

Arteriovenous Graft Modeling and Hemodynamic Interpretation

Hyoungho Kim¹, Young Ho Choi^{2*}, Sang-Ho Suh¹, Jeong Sang Lee³,
Young Hoon Jung¹, Young Ho So²

¹Department of Mechanical Engineering, Soongsil University, Seoul, South Korea

²Department of Radiology, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, Seoul, South Korea

³Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, Seoul, South Korea
Email: *cyho50168@naver.com

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ABSTRACT

Arteriovenous graft (AVG) is artificially made with graft for hemodialysis in the patients with renal failure. Stenosis in the arterial or venous anastomosis of AVG results in its malfunction. Here, we made an AVG hemodynamic model with three different anastomotic angles (20°, 30°, 40°) and analyzed hemodynamic parameters such as velocity vectors, WSS and OSI in the arterial and venous anastomosis to find what helps in developing new surgical techniques to reduce stenosis in the anastomosis. Recirculation flow, low WSS and high OSI in the venous anastomosis were demonstrated in 30° and 40° models, and recirculation flow, high WSS and high OSI in the arterial anastomosis were shown in all models. Conclusively, higher anastomosis angle in the venous anastomosis cause stenosis, but stenosis in the arterial anastomosis happens irregardless of anastomosis angle.

Keywords: Ateriovenous Fistula; Bypass Graft; Hemodynamic Interpretation; Numerical Analysis

1. Introduction

The incidence of renal failure is increasing due to increase in aged people and patients with diabetes mellitus. The treatments of renal failure are kidney transplantation or dialysis. The limitation of kidney donors drives most patients with renal failure to dialysis, peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis. Peritoneal dialysis takes a longer time and more frequent laps to do than hemodialysis. For the reasons, hemodialysis is commonly used.

Arteriovenous fistula (AVF) should be made artificially for hemodialysis. Arteriovenous graft (AVG) is a kind of arteriovenous fistulas, and it connects the artery and vein with graft to supply a large vessel for needling of hemodialysis. The luminal patency of AVG like **Figure 1** is mainly upon the patency at the arterial or venous anastomosis. Stenosis in the venous anastomosis is more common and results in AVG dysfunction [1-3]. New surgical techniques at the anastomosis are required to reduce stenosis and hemodynamic models are needed to experiment new techniques.

In the present study, hemodynamics in AVG was numerically investigated with computational fluid dynamics. In the simulation, the three-dimensional geometry of the

artery, vein and graft is used for computational mesh, and transient velocity profile of blood flow measured in ultrasonography is used for inlet and outlet boundary condition. Using this system, various simulations are carried out to analyze the effects of geometry of the artery, vein and graft on flow patterns and WSS and OSI distributions [4-6].

2. Numerical Analysis

2.1. Geometry Modeling and Mesh Generation

Figure 2 shows that 3D modeling was performed by Design modeler. Anastomosis angle (θ) is set to 20°, 30°, 40°. To calculate the flow in geometry, computational mesh was generated with ICEM CFD using FEM (Finite Element Method) as shown in **Figure 2**. The total number of elements and nodes is 351,584 and 323,907 respectively.

2.2. Governing Equations

In order to investigate the numerical analysis of the bio fluid dynamic characteristics in AVG, the governing and constitutive equations are adopted as followings. Among various constitutive equations in **Figure 3**, the Carreau model of Equation (3) is used to specify the apparent

*Corresponding author.

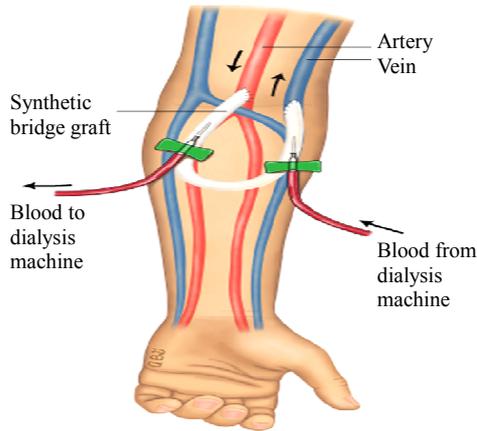


Figure 1. AVG for hemodialysis.

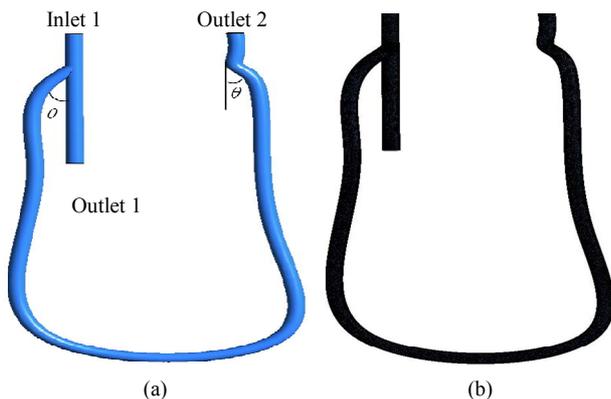


Figure 2. 3D-model and computational mesh. (a) 3D-model; (b) Computational mesh.

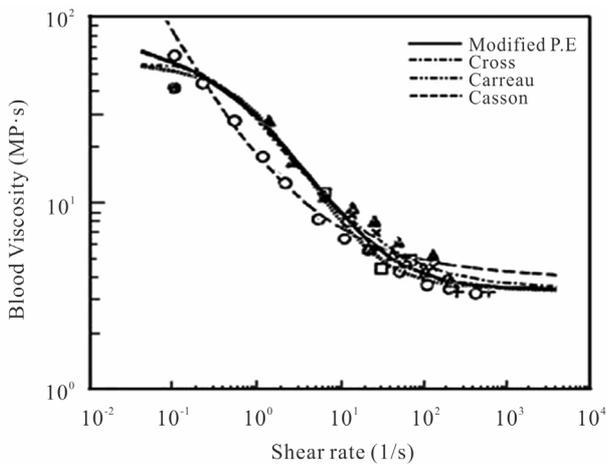


Figure 3. Blood viscosities versus shear rates.

viscosity of blood as a function of the shear rate where ρ , u_i , p , η are density, velocity vectors, pressure and apparent

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \right) = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \eta \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \tag{2}$$

$$\eta = \eta_\infty + (\eta_0 - \eta_\infty) \left[1 + (\lambda \dot{\gamma})^2 \right]^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \tag{3}$$

viscosity respectively. In the model, $\dot{\gamma}$ denotes the shear rate. η_∞ and η_0 are the apparent viscosities at infinite-shear-rate and zero-shear-rate, respectively. λ and n represent the characteristic time and index of this model. The rheological values of blood as a non-Newtonian fluid are taken to be $\eta_0 = 0.056$ Pa·s, $\eta_\infty = 0.00345$ Pa·s, $\lambda = 3.313$ s, and $n = 0.356$. The Blood viscosity as a function of the shear rate is shown in Figure 3.

2.3. Boundary Conditions

Not only the geometry but also the boundary condition is also an important parameter to predict the hemodynamics in AVG because blood pressure and flow rate are different from patient to patient. Figure 4 shows measured doppler waveforms. The inflow and outflow boundary conditions are applied with clinical data of blood flow. The boundary condition at the wall is non-slip, and the wall of the artery is assumed to be rigid. The initial condition is given by fully developed flow field.

3. Results

In order to analyze the hemodynamic characteristics of AVG, important times in a flow cycle were set; at the peak and lowest velocity, at a same velocity in acceleration and deceleration phase (Figure 5). Velocity distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG are shown in Figures 6-8. Recirculation flow is bigger in 30°,

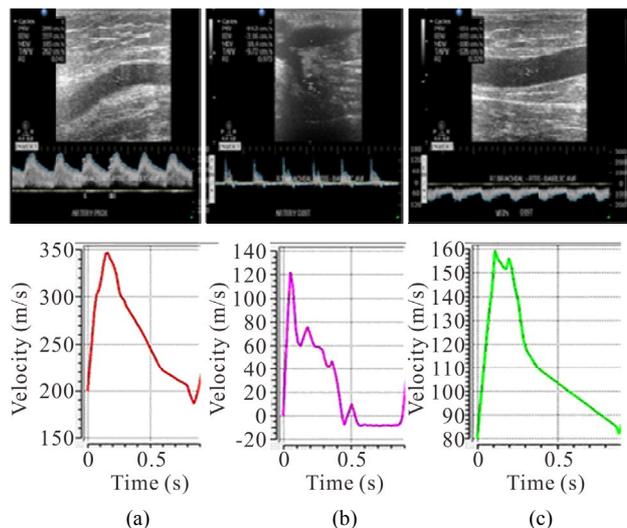


Figure 4. Applied Doppler waveform for inlet 1, outlet 1 and outlet 2. (a) Inlet 1; (b) Outlet 1; (c) Outlet 2.

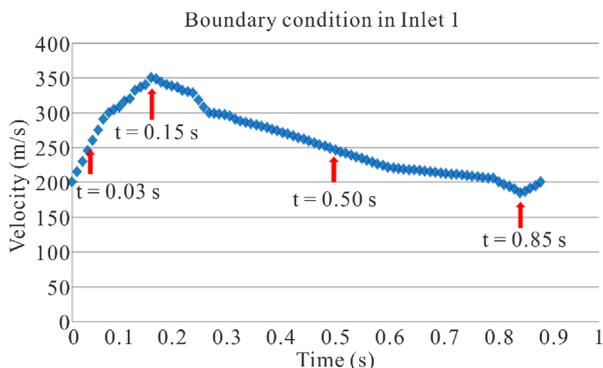


Figure 5. Velocity waveform for evaluating hemodynamic characteristics of AVG.

40° models than 20° model at the venous anastomosis. On the other hand, all models have big recirculation flow at the arterial anastomosis. Because more problems in AVG happen in the venous anastomosis, we had better focus on velocity distributions in the area. The recirculation zone is seen to be growing depending on increase in anastomosis angle. Cross-sectional velocity distributions at the venous anastomosis are shown in **Figure 9**. Secondary flow in the x-z cross sections is shown. 30° and 40° models turn out to have a noticeable velocity distribution. The secondary flow mainly consists of swirling flow in a transverse plane, which is caused by the vascular curvature. The secondary flow near the wall causes high WSS. In 30° and 40° models, secondary flow is shown well near the wall. However, in 20° model, secondary flow is not so strong and axial flow is shown near the wall instead.

3.1. Transient Behavior of Wall Shear Stress

Points evaluated for WSS are shown in **Figures 10 and 11** presents the transient behavior of WSS at the points. At point 1 and 4, the behavior of WSS in each model is similar to each other and is also similar to that of the flow velocity at the inlet 1 and outlet 2 (see **Figure 4**). This implies that the behavior of WSS is directly affected by the behavior of the flow at the inlet 1 and outlet 2. On the other hand, at points 2 and 3, the behavior of WSS is a little different from the behavior of the flow at the outlet 1 and outlet 2. In all points except point 3, maximum magnitude of WSS appears in the systole and the magnitude is larger in 40° models than in the other models. The maximum magnitude of about 2000 dyne/cm² is about thirty times as large as the usual value measured in the normal artery, 10 - 70 dyne/cm².

In **Figure 11(b)**, it is shown that the maximum magnitude of WSS increases at inner wall of a branch close to vascular bifurcation like point 2. In contrast, the maximum magnitude of WSS at outer wall of a branch close to vascular bifurcation decreases like point 3. Such

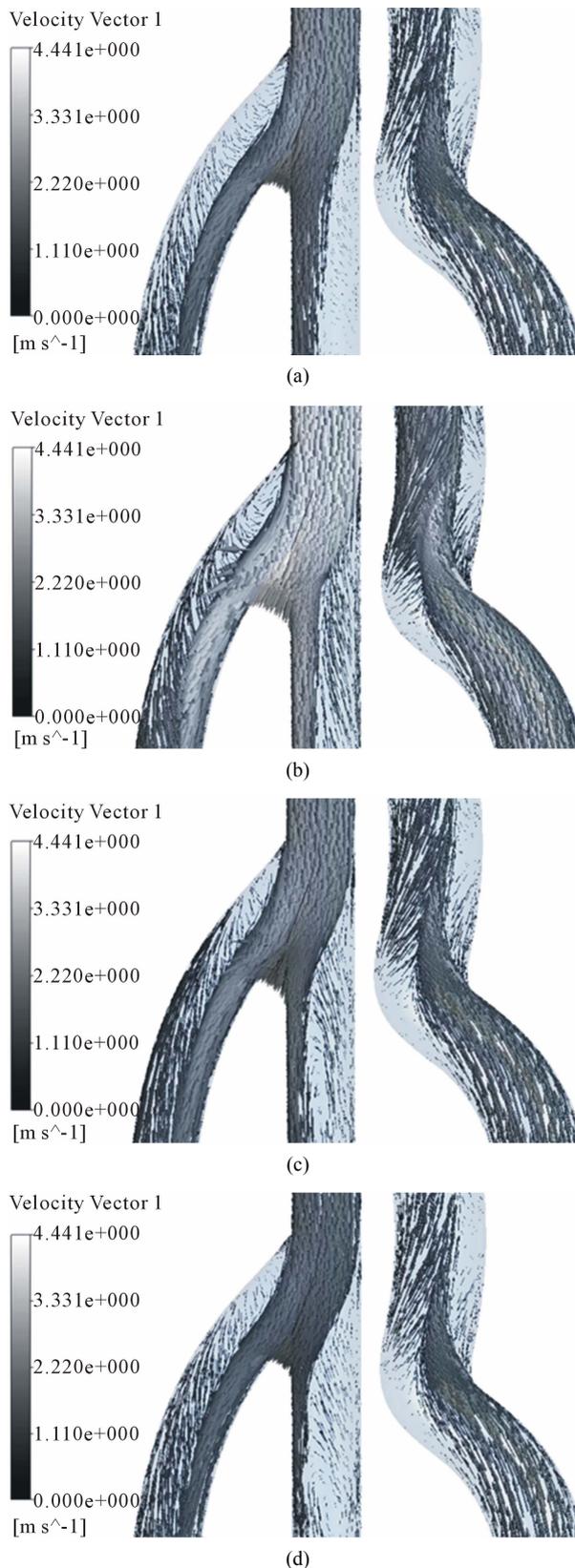
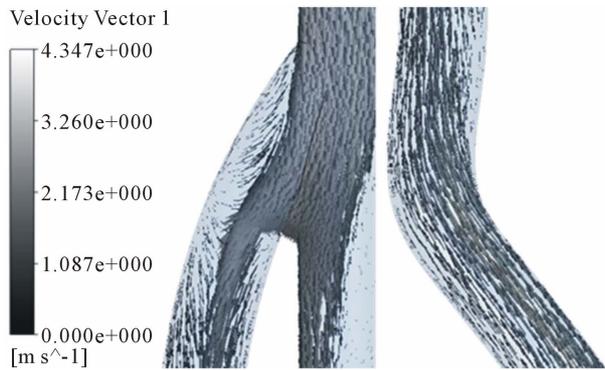
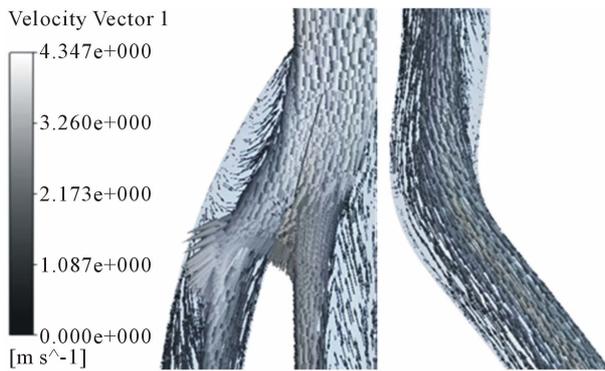


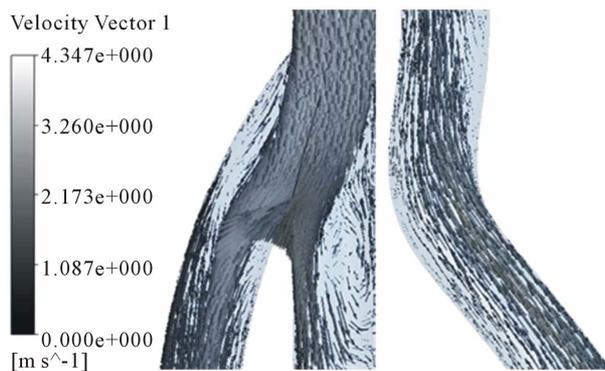
Figure 6. Velocity distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG (40°). (a) t = 0.03 s; (b) t = 0.15 s; (c) t = 0.5 s; (d) t = 0.85 s.



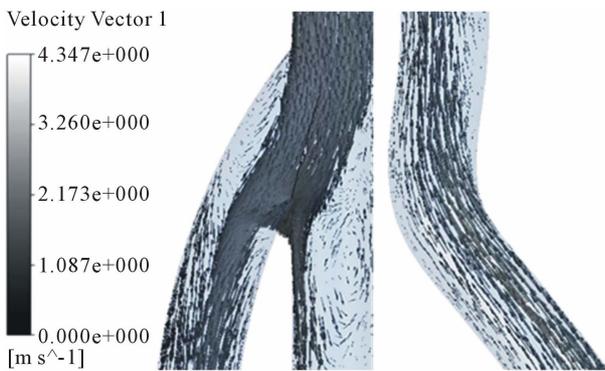
(a)



(b)

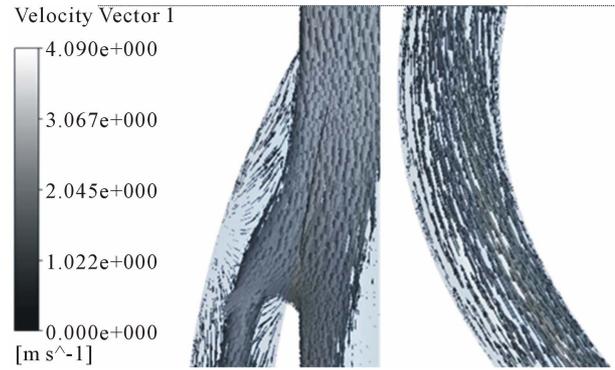


(c)

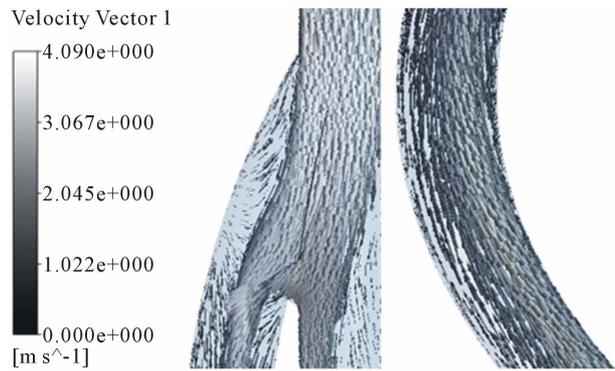


(d)

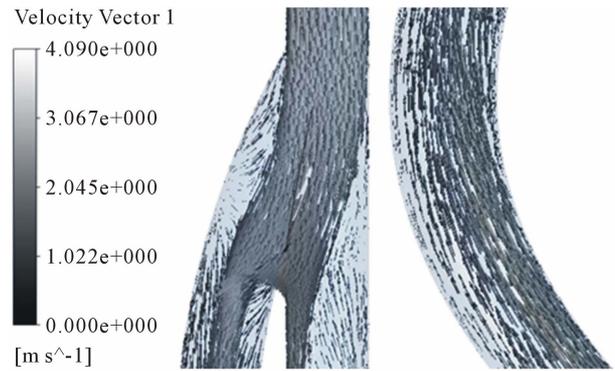
Figure 7. Velocity distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG (30°). (a) $t = 0.03$ s; (b) $t = 0.15$ s; (c) $t = 0.5$ s; (d) $t = 0.85$ s.



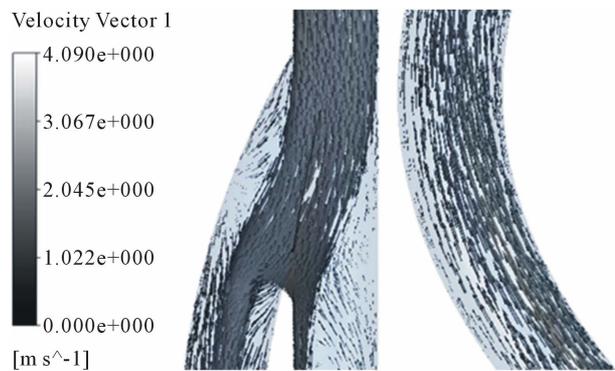
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 8. Velocity distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG (20°). (a) $t = 0.03$ s; (b) $t = 0.15$ s; (c) $t = 0.5$ s; (d) $t = 0.85$ s.

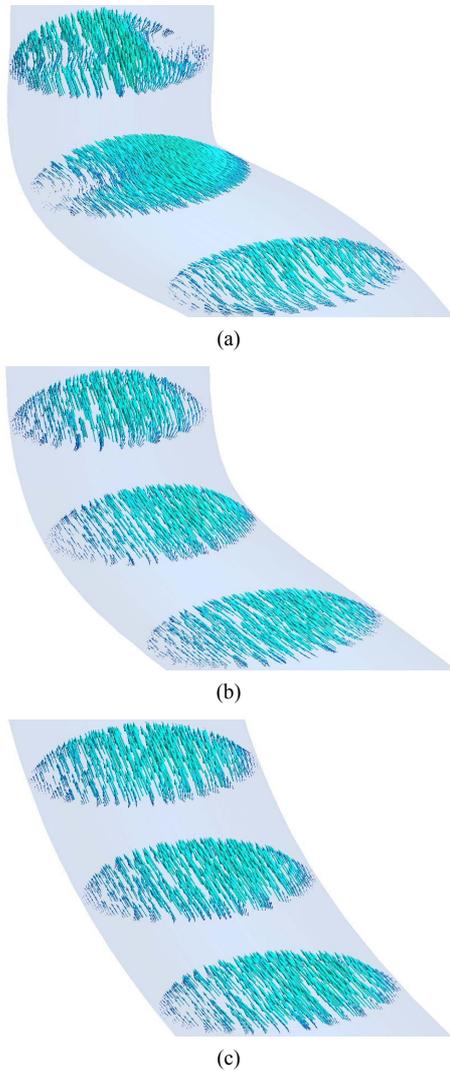


Figure 9. Velocity distributions in radial in the venous anastomosis of AVG. (a) 40° model; (b) 30° model; (c) 20° model.

a change in WSS may damage the vascular wall because endothelial cells are known to be sensitive to WSS. The change of WSS is mainly affected by combination of shape of the artery, vein and graft. In **Figure 11(c)**, 30° and 40° models demonstrated low WSS at point 3, but 20° models showed a normal range of WSS. The low WSS can cause stenosis in the venous anastomosis of AVG.

3.2. Oscillatory Shear Index

To examine the spatial dependence of the temporal variation of normalized WSS, we compute the spatial distribution of OSI, which is a sensitive measure of the time variation of the direction of the wall shear stress vector.

$$OSI = 0.5 \left[1 - \frac{\left| \int_0^T \tau_w dt \right|}{\int_0^T |\tau_w| dt} \right] \quad (4)$$

OSI is a dimensionless parameter that accounts for the degree of deviation of WSS vectors during the cardiac cycle. OSI values close to 0.5 indicate that WSS vectors are subject to large variations, and that WSS vectors can be very small or change direction at parts of the cardiac cycle, which means that instances all the time flow is

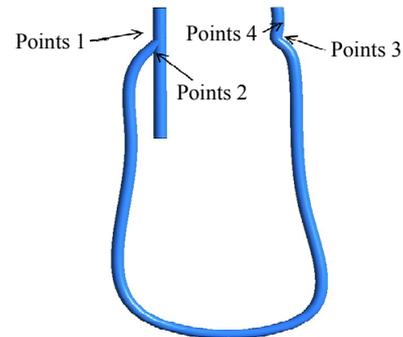
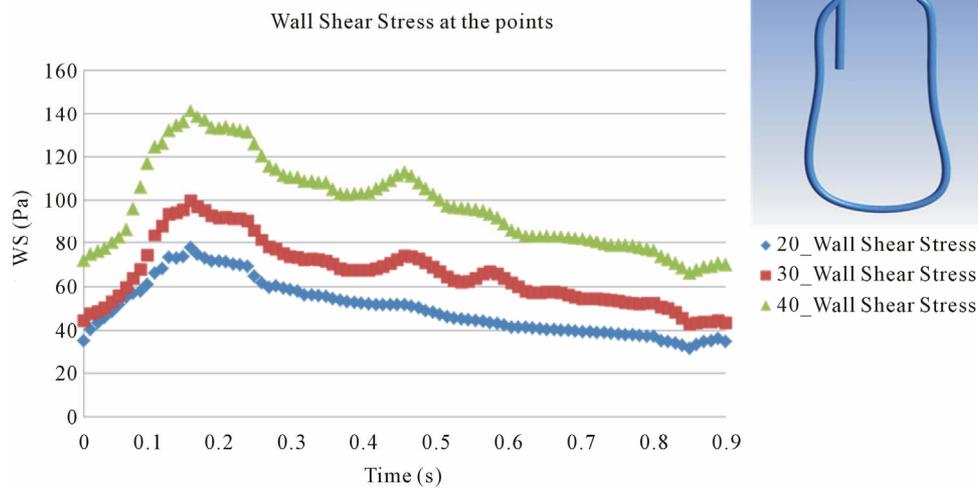
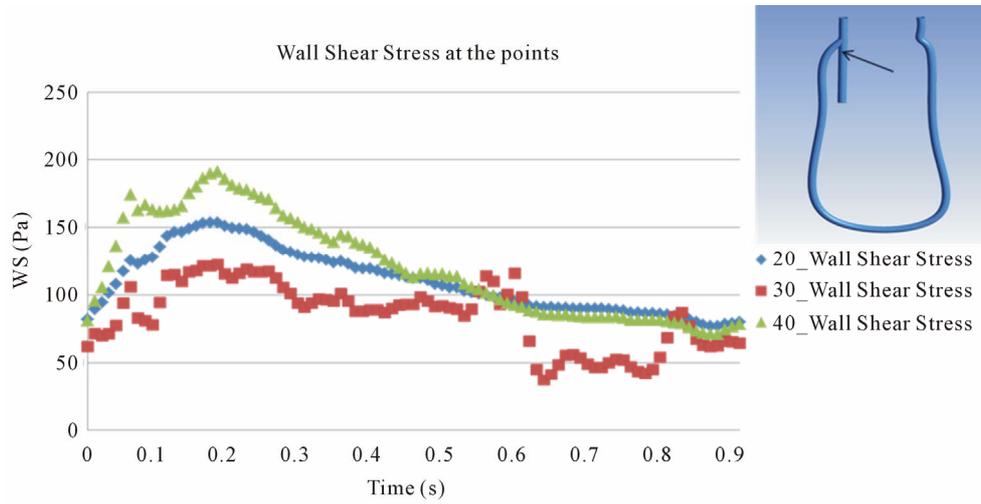


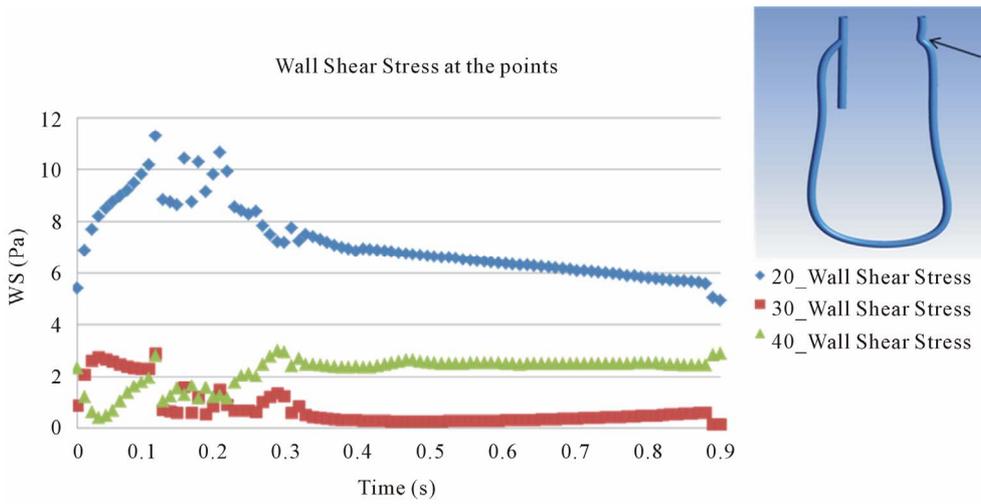
Figure 10. Point for the evaluation of wall shear stress.



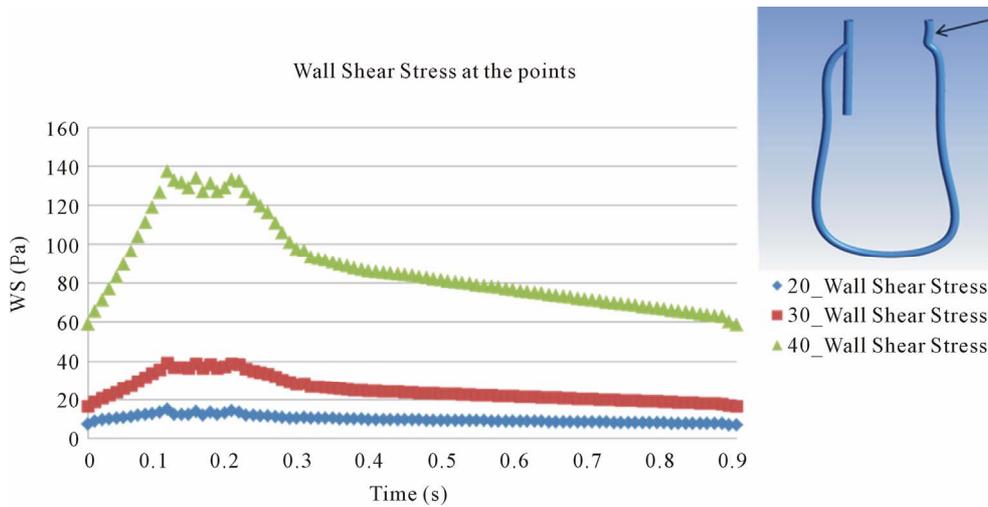
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 11. Evaluation of wall shear stress at the points. (a) Point 1; (b) Point 2; (c) Point 3; (d) Point 4.

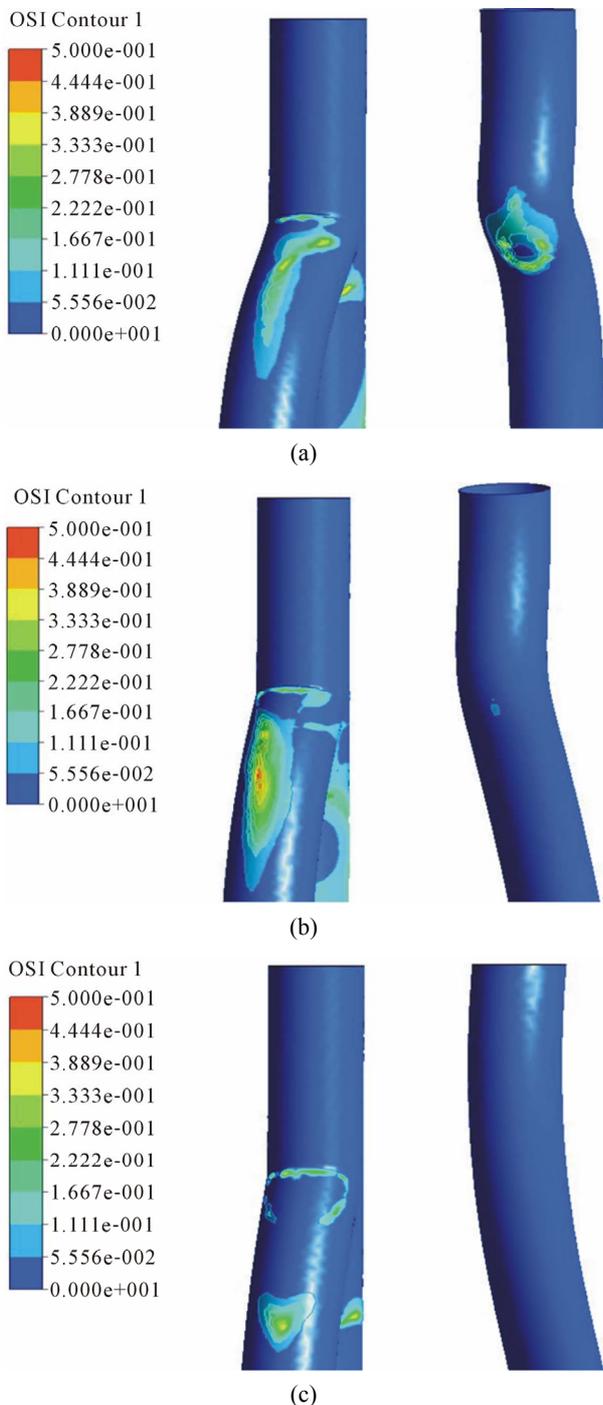


Figure 12. OSI distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG. (a) 40° model; (b) 30° model; (c) 40° model.

stopped or reversed. **Figure 12** shows OSI distributions

in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG. In the venous anastomosis, 30°, 40° models have higher OSI than 20° model and in the arterial anastomosis, all models have big OSI. When we consider OSI distributions, the venous anastomosis of 20° model is the area free from stenosis.

4. Conclusion

The numerical analysis based on clinical data is presented. It is found that flow patterns and WSS and OSI distributions in the arterial and venous anastomosis of AVG are affected by anastomosis angle. Stenosis in the venous anastomosis is higher with greater anastomosis angle, and stenosis in the arterial anastomosis happens regardless of anastomosis angle.

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