



Regional thigh tissue oxygen saturation during cardiopulmonary bypass predicts acute kidney injury after cardiac surgery

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Abstract

Cardiopulmonary bypass-associated acute kidney injury may appear postoperatively, but predictive factors are unclear. We investigated the potential of regional tissue oxygen saturation as a predictor of cardiopulmonary bypass-associated acute kidney injury. We analyzed the clinical data of 150 adult patients not on dialysis who underwent elective cardiac surgical procedures during January 2015–March 2017. Near-infrared spectroscopy was used to measure regional oxygen saturation. Sensors were placed on the patients' forehead, abdomen, and thigh. The incidence of acute kidney injury was 2% at the end of surgery, 13% at 24 h, and 9% at 48 h, with the highest at 24 h after surgery. The multiple regression analysis revealed that the thigh regional oximetry during cardiopulmonary bypass, oxygen delivery index, and neutrophil count at the end of cardiopulmonary bypass and surgery were independent risk factors for acute kidney injury. The receiver-operating characteristic curve analysis suggested that a cutoff of regional oxygen saturation at the thigh of $\leq 67\%$ was predictive of acute kidney injury within 24 h after surgery. In conclusion, the regional oxygen saturation at the thigh during cardiopulmonary bypass is a crucial marker to predict postoperative acute kidney injury in adults undergoing cardiac surgery.

Keywords Regional oxygen saturation · Cardiopulmonary bypass · Near-infrared spectroscopy · Acute kidney injury · Peripheral tissue hypoperfusion

Introduction

Cardiopulmonary bypass-associated acute kidney injury (CPB-AKI) increases short- and long-term risks and is associated with prolonged hospital stay [1–3]. In recent years, perioperative renal protection during cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) has assumed increasing importance [4, 5]. The pathophysiology of CPB-AKI is complicated and multifactorial, with risk factors known to include decreased renal perfusion, metabolic and neurohormonal activation, oxidative stress, activation of proinflammatory mediators

leading to inflammation, and the presence of nephrotoxic substances [2, 6, 7]. CPB is always accompanied by a risk of ischemia–reperfusion injury, which is associated with blood dilution and low blood pressure, cardiac arrest, and reduced pulmonary blood flow, and is a major cause of CPB-AKI [6, 8, 9]. Monitoring tissue perfusion with near-infrared spectroscopy to assess regional oxygen saturation (rSO_2) is reported to capture well the changes in oxygen supply and demand [10–12]. We investigated the potential of tissue rSO_2 , measured intraoperatively with near-infrared spectroscopy, as an early predictor of CPB-AKI.

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Patients and methods

A retrospective study was performed on 150 consecutive cases of adult cardiac surgery from January 2015 to March 2017. Emergency operations, aortic procedures, and operations for patients on dialysis were excluded.

Regional oximetry using a near-infrared spectroscopy device, INVOS 5100 C (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN, USA) was used to measure rSO_2 . Sensors were placed on the patients' forehead, abdomen (at the level of the 12th thoracic vertebra), and the lateral side of the thigh during induction of anesthesia; rSO_2 was measured from induction until the end of surgery, with data acquired every 30 s. The rSO_2 data were calculated as an average of the values acquired at each detection point during CPB, with the average value during the first 5 min of induction of anesthesia used as the preoperative value. Furthermore, hematological examination was performed at the end of CPB and after entering ICU.

The oxygen delivery index (DO_{2i}), as an indicator of the oxygen delivery amount, was evaluated per the following equation using cardiac output values.

$$DO_{2i} = 1.38 \times Hb \times SaO_2 + 0.003 \times PaO_2 \\ \times \text{Cardiac Index (CI)} \times 10 \text{ (mL/min/m}^2\text{)}$$

AKI was determined according to the RIFLE classification by assessing the decline in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) [13].

The RIFLE classification is based on the serum creatinine and urine output determinants, and considers three severity classes of AKI (risk, injury, and failure), according to the variations in the serum creatinine and/or urine output, and two outcome classes (i.e., loss of kidney function and end-stage kidney disease) [14]. We investigated the association of various CPB factors, including rSO_2 , with the incidence and causes of postoperative AKI as indicated by changes in eGFR from preoperative values until 48 h after surgery. Univariate, logistic, and receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was used to assess the variables obtained at the time the postoperative AKI incidence was the highest to determine an association between CPB parameters, such as rSO_2 and postoperative laboratory and clinical data.

Cardiopulmonary bypass procedure

For all cases, the CPB system comprised a centrifugal pump and a remote-controlled unit (HAS-2; Senko Medical, Tokyo, Japan), oxygenator, and reservoir (priming volume: 144 or 260 mL; Capiox-FX; Terumo, Tokyo, Japan). The extracorporeal circuit tubing was selected according to the patient's body surface area, with a tubing priming volume of 650 mL for an area $\leq 1.66 \text{ m}^2$ and 850 mL for an area $> 1.66 \text{ m}^2$. Blood gas management was performed with the alpha-stat strategy. During CPB, 300–400 U/kg heparin was used to prevent blood clotting, along with additional doses to attain and maintain an activated clotting time of $> 480 \text{ s}$. The pump flow was adjusted to around 2.4 L/min/m². The mean pressure during CPB was maintained

at approximately 50–60 mmHg. The body temperature was maintained at 34 °C. Cardioplegic solution (10 mL/kg) was given every 30 min. After termination of CPB, heparin was neutralized by protamine sulfate until the activated coagulation time had normalized. Furthermore, the mixed venous oxygen saturation and forehead rSO_2 , which were routinely monitored using near-infrared spectroscopy during CPB, were maintained over 75% and 55%, respectively.

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee at the Kitasato Institute (Sagamihara, Kanagawa, Japan; August 22, 2019; B19-069).

Statistical analysis

In this study, statistical analysis was performed using JMP ver 11.0 (SAS Institute, Carey, NC). The continuous variables were presented as means \pm standard deviations. We considered $P < 0.05$ as statistically significant.

Results

Table 1 presents perioperative data, including patients' characteristics, and performed procedures, while Table 2 shows postoperative outcomes. In this study, the in-hospital mortality rate was 1.3%. The mean rSO_2 values during CPB were $59.9\% \pm 7.8\%$ at the forehead, $74.7\% \pm 8.6\%$ at the abdomen, and $71.0\% \pm 6.5\%$ at the thigh, respectively (Table 3), with the thigh rSO_2 being significantly lower during CPB when compared with the preoperative value. An one-way ANOVA showed no difference in eGFR between the preoperative and 48-h postoperative values. The incidence of AKI by RIFLE classification was 2.7% (Risk 2%, Injury 0.7%) at the end

Table 1 Patient characteristics

Demographic data		Range
Age (year)	66 \pm 12	30–90
Male Sex (%)	99 (66)	
Body surface area (m ²)	1.6 \pm 0.2	1.3–2.2
LVEF (%)	58 \pm 13	20–80
Hb (g/dL)	11.5 \pm 1.8	7.3–16
Hypertension (%)	98 (65)	
Diabetes mellitus (%)	41 (27)	
Procedure		
CABG (%)	38 (25)	
Valve (%)	80 (50)	
CABG + Valve (%)	20 (13)	
Congenital (%)	10 (7)	
Others (%)	2 (1)	

LVEF left ventricular ejection fraction, Hb hemoglobin concentration, CABG coronary artery bypass grafting

Table 2 Postoperative outcomes

		Range
Intraoperative data		
CPB time (min)	181 ± 73	58–499
ACC time (min)	126 ± 55	34–318
DO _{2i} (mL/min/m ²)	290 ± 29	211–382
SvO ₂ (%)	82 ± 5	60–94
Minimum central BT (°C)	34 ± 1	32–35
CPB fluid balance (mL)	568 ± 727	-2050 to + 2810
Blood test value at the end of CPB		
Lactate (mg/dL)	37 ± 20	8.5–80.5
WBC (/ μ L)	10.8 ± 4.3 × 10 ³	2.6–21.3 × 10 ³
Neutrophil count (/ μ L)	7.5 ± 2.9	2.4–15.5
CRP (mg/dL)	0.4 ± 0.8	0.03–5.3
Blood test value after entering ICU		
AST (IU/L)	56 ± 37	16–348
ALT (IU/L)	20 ± 10	7–70
CPK (IU/L)	593 ± 723	122–5520
LDH (IU/L)	345 ± 113	160–916
BUN (mg/dL)	16 ± 6	7.3–35.4
Cr (mg/dL)	0.99 ± 0.30	0.47–2.47
Intensive care unit stay (day)	2.9 ± 2.3	1–23
Hospital stay (day)	25 ± 16	8–93
In-hospital death (%)	1.3	

CPB cardiopulmonary bypass, ACC aortic cross clamp, DO_{2i} oxygen delivery index, SvO₂ mixed venous oxygen saturation, BT body temperature, WBC white blood cell, CRP C-reactive protein, ICU intensive care unit, AST aspartate aminotransferase, ALT alanine aminotransferase, CPK creatine phosphokinase, LDH lactate dehydrogenase, BUN blood urea nitrogen, Cr creatinine

Table 3 Average regional oxygen saturation value (%) at the induction of anesthesia and during cardiopulmonary bypass

Region	Induction of anesthesia	Range	During CPB	Range	P
Forehead	61.3 ± 9.7	29–91	59.9 ± 7.8	44–86	0.16
Abdomen	76.4 ± 9.5	45–95	74.7 ± 8.6	40–96	0.13
Thigh	74.3 ± 10.9	35–95	71.0 ± 6.5	53–85	0.001*

CPB cardiopulmonary bypass

*P < 0.05

of surgery, 12.7% (Risk 12.7%, Injury 0%) at 24 h after surgery, and 10.7% (risk 8.7%, injury 2%) at 48 h after surgery. AKI thus occurred most frequently at 24 h after surgery (Table 4). The difference in mean eGFR between the preoperative value and that 24 h after surgery was 1.3 mL/min. The univariate analysis revealed that patients' age, duration of aortic cross-clamping, preoperative abdominal rSO₂, thigh rSO₂ during CPB, DO_{2i}, neutrophil count at the end of CPB, lactate value at the end of CPB, and during the first

Table 4 Incidence of acute kidney injury

	eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²)	RIFLE criteria (%)		
		Normal	Risk	Injury
Before surgery	55.9 ± 15.8			
End of surgery	57.1 ± 16.0	97.3	2.0	0.7
24 h after surgery	54.6 ± 19.3	87.3	12.7	0
48 h after surgery	60.9 ± 24.2	89.3	8.7	2

eGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate

24 h after surgery significantly correlated with changes in eGFR from before to 24 h after surgery (Table 5). Multivariate regression analysis revealed that thigh rSO₂ during CPB, DO₂ index, and neutrophil count at the end of CPB were independent risk factors for a decrease in eGFR at 24 h after surgery (Table 6). ROC analysis indicated that a thigh rSO₂ of 67% or lower was predictive of AKI developing within 24 h after surgery (Fig. 1).

Discussion

CPB is a necessary auxiliary procedure during cardiac surgery, but it can be a cause of postoperative multiple organ failure. Cardiac surgery with CPB correlates with multiple risk factors for AKI, such as low blood pressure, non-pulsatile flow, ischemia–reperfusion, and induction of inflammatory response mediators [6, 7]. A decrease in peripheral vascular resistance during CPB results in decreased effective renal plasma flow and thus decreased partial pressure of oxygen in the renal medulla [15, 16]. AKI is an important prognostic factor for postoperative recovery, such that early diagnosis and treatment of AKI is necessary for a good outcome. Elevated levels of postoperative serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen are frequently used as a diagnostic marker depicting intraoperative glomerular injury. However, it only indicates injury that has already occurred [17]. Rather than waiting for that information after the fact, it is important to detect latent renal dysfunction to address it early in its course, which is why identifying early prognostic factors for AKI is important [18].

The use of near-infrared spectroscopy to measure cerebral oxygen saturation can easily and continuously detect hypoperfusion, ischemic changes, and oxygen supply and demand at the probe site. It is thus considered a useful non-invasive monitoring device to detect decreases in blood pressure, cannula malposition, malperfusion, or other conditions associated with CPB, allowing them to be addressed at an early stage [19–21]. Monitoring tissue rSO₂ can detect changes in local oxygen supply and demand in various parts of the body. A decrease in local oxygen saturation, whether in the brain or elsewhere in the body, can thus be an early

Table 5 Univariate analysis of factors associated with a postoperative decrease in estimated glomerular filtration rate

	<i>r</i>	95% CI	<i>P</i>
Age (years)	−0.45	−0.56 to 0.31	0.001*
Body surface area (m ²)	0.13	−0.02 to 0.28	0.11
LVEF (%)	−0.14	−0.01 to 0.29	0.077
Hb (g/dL)	0.19	0.03 to 0.34	0.020*
Hypertension	−0.22	−0.36 to −0.06	0.0062*
Diabetes mellitus	−0.18	−0.33 to −0.02	0.026*
CPB time (min)	−0.18	−0.33 to −0.02	0.029*
ACC time (min)	−0.22	−0.37 to 0.06	0.0062*
DO ₂ i (mL/min/m ²)	0.25	0.09 to 0.39	0.0019*
SvO ₂ (%)	−0.14	−0.29 to 0.01	0.085
Minimum central BT (°C)	0.073	−0.08 to 0.23	0.38
Abdominal rSO ₂ at the induction of anesthesia (%)	0.17	0.01 to 0.32	0.037*
Thigh rSO ₂ at the induction of anesthesia (%)	0.12	−0.03 to 0.28	0.12
Abdominal rSO ₂ during CPB (%)	0.13	−0.02 to 0.29	0.089
Thigh rSO ₂ during CPB (%)	0.31	0.16–0.45	0.001*
Neutrophil count (/μL)	−0.16	−0.32 to −0.00	0.039*
Lactate (mg/dL)	−0.25	−0.40 to 0.10	0.0016*
CRP (mg/dL)	0.05	−1.05 to 0.22	0.48

CI confidence interval, LVEF left ventricular ejection fraction, Hb hemoglobin concentration, CPB cardiopulmonary bypass, ACC aortic cross clamp, DO₂ oxygen delivery, SvO₂ mixed venous oxygen saturation, BT body temperature, rSO₂ regional oxygen saturation, CRP C-reactive protein

**P* < 0.05

Table 6 Multivariate analysis of factors associated with a postoperative decrease in estimated glomerular filtration rate

	CO	95% CI	<i>P</i>
DO ₂ i (mL/min/m ²)	0.09	0.00–0.18	0.04*
Abdominal rSO ₂ at the induction of anesthesia (%)	0.20	−0.06 to 0.47	0.14
Thigh rSO ₂ during CPB (%)	0.53	0.12–0.93	0.011*
Neutrophil count (/μL)	−1.2	−2.1 to 0.24	0.014*
Lactate (mg/dL)	−0.18	−0.38 to 0.00	0.061

DO₂i, delivery O₂ index, rSO₂ regional oxygen saturation, CPB cardiopulmonary bypass

**P* < 0.05

warning sign of ischemia, a risk factor for adverse events associated with CPB [22, 23]. Our study showed that, along with prolonged duration of CPB, DO₂ index, and inflammatory response, peripheral tissue hypoperfusion detected by monitoring thigh rSO₂ during cardiac surgery in adults was associated with postoperative renal dysfunction. This indicates that changes in oxygen supply and demand as reflected by changes in thigh rSO₂ may be predictive of CPB-AKI. In this study, we performed abdominal and femoral monitoring because the oxygen supply-demand balance of abdominal organs with high blood flow, such as liver and kidney, can be measured at the abdomen (Th-12), whereas that in the peripheral tissues can be determined at the thigh. Choi

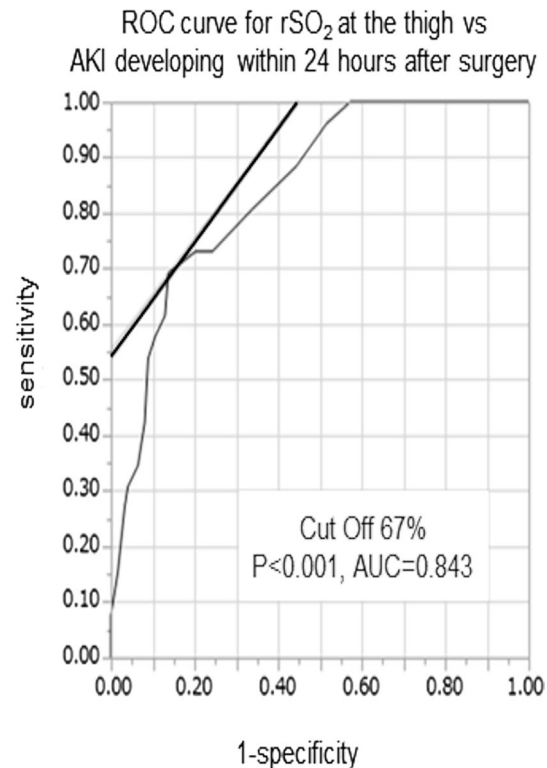


Fig. 1 Receiver-operating characteristic curve analysis of regional oxygen saturation (rSO₂) at the thigh to predict acute kidney injury (AKI) developing within 24 after surgery. A cutoff of an rSO₂ ≤ 67% was the best predictor of AKI. AUC area under the curve

et al. reported that the decline in abdominal rSO_2 affixed just under the kidney with the echo guide correlated with AKI [24]. However, in this study, abdominal rSO_2 did not correlate with AKI. The difference in the results could be because the sensor was not affixed just under the kidney without the echo guide, and the sensor at the right Th-12 could be slightly high for the assessment of the original renal blood flow. Hence, perhaps, the effective depth of field did not reach the organ because the effective depth of field of this model was ≤ 20 mm [25]. Conversely, the sensor at the thigh depicted the muscular layer perfusion status under the sensor without any effect of bones and the depth of field. The dysfunction of capillary microperfusion around the renal tubules, directly affects acute ischemic renal failure, and their epithelium cells slough off, and obstruct the lumen; thereby, inducing an increase in the hydrostatic pressure of the renal tubules and decline of glomerular filtration. On the other hand, the muscular layer of the lateral side of the thigh is capillary -rich; declined rSO_2 of the thigh suggests capillary hypoperfusion and lack of O_2 supply. Hence, when capillary hypoperfusion of the muscular layer of the thigh occurs, a similar phenomenon in the microperfusion of the capillary around the renal tubules located near the organ could occur. Thus, it is plausible that measuring the thigh rSO_2 is convenience and sensitive. During CPB, when blood supply to peripheral tissues is poor, the microvasculature of surrounding organs is poorly perfused. In the kidney, a decrease in afferent arteriole blood flow can result in ischemia of downstream glomeruli.

Interestingly, our findings indeed suggest that thigh rSO_2 values during CPB reflects not only poor peripheral tissue perfusion and hypoxia right underneath the probe but may also indicate microvascular ischemia in surrounding organs, notably the kidney. Renucci et al. reported a cutoff value of DO_2 of 272 ml/min/m² to be associated with CPB-AKI [26]; in this study, the average value exceeded this value, but there were also cases in which it did not exceed. When a reduction in peripheral rSO_2 is indicated, an increase in DO_2 by blood transfusion could be effective if the target blood pressure has been obtained. Alternatively, increasing peripheral rSO_2 by decreasing the peripheral vascular resistance could be effective if the target DO_2 has been reached. Furthermore, when the thigh rSO_2 value decreased during rewarming, vasodilators were used to decrease the vascular resistance, and, subsequently, the pump flow and DO_2 were increased. Thus, the thigh rSO_2 value was recovered.

Although there are other studies assessing oxygen supply vis-a-vis AKI, none have previously assessed peripheral tissue oxygen demand in relation to the incidence of CPB-AKI. This knowledge gap should be addressed, which the current study has done. We have demonstrated an easy intraoperative method of assessing peripheral oxygen supply that appears to reflect concurrent renal perfusion. It is

to be hoped that continuous monitoring of changes in tissue oxygen demand may allow prompt interventions to decrease the risk of CPB-AKI.

This study has the following limitations. One is that the data analysis was performed on a small sample from a single center. Therefore, our results may be specific to our study population. Similar studies in other institutions would be helpful in establishing more generalizable standards for such evaluations. To this end, further investigation is needed. Ours was a retrospective study. A prospective study investigating peripheral tissue rSO_2 values could further confirm our findings and perhaps demonstrate useful interventions based on this monitoring method. Hemolysis can also cause renal dysfunction during CPB, but we did not assess this factor in our investigation. In a future study, we will consider the impact of hemolysis as an independent risk factor for CPB-AKI.

Conclusion

We found that the mean value of peripheral tissue rSO_2 measured at the thigh during cardiac surgery in adults is an important marker to predict postoperative AKI. Further investigation is required to clarify the risk of AKI after CPB in cardiac surgery.

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