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# Prognosis of Early-Stage Continuous Electrocardiogram Abnormalities on Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke

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Background: To explore the effects of onset time of electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormalities at an early stage of acute ischemic stroke on patient prognosis. Cardiac dysfunction after stroke is a challenge for clinicians. This is a retrospective study of patients in the neurology departments of 23 hospitals in Shanghai and Wuhan, China. Methods: The medical records of 351 patients were compared. Chi-square, Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney U tests, and stratification compared subgroups Logistic regressions analyzed factors associated with modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score. Results: ECG abnormalities occurred in 70.1% of patients at an early stage (most were within 48 hours of disease onset) at least once, whereas 45.9% of the patients had ECG abnormalities within 48 hours of onset and at 7 days after onset. The incidence of poor prognosis (mRS >1) was significantly higher in the patients with ECG abnormalities for both time points than that in those with normal ECGs (56.3% versus 32%, odds ratio = 2.166). Most patients demonstrated 1 to 2 ECG abnormalities, and very few patients had 3 or more. Increasing number of ECG abnormalities was mirrored by poorer prognosis. ECG abnormalities occurred within 48 hours and at the seventh day after onset of acute ischemic stroke; the abnormalities that appeared within 48 hours and were still found on the seventh day after onset of the disease were independent predictors of poor patient prognosis. Conclusions: The incidence of abnormal ECGs was high in the patients with acute ischemic stroke, and the abnormal ECGs could appear at any stage of the disease. Key Words: Acute ischemic stroke-continuous electrocardiogram abnormalities-prognosis-ECG-modified Rankin Scale (mRS). © 2015 by National Stroke Association

### Introduction

Around 19% of patients with acute ischemic stroke have a major adverse cardiac event and 4% die. This may involve disinhibition of the central nervous system, stress, or activation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system.

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1052-3057/5 - see front matter © 2015 by National Stroke Association http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jstrokecensbrowandis.2015.03.043 Acute stage ischemic stroke signs are generally unstable, but 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) has been accepted as an effective evaluation method. Acute stage ischemic stroke ECG descriptions have not been updated since 2008. Most studies focus on ECG abnormality presentation, 3,7-20 and mortality, 10,12 not overall prognosis. We explored the incidence and presentation of ECG abnormalities in Chinese acute ischemic stroke patients, and investigated early-stage changes and their effects on prognosis.

### Materials and Methods

Patients

The medical records of 351 patients were selected from the neurology departments of 13 hospitals in Shanghai and 10 hospitals in Wuhan between April 2007 and September 2008. The study was approved by the ethical

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### **CLINICAL INVESTIGATIONS**



# Strain pattern and T-wave alterations are predictors of mortality and poor neurologic outcome following stroke

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Background: Stroke is associated with electrocardiogram (ECG) abnormalities. However, the role of strain pattern as predictor of poor neurologic outcome and mortality after stroke has not yet been demonstrated.

Hypothesis: ECG abnormalities, with a particular focus on ST-segment changes, are predictors of mortality and neurologic disability 90 days after stroke.

Methods: Patients with up to 24 hours of stroke were prospectively recruited. An ECG was taken at the time of admission. The patients' clinical evolution was evaluated during hospitalization and after discharge by means of a prescheduled return in 90 days. The degree of disability was measured by the modified Rankin scale (mRs). In relation to the mRs, patients were divided into those with scores from 0 to 2 and those with scores equal to or greater than 3 at the end of the observation

Results: Of the 112 patients studied, 29 (25.8%) died during the study period. Patients who died presented higher National Institute of Health Stroke Scale and mRs scores on admission, elevated biomarkers of myocardial necrosis, and abnormalities on the ECG. The prevalence of ECG abnormalities was 63%. A logistic regression model showed that strain pattern and T-wave alterations were predictors of mortality (odds ratio [OR]: 12.970, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.519-110.723, P = .019; OR: 3.873, 95% CI: 1.135-13.215, P = .031, respectively) and mRs at 90 days (OR: 12.557, 95% CI: 1.671-94.374, P = .014; OR: 15.970, 95% CI: 3.671-69.479, P < .001, respectively) after stroke, adjusted by sex, age, stroke subtype, entrance NIH, previous mRs score, and stroke

Conclusion: Strain pattern and T-wave alterations were predictors of mortality and poor neurologic outcome 90 days after stroke.

### KEYWORDS

electrocardiogram, mortality, neurologic disability, outcomes, prediction, stroke

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## Original Article

# The QT dispersion and QTc dispersion in patients presenting with acute neurological events and its impact on early prognosis

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### ABSTRACT

Aims: To find our and investigate whether the QT dispersion and QTc dispersion is related to type and prognosis of the acute stroke in patients presenting within 24 h of the onset of stroke. Settings and Design: This was a observational study conducted at Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Dr. SN. Medical College, Jodhpur, during January 2014 to January 2015. Subjects and Methods: The patients presented within 24 h of onset of acute stroke (hemorrhagic, infarction, or transient ischemic event) were included in the study. The stroke was confirmed by computed tomography scan and magnetic resonance imaging. Patients with (i) altered sensorium because of metabolic, infective, seizures, trauma, or tumor; (iii) prior history of cardiovascular disease, electrocardiographic abnormalities' because of dyselectrolytemia; and (iii) and patients who were on drugs (antiambythmic drugs, antipsychotic drugs, erythromycin, theophylline, etc...) which known to cause electrocardiogram changes, were excluded from the study. National Institute of Health Stroke Score (NIHSS) was calculated at the time of admission and Modified Rankin Scale (MRS) at the time of discharge. Fifty age- and sex-matched healthy controls included. Statistical Analysis Used: Student's t-test, ANOVA, and area under curve for sensitivity and specificity for the test. Results: We included 52 patients (male/female: 27/25) and 50 controls (26/24). The mean age of patients was 63.77 ± 08.90 years. Of total patients, infarct was found in 32 (60.53%), hemorrhage in 18 (34.60%), transient ischemic attack (TIA) in 1 (4.9%), and subarachnoid hemorrhage in 1 (4.9%) patient. The QT dispersion and QTc dispersion were significantly higher in cases as compare to controls. (87.30 ± 24.42 vs. 49.60  $\pm$  08.79 ms; P < 0.001) and (97.53  $\pm$  27.36 vs. 56.28  $\pm$  09.86 ms; P < 0.001). Among various types of stroke, the mean QT dispersion and QTc dispersion were maximum and significantly higher in hemorrhagic stroke as compared to infarct and TIA (P < 0.001). The mean QT dispersion and QTc dispersion was found significantly high in nonsurvivors (n = 16) as compared to survivors group (n = 16) (P < 0.05). The mean QT dispersion was directly correlated with the NIHSS and functional outcome score MRS. Patients with greater QT and QTc dispersion having high NIHSS had poor prognosis. Conclusion: We concluded that patients presenting with acute neurological events having increased QT dispersion and QTc dispersion is related to high mortality and poor functional outcomes on hospital discharge and if the values of dispersion score are very high we can predict for hemorrhagic stroke.

Key words: Acute stroke, hemorrhage, infarct, prognosis, QT dispersion

### Introduction

Stroke is the second most common cause of death in the world, after Coronary Artery Disease-related deaths. [1]

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It is also a very important single cause responsible for morbidity of disease. The central nervous system (CNS) has an important role in regulation of cardiac activity and vasomotor tones. [3-4] The lesions of the CNS frequently lead to disturbance of cardiovascular system (CVS) and other autonomic functions. [5] The manifestations of such type of autonomic dysregulation are loss of heart rate variability and various electrocardiogram

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# ARTICLE IN PRESS

# Prolonged Corrected QT Interval as a Predictor of Clinical Outcome in Acute Ischemic Stroke

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Background: This study aimed to investigate changes of corrected QT (QTc) interval during acute ischemic stroke and its correlation with high-sensitivity troponin I (hsTnI), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP), neurological outcome, and 1-year mortality. Methods: We registered electrocardiogram in 69 patients immediately after admission to the intensive care unit and then after 24 and 48 hours. Computed tomography was performed on admission to determine brain infarct size and localization. Neurological outcome was assessed by modified Rankin scale (mRS) at discharge. Results: Forty-five (65.2%) patients had prolonged QTc at baseline; only 18 (26.1%) patients had prolonged QTc after 48 hours. Baseline QTc was not associated with neurological outcome (P = 27). However, prolonged QTc after 48 hours was associated with worse mRS at discharge (4.5 [4.0-6.0] versus 2.0 [1.0-3.0]; P < .0001). Patients who deceased during hospitalization (n = 7 [10.1%]) as compared with survivors had more frequently prolonged QTc after 48 hours (38.9 versus 0%; P < .0001), higher level of hsTnI (48.4 [36.1-75.0] versus 8.6 [3.4-26.5]; P = .003), and BNP (334 [224-866] versus 109 [30-190]; P = .014). In univariate analysis, 1-year mortality was associated with prolonged QTc after 48 hours, hsTnl, and BNP. In multivariate analysis, only BNP remained to be associated with 1-year mortality (odds ratio 3.41, 95% confidence interval 1.06-11.03). Conclusions: QTc interval in patients with acute ischemic stroke is a dynamic parameter. Prolonged QTc after 48 hours, but not baseline QTc, correlated with neurological outcome and 1-year mortality. Patients with prolonged QTc had higher level of hsTnL Key Words: QTc interval prolongation-ischemic stroke-brain natriuretic peptide-high-sensitivity troponin I-mortality.

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### ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

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# Early rehabilitation after stroke: relationship between the heart rate variability and functional outcome

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### Abstract

Aims Impaired autonomic nervous system regulation is frequently observed in patients with stroke. The aim of this prospective study was to evaluate the impact of cardiac autonomic tone on functional outcome after the early post-stroke rehabilitation.

Methods and results One hundred and three consecutive patients (67 ± 11 years, body mass index (BMI) 27.1 ± 5.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 64% men) with ischaemic (84% of patients) and haemorrhagic stroke were studied. Depressed heart rate variability (HRV), as a surrogate marker of increased sympathetic tone, was defined by the standard deviation of NN intervals < 100 ms and HRV triangular index ≤ 20 assessed from a 24 h Holter electrocardiogram at admission to rehabilitation (23 ± 16 days after stroke). Twenty-two per cent of patients had depressed HRV at baseline and were comparable with patients with normal HRV with regard to their functional [Barthel Index (BI), modified Rankin Scale (mRS), and Rivermead Motor Assessment (RMA)] and biochemical status. After a 4-week follow-up, 70% of patients with depressed HRV showed a cumulative functional disability, defined by mRS ≥ 4, BI ≤ 70, and RMA ≤ 5, in contrast to patients with normal HRV (35%, P = 0.003). Patients with depressed HRV showed a worse functional status by BI (-16%, P < 0.001), RMA (-12%, P < 0.05), and mRS (+16%, P < 0.01), compared with patients with normal HRV. Cumulative functional disability was associated with depressed HRV (odds ratio 4.25, 95% confidence interval 1.56-11.54, P < 0.005) after adjustment for age, sex, and body mass index (odds ratio 4.6, 95% confidence interval 1.42-14.97, P < 0.05).

Conclusions The presence of autonomic cardiovascular dysregulation in patients with subacute stroke was associated with adverse functional outcome after the early post-stroke rehabilitation.

Keywords Stroke; Heart rate variability; Rehabilitation; Functional outcome

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### Introduction

rehabilitation efforts.2,3 There is an evidence of cardiac dysfunction after clinical and experimental stroke. 4,5,6 A Stroke is a leading cause of disability in the adult age cardiac autonomic dysregulation, manifested by an impaired worldwide.1 Early post-stroke rehabilitation plays an control of blood pressure and heart rate leading to cerebral important role in recovery after stroke. A wide range of hypoperfusion and secondary brain injury, may result in the medical complications, including autonomic imbalance, increased susceptibility for post-stroke complications and characterized by decreased vagal modulation and increased contribute to an unfavourable functional outcome. 5-7,8 sympathetic activation may influence the efficacy of Previous studies have described the development of



### ARTICLE



# Relationship between ischemic stroke locations, etiology subtypes, neurological outcomes, and autonomic cardiac function

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### ABSTRACT

Background: Post-stroke autonomic nervous dysfunction measured with heart rate variability (HRV) is correlated with the traditional risk factors and poor outcome. This study aimed to investigate the association between HRV and infarct locations, etiology subtypes, and neurological functional outcomes in patients with acute ischemic stroke (AIS).

Methods: In this prospective observational study, 186 consecutive patients were assigned to four major stroke severity categories based on the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score (NIHSS) and the modified Rankin Scale score (mRS): mild (NIHSS 0-4) stroke, moderate (NIHSS 5-14) stroke, 'favorable' (mRS 0-2) group, and 'unfavorable' (mRS 3-5) group. HRV time domain parameters were applied to evaluate the autonomic function of patients within 1 week after admission. All patients were classified into different etiology subtypes based on the TOAST (modified Trial of ORG 10172 in Acute Stroke Treatment) classification. The association of HRV with stroke location, etiology subtypes, neurological outcome was explored for all participants. Univariate and multivariate analyses were applied to explore the prediction value of HRV.

Results: 160 participants had large artery atherosclerotic infarction (LAA), 61 had right internal carotid artery system infarction (R-ICA), and 61 had vertebrobasilar artery system infarction (VB). Root-mean-square of differences (RMSSD) of adjacent RR intervals and the proportion calculated by dividing the interbeat interval differences >50 ms (pNNSO) in patients of VB group was significantly lower than those of patients in R-ICA group (P < 0.01). HRV parameters in the LAA group was significantly lower than non-LAA group (P < 0.01). At discharge, significant lower HRV presented in the unfavorable group and moderate group (P < 0.05). After logistic univariate and multivariate analysis, lower SDNN (OR = 1.019; 95% CI = 1.003–1.035; p= 0.021) was independently associated with unfavorable mRS and higher NHSS at discharge (OR = 1.013; 95%CI = 1.003–1.024; p= 0.016) at 1 year.

Conclusions: HRV measured after admission is related to the AIS infarction basin, TOAST subtypes, and neurological outcomes at discharge suggesting a possible role for HRV in evaluating AIS and identifying high-risk patients.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### KEYWORDS

Acute ischemic stroke; autonomic nervous dysfunction; heart rate variability; TOAST subtypes; infanct locations; neurological outcomes

### Introduction

Abnormal autonomic cardiac function has been described after acute ischemic stroke (AIS). When stroke occurs, demands for the re-establishment of homeostasis may exceed the adaptive capacity of the autonomic nervous system (ANS) [1,2] with manifestations in different systems of the organism resulting from destabilizing the sympatho-vagal balance [2-4]. Measurement of heart rate variability (HRV) is an established and widely implemented tool for assessing ANS function [1]. It is generally known that risk factors for stroke include hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and hyperglycemia, and numerous studies have confirmed the relationship between the magnitude of these risk factors and outcome of stroke [5]. Several other studies have also confirmed that reduced HRV was associated with these risk factors and with the

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Abbreviations: AlS: acute ischemic stroke; ANS: autonomic nervous system; HRV: heart rate variability; TOAST: the modified Trial of ORG 10172 in Acute Stroke Treatment; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; CT: computed tomography; ECs: electrocardiogram; NIHSS: National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale; mRS: modified Rankin Scale; SDNN: standard deviation of all normal-to-normal RR intervals; RMSSD: root-mean-square of differences of adjacent normal-to-normal RR intervals; pMBID: the proportion that is calculated by dividing interbeat interval differences that are greater than 80 m; LAN large artery atherosclerotic infarction; CE: cardiogenic embolismic infarction; SDE: stroke of other demonstrated eciology; SAD: stroke of other undemonstrated eciology; SAD: small artery occlusion with lacunar infarction; LACA: left internal carotid artery; RACA: right internal carotid artery; VB: vertebrobasilar; BACA: bilateral internal carotid artery; CB: odds ratio; CE: confident interval.

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## Lampiran 2. Biodata Penulis

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