

Biomagnetic Validation to Skin Level for Blood Pressure Curves and Venous

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ABSTRACT

An analysis of the reproducibility from signal record bioelectric heart activity is presented. The measurements were carried out with a recently patented medical device, which one is able to record the curves of pressure arterial and venous as those obtained using the gold standard technique in these evaluations, the cardiac catheterization technique. The measurements were carried out 15 health subjects and patients; each one was measured 5 times in order to have auto-correlations and correlations of these records. Analysis indicates correlations from 0.9 to 1 as long as p values were below 0.05. It is indicated an excellent reproducibility of evaluated patients.

Keywords: Bioelectric Heart Activity; Curves of Pressure Arterial and Venous; Correlation Coefficient; Statistical Analysis

1. Introduction

The arterial and venous pressures are values attributed to blood flow through human body [1,2]. As far as it is known, the first record about blood circulation existence was performed in China by Nei Ching, 2600 years a. C. [3] Although Miguel Servet made the first description of pulmonary circulatory system [4]. Later, William Harvey raised the principle of hemodynamics to verify that the heart muscle had phases of movement and rest [5]. Poiseuille used a pressure gauge in animals to evaluate the pressure in units of mmHg [6], Faivre used the Poiseuille hemodinamometer on a human being to measure intra-arterial pressure [7].

Some non-invasive studies have shown that hemodynamic forces have a relationship with the pulse pressure [8]. It has also been noted that with age, it is increased cardiovascular risk, and it is directly related to aortic pressure increase [8-12]. Currently there are two methods of clinical routine use for measurement of blood pressure and only one to record venous pressure: cardiac catheterization and sphygmomanometer to arteries. The second one is widely used, however provides a register subjective due to its nature. As long as, the technique of

cardiac catheterization is able to record venous pressure in their inside, it is considered the gold standard in these assessments, despite it is widely invasive and it demands high trained personnel and special patients areas for implementation [9]. Nevertheless, it presents an objective record.

In this paper, it is presented the validation of records on blood pressure in healthy subjects and patients. It has been used a device recently patented, the pulse pressure cardiac gauge (PPC). This diagnostic and monitoring device is able to have a distinction of recording of the curves shape of pressure of arterial and venous as those recorded by catheterization, it offer an express evaluation with the advantage of carrying out the valuation on skin level; the ionizing radiation is avoided and does not require a sterile room for evaluation.

2. Methodology

Each one of the patients enrolled in this study gave a written consent previous to carrying out measurements, which were performed according to the treaty of Helsinki for studies in humans. These assessments did not present any risk or exposed the patient to any ionizing radiation. To each volunteer was asked to be placed in semi-fowler position with the head turned to the right, then the artery

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or vein was identified by palpation and auscultation, this is, the location of the internal jugular vein and common carotid artery as shown in **Figure 1**; when the right location under skin of artery or vein is done, on skin is placed a magnetic marker (a magnet of 3×4 mm, diameter and height, respectively), then, it is fixed the sensor base of the PPC in contact with the skin. Without exerting more pressure that the base and the magnetic sensor weight on the neck of the person, the magnetometer is always separated a distance of 2.5 cm from magnetic marker on patient skin. This magnetic marker is light enough not to crush the vessel but has the intensity of the magnetic moment sufficiently intense, $\mu = 0.13 \text{ Am}^2$. Magnetic signal is registered with an excellent signal/noise rate, such it is not required filtering digital additional so that the detected signal is read.

Mechanical action by the flow of blood in the vessel is transmitted to magnetic marker. So, it generates a variable magnetic field which increases as it approaches the sensor having variability in time and decreases away from this one.

In this validation study were measured 10 healthy subjects, all with no history of heart disease and 5 patients who underwent cardiac catheterization for suspected coronary artery disease, while they were registered with the cardiac catheter. So, after placing the magnetic marker, it was measured pressure curves repetitively every 30 seconds according to following order: 5 records for aspiratory inhalation and 5 records for aspiratory exhalation. It was asked an apnea around of 30 s. These measurements were performed on the left side of the neck and suprasternal area, some of them also included alternate position: semi-fowler and supine.

Validation of the obtained signals is carried out estimating the correlation coefficient of the reproducibility of the signal (cross-correlation of a signal with itself) using mathematical procedures for processing biological signals, first among the same individual (auto-correlation) and then correlate measurements between healthy subjects and patients.

3. Results

The first part of the measurements performed with the PPC device shows an excellent behavior of the pulse waves from arterial and venous, see **Figures 2 and 3**; it is a stage of apnea where it is shown the wave morphology of the artery and vein of the pulses according to the physiological theory of the cardiac cycle, this was done in healthy subjects.

A typical blood pressure waves recorded with the PPC in an apnea segment is shown in **Figure 4**.

The positive waves of pulse venous coincide with a delay or with the reverse of the flow, while each depression indicates an acceleration of venous return.

When contracting the right atrium (RA), the blood cannot enter the right ventricle (RV) flows back to the vena cava, resulting in venous pulse wave. The wave "a" is produced by the contraction of the RA in a presystolic period; the wave "c" occurs immediately after the wave "a" and at the beginning of "x", is produced by interference in the carotid arterial pulse, see **Figure 5**.

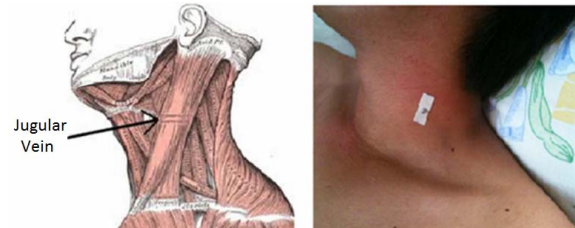


Figure 1. Schematization of magnetic marker position on subject skin, it is right over jugular artery.

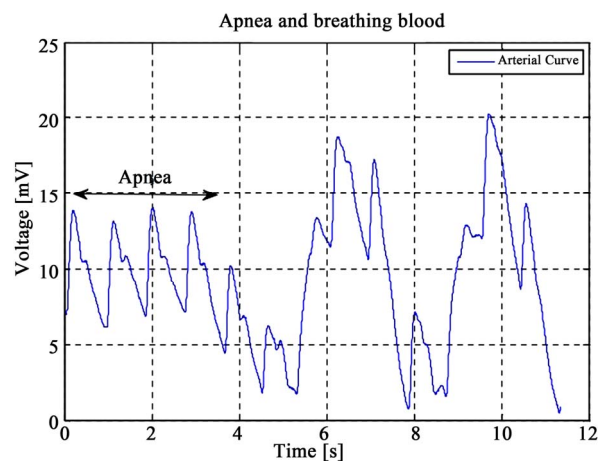


Figure 2. Arterial pressures register on suprasternal region for a healthy subject and stage of apnea in the supine position.

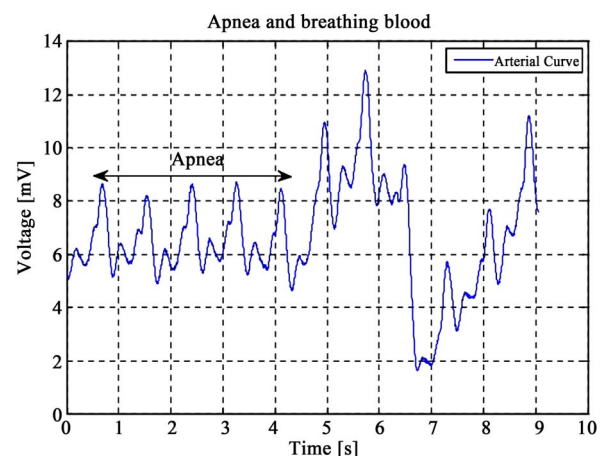


Figure 3. Pressure waveform in internal jugular artery, it was recorded with two stages: breathing and apnea. Similar pattern is repeated for a blood pressure pulse, at the stage of apnea the signal present pattern defined according to the morphology searched.

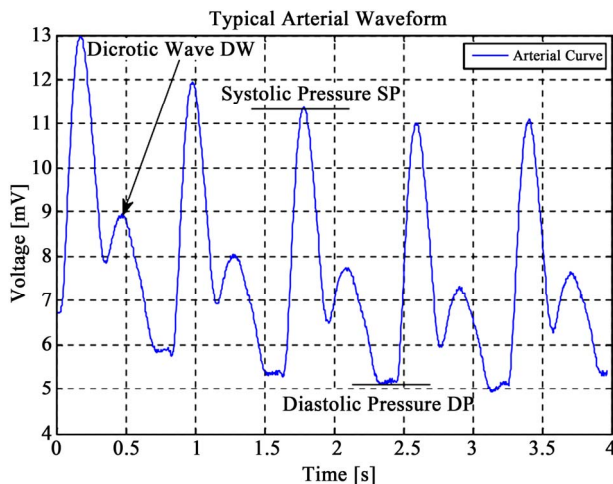


Figure 4. Typical pressure wave recorded, using the PPC device, on zone suprasternal in supine position with breathing noise. In the curve is reached to clearly distinguish three points of interest, dicrotic waves due to backflow of blood as well as maximal and minimal corresponding to the systolic pressure (SP) and diastolic pressure (DP) as the cardiac cycle.

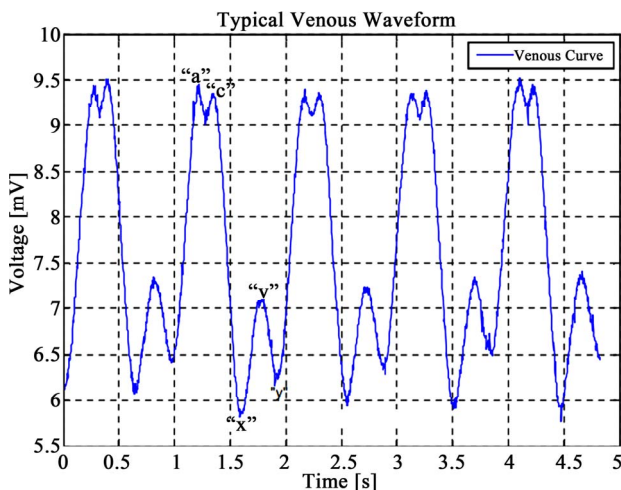


Figure 5. Waveform pressure recorded from the internal jugular vein, taken on the left side of the neck, in a healthy subject in inspiratory apnea phase and semi-fowler position. Note the characteristic morphology "a", "c", "v", and declines called "x" and "y".

The sine "x" is one of the predominant decreases, occurs during diastole atrial due to pressure drop in the atria, then follows the wave "v", due to increased atrial filling pressure right under the return of blood through the vena cava and finally the depression "y" is produced because the pressure in the RA descends to the open tricuspid valve in the relaxation phase in the filling period RV.

When the registration is made by reversing the polarity of the magnet there is an inversion of the curves and venous blood pressure in the temporary space, the **Figure**

6 shows the case of arterial register, there are the same waveforms with an inverted orientation only.

For the standardization phase, waveforms are obtained for healthy subjects, see **Figures 7** and **8**. The records have the following identification: ica (internal carotid in apnea aspiratory), ici (internal carotid in apnea inspiratory), ija (internal jugular in apnea aspiratory) and iji (internal jugular in apnea inspiratory). Measurements in the suprasternal area with two variants are: saa (suprasternal in apnea aspiratory) and sai (suprasternal in apnea inspiratory).

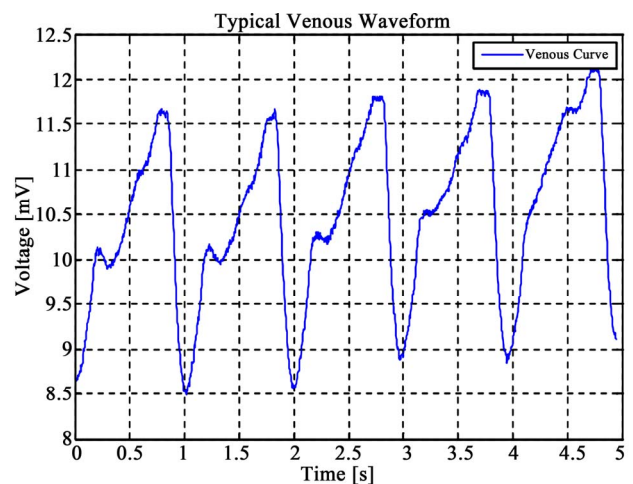


Figure 6. Waveform pressure from suprasternal area, in a healthy subject, at the stage of apnea aspiratory and supine position. It shows the morphology characteristic of the curve of blood pressure.

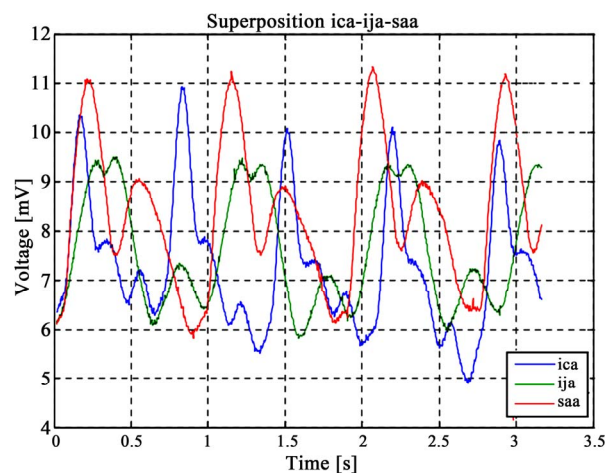


Figure 7. Pressure waves ica, ija and saa, superimposed on the phase of respiration in apnea aspiratory for the same subject. The pressure in ica and ija are in semi-fowler position, while the saa is supine. Note the difference in amplitude, and morphological consistency that emerges as the cardiac cycle, regardless of the different areas where each record was taken, this is mentioned for blood pressure supine and semi-fowler.

3.1. Statistical Analysis

A statistical analysis was performed in order to determine correlation between the pressure differences (Pd) measures in mmHg obtained with the digital sphygmomanometer standardization in healthy subjects and voltage differences (Vd) for the PPC, **Figure 9**. At the same time is the correlation for values of PPC and cardiac catheterization, see **Figure 10**. Using the correlation coefficient model of Pearson, Spearman, and Kendall. Also performs a linear fit for both cases, which is shown in **Tables 1 and 2**.

3.2. Repeatability and Reproducibility Test

For repeatability tests between measurements, there is a phase shift in the signals, so that, to establish their correlation between them, the area under the curve of each signal was estimated and establishing an area correlation see **Figure 11**. Subtracting point to point from the curves

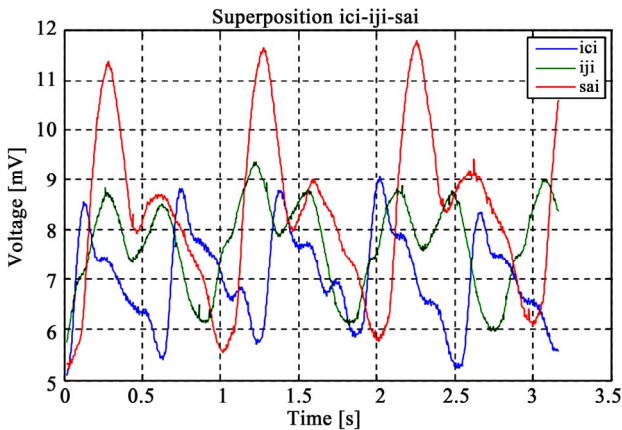


Figure 8. Pressure waves ici, iji and sai, superimposed on the phase of respiration in apnea aspiratory for the same subject. The pressure in ici and iji are in semi-fowler position while the sai is supine. Note the difference in amplitude.

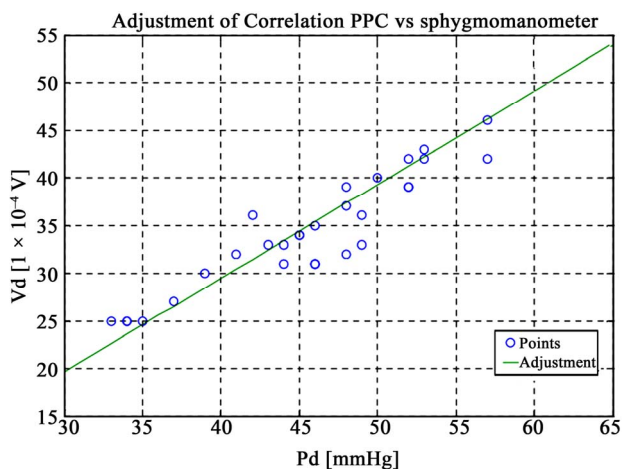


Figure 9. Adjustment of correlation PPC vs. sphygmomanometer in the suprasternal zone in supine in healthy subjects.

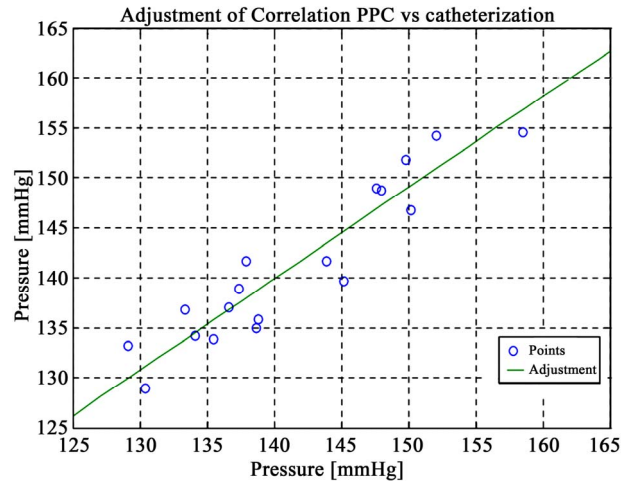


Figure 10. Adjustment of correlation PPC vs. catheterization in the suprasternal zone in supine in healthy subjects.

Table 1. Summary of correlation results PPC vs. blood pressure and linear regression.

Fitting curve: $y = ax + b$		$dV[V] = 0.98x + 9.4$		
Corr. Coefficient	Pearson	Spearman	Kendall	
	$r = 0.91$	$p = 0.92$	$\tau = 0.82$	

Table 2. Summary of correlation results PPC vs. catheterization and linear regression.

Fitting curve: $y = ax + b$		$dV[V] = 0.9x + 12.8$		
Corr. Coefficient	Pearson	Spearman	Kendall	
	$r = 0.95$	$p = 0.91$	$\tau = 0.79$	

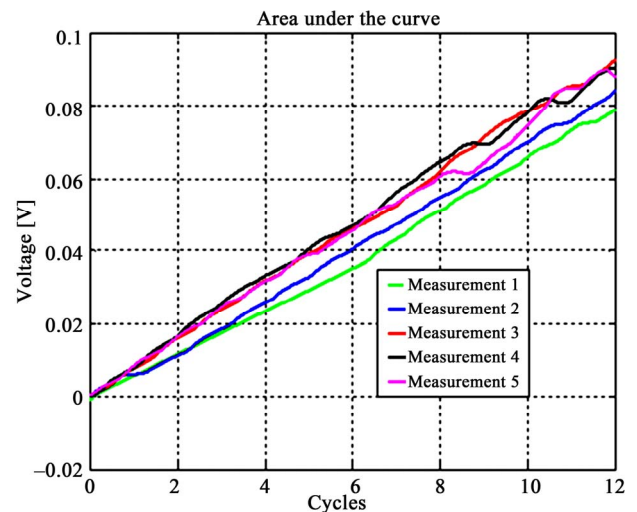


Figure 11. Area under the curve for the set sai.

integrated, there are correlations over 0.9 and p values well below 0.05. Obtaining an excellent correlation and thus validating the measurements using this device.

3.3. Hemodynamic Study and Calibration

In the cardiac catheterize lab of highly specialized medical unit (HSMU) No.1 at the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), printed data were obtained from the pressure curves recorded by catheterization in 7 patients. The **Figure 12** shows one of the curves obtained simultaneously with the PPC and the polygraph in a cardiac catheter intervention, considering the gold standard.

4. Discussion

PPC is a device which measures variations in the intensity of a magnetic field generated by a magnetic marker at a fixed distance from a transducer that converts mechanical movement to analog signals and a source to amplify the signals recorded, filter, and stored in a computer as digital signal, becoming text file for further study and manipulation. Each of the elements constituting the complete device are easy to transport and install in any area where it is required to measure, only consists of a horseshoe that supports the sensor connected to a flexible tube attached to a microphone stand for easy positioning at the time of measurement and a computer with the software needed to acquire the data.

Because of the magnetic field measurements provide a good approximation to see the angular dependence exists around a coaxial cable or a cylindrical permanent magnet, it is the possibility to register the oscillations of a source for a determined distance. This measurement modalities relates the blood pressure carried by the conduits different called vessels and they are divided according to their morphology and function in arteries, veins and capillaries, which not being rigid conduits tend to contract and expand due to the strength that is against the walls to resist the flow of blood pumped by the heart, and this motion due to it is soft waves can be recorded by the PPC successfully locating the vessel to be measured.

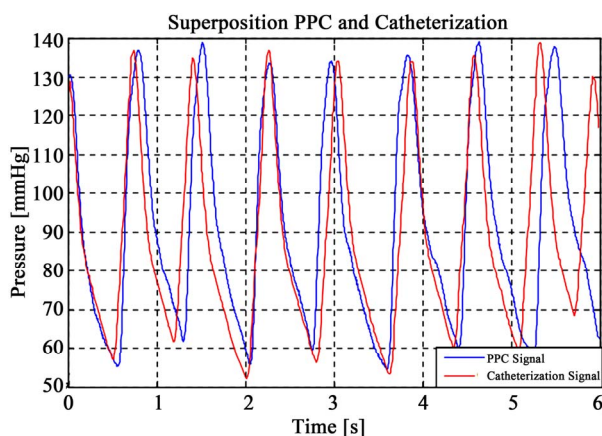


Figure 12. Superposition of signals obtained with the PPC and polygraph and made the switch from units of volts to millimeters of mercury in the PPC signal.

The PPC device provides information (voltage-time) about the compliance of the arteries or veins. The maximum value of each wave equals the pressure systolic and the minimums is equal to pressure diastolic, while the decrease or dicrotic wave is related to the backflow of blood, thus has a new way of measuring the patient's health status, graduating flexibility and arterial diameter with the pressure non-invasively and continuously.

The PPC has a good correlation " $r \approx 0.9$ " values of pressure vs. sphygmomanometer (anaerobic/digital), but unlike the sphygmomanometer no have operation on the whole sample. Excluded are subjects mainly in the suprasternal space not have a reflection of the rebound of the arteries confined and also in subjects in which their side zones to the neck is not palpable the location of the carotid arteries and the internal jugular vein, this group includes those individuals who have a body mass index (BMI) greater than 25 kg/m^2 and elderly patients.

The waveforms obtained with the PPC correspond to the cardiac cycle and are similar to the curves obtained by cardiac catheterization. The PPC can help determine one of the many parameters of the catheterization, since it is easy to use and does not require specialized personnel for its use.

The waveforms obtained with the PPC are very sensitive to any movement of the test subject among which are: respiration, the fluid passes through the esophagus or involuntary displacement.

When is standardized the protocol to PPC shows that for venous pressure and arterial pressure the waveforms were very similar in terms of amplitude, frequency and period, being that biologically come to have a value deferred of at least 60 mmHG between blood pressure and venous, since the venous for transport higher amounts of blood is not pulsatile compared with the pressure in arteries reaching values of 120 mmHg, while the vein is 5 mm Hg, this is an important consideration when calibrating the PPC in the modalities of arterial and venous pressure.

During the measurements to the same test subject was observed that had a change in amplitude in curves when the variants were apnea in inspiration or aspiration, as, when there deep breath, the chest cavity and the lungs expand, the chest wall expands and diaphragm low. This causes the pressure intrapulmonary becomes more negative, which causes the lungs, heart and the and the thoracic vein cava is expand decreasing the pressure inside them. As the right atrial pressure decreases during inspiration, the pressure gradient between the inferior vein cava and right atrium increases, which impulse blood into the right atrium (there is an effect of "suction"), thereby increasing the volume of right ventricular ejection, to the pulmonary circulation. On the other hand, although the atrium and left ventricle also increases volume during inspiration,

the lungs in expanding work as a reservoir (increase the volume of pulmonary blood), so that, left ventricular filling does not increase during inspiration. During aspiration, however, is produced the opposite effect: the thoracic cavity volume decreases, because the chest wall is retracts and the diaphragm up. This produces a pressure increase intrapulmonary, causing a decrease in lung volume, the heart and the thoracic vena cava. Therefore, the accumulated blood in the pulmonary reservoir during the inspiration is forced to pass into the atrium and left ventricle, which increases left ventricular filling and stroke volume of ejection into the aorta artery, in other words, when inhaled, there is an increase in venous pressure and when exhaling, there is a decrease in this, these small variations are also detected by the PPC.

Gravity, temperature and metal objects also affect the measurements. Gravity has a significant effect on blood reservoirs and changes the values of pressure for a person in a supine position, semi-fowler or perfectly straight. The temperature changes the levels distensible of the vessel and metal objects are detected by the PPC due to their magnetic nature.

There are no database that suggest the possibility that has been measured the pressure central with a noninvasive method. The PPC has an advantage at this point, because when positioned a magnet properly according to the anatomy over a vein, can be record the movement of this in a voltage-time signal, considering the magnet as an extension of that place where it is placed, for healthy subjects the vein is best seen in semi-fowler position.

For graduation of the units between PPC and the cardiac catheterization in the arteries, can be associate a "size" of the curve of blood recorded according to the protocol specified by the pressure units. The size of the curve for both methods is qualitatively and quantitatively similar. It is noteworthy that what is related and it makes sense is talk about the "size" of the curve in the PPC, since it is very sensitive to movement between measurements and also the curve is shifted with respect to a reference level and for another subject does not match the voltage obtained with other measurements of the same subject, however the magnitude or the "size" of the curves can be related to high accuracy.

5. Conclusions

The PPC device has shown an excellent signal, which describes qualitatively and unequivocally form elevations and depressions corresponding to waves of arterial and venous pressure by noninvasive methods, however is affected by characteristics of the medium and particularly by respiration, although it has proven highly correlated with pressure points of a sphygmomanometer digital [13] while the gold standard in measuring blood pressure [14].

It has more meaning find the magnitude under the

curve, see **Figure 11**, to relate maximum and minimum to a coordinate of voltage as the device shows a wide variability in their measurements if used at different times with a variation period of 24 h, These results in a descriptive curve outdated even for the same subject, with the same values of pressure.

It cannot be used in individuals with BMI indicating a degree of obesity, because both the suprasternal area as the lateral neck show no oscillatory motion of venous and arteries by the large amount of fatty material which causes it to lose the spread of the movement of vasodilation.

If it want to be used for pressure measurement, two scales are needed depending on the type of vessel to measure, because biologically both vessels show pressure values and curved very characteristic, for the PPC measuring in (voltage-time) and which is already associated with a curve (mmHg-time).

It is proposed to carry out more measurements comparing the signal acquired by the PPC vs. cardiac catheterization, Doppler echocardiography and oscillometric methods. For the venous study a larger sample is needed.

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