

Antihypertensive drugs and statins must be considered in arterial stiffness evaluation in patients with Alzheimer's disease

Ercan Varol¹

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Oh et al. investigated the arterial stiffness in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) as compared to normal controls, patients with subjective memory impairment and patients with mild cognitive impairment [1]. They found that the pulse wave velocity was increased and the ankle-brachial index was decreased in patients with AD. This is a well-designed and written study. However, I want to pay attention into drugs which can affect arterial stiffness.

Arterial stiffness shows the reduced capability of an artery to expand and contract in response to pressure changes and it is an independent predictor of cardiovascular morbidity and all-cause mortality [2]. It has been suggested that aortic stiffness occurs as a result of atherosclerosis along the aorta. It is known that arterial stiffness is closely associated with cardiovascular comorbidities and cardiovascular drugs. It has been shown that some antihypertensive drugs like angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, calcium channel blockers and spironolactone reduce arterial stiffness [2–4]. In addition to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, beta-blockers and aliskiren, direct renin inhibitor, reduce arterial stiffness [4]. Recent meta-analysis showed that angiotensin receptor blocker treatment also improves arterial stiffness [5]. Apart from this statins also reduce arterial stiffness in hyperlipidemic patients [2].

In this study, there are hypertensive controls and patients in four groups; however, there is no information

regarding the antihypertensive drugs. In this age group there might also be hyperlipidemic controls and patients. There is also no data of blood cholesterol levels and statin use. I think that antihypertensive drugs and statins should have been considered in aortic stiffness evaluation in this study. It would have been useful if the authors had provided this information.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors have no declaration of interest.

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✉ Ercan Varol
drercanvarol@yahoo.com

¹ Department of Cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey