Originals

Background. Some studies have shown that diabetic patients had hypercoagulability.

Objective. To compare the haemostasis pattern between overweight diabetic patients and control subjects.

Design. Twenty three overweight patients of our Diabetes Unit chosen at random (16 male/7 females) with type 2 diabetes mellitus were enrolled. The clinical characteristics of these patients were: age 61.3 ± 12.3 years, body mass index (BMI) 27.2 ± 3.9 kg/m² and duration of diabetes 8.4 ± 8.7 years. A group of twenty three voluntary controls chosen at random (15 males/8 females) without diabetes were studied. The clinical characteristics of this group were: age 62 ± 13 years and BMI 27.6 ± 3.1 kg/m². All patients (diabetic and controls) underwent the following examinations: plasmaing and activator inhibitor type 1 (PAI-1), thrombomodulin/thrombin-III complex (TAT), tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA); von Willebrand antigen (vW), protein C (PC), protein S (PS), thrombomodulin (TH), activated VII factor, D dimer (DD), plasmin-antiplasmin (PAP), and postthrombin activation fragment F1+2 (F12).

Hemostasis parameters were compared in both groups and within the diabetic subjects in the subgroups with and without micro and macroangiopathy. In both groups, correlation analysis was performed between haemostasis and clinical parameters.

Results. Overweight diabetic patients showed an increment in procoagulant parameters (F12 1.38 ± 0.64 vs 1.21 ± 0.25 mmol/l; p < 0.05; TAT 27,4 ± 11.7 vs 21.7 ng/ml; p < 0.05), and a decrease in fibrinolytic parameters (vW 81.7 ± 28 (MU/ml); p < 0.05), and a decrease in fibrinolytic parameters (TAT 27,4 ± 11.7 vs 21.7 ng/ml; p < 0.05), with a increase in D dimer (DD 22,3 ± 26.8 vs 9.7 ± 5.4 ng/ml; p < 0.05) and a increase in D dimer (DD 22,3 ± 26.8 vs 9.7 ± 5.4 ng/ml; p < 0.05) and a decrease in fibrinolytic parameters (vW 81.7 ± 28 (MU/ml); p < 0.05). These parameters were compared in both groups and within the diabetic subjects in the subgroups with and without micro and macroangiopathy. In both groups, correlation analysis was performed between hemostasis and clinical parameters.

Conclusion. High risk haemostasis patterns in overweight patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

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PALABRAS CLAVE: Diabetes mellitus tipo 2, Estudios de riesgo, Hipercoagulabilidad, Sobrepeso.

Key words: Type 2 diabetes mellitus. Haemostasis. Overweight.
INTRODUCTION
Diabetes mellitus is an independent risk factor for the development of atherosclerosis. The possible mechanisms are unclear. It is postulated that chronic inflammation may contribute to increase the risk of coronary heart disease in different ways: increasing serum concentrations of acute phase reactants (such as fibrinogen or C reactive protein) or modifying the serum lipid pattern (such as decrease of HDL-cholesterol and increase of triglycerides). Another factor involved in the atherogenesis of diabetic patients is the promotion of the oxidation of LDL-cholesterol since oxidation enhances the atherogenic capacity of those molecules.

More recently, some authors have shown that diabetic patients had a hypercoagulable state.

The aim of our study was to compare the haemostasis pattern between overweight patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 and a control group.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Population
Twenty-three overweight patients of our Diabetes Unit (16 males; 7 females) and twenty three controls (15 males; 8 females) without diabetes were studied. Both groups were chosen at random and their characteristics are shown in table 1. Patients and controls did not take either anti-hypertensive or hypolipidaemic drugs. Diabetic patients took sulphamethoxazol as antihyperglycaemic agents. The study was approved by the local ethical committee and each patient gave informed consent to participate in the study.

Design
All patients (diabetic and controls) underwent the following examinations: plasma/serum activator inhibitor type (PIII-1), fibrinogen (normal range 1.0-4.1 ng/ml) was determined by enzyme immunoassay with a commercial kit (Staclot, Asnieres-Sur-Seine, France).

The diabetes duration was of 8.9 ± 2.4 years, microangiopathy was present in 48.9% and macroangiopathy in 12.8% of diabetic patients.

Statistical analysis
The results were expressed as mean ± standard deviation. The distribution of variables was analyzed with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Quantitative variables with normal distribution were analyzed with a two-tailed, paired Student’s t test. Non-parametric variables were analyzed with the U-Mann-Whitney test. Qualitative variables were analyzed with the chi-square test, with Yates correction as necessary, and Fisher’s test. Pearson and Spearman tests were used in correlation analysis. A p-value under 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS
Twenty three overweight diabetic patients and 23 overweight no diabetic patients were enrolled in the study. The mean age and BMI were similar in both groups (table 1). The diabetes duration was of 8.9 ± 2.4 years, microangiopathy was present in 48.9% and macroangiopathy in 12.8% of diabetic patients.

Table 2 shows differences between both groups with an increase in procoagulant parameters in diabetic patients, with increase of urinary albumin excretion of 30 mg or more per 24 hours. Patients with signs or symptoms of cerebrovascular disease were evaluated with a CNS computerized tomography. The final diagnosis was reviewed by a neurologist.

Peripheral vascular disease was clinically defined by the presence of intermittent claudication, absent or weakened peripheral pulses, or both. Retinopathy was documented by standard fundus eye examination and diagnosed on the presence of microaneurysmas, venous dilatation, cotton-wool spots, neovascularization or hemorrhages. Clinical neuropathy was defined by an abnormal neurologic examination, consistent with the presence of peripheral sensorimotor neuropathy. Nephropathy was defined by the presence of urinary albumin excretion of 30 mg or more per 24 hours.

Chronic diabetic complications assessment
All diabetic patients were checked in the Clinic for chronic complications. Ischaemic heart disease was assessed by anamnesis and in addition, a 12-lead resting electrocardiogram was recorded in supine position (Mac PC Electrocardiograph, Marquette Electrocardiograph, and evaluated by a cardiologist. The presence of any of the following findings was considered suggestive of coronary heart disease: T wave inversion, ST segment depression and Q waves. Patients with signs or symptoms of cerebrovascular disease were evaluated with a CNS computerized tomography. The final diagnosis was reviewed by a neurologist.

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a significant increase in prothrombin activation fragment F1+2 and factor VIII(a). Values of PAI and TAT did not have statistical differences. Fibrinolytic parameters showed significant differences in TPA and D dimer (increased) and PAP (decreased), without differences in FvW. A decrease in anti-coagulant parameters was observed in diabetic patients (thrombomodulin), without differences in protein S and C.

All haemostasis parameters were compared in diabetic patients in the group with (48.9%) and without microangiopathy (51.1%), but no differences were found. In a correlation analysis between HbA1c and haemostatic parameters, only protein C and TPA showed significant inverse correlations (r = -0.34; p < 0.01 and r = -0.32; p < 0.05, respectively). Another correlation analysis was performed between BMI and haemostasis parameters, only FvW was correlated with BMI (r = 0.32; p < 0.05). No correlations were found between haemostasis parameters with BMI and HbA1c in non diabetic subjects.

No correlations were found among diabetes evolution, age or microalbuminuria levels with haemostasis parameters in diabetic patients.

DISCUSSION

Patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus have a variety of coagulation dysfunctions, which could contribute to microvascular and macrovascular complications. The hypercoagulable state has been demonstrated in a group of overweight diabetic patients under strict metabolic control who had an increase in TAT levels. In our study no significant differences in TAT levels were detected between overweight diabetic and control subjects, but F1+2 and activated factor VII were increased in diabetic patients, showing a hypercoagulable state. In diabetic patients,11 it has been shown that fibrinolytic parameters, such as PAI-1 and t-PA antigen, were strongly related to insulin resistance, whereas the link with factor VII and other procoagulant parameters remained weak. These alterations might contribute to increased cardiovascular mortality in diabetes. For example, Mortishire et al.12 showed significantly higher levels of TAT, fibrinogen and PAI-1 in 22 diabetic patients with coronary heart disease than 51 patients without diabetic microangiopathy.

Another haemostasis alteration in overweight diabetic patients is a decrease in the anti-coagulant system. Patients with diabetes have activated protein C resistance, suggesting that final steps of the protein C/S inhibiting system could be abnormal.13 These abnormalities of anticoagulant system might constitute a potential trigger for haemostatic activation. Gabazza et al.14 demonstrated alterations in overweight diabetic patients in the plasma levels of fibrinogen, F1+2, fibrin monomer, protein C antigen, total protein S antigen, and thrombomodulin. Patients with microalbuminuria showed low plasma levels of activated protein C-protein C inhibitor complex and significant low values of the anti-coagulant response to exogenous thrombomodulin, indicating a poor plasma reactivity to the anti-coagulant effect of thrombomodulin. Our study showed a decrease in thrombomodulin, but no differences between diabetic patients with micro or macroangiopathy were found.

Previous studies have showed alterations in fibrinogen system in overweight diabetic patients, such as a significant increase in D dimer levels. Increased levels of plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1) might be involved in the pathogenesis of the vascular complications of diabetes mellitus. However, Mansfield et al. showed low PAI-1 levels in subjects with retinopathy, without a clear explanation.

The lack of relation between glycaemic control and haemostasis parameters in our study, could be due to a intrinsic altered state in diabetic patients. This haemostasis alteration with other risk factors such as hyperglycaemia or hyperlipidaemia could start micro- and macro-angiopathy, and haemostasis could act in a second step, so that there was a lack of relationship between diabetic complications and haemostasis parameters. For example Altunbas et al.15 in diabetic patients achieving good control after 3 months of therapy intensification, observed a significant reduction in protein S and Cb-binding protein; however, no differences could be observed in other parameters and HbA1c did not show any correlation with plasma antigenic levels or functional activities of coagulation inhibitors either at baseline or at 3 months of good glycaemic control. Our study only showed correlation between protein S and PAI with HbA1c. Previous data have indicated that even mild postprandial hyperglycaemia in diabetic subjects,16 who are concerned to be in good control, activates haemostasis. In this study, the postprandial levels of glucose, triglycerides, fibrinogen, F1+2, TAT and D dimer were lower after glibenclamide administration compared to placebo, while the concentrations of insulin and C-peptide were higher. These data showed a continuous alteration in coagulation in diabetic patients, another interesting detail is the prothrombin state demonstrated in relatives of type 2 diabetic patients, who in a case-control study exhibited levels of prothrombin F1+2 and D dimer than control subjects.17

An additional point of interest is the relationship between some haemostasis parameters and BMI. One possibility is that changes in these parameters are related to adipose-tissue derived cytokines.18

In conclusion, hypercoagulable state is present in diabetic patients which with present knowledge can be viewed as a risk factor for chronic complications. The role of adipose tissue as a possible cause of chronic inflammatory activity in diabetic patients requires further investigation.

REFERENCES

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