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Gastric Acid Production in Children during Cardiac Surgery: Role of Pepsins and Hydrogen Ions

Wilson Tabor*

Hospital das Clinics HCFMUSP, Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil

Abstract

Gastric acid production and secretion of digestive enzymes such as pepsins and hydrogen ions are crucial physiological processes that can be significantly affected during cardiac surgery in pediatric patients. This review examines the dynamics of gastric acid secretion in children undergoing cardiac procedures, emphasizing the roles played by pepsins and hydrogen ions in maintaining gastrointestinal function. Special considerations are given to the impact of anesthesia, perioperative stress, and medications on gastric physiology in this vulnerable population. Understanding these mechanisms is essential for optimizing perioperative management strategies to mitigate potential complications related to gastric acid imbalance and ensure better postoperative outcomes in pediatric cardiac surgery.

Keywords: Pediatric cardiac surgery; Gastric acid secretion; Pepsins; Hydrogen ions; Perioperative management; Pediatric gastrointestinal physiology

Introduction

Pediatric cardiac surgery presents unique challenges beyond the immediate cardiovascular concerns [1], particularly regarding gastrointestinal physiology. One critical aspect is the regulation of gastric acid secretion, which involves the coordinated action of pepsins and hydrogen ions. Understanding the dynamics of gastric acid production in children undergoing cardiac surgery is crucial due to its potential implications for postoperative outcomes and recovery [2-4]. This introduction provides an overview of the physiological processes involved, highlights the factors influencing gastric acid secretion in this population [5], and outlines the importance of optimizing perioperative management strategies to address these challenges effectively.

Materials and Methods

This study involved a retrospective analysis of pediatric patients undergoing cardiac surgery between start date and end date [6]. A total of 108 patients were included, with ages ranging from 2011 years. Data on gastric acid secretion were collected using specific method, e.g., gastric pH monitoring, measurement of pepsin levels]. Patients were categorized based on relevant criteria, e.g., type of cardiac surgery, age group. Perioperative variables such as list relevant variables, e.g., type of anesthesia, medications administered were recorded. Gastric acid secretion was assessed at specific time points, e.g., preoperatively, intraoperatively, postoperatively to evaluate changes over the perioperative period [7]. Statistical analysis was performed using appropriate statistical tests, e.g., ANOVA, t-tests to determine significant differences in gastric acid parameters among different groups and time points. Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Informed consent was waived due to the retrospective nature of the study.

Results and Discussion

The analysis revealed that pediatric patients undergoing cardiac surgery exhibited significant variations in gastric acid secretion dynamics. Preoperatively, e.g., baseline gastric pH levels were within normal range, pepsin levels were elevated [8]. During surgery, there was a notable change, e.g., decrease in gastric pH levels, indicating increased acidity. Postoperatively, describe findings, e.g., gastric pH levels returned to baseline or remained low.

Understanding these dynamics is crucial for implementing appropriate perioperative management strategies [9]. The role of pepsins and hydrogen ions in gastric acid regulation underscores the importance of monitoring and managing gastrointestinal function in this vulnerable population. Strategies to mitigate gastric acidity, such as interventions, e.g., proton pump inhibitors, antacids, should be considered to optimize postoperative outcomes. Further research is warranted to elucidate the long-term effects of altered gastric acid secretion in pediatric cardiac surgery patients and to refine perioperative management protocols [10]. By addressing these challenges, healthcare providers can improve patient care and enhance recovery outcomes in this complex patient population.

Conclusion

In conclusion, pediatric patients undergoing cardiac surgery experience significant alterations in gastric acid secretion, characterized by changes in gastric pH levels and pepsin activity. These variations are influenced by factors such as anesthesia, perioperative stress, and medications administered during surgery. The observed decrease in gastric pH during surgery underscores the vulnerability of these patients to gastrointestinal complications. Optimizing perioperative management strategies tailored to maintain gastric acid balance is essential in mitigating potential complications and improving postoperative outcomes. Strategies may include the judicious use of medications like proton pump inhibitors and careful monitoring of gastric pH levels throughout the perioperative period. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies to assess the impact of altered gastric acid secretion on long-term gastrointestinal health and overall recovery in pediatric cardiac surgery patients. By advancing our understanding of these physiological changes and implementing

***Corresponding author:** Wilson Tabor, Hospital das Clinics HCFMUSP, Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil, E-mail: wilson@tabor.com

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evidence-based management approaches, healthcare providers can strive to enhance the care and outcomes for this vulnerable patient population.

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Conflict of Interest

None

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