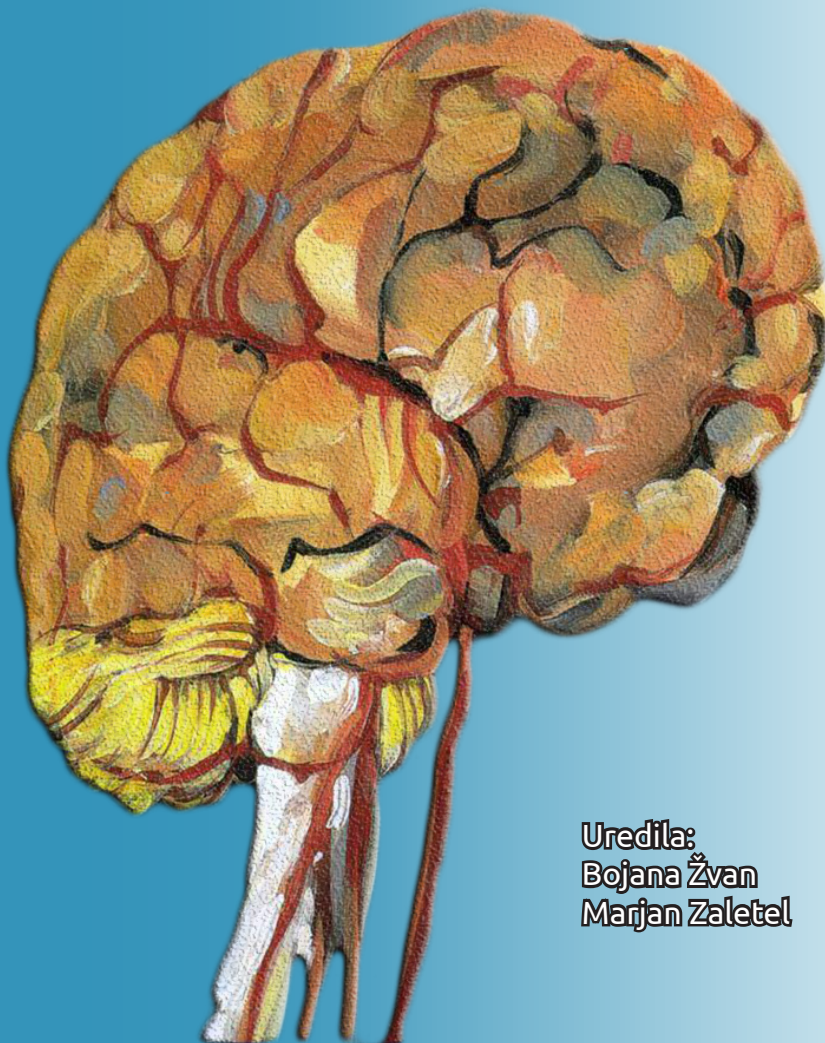


Sekcija za možganskožilne bolezni pri
Slovenskem zdravniškem društvu in
Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni



Uredila:
Bojana Žvan
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AKUTNA MOŽGANSKA KAP XVII

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Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni

AKUTNA MOŽGANSKA KAP XVII

**zbornik poglavij strokovnega srečanja
za zdravnike, zdravstvene delavce in študente
Medicinske in Zdravstvene fakultete**

Uredila: Bojana Žvan in Marjan Zaletel

Ljubljana, januar 2026

AKUTNA MOŽGANSKA KAP XVII

Izdalo in založilo: Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni

Uredila: **Bojana Žvan in Marjan Zaletel**

Oblikovanje in priprava za tisk: Gregor Jurgele

Naklada: 200 izvodov

Maloprodajna cena: 10 €

Ljubljana, januar 2026

© Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni

CIP - Kataložni zapis o publikaciji
Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Ljubljana

616.831-005.1(082)(0.034.2)

AKUTNA možganska kap XVII (srečanje) (2026 ; Ljubljana)

Akutna možganska kap XVII [Elektronski vir] : zbornik poglavij strokovnega srečanja za zdravnike, zdravstvene delavce in študente Medicinske in Zdravstvene fakultete : Ljubljana, januar 2026 / uredila Bojana Žvan in Marjan Zaletel. - E-zbornik. - Ljubljana : Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni, 2026

ISBN 978-961-7168-07-5

COBISS.SI-ID 265863939

Izdajo publikacije sta omogočila:

Sekcija za možganskožilne bolezni pri Slovenskem zdravniškem društvu in Društvo za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni
v sodelovanju s slovenskimi in tujimi strokovnjaki

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“Vsak človek šteje, vsak trenutek šteje – v vsakem dihu, v vsakem dejanju, v vsakem koraku proti zdravju in življenju.”

Strokovno srečanje AMK XVII 2026 nadaljuje dolgoletno tradicijo povezovanja znanja, kliničnih izkušenj in strokovnega dialoga na področju možgansko-žilnih bolezni in zdravja možganov. Program letošnjega srečanja odraža aktualne izzive sodobne nevrološke prakse – od dostopnosti zdravstvene oskrbe in sistemskih vidikov obravnave bolnikov do najnovejših diagnostičnih, terapevtskih in rehabilitacijskih pristopov.

V ospredju bodo teme, ki segajo od razumevanja srčnih vzrokov embolije, sodobnih intervencijskih in fibrinolitičnih strategij ter mehanske revaskularizacije, do vprašanj rehabilitacije, življenja po možganski kapi in dolgoročnega ohranjanja zdravja možganov. Posebno vrednost programu dajejo vabljeni in plenarna predavanja domačih ter mednarodnih strokovnjakov, ki s širšim pogledom umeščajo slovensko prakso v evropski in svetovni prostor.

AMK XVII 2026 ni zgolj pregled novosti, temveč priložnost za razmislek, strokovno razpravo in izmenjavo izkušenj, ki jih vsakodnevno srečujemo v kliničnem delu. Srečanje ostaja zavezano cilju izboljševanja obravnave bolnikov in krepitvi sodelovanja med različnimi strokami, ki soustvarjajo sodobno, celostno nevrološko oskrbo.

»Ko sem v Sloveniji stkala mrežo znanja TeleKap, je možganska kap prenehala biti le vprašanje kraja. Postala je vprašanje časa, dokazov in skupne odgovornosti. Od prvega trenutka akutnega zdravljenja do poti rehabilitacije, od natančne znanosti do umetnosti – v vsakem koraku, v vsakem izboru, v središču ostaja človek.«

Bojana Žvan in Marjan Zaletel



DOSTOPNOST IN ZDRAVSTVENE POTREBE BOLNIKOV Z MOŽGANSKOŽILNIMI BOLEZNI V SLOVENIJI

ACCESSIBILITY AND HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF PATIENTS WITH CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES IN SLOVENIA

Denis Perko, Marjeta Kuhar

POVZETEK

Možganskožilne bolezni kljub napredku v primarni preventivi in akutnem zdravljenju ostajajo eden glavnih vzrokov smrti in dolgotrajne invalidnosti, zaradi česar bolniki potrebujejo zdravstvene storitve za daljša časovna obdobja (1, 2). Umrljivost je zlasti odvisna od kakovosti zdravstvene obravnave. Različni sistemi zdravstvenega varstva lahko prispevajo k neenakostim v zdravju z zagotavljanjem različnega dostopa do zdravstvene obravnave (3, 4). Možganskožilne bolezni so bolezni, ki zahtevajo pravočasno diagnostiko, kontinuirano specialistično obravnavo in dolgotrajno rehabilitacijo. Kljub skupnim evropskim smernicam se dostopnost do zdravstvenih storitev na področju možganskožilnih bolezni med državami Evropske unije – in znotraj njih – bistveno razlikuje (5, 6). Bolnik z možganskožilno boleznijo najprej potrebuje specialistično nevrološko obravnavo, kateri lahko sledijo slikovne in laboratorijske preiskave ter rehabilitacijska obravnava (fiziater, fizioterapevt, klinični psiholog, logoped, itn.). Z retrospektivno študijo smo želeli raziskati zdravstvene potrebe bolnikov z možganskožilno boleznijo in njihovo dostopnost do zdravstvenih storitev v Sloveniji v obdobju 2018–2024. Študija predstavlja prvo nacionalno analizo dostopnosti in zdravstvenih potreb bolnikov z možganskožilnimi boleznimi v Sloveniji, ki temelji na analizi napotitev in napotnih diagnoz možganskožilnih bolezni (7). Podatki o napotitvah in čakajočih pacientih z možganskožilnimi boleznimi so bili pridobljeni iz dveh podatkovnih baz Nacionalnega inštituta za javno zdravje: eNapotitve in eNaročanje.

Prva analiza podatkov se nanaša na število napotitev po stopnjah nujnosti obravnave (nujno, zelo hitro, hitro, redno), druga pa na analizo števila čakajočih bolnikov z možganskožilnimi boleznimi in čakajočih nad najdaljšo dopustno čakalno dobo po stopnjah nujnosti obravnave (zelo hitro, hitro, redno) za Slovenijo. Pri pridobivanju podatkov o vrstah zdravstvenih storitev povezanih z možganskožilnimi boleznimi se je iz šifranta Vrste zdravstvene storitve določilo zdravstvene storitve, ki so najbolj povezane z obravnavo možganskožilnih bolezni. Iz pridobljenih podatkov se je vključilo tudi podatke, ki vključujejo diagnostične kode avstralske modifikacije mednarodne klasifikacije bolezni (MKB-10-AM), povezane z možganskožilnimi boleznimi.

Za potrebe retrospektivne kvantitativne analize podatkov je bilo oblikovanih pet glavnih skupin s pripadajočimi podskupinami. Na podlagi pridobljenih podatkov smo analizirali število in delež napotitev na zdravstvene storitve

ter število in delež čakajočih bolnikov, ki čakajo na specialistično obravnavo. Analiza je pokazala, da se je **število napotitev** na razne specialistične storitve v sedmih letih **povečalo za 1,57-krat**.

Glede na stopnjo nujnosti obravnave se je največje povečanje pokazalo pri napotitvah pacientov s stopnjo **ZELO HITRO (3,76-krat)** in **NUJNO (2,12-krat)**, medtem ko se je število napotitev s stopnjami **HITRO** in **REDNO zmanjšalo**, in sicer za **2 %** oziroma **24 %** (slika 1).

Primerjava podatkov o številu čakajočih na različne specialistične obravnave je pokazala, da se je **število čakajočih** pacientov v enakem obdobju povečalo za **2,7-krat**. Po stopnjah nujnosti obravnave se je najbolj povečalo število čakajočih pacientov v stopnji **ZELO HITRO (183-krat)**, sledijo stopnje **HITRO (3,49-krat)** in **REDNO (1,96-krat)** (slika 2).

Na podlagi analize podatkov lahko zaključimo, da se je dostopnost bolnikov z možganskožilnimi boleznimi do zdravstvenih storitev v zadnjih sedmih letih poslabšala. Zlasti po uvedbi stopnje nujnosti **ZELO HITRO** se v izogib dolgotrajnemu čakanju na specialistično obravnavo napotuje vse več bolnikov pod to stopnjo nujnosti, vendar takšen pristop ne vodi k dejanskemu izboljšanju dostopnosti bolnikov do zdravstvenih storitev.

Ključne besede: dostopnost, možganskožilne bolezni, zdravstvene storitve, zdravstvene potrebe pacientov

SUMMARY

Despite advances in primary prevention and acute treatment, cerebrovascular diseases remain one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability, requiring patients to receive healthcare services for extended periods of time (1, 2). Mortality is particularly dependent on the quality of healthcare. Different healthcare systems can contribute to health inequalities by providing different levels of access to healthcare (3, 4). Cerebrovascular diseases are conditions that require timely diagnosis, continuous specialist care, and long-term rehabilitation. Despite common European guidelines, access to healthcare services in the field of cerebrovascular diseases varies significantly between and within European Union countries (5, 6). Patients with cerebrovascular disease first need specialist neurological care, which may be followed by imaging and laboratory tests and rehabilitation (physiologist, physiotherapist, clinical psychologist, speech therapist, etc.). With a retrospective study, we wanted to investigate the health needs of patients with cerebrovascular disease and their access to health services in Slovenia in the period 2018–2024. The study presents the first national analysis of healthcare accessibility and healthcare needs of patients with cerebrovascular diseases in Slovenia, based on an analysis of referrals and referral diagnoses related to cerebrovascular diseases (7). Data on referrals and waiting patients with cerebrovascular

diseases were obtained from two databases of the National Institute of Public Health: eReferrals and eAppointments.

The first data analysis refers to the number of referrals by urgency level (urgent, high priority, priority, regular), while the second refers to the analysis of the number of patients with cerebrovascular diseases waiting for treatment and those waiting longer than the maximum permissible waiting period by urgency level (high priority, priority, regular) for Slovenia. When obtaining data on the types of health services related to cerebrovascular diseases, the health services most closely related to the treatment of cerebrovascular diseases were determined from the Types of Health Services code list. The data obtained also included data containing diagnostic codes from the Australian modification of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10-AM) related to cerebrovascular diseases.

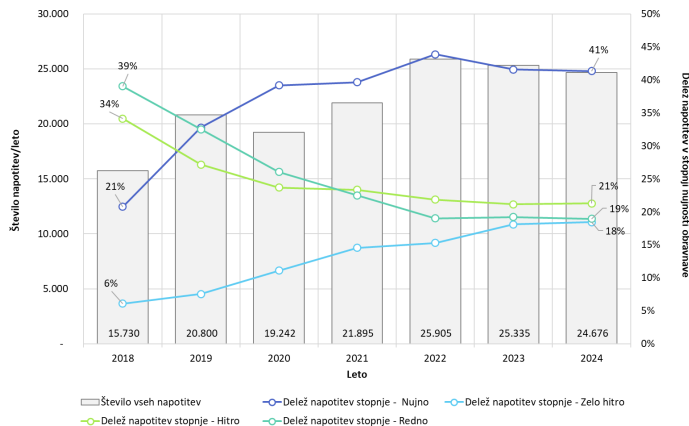
For the purposes of retrospective quantitative data analysis, five main groups with corresponding subgroups were formed. Based on the data obtained, we analysed the number and proportion of referrals to health services and the number and proportion of patients waiting for specialist treatment. The analysis showed that the number of referrals to various specialist services increased 1.57 times in seven years.

In terms of the urgency of treatment, the largest increase was seen in referrals of patients with a HIGH PRIORITY (3.76-fold increase) and URGENT (2.12-fold increase) urgency level, while the number of referrals with PRIORITY and REGULAR levels decreased by 2% and 24%, respectively (Figure 1).

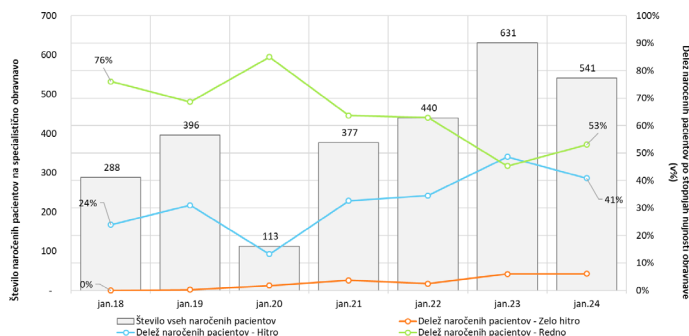
A comparison of data on the number of patients waiting for various specialist treatments showed that the number of patients waiting increased 2.7 times over the same period. In terms of the priority of treatment, the number of patients waiting for treatment with the HIGH PRIORITY level increased the most (183-fold increase), followed by the PRIORITY priority level (3.49-fold increase) and the REGULAR priority level (1.96-fold increase) (Figure 2).

Based on the analysis of the data, we can conclude that the accessibility of healthcare services for patients with cerebrovascular diseases has deteriorated over the past seven years. Especially after the introduction of the HIGH PRIORITY level, more and more patients with this priority level are being referred to avoid long waits for specialist treatment, but this approach does not lead to a real improvement in patients' access to healthcare services.

Key words: cerebrovascular diseases, healthcare services, accessibility, patients' health needs



Slika 1. Napotitve na sekundarno zdravstveno obravnavo možganskožilnih bolezni med letoma 2018 in 2024



Slika 2. Število čakajočih pacientov na sekundarno zdravstveno obravnavo zaradi možganskožilnih bolezni med letoma 2018 in 2024

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ALI BO TENEKTEPLAZA NADOMESTILA ALTEPLAZO PRI ZDRAVLJENJU AKUTNE ISHEMIČNE MOŽGANSKE KAPI? ZNAO IN NEZNANO

WILL TENECTEPLASE REPLACE ALTEPLASE IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE? KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Bojana Žvan

POVZETEK

Intravenozna tromboliza (IVT) ostaja temelj zgodnjega zdravljenja akutne ishemične možganske kapi (AIMK). Več kot dve desetletji je bila alteplaza edino uveljavljeno fibrinolitično zdravilo s potrjeno klinično učinkovitostjo. Kljub dokazanemu učinku pa je njena uporaba omejena s kompleksno aplikacijo, časovno občutljivostjo in organizacijskimi izzivi, zlasti v sodobnih sistemih obravnave AIMK, ki vključujejo mehansko endovaskularno trombektomijo (EVT) in medbolnišnične transporte.

V zadnjem desetletju se je tenekteplaza (TNK), genetsko modificiran aktivator plazminogena z daljšim razpolovnim časom in večjo fibrinsko specifičnostjo, postopno uveljavila kot obetavna alternativa alteplazi. Ključne randomizirane klinične raziskave so pokazale, da TNK v odmerku 0,25 mg/kg glede funkcionalnega izida pri 90 dneh ni slabša od alteplaze, ob primerljivem varnostnem profilu. Poleg tega se je pri bolnikih z zaporo velikih možganskih arterij (VMA) izkazala za učinkovitejšo pri doseganju zgodnje reperfuzije in spontane rekanalizacije pred mehansko trombektomijo.

Praktične prednosti TNK, zlasti enkratni intravenski bolus in enostavnejša logistika, so pomembno vplivale na njeno hitro klinično implementacijo v številnih naprednih centrih za zdravljenje možganske kapi. Te lastnosti so še posebej relevantne v kontekstu sodobnih »hub-and-spoke« sistemov, kjer sta čas in nemoten transport bolnika do centra za endovaskularno zdravljenje ključnega pomena.

Kljub naraščajočemu številu dokazov in vse širši uporabi TNK pa ostajajo odprta pomembna vprašanja. Ni še povsem jasno, ali bo TNK v prihodnosti popolnoma nadomestila alteplazo ali pa bo njena uporaba selektivna glede na klinične podskupine, časovno okno ali organizacijski sistem. Prav tako so dokazi za uporabo TNK v razširjenem časovnem oknu pri izbranih bolnikih s pomočjo perfuzijske slikovne diagnostike obetavni, vendar še ne povsem integrirani v vse klinične smernice. Dodatno negotovost predstavljajo regulativni in ekonomski vidiki ter omejeni podatki pri specifičnih populacijah bolnikov.

Namen tega prispevka je pregledati trenutno razpoložljive dokaze o učinkovitosti in varnosti TNK pri zdravljenju AIMK, osvetliti njene prednosti in

omejitve v primerjavi z alteplazo ter razpravljati o odprtih vprašanjih, ki bodo določala njeno mesto v prihodnjih terapevtskih strategijah.

Ključne besede: akutna ishemična možganska kap, alteplaza, intravenska tromboliza, mehanska revaskularizacija, tenekteplaza.

TENEKTEPLAZA (TNK) KOT ALTERNATIVA ALTEPLAZI V STANDARDNEM ČASOVNEM OKNU ($\leq 4,5$ H)

Velike randomizirane študije so pokazale, da TNK v odmerku 0,25 mg/kg (v enem bolusu) ni inferiorna oziroma je primerljiva z alteplazo glede funkcionalnega izida v 90. dneh in z vidika varnosti (intrakranialna krvavitev (IKK), smrtnost) (1, 2, 3).

TNK PRED MEHANSKO TROMBEKTOMIJO (PREMOSTITVENO ZDRAVLJENJE PRI ZAPORI VELIKIH MOŽGANSKIH ARTERIJ)

Pri bolnikih z zaporo velikih možganskih arterij (VMA) je TNK dosegla večjo zgodnjo reperfuzijo pred EVT in v nekaterih analizah tudi boljše kratkoročne funkcionalne rezultate v primerjavi z alteplazo. Priporočen in najpogostejše uporabljen odmerek v teh študijah je bil 0,25 mg/kg (4).

DOLOČANJE OPTIMALNEGA ODMERKA

Študije so pokazale, da večji odmerek 0,40 mg/kg TNK ni pokazal jasne prednosti in ni priporočljiv kot standardno IVT zdravljenje bolnikov z IMK zaradi zapore VMA. Odmerek TNK 0,40 mg/kg v primerjavi z 0,25 mg/kg ni bistveno izboljšal možganske reperfuzije pred EVT zato ne zagotavljata prednosti pred odmerkom 0,25 mg/kg pri bolnikih z zaporo velikih žil, pri katerih je načrtovana EVT (4).

TNK V RAZŠIRJENEM ČASOVNEM OKNU (4,5–24 H) PRI SELEKCIJI S PERFUZIJSKO SLIKOVNO DIAGNOSTIKO MOŽGANOV

Nekatere multicentrične študije, objavljene v uglednih revijah, z izborom bolnikov po perfuzijskem slikanju možganov so pokazale, da lahko TNK pri ustrezno izbranih bolnikih v podaljšanem časovnem oknu prinese klinično korist (5, 6).

NEPOSREDNA EVT (BREZ IVT) NAPRAM PREMOSTITVENI (IVT + EVT)

Randomizirane študije (DIRECT-MT, DEVT, SKIP, MR CLEAN-NO IV ipd.) in kasnejše metaanalize so pokazale mešane rezultate: nekatere kitajske študije so poročale o ne-inferiornosti direktne EVT medtem, ko druge študije in večina metaanaliz niso potrdile jasne prednosti opustitve IVT. Zaradi tega strokovne smernice večinoma **priporočajo IVT + EVT** za bolnike, ki so do IVT upravičeni, če to ne povzroča pomembne zakasnitve za zdravljenje z EVT (7).

SKLEP - PRAKTIČNI NASVETI ZA KLINIČNO PRAKSO

Če je pacient upravičen do IVT, je TNK 0,25 mg/kg (en bolus) stroškovno in logistično upravičena alternativa alteplazi in jo številne enote za možgansko kap (tudi v Sloveniji) že uvajajo kot prvo izbiro. Za bolnike z zaporo VMA, ki bodo napoteni na EVT, obstajajo solidno trdni dokazi v prid uporabi TNK kot »premostitvena terapija« v časovnem oknu od 0–4,5 h. V primerih, ko je bolnik upravičen za zdravljenje z EVT in IVT, večina smernic še vedno priporoča začetek zdravljenja z IVT in nato čimprejšnjo EVT. Zdravljenje s TNK se je izkazalo za varno (8, 9, 10).

Tabela 1. Tenekteplaza pri akutni ishemični možganski kapi: pregled in priporočila za intravensko trombolizo in endovaskularno trombektomijo.

Zdravljenje AIMK	Ključni dokazi	Priporočilo
IVT ≤ 4,5 h	TNK ni manj učinkovita kot alteplaza (funkcionalni izid, IKK)	TNK 0,25 mg/kg i.v. bolus
Zapora VMA + planirana EVT (premostitev)	Večja zgodnja reperfuzija, več spontanih rekanalizacij	TNK pred EVT priporočena
Odmerjanje TNK	0,40 mg/kg brez klinične prednosti	Uporabljamo 0,25 mg/kg
4,5–24 h + perfuzijska slikovna diagnostika	Izboljšan izid pri skrbno izbranih bolnikih	Možna uporaba v specializiranih centrih
Neposredna EVT brez IVT	Mešani rezultati, nejasna inferiornost v EU populaciji	Samo ob kontraindikaciji za IVT
Varnost (IKK, smrtnost)	Primerljiva alteplazi	Brez dodatnega tveganja
Organizacijske prednosti	Bolus, hitrejši čas od vrat do igle	Velika organizacijska prednost

AIMK – akutna ishemična možganska kap; TNK – tenekteplaza; IVT – intravenska tromboliza; EVT – endovaskularna trombektomija; VMA – velike možganske arterije; IKK – intrakranialna krvavitev; EU – Evropa.

SUMMARY

Intravenous thrombolysis (IVT) remains the cornerstone of early treatment for acute ischemic stroke (AIS). For more than two decades, alteplase has been the only widely established fibrinolytic agent with proven clinical efficacy. Despite its demonstrated benefit, its use is limited by the complexity of administration, time sensitivity, and organizational challenges, particularly

within modern stroke care systems that incorporate mechanical reperfusion therapy (endovascular thrombectomy - EVT) and interhospital transfers.

Over the past decade, tenecteplase (TNC), a genetically modified tissue plasminogen activator with a longer half-life and greater fibrin specificity, has gradually emerged as a promising alternative to alteplase. Pivotal randomized clinical trials have demonstrated that TNC at a dose of 0.25 mg/kg is non-inferior to alteplase with respect to functional outcome at 90 days, with a comparable safety profile. Moreover, in patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO), TNC has been shown to be more effective in achieving early reperfusion and spontaneous recanalization prior to mechanical thrombectomy.

The practical advantages of TNC, particularly single-bolus intravenous administration and simplified logistics, have significantly contributed to its rapid clinical implementation in many advanced stroke centers. These features are especially relevant in contemporary hub-and-spoke systems, where time efficiency and uninterrupted patient transfer to EVT centers are of critical importance.

Despite the growing body of evidence and the increasing use of TNC, several important questions remain unresolved. It is not yet clear whether TNC will completely replace alteplase in the future or whether its use will remain selective, depending on specific clinical subgroups, time windows, or organizational settings. Although data supporting the use of TNC in the extended time window among perfusion-imaging-selected patients are promising, they have not yet been fully incorporated into all clinical guidelines. Additional uncertainty arises from regulatory and economic considerations, as well as from limited data in specific patient populations.

The aim of this article is to review the currently available evidence regarding the efficacy and safety of TNC in the treatment of AIS, to highlight its advantages and limitations compared with alteplase, and to discuss the unresolved issues that will ultimately determine its role in future therapeutic strategies.

Key words: acute ischemic stroke, alteplase, intravenous thrombolysis, mechanical reperfusion therapy, tenecteplase.

TENECTEPLASE (TNK) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ALTEPLASE IN THE STANDARD TIME WINDOW (≤ 4.5 H)

Large randomized trials have demonstrated that tenecteplase (TNK) at a dose of 0.25 mg/kg (administered as a single bolus) is non-inferior or comparable to alteplase with respect to functional outcomes at 90 days and safety, including rates of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage (sICH) and mortality (1, 2, 3).

TENECTEPLASE BEFORE ENDOVASCULAR THROMBECTOMY (BRIDGING THERAPY IN LARGE VESSEL OCCLUSION)

In patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO), TNK achieved higher rates of early reperfusion prior to EVT and, in some analyses, improved short-term functional outcomes compared with alteplase. The recommended and most commonly used dose in these studies was 0.25 mg/kg (4).

DETERMINATION OF THE OPTIMAL DOSE

Studies have shown that a higher dose of 0.40 mg/kg TNK does not confer clear additional benefit and is not recommended as standard IVT for patients with AIS due to LVO. Compared with 0.25 mg/kg, the 0.40 mg/kg dose did not significantly improve cerebral reperfusion prior to EVT, indicating no advantage over the standard 0.25 mg/kg dose in patients scheduled for EVT (4).

TENECTEPLASE IN THE EXTENDED TIME WINDOW (4.5–24 H) WITH PERFUSION IMAGING SELECTION

Some multicenter studies published in high-impact journals, selecting patients based on perfusion imaging, have suggested that TNK can provide clinical benefit in appropriately selected patients in the extended time window (5, 6).

DIRECT EVT (WITHOUT IVT) VS. BRIDGING THERAPY (IVT + EVT)

Randomized trials (DIRECT-MT, DEVT, SKIP, MR CLEAN-NO IV, etc.) and subsequent meta-analyses have shown mixed results: some Chinese studies reported non-inferiority of direct EVT, while other trials and most meta-analyses did not confirm a clear advantage of omitting IVT. Consequently, current guidelines generally **recommend IVT followed by EVT** for eligible patients, provided that IVT does not cause significant delays to endovascular treatment (7).

CONCLUSION – PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

For patients eligible for IVT, TNK 0.25 mg/kg (single bolus) is a cost-effective and logistically favorable alternative to alteplase and is already being adopted as the first-choice thrombolytic agent in many stroke centers, including in Slovenia. For patients with LVO who are referred for EVT, there is solid evidence supporting the use of TNK as bridging therapy within the 0–4.5 h time window. When patients are eligible for both IVT and EVT, most guidelines still recommend starting with IVT followed by rapid EVT. Treatment with TNK has been shown to be safe (8, 9, 10).

Table 1. Tenecteplase in acute ischemic stroke: review and clinical recommendations for IV thrombolysis and endovascular thrombectomy

Treatment of acute IS	Key Evidence	Recommendation
IVT ≤ 4,5 h	TNC is not less effective than alteplase (functional outcome, ICH)	TNC 0,25 mg/kg IV bolus
LVO occlusion with planned EVT (bridging therapy)	Greater early reperfusion, increased rates of spontaneous recanalization	TNC before EVT is recommended
Dosing of TNC	0.40 mg/kg without clinical benefit	A dose of 0.25 mg/kg is used
4.5–24 h with perfusion imaging	Improved outcome in carefully selected patients	May be used in specialized stroke centers
Direct EVT without IVT	Mixed results, unclear inferiority in the EU population	Only in case of contraindication to IVT
Safety (ICH, mortality)	Comparable to alteplase	Without additional risk
Logistical and organizational benefits	Single IV bolus, shorter door-to-needle time	Significant logistical advantage

TNC – tenecteplase; IVT – intravenous thrombolysis; EVT – endovascular thrombectomy; LVO – large vessel occlusion; ICH – intracranial hemorrhage; EU – Europe.

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Izobraževala se je in bila *gostujoča profesorica* na univerzah ter klinikah na Švedskem (Univerza v Lundu), na Hrvaškem (Univerzitetna klinika Sestre Milosrdnice v Zagrebu), v Srbiji (Medicinska fakulteta Beograd), v Nemčiji (Univerzitetna bolnišnica Essen), v Pensilvaniji (Univerza Penn, Philadelphia) ter v Teksasu (Houston Medical School in St. Luke's Medical Center, Houston, ZDA). Slovensko zdravniško društvo ji je podelilo naziv *primarijka*, Ministrstvo za zdravje Republike Slovenije pa leta 2009 naziv *višja svetnica*. Istega leta je prejela priznanje *Znanstvenica leta Slovenije*.

V Univerzitetnem kliničnem centru Ljubljana (UKCL) je uvedla nevrosonološke metode, zlasti barvni Doppler ekstra- in intrakranialnih arterij. Preučevala je cerebrovaskularno reaktivnost in avtonomni živčni sistem z uporabo transkranijske Dopplerjeve sonografije (TCD) v fizioloških in patoloških pogojih. Leta 2002 je sodelovala pri uvedbi endovaskularne metode – karotidne angioplastike s stentiranjem – ter ustanovila enoto za možgansko kap v UKCL. Je avtorica in pobudnica nacionalne mreže za možgansko kap *TeleKap*, ki povezuje 12 slovenskih bolnišnic.

Njeno znanstvenoraziskovalno delo obsega več kot 770 člankov (indeksiranih v PubMedu), pedagoških del ter strokovnih člankov in knjig. Organizirala je 37 strokovnih srečanj z mednarodno udeležbo na temo možganske kapi in glavobola ter je redna vabljená predavateljica na številnih strokovnih srečanjih doma in v tujini. Bila je mentorica specializantom nevrologije, predsednica in članica komisij za specialistične izpite ter recenzentka znanstvenih publikacij. Sodelovala je v številnih *multicentričnih kliničnih preskušanjih* (PERFORM, PROMPT, Top-Slo-05, ICSS, MAGELLAN, QUICK, RESPECT-ESUS, PERFORMANCE I in PERFORMANCE II).

Leta 2006 je postala *predstojnica Univerzitetne nevrološke klinike UKCL*. Od leta 2009 do 2015 je bila *predstojnica Kliničnega oddelka za vaskularno nevrologijo in intenzivno nevrološko terapijo UKCL*, ki ga je leta 2009 tudi soustanovila. Deset let je bila *predsednica Nevrološkega združenja* pri Slovenskem zdravniškem društvu (SZD).

Od leta 2007 je *predsednica Sekcije za možganskožilne bolezni SZD* in *podpredsednica Sekcije za glavobol* Združenja nevrologov SZD. Ustanovila je Slovensko nevrosonološko šolo pri Sekciji za možganskožilne bolezni SZD ter je strokovna vodja Društva za preprečevanje možganskih in žilnih bolezni. Je soustanoviteljica Združenja za migreno. Bila je redna članica Evropskega odbora za telekap pri Evropski organizaciji za možgansko kap (ESO), članica Evropske organizacije za možgansko kap (ESO, FESO, ESO-EAST), Svetovnega združenja za možgansko kap (WSO) ter ambasadorka združenja *Controversies in Neurology (CONy)*.

Full Professor Primarius Bojana Žvan, MD, PhD, Senior Medical Advisor, FESO, Consultant Neurologist

Professor Prim. Bojana Žvan completed her medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, where she also obtained her PhD. She completed her specialization in neurology and a postgraduate Master's program in Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She is currently a Full Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana.

She received advanced training and served as a visiting professor at universities and clinical institutions in Sweden (Lund University), Croatia (University Hospital Centre Sestre milosrdnice, Zagreb), Serbia (Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade), Germany (University Hospital Essen), Pennsylvania (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), and Texas (Houston Medical School and St. Luke's Medical Center, Houston, USA). The Slovenian Medical Association awarded her the professional title of *Primarius*, and in 2009 the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia conferred upon her the title of Senior Medical Counselor. In the same year, she received the national award *Scientist of the Year of Slovenia*.

At the University Medical Centre Ljubljana (UMCL), she introduced neurosonological methods, particularly color Doppler ultrasound of extracranial and intracranial arteries. Her research focused on cerebrovascular reactivity and the autonomic nervous system using transcranial Doppler sonography (TCD) under physiological and pathological conditions. In 2002, she contributed to the introduction of endovascular treatment—carotid angioplasty with stenting—and established the Stroke Unit at UMCL. She is the author and initiator of the national stroke telemedicine network *TeleKap (TeleStroke)*, connecting 12 hospitals across Slovenia.

Her scientific and professional output includes more than 770 publications (indexed and PubMed), educational works, and professional articles and books. She has organized 37 international scientific meetings focused on stroke and headache and is a frequent invited speaker at national and international conferences. She has served as a mentor to neurology residents, chair and member of specialist examination boards, and a reviewer of scientific publications. She has participated in numerous multicenter clinical trials, including PERFORM, PROMPT, Top-Slo-05, ICSS, MAGELLAN, QUICK, RESPECT-ESUS, PERFORMANCE I, and PERFORMANCE II.

In 2006, she became Head of the University Department of Neurology at UMCL. From 2009 to 2015, she served as Head of the Clinical Department of Vascular Neurology and Intensive Neurological Therapy at UMCL, which she co-founded in 2009. She served for ten years as President of the Neurology Association within the Slovenian Medical Association.

Since 2007, she has been President of the Section for Cerebrovascular Diseases of the Slovenian Medical Association and Vice President of the Headache Section of the Neurologists' Association. She founded the Slovenian Neurosonology School within the Section for Cerebrovascular Diseases and serves as the professional leader of the Society for the Prevention of Cerebrovascular and Vascular Diseases. She is a co-founder of the Migraine Association. She has been a regular member of the European TeleStroke Committee of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO), a member and Fellow of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO, FESO, ESO-EAST), a member of the World Stroke Organization (WSO), and an ambassador of *Controversies in Neurology (CONy)*.



MEHANŠKA REVASKULARIZACIJA PRI AKUTNI ISHEMIČNI MOŽGANSKI KAPI V SLOVENIJI

MECHANICAL REVASCULARIZATION IN ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE IN SLOVENIA

Ingrid Požar, Fajko F. Bajrović, Lan Umek, Katarina Šurlan Popović

POVZETEK

Uvod

Akutna ishemična možganska kap je drugi najpogostejši vzrok smrti na svetu in s tem predstavlja velik javnozdravstveni problem (1). Raziskave zadnjih let so pokazale, da za ugoden izid ni pomemben samo časovni okvir, znotraj katerega ukrepamo, temveč tudi do sedaj klinično in radiološko še neuveljavljen dejavnik – kolateralni možganskožilni obtok. Ta ishemično tkivo ohranja še vitalno in čas do ireverzibilnega propada možganovine bistveno podaljša (2). V tesni povezavi z možganskimi kolateralami so tudi perfuzijski parametri, saj so dober pokazatelj ishemične poškodbe možganskega tkiva (3). Namen dela je bil raziskati, ali kolateralni možganskožilni obtok in perfuzijski parametri vplivajo na nevrološki in funkcionalni izid mehanskega endovaskularnega rekanalizacijskega zdravljenja bolnikov z akutno ishemično možgansko kapjo. Preverili smo tudi, kako etiologija akutne ishemične možganske kapi vpliva na nabor možganskih kolateral ter posledični nevrološki in funkcionalni izid po mehanski endovaskularni rekanalizaciji.

Metode

V retrospektivno in prospektivno raziskavo smo vključili 208 zaporednih bolnikov z akutno ishemično možgansko kapjo v sprednjem možganskem žilnem povirju, ki so prejeli mehansko endovaskularno rekanalizacijo. Pri vsakem bolniku sta bili opravljeni dve računalniško tomografski preiskavi glave: prva takoj po pregledu bolnika in druga 24 ur po mehanski endovaskularni rekanalizaciji. Prilagojena Rankinova lestvica je služila za oceno nevrološkega in funkcionalnega stanja bolnikov ob sprejemu in po 90 dneh od odpusta iz bolnišnice. Slikovne podatke, pridobljene z računalniško tomografsko preiskavo, smo obdelali s programskim paketom e-STROKE SUITE in syngo.CT Neuro Perfusion. Zbrane podatke smo nato statistično obdelali s programom SPSS (v.29) in Python razširitvenima knjižnicama Pandas in Matplotlib. Bolnike smo razdelili v štiri skupine glede na stopnjo razvitosti možganskih kolateral oz. oceno (0–3) CTA-CS (*angl.* Computed tomography angiography collateral score) in izvedli bivariatno analizo teh skupin. Za oceno končnega izida po 90 dneh smo dihotomizirali preiskovance v dve skupini: dober izid (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2) in slab izid (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 3–6) ter izvedli bivariatno analizo skupin. Spremenljivke, ki so imele *p*-vrednosti manjše

od 0,1 ($p < 0,1$), smo nato uporabili za logistično regresijo in pripravili več modelov za napoved končnega izida po 90 dneh.

Rezultati

Od vključenih 208 bolnikov je bilo 114 žensk (55 %), povprečna starost je bila $71,4 \pm 13,3$ leta. Smrtnost v naši populaciji je znašala 13 % ($n = 27$). Bolniki z bolj razvitimi možganskimi kolateralami so imeli značilno nižjo oceno po prilagojeni Rankinovi lestvici po 90 dneh ($p = 0,008$). Dober izid po 90 dneh (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2) so imeli 103 bolniki (49,5 %) in slab izid (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 3–6) 105 bolnikov (50,5 %). Pri bolnikih z dobrim izidom po 90 dneh (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2) so bile značilno bolj razvite možganske kolaterale ($p = 0,019$), povprečni volumni hipoperfuzije ($p < 0,001$), infarktnege jedra ($p = 0,003$) in penumbre ($p = 0,008$) so bili značilno manjši, pri čemer je bila vrednost razmerja neujemanja značilno višja ($p = 0,024$). Z modelom logistične regresije smo potrdili napovedno vrednost možganskih kolateral (OR 1,81 [95% IZ, 1,08–3,04], $p = 0,025$) in infarktnege jedra (OR 0,95 [95% IZ, 0,91–0,99], $p = 0,013$) za dober izid po 90 dneh (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2). Pri bolnikih z bolj razvitimi možganskimi kolateralami je bil značilno višji odstotek karotidne ateroskleroze ($p = 0,014$), medtem ko je bila atrijska fibrilacija neznačilna. Obe spremenljivki nista pokazali statistične značilnosti kot napovedna dejavnika končnega izida po 90 dneh.

Zaključki

Naša raziskava je pokazala, da kolateralni možganskožilni obtok in perfuzijski parametri vplivajo na nevrološki in funkcionalni izid mehanskega endovaskularnega rekanalizacijskega zdravljenja bolnikov z akutno ishemično možgansko kapjo. Ugotovili smo, da so bolj razvite možganske kolaterale, manjši volumni hipoperfuzije, infarktnege jedra in penumbre ter višja vrednost razmerja neujemanja značilno povezani z dobrim izidom po 90 dneh (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2). Infarktno jedro in možganske kolaterale sta napovedna dejavnika za dober izid po 90 dneh (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica 0–2). Pokazali smo, da je karotidna ateroskleroza značilno pogostejša pri bolnikih z bolj razvitimi možganskimi kolateralami, vendar ne tudi značilne povezanosti med slabo razvitimi možganskimi kolateralami in atrijsko fibrilacijo. Vpliva etiologije ishemične možganske kapi na končni izid naša raziskava ni pokazala.

Ključne besede: akutna ishemična možganska kap, infarktno jedro, kolateralni možganskožilni obtok, računalniško tomografska angiografija, računalniško tomografska perfuzija

SUMMARY

Introduction

Acute ischemic stroke is the second most common cause of death on a global scale, posing a significant public health issue (1). Recent research has revealed that, in addition to the critical time window for intervention, another key factor for achieving a favorable stroke outcome is the cerebral collateral circulation – a factor that has remained clinically and radiologically underappreciated until recently. Collateral circulation maintains ischemic tissue viability and significantly prolongs the time before irreversible brain tissue damage occurs (2). Closely related to collateral circulation are perfusion parameters, as they are a good indicator of ischemic brain tissue damage (3). The aim of this study was to investigate whether collateral circulation and perfusion parameters influence the neurological and functional outcomes of endovascular thrombectomy in patients with acute ischemic stroke. We also examined how the etiology of acute ischemic stroke affects the extent of collateral circulation and the resulting neurological and functional outcomes of endovascular thrombectomy.

Methods

A retrospective and prospective study included 208 consecutive patients with acute ischemic stroke in the anterior cerebral circulation, all of whom underwent endovascular thrombectomy. For each patient, we performed two computed tomography scans of the head: the first immediately after the patient examination and the second 24 hours post endovascular thrombectomy. The modified Rankin Scale was used to assess the neurological and functional status of patients at admission and 90 days after hospital discharge. Imaging data obtained from the computed tomography scans were processed using the e-STROKE SUITE and syngo.CT Neuro Perfusion software packages. For statistical analyses, we utilized SPSS software (v.29) and the Python extension libraries, Pandas and Matplotlib. Patients were divided into four groups based on the degree of collateral circulation, as indicated by the CTA-CS (Computed tomography angiography collateral score) score (0–3), and a bivariate analysis was conducted for these groups. To assess the final outcome at 90 days, patients were dichotomized into two groups: favorable outcome (modified Rankin Scale 0–2) and poor outcome (modified Rankin Scale 3–6), and a bivariate analysis was conducted on these groups. Variables with p -values less than 0.1 ($p < 0.1$) were then used for logistic regression, and multiple models were created to predict the final outcome at 90 days.

Results

Of the 208 included patients, 114 were women (55 %), and the average age was 71.4 ± 13.3 years. The mortality rate in our population was 13 % ($n = 27$). Patients with better collateral circulation had significantly lower modified Rankin Scale scores at 90 days ($p = 0.008$). A favorable outcome at 90 days (modified Rankin Scale 0–2) was achieved by 103 patients (49.5 %), while 105 patients (50.5 %) had a poor outcome (modified Rankin Scale 3–6). Patients with a favorable outcome at 90 days (modified Rankin Scale 0–2) exhibited significantly better collateral circulation ($p = 0.019$), and the mean volumes of hypoperfused tissue ($p < 0.001$), infarct core ($p = 0.003$), and penumbra ($p = 0.008$) were significantly smaller, while the mismatch ratio was significantly higher ($p = 0.024$). The logistic regression models confirmed the predictive value of collateral circulation (OR 1.81 [95% CI, 1.08–3.04], $p = 0.025$) and infarct core (OR 0.95 [95% CI, 0.91–0.99], $p = 0.013$) for a favorable outcome at 90 days (modified Rankin Scale 0–2). Carotid atherosclerosis was more common in patients with better collateral circulation ($p = 0.014$), whereas atrial fibrillation was not statistically significant. Neither variable demonstrated statistical significance as prognostic factors for the final outcome at 90 days.

Conclusions

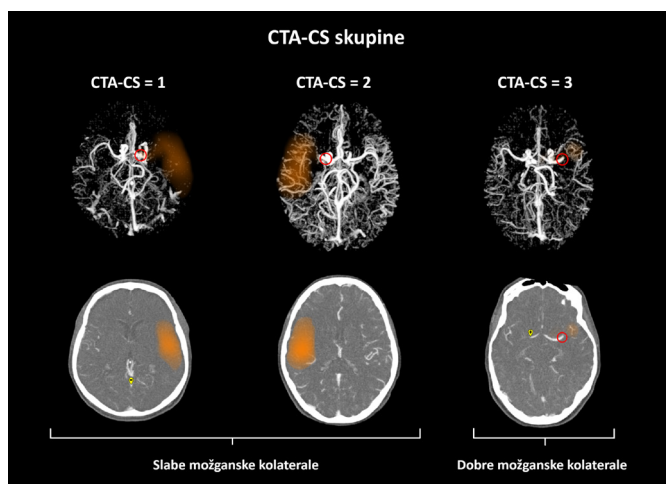
Our study demonstrated that collateral circulation and perfusion parameters are significantly associated with the neurological and functional outcomes of endovascular thrombectomy in patients with acute ischemic stroke. We found that better collateral circulation, along with smaller volumes of hypoperfused tissue, infarct core, and penumbra, as well as a higher mismatch ratio, correlated with a favorable outcome at 90 days (modified Rankin Scale 0–2). Both the infarct core and collateral circulation were identified as predictive factors for achieving a favorable outcome at 90 days (modified Rankin Scale 0–2). Additionally, we showed that carotid atherosclerosis was more common in patients with better collateral circulation, while no association was found between poor collateral circulation and atrial fibrillation. Our study did not demonstrate any association between the etiology of acute ischemic stroke and the final outcome.

Key words: acute ischemic stroke, collateral circulation, computed tomography angiography, computed tomography perfusion, infarct core

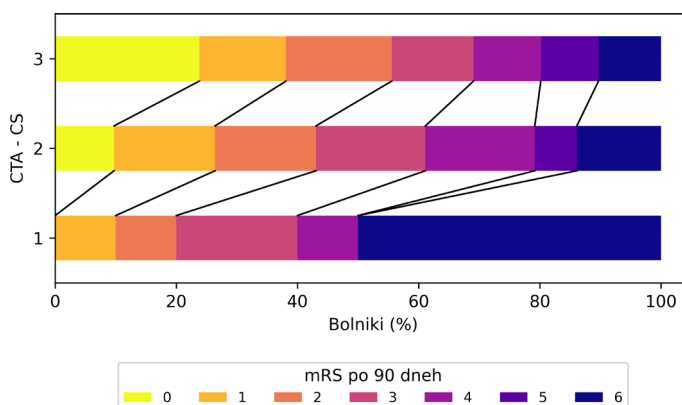
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Slika 1. Reprezentativni primeri CTA-preiskav, analiziranih z e-STROKE SUITE (Brainomix Ltd.), ki ponazarjajo ilustrativne primere naših bolnikov z različnimi stopnjami možganskih kolateral, za vsako skupino CTA-CS (angl. Computed tomography angiography collateral score). V skupini CTA-CS=0 ni bilo bolnikov. V zgornji vrsti so prikazane aksialne CTA rekonstrukcije v tehniki MIP (angl. maximum intensity projection) in v spodnji vrsti aksialne CTA-slike. Rdeči krog označuje mesto arterijske zapore, oranžno območje prikazuje lokacijo in obseg prizadetega območja znotraj povirja srednje možganske arterije. Znaka plus in minus predstavljata merilni točki arterijskega dotoka in venskega odtoka.



Slika 2. Razporeditev ocene po mRS po 90 dneh glede na CTA-CS-skupino. Ocena po lestvici CTA-CS (angl. Computed tomography angiography collateral score) zavzema vrednosti od 0 do 3 in predstavlja odstotek pretočnih možganskih kolateral v povirju prizadete srednje možganske arterije, primerjalno z nasprotno neprizadeto možgansko poloblo: 0 (< 10 %), 1 (10–50 %), 2 (51–90 %) in 3 (> 90 %). Bolniki so

oceno CTA-CS (skupina 0, 1, 2 in 3). V skupini CTA-CS=0 ni bilo bolnikov. Ocena po mRS, ki predstavlja prilagojeno Rankinovo lestvico, zavzema vrednosti od 0 (brez simptomov prizadetosti) do 6 (smrt).

Tabela 1. Univariatna in multivariabilna logistična regresija za dober izid po 90 dneh

<i>Univariatni model</i>	OR	95% IZ	<i>p-vrednost</i>
Model 1			
CTA-CS	1,84	1,13–2,99	0,014
Multivariabilni modeli			
Model 2			
mRS ob sprejemu	0,37	0,21–0,66	< 0,001
CTA-CS	1,81	1,08–3,04	0,025
Uspešna MER (vs. neuspešna)	5,24	1,12–24,46	0,035
Model 3			
Infarktno jedro	0,95	0,91–0,99	0,013
Penumbra	0,98	0,95–1,00	0,075
Razmerje neujemanja	1,00	1,00–1,00	0,999
Model 4			
Infarktno jedro	0,96	0,92–0,99	0,039
CTA-CS	1,39	0,79–2,42	0,249

Dober izid (mRS 0–2), mRS (prilagojena Rankinova lestvica), CTA-CS (*angl.* Computed tomography angiography collateral score), MER (mehanska endovaskularna rekanalizacija), uspešna MER (mTICI = 2b–3), neuspešna MER (mTICI = 0–2a), mTICI (*angl.* modified treatment in cerebral ischemia), OR (razmerje obetov), AOR (prilagojeno razmerje obetov), IZ (interval zaupanja). V poševnem tisku so p-vrednosti, ki nakazujejo na značilne razlike.



asist. dr.

INGRID POŽAR

dr. med.

Asist. dr. Ingrid Požar, dr. med.

Asist. dr. Ingrid Požar, dr. med. se je po zaključeni Gimnaziji Koper vpisala na študij medicine na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani in 27. junija 2013 pridobila strokovni naziv doktorica medicine. Septembra 2015 se je zaposlila na Kliničnem inštitutu za radiologijo UKC Ljubljana in pričela s programom specializacije iz radiologije. Marca 2019 je bila na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani prvič izvoljena v naziv asistentke za predmetno področje slikovne diagnostike. Od takrat dalje na Katedri za radiologijo sodeluje pri izvedbi pouka študentov medicine in dentalne medicine. Specialistični izpit iz radiologije je s pohvalo opravila 20. oktobra 2020, 14. septembra 2020 pa je pridobila tudi evropsko diplomo iz radiologije. Od leta 2020 je kot zdravnica specialistka radiologije zaposlena v Splošni bolnišnici Izola. Aprila 2025 je zaključila doktorski študijski program Biomedicina na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani. Dispozicija doktorske disertacije je bila s področja nevroradiologije.

KAKO PREPREČIMO IN ZDRAVIMO OKVARO SUBKORTIKALNE BELINE – LEVKOARIAIOZO?

HOW TO PREVENT AND TREAT SUBCORTICAL WHITE MATTER DISORDER – LEUKOARAIOSIS?

Matija Zupan

RAZŠIRJENI POVZETEK

Uvod

Levkoaraioza (LA), ki pomeni razredčenje bele možganovine, je izraz, ki so ga Hachinski in sodelavci prvič uvedli pred natanko 40 leti, leta 1986, da bi opisali nepravilnosti možganske bele snovi, ki se na računalniški tomografiji kažejo kot hipodenznost, na magnetnoresonančni (MRI) T2-obteženi sekvenci pa kot hiperintenzivnost. Te spremembe v sodobnem času pogosteje imenujemo hiperintenzivnosti bele možganovine ali lezije bele možganovine (WML). Z uporabo MRI sekvence FLAIR in naprednih tehnik, kot je difuzijsko tenzorsko slikanje (DTI), je mogoče LA odkriti v zgodnejši fazi, še preden postane vidna na konvencionalnih MRI sekvencah. Prevalenca LA narašča s starostjo in prizadene do 80–100 % posameznikov, starejših od 60 let. Čeprav jo pogosto odkrijemo naključno, LA še zdaleč ni benigna. Je najpogostejši radiološki označevalec bolezni malih možganskih žil in je povezana s kognitivnim upadom, demenco, motnjami hoje, motnjami razpoloženja, urinsko inkontinenco, možgansko kapjo in umrljivostjo. Glede na staranje populacije po vsem svetu je LA postala pomemben javnozdravstveni problem in kot taka tudi zanimivo raziskovalno področje v žilni nevrologiji in širše geriatрії. LA je heterogena tako po radioloških pojavnih oblikah kot po osnovnih patohistoloških najdbah oz. patofizioloških mehanizmih. Tradicionalno so bile lezije razvrščene v periventrikularne spremembe bele možganovine in spremembe globoke ali subkortikalne bele možganovine. Periventrikularne lezije se pogosto kažejo kot gladki haloji, kapice okoli čelnih rogov lateralnih prekatov ali tanke obloge ob prekatih. Te so močno povezane s kognitivnim upadom, vendar lahko nekatere podvrste predstavljajo neishemično patologijo, kot je uhajanje intersticijske tekočine v parenhim po okvari ependima. Nasprotno pa so globoke in subkortikalne lezije običajno pikčaste ali se zlivajo, ustrezajo ishemični demielinizaciji in so povezane z depresijo in motnjami hoje. Bolj natančna klasifikacija, ki so jo predlagali Kim in sodelavci, razlikuje štiri podvrste: jukstaventrikularne lezije (znotraj 3 mm od prekatov, večinoma neishemične), periventrikularne lezije (3–13 mm od prekatov, običajno ishemične lezije v razvodju), globoke lezije bele možganovine (> 13 mm od prekatov, povezane z boleznijo malih možganskih žil) in jukstakortikalne lezije (znotraj 4 mm od kortikalne meje, ki vključujejo U-vlakna). Ta shema poudarja raznolik izvor LA in poudarja, da so le nekatere vrste sprememb neposredno posledica is

endotelijsko disfunkcijo in motnjami krvno-možganske pregrade. Te spremembe prispevajo k progresivni prekinitvi povezav dolgih asociacijskih vlaken in subkortikalno-kortikalnih mrež, kar pojasnjuje širok klinični spekter simptomov LA. Najpomembnejši dejavnik prevalence in napredovanja LA je starost, a se vendarle zdi, da je izhodiščna razsežnost lezij močnejši napovedovni dejavnik prihodnjega napredovanja sprememb kot sama kronološka starost. Poleg staranja na LA vplivajo številni žilni in sistemski dejavniki tveganja. Arterijska hipertenzija (AH) je v raziskavah najbolj konsistenten in pomemben spremenljivi dejavnik tveganja za LA. Tako diastolični krvni tlak v srednjih letih kot sistolični krvni tlak v poznejših letih sta povezana z večjo obremenitvijo z lezijami bele možganovine. Povečana variabilnost krvnega tlaka je bila prav tako opredeljena kot neodvisen dejavnik tveganja. Visok krvni tlak povzroča zadebelitev žilne stene, zoženje žilne svetline, kronično hipoperfuzijo, motnje krvno-možganske pregrade, okvaro endotelija in vnetje, kar vse spodbuja demielinizacijo in poškodbe aksonov. Sladkorna bolezen je povezana z večjo pogostostjo in višjo stopnjo LA, čeprav je njena vloga pri napredovanju LA manj jasna. Kajenje je konsistentno povezano s povečano incidenco in hitrejšim napredovanjem LA. Hiperlipidemija kaže nekonsistentne povezave z LA, nekatere študije pa kažejo, da višji holesterol HDL in nižji holesterol LDL paradoksnoma povečata napredovanje LA. Arterijska togost je močno povezana z obremenitvijo z lezijami bele možganovine, verjetno zaradi oslabiljenega dušenja pulzatilnega pretoka v krhke majhne žile. Tudi nekonvencionalni presnovni dejavniki igrajo svojo vlogo pri LA. Hiperhomocisteinemija je konsistentno povezana z LA. Homocistein spodbuja oksidativni stres, endotelijsko disfunkcijo in deluje toksično na mielin. Pomanjkanje folata, vitamina B₆ in vitamina B₁₂ so pogosti vzroki za visoke vrednosti homocisteina. Zlasti nizke ravni vitamina B₁₂ so bile povezane s hujšo periventricularno LA. Pomanjkanje vitamina D je bilo povezano z večjo obremenitvijo z lezijami bele možganovine. Dokazano je, da debelost, zlasti visceralna, povečuje tveganje za LA zaradi sistemskega vnetja in sproščanja citokinov. Sociodemografski dejavniki, kot je višja izobrazba, se zdijo zaščitni in najverjetneje odražajo večjo kognitivno rezervo. Opazili so razlike v vplivu spola na LA, pri čemer je pri ženskah pogostejše opaziti višjo prevalenco in stopnjo napredovanja LA v primerjavi z moškimi. Etnična pripadnost tudi vpliva na tveganje za LA, pri čemer so o večji obremenitvi poročali pri afroameriški, latinskoameriški in azijski populaciji v primerjavi z Evropejci. Nenazadnje imajo pomembno vlogo tudi genetski dejavniki. LA kaže pomembne povezave z dednostjo, saj je bilo identificiranih več kot 50 kandidatnih genov, vključno s tistimi, ki so vpleteni v integriteto žil, endotelij in vnetne poti. Monogenske motnje, kot sta CAD

kapi, slabšega okrevanja po kapi in splošne umrljivosti. Čeprav se pogosto šteje za naključno slikovno najdbo, je LA klinično pomemben biološki označevalec možganske krhkosti in bremena bolezni malih žil, ki zahteva proaktivno obravnavo. Trenutno za LA ni na voljo specifičnega zdravljenja, ampak se le-to osredotoča na nadzor dejavnikov tveganja in podporne ukrepe. Nadzor krvnega tlaka je temelj preprečevanja in zdravljenja. Več randomiziranih raziskav in metaanaliz kaže, da antihipertenzivno zdravljenje zmanjšuje napredovanje sprememb bele možganovine. Intenzivno zniževanje krvnega tlaka, kot je bilo dokazano v študiji SPRINT-MIND, ni le zmanjšalo bremena LA, temveč je tudi povečalo možganski krvni pretok. Zaskrbljenost glede hipoperfuzije se zdi neutemeljena, čeprav je treba spremljati neželene učinke, kot sta poslabšanje delovanja ledvic in povečanje atrofije možganov.

Zdravljenje

Na splošno je skrbno in vztrajno **obvladovanje krvnega tlaka** najučinkovitejša strategija za upočasnitev napredovanja LA. **Glikemični nadzor** ima manj očitne koristi. Čeprav sladkorna bolezen poveča tveganje za LA, agresivno zniževanje glukoze ni prepričljivo upočasnilo njenega napredovanja in lahko prinaša tveganja. **Zdravljenje hiperlipidemije** s statini je pokazalo mešane rezultate. Nekatere študije, kot je J-STARS, so pokazale, da lahko statini zmanjšajo tveganje za ponovitev ishemične možganske kapi, lahko pa tudi povečajo tveganje za lakunarno možgansko kap v nekaterih podskupinah. Dokazi ne podpirajo statinov posebej za preprečevanje LA, čeprav so še vedno indicirani za zmanjšanje srčno-žilnega tveganja. Zdravljenje za **zniževanje ravni homocisteina** se zdi obetavno. Podštudija VITATOPS MRI je pokazala, da je nadomeščanje folatov, vitamina B₆ in vitamina B₁₂ zmanjšalo napredovanje LA pri bolnikih z nedavno možgansko kapjo ali TIA. To verjetno odraža zaščito pred endotelijsko disfunkcijo in podporo sintezi mielina. Rutinsko določanje ravni omenjenih vitaminov in njihovo nadomeščanje, zlasti vitamina B₁₂ in folata, se zdi upravičeno. **Antiagregacijsko zdravljenje** se ni izkazalo za učinkovito pri LA. Čeprav aspirin v eksperimentalnih modelih kaže promielinizacijske učinke, klinične študije, kot je študija WHIMS-MRI, niso pokazale koristi v preprečevanju LA. Cilostazol, preizkušen v raziskavah CHALLENGE in DREAM, prav tako ni bil povezan z zmanjšanjem napredovanja LA. Zato antiagregacijskih zdravil ne priporočamo pri LA izven standardnih indikacij za preprečevanje ishemične možganske kapi. Pomembni so tudi **ukrepi na področju življenjskega sloga**. Opustitev kajenja, redna telesna vadba, upoštevanje zdrave prehrane (npr. mediteranska dieta) in vzdrževanje normalne telesne mase zmanjšujejo tveganje za LA. Zdi se, da višja izobrazba in stalna kognitivna aktivnost zagotavljata zaščitne učinke, verjetno s povečanjem kognitivne rezerve. Med novimi pristopi, ki jih še raziskujejo, so terapije, usmerjene

in umrljivosti. Njena patogeneza je večfaktorska in vključuje žilne, presnovne, genetske in demografske dejavnike. Trenutno je najučinkovitejša strategija za preprečevanje in zdravljenje LA strog nadzor dejavnikov tveganja za žilne bolezni, zlasti AH. Dodatek vitaminov skupine B za znižanje ravni homocisteina lahko prinese dodatne koristi, medtem ko statini, antiagregacijska zdravila in intenziven glikemični nadzor niso pokazali prepričljive učinkovitosti posebej za LA. Spremembe življenjskega sloga, vključno z opustitvijo kajenja, uravnavanjem telesne teže, redno telesno dejavnostjo in kognitivno stimulacijo, ostajajo pomembni dodatni ukrepi. Potrebne so nadaljnje raziskave za izboljšanje optimalnih ciljnih vrednosti krvnega tlaka, pojasnitev vloge nadzora ravni lipidov in glukoze ter razvoj novih terapij, ki neposredno ščitijo ali obnavljajo celovitost bele možganovine. Glede na naraščajoče globalno breme LA pri starajoči se populaciji bi moralo preprečevanje in obvladovanje tega stanja postati prednostna naloga sodobnih zdravstvenih sistemov.

Ključne besede: arterijska hipertenzija, arterijska togost, hiperintenzivne spremembe bele možganovine, levkoaraiioza, preventiva.

EXTENDED SUMMARY

Introduction

Leukoaraiosis (LA), literally meaning rarefaction of white matter, is a term first introduced by Hachinski and colleagues exactly 40 years ago, in 1986, to describe abnormalities of cerebral white matter that appear as hypodensities on computed tomography and hyperintensities on T2-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These imaging features are now more commonly referred to as white matter hyperintensities (WMHs) or white matter lesions (WMLs). With the advent of fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) sequences and advanced MRI techniques such as diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), LA can be detected with increasing sensitivity, even in earlier stages. The prevalence of LA increases with age, affecting up to 80–100% of individuals over the age of 60. Although often discovered incidentally, LA is far from benign. It is the most common radiological marker of cerebral small vessel disease (CSVD) and has been consistently linked to cognitive decline, dementia, gait impairment, mood disorders, urinary incontinence, stroke, and mortality. Given the rapid demographic transition towards older populations worldwide, LA has become a major public health concern and an important focus of vascular neurology. LA is heterogeneous in both radiological appearance and underlying pathology. Traditionally, lesions have been classified into periventricular WMHs (PVWMHs) and deep or subcortical WMHs (DWMHs). Periventricular lesions often present as smooth halos, caps around the frontal horns of lateral ventricles, or thin linings adjacent to the ventricles. These are strongly associated with cognitive decline, but some subtypes may represent non-ischemic pathology, such as interstitial fluid leakage following ependymal loss. In contrast, deep and subcortical lesions are

typically punctate or confluent, correspond to ischemic demyelination, and are associated with depression and gait disturbance. A more refined classification proposed by Kim and colleagues distinguishes four subtypes: juxtaventricular lesions (within 3 mm of the ventricles, largely non-ischemic), periventricular lesions (3–13 mm from the ventricles, typically ischemic watershed lesions), deep white matter lesions (>13 mm from ventricles, related to CSVD), and juxtacortical lesions (within 4 mm of the cortical ribbon, involving U-fibers). This scheme emphasizes the diverse origins of LA and highlights that only some lesion types are directly attributable to ischemia, while others may arise from CSF dynamics or interstitial changes. Pathologically, LA is characterized by rarefaction of myelin, axonal loss, gliosis, microinfarcts, and small vessel pathology, including arteriolosclerosis, endothelial dysfunction, and disruption of the blood–brain barrier. These changes contribute to progressive disconnection of long association fibers and subcortical–cortical networks, explaining the broad clinical impact of LA. The most important determinant of LA prevalence and progression is age. However, baseline lesion burden seems to be a stronger predictor of future progression than chronological age alone. Beyond aging, LA is influenced by a range of vascular and systemic risk factors. Arterial hypertension (AH) is the most consistent and important modifiable determinant. Both diastolic blood pressure in midlife and systolic blood pressure in later life are associated with greater WML burden. Increased blood pressure variability has also been identified as an independent risk factor. Mechanistically, AH induces vessel wall thickening, luminal narrowing, chronic hypoperfusion, blood–brain barrier disruption, and endothelial inflammation, all of which promote demyelination and axonal injury. Diabetes mellitus is associated with greater frequency and severity of LA, although its role in progression is less clear. Smoking is consistently linked to increased incidence and faster progression of WMLs. Hyperlipidemia shows inconsistent associations, with some studies suggesting higher high-density lipoprotein and lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol paradoxically increase progression. Arterial stiffness is strongly associated with WMH burden, possibly through impaired damping of pulsatile flow into fragile small vessels. Non-traditional metabolic factors also play a role. Hyperhomocysteinemia is consistently associated with LA. Homocysteine promotes oxidative stress, endothelial dysfunction, and is toxic to myelin. Deficiencies in folate, vitamin B₆, and vitamin B₁₂ are common underlying causes. Low vitamin B₁₂ levels, in particular, have been associated with more severe periventricular LA. Vitamin D deficiency has also been linked to higher WMH burden. Obesity, particularly visceral adiposity, has been shown to increase risk through systemic inflammation and cytokine release. Sociodemographic factors such as higher educational attainment appear protective, likely reflecting cognitive reserve. Sex differences have been noted, with women often demonstrating higher prevalence and progression rates of LA, while ethnicity also influences risk, with higher burdens reported in African American, Hispanic, and Asian populations compared to Europeans. Finally, genetic factors play a major role. LA shows high heritability, with over 50 candidate genes identified, including those implicated in vascular integrity, endothelium, and inflammatory pathways. Monogenic disorders

such as CADASIL (NOTCH3 mutations) and CARASIL (HTRA1 mutations) provide models of direct genetic contributions to small vessel pathology. Clinically, LA is important because of its impact on brain function and long-term outcomes. Periventricular lesions are strongly associated with cognitive impairment, particularly executive dysfunction and subcortical dementia. Deep lesions correlate with depression and mood disorders. Both contribute to gait disturbances, falls, and urinary incontinence through disruption of fronto-subcortical circuits. Moreover, LA is a major predictor of stroke, poorer recovery after stroke, and overall mortality. Thus, although often considered an incidental imaging finding, LA is a clinically meaningful biomarker of brain frailty and small vessel disease burden, requiring proactive management. At present, no disease-specific therapies exist for LA. Management focuses on risk factor control and supportive measures.

Treatment

Blood pressure control is the cornerstone of prevention and treatment. Multiple randomized trials and meta-analyses show that antihypertensive therapy reduces progression of WMHs. Intensive blood pressure lowering, as demonstrated in the SPRINT-MIND study, not only reduced WMH burden but also **increased** cerebral blood flow. Concerns about hypoperfusion appear unfounded, although adverse events such as worsening of renal function and increased brain atrophy require monitoring. Overall, careful and sustained blood pressure management is the most effective strategy to slow LA progression. **Glycemic control** has less clear benefit. While diabetes increases the risk of LA, aggressive glucose lowering has not convincingly slowed its progression and may carry risks. **Lipid-lowering therapy** with statins has shown mixed results. Some trials, such as J-STARS, have suggested statins may reduce recurrent stroke but may also increase lacunar stroke risk in some subgroups. Evidence does not support statins specifically for LA prevention, though they remain indicated for cardiovascular risk reduction. **Homocysteine-lowering therapy** is one of the most promising adjuncts. The VITATOPS MRI substudy demonstrated that supplementation with folate, vitamin B₆, and vitamin B₁₂ reduced LA progression in patients with recent stroke or TIA. This likely reflects protection against endothelial dysfunction and support of myelin synthesis. Routine assessment and correction of vitamin deficiencies, particularly B₁₂ and folate, appears justified. **Antiplatelet therapy** has not proven effective. Although aspirin shows pro-myelinating effects in experimental models, clinical trials such as the WHIMS-MRI study did not find benefit for WMH prevention. Cilostazol, tested in the CHALLENGE and DREAM trials, similarly failed to prevent LA progression. Therefore, antiplatelets are not recommended for LA outside standard stroke prevention indications. **Lifestyle interventions** are also important. Smoking cessation, regular exercise, adherence to a healthy diet (e.g. Mediterranean pattern), and maintenance of normal weight all reduce risk. Higher educational attainment and continued cognitive activity appear to confer protective effects, likely by enhancing cognitive reserve. Emerging

approaches under investigation include therapies targeting endothelial protection, anti-inflammatory pathways, and remyelination. However, these remain experimental. LA represents a highly prevalent and clinically significant manifestation of cerebral small vessel disease. Far from a benign radiological finding, it is a predictor of cognitive decline, mood and gait disorders, stroke, and mortality. Its pathogenesis is multifactorial, involving vascular, metabolic, genetic, and demographic factors. At present, the most effective strategy for prevention and treatment is rigorous control of vascular risk factors, particularly AH. Supplementation with B vitamins to lower homocysteine may provide additional benefit, while statins, antiplatelets, and intensive glycemic control have not shown convincing efficacy specifically for LA. Lifestyle interventions, including smoking cessation, weight management, regular physical activity, and cognitive stimulation, remain important adjunctive measures. Future research is needed to refine optimal blood pressure targets, clarify the role of lipids and glucose control, and develop novel therapies that directly protect or restore white matter integrity. Given the burden of LA in aging populations, preventing and managing this condition should remain a priority for clinicians and researchers alike.

Keywords: arterial hypertension, arterial stiffness, hyperintensive white matter lesions, leukoaraiosis, prevention.

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Od leta 2014 deluje kot konzultant nacionalne mreže TeleKap. V raziskovalnem delu se je ukvarjal z možganskožilno reaktivnostjo pri levkoaraiiozi ter vplivom CGRP na možgansko žilje pri migreni. V zadnjem obdobju vodi raziskavi o učinkih cerebrolizina na okrevanje po akutni ishemični možganski kapi na matičnem oddelku ter o vplivu aerobne telesne zmogljivosti na migreno. Poleg tega raziskuje antitrombotične in trombolitične strategije pri akutni ishemični možganski kapi ter preučuje možgansko amiloidno angiopatijo, zlasti njeno iatrogeno obliko.

Je glavni mentor specializantom nevrologije.

Assistant Professor Matija Zupan, MD, PhD, specialist in neurology

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Since 2014, he has served as a consultant for the national TeleKap network. His research has included studies on cerebrovascular reactivity in leukoaraiosis and the effects of CGRP on cerebral vasculature in migraine. More recently, he has been leading research projects on the effects of Cerebrolysin on recovery after acute ischemic stroke at his home department and on the impact of aerobic physical fitness on migraine. In addition, he investigates antithrombotic and thrombolytic strategies in acute ischemic stroke and studies cerebral amyloid angiopathy, primarily its iatrogenic form.

He is the principal mentor for neurology residents.

NOVO NA PODROČJU ORALNIH ANTIKOAGULANTOV NEW IN THE FIELD OF ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS

Senta Frol

POVZETEK

Ne-vitamin K oralni antikoagulant (NOAK) so v zadnjem desetletju temeljito spremenili antikoagulacijsko zdravljenje bolnikov z nevalvularno atrijsko fibrilacijo in vensko tromboembolijo ter postali zdravila prve izbire za primarno in sekundarno preprečevanje ishemične možganske kapi (IMK). V to skupino sodijo neposredni zaviralec trombina dabigatran ter neposredni zaviralci faktorja Xa – apiksaban, rivaroksaban in edoksaban. Njihov ciljno usmerjen mehanizem delovanja, predvidljiva farmakokinetika ter manjše število interakcij s hrano in zdravili v primerjavi z antagonisti vitamina K (AVK) omogočajo varnejšo in enostavnejšo klinično uporabo brez rutinskega laboratorijskega spremljanja.

Velike randomizirane klinične raziskave in metaanalize so pokazale, da so NOAK vsaj enako učinkoviti kot AVK pri preprečevanju ishemičnih dogodkov, hkrati pa zagotavljajo pomembno boljši varnostni profil, zlasti glede intrakranialnih krvavitev. Kljub temu akutna IMK in intrakranialna krvavitev ostajata klinično pomembna zapleta zdravljenja z NOAK. Ocenjuje se, da letno približno 1–2 % bolnikov, zdravljenih z NOAK, doživi IMK, okoli 0,1–0,2 % pa intrakranialno krvavitev. Tveganje je največje v zgodnjem obdobju po možganski kapi, ko se prepletata nevarnost ponovnih ishemičnih dogodkov in tveganje za hemoragične zaplete.

Akutno zdravljenje IMK pri bolnikih, zdravljenih z NOAK, predstavlja poseben klinični izziv. Intravenska tromboliza (IVT) in mehanska rekanalizacija ostajata temeljni metodi rekanalizacijskega zdravljenja. Tradicionalne smernice so IVT pri bolnikih z nedavnim jemanjem NOAK odsvetovale zaradi povečanega tveganja za simptomatsko intrakranialno krvavitev. Novejši podatki pa kažejo, da predhodno zdravljenje z NOAK samo po sebi ne povečuje tveganja za krvavitev, ti bolniki pa lahko celo dosegajo boljše klinične izide zdravljenja.

Pri bolnikih, zdravljenih z dabigatranom, je uporaba specifičnega antidota idarucizumaba omogočila hitro in učinkovito odpravo antikoagulacijskega učinka ter razširila možnosti za IVT tudi v primerih, ko je bil zadnji odmerek zaužit v kratkem časovnem intervalu pred nastopom simptomov. Razpoložljivi podatki kažejo na ugoden nevrološki izid brez povečanja tveganja za simptomatsko intrakranialno krvavitev. Pri zaviralcih faktorja Xa ostaja odločanje bolj zapleteno, saj rutinski koagulacijski testi niso zanesljivi, uporaba andeksaneta alfa (AA) pred IVT pa se ne priporoča.

Intrakranialna krvavitev ostaja najtežji zaplet zdravljenja z NOAK. Pri bolnikih z intrakranialno krvavitvijo, zdravljenih z dabigatranom, je idarucizumab



uveljavljeno in indicirano zdravljenje, ki omogoča hitro in učinkovito normalizacijo hemostaze. Pri zaviralcih faktorja Xa je AA indiciran le pri skrbno izbranih bolnikih z intrakranialno krvavitvijo, zdravljenih z apiksabanom ali edoksabanom, pri katerih pričakovane koristi odtehtajo tveganje za tromboembolične zaplete; takšen selektiven pristop podpirajo tudi sodobna strokovna priporočila. Kljub temu ostajajo dokazi omejeni, klinična uporaba pa heterogena. Ob koncu leta 2025 je ameriška Agencija za hrano in zdravila (FDA) izdala obvestilo o umiku AA z ameriškega trga, kar dodatno poudarja potrebo po previdni, individualizirani klinični presoji ter po nadaljnjih raziskavah na tem področju.

Prispevek poudarja potrebo po individualiziranem, multidisciplinarnem pristopu k obravnavi bolnikov z akutno možgansko kapjo, zdravljenih z NOAK, ter po nadaljnjih raziskavah, usmerjenih v varnost, klinično pomembne izide in jasno opredeljene indikacije za obrat antikoagulacijskega učinka.

Ključne besede: antikoagulacija, intrakranialna krvavitev, ishemična možganska kap, ne-vitamin K oralni antikoagulanti, tromboliza.

SUMMARY

Non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants (NOACs) have fundamentally transformed anticoagulation therapy in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation and venous thromboembolism over the past decade and have become first-line agents for the primary and secondary prevention of ischemic stroke (IS). This group includes the direct thrombin inhibitor dabigatran and the direct factor Xa inhibitors apixaban, rivaroxaban, and edoxaban. Their targeted mechanism of action, predictable pharmacokinetics, and fewer food and drug interactions compared with vitamin K antagonists (VKAs) enable safer and simpler clinical use without the need for routine laboratory monitoring.

Large randomized clinical trials and meta-analyses have demonstrated that NOACs are at least as effective as VKAs in preventing ischemic events, while offering a significantly improved safety profile, particularly with respect to intracranial hemorrhage. Nevertheless, acute IS and intracranial hemorrhage remain clinically relevant complications of NOAC therapy. It is estimated that approximately 1–2% of patients receiving NOACs experience IS annually, while around 0.1–0.2% develop intracranial hemorrhage. The risk is highest in the early post-stroke period, when the threat of recurrent ischemic events overlaps with the risk of hemorrhagic complications.

The acute management of IS in patients treated with NOACs presents a particular clinical challenge. Intravenous thrombolysis (IVT) and mechanical thrombectomy remain the cornerstone recanalization therapies. Traditional guidelines discouraged IVT in patients with recent NOAC intake due to concerns regarding symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage. However, more

recent evidence suggests that prior NOAC therapy alone does not increase bleeding risk, and such patients may even achieve better clinical outcomes.

In patients treated with dabigatran, the availability of the specific reversal agent idarucizumab enables rapid and effective neutralization of the anticoagulant effect and has expanded eligibility for IVT, even when the last dose was taken shortly before symptom onset. Available data indicate favourable neurological outcomes without an increased risk of symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage. In contrast, decision-making in patients receiving factor Xa inhibitors remains more complex, as routine coagulation tests are unreliable and the use of andexanet alfa (AA) prior to IVT is not recommended.

Intracranial hemorrhage remains the most severe complication of NOAC therapy. In patients with intracranial hemorrhage treated with dabigatran, idarucizumab is an established and indicated therapy that allows rapid and effective restoration of hemostasis. For patients receiving factor Xa inhibitors, AA is indicated only in carefully selected individuals with intracranial hemorrhage treated with apixaban or edoxaban, in whom the anticipated benefits outweigh the risk of thromboembolic complications; this selective approach is also supported by contemporary expert recommendations. Nevertheless, evidence remains limited and clinical use is heterogeneous. At the end of 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a notice regarding the withdrawal of AA from the U.S. market, further emphasizing the need for cautious, individualized clinical decision-making and for additional research in this field.

This review highlights the importance of an individualized, multidisciplinary approach to the management of acute stroke in patients receiving NOACs, as well as the need for further research focusing on safety, clinically meaningful outcomes, and clearly defined indications for anticoagulant reversal.

Key words: anticoagulation, intracranial hemorrhage, ischemic stroke, non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants, thrombolysis.

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Leta 2015 je zaključila magistrski študij z magistrskim delom z naslovom »Uporaba novih peroralnih antikoagulantov pri bolnikih z ishemično možgansko kapjo ali prehodnim ishemičnim napadom«. Leta 2021 je zaključila doktorski študij z disertacijo »Vpliv dejavnikov na pojav in izid možganske kapi pri bolnikih, zdravljenih z neposrednimi peroralnimi antikoagulantmi«.

Od leta 2012 sodeluje kot asistentka za nevrologijo na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani, oktobra 2022 pa je bila izvoljena v naziv docentke za nevrologijo. Leta 2023 je postala članica katedre za nevrologijo na Medicinski fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani.

V času svoje kariere redno predava doma in v tujini ter aktivno sodeluje na strokovnih in znanstvenih srečanjih.

Pubmed: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Frol+s#>

Assistant Professor Senta Frol, MD, PhD, specialist in neurology

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"Influence of factors on the occurrence and outcome of stroke in patients treated with direct oral anticoagulants."

Since 2012, she has also been involved in teaching as an assistant in neurology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana. In October 2022, she was appointed Assistant Professor of Neurology. In 2023, she became a member of the Department of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana.

Throughout her career, she has delivered numerous lectures both in Slovenia and internationally and actively participates in professional and scientific meetings.

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OD SRCA DO MOŽGANOV IN NAZAJ – SRČNI VZROKI EMBOLIJE IN NOVE MOŽNOSTI ZDRAVLJENJA

FROM HEART TO BRAIN AND BACK AGAIN – CARDIAC SOURCES OF EMBOLISM AND NEW TREATMENT OPTIONS

Andrej Pernat

POVZETEK

Uvod

Atrijska fibrilacija (AF) je najpogostejša srčna aritmija in je povezana s povečano umrljivostjo ter slabšo kakovostjo življenja. AF je povezana s petkrat večjim tveganjem za možgansko kap ali sistemsko embolijo; približno 25 % vseh ishemičnih možganskih kapi pri starejših je posledica AF (1). Osnovna terapija za preprečevanje možganske kapi je antikoagulacijsko zdravljenje z neposrednimi peroralnimi antikoagulanti (DOAK), ki so zaradi nižjega tveganja za intrakranialne krvavitve v veliki meri nadomestili antagoniste vitamina K (2). Kljub temu so v več randomiziranih raziskavah poročali o stopnjah krvavitv med 2 % in 3,6 % (2). Poleg težav z adherenco krvavitve ostajajo pomemben zaplet dolgotrajnega zdravljenja z DOAK, skupaj s poddoziranjem in nezadostnim zdravljenjem (3, 4). Posledično pomemben delež bolnikov ni primeren za zdravljenje z DOAK zaradi visokega tveganja za krvavitve ali anamneze intrakranialne krvavitve (5).

Metoda perkutane zapore leve avrikule (LAAO) je bila razvita predvsem za bolnike s kontraindikacijami za peroralno antikoagulacijsko zdravljenje. LAAO predstavlja nefarmakološko strategijo preprečevanja možganske kapi, pri kateri se leva avrikula mehansko zapre in izključi iz sistemskega krvnega obtoka (6). Glavna prednost LAAO je zmanjšano tveganje za krvavitve zaradi izogibanja dolgotrajni antikoagulaciji ob hkratnem ohranjanju zaščite pred možgansko kapjo. Čeprav LAAO ni neposredna alternativa DOAK, so zapleti s krvavitvami, povezani z LAAO, praviloma perioperativni, medtem ko peroralna antikoagulacija predstavlja doživljenjsko tveganje za krvavitve. Najpogosteje uporabljeni zapiralni napravi leve avrikule sta Watchman in Amplatzer Amulet (6). Dokazano je, da je LAAO neinferiorna alternativa varfarinu pri preprečevanju možganske kapi, medtem ko so podatki, ki primerjajo LAAO z DOAK, omejeni (7). Edina randomizirana raziskava, ki je primerjala LAAO z uporabo naprav Watchman ali Amulet z zdravljenjem z DOAK, je pokazala obetavne rezultate ter neinferiornost pri preprečevanju večjih, z AF povezanih kardiovaskularnih, nevroloških in hemoragičnih dogodkov (8).

Namen

Ovrednotiti nedavne izkušnje z interventnimi strategijami preprečevanja tromboemboličnih zapletov pri bolnikih z atrijsko fibrilacijo v naši ustanovi.

Rezultati

Od leta 2019 smo v našem centru izvedli 57 postopkov zapore leve avrikule. V večini primerov je bilo vstavljeno zapiralo Amulet (53 bolnikov, 93 %), medtem ko je bilo zapiralo Watchman FLX uporabljeno pri štirih bolnikih (7 %). Indikacije za poseg so vključevale kontraindikacije za dolgotrajno antikoagulacijsko zdravljenje, najpogostejše intrakranialne krvavitve (75 %), gastrointestinalne krvavitve (17 %), intraokularne krvavitve (4 %), ponavljajoče se masivne pljučne krvavitve (2 %) ter ponavljajoče se ishemične možganske kapi kljub ustreznemu antikoagulacijskemu zdravljenju (2 %).

Najpogostejše uporabljena slikovna metoda za prikaz leve avrikule pred posegom je bila transezofagealna ehokardiografija (87 % bolnikov), pri preostalih 13 % pa je bila za natančnejši prikaz anatomije LAA uporabljena dodatna ali izključna računalniška tomografija (CT). Uspešna zapora leve avrikule je bila dosežena pri 55 bolnikih (96,5 %). Pri dveh bolnikih zaradi anatomske kompleksnosti med začetnim posegom ni bilo mogoče doseči zadovoljivega položaja zapirala Amulet. V obeh primerih je bila uspešna zapora dosežena ob ponovnem posegu po dodatnem načrtovanju s pomočjo tridimenzionalnih (3D) tiskanih modelov.

Najprimernejša pooperativna antitrombotična strategija je bila določena v okviru multidisciplinarnega tima v sklopu konzilija za presojo indikacije za poseg. Pooperativni antitrombotični režimi so se med bolniki precej razlikovali zaradi heterogenega tveganja za krvavitve. Med spremljanjem sta se pri dveh bolnikih (4 %) pojavili gastrointestinalni krvavitvi, ki sta zahtevali deeskalacijo antitrombotičnega zdravljenja, po kateri je bil nadaljnji potek brez zapletov. Pri dodatnih dveh bolnikih (4 %) je bil ugotovljen tromb na zapiralu, ki se je ob podaljšanem antitrombotičnem zdravljenju razrešil brez zapletov. En bolnik (2 %) je doživel ponavljajočo se ishemično možgansko kap brez dokazov o prisotnosti tromba na zapiralu.

Zaključek

Naše izkušnje z zaporo leve avrikule pri bolnikih z atrijsko fibrilacijo in visokim tveganjem za krvavitve kažejo na visoko uspešnost posegov in ugodne klinične izide, skladne z rezultati velikih mednarodnih registrov. Zapora leve avrikule predstavlja varno in učinkovito strategijo preprečevanja tromboemboličnih dogodkov pri bolnikih z AF, ki niso primerni za dolgotrajno antikoagulacijsko zdravljenje.

Ključne besede: atrijska fibrilacija, možganska kap, perkutana zapora leve avrikule, preprečevanje zapletov, trombembolični zapleti.

SUMMARY

Introduction

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most prevalent cardiac arrhythmia and is associated with increased mortality and impaired quality of life. AF is associated with a fivefold increased risk of stroke or systemic embolism, and approximately 25% of all ischemic strokes in the elderly are attributable to AF (1). The mainstay of therapy for stroke prevention is anticoagulation with direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs), which have largely replaced vitamin K antagonists (VKAs) owing to a lower risk of intracranial bleeding (2). However, bleeding rates ranging from 2% to 3.6% have been reported in several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) (2). In addition to issues related to medication adherence, bleeding remains an inherent limitation of DOAC therapy, together with underdosing and undertreatment (3). Consequently, a significant proportion of patients are not eligible for DOAC therapy because of a high bleeding risk or a history of intracranial hemorrhage.

Left atrial appendage occlusion (LAAO) devices have been developed primarily for patients with contraindications to oral anticoagulation. LAAO is a nonpharmacological stroke prevention strategy in which the left atrial appendage is mechanically closed and excluded from the systemic circulation (4). The main advantage of LAAO is a reduced risk of bleeding through avoidance of long-term anticoagulation while maintaining protection against stroke. Although LAAO is not a direct alternative to DOACs, bleeding events associated with LAAO are typically peri-procedural, whereas oral anticoagulation carries a lifelong bleeding risk. The most widely used LAAO devices are the Watchman and the Amplatzer Amulet (5). LAAO has been shown to be a non-inferior alternative to warfarin for stroke prevention; however, the optimal stroke prevention strategy remains uncertain, and data directly comparing LAAO with DOACs are limited (4). The only randomized trial comparing LAAO using either the Watchman or Amulet device with DOAC therapy demonstrated promising results, showing non-inferiority in preventing major AF-related cardiovascular, neurological, and bleeding events (6).

Aim

To evaluate recent experience with interventional stroke prevention strategies at our institution.

Results

Since 2019, 57 LAAO procedures have been performed at our center. In the majority of cases, the Amulet device was implanted (53 patients, 93%), while the Watchman FLX device was used in the remaining four patients (7%). Indications for the procedure included contraindications to long-term anticoagulation, most commonly intracranial bleeding (75%), gastrointestinal bleeding (17%), intraocular bleeding (4%), recurrent massive pulmonary bleeding (2%), and recurrent ischemic stroke despite adequate anticoagulation therapy (2%).

Preprocedural imaging was performed using transesophageal echocardiography in 87% of patients, while the remaining 13% underwent either additional or exclusive computed tomography (CT) imaging. Successful LAA occlusion was achieved in 55 patients (96.5%). In two patients, satisfactory positioning of the Amulet device could not be achieved during the initial procedure because of anatomical complexity. In both cases, successful occlusion was accomplished during a subsequent procedure following additional planning supported by three-dimensional (3D) printed models.

The optimal postprocedural antithrombotic strategy was determined by a multidisciplinary team during the preprocedural evaluation. Postprocedural antithrombotic regimens varied widely, reflecting the heterogeneous bleeding risk of the patient population. During follow-up, two patients (4%) experienced gastrointestinal bleeding requiring de-escalation of antithrombotic therapy, after which the clinical course was uncomplicated. In two additional patients (4%), device-related thrombus was detected and resolved uneventfully with prolonged antithrombotic therapy. One patient (2%) experienced recurrent ischemic stroke without evidence of device-related thrombus.

Conclusion

Our single-center experience with LAAO in patients with atrial fibrillation and high bleeding risk demonstrates high procedural success and favorable clinical outcomes consistent with those reported in large international registries. Left atrial appendage occlusion represents a safe and effective strategy for the prevention of thromboembolic events in patients with AF who are ineligible for long-term anticoagulation therapy.

Key words: atrial fibrillation, ischemic stroke, left atrial appendage occlusion, prevention, systemic thromboembolism.

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DOLGOROČNE EHOKARDIOGRAFSKE ZNAČILNOSTI PO PERKUTANEM ZAPIRANJU ODPRTEGA OVALNEGA OKNA

LONG-TERM ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC FEATURES AFTER PERCUTANEOUS CLOSURE OF PATENT FORAMEN OVALE

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Saibal Kar, Marko Noč*

UVOD

Perkutana zapora patentiranega foramen ovale (PFO) je dobro uveljavljena, na dokazih temelječa intervencija za sekundarno preprečevanje paradoksalnih tromboemboličnih dogodkov, vključno s tranzitorno ishemično kapjo (TIA) in cerebrovaskularnim insultom (CVI). Čeprav so nedavne sistematične analize opazovalnih in randomiziranih študij pokazale razmeroma nizko incidenco ponovnih dogodkov, so dolgoročne ehokardiografske značilnosti, vključno z residualnim šuntom in morfologijo naprave, omejene na nekaj opazovalnih študij z manj kot 5-letnim spremljanjem (1,2).

METODE

Gre za monocentrično opazovalno študijo, izvedeno v MC Medicor, Izola (Slovenija). Indikacija za perkutano zaporo PFO je bila obravnavana s strani institucionalne "PFO ekipe". Zaporo PFO je izvedel en operater s pomočjo transezofagealne ehokardiografije (TOE) in fluoroskopije. Uporabljeni so bili različni zapiralni pripomočki. Takoj po posegu je bila zapora ocenjena s TOE in bubble testom med Valsalva manevrom. Stopnja desno-levega šunta je bila ocenjena glede na pojav solnih mehurčkov v levem atriju v šestih srčnih ciklih, in sicer kot velika (>20 mehurčkov), zmerna (10–20 mehurčkov) ali majhna (<10 mehurčkov). Funkcionalna zapora PFO je bila definirana kot <10 mehurčkov. Vsi pacienti so opravili transtorakalno ehokardiografijo (TTE) z bubble testom pri 6 mesecih po posegu in dodatne TTE preiskave z različnimi časovnimi intervali. Ocenili smo tudi pozicijo in morfologijo naprave, tvorbo tromba ter prisotnost perikardialnega izliva. Pacienti z vsaj zmernim residualnim šuntom (>10 mehurčkov med Valsalvo manevrom) so opravili dodatne diagnostične preiskave, vključno s TOE in pljučno računalniško angiografijo. Klinični dogodki med spremljanjem so bili dokumentirani v ambulantnem okolju (3).

REZULTATI

Med oktobrom 2006 in oktobrom 2023 je 364 zaporednih pacientov opravilo perkutano zaporo PFO. Klinično spremljanje je bilo zaključeno pri 328 pacientih (92%) s kumulativno trajnostjo 1.759 pacientnih let. Ponovna

TIA je bila dokumentirana pri 2 pacientih (0,6%), CVI pri 1 pacientu (0,3%). Ehokardiografsko spremljanje pri 6 mesecih je bilo zaključeno pri 306 pacientih (86%). Popolna zapora se je povečala s 64% takoj po posegu na 80% pri 6 mesecih ($p<0,05$) in se je po tem gibala med 77% in 81% (NS). Funkcionalna zapora (<10 mehurčkov med Valsalvo manevrom) je bila 93% po posegu in je ostala med 94% in 97% (NS). Funkcionalna zapora PFO je bila primerljiva med Amplatzer in ne-Amplatzer napravami v vseh časovnih intervalih. Ni bilo kasnejše embolizacije naprave, migracije, tvorbe trombov ali perikardialnega izliva. Razlogi za $>$ zmeren residualni šunt pri 15 pacientih so bili: puščanje na nivoju zapiralne naprave ($n=6$), nepokrita fenestracija ($n=3$), majhna atrijska septalna defekt ($n=1$) in pljučna arterio-venska malformacija ($n=1$). Noben od teh pacientov ni imel ponovnega tromboemboličnega dogodka, zato noben ni bil ponovno potrjen zapori PFO (3).

RAZPRAVA

Pokažemo visoko ($>90\%$) in stabilno funkcionalno zaporo PFO po ehokardiografiji tudi po 10 letih, neodvisno od vrste zapiralne naprave. Ugodne dolgoročne ehokardiografske značilnosti, dokumentirane v naši študiji, so bile povezane s še nižjo stopnjo ponovne TIA/CVI kot je bilo prej poročano (3).

Ključne besede: ehokardiografija, residualni šunt, zapora patentiranega foramen ovale

INTRODUCTION

Percutaneous closure of patent foramen ovale (PFO) is well established evidence-based intervention for secondary prevention of paradoxical thromboembolic events including transitory ischemic attack (TIA) and cerebrovascular insult (CVI). Although recent systematic analysis of observational and randomized trials demonstrated rather small incidence of recurrent events, long term echocardiographic features including residual shunting and device morphology are limited to few observational studies with less than 5 years of follow up (1,2).

METHODS

This is a single center observational study performed at MC Medicor, Izola (Slovenia). Indication for percutaneous PFO closure was discussed by the institutional "PFO team". PFO closure was performed by a single operator using transesophageal echocardiography (TOE) and fluoroscopy. Different closure devices were used. Immediate postprocedural closure was investigated by TOE using bubble study during Valsalva manoeuvre. The degree of right to left shunting was graded according to the appearance of saline bubbles in the left

atrium within six cardiac cycles, defined as large (>20 bubbles), moderate (10-20 bubbles) or small (<10 bubbles). Functional PFO closure was defined as <10 bubbles. All patients underwent transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) with bubble study at 6 months and then an additional TTE bubble study at different time intervals. We evaluated also device position, morphology, thrombus formation and presence of pericardial effusion. Patients with at least moderate residual shunt (>10 bubbles during Valsalva) underwent further diagnostic investigation including TOE and pulmonary computed angiography. Clinical events during follow up were documented at outpatient settings (3).

RESULTS

Between October 2006 and October 2023, 364 consecutive patients underwent percutaneous PFO closure. Clinical follow up was completed in 328 patients (92%) with cumulative duration of 1759 patient years. Recurrent TIA was documented in 2 patients (0.6%) and CVI in 1 patient (0.3%). Echocardiographic follow up at 6 months was completed in 306 patients (86%). Complete closure increased from 64% after the procedure to 80% at 6 months ($p<0.05$) and ranged between 77% and 81% thereafter (NS). Functional closure (<10 bubbles during Valsalva) was 93% after the procedure and remained between 94% and 97% thereafter (NS). Functional PFO closure was comparable between Amplatzer and non Amplatzer devices at any time interval. There was no late device embolization, migration, thrombus formation or pericardial effusion. Reasons for >moderate residual shunt in 15 patients were leakage at the level of closure device ($n=6$), uncovered fenestration ($n=3$), small atrial septum defect ($n=1$) and pulmonary arteriovenous malformation ($n=1$). None of these patients had recurrent thromboembolic event, therefore none underwent repeat PFO closure attempt (3).

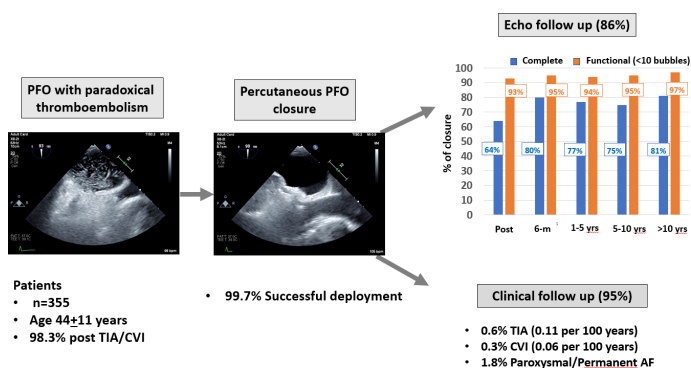
DISCUSSION

We demonstrated high (>90%) and stable functional PFO closure by echocardiography beyond 10 years independently of closure device. Favorable long term echocardiographic features documented in our study were associated with even lower recurrent TIA/CVI rate than previously reported. (3)

Key words: Patent foramen ovale closure, residual shunt, echocardiography

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Slika 1. Rezultati dolgoročnega spremljanja s kontrastno ehokardiografijo po perkutani zapori patentiranega foramen ovale (prilagojeno po referenci 3).

Picture 1. Long-term contrast echocardiographic follow up results after percutaneous closure of patent foramen ovale (adapted from reference 3).

PFO – patent foramen ovale (OOO – odprto ovalno okno); TIA – transitory ischemic attack (TIA – tranzitorna ishemična ataka); CVI – cerebrovascular insult (IMK – ishemična možganska kap); AF – atrial fibrillation (AF – atrijska fibrilacija).



MAJA ROJKO

dr. med.

Maja Rojko, dr. med., specialistka kardiologije

Maja Rojko se je rodila 8. januarja leta 1992, v Ljubljani. Po zaključku osnovne šole na Vrhniki, je izobraževanje nadaljevala na Gimnaziji Poljane – jezikovna smer (slovenščina, angleščina, nemščina, francoščina).

V najstniških letih je aktivno plesala, ob tem je imela status športnice. Plesna kariera se je zaradi poškodbe kolka predčasno zaključila.

Maturirala je s pohvalo leta 2010 in se zaradi želje po pomoči drugim vpisala na Medicinsko fakulteto v Ljubljani. Tekom študija je za dijakke tri leta vodila delavnice varne in zdrave spolnosti v okviru Projekta Virus. Že kot študentka je prostovoljno sodelovala v ambulanti MC Medicor Ljubljana in na oddelku MC Medicor Izole. Študijske vaje je opravila v UKC Ljubljana in dodatno še v Nemčiji (Bolnica za interno medicino Dierdorf/Selters) in v Ameriki (Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute, Houston Texas).

Šest mesečno pripravništvo je zaključila v UKC Maribor in dne 23.6.2017 opravila strokovni izpit. S septembrom 2017 je začela specializacijo iz interne medicine kot specializantka MC Medicorja. Tečaj ALS (Advanced Life Support) je opravila v letu 2018 in 2025.

Po dveh letih skupnega debela interne medicine in po rojstvu hčerke Eme v 2019, je leta 2021 začela s specializacijo iz kardiologije in vaskularne medicine. Licenco je pridobila februarja 2025.

Oktobra 2020 je vpisala doktorski študij na Medicinski fakulteti v Ljubljani, smer Biomedicina. Njeno delo temelji na perkutanem zapiranju odprtih ovalnih oken (PFO) in njihovem dolgoročnem sledenju s kontrastno ehokardiografijo. Zagovor doktorske naloge je predviden v začetku leta 2026.

Konec leta 2025 je dobila svojo prvo Prešernovo priznanje s strani Medicinske fakultete v Ljubljani kot so-mentorica.

Aktivno se izobražuje na področju transtorakalnega (EACVI Certification in Adult Transthoracic Echocardiography 2023) in transezofagealnega ultrazvoka

srca (EACVI Certification in Adult Transoesophageal Echocardiography 2024) ter sodeluje v področju interventne kardiologije.

Maja Rojko, MD, Cardiologist

Maja Rojko was born on January 8, 1992, in Ljubljana. After attending primary school in Vrhnika, she enrolled in the language programme (Slovene, English, German, French) of Poljane Grammar School.

She danced all through her teenage years, but had to stop due to an injury. During her active years as a dancer, she had the student athlete status.

She graduated with honours in 2010 and decided to continue her studies at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana. She was the head of workshops on healthy and safe sexuality, which were carried out as part of Projekt Virus for three years. Already as a student, she volunteered at the MC Medicor Cardiovascular Centre in Ljubljana and Izola. She carried out all of her clinical practice at the University Medical Centre of Ljubljana and additionally in Germany (Hospital for Internal Medicine Dierdorf/Selters) and in the US (Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute, Houston Texas).

She completed her internship at the University Medical Centre in Maribor (six months). Following that she passed her national board exam on June 23, 2017. In September 2017 she began her fellowship as an internal medicine resident for MC Medicor. She completed her Advanced life support course (ALS) in 2018 and 2025.

In 2021, after two years of internal medicine residency and the birth of her daughter Ema, she continued her fellowship in cardiology and vascular medicine. She is fully licensed from February 2025.

In October 2020 she began her PhD studies at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana, programme Biomedicine. Her work is based on percutaneous closures of patent foramen ovale with contrast transthoracic echocardiography follow-up. The PhD is going to be finalised at the beginning of the year 2026.

At the end of 2025 she received her first Prešeren Prize from the Faculty of Medicine as a co-mentor.

She is actively participating in courses for transthoracic (EACVI Certification in Adult Transthoracic Echocardiography in 2023) and transoesophageal echocardiography (EACVI Certification in Adult Transoesophageal Echocardiography in 2024), as well as working on her place in interventional cardiology.

IZVAJANJE MINIMALNO INVAZIVNE KIRURGIJE PRI ZNOTRAJMOŽGANSKI KRVAVITVI: KDAJ IN KAKO?

PERFORMING MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY FOR INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE: WHEN AND HOW?

Janez Ravnik

POVZETEK

Spontana znotrajmožganska krvavitev (ICH) je huda oblika možganske kapi z visoko umrljivostjo in dolgoročno invalidnostjo. Tradicionalni kirurški pristopi, kot je kraniotomija, so pokazali omejene koristi, zato narašča zanimanje za minimalno invazivne kirurške tehnike (MIS). Namen MIS je zmanjšati poškodbe možganov ob učinkoviti evakuaciji hematomov. Tehnike vključujejo stereotaktično aspiracijo (z ali brez trombolize), endoskopsko evakuacijo, mini-kraniotomijo ter ultrazvočno ali lasersko podprto odstranitev.

Klinični študiji, kot sta MISTIE in ENRICH, sta pokazali obetavne rezultate za MIS, vključno z nižjo smrtnostjo in boljšim funkcionalnim izidom pri izbranih bolnikih. MIS je posebej primeren za površinske ali dostopne hematome in je povezan s krajšim operativnim časom ter manjšo kirurško travmo.

Čeprav jasna priporočila za indikacije MIS še niso povsem oblikovana, se pričakuje, da bodo te tehnike postale standard pri kirurškem zdravljenju ICH. Z napredkom tehnologije in izboljšanjem kirurške usposobljenosti MIS ponuja varnejšo in potencialno učinkovitejšo alternativo tradicionalni kirurgiji.

Ključne besede: kraniotomija, minimalno invazivne kirurške tehnike, spontana znotrajmožganska krvavitev.

UVOD

Spontanana znotrajmožganska (ang. intracerebral hematoma – ICH) krvavitev je oblika možganske kapi, povezana z visoko stopnjo umrljivosti in

PATOFIZIOLOGIJA ICH

Spontani ICH najpogosteje nastane zaradi razpoka majhnih krvnih žil, običajno povezanih s kronično hipertenzijo, cerebralno amiloidno angiopatijo ali uporabo antikoagulantov. Kopičenje krvi povzroča učinek mase, povišan intrakranialni tlak (ang. intracerebral pressure - ICP) ter moteno lokalno in kasneje globalno perfuzijo možganov. To vodi v kaskado sekundarnih poškodb z lokalnim citotoksičnim edemom, oksidativnim stresom in nevrotoksičnostjo.

STANDARDNO UKREPANJE

Standardno ukrepanje obsega ustrezno medikamentozno zdravljenje in običajne intenzivne ukrepe pri možganski kapi. Medikamentozno zdravljenje je usmerjeno v normalizacijo krvnega tlaka, zmanjševanje zvišanega ICP, normalizacijo koagulacije in agregacije krvi ter ostalo podporno terapijo (zdravljenje infekcij, epileptičnih napadov, venske trombembolije, bolečine ipd.).

Pri bolniku, ki je komatozen (ocena po Glasgowski lestvici kome – GCS 8 ali manj) je običajno potrebna sedacija in predihavanje z dihalnim aparatom. Nevrokirurg pri komatoznem bolniku običajno vstavi senzor za merjenje ICP, lahko pa tudi multimodalni senzor (npr. za merjenje ICP, pH in oksigenacije tkiva, temperature). Osnovni kirurški postopek pri zvišanem ICP je v primeru komatoznega bolnika lahko tudi vstavitve zunanje ventrikularne drenaže. Slednje je običajno vedno potrebno ob prisotnosti hematocefalusa in hidrocefalusa.

STANDARDNO KIRURŠKO ZDRAVLJENJE

S standardnim kirurškim zdravljenjem običajno razumemo kraniotomijo ali kraniektomijo (odstranitev kostnega pokrova) in evakuacijo hematoma. Cilj takšnega zdravljenja je zmanjšanje učinka mase

centrih preferira majhna kraniotomija z natančnim majhnim dostopom do hematoma in evakuacija hematoma pod kontrolo mikroskopa.

Najpogostejša priporočila za evakuacijo ICH so velik hematom (>30–50 ml), površinska (lobarna) krvavitev blizu korteksa (<1 cm globoko), hematomi s pomembnim učinkom mase, slabšanje zavesti (GCS < 9 ali hitro poslabšanje), krvavitve v male možgane s premerom >3 cm ali s hidrocefalusom ter ICH z obstruktivnim hidrocefalusom. Običajne kontraindikacije za evakuacijo so masivna krvavitev v globokih strukturah, huda komorbidna stanja in popolna koma brez možnosti okrevanja

MINIMALNO INVAZIVNE KIRURŠKE TEHNIKE (MIS)

Tehnike MIS za kirurgijo spontane intracerebralne krvavitve so se razvile zaradi slabih rezultatov standardnih kirurških tehnik. Večina tehnik predvideva čim manjši dostop do hematoma in posledično čim manjšo dodatno poškodbo možganovine. Tehnike se lahko med sabo tudi kombinirajo.

Stereotaktična aspiracija (z ali brez trombolize)

Z uporabo stereotaktičnega sistema ali nevronavigacije se vstavi kateter neposredno v hematom. Hematom se poaspirira (posesa), pogosto pa se skozi kateter vnese trombolitično sredstvo (npr. rt-PA), ki utekočini strdek za lažje odstranjevanje več dni. Tehnika omogoča minimalno poškodbo okoliškega tkiva; v določenih primerih je izvedljivo tudi ob bolnikovi postelji. Tehnika je bila analizirana v MISTIE študiji.

Endoskopska evakuacija

Skozi majhno odprtino v lobanji se vstavi endoskop, s

Lasersko ali ultrazvočno podprta evakuacija

Uporablja energijske naprave (npr. ultrazvočne aspiratorje) za utekočinjanje in odstranjevanje hematoma. Lahko se uporablja v kombinaciji z drugimi metodami, zlasti pri strdkih, ki jih je težko odstraniti mehansko.

Tabela 1. Povzetek minimalno invazivnih kirurških tehnik za evakuacijo spontane intracerebralne krvavitve.

Metoda	Opis	Primernost za lokacije	Prednosti	Pomanjkljivosti
Stereotaktična aspiracija ($\pm$ tromboliza)	Kateter skozi stereotaktični dostop + možnost vbrizga rt-PA	Globoki hematomi (npr. talamus, bazalni gangliji)	Minimalna poškodba, možna postopna evakuacija	Počasna odstranitev, nevarnost ponovne krvavitve
Endoskopska evakuacija	Neposredna vizualizacija hematoma z endoskopom	Lobarni in nekateri globoki hematomi	Vizualni nadzor krvavitve, hitrejša odstranitev	Tehnično zahtevna, potrebuje izkušen tim
Minikranitomija	Majhen kostni pokrov za direkten dostop	Površinski/lobarni hematomi	Boljši nadzor krvavitve kot pri aspiraciji	Še vedno invazivnejša od drugih MIS metod
Ultrazvočna ali laserska evakuacija	Energetske naprave za utekočinjanje hematoma	Trdi ali organizirani strdki	Pomoč pri trdovratnih strdkih	Običajno le kot dopolnilna metoda

Rezultati MIS

Dve večji randomizirani študiji (MISTIE in ENRICH) sta prikazali, da so rezultati MIS lahko bolj ugodni kot zgolj nekirurška obravnava. V prvi študiji (stereotaktična aspiracija in rt-PA) se je pokazala predvsem manjša smrtnost med bolniki in

ZAKLJUČEK

Minimalno invazivna kirurgija za spontane intrakranialne hematome predstavlja pomemben napredek v zdravljenju možganske kapi. Čeprav vse študije ne kažejo izboljšanja izhodov zdravljenja, je MIS dokazano varen in učinkovit pri zmanjševanju hematoma. S pomočjo novih tehnologij in boljšim izborom pacientov bo MIS verjetno postal standardna terapija za izbrane bolnike.

SUMMARY

Spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is a severe form of stroke with high mortality and long-term disability. Traditional surgical approaches like craniotomy have shown limited benefits, prompting growing interest in minimally invasive surgical (MIS) techniques. MIS aims to reduce brain damage while effectively evacuating hematomas. Techniques include stereotactic aspiration (with or without thrombolysis), endoscopic evacuation, mini-craniotomy, and ultrasound- or laser-assisted removal.

Clinical trials such as MISTIE and ENRICH have shown promising results for MIS, including lower mortality and better functional outcomes in selected patients. MIS is particularly suited for superficial or accessible hematomas and is associated with shorter operative times and reduced surgical trauma.

While clear guidelines for MIS indications are still evolving, these techniques are expected to become standard in the surgical treatment of ICH. With advancing technology and improved surgical expertise, MIS offers a safer and potentially more effective alternative to conventional surgery.

Key words: craniotomy, minimally invasive surgical techniques, spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage.

INTRODUCTION

Spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is a type of stroke associated with high mortality and long-term disability. It is the second most common type of stroke after ischemic stroke. Standard surgical techniques, such as craniotomy and hematoma evacuation, have shown limited effectiveness in improving outcomes, which has led to increasing interest in minimally invasive surgical (MIS) techniques for hematoma evacuation. MIS aims to reduce surgical trauma while effectively removing the hematoma, thereby minimizing secondary brain injury and preserving surrounding tissue.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE (ICH)

Spontaneous ICH most commonly results from the rupture of small blood vessels, typically associated with chronic hypertension, cerebral amyloid angiopathy, or anticoagulant use. The accumulation of blood causes a mass effect, increased intracranial pressure (ICP), and disrupted local and later global cerebral perfusion. This leads to a cascade of secondary injuries involving local cytotoxic edema, oxidative stress, and neurotoxicity.

STANDARD MANAGEMENT

Standard management includes appropriate pharmacological treatment and conventional intensive stroke care measures. Medical treatment focuses on blood pressure normalization, reduction of elevated ICP, correction of coagulation and platelet aggregation abnormalities, and other supportive therapy (treatment of infections, seizures, venous thromboembolism, pain, etc.). In comatose patients (Glasgow Coma Scale score ≤ 8), sedation and mechanical ventilation are typically required. In such patients, neurosurgeons usually insert an ICP monitoring sensor, and possibly a multimodal sensor (e.g., for ICP, pH, tissue oxygenation, temperature). In cases of elevated ICP, the basic surgical procedure may include insertion of an external ventricular drain (EVD), which is almost always necessary in cases of intraventricular hemorrhage and hydrocephalus.

STANDARD SURGICAL TREATMENT

Standard surgical treatment usually refers to craniotomy or craniectomy (removal of the bone flap) and hematoma evacuation. The goal of this treatment is to reduce mass effect and ICP, improve cerebral perfusion, reduce secondary injury, and potentially improve neurological outcomes.

The STICH and STICH II clinical trials did not demonstrate a significant advantage of standard craniotomy over medical treatment alone for most patients. The conclusion of both studies was that early craniotomy is not routinely recommended for all ICH patients, though it may benefit selected patients, especially those with superficial hematomas without massive tissue damage, patients without intraventricular hemorrhage, and those with preserved consciousness.

Modern microsurgical techniques, routine use of microscopes, and neuronavigation—especially over the last two decades—have led to modifications of standard surgical treatment. In many centers, rather than large craniotomies, smaller targeted craniotomies with precise access to the hematoma and evacuation under microscopic control are preferred.

The most common indications for ICH evacuation include large hematoma (>30–50 ml), superficial (lobar) hemorrhage close to the cortex (<1 cm deep), hematomas with significant mass effect, decreasing consciousness (GCS <9 or rapid deterioration), cerebellar hemorrhages >3 cm or with hydrocephalus, and ICH with obstructive hydrocephalus. Typical contraindications include massive hemorrhage in deep structures, severe comorbid conditions, and complete coma with no recovery potential.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL TECHNIQUES (MIS)

MIS techniques for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage have developed due to poor outcomes with standard surgical methods. Most techniques aim for minimal access to the hematoma and thus minimal additional brain injury. These techniques can also be combined.

Stereotactic aspiration (with or without thrombolysis)

Using a stereotactic system or neuronavigation, a catheter is inserted directly into the hematoma. The hematoma is aspirated, and thrombolytic agents (e.g., rt-PA) may be introduced to liquefy the clot for easier removal over several days. This technique causes minimal damage to surrounding tissue and, in some cases, can be performed at the bedside. It was analyzed in the MISTIE trial.

Endoscopic evacuation

An endoscope is inserted through a small skull opening, allowing the surgeon to directly visualize and remove the hematoma. It offers direct control over bleeding and is suitable for larger or deeper hematomas. The technique requires additional expertise and equipment.

Mini-craniotomy (so-called keyhole craniotomy)

A small bone flap is created to allow direct access to the hematoma. Special retraction systems may be used. Best suited for superficial or lobar hematomas. The main advantage is improved bleeding control. It is less invasive than conventional craniotomy, though still more invasive than other MIS methods.

Laser or ultrasound-assisted evacuation

Energy-based devices (e.g., ultrasonic aspirators) are used to liquefy and remove the hematoma. This method is often combined with others, particularly for clots that are difficult to remove mechanically.

Table 1. Summary of minimally invasive surgical techniques for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage evacuation

Method	Description	Suitable Locations	Advantages	Disadvantages
Stereotactic aspiration ($\pm$ thrombolysis)	Catheter via stereotactic access + optional rt-PA injection	Deep hematomas (e.g., thalamus, basal ganglia)	Minimal tissue damage, gradual evacuation	Slower removal, risk of rebleeding
Endoscopic evacuation	Direct visualization of hematoma with endoscope	Lobar and some deep hematomas	Visual control of bleeding, faster removal	Technically demanding, needs experienced team
Mini-craniotomy	Small bone flap for direct access	Superficial/lobar hematomas	Better bleeding control than aspiration	Still more invasive than other MIS methods
Ultrasound or laser evacuation	Energy devices to liquefy hematoma	Firm or organized clots	Helpful for stubborn clots	Usually only a supplementary method

MIS Outcomes

Two major randomized trials (MISTIE and ENRICH) have shown that MIS outcomes may be more favorable than non-surgical treatment. The first study (stereotactic aspiration and rt-PA) demonstrated lower mortality and better outcomes in patients where >70% of the hematoma was removed. The second study used a specific MIS retractor and showed a significantly higher proportion of patients with good functional outcomes in the surgical group compared to the non-surgical group. Many studies have also compared MIS with standard craniotomy. Most results favor MIS, particularly for faster procedures with shorter operative times and less blood loss.

Indications for MIS

Clear guidelines for surgical

CONCLUSION

Minimally invasive surgery for spontaneous intracerebral hematomas represents a significant advancement in stroke treatment. Although not all studies show improved outcomes, MIS has been proven safe and effective in reducing hematoma volume. With ongoing technological development and better patient selection, MIS is likely to become the standard therapy for selected patients.

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