# OUTCOME OF PATIENTS WITH SPONTANEOUS INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE AT TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN NEPAL.

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#### **Abstract:**

Nontraumatic intracerebral hemorrhage is bleeding into the parenchyma of the brain that may extend into the ventricles and, in rare cases, the subarachnoid space. Intracerebral hemorrhage accounts for 10 to 15 percent of all cases of stroke and is associated with the highest mortality rate, with only 38 percent of affected patients surviving the first year. It is a prospective analytical study carried out at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hosital between April 2012 and April 2013. A total of 100 patients were admitted to the medical ward and intensive care unit during this period. Patients were followed until they were discharged from the hospital. Spontaneous Intracerebral bleeding was found to be more common in males than women. 85 percent of patients were above the age of 50. 45 Percent of the patients had onset in the early morning between 5AM and 11AM.Patients diagnosed with hypertension but not taking antihypertensive medications or taking them irregularly were more likely to have the vascular event than those who were taking the medication regularly. Patients also had very high blood pressure at the time of presentation.46 percent of the patients had putaminal bleeding. 44 percent of patients were discharged before 10 days. Only 8 percent of patients had a stay longer than 30 days. 8 percent of the patients needed mechanical ventilation during their hospital stay. The case fatality rate was 6 percent.

Keyword: Intracerebral hemorrhage, case fatality, hematoma

#### Introduction

Nontraumatic intracerebral hemorrhage is bleeding into the parenchyma of the brain that may extend into the ventricles and, in rare cases, the subarachnoid space. Intracerebral hemorrhage accounts for 10 to 15 percent of all cases of stroke and is associated with the highest mortality rate, with only 38 percent of affected patients surviving the first year.1 Depending on the underlying cause bleeding: intracerebral hemorrhage classified as either primary or secondary. Primary intracerebral hemorrhage, accounting for 78 to 88 percent of cases, originates from the spontaneous rupture of small vessels damaged by chronic hypertension or amyloid angiopathy.<sup>2</sup> Secondary intracerebral hemorrhage occurs in a minority of patients in association with vascular abnormalities (such as arteriovenous malformations and aneurysms), tumors, or impaired coagulation. Although hypertensive intracerebral hemorrhage remains the most common form of intracerebral hemorrhage, underlying vascular abnormalities should always be considered in appropriate circumstances because of the high risk of recurrent hemorrhage and available treatment options.<sup>3-9</sup>

# **Epidemio ogic Features**

#### **Incidence:**

The worldwide incidence of intracerebral hemorrhage ranges from 10 to 20 cases per

100,000 population<sup>10,11</sup> and increases with age.<sup>10,12</sup> Intracerebral hemorrhage is more common in men than women, particularly those older than 55 years of age,<sup>12,13</sup> and in certain populations, including blacks and Japanese.<sup>10,14</sup>

#### **Risk Factors**

Hypertension is the most important risk factor for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage. 15 Hypertension increases the risk of intracerebral hemorrhage, particularly in persons who are not compliant with antihypertensive medication, are 55 years of age or younger, or are smokers. 16,17 Improved control of hypertension appears to reduce the incidence of intracerebral hemorrhage. In the Hypertension Detection and Follow-up Program, persons with hypertension (defined as a diastolic blood pressure of at least 95 mm Hg) who were 30 to 69 years of age and who standardized antihypertensive received therapy had a risk of stroke (including intracerebral hemorrhage) of 1.9 per 100 persons, as compared with a risk of 2.9 per 100 persons in those who received routine community care. 18 This approach was associated with an absolute reduction in risk of 46 percent in persons who were 65 years of age or older. In the Systolic Hypertension in the Elderly Program, the five-year incidence of all strokes, including intracerebral hemorrhage, in patients older than 60 years who had a systolic blood pressure of at least 160 mm Hg was 5.2 per 100 with antihypertensive treatment and 8.2 per 100 with placebo treatment.<sup>19</sup>

Excessive use of alcohol also increases the risk of intracerebral hemorrhage by impairing coagulation and directly affecting the integrity of cerebral vessels.<sup>20,21</sup> Other less well established risk factors include serum cholesterol levels of less than 160 mg per deciliter (4.1 mmol per liter), particularly

among patients with hypertension, and genetic factors such as mutations in genes encoding the subunit of factor XIII (which is involved in the formation of cross-linked fibrin).<sup>22-24</sup> Cerebral amyloid angiopathy, which is characterized by the deposition of **u**amyloid protein in the blood vessels of the cerebral cortex and leptomeninges, is another risk factor for intracerebral hemorrhage, particularly in elderly persons Surgical Specimens from the Matrix of a Hematoma Associated with Amyloid Angiopathy.). O'Donnell et al.reported that the presence of the **2** and **4** alleles of the apolipoprotein E gene was associated with a tripling of the risk of recurrent hemorrhage among survivors of lobar intracerebral hemorrhage related to amyloid angiopathy. These alleles are associated with increased deposition of a amyloid protein and degenerative changes (such as fibrinoid necrosis) in the vessel wall, respectively. The expression of either allele appears to increase the risk of intracerebral hemorrhage by augmenting the vasculopathic effects of amyloid deposition in cerebral vessels.

# Pathophysio ogica Features

## **Patho ogic Process**

Intracerebral hemorrhages commonly occur in the cerebral lobes, basal ganglia, thalamus, brain stem (predominantly the pons), and cerebellum .<sup>25</sup> Extension into the ventricles occurs in association with deep, large hematomas. Edematous parenchyma, often discolored by degradation products of hemoglobin, is visible adjacent to the clot.<sup>26</sup>Histologic sections are characterized by the presence of edema, neuronal damage, macrophages, and neutrophils in the region surrounding the hematoma. The hemorrhage spreads between planes of white-matter cleavage with minimal destruction, leaving nests of intact neural tissue within and

surrounding the hematoma.<sup>25,26</sup> This pattern of spread accounts for the presence of viable and salvageable neural tissue in the immediate vicinity of the hematoma.

## **Origin of Hematoma**

Intraparenchymal bleeding results from the rupture of the small penetrating arteries that originate from basilar arteries or the anterior, middle, or posterior cerebral arteries. Degenerative changes in the vessel wall induced by chronic hypertension reduce compliance and increase the likelihood of spontaneous rupture. In 1868, Charcot and Bouchard attributed bleeding to rupture at points of dilatation in the walls of small arterioles (microaneurysms).27-29 morphologic entities were later found to be subadventitial hemorrhages or extravascular clots resulting from endothelial damage by hematoma.<sup>29</sup> Electron-microscopical the studies suggest that most bleeding occurs at or near the bifurcation of affected arteries, where prominent degeneration of the media and smooth muscles can be seen.<sup>29</sup>

## **Progression of Hematoma**

Initially, intracerebral hemorrhage was considered to be a monophasic event that stopped quickly as a result of clotting and tamponade by the surrounding regions. This impression is incorrect, as demonstrated by computed tomographic (CT) scans showing that hematomas expand over time

.<sup>30,31</sup> In a study of 103 patients, Brott et al. found that the hematoma expanded in 26 percent of the patients within 1 hour after the initial CT scan and in another 12 percent within 20 hours. Kazui et al.reported that the hematoma expanded in 41 of 204 patients (20 percent) with intracerebral hemorrhage, occurring in 36 percent of patients who presented within three hours after the onset of the hemorrhage and in 11 percent of those

who presented more than three hours after the onset. This expansion has been attributed to continued bleeding from the primary source and to the mechanical disruption of surrounding vessels. Acute hypertension, a local coagulation deficit, or both<sup>32</sup> may be associated with expansion of the hematoma.<sup>33,34</sup>

# Secondary Neurona Injury after Intracerebra Hemorrhage

The presence of hematoma initiates edema and neuronal damage in surrounding parenchyma. Fluid begins to collect immediately in the region around the hematoma, and edema usually persists for up to five days,<sup>35</sup> although it has been observed for as long as two weeks after a stroke.<sup>36</sup> Early edema around the hematoma results from the release and accumulation of osmotically active serum proteins from the clot.<sup>37</sup> Vasogenic edema and cytotoxic edema subsequently follow owing to the disruption of the blood-brain barrier, the failure of the sodium pump, and the death of neurons. 38,39

The delay in the breakdown of the bloodbrain barrier and the development of cerebral edema after intracerebral hemorrhage suggest that there may be secondary mediators of both neural injury and edema. It is currently thought that blood and plasma products mediate most secondary processes that are initiated after an intracerebral hemorrhage. Neuronal death in the region around the hematoma is predominantly necrotic, with recent evidence suggesting the presence of programmed cell death (apoptosis) associated with nuclear factor-**D**B expression in neural-cell nuclei. 46

#### C inica Features

### **Neuro ogic Status at Presentation**

Patients with a large hematoma usually have a decreased level of consciousness<sup>47</sup> as a result of increased intracranial pressure and the

direct compression or distortion of the thalamic and brain-stem reticular activating system. 48 Decreased central benzodiazepinereceptor binding on cortical neurons in the presence of small, deep lesions may also contribute to altered consciousness. 49 Patients with a supratentorial intracerebral hemorrhage involving the putamen, caudate, and thalamus have contralateral sensory-motor deficits of varying severity owing to the involvement of the internal capsule. Abnormalities indicating higher-level cortical dysfunction, including aphasia, neglect, gaze deviation, hemianopia, may occur as a result of the disruption of connecting fibers in the subcortical white matter and functional suppression of overlying cortex, known as diaschisis.50

In patients with an infratentorial intracerebral hemorrhage, signs of brain-stem dysfunction include abnormalities of gaze, cranial-nerve abnormalities. and contralateral deficits.<sup>51</sup> Ataxia, nystagmus, and dysmetria are prominent when the intracerebral hemorrhage involves the cerebellum. Common nonspecific symptoms include headache and vomiting due to increased pressure intracranial and meningismus resulting from blood in the ventricles.<sup>52,53</sup>

#### **Secondary Deterioration**

In one fourth of patients with intracerebral hemorrhage who are initially alert, a deterioration in the level of consciousness occurs within the first 24 hours after onset of the hemorrhage. The presence of a large hematoma and ventricular blood increases the risk of subsequent deterioration and death. Expansion of the hematoma is the most common cause of underlying neurologic deterioration within the first three hours after the onset of hemorrhage. Worsening cerebral edema is also implicated in neurologic deterioration that occurs within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of hemorrhage. Sinfrequently;

late deterioration is associated with progression of edema during the second and third weeks after the onset.

The mortality rate six months after spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage ranges from 23 to 58 percent. <sup>56-58</sup> A low score on the Glasgow Coma Scale, a large volume of the hematoma, and the presence of ventricular blood on the initial CT scan are factors that have been consistently identified as predictive of a high mortality rate Broderick et al. found that the mortality rate at one month was best predicted by determining the initial score on the Glasgow Coma Scale and the initial volume of the hematoma. In their study, patients who initially had a score of less than 9 on the Glasgow Coma Scale and a hematoma volume of more than 60 ml had a mortality rate of 90 percent at one month, whereas patients with a score of 9 or greater and a hematoma volume of less than 30 ml had a mortality rate of 17 percent.

A rapid manual method to measure the volume of the hematoma on CT scans has been developed and validated. In this method, the estimated volume of the hematoma is half the product of A, B, and C, where A is the greatest diameter of the hemorrhage on the CT scan, B is the diameter perpendicular to A, and C is the number of slices showing hematoma multiplied by the slice thickness.<sup>56</sup>

Although the rapid onset of abnormalities and a decreased level of consciousness suggest the intracerebral hemorrhage diagnosis of distinguishing definitively between cerebral infarction and intracerebral hemorrhage requires imaging of the brain.<sup>59</sup> On the initial CT scan, the location and size of the hematoma, the presence of ventricular blood, and the occurrence of hydrocephalus should be noted. Selected patients should undergo angiography to look conventional secondary causes of intracerebral hemorrhage, arteriovenous aneurysms, such as

malformations, and vasculitis. Zhu et al. 60 reported abnormalities on angiography in 49 percent of patients with lobar hemorrhage and 65 percent of patients with isolated intraventricular hemorrhage. These authors also reported that 48 percent of the patients who were normotensive and 45 years of age or younger had abnormalities on angiography, whereas hypertensive patients who were older than 45 years of age had no underlying vascular abnormalities.

On the basis of this evidence, patients with lobar or primary intraventricular hemorrhage should undergo angiography regardless of age or the presence or absence of a history of hypertension. **Patients** with putaminal, thalamic, or cerebellar hemorrhage should undergo conventional angiography if they are normotensive and 45 years of age or younger. The guidelines of the American Heart Association2 recommend angiography for all patients with no clear cause of hemorrhage who are candidates for surgery, particularly young patients without hypertension whose condition is clinically stable. The timing of conventional angiography depends on the patient's clinical condition and the urgency of surgery. Magnetic resonance imaging with gadolinium as a contrast medium and magnetic resonance angiography can also be used to identify secondary causes of intracerebral hemorrhage, although their sensitivity is not well established.<sup>61</sup> Conventional angiography should also be considered in patients who have subarachnoid blood associated with a parenchymal clot and in patients who have recurrent hemorrhages. In patients who have initially negative findings on imaging but who have a high likelihood of secondary intracerebral hemorrhage on the basis of clinical findings, angiography should perhaps be repeated two to four weeks after the resolution of the hematoma, when vascular anomalies may become visible.

# Methodo ogy:

It was a prospective analytical study carried out at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. All the patients admitted at medical ward and intensive care unit from April 2012 to April 2013 were followed from the time of admission until they were discharged. Their clinical characteristics including vitals and outcome with regard to presenting level of consciousness and neuro-imaging was recorded

#### Resu t

From April 2012 to April 2013 a total of 100 patients with spontaneous intracerebral bleeding were admitted at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital medical ward and intensive care unit. There were 63 males and 27 females.

Age distribution of patient's presentation with spontaneous intracerebral bleeding was as follows. Less than 20 years of age: 1 patient. 20-29: 1 Patient. 30-39: 2 patients. 40-49: 11 Patients. 50-59: 19 patients. 60-69: 29 Patients. 70-79: 20 patients. Above 80 years: 17 patients

Blood Pressure at the time of admission: 32percent of patients had blood pressure more than 180/110 mmhg.28 percent had BP more than 160/100 mmhg, 6 percent had BP of more than 140/90 mmhg. Rest of the patients (34%) had normal BP at the time of admission.20 percent of the patients who were diagnosed with blood pressure were taking antihypertensive medication regularly. 36 percent of patients who were diagnosed with hypertension were either not antihypertensive medicine or taking them irregularly .The latter group were not taking the medication at least few days before the vascular event. The remaining 44% of patients did not have a history hypertension.

Nine percent of patients had a history of diabetes mellitus. 21 percent of patients were smokers.20 percent of patients consumed excessive amount of alcohol

The most common clinical features were hemiparesis and upper neuron type of facial palsy. Vomiting was present in 45% of patients. The other complaints were headache (43%), Loss of Consciousness:(17%), Seizure (13%)

Time of vascular event: Most of the events (45%) occurred in the morning between 5 AM and 11 AM. The onset was least common in the afternoon between 12 pm to 6 pm.

Glassgow Coma Scale at presentation: The majority of patients (66%) admitted to the hospital had a Glassgow coma scale of 15.

Neuroimaging finding:

CT scan was done in all the patients at the time of admission.46% of patients had primarily putaminal bleeding.Lobar bleeding was present in 28% of patients.Thalamic bleeding in 13%.Cerebellar bleeding in 3% and Pontine bleeding in 4% of patients.Intraventricular extension was present in 26% of patients.

Duration of hospital stay: 44% of patients were discharged from the hospital before 10 days. Only 8% of Patients had a stay more than 30 days.

Outcome: 90% of the patients who were admitted improved and were discharged from the hospital. The mortality rate was 6%. Condition of 4% patients deteriorated and were taken to home on family members request.8% of patients needed mechanical ventilation. 5% of patients had surgical evacuation of their brain hematoma

#### Discussion

In my study it was found that hemorrhagic stroke was more common in male than female. The incidence of hemorrhagic stroke increased dramatically after the age of 50. The majority of events occurred in the early morning. Giroud M, Gras P, Chadan N, et al. also found hemorrhagic stroke to be more common in males above age 55. 12

Putaminal bleeding was the most common. quarter of patients Almost a intraventricular extension. Equal number of bleeding occurred in those who were diagnosed with hypertension and taking medications regularly and those who were taking them irregularly or not taking the medication at all. Hypertension is the most important risk factor for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage.<sup>15</sup>Hypertension increases the risk of intracerebral hemorrhage, particularly in persons who are not compliant with antihypertensive medication, are 55 years of age or younger, or are smokers. 16,17

Most patients had very high blood pressure at the time of presentation. Majority of patients had favorable outcome in terms of mortality. In my study the mortality rate was 6 percent when the patients were followed until their discharge. 4 percent had their condition deteriorated and were taken home by their family members. Glassgow coma score less than 9 and intraventricular extension was predictor of poor prognosis and mortality. Broderick et al.<sup>56</sup> found that the mortality rate at one month was best predicted by determining the initial score on the Glasgow Coma Scale and the initial volume of the hematoma. In their study, patients who initially had a score of less than 9 on the Glasgow Coma Scale and a hematoma volume of more than 60 ml had a mortality rate of 90 percent at one month, whereas patients with a score of 9 or greater and a hematoma volume of less than 30 ml had a mortality rate of 17 percent.

### Conc usion:

Spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage is more common among those hypertensive

patients who are not taking medication regularly. The onset is most common in the early morning. Majority of patients have very high blood pressure at presentation. Low Glassgow coma scale and intraventricular extension predicted poor outcome among those patient.

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