

**Sex-Dependent Differences in Vasomotor Responses of
Older Male and Female Humans**

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degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Table of Contents

Declaration	5
Acknowledgements	6
Abstracts, Presentations and Awards derived from this thesis	7
List of thesis figures and tables	9
List of abbreviations	11
Thesis Abstract	13
CHAPTER 1: Introduction	16
1.1: Defining vascular disease	17
1.2: Vascular diseases burden	17
1.3: Vascular pathophysiology-General aspects	18
1.3.1: Inflammation	18
1.3.2: Atherosclerosis	21
1.3.2.1: Atherosclerotic Risk Factors	22
1.3.3: Thrombosis	23
1.3.4: Vasomotor Reactivity (Vasospasm)	24
1.3.4.1: Vascular reactivity regulations	25
1.3.4.1.1: Endothelium	27
1.3.4.1.1.1: Endothelial dysfunction	27
1.3.4.1.1.2: Nitric Oxide (NO)	29
1.3.4.1.1.3: The Prostanoids.....	30
1.3.4.1.1.4: Endothelin.....	35
1.3.4.1.1.5: Endothelium-Derived Hyperpolarising Factor	38
1.3.4.1.2: Extravascular neuro-hormonal influences	38
1.3.4.1.2.1: Catecholamines.....	38
1.3.4.1.2.2: Thromboxane	42
1.3.4.1.2.3: Serotonin	44
1.3.4.2.1: Vascular Myogenic tone.....	47
1.3.4.2.2: The contractile apparatus.....	47
1.3.4.2.3: Role of Ca ²⁺ in VSMC contraction.....	48
1.3.4.2.4: Cytosolic Ca ²⁺ influx.....	48
1.3.4.2.5: Ca ²⁺ sensitization	50
1.3.4.2.6: PKC activation.....	51
1.3.4.2.7: Rho-Kinase pathway	51
1.4.1: Large Vessel Disorders	54

1.4.1.1: Coronary Artery disease	54
1.4.1.2: Peripheral artery disease.....	55
1.4.2: Microvascular Disorders	56
1.5: Vascular treatment strategies	56
1.5.1: Lifestyle management strategies	57
1.5.2: Optimal Medical therapy.....	57
1.5.2.1: Cardiovascular Preventative Therapies	57
1.5.2.2 Anti-ischaemic Therapies	58
1.5.3: Revascularisation procedures	59
1.5.3.1: Percutaneous coronary intervention	59
1.5.3.2: Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)	60
1.5.3.2.1: Internal mammary artery	61
1.5.3.2.2: Saphenous Vein	61
1.6: Sex differences in vascular disease.....	63
1.6.1: Sex vs. gender definitions	63
1.6.2: Vascular disease burden in women.....	63
1.6.3: Sex difference in vascular coronary syndromes	64
1.6.3.1: Sex differences in acute coronary syndromes	65
1.6.3.2: Sex differences in coronary artery bypass surgery	65
1.6.3.2.1: Risk Factors.....	66
1.6.3.2.2: Clinical Outcomes	66
1.6.4.1: Clinical Factors	70
1.6.4.1.1: Presentation.....	70
1.6.4.1.2: Diagnosis	71
1.6.4.1.3: Treatment	72
1.6.4.2: Biological factors	76
1.6.4.2.1: Inflammation	76
1.6.4.2.2: Atherothromobosis.....	77
1.6.4.2.3: Microvascular dysfunction	78
1.6.4.2.4: Vascular Reactivity	79
1.6.4.2.5: Hormonal effects.....	80
CHAPTER 2: Methods	87
2.1: Study Patients	88
2.1.1: Patient Inclusion Criteria.....	88
2.1.2: Exclusion Criteria	89
2.1.3: Patient Case Report Form	89
2.2: Patient Surgical Procedures.....	89
2.2.1: CAD Cohort	89
2.2.2: Cohort of patients with no known CAD	92

2.3: Isolated Vessels	93
2.3.1: Isolated Vessel Apparatus.....	93
2.3.2: Principles of Assessing Isolated Vessel Responses	93
2.3.3: Vascular preparations.....	94
2.3.3.1: Large vessels	94
2.3.3.2: Small vessels.....	94
2.3.4: Baseline Vasomotor Assessment.....	95
2.3.4.1: Depolarization Stimulus Assessment	95
2.3.4.2: Endothelial Function Assessment.....	97
2.3.5: Vasoactive Agonists Responses.....	98
2.2.6: Mechanistic Studies.....	98
2.4. Data analysis.....	99
2.5. Vascular Receptor Quantification	101
2.5.1: Tissue storage	101
2.5.2: Protein extraction	101
2.5.3: SDS-polyacrylamide gels	102
2.5.4: Sample loading and SDS-PAGE run	102
2.5.5: Protein transfer.....	103
2.5.6: Western blot analysis.....	104
2.5.6.1: Blocking.....	104
2.7: Materials	107
CHAPTER 3: Sex Differences in Vascular Reactivity of Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Conduits.....	109
CHAPTER 4: Sex differences in vasoconstrictor responses of microvessels from patients with Coronary Artery Disease.....	135
CHAPTER 5: Sex Differences in Vasoconstrictor Responses of Microvessels From Patients With and Without Known Coronary Artery Disease	155
CHAPTER 6: Thesis Conclusion and Implications	179
6.1: Sex Differences in Vascular Reactivity – Major Findings.....	180
6.1.1: Heterogeneity in Vascular Responses between Sexes	183
6.1.2: Homogeneity in Vascular Responses to Et-1 between Sexes	185
6.2. Clinical Implications of Sex Differences in Vascular Responses	185
6.2.1: Cardiovascular Disorders	186
6.2.2: Cardiovascular Outcomes	186
6.2.3: Sex-specific Therapies	187
6.3: Future Directions.....	188
References	189

Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Signed

Amenah Jaghoori

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Abstracts, Presentations and Awards derived from this thesis

Published Abstracts

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4. **Jaghoori A**, Jakobczak R, Worthington M, Edwards J, Wilson D, Beltrame J. Vascular hyper-reactivity in women with and without coronary artery disease. *Global Heart*. 9/2014; 1S:e28-e29

Conference proceedings

1. **Jaghoori A**, Worthington M, Edwards J, Stuklis R, Wilson D, Beltrame J. Gender differences in internal mammary artery vasoconstrictor responses. Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand 2011. **Poster Presentation.**
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4. **Jaghoori A**, Jakobczak R, Worthington M, Edwards J, Stuklis R, Wilson D, Beltrame J. Sex differences in vascular reactivity of internal mammary artery and subcutaneous microvessels. Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand 2012. **Oral Presentation.**
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6. **Jaghoori A**, Jakobczak R, Wilson D, Beltrame J. Hyper-constrictive responses of female large and small arteries. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Annual Research Day, Adelaide, Australia 2012. **Oral Presentation.**

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8. **Jaghooi A**, Jakobczak R, Worthington M, Edwards J, Wilson D, Beltrame J. Vascular hyper-reactivity in women with and without coronary artery disease. Ralph Reader Prize (clinical sessions), World Cardiology Congress (WCC) 2014. **Oral Presentations.**
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Prizes and Awards during the course of Doctorate

1. First prize for the best oral in Junior PhD student section in TQEH Research Day.2011
2. First prize for the best poster presentation in basic mechanisms section in Post Graduate conference 2011, University of Adelaide.
3. First prize for the best poster in school of Medicine in Post Graduate conference 2011, University of Adelaide.
4. First prize for the best poster presentation in cardiovascular special interest group prize, Australian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) conference 2012
5. Runner up for the International Society of Heart Research (ISHR) young investigator award in the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) conference 2012
6. Finalist for the Ralph reader prize (clinical sessions), World Cardiology Congress (WCC) 2014.
7. Awarded Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) 2011 travel grants.
8. Awarded Faculty of health sciences, University of Adelaide, Postgraduate travelling fellowships 2012.
9. Awarded Ivan Delaland travel grant for outstanding PhD candidate in Cardiology and Pharmacology, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital 2012
10. Awarded Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists student travel grant 2012.

List of thesis figures and tables

CHAPTER 1

Figure 1	The role of inflammation in development of atherosclerosis.	17
Figure 2	Signal transduction in vascular endothelial cells involved in nitric oxide production.	23
Table 1	Summary of adrenergic receptors in the cardiovascular system.	38
Table 2	Summary of agonists, receptors and second-messenger molecules relevant to this thesis.	43
Figure 3	Signal transduction in vascular smooth muscle cells contraction	50
Table 3	Sex differences in patients undergoing CABG.	65
Table 4	Sex differences in key clinical characteristics of patients	72
Table 5	Sex differences in key biological factors.	80
Table 6	Sex differences in key psychosocial factors	82

CHAPTER 2

Table 1	Commonly agents administered during coronary artery bypass grafting.	88
Table 2	Commonly used agents during elective hernia repair surgery in patients with no known coronary artery disease.	89
Table 3	List of all materials and the respective providers used in this thesis.	104

CHAPTER 3

Table 1	Patient Characteristics	117
Table 2	Reactivity of IMA and SV segments to PE, 5HT, ET-1 and U46619	118
Table 3	Reactivity of IMA segments to PE in absence and presence of L-NAME and Indomethacin	119
Figure 1	Female IMA segments were significantly more hypersensitive to PE and 5HT, compared to males.	120
Figure 2	There were no sex differences in vasoconstrictor responses of SV.	121
Figure 3	Female hypersensitivity to α_1 -adrenergic stimulation is ameliorated in presence of cyclo-oxygenase blockade.	122
Figure 4	There is no difference in α_1 - and β_2 - adrenergic receptor density in internal mammary artery of male and female patients	123
Figure 5	Specific serotonin 5HT _{2A} receptor density is increased in female internal mammary artery but not in matched males. No sex differences are seen in the 5HT _{2B} receptor density.	124

CHAPTER 4

Table 1	Patient Characteristics	141
Table 2	Reactivity of pericardial microvessels to PE, 5HT, ET-1 and U46619.	142
Table 3	Reactivity of subcutaneous microvessels to PE, 5HT, ET-1 and U46619.	143
Figure 1	Female pericardial microvessels are hypersensitive to PE and	144

	5HT, compared to males.	
Figure 2	There were no sex differences in vasoconstrictor stimuli in the subcutaneous microvessels	145
CHAPTER 5		
Table 1	Baseline characteristics of patients with and without known CAD.	164
Table 2	Reactivity of subcutaneous microvessels from patients with and without known CAD in response to PE, 5HT, ET-1 and U46619	165
Figure 1a	Sex differences in the high K ⁺ mediated vasoconstriction in patients with no known CAD.	166
Figure 1b	Sex differences in the high K ⁺ mediated vasoconstriction in patients with known CAD.	166
Figure 2	Subcutaneous resistance arteries from asymptomatic female patients with out history of coronary artery stenosis are hypersensitive to α_1 -adrenergic receptor stimulation, compared to matched males.	167
Figure 3	Subcutaneous resistance arteries of male patients with known CAD are significantly hypersensitive to α_1 -adrenergic, serotonergic and thromboxane A ₂ (U46619) receptor stimulation, as compared to those with no known CAD.	168
Figure 4	Subcutaneous resistance arteries of female patients with known CAD are significantly hypersensitive to α_1 -adrenergic and thromboxane A ₂ (U46619) receptor stimulation, as compared to those with no known CAD.	169
CHAPTER 6		
Table 1	Summary of the observed female vascular hypersensitivity in response to specific agonists in different vascular beds.	180

List of abbreviations

CVD	Cardiovascular Disease
LDL	Low Density Lipoprotein
VCAM-1	Vascular Cell Adhesion Molecule-1
VLDL	Very Low-Density Lipoprotein
HDL	High-Density Lipoprotein
Ang	Angiotensin II
AT1	Angiotensin II Type 1
VSMC	Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell
IVUS	Intravascular Ultrasound
FMD	Flow Mediated Dilation
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
NO	Nitric Oxide
NOS	Nitric Oxide Synthase
GC	Guanylate Cyclase
cGMP	cyclic Guanosine-3',5'-monophosphate
PKG	Protein Kinase G
CAM	Calmodulin
eNOS	Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase
PI3K	Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase
PKB	Protein Kinase B
nNOS	Neuronal Nitric Oxide Synthase
iNOS	Inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase
BH4	Tetrahydrobiopterin
ADMA	Asymmetrical Dimethylarginine
COX	Cyclo-Oxygenase
PGI ₂	Prostacyclin
TXA ₂	Thromboxane
cAMP	cyclic Adenosine Monophosphate
NSAID	Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
ET	Endothelin
PLC	Phospholipase C
IP3	Inositol triphosphate
DAG	Diacylglycerol
PKC	Protein Kinase C
EDHF	Endothelial Derived Hyperpolarizing Factor
PE	Phenylephrine
ROK	Rho-associated Kinase
5HT	5-Hydroxytryptamine
MLCK	Myosin Light Chain Kinase
MLCP	Myosin Light Chain Phosphatase
MYPT	Myosin Phosphatase Targeting subunit
PIP2	Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-biphosphate
GDP	Guanosine Diphosphate
GTP	Guanosine Triphosphate
GEF	Guanine nucleotide Exchange Factor
GAP	GTPase-Activating Proteins

ACS	Acute Coronary Syndrome
MI	Myocardial Infarction
AMI	Acute Myocardial Infarction
STEMI	ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
NSTEMI	Non- ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ACE	Angiotensin Converting Enzyme
ARB	Angiotensin Receptor Blocker
PCI	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
CABG	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
IMA	Internal Mammary Artery
SV	Saphenous Vein
CHD	Coronary Heart Disease
BMI	Body Mass Index
IHD	Ischaemic Heart Disease
PVD	Peripheral Vascular Disease
FRS	Framingham risk score
CRP	C-reactive Protein
PTD	Pain-To-Door
DTB	Door-To-Balloon
LTB	Lab-To-Balloon
WISE	Women's Ischaemia Syndrome Evaluation study
MVD	Microvascular Dysfunction
QOL	Quality of Life
NHT	Normal HEPES-Tyrode
KPSS	Potassium Physiological Salt Solution
KCl	Potassium Chloride
L-NAME	Ng-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester
DFP	Diisopropylfluorophosphate
DTT	Dithiothreitol
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate
SDS-PAGE	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate-Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis
APS	Ammonium Persulfate
TEMED	N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine
TBS-T	Tris buffered saline – Tween 20
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance

Thesis Abstract

Background and Aims: Sex differences have been observed in several cardiovascular diseases, in terms of mortality and morbidity. Female patients experience worse clinical outcomes than their male counterparts. Although multiple mechanisms may be involved, sex differences in vascular reactivity of large and small blood vessels have not been investigated. This thesis aims to assess sex-dependent difference in vasoconstrictor responses of human vessels isolated from a variety of vascular beds from older patients (mean age 68 years) with and without existing coronary artery disease. Specific aims include evaluation of :**(1a)** sex differences in vascular responses of internal mammary artery (IMA) and saphenous vein (SV) segments from male and female patients undergoing CABG and **(1b)** mechanisms underlying sex dependent vascular responses. **(2)** sex differences in microvascular reactivity of vessels isolated from mediastinal and peripheral subcutaneous areas in patients with CAD. **(3a)** sex difference in vascular reactivity of subcutaneous microvessels from patients with no known CAD, undergoing elective non-cardiac surgery. **(3b)** subcutaneous microvascular reactivity of males and females patients with CAD to those without known CAD.

Methods: This thesis used wire myography technique to assess functional changes in vasoconstrictor responses of isolated large conduit and small blood vessels. Concentration-response curves were formed for various vasoconstrictors including phenylephrine, serotonin, endothelin-1 and the thromboxane mimetic, U46619. Western blot analysis was employed to measure the biochemical parameters, including receptor abundance endothelin-1.

Summary of major findings: Female IMA segments display hypersensitive responses to serotonergic and α_1 -adrenergic receptor stimulation, compared to males. Blocking eNOS and/or cyclooxygenase revealed that prostaglandins account for in the observed α_1 -adrenergic mediated sex differences. Biochemical analysis revealed increased density of 5HT_{2A} receptors in the female IMA.

Similar sex differences were observed in the pericardial microvessels of the same patient cohort, with females showing increased sensitivity to serotonergic and α_1 -adrenergic receptor stimulation. Interestingly, no sex differences were observed in the peripheral subcutaneous microvessels of patients with existing CAD.

In patients without known CAD, female subcutaneous microvessels were hypersensitive to serotonergic and α_1 -adrenergic receptor stimulation, compared to matched males. When compared to subcutaneous microvessels of male and female patients without known CAD, male and female CAD patients exhibited increased sensitivity to α_1 -adrenergic agonist. Male CAD patients were also hypersensitive to serotonin and the thromboxane A₂ mimetic, U46619, relative to those without known CAD.

Conclusions: For the first time, in a population cohort with a mean age of 68 years, female vascular hyper-reactivity in both large graft arteries (IMA) and microvessels has been demonstrated. Female vascular hypersensitivity is consistently seen in response to serotonergic and α_1 -adrenergic receptor agonist. In part, this may be due to sex-differences in prostanoid activity. The IMA hyper-reactivity in the group of older women may contribute to their poorer outcomes following CABG and microvascular differences amongst patients without documented cardiovascular disease may pre-

dispose them to hypertension.