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Citation for published version (APA):

Huberts, W., Bosboom, E. M. H., & Vosse, van de, F. N. (2007). Vascular remodeling after AVF creation as angioaccess for hemodialysis : the predictive value of a patient-specific computer model. Poster session presented at Mate Poster Award 2007 : 12th Annual Poster Contest.

Document status and date: Published: 01/01/2007

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of Record (includes final page, issue and volume numbers)

Please check the document version of this publication:

• A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.

• The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.

• The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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Vascular remodeling after AVF creation as angioaccess for hemodialysis: the predictive value of a patient-specific computer model

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Introduction

Functioning of hemodialysis arteriovenous fistula (AVF) immediately after surgical creation is mainly hampered by nonmaturation, which is characterized by insufficient flow increase and insufficient vessel remodeling. Despite available preoperative diagnostics 20-50% of all newly created AVFs fail^{1,2}. The initial postoperative flow (pFV) increase is generally accepted to be indicative for proper maturation².

Aim of the study

The development of a patient-specific computer model that is able to predict the pFV increase after AVF creation as angioaccess for hemodialysis. Eventually, the model will be used for surgical AVF planning.

Research approach

Vascular hemodynamics is simulated by either one of two different modeling approaches, lumped parameter modeling³ or 1D-wave propagation modeling⁴. For both models the human vascular tree is divided into segments representing local blood and vessel wall properties (fig. 1). All models are adapted to patient-specific conditions and results are compared with clinical measurements.



Figure 1: The vascular tree divided in segments.

Lumped parameter model⁹(OD): Pressure is represented by electrical potential and flow by electrical current. A resistor and an inductor are used to model the viscous and inertial blood properties. Vessel compliance is modeled with a condensator.

*Wave propagation model*⁴ (*1D*): Flow in a vessel is divided in an inertia dominated core and a friction dominated boundary layer. By assuming equilibrium between inertia and viscous forces at the transition from core to boundary layer, a velocity profile as function of the flow and the pressure gradient is derived that is used to solve the 1D momentum equation.

Patient-specific model input

- CE-MRA⁵: Geometry and diameters (fig. 2)
- Ultrasound: Diameters, blood flow and wall distensibility (fig 3)
- PC-MRI: Arterial blood flow and cardiac output
- Tonometry and Penaz method: Radial and finger pressure







Figure 3: A transversal B-mode image of the cephalic vein for different congestion pressures⁵.

Future work

- Test the feasibility of the 1D-model and extend the model with heart and veins
- Incorporate nonlinear pressure-flow relationships for veins and anastomosis
- Introduce visco-elastic behavior of the vessel wall
- Collect patient-specific data for 60 patients
- Perform simulations for 60 patients
- Determine the model's predictive value

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