Vascular Ultrasound: Current state, current needs, future directions

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Disclosures

Member, Intersocietal Accreditation
Commission – Vascular Testing (unpaid)

Overview

- What tests are done for vascular disease?
- What is the natural history of vascular disease using ultrasound?
- What shortcomings exist for US vascular diagnosis?
- What is the future direction of ultrasound? of vascular ultrasound?

Gray scale ultrasound Carotid stent



Spectral Doppler

- Graphical representation of Doppler
- Makeup
 - Doppler frequency or velocity y axis
 - Time x axis
 - Strength of signal gray scale
 - -Number of reflectors



Color Doppler Carotid stenosis



Color Doppler Artifacts



Vein of Galen "Aneurysm"



Inferior Mesenteric Artery



Current state

Tests

- Venous ultrasound obstruction DVT
- Carotid duplex ultrasound stenosis
- Aortic ultrasound aneurysm
- Abdominal Doppler
 - Renal arteries stenosis
 - Liver (portal hypertension) hypertension, flow direction
 - Ovaries and testes increased or decreaed flow, tumors

Acting Surgeon General Issues 'Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism'

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday September 15, 2008

Contact: Office of Public Health and Science (202) 205-0143

Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., today issued a Call to Action to reduce the number of cases of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism in the United States.

Galson urged all Americans to learn about and prevent these treatable conditions.

Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism affect an estimated 350,000 to 600,000 Americans each year, and the numbers are expected to increase as the U.S. population ages. Together, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism contribute to at least 100,000 deaths each

Venous thromboembolic disease

- Ultrasound is the gold standard to diagnose deep venous thrombosis in the legs
- CT and NM are the major tests to diagnose its major complication, pulmonary embolism

• DVT and PE are associated with mortality, diagnosis of cancer, and chronic diseases

Venous US Normal Compression





Noncompressible Vein: Causes

- Acute venous thrombosis (DVT)
 - Scarring
 - Inadequate compression



Without compression

With compression

Acute Venous Thrombosis

- Soft, deformable with compression
- Enlarges vein
- Smooth





Popliteal vein recurrent thrombosis



Virchow's Triad



Development of DVT depends on baseline risk and risk events



Normal

Thrombophilia

VBWG

Atherosclerosis timeline



Adapted from Pepine CJ. Am J Cardiol. 1998;82(suppl 104).

Duplex Doppler ultrasound is used to diagnose and grade stenoses

- Gray scale narrowing
- Color narrowing and color changes of elevated velocity



 Spectral Doppler in and beyond stenosis





Bournoulli and Stenosis



Kinetic energy very increased

Increased Velocity in Stenosis



Pre and In the stenosis



Beyond the stenosis

- Change from *small lumen* to large lumen destabilizes flow
 - Jet spreads out
- High velocity also destabilizing
 - Frank breakdown of regular flow disturbed flow (and evenually turbulence)





Post Stenotic Disturbed Flow







Criteria for Stenoses

- Some circulations use absolute velocity
 - Internal carotid artery
- Most circulations do not have standard velocities -Need ratios
- Some circulations use downstream effects in addition

- Peak systolic velocity ratio (velocity ratio)
 - Highest velocity in stenosis divided by velocity proximal to stenosis (in normal vessel)
 - IC:CC ratio
 - PSV ratio in arteries
 - Renal aortic ratio
- Intrarenal criteria

Abdominal aortic aneursym

- Abnormal dilatation of aorta
- If enlarges over 5 cm and is untreated, rupture may occur
- High mortality if rupture

• Approved for Medicare screening

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)



AAA – gray scale ultrasound



AAA- Easy to measure, hard to acquire



Endoleaks







VBWG

Atherosclerosis timeline



Adapted from Pepine CJ. Am J Cardiol. 1998;82(suppl 104).

Natural history of atherosclerosis

- Preclinical disease
 - Flow mediated dilatation, intima media thickness
 - Location of plaque
- Clinical disease
 - Degree of stenosis
 - Plaque characterization
 - Prediction of disease

Atherosclerosis Timeline






Intima Media Thickness

- Used in epidemiological studies
 - Strong predictor of future cardiovascular events
 - Additive to some traditional cardiovascular risk factors
- Used in pharmaceutical studies
- How can it be applied to the individual?
 - Reproducible clinically ?
 - How does it compare to other tests
 ?e.g. history, lipids, CRP, CT coronary
 calcium scoring?
 - One time or serial test ?





O'Leary et al NEJM 1999:340:14-22



Weird Doppler from the bulb

Of the other three patients, one demonstrated 10–20% narrowing in an ECA but had a normal arch, siphon, and intracranial circulation. The other two demonstrated 10–20% narrowing in the carotid sinus but had normal siphons and intracranial circulations; one of these two patients demonstrated a mild (10–20%) subclavian stenosis.

In the nine patients with unilateral flow separation, the angiograms demonstrated increased distribution and severity of disease compared with the patients with bilateral flow separation. The bifurcation displaying flow separation was normal in six of the nine patients and diameter reduction in eral aspect); the other into the mid-ICA, w rowing. The opposit three of the nine pati eter reduction was r diameter reductions lumen were noted. O a 10-20% lesion in similar lesion in the s seen in six of the nin



Diagnostic Significance of Flow Separation in the Carotid Bulb

Stephen C. Nicholls, MD, David J. Phillips, PhD, Jean F. Primozich, BS, Ramona L. Lawrence, BS, Ted R. Kohler, MD, Thomas G. Rudd, MD, and D. Eugene Strandness Jr., MD

Pulsatile blood flow within the normal carotid sinus involves at least two distinct components. That near the flow divider is laminar and antegrade, whereas a boundary layer separation zone in the posterolateral aspect exhibits transient blood flow reversal. It is now possible to document these flow velocity components using pulsed Doppler ultrasound methods. When atherosclerosis develops, it preferentially involves the posterolateral bulb region, obliterating the normal configuration of the sinus with consequent loss of the flow separation zone. It was therefore hypothesized that if flow separation could be detected, it should be predictive of a normal angiogram. To assess this, we evaluated 20 symptomatic patients and two with only bruits found by duplex scanning to have flow separation in either one or both carotid bulbs and who also underwent cerebral angiography. Initial diagnoses were stroke in seven, reversible ischemic neurologic deficit in one, transient ischemic attack in 12, and bruit in two. Flow separation was bilateral in 13 patients (59%). There were 15 patients with symptoms in the territory of a carotid



FIGURE 8.



Flow separation











Hemodynamic Shear Stress and Its Role in Atherosclerosis Adel M. Malek, MD, PhD Seth L. Alper, MD, PhD Seigo Izumo, MD OR MORE THAN A CENTURY, HEmodynamic forces have been

proposed as factors regulating blood vessel structure1,2 and influencing development of vascular pathology such as atherosclerosis,3-5 aneurysms,6 poststenotic dilatations,7 and arteriovenous malformations.8 The flow of blood, by virtue of viscosity, engenders on the luminal vessel wall and endothelial surface a frictional force per unit area known as hemodynamic shear stress.9-11 Shear stress has not only been shown to be a critical determinant of vessel caliber,2,11,12 but has also been implicated in vascular remodeling13,14 and pathobiology.5

Atherosclerosis, the leading cause of death in the developed world and nearly the leading cause in the developing world, is associated with systemic risk factors including hypertension, smoking, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus, among others. Nonetheless, atherosclerosis remains a geometrically focal disease, preferentially affecting the outer edges of vessel bifurcations. In these predisposed areas, hemodynamic shear stress, the frictional force acting on the endothelial cell surface as a result of blood flow, is weaker than in protected regions. Studies have identified hemodynamic shear stress as an important determinant of endothelial function and phenotype. Arteriallevel shear stress (>15 dyne/cm²) induces endothelial guiescence and an atheroprotective gene expression profile, while low shear stress (<4 dyne/ cm²), which is prevalent at atherosclerosis-prone sites, stimulates an atherogenic phenotype. The functional regulation of the endothelium by local hemodynamic shear stress provides a model for understanding the focal propensity of atherosclerosis in the setting of systemic factors and may help guide future therapeutic strategies. JAMA, 1999:282:2035-2042

have provided new insights into its possible contribution to the pathogenesis ternal radius.^{11,12,31,32} Measurements us-

sponse to hemodynamic shear stress to blood flow viscosity, and inversely proportional to the third power of the in-

www.jama.com





Progress and challenges in translating the biology of atherosclerosis

Peter Libby¹, Paul M Ridker^{1,2} & Göran K. Hansson³

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Atherosclerosis Timeline



REVIEW ARTICLE

Introduction to the biomechanics of carotid plaque pathogenesis and rupture: review of the clinical evidence

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Figure 1. Hemodynamic Shear Stress

Rang	e of Wall Shear Stress Magnitude
Normal Vein	
Normal Artery	
Atherosclerosis- Prone Arterial Regions	•
High-Shear Thrombosis (Complex Plaque, Cardiac Valves, Stents)	
	Ι

Carotid artery intraplaque hemorrhage and stenotic velocity KW Beach, T Hatsukami, PR Detmer, JF Primozich, MS Ferguson, D Gordon, CE Alpers, DH Burns, BD Thackray and DE Strandness, Jr

Stroke 1993, 24:314-319

hotomicrographs illustrating classifications of morrhage. Top left: H1, perioperative hemors formed erythrocytes. Upper left: H2, recent ontains erythrocyte ghosts. Lower left: H3, older ontains coalesced erythrocytes. Bottom left: H4, ge; contains solid thrombus. Top right: H5, hage; "glassy" appearance. Upper right: NV, tion: contains endothelialized channels. Lower Bottom right: drawing of section showing 1 to NV.

the plaques that we studied, the regions of emorrhage were not of uniform "age" actological analysis. Therefore, more than one event probably occurred.

results of this study are preliminary, the

Beach et al Intraplaque Hemorrhage and Blood Flow Ve

where ρ =density of fluid, g=acceleration h=height of fluid column, and v=fluid v chanical energy can be freely exchanged two forms, kinetic and potential. In a Ve flow is always laminar and no boundary lay occurs in the poststenotic region (Figure Pressure at the distal end of the tube is ne that at the proximal end. The transmu exerted on the wall in the stenosis is lower the proximal or the distal pressure. This is potential energy density (pressure energy) imal region, where velocity is low, must b into kinetic energy density (velocity energy stenosis, where velocity is high.

If, distal to the stenosis, the tube is shape flow is streamlined, then kinetic energy back to notential energy in the postste

MRI of the vulnerable carotid plaque

Num – Moseler Inoging Lobertory, Department of Reficiegy, 1951 – University of Wishington, Secole, WM, USA 1961 – 1997



POST CE-T1W

T1W



REVIEWARTICLE

Inflammatory angiogenesis in atherogenesis a double-edged sword



Figure 2. Schematic prexentation of the two roles of an infiltrate of proinflammatory cells in an advanced athercederotic lesion: left angiogenic and right angiolytic effects. The infiltrate consists of macrophages, T cells, and mast cells. Left: by releasing a variety of angiogenic factors, the cells induce the growth of neovessels which originate from the vasa vasorum in the outer layer of the arterial wall. Right: by releasing a variety of proteases and cytotoxic substances, the cells induce death of endothelial cells and so create local disruption of the microvessels. The ensuing intraplaque hemorthage tends to weaken the plaque and predispose to plaque rupture with ensuing clinical sequelaes, such as myocardial inferction and stroke.

Daniel Staub, MD Sasan Partovi, BS Arend F. L. Schinkel, MD, PhD Blai Coll, MD, PhD Heiko Uthoff, MD Markus Aschwanden, MD Kurt A. Jaeger, MD Steven B. Feinstein, MD Correlation of Carotid Artery Atherosclerotic Lesion Echogenicity and Severity at Standard US with Intraplaque Neovascularization Detected at Contrast-enhanced US¹

Materials and

Methods:

Purpose: To correlate echogenicity and severity of atherosclerotic carotid artery lesions at standard ultrasonography (US) with the degree of intraplaque neovascularization at contrast material–enhanced (CE) US.

This HIPAA-compliant study was approved by the local ethics committee, and all patients provided informed consent. A total of 175 patients (113 [65%] men, 62 [35%] women; mean age, 67 years \pm 10 [standard deviation]) underwent standard and CE US of the carotid artery. Lesion achogonicity (class L to UV) degree of stances and





David R. Owen, MA, MBBS, MRCP Joseph Shalhoub, BSc, MBBS, MRCS Sam Miller, MSc Thomas Gauthier, MSc Ortansia Doryforou, MBBS Alun H. Davies, MA, DM, FRCS, FHEA Edward L. S. Leen, MB, MCh, BAO, MD, FRCR

Inflammation within Carotid Atherosclerotic Plaque:

Assessment with Late-Phase Contrast-enhanced US¹



Table 2

US Features of Carotid Plaque in Patients with and Those without Symptoms

Variable	Symptomatic Group (<i>n</i> = 16)	Asymptomatic Group (<i>n</i> = 21)	Difference between Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Groups	<i>P</i> Value
Luminal stenosis (%)	79 (69, 89)	67 (58, 75)	12 (-0.4, -25)	.06
LP contrast- enhanced US	0.39 (-0.11, 0.89)	-0.69 (-1.04, -0.34)	1.08 (0.49, 1.66)	.0008
Gray-scale median score	17 (13, 20)	29 (21, 37)	-12 (-3, -21)	.009

Note.—Unless otherwise indicated, data are means, and data in parentheses are 95% confidence intervals.

This plaque is different





Graph of event-free survival for subjects without stenosis and subjects with stenosis according to plaque echogenicity. A, Subjects without stenosis; B, subjects with echogenic and predominantly echogenic plaques; C, subjects with predominantly echolucent plaques; and D, subjects with echolucent plaques. Probability values refer to comparison between group B, C, or D vs control subjects (A).



Current needs and problems

Calcifications and depth

PICA



PICA color



Before calcification



In



<u>CF</u> 80% 2812Hz WF 154Hz Med



Distal – 79 cm/s



Additional scanning



PSV 159, EDV 20, IC:CC 2





Duplex Arteriography

- 1020 scans
 - Not well visualized
 - Iliac 73
 - Femoral 26
 - Popliteal 17
 - Infrapopliteal 221
 - Arterial wall calcifications 64
 - Poor runoff 18

Hingorani AP et al. Vascular 2008;16(3) 147-153

Solutions

- Better sonographers to find best direction
- CTA

- Future
 - Multiplanar ultrasound
 - Volume acquisition
 - Volume flow (?)
 - Sensitive techniques to low flow

Angle

Velocity requires angle correction



60°Angle Correction





Angle errors worse for higher angles

Angle effects: errors

Angle	cosine		%velocity		% pressure	
Degrees	> angle	< angle	over	under	over	under
0	0.99619	0.99619	0.38%	0.38%	0.77%	0.77%
10	0.96593	0.99619	1.95%	-1.14%	3.95%	-2.27%
20	0.90631	0.96593	3.68%	-2.72%	7.50%	-5.36%
30	0.81915	0.90631	5.72%	-4.44%	11.77%	-8.69%
40	0.70711	0.81915	8.34%	-6.48%	17.36%	-12.55%
50	0.57358	0.70711	12.07%	-9.10%	25.59%	-17.36%
60	0.42262	0.57358	18.31%	-12.83%	39.97%	-24.01%
70	0.25882	0.42262	32.15%	-19.07%	74.63%	-34.51%
80	0.08716	0.25882	99.24%	-32.91%	296.96%	-54.99%

Table courtesy of Frank Miele

Angle Correction









What is angle?





Solutions

- Angle dependent scanning
 Multidirectional acquisition
- Less reliance on Doppler
 - Gray scale modes

Is carotid ultrasound a public health problem?

Same results in different laboratories give different degrees of stenosis

SRU Carotid Consensus

	Primary	Primary Parameters		Parameters
Degree of Stenosis (%)	ICA PSV (cm/sec)	Plaque Estimate (%)*	ICA/CCA PSV Ratio	ICA EDV (cm/sec)
Normal <50 50–69 ≥70 but less than near occlusion	<125 <125 125–230 >230	None <50 ≥50 ≥50	<2.0 <2.0 2.0–4.0 >4.0	<40 <40 40–100 >100
Near occlusion	High, low, or undetectable	Visible	Variable	Variable
Total occlusion	Undetectable	Visible, no detectable lumen	Not applicable	Not applicable

Grant EG, et al. Radiology 2003;229:340.

World Federation Neurology

von Reutern and Goertler Grading Carotid Stenosis 919

Dograp of Stangain an Defined	Grading of Internal Carotid Stenosis						
Degree of Stenosis as Defined by NASCET (%)	10-40	50	60	70	80	90	Occlusion
Main criteria							
1. B-mode image, diameter	Applicable	Possibly applicable					Imaging of occluded artery
2. Color Doppler image	Plaque delineation	Flow	Flow	Flow	Flow	Flow	Absence of flow
3. PSV threshold (cm/s)		125		230		NA	NA
4a. PSV average (cm/s)	≤160	210	240	330	370	Variable	NA
4b. PSV poststenotic (cm/s)				≥50	<50	<30	NA
5. Collateral flow (periorbital arteries or circle of Willis)				Possible	Present	Present	Present
Additional criteria							
6. Prestenotic flow (diastole) (CCA)				Possibly reduced	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced
 Poststenotic flow disturbances (severity and length) 		Moderate	Pronounced	Pronounced	Pronounced	Variable	NA
 End-diastolic flow velocity in the stenosis (cm/s) 			<100	>100		Variable	NA
9. Carotid ratio ICA/CCA	<2	≥2	≥2	>4	>4	Variable	NA

Table. Combined Criteria for Grading Internal Carotid Stenosis

These criteria do not apply for external carotid stenosis. Note the hierarchical order of main and additional criteria and the change of reliability of each criterion for different degrees of stenosis. Examples how to use this Table are given in the text under "Main and Additional Criteria" and "Advantages of a Multiparametric Approach." For definition of classes of stenosis, see Figure legend.

Criterion 1: Visualization of the ICA by B-mode imaging is needed to prove no flow.

Criterion 4a: Values taken from Figure.

Criterion 4b: Poststenotic indicates measured distal to turbulences. In case of a short neck or a bifurcation in high position, respectively, these criteria are difficult to assess with a conventional duplex technique. Then, a lateral scan head position behind the jaw angle or a scan head with a lower frequency, as for abdominal examinations, may give access to the more distal lying segments of the ICA. Another possibility is the examination of the distal ICA with 2-MHz pulsed Doppler sonography.

Criterion 6: "Reduced" means side-to-side difference, mainly in diastolic velocity.

Modified from reference 11.

CCA indicates common carotid artery; ICA, internal carotid artery; NA, not applicable; PSV, peak systolic velocity.

2002 ICAVL Survey 100 Vascular Labs 11 Different Criteria



Unpublished data courtesy Ms. Sandra Katanick, Intersocietal Accreditation Commission

2010 ICAVL Survey 152 Vascular Labs; >16 Diagnostic Criteria



Gornik H, Hutchisson, M, et al. Presented at AHA 2011.

3-D Column 19

Future directions

Trifurcation of Ultrasound

Point of care	Traditional Ultrasound	Personalized ultrasound (Specialized care)
ER, primary care, some specialists	Radiologists, some specialists	Ultrasound specialist and team
Problem centered, short duration	Protocol driven, more complete, Variable duration	Detailed diagnostic or therapeutic scans, time depends on study but generally long (e.g. biopsy, contrast injection, therapy)
Performed by "doctor"	Performed by sonographer/vascular technologist, presented to doctor	Performed by doctor, usually with assistance (nurse, technologist)

Trifurcation of Ultrasound Future trends

Point of care	Traditional Ultrasound	Personalized ultrasound
Prettier pictures	Simpler controls	Contrast approval by FDA
Few or no buttons	Volumetric acquisition	Drug delivery
Wireless acquisition and storage	Post processing	New modes with better macro and micro vasculature
	Less dependency on	
	sonographer skill (e.g. smart Doppler, protocols,	
	angle independence,	
	automatic measurements)	
	Flow and pressure	