Letter to Editor
Circulating CD62P small microparticles levels are increased in hypertension

Shuai-Shuai Hu¹,², Hong-Gang Zhang¹,², Qiu-Ju Zhang¹,², Rui-Juan Xiu¹,²

¹Institute of Microcirculation, Peking Union Medical College & Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China; ²Key Lab. of Microcirculation, National Health and Family Planning Commission, China

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Abstract: The study aims to find a new biomarker in hypertension. Our study is the first time to demonstrate that the CD62P small microparticle (diameter ≤0.46 μm) was a new microparticle population and a new biomarker in hypertension.

Keywords: Small microparticle, hypertension

Microparticles (MPs) are derived from various cells as response to apoptosis or activation, with a size <1 μm [1]. MPs are not only biomarkers but also have biological functions [2] for this reason, MPs plays an important role in cardiovascular diseases, furthermore, numerous papers study MPs in cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension, coronary artery diseases. Due to technical limitation of conventional flow cytometry, most of studies detect microparticles ≥0.5 μm, however, there is an evidence showing 80% MPs <0.5 μm [1], termed small microparticles (SMPs). Therefore, the data of small microparticle is lacking. Our aim was to study SMPs in hypertension to find a new biomarker.

16 healthy people and 17 hypertension patients were recruited. The hypertension was diagnosed as systolic/diastolic blood pressure higher than or equal to 140/90 mmHg. Patients with a history of chronic renal failure requiring dialysis, hepatic or hematologic disorders, or inflammation, autoimmune, or malignant diseases were excluded. Healthy subjects were included if they had no known history of medical illness, normal blood pressure (<140/90 mmHg), and appeared healthy in a physical examination. The ethic committee approved this consent procedure. Verbal informed consents were obtained from every experimental subject. CD62P platelet SMPs were detected by flow cytometry (Accuri C6, Accuri Cytometers).

For flow cytometry analysis of SMPs, as shown in Figure 1 with representative plots, a signal intensity threshold of 35,000 was used and standard beads (0.46 μm diameter; Sigma, St. Louis, MO) were used for calibration. An isotype control antibody was used as the negative control. SMPs was defined as CD62P positive and size ≤0.46 μm. The result and clinical parameters were shown in Table 1.

According to SPSS17.0, the result showed that the number of CD62PSMPs in hypertension patients was significantly higher than healthy control (P = 0.015).

To our best knowledge, this is the first study to investigate CD62P SMPs in hypertension, our findings are consistent with previous data CD62P MPs is higher in hypertension, the difference is Preston RA et al. study [3] focus on the size of CD62P MPs <1.5 μm, as we known, conventional flow cytometry detects the size of MPs ≥0.5 μm, to be precise, the Preston A et al. study focus on the size of CD62P MPs >0.5 μm, however, our study focus on the size of CD62P SMPs ≤0.46 μm, we studied a new population of CD62P SMPs increased in hypertension patients.

CD62P is mainly derived from platelet as response to cell activation, it is regarded as a risk factor for vascular disease, studies show that CD62P is involved in inflammation and
Circulating CD62P small microparticle thrombosis [4], which increase the risk of atherosclerosis. Preston RA et al. study shows CD62P MPs is related to systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure. Our experiment further support that platelet activation may play a role in hypertension-induced vascular injury to increase the risk of atherosclerosis. Although, the mean age of healthy control was younger than hypertension patients, from some papers study show MPs is not significantly related to age [3, 5].

In conclusion, our experiment found a new CD62P small microparticle population in hypertension, our result showed CD62P MPs was a new biomarker in hypertension.

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Table 1. Data of patients and healthy control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Healthy Control</th>
<th>Hypertension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (y)</td>
<td>33.69 ± 9.35</td>
<td>68.00 ± 12.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (female/male)</td>
<td>8/8</td>
<td>9/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD62P SMPs (counts/μl)</td>
<td>2.10 (1.45-3.41)</td>
<td>3.48 (2.47-6.78)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMP: small microparticle.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

Address correspondence to: Hong-Gang Zhang, Institute of Microcirculation, Peking Union Medical College & Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China, Key Lab. of Microcirculation, National Health and Family Planning Commission. E-mail: zhanghg1966126@imc.pumc.edu.cn

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