Renal Denervation for the Treatment of Hypertension


Abstract- This literature review focuses on the analysis of renal denervation therapy as a potential treatment for difficult-to-control hypertension. Systemic arterial hypertension (SAH) is a prevalent condition with various approaches to achieving control, including lifestyle modifications, pharmacological interventions, and surgical treatments. The fluctuations in blood pressure within the kidneys occur due to the stimulation or inhibition of sensory and motor pathways in the renal nerves. Each of these modifications is linked to the underlying condition in the progression of hypertension. The employed methodology involves the ablation of renal afferent and efferent nerves using a catheter through percutaneous intervention facilitated by ultrasound.

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I. Introduction

Systemic arterial hypertension (SAH) is a prevalent medical condition. Despite extensive research and the availability of effective and safe pharmacological treatments, a significant number of patients face challenges in achieving optimal control of their blood pressure levels, leading to a classification of treatment resistance. The regulation of blood pressure is primarily governed by the sympathetic nerves, which maintain a constant level of activity and establish the sympathetic tone in the heart, blood vessels, and kidneys [1, 2].

Renal denervation therapy has been shown to effectively lower blood pressure in patients with resistant hypertension. This therapy works by deactivating specific regions between the central nervous system and the kidneys, resulting in an immediate decrease in renal sympathetic nerve activity and a subsequent reduction in blood pressure levels. This modality is considered invasive and has demonstrated a high level of safety, low complexity, and a favorable prognosis rate. As a result, it can help reduce the need for excessive medication dosages [1, 6].

II. Methodology

This is a literature review whose sources were taken from the SciELO and PubMed data platforms. The search period was July 2023, meeting the inclusion criteria of articles from 2000 to 2023, in Portuguese and English, online, and in full text. The following health descriptors (DeCS) were used as strategies to better evaluate the texts: “Denervation”, “Systemic Arterial Hypertension” and “Treatment”.

III. Discussion

Systemic arterial hypertension (SAH), which currently affects 1.2 billion people globally, results in medical expenses, cardiovascular disease mortality, and crippling patient consequences. The sympathetic nerves, which are active in vascular tone and work on the heart, arteries, and kidneys, physiologically regulate blood pressure. The sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems supply the kidney with blood flow. Although sympathetic innervation is connected to renal physiology, excessive activity can cause hypertension [1, 4].

Numerous studies have been successful in illuminating hypertension, and effective treatment options for SAH have been discovered. The main antihypertensive medications are diuretics, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, antiadrenergic medications, calcium channel blockers, and renin inhibitors, and they are all effective. These medications can be used on their own or in combination with three other medications, although some patients still experience unsatisfactory BP levels despite the combinations, necessitating the adoption of other therapeutic approaches like renaldenervation. [2]

The peripheral sympathetic neural system is defined by regions, meaning that altering sympathetic activity can produce different effects in certain regions. The renal neural pathways contain efferent and afferent nerve fibers. These nerves are arranged alongside the wall of the renal arteries, but not symmetrically. A recent study in humans showed that 1) the right renal artery is significantly more innervated than the left; 2) the anterior and superior quadrants are more innervated than the posterior and inferior quadrants; and 3) the distal third of the renal arteries is more innervated than its proximal
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IV. Conclusion

Considering the significant prevalence of systemic arterial hypertension within the population, it is of paramount significance to develop innovative or alternative pharmacological strategies for effectively managing blood pressure. Renal denervation has demonstrated efficacy as a viable alternative procedure for patients with resistant hypertension, as evidenced by the immediate improvement in blood pressure observed in patients undergoing this intervention. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize the promotion of new research and studies on the subject to strengthen this therapeutic measure and evaluate its application in clinical practice [2, 6].

References Références Referencias