TIMP-2*IGFBP7 as an auxiliary identification of successful discontinuation CRRT and prediction of renal recovery in critically ill patients: a case control study

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Abstract

Background Cell cycle arrest biomarkers as TIMP-2*IGFBP7 are elevated in the Acute Kidney Stress and can predict the probability of developing Acute Kidney Injury (AKI). Approximately 25% of those patients with AKI deteriorate clinically and are unable to maintain adequate homeostasis, eventually requiring continuous renal replacement therapy. However, when clinical improvement occurs, the ideal mode of weaning patients from CRRT is an unmet medical need. Methods We performed a prospective single-center study of AKI patients treated with CRRT between October 2017 to April 2019 in a multidisciplinary ICU of an Italian hospital. All patients admitted to ICU requiring CRRT were enrolled. Urine samples for measuring urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels were collected immediately upon enrollment and at the moment when CRRT was discontinued. The primary endpoint was independence from RRT for at least 7 days after CRRT discontinuation. Renal recovery, which was defined as serum creatinine (SCr) level <1.5 times the baseline value at ICU discharge or day 28, was the secondary endpoint. Results 73 patients were enrolled of whom 45 patients effectively discontinued CRRT (61.6%). The patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml) 2 /1000 at enrollment were longer CRRT-dependent. The ROC-AUC values for the prediction of successful discontinuation with TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations at enrollment, at discontinuation of CRRT and with the final model were 0.828, 0.814 and 0.882, respectively. The risk for CRRT discontinuation failure was nearly 5 times higher patients with a positive biomarker at CRRT discontinuation (OR 4.879, P=0.043), and 3.5 times higher in patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml) 2 /1000 at patient enrollment (OR 3.515, P=0.016). Multivariate Cox regression analysis showed a significant association between successful discontinuation of CRRT and TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative patients at CRRT discontinuation (RR 0.436, 95% CI 0.202-0.939, P=0.034). Kaplan-Meier curves revealed that TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml) 2 /1000 at enrollment and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 turning negative were positively related to high renal recovery rate. Conclusions Urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 can serve as a biomarker for identifying successful discontinuation CRRT and predicting renal recovery in critically ill patients.

Introduction

Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a common complication in critically ill patients and patients who require renal replacement therapy (RRT) have an increased mortality even when adjusted for severity of disease [1, 2]. Several studies have investigated the optimal timing to start continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) [3, 4, 5] without definitively answering the question. Some studies proposed that biomarkers can be used to predict the development of a severe AKI and need for RRT [6, 7]. However, only a few studies investigated the use of biomarkers to predict successful discontinuation of CRRT [8-11]. Newer biomarkers, TIMP-2*IGFBP7, have been shown to be able to predict long term outcome and renal recovery [12, 13].

In daily practice, physicians terminate CRRT because the urine output increases, kidney function recovers, or the demand on the kidney is reduced due to improvement of other organ functions. Previous studies showed that different factors are associated with renal recovery, including less severe organ failure,
shorter duration of RRT, lower age, higher urine output during CRRT, and decreasing plasma NGAL on the first day of RIFLE-F [8-10, 14-20]. However, none of these factors is able to predict successful discontinuation of CRRT. Although it has been shown that biomarkers can predict AKI progression [21, 22], it is unknown whether biomarkers can predict successful discontinuation of CRRT.

The prediction of the successful discontinuation of CRRT in critically ill patient might prevent harmful under- and overtreatment and subsequently improve patients' outcome and rational use of health care resources. As none of the clinical variables can reliably forecast successful weaning from CRRT, we investigated in this study whether TIMP-2*IGFBP7 in addition to renal and non-renal parameters can predict successful CRRT weaning.

**Methods**

*Study design and participants*

This is a single-center prospective observational study. All patients (age ≥ 18 years old) admitted to ICU requiring CRRT from October 2017 to April 2019 at San Bortolo Hospital (Vicenza, Italy) were enrolled in the study. Medical and surgical ICU patients were enrolled. The initiation and cessation of CRRT were decided by nephrologist. Ethical Commitee of San Bortolo Hospital of Vicenza approved this study (protocol number 03/17). The consent to participate is pursuant to Italian laws and the written informed consent was obtained from all participants or their legal representative.

Patients with dialysis requirement before ICU admission, end stage renal disease (ESRD), and patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage 4 were excluded. The primary endpoint was the independence from RRT, IHD (intermittent hemodialysis) or restart of CRRT, for at least 7 days after CRRT discontinuation. Restart of CRRT were decided by nephrologist depending on patients' internal environment and capacity load. Renal recovery, which was defined as serum creatinine (SCr) level <1.5 times the baseline value and independence RRT at ICU discharge or day 28 (the treatment time of CRRT did not exceed or reach 28 days), was the secondary endpoint [23]. TIMP-2*IGFBP7 lasting positive was defined as TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml)²/1000 at enrollment and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >0.3(ng/ml)²/1000 at discontinuation of CRRT.

Blood and urine samples for measuring SCr and urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels were collected immediately upon enrollment and at the moment when CRRT was stopped. TIMP-2*IGFBP7 results were blinded to clinicians. Blood samples for measuring SCr concentration were also monitored 7 days after discontinuation and at ICU discharge or at day 28, whatever occurred first. All clinical data were collected from hospital records, including demographic data, medical history, preadmission creatinine (baseline SCr, defined as creatinine up to six months prior to admission), urine output, preadmission estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) (calculated with CKD-EPI formula), previous kidney disease, reason for ICU admission (post-operative, sepsis, respiratory failure, post cardiac arrest, cardiac failure), cause of AKI...
(defined as toxic, sepsis, primary renal disease, ischemic/other) and other variables. In addition, data on RRT, CRRT restart, ICU discharge, and death were recorded.

SCr was measured by enzymatic method with an automatic analyzer (Dimension Vista, Siemens healthcare, Tarrytown, NY, USA). TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels in the urine were measured by using NephroCheck® (ASTUTE140 meter, Astute Medical, San Diego, CA, USA) approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration > 0.3 (ng/ml)^2/1000 is positive [24].

Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was determined by using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equation. Baseline SCr was determined by the concentration obtained up to six months before hospital admission or at ICU admission in critically ill patients when previous values were not available.

**Sample size calculation**

Estimation of sample size is based on preliminary data obtained in a pilot study performed in 77 patients with CRRT requirements in ICU. Estimations performed by using sample size calculators for designing clinical research (www.sample-size.net), assuming an error alpha of 0.05 and a power of 90%, rendered a sample size of 67 patients.

**Statistical analysis**

SPSS 20.0 statistical software IBM (NY, USA) was used. Variables were tested for normal distribution using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Normally distributed variables are expressed as mean (standard deviation), non-normally distributed variables as interquartile ranges [P25, P75], and categorical data as number and percentage. Unpaired Student's t-test, Mann-Whitney-U test or Chi-square test was used, where appropriate. Statistical significance was defined as \( p < 0.05 \).

Mann-Whitney test was used for two-group comparison. Categorical variables were compared between groups using Fisher exact test or the chi-square test. The sensitivity and specificity of TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations at enrollment and discontinuation of CRRT for successfully discontinue CRRT were evaluated using the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and area under the curve. Logistic regression analysis was used to analyze related risk factors that influenced discontinuation CRRT. Cox multifactor regression analysis was used to analyze the relationship between all risk factors and successful discontinuation CRRT. Multicollinearity was checked with a maximum variance inflation factor (VIF) of 10. The Kaplan-Meier curves were plotted to assess the renal recovery. Finally, all P-values were two-sided and a P-value<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results**
General data and outcomes

From October 2017 to April 2019, a total of 136 patients were screened and 73 patients were enrolled in the study (Figure 1). Baseline characteristics of the included patients are listed in Table 1. Admission diagnoses of the patients are summarized in Table 1. There are no differences regarding TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels at enrollment and at CRRT discontinuation between the patients of different pathogeny. 45 patients were successfully weaned from CRRT (61.6%), and 34 patients had renal recovery (46.6%) (Figure 1). 20.5% of cohort died during their ICU stay.

Identification of successful CRRT discontinuation

There were no differences regarding different clinical and laboratory variables, including mean arterial blood pressure, PCT, and lactate, between the successful and unsuccessful CRRT discontinuation groups (Table 2). However, the TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels at enrollment and at CRRT discontinuation were significantly lower in patients in which CRRT discontinuation was successful, and urine output was significantly increased in this patient group compared to patients in which CRRT discontinuation failed (Table 2). The CRRT treatment duration was significantly longer in patients who had a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration > 2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment (9.93±1.59 days versus 5.43±0.66 days, P=0.013).

The successful CRRT discontinuation more likely in patients with a negative TIMP-2*IGFBP7 at enrollment (82.4%) compared to TIMP-2*IGFBP7-positive patients (52.9%; P=0.057) (Table 3). The successful discontinuation (p=0.001) and renal recovery rate (p=0.009) was significantly higher in TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative patients at CRRT discontinuation compared to TIMP-2*IGFBP7-positive patients at this time point (Table 3). Patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 level <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment had a significantly higher successful CRRT discontinuation rate compared to patients with TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels >2(ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment (72.5% versus 42.9%; p=0.027) (Table 3). The CRRT treatment time was significant longer in patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment than patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 level <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment (9.93±1.59 days VS. 5.43±0.66 days, P=0.013).

In univariate regression analysis, we found a significant association between successful discontinuation of CRRT and TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative at CRRT stop, and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment.

When biomarker levels were measured at CRRT discontinuation, the risk of unsuccessful CRRT discontinuation was nearly 5 times higher in TIMP-2*IGFBP7-positive patients compared to TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative patients (OR 4.879, 95% CI 1.055-22.565, P=0.043), whereas the unsuccessful CRRT discontinuation was 3.5 times higher in patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 compared to patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 patients (OR 3.515, 95% CI 1.267-9.755, P=0.016) when measured at enrollment.
When we substituted TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative at CRRT stop and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment into the multivariate Cox regression formula, we found a significant association between successful discontinuation of CRRT and TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative at CRRT stop (RR 0.436, 95% CI 0.202-0.939, P=0.034).

There was no multiple collinearity in our model by calculating the variance inflation factor (VIF) cut-off below 10.

Among the 29 patients, who had an urine output less than 400ml at the moment when CRRT was stopped, successful CRRT discontinuation rate increased form 0% in biomarker-positive at CRRT discontinuation to 88.9% in biomarker-negative patients (P=0.000).

The AUC of the ROC curves for the TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations at enrollment and discontinuation of CRRT for successful discontinuation of CRRT were 0.828 (95% CI 0.670-0.986; p=0.003) and 0.814 (95% CI 0.658-0.969; p=0.005) (Figure 2), with an optimal cut-off of 1.73 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 and 0.90 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000, sensitivity 0.89 and 0.56, specificity 0.68 and 0.97, positive predictive value of 80.0% and 89.2%, and negative predictive value of 60.6% and 85.7%, respectively. The AUC of the ROC curve of the final model, including TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations at enrollment and discontinuation of CRRT, was 0.882 (95% CI 0.720-0.998, p=0.001).

Identification of renal recovery

Patients in the renal recovery group had significantly lower TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels at enrollment and at CRRT discontinuation as well as a significantly increased urine output compared to the patients in the non-recovery groups (Table 4). There were no differences regarding the other parameters between the recovery and non-recovery group (Table 4).

A non-statistically significant trend towards greater renal recovery in TIMP-2*IGFBP7 negative patients at enrolment. Renal recovery rate significantly increased from 21.4% in patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment to 62.5% in patients with a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2(ng/ml)$^2$/1000 (P=0.003), and from 44.4% in biomarker-positive patients at CRRT discontinuation to 69.2% in biomarker-negative patients (P=0.009) (Table 3).

TIMP-2*IGFBP7 values were significantly higher in non-renal recovery patients compared to patients with renal recovery at enrollment and at the discontinuation of CRRT (Table 4).

The risk of non-renal recovery was 6 times higher when TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations were >2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment compared to TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 patients (OR 6.111, 95% CI 2.021-18.481, P=0.001). By calculating the VIF cut-off below 10, there was no multiple collinearity between TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration at enrollment and at discontinuation of CRRT.
Kaplan-Meier curves revealed that TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml)^2/1000 at enrollment and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 turning negative were positively related to high renal recovery rate (Figure 3).

Discussion

The TIMP-2*IGFBP7 has been validated in previous cohorts as a potential biomarker in the detection of AKI risk [24-27]. To our knowledge, this is the first study that describes the role of TIMP-2*IGFBP7 in identifying effective discontinuation of CRRT and renal recovery in critically ill patients.

Over the last decades, there has been considerable progress in the development of biomarker utilization for AKI, including risk assessment, diagnosis, prognosis and management. Urinary TIMP-2 and IGFBP7 are novel biomarkers of cell cycle arrest, which may detect the stress of renal epithelial cells and shutdown function without permanent injury. Urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 values can be used as diagnostic test to predict AKI in various clinical settings [28-30] and to predict long-term adverse outcome in AKI patients [12, 31]. In these study [12, 31], all-cause mortality and the need of RRT were evaluated. High TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels were significantly associated with death or RRT in AKI patients.

Depending on the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes guidelines (KDIGO) on AKI recommended [32] and the 17th Acute Quality Initiative international consensus conference recommended [33], it is clear that the timing of discontinuation depends on the clinical judgment and should be adapted according to the needs and requirements of each patient. Nonetheless, the concept of discontinuation CRRT is more complex, since there are no unified criteria. Our study shows that urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations might be used to predict successful discontinuation of CRRT in critically ill patients. In contrast, patients with TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations >2(ng/ml)^2/1000 at enrollment had a higher risk of unsuccessful discontinuation of CRRT. In line with these results, the authors of the Opal study [27] demonstrated in a post-hoc analysis that patients with a high TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration at discontinuation of CRRT had a significantly increased risk of unsuccessful discontinuation. In addition, Meersch M et al. [34] found that a decline of TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration was an accurate marker of renal recovery following cardiac surgery, with a ROC-AUC 0.79 (95% CI 0.65 0.92). Dewitte A and colleagues [35] investigated whether TIMP-2*IGFBP7 predicted short-term renal recovery or non-recovery within 48h in 57 patients with early AKI. The decrease of concentration of urinary maker after 24h predicted recovery.

Most clinical variables cannot predict renal recovery and successful weaning from RRT. In a recently published study, urine output, serum and urine creatinine levels were identified as variables that might determine the optimal timing of therapy discontinuation [36]. Urine output is the clinical variable that has the best performance for predicting the successful discontinuation of CRRT [37, 38]. However, urine output can be affected by different factors, including ultrafiltration and diuretics. Therefore, new variables need to be found which can predict renal recovery and successful discontinuation of RRT.

In this study, we found that TIMP-2*IGFBP7-positive was not the time to discontinue CRRT. Patients with TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml)^2/1000 at enrollment were longer treated with CRRT (9.93±1.59
days VS. 5.43±0.66 days), suggesting that TIMP-2*IGFBP7 might be able to predict renal recovery and successful weaning from CRRT.

Here, we have found that renal recovery after AKI prior to ICU discharge or 28 days significantly increased in patients who had a TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration <2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at the enrollment and were TIMP-2*IGFBP7-negative at the time CRRT was discontinued. Both TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 lasting positive are risk of non-renal recovery. The risk of non-renal recovery was 6 times higher in patients with TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2 (ng/ml)$^2$/1000 at enrollment. The decrease of the urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 levels during the course of the disease could potentially predict renal recovery after AKI.

This study has also some limitations. Firstly, TIMP-2*IGFBP7 is a biomarker to predict the risk of AKI within 12 to 24 hours. While we measured urinary TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentrations immediately upon enrollment, some patients started CRRT after 24 hours or more, and we did not monitor the changes of marker. Secondly, during the CRRT treatment we did not observe the changes. A persistent rise or fall to be negative may be more sensitive. Building on these reasons, we have implemented sequential measurement of TIMP-2*IGFBP7 and established a nephrology rapid response team to care and manage the process of AKI [39].

**Conclusions**

Despite of the limitations, the study provided important knowledge. TIMP-2*IGFBP7 was a potential auxiliary tool to identify effective CRRT discontinuation and predict renal recovery after AKI. This finding further confirmed a biologic link between the marker and clinical disease process. Measurement of these biomarkers may improve the ability of management and caring for critically ill patients under CRRT treatment. Measurement of the levels of tubular damage biomarkers complements the information of predicting renal recovery and disease prognosis. The use of this test may guide clinical decision-making and counseling on treatment plans.

**List Of Abbreviations**

AKI, acute kidney injury; RRT, renal replacement therapy; CRRT, continues renal replacement therapy; CKD, chronic kidney disease; ESRD, end stage renal disease; Scr, serum creatinine; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; ROC-AUC, receiver operating characteristic area under the curve; VIF, variance inflation factor; BMI: body mass index; MAP: mean arterial pressure; Hb: hemoglobin; PCT: procalcitonin; NC: NephroCheck;

**Declarations**

Ethics approval and consent to participate
The protocol was approved by the medical ethics committee of the San Bortolo Hospital and the local ethical committees. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants or their legal representative.

**Consent for publication**

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Availability of data and materials**

All relevant data are within the paper and its supporting information files. All data are fully available without restriction.

**Competing interests**

None.

**Funding**

None.

**Authors’ contributions**

R.C. and G.G. designed the study; B.A., S.S., N.M., X.Y. and F.W. acquired the data; X.Y. and R.C. interpreted the data; X.Y. and M.F. did statistical analysis; X.Y. and Z.A. drafted the manuscript; R.C., B.A., R.S. and G.D. supervised and mentored the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Table 1 Baseline characteristics and Diagnoses for ICU admission

| Parameter                        | Patients | Successful discontinuation | Unsuccessful discontinuation | P     |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Number, %                        | 73       | 45, 61.6%                  | 28, 38.4%                    | 0.442 |
| Age (years)                      | 62.07±17.66 | 63.33±17.43              | 60.04±18.16                  | 0.442 |
| Sex (male, %)                    | 42, 57.5% | 25, 55.6%                  | 17, 60.7%                    | 0.808 |
| BMI (kg/m²)                      | 27.34±8.29 | 28.90±8.76               | 25.15±7.23                   | 0.124 |
| Hypertension                     | 31, 42.5% | 17, 17.8%                  | 14, 50.0%                    | 0.338 |
| Diabetes                         | 31, 42.5% | 19, 42.2%                  | 12, 42.9%                    | 1.000 |
| MAP (mmHg)                       | 80.07±23.45 | 80.93±25.20              | 78.84±21.33                  | 0.770 |
| CKD                              | 29, 39.7% | 17, 37.8%                  | 12, 42.8%                    | 0.612 |
| SCr (mg/dl)                      | 0.95 (0.73 1.43) | 0.9 (0.73 1.31) | 0.99 (0.77 1.87) | 0.355 |
| Sepsis                           | 29       | 18, 40%                    | 11, 39.3%                    | 0.110 |
| Trauma                           | 6        | 6, 13.3%                   | 0                            |       |
| Surgery                          | 4        | 2, 4.4%                    | 2, 7.1%                      |       |
| Neurological                      | 4        | 1, 2.2%                    | 3, 10.7%                     |       |
| Cardiovascular                    | 11       | 7, 15.6%                   | 4, 14.3%                     |       |
| Respiratory                      | 4        | 4, 8.9%                    | 0                            |       |
| Others                           | 15       | 7, 15.6%                   | 8, 28.6%                     |       |

BMI: body mass index; CKD: chronic kidney disease; MAP: mean arterial pressure; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; SCr: serum creatinine, mg/dL to μmol/L, ×88.4.

Table 2 Comparison between successful CRRT discontinuation patients and unsuccessful CRRT discontinuation patients

| Parameter                        | Successful discontinuation | Unsuccessful discontinuation | P     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| MAP start CRRT (mmHg)            | 78.19±15.14                 | 71.32±14.42                  | 0.130 |
| Scr start CRRT (mg/dl)           | 2.38 (1.46, 4.09)           | 2.20 (1.33, 3.80)            | 0.821 |
| Urine output start CRRT (ml)     | 525.00 (41.25, 1277.50)     | 140.00 (27.50, 1147.50)      | 0.590 |
| Hb start CRRT (g/dl)             | 109.00 (91.50, 118.00)      | 101.00 (87.00, 117.00)       | 0.300 |
| Bilirubin start CRRT (mg/dl)     | 0.80 (0.60, 1.90)           | 0.90 (0.60, 3.10)            | 0.428 |
| PCT start CRRT (g/l)             | 2.86 (0.62, 54.45)          | 4.76 (0.75, 42.63)           | 0.898 |
| Lactate start CRRT (mmol/l)      | 2.70 (1.70, 5.50)           | 3.65 (1.40, 12.05)           | 0.713 |
| NC enrollment                    | 1.68±2.15                   | 4.02±3.24                    | 0.002 |
| NC discontinue CRRT              | 0.16 (0.06, 0.47)           | 1.41 (0.27, 4.74)            | 0.001 |
| Urine output discontinue CRRT (ml)| 1500.00 (450.00, 3210.00)  | 300.00 (92.50, 600.00)       | <0.0001 |
| Hb discontinue CRRT (g/dl)       | 96.00 (90.50, 104.50)       | 92.50 (81.00, 108.75)        | 0.321 |
| Bilirubin discontinue CRRT (mg/dl)| 1.70 (0.55, 2.88)          | 2.00 (0.70, 3.25)            | 0.396 |
| PCT discontinue CRRT (g/l)       | 2.69 (0.88, 18.68)          | 4.28 (1.32, 8.08)            | 0.678 |
| Lactate discontinue CRRT (mmol/l)| 1.30 (1.10, 1.70)          | 1.90 (0.83, 6.83)            | 0.187 |
| CRRT treatment time (days)       | 5.00 (3.00, 11.00)          | 4.00 (2.25, 13.00)           | 0.973 |

MAP: mean arterial pressure; Scr: serum creatinine, mg/dL to μmol/L, ×88.4; Hb: hemoglobin; PCT: procalcitonin; NC: NephroCheck; CRRT: continuous renal replacement.

Table 3 TIMP-2*IGFBP7 predicted successful CRRT discontinuation and renal recovery
Table 4 Comparison between renal recovery patients and non-renal recovery patients

| Parameter                               | Renal recovery | Non-renal recovery | P  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----|
| Number, %                               | 34, 46.6%      | 39, 53.4%         |    |
| Age (years)                             | 60.88±19.82    | 63.10±15.74       | 0.596 |
| Sex (male, %)                           | 15, 44.1%      | 16, 41%           | 0.816 |
| BMI (kg/m²)                             | 28.50±9.63     | 26.18±6.70        | 0.338 |
| Hypertension                            | 22, 64.7%      | 20, 51.3%         | 0.343 |
| Diabetes                                | 21, 61.8%      | 21, 53.8%         | 0.636 |
| CKD                                     | 19, 55.9%      | 20, 51.3%         | 1.000 |
| MAP (mmHg)                              | 81.09±25.04    | 79.13±22.41       | 0.780 |
| eGFR (ml/min/1.73m²)                    | 75.71±31.13    | 71.30±36.10       | 0.604 |
| SCR (mg/dl)                             | 0.92 (0.73, 1.31) | 0.98 (0.67, 1.64) | 0.802 |
| MAP start CRRT (mmHg)                   | 75.00±14.56    | 75.67±15.84       | 0.883 |
| Scr start CRRT (mg/dl)                  | 1.90 (1.23, 3.92) | 2.51 (1.57, 3.96) | 0.238 |
| Urine output start CRRT (ml)            | 625.00 (95.00, 1700.00) | 270.00 (20.00, 845.00) | 0.228 |
| Hb start CRRT (g/dl)                    | 107.00 (91.00, 120.25) | 101.50 (91.50, 117.25) | 0.426 |
| Bilirubin start CRRT (mg/dl)            | 1.00 (0.60, 2.05) | 0.80 (0.60, 2.35) | 0.724 |
| PCT start CRRT (g/l)                    | 4.50 (0.89, 103.80) | 3.29 (0.57, 46.34) | 0.514 |
| Lactate start CRRT (mmol/l)             | 2.35 (1.45, 4.18) | 4.40 (1.50, 13.20) | 0.082 |
| NC enrollment                           | 1.51±0.37      | 3.54±0.51         | 0.002 |
| NC discontinue CRRT                     | 0.15 (0.06, 0.47) | 0.36 (0.18, 1.73) | 0.019 |
| Urine output discontinue CRRT (ml)      | 1816.76±264.33 | 940.00±180.80     | 0.008 |
| Hb discontinue CRRT (g/dl)              | 98.50 (90.50, 111.25) | 95.00 (88.00, 103.00) | 0.135 |
| Bilirubin discontinue CRRT (mg/dl)      | 0.90 (0.50, 2.40) | 2.20 (0.75, 3.23) | 0.141 |
| PCT discontinue CRRT (g/l)              | 6.18 (1.11, 40.53) | 1.58 (0.65, 7.26) | 0.064 |
| Lactate discontinue CRRT (mmol/l)       | 1.35 (1.03, 1.60) | 1.40 (1.00, 4.00) | 0.265 |
| CRRT treatment time (days)              | 5.00 (2.75, 8.25) | 4.00 (3.00, 13.00) | 0.367 |

BMI: body mass index; CKD: chronic kidney disease; MAP: mean arterial pressure; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; SCR: serum creatinine, mg/dL to μmol/L, ×88.4; Hb: hemoglobin; PCT: procalcitonin; NC: NephroCheck; CRRT: continuous renal replacement.

Figures
Figure 1

Flow chart
Figure 2

ROC-AUC values for the prediction of successful CRRT discontinuation

|                | ROC-AUC (95% CI) | Sensitivity, Specificity | P    |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|------|
| NC enrollment  | 0.628 (0.670 0.986) | 38.9%, 67.7%           | 0.003|
| NC discontinue CRRT | 0.814 (0.658 0.969) | 55.6%, 98.8%           | 0.005|
| Final model    | 0.882 (0.720-0.988) | 88.9%, 83.9%           | 0.001|

Figure 3

K-M curves for the survival estimate of renal recovery NC lasting positive: TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >2(ng/ml)²/1000 at enrollment and TIMP-2*IGFBP7 concentration >0.3(ng/ml)²/1000 at discontinuation of CRRT