

U HYPERTENSION, LIPIDS AND PREVENTION

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LARGE AND SMALL ARTERY ELASTICITY AND NT-PRO B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE: RESULTS OF THE MULTI-ETHNIC STUDY FOR ATHEROSCLEROSIS

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Authors: <u>Daniel A. Duprez</u>, David Jacobs, Jr, David Bluemke, Joao Lima, Hossein Bahrami, Carmen Peralta, Michael Criqui, Lori Daniels, Alan Maisel, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Background: Large (LAE) and small artery (SAE) elasticity are predictive of heart failure (HF) events beyond blood pressure (BP). NT-proBtype Natriuretic Peptide (NT-proBNP) is an early diagnostic marker for HF. The association of arterial elasticity and NT-proBNP is unknown in asymptomatic subjects. We studied the association of LAE and SAE and NT-proBNP in the MESA study cohort.

Methods: 5,223 women and men of white, African American, Hispanic and Chinese ethnicity, aged 45-84 years and free of overt CVD were recruited in 6 US communities. Pulse wave contour registration at the radial artery was performed in all subjects using radial tonometry. LAE and SAE were derived from diastolic pulse contour analysis. At the same time a venous blood sample was collected for analysis of NT-proBNP. Left ventricular mass (LVM) was calculated from MRI measurements.

Results: NT-proBNP had median 54 (IQR, 24- 110) pg/mL. Table 1 presents the slope (β) in LAE, SAE each regressed on ln(NT-proBNP) in 3 models: 1) unadjusted, 2)adjusted for age, site, race, gender, height, BP, heart rate, BMI, BP, lipids, BP and lipid lowering medication, smoking, diabetes and 3) further adjusted for LV mass.

Conclusions: In asymptomatic subjects free of overt CVD, NT-proBNP is inversely associated with both LAE and SAE. These associations are partly reflective of larger LV mass, consistent with the idea that stiffer arteries contribute to elevated NT-proBNP and left ventricular dysfunction.

Table 1

	Unadjusted (n=5223)		Adjusted (n=4886)		Further adjusted for LV mass (n=3635)	
	β	P-value	β	P-value	β	P-value
LAE	-3.0	0.04	-5.5	<0.0001	-3.3	0.04
SAE	-6.8	<0.0001	-4.8	0.009	-3.4	0.05