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Critical Illness Polyneuropathy

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- Abstract -

The occurrence of muscle weakness in patients with sepsis or multiple organ failure managed in the intensive care unit has been recognized with increasing frequency in the last two decades. The difficulty in examining critically ill patients may explain why this complication has been only recently recognized. This weakness is due to an axonal polyneuropathy which is called critical illness polyneuropathy(CIP). It must be differentiated from myopathy or neuromuscular junction disturbance that can also occur in the intensive care setting. Neither the cause nor the exact mechanism of CIP has been elucidated. Electrophysiological studies demonstrated an acute axonal damage of the peripheral nerves. Before the recognition of CIP, these cases were usually misdiagnosed as Guillain-Barré syndrome. Clinical recovery from the neuropathy is rapid and nearly complete in those patients who survive. Thus, neuropathy acquired during critical illness, although causing a delayed in weaning from ventilatory support and hospital discharge, does not worsen long-term prognosis.

Key Word : Critical illness polyneuropathy

가 CIP 가

SIRS (systemic inflammatory response syndrome, SIRS) CIP 가

Dimachkie 7 CIP 1994 Sheth 6

20 ~ 50% 가 가

70% 20

(critical illness polyneuropathy, CIP)

1 CIP 1983 2-4

1984 Bolton 5 CIP 가

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가 4 3056 - 6

가

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1.

1983 Bolton ², Rivner ³, Roelofs ⁴
가
가

(phrenic nerve) 가
(soleus) 가
가 (iliopsoas) 가
(monophasic)

Bolton ⁵ 1984 CIP

¹⁹⁻²²

4.

CIP

(multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, MODS) 가
가
1991 Op de Coul ⁸

가
가 가

CIP (polyneuromyopathy)

1993 Gorson Ropper⁹

tory failure neuropathy)

(respira-

가 가
가 가
(humoral)
²⁴
(microcirculation)

2.

CIP

⁸, ¹⁰,
pancuronium bromide ¹¹, ^{12,13},
, gentamycin ¹⁴,
(adult respiratory
distress syndrome), ¹⁵,
¹⁶,
(hyper-
osmolality) ¹⁷,
¹⁸

가
가
3가

(Fig. 1 ~ 3).^{25,26}

3.

CIP

5.

(Table 1)

CIP

^{6,7,22}

70%

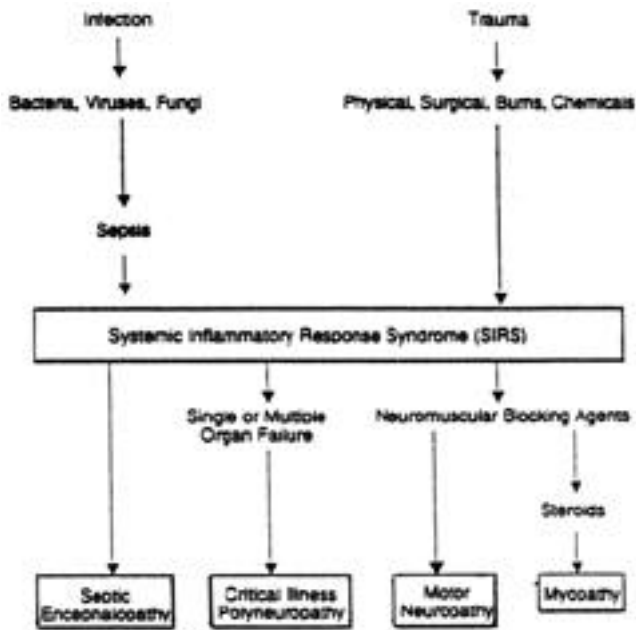


Figure 1. Various factors associated with the development of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) and its nervous system complications.²⁶

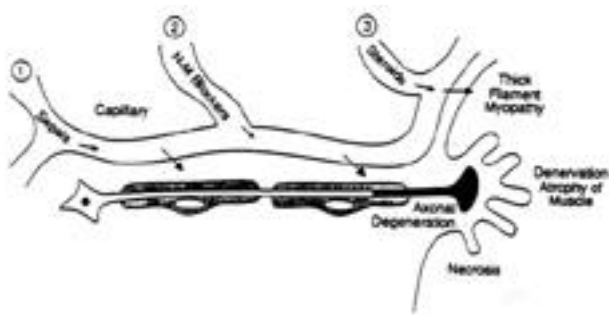


Figure 3. Theoretical mechanisms of neuromuscular complications of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS). 1) Sepsis induces a release of cytokines that cause increased capillary permeability. This effect, and other microvascular mechanisms, induce a critical illness polyneuropathy, with distal axonal degeneration of nerve and denervation atrophy of muscle. 2) Neuromuscular (N-M) blocking agents in the presence of SIRS traverse the hyperpermeable capillary membrane and have a direct toxic effect on nerve, or cause "functional denervation" to increase denervation of muscle. 3) Steroids gain access to muscle by this mechanism, and, in the presence of denervation due to 1 and 2, induce a thick filament myopathy and varying degrees of necrosis. Combination of 1, 2, and 3 may occur in the same patient.²⁶

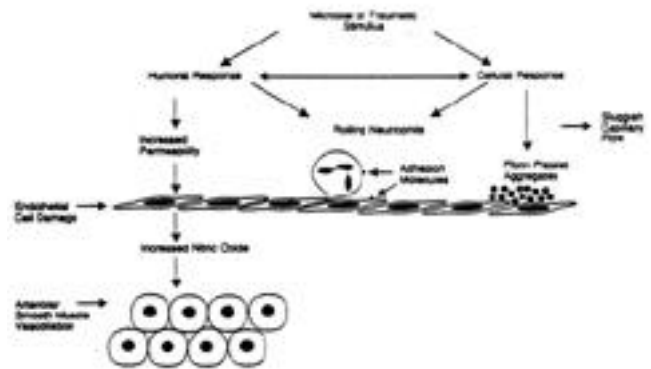


Figure 2. Theoretical presentation of disturbances in the microcirculation to various organs, including brain, peripheral nerve, and muscle, in sepsis and the systemic inflammatory response syndrome. The result is impaired perfusion, due to excessive vasodilation through overproduction of nitric oxide and to aggregation of cellular elements through activation of adhesion molecules. Increased capillary permeability causes edema and the potential for entry of toxic substances.²⁶

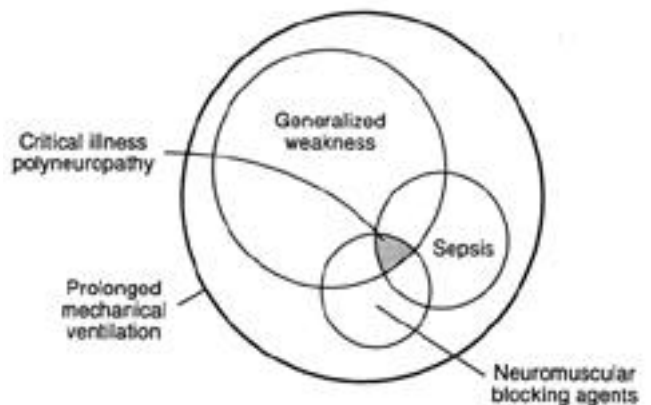


Figure 4. Diagram showing interrelationship between sepsis and neuromuscular blocking agents in the population of critically ill patients who have generalized weakness and require prolonged mechanical ventilation.²⁷

Table 1. Clinical features of critical illness polyneuropathy.²²

Diaphragmatic and intercostal weakness
Mild facial weakness
Normal ocular signs
Symmetric (usually distal) limb weakness
Reduced or absent tendon reflexes
Variable muscle wasting and fasciculations
Normal autonomic function
Frequent associated drowsiness

33% CIP가 5~20%
 2 50%
 16,20,22,29
 (prospective)
 81.8% CIP
 MODS
 30
 CIP Fig. 5
 (wasting)가
 (lancinating pain),
 가 가
 (biting)
 25% 21,22,31,32

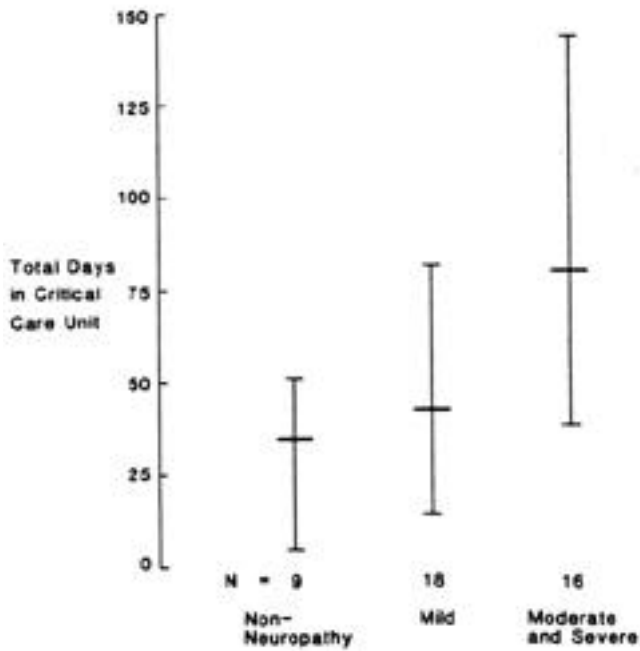


Figure 5. Incidence, severity, and relation of neuropathy to time spent in the critical care unit for 43 patients who had sepsis and multiple organ failure, studied prospectively between 1983 and 1985. Mild, moderate, and severe refer to the neuropathy. The range of time spent in the critical care unit is shown by the bars.²⁵

6.
 가 (Guillain-Barré syndrome, GBS)
 가 (Fig. 6).
 (conduction block)
 (temporal dispersion)
 가
 (fibrillation)
 가
 (polyphasic)
 (recruitment)
 21,22
 jitter가 가
 (single-fiber)
 CIP
 33

7.

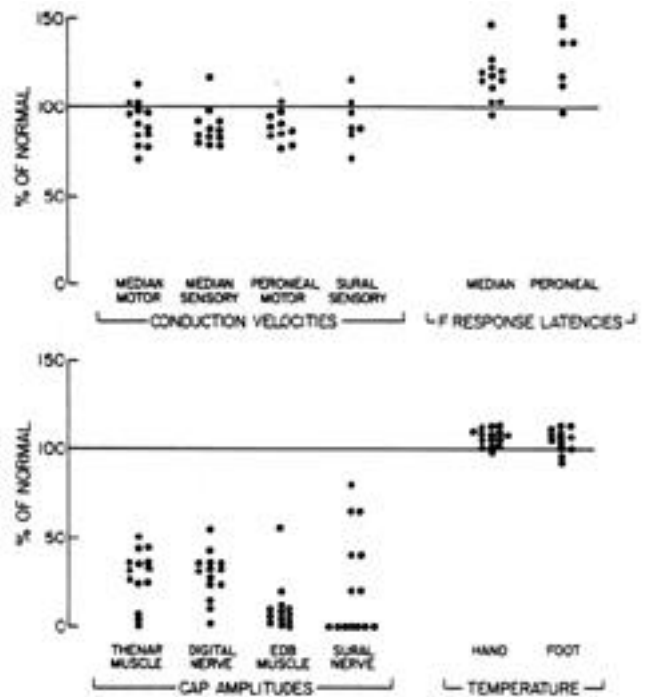


Figure 6. Pattern of nerve conduction abnormalities in 14 patients who had critical illness polyneuropathy, studied between 1977 and 1981. All patients had evidence of denervation of muscle on needle EMG studies. Note the elevated distal skin temperature, consistent with sepsis. CAP, compound action potential.²⁵

가

CIP³⁴

CIP^{31,35}

8. E

CIP GBS 가

가

가

가

Table 2

CIP GBS

9. CIP GBS

가

GBS CIP가

CIP

가

가²¹

가³⁶

(spontaneous activity)

10. GBS

가

60%

GBS 가

CIP GBS

CIP가 (stereotypical)

Table 2. Neuromuscular conditions in the critical care unit associated with the systemic inflammatory response syndrome.²⁶

Condition	Incidence	Clinical Feature	Electromyography	Creatine	Muscle Biopsy Phosphokinase
Polyneuropathy					
Critical illness polyneuropathy	Common	Flaccid limbs and respiratory weakness	Axonal degeneration of motor and sensory fibers	Near normal	Denervation atrophy
Motor neuropathy	Common with neuromuscular blocking agents	Flaccid limbs and respiratory weakness	Axonal degeneration of motor fibers	Near normal	Denervation atrophy
Neuromuscular Transmission Defect					
Transient neuromuscular blockade	Common with neuromuscular blocking agents	Flaccid limbs and respiratory weakness studies	Abnormal repetitive nerve stimulation	Normal	Normal
Myopathy					
Thick filament myopathy	Common with steroids, neuromuscular blocking agents, and asthma	Flaccid limbs and respiratory weakness	Abnormal spontaneous activity	Elevated	Central loss of thick filaments
Disuse(cachectic myopathy)	Common(?)	Muscle wasting	Normal	Normal	Normal or type 2 fiber atrophy
Necrotizing myopathy of intensive care	Rare	Flaccid weakness, myoglobinuria	Abnormal spontaneous activity in muscle	Markedly elevated	Panfascicular muscle fiber necrosis

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