



changes in blood pressure, or as a condition predisposing to infection cannot be ruled out (11). Increased intracranial pressure is a common factor in most central nervous system insults associated with NPE. Experiments addressing the pathophysiology of NPE have generally raised ICP to very high levels (150–200 mm Hg) and for a relatively brief duration (12–15). The rise in ICP is accompanied by marked systemic and pulmonary hemodynamic changes. But clinically, pulmonary complications have even been observed in patients without evidence of any significant hemodynamic alterations (2, 16–18). Very few studies have, however, focussed on levels of ICP (30–40 mm Hg) that are commonly found in patients following head injury or stroke (19).

This experimental study in anaesthetised cats explores the effect of different grades of mild to moderate levels of increased ICP (40–100 mm Hg) for prolonged duration (180 mins) on the development of NPE and the associated hemodynamic parameters.

## METHODS

Healthy mongrel cats of either sex, weighing 2.5–4.5 kg were used. Cats were anaesthetised with chloralose 80 mg/kg, i.p. (10% solution in propylene glycol). Experiments were conducted in two groups. In one adequate oxygenation was ensured by artificially ventilating (IPPV) the animals with "Harvard Respirator" attached to the tracheal cannula (tidal volume 10 ml/kg; tidal frequency 15/min). In the other group, the animals were allowed to remain on spontaneous respiration. Head was fixed in a stereotactic frame. A No. 22 needle was placed stereotaxically in right and left lateral cerebral ventricle. ICP was

continuously monitored from the cannula in the left lateral cerebral ventricle. The ICP recording was done on Grass Model 7D polygraph using a Statham P 23D transducer.

Right femoral artery was cannulated with a polyethylene tube filled with heparinised saline (50 U/ml) and connected to a Statham P 23D transducer to monitor systemic arterial pressure. Mean arterial pressure was calculated as :

$$\text{MAP} = \frac{\text{Systolic pressure} + \text{Diastolic pressure}}{2} + \text{Diastolic pressure}$$

A 5F catheter filled with heparinised saline (50 U/ml) was advanced from the right femoral vein into the pulmonary artery or the right ventricle and connected to a Statham P 23D transducer for recording the pulmonary artery/right ventricular pressure. However, the recording of pulmonary artery pressure was done only in animals placed on spontaneous respiration. The correct placement of the catheter was ensured by using the pressure recording as a guide and on postmortem examination. Heart rate of the animals was recorded using standard ECG limb lead II. All recordings were done on a Grass Model 7D polygraph.

The needle placed in right lateral cerebral ventricle was connected to the buffered saline pressure head (pH 7.2). The ICP was increased and maintained at the desired level of 40, 60, 80 and 100 mm Hg in animals on IPPV and 40, and 80 mm Hg in animals on spontaneous respiration, by adjusting the height of the reservoir. Six experiments were conducted in each group (Control and different levels of raised ICP) and were observed for 180 mins. Concurrent

controls as sham operated animals with IPPV and spontaneous respiration were also studied. In these animals right lateral cerebral ventricle was not connected to buffered saline pressure head and instead saline was infused intravenously at the rate of 1 ml/min. The animals were sacrificed with an overdose of chloralose (300 mg/kg, iv). Twenty five ml of blood was withdrawn from the heart. Trachea was clamped, a ligature was tied around right and left major bronchi and lungs were dissected out quickly (within 5 min).

Extravascular lung water was calculated by the method as described by Holcroft and Trunkey (20). The removed lung was allowed to drain passively for 2 min, weighed and homogenised with equal weight of distilled water in the blender. An aliquot of well stirred homogenate was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm at 4°C for 60 min (Dupont Sorvall 16Rc 5 P) to obtain a clear supernatant. The water content of the blood, lung homogenate and supernatant was determined by measuring wet and dry weights of aliquots, of each before and after complete drying at 80 ± 5°C. Complete drying was ascertained by unchanged weights on two successive weighings at 24 hr intervals. Hemoglobin content of the blood withdrawn and the supernatant was estimated by cyanmethemoglobin method. Extravascular lung water expressed as per gm of blood free dry weight was used as an index of pulmonary edema. The formula used was as follows:

Blood wt. =

$$\frac{\text{Hb (supernatant)}}{\text{Hb (blood)}} \times \frac{\text{H}_2\text{O (homogenate)}}{\text{H}_2\text{O (supernatant)}} \times \text{homogenate wt.}$$

$$\text{Blood H}_2\text{O} = \% \text{H}_2\text{O}_{(\text{blood})} \times \text{BW}$$

$$\text{Total Lung H}_2\text{O} = [\% \text{H}_2\text{O (homogenate)} \times \text{homogenate wt.}] - \text{Added H}_2\text{O}$$

$$\text{Extravascular lung water} = \text{TLW} - \text{Blood H}_2\text{O}$$

$$\text{Blood free dry wt.} = \text{Wet lung wt.} - \text{BW} - \text{EVLW}$$

EVLW/BFDW : Index of Pulmonary Edema

The values are expressed as mean values ± SE and were compared using unpaired 't' test.

## RESULTS

All the animals survived the observation period of 180 min and were sacrificed except the animals on spontaneous respiration in which ICP was raised to 80 mm Hg. The survival time in these animals ranged from 75–110 mins.

### Animals placed on spontaneous respiration

*Control* : In the sham operated control animals in which intracranial pressure was not increased, the ICP ranged from 3 to 12 mm Hg with a mean of 5 ± 2 mm Hg. This group has been referred to as control (5 mm Hg) group.

The baseline mean arterial pressure in 8 sham operated animals on spontaneous respiration was 101 ± 7 mm Hg (mean ± SEM) which remained stabilized at this level till 180 mins. The heart rate also remained stable throughout the observation period around the baseline level of 188 ± 10 beats/min. Pulmonary artery pressure could be recorded in 6 out of the total 8 cats and was stable at the baseline level of

15.01 ± 0.36 mm Hg throughout the observation period (Table I).

TABLE I : Effect of increased intracranial pressure on Extra vascular Lung Water in cats placed on spontaneous respiration.

Group	ICP (mm Hg)	n	Extravascular lung water (g water/g blood free dry wt)		Percent increase
			Range	Mean ± SE	
1	05 (Control)	8	2.48-3.17	2.94 ± 0.08	
2	40	7	3.13-4.53	3.95 ± 0.16**	34.5%
3	80	6	4.60-5.81	4.96 ± 0.16***	68.7%

\*\*P<0.01 compared to Group 1

\*\*\*P<0.001 compared to Group 1

The EVLW values in the sham-operated animals on spontaneous respiration ranged from 2.48 to 3.17 with a mean ± SEM of 2.94 ± 0.08 (Table II).

TABLE II : Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on mean arterial pressure in cats placed on spontaneous respiration.

Group	ICP (mm Hg)	Mean Arterial Pressure (mm Hg)							
		Time points (Mins)							
		-15	5	15	30	60	90	120	180
1	0 (Control)	101 ±7	101 ±7	100 ±8	100 ±8	101 ±8	100 ±8	102 ±8	102 ±8
		.....n=8.....							
2	40	106 ±6	104 ±6	101 ±5	99 ±5	104 ±9	109 ±6	106 ±2	103 ±2
		.....n=7.....				n=6		n=4	
						1 died		2 died	
3	80	105 ±6	129 ±5	151 ±8	151 ±9	164 ±8	149 ±6	123 ±2	-
		.....n=6.....				n=5		n=2	
						1 died		3 died	
								2died	

ICP 40 mm Hg : Seven cats were studied in this group. The baseline MAP was 106 ± 6 mm Hg which did not change significantly till 90 mins after increasing the ICP. One

cat died at 105 mins. In this cat there was a sudden rise in MAP to 176 mm Hg, while two others died between 120 to 135 mins, though there was no change in MAP in these cats. The MAP at 150 mins was 103 ± 2 mm Hg which did not change significantly thereafter (Table I).

The baseline heart rate in these animals was 195 ± 8 beats/min which decreased to 183 ± 9 beats/min and 74 ± 12 beats/min at 5 min and 30 mins after increasing the ICP.

TABLE III : Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on heart rate in cats placed on spontaneous respiration.

Group	ICP (mm Hg)	Heart Rate (beats/min)							
		Time Points (Mins)							
		-15	5	15	30	60	90	120	180
1	0 (Control)	188 ±10	190 ±10	190 ±10	190 ±10	193 ±11	193 ±11	193 ±11	193 ±10
		.....n=8.....							
2	40	195 ±8	183 ±9	180 ±10	174 ±12	174 ±12	175 ±11	170 ±13	173 ±6
		.....n=7.....			n=6		n=4		
							1 died		2 died
3	80	193 ±5	209 ±5	218 ±6	220 ±8	227 ±11	201 ±20	225 ±4	-
		.....n=6.....				n=5		n=2	
								1 died	
								3 died	
								2died	

No change in pulmonary artery/right ventricular systolic pressure was seen in any of the animals throughout the observation period of 180 mins, as compared to the baseline level of 21.6 ± 1.9 mm Hg.

The EVLW values in this group of seven cats ranged from 3.13 to 4.53 with a mean of 3.95 ± 0.16. This was significantly greater

TABLE IV : Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on pulmonary artery/right ventricular systolic pressure in cats placed on spontaneous respiration.

Group	ICP (mm Hg)	Pulmonary Artery/Right Ventricular Systolic Pressure (mm Hg)							
		Time Points (Mins)							
		-15	5	15	30	60	90	120	180
1	0 (Control)	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.1	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.1
		±1.7	±1.8	±1.8	±1.8	±2.0	±2.0	±2.0	±2.0
.....n=8.....									
2	40	21.6	21.4	22.2	22.8	23.8	23.4	25.6	26.0
		±1.9	±1.9	±1.6	±1.7	±1.9	±1.6	±1.8	±2.3
.....n=7.....						n=6	.....n=4.....		
						1 died	2 died		
3	80	21.1	32.2	32.6	32.6	35.0	36.6	36.2	-
		±1.8	±2.0	±2.9	±3.0	±3.6	±5.0	±6.2	
.....n=6.....						n=5	n=2	n=0	
						1 died	3 died	2 died	

TABLE V : Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on Extravascular Lung Water in cats placed on intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV).

Group	ICP (mm Hg)	n	Extravascular lung water (g water/g blood free dry wt)		Percent increase
			Range	Mean ± SE	
1	05	6	3.13 - 3.90	3.43±0.10	
2	40	6	3.58 - 4.31	3.88±0.11*	13%
3	60	6	3.63 - 4.38	4.09±0.10**	19%
4	80	6	4.12 - 5.05	4.50±0.13***	31%
5	100	6	4.51 - 5.69	5.03±0.17***	47%

\* P<0.05 compared to Group 1

\*\* P<0.01 compared to Group 1

\*\*\* P<0.001 compared to Group 1

as compared to sham operated control animals (P<0.01).

ICP 80 mm Hg : In 6 cats ICP was increased to 80 mm Hg, in which the baseline MAP was 105 ± 6 mm Hg. On increasing the ICP, the systolic, diastolic and mean arterial

pressure started increasing within 5 mins and continued to rise till 60-75 mins, when one cat died. Subsequently, a trend of gradual reduction of MAP was observed. The MAP at 15 mins was 151 ± 8 mm Hg and at 60 mins was 146 ± 10 mm Hg. All the animals in this group died within 180 mins.

TABLE VI: Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on mean arterial pressure in cats placed on intermittent positive pressure ventilation.

ICP Group (mm Hg)	Mean Arterial Pressure (mm Hg) Time Points (Mins)							
	-15	5	15	30	60	90	120	180
1 0 (Control) (n=6)	98 ±8	98 ±8	98 ±8	98 ±8	99 ±8	98 ±8	98 ±8	100 ±9
2 40 (n=6)	98 ±9	100 ±9	99 ±8	99 ±10	99 ±10	101 ±10	101 ±10	103 ±9
3 60	95 ±8	116 ±7	110 ±11	104 ±11	98 ±10	98 ±10	101 ±9	99 ±10
4 80	93 ±8	126 ±4	124 ±4	123 ±4	123 ±5	125 ±4	124 ±5	122 ±5
5 100	94 ±8	129 ±8	132 ±8	132 ±8	134 ±8	125 ±4	127 ±4	127 ±4

The baseline HR in this group was  $193 \pm 5$  beats/min, which increased to  $209 \pm 5$  beats/min at 5 mins and to  $227 \pm 11$  beats/min at 60 mins after increasing the ICP to 80 mm Hg. The increase in HR was maintained even during the hypotensive phase.

In contrast to ICP 40 mm Hg, the pulmonary artery pressure increased to  $32.2 \pm 2$  mm Hg at 5 mins after increasing the ICP to 80 mm Hg. At 60 mins, this pressure was  $33.9 \pm 3.6$  mm Hg, and remained at or near this level for the remaining period in the surviving cats.

In cats in which ICP was increased to 80 mm Hg, the EVLW values ranged from 4.60 to 5.81, with a mean of  $4.96 \pm 0.16$ . The values were significantly greater than the sham-operated controls ( $P < 0.001$ ).

TABLE VII: Effect of different grades of intracranial pressure on heart rate in cats placed on intermittent positive pressure ventilation.

ICP Group (mm Hg)	Heart Rate (beats/min) Time Points (Mins)							
	-15	5	15	30	60	90	120	180
1 0 (Control) (n=6)	188 ±7	190 ±7	190 ±7	190 ±7	193 ±7	195 ±8	192 ±8	193 ±7
2 40 (n=6)	197 ±7	188 ±11	188 ±8	181 ±11	170 ±11	170 ±11	168 ±9	168 ±11
3 60	192 ±6	211 ±13	201 ±7	199 ±8	199 ±8	190 ±8	189 ±7	188 ±6
4 80	198 ±5	206 ±7	206 ±6	200 ±1	203 ±10	207 ±11	203 ±11	203 ±11
5 100	189 ±6	206 ±8	214 ±11	219 ±10	212 ±9	205 ±11	210 ±12	205 ±10

#### Animals placed on intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV):

**Control:** The baseline MAP in the 6 animals in this group was  $98 \pm 8$  mm Hg which remained constant at this level throughout the 180 min observation period. Similarly, there was no change in HR compared to the baseline level of  $188 \pm 10$  beats/min.

EVLW/BFDW values in this group ranged from 3.13 to 3.90 with a mean  $\pm$  SEM of  $3.43 \pm 0.10$ . These values were significantly greater than that in animals allowed to remain on spontaneous respiration ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**ICP 40 mm Hg:** The baseline MAP in the 6 cats in this group was  $98 \pm 9$  mm Hg which did not change significantly throughout the observation period of 180 mins. The baseline HR was  $197 \pm 7$  beats/min which started declining on raising the ICP to 40 mm Hg. At 60 mins the HR was  $170 \pm 11$

beats/min which was significantly less as compared to the baseline level ( $P < 0.05$ ).

The EVLW/BFDW values ranged from 3.58–4.31 with mean $\pm$ SE of  $3.88 \pm 0.11$  and were significantly greater ( $P < 0.05$ ) as compared to sham-operated animals.

*ICP 60 mm Hg* : In group 3 animals the ICP was increased and maintained at  $60 \pm 2$  mm Hg. The baseline MAP in these animals was  $95 \pm 8$  mm Hg which increased significantly to  $116 \pm 7$  mm Hg, 5 mins after increasing the ICP. It subsequently declined at 15 mins to  $110 \pm 11$  mm Hg, which was not significantly different from baseline levels, and remained so throughout the subsequent observation period. Heart rate increased at 5 mins to  $211 \pm 13$  beats/min, compared to the baseline level of  $192 \pm 6$  beats/min ( $P < 0.01$ ). Subsequently it declined to  $201 \pm 7$  beats/min, and was not significantly different from control levels thereafter.

The EVLW/BFDW values ranged from 3.63 to 4.38 with mean $\pm$ SE of  $4.09 \pm 0.10$  and were significantly greater as compared to the control animals.

*ICP 80 mm Hg* : In this group of animals the ICP was increased and maintained at  $80 \pm 2$  mm Hg. The baseline MAP was  $93 \pm 8$  mm Hg, which started increasing within 5 secs of increasing ICP. It was  $126 \pm 4$  mm Hg at 5 min, which was significantly greater than the baseline level ( $P < 0.001$ ). In the subsequent observation period, it was maintained at this level. There was no significant change in HR as compared to the baseline level ( $198 \pm 5$  beats/min) throughout the 180 min observation period.

The EVLW/BFDW values ranged from 4.12 to 5.05 with mean $\pm$ SE of  $4.50 \pm 0.13$  and were significantly greater ( $P < 0.001$ ) as compared to the control animals.

*ICP 100 mm Hg* : The baseline MAP in the six animals in this group was  $94 \pm 8$  mm Hg. It increased significantly to  $129 \pm 8$  mm Hg ( $P < 0.001$ ) at 5 min after raising the ICP, and progressed further to  $139 \pm 8$  mm Hg ( $P < 0.001$ ) at 15 min.

The baseline HR was  $189 \pm 6$  beats/min which increased on raising the ICP. It was  $206 \pm 8$  beats/min at 5 mins and reached its maximum level at 45 mins ( $222 \pm 10$  beats/min;  $P < 0.001$ ). Subsequently it showed a decline but was still significantly greater than the baseline level.

In animals in which ICP was increased to  $100 \pm 3$  mm Hg, the EVLW/BFDW ratio ranged from 4.51 to 5.69 with mean $\pm$ SE of  $5.05 \pm 0.17$  which was significantly greater as compared to the sham operated control animals.

## DISCUSSION

Earlier reports by Hoff et al (15, 21) and Nishimura and Hoff (22) had established consistent development of neurogenic pulmonary edema in cats when ICP was increased to 150–200 mm Hg for a period of 30 mins. In the present study in cats, development of "Neurogenic Pulmonary Edema" as indicated by increase in EVLW/BFDW ratio was observed at different ICP levels from 40 to 100 mm Hg in 180 min. The edema formation was proportional to the increase in ICP. This study suggests

that subsequent to relatively low levels of ICP, development of NPE progresses slowly to manifest only after a lapse of some time. The reported absence of development of NPE at ICP of 100 mm Hg by Hoff et al (15) could be attributed to shorter duration of raised ICP (30 mins). This contention is supported by the finding of Newman et al (19) who observed development of interstitial edema subsequent to increasing ICP to 30 mm Hg for 5 hrs in cats. In their study the cats were allowed to remain on spontaneous respiration and thus became hypoxic and hypercapnic. In the present study, the increase in extravascular fluid was also observed at such levels of ICP in the animals that were not allowed to become hypoxic and hypercapnic, by providing mechanical ventilation. It is therefore, our contention that increased ICP and not the secondary hypoxia or hypercapnia is the important mechanism underlying extravascular fluid accumulation.

Mild increase of ICP e.g., 40 mm Hg may cause a slower distortion of brain stem (23) and consequently delay stimulating the centres that produce sympathetic discharge/ other mediators/stimulus involved in mediation of NPE. The relationship between intracranial pressure and pulmonary vascular responses have been reported (24, 25). The release of chemical or neural mediators whose concentration is graded according to severity of ICP has been postulated, which can account for extravascular fluid accumulation proportional to the level of ICP (25).

Some researchers have failed to observe significant increase in extravascular lung

water subsequent to increasing ICP following similar experimental procedures (i.e., increased ICP to 60–70 mmHg for 2–3 hrs) in sheep (25, 26), which could be attributed to the non-susceptibility to pulmonary edema due to species variation.

Species variation and slow progression of pulmonary edema are thus two factors that may explain why pulmonary edema has scarcely been reported previously in experimental studies subsequent to mild to moderate levels of increased ICP.

Systemic arterial hypertension has consistently been observed in neurogenic pulmonary edema experiments with few exceptions (12, 24, 27–30). In the present study, though significant pulmonary edema developed at all levels of ICP, systemic arterial hypertension was observed only at 80 and 100 mm Hg. At 40 mm Hg, there was no significant change in MAP, though a consistent increase in EVLW content was seen. Newman et al (14) had also observed development of interstitial edema in the absence of significant systemic arterial hypertension in their experiments in cats. Thus, it seems that systemic arterial hypertension is not a prerequisite for the development of NPE.

With the increasing use of continuous ICP monitoring in the management of patients after brain injury, now the correlation between pulmonary edema and increased ICP can be better appreciated.

In the clinical situation, many patients but not all develop pulmonary edema when ICP rises above 40 mm Hg after head injury

and stroke. Further studies in this experimental model are warranted to investigate the factors predisposing an individual to development of neurogenic pulmonary edema.

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