Impact of co-morbidities on the mortality of patients with status epilepticus and the utility of RCBI score in evaluating the mortality of status epilepticus

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Abstract
Background: To investigate the influential factors of complications on prognosis of patients with status epilepticus, modify the Complication Burden Index (CBI) into the Rankin CBI (RCBI), and analyze its practicability in status epilepticus in western China.

Method: A total of 396 patients with status epilepticus were studied from December 2016 to January 2019 in West China Hospital. The clinical data were collected, including demographic characteristics, status epilepticus characteristics. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 22.0 and MedCalc ROC and logistic regression was used to analyze the influencing factors of hospitalization death and poor prognosis (GOS scale is 1-3).

Results: Of the 396 patients with status epilepticus included in the study, 43 (10.9%) died in hospital and 114 (28.8%) had poor prognosis. Using ROC curve analysis, when RCBI > 3, the area under the ROC curve of hospitalization death was 0.914, p < 0.0001; When RCBI > 3, the area under ROC curve for poor prognosis was 0.882, p < 0.0001. There were 327 people with convulsive status epilepticus, including 41 deaths. When RCBI > 3, the area under the hospital mortality curve was 0.915 (p < 0.0001). A total of 100 patients had a poor prognosis. When RCBI > 3, the area under the poor prognosis curve was 0.867 (p < 0.0001).

Conclusions: The hospital mortality rate of patients with status epilepticus is 10.9%. RCBI > 3 points had a certain significance for predicting hospitalization death and poor prognosis of status epilepticus. There were no significant differences in RCBI scales for convulsive status epilepticus and non-convulsive status epilepticus.

Background
Status epilepticus is one of the most common critical illnesses in neurology. Its main features are persistent seizures, which are characterized by unpredictable, complex conditions and rapid progression. Patients with status epilepticus have high disability and mortality. [3]. According to foreign literature reports, the mortality rate of epileptic seizures is 3-33%, and the mortality rate of convulsive epilepsy in southwest China is 5.4-15.8% [1,8]. Therefore, it is especially important to quickly assess the patient's condition and predict the mortality rate. It is possible to objectively
formulate and revise the medical care plan, improve the quality of medical care, and make rational use of medical resources. In recent years, there have been many studies on the prognosis of status epilepticus, including a variety of scales and biological markers [3-5, 8, 11]. At present, five commonly used international scoring scales for predicting the prognosis of patients with status epilepticus include the epidemiology-based mortality scale in status epilepticus (EMSE) [3-4], tracheal intubation scale (IT) [8], status epilepticus severity scale (STESS) [2, 4], modified Rankin scale, status epilepticus severity scale (mSTESS) [11] and Complication Burden Index (CBI) [5].

Systemic complications are very common in patients with status epilepticus, and the types and number of complications may influence the prognosis of patients [5, 9-10, 16-19, 24]. In 2018, Leena et al [5] proposed the CBI and evaluated patients for 13 types of complications: respiratory system, cardiovascular system, nervous system, kidney, liver, coagulation function, gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal system, and electrolyte/acid-base balance, infection, hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia, skin/allergic reaction, and mental disorders. Using the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, the maximum CBI scale was 13 points, the average CBI was 3.8 points, and the cutoff point for poor prediction function was 3 points [5]. The CBI scale established by Leena et al. included a small number of patients, and only included convulsive epileptic patients with seizure time > 30 min. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the influencing factors of co-morbidity of patients with epileptic status on their prognosis, modify CBI scale into the RCBI scale, and evaluate whether it is applicable to the population in western China, as well as its feasibility in non-convulsive epileptic status.

Methods

1.1. Subjects: This study included 396 patients from the West China Hospital of Sichuan University from December 2016 to January 2019, from patients with emergency, NICU, neurology, and neurosurgical epilepsy. All patients met the latest diagnostic criteria for status epilepticus (2015) of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). The clinical data collected included demographic characteristics, status epilepticus characteristics such as duration of epilepsy, and all comorbidities. The International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) is the latest diagnostic criteria for status epilepticus
According to the standards of the Helsinki Declaration, this study strictly abides by the principle of voluntary and informed patients. If patients did not have autonomy, researchers obtained the voluntary and informed consent of their immediate family members.

Inclusion criteria: 1. Conform to the clinical diagnostic criteria for epilepsy published by the International Anti-epilepsy Alliance [1]; 2. Patients with status epilepticus who voluntarily provide their informed consent; 3. Age ≥18 years old; 4. Patients who have received EEG examination; 5. All patients were treated according to the continuous epilepsy treatment process of the American Anti-epilepsy Association in 2016 [7].

Exclusion criteria: 1. EEG is the epileptic state of the interictal EEG; 2. Patients with status epilepticus without informed consent; 3. Patients who do not have complete data.

1.2 Research methods: The study included 33 comorbidities recommended by St. Germaine-Smith [25] and 13 complications included in the CBI scale that were summarized and screened at discharge, such as hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, which can be counted as electrolytes. Electrolyte imbalance and acid-base imbalance can be counted as one category, and the etiology of epileptic seizures needs to be removed. Therefore, comorbidity is defined as a disease that is comorbid during the status epilepticus but does not include the factors that cause status epilepticus, including skin allergy, musculoskeletal-related diseases, digestive system diseases, thyroid function diseases, respiratory system diseases, immune system diseases, kidney and urinary system diseases, electrolyte/acid-base balance disorders, hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia, hypoproteinemia, infection, blood system diseases, mental diseases, nervous system diseases (excluding the causes of status epilepticus, such as brain tumors, acute stroke, etc.), and cardiovascular system diseases. Regardless of the severity of the common disease or the involvement of multiple systems, it is only calculated once, and the total number of diseases is up to 15 (Table 1). The outcome variables were hospitalization, death, and poor prognosis. The evaluation index of poor prognosis was GOS scale of 1-3.

1.3 Using SPSS 22.0 to analyze data, P value <0.05 was statistically significant; using MedCalc statistical analysis software, the area under the ROC curve [6] reflected the diagnostic value of the scale: (0.50, 0.70), indicating that the diagnostic value is lower; (0.70, 0.90), indicating a moderate diagnostic value; 0.90 or more indicating a higher diagnostic value, and P < 0.05 was statistically significant. Sensitivity (true positive rate) is plotted as the ordinate on the ROC curve, while 1-
specificity (false positive rate) is plotted as the abscissa. Maximizing the true positive rate while minimizing the false positive rate gives the best diagnostic criteria for the scale.

Result

1. General information of the 396 patients with status epilepticus was included in the study. Forty-one patients (10.3%) died in hospital, and 114 (28.8%) had poor prognosis. Among them, 219 (55.3%) were male patients and 177 were female, with an age range of 18-96 years. Among 396 patients with status epilepticus, 327 (82.6%) had convulsive status epilepticus, and 69 (17.4%) had non-convulsive status epilepticus. Two hundred fifty-one (63.4%) had no history of epilepsy, 170 (42.9%) had EEG abnormalities (defined as focal epilepsy or epileptic discharge, diffuse or multifocal slow wave rhythm), 105 (26.5%) had head MRI abnormalities, and 98 (24.7%) had tracheal intubation (Table 2).

2. Analysis of risk factors for death in hospital and poor prognosis in patients with status epilepticus. Among 396 patients with status epilepticus included in the study, 4 had skin allergy, 7 had musculoskeletal-related diseases, 48 had digestive system diseases, 17 had thyroid function diseases, 73 had respiratory system diseases, 10 had immune system diseases, 52 had kidney and urinary system diseases, 53 had electrolyte/acid-base balance disorders, 39 had hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia, 46 had hypoproteinemia, 187 had infection, 25 had coagulation and blood diseases, 14 had mental diseases, 62 had nervous system diseases, 73 had cardiovascular system diseases, and a total of 41 had died. The binary logistic regression analysis showed that digestive system (P=0.000), respiratory system (P=0.001), immune system (P=0.021), kidney and urinary system (P=0.000), and electrolyte/acid-base imbalance (P=0.001) and infection (P=0.015) were the risk factors for hospitalization death in the epileptic state. Musculoskeletal diseases (P=0.003), digestive system
thyroid function (P=0.017), respiratory system (P=0.000), immune system (P=0.000), kidney/urinary system (P=0.000), electrolyte/acid-base imbalance (P=0.000), hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia (P=0.012), infection (P=0.000), blood system (P=0.005), nervous system (P=0.000), and cardiovascular system diseases (P=0.000) are the risk factors for poor prognosis of patients with status epilepticus (Table 3).

3. Comorbidity analysis of patients with status epilepticus. Among 396 patients, 21 patients suffered from 0 comorbidity, of which 0 died in hospital and 0 had poor prognosis. There were 38 patients with one kind of comorbidity, 2 died in hospital, and 8 had poor prognosis. There were 71 cases of both comorbidities, 3 died in hospital, and 7 had poor prognosis. There were 124 patients with 3 kinds of comorbidities, 21 died in hospital, and 55 had poor prognosis. There were 98 patients with 4 kinds of comorbidities, 7 died in hospital, and 25 had poor prognosis. There were 29 patients with 5 kinds of comorbidities, of which 6 died in hospital and 12 had poor prognosis. There were 10 patients with 6 kinds of comorbidities of which 2 died in hospital and 4 had poor prognosis. There were 4 patients with 7 kinds of comorbidities, including 1 patient died in hospital and 2 patients had poor prognosis. There were 2 patients suffering from 9 kinds of comorbidities, including 1 death in hospital and 1 case of poor prognosis (Table 2). The average number of common diseases is 2.98. A total of 43 people died. MedCalc ROC curve was used for analysis. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 71.37%, the sensitivity was 97.67%, the AUC was 0.914, the standard error was 0.020, and the P value was <0.0001, 95% confidence interval was 0.881-0.939, and the accuracy was high (Figure 1-1). A total of 114 patients had a poor prognosis. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 81.56%, the sensitivity was 79.82%, the AUC was 0.882, the standard error was 0.016, the P
value was <0.0001, the 95% confidence interval was 0.846-0.912 and the accuracy was medium (Figure 1-2).

4. Comparative analysis of persistent status of convulsive epilepsy and non-convulsive epilepsy. There were 327 people with convulsive status epilepticus, including 41 deaths. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 70.38%, the sensitivity is 97.50%, the AUC was 0.915, the standard error was 0.021, the P value is <0.0001, the 95% confidence interval was 0.880-0.943, and the accuracy was high (Figure 2-1). The prognosis was poor in 100 patients. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 79.74%, the sensitivity was 78.00%, the AUC was 0.867, the standard error was 0.018, the P value was <0.0001, the 95% confidence interval was 0.825-0.902. The accuracy was medium (Figure 2-2). There were 43 non-convulsive epilepsy states, including 2 deaths. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 75.76%, the sensitivity is 100.00%, the AUC was 0.919, the standard error was 0.057, and the P value was <0.0001. The 95% confidence interval was 0.828-0.971, and the accuracy was high (Figure 3-1). The prognosis included 14 patients. When RCBI>3, the specificity was 89.09%, the sensitivity was 92.86%, and the AUC was 0.955. The standard error was 0.024, the P value is <0.0001, the 95% confidence interval was 0.876-0.990, and the accuracy was high (Figure 3-2).

Discussion
Status epilepticus is one of the most common neurological critical illnesses, often leading to permanent neurological damage, with high morbidity and mortality [1, 12-15, 20-23]. The mortality rate of convulsive epilepsy in southwestern China is 15.4-15.8% [8]. Of the 396 patients enrolled in the study, 43 were hospitalized, and the mortality rate was approximately 10.9%, which was consistent with the mortality rate of previous studies in Southwest China.
This study showed that the digestive system, respiratory system, immune system, kidney and urinary system, electrolyte/acid-base imbalance, and infection are the risk factors for hospitalization death in status epilepticus. The musculoskeletal system diseases, digestive system, thyroid function,
respiratory system, immune system, kidney/urinary system, electrolyte/acid-base imbalance, hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia, infection, blood system, nervous system, and cardiovascular system diseases are risk factors for poor prognosis of patients with status epilepticus. Therefore, we improved the CBI scale and added three new complications: immune system diseases, thyroid function diseases and hypoproteinemia, because these three diseases also have certain influence on the prognosis of patients, such as hyperthyroidism/hypofunction, etc. In addition, the liver system and gastrointestinal diseases are combined into the digestive system to avoid double counting. Coagulation function should be expanded to include diseases of the blood system, such as anemia. The renal system and urinary system are combined into one item. This study did not consider tumor (excluding the cause of status epilepticus), which obviously affects the prognosis of patients, because it probably existed before status epilepticus.

The average total number of epileptic patients included in this study is 2.98, which is somewhat different from the average CBI of 3.8 obtained by Leena et al. The reasons may be as follows: 1. The patients with status epilepticus included in this study are included in the study according to the latest definition of status epilepticus [1], and the patients with status epilepticus lasting for 5–30 min, that is T1 time, are included in the study. The sample size and scope of patients included in the study are larger than those of previous studies, and the number of patients suffering from epilepsy in T1 time is less, the hospitalization time is shorter, and the prognosis is better. 2. Patients with non-convulsive status epilepticus were included in this study. 3. With the continuous development of medical technology, the awareness of medical personnel in the prevention and treatment of complications has continuously improved, and complications have generally decreased. 4. In this study, all factors that may be the cause of the status epilepticus, such as tumor, metabolic brain, autoimmune encephalitis and acute stroke, were excluded. 5. When complications involve multiple systems, the standard of only one calculation shall be strictly followed. For example, the calculation shall only be carried out once when patients suffer from urinary tract infection, lung infection, and blood system infection at the same time. This study shows that the cutoff point of RCBI scale for predicting hospital death and poor prognosis of patients with status epilepsy is 3, which is consistent with the results obtained by
Leena et al.

For convulsive status epilepticus, the cut-off point for predicting hospital death and poor prognosis is 3, and for non-convulsive status epilepticus, the cut-off point for predicting hospital death and poor prognosis is also 3. In this study, patients with non-convulsive status epilepticus were analyzed separately, which proves that it has certain predictive value for hospital death and poor prognosis of patients with non-convulsive status epilepticus, and there is no significant difference compared with convulsive status epilepticus. The RCBI scale is simple to operate and can be completed in a short time, compared with the previous EMSE and STESS scores, the effect of complications on the prognosis of patients with epilepsy status during hospitalization is more focused, which enriches the scale for predicting the prognosis of the status epilepticus and fills the gap in the non-convulsive status epilepticus prediction scale.

This was a single-center study. The patients included in the study were all from a hospital in western China, which may have certain selection bias. This study was scaled by a doctor's own judgment, and there may be some deviation. In the subsequent study, it is expected that two doctors will scale at the same time to obtain more accurate scoring results. Therefore, more scales or indicators may be needed to evaluate the prognosis of patients with epilepsy, and large-scale multicenter studies are needed to further verify our findings.

Conclusion

The in-hospital mortality rate of patients with status epilepticus in western China is approximately 10.9%, and RCBI > 3, which is of certain significance for predicting in-hospital death and poor prognosis of status epilepticus. Regarding the status of convulsive epilepsy and non-convulsive epilepsy, RCBI has no significant difference in predicting hospital death and poor prognosis (GOS 1–3).

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The protocol was approved by the West China hospital ethics Committee

Consent for publication

I can confirm I have consent for publication and study participants was written
Availability of data and material

The datasets generated or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due not have consent from all patients, but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Authors' contributions

YZ collects data and writes articles
CD and ZLN are responsible for collation and statistics
LL reviews articles

All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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Tables

| Comorbidity                        | Score |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Skin allergy                       | 1     |
| Musculoskeletal-related diseases    | 1     |
| Digestive system diseases          | 1     |
| Thyroid function diseases          | 1     |
| Respiratory system diseases        | 1     |
| Immune system diseases             | 1     |
| Kidney and urinary system diseases | 1     |
| Electrolyte/acid-base balance disorders | 1   |
| Hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia         | 1     |
| Hypoproteinemia                    | 1     |
| Infection                          | 1     |
| Coagulation and blood diseases     | 1     |
| Mental diseases                    | 1     |
| Nervous system diseases            | 1     |
| Cardiovascular system diseases     | 1     |

Total score: 15

Table 1: Categories in the Rankin Computation Burden Index (RCBI)

|                              | Total | HD   | PP   |
|------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Gender male                  | 219   | 43/10.9% | 114/28.8% |
| Age (years) range            | 18-94 |      |      |
| Duration from SE to death    | 0min-15days |  | |
| SE dynamics                  |       |      |      |
| CSE                          | 327   | 41/10.4% | 100/25.3% |
| T1 time SE                   | 140   | 7/1.8%  | 20/5.1%  |
| T2 time SE                   | 106   | 10/2.5% | 36/9.1%  |
| Refractory SE                | 77    | 21/5.3% | 40/10.1% |
| SRSE                         | 4     | 3/0.8%  | 1/0.3%   |
| NCSE                         | 69    | 2/0.5%  | 14/3.5%  |
| First episode of SE          | 251   | 41/10.4% | 80/20.2% |
| EEG abnormal                 | 170   | 31/7.8% | 79/19.9% |
| MRI abnormal                 | 105   | 15/3.8% | 67/16.9% |
| Need for tracheal intubation  | 98    | 40/10.1% | 47/11.9% |
| RCBI                         |       |      |      |
| 0                            | 21/5.3% | 0 | 0    |
| 1                            | 38/9.6% | 2/0.5% | 8/2.0% |
| 2                            | 71/17.9% | 3/0.8% | 7/1.8% |
| 3                            | 124/31.3% | 21/5.3% | 55/13.9% |
| 4                            | 98/24.7% | 7/1.8% | 25/6.3% |
| 5                            | 29/7.3%  | 6/1.5%  | 12/3.0% |
| 6                            | 10/2.5%  | 2/0.5%  | 4/1.1% |
| 7                            | 4/1%     | 1/0.3%  | 2/0.5% |
| 9                            | 2/0.5%   | 1/0.3%  | 1/0.3% |

Table 2: Demographic and clinical data of patients included

HD: hospital deaths
PP: poor prognosis
SE: status epilepticus
SRSE: super refractory status epilepticus
Table 3: Analysis of Risk Factors for hospital Death and Poor Prognosis in Status Epilepsy

| Comorbidity                                | Amount | HD P-value | HD CI       | PP P-value | PP CI       |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| skin allergy                               | 4      | 0.957      | 0.069-37.701| 0.171      | 0.385-220.745|
| musculoskeletal-related diseases            | 7      | 0.999      | -           | 0.003      | 3.955-666.084|
| digestive system diseases                   | 48     | 0.000      | 3.054-23.035| 0.000      | 5.981-67.826 |
| thyroid function diseases                   | 17     | 0.998      | -           | 0.017      | 1.503-60.992 |
| respiratory system diseases                 | 73     | 0.001      | 1.968-11.681| 0.000      | 9.922-71.984 |
| immune system diseases                      | 10     | 0.021      | 1.374-49.969| 0.000      | 8.123-439.976|
| kidney and urinary system diseases          | 52     | 0.000      | 2.518-20.801| 0.000      | 2.500-24.648 |
| electrolyte/acid-base balance disorders     | 53     | 0.001      | 2.173-16.247| 0.000      | 5.115-47.996 |
| hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia                 | 39     | 0.265      | 0.557-38.367| 0.012      | 1.454-19.966 |
| hypoproteinemia                             | 46     | 0.335      | 0.558-5.548 | 0.997      | -           |
| infection                                  | 187    | 0.015      | 1.233-7.126 | 0.000      | 2.164-12.202 |
| coagulation and blood diseases              | 25     | 0.942      | 0.287-3.829 | 0.005      | 2.173-68.859 |
| mental diseases                             | 14     | 0.992      | 0.104-9.397 | 0.070      | 0.880-25.279 |
| nervous system diseases                     | 62     | 0.511      | 0.335-3.004 | 0.000      | 2.197-12.306 |
| cardiovascular system diseases              | 73     | 0.996      | 0.335-1.723 | 0.000      | 3.101-21.129 |

Figures

Figure 1-1 Total hospital deaths

Figure 1-2 Total poor prognosis

Figure 1

Total hospital deaths and poor prognosis
Figure 2
CSE hospital deaths and poor prognosis

Figure 3
NCSE hospital deaths and poor prognosis