

Effect of Goal-Directed Fluid Therapy on Lung Function, Cognitive Function and Inflammatory Response in Patients Undergoing Radical Esophageal Cancer Surgery under One-Lung Ventilation

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Abstract

Objective: To explore the effects of goal-directed fluid therapy (GDFT) on lung function, cognitive function and inflammatory response in patients undergoing radical esophageal cancer surgery under one-lung ventilation. **Methods:** Sixty-seven patients undergoing radical esophageal cancer surgery were divided into GDFT group (GDFT therapy) and control group (conventional liquid therapy). The changes in patients' pulmonary function, cognitive function and inflammatory response were evaluated. **Results:** Both alveolar-arterial oxygen partial pressure difference [P(A-a)O₂] and respiratory index (RI) increased at one-lung ventilation for 30 minutes (T₂) and decreased at one-lung ventilation for 60 minutes (T₃), and after surgery (T₄) in the two groups, and the GDFT group was lower than the control group (P < 0.05); the oxygenation index (OI) of the two groups decreased at T₂, T₃, and T₄ compared with that at T₁ (before one-lung ventilation), and the GDFT group was higher than the control group (P < 0.05). At T₄ and T₅, the tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α), interleukin 6 (IL-6), central nervous system specific protein (S100 β), and neuron specific enolase (NSE) in the GDFT group were lower compared to the control group (P < 0.05), while interleukin-10 (IL-10) was higher compared to the control group (P < 0.05); the incidence of perioperative neurocognitive disorder (PND) in the GDFT group was lower than that in the control group (P < 0.05). **Conclusion:** GDFT can help prevent lung injury during radical esophageal cancer surgery under one-lung ventilation, reduce the body's inflammatory response, and reduce the incidence of

perioperative cognitive disorder to a certain extent.

Keywords

Goal-Directed Fluid Therapy, Radical Resection of Esophageal Cancer, Lung Function, Cognitive Function, Inflammatory Response

1. Introduction

One-lung ventilation (OLV) is non-physiological ventilation, which is usually used in thoracic surgery for a favorable surgical field. However, this ventilation may cause lung ischemia/reperfusion injury, increased intrapulmonary shunt, inflammatory response, and further induce acute lung injury, thereby leading to poor prognosis of the patients [1]. Perioperative neurocognitive disorder (PND) is a common disease of central nervous system in elderly surgical patients, which may lead to a prolonged hospital stay and a higher risk of death [2]. Previous studies [3] have shown that the incidence of PND is above 30% among those receiving OLV. Most of the patients receiving radical surgery for esophageal cancer are elderly, who have reduced organ reserve and are less tolerant to perioperative hemodynamic fluctuation and cerebral oxygen metabolism disorder. Hence, the incidence of complications is higher in the elderly patients receiving OLV. According to a clinical survey [4], poor perioperative fluid management is one risk factor for lung injury and postoperative complication after radical surgery for esophageal cancer. Thus, enhancement of fluid management is clinically significant for these patients. Goal-directed fluid therapy (GDGF) is an individualized choice for fluid replacement based on hemodynamics and blood volume monitoring. A previous study [5] has shown that GDFT can improve microcirculatory perfusion, increase oxygen supply to the tissues and reduce the risk of early cognitive dysfunction. In the present study, we investigated the influence of GDFT on lung function, cognitive function, and inflammatory response in patients who received radical surgery for esophageal cancer under OLV.

2. Subjects and Methods

2.1. Subjects

Seventy-six patients receiving radical surgery for esophageal cancer were recruited. Inclusion criteria: 1) pathologically confirmed as esophageal cancer and indicated for radical surgery for esophageal cancer under OLV, with surgical time > 60 min; 2) no history of radiochemotherapy before surgery; 3) grade I-II according to the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status classification system; 4) no visual and hearing impairment; 5) age > 18 years; 6) knowing about details of the study with signed informed consent. Exclusion criteria: 1) failure of important organs; 2) respiratory tract infection and chronic

bronchitis; 3) mental illnesses or cognitive dysfunction; 4) allergic to opioids; 5) incomplete clinicopathological data. The patients were divided into GDFT group and control group using a random number table.

2.2. Methods

2.2.1. Anesthesia

Radical surgery for esophageal cancer was performed on patients in both groups. Before surgery, the patients were fasted from food and water. After entering the operation room, vital signs were monitored, including heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, ECG, and blood oxygen saturation. The Narcotrend (Monitor Technik, Bad Bramstedt, Germany) was used to monitor the Narcotrend index (NTI). The CNAP (Noninvasive Arterial Blood Pressure) monitor by CNSystem (Austria) was used to monitor cardiac output (CO), stroke volume variation (SVV), and cardiac index (CI). Anesthetic induction: Intravenous injection of 0.02 mg/kg midazolam, 0.4 µg/kg sufentanil, 0.6 mg/kg etomidate, and 0.8 mg/kg rocuronium bromide was given. Double-lumen endotracheal tube was placed under the guidance of a laryngoscope. After confirming the catheter position by the bronchofibroscope, the ventilator was connected for positive pressure ventilation. For OLV, the tidal volume (VT) was set to 8 mL/kg, respiratory rate (RR) 10 - 16 breaths/min, $FiO_2 = 100\%$, I:E ratio 1:2, and positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) 5 cm H_2O . During surgery, the end tidal carbon dioxide (PETCO₂) was maintained at 30 - 40 mmHg, with SpO₂ > 90%. Right internal jugular vein cannulation was performed after anesthesia was successfully induced. Propofol and remifentanyl were intravenously administered using an intravenous infusion pump, with inhalation of 1% - 2% sevoflurane. The NTI was maintained at 37 - 46 with continuous central venous pressure (CVP) monitoring. Muscle relaxation was maintained during surgery, with the nasopharyngeal temperature kept above 36°C.

2.2.2. Fluid Therapy Regimen

Control group: Based on preoperative fluid loss, anticipated blood loss during surgery, and compensatory vasodilation, intravenous infusion of 6% hydroxyethyl starch solution at 5 - 7 ml/kg was performed before anesthetic induction. During surgery, the average arterial pressure was maintained at >65 mmHg, CVP at 6 - 12 mm H_2O , urine volume >0.5 mL/(kg·h), and heart rate at 60 - 100 beats/min.

GDFT group: The fluid replacement was guided by SVV and CI. Before anesthetic induction, the patients were given a continuous intravenous infusion of lactated Ringer's solution at 8 mL/(kg·h). The fluid replacement continued if $SVV < 11\%$ and $CI > 2.5 L \cdot (min \cdot m^2)$; 6% hydroxyethyl starch solution was given intravenously at 50 mL/min if $SVV > 1\%$, and discontinued once $SVV < 11\%$. Fluid replacement was stopped if $SVV < 9\%$, which was resumed if $SVV \geq 9\%$ and kept for >2 min. In the meantime, CI was maintained above $2.5 L \cdot (min \cdot m^2)$. If SVV was still >11% or $CI < 2.5 L \cdot (min \cdot m^2)$ after continuous fluid replacement

for 5 min, small-dose dobutamine was considered. If the intraoperative hemoglobin level was below 80 g/L in the two groups, the patients were given erythrocyte suspension. If HR reduced to below 50 beats/min and lasted for over 1 min, the patients were prescribed 0.5 mg atropine. If the systolic pressure reduced by over 20% relative to the baseline and lasted for over 1 min, the patients were prescribed 20 µg of phenylephrine.

2.3. Observation Indicators

1) Lung function and inflammatory response: For each group, 3 ml of radial artery blood was collected before OLV (T₁), at 30 min after OLV (T₂), at 60 min after OLV (T₃), and at the end of surgery (T₄), respectively. The partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PCO₂) and alveolar arterial oxygen partial pressure difference [P(A-a)O₂] were detected. The respiratory index (RI) and oxygenation index (OI) were calculated. In addition, serum levels of tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), interleukin 6 (IL-6) and IL-10 were determined at T₁, T₄ and 24 h after surgery (T₅), respectively. An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay was employed to detect serum levels of specific protein 100β (S100β). The electrochemiluminescence assay was carried out to determine serum levels of neuron-specific enolase (NSE).

2) Cognitive function: Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) [6] for evaluation of cognitive function was performed on the patients at 24 h before surgery and at 72 h after surgery, respectively. PND was considered if the MMSE score was decreased by over 2.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were conducted using the SPSS 23.0 software. The counts were expressed as percentages and analyzed by chi-square test or Fisher's exact test. Measurements were expressed as $\bar{x} \pm s$. The data of patients in the same group at different time points were analyzed by repeated-measures analysis of variance. Intergroup comparison was conducted using the two-sample independent *t*-test. *P* < 0.05 indicated significant difference.

3. Results

3.1. Sociodemographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Participants

A total of sixty-seven patients were enrolled, and randomly divided into GDFT group (n = 34) and control group (n = 33). The baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of the participants are summarized in **Table 1**. There were no significant differences in the sex, age, BMI, surgery time and one-lung ventilation time of the participants between the two groups (*P* > 0.05).

3.2. Comparison of the Lung Function Indicators between the Two Groups

There were no significant differences in PCO₂ at different time points between

Table 1. Baseline sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the participants.

Group	Sex (male/ female)	Age (years)	BMI (kg/m ²)	Surgery time (min)	One-lung ventilation time (min)
GDFT (n = 34)	24/10	58.26 ± 7.46	22.13 ± 2.26	146.82 ± 25.73	112.56 ± 24.31
Control (n = 33)	26/7	57.62 ± 7.87	21.73 ± 2.51	141.56 ± 26.42	114.46 ± 23.18
χ^2/t	0.595	0.342	0.686	0.826	0.327
<i>P</i>	0.441	0.734	0.495	0.412	0.745

The data are presented as mean ± SD. BMI: body mass index; GDFT: goal-directed fluid therapy.

the two groups ($P > 0.05$). At T_1 , there were no significant differences in $P(A-a)O_2$, RI and OI between the two groups ($P > 0.05$). $P(A-a)O_2$ and RI of both groups at T_2 were increased, but decreased at T_3 and T_4 , which were lower in the GDFT group than in the control group ($P < 0.05$). OI of the two groups at T_2 , T_3 and T_4 was lower than that at T_1 , and it was higher in the GDFT group than in the control group ($P < 0.05$) (Table 2).

3.3. Comparison of the Inflammatory Response between the Two Groups

At T_1 , there were no significant differences in the levels of inflammatory factors between the two groups ($P > 0.05$). TNF- α and IL-6 levels of the two groups at T_4 and T_5 were higher than those at T_1 , which were higher in the GDFT group than in the control group ($P < 0.05$). IL-10 levels of the two groups at T_4 , T_4 and T_5 were lower than those at T_1 , which were higher in the GDFT group than in the control group ($P < 0.05$) (Table 3).

3.4. Comparison of the Serum S100 β and NSE Levels between the Two Groups

At T_1 , there were no significant differences in serum S100 β and NSE levels between the two groups ($P > 0.05$). Serum S100 β and NSE levels of the two groups at T_4 and T_5 were higher than those at T_1 . In addition, they were significantly higher in the GDFT group than in the control group ($P < 0.05$) (Table 4).

3.5. Comparison of the Cognitive Functions between the Two Groups

PND was found in five patients in the GDFT group, with an incidence of 14.71% (5/34). In contrast, PND was found in twelve patients in the control group, with an incidence of 36.36% (12/33). The incidence of PND in the GDFT group was significantly lower than that of the control group ($\chi^2 = 4.148$, $P = 0.042$).

3.6. Comparison of the Complications between the Two Groups

The total complication rate was 14.71% (5/34) in GDFT group, with 3 cases of pulmonary disease, 1 case of empyema and 1 case of anastomotic fistula. In the control group, the total complication rate was 27.27% (9/33), with 6 cases of

Table 2. Comparison of the lung function indicators between the two groups ($\bar{x} \pm s$).

Group	P(A-a)O ₂ (mmHg)				PCO ₂ (mmHg)			
	T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄	T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄
GDFT group (n = 34)	420.65 ± 13.83	482.80 ± 16.51	383.76 ± 14.80	351.62 ± 12.45	38.25 ± 3.10	38.04 ± 2.53	37.65 ± 2.61	38.46 ± 2.23
Control group (n = 33)	414.48 ± 16.25	564.72 ± 18.37	469.42 ± 14.39	427.59 ± 13.17	38.43 ± 2.87	37.87 ± 2.49	37.42 ± 2.26	38.30 ± 2.75
<i>t</i>	1.675	19.211	24.010	24.270	0.246	0.277	0.385	0.262
<i>P</i>	0.099	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.806	0.783	0.701	0.794
<i>F</i>	$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 1005.992, F_{\text{time}} = 1038.271, F_{\text{interaction}} = 141.772$				$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 1.520, F_{\text{time}} = 0.088, F_{\text{interaction}} = 0.084$			
<i>P</i>	$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$				$P_{\text{intergroup}} = 0.210, P_{\text{time}} = 0.767, P_{\text{interaction}} = 0.969$			

Group	RI				OI			
	T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄	T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T ₄
GDFT group (n = 34)	0.42 ± 0.13	1.84 ± 0.42	1.23 ± 0.38	0.89 ± 0.28	480.62 ± 16.78	342.78 ± 14.59	302.56 ± 15.14	388.63 ± 13.59
Control group (n = 33)	0.46 ± 0.12	2.18 ± 0.47	1.65 ± 0.42	1.41 ± 0.32	482.34 ± 17.52	276.84 ± 13.75	258.59 ± 14.26	326.41 ± 15.22
<i>t</i>	1.308	3.124	4.295	7.085	0.410	19.026	12.229	17.663
<i>P</i>	0.196	0.003	<0.001	<0.001	0.683	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
<i>F</i>	$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 246.083, F_{\text{time}} = 62.838, F_{\text{interaction}} = 6.174$				$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 2288.705, F_{\text{time}} = 528.778, F_{\text{interaction}} = 70.320$			
<i>P</i>	$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} = 0.001$				$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$			

The data are presented as mean ± SD. GDFT: goal-directed fluid therapy; OI: oxygenation index; RI: respiratory index.

Table 3. Comparison of the inflammatory response between the two groups ($\bar{x} \pm s$, pg/mL).

Group	TNF- α			IL-6			IL-10		
	T ₁	T ₄	T ₅	T ₁	T ₄	T ₅	T ₁	T ₄	T ₅
GDFT group (n = 34)	18.42 ± 2.53	65.76 ± 8.47	141.64 ± 30.45	8.63 ± 1.25	55.72 ± 8.49	52.04 ± 7.18	93.45 ± 12.76	75.63 ± 10.21	89.54 ± 13.25
Control group (n = 33)	17.68 ± 3.01	96.28 ± 11.05	202.79 ± 37.53	8.91 ± 1.34	68.53 ± 11.25	66.36 ± 10.63	92.18 ± 14.66	66.42 ± 9.57	46.77 ± 8.92
<i>t</i>	1.091	12.712	7.334	0.885	5.271	6.479	0.379	3.807	16.897
<i>P</i>	0.279	<0.001	<0.001	0.380	<0.001	<0.001	0.706	<0.001	<0.001
<i>F</i>	$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 951.880, F_{\text{time}} = 109.164, F_{\text{interaction}} = 37.930$			$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 991.380, F_{\text{time}} = 68.985, F_{\text{interaction}} = 16.362$			$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 88.108, F_{\text{time}} = 114.482, F_{\text{interaction}} = 58.776$		
<i>P</i>	$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$			$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$			$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$		

The data are presented as mean ± SD. GDFT: goal-directed fluid therapy; IL-6: interleukin 6; IL-10: interleukin 10; OI: oxygenation index; RI: respiratory index; TNF- α : tumor necrosis factor.

Table 4. Comparison of the serum S100 β and NSE levels between the two groups ($\bar{x} \pm s$, $\mu\text{g/L}$).

Group	S100 β			NSE		
	T ₁	T ₄	T ₅	T ₁	T ₄	T ₅
GDFT group (n = 34)	0.83 \pm 0.36	1.28 \pm 0.42	1.65 \pm 0.37	7.38 \pm 2.16	8.42 \pm 2.45	10.06 \pm 3.43
Control group (n = 33)	0.86 \pm 0.31	1.96 \pm 0.67	2.84 \pm 0.65	7.51 \pm 2.24	11.17 \pm 3.26	13.20 \pm 4.78
<i>t</i>	0.365	4.993	9.244	0.242	3.911	3.096
<i>P</i>	0.716	0.000	0.000	0.810	0.000	0.003
<i>F</i>	$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 140.972, F_{\text{time}} = 86.219, F_{\text{interaction}} = 24.220$			$F_{\text{intergroup}} = 29.148, F_{\text{time}} = 20.003, F_{\text{interaction}} = 4.437$		
<i>P</i>	$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} < 0.001$			$P_{\text{intergroup}} < 0.001, P_{\text{time}} < 0.001, P_{\text{interaction}} = 0.013$		

The data are presented as mean \pm SD. GDFT: goal-directed fluid therapy; NSE: neuron specific enolase.

lung disease, 1 case of wound infection, 1 case of empyema and 1 case of anastomotic fistula. There was no significant difference in the incidence of total complications between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 0.600, P = 0.206$).

4. Discussion

Radical surgery for esophageal cancer is common in department of thoracic surgery, and acute lung injury is a common postoperative complication. According to the previous data [7] [8], the overall incidence of acute lung injury after thoracic surgery is 2% - 12%, and OVL is one reason for acute lung injury. Excessive load during OVL may impede organ function recovery and increase the risk of postoperative pulmonary edema. The contralateral lung is not ventilated during OLV and may suffer from ventilation-perfusion mismatch, which further results in hypoxemia [9]. One study has shown that insufficient cerebral oxygen supply during surgery is an important risk factor for PND in surgical patients [10]. Inflammatory factors generated due to ischemia/reperfusion injury of lung tissues are another risk factor of PND [11]. Restrictive fluid therapy was once considered appropriate for reducing postoperative complications. However, this fluid replacement procedure is guided by CVP. Given the static and hysteretic nature of hemodynamic parameters, CVP is less accurate in assessment of the volume. Therefore, restrictive fluid therapy is associated with an increased risk of occult hypovolemia, cerebral oxygen metabolism disorder and postoperative lung complications. Given the facts above, maintenance of organ perfusion and cerebral oxygen supply-demand balance are the main goals of perioperative fluid management.

GDFT is mainly used to guide fluid replacement based on SVV, which is estimated by pulse profile analysis and based on the influence of the respiratory cycle on cardiac pumping function. SVV, as a functional hemodynamic parameter, can indicate the dynamic trend of hemodynamics under cardiac preload [12]. According to a previous study [13], SVV, as an indicator for assessment in fluid therapy, has a high sensitivity and specificity, and can guide fluid therapy

in patients receiving OLV. The lung diffusion function can be indicated by $P(A-a)O_2$ and RI, and higher $P(A-a)O_2$ and RI usually indicate greater severity of lung injury [14]. The normal range of OI is 400 - 500 mmHg. OI is positively correlated with the severity of lung injury, which can be used to assess pulmonary ventilation and oxygenation function [15]. OI is lower under pulmonary dysfunction and ventilation-perfusion mismatch. In the present study, GDFT was performed on some patients who received radical surgery for esophageal cancer under OLV. The results showed that at T_2 , T_3 and T_4 , $P(A-a)O_2$ and RI were significantly lower in the GDFT group than in the control group. At T_2 , T_3 and T_4 , OI was significantly higher in the GDFT group than in the control group. It was demonstrated that GDFT could improve lung oxygenation and reduce lung injury in these patients but failed to avoid lung injury. This finding was consistent with Xu *et al.*' report [16].

Central nervous system is susceptible to hypoxia. Studies both at home and abroad [17] [18] have shown that perioperative changes in cerebral oxygen saturation are closely related to secondary cognitive dysfunction after surgery. S100 β protein is a common biochemical marker of central nervous system disorders, which is used to assess the severity of brain injury. The NSE level is usually low in the peripheral blood. As NSE enters the blood circulation via the breached blood-brain barrier in brain injury, the NSE level in the peripheral blood is increased. One study [19] has shown that the NSE level in the peripheral blood is closely related to the severity of brain injury. The serum S100 β and NSE levels in the GDFT group were higher at T_4 and T_5 than at T_1 , which were lower than those in the control group. Besides, the incidence of PND in the GDFT group was lower compared to the control group. It was indicated that GDFT could relieve brain injury and reduce the incidence of PND in patients who underwent radical surgery for esophageal cancer under OLV to a certain extent. Similar results were reported by Xie *et al.* [20]. The possible explanation may be that GDFT effectively increases microperfusion of brain tissues under OLV, thereby improving blood circulation in brain tissues and increasing oxygen supply to avoid secondary brain injury.

Taken together, GDFT can prevent lung injury and alleviate inflammatory response in patients who received radical surgery for esophageal cancer under OLV. Besides, the incidence of PND was reduced by this procedure to a certain degree. However, the present study was a single-center investigation with small sample size. Moreover, PND was only observed for 72 h after surgery, and long-term follow-up of cognitive functions was absent. Thus, limitations were available in the present study. The findings remain to be further verified by studies with larger sample size and prolonged follow-up.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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