

Comments: “Association between Hemogram Parameters and Coronary Collateral Development in Subjects with Non-ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction”

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The severity of atherosclerotic heart diseases can be predicted by coronary collateral circulation, which is a consequence of coronary collateral development (CCD). Subjects who suffer from coronary artery disease with adequate CCD can benefit from an alternative blood supply of collateral vessels¹. Cardiac morbidity and mortality rates are lower in patients with sufficient CCD compared to those without adequate CCD, since these collateral vessels make a natural arterial bypass².

Laboratory and clinical determinants of CCD are a matter of debate. While statin use has been supposed to be related to better CCD³, increased inflammatory markers, such as c-reactive protein, are suggested to be associated with poor CCD⁴. Interestingly, anemia was also related to better development of coronary collateral circulation independent from erythropoietin level⁵.

In the article by Sincer et al.⁶, the authors reported that elevated platelet distribution width (PDW) was associated with better development of coronary collateral vessels. PDW is a marker of thrombocyte activation and refers to the size variability of circulating platelets. It has a potential role in the pathogenesis of myocardial infarction⁷. Moreover, the authors found that it was associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus and diabetic nephropathy⁸. Sincer et al.⁶ evaluated the grade of CCD by Rentrop grading, in which grade 0 and 1 were classified as insufficient CCD, and grade 2 and 3 were classified as sufficient CCD. Their study

design and interpretation of the results are justified. Increased PDW, as a result of increased platelet activation, could promote angiogenesis and better development of coronary artery vessels.

In conclusion, due to its nature of being easy to assess and repeat, increased PDW could be a promising predictor of CCD in patients with coronary heart disease.

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