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Cranial Accelerometry Can Detect Cerebral Vasospasm Caused by Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

We previously reported the presence of a cranial "bruit" in patients with cerebral vasospasm by signal processing cranial accelerometry signals time locked to the cardiac cycle. This shift to higher frequencies is likely related to the turbulence of blood flow produced by vascular narrowing. We sought to build a more quantitative model to predict cerebral vasospasm then test the accuracy of this technique to detect cerebral vasospasm in a prospective blinded study.

METHODS:

Skull accelerometry was performed using an array of 6 highly sensitive accelerometers placed in contact with the scalp. Paired transcranial Doppler (TCD) recordings and accelerometry epochs were obtained in consecutive patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage undergoing TCD recordings for surveillance of cerebral vasospasm. The energy of rectified acceleration measurements within systolic and diastolic bands of the cardiac cycle were measured and correlated with TCD-defined spasm. This model was then tested prospectively in a blinded consecutive sample of subarachnoid hemorrhage patients to determine accuracy of the technique.

RESULTS:

We developed a model predicting cerebral vasospasm from analysis of 14 unblinded subjects with varying degrees of cerebral vasospasm as detected by TCD. We then recorded from 58 subjects obtaining 125-paired recordings of accelerometry and TCD to test this model in a blinded analysis. Accelerometry detection of any spasm versus non-spasm correlated with TCD-defined vasospasm ($P < 0.001$). The model was 81 % sensitive for detecting any cerebral vasospasm in patients, while the negative predictive value was 61 %.

CONCLUSION:

Highly sensitive skull accelerometry can detect cerebral vasospasm with clinically meaningful accuracy. This tool holds promise in the ICU environment to detect as well as reject cerebral vasospasm as the cause of

CAUTION: The Jan Medical BrainPulse system is an FDA cleared device for cranial motion measurement currently under research for a variety of neurological conditions. Limited by federal (US) law to investigational use for diagnostic purposes.

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neurological deficits in subarachnoid hemorrhage.

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