Vol. 21 No. 4 (2021): Medico-Legal Update

DOI: https://doi.org/10.37506/mlu.v21i4

Published: 2021-09-02

Articles

Gunshot Injury in Neck; Suicide or Homicide?

Anil Garg1, Shakshi Sharma, Yogendra Malik, Yogesh Kumar Vashist, Pawan Mittal, Gaurav Sharma, Bhavya Kalra

1-5

Pdf

Estimation of Stature from the Percutaneous Length of Ulna among the People of Odisha

Ankita Mitra, Bibhuti Bhusana Panda, Sudhanshu Shekhar Sethi

6-13

Pdf

Comprehensive Analysis of Blood Transfusion in Paediatrics Patients admitted at Dhiraj Hospital

Ashu Dogra

14-16

Pdf

A study of Epidemiological Characteristicsand Weather Elements influencing COVID-19 Positive Autopsy Cases Studied at B.H.U, Varanasi, U.P

Deepa Durga Roy, Manoj Kumar Pathak

17-23

Pdf

A Study on Impact of Pellets on Different Targets- A Preliminary Study

Devika G, S.D. Dhaarani, Sona Ponnuswamy, Manashree Mane

24-30

Pdf

Regression Formula for Stature Determination from Percutaneous Tibial Length among the Female Meitei Population of Manipur

Haobijam Rita Devi, Memchoubi Phanjoubam, Seram Elizabeth Devi, Uma Adhikari

31-36

Pdf

Forensic Odontology: An Aid in Identification of Unknown Human Remains

Hemlata Pandey, Sumit K. Chaudhary, Harish Pathak, Emilio Nuzzolese

37-42

Pdf

Dimensional Evaluation of Soft Tissue Changes Following Mandibular Advancement And Setback Orthognathic Surgeries- A Systematic Review

Janani Ravi, Janani Jayapal, S.Dilip

43-49

Pdf

Study of Acute Effect of Caffeine on Cognition among Adults- An Exploratory Intervention Trial

Krishnan S, Smisha Mohan, Jeneth Berlin Raj T, Manikandan S

50-55

Pdf

Application of Artificial Intelligence in the Field of Forensic Medicine

Manoj Pathak, Himanshi Narang2

56-65

Pdf

The Effect of Heparmin® on Interferon Gamma Levels and Liver Function in Drug Resistance Tuberculosis Patients

Achmad Furqon, Tutik Kusmiati, Ulfa Kholili

66-73

Pdf

Assessment of Cardiovascular Markers Inpatients with Type 2 Diabetes Who Smoke Cigarette

Ahmed M Ahmed

74-80

Pdf

Ecological Analysis of Success of TB Treatment and Its Related Factors in Indonesia in 2019

Alfons Deristo Lega, Hario Megatsari, Shrimarti Rukmini Devy

81-87

Pdf

Litigation Following Total Hip Arthroplasty

Aneesh Dave, Timothy Matthews, Sanjeev Gupta

88-93

Pdf

Correlation between Nicotine Dependence to Exhaled Breath Carbon Monoxide Levels and TNF-a Serum Levels in Adolescents

Aryo Dirgantara Putra, Winariani Koesoemoprodjo

94-101

pdf

Administrative Sanctions for Hospitals Which Grant Permission for Forced Taking the Corpse of Suspect Covid-19 Patients

Asmuni

102-109

Pdf

Association of Serum Vitamin D Levels on Response Therapy in Patient Lung Adenocarcinoma Advanced with Targeted Therapy

Devy Trianne Putri, Isnu Pradjoko, Anita Widyoningroem

110-116

Pdf

Association between Fatigue Level with Disease Severity in Myasthenia Gravis Patients

Dimas Pambudi, Fadil, Muhammad Hamdan

117-122

Pdf

The Role of Low Dose CT in Diagnosis of Uretric Stones

Firas Salim Daoud Karomy

123-130

Pdf

Diagnostic Accuracy of Mri Compared to Cct in Patients with Brain Metastases

Firas Salim Daoud Karomy

131-139

Pdf

Lungs' Microscopic Patterns of Vessels in Patients Deceased with or by SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Francesco Lupariello, Francesca Vairano, Giuliana Mattioda, Federica Mirri, Alessandro Gabriele, Giancarlo Di Vella

140-149

Pdf

In COVID-19, Unmet Needs of Nursing Students Participating in Limited Clinical Practice

Gie-Ok Noh

150-155

Pdf

Investigation of the Relationship between High Sensitivity C Reactive Protein and some Myocardial Enzymes, and Oxidative Stress in Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)

Hadeel Rashid Faraj, Raid M. H. Al-Salih, Adnan T. Al-Khafaji

156-164

Pdf

Eccentric Exercise Decrease Blood Glucose Level and Improve Protein Level of Glucose Transporters in Diabetic Mice Muscle

Handoko Adelia, Purwanto Bambang, Mustika Arifa

165-170

Pdf

The Determinant of the COVID-19 Psychosocial Burden inWest Java Province - Indonesia

Hario Megatsari, AgungDwi Laksono, Yeni Tri Herwanto, KinantyPutri Sarweni, NidyaEka Putri, Estiningtyas Nugraheni, Mursyidul Ibad

171-176

Pdf

Deleted

177-187

Death Analysis of 10 Major Diseases Before and During COVID-19 Pandemic in Papua Province, Indonesia, 2020

Hasmi, Dolfinus Y. Bouway, Yacob Ruru

188-192

Pdf

Expectations and Satisfaction of Physicians with Patient Referral Services in General Hospitals

Hyun Hee Park, Kwang Ok Lee

193-198

Pdf

Differences in Body Esteem and Sexual Assertiveness between Male and Female College Students

Hyun Ju Chae, Kwang Ok Lee

199-206

Pdf

Factors Associated with Survival of Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest by Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation of Bystander in Korea

Hyun-Soo Kim, Jung-Hee Park, Kwang-Hwan Kim, Seok-Hwan Bae, Ju-Dong Jang, Moo-Sik Lee
207-218

Pdf

Comparison of Nurses' Image in Korean Online Newspaper Articles before and after COVID-19: A Text Mining Analysis

Jeongmin Ha, Dahye Park
219-229

Pdf

Resilience, Social Support, and Meaning in Life among Koreans During Midlife

Jeong-Sook Lee
230-237

Pdf

The Conformity of Anatomical Pathology Results between Core-Needle Biopsy and Fine-Needle Aspirate Biopsy in Peripheral Lung Tumors

Kadek Widianiti, Isnin Anang Marhana, Etty Hary Kusumastuti
238-245

Pdf

The Effect of NelumboNucifera seeds and Hyphaene Thebaica on Induced Animal's Hyperlipidemia and Hypertension

Marwa F. Elmahdy, Adris M.A
246-251

Pdf

Regional and Gender Differences in the Cephalic Index among South Indian and North-East Indian Population

Mebin Wilson Thomas, Santhosh Kareepadath Rajan
252-259

Pdf

Effect of the National Early Warning Score Education Program on Nurses' Knowledge at an Emergency Hospital

Mohamed Naeem Badr, Nahla Shaaban Khalil, Ahmed Mohamed Mukhtar
260-268

Pdf

Nursing Students Perception of E-learning during COVID-19 Pandemic; A Literature Review

Mohammad R. AlOsta, Inaam A. Khalaf
269-277

Pdf

Medical Professionals' Perspective on Virtual Autopsy: Comprehensive Analysis and Validation Study with Respect to Traditional Autopsy

Mohd Asrarul Haque

278-287

Pdf

Facial Reconstruction and Cosmetology - A Review

Monisha B. M, Abirami Arthanari, Pushpalatha, Priyadharshini R, Palati Sinduja

288-291

Pdf

Unusual Complication of Abdominal Pseudocyst Following Cystoperitoneal Shunt in Posterior Cranial Fossa Arrachnoid Cyst

Prastiya Indra Gunawan, Rahadian Indarto Susilo

292-295

Pdf

Correlation between Fibrinogen Level with Middle Cerebral Artery Pulsatility Index in Acute Ischemic Stroke

Rika Ainun Tikha, Sita Setyowatie, Muhammad Hamdan, Achmad Firdaus Sani, Mohammad Saiful Ardhi

296-300

Pdf

Antifungal Activity of Essential Oils Vapors Against Fungi Isolated from Car Air- Conditioner Filters

Salah M. Al-Bader, Layla Qasim Ismael, Hoshyar Saadi Ali, Abdul_Haleem S. Al-Tamim, Ahmad Abbas Saleh

301-306

Pdf

Characteristic of Patient with Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo among the Elderly and the Younger Patients in 2013-2019

Sally Mahdiani, Wijana, Genggam Jagad Agami

307-313

Pdf

Self-Reported Adherence to the Use of Clinical Practice Guidelines of Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy in Jordanian Hospitals

Sarah M. Alja'freh, Lubna Abu-Shaikha

314-321

Pdf

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of 5% Sodium Fluoride (NAF) with Diode Laser 976nm for Treatment of

Dentine Hypersensitivity

IbtehalAtiaHabeeb, Maha Sh. Mahmood

322-326

Pdf

Effects of Artifacts on the Diagnosis of Ultrasound Image

Alyaa Raheem

327-336

Pdf

Role of Foot Dimensions in Predicting Stature among Medical Students in Smims, Smu, Sikkim

Serug Rai, Kumari Shimran, Karma Mingur Diki Bhutia

337-341

Pdf

Profile of Snake Bite Deaths in South India: An Autopsy based Stud

Shanmugam K, Gerard Pradeep Devnath S

342-347

Pdf

Retrospective Study of Profile of Medico-legal Cases at Basaveshwara Medical College, Chitradurga

Shreedhar N.C, Chandan.V, Shreekrishna H K

348-355

Pdf

Evaluation of Meshra's Technique in Unilateral Cleft Lip Deformity

Tawfeeq Waleed Tawfeeq, Afraa Qasim Al-Zerkani, Thaer Kareem Alwan

356-362

Pdf

Legal Aid For Victims of Medical Malpractice (A Dignified Justice Perspective)

Teguh Prasetyo, Tri Astuti Handayani

363-368

Pdf

Outcome Transcatether Patent Ductus Arteriosus Closure in Children

Tri Rachmadijanto, Mahrus Abdur Rahman, I Ketut Alit Utamayasa

369-374

Pdf

COVID-19 Pandemic – Do our Indian Nursing Students Have Knowledge about it and Do they Follow Preventive Practices Against It?

Varte Clara, Yadav Nirmala, Raaj Neelima
375-382

Pdf

The Importance of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychiatric Examination in Criminal Proceedings

Kreshnik Myftari, Gëzim Myftari, Sevada Guço
383-392

Pdf

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Information

For Readers

For Authors

For Librarians

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OJS / PKP

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Correlation between Fibrinogen Level with Middle Cerebral Artery Pulsatility Index in Acute Ischemic Stroke

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Abstract

Background: High levels of fibrinogen will increase the blood viscosity. Pulsatility index parameter in transcranial doppler can measure blood vessel resistance which influence by cerebral blood flow velocity and blood viscosity. This study has aim to find correlation between fibrinogen with PI in acute thrombotic stroke patient.

Method: A cross sectional design was used in this study. The samples were patient with acute ischemic stroke in neurological ward Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya from January 2019 to December 2020. Fibrinogen level was measured using *clauss* method. PI was calculated by peak systolic velocity, end diastolic velocity and mean vessel velocity, which were measured in middle cerebral artery.

Result: This study involved 32 samples consisted 22 males and 10 females. Mean age of subjects was 55.37 ± 10.55. The mean fibrinogen level is 356.95 ± 139.57. Mean MCA PI is 1.03 ±0.34. There is positive correlation with weak correlation strength between fibrinogen level with MCA PI in acute thrombotic stroke patients and statistically significant (p=0.024, r=0.398).

Conclusion: There is a positive correlation between fibrinogen level with PI MCA in acute thrombotic stroke.

Keywords: *acute ischemic stroke, fibrinogen, MCA PI*

Introduction

Stroke is the second leading cause of death (11.8% of all deaths) worldwide after ischemic heart disease and the leading cause of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).[1] Globally, there were 6.5 million deaths due to stroke in 2013. Around 87% of every stroke incident were ischemic stroke. [2] Stroke affects all the quality of life and become a serious problem in Asia, which has more than 60% of the world population with the majority of countries are lower middle income countries.[3,4]

Ischemic stroke occurs due to impaired cellular perfusion and metabolism which is closely related to the condition of blood flow, blood vessels and blood viscosity. High blood viscosity increases the risk of cerebrovascular disease.[5]

Fibrinogen plays an important role for the interaction of erythrocytes and platelets in acute local inflammation condition, so that if fibrinogen levels increase, there will be an increase in erythrocyte aggregation and platelet aggregation which causes often occurs in acute stroke.[6,7] Aside from that, fibrinogen in itself has a large molecular weight compared to its plasma proteins counterparts. These characteristics causes high levels of fibrinogen will increase blood viscosity.[8]

One of the Transcranial Doppler (TCD) parameters is the Pulsatility Index (PI) which evaluates the peripheral resistance of blood vessels.[9] The most important factors

influencing the PI are cerebral blood flow velocity and blood viscosity.[10]

The purpose of this study is to determine whether fibrinogen level is correlated with the PI as both are positively correlated with the blood viscosity level concurrently.

Method

This study is an observational analytic study with a cross sectional design. Inclusion criteria were acute thrombotic stroke patient in acute phase, ages over than 18 years, National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)<15, and has complete medical record data. The exclusion criteria were: patients who suffers from sepsis, brain tumor, acute myocardial infarction, dysfunction of coagulation factor. Based on the formula for calculating the sample size of correlation study, the sample amount is 32.

All subjects underwent the same laboratory and clinical examinations. The fibrinogen level were measured using *clauss* method with Sysmex CS2500 when patient were admitted in neurological ward. TCD examination was performed by one neurologist certified in neurosonology with SONARA TCD system (Natus, Neurology USA). Doppler signals from the MCA were obtained at depths of 45-65 mm. PI was calculated as the difference between the peak systolic and end diastolic velocities divided by the mean flow velocity. Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 25.0. The normality of the data distribution was checked by the Kolmogorov Smirnov test. The Spearman statistical test was used to determine the correlation between the two variables with an abnormal distribution.

The research committee at the Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya, approved this study ethical approval number 0180/KEPK/IV/2021.

Result

This study involved a total sample of 32 subjects. The total number of male patients were 22 (68.8%) and female patients were 10 (31.3%). The mean age was 55.37±10.55. There were no differences between with clinical manifestation among patients. Of these, right hemiparesis occurred in 17 (53.1%) and left hemiparesis in 15 (46.9%) patients. General characteristics are shown in table 1

Table 1: General Characteristics

Variable	n (%)	Mean ± SD
Sex Male Female	 22 (68.8%) 10 (31.3%)	
Age		55.37 ± 10.55
Hemiparesis Right hemiparesis Left hemiparesis	 17 (53.1%) 15 (46.9%)	

The mean level fibrinogen in this study was 356.96±139.58mg/dl with minimum level was 99.50 mg/dl and maximum level 723.40mg/dl. This data can be seen in table 2

Table 2 Mean value of fibrinogen level

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean ± SD
Fibrinogen	99.50	723.40	356.96 ± 139.58

The result of MCA PI examination showed the mean PI value was 1.03 ± 0.34. with minimum PI value was 0.56 and maximum PI value 2.17. This data can be seen in table 3

Table 3 Mean value of MCA PI

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean ± SD
Pulsatility index	0.56	2.17	1.03 ± 0.34

CORRELATION BETWEEN FIBRINOGEN LEVEL WITH MCA PI

There was a positive correlation with weak correlation strength between fibrinogen level with MCA PI and statistically significant with $p<0.05$. The correlation coefficient is 0.398. as seen in Table 4.

Table 4 Correlation between Fibrinogen Level with MCA PI

Variable	Correlation coefficient	p-value
Fibrinogen with PI MCA	0.398	0.024

Discussion

Since January 2019 until December 2020, we found 32 patients met the research criteria. Of these subject, 22 (68.8%) were males and 10 (31.3%) were females. This study shows that male suffered more acute thrombotic stroke than female. This is in accordance with several studies which state that male is more affected by stroke than woman. Unmodifiable characteristics of sex as a risk factor is making this demographic knowledge becomes an important feature. Other risk factor that also unmodifiable are age and race.[11]

The mean age of patients was 55.37±10.55. This is consistent with data from other study that risk of stroke doubles every decade above 55 age.[12] While in developing countries most stroke cases occur in people less than 60 years and low awareness about the treatment approaches.[13–15]

The baseline data that has been collected are test for normality with Kolmogorov -Smirnov test (KS test). This test aims to determine the distribution of normal or abnormal data. Analysis using the KS test found that the distribution data was abnormal. Therefore, the analysis to determine the correlation between fibrinogen level with MCA PI in acute ischemic stroke was performed using Spearman's correlation analysis.

In this study, researchers found a significant relationship between fibrinogen level with MCA PI in acute ischemic stroke patients. The result of the p value is 0.024 (<0.05) which is significant. This means that the higher fibrinogen level, the greater PI MCA value.

The results of this study are supported by other research which states that increased blood viscosity associated with acute ischemic stroke.[16] In addition, there are other studies that state fibrinogen is a factor that

independently affects blood viscosity in a population of acute ischemic stroke patient.[8] Other studies state that the higher the blood viscosity, the greater vascular resistance, resulting in an increase PI value.[17]

Conclusions and Suggestions

There was positive correlation with correlation coefficient (r=0.398) between fibrinogen level with MCA PI in acute ischemic stroke which was statistically significant ($p<0.05$). Further research need to be done, especially research that analyze confounding variables in blood viscosity and cerebral blood vessel imaging.

Ethical Clearance: This study received an ethical approval number.

Source of Funding: This research was carried out through individual funding.

Conflict of Interest: There was no conflict of interest from this study.

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