MINIREVIEWS

1 Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) of SARS-CoV-2: Mutation, infectivity, transmission, and vaccine resistance
   Ren SY, Wang WB, Gao RD, Zhou AM

12 Hepatitis B virus reactivation in rheumatoid arthritis
   Wu YL, Ke J, Zhang BY, Zhao D

23 Paradoxical role of interleukin-33/suppressor of tumorigenicity 2 in colorectal carcinogenesis: Progress and therapeutic potential
   Huang F, Chen WY, Ma J, He XL, Wang JW

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Case Control Study

35 Changes in rheumatoid arthritis under ultrasound before and after sinomenine injection
   Huang YM, Zhuang Y, Tan ZM

Retrospective Study

43 Benefits of multidisciplinary collaborative care team-based nursing services in treating pressure injury wounds in cerebral infarction patients
   Gu YH, Wang X, Sun SS

51 Outcomes and complications of open, laparoscopic, and hybrid giant ventral hernia repair
   Yang S, Wang MG, Nie YS, Zhao XF, Liu J

62 Surgical resection of intradural extramedullary tumors in the atlantoaxial spine via a posterior approach
   Meng DH, Wang JQ, Yang KX, Chen WY, Pan C, Jiang H

71 Vancomycin lavage for the incidence of acute surgical site infection following primary total hip arthroplasty and total knee arthroplasty
   Duan MY, Zhang HZ

79 Distribution of transient receptor potential vanilloid-1 channels in gastrointestinal tract of patients with morbid obesity
   Atas U, Erin N, Tazegul G, Elpek GO, Yildirim B

91 Value of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in evaluating response to percutaneous catheter drainage in patients with acute pancreatitis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Influence of overweight and obesity on the mortality of hospitalized patients with community-acquired pneumonia</td>
<td>Wang N, Liu BW, Ma CM, Yan Y, Su QW, Yin FZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Minimally invasive open reduction of greater tuberosity fractures by a modified suture bridge procedure</td>
<td>Kong LP, Yang JJ, Wang F, Liu FX, Yang YL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Increased levels of lactate dehydrogenase and hypertension are associated with severe illness of COVID-19</td>
<td>Jin ZM, Shi JC, Zheng M, Chen QL, Zhou YY, Cheng F, Cai J, Jiang XG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Age, alcohol, sex, and metabolic factors as risk factors for colonic diverticulosis</td>
<td>Yan Y, Wu JS, Pan S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>Characterization of focal hypermetabolic thyroid incidentaloma: An analysis with F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography parameters</td>
<td>Lee H, Chung YS, Lee JH, Lee KJ, Hwang KH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical Trials Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>Low-dose intralesional injection of 5-fluorouracil and triamcinolone reduces tissue resident memory T cells in chronic eczema</td>
<td>Wu Y, Wang GJ, He HQ, Qin HH, Shen WT, Yu Y, Zhang X, Zhou ML, Fei JB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Observational Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>Predicting adolescent perfectionism: The role of socio-demographic traits, personal relationships, and media</td>
<td>Livazović G, Kuzmanović K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Novel m.4268T&gt;C mutation in the mitochondrial tRNA$^\text{Ile}$ gene is associated with hearing loss in two Chinese families</td>
<td>Zhao LJ, Zhang ZL, Fu Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Randomized Controlled Trial**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>Zinc carnosine-based modified bismuth quadruple therapy vs standard triple therapy for Helicobacter pylori eradication: A randomized controlled study</td>
<td>Ibrahim N, El Said H, Choukair A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CASE REPORT

236  Acquired coagulation dysfunction resulting from vitamin K-dependent coagulation factor deficiency associated with rheumatoid arthritis: A case report
    Huang YJ, Han L, Li J, Chen C

242  Intraoperative thromboelastography-guided transfusion in a patient with factor XI deficiency: A case report
    Guo WJ, Chen WY, Yu XR, Shen L, Huang YG

249  Positron emission tomography and magnetic resonance imaging combined with computed tomography in tumor volume delineation: A case report
    Zhou QP, Zhao YH, Gao L

254  Successful response to camrelizumab in metastatic bladder cancer: A case report
    Xie C, Yuan X, Chen SH, Liu ZY, Lu DL, Xu F, Chen ZQ, Zhong XM

260  HER2 changes to positive after neoadjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer: A case report and literature review
    Wang L, Jiang Q, He MY, Shen P

268  Hyper-accuracy three-dimensional reconstruction as a tool for better planning of retroperitoneal liposarcoma resection: A case report
    Ye MS, Wu HK, Qin XZ, Luo F, Li Z

275  Recurrent postmenopausal bleeding - just endometrial disease or ovarian sex cord-stromal tumor? A case report
    Wang J, Yang Q, Zhang NN, Wang DD

283  Complex proximal femoral fracture in a young patient followed up for 3 years: A case report
    Li ZY, Cheng WD, Qi L, Yu SS, Jing JH

289  Bilateral Hypertrophic Olivary Degeneration after Pontine Hemorrhage: A Case Report
    Zheng B, Wang J, Huang XQ, Chen Z, Gu GF, Luo XJ

296  Clinical characteristics and outcomes of primary intracranial alveolar soft-part sarcoma: A case report
    Chen JY, Cen B, Hu F, Qiu Y, Xiao GM, Zhou JG, Zhang FC

304  Removal of laparoscopic cerclage stitches via laparotomy and rivanol-induced labour: A case report and literature review
    Na XN, Cai BS

309  Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in pregnancy: A case report
    Zhou B, Huang SS, Huang C, Liu SY

316  Eustachian tube teratoma: A case report
    Li JY, Sun LX, Hu N, Song GS, Dou WQ, Gong RZ, Li CT
Contents

Protein-losing enteropathy caused by a jejunal ulcer after an internal hernia in Petersen's space: A case report

Lunate dislocation with avulsed triquetral fracture: A case report
Li LY, Lin CJ, Ko CY

Clinical manifestations and prenatal diagnosis of Ullrich congenital muscular dystrophy: A case report
Hu J, Chen YH, Fang X, Zhou Y, Chen F

Diagnosis and guidance of treatment of breast cancer cutaneous metastases by multiple needle biopsy: A case report

Test of incremental respiratory endurance as home-based, stand-alone therapy in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: A case report

Diagnostic and surgical challenges of progressive neck and upper back painless masses in Madelung’s disease: A case report and review of literature
Yan YJ, Zhou SQ, Li CQ, Ruan Y

Suspected cerebrovascular air embolism during endoscopic esophageal varices ligation under sedation with fatal outcome: A case report
Zhang CMJ, Wang X

An atypical primary malignant melanoma arising from the cervical nerve root: A case report and review of literature
Shi YF, Chen YQ, Chen HF, Hu X

Epidural blood patch for spontaneous intracranial hypotension with subdural hematoma: A case report and review of literature
Choi SH, Lee YY, Kim WJ
ABOUT COVER
Editorial Board Member of World Journal of Clinical Cases, Ravi Kant, MD, Associate Professor, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Medical University of South Carolina/Anmed Campus, Anderson, SC 29621, United States. rkant82@hotmail.com

AIMS AND SCOPE
The primary aim of World Journal of Clinical Cases (WJCC, World J Clin Cases) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of clinical medicine with a platform to publish high-quality clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCC mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of clinical medicine and covering a wide range of topics, including case control studies, retrospective cohort studies, retrospective studies, clinical trials studies, observational studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, randomized clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING
The WJCC is now indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, Scopus, PubMed, and PubMed Central. The 2021 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2020 impact factor (IF) for WJCC as 1.337; IF without journal self cites: 1.301; 5-year IF: 1.742; Journal Citation Indicator: 0.33; Ranking: 119 among 169 journals in medicine, general and internal; and Quartile category: Q3. The WJCC’s CiteScore for 2020 is 0.8 and Scopus CiteScore rank 2020: General Medicine is 493/793.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE
Production Editor: Lin-YaTong Wang; Production Department Director: Xiang Li; Editorial Office Director: Jin-Lei Wang.

NAME OF JOURNAL
World Journal of Clinical Cases

ISSN
ISSN 2307-8960 (online)

LAUNCH DATE
April 16, 2013

FREQUENCY
Weekly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Bao-Gan Peng

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/editorialboard.htm

PUBLICATION DATE
January 7, 2022

COPYRIGHT
© 2022 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204

GUIDELINES FOR ETHICS DOCUMENTS
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287

GUIDELINES FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240

PUBLICATION ETHICS
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/288

PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/208

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242

STEPS FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS
https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/239

ONLINE SUBMISSION
https://www.f6publishing.com

© 2022 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved. 7041 Kolii Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com https://www.wjgnet.com
Retrospective Study

Value of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in evaluating response to percutaneous catheter drainage in patients with acute pancreatitis


ORCID number: Pankaj Gupta 0000-0003-3914-3757; Gaurav Chayan Das 0000-0003-1291-1082; Akash Bansal 0000-0003-1180-3098; Jayanta Samanta 0000-0002-9277-5086; Harshal S Mandavdhare 0000-0001-8020-9848; Vishal Sharma 0000-0003-2472-3409; Shano Naseem 0000-0003-0580-019X; Vikas Gupta 0000-0002-4105-3307; Thakur Deen Yadav 0000-0002-3546-8610; Usha Dutta 0000-0002-9425-3557; Neelam Varma 0000-0002-1170-5976; Manavjit Singh Sandhu 0000-0001-6265-6291; Rakesh Kochhar 0000-0002-4077-6474.

Author contributions: Gupta P acquired the data, designed the outline of the paper, performed the writing and did the major revisions; Das GC and Bansal A did the majority of the writing, and prepared the figures and tables; Samanta J, Mandavdhare HS, Sharma V, Naseem S, Gupta V, Yadav TD, Dutta U, Varma N, Sandhu MS and Kochhar R contributed to data acquisition as well as to writing; all authors have read and approve the final manuscript.

Institutional review board statement: The study was reviewed and approved by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Early prediction of response to percutaneous catheter drainage (PCD) of necrotic collections in acute pancreatitis (AP) using simple and objective tests is critical as it may determine patient prognosis. The role of white blood cell (WBC) count and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) has not been assessed as a tool of early prediction of PCD success and is the focus of this study.

AIM

To assess the value of WBC and NLR in predicting response to PCD in AP.

METHODS

This retrospective study comprised consecutive patients with AP who underwent PCD between June 2018 and December 2019. Severity and fluid collections were classified according to the revised Atlanta classification and organ failure was defined according to the modified Marshall Score. WBC and NLR were monitored 24 h prior PCD (WBC-0/NLR-0) and 24 h (WBC-1/NLR-1), 48 h (WBC-2/NLR-2) and 72 h (WBC-3/NLR-3) after PCD. NLR was calculated by dividing the number...
Core Tip: Predicting the success of percutaneous catheter drainage (PCD) is critical for a timely decision regarding further interventions. Neutrophilia and lymphopenia are surrogate markers of systemic inflammation and physiological stress. In this study, we evaluate the performance of white blood cell (WBC) and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) as predictors of response to PCD in patients with acute necrotizing pancreatitis. We found a falling trend in both WBC and NLR values, with WBC values showing a significant fall on day one after PCD compared to pre-procedure value.

INTRODUCTION

Acute pancreatitis (AP) is a common diagnosis in patients presenting with an acute abdomen [1]. In most patients, it is mild and recovers without any sequelae [1,2]. Necrotizing pancreatitis occurs in approximately 20%-30% of patients and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality [2]. Two-thirds of the patients with acute necrotizing pancreatitis (ANP) and sterile necrosis can be managed expectantly [3,4]. In the rest of the patients, pancreatic necrosis gets infected, usually during the third or fourth weeks of illness [3,4]. Infected pancreatic necrosis (IPN) has a mortality rate of up to 40%, particularly if associated with organ failure (OF) [5,6]. IPN needs drainage [7]. Mass effect on adjacent structures, increased intra-abdominal pressure and generalized “unwellness” for several weeks following ANP are other indications for drainage [7]. Minimally invasive techniques such as percutaneous catheter drainage (PCD), endoscopic transmural drainage/necrosectomy, video-assisted retroperitoneal debridement (VARD), and minimally invasive surgical necrosectomy are preferred for drainage of the pancreatic collection as open surgical necrosectomy with
associates with significant morbidity and mortality.[8-11]

Though endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guided interventions have become popular, PCD remains relevant as EUS has limited utility for collections away from lesser sac or gastroduodenal region and in the setting of acute necrotic collection (ANC). PCD also acts as the first step for other procedures, including VARD or percutaneous endoscopic necrosectomy.[7] PCD is sufficient to manage collections in AP in almost 50% of cases.[8,12] Predicting response to PCD is critical to decide additional interventions.[13] Previous studies have identified computed tomography (CT) density of the collection, OF resolution, and volume reduction of the fluid collection after one week of PCD as significant predictors of successful PCD outcomes.[13,14] A few studies have reported the utility of inflammatory markers in predicting the response to PCD.[15,16] Evaluation of white blood cell (WBC) count and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) is simple, inexpensive, and universally available.

Although a few reports have evaluated the role of WBC and NLR in predicting the severity of AP, there are no published reports of the utilization of WBC and NLR to predict the success of PCD in ANP.[17-20] This study aimed to assess the role of WBC and NLR in predicting response to PCD in ANP.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and population
Our institutional ethics committee approved this retrospective observational study. Procedural informed written consent was obtained from all the patients. We retrospectively analyzed the data of consecutive patients with ANP undergoing PCD between June 2018 and December 2019. During the study period, 205 patients with moderately severe and severe AP were admitted. Patients who presented with acute on chronic or autoimmune pancreatitis (n = 22), patients in whom PCD was done for ascites or pleural effusion (n = 12), patients with hematological disorders or malignancy (n = 5), patients on steroids (n = 2), and who had inadequate baseline data (n = 9), were excluded. The remaining 155 patients who underwent PCD of ANC or WON comprised the final study group. Figure 1 shows the patient recruitment. The mean age was 40 ± 13.6 years (range, 15-82 years). There were 100 (64.5%) males and 55 (35.5%) females.

Pre-PCD evaluation
Co-morbidities were recorded. Severity classification of AP was done according to the revised Atlanta classification (RAC).[21] Based on RAC, fluid collections developing ≤ 4 wk after pain onset are labeled as ANC, and those developing later are designated as walled-off necrosis (WON).[21] A score of ≥ 2 in the modified Marshall scoring system for organ dysfunction was defined as the presence of OF. According to RAC, the presence of transient OF (OF < 48 h) or local or systemic complications without persistent OF indicates moderately severe disease. Patients with persistent OF (> 48 h, single or multiple) are classified as severe diseases. WBC and NLR values within 24 h before the first PCD (Baseline-WBC-0 and NLR-0) were recorded. WBC and differential leukocyte count were performed on an automated hematology analyzer (LH-780, Beckman coulter, United States). NLR was calculated by dividing the number of neutrophils by the number of lymphocytes. Besides, procalcitonin levels 24 h prior to the first PCD were recorded. The baseline contrast-enhanced CT (CECT) performed after 72 h of the onset of pain was reviewed for the size and collection site.

PCD protocol
Suspected infection, persistent OF, and/or presence of pressure symptoms were the indications of PCD. An interventional radiologist with 3-10 years’ experience in non-vascular abdominal interventions performed PCD under ultrasonography or CT guidance. Depending on the size, location, and extent of collection on CECT, the site of PCD was determined. Coagulation parameters were normalized (platelet count of at least 50000/mL and prothrombin index > 75%) if deranged before the procedure. PCD was done with a 10F to 16F catheter using the Seldinger technique. An 18 G puncture needle and 0.035-inch stiff guidewire were used for access to the collection. The tract was adequately dilated before placing a pigtail or a malecot catheter into the collection. Finally, the catheter was sutured with skin, and a drainage bag was connected. Aspirated fluid was sent for culture and microbial sensitivity testing. Daily flushing of the catheter was done using 50-100 mL normal saline to avoid catheter blockage. In persistent OF, ongoing sepsis, or systemic inflammatory response...
syndrome, catheter upgradations were done under ultrasound or fluoroscopic
guidance. We used a 2-4F larger catheter than the already inserted catheter for
upgradation. All patients underwent ultrasound after 48 h of PCD for assessment of
the size of the collection. Patients who did not improve one week after PCD or even
after upgradation underwent repeat CT. The decision for additional intervention was
taken accordingly. In cases where the collection had entirely resolved or drain output
had decreased to less than 10-20 mL/d for three consecutive days, the catheter was
removed, provided the patient was afebrile with no signs of ongoing sepsis. For this
study, only the first catheter insertion was considered for assessing success.

**Treatment protocol**

All patients were managed initially with fluid resuscitation, pain alleviation, oxygen
support, organ system support, and nutritional support (enteral or parenteral)
according to standard recommendations[22,23]. CECT of the abdomen was done
between 5 and 7 d of onset of symptoms. As per the protocol in our center, opioids
(tramadol, fentanyl) were used for pain relief. Antibiotics were given to patients with
suspicion of infected necrosis (air foci on CECT or patient’s worsening clinical course)
or extrapancreatic infections (e.g., pneumonia, cholangitis), those having persistent
fever beyond first week, or persistent multiple OF. Therefore, all patients were
receiving antibiotics at the time of PCD. The culture of drain fluid was done to
establish IPN. Pus culture and sensitivity directed choice of antibiotic regimens. The
management of infected or symptomatic fluid collection was done using a step-up
approach. Depending on the location of collections on CECT, percutaneous or
endoscopic or a combined modality approach was chosen for drainage. If there was
failure of clinical improvement after initial PCD, catheter upsizing was done. In
patients having WON in the lesser sac or patients not improving with PCD alone,
endoscopic necrosectomy was performed. Surgical necrosectomy was performed in
patients who had necrotic collections at sites not amenable for endoscopic
necrosectomy, or where endoscopic necrosectomy was not feasible or unsuccessful.
The success of PCD was defined as survival (up to 6 wk after discharge from the
hospital) without the need for surgery, and two groups (success vs failure) were made
accordingly. The need for additional PCD or upsizing was not considered a failure of
PCD.

**Post-PCD WBC and NLR**

Post-PCD WBC and NLR at 24 h (WBC-1/NLR-1), 48 h (WBC-2/NLR-2) and 72 h
(WBC-3/NLR-3) were recorded.

**Outcomes**

Outcomes including the length of hospital stay, need for intensive care unit (ICU)
admission, length of ICU stay, need for surgery, and mortality was recorded.

**Statistical analysis**

The data were analyzed using SPSS software version 23. The categorical variables were presented as proportions and percentages. The quantitative parameters were reported as the mean (with range) or median (with interquartile range), depending on the distribution. For categorical data, the Chi-square test or Fischer’s exact test was used. The independent continuous variables were compared using the Student t-test or Mann-Whitney U-test, depending on the data’s normality. Correlation between continuous variables was assessed using Pearson’s correlation coefficient or Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient, depending on the normality of the data. Differences in continuous variables in more than two paired groups were tested using the Wilcoxon signed rank test. Trends of WBC and NLR were evaluated over 72 h post-procedure and depicted using line diagrams, and differences in their trends were assessed. Receiver operating characteristic curves were assessed to predict the success of PCD based on WBC and NLR at different time points. The area under the curve (AUC) and cut-off values for a defined sensitivity and specificity were reported. A P value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

**RESULTS**

**Baseline characteristics and patient outcome**

The most common etiological factor was alcohol consumption (n = 79, 51%), followed by gallstone disease (n = 63, 40.6%), and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) (n = 6, 3.9%). Thirty-two (20.6%) patients had comorbidities [diabetes mellitus (n = 19), hypertension (n = 21), coronary artery disease (n = 8), and chronic obstructive airway disease (n = 14)]. Thirteen patients had multiple co-morbidities. Eighteen (11.6%) patients were obese. According to RAC, seventy-two (46.5%) patients had moderately severe disease, and 83 (53.5%) patients had severe disease. Fifty-seven patients (36.7%) had infected necrosis (based on culture). Extrapancreatic infections were present in 15 (9.7%) patients. Blood cultures were positive in 10 (6.4%) patients. OF was present in 100 (64.5%) patients. Thirty-nine (25.2%) patients were on mechanical ventilation. ERCP was performed in 15 (9.7%) patients (excluding those with post-ERCP pancreatitis). The median procalcitonin level was 0.56 ng/mL (range, 0-100). PCD was done for ANC in 99 (63.8%) patients and WON in 56 (36.1%) patients. Median pain to PCD interval was 24 d. The initial catheter size ranged from 1-7. The mean initial catheter size was 12.6 ± 1.9F. Multiple catheters were inserted in 41.9% of the patients (n = 65). Catheter upsizing was performed in 86 (55.5%) patients. Twenty-four (15.4%) patients underwent surgery, and 7 (4.5%) patients underwent endoscopic drainage. The mean hospital stay was 22 ± 19.3 d. ICU admission was recorded in 73 (47.1%) patients with a mean length of ICU stay of 6.1 ± 10.1 d. Thirty-two (20.6%) patients died during the study period. PCD was successful in 109 patients (group 1), and 46 patients (group 2) failed to respond to PCD. The baseline demographic characteristics and outcomes are highlighted in Table 1.

**Group statistics**

There was no significant difference in the pain to PCD interval and procalcitonin levels between groups 1 and 2. The mean pain to PCD interval in group 1 was 39.9 ± 49.3 d, and group 2 was 54.06 ± 76.8 d (P = 0.249). The mean procalcitonin level was 3.2 ± 11.2 ng/mL in group 1 and 5.4 ± 15.3 ng/mL in group 2 (P = 0.331). According to the RAC, patients with severe AP were more likely to have PCD failure compared with the moderately severe AP (P < 0.001). The size of the collection on baseline CECT was comparable between the two groups (11.5 cm in group 1 vs 11.5 cm in group 2, P = 0.974). The most common site of the collection was a lesser sac (with variable extension to other sites) in both groups (64.2% in group 1 vs 52.2% in group 2, P = 0.464). There was no significant association between PCD success and initial catheter size (P = 0.598) or infected necrosis (P = 0.447). OF was more frequent in group 2, but the difference was not statistically significant (P = 0.076) (Table 2).

**WBC and NLR values**

The median WBC before PCD and post PCD (day 1, 2, and 3) were as follows: WBC-0 = 14900 ± 7543.1, WBC-1 = 12320 ± 6743.4, WBC-2 = 11650 ± 6464.5 and WBC-3 = 12400
## Table 1 Baseline demographic details and outcome parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Overall cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, yr (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>40 ± 13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etiology, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>79 (51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallstones</td>
<td>63 (40.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERCP</td>
<td>6 (3.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic</td>
<td>5 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperparathyroidism</td>
<td>2 (1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-morbidities, n (%)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>19 (59.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>21 (65.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary artery disease</td>
<td>8 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive airway disease</td>
<td>14 (43.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity, n (%)</td>
<td>18 (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severity, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately severe</td>
<td>72 (46.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>83 (53.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain to PCD interval, d (median)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site of collection, n (%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser sac</td>
<td>94 (62.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paracolic gutter</td>
<td>28 (18.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser sac and paracolic gutter</td>
<td>16 (10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perisplenic</td>
<td>4 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perihepatic</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelvic</td>
<td>5 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infected necrosis, n (%)</td>
<td>75 (36.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ failure, n (%)</td>
<td>100 (64.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of hospital stay, d (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>22 ± 19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of ICU stay, d (mean ± SD)</td>
<td>6.1 ± 10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery, n (%)</td>
<td>24 (15.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endoscopic drainage, n (%)</td>
<td>7 (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality, n (%)</td>
<td>32 (20.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ERCP: Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; PCD: Percutaneous catheter drainage; ICU: Intensive care unit.

± 8825.6. There was a significant difference between WBC-0 and WBC-1 (P = 0.0001) and WBC-1 and WBC-2 (P = 0.027). However, there was no significant difference between WBC-2 and WBC-3. The median NLR-0, NLR-1, NLR-2, and NLR-3 were 8.3 ± 9.16, 7.2 ± 10.3, 6.64 ± 5.6 and 6.6 ± 10.4, respectively. The serial NLRs were not significantly different from each other. The serial WBC and NLR are shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.
Table 2 Group statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Overall cohort (n = 155)</th>
<th>Compared variable</th>
<th>Group I</th>
<th>Group II</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain to PCD interval</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>0.249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site of collection (%)</td>
<td>Lesser sac</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>0.464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paracolic</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lesser sac + paracolic</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procalcitonin</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection size</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>0.974</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catheter size</td>
<td>&lt; 12F</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; 12F</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAC severity</td>
<td>Moderately severe</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infected necrosis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.447</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ failure</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.076</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCD: Percutaneous catheter drainage; RAC: Revised Atlanta classification.

Table 3 Serial white blood cell count and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>IQR (25%-75%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

W: Prior to percutaneous catheter drainage (PCD); 1: 24 h following PCD; 2: 48 h following PCD; 3: 72 h following PCD; WBC: White blood cell count; NLR: Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio.

Trend of WBC and NLR
Both WBC and NLR showed an overall decreasing trend (Figure 3A and B). There was a significant difference in WBC trend between groups 1 and 2 (P =0.047) (Figure 3C). The difference was also seen in NLR's trend; however, it was not statistically significant (P = 0.083) (Figure 3D). At 24 h post PCD, 71.6% of the patients had a fall in WBC while the rest had a rise in WBC. Similarly, 74.2% of the patients had a fall in NLR, and the rest had an increase in NLR at 24 h after PCD.

Association of WBC and NLR with PCD success
No significant difference was seen in the baseline WBC and NLR between the two
DISCUSSION

In this study, we evaluated the performance of WBC and NLR as predictors of response to PCD in patients with ANP. We found a significant fall in the WBC on day one following PCD in patients who responded to PCD compared with those who did not. WBC-1 and NLR-1 were significantly different between the two groups (P = 0.048 and 0.003, respectively). WBC-2, NLR-2, WBC-3, and NLR-3 did not show any significant difference between the two groups. The absolute change in the WBC and NLR (at all time points) was not significantly different between the groups.

**ROC analysis**

AUC for predicting the success of PCD for WBC-1 and NLR-1 was 0.602 and 0.682, respectively. Using a cut-off value of 13.9 × 10^3/μL for WBC-1, sensitivity and specificity were 64.5% and 55.6%, respectively. Similarly, using a cut-off value of 9.9 for NLR-1, sensitivity and specificity were calculated to be 75% and 65.4%, respectively. The AUCs of WBC and NLR at other time points are shown in Figure 4 and Table 4.
Table 4 Area under the curve for serial white blood cell count and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio for differentiating responders from non-responders to percutaneous catheter drainage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time point</th>
<th>WBC</th>
<th>NLR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline (0)</td>
<td>0.508</td>
<td>0.401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 h (1)</td>
<td>0.602</td>
<td>0.682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 h (2)</td>
<td>0.468</td>
<td>0.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 h (3)</td>
<td>0.416</td>
<td>0.427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WBC: White blood cell count; NLR: Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio.

Figure 4 Receiver operating characteristics curves for white blood cell and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio at day 1 after percutaneous catheter drainage. WBC: White blood cell count; NLR: Neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio; AUC: Area under the curve.

not respond. NLR also showed a falling trend; however, the difference was not statistically significant. The WBC and NLR on day one post PCD were significantly lower in patients with a response to PCD than those who failed to respond to PCD. NLR performed better than WBC in predicting the success of PCD. On day one, the AUC for NLR was higher compared with the AUC for WBC on day one following PCD (0.682 vs 0.602). The day 1 NLR cut-off value of 9.9 had a sensitivity and specificity of 75% and 65.4%, respectively, for predicting response to PCD. For WBC-1, a cut-off value of $13.9 \times 10^3/\mu L$ yielded a sensitivity and specificity of 64.5% and 55.6%, respectively.

Predicting the success of PCD is critical for a timely decision regarding further interventions. Previous studies have evaluated the role of serum inflammatory markers to predict the response to PCD[15,16]. In a study by Mallick et al[16] comprising 59 patients, serum levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), interleukin (IL)-6, and IL-10, before PCD and at 3 and 7 d following PCD were evaluated. There was a significant decrease in all three markers on day 3. Fall in IL-6 and CRP correlated with the outcomes of patients managed with PCD. Other investigators have explored the role of CT density of the collection, serial volume measurement of the collection, and resolution of OF to predict response to PCD[13,14]. WBC is a simple and inexpensive test routinely performed during the initial evaluation and follow-up of hospitalized patients with AP[24]. NLR is easily calculated from WBC. Neutrophilia and lymphopenia are surrogate markers of systemic inflammation and physiological stress [25,26]. The inflammatory cytokines generated during AP incite neutrophilia, causing increased NLR responsible for pancreatic tissue damage. Lymphocytes have been shown to decrease within 48 h of AP[20,24]. However, there are no studies evaluating the role of NLR in the prediction of response to PCD.

NLR has been shown to predict the prognosis of various benign and malignant diseases[27-31]. NLR has been shown to correlate with SOFA and APACHE-II scores in ICU patients[32,33]. A few studies have reported the prediction of the severity of AP using NLR[17-20]. It has been demonstrated that NLR is superior to WBC in predicting
clinical outcomes in critically ill patients[28-31]. NLR’s superiority over WBC is due to several factors, including alteration of WBC by various physiological and pathological states, including stress, pregnancy, and hydration status, and technical aspects, including withdrawal and handling of blood samples. The WBC/individual subtypes are prone to be affected by these factors while NLR remains stable. More importantly, NLR represents the contribution of two divergent immune pathways. The neutrophilic response to inflammatory mediators, e.g., myeloperoxidase, elastase, IL-1, and IL-6, leads to non-specific inflammation and tissue destruction. Lymphocyte immune response occurs later than the neutrophilic response and aims to control non-specific inflammation[34]. Persistent lymphopenia is associated with poor prognosis in critically ill patients[35,36]. Besides, there may be lymphocyte dysfunction. The association between reduced lymphocyte count and severity of pancreatitis has been reported previously[37]. NLR is dynamic, and the optimal cut-off varies with time.

We also found that NLR was superior to WBC in predicting response to PCD. WBC and NLR on day 1 were found to be significantly associated with PCD success. This can be explained by a fall in neutrophils and an increase in lymphocytes over the 1st 24 h following PCD, secondary to reducing inflammatory load. Previous studies have shown that the maximum reduction in the volume of the collection is achieved in the 1st 24 h[13,14]. Mallick et al[16] showed that a major decline in the levels of IL-6 and IL-10 occurred within 72 h.

A few other predictors of PCD outcome have been reported in the literature. Reduction in the size of the collection, decline in the inflammatory markers, and resolution of OF after PCD have been shown to predict success[13,16,38,39]. Higher CT density of collection, indicating solid debris, has been shown to be associated with poorer PCD outcomes[38,39]. Some of these factors might influence the NLR, however, the association between these factors and NLR remains to be investigated. Future studies tailored to investigate the interplay between NLR and the other predictive factors may further strengthen the rationale of the utilization of NLR as a simple robust test for PCD outcomes.

There were a few limitations to our study. As the data was analyzed retrospective, it is prone to several biases. We analyzed the WBC and NLR for the first PCD. However, patients with ANP frequently undergo multiple drainage procedures. We did not take the effect of the subsequent endoscopic or percutaneous interventions into account. We did not compare the performance of WBC and NLR with other inflammatory markers. Though we evaluated the baseline procalcitonin, the later values were not analyzed. The WBC and NLR values were missing for few patients on follow-up. The influence of co-morbidities and superadded infections on WBC and NLR could not be fully investigated.

CONCLUSION

WBC and NLR can be used as simple tests in helping to predict response to PCD in patients with ANP. The performance of NLR is superior to WBC.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Research background

Acute pancreatitis (AP) is a common diagnosis in patients presenting with an acute abdomen. Necrotizing pancreatitis occurs in approximately 20%-30% of patients and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Necrotic pancreatic collections are one of the most important complications that may need treatment. Minimally invasive techniques including percutaneous catheter drainage (PCD), endoscopic drainage, and minimally invasive surgery are now preferred to open necrosectomy. It is important to predict response to minimally invasive techniques to decide further interventions. The aim of this study was to predict the role of white blood cell count (WBC) and neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) in predicting response to PCD.

Research motivation

Previous studies have identified computed tomography density of the collection, organ failure resolution, and volume reduction of the fluid collection after one week of PCD as significant predictors of successful PCD outcomes. A few studies have reported the utility of inflammatory markers in predicting the response to PCD,
however, data on WBC and NLR is lacking in this regard. Evaluation of WBC count and NLR is simple, inexpensive, and universally available and we evaluated their role in PCD response prediction.

**Research objectives**
This was a retrospective study to evaluate the role of WBC and NLR in predicting response to PCD and clinical outcomes in terms of hospital and intensive care unit stay, need for surgery.

**Research methods**
We retrospectively analyzed WBC and NLR values 24 h before PCD and successive values at 24, 48, and 72 h after the procedure. The success of PCD was defined as survival (up to 6 wk after discharge from the hospital) without the need for surgery, and patients were divided into two groups (success vs failure) accordingly. The association of the success of PCD with WBC and NLR was assessed. The trend of WBC and NLR was also assessed post PCD.

**Research results**
One hundred fifty-five patients [median age 40 ± 13.6 (SD), 64.5% males, 53.5% severe AP] were included in the final analysis. PCD was done for acute necrotic collection in 99 (63.8%) patients and walled off necrosis in 56 (36.1%) patients. PCD was successful in 109 patients (group 1) and 46 patients (group 2) failed to respond. There was no significant difference in the baseline characteristics between the two groups except severity of AP and frequency of organ failure. Both WBC and NLR showed an overall decreasing trend. There was a significant difference between WBC-0 and WBC-1 ($P = 0.0001$). WBC-1 and NLR-1 were significantly different between the two groups ($P = 0.048$ and $0.003$, respectively). The area under the curve of WBC-1 and NLR-1 for predicting the success of PCD was 0.602 and 0.682, respectively. At a cut-off value of 9.87 for NLR-1, the sensitivity and specificity for predicting the success of PCD were calculated to be 75% and 65.4% respectively.

**Research conclusions**
Our study has shown that WBC and NLR values and their trends can be used to predict success of PCD in a timely manner.

**Research perspectives**
WBC and NLR is a simple, safe, and inexpensive tool for predicting response to PCD and can be used to decide the need for further interventions and thus improve patient outcomes.

**REFERENCES**


Gupta P et al. NLR for response assessment after PCD


26 Sharaiha RZ, Halazun KJ, Mirza F, Port JL, Lee PC, Neugut AI, Altorki NK, Abrams JA. Elevated preoperative neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a predictor of postoperative disease recurrence in


34 **Zahorec R**. Ratio of neutrophil to lymphocyte counts--rapid and simple parameter of systemic inflammation and stress in critically ill. *Bratisl Lek Listy* 2001; 102: 5-14 [PMID: 11723675]


