

**University „OVIDIUS” of Constanta**

**Physiology Department**

**CORELATIONS BETWEEN CLINICAL ASPECTS, NT-PROBNP VALUES AND  
OTHERS MYOCARDIAL CYTOLITIC ENZYMES IN PATIENTS WITH  
THORACIC TRAUMATHISMS**

**PHD THESIS SUMMARY**

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## **1.GENERAL PART**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Hystorical researches about natriuretic peptides begings early in 1956 when studies that used electronic microspcopy shown that molecular granules similar with those seen in endocrine glands were found in atrial myiocardial cells. Grater discovery and hudge advance in the identification of atrial natriuretic peptide was made by Bold in 1981, who determined that by intravenous injection of that particular atrial extract he obtained a fast and powerfull reaction in rats. Secondary purification and a proper characterization of that biological factor made by numerous researchers lead to the discovery of the ANP factor in the period of 1983-1984. Future studies revealed the rest of natriuretic peptides family members by isolating two different molecular forms, named as : Brain Natriuretic Peptide BNP and C type Natriuretic Peptide CNP.

Even though BNP was initially isolated from cerebral material, studies proved that it's functional expression has a ventricular origin, cardiac myocytes beying the major source of production for BNP and for eliberating it in the circulatory flow. In the blood stream, the active part of BNP hormone is composed by 32 AA fragments, completely separated by the N-terminal fragment of the pro-hormone, entitled NT-proBNP. This hormone is an important biomarker of classification of cardiac failure in all specific guidelines. At a time with chronic alteration of cardiac myocytes, an over production and expression of natriuretic peptides has been proven.

Nowadays, important studies and researches have an eager to highlight the prognostic role of NT-proBNP in ventricular post traumatic failure. Mortality rates are second highest after head traumatic injury, which underlines the importance of initial management and evaluation criteria for life threatening risk patients .

## **2. EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TRAUMA**

Worldwide , aproximativly 16.000 people die every day due to traumatic lesions (~ 5.8 milioane deaths/year), and the perspective for 2020 is a rise to iar estimările pentru anul 2020 arată o creștere până la 8,4 million of deaths/year, Mortality being second highest after AIDS. The origin and severity of the pathology are in connection with the type and magnitude of the impact energy but also with the vulnerable state of the patient, most of them being male patients aged between 60-65 years old. Noticing the fact that politraumatic events are the result of high energy impact mechanisms, car crashes are at the top of the mortality lists in Europe and worldwide.

## **3. CARDIAC TRAUMA**

Penetrating cardiothoracic lesions represent the cause of 25% of deaths the came in the first critical hours after a traumatic event, in 85% of them is needed a simple interventional procedure for treatment,being 85%, 15% requiring thoracotomy and the majority of them involving myocardial lesions or oh the great vessels. Non penetrating cardiac trauma is reported to have a 8 to 71% incidence of occurrence. Special attention is required in observing the clinical sings of shock alongside with ECG, cardiac tamponade, haemothorax and identifying the top 6 imediat letal lesions:upper airwaves obstruction, tension pneumothorax, flail chest, cardiac tamponade, massive haemothorax, hypoxia, hypoventilation. 20% of the car accidents moratlity rates are due to non penetrating heart injury.

## **4. NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES WITH CARDIOVASCULAR ROLE**

Encountering ANP biomarker in 1981 by Bold and it's ventricular expression beautifully described by Nemer et al., followed by the descriptive role of BNP made the preogresion of cardiac endocrinology at that time and an innovating perspective for diagnosis of cardiac failure. Gentic studies of BNP and ANP and expression models implied a new set of regulatory pathways which confirm the role of this biomarkers in myocardial wall stress. Within daily medical practice , enzymatic levels had a calitative implication as a marker of congestive heart failure stages and in the risk stratification of this group of patients, allowing also the screening of underling heart disease

There is no prognostic role determined by now for this enzyme applied in patients with acute heart damage as a cause for traumatic events.

#### 4.1 Biochemistry and pathophysiology of NT-proBNP

BNP human gene is located on chromosome 1 coding the 108 AA of the prohormone proBNP. In the bloodstream, BNP active hormone is composed by 32 AA parts being separated from the N-terminal part of the pro hormone, NT-proBNP. The cleavage and specific location of pro BNP it is still on research.

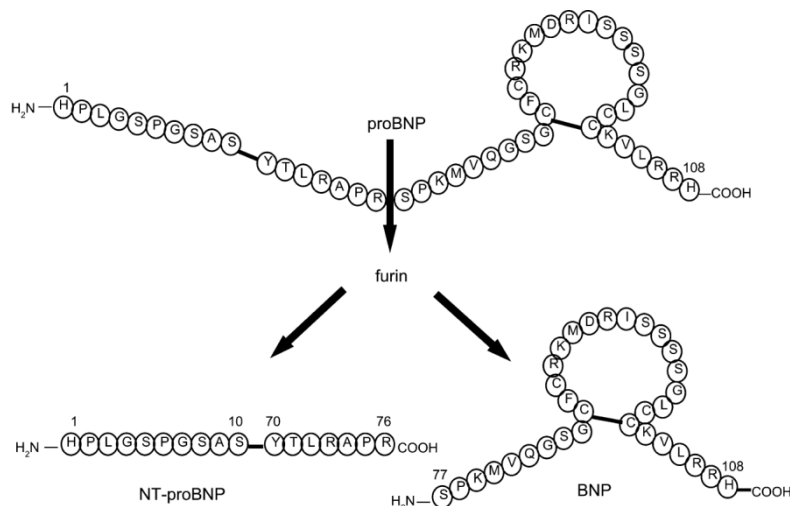


Figure 1. proBNP – enzymatic cleavage in BNP active form and inactive NT-proBNP

#### 4.2 Secretion of NT-proBNP

Cardiac myocytes represent the major source for BNP type peptide in the blood stream. A recent discovery highlighted the role of fibrillates in the conception of BNP. This finding is still unclear by the actual mechanism pathways. The main stimulus for production and liberating of ANP și BNP the myocardial wall stress. *in vitro Experiments* indicated that the release of BNP on paracrine or endocrine way is modulated by specific neurohormones in acute atrial stress. If we speak about atrial stress, then we speak about a higher release and a proper response of ANP. This is another argument for attributing a ventricular origin to the BNP hormone. It is also a clear fact proven that when a pathology regarding ventricular suffering with ischemic events occurs such as myocardial infarction, we have a higher expression for BNP rather than ANP.

## **PERSONAL RESEARCH PART**

### **PERSONAL STUDY TARGHETS**

1. The evaluation of the relationship between enzymatic rates and şî the patients general clinical state who suffered a major traumatic event mostly implying the thoracic wall as a predictive positive outcome
2. Primary survey in the Emergency room of the patients and 24 hours
3. Identify the enzymatic abnormalities and their dynamic changes from the admission in the ED and in the first 12 hours of hospitalisation
4. Identify the imagistic patterns and how they change during the evolution of the patients
5. Imidiata outcome , surviving expectations at 12 h and şî and departure /death
6. Evaluation of the predictive role of the enzymatic, imagistic and epidemiology parameters amongst

### **MATERIALS AND METHODES**

I included in this study a group of 33 patients with severe thorax politrauma due to vehicle accidents, registrated in the Emergency Room of the Constanta Emergency Clinical Hospital. The study was made in 4 years , and I present the following Criteria:

#### **STUDY PROTOCOL**

I. Primary survey

II. A. Biological enzymatic determinations

B. Imagistic results at admission and followup 12-24 h

III. Analysis of the results obtained

IV. Creating a data base for all the findings

#### **I.Clinical evaluation of the patients:**

- Evaluation of the accident mechanism and the cause of the traumatic event
- Primary survey in the Emergency room
- Monitoring the patient – vital signs, blood pressure, SpO2, heart rate, ECG

#### **II Biological examn:**

A. Laboratory findings:

1. ASTRUP arterial puncture
2. Venous puncture : CBC, Troponin I, CK-MB, NT-proBNP

**NT-PRO BNP( reference value of 125 pg/mL)**

The biological tests were made in the personal ED with : SYSMEX XS 1000i, for CBC, COBAS INTEGRA 400, COBAS h232, RESPONSE BIOMEDICAL for cardiac enzymes.

Imagistic examination::

All of them are made with the specification the the emergency clinician respecting all the trauma emergency protocols

**CLINICAL STUDY INCLUSION CRITERIA**

1. Age over 16 years old
2. Diagnostic of severe thoracic trauma in pre-hospital.
3. Existence of medical documents that provide informations about the patients past clinical history with no cardiac pathology , monitorisation, evaluation chart, enzymatic notes and imagistic ones at submission and at 12 h after.
4. Documented data requiring the mechanisms of trauma, general state of the patient

**CLINICAL STUDY EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

1. Minor patients <16 yrs
2. Patients with no thoracic trauma or minor lesions
3. Patients with no medical history documents or with no possibility of following data
4. Patients with no information about the traumatic events (spoken or documented)



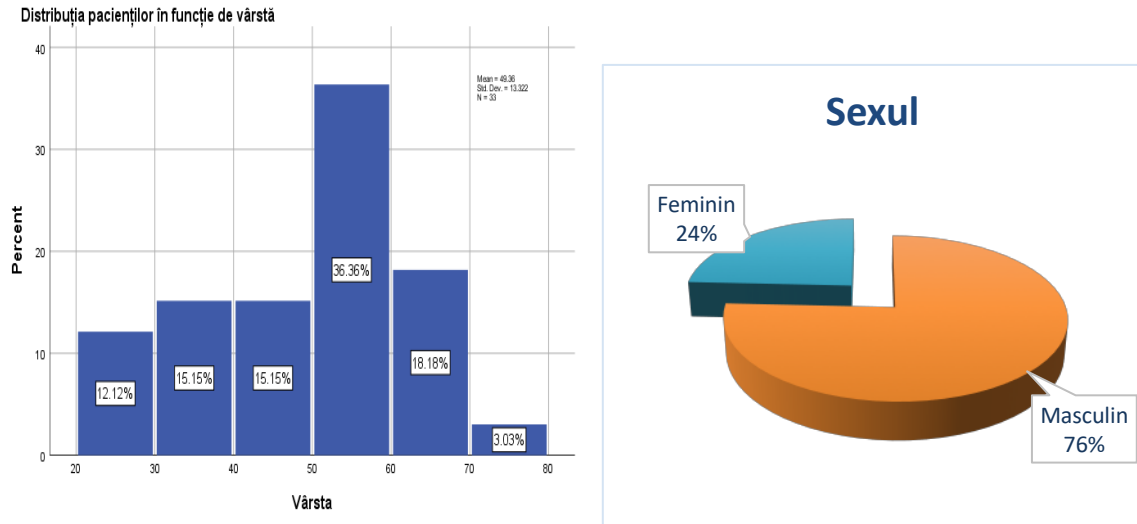
## 4. RESULTS

### AGE

Over 57% of the patients have 50 years old

### SEX

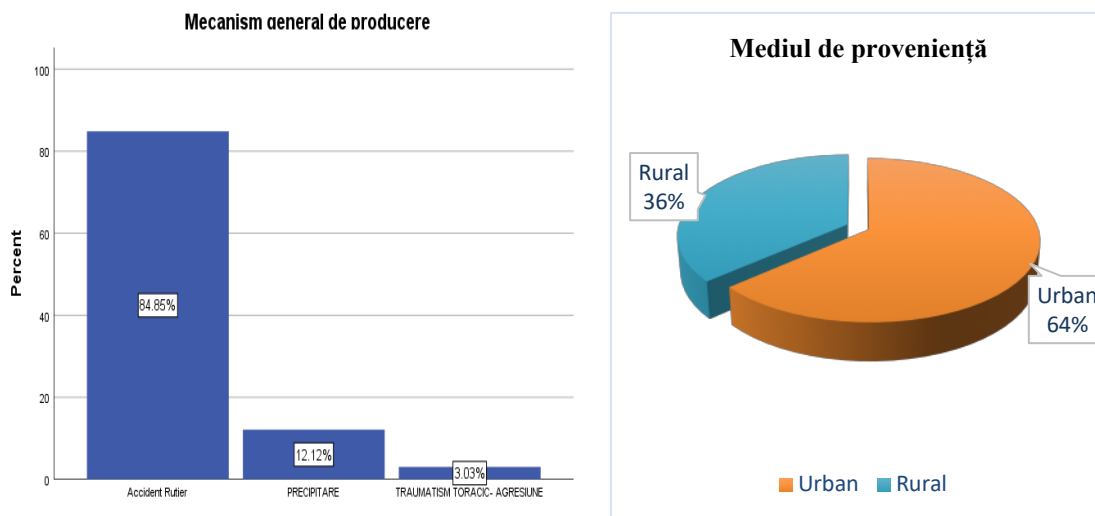
The majority of the patients were male victims summing up a 76% of total .



Figures 2,3 Distribution of the patients regarding age and sex

### MECHANISM OF THE TRAUMATIC EVENT

Very important for the primary survey and also to evaluate the possible complications, car crash events representing 85%, followed by traumatic falls and physical aggression, 40% of the patients being drivers, 24,24% right seated patients, 64% of the victims having an urban origin



Figures 4, 5 traumatic mechanism and origin

## A. Clinical evaluation

### General status

At the primary survey I noted that 42% of the patients were initially stable, the rest of them having an altered general response, with clinical instability signs.

### Glasgow Coma Scale

36%. Of the patients had a low value of GCS score with deeply implication of the neurological status, GCS 3 was evaluated in 21,21%, of the cases.

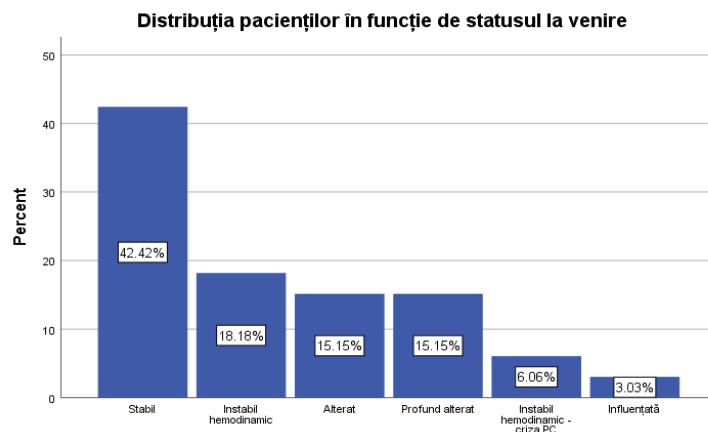


Figure 6. General status at presentation

**SpO2** values were 95 – 99%, in a percent of 36,36 of patients, with good breathing response

### Orotraheal Intubation

As a result of the critical status of the patients, 36,4% of the victims were intubated to protect the airways and to supply proper oxygenation levels.

### Systolic blood pressure and Diastolic blood pressure

33,33% were hypotensive with values of 110 – 129 /90 – 119

### Heart rate and arrhythmias

-there were two types of patients mostly with the same prevalence: one group with normal heart rate, another one with bradycardic rhythm 33,33% and a high incidents of tachyarrhythmias with medium frequency 100-115 bpm (30,30%) such as Atrial Fibrillation with fast ventricular response 50%, followed up by severe atrio-ventricular block 25%. With ventricular extra beats.

## B. BIOLOGICAL FINDINGS

**B1. CK-MB at admission** , 88% had elevated values with severe muscular injury

### B2. CK-MB series

Starting with 24U/L as a normal value for this biomarker , only 15% of the patients had normal levels.

### B3. Troponin I at admission

Negative in results lower than 0,02 ng/ml(40%),

Positive + in results more than 0,02 – 0,059 ng/ml(27%),

### B4. Troponin I series

45,45% of the patients had no enzymatic high rates, representing the exclusion of myocardial infarction in this category

### B5. NT-PROBNP

61% had values at the first prelevation much higher than the normal state, with an evolution in numbers up to 64%, the medium value reported was 462,03U/L and a maximum number of 6580 U/L

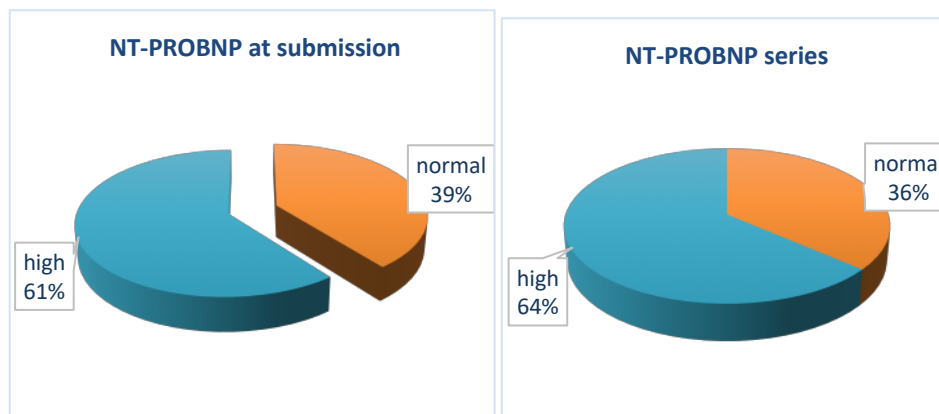


Figure 7,8 NT-proBNP values

## C. RADIOLOGY RESULTS

56% presented multiple rib fractures, 12% severe haemothorax, 19% associated upper limb fractures and 25% lower limb fractures such as complete right femoral fracture

## D. CARDIAC ULTRASOUND

Within the echocardiological findings- trans thoracic ultrasound- the most important of them are as expected the presence of pericardial effusion with different measured volumes, rupture of valvular cordage and aneurisms. This procedure was performed by the cardiologist doctor on call in the emergency room, after the primary survey practiced by the emergency doctor to evaluate the function of the heart and the cardiac outcome of the patients.

## **D1.ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY CHECK**

The pathology encountered was complex and associated with the initial findings or with the severity of the outcome and then with the interventional procedures. I noticed that at a percent of 6,1 of the cases, the pericardial fluid was still present in the subxifoidian loop mostly at a quantity of 8mm in the right ventricle. I also noticed the positive evolution of the drainage of cardiac tamponade. Still there has been a worrying number of patients in which the cardiac ultrasound confirmed the asistola..

## **HAEMODINAMIC STATUS**

-80% of the patients had an abnormal WBC level at presentation due to hypovolemic shock impairing a percent of 20 norohaemodynamic patients. This fact proves the severity of the impact with a response in internal bleeding or severe acute anemic syndromes.

Leukocytosis due to traumatic shock and sepsis contributed in the complex approach in treatment and management for severe politrauma patients. Up to 42% had values  $12,5 - 15 \cdot 10^3/\text{mm}^3$ . And sever cases with sepsis (9%) ,  $35 \cdot 10^3/\text{mm}^3$ .

## **5. DISCUSSION**

- The patients who passed the inclusion criteria for the study were mainly male patients (75,8%), older than 50 years (57%), drivers, cars crash victims. (80%),
- At the primary survey in the ED, although the majority of them had stable vital signs(40%), a oercent of 20 had a deeply altered neurological status with a GCS 3 points who needed mechanical respiratory support (36%).
- Durig the secondary survey we prelevated biological blood tests. The worring results revealed the incidence of hypovolemic shock, leukocytosis, muscular injury and possible acute cardiac traumatic event with NT-proBNP serum levels elevated.
- To confirm the cardiac injury and to masure the cardiac output we performed a cardiac ultrasound in the ED. This imagistic approach showed in a majority of cases the presence of cardiac tamponade and pericardial effusion that were immediately drained. It also confirmed in some situations a NON-STEMI myocardial infarction
- The emergency physician recommended a series of imagistic investigations adapted to the pathological findings and useful to complet the diagnosis.Radiological findings were mainly regarded to rib fractures, haemothorax and limb fractures

- CT scans also associated in 30% of the cases traumatic brain injuries, pulmonary concussions and haemothorax.

- Following the evolution of the patients 30% had a poor outcome, 21% of them with deep alteration of neurological status, NT-proBNP results in 24 hours maintaining increased..

- I suspected a connection between the traumatic event and biomarker high rates and a prognostic role of it can be attributed, showing once again the importance of time and management in cardiac trauma.

## **LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE**

Non invasive procedure, no additional costs, with major impact for the politraumatized patients outcome and with a result obtained in short time.

## **6.THESIS ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION**

With this paper I had the aim to prove a predictive role and vital importance in determining NT-proBNP in Emergency Units in the case of patients with severe traumatic chest lesions.

There are no recent studies to complete all the researches about this subject and also to find proper correlations between acute ventricular injury and enzymatic rates.

Introducing in the approach of the politraumatized patients in the current practice of emergency departments the prognostic value of NT-proBNP it would be a real life-saving procedure in risk stratification and outcome. There are no supplementary costs added, and the results are obtained in short time up to 5 minutes.

Due to the high mortality rates worldwide this enzyme might provide an improvement in the management and surviving rates of traumatic heart injuries.

## **7.GENERAL CONCLUSIONS**

1. Politraumatic patients and thoracic trauma have an increased mortality rate worldwide secondary to acute pathology but also to the vital complications.
2. An adequate diagnosis of the primary lesions and an appropriate management of medical resources are essential keys for surviving
3. Post traumatic heart pathology puts in difficulty for many times the physician in order to establish a correct diagnosis
4. NT-proBNP values might have a prognostic role associated with clinical asses and imagistic findings
5. Obtaining the result of the blood tests requires a minim invasive procedure with no suplimentary costs in the ED.
6. Applicable in all Emergency Units and in prehospital
7. The information regarding the value of the biomarkes is given in short time

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