a stenosed artery with permeable wall

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Abstract. The present paper concerns with the fluid mechanical study on the effects of the permeability of the wall through an overlapping stenosis in an artery assuming that the flowing blood is represented by a macroscopic two-phase model. The expressions for the blood flow characteristics, the impedance, the wall shear stress distribution in the stenotic region, shearing stress at the stenosis throats and at the stenosis critical height have been derived. Results for the effects of permeability as well as of hematocrit on these blood flow characteristics are shown graphically and discussed briefly.

Keywords: Two-phase, hematocrit, permeable, impedance, shear stress, stenosis throat

1. Introduction

Arteriosclerosis or stenosis, stems from the Greek words arthero (gruel or paste) and sclerosis (hardness), is narrowing of any body passage, tube or orifice, is an abnormal and unnatural growth in the arterial wall thickness that develops at the various locations of the cardiovascular system under diseased conditions and occasionally results in to serious consequences (cerebral strokes, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cardiac arrests, etc.). It is believed that the disease occurs due to the deposits of the cholesterol, fatty substances, cellular waste products, calcium and fibrin in the inner lining of an artery. Irrespective of the cause, it is well known that once the constriction has developed, it brings about the significant changes in the flow field, and results into significant changes in pressure distribution, wall shear stress and the impedance (flow resistance). The flow accelerates and consequently the velocity gradient near the wall region is steeper due to the increased core velocity resulting relatively large shear stress on the wall even for a mild stenosis, in

the narrowing region of the artery. With the advent of the discovery that the cardiovascular disease, stenosis is closely associated with the flow conditions and other hemodynamic factors, since the first investigation of Mann et al. [20], a large number of researchers including Young [47, 48], Young and Tsai [46], Caro et al. [7], Shukla et al. [35], Ahmed and Giddens [1], Sarkar and Jayaraman [34], Pralhad and Schultz [32], Jung et al. [13], Liu et al. [16], Srivastava [43], Misra and Shit [26], Mishra and Verma [24], Ponalagusamy [30], Layek et al. [14, 15], Joshi et al. [12], Mekheimer and Elkot [22], Tzirtzilakis [45], Mandal and coworkers [17–19], Politis et al. [28, 29], Sankar and Lee [33], Srivastava and coworkers [39, 40], Singh et al. [36], Biswas and Chakraborty [5, 6], Medhavi [21], Mishra and Siddiqui [25], Nadeem et al. [27], Mekheirmer et al. [23], Ponalagusamy and Selvi [31], Bandyopadhyay and Layek [2, 3], Chakraborty et al. [8], Srivastava et al. [44] and many others have addressed the stenotic development problems under various flow situations.

Being a suspension of corpuscles, at low shear rates blood behaves like a non-Newtonian fluid in small diameter tubes. Besides, experimental observations of Cokelet [10] and theoretical investigation of Haynes [11] indicate that blood cannot be treated

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Fig. 1. Flow geometry of an overlapping stenosis in an artery with permeable wall.

as a single-phase homogeneous viscous fluid while flowing through narrow arteries (of diameter <1000 μ m). Srivastava and Srivastava [38] observed that the individuality of red cells (of diameter $8 \mu m$) is significant even in such a large vessels with diameter up to hundred cells diameter and concluded that blood can be suitably represented by a macroscopic two-phase model (i.e., a suspension of red cells in plasma) in small vessels (of diameter $\leq 2400 \ \mu m$). A brief discussion and survey on suspension modeling of blood flow has recently been presented by Srivastava [41]. In addition, the endothelial walls are known to be highly permeable with ultra microscopic pores through which filtration occurs. Cholesterol is believed to increase the permeability of the arterial wall. Such increase in permeability results from dilated, damaged or inflamed arterial walls. A survey of the published literature of the subject further indicates that the majority of the investigations, reported so far, have considered axisymmetric and non-symmetric single stenoses. However, in realistic situations stenosis may develop in series (multiple stenosis), overlapping or of composite in nature [40]. In view of the discussion given above, assuming that the flowing blood is represented by a macroscopic two-phase model, i.e., a suspension of erythrocytes in plasma, the research reported here is devoted to study the flow of blood through an overlapping stenosis in an artery with permeable wall. The flow in the permeable boundary is described by Darcy law which states that the rate at which a fluid flows through a permeable substance per unit area is equal to the permeability (a property of the substance through which the fluid is flowing) times the pressure drop per unit length of flow, divided by the viscosity of the fluid. To neglect the entrance, end and special wall effects the artery length is considered large enough as compared to its radius.

The wall in the vicinity of the stenosis is usually solid when stenosis develops in living vasculature.

2. Formulation of the problem

Consider the axisymmetric flow of blood through an overlapping stenosis, specified at the position as shown in Fig. 1, in an artery with permeable wall. The geometry of the stenosis which is assumed to be manifested in the arterial wall segment is described [9, 14, 40] as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{R(z)}{R_0} &= 1 - \frac{3}{2} \frac{\delta}{R_0 L_0^4} \left[11(z-d) L_0^3 \right. \\ &\left. - 47(z-d)^2 L_0^2 + 72(z-d)^3 L_0 \right. \\ &\left. - 36(z-d)^4 \right], \quad d \le z \le d + L_0, \\ &= 1 \quad \text{otherwise}, \end{aligned}$$

where R(z) and R₀ be respectively the radius of the tube with and without stenosis, L₀ is the length of the stenosis, L is the length of the tube and d indicates its location, δ is the maximum projection of the stenosis into the lumen, appears approximately at the locations: z = d + L₀/6 and d + 5L₀/6, z being the axial coordinate. The height of the stenosis at z = d + L₀/2, called critical height, is $3\delta/4$.

The flowing blood is assumed to be represented by a macroscopic two-phase model, that is, a suspension of erythrocytes (red cells) in plasma. The equations describing the steady flow of a two-phase macroscopic model of blood may be expressed [37, 38] as

$$(1 - C) \ \rho_{f} \left\{ u_{f} \frac{\partial u_{f}}{\partial z} + v_{f} \frac{\partial u_{f}}{\partial r} \right\}$$
$$= -(1 - C) \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + (1 - C) \mu_{s} (C) \nabla^{2} u_{f}$$
$$+ CS(u_{p} - u_{f}), \qquad (2)$$

$$(1 - C) \rho_{f} \left\{ u_{f} \frac{\partial v_{f}}{\partial z} + v_{f} \frac{\partial v_{f}}{\partial r} \right\}$$
$$= -(1 - C) \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + (1 - C) \mu_{s} (C) \left(\nabla^{2} - \frac{1}{r^{2}} \right) v_{f}$$
$$+ CS(v_{p} - v_{f}), \qquad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left[(1-C)\mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{f}}\right] + (1-C)\frac{\mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{f}}}{r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\left[(1-C)\mathbf{u}_{\mathrm{f}}\right] = 0,$$
(4)

$$\rho_{p} \left\{ u_{p} \frac{\partial u_{p}}{\partial z} + v_{p} \frac{\partial u_{p}}{\partial r} \right\}$$
$$= -C \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + CS (u_{f} - u_{p}), \qquad (5)$$

$$\rho_{p} \left\{ u_{p} \frac{\partial v_{p}}{\partial z} + v_{p} \frac{\partial v_{p}}{\partial r} \right\}$$
$$= -C \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + CS (v_{f} - v_{p}), \qquad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r}[\mathbf{C}\mathbf{v}_{p}] + \frac{\mathbf{C}\mathbf{v}_{p}}{r} + \frac{\partial[\mathbf{C}\,\mathbf{u}_{p}]}{\partial z} = 0,\tag{7}$$

where $\nabla^2 = \partial/\partial r^2 + (1/r)(\partial/\partial r) + \partial^2/\partial z^2$ is the twodimensional Laplacian operator, (r, z) are (radial, axial) coordinate (Fig. 1). (uf, vf) and (up, vp) are the (axial, radial) components of the fluid particle velocities, respectively, C denotes the volume fraction density of the particles, p is the pressure, $\mu_{s}(C) \simeq \mu_{s}$ is the mixture viscosity (apparent or effective viscosity), $\rho_{\rm f}$ and ρ_p are respectively, the actual density of the material constituting the plasma (fluid) and the erythrocyte (particle) phases, (1–C) ρ_f and $C\rho_p$ are respectively, the fluid and the particle phases densities, S is the drag coefficient of interaction and the subscripts f and pdenote the quantities associated with the plasma and erythrocyte phases, respectively. The expressions for drag coefficient of interaction, S and the viscosity of the suspension, μ_s for the present study are selected [42] as

$$S = \frac{9}{2} \frac{\mu_{o}}{a_{o}^{2}} \frac{4 + 3[8C - 3C^{2}]^{1/2} + 3C}{(2 - 3C)^{2}}, \qquad (8)$$
$$\mu_{s}(C) = \frac{\mu_{o}}{1 - mC},$$

 $m = 0.070 \exp \left[2.49C + (1107/T) \exp(-1.69C)\right], \quad (9)$

where T is the measure in absolute scale of temperature (K), μ_0 is the constant plasma viscosity and a_0 is the radius of an erythrocyte.

To obtain the solution of Equations (2)–(7) is almost a formidable task. Depending however, on the size of the stenosis, certain terms in these equations are of less significance than others. Now following the reports of Young [47], Srivastava and Rastogi [39], the equations governing the laminar, steady, one-dimensional flow of blood in an artery in the case of a mild stenosis (i.e., $\delta/R_0 << 1$) are derived from Equations (2)–(7) as

$$(1 - C)\frac{dp}{dz} = (1 - C)\frac{\mu_s}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\right) u_f + CS(u_p - u_f),$$
(10)

$$C \frac{dp}{dz} = CS (u_f - u_p), \qquad (11)$$

The appropriate boundary conditions [4] may be stated as

$$\frac{\partial u_{\rm f}}{\partial r} = 0 \, \text{at} \, r = 0, \tag{12}$$

$$u_{f} = u_{B} \text{ and } \frac{\partial u_{f}}{\partial r} = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{k}}(u_{B} - u_{porous}) \text{ at } r = R(z),$$
(13)

where $u_{porous} = -\frac{k}{\mu_0} \frac{dp}{dz}$, u_{porous} is the velocity in the permeable boundary, u_B is the slip velocity, μ_0 is the plasma (fluid) viscosity, k is Darcy number and α (called the slip parameter) is a dimensionless quantity depending on the material parameters which characterize the structure of the permeable material with in the boundary region.

3. Analysis

The expressions for velocities, u_f and u_p obtained as the solutions of Equations (10)–(11), subject to the boundary conditions (12)–(13), are given as

$$u_{f} = -\frac{R_{o}^{2}}{4(1-C)\mu_{s}} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (R/R_{0})^{2} - (r/R_{0})^{2} \right\} + \frac{\sqrt{k}R_{0}}{2\alpha(1-C)\,\mu_{s}} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (R/R_{0}) - \frac{2\sqrt{k}\alpha(1-C)}{R_{0}}\mu \right\}, \quad (14)$$

$$u_{p} = -\frac{R_{o}}{4(1-C)\mu_{s}} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (R/R_{0})^{2} - (r/R_{0})^{2} + \frac{4(1-C)\mu_{s}}{SR_{0}^{2}} \right\} + \frac{\sqrt{k}R_{0}}{2\alpha(1-C)\mu_{s}} \frac{dp}{dz} \left\{ (R/R_{0}) - \frac{2\sqrt{k}\alpha(1-C)}{R_{0}}\mu \right\},$$
(15)

where $\mu = \mu_s / \mu_0$.

The volumetric flow flux, Q is now calculated as

$$Q = 2\pi (1 - C) \int_{0}^{R} r u_{f} dr + 2\pi C \int_{0}^{R} r u_{p} dr$$
$$= -\frac{\pi R_{o}^{4}}{8 (1 - C) \mu_{s}} \frac{dp}{dz} \left[(R/R_{0})^{4} + \beta (R/R_{0})^{2} - \frac{4(R/R_{0})^{2} \sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_{0}^{2}} \left\{ R_{0}(R/R_{0}) - 2\sqrt{k} \alpha \mu (1 - C) \right\} \right]$$
(16)

the third integrals in the closed form are straightforward. Using now the definitions from the published literature [39, 47], the expressions for the impedance (flow resistance), λ , the wall shear stress distribution in the stenotic region, τ_w , shearing stress at the stenosis throats, τ_s and shear stresses at the stenosis critical height, τ_c in their non-dimensional form are derived as

$$\lambda = (1 - C) \,\mu \left\{ 1 - L_0 / L + \frac{\eta}{L} \int_{d}^{d+L_0} \phi(z) \, dz \right\}, \ (20)$$

$$\tau_{\rm w} = \frac{\eta (1 - C)\mu}{\left[(R/R_0)^3 + \beta (R/R_0) - \frac{4(R/R_0)\sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_0^2} \left\{ R_0(R/R_0) - 2\sqrt{k} \alpha \mu (1 - C) \right\} \right]},$$
(21)

with $\beta = 8C(1 - C) \mu_s / SR_0^2$, a non-dimensional suspension parameter.

From Equation (16), one now obtains

$$\frac{dp}{dz} = -\frac{8(1-C)\,\mu_s\,Q}{\pi\,R_o^4}\phi(z),$$
(17)

where

$$\phi(z) = 1/F(z), F(z) = \left[(R/R_0)^4 + \beta (R/R_0)^2 - \frac{4(R/R_0)^2 \sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_0^2} \left\{ R_0(R/R_0) - 2\sqrt{k} \alpha \mu (1 - C) \right\} \right].$$

The pressure drop, $\Delta p (= p \text{ at } z = 0, -p \text{ at } z = L)$ across the stenosis in the tube of length, L is obtained as

$$\Delta p = \int_{0}^{L} \left(-\frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}z} \right) \mathrm{d}z = \frac{8(1-\mathrm{C})\,\mu_{\mathrm{s}}\mathrm{Q}}{\pi\,\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{o}}^{4}}\psi, \quad (18)$$

where

$$\psi = \int_{0}^{d} [\phi(z)]_{R/R_0=1} dz + \int_{d}^{d+L_0} \phi(z) dz + \int_{d+L_0}^{L} [\phi(z)]_{R/R_0=1} dz.$$
(19)

The analytical evaluation of the second integral in the expression for ψ obtained above seems to be a formidable task therefore shall be evaluated numerically whereas the analytical evaluations of first and

$$\tau_{\rm s} = \frac{\eta \left(1 - C\right) \mu}{\left[a^3 + \beta a - \frac{4a\sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_0^2} \left\{R_0 a - 2\sqrt{k}\alpha \mu \left(1 - C\right)\right\}\right]},$$
(22)

$$\tau_{\rm c} = \frac{\eta \left(1 - C\right) \mu}{\left[b^3 + \beta b - \frac{4b\sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_0^2} \left\{R_0 b - 2\sqrt{k} \alpha \mu \left(1 - C\right)\right\}\right]},$$
(23)

where $\eta = 1 + \beta - \frac{4\sqrt{k}}{\alpha R_0^2} \left\{ R_0 - 2\sqrt{k} \alpha \mu (1 - C) \right\},\ a = 1 - 1.25\delta/R_0, b = 1 - 0.75\delta/R_0.$

 $\lambda = \overline{\lambda}/\lambda_0$, $(\tau_w, \tau_s, \tau_c) = (\overline{\tau}_w, \overline{\tau}_s, \overline{\tau}_c)/\tau_0$, $\lambda_0 = 8 \mu_0 L/\pi\eta R_0^4$, $\tau_0 = 4 \mu_0 Q/\pi\eta R_0^3$ are the flow resistance and shear stress, respectively for a Newtonian fluid in a normal artery (no stenosis), and $\overline{\lambda}$, $\overline{\tau}_w$ and $\overline{\tau}_s$ are the impedance, wall shear stress and shearing stress at stenosis throat, respectively in their dimensional form obtained from the definitions: $\overline{\lambda} = \Delta p/Q$, $\overline{\tau}_w = (-R/2)dp/dz$, $\overline{\tau}_s = (\overline{\tau}_w)_{R/R_0=a}$ and $\overline{\tau}_c = (\overline{\tau}_w)_{R/R_0=b}$.

4. Numerical results and discussion

To have an estimate of quantitative effects of the various parameters on the result of the study, computer codes are develop to evaluate the analytical results obtained in Equations (13)–(16) numerically in a tube of radius 0.01 cm at the temperature of 37°C. The values of the parameters selected [43, 47] as: d = 0; $L_0(cm) = 1$; L(cm) =



Fig. 2. Impedance, λ versus stenosis height, δ/R_0 for different C.



Fig. 3. Impedance, λ versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different Darcy number, $k^{1/2}.$

1,2,5; C = 0,0.2,0.4,0.6; α = 0.1,0.2,0.3,0.4,0.5; \sqrt{k} (square root of Darcy number, k and hereafter referred as Darcy number) = 0.1,0.2,0.3,0.4; δ/R_0 = 0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20. It is to note here that the present analysis corresponds to the flow in a normal artery (no stenosis) and to the flow of a Newtonian fluid for parameters value δ/R_0 = 0 and C = 0, respectively.

The flow resistance (impedance), λ increases with hematocrit, C for any given stenosis height, δ/R_0 and also increases with the stenosis height, δ/R_0 for any given hematocrit, C (Fig. 2).

The impedance, λ increases with increasing Darcy number, \sqrt{k} for any given set of other parameters (Fig. 3). The flow characteristic, λ is found to be independent of the Darcy number, \sqrt{k} for a normal (no



Fig. 4. Impedance, λ versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different slip parameter, $\alpha.$

stenosis) artery (Fig. 3). One observes that the blood flow characteristic, λ increases with the slip parameter, α for other given parameters and the magnitude of the same is independent of the slip parameter, α for a normal artery (Fig. 4). The impedance, λ decreases with the increasing value of the parameter, L which in turn implies that λ increases with stenosis length, L_0 (Fig. 5). The resistance to flow, λ steeply increases with the hematocrit, C for any given value of α , \sqrt{k} and δ/R_0 (Fig. 6). For other given set of parameters, the blood flow characteristic, λ decreases from its maximal magnitude at $\sqrt{k} = 0$ to its asymptotic value at $\sqrt{k} = 0.15$ (Fig. 7). This concludes that the flow resistance assumes considerably higher magnitude in the artery without permeable wall than its corresponding value in the artery with permeable wall. One notices that flow resistance, λ increases with the slip parameter, α from its minimal value at $\alpha = 0.1$ and achieves an asymptotic magnitude at about $\alpha = 0.5$ (Fig. 8).

The wall shear stress in the stenotic region, τ_w increases rapidly from its approached value (at $z/L_0 = 0$) and achieves its maximal magnitude at stenosis first throat located approximately at $z/L_0 = 1/6$, it then decreases steeply to its value at the stenosis critical height at $z/L_0 = 1/2$ and further increases steeply to its peak value at the stenosis second throat (same magnitude as at the stenosis first throat) located approximately at $z/L_0 = 5/6$ and finally decreases rapidly to its approached value at the end point of the constriction profile (i.e., at $z/L_0 = 1$). The blood flow characteristic, τ_w increases with the hematocrit, C and the stenosis height, δ/R_0 for any axial location in the



Fig. 5. Impedance, λ versus stenosis height, δ/R_0 for different L.



Fig. 6. Impedance, λ versus C for different stenosis height, $\delta/R_o.$



Fig. 7. Impedance, λ versus Darcy number, $k^{1/2}$ for different stenosis height, $\delta/R_o.$



Fig. 8. Impedance, λ versus slip parameter, α for different stenosis height, δ/R_o .



Fig. 9. Wall Shear stress distribution, τ_w in stenotic region for different δ/R_o and C.

stenotic region. It is to note that the blood flow characteristic, τ_w assumes a constant magnitude for a given hematocrit, C for $\delta/R_0 = 0$ (Fig. 9).

For any given set of other parameters, the wall shear stress increases with the Darcy number, \sqrt{k} (Fig. 10). At any axial location in the stenotic region, the flow characteristic τ_w increases with the slip parameter, α (Fig. 11).

The shear stress at stenosis throats, τ_s (as observed above the shear stress at stenosis two throats assumes the same magnitude) increases with the hematocrit, C as well as with the stenosis height, δ/R_0 (Fig. 12). τ_s also increases with Darcy number, \sqrt{k} as well as with the slip parameter, α (Figs. 13 and 14). The blood flow characteristic τ_s possesses characteristic similar



Fig. 10. Wall Shear stress distribution, τ_w in stenotic region for different $k^{1/2}.$



Fig. 11. Shear stress at stenosis throat, τ_s versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different α .



Fig. 12. Shear stress at stenosis throat, τ_s versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different C.



Fig. 13. Shear stress at stenosis throat, τ_s versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different $k^{1/2}$.



Fig. 14. Shear stress at stenosis throat, τ_s versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different $\alpha.$

to that of the flow resistance, λ with respect to any parameter. The shear stress at stenosis critical height, τ_c too increases with the hematocrit, C, Darcy number, \sqrt{k} , slip parameter, α and the stenosis height, δ/R_0 (Fig. 15). The variations in τ_c is similar to that of the shear stress at stenosis throats, τ_s and the impedance, λ with respect to any given parameter. However, τ_c assumes significantly smaller magnitude than the corresponding magnitude of the shear stress at stenosis throats, τ_s (Figs. 12–15).



Fig. 15. Shear stress at stenosis throat critical height, τ_c versus stenosis height, δ/R_o for different C, α and $k^{1/2}$.

5. Conclusions

A macroscopic two-phase model of blood has been applied to discuss the flow through an overlapping stenosed artery with permeable wall. The flow resistance increases with the hematocrit, stenosis size (height and length both), Darcy number as well as with the slip parameter. The informations that the impedance assumes considerably lower magnitude in the artery with permeable wall than its corresponding magnitude in the artery with non-permeable wall and the flow resistance decreases with the hematocrit seems to be of certain clinical use and the practical applications. The increasing permeability of the artery wall and the decreasing hematocrit thus seem to be helpful in the functioning of the diseased artery. The wall shear stress at any axial location in the stenotic region possesses the variations similar to that of the impedance with respect to any parameter. The magnitude of the shear stress at the two stenosis throats is same and is significantly higher than its corresponding value at the stenosis critical height. The shear stress at stenosis throats and at the stenosis critical height possess characteristic similar to that of the impedance. The magnitude of the shear stress at stenosis critical height is reasonably smaller than its corresponding value at the throats. Although, some useful conclusions have been drawn above, however, author feels that considerable amount of research is necessary to address the problem more realistically and to draw powerful conclusions.

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