

HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA AND LIPIDS ON THE ONSET ESSENTIAL ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND CORONARY DISEASE

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Abstract

Summary: Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) still remain as main factor of invalidity, morbidity and mortality in developed and developing countries. Despite known factors (genetic predisposition, gender, age, arterial hypertension, smoking, obesity, diabetes, dyslipidemia, C reactive protein) recently in the etiology of CVD raised total Homocysteine (Hcyt) is considered also. Correlation between raised Hcyt and CVD was discovered 25 years ago by Carson and Neil, who saw a defect of Hcyt metabolism in a patient with raised Hcyt. In this case is verified lack several enzymes which enable normal metabolism of Hcyt. Therefore as result of these metabolic disorders of Hcyt, clinical picture of raised Hcyt and its accumulation in blood-hyperhomocysteinemia appears. Several studies have verified that 15-30% of cases with CVD are result of hyperhomocysteinemia (1). Aim of this paper is to examine concentrations of Hcyt and lipid profile in patients with essential arterial hypertension and positive personal history for CVD, comparing them with the control group composed from healthy individuals. Our study aimed to verify the role of Homocysteine as new independent risk factor on the onset of early atherosclerosis (atherosclerosis prematura) and atheromatous processes in coronary arteries in patients with CVD and the impact of raised Hcyt in evaluating arterial hypertension. This paper aimed to propose medical measures to correct and treat hyperhomocysteinemia, which obviously would decrease the consequences of Hcyt on CVD and arterial hypertension. **Material and methods:** As working material was used blood from 360 patients with positive personal anamnesis for CVD and essential hypertension, from whom 200 were males with mean age of 62.50 ± 8.40 and 160 females with mean age $=59.80 \pm 15.60$. Control group was composed from healthy 260 individuals, 160 males and 100 females with identical mean age of $=58.70 \pm 15.60$. Obtained results represent mean values obtained once in every three months in 3 year period. 5ccm serum with some drops of heparin was sent in Clinical Laboratory of University Clinic of Skopje. **Results:** In the table it is shown significant difference for analysed parameters in patients with CVD for TG (2.90 ± 0.30), HDL-ch (0.90 ± 0.26), LDL-ch (4.20 ± 0.80), and Hcyt ($24.50 \pm 5.20 \mu\text{mol/L}$) with $p < 0.0001$ except for ChT where no significance between two groups was found (in patients with CVD ChT = $5.20 \pm 1.20 \text{ mmol/l}$ while in control group $=4.90 \pm 1.60 \text{ mmol/l}$ with $p=0.7400$). Concentrations of homocysteine and lipids in patients with CVD compared to the control group showed statistically significant difference with $p=0.0001$, expected results and verified in many other multicentric studies. Also in table 4 obtained results obtained from the group with essential hypertension (HTA ess) for all examined parameters compared with the control group showed significant difference especially for homocysteine $=18.20 \pm 6.40$ (which was object of our study) with $p=0.0001$, but levels of Hcyt in this group were lower than Hcyt in patients with CVD $=24.50 \pm 5.20 \mu\text{mol/L}$. These facts show that raised Hcyt have more impact on the onset of CVD and less impact on the onset of arterial hypertension. When Hcyt levels are raised in blood, the activity of cystathionine—synthetase enzyme is raised. It is believed that this enzyme plays vital role on the metabolism of Hcyt. Recent years a lot of studies have been made on the effect of hyperhomocysteinemia and its impact on the onset of coronary and cerebral atherosclerosis and all have verified that hyperhomocysteinemia is a significant parameter for the onset of early atherosclerosis of coronary and cerebral arteries (5). When hyperhomocysteinemia is correlated with lipid disorder (dyslipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia) effects on cardiovascular system and CVD prevalence is higher. For this reason we decided in our study to include lipid panel also in patients with CVD and HTA ess. Conclusion: In the end we can conclude that also in our study high levels of Hcyt in patients with CVD and HTA ess were found, which are in line with many multicentric studies on the role of Hcyt as new independent risk factor for early coronary arteriosclerosis and its moderate effect on the onset of HTA ess. In above mentioned cases it is recommended substitutive therapy with folic acid, pyridoxine, cyanocobalamin, tocoferol and other antioxidants which is found that have effect on prevention of premature atherosclerosis in patients with CVD and raised Hcyt: PTCA, CARB, acute myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, Stenting and prevention of stroke.

Term Index: Total Homocysteine (Hcyt), lipid profile, Cardiovascular diseases (CVD), essential arterial hypertension (HTA ess).

1 Introduction

CVD and their high mortality still remain as big problem and with high prevalence in general population. High concentrations of Hcyt in serum are considered as risk factor for CVD and can be associated with hypertension. Although between hyperhomocysteinemia and CVD is found a significant correlation, still the role of homocysteine on cardiovascular manifestations remains unclear. It is verified that concentrations of homocysteine increases with smoking, aging and some diets with low folates, cyanocobalamin and pyridoxine. Many studies have verified a significant relationship between raised Hcyt and arterial hypertension and lipid disorders, compared with normotensive individuals. Lowering Hcyt concentrations can have some benefits in decreasing the risk of CVD in old age. Correlation between high levels of homocysteine and coronary artery diseases is discovered 25 years ago, when for first time was verified that patients with hyperhomocysteinuria are potential candidates for developing early atherosclerosis in puberty and before 20 years of age. In these cases is verified the lack of some enzymes responsible for metabolism of Hcyt, as result hyperhomocysteinemia occurs. Increased C reactive protein, positive history for any CVD disease, hypercreatinemia, hyperuricemia, hyperuremia, von Willebrand factor, old age, smoking, genetical predisposition and adiposity are important factors for developing CVD and HTA.

Homocysteine was discovered in 1932, and chemical analysis showed similarity with cysteine. For this discovery Vincent du Vigneaud in 1955 was awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on sulfur components, especially for synthesis of polypeptide hormone (3).

Homocysteine is sulfuric amino acid as intermediary product of normal biosynthesis of methionine and cysteine (4).

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Hcy in serum is found in three forms: 1% is in free form, 70-80% as residual disulfides and 20-30% in combined form with other thiolos. (5). Homocysteine is synthesized from essential amino acid methionine. Cystathionine- β -synthetase is an enzyme, while pyridoxine (B6) is essential cofactor which converts homocysteine in cysteine. Hyperhomocysteinemia is a condition with raised homocysteine levels in blood above 15 $\mu\text{mol} / \text{L}$ (6,7,8). High levels of homocysteine are recorded in patients after stroke as result of neuronal damage and overstimulation of NMDA receptors (N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor). Because hypothalamus controls cardiac function by sympathetic system, in patients with stroke cardiac function is impaired also. Homocysteine is known as risk factor for CVD for its negative effects on cardiovascular endothelium. CVD have high prevalence and still remain as main reason for high mortality and morbidity in world. Etiology of CVD is multifactorial and most often they are result of narrowed or occluded coronary arteries (9,10). Homocysteine as risk factor for CVD, stroke, thrombotic processes, vascular hypercoagulability and atherosclerotic processes is known since early 1990. Several studies have verified a high positive correlation between coronary diseases, chronic renal injury and hyperhomocysteinemia (11). Scientists thought on homocysteine as risk factor on developing CVD still are controversial. Some scientists believe high concentrations of Hcyt are not a risk factor for CVD (12), while lot of research results show high positive correlation between raised Hcyt and CVD diseases. Genetic mutations of C and S homozygote can cause severe hyperhomocysteinemia where Hcy concentrations are 40 times higher than normal. This disease have incidence of 1:100.000. Another rare genetic cause of hyperhomocysteinemia is because of homozygote mutations of MTHFR-methylene tetra hydrofolate reductase. These individuals with MTHFR defects are exposed to early CVD. Homocysteine is independent risk factor for early atherosclerosis. Atherosclerosis is progressive inflammatory injury or arterial intimal layer, with increased permeability, lipidic deposition and calcification of intima. Correlation between hyperhomocysteinemia and atherosclerosis for first time was identified by McCully in 1969. Atherosclerosis is common pathological process which leads to CVD (myocardial infarction, atheromatous processes of carotid arteries, heart failure, stroke) (13).

Some of mechanisms of these effects are: endothelial dysfunction, oxidative injury, increased collagen production, damage of arterial wall and increased C reactive protein in vitro and in vivo (14).

One study has shown that in patients with CVD Hcy levels during fasting are lower, compared with the same patients after fasting, with a statistical significance of $p < 0.00001$ (15). Many in vitro studies have verified that homocysteine

causes dilatation of blood vessels and injury of smooth muscles and plays role in increased activity of HMGCoA reductase which in turn causes increased collagen production and early manifestation of atheromatous processes on coronary and cerebral arteries. In patients with hyperhomocysteinemia changes in intima and media of carotid arteries are confirmed (16). Role of homocysteine on endothelial malfunction is believed to be intermediated by mechanisms: oxidative stress, lipid peroxidation and NF-kB factor, inflammation and inhibition of endothelial nitric oxide synthetase. Possible mechanism of hyperhomocysteinemia on stiffness of aorta still remain unknown. But there are verified facts that hyperhomocysteinemia plays potential role on arterial wall remodeling which causes injury of blood vessels, venous thrombosis and atherosclerotic processes. Hyperhomocysteinemia plays vital role on adhesion of platelets on endothelial cells and it has role on increasing levels of prothrombotic factors such as fibrinogen, plasminogen activation inhibitor-1 and VII factor of coagulation which causes thrombus formation. It is verified that hyperhomocysteinemia favors LDL oxidation and onset of atherosclerotic processes. Many studies have concluded that 15-30% of cases with CVD are result of high concentrations of homocysteine in blood (11). In these processes many mechanisms are believed to be involved: genetic predisposition, folate deficiency, pyridoxine and cyanocobalamin. Correlation between Hcyt metabolism and atherosclerotic changes of coronary arteries for first time were described by Carson and Neill which in the blood of one patient found defect on the metabolism of Hcy and high concentration in blood. Hcy metabolism proceeds in three pathways: a) by converting Hcyt in Cystathionine and cystine with the help of pyridoxine as cofactor b) by betaine which is limited and c)

by converting Hcyt in methionine by tetrahydrofolate and cyanocobalamin (17). When high concentrations of Hcyt in blood appear, activity of Cystathionine-Beta-synthetase enzyme is increased and plays vital role in regulating the metabolism of Hcyt and its concentration in blood and urine. Recent years studies have been made on the role of raised Hcyt and onset of atherosclerosis in patients with CVD and hypertension, and all have confirmed that hyperhomocysteinemia is important indicator for the onset of early atherosclerosis in coronary and cerebral arteries (18). Many authors propose that medical treatment of homocysteinemia should begin even when homocysteine levels in blood are $>9 \mu\text{mol/L}$. In vitro experiments in animals have verified that raised Hcyt damages the vascular endothelium and as result atheromatous processes in coronary arteries occur (19) with early manifestation of CVD. Many studies have verified that by lowering high concentrations of Hcyt results in decrease of atherosclerotic manifestations of coronary arteries.

Atherosclerotic effect of hyperhomocysteinemia is developed in three mechanisms: a) Hcyt with its toxic effect directly damages intima and media of artery wall; b) by oxidating low density lipoproteins (LDL) and c) by interfering with factors of coagulation. It is verified that every increase of Hcyt for 10% increases the risk for atherosclerosis 10% also (20). Supplementing organism with 1-2mg folic acid, 10mg pyridoxine and 400 μg cyanocobalamin can normalise high levels of homocysteine (21,22,23). In literature three forms of homocysteine disorders are known:

- a) mild form: $16-30 \mu\text{mol/L}$;
- b) moderate form: $31-100 \mu\text{mol/L}$
- c) severe form: $>100 \mu\text{mol/L}$

2 Material and Method

As working material was used blood taken from patients veins and control group at 8am in room temperature of 19-24 C, in lying position (to avoid all anomalies and possible variations of 9-12% if the blood could be taken in sitting or standing position) after 12 hour hunger. Homocysteine and lipid profile were analysed in 360 patients with anamnesis for CVD and HTA, from whom 200 were males with mean age of $=62.50 \pm 8.40$ while 160 were females with

mean age of $=59.80 \pm 15.60$. Control group was composed from 260 individuals, from whom 160 were males and 100 females with identical mean age of $=58.70 \pm 15.20$. Obtained results represent mean values obtained once in every three months in 3 year period. 5ccm serum with some drops of heparin was sent in Clinical Laboratory of University Clinic of Skopje.

Table 1: Number of patients and control group by mean age and gender

Total pts N ^o =360	The average age \pm SD	Control group N ^o =260 pts, \pm SD
M=N ^o -200	62.50 \pm 8.40	59.80 \pm 15.60

Table 1: Number of patients and control group by mean age and gender

F=N^o-160	59.80 ± 19.60	59.80 ± 15.60
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Table 2: Tabulary presentation of patients by CVD and HTAess

With a family history for CVD	160 (42.8 %)
Arterial hypertension (HTA)	120 (38.60 %)
APNS	40 (9.50 %)
St. Post Infarctum Myocardi	40 (9.50 %)
Smoker	290(62.50 %)
Control group N^o== 2 6 0 (1 0 0 %)	The average age ± SD 58.70±15.20

Concentrations of Hcyt were determined according to Miller's method of American Immuno-fluorescence with Immulite DPC machine, and normal ranges are =5-13 μmol/L, while lipid profile was determined by standard routinely methods

Statistical analysis of the examined material

Statistical basic methods that were used are the arithmetic mean value and standard devijacioni $X \pm SD$. Comparative statistics and LPL lipid parameters betwe-en the two groups was analyzed by test called STUDENTOV and for examples of dependent or independent and non-parametric tests were used the tests: Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon's test. Statistically significant The differences between the Group of patients and control group obtained the values of lipid parameters and test LPL analyzed the so-called ,, Anonova Two-Factor "with the amounts of domestic statistics for $p < 5\%$, Namely $p <$ statistical averages and proportional / $x, p /$) were tested with accuracy higher than 95%, or rather, for Mr. $> SEM 1.78$.

0.0005. Dependence between parameters that are examined is calculated with linear regression formula ($y = Bx + A$) it is also calculated the coefficient of correlation ,, r "with statistical accuracy for ,, p 'of less than 1% Namely $p < 0.0001$. And the frequency distribution was tested with test c^2 The amount of change (z) between the mean values of parameters analyzed / arithmetic averages and proportional / $x, p /$) were tested with accuracy higher than 95%, or rather, for Mr. $> SEM 1.78$. The results of the lipid profile and Hcys presented in the form of graphicones,

The results of the lipid profile and Hcy are presented in the form of graph-cones, table and in the form of

processed diagrams made with standard statistical program.

3 Results

Table 3: Obtained results from patients with CVD and control group for Hcyt and lipid profile

	N°	ChT mmol/l	TG mmol/l	HDL-ch mmol/l	LDL-ch mmol/l	tHcy μ mol/L
Patients with CVD, SpostMI, APNS	240	5.20 \pm 1.20	2.90 \pm 0.30	0.90 \pm 0.26	4.20 \pm 0.80	24.50 \pm 5.20 $\uparrow\uparrow$
Control group	260	4.90 \pm 1.60	1.14 \pm 0.50	1.80 \pm 0.50	2.80 \pm 0.40	7.40 \pm 3.0
<i>p</i>		0.7400	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001

Table 4: Obtained results from patients with HTA ess and control group for Hcyt and lipid profile

	N°	ChT mmol/l	TG mmol/l	HDL-ch mmol/l	LDL-ch mmol/l	tHcy μ mol/L
Patients with HTA ess	160	5.40 \pm 1.50	2.80 \pm 0.30	1.02 \pm 0.40	3.5 \pm 1.08	18.20 \pm 6.40 \uparrow
Control group	260	4.90 \pm 1.60	1.14 \pm 0.50	1.60 \pm 0.70	2.80 \pm 0.60	7.40 \pm 3.00
<i>p</i>		0.7400	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001

Table 3 shows significant difference for following analysed parameters in patients with CVD for TG= 2.90 \pm 0.30, HDL-ch=0.90 \pm 0.26, LDL-ch = 4.20 \pm 0.80 and Hcyt=(24.50 \pm 5.20 μ mol/L) with $p < 0.0001$ except for ChT where no significant difference between two groups was found (in patients with coronary disease ChT= 5.20 \pm 1.20 mmol/l while in control group=4.90 \pm 1.60 mmol/l with $p=0.7400$). Concentrations of homocysteine and lipids in patients with CVD compared with control group showed significant statistical difference with $p=0.0001$, except for total cholesterol where no significance was recorded ($p=0.7400$), expected results and verified by many other multicentric studies. Table 4 results from group with HTA ess for all examined parameters showed significance compared with the control group especially for homocysteine =18.20 \pm 6.40 which was object of our study, with $p=0.0001$. Hcyt levels in patients with HTA ess were lower than the group with CVD (24.50 \pm 5.20) which verifies that high concentrations of Hcyt have bigger impact on the onset of CVD than arterial hypertension. Therefore all facts point that hyperhomocysteinemia have impact on CVD manifestations but the effect on the onset of arterial hypertension needs more studies with longer period of time and with more patients in order to verify or dismiss its impact on arterial hypertension because nowadays thoughts are contradictory (24,25,26,27,28).

4 Discussion

Hyperhomocysteinemia can be caused by deficiency of folate, vitamin B6 and B12 in food. An individual with deficiency of these abovementioned vitamins can develop raised levels of Hcyt and have risk from hyperhomocysteinemia. Disorders of homocysteine metabolism and other sulfuric aminoacids in patients with renal injury are described in 1980 by Willen et al. for first time, who saw that uremic patients treated with HD had raised cysteine and Hcyt (29,48). High levels of homocysteine were found in patients with chronic renal injury also, with increased urea, hypothyroidism, cancer, psoriasis, diabetes, excess alcohol, smoking, coffee, old age and menopause. Homocysteine is eliminated from the organism with kidneys therefore during renal injury when GFR is decreased the excretion of Hcy from organism is decreased, which causes moderate hyperhomocysteinemia. Concentrations of homocysteine in serum can be increased in different diseases which cause disturbance in the metabolism of folates, B6, B12, lipids, lipoproteins, inflammation etc. Prevalence of hyperhomocysteinemia can vary between different populations and is tightly dependent on age, diet, genetic predisposition while in turn physical activity, moderate consumption of alcohol, folates and B12 are associated with lower levels of Hcyt. Many studies have found that vegetarians can have higher risk for hyperhomocysteinemia compared with non vegetarians because of lower B12 levels in their diet (30). There are studies which have verified that in uremic patients increased Hcyt for 1 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ increases the risk for CVD 1% (31). Still unknown remains the impact and atherosclerotic effect of raised Hcyt, but it is believed it interferes with endothelial function, coagulation and platelets (32). In normal individuals, homocysteine concentrations can be decreased slightly by using folic acid. This B vitamin is converted in 5-methyltetrahydrofolate which gives one methyl group to homocysteine and remodels methionine from which homocysteine is derived. In patients with CVD, folic acid of 400-600mg can decrease Hcyt for 20-30% while in patients with chronic terminal kidney injury even very high doses of folic acid doesn't show decrease of Hcyt concentrations in blood (33). Correlation between hyperhomocysteinemia and CVD in uremic patients for first time was investigated 25 years ago when scientists discovered that patients with rare disease-homocysteinuria- because of their high levels of homocysteine in blood and urine are potential candidates for atherosclerotic disease of coronary arteries in young age. In these cases it is verified the lack of an enzyme which mediates the metabolism of Hcyt and as result hyperhomocysteinemia occurs (34). Homocysteine is an amino acid, product of Demethylation-Methionin and precursor of Cystein-Byosintheses (19). Originally was thought that homocysteine isn't present in human blood. It was supposed that Hcy in human blood exist like a substrate with unknown origin, but later it was discovered that 70% of homocysteine together with serum proteins form a complex also known as homocysteine-protein complex, consisting from albumins. Nowadays studies have found that 15-30% of coronary diseases are related with raised Hcyt levels,

where important role plays: genetic predisposition, folate, pyridoxine, cyanocobalamin and vitamin E deficiency. (35,36,37,48). High concentrations of Hcy can be normalized by substituting 1 or 2 from above mentioned deficient vitamins. Homocysteinuria is genetically transmitted disease. If a patient inherits 2 defective alleles the risk is much higher than in patients who inherit 1 allele. It is verified that in 100 individuals 1 person inherits 1 defective allele. Nair et al. in a study in Indian population verified genetic mutations of Methylene-tetra-hydrofolate-reductase, which is main cause of hyperhomocysteinemia in this population (25,26). Many studies have documented that high levels of Hcyt are risk factor for the onset of atherosclerotic changes in coronary, cerebral and peripheral arteries. It is found that during hyperhomocysteinuria the activity of cystathionine-Beta-synthetase is enormously increased, an enzyme responsible for Hcyt metabolism. Another study has found that every increase of homocysteine for 55 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ is associated with CVD consequences for 20-25%. A new multicentric study which included 80,000 female individuals, for 14 years, found that onset of CVD was lower in the group which during that time consumed substitutive therapy with vitamins or consumed with food higher concentrations of abovementioned vitamins compared with the group who haven't consumed enough of them (38). Authors Victor and Hebert in their studies concluded that low levels of folic acid are as result of decreased absorption of vitamin B12 which is tightly related with old age (42). It is verified that by lowering Hcyt in serum the risk for atherosclerosis, CVD and stroke in patients with homocysteinuria decreases also. Even after many studies regarding to hyperhomocysteinemia experts still cannot conclude and verify that by lowering high levels of homocysteine decreases the risk for CVD (18,39). Regarding to this, a 4 year study in 101 patients with CVD who every day consumed folic acid, pyridoxine and cyanocobalamin found a decrease in the size of their atherosclerotic plaques, even better results were obtained in those patients who before the study had higher levels of Hcyt. The cause of hyperhomocysteinemia in patients with chronic renal failure still is unknown, and an appropriate therapy for normalizing Hcyt in these patients doesn't exist. Experts suggest that patients with CVD should analyse their Hcyt levels, and those with levels from 9-10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ should be treated at least one month with substitutive therapy, this has shown positive effects. A recent study on positive effects of folic acid and vitamin B12 (combined or separately) on hyperhomocysteinemia has verified that by substituting B6 and B12, organism can easily correct Hcyt levels. In USA, Canada and Europe an study with 60,000 individuals, still ongoing, are studying the effect of raised Hcyt and onset of myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular embolia and possible ways of decreasing it (27). Some studies have concluded that hyperhomocysteinemia is result of conversion of hydrogen peroxide in free oxygen radicals and conversion of oxidated Hcyt in Homocysteine disulfide. Effect of oxidated Hcyt which is increased by hydrogen peroxide explains the LDL raise. Hydrogen peroxide causes endothelial desquamation, with inhibitory effect on prostacyclins and prostaglandins who are antagonists of platelet adhesion (28,29,30,31). Many studies have verified that patients after undergoing stenting or angioplasty with normalised Hcyt levels have lower incidence of re-occurring of atherosclerotic processes compared with those who have high Hcyt. A recent study, which has lasted 6

months, a time which in patients with vitamin B6 and B12 deficiency was given found that cardiac events and need for revascularisation was 1/3 time lower compared with patients who haven't consumed above-mentioned therapy (32,44). High levels of Hcy can be as a result of cyanocobalamin deficiency which occurs because of vitamin B12 malabsorption as a result of gastric atrophy, which is more often seen after age of 50. B12 deficiency causes anemia. If this deficiency is left untreated it causes damage to the nervous system and early atherosclerosis. Individuals above 50 years of age are advised to consume folic acid and vitamin B12 because in this age most of them have gastric atrophy. A multicentric study concluded that females during menopause have raised homocysteine and an increase of coronary diseases, compared to females before menopause (33). From all that was mentioned above, a question arises: which are the definitive mechanisms which can normalise Hcy levels in an organism? how can we prevent hyperhomocysteinemia? The answer for the first question is: by substituting vit. B6, B12, tocopherol and folic acid. Regarding the second question the answer is hard, because on the onset of early atherosclerosis many unknown factors are included, which are hard to control and correct, therefore more studies need to be made, larger and with longer timespan, with more patients. Negative effects of hyperhomocysteinemia on coronary arteries are increased even more if it is associated with

hypertriglyceridemia, hypercholesterolemia (LDL-ch, LDL-ox). It is a fact that hyperhomocysteinemia is in correlation with folate, pyridoxine and cyanocobalamin deficiency (33,36). Consulted literature and many studies have concluded that in the etiology of coronary atherosclerosis many factors are included: genetic predisposition, environment, life style, sedentary life, obesity etc. There are facts that by supplementing vitamin B12 has decreased Hcy concentrations with 17-30%. For decreasing Hcy and correcting dyslipidemia intravenous application of acetylcysteine is required. Many studies have shown that by applying folic acid, vitamin B12 and B6 can reduce Hcy levels for 35% (36-42). In a larger study, it was documented that patients with coronary disease who were treated with folic acid, after 2 year follow up homocysteine decrease for 18% occurred, but mortality didn't show significant reduction (34,35,43). Documented facts exist that folic acid, cyanocobalamin and acetylcysteine have positive effects on decreasing homocysteine in one side and improving blood vessel function in other side. Nevertheless to verify or to dismiss above-mentioned facts more studies need to be made, with more patients and more countries, so the final conclusion can be taken on the effect of folic acid, cyanocobalamin and acetylcysteine on improving endothelial function of blood vessels (42-48).

5 Conclusion

We can conclude that in our paper also high levels of Hcy were recorded in patients with CVD and HTA etc. These results are in line with many other multicentric studies, on the role of Hcy as a new independent risk factor for early atherosclerosis and moderate effect on the onset of HTA etc.

In above-mentioned cases it is preferred substitutive therapy with folic acid, pyridoxine, cyanocobalamin, tocopherol, acetylsalicylates and other antioxidative

agents, which clearly can prevent early atherosclerosis in CVD with: PTCA, CABG, AMI, APNS, Stenting and prevention of stroke.

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