ABSTRACT

Introduction: Spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage (SICH) has a high mortality rate. Factors that affect outcomes include hematoma volume and hyperglycemia. Evacuation of hematoma reduces mortality. This study aimed to validate the effect of hyperglycemia at admission on the outcome of surgical evacuation of supratentorial SICH.

Methods: This study is part of a clinical trial that assessed the neuroprotective effects of tigecycline. The association between patient variables and in-hospital mortality and length of hospital stay (LOS) was analyzed using the chi-square test and Fisher’s exact test. Logistic regression was conducted to identify the independent predictors of outcome.

Keywords: Hyperglycemia, LOS, mortality, SICH

Cite This Article: Saekhu, M.M. Mahyuddin, H., Ashari, S., Tandian, D., Tobing, H.G. Aman, R.A., Ichwan, S., Sadewo, W., Nugroho, S. 2020. Supratentorial extra parenchymal schwannoma mimicking meningioma: a case report. Indonesian Journal of Neurosurgery 3(2): 44-47. DOI: 10.15562/ijn.v3i2.82

INTRODUCTION

The case fatality of spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage (SICH) is high, particularly in low- to middle-income countries. The 1-month mortality of such condition is 40%, and no significant change was observed within the last two decades. Aside from hematoma volume, comorbidities are the significant factors that influence mortality and outcome, of which hyperglycemia is the most common. Clinical studies have shown that hyperglycemia in the acute phase of ischaemic and hemorrhagic stroke is associated with poor outcome. Meanwhile, other studies have shown that surgical evacuation of hematoma can reduce mortality. Therefore, the detrimental effect of hyperglycemia on the outcome of patients with SICH who are undergoing surgical evacuation of hematoma must be further validated. This study aimed to assess the effect of hyperglycemia on in-hospital mortality and length of hospital stay (LOS) in patients with supratentorial SICH who underwent surgical evacuation of the hematoma.

METHODS

This study is a subanalysis (cohort design) from the previous clinical trial that assessed the neuroprotective effects of tigecycline. The ethical clearance number of the study of the neuroprotective effects of tigecycline was 493/PT02.FK/ETIK/2012. Out of 72 subjects, 68 subjects had the result of blood glucose level at admission to the hospital, and four subjects were missed the blood glucose levels. Only subjects who had blood glucose levels at admission are included in this study.

The blood glucose levels of the subjects were 10.15562/ijn.v3i2.82

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Received: 2019-09-16
Accepted: 2019-11-20
Published: 2020-02-20

Open access: https://ina-jns.org/
< 15 days based on our clinical experience. We assessed for the severity of clinical injury using the Glasgow Coma Scale, and radiologic severity was examined according to hematoma volume, degree of brain midline shift (MLS), and obstruction of the ambient cistern.\textsuperscript{12,13} Midline shift (MLS) was measured at the level of the foramen of Monro using the following equation: MLS = $\frac{a}{2} - b$, where $a$ is the width of the intracranial space through the septum pellucidum (SP), and $b$ is the distance from the bone to the SP.\textsuperscript{13}

The chi-square test and Fisher's exact test were used to analyze the association between the characteristics of patients, radiological findings, and outcomes. A multivariate analysis using logistic regression was conducted for variables with a p-value < 0.25 in the univariate analysis. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

The mean age of the subjects in this study was 54.5 ± 9 years, the mean volume of hematoma was 51 ± 15 mL, and the mean blood sugar level at admission was 173 ± 64 mg/dL. The proportion of hyperglycemia on various factors that were commonly believed to affect the outcome of SICH seen in Table 1.

The multivariate analysis with logistic regression showed that MLS was a predictor of hyperglycemia (odds ratio [OR]: 0.074; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.009–0.613; $p = 0.016$).

A total of 19 (26%) in-hospital mortalities were recorded during the study, and 15 (79%) patients died within the first seven days after surgery. The median LOS was 12.5 (range: 2 – 64) days. The effect of hyperglycemia on the outcome of surgical evacuation of supratentorial SICH is shown in Table 2.

Patients with hyperglycemia upon admission did not significantly differ in terms of in-hospital mortality and LOS.

### Table 1. Baseline characteristics of the participants

| Variables               | Blood glucose level ≥ 140 mg/dL (n = 68) | p value |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
|                         | Yes (n = 34) | No (n = 34) | |
| Age                     |                          |         |         |
| ≥ 60 years              | 9 (26) | 4 (17) | 1.1          |
| < 60 years              | 25 (74) | 20 (83) | 0.767          |
| Sex                     |                          |         |         |
| Female                  | 18 (53) | 7 (21) | 0.337 |
| Male                    | 16 (47) | 27 (89) |         |
| GCS                     |                          |         |         |
| > 8                     | 26 (76) | 19 (56) | 0.094 |
| ≤ 8                     | 12 (34) | 5 (15) |         |
| Hematoma volume         |                          |         |         |
| ≥ 50 mL                 | 26 (76) | 12 (35) | 0.471 |
| < 50 mL                 | 12 (35) | 23 (65) |         |
| MLS                     |                          |         |         |
| ≥ 10 mm                 | 17 (50) | 1 (3)  | 0.002 |
| < 10 mm                 | 17 (50) | 23 (65) |         |
| OAC                     |                          |         |         |
| Yes                     | 36 (105) | 17 (51) | 0.296 |
| No                      | 6 (17) | 7 (21) |         |
| History of hypertension |                          |         |         |
| Yes                     | 40 (118) | 21 (61) | 0.691 |
| No                      | 4 (11) | 3 (9)  |         |
| History of diabetes     |                          |         |         |
| Yes                     | 11 (32) | 1 (3)  | 0.045 |
| No                      | 33 (97) | 23 (69) |         |
| MABP                    |                          |         |         |
| ≥ 127                   | 22 (65) | 9 (26) | 0.323 |
| < 127                   | 22 (65) | 15 (44) |         |
| Leukocyte count (cells/mm\textsuperscript{3}) |            |         |         |
| ≥ 11.000                | 35 (103) | 16 (47) | 0.274 |
| < 11.000                | 8 (23) | 7 (21) |         |
| Administration of tigecycline |              |         |         |
| Yes                     | 22 (65) | 11 (33) | 0.743 |
| No                      | 22 (65) | 13 (41) |         |

GCS = Glasgow Coma Scale, MABP = mean arterial blood pressure, MLS = midline shift, OAC = obliteration of ambient cisterns. * = Fisher’s exact test

### Table 2. Association between outcomes and blood glucose

| Outcomes               | Blood glucose levels upon admission | p-value | RR (95% CI) | OR (95% CI) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
|                        | >140 mg/dL (n, %) ≤140 mg/dL (n, %) |         |             |             |
| In-hospital mortality  | 15 (34) | 4 (17) | 0.126 | 1.26 (0.958 – 1.67) | 2.59 (0.747 – 8.95) |
| LOS ≥ 15 days          | 14 (32) | 8 (33) | 0.898 | 0.978 (0.691 – 1.384) | 0.933 (0.323 – 2.693) |

Note: OR = odds ratio, RR = relative risk, 95% CI = 95% confidence interval, LOS = length of hospital stay. * Fisher’s exact test
DISCUSSION

Hyperglycaemia is a common medical complication in patients with SICH. Pathophysiologically, hyperglycaemia is caused by the disruption of blood glucose regulation in the brainstem due to the mass effect of hematoma and brain herniation. Previous studies have shown that the prevalence of hyperglycaemia in patients with SICH is 51%. Although a higher cut-off value was used to define hyperglycaemia (7.77 mmol/L rather than 6.5 mmol/L), this study showed a higher prevalence of 65%. This phenomenon may be attributed to three reasons. First, one study of traumatic brain injury has shown that patients with more severe injury have significantly higher blood glucose levels. MLS was associated with hyperglycaemia in our study, which strengthens the notion that such a condition can reflect the severity of brain injury correlated to SICH. Second, all patients in our study had a hematoma volume > 30 mL, compared with < 30 mL in other studies. Third, the prevalence of diabetes in our study was higher than that of previous studies (18% vs. 11%). Following a previous study, our study showed that a history of diabetes was significantly associated with hyperglycaemia (OR: 7.667; 95% CI: 0.925 – 63.567; p = 0.045).

Considering that hyperglycaemia can reflect the severity of brain injury in patients with SICH, such a condition can affect the outcome of patients with SICH. Previous studies have shown that hyperglycaemia is associated with mortality after SICH. In contrast, our study showed that hyperglycaemia upon admission was not associated with mortality and LOS. Indeed, all participants in our study underwent hematoma evacuation, whereas participants in previous studies did not. Hematoma volume is considered a determinant factor for outcome. Hematoma evacuation may negate the influence of other factors. Another study that included both surgical and non-surgical patients has shown that hyperglycaemia did not affect mortality.

The present study had some limitations. The outcome upon discharge and in-hospital mortality and LOS are challenging to assess. However, after five days of managing patients with supratentorial SICH, early assessment of the prognosis of SICH is feasible, and the adverse effect of hyperglycaemia can be observed within the first four weeks after onset. Also, short-term assessments, such as evaluation of in-hospital mortality and LOS, can be used to distinguish patients who may benefit from the surgical evacuation of hematoma and to provide information about recovery expectations to patients and relatives.

CONCLUSION

The prevalence of hyperglycaemia in patients with supratentorial SICH is approximately 65%. The mass effect of hematoma is associated with hyperglycaemia. However, in-hospital mortality and LOS are not affected by hyperglycaemia upon admission.

Acknowledgments

We thank all patients and their families who participated in this study, and hospitals were included in this study with their permission.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MS conceived and carried out the experiments, involved in treating patients who are research subjects, and wrote the manuscript. HM conceived the experiments. SA supervised the project. DT involved in treating patients who are research subjects. HGT involved in treating patients who are research subjects. SI involved in treating patients who are research subjects. WS involved in treating patients who are research subjects. SN supervised the project.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this study.

FUNDING

No funding

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