

**PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF EVALUATION OF
THE ROLE OF VASOPRESSIN IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF HYPERNATREMIA IN
CLINICALLY BRAIN DEAD PATIENTS**

**Dissertation submitted to
THE TAMILNADU DR. M.G.R.MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**

In partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of
**DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
IN
ANAESTHESIOLOGY
BRANCH X
APRIL 2012**



**TAMILNADU Dr. M.G.R. MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled, “**Prospective study of evaluation of the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in clinically braindead patients**” Submitted by Dr. G.BALAJI in partial fulfilment for the award of the degree of Doctor of Medicine in Anaesthesiology by the Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai is bonafide record of the work done by his in the INSTITUTE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY & CRITICAL CARE, Madras Medical College, during the academic year 2009-2012.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am extremely thankful to **Dr.V.KANAGASABAI, M.D.**, Dean, Madras Medical College, for his permission to carry out this study.

I am immensely grateful to **PROF. Dr.C.R.KANYAKUMARI M.D., D.A.**, Director and Professor, Institute of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, for her concern and support in conducting this study.

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my guide **PROF.Dr.T.VENKATACHALAM, M.D., D.A.**, Institute of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Madras Medical College for his concern, inspiration, meticulous guidance, expert advice and constant encouragement in preparing this dissertation.

I am very grateful to express my sincere gratitude to the Professors, **Dr.ESTHER SUDHARSHINI RAJKUMAR, MD., DA., Dr.D.GANDHIMATHI.MD., DA., ANDDr.B.KALA.MD., DA., Dr.SAMUEL PRABAKARAN.MD., DA**, Institute of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Madras Medical college for their constant motivation and valuable suggestions.

I am thankful to my Department Registrar **Dr.Hemanayakulu** for his suggestions, guidance and help.

I am thankful to all my assistant professors, Institute of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Madras Medical College, Chennai, for their guidance and help.

I am thankful to the Institutional Ethical Committee for their guidance and approval for this study.

I am thankful to all PACU nurses and workers for their help.

I am thankful to all my colleagues and friends for their help and advice in carrying out this dissertation.

I am grateful to my family and friends for their moral support and encouragement.

Last but not least, I thank the attenders of all patients for willingly submitting their relative for this study.

CONTENTS

S.No	TOPIC	Page No.
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	BRAINDEATH AND HYPERNATREMIA	4
3.	VASOPRESSIN	17
4.	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	30
5.	AIM OF THE STUDY	43
6.	MATERIALS AND METHOD	44
7.	OBSERVATION AND RESULTS	48
8.	DISCUSSION	61
9.	SUMMARY	67
10.	CONCLUSION	68
11.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
12.	ETHICAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL FORM	
13.	PATIENT CONSENT FORM	
14.	PROFORMA	
15.	MASTER CHART	

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

In response to a traumatic brain injury or physiological “insult” to the brain (e.g., hemorrhagic or ischemic stroke), some patients suffer global and irreversible loss of brain stem function, leading to a diagnosis of brain death. Some of these patients may be candidates for organ and tissue donation, a decision mediated by the patient’s previously expressed wishes, sometimes in the form of an advance directive or organ donor card, and the preferences of the patient’s family. Patients with irreversible brainstem dysfunction are potential candidates for organ donation. As the awareness regarding organ donation and the frequency of donation are increasing with time, organ preservation strategies and protocols should be followed meticulously to improve the outcome of donation programme.

After the diagnosis of brain death the focus of patient care shifts from interventions aimed at saving the patients (donor) life to interventions aimed at maintaining viability of potentially transplantable organs.

As the brainstem dysfunction evolves there occurs so many alterations in the normal physiology. The resultant changes in the cell

homeostasis can adversely affect the donor organ viability which in turn affect the graft function.

By understanding the pathophysiology of brain death we can manage the adverse changes reasonably, which may improve the survival of the grafted organs.

Among the major changes endocrine changes are worth mentioning. Diabetes insipidus is the most common endocrine abnormality seen in the brain-dead patients, manifests earlier or later during the process⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

One of the effects of diabetes insipidus is hypernatremia, defined as serum sodium level $>145\text{mEq/L}$ ⁽³⁾.

Organs commonly harvested are kidneys, liver, heart/heart valves, cornea etc. Donor organs affected by hypernatremia are liver, kidneys, heart. Of these liver grafts are more prone to early rejection. Effects are more when the sodium levels are $> 155\text{mEq/L}$ particularly when it is a persistent one for longer duration before procurement⁽³⁾.

Various studies have showed the relationship between the serum sodium level and the graft survival and explained the adverse effects of hypernatremia.

So managing the hypernatremia can improve the survival of transplanted organs especially the liver. Which is the theme of this study.

There are many approaches for managing the hypernatremia. Among them I have chosen the exogenous vasopressin administration to replace the reduced serum vasopressin level as the treatment of choice because it also has potent vasopressor property which will be useful in maintaining hemodynamic stability in these patients due to the frequently accompanying autonomic failure.

Other derangements also have to be corrected with fluid replacement, dopamine, thyroxine, methyl prednisolone, insulin-KCL regimen, antibiotics etc.

In this study I have attempted to evaluate the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in clinically brain-dead patients, by comparing the serum sodium levels before and after initiating the vasopressin infusion therapy.

**BRAINDEATH
AND
HYPERNATREMIA**

BRAINDEATH AND HYPERNATREMIA

BRAINDEATH

Definition:

Irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem.

Causes:

- Severe head trauma
- Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage
- Cerebro vascular injury
- Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy
- Fulminant hepatic necrosis
- Prolonged cardiac resuscitation or asphyxia
- Tumors.

Pathophysiology:

MECHANISM

Following any major injury there will be

(1) Ischemia and (2) Re-perfusion injury (later).

High-energy stores are depleted, Ca^{2+} influx overwhelms the ionic pumps, endothelial swelling develops and reactive oxygen species accumulate secondary to insufficient perfusion.

Activation of inflammatory mediators such as the complement system, thromboxanes, platelet and leukocyte factors are central to the pathophysiologic events after onset of brain death. As time progresses, there is a progressive leukocyte influx into solid organs with a continuous inflammatory deterioration that enhances the immunogenicity of the graft. There is a measurable increase of inflammatory compounds: intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), vascularcellular adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1), E-selectin, interleukin-6, interferon- γ , macrophage inflammatory protein-1 α , tumour necrosis factor- α and countless others⁽⁴⁾.

Major physiologic changes:

Loss of brain stem function results in systemic physiologic instability:

- Initial catecholamine storm followed by depletion (autonomic failure) → CVS instability, arrhythmias, hypertension followed by hypotension.

- Loss of vasomotor control (Hypothalamus damage) leads to a hyperdynamic state.
- Loss of respiratory function- apnoea, impaired gas exchange
- Loss of temperature regulation (Hypothalamus damage) → Hypothermia
- Endocrine failure due to Hypothalamus & pituitary damage → DI, hypothyroid, steroid depletion, insulin resistance- intravascular volume depletion, electrolyte imbalance (hyponatremia), hyperglycemia etc⁽⁵⁾.

Incidence of major pathophysiological changes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| - Hypotension | 81% |
| - Diabetes Insipidus | 72-77% |
| - DIC | 28% |
| - Cardiac arrhythmias | 25% |
| - Pulmonary edema | 18% |
| - Metabolic acidosis | 11% |

Normal brain functions

Part of brain	Normal function	Brain death
CEREBRUM	Cognition, Voluntary movements, Sensation	Coma
BRAINSTEM	Cranial nerve nuclei, Respiration	Absent brainstem reflexes , Apnea
RAS	Wakefulness	Coma

Brain-Death Criteria:

- Absent Cerebral Function(coma)
- Absent Brainstem reflexes
- Apnea- Once coma and absence of brain stem reflexes have been confirmed → Apnea test.
 - Verifies loss of most rostral brain stem function
 - Confirmed by **PaCO₂ > 55 mmHg or PaCO₂ >15 mmHg over baseline value during apnea period**-with no respiratory attempt
 - 2 tests at 6 hrs interval

In paediatric age group

- Clinical examination is same as in adults.
- Testing criteria depends on age of child.
 - Neonate < 7 days → Brain death testing is not valid.
 - 7 days – 2 months
 - Two clinical exams and two EEG 48 hrs apart.
 - 2 months – 1 year
 - Two clinical exams and two EEG 24 hrs apart.
 - or two clinical exams, EEG and blood flow study.
 - Age > 1 year to 18 years
 - Two clinical exams 12 hrs apart, confirmatory study -
Optional

Confirmatory tests

- Cerebral Blood Flow (CBF) Studies
- Cerebral Angiography
- Nuclear Flow Study
- EEG (when brain scan is not utilized)

- Other rarely used tests
 - Transcranial doppler ultrasonogram
 - Spiral computer tomogram
 - Magnetic resonance imaging⁽⁶⁾

Confirmatory tests are,

- **Purely optional** when the clinical criteria are met unambiguously.
- A confirmatory test is needed for patients in whom specific components of clinical testing cannot be reliably evaluated
 - Incomplete brain stem reflex testing
 - Incomplete apnea testing
 - Toxic drug levels
 - Children younger than 1 year old.
 - Required by institutional policy

DIABETES INSIPIDUS

- Diabetes insipidus can be defined as urine output >4 mL/kg per hr in adults and children
- Associated with rising serum sodium (≥ 145 mmol/L)
- Associated with rising serum osmolarity (≥ 300 mosM) and decreasing urine osmolarity (≤ 200 mosM)⁽³⁾.

HYPERNATREMIA

- It is defined as serum sodium level $> 145\text{meq/L}$
- **Causes** of hypernatremia in braindead patients
 - ADH(Vasopressin) deficiency secondary to posterior pituitary infarction(central diabetes insipidus) -which results in increased free water clearance.
 - Sodium overload (NS)
 - Rarely nephrogenic DI

Adverse effects of hypernatremia on donor organs

- Donor hypernatremia with serum sodium levels $> 155\text{meq/L}$ has been reported to be associated poorer liver graft outcome in comparison with normonatremic donors⁽³⁾.
- Due to the formation idiogenic osmoles in donor hepatocytes to maintain IC osmolarity to avoid cellular dehydration.
- Donor hypernatremia also associated with renal and cardiac graft dysfunction.

Hypernatremia

- Results in early graft loss
- Affects patient survival
- Prolongs ICU stay
- Elevated liver enzymes in the post-op period

Duration of hypernatremia also influences the graft survival.

SO, MANAGING THE SERUM SODIUM LEVEL WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS MAY IMPROVE GRAFT SURVIVAL (ESPCIALY LIVER).

Management of hypernatremia in brain-dead patients:

Hyperglycemia, cold diuresis, preceding diuretic treatment for cerebral edema, the diuretic effect of radiographic contrast material used for angiography or the diuretic reaction to an iatrogenic overhydration should be excluded before treatment with vasopressin is commenced.

Serum sodium target range is 130–150 mmol/L.

1. Vasopressin infusion - dose – 0.5 to 3U/hr (or) 0.01 to 0.04 U/min(10-40mU /kg/hr)

- max. safety dose without much CVS compromise 0.04U/min or 40mU/kg/hr
- 1U i.v bolus can be given before infusion

The pediatric dose range for vasopressin is 0.0003–0.0007 U/kg per minute (0.3–0.7 mU/kg per minute) to a maximum dose of 2.4 U/h.⁽³⁾

2. Desmopressin- adults: 1–4 µg IV then 1–2 µg IV every 6 h to achieve urine output < 4 mL/kg/h.⁽⁷⁾

Children : 0.25–1 µg IV every 6 h to achieve urine output <4mL/kg/h.

Intranasal 10 – 40 mics in 2-3 divided doses.

DDAVP is an analog of AVP with a relatively pure antidiuretic effect and negligible vasopressor activity. Upper limits of DDAVP dosing are empirical. There is no clear upper limit for DDAVP dose, as it should be titrated to achieve the desired effect of reducing urine output.

Under the following circumstances, vasopressin infusion should be the first choice:

1. Hemodynamic support with vasopressin required
2. Combination hormonal therapy implemented⁽⁸⁾
3. Avoiding sodium containing fluids
4. Use fluids with high free water

Hemodynamic Instability

Hemodynamic instability following brain death can be attributed to three main causes. First, a sympathetic surge immediately preceding medullary level brain death leads to a massive release of catecholamines from postganglionic sympathetic nerve endings leading to elevated systemic vascular resistance, hypertension, left ventricular dysfunction, cardiac stunning, neurogenic pulmonary edema, and arrhythmias. Second, herniation following brain death leads to spinal cord infarction and loss of sympathetic tone resulting in further hypotension. Third, pituitary hormonal secretion ceases and the body enters a panhypopituitary state characterized by low cortisol, T3, T4, insulin, and ADH levels. Ensuing diabetes insipidus leads to further hypotension as the patient becomes volume depleted.

Management of other alterations in brain-dead patients

1. Hypotension
 - Maintain CVP at 12-15mmHg with fluids
 - Inotropes (dopamine, dobutamine)
 - Vasopressors(vasopressin)

2. Combined hormonal therapy is defined as administration of
 - Thyroid hormone (tetraiodothyronine or T4), 20 µg IV bolus followed by 10 µg/h IV infusion
 - Vasopressin, 1 U IV bolus followed by 2.4 U/h IV infusion
 - Methylprednisolone, 15 mg/kg IV every 24 h.
 - Insulin infusion based on hourly blood sugar.

It is recommended in donors with an ejection fraction $\leq 40\%$, based on 2-dimensional echo cardiographic assessment, or hemodynamic instability. Consideration should be given to its use in all donors.

3. Transfusion threshold:

A target hemoglobin level of 90–100 g/L is most appropriate to optimize cardiopulmonary function in the face of hemodynamic

instability. A level of 70 g/L is the lowest acceptable limit for management of stable donors in the ICU.

- There are no defined targets for platelet concentration, international normalized ratio or partial thromboplastin time. Platelet or plasma factor replacement is indicated for clinical bleeding only.
- Blood drawing for donor serology and tissue typing should occur before transfusions to minimize the risk of false results related to hemodilution.
- No special transfusion precautions are required in organ donors.

4. Antibiotics

An initial baseline blood culture should be carried out for all donors and repeated after 24 h and on an as-needed basis.

- Positive blood cultures or confirmed infections are not contraindications to organ donation.
- Antibiotic therapy should be initiated in cases of proven or presumed infection. Duration of therapy depends on the

virulence of the organism and decisions should be made in consultation with the transplant team and infectious disease services.

- No minimum duration of therapy before organ procurement can be defined at this time.

5. Oxygenation & ventilation

Mechanical ventilation with the following targets:

- fraction of inspired oxygen (F_{iO_2}) titrated to keep oxygen saturation $\geq 95\%$ and partial pressure of arterial oxygen (PaO_2) ≥ 80 mm Hg
- pH: 7.35–7.45, $PaCO_2$: 35–45 mm Hg
- Positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP): 5 cm H_2O .

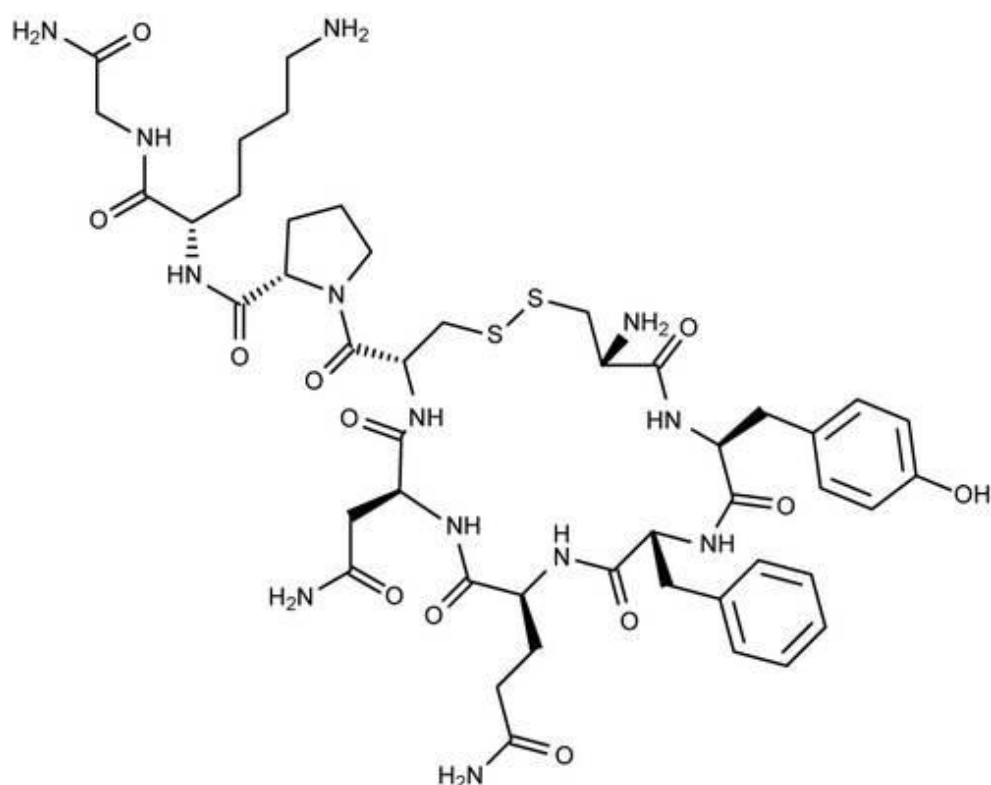
6. Glycemic control

Glucose control with insulin infusions titrated to achieve a blood glucose level of 4–8 mmol/L is recommended.

VASOPRESSIN

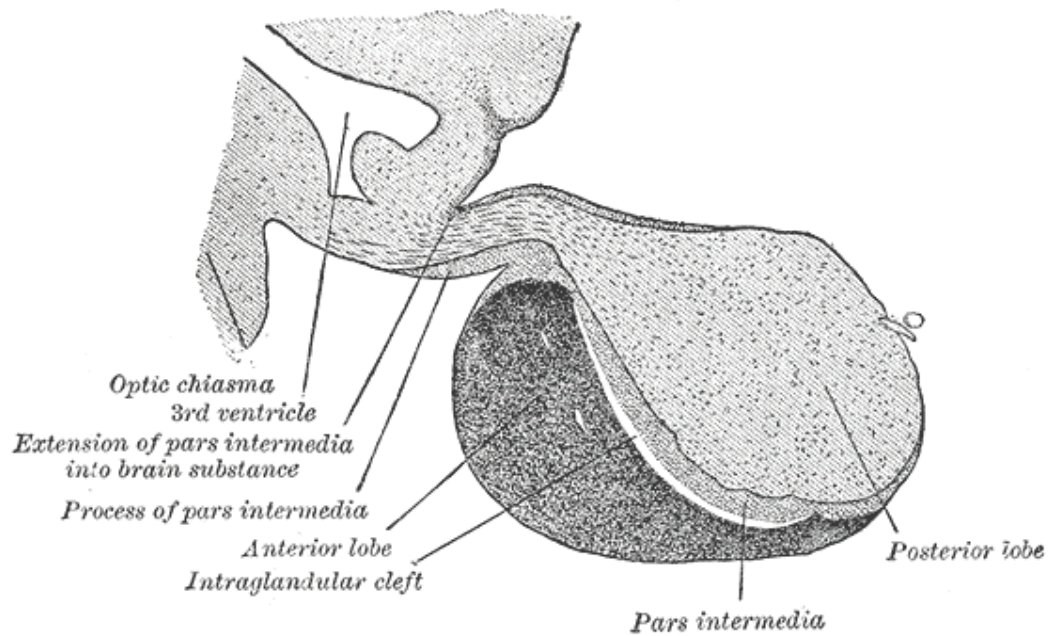
VASOPRESSIN

- An Amino peptide
- Vasopressin Chemical Structure

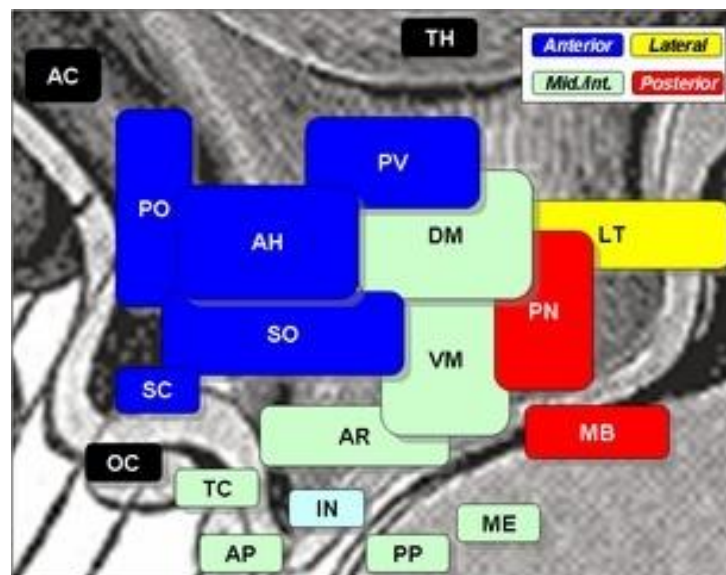


- The antidiuretic mechanism involves **two anatomical components**: a CNS component for the synthesis, transport, storage, and release of vasopressin and a renal collecting-duct system composed of epithelial cells that respond to vasopressin by increasing their permeability to water.⁽⁸⁾
- **Synthesis**- Hypothalamus-Supra-optic nuclei, Paraventricular nuclei (magno cellular neurons)

PITUITARY GLAND



HYPOTHALAMIC NUCLEI



Vasopressin synthesis appears to be regulated solely at the transcriptional level. In human beings, a 168-amino acid

preprohormone is synthesized. During synthesis, the signal peptide is removed to form the vasopressin prohormone, which then is processed and incorporated into the Golgi compartment. The synthesis and transport of vasopressin depend on the conformation of the preprohormone. In particular, VP-neurophysin binds vasopressin and is critical to the correct processing, transport, and storage of vasopressin. Genetic mutations in either the signal peptide or VP-neurophysin give rise to central diabetes insipidus.

Storage- Posterior pituitary. The long axons of magnocellular neurons in the SON and PVN transverse the external zone of the median eminence to terminate in the neural lobe of the posterior pituitary (neurohypophysis), where they release vasopressin and oxytocin.-

Stimulus

1. Serum Hyperosmolality

The osmolality threshold for secretion is approximately 280 mOsm/kg. Below the threshold, vasopressin is barely detectable in plasma, and above the threshold, vasopressin levels are a steep and relatively linear function of plasma osmolality. A small increase in plasma osmolality leads to enhanced vasopressin secretion. Indeed, a

2% elevation in plasma osmolality causes a two- to threefold increase in plasma vasopressin levels, which, in turn, causes increased solute-free water reabsorption, with an increase in urine osmolality. Increases in plasma osmolality above 290 mOsm/kg lead to an intense desire for water (thirst). It is important to point out, however, that above a plasma osmolality of approximately 290 mOsm/kg, plasma levels of vasopressin exceed 5 pM. Since urinary concentration is maximal (about 1200 mOsm/kg) when vasopressin levels exceed 5 pM, further defense against hypertonicity depends entirely on water intake rather than on decreases in water loss.

Several CNS structures are involved in osmotic stimulation of vasopressin release by the posterior pituitary; these structures are collectively referred to as the osmoreceptive complex. Although magnocellular neurons in the SON and PVN are osmosensitive, afferent inputs from other components of the osmoreceptive complex are required for a normal vasopressin response.

The SON and PVN receive projections from the subfornical organ (SFO) and the organum vasculosum of the lamina terminalis (OVLT) either directly or indirectly via the median preoptic nucleus (MnPO). Subgroups of neurons in the SFO, OVLT, and MnPO are either

osmoreceptors or osmoresponders (i.e., are stimulated by osmoreceptive neurons located at other sites). Thus a web of interconnecting neurons contributes to osmotically induced vasopressin secretion. Aquaporin 4, a water-selective channel, is associated with CNS structures involved in osmoregulation and may confer osmosensitivity. In the CNS, aquaporin 4 resides on glial and ependymal cells rather than on neurons, suggesting that osmotic status may be communicated to the neuronal cell by a glial-neuron interaction.

2. Hypovolemia and Hypotension

Vasopressin secretion also is regulated hemodynamically by changes in effective blood volume and/or arterial blood pressure.

The neuronal pathways that mediate hemodynamic regulation of vasopressin release are different from those involved in osmoregulation. Baroreceptors in the left atrium, left ventricle, and pulmonary veins sense blood volume (filling pressures), and baroreceptors in the carotid sinus and aorta monitor arterial blood pressure. Nerve impulses reach brainstem nuclei predominantly through the vagal trunk and glossopharyngeal nerve; these signals are relayed to the solitary tract

nucleus, then to the A₁-noradrenergic cell group in the caudal ventrolateral medulla, and finally to the SON and PVN.

3. Endogenous agents

Several agents are known to stimulate vasopressin secretion, including acetylcholine (via nicotinic receptors), histamine (via H₁ receptors), dopamine (via both D₁ and D₂ receptors), glutamine, aspartate, cholecystikinin, neuropeptide Y, substance P, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide, prostaglandins, and angiotensin II. Inhibitors of vasopressin secretion include atrial natriuretic peptide, g-aminobutyric acid, and opioids (particularly dynorphin via k receptors).

4. Drugs

Stimulators of vasopressin secretion include vincristine, cyclophosphamide, tricyclic antidepressants, nicotine, epinephrine, and high doses of morphine. Lithium, which inhibits the renal effects of vasopressin, also enhances vasopressin secretion. Inhibitors of vasopressin secretion include ethanol, phenytoin, low doses of morphine, glucocorticoids, fluphenazine, haloperidol, promethazine, oxilorphan, and butorphanol. Carbamazepine has a renal action to

produce antidiuresis in patients with central diabetes insipidus but actually inhibits vasopressin secretion via a central action.

Receptors and mechanism

Type	Second Messenger	Site	Effect
V1	G1q-PLC, IP3, DAG	Vascular smooth muscle	Vasoconstriction
V2	AC-cAMP	CD of renal tubule	Anti-diuresis, viii & vwf release
V3	PLC, IP3, DAG	CNS	ACTH release

Pharmacological effects

V_1 -receptor-mediated therapeutic applications are based on the rationale that V_1 receptors cause contraction of gastrointestinal and vascular smooth muscle.

V_2 -receptor-mediated therapeutic applications are based on the rationale that V_2 receptors cause water conservation and release of blood coagulation factors. Central but not nephrogenic DI can be treated with V_2 -receptor agonists, and polyuria and polydipsia usually are well controlled. Some patients experience transient DI (e.g., in head injury or

surgery in the area of the pituitary); however, therapy for most patients with DI is lifelong.

- CVS- Vasoconstriction-skin, skeletal muscle, fat-GIT, coronary, brain.

Despite the potency of vasopressin as a direct vasoconstrictor, **vasopressin-induced pressor responses in vivo are minimal and occur only with vasopressin concentrations significantly higher than those required for maximal antidiuresis.**

- RENAL- Aquaporin2 mediated increased water permeability in principal cells of collecting tubules. (water & electrolyte balance)
- CNS- ACTH release
- COAGULATION- Release of factor viii & Vwf from endothelium- HEMOSTASIS.
- OTHERS- smooth muscle contraction in GIT & uterus, platelet aggregation, glycogenolysis etc.

Diseases affecting vasopressin system

When $<5\text{pg/ml}$, linear decrease in body's ability to maximally concentrate urine and when it is $<1\text{pg/ml}$ urine volume increases dramatically from $<4\text{L}$ to $>20\text{L/day}$.

1. Diabetes insipidus - central/neurogenic, nephrogenic - reduced vasopressin level or function.
2. Syndrome of Inappropriate ADH secretion-excess serum vasopressin levels

Synthetic analogues

- Synthetic vasopressin- nanopeptide
- Pharmacokinetics – Vasopressin
 - $t_{1/2}$ - 17 to 35 mins
 - duration – 2 to 8 hrs
 - if given orally – digested by trypsin
- Desmopressin – potent V₂ receptor agonist.

It has enhanced antidiuretic potency, greatly diminished pressor activity and prolonged half-life as compared to Vasopressin.

- $t_{1/2}$, - Fast component-6.5 to 9 mins
- Slow component-30 to 117mins
- Other Vasopressin analogues/V1 receptor agonists-e.g. terlipressin

Therapeutic uses

Two antidiuretic peptides are available for clinical use. Vasopressin (synthetic 8-L-arginine vasopressin; PITRESSIN) is available as a sterile aqueous solution; it may be administered subcutaneously, intramuscularly, or intranasally. (2) Desmopressin acetate (synthetic 1-deamino-8-D-arginine vasopressin; DDAVP, others) is available as a sterile aqueous solution packaged for intravenous or subcutaneous injection, in a nasal solution for intranasal administration with either a nasal spray pump or rhinal tube delivery system, and in tablets for oral administration. The therapeutic uses of vasopressin and its congeners can be divided into two main categories according to the type of vasopressin receptor involved.

- Diabetes insipidus - of acute onset and shorter duration. Vasopressin can be used as an alternative to desmopressin in the initial diagnostic evaluation of patients with

suspected DI and to control polyuria in patients with DI who recently have undergone surgery or experienced head trauma. Under these circumstances, polyuria may be transient, and long-acting agents may produce water intoxication.

Vasopressin-dose – 0.5 to 3U/hr (or)0.01 to 0.04 U/min

- max. safety dose without much CVS compromise
 - 0.04U/min or 40mU/kg/hr
 - 1U i.v bolus can be given before infusion.
 - The pediatric dose range for vasopressin is 0.0003–0.0007 U/kg per minute (0.3–0.7 mU/kg per minute) to a maximum dose of 2.4 U/h
- Acute GI hemorrhage – V_1 -receptor-mediated vasoconstriction of the splanchnic arterial vessels reduces blood flow to the portal system and thereby attenuates pressure and bleeding in esophageal varices. Although endoscopic variceal banding ligation is the treatment of choice for bleeding esophageal varices, V_1 -receptor agonists have been used in an emergency setting until endoscopy can be performed.

Finally, V_1 -receptor-mediated vasoconstriction has been used to reduce bleeding during acute hemorrhagic gastritis, burn wound excision, cyclophosphamide-induced hemorrhagic cystitis, liver transplant, cesarean section, and uterine myoma resection.

- Vasodilatory shock – resistant to catecholamines(1-5U/hr)
- CPR- 40U single i.v dose may replace first or second dose of epinephrine.
- Post-op- V_1 -receptor-mediated contraction of gastrointestinal smooth muscle has been used to treat postoperative ileus and abdominal distension and to dispel intestinal gas before abdominal roentgenography to avoid interfering gas shadows.
- Hemophilia / VWD(desmopressinpreferred - 0.3mics/kg)
- Nocturnal enuresis (desmopressinpreferred -2.5 mics)

Drug interaction

- POTENTIATION-carbamazepine, chlorpropamide, TCA, opioid, NSAIDS
- ATTENUATION – demeclocycline, lithium, ethanol.

- CAUTION- angina, CHF, hypertension
- CONTRAINDICATION- ARF

Adverse effects

Most adverse effects are mediated through the V_1 receptor acting on vascular and gastrointestinal smooth muscle.

- After the injection of large doses of vasopressin, marked facial pallor owing to cutaneous vasoconstriction is observed commonly. Increased intestinal activity is likely to cause nausea, belching, cramps, and an urge to defecate. Most serious, however, is the effect on the coronary circulation. Vasopressin should be administered only at low doses and with extreme caution in individuals suffering from vascular disease, especially coronary artery disease. Peripheral vasoconstriction and gangrene have been encountered.
- Coronary vasospasm, arrhythmias, decreased cardiac output.
- The major V_2 -receptor-mediated adverse effect is water intoxication, which can occur with desmopressin or vasopressin.
- Urticaria to anaphylaxis- allergic reaction.

**REVIEW OF
LITERATURE**

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature was searched and reviewed to seek the supporting evidences for role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in braindead patients, effect of traumatic brainstem dysfunction on serum vasopressin level, effect of, donor hypernatremia on the grafted organs, the effect of the correction of donor hypernatremia, role of vasopressin in hemodynamic stability and catecholamine sparing effect of vasopressin.

1. Charles Ralston, Warwick Butt et al⁽⁹⁾

Study was done on five children with severe brain injury who developed diabetes insipidus. They received continuous intravenous treatment with a solution containing both aqueous vasopressin and appropriate crystalloid replacement. Major manifestations of diabetes insipidus such as polyuria, hypernatraemia, and decreased urine osmolalities were corrected in all patients within eight to 28 hours of treatment.

Diagnostic criteria for diabetes insipidus include polyuria (>30 ml/kg/day), hypernatraemia, and low urine osmolality (<250 mmol/kg).

Vasopressin infusion was started as soon as the diagnosis of diabetes insipidus was confirmed.

Vasopressin infusion was started. Crystalloid infusion aimed, to replace 80-110% of measured urine excretion. The volume replacement was according to the previous hour's urinary output. Monitoring - measurement of urine volume every hour, electrolytes every four hours, and urine osmolality every 12 hours. The serum sodium was recorded every two to four hours. Therapeutic end point was urine volume <2 ml/kg/hr, urine osmolality >300 mmol/kg, and serum sodium concentration <145 mmol/l.

Result-in all cases decrease urine output (within 8 hrs) and decrease in serum sodium were noticed. Average dose of vasopressin administered was 9mU/kg/hour (range 5-14 mU/kg/hour).

This report describes, the effective, methods for, the treatment of diabetes insipidus and the resultant hypernatremia, which include vasopressin and crystalloid infusions.,

2. Lee YJ, Shen EY, Huang FY, Kao HA, Shyur SD et al⁽¹⁰⁾

In this study three comatose children with, diabetes insipidus were treated with in vasopressin infusion. As soon as the diagnosis was

confirmed Vasopressin infusion was started at a dose of 1.3 to 2.7mU/kg/hr. Responses monitored were urine flow rate and serum sodium level. Decrease in urine output was noticed in 1 to 6 hours and decrease in serum sodium, was noticed 17- 53 hours after the initiation of treatment. Sodium control was seen during a period of 2.5 to 22 days until the patients' death, Continuous infusion of vasopressin gave the advantage of faster onset and shorter duration action. Therefore it could be easily titrated. They concluded that Vasopressin infusion was a rational therapy for comatose children with neurogenic diabetes insipidus.

3. Pennefather et al. (Pennefather SH, Bullock RE, Mantle D, Dark JH)⁽¹¹⁾

It was a prospective study conducted in 24 brain-dead organ donors. Patients receive either saline or a low dose arginine vasopressin, infusion after randomization. In the, 11 patients of AVP group, plasma hyperosmolality reduced ($P < 0.05$), blood pressure increased ($P < 0.01$), inotrope need decreased ($P < 0.01$), and the, cardiac output was maintained. In the 13 patients of control group, plasma hyperosmolality increased (NS); no significant change in other parameters. They, concluded that the use of a low dose AVP infusion in potential, organ

donors, reduced, the inotrope requirement, and decreased the sodium levels in the serum. Target, MAP was between 65-85 mm Hg.

4. Kenneth Katz, Jack Lawler, Jennifer Wax, Robert O'Connor, Vinay Nadkarn⁽¹²⁾

Vasopressin pressor effects in critically ill children during evaluation for brain death and organ recovery

They, hypothesized that low dose Vasopressin, infusion during organ recovery in critically ill children exerted a pressor effect, without major organ toxicity. Method: 34 VP-treated and 29 age-matched critically ill controls (C) ≤ 18 years were retrospectively reviewed during brain death evaluation and organ recovery. Vasopressin dose titrated clinically to urine output, with high variability. Pressor and inotrope management was titrated clinically to BP, cerebral perfusion and CVP in VP and C groups. Outcome measures include dose, type and number of, pressors and inotropes. Organ function was assessed at recovery and 48 h post-transplant.

Result : VP dose averaged 0.041 ± 0.069 U/kg/h. Average baseline mean arterial pressure (MAP) before VP infusion was 79 ± 17 mmHg VP and 76 ± 14 mmHg C. Subsequent average, MAP were: 82 ± 21 mmHg

after VP infusion versus 71 ± 16 mmHg C and 80 ± 14 mmHg VP versus 68 ± 22 mmHg C. Ability to wean/stop pressors, and inotropes was: dopamine (14/23) 42% VP versus (10/26) 38% C, epinephrine (4/5) 80% VP versus (0/6) 0% C, norepinephrine / phenylephrine (4/4) 100% VP versus (2/5) 40% C. Alpha agonist pressor dependence was successfully weaned from 7/9 (78%) VP versus 0/9 (0%) C.

Conclusion : Vasopressin (Low dose vasopressin infusion) treated patients were 7.3 times more likely to wean from alpha agonists than comparably managed age matched controls, without adverse affect on transplant organ function.

5. Figueras et al⁽¹³⁾

They studied deleterious effect of donor hypernatremia on graft acceptance in OLT.

In the study donor risk factors associated with second OLT (Re OLT) and graft loss after OLT were evaluated. Total of 649 OLTs in 11 centres during 1992-1993 were analysed. 11 parameters were monitored including serum sodium level in donor.

Conclusion:

1. Donor plasma sodium $> 155\text{mmol/L}$ was associated with graft loss within 1 month.
2. Patients with plasma sodium $>155\text{mmol/L}$ should be evaluated carefully before procurement.
6. **Eishi Totsuka, Forrest Dodson, Atsushi Urakami, Natalia Moras, Tomohiro Ishii, Ming-Che Lee, Jorge Gutierrez, Mauricio Gerardo, Ernesto Molmenti, and John J. Fung⁽¹⁴⁾**

In this study, the effect of hypernatremia on early liver graft rejection and the effect of its management on outcome during OLT were evaluated.

181 consecutive OLTs performed between May 1997 and July 1998 were selected for, this study. They divided the patients into, three groups based on, the donor serum sodium levels.

Group A, serum sodium of 155 mEq/L or less, (n 118); group B, with peak sodium value greater than 155 mEq/L and final sodium level, 155 mEq/L or less (n, 36); and group C, final sodium level persistently greater than 155 mEq/L (n 27)., 90 days graft survival, and early

postoperative graft function after OLT were analyzed. The observation was : The frequencies of graft loss were 12.7% in group A, 11.1% in group B, and 33.3% ($P < .05$ v groups A and B) in group C.

Conclusion : Elevated liver enzymes and prothrombin, time were noticed, in the post operative period in group C for 14 days. Incidence of early graft rejection was higher in hypernatremic group.

7. Kinoshita Y, Yahata K, Yoshioka T, Onishi S, Sugimoto T et.al.⁽¹⁵⁾

In this study 28 braindead patients were divided into 2 groups. 10 patients received epinephrine infusion. In 18 patients Vasopressin infusion started in addition to epinephrine. 8 out of 10 patients in epinephrine group went for cardiac arrest in < 48 hrs even with higher doses. Urine output was not controlled. Renal function deteriorated progressively.

In vasopressin group blood pressure was maintained with low dose epinephrine. Survival duration was prolonged to 4 days. Urine output was controlled and RFT normalized. It was concluded that combined vasopressin and epinephrine infusion maintained normal RFT for longer time (upto 2 weeks).

8. Jennifer A. Frontera, Thomas Kalbet al⁽¹⁶⁾.

They explained the role of hormonal therapy in braindead management. Levothyroxine, solumedrol, Vasopressin and insulin were used. Hormonal therapy was started when there were hypotension with features of diabetes insipidus, in braindead patients. In a prospective study with 19 hemodynamically unstable, braindead patients, refractory to usual treatment with fluids and inotropes, hormonal therapy was started and a significant decrease in vasopressor requirement was noticed.

In another retrospective study with 10292 patients, initiation of hormonal therapy resulted in high organ yield.

9. Totsuka E, Fung U, Hakamada K, Tanaka M, Takahashi K, Nakai M, Morohashi S, Nishimura A, Ishizawa Y, Ono H, Toyoki Y, Narumi S, Sasaki M.⁽¹⁷⁾

This study was done to analyse several clinical parameters that affect 30 day graft loss after, OLT (Orthotopic Liver Transplantation). 186 liver transplantations, that have been done in the period of May 1997 to June 1998 at university of Pittsburgh medical centre, were

included. Donor variables include age, sex, dopamine dose, cold ischemia time, warm ischemia time, serum sodium level.

28 grafts were lost. Factors, that affected, the graft survival were serum sodium > 155 mmol/L, CIT > 12 hrs, WIT > 45%.

It was concluded that donor hypernatremia, CIT and WIT independently affect the graft survival, after OLT. Avoiding long preservation and correcting serum sodium were suggested to, improve the graft acceptance.

10. Yoshioka T, Sugimoto H, Uenishi M, Sakamoto T, Sadamitsu D, Sakano T, Sugimoto T.⁽¹⁸⁾

This study was done in 16 braindead patients (14-head injury, 2-CVA).

10 patients were treated with epinephrine infusion alone with target systolic BP 90mmHg. Remaining, 6 patients received Vasopressin infusion at a dose of 1-2U/hr (285+/-45microunits/kg/min), along with epinephrine infusion.

10 patients treated with epinephrine alone had cardiac arrest within 48 hrs, with mean survival time 24.1+/-17.2 hrs. In patients who

received vasopressin infusion the changes noticed were, epinephrine dose requirement was not more than $>0.5\text{mg/hr}$ and prolonged mean survival time (23.1 ± 19.1 days). It was concluded that in, braindead patients the role of Vasopressin is critical, in hemodynamic maintenance and in improving the opportunities for organ transplantation.

11. Luciana Mascia, Ilaria Mastromauro and Silvia Grottoli et al⁽¹⁹⁾

Chen et al demonstrated a significant decrease in catecholamine doses (dopamine/nor epinephrine), using low dose Vasopressin infusion ($0.04\text{-}1.0\text{U/min}$) with considerable increase in MAP and organ perfusion. They also demonstrated, a complete weaning from catecholamines in 40% brain-dead patients with the use of Vasopressin. This was supported by a study done by Venkateswaran et al, and they suggested more extensive vasopressin usage as an alternative to norepinephrine in the management of brain-dead patients. Also Yoshioka et al demonstrated a prolonged hemodynamic stability with combined epinephrine and Vasopressin usage comparing the usage of epinephrine alone.

12. Kerri M. Robertson, MD, FRCP(C), and D. Ryan Cook, MD⁽²⁰⁾

It is mentioned that hemodynamic effects of vasopressin are dose-dependent and include generalized systemic vasoconstriction with an increase in blood pressure and a decrease in cardiac output, coronary and renal blood flow, bradycardia, and arrhythmias. With currently available information, it appears that the benefits of early treatment of the polyuria of DI with a titratable infusion of vasopressin, thereby minimizing electrolyte abnormalities, fluid shifts, and a reduction in core temperature, outweigh the potential for ischemic end-organ injury.

13. V. Shah, G. Bhosale et al⁽²¹⁾

Organ donor problems and their management

In this study they recommend frequent monitoring of U/O, serum electrolytes, glucose and urinary electrolytes in this study, when, U/O > 300 ml/hr or 4 ml/kg/hr, desmopressin (1-4 µg 8-12 hrly), a synthetic analogue of vasopressin was administered. It has enhanced antidiuretic potency, greatly diminished pressor activity and prolonged half-life as compared to Vasopressin. If refractory hypotension is a problem,

Desmopressin was, changed to Vasopressin (1 U bolus + infusion 0.5-4 U/hr).

As, polyuria can cause obligatory loss of fluid and electrolytes, was aggressively managed to maintain haemodynamic and electrolyte stability. The, previous hour's U/O, was replaced with a hypotonic fluid (5% Dextrose in 0.45% NaCl), with close monitoring of electrolytes, as elevated serum sodium is a risk factor for delayed or primary nonfunction of grafted organs.

14. Hohenegger M, Vermes M, Mauritz W, Redl G, Sporn P, Eiselsberg P⁽²²⁾

Serum vasopressin (AVP) levels in polyuric brain-dead organ donors.

In this study serum vasopressin level was evaluated in 11 braindead patients. There were polyuria and low urine osmolality (which was always below the serum osmolality) noticed. Serum Vasopressin levels of braindead patients were compared with that of the normal subjects.

Observation: Serum Vasopressin levels in braindead patients were between 1.32- 50 pg/ml. In normal subjects the values were between 0.7-8pg/ml.

Conclusion: Thus in this study both normal and elevated Serum Vasopressin levels were noticed in braindead patients. So the nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus was suspected in these patients.

AIM OF THE STUDY

AIM OF THE STUDY

To evaluate the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in clinically brain-dead patients using intravenous vasopressin infusion at a dose of 0.01-0.04U/min in 40 clinically brain-dead patients.

**MATERIALS
AND
METHOD**

MATERIALS AND METHODS

It was a prospective a study of evaluation of the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatrmia in clinically braindead patients, conducted in Government General Hospital, Chennai.

STUDY DESIGN

Prospective, interventional.

After obtaining institutional ethical committee clearance, 40 clinically braindead patients with hypernatremia were selected using following criteria:

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Clinically braindead patients (ASA PS 6)
- Traumatic injury
- Serum Na⁺ level > 145 meq/L
- Urine output > 4ml/kg/hr

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Braindead patients with serum Na⁺ < 146meq/L
- Urine output < 1.5-2ml/kg/hr

- Patients with known renal pathology
- Allergy to vasopressin group of drugs

OUTCOME MEASURES

- Serum Na⁺ level
- Urine output
- Blood pressure
- Serum potassium
- Blood urea
- Serum creatinine
- Pulse rate
- Blood sugar

MONITORING INTERVAL

All parameters were monitored hourly.

Blood pressure- 1st hour – every 15 mins, 2nd & 3rd hour – every 30 mins, subsequent hours – hourly monitoring (if stable with supports) for 6 hours.

MATERIALS

1. 18G venflon
2. Heparin
3. ABG analysis source
4. intra venous fluids (5%D,RL,1/2NS)
5. Monitors- Monitors: ECG, Pulse oximetry, Capnography, NIBP
6. Vasopressin injection

STUDY METHOD

After receiving information from any ward, patients were visited and examined (History and clinical examination) thoroughly. Investigations were evaluated and if not complete instructions were given.

After confirming the existence of hypernatremia and verifying inclusion criteria, consent was obtained from patient's attenders and vasopressin infusion was started at a dose of 0.01U/min or 10mU/kg/hr. 20units vasopressin in 500ml NS (1ml =0.04U).

Above mentioned parameters were monitored at specified time intervals for 6 hours.

RESULTS

1. Serum Na⁺ reaches the target value
2. Decreased but not to the target level
3. No change in serum Na⁺ level
4. Persistently increasing levels noted

Interpretation of results

Response to vasopressin

1. PRESENT- if there was decrease in serum Na⁺ level (to target level or decrease >10 to 15% from baseline)
2. NOT- if there was no change or increasing levels.

STATISTICS

Statistical analysis was done to determine the significance (friedmantest and paired t test were used).

**OBSERVATION
AND
RESULTS**

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Table: 1

Frequency Table : Demographic Profile - SEX

Sex	Frequency	Percent
MALE	30	75.0
FEMALE	10	25.0
TOTAL	40	100.0

Male, Female distribution in this study was 75%, 25% respectively.

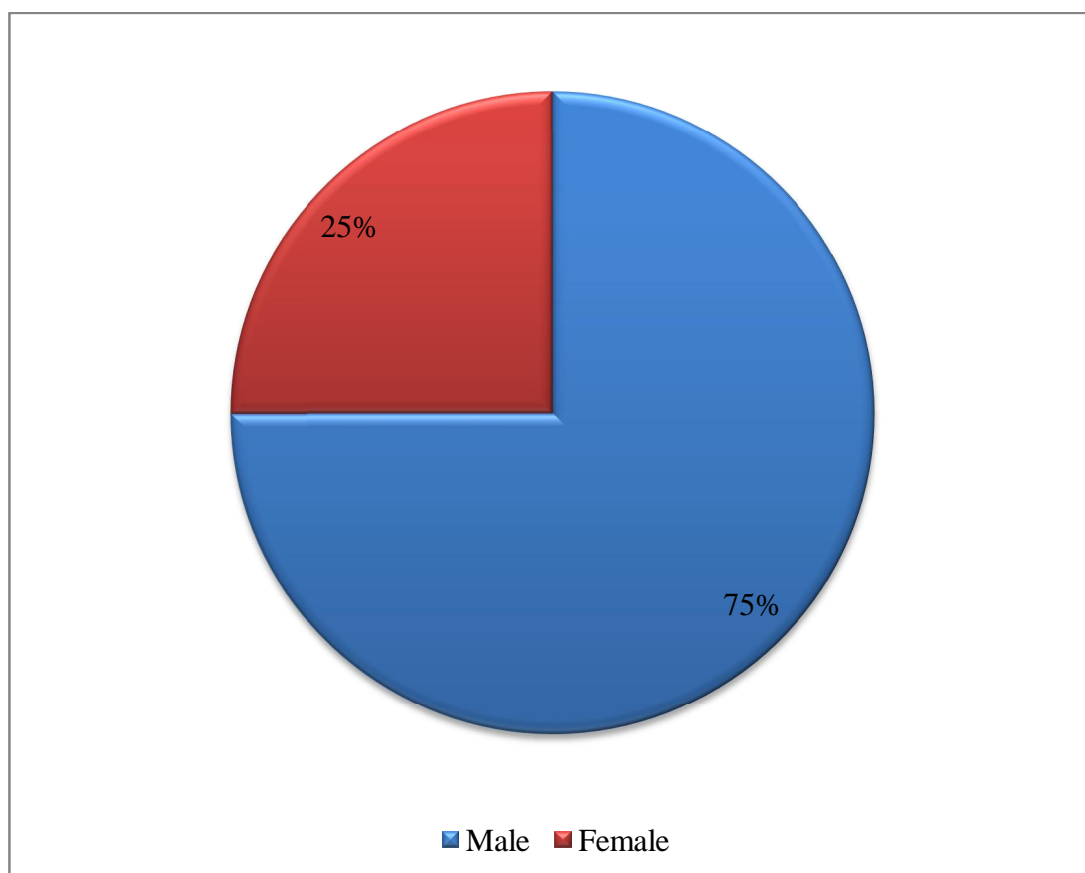


Table: 2**Frequency Table : MODE OF INJURY**

Mode of Injury	Frequency	Percent
RTA	34	85.0
Fall from Height	6	15.0
Total	40	100.0

In this study 85% cases were road traffic accident, 15% cases were fall from height.

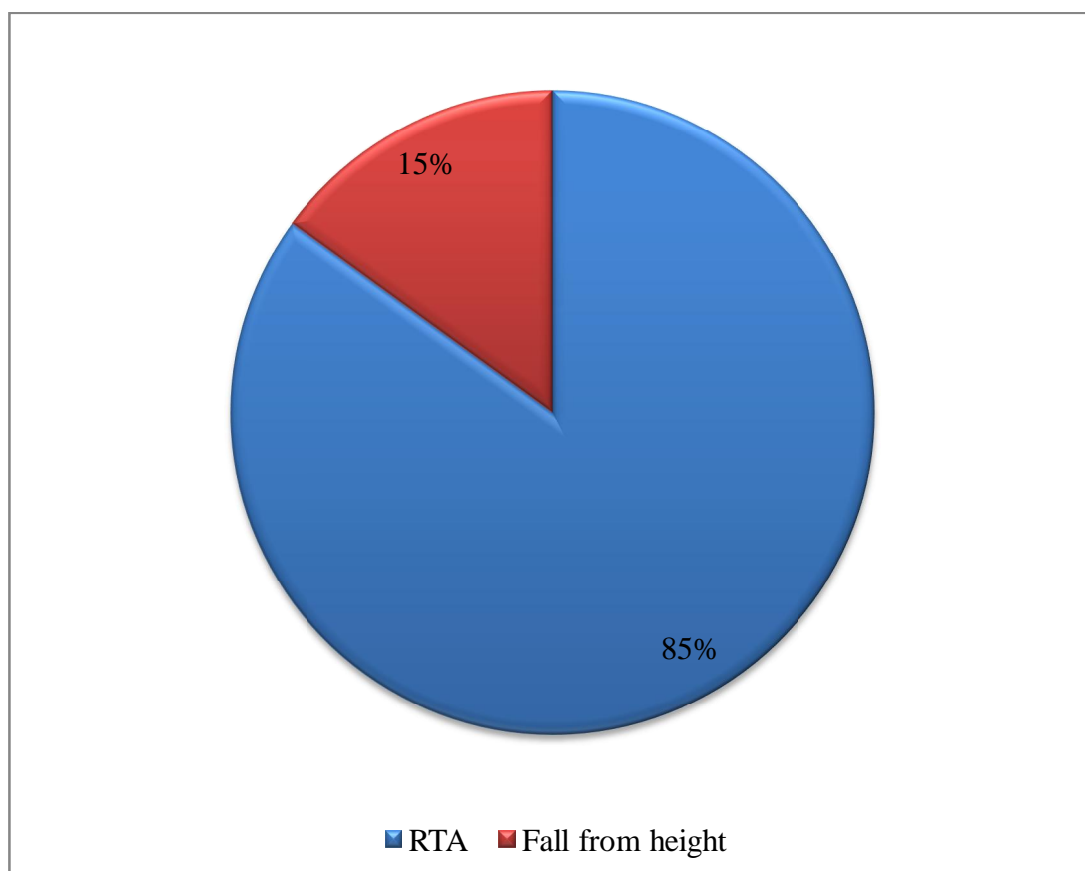


Table: 3**Descriptive Statistics : AGE**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age in years	40	15	60	33.30	12.041

Mean age was -33.3.

Table: 4**Frequency Table : GCS**

GCS	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
3	40	100.0	100.0	100.0

All the patients had GCS – 3/15

Table:5**ASA**

ASA	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
6	40	100.0	100.0	100.0

All the patients came under ASA-6.

Table: 6**RENAL DISEASE**

Renal Disease	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
NIL	40	100.0	100.0	100.0

All the patients were free of any renal pathology.

Table: 7

Descriptive Statistics, Friedman Test – to compare the hourly values.

SERUM SODIUM

Serum sodium	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	p-value
Initial	40	160.10	8.041	146	179	<0.001**
1hr	40	158.28	7.582	146	175	
2hrs	40	154.77	7.026	142	170	
3 hrs	40	151.15	7.145	138	166	
4 hrs	40	147.98	7.767	135	166	
5 hrs	40	145.12	9.030	132	171	
6 hrs	40	142.48	10.195	130	174	

There was a consistent decrease in serum sodium level in every hour.

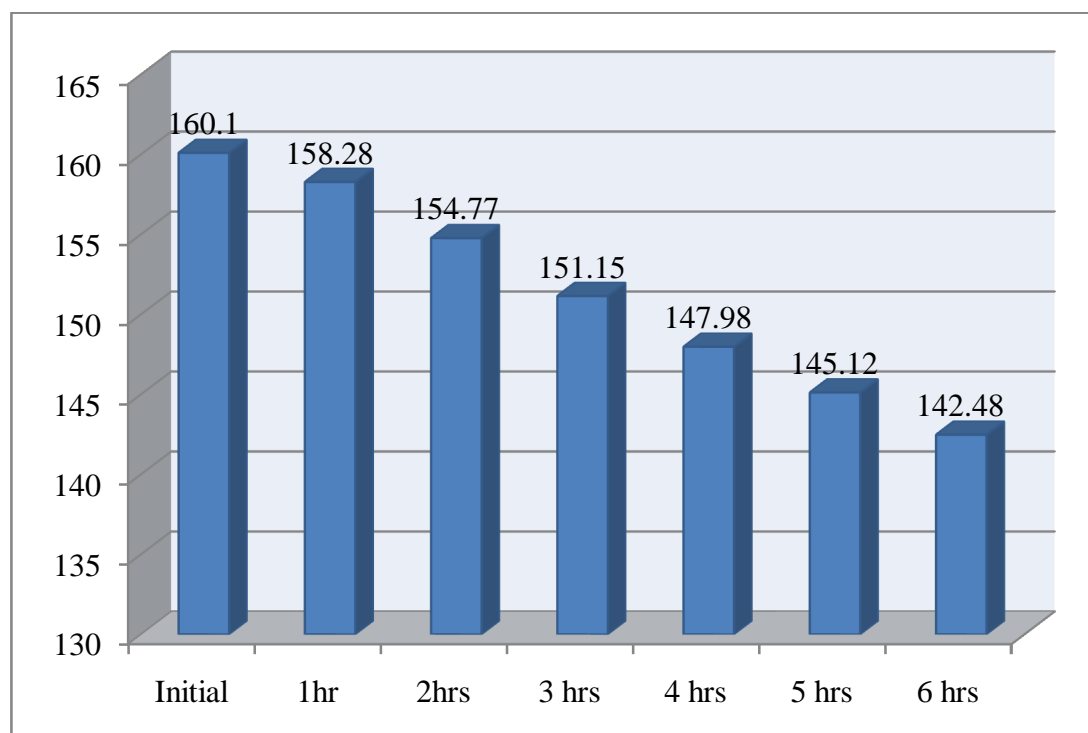


Table: 8

Paired Samples Statistics

Paired T-Test to compare the initial and final values

Serum sodium	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	p - value
Initial	160.10	40	8.041	1.271	< 0.001**
6 hrs	142.48	40	10.195	1.612	

There was significant decrease in serum sodium at the end.

Table: 9**Friedman Test – to compare the hourly values**

Urine output

Descriptive Statistics

Urine output	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	p-value
Initial	40	240.50	31.861	180	320	<0.001**
1 hrs	40	222.38	31.297	165	300	
2 hrs	40	205.50	32.715	160	290	
3hrs	40	188.25	33.846	140	290	
4 hrs	40	174.50	35.225	130	280	
5 hrs	40	162.50	38.213	125	290	
6 hrs	40	149.88	42.115	110	280	

There was a consistent decrease in urine output.

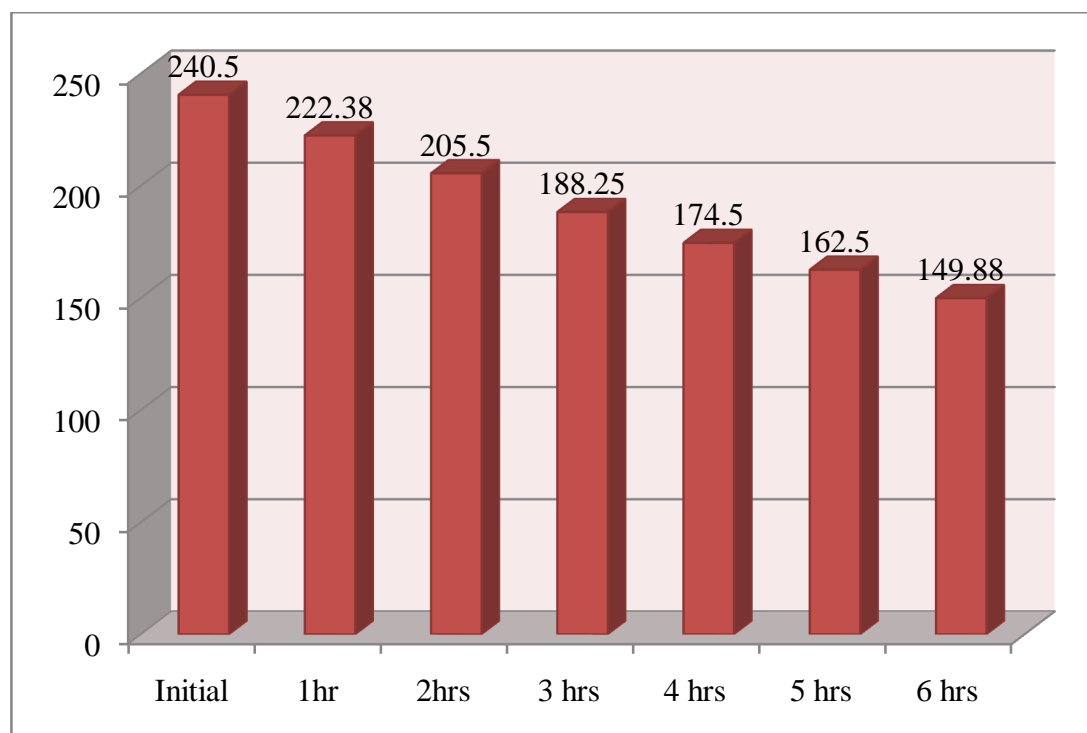


Table: 10**Paired Samples Statistics**

Paired T-Test – to compare the initial and final values

Urine output	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	p - value
Initial	240.50	40	31.861	5.038	< 0.001**
6hrs	149.88	40	42.115	6.659	

There was significant decrease in urine output at the end.

Table: 11**Systolic BP Descriptive Statistics**

Friedman Test – to compare the hourly values

Systolic BP	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	p-value
Initial	40	100.32	5.446	90	113	<0.001**
15mins	40	102.23	5.323	92	114	
30mins	40	103.98	4.886	94	114	
45mins	40	105.58	4.877	96	117	
1 hrs	40	105.98	4.938	96	117	
1 hrs 30mins	40	108.73	4.883	98	121	
2 hrs	40	111.05	4.904	102	123	
2 hrs 30mins	40	113.43	4.766	105	125	
3 hrs	40	116.07	4.649	107	128	
4 hrs	40	121.08	4.376	113	130	
5 hrs	40	125.63	4.584	118	135	
6 hrs	40	130.05	5.223	122	142	

Gradual increase in systolic blood pressure was noticed.

Table: 12**Paired Samples Statistics**

Paired T-Test – to compare the initial and final values

Systolic BP	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	p - value
Initial	100.33	40	5.446	.861	< 0.001**
6 hrs	130.05	40	5.223	.826	

There was definite improvement in hemodynamic status.

Table:13**Diastolic BP Descriptive Statistics**

Friedman Test – to compare the hourly values

Diastolic BP	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	p-value
Initial	40	62.30	4.826	53	75	<0.001**
15mins	40	63.38	4.839	54	75	
30mins	40	64.68	4.937	55	76	
45mins	40	65.50	4.935	57	77	
1 hrs	40	66.45	4.878	57	78	
1.30 hrs	40	68.28	4.904	60	78	
2 hrs	40	69.50	5.104	62	80	
2.30 hrs	40	71.70	4.869	65	83	
3 hrs	40	73.22	4.605	66	84	
4 hrs	40	76.58	4.701	70	86	
5hrs	40	80.72	4.873	72	90	
6 hrs	40	82.82	4.835	74	92	

Gradual increase in diastolic blood was also noticed.

Table:14**Paired Samples Statistics**

Paired T-Test – to compare the initial and final values

Diastolic BP	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	p - value
Initial	62.30	40	4.826	.763	< 0.001**
6hrs	82.83	40	4.835	.765	

Table:15**Mean arterial pressure Descriptive Statistics**

Friedman Test – to compare the hourly values

Mean arterial pressure	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	p-value
Initial	40	74.97	4.633	66	88	<0.001**
15mins	40	77.10	6.515	67	105	
30mins	40	77.70	4.603	68	88	
45mins	40	78.70	4.575	70	90	
1 hrs	40	79.63	4.436	70	91	
1.30 hrs	40	81.68	4.305	73	89	
2 hrs	40	83.33	4.486	75	94	
2.30 hrs	40	85.60	4.301	78	97	
3 hrs	40	87.43	4.069	80	99	
4 hrs	40	91.48	4.309	84	101	
5hrs	40	95.60	4.361	87	104	
6 hrs	40	98.50	4.546	92	108	

There was a definite increase in mean arterial pressure at the end of 6hrs.

BLOOD PRESSURE VARIATION

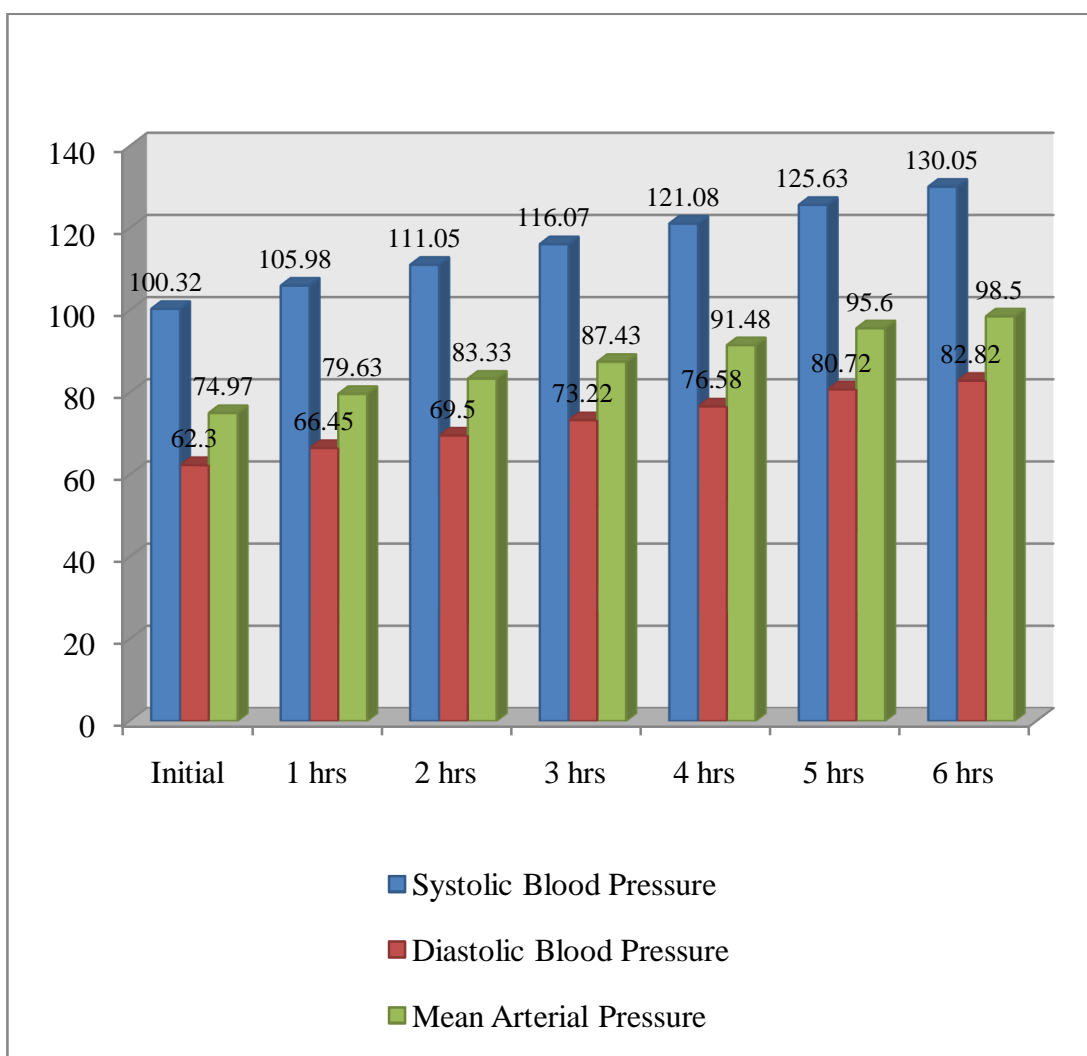


Table: 16**Paired Samples Statistics**

Paired T-Test – to compare the initial and final values

Mean arterial pressure	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	p- value
Initial	74.97	40	4.633	.732	< 0.001 **
6 hrs	98.50	40	4.546	.719	

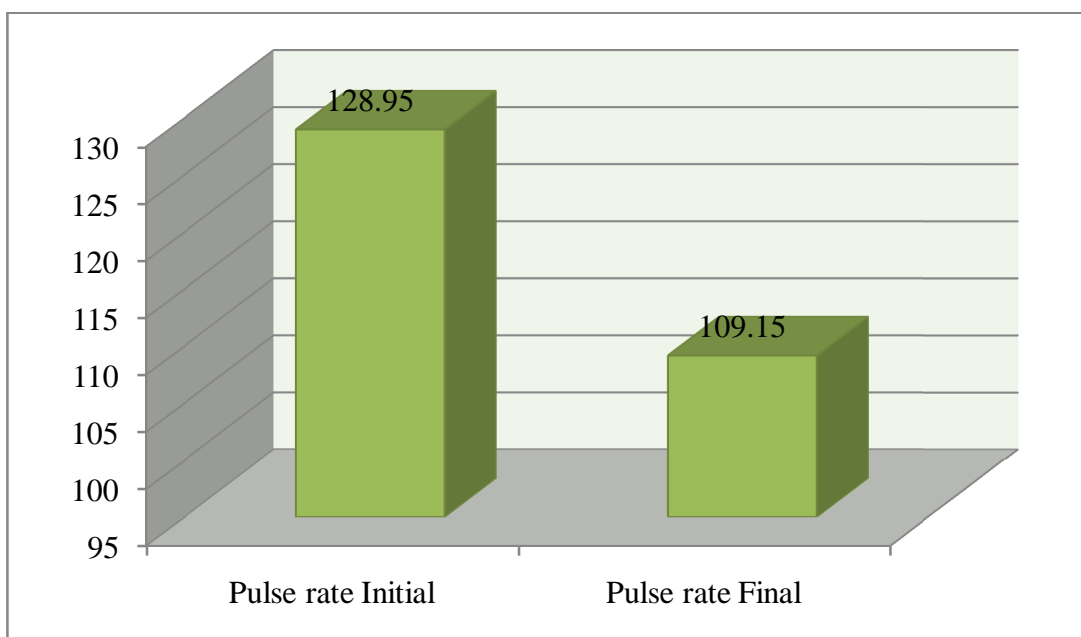
There was improvement in mean arterial pressure. There was no significant difference, in serum sodium control, urine output, and blood pressure control among the male and female population. Mode of injury didn't produce any significant difference in sodium control and blood pressure variation in this study. But significant differences were noticed in initial and first 3hours post-vasopressin urine output values. Where higher values were noticed in the fall from height group comparing RTA group.

Table : 17**Paired Samples Statistics**

Paired T-Test – to compare the initial and final values

Variable		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	p-value
Pair 1	Sr.K+ Initial	3.7900	40	.41188	0.635
	Sr.K+ Final	3.8450	40	.43908	
Pair 2	Sr.creatinine - Initial	1.2075	40	.24744	0.658
	Sr.creatinine - Final	1.2250	40	.11929	
Pair 3	pulse - Inital	128.95	40	7.56832	< 0.001**
	pulse - Final	109.15	40	16.35433	

There were no significant changes in serum potassium and serum creatinine seen in this study. But significant decrease in pulse rate was noticed. It may be due to the ability to reduce the catecholamine dose with time - catecholamine sparing effect of vasopressin and improved volume status.



DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Vasopressin has two major effects in braindead patients,

1. V2 receptor mediated free water retention-which helps to manage the hypernatremia in braindead patients due to the endocrine failure that follows posterior pituitary infarction ,which is otherwise harmful to the potentially transplantable organs, especially when serum sodium concentration $>155\text{mEq/L}$.(if the diagnosis is confirmed and the patients relatives give consent for organ donation)

2. V1 receptor mediated vasoconstriction – which helps to maintain/improve hemodynamic status in braindead patients, who are usually prone to hemodynamic instability due to the frequently accompanying autonomic failure.

From observation and statistical analysis there was almost a steady decline in serum sodium in every hour sample with a significant decrease in sodium level at the end of 6th hour noticed in 31 patients.

Mean initial sodium was 160.10mmol/L and final sodium concentration was $142.48.\text{mmol/L}$

There were consistent decrease in urine output in every hour and significant decrease in urine output at the end of 6th hour also noticed in those 31 patients.

Mean initial urine output was 240.50L/hr and final urine output was 149.88L/hr.

Considerable improvement in blood pressure (in terms of Systolic Blood pressure, Diastolic Blood pressure, Mean Arterial Pressure) is also seen in almost all patients.

Mean initial Blood pressure :

Systolic Blood pressure : 100.32mmHg

Diastolic Blood pressure : 62.30mmHg

Mean arterial pressure : 74.97mmHg

Mean final Blood pressure :

Systolic Blood pressure : 130.05mmHg

Diastolic Blood pressure : 82.82mmHg

Mean arterial pressure : 98.50mmHg

The pathology in these 31 patients could be the central diabetes insipidus due to posterior pituitary infarction.

In 9 patients there was no significant decrease in serum sodium level and urine output, so the pathology in these patients may be different-could be nephrogenic diabetes insipidus.

Patients selected were cases of traumatic brain death. 2 modes of injury in these patients were Road traffic accident and fall from height. distribution was 85%RTA,15% fall from height. There was no significant difference in these groups of patients regarding drug dosage or response in serum sodium level or blood pressure or urine output.

Sex distribution: Male-75% Female-25%

There was no significant difference in terms of drug dosage or response in serum sodium level or blood pressure or urine output due to sex distribution.

Other parameters monitored include serum potassium, blood urea, serum creatinine, pulse rate & blood sugar. There were no consistent or predictable and significant changes noticed in these parameters during the study.

So vasopressin infusion in clinically brain dead hypernatremic patients produced,

1. Significant & definite decrease in serum sodium level
2. Definite decrease in urine output
3. Considerable improvement or stability in haemodynamic status (Blood pressure), as denoted by decrease in catecholamine requirement with time.

As explained in review of literature these findings are supported by various studies.

Effect of Vasopressin on serum sodium control is supported by Charles Ralston, Warwick Butt et al⁽⁹⁾ and Lee YJ, Shen EY, Huang FY, Kao HA, Shyur SD et al.⁽¹⁰⁾

Catecholamine sparing effect of vasopressin is supported by Pennefather et al. (Pennefather SH, Bullock RE, Mantle D, Dark JH)⁽¹¹⁾, Kenneth Katz, Jack Lawler, Jennifer Wax, Robert O' Connor, Vinay Nadkarn et al⁽¹²⁾, Kinoshita Y, Yahata K, Yoshioka T, Onishi S, Sugimoto T et al.⁽¹⁵⁾, Yoshioka T, Sugimoto H, Uenishi M, Sakamoto T, Sadamitsu D, Sakano T, Sugimoto T.⁽¹⁸⁾, Luciana Mascia, Ilaria Mastromauro and Silvia Grottoli et al⁽¹⁹⁾.

Desmopressin (DDAVP) is an analog of AVP with a relatively potent antidiuretic effect and negligible vasopressor activity.

Diabetes insipidus

Central diabetes insipidus - Head injury, either surgical or traumatic, in the region of the pituitary and/or hypothalamus may cause central DI. Other causes include hypothalamic or pituitary tumors, cerebral aneurysms, CNS ischemia, and brain infiltrations and infections. Finally, central DI may be idiopathic or familial.

Antidiuretic peptides are the primary treatment for central DI. Vasopressin is preferred for short term uses especially when there is hypotension. Desmopressin is preferred for long term uses.

Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus - Nephrogenic DI may be congenital or acquired. Hypercalcemia, hypokalemia, postobstructive renal failure, lithium, foscarnet, clozapine, demeclocycline, and other drugs can induce nephrogenic DI. As many as one in three patients treated with lithium may develop nephrogenic DI. X-linked nephrogenic DI is caused by mutations in the gene encoding the V2 receptor, which maps to Xq28. These findings indicate that aquaporin 2 is essential for the antidiuretic effect of vasopressin in human beings.

The mainstay of treatment of nephrogenic DI is assurance of an adequate intake of water. Paradoxically, thiazide diuretics reduce the polyuria of patients with DI and often are used to treat non-lithium-induced nephrogenic DI.

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

This was a prospective study conducted in 40 clinically braindead patients with hypernatremia. Trauma patients were chosen.

After confirming hypernatremia with baseline serum sodium values and inclusion criteria vasopressin infusion was started at a dose of 0.01U/min.

Hourly serum sodium, serum potassium, urine output, blood urea, serum creatinine, blood pressure, heart rate and blood sugar were monitored for 6 hrs.

Blood pressure was monitored – every 15 minutes during 1st hour, every 30 minutes during 2nd & 3rd hour, every hour for next three hours.

Observed parameters were evaluated for statistical significance.

Statistical analysis was done with appropriate tests.

It shows that the effect of vasopressin in decreasing serum sodium was statistically significant.

Its effects in decreasing urine output and maintaining hemodynamic stability were also significant.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

As **endocrine and autonomic failure** both are common in braindead patients, **vasopressin at a dose of 0.01-0.04U/min** will be superior to other options in managing hypernatremia in these patients as **it handles both hypernatremia and hypotension**. Other options include desmopressin (lacks vasopressor effect) and using sodium free IV fluids or IV fluids with high free water clearance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE
MADRAS MEDICAL COLLEGE, CHENNAI -3**

Telephone No: 04425305301
Fax : 04425363970

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

To
Dr. G. Balaji
PG in MD Anaesthesia
Madras Medical College, Chennai -3.

Dear Dr. G. Balaji

The Institutional Ethics Committee of Madras Medical College reviewed and discussed your application for approval of the proposal entitled "Prospective study of evaluation of the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in clinically braindead patients " No. 32082011.

The following members of Ethics Committee were present in the meeting held on 16.08.2011 conducted at Madras Medical College, Chennai -3.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Prof. S.K. Rajan, MD | -- Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. V. Kanagasabai, MD
Dean, Madras Medical College, Chennai-3, | -- Deputy Chairman |
| 3. Prof. A. Sundaram, MD
Vice Principal , Madras Medical College, Chennai -3 | -- Member Secretary |
| 4. Prof R. Sathianathan , MD | -- Member |
| 5. Prof R. Nandhini, MD
Director, Institute of Pharmacology, MMC, Ch-3 | -- Member |
| 6. Prof. C. Rajendiran, MD
Director , Institute of Internal Medicine, MMC, Ch-3 | -- Member |
| 7. Thiru. A. Ulaganathan
Administrative Officer, MMC, Chennai -3 | -- Layperson |
| 8. Thiru. S. Govindasamy . BA.BL | -- Lawyer |
| 9. Tmt. Arnold Soulina MA | -- Social Scientist |

We approve the proposal to be conducted in its presented form

Sd / . Chairman & Other Members

The Institutional Ethics Committee expects to be informed about the progress of the study, any SAE occurring in the course of the study, any changes in the protocol and patient information / informed consent and asks to be provided a copy of the final report


Member Secretary, Ethics Committee

PROFORMA

PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF VASOPRESSIN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HYPERNATREMIA IN CLINICALLY BRAINDEAD PATIENTS

NAME : AGE : SEX : I.Po.

DIAGNOSIS:

CASE DETAILS:

HISTORY

MODE OF INJURY & TIME OF INJURY : CT BRAIN : TIME OF CLINICAL DECLARATION :

CO-MORBID ILLNESS & TREATMENT DETAILS (INCLUDING JAUNDICE):

EFFORT TOLERANCE _____ METS

ALCOHL INTAKE :

GENERAL EXAMINATION :

HEIGHT : WEIGHT : EXTERNAL INJURIES/INFECTION : GCS-

ANAEMIA- JAUNDICE – OEDEMA – CYANOSIS – PUPILS – DEM-

PULSE – BP-SPO2 CVS RS-SPONTANEOUS RESPIRATION –

INVESTIGATIONS :

Hb : BT : CT : BLOOD GROUPING & TYPING:

BLOOD SUGAR UREA: CREATININE ELECTROLYTES-Na+k+

ECG : CXR:

INTERVENTION

BASELINE ABG-Na+

TIME SINCE INJURY

VASOPRESSIN INFUSION – DOSE (0.1-0.04 U/min)

STARTING TIME

PARAMETERS TO BE OBSERVED

1. SERUM Na+LEVEL
2. SERUM K+
3. URINE OUTPUT
4. BLOOD UREA
5. SERUM CREATININE
6. PULSE RATE
7. BLOOD PRESSURE
8. BLOOD SUGAR

TIME TAKEN TO ATTAIN (FROM INFUSION) SERUM Na+ (146meq/L)

TIME	Na+	K+	UO	UREA	CREATININE	PR	BP	SUGAR

LOOK FOR ADVERSE EFFECTS

Sl.No.	Name	AGE	SEX	IPNO	MODE	GCS	ASA	RENAL DISEASE	Sr.Na+	INITIAL	1st hr	2nd hr	3rd hr	4th hr	5th hr	6th hr	U.O	INITIAL	1st hr	2nd hr	3rd hr	4th hr
1	Indhra	28	F	74175	RTA	3	6	NIL		158	156	152	148	146	142	140		250	235	210	190	185
2	Shanthakumari	60	F	75615	RTA	3	6	NIL		159	156	150	146	141	138	134		220	200	175	160	150
3	Ravi kumar	31	M	51756	RTA	3	6	NIL		174	173	170	166	166	168	166		250	250	240	235	225
4	Kasinathan	50	M	57617	RTA	3	6	NIL		160	157	151	145	140	137	133		225	210	190	180	165
5	Madhumitha	18	F	42698	RTA	3	6	NIL		146	150	156	162	166	171	174		230	230	225	220	210
6	Prabhakaran	22	M	46773	FALL	3	6	NIL		164	162	158	153	148	142	138		300	275	260	220	185
7	Desingh	32	M	89269	RTA	3	6	NIL		156	153	148	145	142	137	133		200	185	165	150	140
8	Sandiyappan	57	M	87170	RTA	3	6	NIL		153	150	145	142	140	138	134		180	165	160	150	135
9	Malliga	34	F	22707	RTA	3	6	NIL		170	167	163	159	155	150	146		240	220	200	185	175
10	Kannan	39	M	23805	RTA	3	6	NIL		159	157	153	151	146	143	138		280	265	240	220	195
11	lakshmi	45	F	27543	RTA	3	6	NIL		150	147	145	142	140	137	135		320	300	275	240	210
12	Perumal	30	M	29884	RTA	3	6	NIL		155	154	150	146	142	139	136		200	185	160	150	140
13	Kali	23	M	61103	RTA	3	6	NIL		158	157	155	153	152	152	152		220	210	200	190	200
14	Devi	18	F	61684	RTA	3	6	NIL		177	172	165	157	150	146	140		250	230	215	190	170
15	Kumaran	42	M	62213	RTA	3	6	NIL		154	153	150	146	143	141	138		275	250	220	180	170
16	Shankar	38	M	63215	RTA	3	6	NIL		152	150	146	142	140	138	137		230	210	195	185	170
17	Jagan	20	M	65589	RTA	3	6	NIL		168	167	165	162	164	162	162		240	230	230	220	230
18	Arun	22	M	10415	FALL	3	6	NIL		151	148	146	143	141	137	135		220	220	195	170	150
19	Chandrayan	42	M	11063	RTA	3	6	NIL		157	157	155	153	152	152	150		250	240	240	230	230
20	Fathima	55	F	14026	RTA	3	6	NIL		161	159	156	152	148	145	143		225	200	180	165	145
21	Ashok kumar	30	M	18019	RTA	3	6	NIL		160	160	156	151	146	142	139		240	215	200	175	160
22	Sathish	25	M	19732	FALL	3	6	NIL		156	153	148	144	141	138	136		225	210	180	155	150
23	Basheer	28	M	21790	RTA	3	6	NIL		163	162	156	152	146	140	137		240	220	195	175	150
24	Jagadhesh	27	M	24026	FALL	3	6	NIL		147	148	150	151	151	153	154		320	300	290	290	280

Sl.No.	Name	AGE	SEX	IPNO	MODE	GCS	ASA	RENAL DISEASE	Sr.Na+	INITIAL	1st hr	2nd hr	3rd hr	4th hr	5th hr	6th hr	U.O	INITIAL	1st hr	2nd hr	3rd hr	4th hr
25	Kumari	55	F	27140	FALL	3	6	NIL		168	165	160	154	148	145	138		300	280	265	240	200
26	Rambabu	18	M	35488	RTA	3	6	NIL		152	150	146	142	140	137	133		240	210	195	170	150
27	Manic basha	45	M	36835	RTA	3	6	NIL		166	16	165	163	161	160	160		230	220	230	240	220
28	Suresh	32	M	38931	RTA	3	6	NIL		152	150	147	142	138	133	130		190	175	160	140	130
29	Syed ahamed	45	M	40132	RTA	3	6	NIL		155	154	150	146	143	141	139		250	220	190	175	150
30	Rajaul	22	M	42328	RTA	3	6	NIL		163	160	155	151	146	143	141		230	210	185	160	145
31	Ramya	15	F	44636	RTA	3	6	NIL		167	165	160	154	149	145	142		220	190	170	150	140
32	Gurulingam	48	M	45938	RTA	3	6	NIL		165	165	163	164	160	158	158		210	200	210	210	200
33	Manikandan	21	M	47344	FALL	3	6	NIL		149	146	142	138	135	132	130		280	250	225	210	190
34	Manikandan	19	M	50149	RTA	3	6	NIL		179	175	167	160	154	146	140		240	220	200	175	155
35	Babu	32	M	54328	RTA	3	6	NIL		172	170	165	161	156	152	147		220	195	175	160	145
36	Saraswathi	35	F	72893	RTA	3	6	NIL		154	154	156	154	155	153	153		250	240	240	220	240
37	Jaihaludin	31	M	73322	RTA	3	6	NIL		159	156	152	148	145	142	140		220	190	170	155	140
38	Pari	39	M	32398	RTA	3	6	NIL		166	164	159	153	148	145	142		220	200	175	160	155
39	Ramesh	29	M	34426	RTA	3	6	NIL		165	162	157	151	146	140	137		230	200	190	165	150
40	Vatsalan	30	M	29466	RTA	3	6	NIL		164	162	158	154	149	145	139		260	240	200	175	150

5th hr	6th hr	BP	initial SBP	DBP	MAP	15min SBP	DBP	MAP	30min SBP	DBP	MAP	45min SBP	DBP	MAP	1hr SBP	DBP	MAP	1hr30 min SBP	DBP	MAP	2hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	2hrs 30mins SBP	DBP
180	170		96	62	73	98	63	75	99	65	76	100	64	76	100	66	77	104	67	79	106	68	81	107	71
140	125		102	64	77	105	64	78	106	65	79	106	66	79	108	66	80	110	69	83	111	69	83	115	73
220	220		92	65	74	94	66	75	98	67	77	102	68	79	100	68	79	104	71	82	106	72	83	110	74
155	140		106	70	82	108	72	84	108	75	86	111	76	88	111	77	88	113	77	89	115	76	89	118	79
200	210		113	75	88	114	75	88	112	76	88	117	77	90	117	78	91	121	78	89	123	80	94	125	83
160	140		104	67	79	104	68	80	108	70	83	108	71	83	110	73	85	111	76	88	114	78	90	117	81
135	120		102	68	79	105	69	81	108	71	83	108	70	83	107	70	82	112	74	87	116	76	89	116	75
130	120		110	72	85	112	73	86	114	72	86	116	73	87	116	74	88	118	75	89	121	77	92	124	78
160	140		101	65	77	102	67	79	105	68	80	105	70	82	106	71	83	108	73	85	109	73	85	111	73
175	140		94	65	75	97	66	76	99	67	78	101	68	79	100	68	79	103	70	81	105	72	83	108	74
170	130		98	62	74	98	61	73	101	64	76	104	65	78	105	67	80	108	69	82	111	72	85	115	76
125	120		103	68	80	106	70	82	108	73	85	109	75	86	109	75	86	111	77	88	114	79	91	116	80
200	200		104	66	79	106	66	79	108	68	81	110	67	81	111	69	83	114	71	85	116	71	86	118	72
155	145		94	58	70	95	58	70	97	59	72	100	59	73	102	61	75	105	63	77	108	63	78	111	65
160	150		99	65	76	102	66	78	104	67	79	106	69	81	104	70	81	108	73	85	107	74	85	110	77
150	130		90	55	67	92	55	67	96	57	70	96	58	71	97	59	72	100	60	73	102	63	76	106	65
220	220		98	60	73	101	61	74	102	62	75	103	62	76	105	65	78	110	66	81	114	68	83	117	72
140	130		96	62	73	98	63	78	100	64	76	101	64	76	103	66	78	105	68	80	108	69	82	110	72
235	230		102	59	73	105	61	105	106	62	77	108	64	79	109	64	79	111	64	80	113	62	79	116	65
125	110		100	58	72	102	59	73	104	61	75	105	62	76	105	63	77	109	65	80	112	67	82	115	68
140	130		95	60	72	98	61	73	100	63	75	102	64	77	101	65	77	104	68	80	105	72	83	108	75
140	135		104	66	79	105	66	79	107	68	81	108	69	82	108	69	82	110	70	83	112	72	85	114	73
145	125		100	63	75	102	64	77	103	65	78	103	66	78	104	68	80	105	69	81	107	70	82	110	72
290	280		96	57	70	99	59	72	100	60	73	102	61	75	103	61	75	106	63	77	108	64	79	111	66

5th hr	6th hr	BP	initial SBP	DBP	MAP	15min SBP	DBP	MAP	30min SBP	DBP	MAP	45min SBP	DBP	MAP	1hr SBP	DBP	MAP	1hr30 min SBP	DBP	MAP	2hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	2hrs 30mins SBP	DBP
175	140		105	68	80	107	69	82	108	70	83	111	71	84	110	71	84	112	73	86	114	73	87	115	75
140	120		90	56	67	93	57	69	95	58	70	97	60	72	98	61	73	102	62	75	104	64	77	107	67
220	210		96	60	72	98	60	73	100	61	74	102	62	75	102	63	76	105	65	78	109	66	80	110	68
125	110		106	58	74	107	59	75	109	60	76	110	60	76	111	61	78	113	64	80	115	65	82	117	66
130	120		103	60	74	105	62	76	107	63	78	106	64	78	107	64	78	108	67	81	111	66	81	113	67
140	125		98	56	70	100	57	71	101	58	72	103	60	74	103	61	75	106	63	77	107	64	78	106	66
130	125		104	58	73	104	59	74	106	61	76	107	62	74	108	64	79	110	63	79	113	62	79	115	67
190	190		106	62	77	109	64	79	111	65	80	112	66	81	112	67	82	115	68	84	116	71	86	118	73
165	140		98	58	71	99	60	73	100	60	73	103	61	75	104	61	75	106	63	77	109	65	80	111	68
140	130		102	64	77	104	65	78	107	66	80	108	67	81	108	68	81	111	70	84	115	70	85	117	72
130	120		92	53	66	92	54	67	94	55	68	97	57	70	96	57	70	98	60	73	102	62	75	105	65
230	230		108	66	80	109	68	82	109	69	82	110	70	83	111	70	84	114	74	87	115	76	89	116	77
130	110		94	61	72	97	63	74	99	64	76	100	64	76	100	65	77	102	66	78	105	68	80	108	70
140	125		105	58	74	105	60	75	106	60	75	108	61	77	109	61	77	110	62	78	112	62	79	114	66
135	120		102	60	74	105	61	76	106	63	77	108	62	77	108	64	79	112	67	82	115	69	84	118	70
130	120		105	62	76	107	64	78	108	65	79	110	65	80	111	67	82	115	68	84	117	70	86	119	72

MAP	3hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	4hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	5hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	6hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	Sr.K+	Initial	final	Sr. creatinine	initial	final	pulse	initial	final
83	110	76	87	118	75	89	126	81	96	132	86	101		4.2	3.4		1.3	1.2		148	114
87	117	75	89	121	74	90	124	75	91	126	78	94		3.8	3.6		1.8	1.3		134	118
86	115	75	88	126	80	95	135	83	100	142	85	104		3.5	4.6		1.1	1.2		138	112
92	122	80	94	127	84	98	132	89	103	136	92	107		4	3.2		1.4	1.2		130	122
97	128	84	99	130	86	101	133	87	102	134	89	104		3.2	3.6		1.3	1.4		124	108
93	121	82	95	126	86	99	133	90	104	138	92	108		4.5	3.8		1.4	1		130	114
89	117	74	88	120	77	91	122	80	94	124	82	96		3.1	4.2		1.6	1.4		125	118
93	125	79	94	128	81	97	133	84	100	138	86	103		3.3	4.6		1.2	1.3		118	110
86	114	71	85	119	72	88	123	73	90	126	75	92		4.2	3.8		1.4	1.1		124	116
85	111	75	87	117	77	90	120	84	96	122	82	95		4	3.5		1.2	1.1		146	122
89	117	80	92	122	86	98	128	88	101	132	90	104		3.6	4		1.1	1.5		136	118
92	118	80	93	123	82	95	126	84	98	138	85	103		3.8	3.4		1.3	1.1		128	106
87	120	70	87	125	76	92	128	80	96	130	84	99		4.2	3.8		1.6	1.2		126	114
80	113	67	82	119	72	88	123	78	93	128	76	93		4	3.4		1.1	1.2		128	116
88	114	78	90	121	84	96	128	82	97	134	86	102		3.6	4.8		1.6	1.4		134	112
79	110	68	82	118	75	89	123	78	93	128	76	93		3.2	4		1	1.2		142	118
87	119	74	87	124	80	95	128	86	100	132	84	100		3.6	3.8		1.2	1.3		130	116
85	114	76	89	119	75	90	123	80	94	128	83	98		2.9	3.6		1.1	1.2		124	106
82	118	68	85	123	70	88	130	85	100	133	84	100		3.6	4.4		1.3	1		130	108
84	116	70	85	122	76	91	126	80	95	128	82	97		4.2	3.4		1.3	1.1		124	112
86	110	76	87	116	70	85	123	88	100	127	86	100		3.8	4.2		1	1.2		120	104
87	115	74	88	117	73	88	120	77	91	125	79	94		3.4	4		0.9	1.1		128	116
85	112	73	86	115	77	90	119	82	94	124	86	99		3.6	3.8		1.1	1.3		122	108
81	115	68	84	119	74	89	122	76	91	130	78	95		4	3.4		1	1.2		142	118

MAP	3hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	4hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	5hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	6hrs SBP	DBP	MAP	Sr.K+	Initial	final	Sr. creatinine	initial	final	pulse	initial	final
88	117	74	88	121	78	92	124	82	96	126	80	95		4.8	3.6		1.7	1.3		132	14
80	110	68	82	115	70	85	119	73	88	122	78	93		3.9	4.6		1.2	1.4		127	106
82	114	70	85	121	74	90	126	77	93	131	79	96		4	3.4		0.9	1.1		118	104
83	121	68	86	128	75	96	130	78	95	132	81	98		4.2	3.2		1	1.2		134	112
82	115	69	84	118	71	87	122	74	90	126	78	94		3	4.4		1.2	1.3		124	106
79	110	68	82	115	72	86	119	78	92	124	81	99		4	3.8		1.5	1.3		126	108
83	119	68	85	122	75	91	126	73	91	128	74	92		4.2	3.6		1.2	1.4		118	104
88	121	75	90	127	80	96	130	86	101	138	92	107		3.4	4.1		1.2	1.1		120	106
82	113	70	84	117	74	88	123	79	94	127	82	97		3.8	4		1.2	1.3		136	114
87	120	74	89	126	79	95	133	83	100	140	86	101		3.6	4.4		1.4	1.2		128	116
78	107	66	80	113	70	84	118	72	87	123	77	92		3.8	4.4		0.9	1.2		122	104
90	118	78	91	123	81	95	127	84	98	132	86	101		4.2	3.5		1.1	1.3		126	108
83	109	72	84	114	75	88	121	80	94	127	84	98		4.2	3.8		1.1	1.2		132	114
82	116	68	84	118	70	86	122	73	89	125	76	92		3.8	3.2		0.8	1		126	106
86	120	73	89	124	78	93	129	83	98	134	88	103		3.6	4.1		0.7	1.2		120	102
88	122	75	91	126	79	95	128	84	99	132	85	101		3.8	3.4		0.9	1.3		138	116

Prospective study of evaluation of the role of vasopressin in the management of hypernatremia in clinically brain dead patients.

KEY WORDS

Braindeath , diabetes insipidus , increased urine output , hypernatremia, graft rejection , vasopressin infusion, serum sodium control.

ABSTRACT

After the diagnosis of brain death the focus of patient care shifts from interventions aimed at saving the patients life to interventions aimed at maintaining viability of potentially transplantable organs. A number of physiological changes occur in braindead patients – two important notable features are autonomic nervous system failure with hypotension and endocrine failure ,due to ischemic damage involving hypothalamus & pituitary damage . Most common endocrine abnormality is diabetes insipidus. It is characterized by – serum hyperosmolarity , hypernatremia , excessive urine output, low urine osmolarity and specific gravity .In braindead patients incidence of hypotension and hypernatremia are 81% and 75-77% respectively. Dis advantages of donor hypernatremia include increased graft loss - especially liver (when $sr.Na^{+}>155meq/L$, due to formation of idiogenic osmoles) , prolonged

prothrombin time in the post op period , prolonged ICU stay and may reduce patient survival. Duration of hypernatremia also influences the graft survival. So, maintaining serum sodium level within normal limits may improve graft outcome (especially liver).It is supported by various studies. In this prospective interventional study vasopressin infusion was used in 40 clinically braindead patients with hypernatremia($\text{sr.Na}^+ > 145 \text{ meq/L}$) and $\text{U.O} > 2 \text{ ml/kg/hr}$ (diabetes insipidus) , to treat hypernatremia . Target serum sodium was $< 146 \text{ meq/L}$ or atleast $< 155 \text{ meq/L}$ when initial level was too high. Vasopressin infusion - dose – $0.5 \text{ to } 3 \text{ U/hr}$ (or) $0.01 \text{ to } 0.04 \text{ U/min}$ ($10\text{-}40 \text{ mU/kg/hr}$) i.v. Decrease in serum sodium levels and decrease in urine output were seen in 31 patients. In 9 patients there was no significant change in serum sodium level. There was also considerable improvement in hemodynamic status noticed in these patients. Statistical analysis showed that the changes in serum sodium level , urine output and hemodynamic status were significant.