Rapid accelerated Hemodialysis in Children with End Stage renal Disease, randomized clinical trial on its anticoagulant role and effects on the efficiency

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Increasing the blood flow rate (BFR) is a recommended strategy to improve efficiency of hemodialysis and to prevent blood clotting.

Rapid BFR "low dose heparin" and "no heparin" hemodialysis can achieve anticoagulation with low risk of anticoagulants induced bleeding, especially in patients with bleeding tendency. <sup>1,2</sup>



Increasing the BFR carries the risk of heart failure and hypotension, especially in children, which might result in the interruption of treatment <sup>1</sup>



Accelerated hemodialysis (AHD) is a hemodialysis technique where partial blood recirculation is used to selectively accelerate the BFR in the filter compared to the patient BFR





*Slow accelerated hemodialysis (S-AHD)* indicates selective reduction of the patient BFR. It was reported by (1) Brendolan et al, 1994 cited in (Yuji, 2008) <sup>5,</sup> who called it "double pass hemodialysis". (2) El Hatw, in 1999<sup>6</sup> reported five S-AHD sessions for one patient with a patient BFR of 65 ml/minute and a recirculation BFR of 65 ml/ minute and (3) El Hatw et al <sup>7</sup> reported in 2007 65 Long S-AHD sessions, 8 hours each, for 5 patients and lastly (4) Yuji in 2008 <sup>5</sup> reported a case of continuous hemodiafilteration (CHDF) with unstable patient BFR and a recirculation BFR of 30 ml/ minute.



AHD is carried out through H shaped AHD connections.

1. The 2 vertical lines of the "H" are the inflow (arterial) blood line that drains blood from the vascular access to the dialyser, and the outflow (venous) blood line that returns blood from the dialyser back to the vascular access <sup>10</sup>.



### **AHD Connections**

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### **AHD Connections**

(2) The recirculation line (R) forms the transverse limb of the H and divides the arterial line into the filter segment (F<sup>a</sup>) and the patient segment (P<sup>a</sup>) of the arterial line and divides the venous line into the filter segment (F<sup>v</sup>) and the patient segment (P<sup>v</sup>) of the venous line.







Model AHD<sup>v</sup> has a single blood pump segment at the filter portion of the arterial line (F<sup>a</sup>) in addition to 2 valves at the recirculation line (R) and the patient segment of the arterial line (P<sup>a</sup>)









the filter and  $(F^{v})$  and allow adjustment of the bypassed fistula needles by the

operator.

### Introduction

| أكاديمية البحث العلمى والتكنولوجي  |  | يربية<br>مداليا م  | جمهورية مصر الع                                      |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
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|  | روم ١١٥٨٧  | بية البحث العلمي و التكنولوجيا   | رئيس أكاديه  |  |
| اعية ،وعلي قــرار رئيس الجمهــــورية<br>ر إليه فيما يتعلق ببراءات الاختــراع . | ـنة ١٩٤٩ الخاص ببراءات الاخــتراع و الرســوم و النماذج الص<br>و التكنولوجيا الاختصاصات المنصوص عليها في القانون المشار<br>من شهر مايو سنة ١٩٩٨ والمستندات الملحقة به | علي المادة ٢٤ من القانون رقم ١٣٣ لســـ<br>سنة ١٩٩٨ بتولي أكاديمية البحث العلمي و<br>البراءة رقم ٧٤٥ في ٢٠                                      | بعد الاطلاع<br>رقم ۲۷۷ لس<br>وعلى طلب                |  |
| ناهرة – جمهورية مصر العربية ·  | عطى الحتو •<br>الطيران – أمام مستشفى التأمين الصحي – مدينة نصر – الة   | تح براءة اختراع أصلية برقم : ٢١٥٨٧<br>: الدكتور /محمد خالد محمد عبد الم<br>أهر : ٥٢ شارع محمود شلتوت – امتداد<br>: وصلات لسرعة الغسيل الدموى • | مادة ۱ تم<br>الى<br>مالمركز الع<br>من اختراع         |  |
|  | /۱۹۹ وتنتهی فی یوم ۱۹ مایو ۲۰۱۸<br>محمد بالایدی محمد تا ب  | رع :<br>ة : عشرون عاما تبدأ من يوم٢٠ مايو ٨<br>انه في الوصف المرفق بهذا القرار<br>بيحة أسقية استنا إذا الطابية قسا ٨                           | اسم المخ<br>مدة البراء<br>وقد توضح بر<br>متمتع الطار |  |
|  | يوجد المودع بناريح<br>۲۰۰<br>الاختياء  | ب بحق استغيث استنت و شكر لا<br>.ر هذا القرار في القاهرة يوم ۳۱ ديسمبر ۱<br>في الحفة المختصة نشره في حريدة براءات                               | مادة ٢ صد<br>مادة ٢ صد                               |  |
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| ج موضوع هذه البراءة يلزم اتباع<br>سر العربية من الوزارات المعنية               | لمنتج داخل جمهورية مصر العربية ، ولتسويق المنت<br>مول على حق التسويق والتداول داخل جمهورية مص<br>حتمت  | ح هذه البراءة إعطاء الحق بتسويق ا<br>والقواعد القانونية المعمول بها للحم   | لايعنىمنز<br>كالإجراءات<br>كالإجراءات                |  |
| ا کاریمید<br>اکادیمید البخت العلمی و النکنولوجیا                               | الماني رئيس الأكاديمية<br>التتيمية التكنولوجية والخدمات العلمية  | راءات الاختراع   |  |  |
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The AHD connections are registered inventions by El hatw in the Egyptian patent office <sup>8</sup> and the USA patent office <sup>9</sup>.

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# Introduction





### The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

### Therefore, this

### **United States Patent**

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extensions.

### Patent no. 6610027

# **USPTO**

The AHD connections are registered inventions by El hatw in the Egyptian patent office <sup>8</sup> and the USA patent office <sup>9</sup>.



# **Objectives:** Assess R-AHD with regards to anticoagulation effect and effect on the dialysis efficiency.





The main objectives of this study were to

(1) Explore the 5 different models of AHD connections with regards to their ability to decrease the heparin dose during hemodialysis and their effect on the dialysis efficiency.



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### **Clinical Feasibility**

(3) Assess the clinical feasibility of carrying out and maintaining children with end Stage renal disease (ESRD) on R-AHD.





This study was carried out at Cairo University Children's Hospital, a quaternary referral urban hospital in Egypt. The hospital operates a hemodialysis unit with 25 hemodialysis machines.



The trial was part of a project to study "the outcomes of the invention AHD connections sponsored by the academy of Scientific Research, Egypt. where hydraulic and experimental studies preceded the clinical trial in addition to a clinical trial on S-AHD.



The hydraulic study of the project included calibration of the valve of AHD<sup>V</sup> connections and development of a new instrument for measurement of the patient BFR in the (P<sup>a</sup>) during AHD<sup>0</sup> and AHD<sup>V</sup> sessions called "air bubble speed"; whereby the patient BFR rate is estimated from the time needed for an air bubble injected at the injection site of (P<sup>a</sup>) to reach the junction of (P<sup>a</sup>) and (R).



The proposal of the project was revised, modified and finally approved by

- 1. The scientific committee of the sponsoring governmental non profit organization "Academy of scientific research and technology" and by
- 2. The scientific committee of the pediatric department of Cairo University hospital where the trial was conducted.



The report of the project was disclosed, but not published, in 2006<sup>11</sup> and the clinical trial on S-AHD was published in 2007<sup>7</sup>.

# Methods - Setting and Study design Quantitative Exploratory Prospective RCT Open

The clinical trial was

- (1) Quantitative
- (2) Exploratory: It explored the feasibility, benefits & drawbacks of carrying R-AHD using 5 models of the invented AHD connections.
- (3) Prospective
- (4) Randomized, Controlled
- (5) Open to the operators and to the patients as blinding the intervention was impossible but the blood tests were blindly assessed outcomes.
- (6) The primary and secondary endpoints were objective.






(2) R-AHD<sup>FR</sup> and the R-AHD<sup>FP</sup> Stages were aborted due to a threat of air embolism as the blood pump attached to (F<sup>a</sup>) while returning blood to the patient at the end of the session.





Each Stage was carried out in sequential sub-Stages of a particular Hemodialysis session designed to answer a particular research question.

At the end of each Stage an interim analysis was done and recommendations for the coming Stage were given.

### **Methods -** *Materials*



Connections were manufactured with a special order by Hydalina Medical© company, Egypt, from the same material as the traditional connections. The cost was around 2.7 \$, per piece, compared to 1.8 per piece for the standard connections. Model AHD<sup>V</sup> was assembled by adding 2 external valves at (R) and (P<sup>a</sup>) to model AHD<sup>0</sup>.



### **Criteria for Inclusion:**

Children were included in the trial if:

- They had ESRD
- Were on routine hemodialysis for at least 3 months
- Had stable general condition
- No associated major cardiovascular or neurological illness
- They and their parents were willing to be included in the trial.



### **Sampling**

Ten children with ESRD were randomized to be enrolled in the trial using a random-number table. Children who fulfilled the selection criteria were allocated in 2 sequential Stages. Informed Verbal consent was obtained.



Out of around 50 children with ESRD on a chronic hemodialysis program, 10 children were enrolled in the study. The 10 children (6 boys and 4 girls) aged 8 - 16 years (mean= 10.93 years) with a dry body weight 15.5 - 26.6 kilogram (mean =22.14 kilogram). They were on the chronic hemodialysis program for 0.7 to 3.5 years (mean= 2.05 years). Dialysis was done using Freseinus hemodialysis filter. The session time was 3-3.5 hours (mean =3.2 hours).



| Routine heparin     | Half heparin        | No heparin R-AHD <sup>PR</sup> |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0.2 units/kg/minute | 0.1 units/kg/minute | Just flush                     |

In this article ;

- "Routine heparin" indicates a dose of 0.2 units/kg/minute.
- "Half heparin" indicates a dose of 0.1 units/kg/minute.
- "No heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" indicates sessions without the use of heparin but the circuit was regularly flushed with normal saline.







AHD<sup>0</sup> connections were connected to a calibrated single blood pump Fresenius 4008B<sup>®</sup> hemodialysis machines.



The blood pump speed was initially adjusted to 3 folds the target patient BFR ,as the average patient/filter fluid flow rate of R-AHD<sup>0</sup> in vitro was 1:3



The blood pump speed was then readjusted guided by the speed of an air bubble through the patient portion of the arterial line as previously described by EL Hatw in 2006<sup>11</sup>.





(A) Efficiency of the AHD; was studied by comparing the URR in

- R-AHD<sup>0</sup> (Stage 1a,b) and in
- DNHD sessions (Stage 1d) measured in the same patient.

URR carries a possibility errors in calculating efficiency due to errors in post dialysis sampling





- (B) The Anticoagulant effect of the AHD was studied by comparing incidence of blood clotting in :
- The "Routine heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" (Stage 1a) and
- "½ dose heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" sessions (Stage 1b).



The long clotting time before starting the sessions indicates that the used "Routine dose heparin was actually a "high dose" of heparin with a prolonged residual anticoagulant effect.

|   |   | Venous line Arterial line  | Venous líne Arterial line                              |
|---|---|--|--|
|   |   | Recirculation line<br>Recirculation line<br>Heparin              | Heparin  |
| Stage 1a  | Stage 1b  | Stage 1c   | Stage 1d   |
| Routine heparin                                 | Halfheparin                                     | Routine heparin  | Routine heparin  |
| R-AHD <sup>0</sup> sessions                     | R-AHD <sup>0</sup> sessions                     | R-AHD <sup>0</sup> sessions                                      | DNHD sessions  |
| 10 children were<br>treated with 10<br>sessions | 10 children were<br>treated with 10<br>sessions | 10 children trice<br>weekly for ≈ 1 Mo<br>(Total = 145 Sessions) | 10 children<br>(Controls)<br>trice weekly for 1<br>Mo. |

- (C) The safety and efficiency of using R-AHD<sup>o</sup> for chronic dialysis, (the clinical feasibility) was studied by comparing HB% and URR after:
- One month of R-AHD<sup>O</sup> (Stage 1c) &
- One month of DNHD (Stage 1d)







A-V fistula Integrity

#### Hollow fibers integrity

#### **Drop of HB**

The primary endpoint with respect to safety of using a high filter BFR were

- Maintaining integrity of the A-V fistula
- Absence of blood leak alarms reflects integrity of the hollow fibers during the sessions
- Measuring the drop of HB after one month of trice weekly sessions.



To assess the clinical feasibility of maintaining children with ESRD on routine R-AHD sessions, URR, HB% and HT were measured for each patient after one month of R-AHD<sup>0</sup> sessions and after one month of DNHD sessions.

### **Methods -** In Stage 1, the ten children passed 4 sequential sub-Stages



- (C) Prove the efficiency and safety of using R-AHD<sup>o</sup> for chronic hemodialysis by comparing the end of month URR and HB % after 1 month of:
- R-AHD<sup>O</sup> (Stage 1c)
- DNHD (Stage 1d)







 $R - AHD^{PR}$ 

Stage 2 was carried using the AHD<sup>PR</sup> connections.

- The patient blood pump speed was adjusted to the target patient BFR.
- The recirculation blood pump speed was adjusted to achieve a

• Filter blood flow rate, equals the sum of patient and recirculation blood flow rate, of 500 ml/minute.



AHD<sup>PR</sup> connections were connected to a calibrated double blood pump Fresenius 2008B<sup>®</sup> hemodialysis machine. The software of this relatively old model allows direct operation and adjustment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pump that is used as a recirculation pump.











#### In Stage 2, the 10 children passed 4 sequential sub-Stages

| Stage 2a  | Stage 2b                                       | Stage 2c  | Stage 2d                      |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Routine heparin                                 | Low heparin                                    | No heparin  | Routine heparin               |
| mixed DNHD/AHD <sup>PR</sup><br>sessions        | Low heparin<br>R-AHD <sup>PR</sup>             | R-AHD <sup>PR</sup>                                       | DNHD sessions                 |
| 10 children were<br>treated with 10<br>Sessions | 8 children were<br>treated with 8<br>Sessions. | One patient was<br>treated with 10<br>subsequent sessions | 10 children were treated with |

- (A) Stage 2a was designed to study the Efficiency of the R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>, by comparing
- F-URR in R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> period with
- F-URR in DNHD period in the same session.



F-URR was is calculated as the difference between the arterial and vehous BUN, divided by the arterial BUN, expressed in the percentage . Comparison of F-URR in the 2 periods of the same session overcomes errors due to post-dialysis blood sampling or due to the effect of the residual renal functions that may arise on comparing URR of 2 different sessions.



Sessions. subsequent sessions

Sessions

Connections were flushed with normal saline and the dose of the infused heparin throughout the session was adjusted to keep the prothrombin time (PTT) just above 140% of the initial values. Blood clotting data were collected in this session.





| Stage 2a  | Stage 2b                                       | Stage 2c  | Stage 2d                      |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Routine heparin                                 | Low heparin                                    | No heparin  | Routine heparin               |
| mixed DNHD/AHD <sup>PR</sup><br>sessions        | R-AHD <sup>PR</sup>                            | R-AHD <sup>PR</sup>                                       | DNHD sessions                 |
| 10 children were<br>treated with 10<br>Sessions | 8 children were<br>treated with 8<br>Sessions. | One patient was<br>treated with 10<br>subsequent sessions | 10 children were treated with |

Connections were regularly flushed with normal saline, three times per week for a period of approximately 3 weeks. Blood clotting data were documented.



10 children were<br/>treated with 108 children were<br/>treated with 8One patient was<br/>treated with 1010 children were<br/>treated with trice<br/>weekly sessionsSessionsSessions.subsequent sessionsweekly sessionsThe total dose of heparin was measured. Arterial and venous samples were taken

The total dose of heparin was measured. Arterial and venous samples were taker simultaneously to measure BUN <sub>arterial</sub> and BUN <sub>venous</sub>



# Methods - Data collection



# F- URR = BUN <sub>arterial</sub> – BUN <sub>venous</sub> / BUN <sub>arterial</sub> X 100

The primary endpoint with respect to efficacy of the R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> and DNHD periods in the *"Routine heparin mixed (DNHD/AHD<sup>PR</sup>) sessions"* was the ratio of reduction of BUN between the arterial and the venous ends measured after 15 minutes of each test period. In this article *,*this ratio was referred to as The Filter Urea Reduction Ratio (F-URR) and was calculated as BUN in the arterial blood – BUN in the venous blood / BUN in arterial blood X 100
### Methods - Stage 2





The primary endpoint of successful anticoagulation of a particular R-AHD sessions was the absence of evidence of blood clotting as

- 1. increased venous or arterial pressures
- 2. Darkening of blood in the filter and connections during the session or
- 3. Residual clots in the hollow fibers after the sessions.

#### **Methods - Stage 2**



Additional relevant data were

- 1. The clotting time before the hemodialysis session to criticize the lasting effect of Routine heparin dose used in the previous dialysis session
- 2. The deviation of the achieved PTT values from the target value of 140% of the initial PTT to criticize the low heparin sessions as regards the accuracy in achieving the target PTT
- 3. The total dose of heparin per kg to criticize the low heparin sessions as regards to actual reducing of the heparin dose.

#### **Methods - Data collection**



Carrying out the hemodialysis sessions and collecting the blood samples were done by two assigned paid hemodialysis nurse in *Stage 1* and by a third nurse in *Stage 2* who was assisted by a laboratory technician to measure PTT in *Stage 2b*. All sessions were done under the supervision of one of the researchers and the patients received the routine monitoring and care as per the unit protocol.

## **Methods - Statistical methods**

- <u>Descriptive statistics</u> were used to summarize the data. Frequencies (number of patients or number of sessions) and relative frequencies (percentages) were used when appropriate.
- <u>Matched t-test</u> was performed to compare continuous data. Composition of quantitative variables between the study groups in the present trial was carried out using Kruskal Wallis analysis of variance (ANOVA) test with multiple Mann Whiteny posthoc multiple 2- group comparisons.
- <u>Chi square (x2) test</u> was performed to compare categorical data, .

5.

- Yates correction was used instead when the expected frequency is less than
- A probability value (ρ value) less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.
- All statistical calculations were carried out using computer programs Microsoft Excel version 7 (Microsoft Corporation, NY, USA) and SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science; SPSS Inc, Chicago IL, USA) statistical program.

# Results

## Results

Blood clots appeared in 4 out of 165 R-AHD<sup>0</sup> sessions but in none of the 28 R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> sessions.

In *Stages 1*; mean URR was 0.597, 0.601 and 0.697 compared to 0.711 for the control (P>0.05).

In *Stage 2,* the arterial BUN was reduced by  $0.6592 \pm 0.14555$  after a R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> period, compared 0.7869 ± 0.17722 after a DNHD period (P=0.059).



In Stage 1, there was no significant difference (P>0.05) between the patient blood flow rate between the accelerated sessions (Stages 1a, 1b, 1c) and the DNHD sessions Stage 1d (control)



#### (P>0.05)

In Stage 1, there was no significant difference between the venous pressure between the accelerated sessions (Stages 1a, 1b, 1c) and the DNHD sessions (Stage 1d) in Stage 1





Clotting time was very high before the sessions in Stage 1a and in Stage 1b that reflects a high dose of heparin used in the previous session.





There was no significant difference between the mean URR in the AHD sessions (Stage 1a, 1b and 1c) compared to the DNHD session (Stage 1d) (control).









#### Results In R-AHDPR sessions (Stage 2)







#### Results In R-AHDPR sessions (Stage 2)



Neither Hypotension nor arterio-venous fistula complications were encountered nor were arterial pressure, venous pressure or blood leak alarms displayed on the hemodialysis machine monitor during the trial.

### Results In R-AHDPR sessions (Stage 2)



Children were more compliant to R-AHD<sup>0</sup>, which was performed in the main dialysis room, compared to R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> which was performed with an older hemodialysis machine in a smaller dialysis room.





The current study emphasized the clinical feasibility of AHD. This was declared in the earlier study by El Hatw (1999)<sup>6</sup> where 10 R-AHD<sup>V</sup> sessions and 5 S-AHD<sup>V</sup> were carried on for one girl and the problem of blood clotting was not detected and the technique was said to be safe .



| Discussion                  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
|                             | R-AHD <sup>0</sup> sessions  | R-AHD <sup>PR</sup> sessions                               |  |
| Blood clotting              | Was observed even with<br>Routine heparin dose.  | Not observed in Routine,<br>low or no heparin<br>Sessions. |  |
| Efficiency                  | There was an insignificant decrease (not increase) of the efficiency compared to the DNHD. |  |  |
| Anemia                      | Not observed even after<br>a month of continuous<br>R-AHD <sup>0</sup> sessions            | None   |  |
| AV fistula<br>complications | None   | None   |  |
| blood leak<br>broblems      | None   | None   |  |



"Blood stasis is an essential factor in the formation of a haemostatic plug". 12



*"No heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>"* was carried out successfully for children with normal coagulation profile using a low patient BFR of 100 ml/min. Partial blood recirculation (PBR) selectively accelerates the BFR the intracircuit flow in the filter and the air trapping chamber, which are the widest and the most vulnerable points for clotting of blood, increases the shear forces in the capillary fibers, diminishes protein layering, and retards membrane clotting" <sup>5</sup>



No heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>

"No heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" is a promising mode for avoiding blood clotting in hemodialysis.

It spares cost and complications of heparin and the cost of adding the (R) with 2 "T" shaped connections at its ends used to construct AHD<sup>PR</sup> connections was minimal.

It is superior to other modes of dialysis.



| No heparin R-AHD  | Routine heparin DNHD                             |  |
|---|--|--|
| Spares the cost and the potential complications of heparin. | Cost and the potential complications of heparin. |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |



| No heparin R-AHD             | No heparin DNHD                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Does not need increasing the | Needs a patient blood flow rate |
| patient blood flow           | of at least 300 ml/min.         |





Arterial lin

Heparin



In our study, blood clotting was not due to hypercoagulable blood "Routine heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup> as the clotting time was normal or high before the sessions. Although clotting occurred in the early sessions of the *Stage 1c* where a dry fistula needle was used and not in the later sessions when needles were flushed with heparinized saline, yet the results were not encouraging for proceeding to the "low heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" and "no heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" Stages.





#### No heparin R-AHD

Technically easy Does not need sophisticated bedside laboratory monitoring.

#### Low heparin DNHD

Arterial line

Low Heparin

Needs a bedside PTT monitoring, which is:
Costly as it needs a coagulometer, a centrifuge and a trained personnel.
Risk of Anemia & infection from repeated sampling.
Inaccurate as the PTT was widely

#### fluctuating around the target PTT

• **Ultimately useless** as reduction of the total dose of heparin/kilogram body weight was insignificant, where a smaller dose of heparin was infused through out the session, compared to the "Routine heparin sessions" where heparin was discontinued in the last hour of the session.



#### R - AHD<sup>PR</sup>

"The possibility that the rapid filter BFR in R-AHD will increase the dialysis efficiency and decrease the dialysis session time was attractive but actually PBR was associated in both R-AHD<sup>0</sup> and R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> with insignificant decrease in the hemodialysis efficiency, indicating that the efficiency depends on the BFR to & from the patient not on the filter BFR.





PBR was associated with insignificant decrease in the hemodialysis efficiency, possibly due to influx of uremic toxins from the dialysate to the recalculating blood in the filter. Increasing the dilayste flow rate may prevent this possible influx and improve the efficiency.



#### Anyhow,

 Increasing the dialysis efficiency in the traditional chronic hemodialysis sessions that are carried for 4 hours, three times per week is of limited value as the target efficiency can be achieved by the commercially available filters.


 The use of high flux filter remains the recommended approach if the efficiency is a concern as in daily dialysis where 2 hours sessions are carried out 5-6 days every week. <sup>13, 14</sup>



The results on effect on efficiency in the current study is compatible with the results of an earlier study by El Hatw on 1999<sup>6</sup> who stated that "The efficiency of AHD was not increased by increasing the filter BFR in both pediatric and adult filters".



Yuji, (2008) <sup>5</sup> reported that "the clearance of solutes calculated either with or without PBR, was not substantially different with and without PBR".

Another clue that the efficiency of the AHD depends on the patient BFR rate, not the filter BFR rate, was that in <u>S-AHD</u>, efficiency decreased with the decrease of patient BFR<sup>6</sup> and that in Long sessions of S-AHD, the slow patient BFR decreased the efficiency per unit time and prevented over-dialysis in the long, 8 hours, hemodialysis sessions.<sup>7</sup>.



Yuji et al (2008) <sup>5</sup> used a low recirculation rate of 30 ml/minute as they were "afraid that PBR might increase the intracircuit pressure".

In our study blood recirculation was adjusted to achieve a filter BFR of 500 ml/minute with no mechanical drawback on the hollow fibers, the arteriovenous fistula or the integrity of the RBCs, issues that worried the reviewers of the proposal of the project. This goes with the experience in adult hemodialysis that is routinely carried out with a high BFR of 400-500 ml/minute.

Yuji et al (2008) <sup>5</sup> reported a similar result that the hemogram did not show any significant differences whether PBR was used or not.



The "no heparin R-AHDPR" is a promising strategy of no heparin hemodialysis in children in whom achieving a fast BFR is not possible with the traditional hemodialysis sessions. More cases have to be studied before its recommendation in clinical practice. Financial and logistic difficulties limited number of the studied "no heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" sessions in this study. "No heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" sessions were the last Stage to be studies when the budged was exhausted and were carried out using an old version calibrated double blood pump Fresenius 2004B® hemodialysis machine that was about to be condemned from the unit that were fixed in the small and "unpleasant" acute hemodialysis room where trials for entertainment were not fruitful to attract the children. These confounding factors affected the compliance of children to the R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>, compared to R-AHD<sup>0</sup>, where 2 of the 10 patients skipped Stage 2b and only one child accepted to be maintained on R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> for 10 continuous sessions.



To test reproducibility of the study and for further studies on R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>,

- The corresponding author is willing to arrange in the supply of the AHD<sup>PR</sup> connections.
- Most hemodialysis machines can be modified to be used in R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> without changing its software by adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> blood pump, for around 3000 \$, and directly connect it to the Alternating Current outlet.



"No heparin-AHD<sup>PR</sup> X higher number

Potential fields for further studies on *R*-AHD<sup>PR</sup> includes

(1) Study a bigger number of *"no heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>"* children and adults for a longer period.



"No heparin-AHD<sup>PR</sup> + No Flush

(2) Study "no-flush no-heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" to rule out the role of the concomitant flushing of the lines with saline in the inhibition of the blood coagulation. "No-flush No-heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" can be used even in patients without bleeding tendency to spare the potential complications of heparin and spares cost of heparin and the saline flush



"No heparin-AHD<sup>PR</sup> + S-AHD<sup>PR</sup>"

(3) Study a combination of "no heparin-AHD<sup>PR</sup> and S-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" where

- 1. The filter BFR is increased to avoid clotting whereas
- 2. The patient BFR is decreased simultaneously Study Patient BFR less than 100 ml/ minute. to fit patients with low body weight, compromised cardiac function or poor vascular access or is very low as in continuous arteriovenous or venovenous hemofiltration or hemodialysis (CAVH/D and CVVH/D) as "the no heparin regiment is ineffective in this setting due to the low BFR rates with these techniques and their continuous nature increases the likelihood of side effects with prostacyclin or protamine"



"R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> + High dialysate flow rate + Big filter

(4) Study the effect of "*R*-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" with high dialysate flow rate and with bigger filters on the efficiency. Bigger filters will still increase the extra corporeal blood compartment, but PBR increase the BFR per single hollow fiber to prevent blood stagnation.



# Conclusion

R-AHD<sup>PR</sup> allowed successful low heparin and no heparin hemodialysis in children without increasing the patient BFR but did not increase the efficiency. Conclusion

It is concluded that (1) "no heparin R-AHD<sup>PR</sup>" is an applicable and safe hemodialysis method in children (2) R-AHD does not increase dialysis efficiency.





(A) Efficiency of the AHD: Was measured by comparing the URR in R-AHD<sup>0</sup> (Stage 1a,b) and in DNHD sessions (Stage 1d) measured in the same patient. URR carries a possibility errors in calculating efficiency due to errors in post dialysis sampling or due to residual renal function.



(B) Anticoagulant effect of the AHD was studied by comparing the "Routine heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" and "½ dose heparin R-AHD<sup>0</sup>" sessions. The long clotting time before starting the sessions indicates that the used "Routine dose heparin was actually a "high dose" of heparin with a prolonged residual anticoagulant effect.