Effect of intraoperative magnesium intravenous infusion on the hemodynamic changes associated with right lobe living donor hepatotomy under transesophageal Doppler monitoring-randomized controlled trial

ABSTRACT

Background: Liver donors are subjected to specific postresection hemodynamic changes. The aim was to monitor these changes and to evaluate the effect of magnesium sulfate infusion (MgSO₄) on these changes together with total anesthetic agents consumption.

Patients and Methods: A total of 50 donors scheduled for right hepatotomy were divided into two equal groups. Controls (C) received saline and magnesium group (Mg) received MgSO₄ 10% (30 mg/kg over 20 min) administered immediately after induction of anesthesia, followed by infusion (10 mg/kg/h) till the end of surgery. Hemodynamics, transesophageal Doppler (TED) data and anesthetic depth guided by Entropy were recorded.

Results: Postresection both groups demonstrated an increase in heart rate (HR) and cardiac output (COP) in association with lowering of systemic vascular resistance (SVR). The increase in HR with Mg was lower when compared with C, \( P = 0.00 \). Increase in COP was lower with Mg compared to (C) (6.1 ± 1.3 vs. 7.5 ± 1.6 L/min, \( P = 0.00 \)) and with less reduction in SVR compared to C (1145 ± 251 vs. 849.2 ± 215 dynes.s/cm⁵, \( P < 0.01 \)), respectively. Sevoflurane consumption was lower with Mg compared to C (157.1 ± 35.1 vs. 187.6 ± 25.6 ml, respectively, \( P = 0.001 \)). Reduced fentanyl and rocuronium consumption in Mg group are compared to C (\( P = 0.00 \)). Extubation time, postoperative patient-controlled fentanyl were lower in Mg than C (\( P = 0.001 \)).

Conclusion: TED was able to detect significant hemodynamic changes associated with major hepatotomy. Prophylactic magnesium helped to reduce these changes with lower anesthetic and analgesics consumption and an improvement in postoperative pain relief.

Key words: Hemodynamics; liver resection; magnesium

Introduction

Volunteers donating their right liver lobe for the purpose of adult live donor liver transplantation (LDLT) are subjected to specific postresection hemodynamic changes. In a recent study by El Sharkawy et al., the heart rate (HR), stroke volume (SV), and cardiac index (CI) measured by transesophageal Doppler (TED), were found to immediately

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How to cite this article: Mahmoud G, Sayed E, Eskander A, El Sheikh M, Lotfy M, Yassen K. Effect of intraoperative magnesium intravenous infusion on the hemodynamic changes associated with right lobe living donor hepatotomy under transesophageal Doppler monitoring-randomized controlled trial. Saudi J Anaesth 2016;10:132-7.
increase after right hepatotomy in association with a
significant reduction in the systemic vascular resistance
(SVR). Similar changes in (cardiac output [COP]) were also
previously described in 2002 by Niemann et al., among
patients with healthy livers subjected to major hepatic
resection for the same purpose of liver donation for liver
transplantation. These hemodynamic changes could be of
a multifactorial origin and would require close monitoring
to ensure the volunteers perioperative safety during the
process of their donation. The use of TED monitoring
can help to diagnose and manage these changes with a
minimally invasive approach. The aim was to monitor these
changes with the TED probes and to evaluate the possible
effect of prophylactic magnesium sulfate infusion (MgSO₄)
on these hemodynamics changes and on the total anesthetic
agents and analgesics consumption.

Patients and Methods

Approval was obtained from the Local Ethics and Research
Committee (IRB 0073/2013). The study was also registered
at the Pan African Clinical Trial Registry of South Africa
(PACTRA201404000809236), website (www.pactr.org). These
prospective randomized control trial (RCT) (double-blinded)
involved 50 adults live liver donors from both sex undergoing
right hepatotomy. Inclusion criteria were: Age 18-40 years,
American Society of Anesthesiologists classification 1, and
normal liver function tests, renal function tests, and serum
electrolyte. Exclusion criteria included any donor is not
fulfilling the inclusion criteria, unwilling to participate and
with a history of cardiac arrhythmia.

The 50 donors scheduled for right hepatotomy were divided
randomly by closed, opaque envelopes into two equal groups.
The Pharmacy Department supplied the infusions to the
Anesthesia Department prior to the planned surgery. Both
the anesthesia provider and the assessors were blind to the
content of the infusion. Sealed opaque envelopes were only
opened by the pharmacist to allocate the patient to his group.
Controls (C) received saline boluses and infusion as placebo.
The magnesium group (Mg) received MgSO₄ (Memphis
Company for Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries,
ElAmiya, Cairo, Egypt.) intravenous infusion starting 15 min
after induction of general anesthesia, MgSO₄ (10%), a bolus
of 30 mg/kg over an hour before induction and 10 mg/kg/h
by continuous infusion with a syringe pump over the entire
operation period until the end of skin wound closure.
Hemodynamic changes monitored with continuous pressure
transduced invasive arterial blood pressure (mean arterial
blood pressure [MAP]), central venous pressure (CVP), and
TED (CardioQ Deltex Medical, Chichester, UK). TED measured
parameters include are: SV in ml, corrected flow time (FTc)
in m sec, Cl in L/m², SVR in dyns.cm², and COP in L/min.
After preoxygenation by 80% O₂ for 3 min, general anesthesia
was induced with propofol 2 mg/kg IV, fentanyl 1 μg/kg IV,
and rocuronium 0.6 mg/kg IV followed by oral endotracheal
intubation after loss of train of four. Maintenance of general
anesthesia with a mixture of sevoflurane and 50% oxygen in
air, fentanyl, and keeping entropy (anesthesia depth monitor)
between 40 and 60, mechanical ventilation was performed
for all patients with a closed system (Datex Omeda, GE, USA)
adjusted to keep SaO₂ >95% and end-tidal CO₂ between
35 and 40 mmHg. Rocuronium was administrated according
to a nerve stimulator and increment dose of fentanyl to
provide balanced general anesthesia. Boluses of colloids
were administered, guided by an algorithm depending on the
Doppler parameters estimations of SV and FTc. This
algorithm was similar to that used by Sinclair et al. A 200-ml
aliquot of 6% hydroxyethyl starch in saline (6% HES 130/0.4
Voluven®; Fresenius-Kabi, Bad Homburg, Germany) were
given in response to the FTc values. A continuous infusion
of Ringers acetate was set at 6 ml/kg/h. Intraoperative fluid
balance: Blood products requirements and both crystalloid
and colloid consumption in ml. Patients were extubated,
either in the operating room or postoperatively, when
they fulfilled standard clinical criteria (adequate protective
reflexes, adequate oxygenation, and stable hemodynamic).
All patients were studied at the following times: 15 min after
induction of anesthesia (T1); laparotomy; immediately after
the abdominal fascia opening (T2); during hepatotomy phase
(T3); at the end of surgery (T4). Postoperative pain score and
anesthetic requirements were reported. Total inhalational
anesthetic requirement (ml) calculated by S/5e Anesthesia
Monitor by GE Health Care, Finland (formerly Datex-Ohmeda,
Helsinki, Finland) and muscle relaxant (mg) consumed.

Sample size and power of the study

In the present study, α was set to 0.05, and maximum
accepted = 20% with a minimum power of the study of 80%.
Primary outcome of this RCT was SVR (dyns.s/cm²) between
the two groups. Calculated sample size = 25. Calculation of
sample size was done using (IBM SPSS Sample power)
software and was also confirmed using Lenth Java Applets
for Power and Sample Size (Computer software).

Statistical procedure

Data were collected and entered into the computer using
Statistical Package for Social Science program for statistical
analysis. Data were entered as numerical or categorical, as
appropriate. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was carried out and
revealed no significance in the distribution of variables, so
all variables included in the study are normally distributed
and parametric statistics were carried out. Exploration
of the data: This yielded complete descriptive statistics including the minimum and maximum, range, mean, standard deviation, median, and inter-quartile range for each variable. Comparisons were carried out between the two studied groups using the independent $t$-test. Box and Whiskers graph were done. The chi-square test and Fisher exact test were used to measure the association between qualitative variables. Correction of the $P$ value for multiple testing was set $P = 0.01$ to detect significance (Bonferroni correction of multiple comparisons). Hence, in the present study, an alpha level was set to 1% with a significance level of 99%, and a beta error accepted up to 20% with a power of the study of 80%.

**RESULTS**

Patients in both groups were well matched for age, weight, height, and sex; $P > 0.05$. Mean age in magnesium group was $37.80 \pm 6.44$ years (range 19-40), and in the control group mean was $36.68 \pm 7.67$ years (range 19-40). Mean height in magnesium group was $170.76 \pm 4.65$ cm range (160-180) while in control group mean height was $171.44 \pm 3.07$ cm range (165-185), $74.88 \pm 5.90$ kg was the mean weight in magnesium group range (65-80), and in control group mean was $73.32 \pm 4.02$ kg range (65-80), male to female ratio 16/6 in magnesium group and 18/7 in control group. These differences recorded no statistically significant differences [Table 1]. Lower HR with Mg compared to C all over the time $P < 0.01$ [Figure 1]. Increase in COP of TED was significantly lower postresection with Mg compared to Controls (C) ($6.1 \pm 1.3$ vs. $7.5 \pm 1.6$ L/min, $P < 0.01$) and with lesser reduction in SVR compared to C ($1145 \pm 251$ vs. $849.2 \pm 215$ dynes.s/cm$^5$, $P < 0.01$), respectively [Table 2 and Figure 2]. No significant difference in TED; FTc and CVP were reported between both groups at any stage. FTc and CVP during resection were in Mg group $355.84$ ms and $5 \pm 0.86$ mmHg versus $367.35$ ms and $4.60 \pm 0.64$ mmHg in C, respectively, $P > 0.05$ [Tables 3 and 4]. Sevoflurane consumption was lower with Mg $157.1 \pm 35.1$ versus $187.6 \pm 25.6$ ml in C, respectively. Reduced fentanyl and rocuronium consumption were observed in Mg group $400.3 \pm 63.7$ µg and $202.0 \pm 26.9$ mg compared

![Figure 1: Box and whiskers graph of heart rate (beat/min) in the two studied groups, *significant $P < 0.01$, NS: Nonsignificant](image1.png)

![Figure 2: Box and whiskers graph of systemic vascular resistance (dynes.s/cm$^5$) in the two studied groups, *significant $P < 0.01$, NS: Nonsignificant](image2.png)

| Variables | Groups | Mean ± SD | $t$-test | $P$ |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|-----|
| Age (year) | MgSO$_4$ | 37.80±6.44 | 0.937 | 0.135 NS |
|           | Control | 36.68±7.67 |         |     |
| Weight (kg) | MgSO$_4$ | 74.88±5.90 | 0.937 | 0.353 NS |
|          | Control | 73.32±4.02 |         |     |
| Height (cm) | MgSO$_4$ | 170.76±4.65 | 0.681 | 0.499 NS |
|            | Control | 171.44±3.07 |         |     |
| Sex | MgSO$_4$ | 19/6 | 0.01 | 0.499 NS |
|       | Control | 18/7 | | |

Data are presented as mean ± SD, tested by paired $t$-test while sex difference tested by Fisher exact test, $P > 0.01$ not statistically significant as regards to age, sex, height, weight. SD: Standard deviation; MgSO$_4$: Magnesium sulfate

| Variable | Time | Mean ± SD | $P$ |
|----------|------|-----------|-----|
| COP (L/min) | C group ($n = 20$) | S group ($n = 20$) |     |
| T1 | 5.8325±1.26 | 5.8325±1.26 | 0.096 NS |
| T2 | 7.06±1.44 | 5.5576±1.52 | 0.000* |
| T3 | 7.75±1.78 | 5.94±1.18 | 0.000* |
| T4 | 7.22±1.69 | 5.47±1.14 | 0.000* |
| FTc (ms) | C group ($n = 20$) | S group ($n = 20$) |     |
| T1 | 353.64±25.49 | 343.56±24.73 | 0.02 NS |
| T2 | 366.61±40.881 | 360.92±34.132 | 0.81 NS |
| T3 | 367.35±40.8 | 355.84±40.698 | 0.46 NS |
| T4 | 361.30±33.38 | 359.28±28.13 | 0.71 NS |

Data are presented by mean ± SD using $t$-test, and $P < 0.000$ is considered statistically significant, NS. T1: 15 min after induction of anesthesia; T2: Immediately after the abdominal fascia opening; T3: During hepatotomy phase; T4: Is at the end of surgery. SD: Standard deviation; COP: Cardiac output; FTc: Corrected flow time; NS: Nonsignificant
Table 3: Operative data and anesthetic requirement

| Variables          | Groups  | Mean ± SD | t-test | P    |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------|------|
| Temperature (°C)   | MgSO₄   | 36.95±0.10| 0.228  | 0.820 NS|
| Control            |         | 36.96±0.24|        |      |
| Hematocrite (%)    | MgSO₄   | 39.98±3.27| 2.189  | 0.033 NS|
| Control            |         | 39.32±4.17|        |      |
| Operative time (h) | MgSO₄   | 7.52±0.77 | 1.679  | 0.100 NS|
| Control            |         | 7.16±0.74 |        |      |
| SaO₂ (%)           | MgSO₄   | 98.84±0.37| 2.53   | 0.015 NS|
| Control            |         | 98.48±0.50|        |      |
| Urine output (ml)  | MgSO₄   | 884±193.49| 0.59   | 0.555 NS|
| Control            |         | 910±100.24|        |      |
| Fentanyl (µg)      | MgSO₄   | 400.36    | 7.959  | 0.000* |
| Control            |         | 560       |        |      |
| Rocuronium (mg)    | MgSO₄   | 202       | 9.047  | 0.000* |
| Control            |         | 271.74    |        |      |
| Sevo (ml)          | MgSO₄   | 157.12    | 3.708  | 0.001 |
| Control            |         | 187.6     |        |      |
| Mg. before         | MgSO₄   | 2.2400    | 1.840  | 0.041 NS|
| Control            |         | 2.1480    |        |      |
| Mg. after          | MgSO₄   | 2.064     | 2.099  | 0.003* |
| Control            |         | 1.9396    |        |      |
| Extubation time (min)| MgSO₄ | 4.560±1.12| 10.815 | 10.815 |
| Control            |         | 9.520±1.93|        |      |

Data are presented as mean ± SD, tested by t-test. *P < 0.001 is considered statistically significant, NS: Nonsignificant; Sevo: Sevoflurane; Mg: Serum Mg before and after surgery; MgSO₄: Magnesium sulfate; SD: Standard deviation

Table 4: MAP (mmHg) and CVP (mmHg) in both groups

| Variable | Time | C group (n = 20) Mean ± SD | S group (n = 20) Mean ± SD | P |
|----------|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| MAP (mmHg) | T1   | 87.12±11.59 | 86.58±10.78 | 0.69 NS |
|           | T2   | 87.12±11.80 | 86.58±7.56 | 0.72 NS |
|           | T3   | 82.64±9.97  | 86.08±7.06 | 0.14 NS |
|           | T4   | 81.65±9.97  | 84.68±7.06 | 0.19 NS |
| CVP (mmHg) | T1   | 5.56±0.50   | 5.28±0.67   | 0.10 NS |
|           | T2   | 5.16±0.62   | 5.28±0.79   | 0.55 NS |
|           | T3   | 4.60±0.64   | 5.00±0.86   | 0.07 NS |
|           | T4   | 4.60±0.845  | 5.00±0.86   | 0.36 NS |

Data are presented by mean ± SD using t-test, and P < 0.01 is considered statistically significant, NS: Nonsignificant; T1: 15 min after induction of anesthesia; T2: Immediately after the abdominal fascia opening; T3: During hepatotomy phase; T4: Is at the end of surgery; MAP: Mean arterial blood pressure; CVP: Central venous pressure; SD: Standard deviation

Discussion

The safety of the donors has the highest priority when LDLT is performed.[5] Donors can be subjected to significant hemodynamic changes as reported in results of this current study, which could be attributed to the liver resection procedure itself and/or to the magnitude of the resection. Most of the donations are not routinely performed under continuous COP monitoring.[2] The minimally invasive transesophageal probe used in this current study was proposed as an alternative method to the traditional invasive pulmonary artery catheters used for COP monitoring. Hemodynamic stability can be achieved by maintaining an adequate COP and avoiding excessive bleeding. A significant increase in the HR during and after the hepatotomy phase for both groups was observed, but with least effect on the MAP. Splanchnic mediators as endotoxin, released during liver surgery, may explain these significant hemodynamic changes associated with the liver resection procedure.[2] Boermeester et al. showed that endotoxin-neutralizing proteins significantly altered hemodynamic in rats undergoing partial hepatectomy.[6] Similar hemodynamic changes were reported by El Sharkawy et al.[1] and Niemann et al.[5] Marinangeli et al. demonstrated that the HR did increase after resection and that the MAP was not significantly changed similar to our results.[7] In this current study, MgSO₄ intravenous infusion was able to reduce this increase in HR. This finding could be explained by the stabilizing effect and the anti-arrhythmogenic effect of magnesium. Manaa and Alhabib found similar results and concluded that MgSO₄ reduced the HR and MAP.[6]

The surgical technique used during the procedure of resection, in this current study also played an important role to reduce blood loss, despite a CVP ranging between 6 and 7 mmHg. The blood loss was kept to the minimal with no blood transfusion required in any case.

The CVP readings in our study, were not in correlation with the (FTc) data of the Doppler; this could be contributed to the technical difference and anatomic variation between both sites of measurements.

Stroke volume and COP derived from TED measurements tended to increase after right hepatotomy in association with a significant reduction in SVR for both groups; these changes were significantly less in magnesium treated group. Similar changes were previously described by Niemann et al.[5]

Mean graft weight were 874.5 ± 137 g in Mg versus 870 ± 130 g in C, respectively, P > 0.05. Mean extubation time was 4.56 ± 1.1 min for Mg versus 9.52 ± 1.93 min for C respectively, P < 0.01 [Table 3]. Postoperative patient-controlled fentanyl requirements and visual analog scale were lower with Mg versus C, 70 ± 14.1 µg/h versus 114 ± 9.09 µg/h; and 1.2 ± 0.8 versus 3.8 ± 0.9, respectively, P < 0.01.
and El Sharkawy et al. Marinangeli et al. also reported that the CO and CI increased after liver resection. Several experimental studies had also shown that significant changes in hepatosplanchnic and systemic hemodynamics do happen after major hepatotomy, this could be due to rapid regenerative response and activity of the remnant liver parenchyma, with increased demand for oxygen consumption in relation to the extent of regeneration and consequently an increase in hepatosplanchnic blood flow, or to the significant increase in prostacyclin after hepatotomy. In contrast Ray et al. demonstrated that COP was lowered after usage of magnesium chloride. Vicković, S concluded that MgSO₄ as an adjuvant to anesthesia reduces hemodynamic changes during anesthesia.

The finding in the current study, that the reduction in SVR postresection was less with the magnesium infusion may be related to the potential beneficial effects of the magnesium infusion on systemic inflammation and endothelial function.

This current study also demonstrated that the general anesthetic requirements (inhalational agents, muscle relaxant, and intravenous fentanyl) monitored with Entropy, were significantly lower in the magnesium group, this might be due to the fact that magnesium is known to be a calcium channel blocker and N-Methyl-D-Aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist with anti-nociceptive effects. Manaa and Alhabib found similar results in their study and conclude that MgSO₄ was a safe and cost-effective supplement with a general anesthetic regimen including propofol, fentanyl, and rocuronium as it reduces the total anesthetic requirements. Akhtar et al. showed that that magnesium could contribute in reducing the intraoperative anesthetic requirement. The extubation time was shorter in magnesium treated group than with the controls; this might be due to the less amount of muscle relaxants used with the magnesium and to the less anesthetic agents consumed. Similar results were shown by Ferasatkish et al.

In contrast Ray et al. demonstrated that the intraoperative use of MgSO₄ caused delayed recovery, which may be related to dosage protocol used in their study.

The serum magnesium levels tend to be reduced intraoperatively in both the studied groups also reported by Yassen et al. and Külpmann et al., but this reduction was less in the magnesium treated group. The use of MgSO₄ in our study, reduces the postoperative analgesic requirement with a better postoperative pain score, this might be due to the competitive antagonistic effect of MgSO₄ on the NMDA receptors and to the blockade of calcium channels. Pastore et al. demonstrated that the intravenous infusion of MgSO₄ during spinal anesthesia improves the quality of analgesia and reduces the postoperative consumption of analgesics.

**Conclusion**

Significant hemodynamic changes in the form of increased COP and reduced SVR were detected with the use of TED monitoring after right hepatotomy for live liver donation. These changes would not be diagnosed if TED monitoring were not in use, these changes could help in the management of any diagnosed hypotension episodes during the procedure of the liver resection. Prophylactic intraoperative magnesium infusion improved the hemodynamic changes associated with the process of live donor liver right hepatotomy. Magnesium infusion managed to reduce the significant increase in HR and COP postliver resection. Magnesium infusion reduced the intraoperative inhalational agent consumption and the postoperative intravenous opioids requirements. No side effects were observed with the magnesium infusion.

This study can recommend a close hemodynamic observation and monitoring for the volunteers undergoing live liver donation for the purpose of liver transplantation to increase safety measures and ensure adequate diagnosis and management of any hemodynamic changes.

The use of TED monitoring should be encouraged as it provides valuable hemodynamic information about the volunteers particularly postresection, this information about COP and SVR is provided in a minimally invasive method.

Further studies in depth are required to investigate and monitor the types of cytokines released and its rate, as well as to study the magnesium effect on these cytokines released during the process of major liver resection.

The justification of the use of central venous catheters during this type of surgery should be further studied in view of the allegations that the pressure measured through these catheters might be unreliable due to the use of surgical retractors and manipulations of the liver during the process of resection. The use of TED probes
should be looked into as an alternative and less invasive method.

The use of the FTc parameter (ms) of the TED should be investigated as an alternative for the CVP mmHg readings for guided fluid management, and protocols should be designed to use it intraoperatively. Magnesium infusion can be considered as suggested part of the intraoperative management protocol for live liver donors, but further studies on a larger scale is still required to improve the evidence-based ranking before implementing it as a routine management.

Financial support and sponsorship
Nil.

Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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