# Hypothermia: I. Effect on Renal Hemodynamics and on Excretion of Water and Electrolytes in Dog and Man \* <sup>f</sup>

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HYPOTHERMIA is frequently used during vascular surgery in an attempt to reduce the metabolic demands of isolated vascular beds which are subjected to ischemia when vascular occlusion is required. Since homograft replacement of the abdominal aorta, as well as the thoracic aorta, is now feasible, it frequently becomes necessary to interrupt the blood supply to the kidney. When the renal ischemia is prolonged, it may lead to renal failure; therefore any method for reducing the renal damage during this period of ischemia would be of advantage to the surgeon. Likewise, the effect of reduction of body temperature alone should be known. The following study was undertaken in an attempt to study the effects of reduction in body temperature on renal function both in laboratory animals<sup>4</sup> and in patients who subsequently had vascular operations.

# METHODS AND MATERIALS

Laboratory Observations. Thirty-nine dogs varying in weight from 10 to 23 kilograms were subjected to hypothermia. The animals have been divided into four different groups, each group used for a different type of observation. Some of the animals appear in more than one group of observations. Observations were made on the blood pressure, glomerular filtration rate, renal blood flow, maximum tubular function (TmG) and excretion of water and electrolytes.

Group <sup>I</sup> consisted of nine animals (Tables 1A and 1B) in which the effect of progressive reduction of body temperature on renal function was observed. Following suitable control observations, the temperature was reduced progressively to  $26.\overline{7}^{\circ}$  C.  $(80^{\circ}$  F.). Observations during hypothermia were made at  $90^\circ$  F.,  $85^\circ$  F., and  $80^\circ$  F. The observations consisted of mean blood pressure, glomerular filtration rate, renal blood flow and excretion of water and electrolytes.

Group II consisted of 31 animals (Tables 2A and 2B) in which the effect of reduction of body temperature to  $26.7^\circ$  C. was observed (Sub-group 2A, 2B and 2C). In ten of these animals (Group 2C) the response to hypothermia alone was observed. In another ten animals (Sub-group 2A) the effect of prolonged hypothermia for one hour or more was observed (Period D4, Dogs No. 10-19). Following the observations at hypothermic levels for one hour or more, the temperature was then increased to normothermic levels in these animals. In the 11 dogs in Sub-group 2B, the temperature was also reduced to 26.7° C. but was returned to control levels immediately after the observations at hypothermic levels were completed. The observations made during varying periods of hypothermia were then compared with the control values as well as the values obtained following the re-

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TABLE 1A. Effect of Progressive Reduction of Body Temperature on Renal Hemodynamics

### **HYPOTHERMIA**



Key to abbreviations:

- $C =$  Control observations—average of 3–10 minute periods.
- $D_1$  = Observations made at 90° F. (32.2° C.). average of 2-10 minute periods.<br> $D_2 =$  Observations made at 85° F. (29.4° C.),
- average of 2-10 minute periods.  $D_3 =$  Observations made at 80° F. (26.7° C.).
- average of  $2-10$  minute periods.  $NS = P > 0.10$ .

$$
\sharp P - t = \overline{x} \sqrt{\frac{n(n-1)}{Sx^2}}.
$$

establishment of normothermia in an attempt to estimate functional alterations during hypothermia and to evaluate any residual effect on the kidney immediately after the return of the body temperature to the control levels.

Group III consisted of 19 animals in which the response to vasopressor agents during hypothermia was observed. These observations were then compared to the normothermic state in all but five of the animals. During the administration of norepinephrine, the blood pressure was returned to approximately control values. This was not always possible because of the unresponsiveness of some of the dogs. The reason for this study was that during the hypothermic state, many of the animals showed a rather marked hypotension. Since glomerular filtration rate and renal blood flow are depressed during the hypothermic state, it was thought that this may be a result of the reduction in blood pressure. Therefore, norepinephrine was administered in order to increase the blood pressure to normotensive levels in an effort to rule out the element of hypotension being responsible for the reduction in renal function. The response under these circumstances was then compared to the response following a return of the body temperature to normothermic conditions.

Group IV: The effect of hypothermia on maximum tubular absorptive capacity of glucose (TmG) was observed in six dogs. Following the control observations on renal hemodynamics the body temperature was





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\ddagger P - t = \bar{x} \sqrt{\frac{n(n-1)}{Sx^2}} \; ; \; P > 0.10 \text{ is not statistically significant.}
$$

reduced to 26.7° C. (80° F.) and the observations were repeated immediately. Observations could not be made over prolonged periods of hypothermia because of the renal effect of dehydration resulting from the high blood sugar levels required by the procedure.

Female dogs were used throughout this study. The dogs were hydrated with water, 40 ml./Kg. of body weight, by mouth prior to the study. Forty-five minutes later, they were anesthetized with pentobarbital (30  $mg./Kg.$  body weight) given intravenously. Creatinine was used to measure glomerular filtration rate (GFR), para-aminohippurate (PAH) for renal plasma flow (RPF), and glucose for measuring maximum tubular function (TmG). The control observations consisted of three consecutive ten minute collection periods. Subsequent observations during hypothermia, as recorded in the tables, consist of an average of two consecutive ten minute collection periods. The temperature was reduced with an electrically controlled, water cooled hypothermic blanket (Term-O-Rite apparatus). Finally, the observations were subjected to detailed statistical analysis \* as recorded in Table 1A to 3C.

Clinical Observations. Observations on the effect of hypothermia, renal hemodynamics, and excretion of water and electrolytes were made on eight male and three female patients. Glomerular filtration rate, renal blood flow, mean blood pressure, excretion of water and electrolytes were studied. Inulin was used to determine glomerular filtration rate and para-aminohippurate to determine renal plasma flow. Mean blood pressure was derived from

<sup>\*</sup> Statistical analysis by R. A. Seibert.



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TABLE 2A-Continued

 $D_3 =$  Observations made at 80° F. (26.7° C.) immediately after temperature reduction (average of 2-10 minute periods).<br> $D_4 =$  Observations on Dogs Numbers 19 through 28 made after 1 hour of hypothermia (average of 2-10 m

11 Mean values for both Subgroups 2A and 2B combined.<br>\* Mean values for 3 Subgroups  $(2A, 2B \text{ and } 2C)$ .

‡See Table 1A.

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auscultatory systolic and diastolic pressures by adding one-third of the pulse pressure to the diastolic pressure. Determinations of potassium and sodium were made using a Beckman flame photometer. Methods and technics have been described previously.3' <sup>5,6</sup> Following three ten-minute control periods the patients were anesthetized. After the induction of anesthesia, two ten-minute collection periods were again made. Then, hypothermia was induced using an electrically controlled, hypothermic blanket just as was done for the laboratory studies. The temperature was reduced to a maximum of  $29^{\circ}$  C. (Patient S. C.). Observations were recorded at the point of maximum reduction in temperature in these patients (Period D2) and also at a variable point somewhat above this point of maximum hypothermia (Tables 4A and 4B). Observations made following anesthesia and during hypothernia were then subjected to statistical analysis and compared with control values.

# **RESULTS**

Laboratory Observations. In Tables 1A and lB are detailed the effects of progressive reduction of body temperature on renal hemodynamics and on excretion of water and electrolytes. It will be noted that as the body temperature is progressively reduced to  $27^{\circ}$  C., there is a progressive reduction in mean blood pressure from an average of 114 mm. Hg for the control values to 86 mm. Hg  $(P < 0.001)$ . This represents a  $25\%$  reduction in mean blood pressure. Associated with the reduction in blood pressure, there was a marked reduction in glomerular filtration rate from an average of 36 ml. per minute to 11 ml. per minute  $(P < 0.01)$ . This represents a reduction of  $69\%$  (31% of the control value).

Associated with the reduction in glomerular filtration rate there was a parallel reduction in renal blood flow to 28% of the control values  $(P < 0.01)$ . The hematocrit was not affected. The depression in renal

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C = Control observations—average of 3-10 minute periods at normotensive levels.<br>D<sub>3</sub> = Observations at 80° F. (27.7° C.) for variable periods of time—average of 2-10 minute periods.<br>D<sub>5</sub> = Observations during blood pressu

# Dog died during infusion of norepinephrine.

 $*$  Statistical analysis using control observations for comparison.  $**$  Statistical analysis using Period D<sub>a</sub> (hypothermia) for comparison.



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 $^\ast$  Statistical analysis using control observations for comparison.  $^{\bullet\ast}$  Statistical analysis using Period Da (hypothermia) for comparison.



TABLE 4A. Renal Hemodynamic Response to Hypothermia in Man

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 $C =$  Control observations (average of 3-10 minute periods).<br>AN = Observations after the induction of anesthesia (average of 2-10 minute periods).

 $D_1$  = Observations after initial reduction in body temperature (average of 2-10 minute periods).<br> $D_2$  = Observations after maximum reduction in body temperature (average of 2-10 minute periods).

\* Statistical analysis using control observations for comparison.<br>\*\* Statistical analysis using Period An (after induction of anesthesia) for comparison.



Statistical analysis using control observations for comparison.

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\*\* Statistical analysis using Period An (after induction of anesthesia) for comparison

function in these animals was a progressive one which paralleled the decrease in body temperature.

Although the glomerular filtration rate was markedly reduced, this was not associated with a decrease in urinary volume  $(P > 0.10)$  nor in a significant decrease in sodium excretion  $(P > 0.10)$ . This is remarkable in that under normothermic conditions any manipulation that reduces the glomerular filtration rate to this extent will greatly depress urinary volume and excretion of sodium.<sup>1,2</sup> Excretion of potassium was depressed to a degree which approached statistical significance ( $P < 0.10$ ). Observations on a larger number of animals in Group 2 confirmed this deduction. It would appear that the tubular enzymatic reabsorptive mechanism is depressed and therefore the reabsorption of sodium and water is apparently reduced. On the other hand, excretion of potassium by the tubules is an active process and by the same reasoning, the urinary excretion of potassium was reduced by hypothermia. There was no significant effect on plasma sodium but the plasma potassium decreased from 3.1 mEq/ liter to 2.7 which was not statistically significant.

Similar to the animals in Group I, the observations in a larger group of dogs in Group II showed that the mean blood pressure for the entire group (Sub-groups 2A, 2B and 2C) was reduced to  $68\%$  of the control values at maximum hypothermia (27° C.). This was associated with a significant reduction in glomerular filtration rate ( $P < 0.001$ ) and a parallel reduction in renal blood flow ( $P < 0.001$ ). There were no significant alterations ( $P < 0.10$ ) in excretion of water or sodium (Table 2B). There was a significant reduction in excretion of potassium ( $P < 0.01$ ).

When the temperature was maintained at  $26.7^\circ$  C. for one hour or more (Subgroup 2A), there was not a progressive reduction in blood pressure, glomerular filtration rate or renal blood flow but instead, these functions remained constant. This indicates that the reduction in blood pressure and renal function is a direct result of the degree of hypothermia rather than being related to the period of time that the temperature remains reduced. Similar deductions can be made relative to the effect of prolonged hypothermia on urinary volume and sodium excretion in that the observations after one hour of hypothermia were similar to the observations made immediately after maximum reduction in body temperature to  $26.7^{\circ}$  C.

When the temperature was increased to normothermic levels in 19 of the animals (Sub-groups 2A and 2B), the blood pressure for the group returned to approximately the same value that existed prior to the induction of hypothermia (116 mm. Hg). However, glomerular filtration rate did not return to control values but increased only to 69%, of the control values  $(P < 0.01)$  as contrasted to 33% of the control value during maximum hypothermia. Likewise, renal blood flow returned only to 70% of the control values ( $P <$  $0.01$ ) as contrasted to 35% during maximum hypothermia. The hematocrit was not altered significantly following the increase in body temperature.

When the body temperature increased there was a moderate increase in water excretion which approached statistical significance  $(P < 0.10)$ . The excretion of sodium after return of body temperature to normal, was 98% of the control value. The excretion of potassium returned to  $108\%$ of the control value  $(P < 0.50)$  as contrasted to  $60\%$  of the control during maximum hypothermia ( $P < 0.05$ ). Concentration of sodium with plasma was not altered following a return of body temperature to the normothermic state but the plasma

potassium increased from 2.5 millequivalents to 3.2 millequivalents, an increase of 22% in the normothermic state as compared to maximum hypothermia.

Referring to Table 3A, we can see that the mean blood pressure for the group of animals was increased with the infusion of norepinephrine from 79 mm. Hg to 110 mm. Hg  $(P < 0.001)$  which was 95% of the average control value. Despite the increase in blood presure, the depressed rate of glomerular filtration and renal blood flow were not improved  $(P > 0.50)$ . As the mean blood pressure increased, neither urinary volume  $(P > 0.50)$  nor excretion of sodium  $(P > 0.50)$  increased. As a matter of fact, there was a slight reduction in sodium excretion following the infusion of norepinephrine from  $88\%$  of the control value for this group of animals to  $71\%$ which, however, was not statistically significant. These observations seem to indicate that the depression in renal function was not a result of the hypotension but was rather related to the hypothermic state.

When the temperature was increased to control values in this group of animals which received norepinephrine during hypothermia, the mean blood pressure increased to the control values. Although glomerular filtration rate increased as in the previous observations, it did not return to the control values, increasing  $(P < 0.001)$ from <sup>31</sup>% of the control value at maximum hypothermia to 74% of the control values after the temperature was increased to normothermic levels. There was a parallel increase in renal blood flow  $(P < 0.001)$  to 77% of the control values after return of body temperature to normal as contrasted to 35% during maximum hypothermia. The increase in glomerular filtration rate was associated with an increase in urinary volume from .7 ml. per minute to 1.3 ( $P$  < 0.01) after the return of body temperature to normal. This was not associated with a parallel increase in sodium excretion (P < 0.20). However, potassium increased  $(P <$ 



FiG. 1. Effect of hypothermia (80° F.) on maximum tubular function (TmG). As the temperature is reduced there is a concurrent reduction in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and maximum tubular function (TmG). Frequently the latter is depressed more than the former. When normothermia is re-established both GFR and TmG return toward, but not entirely to normal.

0.001) from 58% of the control values at maximum hypothermia to  $123\%$  after the normothermic state was induced.

As rate of glomerular filtration and renal blood flow decreased during hypothermia there was a parallel reduction in maximum tubular function (Figs. <sup>1</sup> and 2) to 30% of control value for the group. Usually the GFR/TmG ratio increased due to <sup>a</sup> somewhat greater reduction in maximum tubular function than in glomerular filtration rate, apparently a result of enzymatic inhibition.

Observations in Man. The observations in man parallel the observations made in the laboratory. As anesthesia was induced, there was frequently a slight reduction in mean blood pressure. Then as the temperature decreased there was usually an additional reduction in mean blood pressure  $(P < 0.05)$  which was marked in only one instance (Patient S.P.-Table 4A). The average mean blood pressure for the group decreased from 98 mm. Hg to <sup>91</sup> mm. Hg

 $(P < 0.05)$ . This was associated with a significant reduction in glomerular filtration rate (67% of control), comparing the control values to the hypothermic values. However, this was partly due to anesthesia.

The renal blood flow paralleled the rate of glomerular filtration but the depression was more marked. Anesthesia did not appear to have a significant effect on renal blood flow  $(P < 0.30)$ . However, when the observations during hypothermia are compared with the pre-anesthesia observations, the changes were significant  $(P < 0.001)$ , as were the changes when the observations during anesthesia but before hypothermia were used for comparison  $(P < 0.01)$ . Hypothermia did not appear to affect the hematocrit. This again was quite similar to the results observed in the laboratory animal. Excretion of sodium was not altered significantly and excretion of potassium decreased  $(P < 0.05)$ . Although the concentration of sodium in the plasma was not



FIG. 2. Effect of hypothermia on maximum tubular function. The response was similar to that observed in Figure 1.

altered, the concentration of potassium decreased  $(P < 0.001)$ , which may have been due (at least in part) to the intravenous infusion of fluids.

#### DISCUSSION

The observations in the current study indicate that alterations in renal hemodynamics and excretion of water and electrolytes in laboratory animals (dogs) due to hypothermia are quite similar to alterations produced by this procedure in man. As the body temperature is reduced, there is a progressive reduction in mean blood pressure. This is associated with a reduction in rate of glomerular filtration and renal blood flow. Despite the reduction in glomerular filtration rate, the excretion of water and sodium is not altered significantly. This is apparently due to a depression in tubular transport of these substances. Therefore, despite the reduction in glomerular filtration rate, which would usually be associated with a marked reduction in excretion of water and sodium, this does not occur dur-

ing the hypothermic state. At the same time, excretion of potassium is sharply reduced during hypothermia, probably due to the fact that its excretion is partly dependent on tubular excretion. With the depression of enzymatic processes in the renal tubule, this retrograde excretion may be depressed. On the other hand, the level of plasma potassium was reduced slightly during the hypothermic state which may or may not be partly responsible for the reduction in excretion of potassium by the kidney. These observations during the hypothermia are in contrast to the response when glomerular filtration rate is reduced under normothermic conditions. When this occurs there is a marked reduction in sodium and water excretion  $1, 2, 3, 7, 8$  associated with the reduction in glomerular filtration rate. Under the latter circumstances, tubular enzymatic processes are entirely normal. As a consequence, when rate of glomerular filtration is reduced, tubular reabsorption continues which results in a retention of sodium and water. Excretion of potassium is also

depressed but in the latter instance this probably results from inadequate urinary output.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The effect of hypothermia on renal hemodynamics and on excretion of water and electrolytes has been studied on 39 dogs and <sup>11</sup> human subjects in whom the hypothermia was used to facilitate vascular operations. There was essentially no difference between the laboratory observations and those made on the human subjects.

As the body temperature was progressively reduced to  $27^{\circ}$  C. (laboratory observations), the mean blood pressure decreased progressively to approximately  $75\%$ of the control values. This was associated with a progressive reduction in glomerular filtration rate and renal blood flow without significant alterations in urine or sodium excretion.

The reduction in rate of glomerular filtration and in renal blood flow was not improved when the blood pressure was raised to control values with an infusion of norepinephrine. However, when the body temperature was again increased to the control levels, the mean blood pressure returned completely to the control levels although the glomerular filtration rate and renal blood flow usually returned to only about 75% of the control levels. However, within 24 hours, these had returned to the control levels in those animals studied. There was essentially no difference in these responses between dogs and man.

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