

Université de Montréal

**Les Rhabdomyomes cardiaques dans la sclérose tubéreuse de
Bourneville: Perturbations fonctionnelles cardiaques et
perspectives thérapeutiques**

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Résumé

La sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville (STB) est une affection caractérisée par la formation de tumeurs bénignes dans différents organes dont le cœur. Elle est due à la désinhibition de la cible mammalienne de la rapamycine (mTOR). Ces tumeurs encore appelées rhabdomyomes (RHM) au niveau cardiaque régressent spontanément dans la plupart des cas mais peuvent se compliquer d'arythmie ou d'obstruction ce qui peut compromettre le débit cardiaque et nécessiter un traitement. Les objectifs généraux de ce travail étaient d'étudier les perturbations des paramètres fonctionnels cardiaques et d'analyser la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque chez une population porteuse de rhabdomyomes cardiaques dans la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville.

Méthodes : Nous avons mené cette étude transversale entre février 2013 et mars 2015 afin de déterminer l'impact de la RHM sur le système de conduction cardiaque, sur l'homéostasie nerveuse autonome et sur le fonctionnement du cœur. Trente sujets avec TSC ont été recrutés pour participer à cette étude et ils ont été comparés à 13 contrôles sains qui étaient des membres de la famille libres de RHM. Les séries d'échocardiogrammes qui ont été précédemment enregistrées ont servi à documenter la taille de la tumeur au cours de la petite enfance. Un enregistrement Holter de 24 heures a été effectué pour la détection éventuelle d'arythmies et l'analyse de la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque (VFC). Nous avons aussi rapporté quatre cas de régression de gros rhabdomyomes obstructifs chez des nouveaux nés sous everolimus par rapport à dix contrôles historiques non traités de notre centre.

Résultats : La durée moyenne du suivi était de 4.5 ans. La prévalence des RHM était de 46.8% (37 RHM) entre 0-5 ans, 13.9% (11 RHM) entre 6-11 ans et 39.2% (31 RHM) entre 12-33 ans. Dans 20% des cas, les RHM étaient responsables d'obstacles à l'éjection ou au remplissage du cœur. Les troubles du rythme retrouvés étaient de bénignes extrasystoles ventriculaires (55%) et des extrasystoles supraventriculaires (50%). Ces extrasystoles étaient plus fréquentes chez ces patients comparés à la population générale. Des arythmies significatives étaient notées chez 3 patients (30%) porteurs de large RHM: l'un présentait une tachycardie supraventriculaire sur syndrome de Wolff Parkinson White, l'autre une fibrillation auriculaire et le dernier des tachycardies supraventriculaires paroxystiques. Dans

cette étude, nous avons aussi noté une augmentation de la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque chez les cas dans les domaines et temporels spatial. En analyse régression linéaire on note une inversion de la pente de la courbe de variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque selon l'âge comparée à celle des témoins sains. Chez quatre patients pour qui les RHM obstructifs étaient traités par everolimus, la régression était en moyenne 11.8 fois plus rapide (droite de régression linéaire -0.0285 vs. -0.0024; $p<0.001$). La durée moyenne de régression de 50% de la taille des masses était de 1.13 ± 0.33 mois (extrêmes 0.66 à 1.4 mois) pour les patients traités par everolimus comparée à 72.9 ± 53.03 mois dans le groupe contrôle historique ($p = 0.026$). Aucun effet secondaire significatif n'a été observé.

Conclusion: Dans cette série les arythmies cardiaques sont plus fréquentes chez les porteurs de sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville comparés à la population générale avec une tendance plus importante chez les cas avec de gros rhabdomyomes. Pour ces derniers, l'everolimus est efficace pour la réduction de leur taille durant la période néonatale. Mais avec le peu de données de sécurité et d'innocuité disponibles cette approche thérapeutique ne doit être considérée que pour un nombre de cas limités.

Mots-clés : (Sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville, rhabdomyomes cardiaques, arythmie, everolimus)

Abstract

Background: Tuberous Sclerosis Complex is characterised by the formation of benign tumors in various organs, including the heart. It is caused by the disinhibition of the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) protein. RHM (rhabdomyomas) regress spontaneously in most cases but can be complicated by serious arrhythmias or obstruction that may compromise cardiac output requiring treatment. The main objectives of this work were to study functional and electrical cardiac disorders and to analyze the heart rate variability in population of TSC with cardiac rhabdomyoma

Methods: We conducted this cross-sectional study between February 2013 and March 2015 to determine the impact of HMR on the cardiac conduction system and on autonomic nervous homeostasis. Thirty subjects with TSC were recruited to participate in this study and compared to 13 healthy controls that were free family members of RHM. The serial echocardiograms that were previously recorded were used to document the size of the tumor during early childhood. A 24-hour Holter record was performed for possible arrhythmia detection and heart rate variability (VFC) analysis.

Results: The median follow-up time was 4.5 years. The prevalence of RHM was 46.8% (37 RHM) between 0-5 years, 39.2% (31 RHM) between 12-33 years and 13.9% (11 RHM) between 6-11 years. RHM causes in 20% an obstacle to inflow or outflow tract. The encountered benign arrhythmias founded were isolated ventricular premature beats (55%) and supraventricular premature beats (50%), which were 2 times fold and 4 times fold more compared to reported prevalence in the general pediatric population, respectively ($p<0.05$). Significant arrhythmias were noted in 3 (30%) patients with large RHM: one patient with Wolff Parkinson White syndrome had supraventricular tachycardia, one with atrial fibrillation, a third patient had symptomatic paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia. There was a trend which did not reach statistical significance difference in the prevalence of cardiac arrhythmias between cases with small versus large RHM ($p=0.07$). In this study heart rate variability was increased in patients with TSC according to time, frequency and non-linear domains. For this heart rate variability TSC patients with RHM showed an inverse relationship towards age compared to controls, Studies from four everolimus treated cases were compared to 10 controls. Compared to historic controls, everolimus treated patients had a RHM size regression

rate 11.8 times faster (linear regression slope -0.0285 vs. -0.0024; $p < 0.001$). The average time to 50% size reduction was 1.13 ± 0.33 month (range 0.66 to 1.4 months) for everolimus treated patients compared to 72.9 ± 53.03 months in the historic controls ($p = 0.026$). No significant side effect were observed.

Conclusion: In this series, arrhythmia was more prevalent in TSC compared to general pediatric population, with a trend towards higher prevalence in cases with larger RHM. Everolimus is effective for size reduction of RHM during the neonatal period. With limited safety data this approach should be used with caution, only in selective cases.

Keywords : (Tuberous sclerosis complex, cardiac rhabdomyomas; arythmias, everolimus)

Table des matières

| | |
|---|------|
| Résumé..... | i |
| Abstract | iii |
| Table des matières | v |
| Liste des tableaux | vi |
| Liste des figures: | vii |
| Liste des sigles | viii |
| Remerciements..... | x |
| Introduction | 11 |
| 1. La Sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville | 11 |
| 1.1 Définition..... | 11 |
| 1.2 Épidémiologie..... | 11 |
| 1.3 Génétique..... | 11 |
| 1.4 Manifestations cliniques | 12 |
| 1.5 Diagnostic | 15 |
| 2. Les Rhabdomyomes cardiaques | 17 |
| L'étude principale | 19 |
| 3.1. Contexte et justificatif de l'étude | 19 |
| 3.2 Objectifs: | 20 |
| Méthodologie..... | 21 |
| Résultats | 27 |
| 4.1 Manuscrit n°1..... | 27 |
| 4.2 Manuscrit N° 2..... | 58 |
| Conclusion générale..... | 84 |
| Annexe : Formulaire d'exposé de cas..... | v |

Liste des tableaux

Manuscrit numéro 1

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of patients

Table 2: Comparison of Heart Rate Variability between a control group and TSC group

Table 3: Results parameters calculated from ROC Curve

Table 4: Signal average ECG parameters between a control group and RHM group

Manuscrit numéro 2

Table 1: Baseline characteristics

Table 2: Largest rhabdomyoma maximum diameter at initial echocardiography assessment compared between everolimus treated babies and historic controls. Data are median [Interquartile interval].

Liste des figures:

Figure 1 : Mise à jour des critères diagnostic de Sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville

Figure 2 : Flow chart de la population étudiée

Manuscrit numero 1

Figure 1 : Poincaré Plot geometry of one TSC group subject

Figure 2: Association between HRV significant results and age at interview. A, C, E, G and J represent control group linear regression and B, D, F and I TSC group linear regression. A-B)

Figure 3: ROC curve for significant parameters in time-domain, frequency-domain and non-linear method. Area under the curves and Youden's index calculated are showed in table 3.

Manuscrit numéro 2

Figure 1: Timeline of regression of RHM size (mm) following initiation of everolimus (*) and RHM size rebound following discontinuation of therapy (arrows) in 3 cases (note that Case 3 is on continued therapy).

Figure 2: Comparative regression rate of RHM with (white dots) and without (black dots) Everolimus therapy.

Figure 3: RHM site distribution

Figure 4: RHM in a newborn. Apical four chambers view transthoracic Echocardiography

Liste des sigles

CHU: Centre Hospitalier Universitaire

CHUSJ : Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Sainte Justine

CIA: communication interauriculaire

ECG: électrocardiogramme

GAP : GTP-ase activating protéine

IRM: imagerie par resonance magnetique

mTOR: mammalian target of rapamycine

RHM: rhabdomyome

SA-ECG : ECG à haute amplification

SEGA: subependymal giant cell astrocytoma

STB : sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville

*A Mon Mari Mohamed LEYE et à
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Introduction

1. La Sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville

1.1 Définition

La sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville (STB) est une affection caractérisée par la survenue de tumeurs bénignes (hamartomes) dans divers tissus. Les organes préférentiellement atteints sont la peau, le cerveau, les reins, les yeux et le cœur. La première description de cette affection a été attribuée en 1880 à Bourneville qui a décrit les lésions tubéreuses (tubers corticaux) au niveau cérébral. En 1908, Vogt présenta la classique triade : épilepsie, retard mental, adénomes sébacés. (2)

1.2 Épidémiologie

L'incidence de la STB est estimée entre 1/10 000 et 1/ 6000 naissances par années (2). Sa prévalence dans la population est estimée à 1 / 20.000. Environ 1 sur 12,000 à 14,000 enfants de moins de 10 ans ont la STB selon des études basées sur la population au Royaume Uni (2). Dans le monde, on évalue à environ 1 à 2 millions le nombre de personnes sont affectées. (3)

1.3 Génétique

La STB présente une hétérogénéité génétique et clinique. En effet deux gènes responsables de STB ont été décrits et pour une même mutation, on observe un spectre clinique très large (2). Le gène TSC2 qui code pour la tubérine, est une protéine de 200 kDa comportant un domaine GTP-ase activating protéine (GAP). Le gène STB type 1 code pour une protéine de 130 kDa :

l'hamartine. Il a été démontré que le complexe hamartine-tubérine est un inhibiteur sélectif de la kinase mTOR, protéine clé dans la cascade contrôlant la croissance cellulaire (2). La perte fonctionnelle de ce complexe entraîne une activation permanente de cette voie de signalisation, ce qui pourrait être à l'origine du développement des tumeurs hamartomateuses. Une mutation de l'un de ces deux gènes est retrouvée dans 90 % des cas avec 2/3 des cas correspondant à des mutations sporadiques de novo (4). L'apparition des tumeurs hamartomateuses est liée à une perte d'hétérozygotie (4), c'est-à-dire qu'en plus de la mutation d'un allèle de STB1 ou STB2 héritée d'un des deux parents, une seconde mutation (en général une délétion) survient de façon aléatoire sur le second allèle au cours de la vie du patient. La tumeur est donc secondaire à une anomalie récessive de STB1 ou STB2, mais le type de transmission observé est autosomique dominant (2). La découverte de l'importance du mTOR (mamalian taraget of rapamycin / cible mamalienne de la rapamycine) dans la physiopathologie de la STB a ouvert de nouvelles perspectives en recherche thérapeutique par l'utilisation de molécules inhibitrices de kinase comme la rapamycine (2).

1.4 Manifestations cliniques

Elles peuvent être neurologiques, rénales, dermatologiques, cardiaques, ophtalmologiques, pulmonaires ou autres.

1.4.1 Les Manifestations neurologiques

Les anomalies neurologiques au cours de la STB constituent la première cause de morbidité (2). Environ 85% des enfants et adolescents atteints de la sclérose tubéreuse ont des complications du système nerveux central, y compris l'épilepsie, les troubles cognitifs, des troubles du comportement, et l'autisme(5). Les progrès dans l'imagerie structurelle et

fonctionnelle ont conduit à une description plus poussée des lésions cérébrales telles que les tubers corticaux, les nodules sous-épendymaires, les astrocytomes à cellules géantes, et les anomalies de la substance blanche (5). L'épilepsie associée à la sclérose tubéreuse commence en général au cours de la première année de vie et chez la plupart des patients, dans les premiers mois. Les crises focales précèdent puis coexistent ou évoluent vers des spasmes infantiles (5). Le retard mental est constaté chez 50 à 60 % des patients atteints de STB mais est de profondeur variable (2). La fréquence de l'autisme dans la STB est évaluée entre 17 et 68 %. Le retard mental et l'épilepsie constituent des facteurs de risques pour développer cet autisme (2).

1.4.2 Les Manifestations Rénales

Elles sont détectées chez 94 % des patients atteints de STB. Elles constituent la deuxième cause de mortalité après l'atteinte neurologique. Cette atteinte peut se manifester sous trois formes : l'angiomyolipome, les kystes rénaux et le cancer du rein. Les manifestations cliniques sont variées ; l'hématurie est la plus fréquente et elle est souvent révélatrice d'un angiomyolipome. Les autres symptômes peuvent être des douleurs abdominales, des lombalgies ou une masse palpable à l'examen clinique mais les lésions peuvent rester asymptomatiques (2).

1.4.3 Les Manifestations Dermatologiques

Quatre-vingt-seize pour cent des patients porteurs de STB ont une atteinte cutanée (2). La survenue des lésions cutanées évolue en fonction de l'âge des patients. Il s'agit d'angiofibromes faciaux (75 % des cas à l'âge adulte), de tâches achromiques (plus de 80 % des cas), de fibromes unguéraux, de plaques ou de peau de chagrin (4).

1.4.4 Les Manifestations Cardiaques

Les rhabdomyomes intracardiaques sont les manifestations hamartomateuses les plus précoces de la STB, détectables dès 22 semaines d'aménorrhée(2). La découverte d'un rhabdomyome est fortement évocatrice du diagnostic de STB (en particulier quand ils sont multiples). Elles seront traitées dans un paragraphe en particulier.

1.4.5 Les Manifestations Ophthalmologiques

Les hamartomes rétiniens sont des lésions histologiquement similaires aux tubers situés dans le cerveau des patients atteints de STB. Ils sont observés chez 30-50% des patients avec STB et il n'est pas rare de délever de multiples lésions chez un même patient (1). Des lésions achromiques de l'épithélium pigmentaire rétinien ont été décrites chez les sujets atteints de STB dans 39 % des cas (2).

1.4.5 Les Manifestations Pulmonaires

La lymphangiomyomatose pulmonaire est caractérisée par la prolifération alvéolaire du muscle lisse et la destruction kystique du parenchyme pulmonaire. Aucune étude n'a encore défini la fréquence de la maladie symptomatique au sein de la population générale, mais elle affecte probablement 1-3% des personnes atteintes de sclérose tubéreuse (6). Cette maladie affecte principalement les femmes en préménopause et est très rare chez les hommes. Son apparition dans l'enfance a été rarement rapportée (6).

1.4.6 Les autres manifestations

L'existence d'un angiomyolipome hépatique a été décrite chez 25 % des sujets atteints de STB.

Cette lésion est en général asymptomatique et est découverte fortuitement au cours d'une échographie abdominale. Des cas d'angiomyolipomes utérins ont été aussi décrits. Des micro hamartomes rectaux surviennent également chez deux tiers des sujets atteints de STB. Ils sont fréquemment multiples, mais asymptomatiques (2).

1.5 Diagnostic

Des critères majeurs et mineurs existent pour diagnostiquer la sclérose tubéreuse (figure 1). Le diagnostic est posé lorsque deux critères majeurs ou un critère majeur et deux mineurs, sont retrouvés. Parfois, un diagnostic prénatal peut être fait sur la base de l'échographie fœtale et de l'imagerie par résonnance magnétique (IRM), qui montrent des lésions cardiaques et des lésions cérébrales (2).

TABLE E
Updated diagnostic criteria for tuberous sclerosis complex 2012

A. Genetic diagnostic criteria

The identification of either a TSC1 or TSC2 pathogenic mutation in DNA from normal tissue is sufficient to make a definite diagnosis of tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC). A pathogenic mutation is defined as a mutation that clearly inactivates the function of the TSC1 or TSC2 proteins (e.g., out-of-frame indel or nonsense mutation), prevents protein synthesis (e.g., large genomic deletion), or is a missense mutation whose effect on protein function has been established by functional assessment (www.lovd.nl/TSC1, www.lovd.nl/TSC2, and Hoogeveen-Westerveld et al., 2012 and 2013). Other TSC1 or TSC2 variants whose effect on function is less certain do not meet these criteria, and are not sufficient to make a definite diagnosis of TSC. Note that 10% to 25% of TSC patients have no mutation identified by conventional genetic testing, and a normal result does not exclude TSC, or have any effect on the use of clinical diagnostic criteria to diagnose TSC.

B. Clinical diagnostic criteria

Major features

1. Hypomelanotic macules (≥ 3 , at least 5-mm diameter)
2. Angiofibromas (≥ 3) or fibrous cephalic plaque
3. Ungual fibromas (≥ 2)
4. Shagreen patch
5. Multiple retinal hamartomas
6. Cortical dysplasias*
7. Subependymal nodules
8. Subependymal giant cell astrocytoma
9. Cardiac rhabdomyoma
10. Lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM)[†]
11. Angiomyolipomas (≥ 2)[†]

Minor features

1. "Confetti" skin lesions
2. Dental enamel pits (>3)
3. Intraoral fibromas (≥ 2)
4. Retinal achromic patch
5. Multiple renal cysts
6. Nonrenal hamartomas

Definite diagnosis: Two major features or one major feature with ≥ 2 minor features

Possible diagnosis: Either one major feature or ≥ 2 minor features

* Includes tubers and cerebral white matter radial migration lines.

[†] A combination of the two major clinical features (LAM and angiomyolipomas) without other features does not meet criteria for a definite diagnosis.

Figure 1 : Mise à jour des critères diagnostiques de la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville(1)

2. Les Rhabdomyomes cardiaques

Les rhabdomyomes intracardiaques sont la manifestation hamartomateuse la plus précoce de la STB, détectable dès 22 semaines d'aménorrhée. La découverte d'un rhabdomyome est fortement évocatrice du diagnostic de STB (en particulier quand ils sont multiples). En effet, environ 80 % des enfants ayant un rhabdomyome cardiaque sont atteints de la maladie (2). La détection de rhabdomyomes intracardiaques par l'échographie et l'IRM fœtale est un marqueur très utile au diagnostic prénatal de STB (4). Les manifestations cliniques liées aux rhabdomyomes sont généralement limitées en période néonatale. Des troubles du rythme cardiaque sont retrouvés dans 16 à 47 % des cas. (2). Exceptionnellement, une insuffisance cardiaque néonatale révèle la maladie (4). Dans le cas de tumeurs de gros volume, les rhabdomyomes peuvent être responsables d'obstruction à l'éjection ou au remplissage du ventricule gauche, entraînant un tableau d'anasarque en période néonatale, de pronostic redoutable (4). On note 4 à 6 % de décès fœtal lié aux rhabdomyomes (2).

Les tumeurs sont le plus souvent situées dans les ventricules, où elles peuvent compromettre la fonction ventriculaire et à l'occasion interférer avec le fonctionnement des valves ou entraîner une obstruction à l'éjection du sang. La localisation dans les oreillettes est moins fréquente. Les tumeurs multiples sont un peu plus associées à la STB, alors que la constatation d'un néoplasme solitaire est moins en faveur de la STB sans en éliminer le diagnostic (7).

L'expérience collective pour ces dernières décennies a consacré l'échocardiographie bidimensionnelle et le Doppler comme la procédure de choix pour diagnostic initial, pour l'évaluation et la différenciation des tumeurs cardiaques chez les patients pédiatriques.(8). En

général, les rhabdomyomes sont multiples, ronds, bien circonscrits, hyperéchogènes intra mural ou intra cavitaires (8)

La microscopie montre des cardiomyocyte, mais beaucoup les considèrent comme des hamartomes parce qu'ils ont le même profil immuno-histochimique que le muscle cardiaque adjacent (7). Ils sont composés de grandes cellules rondes ou polygonales avec vacuolisation cytoplasmique en raison d'une perte de glycogène se produisant avec le traitement standard histologique des tissus (d'où l'appellation de cellules-araignées). Les masses sont lobulées et ont souvent une surface de coupe liquide scintillant. Les hémorragies et calcifications de ces tumeurs sont rares. (7). L'immunohistochimie dans les cellules tumorales retrouve de la myoglobine, de l'actine, de la desmine et de la vimentine positif (9).

Les rhabdomyomes sont le plus souvent asymptomatiques et ce qui fait leur particularité est la capacité de régression spontanée comme cela a été démontré dans plusieurs études (8, 10). L'involution pourrait être liée à l'incapacité des tumeurs à se diviser alors que les cavités cardiaques se développent (10). Dans tous les cas, ils sont souvent difficiles à éliminer complètement parce qu'ils sont habituellement situés profondément dans le myocarde (10). La résection chirurgicale n'est généralement pas considérée à moins que les RHM ne provoquent des arythmies sévères intraitables, des obstructions valvulaires significatives ou de l'insuffisance cardiaque (10).

L'étude principale

3.1. Contexte et justificatif de l'étude

Le rhabdomyome (RHM) est une tumeur histologiquement bénigne qui touche près de 90% des nouveau-nés et les nourrissons atteints de sclérose tubéreuse (STB) (11). Le diagnostic de RHM peut également être suspecté in utero dès 20 semaines de gestation (12). Après la croissance tumorale in utero, le RHM devrait régresser spontanément après la naissance avec des lésions résiduelles observées dans 20% des cas chez l'adulte avec STB. Cette tumeur localement invasive peut affecter la fonction cardiaque principalement en raison de l'effet de masse, mais potentiellement à cause des perturbations électriques. La propagation électrique dans le myocarde peut également être affectée soit par infiltration du système de conduction ou par déviation de la propagation normale suite à des anomalies structurales du potentiel d'action. Le RHM peut également être situé à proximité du système de conduction électrique cardiaque, ce qui peut entraîner des arythmies significatives dans 20% des cas, y compris les troubles de la conduction (13-15) . Des troubles du rythme à type tachycardie ventriculaire attribués à la tumeur ont également été décrits (16). Il y a eu aussi des rapports isolés de mort subite chez les adultes jeunes et les enfants, attribués à la tachycardie ventriculaire (17).

Récemment un nouveau traitement avec l'everolimus (Afinitor), un inhibiteur du mTOR (cible mammalienne de la rapamycine), a prouvé son efficacité dans la réduction de la taille des astrocytomes à cellules géants (SEGA) dans la STB(18). Des auteurs ont également rapporté très récemment la réduction de la taille d'un RHM chez un enfant de 7 ans qui a reçu de l'everolimus pour une indication cérébrale liée à la STB (19). Il est donc possible que l'indication de l'everolimus chez les nourrissons et les enfants avec STB gagne en popularité.

Dans cette perspective et devant les faibles connaissances des effets de l'everolimus sur le myocarde, il est très important de cerner l'impact des RHM liées à la STB sur le cœur, ses fonctions mécaniques et électriques. Or la plupart des données liées au RHM émanent de séries de cas relativement rares publiées il y a 1 à 2 décennies (20, 21). Bien que les arythmies cardiaques soient rapportées chez l'adulte, (22) le nouveau-né (23) et le fœtus (24), il n'y a pas de série longitudinale ou transversale pertinente à cet égard. Il n'y a pas non plus à ce jour de données significatives disponibles reflétant la fonction myocardique à l'exception de l'effet de masse lié au RHM cardiaque (25). On perçoit ainsi tout l'intérêt d'une description de l'histoire naturelle de l'altération induite par les RHM sur le cœur semble inévitable. Il est évident qu'une étude longitudinale cardiaque chez les enfants avec STB sera coûteuse et très longue puisque devant s'étaler sur au moins deux à trois décennies. Nous avons ainsi réalisé cette étude transversale évaluant le cœur des nourrissons, des enfants, des adolescents et des jeunes adultes avec une histoire de RHM.

3.2 Objectifs:

Le but général de cette étude était d'évaluer si les enfants qui ont un rhabdomyome cardiaque dans la très jeune enfance présentent ou non des répercussions sur leur fonction cardiaque et ou des troubles électrocardiographiques et ceci même lorsque le rhabdomyome a régressé ou disparu.

Les objectifs généraux de cette étude étaient:

- De déterminer l'impact des RHM sur le système de conduction cardiaque et l'homéostasie nerveuse autonome

-D'étudier le potentiel arythmogène cardiaque chez les sujets ayant des RHM entre l'enfance et l'âge adulte.

-De rechercher de potentielles perturbations des paramètres cardiaques fonctionnels chez les sujets ayant des RHM entre l'enfance et l'âge adulte.

- D'étudier la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque dans cette population

Les objectifs secondaires étaient:

-D'évaluer la relation entre l'emplacement anatomique du RHM dans le cœur et le dysfonctionnement électrique et mécanique.

-D'évaluer l'effet sur le cœur des médicaments non cardiaques utilisés pour traiter les symptômes neurologiques liés à la STB, comme l'everolimus.

Méthodologie

3.3.1. Devis

Il s'agit d'une étude transversale d'observation. Cette étude ne comporte ni une intervention thérapeutique ni la modification de la prise en charge thérapeutique des patients. Elle concerne les enfants et les jeunes adultes avec une STB, ainsi que les membres de la famille qui ne sont pas touchés par la STB pour les contrôles.

3.3.2 Processus de recrutement des patients

➤ Critère d'inclusion

Les sujets cibles seront:

- Les sujets ayant un diagnostic de sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville avec RHM documenté par échocardiographie pendant la petite enfance.
- Les nourrissons et les jeunes enfants de moins de 4 ans qui répondent au premier critère.

- Les sujets entre 4 et 35 ans qui peuvent effectuer des tests d'effort qui répondent au premier critère.

- Les adultes de moins de 35 ans qui répondent au premier et au troisième critère.

Les sujets témoins seront:

- Les membres de la famille dans la tranche d'âge décrite pour les sujets cibles (adultes ou enfants).

- Les membres de la famille ne doivent pas avoir une histoire de RHM (ceci sera confirmé par l'imagerie cardiaque pendant l'enfance).

- Les adultes membres de la famille qui répondent au critère (a) (sous sujets contrôle) doivent avoir moins de 35 ans.

- Des sujets non membres de la famille, avec ou sans STB sont admissibles, à condition que leur profil soit similaire aux critères de sélection précédents (sous sujets contrôle).

➤ Critères généraux d'exclusion

- Les sujets qui ne répondent pas aux critères d'inclusion.

- Les sujets qui (ou des sujets dont les parents) ne consentent pas à participer à l'étude.

3.3.3. Processus de collecte des données

L'étude s'est déroulée au service de cardiologie du Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire (CHU) Sainte Justine. Elle a duré 25 mois ; le premier patient a été recruté le 02 février 2013 et le dernier patient le 10 mars 2015.

Les patients répondant aux critères d'inclusion vus en consultation au service de neurologie du CHU Sainte Justine sous la supervision du neurologue senior étaient approchés par une infirmière de recherche qui se chargeait de leur présenter les modalités de l'étude, de leur faire signer un consentement éclairé en cas d'accord pour participer à l'étude et d'obtenir un rendez-vous avec les patients et ou les parents.

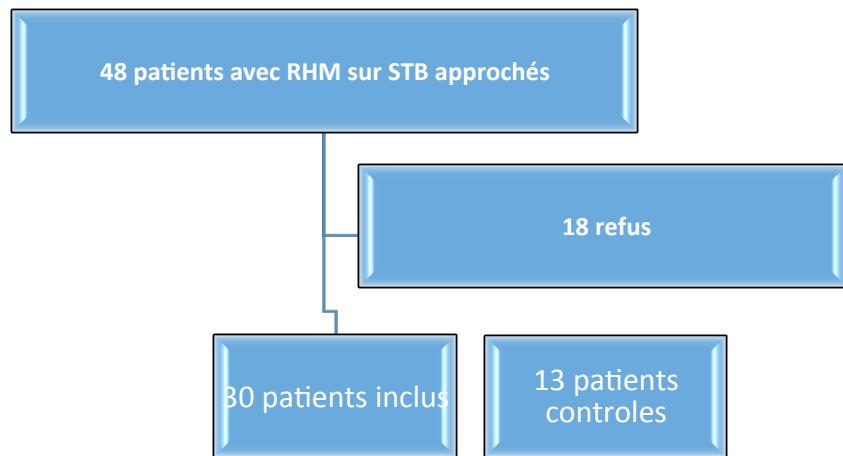


Figure 2 : Flow chart de la population étudiée

Nous avons effectué une étude rétrospective avec les dossiers des patients ayant consenti à participer à l'étude. Ceux-ci ont été classés selon le volume initial des rhabdomyomes rapportés lors des échocardiographies à l'enfance. L'examen des dossiers a permis aussi d'évaluer l'état neurologique et cardiovasculaire des patients, de rechercher la prise ou non de médicaments cardiovasculaires et neurologiques affectant parfois les potentiels de membrane cellulaire.

Des tests non invasifs ont été effectués pour chaque participant à savoir:

-ECG (électrocardiogramme) de repos et ECG à haute amplification (SA-ECG) pour rechercher des anomalies du rythme ou de la conduction ou encore la présence de potentiels ventriculaires tardifs.

-Holter ECG de 24 heures pour évaluer les arythmies potentielles et calculer la variabilité du rythme cardiaque dans les domaines temporel, spectral et dynamique.

-L'épreuve d'effort avec l'analyse des échanges gazeux (pour les participants agées de plus 5 ans) qui sont capables physiquement d'effectuer un test d'effort sur tapis roulant). L'épreuve d'effort permettait de quantifier la condition physique, la demande cardiovasculaire, les dépenses métaboliques et la production.

L'échocardiographie transthoracique réalisée au moment du recrutement évaluait l'état actuel des RHM et leur impact potentiel sur la fonction cardiaque. La taille des RHM, leurs effets obstructifs potentiels ainsi que les paramètres systoliques et diastoliques ont aussi été réévalués.

Les données cliniques et paracliniques ont été recueillies sur une fiche d'enquête (l'Annexe 1 (page 78) pour chaque patient. Ensuite les informations pertinentes ont été numérisées sur une base de données Excel par le même investigateur.

3.3.4. Aspects éthiques

Le projet de recherche a été approuvé par le Comité d'Éthique de la Recherche du Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire Sainte Justine (CHUSJ). La confidentialité et l'anonymat des dossiers ont été préservés grâce au codage à l'aide du numéro de dossiers des patients. Seules les personnes impliquées dans cette étude peuvent avoir accès à la base de données. Par ailleurs, les données récoltées servent uniquement à des fins de recherche.

3.3.5. Analyses statistiques :

L'analyse statistique a été effectuée à l'aide du logiciel SPSS Statistics 22.0. L'analyse de régression linéaire a été effectuée grâce au logiciel statistique SAS/STAT. Les variables continues sont présentées sous forme de moyenne \pm écart-type. Les variables catégorielles ou ordinaires sont présentées sous forme de pourcentage. Pour les variables catégorielles, la

comparaison entre les groupes a été effectuée à l'aide du test du χ^2 . Pour les variables continues et ordinaires, la comparaison entre les groupes était effectuée à l'aide du test t de Student dans le cas où la distribution était normale, et avec le test de Mann-Whitney dans le cas où la distribution était non-normale. Le seuil de signification statistique retenu dans toute l'étude, était un $p \leq 0,05$.

3.3.6. Les potentielles sources de biais

➤ Biais de sélection:

Cas

L'objectif principal de ce travail était d'étudier la fréquence des arythmies chez les patients porteurs de RHM dans le contexte de STB. Pour cela, nous avons procédé au recrutement consécutif et exhaustif des patients porteurs de RHM/STB suivis à la clinique de neurologie qui représente la plus grande clinique de sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville à Montréal. Il y a eu quelques cas de refus mais qui n'étaient pas en rapport avec le critère de jugement principal à savoir la présence ou non d'arythmie. Mais un biais de sélection ne peut être formellement exclu car les raisons généralement avancées par les parents pour justifier leur refus étaient liées à l'état physique de leur enfant qui présentait des atteintes neurologiques sévères et handicapantes rendant difficile leur participation à l'étude. Par ailleurs, dans la STB la sévérité de l'atteinte neurologique n'avait aucun rapport avec la présence ou non de RHM ou des arythmies.

Témoin

Nous avons choisi notre population témoin au sein de la famille des cas recensés ceci pour assurer un certain degré d'homogénéité sur le plan génétique parce que, recherchant de

probables troubles électrophysiologiques, il était important que les témoins soit identiques aux patients quant aux possibles causes génétiques d'éventuels désordres électrophysiologiques

➤ **Biais d'information**

Les principales variables concernant les critères de jugement principal ont été recueillis par des examens objectifs, à savoir l'électrocardiogramme, l'Holter ECG et l'echo Doppler cardiaque. Ces mesures étaient basées sur des procédures standardisées et interprétées par le même chercheur pour tous les patients ce pour éviter un biais de mesure. Néanmoins, en ce qui concerne l'appréciation de la taille des masses dans le temps, les mesures ont été réalisées en aveugle par différents techniciens échocardiographistes.

➤ **Biais de confusion**

Nous avons recueilli certains facteurs confondants potentiels en rapport avec la présence ou non d'une arythmie, l'existence ou non d'épilepsie, la prise de certains médicaments antiépileptiques, la prise antérieure de médications antiarythmique. De plus pour minimiser les facteurs confondants inconnus en rapport avec les anomalies génétiques cardiaques, nous avons utilisé les membres de la famille comme population contrôle. Ceci pourrait nous permettre d'avoir des sujets similaires entre les malades et les contrôles sauf les rhabdomyomes cardiaques et la STB

Résultats

4.1 Manuscrit n°1

Hear Rate Variability in a Cohort of Pediatric Patients with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

Fatou Aw, MD¹, Jacques Delfrates, M.Sc, Ing.^{2,4}, Daniel Curnier, PhD², Philippe Major, MD³, Nagib Dahdah, MD¹

Dans cette étude nous avons voulu vérifier l'effet du système nerveux autonome sur la fréquence cardiaque et la variabilité attendue chez les patients atteints de la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. Nous avons aussi étudié la possibilité de troubles de conduction et d'arythmies cardiaques associés à la maladie.

Hear Rate Variability in a Cohort of Pediatric Patients with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

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ABSTRACT

Background: Cardiac rhabdomyomas (RHM), benign tumors typically associated with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), are generally asymptomatic they can be associated with a variety of clinical problems depending on their number, volume, and localization. **Aims and Methods:** We conducted this cross sectional study from February 2013 to March 2015 to determine the impact of RHM on the cardiac conduction system and on the autonomic nervous homeostasis. Thirty subjects with TSC were recruited to participate in this study and compared to 13 healthy controls who were family members free of RHM. Serial echocardiograms that were previously recorded served to document the tumor size during early childhood. A 24-hours Holter recording was performed for eventual detection of arrhythmias and analysis on the heart rate variability (HRV). **Results:** In total 43 subjects were enrolled, 30 TSC with RHM and 13 controls. The total proportional volume of the initial RHM / left ventricle muscular volume varied between 0.05% and 138% (16.3 ± 32). The prevalence of cardiac arrhythmias was more likely to occur in cases with large RHM ($>25\%$ relative mass) compared to those with smaller tumors, this trend did not reach statistical significance however ($p=0.07$). Compared to controls, TSC patients had significantly higher values of RMSSD, PNN50, HF (nu), and SD1. Along these findings, LF/HF ratio was lower in TSC group ($p<0.05$). TSC patients with RHM showed an inversed relationship towards age compared to controls. **Conclusion:** The presence of cardiac RHM in TSC patients increases the prevalence of arrhythmia and alters heart rate variability.

Keywords: cardiac rhabdomyoma, arrhythmia, heart rate variability, tuberous sclerosis complex

Background

Rhabdomyomas (RHM) are the most frequent cardiac tumors in children, accounting for 20% of all primary cardiac tumors (1) (1, 2). RHMs are reported to be highly associated with Tuberous sclerosis (TSC) complex, an autosomal dominant multisystem disorder caused by mutations in either of the two genes, TSC1 or TSC2 (3). Diagnosis of TSC is usually made on clinical basis and eventually confirmed by genetic testing. Nevertheless, one of the most common clinical feature leading to the diagnosis of TSC is the finding of cardiac tumors on prenatal or neonatal ultrasonography (4). From a tumor size perspective, cardiac RHMs typically regress spontaneously within the first few years of life (5) but the clinical feature is diverse. For instance, RHMs may lead to fetal demise or perinatal death (6). In some cases, the clinical presentation is dominated by cardiomegaly, congestive heart failure, or cardiac arrhythmias and sudden unexpected death (6). The clinical significance is determined largely by tumor size, whether they are solitary or multiple, and whether or not they expand into a chamber cavity (7). The location of the RHM may play a particular role in the clinical manifestation since those in the proximity of the cardiac electrical conduction system may result in significant arrhythmias in 20% of cases, including conduction disturbances (8-10). In an effort to determine the impact of RHM on the cardiac conduction system we designed a cross sectional study evaluating young TSC patients followed at the TS clinic of Sainte Justine University Hospital Center, Montréal. Autonomic dysfunction (AD) has been reported in patients with different advanced cancer (11, 12). In a general population, a lower heart rate variability (HRV) increase mortality and is used to predict sudden death after a myocardial infarction (13). In fact, a decrease of HRV can be a marker of cardiovascular AD (14). In order to assess autonomic nervous system (ANS), HRV is generally used as reliable and non-

invasive tool (15), using both time and frequency-domain.

In this study, we analyzed long-term follow up for subjects with TSC and tumor effect on the autonomic nervous system, through time, frequency and non-linear domain analyses. We hypothesized that long-term RHM survivors induce hemodynamic compensation by over activating the autonomic nervous system compared to “healthy” control group. Because of the non-linearity of HRV signals, using only linear statistics does not characterize the non-linearity or chaoticity of the signal (16). To overcome these non-linear properties, we used non-linear domain parameters calculated from pic-to-pic interval series (NNs).

Methods

Study Population

From February 2013 to March 2015, 30 subjects with TSC were recruited to participate in this study and compared to 13 healthy controls who were family members free of TS. Adult subjects age was limited at 35 years because of the increasing risk of coronary artery disease in the 4th decade, therefore reducing the chances of confounding factors. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Sainte Justine University Hospital Center. Written consent form was obtained from all participants or their parent / legal guardian. Chart review related to TS, neurological and cardiovascular status was completed for all participants, including information on cardiovascular and neurological medications that would potentially affect cellular membrane potentials. Previously recorded echocardiograms were reviewed; RHM size and location early during infancy were gathered along with left ventricle size and myocardial thickness. We assumed that RHM were spherical, and calculated the volume using

the standard volume formula of a sphere $4\pi r^3/3$. We then divided the volume of RHM by the left ventricle estimated myocardial mass volume according to the American Society of Echocardiography (17). Serial echocardiograms that were previously recorded served also to document the progress of tumor regression. At recruitment, transthoracic echocardiogram was performed to assess current RHM its potential impact on cardiac function (shortening and ejection fraction), left ventricle and right ventricle relaxation parameters (isovolumetric relaxation time, mitral and tricuspid deceleration time, tissue Doppler assessment of diastolic function, and myocardial performance index). An electrocardiogram, a signal averaged electrocardiogram were recorded form all participants. A 24-hours ambulatory Holter monitor recording was also possible from 15 TSC patients for eventual detection of arrhythmias and for sympathetic / parasympathetic balance analysis on the heart rate variability (HRV). During recording time, subjects were asked to follow their normal daily activities. Holter data were compared to 9 control subjects.

Heart rate variability

Data were extracted from Holter using the dedicated software (GE Healthcare, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.) as MIT signal format. Raw data were then converted in European Data Format (.edf) commonly used to store medical data, which allowed us to use Kubios HRV (University of eastern Finland, Ylilipistokatu, Finland) (18). Kubios HRV computes a wide variety of time-domain, frequency-domain and non-linear HRV parameters. Data were obtained in accordance with guidelines set by the Task Force of The European Society of Cardiology (19). Time-domain parameters Root Mean Square Standard Deviation RMSSD and the proportion of successive pair's number of NN intervals that differ by more than 50

seconds, divided by the number total of NNs intervals (PNN50), represent parasympathetic mediated change in heart rate. Other time-domain variables reflect a mixture of sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system as well as other physiologic influences (20). Autoregressive modeling and Fast Fourier Transfert (FFT) were used in the frequency-domain. The estimated spectrum is calculated from the NN series. As the two branches of the autonomic nervous system operate at distinct frequencies, the AR and FFT spectrums were divided into two spectral components, the Low-Frequency (LF: 0.04-0.15 Hz) and the High-Frequency (HF: 0.15-0.4 Hz) ranges. HF reflects vagal activity only (19, 21), whereas, LF is associated with both the sympathetic and the parasympathetic nervous systems. Thus, LF/HF ratio reflects sympathovagal activity. A decrease in this score might indicate either decrease in sympathetic or increase in parasympathetic tone. Amongst the non-linear parameters computed by Kubios HRV, one simple and easy measure to visualize non-linear properties of NN interval series is the Poincaré Plot (22, 23). Figure 1 is a demonstration of the Poincaré Plot obtained from one TSC subject. In this plot, RR interval series variation is transformed into a two-dimensional plane which forms an ellipsoid configuration. Two components of the RR fluctuations are calculated from this plot: the width of the transverse axis SD1 (the short-term standard deviation of Poincaré plot) which is the vertical line and the length SD2 (the long-term standard deviation of Poincaré plot) of the ellipse, which is parallel to the longitudinal axis. SD1 represents the short-term variability of any non-linear dynamic system and SD2 the long-term variability (24). Strong correlation was found between parasympathetic nervous system and SD1 whereas SD2 was found to be well correlated with both vagal and sympathetic nervous system (23). Approximate entropy (ApEn) is commonly used to quantify the regularity and the unpredictability of fluctuations over time series data (25).

Statistical Analysis

Results are expressed as mean \pm S.D, or count (percent). Parametric and non-parametric tests were performed according to data distribution. Categorical data distribution were compared using the Fisher exact test. Statistical tests were applied to compare the autonomic variables on time-domain, frequency-domain and nonlinear parameters between TSC subjects and controls. Additional receiver operator characteristics (ROC) curves were plotted and Youden's index calculated to identify potential significant differences and cutoff value differentiating TSC RHM subjects from the reference control group values, as well as between TSC patients with and without history of RHM. A p value < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Calculations were performed with IBM SPSS 21 (Chicago IL).

Results

Overall 43 subjects were enrolled in this study (Table 1), 30 TSC with RHM and 13 controls. Patients were distributed as follows, 12 Infants / toddlers (≤ 4 years old) and 18 school aged children (> 4 years old). The prevalence of RHM diagnosed at any age in the TSC group was 46.8% between 0-5 years old at the time of the study, 13.9% (11 RHM) between 6- 11 years, and 39.3% between 12-33 years old. The total proportional volume of the initial RHM / left ventricle muscular volume varied between 0.05% and 138% ($16.3 \pm 32\%$); 19 participants (82%) had relative RHM volume $< 25\%$ and 4 (17%) had relative RHM volume $> 25\%$.

Features of cardiac masses at follow-up

Overall 84 masses were measured at the time of initial diagnosis in childhood. On recruitment for the current study, 75 masses were measured including 1 (1.3%) in right atrium, 18 (24%)

in the interventricular septum, 18 (24%) in the right ventricular wall, 37 (49.4%) in left ventricular wall, and 1 (1.3%) in right superior vena cava. The circumstances of TSC diagnosis were intracardiac RHM at fetal ultrasound in 10 patients (34%), infantile spasms in 12 (41%), family history of sclerosis tuberous in 3, the presence of a heart murmur in 2, a hamartroma in the right eye in one, and a lymphangioma of the right arm in 1. An association with a cardiac anomaly was noted in 8 patients (27%) such as: mild tricuspid regurgitation (2 cases), mild mitral regurgitation (1 case), a type II atrial septal defect (1 case), pulmonary atresia with ventricular septal defect (1 case), an aberrant subclavian artery (1 case), a false tendon of the left ventricle (1 case), and a bicuspid aortic valve (1 case). Patients had multiple RHMs at initial diagnosis in 28/30 (93.3%). Of the 28 patients who had previous echocardiograms, partial regression of RHM was recorded in 15 (53.6%), total regression in 3 (10.7%), and an increase of the RHM dimension in 8 (25 %). In addition, 2 male patients presented de novo appearance of RHM at 9 years and 14 years old, despite normal prior echocardiograms at 7 months old for one patient and at 6 years old respectively. Of the 26 patients who were diagnosed in the first year of life, inflow or outflow tract obstruction was recorded in 6/26 cases. The obstruction caused hemodynamic instability in 3 patients who received mTOR (everolimus) as an off label prescription by the treating physicians (26). In the 3 other patients a slight obstruction of the superior vena cava, or of the left ventricle outflow tract, or mild filling concerns of the left ventricular were recorded but did not require medical or surgical intervention.

Diastolic function could be evaluated at enrollment in 26/30 patients (86.6%) such as a restrictive mitral profile in 9/26 (34.6%). For 2 patients with restrictive mitral profile there was

a high filling pressure due to systemic hypertension in the context of a polycystic kidney disease and left ventricular hypertrophy and to isolated ventricular septal hypertrophy in another.

Arrhythmias at follow up

Overall, 40 subjects underwent Holter recording, 27 TSC patients (3/27 recordings prior to the current study) and 13 controls. Supraventricular or ventricular premature beats were recorded in 16/27 patients (59.2%) versus 7/13 controls (53.8%), respectively ($p=1.0$). The mean percentage of total premature supraventricular beats was $1.16\%\pm3.53\%$ (range 0%- 17%) versus $1.19\%\pm4.0\%$ (0-14%), respectively ($p=0.77$). Similarly, the mean percentage of total premature ventricular beats were $0.5\%\pm0.21\%$ (0-1.11%) versus $0.58\%\pm0.19\%$ (0- 0.67%), respectively ($p=0.89$). In general, the premature beats were benign without clinical impact. Otherwise, significant arrhythmias were noted in 3 patients with large RHM; one patient with Wolff Parkinson White syndrome had supraventricular tachycardia treated with beta-blocker, one had atrial fibrillation equally treated with beta-blockers with resolved arrhythmia concomitant with the regression of the tumor, and the third patient had symptomatic paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia requiring percutaneous cryoablation.

The prevalence of cardiac arrhythmias was more likely to occur in cases with large RHM (>25% relative mass) compared to those with smaller tumors, this trend did not reach statistical significance however ($p=0.07$). Finally, although the signal averaged ECG parameters were comparable between RHM and controls (table 0), longer low voltage duration was recorded in 4/24 patients versus 0/13 controls ($p = 0.02$).

Heart Rate Variability results

Out of the 40 participants who underwent Holter, twenty-two subjects got analyzable data for HRV. Fourteen had cardiac RHM and 8 were controls. Average age, weight and height were statistically comparable (table 1). The median number of RHM at the time of the Holter recording was 3 [1-7] in TSC patients, with a mean RHM volume of $0.03\pm0.06 \text{ cm}^3$. No correlations were found between the number of RHM or RHM volume and the recording age, respectively $r = -0.11$ ($p=0.695$) and $r = 0.52$ ($p=0.912$). Furthermore, there was no association between the relative RHM mass (divided by the mass of the myocardium) and age neither $r = 0.052$ ($p=0.912$). Compared to healthy volunteers, TSC patients had significantly higher values of RMSSD, PNN50, HF (nu), and SD1. Along these findings, LF/HF ratio was lower in TSC group ($p<0.05$) (Table 2). We choose to express spectrum analysis results based on Auto Regressive modeling (AR), because studies showed that HF component was overestimated by FFT analysis compared to AR analysis (27). Moreover, AR method bestow some advantages for HRV assessment, as compared with FFT analysis (28). Figure 2 illustrates the association between significant results and age at interview using the Pearson correlation coefficient. In summary, there was a statistically significant correlation with time domain parameter RMSSD, $r = -0.584$ ($p=0.022$), frequency domain parameter LF/HF ratio, $r = 0.645$ ($p=0.009$) and non-linear parameter SD1, $r = -0.583$ ($p=0.022$), respectively. Curiously, patients with RHM showed an inversed relationship towards age compared to healthy participants. HRV decreases in TSC groups whereas it increases in controls. Figure 3 shows ROC curves discriminating between TSC patients with and without RHM. Area under the curve and Youden's index results calculated from ROC curve for both groups are summarized in table 3.

Discussion

Primary tumors of the heart are extremely rare with a prevalence rate about 0.01% in autopsy studies (29). The majority of the primary cardiac tumors are benign including RHM^s that are the most common in children (29). RHM^s appear on ultrasound as round, homogeneous, hyperechogenic, intramural or intra-cavity masses, often multiple (30). Predominantly localized within the ventricles but also observed in the atria or the venae cavae RHM^s may lead to obstruction of cardiac valves or inlet/outflow tracts (30). Although Cardiac RHM are benign tumors and are generally asymptomatic, these tumors can be associated with a variety of clinical problems (31). The number, volume, and localization of tumors are the most important factors for the existing symptoms and related complications (31). Patients can be at an increased risk for sudden death due to hemodynamic instability (31). Surgical resection is typically reserved to cases with significant inflow obstruction, outflow obstruction, or arrhythmias refractory to medical treatment. In his study we recorded hemodynamic instability in 3 patients for whom we preconized a medical treatment with everolimus. In fact, more recently (32-36) the efficacy and the safety of using mTOR inhibitors on RHM regression were reported in selected cases where the surgical removal was avoided. Whereas heart failure develops in 2% to 4% of children with cardiac RHM^s (37, 38), the natural history of RHM is the typical involution related to the inability of the tumors to divide while the heart chambers grow (30). Nevertheless, we observed de novo appearance of RHM in 2 patients (both males) during their preadolescence years, which was previously reported by others (5). This argues in favor of the assumptions made by the author that the growth/appearance of RHM^s in the small fraction of patients with TSC during puberty reflects the effects of pubertal hormonal changes (5). Besides the mass effect of RHM^s on cardiac output, other concerns

arise, such as arrhythmia (10, 39-47). The encountered benign arrhythmias in our cohort were isolated ventricular premature beats and supraventricular premature beats, which were 2 to 4 folds higher, respectively, compared to reported prevalence in the general pediatric population (48). All types of arrhythmias have been described with intracardiac tumors (7) Whereas most RHM are considered to be typically asymptomatic, they may also cause atrial or ventricular arrhythmias, sinus node dysfunction, heart block and pre-excitation potentially arrhythmogenic. In addition, fetal supraventricular tachycardia have been reported in the literature, at times causing fetal hydrops (7).

In our series, significant arrhythmias were noted in 2 with Wolff Parkinson White syndrome in 1 and atrial fibrillation in another, both requiring antiarrhythmic agents. In another patient paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia required percutaneous cryoablation. Whereas ventricular pre-excitation with the Wolff Parkinson White syndrome was well described at birth (49), it is not always the classical accessory pathways that mediate tachycardia in patients with cardiac tumors. Potential suggested mechanisms are tumor mass interfering with valvular function or reentry around its border with the normal myocardium, whereas part of intracardiac tumor or pathways closely related to the tumor can also result in ventricular preexcitation (49). In our case, significant arrhythmias were noted in 3/27 (11%) patients with large RHM similarly to previously study reported prevalence of 16% (50). Since arrhythmia may resolve alongside the regression of the tumor, the management of RHM associated arrhythmia include antiarrhythmic medications, catheter ablation or in rare cases chirurgical resection (50). Nevertheless, in most cases it seems reasonable to recommend medical therapy be used as a temporizing measure allowing tumors to regress before resorting to invasive options.

In this study HRV was increased in patients with TSC according to time, frequency and non-linear domains. We hypothesized that as for other cancers, TSC participants would have a decrease in HRV in such a group compared to control subjects and thus having a higher risk of cardiac mortality (51, 52). According to a European study (14) TSC subjects showed an abnormal increase of RMSSD which mainly reflect parasympathetic dominance (19). Studies showed that cardiovascular medications such as β -blockers, ACE-inhibitors and statins could lead to an increase in heart rate variability (53, 54). However, only two TSC participants on the fourteen subjects who underwent Holter recordings were under medication; excluding these particular subjects from the analysis did not affect the results. A recent study (55) showed that HRV decreases according to age in healthy adults, and varies according to gender. In our cohort, linear regression showed an inverted slope with age compared to healthy controls. Unfortunately, reference values for healthy subjects under 20 years old are not readily available in the literature. To the best of our knowledge this is the first study to investigate heart rate variability in TSC population. In summary, despite similar heart rate tendency with age, parasympathetic tone is dominant in early life for TSC patients. The sympatho-vagal balance in TSC joins that of controls in young adulthood. Since the LF/HF ratio is low in early childhood, one can assume a lack of compensatory mechanism by the sympathetic nervous system. Among the TSC patients, one patient was under a betablocker (propranolol) and anti-convulsive medication (vigabatrin and levetiracetam) and another one was under anti-convulsive medication (vigabatrin plus levetiracetam). Disregarding these two patients from analysis did not affect the HRV results and associations. Given the known cerebral disorder in TSC population, further investigation are needed to understand its effect on cardiac sympatho-vagal homeostasis (56).

In short, ROC analyses of HRV parameters, allows us to differentiate between patients with and without RHM. Since short Holter recording analysis may be more practical to implement in clinical application (57), more investigation are needed on short-term Holter in order to determine index for rating diagnostics tests in RHM population (58).

This study has some limitations, including the small sample size and differences in physical characteristics such as age at interview, which add a limitation to the interpretation and generalization of the findings. In addition the unbalanced distribution of patients in both groups could have an impact on the findings. However, our preliminary findings provide the basis for larger, more inclusive future longitudinal studies, or a multicenter registry to compensate for the rarity of the disease, to better understand HRV in patients with TSC. Such studies are needed to formulate clinical guidelines in the application of autonomic testing of these patients.

Conclusion

RHMs are usually benign heart tumors. They spontaneously regress in most cases but can be complicated by serious arrhythmias or obstruction that may compromise cardiac output. In this series, HRV was increased in patients with TSC according to time, frequency and non-linear domains. Arrhythmia was more prevalent in TSC compared to the general pediatric population, with a trend towards higher prevalence in cases with larger RHM. It is possible that such arrhythmias are caused by sub-anatomical lesions. Knowing that the clinic surveillance is the best attitude to adopt in the majority of patients, it remains that there are some cases in which a therapeutic management is necessary.

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Tables:*Table 1: Signal averaged ECG data are mean ± standard deviation and median (31)*

| Variables | TSC/RHM | Control | P value |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| HF duration (ms) | 87.8±12.6 88.5 [68.0-114.0] | 88.0±8.8 87.0 [76.0-106.0] | 0.829 |
| RMS [40 ms] (μ V) | 55.7±18.4 56.7 [25.7-98.4] | 52.1±30.1 45.9 [0.0-116.0] | 0.661 |
| Low voltage [$<40 \mu$ V] duration (ms) | 21.0±9.4 20.5 [5.0-40.0] | 20.0±9.5 23.0 [2.0-32.0] | 0.797 |

Table 2: Clinical characteristics of patients

| Variables | TSC Group | Control Group | P value |
|---|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Number (male %) | 30 (53%) | 13 (38%) | 0.573 |
| Height [cm] | 1.3±0.4 | 1.6±0.3 | 0.040 |
| Weight [kg] | 40±28 | 55±22 | 0.094 |
| BMI [$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$] | 19±5 | 21±4 | 0.210 |
| Age at current study [years] | 9±7 | 19±10 | 0.004 |
| Age at TSC diagnosis [years] | 1.6±3.4 | - | N/A |
| Epilepsy; n (%) | 20 (66.6%) | 2 (15%) | 0.003 |
| Anti-epileptic drugs; n (%) | 20 (66.6%) | 2 (15%) | 0.003 |
| Anti-arrhythmic drugs ; n (%) | 2/30 (6.6%) | 0 (0%) | 0.04 |
| Median follow-up [years] | 6 ± 6 | - | N/A |

Characteristics of subjects with Holter

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Height (cm) | 140±30 | 150±40 | 0.542 |
| Weight (kg) | 44±25 | 54±28 | 0.411 |
| BMI ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$) | 20±4 | 22±5 | 0.398 |
| Age (years) | 11±6 | 14±7 | 0.384 |

Table 3: Comparison of Heart Rate Variability between a control group and TSC group

| Variables | Control Group (n=8) | TSC Group (n=14) | p-value |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Time Domain</i> | | | |
| Heart Rate (bpm) | 96±18 | 92±13 | 0.607 |
| | | | |
| SDNN ^a (ms) | 136±52 | 140±38 | 0.870 |
| | | | |
| RMSSD ^b (ms) | 40±22 | 73±34 | 0.014 |
| | | | |
| PNN ₅₀ ^c (%) | 11±10 | 21±10 | 0.024 |
| <i>Frequency Domain</i> | | | |
| Low Frequency (ms ²) | 1251±948 | 1166±466 | 0.781 |
| | | | |
| Low Frequency (nu) | 17±5 | 19±9 | 0.426 |
| | | | |
| High Frequency (ms ²) | 1096±1361 | 1695±1318 | 0.332 |
| | | | |
| High Frequency (nu) | 13±7 | 24±15 | 0.032 |
| | | | |
| LF/HF ratio ^d | 1.4±0.4 | 0.9±0.5 | 0.019 |
| <i>Non-linear Domain</i> | | | |
| SD1 (ms) | 28±16 | 51±24 | 0.014 |
| | | | |
| SD2 (ms) | 190±72 | 188±58 | 0.935 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Approximate Entropy | $I \pm 0.1$ | 1.1 ± 0.1 | 0.079 |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-------|

^a Standard deviation of NN intervals

^b Root mean square standard deviation

^c proportion of the number of pairs of successive NNs intervals that differ by more than 50 ms divided by total number of NNs

^d Low frequency (Normalized Units) divided by high frequency (Normalized Units)

Table 4: Results parameters calculated from ROC Curve

| Variables | Area under the curve | Youden's Index | P value |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| RMSSD | 0.858 ± 0.1 | 0.675 | 0.008 |
| High Frequency | 0.742 ± 0.1 | 0.542 | 0.088 |
| LF/HF ratio | 0.817 ± 0.1 | 0.608 | 0.017 |
| SD1 | 0.858 ± 0.1 | 0.675 | 0.008 |
| Approximate Entropy | 0.775 ± 0.1 | 0.608 | 0.048 |

FIGURES

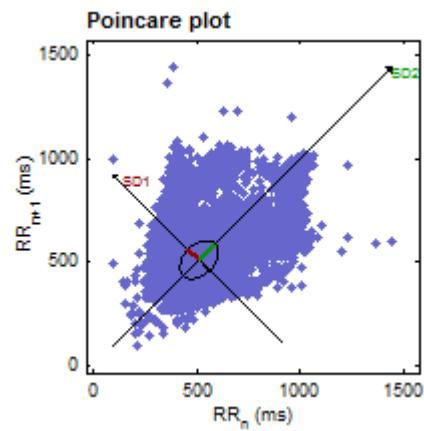
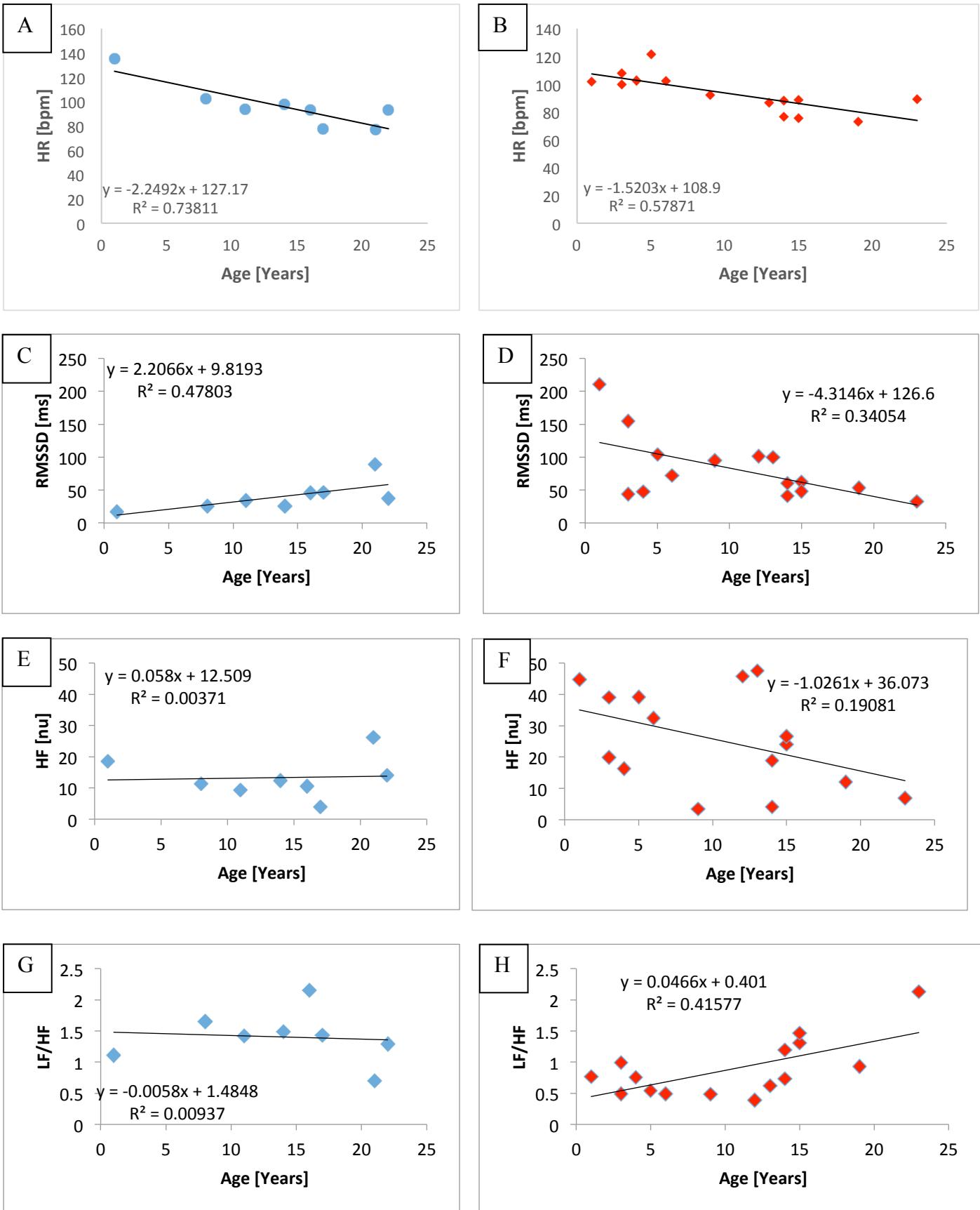


Figure 1: Poincaré Plot geometry of one TSC group subject



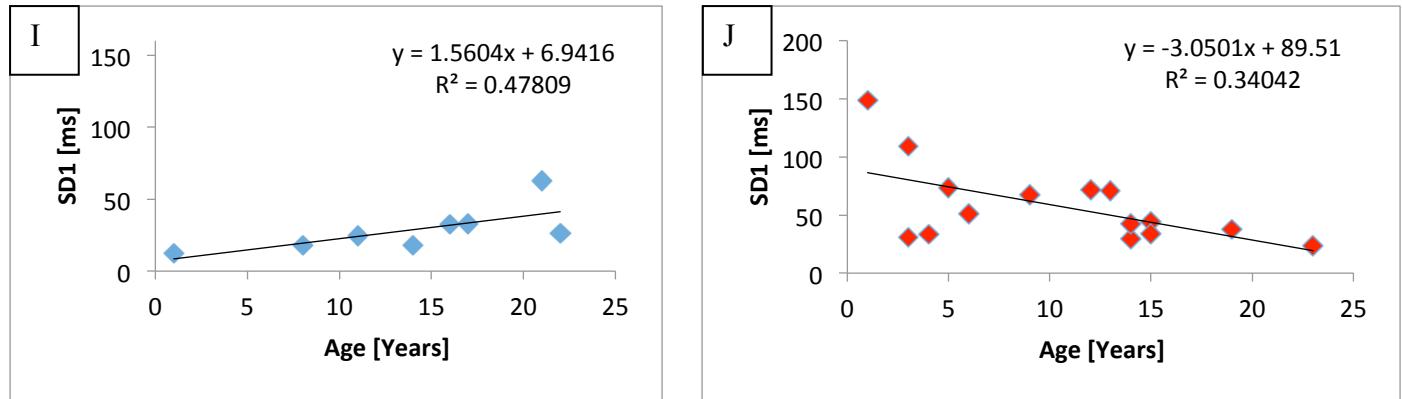
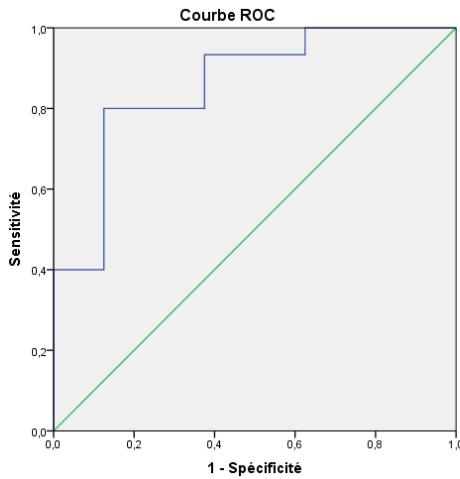
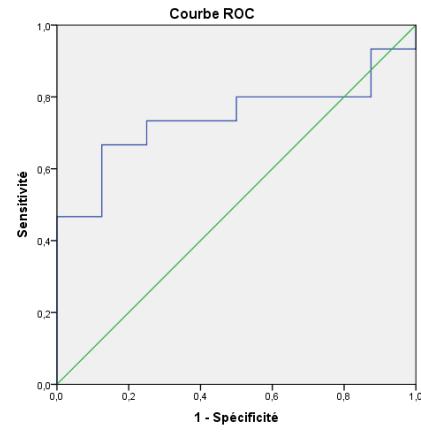


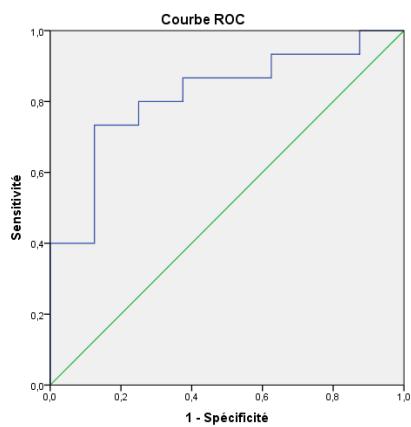
Figure 2: Association between HRV significant results and age at interview. A, C, E, G and J represent control group linear regression and B, D, F and I TSC group linear regression. A-B) HR = Heart Rate in beat per minute; C-D) RMSSD = Root Mean Square Standard Deviation in milliseconds (measure of parasympathetic function); E-F) HF = High Frequency power in normalized unit (measure of parasympathetic function); G-H) LF/HF = Low Frequency power divided by High Frequency power (represents sympatho-vagal balance); I-J) SD1 = short-term standard deviation of poincaré plot (measure of parasympathetic activity).



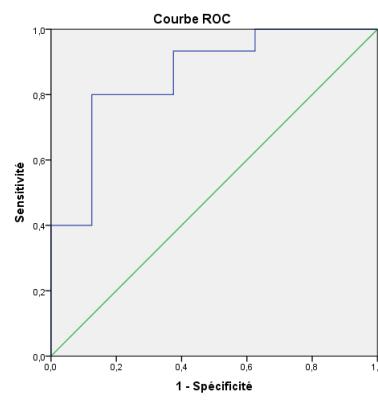
RMSSD ROC Curve



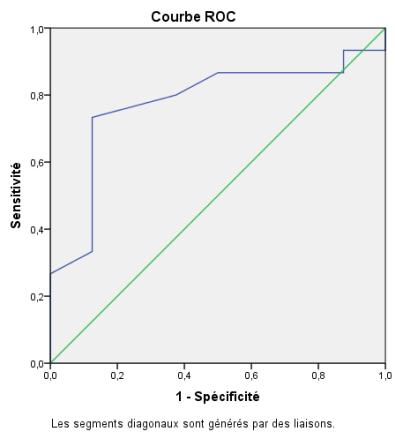
HF nu ROC Curve



LF/HF ratio ROC Curve



SD1 ROC Curve



Approximate Entropy ROC Curve

Figure 3: ROC curve for significant parameters in time-domain, frequency-domain and non-linear method. Area under the curves and Youden's index calculated are showed in table 3.

4.2 Manuscrit N° 2

Aw F, Goyer I, Raboisson MJ, Boutin C, Major P, Dahdah N. Accelerated Cardiac Rhabdomyoma Regression with Everolimus in Infants with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex. Pediatr Cardiol. 2017 Feb;38(2):394-400. doi: 10.1007/s00246-016-1528-y

Cette étude que nous avons publiée est une série de cas rapportant l'effet de l'everolimus, qui est un inhibiteur du mTOR, sur la régression des rhabdomyomes cardiaques dû à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. L'importance de cette étude est qu'elle propose une alternative à la chirurgie cardiaque complexe dans ce terrain de sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. Selon cette expérience clinique précoce, l'everolimus est sûre et efficace pour accélérer la réduction de la taille RHM du nouveau-né, Cette série est la première preuve de réduction de la taille des RHM en réponse à l'everolimus chez le nouveau-né. L'impact majeur étant la capacité à éviter une chirurgie à cœur ouvert complexe et invasive



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Accelerated Cardiac Rhabdomyoma Regression with Everolimus in Infants with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex

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Abstract Tuberous sclerosis complex is associated with benign tumors such as cardiac rhabdomyomas (RHM) caused by the disinhibition of the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) protein. Recent reports on everolimus, an mTOR inhibitor, have shown size reduction of RHM. We compared cases recently treated with everolimus to historic controls whose first echocardiography was within first month of life. The largest dimension of the largest RHM was reported as a percentage compared to the earliest echocardiography study. Treatment of the four cases was started at a median age of 6.5 days (range 2–20) with an initial enteral dose of 0.1 mg daily, aiming at a therapeutic serum trough level of 5–15 ng/mL. Median duration of everolimus treatment was 73 days (range 34–138). Compared to 10 historic controls, everolimus-treated patients had 11.8 times faster RHM size regression rate (slope -0.0285 vs. -0.0024 ; $p < 0.001$). The average time to 50% size reduction was 1.13 ± 0.33 month (range 0.66–1.4 months) with everolimus versus 72.9 ± 53.03 months in controls ($p = 0.026$). Following treatment with everolimus, one case was operated for congenital heart

disease, without requirement of RHM resection, two others had the massive left ventricle RHM shrink to non-consequential size. The latter had a disappearance of RHM, but everolimus therapy was maintained to prevent the regrowth of a significant cerebral tumor. Everolimus is efficacious for size reduction of RHM during the neonatal period. With limited safety data, this approach should be used with caution in selective cases.

Keywords Cardiac tumor · Rhabdomyoma · Tuberous sclerosis · Newborn

Introduction

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is an autosomal dominant disorder characterized by the development of distinctive benign tumors in multiple organ systems, including skin, brain, heart, lungs, kidney, and liver [1]. The estimated prevalence of the disease is 1/6000–1/10,000 live births and a population prevalence of around 1 in 20,000 [2]. TSC involves the mutation of two genes TSC1 (hamartin) and TSC2 (tuberin) causing inactivating mutations in either the TSC1 or TSC2 genes [3]. These genes play a fundamental role in the regulation of phosphoinositide 3-kinase signaling pathway, inhibiting the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) through activation of the GTPase activity of Rheb. Gene mutations impair the inhibitory function of the hamartin/tuberin complex [3]. When either TSC1 or TSC2 is deficient, mTOR complex is constitutively up regulated, leading to abnormal cellular growth, proliferation, and protein synthesis inducing tumoral growth in the heart known as rhabdomyomas (RHM) [4]. RHM are the most common type of cardiac tumors in children. Anatomically, they can be considered

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as hamartomas [5]. Cardiac RHM is highly associated with TSC, with approximately 80% of children with RHM having clinical, radiologic, or family history of TSC [6]. Conversely, more than 50% of patients with TSC have cardiac RHM [6], which is the most common primary cardiac tumor in infancy and childhood, representing 36–42% of tumors in autopsy and 79% in clinical series [1, 7]. RHM develop in utero and is often detected early on prenatal ultrasound or before the age of one year. It may involve the myocardium of both ventricles, the interventricular septum, and occasionally the atria, typically as a fairly well-defined and circumscribed mass [8]. Patients may present with fetal arrhythmias, non-immune hydrops fetalis, respiratory distress, congestive cardiac failure, cyanosis, or sudden death. Electrocardiogram can show features of ventricular hypertrophy, ischemic changes, or bundle branch blocks [8].

In the majority of cases, cardiac RHM are seen in the young, typically without clinical consequences. There is generally a spontaneous regression of the TSC-related RHMs with good prognosis [1]. Otherwise, the treatment is usually symptomatic at first. Surgical removal is necessary in life-threatening conditions, especially for large tumors causing intracardiac obstruction [8]. Surgical resection may be difficult when the tumors are multifocal and infiltrative or in precarious conditions, such as for preterm infants. Apart from surgery, there is no other approved alternative therapy.

Everolimus is a serine—threonine kinase mTOR inhibitor [4]. Inhibition of mTOR activity leads to alteration of cell protein synthesis and thus prevention of cell proliferation, differentiation, growth, and migration. By targeting the mTOR pathway, everolimus particularly inhibits growth factor-driven cell proliferation. The US Food and Drug Administration has approved mTOR inhibitors, such as Sirolimus for the prevention of organ rejection in renal transplantation; Temsirolimus, for advanced renal cell carcinoma; Everolimus for pancreatic progressive neuroendocrine tumors, tuberous sclerosis associated inoperable subependymal giant cell astrocytoma (SEGA), progressive renal cell carcinoma, breast, and recently the lung neuroendocrine tumors [9]. Several studies have confirmed that mTOR inhibition leads to shrinkage or stabilization of renal angiomyolipomas, lymphangiomyomatosis, facial angiofibromas, and SEGA [4, 10–12]. We report the effect of everolimus on large RHM in neonates compared to historic controls.

Methods

TSC patients with clinically compromising cardiac RHM treated in our center with everolimus on an off-label basis were reviewed and compared to historic controls. Dosing

was calculated at 4.5 mg/m²/week (0.1 mg per daily dose). This dosing regimen in the newborn was established from our reported experience with a newborn infant that led to a therapeutic serum level between 5 and 15 ng/mL [13]. The medication was administered via nasogastric tube in the premature baby, and orally in the two other neonates. Controls were infants diagnosed with cardiac RHM prenatally or shortly after birth, who did not receive such treatment. Their first echocardiography imaging was obtained within one month from birth, and they had a minimum follow-up of one year. Potential consecutive control subjects were identified from our echocardiography reporting database. Echocardiography reports were reviewed, and digitally stored images were retrieved for repeated serial measurements of RHM by an experienced echocardiography technician who was blinded to the purpose of the study. For comparison of the rate of RHM regression, the largest dimension of the largest RHM from each patient was measured and reported as a percentage compared to the earliest postnatal echocardiography study. The primary endpoints of this study were to assess the efficacy in size reduction of the RHM and to calculate the regression rate of the tumors. The secondary endpoints were to assess the potential biological parameters reported to be associated with everolimus toxicity (serum electrolytes, complete blood count, blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, urinary proteins, liver enzymes, and triglyceride levels), as well as potential unexpected systemic infections. Approval for this study was granted by the Department of Academic Medical Affairs as well as by the institutional ethics committee of the CHU Ste-Justine.

Statistical Analysis

Data are expressed as median and range or mean and standard deviation for continuous data, and count with percentage for categorical data. Statistical analysis was performed using Sigma Plot 13 (Systat Software, Inc., Erkrath, Germany) for nonparametric comparison of continuous data, the Fisher exact test for categorical data, and the linear regression comparison was performed for the intercept and the slope parameters. A *p* value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

A total of four patients treated with everolimus were followed in our institution from September 2013 to August 2015. Historic controls were 10 patients with cardiac RHM diagnosed prenatally or shortly after birth. The diagnosis of everolimus-treated group was prenatally between 27 and 33 weeks of gestation, and between 27 weeks of gestation

and 13 days from birth in the control group (Table 1). In the control group, 50% of RHM were diagnosed prenatally; otherwise, the first diagnostic echocardiography was obtained between 1 and 28 days after birth. The initial maximum diameter of the largest RHM was comparable between groups (Table 2). The patients were initially followed monthly with echocardiography, then every one to two years. The median follow-up was 53 months (range 8–195).

Three patients in the control group had benign arrhythmia. In the everolimus group, three patients presented either an outflow tract obstruction or a mass effect that impaired ventricular filling (associated with non-significant atrial arrhythmia in one) justified initiation of the medication, and the fourth patient received everolimus for large SEGA. Therapy with everolimus was initiated at 6.5 (range 1–20) days of life reaching a median serum concentration of 10.2 (range 4.7–13.7) ng/mL. Compared to historic controls, RHM regression rate was 11.8 times faster in everolimus-treated patients (slope -0.0285 ± 0.0153 vs. -0.0025 ± 0.0007 ; $p < 0.001$), with comparable intercepts (0.7582 ± 0.0588 vs. 1.0283 ± 0.0511 ; $p = \text{NS}$) (Fig. 1). All everolimus-treated patients had a

RHM size reduction of at least 50% (Fig. 2) compared with initial measurement. This size reduction was documented at 1.13 ± 0.33 months old, median 29.5 (range 20–40) days under everolimus therapy, compared to 72.9 ± 53.03 months in controls ($p = 0.026$). Comparatively, for 7 out of 10 controls, the largest RHM size reduction was

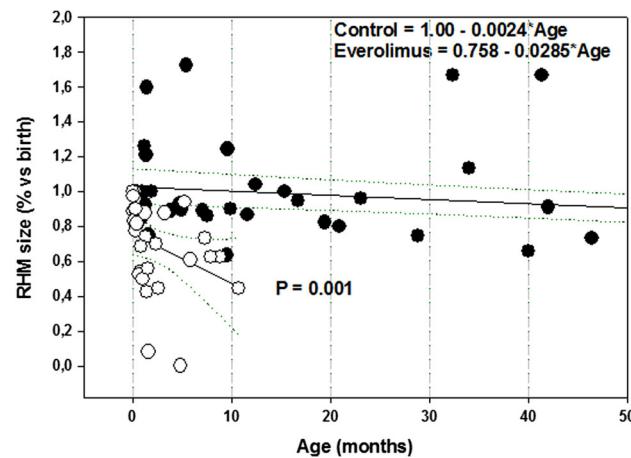


Fig. 1 Comparative regression rate of RHM with (white dots) and without (black dots) everolimus therapy

Table 1 Baseline characteristics

| | Everolimus group | Historic controls |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Number of patients | 4 | 10 |
| Age at cardiac diagnosis | 27–33 WOG | 27 WOG–13 DOL |
| Birth weight (Kg) | 2.03 [0.98–3.35] | 2.79 [1.28–4.20] |
| Birth height (cm)* | 44 [36–48] | 49 [40–52] |
| Outflow tract obstruction | 3 (75%) | 0 (0%) |
| Arrhythmia | 2 (50%) | 3 (30%) |
| Neurological manifestations | 3 (75%) | 8 (80%) |
| Dermatological manifestations | 1 (25%) | 4 (40%) |
| Renal manifestations | 0 (0%) | 4 (40%) |
| Mutation | | |
| TSC1 | 1 (25%) | 1 (10%) |
| TSC1 | 2 (50%) | 3 (30%) |
| Not identified | 1 (25%) | 3 (30%) |
| Not performed | | 3 (30%) |

DOL days of life, WOG weeks of gestation

* $p = 0.046$

Table 2 Largest rhabdomyoma maximum diameter at initial echocardiography assessment compared between everolimus-treated babies and historic controls

| | Everolimus group | Historic controls | <i>p</i> value |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| RHM diameter (mm) | 13.0 [9.9–21.5] | 8.9 [7.2–12.0] | 0.203 |
| RHM diameter/BSA | 106.83 [51.63–175.76] | 49.35 [34.78–56.33] | 0.138 |
| RHM diameter/BL | 0.33 [0.21–0.53] | 0.19 [0.14–0.25] | 0.138 |
| RHM diameter/LVM | 3.23 [1.56–7.97] | 1.01 [0.89–1.52] | 0.315 |

Data are median [Interquartile interval]

BSA body surface area (mm^2), L body length (cm), LVM left ventricle mass (g)

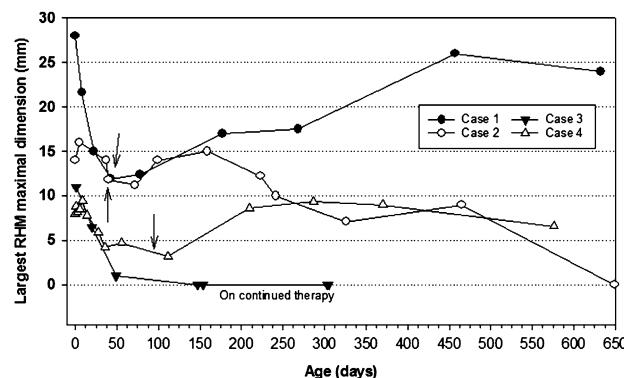


Fig. 2 Timeline of regression of RHM size (mm) following initiation of everolimus and RHM size rebound following discontinuation of therapy (arrows) in three cases (note that case 3 is on continued therapy)

50%, whereas three had and observed size reduction of 20–30% after 10.4, 23.1, and 28.8 months of age. In two controls, RHM was no longer measurable by 56.6 and 107.6 months of age, respectively. After discontinuation of everolimus, increase in RHM size was observed in three patients after 32, 35, and 56 days (Fig. 1). This increase was transitory in one, and slightly below initial size in two, with no hemodynamic concerns in either. Therefore, Everolimus was not restarted in these patients. Subsequently, RHM was no longer measurable in two everolimus patients at 4.8 and 21.1 months of age.

Individual Patient History and Clinical Course

Patient 1 was a preterm female infant screened by fetal echocardiography at 27 weeks gestation for a family history of TSC. Two RHMs were found in addition to a complex congenital heart defect consisting of a ventricular septal defect, a double-outlet right ventricle with pulmonary valve atresia, and a hypoplastic pulmonary artery. The right ventricle RHMs were filling most of the cavity. At 30 weeks' gestational age, fetal echocardiography showed an increase in the size of the right ventricle RHM to 14.2 by 12 mm. Because of severe intrauterine growth restriction, the infant was delivered one week later with a birth weight of 0.980 kg. Considering the significant hemodynamic consequences of the RHM and the technical challenges of cardiac surgery in a premature infant with this low birth weight, a pharmacological size reduction of the RHM was contemplated during a multidisciplinary meeting. Accordingly, treatment with the mTOR inhibitor everolimus was offered. Daily enteral 0.1 mg everolimus was started on day 20 of life. Serum levels of everolimus 4 days after the initial dose yielded a trough level of 13.7 ng/mL. everolimus was discontinued after 34 days of therapy because of a suspicion of infection. Although the infection was not confirmed, everolimus was

not restarted, considering the significant reduction of the right ventricular RHM. A total surgical repair with two-ventricle physiology was performed at 4.3 months of age with no need for RHM resection. At follow-up, 2 months after discontinuation of everolimus, echocardiography showed rebound in size (11.2 by 6 mm) with no hemodynamic consequences. Subsequently, the large right ventricle RHM size reduction was observed until total regression recorded at 21 months of age, whereas the smaller left ventricle RHM disappeared around 8 months of age. Two Holter recordings were performed throughout the follow-up with no significant findings.

Patient 2 was a female infant, born to a mother with TSC at 36 weeks of gestation and 1.67 kg body weight. A 35 weeks' gestation, fetal echocardiography showed two RHMs, the first was attached to the interventricular septum (7.3 by 2.8 mm), the second was located more anteriorly toward the left ventricle outflow track (27.2 mm compared to an aortic annulus size of 6.5 mm). Despite the partial sub-aortic flow obstruction, flow acceleration (1.4 m/s), was not significant. The multiple tumors occupying the left ventricle were very concerning in terms of the restrictive filling effect. A pharmacological size reduction with everolimus was proposed to the parents and started on day 4 of life. Serum levels of everolimus drawn 6 days later yielded a trough level of 11 ng/mL. No side effects were encountered throughout the course of therapy. Repeated echocardiography showed a 50% reduction of the sub-aortic mass on day 22. Accordingly, everolimus was thus discontinued on day 46 because the treatment was deemed no longer necessary. Follow-up echocardiography after cessation of therapy however, showed a progressive increase in RHM size from 12.0 by 7.8 mm on day 43 and day 78, to 17.1 by 11.5 mm on day 177, and 17.5 by 13.2 mm on day 268. The child remained asymptomatic with no intra-cardiac obstructive or restrictive features of the tumors despite a residual relative size of 85% at 21 months.

Patient 3 was a male infant with no family history of TSC born at 34 weeks of gestation with multiple RHMs diagnosed at day 1 of life without hemodynamic consequences. The largest RHM was located near the apex of the right ventricle (11 by 6 mm), and two were in the left ventricle (3.6 by 5.7 and 6.8 by 5.2 mm). Five days after birth, brain magnetic resonance imaging showed a voluminous (11 by 6.2 by 7 mm) SEGA located near the right foramen of Monro, with an associated enlargement of the right lateral cerebral ventricle. Given the anatomical location and the potentially life-threatening complications, a pharmacological size reduction of the SEGA was proposed to the parents. Oral everolimus 0.1 mg daily was started on day 9 of life, with a serum level of 5.4 ng/mL 13 days after initiation of therapy and 10.2 ng/L one week later. At 4 months of age, the parents reported the presence of mouth ulcers with

associated pain and decrease in feeding. Everolimus dose schedule was then reduced to every other day for one week, but no improvement was observed. The treatment had to be stopped a week the subsequent week to allow the ulcers to resolve. From the cardiac perspective, the right ventricle RHM was undetectable 1 month later, and the left ventricle RHM were undetectable 138 days after initiation of therapy. The patient remains on everolimus, however, to maintain efficacy on the cerebral SEGA. To that effect, brain MRI at nine weeks showed a significant reduction in the size of the SEGA (10 by 4.8 by 6 mm). Everolimus dose adjustments were done to 0.5 mg per day at 6.5 months because of undetectable blood concentration (<2.2 ng/mL), then to 0.75 mg per day at 7.5 months for a serum concentration of 3.7 ng/mL.

Patient 4 was a full-term male infant born at 38 weeks of gestation. The prenatal cardiac ultrasound 4 weeks before delivery had shown one cardiac RHM located in the left ventricle attached to the interventricular septum (9 by 4.3 mm) underneath the aortic valve. On first day of life, four more cardiac RHM were located on the septum (6.2 by 4.3 mm), on the mitral valves (4.3 by 3.5 mm), near the lateral wall of the left ventricle (4.6 by 4 mm) and in the left atrium (3 by 2 mm). At this time, the subaortic RHM had increased in size (8 by 7 mm compared to an aortic valve annulus of 7.5 mm) leading to a pressure gradient of 30 mmHg in the left ventricular outflow tract. Because of the obstructive nature of the sub-aortic RHM and the reported risk of sudden death in this setting [14], pharmacological treatment with everolimus was accepted by the parents. Enteral everolimus 0.1 mg daily was started on day one of life. Serum level at 10 days after the initial dose was 10.2 ng/mL. At 36 days of treatment, there was a 50% reduction size of the largest RHM and 3 of them had disappeared. Everolimus was thus discontinued because the treatment was deemed unnecessary given the significant improvement on echocardiography. Follow-up echocardiography (Fig. 3) with the infant off medication showed a progressive increase in RHM size from 3.2 by 2.7 mm at day 112 (aortic annulus 10 mm) to 8.6 by 7 mm at day 210 (aortic annulus 10 mm) without flow acceleration, then 6.6 by 4.1 mm at day 576 (aortic annulus 14.5 mm).

The observed adverse effects were mouth ulcer in one patient, which stopped after a temporary discontinuation of treatment and a suspected infection that resolved uneventfully in another.

Discussion

In this study, we observed that patients treated with everolimus had a RHM size regression rate 11.8 times faster than our historic controls. The comparison with a historic

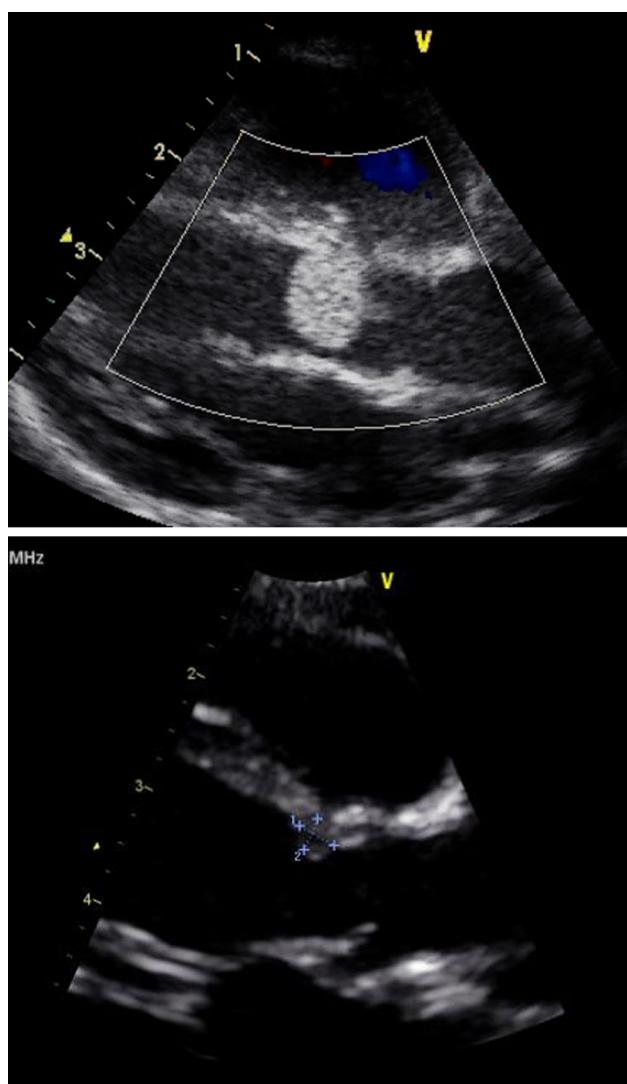


Fig. 3 Large obstructive RHM underneath the aortic valve at birth (top), then 112 days later (bottom) where a remnant tumor was measured (3.2 × 2.7 mm) and a left ventricle outflow free of obstruction

control group demonstrates that the size regression of RHM under mTOR inhibitor therapy is not only caused by the natural involution of RHM. Accordingly, projection of expected improvement is now possible. Although the natural history of RHM size regression is well reported [15], there are situations where removal of the tumor is critical for the survival of the infant. When RHM are diagnosed prenatally, fetal and neonatal demise is largely predicted by fetal hydrops, arrhythmias, and by the size of the tumor [16]. Because of their rapid growth rate during early prenatal and postnatal period, RHM can cause serious complications [1, 10, 17]. Life-threatening cardiogenic shock has been reported [1]. Depending on their size or location, major obstruction of blood flow can happen, which represents one-third of the causes of cardiac mortality in TSC

[18]. These patients may require surgical RHM resection as early as the neonatal period [10]. Since surgery may not be possible in certain cases due to the RHM location [9] and due to the anatomical invasiveness of the tumor [19, 20], alternative therapeutic measures, such as stenting of the arterial duct to maintain balanced blood flow, have been reported [21]. Severe arrhythmias are also reported in association with RHM [17]. Despite recent anecdotic, but encouraging reports about the effect of mTOR inhibitors on the size of cardiac RHM [9, 21–23], surgery remains the standard approach [19, 21, 24]. The validation of the efficacy and safety of this pharmaceutical therapy is required, especially in the neonate. In this perspective, our group has determined the appropriate dosing regimen in a small series of newborn infants [25]. Accordingly, a reduced dose of 4.5 mg/m²/week was sufficient to obtain the recommended therapeutic level. The weekly based dose corresponds to one-seventh of the suggested dose in young children [4]. In the current report, we calculated the accelerated tumor size regression in comparison with a historic series of untreated patients. This would eventually provide clinicians and parents with an evidence-based projection of the length of therapy and expected therapeutic response and outcome. In our series, all treated patients exhibited an almost identically accelerated size regression of the tumor. For the sake of discussion, it is unclear whether the genetic profile of particular patients would be more or less favorable to such therapy. It is also unclear whether specific factors could eventually predict the rebound effect of the cessation of therapy. These two questions should typically be assessed in a controlled trial. However, given the rarity of the disease, a multicenter registry of RHM cases who require medical, surgical or palliative therapy could represent a more appropriate and valuable bailout approach.

Everolimus is known to have generally minor adverse effects [2, 9, 20–22, 25]. Therapy with everolimus and mTOR inhibitors warrants close follow-up and parent counseling because of their immunosuppressive properties. Furthermore, renal and hepatic functions also need to be biochemically monitored. There are four case reports of RHM treated by everolimus. Tiberio et al. [23] reported the first case of a 7-year-old male patient who received everolimus for the treatment of SEGA and for whom regression of cardiac RHM was observed. Mlczoch [21] subsequently described a patient with a prenatally diagnosed large RHM responsible for hemodynamic instability with heart failure due to obstruction of the ventricular channel. Postnatal everolimus treatment resulted in a significant regression of the RHM. Demir et al. [9] reported the case of a newborn with inoperable multifocal RHMs who regained hemodynamic stability after 2.5 months of treatment with everolimus. Breathnach et al. [19] reported a patient with a large RHM of the left ventricle outflow tract that invaded

the aortic wall and that wrapped the right coronary artery. Given the high risk of surgery, oral sirolimus treatment was offered and the RHM regressed rapidly.

This study is limited by its small sample size and by the absence of randomization. This is explained by the rarity of TSC and by the low incidence of patients with RHM requiring therapeutic intervention. This study demonstrates that everolimus is efficacious for the size reduction of RHM during the neonatal period, but this approach should be used with caution, only in selective cases, because long-term effects remain unknown. In addition, potential side effects specific to the premature neonate may be different compared to fully mature babies, but such information is not available in the literature. Nevertheless, our results provide measurable target outcome for potential future trials.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest Corresponding author (ND) has received an IIP research grants, with no conflict of interest otherwise. First author (FA) presents this work in part for her Master's Degree in biomedical Sciences, University of Montréal.

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Discussion

Les tumeurs primitives du cœur sont extrêmement rares avec un taux de prévalence de l'ordre de 0,01% dans les études d'autopsie (9). La majorité de ces tumeurs cardiaques primitives sont bénignes, parmi lesquelles les RHM qui sont les tumeurs cardiaques les plus fréquents chez les enfants (9). Les RHM apparaissent à l'échographie comme des masses rondes, homogènes, hyperéchogènes, intra-muros ou intracavitaires, souvent multiples (10). Principalement localisées dans les ventricules, mais aussi observées dans les oreillettes ou la veine cave, ils peuvent entraîner une obstruction soit des valves cardiaques soit de la voie d'éjection des ventricules (10). Bien que ces masses cardiaques soient bénignes et généralement asymptomatiques, ces tumeurs peuvent être associées à une diversité de tableaux cliniques (8). Leur nombre, leur volume et leur localisation sont les facteurs les plus importants pour les symptômes existants et des complications connexes (8). Les patients peuvent ainsi être exposés à un risque accru de mort subite due à une instabilité hémodynamique (8). La résection chirurgicale est généralement réservée aux cas avec obstacle significatif à l'éjection ou arythmies cardiaques réfractaires au traitement médical. Dans notre étude, nous avons enregistré une instabilité hémodynamique chez 3 patients pour lesquels nous avons préconisé un traitement médical avec l'évérolimus. En fait, récemment (26-30) l'efficacité et l'innocuité des inhibiteurs de mTOR sur la régression des RHM ont été rapportées dans certains cas où l'acte chirurgical était difficile voire impossible.

Les résultats de notre travail démontrent la nécessité de réaliser une étude clinique randomisée afin d'évaluer l'efficacité de ce traitement chez les patients atteints de rhabdomyomes cardiaques associés à la STB pour qui le pronostic vital est en jeu. De plus, cette étude pourrait

fournir des éléments sur le dosage adéquat et sur l'innocuité de ce médicament dans cette population composée de nouveaux-nés et de jeunes enfants. Un essai clinique fournirait également des évidences fortes sur la possibilité d'éviter la chirurgie qui est lourde en conséquences et responsable de 36 à 50% (30) de décès en elle-même (chez les patients opérés pour RHM cardiaques). Aussi, elle contribuerait à alléger le fardeau des patients atteints de STB et de leurs parents qui luttent déjà contre les déficits dus à leurs atteintes multisystémiques (neurologiques, rénales et dermatologiques).

Outre l'effet de masse et le retentissement sur le débit cardiaque, d'autres préoccupations surgissent, comme l'arythmie (7, 11, 14) (8). Les rhabdomyomes généralement considérés comme asymptomatiques, peuvent aussi causer des troubles du rythme auriculaire ou ventriculaire, un dysfonctionnement du noeud sinusal, et une pré-excitation potentiellement arythmogène (31). Dans ce travail, des arythmies significatives ont été notées chez 3 patients (11%), y compris le syndrome de Wolff Parkinson White, la fibrillation auriculaire et la tachycardie supraventriculaire paroxystique qui a nécessité une cryoablation percutanée. Chez deux patients, l'arythmie s'est résolue de façon concomitante à la régression de la tumeur. Une étude précédente a rapporté des arythmies significatives chez 16% de ces patients (30). Ainsi, la gestion de ces patients comprend aussi bien les médicaments anti-arythmiques, que l'ablation par cathéter ou dans de rares cas une résection chirurgicale (30). Cependant dans la plupart des cas, il semble raisonnable de privilégier, chaque fois que possible, la thérapie médicale comme une mesure temporaire permettant aux tumeurs de régresser avant de recourir à des options invasives. Cependant, chez les patients gravement instables, la chirurgie et l'ablation par cathéter peuvent jouer un rôle efficace.

Dans cette étude, nous avons aussi noté une augmentation de la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque chez les cas dans le domaine temporel et spatial. Selon une étude européenne (32), les sujets TSC ont montré une augmentation anormale de leur RMSSD qui reflète principalement la dominance parasympathique (33). Des études ont montré que les médicaments cardiovasculaires tels que les bêtabloquants, les inhibiteurs de l'enzyme de conversion et les statines pourraient conduire à une augmentation de la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque (34, 35). Toutefois, seuls deux participants TSC sur les quatorze sujets qui ont subi des enregistrements Holter étaient sous bêtabloquants; l'exclusion de ces sujets particuliers de l'analyse n'a pas eu d'incidence sur les résultats. Une étude récente (36) a montré que la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque décroît en fonction de l'âge chez les adultes en bonne santé, et varie selon le sexe. Dans notre cohorte, la régression linéaire a montré une pente inversée de la courbe de variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque selon l'âge par rapport à celle des témoins sains. Malheureusement, les valeurs de référence pour les sujets en bonne santé âgés de moins de 20 ans ne sont pas facilement disponibles dans la littérature.

À notre connaissance, ceci est la première étude qui a examiné la variabilité du rythme cardiaque dans la population STB. En résumé, malgré la même tendance de la fréquence cardiaque avec l'âge, le système parasympathique est dominant en début de vie pour les patients atteints de STB par la suite la balance sympathico-vagal des sujets TSC rejoint celle des contrôles chez les jeunes adultes. Par ailleurs le rapport LF / HF est faible dans la petite enfance, ce qui peut supposer un manque de mécanisme de compensation par le système nerveux sympathique. Étant donné le trouble cérébral connu dans la population TSC, une enquête plus approfondie est nécessaire pour comprendre son effet sur l'homéostasie cardiaque sympathico-vagal (37, 38).

En bref, l'analyse de la courbe de ROC des paramètres de la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque, nous permet de faire la différence entre les patients avec et ceux sans RHM. Étant donné qu'en pratique clinique il est possible de faire de breves analyses d'enregistrement Holter, une étude plus approfondie des données du Holter sera nécessaire afin de déterminer les seuils des tests diagnostic dans la population RHM.

Les limites de cette étude sont la petite taille de l'échantillon et les différences dans les caractéristiques physiques telles que l'âge au recrutement, ce qui peut être un frein pour l'interprétation et la généralisation de nos résultats. En outre, la répartition déséquilibrée des patients dans les deux groupes pourrait entraîner un impact sur les résultats de l'étude; surtout à cause de la faible fréquence des participants sans RHM. Par ailleurs l'absence d'études multicentriques sur la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque à l'enfance ne nous permet pas de comparer nos résultats.

Cependant, ces résultats préliminaires, fournissent la base pour les études futures plus grandes, plus inclusives et longitudinales pour mieux comprendre la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque chez les patients avec TSC. De telles études sont nécessaires pour formuler des lignes directrices cliniques dans l'application des tests sur le système nerveux autonome de ces patients.

Conclusion générale

Cette étude met en exergue l'effet des rhabdomyomes cardiaques dans le fonctionnement du cœur aussi bien sur le plan électrique que fonctionnel ainsi que les perspectives thérapeutiques pour contrôler ces perturbations.

Notre première étude met en corrélation la taille des RHM avec la prévalence des arythmies. Selon cette étude descriptive, l'arythmie est plus fréquente chez les sujets atteints de STB par rapport à la population pédiatrique, avec une tendance à une prévalence plus élevée dans les cas où les RHM sont de grande taille. Il est possible que ces arythmies soient provoquées par des lésions anatomiques sous-jacentes du fait de l'impact de la présence de ces lésions sur le tissu de conduction myocardique. Nous avons ainsi essayé de comprendre quels sont les mécanismes impliqués dans la génèse de ces arythmies en étudiant pour cela la variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque de ces patients porteurs de rhabdomyomes. Nous avons observé que cette variabilité de la fréquence cardiaque des patients avec TSC a été augmentée dans les trois que sont le temporel, le fréquentiel et le non-linéaire. Par ailleurs Dans notre cohorte on note une inversion de la courbe pour les régressions linéaire entre les paramètres HRV et l'âge chez les sujets porteurs de RHM. Malheureusement comme Il n'existe aucune valeur de référence pour des sujets en dessous de 20 ans ces résultats gagneraient à être confirmés dans une cohorte beaucoup plus large.

La deuxième étude est une série de cas rapportant l'effet de l'everolimus, qui est un inhibiteur du mTOR, sur la régression des rhabdomyomes cardiaques dans la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. Selon cette expérience clinique précoce, l'everolimus est sûre et efficace pour accélérer la réduction de la taille RHM du nouveau-né, Cette série est la

première preuve de réduction de la taille des RHM en réponse à l'everolimus chez le nouveau-né, menée à long terme et sur un plus grand effectif elle pourra également fournir des paramètres d'innocuités cliniques et biologiques. L'impact majeur étant la capacité à éviter une chirurgie à cœur ouvert complexe et invasive chez les bébés ayant des tumeurs cardiaques secondaires à la sclérose tubéreuse de Bourneville. Cependant comme les effets à long terme sur le nouveau-né restent inconnus cette approche devrait être utilisée avec prudence, pour des cas sélectifs.

Dans la STB bien que les rhabdomyomes cardiaques évoluent vers la régression spontanée dans la plupart des cas, il est important de faire un bilan cardiaque précoce surtout à la phase anténatale pour pouvoir prendre en charge précocement les perturbations pouvant altérer le pronostic vital et ainsi alourdir le fardeau clinique de cette atteinte multi systémique, mais surtout de poser précocément les indications d'un traitement avec everolimus pour accélérer la réduction de la taille des tumeurs et réduire sinon abolir leurs effets hémodynamiques néfastes.

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Formulaire d'Exposé de Cas

| Formulaire d'Exposé de Cas | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Titre: | ETUDE TRAVERSALE ÉVALUANT LES TROUBLES ÉLECTROPHYSIOLOGIQUES ET LES PERTURBATIONS FONCTIONNELLES ASSOCIÉS AUX RHABDOMYOMES CARDIAQUES DANS LA SCLÉROSE TUBÉREUSE DE BOURNEVILLE (STB) |
| Investigateur: | Nagib Dahdah |

IDENTIFICATION DU PATIENT

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Nom du patient: | | | |
| Prénom du patient: | | | |
| Initiales du patient: | | | |
| # de dossier: | | | |
| # d'étude du patient: | | | |
| Date de naissance: | | | |
| | Jour | Mois | Année |
| Sexe: | Féminin <input type="checkbox"/> | Masculin <input type="checkbox"/> | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Initiales du patient: | | # d'étude du patient: | | Date de naissance | / / jj /mm/ aaaa: |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|

| Race | | Ethnicité | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Japonnais | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caucasien | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indien | <input type="checkbox"/> | Noir | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinois | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asiatique | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hispanique-latino | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amériendien | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ethnicité-mixte | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hispanique | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Date d'obtention du consentement: | | | |
| | Jour | Mois | Année |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Heure d'arrivée: _____ Hre _____ min | | | | |
| Signes vitaux | | | | |
| TENSION ARTÉRIELLE: | Bras droit: | — mmHg | Bras gauche: | — mmHg |
| RR: _____ / min | Pouls: _____ b/min | T° buccale: _____ °C | | |
| Mesures | | | | |
| Poids: | _____ Kg | Taille: | _____ cm | |

| | |
|---|--|
| TESTS À EFFECTUER | |
|  | Insérer au dossier |
| SAECG | Heure: _____ |
| | Complété et copie insérée au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Électrocardiogramme au repos | Heure: _____ Complété et copie insérée au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Écho cardiaque | Heure: _____ Complété et copie insérée au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Prise de sang NT-proBNP avant le test physique | Heure: _____ |
| Test d'exercice physique avec ECG en permanence et brassard en place pour TA | Heure: _____ Complété et copie inséré au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prise de sang NT-proBNP 45 minutes après la fin du test physique | Heure: _____ |
| Enregistrement Holter de 24 heures | Heure: _____ Complété et copie insérée au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|--|--|
| Questionnaire Saint-Gorges sur le système respiratoire | Complété et inséré au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Question sur la qualité de vie sur l'épilepsie dans l'enfance (QOLCE) pour enfant seulement | Complété et inséré au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Questionnaire Saint-Georges sur la santé de l'enfant (CHQ) pour l'enfant seulement | Complété et inséré au dossier recherche <input type="checkbox"/> |

