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Table 1: Extra- and intra-cranial cerebrovascular reactivity during cognitive activity in non-hypertensives and hypertensives (expressed as Δ score; mean \pm SD).

Measure	Non-Hypertensive	Hypertensive	Group	Time	GxT
Prefrontal cortex					
TSI (%)	-0.252 \pm 2.328	0.706 \pm 1.965	0.23	0.42	0.09
Middle cerebral artery					
PI	-0.01 \pm 0.06	-0.01 \pm 0.06	0.42	0.20	1.00
Carotid artery					
PWV-Beta (m/s)	+0.4 \pm 0.8*	+0.4 \pm 1.1*	0.15	<0.01	0.89
PI	-0.09 \pm 0.15*	-0.07 \pm 0.13*	0.26	<0.01	0.58
Aorta					
cf PWV (m/s)	+0.2 \pm 0.6	+0.3 \pm 1.0	0.20	0.04	0.71
Mean pressure (mmHg)	+6 \pm 4*	+6 \pm 6*	0.04	<0.01	0.78

TSI, tissue saturation index; PI, pulsatility index; PWV, pulse-wave velocity; cf, carotid-femoral; GxT, group-by-time interaction. *Post-hoc $p < 0.01$ vs rest.

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CENTRAL PRESSURE IN PATIENTS WITH ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE IN ACUTE PHASE: A PILOT STUDY

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Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) is defined as sudden onset of a neurologic deficit. The main risk factor for stroke is high blood pressure (BP) and it is elevated in more than 70% or more of patients with AIS. In patients with AIS, management of blood pressure by brachial pressure is very important, but recent evidence suggests that central pressure is more strongly related to future cardiovascular events. In this study we started to evaluate central pressure (CBP) in patients admitted with AIS in the first 24 h. We evaluated 34 patients, 23 male and 11 females. The age mean was 72,7 years (49 – 96 years). The patients presented a mean NIHSS score of 5,4 at admission (minimum of 0 and maximum of 18), that was higher in males (mean of 8,1) than in females (mean of 4,3). In males, the mean BP was 148,41/79,04 mmHg and systolic CBP varied from 109 mmHg to 215 mmHg and diastolic from 63 mmHg to 128 mmHg (mean of 138,76/81,33 mmHg). In females, the mean brachial pressure was 143,72/76,45 mmHg and the systolic CBP varied from 102 mmHg to 190 and the diastolic from 44 mmHg to 104 mmHg (mean of 132,23/78,95 mmHg). The mean of augmentation index was 35% (34% in females and 35% in males). The aim of this study is enlarge our sample and evaluate the correlation between BP and CBP with RANKIN and NIHSS score of the patients not only at the acute phase but also after that, and the occurrence or not of new events.

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3 HOURS UNINTERRUPTED SITTING INCREASES CEREBROVASCULAR RESISTANCE AND REDUCES CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW IN SUBJECTS WITH INCREASED CARDIOVASCULAR RISK

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Background: Sedentary behavior has deleterious effects on cardiovascular risk. Uninterrupted sitting is associated with an impaired peripheral blood flow and vascular function. However, the relation between cerebrovascular flow and sedentary behavior is currently unknown. Impaired cerebrovascular

flow and function are associated with impaired cognitive function and dementia. Therefore, this study investigated the effects of a prolonged sedentary bout on cerebrovascular flow and function.

Methods: 19 participants with increased cardiovascular risk (age > 55 years, BMI 28 kg m⁻² or hypertension) underwent a 3 hours uninterrupted sitting intervention. At baseline and after intervention middle cerebral artery blood flow velocity (MCAv) was measured using transcranial Doppler. Cerebrovascular resistance index (CVRI) was expressed as the ratio of MAP:MCAv.

Results: Due to technical difficulties, three participants were excluded from analysis, leaving 16 participants (age = 64 \pm 5 years, BMI = 30.5 \pm 4.5 kg m⁻²). MCAv decreased after 3 hours sitting from 50.4 cm⁻¹ s⁻¹ (95% CI 47.0 – 53.7) to 46.9 cm⁻¹ s⁻¹ (95% CI 43.3 – 50.4) cm s⁻¹ (mean difference = 3.5 cm s⁻¹ (95% CI -0.1 – 7.0), P = 0.055). This was accompanied by an increase in CVRI (2.08 \pm 0.35 cm⁻¹ s⁻¹ to 2.39 \pm 0.56 cm⁻¹ s⁻¹, P = 0.016).

Conclusions: Our results indicate that prolonged sedentary bouts impair cerebrovascular blood flow and stress the importance of frequently interrupting sitting periods in order to maintain adequate cerebral blood flow. Future studies should further investigate the impact of sedentary behaviour in the context of cerebrovascular diseases.

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KINETIC ENERGY AND ENERGY LOSS IN THE MIDDLE CEREBRAL ARTERY (MCA) OF HEARTMATE II PATIENTS

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Background: In heart failure patients with continuous-flow left ventricular assist devices (CF-LVAD), arterial pulsatility in the brain is reduced and diastolic blood velocities (Vmin) are maintained. The effects of such altered hemodynamics on kinetic energy and, importantly, energy loss in the cerebral circulation have never been studied.

Methods: Angle-corrected Doppler ultrasound movies of the middle cerebral artery (MCA) were recorded in 11 healthy volunteers, 5 patients with severe heart failure, and 4 patients with HM II. Data were analyzed offline using validated Vector Flow Mapping software (Cardio Flow Design, Tokyo, Japan). Vmin, pulsatility index (PI), total Energy Loss (ELAUC) and total Kinetic Energy (KEAUC) and both variables normalized for different heart rates (ELAUC/time & KEAUC/time) were calculated (Figure 1). Correlations between these energetic parameters and PI were determined.

Results: PI, KEAUC and ELAUC were significantly lower in HM II (P < 0.0001 and P < 0.05) while Vmin was similar (Fig 1). Normalization of data for