Impact of preoperative administration of finasteride on perioperative bleeding during transurethral vapor resection of the prostate

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Apstrakt

Ispitivano je koliko finasterid dat pre transure- 
tralne vapor resekcije prostate (TUVrP) ima utica-
ja na intra- i postoperativno krvavljenje. Ĉetresed-
dvaje pacijenta sa dijagnozom benign hiperplazije 
prostate (BHP) koji su imali volumen prosta-
tete (VP) > 30 mL su podvrgnuti TUVrP: grupa a 
(n=21) je primala preoperativno 5 mg finasterida 
dnevno tokom srednjeg perioda of 7 meseci i grupa 
B (n=21) bez finasterida. Preoperativna evaluaci-
ja je podrazumevala odredjivanje Internacionalnog 
Prostata Simptom skora (IPss), ocenu kvaliteta ži-
vota (KŽ), maksimalnog protoka urina (MPU) i rezi-
dualnog urina posle mokrenja (rU). Srednja starost 
pacijenata je bila 71.4±2.1 prema 69.8±3.4 godina. 
Srednji VP je bio 55.5 ±21.2 prema 57.1±28.8 mL. 
Dvadeset dva (52%) pacijenta su imala kompletnu retenciju (29% prema 76%) (p<0.001). Inicijalno 
srednji IPss, KŽ, MPU i RU su bili 18.1±5.9 pre-
ma 19.8±5.04, 3.3±1.7 prema 3.3±1.7, 8.1±4.4 pre-
ma 6.9±1.6 mL/s i 146±106.9 prema 151.6±112.1 mL. 
Srednje trajanje operacije je iznosilo 59±16.8 
prema 64±19.2 min, srednji volumen tečnosti za is-
piranje intraoperativno je iznosio 14.1±7.01 prema 
15.2±8.1 L i postoperativno 7.0±2.1 prema 8.1±1.3 
L. Srednja težina reseciranog tkiva je iznosila 31.3 ±5.8 prema 30.7±8.4 gr. Srednji gubitak krvi je 
bio 312±85.9 prema 425±68.5 mL. Srednje trajanje 
postoperativnog ispiranja je iznosilo 6.1±4.7 prema 
6.2 ±5.1 časa. Trideset i šest (85.7%) pacijenata je otpušteno unutar 12 h postoperativno, ka-
teter je izvadjen posle 2.0±0.5 prema 2.5±0.6 dana. 
Ni jedan pacijent nije primio transfuziju krvi. Na 3 
meseca postoperativno IPSS je bio 6.7±4.2 prema 
5.2±2.04 (p<0.001), KŽ 1.1±0.9 prema 1.1 ± 0.7, 
MPU 18.1±10.3 prema 17.5±8.1 mL/s(p<0.01) i RU 
41±46.1 prema 45±51.3 mL(p<0.05). Ova studija je

Abstract

We investigated whether finasteride given before transurethral vapor resection (TUVRP) treatment has an impact on intra- and postoperative bleeding. Forty-two patients with diagnosis of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) who had prostate volume (PV) > 30 mL underwent TUVRP: group A (n=21) received preoperatively finasteride 5 mg per day for median time of 7 months and group B (n=21) no finasteride. Preoperative evaluation include assessment of International Prostatic Symptom score (IPSS), Quality of Life (QoL), PV, maximum flow rate (Qmax) and postvoid residual (PVR). Patients mean age was 71.4± 2.1 vs 69.8 ± 3.4 years, respectively. Median PV was 55.5 ±21.2 vs 57.1 
±28.8 mL, respectively. Twenty-two (52%) patients 
had complete retention (29% vs 76%) (p<0.001). 
At baseline mean IPSS, QoL, Qmax and PVR were 
18.1±5.9 vs 19.8±5.04, 3.3±1.7 vs 3.3±1.7, 8.1±4.4 
vs 6.9±1.6 mL/s, and 146±106.9 vs 151.6±112.1 mL, 
respectively. The mean operation time was 59±16.8 
vs 64±19.2 min, mean volume of irrigation fluid intra-
operatively was 14.1±7.01 vs 15.2±8.1 L and post-
operatively 7.0±2.1 vs 8.1 ±1.3 L, respectively. 
Mean blood loss was 312±85.9 vs 425±68.5 mL, 
respectively. The mean weight of resected tissue was 
31.3±5.8 vs 30.7±8.4 gr, respectively. Mean duration of postoperative irrigation was 14.1±7.01 vs 15.2±8.1 L and 
postoperatively 7.0±2.1 vs 8.1 ±1.3 L, respectively. 
Mean blood loss was 312±85.9 vs 425±68.5 mL, 
respectively. The mean weight of resected tissue was 
31.3±5.8 vs 30.7±8.4 gr, respectively. Mean 
duration of postoperative irrigation was 6.1 ± 4.7 
vs 6.2 ±5.1 h, respectively. Thirty-six (85.7%) pa-
tients were discharged within 12 h postoperatively and 
the catheter is removed on 2.0±0.5 vs 2.5 ± 0.6 
days, respectively. No patients received blood transfu-
sion postoperatively. At 3 months postoperatively 
IPSS was 6.7±4.2 vs 5.2±2.01 (p<0.001), QoL 
1.1±0.9 vs 1.1±0.7, Qmax 18.1±10.3 vs 17.5±8.1 
ml/s (p<0.01) and PVR 41±46.1 vs 45±51.3 mL 
(p<0.05). The present study failed to demonstrate
Introduction

BPH is a progressive disease that occurs in many men. It is well known that prostate volume increase with age\(^1\) and over time causes an age related impact on symptoms requiring pharmacological or surgical intervention\(^2,3\). TURP remains the gold standard for the relief of infravesical obstruction and lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS). The most prevalent peri- and postoperative complications of TURP include urinary retention, bleeding requiring transfusion and clot retention\(^4,5\). The previously published study revealed that TUVrP is associated with low blood loss, less irrigation requirement, was safe in patients with comorbid conditions and can be performed on ambulatory basis\(^6\).

Finasteride, a 5-alpha-reductase inhibitor (5arI), is well known to reduce gross hematuria secondary to prostate bleeding associated with LUTS\(^7,8,9\). Hyperplasia of the prostatic tissue involves the action of dihydrotestosterone (DHT), which is derived from testosterone by action of 5AR. Inhibition of 5AR reduces the concentration of DHT in the prostate, leading to a reduction in PV, improved Qmax, decline in the incidence of acute urinary retention and the need for surgery\(^10\).

In this prospective non-randomized and not placebo-controlled study, we investigated whether finasteride given before TUVrP as one day treatment would affect perioperative blood loss, operative time, resected volume, total irrigant requirement, duration of postoperative catheterization, Qmax, PVR and symptom relief.

Material and Methods

From January, 2003 to December, 2008, 42 patients with LUTS due to bladder outlet obstruction secondary to BPH underwent TUVrP in regional anesthesia. The patients with PV > 30 cm were divided into 2 therapeutic groups: group A (n=21) received preoperatively finasteride 5 mg per day for median period of 7 months (range 3-27) and group B (n=21) no finasteride. All patients were preoperatively investigated by means of digital rectal examination (DRE), IPSS, QoL, Qmax, PVR and PV mainly by transrectal ultrasound (TRUS). Patients with symptomatic obstructive BPH (DRE and transabdominal US/TRUS not suspicious, PSA < 4 ng/mL or benign prostatic biopsy), IPSS > 18, QoL > 3, Qmax < 12 mL/s, PVR > 100 mL were included in the study. Preoperative laboratory investigations included urine analysis, urine culture, complete blood cell counts, serum electrolyte levels, renal function test and serum prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. Complete blood cell counts and tests to determine serum electrolyte levels were repeated within 6 hours postoperatively to check for changes in serum concentrations. Patients with PV > 100 mL, neurogenic micturition disorders, bladder stone, bladder and/or prostate cancer, urethral stricture, diabetes mellitus with poor control of disease and diabetic neuropathy, were not included in this study.

All patients signed an informed consent form for the surgery. The procedure was performed after preliminary cystoscopy and urethral dilatation to Ch 28. A Ch 26/27 Storz resectoscope with Martin M400 and Erbe ICC-350 electrocautery with Storz vapor cut electrode was used. The electrosurgical generator was set to 110-130 W for cutting and 50-80 W for coagulation. The vapor cut resection technique follows the same principles as described for modified Nesbit technique. The motion of loop is, however, slowed to allow for maximal simultaneous coagulation, vaporization, and resection of tissue. Although large bleeding vessels at the bladder neck and close to the capsule required coagulation, the general ooze during the procedure was reduced. Intraoperative blood loss was estimated by the indicator dilution method. The irrigant fluid was stirred intermittently during the procedure to prevent clotting. Three 5 mL samples of the fluid were sent for hemoglobin...
and sodium estimation using flame photometer. The average of three values was calculated, and the total blood loss measure was adjusted for the volume of irrigant fluid used. Volume of intraoperative irrigation fluid and operative time were calculated from the introduction of the resectoscope to placement of catheter at the end of the surgical procedure. Postoperatively, the irrigation was stopped after 4 to 12 hours, depending on the color of the returning fluid. The patients were mainly discharged from the office within 24h following TUVRP and the catheter was removed few days latter. The weight of the resected tissue, intraoperative complications, and postoperative catheterization time were recorded. All resected specimens were sent for histological examination. Patients were reviewed 3 months postoperatively, and latter every 3 months during the first year postoperatively for evaluation with determination of IPSS, QoL, Qmax and measurement of PVR.

Statistics

All parameters are expressed as mean standard deviation (SD). Difference between preoperative and postoperative values within a treatment groups were determinate by Student’s T test. The chi-square test was used for categorical data. A p value of 0.05 or less was considered statistically significant.

Results

Review of cumulative patient’s characteristics is reported in the Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Mean (SD, range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>70.6 (7.02, 60-84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom duration</td>
<td>2 months - 7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSS total score</td>
<td>20 (4.7, 15-35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOL</td>
<td>3.9 (1.7, 3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV</td>
<td>56.3 (17.8, 30-95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qmax (ml/s)</td>
<td>7.1 (1.7, 4-11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVR (ml)</td>
<td>116 (85.66, 90-800), median 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbidities (no)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery disease</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Chronic obstructive airways disease</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
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</table>

Table 1. Review of cummulated patients characteristics

Patients mean age was 71.3±2.1 vs 69.8±3.4 years, respectively (7 [17%] were more than 80 years of age). Mean PV was 55.5±21.2 mL (range 30-90) vs 57.1±28 mL (range 30-35) (> 50 mL in 62% vs 57%). Among 7 (33.3%) patients in group A, PV decreased in average of 25% occurred. Group A demonstrated PSA reduction in average of 32% (6.3±1.2 to 4.2±1.3) before and after treatment vs no difference in group B (4.7±2.1 to 4.3±2.6). Twenty-two (52%) patients had complete retention (29% vs 76%) (p<0.001). Six (14.3%) patients had TRUS biopsy of the prostate preoperatively with negative finding (4.8% vs 23.8%) (p<0.001). Perioperative and postoperative characteristics were reported in the Table 2.
### TABLE 2. Perioperative and postoperative characteristics

Incidental prostate cancer was detected in 2 (4.8%) patients, 1 patient in group A is referred to radical prostatectomy and 1 patient in group B underwent active surveillance. Two (4.8%) patients developed postoperative bleeding within 2 and 12 hours (1 with clot formation), resolved by TUR for hemostasis. Two (4.8%) patients developed prostate cancer at 24 and 45 months following TURP, successfully managed with radiation therapy. Table 3. shows postoperative adverse events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Group A Mean (SD, range)</th>
<th>Group B Mean (SD, range)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procedural time (min)</td>
<td>59 (16.8, 40-115)</td>
<td>64 (19.2, 25-94)</td>
<td>ns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation volume intraop (lit)</td>
<td>14.1 (7.01, 2.5-40)</td>
<td>15.2 (8.1, 2.5-48)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation volume postop (lit)</td>
<td>7.0 (2.1, 3-37)</td>
<td>8.1 (1.3, 3-45)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of postop irrigation (hours)</td>
<td>6.1 (4.7, 1-12)</td>
<td>6.2 (5.1, 2-14)</td>
<td>ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catheter removal (days)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.5, 1-5)</td>
<td>2.25 (0.78, 1-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resected weight of prostatic tissue (gr)</td>
<td>31.3 (8.5, 22-85)</td>
<td>30.75 (8.4, 22-51)</td>
<td>ns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intraoperative bleeding (mL)</td>
<td>312(85,20-600)</td>
<td>425(68, 5-750)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission time (days)</td>
<td>0.8(0.5, 1-3)</td>
<td>1.0(0.4,1-4)</td>
<td>ns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing contact time (min)</td>
<td>36(8.2, 20-50)</td>
<td>45(9.1,30-90)</td>
<td>ns</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Total adverse events

None of patients received blood transfusion. Postoperative changes in sodium and hemoglobin level were $-2.0\pm0.5$ vs $-2.1\pm0.8$ mmol/L and $-1.2\pm0.8$ vs $-1.3\pm0.7$ mg/dL, respectively. In 20 patients who were no in urinary retention preoperatively $Q_{\text{max}}$ improved to $19.0\pm3.9$ mL/s vs $13.9\pm7.8$ mL/s in patients with permanent catheter preoperatively, and IPSS decreased to $5.1\pm4.2$ vs $5.2\pm2.1$, respectively. The effectiveness of the procedure was assessed at 3- and 12-months intervals postoperatively (Table 4.).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Group A Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Group B Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Group A Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Group B Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Group A Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Group B Mean (SD)</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No of pts</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>19.1 (5.9)</td>
<td>20.8 (5.4)</td>
<td>5.1 (4.2)</td>
<td>5.2 (2.1)</td>
<td>5.2 (1.92)</td>
<td>5.3 (2.7)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSS</td>
<td>3.3 (1.7)</td>
<td>4.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.9)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.6)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.8)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOL</td>
<td>8.1 (4.4)</td>
<td>6.9 (1.6)</td>
<td>18.1 (10.3)</td>
<td>17.5 (8.1)</td>
<td>18 (2.7)</td>
<td>17.1 (1.2)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qmax</td>
<td>146 (106.9)</td>
<td>151.6 (102.1)</td>
<td>41 (46.1)</td>
<td>45 (51.3)</td>
<td>47.1 (50)</td>
<td>48 (10)</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVR</td>
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</table>

Table 4. Effectiveness of measures

After 12 months, IPSS was 5.2±1.92 vs 5.3±2.7, QoL 1.2±0.6 vs 1.2±1.2±0.8, Qmax 18.0±2.7 vs 17.1±1.2 mL/s and PVR 47.1±50 vs 48±10 ml, respectively. Statistical analysis using Student’s T test shows significant symptom reduction (p<0.001), with improvement of Qmax, Qol and with decrease of PVR within 3 months after treatment (p<0.01). All other changes were significant at the p<0.01 level. Two (4.8%) patients underwent internal urethrotomy at 4 and 6 months postoperatively due to urethral stricture, and 1 (2.4%) patient transurethral incision of the prostate due to bladder neck sclerosis. For a median follow up of 37.7 months the responder rate for the entire cohort of patients was as follows: 37 (88%) patients were satisfied of the urinary status at last observation carried forward (mean IPSS 4.7±6.0, mean Qmax 18.3±6.4 mL/s) and 5 (12%) patients were unsatisfied (mean IPSS 15.5±4.5, mean Qmax 9.1±2.8 mL/s).

Discussion

In this prospective study pretreatment with finasteride was inconclusive because it did not reveal any significant reduction in perioperative bleeding, although there was a trend towards a reduction with treatment: 312 mL in the catheter group compared with 425 mL in the control group. Few reports have shown a reduction in perioperative bleeding in large prostate10,11. However, our study had confirmed some other observation that finasteride have no impact on perioperative bleeding during TUVrP 12. In many reports11,15 it has been shown that hematuria associated with BPH is related to increased vascularity of the prostate and it has been shown that angiogenesis can be suppressed by androgen deprivation. Finasteride has been shown to decrease the size of the prostate13,14. The present study demonstrated that decrease of PV occurred in average of 25% in 33% patients managed preoperatively with finasteride. We founded a fall in PSA level (by 33%) in treated group as expected. The same finding occurs in other study12. The resected volume was the same in both groups; although this may seem low it only reflects reality, i.e. only the transition zone is resected. In other studies11,15 the same resected volume was seen in average. None of our patients received a blood transfusion, whereas only 2 patients necessitate transurethral revision for hemostasis due to postoperative bleeding.

The proportion of incidentally diagnosed prostate cancers at the time of TURP has been demonstrated to be 10% 16, compared to 4.8% in our study. However, during follow-up of our patients, 2 (4.8%) patients developed prostate cancer.

The results regarding the effectiveness of TUVRP strongly correlate with results published recently in the literature 6,7. The technique of TUVRP was associated with minimal complications and shorter postoperative recovery. The postoperative bladder irrigation requirement was low, because the urine was usually clear...
in the immediate postoperative period. Nursing contact time was reduced and catheter was removed earlier. Postoperatively, there were a few incidence of dysuria, but dysuria resolved spontaneously. Reduction in blood loss, excellent vision, reduced operation time, less irrigant fluid requirement, the possibility to perform the procedure as one-day treatment in vast majority of patients, significantly reduce the cost of surgery.

Conclusions

The present study was inconclusive because it did not show significant benefit in terms of reducing bleeding during or after TUVrP following previous treatment with finasteride. TUVrP is safe and effective operation technique with minimal complications and faster postoperative recovery, and represent an advantage over standard method of TURP.

Literature


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