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Associations of alcohol and cigarette use with type 1 and 2 myocardial infarction (MI) among people with HIV (PWH)

Running Head: Cigarette and alcohol use and MI by type in PWH

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Summary: Among 13,506 people with HIV (PWH) over 4 years median follow-up, we observed a 1.6-fold increased risk of type-1 (T2MI) and type-2 (T2MI) myocardial infarction for current versus never smoking. Women had higher risk of T2MI than men and vice-versa.

Keywords: type 1 myocardial infarction, type 2 myocardial infarction, smoking, alcohol use, HIV, people with HIV

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Running head (40): current 10

Summary (40): current 40

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Abstract

Introduction

People with HIV (PWH) have a higher risk of myocardial infarction (MI) than the general population, with a greater proportion of type 2 MI (T2MI), due to oxygen demand-supply mismatch, compared to type 1 (T1MI) resulting from atherothrombotic plaque disruption. PWH report greater prevalence of smoking and alcohol use than the general population. While smoking has been associated with increased risk, and alcohol consumption with decreased risk, of MI in the general population, alcohol use and smoking as risk factors for MI by type are not well studied among PWH.

Methods

Using longitudinal data from the Centers for AIDS Research Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) cohort, we conducted time-updated Cox proportional hazards models to determine the impact of smoking and alcohol consumption on adjudicated T1MI and T2MI.

Results

Among 13,506 PWH, median 4 years follow-up, we observed 177 T1MI and 141 T2MI. Current smoking was associated with a 60% increase in risk of both T1MI and T2MI. In addition, every cigarette smoked/day was associated with a 4% increase in risk of T1MI, with suggestive, but not significant, increases for T2MI. Cigarette use had a greater impact on T1MI for men and T2MI for women. Increasing alcohol use

was associated with a lower risk of T1MI, but not T2MI. Frequency of heavy-episodic alcohol use was not associated with MI.

Conclusions

Our findings reinforce prioritizing smoking reduction, even without cessation, and cessation among PWH for MI prevention and highlight different impacts on MI type by gender.

Background

People with HIV (PWH) have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), including myocardial infarction (MI), compared to those without HIV.¹⁻³ The Universal Definition of MI lists five types based on underlying mechanisms of myocardial ischemia.⁴ Type 1 MI (T1MI) is attributable to disruption of atherothrombotic plaques.⁴ Type 2 MI (T2MI) results from an acute imbalance in myocardial oxygen (i.e., increased demand or decreased supply), as with hypotension or vasospasm.⁴ Type 3 are defined by MI-related death without cardiac biomarkers, and type 4 and 5 occur in coronary revascularization. In the general population, T1MI is 5-10 times more common than T2MI.^{5,6} In contrast, we demonstrated that the incidence of T2MI is almost as frequent as T1MI among PWH.⁷

Associations between MI and both tobacco cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption have been widely studied in the general population, but to a lesser extent among PWH, and more importantly not by MI type. Cigarette smoking is considered one of the leading risk factors for CVD.⁸ In large cohort studies of the general population, people who smoke tend to have ≥ 2 times the risk of MI than those who never smoked,⁹⁻¹¹ with hazard ratios consistently higher for women than men.^{10,11} Conversely, alcohol consumption has been reported to be protective

against MI in the general population,¹²⁻¹⁴ including increased alcohol intake,¹⁴⁻¹⁷ above recommended limits,^{12,14} showing a greater protective effect than no or light consumption. PWH report a greater prevalence of smoking¹⁸ than the general population and meta-analysis suggests 24% prevalence of alcohol use disorder compared with 5-15% in the general population.¹⁹ In addition, both smoking and alcohol use have been associated with lower likelihood of HIV viral suppression in large diverse samples.²⁰⁻²²

Given different epidemiological presentation of MI among PWH and the high prevalence of smoking and alcohol use, it is important to assess risk factors for MI by type among PWH to determine if the dynamics of MI are the same as in the general population. Using a large, well-characterized cohort of PWH with comprehensive clinical data, including alcohol use, smoking, and clinical MI adjudication by type, we examined the associations of alcohol use and smoking with T1MI and T2MI.

Methods

Population, Setting and Data Sources

Data from Centers for AIDS Research Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) cohort, comprising >37,000 PWH in care at eight United States (US) clinical sites (<http://www.uab.edu/cnics/>), was included.²³ CNICS sites received Institutional Review Board approval for use of data collected on participants. The CNICS data repository integrates comprehensive longitudinal data from outpatient and inpatient encounters including demographic, clinical, medication, and laboratory data from

electronic health records and other sources,²³ as well as patient-reported outcomes and measures (PRO).

We included data from six sites where sufficient MI adjudication was completed. Last adjudication date varied by site (~2018/2019) with on-going assessments. PWH who completed at least one PRO were included in the analyses. Baseline date was defined as the initial CNICS visit date plus 6 months or first completed PRO, whichever was later and within the MI adjudication period for that site. Participants who had a potential MI event before baseline (n=295) were excluded, as were those with incomplete data (n=139). Cohort exit occurred on the earliest of the following: (a) date of first MI, (b) nine months after last CNICS visit or lab test, (c) death, or (d) end of the site-specific MI adjudication period.

Predictors and Covariates

Data on cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption were collected via PRO at routine care appointments every ~4-6 months. Participants were asked if they have ever smoked or currently smoke tobacco cigarettes, including the current number of cigarettes smoked per day. Current alcohol consumption was assessed using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Consumption (AUDIT-C),²⁴ and modelled as (1) continuous AUDIT-C scores (0-12)²⁴, (2) AUDIT-C derived categories, (3) AUDIT-C use frequency, and (4) heavy-episodic use, defined as ≥ 6 drinks in one sitting. We categorized AUDIT-C scores into no current use, no current use with a prior alcohol use disorder (AUD), non-hazardous alcohol use, and hazardous alcohol use defined as ≥ 5 drinks for men and ≥ 4 for women per day. Prior AUD was defined by either clinical diagnoses of alcohol abuse/dependency in the participants' medical records or ever reporting treatment for AUD by PRO. Both alcohol use and smoking were

time updated for every PRO completed and carried forward until the next measurement.

CNICS has standard operational definitions for other key covariates at baseline. Diabetes was defined as a prior hemoglobin A_{1c} level of ≥ 6.5 , or use of a diabetes-specific or diabetes-associated medication in the setting of also having a diabetes diagnosis. Hypertension was defined as a recorded diagnosis of hypertension and receiving an antihypertensive medication prescription. Dyslipidemia was identified by receipt of lipid-lowering medications. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was calculated based on serum creatinine, age, sex and race/ethnicity, with an eGFR <30 defined as severe kidney disease. HIV viral load (VL) and CD4 counts assessed as part of clinical care were time updated for each new result from baseline until cohort exit.

Outcomes

MI events were adjudicated as previously described.^{7,25} Ascertainment for potential MIs includes MI diagnoses, elevated cardiac biomarkers (e.g., troponin I or T), or documentation of coronary interventions (e.g., coronary artery bypass). For each potential event, sites assemble packets including medical notes, laboratory tests, imaging results, and electrocardiograms, which are reviewed independently by two expert physicians, who categorize potential events as no, probable, or definite MI, with further differentiation into MI types. Discordance between reviewers' results in a third physician review. All events adjudicated as definite or probable MI were included.

Statistical Analyses

Unadjusted summary statistics, including comparisons of central tendency and frequencies, were applied to baseline measures to describe the cohort by MI type. Rare MI types (e.g., <10 type 4 or 5 MIs to date, type 3) are not discussed further.

Associations between cigarette smoking or alcohol consumption and MI by type, adjusted for known MI risk factors, were assessed using time-updated Cox proportional hazards models in which smoking status, alcohol consumption, VL and CD4 count were time updated. Alcohol use was based on the four models described above and shown in Table 1. Smoking status (never, former, current) and number of cigarettes smoked per day among current smokers, centered on the median number of cigarettes, was modelled the same way in all models. Given potentially differential associations by age and sex by type of MI, we graphed type-specific MI-free survival by current smoking, age and cigarettes per day (pack equivalent) among males and females in models that excluded alcohol. All models were adjusted for age, birth sex, race/ethnicity, hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, dyslipidemia, hypertension, diabetes, VL, and CD4 count. The assumption of proportional hazards was assessed by Schoenfeld residuals. Analyses were conducted using STATA v17.0 (College Station, TX).

Results

13,506 PWH were included, with a median follow up time of 4.04 years (IQR: 1.8-12.3 years), median of 8.1 PROs/person (IQR: 3.6-24.6), and a mean age 44 years at baseline; 18% of participants were female (n=2491); 56% reported non-White race/ethnicity (Table 1). T1MI occurred in 177 participants and 141 had a T2MI during the

study period. In univariate analyses, participants who had either T1MI or T2MI were significantly older and were more likely to report current smoking and smoking more cigarettes per day at baseline than those without an MI during the study period (Table 1). Current alcohol use, frequency of use, heavy-episodic use, frequency of heavy-episodic consumption, and AUDIT-C scores were lower among those who experienced a T1MI compared to those with no MI; those who had a T1MI or T2MI were also more likely to report not consuming alcohol than those who did not have MI. Female participants were significantly less likely than males to have a T1MI, but more likely to have a T2MI.

Adjusting for potential confounders, those reporting current cigarette use, compared to never smoking, had a consistently increased risk of T1MI regardless of how alcohol was modelled (Hazard ratio (HR) range 1.61-1.67) (Table 2). Furthermore, the risk of T1MI increased by 4% for every cigarette currently smoked/day in all models. Current cigarette use was associated with a similar significant increase in risk for T2MI across all four models (HR range 1.57-1.64 (Table 2)). A similar pattern to that of T1MI was observed for cigarettes smoked/day, including similar stability in the point estimate and confidence intervals, but did not achieve significance in T2MI models. Those reporting former smoking did not have an increased risk of either MI type compared to those who had never smoked.

PWH who had a higher AUDIT-C score by continuous measure were significantly less likely to experience T1MI (HR: 0.91, 95% CI: 0.84-0.98), but not T2MI (Table 2). Additionally, in models where alcohol use was categorized into current non-use without AUD, non-use with AUD, non-hazardous drinking, and hazardous drinking, the risk of T1MI was reduced among those reporting alcohol consumption, regardless of category. In contrast, the risk of T2MI was reduced for those reporting

non-hazardous alcohol consumption, but not hazardous consumption. Neither frequency of alcohol use nor heavy-episodic consumption in the past 30 days was associated with either MI type.

Using survival curves to examine the impact of aging and smoking on type of MI, for every decade of age (from 30-60 years), current smoking increased our participants' risk of T1MI by approximately one age decade. However, for T2MI the increased risk from smoking was greater than a single decade of age. Similarly, when we plotted amount smoked by sex, we saw different patterns for the types of MI (Figure 2). The impact of increased number of cigarettes per day (assessed by intervals of half packs) on T1MI was greater for men than women. However, the reverse pattern was seen for T2MI.

Discussion

PWH who completed detailed, longitudinal assessments on cigarette/alcohol use over a median follow-up of 4 years had 60% higher risk of either T1MI or T2MI if they currently smoked compared to those who never smoked. Furthermore, current smoking increased the risk of MI by the equivalent of one or more decade of age, and smoking appeared to have a greater association with T1MI risk in men and T2MI risk in women. These findings taken together with the observed per cigarette smoked daily risk for T1MI suggests that both smoking cessation **and** reduction among PWH are important for mitigating their already increased risk of MI. Alcohol use was associated with lower MI risk, as observed in the general population.. However, this association was only observed for AUDIT-C score and hazardous/non-hazardous drinking for T1MI and non-hazardous alcohol consumption for T2MI. Our

study is one of the few to examine T1MI and T2MI separately regardless of population.

We found that current, but not former, smoking among PWH was associated with increased MI risk with a similar effect size to most general population studies^{9-11,26}. In contrast to our study, most prior studies did not differentiate between T1MI and T2M. We also collected smoking status more frequently than other studies, and these were time-updated in our models. We adjusted for a number of factors known to be associated with both MI and smoking, including HCV infection, diabetes and hypertension, while prior studies rarely adjusted for these²⁶.

Greater numbers of cigarettes smoked/ day was associated with increased MI risk in our study, which was similar to general population studies.^{10,11,17} While general population studies tended to categorize cigarettes used/day, we examined this association continuously, demonstrating a 4% increase in T1MI risk per cigarette/day. While this association did not reach significance in our T2MI analyses, Figure 2 demonstrates the impact that each half pack (i.e., 10 cigarettes/day) has on increasing risk of T1MI and T2MI. This could be explained by reduced power for T2MI, due to fewer events, or differences in mechanism of how cigarette smoking results in T1MI and T2MI. Non-nicotine components of cigarettes have been shown to result in platelet activation, which has been associated with atherosclerotic plaque formation,²⁷ increasing the risk for T1MI, which would be consistent with a dose-response dynamic. A proposed mechanism for smoking-induced T2MI suggests that an oxygen supply versus demand imbalance is created when high blood carboxyhemoglobin is present, reducing oxygen levels in the blood, while nicotine stimulates the sympathetic nervous system resulting in elevated heart rate and blood pressure and coronary vasoconstriction.⁸ This could be dose-response related

(i.e., the longer one smokes at any one time the higher the risk), but not necessarily over the long-term.

Interestingly, our data demonstrated differential risk for men and women by MI type with respect to smoking, suggesting that both smoking cessation **and reduction** are critically important for reducing MI risk in both men and women with HIV. In addition to assessing and preventing atherosclerosis for both men and women with HIV who smoke, careful attention to factors associated with T2MI, such as infection, low CD4 cell count, higher viral loads, and stimulant use, is also important for preventing and managing MI in PWH, particularly among women with HIV who smoke.

We observed an inverse association between continuous AUDIT-C score and any use compared to no alcohol use with T1MI and non-hazardous use compared to no alcohol use with T2MI. These associations were not observed for frequency of alcohol or heavy-episodic use over a 30-day period. Most general population studies demonstrated more consistent inverse associations with measures of alcohol use, however, they used different categories of alcohol consumption than we did, such as moderate and heavy,^{12,13} sometimes and regularly,²⁸ any consumption in the past 12 months,²⁹ timing of consumption prior to MI (e.g., hours, weeks, days),^{30,31} and grams/day or week,^{14,15} which might explain why we saw an inverse association with MI on some measures and not others. Our study was consistent with results regarding no association between heavy episodic/binge alcohol consumption and MI.¹³ It is also important to note that the inverse association between alcohol use on MI is not observed in all populations,²⁹ and our sample is racially/ethnically diverse. Furthermore, epidemiological studies suggest that the mechanisms by which alcohol may lower the risk of MI include lowering blood lipids,²⁸ increasing HDL

cholesterol,¹⁵ and improving insulin sensitivity.¹⁵ Experimental studies demonstrate that feeding participants ≥ 30 g of alcohol/day increased HDL cholesterol³² and insulin sensitivity.³³ However, HIV infection results in increased dyslipidemia and insulin resistance,³³ which may attenuate the positive effects of moderate alcohol consumption observed in the general population, and might explain the inconsistent association between alcohol consumption and MI in our study.

The findings of a moderate inverse or protective effect of alcohol on MI should be tempered with regard to health more generally. Studies examining the effects of alcohol on all types of CVD demonstrate heterogeneous effects,^{12,14} where the risk of stroke and other cardiovascular events are increased by alcohol consumption, even though alcohol consumption appears protective for MI. While alcohol consumption may be associated with reduced risk of MI, it has also been associated with increased risk of renal damage,³⁴ cirrhosis,³⁵ cancer,¹³ and all-cause mortality.³⁶ Furthermore, alcohol consumption is the seventh leading cause of death worldwide.³⁷ While complete alcohol cessation has been recommended for PWH, this study suggests that smoking cessation and/or reduction might be a more important priority for long-term health outcomes over cessation of light/moderate alcohol use among PWH who do not have HCV infection or liver disease.

Our study had several limitations with respect to measurement of primary exposures and follow-up. While we collected robust measures on smoking behavior, passive exposure to cigarette smoke, which has been associated with increased risk for MI,¹⁰ was not measured. If non-smoking participants had significant exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke, this could reduce the strength of the association between smoking and MI observed in our study. Additionally, while we used AUDIT-C as a robust measure of alcohol consumption, we did not measure whether alcohol

was paired with food, which has been shown to support insulin sensitivity,³⁸ a mechanism by which alcohol is thought to be protective against MI.¹⁵ Additionally, we measured alcohol consumption over discrete time-periods rather than by daily journaling. While this has advantages for understanding overall impact, we could not examine the effect of alcohol consumption on the day of, or just before, an MI. Previous studies have shown increased risk of MI within a few hours after alcohol consumption.^{29,30} Additionally, we did not examine modifications in associations between smoking and MI with respect to illicit substance use, as illicit substance use was not measured on the entire cohort. While there is significant interest regarding the impact of illicit substance use on MI by type, the focus of this study was to determine if the effects of alcohol and smoking on MI among PWH differed from the general population, where illicit substance use is not normally studied. While we had a sufficiently long median follow-up of 4 years, events and longitudinal follow-up continues to accrue, allowing greater opportunity to examine changes in alcohol use and smoking patterns in the future, as well as effects of illicit substance use.

Our study has several strengths. CNICS has a large demographically, clinically, and geographically diverse population. CNICS collects consistent, robust repeated measures on alcohol use, smoking, clinical laboratory assessments, and other health measures, which allowed for time varying assessment of important factors. The assessment of MI through our clinical adjudication process reduces the risk of misclassification of the outcome and allows for examination of risk by MI type. Our data collection and assessment processes also enhance completeness of data on all participants.

Among 13,506 PWH with repeated measures on smoking/alcohol consumption over ~4 years follow-up, we demonstrate that current cigarette smoking is associated

with a 1.6-fold increased risk of both T1MI and T2MI compared with non-smoking. Furthermore, 4% of this risk could be decreased for every cigarette/ day reduction; this had a greater impact on T1MI in men and T2MI in women. This study highlights the potential benefits of not only cessation, but also reducing number of cigarettes/ day even without achieving cessation, on CVD health among PWH, with potentially different impact on MI type between men and women.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1: A: T1MI and B: T2MI free survival by daily, current cigarette use and age adjusted for number of cigarettes smoked per day for current smokers,

sex, race/ethnicity, HCV infection, HBV infection, dyslipidemia, treated hypertension, diabetes, severe chronic kidney disease and time updated viral load and CD4 count. Panel 1A shows that current smokers have a T1MI risk similar to that of a PWH a decade older, whereas the risk of T2MI is similar to that of someone even more than a decade older.

Figure 2: A: T1MI and B: T2MI free survival by sex and current daily cigarette use adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, HCV infection, HBV infection, dyslipidemia, treated hypertension, diabetes, severe chronic kidney disease and time updated viral load and CD4 count. Panel 2A highlights the impact of sex on T1MI, where male non-smokers had a similar risk to females who smoked more than a pack/ day, however, this observation was reversed for T2MI (panel 2B), where women had a significantly greater risk of T2MI than men.