



Shaping Tomorrow's Nephrology: Insight-Driven Kidney Care

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Abstract Topic : Acute Kidney Injury

Optimal Hemoglobin Threshold and In-Hospital Mortality in Acute Kidney Injury Patients Receiving Continuous Kidney Replacement Therapy

Hyun Lee Ko¹, Jiyun Jung², Etienne Macedo³, Jae Yoon Park⁴, Sung Woo Lee¹

¹Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, Eulji Hospital, Eulji University, Korea, Republic of

²Department of Department of Biostatistics, Dongguk University College of Medicine, Korea, Republic of

³Department of Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, University of CaliforniaSan Diego, San Diego, California, United States

⁴Department of Internal Medicine, Dongguk University College of Medicine, Korea, Republic of

Objectives : Anemia is common in critically ill patients with acute kidney injury (AKI), particularly those receiving continuous kidney replacement therapy (CKRT). Kidney dysfunction, systemic inflammation, impaired erythropoiesis, and ongoing blood loss contribute to reduced hemoglobin (Hb) levels in this population. However, the optimal Hb level during CKRT and its relationship with clinical outcomes remain unclear. We aimed to evaluate the association between average Hb levels during CKRT and in-hospital mortality and to identify a clinically relevant Hb cutoff.

Methods : We conducted a retrospective cohort study of 2,755 patients with AKI who received CKRT. The primary outcome was in-hospital mortality. The median Hb level during CKRT was 9.0 g/dL. Hb was analyzed both as a continuous variable (per 1-standard deviation [SD] increase) and as quartiles: Q1 (4–8.25 g/dL), Q2 (8.25–9.0 g/dL), Q3 (9.0–10.1 g/dL), and Q4 (10.1–17.3 g/dL). Multivariable logistic regression was used to estimate adjusted odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs).

Results : The mean age was 65.5±15.0 years, and 61.4% were male. Using Q3 as the reference, Q1 was independently associated with increased mortality (adjusted OR 1.87, 95% CI 1.44–2.42, p<0.001), and Q2 also showed a higher risk (adjusted OR 1.28, 95% CI 1.00–1.64, p=0.049). Q4 was not significantly associated with mortality. When analyzed continuously, each 1-SD increase in Hb was associated with lower mortality (adjusted OR 0.81, 95% CI 0.74–0.89, p<0.01).

Conclusions : Lower average hemoglobin levels during CKRT were independently associated with increased in-hospital mortality in patients with AKI. An Hb level around 9 g/dL may represent a clinically meaningful Hb threshold for risk stratification in patients receiving CKRT.

Figure 1.png



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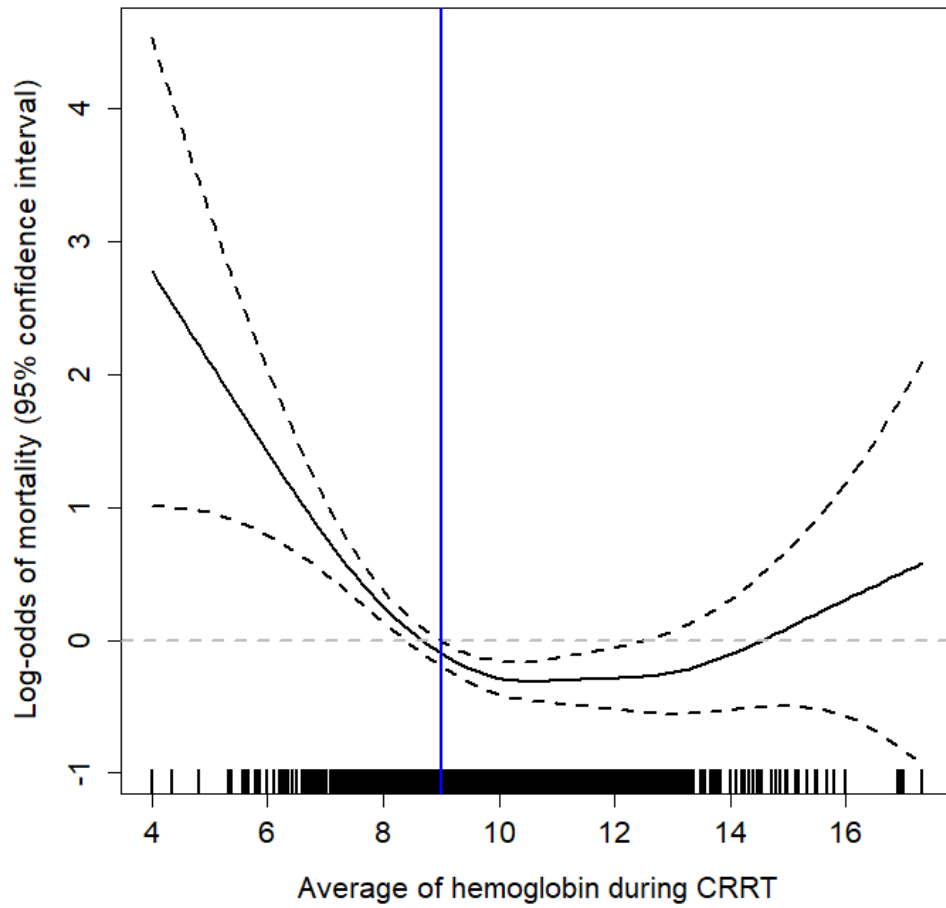


Figure 1.png

		Unadjusted		Adjusted	
		OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Linear	SD increase	0.75 (0.70, 0.82)	<0.01	0.81 (0.74, 0.89)	<0.01
Quantile	Q1 [4,8.25]	1.82 (1.45, 2.30)	<0.001	1.87 (1.44, 2.42)	<0.001
	Q2 [8.25,9]	1.26 (1.01,1.57)	0.042	1.28 (1.00, 1.64)	0.049
	Q3 [9,10.1]	1 (reference)		1 (reference)	
	Q4 [10.1,17.3]	0.86 (0.70, 1.07)	0.189	0.98 (0.77, 1.25)	0.880