



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Medicine

COMPARISON OF [99mTc] MIBI INFUSION WITH [99mTc] MIBI+GIK INFUSION IN ASSESSING THE MYOCARDIAL VIABILITY

KEY WORDS: Myocardial Viability, [99mTc] Mibi Infusion, Gik Infusion

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to compare the [99mTc] MIBI infusion and [99mTc] MIBI + GIK (glucose, insulin, potassium) infusion works for demonstrating the myocardial viability in patients with chronic ischemic segmental wall motion disorder.

Method: The study includes 20 patients with left ventricular wall motion abnormality detected in echocardiography and vascular occlusion detected in angiography. The myocardial SPECT images of all patients were taken with both MIBI infusion and MIBI + GIK protocols at 1-week intervals.

Results: When evaluated according to the scores of 400 segments in total, the total score was found to be 203 in the MIBI infusion study and to be 160 in the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion study.

Conclusion: MIBI infusion + GIK infusion study was found to be more successful compared to the MIBI infusion study in the evaluation of the myocardial viability and it was concluded that it could be used in the evaluation of the viability.

INTRODUCTION:

Approximately 480,000 PTCA, 371,000 bypass operations and 3191 cardiac transplantations are performed annually in the United States (1). The surgical mortality after bypass is 1-2% for patients with normal ventricular function, whereas the mortality rate is up to 20% within 30 days after surgery for patients with left ventricular dysfunction (2). Therefore, a viable myocardium in patients to undergo to revascularization is highly important.

It was first observed in 1975 that there is an improvement in the akinetic segments of the left ventricle after revascularization. Myocardial viability is described as the ventricular dysfunction without tissue necrosis after myocardial injury.

In viability studies, the nuclear medicine techniques have high sensitivity, while tests showing the contractile reserve have a higher specificity. Imaging methods such as computed tomography (CT), positron emission tomography (PET), myocardial scintigraphy, dobutamine echocardiography and magnetic resonance imaging have been used for creating the best method of demonstrating the myocardial viability (3).

Although there are different definitions such as hibernating and stunned myocardium, Chareonthaitawee et al. describe the hibernating myocardium as the adaptation of the disease to recurrent episodes of the stunned myocardium (4). Stunned myocardium may develop following the recovery of the coronary flow after a severe and sudden coronary occlusion. A sudden drop in the coronary flow causes contractile dysfunction that continues even after a restoration. Despite minimal necrosis, a ventricular dysfunction may last for hours or even weeks (5).

In a study, it was shown that the viability is not associated with the myocardial wall thickness. A thin wall does not mean that there is no myocardial viability (6). In a study comparing the dobutamine echocardiography and [99mTc] the MIBI in which viable kinetic segments were evaluated, more kinetic segments were seen with the MIBI (7). Thirty-five years ago, soli-Pollares showed that the systemic administration of GIK (Glucose, Insulin, Potassium) polarized solution prevented the spread of acute myocardial infarction (In ECG), decreased the ventricular ectopia, and improved survival after early myocardial infarction (8).

In addition, Budinger and Pohost reported that the uptake of radiopharmaceuticals into the cell increased in hibernating myocardium when the cell membrane was exposed to radiopharmaceuticals for a long time in T1 201 models (9,10).

The present study aims to compare [99mTc] MIBI infusion and [99mTc] MIBI + GIK infusion works for showing the myocardial viability in patients with chronic ischemic segmental wall motion disorder.

MATERIAL AND METHOD:

The study includes 20 patients (12 males and 8 females) with an average age of 44.5 (27-64) with left ventricular dysfunction who underwent angiography and treadmill ECG and were detected to have segmental wall motion impairment in two-dimensional echocardiography. All patients underwent MIBI infusion and MIBI infusion + GIK infusion. All patients were asked to discontinue the beta blockers 48 hours before the imaging. All patients were asked for at least 8 hours of fasting. The 12 derivation ECGs of all patients were evaluated. A maximum of 1 week of time was left between the two images.

SPECT STUDY:

The (Cardio-Spect™ FJC Hungary) MIBI kit was used in all works. Each kit was added 5 cc Tc 99 m pertechnetate to be 30 mCi in 1 cc and was boiled for 10 minutes. The kits were used after being cooled at ambient temperature. In all patients, 740 MBq 99mTc MIBI was infused in 50 ml of saline for 2 hours using an infusion pump. Milk and chocolate were given 15 minutes after the infusion was finished and SPECT images were taken 1 hour later. The GIC solution was prepared as 50 IU insulin, 80 mEq KCl in 1000 cc 30% glucose solution for all patients and infused for 2 hours infusing 3 ml/kg per hour. The MIBI infusion was performed on the other arm at the same time. Milk and chocolate were given 15 minutes after the completion of the infusions. The SPECT images were taken 1 hours later.

The Myocardial perfusion SPECT (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA) images were taken with GE millennium MPS branded gamma camera in all patients and a total of 64 images were taken in a 64x64 matrix at 180 circular axes using a low energy high resolution (LEHR) collimator in the supine position. During the information gathering, the energy peak was set at 140 keV for the Tc-99 m in a symmetrical 20% window spacing. The raw data were processed using the Butterworth filter with the 'Filtered back-projection' method.

Data Analyses:

The raw data and all processed stress and rest images were examined in the appropriate format with the short axis (SA), vertical (VLA) and the horizontal long axis (HLA) plans one under the other. 20 segments were formed from the SA (apikal, Mid, basal) and VLA (apex divided into two segments.)sections. These 20 segments were scored out of 5 points and evaluated by the semiquantitative segmental visual analysis method. All segments were evaluated as 0: normal, 1: slight decrease in involvement, 2: moderate decrease in involvement, 3: advanced decrease in involvement, and 4: no radioactivity involvement.

Visual Evaluation (Total scoring system)

The results from 20 segments were collected and the total scores were obtained.

Statistical Evaluation:

The results of total perfusion scoring obtained from the MIBI infusion and MIBI infusion + GIK infusion works were compared with the one-way variance analysis and the Mann Whitney-U test, which is a nonparametric test. The $p < 0.05$ was accepted as significant.

RESULTS:

Following the MIBI infusion, MIBI infusion + GIK infusion works, the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion work was found to be more successful than the MIBI infusion work in showing the viability in 17 patients. The MIBI infusion was found to be more successful than the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion in 1 patient. The scores were found equal in 2 patients (Figure 1).

Considering the number of viable segments, the viability was observed in the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion compared to the MIBI infusion in 20 segments.

When evaluated according to the scores of the 400 segments, the total score was found as 203 in the MIBI infusion and as 160 in MIBI infusion + GIK infusion (Figure 2).

Considering the total scores, the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion work showed significantly more viable area than the MIBI infusion alone ($p < 0.005$) (Tables 1).

DISCUSSION:

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The investigation of myocardial viability in AMIs without complication is important in determining the treatment strategy. The presence of live tissue in these patients is an indication for revascularization and the presence of necrosis is an indication for medical treatment.

The evaluation of myocardial viability is very important to identify those who will benefit from a revascularization procedure. Various imaging methods are used such as positron emission tomography (11) thallium-201 (12), myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, and low dose dobutamine echocardiography (13).

[99mTc] MIBI is a perfusion imaging agent that has been shown to have an accuracy similar to thallium-201 for the diagnosis of coronary artery disease (14, 15).

It has been shown that there is a good correlation between the MIBI Involvement and the severity of coronary artery stenosis (16).

Reliable estimates of the extent of the recoverable myocardium can be obtained using resting [99mTc] MIBI imaging before and after thrombolytic therapy for acute myocardial infarction (17).

In a study in which the myocardial tissue was evaluated histologically with the [99mTc] MIBI during the cardiac transplantation, there was a correlation between the normal myocardium and the MIBI activity. Areas showing normal MIBI uptake ($> 85\%$ maximum activity) were completely normal or

there was $< 15\%$ fibrosis at the trichrome stage. To the contrary, areas with $< 30\%$ histologically normal myocardium showed much lower Sestamibi activity than normal. The myocardial regions, which are a mixture of fibrosis and normal myocardium (containing 31% to 84% of normal myocardium), have been shown to have a moderate MIBI activity (18).

Some studies indicate that MIBI is not a viability agent but only a perfusion agent (19-23).

However, some researchers reported that the [99mTc] MIBI accurately predicted the viability (24-28). Although [99mTc] MIBI passes cell membranes through the passive transport, studies have shown that it is comparable to thallium-201 in the estimation of viability (29-31).

Despite the initial concerns, however, the myocardial perfusion imaging has been shown to provide reliable results in the detection of viable hibernating myocardium and in the prediction of post-revascularization healing particularly along with the [99mTc] MIBI (32-35).

Experimental and clinical studies have shown that oral nitrate administration increases the regional blood flow in the ischemic myocardial tissue (36). Maura S. et al. found that 27% of 31 patients with chronic left ventricular dysfunction, without [99mTc] MIBI involvement, were reperfused with oral nitrate (37). The combination of [99mTc] MIBI SPECT work and Dobutamine stress echocardiography has been shown to be a highly accurate, reliable, practical, and well-tolerated method of evaluating the coronary artery diseases (38).

In a patient who had a stable perfusion defect after the MIBI stress and resting images, a 2-hour infusion following the Tl-201 bolus followed by a 2-hour MIBI infusion without a bolus showed that the same regions were viable on both MIBI infusion and Tl 201 bolus + infusion. After the operation, it was observed that those regions had completely recovered both in terms of echocardiography and the MIBI resting stress images (39). The MIBI infusion was applied for two hours in the present study.

In a prospective study of 25 patients where the 1-hour MIBI infusion and a 24th hour Tl reinjection methods were compared for the evaluation of myocardial viability, the MIBI infusion was reported to give the same results as the 24th hour Tl 201 reinjection method (40).

In a study by Tartagni et al., a new method has been described for the cardiac imaging. They used a 30-min Tl 201 infusion and an infusion of insulin potassium and glucose solution to increase the detection of myocardial viability. They prepared GIK solution with 10% glucose to 250 ml, 5% IU insulin and 10 mEq K (41). It is well known that insulin enhances myocardial involvement of K through Na-K ATPase (42). Similarly, Tl 201 is taken up by the myocardium via the Na-K ATPase (43) and uptake is increased by the insulin administration.

In studies where Tl 201 and GIK infusions were used together and were reported to be more effective at demonstrating the viability, it was stated 30-minute (44) and 2-hour infusion durations were appropriate for the GIK infusion (45). In the present study, a 2-hour GIK infusion was applied.

Toyama et al. (46) compared rest Tl-201 SPECT with post-nitrate [99mTc] MIBI SPECT and T-201 SPECT after GIK to detect viable hibernate myocardium in chronic coronary artery disease. They indicated that the Tl-201 GIK was the best method in the determination of viable myocardium tissue even in small quantities and that nitrate [99mTc] MIBI and Tl-201 rest, however, are useful methods to detect viable myocardium, respectively, according to total stress score. In the same study, the sensitivities of the recovery in the wall motions after coronary revascularization was 62% in the Tl-201 rest, 79% in the nitrate-[99mTc] MIBI, and 85% in the Tl-201 GIK (46).

In another GIK infusion study, a T1-redistribution group and a control group were compared, and it was seen that GIK increased the reperfusion (47).

B. Gökalp et al. used a scoring system of 5 according to semiquantitative segmental visual analysis method in their dobutamine MIBI study (48). In the present study, the TPS values were calculated for all groups using the same visual analysis method.

The FDG myocardial uptake has been reported to be a method with high sensitivity and specificity in evaluating the myocardial viability (49). It is the most common clinically approved glucose metabolism approach with blood flow among different PET studies. Normal flow and/or metabolism indicates stunned (50) myocardium in N-13 and FDG studies, while the classical inconsistency is compatible with hibernating myocardium (51). A blood flow less than 25% reflects the transmural scar formation, and therefore irreversibility (52).

With the data obtained in the present study, quite significant results were obtained with the MIBI infusion + GIK infusion both in the segmental basis and in terms of TPS compared to the MIBI infusion. Therefore, it was determined that the MIBI infusion+GIK infusion protocol alone gave more significant results in showing the myocardial viability compared to the MIBI infusion.

Limitations of the Study:

Whether or not the tissues were viable was not verified histopathologically. The scores were only visually evaluated. In addition, the fact that no comparison was made with the results of echocardiography on the segmental basis is one of the limitations of the study.

Conclusion:

In evaluating myocardial viability, the [99mTc] MIBI infusion + GIK infusion protocol was found to be more successful than the [99mTc] MIBI infusion protocol and it was concluded that it could be used in the evaluation of viability.

Table 1. findings of patients

Patient No	MIBI infusion TS*	MIBI inf+GIK inf TS	Angiography	ECO	
				Wall	Motion
1	9	8	LAD25%, CX 100%	AD LD	AK HK
2	12	5	LAD100%	AD	DK
3	5	2	LAD 100%	AD	AK
4	9	7	LAD 80%,RCA 60%	AD S	HK HK
5	13	12	RCA %75,LAD:50%	S	AK
6	7	5	LAD:100%	AD	AK
7	5	9	LAD:55,OM:40%	LD	DK
8	10	8	LAD:80%	Ad LD	AK HK
9	16	12	LAD 100%, RCA 50%	AD	DK
10	11	8	D1:70%,OM:55%	LD	HK
11	17	12	LAD 80%, CX: 60%	Apex	HK
12	6	6	LAD70%, OM50%	ALD	DK
13	12	8	RCA60%,OM:55%	ID	AK
14	6	6	D1:%75,D2:80%	ID	DK
15	7	5	LAD 70%,CX:50%	AD	DK
16	12	11	LAD100%	AD	AK
17	9	6	RCA:80%,OM:70%	ID	AK
18	7	4	LAD55%, CX:45%	AD	HK
19	14	11	OM:70%,D1:80%	LD	HK
20	16	15	LAD100%	AD	DK

- TS: Total Score
- AW: Anterior Wall
- LW: Lateral Wall
- ALW: Anterolateral Wall
- IW: Inferior Wall
- S: Septum
- HK: Hypokinesia
- AK: Akinesia
- DK: Dyskinesia

Figure1: MIBI infusion and MIBI infusion + GIK infusion scores Mann Whitney U P<0.005

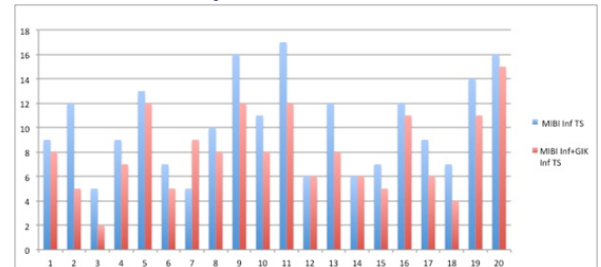
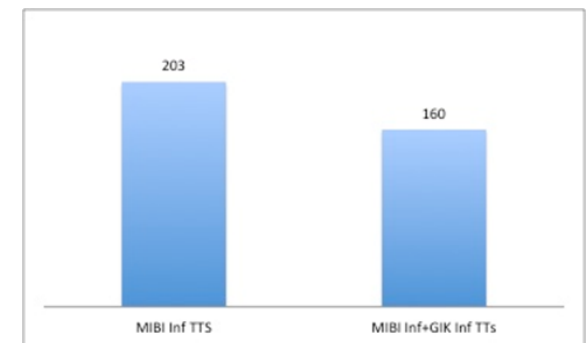


Figure 2) Total scores for 400 segments



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