

Mid-term acylcarnitine profile evolution in survivors of a prolonged ICU stay.

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Topic: 9: Intensive Care Medicine

Abstract text: Background and Goal of Study: In a previous study [1], we observed an abnormal acylcarnitine (AC) profile in survivors recently discharged from intensive care unit (ICU) after a prolonged stay. Whether such alteration persists over time is unknown. This observational study aimed to describe the mid-term AC profile evolution in survivors of a prolonged ICU stay.

Materials and Methods: Adults who survived an ICU stay ≥ 7 days between September 2020 and March 2022 were included if they were enrolled in our follow-up program and if they attended the consultation 3 months (M3) after ICU discharge. Exclusion criteria were known primary carnitine deficiency and ongoing treatment with zidovudine, valproate, cyclosporine or cisplatin. Serum AC concentrations, determined by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry, were assessed as routine practice during the first 7 days following ICU discharge (T0) and at the M3 consultation.

Results and Discussion: A total of 64 survivors (69% males, age 63 (50-69) years, SAPS2 33 (26-54)) were analyzed, after an ICU stay of 15 (9-24) days for mixed medical (34/64, 53%) and surgical diseases. During ICU stay, 46/64 (72%) patients were sedated using propofol, and 10/64 (16%) were fed at least partly by parenteral route during 7 (4-9) days. Free carnitine (C0) concentration (normal range 14.95-84.34 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) decreased from 45.89 (35.80-127.5) to 28.73 (20.31-38.93) $\mu\text{mol/l}$ ($p < 0.001$). C0 deficiency was not observed at T0 and in 7/64 (11%) survivors at M3. The sum of short-chain ACs (C3, C4 and C5) (normal range 0.270-4.071 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) decreased from 1.310 (0.927-1.829) at T0 to 0.945 (0.709-1.127) $\mu\text{mol/l}$ at M3 ($p < 0.001$). The long-chain ACs (normal range 0.195-1.295 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) were similar at T0 and M3, respectively 0.812 (0.579-1.065) and 0.825 (0.582-1.020) $\mu\text{mol/l}$ ($p = 0.845$). The total AC/C0 ratio (normal ≤ 0.4) was 0.33 (0.24-0.39) at T0 and reached 0.39 (0.30-0.56) at M3 ($p = 0.001$). A ratio > 0.4 was observed in 16/64 (25%) at T0 and in 32/64 (50%) at M3 ($p = 0.006$).

Conclusion(s): In patients surviving a prolonged ICU stay, occurrence of C0 deficiency increased within the 3 months following discharge. The concomitant decrease in short-chain ACs may suggest a progressive resolution of protein catabolism. On the contrary, the increasing proportion of abnormal AC/C0 ratio may reflect a worsening of mitochondrial function, as suggested by published observations of mid-term exercise intolerance in ICU survivors.

References: [1] Rousseau AF, Schmitz S, Cavalier E, Misset B, Boemer F. Altered Serum Acylcarnitines Profile after a Prolonged Stay in Intensive Care. *Nutrients*. 2022;14.

1st Keyword: Intensive care

2nd Keyword: Recovery

Abstract type: none case report: 1. Prospective observational only

Ethical Research: I hereby confirm that an Institutional Review Board (IRB), Independent Ethics Committee (IEC), Ethical Review Board approved the study.

Institution: Comité d'Ethique Hospitalo-Facultaire Universitaire de Liège

Name of the Ethical Committee Chair: Vincent Seutin

Approval reference: 2020/424

Date of approval: 2nd February 2021

I hereby confirm that the written consent has been received from the patient: No

I hereby confirm that the institutional standards for animals have been reached.: No

I hereby confirm that I have been informed and agree with that ESAIC contacting the above mentioned IRB/IEC/ERB in order to inspect this review.: Yes

I hereby confirm that the Ethical Declaration is not required.: No

Conflict of interest to declare?: No

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