Vascular Anomalies And Aortic Dilatation in Turner Syndrome
Study In A Large Cohort Of Young-Adult Patient

Scarano E1, Varini S1, Tamburrino F1, Perri A1, Costa M1, Prandstraller D1, Lovato L1, Balducci A1, Gibertoni D4, Mazzanti L1.

1Rare Disease Unit, Department of Pediatrics, St. Orsola Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
2Unit of Pediatric and Childhood Cardiology, St. Orsola Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
3Unit of Radiology, St. Orsola Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
4Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

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Introduction and Objectives

Patients with Turner Syndrome (TS) are at high risk for congenital heart disease (CHD), aortic dilatation and dissection with increased mortality and morbidity. Thoracic gadolinium-enhanced MRI angiography allows clear imaging of all great vessels and revealed a spectrum of silent vascular anomalies (VA), both venous and arterial, undetected at Echo.

The aim of this study is to evaluate retrospectively the prevalence of VA and aortic dilatation in TS, in particular in patients without CHD.

Methods

A cohort of 115 patients (mean age 24.4 years; range 16 - 42.6 years) with genetically confirmed TS and no evidence of CHD at Echo and MRI was analyzed. Echocardiography and MRI evaluations were collected in order to obtain a complete cardiological evaluation. Aortic diameters were evaluated at MRI and the values were indexed for BSA and compared with the reference values for aortic dilatation validated by Roman et al.

Results

Vascular anomalies were detected in 44 patients (38.3%) (Fig 1).

Elongation: 27.8%
Pseudocoarctation: 11.3%
Aortic Kinking: 9.6%
Right Subclavian: 6.1%
Left Superior: 1.7%

Aortic dilatation was detected in 17 patients (14.8%) and was significantly associated with VA (OR=4; p<0.026; 95% CI 1.2-13.8) and age (OR=1.1; p=0.028; 95% CI 1.1-1.7).

The subjects with VA showed a greater prevalence of aortic dilatation both at Sinuses of Valsalva and Ascending Aorta levels than the subjects without (Fig 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aortic Dilatation</th>
<th>No VA</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>χ², p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinuses of Valsalva</td>
<td>9 (7.8%)</td>
<td>13 (30.9%)</td>
<td>13.66 p&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascending aorta</td>
<td>12 (10.4%)</td>
<td>16 (38.1%)</td>
<td>16.06 p&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean BSA-indexed diameters were significantly higher in subjects with VA than in subjects without (Fig.3).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aortic Dilatation</th>
<th>No VA</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>t; p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinuses of Valsalva</td>
<td>1.8±0.2</td>
<td>2.0±0.5</td>
<td>-4.1, p&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascending aorta</td>
<td>1.6±0.2</td>
<td>1.8±0.5</td>
<td>-4.6, p&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descending aorta</td>
<td>1.1±0.2</td>
<td>1.2±0.2</td>
<td>-4.7, p&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic arch</td>
<td>1.2±0.2</td>
<td>1.2±0.3</td>
<td>-0.2, p=0.862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syno-tubular junction</td>
<td>1.4±0.2</td>
<td>1.6±0.3</td>
<td>-3.0, p&lt;0.003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elongation of Transverse Arch (ETA) (Fig. 4) was the VA with the greatest influence on aortic dilatation (OR=4.5; p<0.015, 95% CI 1.3-15). No significant association was found between aortic dilatation and karyotype, phenotype severity, renal anomalies, GH and estrogen replacement therapy.

Conclusions

Our study demonstrates that aortic dilatation in TS can occur without CHD and can be significantly associated with silent VA, detected at MRI.

In particular, ETA was found to be associated with a high risk of dilatation, both at ascending aorta and sinuses of Valsalva levels.

Given the high prevalence of unexpected VA in patients with TS and the correlation with aortic dilatation, it is mandatory to recommend a thoracic MRI, even in absence of CHD, in order to better estimate their cardiovascular risk, in particular before seeking to become pregnant.

References


