

Experimental Evaluation of the Influence of Complete Artificial Circulation on Renal Circulation and Tissue Metabolism—Comparative Study of Pulsatile vs Nonpulsatile Circulation—

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In this study, pulsatile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation were compared to evaluate renal circulation under complete artificial circulation. In addition, differences were also compared between animals supported by high (assist rate 80%)- and low (assist rate 60%)-level artificial circulation.

Using 20 pigs, ventricular fibrillation was induced after cardiogenic shock, assist by mechanical support by pulsatile and nonpulsatile artificial circulation. Hemodynamics and renal circulation were evaluated by measuring renal arterial blood flow, renal cortical blood flow, renal medullar blood flow, cortical/medullar flow ratio, serum urea nitrogen levels, blood creatinine levels, urinary β_2 -microglobulin (MG) levels, and serum β_2 -MG levels. Tissue metabolism was evaluated by comparing arterial ketone body ratios and lactic acid/pyruvic acid ratios.

During the acute stage of cardiogenic shock, redistribution of renal blood flow and tissue metabolism were improved in the pigs with pulsatile artificial circulation, suggesting the usefulness of pulse pressure. In nonpulsatile artificial circulation, the possibility of irreversible renal dysfunction was suggested. Although changes in renal blood flow were smaller in high-level artificial circulation than in low-level artificial circulation, physiological maintenance of renal circulation was better in pulsatile artificial circulation than in nonpulsatile artificial circulation. These results suggest that this effect of pulsatile assisted circulation may become more marked when evaluated in the early state after cardiogenic shock. (*Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2003; 9: 355–64)

Key words: assisted circulation, VAD, pulsatile, nonpulsatile

Introduction

During the 1980s, it was reported experimentally that nonpulsatile circulatory support contributes to survival without inducing any physiological abnormalities,¹⁾ and the usefulness of nonpulsatile assisted circulation has been evaluated experimentally from various points of view.²⁻⁵⁾ However, all of these studies have been evaluated using normal hearts, and no previous studies have been conducted to research the usefulness of nonpulsatile assisted

circulation in cardiogenic shock models.

After the onset of cardiogenic shock, redistribution of blood flow occurs as blood flow in the heart and brain is relatively maintained by the biological defense mechanism, though blood flow in the kidneys, liver, and skeletal muscles decreases proportionally. Prolonged uneven distribution of organ blood flow may cause multiple organ failure (MOF). In this institution, the usefulness of left ventricular assisted circulation for cardiogenic shock has been evaluated establishing that pulsatile assisted circulation was more useful for maintaining peripheral circulation (renal circulation in particular) and tissue metabolism than nonpulsatile assisted circulation.⁶⁻⁹⁾ Particularly after the onset of cardiogenic shock, sufficient blood flow cannot be maintained by nonpulsatile assisted circulation in many patients.

In this study, to further compare the usefulness of pul-

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satile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation, we excluded the influence of natural, and compared pulsatile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation under complete artificial circulation (biventricular assist under the state of ventricular fibrillation). In addition, assuming decreases in assisted blood flow that we frequently encounter in the clinical setting, two different levels of assisted circulation were established. Subsequently, experimental evaluation was performed focusing particularly on renal circulation and tissue metabolism.

Materials and Methods

All the experiments were performed according to the guidelines for animal experiments (Exp Anim 1987; 36: 285–8, JALAS).

Using 20 pigs (mean body weight: 43.2 ± 3.2 kg), anesthesia was induced by administering sodium pentobarbital (20–25 mg/kg) via a vein in the right ear, followed by the maintenance of anesthesia with intravenous ketamine hydrochloride (1 mg/kg/hr). After tracheostomy, ventilation was regulated by maintaining the ventilation frequency and volume at 20–25 times/min and 10–15 ml/kg/ventilation, respectively, using a ventilator (Sarvo Ventilator 900E, Siemens Elema Inc., Stockholm, Sweden). A 7-Fr pigtail catheter was inserted through an internal carotid artery to measure aortic pressure and collect blood samples. A multi-lumen central venous catheter was inserted through an internal jugular vein to measure central venous pressure. Intravenous drip-infusion of electrolyte solution containing glucose was administered at a rate of 20 ml/kg/hr. Blood samples were collected 30 minutes later, and blood glucose levels were maintained at around 200 mg/dl while maintaining pH, PaO₂, and PaCO₂ at specified levels.

The chest was opened by median sternotomy, and an electromagnetic flowmeter (FB type, Nihon Kohden Co., Tokyo, Japan) was placed at the base of the ascending aorta to measure aortic blood flow. Subsequently, the sum of native aortic blood flow and pump flow was used as a total cardiac output. Following systemic administration of heparin (1 mg/kg), on left heart bypass, an inflow cannula in was inserted into the left ventricle and an outflow cannula into the ascending aorta. On right heart bypass, an inflow cannula was inserted into the right ventricle and an outflow cannula into pulmonary artery. An acute myocardial infarction model was made by ligation of diagonal branches of the anterior descending branch of the left coronary artery. After failing of the ventricular fibril-

lated heart, all pigs were supported by artificial circulation for three hours. Pigs were divided into the following two groups: pigs supported by nonpulsatile artificial circulation (Group NP: n=10) and those supported by pulsatile artificial circulation (Group P: n=10). In both groups, right heart bypass was maintained using centrifugal pumps (HPM-15, Nikkiso Inc., Tokyo, Japan). To maintain left heart bypass, a centrifugal pump was used in Group NP, and a pneumatic ventricular assist device, (volume = 40 ml, Zeon Medical Inc., Tokyo, Japan) was used in Group P. Furthermore, Groups P and NP were subdivided into the following four groups assuming the possibility of sufficient and insufficient recovery of aortic blood flow obtained before the onset of cardiogenic shock: pigs in which 60% of aortic blood flow was supported by artificial circulation (Group P₆₀: n=5, Group NP₆₀: n=5) and those in which 80% of aortic blood flow was supported by artificial circulation (Group P₈₀: n=5, Group NP₈₀: n=5). Subsequently, the left kidney was exposed retroperitoneally, and a Doppler blood flowmeter (T206, Transonic Systems Inc., Ithaca, NY, USA) was attached to the left renal artery. To evaluate renal blood flow, tissue blood flow was measured using a tissue blood flowmeter (ALF21RD, Advance Inc., Tokyo, Japan) inserted into a portion 5 mm deep from the kidney surface (cortical area) and another blood flowmeter inserted into a portion 10 mm deep from the surface (medullary area) (Fig. 1). To evaluate the usefulness of pulsatile assisted circulation and to compare differences in the level of circulatory support, hourly urine volume, arterial ketone body ratios (AKBR), and levels of lactic acid, pyruvic acid, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), and serum creatinine (Cr) were measured, in addition to blood and urinary levels of β_2 -microglobulin (β_2 -MG). The results were expressed as the mean \pm SD, and one-way ANOVA was used to evaluate serial changes and to test the significance among the respective groups. When significant differences were observed, multiple comparisons were performed using the Scheff method, and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Results

Hemodynamics (Table 1)

After the onset of ventricular fibrillation, the mean aortic pressure significantly decreased to 30 mmHg in the respective groups. Three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation, the mean aortic pressure recovered to 90 mmHg in Groups NP₈₀ and P₈₀, while it was main-

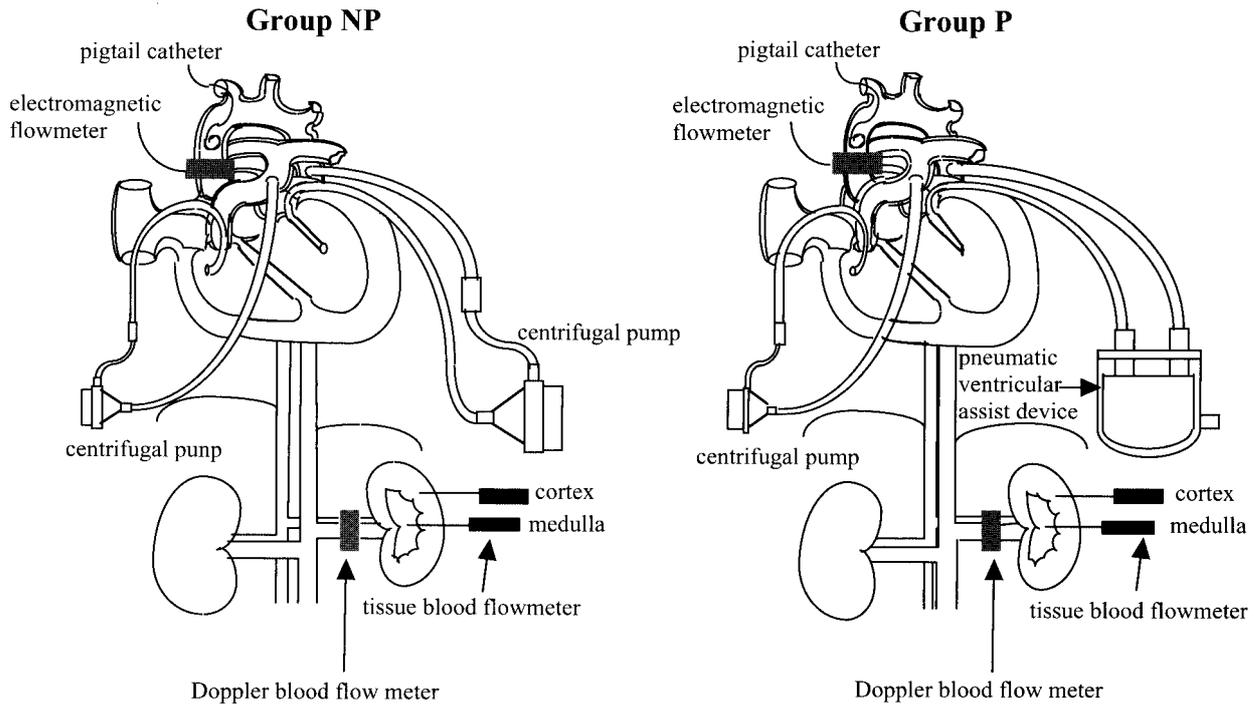


Fig. 1. Experimental model.

Table 1. Hemodynamics

	Pre	Shock	1 hr	2 hr	3 hr
Mean aortic pressure (mmHg)					
Group NP 80% bypass	92.3±9.7	32.6±3.3	85.3±5.3	95.3±8.7	88.4±9.8
Group P 80% bypass	99.7±11.5	34.0±5.4	80.0±11.3	90.7±11.5	90.3±13.8
Group NP 60% bypass	87.2±10.0	32.7±8.5	73.5±7.1	74.7±10.8	77.0±8.5
Group P 60% bypass	88.9±11.3	37.4±7.7	70.6±10.7	75.0±10.7	73.2±12.0
Pulse pressure (mmHg)					
Group NP 80% bypass	34.0±3.2	5.1±1.3	3.4±1.6	2.6±1.2	3.7±1.1
Group P 80% bypass	36.0±5.1	4.6±2.2	28.0±4.1	33.0±6.1	31.0±7.0
Group NP 60% bypass	33.0±4.2	6.0±2.5	3.5±1.6	2.3±1.4	3.3±1.9
Group P 60% bypass	36.5±5.1	6.8±1.2	27.5±5.1	27.1±4.1	26.0±5.3
Total cardiac output (L/min)					
Group NP 80% bypass	3.51±0.25	0.27±0.14	2.97±0.29	3.14±3.7	3.03±0.39
Group P 80% bypass	3.72±0.36	0.27±0.14	2.79±0.28	2.87±0.37	2.86±0.32
Group NP 60% bypass	3.60±0.60	0.29±0.12	2.22±0.40	2.12±0.28	2.05±0.13
Group P 60% bypass	3.78±0.44	0.30±0.17	2.27±0.30	2.05±0.24	2.01±0.31

tained at 75 mmHg in Groups NP₆₀ and P₆₀. Aortic pressure did not significantly differ among the groups. After the initiation of assisted circulation, pulse pressure did not significantly differ between Groups P₈₀ and P₆₀ (31.0±7.0 mmHg in Group P₈₀ vs. 26.0±5.3 mmHg in Group P₆₀). On the other hand, pulse pressure was maintained at 4 mmHg in Groups NP₈₀ and NP₆₀, and there

were no significant differences between the two groups. After the induction of cardiogenic shock, the total cardiac output significantly decreased to 0.27 L/min in the respective groups. However, three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation, the total cardiac output decreased to a level 80% of that before cardiogenic shock in Groups NP₈₀ and NP₆₀. In addition, the total cardiac out-

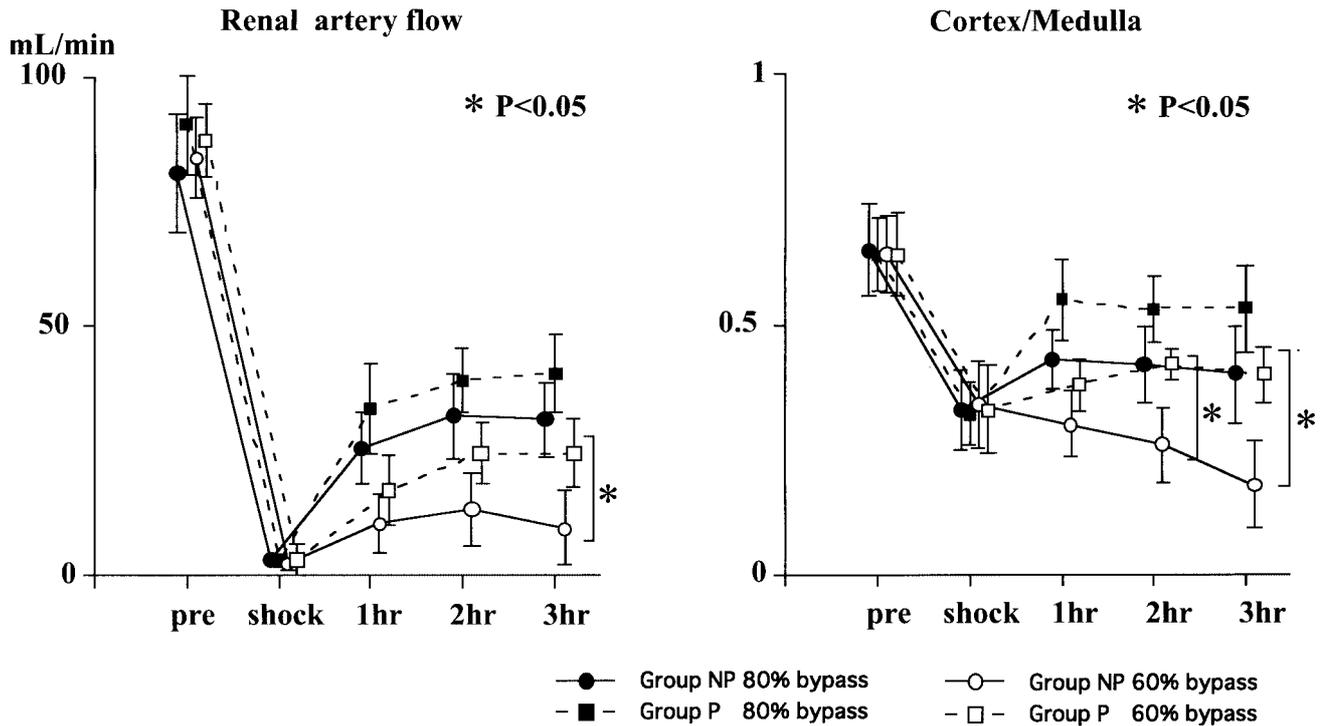


Fig. 2. Renal arterial blood flow and ratio of regional blood in the cortex and medulla.

put in Groups NP₆₀ and P₆₀ decreased to a level 60% of that before cardiogenic shock three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation.

Renal arterial blood flow (Fig. 2)

Renal arterial blood flow did not significantly differ between Groups NP₈₀ and P₈₀ during the three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation (31.0 ± 7.5 ml/min in Group NP₈₀ vs. 40.3 ± 7.9 ml/min in Group P₈₀). However, renal arterial blood flow tended to improve more in Group P than that in Group NP. Renal arterial blood flow significantly differed between Groups NP₆₀ and P₆₀ during the three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation (9.3 ± 7.8 ml/min in Group NP₆₀ vs. 24.4 ± 7.4 ml/min in Group P₆₀). Although renal arterial blood flow did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation. Renal cortical/medullar blood flow ratios obtained three hours after assisting were 0.40 ± 0.9 in Group NP₈₀ and 0.53 ± 0.08 in Group P₈₀, and there was no significant difference between the two groups. However, the ratio tended to improve more in Group P than in Group NP. Renal cortical/medullar blood flow ratios obtained three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation were

0.18 ± 0.08 in Group NP₆₀ and 0.41 ± 0.05 in Group P₆₀, and the ratio tended to improve more in Group P than in Group NP from the second hour of assisted circulation. Although the renal cortical/medullar blood flow ratio did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation.

Tissue blood flow in the renal cortex and medulla and their ratio (Fig. 3)

Renal circulation was evaluated by comparing tissue blood flows in the renal cortex and medulla obtained after the initiation of assisted circulation to those obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock. Renal cortical tissue blood flow obtained one hour after the initiation of assisted circulation were 0.89 ± 0.11 in Group P₈₀ and 0.68 ± 0.04 in Group NP₈₀, and there was a significant difference between the two groups. Although the renal cortical tissue blood flow obtained two and three hours after assisting did not significantly differ between the two groups, renal tissue blood flow tended to improve more in Group P than in Group NP. Renal cortical tissue blood flow obtained three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation were 0.19 ± 0.09 in Group NP₆₀ and 0.52 ± 0.12

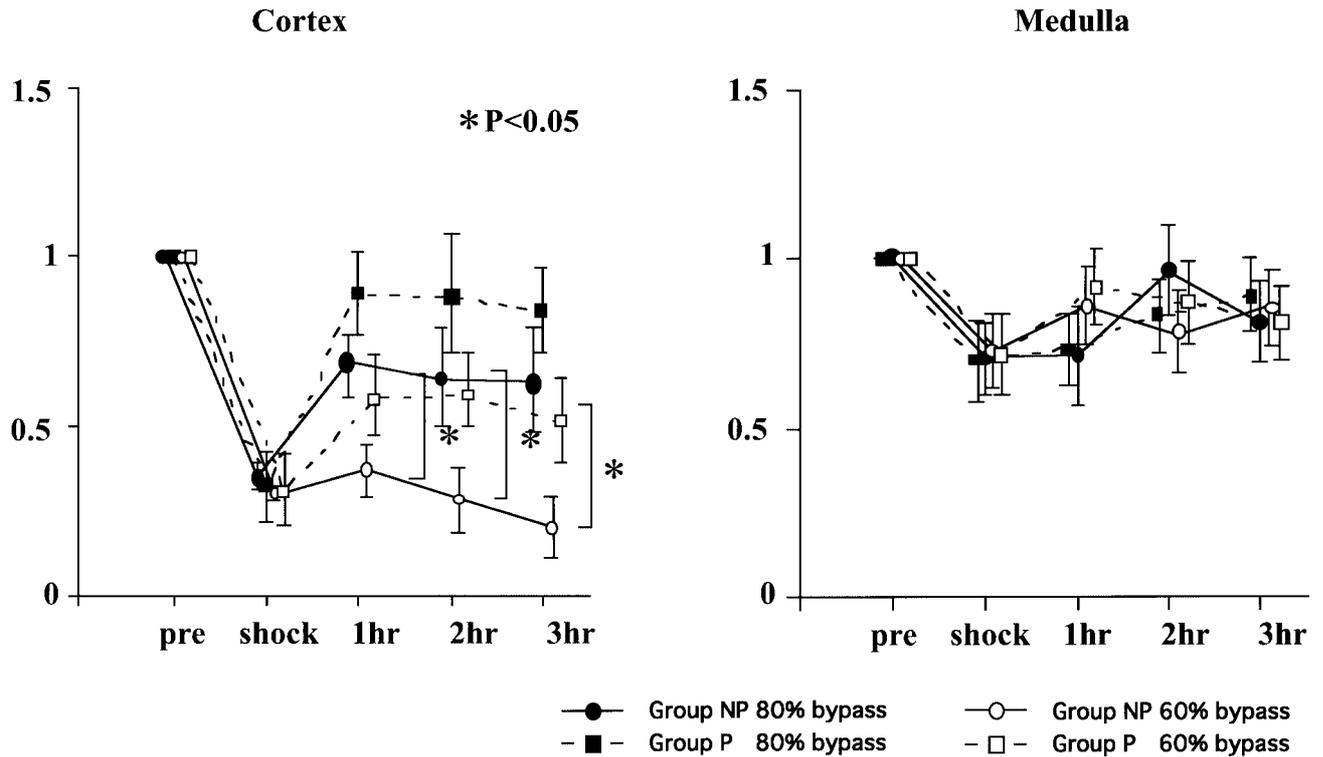


Fig. 3. Regional blood flow of the renal cortex and medulla.

in Group P₆₀. Therefore, renal cortical tissue blood flow significantly improved more in Group P₆₀ than in Group NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation. Although renal cortical tissue blood flow did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation. Tissue blood flow in the renal medulla slightly decreased in the respective groups immediately after assisting, however, it did not significantly differ among the respective groups thereafter.

Changes in urinary and blood β_2 -MG levels (Fig. 4)

Urinary β_2 -MG levels did not increase in Group P₈₀ even after the initiation of assisted circulation, however, they increased in Group NP₈₀. Therefore, urinary β_2 -MG levels obtained three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation significantly differed between Groups NP₈₀ and P₈₀ ($24.43 \pm 2.1 \mu\text{g/L}$ in Group NP₈₀ vs. $20.42 \pm 1.81 \mu\text{g/L}$ in Group P₈₀). Although urinary β_2 -MG levels did not significantly differ between Groups NP₆₀ and P₆₀, they were slightly lower in Group P than in Group NP. In addition, urinary β_2 -MG levels did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, however, they significantly differed

between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ two and three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation. During the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation, blood β_2 -MG levels did not significantly increase in any of these groups, and there were no significant differences among the four groups.

AKBR and lactic acid/pyruvic acid (L/P) ratio (Fig. 5)

Since AKBR was maintained at around the value obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock even after the initiation of assisted circulation, it did not significantly differ among the four groups. Although AKBR decreased immediately after the induction of cardiogenic shock, it did not significantly differ between Groups P₈₀ and NP₈₀. However, it tended to improve more in Group P than in Group NP two hours after the initiation of assisted circulation (0.68 ± 0.09 in Group P₈₀ vs. 0.52 ± 0.11 in Group NP₈₀). In addition, AKBR significantly improved more in Group P₆₀ than in Group NP₆₀ from the second hour of assisted circulation (three-hour values: 0.53 ± 0.09 in Group P₆₀ vs. 0.33 ± 0.04 in Group NP₆₀). Although AKBR did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted cir-

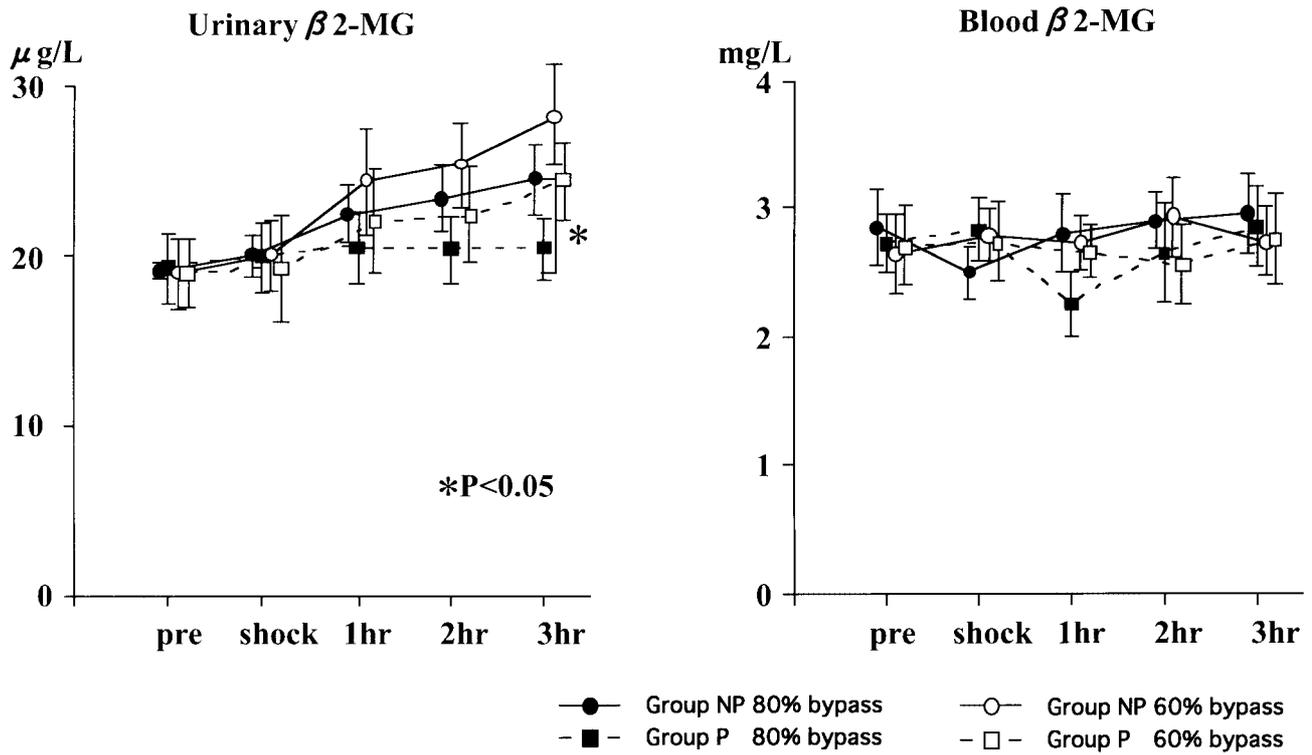


Fig. 4. Urine and serum β ₂-microglobulin.

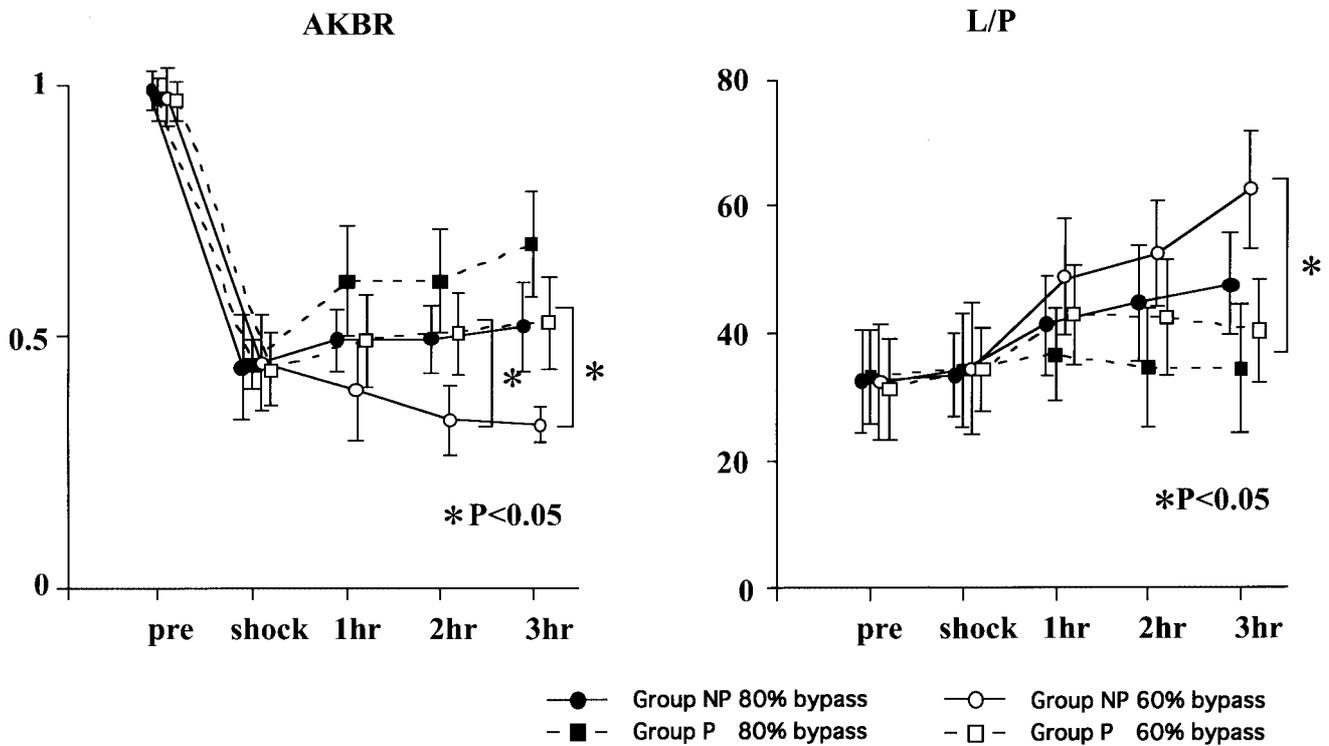


Fig. 5. Arterial keton body ratio and lactate/pyruvic acid.

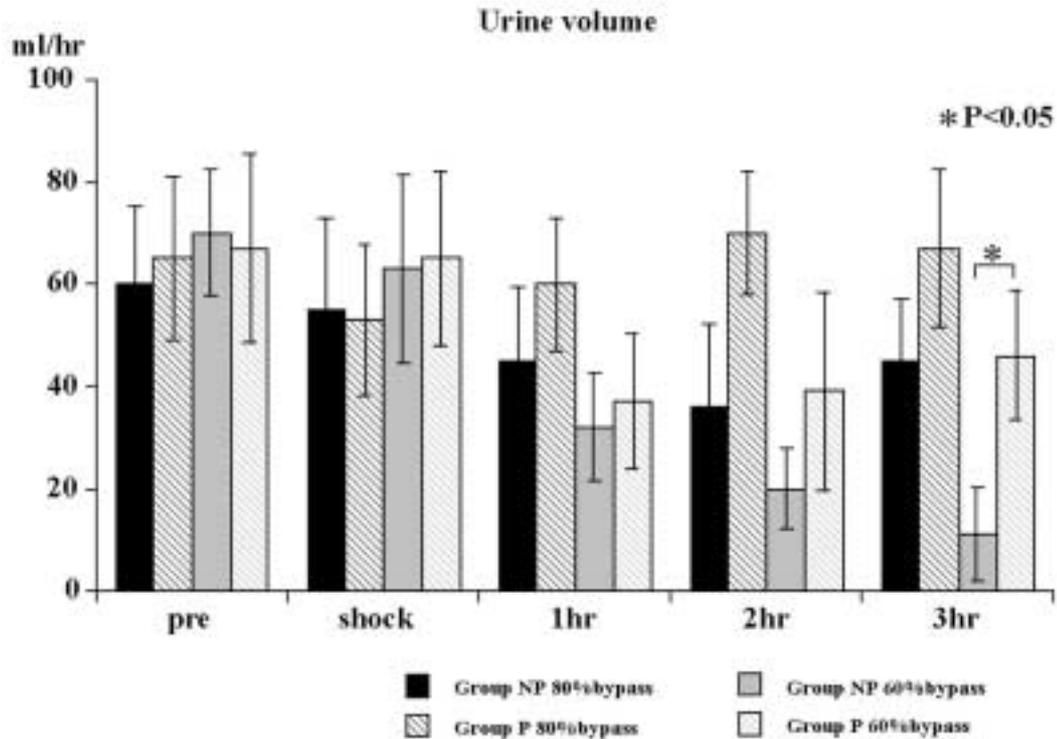


Fig. 6. Urine volume.

ulation.

Compared to the L/P ratio obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock, it did not significantly change in any of these four groups even after the initiation of assisted circulation. Although mean L/P ratios obtained three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation were slightly higher in Group NP₈₀ than in Group P₈₀, they did not significantly differ between the two groups (34.5±10.1 in Group P₈₀ vs. 47.8±8.1 in Group NP₈₀). In addition, the mean L/P ratio increased significantly in Group NP₆₀ from the third hour of assisted circulation (three-hour values: 62.5±7.2 in Group NP₆₀ vs. 40.5±9.1 in Group P₈₀). Although the L/P ratio did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation.

Changes in BUN and Cr levels

Compared to BUN and Cr levels obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock, BUN and Cr levels did not significantly change in any of these four groups during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation. In addition, BUN and Cr levels did not significantly differ among the four groups.

Urine volume (Fig. 6)

Urine volume slightly decreased in Groups P₈₀ and NP₈₀ after the initiation of assisted circulation, although it did not significantly differ between the two groups. Urine volume obtained three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation was higher in Group P₈₀ than in Group NP₈₀ (67.0±15.2 ml/hr in Group P₈₀ vs. 45.0±12.0 ml/hr in Group NP₈₀). However, urine volume significantly differed between Groups P₆₀ and NP₆₀, and it decreased markedly in Group NP₆₀ three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation (11.0±9.2 ml/hr in Group NP₆₀ vs. 46.0±12.8 ml/hr in Group P₆₀). Although urine volume did not significantly differ between Groups P₆₀ and NP₈₀, it significantly differed between Groups P₈₀ and NP₆₀ during the first three hours after the initiation of assisted circulation.

Discussion

The number of patients with severe heart failure has increased with the advances in mechanical assist devices. However, a prolonged course of heart failure frequently results in fatal MOF. Currently, various methods of assisted circulation, including percutaneous cardiopulmo-

nary support (PCPS) and circulatory support by ventricular assist device (VAD), have been used in clinical settings as potent supporting devices. In addition, many basic and clinical studies regarding these procedures have been conducted to date. Recent clinical studies have reported that nonpulsatile circulatory support is useful for bridging to heart transplantation.¹⁰ Since long-term survival of animals supported by nonpulsatile assisted circulation has been reported,¹¹ several experimental studies have reported the usefulness of nonpulsatile circulatory support for normal hearts. However, no studies have evaluated the usefulness of nonpulsatile circulatory support in cardiogenic shock models.²⁻⁵ In recent years, nonpulsatile axial flow pumps have been clinically used as a VAD for bridge to transplantation. Although some studies have reported the usefulness of nonpulsatile axial flow pumps, several cases of patient death caused by thrombosis or MOF have also been reported to date. Therefore, the usefulness of nonpulsatile flow pumps is currently questionable.^{11,12}

Previously, a comparative study of pulsatile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation has been conducted in this institution. During left ventricular support for heart failure, both pulsatile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation were equally useful for supporting the failing heart. However, pulsatile assisted circulation was more useful for maintaining peripheral organ blood flow and tissue metabolism than nonpulsatile assisted circulation.⁶⁻⁹ In particular, pulsatile assisted circulation is markedly more useful for maintaining renal circulation and tissue metabolism than nonpulsatile assisted circulation. In the state of shock, the biological defense mechanism maintains organ blood flow in the heart and brain, while blood flow decreases in the kidneys, liver, and skeletal muscles, resulting in redistribution of organ blood flow. Since renal blood flow decreases immediately after the onset of cardiogenic shock, the kidneys are the target organ of shock. In this experiment, a comparative study of nonpulsatile and pulsatile assisted circulation has been conducted under complete artificial circulation (biventricular bypass method under the state of ventricular fibrillation). Furthermore, renal circulation was compared between pigs supported by high assist rate of 80% (high-assist) and low assist rate of 60% (low assist) assisted circulation. When mean aortic pressure and total cardiac output were compared among pigs in which 80% and 60% of aortic blood flow was supported by artificial circulation, they did not significantly differ between pigs supported by pulsatile and nonpulsatile artificial circulation. Although

mechanical ventilation produced approximately 4 mmHg of pulse pressure in Groups NP₈₀ and NP₆₀ during artificial circulation, these pigs were successfully supported by nonpulsatile assisted circulation.

Concerning renal arterial blood flow, pulsatile assisted circulation was apparently predominant over nonpulsatile assisted circulation particularly in pigs supported by low-assist artificial circulation. In addition to factors previously known to influence renal blood flow such as the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, sympathetic nervous system, prostaglandins, and the kallikrein-kinin system, atrial natriuretic peptides are also known to influence renal blood flow. However, much of this mechanism remains unclear. These biological factors are involved in changes in perfusion volume and pressure in renal blood vessels, thus constructing complicated mechanisms of autoregulation. However, following decreases in cardiac output after the onset of cardiogenic shock, when perfusion pressure decreases beyond the specified limit, renal arterial blood flow decreases, resulting in redistribution of renal blood flow.¹³⁻¹⁵ In humans, perfusion in the renal cortex usually accounts for 90% of renal blood flow, however, cortical blood flow markedly decreases after the onset of cardiogenic shock. It has been reported that renal medullar blood flow is relatively resistant to the influence of cardiogenic shock.¹³⁻¹⁶ In this experiment, redistribution of renal blood flow was observed after the induction of cardiogenic shock. That is, cortical blood flow, which was predominant over medullar blood flow before the induction of cardiogenic shock, decreased immediately after the induction of cardiogenic shock, although medullar blood flow was maintained thereafter. Pulsatile assisted circulation was useful for recovering the normal distribution of renal blood flow. In the state of cardiogenic shock, the development of renal failure should be prevented by rapidly improving uneven distribution of renal blood flow. Pulsatile assisted circulation was useful for this purpose, particularly in pigs supported by a relatively low level of assisted circulation (60%).

Urinary β_2 -MG levels sharply reflected the presence of tubular disorders. In addition, negative correlation between serum β_2 -MG levels and glomerular filtration rate has been reported to date.¹⁶ In this experimental model, increased urinary β_2 -MG levels suggested the occurrence of proximal tubular disorders during the early stage of cardiogenic shock. In addition, the severity of proximal tubular disorders was higher in pigs supported by low-assist nonpulsatile assisted circulation, suggesting the usefulness of pulse pressure. In particular, the results of

this study suggested that low-assist nonpulsatile assisted circulation may cause irreversible nephropathy. After the induction of cardiogenic shock, blood levels of β_2 -MG, BUN, and Cr did not increase during artificial circulation, although blood levels of β_2 -MG, BUN, and Cr usually increase when the glomerular filtration rate decreases. In this study, however, blood levels of these biological markers were only evaluated during the first three hours after the induction of cardiogenic shock. Therefore, time factors should be considered during evaluation.

German et al. reported that nonpulsatile assisted circulation induced hypoxia in the renal tissue or metabolic acidosis.¹⁷⁾ In addition, Funami et al. reported that nonpulsatile assisted circulation caused mitochondrial destruction in renal tubular epithelial cells and intraepithelial cavitation.¹⁸⁾ Thus, many previous studies have reported tissue damages occurred during nonpulsatile assisted circulation. The L/P ratio is reported to reflect the hypoxic state in the tissue. In this experiment, the L/P ratio did not significantly change in pigs supported by high-assist pulsatile assisted circulation even after the induction of cardiogenic shock. Although the L/P ratio did not significantly differ between pulsatile and nonpulsatile assisted circulation, the pulsatile group showed better L/P ratios than the nonpulsatile group. Moreover, the L/P ratio tended to improve significantly in pigs in which 60% of aortic blood flow was supported by artificial circulation. These findings suggest that pulsatile assisted circulation is useful for supplying oxygen to the tissue supported by low-assist artificial circulation. Nonpulsatile assisted circulation may cause hypoxia in the tissue, probably resulting in irreversible cell damage. In addition, AKBR reflects the oxidation-reduction capacity of mitochondria in liver cells. Although AKBR did not recover to a value obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock in any of these groups examined after the initiation of assisted circulation, it tended to improve in high-assist (80%) pulsatile assisted circulation. In low-assist (60%) nonpulsatile assisted circulation, AKBR decreased to a level below 0.4, which was a fatal condition.¹⁹⁾ Therefore, AKBR significantly differed between high-assist pulsatile and low-assist nonpulsatile groups. Although urine volume did not decrease in pigs in which 80% of aortic blood flow was supported by pulsatile assisted circulation, it markedly decreased in pigs supported by low-level nonpulsatile assisted circulation. Therefore, it was found that pulsatile assisted circulation was indispensable to secure urine volume necessary for maintaining renal function.

In their chronic animal experiments using the normal heart, Nose et al. reported that increases in blood flow by 20% during nonpulsatile assisted circulation showed favorable results similar to those obtained by pulsatile assisted circulation.²⁰⁾ However, mechanical ventricular support is usually used in shocked patients with a higher tendency of fluid retention into the third space. Initially, an experiment using pigs completely supported by artificial circulation was planned, however, sufficient blood could not be pumped out during the acute stage of cardiogenic shock, and 100% blood flow was not maintained even when pigs were supported by nonpulsatile assisted circulation, although it has been reported that the blood is easily pumped out during nonpulsatile assisted circulation. Therefore, we abandoned this experimental plan. In this experiment, levels of assisted circulation were established at 60% and 80% of aortic blood flow obtained before the induction of cardiogenic shock. However, pulsatile assisted circulation was apparently predominant over nonpulsatile assisted circulation when pigs were supported by low-level artificial circulation, suggesting that nonpulsatile assisted circulation may cause irreversible tissue damages. During the acute stage of cardiogenic shock, the results of pulsatile assisted circulation were markedly better than those of nonpulsatile assisted circulation. However, even when nonpulsatile assisted circulation is used, better results can be expected if sufficient blood flow is maintained. For this purpose, at least 80% or higher level of aortic blood flow should be maintained during nonpulsatile assisted circulation.

In the future, the author would like to elucidate the influence of various biological factors such as the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, sympathetic nervous system, atrial natriuretic peptides, and cytokines on renal blood flow in detail.

Conclusions

A comparative study of the usefulness in pulsatile and nonpulsatile artificial circulation was conducted for cardiogenic shock from the perspective of renal circulation and tissue metabolism. Furthermore, their usefulness was also compared between pigs supported by different levels of artificial circulation.

During the acute stage of cardiogenic shock, redistribution of renal blood flow tended to improve more in pigs supported by pulsatile artificial circulation, demonstrating the usefulness of pulse pressure.

The effect of pulse pressure was marked particularly

in pigs supported by low-level artificial circulation, and the possibility of irreversible nephropathy was suggested in pigs supported by nonpulsatile artificial circulation.

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