death ( $p = 0.004$ ) with risk of death increasing by 5% for every one-unit increase in OI. HiOI was statistically a better predictor of LOS than O/E TFLV ( $p = 0.007$ ) and %LH ( $p = 0.02$ ).

**Conclusions:** In isolated, left-sided CDH patients, HiOI is associated with higher mortality, greater length of stay, more ventilator days and increased respiratory support at discharge. HiOI is a better predictor of length of stay than O/E TFLV and %LH.

**Type of study:** Retrospective Study

**Level of evidence:** II

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Despite improvement in supportive therapies for congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH), morbidity and mortality remain significant with mortality ranging from 20% to 40% [1]. Morbidity and mortality are largely consequences of the degree of pulmonary hypoplasia and

associated pulmonary hypertension present in the developing lung [2–4]. Currently, prenatal evaluation with fetal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasonography (US) is used to predict clinical severity of CDH. Key indices are based on anatomic measurements including observed-to-expected total fetal lung volume (O/E TFLV), percentage of liver herniation (%LH) and observed-to-expected lung-to-head ratio (LHR) [5–9]. Reports have shown significant correlation of these imaging tools with survival and need for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) use, but only to a certain extent as these findings address anatomic effects only and do not consider functional effects on cardiac and pulmonary vascular development. Analyses with receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves have shown accuracy of prediction using these measurements to be 70%–83% [10–12]. Accuracy in this range, at times, yields a clinical course quite different than the prenatally predicted clinical course. Fetal MRI and US measure the anatomic severity of CDH secondary to the degree of pulmonary

**Abbreviations:** CDH, congenital diaphragmatic hernia; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; US, ultrasonography; O/E TFLV, observed to expected total fetal lung volume; %LH, percent liver herniation; LHR, lung to head ratio; O/E LHR, observed to expected lung to head ratio; ROC, receiver operating characteristic; RACHS-1, risk adjustment for congenital heart surgery; GA, gestational age; OI, oxygenation index; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; FiO<sub>2</sub>, fraction of inspired oxygen; M<sub>PAW</sub>, mean airway pressure; PaO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of oxygen in arterial blood; SCC, Spearman's Correlation Coefficient; LOS, length of stay; RSS, respiratory support score at discharge; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; AUC, area under the curve; Cont-VI, contralateral velocity index; BOId1, best oxygenation index for day of life 1.

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hypoplasia, so it has been theorized that better predictive models of CDH are obscured by the limitations of predicting postnatal pulmonary hypertension, which is largely a function of lung vascular development.

Oxygenation index (OI) is a calculated value used in the neonatal literature to estimate the severity of hypoxemic respiratory failure. The best OI in the first 24 h of life in CDH patients has been shown to predict survival [13]. However, use of the best OI may not reflect accurately the severity of dysfunction present. We hypothesized that the highest OI in the first 48 h of life (HiOI) would be associated with mortality and respiratory morbidity. In addition, as OI is a marker for postnatal cardiopulmonary function, we further hypothesized that OI would be more closely associated with morbidity and mortality than fetal imaging measurements currently used.

## 1. Methods

### 1.1. Study cohort

Approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board for the Baylor College of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals. A retrospective, observational study was conducted in patients with CDH referred for general surgery consultation between January 2011 and April 2016. A total of 118 patients had postnatal surgical consultation for suspected CDH. Of these, 87 had a prenatal diagnosis of left-sided CDH during the study period. Patients with significant cardiac malformations (defined as a Risk Adjustment for Congenital Heart Surgery (RACHS-1) score greater than or equal to 2), those who received fetal intervention, patients with chromosomal anomalies, right-sided, bilateral or ventral CDH patients, or patients treated with comfort care only were excluded [14–16] (Fig. 1). Medical records of the remaining 50 patients with isolated, left-sided, prenatally diagnosed CDH were reviewed.

### 1.2. Measured outcomes

The primary outcome was survival to 6 months chronologic age. This endpoint was chosen for consistency in reporting as 6 month survival has previously been used in our institution as a primary outcome for CDH research when assessing prenatal & postnatal predictors of outcome [9,12,17–19]. Patient demographics and clinical parameters in the first 48 h included: race, ethnicity, sex, gestational age (GA), birth

weight, Apgar scores at 1 and 5 min, mode of delivery, prenatal US measurements of LHR, MRI measurements of TFLV and %LH, postnatal age of repair, HiOI, use of ECMO, ventilator parameters, arterial blood gases, length of hospital stay, discharge medications and discharge respiratory support.

Calculation of the OI was performed using the following formula:  $OI = (FiO_2 \times M_{PAW} \times 100) / PaO_2$ , where  $FiO_2$  is fraction of inspired oxygen,  $M_{PAW}$  is mean airway pressure (mmHg), and  $PaO_2$  is partial pressure of oxygen in arterial blood (mmHg). If a subject was on high frequency oscillatory ventilation, the delivered  $M_{PAW}$  was used; whereas if on conventional mechanical ventilator, the recorded  $M_{PAW}$  from the device was used for calculation of OI. The HiOI was rounded to the nearest whole number and used for statistical analysis.

### 1.3. Neonatal protocol

Institutional guidelines are used for patient care. Furthermore, our CDH patients are cared for by a core group of neonatologists, thus ensuring consistency of care delivered. Management in our institution begins with conventional mechanical ventilation with escalation to high frequency oscillator if peak pressures required are greater than 28 cm of  $H_2O$ . Nitric oxide is initiated if OI exceeds 25 on two separate measurements. Umbilical arterial and venous catheters are placed and the patient is stabilized prior to surgical repair. If OI exceeds 40 on two separate measurements, ECMO management is considered. Once on ECMO, surgical repair of the defect is typically undertaken within 48–72 h. Timing of subsequent extubation from ventilator support is determined by clinical stability. Timing of discharge is determined by clinical stability and family preparedness.

### 1.4. Statistical analysis

Logistic regression analysis was used to examine the association of OI with death and respiratory medication at discharge (both bivariate associations and after adjusting for the 5-min Apgar score and gestational age). The 5-min Apgar score and EGA were collected on all infants, thus these were included in the regression model to determine what effects, if any, they may have on the outcomes. Parameters including highest  $PaO_2$ , lowest  $PaO_2$ , highest lactate and highest  $PCO_2$  were also analyzed in bivariate analyses. Highest OI, highest lactate and

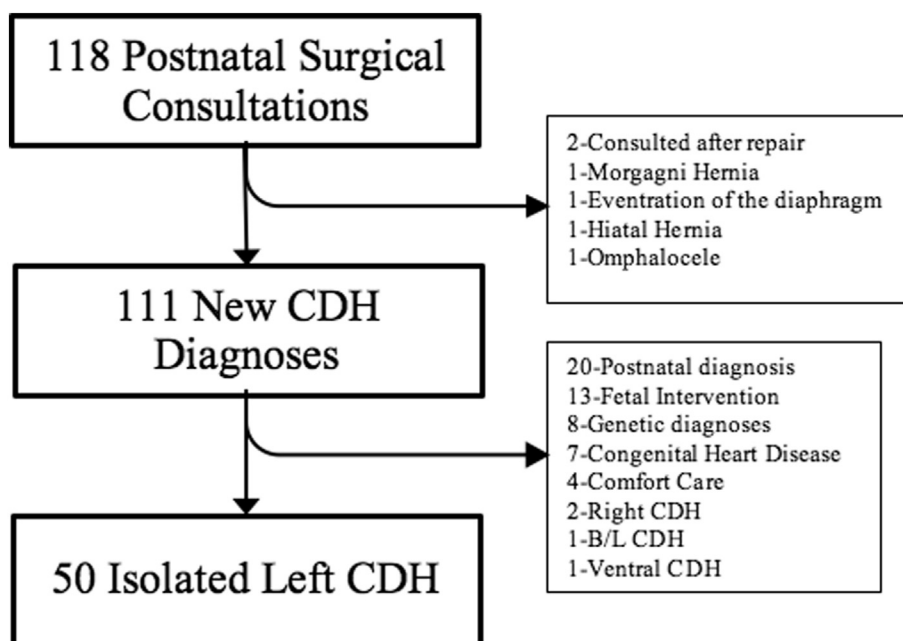


Fig. 1. Flow diagram of patient selection.

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