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Development of the analytical method for the quantification of 3-nitrotyrosin and 3-chlorotyrosin in human plasma as potential biomarkers to evaluate minimal liver encephalopathy (MHE)



A. Villaseñor Todd^{1,4},
J.A. Hernández-Hernández², R.C. López-Sanchez²,
F.J. Bosques-Padilla², C.A. Cortez-Hernandez³,
E. Lopez Soriano^{5,6}

¹ Hospital Regional ISSSTE, Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

² Tecnológico de Monterrey, Escuela de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud y Laboratorio Nacional de Medicina de Sistemas, Monterrey, Nuevo León

³ Hospital Universitario “Dr. José Eleuterio González” Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, NL, México

⁴ Facultad de medicina de “Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León”, Monterrey NL.5, EGAD business school

⁵ Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, México

⁶ Escuela nacional de ingeniería y ciencias, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, México

Background and aim: Minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) is the earliest form of hepatic encephalopathy (HE) and can affect up to 80% of patients with liver cirrhosis. It is characterized by impaired cognitive function; mainly in the domains of attention, memory, speed of response, surveillance and integrative function. Patients with MHE show reduced performance in selective and which has a negative impact on the patients' health-related quality of life. Currently, there is no gold standard for diagnosis of EHM. Reports Montoluiu et al. evaluated the serum levels of different nitro-oxidative stress metabolites, cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), nitrites + nitrates and 3-nitrotyrosine (3-NO-Tyr); For each metabolite, its diagnostic precision was evaluated as an indicator of MHE, correlating it with the level of performance in psychometric tests for the diagnosis of HE as a comparison, finding high sensitivity and specificity for 3-nitrotyrosine. Despite the fact that 3-NO-Tyr has been evaluated in EHM, there is a wide variation of results that support its clinical utility, mainly due to the quantification methods used. AIM. To develop an analytical method to quantify the products of nitro-oxidative stress 3-NO-Tyr and 3-chloro-Tyrosine (3-Cl-Tyr) of high sensitivity and specificity to quantify the levels of these metabolites in samples from participating subjects with liver damage and MHE and comparing against the levels of subjects with liver damage without MHE, as well as the baseline level in healthy control subjects.

Material and methods: This study was approved by the Institute's Ethics and Research Committee. An analytical method was developed for the quantification of 3-NO-Tyr as 3-Cl-Tyr by means of triple quadrupole mass spectrometry coupled to an ultra high efficiency liquid chromatography system (UPLC-MS / MS XEVO TqD Waters). The spectrometer was programmed using the molecular transitions of NO-Tyr (227.2 > 181.1), Cl-Tyr (216.2 > 170.1) and the internal standard (EI) (132.2 > 86.2) for the internal standard respectively. The samples were hydrolyzed prior to processing and analysis to quantify free and protein-derived metabolites.

Results: The method was linear in the range of 0.5 - 2500 nM for both metabolites, it met the validation tests of the analytical methods. The results show that, by means of the developed method, it is possible to perform the simultaneous quantification of free

3-NO-Tyr and Cl-Tyr and protein derivatives, so it can be used to quantify them in samples of MHE, non-MHE and control subjects.

Conclusions: With the developed method, it is possible to accurately and precisely quantify the concentrations of both metabolites in the proposed biological matrix, so if they show differences between study groups, they could be used to determine them in the early diagnosis of MHE.

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Experience of Yttrium-90 radioembolization in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma



B. Zapote Hernández², S. Amezcua Pérez²,
J.M. Torres Montoya², I. Verduzco Flores²,
E. Santiago González², V. Fonseca Morales³,
A. Gutiérrez Atemis¹, C. Pantaleón Martínez¹,
N.C. Fernández Martínez¹, M.R. Herrero Maceda¹,
J.G. Gándara Calderón¹, E. Cerda Reyes¹

¹ Military Central Hospital, Gastroenterology Department

² Radiology Department

³ Surgery Oncology Department, Mexico City, Mexico

Background and aim: Nowadays there are several treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma BCLC B, among them is radioembolization with Itrio-90 (RE-Y90) which is a form of locoregional intra-arterial brachytherapy towards HCC, among its advantages is prolonging the HCC progression time and improve the quality of life of patients. Adverse effects could be extrahepatic (radiation pneumonitis) and intrahepatic (radiation-induced liver disease), among others. Objective of our work is to assess the time free of progression, response to treatment and adverse effects that occur with the administration of RE-Y90.

Material and methods: All HCC BCLC B patients who were candidates for RE-Y90 were analyzed.

Inclusion criteria: cirrhotic patients of any etiology, with a diagnosis of HCC stage B, Child Pugh A and B with 7 points, who had previously undergone a morphological study (CT / MRI) and arteriography to characterize the lesion, to know the irrigation of the tumor and rule out extrahepatic shunts that contraindicate the application of RE-Y90. Subsequently, the procedure was simulated with MAA-Tc99m in order to record its distribution, perform dosimetry, and on the day of RE-Y90, an image study was performed with PET / CT in order to verify the distribution. Exclusion criteria. Patients with liver cirrhosis of any etiology with BCLC Stage B of the Child Pugh B plus 7 points or those with Child Pugh A or B 7 points with extrahepatic shunts. Do not accept this type of therapy. Patients who were not candidates for this therapy were sessioned at the Gastrointestinal and Liver Tumor Meeting to decide their treatment. Response to treatment at 3 and 6 months was analyzed using the mRECIST criteria, progression-free time at 6 months, and adverse effects were recorded.

Results: Two patients with HCC BCLC B, a 70-year-old woman with HCC from AIH and a 67-year-old man with HCC of alcohol etiology, both Child Pugh at 6 points, with no data on arterial thrombosis, were performed.