MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA AND INFARCTION

PREPROCEDURAL PLASMA NEOPTERIN LEVELS AND CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS AFTER PRIMARY CORONARY STENT IMPLANTATION IN PATIENTS WITH STABLE ANGINA PECTORIS

ACC Poster Contributions
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Authors: Kazuki Mizutani, Kenichi Sugioka, Takahiko Naruko, Ryushi Komatsu, Satoko Wada, Yoshiki Matsumura, Masashi Nakaagawa, Nobuyuki Shirai, Akira Itoh, Kazuo Haze, Minoru Yoshiyama, Makiko Ueda, Osaka City General Hospital, Osaka, Japan, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan

Background: Neopterin is an activation marker for monocytes/macrophages. We have reported that neopterin is associated with atherosclerotic plaque instability in coronary and carotid arteries (Heart 2007, Atherosclerosis 2010, J Atherosler Thromb 2010). We prospectively investigated the predictive value of plasma neopterin levels on 2-year cardiovascular events in patients with stable angina pectoris (SAP) undergoing coronary stent implantation.

Methods: We studied consecutive 123 patients with SAP who underwent successful primary coronary stent implantation (44 patients with bare metal stent implantation: BMS group and 79 with drug-eluting stent implantation: DES group). In all patients, plasma neopterin levels were measured on admission using HPLC. Cardiovascular events were defined as cardiac death, acute coronary syndrome, target vessel revascularization (TVR) or non-TVR at 2-year follow-up. In addition, one frozen coronary artery specimen after DES was obtained at autopsy and 2 frozen specimens after BMS by endarterectomy, followed by immunohistochemical staining for neopterin.

Results: Twenty six patients had cardiovascular events. Preprocedural plasma neopterin levels were significantly higher in patients with cardiovascular events than in those without them in all patients (19.4 [16.4-25.4] nmol/L vs.12.9 [10.8-18.3] nmol/L, P=0.0006) and in BMS group (19.2 [16.8-25.4] nmol/L vs. 12.4 [9.5-17.3] nmol/L, P=0.0005), but not in DES group (19.6 [10.8-25.0] nmol/L vs. 13.4 [11.0-18.2] nmol/L, P=0.53). Multiple logistic regression analysis showed that the elevated neopterin levels (the highest tertile of neopterin levels) were an independent predictor of cardiovascular events (OR 5.20, 95%CI 1.94 to 13.98; P=0.001). Immunohistochemical staining showed abundant neopterin-positive macrophages in the neointima after BMS, but only sparse neopterin positivity after DES.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that neopterin is closely associated with restenosis after bare metal stent implantation and plaque instability in patients with SAP.