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# TROPONIN-1, CK-MB, D-DIMER, AND NT-proBNP LEVELS BEFORE AND AFTER TWO DIFFERENT ANESTHESIA PROTOCOLS IN DOG

# GÜLSAH AKGUL <sup>1</sup>; MUSTAFA BARIS AKGUL <sup>2</sup>; ERMAN GULENDAG <sup>3</sup>; MAHSUM BASAK <sup>1</sup>AND SEVDET KILIC <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Siirt University, Siirt, Turkey
 <sup>2</sup> Department of Surgery, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Siirt University, Siirt, Turkey
 <sup>3</sup> Department of Biostatistics, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Siirt University, Siirt, Turkey

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the cardiac effects of two different anesthetic protocols by measuring serum levels of Troponin 1, CK-MB, NT-proBNP and D-Dimer in healthy castrated non cardiac dogs. Thirty adult, healthy, and noncardiac male dogs were brought to the animal hospital affiliated to the Animal Health Application and Research Center of Siirt University for castration. The animals were sedated with intramuscular administration of 2 mg/kg of xylazine HCl and anesthesia was induced by intramuscular administration of 10 mg/kg Ketamine HCl. The animals were intubated and connected to the closed-circuit anesthesia device. Following induction of general anesthesia, dogs were divided into two groups. Group 1 (G1) (n=15) was administered with 2-3% Isoflurane inhaler, the other group (G2) (n=15) was administered with 2-3% Sevoflurane inhaler to maintain anesthesia. Blood samples were collected before and 12 hours after anesthesia. Results revealed non-significant changes in serum levels of CK-MB over time. However, a significant difference was observed in CK-MB values between sevoflurane and isoflurane. No significant changes in Troponin values were recorded. Significant changes in Nt-Pro BNP values over time were observed, but the changes were not significant between anesthetic protocols. With the present study, we can partially say that sevoflurane is safer than isoflurane, but we believe that more studies should be done with more samples.

Keywords: D-Dimer, Cardiac, Troponin- I, Nt-ProBNP

## INTRODUCTION

Many hemodynamic parameters are impacted depending on the type of anesthesia chosen for patients undergoing general anesthesia. Changes occur in heart rate, heart rhythm, myocardial contractility,

and vascular tonus through the autonomic nervous system. Ketocalamine increase, depression of myocardial contractility, myocardial ischemia, and postoperative pain-related hypertension can be observed in patients administered general anesthesia due to excessive excitement and intubation Moreover, during induction. hypoxia, hyperapnia, and acidosis resulting from inadequate respiration may depress the myocardium and increase the tendency to arrhythmia. The impact of pharmacological agents used in general anesthesia on the

Corresponding author: Mustafa Barıs Akgul E-mail address: mbakgul@hotmail.com Present address: Department of Surgery, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Siirt University, Siirt, Turkey

cardiovascular system may vary depending on the dose (Esener, 2004).

Almost all inhalation agents can reduce myocardial depression, stroke volume, and blood pressure. Sevoflurane, one of the inhaler agents, mildly depresses myocardial contractility and can cause a decrease in systemic vascular resistance and arterial blood pressure. Isoflurane depresses the myocardium but does not depress ventricular conduction. Blood pressure can be reduced by decreased systemic vascular resistance (Morgan and Maget, 2008).

Troponin (Tn) is a regulatory protein of thin filaments of striated muscle. Troponins are released into the blood as T, I, and C complexes (a ternary complex of cTnT-I-C and a binary complex of cTnI-C) and as free subunits. Troponin T and I act together as important components of the contraction process in striated muscle. Although the troponin complex is similarly involved in striated muscle, the isoforms of troponin T and I are different in cardiac muscle as the proteins are encoded by different genes in the tissue. Cardiac troponins are biomarkers specific to cardiomyocyte injury (Liquori et al., 2014). Cardiac injury induces myocyte destruction and membrane rupture, and high concentrations of free cardiac troponin are released into the bloodstream. This process is followed by a slow and continuous release of structurally linked troponins, which explains the reason for the constantly high serum concentration (Wells and Sleeper, 2008).

In dog serum, cTnI can be detected in 4-6 hours and peaks at 10-16 hours after an induced trauma (experimental myocardial infarction) faster than in humans (Cummins and Cummins, 1987). Cardiac troponin is associated with arteriosclerosis fibrosis in pathological changes described in cardiac failure due to mitral valve disease, and this fibrosis occurs due to severe ischemia (Falk *et al.*, 2013).

Cardiac troponin I, one of the cardiac biomarkers, and creatine kinase MB (CK-MB), one of the cardiac enzymes, are used as valuable markers in the diagnosis and prognosis of ischemia, trauma, and septic myocardial damage in human medicine (Slack et al., 2005). The amount of cTnI in circulation is determined to identify the presence of acute and chronic myocardial damage in many species and its determination also leads to the guidance of other diagnostic methods, such as thorax radiography, electrocardiography, and echocardiography provides and additional information to these tests. Furthermore, the amount of cTnI in circulation gives information about the degree of cardiac damage (Suzuki et al., 2012)

Although the creatine phosphokinase (CK-MB) isoenzyme is used for the diagnosis of myocardial infarction, its effectiveness in detecting myocardial damage is still controversial, since it is also found in tissues and organs such as skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscles, the brain, the uterus, and placenta (Abramov et al., 1996). CK-MB is diagnostically sensitive to myocardial damage, but it is not specific. Skeletal muscle has a higher CK activity and a CK-MB activity of up to 3% (Adams et al., 1993). However, a high CK-MB level in the serum is generally evaluated in favor of myocardial cell damage. Creatine kinase is a product of muscular activation in the organism and has two subunits. The subunits have three iso-enzymes as a result of their interaction with each other. CK-MM, CK-MB and CK-BB are characterized as isoenzymes, M indicating muscle subunit and B indicating brain subunit (Boyd, 1983).

It is found in different tissues and organs in the organism at different rates. In many species, CK-MM can be detected at a rate of 100% in skeletal muscle. CK-MM predominates in cardiac muscle; CK-MB is found at a rate of 3% in dogs and approximately 10% in horses (Aktas *et al.*, 1994). In human medicine, CK-MB is used for prognostic purposes, especially in acute cardiac damage. In veterinary medicine, its exact effectiveness is unknown, and further studies are recommended (Guan *et al.*, 2014).

D-dimer is a general indicator of fibrinolysis and activation of the coagulation system for any reason, and is therefore used as an indirect marker of thrombotic activity. In medicine, D-dimer levels may increase very rarely in healthy individuals. Clinically, Ddimer is most frequently used in the follow-up diagnosis and of venous thromboembolism (VTE) and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). In addition, D-dimer levels have been reported to be elevated in all conditions that promote fibrin formation and destruction, such as acute coronary syndromes, peripheral vascular diseases, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary pregnancy, embolism, acute stroke, hemolytic crises in sickle cell anemia, malignant diseases, post-surgery, congestive heart failure, and chronic renal failure (Hager and Platt., 1995; Chapman et al., 1990).

Natriuretic peptides are a class of hormones that control body fluid homeostasis through natriuretic and diuretic effects and act on the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone mechanism (Liquori et al., 2014). ANP and BNP are the main cardiac hormones in circulation and are called cardiac natriuretic peptides. The majority of ANP is synthesized in atrial myocytes. This polypeptide is more abundant in the right atrium compared to the left. Unlike ANP, which is mainly stored in the atria, the main source of BNP is cardiac ventricles. Therefore, unlike other natriuretic peptides, BNP is a specific indicator in the diagnosis of ventricular diseases (İçen et al., 2009). Atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) and B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) are useful in evaluating the diagnosis of cardiac diseases, whereas the expression of C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) has been associated with paracrine function and also has a role in the regulation of vascular tonus

(Ciaramella *et al.*, 1995; Van Kimmenade and Januzzi, 2009).

Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) is released from cardiac ventricles and increases proportionally with ventricular enlargement and pressure increase, giving information on cardiac performance. B-type natriuretic peptide has proven to be more stable than ANP after release into circulation (Van Kimmenade and Januzzi, 2009). NT-pro BNP has the same sensitivity and specificity as BNP and a high biological half-life (Fox et al., 2009). The two fractions of BNP and NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide) have been successfully used to evaluate cardiac failure, acute coronary syndrome, or ischemic heart disease, and for monitoring cardiac failure treatment in human medicine, and have been reported to serve as a model for veterinary medicine (Maisel et al., 2002; Braunwald, 2008; Liquori et al., 2014).

In recent years, especially NT-proBNP has played a very important role in the diagnosis of cardiac failure and heart diseases in veterinary medicine. ProBNP can provide information about the disease before symptoms occur, especially in asymptomatic heart diseases (Uçar and Turhan, 2005). Monitoring cardiac function has gained importance for the follow-up of myocardial lesions. For this purpose, various hormones and peptides, such as atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP), N-terminal pro-BNP (NT-proBNP), and cardiac troponin are used in the diagnosis of cardiac failure (Gönül et al., 2017).

In patients with cardiac problems, changes in autonomous system activity, body temperature, blood pressure, ventricular filling pressure, heart rate, and blood volume create additional stress. In addition to anesthesia, complications such as surgeryrelated bleeding, infection, fever, pulmonary embolism, and myocardial infarction increase the burden on the cardiovascular system. In order to reduce possible events that may develop due to cardiovascular complications, the risks in patients should be determined beforehand and measures should be taken. On such an important issue, it is important to determine the risks and benefits of anesthesia based on the anesthetic agents to be selected. Several risk factors increase complications cardiac during surgery. Knowing the cardiac risks is important in order to be prepared for the negativities that may occur in the intraoperative period. The present study aimed to compare the cardiac effects of two different anesthesia protocols by measuring serum levels of Troponin I, CK-MB, NT-proBNP, and D-Dimer levels in healthy castrated noncardiac dogs.

### **METHOD**

### 1. Materials:

### **1.1 Animal Material**:

The animal material of the study consisted of 30 adult, healthy and non-cardiac dogs with all values within normal limits on physical examination. They were male crossbreed dogs aged 1-3 years (mean±SE age of Sevoflurane (G2) dogs was 1.8±0.22, and for Isoflurane (G1) dogs was  $2\pm0.2$ ), which were brought to the animal hospital affiliated Siirt University Animal with Health Application and Research Center for Castration. Dogs that did not have any abnormality in the clinical and laboratory evaluations and were considered healthy based on the anamnesis were included in the study.

### 2. Anesthesia protocols:

In the pre-anesthetic period, vascular access was first established from V. cephalica antebrachi. Then xylazine HCl 2 mg/kg (Xylazinbio 2%, Bioveta, Czech Republic) was administered i.m. for sedation and ketamine HCl 10 mg/kg (Ketasol 10%, Arion, Turkey) was administered i.m. for induction. For the maintenance of anesthesia, the patient was intubated and connected to a closed-circuit anesthesia system (SMS 2000 Classic Automatic Anesthesia Device CWH 1020, SMS, Turkey). Following the injectable general anesthesia, one group (n=15) was given 2-3% Isoflurane (Isoflurane USP, Piramal Critical Care, USA) (mean±SE duration of inhalation anesthesia was 24.8±0.79 min) and the other group (n=15) received 2-3% Sevoflurane (Sevoflurane, Aeseica Queenborough Limited, UK) (mean±SE duration of inhalation anesthesia was 24.5±0.86 min) with an inhaler in order to maintain anesthesia.

#### **3.** Collection and Evaluation of Samples:

### **3.1** Collection and storage of samples:

Blood samples were collected from the dogs to be castrated into sterile gel biochemical tubes before anesthesia and post-anesthesia 12th-hour and centrifuged immediately at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes. Serum samples were taken and stored at -20 °C until the analysis.

### **3.2 D-Dimer and NT-proBNP analysis:**

D-dimer and NT-proBNP concentrations were measured with a Fluorescent Immunoassay rapid test (Finecare, Wondfo Biotech Co. Limited, Finecare, Atateknik, Turkey). Commercial FIA meter test kits (Ddimer test, Finecare, Wondfo Biotech Co. Limited) were used to measure serum Ddimer concentration. Serum samples were stored at -20 °C until the analysis.

**3.3 Troponin I and CK-MB**Serum troponin I and CK-MB concentrations were measured using the ADVIA 1800 Automated Biochemistry analyzer. Serum samples were stored at -20 °C until the analysis.

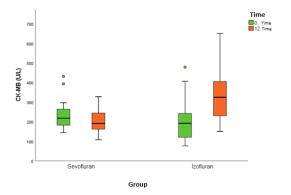
# 4. Statistical Analyses

In the study, measurements made 12 hours after anesthesia administration were accepted as the dependent variables. The 12th-hour measurements were evaluated as the covariates, which had an effect on the independent variable, which was preanesthesia measurements (0th-hour), except for the Sevoflurane and Isoflurane groups. Accordingly, the Analysis of Covariance was used in the statistical analysis of the obtained data. Prior to the hypothesis testing, interaction assumptions in normal distribution, linearity, and regression slopes were checked. In all tests, p<0.05 was taken as the criterion of significance, and analyses were performed in the SPSS v26 statistical program.

## RESULTS

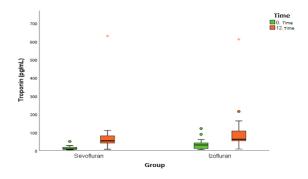
In CK-MB values measured after Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations, it was determined that the 0th-hour measurements did not cause a statistically significant increase on the 12th-hour postanesthesia measurements (p=0.465) but a difference was observed in CK-MB values

**Figure 1:** Change of CK-MB level according to time and anesthetic agents

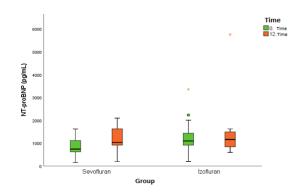


due to the use of different anesthetic agents (p=0.002) (Figure 1). On the other hand, in terms of troponin, it was observed that the zero-hour measurements did not cause a statistically significant difference in the 12th measurements -hour post-anesthesia (p=0.811) and no statistically significant difference was observed in troponin values due to the use of different anesthetic agents (p=0.829) (Figure 2). In Nt-ProBNB values measured after Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations, it was determined that the zero-hour measurements caused a statistically significant change on the 12th-hour post-anesthesia measurements (p<0.001), but Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations did not make a significant difference on this change (p=0.198) (Figure 3) (Table 1). Since serum D-Dimer values were measured within normal limits, they could not be included in statistical analysis.

**Figure 2:** Change of troponin level according to time and anesthetic agents



**Figure 3:** Change of NT-proBNP level according to time and anesthetic agents



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Parameter	Time	Sevoflurane	Isoflurane	Anesthetic Agent	Covariant (0th hour)
CK-MB -	0th hour	236.7±21.6	207±31.6	- 0.002	0.465
	12th hour	301.1±15.6	$344.8 \pm 39.3$		
Troponin -	0th hour	$14.5 \pm 3.1$	35.5±8.6	- 0.829	0.811
	12th hour	94.1±39.2	$113.2 \pm 38.4$		
NT-proBNP -	0th hour	845.7±95.9	1255±206.8	- 0.198	<0.001
	12th hour	1203±141.2	1415.5±323.3		

**Table 1**: Change of CK-MB, Troponin, and NT-proBNP levels according to time and anesthetic agents.

# **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

careful evaluation including Α preintervention risk classification is of great importance for the selection of anesthetic agents to be administered with appropriate anesthesia management in patients who will undergo surgical intervention. The anesthesia management and agent chosen should be appropriate and within the limits that the patient and the surgical intervention can tolerate. There are many parameters to evaluate the level of known cardiovascular effects of general anesthesia. In our study, we aimed to evaluate the cardiovascular effects of anesthetic methods in castrated healthy noncardiac dogs based on troponin I, CK-MB, NT-proBNP, and D-dimer values.

Sevoflurane is a new inhalation anesthetic with a blood-gas solubility coefficient of 0.63. It was synthesized in the 1960s but entered clinical use in the 1990s. Since the blood-gas solubility coefficient is low, anesthesia induction and recovery from anesthesia are faster compared to isoflurane (Girard F *et al.*, 2002; Rossignol B *et al.*, 2003). Therefore, we aimed to evaluate Sevoflurane and Isoflurane as inhalation anesthetics in our study.

The two fractions of BNP and NT-proBNP have been successfully used to evaluate cardiac failure, acute coronary syndrome, or ischemic heart disease and also for monitoring of cardiac failure treatment in human medicine and have been reported to serve as a model for veterinary medicine (Maisel et al., 2002; Braunwald, 2008; Liquori et al., 2014). In dogs, an NTproBNP concentration of less than 900 pmol/L is not compatible with increased myocardial damage and stress. On the other hand, it was reported that a concentration of more than 735 pmol/L indicates an increased cardiomyopathy risk for dilated in Doberman pinschers (Baisan et al., 2016). Previous studies have shown that dogs with valve disease and dilated mitral cardiomyopathy have higher serum NTproBNP concentrations allowing the evaluation of the degree of cardiac disease and its severity compared to healthy dogs. Furthermore, it has been reported that NTproBNP concentrations correlate with heart rate, respiratory rate, echocardiographic changes, and renal function in dogs with cardiac disease and that NT-proBNP concentrations may be useful in the diagnosis of cardiac diseases as well as the assessment of severity (Oyama et al., 2008; Baisan et al., 2016). In a previous study, BNP concentration was evaluated in order to distinguish cardiac and non-cardiac dyspnea and 22 dogs with congestive heart failurerelated dyspnea and 26 dogs with dyspnea of no cardiac origin. It was reported that dogs with congestive heart failure (a mean of 34.97 pg/mL) had higher **BNP** concentrations than dogs with non-cardiac dyspnea (a mean of 12.8 pg/mL) (Prosek et al., 2007). It was reported that Golden Retriever dogs with muscular dystrophy cardiomyopathy had higher (a mean±standard deviation of 117±92 pg/mL) BNP concentrations than healthy dogs (a mean±standard deviation of 46±22 pg/mL) (Chetboul et al., 2004). Moreover, NTproBNP has been evaluated in babesiosis at different concentrations and different degrees of severity between groups, and it was reported that NT-proBNP concentration may predict the severity of the disease and induced cardiac stress (Lobetti et al., 2012). Likewise, in our study, it was determined that the Oth-hour measurements created a statistically significant change in the 12thhour post-anesthesia measurements of Nt-ProBNB values obtained after Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations (p<0.001), but Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations did not make a significant difference on this change (p=0.198).

D-dimer is formed as a result of the activation of the coagulation system for any reason and the destruction of fibrin clot formed by plasmin cross-links (Blomback et al., 1978). In the clinic, D-dimer is most frequently used in the diagnosis and followup of venous thromboembolism (VTE) and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). In medicine, D-dimer levels may increase very rarely in healthy individuals. In addition, D-dimer levels have been reported to be elevated in all conditions that promote fibrin formation and destruction, such as acute coronary syndromes, peripheral vascular diseases, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, acute stroke, pregnancy, hemolytic crises in sickle cell anemia, malignant diseases, postsurgery, congestive heart failure, and chronic renal failure (Hager and Platt, 1995; Chapman et al., 1990). In our study, D-dimer levels were measured within normal limits in healthy noncardiac animals, supporting other studies, and could not be statistically evaluated.

In cardiac damage, levels of enzymes such as AST, CK, CK-MB, and LDH may

increase (Burgener et al., 2006; Gupta et al., 2008). The best indicators of myocardial cell damage are CK-MB (Wells et al., 2002), cTnI (Bader et al., 2006; Diniz et al., 2007), natriuretic peptides and among neurohormonal markers (Oyama et al., 2008; Boswood, 2009). The cardiac markers in humans, cTnI and CK-MB, are used in the diagnosis of ischemic, traumatic, and septic myocardial injury and necrosis. An important enzyme that indicates cardiac damage is CK-MB. In case of cardiac muscle damage, the level of this enzyme in the blood increases within 24 hours and decreases in a short time (La Vecchia et al., 2000; Burgener et al., 2006). It has been reported that the serum CK-MB level significantly increases in cardiac failure, aortic stenosis, and coronary diseases in humans and animals (Vartner and Ingwall, 1984). In myocardial damage, blood cTnI level increases in the first 4 hours and reaches its peak in 12 and 24 hours (Ooi et al., 2000; Colantonio et al., 2002; Diniz et al., 2007). Similarly, in our study, we made our measurements at the 0th hour and 12th hour for better evaluation. Oyama and Sisson (2004) determined that cTnI levels increased in dogs with cardiomyopathy, heart valve insufficiency, and aortic stenosis. Cakıroğlu et al. (2009) reported that cTnI may be a candidate for an important cardiac determinant in animals. Burgener et al. (2006) reported that serum cTnI (>0.29  $\mu g/L$ ) and CK-MB (>2.2  $\mu g/L$ ) levels significantly increased with acute myocardial damage in dogs. Cummins and Cummins (1987) and rucchiuti et al. (1998) revealed that cTnI and cTnT markers are important indicators for the determination of myocardial damage in dogs. In the present study, in the CK-MB values measured after Sevoflurane and Isoflurane administrations. was observed that the 0th-hour it measurements did not cause a statistically significant change on the 12th-hour postanesthesia measurements (p=0.465) but there was a difference in CK-MB values due to the use of different anesthetic agents (p=0.00). However, no statistical difference was found in troponin values according to time and anesthetic agents (p=0.829).

Changes may occur in heart rate, heart rhythm, myocardial contractility, and vascular tonus through the autonomic nervous system in patients undergoing general anesthesia. In order to reduce possible events that may develop due to cardiovascular complications, the risks in patients should be determined in advance and measures should be taken. On such an important issue, it is important to determine the risks and benefits of anesthesia based on the anesthetic agents to be selected. Many studies have been conducted on the heart in veterinary medicine, however, the effects of different anesthesia protocols on the heart have not been examined before, as in the current study. The cardiac effects of two anesthesia protocols different were compared based on the troponin I, CK-MB, NT-proBNP, and D-dimer values in healthy noncardiac dogs, and the effects of anesthetic agents that are constantly used in veterinary medicine on the heart were revealed. With the present study, we can partially say that sevoflurane is safer than isoflurane, but we believe that more studies should be done with more samples.

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