

Hemodynamic evaluation of elderly patients during laparoscopic cholecystectomy

Avaliação hemodinâmica de pacientes idosos durante colecistectomia vídeo-laparoscópica

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to demonstrate hemodynamic changes during laparoscopic cholecystectomy in elderly patients with trans-esophageal echocardiography. **Methods:** we studied 31 elderly patients (aged 60 years or older), ASA I or II, who underwent elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy under general, standardized anesthesia, with cardiovascular parameters measured using transesophageal echocardiography at three different times: before the pneumoperitoneum (T1), after CO₂ insufflation (T2) and at deflation (T3). We statistically evaluated changes in systolic, diastolic and mean blood pressure, heart rate, cardiac output and index, and ejection fraction. **Results:** although small, only the diastolic blood pressure (DBP) and ejection fraction (EF) variations were statistically significant. The mean \pm standard deviation of DBP in mmHg at the different times were: T1=67.5 \pm 10.3; T2=73.6 \pm 12.4; and T3=66.7 \pm 9.8. And for EF, in percentage (%) they were: T1=66.7 \pm 10.4; T2=63.2 \pm 9.9; and T3=68.1 \pm 8.4. There was no statistical correlation between hemodynamic variations, age and number of patients' comorbidities. **Conclusion:** laparoscopic cholecystectomy causes few hemodynamic changes that are well tolerated by the majority of the elderly patients; prior impairment of ventricular function represents a threat in elderly patients during surgery; there appears to be a lower hemodynamic effect caused by the pneumoperitoneum than by the patient's positioning in a reverse Trendelenburg during surgery.

Keywords: Blood Pressure. Hemodynamics. Echocardiography, Transesophageal. Aged. Laparoscopy. Pneumoperitoneum, Artificial.

INTRODUCTION

Cholelithiasis is the most common surgical abdominal disease of the elderly, with a prevalence of 21.4% between 60 and 69 years and 27.5% in individuals older than 70 years¹. The increase in life expectancy associated with a higher incidence of cholelithiasis in the elderly has resulted in a greater number of surgeries for the treatment of symptomatic disease in this group². Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC) is currently the procedure of choice for the treatment of cholelithiasis, and is used very often even in the elderly, with comparable efficacy to the young

population¹⁻⁶.

Although several studies have evaluated the hemodynamic changes due to pneumoperitoneum, the mechanisms involved in cardiovascular variations have not yet been fully elucidated. Works have been carried out in groups of non-homogeneous patients, under different intra-abdominal pressures and with different positions during surgery⁷⁻⁹.

This study aims to demonstrate the hemodynamic changes resulting from the pneumoperitoneum in elderly patients submitted to LC and monitored with trans-esophageal echocardiography (TEE).

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METHODS

Thirty-one elderly patients with cholelithiasis, aged 60 years or older, diagnosed by abdominal ultrasonography at the Gaffrée and Guinle University Hospital (HUGG) over two years were submitted to elective LC and monitored with trans-esophageal echocardiography during the procedure.

We included in the study the elderly classified as ASA I or II (American Society of Anesthesiologist), after signing the informed consent form, and with prior authorization from the HUGG Ethics in Research Committee under the protocol number 11607913600005258. We excluded patients with significant esophageal or cardiovascular diseases, as well as those who presented absolute contraindications to TEE. We also excluded those with acute cholecystitis.

All patients underwent standardized general anesthesia, with continuous monitoring. Anesthetic induction was done with Fentanyl 4mcg/kg, Propofol 2mg/kg and Atracurium 0.5mg/kg after pre-oxygenation with 100% oxygen for three minutes. Oro-tracheal intubation (OTI) was performed two to three minutes after the muscle relaxant. Anesthesia maintenance was performed with Sevoflurane.

The patients were ventilated under volume controlled ventilation (VCV) mode, with a parameter programmed for total volume of 7ml/kg (eg VCV=490ml in a 70kg person), respiratory frequency (RF) of 12, positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) of 5cmH₂O, which is physiological PEEP, and peak of 40cmH₂O, with an inspiratory/expiratory ratio (I:E) of 1:2.

All patients were monitored with continuous electrocardiogram, pulse oximeter and capnography. Automatic systemic blood pressure measurement triggered every five minutes. These parameters were recorded after OTI, during the pneumoperitoneum and during the TEE study.

We installed the pneumoperitoneum with a Veress needle and maintained it by continuous

insufflation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by the 11mm trocar until a pressure of 13mmHg was reached. The patients were operated on in the supine, neutral position, without the reverse Trendelenburg (RT) position, common in this type of surgery.

The variables obtained by transesophageal echocardiography were Cardiac Index (CI), Cardiac Output (CO) and Ejection Fraction (EF), in addition to the measurement of systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), mean arterial pressure (MAP) and heart rate (HR), recorded at three different times: before the onset of pneumoperitoneum (T1), ten minutes after CO₂ insufflation (T2) and five minutes after deflation (T3).

We started with T1 before the onset of pneumoperitoneum to measure the baseline values of all patients, without any pneumoperitoneum interference. The T2 showed us the variables when the pneumoperitoneum was already established and the intra-abdominal pressure had already reached its plateau. Finally, with T3 measurements we wanted to obtain the values after a long period of pneumoperitoneum and also to be able to evaluate the difference of the hemodynamic values with and without the influence of the CO₂ pressure in the peritoneal cavity.

We used the paired t-test for statistical analysis of the hemodynamic variations at the different moments. For statistical analysis, comparison and discussion of results, we display the results in mean and standard deviation (SD).

RESULTS

Of the 31 patients studied, nine were female, and 22, male. The mean age was 67.2 years. Three patients were classified as ASA I, and 28, as ASA II. Among the latter, 22 (71%) had only one comorbidity (systemic arterial hypertension – SAH); five (16.1%) had two (SAH and type-2 diabetes mellitus – DM); and one (3.2%) had three (SAH, DM and arthrosis) (Table 1).

Table 1. Patients' Characteristics.

Characteristics	Frequency	
	n	%
Gender		
Male	9	29.0%
Female	22	71.0%
Age		
60-69	22	71.0%
70-79	9	29.0%
ASA		
I	3	9.7%
II	28	90.3%
Number od comorbidities		
0	3	9.7%
1	22	71.0%
2	5	16.1%
3	1	3.2%

We studied the normality of the hemodynamic variables in T1 (prior to pneumoperitoneum) using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test. The descriptive statistics of hemodynamic parameters at T1 were: SBP=108.3±14.8; DBP=67.5±10.3; MAP=82.9±11.3; HR=64.1±12.6; CO=4.14±1.33; CI=2.49±0.81; and EF=66.7±10.4. The p value of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test did not present statistical significance in any of the evaluated parameters.

After instilling the pneumoperitoneum, we observed a general small variation in the hemodynamic

parameters, with little expressive clinical repercussion. The increase in systolic and diastolic blood pressure was minimal, although statistically significant in the case of DBP (p=0.014).

The mean SBPs at the different moments were (mmHg): T1=108.3±14.8; T2=115.7±17.0; and T3=111.6±14.4. The variations found were: T2-T1=7.1±21.6; and T3-T2=-4.1±21.7. Variations were not statistically significant, with p-value= 0.067 and 0.301, respectively.

The mean DBPs at the different moments were (mmHg): T1=67.5±10.3; T2=73.6±12.4; and T3=66.7±9.8. The variations found were: T2-T1=6.2±13.2; and T3-T2=-6.9±12.3. Variations were statistically significant, with p-value= 0.014 and 0.004, respectively (Figure 1 and Table 2).

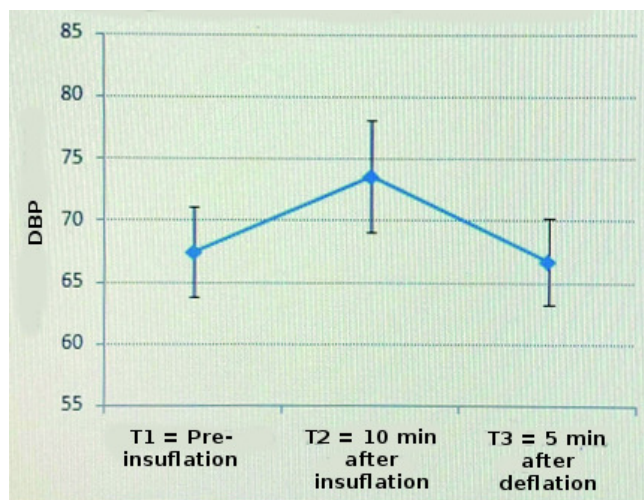


Figure 1. Mean and 95% confidence interval of Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) in mmHg.

Table 2. Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) in mmHg.

Statistic	Moment			Variation in DBP	
	T1 pre-insufflation	T2= 10min after insufflation	T3= 5min after deflation	T2-T1	T3-T2
Mean	67.5	73.6	66.7	6.2	-6.9
Standard deviation	10.3	12.4	9.8	13.2	12.3
p-value				0.014	0.004

The mean MAPs at the different moments were (mmHg): T1=82.9±11.3; T2=88.5±13.7; and T3=82.5±10.7. The variations found were: T2-

T1=5.6±17.5; and T3-T2=-6.0±16.7. Variations were not statistically significant, with p value =0.082 and 0.054, respectively.

The mean HRs, in beats per minute (bpm), at the different times were: T1=64.1±12.6; T2=64.0±13.3; and T3=65.7±8.3. The variations found were: T2-T1=-0.1±14.2; and T3-T2=1.7±11.0. Variations were not statistically significant, with p-value= 0.960 and 0.393, respectively.

The mean COs, in ml/min, at the different moments were: T1=4.4±1.33; T2=4.26±1.39; and T3=4.42±1.18. The variations found were: T2-T1=0.13±1.23; and T3-T2=0.16±1.12. Variations were not statistically significant, with p-value= 0.573 and 0.442, respectively.

The mean CIs, in L/min/m³, at the different moments were: T1=2.49±0.81; T2=2.57±0.86; and T3=2.66±0.73. The variations found were: T2-T1=0.08±0.73; and T3-T2=0.09±0.66. Variations were not statistically significant, with p-value= 0.527 and 0.451, respectively.

The mean EFs, in percentage (%), in the different moments were: T1=66.7±10.4; T2=63.2±9.9; and T3=68.1±8.4. The variations found were: T2-T1=

-3.5±8.8; and T3-T2=4.9±8.9. Although small, the decrease in ejection fraction was statistically significant, decreasing 5.24% (p=0.035) in the variation of T2-T1. And in the period after CO₂ deinsufflation the ejection fraction increased again (p=0.005) (Figure 2 and Table 3).

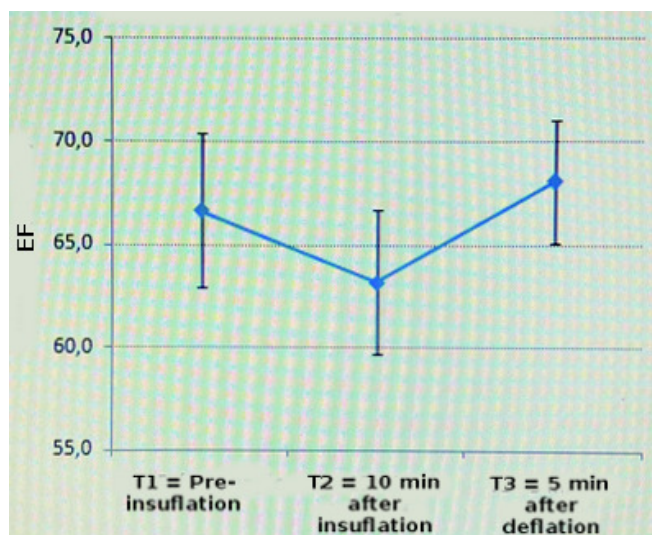


Figure 2. Mean and 95% confidence interval of Ejection Fraction (EF) in %.

Table 3. Eject fraction (EF) in %.

Statistic	Moment			Variation in EF	
	T1 pre-insufflation	T2= 10 min after insufflation	T3= 5 min after deflation	T2-T1	T3-T2
Mean	66.7	63.2	68.1	-3.5	4.9
Standard deviation	10.4	9.9	8.4	8.8	8.9
p-value				0.035	0.005

Table 4 shows the averages of the study variables being compared at the different moments.

Table 4. Mean results at the different times.

Statistic/Moment	T1	T2	T3	T2-T1	T3-T2	p-value	
						T2-T1	T3-T2
PAS mmHg	108.3	115.7	111.6	7.4	-4.1	0.067	0.301
DBP mmHg	67.5	73.6	66.7	6.2	-6.9	0.014	0.004*
MAP mmHg	82.9	88.5	82.5	5.6	-6.00	0.082	0.054
HR bpm	64.1	64.00	65.7	-0.1	1.7	0.96	0.393
CO ml/min	4.14	4.26	4.42	0.13	0.16	0.573	0.442
CI L/min/m ²	2.49	2.57	2.66	0.08	0.09	0.527	0.451
EF %	66.7	63.2	68.1	-3.5	4.9	0.035	0.005*

* Statistical significance.

DISCUSSION

Despite the already recognized advantages of LC in relation to conventional surgery¹⁰, pneumoperitoneum leads to cardiovascular alterations that are well tolerated by healthy individuals, but can be a threat to patients with comorbidities, frequent in the elderly. Several studies have demonstrated hemodynamic changes during laparoscopic cholecystectomy, with conflicting results¹¹⁻¹⁴. Joris *et al.*¹⁴ showed that in healthy young patients the combined effects of anesthesia, Reverse Trendelenburg position and pneumoperitoneum lead to a 50% decrease in cardiac index associated with increased MAP and systemic vascular resistance (SVR). The same changes were presented by Mc Laughlin *et al.*¹⁵ in similar work, with a significant reduction of the CO. Nevertheless, in this same age group, there are studies that did not show any change in CO¹⁶, MAP, HR or EF⁹. Similarly, several works with elderly individuals also showed no significant changes in hemodynamic parameters during pneumoperitoneum. Dhoste *et al.*¹⁷ conclude that gradual abdominal insufflation up to 12mmHg, followed by a 10-degree tilt in the RT position, do not alter cardiovascular stability, while maintaining CO, in elderly ASA III patients. Joshi *et al.*⁷ evaluated patients with mean age of 67 years through TEE monitoring during laparoscopic cholecystectomy, and despite having observed increased MAP and SVR, did not find a change in the ejection fraction. Cunningham *et al.*¹², similarly, also did not observe any change in this parameter and suggest that the ventricular function remains preserved.

A recent study composed of young and elderly patients submitted to LC concluded that this surgery induces significant hemodynamic changes caused mostly by CO₂ insufflation, and that the higher the established intra-abdominal pressure the higher the level of hemodynamic variation and the absorption of CO₂ by the peritoneum¹⁸. However, only the variations of the MAP, PAS and HR, were evaluated in this study, insufficient data for such affirmations. In our study, we did not observe great variation in MAP, CO and CI. The EF changed slightly with pneumoperitoneum, falling 5.24%

(p=0.035) (Figure 2) in relation to the period before CO₂ insufflation, which clinically did not mean much. However, it is worth emphasizing that in patients with compromised ventricular function, this alteration may represent a threat.

The main causes of hemodynamic changes during laparoscopic cholecystectomy are the mechanical compression of the pneumoperitoneum, the absorption of CO₂, and the establishment of the reverse Trendelenburg (RT) position, being difficult to determine the contribution of each of these factors to these alterations¹². Decreased preload, increased afterload and systemic release of humoral factors are associated with these changes¹⁹. In this study the patients were operated in neutral position and the result shows timid changes in the cardiac function during pneumoperitoneum. It is noteworthy that the calibration at time T2 occurred only ten minutes after the start of the pneumoperitoneum and, therefore, with minimal CO₂ absorption until then. These findings may suggest that the RT position has a greater role in the hemodynamic changes than the pneumoperitoneum does. Other authors have already suggested the same¹⁹. Still in the same line, Dorsay *et al.*²⁰ stated that the pneumoperitoneum alone has minimal hemodynamic effects, and that the RT position would be responsible, in their study, for the decrease in CO, having the decrease in venous return as etiology.

We can conclude that laparoscopic laparoscopic cholecystectomy leads to hemodynamic changes, which are mostly discrete and clinically poorly expressive, and are well tolerated in elderly patients. Elderly patients with compromised ventricular function may be at increased risk during laparoscopic surgery due to decreased ejection fraction. The effect of CO₂ insufflation on hemodynamic changes alone was not significant. There may be a greater contribution of the RT position in hemodynamic alterations than of the pneumoperitoneum instillation. In the present study, only changes in diastolic blood pressure (DBP) and ejection fraction (EF) were statistically significant. There was no statistical correlation between hemodynamic variations, age and number of patients' comorbidities.

R E S U M O

Objetivo: demonstrar as alterações hemodinâmicas durante a colecistectomia laparoscópica em pacientes idosos com auxílio da ecocardiografia trans-esofágica. **Métodos:** foram estudados trinta e um pacientes idosos (com 60 anos de idade ou mais), ASA I ou II, submetidos à colecistectomia laparoscópica eletiva, sob anestesia geral padronizada, com aferição de parâmetros cardiovasculares através de ecocardiograma trans-esofágico em três momentos diferentes: antes do pneumoperitônio (T1), após a insuflação do CO₂ (T2) e na desinsuflação (T3). As variações da pressão arterial sistólica, diastólica e média, da frequência cardíaca, do débito e do índice cardíaco, e da fração de ejeção foram avaliadas estatisticamente. **Resultados:** apesar de pequenas, somente as variações da pressão arterial diastólica (PAD) e da fração de ejeção (FE) foram estatisticamente significativas. A PAD, em mmHg, nos diferentes momentos, de acordo com a média e desvio padrão, foram: T1=67,5±10,3; T2=73,6±12,4; T3=66,7±9,8. E para a FE, em porcentagem (%), nos diferentes momentos, de acordo com média e desvio padrão, foram: T1=66,7±10,4; T2=63,2±9,9; T3=68,1±8,4. Não houve correlação estatística entre as variações hemodinâmicas, a idade e número de comorbidades dos pacientes. **Conclusão:** a colecistectomia laparoscópica causa poucas alterações hemodinâmicas que são bem toleradas pela maioria dos pacientes idosos; o comprometimento prévio da função ventricular representa ameaça em pacientes idosos durante a cirurgia; parece haver menor efeito hemodinâmico causado pelo pneumoperitônio do que pelo posicionamento do paciente em Trendelenburg reverso durante a cirurgia.

Descritores: Pressão Arterial. Hemodinâmica. Ecocardiografia Transesofagiana. Idoso. Laparoscopia. Pneumoperitônio Artificial.

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