



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Cardiology

PROBLEM FACED IN MINIMAL INVASIVE DIRECT CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS SURGERY BY A SURGEON

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Minimally Invasive direct coronary artery bypass (MIDCAB) offers arterial revascularization of LAD, Diagonal, High OM's especially in the lesions not suitable for coronary intervention.

By avoidance of sternotomy and its invasiveness is less than that of conventional surgeries.

Aim: We in this study discuss the difficulties which we are facing in MIDCAB procedure.

Materials and Methods: 10 patients were operated on with the MIDCAB procedure. The inclusion criteria for MIDCAB were LAD ostial lesions, Diagonal ostial lesions and High OM's ostial lesion in which stenting will be very difficult with high recurrence rate.

Results: Mean age of patients was 58 ± 5 years. Patients preoperative and postoperative levels of cardiac CK-MB (creatin kinase MB) were not significantly different, However cardiac troponin I (p < 0.001) Hb (p < 0.001) Hematocrit (p < 0.001) were significantly different. No perioperative myocardial infarctions of cerebrovascular accidents were seen, The patients were discharged at a mean day of 6.8 with oral antiaggregant therapy. Even the surgeon facing lot of difficulties no mortality was seen in the study population.

Conclusion: MIDCAB is associated with few perioperative problem, by our experience is a very good option for LAD and High OM disease.

INTRODUCTION:

Coronary revascularization between the internal mammary artery and a coronary artery was described by Kolessov several decades ago [1]. Since the description of minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass grafting (MIDCAB) by Calafiore et al [2]. Many studies have proved several advantages of the technique besides its similar outcomes to the conventional CABG or OFF pump CABG.

MIDCAB can be regarded as an alternative to percutaneous to PCI in patients with Ostial lesions of LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI, especially for the patients whom PCI is risky or impossible.

AIM:

In the present study, we retrospectively studied the early postoperative and short-term results, difficulties faced by the surgeon during the procedure are discussed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

10 patients were operated on with MIDCAB procedure from July 2017 to May 2018. The inclusion criteria for MIDCAB were Ostial lesions of LAD, Diagonal, RI, High OM's and patients for whom PCI is risky or impossible. In all the patients the coronaries have T1M1 II flow.

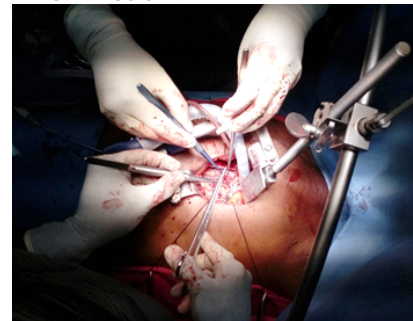
Patient demographics and preoperative and postoperative data were analyzed, Cardiac troponin I and creatine kinase MB (CK-MB) were measured before surgery and 24 hours after surgery.

Normal values of the cardiac markers were 0.00 - 0.4 mg/dl for cardiac troponin I and 0.24 U/l for CK-MB. Increase in CK-MB levels of more than 100 U/l was considered diagnostic of myocardial infarction.

Surgical Technique:

The patients were operated under general anesthesia, and intubated with a Double-lumen tube. All monitoring devices inserted, A small 2 -3 inch incision in the submammary either 4th or 5th intercostal space depends on the apex of the heart [photo - 1]. After deflated left lung, LIMA was harvested upto the level of left subclavian vein, Thoracic wall tilting device (Fehling Rib Up Retractor for MIDCAB with flexible arm cardiac stabilizer) was used for LIMA harvesting, After completion of harvesting the LIMA graft was rinsed with papaverine in order to prevent vasospasm.

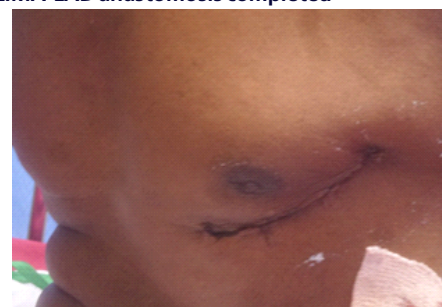
Photo 1. MIDCAB incision



After the pericardium had been opened sites of Anastomosis has been stabilized with cardiac stabilizer, Routine stabilizer will occupy the space, we used medronic stabilizer. After doing arteriotomy we put intra coronary shunt, sometimes it is a small space and very difficultly for us to insert introcoronary shunt. Especially High OM's. Another surgeon also could not help as because of small space, Even though most of the surgeon are using humidified blower using fluid and carbon dioxide, we used long fine suction tip for sucking the blood in the field.

The Anastomosis between, LIMA to LAD by 8 - 0 propylene, vein to diagonal, RI, OM's node by 7 - 0 polypropylene suture. Suture techniques also very difficult because in conventional surgery, Use will operated from Right side of its patient. We stand on the Left side of the patient.

Photo 2: LIMA-LAD anastomosis completed



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The preoperative and postoperative data of the patients were analyzed. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS statistical software version 17.0 (SPSS Inc.; Chicago, Ill). Continuous variables were expressed as mean ± SD and were compared by means of the paired samples t test. A value of p less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

RESULTS

We operated on 10 patients who had the inclusion criteria from July 2017 to May 2018. The male/female ratio was 8/2. Mean age of the patients was 58.0 ±8.6 years. The risk factors for coronary arterial disease were hypertension in 5 patients, smoking in 6 patients, hypercholesterolemia in 7 patients, diabetes in 6 patients, peripheral arterial occlusive disease in 1 patient and family history of coronary artery disease in 2 patients. Four of the patients had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. One patient had preoperative myocardial infarction 5 days before the surgery. Patients' data are presented in the Table I.

Patients' preoperative and postoperative levels of cardiac CK-MB were not significantly different (p = 0.993). However, the preoperative and postoperative levels of cardiac troponin I (p < 0.001), hemoglobin (p < 0.001) and hematocrit (p < 0.001) were significantly different. No perioperative myocardial infarctions or cerebrovascular accidents were seen. The increase in the troponin I levels were within the normal postoperative ranges.

One patient had local wound infection after discharge which was treated with antibiotics and local wound care. The patients were discharged at a mean day of 6.77 with oral antiaggregant therapy. No mortality was seen in the study population. Patients were followed up at a mean of 9.84 months and they were free of angina in the postoperative period.

DISCUSSION:

The MIDCAB having been introduced constitutes an attractive surgical option for patients with LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI. It is also recommended for patients for a hybrid procedure, which involves revascularization of the LAD Diagonal and High OM's RI and stenting of additional coronary arteries in patients with more advanced disease. Patients with three-vessel disease and concomitant malignancies, severely reduced lung function and overall reduced life expectancy may also be candidates for this procedure[3].

The MIDCAB is associated with significantly lower rates of repeat target vessel revascularizations [4-6]. These studies compared MIDCAB with bare metal stents. Thiele and co-workers published a randomized trial with a non-inferiority design which compared PCI of the LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI with drug-eluting stents and MIDCAB. The results were comparable concerning death and myocardial infarction but the rate of target vessel revascularization was still higher in the PCI group[7].

Although some apply ischemic preconditioning, we used intracoronary shunts.

TABLE 1. Preoperative and postoperative data.

Variables	N	Min	Max	Mean	Standard deviation
EuroScore	10	0.88	6.37	2.89	1.69
Left ventricular ejection fraction [%]	10	40	70	54.9	9.0
Age [years]	10	44	71	60.0	8.9
Preoperative CK-MB	10	10	292	48.8	75.7
Postoperative 24th CK-MB	10	28	120	48.6	27.8
Fasting blood glucose [mg/dl]	10	89	406	149	86
Preoperative Hematocrit [%]	10	35.4	43.6	39.4	2.6
Hematocrit at discharge	10	27.6	37.4	32.0	3.0

Preoperative Hemoglobin [g/dl]	10	11.9	14.7	13.5	0.9
Hemoglobin at discharge [g/dl]	10	9.7	12.9	11.2	0.9
Preoperative troponin [mg/dl]	10	0.00	0.34	0.076	0.099
Postoperative 24th troponin [mg/dl]	10	0.05	0.55	0.288	0.145
Transfusion (bag of blood)	10	0	1	0.23	0.44
LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI diameter [mm]	10	1.5	2.5	2.01	0.69
Extubation [h]	10	6	12	8.8	1.19
Intensive care unit follow-up [h]	10	12	24	17.00	4.18
Hospitalization [day]	10	6	8	4.44	1.34
Follow-up [month]	10	1	10	9.84	3.74

Thus to introduce a shunt is not that easy. Another aspect of the MIDCAB procedure is that every small surgical instrument like the shunts or bulldog clamps should be held with a suture material ligated to it because any material dropped in the surgical area may not be found and taken out through the small opening. At the very beginning we opened the thorax a little apart from the midline in order not to injure the LIMA but this incision made it difficult to reach the LIMA and of course the heart. So we also suggest a rear incision to the midline for better exposure. A meta-analysis of 17 studies of MIDCAB showed early and late death rates as 1.3 and 3.2%. At 6- month follow-up 3.6% of grafts were occluded and 7.2% had a significant stenosis, which resulted in 3.3% target vessel revascularization. The incidence of myocardial infarction was below 1%. After a learning curve one could assume that the results of MIDCAB may get better [8]. The MIDCAB has long-term anastomotic patency rates comparable with those of open-chest LIMA-left-anterior descending artery (LAD) bypass [9]. Some authors stress that the quality of the MIDCAB procedure would remain high when performed in centers with a caseload adequate to allow surgeons to continuously sustain their skill level. In repeated in-stent stenosis, complete occlusion of the LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI or lesions not suitable for stenting for anatomic reasons (complex type C stenosis or small vessels), the MIDCAB operation is offered as a good alternative [10].

Our experience showed that the duration of the operation has been shortened to approximately two thirds of the initial one. This is due to getting used to LIMA harvesting and due to learning how to use the equipment, which is slightly different than the conventional one. We also recommend skeletonizing the LIMA grafts in order to obtain longer grafts. For this purpose we recommend harvesting LIMA in a skeletonized fashion during the standard median sternotomy approaches to learn how to do it, unless the surgeon has harvested before. The LIMA flow may sometimes be low in case of a subclavian artery stenosis or occlusion. Routine examination of the blood pressure on both arms may to some extent rule out subclavian stenosis. A difference of blood pressure of more than 20 mm Hg should be a clue for a cardiologist to supplement coronary angiography with aortic arch imaging. Should subclavian arterial stenosis be found, it has to be corrected before cardiac surgery [11].

The small number of cases is a real limitation in such studies. But surgeons like us in the learning curve may experience many difficulties in their initial cases. In 1 patient for instance we encountered an intramuscular course of LAD, Diagonal and High OM's RI but this did not necessitate conversion to midline sternotomy. Excessive epicardial fat tissue may also make the target vessel difficult to find and the anastomosis difficult to do. Therefore for the learning curve patients may be selected from the nonobese. We mostly anastomosed the LIMAs to the mid segment of the LADs, Diagonal and High OM's RI. But sometimes this position may not be visualized so a long LIMA is mostly a must in these operations especially in the learning curve if a distal anastomosis is necessary. Pericardial opening in the initial cases was from where the LAD , Diagonal and High OM's RI was seen

through the pericardium. But in the later cases the pericardiectomy was done 2-3 cm medial to the phrenic nerve. This made the LAD better visualized when the pericardial traction sutures were held.

When selecting patients for MIDCAB, we especially took care that the LADs, Diagonal and High OM's RI had a significantly wide diameter. In some of the initial cases patients with small calibration LADs were also included. But after having some difficulties during anastomosis, we did not include those with small LADs, Diagonal and High OM's RI. We also selected patients with LADs, Diagonal and High OM's RI turning the apex of the heart, which may sometimes be necessary to find the LADs, Diagonal and High OM's RI easily because the heart cannot be grossly examined through a small opening.

We did not reoperate on any of the patients for bleeding. Bleeding and blood requirements were lower than those reported [12]. Some authors have reported MIDCAB surgery with epidural anesthesia with no impact on the degree of patient satisfaction. They noted significantly shorter ICU and hospital stay periods, which may result in more efficient use of hospital resources [13].

The MIDCAB operation is more costly than bare metal stenting and more challenging than conventional CABG [14]. On the other hand, a high reintervention rate during the first 6 months equals the initial cost savings of the procedure [15]. For countries like ours which import the stents and which have cheap human resources, MIDCAB may even have equal or lower costs than the stenting procedures.

The MIDCAB can be a useful part of hybrid procedures in patients with multi-vessel disease where a major coronary surgery procedure would not be well tolerated. Complete revascularization can be achieved by a hybrid approach with accompanying percutaneous coronary intervention [16, 17]. After rescue primary PCI of the culprit lesion of the circumflex or right coronary artery other than the LAD, patient preference and patients with a high risk for sternotomy-associated problems such as mediastinitis or with reduced life expectancy are some indications for hybrid procedures [16]. On the other hand, deaths have been reported after the surgery owing to unexpected stent thrombosis probably due to surgical manipulation and hemodynamic changes during MIDCAB in addition to inappropriate anticoagulant therapy [18]. As surgeons we think that hybrid procedures in multivessel disease are a compromise between a surgeon and a cardiologist. Actually the point is that the hybrid procedure is the victory of the cardiologist where he is again in the game. Therefore we insist that the above mentioned limited indications should be preserved for hybrid procedures however patients should be imposed on for conventional coronary bypass surgery in the case of preference. To succeed, cooperation of interventional cardiologists, surgeons and anesthesiologists is a must for every mini invasive hybrid approach [19].

There are three different minimally invasive surgical techniques for left anterior descending (LAD) coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG): port-access surgery (PA-CABG), minimally invasive direct CABG (MIDCAB) and off-pump totally endoscopic CABG (TECAB). The TECAB is associated with a higher rate of early bypass failure and reintervention. No difference between MIDCAB and PA-CABG groups was found. The MIDCAB is concluded to be still the most reliable surgical technique for isolated LAD grafting and the least cost effective [20].

Regarding mortality, most of the clinical trials have demonstrated comparable mortality rates to conventional procedures but lower morbidity and clinical costs in favor of the minimally invasive approach [2]. The MIDCAB in our experience is a very good option for single vessel LAD, Diagonal and High OM's, RI disease. The study is limited by its retrospective cross-sectional design with a very limited study population. But for surgeons with very limited experience, this study will give some clues to beginners for the MIDCAB procedure.

CONCLUSION:

Even though we are getting so much of difficulties in MIDCAB, it may come down by doing more number of case.

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