Relationship between ABO blood group and risk of venous thrombosis in cancer patients with peripherally inserted central catheters
A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis
Fangjing Liu, MB, Qiang Zhang, MB, Li Rao, MB,∗, Jifang Song, MB∗

Abstract

Background: Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) is closely related to venous thromboembolism (VTE). It is a common complication of hospitalized patients, and its etiology is complex. How to prevent the occurrence of VTE is the focus of clinical work. In order to provide basis for individual prevention and accurate treatment of VTE, the purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between ABO blood group and the risk of VTE in cancer patients associated with PICC through meta-analysis.

Methods: Electronic databases, including Embase, Cochrane Library, Pubmed, Chinese databases SinoMed, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Chinese Scientific Journals Database (VIP), and Wanfang Data, were searched for case-control studies of ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients. The languages were limited to Chinese and English. Two reviewers were responsible for the selection of the study, the extraction of data and the evaluation of the quality of the research. All statistical analyses were carried out with Review Manager 5.3 and Stata 14.0.

Results: The results of this meta-analysis would be published in peer-reviewed journals.

Conclusion: This study provided evidence to support the relationship between ABO blood group and the risk of PICC-related VTE in cancer patients.

OSF Registration number: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/6DPFG

Abbreviations: PICC = peripherally inserted central catheter, VTE = venous thromboembolism.

Keywords: ABO blood group, venous thrombosis, cancer, peripherally inserted central catheters, protocol, systematic review, meta-analysis

1. Introduction

Peripherally inserted central venous catheter (PICC) is widely used in chemotherapy and nutritional support for tumor patients. The infusion of chemotherapeutic drugs through PICC can reduce the risk of drug extravasation and the stimulation of peripheral blood vessels, avoid the pain caused by repeated puncture, and greatly improve the quality of life of cancer patients. However, the blood of tumor patients is mostly in a state of hypercoagulability or vascular endothelial damage due to the influence of long-term chemotherapeutic drugs. The incidence of PICC-related venous thromboembolism (VTE) significantly increased, and became one of the most common factors of PICC catheter wall plug.

Many studies revealed that patients with non-O blood group have an increased risk of VTE. A number of studies proved that ABO blood group has an obvious impact on coagulation function, because ABO blood group is the main determinant of plasma von Willebrand factor (vWF) level. Overall, about 70% of the changes in vWF/VIII plasma levels is determined by heredity, of which about 30% is related to individual ABO blood type. It is worth noting that about 25% of individuals with non-O blood group has high levels of vWF. Many scholars further explore the possible clinical significance of this biological relationship. For example, whether ABO blood type may be a factor that affects the risk of bleeding or arterial / VTE thrombosis, etc.

Previous studies displayed that people with non-type 0 blood have a remarkable higher risk of VTE and coronary heart disease than those with type O blood. Gándara et al. observed that the incidence of VTE is high in people with non-O blood group,
and considered that non-O blood is a risk factor for VTE. Isabel et al.\(^{19}\) discovered that high VII level and non-O blood group are independent risk factors for VTE, and should be considered in the evaluation of thrombotic hemophilia.

The common risk factors of PICC-VTE are well known, but there are few studies on the relationship between ABO blood group and them. At present, the relationship between ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients is still controversial.\(^{19,20}\) In this paper, in order to better clarify the possible relationship between ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients, and to provide a basis for individualized prevention and accurate treatment of ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients, we collected a case-control study on the relationship between ABO blood group and the risk of PICC-related VTE in cancer patients for meta-analysis.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1. Study registration

The protocol was registered in Open Science Framework (registration number: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/6DPFG). This systematic review and meta-analysis will be reported in conformity with the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015.\(^{[21]}\)

#### 2.2. Ethic

The review does not involve the assessment of patients’ individual information or rights, so there is no need to obtain approval from an ethical institution.

#### 2.3. Inclusion criteria

Studies would be included in this meta-analysis based on following criteria:

1. Study types: All case-control studies related to ABO blood type and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients susceptibility should be included. The publication of literatures is unrestricted.
2. Participant type: Tumor patients implanted with PICC should be included in the meta-analysis. Not subject to age, sex, or national restrictions.
3. Outcome: PICC-related VTE risk comparisons.

#### 2.4. Exclusion criteria

According to the following criteria, studies should be excluded from the meta-analysis: Conference summaries, incomplete data studies, repeated published studies, and case series.

#### 2.5. Search strategy

Embase, Cochrane Library, Pubmed, Chinese databases SinoMed, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Chinese Scientific Journals Database (VIP), and Wanfang Data were searched. The details of PubMed’s search strategy are shown in Table 1, including all search terms, while similar search strategies are applied to other electronic databases.

#### 2.6. Data collection and analysis

##### 2.6.1. Selection of studies

Two researchers read the questions and abstracts alone to screen relevant literatures. By reading the full text, the research design, inclusion and exclusion criteria, comparison and judgment of the research results of the relevant literature were evaluated. According to the inclusion and exclusion criteria, choosing whether to include the file in the meta-analysis. If there is a dispute, the third researcher would re-evaluate and decide whether to include the analysis. The screening flow chart of this study is displayed in Figure 1.

##### 2.6.2. Data extraction

We extracted data from literatures that conform to the meta-analysis. The data includes the first author, year of publication, country, race of each study population, number of cases and controls, sex, average age, ABO blood type, and number of cases of thrombosis, etc.

##### 2.6.3. Study quality assessment

Two researchers independently applied Newcastle-Ottawa scale to evaluate literatures included in the analysis, and adopted third-party opinions if there was a dispute.

---

| Number | Search terms |
|--------|--------------|
| 1      | Catheterization, Central Venous[MeSH] |
| 2      | Central Venous Catheterization[Title/Abstract] |
| 3      | Venous Catheterization, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 4      | Catheterization, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 5      | Central Catheterization[Title/Abstract] |
| 6      | Catheterizations, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 7      | Catheterizations, Central Venous[Title/Abstract] |
| 8      | Central Catheterizations[Title/Abstract] |
| 9      | Central Venous Catheterizations[Title/Abstract] |
| 10     | Venous Catheterizations, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 11     | Peripherally inserted central catheter[Title/Abstract] |
| 12     | PICC[Title/Abstract] |
| 13     | Central Venous Catheters[MeSH] |
| 14     | Central Venous Catheter[Title/Abstract] |
| 15     | Catheter, Central Venous[Title/Abstract] |
| 16     | Catheters, Central Venous[Title/Abstract] |
| 17     | Venous Catheter, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 18     | Venous Catheters, Central[Title/Abstract] |
| 19     | or/1-18 |
| 20     | Venous Thromboembolism[MeSH] |
| 21     | Thromboembolism, Venous[Title/Abstract] |
| 22     | VTE[Title/Abstract] |
| 23     | or/20-22 |
| 24     | ABO Blood-Group System[MeSH] |
| 25     | ABH Blood Group[Title/Abstract] |
| 26     | ABO Factors[Title/Abstract] |
| 27     | Blood Group H Type 1 Antigen[Title/Abstract] |
| 28     | H Blood Group[Title/Abstract] |
| 29     | H Blood Group System[Title/Abstract] |
| 30     | ABH Blood Groups[Title/Abstract] |
| 31     | ABO Blood Group System[Title/Abstract] |
| 32     | ABO Blood Group System[Title/Abstract] |
| 33     | ABO Factor[Title/Abstract] |
| 34     | Blood Group, ABH[Title/Abstract] |
| 35     | Blood Group, H[Title/Abstract] |
| 36     | Blood Groups, ABH[Title/Abstract] |
| 37     | Blood Groups, H[Title/Abstract] |
| 38     | Blood-Group Systems, ABO[Title/Abstract] |
| 39     | Blood-Group Systems, ABH[Title/Abstract] |
| 40     | Factor, ABO[Title/Abstract] |
| 41     | Factors, ABO[Title/Abstract] |
| 42     | H Blood Group[Title/Abstract] |
| 43     | System, ABO Blood-Group[Title/Abstract] |
| 44     | Systems, ABO Blood-Group[Title/Abstract] |
| 45     | or/24-44 |
| 46     | 19 and 23 and 45 |
(1) The choice of the study population. Is the case selection appropriate? Is it representative? Is the choice of the control group the same population as the case group? How to determine the control group? One point per point, and a total of 4 points.

(2) Comparability among groups. Does the study design and statistical analyses take into account the comparability between the case group and the control group, and whether the confounding factors are controlled? Age, race, region, gender, and sample structure were all regarded as important confounding factors, and those who controlled 1 item scored 1 point, with a total of 2 points.

(3) The determination of exposure factors. How to determine the exposure factors? Is the same method used to determine the exposure factors in the case group and the control group? What is the nonresponse rate of the two groups? One point per point, and a total of 3 points.

Literatures with a total score of more than 6 are considered to be high quality.

2.6.4. Dealing with missing data. The research on the defects of the original data. We contacted the author by email and asked for the original data. If the original data is not available, then we would analyze the existing data.
2.7. Statistical analysis
RevMan 5.3 (provided by Cochrane Collaboration) and Stata 14.0 (STATA Corp, College Station, TX, USA) were applied for statistical analysis. Odds ratio is the statistic of effect analysis, and each effect dose provides its 95% confidence interval. The heterogeneity among the included results was analyzed by $\chi^2$ test (the test level was $\alpha = 0.1$). Meanwhile, combining with $I^2$ to quantitatively judge the size of heterogeneity. If there was no statistical heterogeneity among the results, the fixed effect model was adopted for meta-analysis. If there is statistical heterogeneity among the results of each study, the source of heterogeneity is further analyzed. After excluding the influence of obvious clinical heterogeneity, random effect model is adopted for meta-analysis. The level of meta-analysis was set as $\alpha = 0.05$, and the obvious clinical heterogeneity was treated by subgroup analysis or sensitivity analysis, or only descriptive analysis.

2.8. Subgroup analysis
According to patient race, sample size, tumor type and so on, we carried out subgroup analysis.

2.9. Sensitivity analysis
Through the study of large weight of elimination effect, the sensitivity analysis was conducted to test the stability of the results of meta-analysis.

2.10. Assessment of publication biases
If more than 10 studies are included, a funnel chart would be applied to assess the report bias.\cite{24,25} In addition, publication bias was further quantitatively evaluated by Egger and Begg test.

2.11. Grading the evidence quality
We utilized Grading of Recommendation Assessment, Development and Evaluation method to evaluate the evidence quality of the obtained results.\cite{26}

3. Discussion
PICC provides an effective venous channel for patients undergoing chemotherapy and relieves the pain caused by repeated venipuncture.\cite{27} However, many PICC complications can be observed in tumor patients, of which thrombus is an important consequence.\cite{28,29} Tumor is a high risk factor for thrombosis, and the risk of thrombosis in tumor patients is 4 to 7.5 times higher than that in the general population.\cite{30,31}

ABO blood group system is closely related to the level of vWF\cite{32,33} that is a polymer with different molecular weight secreted by endothelial cells and megakaryocytes. As a protective carrier of coagulation factor VIII, it can mediate the adhesion between platelets and subendothelial collagen, and the aggregation between platelets and platelets, thus promoting thrombosis. vWF would be cleaved under the catalysis of metalloproteinase ADAMTS13 and eventually become a nonfunctional proteolytic fragment. The mechanism of ABO antigen system that affects thrombosis may be that its antigen exists on vWF through oligosaccharide chain. Different oligosaccharide chains of different blood groups affect the steric hindrance and charge effect of vWF structure, the effect of metalloproteinae ADAMTS13, and the rate of cleavage.\cite{32,33} Furthermore, vWF initially existed in the form of a large complex, and when the endothelium was damaged, it folded tightly. The stacked vWF would become loose under the action of blood flow, exposing the acting groups and producing biological activity. The difference of oligosaccharide chain may affect the change rate of vWF structure.

Early prevention and intervention strategies are very important to reduce the incidence of PICC-related VTE for cancer patients. Determining the genetic composition of PICC-related VTE in cancer patients is a key area of VTE research. The identification of VET-related genes affects the understanding of its molecular and mechanism level, treatment and prevention. Therefore, in order to identify high-risk patients and design targeted treatment strategies to prevent serious complications in the future, we explored the ABO blood group. At present, although there are studies on the relationship between ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in cancer patients risk. There is no systematic assessment of the cumulative evidence of this connection. We will conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis to clarify the relationship between ABO blood group and PICC-related VTE in the susceptibility of cancer patients.

Author contributions
Data collection: Qiang Zhang
Funding support: Qiang Zhang
Literature retrieval: Fangjing Liu
Software operating: Fangjing Liu
Supervision: Li Rao and Jifang Song
Writing – original draft: Qiang Zhang, Fangjing Liu and Li Rao
Writing – review & editing: Li Rao and Jifang Song

References
\cite{1} Nakamuta S, Nishizawa T, Matsuhashi S, et al. Real-time ultrasound-guided placement of peripherally inserted central venous catheter without fluoroscopy. J Vasc Access 2018;19:609–14.
\cite{2} Martynak M, Kabir I, Bein R. Inpatient peripherally inserted central venous catheter complications: should peripherally inserted central catheter lines be placed in the intensive care unit setting? Am Surg 2017;83:925–7.
\cite{3} Hashimoto Y, Fukuta T, Maruyama J, et al. Experience of peripherally inserted central venous catheter in patients with hematologic diseases. Int Med (Tokyo, Japan) 2017;56:389–93.
\cite{4} Zhao N, Zhang J, Jiang T, et al. Risk factors of deep venous thrombosis associated with peripherally inserted central venous catheter in upper extremity in ICU. Zhonghua Wei Zhong Bing Ji Jiu Yi Xue 2017;29:167–71.
\cite{5} Lefebvre L, Noyon E, Georgescu D, et al. Port catheter versus peripherally inserted central catheter for postoperative chemotherapy in early breast cancer: a retrospective analysis of 448 patients. Support Care Cancer 2016;24:1397–403.
\cite{6} Mitrovic Z, Komljenovic I, Jaksic O, et al. The use of peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) in patients with hematological malignancies—a single center experience. Liječnički Vjesnik 2014;136:134–40.
\cite{7} Del Principe MI, Bussisano F, Maurillo L, et al. Infections increase the risk of central venous catheter-related thrombosis in adult acute myeloid leukemia. Thromb Res 2013;132:511–4.
\cite{8} Tabatabaie O, Kasumova GG, Kent TS, et al. Upper extremity deep venous thrombosis after port insertion: what are the risk factors? Surgery 2017;162:437–44.
\cite{9} Chopra V, Ratz D, Kuhn L, et al. Peripherally inserted central catheter-related deep vein thrombosis: contemporary patterns and predictors. J Thromb Haemost: JTH 2014;12:847–54.
\cite{10} Yi XL, Chen J, Li J, et al. Risk factors associated with PICC-related upper extremity venous thrombosis in cancer patients. J Clin Nurs 2014;23:837–43.
[11] Zhou S, Welsby I. Is ABO blood group truly a risk factor for thrombosis and adverse outcomes? World J Cardiol 2014;6:985–92.

[12] Liumbruno GM, Franchini M. Hemostasis, cancer, and ABO blood group: the most recent evidence of association. J Thromb Thrombolysis 2014;38:160–6.

[13] Dentali F, Sironi AP, Ageno W, et al. Non-O blood type is the commonest genetic risk factor for VTE: results from a meta-analysis of the literature. Semin Thromb Hemost 2012;38:535–48.

[14] Tregouet DA, Heath S, Saut N, et al. Common susceptibility alleles are unlikely to contribute as strongly as the FV and ABO loci to VTE risk: results from a GWAS approach. Blood 2009;113:5298–303.

[15] Teupser D, Baber R, Ceglarek U, et al. Genetic regulation of serum phytosterol levels and risk of coronary artery disease. Circ Cardiovasc Genet 2010;3:339–9.

[16] Chen Z, Yang SH, Xu H, et al. ABO blood group system and the coronary artery disease: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis. Sci Rep 2016;6:23250.

[17] Gándara E, Kovacs MJ, Kahn SR, et al. Non-OO blood type influences the risk of recurrent venous thromboembolism. A cohort study. Thromb Haemost 2013;110:1172–9.

[18] Isabel T, José M, Manuel SJ, et al. The ABO blood group genotype and factor VIII levels as independent risk factors for venous thromboembolism. Thromb Haemost 2005;93:468–74.

[19] Haddad RA, Alnimer Y, Abdalla A, et al. Is Peripherally inserted central catheter-related thrombosis associated with ABO blood group? A case-control pilot study. Clin Appl Thromb/Hemost 2018;24:1297–300.

[20] Koop CM, Vissapragada R, Sharp R, et al. ABO blood group related venous thrombosis risk in patients with peripherally inserted central catheters. Br J Radiol 2018;91:20170560.

[21] Shamsieer L, Moher D, Clarke M, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ (Clin Res Ed) 2015;350:g7647.

[22] Stang A. Critical evaluation of the Newcastle-Ottawa scale for the assessment of the quality of nonrandomized studies in meta-analyses. Eur J Epidemiol 2010;25:603–5.

[23] Zhang Q, Jin Y, Li X, et al. Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1) 4G/5G promoter polymorphisms and risk of venous thromboembolism - a meta-analysis and systematic review. VASA Zeitschrift Gefasskrankheiten 2020;49:141–6.

[24] Lewis SJ, Zammit S, Gunnell D, et al. Bias in meta-analysis detected by a simple, graphical test. BMJ Clin Res 1997;315:629–34.

[25] Duval S, Tweedie R. Trim and fill: a simple funnel-plot-based method of testing and adjusting for publication bias in meta-analysis. Biometrics 2000;56:455–63.

[26] Guyatt GH, Oxman AD, Vist GE, et al. GRADE: an emerging consensus on rating quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. BMJ (Clin Res Ed) 2008;336:924–6.

[27] Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ (Clin Res Ed) 2015;350:g7647.

[28] Liu et al. Medicine (2020) 99:45 www.md-journal.com