

without pulmonary AVMs, for a series of noninvasive and invasive investigations, using an unbiased online survey.

Results Of 677 HHT-affected participants, 284 reported performing forced expiratory manoeuvres either with or without a noseclip in place. The median age was 54 years (interquartile range 44–62) and the majority were female. All described nosebleeds: 130 (46%) experienced these at least daily, and a further 95 (33%) at least once per week. Only 1 of 253 (0.4%) reported nosebleeds were worse after finger oximetry measurements, compared to 53/282 (18.8%) after “blowing out hard without a noseclip” (chi-squared $p < 0.0001$). A higher proportion still reported nosebleeds were worse when a noseclip was used (66/192 (34.3%, $p = 0.0003$)). Similarly, migraine headaches (which are more frequent in people with HHT), were reported to be worse after forced expiratory manoeuvres both with (10/85 (11.7%)) and without (11/105 (10.5%)) a noseclip, but not after oximetry or being weighed.

Conclusion Noseclip use should be restricted in people already experiencing regular nosebleeds, and further pretest information may be required.

P34 LONG TERM OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH PULMONARY ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATIONS CONSIDERED FOR LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

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Introduction and objectives Pulmonary arteriovenous malformations (PAVMs) are abnormal vessels that provide anatomic right-to-left shunts, and frequently result in severe hypoxaemia. Lung transplantation is sometimes considered if PAVMs are not amenable to treatment by embolization or surgical resection.

Methods A retrospective review was performed of patients with PAVMs assessed between 1999 and 2016 at a single UK institution. Characteristics of those considered and referred for lung transplantation assessment were examined.

Results Between May 1999 and July 2016, 707 patients with PAVMs were reviewed. Six were or had been formally considered for lung transplantation purely for PAVMs, 4 as adults (3 at our institution between 1989–1995), 2 as children. Ages ranged from 2–47 (median 22) years. Four were from the UK, two had been assessed in non UK countries. All had hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT). Three had suffered a cerebral abscess due to their PAVMs. The adults had undergone maximal embolisation of PAVMs, and the children were considered to have untreatable disease. The median SaO₂ was 79% on air.

One adult underwent lung transplantation overseas and died peri-operatively. The other five were not transplanted, in four cases at the patients' request. Currently, their survival post assessment for lung transplant ranges from 15 to 27 (median 22) years, with four of the five still alive.

All five maintained arterial oxygen content by marked secondary erythrocytotic responses when not iron deficient. Four had subsequent embolisation treatments. One had three successful pregnancies, and another is working full time with no supplementary oxygen. However, two had a cerebral abscess (one fatal); three had deep vein thromboses; two experienced long term disabling pain attributed to hypertrophic pulmonary osteoarthropathy in one; and three have exercise limitation requiring supplementary oxygen. Antiplatelet therapy was recommended

for two due to ischaemic strokes; one remains anticoagulated 16 years after the insertion of a caval filter; and one is regularly evaluated for hyperviscosity symptoms that would precipitate isovolaemic venesection.

Conclusion Very long term stability is evident in the five patients who did not receive a lung transplant. The cohort remain at high risk of cerebral abscess and other complications of right-to-left shunting.

P35 A RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY DESIGNED TO CHARACTERISE INDIVIDUALS WITH PULMONARY ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATIONS (PAVMs) AND CEREBRAL ABSCESES AT A SINGLE INSTITUTION

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Introduction and objectives Individuals with pulmonary arteriovenous malformations (PAVMs), who often concurrently have hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), are at increased risk of cerebral abscess, frequently resulting in life-changing deficits. Current aetiological consensus supports paradoxical emboli of periodontal origin, with preventative dental recommendations published in 2008.¹ Limited knowledge is available to identify specifically at-risk individuals. This study aimed to characterise a cohort from 2005–2016; recognise potential precipitants; and compare results to an earlier published series.

Methods With ethical approval, notes of patients newly presenting at a single institution between 2005–2016 were reviewed to collect cohort characteristics. GraphPad Prism was used to calculate descriptive statistics, and to perform Mann-Whitney and Chi-squared statistical tests for comparison between the two cohorts.

Results Of 488 new patients with PAVMs, 33 (6.8%) had cerebral abscesses. 21 were female (63.6%), 12 male. The rate corrected for ascertainment bias was 3.8%. The median age at abscess was 46 years (range 13–69). The median oxygen saturation (SaO₂) was 90.75% (range 70–97.5%), with 9 individuals having respiratory symptoms. There were 29 confirmed HHT diagnoses (87.9%). The median largest feeding artery diameter was 5mm, and for 5 individuals, all feeding arteries had diameter ≤ 3 mm. In total, 19 (57.6%) had residual PAVMs too small for embolization.

Organisms identified (Table 1) suggest periodontal origin; 16 individuals (48.5%) had poor dental hygiene and 9 (27.3%) had dental events as abscess precipitants. Interestingly, 4 individuals had abscesses whilst on holiday abroad. 5 individuals reported worsening migraines and 2 individuals had increased seizure frequency ≤ 3 months pre-abscess.

Within the non-overlapping 1999–2005 cohort, there were 28/219 abscesses (12.8%, 9.05% adjusting for ascertainment bias). Compared to the later series, similar proportions of abscesses occurred prior to PAVM diagnosis (18/28 (64.3%) vs. 24/33 (72.3%)). Proportionally more males were affected (57.1%). No other significant differences were found for age, SaO₂, feeding artery diameter, presence of respiratory symptoms, or HHT (all p values > 0.12).

Conclusion The PAVM cohort remains at high risk of cerebral abscess. Scrupulous dental hygiene appears to remain paramount to reduce risk. The worsening migraines and abscess occurrence whilst abroad are unexpected findings recommended for further investigation.