Effect of Hypothermia on Arterial Versus Venous Blood Gases During Cardiopulmonary Bypass in Man

Anis Baraka, MD, Sania Haroun, MD, Maurice Baroody, MD, Aliya Dabbous, MD, Sahar Siddik, MD and Abla Sibai, MS
Department of Anesthesiology, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

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Abstract

The effect of moderate hypothermia on arterial versus venous blood gases was investigated in 11 patients during cardiopulmonary bypass. The pump and oxygen flows were maintained at a constant flow of 2.4 L/m²/min throughout bypass. After going on bypass, the central venous blood temperature was dropped to 27.8 ± 0.6°C, and after surgery was completed the patients were rewarmed to 37.0°C. Arterial and venous blood gases were sampled simultaneously from the arterial outlet and the venous inlet lines of the oxygenator every two degrees of temperature change until 37°C was reached. The effect of temperature changes on pCO₂ simulated the alpha-stat strategy of acid-base regulation; the temperature-corrected arterial and venous pCO₂ varied directly and the corrected pH varied inversely with body temperature, while the uncorrected pCO₂ and pH did not show a significant change with changes of body temperature. The arterial pO₂, whether corrected or uncorrected, as well as the venous oxygen saturation and the uncorrected venous pO₂ significantly increased with each increment decrease of body temperature. However, the corrected venous pO₂ did not significantly change with changes of body temperature. The report suggests that maintenance of constant perfusion and oxygen flows at normothermic levels during hypothermic cardiopulmonary bypass will maintain a constant carbon dioxide content and a constant corrected venous pO₂.

Introduction

Hypothermia is widely practiced during cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) in man. Baraka et al have previously shown that changes of the perfusion and the oxygen flow during CPB can affect oxygenation and carbon dioxide elimination during hypothermia and following rewarming. The present report investigates the effect of changing body temperature on the temperature-corrected and uncorrected arterial versus venous blood gases, while maintaining both the pump flow and the oxygen flow constant throughout CPB.

Method

Investigation was carried out on 11 patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting or valve replacement during CPB. Their age ranged between 30-63 yrs, and their weight ranged between 50-80 kg. The investigation was approved by the Institution Research Committee and informed consent was obtained from each patient.

The patients were premedicated with 10 mg morphine, 25 mg promethazine and 0.4 mg scopolamine IM. Anesthesia was induced with 0.1-0.2 mg/kg midazolam, 40 µg/kg fentanyl and a mixture of 0.25 mg/kg alcuronium and 0.1 mg/kg pancuronium. Following tracheal intubation, ventilation was controlled with 100 percent oxygen without any inhalation anesthetic supplementation. All patients were monitored by EKG (V₅), radial artery cannula and PA catheter. A Bentley-10B adult bubble oxygenator was primed by 1500 ml lactated Ringer’s solution. The patient was perfused by a roller pump at a flow of 2.4 L/m²/min, and the oxygenator was bubbled by an equal flow of 100 percent oxygen. No carbon dioxide was added to the oxygen flow during cooling or rewarming. Both the pump and oxygen flows were maintained constant throughout the period of investigation. The mean arterial pressure was 850/50 mmHg.

Address correspondence to: Anis Baraka, MD, Professor & Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, American University of Beirut 850 Third Avenue, 18th floor New York, NY 10022 U.S.A.

a) American Bentley, Irvine, CA 92714
b) Sarns 5000, Ann Arbor, MI 48710
Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and arterial pO₂ (mmHg) showing a negative linear association between both corrected (r = -0.64, b = -23.1, P < 0.0001) and uncorrected (r = -0.72, b = -29.4, P < 0.0001) pO₂. While the two regression lines meet at higher temperatures, they diverge as the temperature decreases.

Results

Arterial Blood

The arterial pO₂, whether temperature-corrected or uncorrected, increased significantly with each increment decrease of body temperature. Correlation between body temperature and pO₂ shows a negative linear association (Figure 1).

The temperature-corrected pCO₂ decreased significantly with each increment decrease of body temperature; correlation between body temperature and corrected pCO₂ shows a positive linear association, while the uncorrected pCO₂ did not show a significant change (Figure 2). In contrast, the corrected arterial pH increased significantly with cooling, while the uncorrected pH did not significantly change (Figure 3). The base deficit was minimal and did not significantly change with changes of body temperature (r = -0.02, b = -0.01, P is NS).

Venous Blood

As shown in Figure 4, the temperature-corrected venous pO₂ (PVO₂) did not show a significant change with changes of body temperature. In contrast, both the uncorrected PVO₂ and the SVO₂ increased with each increment decrease of body temperature.

The effect of temperature changes on venous pCO₂ and pH are similar to its effect on the arterial pCO₂ and pH. The temperature corrected venous pCO₂ varied directly with body temperature, while the uncorrected pCO₂ did not show a significant change (Figure 5). In contrast, the corrected pH increased significantly with

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c) Radiometer, Copenhagen, Denmark
**Figure 2**

Arterial pCO₂ vs. Temperature

Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and uncorrected and corrected arterial pCO₂ (mmHg) showing a positive linear association (r = 0.78, b = 1.3, P < 0.0001) in the case of corrected pCO₂ and no association (r = -0.13, b = -0.17, P = NS) in the case of uncorrected pCO₂.

**Figure 3**

Arterial pH vs. Temperature

Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and uncorrected and corrected arterial pH showing a negative linear association (r = -0.75, b = -0.014, P < 0.001) in the case of corrected pH and no association (r = 0.09, b = 0.001, P = NS) in the case of uncorrected pH.

cooling, while the uncorrected pH did not significantly change (Figure 6). The base deficit was minimal and did not show a significant change with changes of body temperature (r = 0.19, b = 0.07, P is NS).

**Discussion**

During CPB, oxygen flow is delivered to the oxygenator to oxygenate the venous return and to provide carbon dioxide elimination. The present report investigates the effect of changing body temperature on the arterial versus venous blood gases during CPB, while maintaining both the pump and oxygen flows constant at 2.4 L/m²/min throughout the period of bypass. No exogenous carbon dioxide was added to the ventilating oxygen flow either during hypothermia or rewarming.

In all our patients, the arterial pO₂, whether temperature-corrected or uncorrected, as sampled from the outlet of the oxygenator, increased significantly with each increment decrease of body temperature. The higher arterial pO₂ during hypothermia may be attributed to the higher SVO₂ of venous return. Also, it may suggest a more efficient oxygenation of the venous return by the bubble oxygenator during hypothermia. Cooling increases the solubility of the bubbled oxygen in blood, and may decrease the size of its bubbles, and hence provides a larger surface area of blood/gas exchange.

Lowering of the core body temperature from 37°C down to 28°C results in an average decrease of oxygen consumption by about 50 percent. Thus, most of the metabolic needs during hypothermia can be met with minimal hemoglobin desaturation. In our patients, the SVO₂ significantly increased with each increment de-
**Figure 4**

Venous SO₂ and pO₂ vs. Temperature  
Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and venous oxyhemoglobin saturation (SO₂ %) and venous pO₂ (mmHg). The correlation with SO₂ shows a negative and significant association (r = -0.85, b = -2.4, P < 0.0001). Correlation with uncorrected venous pO₂ shows a similar negative linear association (r = -0.88, b = -3.8, P < 0.0001). However, the corrected venous pO₂ did not significantly change with changes in body temperature (r = -0.15, b = -0.22, P = NS).

**Figure 5**

Venous pCO₂ vs. Temperature  
Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and uncorrected and corrected venous pCO₂ (mmHg) showing a positive linear association (r = 0.79, b = 1.47, P < 0.0001) in the case of corrected pCO₂ and no association (r = -0.16, b = -0.22, P = NS) in the case of uncorrected pCO₂.

**Figure 6**

Venous pH vs. Temperature  
Correlation and regression between body temperature (°C) and uncorrected and corrected venous pH showing a negative linear association (r = -0.71, b = -0.012, P < 0.0001) in the case of corrected pH and no association (r = 0.21, b = 0.003, P = NS) in the case of uncorrected pH.
crease of body temperature. The significant increase of SVO₂ during hypothermia was associated with a corresponding increase of the temperature-uncorrected venous pO₂. However, the temperature-corrected venous pO₂ did not significantly change during cooling, despite the increase of SVO₂, denoting a progressive leftwards shift of the oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve with each increment decrease of body temperature. The cellular pO₂ approximates closely to venous pO₂, and hence the technique may maintain optimal milieu interieur and prevent cellular hyperoxia.

The effect of hypothermia on pCO₂, while maintaining the ventilating oxygen flow constant, simulates the alpha-stat strategy of the poikilotherms which maintain ventilation constant during temperature changes. Our report shows that the corrected pCO₂, whether arterial or venous varies directly and the corrected pH varies inversely with body temperature, while the uncorrected pCO₂ and pH remain essentially constant over a wide range of temperature changes. As the body cools, carbon dioxide production will be decreased, and consequently the corrected pCO₂ falls about 4.5 percent per °C, provided ventilation is maintained at the normothermic level. However, cooling increases the carbon dioxide dissolved in the blood by a similar factor, and hence the carbon dioxide content as evidenced by the uncorrected pCO₂ does not show a significant change.

In conclusion, our report shows the effect of temperature changes on the arterial and venous blood gases during CPB, while maintaining both the perfusion and oxygen flows at a constant flow of 2.4 L/m²/min throughout the period of bypass. The report suggests that maintenance of constant perfusion and oxygen flows during hypothermic CPB at normothermic values will maintain a constant carbon dioxide content as evidenced by the temperature-uncorrected pCO₂, and a constant cellular pO₂ as evidenced by the corrected pVO₂. The technique is simple and may ensure optimal milieu interieur at all body temperatures.

References


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