

Dedication

***This study is dedicated to
the soul of my late father
and my beloved mother, my
husband who encouraged
me with endless support
and to my kids.***

Acknowledgements:

I would like to express my deepest respects and gratitude to my supervisor Professor Eltahir Awad Gasim Khalil for the unlimited support and guidance he bestowed upon me during the preparation of this work. His patience and endurance to my countless enquiries and questions within the framework of this thesis, and his wise responses are very much appreciated.

My thanks are also extended to Professor .M. Mannucci, IRCCS Maggiore Hospital, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, Professor Flora Peyvandi and Angelo Bianchi Bonomi at the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center, Department of Internal Medicine, IRCCS Maggiore Hospital, University of Milan, Italy, and to the staff in the Center specially Miss Lylian for offering me the chance to work with them .

My thanks are also extended to Dr. Ahmed Mudawi Musa who helped me very much during my data collection, and without his support this work could not have been possible. I should, also thank Mr Abd Elgadir Hag Elagib, Mr. Malik Elfadni, Mr Adil Nasr, Mr Mohammed Abdelrahem, Mr Mohamed Osman, Miss Awatif Elnuor, Miss Nuhla Ayed Miss Sara Hamad Hassab Elgawi Miss Habab Mergani Yassin and Miss Kawther Abdelgalel for their great help and encouragements they offered me during my field work and data collection.

To my lovely kids Dr.Einas M .Elhabib, Dr. Mohammed Albashir and Dr. Muiz Albashir.

Nevertheless I extend my grateful thanks to my colleagues in the Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum and the National Health Laboratory, Federal Ministry of Health, Khartoum, Sudan.

I should, also, thank the staff members, employees, and the work force of the Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum for their great help and limitless support during the preparation of this study.

Also I would like to thank professor Ahmed Abd alla Aldabi and Dr Amal Omer Bakheit .

Also I would like to thank all those who helped me during the preparation of this study and I could not recall them.

Finally, I would like to thank my small family for their support and encouragement to me since the time this work was an idea until it become a reality.

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يعتبر مرض الناعور (الهيموفيليا) من أقدم الأمراض الوراثية المرتبطة بالجنس . وهو ناتج من فقدان عامل تخثر الدم و غير قابل للشفاء يصيب الذكور بينما تكون الإناث حاملات للمرض. ويظهر المرض من حالات نادرة عند الإناث وذلك بتوريث المولود بجين مصابين بالمرض من الأب والأم. وتوجد عشر حالات إصابة من كل 100.000 من الرجال. ويعانى المريض من داء الهيموفيليا بنزف متكرر من المفاصل والعضلات مع الآم حادة وتضخم. ويؤدى عدم علاج النزف إلى شلل مبكر الذي يكون السبب الرئيسي للعجز.

وتعتبر الأجسام المضادة المناعية الذاتية احد الأسباب الأساسية المؤثرة في عدم فعالية العلاج المساعد لدى مرضى الهيموفيليا. توجد عدة عوامل مهينة لتطور المثبطات وهى طبيعية الاعتلال الجزيئية، معدل عوز العامل والأصل القبلي وكذلك زمن وبداية العلاج . ويظهر بوضوح تعقيد رد الفعل المناعي للعوامل المحقونة. ويكون تطور الأجسام المضادة نتيجة لتفاعلات عديدة بين الخلايا المقدمة للمستضد وكلا من الخلايا الليمفاوية البائية والتائية، وتعتبر القابلية لجزيئات سطح الخلية مثل معقد توافق الأنسجة، متطلبات الخلايا الثانية (والسينوكاين). مثلها ومثل الجزيئات المناعية المتقدمة المختلفة و العوامل البيئية أيضا لها تأثيرات و انعكاسات على تطور المثبطات.

حظي الكشف عن حاملات المرض باهتمام في السنوات القليلة الفائتة. تم التركيز على التشخيص الجيني المبكر وتطور الواسمات الجينية الجديدة المرتبطة بالجينات عوامل التخثر.

ولا يزال حتى الآن تشخيص حاملات المرض يعتمد على التحليل شجرة العائلة ومقابل عوامل التخثر.

وتعتمد جميع النتائج الملاحظة من العوامل أعلاه على احتمالات أن لاتاثر اختبارات التجلط بعدم تنشيط العامل عشوائياً والمعدلات الوراثية للطرق المستعملة.

تصنيف وعزل كل من جينات العوامل التاسع والعاشر أحدثت ثوره في تحليل حالات حاملات المرض. وهذه عادة تتضمن الكشف عن طريق تقنية R F L P s واستعمالها كواسمات متصلة لتحديد الاعتلالات الجينية في عوامل التخثر.

في حالة مرض الناعور (المتعلقة بالعامل الثامن) نجد أن استخدام الثنائي لنقاط القطع الجيني لكل من انزيمى BC 11 و Hind 111 تعمل على تشخيص جيني واسع المدى لحاملات المرض لنسبة 95% .

أهداف وأليه الدراسة:

كانت الدراسة طولانية متقدمة واستمرت لمدة ثلاثة أعوام مع متابعة منتظمة للمرضى، وقد هدفت لتحديد معدل انتشار مثبتات العامل 8 في مرضى هيموفيليا سودانيين وأيضا قارنت الزمن و كمية مشتقات نقل الدم وتأثيرها على تطور المثبطات. وقد هدفت الدراسة أيضا لتحديد حاملي المرض عند اسر مرضى الناعور باستعمال تقنية RFLPs المعتمدة على تقنية بلمرة الحامض النووي.

المواد واليات البحث:

بعد اخذ الإقرار بالموافقة تم فحص المرضى المتوقع إصابتهم باضطرابات التخثر وذلك في عيادة معهد الأمراض المتوطنة - جامعة الخرطوم وقد تضمنت الدراسة أيضا اسر مرضى الناعور B,A . أخذت المعلومات الجغرافية والقبيلة وتاريخ تعاطي الأدوية السابق والحالي والتاريخ المرضى للأسرة والفحص السريرى .

اخذت 10 مل من دم وريدي في ثلاث أنابيب الأولى فارغة، سترات والأخيرة بها EDTA بالتتابع وذلك لإجراء اختبارات. الايدز ، اليرقان B و C وأيضا فحص الدم الكامل ودراسات التخثر (زمن النزف ، التجلط الفيزيولوجية والدراسات المختلفة ومقاسية العاملين 8 و 9) . وقد اختبرت مثبتات العامل 8 و 9 باستعمال طريقة ELISA ، فصل الحمض النووي (DNA) من الدم الماخوذ فى انابيب EDTA باستعمال طريقة Chloroform/Isoamyl alcohol باستخدام بروتكول قياسى.

النتائج:

تضمنت الدراسة 247 عائلة بها 694 فرد بنسبة ذكور: إناث تساوى 1:2. كان العدد الكلى للذين يشتركون من النزف يساوى 533 مريض، عدد المرضى المصابين بالناعور أعدددهم 342 (64.2%) بينما كان عدد مرضى الناعور ب هو 34 مريضا بنسبة 64%، بينما كان عدد المرضى بإضطرابات تازفة متنوعة = (29.4%; n=157).

كان الناعور أ (Hemophilia A) الأكثر شيوعاً بين قبائل الجعليين والشايقية وأقل شيوعاً بين المسيرية والفلاته. ومتوسط العُمر لمرض الناعور أ (= Hemophilia A 15.4 ± 12.5 سنوات. مع انخفاض في مستوى

الهيموغلوبين بشكل ملحوظ في مرضى الناعور أ (Hemophilia A) مقارنة مع أفراد غير مصابين المرض ($p=0.007$). بينما صفحات الدم ($p=0.07$) ، خلايا دمّ بيضاء ($p=0.05$) ، وزمن النزف ($p=0.05$) وزمن البروثرومبين ($p=0.04$) thrombin ($p=0.000$) و fibrinogen time ($p=0.25$) كانت طبيعية مقارنة إلى أفراد العائلة غير المرضى. وقد كان زمن الثرومبوبلاستين الجزئي المُنشط (APTT) لمرضى الناعور haemophilic أطول بشكل ملحوظ مع hemophilia فوق الوسط (بمستوي عامل يتراوح 5-25%) بنسبة 24% ($p=0.0001$). ، بينما أولئك مع hemophilia الوسط بمستوي عامل 1-5%) شكل نسبة 76% من المرضى. لم يتم الكشف عن مثبطات العامل 8 في مصل مرضى haemophilic. وقد عولج

واحد بالمائة من مرضى الناعور أ بالدم الكامل، 10%، 29% و 57% عولجوا ب Cryoprecipitate، البلازما المجمدة طازجة وعوامل التخثر المركزة على التوالي. ثلاثة بالمائة من المرضى لم يخضعوا لأي معالجة. وقد بدأت المعالجة بعد التشخيص في كل المرضى.

وقد أوضح الكشف المصلي للفيروسات أن 0.3% المرضى كانوا موجبي التفاعلية لمرض نقص المناعة المكتسب (الايدز)، 1% كان تفاعلياً لالتهاب الكبد الفيروسي HBsAg لكن لا يوجد مرضى بالتهاب الكبد الوبائي HCV. ولم تختلف تفاعلية الايدز عن التي ذكرت بين التبرعات العائلية الموجهة في السودان. وكان فحص التهاب الكبد الوبائي HBsAg

أقل بكثير من ذلك بين المتبرعين بالدم في تقارير إدارة نقل الدم الوطنية السودانية.

واجريت دراسة homo/heterozygosis للناقل / منزلة في ثلاث عشرة عائلة (n = 63 أفراد؛ ذكور = 34 وإناث = 29). واحد وعشرون مريض ، 16 أخوات المرضى. أمهات المرضى 13; 8/13 (61.3%) كن ناقلات محتملات، بينما البقية كن ناقلات ملزمات. ستة عشر من أخوات المرضى ، 2 كانت طبيعيتين، و 14 كن ناقلات للمرض (6/14 كن ملزمات؛ 8/14 كن ناقلات محتملات). في كل من 27/29 إناث (أمهات + أخوات haemophilics) تُحرين ل homo/heterozygosity من مناطق FVIII polymorphic. تسع عشرة (19/27) كن heterozygous، بينما 8/27 كن homozygous.

المناقشة:

مرض الناعور مرض نزفي وراثي مرتبط بالعامل X وَرث كمرض يُؤثر على الذكور من أب غير متأثر وأم ناقلية دون أعراض. المعالجة المتأخرة يُمكن أن تُؤدي إلى حالات الإعاقة و العجز الملحوظ. يُؤدي النزف الغير مُعالج إلى الشلل التقدمي والذي يكون السبب الرئيسي للعجز عند مرضى الناعور. تطوير أجسام مضادة محايدة للعوامل الثامنة وتسعة تكون هي المضاعفات الأساسية لعلاج مرض النزف الدموي. ويكون معدل مستويات العامل FVIII اعلي من 1% عند المرضى المصابين بإعراض معتدلة أو متوسطة بالمستويات المنخفضة القابلة للكشف ل FVIII ، ويُشير إلى الغياب من المحتمل جداً من بروتين العامل الثامن الشاذ بشكل هيكلي. لم يتم الكشف عن مثبطات عند المرضى في هذه الدراسة، وهذه يُمكن أن تكون حقيقة الحياة ذلك لان مرضى الناعور يموتون مبكراً بسبب بُعد بعض المناطق وقلّة العامل المركز / مكونات دم. غياب مرض النزف الدموي الحادّ حقاً أكدّ في بعض النتائج بغياب intron 22/1 عكس الذي أجرى في المرضى الثلاثة الذين كانت أعراض المرض حادة سريرياً.

الاستشارة الوراثية مستندة على نظراتِ DNA التشخيصية تلعب دوراً مهماً في مختبرِ عِلْمِ الأمراض. يتضمّن الاختبار الوراثي تحليل الناقل، وقد تكون أمّ ولدت متأثرة ناقلًا ملزمًا إذا كانت لأب مصاب أولها ابن أو أكثر مصاب بالنا عور. في هذه الدراسة أغلبية الإناث (أمهات وأخوات مرضى haemophilic) كن ناقلات محتملات للمرض. كشف الناقل يُمكن أن يُساعد في تمييز الناقلات الخطرات الاثى تكون لهن ميول نزفيه حادّة ربما شخّصن بشكل خاطئ كمرض Willibrand von.

الخاتمة والتوصيات:

تم تشخيص المرضى المصابين بالنا عور إلي معتدلين / متوسطي المرض. لا يوجد مضاد للعامل الثامن FVIII في مصل المرضى قيد الدراسة. أغلب إناث العائلات بمرضى الناعور ((haemophilic كن ناقلات محتملات للمرض.

لتحديد حجم المشكلة لابد من دراسات قومية واسعة وأيضاً وإجراء دراسات بيولوجية جزيئية لإعطاء مؤشرات حقيقية للاعتلالات الجزيئية وأيضاً للحساب الدقيق لمدي احتمالية تطور المثبطات عند مرضى الناعور وذلك لتقليل من حدوث المرض.

Abstract:

Introduction:

Hemophilia is the oldest known hereditary X-linked recessive and an incurable bleeding disorder that affects males whereas females act as carriers with some rare cases among women worldwide. Naturally, women hemophiliacs are rare because it takes two defective X chromosomes in order for the condition to manifest. Approximately 10 in 100,000 males have hemophilia. Persons with hemophilia suffer from frequent bleeds in joints and muscles with severe pain and swelling. Untreated bleeds lead to progressive crippling which is the major cause of disability in hemophiliac patients.

The formation of inhibitory Ig G allo-antibodies is the most severe and costly complication of replacement therapy in patients with haemophilia. Many factors predispose to the development of inhibitors: the nature of the molecular defect, level of factor deficiency, ethnic origin, timing and types of factor replacements. The complexity of the immune response to the infused factor becomes more and more obvious. .Antibodies develop as a result of a complex multi-factorial interaction between antigen-presenting cells, T and B-lymphocytes. Genetic susceptibility of cell surface molecules, such as the major histocompatibility complex (MHC; HLA), the T-

cell receptor and cytokine receptors, as well as various immunomodulatory molecules and environmental factors have a major impact on inhibitor development.

Carrier detection in the hemophilias has received new impetus in the past few years. Early prenatal diagnosis and development of new genetic markers for the clotting factor genes have focused on this area. Until now, carrier diagnosis has relied upon standard pedigree analysis and clotting factors assays. The results obtained using these methods are probabilistic, and the coagulation tests are unavoidably influenced by the effects of random X chromosome inactivation (Lyonization) and the inherent variability of the methods involved. The cloning and characterization of both factor IX and factor VIII genes have revolutionized gene analysis techniques to diagnose the carrier state. This usually involves the detection of restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) and their use as linked markers for the detection of defective clotting factor gene. In hemophilia A, the combined use of two intragenic RFLPs markers *BclI* and *Hind III* restriction polymorphic sites (closely linked to the genetic defect in Factor VIII) in intron (18) and intron (19) respectively, made carrier detection feasible for approximately 90% of kindred using PCR, RFLPs and gel electrophoresis.

Study design and objectives:

This was a prospective, longitudinal study with three years duration with regular follow ups that aimed to determine the prevalence of inhibitors to FVIII in a cohort of Sudanese patients with hemophilia and to correlate the timing and frequency of blood and blood products transfusion to the development of inhibitors. The study also aimed to detect carriers in families of haemophilic patients using PCR-based restriction fragment length polymorphism, (PCR-RFLPs) technique.

Materials and methods:

Following informed consent, patients with suspected bleeding disorders were seen and investigated at the Haemostasis Clinic at the Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum. Families of patients with haemophilia A and B were recruited in the study. Demographic data, present and past medical history, family history and clinical examination were recorded in a specially designed case record form (CRF).

Ten mls of venous blood were collected in plain, citrate and EDTA containers respectively for HIV, hepatitis B and C serological tests, Complete Blood Count, Coagulation studies (Prothrombin Time, Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time, Thrombin Time, Fibrinogen , and mixing studies and assays for Factor VIII and IX). Inhibitors to factor VIII/IX were tested for using the Bethesda method. DNA was extracted from EDTA blood using Phenol/choloroform/Isoamyl alcohol method.

Polymerase Chain Reaction-based RFLPs (PCR-RFLPs) was carried using standard protocols.

Indirect analysis (RFLPs) for carrier detection using specific primers and appropriate restriction enzymes (Bcl1 for intron 18 and Hind III for intron19). Intron22/1 inversion was tested for three patients with laboratory FVIII \geq 1% and clinical features of severe haemophilia.

Results:

Two hundred and forty seven families with 694 individuals (Males: Female = 1:2) Patients with haemostatic defects (n= 533, 76.8%) were categorized according to the screening test as hemophilia A (n=342, 64.2%), hemophilia B (n=34, 6.4%) and miscellaneous bleeding disorder rs (n=157; 29.4%).

Hemophilia A is most common genetic disease among the tribes of Galleen and Shaigia and less common among Meisairia and Falata. The mean age of haemophilia A patients 15.4 ±12.5 years. The haemoglobin level was significantly reduced in hemophilic patients compared with non-hemophilic individuals ($p=0.007$). While the platelets counts (PLTs) ($p=0.07$), white blood cells counts ($p=0.05$), bleeding time ($p=0.05$), prothrombin time ($p=0.000$), thrombin time ($p=0.04$) and fibrinogen ($p=0.25$) were comparable to non-diseased family members. The Activated Partial thromboplastin Time (APTT) of haemophilic patients was significantly prolonged ($p= 00001$). Patients with mild hemophilia (factor levels, range 5-25%) constituted 24%, while those with moderate hemophilia (factor levels 1-5%) constituted 76% of patients.

Factor VIII inhibitors could not be detected in the sera of haemophilic patients. One per cent (1%) of hemophilic patients were treated with whole blood, 10%, 29% and 57% were treated with Cryoprecipitate, Fresh frozen plasma(FFP) and factor concentrates respectively.

Three per cent (3%) of the patients received no treatment. The treatment of all patients was carried out after diagnosis.

Anonymous viral serology screening showed that 0.3% of the patients were reactive to HIVI/II, 1% was reactive for HBsAg but no patient was reactive for HCV. The HIV reactivity was not different from that reported from National Blood Transfusion Services donations in Sudan(NBTS). The HBsAg screening is much lower than that among blood donors in the (NBTS) figures.

The study of homo/heterozygosis for carrier/disease status was carried in thirteen families (n= 63 individuals; males =34 & females =29). Twenty one patients were hemophilic, 16 were their sisters. The mothers tested were 13; 8/13 (61.3%) were

possible carriers, while the rest were obligate carriers. Sixteen sisters of haemophilic patients were tested, 2 were normal, and 14 were carriers (6/14 were obligate; 8/14 were possible carriers). In all 27/29 females (mothers + sisters of haemophilics) were investigated for homo/heterozygosity of FVIII polymorphic regions. Nineteen (19/27) were heterozygous, while 8/27 were homozygous.

Discussion:

Hemophilia is an X-Linked recessive inherited bleeding disorder that affects males usually born to unaffected father and an asymptomatic carrier mother. Delayed treatment can lead to marked disabilities.

Untreated bleeds lead to progressive crippling which is the major cause of disability in hemophilic patients. Development of neutralizing antibodies to factors VIII and IX is a major complication of haemophilia therapy.

All our patients have either mild or moderate disease have levels of FVIII and FIX above 1% with detectable low levels of the FVIIIc Ag, most probably indicating absence of structurally abnormal factor VIII protein.

Inhibitors were not detected in the study patients. This could be a fact of life that no severe haemophilic disease situations exist, or that patients die early due to the remoteness of some areas or lack of factor concentrates /blood components.

Absence of truly severe haemophilia was confirmed by negative intron 22/1 inversion that was conducted in the three patients with clinically severe disease.

Genetic counseling based on DNA diagnostic approaches have assumed an important role in the pathology laboratory. The genetic testing involves carrier analysis; mother of an affected boy can be obligate carrier if she has a haemophiliac father or more than one haemophiliac son. In this study RFLPs was easily applied to detect carriers with females of index cases. The majority of females (mothers & sisters of haemophilic patients) were possible carriers.

Carrier detection combined with factor assay can help in identifying dangerous carriers who sometimes present with severe bleeding tendencies and be mistakenly diagnosed as von Will brand disease.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

Haemophilic patients investigated have mild/moderate disease. No anti-FVIII inhibitor was detected in the sera of our patients. Most of the females of the families with haemophilic patients tested were possible carriers.

A network of satellite haemophilia management and carrier detection centers should be established to provide nationwide standard care management to prevent loss of severe haemophilics.

A larger and nationwide study should be launched to estimate the true magnitude of the problem. Further molecular studies (sequencing) is recommended to pinpoint the exact molecular defect to calculate exactly the chance of inhibitor development in case haemophilia care improves and patients with severe haemophilia start to live longer.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APTT	Activated Partial Tromboplastin Time
ATIII	Antithrombin III
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
BU	Bethesda Units
EDTA	Ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PT	Prothrombin Time
RFLPs	Restriction Fragments Length Polymorhpisms
SSCP	Single strand conformation polymorphism
TCT	Thrombin Clotting Time
CRF	Case Record Form

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Objectives:

1. To determine the prevalence of inhibitors to FVIII and FIX in a cohort of Sudanese patients with hemophilia.
2. To correlate the frequency of blood and blood products transfusion to the development of inhibitors.
3. To introduce restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLPs) as a simple technique to detect carrier status and FVIII allele heterozygosity/homozygosity in Sudanese families with haemophilic children, as a pre-requisite for establishing counseling services for patients in need.

Rationale:

Hemophilia is an important cause of morbidity and mortality and marked disability in Sudanese patients. Most patients with hemophilia are children; they seldom reach adulthood because of inadequate treatment. Little is known about the development of inhibitors in Sudanese hemophiliacs. Inhibitor development is considered as a serious medical problem, the management of which is difficult, costly and is beyond the financial capabilities of patients. The genetic defect in Sudanese patients has not been elucidated before. A better understanding of the carrier status of families and establishment of a counseling service will surely reduce disease burden in the future.

Hypothesis:

Severe hemophilia (plasma factor level less than 1%), African descent, erratic transfusion of blood and blood products play a major role in the development of inhibitory antibodies to FVIII:C (factor VIII coagulant activity) in Sudanese patients with hemophilia. Using two markers that are not in linkage disequilibrium and in presence of heterozygous carriers for the markers, carriers in families with haemophilic patients can be identified accurately.