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Depressed systemic arterial compliance and impaired left ventricular midwall performance in aortic stenosis with concomitant type 2 diabetes: a retrospective cross-sectional study

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Abstract

Background: Degenerative aortic stenosis (AS), a disease of the elderly, frequently coexists with concomitant diseases, including type 2 diabetes (T2DM) which amplifies the cardiovascular (CV) risk. T2DM affects left ventricular (LV) structure and function via hemodynamic and metabolic factors. In concentric LV geometry, typical for AS, indices of LV midwall mechanics are better estimates of LV function than ejection fraction (EF). Effects of T2DM coexisting with AS on circumferential LV midwall systolic function and large artery properties have not been reported so far. Our aim was to compare characteristics of AS patients with and without T2DM, with a focus on LV midwall systolic function and arterial compliance.

Methods: Medical records of 130 electively hospitalized patients with moderate or severe isolated degenerative AS were retrospectively analyzed. Exclusion criteria included clinical instability, atrial fibrillation, coronary artery disease and relevant non-cardiac diseases. From in-hospital echocardiography and blood pressure, we calculated LV midwall fractional shortening (mwFS), circumferential end-systolic LV wall stress (cESS) and valvulo-arterial impedance (Zva), estimates of LV afterload, as well as systemic arterial compliance.

Results: Patients with (n = 50) and without T2DM (n = 80) did not differ in age, AS severity, LV mass and LV diastolic diameter. T2DM patients exhibited elevated cESS (247 ± 105 vs. 209 ± 84 hPa, $p = 0.025$) and Zva (5.8 ± 2.2 vs. 5.1 ± 1.8 mmHg per mL/m², $p = 0.04$), and lower stroke volume index (33 ± 10 vs. 38 ± 12 mL/m², $p = 0.01$) and systemic arterial compliance (0.53 ± 0.16 vs. 0.62 ± 0.22 mL/m² per mmHg, $p = 0.01$). mwFS (11.9 ± 3.9 vs. $14.1 \pm 3.7\%$, $p = 0.001$), but not EF (51 ± 14 vs. $54 \pm 13\%$, $p = \text{n.s.}$), was reduced in T2DM. mwFS and cESS were inversely inter-related in patients both with ($r = -0.59$, $p < 0.001$) and without T2DM ($r = -0.53$, $p < 0.001$). By multiple regression, higher cESS ($p < 0.001$) and T2DM ($p = 0.02$) were independent predictors of depressed mwFS.

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Conclusions: In AS, coexistent T2DM appears associated with reduced systemic arterial compliance and LV dysfunction at the midwall level, corresponding to slightly depressed myocardial contractility.

Keywords: Aortic stenosis, Arterial compliance, Left ventricular systolic function, Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Background

Degenerative aortic stenosis (AS), a disease of the elderly, frequently coexists with concomitant diseases including type 2 diabetes (T2DM) which amplifies the risk of adverse cardiovascular (CV) events in asymptomatic patients [1] and after surgical aortic valve replacement [2]. Regardless of associations with coronary artery disease (CAD) and hypertension, T2DM per se is a risk factor for heart failure (HF) [3–6], influencing left ventricular (LV) structure and function via multiple pathways, including large artery stiffening and direct effects on the myocardium with consequent enhanced LV hypertrophy and LV dysfunction [7–11].

Although a restrictive, not dilated, phenotype of diabetic cardiomyopathy predominates in T2DM without CV disease [10, 12, 13], slight impairment of LV systolic function despite normal ejection fraction (EF) appears also frequent, with combined systolic and diastolic dysfunction in 10–25% of T2DM patients without overt cardiac disease [14–16]. Of note, subclinical circumferential and/or longitudinal LV systolic dysfunction was reported in over one-half of T2DM patients free of CV disease [16]. Additionally, impaired stress-corrected LV midwall fractional shortening (mwFS), detected in almost 40% of T2DM subjects without CV disease, independently predicted CV mortality [17]. Moreover, depressed mwFS predisposed to adverse ischemic and aortic valve-related CV events in asymptomatic AS with a preserved EF [18].

To the best of our knowledge, effects of T2DM coexisting with AS on circumferential LV systolic function at the midwall level, a better estimate of LV function than EF at concentric LV geometry, typical for AS, have not been reported so far. As compared to non-diabetic patients with severe AS, in diabetic AS subjects Lindman et al. [19] found reduced conventional EF (i.e., at the endocardial level) and depressed longitudinal LV systolic function by strain-rate imaging using the speckle tracking method, a trend toward impaired LV diastolic function by tissue Doppler, and similar systemic arterial compliance. On the other hand, Falcão-Pires et al. [20] described significantly lower LV end-diastolic distensibility, enhanced interstitial myocardial fibrosis and reduced cardiomyocyte passive stiffness in AS patients with versus without T2DM, undergoing perioperative LV biopsies, however the subgroups had similar EF. Our aim was to compare

characteristics of AS patients with and without T2DM, with a focus on LV systolic function at the midwall level and systemic arterial compliance.

Methods

Patients

We retrospectively analyzed medical records of clinically stable patients hospitalized on an elective basis in our center during 2013–2018 with a final diagnosis of isolated moderate or severe degenerative AS—defined as aortic valve area ≤ 1.5 cm² (by the continuity equation), supported by additional measures (mean aortic pressure gradient, aortic valve area index and maximal aortic jet velocity) in case of any doubts with regard to AS severity, i.e. in accordance with an integrative approach to grading AS [21, 22]. Exclusion criteria included: more than mild aortic regurgitation or disease of another valve, atrial fibrillation, a history of myocardial infarction or coronary revascularization, diameter narrowings of $\geq 50\%$ in major epicardial artery segments on coronary angiography, estimated glomerular filtration rate < 30 mL/min per 1.73 m² (by the CKD-EPI formula), other relevant non-cardiac coexistent diseases except for T2DM and well-controlled hypertension, and the use of sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors or glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists.

On the basis of the exclusion criteria, out of 335 pre-screened subjects, 130 AS patients in sinus rhythm with an adequate echocardiographic image quality and complete data (50 with previously diagnosed T2DM and 80 without diabetes) entered the final analysis.

Data extraction and additional calculations

In-hospital echocardiography was performed on an ultrasound device (Vivid 8; GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL, USA) by a recognized sonographer. From routine in-hospital echocardiographic records we extracted EF, calculated from recorded 2D-images by means of the modified Simpson's rule and validated by one of the senior authors, while LV mass was derived by the Devereux formula, in accordance with the current practice guidelines [23]. Additionally, from echocardiography and mean in-hospital blood pressure (computed from all in-hospital blood pressure measurements), we calculated valvulo-arterial impedance (Z_{va})—an index of the sum of valvular and arterial components of LV afterload, and systemic arterial compliance, as previously proposed [24]. Z_{va} was derived

from systolic blood pressure, mean aortic pressure gradient and stroke volume index, whereas systemic arterial compliance from stroke volume index and pulse pressure [24], as in our earlier reports [25, 26].

Also, in agreement with a simplified cylindrical LV model [27–29], from 2D-guided M-mode LV measurements and blood pressure, mwFS and circumferential end-systolic LV midwall stress (cESS) at the LV minor axis, an estimate of afterload at the ventricular level, were computed for the following reasons. First, vectors of LV midwall stress and fiber shortening are oriented in the same direction because circumferential fibers predominate at the LV midwall equator, in contrast to the subendocardial layer where longitudinal fibers are more prevalent [28]. Second, as mwFS was derived on the basis of a constant volume of the myocardial “shell” between the midwall and the endocardium [27], the proposed approach takes into consideration systolic migration of midwall fibers from the middle line towards epicardium, providing a better index of LV performance than EF which overestimates LV function at concentric LV geometry [28].

As previously proposed [27], cESS and mwFS were calculated according to the following formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cESS [hPa]} &= 1.333 \times (\text{SBP} + \text{PG}_{\text{max}}) \times (\text{LVs}/2)^2 \\ &\times \left[1 + \left\{ \frac{[(\text{LVs}/2) + \text{PWs}]^2}{[(\text{LVs}/2) + (\text{PWs}/2)]^2} \right\} \right] / \left\{ \left[(\text{LVs}/2) + \text{PWs} \right]^2 - (\text{LVs}/2)^2 \right\}, \\ \text{mwFS} &= \left\{ [(\text{LVd} + \text{PWd}/2 + \text{IVSd}/2) - (\text{LVs} + \text{Hs}/2)] / (\text{LVd} + \text{PWd}/2 + \text{IVSd}/2) \right\} \times 100\%, \end{aligned}$$

where SBP is systolic blood pressure [mmHg], PG_{max} : maximal transvalvular aortic pressure gradient [mmHg], LVd: LV end-diastolic diameter [cm]; LVs: LV end-systolic diameter [cm]; PWd: LV posterior wall thickness at end-diastole; PWs: LV posterior wall thickness at end-systole [cm]; IVSd: interventricular septum thickness at end-diastole [cm]; Hs/2: systolic LV inner shell myocardial thickness, computed in agreement with the assumption of a constant volume of the LV inner myocardial shell throughout the cardiac cycle [27], and 1.333 is a conversion factor from mmHg into hPa.

Statistical analysis

Patients' characteristics were compared between subjects with and without T2DM by a 2-sided Student's *t* test (or a Welch's test for inhomogeneous variance) and the Chi square test for continuous and categorical data, respectively. The homogeneity of variance was verified by Levene's test. Bivariate correlations were estimated by Pearson's correlation coefficients (*r*). Multiple linear regression was used to identify independent determinants of mwFS. Additionally, assuming low mwFS as

mwFS < 14% in women and < 16% in men, we performed stepwise logistic regression with low mwFS as a dichotomous dependent variable, and the following potential predictors: cESS, systolic blood pressure, hypertension and metabolic syndrome, separately for diabetic and non-diabetic AS patients. A *p*-value below 0.05 was assumed significant.

Results

Comparison of clinical and hemodynamic characteristics in aortic stenosis patients with and without concomitant T2DM

Patients with and without T2DM did not differ in clinical characteristics except for higher body-mass index in T2DM (Table 1).

Patients' hemodynamic characteristics by T2DM status are shown in Table 2. The severity of AS, estimated by aortic valve area index and mean aortic pressure gradient, was comparable in patients with and without concomitant T2DM (Fig. 1a). There were also no intergroup differences in LV end-diastolic diameter and LV mass index (Fig. 1b). Both measures of LV afterload, cESS and *Z*_{va} were elevated in T2DM (Fig. 1c), whereas systemic

arterial compliance was depressed, due to a lower stroke volume index (Fig. 1d) at a similar pulse pressure. Of note, mwFS—but not EF—was significantly reduced in T2DM (Fig. 1e).

Comparison of the relationship between mwFS and cESS in aortic stenosis patients with and without concomitant T2DM

mwFS and cESS were negatively related with each other in patients with T2DM (*r* = −0.59, *p* < 0.001) and without T2DM (*r* = −0.53, *p* < 0.001) (Fig. 2). mwFS, plotted against cESS, was lower in AS with T2DM compared to AS without T2DM for each given value of cESS (Fig. 2). This effect was confirmed by multiple regression: mwFS was depressed in T2DM subjects (mean $\beta \pm \text{SEM}$: -0.17 ± 0.07 , *p* = 0.02), independently of a strong inverse association between mwFS and cESS ($\beta = -0.54 \pm 0.07$, *p* < 0.001).

As a continuous variable, mwFS was unrelated to any other patients' characteristics than cESS, including also systemic arterial compliance or symptomatic status in either diabetic AS subjects, their non-diabetic counterparts or the whole study group (*p* > 0.15).

Table 1 Clinical characteristics in patients with and without concomitant T2DM

| Characteristic | T2DM n = 50 | No diabetes n = 80 | p value |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Age (years) | 70 ± 9 | 70 ± 11 | n.s. |
| Men/Women, n (%) | 23/27 (46/54%) | 44/36 (55/45%) | n.s. |
| Symptoms, n (%) ^a | 31 (62%) | 41 (51%) | n.s. |
| Hypertension, n (%) | 45 (90%) | 62 (78%) | n.s. |
| Chronic kidney disease, n (%) | 16 (32%) | 17 (21%) | n.s. |
| Body-mass index (kg/m ²) | 31 ± 5 | 28 ± 4 | 0.003 |
| Mean blood pressure (mm Hg) | 90 ± 10 | 89 ± 10 | n.s. |
| Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg) | 131 ± 16 | 130 ± 18 | n.s. |
| Glycated hemoglobin (%) | 7.1 ± 0.8 | – | – |
| Medications, n (%) | | | |
| ACEI or ARB | 30 (60%) | 43 (54%) | n.s. |
| Beta-blocker | 25 (50%) | 34 (43%) | n.s. |
| Diuretic | 20 (40%) | 27 (34%) | n.s. |
| Calcium channel blockers | 17 (34%) | 24 (30%) | n.s. |
| Statin | 38 (76%) | 50 (62%) | n.s. |
| Metformin | 47 (94%) | – | – |
| Insulin | 16 (32%) | – | – |

Data are shown as mean ± SD or n (%)

ACEI angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, ARB angiotensin receptor blockers

^a A history of heart failure, syncope or angina linked to AS

By stepwise logistic regression, exclusively increased cESS independently predicted low mwFS, when analyzing diabetic and non-diabetic AS patients separately (mean odds ratio [OR] per 10-hPa increment: 1.11 [confidence interval: 1.01–1.23], $p=0.035$ for subjects with T2DM; OR=1.13 [1.05–1.21], $p=0.001$ for subjects without diabetes).

Discussion

Our salient finding was reduced systemic arterial compliance and lower mwFS, reflecting LV systolic performance at the midwall level, which was not entirely explained by higher cESS, an index of LV afterload, in patients with moderate or severe AS and concomitant T2DM.

Comparison with other studies

The prevalence of low mwFS was 78% in our AS patients with concomitant T2DM, i.e. higher than the respective proportion (34–52%) of subjects with impaired LV midwall systolic function among T2DM patients without overt CV disease, participating in the DYDA [15] and SHOCKWAVE [16] studies. However, none of those T2DM subjects exhibited significant valvular heart disease [15, 16], whereas our patients had AS and T2DM,

Table 2 Hemodynamic characteristics of AS patients with and without concomitant T2DM

| Characteristic | T2DM n = 50 | No diabetes n = 80 | p value |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Aortic valve area index (cm ² /m ²) | 0.50 ± 0.17 | 0.52 ± 0.16 | n.s. |
| Mean aortic pressure gradient (mm Hg) | 41 ± 24 | 40 ± 21 | n.s. |
| LV end-diastolic diameter (cm) | 5.1 ± 0.9 | 5.1 ± 1.0 | n.s. |
| LV mass index (g/m ²) | 143 ± 41 | 152 ± 62 | n.s. |
| LV ejection fraction (%) | 51 ± 14 | 54 ± 13 | n.s. |
| LV midwall fractional shortening (%) | 11.9 ± 3.9 | 14.1 ± 3.7 | 0.001 |
| Low LV midwall fractional shortening, n (%) | 39 (78%) | 48 (60%) | 0.03 |
| Stroke volume index (mL/m ²) | 33 ± 10 | 38 ± 12 | 0.01 |
| cESS (hPa) | 247 ± 105 | 209 ± 84 | 0.025 |
| Zva (mm Hg per mL/m ²) | 5.8 ± 2.2 | 5.1 ± 1.8 | 0.04 |
| Pulse pressure (mm Hg) | 63 ± 14 | 64 ± 17 | n.s. |
| Systemic arterial compliance (mL/m ² per mm Hg) | 0.53 ± 0.16 | 0.62 ± 0.22 | 0.01 |

Data are shown as mean ± SD

cESS circumferential end-systolic LV midwall stress, LV left ventricular, Zva valvulo-arterial impedance

both of which predispose to LV systolic dysfunction and have been referred to as “an ominous combination” by Banovic et al. [30]. The proportion of impaired circumferential LV systolic function at the midwall level was 24%, 28% and 30% in normal weight, overweight and obese non-diabetic patients with mild or moderate asymptomatic isolated AS in the SEAS cohort [31], and 71% in asymptomatic severe AS, whose vast majority (94%) was free of diabetes [1]. Because our AS subjects had moderate or severe AS and were mainly overweight or obese, the high prevalence (60%) of low mwFS even in our AS patients without diabetes is generally consistent with those reports [1, 31].

Notably, diabetic subjects were excluded from the SEAS [31] and ASTRONOMER [32] studies, which investigated determinants of longitudinal [32] and circumferential midwall [31] LV systolic function in large groups of patients with mild or moderate asymptomatic isolated AS. Moreover, Lindman et al. [19], who reported longitudinal LV systolic dysfunction by strain-rate imaging by means of the speckle tracing method in severe AS with versus without concomitant diabetes, did not analyze circumferential midwall LV function, and did not adjust peak longitudinal systolic strain for LV afterload. Therefore, our study is first to demonstrate associations of T2DM with subclinical circumferential LV systolic dysfunction at the midwall level AS, irrespective of higher cESS. Accordingly, this finding supplements earlier

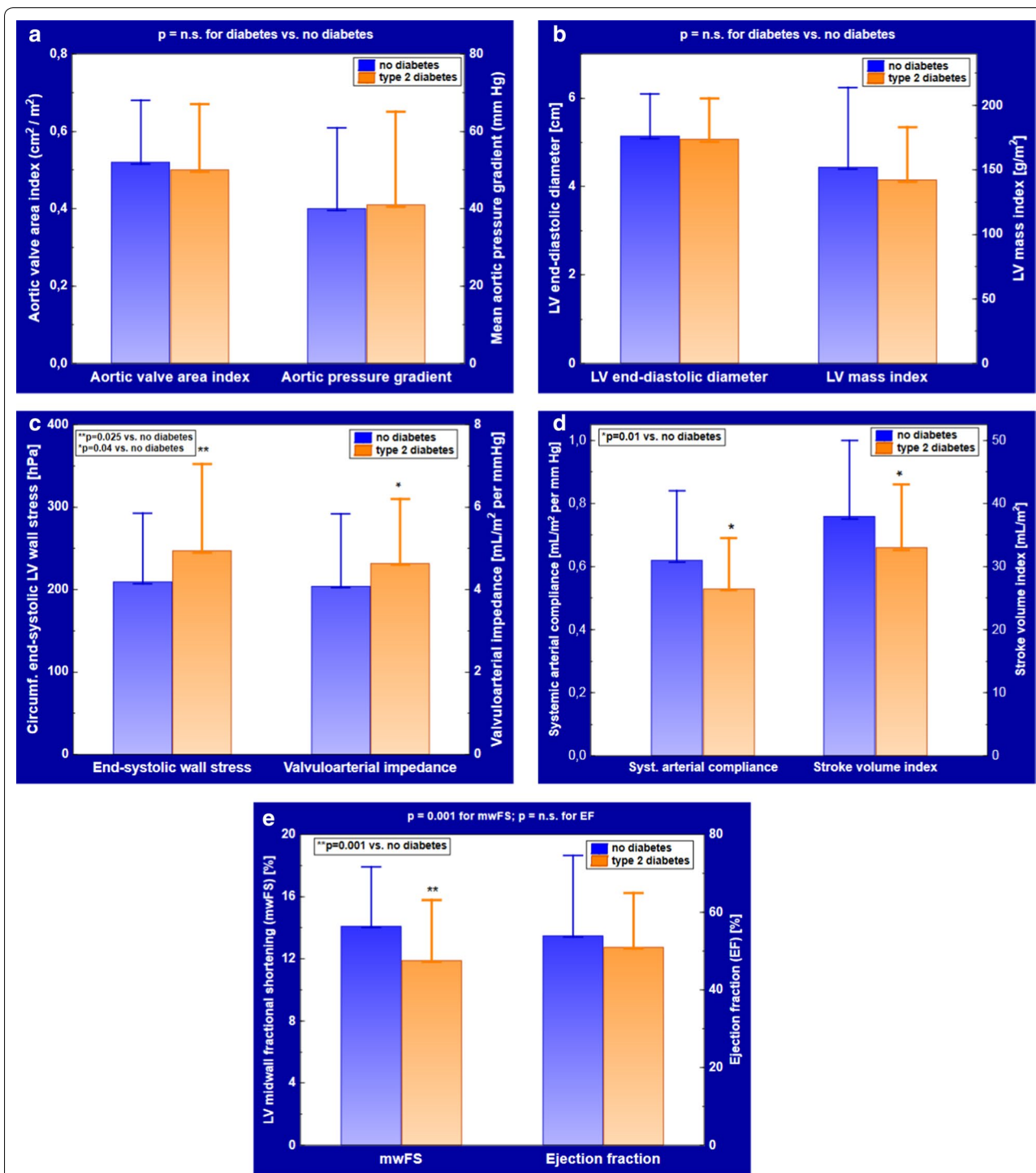
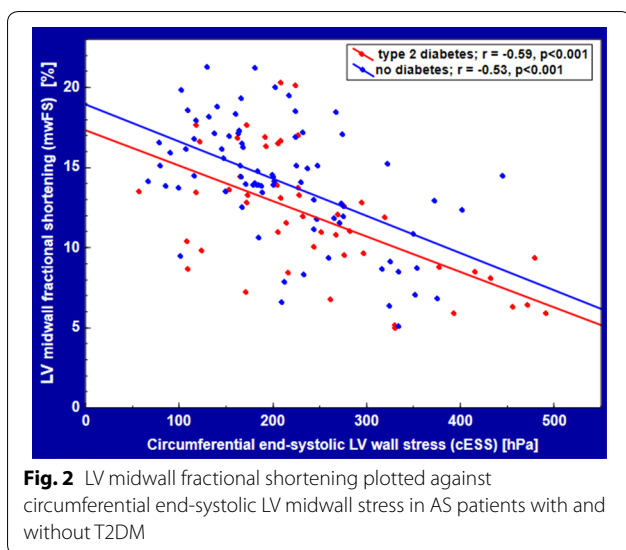


Fig. 1 Hemodynamic characteristics by T2DM status. **a** Aortic valve area index and mean aortic pressure gradient; **b** LV end-diastolic diameter, a raw estimate of LV preload, and LV mass index; **c** circumferential end-systolic LV midwall stress and valvulo-arterial impedance, indices of LV afterload; **d** systemic arterial compliance and LV stroke volume index; **e** LV midwall fractional shortening and ejection fraction. Data are shown as mean \pm SD

evidence from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) which detected an association of diabetes with regional LV systolic dysfunction by circumferential strain

imaging in four LV midwall segments using cardiac magnetic resonance in subjects without clinically recognized CV disease [33].



Keeping in mind numerous reports of elevated arterial stiffness and reduced vascular compliance in T2DM [11], lower systemic arterial compliance in our diabetic AS subjects does not appear unexpected, although Lindman et al. [19] did not observe a significant difference in this parameter according to diabetes status in severe AS.

Mechanistic considerations

Our preliminary observations, based on a retrospective cross-sectional data analysis, allows only cautious interpretations in terms of possible mechanisms. Nevertheless, as metabolic factors have been implicated in the pathogenesis of both diabetic cardiomyopathy and altered vascular properties, multiple detrimental pathways are likely to contribute to CV damage also in AS [9–11, 30, 34, 35]. That, in contrast to previously reported associations of poor glycemic control with lower ascending aortic distensibility [36] and higher aortic pulse wave velocity in T2DM [37], systemic arterial compliance was unrelated to glycated hemoglobin in our diabetic AS subjects, might be due to multifactorial nature of vascular abnormalities in T2DM, including not only deposition of advanced glycation end-products, but also insulin resistance, impaired nitric oxide bioavailability, oxidative stress, enhanced fibrosis and inflammatory activation [11, 30]. Likewise, a variety of mechanisms underlying CV damage in T2DM [9–11, 30, 34, 35, 38] could be accountable for no relations between symptomatic status, systemic arterial compliance and LV function in the present study.

Additionally, in the SEAS [31] and ASTRONOMER [32] studies, subclinical circumferential [31] and longitudinal [32] LV systolic dysfunction was reported already in non-diabetic AS patients with concomitant metabolic syndrome [32] or obesity [31], well-known predecessors

of T2DM, and metabolic syndrome was associated with marginally lower systemic arterial compliance in the ASTRONOMER cohort [32], which points into the relevance of insulin resistance/hyperinsulinemia, accompanied by altered myocardial substrate metabolism (a shift from glucose to fatty acids oxidation) and chronic low-grade inflammatory activation [10, 34, 35, 38], for cardiac and vascular damage before the onset of T2DM. This concept is also consistent with a lower stress-corrected mwFS in adolescents and young adults with impaired fasting glucose, i.e. prediabetic state, compared to those with normal glucose tolerance in the Strong Heart Study [39]. Moreover, insulin resistance was identified as an independent correlate of reduced large artery compliance in asymptomatic young adults participating in the Bogalusa Heart Study [40]. Accordingly, that we observed the coexistence of reduced mwFS and systemic arterial compliance in our AS patients with versus without T2DM, might indicate a highly adverse constellation [30] (probably present for many years before T2DM onset) accountable for consequent depressed stroke volume index, also found in our diabetic AS subjects. Notably, as systolic blood pressure, mean aortic gradient and pulse pressure were similar according to T2DM status, reduced stroke volume index was largely responsible for increased Z_{va} and decreased systemic arterial compliance in our AS patients with concomitant T2DM. Importantly, low stroke volume index, an independent predictor of incident HF in the Strong Heart Study population [41], is also a hallmark of increased risk of mortality in severe AS with preserved EF [42] and after transcatheter aortic valve implantation [43].

Aortic stenosis with concomitant T2DM – a clinical challenge

Patients with both AS and T2DM are a specific group because renin-angiotensin system inhibitors, a powerful tool for cardioprotection and nephroprotection in T2DM, are perceived as relatively contraindicated in severe AS, due to the putative risk of hypotension. Therefore, alternative strategies to improve CV outcome are necessary in patients with combined AS and T2DM, in whom the risk of adverse CV events is elevated by 4- to sixfold in asymptomatic severe AS [1], renin-angiotensin antagonists are frequently underused, while surgical or transcatheter aortic valve implantation are limited to subjects with recognized indications to these procedures. Keeping in mind the potential relevance of metabolic factors for CV damage in AS with coexistent T2DM [30], optimized long-term glycemic control and lifestyle interventions in T2DM and prediabetes might modulate a corollary of detrimental pathways which contribute to

accelerated development of HF in patients with combined AS and T2DM.

Irrespective of the degree of glycemic control, novel antidiabetic drugs such as SGLT-2 inhibitors—recommended for patients with T2DM and established CV disease, especially HF [44]—can have a potential to improve prognosis also in AS. Hypothetically, the ability of SGLT-2 inhibitors to prevent both development of HF and HF hospitalizations in patients with prevalent HF [44], linked to multiple mechanisms, including reduced LV loading conditions and decreased arterial stiffness [35, 44–48], could translate into delayed onset of symptoms in AS patients on medical therapy. Nevertheless, CV effects of SGLT-2 antagonists in T2DM with concomitant AS still remain to be investigated.

Finally, reduced mwFS or depressed systemic arterial compliance might possibly be helpful in risk stratification of asymptomatic AS subjects with concomitant T2DM. In fact, subclinical circumferential LV midwall dysfunction was independently related to incident HF over a 5-year follow-up in the MESA participants free of known CV disease, irrespective of diabetes status and end-systolic LV wall stress [33]. In addition, aortic pulse wave velocity was independently related to pre- and post-operative NYHA class in AS subjects undergoing surgical valve replacement [49]. Nevertheless, large-scale prospective studies are warranted to assess potential clinical utility of measures of arterial stiffness or compliance, as well as novel indices of LV function, such as mwFS or recently proposed diastolic wall strain [50] in asymptomatic AS patients.

Study limitations

First, our findings have been based on a single-center retrospective analysis of medical records of patients hospitalized for AS, in whom the diagnosis of T2DM had been established prior to admission. Nevertheless, T2DM diagnosis has been verified in any dubious cases. Additionally, in order to increase the homogeneity of the study population, we had excluded subjects with relevant non-cardiac disorders and underlying cardiac pathology other than pure AS, especially without CAD. Second, novel echocardiographic techniques, such as tissue Doppler or strain imaging, are appropriate for the quantification of subclinical LV dysfunction, however, we were only able to compute mwFS from available routine echocardiographic records, and exclusively good-quality images entered the final analysis. Third, systemic arterial compliance was estimated by a simple index derived from stroke volume index and pulse pressure, whereas a complex approach, including arterial tonometry, pressure-flow analysis and 24-h blood pressure monitoring, is more suitable to investigate arterial properties, all the

more because Chirinos et al. [51] have recently demonstrated the association of T2DM with arterial stiffening and abnormal pulsatile arterial hemodynamics in HF with preserved EF. Fourth, medical therapy was not uniform in the study group. Nonetheless, the proportion of renin-angiotensin system antagonists and beta-blockers was similar in patients with and without T2DM, almost all T2DM subjects were on metformin and none of them was receiving SGLT-2 inhibitors or glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists. Finally, owing to limited availability of longitudinal medical records, we were unable to investigate either the previously suggested effect of T2DM on the progression of AS severity [30] or AS-related outcomes.

Conclusions

In AS, coexistent T2DM appears associated with reduced systemic arterial compliance and impaired LV systolic function at the midwall level, corresponding to slightly depressed myocardial contractility. Further studies are warranted to investigate possible strategies which might improve LV performance and delay onset of symptoms in AS with concomitant T2DM.

Additional file

Additional file 1. "T2DM" (0 = no diabetes; 1 = T2DM); "cESS" (circumferential end-systolic LV midwall stress) [hPa]; "mwFS" (LV midwall fractional shortening) [%]; "SAC" (systemic arterial compliance) [mL/m² per mm Hg].

Abbreviations

ACEI: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARB: angiotensin receptor blockers; AS: aortic stenosis; CAD: coronary artery disease; CV: cardiovascular; cESS: circumferential end-systolic LV midwall stress; T2DM: type 2 diabetes mellitus; EF: ejection fraction; HF: heart failure; LV: left ventricular; mwFS: LV midwall fractional shortening; OR: odds ratio; SD: standard deviation; SEM: standard error of the mean; SGLT-2: sodium-glucose co-transporter 2; Zva: valvulo-arterial impedance.

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The results of this study were partially presented at the International Medical Congress of Silesia (Katowice, Poland) on April 24th, 2019.

Authors' contributions

BC, OK, AS, EC and AR conceived and designed the study. EC, AR, DD, KB and JS collected and analyzed data. All authors contributed to the data interpretation. EC, AR and AS drafted the article. BC, OK, DD, KB, JS and AS revised the article critically for important intellectual content. AS, OK and BC supervised the study and are joint senior authors. EC and AR contributed equally to this work and are shared first authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

The key data that support the findings of this study are included in the published article and its Additional file 1.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The ethics committee of our University approved the protocol, including the fact that informed consent was not sought owing to a retrospective study design (Approval No. 122.6120.228.2016 of June 27th, 2016; renewal issued on January 31st, 2019).

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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