Original Research Article

East surgical ward enteric perforation score: a new statistically valid scoring criteria for decision between repair or ileostomy in patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation

Ahmed Siddique Ammar*, Syed Asghar Naqi, Zahra Sattar, Farwa Inayat, Affifa Liaquat, Azwa Munim Janjua

Department of Surgery, East Surgical Ward Mayo Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan

Received: 30 July 2021
Accepted: 04 August 2021

*Correspondence:
Ahmed Siddique Ammar,
E-mail: Asammar1912@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Enteric fever leading to enteric perforation is very common surgical emergency in the developing nations. The two surgical solutions used worldwide are to repair or exteriorize the perforation as ileostomy. The aim of the study was to setup and validate a statistically reliable scoring system for decision between repair and ileostomy in patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation.

Methods: It was an observational cross-sectional study done at East Surgical Ward of Mayo Hospital, Lahore. 256 patients were selected by consecutive non-probability sampling after ethical approval. The duration of study was 2 years from 1st August to 2018 to 30th July 2020. Patients with age more than 13 years presented in emergency department with diagnosis of peritonitis due to enteric perforation were included. A preformed scoring criterion named as East surgical ward enteric perforation (ESWEP) score was set by giving each variable a score of 1 to 3. Cut-off value between repair and ileostomy was observed.

Results: 142 (55.4%) patients were male and 114 (44.5%) were female. Male to female ratio was 1: 1.24. The average age of patients is about 37 years with SD of ±9.67 years. ROC curve showed cut-off of pre-operative ESWEP score of 4 (sensitivity 78%, specificity of 88%), per operative score of 7 (sensitivity 96%, specificity of 85%) and total ESWEP score of 11 (sensitivity 94%, specificity of 88%).

Conclusions: ESWEP score is new score which helps in standardization of operative procedure done for the patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation.

Keywords: Enteric, Ileostomy, Peritonitis, Repair, Score

INTRODUCTION

Enteric fever also known as typhoid fever is caused by a gram-negative bacillus salmonella typhi and is transmitted to human by feco-oral route. It has infected approximately 21.6 million people across the globe and expected mortality is about 200,000 people per year out of which 80% people belong to South Asian countries including Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Limited access to clean drinking water, poor social and economic status and huge population are factors which makes enteric fever endemic in this area.

Uncomplicated enteric fever is treated by antibiotics while if left untreated results in devastating complications like intestinal perforation and gastrointestinal bleeding. These complications usually occur during second to third week of disease and has the mortality of 10-20%. Several surgical solutions have been applied in the treatment of enteric perforation which include primary repair of the perforation, simple repair of the perforation with proximal
dive
derson, resection of disease segment and end to end anastomosis of healthy gut, bypass the perforation as ileotransverse anastomosis and exteriorizing the perforation as loop ileostomy or resection of disease gut and exteriorizing as double barrel ileostomy.5,6

The decision between repair of enteric perforation and making stoma is always a question of confusion among surgeons.7 On one hand many surgeons follow the general parameters which favor stoma formation for example huge peritoneal spillage, tachycardia, hypovolemia, oliguria and decreased oxygen saturation, while on other hand surgeons use the personal experience and level of expertise while taking this decision.8 On one hand ileostomy affects the patient’s quality of life and needs another operation of reversal of ileostomy sometime later while leakage of repair is also a disaster for patient and ultimately ileostomy is the answer.8 In order to eliminate the confusion between repair and ileostomy in patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation and to make a standard criterion across the globe, we devised and assessed the statistically validation of a new score named as ESWEP score.

METHODS

It was an observational cross-sectional study, done at East Surgical Ward of Mayo hospital Lahore which is the teaching hospital of King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ethical approval was taken from Institutional Review Board of King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan. The duration of study was 2 years, from 1st August 2018 to 30th July 2020. 256 patients were selected in this study by consecutive non-probability sampling.

All patients of both genders with age more than 13 years, presented in the emergency department with the clinical diagnosis of enteric perforation were selected in this study. All other patients with peritonitis due to any other cause were excluded from the study. The pre-operative diagnosis of enteric perforation was made by taking detailed history in the background of negative history about cough and family history or close contact with tuberculosis carriers to eliminate the pre-operative diagnosis of tuberculous perforation. Diagnosis of perforation was made by observing free air under the right hemidiaphragm in the erect chest X-ray posteroanterior view. Consent of laparotomy was taken from all patients along with consent of ileostomy formation. Other routine blood tests like complete blood count, liver function tests, renal function tests, blood grouping and cross matching and screening for hepatitis B and C was done pre-operatively. The ESWEP score consisted of 2 parts (Figure 1).

| PARAMETERS | VALUE | SCORE |
|------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Age of the patient | More than 60 years | Score 1 |
| 2. Pre-operative vitals | Pulse < 100 beats/minute | Score 1 |
| | MAP < 90 mmHg | Score 1 |
| | RR < 20 minute | Score 1 |
| | Respiratory alkalosis/deacidosis | Score 1 |
| 3. Laboratory investigations | Hb < 8 g/dl | Score 1 |
| | TLC > 12 x 10^9/L | Score 1 |
| | Serum Albumin < 3 g/dl | Score 1 |
| | Serum Creatinine > 1 mg/dL | Score 1 |
| 4. Urine output | Less than 0.5 mL/kg/hour | Score 1 |
| 5. Immuno compromised status | Diabetic | Score 1 |
| | HIV/Hepatitis B/Hepatitis C | Score 1 |
| | Cardiac disease | Score 1 |
| 6. Duration of Symptoms | More than 48 hours | Score 1 |

| PARAMETERS | VALUE | SCORE |
|------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Perforation size | More than 1 cm | Score 1 |
| 2. No of perforations | More than 1 | Score 1 |
| 3. Peritoneal spillage | Less than 500 ml | Score 1 |
| | 500 to 1000 ml | Score 1 |
| | More than 1000 ml | Score 1 |
| 4. Anaesthesia duration | Less than 1 hour | Score 1 |
| | More than 1 hour | Score 1 |
| 5. Pre operative vitals | Pulse < 100 beats/minute | Score 1 |
| | MAP < 90 mmHg | Score 1 |
| 6. Per operative urine output | Less than 0.5 mL/kg/hour | Score 1 |
| 7. Condition of small gut involved | Inflamed/dis eased | Score 1 |
| 8. Length of segment involved | More than half feet | Score 1 |

Total Pre-operative score = 14  
Total Per operative score = 12  
Total ESWEP Score = 26
1st part consisted of pre-operative score which was assessed before operation. It consisted of 14 variables each consisting of 1 score. 2nd part consisted of per operative score which was consisted of operative findings. Per-operative score consisted of 8 variables with score of 12. Total score was sum of pre-operative and per operative scores. After getting the filled scoring proforma of all the 256 patients, the trend of pre and per operative scoring systems was assessed and a cut-off score was determined between repair and ileostomy.

Demographic profile like name age and sex were recorded. All the included patients were explained about the nature of research and written informed consent was obtained. All the information obtained will be collected through a designed performa. Data will be analysed using SPSS version 26.0. Qualitative statistics were determined as frequency and percentages. Quantitative correlations among variables were determined by application of Chi square test. Cut-off value was assessed by receiver operative characteristics (ROC) curves with highest sensitivity and specificity values. P value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

The age groups of patients included in this study is described in Table 1. The male to female ratio of patients is almost same that is 1: 1.24 which shows that male and females suffered almost equally by enteric perforation. The most common age group affected from peritonitis due to enteric perforation is between 20 to 30 years of age. The average age of patients is about 37 years with SD of ±9 years.

| Variables | N  | %   |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Age (years) |    |     |
| 13-20     | 32 | 12.5|
| 20-30     | 95 | 37.1|
| 30-40     | 62 | 24.2|
| 40-50     | 31 | 12.1|
| 50-60     | 25 | 9.76|
| 60-70     | 11 | 4.29|
| Total     | 256|     |
| Gender    |    |     |
| Male      | 142| 55.4|
| Female    | 114| 44.5|

Figure 2 shows the mean pre-operative, per operative and total ESWEP score. The mean pre-operative score was 3.48 with standard deviation of ±1.67. The mean per operative score was 5.87 with standard deviation of ±2.39 and mean total ESWEP score was 9.3 with standard deviation of ±3.67.

Figure 3 shows ROC curves for pre-operative, per operative and total ESWEP scores.
Figure 3: ROC curves of pre-operative, per-operative and total ESWEP scores.

DISCUSSION

In last two decades several scoring systems are invented to assess the severity of peritonitis and sepsis. These are general scores which can be applied on every patient of peritonitis due to any cause. APACHE (Acute physiological and chronic health evaluation) scoring system is found useful in patients with perforated peritonitis due to any cause but its simplified form called SAPS 1 (Simplified acute physiology score) is not found useful in literature.\(^\text{10}\)

APACHE II is found helpful in surgical patients with intraabdominal infections while APACHE III has no proven role in this regard. MOF score (Multiple organ failure) is used to assess the degree of organ dysfunction and sepsis score is used to assess the degree of sepsis. MPI (Mannheim prognostic index) is also used in literature to assess the prognosis of disease.\(^\text{11,12}\) The data of enteric fever disease burden and severity in South Asia is not promising. Majority of the data present is from small scale studies which often focus on disease incidence in urban areas.\(^\text{13}\) In one study done in Karachi, Pakistan in 2016, passive surveillance at two hospitals used to estimate the annual serological incidence rate of typhoid to be 710 to 100,000 whereas annual incidence of blood culture confirmed cases were 170 per 100,000.\(^\text{14}\) This scarcity of data leads to poor understanding of impact of disease in Pakistan and thus hampering the effective control methods and prevention. The decision between repair and ileostomy is based on different parameters used across the globe. Surgeon’s expertise is one of the important factors.\(^\text{15}\) Some surgeons prefer to do repair in all ileal perforations irrespective of the outcome while many safe surgeons prefer ileostomy. Although ileostomy is a safe decision but stoma care would be a social, mental and economic trauma
to the patient which needed another operation. All the scoring variables included in this study are those scoring which are reported in literature to consider while deciding for primary repair or exteriorizing the perforation as ileostomy. All variables have been given 1 score except volume of peritonitis and duration of surgery which are graded. Many studies kept the option of enteric perforation repair for single perforation while ileostomy for multiple perforations. On the other hand, many surgeons make into account per operative pulse, blood pressure and urine output in deciding repair of perforation or ileostomy. According to study done by Goel et al delayed presentation of patient, more perforations than one and multiple perforations are factors which favours ileostomy formation. To categorize the effect of peritonitis on type of procedure, in this study we have divided peritonitis into 3 levels with peritonitis more than 1 litre is given 3 points. Also, the presentation of patient after 48 hours of onset of pain is given 1 score.

Another study done by Kamble et al size and number of intestinal perforations are significant factors in causing mortality of the patients. Another study done by Hameed et al also showed the significance of size of intestinal perforation in prognosis of patients with peritonitis. The peritoneal spillage of intestinal contents was also found to be a significant factor as mentioned by various literature. In a study done by Hodonou et al amount of peritoneal fluid (p value=0.001) and perforation number (p value=0.0009) and surgery time (p value=0.02) were important predictive factors in prognosis of non-traumatic small bowel perforation peritonitis.

The limitations of this study included single centre study and applicability of this scoring criteria only to the patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation only. More studies with large sample size and multicentred evaluation of this score will help in modification of ESWEP score. Further studies are also needed to see the effectiveness of this scoring system to all the cases of peritonitis due to any cause.

CONCLUSION

ESSWEP score is a new statistically validated score which would help the surgeons in standardizing the decision between repair and ileostomy in patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation.

Funding: No funding sources
Conflict of interest: None declared
Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

REFERENCES

1. Agrawal P, Imbisat MZJ. Our experience with enteric ileal perforation: a retrospective study at a tertiary care centre in northern India. Int J Surg. 2019;6(12):4318-22.

2. Azhar M, Zamir N, Shaikh MJP. Enteric Fever Complicated by Intestinal Perforation in Children: A Persistent Health Problem Requiring Surgical Management. Pak J Med Sci Q. 2020;36(5):890.

3. Paryani JJ, Patel V, Rathod GJ. Etiology of peritonitis and factors predicting the mortality in peritonitis. NJCM. 2013;4(1):145.

4. Kham MD, Kakar M, Zarkoon N. Typhoid Perforation: Comparison of Outcomes between Primary Repair and Ileostomy in Children. J Med Health Sci. 2020;14(1):44-6.

5. Koppad SN, Vandakudri AB, Desai M. Analysis of Mannheim peritonitis index scoring in predicting outcome in patients with peritonitis secondary to hollow viscous perforation. Int J Surg. 2016;3(3):1116-20.

6. Mahesh P, Ali SAS, Kaludi ZA. Outcome of various surgical procedures and their outcome following enteric perforation at Dr. Ruth KM Pfau, Civil Hospital, Karachi. Professional Med J. 2019;26(10):1613-7.

7. Malik RN, Quddus A, Ahmad S. Comparison between Primary Repair Versus Loop ileostomy in ileal Perforation. JFMIMU. 2020;31(8):46.

8. Mishra M, Singh P, Tripathi A. Typhoid ileal perforation: comparative study of ileostomy versus primary ileal repair and associated morbidity and mortality. Int Surg J. 2018;5(9):3129-33.

9. Neelma UA, Khan H, Jan Y. Outcome of primary repair versus ileostomy in patients with typhoid ileal perforation. RJM. 2020;45(2).

10. Yadav BL, Bansal S, Gupta S. Incidence and management of intestinal perforation in typhoid: a prospective, observational study. Int Surg J. 2020;7(5):1570-74.

11. Ramaniah J, Kumar CP, Indla RJT. Protective ileostomy in Ileal Perforation and Its Outcome Compared to Primary Repair. Tuberc Airborne Dis Witk. 2019;5:10.

12. Sharma S, Singh S, Makkar N. Assessment of severity of peritonitis using mannheim peritonitis index. Niger J Surg. 2016;22(2):118-22.

13. Khalilur RA, Krishnaswamy J, Muthukumararam G, Prakash SJ. A comparative study on outcome of ileal perforation after primary perforation closure and resection and ileostomy. Int Surg J 2018;5:445-51.

14. Qazi SH, Yousafzai MT, Saddal NS. Burden of Ileal Perforations Among Surgical Patients Admitted in Tertiary Care Hospitals of Three Asian countries: Surveillance of Enteric Fever in Asia Project (SEAP). Clinical Infectious Disease. America: Oxford press; 2020: 232-238.

15. Koppad SN, Vandakudri AB, Desai M, Koliwadmath H. Analysis of Mannheiperitonitis index scoring in predicting outcome inpatients with peritonitis secondary to hollowviscous perforation. Int Surg J. 2016;3:1116-20.

16. Usang UE, Inyang AW, Nwachukwku IE, Emehute JC. Typhoid perforation in children: an unrelenting
plague in developing countries. J Infect Dev Ctries. 2017;11(10):747-52.
17. Singh R, Chaudhary A, Khan AJA. A Comparative Study between the Outcome of Primary Repair versus Loop Ileostomy in Traumatic and Non-traumatic Ileal Perforation. APJHS. 2020;7(1):57-61.
18. Gurjar S, Jain S, Kansal A, Prakash A. Study of POSSUM Score for Risk Assessment in Patients of Perforation Peritonitis at a Tertiary Care teaching hospital. Int J Health Clinical Res. 2021;4(9):99-105.
19. Goel KS, Goel NJ. Prognostic factors of morbidity in enteric perforation in a peripheral hospital. Sci JEMDS. 2016;5(90):6722-5.
20. Kamble RS, Singh M, Jaiswal YJISJ. Prognostic factors in perforative peritonitis: an observational study. Int J Surg. 2016;3(3):1082-92.
21. Abdulhameed MME, Abdulmuthalif A, Vamanaprabhu RRJ. Clinicopathological evaluation of preoperative findings and outcome of perforation peritonitis. JEMDS. 2017;6(29):2338-46.
22. Hodonou MA, Allode SA, Seto DM. Prognostic Factors of Non-Traumatic Small Bowel Perforation Peritonitis: A Multicenter Study in North Benin. JSLS. 2018;6(1):29-32.

Cite this article as: Ammar AS, Naqi SA, Sattar Z, Inayat F, Liaquat A, Janjua AM. East surgical ward enteric perforation score, a new statistically valid scoring criteria for decision between repair or ileostomy in patients with peritonitis due to enteric perforation. Int Surg J 2021;8:xxx-xx.