The Influence of Cold Pressor Test for 
Pregnant Blood Pressure

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Abstract—Internationally the incidence of hypertension in primigravida is around 7-12%, increasing in multiple pregnancy, pregnancy with diabetes mellitus, molahidatidosa pregnancy and in 5-8% multigravida pregnancy. In Indonesia the estimated incidence of gestational hypertension is around 6-12% and varies greatly from region to region. Untreated hypertension that causes complications such as stroke, coronary heart disease, diabetes, kidney failure and blindness. Stroke (51%) and Coronary Heart Disease (45%) are the highest causes of death. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of cold pressor test (CPT) on the blood pressure of pregnant women. This research method is quasi eksperiment with cross sectional design. The population is all pregnant women who visit the Kembaran 1 Community Health Center. Large samples in this study were calculated using the formula obtained obtained 80. Primary data in the form of blood pressure before and after Cold Pressor Test. Univariate analysis is to analyze the pressure before and after supporting the cold pressor test Bivariate analysis in this study to test the effect of the cold pressor test on the blood of pregnant women using a simple test pair test. The result is There are differences in the blood pressure of pregnant women given before and after the cold press test

Keywords: cold pressor test, pregnancy blood pressure

INTRODUCTION

Nearly 50% of maternal deaths have declined since 1990. Maternal mortality has also declined by about two-thirds in Asia and Africa. In developed countries maternal mortality is lower than in developing countries, but only some receive quality health services.[1] Even though reducing maternal mortality is a deep target on sustainable development goals.[2]

Hypertension is a condition where systolic blood pressure is more than 120 mmHg and diastolic pressure is more than 80 mmHg.[3] Hypertension is an increase in blood pressure in the arteries continuously. Hypertension is a systolic pressure of more than 160 mmHg or more or a diastolic pressure of 95 mmHg or more.[4]

Internationally the incidence of pregnancy hypertension in primigravida is around 7-12%, increasing in multiple pregnancy, hydramnios, pregnancy with diabetes mellitus, molahidatidosa pregnancy and in multigravida 5-8%. In Indonesia the estimated incidence of gestational hypertension is around 6-12% and varies greatly from region to region. Hypertension that does not get good treatment causes complications such as stroke, coronary heart disease, diabetes, kidney failure and blindness. Stroke (51%) and Coronary Heart Disease (45%) are the highest causes of death. Target organ damage due to complications of hypertension will depend on the magnitude of the increase in blood pressure and the duration of the condition of the blood pressure that is undiagnosed and untreated. The organs of the body that are targeted include the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, and can also affect the peripheral arteries themselves.[4]

Pregnancy hypertension disorders are a cause of maternal death, accounting for 18% of all maternal
deaths in the world or 62,000 to 77,000 deaths each year [6][7][8] Hypertension in pregnancy results in the death of about one in 1700 to one in 2100 based on global data.[9] There are broad categories for the classification of hypertension in pregnancy. There are broad categories for the classification of hypertension in pregnancy are gestational hypertension (without proteinuria), preeclampsia, ie hypertension with proteinuria and chronic hypertension or essential hypertension is hypertension that was present before pregnancy or without superimposed preeclampsia.[10] Morbidity mostly occurs between pregnancies due to preeclampsia or eclampsia and every woman who dies about 20 others suffer from severe morbidity.[6] Hypertension in pregnancy is very closely related to pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and HELLP syndrome up to 10% of pregnancies [6]. [11] omen with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy have an increased risk of post-pregnancy hypertension, ischemic heart disease, and stroke.[12]

Maternal Mortality Rate In Banyumas District there are 14 per 100,000 KH, 60% of maternal deaths occur during childbirth, 26.32% occur during pregnancy and 13.68% occur at delivery. The maternal mortality rate is due to metabolic disorders (0.87%), infections (4.34%), circulatory disorders (12.36%), bleeding (30.37%), hypertension in pregnancy (32, 97 %) and others (19, 09%).[13]

Diagnosis of hypertension if at pressure of 140/90 mmHg or more on examination with a distance of 6 hours. Causes include genetic, environmental, hyperactivity of the in sympathetic nerves, angiotensin renin, defection in Na excretion, increase in Na, and intracellular Ca and factors that increase risk such as obesity, alcohol, smoking, and polycythemia. Preeclampsia is pregnancy induced hypertension accompanied by a significant increase in proteinuria. In pregnancy, protein excretion can be increased but total protein up to 300 mg per 24 hours is normal.

Detection of hypertension in pregnant women is done with a cold pressor test (CPT) and regular checks by health workers. Studies show that sympathetic nerves play an important role in hypertension due to increased sympathetic nerve activity. Sympathetic activity was tested using a cold pressor test. CPT is done by measuring the blood pressure response to cold stimuli given during the experiment. This test is used to detect hypertension early. Hyperreaction response during CPT can predict the risk of hypertension.[14] Increased blood pressure during CPT can be caused by several factors, including increased sympathetic nervous system activity, vasoconstriction, and feelings of pain during immersion in ice water. Blood pressure is influenced by two factors, namely blood flow and peripheral vascular pressure. The body's blood flow is affected by cardiac output, heart rate, and blood volume itself. Cold stimulation of the hands dipped in ice water creates a stimulus to the heart's sympathetic nerves which causes vasoconstriction of blood vessels. Vascular vasoconstriction causes an increase in blood pressure values.[15]

METHODS

This research is a quantitative study. This type of research is a quasi experimental design with one group pretest and post-test, which means that researchers can test changes that occur before and after treatment is given.[16] This research was conducted at the Kembaran 1 Public Health Center with a population of all pregnant women and the sample size calculated by the Solvin formula obtained 80 respondents as pregnant women. The inclusion criteria in this study were pregnant women I, II, III, IV with a maximum age of 40 years. The technique of taking the sample was accidental sampling. Data was analyzed by using paired sample t-test.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research is a quantitative study. This type of research is a quasi experimental design with one group pretest and post-test, which means that researchers can test changes that occur before and after treatment is given.[16] This research was conducted at the Kembaran 1 Public Health Center with a population of all pregnant women and the sample size calculated by the Solvin formula obtained 80 respondents as pregnant women. The inclusion criteria in this study were pregnant women I, II, III, IV with a maximum age of 40 years. The technique of taking the sample was accidental sampling. Data was analyzed by using paired sample t-test.

Figure 1 Research Design Design
Public Health Centre is presented in the following table:

**Table 1** Systolic blood pressure before and after the administration of cold pressor test intervention at the Kembaran 1 Community Health Center (n=80)

| Sistol Blood Pressure | Pre | Post |
|-----------------------|-----|------|
|                       | f   | %    | f   | %    |
| 90                    | 6   | 7.5  | 1   | 1.25 |
| 96                    | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 97                    | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 100                   | 31  | 38.75| -   | -    |
| 101                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 103                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 104                   | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 108                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 109                   | 1   | 1.25 | 1   | 1.25 |
| 110                   | 21  | 26.25| 9   | 11.25|
| 112                   | 2   | 2.5  | 3   | 3.75 |
| 113                   | 1   | 1.25 | 1   | 1.25 |
| 114                   | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 116                   | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 117                   | 1   | 1.25 | 1   | 1.25 |
| 120                   | 11  | 13.75| 25  | 31.25|
| 122                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 125                   | -   | -    | 9   | 11.25|
| 126                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 128                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 130                   | -   | -    | 13  | 16.25|
| 134                   | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |
| 135                   | -   | -    | 7   | 8.75 |
| 140                   | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 145                   | -   | -    | 3   | 3.75 |
| Total                 | 80  | 100  | 80  | 100  |

**Table 2** Diastolic blood pressure before and after the administration of cold pressor test intervention at the Kembaran 1 Community Health Center (n=80)

| Diastole Blood Pressure | Pre | Post |
|-------------------------|-----|------|
|                         | f   | %    | f   | %    |
| 59                      | -   | -    | 1   | 1.25 |
| 60                      | 1   | 1.25 | 1   | 1.25 |
| 65                      | 1   | 1.25 | -   | -    |

Based on table 1 it can be seen that the blood pressure of systole experienced by pregnant women before being given an intervention are all in normal conditions which is 90 - 134 (100%). Most of the systolic pressure is 100 as many as 31 pregnant women (38.75). Whereas after being given the intervention most are still in normal numbers which is 120 as many as 25 pregnant women (31.25%) although the average lifetime in the normal category but the majority of pregnant women experience hypertensive (blood pressure rises> 20mmHg).

Based on table 2 it can be seen that the diastolic blood pressure experienced by pregnant women before being given an intervention are all in normal conditions which is 60-90 (100%). The majority of
diastolic blood pressure is 70 as many as 30 pregnant women (37.5%). Whereas after being given the intervention most of them increased to 100 as many as 31 pregnant women (38.75%) and most pregnant women experienced hyperreactor (blood pressure rises> 15mmHg).

In table 3 it can be seen that the average systolic blood pressure before the cold pressor test was 106.18 mmHg and the average blood pressure after the cold pressor test was 122.23 mmHg. Whereas for the average blood pressure diastole before being given a cold pressor test was 76.68 mmHg and the average blood pressure after being given a cold pressor test was 91.73 mmHg. Based on data analysis, the significance value in this study was 0.000, which means that there were significant differences in the blood pressure of pregnant women before and after the cold pressor test was given, or in other words there was an influence on the administration of cold pressor tests on the blood pressure of pregnant women. In this study the difference between the average systole blood pressure before and after the administration of the cold pressor test was -16.05 and the difference between the differences between -18.90 to -13.19. While the difference between the average blood pressure of diastole before and after administration of the cold pressor test is -15.50 and the difference is between -17.79 to -12.30.

New information shows that the first year of postpartum is the most important thing. A study in Indonesia reported a fivefold increase in cases of hypertension in post partum mothers in the first five years after experiencing pregnancy with pre-eclampsia/ eclampsia. Other findings show that 2545% of women with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy within five years after giving birth to the risk of experiencing hypertension.[17] An increased risk of hypertension arises after pregnancy which is influenced by the presence of hypertension. The existence of pregnancy disorders and how the risk changes with increasing time since pregnancy is still unclear the cause. Understanding the risk patterns of hypertension after experiencing hypertensive disorders of pregnancy will allow doctors to plan follow-up and post-natal diagnosis as early as possible.[18]

The possibility of women diagnosed with hypertension is no different from women with or without a history of pregnancy hypertension disorders. Hypertension was diagnosed within one year of post partum and a mixture of hypertension before pregnancy that was not detected and a new attack of hypertension. From a clinical perspective, whether hypertension is detected at post partum, before pregnancy or is a continuation of pregnancy hypertension disorders is not very important. Hypertension disorders before pregnancy have a much higher level of hypertension. Therefore, every woman is very important to conduct an examination in order to detect early the presence of hypertension or the possibility of hypertension in the future.[19], [20], [21]

Cold Pressor test is done by measuring the blood pressure response to cold stimuli given during the experiment. This test is used to detect hypertension early. Hyperreaction response during CPT can predict the risk of hypertension in the future.[22] When afferent sensory nerve cold testor is carried out it triggers systemic sympathetic activation which causes marked vasoconstriction. The result is an increased pulse pressure (normal is 40mmHg), due to the release of catecholamines. This increased pressure fills the ventricles to a higher level, but the stroke volume decreases due to increased afterload. Blood pressure is influenced by two factors, namely blood flow and peripheral vascular pressure. the body's blood flow is affected by cardiac output, heart rate, and blood volume itself. Cold stimulation of the hands dipped in ice water creates a stimulus to the heart’s sympathetic nerves which causes vasoconstriction of blood vessels. Vasoconstriction of blood vessels causes increased blood pressure values. In theory, systole blood pressure and diastole increase when the hands are put into ice water, this
is in accordance with the mechanism of the human body, ie when the body is in a relatively low temperature condition the blood vessels will constrict (vasocontraction). If the cooling systolic pressure rises greater than 20mm / hg and diastolic pressure is more than 15mm/ hg from the basal pressure, it is included in the hyperreactor group that has the potential for hypertension in the future, if the increase in blood pressure is less than that number then the hyporeactor is an increase in which is still considered normal and the possibility for future hypertension is small.[23] Cold Pressor test is associated with an increase in endothelin levels in the blood. Stimuli that release these substances cause strong vasoconstriction in blood vessels.[24]

**IMPLICATION FOR PRACTICE**

The results of the study are very important for making standard operational procedures on how to predict hypertension in early pregnancy. However, to implement a cold pressor test requires commitment from the health workers in charge.

**STRENGTH AND LIMITATION**

This research has strengths and limitations. The strength of this research lies in the administration of cold pressor tests (CPT) to pregnant women and the limitation of this study is that the observations made do not reach the next pregnancy. It should be observed for hypertension in the next pregnancy. Then the number of respondents is also better plus not only on 80 pregnant women.

**CONCLUSION**

There are differences in the blood pressure of pregnant women given before and after the cold press test

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