Age-Related Differences in Phosphodiesterase Activity and Effects of Chronic Phosphodiesterase Inhibition in Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Nakano et al: Effect of PDEi on Pediatric Heart Failure

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Abstract

Background—Despite the application of proven adult heart failure (HF) therapies to children with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (IDC), prognosis remains poor. Clinical experience with phosphodiesterase 3 inhibitors (PDE3i) in pediatric IDC patients, however, demonstrates improved HF symptoms without the increased incidence of sudden death seen in adults treated with PDE3i. We sought to determine age-related differences in PDE activity and associated intracellular signaling responsible for the efficacy and relative safety of chronic PDE3i in pediatric HF.

Methods and Results—Cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) levels, PDE activity, and phospholamban phosphorylation (pPLB) were determined in explanted human left ventricular myocardium (pediatric n=41, adult n=88). Adults and children with IDC (not treated with PDE3i) had lower cAMP and pPLB compared with non-failing controls. In contrast to their adult counterparts, pediatric IDC patients chronically treated with PDE3i had elevated cAMP (p=0.0403) and pPLB (p=0.0119). Additionally, total PDE and PDE3 specific activities were not altered in pediatric IDC patients on PDE3i, while adult IDC patients on PDE3i demonstrated higher total PDE (74.6 pmol/mg/min ± 13.8) and PDE3 (48.2 pmol/mg/min ± 15.9) specific activities in comparison to those of non-failing controls (59.5 pmol/mg/min ± 14.4 and 35.5 pmol/mg/min ± 12.8, respectively).

Conclusions—Elevated cAMP and higher pPLB may contribute to sustained hemodynamic benefits in pediatric IDC patients treated with PDE3i. In contrast, higher total PDE and PDE3 activities in adult IDC patients treated with PDE3i may perpetuate lower myocardial cAMP and pPLB levels, limiting the potential benefits of PDE3i therapy.

Key Words: phosphodiesterase activity, idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, cyclic adenosine monophosphate, pediatric heart failure, phospholamban
Dilated cardiomyopathy is the most common cause of heart failure (HF) in children, and it carries a poor clinical prognosis. Within one year of diagnosis, nearly one third of pediatric patients with dilated cardiomyopathy either die or undergo heart transplantation.1 Surprisingly, no substantial improvement in survival has been observed in children with dilated cardiomyopathy over the past three decades, and five-year freedom from death or transplant remains low at 54%-63%.1-4 The treatment of children with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (IDC) has largely mirrored that of adults, though a recent review suggests that pediatric patients with IDC do not benefit from angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEi) and β-blocker (BB) therapies to the same extent as adults.2,5 Furthermore, differential adaptation of β-adrenergic receptors and adrenergic signaling pathways in children with HF when compared with adults suggest that age-related differences may influence response to therapy.6 This differential response to pharmacotherapy suggests that the pathophysiology of IDC is different in children and adults, highlighting the need for age-specific investigation and treatment.

Milrinone, a phosphodiesterase 3 inhibitor (PDE3i), is often used as a bridge to transplant or recovery in children with HF due to its ability to improve myocardial performance without increasing afterload.7 PDE3i in children with HF improves symptoms and decreases signs of HF on examination.8,9 Numerous studies have documented beneficial, short-term hemodynamic effects of PDE3i in adult HF patients10-13, thus milrinone has been used in children with IDC and severe HF. Nevertheless, despite acute hemodynamic benefits, clinical trials of PDE3i in adults with severe HF have not shown improvements in major clinical outcomes14,15 and demonstrate a 34% relative increase in cardiovascular mortality.16 Several adult trials document trends toward increased transient ventricular arrhythmias associated with the use of milrinone, ranging in incidence from 12.2% - 16%.12,17 While pediatric studies of PDE3i have primarily focused on
milrinone use for low cardiac output following congenital heart surgery,¹⁸-²² clinical experience suggests that arrhythmias and sudden death are extremely rare in children treated with PDE3i’s, and that its use is safe on a chronic basis.⁹

PDEs are enzymes that hydrolyze the second messengers cAMP and/or cGMP, with PDE1 and PDE3 being the major cAMP-hydrolyzing PDE families in human cardiomyocytes.²³,²⁴ Downstream effects of cAMP are classically attributed to the phosphorylation of proteins that affect excitation/contraction coupling, including the sarcoplasmic reticulum ATPase 2 (SERCA2) regulatory protein phospholamban (PLB).²⁵ cAMP-mediated signaling is compartmentalized intracellularly and PDE3A is localized in a microdomain with SERCA2 and PLB.²⁶ cAMP levels are markedly decreased in failing adult human myocardium.²⁷,²⁸ Thus, PDE3i potentially increases cAMP levels, resulting in protein kinase A (PKA)-mediated PLB phosphorylation, which decreases its inhibition of SERCA2. Increased SERCA2 activity increases sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium uptake, contributing to increased inotropy.

We hypothesized that differences in age-related responses may underlie the clinical differences seen in children and adults with HF treated with PDE3i’s. Here we show that PDE activity and associated intracellular signaling are differentially regulated in adult and pediatric IDC patients with HF treated chronically with PDE3i’s.

**Methods**

**Human samples.** All subjects gave informed consent and donated their hearts to the Institutional Review Board-approved Pediatric or Adult Cardiac Transplant Tissue Bank at the University of Colorado Denver. To minimize the possible confounding issues of pubertal transitions and heterogeneities within HF populations, only children and adults with IDC were included in the
study, and all children were pre-pubertal (≤12 years). All adult patients with IDC had non-ischemic cardiomyopathy without any definitive contributing comorbidity. Patients with IDC were divided into two groups: (1) IDC patients not treated with PDE3i (F) and (2) IDC patients treated with PDE3i (FT). Both adult and pediatric patients in the FT groups are classified as having had “chronic” PDE3i therapy of greater than 48 hours (“short-term” PDE3i treatment has been previously defined as 48 hours of treatment or less14). F and FT groups were also compared to non-failing (NF) controls. NF tissues were from organ donors with normal heart function, whose hearts could not be placed for technical reasons (size or blood type mismatch). At the time of cardiac transplantation or donation, the left ventricle (LV) was rapidly dissected, flash frozen and stored at -80°C until further use.

cAMP quantitation. cAMP levels were measured by ELISA in the core facility at Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO using the R&D Parameter immunoassay kit (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN) according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

Preparation of subcellular fractions from human LV myocardium. Approximately 150 mg of LV myocardium was homogenized and separated into nuclear, cytosolic and sarcoplasmic reticulum-enriched microsomal fractions by differential sedimentation (protocol adapted from previously published methods).29 Briefly, the tissue was homogenized using a Kinematica Polytron homogenizer for two 5-second cycles in 5 volumes of 0.29 mol/L sucrose, 10 mmol/L 3-[N-morpholino]propanesulfonic acid, 1 mmol/L benzamidine, 2 mmol/L EGTA, phosphatase inhibitor, and protease inhibitor ("sucrose buffer"). The sarcoplasmic reticulum-enriched microsomal fraction, containing SERCA2, PLB and PDE3, was isolated by differential sedimentation at 7,700 X g and then at 113,000 X g as previously described.29 The sarcoplasmic
reticulum-enriched microsomal fraction was used in experiments to measure both total PDE and PDE3 specific activities.

**Measurement of cAMP-hydrolytic activity.** cAMP-hydrolytic activity was quantified at 30°C by the two-step snake-venom method with [3H]cAMP (1 μmol/L) as substrate. Total cAMP-hydrolytic activity was quantified by measuring activity without addition of PDE inhibitor. PDE3 activity was quantified by measuring activity in the absence and presence of 0.1 μmol/L cilostazol, a concentration that inhibits rtPDE3A submaximally (IC44). PDE3 activity was calculated by dividing the difference in activity in the presence and absence of cilostazol by the fractional inhibition of PDE3 activity at this concentration. The amount of protein used per assay and the incubation times were adjusted to ensure that no more than 20% of the total cAMP was hydrolyzed during the assay.

**PLB Western blot.** Western blots were performed as described previously. Protein was isolated from 10- to 25-mg frozen LV tissue in isoelectric focusing buffer homogenized at 4°C as described. Serine 16 (Ser16) PLB phosphorylation (pPLB) (A010-12 - Badrilla) and total PLB (05-205 - Millipore) were quantified on separate blots and normalized to GAPDH (Santa Cruz Biotechnology). PLB is phosphorylated at the Ser16 residue by protein kinase A, which is activated by cAMP. Blots were quantified using ImageJ version 1.46r.

**Data analysis and statistics.** Statistical analyses were performed using StatView version 5.0 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). Statistical significance was set *a priori* at p<0.05 and all data are presented as mean±SEM in the figures. Normality of data was confirmed and non-normally distributed data were log transformed prior to statistical testing. Comparison of the three groups was conducted using one-way ANOVA and, if the overall comparison reached significance, Fisher’s PLSD post hoc tests were performed. Simple linear regression was
performed to investigate any relationship between non-PDE3i inotrope usage and PDE activity, as well as determine any association between duration of PDE3i treatment and PDE activity.

**Results**

**Subject characteristics.** Pediatric and adult subject characteristics and analyses performed on each sample are listed in Supplemental Table S1 and S2, respectively. Median age at tissue collection for pediatric NF subjects was 7.5 years with an interquartile range (IQR) of 6.9 years; for pediatric F subjects, 3.5 years with an IQR of 3.9 years; and, for pediatric FT subjects, 3.0 years with an IQR of 8.6 years. Median age at tissue collection for adult NF subjects was 54 years with an IQR of 14 years; for adult F subjects, 48 years with an IQR of 26 years; and, for adult FT subjects, 46 years with an IQR of 18 years. Mean duration of milrinone therapy in pediatric patients was 51 days, with a median of 44 days (range 3-122 days). No association was found between duration of PDE3i treatment and PDE activity (total and PDE3) in the pediatric FT group. There were no significant differences between the pediatric groups based on sex, age, BB usage or anti-arrhythmic usage. Non-PDEi inotropes (epinephrine, norepinephrine, dopamine and dobutamine) were used more frequently in the NF group, when compared to the F (p=0.03) or FT (p=0.05) groups. As expected, ACEi and diuretics were used more commonly in pediatric IDC patients (F and FT) compared to the NF group (p<0.0001 for all). Importantly, there were no statistically significant differences between the pediatric F and FT groups based on non-PDEi inotrope usage or other HF therapies. Additional regression analysis did not demonstrate a significant association between non-PDEi inotrope usage and cAMP levels, PDE activity, or pPLB, though it is possible that our study did not have adequate power to demonstrate
differences based on inotrope usage due to small sample size. Statistical comparison of the adult
groups demonstrated that the FT group had more males compared with the NF group (p=0.005).

**cAMP levels.** As shown in Figure 1A, cAMP levels were lower in failing pediatric
myocardium than in nonfailing myocardium regardless of PDE3i treatment (p<0.0001 for F
versus NF, p=0.0002 for FT versus NF, Figure 1A). This was also seen in failing adult
myocardium, as described previously (p<0.0001, Figure 1B and 27). However, cAMP levels were
significantly higher in failing pediatric myocardium chronically treated with PDE3i compared to
failing pediatric myocardium without PDE3i treatment (p<0.05, Figure 1A). In contrast, cAMP
levels were similarly low in failing adult myocardium with or without PDE3i treatment (Figure
1B). Thus, when comparing failing myocardium with and without PDE3i treatment, a rise in
cAMP in response to PDE3i was seen only in pediatric myocardium.

**Total PDE activity.** Total PDE activity was determined in myocardium from NF and
pediatric IDC patients. While there was no change in total PDE activity between NF and
untreated failing hearts in both adults and children, there was an age-related difference in
response to PDE3i treatment. As shown in Figure 2A, total PDE activity in children with IDC
chronically treated with PDE3i was similar to that of non-failing controls, and significantly
higher than that of the failing group without PDE3i treatment (p=0.01). In contrast, total PDE
activity in adults with IDC chronically treated with PDE3i was significantly higher than that of
non-failing controls (p=0.003), and similar to that of the failing group without PDE3i treatment
(Figure 2B).

**PDE3 activity.** As described above, PDE3A is compartmentalized with SERCA2 and
PLB, and is one of the main cAMP-hydrolyzing PDEs in human myocardium. As shown in
Figure 3A, there were no differences in PDE3-specific activity in pediatric myocardium,
regardless of disease or treatment with PDE3i. In contrast, PDE3 activity was higher in adults treated with PDE3i when compared to either NF controls (p=0.02) or to adults with IDC not treated with PDE3i (p=0.02, Figure 3B).

**PLB phosphorylation.** In adults, the level of pPLB at Ser16 was significantly lower in failing myocardium than in non-failing myocardium, irrespective of treatment with PDE3i (Figures 4C and 4D, p=0.01 and p=0.007). Our findings in children treated with PDE3i were markedly different (Figures 4A and 4B). While pPLB levels were low in the myocardium of children with IDC not treated with PDE3i (p=0.002), myocardial pPLB levels in children treated with PDE3i were significantly higher (p=0.01) and similar to those of NF controls. Total PLB levels were unchanged in both pediatric and adult IDC patients (not shown and 34).

**Discussion**

Clinical differences exist in both efficacy and adverse events between adult and pediatric patients treated with PDE3i for end-stage HF. In a review of the pediatric patients who underwent heart transplantation at the Children’s Hospital Colorado since the year 2000, 94 children were on milrinone as a bridge to transplant, 56% (n=53) of whom were receiving milrinone infusions at home (outpatient therapy). In contrast to the adult experience, there were no sudden, unexpected deaths among the pediatric patients on milrinone.35 We hypothesized that clinical differences in response to PDE3i therapy are due to age-related variations in cellular adaptation and signaling in cardiac myocytes, and present several novel findings.

**Effects of Chronic PDE3i on cAMP and pPLB**

Despite low levels of cAMP in both failing adult and pediatric myocardium, a rise in cAMP in response to chronic PDE3i was only evident in the pediatric population. Previous work showed
that PDE3i had diminished effectiveness in muscle (trabecular strips) from failing hearts compared with their effectiveness in control muscle; however, in the presence of low-dose forskolin (which increases cAMP levels through direct activation of adenylate cyclase), responsiveness of the failing hearts to PDE3i was restored.\textsuperscript{36} Thus, higher cAMP levels in pediatric IDC patients treated with PDE3i may contribute to the sustained hemodynamic benefits observed clinically in children. In contrast, others theorized that the increase in intracellular cAMP induced by agents such as milrinone may result in accelerated progression of the underlying disease and provoke development of serious ventricular arrhythmias in adults with HF.\textsuperscript{16} However there are numerous spatially, temporally and functionally distinct pools of cAMP which regulate cardiac function in a wide variety of capacities (including acute myocardial contractility, remodeling, apoptosis, and arrhythmogenesis) and, despite higher myocardial cAMP levels in pediatric IDC patients treated with PDEi, there were no new ventricular arrhythmias and no increase in sudden deaths in this cohort to suggest adverse consequences. Furthermore, the lack of elevated cAMP levels in adult IDC patients treated with chronic PDEi would argue against global elevations in intracellular cAMP as the singular cause of disease progression or arrhythmogenesis; it may instead contribute to the tachyphylaxis/tolerance phenomenon previously described with chronic PDE3i in adults.\textsuperscript{37, 38}

The elevation in pPLB in PDE3i-treated pediatric patients is considerable, and greater than what would be predicted based on the magnitude of global intracellular cAMP elevation. Our results emphasize the significance of cAMP compartmentation, and suggest that chronic PDE3i treatment in children results in an increase in cAMP in a microdomain localized to the sarcoplasmic reticulum, where SERCA2 and PLB are found. cAMP-dependent phosphorylation of PLB at Ser16 is known to enhance cardiac contractility.\textsuperscript{39, 40} By de-inhibiting SERCA2,
increased PKA-mediated pPLB accelerates calcium re-uptake into the sarcoplasmic reticulum and increases sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium content, contributing to both lusitropic and inotropic effects, respectively.\textsuperscript{25} Elevated pPLB in children chronically treated with PDE3i may explain the persistent benefit of PDE3i treatment in this population. In contrast, pPLB remained low in PDE3i-treated adults, which may account for the lack of sustained hemodynamic benefit in adults treated with chronic PDE3i. This compartment-specific difference between children and adults chronically treated with PDE3i may contribute to the age-related differences in clinical efficacy of PDE3i.

**PDE Activity in Response to Chronic PDE3i Treatment**

Our results confirm that PDE activity in the adult heart is not significantly altered by HF alone.\textsuperscript{29} We have now extended this finding to the pediatric population. Furthermore, we have described the molecular response to chronic PDE3i treatment in both the pediatric and adult HF populations. Thus, low cAMP in HF is likely secondary to decreased adenylate cyclase activity associated with down-regulation and desensitization of the $\beta$-adrenergic receptor in HF\textsuperscript{34,41} rather than increased PDE activity. Based on the higher cAMP levels in children treated with milrinone, we hypothesized that a decrease in PDE3 activity may account for this relative increase in cAMP. However, we found that chronic PDE3i treatment in children with IDC did not significantly change either total or PDE3 activity. In contrast, adult IDC patients treated with chronic PDE3i had significantly higher myocardial PDE3 activity, with activity above that of adult IDC patients not treated with PDE3i. This likely perpetuates lower myocardial cAMP and pPLB levels and could explain the lack of sustained clinical benefit of chronic PDE3i treatment in some adults. However, we cannot exclude other mechanisms, including the activity of kinases, phosphatases and adenylate cyclases, which may be differentially regulated in an age-specific
manner. Our results underscore the importance of dedicated age-specific HF studies, and highlight the weakness of extrapolating from adult studies to the pediatric HF population.

**Limitations**

There are several limitations to our study. First, although our findings appear to support clinical observations, tissue bank-based studies are cross-sectional and cannot establish causality. Second, due to limitations of medication history in our adult database, concurrent HF medications could not be completely determined, and thus conclusions regarding our adult groups were drawn with these limitations in mind. Lastly, we were unable to control for variability of PDE3i dosing. While pharmacokinetic data suggest that milrinone has a larger volume of distribution and faster clearance in infants and children than in adults, PDE3i dosages were determined by physicians treating these patients based on clinical experience and effect. The equivalence of PDE3i dosages between our pediatric and adult cohorts could therefore not be established. Despite these limitations, this study represents the first investigation of the chronic myocardial effects of PDE3i treatment in both children and adults with IDC. The described differences in myocardial response to chronic PDE3i treatment between children and adults with IDC are part of a growing body of literature demonstrating that pediatric myocardial adaptation is unique and could have implications for future clinical treatment paradigms.

**Conclusion**

Previous observational studies and our own institutional experience suggest a dissimilar clinical response to chronic PDE3i treatment between children and adults with HF. Elevated cAMP and higher downstream pPLB may contribute to sustained hemodynamic benefits in pediatric IDC patients treated with PDE3i. In contrast, higher total PDE and PDE3 activities in adult IDC patients on PDE3i treatment may perpetuate lower myocardial cAMP levels and pPLB, limiting
the potential benefits of PDE3i therapy. These findings may help explain the age-related
differences in clinical response to chronic PDE3i treatment, and suggest that the results of adult
chronic PDE3i clinical trials may be limited in their applicability to children with HF.

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Lurie PR, Hsu D, Canter C, Wilkinson JD, Lipshultz SE. Incidence, causes, and


Figure Legends

**Figure 1.** cAMP levels in left ventricular adult and pediatric myocardium (quantitated by ELISA). (A) Relative cAMP levels in pediatric myocardium. (B) Relative cAMP levels in adult myocardium. *P*-values correspond to comparisons with non-failing unless otherwise noted in the figure. NF, non-failing; F, failing; FT, failing treated with PDE3i; cAMP, cyclic adenosine monophosphate.

**Figure 2.** Total PDE activity in (A) pediatric myocardium, and (B) adult myocardium. PDE, phosphodiesterase; NF, non-failing; F, failing; FT, failing treated with PDE3i.

**Figure 3.** PDE3-specific activity in (A) pediatric myocardium, and (B) adult myocardium. PDE, phosphodiesterase; NF, non-failing; F, failing; FT, failing treated with PDE3i.

**Figure 4.** Phospholamban phosphorylation at the serine 16 residue in pediatric (A and B) and adult (C and D) myocardium; representative Western blot and quantitation for each are shown. GAPDH was used as a loading control. Ser16, serine 16 residue; pPLB, phospholamban phosphorylation; PLB, phospholamban; GAPDH, glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; NF, non-failing; F, failing; FT, failing treated with PDE3i.
Figure 1

A. Relative cAMP levels normalized to protein concentration for Pediatric patients:
- NF: p=0.0405
- FT: p<0.0001
- p=0.0002

B. Relative cAMP levels normalized to protein concentration for Adult patients:
- NF: p<0.0001
- FT: p<0.0001

Figure 2

Panel A shows the comparison of PDE activity (pmol/mg/min) between Pediatric and Adult groups. The p-value for Pediatric group is 0.0146.

Panel B shows the comparison of PDE activity (pmol/mg/min) between Adult groups. The p-value is 0.0031.
Figure 3

A B

Pediatric

Adult

p=0.0229

p=0.015

p=0.0229
Figure 4

- **A**
  - **Pediatric**
  - GAPDH 
  - Ser16
  - NF, FT, F

- **B**
  - Pediatric
  - Relative Ser16 pPLB/Total PLB
  - NF, FT

- **C**
  - **Adult**
  - GAPDH
  - Ser16
  - NF, FT, F

- **D**
  - Adult
  - Relative Ser16 pPLB/Total PLB
  - NF, FT

- **Notes**
  - p-values:
    - p=0.0022, p=0.0119
    - p=0.0065, p=0.0125
Age-Related Differences in Phosphodiesterase Activity and Effects of Chronic Phosphodiesterase Inhibition in Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy

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### Table S1: Pediatric Subject Characteristics and Analyses

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<th>Age at Tissue Collection (years)</th>
<th>EF/FS</th>
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**Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (n=8)**

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P-values

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**ID** = identification, **NF** = non-failing, **F** = failing, **FT** = failing treated with PDEi, **M** = male, **F** = female, **ACEI** = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, **PDEi** = phosphodiesterase inhibitor, **EF** = ejection fraction, **FS** = fractional shortening, **PDE** = phosphodiesterase activity, **cAMP** = cyclic adenosine monophosphate levels, **PLB** = phospholamban, **3** = PDE3 and total PDE activity performed (PDE4 activity not performed), **NA** = not available. **NS** = not significant. *Non-PDEi Inotrope includes: dopamine, dobutamine, vasopressin, epinephrine, norepinephrine, or phenylephrine.
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**Table S2: Adult Subject Characteristics and Analyses**

**Patient Characteristics**

- **Group**: Group designation (NF: Non-Failing, FT: Failing) and sex (M: Male, F: Female).
- **Age at Tissue Collection (years)**: Age at tissue collection in years.
- **EF/F S**: EF/F S values for different subjects.
- **PDEI**: PDEI values for different subjects.
- **Non-PDEI Inotrope***: Non-PDEI inotrope values for different subjects.
- **Digoxin**: Digoxin values for different subjects.
- **ACEI**: ACEI values for different subjects.
- **Beta-Blocker**: Beta-blocker values for different subjects.
- **Diuretic**: Diuretic values for different subjects.
- **Anti-arrhythmic**: Anti-arrhythmic values for different subjects.
- **cAMP**: cAMP values for different subjects.
- **PDE**: PDE values for different subjects.
- **PLB**: PLB values for different subjects.

**Analyses**

- **Non-Failing (n=31)**: Number of Non-Failing subjects.
- **Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (n=26)**: Number of subjects with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy.
- **Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy with PDEI Treatment (n=31)**: Number of subjects with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy treated with PDEI.

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**Note**: The table provides a detailed overview of subject characteristics and analyses, including age at tissue collection, specific medications, and other clinical parameters.
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<td>87</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>EF 10%</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
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**P-values**

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<td>F vs FT</td>
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ID = identification, NF = non-failing, F = Failing, FT = Failing Treated with PDEi, M = Male, F = Female, ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, PDEi = Phosphodiesterase inhibitor, EF = ejection fraction, FS = fractional shortening, PDE = phosphodiesterase activity, cAMP = cyclic adenosine monophosphate levels, PLB = phospholamban, 3 = PDE3 and Total PDE activity performed (PDE4 activity not performed), NA = not available. NS = not significant. *Non-PDEi Inotrope includes: dopamine, dobutamine, vasopressin, epinephrine, norepinephrine
특발성 확장성 심근병증 환자에서 연령에 따른 Phosphodiesterase 활성도의 차이는 Phosphodiesterase 억제제의 효과 차이를 일으킨다

박 대균 교수 · 한림대학교 강동성심병원 순환기내과

초록

배경

성인 특발성 확장성 심근병증(idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, IDC) 환자에서 입증된 심부전 치료를 소아 IDC 환자에게 적용하였을 경우, 예후 개선의 효과를 보이지 않았다. 그러나 소아 IDC 환자에게 phosphodiesterase 3 inhibitor(PDE3i)를 투여할 경우에는 성인 환자에서 나타났던 돌연사의 증가 없이 심부전 증상이 개선됨을 관찰할 수 있었다. 본 연구는 연령에 따른 PDE 활성도의 차이를 확인하고 PDE3i를 장기간 투여하는 소아 심부전 환자에서의 효과 및 상대적 안전성에 관여하는 세포 내 신호(intracellular signaling)를 확인하고자 하였다.

방법 및 결과

소아(41명) 및 성인(88명) IDC 환자로부터 채취한 좌심실 심근에서 cyclic adenosine monophosphate(cAMP) 농도 및 PDE 활성도와 phospholamban phosphorylation (pPLB) 수치를 측정하였다. PDE3i 치료 전의 소아 및 성인 IDC 환자는 정상 대조군에 비해 cAMP와 pPLB가 낮았다. PDE3i를 장기간 투여할 경우, 성인 IDC 환자와는 달리 소아 IDC 환자에서 cAMP(P=0.0403)와 pPLB(P=0.0119)가 증가하였지만, 전체 PDE 및 PDE3 활성도에는 변화가 없었다. 반면, 성인 IDC 환자에서는 전체 PDE(74.6±13.8pmol/mg/min)와 PDE3(48.2±15.9pmol/mg/min) 활성도가 정상 대조군과 비교하여 증가하였고(각각 59.5±14.4, 35.5±12.8pmol/mg/min).

결론

소아 IDC 환자에서 PDE3i의 투여는 cAMP와 pPLB를 향상시켜 치료효과를 기여하는 것으로 생각된다. 반면, 성인 IDC 환자에서 PDE3i 투여 후에 나타나는 전체 PDE와 PDE3 활성도의 증가는 cAMP와 pPLB 수치를 지속적으로 낮출으려워서 PDE3i의 정제적인 치료 효과를 제한하는 것으로 보인다.