

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Chemoembolisation of Hepatic Tumours: Changes in Platelet Count, Haemoglobin, and Creatinine Postembolisation

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ABSTRACT

Objective: *To determine the frequency and magnitude of decreases in renal function, haemoglobin levels, and platelet count after chemoembolisation in patients with liver tumours.*

Materials and Methods: *Eighteen patients with a mean age of 59 years (range, 37 to 78 years) were entered in this retrospective study. A total of 28 chemoembolisations were carried out. Eight patients had hepatomas while 10 patients had metastatic disease. Laboratory values for creatinine, platelet count, and haemoglobin were obtained between 3 and 5 days postembolisation (mean 3.2 days), and compared with immediate pre-embolisation values (< 36 hours before). In all instances values were within the normal range pre-embolisation.*

Results: *Creatinine increased by a mean of 51 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (range, 5 to 326 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) with values above the normal range in 17/28 embolisations. Platelet count decreased by a mean of 27% (range, -55% to +78%), falling below normal values in 3/28 cases. A mean decrease in haemoglobin of 20 g/L (range, -43 to +8 g/L) was observed, with values below the normal range in 7/28 cases.*

Conclusion: *A significant decrease in renal function, as reflected by increased creatinine levels, was observed ($p < 0.05$). A fall in platelet and haemoglobin levels was encountered frequently in patients postchemoembolisation. All values returned to pre-embolisation levels within 4 weeks of chemoembolisation.*

Key Words: *Creatinine, Disseminated intravascular coagulation, Hemoglobins, Hepatoma, Platelet count, Therapeutic chemoembolization, Tumors*