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 23. Dr. Llanos is a recipient of a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Bay Area Heart Research Association. His present address: Departamento de Ciencias Preclínicas, División Oriente, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 16038, Santiago 9, Chile.
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Regional Cerebral Blood Flow, Cerebral Blood Velocity, and Pulsatility Index in Newborn Dogs

DANIEL G. BATTON,⁽³⁷⁾ JONATHAN HELLMANN, MILTON J. HERNANDEZ, AND
 M. JEFFREY MAISELS

*Division of Newborn Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, The Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine,
 The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of The Pennsylvania State University, College of Medicine,
 Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA*

Summary

A technique employing a Doppler ultrasound probe to measure cerebral blood velocity was used to study the cerebral circulation continuously in 30 newborn mongrel dogs. Utilizing a transfontanelle approach, the probe was maintained in fixed position throughout a given experiment. In 20 animals, changes in systolic, diastolic, and mean cerebral blood velocity during hypo- and hypercarbia were directly correlated ($P < 0.01$) with changes in regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) determined in 12 regions of the brain by the ^{14}C jodoantipyrine autoradiography technique. In an additional 10 dogs, multiple determinations of systolic, diastolic, and mean blood velocity were made over a wide range of PaCO_2 values and found to be directly related to the PaCO_2 ($P < 0.001$). These data suggest that changes in cerebral blood velocity are closely related to changes in cerebral blood flow. We also calculated the pulsatility index (PI) from the peak systolic and end diastolic velocities and found a poor, but direct ($r = 0.28$, $P < 0.05$) relationship between the PI and PaCO_2 rather than the indirect relationship, which has been suggested in published clinical studies. We conclude that the Doppler technique may be valuable in monitoring dynamic events of the neonatal cerebral circulation if a constant probe position is maintained. Our results suggest, however, that the PI is not a reliable index of cerebral vascular resistance.

Abbreviations

AUTC, area under the curve
 CBF, cerebral blood flow
 rCBF, regional cerebral blood flow
 CVR, cerebral vascular resistance
 PI, pulsatility index

Currently there is no acceptable noninvasive method of assessing instantaneous changes in CBF in human newborns. The experimental methods for determining CBF in animals using electromagnetic flowmeters (21), radioactive tracers (31), and microspheres (30) clearly are not adaptable to humans. The injection or inhalation of radioactive xenon has been used in human adults (13, 22) and newborns (19, 20), although its use in infants is limited because the technique is invasive and involves a radioactive substance. Occlusion plethysmography in newborn infants, although noninvasive, includes extracranial as well as intracranial blood flow (4, 5, 17). With all of these methods only single or intermittent determinations can be made, and instantaneous changes in CBF cannot be determined.

Recently, transcutaneous Doppler ultrasound has been used to study the cerebral circulation in human adults (8, 28) and newborns (1) by determining changes in blood velocity. The advantages of this technique are that it is noninvasive and provides continuous information. Its limitations include the difficulty of standardizing the angle between the Doppler probe and the blood vessel, and defining the relationship between blood velocity and blood flow.

Bada *et al.* (1) were the first investigators to recognize the value of Doppler ultrasound in monitoring cerebral hemodynamics through the open anterior fontanelle in the human newborn. They attempted to minimize the Doppler's limitations by calculating the PI, rather than determining blood velocity directly. The PI is thought to be an index of CVR and, because it is a ratio, is less affected by probe position (1, 27). Despite several clinical studies utilizing the concept of PI in newborn infants (6, 11, 12, 15, 18, 23, 24–26, 29), the validity of this technique has not yet been confirmed.

In this study, we utilized newborn dogs to evaluate the transfontanelle Doppler method for determining cerebral blood ve-

locity while simultaneously determining rCBF by an autoradiographic technique. In addition, the PI was calculated and its validity examined during measured changes in cerebral vascular resistance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Thirty newborn mongrel dogs 1–12 days of age and weighing 271–838 g, were used for these studies. After light halothane anesthesia, each dog was rapidly tracheostomized, paralyzed with pancuronium bromide, and mechanically ventilated with a mixture of 70% nitrous oxide and 30% oxygen. Halothane was used for less than 10 min and no determinations of rCBF or blood velocity were made within 1 h of its use. Ventilatory rate and tidal volume were adjusted initially to obtain normal arterial blood gases. A femoral artery was cannulated for continuous measurement of arterial blood pressure and for obtaining blood samples for the determination of pH, PaCO₂, and PaO₂. The other femoral artery was cannulated for collection of blood samples for rCBF determination. A femoral venous catheter was placed into the inferior vena cava for infusion of [¹⁴C]iodoantipyrine. Temperature was continuously monitored by means of a rectal thermocouple and maintained at 37°C by means of a heat lamp.

Each dog was placed prone in a stereotaxic frame and a small longitudinal scalp incision was made over the anterior fontanelle to expose the skull. A 5.0 MHz probe transducer from a PARKS 909 bidirectional Doppler ultrasound unit (Parks Electronics Laboratory, Beaverton, OR) was positioned just above the fontanelle, directed anteriorly at approximately a 60° angle to the horizontal and laterally to avoid contamination by the sagittal sinus. By assessing the auditory and visual Doppler signals, the probe position was then adjusted slightly to allow recording of a single arterial velocity wave form with the direction of blood flow being towards the probe. We cannot be certain which vessel we were monitoring, but based on probe position and direction of blood flow, it is likely this was the anterior cerebral artery coursing superior to the corpus callosum. Although the anterior fontanelle in the newborn dog is closed, the thin skull bones allow for Doppler recordings of good quality. While the precise angle between the probe and vessel was unknown, the animals' head and probe were secured, and remained in fixed position for the duration of a given experiment. The systolic and diastolic velocities were calculated by averaging 10 consecutive peak systolic and end-diastolic velocities respectively, whereas mean velocity was determined by electrical integration of the wave form.

CBF was determined by an autoradiographic technique (10, 31). [¹⁴C]iodoantipyrine was infused into the inferior vena cava at a constant rate over 60 sec while drops of femoral artery blood were collected at 5-sec intervals. When the infusion was completed the circulation was stopped by a bolus infusion of KCl through the femoral venous catheter. The brain was then removed and frozen in Freon 12. Sections of brain, 50 μm thick, were cut in a cryostat, placed on glass slides, dried, and applied to single emulsion mammography film. After the autoradiograms were developed, rCBF was determined for 12 regions of the brain from readings of optical densities as compared to standards.

Twenty animals were used to examine changes in cerebral blood velocity, PI, and rCBF during hypo- and hypercarbia. In seven control dogs, rCBF was measured after the respirator was adjusted to maintain a steady state of normal arterial blood gases. In six dogs, the ventilatory rate was increased to produce hypocarbia. At least 15 min were allowed for stabilization of PaCO₂ between rate changes. In these animals, recordings of systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial blood velocities were made at both the control (normocarbic) and final (hypocarbic) PaCO₂ levels. At the final level of ventilation, rCBF was also determined by the autoradiographic technique. In a third group of seven dogs, cerebral blood velocity and rCBF were determined during hypercarbia produced by decreasing the ventilatory rate.

In order to evaluate further the relationship between cerebral blood velocity and PI with changes in arterial CO₂ tension, multiple determinations were made at different PaCO₂ levels in 10 dogs. Ventilatory rate and tidal volume were first adjusted to obtain arterial normocarbica and the dogs allowed to stabilize. The ventilatory rate was then periodically adjusted inducing various degrees of hypo- and hypercarbia. A stabilization period of at least 15 min was allowed at each level of ventilation. Systolic, diastolic, and mean blood velocities were recorded for 5–12 different PaCO₂ levels in each experimental animal.

The PI was then calculated according to Pourcelot (27) from the peak systolic (S) and end-diastolic (D) blood velocities as follows:

$$PI = \frac{S - D}{S}$$

Because the angle of the transducer probe with the vessel axis was not known but remained constant, relative, but not absolute, changes in blood velocity could be determined and data are therefore presented in terms of % change from control values. The data were analyzed statistically using linear regression, paired and unpaired *t* tests where appropriate.

RESULTS

The mean arterial pH, PaCO₂, PaO₂, and blood pressures for the 20 dogs in which cerebral blood velocity was correlated with rCBF are listed in Table 1. Although blood pressure decreased significantly during hypocarbia, the magnitude of the change did not exceed the limits of CBF autoregulation established for newborn dogs, which have shown that with mean systemic pressures between 35–90 Torr, CBF is maintained at normal levels (9).

CBF was measured in 12 regions of the brain (Table 2). These values fall within the ranges that have previously been reported for anesthetized newborn dogs (10, 32). Although flow increased significantly during hypercarbia, the decrease during hypocarbia was not statistically significant. Regional cerebral vascular resistance was inversely related to rCBF and changed significantly during hypercarbia (*P* < 0.05) but not during hypocarbia.

The changes in systolic, diastolic, and mean blood velocity during hypo- and hypercarbia are shown in Figure 1. Values obtained during hypocarbia were significantly different from those during hypercarbia (*P* < 0.05). The correlation between changes in systolic blood velocity and rCBF in four representative regions of brain are depicted in Figure 2. Similar significant correlations were found for the other eight regions studied (*P* < 0.01). In addition, mean and diastolic velocities also correlated significantly with rCBF (*P* < 0.01). In contrast to the changes noted in blood velocity, the PI did not change significantly during hypo or hypercarbia (*P* > 0.05).

In the 10 animals in which multiple determinations of blood velocity and PI were made at various levels of ventilation, changes in systolic and diastolic blood velocity were found to be significantly and directly related to changes in PaCO₂ (Fig. 3 and 4). Mean velocity was also directly related to PaCO₂ (*r* = 0.66, *P* < 0.001, *y* = 1.4 + 0.30*x*). The relation between PI and PaCO₂ is shown in Figure 5. Although statistically significant (*P* < 0.05),

Table 1. Physiologic data for 20 newborn dogs in which cerebral blood velocity was correlated with rCBF¹

	Control (<i>n</i> = 7)	Hypocarbia (<i>n</i> = 6)	Hypercarbia (<i>n</i> = 7)
pH	7.34 ± 0.04	7.40 ± 0.04	7.05 ± 0.10 ²
PaCO ₂ (torr)	37 ± 3	22 ± 3 ²	71 ± 7 ²
PaO ₂ (torr)	112 ± 18	113 ± 23	76 ± 10 ²
Mean BP (torr)	70 ± 14	50 ± 8 ²	68 ± 12

¹ All data expressed as mean ± S.D.

² *P* < 0.01 compared with control.

Table 2. Regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) during normo-, hypo-, and hypercarbia¹

Region	Normocarbica rCBF (cc/100 g/min) (n = 7)	Hypocarbica rCBF		Hypercarbica rCBF	
		cc/100 g/min (n = 6)	% Change	cc/100 g/min (n = 7)	% Change
Frontal cortex	26 ± 4	27 ± 6	+4	56 ± 21 ³	+115
Parietal cortex	26 ± 5	25 ± 7	-4	53 ± 19 ³	+104
Temporal cortex	24 ± 4	21 ± 4	-13	46 ± 17 ³	+92
Occipital cortex	26 ± 3	23 ± 6	-12	46 ± 17 ³	+77
Caudate nucleus	25 ± 5	22 ± 4	-12	49 ± 18 ³	+96
Corpus callosum	14 ± 4	12 ± 2	-14	34 ± 13 ³	+143
Subcortical white matter ²	6 ± 3	6 ± 1	0	14 ± 5 ³	+133
Hippocampus	22 ± 4	20 ± 4	-9	44 ± 16 ³	+100
Thalamus	35 ± 5	26 ± 4 ³	-27	67 ± 25 ³	+91
Hypothalamus	30 ± 6	23 ± 4	-23	65 ± 22 ³	+118
Inferior colliculi	37 ± 8	28 ± 5	-24	74 ± 27 ³	+100
Cerebellar vermis	31 ± 7	24 ± 6	-23	60 ± 23 ³	+94

¹ All values expressed as mean ± S.D.

² Includes periventricular, frontal, and occipital white matter.

³ P < 0.05 compared with normocarbica.

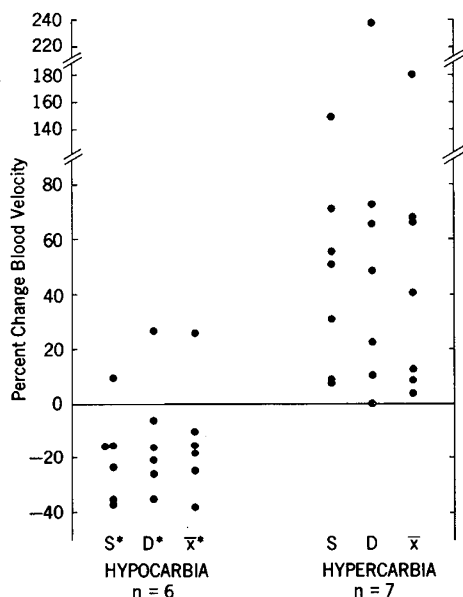


Fig. 1. Changes in systolic (S), diastolic (D), and mean (\bar{x}) blood velocity during hypo- and hypercarbia in 13 newborn dogs. *P < 0.05 compared to hypercarbia.

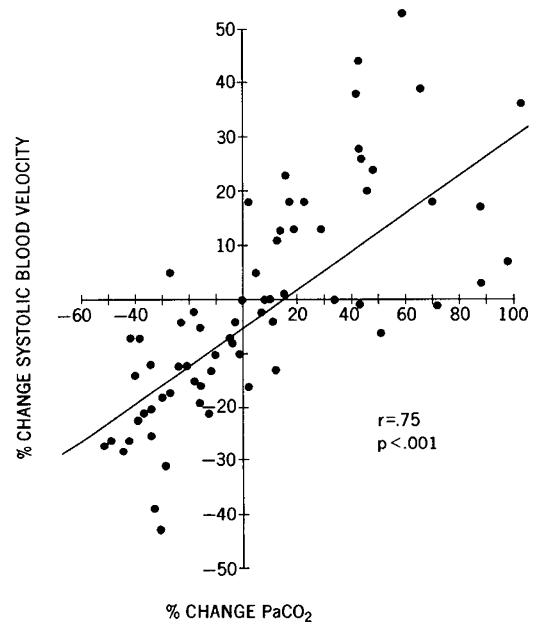


Fig. 3. Linear regression analysis of % change in systolic arterial blood velocity with % change in PaCO₂ in 10 newborn dogs. $y = -4.0 + 0.32x$.

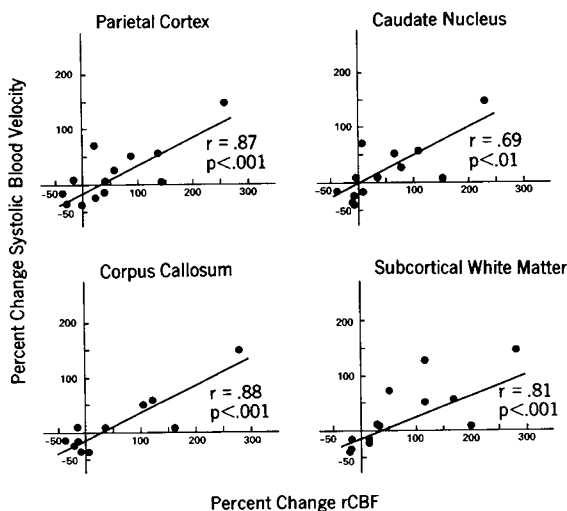


Fig. 2. Linear regression analysis of % change in systolic arterial blood velocity with % change in regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) in four representative brain regions.

the relationship is not strong ($r = 0.28$) and demonstrates a negative correlation between CVR and PI rather than the direct relationship suggested by various authors (1, 27).

DISCUSSION

The Doppler technique determines the frequency shift between emitted and received ultrasound as reflected from moving red blood cells (7, 14, 33). This frequency shift is directly proportional to blood velocity, provided the angle between the Doppler probe and the blood vessel is either known or remains constant (7, 14, 33). Blood velocity is proportional to blood flow if the cross sectional area of the blood vessel remains unchanged (7, 14, 33, 34). Despite these limitations, Hauge *et al.* (8) described a technique for determining changes in CBF by measuring the mean blood velocity transcutaneously in the internal carotid and vertebral arteries. Although the angle between the probe and the vessel could only be estimated, and the vessel diameter was not measured, a direct relationship was shown between blood velocity and PaCO₂. Risberg and Smith (28) found significant correlations between end diastolic blood velocity in the internal carotid arteries and hemispheric rCBF using the [¹³³Xe] inhalation

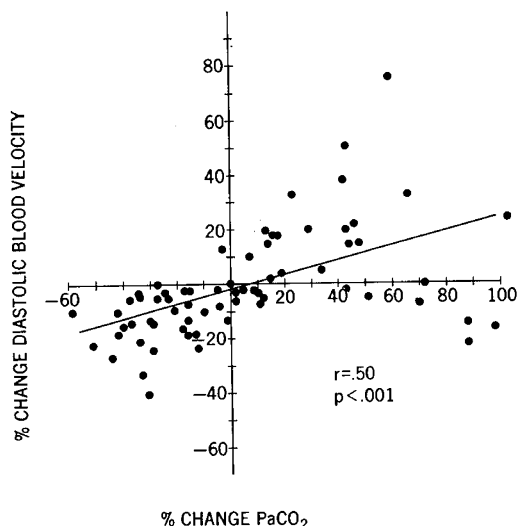


Fig. 4. Linear regression analysis of % change in diastolic arterial blood velocity with % change in PaCO_2 in 10 newborn dogs. $y = -1.4 + 0.25x$.

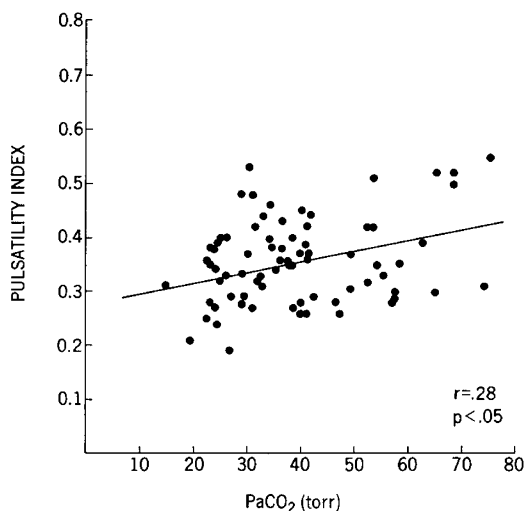


Fig. 5. Linear regression analysis of pulsatility index (PI) with PaCO_2 in 10 newborn dogs.

method, even though the probe angle and vessel diameter were not accurately known. Busija *et al.* (3) have measured directly the diameter of pial arterioles during hypo- and hypercarbia in animals, and measured blood velocity while keeping the probe angle constant. A good correlation was found between this method and the microsphere method for determining changes in CBF.

Our study further supports the idea that Dopplers can be used to assess continuous changes in CBF. We have shown that, if the probe angle remains constant, changes in systolic, diastolic, and mean blood velocity are directly related to changes in rCBF when PaCO_2 is altered. The mean velocity is an integrated mean as determined by electrical integration of the wave form and we have confirmed that this closely corresponds ($r = 0.99$) to the AUTC as determined by planimetry. AUTC has been suggested by Rosenkrantz and Oh (29) to correlate well with blood flow. But as they have pointed out, AUTC is dependent on probe angle as are systolic and diastolic velocity; therefore, for this technique to be useful and reliable in human newborns, it is necessary to establish reasonable consistency of the probe angle with the blood vessel.

It is not clear why rCBF changed less during hypocarbia than during hypercarbia. Although flow tended to decrease, the hypocarbic insult was not sufficient to produce a statistically significant reduction in flow. Shapiro *et al.* (32) have also shown insignificant changes in rCBF in newborn dogs during similar

degrees of hypocarbia. They have proposed that the newborn has a lower CO_2 -sensitivity during hypocarbia than during hypercarbia. Our results tend to support this idea.

We have also shown that under our experimental conditions the PI is not a direct index of CVR as previously contended. The PI has been thought to be an index of vascular resistance based on the assumption that it is largely the diastolic rather than systolic blood velocity that is affected by changes in cerebral vascular resistance (1, 27). A decreased diastolic velocity (which would increase the calculated PI) indicates increased CVR, and conversely an increased diastolic velocity suggests decreased CVR; thus, according to Pourcelot (27) and others (1), PI and CVR are thought to be directly related. It should be noted that Pourcelot's studies were done on the carotid arteries in adults with peripheral vascular disease. The hemodynamics in this situation cannot be assumed to be comparable to intracerebral hemodynamics in premature infants. Furthermore, there have been no previous studies correlating intracerebral PI with other methods of determining CVR. Our data suggest that PI and CVR are not directly related because systolic as well as diastolic velocity varies with PaCO_2 .

Since Bada's original description of changes in the PI among premature infants after intraventricular hemorrhage and asphyxia (1), several authors have reported a number of other factors which have been shown to affect the PI: pneumothorax (11), hydrocephalus (12), patent ductus arteriosus (18, 24), muscle relaxants (23), hypercarbia (6), alterations in blood pressure (15) hyperviscosity (29), seizures (26), and endotracheal tube suctioning (25). Because many of these factors are likely to be present in the same patient population (premature infants with respiratory distress), it is difficult to attribute a change in PI to any single variable.

The limitations of the Doppler method of PI determination in newborn infants have recently been reviewed by Bejar *et al.* (2) and Vope *et al.* (35). As they have emphasized, the PI, although independent of probe angle, is not a measure of blood flow nor is it a direct measure of blood velocity. By definition, a change in the PI only reflects a change in the difference between the systolic and diastolic velocities; however, unless the probe position has been consistent it is impossible to state whether the PI has changed because of a change in the systolic or the diastolic velocity despite the graphic appearance of the Doppler wave form.

In conclusion, we have shown that the Doppler technique can be used through the closed anterior fontanelle in newborn dogs under controlled experimental conditions to determine instantaneous changes in blood velocity that are directly related to changes in CBF. We have also shown that the PI is not directly related to CVR; thus, the hemodynamic significance of alterations in the PI in human newborns remains to be delineated. Pending further clarification of the significance of the PI, we suggest future clinical studies determine changes in systolic, diastolic, and mean (AUTC) blood velocity, and be done with a method that assures consistency of the probe angle between sequential measurements.

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 37. Requests for reprints should be addressed to: Dr. Daniel Batton, Department of Pediatrics, The M. S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA 17033.
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Distribution of Trace Elements and Minerals in Human and Cow's Milk

GUN-BRITT FRANSSON⁽³⁷⁾ AND BO LÖNNERDAL^(38,40)

Institute of Nutrition, University of Uppsala, Sweden and Department of Nutrition, University of California, Davis, California, USA

Summary

The concentration of iron in cow's milk, 0.40–0.59 µg/ml, was found to be very similar to that of human milk, 0.20–0.69 µg/ml. The copper concentration of cow's milk (0.06–0.09 µg/ml) is lower than in human milk (0.24–0.50 µg/ml) whereas the concentration of zinc is higher in cow's milk (3.23–5.15 µg/ml) than in human milk (1.16–3.83 µg/ml). Cow's milk contains about 4–5 times more calcium and magnesium, 854–1430 µg/ml and 87–131 µg/ml, respectively, than human milk (220–252 µg/ml and 26–35 µg/ml). Cow's milk was fractionated and the trace element and mineral contents of the different fractions were compared to results from human milk. The casein fraction in

cow's milk contains a large proportion of the total amounts of the elements cited above (Fe 24%, Cu 44%, Zn 84%, Ca 41%, Mg 25%) whereas human casein only binds minor amounts (Fe 9%, Cu 7%, Zn 8%, Ca 6%, Mg 6%). Whey proteins bind a major part of these elements in human milk, but not in cow's milk. Significant amounts of iron are bound to the lipid fraction in both cow's and human milk (14 and 33%, respectively), predominantly bound to the outer fat globule membrane. Low molecular weight compounds (ligands) bind significant proportions of all the elements investigated in both cow's and human milk, with the exception of zinc in cow's milk, of which only 2% is associated with this fraction.

The differences in trace element bioavailability observed in