



Science

ASSESSMENT OF PATHOLOGICAL CHANGE OF SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI INFECTION IN THE LIVER USING ULTRASOUND

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Abstract

Background: Schistosomiasis is a tropical parasitic disease caused by blood flukes of the genus *Schistosoma*, causes periportal fibrosis and portal hypertension in approximately **13%-18%** of those afflicted with the disease in the Gezira irrigated areas of Sudan. This a prospective study compromise of 360 consecutive patients at North Gezira State between 2016 to 2019 **aimed** to assessment of pathological change in schistosomiasismansoni infection using B-mode grayscale ultrasound, The images done by portable Sono Scape- A6 machine using convex probe with frequency range from 3.5 to 5 MHz and the data analyzed by SPSS version 15. The **result** showed that the majority of patients were male and periportal fibrosis had high incidence associated with schistosomiasismansoni, Out of 360 patients with schistosomal PPF under study there were no PPF noted in 56 (15.6%) , while the remaining had mild in 106 (29.4%), moderate in 166 (46.1%), and severe PPF in 32 (8.9%) The study concluded that the B- mode Gray scale portable ultrasound machine is the most frequently used imaging modality to assess patients for the presence of periportal fibrosis especially in the endemic area.

Keywords: Portal Hypertension; B-Mode Ultrasound; Schistosomiasis; Periportal Fibrosis and Portal Vein.

Cite This Article: Abdal Gadir Yonis, Professor. Dr. Al Safi Ahmed Abdallah, Dr. Mona Ahmed, and Dr. Ashraf Mustafa Mohammed Osman. (2019). "ASSESSMENT OF PATHOLOGICAL CHANGE OF SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI INFECTION IN THE LIVER USING ULTRASOUND." *International Journal of Research - Granthaalayah*, 7(7), 125-131. <https://doi.org/10.29121/granthaalayah.v7.i7.2019.738>.

1. Introduction

Schistosomiasis is a tropical parasitic disease caused by blood flukes of the genus *Schistosoma*.2 McManus DP, *et al.* (2014). By conservative estimates, at least 230 million people worldwide are infected with *Schistosoma*. *Schistosomiasismansoni* causes periportal fibrosis and portal hypertension in approximately 6% of all infected subjects.

The prevalence of Schistosomiasis in the Gezira irrigated areas of Sudan was lowered from 53.6% in 1982 to 6.1% in 1989 by mass treatment with praziquantel under the Blue Nile Health project. During this same period Schistosomalperiportal fibrosis was found to affect 13-18% of those afflicted with the disease Ibrahim SZ *et al* 2008.

After the successful campaign of the Blue Nile Health Project in the eighties of the last century, the prevalence of Shistosomiasis is now again on the increase not only in selected endemic areas of Gezira, like Managil, where it reached 54.3%, but also in Southern Blue Nile (32.6%), Kassala province (45.2%), and White Nile (35.5%) A.Alla GN *et al* 2009.

The disease is mostly due to eggs deposited in host tissues by adult female worms which induce inflammatory and fibrotic lesions causing the development of significant pathology in the affected organs in host organs. The main lesion in hepatosplenic schistosomiasis is fibrosis in the portal tracts of the liver. The morbidity due to chronic *Schistosomamansoni* infection In highly endemic areas, affects a significant proportion of the population. The disease mostly involves the colon, liver and spleen, with reactive splenic hyperplasia and hepatic fibrosis in the first stage, and later portal hypertension leading to a haemorrhage due to ruptured esophageal or gastric varices. . The significant and the goal of the study will help in limiting the severity of periportal fibrosis to avoid the complication by detecting it in early stage as well as to decreased the morbidity and mortality and the risk factors, Periportal fibrosis, which is the essential lesion, is generally seen after years of infection, but it has been found in children. Periportal thickening (PPT) or fibrosis is correlated with sonographic indicators of portal hypertension, namely reduced portal blood flow, portal systemic collaterals, dilatation of splenic vein, and splenomegaly. Li Y, *et al.* (2014). Diagnosis of schistosomiasis by imaging techniques has mostly focused on ultrasonography. Early use of grayscale ultrasound in the diagnosis of Schistosomiasismansoni, demonstrated lesions in the liver typical of schistosome-induced fibrosis like periportal fibrosis, which appeared as echogenic tubular shadows with anechoic lumen that radiated from the portahepatis. Grading of the severity of periportal fibrosis by ultrasonography in schistosomiasismansoni has been shown to correlate with disease burden Blanton RE. *et al* 2003.

Due to the reliability of US, this imaging method has been routinely used in the evaluation of hepatosplenic schistosomiasis for the past 30 years Azeredo LM, *et al.* 2006 Lambertucci JR 2010 US has also been found to be valuable not only in the initial diagnosis but also in monitoring the regression of pathology following treatment with anti-schistosome drugs Lambertucci JR. *et al* 2006 Williams GM, *et al.* 2000 With the development of portable ultrasound equipment, this imaging technique became an acceptable tool in the assessment of organ morbidity due to schistosomiasis in the field setting.

2. Material and Methods

This is a prospective study aimed to assessment of pathological change in schistosomiasismansoni infection used B-mode grayscale ultrasound, compromise of 360,56 patients have normal liver ,198 patients have periportal fibrosis with portal hypertension, and 106 patients have periportal fibrosis .carried out in the period from january2016 to 2019 in north **Gazira** state in Sudan and private clinic at **Gebel Awlia** Khartoum state. requested abdominal US was done with prior explanation of the investigation and informed written consent of the patients .ultrasound done was performed on SonoScape- A6 portable machine using convex probe with frequency range from 3.5 to 5 MHz liver was scanned in various planes like transverse, sagittal, sub costal, obliqueinter costals and coronal planes. A comparative upper abdominal organ was done.

Various ultrasonographic features were observed, which included overall assessment of liver texture (periportal fibrosis), portal vein, splenic vein and splenic size.

These features were collected in a collection sheet(questionnaire), all questionnaires were daily checked from completeness and accuracy by investigator filled questionnaires were coded before entering data into computer using statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 15. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 15.

3. Results

Table 1: Shows Gender distribution.

Gender		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	244	67.8	67.8	67.8
	Female	116	32.2	32.2	100.0
	Total	360	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Shows Age Group distribution.

Age Group		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	30 - 40	77	21.4	21.4	21.4
	40 - 50	103	28.6	28.6	50.0
	50 - 60	121	33.6	33.6	83.6
	60 - 70	53	14.7	14.7	98.3
	70 - 80	6	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	360	100.0	100.0	

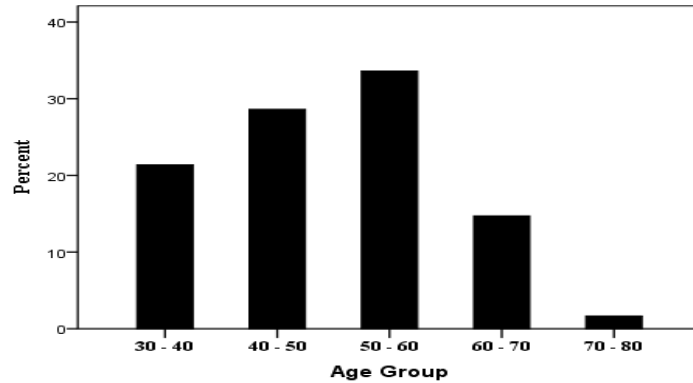


Figure 1: 2-D bar chart shows Age Group distribution.

Table 3: distribution of PPF thickness

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Total	360	100.0	100.0	
Valid	None	56	15.6	15.6	15.6
	Mild	106	29.4	29.4	45.0
	Moderate	166	46.1	46.1	91.1
	Severe	32	8.9	8.9	100.0

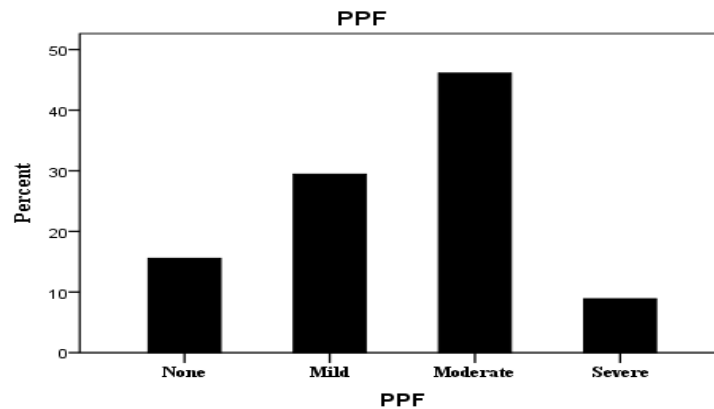


Figure 2: 2-D bar chart represents the distribution of PPF thickness

Table 4: cross-tabulation table show the relation between of the mean PV Width (cm) SV Width (cm) Spleen size (cm) and group control normal and Patients group PPF and PHT.

	variable	N	Mean
PV Width (Cm)	Normal	56	1.03
	PPF	106	1.25
	Portal Hypertension	198	1.52
SV Width (Cm)	Normal	56	.63
	PPF	106	.887
	Portal Hypertension	198	1.12
Spleen size (Cm)	Normal	56	10.02
	PPF	106	12.68
	Portal Hypertension	198	17.37

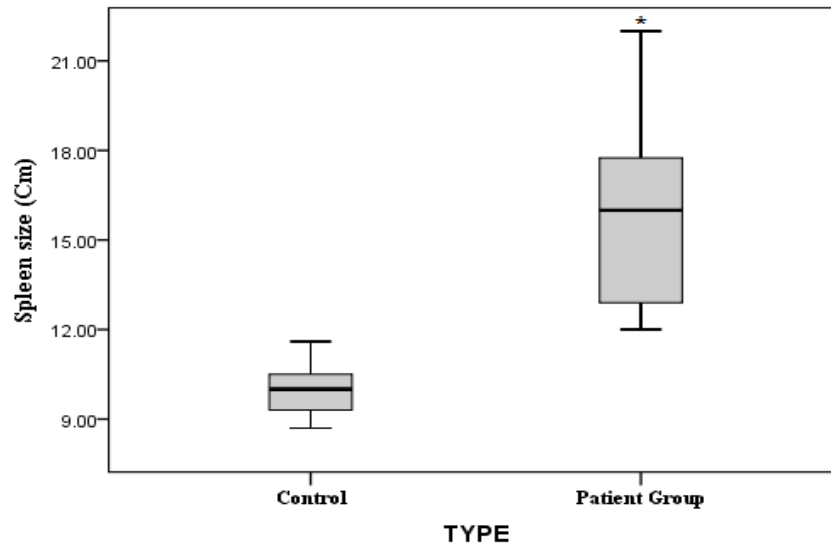


Figure 3: the mean of spleen size in control and Patients group. The strike indicates significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

4. Discussion

The data of this study consist of 360 cases, 244 patients were mostly male forming the incidence of 67.8% (table 1) because in retraction with environment of schistosomiasis. This record agrees with Safaa. A 2017 who found more incidence and more severity in male. This study found patients in age between 30 to 80 years distribution were mostly in (50-60) years forming the incidence of 33.6% (121) patients, in (40-55) years 28.6% (103) patients (table 2). This study was used for both diagnosis and grading of periportal fibrosis. Grading was allotted these grades by modification of the original method described by Safaa. A 2017 which was conducted in the same institution. Grade 0 none, grade I mild, grade II moderate to severe and grade III advanced severe. Out of 360 patients with schistosomal PPF under study there were no PPF noted in 56 (15.6%), while the remaining had mild in 106 (29.4%), moderate in 166 (46.1%), and severe PPF in 32 (8.9%) (table 3). The 29.4% of patients not a percentage, because it is important not to limit cases recorded as positive for periportal fibrosis to those where ultrasound examination reveals pathological changes unequivocally. The detection of mild pathology is not important in clinical practice, since patients with borderline abnormalities have never been observed to suffer complications such as variceal bleeding. The range of borderline pathology is large, which is not surprising, since schistosomiasis is a progressive disease. Cut-off points at which borderline findings are considered abnormal were proposed. This is a significant finding of the study. This means that the schistosomiasis in the endemic area is playing a key role in causes of periportal fibrosis and PHT. This was in accordance with those previous studies which recorded the result of PHT and PPF like whom Burchard *et al.* 1998 concluded that PPF mainly due to schistosomiasis. Of this study sonographic visualization of the portal vessels were obtained in most cases in patients with schistosomiasis were significantly greater when compared with the mean obtained for individual, and in the normal control group. The increase in the width of the splenic vein was impressive, its mean that the width in patients with PHT was twice the width measured in the control group because the splenic vein doesn't effect of collateral while the portal vein lack of the sensitivity due to collateral pathway which partially decompresses the system. The upper limit of the normality for

the mean width of portal was set through 1.03cm for the portal vein 0.63cm for the splenic vein width. The mean width over 1.25cm and 1.52cm for the portal vein, and 0.89cm and 1.12cm for the splenic vein in group patient (periportal fibrosis + portal hypertention) were %100 specific for the diagnosis of portal hypertension. (Table 4). The upper limit of normality for the width of the portal vessels has not yet firmly established for the portal vein, for example some author have chosen 12mm Cerri, G 1984 while other suggested 20mm Weill, F.S 1982. Indicated that the splenic veins the best discriminated vessels for the diagnosis of PHT this agree with the research of Zoliet *al* 1985 which were recorded that the spleen vein was (sensitivity of 85% and specifically 96% followed by the portal vein sensitivity 76% and specifically of 90%).

The upper limit of the normality for the mean width of spleen size was set through 10.02cm. In group patient The mean width of spleen size over 12.68cm for PPF patient and 17.4cm for PHT patient. In figure(2) The strike indicate significant difference ($P < 0.05$) (014) on another hand the enlarged spleen is low specifically according to deferent sears like acute involvement of the spleen such as in malaria and anemia. This was in accordance with the study of C. Bru, J. Bosch *et al* 1998 which showed that the spleen dimension is the US sign most commonly associated to the presence of PHT contrarily to other sign its sensitivity is high, while is ranges 50_60% according to different series it's an independent predictor of esophageal varices.

The study concluded that the portable ultrasound machine is the most frequently used imaging modality to assess patients for the presence of periportal fibrosis especially in the endemic area because its noninvasive methods and simple technique.

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