Long-Term Predialysis Systolic Blood Pressure Variability and Intradialytic Cardiac Hemodynamics in Hemodialysis Patients

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Research Article

Keywords: predialysis systolic blood pressure, cardiac hemodynamics, hemodialysis
Abstract

The association in hemodialysis patients between long-term predialysis blood pressure variability and intradialytic cardiac hemodynamics was assessed prospectively in 1070 patients receiving maintenance hemodialysis for more than 3 months. Predialysis blood pressure variability was assessed over 1-year intervals. Outcomes included factors were intradialytic hypotension and change in rate-pressure product. The final cohort's mean age was 59 years, and 57% were males. Greater predialysis systolic blood pressure variability was associated with an increased risk of intradialytic hypotension (adjusted hazard ratio, 1.097; 95% confidence intervals 1.055 to 1.140) and change in rate-pressure product (adjusted hazard ratio, 1.213; 95% confidence intervals 1.163 to 1.265). Results were similar when blood pressure variability was stratified by baseline systolic blood pressure. Factors associated with higher systolic blood pressure variability were older age, female sex, longer duration of dialysis, and diagnosis of diabetic nephropathy, and lower levels of serum albumin. In conclusion, greater predialysis systolic blood pressure variability among hemodialysis patients was associated with greater intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability. Strategies to reduce blood pressure variability might be beneficial for hemodialysis patients.

Introduction

Hypertension is reported in greater than 90% of patients receiving long-term hemodialysis and may contribute to morbidity and cardiovascular diseases (CVD) \(^1\). However, the relationship between blood pressure (BP) and CVD in hemodialysis patients is complex and confounded by many associations \(^2\).

Fluctuations in BP or BP variability (BPV) is common in hemodialysis patients. Those fluctuations entail changes in systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) that occurs before (predialysis), during (intradialytic), or after (post-dialytic) the treatments \(^3\). BPV can be short-term, midterm, or long-term. Short-term BPV includes beat-to-beat, minute-to-minute, hour-to-hour, and circadian variability over a period of 24 hours; midterm BPV includes variability over a period of days; long-term BPV includes variability over weeks, months, seasons, and even years \(^4\).

The goal of this study was to elucidate the role of some readily available clinical and demographic factors in BPV, including predialysis BP and BPV in cardiac hemodynamics \(^3\). The present study recruited incident hemodialysis patients from 9 centers studied over one year to assess the association of long-term predialysis BPV with intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability, including intradialytic hypotension (IDH), and myocardial ischemia.

Results

BPV parameters

The mean VIM\(_{\text{SBP}}\) that was used for the BPV metric was 15.44±3.85, and mean VIM\(_{\text{DBP}}\) was 8.69±2.13 (Table 1).
Baseline characteristics

The final study cohort comprised 1070 in-center maintenance hemodialysis patients at 9 hemodialysis centers that represented 75% of the initial cohort (Figure 1). Demographic, clinical, and biochemical characteristics are shown in Table 2. Mean age was 59±14 years, and 57% were male, and 14% had a history of smoke. Glomerulonephritis accounted for 56% of the causes of end-stage renal disease (ESRD), with 74% having hypertension and 24% having diabetes mellitus and 14% having a history of a cardiocerebrovascular event. The median dialysis vintage was 52 months, the mean dry weight was 57±12 kg and the ratio of excess predialysis weight at start of hemodialysis to dry weight was 4.37±2.39%.

BPV and intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability

Intradialytic hypotension:

The incidence of IDH over the 1-year was 26%. The risk of IDH was associated with higher VIM$_{SBP}$ in both the unadjusted and fully adjusted models (Table 3). In the fully adjusted model, each 1 SD increase in the VIM$_{SBP}$ was associated with 9.7% higher risk of IDH (95% confidence interval [95% CI], 5.5% to 14.0%).

Myocardial ischemia:

The changes in rate-pressure product (RPP) during a dialysis session were used to estimate myocardial ischemia and were divided into binary variables based on their median. A higher VIM$_{SBP}$ was associated with an increased risk of great change in RPP in both unadjusted and fully adjusted models (Table 3). In the fully adjusted model, each 1 SD increase in the VIM$_{SBP}$ was associated with 21.3% higher risk of great change in RPP (95% CI, 16.3% to 26.5%).

Sensitivity analyses:

VIM$_{SBP}$ analyzed as tertiles had a similar association with outcomes as the primary analysis (Table S1). After stratification by baseline SBP, the magnitude and direction of the association between VIM$_{SBP}$ and outcomes remained similar to the primary analysis in each of the categories, suggesting that the association between VIM$_{SBP}$ and outcomes was not dependent on baseline BP (Table S2).

Predictors of BPV:

The association between predialysis VIM$_{SBP}$ and patient baseline characteristics was shown in Table 4. After multivariate adjustment, older age, longer dialysis vintage, and a lower serum albumin were associated with higher VIM$_{SBP}$.

Additional analyses:
Higher predialysis \( V_{\text{IM}_{\text{DBP}}} \) was associated with an increased risk of IDH in both unadjusted and fully adjusted models. In the fully adjusted model, each 1 SD increase in the BPV was associated with 10.0% higher risk of IDH (95% CI, 2.9% to 17.6%) and with an increased risk of great change in RPP. In the fully adjusted model, each 1 SD increase in the BPV was associated with 15.4% higher risk of great change in RPP (95% CI, 8.1% to 23.2%) (Table S3).

**Discussion**

Predialysis SBP is most commonly selected to diagnose and manage BP in hemodialysis patients. SBP is the major determinant of pulse pressure, since both dependent quite strongly on inelasticity of major conduit vessels and pulse wave velocity. Therefore, predialysis systolic BPV was selected to assess the association between predialysis BPV and intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability. The results from this prospective study of 1070 incident in-center hemodialysis patients demonstrated that higher predialysis systolic BPV was independently associated with an increased risk of IDH and myocardial ischemia during hemodialysis sessions. This association persisted across all baseline SBP categories and after adjustment for a number of potential confounding factors. Thus, the predialysis systolic BPV emerges as a potentially modifiable risk factor for cardiac hemodynamic instability in hemodialysis patients. Greater predialysis diastolic BPV was found to be independently associated with an increased risk of intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability, including IDH, and myocardial ischemia.

IDH and myocardial ischemia are frequent complications of hemodialysis. IDH may result from a failure to tolerate ultrafiltration leading to an imbalance between central hypovolemia and reflex-mediated hemodynamic responses, and is clearly associated with adverse outcomes, and all-cause mortality. Current guidelines recommended to address IDH include regular assessment of dry weight; control of inter-dialytic weight gain by dietary fluid and salt restriction; optimization of ultrafiltration and dialysate composition; use of a cool dialysate; careful assessment of dosing and timing of antihypertensive drugs; prolonged dialysis time and increased dialysis frequency. However, even with plenty management, some patients remain prone to IDH. The finding that a higher predialysis systolic BPV was associated with an increased risk of IDH suggests that maintaining a stable predialysis BP may reduce the incidence of IDH.

Previous studies have demonstrated that the RPP highly correlates with invasive measurement of myocardial oxygen consumption, and it is used as an index of myocardial workload and oxygen demand to predict cardiac function, morbidity and mortality. Cardiovascular reactivity to acute stress is mediated via the activation of the sympathetic nervous system and hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis, leading to increase in heart rate, blood pressure, vasoconstriction, and vagal withdrawal. A greater hemodynamic response to acute stress including an exaggerated increase in blood pressure or heart rate was associated with incident hypertension and a higher mortality rate. In the present study, the RPP change during hemodialysis was assessed to evaluate the hemodynamic response. A higher predialysis systolic BPV was significantly associated with the risk of a greater change in RPP. Thus, strategies to
reduce fluctuations in predialysis BP might be considered to decrease cardiac hemodynamic stability during hemodialysis.

The BPV is one compelling putative risk factor to explain the strikingly high rate of CVD in hemodialysis patients. Indeed, BPV is significantly associated with CVD and mortality in these patients. Their BPV may have unique determinant including volume and osmolar shifts, and impaired counter-regulatory responses. Additionally, BPV in hemodialysis patients may entail vascular remodeling, overactivation of the sympathetic nervous system and loss of compliance of conduit vessels with increases in arterial pulse wave velocity. Patients receiving hemodialysis can experience IDH, or myocardial ischemia, both of which increase risk of mortality. Our data extend the retrospective report on 11291 incident hemodialysis patients treated at 210 dialysis clinics in the United States that a greater predialysis systolic BPV was a risk factor for all-cause mortality, cardiovascular mortality, and cardiovascular events. A recent retrospective analysis also confirmed above findings. The present study has found, for the first time, that higher predialysis systolic BPV was significantly associated with an increased risk of intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability, including IDH and a greater change in RPP. The BPV metric was an indicator of BPV independently of mean level of BP. The association between predialysis systolic BPV and cardiac hemodynamic instability remained significant after stratification by baseline SBP category. Therefore, a goal of management of hemodialysis patients to contast their very high CVD mortality might be to maintain cardiac hemodynamic stability.

In the present study, we found that dry weight, or the ratio of excess weight at hemodialysis start to dry weight, was not significantly associated with predialysis BPV. Meanwhile, the adjustment for the dry weight and the ratio of excess weight at hemodialysis start to dry weight in the finally outcomes model did not change the association between BPV and outcomes. In a previous retrospective study on the association between predialysis BPV and outcomes, they observed that achievement of prescribed dry weight was associated with lower predialysis BPV, but the adjustment for achievement of prescribed dry weight in the finally outcomes model did not change the association between BPV and outcomes. Meanwhile, a randomized clinical trial confirmed that dry weight reduction did not affect BPV levels. It is hypothesized that volume losses that occur with dialysis induce baroreceptor-dependent changed in autonomic function that stabilizes venous return (capacitance vessel constriction) and peripheral constriction (arteriolar constriction) subjects with inelastic conduit vessels cannot adequately sense the fluctuations in BP and do not mount an effective -counter-regulatory response. BPV reduction is not always accompanied by BP reduction; whether BPV changes depends largely on modification of the responsible pathogenesis, which may be influenced by specific but not all antihypertensive interventions.

The predialysis systolic BPV was predicted by older age, and longer duration of dialysis. All of these also predict increased pulse wave velocity and conduit vessel stiffness. Moreover, impaired baroreceptor activation (as in old age) drives the sympathetic nervous system that could contribute to the associated with RPP and cardiac disease. Potentially modifiable factor included serum albumin that was associated with predialysis systolic BPV. Low serum albumin was associated with inflammation, arterial
stiffness and atherosclerosis. Several studies have reported that malnutrition and inflammation could result in atherosclerosis and enhanced BP. Diet modification, such as folic acid supplementation, might contribute to the reduction of BP. A clinical trial in primary prevention of stroke among adults with hypertension in China found that supplemental folic acid dramatically reduced stroke in the hypertensive Chinese population where (unlike United States and Europe) food is not fortified with folate and there may be widespread folate deficiency. This could be exacerbated by loss of B vitamin and folate during dialysis. Moreover, the elevated levels of homocysteine could be reduced by the folic acid supplementation, which could modify stroke in Chinese hypertensive patients. Therefore, dietary intervention might help to reduce the risk of CVD. Further study will be deserved to explore available pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.

This study aimed to minimize confounding influence on the measured variables. It is well known that blood pressure fluctuates with season changes. Therefore, in this study, we measured a consecutive 12 months of predialysis blood pressure to determine BPV. Predialysis BP was measured when patients took a rest after arriving in waiting room prior to dialysis, which was equivalent to visit-to-visit BP. Therefore, it could reflect the long-term degree of BP control and stability. In this multi-center prospective observational study, we demonstrated that greater predialysis systolic BPV was associated with intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability. Thus, both reduction in average BP levels and reduction of fluctuations in BP should be emphasized in hemodialysis patients. Interventions aimed at reducing BPV might be beneficial in improving adverse outcomes for hemodialysis patients. There are several limitations to our study. First, we only explored the association between predialysis systolic and diastolic BPV, but not other components of BP, such as mean arterial pressure, intradialytic or postdialysis BP. Fluctuation in these BP components may be risk factors for poor outcomes and needs additional research. Second, the final cohort recruited most prevalent hemodialysis patients, not incident hemodialysis patients, whose dialysis history might influence the adverse outcome. However, after adjusted for dialysis vintage, the association still remains. Third, this is a prospective observational study. The results could only explain the association and provide clues for treatment to reduce blood pressure variability. Further study will be deserved to explore optimal blood pressure management strategy and relevant mechanisms in hemodialysis patients.

In conclusion, greater predialysis systolic BPV was associated with intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability in hemodialysis patients. Reducing BPV might be beneficial in improving adverse outcomes for hemodialysis patients.

Methods

Study Population of Patients

Adult patients (aged ≥18 years) receiving maintenance hemodialysis were recruited from the Fourth Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine and 8 public hospitals in Jinhua city, Zhejiang
Province of China (Central Hospital of Jinhua, People’s Hospital of Jinhua, Central Hospital of Yiwu, People’s Hospital of Yongkang, People’s Hospital of Pujiang, Dongyang Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, People’s Hospital of Lanxi, and Lanxi Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine). Inclusion criteria included: (1) maintenance hemodialysis for more than 3 months prior to August 1, 2018; (2) receiving regular 3-times weekly hemodialysis for 4 hours. Exclusion criteria were: (1) patients who died or received a kidney transplant or were changed to peritoneal dialysis or transferred to a different renal unit during follow-up period; (2) those who could not write informed consent. This study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Fourth Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine (K20190047) and was recorded in the Chinese Clinical Trial Register (ChiCTR2000028945). All methods were performed in accordance with the approved guidelines and relevant regulations. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Study Protocol

The hemodynamic data was collected prospectively for all of the hemodialysis sessions of the participants. At each session, patients were assessed for pre- and post- hemodialysis weight, and predialysis and intradialytic SBP, DBP and heart rate (HR) from August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019. The BP and HR were measured with patient seated in a chair with feet on the floor and back supported. Measurement were made by trained research assistants with a validated automated oscillometric brachial BP monitor (Omron 907XL; Omron Healthcare, Lake Forest, IL). Predialysis BP and HR were measured after a 10-minute rest period in a chair before dialysis. BP was measured three times consecutively before each dialysis, with a 1-minute interval and the results averaged. Intradialytic BP and HR were measured automatically at 30, 60, 120, 180, and 240 minutes by the dialysis apparatus.

Patients were dialyzed on either Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday schedules. Prescriptions for patient’s dry weight and antihypertensive drug were made by the nephrologist during their weekly visits. Dry weight was assessed by cardiopulmonary radiology and clinical symptoms including peripheral edema, pulmonary congestion, intra- and extra-dialytic BP and muscle spasm. Excess predialysis weight was defined as the difference between predialysis and dry weight.

Cardiac hemodynamic instability during hemodialytic procedure were evaluated by IDH, and myocardial ischemia. A decrease in SBP ≥ 20 mmHg or mean arterial pressure (MAP) ≥ 10 mmHg was required to quantify hypotension and ≥3 episodes hypotension per 10 hemodialysis treatments were required to diagnose IDH. The rate-pressure product (RPP) was calculated as SBP multiplied by HR and the change in RPP as the percentage difference between the maximum value and the minimum value during dialysis session. The change in RPP during hemodialysis procedure was used to assess myocardial ischemia, which could represent the early change in cardiac hemodynamics.

BPV and other measurements

For each BP measurements, the SD was calculated (SD\text{SBP} and SD\text{DBP}) with the coefficient of variation (CV, CV\text{SBP} and CV\text{DBP}) and the variability independent of the mean (VIM, VIM\text{SBP} and VIM\text{DBP}). The CV was
The following demographic and clinical data were collected: age, gender, comorbidity (diabetes, hypertension, cardiocerebrovascular events), body mass index (BMI), use of antihypertensive medications, dialysis vintage, and occurrence of their cardiocerebrovascular events include myocardial infarction, angina, coronary heart disease, stroke, heart failure and post-cardiac arrest. The diagnosis of hypertensive nephropathy is based on characteristic clinical features, excluding other renal diseases and eventually on the features of kidney biopsy. The following laboratory parameters were also collected: Kt/V, blood hemoglobin, serum albumin, calcium, phosphate, and parathyroid hormone (PTH). All laboratory values were measured using standardized automated methods. Laboratory values were measured monthly except PTH that was measured quarterly. The averaged or median values during the exposure period served as the baseline data.

**Statistical Analysis**

The baseline characteristics of all the patients were compared tertiles of BPV to assess factors that were associated independently with BPV at baseline using linear mixed effects models with a random intercept for the clinic to account for clustering of outcomes by providers. The follow factors were also incorporated as explanatory variables: demographic characteristics (age, sex), clinical factors (history of diabetes, hypertension, cardiocerebrovascular events, smoke, and BMI), dialysis-related factors (cause of ESRD, dialysis vintage, Kt/V, dry weight, and the ratio of excess weight at hemodialysis start to dry weight), laboratory measurements (serum albumin, calcium, phosphate, hemoglobin, and PTH), and use of antihypertensive medications. The association of BPV with intradialytic cardiac hemodynamic instability, including IDH and myocardial ischemia was assessed by discrete time proportional hazards models using binary regression. HRs were calculated for each outcome per 1 SD increase in BPV after adjustment for the same a pre-defined potential confounders. A sensitivity analyses for BPV was undertaken by tertiles to quantify the association of BPV with outcomes after stratification by categories of SBP at baseline (tertiles of SBP). Statistical significance was taken as P<0.05 using two-tailed tests. Statistical analyses were undertaken by using SPSS Statics 22.0 (IBM, New York).

**Declarations**

**Author contributions statement**

Research idea and study design: EYL, YY; data acquisition: JJY, JH; data analysis/interpretation: BYY, QZ, SSZ, LLW, LL, LZL, LL; statistical analysis: JJY; supervision or mentorship: FH, CSW. Each author contributed important intellectual content during manuscript drafting or revision, accepts personal accountability for the author's own contributions, and agrees to ensure that questions pertaining to the accuracy or integrity of any portion of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Funding**
This work was supported by the grant to Yi Yang from the National Nature Science Foundation of China (81670621) and the Nature Science Foundation of Zhejiang Province (LY16H050001), and grant to En Yin Lai from the National Nature Science Foundation of China (31671193).

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data availability

The datasets used and analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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**Tables**

**Table 1. Blood Pressure Variability Parameters**
### Parameters

#### Systolic Blood Pressure

|   | Mean±SD       |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Mean | 138.84±17.21  |
| 2. SD   | 15.45±4.29    |
| 3. CV   | 0.11±0.03     |
| 4. VIM  | 15.44±3.85    |

#### Diastolic Blood Pressure

|   | Mean±SD       |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Mean | 77.76±10.01  |
| 2. SD   | 8.67±2.21     |
| 3. CV   | 0.11±0.03     |
| 4. VIM  | 8.69±2.13     |

SD: standard deviation; CV: coefficient of variation; VIM: variability independent of the mean.

**Table 2. Baseline Characteristics of Study population by Tertiles of predialysis VIM\(_{SBP}\)**
| Characteristics                        | Overall | Lowest (<13.5421) | Middle (13.5421-16.6810) | Highest (>16.6810) | P value |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| N (%)                                 | 1070    | 356               | 358                       | 356               | <0.001  |
| Age (y)                               | 59.08±13.79 | 55.35±14.12 | 59.86±12.96           | 62.02±13.45       | <0.001  |
| Male (%)                              | 615 (57.48) | 221 (62.08) | 205 (57.26)           | 189 (53.09)       | 0.052   |
| Comorbidities                         |         |                   |                          |                   |         |
| Diabetes (%)                          | 256 (23.93) | 67 (18.82) | 93 (25.98)            | 96 (26.97)        | 0.021   |
| Hypertension (%)                      | 792 (74.02) | 260 (73.03) | 276 (77.09)          | 256 (71.91)       | 0.251   |
| Cardiocerebrovascular events (%)      | 155 (14.49) | 46 (12.92) | 51 (14.25)           | 58 (16.29)        | 0.437   |
| BMI (kg/m²)                           | 21.65±4.02 | 21.76±3.45 | 21.87±4.58            | 21.33±3.94        | 0.165   |
| Smoke (%)                             | 111 (10.37) | 43 (12.08) | 34 (9.50)            | 34 (9.55)         | 0.434   |
| Cause of ESRD (%)                     |         |                   |                          |                   | 0.002   |
| Diabetic nephropathy                  | 223 (20.84) | 53 (14.89) | 79 (22.07)           | 91 (25.56)        |         |
| Hypertensive nephropathy              | 82 (7.66)   | 20 (5.62)   | 30 (8.38)            | 32 (8.99)         |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                    | 600 (56.07) | 230 (64.61) | 192 (53.63)          | 178 (50.00)       |         |
| Other diagnoses                       | 165 (15.42) | 53 (14.89) | 57 (15.92)           | 55 (15.45)        |         |
| Dialysis vintage (mo)                 | 52.38±45.11 | 48.01±42.58 | 50.20±44.93         | 58.94±47.09       | 0.003   |
| Dry weight (kg)                       | 56.86±11.55 | 57.33±12.02 | 57.22±11.08          | 56.04±11.50       | 0.257   |
| Excess weight at HD start/ Dry weight (%) | 4.37±2.39 | 4.39±2.38 | 4.24±2.54           | 4.48±2.24         | 0.393   |
| Laboratory parameters                 |         |                   |                          |                   |         |
| Kt/V                                  | 1.51±0.61   | 1.49±0.42   | 1.49±0.45            | 1.54±0.86         | 0.518   |
| HB (g/L)                              | 103.95±12.81 | 105.20±13.88 | 103.09±11.30       | 103.57±13.05      | 0.070   |
| Alb (g/L)                             | 39.26±3.46   | 40.05±3.26  | 39.50±3.31          | 38.24±3.57        | <0.001  |
| Ca (mmol/L)                           | 2.21±0.33    | 2.22±0.17  | 2.21±0.51           | 2.19±0.17         | 0.639   |
| P(mmol/L)                             | 1.68±0.44    | 1.70±0.38  | 1.69±0.46           | 1.65±0.48         | 0.285   |
| PTH (ng/L)                            | 297.64       | 303.13     | 292.07              | 287.35            | 0.627   |
| Use of antihypertensive medications (%) |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Any RAS regimen (without β-blocker)     | 226 (21.12) | 63 (17.70) | 80 (22.35) | 83 (23.31) |
| Any β-blocker regimen (without RAS)    | 124 (11.59) | 45 (12.64) | 39 (10.89) | 40 (11.24) |
| β-blocker + RAS combination             | 115 (10.75) | 28 (7.87) | 34 (9.50) | 53 (14.89) |
| Other medications and combinations     | 605 (56.54) | 220 (61.80) | 205 (57.26) | 180 (50.56) |
| Intradialytic hypotension (%)           | 283 (26.45) | 58 (16.29) | 98 (27.37) | 127 (35.67) |
| RPP (*10³)                              | 10.23±1.49 | 10.23±1.49 | 10.23±1.41 | 10.25±1.56 |
| Change in RPP                           | 0.23±0.08 | 0.20±0.07 | 0.22±0.08 | 0.26±0.09 |

Data are presented as mean (SD) or column percent. BMI: body mass index; ESRD: end stage renal disease; HD: hemodialysis; HB: hemoglobin; Alb: albumin; PTH: parathyroid hormone; RAS: renin angiotensin system; RPP: rate-pressure product.

**Table 3. Association of Predialysis VIM$_{SBP}$ and Intradialytic Cardiac Hemodynamic Instability**

| Outcomes                     | Events | Crude$^a$ | Fully Adjusted$^b$ |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|
|                              |        | HR (95% CI) | P Value | HR (95% CI) | P Value |
| IDH                          | 283    | 1.110     | <0.001          | 1.097     | <0.001 |
|                              |        | (1.071-1.150) |         | (1.055-1.140) |         |
| Great Change in RPP         | 535    | 1.237     | <0.001          | 1.213     | <0.001 |
|                              |        | (1.190-1.285) |         | (1.163-1.265) |         |

$^a$ Unadjusted model.

$^b$ Adjusted for demographic characteristics (age, sex), clinical factors (history of diabetes, hypertension, cardiocerebrovascular events, smoke, and BMI), dialysis-related factors (cause of ESRD, dialysis vintage, Kt/V, dry weight, and the ratio of excess weight at HD start to dry weight), laboratory measurements (serum albumin, calcium, phosphate, hemoglobin, and PTH), and use of antihypertensive medications.

IDH: intradialytic hypotension; RPP: rate-pressure product; CI: confidence interval.
Table 4. Factors associated with predialysis $VIM_{SBP}$ in 1070 incident hemodialysis patients
| Characteristics                        | Coefficient (95% CI)\(^a\) | P value |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Age (y)                               | 0.038 (0.020 to 0.056)      | <0.001 |
| Male versus Female                    | -0.545 (-1.102 to -0.012)   | 0.055  |
| Comorbidities                         |                             |         |
| Diabetes (%)                          | 0.224 (-0.832 to 1.279)     | 0.678  |
| Hypertension (%)                      | 0.134 (-0.416 to 0.683)     | 0.633  |
| Cardiocerebrovascular events (%)      | 0.003 (-0.664 to 0.657)     | 0.992  |
| BMI (kg/m\(^2\))                      | -0.052 (-0.141 to 0.037)    | 0.250  |
| Smoke (%)                             | 0.497 (-0.263 to 1.256)     | 0.200  |
| Cause of ESRD (%)                     |                             |         |
| Diabetic nephropathy                  | Reference                   |         |
| Hypertensive nephropathy              | -0.975 (-2.279 to 0.328)    | 0.142  |
| Glomerulonephritis                    | -1.464 (-2.573 to -0.356)   | 0.010  |
| Other diagnoses                       | -1.259 (-2.497 to -0.021)   | 0.046  |
| Dialysis vintage (mo)                 | 0.015 (0.009 to 0.020)      | <0.001 |
| Dry weight (kg)                       | 0.024 (-0.012 to 0.059)     | 0.188  |
| Excess weight at HD start/ Dry weight (%) | 1.372 (-8.185 to 10.928)   | 0.778  |
| Laboratory parameters                 |                             |         |
| Kt/V                                  | 0.141 (-0.228 to 0.511)     | 0.453  |
| HB (g/L)                              | -0.009 (-0.027 to 0.009)    | 0.326  |
| Alb (g/L)                             | -0.205 (-0.274 to -0.136)   | <0.001 |
| Ca (mmol/L)                           | -0.462 (-1.143 to 0.219)    | 0.183  |
| P(mmol/L)                             | -0.110 (-0.646 to 0.426)    | 0.688  |
| PTH (ng/L)                            | 0.00                        | 0.627  |
| Use of antihypertensive medications (%)|                             |         |
| Any β-blocker regimen (without RAS)   | Reference                   |         |
| Any RAS regimen (without β-blocker )  | 0.251 (-0.576 to 1.078)     | 0.551  |
| β-blocker + RAS combination           | 0.303 (-0.648 to 1.254)     | 0.533  |
| Other medications and combinations    | -0.563 (-1.292 to 0.167)    | 0.130  |
Coefficient for multivariable linear mixed effects models with a random intercept for the clinic to account for outcome clustering by providers. Value of coefficient represents change in $VIM_{SBP}$ per 1 unit change in the factors. Positive numbers indicate higher $VIM_{SBP}$ per 1 unit change in factors, and negative numbers indicate lower $VIM_{SBP}$ per 1 unit change in factors.

BMI: body mass index; ESRD: end stage renal disease; HD: hemodialysis; HB: hemoglobin; Alb: albumin; PTH: parathyroid hormone; RAS: renin angiotensin system; RPP: rate-pressure product; CI: confidence interval.

**Supplementary Materials**

Table S1: Association of Predialysis VIMSBP Analyzed as Tertiles and Intradialytic Cardiac Hemodynamic Instability.

Table S2: Association of Predialysis VIMSBP with Intradialytic Cardiac Hemodynamic Instability after Stratification by predialysis SBP categories.

Table S3: Association of Predialysis VIMDBP and Intradialytic Cardiac Hemodynamic Instability.