

# Cerebral circulation and metabolic properties in patients undergoing normothermic cardiopulmonary bypass

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## SUMMARY

During cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) a host of physiologic factors like temperature,  $p_a\text{CO}_2$ ,  $p_a\text{O}_2$ , haematocrit, central venous pressure, and mean arterial pressure are maintained using the heart-lung machine. Each of these variables may act independently or together to alter cerebral hemodynamics, i.e. cerebral blood flow (CBF) and cerebral  $\text{CO}_2$  reactivity ( $\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ ). Consequently, preserving the cerebral autoregulatory capacity during CPB is in part a function of how these variables are managed. However, evaluating dynamic cerebral autoregulation (dCA) during CPB is challenging, since it is necessary to compare two waveforms, i.e. the arterial blood pressure and cerebral blood flow velocity. During nonpulsatile CPB using a centrifugal pump, however, hardly any pulsation occurs when the aorta is cross-clamped; therefore, a new and original technique was introduced to assess the dCA and  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}$  (Chapter 2). This clinical study involved the measurement of systemic and cerebral hemodynamic parameters and their response to physiological challenges. Study results clearly showed an impaired dCA during hypercapnia, suggesting that hypercapnia during normothermic CPB should be avoided.

Further, the influence of hemodilution and  $p_a\text{CO}_2$  levels on the dCA during normothermic CPB is elaborated in Chapter 3. It was shown that hemodilution down to a hematocrit  $<28\%$  combined with hypercapnia negatively affects the dCA during CPB. This underlines the importance of tight control of both hematocrit and  $p_a\text{CO}_2$ . Next, several methods to avoid excessive hemodilution during CPB were evaluated. A technique to reduce the large assanguinous priming volume of the CPB circuit is the so-called retrograde autologous priming (RAP). RAP showed to be a safe and effective technique for attenuating acute hemodilution and subsequent blood transfusion requirements in coronary artery bypass surgery (Chapter 4). It should therefore be considered as an integral part of a multimodal approach on blood conservation. Another approach to restrict hemodilution is the development of low-volume circuits, also referred to as minimized cardiopulmonary bypass (mCPB) systems. Evident benefits of these systems, however, do not come without consequences as the pump flow depends on adequate preload, i.e. venous filling. Kinetic-assisted drainage used in such systems may produce excessive sub-atmospheric pressures in the venous line, generating a large amount of gaseous microemboli that can enter the arterial line. Volume buffer capacity added to the venous line showed to effectively dampen pressure fluctuations resulting from abrupt changes in venous drainage. Consequently, it increases safety of mCPB systems by reducing gaseous microemboli formation and load resulting from degassing (Chapter 5).

Aside from the influence of aforementioned physiologic factors on cerebral perfusion during CPB, the final study investigated the impact of intraoperative events on cerebral tissue oxygen saturation in patients undergoing cardiac surgery with

pulsatile CPB (Chapter 6). Cerebral tissue oximetry effectively identified subtle changes in cerebral saturation related to surgical events (placement of the sternal retractor, placement and removal of the aortic cross-clamp) or vulnerable periods (onset and cessation of CPB) during cardiac surgery. Therefore, routine monitoring of cerebral tissue oximetry may help to identify vulnerable periods during cardiac surgery requiring immediate intervention in order to prevent adverse neurological outcome.

Conclusively, the present thesis contributes to a better understanding of cerebral perfusion processes related to the use of the heart-lung machine, and shows ways to attenuate possible deleterious effects.



## SAMENVATTING

Tijdens cardiopulmonale bypass (CPB) wordt een hele reeks van factoren zoals temperatuur,  $p_a\text{CO}_2$ ,  $p_a\text{O}_2$ , hematocriet, centraal veneuze bloeddruk alsook de arteriële bloeddruk door de hart-longmachine in stand gehouden. Elk van deze variabelen gedraagt zich onafhankelijk danwel afhankelijk van andere variabelen en verandert zo de cerebrale hemodynamiek, dat wil zeggen de cerebrale bloedstroom (CBF) en cerebrale  $\text{CO}_2$  reactiviteit ( $\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ ). Behoud van cerebrale autoregulatie is dus feitelijk een functie van hoe deze variabelen worden gemanipuleerd. Evaluatie van dynamische cerebrale autoregulatie (dCA) tijdens CPB is echter niet eenvoudig gezien dit een vergelijk van twee golfvormen vereist, namelijk die van de arteriële bloeddruk en van de cerebrale bloedstroomsnelheid. Echter, tijdens nonpulsatie CPB met behulp van een centrifugaalpompe ontstaan nauwelijks of geen pulsaties wanneer de aorta is afgeklemd; hiertoe werd een nieuwe methode geïntroduceerd om de dCA en  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}$  te bepalen (hoofdstuk 2). Deze klinische studie betreft metingen van de systemische en cerebrale hemodynamische parameters, alsook hun reactie op fysiologische veranderingen. De verkregen studieresultaten laten duidelijk zien dat dCA tijdens hypercapnie beperkt is, hetgeen suggereert dat hypercapnie tijdens normotherme CPB vermeden dient te worden.

Vervolgens is in hoofdstuk 3 de invloed van hemodilutie en het niveau van  $p_a\text{CO}_2$  op dCA tijdens normotherme CPB uitgewerkt. Er werd aangetoond dat hemodilutie tot een hematocriet  $<28\%$  in combinatie met hypercapnie een negatieve invloed heeft op de dCA. Dit toont het belang aan van een nauwgezette bewaking van zowel het hematocriet als de  $p_a\text{CO}_2$ . Ook zijn verschillende methoden geëvalueerd welke excessieve hemodilutie tijdens CPB trachten te vermijden. Een techniek om een groot volume aan bloedloze priming te voorkomen is de zogenaamde retrograde autologe priming (RAP). RAP bij coronaire bypassoperatie bleek een veilige en effectieve techniek om acute hemodilutie te verminderen en zo homologe erythrocytentransfusie te beperken (hoofdstuk 4). Deze techniek zou daarom integraal deel moeten uitmaken van de multimodale aanpak ten behoeve van bloedconservatie. Een andere aanpak om hemodilutie te minimaliseren is de ontwikkeling van circuits met een laag priming volume, ook wel geminimaliseerde cardiopulmonale bypass (mCPB) genoemd. Dergelijke circuits hebben echter niet enkel evidente voordelen, maar ook nadelen. Zo is bijvoorbeeld de pompvolumestroom afhankelijk van voldoende aanbod, de zo genaamde veneuze vulling. Ook kan de kinetisch ondersteunde drainage van mCPB resulteren in excessief lage sub-atmosferische drukken in de veneuze slang. Hierdoor kunnen grote hoeveelheden aan gasvormige microembolieën ontstaan, welke tot in de arteriële slang kunnen worden waargenomen. Het toevoegen van een volumebuffer capaciteit bleek effectief in het dempen van druk fluctuaties, welke tijdens abrupte veranderingen van de veneuze drainage ontstonden. De volumebuffer capaciteit verhoogt dus de veiligheid van mCPB

circuits door de formatie van en de belasting door gasvormige microemboliën te reduceren (hoofdstuk 5).

Naast de invloed van hierboven genoemde fysiologische factoren op de cerebrale perfusie tijdens CPB, onderzocht de laatste studie de invloed van intra-operatieve gebeurtenissen op cerebrale weefselzuurstofsaturatie bij patiënten welke hartchirurgie met behulp van pulsatiele CPB ondergingen (hoofdstuk 6). Cerebrale weefsel oxymetrie tijdens hartchirurgie kon effectief kleine veranderingen in cerebrale saturatie aan chirurgische gebeurtenissen (plaatsing van de sternumspreider, klemmen en ontklemmen van de aorta) danwel kwetsbare perioden (start en beëindiging van CPB) relateren. Daarom kan het routinematig monitoren van cerebrale weefsel oxymetrie in de hartchirurgie helpen bij het identificeren van kwetsbare perioden, waarbij directe interventie nodig is om slechte neurologische uitkomst te voorkomen.

Concluderend kan gesteld worden dat dit proefschrift bijdraagt aan een beter begrip van cerebrale perfusie beïnvloedende processen die gerelateerd zijn aan het gebruik van een hart-longmachine, met als doel het verminderen van mogelijk schadelijke effecten.





## SAŽETAK

Tijekom kardiopulmonalnog bypassa (CPB) brojni fiziološki čimbenici kao što su temperatura,  $P_aCO_2$ ,  $P_aO_2$ , hematokrit, središnji venski tlak, te srednji arterijski tlak se održavaju pomoću aparata srce-pluća. Svaki od navedenih čimbenika može djelovati bilo samostalno bilo zajedno u mijenjanju moždane hemodinamike, odnosno protoka krvi kroz mozak (CBF) i moždane reaktivnosti na  $CO_2$  ( $CO_2R$ ).

Prema tome, očuvanje cerebralnog autoregulacijskog kapaciteta tijekom CPB leži dijelimično i u načinu kako se ovim čimbenicima upravlja. Međutim, procjena dinamične cerebralne autoregulacije (dCA) u CPB predstavlja izazov, budući da je neophodno uspoređivati dva valna oblika, odnosno arterijskog krvnog tlaka i brzine cerebralnog protoka krvi. Tijekom ne pulsno CPB pomoću centrifugalne pumpe, međutim, teško da se bilo kakvo pulsiranje događa kada je aorta klemana; stoga je uvedena nova i originalna tehnika za procijenu dCA i  $CO_2R$  (Poglavlje 2). U ovo kliničko istraživanje je uključeno mjerenje sustavnih i moždanih hemodinamskih parametara i njihov odgovor na fiziološke izazove. Rezultati istraživanja jasno su pokazali oslabljenu dCA za vrijeme hiperkapnije, sugerirajući da hiperkapnija u normotermičkom CPB treba izbjegavati.

Nadalje, utjecaj hemodilucije i nivoa  $p_aCO_2$  na dCA za vrijeme normotermnog CPB je elaboriran u 3. poglavlju. Pokazano je da hemodilucija sa hematokritom  $<28\%$  u kombinaciji sa hiperkapnijom ima negativan utjecaj na dCA za vrijeme CPB. To naglašava važnost striktno kontrole hematokrita i  $p_aCO_2$  tijekom zahvata. Nadalje, procijenjeno je nekoliko metoda izbjegavanja pretjerane hemodilucije. Tehnika za smanjenje velikog beskrvnog volumena punjenja sustava za izvantjelesni krvotok je tzv. retrogradno autologno punjenje (RAP). RAP se pokazao kao sigurna i učinkovita tehnika smanjenja akutne hemodilucije i naknadnih zahtjeva za transfuzijom krvi prilikom operacija obilaznica koronarnih arterija (Poglavlje 4). Trebalo bi je dakle, smatrati kao sastavni dio multimodalnog pristupa očuvanju krvi. Drugi pristup za ograničavanje hemodilucije je razvoj sustava sa minimalnim volumenom punjenja, također poznat kao minimalni kardiopulmonalni bypass (mCPB) sustav. Vidljive prednosti ovih sustava, međutim, ne dolaze bez posljedica, jer protok pumpe ovisi od adekvatnog preload-a odnosno venskog punjenja. Kinetički asistirana drenaža koja se upotrijebljava u takvim sustavima može proizvesti prekomjerni podatmosferski tlak u venskoj liniji, generirajući veliku količinu plinovitih mikroembolusa koji mogu ući u arterijsku liniju. Pokazalo se da puferski kapacitet volumena dodan u venskoj liniji, učinkovito prigušuje oscilacije tlaka uslijed naglih promjena u venskoj drenaži. Na taj način se povećava sigurnost mCPB sustava, smanjujući formiranje plinovitih mikroembolusa i opterećenje uslijed otplinjavanja (Poglavlje 5). Osim utjecaja spomenutih fizioloških čimbenika na moždanu perfuziju tijekom CPB, konačna studija istražuje utjecaj intraoperacijskih događaja na zasićenje kisi-

kom cerebralnih tkiva u bolesnika podvrgnutih kardijalnoj kirurgiji s pulsним CPB (poglavlje 6). Cerebralna oksimetrija tkiva učinkovito identificira suptilne promjene u moždanoj saturaciji koji su u odnosu na kirurške događaje (plasman sternalnog retraktora, postavljanje i uklanjanje aortne kleme) ili osjetljivih razdoblja (početak i prestanak CPB) tijekom kirurškog zahvata na srcu. Dakle, rutinsko praćenje oksimetrije moždanih tkiva može pomoći identificirati ranjivih razdoblja tijekom operacije srca, koje zahtijevaju hitnu intervenciju kako bi se spriječio negativan neurološki ishod.

Zaključno, ovaj rad doprinosi boljem razumijevanju procesa cerebralne perfuzije vezanih uz korištenje aparata srce-pluća, ukazujućina načine za ublažavanje mogućih štetnih posljedica.