

Original Research

A Study on Correlation between Serum Calcium and Arterial Blood Pressure in Known Hypertensive Patients

Alok Gahlot¹, Pooja Gahlot², Jitendra Acharya³

¹ M.D. Medicine) Senior Resident Department of Medicine P.D.U. Medical College Churu, Rajasthan, India;

² (M.S. Gynae & Obs.) Assistant Professor Department of Gyne& Obs. P.D.U Medical College Churu, Rajasthan, India;

³ S.P. Medical College Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Hypertension is the most common cardiovascular disorder, affecting 20 % of the adult population world wide .It is linked with coronary heart disease, stroke, congestive cardiac failure and renal dysfunction and is one of the major risk factor for cardiovascular mortality, which accounts for 20 to 50 % of all deaths. The use of calcium channel blocking agents in the treatment of hypertension shows the critical importance of calcium in the biochemical control of vascular smooth muscle tone, and thus of blood pressure homeostasis. **Material and Methods:** This study was conducted at D.B. government hospital churu at department of medicine opd; we enroll 50 healthy and 50 hypertensive patients, those were fulfilling the inclusion criteria of study. A complete medical history of these subjects was first obtained which provide the basis for selection. **Result:** Our study showed a significant high levels of serum calcium were found in hypertensive group as compared to normotensive group (P <0.01). A statistically significant linear correlation was found between serum calcium and both systolic and diastolic blood pressure in hypertensive males (P<0.01). **Conclusion:** Our study shows a significant correlation between high serum calcium levels and high blood pressure. According to the current study, increased serum calcium leads to hypertension .Hence, serum calcium levels should be estimated in hypertensive patients.

Key words: Hypertension, coronary heart disease, serum calcium.

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Corresponding author: Dr. Pooja Gahlot, (M.S. Gynae & Obs.) Assistant Professor Department of Gyne& Obs. P.D.U Medical College Churu, Rajasthan, India

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INTRODUCTION:

The significance of calcium in cardiac muscle contraction ,has been more and more recognized¹.The use of calcium channel blocking agents in the treatment of hypertension shows the significant importance of calcium in the biochemical control of vascular smooth muscle tone, and thus of blood pressure homeostasis².

Even with the advances, the relation of clinical aspects of calcium metabolism such as dietary calcium intake, renal disposition of calcium and circulating levels of calcium regulating hormones, as well as calcium itself, to disorders of blood pressure regulation such as hypertension remains an ambiguous one. A speedily expanding literature suggest

that alterations of these clinical metabolic variables are indeed found in human hypertensive disease and they may contribute to the pathophysiology of hypertension^{3,4,5,6}. However, these alteration seem to advocate that calcium may either exacerbate or alleviate hypertension.

The report by McCarron and Morris⁷ and other recent preliminary reports^{8,9} show the ability of oral calcium supplements to lower blood pressure in some subjects with essential hypertension. people survey show a optimistic relation between blood pressure and serum calcium levels¹⁰, and increased intracellular free cytosolic calcium levels have been reported in hypertensive persons¹¹. Acute elevation or suppression of circulating calcium levels result

in concomitant elevation or suppression of blood pressure^{12,13} and the chronic hypercalcemia of hyperparathyroidism and vitamin D intoxication is also associated with an increased incidence of chronic hypertension¹⁴. These all studies tend to portray calcium as a pathogenic or exacerbating factor in hypertensive disease

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The subjects incorporated in our study were 50 hypertensive patients, who attended medicine opd of Churu Hospital for minor ailments other than hypertension. Healthy age, sex and diet matched 50 normotensive individuals served as controls. All the individuals selected were in fact in good general health. A full medical history of these subjects was first obtained which provided the basis for selection.

Inclusion Criteria: All the male subjects belonged to the age group 22 – 75 years. All the subjects had their weight between 52 -92 kgs. Only subjects with mixed diet were included in the study. Subjects who did not give history of consuming alcohol and smoking were taken.

Exclusion Criteria: Subjects with clinical history of ischemic heart disease, thyroid, hepatic, renal or pancreatic disorders. Subjects who were on any drugs for systemic disease.

Method:

Measurement of arterial blood pressure: It was based on actual blood pressure recorded with standard mercury sphygmomanometer. Blood pressure was recorded from the right arm for three times at three minute intervals with the subject in supine position.

Estimation of serum calcium level: Serum calcium estimation was done by Trinder’s method. With the help of photometric technique^{15,16}.

Statistical Analysis:

To test whether there was any significant difference in the study variables between the study groups (normotensives and hypertensives), Z test was applied. The Z test is a test of significance between mean values of any two groups whose number is more than 30.

RESULTS:

Table 1 indicate that out of 50 normotensive patients studied their age were between 22-75 yrs, while the hypertensive patients had their age between 25-73 years. The mean age of normotensive patients was 44.14 years and the standard deviation worked out to be 13.3057 years. The mean age of hypertensive was 42.54 years with a standard deviation of 10.2649.

Mean serum calcium of the normotensive group was 9.268mgm% with a standard deviation of 0.6460 and standard error of 0.0913. Mean serum calcium of the hypertensive group was 11.232 with a standard deviation of 1.1875 and standard error of 0.1679. There is an apparent difference in the two observed means. Z test was applied to test this difference. The Z value worked out to be 4.2786, which was statistically significant i.e P<0.01. Thus it is highly unlikely that this difference has occurred by chance. Thus, findings were confirmed by the 95% confidence intervals values in the two groups. In the normotensive group the 95% confidence interval limits were 9.0854-9.4506. 95% confidence intervals limits in the hypertension group were 10.8962-11.5678. As the above limits in the two groups do not overlap, there is a significant difference between mean serum calcium values in the normotensive group viz hypertensive group. (table 2) In all the four situations, the correlation coefficient were highly significant at degrees of freedom, 48(n-2) (P<0.01). Thus, correlation between the above variables is highly unlikely to have occurred by chance and is highly significant. (Table 3)

TABLE 1 AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION IN THE STUDY GROUP

STUDY GROUP	AGE RANGE	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
NORMOTENSIVE(50)	22-75	44.13	13.30
HYPERTENSIVE(50)	25-73	42.54	10.23

TABLE 2 MEAN SERUM CALCIUM LEVEL IN STUDY GROUP

STUDY GROUP	MEAN SERUM CALCIUM LEVEL	S.D.	S.E.	C.I.
NORMOTENSIVE(50)	9.26	0.63	0.092	9.08-9.45
HYPERTENSIVE(50)	11.23	1.17	0.16	10.9-11.56

TABLE 3 CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

	CORRELATION COEFFICIENT r	P VALUE
SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE V/S SERUM CALCIUM	.55	<0.01
SERUM CALCIUM V/S SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE	.53	<0.01
DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE V/S SERUM CALCIUM	.53	<0.01
SERUM CALCIUM V/S DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE	.52	<0.01

DISCUSSION:

We know that Cardiac muscle relaxes completely between beats .Under these situation, calcium is well below 10^{-7} M, the threshold concentration for contraction. A different situation is encountered in vascular smooth muscle. Some resting tension (tone) is normally maintained in most resistance vessels. This imply that intracellular calcium, must be constantly maintained above 10^{-7} M because there is no reason to believe that other factors such as the intracellular magnesium or adenosine 5 triphosphate concentrations are limiting¹⁷.It is generally recognized that most forms of hypertension are associated with an increased peripheral resistance due to maintained abnormal constriction of the small “resistance vessels”. Thickening of the vessel walls and consequent narrowing of lumina may contribute to the maintenance of chronic hypertensive state. In our study, a significant high levels of serum calcium were found in hypertensive group as compared to normotensive group ($P < 0.01$).Tobain L.J¹⁸ has stressed the fact that increased vascular smooth muscle tone must play an important role. Hypertension is usually present before the vessel wall changes occur and the blood pressure can return to normal after treatment, even though the vessel walls throughout the body remained thickened. Thus, changes in tone reflect changes in intracellular calcium and that a rise in the mean intracellular calcium may be final common path by which most, if not all, hypertension is produced.

Several lines of evidence support that the level of serum calcium may play a role in the regulation of blood pressure .Theoretically, such an effect may be mediated through a primary change in cardiac output or peripheral vascular resistance or both, or through altered release or action, or both, of presser substances such as renin and catecholamines.

Shiner P.T et al ¹⁹reported, increased myocardial contractility and bradycardia without significant change in blood pressure during a short infusion in unanaesthetized humans, which elevated serum calcium by 1.5 mg/dl. Studies using local perfusion of the forelimb, kidney or heart in the dog showed that a slight elevation of calcium in the perfusate caused both arteriolar constriction and increased myocardial contractility .But no consistent change in cardiac output has been found during calcium infusions. It seems likely therefore, that an increase in peripheral resistance is the major factor underlying the hypertension induced by hypercalcemia. Many workers have implicated calcium in the pathogenesis of some forms of hypertension. Increase in platelet cytosolic calcium level has been reported in some hypertensive .Hypertension has also been found in patients with hyperparathyroidism as well as in hypercalcemic states. The mechanism by which hypercalcemia elevates blood pressure ,probably involves a direct increase in the contractility of vascular smooth muscle and activation of sympathetic nervous system.

In the present study, the total serum calcium level is studied. The ionized serum calcium level is not studied .It can be assumed ,however ,that in a population with a normal total serum protein content and a normal serum pH both factors known to influence the relation between total and ionised calcium – ionised calcium will be a constant function of total serum calcium .Our findings might also help to explain the beneficial role of calcium antagonists in the treatment of hypertension²⁰.It is quite clear from this study that increased serum calcium level is significantly associated with hypertension and so by giving calcium supplement it might worsen the situation²¹ .Hence ,its use in the treatment in hypertensive patients is questionable and needed to be studied in great detail. Though some studies contradict this statement²² .

CONCLUSION:

Our study shows a significant correlation between high serum calcium levels and high blood pressure .According to the present study, increased serum calcium leads to hypertension .Hence, serum calcium levels should be estimated in hypertensive patients.

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