

## Study of the predictive role of central venous oxygen saturation in acute type I respiratory failure patients

Hesham G. A. Ismail<sup>1</sup>, Hamdy A. Mohammadien<sup>2</sup>, Mohsen M. El-Shafay<sup>3</sup>, Mona T. Hussein

1. Teaching Assistant of Pulmonology, Faculty Of Medicine, Sohag University.
2. Professor of Pulmonology, Faculty Of Medicine, Sohag University.
3. Professor of Pulmonology, Faculty Of Medicine, El-Mansoura University.
4. Assistant Professor of Pulmonology, Faculty Of Medicine, Sohag University.

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO<sub>2</sub>) measurement is a safe and efficient alternative for mixed venous oxygen saturation (SvO<sub>2</sub>) as an indirect estimate for global tissue oxygenation. The normal range of SvO<sub>2</sub>, which reflects the balance between O<sub>2</sub> delivery and demands, is 65 to 75%

**Objectives:** This study was designed to determine the predictive role of central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO<sub>2</sub>) in acute type I respiratory failure patients admitted to the pulmonary critical care unit.

**Patients and Methods:** The study included patients with acute type I respiratory failure patients admitted to the pulmonary critical care unit, Mansoura University Hospitals during the period between August 2015 to December 2015. Central venous blood was withdrawn through a central venous catheter placed via a subclavian approach and advanced to the right atrium as confirmed by post insertion chest x-ray. Samples for ScvO<sub>2</sub> were taken on admission and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day.

**Results:** 62 patients (51.6% males) were included with a mean age of 60 years old. Low ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission was associated with increased risk of mortality as did persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub> values on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day (P value 0.001, 0.001 and 0.03 respectively). We calculated cutoff points for ScvO<sub>2</sub> for predicting mortality on admission and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day to be 65%, 70% and 66% respectively (P value 0.0008, 0.04 and 0.04 respectively).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that ScvO<sub>2</sub> has a role in predicting mortality in critical care patients presented with acute type I respiratory failure patients and improving ScvO<sub>2</sub> is associated with improving the outcome in such patients, thus justifying the need for a comprehensive and integrating therapeutic approach.

**Key Words:** ScvO<sub>2</sub>, SvO<sub>2</sub>, respiratory failure.

### Abbreviations:

ScvO<sub>2</sub>: Central venous oxygen saturation, SvO<sub>2</sub>: Mixed venous oxygen saturation, PEEP: Positive end expiratory pressure, ICU: Intensive care unit, PCCU: Pulmonary critical care unit, HTN: Hypertension, DM: Diabetes mellitus, CXR: Chest X-ray, BMI: Body mass index, ILD: Interstitial lung disease, ARDS: Adult respiratory distress syndrome, APACHE: Acute physiology and chronic health evaluation, CVP: Central venous pressure

### Introduction

Measurement of venous oxygen saturation is an indirect way to determine global oxygenation. Venous oxygen saturation is an indirect index of global oxygen supply-to-demand ratio (1). Central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO<sub>2</sub>) is the oxygen saturation of central venous blood. This value is obtained by placing a fiber-optic central venous catheter into the superior vena cava. ScvO<sub>2</sub> reflects oxygen saturation of blood returning from the upper body and indicates the balance between oxygen delivery and oxygen consumption in the cranial portion of the body, including the brain (2). Mixed venous oxygen saturation (SvO<sub>2</sub>), on the other hand, is obtained from a pulmonary artery catheter and reflects overall SvO<sub>2</sub> of blood returning from the upper body, the lower body, and the heart via the coronary

sinus. Variations in regional blood flow from the upper body, lower body, and heart will affect the absolute values for ScvO<sub>2</sub> and SvO<sub>2</sub> (2). Measurement of mixed venous oxygen saturation (SvO<sub>2</sub>) from the pulmonary artery has been advocated as an indirect index of tissue oxygenation (3). However, use of the pulmonary artery catheter has become somewhat unpopular (4,5). In contrast, insertion of a central venous catheter in the superior vena cava via the jugular or the subclavian vein is considered standard care in critically ill patients. Just like SvO<sub>2</sub>, the measurement of central venous oxygen saturation (ScvO<sub>2</sub>) has been advocated in order to detect global tissue hypoxia (6). The first sign that a patient is beginning to decompensate will be a decrease in ScvO<sub>2</sub>, prior to other

hemodynamic or lab values changing. This early detection makes continuous ScvO<sub>2</sub> an invaluable tool in the monitoring and treatment of the critically ill patient (7,8). SvO<sub>2</sub> has been shown to have diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic use in the treatment of critically ill patients in the medical ICU and in septic shock. It has also been used in mechanically ventilated patients to determine the optimal level of positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) and to assist in weaning from mechanical ventilation (9,10).

### Patients and methods

Clinical trial in which central venous oxygenation will be adopted as an index for tissue oxygenation in acute type I respiratory failure patients. The mortality will be considered as a primary end point. At the end, two groups will be present, dead and survived, each one will be control for the other. Acceptance of Ethical Committee was gotten. This study was carried out on patients admitted to the pulmonary critical care unit (PCCU), chest department, Mansoura university hospitals during the period between August 2015 to December 2015.

### Patients Inclusion criteria

All acute type I respiratory failure patients admitted to pulmonary critical care unit (PCCU), chest department, Mansoura university hospital.

### Patients Exclusion criteria

- Patients died before 72 hours from admission (before the 2<sup>nd</sup> sample).
- Patients who admitted to PCCU after cardiopulmonary arrest outside the PCCU.
- Patients with advanced pulmonary fibrosis.
- Patients already diagnosed as lung cancer.
- Patients under cancer chemotherapy.

### Methods

All patients were subjected to the following:

1. Through clinical history.
2. Through clinical examination:
3. Chest radiographs:
  - Chest X-Rays.
  - Chest C.T. scan if needed.
  - CT pulmonary angiography if needed.
  - Chest ultrasound if needed.
4. ECG and echocardiography if needed.
5. Laboratory investigations:
  - Complete blood count including differential count.

- Complete metabolic profile (serum urea, serum creatinine, liver enzymes, serum albumin, serum total proteins, serum bilirubin, serum alkaline phosphatase, serum glucose, serum electrolytes (Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>++</sup>).
- Sputum sample for bacterial culture and antibiotic sensitivity was taken from non-intubated patients and by sterile suction through the endotracheal tube in mechanically ventilated patients.
- Nasopharyngeal swab for serological detection of Influenza A H1N1 virus in suspected cases.
- Arterial blood gases.

6. Central venous catheter was inserted through a subclavian approach proceeded into the right atrium which was documented by post insertion CXR "the tip of the catheter being just at the lower border of the right 3<sup>rd</sup> anterior rib at the right medial border of the sternum".

- Post-insertion portable CXR was taken as a guidance for repositioning of the catheter and for detection of post-insertion pneumothorax.
  - Central venous blood sample for central venous O<sub>2</sub> saturation (ScvO<sub>2</sub>) will be taken on PCCU admission, 3<sup>rd</sup> day and 7<sup>th</sup> day after withdrawal of 20 ml blood to avoid the effect of frequent catheter flushing. Re-injection of withdrawn blood after sampling.
6. APACHE II scoring was adopted as a severity scoring on admission.

### Statistical methods used for data analysis

Data were analyzed using STATA intercooled version 12.1. Quantitative data were represented as mean, standard deviation, median and range. We used student T-test when comparing the mean of survived versus dead groups. In non-parametric data Mann-Whitney test was used. Qualitative data were presented as number and percentage and compared using either Chi square test or fisher exact test. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was used to determine sensitivity, specificity, positive, and negative predictive value for different ScvO<sub>2</sub> readings. The diagnostic accuracy of different variables was expressed as the area under the ROC curve (AUC). Graphs were produced by using Excel and/or STATA program. P value was considered significant if it was less than 0.05.

**Results**

The study was conducted on patients admitted to the Pulmonary Critical Care Unit (PCCU), Mansoura University Hospitals with acute type I respiratory failure during the period between August 2015 and December 2015. After application of inclusion and exclusion criteria, 62 cases were included in this study.

**Table (1): Comparison between outcome and demographic data of studied patients**

Variable	Survived n=17	Dead n=45	P value
<b>Age/years</b> Mean ± SD Median (range)	53.47 ± 16.41 60 (27-80)	62.49 ± 17.34 63 (17-90)	0.07
<b>Gender</b> Females n=30 Males n=32	12 (70.59%) 5 (29.41%)	18 (40.00%) 27 (60.00%)	0.03
<b>Smoking status</b> Non-smoker n=42 Smoker n=10 Ex-smoker n=10	15 (88.24%) 2 (11.76%) 0	27 (60.00%) 8 (17.78%) 10 (22.22%)	0.06
<b>BMI</b> Mean ± SD Median (range)	23.36±1.15 24.8 (21.53-25.85)	24.42±1.47 24.77 (20.91-27.21)	0.87

**BMI: Body Mass Index**

17 cases (27%) survived while 45 cases (73%) died. The mean age among living was 53 years (range 27-80) while in the mortality group was 62 years (range 17-90). The mean body mass index “BMI” among living was 23 (range 22-26) respectively while that in the mortality group was 24 (range 21-27). Mortality was high in non-smokers (60%) than ex-smokers (22%) and current smokers (18%).

**Table (2): Comparison between outcome and diagnosis**

Diagnosis	Survived n=17	Mortality n=45	P value
<b>Diagnosis</b> Pneumonia n=49 Lung abscess n=5 Pulmonary embolism n=5 Near drowning (ARDS) n=2 Acute exacerbation of ILD	13 (76.47%) 1 (5.88%) 3 (17.65%) 0 0	36 (80.00%) 4 (8.89%) 2 (4.44%) 2 (4.44%) 1 (2.22%)	0.63
<b>ARDS</b> n=17	0	17 (37.78%)	0.006
<b>Bacterial infection</b> No Yes	3 (17.65%) 14 (82.35%)	2 (4.44%) 43 (95.56%)	0.12
<b>Influenza A H1N1 infection</b> No Yes	15 (88.24%) 2 (11.76%)	42 (93.33%) 3 (6.67%)	0.61

**ILD: Interstitial Lung Disease**

ARDS: Acute respiratory Distress Syndrome

36 cases with poor outcome (80%) had pneumonia, There was a high significant relation between development of ARDS and poor outcome (P value 0.006).

**Table (3): Comparison between central venous oxygen saturation and outcome**

Variable	Survived n=17	Mortality n=45	P value
<b>ScvO2 day 0</b> Mean ± SD Median (range)	71.94±2.84 72 (66-76)	66.09±8.80 66 (49-80)	0.009
<b>ScvO2 day 3</b> Mean ± SD Median (range)	70.18±7.95 72 (52-84)	64.42±11.54 65 (26-83)	0.04
<b>ScvO2 day 7</b> Mean ± SD Median (range)	73.76±2.61 74 (68-77)	65.37±11.20 66 (35-79)	0.005

**ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation**

The mean ScvO2 on admission in survived patients was 72% while in dead patients it was 66%. At day 3, the mean ScvO2 in survived patients was 70% while in dead patients it was 64%. At day 7, the mean ScvO2 in survived patients was 74% while in dead patients it was 65%. There was a significant relation between ScvO2 values on admission and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day and mortality (P value 0.009, 0.04 and 0.005 respectively).

**Table (4): Comparison of ScvO2 at day 0 between survived patients and mortality group**

ScvO2 at day 0	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=45	P value
Normal (65% – 75%)	34	16 (94.12%)	18 (40.00%)	<0.0001
Abnormal (<65% and >75%)	28	1 (5.88%)	27 (60.00%)	
Low (<65%)	19	0	19 (42.22%)	0.001
High (>75%)	9	1 (5.88%)	8 (17.78%)	0.42

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

Abnormal ScvO2 on admission has significant relation to mortality (P value <0.0001). Low ScvO2 on admission was significantly related to mortality more than high admission ScvO2 (P value 0.001 and 0.42 respectively).

**Table (5): Comparison between outcome and ScvO2 at day 3**

ScvO2 at day 3	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=45	P value
Normal (65% – 75%)	32	15 (88.24%)	17 (37.78%)	<0.0001
Abnormal (<65% and >75%)	30	2 (11.76%)	28 (62.22%)	
Low (<65%)	20	0	20 (44.44%)	0.001
High (>75%)	10	2 (11.76%)	8 (17.78%)	0.71

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

Abnormal ScvO2 on day 3 has significant relation to mortality (P value <0.0001) Low ScvO2 on day 3 was significantly related to mortality more than high ScvO2 on day 3 (P value 0.001 and 0.71 respectively).

**Table (6): Comparison between ScvO2 at day 7 and outcome**

ScvO2 at day 7	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=19	P value
Normal (65% – 75%)	18	12 (70.59%)	6 (31.58%)	0.02
Abnormal (<65% and >75%)	18	5 (29.41%)	13 (68.42%)	
Low (<65%)	8	0	8 (42.11%)	0.03
High (>75%)	10	5 (29.41%)	5 (26.32%)	1.00

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

36 patients survived to day 7. Abnormal ScvO2 on day 7 has significant relation to mortality (P value 0.02). Low ScvO2 on day 7 was related to mortality more than high ScvO2 on day 7 (P value 0.03).

**Table (7): Comparison between change in ScvO2 between day 0 and day 3 and outcome**

	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=45	P value
Improvement in ScvO2 between day 0 and day 3	27	11 (64.71%)	16 (35.56%)	0.009
Deterioration in ScvO2 between day 0 and day 3	32	6 (35.29%)	26 (57.78%)	
No change	3	0	3 (6.67%)	

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

There was a significant relation between deterioration of ScvO2 from day 0 to day 3 and mortality (P value 0.009).

**Table (8): Comparison between change in ScvO2 between day 3 and day 7 and outcome**

	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=19	P value
Improvement in ScvO2 between day 3 and day 7	18	12 (70.59%)	6 (31.58%)	0.006
Deterioration in ScvO2 between day 3 and day 7	16	3 (17.65%)	13 (68.42%)	
No change	2	2 (11.76%)	0	

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

There was a significant relation between deterioration of ScvO2 from day 3 to day 7 and mortality (P value 0.006).

**Table (9): Comparison between change ScvO2 between day 0 and day 7 and outcome**

	No	Survived n=17	Mortality n=19	P value
Improvement in ScvO2 between day 0 and day 7	19	11 (64.71%)	8 (42.11%)	0.02
Deterioration in ScvO2 between day 0 and day 7	14	3 (17.65%)	11 (57.89%)	
No change	3	3 (17.65%)	0	

ScvO2: central venous oxygen saturation

There was a significant relation between deterioration of ScvO2 from day 0 to day 7 and mortality (P value 0.02).

**Table (10): Diagnostic cut off value, AUC, sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values (percentages) of APACHE II score, ScvO2 for predicting mortality in studied population**

Variable	Cutoff	AUC (95% CI)	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	PPV %	NPV %	Accuracy %	P value
APACHE II score	>27	0.77 (0.68:0.89)	42.22	100	100	39.5	71.11	<0.0001
ScvO2 at day 0	≤65%	0.71 (0.58:0.82)	48.89	100	100	42.5	74.45	0.0008
ScvO2 at day 3	≤70%	0.65 (0.52:0.76)	68.89	70.59	86.1	46.2	69.74	0.04
ScvO2 at day 7	≤66%	0.70 (0.53:0.84)	63.16	100	100	70.8	81.58	0.04
Abnormal ScvO2 day 0			60.00	94.12	96.43	47.06	77.06	<0.0001
Abnormal ScvO2 day 3			62.22	88.24	93.33	46.88	75.23	<0.0001
Abnormal ScvO2 day 7			68.42	70.59	72.22	66.67	69.50	0.02

ScvO2: Central venous oxygen saturation

APACHE: Acute Physiology And Chronic Health Evaluation

AUC: Area under the ROC curve

Regarding APACHE II score system, the cutoff point for predicting mortality was >27. It has a P value <0.0001. Regarding ScvO2 on admission, the cutoff point for predicting mortality was ≤65% has a P value 0.0008. Regarding ScvO2 at day 3, the cutoff point for predicting mortality was ≤70% has a P value 0.04. Regarding ScvO2 at day 7, the cutoff point for predicting

mortality was  $\leq 66\%$  has a P value 0.04. Abnormal admission ScvO<sub>2</sub> (low and high) had a significant role in predicting mortality. with a P value  $<0.0001$ , sensitivity 60, specificity 94.12, PPV 96.43 and NPV 47.06. Abnormal ScvO<sub>2</sub> (low and high) at day 3 has a significant role in predicting mortality. It has a P value  $<0.0001$ , sensitivity 62.22, specificity 88.24, PPV 93.33 and NPV 46.88. Abnormal ScvO<sub>2</sub> (low and high) at day 7 has a significant role in predicting mortality. It has a P value 0.02, sensitivity 68.4, specificity 70.59, PPV 72.22 and NPV 66.67.

## Discussion

In our study we found that ScvO<sub>2</sub> has a role in predicting mortality in patients admitted to the respiratory ICU with acute type I respiratory failure as initial abnormal ScvO<sub>2</sub> was associated with increased risk of mortality in agreement with the results of *Boulain et al., 2014 (11)* who stated that initial low ScvO<sub>2</sub> at ICU admission and persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub> values was independently associated with 28-day mortality and in contrast to results of *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* who stated that ScvO<sub>2</sub> has some limitations as a predictor for outcome and that ScvO<sub>2</sub> has no further prognostic value under lactate normalization after initial resuscitation. We found that mean ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission was 67% was comparable to 64% in results by *Bracht et al., 2007 (13)* and 70% in results by *Lee et al., 2016 (12)*. We also found that ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission has a role in predicting mortality and that abnormal admission whether high or low was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value  $<0.0001$ ) and that low initial ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<65\%$  was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.001) agreeing with the results of *Boulain et al., 2014 (11)* who concluded that low initial ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<70\%$  was consistently linked to mortality (P value 0.0004). The mean ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission in survivors was 72% and in the mortality group was 66% with significant relation to mortality (P value 0.009) agreeing with results of *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* (72% and 69% respectively, P value 0.03). In our study, we found that persistently low ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<65\%$  at day 3 and day 7 can predict mortality in such critically ill patients (P value 0.001 and 0.03 respectively) agreeing with the results of *Boulain et al., 2014 (11)* who found that persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<70\%$  was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.022) and with the results of *Shin et al., 2016 (14)* who found that persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<70\%$  was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value  $<0.01$ ). We found that ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $>70\%$  at day 3 and  $>66\%$  at day 7 was associated with decreased risk of

mortality agreeing with results of *Rivers et al., 2001 (15)* who reported that ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $>65\%$  at day 3 was associated with decreased risk of mortality (P value  $<0.001$ ). Normalization of ScvO<sub>2</sub> from day 0 to day 3 and to day 7 is associated with decreased risk of mortality (P value 0.09 and 0.006 respectively). Also normalization of ScvO<sub>2</sub> from day 0 to day 7 was associated with decreased risk of mortality (P value 0.02) in agreement with results of *Rivers et al., 2001 (15)* who found that attaining normal values of ScvO<sub>2</sub> during resuscitation and in post resuscitative period was associated with decreased risk of mortality (P value 0.02). We calculated a cutoff point for ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission  $\leq 65\%$  to be associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.0008) where *Boulain et al., 2014 (11)* found that initial ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<70\%$  was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.015) and *Bracht et al., 2007 (13)* who reported that low initial ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $\leq 60\%$  was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value  $<0.05$ ). We also calculated cutoff points for ScvO<sub>2</sub> on day 3  $\leq 70\%$  and on day 7  $\leq 66\%$  that were associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.04 both) agreeing with results by *Rivers et al., 2001 (15)* who found that persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub>  $<70\%$  after 72 hours of ICU admission and thereafter was associated with increased risk of 28-day mortality (P value 0.02). We also found that failure of normalization of ScvO<sub>2</sub> between day 0, day 3, day 3 to day 7 and day 0 to day 7 was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value 0.09, 0.006 and 0.02 respectively) agreeing with the results by *Boulain et al., 2014 (11)* who found that persistent low ScvO<sub>2</sub> after ICU admission was associated with increased risk of 28-day mortality (P value 0.022). In our study we found that APACHE II score has a high significance in predicting mortality (P value 0.0003) agreeing with results of *Shin et al., 2016 (14)* and *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* who reported that APACHE II score was significantly related to mortality (P value  $<0.01$  both). The mean APACHE II score of

studied population was 23 in agreement with *Romero et al., 2014 (16)* and in contrast to *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* who reported a mean APACHE II score of 17. The mean APACHE II score for the survived group was 18 while that for the dead group was 25 (P value 0.0003) compared to results of *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* who found that the mean APACHE II score in the survived and mortality group was 16 and 23 respectively (P value <0.01). We calculated a cutoff point of >27 to be highly significant for predicting mortality (P value <0.0001) agreeing with results of *Lee et al., 2016 (12)* who found that APACHE II score >23 was associated with increased risk of mortality (P value <0.01).

### Conclusion

Measuring ScvO<sub>2</sub> on admission to the respiratory ICU has a strong role in predicting mortality in patients with acute type I respiratory failure as abnormal initial values for ScvO<sub>2</sub> either high or low are associated with increased risk of mortality. Targeting normalization of abnormally high or low ScvO<sub>2</sub> is associated with decreased risk of mortality.

### Recommendation:

Recognition and treatment of the conditions leading to abnormal ScvO<sub>2</sub> values should be started early before irreversible cellular damage occurs due to persistent cellular hypoxia. Maintaining normal values of ScvO<sub>2</sub> should be aimed at the long term management of patients with acute type I respiratory failure patients after initial normalisation of ScvO<sub>2</sub> during the first few hours of admission to the pulmonary critical care unit.

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