Management of Non-Infectious Aneurisms of the Sub-Kydney Abdominal Aorta at the CHU/JRA

HF Randrianandrianina1, ZL Randimbinirina1*, T Rajaobelison1, TG Rajaoharimala1, RNAL Rakotorahalahy1, AJC Rakotoarisoa2, AML Ravalisoa2

(1) Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar
(2) Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo, University of Antananarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Abstract

Introduction: The aim of this study was to describe the principle of the management for non-infectious aneurysm of the sub-kidney abdominal aorta at the university teaching hospital/JRA Ampefiloha.

Materials and methods: It was a retrospective, descriptive study conducted at cardiovascular surgery department of the university teaching hospital/JRA Ampefiloha, for a period of 14 years old (January 2005 to December 2019), including all patients who had an non-infectious aneurysm of the subrenal abdominal aorta at the CHU/JRA Ampefiloha operated on or not.

Results: Sixty-one cases were included, with an mean age of 61.71 years old (from 16 to 82 years old), a male predominance (sex ratio-1.34), high blood pressure, dyslipidemia, active smoking and physical inactivity were the predominant risk factors. The circumstances of discovery were often abdominal pain (52.45%) and a flapping abdominal mass (47.54%). Aortic doppler ultrasound and/or CT angiography allowed the diagnosis and describe the type of aneurysm. Most of them was fusiform in 49 cases (80.32%) and sacciform in 12 cases (19.67%). Aortic aneurysm of the subrenal abdominal aorta at the CHU/JRA Ampefiloha operated on or not.

Conclusion: The hospital frequency of an abdominal aortic aneurysm was 1.53% at the university teaching hospital/JRA Ampefiloha. The management was done surgically with a prosthetic graft or endovascularly with a stent. The mortality rate was 6.56%.

Keywords: Aneurysm, subrenal abdominal aorta, surgery, prosthesis.

INTRODUCTION

Aneurysm is defined as a permanent, segmental dilation, with loss of parallelism of the edges of dilation greater than 50% of the normal diameter of the aortic proximal segment. Abdominal aortic aneurysm is the most common site of a true arterial aneurysm, mainly affecting the subrenal segment of aorta. The overall prevalence of abdominal aortic aneurysms was 4.8% according to a 2013 Li meta-analysis. It is a serious condition endangering the life-threatening condition in the event of a rupture, with a pre-hospital mortality rate of 9%. In Madagascar, data on the pathologies of the aneurysm of the sub-kidney abdominal aorta are still scarce. No protocol has been established for his surgical management.

The aim of this study was to describe the principle of the management of non-infectious aneurysm of the subrenal abdominal aorta at the university teaching hospital/JRA Ampefiloha.

Methodology

It was a retrospective, descriptive study conducted in the cardiovascular surgery department of the university teaching hospital/JRA Ampefiloha, for a period of 14 years old from January 2005 to December 2019. We included in this study all patients who presented a pure subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysm confirmed to doppler ultrasound
and/or angioscanner of the non-infectious abdominal aorta. Other locations of aneurysm, such as suprarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm, isolated iliac or thoracic aneurysms, infectious aneurysm and incomplete folders have been excluded in this study. Socio-demographic data, discovery circumstances, imaging examination results (morphology, location and antero-posterior diameter) and therapeutic management were analyzed. The data collected was analyzed with The Epi-info 7.1.3.3 software.

RESULTS

Sixty-one cases were collected among the 3974 admissions during this study period, giving a hospital frequency of 1.53%. A male predominance was observed with 35 men and 26 women giving a sex ratio of 1.34. The mean age was 61.71 years old with extremities of 16 years and 82 years old [Table I].

| Table I: Socio-demographic data |
|---------------------------------|
| Socio-demographic data          | No of patients / Results | Percent (%) |
| Total number of cases           | 61                      | 100         |
| Gender                          |                         |             |
| - Male                          | 35                      | 57.38       |
| - Female                        | 26                      | 42.62       |
| - Sex ratio                     |                          | 1.34        |
| Age (years)                     |                         |             |
| - Mean                          | 61.71 years             |             |
| - Minimum                       | 16 years                |             |
| - Maximum                       | 82 years                |             |
| - [0 – 39]                      | 3                       | 4.92        |
| - [40 – 49]                     | 17                      | 27.87       |
| - [50 – 59]                     | 22                      | 36.07       |
| - [60 – 69]                     | 11                      | 18.03       |
| - [70 and plus]                 | 8                       | 13.11       |

The most common risk factors were high blood pressure (81.97%), age over 50 (70.49%), smoking (63.93%), dyslipidemia (57.38%) male gender (57.38%) [Table II].

| Table II: Cardiovascular risk factors |
|--------------------------------------|
| Cardiovascular risks factors         | No of patients (Total=61) | Percent (%) |
| - Male gender                        | 35                      | 57.38       |
| - Age>50 years                       | 43                      | 70.49       |
| - High blood pressure                | 50                      | 81.97       |
| - Diabetes mellitus                  | 8                       | 13.11       |
| - Smoking                            | 39                      | 63.93       |
| - Dyslipidemia                       | 35                      | 57.38       |
| - Sedentary                          | 28                      | 45.90       |
| - Obesity                            | 21                      | 34.42       |

The circumstances of discovery were dominated by a flapping abdominal mass (47.54%) (Figure 1) and abdominal pain (52.46%).

Figure 1: Abdominal mass (face)
Aortic doppler ultrasound (97%) and CT angiography of the aorta and limbs arteries (74%) were the most requested follow-up examinations for diagnosis. Subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysms were fusiform in 49 cases (80%) and cases (20%). Most of them were had a diameter of between 50 and 60mm (36%). The average diameter of the aneurysm was 57.8cm. These aneurysms are isolated aortic location in 23 cases (38%), aorto-bi-iliac in 35 cases (57%) and aorto-bifemoral in 3 cases (5%) [Table III].

### Table III: Diagnosis

| Diagnosis                        | No of patients (Total=61) | Percent (%) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Circumstances of discovery       |                           |             |
| - Flapping abdominal mass        | 29                        | 47,54       |
| - Abdominal pain                 | 32                        | 52,46       |
| - Intermittent Claudication      | 11                        | 18,03       |
| - Rupture sign                   | 2                         | 03,28       |
| - Compression sign               | 10                        | 16,39       |
| Imagery requested                |                           |             |
| - Chest X-ray                    | 42                        | 68,85       |
| - Abdomen X-ray                  | 8                         | 13,11       |
| - Abdominal ultrasound           | 18                        | 29,51       |
| - Aortic doppler ultrasound      | 59                        | 96,72       |
| - Aortic CT angiography          | 45                        | 73,77       |
| Morphology of aneurysm           |                           |             |
| - Fusiform aneurysm              | 49                        | 80,33       |
| - Sacciform aneurysm             | 12                        | 19,67       |
| Location of the aneurysm         |                           |             |
| - Isolated aortic aneurysm       | 23                        | 37,70       |
| - Aorto-bi-iliac aneurysm        | 35                        | 57,38       |
| - Aorto-bifemoral aneurysm       | 3                         | 4,92        |
| Diameter of aneurysm             |                           |             |
| - Less than 40mm                 | 2                         | 3,28        |
| - 40 to 50mm                     | 17                        | 27,87       |
| - 50 to 60mm                     | 22                        | 36,07       |
| - 60 to 70mm                     | 11                        | 18,03       |
| - 70 to 80mm                     | 8                         | 13,11       |
| - More than 80mm                 | 1                         | 1,64        |

Management was surgical in 39 patients (64%) and patients (18%). Eight patients had discharged (13%). The prostheses used were aorto-aortic (28%), aorto-bi-iliac (67%) [Figure 3.4], aorto-bifemoral (5%). Protheses type are dominated by dacron (82%) and PTFE (18%).

![Figure 2: Subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysm (CHU/JRA)](image1)

![Figure 3: Aorto bi-iliac prosthetic replacement (CHU/JRA)](image2)
The histological studies of the bioplastic parts were able to find 95% of atheromatous origin and 5% inflammatory.

Postoperative treatment includes generally, anticoagulants, antibiotic prophylaxis and painkillers (depending on the intensity of the pain). Two patients had died in preoperative conditions awaiting surgical treatment (3.28%). Postoperative development was generally favorable (82.05%). Two patients had died in the first thirty days in postoperative giving a post-operative mortality rate of 5% [Table III].

DISCUSSION

Abdominal aortic aneurysm is an elderly pathology. Its incidence is increasing due to the frequency of cardiovascular risk factors. Hospital prevalence was 1.53% in our series compared to other Western studies as in England with 1.7% 5 and in the United States with 2.5% 6. Moreover, an Algerian study by Ouarab showed a hospital frequency of 2.2% in Algeria 7.

The mean age of discovery of non-infectious aneurysms of the subrenal abdominal aorta varies according to the study. She was 61.71 years old in our study, 64 years old in the Senegalese study of Dieng 8 and 70.9 years old in the Gardet study 9. Male predominance in our series (Sex ratio 1.34) was observed in several study series, including Solofomalala (sex ratio-2.7), Stéphane (sex ratio-8) 10, Ting (sex ratio-5.6) 11 and Khan (sex ratio-6.5) 12. According to De Carvalho, there is a correlation between gender and the occurrence of abdominal aortic aneurysm 13. Indeed, there is a high statistically significant prevalence among the male gender (p-0.001) 13.

Atherosclerosis is the main etiology of abdominal aortic aneurysm, apart from rare etiologies. The main risk factors are age over 65 years old, male gender, smoking, family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm, history of coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, peripheral arterial disease and anterior myocardial infarction 14. The prevalence of high blood pressure, smoking and diabetes in modifiable risk factors is similar to the study of Beckler 15 and Ouarab 7 in view of the prevalence of these risk factors (Table V). Some cardiovascular risk factors are blamed for abdominal aortic aneurysm rupture including a history of heart or kidney transplantation, female gender, high average blood pressure, wide initial diameter of abdominal aortic aneurysm, and smoking 16.

The circumstances of discovery range from abdominal mass palpation to painful abdominal syndrome, or even cardiovascular collapse associated with aneurysmal rupture. For symptomatic forms, abdominal pain is the main telltale sign of abdominal aortic aneurysm, usually motivating the request for paraclinical examination. It usually corresponds to the crack of the aneurysmal wall or the aneurysmal rupture. The frequency of acute abdominal pain varies according to the study: 5.2% in our series, 45% in the Rinckenbach study 17 and 22% in Carvalho’s study 13. For asymptomatic forms, the presence of a pulsatile abdominal mass is suggestive of AAA. The abdominal mass frequency observed in our series was identical in the De Carvalho study (47%) 13. The presence of asymptomatic forms justifies routine screening of AAA in subjects over the age of 60 with several cardiovascular risk factors.

Two morphological examinations were requested in our series, ranging from a simple abdominal ultrasound to CT angiography of the abdominal aorta. In our series, abdominal ultrasound was used to diagnose eighteen patients (no.61). According to Liisberg, abdominal ultrasound offers moderate sensitivity ranging from 57.1% to 70.4% and high specificity ranging from 99.2% to 99.6% 18. In addition, the abdominal computed tomography can detect an aneurysm of the abdominal aorta. Forty-five of our patients (74%) had performed an CT angiography of the abdominal aorta in our study. According to Claridge, the detection rate of an abdominal aortic aneurysm on routine abdominal computed tomography was 5.8% 19. However, aortic doppler ultrasound (97% in our series) and aortic CT angiography (74% in our series) are the key examinations of pretherapeutic diagnosis and evaluation, measuring its diameter, morphology, the presence of intra-saculair thrombus, the association with the iliac or femoral artery and especially the measurement of the distance between the aneurysm collar from the distal edge of the renal artery 20. The use of doppler ultrasound on the diagnostic in our series was (96.7%) higher than in the De Carvalho study (3.9%) 13.

Evaluation of the diameter of the abdominal aorta is essential for the diagnosis and surgical treatment. The average diameter of the aneurysm sac measured in our series (57.8cm) is similar to the study of Belarbi (56cm) 15 and Muehling (55cm) 21, significantly higher than the Carvalho study (39cm) 13.

Literature says, the majority of aneurysms of the abdominal aorta is fusiform (80%). Our study agrees with this literature data with 80.3% fusiform aneurysm and 19.7% sacciform form. De Carvalho’s study showed 96.3% fusiform aneurysm and 3.7% sacciform aneurysm 13.

The association of aortic aneurysm to the iliac or femoral artery is not exceptional. However, the rate of association with iliac or femoral arteries varied depending on the study our study showed 37.7% aorto-iliac aneurysm, 57.4% aorto-bi-iliac aneurysm and 4.9% aorto-ilio-femoral aneurysm. The Carvalho study showed 13.2% association between aortic aneurysm to the iliac artery 13. In addition, Rinckenbach’s study showed 52% aorto-iliac aneurysm, 28% aorto-bi-iliac aneurysm and 18% aorto-bifemoral aneurysm 17.

Without treatment, the natural evolution of subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysm is done towards the gradual size increase. However, the probability of rupture depends on several factors such as the size of the aneurysm (5.5cm), the rate of expansion (1cm/year), the morphology of the aneurysm and the genus 22.

The management of subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysm is medical and surgical. In 2019, the recommendation of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) calls for quitting smoking and taking medication, including statins associated with conversion enzyme inhibitors and platelet anti-aggregate 23, controlling other modifiable cardiovascular risk factors is important to slow the expansion of aneurysm. Surgical indication arises in front of a symptomatic aneurysm and an aneurysm with a diameter greater than 5.5cm 22, 24. the goal of the treatment is to prevent aneurysmal rupture given the serious morbidity and mortality. In our study, therapeutic management was surgical in 63.93% and medical in 18.03%. Conventional surgery by flattening graft remained our preferred technique while in advanced countries endovascular surgery (EVAR) have an important role in the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysm. The high cost of surgical consumables, especially protheses, could explain the high rate (13%) of discharge in our series. In our study, prosthetic replacement was 28.2% aorto-ortotic, 66.7% aorto-bi-iliac and 5.1% aorto-bifemoral. On the other hand, Rinckenbach’s study of grafting flattening found 52% aorto-ortotic prosthesis, 28% aorto-bi-iliac and 18% aorto-bifemoral 17.
According to the etiology, atheromatous origin is the most common (95%) related to cardiovascular risk factors. Three to 10% of AAA are inflammatory. Takayasu’s disease, Behçet’s disease and, unusually, Horton’s disease are mentioned. They represent a particular clinical entity whose diagnostic arguments are based primarily on clinical context, AAA imaging and the histological study of biopsy exhibits.

Postoperative evolution was favorable to 82% in our series and 58% in the Belbari study. The early postoperative mortality rate in our series was 5.1%, this mortality rate was close to the other studies 4.9% the Fairman study, 16% in the Belbari study.

CONCLUSION
Subrenal abdominal aortic aneurysm is a serious and fatal condition for complications, hence the need for routine screening for elderly people with cardiovascular risk factors to avoid it. Medical treatment relies primarily on the control of cardiovascular risk factors, and surgery remains the only treatment for aneurysms with antero-posterior diameter greater than 50 mm. Elsewhere, the endovascular technique is booming and yielding better results.

REFERENCES
1. Johnston KW, Rutherford RB, Tilson MD, Shah DM, Hollier L, Stanley JL. Suggested standards for reporting on arterial aneurysms. Subcommittee on reporting standards for arteriovenous fistula. Society for Vascular Surgery and North American Chapter, International Society for Cardio-Vascular Surgery. J Vasc Surg 1991; 13:352-8.
2. Vilares A, da Silva MC, Negrao E, de Lima BF, Silva A. Evaluation of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: a pictorial review of common appearances and complications. European Congress of Radiology 2019. DOI:10.26644/ecr2019/C-3370
3. Li X, Zhao G, Zhang J, Duan Z, Xin S. Prevalence and trends of the abdominal aortic aneurysms epidemic in general population—a meta-analysis. PloS One 2013; 8(12):e81260.
4. Reite A, Sareide K, Ellingsen CL, Kvaløy JT, Vetrhus M. Epidemiology of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms in a well-defined Norwegian population with trends in incidence, intervention rate, and mortality. J Vasc Surg 2015; 61(5):1168-74.
5. Hallin A, Bergqvist D, Holmberg L. Literature review of surgical management of abdominal aortic aneurysm. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2001; 22:197–204.
6. Becker F, Baud JM. Dépistage des anévrismes de l’aorte abdominale et surveillance des petits anévrismes de l’aorte abdominale : argumentaire et recommandations de la Société française de médecine vasculaire. J Mal Vasc 2006; 31(5):260-76.
7. Ouarab C, Bounhong BC, Ranaivozanany A. Anévrisme de l’aorte abdominale à Madagascar. Médecine Irrégulière. 2008. http://www.besancon policopies 131B. Faculté de Médecine de Grenoble. Mai 2005.
8. Manso E, Preux PM. Prise en charge préhospitalière des anévrismes rompus de l’aorte abdominale sous rénale : analyse multicentrique. Ann Vasc Surg 2010; 24:S38-S43.
9. Liisberg M, Diederichsen AC, Lindholt JS. Abdominal ultrasound-scanning versus non-contrast computed tomography as screening method for abdominal aortic aneurysm—a validation study from the randomized DANCAVAS study. BMC medical imaging 2017; 17(1):14.
10. Tang ACW, Cheng SWK, Ho p, Chan YC, Poon JTC, Yi W, Cheung GCY. Endovascular repair for abdominal aortic aneurysms: the first hundred cases. Hong Kong Med J 2008; 14:361-6.
11. Khan M, Davies C, Bhatti K, Strike P, Ghauri AS, Ranaboldo CJ. Reduced access aortic exposure (RAAE) technique for infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) repair. International Journal of Surgery 2009; 7:159–62.
12. De Carvalho R, De Jesus SA, Gomes CAP, Martins ML, dos Santos VP, Ribeiz RP et al. Infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysm: significance of screening in patients of public hospitals in the metropolitan region of Salvador–Bahiá, Brazil. J Vasc Bras 2012; 11(4):289-300.
13. Keisler B, Carter C. Abdominal aortic aneurysm. American Family Physician. 2015; 91(8):S38-S43.
14. Becker F, Baud JM. Dépistage des anévrismes de l’aorte abdominale et surveillance des petits anévrismes de l’aorte abdominale : Argumentaire et recommandations de la société française de médecine vasculaire. Elsevier Masson 2006; 31:260-76.
15. Upchurch GR Jr, Schaub TA. Abdominal aortic aneurysm. Am Fam Physician. 2006; 73(7):1198-1204.
16. Rinkenbach S, Albertini JN, Thaveau F, Steinmetz E, Camin A et al. Prise en charge préhospitalière des anévrismes rompus de l’aorte abdominale sous rénale : analyse multicentrique. Ann Vasc Surg 2010; 24:S38-S43.
17. Claridge R, Arnold S, Morrison N, van Rij AM. Measuring abdominal aortic diameters in routine abdominal computed tomography scans and implications for abdominal aortic aneurysm screening. Journal of vascular surgery 2017; 65(6):1637-1642.
18. Reis SP, Majdalany BS, AbuRahma AF, Collins JD, Francois CJ, Ganguli S et al. ACR appropriateness criteria® p bulbile abdominal mass suspected abdominal aortic aneurysm. Journal of the American College of Radiology 2017; 14(5):S258-S265.
19. Muebling BM, Meierhenrich R, Thiere M, Bischoff G, Oberhuber A, Orend KH, & Sunder-Plassmann. The retroperitoneal approach combined with epidural anesthesia reduces morbidity in elective infrarenal aneurysm repair. Interactive cardiovascular and thoracic surgery 2009; 8(1):35-39.
20. Wang LJ, Prabhakar AM, Kwolek CJ. Current status of the treatment of infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysms. Cardiovascular diagnosis and therapy 2010; 8(Suppl 1):S191.
21. Wanhainen A, Verzini F, Verheze I, Alaire E, Bown M, Cohnert T et al. Editor’s choice—European society for vascular surgery (ESVS) 2019 clinical practice guidelines on the management of abdominal aorto-iliac artery aneurysms. European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery 2019; 57(1):8-93.
22. Chalkof EL, Dalman RL, Eskandari MK, Jackson BM, Lee WA, Mansour MA et al. The Society for Vascular Surgery practice guidelines on the care of patients with an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Journal of vascular surgery 2018; 67(1):2-77.
23. Fairman AS, Chin AL, Jackson BM, Foley PJ, Damrauer SM, Kalapatavu V et al. The evolution of open abdominal aortic aneurysm repair at a tertiary care center. Journal of Vascular Surgery 2020. DOI: 10.1016/j.jvs.2019.12.039
24. Solofomalada GD, Rakotomalala JY, Rakotarisoa AJC, Razafindramba H, Ranavoizanany A. La chirurgie de l’anévrisme de l’aorte abdominale à Madagascar. Médecine d’Afrique noire 2006; 53:11-4.
25. Huart JY, Chocron S. Anévrisme de l’aorte abdominale sous rénale. 2008. http://www.besancon-cardio.org.
26. Magne JL, Sessa C, Penillon S. Anévrisme de l’aorte abdominale. Polyécopie 131B. Faculté de Médecine de Grenoble. Mai 2005. http://medecinevasculaire. anglophone.org/enseignant/poly/131BAnévrismes.pdf
27. Tang T, Boyle JR, Dixon AK, Varty K. Inflammatory abdominal aortic aneurysms. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2005; 29:353-362.