Arterial pulse pressure (PP) is an independent cardiovascular risk factor in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). We compared PP and PPxHR (heart rate) double product, an index of pulsatile stress, during an active orthostatic test in patients with T2DM and in nondiabetic individuals matched for age (40-60 years), body mass index (BMI) and gender (sex ratio 1/1).

**Patients & Methods**

- 40 patients with T2DM (mean age 50 years, diabetes duration 8 years, BMI 29.7 kg/m²), without renal insufficiency or treated hypertension, were compared to 40 nondiabetic subjects (50 years, BMI 28.6 kg/m²).
- All patients were evaluated with a continuous arterial blood pressure monitoring (Finapres®) during a 3-phase 3-min postural test «Squatting test»: standing - squatting - standing.
- Pulse pressure PP (SBP - DBP), and heart rate (HR) were monitored using a Finapres® device.

**RESULTS**

Patients with T2DM have higher PP, an indirect marker of arterial stiffness, and higher PPxHR double product, an index of pulsatile stress, than nondiabetic overweight/obese patients, as well as markers of cardiac autonomic neuropathy, which all may contribute to the higher cardiovascular risk associated with T2DM.

**Conclusion**

Patients with T2DM have also lower baroreflex gain reflecting mainly decreased maximal post-squatting orthostatic tachycardia (+13 vs +21 bpm, p<0.001).

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