The fact that therapeutic hypothermia (TH) has lowered intracranial pressure and protected brain in severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) is well known throughout past sources and experimental data. In this paper, the result of TH in TBI needs to be confirmed. The result of North American Brain Injury Study; Hypothermia (NAVIS-H) 1 and 2, Eurotherm3235, Japan trauma society study was reviewed throughout randomized controlled study which performed recently. The prognosis was not confirmed throughout TH in NAVIS-H1; however, there was statistical significance among the group of 45 years or less and below 35 degree in celsius which checked when he or she visited initially. Hence, NAVIS-H2 study was preceded. In patient who had surgically removed hematoma, the effects of TH were proved compared to diffuse brain damage in NAVIS-H2 study. This was found in the result of Japan neurotrauma data bank. Eurotherm study has been doing, which leads to collect many data later on. The TBI of TH makes them better prognosis in patients who had surgically removed hematoma and lowered initial body temperature. Later on, it is considered further study is necessary.

Key Words: brain injuries; hypothermia.

Introduction

The definition of therapeutic hypothermia (TH) is controlling lower core body temperature for therapeutic reasons. The hypothermia was classified in 4 categories; mild (32-35°C), moderate (28-32°C), severe (20-28°C), profound (<20°C). The degree of hypothermia is normally determined by the core temperature measured rectally, in the esophagus, or in the bladder. TH is widely used in global cerebral hypoxemia, such as post cardiac arrest, showing evidence of good outcomes in controlled prospective study. But, in traumatic brain injury (TBI) TH shows conflicting outcomes in several studies. There are many evidences in historical, pathophysiological, clinical studies, showing TH can be more useful methods in TBI. In this article, we will review TH in treating TBI.

Historical Base

The historical background of TH was initiated in BC 450. Hippocrates found snow and ice packing reduce hemorrhage in wound. Total body cooling method was used for treating tetanus in 4th-5th century. Russians have applied TH by covering people with snow in an attempt to resuscitate since 1803. Baron de Larrey, Napoleon’s chief surgeon during Russian campaign in 1812, packed limbs in ice prior to amputations to reduce pain and bleeding. He found that
soldiers who were placed near to a fire died faster than those who remained hypothermic state.[12] In 1892, at Johns Hopkins, Sir William Osler experimented with hypothermia on patients with typhoid fever and reported favor outcomes in mortality from 24.2% to 7.1%.[12] The earliest recorded clinical use of TH was in 1937 when Dr. Temple Fay cooled a female patient with metastatic breast cancer to 32°C for 24 hours, and she relieved metastatic cancer pain. [13-15] Bigelow et al. introduced TH for neurologic protection during cardiac surgery in animals and this remain the current practice.[16,17] At the end of 1950s, TH was used in neurosurgery and for neurological indications became increasingly common.[18] In 1958, clinical trial of TH in the treatment of comatos patients by cardiac arrest showed good outcome compared to normothermia group.[19] However after 1960s, TH was not widely used because of the difficulty in managing side effect. There are complications such as arrhythmia, coagulopathy, and infection in moderate hypothermia. (28-32°C)[11] In 1979-80s, mild hypothermia demonstrate good outcome.[20-24] Thus, in the 1990s, researches on the use of TH with mild degree cooling in animal models were widely implemented.[25-27]

Experiment in TBI

Clifton et al. first reported that the effectiveness of moderate hypothermia in TBI by rat model experiment.[28] In this study, moderate hypothermia group performed by 30°C significantly reduced mortality rates compared to normothermic group. Lyeth et al.[29] and Dietrich et al.[30] also reported that moderate hypothermia showed good outcomes in TBI by animal studies. Dixon et al. reported that post-traumatic hypothermia reduced overall contusion volume following controlled cortical impact injury.[31] The therapeutic window for neuroprotection in the clinical field is one of the potential limitations of therapeutic treatment strategy. Although various pharmacological strategies have shown efficacy when administered before or immediately, few interventions have provided clinically significant protection when given in a delayed post traumatic fashion.[32] Thus, in terms of the treatment window for post traumatic hypothermia, Markgraf et al. reported improved neurological outcome if moderate hypothermia (3 hours at 30°C) was started within 60 minutes but not over 90 minutes after TBI. [33] The time period between 60-90 minute window would appear relatively limited in clinical field, it is unclear the therapeutic window in animals be applied in humans.[32]

Post traumatic hypothermia reduced the axonal damage extension in models of TBI.[34-37] Because diffuse axonal injury (DAI) play an important role in the functional consequence of TBI, these findings show the importance of TH in TBI.

Methodology of TH

The TH is progressed by 3 phases. The induction phase is the period of maximizing speed of cooling to rapidly bring the temperature to 32-34°C. Patients should be in intubation state due to sedation and muscle relaxation to prevent shivering to suppress heat protection. The maintenance phase maintained the goal body temperature 12-24 hours. (The optimal duration is unknown) The cooling device water temperature should be checked every hour. The administration of paralytic agent needed to suppress shivering. Rewarming phase is the most important phase, because complications such as hypotension, brain swelling, and electrolyte imbalance could be occur. The goal of rewarming phase is to reach normal body temperature over 12-24 hours. The body temperature can elevate 0.25°C or less per hour. If the body temperature was normalized, all sedation should be stop.

Systemic cooling can be obtained by surface cooling, most often with a cooling blanket or cooling with endovascular catheters.[2] Surface cooling methods have benefits; safe and easy to use, good temperature modulation, feedback loop. Nevertheless, the risks of surface cooling methods are slow cooling, slow heat flux, and shivering. Endovascular cooling methods are good at temperature modulation, cooling speed and feedback loop. The choice of cooling device, whether surface or endovascular is depend on the degree of target hypothermic temperature, patient population and the opinion of the physician.

Pathophysiology of TH

The metabolic rate of brain decreased by 6-7%/1°C
drop of body temperature.[38] In this regard, hypothermic therapy was reported in the 1960’s to decrease O$_2$ consumption and CO$_2$ production as well as other indicators of metabolism.[39,40] Thus, the metabolic and energy demands were thought to be the beneficial effects of hypothermia. However, several investigative studies demonstrated last decade that more modest levels of hypothermia have effectiveness on multiple mechanisms felt to be responsible for secondary brain injury mechanism.[41] Secondary brain injury is initiated at the moment of injury with progression over the ensuing minutes, hours, and days.[2] Secondary injury plays a major role in patient’s prognosis and treatment outcome. The pathophysiologic mechanisms about the secondary damage are not totally understood. Overall effects of biomolecular and physiological changes in the brain injury, including neuroinflammatory processes with release of cytokines, excitotoxic substances, cerebral edema, increased intracranial pressure (ICP), and compromised cerebral blood flow with cerebral ischemia and apoptosis, may be involved.[2] Hypothermia affect small variations in the temperature of the brain during or after an ischemic or traumatic injury change hemodynamic events. Moreover, there are excitatory, calcium dependent intercellular signaling, inflammation and edema apoptosis as well as molecular markers of the post-injured brain. In the area of excitatory, early studies showed that extracellular levels of the excitatory amino acid glutamate and other neurotransmitters after brain injury were reduced following mild posttraumatic hypothermia.[42-45] Mild hypothermia also have positive effect on protect against blood brain barrier permeability after increase the permeability of the tight cerebral capillaries due to both ischemic and traumatic injury.[46-48] Increase of permeability cause brain edema, it can be an effect of swelling of brain cells, because of cell membrane damage from hypoxia, and cytotoxic and excitatory substances.[2]

One of the most important effects of hypothermia is the preservation of the blood-brain barrier following the disruptive effects of ischemia-reperfusion, traumatic injury, or even mannitol administration.[38] Moreover hypothermia attenuate the release of NO that increase vascular permeability of brain endothelial cells, which decreases neuronal NO synthase recruitment and suppresses aquaporin 4 expression.[38,49,50]

In a study recently investigated reports that hypothermia has been shown to influence signaling cascades associated with hippocampal-dependent learning and memory and may present a molecular mechanism that hypothermia treatment elicits to improve function outcome after TBI.[51]

Overall, hypothermia exerts a protective effect over a variety of injurious mechanisms occurring in the brain following ischemia-reperfusion or trauma. In early phase, these effects involve a decrease in cerebral metabolism, mitochondrial injury, ion pump dysfunction, and excitotoxicity.[38] In more delayed phase, reperfusion injury, ROS production, inflammation, apoptosis, blood-brain barrier permeability, and edema formation could be attenuated by hypothermia.[38] Hypothermia is also concerned in neuronal cell regeneration and neuronal circuit repair.[50]

Thus, the ability of post brain injury temperature to affect the acute and more delayed biochemical and genetic responses to injury has expanded our understanding of the complexity of the consequences that temperature may have on pathophysiology and recovery after that.[32]

**Clinical Studies**

In 1960’s many hospitals used profound hypothermia to treat severe TBI.[52] However the treatment results were poor due to serious side effects including infection, thrombosis, and arrhythmia. In the 1970’s therapeutic hypothermia to treat TBI was ceased. In 1990’s several clinical studies demonstrate that modest level of hypothermia improved outcomes in clinically relevant models of TBI,[53-58] attention again turned to the use of hypothermia in treatment of TBI.[53-58] Improving patient outcome is also related to prevention of cerebral hypoxia after TBI.[59] Good outcomes of therapeutic hypothermia were achieved by reducing hypoxic events following TBI with the use of brain tissue oxygen-guided cerebral perfusion pressure management and therapeutic mild hypothermia.[60,61] Marion et al. compared the treatment outcomes of hypothermia to normothermia. 82 patients of TBI was enrolled, 62% of patients underwent hypothermia treatment demonstrated good outcomes compared to 38% of those in the normothermic group.[56] Jiang et al. also researched the effects of long-term (3-14 days) mild therapeutic hypothermia (33-35°C) on outcome in 87 patients with severe TBI.[62] They found
that the rate of complications between the groups (normothermia and hypothermia) was not significantly different. Hypothermia group demonstrates markedly reduced ICP and inhibited hyperglycemia. The duration of TH is important in both preclinical and clinical TBI investigation. Jiang et al. reported the correlation of hypothermic duration and behavioral outcome after severe TBI. They conclude that patients underwent cooling for five days demonstrated better behavioral outcomes than those patients underwent three days. Tokutomi et al. reported that temperature control of 35-35.5°C is sufficient to control intracranial hypertension without inducing cardiac dysfunction. Although it is not clear the mechanisms responsible for the actions of hypothermia in the treatment of TBI, mild degree TH have a reliable association with the expression of connexin-43 and glutamate-transporter-1 in the hippocampus following TBI in rats. TH also improved brain edema induced by TBI and neurologic deficit. It seems accompanied by decreasing in expression of connexin-43, increased after TBI in normal condition. In accordance with previous studies, a model of fluid percussion injury, post-traumatic hypothermia significantly attenuated cell death within the hippocampus and attenuated caspase-3 upregulation, thereby reducing markers of apoptosis.

Many studies performed to investigate the favorable outcomes by TH in single center. Polderman summarized recent single center studies and review them. The conclusions were, use of mild hypothermia could be a useful modality in the treatment of neurological injuries and further investigation should be need.

Multicenter randomized control study was initiated by Clifton et al. to evaluate the efficacy of modest hypothermia in a large number of severe TBI patients. The study named NAVIS-H (North American Brain Injury Study; Hypothermia), 392 adult patients with severe TBI were randomized into hypothermia and normothermia groups from 1994 to 1998. 193 patients enrolled normothermia group and 199 patients enrolled hypothermia group. However in contrast to several single center studies, there were no beneficial outcome in hypothermic group and mortality rate was not different. However in patients younger than 45 years old, percentage with poor outcome was diminished in hypothermia group (52%) than normothermia group (76%). Moreover patients with body temperature lower than 35°C on admission showed more favorable outcomes with hypothermia therapy.

Clifton et al. reported NAVIS-H2 study: Very early hypothermia induction in patients with severe brain injury. NAVIS-H2 study was designed by based on the result of NAVIS-H1. Multicenter randomized study was performed only to young age group (16-45 years old). Very early induction was initiated within 2.5 hours admission, compared to normothermia group. The overall primary analysis was not significantly different between hypothermia group and normothermia group. But in subgroup analysis hypothermia group demonstrated favorable outcome after surgical hematoma removal than normothermia group. The percentage of poor outcome in hypothermia group was 33% versus normothermia group 69%.

Another multicenter randomized controlled trial initiated in 2011 by Andrew et al. Eurotherm 3235 trial will be complete in 2016, as of now (20 Mar 2013) over 1,256 patients have been screened and 210 patients have been randomized. After the end of this trial TH will be essential to confidently confirm or refute outcome benefit, rather than merely palliation.

Suehiro et al. reported multicenter randomized trial with Japan neurotrauma databank. Total 401 patients were classified in 3 groups; 225 patients for no temperature management, 129 patients for intensive normothermia, and 47 patients for hypothermia. No temperature management group did not receive brain temperature management, but there is routine medical management including ice packs or drugs to control high fever. Brain temperature was maintained strictly below 38°C with cooling blankets in patients with normothermia. Patients in the hypothermia group received temperature treatment with maintained below 35°C. The results of favorable outcome rate of hypothermia (52.4%), normothermia (26.9%), and no temperature management (20.7%) with evacuated mass lesions in contrast to diffuse injury. There was no significant favor outcome in diffuse brain injury patients among 3 groups. They conclude that, patient outcomes with diffuse injury were not improved by hypothermia induction. But hypothermia therapy was significant in protecting the brain of patients with evacuated mass lesions.

Recently many researches are performed about TH. In particular it is possible to expect more results from the mult-
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It is clear that TH had good effect and side effect, we need the protocol which had minimal side effect and maximal therapeutic effect. In the protocol, the optimal cooling time and temperature should be contained, as well as rewarming phase. Moreover cooling devices and pharmacologic agents should be evaluated for best therapeutic result. More researches will supplement the sum mentioned earlier, the patients in TBI will be treated with the TH actively.

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