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Title: 6-minute walk test predicts pulmonary artery pressure in patients with collagen vascular disease associated interstitial pneumonia

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Body: [Objective] It has been reported clinical importance of pulmonary hypertension(PH) in collagen vascular disease(CVD), however the role of PH in interstitial pneumonia related CVD(CVD-IP) has been scarcely evaluated. We sought to determine the prediction factor of mean pulmonary artery pressure(MPAP) in patients with CVD-IP. [Method]Patients with CVD-IP underwent right heart catheterization(RHC) within 3 months of initial evaluation at our institution. Patients with left ventricular dysfunction, incomplete follow-up, and patients with respiratory failure were excluded. [Results] We studied 44 patients, (19 male, mean age 59.8 ± 11.0 years). They were 13 with RA, 13 with SSc, 9 with PM/DM, and 9 with others. PaO₂ at rest was 83.1 ± 9.6 mmHg, MPAP was 17.2 ± 5.5 mmHg (>20 mmHg, 13(29.5%)), cardiac index(CI) was 3.6 ± 0.8 L/min/m², pulmonary vascular resistance index(PARI) was 223 ± 102 Wood units/m², %vital capacity(%VC) was 78.4 ± 21.0 %, percentage of carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (%DLco) was 50.9 ± 17.6 %, and 6-min walk distance(6MWD) was 502 ± 142 m, and minimum SpO₂ at 6-min walking test (mSpO₂) was 85.6 ± 5.9 %, respectively. The median observation period was 31.8 months with 11 patients died. In the univariable model, MPAP was significantly correlated with %DLco ($r = -0.377, P = 0.013$), and mSpO₂ ($r = -0.552, P = 0.0001$). In the multivariable model, MPAP was significantly correlated with 6MWD ($r = -0.360, P = 0.019$) and mSpO₂ ($r = -0.595, P < 0.001$). Conclusion] 6MWD and mSpO₂ were independent predictors of MPAP in CVD-IP.