Correlation between Serum Level of Matrix Metalloproteinase-2 with Left Ventricular End-diastolic Volume in Children with Heart Failure

Bagus Ngurah Mahakrishna*, Eka Gunawijaya, I Wayan Dharma Artana, Ni Putu Veny Kartika Yantie, Made Kardana, I Putu Gede Karyana, Gusti Ayu Putu Nilaawati

Department of Child Health, Medical School, Universitas Udayana, Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Left ventricular end-diastolic volume (LVEDV) on echocardiography is one of the tests performed on heart failure. This refers to the volume of the left ventricle at the end of the diastolic phase, which would be increased when there is a disturbance in preload, afterload, and contractility factors. Matrix metalloproteinase-2 (MMP2) is a marker of congestive heart failure that can be examined through laboratory examinations.

AIM: The objective of the study was to provide evidence of the association between MMP and inflammatory process as well as its correlation with LVEDV in children with heart failure.

METHODS: This was a cross-sectional study conducted on children aged 3 months–12 years old with heart failure, who visited Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Indonesia from May 2017 to March 2018. Echocardiographic examination (LVEDV) and blood samples were taken to measure the serum level of MMP2 on day 1 after the subjects were diagnosed with heart failure.

RESULTS: A total of 32 subjects with heart failure were analyzed in this study. Acyanotic congenital heart defect (CHD) was the most common cause of heart failure, as observed in 23 subjects (71.9%). Characteristics data revealed that 24 subjects (75%) were underweight, 23 (71.9%) had cardiomegaly, and 22 (68.8%) had mild heart failure.

CONCLUSION: There was a moderate positive correlation between MMP2 level and LVEDV after controlling for the influence of age. This finding provides evidence of the association between MMP and inflammatory process as well as its correlation with LVEDV in children with heart failure.
The association between oxidative stress and MMP also influences the mechanism of heart failure. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) activates pro-MMP and contributes to the activation of regulatory factors such as nuclear factor κB (NF-κB) and activator protein-1 (AP-1). Mediators such as angiotensin II and endothelin I directly or indirectly affect the myocardium, which leads to heart failure [9].

MMP2 levels have increased significantly in patients with heart failure compared to normal adults [10]. The aim of this study is to prove that MMP2 level is increased in children with heart failure.

Methods

This was an observational study with a cross-sectional design to determine the correlation between serum level of MMP2 with left ventricular end-diastolic volume in children with heart failure.

This study was conducted from May 2017 to March 2018 in the Pediatric Ward of Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Indonesia. Examination of serum MMP2 level was performed at Prodia Denpasar Laboratory.

Eligibility criteria

The subjects in this study were children aged 3 months–12 years with heart failure, who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria include children with heart failure due to acyanotic heart disease aged 3 months–12 years. Exclusion criteria include patients with comorbidities such as sepsis, renal failure, diabetic ketoacidosis, and cancer.

Procedure

Sampling was conducted through consecutive random sampling until the number of samples was reached.

Subjects with heart failure, who fulfilled the eligibility criteria were given complete information regarding this study and were asked for their willingness to participate in the study and signed the informed consent after receiving and understanding the information provided. Echocardiographic examination (LVEDV) was performed by 1 pediatric cardiology consultant, and blood samples were taken to measure the serum level of MMP 2. The measurement serum level of MMP2 using the Quantikine Immunoassay method. Laboratory measurements were conducted by Prodia laboratory staff on day I after the subjects were diagnosed with heart failure.

Heart failure was diagnosed based on the Ross criteria, and diagnoses were made by a pediatric cardiology consultant at Sanglah General Hospital, Denpasar, Indonesia. Based on the Ross score, we divided into four groups: Those with scores of 0–2 were without heart failure, those with scores of 3–6 were diagnosed as mild heart failure, those with scores of 7–9 were diagnosed as moderate heart failure, and those with scores of 10–12 were diagnosed with severe heart failure [5].

MMP2 is an endopeptidase family that was typically increased in heart failure. The level of MMP2 in the serum was examined using the Quantikine Immunoassay method, with a standard range of 0.5–32 ng/ml. A serum MMP level of >32 ng/ml was considered increased. LVEDV is the volume of the left ventricle at the end of the diastolic phase, as measured through echocardiography performed by a pediatric cardiology consultant, using a modified Simpson technique. Results were expressed in ml/m².

Statistics

Data were analyzed using a statistical program: The normality of the study was tested using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Descriptive analysis was performed on the characteristics of the subjects. Correlation analysis was conducted for data with normal distribution using the Spearman correlation test, with a p < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

Ethical aspect

This study was approved by the ethical committee of Sanglah Hospital, with protocol number 1027/UN.14.2/KEP/2017.

Results

This study was conducted from May 2017 to March 2018 in the Pediatric Ward at Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Indonesia. During the study period, there were 32 children with heart failure who fulfilled the inclusion criteria.

Characteristics of subjects are shown in Table 1, including gender, age, type of heart disease, nutritional status, cardiomegaly, and heart failure score. The most common cause of heart failure in the study was acyanotic heart disease, which was observed in 23 subjects (71.9%).
Characteristics of heart failure score

The most common physical examination finding in heart failure as measured using Ross criteria was tachypnea (22 subjects). Heart failure characteristics based on Ross criteria are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Characteristics of heart failure

| Characteristics                             | n = 32 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Diaphoresis, n (%)                          | 19 (59.4) |
| Head only, at exertion                      | 12 (37.5) |
| Head and body at exertion                   | 1 (3.1) |
| Tachypnea, n (%)                            | 10 (31.3) |
| Rare                                        | 4 (12.5) |
| Several times                               | 30 (93.8) |
| Frequent                                    | 1 (3.1) |
| Normal                                      | 1 (3.1) |
| Retractions                                 | 1 (3.1) |
| Dyspnea                                     | 1 (3.1) |
| Respiratory rate, n (%)                     | 324 ± 103.1 |
| Normal                                      | 9 (28.1) |
| Fast                                        | 2 (6.3) |
| Very fast                                   | 9 (28.1) |
| Hepatomegaly, n (%)                         | 23 (71.9) |
| < 2 cm                                      | 17 (53.1) |
| 2–3 cm                                      | 11 (34.4) |
| >3 cm                                       | 4 (12.5) |

Correlation between serum MMP2 level and LVEDV

Table 3 showed the normality test of MMP2 level and LVEDV preceding the correlation analysis. The distribution of LVEDV data, as shown in the table, was non-normally distributed with a p = 0.003. Median LVEDV was 60.1 with IQR of 60.6. Data distribution for serum level of MMP2 was normal with a mean of 324, and a p = 0.296.

Spearman correlation test was used due to the fact that not all of the data were normally distributed. Data analysis revealed there was no correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV in children with heart failure, with a p = 0.873. An analysis was performed to determine whether age affected LVEDV; thus, a partial correlation analysis was performed. The analysis revealed a correlation between serum level of MMP2 with LVEDV after controlling for the influence of age, with a p = 0.02. The result of this analysis is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Partial correlation between MMP2 and LVEDV before and after controlling for age factor

| Variable       | Adjustment | r coefficient | p value |
|----------------|------------|---------------|---------|
| MMP2           | Non-adjusted | -0.029        | 0.873   |
| MMP2           | Age-adjusted | 0.406         | 0.02    |

Figure 1 presented a scatter plot diagram of the partial correlation analysis, which showed a moderate correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV after controlling for age with an r value = 0.425. The analysis revealed a significant correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV in subjects aged 2 years and above.

Discussion

A total of 32 subjects participated in this study. Most of the subjects were female (20 subjects), and a majority of the subjects belong to the >5 years age group. Sani et al. found that rheumatic heart disease was the most common heart disease in children >5 years of age (42.7%) [11]. In this study, we found that the most prevalent heart disease was congenital heart disease, which made up for 75% of all cases.

The most common cause of heart failure in children was congenital heart disease (CHD). Ventricular septal defect is the most common CHD observed in
children. In this study, we found that the most common cause of heart failure was VSD. Similarly, Abdulkadir et al. also found that the most prevalent CHD in children was VSD (40.6%) [12].

Malnutrition is a very common problem in children with CHD [13]. High basal metabolic rate and inadequate nutrient intake are the main causes of malnutrition in children with CHD [14]. In this study, we found that most subjects (24 subjects, 75%) were underweight. Similarly, Isezuo et al. found that 72.9% of children with CHD were underweight [15].

Diagnoses of heart failure were made using modified Ross Criteria. In this study, we found that most subjects had mild heart failure (22 subjects, 68.8%). Based on characteristics data, the most common symptoms were retraction (93.8%), rapid respiratory rate (68.8%), tachycardia (65.6%), diaphoresis in the head during activities (59.4%), tachypnea (56.3%), and hepatomegaly of <2 cm (53.1%).

Left ventricular end-diastolic volume (LVEDV) is the volume of the left ventricle at the end of the diastolic phase, which would be increased when there is a disturbance in preload, afterload, and contractility factors. Increased LVEDV results in increased heart load, causing the body to perform a compensation mechanism. When the heart compensation mechanism failed, a decompensation mechanism occurs which results in ROS activation, which then activates MMP production. The production of MMP is affected by neurohormonal factors, such as catecholamines and angiotensin II, which were typically increased in heart failure. Elevated plasma norepinephrine level activates the renin-angiotensin in the myocardium, and angiotensin II increases the level of MMP in heart failure [7]. The renin-angiotensin system increases the plasma level of angiotensin II. These hormonal changes will increase preload and afterload in the heart and play a role in cardiac remodeling which is considered to be the underlying cause of heart failure [8].

The current study on the correlation between MMP2 and LVEDV in children with heart failure is the first conducted in children. A study by Cheng et al. in pediatric population showed a significant increase in serum level of MMP2 in CHD children with VSD compared to the control group, with a p < 0.01 [16]. Another study by Kihc et al. on pediatric population with CHD showed that there was no significant increase in serum level of MMP in the cyanotic CHD group compared to the control group [17]. A study by Yamazaki et al. in adult population showed that the serum level of MMP2 was significantly higher in patients with severe heart failure than in patients with mild heart failure, with a p < 0.01 [18]. Another study by Shirakabe et al. in the adult population with acquired heart disease showed that serum level of MMP2 was significantly higher in patients with heart failure on the 1st day. Serum level of MMP2 was significantly decreased on the third day compared to the 1st day with a p < 0.001 [7]. In this study, we found that there was no correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV in children with heart failure (p = 0.873). This finding may be due to some of the samples for MMP2 level examination was taken after the 1st day of the decompensation phase of heart failure. Serum level of MMP2 was found to be increased in the decompensation phase of heart failure [7].

**Correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV in children with heart failure after controlling for age**

Matrix metalloproteinase is associated with diastolic dysfunction and heart failure [19]. Diastolic function is an important component of the left ventricular function that can cause symptoms of heart failure [20]. The mechanism underlying heart failure includes impaired cardiac contractility, which results in lower-than-normal cardiac output [21]. The decreased cardiac output is due to decreased contractility, increased afterload, or increased preload, resulting in decreased ejection fraction and increased LVEDV. Age is one of the factors that affect LVEDV. This is due to the fact that with increasing age, structural, and functional changes in the heart also increases. Functional changes and compensation mechanisms that occur with increasing age include changes in heart rate, cardiac systolic function, cardiac diastolic function, and contractility. Normal diastolic filling can be divided into two phases, namely the passive (represented by the “E wave” on echocardiographic study of transmitral flow) and active (represented by an A wave and produced by atrial contraction) phases. Diastolic filling phase becomes slower with age, resulting in a difference in the proportion of diastolic filling in the passive phase. As the bulk of ventricular filling shifts to later in diastole and there is significant atrial enlargement with aging, the atrium contributes a greater portion of the total LVEDV [22].

In this study, we found that the younger the age of the child, the lower the value of LVEDV. A study by Cain et al. showed an increase in LVEDV in adolescence, and there were no significant differences between the sexes with a p = 0.65 [23]. In this study, we found a correlation between serum level of MMP2 with LVEDV after controlling for age with a p = 0.02. We also obtained significant results in subjects over 2 years of age. The scatter plot graph (Figure 1) showed a moderate correlation between serum level of MMP2 and LVEDV after controlling for age factor with an r of 0.425.

**Conclusion**

This study showed a moderate positive correlation between MMP2 levels with LVEDV after controlling the influence of age.
Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank Sanglah General Hospital Denpasar Bali, Indonesia and the parents of patients who have been willing to participate in this study.

References

1. Mueller GC, Schlueter EL, Arndt F, Khatami JW, Mir TS. Prevalence of anemia in children with congestive heart failure due to dilated cardiomyopathy. Int J Pediatr. 2012;2012:452909. https://doi.org/10.1155/2012/452909 PMid:23213342

2. Beggs S, Thompson A, Nash R, Tompson A, Peterson G. Beta blockers for congestive heart failure. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2012;1:CD000703. https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.cd000703.pub2 PMid:19160314

3. Ross RD. The Ross classification for heart failure in children. Pediatr Cardiol. 2012;33(8):1295-300. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00246-012-0306-3 PMid:22476605

4. Verma RP, Hansch C. Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs): Chemical-biological functions and (Q)SARs. Bioorg Med Chem. 2007;15(6):2223-68. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bmc.2007.01.011 PMid:17275314

5. Shirakabe A, Asai K, Hata N, Yokoyama S, Shinada T, Kobayashi N, et al. Clinical significance of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-2 in patients with acute heart failure. Int Heart J. 2010;51(6):404-10. https://doi.org/10.1536/ihj.51.404 PMid:21173516

6. Muller AL, Dhasil A. Role of various proteases in cardiac remodeling and progression of heart failure. Heart Fail Rev. 2012;17(3):395-409. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10741-011-9269-8 PMid:21739365

7. Tousoulis D, Kampoli AM, Papageorgiou N, Antoniades C, Siassos G, Latsios G, et al. Matrix metalloproteinases in heart failure. Curr Top Med Chem. 2012;12(10):1181-91. https://doi.org/10.2174/156802661201011811 PMid:22519448

8. Banfi C, Cavalcia V, Veglia F, Brisschi M, Barcella S, Mussoni L, et al. Neurohormonal activation is associated with increased levels of plasma matrix metalloproteinase 2 in human heart failure. Eur Heart J. 2005;26(5):481-8. https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehi073 PMid:15618033

9. Sani UM, Ahmed H, Jiya NM. Pattern of acquired heart diseases among children seen in Sokoto, North-Western Nigeria. Niger J Clin Pract. 2015;18(6):718-25. https://doi.org/10.4103/1119-3077.163284 PMid:26289507

10. Abdulkadir M, Abdulkadir Z. A systematic review of trends and patterns of congenital heart disease in children in Nigeria from 1964-2015. Afr Health Sci. 2016;16(2):367-77. https://doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v16i2.5 PMid:27605952

11. Hassan BA, Albanna EA, Morsy SM, Siam AG, Shafie MM, Elsaadany HF, et al. Nutritional status in children with un-operated congenital heart disease: An Egyptian center experience. Front Pediatr. 2015;3:53. https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2015.00053 PMid:26125014

12. Ratanachu S, Pongdara A. Nutritional status of pediatric patients with congenital heart disease: Pre and post cardiac surgery. J Med Assoc Thai. 2011;94(3):S133-7. PMid:22043766

13. Isiezuo KO, Waziri UM, Sani UM, Garba BI, Ahmad MM, Adamau A, et al. Nutritional status of children with congenital heart diseases at a university teaching hospital, North-Western Nigeria. Int J Trop Dis Health. 2017;25(4):1-8. https://doi.org/10.9734/ijtjh/2017/35964

14. Cheng KS, Liao YC, Chen MY, Kuan TC, Hong YH, Ko L. Circulating matrix metalloproteinase 2 and 9 enzyme activities in the children with ventricular septal defect. Int J Biol Sci. 2013;9(6):557-63. https://doi.org/10.7150/ijbs.6398 PMid:23847438

15. Khic Z, Ucar B, Ozdemir G, Colak O, Bal C, Ertugrul T. Circulating matrix metalloproteinase and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases levels in pediatric patients with congenital heart disease: Relationship to cardiac functions. Anatol J Cardiol. 2014;14(6):531-41. https://doi.org/10.5152/akd.2014.4950 PMid:25233500

16. Yamazaki T, Lee JD, Shimizu H, Uzui H, Ueda T. Circulating matrix metalloproteinase 2 is elevated in patients with congestive heart failure. Eur J Heart Fail. 2004;6:41-5. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejhf.2003.05.002 PMid:15012917

17. Figueroa MS, Peters JL. Congestive heart failure: Diagnosis, pathophysiology, therapy, and implications for respiratory care. Respir Care. 2006;51(4):403-12. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcvm.2017.00005 PMid:26281582

18. Panesar DK, Burch M. Assessment of diastolic function in congenital heart disease. Front Cardiovasc Med. 2017;4:5. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcm.2017.00005 PMid:28261582

19. Figueroa MS, Peters JL. Congestive heart failure: Diagnosis, pathophysiology, therapy, and implications for respiratory care. Respir Care. 2006;51(4):403-12. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcvm.2017.00005 PMid:15012917

20. Strait JB, Lakatta EG. Aging-associated cardiovascular changes and their relationship to heart failure. Heart Fail Clin. 2012;8(1):143-64. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hfc.2011.08.011 PMid:22108734

21. Cain PA, Ahl R, Hedstrom E, Ugander M, Johnsson AA, Friberg P, et al. Age and gender specific normal values of left ventricular mass, volume and function for gradient echo magnetic resonance imaging: A cross sectional study. BMC Med Imaging. 2009;9:2. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2342-9-2 PMid:19159437