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Retrospective evaluation of hemodynamic parameters and cerebral near-infrared spectroscopy levels in patients treated with veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

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Introduction: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) provides advanced bridge therapy for refractory cardiopulmonary failure and perioperative support, including refractory cardiopulmonary resuscitation,⁽¹⁾ being associated with improved survival and neurological outcomes in these patients.⁽²⁾ Neurological complications such as seizures, intracranial hemorrhage, ischemic stroke, cerebral microembolism, among others, are frequently encountered and are important causes of sequelae and functional impairment in these patients.⁽³⁾ These complications are more common in V-A ECMO compared to V-V ECMO.⁽⁴⁾ Neurological complications are also more frequent in extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR) compared to ECMO indication in the context of cardiac or respiratory failure.⁽⁵⁾ Considering these complications and the need for constant evaluation of the level of sedation or the emergence of Harlequin syndrome, adequate

neurological monitoring in this context is mandatory.⁽⁶⁻¹¹⁾

Methods: This was a single-center, retrospective cohort study of patients who received support with V-A ECMO and neurological monitoring with cerebral NIRS treated at the Critical Care Department of *Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein* (HIAE) in São Paulo, SP, during the period from January 2015 until July 2023. Data was extracted from the electronic medical record, EPIMED database of HIAE and ECMO-related database of the Critical Care Department of HIAE. This study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of *Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein*. Informed consent was waived due to retrospective design. **Results:** Twenty-three out of 55 V-A ECMO patients (aged 47 [18-70] years) were included. The mean SAPS-3 score on admission was 46.35 ± 12.77 . Fifteen individuals (65.2%) were male, and 8 individuals (34.8%) were female. Fifteen patients (65.2%) survived, and 8 patients (34.8%) died. 6 patients (26.1%) were hypertensive. Seven patients (30.4%) had diabetes. 9 patients (39.1%) were cannulated due to cardiogenic shock, 6 (26.1%) due to ECPR, and 8 (34.8%) due to heart or lung transplantation. The mean duration of V-A ECMO treatment was $7.04 \text{ days} \pm 7.125$, with a minimum of 1 day and a maximum of 26 days. The most frequent treatment duration was 4 days (21.7%). The mean ECMO flow was 3.15 ± 0.76 . The mean membrane oxygen fraction (FmO₂) was $57.29\% \pm 18.35$. The mean mean arterial pressure (MAP) was 71.59 ± 11.28 . The mean left cerebral rSO₂ was 52.53 ± 10.41 , and right cerebral rSO₂ was 52.925 ± 10.45 . Multivariate regression analysis showed that mean arterial pressure (MAP) was significantly associated with NIRS levels in both the right ($p < 0.038$) and left ($p < 0.004$) cerebral hemispheres. **Conclusions:** In conclusion, in our retrospective analysis the observed correlation between mean arterial pressure (MAP) and NIRS levels underscores the importance of effective hemodynamic management in maintaining cerebral perfusion during V-A ECMO.

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